

12. We believe in being subject to kings, presidents, rulers and magistrates, in obeying, honoring and sustaining the law.

A **King** means a male monarch that is of royal birth.

A **President** means the chief officer of a country who is usually elected by voting.

A **Ruler** is a person who controls the land within a limited area.

A **Magistrate** is a main official who rules over a major political unit.

(See Webster's Dictionary)

Basically, it doesn't matter what the definition, they all have the commonality of 'being the main leader over a nation, a state, or a country, or a political area.'

A **subject** is also another name for citizen.

So, in essence, we are citizens under the ruling leader of the land we are in.

Obey means to comply with, to go along with.

Honor means to respect.

Sustain means to support as it is true and legal.

“Obey the Law”

By Susan L. Warner

We believe ... in obeying honoring, and sustaining the law (A of F 1:12).

Susan L. Warner, "Sharing Time: Obey the Law," *Friend*, Oct. 1995, 12

"Have you ever tried to play a game with someone who doesn't know the rules? You end up spending all your time deciding whose turn it is or what should happen next. When each person who is playing the game knows the rules and follows them, everyone can have fun.

"We also need rules or laws to help us live together in safety and peace. As members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, we believe in honoring and obeying the laws of the countries where we live.

"Jesus knew that it was important to obey the laws of the land. In the country where He lived, Caesar was the ruler. When the people asked Jesus if they should obey the law, He told the people to "render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's" (Matt. 22:21). In other words, Jesus taught us to obey and honor both the laws of the land, or nation, we live in, and God's laws.

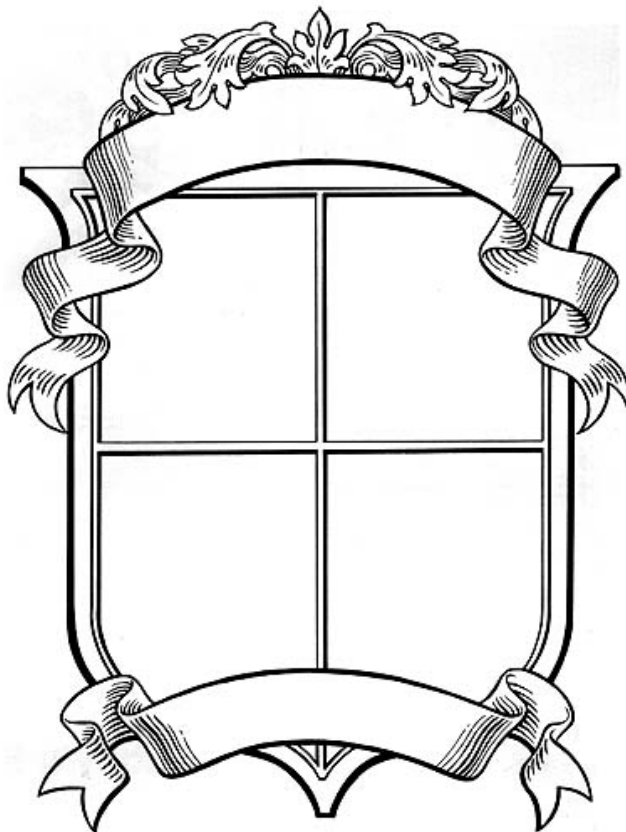
"Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ have given us certain laws to live by so that we can be happy in this life and prepare to live with Them again. The rules and laws in our countries are meant to help us live

together in safety and peace with our neighbors. We also have rules in our families to help us live, work, and play together in love and harmony.

“Each country has laws that need to be obeyed. For example, Trevor, age 6, of Japan said, “When we walk to school, we can only walk where the cars cannot go.” Ji Hae, age 10, of Korea added, “In my country, you cannot drive a car unless you have a license.” According to David, age 9, of Canada, “In my country, we are not supposed to take drugs.” Annie, age 11, of China explained, “When I ride my bike in China, I must obey traffic laws. We do not ride bikes on sidewalks in China. Our sidewalks are for people who are walking.” Kirstie, age 8, of England shared, “When you drive, you mustn’t go over the speed limit. When you work and earn money, you have to pay taxes.”

