

## For the Strength of Parents



### Teaching & Indoctrination

## Ever Felt This Way?

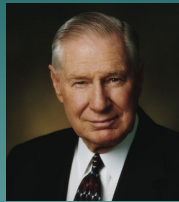
### Child Development professionals categorize kids into two main groups:

- The naturally compliant, intrinsically kind, inherently logical children
- Your children



## Parenting is a Difficult Task

"In my opinion, the teaching, rearing, and training of children requires more intelligence, intuitive understanding, humility, strength, wisdom, spirituality, perseverance, and hard work than any other challenge we might have in life. This is especially so when moral foundations of honor and decency are eroding around us. To have successful homes, values must be taught, and there must be rules, there must be standards, and there must be absolutes. Many societies give parents very little support in teaching and honoring moral values. A number of cultures are becoming essentially valueless, and many of the younger people in those societies are becoming moral cynics" (James E. Faust, "The Greatest Challenge in the World—Good Parenting," *Ensign*, Nov. 1990, 32).



## Indoctrination

- ◆ The word "Indoctrinate" sounds so negative... It's really not.
- ◆ **From Webster's On-line Dictionary:**
- ◆ **1** : to instruct especially in fundamentals or rudiments : **Teach**
- ◆ **2** : to imbue with a usually partisan or sectarian opinion, point of view, or principle

## Indoctrination

- ◆ From [www.Dictionary.com](http://www.Dictionary.com)
- ◆ To instruct in a body of doctrine or principles.
- ◆ To imbue with a partisan or ideological point of view: *a generation of children who had been indoctrinated against the values of their parents.*
- ◆ **v** : teach doctrines to; teach uncritically

## Indoctrinate

After citing D&C 68, Elder Matthias Cowley stated at *General Conference*, "it [is] a sin to thus neglect the sons and daughters that have been committed to our care. I take this to mean exactly what it says, that it is the duty of every father and mother to so enlist the interest and attention of their children that they may call them around the family fireside **and indoctrinate** them in the principles of the Gospel, the doctrine of repentance, and the ordinance of baptism, by immersion, by the time they are eight years old, and also the sacred ordinance of the laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost...."

## Indoctrinate (Cont).

"Now, my brethren and sisters, ...let us be practical, and ask ourselves whether we have taught our children light and truth or not. We should not be satisfied with the Mutual Improvement association, the Sunday school, the Primary, and other institutions which the Lord, in His great mercy, has established in the Church for the benefit of our children; to do in the education of our children in the principles of the Gospel.

"It is the duty of every man and woman to see, just as far as possible, that their children are taught light and truth, that they are taught to pray in their infancy, that they are taught to observe the Sabbath day to keep it holy, that they are taught the doctrines of virtue and honor before God, as being dearer than life itself, that they are taught to respect the holy Priesthood..." (Elder Matthias F. Cowley, *Conference Report, April 1902, Morning Session 73.*)



## Indoctrinate (Cont.)

"Years ago as a young medical student, I saw many patients afflicted with diseases that are now preventable. Today it is possible to immunize individuals against conditions that once were disabling—even deadly. One medical method by which acquired immunity is conferred is inoculation.

"The term *inoculate* is fascinating. It comes from two Latin roots: *in*, meaning 'within'; and *oculus*, meaning 'an eye.' The verb to *inoculate*, therefore, literally means 'to put an eye within'—to monitor against harm.

## Inoculate vs. Indoctrinate

"An affliction like polio can cripple or destroy the body. An affliction like sin can cripple or destroy the spirit. The ravages of polio can now be prevented by immunization, but the ravages of sin require other means of prevention. Doctors cannot immunize against iniquity. Spiritual protection comes only from the Lord—and in His own way. Jesus chooses not to **inoculate**, but to **indoctrinate**.

"His method employs no vaccine; it utilizes the teaching of divine doctrine—a governing 'eye within'—to protect the eternal spirits of His children" (Russell M. Nelson, *Perfection Pending, and Other Favorite Discourses* [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1998], 189.)

