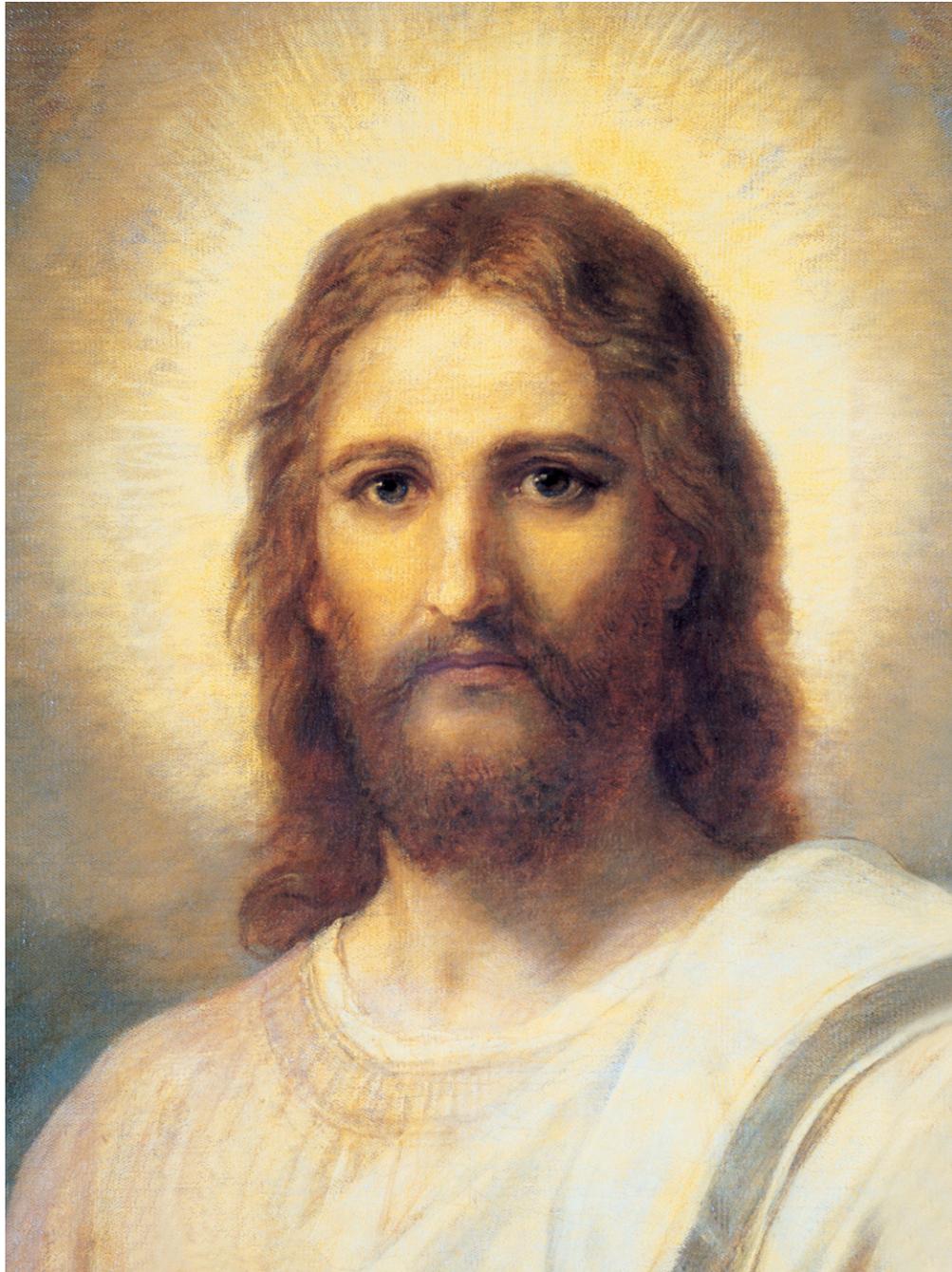


New Member Guide

SALEM OREGON STAKE



WELCOME!

