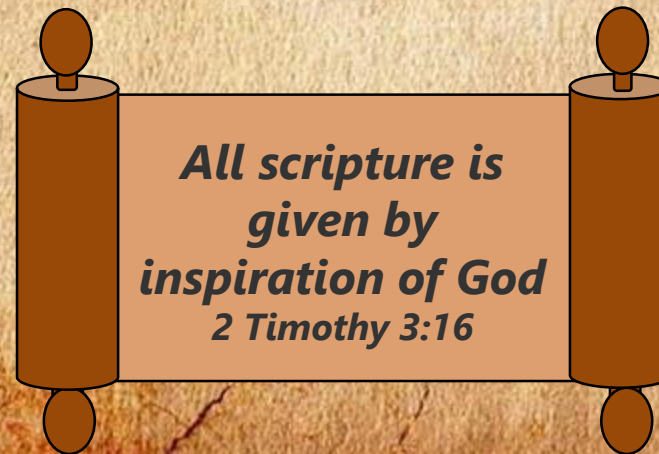


# STUDYING THE SCRIPTURES



**“The scriptures contain the words of Christ and are a reservoir of living water to which we have ready access and from which we can drink deeply and long. ...**

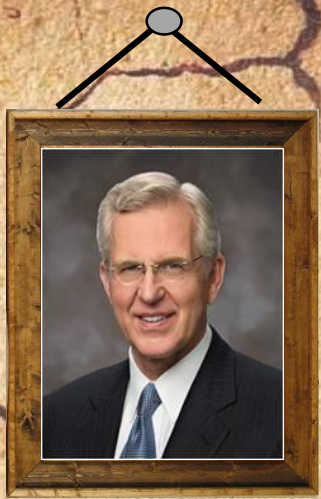


**“Through normal activity each day, you and I lose a substantial amount of the water that constitutes so much of our physical bodies. Thirst is a demand by the cells of the body for water, and the water in our bodies must be replenished daily. It frankly does not make sense to occasionally ‘fill up’ with water, with long periods of dehydration in between.**

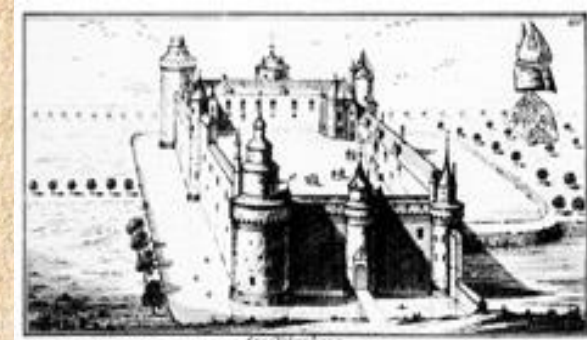
**The same thing is true spiritually. Spiritual thirst is a need for living water. A constant flow of living water is far superior to sporadic sipping.” (1)**

AS WE STUDY THE  
SCRIPTURES DAILY, WE  
RECEIVE THE “LIVING  
WATER” WE NEED.





**“On October 6, in the year 1536,  
a pitiful figure was led from a  
dungeon in Vilvorde Castle near  
Brussels, Belgium.**



**Engraving of Vilvorde Castle**

**For nearly a year and a half, the  
man had suffered isolation in a  
dark, damp cell.**





**Now outside the castle wall, the prisoner was fastened to a post. He had time to utter aloud his final prayer, 'Lord! open the king of England's eyes,' and then he was strangled.**

**Immediately, his body was burned at the stake. Who was this man, and what was the offense ... ?"**

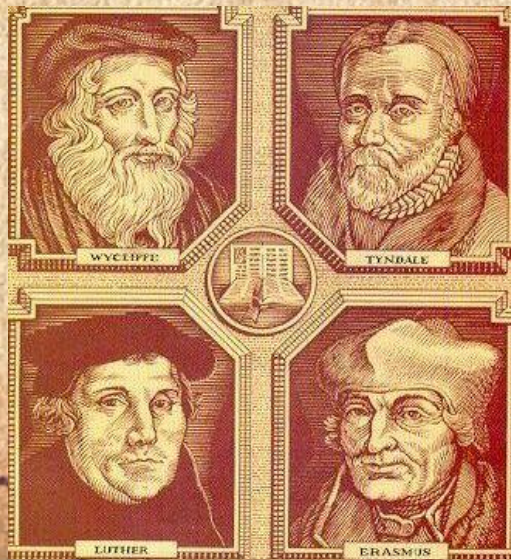
**“His name was William Tyndale, and his crime was to have translated and published the Bible in English.**



**“... In a heated exchange with a cleric who argued against putting scripture in the hands of the common man, Tyndale vowed, ‘If God spare my life, ere many years I will cause a boy that driveth the plough, shall know more of the Scripture than thou dost!’ ...**

