

Build Up My Church

Doctrine and Covenants 18-19

Objectives:

■ Learn about the worth of souls, the importance of building up the Church to bring souls to Christ, and the sacrifice Jesus Christ made to save us.

Reinforces Principles of:

- Missionary Work
- Repentance & Diligence

Reverence Time

Song:

"I Stand All Amazed" Hymn Number 193

https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/music/library/hymns/i-stand-all-amazed

Scripture: Doctrine & Covenants 18:15-16

"And if it so be that you should labor all your days in crying repentance unto this people, and bring, save it be one soul unto me, how great shall be your joy with him in the kingdom of my Father! And now, if your joy will be great with one soul that you have brought unto me into the kingdom of my Father, how great will be your joy if you should bring many souls unto me!"

Video:

Watch this week's clip from the Living Scriptures Streaming Library. Find the clip at https://www.livingscriptures.com/fhe-lesson-build

Lesson Summary:

In section 18, Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery were told to "build up my church upon the foundation of my gospel and my rock" (D&C 18:5) and to rely upon the things that were written in the scriptures. They were instructed that Twelve would be called preach the gospel. David Whitmer and Oliver Cowdery were called as two of the Twelve, and they are told to seek out the others. The Lord told them that the worth of every soul is great, and His joy is great in the soul that repents. Our joy will also be great as we lead others to Him.

In section 19, the Lord reminded us that we must repent or we will suffer. Jesus has already suffered for us more than we can imagine. All we need to do is repent and turn to Him. The Lord instructed Martin Harris to sell part of his property and pay off the debt to the printer in order to complete the printing of The Book of Mormon. Martin Harris faithfully did as he was instructed, even though it was a great sacrifice. The Lord promised to pour out His Spirit and great blessings upon Brother Harris for being obedient. We also learn in this section that if we learn of Jesus Christ and follow Him, we will have peace.

Joseph Smith, Martin Harris, Oliver Cowdery, and David Whitmer are just a few of the faithful people who sacrificed much to build up Christ's Restored Church. We can continue to build up Christ's Church as we repent and invite others to repent and follow Christ.

Quote:

"What Joseph did was remarkable. He began life as a simple farm boy, but through him the Book of Mormon was brought forth and translated, the priesthood and its keys were restored to earth, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was organized, and holy temples began to be built. The work Joseph started was carried on by early members of the Church who had faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His restored gospel. Through their efforts the gospel of Jesus Christ began to spread over all the earth. They truly did a marvelous work. But the day of miracles is not over, and the marvelous work is still going on. When we were baptized, each of us became part of that work." Julie B. Beck

Questions: How does the Lord feel about us when we repent?

Why does bringing others to Christ bring us joy?
How can we help to build up Christ's Church?

How did Jesus suffer for us? Why?

Activity Time

Sharing the Gospel

Description:

In this fun activity your family will learn how they can help share the gospel and build up the Church and help it grow, just like the chain of children from around the world grows when unfolded.

What you need:

■ A copy of the "Sharing the Gospel" activity for each child and scissors.

Preparation:

- 1. Print out the artwork.
- 2. Cut along dotted lines.
- 3. Fold each group of children, accordion style, along solid black lines.
- 4. Cut around the figure, careful not to cut along the folds where the hands touch (this can be done before or after the activity).

Activity:

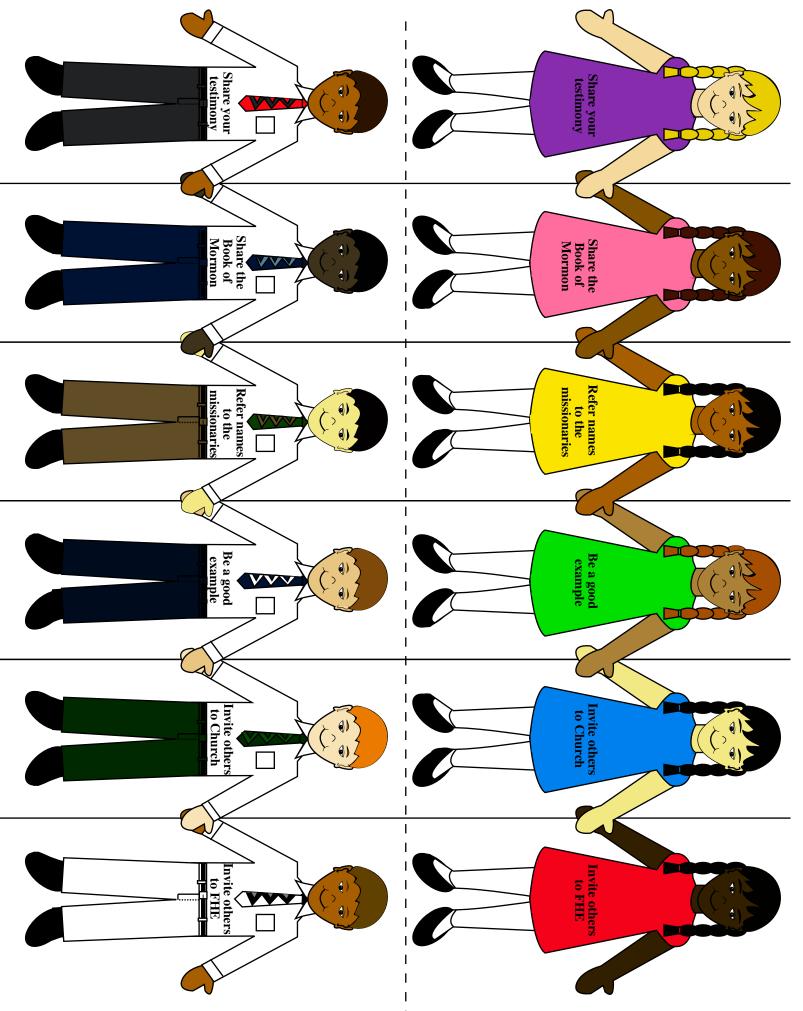
Explain: Since the early days of the Restoration, church leaders have worked at the task of building up Christ's Church. As early as 1837, missionaries served in foreign missions. The work continues today with over 50,000 full time missionaries throughout the world.

Ask: How many members were there when the Church was organized in 1830? (Six.) How many members are there today? (Almost 13 million.)

Explain: Heavenly Father loves all his children and wants them all to have the opportunity to accept the Gospel and return to live with Him someday.

Give each family member a folded children chain (unfold as you discuss each topic).

- a. Sharing our testimonies will help others gain and strengthen their testimonies.
- b. Sharing copies of the Book of Mormon with people not of our faith will help build up the Church by giving more people the opportunity to read it and gain a testimony of it.
- c. The missionaries have a greater chance of being invited into homes to teach the Gospel when members refer names of interested people to them.
- d. Setting a good example for family members, neighbors, and friends is a reflection of the church to people not of our faith. Your example can influence others to join the church.
- e. Inviting others to Church activities, meetings, and firesides, where they can feel of the spirit and love of our Heavenly Father can help them want the Gospel in their lives.
- f. Inviting others to family home evening can help them learn Gospel principles in a loving family atmosphere.
- Just like this chain of children grew, each of us can help the Church grow and build it up.



Treat Time

Fruit Leather People

Prep Time: 5 minutes
Cook Time: 4-5 hours



Ingredients: 2 (29 oz.) can peaches

1 banana

Instructions:

Drain peaches. Puree peaches in blender. Pour into 2 jelly roll pans that have been lined with plastic wrap. To prevent plastic wrap from falling into fruit mixture, wet sides of pan before lining.

Bake at 170 degrees F. for 4-5 hours or until surface feels leathery. Let cool completely. Cut into 3×9 inch strips. Remove plastic wrap. (For a faster alternative, use commercially available fruit rolls.)

Treat Time: For each family member, fold strips accordion style into 1.5×3 inch folds. Cut out "Fruit Leather Children" by placing pattern with the back on the solid folded side and the front on the side with the two open ends. Cut along dotted lines with kitchen shears. Carefully unfold. If fruit leather tears while unfolding you can press it back together again.

