



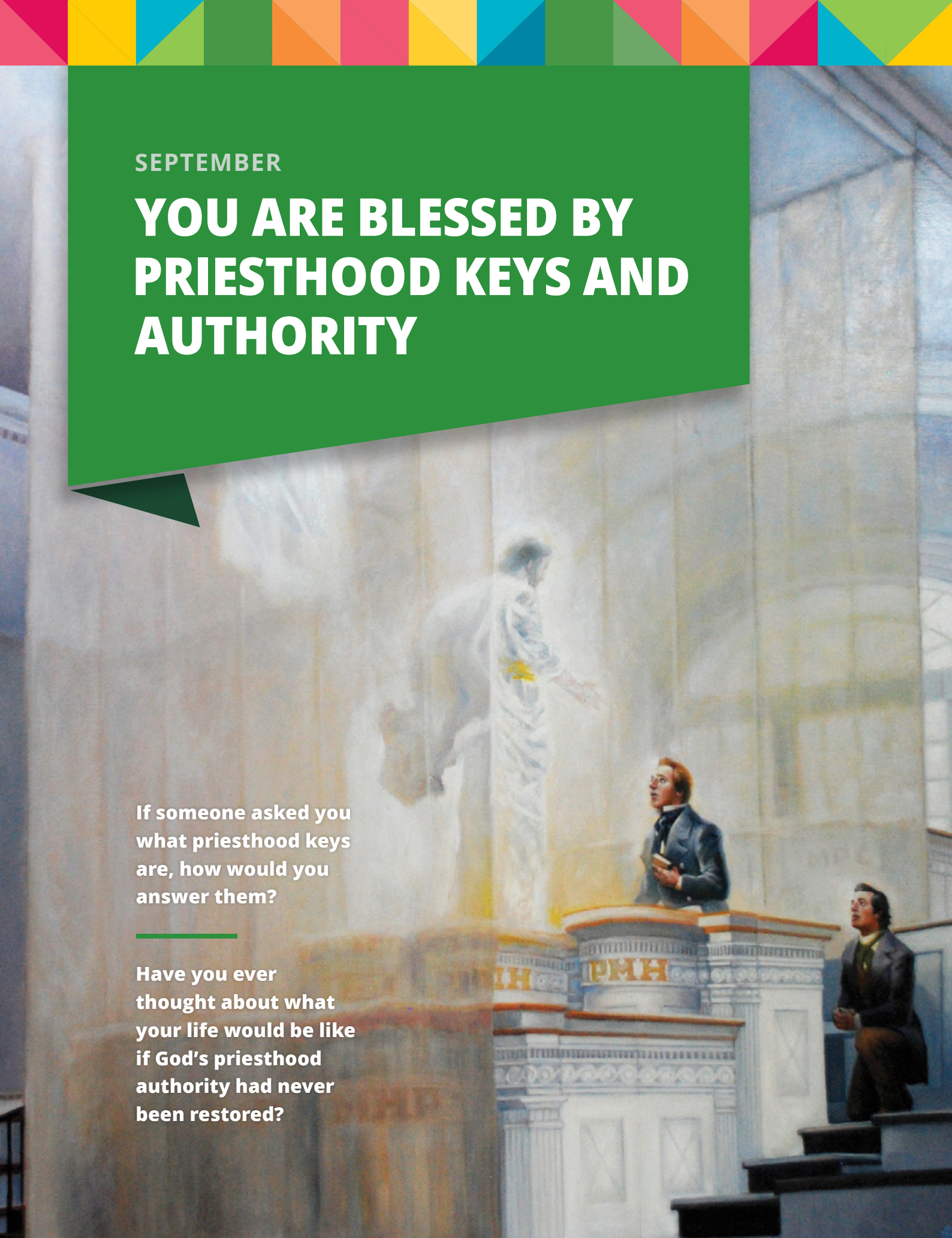
SEPTEMBER

# YOU ARE BLESSED BY PRIESTHOOD KEYS AND AUTHORITY

If someone asked you what priesthood keys are, how would you answer them?

---

Have you ever thought about what your life would be like if God's priesthood authority had never been restored?



*In September, the topic of discussion in our Young Women classes and Aaronic Priesthood quorums will be “You are blessed by priesthood keys and authority” (For the Strength of Youth: A Guide for Making Choices, 46–49).*

*Here are some ideas that can guide your discussion:*

### STUDY THE CHAPTER FROM THE FSJ GUIDE



**Choose an eternal truth to discuss.** Share thoughts or questions you have about this truth.



**Read a scripture together** that supports this truth (you can find some verses at the end of the chapter). What message does God have for you in this scripture?



