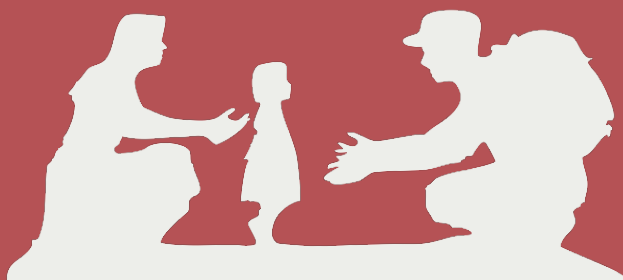

A CHRIST-CENTERED MILITARY HOME

INVITATIONS AND DAILY QUOTES TO FOSTER RESILIENCY



ANTHONY A MOYA

A

CHRIST-CENTERED

MILITARY HOME



ANTHONY A MOYA

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*Dedicatated to my beloved
sweetheart Elise, my three
boys: Ezrom, AJ, & Ezekiel,
and my brother Luis.*

*“One of the greatest blessings we can offer to the world is the power of a **Christ-centered home** where the gospel is taught, covenants are kept , and love abounds.”*

Elder Richard G. Scott

THEME 1:
A CHRIST-CENTERED
MILITARY HOME
THROUGH

The Family: A Proclamation to the World
*“Successful marriages and families are established
and maintained on principles of faith.”*

JANUARY:

INVITATIONS

&

QUOTES

S

FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST

INVITATIONS

LEARN:

STUDY & PONDER THE PRINCIPLE OF
FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST

ACT:

STRENGTHEN YOUR TESTIMONY/
TESTIMONIES OF JESUS CHRIST

BECOME:

IMPLEMENT FAITH TO CENTER YOUR
MILITARY HOME IN JESUS CHRIST

QUOTES

Day 1:

The process of building a Christ-centered life must be based on and begin with the first principle of the gospel.¹

Day 2:

*“Faith is not to have a perfect knowledge of things; therefore if ye have faith ye hope for things which are not seen, which are true”
(Alma 32:21).*

Day 3:

“Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1).

Day 4:

Saving faith can only be exercised in that which is true. Our faith must be centered in Jesus Christ.²

Day 5:

The equation of faith as a principle of power is an important one. Faith thereby becomes more than a passive wish or even a strong longing or yearning for some eventuality to occur.³

Day 6:

Faith is not only the principle of action, but of power also...[then he adds] Faith is the first great governing principle which has power, dominion, and authority over all things; by it they exist, by it they are upheld, by it they are changed, or by it they remain, agreeable to the will of God. Without it there is no power, and without power there could be no creation nor existence.⁴

Day 7:

“Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear” (Hebrew 11:3).

Day 8:

Faith in Jesus Christ propels us to do things we otherwise would not do. Faith that motivates us to action gives us more access to His power.⁵

Day 9:

Absolutely basic to our faith (The Church) is our testimony of Jesus Christ as the Son of God, who under a divine plan was born in Bethlehem of Judea. He grew in Nazareth as the carpenter's son, within Him the elements of both mortality and immortality received, respectively, from His earthly mother and His Heavenly Father.⁶

Day 10:

For where faith is, there will the knowledge of God be also, with all things which pertain thereto—revelations, visions, dreams, as well as every necessary thing, in order that the possessors of faith may be perfected, and obtain salvation; for God must change, otherwise faith will prevail with him. And he who possesses it will, through it, obtain all necessary knowledge and wisdom, until he shall know God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, whom he has sent—whom to know is eternal life.⁷

Day 11:

We live in a time of turmoil. Earthquakes and tsunamis wreak devastation, governments collapse, economic stresses are severe, the family is under attack, and divorce rates are rising. We have great cause for concern. But we do not need to let our fears displace our faith. We can combat those fears by strengthening our faith.⁸

Day 12:

“...in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ” (Acts 5:42).

Day 13:

Why do we need such resilient faith? Because difficult days are ahead. Rarely in the future will it be easy or popular to be a faithful Latter-day Saint. Each of us will be tested. The Apostle Paul warned that in the latter days, those who diligently follow the Lord “shall suffer persecution” (2 Timothy 3:12). That every persecution can either crush you into silent weakness or motivate you to be more exemplary and courageous in your daily lives.⁹

Day 14:

“But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel...So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places” (Phil 1:12-13).

Day 15:

If we do not have a deep foundation of faith and a solid testimony of truth, we may have difficulty withstanding the harsh storms and icy winds of adversity which inevitably come to each of us. Mortality is a period of testing, a time to prove ourselves worthy to return to the presence of our Heavenly Father. In order for us to be tested, we must face challenges and difficulties. These can break us, and the surface of our souls may crack and crumble—that is, if our foundations of faith, our testimonies of truth are not deeply imbedded within us. We can rely on the faith and testimony of others only so long. Eventually we must have our own strong and deeply placed foundation, or we will be unable to withstand the storms of life, which will come.¹⁰

Day 16:

The size of your faith or the degree of your knowledge is not the issue—it is the integrity you demonstrate toward your faith you do have and the truth you already know.¹¹

Day 17:

Our Faith in Jesus Christ will provide power and a strong forward thrust; our unwavering and active hope will provide a powerful upward lift. Both faith and hope will carry us across oceans of temptations, over mountains of afflictions, and bring us safely back to our eternal home and destination.¹²

Day 18:

I testify to you that our promised blessings are beyond measure. Though the storm clouds may gather, though the rains may pour down upon us, our knowledge of the gospel and our love of our Heavenly Father and of our Savior will comfort and sustain us and bring joy to our hearts as we walk uprightly and keep the commandments. There will be nothing in this world that can defeat us. My beloved brothers and sisters, fear not. Be of good cheer. The future is as bright as your faith.¹³

Day 19:

Faithfully pursue the time-tested devotional practices that bring the Spirit of the Lord into your life. Seek the counsel of those who hold keys for your spiritual well-being. Ask for and cherish priesthood blessings. Take the sacrament every week, and hold fast to the perfecting promises of the Atonement of Jesus Christ.¹⁴

Day 20:

“Therefore may God grant unto you, my brethren, that ye may begin to exercise your faith unto repentance, that ye begin to call upon his holy name, that he would have mercy upon you” (Alma 34:17).

Day 21:

“And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you” (Luke 17:6).

Day 22:

Faith in Him is more than mere acknowledgement that He lives. It is more than professing belief. Faith in Jesus Christ consists of complete reliance on Him. As God, He has infinite power, intelligence, and love. There is no human problem beyond His capacity to solve. Because He descended below all things, He knows how to help us rise above our daily activities. Faith in Him means believing that even though we do not understand all things, He does. We, therefore, must look to Him “in every thought; doubt not, fear not.” (Doctrine and Covenants 6:36)¹⁵

Day 23:

The first characteristic, to which all the others are added, is faith. Faith is the foundation upon which a godlike character is built. It is a prerequisite for all other virtues.¹⁶

Day 24:

*“For he will give unto the faithful line upon line, precept upon precept; and I will try you and prove you herewith”
(Doctrine and Covenants 98:12).*

Day 25:

Faith, like any other spiritual talent, grows gradually and is strengthened as it is used.¹⁷

Day 26:

Amid all this uncertainty, the foundation of Jesus Christ is the only secure anchor. Without the assurance that God exists and watches over us, our failures seem random, meaningless, and absolute. Our losses seem irreparable, and our calamities eventually overwhelm us with despair. With the assurance of Christ, we can stand

firm in confidence that he will ultimately restore our losses more completely than we can even begin to comprehend. Courage and optimism will sustain us through the turbulent times, and joy will overwhelm the pain. Faith in Christ is the answer we need the most.¹⁸

Day 27:

As we attempt to build a bridge of faith, we need to build in our lives a firm testimony of the Father and the Son and His Atonement. This bridge of faith will make a difference between the reality of eternal reunion with our Heavenly Father or eternal separation from Him if we erect walls of sin that turn us away from His love and mercy.¹⁹

Day 28:

Our temples are testaments of our faith in the everlasting family.²⁰

Day 29:

The father must hunger and thirst and yearn to bless his family; he must go to the Lord, ponder the words of God, and live by the Spirit to know the mind and will of the Lord and what he must do to lead his family. It is soul-satisfying to know that God is mindful of us and ready to respond when we place our trust in Him and do that which is right. There is no place for fear among men and women who place their trust in the Almighty, who do not hesitate to humble themselves in seeking divine guidance through prayer. Though persecutions arise, though reverses come, in prayer we can find reassurance, for God will speak peace to the soul. That peace, that spirit of serenity, is a great blessing.²¹

Day 30:

We believe and come to know the Savior as we follow Him by receiving and faithfully honoring holy ordinances and thus increasingly have His image in our countenances...Believing Him is trusting that His bounteous blessings are available and applicable to us one by one in our individual lives and families. Believing Him is acknowledging that He knows our names and will provide the individual guidance and help we need.²²

Day 31:

When faith is properly understood and used, it has dramatically far-reaching effects. Such faith can transform an individual's life from maudlin, common everyday activities to a symphony of joy and happiness. The exercise of faith is vital to Father in Heaven's plan of happiness. But true faith, faith unto salvation, is centered on the Lord

Jesus Christ, faith in His doctrines and teachings, faith in the prophetic guidance of the Lord's anointed, faith in the capacity to discover hidden characteristics and traits that can transform life. Truly, faith in the Savior is a principle of action and power. ²³

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THEME 2:
A CHRIST-CENTERED
MILITARY HOME
THROUGH

The Family: A Proclamation to the World
*“Successful marriages and families are established
and maintained on principles of...love”*

FEBRUARY:

INVITATIONS

&

QUOTES

S

LOVE

INVITATIONS

LEARN:

STUDY & PONDER THE PRINCIPLE OF
LOVE

ACT:

FIND WAYS TO EXPRESS LOVE TO EACH
MEMBER OF THE HOME

BECOME:

IMPLEMENT LOVE TO CENTER YOUR
MILITARY HOME IN JESUS CHRIST

QUOTES

Day 1:

Love is the very essence of life. It is the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. Yet it is more than the end of the rainbow. Love is at the beginning also, and from it springs the beauty that arches across the sky on a stormy day. Love is the security for which children weep, the yearning for youth, the adhesive that binds marriage, and the lubricant that prevents devastating friction in the home; it is the peace of old age, the sunlight of hope shining through death. How rich are those who enjoy it in their associations with family, friends, church, and neighbors. I am one who believes that love, like faith, is a gift of God.¹

Day 2:

“Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.” (1 John 4:7-8)

Day 3:

It helps us adjust to a normal life after deployment and it provides the strength to overcome adversities and illness, especially when there is an accompanying strong and loving support group.²

Day 4:

Regardless of your circumstances, you can center your home and life on the Lord Jesus Christ, for He is the source of true peace in this life...one of the greatest blessings we can offer to the world is the power of a Christ-centered home where the gospel is taught, covenants are kept, and love abounds.³

Day 5:

Love is the defining characteristic of a disciple of Christ.⁴

Day 6:

Love is the beginning, the middle, and the end of the pathway of discipleship. It comforts, counsels, cures, and consoles. It leads us through valleys of darkness and through the veil of death. In the end love leads us to the glory and grandeur of eternal

life.⁵

Day 7:

“If ye love me, keep my commandments.” (John 14:15)

Day 8:

Your Heavenly Father loves you—each of you. That love never changes. It is not influenced by your appearance, by your possessions, or by the amount of money you have in your bank account. It is simply there. It is there for you when you are sad or happy, discouraged or hopeful. God’s love is there for you whether or not you feel you deserve love. It is simply always there.⁶

Day 9:

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)

Day 10:

“And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.” (Ephesians 5:2)

Day 11:

But when the Pharisees had heard that he had put the Sadducees to silence, they were gathered together. Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question tempting him, and saying, Master, which is the great commandments in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. (Matthew 26:36-40)

Day 12:

Most of us profess to love God. The challenge, I have observed, is loving our neighbor. The term neighbor includes family, people with whom we work, those whom we see in geographical proximity to our home and at church, and even the enemy, though we do not condone what the latter does. If we do not love all of these, our brothers and sisters, can we truly say that we love God?...Love of God and neighbor must therefore be inseparably connected.⁷

Day 13:

God's Commandments are a manifestation of His love for us, and our obedience to His commandments is an expression of our love for Him.⁸

Day 14:

We can begin to become more diligent and concerned at home by telling the people we love that we love them. Such expressions do not need to be flowery or lengthy. We simply should sincerely and frequently express love.⁹

Day 15:

*“Love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.”
(Romans 13:8)*

Day 16:

Because the Father and the Son love us with infinite, perfect love, and because They know we cannot see everything They see, They have given us laws that will guide and protect us.¹⁰

Day 17:

“A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.” (John 13:34)

Day 18:

*“We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth.”
(1 Corinthians 8:1)*

Day 19:

This principle of having love one to another and developing our ability to be Christ-centered in how we think, speak, and act is fundamental in becoming disciples of Christ and teachers of His gospel.¹¹

Day 20:

Love is like the Polar Star. In a changing world, love can be a constant. It is something that, when sincere, never moves. It is the very essence of the teachings of Christ. It is the security of the home. It is the safeguard of community life. It is a beacon of home in a world of distress...It is not always easy to follow the Polar Star of love. It requires a discipline almost beyond the power of many to observe. I think it is the most difficult and also the most important of all commandments. But out of its

observance comes a remarkable discipline and a refining influence that are wonderful to experience. It savors of the sweet, all-encompassing love of Christ. To those of you who live in troubled homes, may I suggest that you let love become the lodestar of your family life. There is too much of shouting, too much of recrimination, so many tears in the homes of some of our people. Love is the only remedy. It is the very basis of marriage. It can be nurtured and strengthened, or it can be starved and weakened. The power lies within ourselves. Bridle your tempers, husbands. Wives, hold your tongues. Revive the wondrous feeling that brought you to the marriage altar. Love is the very essence of family life.¹²

