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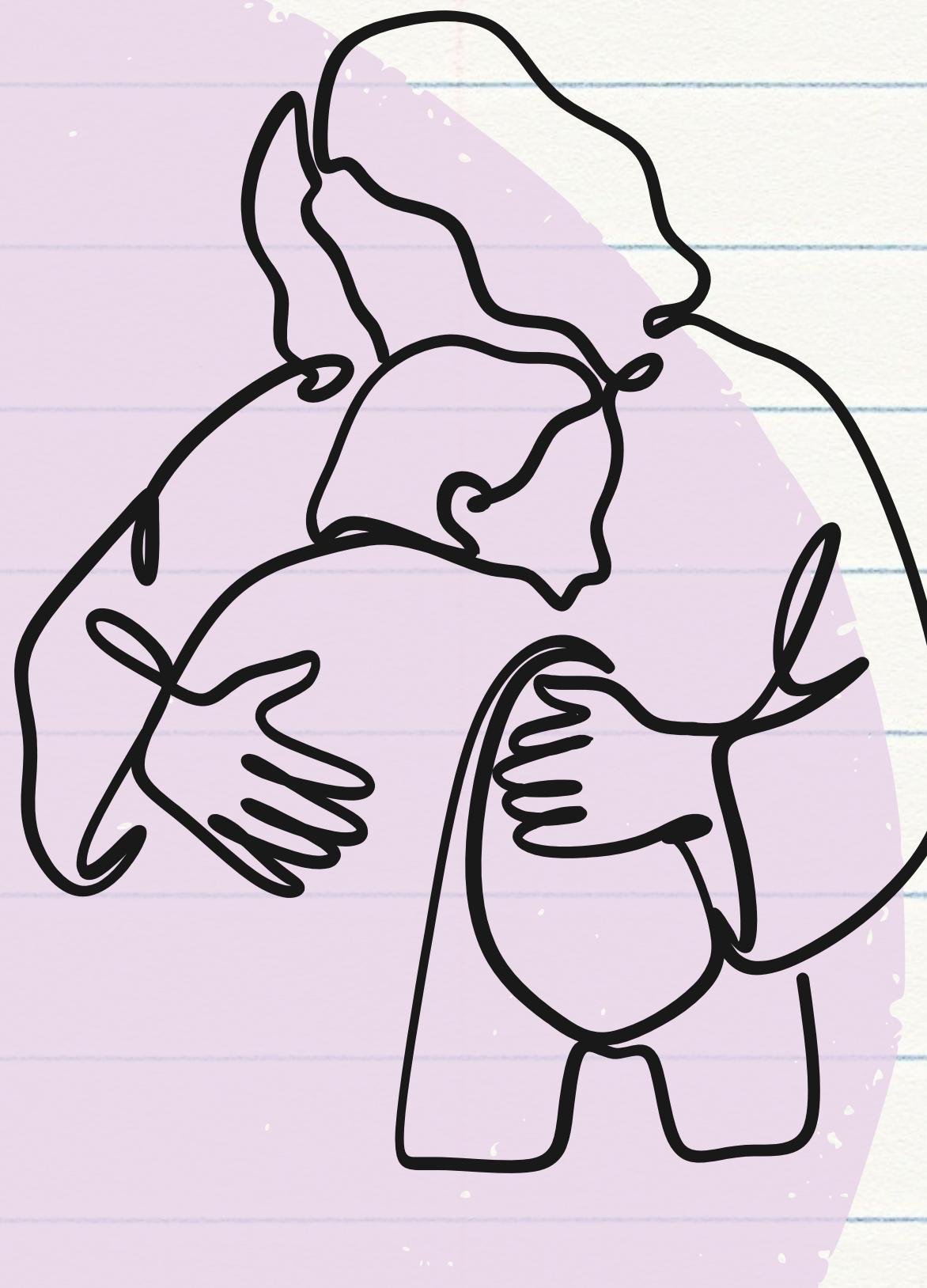


THE DIVINE GIFT OF FORGIVENESS

WEEK 1

OPENING PRAYER & HIT RECORD

WELCOME TO THE DIVINE GIFT OF FORGIVENESS COURSE!