**Share a personal story** about this truth—maybe an experience you’ve had trying to live it. You could read one of the promised blessings listed in the FSJ guide and talk about how the Lord keeps His promises.



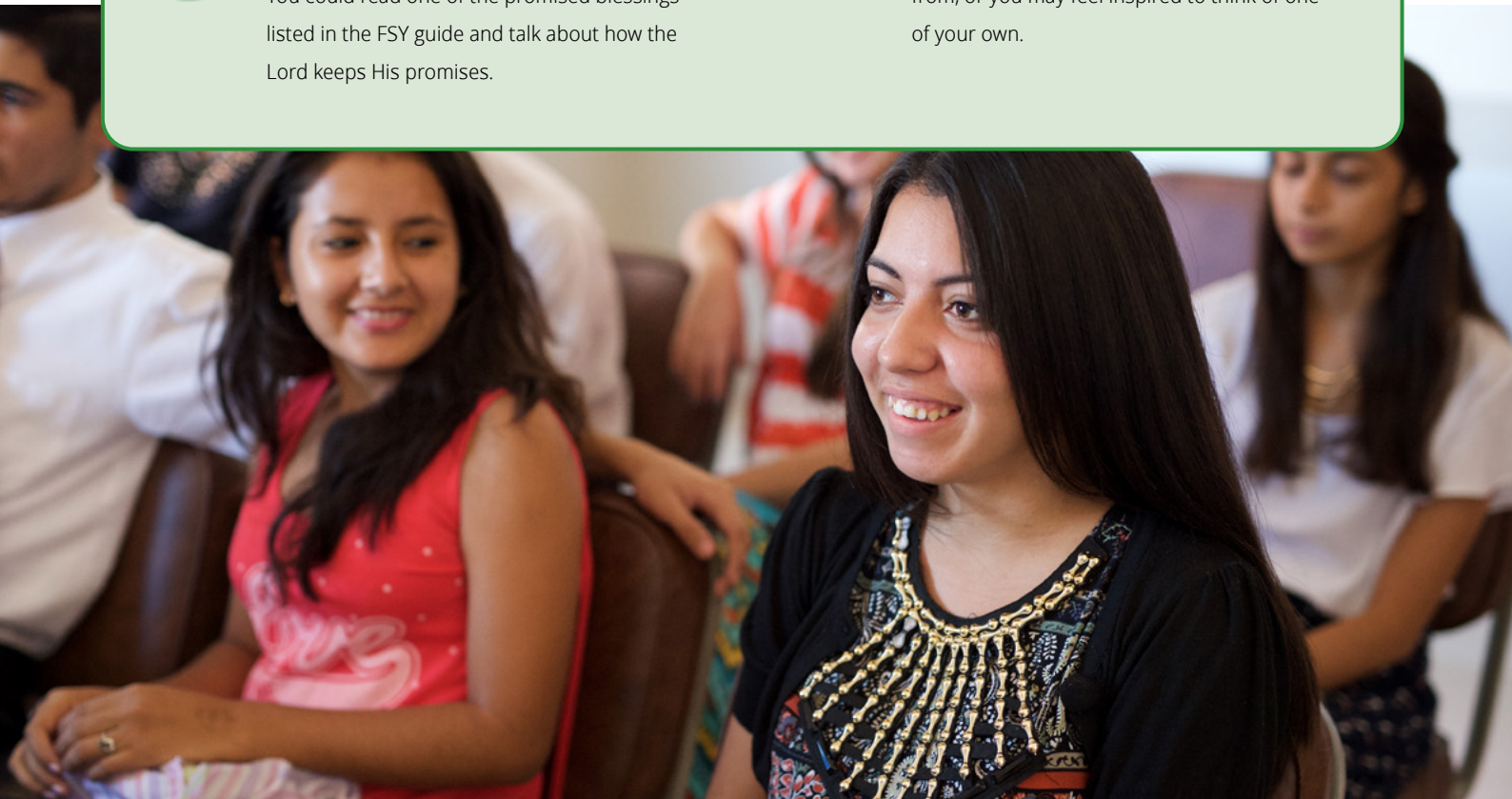
**Testify.** Share what you know about this truth from your own experience and what the Spirit has taught you.



