



# Come, Follow Me

## *Aaronic Priesthood 1*

Learning Resources for Youth

# Aaronic Priesthood

*January–June 2013*

## About This Manual

The lessons in this manual are organized into units that address doctrinal fundamentals of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ. Each lesson focuses on questions that youth may have and doctrinal principles that can help them find answers. The lessons are designed to help you prepare spiritually by learning the doctrine for yourself and then plan ways to engage the youth in powerful learning experiences.

## More Online

You can find additional resources and teaching ideas for each of these lessons at [lds.org/youth/learn](http://lds.org/youth/learn). Online lessons include:

- Links to the most recent teachings from the living prophets, apostles, and other Church leaders. These links are updated regularly, so refer back to them often.
- Links to videos, images, and other media that you can use to prepare yourself spiritually and to teach the youth.
- Videos that demonstrate effective teaching to enhance your ability to help the youth become converted.
- Additional teaching ideas.

© 2012 by Intellectual Reserve, Inc.  
All rights reserved

English approval: 9/12

10693 000

# Contents

---

## January: The Godhead

- How can I know my Heavenly Father?
- What do we know about the nature of the Godhead?
- Why is Jesus Christ important in my life?
- What are the roles of the Holy Ghost?
- Who am I, and who can I become?

## February: The Plan of Salvation

- What is my role in fulfilling Heavenly Father's plan?
- What is the plan of salvation?
- What happened in the premortal life?
- What is the purpose of life?
- Why do the choices I make matter?
- Why do we have adversity?
- How can I find comfort when someone I care about dies?
- Why should I treat my body like a temple?

## March: The Atonement of Jesus Christ

- How do I help others receive the blessings of the Atonement?
- What is the Atonement of Jesus Christ?
- What does it mean to have faith in Jesus Christ?
- What does it mean to repent?
- What is grace?
- Why do I need to forgive others?
- What is the resurrection?
- How can the Atonement help me during my trials?

## April: The Apostasy and the Restoration

How can I invite all to come unto Christ?

Why was a restoration necessary?

How was the priesthood restored?

What was Joseph Smith's role in the Restoration?

Why is the First Vision important?

Why do we need the Book of Mormon?

## May: Prophets and Revelation

Why is it important to study the scriptures?

Why is it important to listen to and follow the living prophets?

How do I receive personal revelation?

How can I make my prayers more meaningful?

How can I strengthen my testimony?

What has President Monson taught Aaronic Priesthood holders?

How can a patriarchal blessing help me?

## June: Priesthood and Priesthood Keys

How does worthiness affect priesthood power?

What is the priesthood?

What are the keys of the priesthood?

What are my duties as an Aaronic Priesthood holder?

Why should I serve a mission?

# Quorum Meeting Agenda

Presiding \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Conducting (member of the quorum presidency) \_\_\_\_\_

---

## Sit in Council

*a member of the quorum presidency*

Conduct business (Activities, events, assignments)

---

---

---

Teach duties (Explain and counsel together about how to fulfill priesthood duties)

---

---

---

Invite sharing (What experiences are the members of the quorum having? What gospel principles have they been noticing and learning? What are they learning while fulfilling Duty to God?)

---

---

---

---

## Learn Together

*quorum adviser or quorum member*

This week's gospel discussion: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

---

## Commit to Act

*member of the quorum presidency*

- Share testimony of what was learned.
- Invite quorum members to live by the principles they learned together and prepare for next week's meeting.

## UNIT OVERVIEW

# January: The Godhead

*“We believe in God, the Eternal Father, and in His Son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost” (Articles of Faith 1:1).*

The outlines in this unit will help the young men understand the true nature of the members of the Godhead and the roles of each in fulfilling Heavenly Father’s plan of salvation. This knowledge will help the young men come to understand better their own divine identity and purpose as sons of God.

---

### Learning outlines

Seek the inspiration of the Spirit as you select from the outlines below. Let the questions and interests of the young men guide you as you decide which outlines to teach and how long to spend on a topic.

These outlines are not meant to prescribe what you will say and do in the quorum meeting. They are designed to help you learn the doctrine for yourself and prepare learning experiences adapted to the needs of the young men you teach.

To make Duty to God part of the Sunday quorum meeting, you may consider teaching the Duty to God outline below during this unit.

*How can I know my Heavenly Father? (Duty to God)*

*What do we know about the nature of the Godhead?*

*Why is Jesus Christ important in my life?*

*What are the roles of the Holy Ghost?*

*Who am I, and who can I become?*

### Prepare yourself spiritually

To help the young men learn the doctrine of the Godhead, you must understand and live the doctrine yourself. Study the scriptures and other resources provided in the learning outlines, and look for statements, stories, or examples that may be especially relevant or inspiring. Then use the learning outlines to plan ways to help quorum members discover truths for themselves, gain a testimony of them, and live by what they learn.

### Counsel together

Counsel with the quorum presidency and with other teachers, leaders, and parents about the young men. What questions and needs do the young men have? What are they learning about the Godhead in other settings—at home, in seminary, in Sunday School? How will this influence your preparation to teach this unit? (If sensitive information is shared in these conversations, please keep it confidential.)

## **Note to the teacher**

Throughout this unit, you may want to remind the young men that the names of Deity are sacred (see D&C 63:61). Encourage them to use these names with reverence and respect.

## **Mutual**

Many of the lesson topics and learning activities in this unit would work well as Mutual activities. Work with quorum presidencies in selecting and planning appropriate activities to reinforce what the young men learn on Sunday.

## **Duty to God**

The following sections from the *Duty to God* book relate to the lessons in this unit:

Pray and Study the Scriptures, pages 14–15, 38–39, 62–63

Understand Doctrine, pages 18–20, 42–44, 66–68





JANUARY: THE GODHEAD

## DUTY TO GOD

# How can I know my Heavenly Father?

Heavenly Father loves us and wants us to draw near to Him. He has given us the opportunity to pray to Him and has promised to hear and answer our prayers. We can also come to know Him as we study the scriptures and the words of latter-day prophets and as we strive to become more like Him by following His will.

Think about your relationship with your Father in Heaven. When have you felt closest to Him? What were you doing that allowed you to feel closer to Him?

What are some things the young men can do to get closer to God? How well are they doing these things? What could you do to help them increase their faith and testimony in God?

---

### Prepare yourself spiritually

*As you study the scriptures and other resources about coming to know Heavenly Father, look for things that would help the young men feel that their Father in Heaven loves them and wants them to draw near Him.*

John 17:3 (Knowing Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ leads to eternal life)

Mosiah 5:13 (Serving God helps us get to know Him better)

1 John 2:3–5 (We know God if we keep His commandments)

Alma 30:44 (All things denote there is a God)

1 John 4:7–8 (Loving others helps us to know God)

D&C 88:63 (If we draw near to God, He will draw near to us)

2 Nephi 32:9; Enos 1:1–7; Alma 34:17–28; 37:37 (Prayer can help us draw closer to Heavenly Father)

M. Russell Ballard, “Father and Sons: A Remarkable Relationship,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2009, 47–50

Mosiah 4:9–12 (King Benjamin describes how to grow in our knowledge of God)

*Fulfilling My Duty to God* (2010), 14–15, 38–39, 62–63

Videos: “He Knows Me,” “Fulfilling Your Duty to God”

---

### Let the young men lead

*A member of the quorum presidency (or an assistant to the bishop in the priests quorum) conducts the quorum meeting. He leads the young men in counseling together about quorum business, teaches them their priesthood duties (from the scriptures and the Duty to God book), and invites an adviser or other quorum member to teach a gospel lesson. He could prepare by filling out a quorum meeting agenda during a presidency meeting.*

---

## Begin the learning experience

*Choose from these ideas or think of your own to review last week's lesson and introduce this week's lesson:*

- Ask each young man to contribute one word to create a sentence that summarizes last week's lesson. Write their sentence on the board.
- With permission from the bishop, invite a father of one of the quorum members to share his feelings about being a father. He could talk about how he feels about his son, what he hopes his son achieves in life, and how he hopes to help him succeed. Ask the young men to compare what this father said with how their Father in Heaven feels about them.

---

## Learn together

*The purpose of this lesson is to help each young man establish a pattern of personal prayer and scripture study. Give the young men time during quorum meeting to write plans in their Duty to God books. Encourage them to share their plans with each other, and in future quorum meetings, invite them to share how personal prayer and scripture study are strengthening their relationship with God.*

- As part of their Duty to God plans, the young men may have created plans for personal scripture study. This lesson could be a good time to have the young men share what they have been doing for their plans and what they are learning from their study of the scriptures (see *Duty to God*, 14–15, 38–39, 62–63). They could also revise their plans if needed. Ask the young men to share how their habits of prayer and scripture study have helped improve their relationship with their Heavenly Father.
- Invite the young men to think about someone they know very well. What did they do to get to know that person? Ask them what they think the difference is between knowing Heavenly Father and knowing *about* Him. Write the following scripture references on the board, and ask the young men to look them up and identify how we can come to know Heavenly Father better: 1 John 2:3–5; 4:7–8; Mosiah 4:9–12; 5:13; Alma 30:44. Invite the young men to share what they learned and how they have felt closer to Heavenly Father by following the counsel in these scriptures.
- Show the video “Fulfilling Your Duty to God,” and have the young men look for how the experiences depicted in the video helped the young men and others come to know Heavenly Father better. Ask the young men to share their thoughts about how fulfilling their duty to God helps them strengthen their relationship with Him.
- Invite the young men to read Elder M. Russell Ballard’s three suggestions for sons in his talk “Fathers and Sons: A Remarkable Relationship” (or show

### Teaching tip

Encouraging the young men to establish a habit of regular prayer and scripture study could be the most effective way to help them strengthen their relationship with Heavenly Father.

the video “Fathers and Sons”). When has doing one of these things helped them feel closer to their fathers? Ask them to share ways they can apply Elder Ballard’s counsel to their relationship with their Heavenly Father.

- Discuss ways in which the young men communicate with others today. How do we communicate with Heavenly Father? How does He communicate with us? What can we do

*Ask the young men to share what they learned today. What feelings or impressions do they have? Do they understand how they can know Heavenly Father? Do they have any additional questions? Would it be worthwhile to spend more time on this topic?*

---

## **Invite to act**

*The young man who is conducting concludes the meeting. He could:*

- Share his plans to improve his personal prayers.
- Encourage the young men to fulfill the plans they made today and be prepared to share in a future quorum meeting how doing so improved their relationship with Heavenly Father.

to improve our communication with Him? Invite each young man to read one of the following scriptures about prayer: 2 Nephi 32:9; Enos 1:1–7; Alma 34:17–28; 37:37. Ask quorum members to share what they learn. What is the connection between prayer and coming to know Heavenly Father? Invite the young men to open their *Duty to God* books to page 15 (deacons), 39 (teachers), or 63 (priests) and make plans to improve their daily prayers.

## **Teaching in the Savior’s way**

The Savior loved His disciples and prayed for them and continually served them. He found opportunities to be with them and to express His love. He knew their interests, hopes, and desires and what was happening in their lives. Look for ways to express your love for the young men and to help them feel and know how much their Father in Heaven also loves them.

# Selected Resources

---

*Excerpt from M. Russell Ballard, "Fathers and Sons: A Remarkable Relationship," Ensign or Liahona, Nov. 2009, 47–50*

To you Aaronic Priesthood holders, I believe that by doing these three simple things you can make your relationship with your father even better than it is right now.

*First*, trust your father. He is not perfect, but he loves you and would never do anything he didn't think was in your best interest. So talk to him. Share your thoughts and feelings, your dreams and your fears. The more he knows about your life, the better chance he has to understand your concerns and to give you good counsel. When you put your trust in your dad, he will feel the responsibility of that trust and try harder than ever to understand and to help. As your father, he is entitled to inspiration on your behalf. His advice to you will be the heartfelt expressions of someone who knows and loves you. Your dad wants more than anything for you to be happy and successful, so why would you not want to trust someone like that? Boys, trust your dad.

*Second*, take an interest in your father's life. Ask about his job, his interests, his goals. How did he decide to do the work that he does? What was he like

when he was your age? How did he meet your mother? And as you learn more about him, you may find that his experiences help you to better understand why he responds the way that he does. Watch your dad. Watch how he treats your mother. Watch how he performs his Church callings. Watch how he interacts with other people. You will be surprised what you learn about him just by watching him and listening to him. Think about what you don't know about him and find out. Your love, admiration, and understanding will increase by what you learn. Boys, be interested in your dad's life.

And *third*, ask your father for advice. Let's be honest: he is probably going to give you his advice whether you ask for it or not, but it just works so much better when you ask! Ask for his advice on Church activity, on classes, on friends, on school, on dating, on sports or other hobbies. Ask for his counsel on your Church assignments, on preparing for your mission, on decisions or choices you have to make. Nothing shows respect for another person as much as asking for his advice, because what you are really saying when you ask for advice is, "I appreciate what you know and the experiences you have had, and I value your ideas and suggestions." Those are nice things for a father to hear from his son.



JANUARY: THE GODHEAD

## What do we know about the nature of the Godhead?

The Godhead includes God the Eternal Father, the Savior Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost. Although the members of the Godhead are distinct beings with distinct roles, They are one in purpose. They are perfectly united in bringing to pass Heavenly Father’s plan of salvation.

How does understanding the Godhead help you know who you are? How does our knowledge of the Godhead differ from the beliefs of other religions?

How will an understanding of the nature of the Godhead help the young men?

---

### Prepare yourself spiritually

*Prayerfully study these scriptures and resources. What do you feel inspired to share with the young men?*

Genesis 1:26–27 (We are created in God’s image)

Matthew 3:13–17 (Each member of the Godhead was manifested at Christ’s baptism)

John 17:21; D&C 20:28 (The members of the Godhead are united as one)

Acts 7:55–56; Joseph Smith—History 1:14–17 (Stephen and Joseph Smith saw the Father and the Son as separate beings)

D&C 130:22–23 (The Father and the Son have physical bodies; the Holy Ghost does not)

Articles of Faith 1:1 (We believe in the three members of the Godhead)

Jeffrey R. Holland, “The Only True God and Jesus Christ Whom He Hath Sent,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2007, 40–42

“God the Father,” “Holy Ghost,” “Jesus Christ,” *True to the Faith* (2004), 74–76, 81–84, 87–89

Video: “The Restoration”; see also *Doctrine and Covenants Visual Resources DVD*

---

### Let the young men lead

*A member of the quorum presidency (or an assistant to the bishop in the priests quorum) conducts the quorum meeting. He leads the young men in counseling together about quorum business, teaches them their priesthood duties (from the scriptures and the Duty to God book), and invites an adviser or other quorum member to teach a gospel lesson. He could prepare by filling out a quorum meeting agenda during a presidency meeting.*

---

## Begin the learning experience

*Choose from these ideas or think of your own to review last week's lesson and introduce this week's lesson:*

- Invite a member of the quorum to come to quorum meeting prepared to give a two-minute review of what he learned in the last lesson.
- Invite the young men to role-play how they would teach someone not of our faith about the three different members of the Godhead. What scriptures would they use? Why do they feel this knowledge is so important?