Activity:

A coat of arms tells a story about a family and often includes a motto, or rule, the family tries to live by. In some countries, coats of arms have been used for centuries. Using the pattern on page 13, design your own coat of arms. Write your name in the banner at the bottom of the shield. In one section of the shield, draw a picture of your country’s flag. In another section, draw a picture of something that represents your family. In another section draw something that illustrates one of God’s laws. In the last section, draw something that represents you (a picture of yourself; a soccer ball; a musical instrument; your favorite color, animal, book, or place; your house). Think of a motto and write it in the banner at the top of the shield. You may choose from this list or think of another one: “I Am a Child of God,” “Love One Another,” “I Will Follow Jesus,” “I Love Truth,” “Choose the Right.”



“The Miraculous Constitution”

By President Ezra Taft Benson

Adapted from *The Constitution—a Heavenly Banner*, pages 11-12, 15, 31.

[Ezra Taft Benson, “The Miraculous Constitution,” *Friend*, Sept. 1987, inside front cover](#)

”George Washington referred to the Constitution of the United States as a miracle. In a revelation to the Prophet Joseph Smith, the Savior declared, “I established the Constitution of this land, by the hands of wise men whom I raised up unto this very purpose” (D&C 101:80). These were not ordinary men, but men chosen and held in reserve by the Lord for this very purpose.

“Shortly after President Spencer W. Kimball became President of the Church, we met together in one of our weekly meetings. We spoke of the sacred records that are in the vaults of the various temples in the Church. As I was to fill a conference assignment in St. George, Utah, President Kimball asked me to go into the vault and check the early records. As I did so, I realized the fulfillment of a dream that I had had ever since learning of the visit of the Founding Fathers to the St. George Temple. I saw with my own eyes the records of the work that was done for the Founding Fathers of this great nation, beginning with George Washington. Think of it—the Founding Fathers of this nation, those great men, appeared within those sacred walls and had their vicarious work done for them!

“But we honor more than those who brought forth the Constitution. We honor the Lord who revealed it. God Himself has borne witness to the fact that He is pleased with the final product of the work of these great patriots.

“In a revelation to the Prophet Joseph Smith on August 6, 1833, the Savior admonished: “I, the Lord, justify you, and your brethren of my church, in befriending that law which is the constitutional law of the land” (D&C 98:6).

“I reverence the Constitution of the United States as a sacred document. To me its words are akin to the revelations of God, for God has placed His stamp of approval on the Constitution of this land. I testify that the God of heaven sent some of His choicest spirits to lay the foundation of this government, and He has sent other choice spirits—even you who read my words—to preserve it.”

“Courageous Queen Esther”

By Jane McBride Choate

(See Esth. 1-10.)

[Jane McBride Choate, “Courageous Queen Esther,” *Friend*, May 1986, 48](#)

”Esther lived in the home of her cousin, Mordecai, and his family. Mordecai was a gatekeeper at Shushan, the palace of King Ahasuerus of Persia, who lived about five hundred years before Jesus was born.

“When the king desired to choose a new queen, the most beautiful young women of the kingdom were presented to him, including Esther. King Ahasuerus fell in love with Esther and chose her to be his queen. He placed the crown on her head and held a special feast in her honor.

“One day, while he was guarding the palace gate, Mordecai overheard two unfaithful servants plotting to kill the king. He told Esther, who quickly informed the king. The men were arrested, tried, and hanged.

“Though Mordecai served the king loyally, he refused to obey a law that all the king’s servants must bow down before Haman, the king’s adviser. Haman was furious. Learning that Mordecai was a Jew, Haman schemed to punish all the Jews in the land. He told the king lies about the Jews, saying that they lived their own laws only and did not keep the laws of the land. Cunningly he asked the king’s permission to have all the Jews killed, and he promised that if this decree were carried out, he would contribute ten thousand talents of silver to the king’s treasury. Because he trusted Haman, King Ahasuerus agreed to the plan and told Haman to keep the talents.

“When the Jews learned of the plan to kill them, they began to fast and to pray to the Lord. They dressed themselves in sackcloth and covered their bodies with ashes to indicate their mourning. Mordecai, too, put on sackcloth and ashes and cried aloud at the gates of the palace.

“Esther was afraid for Mordecai, because appearing near the palace in sackcloth and ashes was against the law. She sent him fine clothes, but he refused to accept them. Instead, he told her servants about Haman’s plot and gave them a copy of the king’s proclamation ordering the death of the Jews. He asked that his cousin plead with the king to not destroy their people.

