



Organization of the Church

Doctrine and Covenants 20-22

Objectives:

- Learn about the organization of the Church and the different duties of each office of the priesthood.

Reinforces Principles of:

- Priesthood
- Church Organization

Reverence Time

Song: “The Sixth Article of Faith” Children’s Songbook, page 126

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/music/library/childrens-songbook/the-sixth-article-of-faith>

Scripture: Doctrine & Covenants 20:1

“The rise of the Church of Christ in these last days, being one thousand eight hundred and thirty years since the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the flesh, it being regularly organized and established agreeable to the laws of our country, by the will and commandments of God, in the fourth month, and on the sixth day of the month which is called April—”

Video: Watch this week’s clip from the Living Scriptures Streaming Library. Find the clip at <https://www.livingscriptures.com/fhe-lesson-organization>

Lesson Time

Organization of the Church

Lesson

Summary:

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was organized on April 6, 1830. In Doctrine & Covenants section 20, the basic doctrine and organization of the church is described. We learn the importance of the Book of Mormon in the Restoration, and that “God does inspire men and call them to his holy work in this age and generation, as well as in generations of old.” (D&C 20:11) We learn about the nature of God, that He is infinite and eternal, and the creator of heaven and earth, and of all men, male and female, and that we are created in His likeness. We learn that His Only Begotten Son is our Savior and that if we are baptized and believe in His name and endure in faith, we should be saved through His grace.

We are also taught about baptism, including who should be baptized, how we should be baptized, and who has authority to baptize. We learn about the sacrament, who should administer it, and the prayers that should be used.

In this section we learn the duties of elders, priests, teachers, and deacons. Each priesthood office has specific duties and keys that pertain to that office, and members of all priesthood offices should “warn, expound, exhort, and teach, and invite all to come unto Christ.” (D&C 20:59)

Quote:

“Priesthood is the greatest power on earth. Worlds were created by and through the priesthood. To safeguard this sacred power, all priesthood holders act under the direction of those who hold the keys of the priesthood. These keys bring order into our lives and into the organization of the Church. For us, priesthood power is the power and authority delegated by God to act in His name for the salvation of His children. Caring for others is the very essence of priesthood responsibility.” James E. Faust

Questions:

Why do we need the Church?

How are we to be baptized?

How should we administer the sacrament?

What are some of the duties of an elder? A priest? A teacher? A deacon?
(See D&C 20:38-60)

Activity Time

Priesthood Keys Game

Description: The keys of the priesthood are spiritual keys that we can not see — given to worthy priesthood holders by the laying on of hands. Play the PRIESTHOOD KEYS GAME to learn about how the priesthood and a few of the priesthood keys work together.

What you need:

- A copy of the “Priesthood Keys” activity, scissors, glue, paper punch, and a metal ring (may substitute a strand of ribbon, yarn, or a twist tie), pencils, paper.

Preparation:

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

Activity:

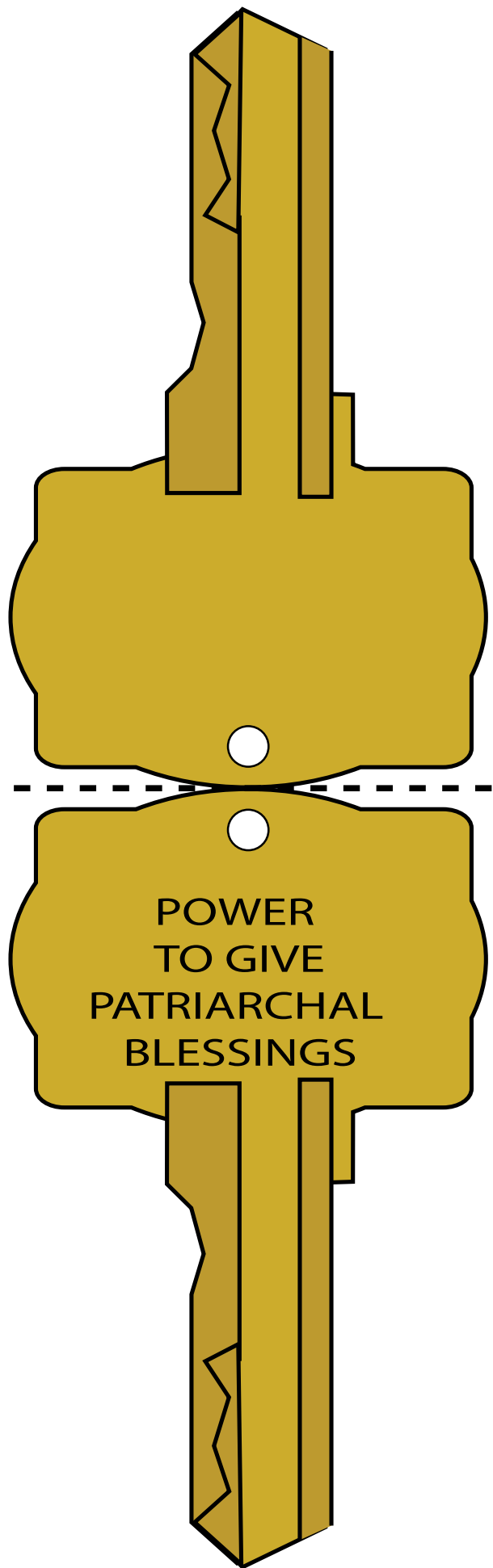
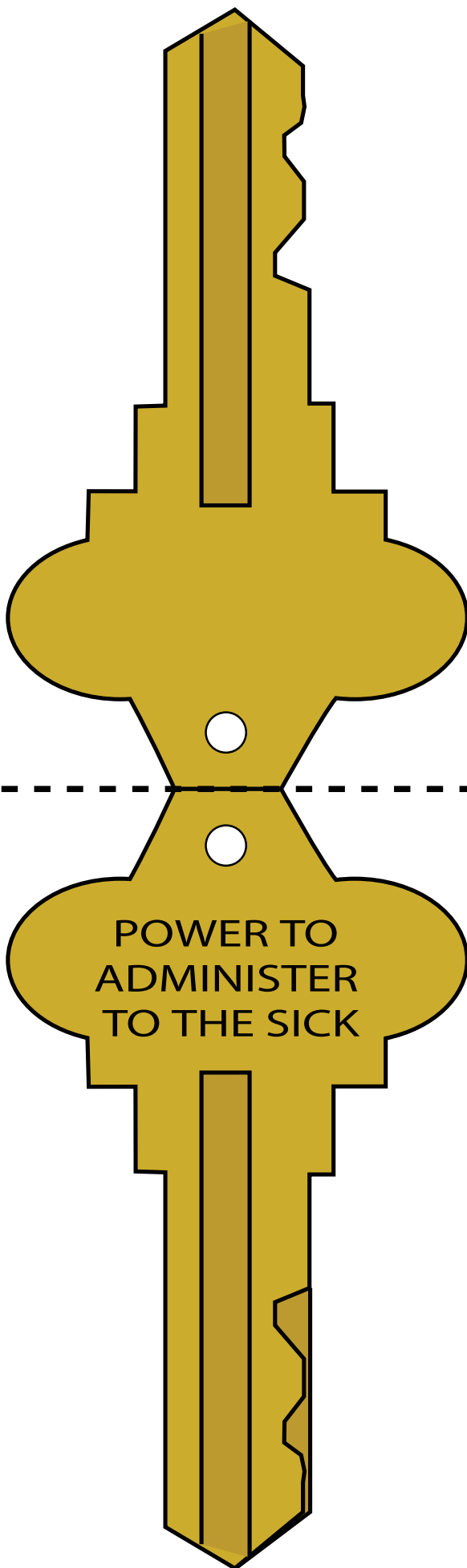
Ask: What do we need to unlock our house door? (A key.) If someone doesn't have a key, how else can they appropriately get in the house? (Someone who has a key can either give them a key or give them permission to enter.)

