

A Pattern of Precise Behavior

October 2011 Visiting Teaching Message Aid

The mothers of Helaman's warriors (Alma 53; 56-58) had a tremendous impact on their rising generation. As a result of their mothers' examples and teachings, the stripling warriors faced adversity with great courage, faith, and exact obedience. They surely saw how their parents kept with precision the covenants that they had made with God, and learned from their examples to do the same. We can have the same powerful effect on the youth in our circles of influence.

"When we honor our covenants, Heavenly Father can prepare the way for us. We are to live our covenants with precision. We can, for example, be precise in praying, in studying the scriptures, in holding a current temple recommend, in dressing modestly, in honoring the Sabbath. As we do so, our children will know and be able to say, "We do not doubt our mothers knew it" (Alma 56:48).

-Julie B. Beck, Relief Society General President

This matter of precise covenant keeping can be likened unto the pattern in a beautiful tapestry. As our own pattern of behavior is consistently obedient to God's commandments, the beauty of gospel living will be evident to those that are watching and learning from our examples. There will doubtless be times that we miss a stitch in our pattern, that we may need to go back and fill in a design that was overlooked in error, but the important thing is that we are consistently striving to keep our patterns of behavior clean, bright and true.

This small "tapestry" has some ways in which we can live our covenants with precision. You might consider these ways and others in which you can be completely obedient to the covenants you have made, and then use the tapestry as a guide to be 100% obedient in these things. Over the period of a couple weeks, color in a little of the pattern each day, until the tapestry is filled with your pattern of faith and commitment to the Lord.

Thought question: How can I recognize and act on the power I have to influence the rising generation?