AS A RESULT OF THIS FIRST LESSON,
STUDENTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO EXPRESS
WHY THEY NEED TO REPENT AND THE JOY
THAT COMES FROM THE GIFT OF
REPENTANCE. THEY WILL ALSO BE INVITED
TO MAKE A PLAN FOR DAILY REPENTANCE.



Neil L. Andersen

QUORUM OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES



WHY SHOULD I REPENT?

HELAMAN 5:10–11

MOSIAH 27:24–26

3 NEPHI 9:13–14

ALMA 13:10–11

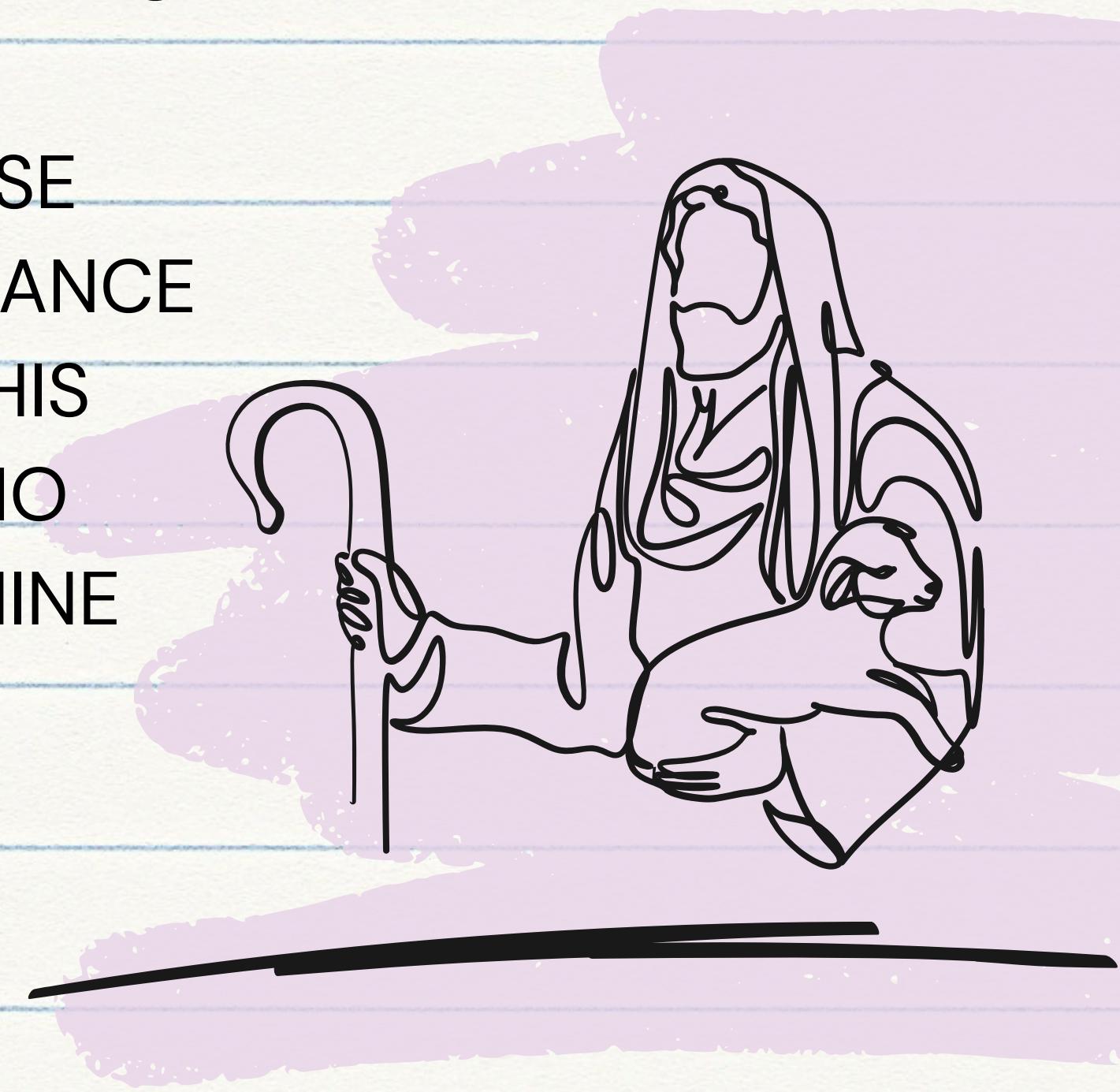
REPENTANCE IS NOT PUNISHMENT OR OPPRESSION. IT IS JUST THE OPPOSITE. IT IS A WONDROUS GIFT FROM GOD THAT WILL BRING JOY TO THE SORROWFUL AND RELIEF TO THE SPIRITUALLY INFIRM. IT IS STRONG SPIRITUAL MEDICINE THAT BRINGS HEALING TO ALL WHO WILL EMBRACE ITS POWER. AS THE SAVIOR HIMSELF SO GENEROUSLY ENJOINED. "WILL YE NOT NOW RETURN UNTO ME, AND REPENT OF YOUR SINS, AND BE CONVERTED, THAT I MAY HEAL YOU?"

