**\*I chose to discuss questions numbers 3 and 5. My discussion notes for these are at the end of this document\***

**Teach** a friend, roommate, or family member for 15–30 minutes about Jesus Christ **by doing the following:**

1. **Read** each of the seven quotes together and discuss at least two of the questions.
2. As you talk, **take notes** of the answers you come up with.
3. **Write** those notes in the Text Entry tab for each question along with a verification of the amount of time you spent discussing the quotes and questions.

**Quotes and Questions to discuss:**

1. The Lectures on Faith teaches the following:

Let us here observe, that three things are necessary in order that any rational and intelligent being may **exercise faith in God unto life and salvation.** ​

* First, the idea that **he actually exists**.     ​
* Secondly, **a correct idea of his character**, perfections, and attributes.     ​
* Thirdly, an actual **knowledge that the course of life which he is pursuing is according to his will**. For without an acquaintance with these three important facts, the faith of every rational being must be imperfect and unproductive. ​

**Question 1 to discuss together: How does understanding the character, perfections, and attributes of God help you exercise faith in Him unto life and salvation?**

1. Elder Neal A. Maxwell once made the following statement after having endured chemotherapy for leukemia:

Finally, my humble praise today flows not only to God the Father for His loving plan of salvation and to Jesus, the Lord of the universe, for His marvelous and remarkable Atonement, but also to the Holy Ghost, about whom we speak less.  Among His many roles, I express my particular and personal gratitude today for the recent ways in which He has been the precious Comforter, including in the midnight moments! (Elder Neal A. Maxwell, CR, April 1977. Given after being treated for leukemia) ​

**Question 2 to discuss together: When have you had an experience that has deepened your knowledge or testimony of one of the members of the Godhead?**

1. Elder Boyd K. Packer once stated the following:

No idea has been more destructive of happiness, no philosophy has produced more sorrow, more  heartbreak and mischief; no idea has done  more to destroy the family than the idea that  we are not the offspring of God. ​ (Elder Boyd K. Packer, CR, April 1992)

**Question 3 to discuss together: How does truly internalizing the knowledge that God is your literal father give you courage, orientation, and confidence?**

1. Elder Tad R. Callister taught about our unique position among the creations of God:

There is a sentiment among many in the world that we are the spirit creations of God, just as a building is the creation of its architect or a painting the creation of its painter or an invention the creation of its inventor. The scriptures teach, however, a much different doctrine.  They teach that we are more than creations of God; they teach that we are the literal spirit offspring or children of God our Father. What difference does this doctrinal distinction make? The difference is monumental in its consequence because our identity determines in large measure our destiny. For example, can a mere creation ever become like its creator? Can a building ever become an architect? A painting a painter? Or an invention an inventor? If not, then those who believe we are creations of God, rather than His spirit offspring, reach the inevitable conclusion that we do not have the capacity to become like our creator, God. In essence, their doctrine of identity has defined and dictated a diminished destiny. ​ (Elder Tad R. Callister, *Our Identity and Destiny,* BYU Speeches, Aug. 14, 2012)

**Question 4 to discuss together: What is unique about us compared to all the other creations of God? And why is it so important for you to understand the difference?**

1. Speaking of how we can come to know the Father, Elder Quentin L. Cook and President Dallin H. Oaks made the following observations:

When we seek to know the Father through patterns of righteous family life, we begin to understand the depth of love He has for us and begin to feel a deeper love for Him. Efforts to distort and destroy the family are designed to keep the Father’s children from feeling His love drawing them back home to Him. ​(Elder Quentin L. Cook, Ensign, February 2012)

In contrast to the belief that God is an incomprehensible and unknowable mystery is the truth that the nature of God and our relationship to Him is knowable and is the key to everything else in our doctrine.  (Elder Dallin H. Oaks, CR April 2017)

**Question 5 to discuss together: How does thinking about yourself as a son or daughter of God help you understand the Father?**

1. Pick a member of the Godhead. Consider each of the following questions for that member:
   1. What reasons are there for uniquely loving this particular member of the Godhead? ​
   2. What facts should we remember as we consider this member of the Godhead? ​
   3. How can we more fully appreciate and use the help of this member of the Godhead? ​
   4. What goal would you suggest for us to work on concerning this member of the Godhead?

