

THE
Living Christ

Easter 2024

March 2024,

Brothers and Sisters,

As seminary teachers we have been invited by those who lead us, including Apostles and Prophets to read, re-read and study **“The Living Christ: The Testimony of the Apostles”** with the youth this year during the week before Easter (March 25-29). As part of the invitation, we are reminded of what Elder Hales said in General Conference just over 10 years ago:

“In recent decades the Church has largely been spared the terrible misunderstandings and persecutions experienced by the early Saints. It will not always be so. The world is moving away from the Lord faster and farther than ever before. The adversary has been loosed upon the earth. We watch, hear, read, study, and share the words of prophets to be forewarned and protected. For example, “The Family: A Proclamation to the World” was given long before we experienced the challenges now facing the family.” “The Living Christ: The Testimony of the Apostles” was prepared in advance of when we will need it most.

(Elder Robert D. Hales, “Strengthening Faith and Testimony”, October 2013 General Conference)

As you read and study the **“The Living Christ: The Testimony of the Apostles”** this week in seminary, here are some suggestions that you may consider and adapt to your classes. (It is not expected that you will use them all and you may use more than one during a class.)

THE LIVING CHRIST
THE TESTIMONY OF THE APOSTLES
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

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He was the Great Jehovah of the Old Testament, the Messiah of the New. Under the direction of His Father, He was the creator of the earth. “All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made” (John 1:3). Though sinless, He was baptized to fulfill all righteousness. He “went about doing good” (Acts 10:38), yet was despised for it. His gospel was a message of peace and goodwill. He entreated all to follow His example. He walked the roads of Palestine, healing the sick, causing the blind to see, and raising the dead. He taught the truths of eternity, the reality of our premortal existence, the purpose of our life on earth, and the potential for the sons and daughters of God in the life to come.

He instituted the sacrament as a reminder of His great atoning sacrifice. He was arrested and condemned on spurious charges, convicted to satisfy a mob, and sentenced to die on Calvary’s cross. He gave His life to atone for the sins of all mankind. His was a great vicarious gift in behalf of all who would ever live upon the earth.

We solemnly testify that His life, which is central to all human history, neither began in Bethlehem nor concluded on Calvary. He was the Firstborn of the Father, the Only Begotten Son in the flesh, the Redeemer of the world.

He rose from the grave to “become the firstfruits of them that slept” (1 Corinthians 15:20). As Risen Lord, He visited among those He had loved in life. He also ministered among His “other sheep” (John 10:16) in ancient America. In the modern world, He and His Father appeared to the boy Joseph Smith, ushering in the long-promised “dispensation of the fulness of times” (Ephesians 1:10).

Of the Living Christ, the Prophet Joseph wrote: “His eyes were as a flame of fire; the hair of his head was white like the pure snow; his countenance shone above the brightness of the sun; and his voice was as the sound of the rushing of great waters, even the voice of Jehovah, saying: “I am the first and the last; I am he who liveth, I am he who was slain; I am your advocate with the Father” (D&C 110:3–4).

Of Him the Prophet also declared: “And now, after the many testimonies which have been given of him, this is the testimony, last of all, which we give of him: That he liveth! “For we saw him, even on the right hand of God; and we heard the voice bearing record that he is the Only Begotten of the Father—

“That by him, and through him, and of him, the worlds are and were created, and the inhabitants thereof are begotten sons and daughters unto God” (D&C 76:22–24).

We declare in words of solemnity that His priesthood and His Church have been restored upon the earth— “built upon the foundation of . . . apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone” (Ephesians 2:20).

We testify that He will someday return to earth. “And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together” (Isaiah 40:5). He will rule as King of Kings and reign as Lord of Lords, and every knee shall bend and every tongue shall speak in worship before Him. Each of us will stand to be judged of Him according to our works and the desires of our hearts.

We bear testimony, as His duly ordained Apostles— that Jesus is the Living Christ, the immortal Son of God. He is the great King Immanuel, who stands today on the right hand of His Father. He is the light, the life, and the hope of the world. His way is the path that leads to happiness in this life and eternal life in the world to come. God be thanked for the matchless gift of His divine Son.