EVEN IF YOU FEEL LIKE YOU ARE AT THE VERY BOTTOM OF LIFE'S LADDER, THERE IS SOMETHING YOU CAN DO. YOU CAN LOOK UP. IF ALL YOU CAN MANAGE IS TO SIMPLY LIFT YOUR EYES TO HIM, YOU HAVE DONE SOMETHING IN AN EFFORT TO RETURN TO HIM. YOU WILL COME TO KNOW THAT HE "REACHES YOUR REACHING." YOU MAY HAVE A LONG CLIMB, A STEEP CLIMB, EVEN A DAUNTING CLIMB, BUT LOOKING UP IS AN IMPORTANT STEP AS YOU BEGIN YOUR JOURNEY FORWARD. THE SAVIOR SAID, "LOOK UNTO ME IN EVERY THOUGHT;...BEHOLD THE WOUNDS WHICH PIERCED MY SIDE, AND ALSO THE PRINTS OF THE NAILS IN MY HANDS AND FEET." MORE IMPORTANT THAT WHERE YOU ARE IN THE DIRECTION YOU FACE, ESPECIALLY WHOM YOU FACE.



THE BLESSING TO REPENT IS GIVEN TO EACH OF US BY OUR REDEEMER AS PART OF THE PLAN OF SALVATION. BUT IT IS MORE THAN THAT. IT IS ALSO A SPIRITUAL GIFT THAT STRENGTHENS OUR DESIRE AND DECISIONS, ALLOWING US TO AWAIT THE HEAVENLY GRACE OF THE SAVIOR AND TO RECEIVE THE MIRACULOUS GIFT OF FORGIVENESS.

I PROMISE YOU THAT AS SURELY AS THE SUN WILL RISE TOMORROW, THE SAVIOR'S DIVINE GIFTS OF REPENTANCE AND OF FORGIVENESS, OFFERED IN THE BEAUTY OF HIS ENCOMPASSING LOVE, ARE CERTAIN FOR THOSE WHO COME UNTO HIM WITH FULL PURPOSE OF HEART. "MINE ARM OF MERCY IS EXTENDED TOWARDS YOU, AND WHOSOEVER WILL COME, HIM WILL I RECEIVE."



FORGIVENESS IS A GIFT, AND THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN GIVE THE GIFT IS THE REDEEMER AND SAVIOR OF THE WORLD, JESUS CHRIST.



THE DIVINE GIFT OF FORGIVENESS CAN NEVER BE EARNED; IT CAN ONLY BE RECEIVED. YES, COMMANDMENTS MUST BE OBEYED AND ORDINANCES OBSERVED TO RECEIVE FORGIVENESS, BUT PERSONAL EFFORT, NO MATTER HOW GREAT, PALES IN COMPARISON TO THE COST OF REDEMPTION. IN FACT, THERE IS NO COMPARISON. FORGIVENESS IS A GIFT, AND THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN GIVE THE GIFT IS THE REDEEMER AND SAVIOR OF THE WORLD, JESUS CHRIST. HE OFFERS HIS PRICELESS GIFT WILLINGLY TO ALL THOSE WHO TURN TO HIM TO RECEIVE IT." AS PRESIDENT NELSON NELSON HAS SAID, "THE SAVIOR'S ATONEMENT IS ABLE TO REDEEM EVERY SOUL FROM THE PENALTIES OF PERSONAL TRANSGRESSION, ON CONDITIONS THAT HE HAS SET."

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Closing prayer

