

# Preach My Gospel – Lesson Topics

## *Outline only*

- 1 – The Message of the Restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- 2 – The Plan of Salvation
- 3 – The Gospel of Jesus Christ
- 4 – The Commandments
- 5 – Laws and Ordinances

### **Lesson One** – The Message of the Restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ

- God Is Our Loving Heavenly Father
- The Gospel Blesses Individuals and Families
- Heavenly Father Reveals His Gospel in Every Dispensation
- The Savior’s Earthly Ministry and Atonement
- The Great Apostasy
- The Restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through Joseph Smith
- The Book of Mormon: Another Testament of Jesus Christ
- Pray to Know the Truth through the Holy Ghost

### **Lesson Two** – The Plan of Salvation

- Premortal Life: God’s Purpose and Plan for Us
- The Creation
- Agency and the Fall of Adam and Eve
- Our Life on Earth
- The Atonement of Jesus Christ
- The Spirit World
- The Resurrection, Salvation, and Exaltation
- Judgment and Kingdoms of Glory

### **Lesson Three** – The Gospel of Jesus Christ

- The Divine Mission of Jesus Christ
- The Gospel of Christ and Doctrine of Christ
- Faith in Jesus Christ
- Repentance through the Atonement of Jesus Christ
- Baptism, Our First Covenant with God
- The Gift of the Holy Ghost
- Endure to the End

### **Lesson Four** – The Commandments

- Obedience
- Pray Often
- Study the Scriptures
- Keep the Sabbath Day Holy
- Baptism and Confirmation

Follow the Prophet  
Keep the Ten Commandments  
Live the Law of Chastity  
Obey the Word of Wisdom  
Keep the Law of Tithing  
Observe the Law of the Fast  
Obey and Honor the Law

**Lesson Five** – Laws and Ordinances  
Priesthood and Organizations  
Missionary Work  
Eternal Marriage  
Temples and Family History  
Service  
Teaching and Learning in the Church  
Endure to the End

# Preach My Gospel – Lesson Topics

## *Outline with Associations*

- 1 – Restoration
- 2 – Plan of Salvation
- 3 – Gospel of Jesus Christ
- 4 – Commandments
- 5 – Laws and Ordinances

Let's look at these five lessons logically. What message sets us apart from every other church on earth? The Restoration (that covers the Great Apostasy, Joseph Smith, the Book of Mormon). What was restored? The Plan of Salvation, which covers everything from our premortal life to the final judgment. What is the central event of all history? The gospel as taught by Jesus Christ (faith, repentance, baptism, Holy Ghost, and endure to the end). Notice that this also happens to be the central topic of these five lessons. Once we learn the Gospel, what must we do? Obey the commandments (Word of Wisdom, the law of tithing, etc.) and receive His ordinances (you must be living the commandments of Lesson 4 before you can go to the temple in Lesson 5).

Think about this for a moment: Do we start our first discussion by explaining about Temple service or member missionary work in Lesson 5? Or the Word of Wisdom and the Law of Tithing in Lesson 4? No. These subjects might come up early on, but we don't begin with them. This flow is VERY logical. We explain about the restoration and what was restored, about the Gospel of Jesus Christ and then the commandments required to follow Christ. We conclude with the ordinances needed for exaltation. This order is very logical and makes complete sense once you look at them. Even with this logical lesson structure, you will usually share some of the elements of Lesson Three in virtually every other lesson you teach. Again, the titles to these five lessons form a Logical Progression: The Restoration is our primary message. What was restored? The Plan of Salvation in its entirety. Jesus Christ and His Gospel is the central message throughout all time. After learning His Gospel, if we intend to follow Him, we must obey his commandments and His ordinances.

### **Lesson One** – The Message of the Restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ

- God Is Our Loving Heavenly Father
- The Gospel Blesses Individuals and Families
- Heavenly Father Reveals His Gospel in Every Dispensation
- The Savior's Earthly Ministry and Atonement
- The Great Apostasy
- The Restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through Joseph Smith
- The Book of Mormon: Another Testament of Jesus Christ
- Pray to Know the Truth through the Holy Ghost

We're going to use the Thread Method for Lesson One. The Thread Method uses a single image or symbol which is "thread" through every topic on the list to create a common storyline. To begin, we need to look at each of the topics being presented. If the topic is abstract, we need to choose a concrete noun as a substitute for the intangible concept but which will still trigger the original topic. For example, using "Father" for the first topic is perfect as it is. For the second, however, this topic is somewhat intangible (meaning it's hard to envision). Let's use a "house" as our representation for this topic. After all, where do we find the Gospel being taught more perfectly than in a home to either individuals or a family. Next. Let's use a "Prophet" to represent the Gospel in every dispensation. After all, that's how the Gospel was revealed in all dispensations. The rest are straight forward: "Savior's ministry", "The Great Apostasy", "Restoration", "Book of Mormon", and "Prayer" will all be fine