## Proper Indoctrination

"In a properly charted Latter-day Saint home, young people, especially young men, will plan a mission. With **proper indoctrination**, a boy is led to understand the course of his life. He will be a deacon, a teacher, a priest, an elder. He will attend priesthood meetings and seminary, Sunday School and MIA and do his home teaching.

"He will fill an honorable mission and he will get his education. He will be married in the holy temple to a lovely Latter-day Saint girl who also has these same ideals and whose life has followed a similar planned course in home and Church to prepare her to be a loving wife and mother.

## Proper Indoctrination (Cont.)

"Such young people are properly fortified against such evils as early and steady dating. They will grow up with no petting or immorality and none of the serious, damaging things which ruin lives.

"Parents should chart and guide the course of their children's lives in the early years. Then there will be none of the intimacies that spell sin and ruin" (Spencer W. Kimball, *The Miracle of Forgiveness* [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1969], .)

## Who is Indoctrinating Our Children Today

- ◆ If we don't teach, testify, and indoctrinate, are you willing to let someone else do it for you?



## Creating A Spiritual Environment in the Home

One young man wrote: *One of the reasons I love to bring my friends to our home is to give them a chance to feel the Spirit that we have there. Almost without exception, everyone who comes through the front door stops, looks around, and says "Wow. This is really neat." They don't know what they are feeling, but they like it. After the senior prom, my date and I, along with two other couples, came back to our home to spend the rest of the evening. I still remember my girlfriend sitting in the rocking chair in our living room and saying, "I really feel comfortable in your house. There is something here that I really like." Little did she know that what she was feeling was the Holy Ghost*" (Boss & Boss, *Arming Your Children with the Gospel: Creating Opportunities for Spiritual Experiences* [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], 20).

## The Single Most Important Factor

"Creating a spiritual environment in the home provides the best opportunity for our children to develop a shield of faith within themselves. In our study of effective parenting, experienced parents who had already raised their children as well as young adults who could look back on their upbringing identified the spiritual environment of their homes as the single most important factor in raising righteous children" (B.L. Top & B.A. Chadwick, *Ten Secrets Wise Parents Know: Tried and True Things You Can Do to Raise Faithful, Confident, Responsible Children* [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2004], 4-5).

## Lesson from the Homefront

A Mother from Texas wrote:

"We have made our home a 'guest friendly' home so the children bring their friends here rather than have them congregate at the homes of others. We have a variety of board games, wholesome activities, a basketball standard, and have had a pool table and now an air hockey game to help attract older children. Every Friday night is 'pizza night.' We order enough pizza for whoever is there. We keep party foods on hand for a spontaneous teen party."



## Lessons from the Homefront

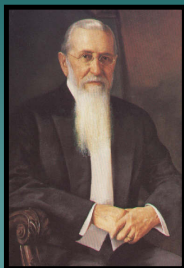
A 22 year-old male college student wrote:

"My parents ensured that the home was like a temple. They ensured evil influences did not find their way into the home. Our use of media was closely monitored. A factor that I think had a major impact, and one that many people underestimate, was that the home was kept clean and free of clutter. This organization and cleanliness of the home fostered a wonderful environment where my own thoughts could be organized and clean, thus allowing me to feel the spirit and strengthen my testimony."



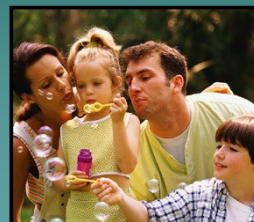
## A Promise from a Prophet

"Not one child in a hundred would go astray, if the home environment, example and training, were in harmony with the truth in the gospel of Christ, as revealed and taught to the Latter-day Saints. Fathers and mothers, you are largely to blame for the infidelity and indifference of your children. You can remedy the evil by earnest worship, example, training and discipline, in the home" (Joseph F. Smith, *Gospel Doctrine* [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1939], p. 302).



## Why Good Homes

"Good homes are still the best source of good humans" (Neal A. Maxwell, *Ensign*, October 1974, p. 71).