**Question 6 to discuss together: What insights do you gain as you think of a specific member of the Godhead in this way?**

1. Once, when some members of the Church were focusing inordinately on having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, Elder Bruce R. McConkie taught:

Our relationship with the Father is supreme, paramount, and preeminent over all others. He is the God we worship. It is his gospel that saves and exalts. He ordained and established the plan of salvation. He is the one who was once as we are now. The life he lives is eternal life, and if we are to gain this greatest of all the gifts of God, it will be because we become like him. ​

Our relationship with the Father is one of parent and child.  He is the one who gave us our agency. It was his plan that provided for a fall and an atonement. And it is to him that we must be reconciled if we are to gain salvation. He is the one to whom we have direct access by prayer, and if there were some need—which there is not!—to single out one member of the Godhead for a  special relationship, the Father, not the Son, would be the one to choose. (Our Relationship with the Lord, Elder Bruce R. McConkie, 1982)

The relationship between the three members of the Godhead was explained by the Church in the following manner:

The Latter-Day Saints view of the members of the Godhead corresponds in a number of ways with the views of others in the Christian world, but with significant differences. Latter-day Saints pray to God the Father in the name of Jesus Christ. They acknowledge the Father as the ultimate object of their worship, the Son as Lord and Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit as the messenger and revealer of the Father and the Son. But where Latter-day Saints differ from other Christian religions is in their belief that God and Jesus Christ are glorified, physical beings and that each member of the Godhead is a separate being.  ​([churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/gospel-topics/godhead](https://abn.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/gospel-topics/godhead?lang=eng&abVersion=V03&abName=GLOB88))

Finally, President Gordon B. Hinckley stressed the unique claim that God the Father has on our devotions:

This is the Almighty of whom I stand in awe and reverence. It is He to whom I look in fear and trembling. It is He whom I worship and unto whom I give honor and praise and glory. He is my Heavenly Father, who has invited me to come unto Him in prayer, to speak with Him, with the promised assurance that He will hear and respond.  (President Gordon B. Hinckley, Ensign, March 1998) ​

**Question 7 to discuss together: How can you deepen your love and relationship with your Heavenly Father?​**

\*Discussion Notes\*

Question #3: **How does truly internalizing the knowledge that God is your literal father give you courage, orientation, and confidence?**

**- I made the following parallel: Whenever I am confused or unsure about something, I always turn to my own earthly father for advice, because he has proven himself to be very wise and thoughtful in the past. Getting advice or wisdom from him gives me confidence because I know that not only is he wise, but he also has my best interests in mind because I am his son, and he loves me. Similarly, I can turn to my Heavenly Father for help when I need it because I know that He is my father and loves me as well, and as such, He also has my best interests in mind. I can take confidence in the answers of the spirit that I receive from my Heavenly Father because I know that He will never lead me astray or give me bad direction, because that’s not what a loving Heavenly Father would do.**

Question #5: **How does thinking about yourself as a son or daughter of God help you understand the Father?**

**- Knowing that I am a son of God makes me realize that I have a reputation and a legacy to live up to. Once again, I will draw a parallel to my own family. I have the same last name as my family, and whenever I introduce myself to people, I am telling them that I represent not only my immediate family, but also everyone who has ever borne my surname. This knowledge makes me want to be a good person and always do good, because I want to make my family look good. Similarly, because I am a son of God, and a Christian, I inherently represent Jesus Christ and Heavenly Father, whether or not I realize it. Everyone who meets me is getting a representation of how a Christian talks, acts, behaves, etc. I want to make God and Jesus look as good to other people, so I strive to live righteously so that others get a good impression of them.**