



Activity Time

What you need: A copy of the “Priesthood Keys” activity (artwork included with this lesson), scissors, glue, paper punch and a metal ring (may substitute a strand of ribbon, yarn, or even a twist tie), pencils and paper.

Preparation

1. Print out the artwork.
2. Fold along dotted line (careful to line up paper edges) & glue together.
3. Cut out keys. Use paper punch to make hole in each key.
4. Cut out cards.

Activity:

1. Ask: What do we need to unlock our house door? (A key.)
2. Ask: If someone doesn't have a key, how else can they *appropriately* get in the house? (Someone who has a key can either give them a key or give them permission to enter.)
3. Explain: This is the same with the priesthood and the priesthood keys. A worthy priesthood holder can not use the power and authority of God to perform the many different priesthood ordinances unless he holds that particular priesthood key or has permission to use that power from the priesthood member who holds that key.
4. Explain: The keys of the priesthood are spiritual keys that we can not see. They are given to worthy priesthood holders by the laying on of hands. Jesus Christ holds all of these keys and He bestowed them upon His 12 Apostles. Ancient Prophets and Apostles, came back to earth and restored these same keys upon Joseph Smith. Each President of the Church has received these same keys.
5. Explain: There are many, many different priesthood keys. The Prophet and Apostles hold “all” the priesthood keys, but the Prophet and President of the Church is the only man on earth who has the power to *use* “all” of the priesthood keys. President Joseph Fielding Smith explained: “These keys are the right of presidency; they are the power and authority to govern and direct all of the Lord's affairs on earth. Those who hold them have power to govern and control the manner in which all others may serve in the priesthood. All of us may hold the priesthood, but we can only use it as authorized and directed so to do by those who hold the keys.” *Joseph Fielding Smith, Ensign, July 1972 © 2007 Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.*

6. Play the game to learn about how the priesthood and a few of the priesthood keys work together.

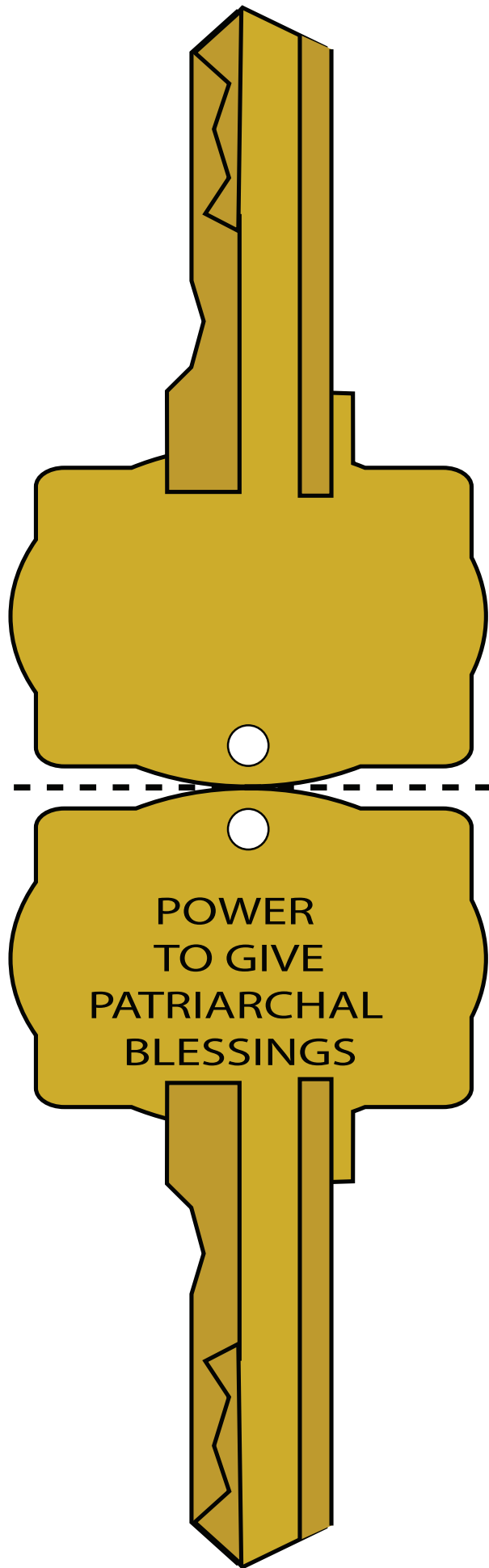
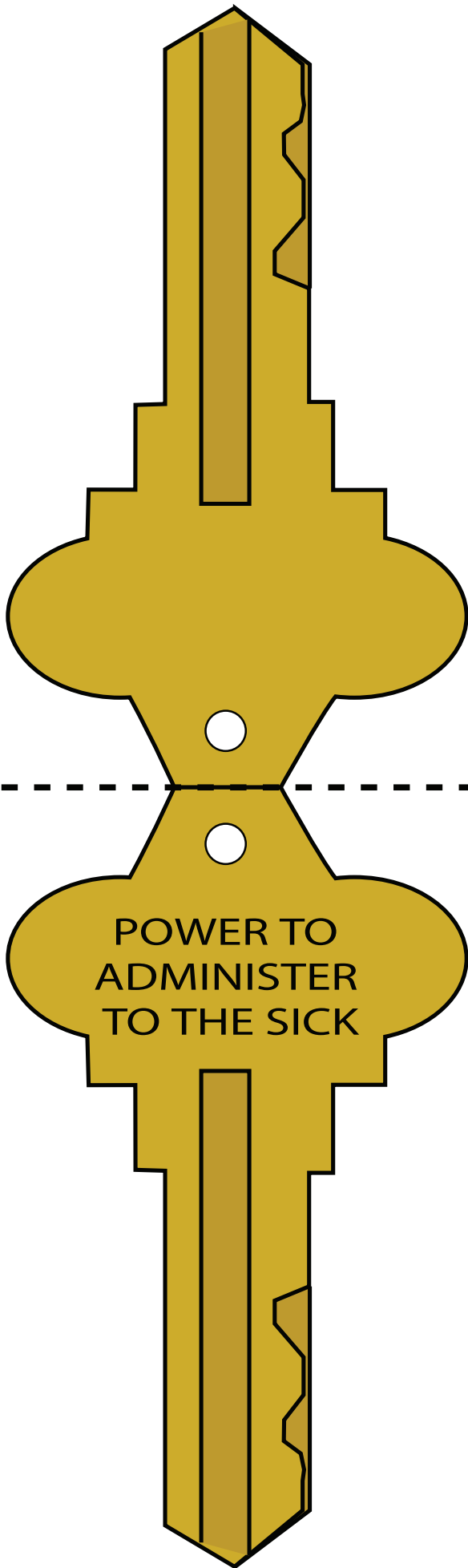
- A. Divide into two evenly, as possible, educationally-balanced groups.