## Keys to Establishing a Spiritual Environment in the Home

### 1. Being Friends/Connection/ Relationship with our Children:

If there is no connection or relationship, we need to find ways to build that— and very quickly. Without relationship, there is no discipline, there is no teaching, and there is no influence for good. Nothing can happen, for good, anyway, if we do not have a relationship with our children.



## One-on-One

“Take time to be a real friend to your children.... Listen to your children, really listen. Talk with them, laugh and joke with them, sing with them, play with them, cry with them, hug them, honestly praise them. Yes, regularly spend unrushed one-on-one time with each child” (Ezra Taft Benson, *To the Mothers in Zion*, pamphlet [Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1987], 8-9).



## Be Friends with Children



“In short, if we want to be friends with our children, we need to treat them the same way we treat good friends. We must let them know that we value and appreciate them, and we must provide the support and encouragement they need to become healthy and responsible adults” (Boss & Boss, *Arming Your Children with the Gospel: Creating Opportunities for Spiritual Experiences* [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003] 42).

## Keys to Establishing a Spiritual Environment in the Home

### 2. Family Prayer: 3 Nephi 18:21

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

“Our purpose of family and private prayer must be to seek spiritual experiences for our children” (Henry B. Eyring, “Family Followership,” *Ensign*, April 1973, 29-30).



## Why Family Prayer?



“I promise you that as you consistently and fervently pray as a family, and as each member takes his or her turn and sincerely prays for others, impressions will come as to what you individually should do to help others. Thus, you can, in family prayer, receive personal and family revelation as to how to love and serve one another” (John H. Groberg, “The Power of Family Prayer,” *Ensign*, May 1982, 50).

## Keys to Establishing a Spiritual Environment in the Home

### 3. Surround home with gospel based media and artwork

The spiritual environment of the home can also be strengthened by displaying gospel-related pictures, such as the temple or the Savior. Our children must know, however, that these pictures represent something spiritually significant in our lives and are not just home furnishings. Likewise, the standard works, Church magazines, and Church videos and DVD's can help make our home 'a house of God,' but only if we use them consistently.



## Absorption



"In a way, our children learn by osmosis—absorbing like sponges from the spiritual environment in which they live, the examples they observe, and the things they daily experience. This is why religion cannot be neatly compartmentalized into a single day of the week or into some ritualistic act. *Spiritual osmosis may occur with our children as we create an environment conducive to religion and make the gospel the cornerstone of our family. But, we cannot sit passively by and hope that they absorb religion*" (B.L. Top & B.A. Chadwick, *Ten Secrets Wise Parents Know: Tried and True Things You Can Do to Raise Faithful, Confident, Responsible Children* [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2004], 9).

## Mission Stories

- ◆ As a missionary in the Pacific Northwest, we would often knock on doors and were often let in—although we could not discern whether the people letting us in were members of the Church or not. Once in the home, we would immediately begin to scan the room for artifacts, relics, pictures, or crafts made in relief society. In many homes, it was immediately easy to tell that we were in the home of a Latter-day Saint.
- ◆ In our own homes, would our faith be difficult to detect if a missionary knocked on our door, not knowing if we were members? Each room in our homes could tell the story of our faith.

## Picture of the Temple

"Let us share with our children the spiritual feelings we have in the temple. And let us teach them more earnestly and more comfortably the things we can appropriately say. ... *Keep a picture of a temple in your home that your children may see it*" (President Howard W. Hunter, "A Temple-Motivated People," *Ensign*, Feb. 1995, 5; emphasis added).



## Lessons from the Homefront

A mother and grandmother wrote:

"I hung a picture of the temple on the wall straight on from the stairs. We they came up they would automatically see it and hopefully it would imprint the desire to be worthy to attend it... We also had rooms where you could go and find peace and quiet and peaceful surroundings to ponder and read."



## Copy of the Book of Mormon

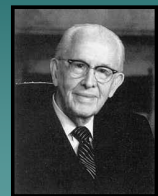
"I challenge the homes of Israel to display on their walls great quotations and scenes from the Book of Mormon..."

