

1. Watch chapter 7 from the animated Complete Learning System, *Lord, I Believe* DVD. (Video clip is also provided for viewing online.)

2. What is the power the Savior gave His 12 Disciples?

The power Jesus gave His 12 Disciples, “to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease” (Matthew 10:1), is the priesthood. The priesthood is the eternal power and authority of God.

3. Does a person receiving a healing blessing from a worthy Melchizedek Priesthood holder always get better?

(Discuss ideas.)

“After one has demonstrated his worthiness through good works and manifested his faith through prayer or proper administration to the sick, it must be left in the hands of the Lord those who will be healed and those who will not. We may not always understand why someone is healed and why another for whom we have also exercised great faith is not. The Lord said that when the elders administer to the sick, if they die, they die unto him, and if they live, they live unto him. *James A. Cullimore, Ensign, Nov 1974 © 2007 Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.*

4. What is the most important function of the priesthood?

The essential function of the priesthood in linking time and eternity was made explicit by the Savior when He formed His Church during His mortal ministry. To His senior Apostle Peter He said, “I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven...” (Matt. 16:19).” *Jeffrey R. Holland, Liahona, May 2005 © 2007 Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.*

5. What does the Savior mean when He said “whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven”?

“In the house of the Lord, the temple, all things are done by the power and the authority of the priesthood. In the temple, men and women are endowed and make sacred priesthood covenants which are accompanied by promises and blessings. One day every righteous young man and young woman will have the privilege and opportunity, if not in this life, in the eternities, for a celestial marriage and an eternal family. The highest blessings of the priesthood are conferred only upon a man and a woman together in the temple. This priesthood ordinance is necessary for exaltation in the highest degree of the celestial kingdom.” *Ardeth G. Kapp, New Era, Jun 1986 © 2007 Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.*

6. What is the difference between the priesthood and the keys of the priesthood? (The priesthood is the power or authority of God. The keys are the right to use this power or authority in specific ways [see Activity].)

7. Have the priesthood keys always been on the earth? (No.)

“...[Jesus’] Apostles were soon killed or otherwise taken from the earth, and their priesthood keys were taken with them, resulting in more than 1,400 years of priesthood privation and absence of divine authority among the children of men.” *Jeffrey R. Holland, Ensign, May 2005 © 2007 Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.*

8. How was the priesthood restored?

John the Baptist, the prophet who baptized Jesus Christ, appeared to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery in 1829. When John died, he still held the keys of the Aaronic Priesthood. That meant he had the right and ability to restore the authority of the Aaronic Priesthood. John ordained Joseph and Oliver to the Aaronic Priesthood by the laying on of hands.

Later Peter, James, and John, three of Jesus Christ’s Apostles who received the keys of the Melchizedek Priesthood from Jesus, appeared and gave Joseph and Oliver the Melchizedek Priesthood.

9. Is the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints the only church on the earth that holds the priesthood keys? (Yes.)