

Thou Art the Christ

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Wewe Ndiwe Kristo

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Mshauri wa Kwanza katika Urais Mkuu wa Watoto

April 2025 general conference

We want our children to believe in Jesus Christ, belong to Jesus Christ and His Church through covenant, and strive to become like Jesus Christ.

When our son Eli was in fourth grade, his class set up a mock government where he was elected by his peers to serve as class judge. One day a sitting judge from the Utah Second District Court visited, put his official robes on Eli, and then administered an oath of office for their class. This ignited in Eli's young, impressionable soul a passion for studying law and the Lawgiver Himself, Jesus Christ.

After years of diligent effort, Eli received an invitation for an interview with one of his top choices for law school. He pronounced, "Mom, I was asked 10 questions. The final question was, 'Where do you derive your moral compass?' I stated that throughout history humankind has derived systems of morality by patterning their lives from archetypes. The archetype of morality I strive to pattern my life from is that of Jesus Christ. I stated if all of humanity abided by the teachings of Jesus Christ in the Sermon on the Mount, the world would be a better, more peaceful place." Then the interview ended, and he thought to himself, "There go my childhood dreams. No one in secular academia wants to hear about Jesus Christ."

Two weeks later, Eli was admitted with a scholarship. Before committing, we visited the campus. The law school looked like a castle and was set high on a hill overlooking a beautiful lake. Remarkably, as we walked through the magnificent library and stately corridors, we found

Tunataka watoto wetu waamini katika Yesu Kristo, wawe sehemu ya Yesu Kristo na Kanisa Lake kupitia agano, na wajitahidi kuwa kama Yesu Kristo.

Wakati mwana wetu Eli alipokuwa darasa la nne, darasa lake liliunda serikali mwigo ambapo yeye alichaguliwa na wenzake kuhudumu kama hakimumu wa darasa. Siku moja hakimumu kutoka Mahakama ya Wilaya ya Pili ya Utah alitembelea, akamvisha Eli joho lake rasmi na kisha akamua-pisha kiapo cha ofisi ya darasa lao. Hii ilichochea katika nafsi changa ya Eli, msukumo wa kujifunza sheria na Mtoa Sheria Mwenyewe, Yesu Kristo.

Baada ya miaka ya juhudi nyingi, Eli alipokea mwaliko wa usaili kwenye mojawapo ya machaguo yake ya juu kwa ajili ya shule ya sheria. Alitamka, "Mama, niliulizwa maswali 10. Swali la mwisho lilikuwa, 'Unapata kutoka wapi dira yako ya maadili? Nilisema kwamba kote katika historia binadamu wamepata mfumo wa maadili kwa kupangilia maisha yao kutoka kwenye kielelezo asili. Kielelezo asili cha maadili ninachojitahidi kupangilia maisha yangu ni kile kielelezo cha Yesu Kristo. Nilisema kama binadamu wote wangepata mafundisho ya Yesu Kristo katika Mahubiri ya Mlimani, dunia ingekuwa mahali bora, penye amani zaidi." Kisha usaili ukaisha, na akawaza mwenyewe, "Hizi ndizo ndoto za utotoni mwangu. Hakuna mtu katika elimu dunia anataka kusikia kuhusu Yesu Kristo.

Wiki mbili baadaye, Eli alikubaliwa na kupata ufadhili wa masomo. Kabla ya kukubali, tulitembelea chuo hiki. Shule ya sheria ilikuwa inaonekana kama kasri na ilikuwa imejengwa juu ya kilima mkabala na ziwa maridadi. Cha ajabu, tulipokuwa tunatembea kupita kwenye maktaba

on banners and carved in stone attributes from the Sermon on the Mount.

The Sermon on the Mount is decisively the most noteworthy discourse ever delivered, pioneering in its teachings. No other sermon can help us better understand the character of Jesus Christ, His divine attributes, and our ultimate purpose to become like Him.

Lifelong discipleship of Jesus Christ begins in our homes—and in Primary as early as 18 months of age. We want our children to believe in Jesus Christ, belong to Jesus Christ and His Church through covenant, and strive to become like Jesus Christ.

Believe in Jesus Christ

First, believe in Jesus Christ.

After the bread of life sermon, “many of [the Lord’s] disciples” found it hard to accept His teachings and doctrine, and they “went back, and walked no more with him.” Jesus then turned to the Twelve and asked a heart-wrenching question: “Will ye also go away?”