God Is Our Loving Heavenly Father [Father](#)  
The Gospel Blesses Individuals and Families [House](#)  
Heavenly Father Reveals His Gospel in Every Dispensation [A Prophet](#)  
The Savior's Earthly Ministry and Atonement [Savior's ministry](#)  
The Great Apostasy [Great Apostasy](#)  
The Restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through Joseph Smith [Restoration](#)  
The Book of Mormon: Another Testament of Jesus Christ [Book of Mormon](#)  
Pray to Know the Truth through the Holy Ghost [Prayer](#)

The trick with Thread associations is initiating the first item on the list. Once we do, a chain reaction starts which automatically carries us all the way through to the end of the list. Looking at the title to this lesson, what is THE first and most important restoration message we can deliver to an investigator? That God really does exist, and that He loves us as our Heavenly Father. Do you know how many people in this world either don't know about God or think He is an absentee landlord? The fact that there was a restoration of all the truths that have ever been revealed in the history of the world proves He loves us and is concerned for our welfare. This is a staggering message which we will also use as the key starting trigger to this Thread association.

The Gospel has been compared to the proverbial Pearl of Great Price. We will use a bag of pearls as our symbol to represent the Gospel, and we'll use this bag in each of the eight association images of this lesson. The Father is the start and end of this thread. Now envision each of these steps vividly in your mind. The Father is holding the bag of pearls (you could envision Him embracing us with the bag in the way – the embrace represents his love for us); the bag is then handed to a person in a house; a prophet is standing at the back window and the homeowner walks to the back and hands the bag into the open hands of the Prophet; The prophet turns and delivers the bag to the Savior. Following the Atonement, the bag is lost; it is then found again, and to everyone's joy a second bag is found; then both bags are delivered back to the Father (which is symbolic for praying to Him). We created a circle of events starting and ending with the Father. We have now linked each topic *in order* by using a single mental image (the bag of pearls). You probably also noticed that the final six topics are in their proper historical order.

God Is Our Loving Heavenly Father [An embrace with the bag of pearls in the way](#)  
The Gospel Blesses Individuals and Families [Delivers the bag to people in a house](#)  
Heavenly Father Reveals His Gospel in Every Dispensation [Delivers the bag to a prophet](#)

The Savior's Earthly Ministry and Atonement **Delivers the bag to the Son**  
The Great Apostasy **The bag is lost**  
The Restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through Joseph Smith **The bag is found**  
The Book of Mormon: Another Testament of Jesus Christ **A second bag is found**  
Pray to Know the Truth through the Holy Ghost **Both bags delivered back to Father (prayer)**

## **Lesson Two** – The Plan of Salvation

Premortal Life: God's Purpose and Plan for Us  
The Creation  
Agency and the Fall of Adam and Eve  
Our Life on Earth  
The Atonement of Jesus Christ  
The Spirit World  
The Resurrection, Salvation, and Exaltation  
Judgment and Kingdoms of Glory

Lesson Two is easy, because it follows the Plan of Salvation in order from the premortal life through to the Last Judgment. There's really nothing new to learn here except making sure that your mental list is the same as the Preach My Gospel list. We'll use the Thread method again, but this time YOU will be the image-symbol instead of an external object like the bag of pearls. You need to vividly picturing yourself walking through each of these eight steps. Let's begin. Envision yourself in the premortal world of spirits – beautiful beyond description and filled with light and glory; you then walk over to a balcony with a spectacular view and witness the creation process take place; when it's finished, you walk into the Garden with Adam and Eve; you're then driven out of the Garden into our current world; you witness the Atonement and see the three crosses on the hill; you then pass into the Spirit World where everyone is wearing stunningly white clothing; you then witness the unspeakable power and glory of everyone being resurrected into their perfect form; finally, you walk with all the resurrected beings as each person stands one at a time before the judgment bar of God.

There are refinements you need to make to your final mental list, such as the Resurrection includes Salvation and Exaltation, and the Judgment includes the Kingdoms of Glory. But these are easy and obvious once you have the order of the list down. Use these associations as an aid while you rehearse them over and over until they become second nature to you.

## **Lesson Three** – The Gospel of Jesus Christ

The **Divine Mission** of Jesus Christ  
The **Gospel** of Christ and **Doctrine** of Christ  
**Faith** in Jesus Christ  
**Repentance** through the Atonement of Jesus Christ  
**Baptism**, Our First Covenant with God

The Gift of the **Holy Ghost**  
**Endure** to the End

We're going to use Logical Progression here. We indirectly used logical progression as part of the first two lessons since parts of these topics were in chronological order. If you look at this list, you'll see that five of the seven items are faith, repentance, baptism, the Holy Ghost, and endure to the end. You already know these five items from years of instruction in the Church. All we need to do is tie in the first two topics, and we'll have this list mastered. How do we work in the first two topics? LOGIC: How can you exercise faith if you don't know about the Divine Mission of Jesus Christ and His Gospel & doctrine. In other words, learn of Christ, learn of His teachings, then and only then can we start down the path of faith, repentance, baptism, etc. Let's rehearse: We learn who Christ is, we learn his doctrine, then exercise faith, repent of our sins, be baptized, receive the Holy Ghost, and endure to the end. Practice this to lock in the logical progression, and you'll have it.

