

# Frequently Asked Questions



## What is the purpose of temples?

Latter-day Saint temples are considered houses of God, places of holiness and peace separate from the preoccupations of the world. They provide a place where Church members make formal promises and commitments to God. They are also the place where the highest sacraments of the faith occur — the marriage of couples and the “sealing” of families for eternity.

Temples serve as the only place where ceremonies such as baptism and eternal marriage can be performed in behalf of those who have died — a practice that Latter-day Saints believe was followed in New Testament times but that later was lost.

Temples point Latter-day Saints to Jesus Christ and their eventual life with Him, their Heavenly Father and their family members on the condition of faithfulness to Christ’s teachings.

## What is it like inside a temple?

The interior of Latter-day Saint temples does not resemble a great hall or cathedral. Temples consist of a number of rooms designed to accommodate certain functions such as marriages, baptisms and religious instructional sessions. Inside temples, Church members change into simple, modest, white clothing before taking part in temple ceremonies. The white clothing symbolizes purity and equality before God.

## Will members of the public ever see the inside of a temple?

Yes. After a temple is built or remodeled, the general public is invited to an open house — typically scheduled for a period of two weeks or more. During the open house, members of the public have the opportunity to tour the temple and ask questions about the different functions and ceremonies performed in the temple.

## What is the difference between a temple and a chapel?

Temples are not regular places of Sunday worship for members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. They are quite different from the thousands of regular chapels or meetinghouses all over the world that are used for Sunday services.

Anyone, regardless of religion, may enter a Latter-day Saint meetinghouse and attend services. However, because of the sacredness of temples as “houses of the Lord,” only members of the Church who are in good standing are allowed to enter. A member must be observing the basic principles of the faith and attest to that fact to his or her local leader to attend the temple.

## What will happen to the value of the property around the temple?

Experience worldwide demonstrates that temples positively impact property values. Latter-day Saint temples are built using the finest craftsmanship and materials available. They are beautifully landscaped and maintained and designed to complement the community.

## Will the temple cause traffic and parking problems?

No. The temple’s purpose is to accommodate small groups throughout the day rather than large congregations at one time. Consequently, traffic flow is well within the capacity of local roads to handle. Ample parking is available on site. It is not designed to accommodate large numbers of people at any one time. Since temple activity is spread out over the day, traffic flow is normal.

During the open house period and dedication (both of which are one-time events), local Church leaders work closely with neighbors to minimize the impact of traffic and parking and to ensure continued access to homes and businesses.

### **Will the Church use this temple as a center to proselytize our community?**

No. Temples are used only for performing sacred ordinances and not as centers for local congregations or for proselytizing.

### **Who does the statue on the temple represent?**

On most temples there is a golden statue of a man in flowing robes, with a long horn pressed to his lips. The statue depicts the angel Moroni, an ancient prophet and a central figure in the Book of Mormon — accepted by Latter-day Saints as scripture, along with the Bible. The statue is symbolic of preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ to the world.

### **Is there a historical precedent for Latter-day Saint temples?**

Yes. There were temples anciently during the time of both the Old and New Testaments. In the Old Testament, Moses had the children of Israel carry with them the Tabernacle (a large, portable temple) as they wandered in the wilderness. King Solomon built and dedicated the great temple that was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 B.C. It was rebuilt and later substantially expanded, but again destroyed by the Romans in A.D. 70. The great Western Wall can still be seen in Jerusalem today and even after millennia, remains a sacred site for Jews. The New Testament gives an account of Jesus Christ clearing the temple when its sacredness was violated by people using its courts as a common market.