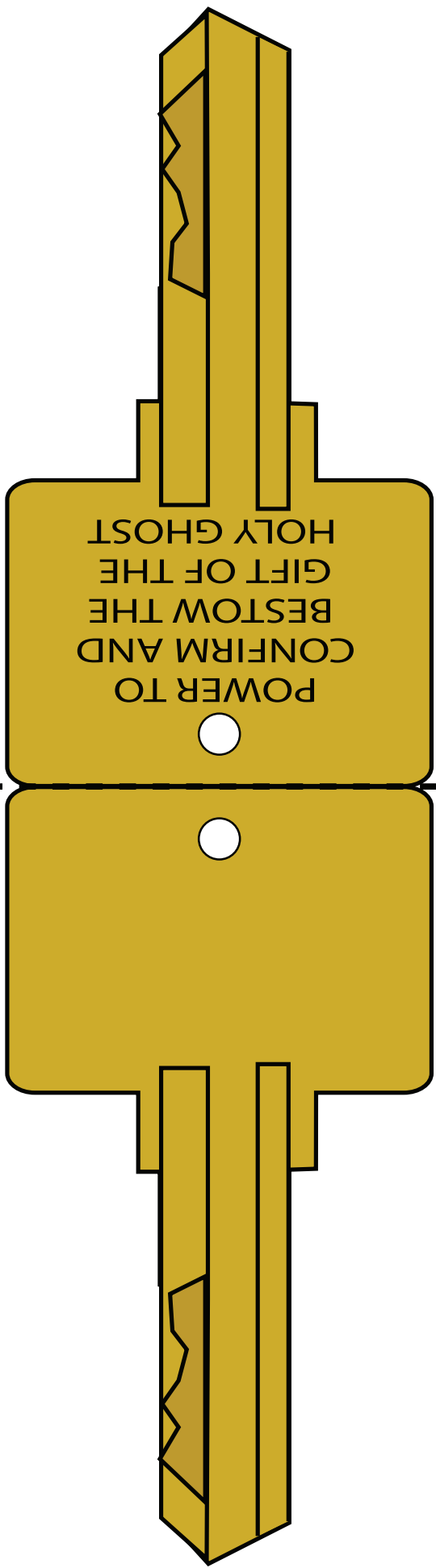
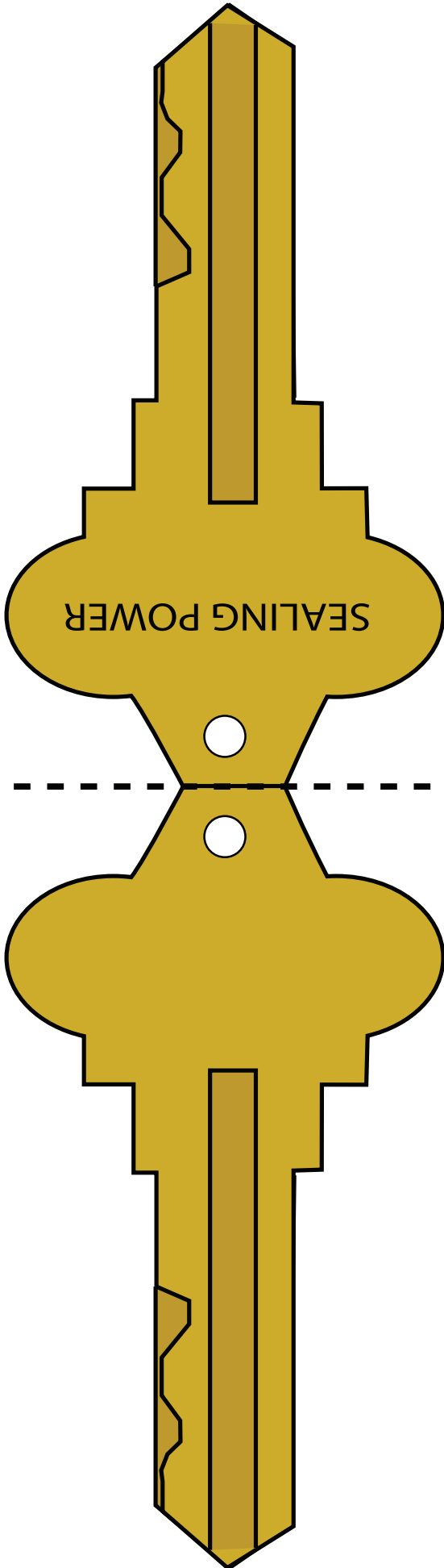
- B. Place the keys, face up in a row, and the cards, face down in a pile, on the table.

