

**1. Watch chapter 22** from The Modern Prophets, *Brigham Young* DVD. (Video clip is also provided for viewing online.)

**2. Read:** D&C 136: 2, 4

“Let all the people of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and those who journey with them, be organized into companies, with a covenant and promise to keep all the commandments and statutes of the Lord our God...And this shall be our covenant—that we will walk in all the ordinances of the Lord.”

**3. Why did Brigham Young lead the Saints to the Salt Lake Valley?** (So they [the Lord’s covenant people] could build Zion.)

“President Brigham Young’s whole soul was dedicated to establishing Zion. He oversaw the gathering of nearly one hundred thousand Latter-day Saints to the valleys of the Rocky Mountains and colonized some four hundred cities and towns. He built temples and tabernacles, organized stakes and wards throughout the western United States, and sent missionaries to nearly every corner of the earth. No one understood better the sacrifice and effort required, but, as he said, ‘we are not going to wait for angels, ... we are going to build [Zion ourselves]’ (*DBY, 443*)” *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Brigham Young* © 2007 Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.

**4. How did Brigham Young know that the Salt Lake Valley was the right place to build Zion?** (He had seen it in a vision.)

**5. What is Zion?** (The place where God lives and is worshipped on earth. Zion is often referred to as the Lord’s people [the pure in heart] or as the Church and its stakes.)

“Zion is established and flourishes because of the God-inspired lives and labors of its citizens. Zion comes not as a gift but because virtuous covenant people are drawn together and build it. President Spencer W. Kimball observed, ‘As we sing together “Come to Zion,” we mean ... come to the ward, the branch, the mission, the stake, and give assistance to build up Zion.’ Thus gathered in the Lord’s appointed way, Latter-day Saints conscientiously strive to bring forth Zion as the ‘kingdom of our God and his Christ,’ preparatory to the Lord’s Second Coming.” *Keith B. McMullin, Liahona, Nov 2002* © 2007 Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.

**6. What does it mean to be “pure in heart”?** (Discuss ideas.)

“Like the early pioneers, when we receive the covenants and ordinances of the gospel, we too begin a journey toward Zion—for Zion is not only a place, it is also a Christlike purity of heart (see D&C 97:21). President Young taught that we prepare for our journey by receiving ‘the ordinances of the holy Priesthood of the Son of God, which are necessary for the perfection of the Saints’ (*Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Brigham Young* [1997], 112)...Ordinances not only help us become pure as individuals, but they also unite us as a people...It was in this spirit of unity that most of the pioneers came to the American West.” *James E. Faust, Liahona, May 1998* © 2007 Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.

**7. Have we made covenants with the Lord to build Zion?** (Yes. Discuss.)

**8. What can we do as a family to help build Zion?** (Discuss ideas.)

“Each family, under the direction of the father, can make its own home a Zion. Enthusiastic participation in the programs of the Church, especially the family home evening program, will bring obedience to this goal given by the Prophet Joseph Smith: ‘We ought to have the building up of Zion as our greatest object.’ (*DHC, vol. 3, p. 390.*)” *Roy W. Doxey, Ensign, Feb 1973* © 2007 Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.