**Choose another eternal truth,** and repeat this pattern for the rest of the chapter.



**Choose an invitation,** each fast Sunday, that will help you live what you learned. The FSJ guide has several invitations to choose from, or you may feel inspired to think of one of your own.



## LEARN MORE ABOUT THE RESTORATION OF THE PRIESTHOOD

*After Jesus's New Testament Apostles died, the priesthood—the power and authority of God—was lost from the earth. In the early 1800s, God sent heavenly messengers to restore, or bring back, the priesthood. Through the authority of the priesthood and its ordinances, greater access to the power of God is available to all of us once again.*

*Here are some questions and learning activities you could try:*

- **How does the Savior bless us through the Aaronic Priesthood?**

Read Doctrine and Covenants 13:1 and 107:20. What rights and authority did John the Baptist restore to the Prophet Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery? Write down words that describe blessings God gives through the Aaronic Priesthood.

- **How does the Savior bless us through the Melchizedek Priesthood?**

Peter, James, and John restored the Melchizedek Priesthood to Joseph and Oliver. Read Doctrine and Covenants 107:18–19 and list some of the “spiritual blessings of the Church” you can access through the Melchizedek Priesthood.

- **Why does God share His priesthood power with His children?**

Through priesthood ordinances—like baptism, the sacrament, and temple ordinances—“the power of godliness is manifest” (see Doctrine and Covenants 84:20–21). Talk with each other about how you have seen the power of God in your life because of the ordinances of the priesthood. What would your life be like without these ordinances?

- **How would your life be different if the priesthood hadn't been restored?**




---

**OTHER RESOURCES**

- Guide to the Scriptures, “Authority,” “Priesthood”
- “Restoration of the Priesthood and Priesthood Keys,” *Preach My Gospel: A Guide to Sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ* (2023), 40
- Topics and Questions, “Restoration of the Priesthood” (Gospel Library)

## LEARN MORE ABOUT PRIESTHOOD KEYS

*Priesthood keys unlock God's greatest blessings for His children. Priesthood keys are the authority God gives to certain leaders in His Church to organize and direct the kingdom of God on the earth. Those who hold priesthood keys direct how the priesthood is used in the Church.*

## OTHER RESOURCES

- Guide to the Scriptures, "Keys of the Priesthood"
- "Restoration of the Priesthood and Priesthood Keys," *Preach My Gospel*, 40
- Topics and Questions, "Priesthood Keys" (Gospel Library)

*Here are some questions and learning activities you could try:*

- **What is delegated priesthood authority?**

If you've ever been set apart for a calling or received an assignment under the direction of a leader with priesthood keys, you were given delegated priesthood authority. Discuss what it means "to represent God and act in His name."<sup>1</sup>

- **What blessings does the Lord unlock for us through priesthood keys?**

Talk about what physical keys are used for. Then discuss this description of priesthood keys: "Priesthood authority and priesthood keys start the engine, open the gates of heaven, facilitate heavenly power, and pave the covenant pathway back to our loving Heavenly Father."<sup>2</sup>

Why can't you drive your neighbor's car? What would you need in order to do so? What does this comparison teach you about priesthood keys?

- **What priesthood keys has the Lord restored to the earth today?**

After the death of Christ and His Apostles, priesthood keys were lost from the earth. Fill out the table below to learn how the Lord restored priesthood keys in our day:

## NOTES

1. *General Handbook: Serving in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, 3.4, Gospel Library.
2. Gary E. Stevenson, "Apr. 2016 general conference" (*Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2016, 32).