**“William Tyndale was not the first, nor the last, of those who in many countries and languages have sacrificed, even to the point of death, to bring the word of God out of obscurity. ...**

**What did they know about the importance of scriptures that we also need to know?**



**What did people in 16th-century England, who paid enormous sums and ran grave personal risks for access to a Bible, understand that we should also understand?”**

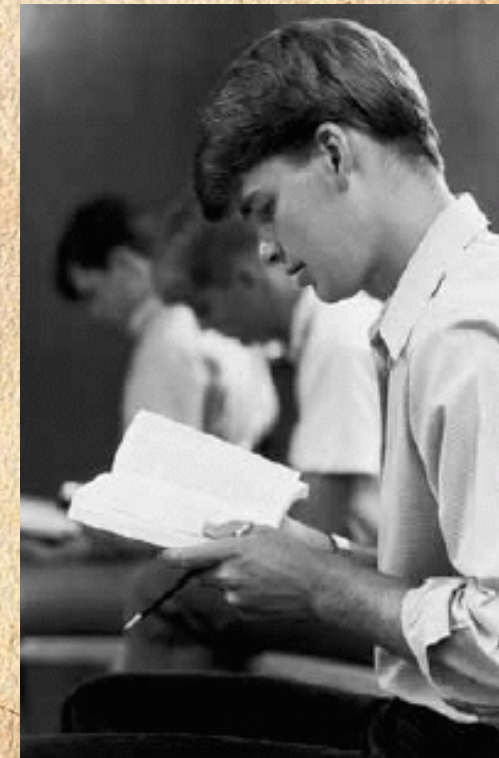
**“In Tyndale’s day, scriptural ignorance abounded because people lacked access to the Bible, especially in a language they could understand.**

**Today the Bible and other scripture are readily at hand, yet there is a growing scriptural illiteracy because people will not open the books. Consequently they have forgotten things their grandparents knew”**





**“Consider the magnitude of our blessing to have the Holy Bible and some 900 additional pages of scripture, including the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants, and the Pearl of Great Price. ... Surely with this blessing the Lord is telling us that our need for constant recourse to the scriptures is greater than in any previous time.”**



OUR NEED FOR THE  
SCRIPTURES IS GREATER  
TODAY THAN IN ANY  
PREVIOUS TIME



# IN TIMES OF PERIL

*But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;*



*And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.*

*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*

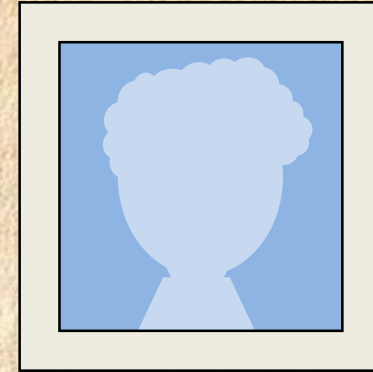
*That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.*

*2 Timothy 3:14-17*

AS WE STUDY THE  
SCRIPTURES, WE CAN  
RECEIVE WISDOM,  
CORRECTION, AND  
INSTRUCTION THAT WILL  
LEAD US TO SALVATION

# NAME SUBSTITUTION

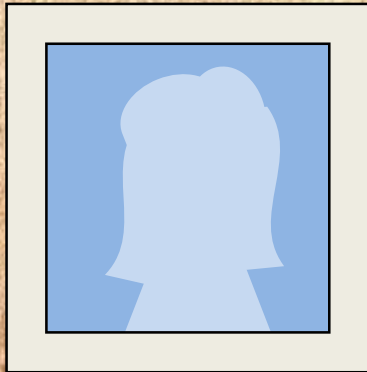
To help you relate doctrines and principles from the scriptures to your life, substitute your name for a name in the scriptures. Try using this scripture study skill with Peter's name in Matthew 16:15–17.



15 He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

16 And \_\_\_\_\_ answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.


17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, \_\_\_\_\_: for flesh and blood hath not revealed *it* unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

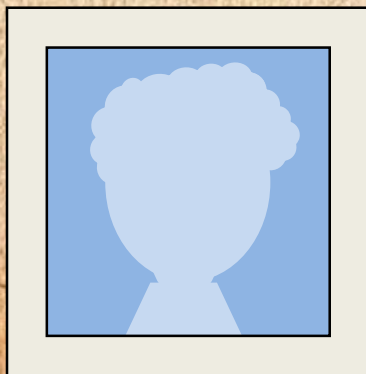
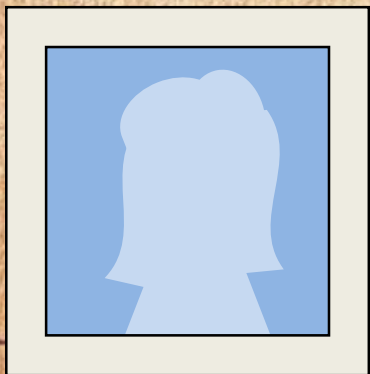


# CAUSE AND EFFECT

To help you identify gospel principles in the scriptures, look for “if–then” and “because–therefore” relationships. Try using this skill with Matthew 6:14–15.