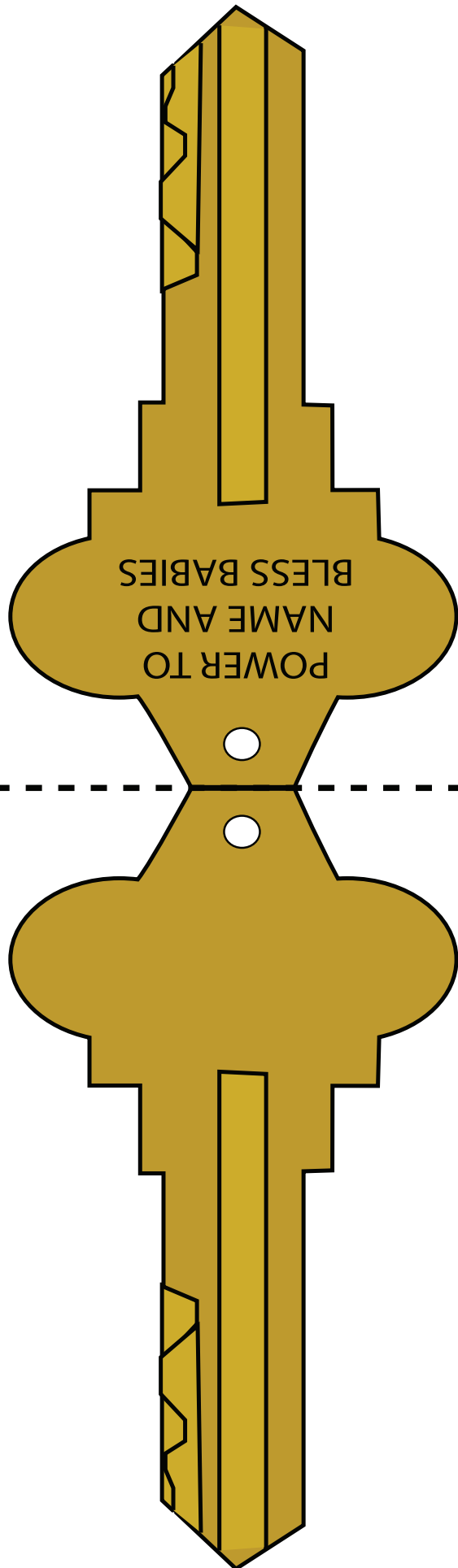
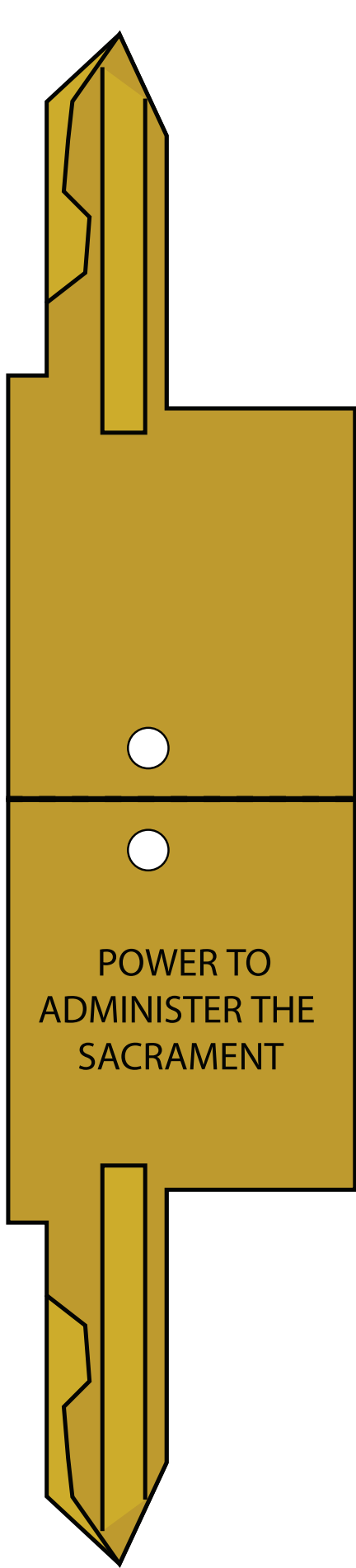
- C. Each group takes turns drawing a card, reading about the priesthood key and answering the questions. Score 1 point for each correct answer and 2 points for Bonus Question.