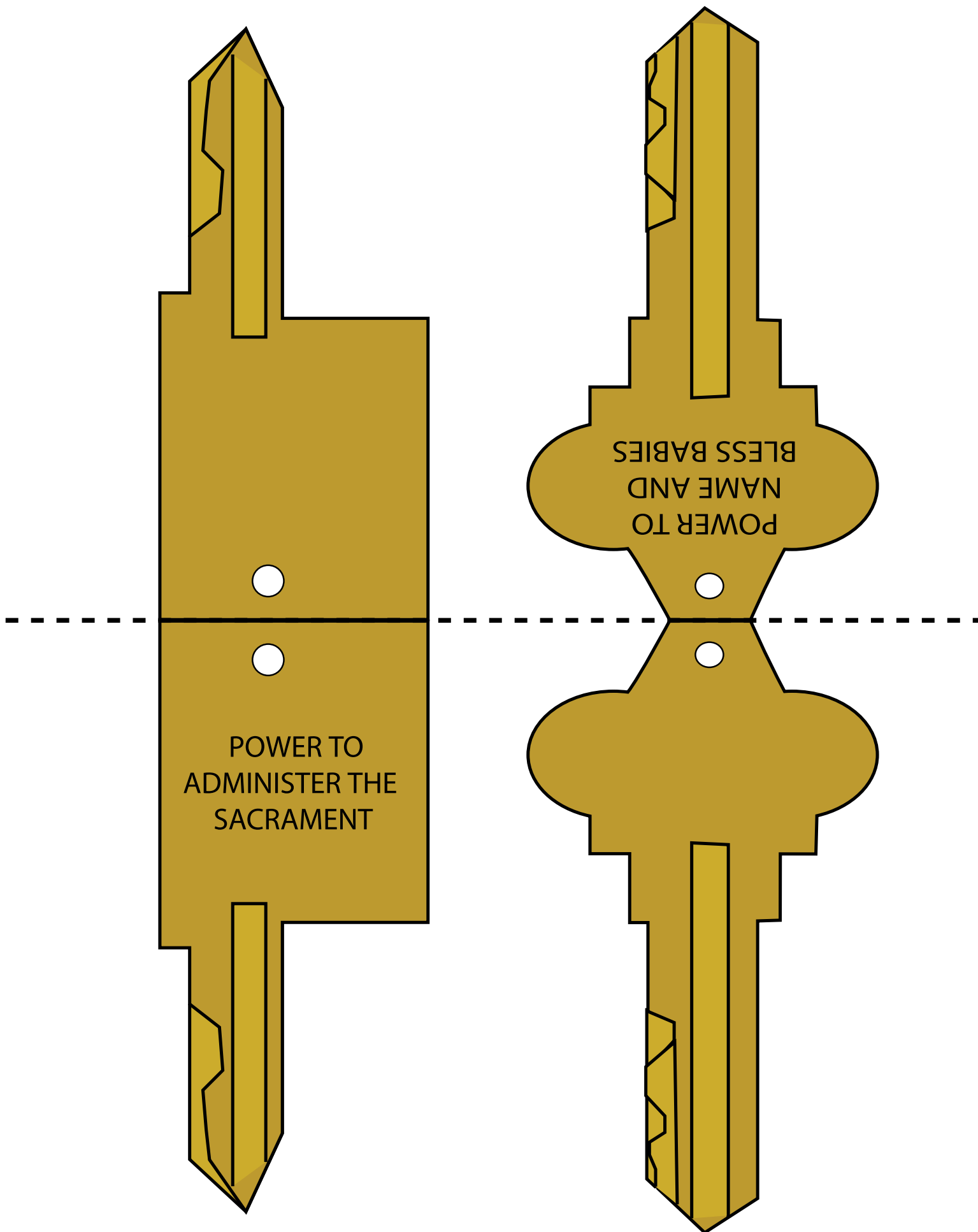
Explain: This is the same with the priesthood and the priesthood keys. A worthy priesthood holder can not use the power and authority of God to perform the many different ordinances unless he holds that particular priesthood key or has permission to use that power from the priesthood member who holds that key.

