

**1. Watch chapter 17** from the Modern Prophets *Ezra Taft Benson* DVD. (Video clip is also provided for viewing online.)

**2. Read** Doctrine & Covenants 134:1

“We believe that governments were instituted of God for the benefit of man; and that he holds men accountable for their acts in relation to them, both in making laws and administering them, for the good and safety of society.”

**3. What is Patriotism?** (Pride in or devotion to the country you live in or are a citizen of.)

“Patriotism is more than flag-waving and fireworks. It is how we respond to public issues. If we ask only, ‘What’s in this proposal for me?—What do I get out of it?’—we are not patriotic and we are not good citizens. But if we ask, ‘Is this right?—is it good for the ... people?—would it preserve and strengthen our freedom?’—then we deserve to stand in the company of [great patriots]. Patriotism is trying always to give more to the Nation than we receive. It is selfless service” (Ezra Taft Benson, *The Red Carpet* [Bookcraft, 1962]).

**4. Why did President McKay feel that Elder Benson should serve as the Secretary of Agriculture?** (Church leaders have always encouraged us to show our patriotism by being good citizens and by strengthening our communities and nations.)

**5. How can living the gospel have an influence on our communities?** (Discuss ideas.)

**6. Are you being patriotic when you obey the laws of the land?** (Yes.)

“It is not always easy to follow a righteous plan and be obedient to the laws of society and the laws of the Lord. In the long run, however, following the rules is still the best pathway to obtaining all the things the Lord has promised.” *James E. Faust, 2007 General Conference, Priesthood Session* © 2007 Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved. For entire talk see “Message to my Grandsons.”

**Are you being obedient to Heavenly Father when you obey the laws of the land?** (Yes.)

**7. Does being involved in your community show patriotism?** (Yes.)

**8. What can we do as a family to show our patriotism and become involved in our community?** (Discuss ideas and plan a community service project to do.)

Ideas: Have a clean up day at the city park, plant flowers or weed the garden for an elderly neighbor, perform a patriotic musical program or skit for a nursing home, clean headstones at your local cemetery, collect food for the homeless, help serve at a homeless shelter, collect items for the church’s humanitarian aid (see items needed @ [www.lds.org](http://www.lds.org)), clean off bus or park benches, etc.

You can also check with your city for volunteer opportunities.

**9. Quote:**

“The scriptures remind us that nothing we do is truly worthy, whether it be serving the poor or seeking elected office, unless we are motivated by charity, the pure love of Christ.” *Sue Bergin, Ensign, Sept. 1988* © 2007 Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.