3. Teach by likening the scriptures to the lives of the learners (cf. 1 Ne. 19:23–24; 2 Ne. 11:2, 8).

These imperatives are reflected in teacher development manuals and courses, which reach hundreds of thousands of members each year in group efforts to inculcate, refresh, and improve teaching skills. They are implicit also in the teacher manuals that are published with student manuals for all classes and quorums of the Church.

Church leaders and teachers constantly emphasize the scriptures as the basis of personal and Church class study. Familiarity with the scriptures is viewed as basic to understanding the gospel and to the development of faith and testimony. Daily scripture study in the home and during family home evening is recommended for all members of all ages and in all Church callings.

Teaching the gospel is more than sharing knowledge. It also involves creating an atmosphere in which the spirit of the learner is touched and the intimate and ultimate stirrings of the soul are related to truth. Latter-day Saints recognize that to teach knowledge and wisdom is a spiritual gift to be sought earnestly (D&C 46:16–18). Only when the Holy Ghost, or “spirit of truth”—enhancing the light of Christ (D&C 93:2)—is present is there genuine communication. Then teacher and learner “understand one another, and both are edified and rejoice together” (D&C 50:21–22).

Because of the multicultural base of the Church and its rapid growth, gospel teachers are asked to teach a wide array of members with radically different backgrounds, needs, and levels of understanding and spiritual preparation. This continues to be a major challenge to the Church.

ADRIAN P. VAN MONDFRANS

TELESTIAL KINGDOM

The telestial kingdom in Latter-day Saint understanding is the lowest of the three degrees of glory to be inhabited by God’s children in the afterlife following the resurrection. The Doctrine and Covenants is the only known scriptural source for the word “telestial” (see D&C 76:88, 98, 109; 88:21). Paul spoke of the differing glories, comparing them to the differences in light we see from the sun, moon, and stars (1 Cor. 15:40–42), mentioning the celestial and terrestrial by name. Although the term “telestial” does not occur in biblical accounts, latter-day revelation cites telestial as the kingdom of glory typified by the lesser light we perceive from the stars (D&C 76:98). The celestial kingdom and terrestrial kingdom are typified by the light we perceive from the sun and moon, respectively.

Within the telestial glory there will be varying degrees of glory even as the stars vary in brightness as we see them. It embraces those who on earth willfully reject the gospel of Jesus Christ, and commit serious sins such as murder, adultery, lying, and loving to make a lie (but yet do not commit the unpardonable sin), and who do not repent in mortality. They will be cleansed in the postmortal spirit world or spirit prison before the resurrection (D&C 76:81–85, 98–106; Rev. 22:15). Telestial inhabitants as innumerable as the stars will come forth in the last resurrection and then be “servants of the Most High; but where God and Christ dwell they cannot come” (D&C 76:112). Although the least of the degrees of glory, yet the telestial kingdom “surpasses all understanding” (D&C 76:59).

[See also Degrees of Glory.]

CLYDE J. WILLIAMS

TEMPLE AND FAMILY HISTORY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

See: Temples: Administration of Temples