

Honor The Priesthood

(Outline for Children)

Compiled by Barbara Pratt and Submission by Deborah and Patti Page from:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/fhe4children/>
Week of: August 25-September 1, 2002

Choose from the below resources to meet your family needs.

OPENING PRAYER:

OPENING SONG: "The Priesthood Is Restored" (CS, 89) OR
SEE The Priesthood in our Home FHE Lesson

SCRIPTURE: D&C 84:33 OR
Jacob 1:19 OR
SEE The Priesthood in our Home FHE Lesson

LESSON: The Priesthood in our Home FHE Lesson OR
Lesson 17, Primary 5: Edward Partridge Is Called
as the First Bishop OR
Lesson 9, Primary 3: Priesthood Blessings and
Ordinances (including an coloring sheet) OR
Priesthood Blessings
(including pictures to go with the story) OR
A Sacred Responsibility OR
Honor the Priesthood OR
No Greater Power OR
The Priesthood Crossword Puzzle (Use the questions
as a lesson and then have older children and
teenagers do it as an activity.

ACTIVITIES: Priesthood Blessings and Ordinances Coloring Page
OR
Priesthood Blessings Pictures to go with the story

Honoring the Priesthood Activity OR
The Priesthood Crossword Puzzle

CLOSING SONG: "A Young Man Prepared" (CS, 166)

CLOSING PRAYER:

REFRESHMENTS:

Honor The Priesthood

(Outline for Teenagers)

Compiled by Barbara Pratt and Submission by Deborah and Patti Page from:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/fhe4children/>
Week of: August 25-September 1, 2002

Choose from the below resources to meet your family needs.

OPENING PRAYER:

OPENING SONG: SEE The Priesthood in our Home FHE Lesson OR
Look under "Priesthood" in the Hymn Book

SCRIPTURE: D&C 84:33 OR
Jacob 1:19 OR
SEE The Priesthood in our Home FHE Lesson

LESSON: The Priesthood in our Home FHE OR
The Priesthood Crossword Puzzle OR
(Use the questions as a lesson and have your
children do it as a activity.
How Near to the Angels: The priesthood OR
Youth's Opportunity to Serve OR
In Humility, in Honor, and in Dignity OR
Priesthood Power (1992) OR
Priesthood Power (2001)

ACTIVITIES: Honoring the Priesthood Activity
The Priesthood Crossword Puzzle

CLOSING SONG: "Today I Must Prepare"

REFRESHMENTS:

The Priesthood in our Home FHE (Sent in by Deborah)

Behold, I will lead thee by my hand, and I will take thee, to put upon thee my name, even the Priesthood of thy father, and my power shall be over thee. [Abraham 1:18]

PURPOSE

Help family members appreciate the blessings of having the priesthood in the home.

FOR THE PARENT

Our Heavenly Father has great power, which is called the priesthood. By this power the heavens and the earth were created. Through this power, delegated to men, all the children of Heavenly Father can be blessed (see Abraham 2:1).

Every priesthood holder has the right and privilege to use this priesthood to lead and bless his family. Your children should grow up knowing the blessings of the priesthood.

If you do not have the priesthood in your home, you may receive the blessings of the priesthood through relatives, home teachers, and your bishop or branch president. Our loving Heavenly Father gave the priesthood to his children so that he could guide and bless us.

PREPARATION

Bring a poster board or a large piece of paper and some markers or crayons.

SUGGESTED HYMN AND SONG

"Come, Sing to the Lord" [Hymns, no.10].

"I Thank Thee, Dear Father" [The Children's Songbook, 7].

SUGGESTED LESSON

Abraham Received the Priesthood

Turn to Facsimile No. 1 in the book of Abraham.

- What do you see? (Abraham is lying down on an altar. A wicked priest with a knife is trying to kill Abraham.)

- Why did this wicked priest want to kill Abraham? (Because Abraham worshipped Heavenly Father and would not bow down to worship false gods made of stone or wood.)

Read Abraham 1:1-19 with your family; or, if your children are young, tell the story in your own words:

Abraham was a good man who tried to serve Heavenly Father all his life. He wanted one great blessing that he did not have. He wanted to have the priesthood because he knew it would help him to be a better servant of the Lord and would help him bless his family.

Abraham's father could not give him the priesthood as righteous fathers do because he had forgotten Heavenly Father and turned to

worshipping idols.

Abraham's father even let wicked men take Abraham and tie him to an altar like the one in the picture. There they were going to kill him. But Abraham cried out to Heavenly Father, who heard Abraham and saved his life. Heavenly Father told Abraham to leave his father's house and go away into another country. He promised Abraham the great blessing that Abraham most wanted, the priesthood of God. He also promised Abraham that through this priesthood all the families of the earth would be blessed. (See Abraham 2:6-13.)

Our Family Is Blessed by the Priesthood

Explain to your family that this priesthood or power of God that Abraham was given is the same priesthood that the fathers or sons in your family have. One of the reasons the Lord has given men the priesthood is so that they can bless their families. Every member of your family who is a member of the Church has had some blessings from the priesthood.

Let each person tell about a blessing he has received through the power of the priesthood. For example-

1. Talk about the blessings the children received as babies. Tell about the event, who attended the meeting, who assisted the father or gave the blessing, how the baby was and how the name was chosen. Any details you can remember will be fascinating to the child about whom you are talking as well as to other family members. Be sure to include an expression of how you felt on these occasions.
2. A family member who has been baptized and confirmed could tell about that experience and how he felt.
3. A family member could tell about receiving an anointing and blessing when he was ill.
4. Someone in your family could share his feelings about receiving father's blessing.
5. Share your feelings about going to the temple to be sealed if you have had a temple marriage, being careful not to discuss what goes on in the temple. You could tell how you are looking forward to this great blessing if you have not yet been through the temple. You may want to tell the following story:

Tommy's First Day at School

Tommy was getting ready to go to school for the first time. He had been excited about beginning school, but now that the first day had finally come, he was frightened.

Tommy was quiet all morning. His mother had made his favorite breakfast, but Tommy did not smile when he saw it. He picked up the spoon and tried to eat, but could not. His mother asked, "Do you feel sick, Tommy?"

Tommy answered, "I think so. At least I don't feel like going to school."

Tommy's mother felt his head to see if he had a fever. She looked in his throat, but it was not red. She said, "I can't see anything wrong, Tommy. Show me where it is that you don't feel well."

Tommy said, "I just feel funny inside."

Tommy's father looked at him and said, "I think I know what might be wrong with you, Tommy. This is your first day of school. Maybe you feel funny inside because you will be away from home all day and you don't know what to expect. Are you a little frightened? I know that feeling, too, Tommy. I had the same feeling when I started my new job last week.

"I can do something to help you if you would like. I can give you a special blessing before you go to school today. This blessing can help take away that frightened, funny feeling you have inside."

"I'd like that, dad," said Tommy.

Tommy's father placed his hands on Tommy's head and gave him a special blessing.

That afternoon Tommy came bounding in the door calling, "Mom, mom, I'm home."

"How did you like school, Tommy?" asked his mother.

"Well, it was better than I thought it would be. My teacher is nice," said Tommy.

"Dad said you would feel better after he gave you a special blessing, didn't he? I'm glad your father knew just what to do to help you."

Sharing these experiences should remind each family member what a great blessing the priesthood can be. The Lord has given us the priesthood because we are his children and he loves us. It is our Heavenly Father's way of blessing his children, and he wants us to receive every blessing we are worthy to have.

We Will Remember Our Blessings

Let the children make a poster that says, "The Priesthood Blesses Our Family." Let each family member sign or print his name around the edges of the poster. Then write by each name the priesthood blessings that person has received.

Put up the poster somewhere so that your family will see it each day at dinner time. Discuss the different blessings during dinner each day.

