

February 12, 2025

Dear Bishop,

Thank you for reaching out to us. First, we just want to say how much we love everyone and appreciate all they have done and how they have blessed our lives. We understand that you might be concerned about our recent inactivity at church.

To give background, I (Sarah) served a mission in St George, UT and taught missionary lessons to young girls that escaped polygamy from Colorado city. I also taught what they call a "lost boy" from Price, UT. I come from polygamous ancestors who practiced it at the command of Brigham Young. I have done much study on the origins and nature of polygamy. I have read the church's [historical documents](#) and [affidavits](#) on the church's website, [the Joseph Smith Papers project](#), and many [research articles](#) on how polygamous relationships affect the growth and development of children among fundamentalist groups.

We have some concerns about the "the principle and doctrine of many wives and concubines" from D&C 132:1 being taught to children through church publications, specifically the [Old Testament](#) (2021 edition) and [Doctrine and Covenants \(online 2024 edition\) Stories for Young Readers](#).

I have reviewed the earlier editions of these children's readers ([D&C & Old Testament](#) 1993, 2002, & 1980 editions) and they do not touch on the subject of plural marriage at all. Both Jackson and I were raised with the same perspective taught in these manuals. The plurality of wives was never a core doctrine for us and we never believed it was a commandment. We never thought that the church believed Joseph practiced polygamy until the Saints Volume 1 was released by the church and we read it in 2019.

We have been fine with the polygamy topic being hashed out by adults. But we became very alarmed when we noticed the subject gradually being introduced to children in the church's scripture stories for young readers. The D&C scripture story "Plural Marriage" a resource for parents and teachers is very concerning to us. The whole story is garbage in our opinion. But the statement that is especially concerning is: "sometimes the Lord commanded His people to be in marriages of one man and more than one woman." There is no scripture basis for this statement whatsoever. God has never commanded plural wives. ([See Polygamy verses Monogamy in Scripture](#)) Yes, there are descriptions of men practicing it and the horrible consequences that followed. But NEVER a commandment. D&C 132 doesn't say God commands Joseph to practice it. It says, "I, the Lord, justified my servants Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as also Moses, David and Solomon, my servants, as touching the principle and doctrine of their having many wives and concubines—" There are so many problems just in this one verse:

- 1) Isaac only had one wife, Rebecca.
- 2) There is no evidence that Moses was married to more than one wife at a time.
- 3) Abraham and Jacob repented and God changed their names and He remembered their sin no more.

Clearly this D&C 132:1 gives context to what Jacob said in the Book of Mormon, "for they seek to excuse themselves in committing whoredoms, because of the things which were written concerning David, and Solomon his son." Jacob 2:23

The Book of Mormon condemns plural wives and the use of concubines and Joseph Smith said that the BOM was the ["most correct book....a man would get nearer to God by abiding by its precepts than by any other book."](#) Jacob called polygamy a grosser crime, a whoredom, and an abomination. "For behold I the Lord, have seen the sorrow, and heard the mourning of the daughters of my people in the land of Jerusalem, yea, **AND IN**

**ALL OF THE LANDS OF MY PEOPLE.**” Jacob 2:31 God never commanded plural wives among His people. Plural wives has always been considered “wickedness.”

In our opinion, it is absolutely, without a doubt, repugnant to teach children that God sometimes commands plural wives. Children need to know that God is unchanging and is no respecter of persons. They need to know that He loves them and has a special plan for them to find their soulmate in this life and have a family, a monogamous one. Why is the church introducing alternative sexual relationships to children? Children do not think of these things unless adults put them into their minds.

In addition, the mention of plural wives in the life after has increased in the church. Even members of the First Presidency have announced this doctrine publicly. We do not agree. We find no scriptural evidence where the Lord states that men can be sealed to many wives after this life. D&C 132 is the only section that vaguely proclaims this. D&C 132 is so problematic as it wasn't even the law of the church and put into scripture until 1876 by Brigham Young (over 30 years after Joseph's death) with no vote of common consent. There is no evidence that Joseph wrote that revelation. There are so many inconsistencies and destructive language towards women, it cannot come from God. ([Analysis of D&C 132](#))

However, Joseph Smith did establish as the law of the church, the [Marriage Statement Section CI or D&C 101 \(1835 – 1876\)](#) with an unanimous vote of Common Consent. Joseph published this Marriage Law two times in the D&C (1835 & 1844 editions) and four other times to the church and world to proclaim that one man should only have one wife, that polygamy was a crime, and marriages should be solemnized in public meetings.

Regardless of our views about this topic, we never thought it would infringe on whether or not we could come to church and worship Jesus, love, and serve others. Recently, I (Sarah) have expressed my concern about this doctrine being gradually introduced to children to other members (in both our ward and stake) and I have been shocked at their response. They ask if I am “part of some group?”, “Why I come to church if I don't believe this?”, and “Why don't I join the RLDS church?” We had no idea that it would ever be an issue for us to reject the “principle and doctrine of many wives and concubines” and any teaching like unto it from a “prophet” or otherwise, and still come and worship Jesus.

I know that there have been members who they call “polygamy deniers” excommunicated for bringing to light publicly what Joseph wrote and said about polygamy in the Joseph Smith Papers Project. (See Rob Fotheringham [First LDS Polygamist: Joseph or Brigham?](#)) We really don't want to be treated like criminals because we believe the words of Joseph Smith.....including the [23 denials of polygamy](#) made in his lifetime. We will continue to share the truth and seek to exonerate Joseph, Hyrum, and Emma from the crime of polygamy. We take the false accusation of Joseph Smith seriously as a family.

“The ends of the earth shall inquire after thy name, and fools shall have thee in derision, and hell shall rage against thee;”

While the pure in heart, and the wise, and the noble, and the virtuous, shall seek counsel, and authority, and blessing constantly from under thy hand.” D&C 122

Why is the church now teaching what used to be John C Bennett's, anti-Mormon propaganda, to children? And why are so many LDS members on board with that or do not care at all?