**SCRIPTURES**

**HEAVENLY MESSENGERS WHO RESTORED PRIESTHOOD KEYS**

**PRIESTHOOD KEYS THEY RESTORED**

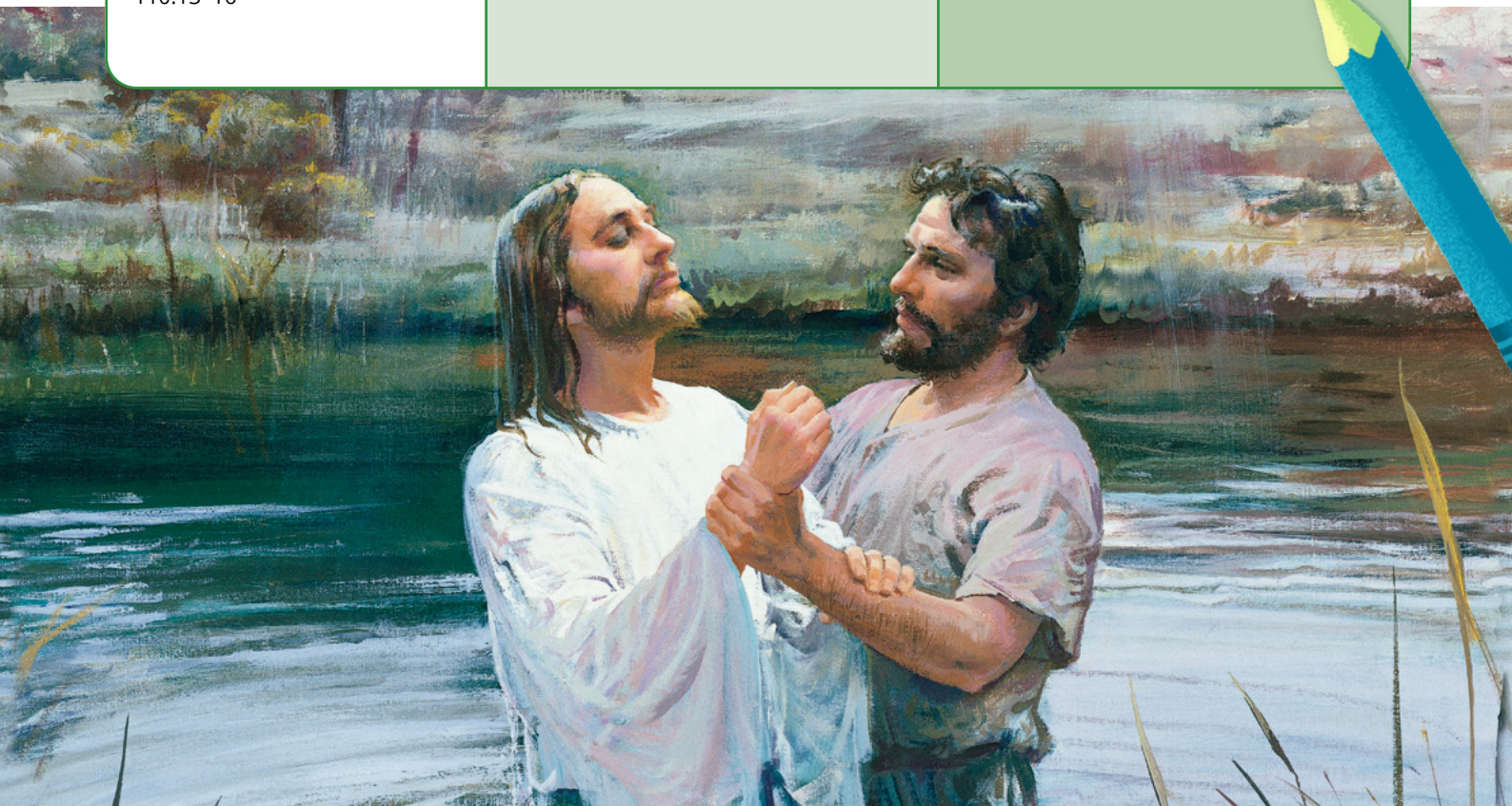
Doctrine and Covenants 13:1

Doctrine and Covenants  
27:12-13; 107:8, 18-19

Doctrine and Covenants 110:11

Doctrine and Covenants 110:12

Doctrine and Covenants  
110:13-16



## BECOMING A COVENANT DAUGHTER OF GOD

### STUDY TOGETHER

I am a beloved daughter of heavenly parents, with a divine nature and eternal destiny. I lead, teach, and mentor others courageously by drawing on the power and authority of God and listening to the Spirit.

*“Thou art an elect lady, whom I have called. . . . Thou shalt be ordained [set apart] . . . to expound scriptures, and to exhort the church, according as it shall be given thee by my Spirit.”*

*Doctrine and Covenants 25:3, 7*

What opportunities do you have to lead, teach, mentor, expound the scriptures, and encourage others? How has doing this brought you closer to the Savior?



### LEARN ABOUT EMMA SMITH,

an elect lady | Doctrine and Covenants 25

In Doctrine and Covenants 25, what does the Lord reveal to Emma about living as a covenant daughter of God?

What did God call Emma to do? What has He called each of us to do?