ADAPTING FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

Tell the picture story "Abraham Received the Priesthood" that accompanies the lesson.

Explain how your family has been blessed by the priesthood. Tell the children about the day they were blessed and given a name by a priesthood holder as suggested in the regular lesson. With younger children, this part of the lesson could be expanded so that you take time telling each child about his birth and your special love for him. Describe other priesthood blessings you may have had, such as a father's blessing or a blessing during illness. Help the children realize that having the priesthood to bless them is like having Heavenly Father close by us all the time.

Tell the story "Tommy's First Day at School," and discuss it.

Let the children help you make and decorate a poster that says, "The Priesthood Blesses Our Family." Put up this poster in your home where it can be seen at dinner time. Each night during the week, tell a bedtime story that illustrates some priesthood blessings.

ADAPTING FOR TEENAGERS AND ADULTS

Turn to Facsimile No. 1 in the book of Abraham, and discuss what you see.

Then read the explanation printed below it.

- How did Abraham get into this perilous situation?

Read Abraham 1:5-7.

- How was he rescued?

Read Abraham 1:15-18.

- Abraham sought to have the priesthood but could not be ordained by his own father. Why?

The Lord told Joseph Smith who ordained Abraham. Read Doctrine and Covenants 84: 14.

When the Lord promised to give Abraham the priesthood, he declared

that through this priesthood all the families of the earth would be blessed.

Read Abraham 2: 11.

Discuss some of the ways that the families of the earth have been blessed by the priesthood. Everyone in the Church has received blessings through the priesthood at some time in his life.

- Can you trace the priesthood lineage in your family?
- Who ordained the priesthood holders in your family?
- Who ordained the men that ordained your family members?
- Can you trace the priesthood lineage of the person who baptized you or set you apart to a position in the Church?

Ask each person to recall and share his feelings about at least one blessing he has received through the priesthood, such as the blessing of babies, baptism, confirmation, father's blessing, blessing during illness, temple endowments, and temple marriage.

Conclude by having the oldest priesthood bearer in the family express his feelings concerning the use of his priesthood to bless those he loves.

Introduce this by telling the following story:

Mike Makes a Decision

Mike had graduated from school nearly a year ago, and he would soon be nineteen. All through the past year he had tried to decide whether to go on a mission.

Quite a few of his friends had already gone on their missions, and this is what bothered Mike most. It seemed to him that some of them had gone for the wrong reasons—not because they were committed to serve the Lord, but to please their parents or girl friends. Mike wanted to be sure that if he went, he would go for the right reasons.

One Sunday evening after an inspiring sacrament meeting, Mike asked his father if they could talk privately because he had a problem on his mind that he would like to discuss.

His father said, "Why not right now?" The two of them went into Mike's room and shut the door.

Mike and his father talked for quite a while about all the things that had been bothering Mike. Then his father asked, "Mike, would you like a special blessing to help you?"

"Yes, I would," Mike answered.

Later that night as Mike said his prayers before going to bed, he told the Lord again that he wanted to be sure that he was really committed to serve so that he could feel good about going on a mission. He expressed his love for the Lord and thanked him for his good family and all the other blessings he had received throughout his life. Suddenly he had a warm, good feeling come over him. He knew in his heart how much his Heavenly Father loved him. As he arose from his knees, the words kept going through his head over and over again, "I want to serve the Lord. I want to serve the Lord." Mike knew what to do.

Discuss any future events in your family where a priesthood blessing might be appropriate, such as leaving home for college, mission, work, or marriage; the birth of children; or special assignments or responsibilities. Counsel each family member to remember to call on the priesthood bearers in the home for blessings on these special occasions. Sharing the spiritual experiences of giving and receiving blessings through the priesthood will strengthen and unite your family.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE HOME EVENINGS

Authority in the Priesthood

Tell the following experience that Elder Hugh B. Brown had before becoming an Apostle and member of the First Presidency:

"I was at one time an army officer. As such, I became accustomed to having men stand at attention and salute me and call me 'sir,' and frankly, I liked it.

"Often men came and asked for favors--perhaps a furlough or a leave or some thing that they thought I could grant--because they knew that I was an officer of the King [of England] and that I had the right to speak in his name. And so as they came I handed the 'blessings' down to them and I became more haughty and self-important with each event.

"One day a messenger came to my hotel just off Piccadilly Circus. He said, 'You are wanted immediately in the hospital.'

"I thought, 'Well, here is another boy that wants something. I will go down and see what is wanted.'

"I called a taxi and went to the hospital.

"When I arrived the doctors stood at attention and saluted, and that fed my ego. The nurses treated me with great respect and that pleased me even more. "They directed me to a little room and as I pushed open the door, I saw an emaciated young man lying on a cot. I recognized him as a former Sunday School student of mine in Cardston, Canada.

"When he greeted me, he did not use my rank in his salutation, but simply said, 'Brother Brown, I sent for you to ask if you would use your authority in my behalf.' (I thought, 'Well, this is what I expected. What does he want?')

"'Brother Brown,' he said, 'you know I have a widowed mother; I am her only son; the doctors say I cannot live; will you give me my life!' "I thought, 'My goodness, the King of England can't give him his life. To what is he referring?'

"Then he startled me with a request: 'Will you administer to me!'

"At that moment . . . my uniform, with the insignia on it, seemed to melt away, and I stood before that young man in a uniform with insignia indicating authority. I could not have worn that uniform, which was next to my skin, if I had not had some authority given to me. I stood there thinking of that authority, and I was humbled but inspired.

"I went over to his cot and knelt beside him. I put my hands on his head and said, 'In the name of Jesus Christ and by the authority of the holy priesthood, I bless you and promise you that you will get well and return to your mother.' God honored that promise.

"I went into that hospital a proud British officer, and I came out a humble Mormon elder. Ever since then I have earnestly tried to remember that there is a power and authority given to man, not from the king or the president, but from the King of Kings, and if we live properly and do not forget that we have been so endowed, we may exercise that authority in behalf of those who need our ministrations." (Be What You Will to Be, Brigham Young University Speeches of the Year [Provo, 14 Feb. 1967], pp. 8-9.)

Read the fifth article of faith. Then have someone read Exodus 4:10-16 and 28:1.

- Where did Moses receive his authority to call Aaron to do the Lord's work?

The Lord followed this same procedure when he was himself on the earth.

Have someone read John 15:16.

Discuss how priesthood holders are organized into offices to do the work for which they are called (see chapter 14, "Priesthood Organization," Gospel Principles [PBIC0245], pp. 79-87.)

Adapt this lesson to the age levels of family members.

Priesthood Ordinances

Prepare your family for special occasions when priesthood ordinances or blessings will be given, such as for baptisms, ordinations, or patriarchal blessings. Use the appropriate lesson from the section "Special Occasions," lessons 27 through 37.

How Priesthood Holders Magnify Their Callings

Use a magnifying lens to demonstrate the meaning of the word magnify.

- What is magnified when men honor and use their priesthood? (Their lives and service.)

Have family members suggest ways that callings in the priesthood can be magnified. If there are Aaronic Priesthood holders in the home, ask them to think of their priesthood duties and how they can magnify their callings.

Review Doctrine and Covenants 20:38-67.

Discuss how honoring his priesthood all the time will prepare a priesthood holder to bless his family when some emergency or special event takes place (see D&C 121:36).

Honoring the Priesthood

Priesthood leaders have the responsibility to teach, advise, and counsel us as well as to preside over meetings and perform ordinances. We can turn to them for help when we have difficult problems.

Discuss with your family how home teachers, bishops or branch presidents, stake presidents, and General Authorities fulfill these functions.

You may wish to use wordstrips with the priesthood offices printed on them.