We are so happy you're here!

Your baptism opens the gate to the straight and narrow path, also called the covenant path. Following this path throughout your life “with a steadfastness in Christ, having a perfect brightness of hope, and a love of God and of all men” will lead you to the greatest blessing our Heavenly Father offers his children: eternal life with Him and His Son, Jesus Christ, and with our families. (2 Nephi 31:20)

This guide is designed to help you learn more about being a member of Christ's church and to help you take the next steps along your covenant path.

We love you and are here to walk with you on your journey.

MY COVENANT PATH

This path refers to the progression of ordinances that mark the way for us to return to Heavenly Father. These sacred acts are performed by the authority of the priesthood.

ETERNAL LIFE

As you keep your covenants, you are promised “peace in this world, and eternal life in the world to come” (D&C 59:23). President Nelson said, “The end for which each of us strives is to be endowed with power in a house of the Lord, sealed as families, faithful to covenants made in a temple that qualify us for the greatest gift of God—that of eternal life.”



SEALING

In our Heavenly Father’s plan of happiness, a husband and wife can be together forever. An eternal marriage is called a sealing. Temple sealings ensure that death cannot separate loved ones. Children born or adopted into such eternal marriages can also be sealed to their families forever.



ENDOWMENT

Once you have been a member for one year, you can obtain a temple recommend that allows you to receive an ordinance called the endowment. In the endowment ceremony, you will learn more about the gospel of Jesus Christ and be invited to make sacred covenants with your Heavenly Father.



TEMPLE BAPTISMS FOR YOUR ANCESTORS

Jesus Christ taught that we need to be baptized to live with God again (John 3:5). If a person dies without being baptized, someone can be baptized for them in the temple. Then the person who died can choose to accept the baptism. Prophets have promised that doing temple baptisms will help us love our ancestors more, and President Nelson has said, “nothing will strengthen your spiritual foundation like temple service and temple worship.” (See the ‘Going to the Temple’ page for more details.)



SACRAMENT

Baptism opens the gate to eternal life, and the sacrament helps us to steadfastly press forward along the covenant path. It is important to take the sacrament each week with a repentant heart. Taking the sacrament is a testimony unto the Father that we do always remember His Son. As we always remember Him and keep His commandments, we shall have His Spirit to be with us.



ORDINATION

The priesthood is God’s power and authority that He gives His children to act in His name. Men are ordained to offices in the priesthood, and both men and women can experience the power and blessings of the priesthood in their lives.



CONFIRMATION

The ordinance of confirmation completes the process of becoming a member of the Church, and gives you the Gift of the Holy Ghost as a constant companion.



BAPTISM

Jesus taught that we need to be baptized to return to God’s presence. Once you are baptized, you are now on the covenant path that leads to Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ. Baptism is the start of a new life, one dedicated to following Jesus Christ.



▶ BAPTISM IS THE BEGINNING OF THE COVENANT PATH

GOING TO THE TEMPLE

Each temple is a house of the Lord and is a sacred place where we can draw closer to our Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ. In the temple, we are taught important truths, receive ordinances, and make covenants with God that prepare us to return to His presence.

As a baptized member of the church, you can now receive a temple recommend from your bishop to enter the temple as often as you'd like to be baptized on behalf of deceased ancestors. We have included a blank family tree to help you identify your ancestors. Contact the ward executive secretary to schedule an interview with the bishop. He will ask similar questions to the ones at your baptism interview. This recommend is valid for one year and can be renewed through the same process.

Here is what to expect on your first visit:

When you first enter the temple, you may be directed to a waiting area. Once temple workers are ready for you, they will scan your recommend at the front desk and guide you to the baptism area. You will be given a white baptism jumpsuit, socks, and undergarments to change into in the locker room. After the baptisms, you receive a towel and return to the locker room to rinse off and change back into your clothing. You will then be directed to the confirmations room.