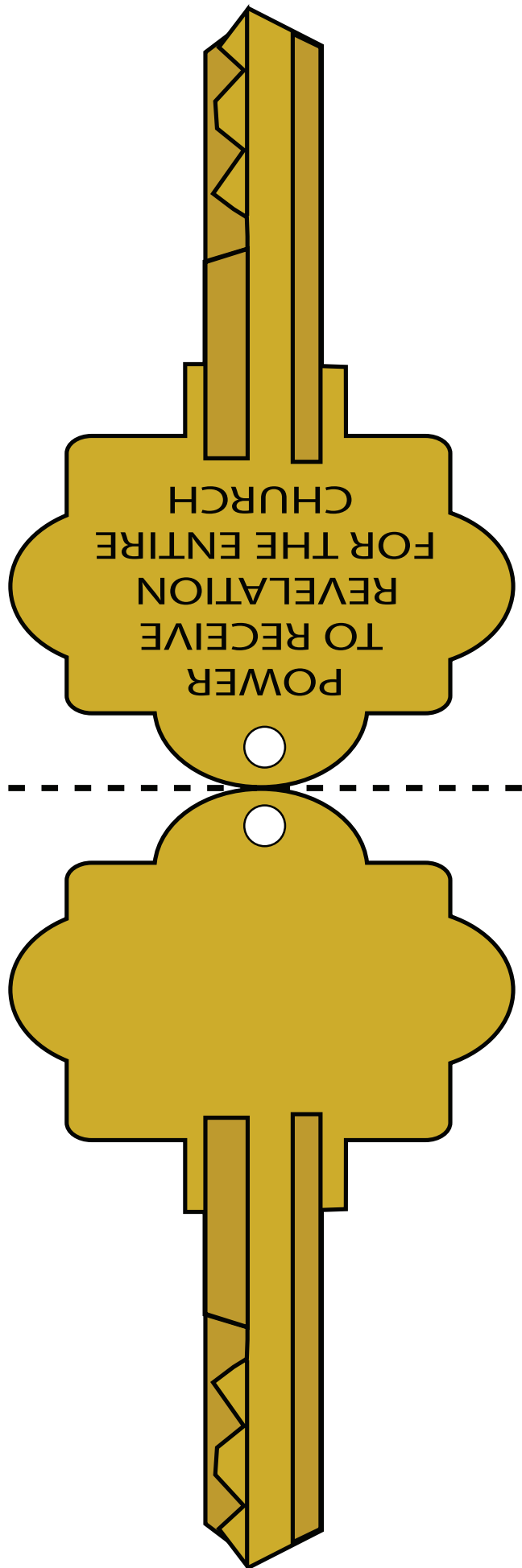
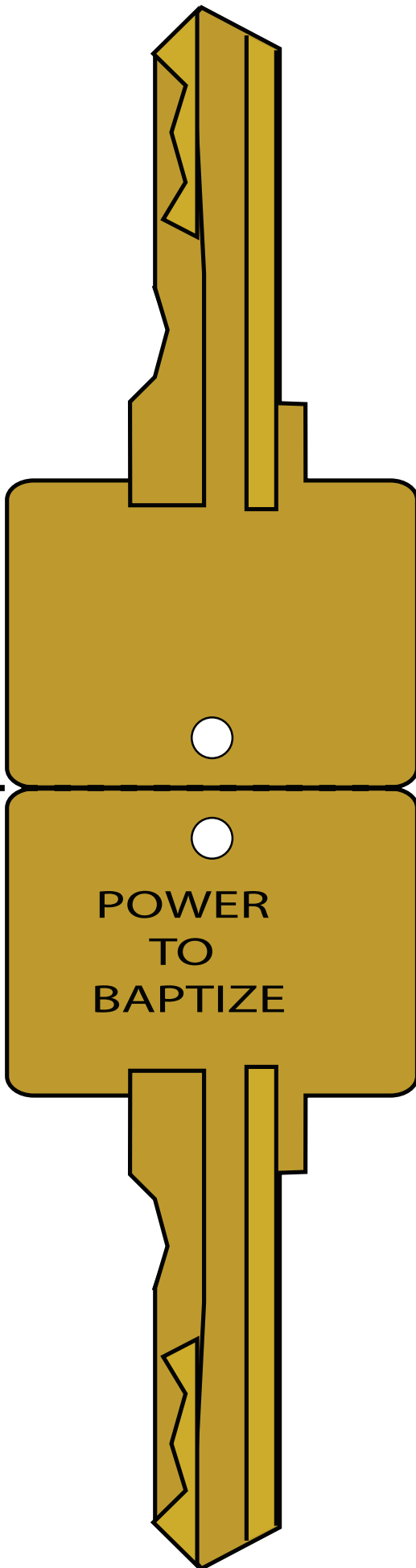
- E. After answering the questions, place the corresponding key on the ring. When all the keys are on the ring have each person write the answer to the following question on a piece of paper (younger children will need someone to write their answer for them): Who is the only person on earth “today” who has the power to use all the keys? (President Nelson.) Score 1 point for each correct answer.