As you discuss each office, attach the wordstrip to a poster or flannel board. Or you may wish to use a chalkboard. Have family members suggest ways they can honor the priesthood that the officer holds (such as seeking, listening to, and following their leaders' counsel; reading conference addresses; or sustaining priesthood officers). Recall examples of counsel and advice from priesthood leaders that have blessed you and your family.

Love and the Priesthood

These suggestions work best with teenagers and adults.

Read and discuss Doctrine and Covenants 12:8, 121:41-42, and 1 Corinthians 13 (charity in this scripture means "love for our fellowmen"). Have family members who hold the Melchizedek Priesthood describe one or two of their responsibilities for serving other people. Then have them describe how these scriptures apply to the way they carry out those responsibilities. If there are no priesthood holders in your family, discuss how to apply these scriptures as leaders, teachers, or family members. Be careful not to allow any criticism of priesthood leaders.

LESSONS

(To view these lessons, go to the <http://library.lds.org/>, click on: "Curriculum, and then "Primary".)

Primary 5, Lesson 17: Edward Partridge Is Called as the First Bishop

Primary 3, Lesson 9: Priesthood Blessings and Ordinances

Here is one enrichment activity from this lesson:
(See the next page for a coloring pictures.)

3. Make and cut apart simple drawings, such as those on the next page, representing the answers to the following riddles. Pass out the drawings you have made. Have each child hold up his drawing and tell what it represents.

Explain that you are going to read some riddles, and the children are to decide which drawing answers the riddle. Have the child holding the answer to the riddle place it by the appropriate blessing picture. (Some drawings can go with more than one blessing.)

a. I am used when someone who is sick is given a blessing. The priesthood holder puts a small amount of me on the sick person's head. What am I? (Consecrated oil.)

b. I can't walk. I can't talk. I am very young. I need to be given a name and a blessing. What am I? (A baby.)

c. I need a special blessing. I have a high fever. I asked my father to give me a blessing to help me feel better. What am I? (A sick child.)

d. I have been given a special power called the priesthood. I have children. I can give my children a father's blessing. What am I? (A father.)

e. When a sick person asks for a blessing, at least a certain number of men who hold the Melchizedek Priesthood are called in to give the blessing. I am that number. What am I? (The number 2.)

f. When the men holding the priesthood bless a baby, bless the sick, or give a father's blessing, they use me. They put me on the person's head or use me to hold the baby. What am I? (Hands.)



Priesthood Blessings

By Karen Lofgreen

I Believe That the Priesthood Blesses My Life

We believe that a man must be called of God, by prophecy, and by the laying on of hands by those who are in authority, to preach the Gospel and administer in the ordinances thereof (A of F 1:5).

Karen Lofgreen, "Sharing Time: Priesthood Blessings," Friend, June 1995, 36

Tetsuko lived by a high mountain in Japan. She was going to school for the first time. Excited, she dressed quickly in her new school uniform. Then she began to feel sick, and she didn't feel like eating breakfast.

Okasan (Mother) asked, "Do you feel sick, Tetsuko?"

"Yes. My stomach hurts, and I don't think I will be able to go to school today." She started to cry.

Otosan (Father) took her hand in his and said, "I think I know what might be wrong with you. This is your first day of school. You will be away from home all day, and you don't know what to expect. I had the same feeling when I started my job. Would you like me to give you a special father's blessing?"

Tetsuko nodded.

Otosan placed his hands upon her head and gave her a blessing. He thanked Heavenly Father for her and for the happiness she brought them. He blessed her to feel better, to not be afraid, and to feel peace in her heart.

Tetsuko left for school. That afternoon she ran into the house, calling "Okasan! Okasan! I'm home. It was fun at school. My teacher is nice, and I met some new friends."

Her mother pulled her close and said, "I'm happy you had such a good day and that Otosan was able to give you a special blessing."

Our Heavenly Father gave his authority to certain men so that his work could be done. It is called the priesthood. Priesthood means the power and authority to act for our Heavenly Father.

How would things be different if we didn't have the priesthood? The Church would not have been organized, no one could be baptized or receive the gift of the Holy Ghost, no one could receive the blessings of the temple, and no one could return to live with Heavenly Father. Through the priesthood, all of Heavenly Father's children can be blessed.

Instructions: Carefully remove page 37 and mount it on lightweight cardboard. Color the flannel board figures, cut them out, and glue a small piece of flannel or sand paper on the back of each. Using a flannel board, share the story of Tetsuko with your family and friends during a family home evening. Talk about the priesthood authority that Tetsuko's father used to bless her.

Picture Illustrated by Phyllis Luch
Sharing Time Ideas

1. Find pictures in the meetinghouse library or Church magazines that show priesthood ordinances (for example, a baby being blessed, someone being baptized, the sacrament being administered). Give a picture to each class and have them discuss the priesthood ordinance shown and how it blesses them. Have each class stand, show their picture, and share their thoughts.
2. Ask the children how the priesthood can bless their families. Write on the chalkboard the things they say. Talk about how families are blessed when a father, brother, grandfather, uncle, or friend holds the priesthood. *Friend*, June 1995, 36
2. Ask the children how the priesthood can bless their families. Write on the chalkboard the things they say. Talk about how families are blessed when a father, brother, grandfather, uncle, or friend holds the priesthood.
3. Have the bishop or branch president discuss with the children the process that is followed in calling a person to serve in a church position such as that of a Primary teacher. Discuss the importance of the calling and setting apart of a person. During the year, if a new Primary teacher is called—and the bishop feels it is appropriate—invite the children to attend when the teacher is set apart.
4. Discuss the responsibilities and duties of deacons, teachers, and priests. Help the children determine how Aaronic Priesthood holders can bless others in the family (being a kind brother, going to church and fulfilling priesthood assignments, gathering fast offerings, and so forth).
5. Recite the fifth article of faith and discuss the words and their meanings. Sing "The Priesthood Is Restored," "A Young Man Prepared," and "Love Is Spoken Here" (Children's Songbook, pages 89, 166, and 190, respectively). Talk about the message of each song and how it relates to the fifth article of faith.
6. Have children draw a picture to illustrate the following terms to add to their "My Articles of Faith Word Book" (see *Sharing Time*, January 1994, page 36): priesthood—the power and authority to act for our Heavenly Father; authority—the right to use or give power; laying on of hands—part of the ordinance when a priesthood blessing is given.



A Sacred Responsibility

By President Gordon B. Hinckley,
First Counselor in the First Presidency

(Adapted from an April 1989 annual general conference address. See Ensign, May 1989, pages 46-47.)

Whoso is faithful unto the obtaining these two priesthoods ... , and the magnifying their calling, are sanctified by the Spirit (D&C 84:33).

Gordon B. Hinckley, "A Sacred Responsibility," Friend, Apr. 1990, inside front cover

The word magnify is interesting. It means to enlarge, to make clear, to bring closer, and to strengthen.

I have a pair of binoculars. I treasure them not only for their practical value but also for sentimental reasons. They are useful for enlarging objects at which I might look. They are also a reminder of a good and great man who magnified his priesthood. They were given to me in 1962 by President Henry D. Moyle, a counselor in the First Presidency. Whenever I use them, I think of the giver as well as the gift.

When you put the eye-pieces of binoculars to your eyes and focus them, you magnify and in effect bring closer everything that you look at. But if you turn them around and look through the other end, you diminish and make more distant that which you see.

So it is with our actions as holders of the priesthood. When we live up to our high and holy calling, when we show love for God through service to fellowmen, when we use our strength and talents to build faith and spread truth, we magnify our priesthood. When, on the other hand, we live lives of selfishness, when we sin, when we set our sights only on the things of the world rather than on the things of God, we diminish our priesthood.

