
LESSON 5:

The Restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Ponder: What is a Dispensation of the Gospel?

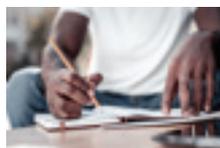
A dispensation of the gospel is a period of time in which the Lord has at least one authorized servant on the earth who bears the holy priesthood and the keys, and who has a divine commission to dispense the gospel to the inhabitants of the earth. When this occurs, the gospel is revealed anew so that people of that dispensation do not have to depend on past dispensations for knowledge of the plan of salvation.

“There have been many gospel dispensations since the beginning. The Bible suggests at least one dispensation identified with Adam, another with Enoch, another with Noah, and so on with Abraham, Moses, and Jesus with His Apostles in the meridian of time. Paul writes of “the dispensation of the fulness of times” in which the Lord will “gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth” (Ephesians 1:10).

“The fulness of times is the final dispensation and began with the revelation of the gospel to Joseph Smith. It is a dispensation of restoration and of fulfillment of the Lord’s plans and purposes since the world began. There are also things reserved for the fulness of times that have not been revealed previously (Doctrine and Covenants 121:26–32; 124:41). It is a glorious time, the time in which we live today (see Acts 3:19–21; Doctrine and Covenants 27:13; 110:11–16; 112:14–32; 128:18–21; 136:37–40).” (See Dispensations in Bible Dictionary.)



How are dispensations of the gospel evidence of God’s enduring love and desire to bless all His children?



Record Your Feelings:

Study and Discuss: The Restoration of the Gospel

- Study the following sections of Chapter 3, Lesson 1 “The Message of the Restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ,” in *Preach My Gospel*.
 1. God Is Our Loving Heavenly Father
 2. The Gospel Blesses Families

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3. Heavenly Father Reveals His Gospel in Every Dispensation
 4. The Savior’s Earthly Ministry and Atonement
 5. The Great Apostasy
 6. The Restoration of the Gospel Through Joseph Smith
 7. The Book of Mormon: Another Testament of Jesus Christ
 8. Pray to Know the Truth through the Holy Ghost
 9. Key Definitions
- Plan to discuss what you learn with your missionary preparation class, your Sunday School teacher, quorum or auxiliary leader, a family member, a class member, or a friend.
 - Write down the impressions you feel and ideas you learn through these discussions about the restoration of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Prepare to Serve

- At least once a week until you are called to serve as a full time missionary, find a non-member near you, or a friend, or a family member and share with them the message of the restoration of the gospel. Use ideas from *Preach My Gospel*, Lesson 4 “Teaching Effectively,” and the “Ideas for Teaching” at the end of Lesson 1. Also use ideas from “The Restoration” in Chapter 3 of *Preach My Gospel*. To develop your teaching skills, practice using a different lesson plan each time.
- Read and do all the exercises pertaining to the principle “Solve Problems” in Chapter 7 of the self-reliance booklet *My Foundation for Self-Reliance*. If you have not done so, ask your quorum or auxiliary leader about joining a self-reliance group in your ward or stake. Plan to complete the twelve-week group process as part of your missionary preparation.