Tips and guidelines:

- Wear your Sunday best (women: skirt or dress, men: shirt and tie or suit)
- Bring your temple recommend and any printed ancestor name card(s) you have prepared. If you do not have any, the temple will provide names for you.
- Speak in a quiet voice and turn off your phone
- Don't bring food or drink inside
- Avoid lotions, perfumes, or semi-permanent hair dye that could leak into the water
- Temple workers are always available to assist you
- Women are only baptized on behalf of female ancestors and men only for male ancestors, but others can help with the baptisms you can't do



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MY TEMPLE GOALS

President Nelson has said, "Your worship in the temple, and your service there for your ancestors will bless you with increased personal revelation and peace, and will fortify your commitment to stay on the covenant path."



Temple Baptismal Font

I would like to go to the temple to be baptized for:

Name of Relative

I would like to go to the temple for baptisms for the first time on:

Date

Once you have been a member of the church for a year, you can go to the temple to receive your endowment. To help you prepare, we recommend attending a temple prep class at church in the months preceding your one year membership anniversary. You will then schedule another interview with the bishop, and then with the Stake President for a new temple recommend. This recommend will replace any old recommends you may have. It is valid for 2 years, and can be renewed. You will also need to schedule an appointment with the temple for a "living ordinance." After you have been to the temple for your own endowment, you can return to the temple as often as you'd like for any and all ordinances performed there.



Celestial Room

If you would like to learn more about temples, visit <https://churchofjesuschrist.org/temples> (From the home page click 'Serve', then 'Temples')

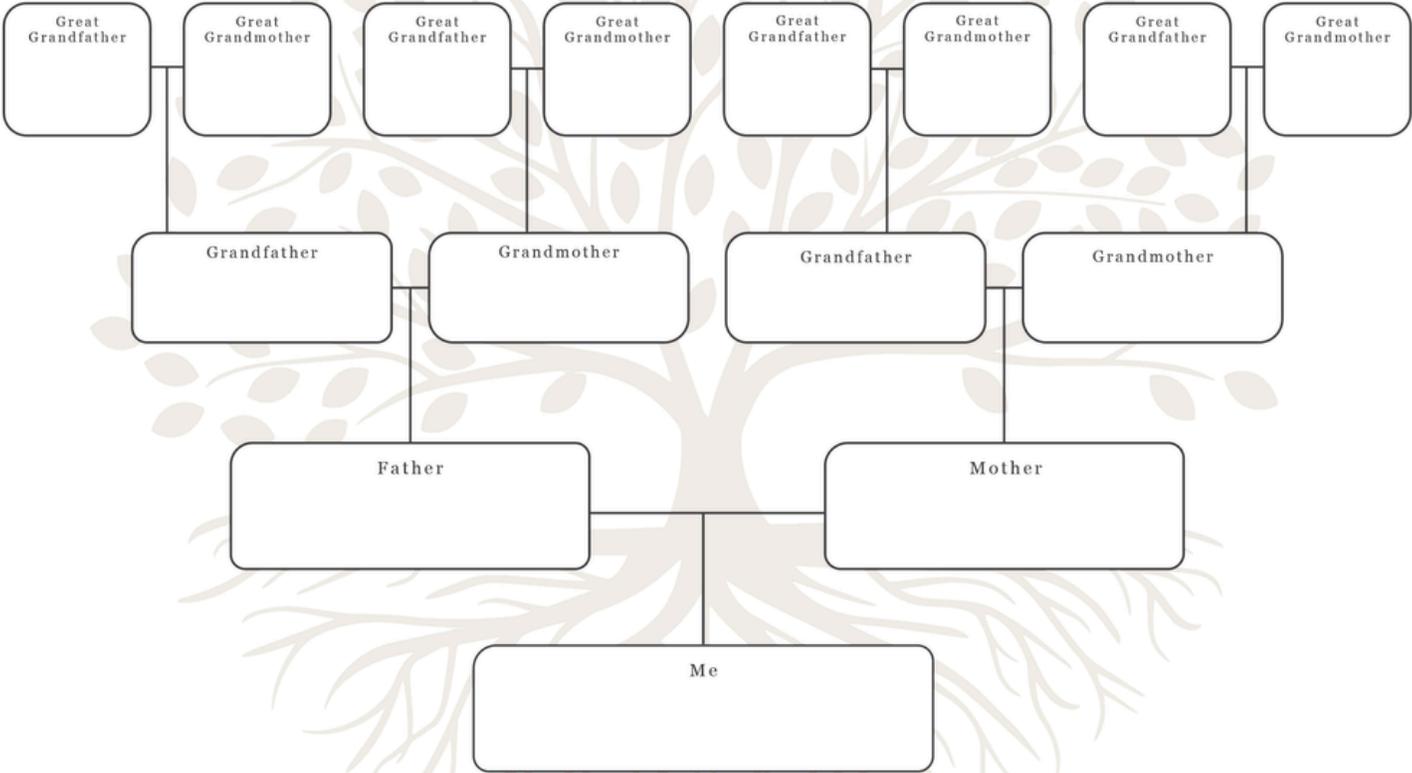
I will reach my one year church membership mark on:

I would like to go to the temple to receive my endowment on:

Date

Date

MY FAMILY TREE



We are here to help you, and walk with you, along your covenant path towards the temple.

MINISTERING

Each household in the ward will have ministering brothers (priesthood bretheren) to minister and care for the individual or family.

Your ministering brothers are:

_____ phone: _____

_____ phone: _____

Every adult sister will also have ministering sisters (members of the Relief Society and possibly the Young Women as well) to minister and care for her.

Your ministering sisters are (for women only):

_____ phone: _____

_____ phone: _____

YOUR WARD LEADERS

Bishop - Holds the priesthood keys to lead the work of the Church in the ward. He also leads young men ages 12-18.

_____ phone: _____

Ward Executive Secretary - Contact the Ward Executive Secretary if you would like to meet with the Bishop.

_____ phone: _____

Clerk - Contact the clerk for help setting up an account with the Church's website, churchofjesuschrist.org

_____ phone: _____

Relief Society President - Relief Society is a divinely instituted organization for all adult women in the Church. The purpose of the Relief Society is to "save souls and relieve suffering." The Relief Society President leads these efforts.

_____ phone: _____

Elders Quorum President - The Melchizedek Priesthood helps God's children prepare to return to His presence. It holds "the keys of all the spiritual blessings of the church" (D&C 107:18). The Elders Quorum President leads these men in their efforts.

_____ phone: _____

Young Women President - The Young Women President leads young women ages 12-18.

_____ phone: _____

Primary President - Primary is for children ages 18 months to 11 years. The Primary President leads this program.

_____ phone: _____

OFFICIAL CHURCH APPS

To learn more about the gospel of Jesus Christ and how to progress along the covenant path, you may want to download some of the following apps.



GOSPEL LIBRARY

The official gospel study app for the church. Study and teach from the scriptures, general conference, manuals, music, magazines, videos, hymns and more. Access 'My Covenant Path'.



GOSPEL LIVING

The Gospel Living app focuses on living a Christ-centered life. Create personal goals, plan activities, set reminders, and record your impressions. Includes 'Circles' for messaging.



MEMBER TOOLS

Ward and stake directory with contact information for members, access event calendars, and locate meetinghouses and temples.



GOSPEL STREAM

The official app for all broadcasts from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.



FAMILY SEARCH

Discover and document your own family history and find ancestors who need temple work completed.