Jacob, the brother of Nephi, in speaking of the call which he and his brother Joseph had received, said, "And we did magnify our office unto the Lord, taking upon us the responsibility, answering the sins of the people upon our own heads if we did not teach them the word of God with all diligence" (Jacob 1:19).

To everyone in this Church who acts in a priesthood office, there comes the sacred responsibility of magnifying that priesthood calling. And if we are to magnify our callings, we cannot live only for ourselves. As we serve with diligence, as we teach with faith and testimony, as we lift and strengthen and build convictions of righteousness in those whose lives we touch, we magnify our priesthood.

Honor the Priesthood

By Elder Boyd K. Packer
of the Quorum of the Twelve

(Adapted from an address delivered in the priesthood session of the Dortmund, Germany, area conference on August 6, 1976.)

Boyd K. Packer, "Honor the Priesthood," Friend, Apr. 1986, inside front cover

On one occasion Karl G. Maeser was going with a group of young missionaries across the alps. They were crossing a high mountain pass on foot. There were long sticks stuck into the snow of the glacier to mark the path so that travelers could find their way safely across the glacier and down the mountain on the other side.

When they reached the summit, Brother Maeser wanted to teach the young elders a lesson. He stopped at the pinnacle of the mountain and pointed to those sticks that they had followed. And he said, "Brethren, behold the priesthood of God. They are just common old sticks, but it's the position that counts. Follow them and you will surely be safe. Stray from them and you will surely be lost." And so it is in the Church. We are called to leadership positions and given the power of the priesthood. And we are just common old sticks, but the position we are given counts. It is separate and apart from us, but while we hold it, we hold it.

Now in our wards and in our branches and in our stakes, the Lord calls to positions of leadership the brethren who are there. None of them is perfect. But they hold the office, and we are to be obedient to them.

No Greater Power

Mary Riczo Hall, "No Greater Power," Friend, Apr. 1996, 8

We believe in the gift of ... healing (A of F 1:7).

Jacob lunged off the step. "I am Global Guard," he hollered, arms thrown out, fists clenched, "protector of planet Earth."

"Mr. Guard," Jacob's father called from the kitchen, "do you think you can stop defending Earth long enough to have your bedtime snack?"

"It's not Mr. Guard, Dad." Jacob flung himself onto the chair at the kitchen table. "It's Global Guard, protector of planet Earth. If you watched the show, you'd know that."

Jacob's father placed a glass of milk and a plate of graham crackers in front of his son. "You watch enough Global Protector for all of us."

"It's not Global Protector, it's—"

"Eat," his father ordered, shaking his head.

Jacob popped a piece of cracker into his mouth as his mother shuffled into the kitchen, tying her bathrobe.

"How are you feeling?" Dad asked.

"About the same," she said, slumping into a chair at the table.

"Wow, Mom," Jacob exclaimed, staring at her, "you look sick!"

His mother nodded in agreement.

Jacob took a gulp of milk. He imagined himself as Global Guard protecting his mother from evil invaders, mutant monsters, and from any other bad guys. He was picturing himself scaring off vicious villains, when he felt a hand on his head. He glanced up.

"Are you ready for family prayer?" Dad asked.

"Yep." Jacob pushed himself from the table, swinging his hand within inches of his father's nose. "I have the power, Dad," he said with a grin.

"Uh-huh," Dad said.

Jacob followed his parents into the family room.

Dad offered the prayer. Although he tried to concentrate on the prayer, Jacob's mind wandered to a Global battle, with himself as

the hero.

The next morning, Jacob felt himself being gently shaken. It must be time to get up for school, he thought. He was going to wear his new Global Guard shirt.

"Jacob?"

Jacob's eyes opened in surprise. It wasn't Mom's or Dad's voice he heard. It was his grandmother's.

"What are you doing here?"

His grandmother forced a smile. "It's all right, Jacob. Your parents aren't here right now."

"Where are they?" Jacob kicked the blanket off his legs.

"Your mother became very ill during the night, and your father took her to the hospital. After you get dressed and have breakfast, I'll drive you there to see her."

At the hospital, Jacob saw that his dad looked tired and worried. Mom was lying on a hospital bed, her eyes closed. A clear fluid went through a thin tube into her arm. Dad explained to Jacob that Mom had a serious infection.

Jacob sat in silence in a large chair. He felt scared and helpless. "I wish I could do something," he finally said in frustration. "I wish I could make her better."

His father gave him a tired smile, then glanced at his watch. "Brother Davis ought to be here any minute. We're going to give your mother a priesthood blessing."

"Will the blessing help?"

"Yes, Jacob," Dad said, "if it's Heavenly Father's will. The power of a priesthood blessing to help someone is very strong."

"Power?" Jacob stared at his father.

Both turned as Brother Davis, one of the family's home teachers, entered the room.

"Thank you for coming," Jacob's father said, reaching into his pocket for a vial of consecrated oil.

Jacob watched as his father poured a few drops of oil onto his mother's head. Dad and Brother Davis then gave his mother a blessing. Jacob relaxed slightly as his mother was blessed that she would recover. As his father continued the blessing, Jacob felt calm for the first time since his grandmother had awakened him.

At home that night, Jacob and his father knelt and prayed that Mom would recover. Jacob concentrated harder than he ever had before on the words his father said.

"Dad," Jacob said after the prayer. "Before Brother Davis came, you said something about priesthood power."

"That's right." His father sank onto the couch.

"Is that like Global Guard's power to protect people?"

"No, Jacob." His father pulled Jacob next to him. "Global Guard is a TV show. We're talking about something real—the priesthood. Remember, if you are worthy, you will hold the priesthood in a few years."

"And then I'll have the power?" Jacob asked, swinging his hand in front of his father's face.

His father took Jacob's hands in his. "Actually, Jacob, God has the power."

"Oh."

"But if you live right and have faith, you can hold His priesthood and act for Him. That's an important thing to remember. You're acting for God."

After school the next day, Jacob and his father went to the hospital. When they entered his mother's room, her eyes were open. Smiling weakly, she beckoned them to come closer. Jacob dashed to the side of her bed.

"How are you?" his father asked, taking her hand.

"The doctor said that with some rest, I'm going to be fine."

"Dad, you were right!" Jacob exclaimed. "The power really works!"

"I know that it does, Jacob."

"This can't be talk about Earth Guard," his mother said, glancing at Jacob's father.

"Honey," his father said, looking relaxed for the first time in two days, "you mean Global Guard—"

"That's not what I'm talking about, Mom," Jacob interrupted, pushing a chair next to his mother's bed. "Global Guard's only pretend."

Then, kneeling on the chair by the bed, Jacob explained what he had learned about real power—priesthood power.

The Message: How Near to the Angels: The priesthood

by President James E. Faust
Second Counselor in the First Presidency

Adapted from a talk given at the General Young Women Meeting on
March 28, 1998

You have the potential to become great women.

James E. Faust, "How Near to the Angels," New Era, Mar. 1999, 4

The priesthood

So, my dear young sisters, sustain the priesthood authority in the
Church and in your home.

Some women may feel it undermines their agency to be directed by
the power of the priesthood. This feeling comes from
misunderstanding. Priesthood authority should exercise no
compulsion, duress, or unrighteous dominion.

Following the priesthood of the Church is an expression of faith
in the Lord's continuing guidance of His Church. It is willing
acceptance of the principle of divine agency.

All of you will have to sometime answer to your natural womanly
instincts, which the Prophet Joseph said are according to your
natures. He said, "If you live up to your privileges, the angels
cannot be restrained from being your associates" (Teachings, 1977,
226).

