

Understanding the House of the Lord

Instructor: Sister Heidi Shaw

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Class Schedule: Spring 2025, Wednesday, 7:00 PM

Course Overview:

This course will deepen your understanding of the temple as the House of the Lord, exploring its doctrines, ordinances, and history. Each lesson is designed to help you connect temple teachings to your daily discipleship and strengthen your relationship with Jesus Christ.

Course Requirements:

- **Attendance:** Attend 75% or more classes.
 - **Reading:** Complete 75% or more of assigned readings.
 - **Elevate Learning Experience:** Complete one of the following:
 - Study Journal documenting insights and personal application of temple teachings.
 - A one-page paper reflecting on lessons learned and how your relationship with Christ has strengthened.
 - Personal Learning Project based on course doctrines and principles.
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Course Schedule and Lessons

January 7 - Introduction to the Class and The Temple: Your Spiritual Foundation

Reading:

- Elder David A. Bednar, "[Prepared Every Needful Thing](#)" (April 2019 General Conference)
- President Russell M. Nelson, "[The Temple and Your Spiritual Foundation](#)" (October 2021 General Conference).

Principle: The temple prepares us spiritually and temporally for life's challenges and strengthens our faith and foundation in Christ.

January 14 - What is a Temple? and Moses and the Tabernacle

Reading:

- [Gospel Topics: Temples](#)
- Genesis 28:10-22; What are the elements of a temple experience in this account?
- Doctrine and Covenants 84:18-26; Exodus 40:12-16.

Principle: Temples are sacred places where individuals can draw closer to God through sacred ordinances and covenants, which are essential for eternal life. The Tabernacle served as a model for obedience and consecration.

January 21- Jesus and the Temple / New Testament and the Temple: Gardens and Mounts

Reading:

- Elder David A. Bednar, ["Let This House Be Built unto My Name"](#) (April 2020 General Conference);
- ["Draw Nearer to Christ"](#)
- Doctrine and Covenants 124:38-42; Matthew 16-17; John 17; Psalms 118.

Principle: Jesus Christ sanctifies the temple, and sacred experiences on mounts and in gardens reveal God's eternal plan.

January 28 - The Book of Mormon and the Temple

Reading:

- [What does the Book of Mormon Teach about the Temple](#), (Scripture Central)
- Mosiah 2-5; 3 Nephi 11; 2 Nephi 5.

Principle: The temple is central to gathering, worship, and covenant-making, providing a place for individuals to experience God's presence and receive His guidance.

February 4 - The Kirtland Temple and the Nauvoo Endowment

Reading:

- Doctrine and Covenants 109; 110
- [Saints, Vol. 1, Chapter 37: "We Will Prove Them Herewith"](#).

Principle: Temples are places of divine visitation, restoring priesthood keys and ordinances.

February 11 - The Temple Recommend: Preparation and Accountability

Reading:

- D&C 72:3, D&C 107:74-84, D&C 104:11-17, D&C 42:32
- Elder Ronald A. Rasband, ["Recommended unto the Lord"](#) (October 2020, General Conference).
- [Temple Recommend Questions](#); (Ensign, January 2020)

Principle: Worthiness brings us closer to God and prepares us for sacred service.

February 18 - Creation and the Temple / Lessons from Eden

Reading:

- Moses 3:4-7; Doctrine and Covenants 29:36-39; Moses 4:13-27; 2 Nephi 9:14.
- President Russell M Nelson, ["Three Pillars of God's Plan"](#)
- [Excerpt from "The Temple and the Natural Order of Marriage"](#). (Ensign, Sept. 2015)

Principle: The Creation and Eden accounts teach us about God's order, purpose, and the Atonement.

February 25 - Why ordinances and covenants? How Do They Help Us Become Exalted

Reading:

- ["Why Ordinances and Covenants Matter"](#)
- Elder Dale G Renlund, ["Accessing God's Power Through Covenants"](#) (April 2023, General Conference)
- Elder Ulisses Soares, ["Covenant Confidence through Jesus Christ"](#) (April 2024, General Conference)

Principle: Making and keeping sacred covenants allows us to access God's power, deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ, and receive strength to overcome challenges.