Peter responded:

“Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.

“... We believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.”

As Peter demonstrated, belief is “to have faith in someone or to accept something as true.” And for our faith to lead to salvation, it must be centered in the Lord Jesus Christ. “We ... exercise faith in [Jesus] Christ when we have an assurance that He exists, [an understanding] of His [true] character [and nature], and a knowledge that we are striving to live according to His will.”

Our beloved prophet, President Russell M. Nelson, declared, “Faith in Jesus Christ is the foundation of all belief and the conduit of divine power.”

How can we help children strengthen their belief in Jesus Christ and access His divine power? We need to look no further than to our Savior Himself.

“[The Lord] spake unto the people, saying:

“Behold, I am Jesus Christ. ...

“Arise and come forth. ...

nzuri na ushoroba wa kuvutia, tuliona maandishi kwenye mabango na mawe yaliyochongwa sifa kutoka kwenye Mahubiri ya Mlimani.

Mahubiri ya Mlimanini mhadhara bora wenye uwezo wa kufanya maamuzi ulio wahi kutolewa, katika mafundisho yake yote. Haku-na mahubiri mengine yanayoweza kutusaidia kuelewa vyema tabia ya Yesu Kristo, sifa Zake za kiungu, na dhumuni letu kuu la kuwa kama Yeye.

Unafunzi wa maisha yote kwa Yesu Kristo huanza katika nyumba zetu—na katika Darasa la watoto mapema katika umri wa miezi 18. Tunataka watoto wetu waaminika katika Yesu Kristo, wawe sehemu ya Yesu Kristo na Kanisa Lake kupitia agano, na wajitahidiku wakama Yesu Kristo.

Amini katika Yesu Kristo

Kwanza, amini katika Yesu Kristo.

Baada ya mahubiri ya mkate wa uzima, “wengi wa wafuasi wa [Bwana]” waliona ni vigumu kukubali mafundisho Yake, na “wakarudi nyuma, nahawakutembea tena pamoja naye.” Kisha Yesu akawageukia wale Thenashara na kuwauliza swali la kugusa moyo: “Je, Ninyi nanyi mwataka kuondoka?”

Petro akajibu:

“Bwana, twende kwa nani? wewe unayo maneno ya uzima wa milele.

“... Nasi tumesadiki, tena tumejua ya kuwa wewe ndiwe Kristo, Mwana wa Mungu aliye hai.”

Kama Petro alivyoonyesha, kuamini ni “kuwa na imani katika mtu fulani au kukubali kitu fulani kuwa ni cha kweli.” Ili imani yako iweze kukuongoza kwenye wokovu, ni lazima kiini chake kiwe katika Bwana Yesu Kristo. “Sisi ... tunaonesha imani katika [Yesu] Kristo pale tunapokuwa na uhakika kwamba Yeye yupo, [ufahamu] wa sifa Zake za [kweli] [na asili], na maarifa kwamba tunajitahidi kuishi kulingana na mapenzi Yake.

Nabii wetu mpendwa, Rais Russell M. Nelson, alitangaza, “Imani katika Yesu Kristo ni msingi wa imani yote na ni mkondo wa nguvu za kiungu.”

Ni kwa jinsi gani tunaweza kuwasaidia watoto kuimarisha imani yao katika Yesu Kristo na kupata nguvu Zake za kiungu? Hatuhitaji kuanzalia mbali zaidi ya Mwokozi wetu Mwenyewe.

“[Bwana] alizungumza kwa watu, akisema:

“Tazama, mimi ni Yesu Kristo. ...

“Inukeni na mje kwangu. ...

“... The multitude went forth, and thrust their hands into his side, and did feel the prints of the nails in his hands and in his feet; and this they did do, going forth one by one ... and did see with their eyes and did feel with their hands, and did know of a surety and did bear record, that it was he.”

I invite you to ponder what this can look like in the life of young children. Do they heartestimonies of Jesus Christ and His gospel? Do they see reverential, worshipful images of His ministry and godhood? Do they feel and recognize the Holy Ghost testifying of His reality and divinity? Do they know of His message and mission?

Belong to Jesus Christ and His Church

Second, belong to Jesus Christ and His Church.

King Benjamin’s people experienced a mighty change of heart and by covenant dedicated their lives to doing God’s will. Because of the covenant they made with God and Jesus Christ, they were “called the children of Christ, his sons, and his daughters.” As members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, we have a covenantal responsibility to build His kingdom and prepare for His return.

