

We are Responsible for Our Own Learning

December 31 – January 6



The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has altered its Sunday schedule to foster a home-based, church-supported system of learning. Each Latter-day Saint, individually, in groups, or in families, is asked to spend an hour every Sunday learning from the scriptures we study in Sunday School, which this year is the New Testament. The Sunday School manuals are supported by the manual, Come Follow Me – For Individuals and Families.

Essentially, what we are doing is holding Family Home Evening for an hour on Sundays, using the Come Follow Me manual and the Sunday School lesson messages to prepare our lessons. We should then have scripture study every day and find one day or evening a week (Mondays will still be set aside, but any day will work) for an activity. Read more from this article on ThirdHour.org – [Implementing “Come Follow Me” is Going to Be Easy-Peasy](#).

There is no need for this dedicated hour at home to be formal. You don’t have to wear your church clothes, and you can establish your own flavor and traditions as you go. The helps on ThirdHour.org are available to you at no charge, so check back often at the Perks section from the homepage to see what’s new.

The goal of the new system is to deepen our conversion and help us become more like the Savior. Consistent, daily effort will help us in that quest. As the Spirit gets stronger in our homes, everything in our lives should get easier.

The home study manual should help us understand the scriptures and find spiritual strength in them. Through our home study, we should also be able to participate more thoughtfully in class.

In the first week, the manual gives scriptures (page 3) that will help us see how we are responsible for our own learning. It discusses how we can discern truth, nurture our testimonies, and build our faith. There are ideas for family scripture study and Family Home Evening.

Then, in Sunday School we will launch into New Testament study. You can prepare by learning about the world into which Christ was born. The Holy Land was much different then than it was in Malachi's time, 400 years earlier. Find out how different by reading this article on ThirdHour:

[What was the World Like When Christ was Born?](#)

Come Follow Me

FAMILY STUDY PLAN

NEW TESTAMENT 2019

BEAN SEED ACTIVITY

Help your kids understand the importance of growing our testimonies by discussing the scriptures and growing bean seeds. Beans grow quickly, so it's exciting to check their progress each day. There are a few seed parables that could accompany this activity:

Sower Parable (Matthew 13:3-23):

What helps the bean seed grow?

What helps us have "good ground" to grow our testimonies?

Mustard Seed Parable (Matthew 13:31-32):

How is a growing seed like the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints? How can we share the gospel with others?

HOW TO GROW A BEAN IN A PLASTIC BAG

Materials: dry bean, paper towel, plastic bag

1. Place a damp paper towel (make sure it's not dripping wet) inside a plastic bag
2. Place the dry bean between the paper towel and plastic bag and zip the bag closed
3. Place the bag somewhere near sunlight (taping the bag to a window that gets lots of sunlight is one idea)
4. Watch as the bean starts to sprout after a couple of days

*When the bean plant reaches the top of the bag, consider moving it to a jar or pot

HOW TO GROW A BEAN IN A JAR

Materials: dry bean, clear jar, paper towel, spray bottle

1. Place a damp paper towel (make sure it's not dripping wet) up against the side of the clear jar
2. Place the dry bean between the paper towel and the side of the jar (if you want to place multiple beans in one jar, make sure they are at least one inch apart)
3. Place the jar on a windowsill or somewhere near sunlight
4. Spray the inside of the jar every few days if the paper towel dries out
5. Watch as the beans start to sprout after a couple of days and continue to grow

Come Follow Me

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NEW TESTAMENT 2019

SOWER PARABLE MATCHING GAME

Print this page and cut out the 12 cards found below. Read the parable of the sower found in Matthew 13:3-23. As you read, place the cards out and discuss what happened with the four groups of seeds. Then mix up the cards and have your kids try to place them back in the correct four groups. Discuss the importance of creating “good ground” in our lives as we study the gospel and grow our testimonies.

BY THE WAYSIDE	STONY PLACES	AMONG THORNS
FOWLS CAME AND DEVOURED THEM UP	THERE WAS NOT MUCH EARTH AND THEY WERE SCORCHED BY THE SUN	THORNS CHOKED THEM
THEY DON'T UNDER- STAND THE WORD, SO WICKED SNATCH THEM AWAY	THEY HAD SOME JOY BECAUSE OF THE WORD BUT FALL AWAY BECAUSE OF “TRIBULATION” AND “PERSECUTION”	THEY HEAR THE WORD, BUT THE WORLD AND ITS RICHES PREVENT GROWTH
GOOD GROUND	BROUGHT FORTH FRUIT	THEY HEAR AND UNDERSTAND WHICH BRINGS FORTH FRUIT