---

## Learn together

*Each of the activities below will help the quorum members understand the nature of the Godhead. Following the inspiration of the Spirit, select one or more that will work best for your quorum:*

- Invite a quorum member to teach a portion of this lesson. He could do this as part of his Duty to God plan to learn and teach about the Godhead (see "Understand Doctrine," page 18, 42, or 66).
- Read as a quorum Elder Jeffrey R. Holland's description of other Christian beliefs about the Godhead (in his talk "The Only True God and Jesus Christ Whom He Hath Sent"). Show the young men the First Vision scene in the video "The Restoration," or show a picture of the First Vision (see *Gospel Art Book*, 90). What did Joseph learn about the Godhead? How was what he learned different from what other Christians believed? Why is what he learned important? How do the young men think this experiences changed what Joseph believed about himself?
- Invite the young men to search one of the scriptures in this outline and identify what they learn about the Godhead. Invite them to share what these verses teach them about their divine nature. How does this knowledge affect their daily choices?
- Write three headings on the board: "There are three members in the Godhead," "The Godhead is united as one," and "Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ have physical bodies." Write scripture references about the Godhead (such as those listed in this outline) on small cards. Invite the young men to take turns picking a card, reading the scripture aloud, and writing the reference under the appropriate heading on the board (some of the scriptures may belong under more than one heading). How can knowing

### Teaching tip

You can use the learning activities in this section to determine what the young men already know about the doctrine and what they still need to learn. Be ready to adjust your lesson plan to meet their needs if necessary.

these truths about the Godhead bless the young men? Encourage the young men to keep a list of these references in their scriptures so they can use them to teach others about the Godhead.

- Divide the quorum into three groups, and assign each group to learn about a member of the Godhead by reading about Him in *True to the Faith* (see pages 74–76, 81–84, and 87–89) and choosing one or two scriptures that relate to this member of the Godhead. Give the groups enough time to prepare to teach the rest of the quorum

*Ask the young men to share what they learned today. What feelings or impressions do they have? Do they understand the nature of the Godhead better? Do they have any additional questions? Would it be worthwhile to spend more time on this topic?*

---

## Invite to act

*The young man who is conducting concludes the meeting. He could:*

- Bear his testimony of the members of the Godhead and his gratitude for the truths about Them restored through Joseph Smith.
- Invite the quorum members to share with someone the truths they learned in quorum meeting today.

the characteristics and roles of their member of the Godhead. Allow each group to teach the rest of the quorum.

- Divide Elder Holland’s talk “The Only True God and Jesus Christ Whom He Hath Sent” into smaller segments. Give a segment to each quorum member (or to groups, depending on quorum size). Write on the board “What does Elder Holland teach about the Godhead?” Allow the young men to find and then share their answers. Why is it important to know the true nature of the Godhead? (see John 17:3).

## Teaching in the Savior’s way

The Savior asked questions that caused others to think and feel deeply. He was sincerely interested in their answers and rejoiced in their expressions of faith. He gave them opportunities to ask their own questions, and He listened to their experiences. What questions can you ask that will help the young men feel deeply about the Godhead? How can you show that you are interested in their answers during the lesson?



# Selected Resources

---

*Excerpt from Jeffrey R. Holland, "The Only True God and Jesus Christ Whom He Hath Sent," Ensign or Liahona, Nov. 2007, 40–42*

So any criticism that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints does not hold the contemporary Christian view of God, Jesus, and the Holy Ghost is *not* a comment about our commitment to Christ but rather a recognition (accurate, I might add) that our view of the Godhead breaks with post–New Testament Christian history and returns to the doctrine taught by Jesus Himself. Now, a word about that post–New Testament history might be helpful.

In the year A.D. 325 the Roman emperor Constantine convened the Council of Nicaea to address—among other things—the growing issue of God’s alleged “trinity in unity.” What emerged from the heated contentions of churchmen, philosophers, and ecclesiastical dignitaries came to be known (after another 125 years and three more major councils) [Constantinople, A.D. 381; Ephesus, A.D. 431; Chalcedon, A.D. 451] as the Nicene Creed, with later reformulations such as the Athanasian Creed. These various evolutions and iterations of creeds—and others to come over the centuries—declared the

Father, Son, and Holy Ghost to be abstract, absolute, transcendent, imminent, consubstantial, coeternal, and unknowable, without body, parts, or passions and dwelling outside space and time. In such creeds all three members are separate persons, but they are a single being, the oft-noted “mystery of the trinity.” They are three distinct persons, yet not three Gods but one. All three persons are incomprehensible, yet it is one God who is incomprehensible.

We agree with our critics on at least that point—that such a formulation for divinity is truly incomprehensible. With such a confusing definition of God being imposed upon the church, little wonder that a fourth-century monk cried out, “Woe is me! They have taken my God away from me, . . . and I know not whom to adore or to address.” [Quoted in Owen Chadwick, *Western Asceticism* (1958), 235.] How *are* we to trust, love, worship, to say nothing of strive to be like, One who is incomprehensible and unknowable? What of Jesus’s prayer to His Father in Heaven that “this is life eternal, that they might *know thee* the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom *thou* hast sent”? [John 17:3; emphasis added.]





JANUARY: THE GODHEAD

## Why is Jesus Christ important in my life?

Jesus Christ was chosen to be our Savior. His Atonement makes it possible for us to be resurrected and to repent and be forgiven so we can return to our Heavenly Father's presence. In addition to saving us from our sins, the Savior also offers us peace and strength in times of trial. He sets the perfect example for us, and His teachings are the foundation for happiness in this life and eternal life in the world to come.

Why is Jesus Christ important to you? How has He influenced your life?

Why is it important for the young men to understand Jesus Christ's roles? How can you help them discover His importance in their lives?

---

### Prepare yourself spiritually

*Prayerfully study these scriptures and resources. What can help the young men you teach understand why Jesus Christ is important to them?*

Matthew 10:1 (Jesus Christ gave His Apostles priesthood power)

3 Nephi 27:27 (Jesus Christ is our example)

John 6:38 (Jesus Christ came to do His Father's will)

"The Living Christ: The Testimony of the Apostles" *Ensign*, Apr. 2000, 2–3 (see also *True to the Faith*, 87–89; or *Duty to God*, 106)

John 8:12; 3 Nephi 11:11 (Jesus Christ is the light and life of the world)

Dallin H. Oaks, "Teachings of Jesus," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2011, 90–93

John 14:6 (Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life)

2 Nephi 2:3–9; 9:5–12 (Lehi and Jacob testify of the Atonement of Jesus Christ)

Jeffrey R. Holland, "The First Great Commandment," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2012, 83–85

3 Nephi 27:14–16 (Jesus Christ saves us from sin and death through His Atonement)

Video: "Reclaimed"

---

### Let the young men lead

*A member of the quorum presidency (or an assistant to the bishop in the priests quorum) conducts the quorum meeting. He leads the young men in counseling together about quorum business, teaches them their priesthood duties (from the scriptures and the Duty to God book), and invites an adviser or other quorum member to teach a gospel lesson. He could prepare by filling out a quorum meeting agenda during a presidency meeting.*

---

## Begin the learning experience

*Choose from these ideas or think of your own to review last week's lesson and introduce this week's lesson:*

- Write one or more questions on the board to help the young men review what they learned last week.
- Invite the young men to look up "Jesus Christ" in the Topical Guide and review the list of entries after the heading. Ask them to find words and phrases that describe Christ's roles and mission. What do they learn about Jesus Christ by reviewing this list? How do they feel about Him after reviewing what He has done for us?

---

## Learn together

*Each of the activities below will help quorum members understand why Jesus Christ is important in their lives. Following the inspiration of the Spirit, select one or more that will work best for your quorum:*

- Invite a quorum member to teach a portion of this lesson. He could do this as part of his Duty to God plan to learn and teach about the Atonement (see "Understand Doctrine," page 18, 42, or 66).
- Read the paragraph under the heading "What He Has Done for Us" in Elder Dallin H. Oaks's talk "Teachings of Jesus." What would the young men say in response to the woman's question "What's He done for me?" Write on the board the next nine headings from the talk (from "Life of the World" to "The Atonement"). Invite the young men to choose one or more of these headings and prepare one or two sentences they would use to teach the woman what Jesus Christ has done for her. They can use Elder Oaks's talk, relevant scriptures (such as those suggested in this outline), and their own experiences and testimony. Invite them to share what they prepared.
- Ask some of the young men to search 2 Nephi 2:3–9 to find what Jesus Christ did for us, and ask the others to search 2 Nephi 9:6–10 to find what the consequences would be if He had not fulfilled His mission. How would the world be different? Share your love for the Savior, and invite the young men to do the same.
- Display pictures of the Savior helping others (see *Gospel Art Book*, 36–60). Give the young men a few minutes to ponder and share the different ways the Savior has helped them, their families, and others they know. Invite them to share their feelings about the Savior. Ask the young men to read the last four paragraphs of Elder Jeffrey R. Holland's talk "The First Great Commandment" as they ponder the question "What can I do to show how important Jesus Christ is in my life?" Invite them to write down their

### Teaching tip

"You should be careful not to talk more than necessary or to express your opinion too often. These actions can cause learners to lose interest. Think of yourself as a guide on a journey of learning who inserts appropriate comments to keep those you teach on the correct path" (*Teaching, No Greater Call* [1999], 64).

thoughts, and allow them to share what they wrote, if they feel comfortable doing so.

- Show the video “Reclaimed.” What do the young men learn from the video about what Jesus Christ can do for them? How could they use the message of this video to help people who are having difficulty forgiving themselves or feel they are beyond the reach of the Savior’s help? What scriptures would they share? (see, for example, Isaiah 1:18; Alma 36:3, 27; Ether 12:27; D&C 58:42–43).
- Display a picture of the Savior, and write on the board the following

*Ask the young men to share what they learned today. What feelings or impressions do they have? Do they understand why Jesus Christ is important in their lives? Do they have any additional questions? Would it be worthwhile to spend more time on this topic?*

---

## Invite to act

*The young man who is conducting concludes the meeting. He could:*

- Bear his testimony of the Savior.
- Invite the quorum members to ponder how their testimonies of the Savior could bless someone they know and encourage them to share their testimonies.

questions: “Who is Jesus Christ?” “What has He done for us?” “How do we know that He lives today?” Invite the young men to search “The Living Christ: The Testimony of the Apostles” to find answers to these questions. Ask them to share what they find. How do their testimonies of Jesus Christ affect their daily lives?

- Invite the young men to look in the hymnbook in the “Topics” index under “Jesus Christ” to find a hymn that teaches about who Jesus Christ is. Ask them to share lines from the hymns they chose. Consider singing one of the hymns as a quorum.

## 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 young men see the importance of making Jesus Christ part of their lives?

# Selected Resources

## THE LIVING CHRIST

THE TESTIMONY OF THE APOSTLES  
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

As we commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ two millennia ago, we offer our testimony of the reality of His matchless life and the infinite virtue of His great atoning sacrifice. None other has had so profound an influence upon all who have lived and will yet live upon the earth.

He was the Great Jehovah of the Old Testament, the Messiah of the New. Under the direction of His Father, He was the creator of the earth. “All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made” (John 1:3). Though sinless, He was baptized to fulfill all righteousness. He “went about doing good” (Acts 10:38), yet was despised for it. His gospel was a message of peace and goodwill. He entreated all to follow His example. He walked the roads of Palestine, healing the sick, causing the blind to see, and raising the dead. He taught the truths of eternity, the reality of our premortal existence, the purpose of our life on earth, and the potential for the sons and daughters of God in the life to come.

He instituted the sacrament as a reminder of His great atoning sacrifice. He was arrested and condemned on spurious charges, convicted to satisfy a mob, and sentenced to die on Calvary’s cross. He gave His life to atone for the sins of all mankind. His was a great vicarious gift in behalf of all who would ever live upon the earth.

We solemnly testify that His life, which is central to all human history, neither began in Bethlehem nor concluded on Calvary. He was the Firstborn of the Father, the Only Begotten Son in the flesh, the Redeemer of the world.

He rose from the grave to “become the firstfruits of them that slept” (1 Corinthians 15:20). As Risen Lord, He visited among those He had loved in life. He also ministered among His “other sheep” (John 10:16) in ancient America. In the modern world, He and His Father appeared to the boy Joseph Smith, ushering in the long-promised “dispensation of the fulness of times” (Ephesians 1:10).

Of the Living Christ, the Prophet Joseph wrote: “His eyes were as a flame of fire; the hair of his head was white like the pure snow; his countenance shone above the brightness of the sun; and his voice was as the sound of the rushing of great waters, even the voice of Jehovah, saying:

“I am the first and the last; I am he who liveth, I am he who was slain; I am your advocate with the Father” (D&C 110:3–4).

Of Him the Prophet also declared: “And now, after the many testimonies which have been given of him, this is the testimony, last of all, which we give of him: That he lives!

“For we saw him, even on the right hand of God; and we heard the voice bearing record that he is the Only Begotten of the Father—

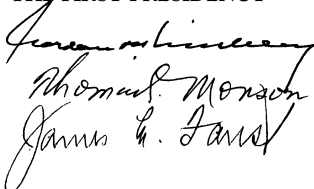
“That by him, and through him, and of him, the worlds are and were created, and the inhabitants thereof are begotten sons and daughters unto God” (D&C 76:22–24).

We declare in words of solemnity that His priesthood and His Church have been restored upon the earth—“built upon the foundation of . . . apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone” (Ephesians 2:20).

We testify that He will someday return to earth. “And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together” (Isaiah 40:5). He will rule as King of Kings and reign as Lord of Lords, and every knee shall bend and every tongue shall speak in worship before Him. Each of us will stand to be judged of Him according to our works and the desires of our hearts.