How can we help children make and keep sacred covenants? In the Come, Follow Me manual, in appendix A and B, we find conversation starters and lessons that will empower families and support teachers and leaders in their sacred responsibility to prepare children for a lifetime on God’s covenant path.

Become like Jesus Christ

Third, become like Jesus Christ.

In the Book of Mormon, the Savior admonished His newly called disciples to emulate Him as closely as possible: “What manner of men ought ye to be? Verily I say unto you, even as I am.”

How can we help baptized and confirmed children fulfill their covenantal responsibility to gather themselves and others unto Jesus Christ? Lifelong discipleship requires us to “be ... doers of the word, and not hearers only.”

“... Umati ulianda mbele, na kusukuma mikono yao ubavuni mwake, na wakaona alama za misumari katika mikono yake na katika miguu yake; na hivi walifanya wakienda mbele mmoja mmoja ... nawalionana macho yao nakupapasakwa mikono yao, nawalijua kweli nawalishuhudia, wenyewe kwamba ni yeye, ambaye manabii waliandika kwamba atakuja.”

Ninawaalika kutafakari jinsi haya yanavyoweza kuonekana katika maisha ya watoto wadogo. Je, wanasikiashuhuda juu ya Yesu Kristo na injili Yake? Je, wanaonapicha za staha, za kuabudu za huduma Yake na uungu Wake? Je, wanahisina kumtambua Roho Mtakatifu akiashuhudia juu ya uhalisia Wake na uungu Wake? Je, wanajuakuhusu ujumbe Wake na misheni Yake?

Kuwa wa Yesu Kristo na Kanisa Lake

Pili, Kuwa wa Yesu Kristo na Kanisa Lake.

Watu wa Mfalme Benyamini walipata badi-liko kuu la moyona kwa agano waliweka wakfu maisha yao ili kufanya mapenzi ya Mungu. Kwa sababu ya agano walilofanya na Mungu na Yesu Kristo, “waliitwa watoto wa Kristo, wanawe, na mabinti zake.” Kama waumini wa Kanisa la Yesu Kristo la Watakatifu wa Siku za Mwisho, tuna jukumu la kimaagano la kujenga ufalme Wake na kujiandaa kwa ajili ya kurudi Kwake.

Ni kwa jinsi gani tunaweza kuwasaidia watoto kufanya na kushika maagano matakatifu? Katika kitabu cha kiada cha Njoo, Unifuate, katika kiambatisho A na B, tunapata vianzishi vya mazungumzo na masomo ambayo yatawezesha familia na kuwasaidia walimu na viongozi katika usimamizi wao mtakatifu wa kuwaandaa watoto kwa ajili ya maisha yote kwenye njia ya agano ya Mungu.

Kuwa kama Yesu Kristo

Tatu, kuwa kama Yesu Kristo.

Katika Kitabu cha Mormoni, Mwokozi aliwaasa wanafunzi Wake wapya walioitwa kumwiga Yeye karibu kabisa inavyoweza kana: “Kwa hivyo mnapaswa kuwa watu wa aina gani? Amini ninawaambia, hata kama vile nilivyo.”

Ni kwa jinsi gani tunaweza kuwasaidia watoto waliobatizwa na kuthibitishwa kutimiza majukumu yao ya kimaagano ya kujikusanya wao wenyewe na wengine kwa Yesu Kristo? Uanafunzi wa maisha yote unatuhitaji sisi “kuwa ... wa-

When extending invitations to the Lord's youngest disciples, please take every opportunity to lead them, guide them, walk beside them, and help them find the Way. Counsel with these precious little ones as they prepare to teach, testify, pray, or serve so they are confident and experience joy in fulfilling their responsibilities. Seek inspired ways to help them come to know this is their Church and they have a vital role to play in preparing for the Savior's return.

As Jesus Christ becomes the focus of our lives, what we desire, and how we desire it, is forever altered. Conversion changes everything! It changes our nature "that we have no more disposition to do evil, but to do good continually." It changes how we spend our time, our resources; what we read, watch, listen to, and share. It even changes how we respond in a distinguished, academic, career-on-the-line interview.