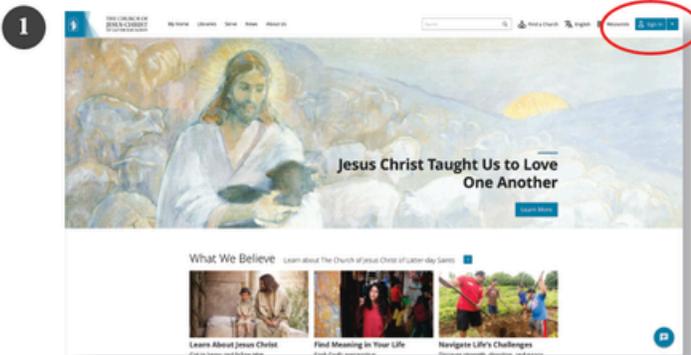


BOOK OF MORMON

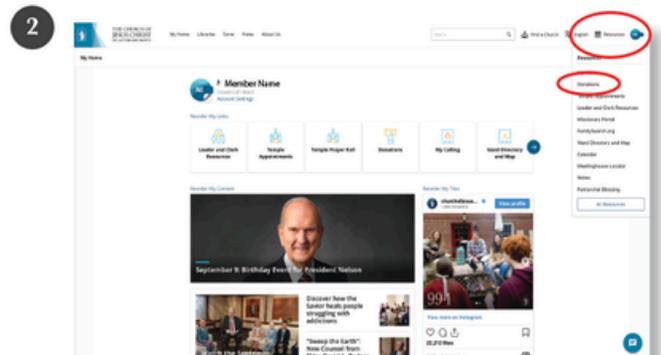
The Book of Mormon app allows you to read, listen, and watch inspired stories and teachings in the Book of Mormon.

ONLINE OPTION FOR PAYING TITHES AND DONATIONS

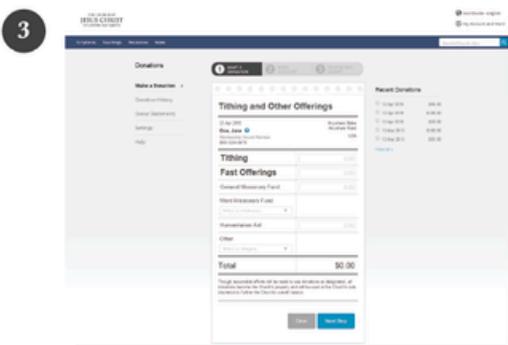
Below are instructions to pay tithing and other offerings online.



1 Visit the Church home page at www.churchofjesuschrist.org and click 'Sign In' on the upper right corner



2 Once signed in, click on 'Resources', then 'Donations' from the drop down menu



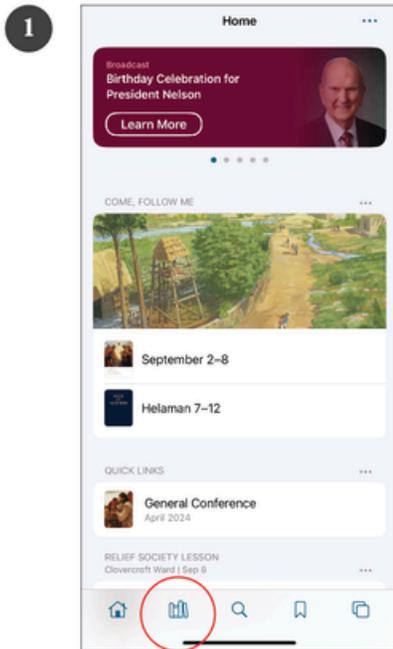
3 Enter the amount to donate and click 'Next Step'

