

Relief Society: Working Together to Save Souls

Why this topic?

The organization of the Relief Society was an inspired part of the Restoration of the gospel. The more your sisters understand the Lord's purposes in organizing the Relief Society, the more they are able to work together to accomplish these purposes and receive the blessings the Lord has prepared for them. The Prophet Joseph Smith taught that the work of the Relief Society "is not only to relieve the poor, but to save souls" (in [*Daughters in My Kingdom: The History and Work of Relief Society*](#) [2011], 24). "Relief Society prepares women for the blessings of eternal life by helping them increase their faith and personal righteousness, strengthen families and homes, and help those in need" (*Handbook 2: Administering the Church* [2010], [9.1.1](#)).

Prepare for an inspiring meeting

Think about the sisters you are called to teach. How do they feel about Relief Society? How are they accomplishing its purposes?

How are your sisters being blessed by their participation in Relief Society? How is your Relief Society helping to meet the needs of the sisters in your ward?

As you pray about and study the resources below, what impressions do you have about how to help the sisters understand and accomplish the purposes of Relief Society?

Teaching in the Savior's Way

The Savior invited others to act in faith and live the truths He taught. He found opportunities for them to learn through powerful experiences. What can you do to help the sisters act in faith on the truths they learn?

Henry B. Eyring, "[The Enduring Legacy of Relief Society](#)," *Ensign* or *Liahona*,

Nov. 2009, 121–25

"[Relief Society: Divine Organization of Women](#)," *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith* (2007), 448–57

"[Relief Society: Divinely Organized for the Good of the Saints](#)," *Teachings of*

Presidents of the Church: Joseph F. Smith (1998), 183–91

"[Something Better: The Female Relief Society of Nauvoo](#)," *Daughters in My Kingdom: The History and Work of Relief Society* (2011), 9–25

Video: "[Fulfilling the Purposes of Relief Society](#)" (5:57)

Begin the meeting

As you begin the meeting, think about how to help your sisters 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 experiences they have had that have taught them about the purposes of Relief Society.

Ideas for learning together

Here are a few suggestions to help your sisters learn about the purposes of Relief Society. As you consider the needs of your sisters, you may also be inspired to develop other ideas

- Sisters could share scriptures they know that teach about the purposes of Relief Society (you may want to write these purposes on the board: increase in faith and righteousness, strengthen home and family, and care for the poor and needy). What do they learn from these scriptures that inspires them?
 - You could study together the teachings of Joseph Smith or Joseph F. Smith (cited above). How do these teachings change or expand the sisters' understanding of what the Relief Society is?
 - Each sister to read one section from [chapter 2 of *Daughters in My Kingdom*](#) and share with each other what they learn. How does understanding the history of the Relief Society affect the way we serve as Relief Society sisters?
 - You could show "[Fulfilling the Purposes of Relief Society](#)" and invite sisters to share and discuss experiences that come to their minds as they watch this video.
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Take action

Help the sisters think about how to apply what they have learned individually, in their families, and in your Relief Society. How could they take action this week to fulfill the purposes of Relief Society? For example, you might ask:

- When have you participated in the work of Relief Society in the past? How can you build on those experiences as you seek future ways to serve?
- What opportunities do you have that allow you to help fulfill the purposes of Relief Society?
- Are there future Relief Society members in your family or in the ward who need to understand what you learned today? What can you do to bear your testimony to them?

Assigned Topics for Relief Society

You may want to ask class members to share other specific actions they feel inspired to take individually or in their families to accomplish the purposes of Relief Society.

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.