I have a vision of homes alerted, of classes alive, and of pulpits aflame with the spirit of Book of Mormon messages" (Ezra Taft Benson, "Flooding the Earth with the Book of Mormon," *Ensign*, Nov. 1988, 4).



## Refinement and Beauty

"Encourage good music and art and literature in your homes. Homes that have a spirit of refinement and beauty will bless the lives of your children forever" (Ezra Taft Benson, *Ensign*, November 1987, 51).



## Keys to Establishing a Spiritual Environment in the Home

### 4. Family Home Evening

"The weekly [family] home evening is the Lord's way to build the foundation to safeguard our youth against the ills that beset the world" (President Harold B. Lee, *The Teachings of Harold B. Lee*, ed. Clyde J. Williams [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1996], 264).



## President Hinckley Speaks Out

"Now there appears to be a growing tendency to schedule other events on Monday night. We respectfully request that our public school officials and others let us have this one evening a week to carry forward this important and traditional program. We ask that they not schedule events that will require the time of children on Monday evenings. We are confident that they will realize that it is most important that families have the opportunity, at least once a week, to be together without conflicting loyalties. We shall be grateful indeed if they will cooperate in this matter. And we urge, in the strongest terms possible, that fathers and mothers regard most seriously this opportunity and challenge to make of Monday evening a time sacred to the family.

## Keep Monday Night Sacred



"I have received not a few invitations to participate in community Monday gatherings of one kind or another. I have uniformly turned down these invitations with appreciation, but with the explanation that I have reserved Monday as family home evening time. I earnestly hope that each of you will do the same" (President Gordon B. Hinckley, "To Men of the Priesthood," *Ensign*, Nov. 2002, 58).

## Few In Numbers

According to the recent study conducted by Top and Chadwick, approximately 40 percent of active LDS families hold regular family home evening. Only about half have regular family prayer, and only about 30 percent hold some form of regular scripture study "



(B. L. Top & B. A. Chadwick, *Few Secrets Wise Parents Know: Tried and True Things You Can Do to Raise Faithfully, Confidently, Responsible Children* [Salt Lake City: Desert Book, 2004], 9).

## They Learn More Than We Think

"Children need to know that their parents love them enough to teach them the gospel. Monday evenings can be made special by family home evening—by the love present, and by music, games, and valuable learning moments. **We have found that the child who is rolling on the floor during family home evening listens and learns more than we think possible**" (LeGrand R. Curtis, "Happiness Is Homemade," *Ensign*, Nov. 1990, 12; emphasis added).

## Teach Doctrine in FHE

"We must not forget this home evening every Monday night. I say every Monday evening. We don't have other meetings, we don't go to shows, we don't go to ball games, we don't go to anything, because Monday has been set apart by the Lord and his people to hold the home evening. That is where we are going to save our nations. That is where we are going to have peace on earth, and it can come only through the family as the sacred unit that can be depended upon. **So we have the home evening, and there we don't just have fun, we don't just have refreshments, and we don't just sit around and talk and play games.**

## Teach Doctrine (Cont.)

"We have something serious in every home evening. The father is the head of every home, and even though the mother may be just as brilliant or more so, the father has been set apart by the Lord to look after his family. He can preside at that home evening and have a glorious program with all the members of the family taking part. We expect him to do it. Even though he might feel a little inferior sometimes he holds the home evening...."

## Teach Doctrine (Cont.)

"Merely going to a show or a party together, or fishing, only half satisfies the real need, but to stay home and teach the children the gospel, the scriptures, and love for each other and love for their parents is most important.

"We have recommended that so far as possible all the children have their own scriptures and learn to use them..." (Spencer W. Kimball, *The Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball*, edited by Edward L. Kimball [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1982], 345.)