4 Add a bank account and click 'Next Step'

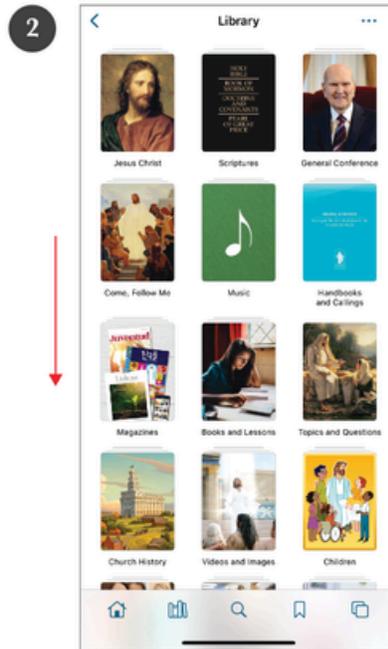
5 Review and click 'Submit'

MY COVENANT PATH

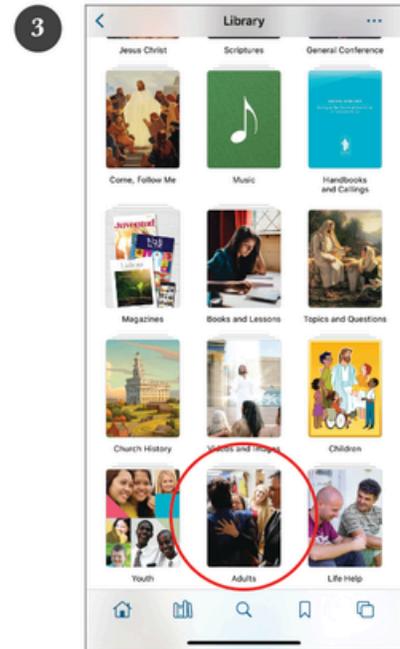
Below are instructions to find the 'My Covenant Path' guide in the Gospel Library app. This online guide includes resources and action items on 20 different church topics. You can go through these at your own pace.



1 Open the Gospel Library app and click on the 'Library' icon



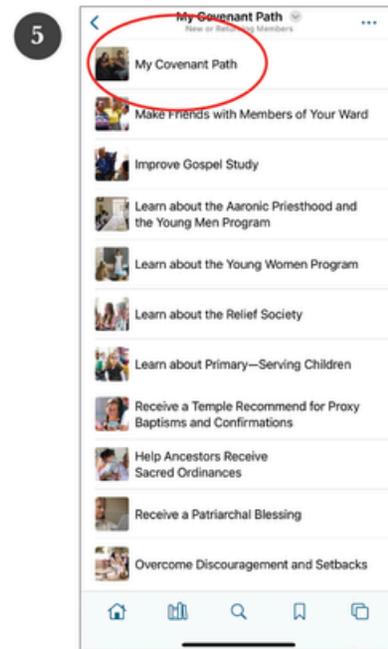
2 Once on the Library screen, scroll down to 'Adults'



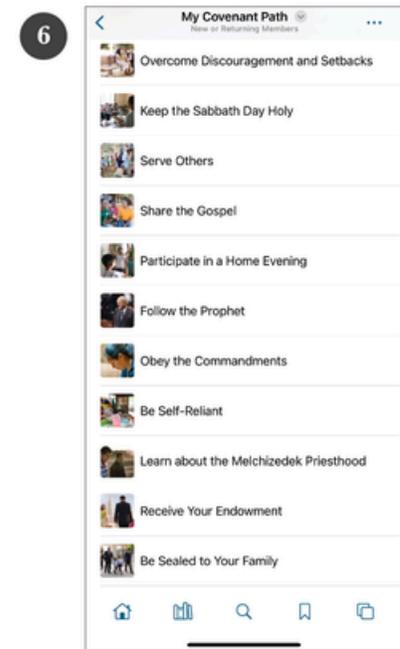
3 Click on 'Adults'



4 Click on 'New or Returning Members'



5 Begin with reading 'My Covenant Path'. Visit each section of the guide to learn more. As you go through this guide, you will see that each experience description includes action items and a bulleted list of resources you can study. These action items and resources can be very helpful to you as you move forward on your path.



