

# “All Young Single Adults Should Be Encouraged to Attend Institute Classes”

(First Presidency letter, Apr. 21, 2011)



**PURPOSE:** To help young single adults strengthen their faith and testimonies, qualify for the blessings of the temple, and be better prepared to share the gospel message with others, all young single adults should be encouraged to attend institute.

**WHY THIS MATTERS:** Young single adults face increasing challenges. Institute is uniquely positioned to assist priesthood leaders and families as they work to strengthen young single adults in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

## PRINCIPLES

- As priesthood leaders work with parents, full-time missionaries, and institute personnel in extending effective invitations to prospective students, more young single adults will enroll in, attend, and graduate from institute.
- As young single adults study the teachings and example of Jesus Christ and apply His Atonement in their lives, they can gain spiritual strength and experience forgiveness, healing, and conversion.
- As institute teachers teach the doctrine of the gospel as found in the scriptures and the words of the living prophets, answer questions that arise from classroom discussions, and encourage students to seek answers from appropriate sources, young single adults can increase their faith in the Savior and their commitment to His Church.

## APPLYING THESE PRINCIPLES

- All young single adults who have not already graduated from a Church university or institute of religion should be encouraged to enroll in and graduate from institute.

- Local leaders should counsel together in ward and stake council meetings to create an effective plan to identify and invite each young single adult to institute and report on those invitations.

## TEACHING OTHERS

The most effective efforts to bless more young single adults through institute depend primarily on the following:

- **Priesthood Led:** The initiative is led by priesthood leaders.
- **Effective Invitations:** Personal and consistent invitations are made by those who have a relationship with the individuals.
- **Accountability:** A system of accountability and reporting on invitations is in place.

*Note:* When extending invitations to young single adults to attend institute, the new Cornerstone courses should be mentioned.

Seminary and institute personnel are prepared to assist priesthood leaders as they teach about and invite young single adults to enroll in institute.



## QUOTATIONS

- “Weekday gospel study classes can help young single adults strengthen their faith and testimonies. All young single adults should be encouraged to attend institute classes, whether they are attending school or not” (First Presidency letter, Apr. 21, 2011).
- “The youth of the Church are hungry for things of the Spirit; they are eager to learn the gospel, and they want it straight, undiluted. They want to know about the fundamentals . . . ; they want to gain testimonies of their truth. They are not . . . doubters but inquirers, seekers after truth” (J. Reuben Clark Jr., *The Charted Course of the Church in Education*, rev. ed. [1994], 3).
- “Not all [youth and young adults] have the faith necessary to face the challenges ahead. . . . Many of them are already exposed through the Internet to corrosive forces of an increasingly secular world that is hostile to faith, family, and gospel standards. . . .  
 “. . . Many . . . are more familiar with Google than they are with the gospel, more attuned to the Internet than to inspiration, and more involved with Facebook than with faith.  
 “More than at any time in our history, [youth and young adults] need to be blessed by learning doctrinal or historical content and context by study and faith accompanied by pure testimony so they can experience a mature and lasting conversion to the gospel and lifelong commitment to Jesus Christ” (M. Russell Ballard, “The Opportunities and Responsibilities of CES Teachers in the 21st Century” [An Evening with Elder M. Russell Ballard, Feb. 26, 2016], broadcasts.lds.org).
- “Those of you in high school preparing for missions, I encourage you to participate in and graduate from seminary. You young adults should enroll in an institute of religion” (M. Russell Ballard, “The Greatest Generation of Young Adults,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2015, 69).
- “Someone has to say, ‘Here is the truth, and here is safety.’ Someone has to guide the way of those who are traveling narrow, often dangerous paths, perhaps for the first time, as many of our high school- and college-age students will be doing. In The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, [seminary and institute teachers] are very prominent among the ‘someones’ God has asked to mark the path of salvation” (Jeffrey R. Holland, “Be Not Afraid, Only Believe” [An Evening with Elder Jeffrey R. Holland, Feb. 6, 2016], broadcasts.lds.org).
- “I would be remiss if I didn’t say that central to the Church’s great young single adult program is the work of the institute. . . .  
 “. . . I hope you’d feel remiss if you didn’t attend. . . . Take advantage of the wonderful way to get into the scriptures collectively, the fun of doing it together, [and] the association of an institute class” (Jeffrey R. Holland, “Face to Face for YSA: With Elder Jeffrey R. Holland, Sister Carole M. Stephens, and Elder Donald L. Hallstrom” [Mar. 2016], LDS.org).

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### Scriptures

- John 17:3
- Moses 1:39
- Doctrine and Covenants 42:12
- Doctrine and Covenants 50:17–22

### Messages

- President J. Reuben Clark Jr., *The Charted Course of the Church in Education*, rev. ed. (1994).
- Elder Dallin H. Oaks, “Gospel Teaching,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1999, 78–80.
- President Henry B. Eyring, “We Must Raise Our Sights,” *Ensign*, Sept. 2004, 14–19.
- President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, “A Teacher of God’s Children,” [An Evening with President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Jan. 28, 2011], si.lds.org).

### Videos and Other Information

- Institute videos can be found on LDS.org by searching for the following titles:
  - » “Coming to Christ through Institute”
  - » “Inspiration of a Stake Presidency”
  - » “A Bishop’s Experience”
- Cornerstone course information, found at education.lds.org

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