**Lesson Four** – The Commandments

Obedience  
Pray Often  
Study the Scriptures  
Keep the Sabbath Day Holy  
Baptism and Confirmation  
Follow the Prophet  
Keep the Ten Commandments  
Live the Law of Chastity  
Obey the Word of Wisdom  
Keep the Law of Tithing  
Observe the Law of the Fast  
Obey and Honor the Law

With Lesson Four, we are going to use a Series Association where the first item in the list triggers the second, the second triggers the third and so forth. Unlike the Thread method, there is not a single, common image or symbol which winds its way through the entire list. Each pair of images is fully independent of all others. Here's how it works.

Just as with the Thread Method, we need substitute words for any intangible topics so we can make our mental associations. For obedience we'll picture a person bowing down; for prayer will picture a person kneeling; for Study the Scriptures we'll picture a book of scripture; for Keep the Sabbath Day Holy we picture a church building; for Baptism and Confirmation a baptismal font; for Follow the Prophet, we literally picture a person following the Prophet; Keep the Ten Commandments we picture the two tablets of stone; for Live the Law of Chastity, we envision a person dressed in white; for Obey the Word of Wisdom, we picture a Whisky glass; for Keep the Law of Tithing, we picture Coins; for Observe the Law of the Fast, we will use an open mouth; for Obey and Honor the Law, we will use a Billy club.

Obedience **bow down**  
Pray Often **Kneel**  
Study the Scriptures **A book of scripture**  
Keep the Sabbath Day Holy **church building**  
Baptism and Confirmation **a baptismal font**  
Follow the Prophet **Literally following the Prophet**  
Keep the Ten Commandments **The two tablets of stone**  
Live the Law of Chastity **dressed in white**  
Obey the Word of Wisdom **Whisky glass**  
Keep the Law of Tithing **Coins**  
Observe the Law of the Fast **an open mouth**  
Obey and Honor the Law **Billy club**

With the substitute list created, let's tie the first to the second, the second to the third, and so forth: The title to this lesson is "The Commandments". In order to keep the Commandments, we need to Obey. A person in Obedience bows down; while bowing they kneel to pray; the praying person kneels on a book of scripture; the book of scripture is carried into a church; inside the church is a giant baptismal font; from the font, the convert follows the Prophet out of the font and to a mountain where the 10 Commandments are cut into the stone face; the tablets are being polished-up by a person dressed in white; the person in white is handed a glass of whisky; the glass of whisky is poured out but coins fall out instead; the coins fall into a person's open mouth; to clear the mouth of coins, they use a Billy club to pry them out.

#### **Lesson Five – Laws and Ordinances**

Priesthood and Organizations  
Missionary Work  
Eternal Marriage  
Temples and Family History  
Service  
Teaching and Learning in the Church  
Endure to the End

With Lesson Five, we will also use the Series method. First, let's create our substitute list: Priesthood can be represented by the laying on of hands; A missionary is a perfect representation for missionary work; A couple at the altar represents eternal marriage; A computer can represent performing family history work for the temple; Service can be represented by a service worker; Writing at a blackboard fits well for teaching and learning; When we endure to the end, the person turns gray with age.

Priesthood and Organizations **Laying on of hands**  
Missionary Work **A missionary**

Eternal Marriage a couple at the altar  
Temples and Family History a computer  
Service service worker  
Teaching and Learning in the Church writing on a blackboard  
Endure to the End growing gray with age

Now let's link each item together: Ordinances require the Priesthood. We lay hands on the head of a missionary; The missionary kneels down at the altar to be married; the married couple move to a computer to do family history; the family history computer is carried out by a service worker; the worker walks up to a blackboard and begins to teach a church lesson; Everyone in the congregation turns gray as they endure to the end.

As with all the other lessons, practice them to solidify the associations in your mind and to flesh-out the full descriptions for each category. Once you have the outlines firmly in your mind, then is the time to read each section to learn the scope of detail the Brethren intend to be covered for each topic. You don't want to dump everything you know on every subject. That is the purpose of Preach My Gospel... not only to provide the structure for a discussion but also the scope of what is to be covered. Although you are NOT required to memorize these discussions, you must be adequately familiar with them so you can move effortlessly from one topic to another as needed. A person asks about the Word of Wisdom right in the middle of a discussion of the Plan of Salvation, you can smoothly switch topics, answer their questions in your own words based upon what you've read under that topic in the Lesson Four, then return and continue as needed. Missionary work is exciting for both parties in a discussion, and few events in life will compare with the joy this process brings.

One final comment. If you missed one of the items here or there, your attention wandered or you failed to make a vivid mental image. If you want to use different imagery than supplied here, that's perfectly fine. Imagery created by you is always best because the process of creation sets it more firmly in your mind due to the mental exertion required. Practice going through all the discussion titles in order and out of order until you are fluent with the outline from every direction.