Day 21:

“Thou shalt live together in love.” (Doctrine and Covenants 42:45)

Day 22:

Husbands and wives who love each other will find that love and loyalty are reciprocated. This love will provide a nurturing atmosphere for the emotional growth of children. Family life should be a time of happiness and joy that children can look back on with fond memories and associations.¹³

Day 23:

“Thou shalt love thy wife with all thy heart, and shalt cleave unto her and none else.”
(Doctrine and Covenants 42:22)

Day 24:

Love at home is one of the basic needs in life, a spiritual law which, if violated brings harsh, irrevocable consequences...It is clear that we cannot have peace in the world without harmony in the home.¹⁴

Day 25:

The Savior's Love was not a love for the righteous only; it was not an abstract love; nor was it demonstrated by one dramatic sacrificial act and nothing more. To the contrary, it was a day-by-day, hour-by-hour, even moment-by-moment love! I was love that stretched from premortality into eternity.¹⁵

Day 26:

In commanding us to love, the Lord refers to something much deeper than infatuation, a love that is the most profound form of loyalty—a covenant.¹⁶

Day 27:

A loving Heavenly Father can prevent our hurts, but He may not always choose to do so for the same reason a loving earthly father will not forever run behind his child's bicycle. He knows there comes a point at which protecting the child from every fall, bruise, and scrape will stifle growth.¹⁷

Day 28:

The family proclamation helps us understand much of the love the Savior referred to when He told us we must “love one another.” (John 13:34) He gave us the supreme example of love when He declared, “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15:13) He later atoned for all our sins and finally gave His life for all of us. We can lay down our lives for those we love not by physically dying for them but rather by living for them—giving of our time; always being present in their lives; serving them; being courteous, affectionate, and showing true love for those of our family and to all men—as the Savior taught.¹⁸

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THEME 3:
A CHRIST-CENTERED
MILITARY HOME
THROUGH

The Family: A Proclamation to the World
“All human beings—male and female—are created
in the image of God. Each is a beloved spirit son
or daughter of heavenly parents, and, as such each
has a divine nature and destiny.”

MARCH:

INVITATIONS

&

QUOTES

S

DIVINE NATURE AND
DESTINY

INVITATIONS

LEARN:

STUDY & PONDER ABOUT YOUR
DIVINE NATURE AND DESTINY

ACT:

HAVE EACH MEMBER F THE FAMILY
WORK ON A CHRIST-LIKE ATTRIBUTE

BECOME:

STRENGTHEN YOUR UNDERSTANDING
OF DIVINE NATURE AND DESTINY TO
CENTER YOUR MILITARY HOME IN
JESUS CHRIST

QUOTES

Day 1:

Recognizing that we are literal sons and daughters of heavenly parents is one of the most sacred truths we can know. Knowing this truth has a profound impact on how we regard ourselves and others as well as on how we choose to live.¹

Day 2:

For whatever reasons, most Christians churches in our day do not teach that there was a premortal life, nor do they teach that we are literally children of God. They teach instead that we are God's creations and that there is no potential for our becoming remotely like Him. Additionally, some teach that very few will continue to live after this life. Believing such false doctrines can destroy the basic worth of each individual because it does away with the eternal nature of people. It does away with our worth as literal children of God.²

Day 3:

What difference does this doctrinal distinction make? The difference is monumental in its consequence because our identity determines in large measure our destiny. For example, can a mere creation ever become like its creator? Can a building ever become an architect? A painting a painter? Or an invention an inventor? If not, then those who believe we are creations of God, rather than His spirit offspring, reach the inevitable conclusion that we do not have the capacity to become like our creator, God. In essence, their doctrine of identity has defined and dictated a diminished destiny. On the other hand, as members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, we believe that we are the spirit offspring of God with inherited spiritual traits that give us the divine potential to become like our parent, God the Father.³

Day 4:

No greater ideal has been revealed than the supernal truth that we are the children of God, and we differ, by virtue of our creation, from all other living things. (See Moses 6:8–10, 22, 59). No idea has been more destructive of happiness, no philosophy has produced more sorrow, more heartbreak and mischief; no idea has done more to destroy the family than the idea that we are not the offspring of God, only advanced animals, compelled to yield to every carnal urge.⁴

Day 5:

“Remember the worth of souls is great in the sight of God.” (Doctrine and Covenants 18:10)

Day 6:

Our designation as men or women began before this world was.⁵

Day 7:

The purpose of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is to help all of the children of God understand their potential and achieve their highest destiny. This church exists to provide the sons and daughters of God with the means of entrance into and exaltation in the celestial kingdom. This is a family-centered church in doctrine and practices. Our understanding of the nature and purpose of God the Eternal Father explains our destiny and our relationship in his eternal family. Our theology begins with heavenly parents. Our highest aspiration is to be like them.⁶

Day 8:

Man is one of the eternal, imperishable realities of the universe. His story begins in the infinite past, before the earth was made. His eternity reaches into the yesterdays as into the tomorrows. He belongs to the endless ages. In The beginning, man was with God, a child of God, begotten by Him. He has a divine pedigree. In the pre-existent, spiritual domain, as a son or daughter of the divine Father, he increased in knowledge and power and grew in spiritual stature. At length he was prepared for the earth career and willing to accept its conditions. Man is not an accidental or transient invader of earth. Instead, he is a creature of plan and progress. As a child of God, man partakes of the divine nature of his Father. Within him lie germs of infinite development. Potentially he is a God-like being. Therefore he may rise eternally toward the likeness of his Father in heaven. Upward, divine, unending, is man's high destiny.⁷

Day 9:

One title that defines all of us in the most fundamental way is son (daughter) of Heavenly Father. No matter what else we are or do in life, we must never forget that we are God's Literal spirit children. We were His children before we came to this world, and we will be His children forevermore. This basic truth should change the way we look at ourselves, our brothers and sisters, and life itself. Unfortunately, none of us quite lives up to everything that this title implies, “for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23)...Satan would rather that you define yourself by your sins instead of your divine potential...don't listen to him.⁸

Day 10:

“And God said, Let us make man in our image after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.” (Genesis 1:26-27)

Day 11:

While you have made mistakes, these sins do not describe who you are. Your identity is not defined by the sins of this world, but by the righteousness of another. Finding yourself here with the sins and failings of this difficult probationary state, your soul cries out for divine help. Deep in your soul, you yearn for a Redeemer, a Savior, to find your way back to your heavenly home [Deuteronomy 4:29-31]. The Fall does not define you; it helps to refine you. In understanding the Fall, we must always remember who we really are. We are divine, literal spirit children of Heavenly Parents.⁹

Day 12:

Because this doctrine [the Fall] is so basic to the plan of salvation and also because it is so susceptible to misunderstanding, we must note that these references to ‘natural’ evil emphatically do not mean that men and women are ‘inherently’ evil. There is a crucial difference. As spirit sons and daughters of God, all mortal men and women are divine in origin and divine in their potential destiny...But it is also true that as a result of the Fall they are now in a ‘natural’ (fallen) world where the devil ‘taketh away light’ and where some elements of nature—including temporal human nature—need discipline, restraint, and refinement.¹⁰

Day 13:

“I have said, Ye are gods; and all of you are children of the most High.” (Psalm 82:6)

Day 14:

“Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.” (Matthew 5:48)

Day 15:

The teaching that human beings have a divine nature and future shapes the way Latter-day Saints view fundamental doctrine. Perhaps most significantly, belief in divine nature helps us more deeply appreciate the Atonement of Jesus Christ. While many Christian theologians have expressed the magnitude of the Savior’s Atonement

by emphasizing human depravity, Latter-day Saints understand the magnitude of the Atonement of Christ in terms of the vast human potential it makes possible.¹¹

Day 16:

You are elect sons and daughters of God. You have the power to overcome the adversary. The adversary, however, is aware of who you are. He knows of your divine heritage and seeks to limit your earthly and heavenly potential.¹²

Day 17:

It is left to each of us to balance contentment regarding that God has allotted to us in life with some divine discontent resulting from what we are compared to what we have the power to become.¹³

Day 18:

Each of us, if we are honest, feels a gap between where and who we are, and where and who we want to become. We yearn for greater personal capacity. We have these feelings because we are daughters and sons of God, born with the Light of Christ yet living in a fallen world. These feelings are God given and create an urgency to act... Of course, all of us fall short of our divine potential, and there is some truth in the realization that alone we are not enough. But the good news of the gospel is that with the grace of God, we are enough.¹⁴

Day 19:

Take time to think prayerfully about these facts: You are an elect son or daughter of God. You are created in His Image. You were taught in the spirit world to prepare you for anything and everything you would encounter during this latter part of these latter days (see D&C 138:56). That teaching endures within you.¹⁵

Day 20:

“Whereby are given unto us exceedingly great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.” (2 Peter 1:4-7)

Day 21:

Never forget...that you really are a child of God who has inherited something of His

divine nature, one whom *He* loves and desires to help and bless.¹⁶

Day 22:

*You must know, as you've been told, that you are not alone in this world. There are hundreds of thousands of you. You live in many lands. You speak various languages. And every one of you has something divine within you... There has come to you as your birthright something beautiful and sacred and divine. Never forget that. Your Eternal Father is the great Master of the Universe.*¹⁷

Day 23:

*As we come to know and feel who we really are, we are enabled to recognize the difference between good and evil and are empowered to resist temptation.*¹⁸

Day 24:

*As covenant sons and daughters, do we have faith in our Heavenly Father and His eternal plan for us? Do we have faith in Jesus Christ and His Atonement? Do we believe that we have a divine nature and destiny?*¹⁹

Day 25:

*In families, friendships, dating, and marriage, we should value not just beauty and résumés, but rather character, good values, and each other's inherited divine natures.*²⁰

Day 26:

*We are beloved spirit sons and daughters of heavenly parents with a divine nature and destiny. Our Savior, Jesus Christ, loved us enough to give His life for us.*²¹

Day 27:

*There exists today a great need for men and women to cultivate respect for each other as sons and daughters of God and reverence for our father in Heaven and His priesthood—His power and authority. He has a plan for us, and when we exercise our faith and trust in His plan, our reverence for Him and for His power and authority will be strengthened.*²²

Day 28:

I testify of that grand destiny, made available to us by the Atonement of the Lord

Jesus Christ, who himself continued “from grace to grace” [Doctrine and Covenants 93:32] until in His immortality [see Luke 13:32] He received a perfect fullness of celestial glory. I testify that in this and every hour He is, with nail-scarred hands, extending to us that same grace, holding on to us and encouraging us, refusing to let us go until we are safely home in the embrace of Heavenly Parents. For such a perfect moment, I continue to strive, however clumsily. For such a perfect gift, I continue to give thanks, however inadequately. I do so in the very name of perfection itself, of Him who has never been clumsy or inadequate but who loves all of us who are, even the Lord Jesus Christ.²³

Day 29:

*If you really know that you are a child of God, you will also know that He expects much of you, His child. He will expect you to follow His teachings and the teachings of His dear Son, Jesus. He will expect you to be generous and kind to others. He will be offended if you swear or use foul language. We will be offended if you are dishonest in any way, if you should cheat or steal in the slightest. He will be happy if you remember the less fortunate in your prayers to Him. He will watch over you and guide you and protect you.*²⁴

Day 30:

*If you really know that you are a child of God, you will also know that He expects much of you, His child. He will expect you to follow His teachings and the teachings of His dear Son, Jesus. He will expect you to be generous and kind to others. He will be offended if you swear or use foul language. We will be offended if you are dishonest in any way, if you should cheat or steal in the slightest. He will be happy if you remember the less fortunate in your prayers to Him. He will watch over you and guide you and protect you.*²⁵

Day 31:

My Friends, I promise that as we strive to love God with all our heart, pray in the name of Jesus Christ, study the Book of Mormon, and prayerfully partake of the sacrament, we will have the ability, with the strength of the Lord, to overcome the deceptive practices of the adversary, to minimize distractions that limit our divine potential, and to resist the discouragement that diminishes our capacity to feel the love of our Heavenly Father and His Son. We will come to fully understand who we are as sons and daughters of God.²⁶

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THEME 4:
A CHRIST-CENTERED
MILITARY HOME
THROUGH

The Family: A Proclamation to the World
“Successful marriages and families are established
and maintained on principles of...repentance,
forgiveness”

APRIL:

INVITATIONS
&
QUOTES
— S —

REPENTANCE AND
FORGIVENESS

INVITATIONS

LEARN:

STUDY & PONDER THE PRINCIPLES OF
REPENTANCE AND FORGIVENESS

ACT:

ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER TO
REPENT AND FORGIVE YOURSELF/
OTHERS

BECOME:

IMPLEMENT REPENTANCE AND
FORGIVENESS TO CENTER YOUR
MILITARY HOME IN JESUS CHRIST

QUOTES

Day 1:

“Yea, come unto Christ, and be perfected in him, and deny yourselves of all ungodliness.” (Moroni 10:32)

Day 2:

To deny oneself of all ungodliness is to come to Christ by ordinances and covenants, to repent of any sins which prevent the Spirit of the Lord from taking precedence in our lives (Moroni 10:32). To deny oneself of all ungodliness is to “offer a sacrifice unto the Lord thy God, even that of a broken heart and a contrite spirit” (D&C 59:8).¹

Day 3:

Joy is one of the inherent results of repentance.²

Day 4:

It is essential to your happiness in this life and throughout eternity. Repentance is much more than just acknowledging wrongdoings. It is a change of mind and heart that gives you a fresh view about God, about yourself, and about the world. It includes turning away from sin and turning to God for forgiveness. It is motivated by love for God and the sincere desire to obey His commandments.³

Day 5:

Repentance is change of behavior and change of heart.⁴

Day 6:

“The natural man is an enemy to God, and has been from the fall of Adam, and will be, forever and ever, unless he yields to the enticings of the Holy Spirit, and putteth off the natural man and becometh as a child, submissive, meek, humble, patient, full of love, willing to submit to all things which the Lord seeth fit to inflict upon him, even as a child doth submit to his father.” (Mosiah 3:19)

Day 7:

“The Son of Man hath descended below them all.” (Doctrine and Covenants 122:8)

Day 8:

“Remember the worth of souls is great in the sight of God. For, behold, the Lord your Redeemer suffered death in the flesh; wherefore he suffered the pain of all men, that all men might repent and come unto him. And he hath risen again from the dead, that he might bring all conditions of repentance. And how great is his joy in the soul that repenteth.” (Doctrine and Covenants 189:10–13)

Day 9:

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Day 10:

We are moved as we contemplate the magnitude of His infinite love and atoning sacrifice and consider the emotional, physical, and spiritual challenges that we will face as we follow in His footsteps.⁵

Day 11:

“If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.” (Matthew 16:24)

Day 12:

One of the significant blessings of the Atonement emerges from Christ’s power to redeem spiritually dead. Spiritual death is a form of spiritual alienation or dissolution of the divine relationship. But it is more than a geographic banishment from God’s presence. Just as the physical body weakens with the onslaught of disease, it seems that in the same way we weaken spiritually as we embrace each new sin. Perhaps we lose our capacity or will to absorb light and truth. Perhaps, like an injured muscle, we lose strength and resiliency to confront each new temptation. Whatever the mechanics, spiritual death seems to result in a form of spiritual degeneration or entropy. As with physical death. There needs to be some power to reverse the decaying process, to heal our spiritual wounds, to strengthen our spiritual fiber. Again, the Atonement is the source of that reversing power, that fount to which men “may look for a remission of their sins” (2 Nephi 25:26).⁶

Day 13:

Thus, when Jesus asks you and me to “repent,” [Luke 13:3,5] He is inviting us to change our mind, our knowledge, our spirit—even the way we breathe. He is asking us to change the way we love, think, serve, spend our time, treat our wives, teach our

children, and even care for our bodies.⁷

Day 14:

Spiritual perspective on repentance...leads us to understand that we change for the ones we love as well as for ourselves.⁸

Day 15:

Repentance, forgiveness, and progression each occur within a specific context that must be understood and experienced before our practice of these principles attains its redemptive power. The context in which repentance occurs is justice--the eternal justice of God and the justice requisite in human relationships. The enabling spiritual context of forgiveness is our own experience of repentance and forgiveness--through the Father's and Christ's infinite mercy and atoning sacrifice. In turn, progression is enabled through repentance, forgiveness, and grace--both God's grace and the help we offer to and receive from one other.⁹

Day 16:

Nothing is more liberating, more ennobling, or more crucial to our individual progression than is a regular, daily focus on repentance. Repentance is not an event; it is a process. It is the key to happiness and peace of mind.¹⁰

Day 17:

"Behold, he who has repented of his sins, the same is forgiven, and I, the Lord remember them no more. By this ye may know if a man repenteth of his sins--behold, he will confess them and forsake them." (Doctrine and Covenants 58:42-43)

Day 18:

"I, the Lord, will forgive whom I will forgive, but of you it is required to forgive all men." (Doctrine and Covenants 64:10)

Day 19:

Is there someone in your life who perhaps needs forgiveness? Is there someone in your home, someone in your family, someone in your neighborhood who has done an unjust or an unkind or an unchristian thing? All of us are guilty of such transgressions, so there surely must be someone who yet needs your forgiveness.¹¹

Day 20:

Don't treasure up past wrongs, reprocessing them again and again. In a marriage relationship, festering is destructive; forgiving is divine (see D&C 64:9-10). Plead for the guidance of the Spirit of the Lord to forgive wrongs..., to overcome faults, and to strengthen relationships.¹²

Day 21:

"And ye shall also forgive one another your trespasses; for verily I say unto you, he that forgiveth not his neighbor's trespasses when he says that he repents, the same hath brought himself under condemnation." (Mosiah 26:31)

Day 22:

As a priesthood leader, I have worked with sin-sick souls who had replaced the light of righteousness in their countenances with the darkness of transgression and guilt. Gratefully, through the process of sincere repentance, many of those individuals were touched by the finger of the Lord and changed by the power of His infinite and eternal Atonement. The light in their souls gradually returned, "line upon line, precept upon precept" (2 Nephi 28:30). And as we serve in our families and minister to the sons and daughters of God with all of our heart, might, mind, and strength, we also are blessed to see the "evidence of things not seen" (Hebrew 11:1). We may not see the literal finger of the Lord touch the hearts of the people we serve. But we do see repentant souls partake of the precious white fruit and relish the delicious taste of the Atonement of Jesus Christ in their lives. They are touched, healed, and blessed one by one. What once was dark because of sin is light again because of the Savior's Atonement. Jesus indeed is "the light which shineth in darkness" (Doctrine and Covenants 6:21).¹³

Day 23:

Forgiveness is not excusing accountability or failing to protect ourselves, our families, and other innocent victims. Forgiveness is not continuing in a relationship with someone who is not trustworthy. Forgiveness is not condoning injustice. Forgiveness is not dismissing the hurt or disgust we feel because of the actions of others. Forgiveness is not forgetting but remembering in peace. Forgiveness is putting more faith in Jesus Christ and His Atonement. In His time and in His way, His love and sacrifice for us will take away our pain and heal our souls.¹⁴

Day 24:

As our faith in Jesus Christ grows, and as we understand His incalculable gift to us, our ability to forgive others and our ability to feel forgiven increases. We realize that

our lives here upon the earth are but a short part of eternity and, to truly progress, we must clear our spirits of anger, hate, and any desire for retribution toward those who have hurt us or hurt those we love.¹⁵

Day 25:

“Wherefore teach it unto your children, that all men, everywhere, must repent or they can in nowise inherit the kingdom of God, for no unclean thing can dwell there, or dwell in his presence.” (Mosiah 4:2)

Day 26:

Through the marvelous power of the atonement of Jesus Christ, a power activated by our obedience to His commandments, we can be cleansed of our sins. His infinite “mercy can satisfy the demands of justice” (Alma 34:16; see also Mosiah 15:9; Alma 42) for every one who will. One of the great truths restored to the earth through modern revelation is that the atonement of Jesus Christ is universal! The saving power of the gospel spans all generations of time and extends to all nations, kindred, tongues, and peoples. Through humble repentance, we offer the sacrifice of a broken heart and a contrite spirit that the Lord requires of us before we can enter the waters of baptism (see D&C 20:37).¹⁶

Day 27:

We are sure you will overcome mortal death. You will be resurrected because of what Christ did for us. Whether or not you overcome spiritual death – that separation from the presence of our Heavenly Father – will depend a great deal on you. When Jesus Christ was living on the earth He taught His gospel and organized His church. If we live the gospel, we will remain spiritually clean. Even when we make mistakes, there is a way to become clean again. That is what repentance is.¹⁷

Day 28:

Being righteous doesn’t mean being perfect or never making mistakes. It means developing an inner connection with God, repenting of our sins and mistakes, and freely helping others.¹⁸

Day 29:

Repentance includes certain elements that is part of the process. First, Faith in our Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ is a way to turn to them to receive forgiveness. “Repentance is an act of Faith.” Faith is what acknowledges that through the atonement you repent. Another element is sorrow for sin. This is acknowledging that you have sinned, and which leads to feel “godly sorrow.” Afterwards and part

*of the process is confession. One must confess to the Father the wrong that has been committed. Once the confession is made one must strive to abandon the sin that was committed, and as one abandons the sin then they are also making sure restitution is being made.*¹⁹

Day 30:

*There are those who feel that their own neglect, their bad habits, their shunning of the righteous life have caused God to abandon to abandon them, that He will no longer hear their pleadings, nor see their plight, nor feel compassion towards them. Such feelings are not compatible with the word of the Lord....Should there be anyone who feels he is too weak to change the onward and downward moving course of his life, or 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 the 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).*²⁰

Day 31:

I absolutely know that repentance is necessary for all of us, and for all of our lives. Our faith in Christ and our willingness to follow Him bring hope, peace, and love of God and for His children. We need not feel discouraged when we sense our spiritual progress seems too slow or when we continue to see the weaknesses in our character. We must never become "weary in well doing" (Doctrine and Covenants 64:33). "Be faithful in Christ; and may not the things which I have written grieve thee, to weigh thee down unto death; but may Christ lift thee up, and may his sufferings and death, and the showing his body unto our fathers, and his mercy and long-suffering, and hope of his glory and of eternal life, rest in your mind forever" (Moroni 9:25). Jesus said, "In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).²¹

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THEME 5:
A CHRIST-CENTERED
MILITARY HOME
THROUGH

The Family: A Proclamation to the World
“The divine plan of happiness enables family relationships to be perpetuated beyond the grave. Sacred ordinances and covenants available in holy temples make it possible for individuals to return to the presence of God and for families to be united eternally.”

MAY:

INVITATIONS

&

QUOTES

S

SACRED ORDINANCES AND
COVENANTS

INVITATIONS

LEARN:

STUDY & PONDER SACRED
ORDINANCES AND COVENANTS

ACT:

ATTEND THE TEMPLE WHEN ABLE
OR WORK ON FAMILY HISTORY
TOGETHER TO HELP VICARIOUSLY
BRING THE BLESSINGS OF SACRED
ORDINANCES TO PAST FAMILY
MEMBERS

BECOME:

STRENGTHEN YOUR UNDERSTANDING
OF SACRED COVENANTS TO CENTER
YOUR MILITARY HOME IN JESUS
CHRIST

QUOTES

Day 1:

It is our faith in the importance of making covenants with God and coming to understand our immense possibilities that the temple, the house of the Lord, becomes the focus for all that really matters. In the temple we participate in ordinances and covenants that span the distance between heaven and earth. They prepare us to one day return to God's presence and enjoy the blessings of eternal families and eternal life.¹

Day 2:

*"And this shall be our covenant—that we will walk in all the ordinances of the Lord."
(Doctrine and Covenants 136:4)*

Day 3:

One of the most important concepts of revealed religion is that of a sacred covenant. In legal language, a covenant generally denotes an agreement between two or more parties. But in a religious context, a covenant is much more significant. It is a sacred promise with God. He fixes the terms. Each person may choose to accept those terms. If one accepts the terms of the covenant and obeys God's law, he or she receives the blessings associated with the covenant. We know that "when we obtain any blessing from God, it is by obedience to that law upon which it is predicated (Doctrine and Covenants 130:21)."²

Day 4:

First, as we walk in obedience to the principles and commandments of the gospel of Jesus Christ, we enjoy a continual flow of blessings promised by God in His covenant with us...Furthermore, they lead to a generally more healthy life and freedom from destructive addictions. Obedience gives us greater control over our lives, greater capacity to come and go, to work and create. Of course, age, accident, and illnesses inevitably take their toll, but even so, our obedience to this gospel law enhances our capacity to deal with these challenges.³

Day 5:

We...increase the Savior's power in our lives when we make sacred covenants and keep those covenants with precision. Our covenants bind us to Him and give us godly

power. As Faithful disciples, we repent and follow Him into the waters of baptism. We walk along the covenant path to receive other essential ordinances. And gratefully, God's plan provides for those blessings to be extended to ancestors who died without an opportunity to obtain them during their mortal lives.⁴

Day 6:

With each ordinance is a covenant—a promise. A covenant made with god is not restrictive, but protective. Such a concept is not new. For example, if our water supply is not clean, we filter the water to screen out harmful ingredients. Divine covenants help us to filter out our minds impurities that could harm us. When we choose to deny ourselves of all ungodliness (see Moroni 10:32), we lose nothing of value and gain the glory of eternal life. Covenants do not hold us down; they elevate us beyond the limits of our own power and perspective.⁵

Day 7:

Every woman and every man who makes covenants with God and keeps those covenants, and who participates worthily in priesthood ordinances, has direct access to the power of God. Those who are endowed in the house of the Lord receive a gift of God's priesthood power by virtue of their covenant, along with a gift of knowledge to know how to draw upon that power.⁶

Day 8:

Windows must be washed regularly to clean away dust and dirt. If left to accumulate without regular cleaning, thickening grime can block our light and darken the window. Just as earthly windows need consistent, thorough cleaning, so do the windows of our spirituality. Weekly sacrament meeting attendance helps us keep our personal windows of heaven free from the obscuring haze of earthly distractions and temptations. By partaking of the sacrament worthily to renew our baptismal covenants, we clarify our view of life's eternal purpose and divine priorities. The sacrament prayers invite personal introspection, repentance, and rededication as we pledge our willingness to remember our Savior, Jesus the Christ. This commitment to become like Christ, repeated weekly, defines the supreme aspiration of Latter-day Saint life. Frequent temple Attendance, as our circumstances allow, is another way to keep our spiritual windows clean. Worship in the house of the Lord will keep our view of what matters most clear and sharp, focused crisply, and free from the dust of the world.⁷

Day 9:

