

## 235.1: Homecoming (D&C Gospel Doctrine Lesson 12, Updated)

### [“The Gathering of My People”](#)

**Manual Goal:** To help class members understand how latter-day Israel was gathered in the early days of the Church, how it is being gathered today, and how they can participate in this gathering.

**EGD Goal:** To inspire class members to make their homes and communities a gathering place and refuge as they lovingly support each other in the spirit of Zion

#### Outline

- I. Framing
- II. Discussion of new resources
- III. Gathering
  - a. Early Saints and Zion
  - b. Jesus and symbolic Israel
  - c. Zion and gathering in our lives
- IV. Productive Sunday Schooling
  - a. Empathy and admiration for the sacrifice, dedication, cooperation of the early Saints
  - b. Practical focus on how we can nurture Zion in our own communities
- V. Conclusion

**Framing:** How many of us have wondered whether we would need to dramatically move to Jackson County, Missouri? We are all ready right? I’ve said before that the Second Coming is the “action movie gospel topic”. It is easy to get excited about the dramatic and unusual. And the history of the early Church was filled with just that... heroic journeys, sacrifice, giving all, building new communities, joining heaven and earth.

In our day, “gathering” is more subtle but not necessarily less powerful. A friend recently used “home” as a verb and that struck me. Where are we “homed”? With whom? I suggest we focus this episode on how we can be gathered and welcomed—in ourselves, our relationships, and our communities.

#### New Resources

#### [Lesson 12: “The Gathering of My People”](#)

- [“A Mission to the Lamanites”](#): This article describes the mission that led to the first conversions in Ohio and Missouri. I really wish this essay had touched on the deeply problematic nature of efforts to convert Native Americans, and contextualized missionary efforts within the troubling history of Native Americans in general.

- [“Go to the Ohio”](#): This article gives context for the Saints’ gathering to Ohio. Very interesting to read more about Sidney Rigdon’s background. Touched by the idea of these saints leaving their homes and finding new communities together.
- [“The Center Place”](#): This article gives context for the revelations now known as Doctrine and Covenants 52, 57, and 58. I appreciated the contextualizing in Christian history. I’m also impressed by how thorough the discussion of land ownership complicates and problematizes the Mormon idea of Zion. Gaining and losing home... The “Jew and Gentile” commentary seemed a bit of a stretch. I approve of the wording that “all nations of the earth” should come together in Zion. “Refuge” is a powerful and beautiful word/idea.
- [“The Journey of the Colesville Branch”](#): This article describes the experience of Saints from the Colesville Branch in New York with the gathering to Ohio and Missouri. I’m impressed that treasure seeking is mentioned. I found this article to be very poignant, as it describes the saints moving from place to place, all together, in search of their “gathering place”. The saints moved from Colesville New York to Ohio to Missouri, finally settling in Nauvoo. It is also poignant that founding members of the branch died traveling from Nauvoo to Utah.
  
- Gathering
  - Early Saints and Zion
  - Jesus and symbolic Israel (replaced lineage and even religious affiliation with intention/heart being in the right place)
  - Zion and gathering in our lives
    - Gathered into what? What is family and why is it important?
    - Finding home, finding family “Collecting Family”
    - Coming home to ourselves
    - Making our communities (families, wards), a gathering place and refuge (Zion, on the same team)
- Productive Sunday Schooling
  - Empathy and admiration for the sacrifice, dedication, cooperation of the early Saints
  - Practical focus on how we can nurture Zion in our own communities
- Conclusion

Resource: The Church and Refugees

<https://www.lds.org/church/news/president-uchtdorf-speaks-to-fellow-refugees?lang=eng>

<https://www.lds.org/church/news/president-uchtdorf-recalls-being-a-refugee-asks-members-to-reach-out?lang=eng>