You should respond generously to those instincts and promptings to
do good. Hold your soul very still, and listen to the whisperings
of the Holy Spirit. Follow the noble, intuitive feelings planted
deep within your souls by Deity in the previous world. In this way
you will be responding to the Holy Spirit of God and will be
sanctified by truth. By so doing, you will be eternally honored
and loved. Much of your work is to enrich mankind with your great
capacity for care and mercy.

Lastly, how do I think you may become great women? You should
cultivate and employ generously your noble, womanly instincts of
care and mercy, first to your family and then to others. May you
always hunger and thirst after righteousness within the framework
of the revealed gospel of Jesus Christ. May you have an eternal
perspective as you go about your angelic cause of doing good so
that it will not only lead you to become great women but
ultimately to become queens in the eternities.

Gospel topics: individual worth, morality, values, Young Women

The Message: Youth's Opportunity to Serve

by Robert L. Backman
President Aaronic Priesthood MIA

This month's message was adapted from a talk given by Robert L. Backman, President of the Aaronic Priesthood MIA. The talk was given in the priesthood session of general conference this past April.

Robert L. Backman, "Youth's Opportunity to Serve," New Era, July 1973, 5

Not long ago I was honored to speak to several hundred young men and women, graduating seminary students from the high schools in Utah Valley. Under the leadership of a council of their own peers, they had planned a full day's activity, which included visits to Welfare Square and the Beehive House, a talent assembly, a devotional and testimony meeting, and a lovely dance. To my knowledge, the only adult who took active part was the area supervisor who introduced me. The rest of the adults present were there to give silent support and, by evening, were feeling their age after sharing a day of youthful vitality and enthusiastic activity.

I wish every adult leader in the Church could have been in attendance to share the spirit of that testimony meeting. With deep emotion, one lovely girl spoke of her reaction when it was discovered that her father had cancer. How she prayed and prayed that he be healed, then came to the realization that her prayers were selfish—that our loving Father in heaven was in control and that she should submit to his will. She evidenced a very mature outlook on life, something that some of us as adults never experience in a lifetime of living.

A handsome young man, obviously a football player, told of how his testimony had been strengthened through association with fine, faithful friends, most of them a year older than he. Graduating from high school and soon to be separated from one another, they had a "last fling" together, a visit to the lovely grounds of the Provo Temple. Then they went to a quiet spot where in the late evening hours 12 future leaders of the Church bore their testimonies of the divinity of the gospel and expressed their love for one another.

I have never heard so many expressions of love for friends and adult leaders who had influenced their lives.

The meeting was closed with "I Know That My Redeemer Lives." I have never heard those beautiful lyrics sung with more genuine feeling. Tears fell freely as those great young people sang from their hearts.

This experience is typical of many other experiences I have enjoyed among this royal generation of youth. There has never been a finer generation. I have great confidence that the kingdom of God will be in capable hands as you assume your future roles of leadership, and I am equally confident that you now are capable of assuming much more responsibility for your own welfare than we have been willing to give you.

With the new direction given to the Aaronic Priesthood MIA program, it now becomes our responsibility as adult leaders to give you the opportunity to grow in your capacity to lead, to serve, and to love.

The Church leadership of the future will be built upon the foundation that is laid today. If you are denied opportunities to test your own strength, then the leadership foundation will be weak and unready. Equally as serious, however, is thrusting unprepared youth leaders into situations in which they fail because the demands of that situation exceed their experience and capacity. Discouragement and doubt will result. The balance between enough responsibility and too much calls for fasting, prayer, and diligent service by youth and adult leadership as they labor together to build the kingdom. The Aaronic Priesthood MIA organization provides a setting where such a fine balance may be struck. With the bishopric of the ward—the presidency of the Aaronic Priesthood—in direct charge, the bishop's youth committee, composed of the priests group leader, the Aaronic Priesthood quorum presidents, the girl class presidents, and the adult presidents of the Aaronic Priesthood MIA, becomes a forum where youth leaders can communicate with the bishopric. They can be totally involved in selecting their activities and be tested and taught great leadership principles without being smothered by too many adult leaders. Yet, this youth committee expands to the ward Aaronic Priesthood council with the addition of the adult leaders of the age groups, who can temper unbridled enthusiasm and zeal with their experience and practicality, exercising some degree of control without dominating the youth committees.

An effective youth committee is vital to the success of the Aaronic Priesthood program, and it is surprising what you bright young people come up with in the way of individual and group service projects and meaningful activities or suggestions for implementing the program.

You have a deep sense of purpose and a keen appreciation for our social needs. Witness the joy of the youth who gathered by the hundreds to clean ditches and gather the debris left by the recent floods in southern Arizona, or those who cleaned up an entire Utah community in a day of service.

An active youth committee in Cache Valley made it their project to take care of the aged and shut-ins. Each week the girls would prepare suppers and the boys would prepare lessons or activities to take to the homes of the unfortunate, giving them plenty of

tender loving care in a family home evening situation. What do you think it did for those young people to be involved in such a worthy, compassionate service?

Deep desire to be of service and to demonstrate love can even benefit the bishop. In Sacramento, California, while the bishop was away on vacation with his family, the youth committee determined to paint his house. These young people had the time of their lives working together and anticipating the pleasant surprise of the bishop when he returned. A real bond of love was established between the youth and their bishop with such meaningful service.

I hope every one of you will keep in mind the words President David O. McKay gave us so stirringly: "The spirituality of a ward will be commensurate with the activity of the youth."

Each member of the bishopric has been given a particular age group—both boys and girls—to direct. What a marvelous opportunity this gives for the presidency of the Aaronic Priesthood to help our youth leaders learn the duties and responsibilities of their respective callings. And what a blessing it will be for our youth leaders to enjoy a close relationship with the great youth leaders of the ward.

To you Aaronic Priesthood quorum leaders, I hope you understand that the Lord outlined your duties as presidents of the Aaronic Priesthood quorums. He directed you to preside, to sit in council with your quorum members, and to teach them their duty. He didn't give that assignment to your advisers; he gave it to you. You share the responsibility, with the bishopric, of blessing the lives of every member of your quorum as you fulfill your sacred calling. What a transformation takes place when young Jack Smith becomes President John Smith, deacons quorum president, entitled to revelation from the the Lord in directing the affairs of that quorum, and President Smith really assumes the responsibilities of his office. Are you too young for such responsibility? The apostle Paul sensed something of the inadequacy young men feel when they are thrust into leadership. He counseled his young "son in the faith," Timothy, "Let no man despise thy youth. ..." (1 Tim. 4:12.)

Dana Miller was approaching his twelfth birthday, looking forward to becoming a deacon. One evening, just prior to his birthday, the front doorbell rang. Dana's father, a high councilor in the stake, answered the door to find three young men on the porch. "We are the deacons presidency and have come to call on your son, Dana." Admitting these quorum leaders, Brother Miller retired to another room while the presidency sat down with Dana and outlined his duties and responsibilities as a priesthood holder. That visit had more impact on a boy's life than hours of counseling from an adult could have. Today Dana is president of the deacons quorum. What kind of a president do you think he is with that kind of an introduction to the priesthood and example from his leaders?

The Lord has assured us, "For the power is in them, wherein they are agents unto themselves." (D&C 58:28.)

My beloved young brethren, why are we so anxious to have you assume responsibility and learn your duties as priesthood bearers? Perhaps our reason was best stated by Elder Ezra Taft Benson in a speech he delivered to an Explorer conference several years ago. He said: "We are not a church of organized sitters; we are a church of organized workers, and we want you to get into it with all your enthusiasm and power. Young men, my brethren, we want you in the field. We want you sweating it out. We want you to have responsibility because you grow under responsibility."

