

# Examples of Meaningful Relationships in Church History and the Doctrine and Covenants

## Example 1

After his visit to the Hill Cumorah in September 1823, Joseph Smith shared details about his experience and the angel Moroni's visits with his family. Joseph continued to share his experiences and visions with those closest to him. Recalling these sacred encounters, the Prophet's mother, Lucy Mack Smith, recorded the following:



Every evening we gathered our children together. I think that we presented the most peculiar aspect of any family that ever lived upon the earth, all seated in a circle, father, mother, sons, and daughters listening in breathless anxiety to the religious teachings of a boy. . . .

. . . The sweetest union and happiness pervaded our house. No jar nor discord disturbed our peace, and tranquility reigned in our midst. (Lucy Mack Smith, in *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith* [2007], 486)

- What stands out to you about the Smith family from this account?
- How might the love Joseph felt at home have helped him fulfill his important calling?
- What do you learn from this example about how God can bless you, or how you can help others be blessed, through meaningful relationships?

## Example 2

While living in Nauvoo, Illinois, Joseph Smith reflected on the benefits of meaningful relationships:



I would esteem it one of the greatest blessings, if I am to be afflicted in this world, to have my lot cast where I can find brothers and friends all around me. (*Teachings: Joseph Smith*, 466)

- How can family and friends help us when we are experiencing difficult challenges?
- What are some other ways family and friends can bless our lives?

## Example 3

Read Doctrine and Covenants 108:7, looking for counsel the Lord gave to Lyman Sherman of the Seventy.

- Why might it sometimes be difficult to follow this counsel?
- When have you felt strengthened or uplifted by an interaction with another person?