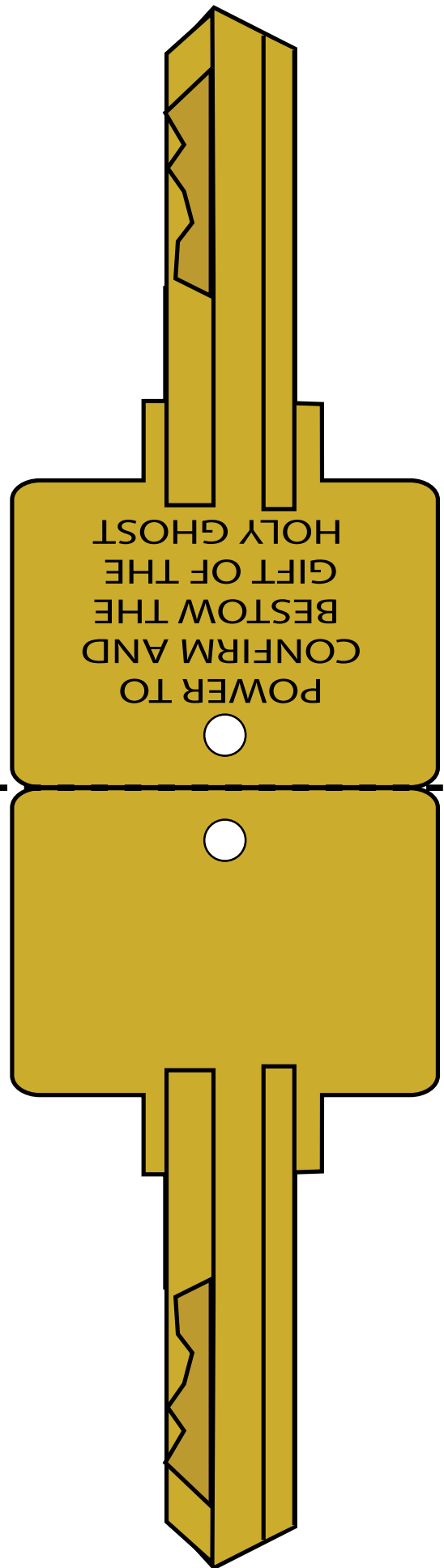
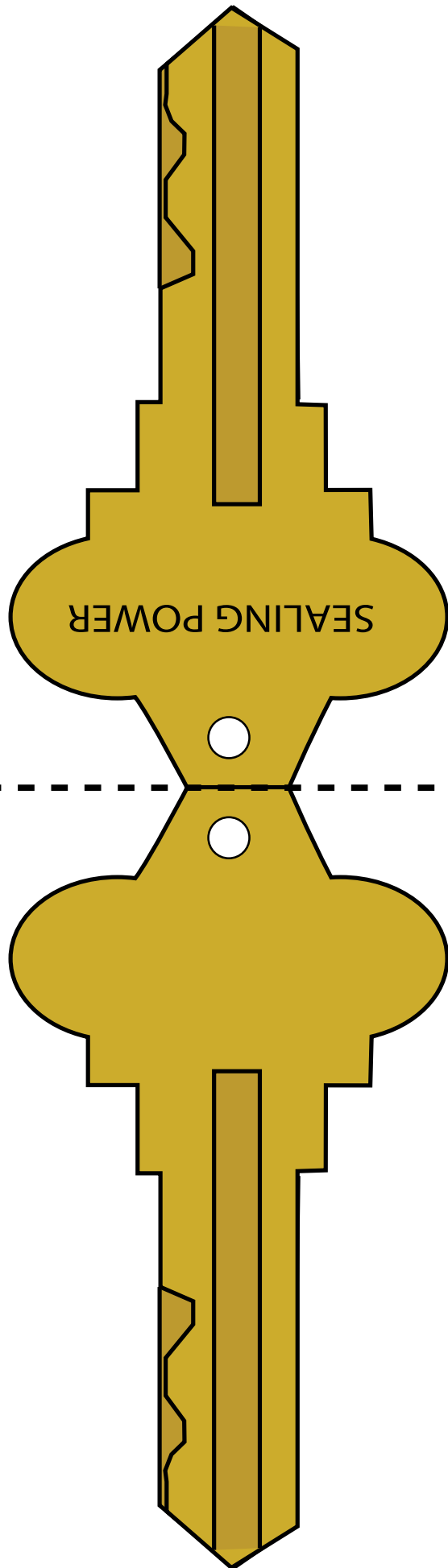
The keys of the priesthood are spiritual keys we cannot see. They are given to worthy priesthood holders by the laying on of hands. Jesus Christ holds all of these keys and he bestowed them on His 12 apostles. Ancient prophets and apostles came back to earth and restored these same keys to Joseph Smith. Each President of the Church has received these same keys. 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.