## Keys to Establishing a Spiritual Environment in the Home

### 5. Scripture Study: Deuteronomy 6:6-7

"Often we spend great effort in trying to increase the activity levels in our stakes. We work diligently to raise the percentages of those attending sacrament meetings. We labor to get a higher percentage of our young men on missions. We strive to improve the numbers of those marrying in the temple. All of these are commendable efforts and important to the growth of the kingdom. **But when individual members and families immerse themselves in the scriptures regularly and consistently, these other areas of activity will automatically come. Testimonies will increase. Commitment will be strengthened. Families will be fortified. Personal revelation will flow"** (Ezra Taft Benson, "The Power of the Word," *Ensign*, May 1986, 81; emphasis added).

## Why Scripture Study



"Scripture study as individuals and as a family is most fundamental to learning the gospel. Daily reading the scriptures and *discussing them together* has long been suggested as a powerful tool against ignorance and the temptations of Satan. **This practice will produce great happiness and will help family members love the Lord and his goodness"** (Spencer W. Kimball, *Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball*, ed. Edward L. Kimball [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1982], 129; emphasis added).

## What is Our Intent?

"We can also share scripture reading with our children in a way that makes it likely they feel **spiritual assurances and can feel our acquaintance with the scriptures and the Master"** (Henry B. Eyring, "Family Followership," *Ensign*, April 1973, 30-31).



## Who Doesn't Need This Promise?

"I feel certain that if, in our homes, parents will read from the Book of Mormon prayerfully and regularly, both by themselves and with their children, the spirit of that great book will come to permeate our homes and all who dwell therein. The spirit of reverence will increase; mutual respect and consideration for each other will grow. The spirit of contention will depart. Parents will counsel their children in greater love and wisdom. Children will be more responsive and submissive to the counsel of their parents. Righteousness will increase. Faith, hope, and charity--the pure love of Christ--will abound in our homes and lives, bringing in their wake peace, joy, and happiness" (Marion G. Romney, *Ensign*, May 1980, p. 67).

## Parents & Scriptures

"I am convinced that families, even young children, can learn to love the scriptures. A few years ago when I was in Colorado Springs for a conference, I called on Mark McConkie, son of Elder and Sister Bruce R. McConkie, to address the question: "How did you develop a love for the scriptures?" As I recall, he said: "I first developed a love for the scriptures from my mother. I remember she would teach me while she did her ironing. I felt how she loved the scriptures by the way she would speak about the prophets. How much she loved them! As I grew older, I would listen to the recordings of the scriptures. I wanted to know the scriptures like my father. Sometimes he would enter the room while I was listening and it would take him just a moment to identify the exact scripture I was listening to. I wanted to be able to do that." (3. Richard Clarke, "My Soul Delighteth in the Scriptures," *Ensign*, Nov. 1982, 13).

## Getting Creative



**Comments from a father in Texas:**  
"We talk about the scriptures regularly and will read together at least once a week. I love to listen to the scriptures on my iPod. For Christmas I bought a bunch of broken iPods off eBay. I fixed them and replaced the internal batteries so they would work as good as new. Then I filled each of them with the entire audio version of the scriptures and other Church books along with quality, uplifting music. I gave each of our kids one of these for Christmas. I'm pleased to catch them listening to the scriptures and will often catch them doing so."

## Keys to Establishing a Spiritual Environment in the Home

### 6. Informal Discussions

- ◆ Wet or dry interviews
- ◆ Families and Ice Cream
- ◆ When those teaching moments occur, seize them!



"Sin comes when communication lines are down— it always does, sooner or later" (President Spencer W. Kimball, *CR*, April 1972, 29).

## Making Time for Children

A father of five from Texas wrote: We ask our children "what they feel about certain things. We occasionally have one on one meetings with each child, where we can talk about things that are important to them. As part of those meetings, we get a better feeling for what they really feel. Bearing our testimonies at appropriate times so they can hear what we believe" is also important.

## Keys to Establishing a Spiritual Environment in the Home

### 7. Parental Example

"If each and everyone of us who are parents will reflect upon the responsibilities devolving upon us, we shall come to the conclusion that we should *never permit ourselves to do anything that we are not willing to see our children do. We should set them an example that we wish them to imitate*" (Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*, 14:192).



