

Take Upon Us His Name

Elder James G. O. Fantone, *Seventy*

SUNDAY MORNING SESSION • SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2026 • OCTOBER 2026 GENERAL CONFERENCE

THE BIG IDEA

Taking Jesus Christ's name upon me is more than adding a label; it means serving Him by serving others, and that service changes my heart.

You'll need: A pen and a sticky note for each person.

1 HOOK

2 MIN

RIDDLE Signing his daughter's school form, Elder Fantone was distracted and wrote his own name, James Fantone, where her name should go. He fixed it in about two seconds without crossing anything out. How? (Hint: her full name is Amanda James Fantone.)

Then: He just added Amanda in front of his name. Easy fix. But later he thought: what's in a name? And he realized the Savior doesn't want us to just add His name to ours like that.

2 KEY TEACHINGS FROM ELDER FANTONE

8–10 MIN

1 Not just a badge

"The Savior's invitation is not merely for us to add His name to our name like a badge of religious affiliation."

— Elder James G. O. Fantone • exact words

FOR AGES 8–11: MAKE IT CONCRETE

Wearing a team jersey doesn't make you a player. Showing up to practice and playing with the team does. Jesus wants us to take His name and live like Him, not just wear a label.

DEEP CUT • AGES 12–16

"His invitation is for us to take upon us His name. It is an invitation to become more like Him through covenant keeping." The Savior warned about people who draw near Him with their lips while their hearts are far away (Joseph Smith—History 1:19). How can you tell the difference in yourself?

2 We take His name by serving

"Taking upon us His name requires a lifelong determination to serve Him."

— Elder James G. O. Fantone • exact words

FOR AGES 8–11: MAKE IT CONCRETE

Elder Fantone grew up in a small three-bedroom house. Once his parents gave the boys' room to a student who couldn't afford housing near his school. Another time they gave the girls' room to children from a family who needed a safe place to stay.

DEEP CUT • AGES 12–16

He quoted President Marion G. Romney: "Service is not something we endure on this earth so we can earn the right to live in the celestial kingdom. Service is the very fiber of which an exalted life in the celestial kingdom is made." And King Benjamin: serving others is serving God (Mosiah 2:17).

3 Service changes us

“Time did not change—the missionaries did.”

— Elder James G. O. Fantone · exact words

“When we genuinely take upon ourselves the name of Jesus Christ by losing ourselves in the service of others, something miraculous happens.”

— Elder James G. O. Fantone · exact words

FOR AGES 8–11: MAKE IT CONCRETE

As a mission president, Elder Fantone saw homesick new missionaries cry and say they could barely last three more months. They served anyway. A year later the same missionaries said time was moving too fast and they didn’t want it to end.

DEEP CUT · AGES 12–16

King Benjamin asked: “For how knoweth a man the master whom he has not served, and who is a stranger unto him, and is far from the thoughts and intents of his heart?” (Mosiah 5:13). You get to know Jesus by working for Him. What does that mean for someone who wants a stronger testimony?

3 INTERACTIVE MOMENT

2–3 MIN

WOULD YOU? Look around your home. If someone really needed a place to stay, whose room could we give? What would you be willing to give up for a month? Everyone answers honestly. (No wrong answers; groaning is allowed.)

Reveal: The Fantone kids gave up their rooms more than once. Elder Fantone said that if his parents had lived in Bethlehem when Joseph was looking for a place for Mary, they would have offered their own room. That’s taking His name, not just wearing it.

4 TALK ABOUT IT

3 MIN

YOUNGER (8–11)

What’s one way you could serve someone in our family this week, without being asked?

OLDER (12–16)

Why do you think serving people helps you get to know Jesus better than just learning about Him?

5 RECAP: THE KIDS EXPLAIN IT

2 MIN

Ask the kids to explain: What’s the difference between adding Jesus’s name and taking His name upon us? What changed for the missionaries, the time or them?

Listen for: Not a badge; a covenant to become like Him. We take His name by serving. Service changes our hearts.

6 TESTIMONY OF JESUS CHRIST

1 MIN

Elder Fantone testified: “I testify that He lives, that this is His restored Church, and that as we lose our lives in His service, we will find Him and we will find ourselves.” A parent shares a time serving someone helped you feel closer to Jesus Christ.

7 THIS WEEK, AS A FAMILY

1 MIN

ONE THING TO DO This week, as a family, give up something of your own (a Saturday morning, a favorite game, an hour) to serve someone outside your home.

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

Scripture: Mosiah 5:8; Moroni 6:3; Mosiah 2:17 · **Full talk:** [churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2026/10/44fantone](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2026/10/44fantone)

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