THE FIRST PRESIDENCY
James E. Faust
Robert D. Hales
David A. Bednar

THE QUORUM OF THE TWELVE
Boyd K. Packer
Richard D. Scott
Dwight H. Petersen
Neal A. Maxwell
Russell M. Nelson
Dale G. Lister

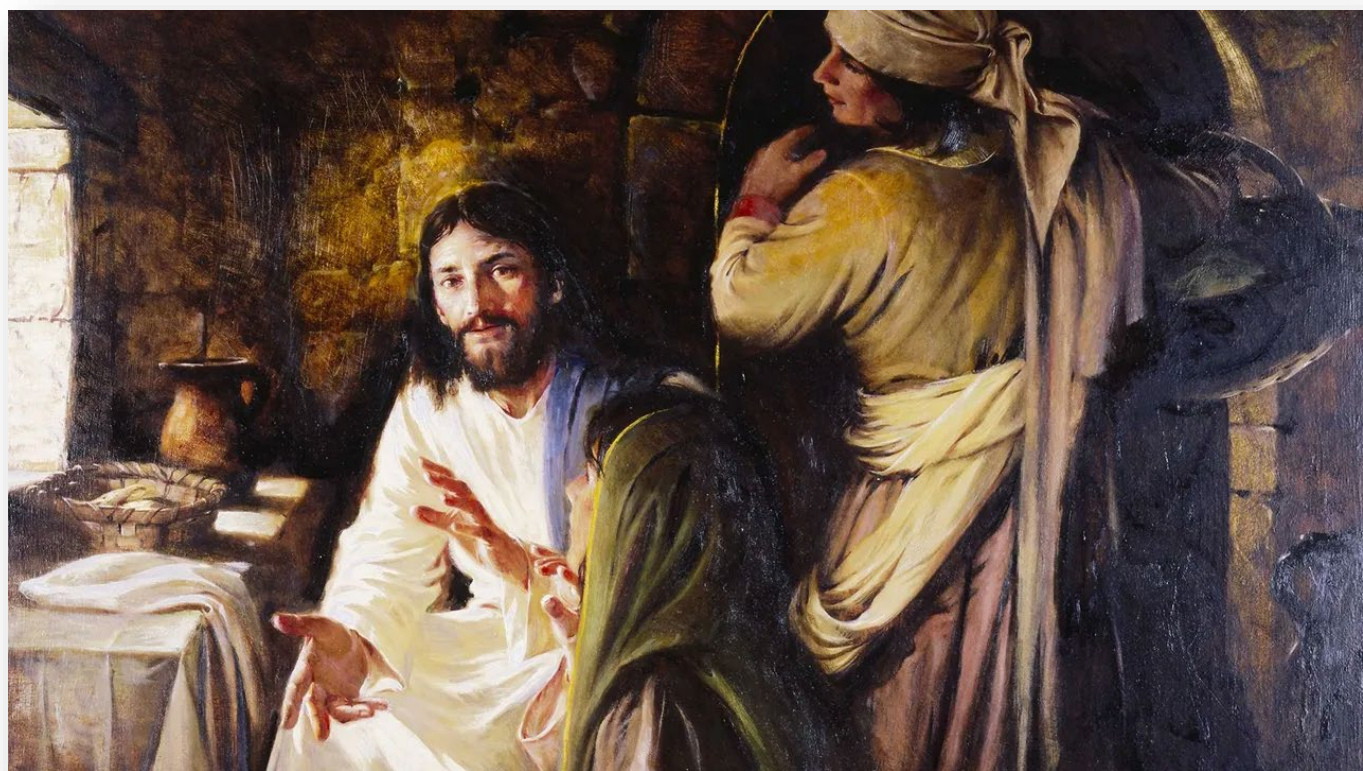
M. Russell Ballard
James B. White
Robert C. Oaks
Robert D. Hales
Jeffrey R. Holland
Anthony D. Escribano