HELPFUL WORDS TO KNOW

Here's a quick guide of terms to help you as you learn about your new church and community.

Aaronic Priesthood	This priesthood is held by worthy young men ages 12 to 18 and new adult male members of the Church. The offices, or positions, in the Aaronic Priesthood are bishop, priest, teacher, and deacon. Members of the Aaronic Priesthood are generally the ones you see blessing and passing the sacrament on Sundays.
Baptism for the dead	In temples a living person is baptized on behalf of someone who has died. This ordinance offers the opportunity to accept the blessings of baptism to deceased persons who did not receive the teachings of Jesus Christ in mortal life.
Brother, Sister, and Elder	<p>You may hear us use words like brother or sister to address each other, like "Brother Jones" or "Sister Chan." This tradition stems from our belief that we are all sons and daughters of God, and as such, brothers and sisters to each other.</p> <p>You will also hear missionaries referred to as Elder and Sister while they are serving as full-time missionaries. This is a small way to show how these young men and women are doing something different and holy with their lives while they serve. Elder or Sister can also be a title for men and women who serve in general leadership positions in the Church.</p>
Calling	An assignment or position of service in the Church. Each calling has specifically defined duties that a member fulfills until he or she is released, often to fulfill a new assignment.
Covenant	A sacred promise, or agreement, made between a person or a group of people and God.
CTR	CTR stands for "choose the right." It's a motto young Primary children learn, and they receive a CTR ring as a reminder to do what's right. It's also the name of many of the classes that Primary-age children attend (for example, CTR 4 and CTR 8 are the names of the classes for the four- and eight-year-old children, respectively). Teens and adults sometimes continue to wear CTR rings or necklaces with these three letters.
Deacon	An office of responsibility in the Aaronic Priesthood generally held by young men ages 12 to 13.
Fast Sunday	This is not a Sunday that goes by faster than others. On the first Sunday of each month, Church members fast, or voluntarily go without food and drink for two meals, in order to grow closer to God. The Church encourages members to take the money they would have spent on food and donate it as an offering to help the poor.
Fireside	Don't bring marshmallows or expect to have a real fire at a Church fireside. A fireside is a name for a special Sunday night meeting that usually involves a guest speaker and some refreshments. Firesides are often held for members of the youth program or those 12 years old and older.
General Authorities	Melchizedek Priesthood leaders who administer the affairs of the entire Church. They include the First Presidency, the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, the Presidency of the Seventy, the First and Second Quorums of the Seventy, and the Presiding Bishopric.
General Conference	General conference is the worldwide gathering of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Twice a year, during the first weekend of April and the first weekend of October, Church leaders from around the world share messages or sermons focused on the living Christ and His gospel.
Family Home Evening (FHE)	Home evening is a night once a week where families or a group of individuals are encouraged to gather to spend time together, study gospel topics, and participate in fun activities.