What does it mean to be an “elect lady”? (see Doctrine and Covenants 25:3).

How has the Spirit guided you in doing the work God has given you? (see Doctrine and Covenants 25:7).

### LIVE AS A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST

As you studied the FSY guide this month, what have you learned about the Savior and His priesthood keys and authority?

How does this help you accomplish His work?

## BECOMING A COVENANT SON OF GOD

## STUDY TOGETHER

I am a beloved son of God, and He has a work for me to do. I will help others connect with God and Jesus Christ by worthily administering in the ordinances of the Aaronic Priesthood, including baptism and the sacrament.

*“The priest’s duty is to preach, teach, expound, exhort, and baptize, and administer the sacrament.” Teachers and deacons “are . . . to warn, expound, exhort, and teach, and invite all to come unto Christ.”*

*Doctrine and Covenants 20:46, 59*

Share an experience when using the priesthood to serve others helped connect you with the Savior.

## LIVE AS A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST

As you studied the FSY guide this month, what have you learned about the Savior and His priesthood keys and authority?

How does this help you accomplish His work?

## LEARN ABOUT JOSEPH SMITH,

Prophet of the Restoration | Joseph Smith—  
History 1:66–73

What does Joseph Smith teach us about living as a covenant son of God?

How do you think Joseph Smith might have felt to hear John the Baptist call him a fellow servant? Fellow servants serve side by side, under the same master. What does it mean to you to be “fellow servants” with John the Baptist? (verse 69; see also Luke 3:2–6; Doctrine and Covenants 84:26–28).

What are some of the “great and glorious blessings” that God has given us through the priesthood? (verse 73). How can we help other people experience these blessings?



## YOUTH ACTIVITY IDEA

### THE ONE-MATCH FIRE CHALLENGE

Can you build a fire, using a single match, that's hot enough to burn a string 18 inches above the ground?

#### PURPOSE

To understand how we can access God's power in our lives.

#### MATERIALS NEEDED

- Matches
- Tinder or kindling
- String or twine
- Buckets of water or fire extinguishers
- Fire-safe surface (gravel, sand, fire rings, or cleared ground)

#### LOCATION

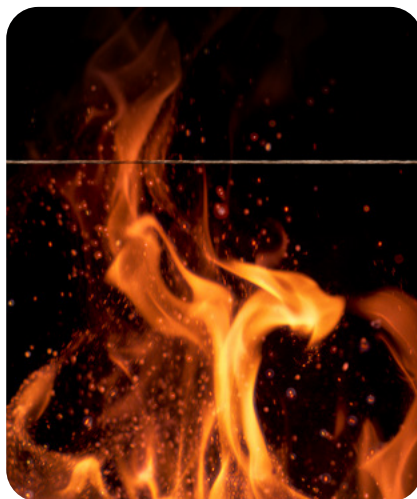
- Outdoors, in a fire-safe area (follow local laws)
- Make sure that there are no low-hanging tree branches
- Avoid windy or drought conditions

#### SAFETY

- Adult leaders ensure that youth are safe and instruct them on fire safety
- Make sure that fire suppression tools are always on hand
- Keep the fire 15 feet away from dry grass and other combustible material
- No gasoline, lighter fluid, or other accelerants
- Thoroughly extinguish the fire, and never leave the fire or hot coals unattended

#### THE CHALLENGE

- Explain that fire requires heat, oxygen, and fuel.
- Youth gather and prepare materials before lighting the match.
- Each youth (or pair) is given one match per attempt.
- The goal is to build a fire strong enough to burn through a string that is held or suspended 18 inches above the ground.
- If the fire goes out, youth must discard materials that touched the flame and begin again, as time allows.



#### LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

How is a fire like God's power in our lives?

How are the elements of building a fire like the elements needed to access God's power in our lives? For example, how could a match be like priesthood authority? How could the wood or kindling be like priesthood ordinances, such as baptism or the sacrament?

#### YOU MIGHT POINT OUT

A match has power—but only if it's used the right way. Similarly, priesthood authority, used as God directs, can help unlock God's power, providing warmth and light. For example, God directs that His authority be used to make ordinances of salvation available to His children, and "in the ordinances . . . the power of godliness is manifest" (Doctrine and Covenants 84:20) Priesthood authority, sacred ordinances, and keeping covenants combine to bring the warmth and light of God's power into our lives.



Scan this code for an alternate activity idea: *A Flashlight and God's Priesthood Power*