

Teach Truth with Love

Elder Clark G. Gilbert, *Quorum of the Twelve Apostles*

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

THE BIG IDEA

I can stand for truth and love people at the same time, because for disciples of Jesus Christ, truth and love always walk together.

You'll need: Paper slips and pencils.

1 HOOK

2 MIN

HONEST MOMENT Elder Gilbert told about a friend who used to be faithful but started attacking the Church. Elder Gilbert was frustrated and fired back an angry reply. Ask: did he win?

Then: Kind of, and not really. He said: “I may have won the debate in the moment, but I lost the Spirit and I failed to help my struggling friend.” Then: “That day I stood for truth, but I did it without love and without charity.” He began: “It takes courage to stand for truth. It takes even more courage to stand for truth with love.”

2 KEY TEACHINGS FROM ELDER GILBERT

8–10 MIN

1 Cool down and listen first

“Sometimes what we perceive as hostility may actually be someone’s hidden pain or regret.”

— Elder Clark G. Gilbert • exact words

FOR AGES 8–11: MAKE IT CONCRETE

On one visit, five people were waiting, each with a different problem. Elder Gilbert wanted to jump in, but the Spirit kept prompting him to wait. He listened for almost two hours. Afterward, every one of them accepted his invitation to stake conference.

DEEP CUT • AGES 12–16

“Resisting the impulse to initially respond built common ground, which allowed me later to teach from a place of love.” Elder Andersen, whom he quoted, taught that sometimes being a peacemaker means resisting the impulse to respond and remaining quiet with dignity. When is staying quiet strong rather than weak?

2 Be a light

“The best way to help someone else keep their covenants is to keep your covenants.”

— Elder Clark G. Gilbert • exact words

FOR AGES 8–11: MAKE IT CONCRETE

Some important university leaders criticized faith. Elder Gilbert disagreed strongly but chose not to argue right then. Later, one of those leaders asked him for help creating a class on character.

DEEP CUT • AGES 12–16

“Being a light opens more doors than any pointed argument ever will.” He quoted President Nelson: “Surprise their doubting hearts with your believing heart!” What does a believing heart look like at your school?

3 Love never means pretending wrong is right

“When we try to love others by minimizing God’s laws, we separate ourselves from the one person who loves them the very most.”

— Elder Clark G. Gilbert · exact words

“As near as I can tell, Christ never once withheld His love from anyone, but He also never once said to anyone, ‘Because I love you, you are exempt from keeping my commandments.’”

— President Jeffrey R. Holland, as quoted by Elder Gilbert

FOR AGES 8–11: MAKE IT CONCRETE

Jesus showed great kindness to a woman others wanted to condemn. He also told her to go and sin no more (John 8:11). Real love helps people come closer to God.

DEEP CUT · AGES 12–16

Elder Gilbert, quoting President Christofferson, taught that putting God first strengthens our love for others. How do the first and second great commandments work together?

3 INTERACTIVE MOMENT

2–3 MIN

THE MENTAL LIST

Elder Gilbert admitted that when President Nelson gave a talk on being a peacemaker, he started a mental list of everyone he thought needed that message. Everyone secretly writes down the name of the person who most needs tonight’s lesson. Fold the slips.

Reveal: President Nelson then invited everyone to look deeply into their own heart. Unfold the slips; the right answer was your own name. Laugh about it, then each person names one way they want to be a better peacemaker.

4 TALK ABOUT IT

3 MIN

YOUNGER (8–11)

What can you do when someone makes fun of something you believe?

OLDER (12–16)

Elder Gilbert said: “For some this will require greater conviction. For others it will demand greater charity.” Which do you need more of right now, and why?

5 RECAP: THE KIDS EXPLAIN IT

2 MIN

Ask the kids to explain Elder Gilbert’s angry-reply mistake and what he learned, plus two or three of his ways to stand for truth with love.

Listen for: Avoid contentious moments, listen first and find common ground, be a light by keeping your own covenants, hold to God’s truth even while loving people, and stay anchored in Jesus Christ. Truth and love walk together.

6 TESTIMONY OF JESUS CHRIST

1 MIN

Elder Gilbert said: “I believe teaching truth with love will be the hallmark of Christ’s disciples in the last days.” A parent shares a time you saw someone stand for truth with love, and your witness that the Lord helps us do both.

7 THIS WEEK, AS A FAMILY

1 MIN

ONE THING TO DO This week, when a disagreement starts (sibling fights count), try Elder Gilbert’s first steps: pause, listen until you understand, find something you agree on, then speak truthfully and kindly.

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

Scripture: Moroni 7:45; 1 John 4:19; John 8:11; Matthew 22:37–39 · **Full talk:** [churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2026/10/59gilbert](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2026/10/59gilbert)

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