

Come to the Lord in His Holy House

Elder Gerrit W. Gong, *Quorum of the Twelve Apostles*

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION • SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026 • OCTOBER 2026 GENERAL CONFERENCE

THE BIG IDEA

The temple is the Lord's holy house, where Jesus Christ helps us heal, keep our covenants, and bind families together forever on both sides of the veil.

You'll need: A picture of any temple (exterior), paper strips + tape for a paper chain, a phone or computer with a family tree app (optional).

1 HOOK

2 MIN

RIDDLE Elder Gong opened General Conference with a riddle. Read it, then give everyone 10 seconds to guess: Why did the temple workers cross the road?

Then: His answer: "To help the people on the other side." (Yes, Theo, it's a dad joke.) It's also the whole talk. And at the very end, Elder Gong gives a second answer that's way bigger. Listen for it.

2 KEY TEACHINGS FROM ELDER GONG

8–10 MIN

1 Why the temple? So families can come home, together and happy

"First doctrinal foundation: Heavenly Father's work and glory is for us to return to Him, united as families, happy and forever."

— Elder Gerrit W. Gong • exact words

FOR AGES 8–11: MAKE IT CONCRETE

Think of a family road trip. The goal isn't just that somebody gets there. It's that everyone gets there, together, and still talking to each other. Heavenly Father's plan is like that: home, together, happy, forever.

DEEP CUT • AGES 12–16

Elder Gong also said, "Temple marriages are meant to last forever." He said covenant families stay together not just until it stops being convenient, but by covenant commitment, sacrifice, and consecration. Ask: how is a covenant different from a deal you keep only while it's convenient?

2 Jesus Christ helps us change, forgive, and mend

"Agency, faith and repentance, and Jesus Christ's Atonement make change and forgiveness possible."

— Elder Gerrit W. Gong • exact words

"Jesus Christ can help us mend, forgive, move forward."

— Elder Gerrit W. Gong • exact words

FOR AGES 8–11: MAKE IT CONCRETE

Make a paper chain. Rip one link (like a sibling fight over the front seat), then tape it back. Because of Jesus Christ, broken things in families can be mended. Elder Gong said people who did temple work for a family member they'd had a hard time with found their hearts softening.

DEEP CUT • AGES 12–16

Third doctrinal foundation (the one most people miss): covenants become binding when the Holy Spirit of Promise confirms them, and he said we shouldn't expect covenants we don't honor in faith or action to bind us. In normal words: the covenants you actually keep are the ones that last. Also: "Please do not deliberately delay the spiritual peace and joyful freedom Jesus Christ wants you to have now." If there's something to fix, today works.

3 Build your own temple culture

"We can come to the temple more often. We can search and bring more family names to bless deceased loved ones."

— Elder Gerrit W. Gong · exact words

FOR AGES 8–11: MAKE IT CONCRETE

Elder Gong gave five things to build: (1) a dedication is a beginning, (2) go more often and bring names, (3) everything in each temple points to Jesus Christ, (4) be grateful, (5) someday, have your own temple clothes. Not old enough to go yet? Help find the names. Youth can start doing baptisms for ancestors the year they turn 12.

DEEP CUT · AGES 12–16

His parents were the only members in their families. To anyone who feels alone, he said: "Some new converts feel alone. But you are part of Heavenly Father's family." Then to all of us: "Whatever generation you are in the Church, in the chain of your eternal family, please be a strong link." What would being a strong link look like for you?

3 INTERACTIVE MOMENT

2–3 MIN

QUICK POLL → TRICK QUESTION Show (or describe) two temples: A is huge with tall spires; B is small, in a little town. Everyone vote with a hand: which temple is holier? Three seconds.

Reveal: Trick question. Someone told Elder Gong they were sorry their temple was small. He answered: "Covenants are not big or small." He added: "But please, while we are grateful our temples and everything in them are physically beautiful, let us celebrate and treasure even more the spiritual blessings temples bring."

4 TALK ABOUT IT

3 MIN

YOUNGER (8–11)

If you could learn about one ancestor and help take their name to the temple, who would you want it to be, and why?

OLDER (12–16)

Elder Gong said covenants we don't honor aren't binding. Why do you think God cares so much about keeping a covenant, not just making it?

5 RECAP: THE KIDS EXPLAIN IT

2 MIN

Go back to the riddle. Ask the kids: what is Elder Gong's second, bigger answer to why the temple workers cross the road? Let them try first, then read his words: "So, why did the temple workers cross the road? So God and temple ordinances can protect, bless, and inspire; bring forgiveness, healing, and peace; and unite loved ones here and away."

Listen for: Families forever. Jesus helps us mend. Keep (not just make) covenants. Help the people on the other side. Every temple is holy.

6 TESTIMONY OF JESUS CHRIST

1 MIN

Elder Gong said: "In a world of commotion, contention, and cares, the Lord invites us to a place of spiritual safety, harmony, and holiness—the house of the Lord." A parent or grandparent briefly shares a time the temple (or just its grounds) brought peace, and what they know about Jesus Christ because of it.

7 THIS WEEK, AS A FAMILY

1 MIN

ONE THING TO DO Elder Gong's counsel: "Look for the miracles." This week, find one ancestor together on a family tree, write their name on a paper link, and hang it by your temple picture. Youth can plan to take it to the temple.

☐ Mon ☐ Tue ☐ Wed ☐ Thu ☐ Fri ☐ Sat ☐ Sun

Scripture: Moses 1:39; Malachi 4:5–6; Doctrine and Covenants 109:12–13 · **Full talk:** [churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2026/10/12gong](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2026/10/12gong)

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