“Esther sent word to Mordecai that to go unbidden to the king might mean her death and she was afraid. When Mordecai heard this he sent word to Esther that because she was a Jew she would be killed anyway. He told her that perhaps she was queen at this time just so that she could save her people. Esther asked Mordecai to have the Jews in Shushan fast for three days and told him that she and her servants would do the same. She concluded her message with this promise: “And so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish.”

“After the three days, Esther dressed herself in beautiful clothes and entered the inner court of the palace. She stood in front of King Ahasuerus and waited. If he was pleased to see her, he would raise his golden scepter and she would not be killed.

“King Ahasuerus motioned Esther to come forward. After she touched the scepter, he asked, “What wilt thou, Queen Esther? and what is thy request? it shall be even given thee to the half of the kingdom.”

“Esther asked that he and Haman have dinner with her. Then, as they enjoyed the feast, the king again asked what Esther wished of him. She asked only that he and Haman again have dinner with her the next day.

“Haman bragged to his wife and friends about the special attention shown to him by the queen. However, he was still angry that Mordecai refused to bow down before him. His wife and friends suggested that he build a gallows from which to hang Mordecai, and Haman had it done immediately.

“That night King Ahasuerus couldn’t sleep, so he asked that the daily records be brought to him. While studying them, he became aware of Mordecai’s part in saving his life. The next day, desiring to reward Mordecai, he asked Haman what he thought should be given to a man deserving great honors. Haman believed that the king was speaking of him. He answered that such a man should wear royal clothing,

including a crown, and ride a beautiful horse through the city while his honor was proclaimed. Haman was very sorrowful when King Ahasuerus directed him to so honor Mordecai!

“Later, when the king and Haman once more dined with Esther, the king again asked Esther what she desired. Esther then revealed that she was a Jew. She reminded him of the decree to slay all her people and told him how Haman had plotted against them. Accusing the king’s adviser required tremendous courage, but Esther didn’t waver. Under Persian law, the king’s orders, once given, could not be changed. Knowing this, Esther requested that the Jews be allowed to defend themselves on the day that Haman had named for their slaughter. The king granted his permission and also ordered that Haman be hanged from the gallows that he had had built for Mordecai.

“After the fighting had ended, a special feast was held to celebrate this deliverance of the Jews. Called the Feast of Purim, it was then established as a yearly celebration of the blessings received from the Lord during this time. Mordecai was appointed to be next to the king in power, and he and Queen Esther received honor from the Jews for saving their people.

Activity:

Go on a field trip to tour your local sheriff’s department or police station. Be sure to have permission slips for the children and pre-arrange with the sheriff or police. Have them explain the way they enforce the law of the land. The officers are very kind to show the cells they hold the ‘bad’ people in, a patrol car, and they will also talk with the girls about what to do to be good citizens. After you enjoy the field trip, be sure to send the touring officer a personalized thank-you note with the childrens’ signatures. They really love it!! Another field trip possibility is to attend a town council meeting. This shows the children where the laws are enforced for the area they live in.

SAFETY Quiz

"Safety Quiz," *Friend*, Sept. 1977, 43

Are you a careful person? See how many true or false statements you can score correctly on this safety quiz.

- 1. You should plan to arrive at school with at least five minutes to spare.
- 2. The best route to school is the shortest one.
- 3. It is unwise to accept rides from strangers.
- 4. In bad weather or when it's dark, you should wear something white or bright colored.
- 5. Talk as loudly as you want when on the school bus.
- 6. While riding the school bus, students are responsible to the bus driver.
- 7. When riding a bike with others, ride single file and in the same direction as the traffic.
- 8. The shapes of road signs have different meanings.
- 9. When crossing the street one place is as good as any other.
- 10. If you ride on a school bus, safety is your responsibility too.
- 11. It isn't necessary to walk you bike across busy intersections.
- 12. It isn't wise to use the handrail when getting off the school bus.
- 13. Safety patrol guards can help you across the street safely.
- 14. Courtesy doesn't really matter when getting on the school bus.
- 15. Students must not extend their arms, hands, or heads through bus windows.
- 16. When there is no sidewalk, it doesn't matter which side of the road you walk on.
- 17. Drivers can't see as well in bad weather.
- 18. You should wait in a pedestrian crosswalk until a car passes since it has the right of way.
- 19. A green light facing you when you cross an intersection means that it is safe to walk.
- 20. In an emergency, stay in your seat until you're told what to do.
- 21. A bus should come to a complete stop before you get on or off.
- 22. It's all right to run across the street without looking either way.