One of the great blessings of the restored gospel is the privilege of entering into sacred covenants with our Father in Heaven—covenants with our Father in Heaven—

covenants made binding by virtue of the holy priesthood. When we are baptized and confirmed, when brethren are ordained in the offices of the priesthood, when we go to the temple and receive our endowments, when we enter into the new and everlasting covenant of eternal marriage—in all these sacred ordinances, we solemn commitments to keep God’s commandments. We covenant that we will show our love for our Heavenly Father through humble service and diligent obedience and thereby prove ourselves to be “good and faithful servant[s]” (Matthew 25:21,23).⁸

Day 10:

The ordinances of salvation and exaltation administered in the Lord’s restored Church are far more than rituals or symbolic performances. Rather, they constitute authorized channels through which the blessings and powers of heaven can flow into our individual lives.⁹

Day 11:

Understanding that adversity is a part of life, and that mortal life is simply a small part of our existence, helps us to better bear our burdens. That understanding comes over time as we learn more about God’s plan of happiness...In the temple, we learn of eternal things that help to broaden our perspective on life. In the holy temple, we learn how to be like God. Within its walls, we feel His spirit and His love as we make the sacred covenants that will help prepare us to live with Him again one day...As we prepare to enter to the temple, sometimes making both temporal and spiritual sacrifices to do so, we strengthen our faith and enhance our temple experience. When the whirlwinds of life descend, the temple can be a refuge in the storm. Death comes to all of us. But we learn through the gospel of Jesus Christ that mortal death is not the end. Through ordinances only performed in the temple, family relationships can last forever.¹⁰

Day 12:

His Atonement provides the way for us to progress on the path to our heavenly home, through sacred priesthood ordinances and covenants. These priesthood ordinances and covenants were restored to the earth through the Prophet Joseph Smith.¹¹

Day 13:

Temple ordinances lead to the greatest blessings available through the Atonement of Jesus Christ. They are those ordinances necessary for our exaltation in the celestial kingdom. As we strive to keep our covenants, our feelings of inadequacy and imperfection begin to fade, while the ordinances and the covenants of the temple come alive. Everyone is welcome to walk that path to eternal life.¹²

Day 14:

Keeping covenants protects us, prepares us, and empowers us.¹³

Day 15:

We prepare by obeying the commandments and seeking to do God's will. If you have not gone to the temple, start preparing now, for when the opportunity presents itself you will be ready and worthy.¹⁴

Day 16:

If we are true to our covenants, our Father in Heaven will grant us the blessing of "eternal life, which gift is the greatest of all the gifts of God" (D&C 14:7). "All that [the] Father hath" (D&C 84:38) is promised to those who walk the path of faith and remain true to their covenants. Those "who [do] the works of righteousness shall receive [their] reward, even peace in this world, and eternal life in the world to come" (D&C 59:23).¹⁵

Day 17:

The covenants we make with the associated ordinances we receive in the temple become our credentials for admission into God's presence. These covenants elevate us beyond the limits of our own power and perspective we make covenants to show our devotion to build up the kingdom. We become covenant people as we are placed under covenant to God. All the promised blessings are ours through our faithfulness to these covenants.¹⁶

Day 18:

The temple is a house of learning. Much of the instruction imparted in the temple is symbolic and learned by the Spirit. This means we are taught from on high. Temple covenants and ordinances are a powerful symbol of Christ and His Atonement. We all receive the same instruction, but our understanding of the meaning of the ordinances and covenants will increase as we return to the temple often with the attitude of learning and contemplating the eternal truths taught.¹⁷

Day 19:

"Wherefore he that prayeth, whose spirit is contrite, the same is accepted of me if he obey mine ordinances. He that speaketh, whose spirit is contrite, whose language is meek and edifieth, the same is of God if he obey mine ordinances." (Doctrine and Covenants 52:15–16)

Day 20:

Our Savior, Jesus Christ, is our great Exemplar when it comes to making and keeping promises and covenants. He came to earth promising to do the will of the Father. He taught gospel principles in word and in deed. He atoned for our sins that we might live again. He has honored every one of His promises.¹⁸

Day 21:

“And, inasmuch as it shall be expedient, ye must keep the performances and ordinances of God until the law shall be fulfilled which was given unto Moses.”
(2 Nephi 25:30)

Day 22:

“And they did not walk any more after the performances and ordinances of the law of Moses; but they did walk after the commandments which they had received from their Lord and their God, continuing in fasting and prayer, and in meeting together oft both to pray and to hear the word of the Lord.” (4 Nephi 1:12)

Day 23:

Can the same be said of each of us? What are the dangers if we cheat a little, slip a little, or do not quite follow through with our commitments? What if we walk away from our covenants? Will others come unto Christ in light of our example? Is your word your bond? Keeping promises is not a habit; it is a characteristic of being a disciple of Jesus Christ. Ever mindful of our frailties in mortal life, the Lord promised, “Be of good cheer, and do not fear, for I the Lord am with you, and will stand by you.” [Doctrine and Covenants 68:6] I have felt His presence when needing reassurance, comfort, or greater spiritual insight or strength, and I have been deeply humbled and am grateful for His divine companionship.¹⁹

Day 24:

These priesthood ordinances and covenants provide access to the fulness of the blessings promised to us by God, which are made possible by the Savior’s Atonement. They arm sons and daughters of God with power, God’s power, [see Doctrine and Covenants 109:22] and provide us with the opportunity to receive eternal life—to return to God’s presence and live with Him in His eternal family.²⁰

Day 25:

Marriage and family are an essential part of God's plan for our happiness...through temple ordinances and covenants, our cherished family relationships can endure eternally.²¹

Day 26:

"We believe that through the Atonement of Christ, all mankind may be saved, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel." (Articles of Faith 1:3)

Day 27:

"But, said he, notwithstanding our afflictions, we have obtained a land of promise, a land which is choice above all other lands; a land which the Lord God hath covenanted with me should be a land for the inheritance of my seed. Yea, the Lord hath covenanted this land unto me, and to my children forever, and also all those who should be led out of other countries by the hand of the Lord." (2 Nephi 1:5)

Day 28:

There are some great spiritual promises that parents may have visited upon them; these are the same divine promises made to their valiant forbears who nobly kept their covenants. Covenants remembered by parents will be remembered by God. The children may thus become the beneficiaries and inheritors of these great covenants and promises.²²

Day 29:

When you came out of the water, you had accepted another call to serve...you made a promise and received an assignment in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, of which you were then confirmed a member. You covenanted with God to take upon yourself the name of Jesus Christ, to keep His commandments, and to serve Him. For each one who makes these covenants, the service that the Lord calls him or her to do will be suited perfectly to that person. The covenant daughter and sons of God, however, all share one important and joyful call. It is to serve others for Him.²³

Day 30:

Our families are our highest responsibility as well as our greatest blessing...If we keep our covenants, the promises we receive in return are great.²⁴

Day 31:

The best way to strengthen a home, current or future, is to keep covenants, promises we've made to each other and to God.²⁵

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THEME 6:
A CHRIST-CENTERED
MILITARY HOME
THROUGH

The Family: A Proclamation to the World

“Husband and wife have a solemn responsibility to love and care for each other and for their children...By devine design, fathers are to preside over their families in love and righteousness and are responsible to provide the necessities of life and protection for their families. Mothers are primarily responsible for the nurture of their children. In these sacred responsibilities, fathers and mothers are obligated to help one another as equal partners.”

JUNE:

INVITATIONS

&

QUOTES

S

SOLEMN RESPONSIBILITY

INVITATIONS

LEARN:

STUDY AND PONDER THE SOLEMN
RESPONSIBILITIES OF A FAMILY

ACT:

HAVE WEEKLY FAMILY COUNCILS
TO DISCUSS HOW TO BEST SUPPORT
THE ROLES OF EACH MEMBER OF THE
FAMILY

BECOME:

STRENGTHEN YOUR UNDERSTANDING
OF THE SOLEMN RESPONSIBILITIES
WITHIN THE FAMILY TO CENTER
YOUR MILITARY HOME IN JESUS
CHRIST

QUOTES

Day 1:

QUOTE: The family is ordained of God.¹

Day 2:

“And again, verily I say unto you, that whoso forbiddeth to marry is not ordained of God, for marriage is ordained of God unto man.” (Doctrine and Covenants 49:15)

Day 3:

Now, I believe that most marriages in the Church are happy that both husbands and wives in those marriages experience a sense of security and love, of mutual dependence, and an equal sharing of burdens. I am confident that the children in those homes, at least in the vast majority of them, are growing up with a sense of peace and security, knowing that they are appreciated and loved by both of their parents, who, they feel, love one another.²

Day 4:

Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.” (James 1:19)

Day 5:

When our youngest daughter was about four years of age, I came home from hospital duties quite late one evening. I found my dear wife to be very weary. I don't know why. She only had nine children underfoot all day. So I offered to get our four-year-old ready for bed. I began to give the orders: “Take off your clothes; hang them up; put on your pajamas; brush your teeth; say your prayers” and so on, commanding in a manner befitting a tough sergeant in the army. Suddenly she cocked her head to one side, looked at me with a wistful eye, and said, “Daddy, do you own me?” She taught me an important lesson. I was using coercive methods on this sweet soul. To rule children by force is the technique of Satan, not of the Savior. No, we don't own our children. Our parental privilege is to love them, to lead them, and to let them go.³

Day 6:

All families need strengthening, from the ideal to the most troubled. That strengthening can come from you. In fact, in some families you may be the only source of spiritual strength. The Lord is depending on you to bring the blessings of the gospel to your family.⁴

Day 7:

It is important to establish patterns of righteousness in your own life, which will enable you to set a good example for your family, whatever form your family may take.⁵

Day 8:

*“The husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the Church.”
(Ephesians 5:23)*

Day 9:

“The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise” (John 5:19).

Day 10:

I wish to speak of the relationship that a man holding the priesthood should have with his wife and children. With a knowledge of the plan of salvation as a foundation, a man who holds the priesthood looks upon marriage as a sacred privilege and obligation...A man who holds the priesthood shows perfect moral fidelity to his wife and gives her no reason to doubt his faithfulness...A man who holds the priesthood has reverence for motherhood...Honor your wife's unique and divinely appointed role as a mother in Israel and her special capacity to bear and nurture children...A man who holds the priesthood regards the family as ordained of God.⁶

Day 11:

Your leadership of the family is your most important and sacred responsibility. The family is the most important unit in time and in eternity and, as such, transcends every other interest in life...A man who holds the priesthood accepts his wife as a partner in the leadership of the home and family with full knowledge of and full participation in all decisions relating thereto....A man who holds the priesthood leads his family in Church participation so they will know the gospel and be under the protection of the covenants and ordinances.⁷

Day 12:

“And also all they who receive this priesthood receive me, saith the Lord;” (Doctrine and Covenants 84:35)

Day 13:

I am convinced that a husband is never more attractive to his wife than when he is serving in his God-given roles as a worthy priesthood holder—most important in the home.⁸

Day 14:

Sons of God, do you know who you are? Do you know what you have? Are you worthy to exercise the priesthood and receive the power and blessings of the priesthood? Do you embrace your roles and responsibilities to strengthen homes as fathers, grandfathers, sons, brothers, and uncles? Do you show respect for women, womanhood, and motherhood?⁹

Day 15:

A mother’s role is also God-ordained. Mothers are to conceive, bear, nourish, love, and train.¹⁰

Day 16:

There seems to be a power which the mother possesses in shaping the life of the child that is far superior, in my judgement, to the power of the father, and this almost without exception. ...After all it is by love, real genuine love of our fellows, that we accomplish the most. A mother’s love seems to be the most perfect and the most sincere, the strongest of any love we know anything about. I, for me, rejoice in it because of its wonderful example to me.¹¹

Day 17:

Motherhood consists of three principal attributes or qualities: namely, (1) the power to bear, (2) the ability to rear, (3) the gift of love. ...This ability and willingness properly to rear children, the gift of love, and eagerness, yes, longing to express it in soul development, make motherhood the noblest office or calling in the world. She who can paint a masterpiece or write a book that will influence millions deserves the admiration and the plaudits of mankind; but she who rears successfully a family of healthy, beautiful sons and daughters, whose influence will be felt through generations to come, whose immortal souls will exert an influence throughout the ages long after paintings shall have faded, and books and statues shall have decayed

or shall have been destroyed, deserves the highest honor that man can give, and the choicest blessings of God. In her high duty and service to humanity, endowing with immortality eternal spirits, she is co-partner with the Creator himself.¹²

Day 18:

Mothers who know are leaders. In equal partnership with their husbands, they lead a great and eternal organization. These mothers plan for the future of their organization. They plan for missions, temple marriages, and education. They plan for prayer, scripture study, and family home evening. Mothers who know build children into future leaders and are the primary examples of what leaders look like. They do not abandon their plan by succumbing to social pressure and worldly models of parenting. These wise mothers who know are selective about their own activities and involvement to conserve their limited strength in order to maximize their influence where it matters most.¹³

Day 19:

Who will prepare this righteous generation of sons and daughters? Latter-day Saint women will do this—women who know and love the Lord and bear testimony of Him, women who are strong and immovable and who do not give up during difficult and discouraging times.¹⁴

Day 20:

The heavens are just as open to women who are endowed with God's power flowing from their priesthood covenants as they are to men who bear the priesthood. I pray that truth will register upon each of your hearts because I believe it will change your life. Sisters, you have the right to draw liberally upon the Savior's power to help your family and others you love.¹⁵

Day 21:

Daughters of God, do we know who we are? Do we know what we have? Are we worthy to receive the power and blessings of the priesthood? Do we receive the gifts given to us with gratitude, grace, and dignity? Do we embrace our roles and responsibilities to strengthen homes as mothers, grandmothers, daughters, sisters, and aunts? Do we show respect for men, manhood, and fatherhood?¹⁶

