

“Come Home” - Clark G. Gilbert

Part 1: Open Forum (10 Minutes)

Take turns going around the group and share one area that has occupied the vast majority of your mental and emotional energy this week. Possible areas include:

- Your family
- Your work
- A house project
- A friend in need
- A new skill or area of growth

Part 2: Group Council (20 - 25 Minutes)

In your group, discuss one or more of the quotes/discussion prompts, or any other topics that stood out to you most from Elder Gilbert's message.

1. Elder Gilbert said that he and his wife had felt the overwhelming weight of his calling, but they had been grateful that Christ's grace made up the difference in their lives. He testified that Jesus Christ is both the Redeemer and Repairer. He taught that when people fell short or lost their way spiritually, the Savior still made change and return possible.

“Today, I will specifically witness to the names of Redeemer and Repairer, as I focus on Christ's invitation for all of us to come home...I witness that Christ is our Redeemer. When we fall short, He repairs the breaches in our lives.”

- Why is it important to understand the Savior as both Redeemer and Repairer?
 - What changes in our daily discipleship might come as we trust Christ more fully to repair what we cannot fix alone?
 - How have you seen Christ “make up the difference” in your life?
2. Elder Gilbert taught that God is calling His children home. He acknowledged that choices had consequences, but he emphasized that through the gospel of Jesus Christ, people could still change and return.

“To those who are struggling to come home, know that it is your Savior who's the one calling you back.”

- Why might the image of “coming home” be more powerful than simply “coming back”?
 - How does knowing that the Savior is the one calling us change the way we view repentance?
 - How can we help our home and ward feel like places people want to return to?
3. Elder Gilbert talked about those who might not “Come Home” because they felt they did not measure up by sharing the experience of Luis Vargas. Luis believed he was not good enough to be baptized because he compared himself to others at church. Elder Gilbert taught him that perfection was not required to belong in the Church; sincere effort and the Savior's grace were what mattered.

“The mission president had called me and shared with me that Brother Vargas felt like he wasn’t good enough to be baptized—that he couldn’t measure up to the other people he saw at church. On the steps of the San Antonio Temple, I said, ‘Brother Vargas, you don’t have to be perfect to be in this Church. You just have to do your best, and Christ will make up the difference.’”

- How can we avoid creating a culture where people feel they must appear flawless?
 - What is the difference between striving to improve and believing we must already be perfect?
 - Why do comparisons sometimes keep people from making covenants or participating fully in the Church?
4. Elder Gilbert spoke to those who doubted by sharing the story of Justin and Kenna Valdez. He said they were encouraged to anchor in the things they did believe and trust the Lord to help with the things they did not. He emphasized that returning was not mainly about resolving every question, but about recognizing the Holy Ghost and reanchoring on the Savior.

“We promised them that as they anchored in the things they did believe, the Lord would help with the things they didn’t. Overcoming their concerns was not an issue of resolving every faith question but of helping them recognize the Holy Ghost.”

- Why is it helpful to anchor in what we do believe rather than focus only on what we do not understand?
- What are some practical ways to stay anchored in the Savior while working through difficult questions?
- What did Elder Gilbert teach about the relationship between faith and unanswered questions?