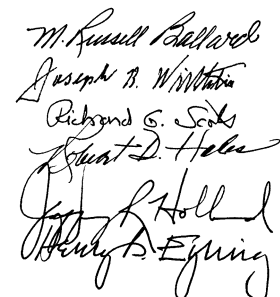
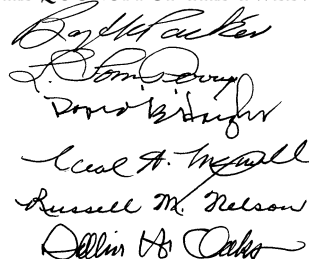
We bear testimony, as His duly ordained Apostles—that Jesus is the Living Christ, the immortal Son of God. He is the great King Immanuel, who stands today on the right hand of His Father. He is the light, the life, and the hope of the world. His way is the path that leads to happiness in this life and eternal life in the world to come. God be thanked for the matchless gift of His divine Son.

### THE FIRST PRESIDENCY



January 1, 2000

### THE QUORUM OF THE TWELVE





JANUARY: THE GODHEAD

# What are the roles of the Holy Ghost?

The Holy Ghost bears witness of the truth. He is the source of personal testimony and revelation. He can guide us in our decisions and protect us from physical and spiritual danger. He is known as the Comforter, and He can calm our fears and fill us with hope. Through His power, we are sanctified as we repent, receive saving ordinances, and keep our covenants. In order to serve effectively as priesthood holders, it is essential that we learn to listen to and follow the promptings of the Holy Ghost.

---

## Prepare yourself spiritually

*As you study these scriptures and other resources about the Holy Ghost, seek for His guidance to know what to teach the young men about the importance of the Holy Ghost in their lives.*

John 14:16–27 (The Comforter can teach us and bring all things to our remembrance)

John 15:26; D&C 42:17; Moses 1:24 (The Holy Ghost bears record of the Father and the Son)

Galatians 5:22–23 (Paul describes the fruit of the Spirit)

2 Nephi 32:5 (The Holy Ghost will show us what we should do)

3 Nephi 27:20 (Receiving the Holy Ghost sanctifies us)

Moroni 8:26 (The Holy Ghost fills us with hope and love)

Moroni 10:5 (The Holy Ghost teaches us the truth)

Boyd K. Packer, “Counsel to Youth,” *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2011, 16–19

Craig C. Christensen, “An Unspeakable Gift from God,” *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2012, 12–15

Videos: “Voice of the Spirit,” “Enemy Territory”

What personal experiences could you share with the young men that would teach them about the roles of the Holy Ghost?

Why is it important for the young men to learn to recognize and follow the promptings of the Spirit? How can you help them to be worthy of and seek His companionship?

---

## Let the young men lead

*A member of the quorum presidency (or an assistant to the bishop in the priests quorum) conducts the quorum meeting. He leads the young men in counseling together about quorum business, teaches them their priesthood duties (from the scriptures and the Duty to God book), and invites an adviser or other quorum member to teach a gospel lesson. He could prepare by filling out a quorum meeting agenda during a presidency meeting.*

---

## Begin the learning experience

Choose from these ideas or think of your own to review last week's lesson and introduce this week's lesson:

- Give the young men a moment to think of and share one thing they remember from last week's lesson. Think of how you could relate their answers to today's lesson.
- Invite the young men to write about a time when they have felt the influence of the Holy Ghost. What did they do to receive His influence? What difference did His influence make? If appropriate, have several of them share their experiences.

---

## Learn together

Each of the activities below will help quorum members understand the roles of the Holy Ghost. Following the inspiration of the Spirit, select one or more that will work best for your quorum:

- Invite a quorum member to teach a portion of this lesson. He could do this as part of his Duty to God plan to learn and teach about the Holy Ghost (see "Understand Doctrine," page 18, 42, or 66).
- Invite the young men to search the following scriptures, identify the role of the Holy Ghost in each, and share how His influence can bless them: John 14:26; 15:26; Galatians 5:22–23; 2 Nephi 32:5; 3 Nephi 27:20. Invite them to list times in their lives when they will need the influence of the Holy Ghost. When will it be important for the Holy Ghost to show them what they should do? At what times might the young men need to feel the comforting influence of the Holy Ghost? Consider sharing a personal experience when you have received the help of the Holy Ghost.
- Show one of the videos listed in this outline, and ask the young men to listen for what the video teaches them about receiving guidance through the Holy Ghost. Ask each young man to share something he learns. Then write the following statement from Julie B. Beck on the board: "The ability to receive and act upon personal revelation is the single most important skill we can acquire in this life. With it we cannot fail; without it we cannot succeed" ("And upon the Handmaids in Those Days Will I Pour Out My Spirit," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2010, 11). Invite them to think about and write down how they feel about this quote and the importance of living worthy of and following the Spirit. Encourage them to ponder what they can do to more fully seek the companionship of the Holy Ghost.
- Invite each young man to study the section titled "What Is the Mission of the Holy Ghost?" from Elder Craig C. Christensen's talk "An Unspeakable Gift from God" and prepare to share with the quorum what he learns about

### Teaching tip

"As you prayerfully prepare to teach, ... you may be led to emphasize certain principles. You may gain an understanding of how best to present certain ideas. You may discover examples, object lessons, and inspiring stories in the simple activities of life. You may feel impressed to invite a particular person to assist with the lesson. You may be reminded of a personal experience that you can share" (*Teaching, No Greater Call* [1999], 48).



the Holy Ghost. Invite him to share experiences in which the Holy Ghost has helped him in the ways Elder Christensen describes.

- Invite the young men to look in the hymnbook in the “Topics” index under “Holy Ghost” to find a hymn that teaches about how the Holy Ghost can help us. Ask them to share lines from the hymns they chose. Consider singing one of the hymns as a quorum.

*Ask the young men to share what they learned today. What feelings or impressions do they have? Do they understand the roles of the Holy Ghost? Do they have any additional questions? Would it be worthwhile to spend more time on this topic?*

---

## **Invite to act**

*The young man who is conducting concludes the meeting. He could:*

- As appropriate, share an experience in which he felt the influence of the Holy Ghost in one of the ways discussed in quorum meeting.
- Invite the young men in the quorum to be worthy of and seek the companionship of the Holy Ghost.

## **Teaching in the Savior’s way**

The Savior shared simple stories, parables, and real-life examples to teach in a way that made sense to His disciples. What personal experiences can you share with the young men to help them understand the roles of the Holy Ghost and feel a desire to seek and be worthy of such experiences?

# Selected Resources

---

*Excerpt from Craig C. Christensen, "An Unspeakable Gift from God," Ensign or Liahona, Nov. 2012, 12–15*

## What Is the Mission of the Holy Ghost?

The Holy Ghost works in perfect unity with Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ, fulfilling many important roles and distinct responsibilities. The primary purpose of the Holy Ghost is to bear witness of God the Father and of His Son, Jesus Christ, [See 2 Nephi 31:18; 3 Nephi 28:11; Doctrine and Covenants 20:27] and to teach us the truth of all things. [See Moroni 10:5.] A sure witness from the Holy Ghost carries far more certainty than a witness from any other source. President Joseph Fielding Smith taught that “the Spirit of God speaking to the spirit of man has power to impart truth with greater effect and understanding than the truth can be imparted by personal contact even with heavenly beings.” [Joseph Fielding Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation*, comp. Bruce R. McConkie, 3 vols. (1954–56), 1:47–48.]

The Holy Ghost is also known as the Comforter. [See John 14:26; Doctrine and Covenants 35:19.] During times of trouble or despair or simply when we need to know that God is near, the Holy Ghost can lift our spirits, give us hope, and teach us “the peaceable things of the kingdom,” [Doctrine and Covenants 36:2] helping us feel “the peace of God, which passeth all understanding.” [Philippians 4:7.]

Several years ago as our extended family gathered for a holiday dinner, my father began playing games with many of his grandchildren. Suddenly and without warning, he collapsed and quickly passed away. This unexpected event could have been devastating, especially for his grandchildren, raising questions that are difficult to answer. However, as we gathered our children around us, as we prayed and

read the words of Book of Mormon prophets about the purpose of life, the Holy Ghost comforted each of us personally. In ways that are difficult to describe with words, the answers we sought came clearly into our hearts. We felt a peace that day that truly surpassed *our* understanding, yet the witness from the Holy Ghost was certain, undeniable, and true.

The Holy Ghost is a teacher and a revelator. [See Luke 12:12; 1 Corinthians 2:13; Doctrine and Covenants 50:13–22; *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith* (2007), 132–33.] As we study, ponder, and pray about gospel truths, the Holy Ghost enlightens our minds and quickens our understanding. [See Doctrine and Covenants 11:13.] He causes the truth to be indelibly written in our souls and can cause a mighty change to occur in our hearts. As we share these truths with our families, with fellow members of the Church, and with friends and neighbors in our community, the Holy Ghost becomes their teacher as well, for He carries the message of the gospel “unto the hearts of the children of men.” [2 Nephi 33:1.]

The Holy Ghost inspires us to reach out to others in service. For me, the most vivid examples of heeding the promptings of the Holy Ghost in the service of others come from the life and ministry of President Thomas S. Monson, who said: “In the performance of our responsibilities, I have learned that when we heed a silent prompting and act upon it without delay, our Heavenly Father will guide our footsteps and bless our lives and the lives of others. I know of no experience more sweet or feeling more precious than to heed a prompting only to discover that the Lord has answered another person’s prayer through you.” [Thomas S. Monson, “Peace, Be Still,” *Liahona* and *Ensign*, Nov. 2002, 55.]





JANUARY: THE GODHEAD

# Who am I, and who can I become?

We are sons of Heavenly Father, created in His image, with the potential to become like Him. By divine design, we have unique gifts and talents that will help us fulfill our duties as bearers of the priesthood. Knowing who we are gives our lives purpose and helps us make the right decisions.

---

## Prepare yourself spiritually

*Prayerfully study the following scriptures and resources. What do you feel inspired to share with the young men?*

Psalm 82:6; Acts 17:28–29; Hebrews 12:9; D&C 76:24 (We are children of God)

Dieter F. Uchtdorf, “Your Potential, Your Privilege,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2011, 58–61

Matthew 25:14–30 (The parable of the talents)

“I Am a Child of God,” *Hymns*, no. 301

Luke 15:4–6, 11–32; John 3:16; D&C 18:10–15 (The worth of a soul is great)

Video: “I Am a Son of God”; see also *Old Testament Visual Resource DVD*

Moses 1:4–22 (Moses learns that he is a son of God)

Video: “Our True Identity”

---

How does knowing you are a son of God influence your thoughts and actions? What are some of the gifts and talents God has given you? How can you use them to bless the young men you teach?

How can you help the young men recognize their divine potential? How can this understanding help them to make right decisions? What are some of the unique gifts and talents that the young men you teach have? How can you encourage them to use these gifts and talents to bless others?

## Let the young men lead

*A member of the quorum presidency (or an assistant to the bishop in the priests quorum) conducts the quorum meeting. He leads the young men in counseling together about quorum business, teaches them their priesthood duties (from the scriptures and the Duty to God book), and invites an adviser or other quorum member to teach a gospel lesson. He could prepare by filling out a quorum meeting agenda during a presidency meeting.*

---

## Begin the learning experience

*Choose from these ideas or think of your own to review last week's lesson and introduce this week's lesson:*

- Invite a couple of young men to share the most important thing they learned in last week's lesson and how they applied it in their lives.
- Write the following questions on the board: "What do I know about Heavenly Father?" "What does that teach me about who I am and who I can become?" "How does this knowledge affect my thoughts and actions?" Give the young men time to ponder these questions, and then invite them to come to the board and write their answers.

---

## Learn together

*Each of the activities below will help quorum members understand their divine identity and potential. Following the inspiration of the Spirit, select one or more that will work best for your quorum:*

- Invite the young men to search Moses 1:4–7 and identify what Moses learned about himself. Invite them to search verse 12 to find what Satan did to contradict what Moses learned. Read together verses 13–22. Ask the young men to share what they learn from this story about themselves, Heavenly Father and the Savior, and the adversary. What are some situations the young men face in which this knowledge would be helpful? Consider showing the video "I Am a Son of God" as a part of this discussion.
- Invite quorum members to watch the video "Our True Identity" (or read some of the following scriptures: 1 John 3:1–3; D&C 84:37–38; 88:107; 132:20) and write down a statement that they find meaningful. Ask them to share what they wrote and explain why they wrote it. What do they learn from this video or these scriptures about who they are and who they can become? How can this knowledge affect the choices they make? As part of this discussion, consider sharing the following statement from President Gordon B. Hinckley: "The whole design of the gospel is to lead us onward and upward to greater achievement, even, eventually, to godhood" ("Don't Drop the Ball," *Ensign*, Nov. 1994, 48).
- Read together the story about the man on a cruise ship in President Dieter F. Uchtdorf's talk "Your Potential, Your Privilege." Ask the young men how this story relates to us as priesthood holders. How does it relate to us as sons of God? Assign each young man to read about one of President Uchtdorf's three suggestions for living up to our potential. Organize the quorum into groups that include people who read different sections of

### Teaching tip

"The amount of material you cover is less important than its influence in the lives of those you teach. Because too many concepts at one time can confuse or tire learners, it is usually best to focus on one or two main principles" (*Teaching, No Greater Call* [1999], 99).

the talk, and ask them to share with each other what they learned about living up to their potential.

- Invite the young men to think of and share a talent or gift they see in each member of the quorum (make sure that the good qualities of each young man are shared). Invite them to read Matthew 25:14–30, or invite a quorum

*Ask the young men to share what they learned today. What feelings or impressions do they have? Do they understand who they are and who they can become? Do they have any additional questions? Would it be worthwhile to spend more time on this topic?*

---

## **Invite to act**

*The young man who is conducting concludes the meeting. He could:*

- Share his testimony that we are children of God and describe how this testimony guides his actions.
- Invite the young men to think of one way they will use their gifts and talents to bless Heavenly Father's children.

member to retell the parable of the talents. How does this parable relate to the gifts God has given us? How can we as priesthood holders use our talents to serve others and fulfill our priesthood duties? Invite the young men to write down their thoughts, and ask a few of them to share what they wrote with the quorum.

## **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 the young men, think about who they are and who they can become, and find ways to help them fulfill their divine potential.

# Selected Resources

---

*Excerpt from Dieter F. Uchtdorf, "Your Potential, Your Privilege," Ensign or Liahona, May 2011, 58–61*

There once was a man whose lifelong dream was to board a cruise ship and sail the Mediterranean Sea. He dreamed of walking the streets of Rome, Athens, and Istanbul. He saved every penny until he had enough for his passage. Since money was tight, he brought an extra suitcase filled with cans of beans, boxes of crackers, and bags of powdered lemonade, and that is what he lived on every day.