Day 22:

While this family unit (marriage between a man and a woman) is the ideal, many Church members find themselves in a variety of other circumstances, including in single-parenting families. The gospel of Jesus Christ was given by God to bless all

His Children, without exception, regardless of the family situations in which they find themselves. Because of a variety of circumstances, including death, divorce, and separation, many Church members find themselves in single-parent families. Regardless of their family situation, all Church members are entitled to receive all the blessings of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The structure and fellowship of the Church provide many people who are willing and ready to help parents and children and to strengthen them in the gospel.¹⁷

Day 23:

Now a word to the single parents among us... This is a lonely duty. But you need not be entirely alone. There are many, ever so many in this Church who would reach out to you with sensitivity and understanding. They do not wish to intrude where they are not wanted. But their interest is genuine and sincere, and they bless their own lives as they bless your lives and those of your children. Welcome their help. They to give it for their own sakes as well as for your sake. We have thousands of good bishops in this Church. We have thousands of good quorum officers. We have thousands of wonderful Relief Society women... They are your friends, put in place by the Lord to give of their strength to help you. And never forget that the Lord Himself is a source of strength greater than any other.¹⁸

Day 24:

It's important for us to realize that there is no one way that a righteous family looks. Some righteous families have two parents; but sometimes, through death or divorce, there is only one. Some righteous families have many children, and other families, at least for the moment, have none. Most members are single for part of their lives,... In some righteous families only the father works outside the home, and other times, both adults must work. So, though we may differ, what righteous families have in common are the covenants that they hold sacred.¹⁹

Day 25:

We all need each other. Sons of God need daughters of God, and daughters of God need sons of God. We have different gifts and different strengths. First Corinthians chapter 12 emphasizes the need for sons and daughters of God, each one of us, to fulfill our individual roles and responsibilities according to the Lord's plan, that all may benefit [see Doctrine and Covenants 46:9,12].²⁰

Day 26:

Oh, husbands and fathers in Israel, you can do so much for the salvation and exaltation of your families! ... Remember your sacred calling as a father in Israel—your most important calling in time and eternity—a calling from which you will never be

released. You must help create a home where the Spirit of the Lord can abide.²¹

Day 27:

Brothers and sisters, we need each other! As covenant-keeping women and men, we need to lift each other and help each other become the people the Lord would have us become. And we need to work together to lift the rising generation and help them reach their divine potential as heirs of eternal life.²²

Day 28:

The whole purpose of the creation of the earth was to provide a dwelling place where the spirit children of God might come....The whole purpose of mothers and fathers should be to live worthily of this blessing and to assist God the Father and his son Jesus Christ in their work.²³

Day 29:

Parents are commanded to bring up their children in light and truth (see D&C 93:40), teaching them to understand the principles of the gospel, to pray and walk uprightly before the Lord (see D&C 68:25, 28), and to love one another and serve one another (see Mosiah 4:14–15).²⁴

Day 30:

Finally, our Father's great plan of happiness is crowned with this glorious truth: The Family can Become an Eternal Unit through the Power of God. The doctrine of the Church is unique in this regard, for we alone teach that God lives in an eternal marriage relationship and that we may obtain like status. Through the sealing ordinance and by honoring our covenants, we can enjoy the blessings of eternal life. The Lord has assured the obedient that they "shall pass by the angels, and the gods, which are set there, to their exaltation and glory in all things,...Which glory shall be a fulness and a continuation of the seeds forever and ever. Then shall they be gods, because they have no end; therefore shall they be from everlasting to everlasting, because they continue" (D&C 132:19–20)....We must teach these foundation principles in more of our meetings Eternal family life is the work and the glory of our Heavenly Father.²⁵

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THEME 7:
A CHRIST-CENTERED
MILITARY HOME
THROUGH

The Family: A Proclamation to the World
“Successful marriages and families are established
and maintained on principles of...work”

JULY:

INVITATIONS

&

QUOTES

S

WORK—SERVING YOUR
COUNTRY

INVITATIONS

LEARN:

STUDY & PONDER THE PRINCIPLES OF
WORK

ACT:

FIND WAYS TO SERVE WITHIN THE
MILITARY COMMUNITY

BECOME:

IMPLEMENT CENTERING YOUR
MILITARY HOME IN JESUS CHRIST
THROUGH THE PRINCIPLE OF WORK
TO FOSTER RESILIENCY WHILE
SERVING YOUR COUNTRY

QUOTES

Day 1:

Freedom, a willingness to work, and the desire to serve your God through service to your fellowmen—these are the sources of true wealth. Cling fast to these truths, and you must inevitably increase in favor with man.¹

Day 2:

It is interesting that the first recorded instruction given to Adam after the Fall dealt with the eternal principle of work. The Lord said: “In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread” (Genesis 3:19). Our Heavenly Father loves us so completely that he has given us a commandment to work. This is one of the keys to eternal life. He knew that we will learn more, grow more, achieve more, serve more, and benefit more from a life of industry than from life of ease.²

Day 3:

When Adam and Eve left the Garden, they exchanged an existence where life was sustained without effort for a life of work and trials. Traditionally, Christians think of such labor as a curse, but a close reading of the scriptures reveals otherwise. God cursed the ground to bring forth thorns and thistles, which in turn forced Adam to labor. And yet Adam was told, “Cursed shall be the ground for thy sake” (Moses 4:23; emphasis added). In other words, the hard work of eating bread “By the sweat of thy face” (Moses 4:25) was meant to be a blessing.³

Day 4:

All we obtain in life of a material nature comes as a product of labor and the providence of God. Work produces life’s necessities.⁴

Day 5:

[Duty is to] Fulfill your obligations. Doing your duty means more than carrying out your assigned tasks. Duty means being able to accomplish task as part of a team. The work of the U.S. Army is a complex combination of missions, tasks and responsibilities – all in constant motion. Our work entails building one assignment onto another. You fulfill your obligations as a part of your unit every time you resist the temptation to take “shortcuts” that might undermine the integrity of the final product.⁵

Day 6:

Learning to work begins in the home.⁶

Day 7:

*“Thou shalt not idle away thy time, neither shalt thou bury thy talent.”
(Doctrine and Covenants 60:13)*

Day 8:

There are several principles which undergird the significance of work in the Lord’s plan. First, as the covenant people we must be as self-sufficient as possible. We are to be free from dependence upon a dole or any program that might endanger our free agency. Second, we must work to support our families with which the Lord has blessed us. Every true son of God wants to care for his own, and many a noble mother, from whom a husband has been taken, struggles to support her children, both as breadwinner and a single parent. Finally, we work so we may have the necessities of life, conserving time and energy left over for service in the Lord’s work. Sometimes it seems that the men who work the hardest at their occupations are the men most willing to devote time to church service.⁷

Day 9:

Why does such ordinary, family-centered work have to do with salvation? The answer is so obvious in common experience that it has become obscure: Family work links people. It does so by providing endless opportunities to recognize and fill the needs of others... Thus family work is a link to one another, a link to the Lord, a stepping-stone toward salvation that is always available. This daily work of feeding, clothing, and sheltering each other has the power to transform us spiritually as we transform others physically.⁸

Day 10:

“And now I say unto you, my beloved brother Moroni, that never had I seen so great courage, nay, not amongst all the Nephites. For as I had ever called them my sons (for they were all of them very young) even so they said unto me: Father, behold our God is with us, and he will not suffer that we should fall; then let us go forth; we would not slay our brethren if they would let us alone; therefore let us go lest they should overpower the army of Antipus. Now they never had fought yet they did not fear death; and they did think more upon the liberty of their fathers than they did upon their lives; yea, they had been taught by their mothers, that if they did not doubt, God would deliver them.” (Alma 56:45-47)

Day 11:

[Selfless service is defined as] Put the welfare of the nation, the Army and your subordinates before your own. Selfless service is larger than just one person. In serving your country, you are doing your duty loyally without thought of recognition or gain. The basic building block of selfless service is the commitment of each team to go a little further, endure a little longer, and look a little closer to see how he or she can add to the effort.⁹

Day 12:

It is not enough to want to make [an] effort and to say we'll make the effort. We must actually make the effort. It's in the doing, not just the thinking, that we accomplish our goals. If we constantly put our goals off, we will never see them fulfilled.¹⁰

Day 13:

Let us realize that the privilege to work is a gift, that power to work is a blessing, that love of work is success.¹¹

Day 14:

“And the Lord God doth work by means to bring about his great and eternal purposes;” (Alma 37:7)

Day 15:

I testify that the God of heaven sent some of His choicest spirits to lay the foundation of this government, and He has now sent other choice spirits to help preserve it.¹²

Day 16:

We salute our great armed forces for their tremendous victory, and the faith and confidence they have restored for us in the great country we are privileged to live in.¹³

Day 17:

One of the highest duties of citizenship is to defend one's country. This is because in wartime, military service often demands the ultimate sacrifice—life itself.¹⁴

Day 18:

“And again, the Lord has said that: Ye shall defend your families even unto bloodshed. Therefore for this cause were the Nephites contending with the Lamanites, to defend

themselves, and their families, and their lands, their country, and their rights, and their religion.” (Alma 43:47)

Day 19:

“Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.”
(2 Corinthians 3:17)

Day 20:

I have worn the uniform of my native land in the time of total conflict. I have smelled the stench of human dead and wept tears for slaughtered comrades. I have climbed amid the rubble of ravaged cities and contemplated in horror the ashes of a civilization sacrificed to Moloch (Amos 5:26); yet knowing this, with the issues as they are, were I called again to military service, I could not conscientiously object! To you who have answered that call, we say: Serve honorably and well. Keep your faith, your character, your virtue.¹⁵

Day 21:

Who among us will ever forget the touching and vivid pictures of husbands and fathers bidding good-bye to weeping wives and wondering children as fond farewells dominated every newscast and printed story. The children cried but did not know why. Wives wept because they did know the danger, the loneliness, the fear that awaited. With the wave of a hand and a somewhat forced smile, the men and the women of the military went off to war. Their farewell expressions even now ring the conviction of their hearts: “I love my country”; “I’m proud to serve”; “I’ll be home soon”; “Try not to worry.”¹⁶

Day 22:

One of the reasons the men of Easy Company volunteered for hazardous duty was that when they went into combat, they wanted to be next to someone they could trust—someone who wouldn’t do something foolish that could get them killed. They didn’t want to be next to someone who was lazy or who hadn’t paid attention during training or who wasn’t physically capable of what was required. These men had worked to the limits of human capacity.¹⁷

Day 23:

A diligent attitude is not sufficient; however, it is a beginning, not the end. Attitudes, feelings, and beliefs must lead to action, or nothing will be accomplished.... Sometimes your work will be painstaking. It requires having patience and fortitude. It requires courage.¹⁸

Day 24:

Work is basic to all we do. God's first direction to Adam in the Garden of Eden as recorded in scripture was to dress the garden and take care of it. After the fall of Adam, God cursed the earth for Adam's sake saying, "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground." (Gen. 3:19.) Today, many have forgotten the value of work. Some falsely believe that the highest goal in life is to achieve a condition in which one no longer needs to work.¹⁹

Day 25:

We have always dignified work and reproved idleness. Our books, our sermons, our leaders, including particularly our present President, have glorified industry. The busy hive of the honeybee Deseret—has been our emblem. Work with faith is a cardinal point of our theological doctrine, and our future state—our heaven—is envisioned in terms of eternal progression through constant labor.²⁰

Day 26:

Our Heavenly Father has commanded that we work. Work is the foundation of success and creation. It is the secret of every successful enterprise. Even so, there are some who go to great lengths to avoid work. In fact, a few people I have known have worked exceptionally hard to get out of work. This is something I have never understood. My father was a hard worker, and he taught me to be the same. Some of the most fulfilling moments of our lives are when we establish worthwhile goals and work to achieve them.²¹

Day 27:

Give your best effort. Settle into the harness and work with all your might. As you do so, you will find joy in your service.²²

Day 28:

Since the days of Adam, man has by the sweat of his brow earned his daily bread. But when our work consumes us to the point where the spiritual dimensions of life are neglected, work can also be an entangling net....It is impossible to list the many nets that can ensnare us and keep us from following the Savior. But if we are sincere in our desire to follow Him, we must straightway leave the world's entangling nets and follow Him.²³

Day 29:

Forget yourself and go to work.²⁴

Day 30:

No great cause ever succeeded without great effort.²⁵

Day 31:

Without hard work, nothing grows but weeds.²⁶

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THEME 8:
A CHRIST-CENTERED
MILITARY HOME
THROUGH

The Family: A Proclamation to the World
“Successful marriages and families are established
and maintained on principles of...prayer”

AUGUST:

INVITATIONS

&

QUOTES

S

PRAYER

INVITATIONS

LEARN:

STUDY & PONDER THE PRINCIPLES OF
PRAYER

ACT:

HAVE MORNING AND NIGHT
INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY PRAYERS

BECOME:

IMPLEMENT PRAYER TO CENTER YOUR
MILITARY HOME IN JESUS CHRIST

QUOTES

Day 1:

“And now, my beloved brethren, I perceive that ye ponder still in your hearts; and it grieveth me that I must speak concerning this thing. For if ye would hearken unto the Spirit which teacheth a man to pray, ye would know that ye must pray; for the evil spirit teacheth not a man to pray, but teacheth him that he must not pray.”
(2 Nephi 32:8)

Day 2:

We long to know our Heavenly Father and have a meaningful relationship with Him. We can build this relationship through prayer. This type of relationship requires sincere, sustained effort. To help build this relationship, we faithfully pray in the morning, by ourselves and also with family members when possible, charting a purposeful course for the day and asking for guidance and protection. At night we counsel earnestly with God, reflecting on the day’s events and creating a meaningful, personal connection. Consistent, sincere prayer helps us to grow spiritually, shape our character, and strengthen our love for our Father in Heaven.¹

