

Jesus Christ Is the Great Deliverer!

Elder Kevin J. Hathaway, *Seventy*

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

THE BIG IDEA

When I turn to Jesus Christ in hard times, He gives me peace and strength, and He will deliver me in His time and His way.

You'll need: Four index cards labeled: Opposition, Sincere seeking, Grace to endure, Deliverance.

1 HOOK

2 MIN

QUICK STORY Elder Hathaway's family was driving two cars to start serving as mission leaders. In a construction zone, two huge tires came loose from a semitruck and smashed into both cars. Airbags exploded. Both cars were destroyed. Ask: what would your first thought be?

Then: They wondered why this happened when they'd left everything to serve the Lord. Then the Spirit brought peace: everything would be all right. They weren't rescued from the trial right away, but they had hope. They arrived on time, without serious injury.

2 KEY TEACHINGS FROM ELDER HATHAWAY

8–10 MIN

1 Hard questions are a place to turn toward Jesus

"Such questions and emotions are not sin or weakness; they can create a sacred space where agency is activated and we choose whether to turn toward Jesus Christ."

— Elder Kevin J. Hathaway • exact words

FOR AGES 8–11: MAKE IT CONCRETE

Even Joseph Smith, in a cold jail, cried, "O God, where art thou?" (D&C 121:1). Asking hard questions doesn't mean your faith is broken. It's a moment to choose which way to turn.

DEEP CUT • AGES 12–16

Turning toward Him looks like heartfelt prayer, purposeful fasting, and scripture study. King Darius fasted all night while Daniel was in the lions' den. Ask: when you have a hard question, where do you usually turn first: your phone, a friend, or God?

2 Grace helps us endure, even when the pain doesn't leave yet

"This grace does not remove the pain and difficulty of affliction; it is an enabling power that allows us, after all we can do, to receive divine strength beyond our own and lay hold on eternal promises through Jesus Christ."

— Elder Kevin J. Hathaway • exact words

FOR AGES 8–11: MAKE IT CONCRETE

Sister Kenzie Brinkerhoff was one week from coming home from her mission when her dad died in an accident. A few weeks later she said: "I know that Jesus knows what this feels like, and He will heal me."

DEEP CUT • AGES 12–16

Kenzie also said, "I have never clung so tightly to my covenants." Covenants are like handholds on a climbing wall: they don't make the wall shorter, but they give you something solid to hold. Enabling grace means strength beyond your own, not the absence of hard things.

3 Not if, but how and when

“His deliverance is certain; the question for most righteous followers is not if He will deliver but how and when He will do so.”

— Elder Kevin J. Hathaway · exact words

“Some miracles are immediate, some come after long waiting, and some await the Resurrection.”

— Elder Kevin J. Hathaway · exact words

FOR AGES 8–11: MAKE IT CONCRETE

When Jairus heard his daughter had died, Jesus told him, “Be not afraid, only believe.” (Mark 5:36) Then Jesus raised her. No situation is too late for Him.

DEEP CUT · AGES 12–16

Why would God wait? Elder Hathaway said: “To Kenzie and all who wait for divine deliverance, I testify that the Lord is not delayed, distracted, or derelict in His deliverance.” He also said: “However, He knows that lessons learned while waiting can bring converting growth that an earlier rescue might not produce.” What’s something waiting taught you that a quick fix wouldn’t have?

3 INTERACTIVE MOMENT

2–3 MIN

PUT IT IN ORDER (QUICK GAME) Shuffle the four cards (Opposition, Sincere seeking, Grace to endure, Deliverance) and hand them to the youngest. Can they put Elder Hathaway’s pattern in order? Teens can check and explain each step with an example.

Reveal: Opposition brings hard questions → sincere seeking (prayer, fasting, scriptures) → assurances and grace to endure → deliverance in the Savior’s time and way.

4 TALK ABOUT IT

3 MIN

YOUNGER (8–11)

When you feel scared or sad, what helps you remember Jesus is with you?

OLDER (12–16)

Which is harder for you: a sudden problem, or a long wait for an answer? Why?

5 RECAP: THE KIDS EXPLAIN IT

2 MIN

Have the kids explain the pattern using the hook story: what was the opposition, the assurance, and the deliverance in the car accident? Then: is the question IF Jesus will deliver, or HOW and WHEN?

Listen for: Hard questions aren’t weakness. Turn toward Him. Grace gives strength to endure. Deliverance is certain, in His time and way.

6 TESTIMONY OF JESUS CHRIST

1 MIN

A parent shares a time Jesus Christ delivered your family, or gave peace while you were still waiting.

7 THIS WEEK, AS A FAMILY

1 MIN

ONE THING TO DO This week, start a family deliverance list on the fridge. Whenever someone prays about something hard and notices help or peace, add one line.

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

Scripture: Mark 5:36; Mosiah 24:13–15; Alma 7:11–12 · **Full talk:** churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2026/10/16hathaway

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