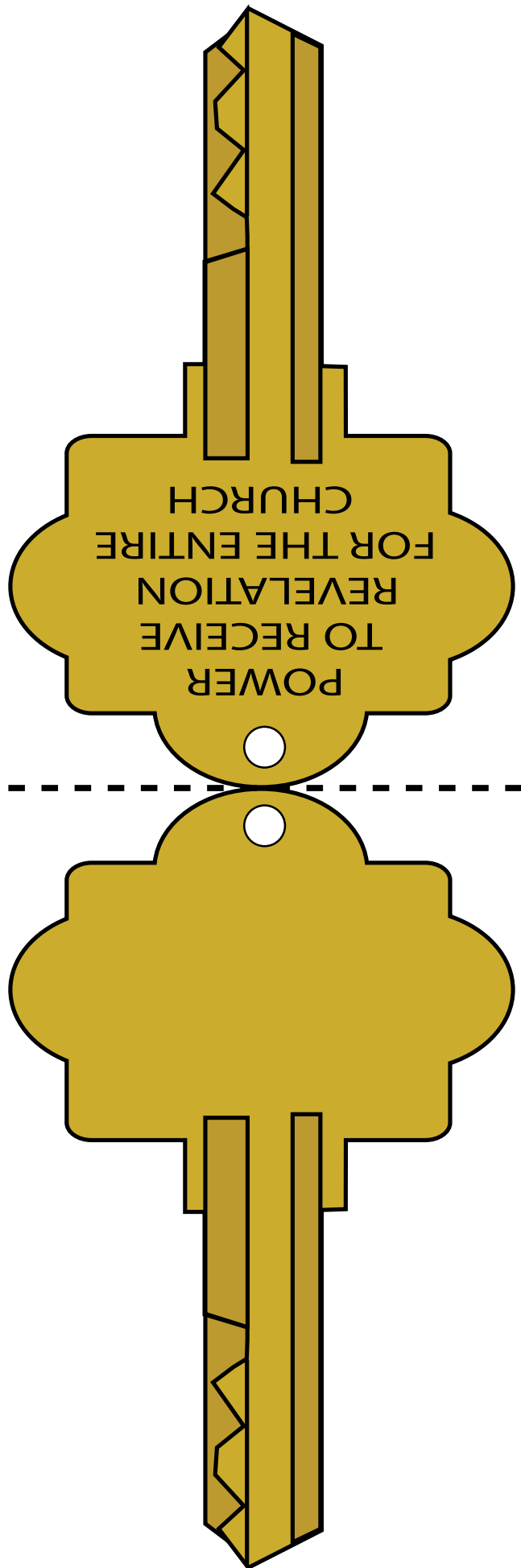
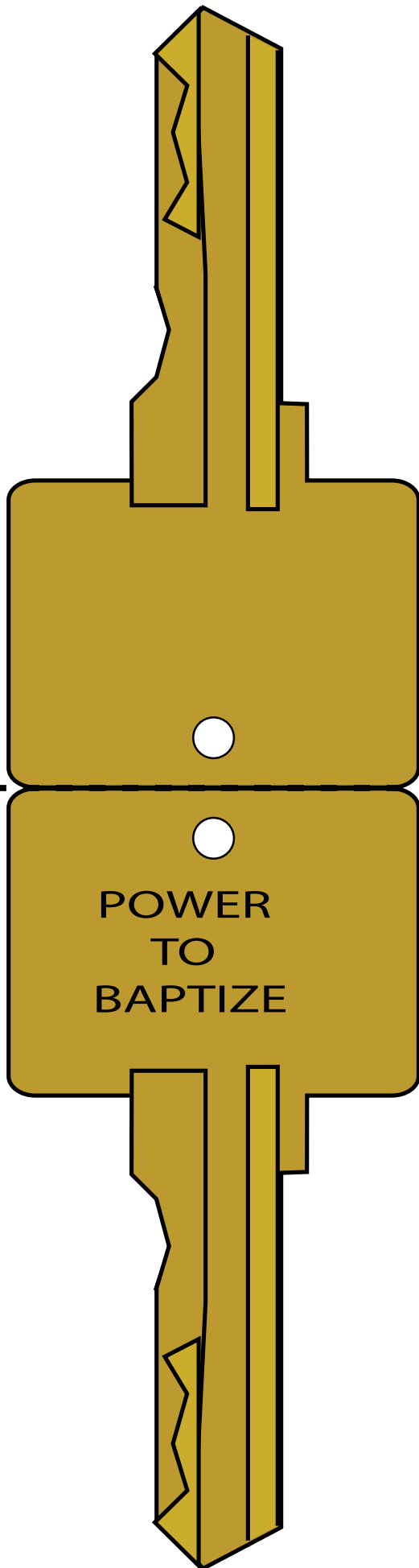
Play the game and learn about how the priesthood and a few of the priesthood keys work together.

- 1 - Divide into two (as evenly as possible) educationally-balanced groups.
- 2 - Place the keys face up in a row, and the cards face down in a pile on the table.
- 3 - 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.
- 4 - After answering questions, place the corresponding key on the ring.









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.)

Prep Time: 2 minutes
Cook Time: 2-3 minutes
Cool Time: 60 minutes



Ingredients: 1 (14 oz.) can sweetened condensed milk
1/2 cup creamy peanut butter
1 (10 oz.) package white chocolate chips
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Instructions: Mix sweetened condensed milk and peanut butter in a microwave-safe bowl. Heat in microwave oven for 2-3 minutes (until bubbly, but not boiling). Stir in white chocolate chips and vanilla until smooth.

Spread evenly into wax paper lined 9-inch square pan. Cover and chill for at least 1 hour. Turn onto cutting board; peel off paper. Cut into squares.

Treat time: Give each family member 1 or 2 squares. Mold squares into key shapes. Store any uneaten portions in the refrigerator.