Day 3:

Meaningful prayer requires both holy communication and consecrated work.²

Day 4:

Prayer is man’s means of communicating with his Heavenly Father, the Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Only the deceived and the fool refuse to pray. An urgent need today is for more prayer -- secret, individual prayer; family prayer; prayer in organizations, association, and meetings generally, and in schools, and in government bodies. People of all nations need more prayer. We need to be on our knees.³

Day 5:

Prayer is the passport to spiritual power.⁴

Day 6:

“Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.” (Psalm 55:17)

Day 7:

(John 17)

Day 8:

Some of the most effective teaching in our homes comes from the family's kneeling together and feeling the spirit of what is said in daily family prayer. Asking the Lord for forgiveness, while also petitioning His help in unifying the family in love and righteous purposes, can have a lasting influence on our children as they grow together in the family. Sincere prayers soften contentious thoughts. It is absolutely imperative that we teach and encourage our children to be consistent and sincere in offering their personal prayers. As children pray daily, they will feel the Lord's personal direction in their lives. As they learn to seek His blessings and guidance, the family will find the joy and happiness that come from striving to be a righteous family.⁵

Day 9:

So universal is its application, so beneficial its result, that prayer qualifies as the number-one hallmark of a happy home. As parents listen to the prayer of a child, they too draw close to God. These little ones, who so recently have been with their Heavenly Father, have no inhibitions in expressing to Him their feelings, their wishes, their thanks. Family prayer is the greatest deterrent to sin, and hence the most beneficent provider of joy and happiness. The old saying is yet true: "The family that prays together stays together."⁶

Day 10:

Fervent prayers show our children what it is in our hearts, what our hopes are, and where our faith lies. Family prayer provides a way for parents to demonstrate faith, love, and expectations. When family prayer is a firm daily ritual, those expectations, love, and faith can become deeply embedded in the hearts and minds of children.⁷

Day 11:

I am a strong believer in prayer. There are three ways that men get what they want; by planning, by working, and by praying. Any great military operation takes careful planning or thinking. Then you must have well trained troops to carry it out: that's working. But between the plan and the operation there is always an unknown. That unknown spells defeat or victory, success or failure...that's where prayer comes in. Up to now, in the Third Army, God has been very good to us. We have never retreated; we have suffered no defeats, no famine, and no epidemics. This is because a lot of people at home are praying for us. We were lucky in Africa, in Sicily, and in Italy, simply because people prayed. But we must pray for ourselves too.⁸

Day 12:

As we pray, let us really communicate with our Father in Heaven.⁹

Day 13:

Pray to the Father in His [Jesus Christ] name. None of us can really make it alone. We need help, the kind of help that can come in answer to prayer.¹⁰

Day 14:

“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.” (Matthew 7:7)

Day 15:

Our Faith is acquired through prayer with a sincere desire to draw close to God and trust Him to bear our burdens.¹¹

Day 16:

We have recognized that prayer creates a bonding with others, especially family, that can only come through joint prayer and the presence of the Holy Ghost.¹²

Day 17:

“For the natural man is an enemy to God, and has been from the fall of Adam, and will be, forever and ever, unless he yields to the enticings of the Holy Spirit, and putteth off the natural man and becometh a saint through the atonement of Christ the Lord, and becometh as a child, submissive, meek, humble, patient, full of love, willing to submit to all things which the Lord seeth fit to inflict upon him, even as a child doth submit to his father.” (Mosiah 3:19)

Day 18:

Those who submit like a child do it because they know that the Father wants only the happiness of His children and that only He knows the way. That is the testimony we must have to keep praying like a submissive child, in the good times as well as the times of trouble.¹³

Day 19:

“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering.

*For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.”
(James 1:5–6)*

Day 20:

If you ponder the scriptures and begin to do what you covenanted with God to do, I can promise you that you will feel more love for God and more of His love for you. And with that, your prayers will come from the heart, full of thanks and of pleading. You will feel a greater dependence on God. You will find the courage and the determination to act in His service, without fear and with peace in your heart. You will pray always. And you will not forget Him, no matter what the future brings.¹⁴

Day 21:

“Pray in your families unto the Father, always in my name, that your wives and your children may be blessed.” (3 Nephi 18:21)

Day 22:

Choose to converse with your Father in Heaven often. Make time every day to share your thoughts and feelings with Him. Tell Him everything that concerns you. He is interested in the most important as well as the most mundane facets of your life. Share with Him your full range of feelings and experiences.¹⁵

Day 23:

Think of the power for good as you gather your family together and thank God for all of his blessings. Think of the eternal significance of daily thanking him for each member of your family and asking him to guide and bless and protect each one. Think of the strength that will come to your family as, daily, one member or another pours out his or her soul in love to God for other family members.¹⁶

Day 24:

Parents, help safeguard your children by arming them morning and night with the power of family prayer. Children are bombarded every day with the evils of lust, greed, pride, and a host of other sinful behaviors. Protect your children from daily worldly influences by fortifying them with the powerful blessings that result from family prayer. Family prayer should be a nonnegotiable priority in your daily life.¹⁷

Day 25:

The efficacy of our prayers depends on how we care for one another.¹⁸

Day 26:

Family prayer is fully effective, then, only as we rise from our knees and, with increased love and understanding, take better care of each other. We all want more love and unity in our families. We all need more help with some who may be wayward or in special need. We all desire more assurance of divine guidance and direction.¹⁹

Day 27:

The object of our prayers should not be to present a wish list or a series of requests but to secure for ourselves and for others blessings that God is eager to bestow, according to His will and timing. Every sincere prayer is heard and answered by our Heavenly Father, but the answers we receive may not be what we expect or come to us when we want or in the way we anticipate.²⁰

Day 28:

A fervent, sincere prayer is a two-way communication which will do much to bring His Spirit flowing like healing water to help with the trials, hardships, aches, and pains we all face.²¹

Day 29:

Prayer is one of the stepping-stones on the path that leads us to eternal life with our Father in Heaven.²²

Day 30:

As we offer unto the Lord our Family and our personal prayers, let us do so with faith and trust in him....If any of us has been slow to hearken to the counsel to pray always, there is no finer hour to begin than now.²³

Day 31:

It doesn't matter whether it is a little boy with a simple request, or a medical doctor with a critical, life-threatening challenge before him: Heavenly Father will hear our humble prayer and will give us the comfort and guidance we seek.²⁴

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THEME 9:
A CHRIST-CENTERED
MILITARY HOME
THROUGH

The Family: A Proclamation to the World
“Happiness in family life is most likely to be
achieved when founded upon the teachings of the
Lord Jesus Christ.”

SEPTEMBER:

INVITATIONS

&

QUOTES

S

HAPPINESS FOUND IN
THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS
CHRIST

INVITATIONS

LEARN:

STUDY & PONDER THE TEACHINGS OF
JESUS CHRIST

ACT:

HAVE EACH MEMBER OF THE FAMILY
CHOOSE A TEACHING OF JESUS
CHRIST TO APPLY IN THEIR LIVES

BECOME:

STRENGTHEN YOUR
UNDERSTANDINGS OF THE
TEACHINGS OF JESUS CHRIST TO
CREATE HAPPINESS IN YOUR MILITARY
HOME

QUOTES

Day 1:

Sisters and brothers, through the incessant din and drumbeat of our day, may we strive to see Christ at the center of our lives, of our faith, and of our service. That is where true meaning lies.¹

Day 2:

“Adam fell that men might be; and men are, that they might have joy.” (2 Nephi 2:25)

Day 3:

Although “men are, that they might have joy” (2 Ne. 2:25), this does not mean that our lives will be filled only with joy, “for it must needs be, that there is an opposition in all things” (2 Ne. 2:11). Happiness is not given to us in a package that we can just open up and consume. Nobody is ever happy 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Rather than thinking in terms of a day, we perhaps need to snatch happiness in little pieces, learning to recognize the elements of happiness and then treasuring them while they last.²

Day 4:

The foundational principles of the gospel of Jesus Christ can affect our life’s direction for good, if only we will apply them.³

Day 5:

We all want to experience such joy. The Proclamation instructs us in how to discover this type of happiness by centering our lives in the gospel of Jesus Christ. When we place Christ at the center of our families, happiness should follow...Not surprisingly, there are many philosophies and secular understandings that are available to replace Christ as the center of our families...These philosophies are powerful, yet can be deceptively subtle because they are so much a part of the society we live in. But subtle or not, they can color even our well-meaning understanding of gospel principles and carry us away from Christ and His teachings...Ultimately, what we will find is that only when the Lord Jesus Christ is the foundation of our families can we be happy in the way that Heavenly Father wants us to be happy (see Hel. 5:12).⁴

Day 6:

“And we did observe to keep the judgments, and the statutes, and the commandments of the Lord in all things, according to the law of Moses... And it came to pass that we lived after the manner of happiness.” (2 Nephi 5:10, 27)

Day 7:

“And as I partook of the fruit thereof it filled my soul with exceedingly great joy; wherefore, I began to be desirous that my family should partake of it also; for I knew that it was desirable above all other fruit.” (1 Nephi 8:12)

Day 8:

“And they said unto me: What meaneth the rod of iron which our father saw, that led to the tree? And I said unto them that it was the word of God; and whoso would hearken unto the word of God, and would hold fast unto it, they would never perish; neither could the temptations and the fiery darts of the adversary overpower them unto blindness, to lead them away to destruction.” (1 Nephi 15:24)

Day 9:

Word can be found in the scriptures and in the messages from our leaders, bringing us hope and comfort in the darkness of affliction.⁵

Day 10:

At times, some people get confused, thinking that the commandments are restrictions or limitations that complicate life, that take away opportunities or happiness or the pleasures of life. In reality, the commandments protect us and guide us to happiness. They are not to restrict but rather to make possible—to allow us to achieve in this life and in the next—what we truly desire and what our Heavenly Father, who loves us, wants for us.⁶

Day 11:

Each step may represent one commandment, and with each commandment that we obey, we can move upward. Then, if we understand the essence of the commandments, we want more. We don’t feel resentment regarding commandments; we want more in order to be able to progress more. And a Heavenly Father who loves us gives unto us according to our desires. If we desire it, He is going to give us more commandments in order to facilitate our progress.⁷

Day 12:

As we learn more about Jesus Christ, we develop great faith in Him and we naturally want to follow His example. Keeping His commandments becomes our greatest desire. Our hearts yearn to relieve others' sufferings, as He did, and we want them to experience the peace and happiness we have found.⁸

Day 13:

Are our testimonies built on the bedrock foundation of Jesus Christ and His gospel? When the storms of life press upon us, do we frantically look for a how-to book or an internet post for help? Taking the time to build and strengthen our knowledge and testimony of Jesus Christ will yield rich dividends in times of trial and adversity. Daily reading of scriptures and pondering the words of living prophets, engaging in meaningful personal prayer, mindfully partaking of the sacrament each week, giving service as the Savior would—each of these simple activities becomes a building block for a joyful life.⁹

Day 14:

We bear testimony, as His duty ordained Apostles—that Jesus is the Living Christ, the immortal Son of God. He is the great King Immanuel, who stands today on the right hand of His Father. He is the light, the life, and the hope of the world. His way is the path that leads to happiness in this life and eternal life in the world to come. God be thanked for the matchless gift of His divine Son.¹⁰

Day 15:

Happiness is the object and design of our existence; and will be the end thereof, if we pursue the path that leads to it; and this path is virtue, uprightness, faithfulness, holiness, and keeping all the commandments of God.¹¹

Day 16:

Heavenly Father desires that we find true lasting happiness. Our happiness is the design of all the blessings He give us—gospel teachings, commandments, priesthood ordinances, family relationships, prophets, temples, the beauties of creation, and even the opportunity to experience adversity. His plan for our salvation is often called “the great plan of happiness” (Alma 42:8). He sent His beloved Son to carry out the Atonement so we can be happy in this life and receive a fulness of joy in the eternities...Many people try to find happiness and fulfillment in activities that are contrary to the Lord's commandments. Ignoring God's plan for them, they reject the only source of real happiness...As we seek to be happy, we should remember that the only way to real happiness is to live the gospel.¹²

Day 17:

You may get that transitory pleasure, yes, but you cannot find joy, you cannot find happiness. Happiness is found only along that well beaten track, narrow as it is, though straight, which leads to life eternal.¹³

Day 18:

The ultimate end of all activity in the Church is to see a husband and his wife and their children happy at home, protected by the principles and laws of the gospel, sealed safely in the covenants of the everlasting priesthood.¹⁴

Day 19:

Strength comes not from frantic activity but from being settled on a firm foundation of truth and light. It comes from placing our attention and efforts on the basics of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ. It comes from paying attention to the divine things that matter most. Let us simplify our lives a little. Let us make the changes necessary to refocus our lives on the sublime beauty of the simple, humble path of Christian discipleship—the path that leads always toward a life of meaning, gladness, and peace.¹⁵

Day 20:

I wonder if having casual and infrequent family home evenings will be enough in the future to fortify our children with sufficient moral strength. In the future, infrequent family scripture study may be inadequate to arm our children with the virtue necessary to withstand the moral decay of the environment in which they will live. Where in the world will the children learn chastity, integrity, honesty, and basic human decency if not at home? These values will, of course, be reinforced at church, but parental teaching is more constant.¹⁶

Day 21:

From the beginning of recorded history, mankind has been constantly searching for happiness.¹⁷

Day 22:

As we obey the commandments and live the gospel fully, we will be protected and blessed.¹⁸