He would have loved to take part in the many activities offered on the ship—working out in the gym, playing miniature golf, and swimming in the pool. He envied those who went to movies, shows, and cultural presentations. And, oh, how he yearned for only a taste of the amazing food he saw on the ship—every meal appeared to be a feast! But the man wanted to

spend so very little money that he didn't participate in any of these. He was able to see the cities he had longed to visit, but for the most part of the journey, he stayed in his cabin and ate only his humble food.

On the last day of the cruise, a crew member asked him which of the farewell parties he would be attending. It was then that the man learned that not only the farewell party but almost everything on board the cruise ship—the food, the entertainment, all the activities—had been included in the price of his ticket. Too late the man realized that he had been living far beneath his privileges.

The question this parable raises is, Are we as priesthood holders living below our privileges when it comes to the sacred power, gifts, and blessings that are our opportunity and right as bearers of God's priesthood?

## UNIT OVERVIEW

# February: The Plan of Salvation

*“This is my work and my glory—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man”*  
(Moses 1:39).

Understanding the plan of salvation is fundamental to spiritual learning. Everything a young man learns about the gospel—and what he learns about temporal things—should be placed in the context of the plan of salvation so that he can discern between that which is eternally significant and that which is not. When a young man truly understands the plan of salvation, he lives with greater purpose. He sees his trials and adversity as opportunities to grow. He makes choices based on their eternal consequences rather than seeking immediate gratification. He is able to find happiness and joy.

---

### Learning outlines

Seek the inspiration of the Spirit as you select from the outlines below. Let the questions and interests of the young men guide you as you decide which outlines to teach in this unit and how long to spend on a topic.

These outlines are not meant to prescribe what you will say and do in the quorum meeting. They are designed to help you learn the doctrine for yourself and prepare learning experiences adapted to the needs of the young men you teach.

To make Duty to God part of the Sunday quorum meeting, you may consider teaching the Duty to God outline below during this unit.

*What is my role in fulfilling Heavenly Father’s plan?*

*(Duty to God)*

*What is the plan of salvation?*

*What happened in the premortal life?*

*What is the purpose of life?*

*Why do the choices I make matter?*

*Why do we have adversity?*

*How can I find comfort when someone I care about dies?*

*Why should I treat my body like a temple?*

### Prepare yourself spiritually

To help the young men learn the doctrine of the plan of salvation, you must understand and live this doctrine yourself. Study the scriptures and other resources provided in the learning outlines and look for statements, stories, or examples that may be especially relevant or inspiring. Then use the learning outlines to plan ways to help quorum members discover these truths for themselves, gain a testimony of them, and live by what they learn.

### Counsel together

Counsel with the quorum presidency and with other teachers, leaders, and parents about the young men. What questions do the young men have? What are

their needs? What are they learning about the plan of salvation in other settings—at home, in seminary, in Sunday School? What does the Spirit prompt you to do? (If sensitive information is shared in these conversations, please keep it confidential.)

## **Mutual**

Many of the lesson topics and learning activities in this unit would work well as Mutual activities. Work with quorum presidencies in selecting and planning appropriate activities to reinforce what the young men learn on Sunday.

## **Duty to God**

The following sections from the *Duty to God* book relate to the lessons in this unit:

Priesthood Duties, pages 23, 46–47, 70–71

Invite All to Come unto Christ, pages 28–29, 50–51, 72–73

Understand Doctrine, pages 18–20, 42–44, 66–68



## DUTY TO GOD

# What is my role in fulfilling Heavenly Father's plan?

Heavenly Father has said that His work and glory is “to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man” (Moses 1:39). As priesthood holders, we play a role in Heavenly Father's plan as we keep ourselves worthy and perform our priesthood duties. These duties include performing priesthood ordinances, serving others, and inviting all to come unto Christ.

Think about experiences you have had fulfilling your priesthood duties.

What have been the results of your efforts? How have you helped Heavenly Father accomplish His plan?

When have you seen the young men bless others through their priesthood service?

---

### Prepare yourself spiritually

*As you study these resources, listen to the Holy Ghost. Ponder what the young men could do to learn how they help God as they fulfill their duties.*

Moses 1:39 (God's work and glory is to exalt his children)

Video: “Inviting All to Come unto Christ”

D&C 20:46–60, 75–79; 84:111; 107:68 (Aaronic Priesthood duties)

Video: “Fulfilling Your Duty to God”

D&C 38:42 (Priesthood holders must be clean and worthy)

*Fulfilling My Duty to God*, 23 (duties of deacons), 46–47 (duties of teachers), 70–71 (duties of priests)

---

### Let the young men lead

*A member of the quorum presidency (or an assistant to the bishop in the priests quorum) conducts the quorum meeting. He leads the young men in counseling together about quorum business, teaches them their priesthood duties (from the scriptures and the Duty to God book), and invites an adviser or other quorum member to teach a gospel lesson. He could prepare by filling out a quorum meeting agenda during a presidency meeting.*

---

### Begin the learning experience

*Choose from these ideas or think of your own to review the doctrine from last week's lesson and introduce this week's lesson:*

- Invite the young men to think of one word that summarizes what they learned last week. Discuss the words they choose.
- Show a picture of John the Baptist (see *Gospel Art Book*, 35), and ask what he did to prepare the way for the Savior (see Matthew 3). Ask the quorum members how they are preparing the way for the Savior's return when they perform their priesthood duties.

---

## Learn together

*Each of the activities below will help quorum members understand how fulfilling their priesthood duties helps Heavenly Father accomplish His plan. Following the inspiration of the Spirit, select one or more that will work best for your quorum:*

- Invite each young man to search the "Priesthood Duties" section of the *Duty to God* book (pages 23, 46–47, or 70–71) and underline the action words and phrases. Ask the young men to explain how each duty helps fulfill Heavenly Father's plan. How have the young men been blessed by the priesthood service of others? What examples have they seen of priesthood service blessings others?
- As a quorum, review Doctrine and Covenants 20:46–60. Invite the young men to share experiences they have had fulfilling their duty to invite others to come unto Christ—including family members and friends. How are they helping fulfill God's plan? Invite them to role-play possible scenarios in which they could have opportunities to share the gospel. For example: "Your friend asks you why you do not play football on Sunday or drink coffee or tea." How would they answer their friend's question if their goal was to share the gospel? Invite them to turn to page 29, 51, or 73 of their *Duty to God* books and make plans based on what they have learned.
- Show one or both of the videos suggested in this outline. Ask the young men to identify which priesthood duties are demonstrated in the videos and how these priesthood duties help fulfill God's plan (for a summary of priesthood duties, see *Duty to God* pages 23, 46–47, or 70–71). What experiences have they had fulfilling these duties? Why is it important to understand that fulfilling our duties helps accomplish God's plan? How does this understanding affect the way they fulfill their duties?

*Ask the young men to share what they learned today. Do they understand their role in fulfilling Heavenly Father's plan? What feelings or impressions do they have? Do they have any additional questions? Would it be worthwhile to spend more time on this doctrine?*

### Duty to God plans

Allow time at the end of the quorum meeting for the young men to make plans in their *Duty to God* books.



---

## Invite to act

*The young man who is conducting concludes the meeting. He could:*

- Share examples he has seen of other quorum members helping fulfill God's plan through their priesthood service.
- Counsel together with quorum members about what they can do as a quorum to better fulfill their priesthood duties.

## Teaching in the Savior's way

The Savior prayed for His disciples and continually served them. He found opportunities to be with them and express His love. You will have many opportunities to provide priesthood service with an Aaronic Priesthood holder at your side. In these moments, share how what you are doing is helping fulfill Heavenly Father's plan of salvation.



# What is the plan of salvation?

Heavenly Father prepared a plan to enable us to become like Him. The plan includes the Creation, the Fall, the Atonement of Jesus Christ, and all the laws, ordinances, and doctrines of the gospel. This plan allows us to be perfected through the Atonement, receive a fulness of joy, and live forever in the presence of God.

---

## Prepare yourself spiritually

*Prayerfully study these scriptures and resources. What will help the young men understand the plan of salvation?*

How has knowing about Heavenly Father's plan influenced your choices and your perspective on life? What aspects of the plan of salvation do you want to learn more about?

How can understanding the plan of salvation help the quorum members better fulfill their priesthood duties?

1 Corinthians 15:20–22 (All men will die)

Hebrews 12:9 (God is the Father of our spirits)

Revelation 20:12–13; 2 Nephi 9:10–11; Alma 5:15–21 (All men will be resurrected and stand before God to be judged)

2 Nephi 2:22–25 (The Fall of Adam brought about mortality)

Alma 34:32–33 (This life is the time to repent)

Alma 40:11–14 (The state of men after they die)

D&C 76:30–113 (Description of the kingdoms of glory)

Thomas S. Monson, "The Race of Life," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2012, 90–93

"Plan of Salvation," *True to the Faith* (2004), 115–17

Video: "Men's Hearts Shall Fail Them"

Video: "The Plan of Salvation"; see also *Doctrine and Covenants Visual Resources DVD*

---

## Let the young men lead

*A member of the quorum presidency (or an assistant to the bishop in the priests quorum) conducts the quorum meeting. He leads the young men in counseling together about quorum business, teaches them their priesthood duties (from the scriptures and the Duty to God book), and invites an adviser or other quorum member to teach a gospel lesson. He could prepare by filling out a quorum meeting agenda during a presidency meeting.*

---

## Begin the learning experience

Choose from these ideas or think of your own to review the doctrine from last week's lesson and introduce this week's lesson:

- Invite the young men to write down one word or phrase that they remember from last week's lesson and share their word or phrase with the quorum.
- Bring in three pictures or objects to represent the Creation, the Fall, and the Atonement (for example, clay for the Creation, an apple for the Fall, and a sacrament cup for the Atonement). Ask the young men to share what they know about these events and why they are important.

---

## Learn together

Each of the activities below will help quorum members learn about the plan of salvation. Following the inspiration of the Spirit, select one or more that will work best for your quorum:

- Invite a quorum member to teach a portion of this lesson. He could do this as part of his Duty to God plan to learn and teach about the plan of salvation (see "Understand Doctrine," page 18, 42, or 66).
- A few days in advance, ask several quorum members to come prepared to teach the quorum about an aspect of the plan of salvation (such as pre-mortal life, mortal life, spirit world, and so on) using *Preach My Gospel* or *True to the Faith*. Draw a representation of the plan of salvation on the board (for an example, see *Preach My Gospel*, 54), and invite each young man to teach his assigned topic. Ask the young men what difference it makes in their lives to know about the plan of salvation.
- Assign each young man one or more of the scripture passages in this outline. Ask him to read his passage to determine what part of the plan of salvation the passage teaches about. Invite him to share what he learns from his passage. How does knowing about the plan of salvation affect the way we see ourselves? others? the world around us?
- As a quorum, read Alma 12:30 and Alma 42:13–15. Invite the young men to look for the phrases that are used to describe the plan of salvation. What do these phrases teach about the plan? Show the video "Men's Hearts Shall Fail Them," and ask the young men to look for how a knowledge of the plan of salvation blessed Elder Russell M. Nelson. Invite the young men to share ways this knowledge has blessed them.
- Ensure that everyone in the quorum has a copy of *True to the Faith*, and assign each young man a number between 1 and 3. Ask those who have been assigned number 1 to learn all that they can from *True to the Faith* about the premortal life (pages 115–16);

### Teaching tip

"Your own spiritual preparation contributes much to the learning atmosphere. When you are prepared spiritually, you bring a spirit of peace, love, and reverence. Those you teach feel more secure in pondering and discussing things of eternal worth" (*Teaching, No Greater Call* [1999], 79).

## Teaching in the Savior's way

The Savior asked questions that caused those He taught to think deeply. He was sincerely interested in their answers. How can you use questions to help the young men think deeply about gospel truths?

ask those with number 2 to learn about mortal life (page 116); and ask those with number 3 to learn about life after death (pages 116–17). Allow them to work in groups with their numbers to prepare a short summary of what they learn, and have them present it to the rest of the quorum. Invite the young men to imagine what their lives might be like if they did not have this knowledge about the plan of salvation.

- Ask the young men to use President Thomas S. Monson's talk "The Race of Life" and the scriptures to prepare an answer to one of these questions: Where did we come from? Why are we here? Where do we go after we leave this life? Invite them to share their answers as if they were speaking to a friend of another faith. Why is it important to know the answers to these questions?

*Ask the young men to share what they learned today. Do they understand the plan of salvation better? What feelings or impressions do they have? Do they have any additional questions? Would it be worthwhile to spend more time on this doctrine?*

---

## Invite to act

*The young man who is conducting concludes the meeting. He could:*

- Lead a discussion about how understanding the plan of salvation inspires us to be better priesthood holders.
- Ask quorum members to share their gratitude for the plan of salvation.

# Selected Resources

---

*Excerpt from “Plan of Salvation,” True to the Faith (2004), 115–17*

## **Premortal Life**

Before you were born on the earth, you lived in the presence of your Heavenly Father as one of His spirit children. In this premortal existence, you attended a council with Heavenly Father’s other spirit children. At that council, Heavenly Father presented His great plan of happiness (see Abraham 3:22–26).

In harmony with the plan of happiness, the premortal Jesus Christ, the Firstborn Son of the Father in the spirit, covenanted to be the Savior (see Moses 4:2; Abraham 3:27). Those who followed Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ were permitted to come to the earth to experience mortality and progress toward eternal life. Lucifer, another spirit son of God, rebelled against the plan and “sought to destroy the agency of man” (Moses 4:3). He became Satan, and he and his followers were cast out of heaven and denied the privileges of receiving a physical body and experiencing mortality (see Moses 4:4; Abraham 3:27–28).

Throughout your premortal life, you developed your identity and increased your spiritual capabilities. Blessed with the gift of agency, you made important decisions, such as the decision to follow Heavenly Father’s plan. These decisions affected your life then and now. You grew in intelligence and learned to love the truth, and you prepared to come to the earth, where you could continue to progress.

## **Mortal Life**

You are now experiencing mortal life. Your spirit is united with your body, giving you opportunities to grow and develop in ways that were not possible in your premortal life. This part of your existence is a time of learning in which you can prove yourself, choose to come unto Christ, and prepare to be worthy of eternal life. It is also a time when you can help others find the truth and gain a testimony of the plan of salvation.

## **Life after Death**

When you die, your spirit will enter the spirit world and await the resurrection. At the time of the resurrection, your spirit and body will reunite, and you will be judged and received into a kingdom of glory. The glory you inherit will depend on the depth of your conversion and your obedience to the Lord’s commandments. It will depend on the manner in which you have “received the testimony of Jesus” (D&C 76:51; see also verses 74, 79, 101).