March 5 - No Class (Spring Break)

March 11 – New Name, Washing and Anointing, Ceremonial Clothing: Garments and Temple Clothes

Reading:

- Mosiah 1:11-12, Mosiah 5:5-11, D&C 20:77, D&C 109:22-26, Isaiah 62:2,
- [The Garden of Eden, the Ancient Temple, and Receiving a New Name](#)

Washing and Anointing:

- Exodus 40:12-13,
- Scriptures- Study Helps- Topical Guide - "Wash, Washed, Washings" & "Anointing, Anoint", Guide to the Scriptures "Anointing" and "Wash", Isaiah 59:3, Isaiah 40:31,
- [The Resurrection of Jesus Christ and Truths about the Body](#), (Ensign, April 2017)

Ceremonial Clothing: Garments and Temple Clothes

- Exodus 29
- [Sacred Temple Clothing](#)
- ["What Are Temple Garments"](#)
- ["The Temple Garment"](#)
- Anette Dennis, ["Put Ye On the Lord Jesus Christ"](#) (April 2024, General Conference)

Principle: Sacred ordinances, such as washing, anointing, and wearing temple garments, symbolize our commitment to follow Jesus Christ, receive His cleansing and sanctifying power, and strive to become like Him.

March 18 - The Law of Obedience and The Law of Sacrifice

Reading:

- Elder Jeffrey R. Holland, "[I Am He](#)", (October 2024, General Conference)
- Elder Bednar, "[In a State of Happiness](#)", BYU Devo, Aug. 2013
- 3 Nephi 12:48; Deuteronomy 6:24–25; D&C 25:15; 3 Nephi 12:48; Luke 22:42; 2Nephi 31:7; Hebrews 5:8-9
- "[Prophetic Teachings on the Temple](#)"
- Elder Dallin H. Oaks, "[Sacrifice](#)", (April 2012, General Conference)

Principle: Through obedience to God's will and the willing sacrifice of our own desires, we align ourselves with Jesus Christ, grow in faith, and receive the power to become more like Him.

March 25 - The Law of Chastity

Reading:

- "[Prophetic Teachings on the Temple](#)"
- Elder Jeffrey R. Holland, "[Of Souls, Symbols, and Sacraments](#)" (BYU Devo. January 1988)

Principle: Chastity protects the sanctity of the soul and strengthens relationships with God and others.

April 1 - The Law of Consecration

- **Reading:** Doctrine and Covenants 42:30-39;
- Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf "[Our Heartfelt All](#)", (April 2022, General Conference)
- "[What is the Law of Consecration? How does it Affect Me?](#)" (For the Strength of Youth, April 2021)

Principle: The law of consecration invites us to dedicate our time, talents, and resources to building God's kingdom, demonstrating our love for Him and aligning our lives with His purposes.

April 8 - Gathering Israel

Reading:

- President Russell M. Nelson, "[The Gathering of Scattered Israel](#)" (October 2006 General Conference).
- Everything President Nelson has said about gathering Israel:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QnskCjpFgkI>
- Doctrine and Covenants 128

Principle: The gathering of Israel, on both sides of the veil, is central to God's work and glory, and we are called to participate in this sacred effort through temple work, covenant keeping, and sharing the gospel.

April 15- Women and Temple Power and Personal Reflections on Temple Worship

Reading:

- Gary E. Stevenson, "[Where are the Keys and Authority of the Priesthood?](#)", *Liahona*, May 2016.
- *General Handbook: Serving in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*. [Priesthood Authority](#)
- Dallin H. Oaks, "[The Keys and Authority of the Priesthood](#)," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2014, 49–52.
- Neil L. Andersen, "[Power in the Priesthood](#)," October 2016 General Conference
- Russell M. Nelson, "[Rejoice in the Gift of Priesthood Keys](#)", April 2024 General Conference

Principle: Priesthood keys and authority are divinely bestowed to direct and empower the work of God, enabling all His children to access the blessings of the gospel and fulfill their divine potential.