January 1, 2000



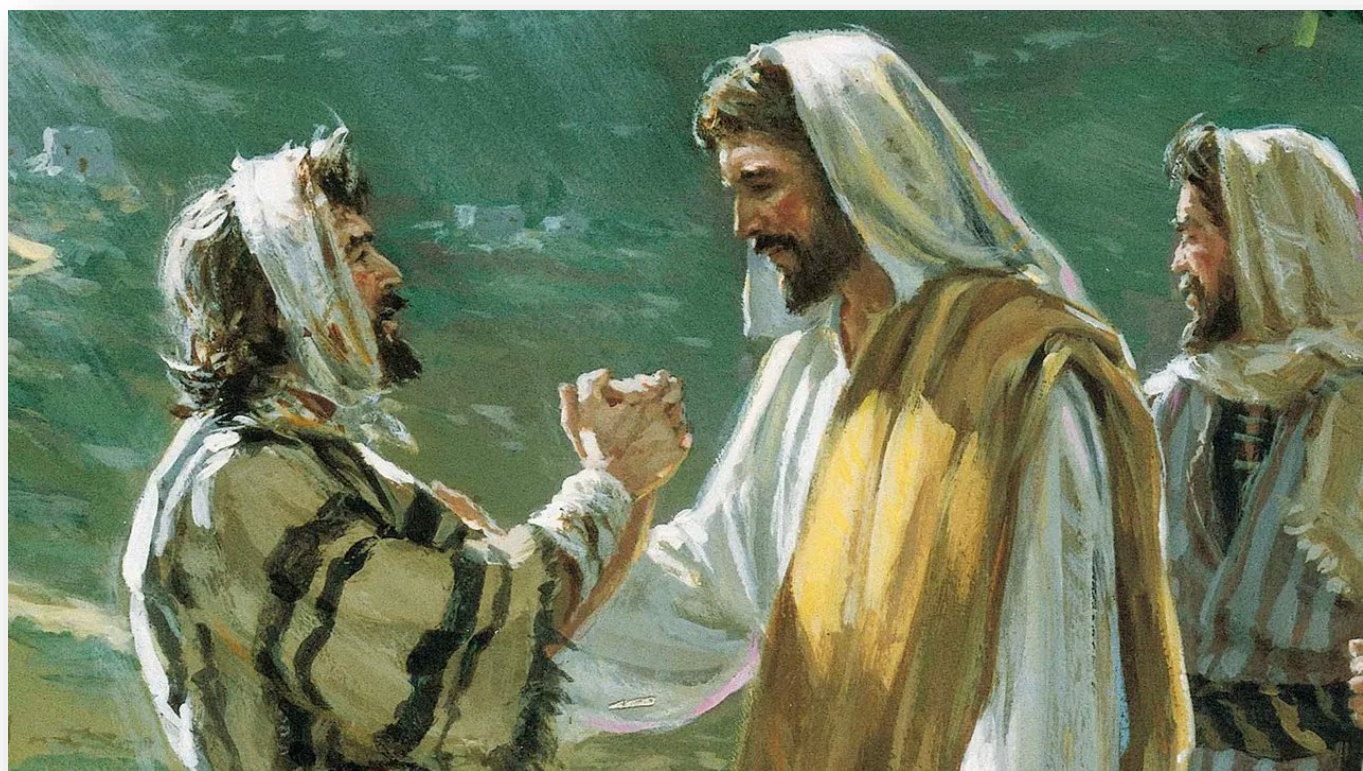
Day One

- Read the “The Living Christ: The Testimony of the Apostles” in its entirety as a class and use Elder Hales vision of the importance of the document. What truths from “The Living Christ” will become more and more important as we approach the Second Coming of Christ? Which truths do the youth see under attack today? Consider looking to the scriptures for examples of how people remained loyal and faithful to their testimonies of Jesus Christ despite persecution?
- Point out that “[The Living Christ](#)” was signed by the First Presidency and the Twelve Apostles. Read together [Doctrine and Covenants 107:23](#). What makes Apostles different “from other officers in the church”? Choose one or more of the “[Special Witnesses of Christ](#)” videos to share with the youth (ChurchofJesusChrist.org). Why do you think God gave us special witnesses of Christ in our day? How do you know they are prophets and apostles?
- Help the youth find different names or titles of Jesus Christ in “[The Living Christ](#)” and underline them, if possible (some examples include Messiah, Firstborn, the first and the last, advocate, and chief corner stone). Talk about what each of these titles teaches us about Him. (Some of these titles are defined in the [Guide to the Scriptures](#) or [Bible Dictionary](#).)