Latter-day Saint	Shortened title or name used to refer to members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.
Laying on of hands	The act of priesthood holders placing their hands on a person's head to give that person a Church ordination or blessing.
LDS	You may have guessed this one. LDS is an abbreviation for "Latter-day Saint," referring most often to a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. "LDS Church" is another nickname; however, we are asked to call the Church by its full name: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. This way, everyone knows that Jesus is the core of our religion and beliefs. "Latter-day Saints" is a good way to refer to your friends who are members of the Church.
Melchizedek Priesthood	Under the direction of local priesthood leaders, worthy adult male members (18 and older) may receive this priesthood. Those who have this priesthood lead the Church and administer such ordinances as naming and blessing children, conferring the Holy Ghost, and giving other priesthood blessings. Elders, high priests, patriarchs, Seventies, and Apostles hold this priesthood.
Ministering	Ministering is learning of and attending to others' needs. It is doing the Lord's work. When we minister, we are representing Jesus Christ and acting as His agents to watch over, lift, and strengthen those around us. As members, we may determine through communication and inspiration the frequency and type of contact we will have with those to whom we minister. This customized contact will help us minister effectively and counsel quarterly with leaders regarding the needs of the individuals and families in our care.
Mission/mission president	A geographically defined area where full-time missionaries work. The leader of a mission is called a mission president.
Mormon	The name "Mormon Church" is a nickname others gave to Church members because we believe in the Book of Mormon. The official name of the Church is The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. We use the full name of the Church whenever possible as a reminder that Christ is central to it.
Mutual	A weeknight meeting or activity for youth ages 12 to 17.
Ordain	To give priesthood authority to a worthy male member of the Church by the laying on of hands.
Ordinance	A sacred rite, or ceremony, by which members make covenants (promises) with God, such as baptism, the sacrament, and temple ordinances.
Preside	To preside means to lead. When a priesthood holder presides in a meeting he has responsibility over that meeting.
Priest	An office of responsibility in the Aaronic Priesthood generally held by young men ages 16 to 18 and new adult male members of the Church.
Priesthood/priesthood keys	The authority and power that God has granted to act in His name. All worthy male members age 12 and older may be given priesthood authority. Priesthood keys are the authority to direct the use of the priesthood on behalf of God's children.
Priesthood blessing	A prayer for healing, comfort, or counsel given by a Melchizedek Priesthood holder, who lays his hands on the head of the person receiving the blessing.
Primary	This is the name of our Church group for children ages 3–11. The Primary children periodically sing as a group during sacrament meeting and participate in other group activities on Sundays and weekdays.

Quorum	An organized group of young men or men who hold the same office of priesthood authority, such as deacons, elders, or members of the Seventy.
Release	To relieve members of their duties in a Church assignment or position with appreciation for the service they have given.
Relief Society	The Church organization for women ages 18 and older.
Set apart	To give a Church member the responsibilities and blessings associated with a Church calling by the laying on of hands of a properly authorized Melchizedek Priesthood holder.
Stake	A stake is a geographical unit of the Church, made up of several wards and branches, similar to a Catholic diocese. They have meetings or conferences at the “stake” building or larger meetinghouse. Stakes are presided over by a volunteer group of leaders called a stake presidency.
Stake Conference	Stake Conference is a twice a year opportunity for all the wards to gather and receive counsel from local authorities and area authorities.
Sunbeam	If someone calls a three-year-old a sunbeam, it’s not necessarily because they are a little ray of light (although some would argue that they are). It’s because that’s the name of the children’s class for these young ones. It’s the youngest age group in Primary. The term comes from the song “Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam” (Children’s Songbook, 60).
Sustain	To give support to those serving in Church callings or to give one’s approval for an action being taken by the Church. This is usually signified by raising one’s right hand when asked to do so by a Church leader in a meeting.
Teacher	An office of responsibility in the Aaronic Priesthood generally held by young men ages 14 to 15; (2) a person who teaches a Church class or quorum.
Temple	A Church building dedicated for the performance of sacred ordinances, such as baptisms for the dead, the endowment, and the sealing of families.
Temple Prep	A class to help members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints prepare to receive temple recommends and attend the temple. Members who have previously attended the temple may also take the class to learn more.
Testimony	An assurance or conviction of faith revealed by the Holy Ghost that God the Father and Jesus Christ live and that Their teachings and the Restoration of the gospel are true. When a person bears testimony, he or she is making a brief, heartfelt statement of this conviction to others.
Tithing	The donation of 10 percent of a person’s income to the Church.
Ward	A ward is a local congregation. It’s a group of Church members who live within a specific geographic area. A ward generally consists of a few hundred members and is presided over by a volunteer Church leader called a bishop. You may also hear the term branch. Branches are much smaller congregations in areas with fewer Church members.

To print more copies of this guidebook, please visit:
salemoregonstake.com
then click **“Resources”**
at the bottom of the main page, then click on
“New Member Guidebook”