

What does Joseph Smith's example teach me about learning the gospel?



Joseph Smith sought spiritual knowledge while acting as the Lord's instrument in restoring the gospel. He pondered the scriptures, asked inspired questions, and acted upon what he learned. As we follow the Prophet's example, we can receive answers to our questions and inspiration to guide our own lives.

Think about the experiences you have had studying the gospel. How does Joseph Smith's example inspire you as a gospel learner?

Prayerfully study these scriptures and resources.

- D&C 76:15–21 (Joseph Smith pondered the scriptures)
- Joseph Smith—History (Joseph Smith likened the scriptures to himself, asked inspired questions, and acted upon what he learned)

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How can I recognize the difference between truth and error?



During the Great Apostasy, many gospel truths were changed or lost. These truths were restored in our day through the Prophet Joseph Smith. Studying the word of God and listening to the Holy Ghost can help us recognize the difference between truths of the restored gospel and falsehoods taught by the world.

How do you discern between truth and error? What blessings have come to your life because you were able to discern between truth and error?

Prayerfully study these scriptures and resources.

- John 8:31–32; Joseph Smith—Matthew 1:37 (Studying the word of God helps us recognize truth)
- 2 Nephi 15:20; Moses 4:3–4 (Satan tries to deceive)
- Moroni 7:12–19 (That which persuades us to do good and believe in Christ is of God)
- Moroni 10:5; D&C 46:7–8 (The Holy Ghost testifies of truth)
- Joseph Smith—History 1:8–20 (Joseph Smith prays to know the truth)

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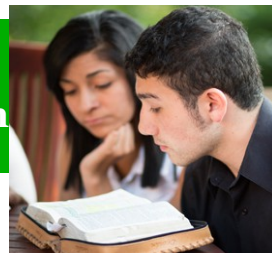
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Why is it important to teach pure doctrine?



In the years following the deaths of the original Twelve Apostles, people began to rely on their own wisdom to interpret the scriptures. As a result, false doctrine was taught, and the Church fell into Apostasy. As gospel teachers, we have a responsibility to teach the truths of the restored gospel in their purity so that we do not lead anyone astray. When those we teach understand true doctrine, their hearts are touched and they change their attitudes and behavior (see Boyd - K. Packer, “Do Not Fear,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2004, 79).

What is the power of teaching pure doctrine?

Prayerfully study these scriptures and resources:

- Luke 24:32; Joseph Smith—History 1:11–12 (Teaching from the scriptures touches hearts)
- 2 - Timothy 4:3–4 (Paul prophesies of false doctrines being taught)
- Mosiah 18:19 (The scriptures and words of the prophets are the source of pure doctrine)
- Alma 4:19; 31:5 (The word of God is powerful)
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How can I liken the events of the Apostasy and the Restoration to my life?



We should “liken all scriptures unto us, that it might be for our profit and learning” (1 - Nephi 19:23). To liken the scriptures means to see how scriptural events and circumstances are like the events and circumstances in our lives. Even though the events of the Apostasy and the Restoration occurred long ago, we can find ways to learn from these events and relate them to us today.

How has likening the scriptures to your life blessed you? What strategies have helped you liken the scriptures to your life? What events from the Apostasy and the Restoration have special relevance in your life?

Prayerfully study these scriptures and resources.

- 1 Nephi 19:23–24 (We should liken the scriptures to ourselves)
- D&C 61:36 (What the Lord says to one He says to all)
- Joseph Smith—History 1:5–20 (Joseph Smith likens James 1:5 to himself)
- “Apostasy,” *True to the Faith* (2004), 13–14

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How can I explain the Apostasy and the Restoration to others?



Most of us will have the opportunity to share gospel truths with others. Because the Apostasy and the Restoration are essential principles of the restored gospel, it is important that we know how to explain these truths to others. We should testify in a way that doesn't sound offensive but expresses the significance of the Restoration of the gospel.

What opportunities have you had to teach others about the Apostasy and the Restoration? What effective methods have you seen others use as they taught about these concepts?

Prayerfully study these scriptures and resources.

- Amos 8:11–12; Acts 3:20–21; 2 Thessalonians 2:1–3 (Apostasy and Restoration foretold)
- Ephesians 2:20 (The Church is built upon the foundation of prophets and apostles)
- Dallin H. Oaks, “The Only True and Living Church,” *New Era*, Aug. 2011, 3–5
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