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GOSPEL FOUNDATIONS FOR INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS

Scriptures



THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Scriptures

The Scriptures Teach Us God's Word

From the beginning, the Lord has commanded His prophets to keep a record of His revelations and His dealings with His children. He said: "I command all men . . . that they shall write the words which I speak unto them; for out of the books which shall be written I will judge the world, every man according to their works" (2 Nephi 29:11, page 110). The scriptures give us the standard that we will be judged by at the last day. Studying them consistently will bring the Spirit into our lives and help us prepare to live with God again.

The Books of Scripture

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints accepts four books as scripture: the Bible, the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants, and the Pearl of Great Price. The inspired words of our living prophets are also accepted as scripture.

The Bible is a collection of sacred writings containing God's revelations to His children from the time of Adam until the time of the Savior and His original Apostles. It is divided into two sections: the Old Testament and the New Testament. Prophecies in the Old Testament foretell the coming of Jesus Christ, and the New Testament gives an account of His life and sacrifice.

The Book of Mormon is a sacred record of some of the people who lived on the American continents between about 2000 B.C. and A.D. 400. Hundreds of years after it was written, Joseph Smith received this record and translated it into English through the gift and power of God. It contains the fulness of the gospel of Jesus Christ (see D&C 20:9, page 34) and tells of the visit Jesus Christ made to the people in the Americas soon after He was resurrected.

The Doctrine and Covenants is a collection of modern revelations that were received as the gospel was restored. These revelations contain teachings about the priesthood, the Church organization, and ordinances and covenants that were lost because of apostasy.

The Pearl of Great Price contains the book of Moses, the book of Abraham, and some inspired writings of Joseph Smith. These books clarify teachings on the creation of the earth, the nature of God, and the priesthood. They also teach about the Restoration of the gospel through Joseph Smith.





Words of Our Living Prophets

These four books of scripture constitute our canonized standard works. In addition, the inspired words of our living prophets become scripture to us. Their words come to us through conferences, the *Liahona* or *Ensign* magazine, and instructions to local priesthood leaders. We believe that God will still reveal “many [more] great and important things pertaining to the Kingdom of God” (Articles of Faith 1:9, page 60).

Studying the Scriptures

We should study the scriptures every day and share what we learn. Doing this will help us resist temptation and avoid the influence of the world, which can pollute our minds and distract our thoughts. As we study the truth and righteousness found in the scriptures, we will grow closer to God and to each other.

Many blessings become available to us as we read, ponder, and pray about the scriptures. The Holy Ghost will increase our understanding, and we will gain a testimony of our place in God’s plan and of the redeeming mission of Jesus Christ. As we pray to know the truth, the Holy Ghost will bear witness to us of the truth. We will each come to know for ourselves that the gospel is true.



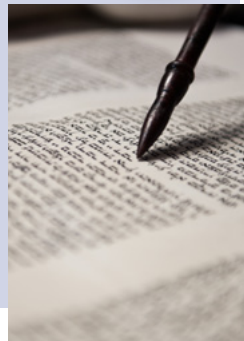
“For I command all men, both in the east and in the west, and in the north, and in the south, and in the islands of the sea, that they shall write the words which I speak unto them; for out of the books which shall be written I will judge the world.”

2 Nephi 29:11, page 110

Additional Scriptures

- **2 Nephi 33:10, pages 116–17** (scriptures testify of Christ)
- **Alma 29:8, page 279** (the Lord speaks through scriptures)
- **Alma 31:5, page 285** (the word of God is powerful)
- **Helaman 15:7–8, pages 403–4** (scriptures lead us to be faithful)

LOOK
THEM
UP



Personal Experience

I served time in the Utah State Prison for a felony. I had many unanswered questions in life, and I often made bad choices.

I met a young man named Danny, who became my cellmate. I was not from Utah and knew nothing about the Mormons, so when he asked me if I had read the Book of Mormon, I was perplexed. He gave me a copy and asked me to read Moroni chapter 10, verse 4, so I did.

As I read the Book of Mormon, I found great happiness and clarity. By the power of the Holy Ghost, I knew that the Book of Mormon was the word of God. I continued to read the Holy Bible and other scriptures. These scriptures taught me about the Lord Jesus Christ and why I needed Him as a Savior.

The scriptures have become one of the most important things in my life. They are a source of strength, direction, and hope. I discovered where I came from, the purpose of my mortal life, and my eternal possibilities. I learned that because of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, I can obtain eternal life—the greatest gift of all—through faith, repentance, baptism, and receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost. I have since been baptized and ordained to the priesthood. I am thankful for the holy scriptures, for they are a major part of what makes up my personal Liahona.

“As I read the Book of Mormon, I found great happiness and clarity. By the power of the Holy Ghost, I knew that the Book of Mormon was the word of God.”



What are your specific goals for reading the scriptures while you are an inmate?

How can you help others to find value in reading the scriptures?

Why are the teachings of living prophets and apostles also considered scripture?

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: _____