

# Studying the Messages of the Lord's Servants

*We can hear the voice of the Savior through the words of His leaders*

*Prepare to study by listening to a hymn or song and saying a prayer. Create a note for this lesson in your seminary notebook. As you study, write any questions you have and look for answers.*

This is an introductory lesson for a series of lessons that will be taught throughout the year using a message of a Church leader. These lessons will use the “Teachings of Church Leaders” template. This lesson can help you feel the importance of studying and applying the Lord’s messages given by His servants.

## Study the Doctrine

Read the [statement from the talk “Sustaining the living Prophets,”](#) from Sister Janette Hales Beckham, former Young Women General President.

Ponder the following questions:

- If someone were to ask you the same question Sister Beckham was asked, how would you respond?
- How important are the words of the Lord’s servants to you personally?

There are many settings Church leaders use to share the Lord’s messages with us. Explore one or more resources other than general conference to see where you can find the messages of Church leaders. Consider bookmarking these web pages in your browser so you can easily locate them.

- The social media accounts of the members of the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles
- “Broadcast and Live Event Recordings,” [ChurchofJesusChrist.org](#)
- “Live Broadcasts,” [ChurchofJesusChrist.org](#)

Church leaders often speak at Church-owned schools. You can browse through some of their recent messages here:

- Brigham Young University speeches: [speeches.byu.edu](#)
- Brigham Young University—Idaho devotionals and speeches: [web.byui.edu/devotionalsandspeeches](#)
- Brigham Young University—Hawaii speeches: [speeches.byuh.edu](#)
- Ensign College devotionals: [www.ensign.edu/devotionals](#)

**Complete** both of the following activities.

### “By the voice of my servants”

Read the doctrinal mastery passage [Doctrine and Covenants 1:37–38](#), looking for what the Savior commanded us to do with the words of His servants.

- What do you think is important to remember from this passage?

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- What truths can you identify?

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Read the statement from the talk “Let Us All Press On,” from President Russell M. Nelson.

*I exhort you to study the messages of this conference frequently—even repeatedly—during the next six months. Conscientiously look for ways to incorporate these messages in your family home evenings, your gospel teaching, your conversations with family and friends, and even your discussions with those not of our faith. Many good people will respond to the truths taught in this conference when offered in love. And your desire to obey will be enhanced as you remember and reflect upon what you have felt these past two days.*

Answer the following questions:

- What are some ways you could incorporate the teachings of Church leaders into your gospel study?

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- How might the Lord bless you for doing this?

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## Deepen your study

The next portion of the lesson is intended to give you an opportunity to practice studying the message of a Church leader. In future lessons, you will be given a template that will help you study the messages of Church leaders.

1. Choose a talk from a Church leader using the [General Conference page in Gospel Library](#) or one of the other resources listed at the beginning of this lesson.
  2. Practice studying the message of the talk you’ve chosen by using the following options.
- Testimonies and descriptions of Jesus Christ  
Find testimonies of the Savior and descriptions of His life, teachings, Atonement, and power.
  - Identify and mark doctrine and principles  
Look for gospel doctrine and principles. Mark them in Gospel Library in a way that allows you to review and remember them.
  - Memorable phrases  
Look for phrases and sentences that have a depth of meaning. When you ponder these phrases, they can help you understand important principles. Memorizing these phrases will give you a reserve of inspiration and guidance you can call on when you need it.
  - Testimonies from the Lord’s special witnesses

Powerful, faith-building testimonies are great sources of strength to our own testimonies. Church leaders may share their testimony at any time during the talk but frequently share their witness of Jesus Christ and His gospel at the end.

Share your experience studying the words of the prophets this way:

[illegible]

## Reflect and Connect

Share with me something you learned from this lesson. You could share:

- What you learned about the importance of studying the words of the Lord's servants.
- The talk you studied and your experience with the activity you chose.
- Any questions this lesson raised for you, how you are going to try to find answers to your questions, and how your class can help.
- Anything else from this lesson that inspires you to be a better disciple of Jesus Christ.

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