## Spotting Hypocrites Miles Away

"If children see us preaching one thing and doing another it often kills their desire to gain a testimony. Teenagers especially can smell a hypocrite a mile away. If parents say they know the Church is true, then constantly loose their temper, watch inappropriate movies, treat their spouse with disrespect, etc., it usually kills the desire of their children to even want to seek a testimony. 'If my parents are jerks and they have testimonies, then what good has the gospel done for them?'" (Personal Correspondence with friend and colleague, Randal Wright).



## One Young Man Reported...

"People have often asked why I'm so kind and considerate. If I do have those traits, the main reason is that I never heard my mother say anything unkind about anybody. On many occasions I heard people tell her things about others that I knew she already knew, because I had overheard other conversations. However, she never divulged confidences, and she never gossiped. As I was growing up, I thought that was a classy way to act, and I prided myself on doing the same" (in Boss & Boss, *Arming Your Children with the Gospel: Creating Opportunities for Spiritual Experiences* [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], 30).

## A Stake President Shared...

"The main reason I love the scriptures is because my dad loved them. Throughout his life, I was continuously impressed with his faithfulness in studying the scriptures. He read them constantly. On many occasions, while reading, he would say, "Son, I didn't know this," and then proceed to tell me about something "new" he'd discovered while reading the Book of Mormon for the "nth" time. Since I love my father, it is only natural that I love the things he loves. I want to be like him" ( in Boss & Boss, *Arming Your Children with the Gospel: Creating Opportunities for Spiritual Experiences* [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], 30).

## The Power of Example

There is no greater gift that we can give our children than to let them see the principles of the gospel lived in our lives.



## The Test

"If the parents do not know the thrill of a clear conscience, can they teach its joy to their little ones?"

"If parents have never known the satisfaction which comes through the payment of an honest tithe, can they plant the seeds of obedience to this law in the hearts of their children?"

"If parents have never discovered the true value of keeping holy the Sabbath day, can they teach their children to honor it?"

## The Test (Cont.)

"If parents have never caught the vision of the clean life, can they picture it to the members of their families?"

"If parents have never been in the temple, can they teach their children the great advantages of temple marriage?"

"If father and mother have given no thought to the meaning of a mission, can they develop in the hearts of their sons and daughters a desire to perform one?"

"If parents themselves are not fully converted to the Gospel, can they effectively convert their own children?" (Mark E. Petersen, *A Faith to Live By* [Bookcraft, 1959], 12-13).

## Keys to Establishing a Spiritual Environment in the Home

### 8. Service (Mosiah 4:15)



## Independence Day

One 4th of July I was looking forward to a restful day off. My wife had gotten up very early to go walking with a friend. When she got home, I was still in bed. She described the debris throughout the neighborhood caused by high winds the night before. She suggested that we go help the elderly widow who lived down the street.

At first I thought, "Let her kids clean her yard. She has plenty who live in the area. Then the thought of her falling over in her walker trying to pick up branches got to me, and I arose begrudgingly. I was not happy to have my day off interrupted. Do you think I was going to let our five children sleep in while we went down and worked in the neighbor's yard? "Everyone get up!" I ordered. "We are going to help our neighbor clean her yard." You would have thought they'd been asked to get a couple of teeth pulled.

## Independence Day (Cont.)

After much coaxing, everyone finally got up and put on their work clothes. As we walked down the road, I looked at my wife's bright, smiling face. Then there was the rest of us. As we walked, I thought of Nephi with Laman, Lemuel and the sons of Ishmael following along.

As we arrived with rakes and a wheelbarrow, we found our neighbor attempting to clean up the rubble. She was very old and had to use a walker to keep her balance. As we worked in her yard, she commented to me and my eleven-year-old daughter, Naomi, that "she was just a poor widow lady and didn't have any money to pay us." Naomi said, "You don't need to pay us. We want to do this!" I thought, "You little hypocrite! You were just griping as loudly as I was a little while ago and now you're trying to be the hero!" As we raked and picked up the trash, a warm feeling began to grow inside that is hard to describe. I felt a spiritual lift just picking up branches and raking leaves.