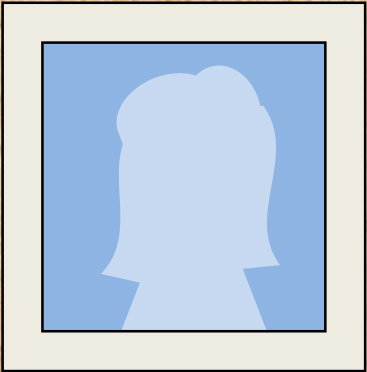
For if ye forgive men their trespasses  your heavenly Father will also forgive you

But if ye forgive not men their trespasses  neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

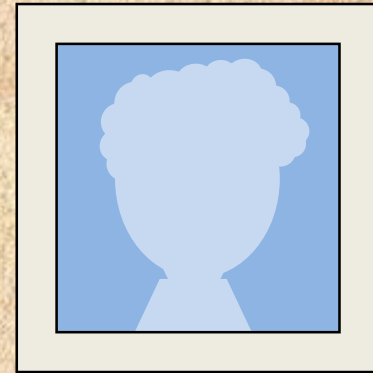
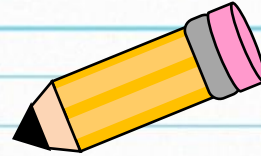


# SCRIPTURE LISTS

The scriptures often contain lists of things such as instructions or warnings. When you find lists, consider numbering each element. Try using this skill with Galatians 5:22–23.



Love  
Joy  
Peace  
Longsuffering  
Gentleness  
Goodness  
Meekness  
Temperance





# CONTRASTS

**The scriptures often contrast ideas, events, and people. These contrasts emphasize gospel principles. Look for contrasts in single verses, in chapters, and across chapters and books. Try this skill with Matthew 5:14–16.**

14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.





# VISUALIZATION

Look for descriptive details that can help you create a mental picture as you read. Imagine being present at certain events. This can strengthen your testimony of the reality of what you read in the scriptures. Try this skill with Matthew 8:23–27

23 And when he was entered into a ship, his disciples followed him.

24 And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but he was asleep.

25 And his disciples came to *him*, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish.

26 And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm.

27 But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!

# CROSS-REFERENCES

Often, one scripture passage can explain or clarify a phrase or concept found in a different passage. Link scripture passages to each other by using the footnotes, the index, or the Topical Guide or Guide to the Scriptures to help unlock the meaning of a scripture passage. Practice this skill by reading John 10:16 and then following the cross-reference in footnote *a* to 3 Nephi 15:21. How does reading 3 Nephi 15:21 help you better understand the meaning of John 10:16?

16 And <sup>a</sup>other <sup>b</sup>sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be <sup>c</sup>one fold, *and* one shepherd.

## OTHER

3 Ne. 15:21 (11–24); 16:1 (1–3); D&C 10:59.  
TG Israel, Scattering of..

## SHEEP

TG Book of Mormon; Israel, Joseph, People of; Israel, Ten Lost Tribes of; Sheep.

## ONE

Ezek. 37:22.

**SHEPERD** TG Jesus Christ, Good Shepherd.

21. And verily I say unto you, that ye are they of whom I said: <sup>a</sup>Other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one <sup>b</sup>shepherd.

# PONDERING

Pondering includes thinking, meditating, asking questions, and evaluating what you know and what you have learned. Pondering often helps us understand what we need to do to apply gospel principles. Ponder how you might apply the truths in Hebrews 12:9.

9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected *us*, and we gave *them* reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?



# APPLYING



**As you identify and understand doctrines and principles found in the scriptures, you can gain deeper knowledge by acting on the truths you have discovered.**

Jesus Christ said

17 If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or *whether* I speak of myself.

John 7:17



**Look for opportunities to apply what you learn as you study the scriptures on your own.**

**Sources:**

**Suggested Hymn: #277 *As I Search the Holy Scriptures***

**Video: “The Blessings of Scripture” (3:04)**

**Can use story in power pt. or show the video**



- 1. Elder David A. Bednar (“A Reservoir of Living Water” [Church Educational System fireside, Feb. 4, 2007], 1, 7, [broadcast.lds.org](http://broadcast.lds.org)).**
- 2. Elder D. Todd Christofferson (“The Blessing of Scripture,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2010, 32).**

# Handout

	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree
1. The scriptures are of great value to me.	.....			
2. In the last few weeks, I studied the scriptures daily.	.....			
3. I feel that my scripture study sessions are meaningful.	.....			
4. I regularly apply what I learn from my scripture study.	.....			
	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree
1. The scriptures are of great value to me.	.....			
2. In the last few weeks, I studied the scriptures daily.	.....			
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	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree
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