Day Two

- After reading or re-reading “The Living Christ: The Testimony of the Apostles” discuss important truths about Jesus Christ that the youth feel they will need to know in the days ahead. How can we come to know these truths for ourselves? Consider using the model of Acquiring Spiritual Knowledge. You may also use examples from the scriptures when people came to know the Savior for themselves, (Matthew 16:15-17; Joseph Smith History 1:15-20; Moses 5:1-12; Alma 5:44-48; Jacob 7:11, etc.) to illustrate the pattern of Acquiring Spiritual Knowledge.
- Write on the board “*I know that Jesus Christ ...*” and invite the youth to share ways they would complete the sentence. Suggest that they look in “[The Living Christ](#)” for ideas or phrases from the “Living Christ” that express what they know. What can we do to strengthen our testimonies of Jesus Christ? How are others blessed when we share our testimonies? How has your testimony been strengthened by someone else’s testimony? Invite the youth to share what they believe and know about Jesus Christ.



Day Three

- Invite each student to choose a phrase or sentence from “[The Living Christ](#),” and ask them to draw a picture of that phrase or sentence. As each student shows the class his or her picture, ask the other students to guess what the picture is illustrating and find the corresponding sentence in “[The Living Christ](#).” How are we blessed because of Jesus Christ’s life and mission?
- Invite each student to select a favorite picture or image (perhaps on their phone or device) of the Savior and connect it to a teaching in “The Living Christ: The Testimony of the Apostles”. Have them share why they like that picture and how it connects to the “The Living Christ: The Testimony of the Apostles”.
- To help your class consider the many ways the risen Savior blesses us today, you could sing together “I Know That My Redeemer Lives” (*Hymns*, no. 136) Or “I Believe in Christ” (*Hymns*, no. 134) and connect truths taught in this song with those taught in the following scriptures: [Doctrine and Covenants 6:34](#); [45:3–5](#); [84:77](#); [98:18](#); [138:23](#) and “The Living Christ: The Testimony of the Apostles”. Your class might also enjoy writing additional verses for the hymn that express how they know that their Redeemer lives.



Day Four

- Some have found that studying the account of the resurrected Savior’s visit to the Americas is especially meaningful during the Easter season [3 Nephi 11](#); [17](#). Invite students to identify truths from 3Nephi 11, 17 that are articulated in “The Living Christ: A Testimony of the Apostles”. Review what they found. Encourage class members to imagine what it would have been like to feel His wounds (see [3 Nephi 11:14–15](#)) or to be one of the children He blessed (see [3 Nephi 17:21](#)). How does this account deepen our gratitude for the Savior’s Resurrection?
- In “[The Living Christ](#),” the prophets and apostles declared that no one has had greater influence on God’s children than Jesus Christ. Ask the youth how they learn about Jesus Christ and his profound influence. Perhaps they can share a favorite scripture or teaching from living prophets. You may want to invite them to share how their life has been blessed by Jesus Christ or how their life might be different without His profound influence.
- Give students time to write their testimony, feelings and thoughts about Jesus Christ in their journals. Invite them to share something they wrote with another person – perhaps a family member – this Easter Sunday.

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Joseph Smith
Thomas M. Morgan
James H. Faulstich

January 1, 2000

THE QUORUM OF THE TWELVE

Boyd K. Packer
L. Tom Perry
Donald W. Hanks
Neal A. Maxwell
Russell M. Nelson
Dallin H. Oaks

M. Russell Ballard
Joseph B. Wirthlin
Richard G. Scott
Robert D. Hales
Jeffrey R. Holland
Brent L. Eyring