## Independence Day (Cont.)

Walking home after several hours of work, Naomi said, "Dad, let's do that again! I had so much fun." I think what she really meant was, "Dad, I like the good spiritual feeling I get when I serve others." I felt a very special closeness to my children that day.

- ◆ *Lessons Learned*
- ◆ When we serve others, we come closer to God.
- ◆ Serving other people brings the spirit into our lives.
- ◆ Family bonding occurs when we work together in a good cause.
- ◆ We have a responsibility to teach our children to serve others

## Keys to Establishing a Spiritual Environment in the Home

### 9. Parent-Child Interviews

"Have regular one-on-one visits with your children. Let them talk about what they would like to. Teach them gospel principles. Teach them true values. Tell them you love them. Personal time with your children tells them where Dad [or Mom] puts his [or her] priorities" (Ezra Taft Benson, *Come, Listen to a Prophet's Voice* [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1990], p. 46).

## Keys to Establishing a Spiritual Environment in the Home

### 10. Family Vacations to Teach the Gospel



## Disneyland or Temple?

- ◆ It is amazing how few of our members have been to the Sacred Grove, Nauvoo, Kirtland, Winter Quarters, Independence, Martin's Cove, and yet so many have been to Disneyland, Sea World, Magic Mountain, Las Vegas, etc.
- ◆ What message does this send to our children about priorities?
- ◆ What if we went to Orlando to visit the Temple, and as a side excursion, visited Disneyworld, instead of the other way around?

## Vacation Lesson from the Homefront

One father from Utah reported:

"When each of our four children turned 12 we went on a Church History family trip... so we've been to Nauvoo, Independence, Palmyra, Kirtland, and Sharon, Vermont, "This is the place," pioneer trek from Winter Quarters, Martin's Cove, and Liverpool, England."



## Keys to Establishing a Spiritual Environment in the Home

### 11. Put yourself in position to feel the Spirit. We can do this by always being where you're supposed to be

- Nothing should interfere or take precedence over seminary, YM/YW, Youth Conference, Firesides, EFY, Becoming an Eagle Scout, Receiving the Young Women's Recognition Award, Duty to God, etc.
- Parents, do all you can to ensure your kids are where they are supposed to be
- When they are supposed to be there
- Doing what they are supposed to be doing

## Be Where Your Supposed to Be

"My boys are both Eagle Scouts, but I would be the first to admit that they were not very good scouts. Then how did they obtain that high rank? There is only one explanation: They were always where they were supposed to be. It was our family tradition. On Wednesday nights, they always went to their scout meetings. If there was a campout, merit badge activity, etc., they were in attendance. I have noticed if youth go to seminary every day for four years, they will graduate. If they go to high school for four years, they will graduate. I have also seen that if students go to college every day, taking a full load for four years, they will graduate. It is the same with life in general. Most success in life is showing up and sticking to the task at hand" (Randal A. Wright, 25 *Mistakes LDS Parents Make and How to Avoid Them*, 33).



## Be Where You're Supposed to Be

In responding to the question, "Who was most instrumental in helping you gain your testimony, a young father from California wrote:

"No one person. I just remember seeing my Mom praying, my Dad getting teary bearing his testimony, Sunday School teachers teaching and feeling the Spirit and knowing for the first time what it was. Seminary teachers that made me realize the gospel works for real life scenarios, that it is real. It was a group effort."

## Keys to Establishing a Spiritual Environment in the Home

### 12. Whatever the Prophet says is the rule.

- ◆ Where else where we find answers to the huge problems that face our youth?
- ◆ Who can we trust to guide us? Politicians, movie stars, Enron Executives, Parents, Coaches, Teachers?
- ◆ We cannot follow the prophet if we do not know what he has said (attending General Conference, reading Church magazines, discussing "For the Strength of Youth")