

Strengthening the Family and the Church through the Priesthood

Why this topic?

The priesthood is the power and authority of God to redeem and exalt His children. Through the priesthood, we can receive all the blessings of Jesus Christ's Atonement. As priesthood holders, we are instruments in God's hands to help our family members and others receive these blessings.

Prepare for an inspiring meeting

How has the power of the priesthood blessed the members of your quorum and their families?

What do quorum members need to understand about the priesthood? What can they do to more fully receive the blessings of the priesthood?

As you pray about and study the resources below, what impressions do you have about what your quorum could do to strengthen families and the Church through the priesthood?

[Ephesians 4:11–13](#); [D&C 20:38–67](#); [84:19–22](#); [93:50](#); [121:34–46](#)

Elder Dallin H. Oaks, "[Priesthood Authority in the Family and the Church](#)," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2005, 24–27

Elder Neil L. Andersen, "[Power in the Priesthood](#)," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2013, 92–95

Sister Carole M. Stephens, "[Do We Know What We Have?](#)" *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2013, 12–14

"[Uniting to Save Souls](#)," *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Harold B. Lee*, (2000), 146–52

Videos from the 2013 Worldwide Leadership Training: "[Ministering](#)" (7:07); "[Fathers Can Use the Priesthood to Bless Their Families](#)," (2:01); "[Faith in the Power of the Priesthood](#)" (1:37)

Teaching in the Savior's Way

The Savior knew those He taught, and He knew who they could become. He found unique ways to help them learn and grow. When they struggled, He did not give up on them but continued to love them and minister to them. As you teach quorum members, think

Begin the meeting

As you begin the meeting, think about how to help quorum members recognize the spiritual growth happening in their own lives and in their families. You could ask them to share what they have thought about or done as a result of last week's meeting, or you could prepare them for today's discussion by asking them to talk about what they feel it means to strengthen the family and the Church through the priesthood.

Ideas for learning together

Assigned Topics for Elders Quorums and High Priests Groups

How will you encourage quorum members to counsel together about how the priesthood can strengthen families and the Church? Here are some ideas. You may also use other ideas (see "Learning and Teaching Ideas").

- In advance, quorum members could review one of the talks or scripture passages listed above and come prepared to share what they have learned. They could also share examples from their lives and the lives of their family members that illustrate the principles in the talk.
 - Quorum members could share their definitions of the word *priesthood*. (Elder Neil L. Andersen defines the word in his talk "Power in the Priesthood.") They could list ways priesthood power blesses and strengthens families. They could discuss their role as a quorum to bring that power to families in the ward. The videos listed above could be effective additions to this discussion.
 - In her talk "Do We Know What We Have?" Sister Carole M. Stephens relates how the priesthood blessed the lives of sisters she met on a visit to Honduras. Quorum members could review her account and discuss questions like the following: What blessings did these sisters and their families already enjoy when Sister Stephens met them? What additional blessings could they receive through the priesthood? What can we do as a quorum to help ward members receive the blessings of the priesthood in their homes?
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Take action

Help quorum members think about how to apply what they have learned individually, in their families, and in your quorum. How could they take action this week to strengthen families and the Church through the priesthood? For example, you might ask:

- How has the Lord blessed you for your priesthood service in the past? How do these experiences inspire you to serve in the future?
- What assignments or roles do you have that would enable you to bring the blessings of the priesthood into someone's life?
- Are there Aaronic Priesthood holders or other young men you could help prepare for future service as Melchizedek Priesthood holders? What do you feel inspired to do for them?

You may want to ask class members to share other specific actions they feel inspired to take to help strengthen families and the Church through the priesthood.

Assigned Topics for Elders Quorums and High Priests Groups

During the week, you may want to send out a reminder (through email, text message, or social media) to invite members to act on what they have learned and to share additional learning and teaching resources.