You royal generation, you special people that God has reserved to come forth in this day, may God bless you with an understanding of who you are and bless you with a knowledge and understanding of the mission that he has in store for you. May your lives reflect that you are disciples of Jesus Christ, and may you, like our elder brother, grow in "wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man" (Luke 2:52), that you will be prepared for the awesome responsibilities that he has before you. I challenge you to do so, to honor your priesthood and to show these good brethren of ours, who are placing increased responsibility on you as bearers of the priesthood, that you are worthy of that honor.

I bear my witness to you that God is our Father, that he loves you. He has given you the opportunity to come to this life to gain a body and to experience the joys and the sorrows of life that you can return to him and be prepared for even greater service. May God bless all of us who render service to him. May we honor our priesthood and truly represent his cause.

Gospel topics: priesthood, service

In Humility, in Honor, and in Dignity

Excerpted from an address delivered at the Buenos Aires, Argentina, area conference on Oct. 29, 1978

D. Arthur Haycock, "In Humility, in Honor, and in Dignity," New Era, May 1979, 6-7

A year ago I went with President Kimball back to his home in Arizona. And we visited the home where he grew up as a little boy. We climbed the winding stairs up to a bare room. And there the little boy, before he was a deacon, read the Bible by lamplight. We looked out the window from that upstairs room, and we saw the barns out in back where the cows had been. He used to milk nine cows every morning and night, the old-fashioned way. And as he milked the cows he learned the Articles of Faith, he learned the hymns, and he learned the Ten Commandments. He wrote them down on a little card and put them on the ground where he could look as he milked the cows.

And as he did these things, he decided to make up his mind. He was growing up, and he knew there were a lot of things that were good and a lot that were bad. He decided that when someone offered him a cigarette, he would say no. If someone offered him tea or coffee, he would say no. If they suggested that he be immoral, he would say no; to lie or to cheat, he would say no. He made up his mind when he was a little boy, before he was a deacon. He would do as his mother had taught him. He would keep the commandments.

And so as he grew older and the boys all came around and said, "Spencer, will you have a cigarette? Will you have a drink of whiskey? Will you have some coffee?" he didn't have to stop to think. He didn't worry about hurting their feelings. He had made up his mind just once to say no, and after that it was easy always to say no to the bad things. And that is how he has lived his life all these years.

I suggest that you young men decide right now to say no and remember that the prophet made that decision many years ago—no! And as the years go by and you are with a group and your parents are away, you can say no. If you'll do these things, it will be easy for you, and you will honor your priesthood. You will magnify your priesthood. You'll honor your father and your mother.

Now, as the secretary to the president, I want to say to you that he is the prophet of the Lord. I have worked at his side for five years now. And the Lord tells me that he is his prophet. The gospel is true. Joseph Smith was a prophet. God is our Father, and Jesus is the Christ, our older brother. This is my testimony in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

Gospel topics: agency, Spencer W. Kimball

The Message: Priesthood Power

by Elder J. Richard Clarke
of the Presidency of the Seventy

From an address delivered in the priesthood session of April 1991 general conference.

Having the priesthood does not automatically give you power. Here are some of the things you must do.

J. Richard Clarke, "Priesthood Power," New Era, May 1992, 4

When Bob Barfuss was on his mission, his mother, Mary, prayed each day, reminding the Lord, in detail, of Bob's needs. One day she concluded that maybe she shouldn't take so much of the Lord's time with her long list of concerns. She said, "I just condensed it to: Heavenly Father, please bless Bob to honor his priesthood."

If that simple plea were fully realized in our lives, it would satisfy most needs and prevent most problems. "Bless me, Father, to honor the priesthood." This should be our daily petition.

At a recent stake priesthood meeting, a young man was sustained to receive the Melchizedek Priesthood. When congratulated, the boy's response was surprising: "Why? That's no big deal, is it?"

No big deal? If he only knew how big! I wondered how he reached such a conclusion. If I were his father, his bishop, his quorum adviser, how would I feel to hear that response?

I hope this young man is now serving a mission and getting a better idea of what it really means to bear the Melchizedek Priesthood.

President Benson has said, "The greatest power in this world is the power of the priesthood. ... No greater honor or blessing can come to man than the authority to act in the name of God" (The Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson, Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1988, p. 219). What a privilege! What a trust!

May I offer two suggestions to help us better honor the priesthood:

1. Live righteously to merit the power of the priesthood.
2. Aggressively search out opportunities for quorum service.

To have the priesthood conferred upon us does not automatically bless us with power any more than receiving a driver's license makes us a responsible driver. The Lord declared, "The powers of heaven [can] be controlled ... only upon ... principles of righteousness" (D&C 121:36).

The power of the priesthood comes gradually. Even our Savior had to master the flesh and grow "grace for grace" until He received a fulness (D&C 93:12-13). We may also, if we are true and faithful to our covenants.

However, we may forfeit priesthood power when we commit transgression. Spiritual powers are sensitive and withdraw from evil influences. As Peter warned, we must escape "the corruption that is in the world" (2 Pet. 1:4).

I was proud of a young priest, Rick Dove of Tucker, Georgia, who reported his experience at a rock concert. He observed the drinking, dress, profanity, and general crudeness of the young people there. He said, "I suddenly remembered who I am and felt that I was out of place; so I left."

The prophet Alma, who suffered "nigh unto death" (Mosiah 27:28) repenting of his rebellion and transgressions, pleads: "Come ye out from the wicked, and be ye separate, and touch not [the] unclean things" (Alma 5:57). To us, who bear His holy vessels, the Lord commands, "Be ye clean" (D&C 38:42).

The priesthood quorum was designed by the Lord to be the finest service fraternity in all the world. Eighteen-year-old John Anderson was a remarkable young man who courageously battled muscular dystrophy and lost. He was confined to a wheelchair during his Aaronic Priesthood years.

Conspicuous at the funeral were devoted members of his priests quorum. John's influence upon his quorum was profound, and yet he never played a football game, nor went camping with them, nor danced, nor did any of the usual teenage activities. It was his faith and commitment to the Church that touched his quorum members. And something else—John provided his quorum with an opportunity to serve with love.

When John was a deacon, he wanted to pass the sacrament. One boy was assigned to push his wheelchair while John held the tray on his lap. It seemed awkward at first, but soon others were anxious to help him perform his priesthood duty.

By the time John was ordained a priest, he was very weak and could not kneel to bless the sacrament. His quorum found a solution. They placed his wheelchair next to the sacrament table. One would break the bread, then kneel for him, by the wheelchair, and hold a microphone while John pronounced those sacred words. To do this for their brother soon became an honor for each one in the quorum.

They enthusiastically followed his leadership as first assistant in the priests quorum. Because John was unable to realize his dream of becoming an Eagle Scout, the priests raised money to buy a special achievement plaque which was given to him in sacrament meeting. It read: "Presented to John for outstanding service to your quorum and for being a great example to us all."

Over the years, the young men in John's quorum enjoyed many fun activities, but none had greater impact or taught them more about magnifying their priesthood callings and loving each other than this choice experience they shared with their friend John.

We expect a lot from our Aaronic Priesthood brethren, and, properly trained, they seldom disappoint us. When Dr. Harold Hulme served as bishopric adviser to a deacons quorum, they were invited to tour a hospital. As he introduced his quorum to the nurses, one of them said, "How unusual. The deacons in our church are older men." Dr. Hulme replied, "Well, our deacons are outstanding young men. They can handle it when they are twelve years old!"

Brethren, we are the sons of God. We have been commissioned of Jesus Christ to bear His holy priesthood and to build up His church. We must expand our awareness as quorums, and as individuals, and increase our caring capacity.

In his last tender letter to Moroni, Mormon concluded: "My son, be faithful in Christ" (Moro. 9:25). I believe that would be the loving counsel of every father or mother to a son: Be faithful in Christ. So may we be, and honor His priesthood.