Day 23:

To be a good father and mother requires that the parents defer many of their own needs and desires in favor of the needs of their children. As a consequences of this sacrifice, conscientious parents develop a nobility of character and learn to put into practice the selfless truths taught by the Savior himself.¹⁹

Day 24:

We live in a critical time in the world's history. Satan and his forces are busy. His temptations are relentless, deceiving many, sometimes even the very elect. He would lead us to believe that gospel standards which we know to be good—virtue, honesty, morality, courtesy, industry, cleanliness of mind and body—are no longer important. Let me reaffirm that the Lord's eternal values are still true. The ways of the world may have changed, but the commandments of our Heavenly Father, given for our welfare, are still in force, and true joy comes only from doing his will.²⁰

Day 25:

You will better understand why the Church is as it is and why the family is the basic organization in time and in eternity. I bear witness that the gospel of Jesus Christ is true, that the plan of redemption, which has been called the plan of happiness, is a plan for families.²¹

Day 26:

My dear brothers and sisters, the joy we feel has little to do with the circumstances of our lives and everything to do with the focus of our lives.²²

Day 27:

While few human challenges are greater than that of being good parents, few opportunities offer greater potential for joy. Surely no more important work is to be done in this world than preparing our children to be God-fearing, happy, honorable, and productive adults. Parents will find no more fulfilling happiness than to have their children honor them and their teachings. That blessing is the glory of parenthood. John testified, "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth" (3 John 1:4).²³

Day 28:

Joy, it seems, is not only happiness, but the resultant feeling of the Holy Ghost manifest within us.²⁴

Day 29:

As we diligently focus on the Savior and then follow His pattern of focusing on joy, we need to avoid those things that can interrupt our joy....Anything that opposes Christ or His doctrine will interrupt our joy. That includes the philosophies of men,... Joy is a gift for the faithful [2 Nephi 9:18]. It is the gift that comes from intentionally trying to live a righteous life, as taught by Jesus Christ [2 Nephi 27:30; Alma 27:16–18]. He taught us how to have joy. When we choose Heavenly Father to be our God [1 Nephi 17:40] and when we can feel the Savior's Atonement working in our lives, we will be filled with joy [Mosiah 4:2–3]. Every time we nurture our spouse and guide our children, every time we forgive someone or ask for forgiveness, we can feel joy.²⁵

Day 30:

Essential to the plan is our Savior, Jesus Christ. Without His atoning sacrifice, all would be lost. It is not enough, however, merely to believe in Him and His mission. We need to work and learn, search and pray, repent and improve. We need to know God's laws and live them. We need to receive His saving ordinances. Only by so doing will we obtain true, eternal happiness.²⁶

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THEME 10:
A CHRIST-CENTERED
MILITARY HOME
THROUGH

The Family: A Proclamation to the World
“Successful marriages and families are established
and maintained on principles of...wholesome
recreational activities”

OCTOBER:

INVITATIONS

&

QUOTES

S

WHOLESOME
RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES—
QUALITY TIME

INVITATIONS

LEARN:

STUDY & PONDER HOW WHOLESOME
RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES CAN
STRENGTHEN A FAMILY

ACT:

PLAN A WHOLESOME RECREATIONAL
ACTIVITY AS A FAMILY EACH WEEK

BECOME:

IMPLEMENT WHOLESOME
RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES TO
CREATE QUALITY TIME TO CENTER
YOUR MILITARY HOME IN JESUS
CHRIST

QUOTES

Day 1:

Recreational opportunities have expanded dramatically during the past century and these changes have important implications for developing personal values and creating happy families. Learning to find meaning and enjoyment in our free time requires both forethought and spontaneity, both careful planning and the willingness to modify plans to enjoy the moment. Couples who take time for recreation renew their marriages. Parents who provide opportunities for wholesome recreational activity lay a foundation on which their children can build virtuous, happy lives.¹

Day 2:

Wholesome recreation serves a crucial role in rearing moral children and building successful families.²

Day 3:

Wholesome recreation is part of our religion and is a necessary change of pace; even its anticipation can lift the spirit.³

Day 4:

*“Let the saints be joyful in glory: let them sing aloud upon their beds.”
(Psalms 149:5)*

Day 5:

*“Praise ye the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power. Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness. Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp. Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs. Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals. Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord.”
(Psalm 150)*

Day 6:

“If thou are merry, praise the Lord with singing, with music, with dancing, and with a prayer of praise and thanksgiving.” (Doctrine and Covenants 136:28)

Day 7:

True success in this life comes in consecrating our lives—that is our time and choices—to God’s purposes.⁴

Day 8:

Music, literature, art, dance, drama, athletics—all can provide entertainment to enrich one’s life and further consecrate it. At the same time, it hardly needs to be said that much of what passes for entertainment today is coarse, degrading, violent, mind-numbing, and time wasting. Ironically, it sometimes takes hard work to find wholesome leisure. When entertainment turns from virtue to vice, it becomes a destroyer of the consecrated life.⁵

Day 9:

Crisis or transition of any kind reminds us of what matters most. In the routine of life, we often take our families—our parents and children and siblings—for granted. But in times of danger and need and change, there is no question that what we are about most is our families! ... I believe the mission statement for mortality might be “build an eternal family.”⁶

Day 10:

Create meaningful family bonds that give your children an identity stronger than what they can find with their peer group or at school or anyplace else. This can be done through family traditions for birthdays, for holidays, for dinnertime, and for Sundays.⁷

Day 11:

Build family traditions. Plan and carry out meaningful vacations together, considering our children’s needs, talents, and abilities. Help them create happy memories, improve their talents, and build their feelings of self-worth.⁸

Day 12:

I think of our Lord and Exemplar, Jesus Christ and his short life among the people of Galilee and Jerusalem. I have tried to imagine Him bustling between meetings or multitasking to get a list of urgent things accomplished. I can’t see it. I see the compassionate and caring Son of God purposefully living each day. When He interacted with those around Him, they felt important and loved. He knew the infinite value of the people He met. He blessed them, ministered to them. He lifted them up, healed them. He gave them the precious gift of His time.⁹

Day 13:

Sometimes in life, we become so focused on the finish line that we fail to find joy in the journey. I don't go cycling with my wife because I'm excited about finishing. I go because the experience of being with her is sweet and enjoyable.¹⁰

Day 14:

Let us resolve to cherish those we love by spending meaningful time with them, doing things together, and cultivating treasured memories.¹¹

Day 15:

Strengthening families is our sacred duty as parents, children, extended family members, leaders, teachers, and individual members of the Church.¹²

Day 16:

The key to strengthening families is having the Spirit of the Lord come into our homes.¹³

Day 17:

Husbands and wives should understand that their first calling—from which they will never be released—is to one another and then to their children. One of the great discoveries of parenthood is that we learn far more about what really matters from our children than we ever did from our parents. We come to recognize the truth in Isaiah's prophecy that "a little child shall lead them" [Isaiah 11:6].¹⁴

Day 18:

In a world of turmoil and uncertainty, it is more important than ever to make our families the center of our lives and the top of our priorities. Families lie at the center of our Heavenly Father's plan.¹⁵

Day 19:

As we turn to our Heavenly Father and seek His wisdom regarding the things that matter most, we learn over and over again the importance of four key relationships: with our God, with our families, with our fellowman, and with ourselves. As we evaluate our own lives with a willing mind, we will see where we have drifted from the more excellent way. The eyes of our understanding will be opened, and we will recognize what needs to be done to purify our heart and refocus our life.¹⁶

Day 20:

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.” (Colossians 3:16)

Day 21:

We need to put more quality time and effort into strengthening family relationships.¹⁷

Day 22:

Family time is sacred time and should be protected and respected. We urge our members to show devotion to their families.¹⁸

Day 23:

Some uses of individual and family time are better, and others are best. We have to forego some good things in order to choose others that are better or best because they develop faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and strengthen our families.¹⁹

Day 24:

We build deep and loving family relationships by doing simple things together, like family dinner and family home evening and by just having fun together. In family relationships love is really spelled t-i-m-e, time. Taking time for each other is the key for harmony at home. We talk with, rather than about, each other. We learn from each other, and we appreciate our differences as well as our commonalities. We establish a divine bond with each other as we approach God together through family prayer, gospel study, and Sunday worship.²⁰

Day 25:

How we preserve time for family is one of the most significant issues we face in most cultures.²¹

Day 26:

Stresses in our lives come regardless of our circumstances. We must deal with them the best we can. But we should not let them get in the way of what is most important—and what is most important almost always involves the people around us.²²

Day 27:

It is important to remember that all larger units of society depend on the smallest and most fundamental unit, the family. No matter who or what we are, we help ourselves when we help families.²³

Day 28:

You do not find the happy life ... you make it.²⁴

Day 29:

Time passes quickly. Many parents say that it seems like yesterday that their children were born. Now those children are grown, perhaps with children of their own. "Where did the years go?" they ask. We cannot call back time that is past, we cannot stop time that now is, and we cannot experience the future in our present state. Time is a gift, a treasure not to be put aside for the future but to be used wisely in the present.²⁵

Day 30:

The Church has established two special times for families to be together. The first is centered around the proper observance of the Sabbath day. This is the time we are to attend our regular meetings together, study the life and teachings of the Savior and of the prophets.²⁶

Day 31:

If we fail to give our best personal self and undivided time to those who are truly important to us, one day we will regret it.²⁷

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THEME 11:
A CHRIST-CENTERED
MILITARY HOME
THROUGH

The Family: A Proclamation to the World
“O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for
his mercy endureth for ever.”
-Psalm 136:1

NOVEMBER:

INVITATIONS

&

QUOTES

S

GRATITUDE

INVITATIONS

LEARN:

STUDY & PONDER THE PRINCIPLE OF
GRATITUDE

ACT:

CREATE AND ADD TO A DAILY
GRATITUDE JOURNAL, ABOUT THE
PRINCIPLES FOUND IN THE FAMILY
PROCLAMATION

BECOME:

IMPLEMENT GRATITUDE TO CENTER
YOUR MILITARY HOME IN JESUS
CHRIST

QUOTES

Day 1:

Live in thanksgiving daily, for the many mercies and blessings which he doth bestow upon you.” Alma 34:38

Day 2:

Do material possessions make us happy and grateful? Perhaps momentarily. However, those things which provide deep and lasting happiness and gratitude are the things which money cannot buy: our families, the gospel, good friends, our health, our abilities, the love we receive from those around us.¹

Day 3:

Grateful man sees so much more in the world to be thankful for, and with him the good outweighs the evil.²

Day 4:

For centuries, gratitude has been portrayed by theologians, moral philosophers, and writers as an indispensable manifestation of virtue—an excellence of character.³

Day 5:

We need to be more grateful. I think there is no true character without gratitude. It is one of the marks of a real strong character to have a feeling of thanksgiving and gratitude for blessings. We need more of that spirit in our homes, in our daily associations, in the Church, everywhere. It doesn't cost anything, and it is so easy to cultivate.⁴

Day 6:

Regardless of our circumstances, each of us has much for which to be grateful if we will but pause and contemplate our blessings. This is a wonderful time to be on earth. While there is much that is wrong in the world today, there are many things that are right and good. There are marriages that make it, parents who love their children and sacrifice for them, friends who care about us and help us, teachers who teach. Our lives are blessed in countless ways.⁵

Day 7:

Spirit of gratitude is always pleasant and satisfying because it carries with it a sense of helpfulness to others; it begets love and friendship, and engenders divine influence. Gratitude is said to be the memory of the heart.⁶

Day 8:

It is human nature, I suppose, to seek elsewhere for our happiness. Pursuit of career goals, wealth, and material rewards can cloud our perspective and often leads to a lack of appreciation for the bounteous blessings of our present circumstances.⁷

Day 9:

Every cloud has a silver lining and finding it is one of the most reliable ways to turn an apparent problem into a blessing! True wisdom is the ability to see the equal benefit or blessing hidden in every challenge, situation, sickness, or crisis. The silver lining is always as bright as the cloud is dark. And when we see its shining light, we are grateful for the gift of our challenge.⁸

Day 10:

When life is flowing smoothly, we enjoy taking credit for its many opportunities. When we encounter what looks like a problem, we tend to look for reasons outside ourselves. But when we look deeper, we discover that what looked like a problem is actually an opportunity. The way for us to see the opportunity is to lift ourselves to a higher point of view. We learn to accept – not deny – responsibility for the way we think and feel about daily experiences, we can open our minds to the guidance of our heart and soul.⁹

Day 11:

Gratitude is an uplifting, exalting attitude. You can probably say from experience that you are happier when you have gratitude in your heart. You cannot be bitter, resentful, or mean-spirited when you are grateful.¹⁰

Day 12:

A decade's worth of research on gratitude has shown me that when life is going well, gratitude allows us to celebrate and magnify the goodness. But what about when life goes badly? In the midst of the economic maelstrom that has gripped our country, I have often been asked if people can—or even should—feel grateful under such dire circumstances. My response is that not only will grateful attitude help—it is essential. In fact, it is precisely under crisis conditions when we have the most to gain by a

grateful perspective on life. In the face of demoralization, gratitude has the power to energize. In the face of brokenness, gratitude has the power to heal. In the face of despair, gratitude has the power to bring hope. In other words, gratitude can help us cope with hard times.¹¹

Day 13:

Consciously cultivating an attitude of gratitude builds up a sort of psychological immune system that can cushion us when we fall. There is scientific evidence that grateful people are more resilient to stress, whether minor everyday hassles or major personal upheavals.¹²

Day 14:

Experiencing and expressing gratitude can help all of us – whatever our situation – lead fuller, richer lives.¹³