## What happened in the premortal life?

Before we were born, we lived with Heavenly Father as His spirit children. In the Council in Heaven, the Father presented to us His plan of salvation, and Jesus Christ was chosen to be our Savior. Satan sought to amend the plan, taking away our agency, and he and his followers were cast out. We accepted our Father's plan and chose to follow Jesus Christ.

---

### Prepare yourself spiritually

*Prayerfully study the following scriptures and resources. What do you feel impressed to share with the quorum?*

Jeremiah 1:5; Alma 13:3 (Priesthood holders were called and chosen before the world began)

Abraham 3:22–26 (Our choices in the premortal life made it possible for us to come to earth)

Revelation 12:9–11; Moses 4:1–4 (Satan seeks to destroy the agency of man and is cast out)

“Plan of Salvation,” *True to the Faith* (2004), 115–16

Video: “The Plan of Salvation”; see also *Doctrine and Covenants Visual Resources* DVD

---

Think about the choices you have made in life. What influence has your knowledge of the premortal life had on those choices? How will your choices affect your eternal destiny?

What choices are the young men making now that will bless their lives in the eternities? What choices could adversely affect their eternal destinies?

### Let the young men lead

*A member of the quorum presidency (or an assistant to the bishop in the priests quorum) conducts the quorum meeting. He leads the young men in counseling together about quorum business, teaches them their priesthood duties (from the scriptures and the Duty to God book), and invites an adviser or other quorum member to teach a gospel lesson. He could prepare by filling out a quorum meeting agenda during a presidency meeting.*

---

### Begin the learning experience

*Choose from these ideas or think of your own to review the doctrine from last week's lesson and introduce this week's lesson:*

- Invite the young men to share a scripture they remember from last week’s quorum meeting. Ask them to talk about what they learned from it.

- Ask the young men to think about and share any righteous choices they have made in the past and how those decisions have blessed their lives. Then ask them to name a choice they made before they were born. How has this choice affected their lives?

---

## Learn together

*Each of the activities below will help quorum members learn about the premortal life. Following the inspiration of the Spirit, select one or more that will work best for your quorum:*

- Ask each young man to read one of the following: Jeremiah 1:5; Alma 13:3; Abraham 3:22–23. Invite the young men to look for truths they learn from these scriptures about the premortal life. How do these truths about the premortal life influence the way we see our mortal lives?

- Ask the young men to make a list of some of the challenges people face during mortal life. Invite them to read about premortal life in *True to the Faith* (pages 115–16), looking for truths that could help people face these challenges. Invite them to share what they find. Ask the young men to think

about someone who may need to know these truths, and encourage them to think of ways they could share their testimonies of the plan of salvation.

- Ask the young men to read Moses 4:1–2 and look for things they learn about the Savior and Satan in the Council in Heaven. What do we learn about the results of Satan’s actions from verses 3–4? How does this conflict continue on earth today? What is the Savior’s role in this conflict? What is our role? Invite the young men to express their feelings about the Savior and His willingness to follow His Father’s plan.

*Ask the young men to share what they learned today. Do they understand the premortal life better? What feelings or impressions do they have? Do they have any additional questions? Would it be worthwhile to spend more time on this doctrine?*

---

## Invite to act

*The young man who is conducting concludes the meeting. He could:*

- Invite quorum members to share thoughts or feelings they had during the lesson. What were they inspired to do that will bless their families or quorum?

- Share his testimony about what was taught.

## Teaching tip

“Be careful not to ask questions that promote argument or highlight sensational issues. Do not ask questions that create doubt or that lead to discussions that fail to edify. Make sure that your questions move learners toward a unity of faith and love” (*Teaching, No Greater Call* [1999], 69).

## Teaching in the Savior’s way

The Savior shared simple stories, parables, and real-life examples that made sense to His disciples. This lesson provides a great opportunity for you to share examples of choices you made that changed your life. What experiences could the young men share?

# Selected Resources

---

*Excerpt from “Plan of Salvation,” True to the Faith (2004), 115–17*

## **Premortal Life**

Before you were born on the earth, you lived in the presence of your Heavenly Father as one of His spirit children. In this premortal existence, you attended a council with Heavenly Father’s other spirit children. At that council, Heavenly Father presented His great plan of happiness (see Abraham 3:22–26).

In harmony with the plan of happiness, the premortal Jesus Christ, the Firstborn Son of the Father in the spirit, covenanted to be the Savior (see Moses 4:2; Abraham 3:27). Those who followed Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ were permitted to come to the earth

to experience mortality and progress toward eternal life. Lucifer, another spirit son of God, rebelled against the plan and “sought to destroy the agency of man” (Moses 4:3). He became Satan, and he and his followers were cast out of heaven and denied the privileges of receiving a physical body and experiencing mortality (see Moses 4:4; Abraham 3:27–28).

Throughout your premortal life, you developed your identity and increased your spiritual capabilities. Blessed with the gift of agency, you made important decisions, such as the decision to follow Heavenly Father’s plan. These decisions affected your life then and now. You grew in intelligence and learned to love the truth, and you prepared to come to the earth, where you could continue to progress.





# What is the purpose of life?

During this life we obtain physical bodies and are tested to see if we will obey God's commandments. Our experiences during mortality are meant to help us become more like our Heavenly Father.

---

## Prepare yourself spiritually

*Prayerfully study the following scriptures and resources What do you feel impressed to share with the quorum?*

2 Nephi 2:25 (We were created to have joy)

Alma 12:25; 34:32; 42:4 (This life is a time to be tested and prepare to meet God)

3 Nephi 12:3–12 (The Savior names several godlike attributes)

3 Nephi 12:48 (Heavenly Father wants us to become perfect as He is)

“The Family: A Proclamation to the World,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2010, 129

Thomas S. Monson, “The Race of Life,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2012, 90–93

Dieter F. Uchtdorf, “Of Regrets and Resolutions,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2012, 21–24

“Plan of Salvation,” *True to the Faith* (2004), 115–16

How have you found joy in this life? What experiences have helped you grow spiritually?

What are the young men doing to become more like Heavenly Father?

---

## Let the young men lead

*A member of the quorum presidency (or an assistant to the bishop in the priests quorum) conducts the quorum meeting. He leads the young men in counseling together about quorum business, teaches them their priesthood duties (from the scriptures and the Duty to God book), and invites an adviser or other quorum member to teach a gospel lesson. He could prepare by filling out a quorum meeting agenda during a presidency meeting.*

---

## Begin the learning experience

*Choose from these ideas or think of your own to review the doctrine from last week's lesson and introduce this week's lesson:*

- Ask the young men to share what they learned in last week's lesson. How has the lesson affected their lives? What have they done differently because of what they learned? What blessings have come from their actions?

- Display a string that has a knot tied in the middle of it. Explain how the knot could represent this life, while everything on one side of the knot represents premortal life and everything on the other side represents post mortal life. This could serve as a visual aid to refer to during quorum meeting.

---

## Learn together

*Each of the activities below will help quorum members learn about the purpose of life. Following the inspiration of the Spirit, select one or more that will work best for your quorum:*

- Invite the young men to search the scriptures in this outline and share what they learn about the purpose of mortality (they could also search *True to the Faith*, pages 115–16). How does knowing about this purpose affect the choices they make?
- Invite the young men to read the Beatitudes in 3 Nephi 12:3–12 and look for attributes that Heavenly Father wants us to develop during our mortal lives. Ask them to think of people in the scriptures or in their own lives who exemplify these principles. How do the Savior’s teachings in 3 Nephi 12 help us understand our purpose as sons of God?
- Give each quorum member a copy of “The Family: A Proclamation to the World,” and ask him to read it and mark words and phrases that teach him about his purposes as a son of God. Invite the young men to share what they marked and explain why it is meaningful to them.
- Assign each young man to read about one of the regrets mentioned in President Dieter F. Uchtdorf’s talk “Of Regrets and Resolutions,” looking for things he learns about the purpose of life. Ask him to find someone in the quorum who read about a different regret. Invite them to share with each other what they learned, and ask a few of the young men to share with the rest of the quorum. Invite them to consider what they need to do to avoid having these regrets in their own lives.

*Ask the young men to share what they learned today. Do they understand the purpose of life better? What feelings or impressions do they have? Do they have any additional questions? Would it be worthwhile to spend more time on this doctrine?*

### Teaching tip

“Use eye contact as a way to draw learners into lessons. When you teach eye to eye, your attention is focused on those you are teaching, not on lesson materials. Making eye contact as you listen to their comments and questions helps them know that you are interested in what they have to say” (*Teaching, No Greater Call* [1999], 71).

---

## Invite to act

*The young man who is conducting concludes the meeting. He could:*

- Share his testimony about what was taught.
- Encourage quorum members to act on any impressions they received during the quorum meeting.

## Teaching in the Savior's way

The Savior invited His disciples to testify. For example, He asked His disciples, "Whom say ye that I am?" (Matthew 16:15). When you ask inspired questions to the young men, their answers can be opportunities to bear testimony.

# Selected Resources

---

## THE FAMILY

---

### A PROCLAMATION TO THE WORLD

#### THE FIRST PRESIDENCY AND COUNCIL OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

**WE**, THE FIRST PRESIDENCY and the Council of the Twelve Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, solemnly proclaim that marriage between a man and a woman is ordained of God and that the family is central to the Creator's plan for the eternal destiny of His children.

**ALL HUMAN BEINGS**—male and female—are created in the image of God. Each is a beloved spirit son or daughter of heavenly parents, and, as such, each has a divine nature and destiny. Gender is an essential characteristic of individual premortal, mortal, and eternal identity and purpose.

**IN THE PREMORTAL REALM**, spirit sons and daughters knew and worshipped God as their Eternal Father and accepted His plan by which His children could obtain a physical body and gain earthly experience to progress toward perfection and ultimately realize their divine destiny as heirs of eternal life. The divine plan of happiness enables family relationships to be perpetuated beyond the grave. Sacred ordinances and covenants available in holy temples make it possible for individuals to return to the presence of God and for families to be united eternally.

**THE FIRST COMMANDMENT** that God gave to Adam and Eve pertained to their potential for parenthood as husband and wife. We declare that God's commandment for His children to multiply and replenish the earth remains in force. We further declare that God has commanded that the sacred powers of procreation are to be employed only between man and woman, lawfully wedded as husband and wife.

**WE DECLARE** the means by which mortal life is created to be divinely appointed. We affirm the sanctity of life and of its importance in God's eternal plan.

**HUSBAND AND WIFE** have a solemn responsibility to love and care for each other and for their children. "Children are an heritage of the Lord" (Psalm 127:3). Parents have a sacred duty to rear their children in love and righteousness,

to provide for their physical and spiritual needs, and to teach them to love and serve one another, observe the commandments of God, and be law-abiding citizens wherever they live. Husbands and wives—mothers and fathers—will be held accountable before God for the discharge of these obligations.

**THE FAMILY** is ordained of God. Marriage between man and woman is essential to His eternal plan. Children are entitled to birth within the bonds of matrimony, and to be reared by a father and a mother who honor marital vows with complete fidelity. Happiness in family life is most likely to be achieved when founded upon the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ. Successful marriages and families are established and maintained on principles of faith, prayer, repentance, forgiveness, respect, love, compassion, work, and wholesome recreational activities. By divine design, fathers are to preside over their families in love and righteousness and are responsible to provide the necessities of life and protection for their families. Mothers are primarily responsible for the nurture of their children. In these sacred responsibilities, fathers and mothers are obligated to help one another as equal partners. Disability, death, or other circumstances may necessitate individual adaptation. Extended families should lend support when needed.

**WE WARN** that individuals who violate covenants of chastity, who abuse spouse or offspring, or who fail to fulfill family responsibilities will one day stand accountable before God. Further, we warn that the disintegration of the family will bring upon individuals, communities, and nations the calamities foretold by ancient and modern prophets.

**WE CALL UPON** responsible citizens and officers of government everywhere to promote those measures designed to maintain and strengthen the family as the fundamental unit of society.

*This proclamation was read by President Gordon B. Hinckley as part of his message at the General Relief Society Meeting held September 23, 1995, in Salt Lake City, Utah.*



## Why do the choices I make matter?

Heavenly Father has given us moral agency, the ability to choose and act for ourselves. While we are free to make our own choices, we cannot choose the consequences of those choices. Good choices lead to lasting happiness and eternal life. If we ask Him, Heavenly Father will help us make wise choices.

---

### Prepare yourself spiritually

*Prayerfully study the following scriptures and resources. What do you feel will help the young men understand the importance of making wise choices?*

Joshua 24:15 (We can choose to serve the Lord)

John 14:15 (Our good choices show our love for Heavenly Father and our desire to do His will)

2 Nephi 2:16, 27; Helaman 14:30–31 (We are free to choose and act for ourselves)

Moroni 7:14–15 (It is given to us to judge between good and evil)

Thomas S. Monson, “The Three Rs of Choice,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2010, 67–70

“Agency,” *True to the Faith* (2004), 12–13

“Agency and Accountability,” *For the Strength of Youth* (2011), 2–3

Videos: “Stay within the Lines,”  
“Surfing or Seminary?”

---

Ponder the significant decisions you have made in your life. How have these decisions affected you and others? What have you learned from them?

As you pray for each young man, ponder the decisions he is making. How will these decisions affect him now and in the future?

### Let the young men lead

*A member of the quorum presidency (or an assistant to the bishop in the priests quorum) conducts the quorum meeting. He leads the young men in counseling together about quorum business, teaches them their priesthood duties (from the scriptures and the Duty to God book), and invites an adviser or other quorum member to teach a gospel lesson. He could prepare by filling out a quorum meeting agenda during a presidency meeting.*

---

### Begin the learning experience

*Choose from these ideas or think of your own to review the doctrine from last week’s lesson and introduce this week’s lesson:*

- Show an object that represents something the young men learned last week, and invite them to share what the object has to do with what they learned.
- Label one end of a stick “Choice” and the other “Consequence,” and use it to show that every choice we make

has a consequence attached (sometimes positive, sometimes negative). Invite a young man to hold the stick as you describe a choice he may face. The young man could describe the consequence of that choice. Discuss how our choices affect our lives, families, and priesthood service.

