

# THE MEANS OF GRACE

## THE OFFICE OF THE KEYS

### DEVOTION

#### OFFICE OF THE KEYS

*What is the Office of the Keys?*

The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.

**Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, even so I am sending you.” And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld. (John 20:21–23)**

#### FOR SHARING

1. Have you ever been locked out of your house or vehicle? Share the frustration you felt and your relief after you were able to get back in.
2. The Office of the Keys is a spiritual authority given by Christ to the church. What does this authority unlock? What does it lock?
3. Under what circumstances would a Christian withhold God’s gift of forgiveness from another person?
4. The heart of the Gospel is that God has forgiven all sins for all people in the death of Christ. But before the human heart is ready to receive forgiveness, it must first recognize its sinfulness. How can we help people to recognize their sinfulness by the power of the Holy Spirit?
5. How can you “unlock” heaven for a family member, friend, or acquaintance?

### PRAYER

Heavenly Father, You have given to Your church the sacred responsibility of sharing Your Word of judgment and grace. Thank You for the gift of forgiveness and salvation in Christ. Use me to take Your message of life and peace to others so that they may know Your joy too. In Jesus’ name. Amen.