POWER TO ADMINISTER THE SACRAMENT

The Bishop/Branch President holds the keys for administering the sacrament in our ward/branch.

1. To whom does he generally give permission to bless the sacrament? (Priests in the Aaronic Priesthood.)
2. To whom does he generally give permission to pass the sacrament? (Deacons in the Aaronic Priesthood.)
3. Who else has the authority to bless the sacrament under the Bishop's direction? (All worthy Melchizedek Priesthood holders.)
4. Who else has the authority to pass the sacrament under the Bishop's direction? (All Aaronic and Melchizedek Priesthood holders.)

Bonus Question: Name one other office in the Aaronic Priesthood who can pass the sacrament. (Teacher or priest.)

POWER TO GIVE PATRIARCHAL BLESSINGS

The Stake Patriarch holds the keys to give patriarchal blessings for our stake.

1. What is a patriarchal blessing? (Personal counsel and blessings from the Lord.)
2. Do you have to be a worthy, baptized member of the church before you can receive your patriarchal blessing? (Yes.)
3. Before you can go to the Patriarch to receive your patriarchal blessing you must first receive a recommend. Who gives you this recommend? (Your bishop or branch president.)
4. Do you need to strive to live worthily in order to receive the promises given you in your patriarchal blessing? (Yes.)

Bonus Question:
Who was the first Patriarch? (Adam.)