We need to infuse the Light of Jesus Christ into every corner of our lives. If we are not testifying to the veracity of His premortal godhood, His divine mission, and His prison-bursting Resurrection in our homes and in every single meeting of this Church, then our messages of love, service, honesty, humility, gratitude, and compassion can become nothing more than a jaunty pep talk of thoughtful living. Without Jesus Christ there is no power to change, no purpose to aspire to, and no reconciliation of the travails of life. If we become casual in our discipleship of Jesus Christ, it could be catastrophic for our children.

When we tell our children we love them, are we also telling them that their Father in Heaven and Savior Jesus Christ love them? Our love may comfort and inspire, but Their love can sanctify, exalt, and heal.

This Jesus should not be a fictional Jesus, or a simplistic Jesus, or a bodiless Jesus, or a casual Jesus, or an unknown Jesus, but a glorified, omnipotent, resurrected, exalted, worshipful, powerful Only Begotten Son of God, who is mighty to save. And as a young child in the Philippines compellingly testified to me one day, "We are worth saving!" In the sacred and holy name of Him "whom God

tendaji wa neno, na siyo wasikilizaji tu."

Tunapotoa mialiko kwa wanafunzi wadogo wa Bwana, tafadhali chukueni kila fursa ya kuwaelekeza, kuwaongoza, kutembea pamoja nao, na kuwasaidia wao kuipata ile Njia. Shauriana na wadogo hawa wenye thamani pale wanapojian-daa kufundisha, kushuhudia, kusali, au kuhudumuili kwamba wawe na kujiamini na uzoefu wa shangwe katika kutimiza majukumu yao. Tafuta njia zenye mwongozo za kuwasaidia wao kuja kujua hili ni Kanisa lao na wana kazi muhimu ya kufanya katika kujiandaa kwa ajili ya kurudi kwa Mwokozi.

Kadiri Yesu Kristo anavyokuwa fokasi ya maisha yao, kile tunachotamani, na jinsi tunavyokitamani, kinabadilika milele. Uongofu hubadilisha kila kitu! Hubadilisha asili yetu "kwamba hatuna nia ya kutenda uovu tena, bali kutenda mema daima." Hubadilisha jinsi tunavyotumia muda wetu, rasilimali zetu, kile tunachosoma, kutazama, kusikiliza, na kushiriki. Hubadilisha hata jinsi tunavyojibu kwa heshima, kisomi, kati-ka usaili wakati wa kutafuta kazi.

Tunahitaji kujaza Nuru ya Yesu Kristo katika kila kona ya maisha yetu. Ikiwa sisi hatushuhudii juu ya ukweli wa uungu Wake kabla ya Yeye kuzaliwa, misheni Yake ya kiungu, na Ufufuko Wake wa kufungua gereza katika nyumba zetu na katika kila mkutano wa Kanisa hili, basi ujumbe wetu wa upendo, huduma, uaminifu, unyenyekevu, shukrani, na huruma unaweza kuwa si kitu zaidi ya hotuba ya madaha ya maandalizi juu ya mawazo ya maisha. Bila Yesu Kristo hakuna nguvu ya kubadilisha, hakuna madhumuni ya kuleta mwongozo, na hakuna suluhisho la kazi ya sulubu ya maisha. Ikiwa tutakuwa bila mipan-gokatika uanafunzi wa Yesu Kristo, itakuwa janga kwa watoto wetu.

Tunapowaambia watoto wetu tunawapenda, je, tunawaambia pia kwamba Baba aliye Mbin-guni na Mwokozi Yesu Kristo wanawapenda? U-pendo wetu unaweza kufariji na kutia msukumo, lakini upendo waona unaweza kutakasa, kuinua, na kuponya..

Yesu huyu hapaswi kuwa Yesu wa simulizi ya kubuni, au Yesu wa maneno matupu, au Yesu asiye na mwili, au Yesu asiye na mipango, au Yesu asiyejulikana, bali aliyetukuka, mwenyezi, aliyefufuka, aliyeinuliwa, mwenye kuabudiwa, mwenye nguvu, Mwana Mzaliwa Pekee wa Mungu, ambaye nimwenye uwezo wa kuokoa. Na kama vile mtoto mdogo katika Ufilipino alivyoshuhudia kwan-

hath set forth to be [the great] propitiation,” Jesus Christ, amen.

gu katika njia ya kuvutia sana siku moja, “Sote tunastahili kuokolewa!” Katika jina tukufu na takatifu la Yeye “ambaye Mungu alimfanya kuwa upatanisho [mkuu]” Yesu Kristo, amina