Gospel topics: pride, priesthood, service, spirituality, worthiness

The Message: Priesthood Power

by President Thomas S. Monson
First Counselor in the First Presidency

Adapted from an October 1999 general conference address.

The Aaronic Priesthood isn't a gift; it's an honor. It is a call to serve others.

Thomas S. Monson, "Priesthood Power," *New Era*, May 2001, 4

Some years ago, as our youngest son, Clark, was approaching his 12th birthday, he and I were leaving the Church Administration Building when President Harold B. Lee greeted us. I mentioned to President Lee that Clark would soon be 12, whereupon President Lee asked him, "What happens to you, Clark, when you turn 12?" This was one of those times when a father prays that a son will be inspired to give a proper response. Without hesitation Clark said to President Lee, "I will be ordained a deacon."

The answer was the one President Lee had sought. He then counseled our son, "Remember, it is a great blessing to hold the priesthood."

I hope with all my heart and soul that every young man who receives the priesthood will honor that priesthood and be true to the trust which is conveyed when it is conferred.

Should there be those who fail to resolve to do better because of that greatest of fears—the fear of failure—there is no more comforting assurance to be had than these words of the Lord: "My grace is sufficient for all men that humble themselves before me; for if they humble themselves before me, and have faith in me, then will I make weak things become strong unto them" (Ether 12:27).

Replacing doubt with faith

Miracles are everywhere to be found when priesthood callings are magnified. When faith replaces doubt, when selfless service eliminates selfish striving, the power of God brings to pass His purposes.

The priesthood is not really so much a gift as it is a commission to serve, a privilege to lift, and an opportunity to bless the lives of others. We are shepherds watching over Israel. The hungry sheep look up, ready to be fed the bread of life. Are we prepared to feed the flock of God? It is imperative that we recognize the worth of a human soul, that we never give up on one of His precious children.

I recently received a letter from a young man which reflects the

spirit of love that helped to make firm a testimony of the gospel:
"Dear President Monson:

"Thank you for speaking to us at the National Scouting Jamboree held at Fort A. P. Hill, Virginia. On the tour that we took we saw a lot of famous places like Niagara Falls, the Statue of Liberty, the Liberty Bell, and many other places. The one I enjoyed the most was the Sacred Grove. Our parents had written us all letters to read by ourselves while in the grove. After I had finished the letter my parents had written to me, I knelt in prayer. I asked if the Church was really true and if Joseph Smith really did see a vision and is a true prophet of God, and also if President Hinckley is a true prophet of God. Right after I was done praying, I felt this feeling of the Spirit that these things were indeed true. I had prayed before about the same things but never received such a powerful answer. There was no way that I could deny that this Church is true or that President Hinckley is a prophet of God.

"I feel so blessed to be a member of this Church. Thanks again for attending the Jamboree.

"Sincerely,
"Chad D. Olson

"P.S. We gave our tour guide and our bus driver a copy of the Book of Mormon with our testimonies in it. They are the greatest! I want to be a missionary."

Like Joseph Smith, this young man had retired to a sacred grove and prayed for answers to questions phrased by his inquiring mind. Once more a prayer was answered and a confirmation of the truth was gained.

The call of duty can come quietly as we who hold the priesthood respond to the assignments we receive. President George Albert Smith declared, "It is your duty first of all to learn what the Lord wants and then by the power and strength of [your] holy Priesthood to magnify your calling in the presence of your fellows in such a way that the people will be glad to follow you" (in Conference Report, Apr. 1942, 14).

What does it mean to magnify a calling? It means to build it up in dignity and importance, to make it honorable and commendable in the eyes of all men, to enlarge and strengthen it, to let the light of heaven shine through it to the view of other men. And how does one magnify a calling? Simply by performing the service that pertains to it. An elder magnifies the ordained calling of an elder by learning what his duties as an elder are and then by doing them. As with an elder, so with a deacon, a teacher, a priest, a bishop, and each who holds office in the priesthood.

Doing instead of dreaming

Brethren, it is in doing—not just dreaming—that lives are blessed, others are guided, and souls are saved. “Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves,” added James (James 1:22).

May all of us make a renewed effort to qualify for the Lord’s guidance in our lives. There are many out there who plead and pray for help. There are those who are discouraged, those who are beset by poor health and challenges of life which leave them in despair.

I’ve always believed in the truth of the words, “God’s sweetest blessings always go by hands that serve him here below” (Whitney Montgomery, “Revelation,” in *Best-Loved Poems of the LDS People*, 283).

Once I had a treasured friend, Hyrum Adams, who seemed to experience more of life’s troubles and frustrations than he could bear. Finally he lay in the hospital, terminally ill. I knew not that he was there.

Sister Monson and I had gone to that same hospital to visit another person who was very ill. As we exited the hospital and proceeded to where our car was parked, I felt the distinct impression to return and ask whether Hyrum Adams might be a patient there. Long years before, I had learned never, never, to postpone a prompting from the Lord. It was late, but a check with the desk clerk confirmed that indeed Hyrum was a patient.

We proceeded to his room, knocked on the door, and opened it. We were not prepared for the sight that awaited us. Balloon bouquets were everywhere. Prominently displayed on the wall was a poster with the words “Happy Birthday” written on it. Hyrum was sitting up in his hospital bed, his family by his side. When he saw us, he said, “Why, Brother Monson, how in the world did you know that this is my birthday?” I smiled but I left the question unanswered.

Those in the room who held the Melchizedek Priesthood surrounded this, their father and my friend, and a priesthood blessing was given.

After tears were shed, smiles of gratitude exchanged, and tender hugs received and given, I leaned over to Hyrum and spoke softly to him: “Hyrum, remember the words of the Lord, for they will sustain you. He promised, ‘I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you’ ” (John 14:18).

May each of us ever be on the Lord’s errand and thereby be entitled to the Lord’s help.

Sacred Responsibilities

“You young deacons, teachers, and priests: Are you worthy to

officiate in the preparation, passing, and blessing of the sacrament? These are sacred responsibilities. The bread and water are emblems of our Savior's flesh and blood; they represent His atoning sacrifice.

"Think of that for a moment. The sacrament that you administer each week is in remembrance of the Atonement of Jesus Christ. The wondrous gift of the Atonement overcomes physical death unconditionally, and it is infinite because it is for all who have lived or will ever live in mortality. Through the Atonement, we are all redeemed from the Fall of Adam and will be resurrected. ...

"Oh, how the Lord blesses worthy bearers of the Aaronic Priesthood who bless and pass the sacrament to faithful members of the Church in His memory! And how He blesses those who partake of the sacrament worthily! If you are worthy to participate in the administration of the sacrament, you will be worthy to receive the Melchizedek Priesthood at the appropriate time and enter the temple to take upon yourselves covenants with the Lord" (Ensign, May 1996, 35-36).

—Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve

Gospel topics: Atonement, Church callings, grace, Holy Ghost, priesthood, sacrament, service

ACTIVITIES

Activity Submitted by: Patti Page

Honoring the Priesthood Activity

This activity is made of keys. You can make them out of paper and label them. Then describe each key.

Keys to all Spiritual Blessings

Keys to the Blessings of the Posterity of Abraham

Keys to the Gathering of Israel

Keys to the Sealing Powers

Keys to Church Organization and Government

Keys to the Aaronic Priesthood and to the Gospel of Repentance

Keys to the Dispensation of the Fullness of Time

We need the right keys to be able to start a car and utilize it's power, and so we also need the right keys to unlock the power of the Priesthood. A man who holds the priesthood can use it only when he receives the proper authority or key to do so. Pres. Joseph F Smith said, "It is necessary that every act performed under this [priesthood] authority shall be done at the proper time and place, in the proper way, and after the proper order. The power of directing these labors constitutes the keys of the priesthood." Gospel Doctrine p. 136. The right to direct the use of the priesthood is called the keys of the priesthood.

