

[Lesson 17](#): “Beware Lest Thou Forget” (See L17 [Study Guide](#))

Purpose: To encourage us to (1) remember the Lord and the covenants we have made with him and (2) create an environment that will help us do so.

1. Moses gives instructions to the Israelites to help them remember their covenants.

- Read and discuss [Deuteronomy 6:1-9](#) and [11:18-21](#).

“Deuteronomy contains Moses’ last words to the Israelites.” (*Lesson Manual*)

- Deuteronomy 6:5-7. How can we get the words of the scriptures into our Hearts?

How can we effectively teach the gospel to our children and help them learn to love the scriptures?

- Deuteronomy 6:8-9 and 11:18-20. Frontlets were “strips of parchment on which were written four passages of scripture ... and which were rolled up and attached to bands of leather worn ... around the forehead or around the arm” (Bible Dictionary, “[Frontlets](#),” 676).

Why do you think Moses told the people to place passages of scripture between their eyes, on their hands, on the posts of their houses, and on their gates?

What can we do in our homes to remind us of the Lord, his words, and our covenants with him?

Do the pictures on our walls, the books we read, and the movies and television shows we watch remind us of the Lord, or do they suggest a longing for the world?

†1. President Ezra Taft Benson †2. President Spencer W. Kimball

2. Moses counsels the Israelites to obey God’s commandments and remember Him.

- Read and discuss [Deuteronomy 6:10-12](#) and [Deuteronomy 8:1-20](#).

What are Moses’ main messages in these two scriptures?

What does it mean to forget the Lord? (See Deuteronomy 8:11.)

What are the consequences of forgetting him? (See Deuteronomy 8:19.)

How can we be sure that we do not forget God?

What challenges did Moses name that might cause people to forget God? (See Deut. 6:10-12; 8:10-20.)

Why do some people forget the Lord after he blesses them abundantly? (See [Deuteronomy 8:17](#); [Helaman 12:2](#).)

†3. President Brigham Young †4. President Spencer W. Kimball

- Deuteronomy 8:18. Who is the source of any prosperity we may enjoy?

How can we use our prosperity to further the Lord’s work?

3. Moses counsels the Israelites to be mindful of the Rock of their salvation (Jesus Christ).

- Read and discuss [Deuteronomy 32:1-4](#), [15-18](#), [30-40](#), [45-47](#).

- Deuteronomy 32:3-4. Who is the Rock here? (See also verses 15, 18, and 30-31.)

Why do you think Jesus Christ is sometimes called the Rock? (See [Helaman 5:12](#).)

- Deuteronomy 32:31. “For their rock is not as our Rock”.

How is “their rock” different from “our Rock”? (See [Deuteronomy 32:37-40](#).)

What does it mean to build upon the Rock? (See [Deuteronomy 32:46-47](#); [Matthew 7:24-27](#); [D&C 50:44](#).)

How can we do this? (See [Deuteronomy 18:18-19](#).)

How can we remind ourselves of Christ and His words? (Read Nancy Jensen and Phillip Allred.)

†5. President Ezra Taft Benson †6. Elder Marion G. Romney

[Deuteronomy 6:9](#)

“List the paintings, posters, musical recordings, and other objects in your homes. Label each item with either a “+” (indicating that the object is likely to lead them to remember the Lord) or a “-” (indicating that it is more likely to lead their hearts away from the Lord.)” (*Lesson Manual*)

[Deuteronomy 13:6-8](#)

What danger did Moses warn us against here?

How can we recognize when someone is trying to pull us away from the Lord?

How should we respond to such a person?

Next Week: L18 “Be Strong and of a Good Courage”; See L18: [Class Member Study Guide](#).

(You can download a free LDS Institute manual at: [Old Testament Student Manual: Religion 301 and 302](#).) † •

†1. **President Ezra Taft Benson:** “Men changed for Christ will be captained by Christ. Like Paul they will be asking, ‘Lord, what will thou have me to do?’ (Acts 9:6.) Peter stated, they will ‘follow his steps.’ (1 Pet. 2:21.) John said they will ‘walk, even as he walked.’ (1 Jn. 2:6.)

“Finally, men captained by Christ will be consumed in Christ. To paraphrase President Harold B. Lee, they set fire in others because they are on fire. (*Stand Ye in Holy Places*, Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1974, p. 192.)

“Enter their homes, and the pictures on their walls, the books on their shelves, the music in the air, their words and acts reveal them as Christians.

“In Book of Mormon language, they ‘feast upon the words of Christ’ (2 Ne. 32:3), ‘talk of Christ’ (2 Ne. 25:26), ‘rejoice in Christ’ (2 Ne. 25:26), ‘are made alive in Christ’ (2 N3. 25:25), and ‘glory in [their] Jesus’ (2 Ne. 33:6.)” (“[Born of God](#),” *Ensign*, Nov. 1985, 6–7).

†2. **Elder Spencer W. Kimball:** “When you look in the dictionary for the most important word, do you know what it is? It could be *remember*. Because all of you have made covenants—you know what to do and you know how to do it—our greatest need is to remember. That is why everyone goes to sacrament meeting every Sabbath day—to take the sacrament and listen to the priests pray ‘that they may always remember him and keep his commandments which he has given them.’ Nobody should ever forget to go to sacrament meeting. Remember is the word. Remember is the program (“*Circles of Exaltation*” [address to the Church Educational System, June 28, 1968], Cited in *Book of Mormon Student Manual: Religion 121-122*, 269).

†3. **President Brigham Young:** “The worst fear that I have about [members of this Church] is that they will get rich in this country, forget God and his people, wax fat, and kick themselves out of the Church and go to hell. This people will stand mobbing, robbing, poverty, and all manner of persecution, and be true. But my greater fear for them is that they cannot stand wealth; and yet they have to be tried with riches, for they will become the richest people on this earth” (in Preston Nibley, *Brigham Young: The Man and His Work* [1936], 128).

†4. **President Spencer W. Kimball:** “I have interviewed numerous heads of families who have admitted that their family prayers were irregular and more frequently missed than held. Some say they try to have family prayer once a day, and others shrug it off by saying they cannot get their families together. This casual attitude toward the vital matter of prayer disturbs me greatly. The Church urges that there be family prayer every night and morning. It is a kneeling prayer. All members of the family, including the little ones, should have opportunity to say the prayer.” (*Instructor*; Apr, 1966, 132)

†5. **President Ezra Taft Benson:** “There is a power in the book which will begin to flow into your lives the minute you begin a serious study of the book. You will find greater power to resist temptation. You will find the power to avoid deception. You will find the power to stay on the strait and narrow path. The scriptures are called ‘the words of life’ (D&C 84:85), and nowhere is that more true than it is of the Book of Mormon. When you begin to hunger and thirst after those words, you will find life in greater and greater abundance.” (“[The Book of Mormon—Keystone of Our Religion](#),” *Ensign*, Nov. 1986, 7)

†6. **Elder Marion G. Romney:** “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.” (“[The Book of Mormon](#),” *Ensign*, May 1980.)

Recommended Reading:

1. President Ezra Taft Benson, “[Born of God](#),” *Ensign*, Nov. 1985, 6–7.
2. Nancy Jensen, “[Old Testament Lesson #17](#),” at LDS Gospel Doctrine Plus.
3. Phillip Allred, “[Lesson 17 ‘Beware Lest Thou Forget’](#),” at *Meridian Magazine*.

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