POWER TO BAPTIZE

The Bishop/Branch President holds the keys for baptizing in our ward/branch.

1. What office in the Aaronic Priesthood has the authority to baptize? (Priest.)
2. Who must a priest receive permission to baptize from? (The Bishop/Branch President who holds the keys.)
3. To be baptized like Jesus a person must be completely covered by water. What is this called? (Baptism by immersion.)
4. How old do you need to be to be baptized? (8-years-old.)

Bonus Question: The keys to baptism were taken from the earth after Jesus' apostles were no longer living on the earth. Who restored these keys to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery? (John the Baptist.)

POWER TO CONFIRM AND BESTOW THE GIFT OF THE HOLY GHOST

The Bishop/Branch President holds the keys for confirming and bestowing the Gift of the Holy Ghost in our ward/branch.

1. What priesthood does a worthy male member of the church need to hold to gain permission from the Bishop/Branch President to perform confirmations and bestow the Holy Ghost? (Melchizedek.)
2. How does the Melchizedek Priesthood give us the gift of the Holy Ghost? (By the Laying on of Hands.)
3. Do you have to be baptized before you can receive the Holy Ghost? (Yes.)
4. Receiving the Holy Ghost is sometimes called Baptism by What? (Fire.)

Bonus Question: What other name is given to the Holy Ghost? (The Comforter.)

SEALING POWER

“Nothing is regarded with more sacred contemplation by those who know the significance of this authority. Nothing is more closely held. There are relatively few men who hold this sealing power upon the earth at any given time—in each temple are brethren who have been given the sealing power. No one can get it except from the prophet, seer and revelator and President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints or from those he has delegated to give it to others.” *Endowed from on High: Temple Preparation Seminar Teacher’s Manual* © 2007 Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.

1. What does it mean to be sealed? (That you can be a family together forever.)
 2. Where are the sealing ordinances performed? (In the temple.)
 3. What does it mean to be “born in the covenant”? (Children born to parents who have been sealed in the temple.)
 4. Can you be sealed to your family even if you are not “born in the covenant”? (Yes. You can go to the temple and be sealed for eternity.)
- Bonus Question: Who was the ancient prophet who restored the keys of sealing power to the Prophet Joseph Smith in the Kirtland temple? (Elija.)

POWER TO ADMINISTER TO THE SICK

Just as Jesus blessed the sick, faithful Melchizedek Priesthood holders hold the keys to administer to the sick.

1. When a faithful Melchizedek Priesthood holder administers to the sick, are they always healed? (No.)
2. Why? (These blessings are limited by the will our Heavenly Father.)
3. Even though a faithful Melchizedek Priesthood holder can’t promise healing can they always bring comfort? (Yes, if the person receiving the blessing has faith and believes.)
4. Administering to the sick consists of two parts. What are they? (Anointing with consecrated oil and sealing the anointing with a blessing.)

Bonus Question: What is consecrated oil? Pure olive oil that has been consecrated (given a special blessing) by two members of the Melchizedek Priesthood.

POWER TO BLESS AND NAME BABIES

The Bishop/Branch President holds the keys for blessing and naming of infants. The name given is then put on the records of the church.

1. What priesthood does a man need to hold before he can get permission from the Bishop/Branch President to give a babies blessing? (Melchizedek Priesthood.)
2. When a baby is given a name and a blessing the men stand in a circle. Do all of the men need to hold the Melchizedek priesthood? (Yes.)
3. Where are babies usually given their name and blessing? (Sacrament meeting.)
4. Does a baby have to be given their name and blessing in Sacrament Meeting? (No. But the Bishop/Branch President has to give their permission to have it done elsewhere.)

Bonus Question: Name three things that a baby might be blessed with. (Answers may include, but not limited to, health, mission, temple marriage, following parents’ guidance, being a good example to others, etc.)

POWER TO RECEIVE REVELATION FOR THE ENTIRE CHURCH

The Prophet and President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the only person on the earth who holds the keys to receive revelation for the entire Church.

1. Why is the President of the Church, the only one who can receive revelation for the Church? (So that there will be order and others can not deceive us.)
2. When the Prophet & President of the Church gives us revelation, who is he speaking for? (Heavenly Father.)
3. Because the President/Prophet is speaking to us from Heavenly Father is it important to listen? (Yes.)
4. Even though we can’t receive revelation for the church, can we receive personal revelation for ourselves? (Yes.)

Bonus Question: What promise has the Lord given us about the teachings of our Prophet? (That He will not allow him to lead us astray.)