---

## Learn together

*Each of the activities below will help quorum members understand the doctrine of agency. Following the inspiration of the Spirit, select one or more that will work best for your quorum:*

- Invite a quorum member to teach a portion of this lesson. He could do this as part of his Duty to God plan to learn and teach about agency (see “Understand Doctrine,” page 18, 42, or 66).
- Invite each young man to silently read “Agency and Accountability” in *For the Strength of Youth* and share what impresses him. Quorum members could then choose another standard in the book and share some choices they’ve made in relation to that standard and the blessings that came from their choices. For example, you might discuss as a quorum the blessings they’ve received for following the counsel to avoid addictions (see page 27).
- Give each young man part of President Thomas S. Monson’s talk “The Three Rs of Choice” to read on his own. Then invite the young men to share things that impressed them. They could do this in small groups or with the entire quorum. Invite them

to discuss how President Monson’s counsel could help them make better choices.

- Invite the young men to think of situations they have faced in which they had to make difficult decisions. Share the following statement from Elder Neil L. Andersen: “President Monson ... often reminds the General Authorities to remember this simple question: ‘What would Jesus do?’” (“What Thinks Christ of Me?” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2012, 112–13). Ask the youth to apply this question to the situations they thought of. How could this affect their choices?

- Invite each young man to find an example of someone making a choice in the scriptures (for example, they could contrast the choices made by Nephi and by Laman and Lemuel in 1 Nephi 3:1–8 and elsewhere in 1 Nephi). What were the consequences of these choices? How did the choices affect others?

### Teaching tip

“Do not be concerned if learners are silent for a few seconds after you have asked a question. Do not answer your own question; allow time for learners to think of responses. However, prolonged silence may indicate that they do not understand the question and that you need to rephrase it” (*Teaching, No Greater Call* [1999], 69).

- Show one of the videos suggested in this outline. Invite the quorum members to look for the consequences of the choices the young men in the video made. Ask them to share what they find. Invite them to share experiences in which they made a choice that had far-reaching consequences. Invite each young man to read one of the scriptures in this outline and share how it can help him make the right choices in the future.

*Ask the young men to share what they learned today. Do they understand the doctrine of agency better? What feelings or impressions do they have? Do they have any additional questions? Would it be worthwhile to spend more time on this doctrine?*

---

## Invite to act

*The young man who is conducting concludes the meeting. He could:*

- Share examples of good choices he has made and describe how those choices have affected his life and the lives of others, including his family. He could invite other quorum members to share as well.
- Invite quorum members to evaluate privately the choices they are making that affect their ability to be faithful priesthood holders. He could encourage them to plan ways to continually improve.

## Teaching in the Savior's way

The Savior shared simple stories, parables, and real-life examples that made sense to His disciples. This lesson provides a great opportunity for you to share examples of choices you've made that have changed your life. What experiences could the young men share?

# Selected Resources

---

*“Agency and Accountability,” For the Strength of Youth (2011), 2–3*

Heavenly Father has given you agency, the ability to choose right from wrong and to act for yourself. Next to the bestowal of life itself, the right to direct your life is one of God’s greatest gifts to you. While here on earth, you are being proven to see if you will use your agency to show your love for God by keeping His commandments. The Holy Ghost can guide you in using your agency righteously.

You are responsible for the choices you make. God is mindful of you and will help you make good choices, even if your family and friends use their agency in ways that are not right. Have the moral courage to stand firm in obeying God’s will, even if you have to stand alone. As you do this, you set an example for others to follow.

While you are free to choose your course of action, you are not free to choose the consequences. Whether for good or bad, consequences follow as a natural result of the choices you make. Some sinful behavior may bring temporary, worldly pleasure, but such choices delay your progress and lead to heartache and misery. Righteous choices lead to lasting happiness and eternal life. Remember, true freedom comes from using your agency to choose obedience; loss of freedom comes from choosing disobedience.

You are also responsible for developing the talents and abilities Heavenly Father has given you. You are accountable to Him for what you do with your talents and how you spend your time. Choose to do many good things of your own free will.





## Why do we have adversity?

As part of Heavenly Father's plan, we must experience adversity during mortality. In some cases, adversity comes as the result of our own poor choices or the choices of others. Other trials are simply a natural part of our mortal experience. Though they are difficult, our challenges can help us grow spiritually and become more like Jesus Christ.

---

### Prepare yourself spiritually

*Prayerfully study these scriptures and resources. What impressions do you receive as you study?*

Think about the trials you have had in your life. How has the Savior strengthened you during these difficult times?

Some young men you teach may have already dealt with serious trials. All of them will need to rely on the Savior's grace to receive help during trials throughout their life.

2 Nephi 2:11 (There must be opposition in all things)

Mosiah 23:21 (God gives us adversity to test our faith)

Ether 12:27 (God gives us weakness so that we will be humble)

D&C 101:1–9 (Some adversity comes because of our own poor choices)

D&C 121:7–8; 122:4–9 (Trials give us experience and are for our good)

Henry B. Eyring, "Mountains to Climb," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2012, 23–26

Neil L. Andersen, "Trial of Your Faith," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2012, 39–42

"Adversity," *True to the Faith* (2004), 6–10  
Video: "God Will Lift Us Up"

---

### Let the young men lead

*A member of the quorum presidency (or an assistant to the bishop in the priests quorum) conducts the quorum meeting. He leads the young men in counseling together about quorum business, teaches them their priesthood duties (from the scriptures and the Duty to God book), and invites an adviser or other quorum member to teach a gospel lesson. He could prepare by filling out a quorum meeting agenda during a presidency meeting.*

---

### Begin the learning experience

*Choose from these ideas or think of your own to review the doctrine from last week's lesson and introduce this week's lesson:*

- Ask the young men to think of and write down one thing they learned last week and share it with the quorum. Use this as a starting point for introducing this week's lesson.
- Write the following questions on the board, and discuss them as a quorum: Why do we have adversity? What are

the causes of our trials? How do we learn from our trials? Draw pictures of a piece of coal and a diamond on the board. Ask the young men how diamonds are made from coal (through extreme pressure and heat applied over a long period of time). What does this teach us about adversity?

---

## Learn together

*Each of the activities below will help quorum members learn about the purpose of adversity. Following the inspiration of the Spirit, select one or more that will work best for your quorum:*

- Ask each young man to write down a trial he or a family member is having. Invite the young men to search the scriptures in this outline or others they know of to find something that teaches why we have adversity. Invite them to share what they find. How could this scripture help them overcome the trial they wrote down?
- Read together the first two paragraphs of "Adversity" in *True to the Faith*. What is the role of adversity in Heavenly Father's plan? Assign each quorum member one of the remaining three sections about adversity in *True to the Faith*, and ask the young men to prepare to teach the rest of the quorum what they learn from their section. Encourage them to share a story or personal experience related to what they read.
- Invite the young men to read about President Henry B. Eyring's experience building foundations for houses (as told in his talk "Mountains to Climb").

What do they learn from President Eyring about preparing spiritually to face adversity? What are the young men doing now to prepare for adversity they might face in the future?

- With permission from the bishop, invite fathers of the young men to share with the quorum how Jesus Christ has helped them overcome trials. What did they learn from their experiences with adversity? Ask the fathers to share scripture as part of the discussion.
- Ask the young men to read the four paragraphs from Elder Neil L. Andersen's talk "Trial of Your Faith," beginning with "These fiery trials are designed to make you stronger," or show the video "God Will Lift Us Up." Invite the young men to ponder the question "Why do we have adversity?" as they read or watch. What do they learn from this talk or video that helps them know what to do when adversity comes?

*Ask the young men to share what they learned today. Do they understand why we have adversity? What feelings or impressions do they have? Do they have any additional questions? Would it be worthwhile to spend more time on this doctrine?*

### Teaching tip

"Arrange the chairs in the room so you can see each person's face and so each person can see your face" (*Teaching, No Greater Call* [1999], 71).

---

## Invite to act

*The young man who is conducting concludes the meeting. He could:*

- Lead a discussion about how the quorum can fulfill their priesthood duty to help others in their trials. They could record plans to assist them in the “Serve Others” section of their *Duty to God* books.
- Share his testimony of how the Savior has strengthened him in times of trial.

## Teaching in the Savior’s way

The Savior used the scriptures to teach and testify about His mission. This lesson contains many powerful scriptures that teach how the Savior will strengthen us during our trials. As the young men study and discuss these scriptures, the Holy Ghost will testify of their truthfulness.

# Selected Resources

---

*Excerpt from "Adversity," True to the Faith (2004), 6–10*

As part of Heavenly Father's plan of redemption, you experience adversity during mortality. Trials, disappointments, sadness, sickness, and heartache are a difficult part of life, but they can lead to spiritual growth, refinement, and progress as you turn to the Lord.

Adversity comes from different sources. You may at times face trials as a consequence of your own pride and disobedience. These trials can be avoided through righteous living. Other trials are simply a natural part of life and may come at times when you are living righteously. For example, you may experience trials in times of sickness or uncertainty or at the deaths of loved ones. Adversity may sometimes come because of others' poor choices and hurtful words and actions.

*Excerpt from Henry B. Eyring, "Mountains to Climb," Ensign or Liahona, May 2012, 23–26*

As a young man I worked with a contractor building footings and foundations for new houses. In the summer heat it was hard work to prepare the ground for the form into which we poured the cement for the footing. There were no machines. We used a pick and a shovel. Building lasting foundations for buildings was hard work in those days.

It also required patience. After we poured the footing, we waited for it to cure. Much as we wanted to keep the jobs moving, we also waited after the pour of the foundation before we took away the forms.

And even more impressive to a novice builder was what seemed to be a tedious and time-consuming process to put metal bars carefully inside the forms to give the finished foundation strength.

In a similar way, the ground must be carefully prepared for our foundation of faith to withstand the storms that will come into every life. That solid basis for a foundation of faith is personal integrity.

Our choosing the right consistently whenever the choice is placed before us creates the solid ground under our faith. It can begin in childhood since every soul is born with the free gift of the Spirit of Christ. With that Spirit we can know when we have done what is right before God and when we have done wrong in His sight.



# How can I find comfort when someone I care about dies?

Death is an essential part of the plan of salvation. In order to become like our Heavenly Father, we must experience death and receive perfect, resurrected bodies. When we understand that death is part of Heavenly Father's plan, and that Jesus Christ overcame death through His Atonement, we can receive hope and peace when a loved one dies.

How have you or others you know found hope when loved ones have died? What scriptures or principles have helped?

Some young men have already dealt with the death of a loved one. All of them will someday. What do you want them to know that will help them?

---

## Prepare yourself spiritually

*Prayerfully study these scriptures and resources. What impressions do you receive as you study?*

Mosiah 16:7–8 (The Resurrection of Jesus Christ takes away the sting of death)

Mosiah 18:8–10; D&C 81:5 (We are to comfort those who need comfort)

Alma 11:42–45 (We will have our bodies again because of the Savior's Resurrection)

Alma 28:12; D&C 42:45–46 (We mourn for those who die, but death is sweet to those who die in the Lord)

Alma 40:11–14 (Our spirits will keep living after we die)

D&C 138 (President Joseph F. Smith's vision of the spirit world)

Thomas S. Monson, "Mrs. Patton—the Story Continues," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2007, 21–24; see also the video "Until We Meet Again"

Russell M. Nelson, "Doors of Death," *Ensign*, May 1992, 72–74

Shayne M. Bowen, "'Because I Live, Ye Shall Live Also,'" *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2012, 15–17

Videos: "We're Still a Family," "He Will Give You Help"

---

## Let the young men lead

*A member of the quorum presidency (or an assistant to the bishop in the priests quorum) conducts the quorum meeting. He leads the young men in counseling together about quorum business, teaches them their priesthood duties (from the scriptures and the Duty to God book), and invites an adviser or other quorum member to teach a gospel lesson. He could prepare by filling out a quorum meeting agenda during a presidency meeting.*

---

## Begin the learning experience

*Choose from these ideas or think of your own to review last week's lesson and introduce this week's lesson:*

- What have the young men been invited to do as a result of what they have been learning? Invite them to share how acting on what they learned has affected their lives and the lives of their families and friends.
- Share an experience of your own, or one from someone else, about finding peace after the death of a loved one. Invite the young men to share their experiences.

---

## Learn together

*Each of the activities below will help quorum members learn about life after death.*

*Following the inspiration of the Spirit, select one or more that will work best for your quorum:*

- Invite the young men to write down their questions, thoughts, or fears about death, and then have them search for answers in the scriptures suggested in this outline or in Elder Russell M. Nelson's talk "Doors of Death." Encourage them to note in particular scriptures or statements that highlight the Savior's role in helping us overcome death. Ask them to share what they find. Invite them to share their feelings about what the Savior has done for us.
- Show the video "He Will Give You Help," and invite the young men to share what impresses them. After the video, discuss how the world would be different if everyone knew what the young man in the video found out.
- Share the story about Mrs. Patton from President Thomas S. Monson's talk "Mrs. Patton—the Story Continues," or show the video "Until We Meet Again." Ask the young men how they would respond to the question Mrs. Patton asked young Thomas Monson. As a quorum, read Mosiah 18:8–10 and Doctrine and Covenants 81:5. Discuss the responsibility priesthood holders have to provide comfort, assistance, and other priesthood service to families who lose loved ones. You may invite a member of the bishopric to participate in this discussion.
- Invite half of the quorum to read the story about Sister Ramirez in Elder Shayne M. Bowen's talk "'Because I Live, Ye Shall Live Also,'" and invite the other half to read the story about Elder Bowen's son Tyson. Ask them to share what they learn about how to find comfort when someone they love dies and how to comfort others. Invite the young men to share any experiences they have had in which they lost a loved one. How did their knowledge of the Atonement and plan of salvation help them find comfort? If appropriate, share an experience of your own.

### Teaching tip

"Questions written on the chalkboard before class will help learners begin to think about topics even before the lesson begins" (*Teaching, No Greater Call* [1999], 93).

*Ask the young men to share what they learned today. Do they understand how to find comfort when someone they care about dies? What feelings or impressions do they have? Do they have any additional questions? Would it be worthwhile to spend more time on this doctrine?*

---

### **Invite to act**

*The young man who is conducting concludes the meeting. He could lead a discussion about what quorum members could do to provide service for someone who recently lost a loved one. Are there widows or others in the ward or community who could use some help?*

### **Teaching in the Savior's way**

The Savior asked questions that caused others to think and feel deeply. How can you invite the young men to ponder and seek inspiration? How can you help them feel safe in sharing personal feelings?