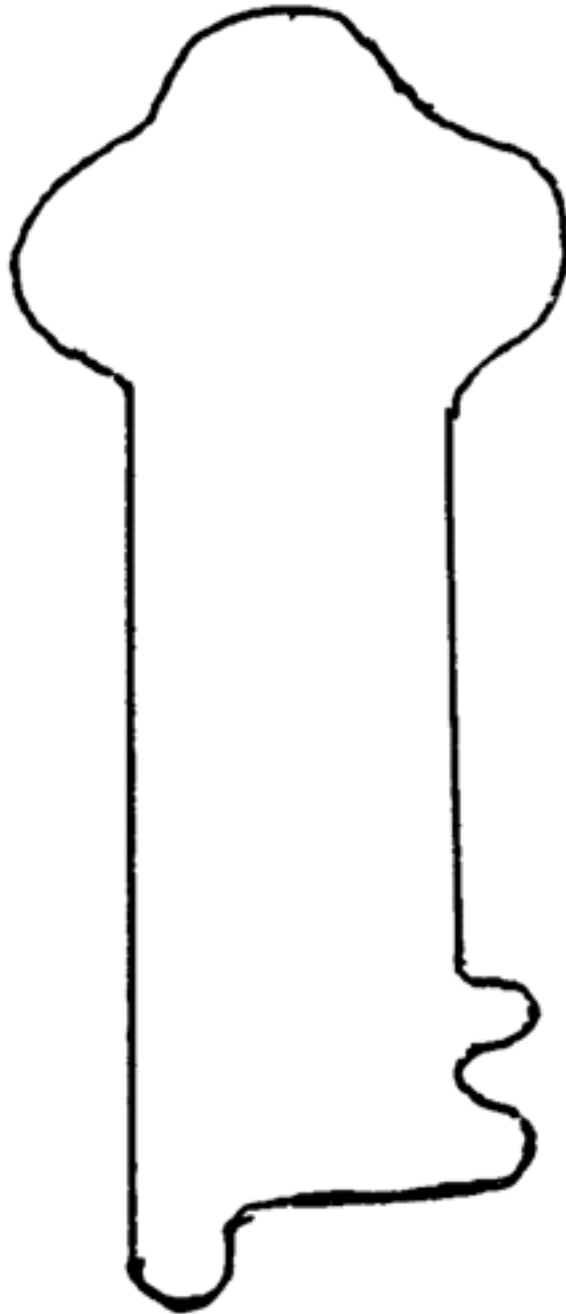
Funstuf: The Priesthood Crossword Puzzle

(See further in this file.)

Answers:

Across—(1) John, (4) James, (6) elder, (8) John the Baptist, (9) Peter, (11) seventy, (12) Aaronic. Down—(2) high priest, (3) teacher, (5) Melchizedek, (7) priest, (10) deacon.

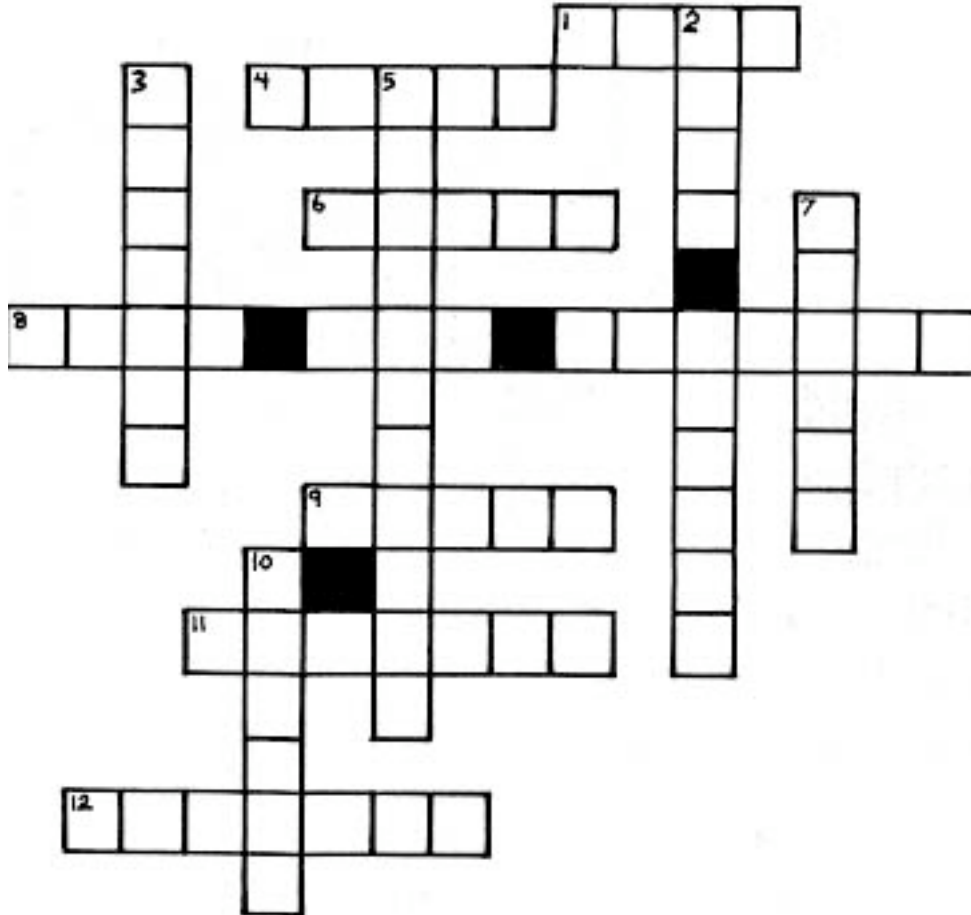
Key pattern taken from:
<http://www.pausd.palo-alto.ca.us/b4excell/curriculum/key.html>
(I deleted the text.)



The Priesthood

Maurene Ebert, "The Priesthood," Friend, May 1984, 23

Fill in the crossword puzzle according to the numbers on the blank lines. Note: the A following a number stands for Across, the D stands for Down.



The three men who restored the Melchizedek Priesthood are 9A, 4A, and 1A.

8A __ __ (three words) returned to earth to restore the Aaronic Priesthood.

Three offices in the Melchizedek Priesthood are 6A, 11A, and 2D __ (2 words).

A worthy male member of the Church twelve years of age or older can be ordained a 10D, and he can pass the sacrament.

A 3D helps prepare the sacrament. He is usually ordained to this office at age fourteen.

At age sixteen or older, a worthy male member of the Church can be ordained a 7D. He can then bless the sacrament, and he also has the authority to baptize.

The 12A Priesthood is the lesser priesthood and is named after the brother of Moses.

The 5D Priesthood is referred to as the higher priesthood and is named after a great high priest who lived during the time of the prophet Abraham.

TODAY I MUST

Baldly $\text{♩} = 84-92$

1. When I am twelve, a father's
2. Now I shall work with my own

hands rest gently on my head, And I receive through him the right to serve and help and
hands, I'll learn and share and grow. And with my quorum seek the truth to live the truths I

give. Although I may not fully understand or always feel its power and its
know. And then as deacons, searchers and as priests, these sacred truths we'll honor and de-

strength, I know that God has chosen me to join his priest-hood ranks! To-
tend. The work we're starting here as boys, we'll manfully as men!

PREPARE

Words by Mark E. Hurst

Music by Michael E. Moody

a tempo

day we must pre - pare our - selves to give the gift of ser - vice. God's

guid - ing hand will strength - en us and bless us and pre - serve us. Then with his pow'r we'll

build and serve, and show love to our neigh - bor, And share God's mes - sage

to the earth, of Je - sus Christ, our Sav - ior! Sav - ior!