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GOSPEL FOUNDATIONS FOR INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS

Our Father in Heaven



THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Our Father in Heaven

There Is a God

A Book of Mormon prophet taught: “All things denote there is a God; yea, even the earth, and all things that are upon the face of it, yea, and its motion, yea, and also all the planets which move in their regular form do witness that there is a Supreme Creator” (Alma 30:44, page 283).

The creations of the universe show the hand of our Creator. There are millions of stars and planets, all in perfect order. We can see the work of God in the heavens and on the earth. The many beautiful plants, the many kinds of animals, the mountains, the rivers, the clouds that bring us rain and snow—all these testify to us that there is a God.

God is the Almighty Ruler of the universe. He dwells in heaven. Through His Son, Jesus Christ, He created the heavens and the earth. He made the moon, the stars, and the sun. He organized this world and gave it form, motion, and life. He filled the air and the water with living things. He covered the hills and plains with all kinds of animal life. He gave us day and night, summer and winter, seedtime and harvest. He made the human family in His own image to be a ruler over His other creations.

Although God has countless creations throughout the universe, He knows you and loves you individually. He knows your name. He knows your feelings and your struggles. He loves you because you are His child, and He wants you to know and love Him.

The Nature of God

Because we are made in His image, we know that our bodies are like His body. Just as our spirits are housed in our bodies, His eternal spirit is housed in a tangible body of flesh and bones. God’s body, however, is perfected, with a glory beyond all description.

God is perfect. He is a God of righteousness, with attributes such as love, mercy, charity, truth, power, faith, knowledge, and judgment. He has all power. He knows all things. He is full of goodness.

All good things in our lives come from God, and He wants us to be happy like He is. In fact everything that He does is to help His children become like Him. He said, “Behold, this is my work and my glory—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man” (Moses 1:39, page 4). *Immortality* means living forever. *Eternal life* is the kind of joyful life that God has. He wants to share these blessings with us.





Coming to Know God

The Savior taught that coming to know God is a process that will help us to receive eternal life (see John 17:3, page 1357). The first and greatest commandment is “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart” (Matthew 22:37, page 1227).

The more we know God, the more we love Him and keep His commandments. And keeping His commandments will help us to become like Him.

We can come to know God when we do the following:

1. Believe that He exists and that He loves us.
2. Study the scriptures.
3. Pray to Him.
4. Obey all His commandments as best we can.

As we do these things, we will come to know God and eventually have eternal life.



“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

“And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.”

Romans 8:16–17, page 1426

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Additional Scriptures

- **Psalm 24:1, page 727** (the earth is the Lord's)
- **John 3:16, page 1329** (God loves the world)
- **1 John 4:7–8, page 1559** (God is love)
- **Alma 5:40, page 221** (all good comes from God)
- **Mormon 9:15–20, pages 485–86** (God is a God of miracles)
- **D&C 88:41–44, page 168** (attributes of God)



Personal Experience

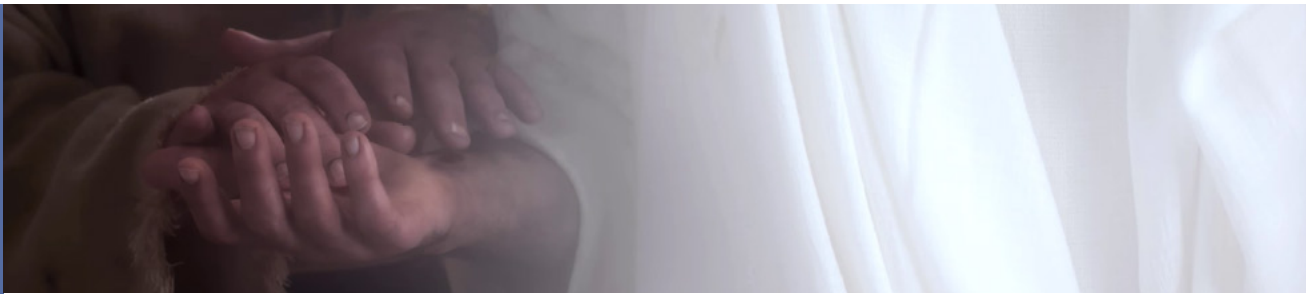
I was sent to prison for vehicular homicide while driving under the influence. I was devastated that my closest friend, who was in my car at the time, lost his life in this crushing accident.

For months I beat up on myself and felt horrible guilt. I found no peace. I was responsible that another person had lost his life. And I could not bring him back.

Some of the LDS volunteer Church leaders and teachers gave me hope and suggested that I find out for myself that there is a God and that this God could rescue me from my despair. I began to pray, haltingly at first, but soon I had great confidence that Heavenly Father lives and that He has sent His Only Begotten Son to the earth to redeem us from our sins and death.

I wrote a letter to my friend's family that expressed my deep sorrow for what I had done to their son. They wrote back to me and expressed total forgiveness to me. They promised to help me in any way they could to repent of my sins and addictions and help me on my way to participate in the kingdom of God. With the help of this wonderful family and so many trustworthy volunteers at the state prison, I got back on the path to recovery. Most of all I thank my Heavenly Father that He never gave up on me as His son. I have come to know Him as a God of mercy and love.

"Soon I had great confidence that Heavenly Father lives and that He has sent His Only Begotten Son to the earth to redeem us from our sins and death."



What feelings do you have when you think about God's love for you?

What are some things you can do in your life to draw closer to God?

Is there anything else that you have learned from this lesson that you would like to share?

Name _____ **Offender #** _____

Please answer the questions on this response form, detach, and return to the address below:

Correctional Services
50 East North Temple Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84150
1-801-240-2644

Please request the next lesson you would like to study: _____