# Selected Resources

---

*Excerpt from Thomas S. Monson, "Mrs. Patton—the Story Continues," Ensign or Liahona, Nov. 2007, 21–24*

First, may I tell you about Arthur. He had blond, curly hair and a smile as big as all outdoors. He stood taller than any boy in the class. I suppose this is how, in 1940, as the great conflict which became World War II was overtaking much of Europe, Arthur was able to fool the recruiting officers and enlist in the navy at the tender age of 15. To Arthur and most of the boys, the war was a great adventure. I remember how striking he appeared in his navy uniform. How we wished we were older or at least taller so we too could enlist.

Youth is a very special time of life. As Longfellow wrote:

*How beautiful is youth! how bright it gleams  
With its illusions, aspirations, dreams!  
Book of Beginnings, Story without End,  
Each maid a heroine, and each man a friend!*  
["Morituri Salutamus," in *The Complete Poetical Works of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow* (1883), 259.]

Arthur's mother was so proud of the blue star which graced her living room window. It represented to every passerby that her son wore the uniform of his country and was actively serving. When I would pass the house, she often opened the door and invited me in to read the latest letter from Arthur. Her eyes would fill with tears; I would then be asked to read aloud. Arthur meant everything to his widowed mother.

I can still picture Mrs. Patton's coarse hands as she would carefully replace the letter in its envelope. These were hardworking hands; Mrs. Patton was a cleaning woman for a downtown office building. Each day of her life except Sundays she could be seen walking along the sidewalk, pail and brush in hand, her gray hair pulled back into a tight bob, her shoulders weary from work and stooped with age.

In March 1944, with the war now raging, Arthur was transferred from the USS *Dorsey*, a destroyer, to the USS *White Plains*, an aircraft carrier. While at Saipan in the South Pacific, the ship was attacked. Arthur was one of those on board who was lost at sea.

The blue star was taken from its hallowed spot in the front window of the Patton home. It was replaced by one of gold, indicating that he whom the blue star represented had been killed in battle. A light went out in the life of Mrs. Patton. She groped in utter darkness and deep despair.

With a prayer in my heart, I approached the familiar walkway to the Patton home, wondering what words of comfort could come from the lips of a mere boy.

The door opened, and Mrs. Patton embraced me as she would her own son. Home became a chapel as a grief-stricken mother and a less-than-adequate boy knelt in prayer.

Arising from our knees, Mrs. Patton gazed into my eyes and spoke: "Tommy, I belong to no church, but you do. Tell me, will Arthur live again?" To the best of my ability, I testified to her that Arthur would indeed live again.





## Why should I treat my body like a temple?

Our bodies were created in the image of God. They are a gift from Heavenly Father to allow us to experience mortality and continue to become more like our Him. This knowledge influences the way we treat our bodies and how we feel about Heavenly Father and ourselves. When we treat our bodies as temples of God, we obtain physical, emotional, and spiritual blessings.

---

### Prepare yourself spiritually

*Prayerfully study these scriptures and resources. What does the Spirit inspire you to share with the young men?*

Genesis 39:1–21; Daniel 1:3–21 (Joseph and Daniel show respect for their bodies)

1 Corinthians 6:19–20; D&C 93:33–35 (We are the temple of God)

D&C 88:15–16 (The spirit and body are the soul of man)

D&C 130:22; Moses 6:9 (We are created in the image of God)

Gordon B. Hinckley, “Great Shall Be the Peace of Thy Children,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2000, 50–53

David A. Bednar, “Ye Are the Temple of God,” *Ensign*, Sept. 2001, 14–21

Videos: “The Mormon Mustang,” “Chastity: What Are the Limits?”

What blessings have you received as you have treated your body as a temple of God? How has your understanding of the sacredness of your body grown as you have experienced life and watched the lives of others?

What challenges do the young men face as they strive to treat their bodies as sacred gifts from God? How is the way they treat their bodies related to priesthood power?

---

### Let the young men lead

*A member of the quorum presidency (or an assistant to the bishop in the priests quorum) conducts the quorum meeting. He leads the young men in counseling together about quorum business, teaches them their priesthood duties (from the scriptures and the Duty to God book), and invites an adviser or other quorum member to teach a gospel lesson. He could prepare by filling out a quorum meeting agenda during a presidency meeting.*

---

## Begin the learning experience

Choose from these ideas or think of your own to review the doctrine from last week's lesson and introduce this week's lesson:

- Remind the young men about what they studied in last week's lesson. Do they have any questions or insights about what they discussed?
- Show a picture of a temple, and invite the young men to write down words that come to mind as they think of the temple. What are the opposites of those words? Ask the young men to share what they have been asked to do to treat their physical bodies like temples of God.

---

## Learn together

Each of the activities below will help quorum members understand that their bodies are sacred. Following the inspiration of the Spirit, select one or more that will work best for your quorum:

### Teaching tip

“Avoid trying to teach all that could be said on a particular subject. Those you teach will likely already have some understanding of the subject. Remember that your lesson is not the only time they will learn about the subject” (*Teaching, No Greater Call* [1999], 99).

- Assign each young man one of the scripture passages in this outline. Invite the young men to study the passages and summarize in a sentence what they learn about why our bodies are sacred. Ask them to share what they can do to keep their bodies and minds clean.
- Invite each young man to read a section of one of the talks suggested in this outline. Then give the young men a few minutes to each prepare a brief lesson about the sacredness of the body. Encourage them to use a quotation from the talk along with their own personal experiences and testimonies.
- Read as a quorum 1 Corinthians 6:19–20 and D&C 93:33–35. Ask the young men to make a list of the ways our bodies are like a temple of God. Invite them to discuss some of the challenges youth face in keeping their bodies like a temple. What can they do to overcome these challenges?
- Divide the quorum into pairs. Assign one individual in each pair to read Genesis 39:1–21 and the other to read Daniel 1:3–21 (for pictures of these stories, see *Gospel Art Book*, 11, 23). Ask them to look for ways Joseph and Daniel showed respect for their bodies and then share with each other what they find. How can they follow the examples of Joseph and Daniel?
- Invite the young men to look at the table of contents in *For the Strength of Youth* and identify which of the standards relate to keeping their minds and bodies clean. Divide the quorum into groups, and have them search these sections and find answers to the question “Why should I treat my body like a temple?” Invite them to share what they can do to live these standards.
- Show one of the videos suggested in this outline. Invite the young men to identify and discuss the analogies used

in the video to explain the importance of keeping our bodies clean. What can they do to encourage each other to live the standards taught in the video?

- Ask the young men to use the “Dress and Appearance” section in *For the Strength of Youth* to answer

*Ask the young men to share what they learned today. Do they understand the sacredness of their bodies better? What feelings or impressions do they have? Do they have any additional questions? Would it be worthwhile to spend more time on this doctrine?*

---

## Invite to act

*The young man who is conducting concludes the meeting. He could:*

- Bear his testimony about the blessings that come from treating our bodies with respect.
- Plan with quorum members to work together to complete the “Physical Health” section of *Duty to God* (pages 31–34).

questions such as “What are the Lord’s standards concerning modesty?”

“Why is it important to follow these standards?” and “How does our modesty show respect for the sacredness of our bodies?”

## Teaching in the Savior’s way

The Savior loved those He taught. He knew who they were and who they could become. He found unique ways for them to grow—ways meant just for them. When they struggled, He did not give up on them but continued to love them and minister to them. What can you do to love and serve the young men as the Savior does?

# Selected Resources

---

*“Dress and Appearance,”* For the Strength of Youth (2011), 6–8

Your body is sacred. Respect it and do not defile it in any way. Through your dress and appearance, you can show that you know how precious your body is. You can show that you are a disciple of Jesus Christ and that you love Him.

Prophets of God have continually counseled His children to dress modestly. When you are well groomed and modestly dressed, you invite the companionship of the Spirit and you can be a good influence on others. Your dress and grooming influence the way you and others act.

Never lower your standards of dress. Do not use a special occasion as an excuse to be immodest. When you dress immodestly, you send a message that is contrary to your identity as a son or daughter of God. You also send the message that you are using your body to get attention and approval.

Immodest clothing is any clothing that is tight, sheer, or revealing in any other manner. Young women should avoid short shorts and short skirts, shirts that do not cover the stomach, and clothing that does not cover the shoulders or is low-cut in

the front or the back. Young men should also maintain modesty in their appearance. Young men and young women should be neat and clean and avoid being extreme or inappropriately casual in clothing, hairstyle, and behavior. They should choose appropriately modest apparel when participating in sports. The fashions of the world will change, but the Lord’s standards will not change.

Do not disfigure yourself with tattoos or body piercings. Young women, if you desire to have your ears pierced, wear only one pair of earrings.

Show respect for the Lord and yourself by dressing appropriately for Church meetings and activities. This is especially important when attending sacrament services. Young men should dress with dignity when officiating in the ordinance of the sacrament.

If you are not sure what is appropriate to wear, study the words of the prophets, pray for guidance, and ask your parents or leaders for help. Your dress and appearance now will help you prepare for the time when you will go to the temple to make sacred covenants with God. Ask yourself, “Would I feel comfortable with my appearance if I were in the Lord’s presence?”

## UNIT OVERVIEW

# March: The Atonement of Jesus Christ

*“Behold I say unto you that ye shall have hope through the atonement of Christ”*  
(Moroni 7:41).

The outlines in this unit will help the young men “come unto Christ ... and partake of his salvation, and the power of his redemption” (Omni 1:26). In this unit you can help them understand how, through repentance and the Atonement, they can remain clean and worthy to fulfill their priesthood duties. You can also help them recognize that as Aaronic Priesthood holders, they have a sacred role in helping others receive the blessings of the Atonement as they administer the ordinances of the sacrament and baptism.

---

### Learning outlines

Seek the inspiration of the Spirit as you select from the outlines below. Let the questions and interests of the young men guide you as you decide what to emphasize in this unit and how long to spend on a topic.

These outlines are not meant to prescribe what you will say and do in the quorum meeting. They are designed to help you learn the doctrine for yourself and prepare learning experiences adapted to the needs of the young men you teach.

To make Duty to God part of the Sunday quorum meeting, you may consider teaching the Duty to God outline below during this unit.

*How do I help others receive the blessings of the Atonement?*

*(Duty to God)*

*What is the Atonement of Jesus Christ?*

*What does it mean to have faith in Jesus Christ?*

*What does it mean to repent?*

*What is grace?*

*Why do I need to forgive others?*

*What is the resurrection?*

*How can the Atonement help me during my trials?*

### Prepare yourself spiritually

To help the young men learn the doctrine of the Atonement, you must understand and live this doctrine yourself. Study the scriptures and other resources provided in the learning outlines, and look for statements, stories, or examples that may be especially relevant or inspiring. Then use the learning outlines to plan ways to help quorum members discover truths for themselves, gain a testimony of them, and live by what they learn.

### Counsel together

Counsel with the quorum presidency and with other teachers, leaders, and parents about the young men. What questions and needs do the young men have? What are they learning about the Atonement in other settings—at home, in seminary, in Sunday School?

How will this influence your preparation to teach this unit? (If sensitive information is shared in these conversations, please keep it confidential.)

## **Mutual**

Many of the lesson topics and learning activities in this unit would work well as Mutual activities. Work with quorum presidencies in selecting and planning appropriate activities to reinforce what the young men learn on Sunday.

## **Duty to God**

The following sections from the *Duty to God* book relate to the lessons in this unit:

Administer Priesthood Ordinances, pages 24–25, 48–49, 72–73

Understand Doctrine, pages 18–20, 42–44, 66–68



## DUTY TO GOD

# How do I help others receive the blessings of the Atonement?

As Aaronic Priesthood holders prepare and administer the sacrament, they help Church members renew the cleansing power of the Atonement in their lives.

---

## Prepare yourself spiritually

*What scriptures and talks could help the young men understand the role they have in helping others receive the blessings of the Atonement?*

Luke 22:19–20; 3 Nephi 18:1–11 (Jesus Christ instituted the sacrament) Boyd K. Packer, “The Atonement,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2012, 75–78

D&C 20:76–79 (Aaronic Priesthood holders administer the sacrament) “Sacrament,” *True to the Faith* (2004), 147–48

D&C 38:42 (Priesthood holders must be worthy to perform ordinances) Videos: “The Magnificent Priesthood,” “Sanctify Yourselves”

---

How have you felt as you have prepared, administered, or partaken of the sacrament? Why is the sacrament important to you?

How do the young men view the ordinance of the sacrament? What can they do to better prepare to administer the sacrament? What would you like them to understand about the responsibility they have?

## Let the young men lead

*A member of the quorum presidency (or an assistant to the bishop in the priests quorum) conducts the quorum meeting. He leads the young men in counseling together about quorum business, teaches them their priesthood duties (from the scriptures and the Duty to God book), and invites an adviser or other quorum member to teach a gospel lesson. He could prepare by filling out a quorum meeting agenda during a presidency meeting.*

---

## Begin the learning experience

*Choose from these ideas or think of your own to review the doctrine from last week’s lesson and introduce this week’s lesson:*

- Ask the young men to share something they remember from last week’s lesson. What questions do they still have? How are they living what they are learning?
- Invite quorum members to list on the board their answers to the question “How do I help others receive the blessings of the Atonement?”



---

## Learn together

### Duty to God plans

Allow time at the end of the quorum meeting for the young men to make plans in their *Duty to God* books. These plans are personal, but quorum members can help each other generate ideas for their plans.

*The purpose of this lesson is to help each young man understand how fulfilling his priesthood duties helps others receive the blessings of the Atonement. As part of this lesson, quorum members should make plans in their Duty to God books to administer priesthood ordinances with reverence. Before quorum meeting, invite the young men to bring their Duty to God books with them to church. In future quorum meetings, invite them to share experiences they are having as they fulfill their plans.*

- Invite a quorum member to show a picture of the Savior administering the sacrament (see *Gospel Art Book*, 54). Ask him to explain the setting of the event, what is happening in the picture, and how Aaronic Priesthood holders represent Jesus Christ as they administer the sacrament today. Ask the young men how they feel as they prepare and administer the sacrament.
- Invite the young men to read Doctrine and Covenants 20:76–79, Luke 22:19–20, and 3 Nephi 18:1–11 in pairs. Ask them to discuss what the sacramental bread and water represent and who priesthood holders represent while preparing and administering the sacrament (see *Duty to God*, 24). Invite the young men to turn to the “Act” section of their *Duty to God* books (page 25, 49, or 73) and make plans based on what they have discussed. Encourage them to ask their parents or a leader these questions: What does the ordinance of the sacrament mean to you? What can I do as an Aaronic Priesthood holder to help you have a more meaningful experience with the sacrament? In a future quorum meeting, invite quorum members to share answers to these questions and any experiences they are having as they fulfill their plans.
- As a quorum, read Doctrine and Covenants 38:42 and discuss how this verse applies to those who handle the “vessels” that contain the symbols of the Atonement (see *Duty to God*, 48). Show one of the videos suggested in this outline, and ask the young men to look for reasons they need to be clean in order to exercise the priesthood. Invite them to turn to the “Act” section of their *Duty to God* books (page 25, 49, or 73) and make plans based on what they have learned.
- Invite the young men to read the sacrament prayers, identify the covenants in these prayers, and explain what they mean. What words stand out to them? (see *Duty to God*, 72). How do the attitude and behavior of those administering the sacrament affect the experience of members of the congregation? Invite the young men to turn to the “Act” section of their *Duty to God* books (page 25, 49, or 73) and make plans based on what they have learned.
- Bring to quorum meeting something that represents light (such as a light-bulb or a flashlight). Invite the young men to think about what it means to be a light to others as you share with them the story at the beginning of President Boyd K. Packer’s talk “The Atonement.” Ask the young men to



share their thoughts about how we can be like the “lower lights” to someone in need. How are we like lower lights when we perform our priesthood duties?