Day 15:

“In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”
(1 Thessalonians 5:18)

Day 16:

Our obedience to the laws, ordinances, and commandments is the greatest expression of love and gratitude that we can bestow upon him. Gratitude is also the foundation upon which repentance is built....In some quiet way, the expression and feelings of gratitude have a wonderful cleansing or healing nature. Gratitude brings warmth to the giver and the receiver alike.¹⁴

Day 17:

Gratitude is a Spirit-filled principle. It opens our minds to a universe permeated with the richness of God. Through it, we become spiritually aware of the wonder of the smallest things, which gladden our hearts with their messages of God’s love. This grateful awareness heightens our sensitivity to divine direction.¹⁵

Day 18:

“Counsel with the Lord in all thy doings, and he will direct thee for good; yea, when thou liest down at night lie down unto the Lord, that he may watch over you in your sleep; and when thou risest in the morning let thy heart be full of thanks unto God; and if ye do these things, ye shall be lifted up at the last days.” (Alma 37:37)

Day 19:

You show your trust in Him when you listen with the intent to learn and repent and then you go and do whatever He asks. If you trust God enough to listen for His message in every sermon, song, and prayer in this conference, you will find it. And if you then go and do what He would have you do, your power to trust Him will grow, and in time you will be overwhelmed with gratitude to find that He has come to trust you.¹⁶

Day 20:

When we give thanks in all things, we see hardships and adversities in the context of the purpose of life. We are sent here to be tested. There must be opposition, through meeting our challenges, and through teaching others to do the same.¹⁷

Day 21:

“Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.” (2 Corinthians 9:15)

Day 22:

Gratitude inspires happiness and carries divine influence.¹⁸

Day 23:

You could have an experience with the gift of the Holy Ghost today. You could begin a private prayer with thanks. You could start to count your blessings, and then pause for a moment. If you exercise faith, and with the gift of the Holy Ghost, you will find that memories of other blessings will flood into your mind. If you begin to express gratitude for each of them, your prayer may take a little longer than usual. Remembrance will come. And so will gratitude.¹⁹

Day 24:

Might it be well for us to remember to give thanks to our Heavenly Father prior to asking for his help in solving our problems?²⁰

Day 25:

Brothers and sisters, please do not miss an opportunity to look into the eyes of your family members with love. Children and parents, reach out to each other and express your love and appreciation. Like me, some of you may wake up one day to discover that the time for such important communication has passed. Live each day together with hearts filled with gratitude, good memories, service, and much love.²¹

Day 26:

Gratitude is a positive experience that comes from recognizing gifts or blessings and feelings thankful. It is also an attitude, a way to perceiving life, in which individuals are willing to receive and acknowledge the beneficial actions of others on their behalf. Those who consistently display such an attitude are said to have a grateful disposition. Gratitude is also a habit that can be cultivated, causing one to focus on the blessings of life. Finally, gratitude can be defined as a coping response to challenging or difficult circumstances.²²

Day 27:

“And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father in him.” (Colossians 3:17)

Day 28:

When we understand this principle, that God offers us opportunities for blessings and blesses us through our own adversities and the adversities of others, we can understand why He has commanded us again and again to “thank the Lord thy God in all things” (D&C 59:7).²³

Day 29:

“And now I would that ye should be humble, and be submissive and gentle; easy to be entreated; full of patience and long-suffering; being temperate in all things; being diligent in keeping the commandments of God at all times; asking for whatsoever things ye stand in need, both spiritual and temporal; always returning thanks unto God for whatsoever things ye do receive.” (Alma 7:23)

Day 30:

Often their grief is caused by what seems to them as an ending. Some are facing the end of a cherished relationship, such as the death of a loved one or estrangement from a family member. Others feel they are facing the end of hope—the hope of being married or bearing children or overcoming an illness. Others may be facing the end of their faith, as confusing and conflicting voices in the world tempt them to question, even abandon, what they once knew to be true. Sooner or later, I believe that all of us experience times when the very fabric of our world tears at the seams, leaving us feeling alone, frustrated, and adrift. It can happen to anyone. No one is immune. Everyone’s situation is different, and the details of each life are unique. Nevertheless, I have learned that there is something that would take away the bitterness that may come into our lives. There is one thing we can do to make life sweeter, more joyful, even glorious. We can be grateful!²⁴

Day 31:

The Lord compensates the faithful for every loss. That which is taken away from those who love the Lord will be added unto them in His own way. While it may not come at the time we desire, the faithful will know that every tear today will eventually be returned a hundredfold with tears of rejoicing and gratitude.²⁵

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THEME 12:
A CHRIST-CENTERED
MILITARY HOME
THROUGH

The Family: A Proclamation to the World
“Disability, death, or other circumstances may
necessitate individual adaptation.”

“Wherefore, ye must press forward with a
steadfastness in Christ, having a perfect brightness
of hope, and a love of God and of all men.
Wherefore, if ye shall press forward, feasting upon
the word of Christ, and endure to the end behold,
thus saith the Father: Ye shall have eternal life.
-2 Nephi 31:20

DECEMBER:

INVITATIONS

&

QUOTES

S

ENDURE TO THE END

INVITATIONS

LEARN:

STUDY & PONDER THE PRINCIPLE OF
ENDURING TO THE END

ACT:

SHARE HOW RESILIENCY HAS BLESSED
YOUR MILITARY FAMILY THROUGH
FOLLOWING THE PRINCIPLES OF THE
PROCLAMATION AND CENTERING
THE HOME IN JESUS CHRIST

BECOME:

CONTINUE TO IMPLEMENT AND
STRENGTHEN YOUR UNDERSTANDING
OF THE PRINCIPLES OF THE FAMILY
PROCLAMATION TO CENTER YOUR
MILITARY HOME IN JESUS CHRIST IN
ORDER TO ENDURE TO THE END

QUOTES

Day 1:

We are all subject to sorrow and suffering, to disease and death. Through times good and bad, the Lord expects each of us to endure to the end.¹

Day 2:

Every morning when we wake up, we face a new day filled with the challenges of life. These challenges come in many forms: physical challenges, financial setbacks, difficulties with relationships, emotional trials, and even struggles with one's faith. Many of the challenges we face in life can be solved and overcome; however, others may be difficult to understand and impossible to overcome and will be with us until we pass on to the next life. As we temporarily endure the challenges we cannot solve, it is important to remember that the spiritual strength we develop will help us successfully endure all the challenges we face in life.²

Day 3:

At the heart of resilience is your ability to adapt. This refers to making adjustments – physical emotional and mental – based on new circumstances and information. Adjustments can be in your behavior, perception, beliefs or judgements. The more effective you are in adjusting and changing, the healthier and more resilient you will be.³

Day 4:

To remain firm in a commitment to be true to the commandments of God despite temptation, opposition, and adversity.⁴

Day 5:

The world around you is not equipped to provide the help you need to make through this often-treacherous journey. So many in our society today seem to have slipped from the moorings of safety and drifted from the harbor of peace. Permissiveness, immorality, pornography, drugs, the power of peer pressure – all these and more – cause many to be tossed about on a sea of sin and crushed on the jagged reefs of lost opportunities, forfeited blessings, and shattered dreams. Is there a way to safety? Is there an escape from threatened destruction? The answer is a resounding yes! I counsel you to look to the lighthouse of the Lord. I have said it before; I will say it

again: there is no fog so dense, no night so dark, no gale so strong, no mariner so lost but what the lighthouse of the Lord can rescue. It beckons through the storms of life. It calls, “This way to safety. This way to home.” It sends forth signals of light easily seen and never failing. If followed, those signals will guide you back to your heavenly home.⁵

Day 6:

“But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.” (Matthew 24:13)

Day 7:

“And now, my beloved brethren, I know by this that unless a man shall endure to the end, in following the example of the Son of the living God, he cannot be saved.”
(2 Nephi 31:16)

Day 8:

“And again, I would that ye should learn that he only is saved who endureth unto the end.” (Doctrine and Covenants 53:7)

Day 9:

First, because God has repeatedly said He would structure mortality to be a proving and testing experience. (See Abr. 3:25; Mosiah 23:21.) Brothers and sisters, he has certainly kept His promise. He has carried out His divine intent, hasn't He? Thus, even our fiery trials, said Peter, should not be thought of as “some strange things.” (1 Pet. 4:12.) Hence, enduring is vital, and those who so last will be first spiritually! By taking Jesus' yoke upon us and enduring, we learn most deeply of Him and especially how to be like Him. (See Matt. 11:29.) Even though our experiences are micro compared to His, the process is the same.⁶

Day 10:

Thus, enduring is one of the cardinal attributes; it simply cannot be developed without the laboratory time in this second estate. Even the best lectures about the theory of enduring are not enough. All the other cardinal virtues—love, patience, humility, mercy, purity, submissiveness, justice—they all require endurance for their full development.⁷

Day 11:

Even those who have had powerful spiritual experiences and have given faithful service could one day go astray or fall into inactivity if they do not endure to the end.

May we always and emphatically keep in our minds and hearts the phrase “This will not happen to me.” ...Let us be faithful to what we have believed and know. If we have not been living according to our knowledge, let us change. Sinners who persist in their sins, and do not repent, sink deeper and deeper into filthiness, until Satan claims them for himself, significantly jeopardizing their opportunity to repent, to be forgiven, and to be blessed with all the blessings of eternity.⁸

Day 12:

I love the gospel of Jesus Christ, for it defines the way we can partake of the fruits of the gospel, experience the “exceedingly great joy” (1 Nephi 8:12) that only it can bring, and endure to the end through all of the challenges of mortal life. The gospel teaches us all we need to know to return to live with our Father in Heaven as resurrected and glorified beings. May all of us maintain in our minds the vision of eternal life. May we be diligent in following the recipe for eternal life that is the gospel of Jesus Christ. May we endure to the end.⁹

Day 13:

“But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.” (2 Nephi 31:20)

Day 14:

When the challenges of mortality come, and they come for all of us, it may seem hard to have faith and hard to believe. At these times only faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His Atonement can bring us peace, hope, and understanding. Only faith that He suffered for our sakes will give us the strength to endure to the end.¹⁰

Day 15:

We live in a troubled world, a world of many challenges. We are here on this earth to deal with our individual challenges to the best of our ability, to learn from them, and to overcome them. Endure to the end we must, for our goal is eternal life in the presence of our Father in Heaven. He loves us and wants nothing more than for us to succeed in this goal. He will help us and bless us as we call upon Him in our prayers, as we study His words, and as we obey His commandments. Therein is found safety; therein is found peace.¹¹

Day 16:

We also need the light and knowledge of the Savior’s life and teachings to guide us on the covenant pathway, including the sacred ordinances of the temple. We must be steadfast in Christ, feast upon His word, and endure to the end [2 Nephi 31:20–21].¹²

Day 17:

Wonderful, glorious things are in store for you if you will only believe, obey, and endure.¹³

Day 18:

Enduring to the end is a hallmark of true discipleship and is essential to eternal life. But when trials and challenges come our way, we are often told to simply “hang in there.” Let me be clear: to “hang in there” is not a principle of the gospel. Enduring to the end means constantly coming unto Christ and being perfected in Him.¹⁴

Day 19:

From the very beginning to the present time, a fundamental question remains to be answered by each who runs the race of life. Shall I falter or shall I finish? On the answer await the blessings of joy and happiness here in mortality and eternal life in the world to come.¹⁵

Day 20:

Our destiny is not determined by the number of times we stumble but by the number of times we rise up, dust ourselves off, and move forward.¹⁶

Day 21:

If you endure to the end, and if you are valiant in the testimony of Jesus, you will achieve true greatness and will live in the presence of our Father in Heaven.¹⁷

Day 22:

He is perfectly positioned to lift us and give us the strength we need to endure our afflictions. We have only to ask.¹⁸

Day 23:

Whatever your challenges may be, wherever you live on this earth, your faithful membership in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the divine powers of the gospel of Jesus Christ will bless you to endure joyfully to the end.¹⁹

Day 24:

“And, if ye keep my commandments and endure to the end you shall have eternal life,

which gift is the greatest of all the gifts of God.” (Doctrine and Covenants 14:7)

Day 25:

If enduring to the end is essential to eternal life, why do we struggle to be faithful? We struggle when we are caught between competing priorities. Casual obedience and lukewarm commitment weaken faith. Enduring to the end requires total commitment to the Savior and to our covenants.²⁰

Day 26:

Enduring to the end, or remaining faithful to the laws and ordinances of the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout our life, is a fundamental requirement for salvation in the kingdom of God.²¹

Day 27:

Enduring to the end is definitely not a do-it-yourself project.²²

Day 28:

Enduring to the end is a process filling every minute of our life, every hour, every day, from sunrise to sunrise. It is accomplished through personal discipline following the commandments of God.²³

Day 29:

*“And now, my beloved brethren, I would that ye should come unto Christ, who is the Holy One of Israel, and partake of his salvation, and the power of his redemption. Yea, come unto him, and offer your whole souls as an offering unto him, and continue in fasting and praying, and endure to the end; and as the Lord liveth ye will be saved.”
(Omni 1:26)*

Day 30:

Therefore, enduring to the end is not just a matter of passively tolerating life’s difficult circumstances or “hanging in there.” Ours is an active religion, helping God’s children along the strait and narrow path to develop their full potential during this life and return to Him one day. Viewed from this perspective, enduring to the end is exalting and glorious, not grim and gloomy. This is a joyful religion, one of hope, strength, and deliverance.²⁴

Day 31:

*“Behold, I am the law, and the light. Look unto me, and endure to the end, and ye shall live; for unto him that endureth to the end will I give eternal life.”
(3 Nephi 15:9)*

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