*Ask the young men to share what they learned today. Do they understand how they, as priesthood holders, help others receive the blessings of the Atonement? What feelings or impressions do they have? Do they have any additional questions? Would it be worthwhile to spend more time on this doctrine?*

---

## Invite to act

*The young man who is conducting concludes the meeting. He could:*

- Share the plan he wrote in his *Duty to God* book and his commitment to fulfill it.
- Discuss how quorum members could administer the sacrament to those who may not be able to attend church (as directed by the bishop).

## Teaching in the Savior’s way

In every setting, the Savior was the example and mentor for His disciples. He taught them to pray by praying with them. He taught them to love and serve by loving and serving them. How can you be an example of the principles you are teaching?

# Selected Resources

---

*Excerpt from “Sacrament,” True to the Faith (2004), 147–48*

On the night before His Crucifixion, Jesus Christ met with His Apostles and instituted the sacrament. “He took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you” (Luke 22:19–20). After His Resurrection, He instituted the sacrament among the Nephites (see 3 Nephi 18:1–11).

Today we partake of bread and water in remembrance of Jesus Christ’s atoning sacrifice. This ordinance is an essential part of our worship and our spiritual development. The more we ponder its significance, the more sacred it becomes to us.

## **Remembering the Savior and His Atonement**

The sacrament provides an opportunity for you to remember with gratitude the life, ministry, and Atonement of the Son of God.

With broken bread, you remember His body. You can be mindful of His physical suffering—especially His suffering on the cross. You can remember that through His mercy and grace, all people will be resurrected and given the opportunity for eternal life with God.

With a small cup of water, you can remember that the Savior shed His blood in intense spiritual suffering and anguish, beginning in the Garden of Gethsemane. There He said, “My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death” (Matthew 26:38).

Submitting to the will of the Father, He suffered more than we can comprehend: “Blood [came] from every pore, so great [was] his anguish for the wickedness and the abominations of his people” (Mosiah 3:7). You can remember that through the shedding of His blood, Jesus Christ saved you and all other people from what the scriptures call the “original guilt” of Adam’s transgression (Moses 6:54). You can remember that He also suffered for the sins, sorrows, and pains of all Heavenly Father’s children, providing remission of sins for those who repent and live the gospel (see 2 Nephi 9:21–23).

## **Renewing Covenants and Promised Blessings**

When you partake of the sacrament, you witness to God that your remembrance of His Son will extend beyond the short time of that sacred ordinance. You promise to remember Him always. You witness that you are willing to take upon yourself the name of Jesus Christ and that you will keep His commandments. In partaking of the sacrament and making these commitments, you renew your baptismal covenant (see Mosiah 18:8–10; D&C 20:37).

You receive great blessings when you keep the baptismal covenant. As you renew it, the Lord renews the promised remission of your sins. Cleansed from sin, you are able to “always have his Spirit to be with [you]” (D&C 20:77). The Spirit’s constant companionship is one of the greatest gifts you can receive in mortality. The Spirit will guide you in the paths of righteousness and peace, leading you to eternal life with your Father in Heaven and Jesus Christ.



# What is the Atonement of Jesus Christ?

The Atonement is the sacrifice Jesus Christ made to help us overcome sin, adversity, and death. Jesus's atoning sacrifice took place in the Garden of Gethsemane and on the cross at Calvary. He paid the price for our sins, took upon Himself death, and was resurrected. The Atonement is the supreme expression of the love of Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ.

---

## Prepare yourself spiritually

*What resources will help the young men understand the Atonement and its significance in their lives?*

Matthew 26–27 (In Gethsemane and on the cross, Jesus Christ paid the price for our sins and took upon Himself our pains)

Matthew 28:1–10 (Jesus Christ overcame death through His Resurrection)

2 Nephi 9:6–16 (Jesus Christ overcame sin and death through His Atonement)

Alma 7:11–13 (Jesus Christ took upon Himself our pains, sicknesses, infirmities, and sins)

Thomas S. Monson, "He Is Risen!" *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2010, 87–90

Linda K. Burton, "Is Faith in the Atonement of Jesus Christ Written in Our Hearts?" *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2012, 78–80

"The Atonement of Jesus Christ," *True to the Faith* (2004), 14–21

Videos: Bible videos portraying the Atonement

Video: "An Apostle's Easter Thoughts on Christ" (no download available)

---

How have you gained a testimony of the Atonement? How has the Atonement been a blessing in your life?

What do the young men understand about the Atonement? What can they discover in the scriptures, and what can they teach each other about the Atonement? How can they feel and show gratitude for the Atonement?

## Let the young men lead

*A member of the quorum presidency (or an assistant to the bishop in the priests quorum) conducts the quorum meeting. He leads the young men in counseling together about quorum business, teaches them their priesthood duties (from the scriptures and the Duty to God book), and invites an adviser or other quorum member to teach a gospel lesson. He could prepare by filling out a quorum meeting agenda during a presidency meeting.*

---

## Begin the learning experience

*Choose from these ideas or think of your own to review the doctrine from last week's lesson and introduce this week's lesson:*

- Write the question from last week's lesson (the lesson title) on the board. Ask the quorum members what they learned last week that helps them answer this question. What have they done to live what they learned?
- Show pictures depicting the events of the Atonement (such as the Savior's suffering in the Garden of Gethsemane, His Crucifixion, or His Resurrection; see *Gospel Art Book*, 56–59), and ask the young men to share what they know about these events. Invite each young man to write down a question he has about the Atonement. Gather the questions, and read them aloud if appropriate. Encourage each young man to continue to think about his question throughout the lesson. At the end of the lesson, ask the quorum to share any answers they found to their questions.

---

## Learn together

*Each of the activities below can help the quorum members understand the Atonement of Jesus Christ. Following the inspiration of the Spirit, select one or more that will work best for your quorum:*

- Invite a quorum member to teach a portion of this lesson. He could do this as part of his Duty to God plan to learn and teach about the Atonement (see "Understand Doctrine," page 18, 42, or 66). You could suggest that he read President Thomas S. Monson's talk "He Is Risen!" as he prepares.
- Ask the young men to match an event that happened during the last few hours of the Savior's life with scripture references in Matthew 26–28 (such as the suffering in Gethsemane, the betrayal, the trials of Christ, the Crucifixion, and the Resurrection; for depictions of these events, go to [biblevideos.lds.org](http://biblevideos.lds.org) or the *Gospel Art Book*). What do the young men learn about the Savior and His Atonement from these events? Invite a few quorum members to share their feelings about what the Savior has done for them.
- Invite each young man to read one of the principles of the Atonement in Linda K. Burton's talk "Is Faith in the Atonement of Jesus Christ Written in Our Hearts?" Ask him to find someone in the quorum who read about the same principle, and invite them to discuss what they learned and share an example from their own lives or the lives of people they know that illustrates the principle. Ask someone from each pair to share with the rest of the quorum what they discussed.
- Invite the young men to read 2 Nephi 9:6–16 and look for verses that teach them about the need for the

### Teaching tip

Class members are more likely to participate meaningfully when they are asked effective questions and are given time to ponder before they respond. To give quorum members this time, consider writing the questions on the board or asking quorum members to write their responses on paper (see *Teaching, No Greater Call* [1999], 68–70).

Atonement. Give time for several young men to share the verses they selected and what they teach. Encourage them to write a letter to someone who does not believe in God and use these verses to explain why the Atonement is important and why we need a Savior. Ask them to share their letters with each other.

- Invite some of the young men to read Alma 7:11–13, and invite the others to read about grace in the Bible Dictionary. Ask them to share what they learn about how the Atonement

blesses their lives. How can the power of the Atonement help us, in addition to paying the price for our sins? Ask the young men to share an example from the scriptures or from their own lives in which someone received strength through the Atonement.

- Watch one or more of the videos listed in this outline, and invite the young men to write down their feelings after they watch. Ask them to share why they are grateful for the Atonement of Jesus Christ.

*Ask the young men to share what they learned today. Do they understand the Atonement better? What feelings or impressions do they have? Do they have any additional questions? Would it be worthwhile to spend more time on this doctrine?*

---

## **Invite to act**

*The young man who is conducting concludes the meeting. He could:*

- Invite quorum members to write down and share what they can do to help their families and friends receive the blessings of the Atonement.
- Invite the young men to record their feelings about the Atonement in their journals.

## **Teaching in the Savior's way**

The Savior used scriptures to teach about His mission. He taught people to think for themselves about the scriptures. What can you do to help the young men use the scriptures to understand the Atonement of Jesus Christ?



## MARCH: THE ATONEMENT OF JESUS CHRIST

# What does it mean to have faith in Jesus Christ?

In order for our faith to lead to salvation, it must be centered in the Lord Jesus Christ. To have faith in Jesus Christ means to trust Him and obey His commandments. Faith is much more than passive belief. We express our faith through action—by the way we live.

How have you exercised faith in Jesus Christ? What experiences can you share with the young men that could inspire them to act in faith?

How do the Aaronic Priesthood holders you teach exercise their faith in Jesus Christ? What are they doing to strengthen their faith?

---

### Prepare yourself spiritually

*As you study the scriptures and other resources to learn about faith, look for things that would help the young men strengthen their faith in Jesus Christ.*

Hebrews 11:4–9, 17–29; Ether 12:11–22  
(Examples of people who showed faith)

James 1:5–6; 2:14–20 (Faith is belief and action)

Alma 32:21, 26–43 (Faith is hope for things that are true but not seen)

Moroni 7:33–39 (Miracles are wrought by faith)

Quentin L. Cook, “In Tune with the Music of Faith,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2012, 41–44

Marcus B. Nash, “By Faith All Things Are Fulfilled,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2012, 99–101

“Faith,” *True to the Faith*, 54–56

Video: “Pure and Simple Faith”

---

### Let the young men lead

*A member of the quorum presidency (or an assistant to the bishop in the priests quorum) conducts the quorum meeting. He leads the young men in counseling together about quorum business, teaches them their priesthood duties (from the scriptures and the Duty to God book), and invites an adviser or other quorum member to teach a gospel lesson. He could prepare by filling out a quorum meeting agenda during a presidency meeting.*

---

### Begin the learning experience

*Choose from these ideas or think of your own to review the doctrine from last week’s lesson and introduce this week’s lesson:*

- Ask each young man to spend about 30 seconds writing down as many things as he can remember from last week’s lesson. Invite the young men to share their lists. How can you use their lists to introduce the topic of faith?

- Draw a simple rowboat, and label it “Faith.” Add an oar labeled “Belief” and another labeled “Action.” Ask the quorum what would happen to this boat if it had only one oar. What will happen to our faith if we do not act on

what we believe? Use the scriptures or *True to the Faith* (pages 54–56) to help quorum members understand what faith is and how this drawing relates to faith.

---

## Learn together

*Each of the following activities will help the quorum members understand what it means to have faith in Jesus Christ. Following the inspiration of the Spirit, select one or more that will work best for your quorum:*

- Invite a quorum member to teach a portion of this lesson. He could do this as part of his Duty to God plan to learn and teach about faith (see “Understand Doctrine,” page 18, 42, or 66).
- Invite the young men to read James 2:14–20 and identify the examples James uses to teach about the relationship between faith and works. Ask a few of them to summarize in their own words what James is teaching about faith. Give the young men time to think of and share examples or analogies they could use to teach this to others.
- Ask each young man to find a story from the scriptures in which someone acted on his or her belief in Jesus Christ (see, for example, Exodus 14:19–28; Matthew 8:5–13; Hebrews 11:4–9, 17–29; Ether 12:11–22; 1 Nephi 4). Invite the young men to also write about an experience in which they or someone they know exercised faith in Jesus Christ. Ask each young man to share the story he found in the scriptures and the experience he wrote about. They could do this in small groups or as a quorum.

- Write the following question on the board: What is faith? What does it mean to have faith in Jesus Christ? How do I live by faith? How do I increase my faith? Assign each quorum member one of the sections under the heading “Faith” in *True to the Faith*. Invite the young men to read their section, including the scripture references, and look for answers to one of the questions on the board. Have them write their answers on the board and share additional things they learned with the quorum.
- Ask the young men to read the first three paragraphs of Elder Marcus B. Nash’s talk “By Faith All Things Are Fulfilled,” and invite each young man to write a one-sentence definition of faith, based on what he read. Ask them to read the story about Ann Rowley from Elder Nash’s talk and identify what Sister Rowley believed and how she acted on her belief. Invite them to share what they find and any experiences they have had that demonstrate the power of faith.

## Teaching tip

“When you teach from the scriptures, it is often helpful to have learners look for something specific” (*Teaching, No Greater Call* [1999], 55).



## Teaching in the Savior's way

The Savior said, "My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me" (John 7:16). He taught the doctrine that He learned from His Father. How can you ensure that you are teaching true doctrine? (See *Teaching, No Greater Call*, 52–53.)

- Invite the young men to read Matthew 17:20, and ask them what they think it means to move mountains with our faith. Share the following statement from Bishop Richard C. Edgley: "I have never witnessed the removal of an actual mountain. But because of faith I have seen a mountain of doubt and despair removed and replaced with hope and optimism. Because of faith I have personally witnessed a mountain of sin replaced

with repentance and forgiveness. And because of faith I have personally witnessed a mountain of pain replaced with peace, hope, and gratitude. Yes, I have seen mountains removed" ("Faith—the Choice Is Yours," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2010, 33). Show the video "Pure and Simple Faith," and ask the young men to look for mountains that were removed through faith (or share an experience of your own).

*Ask the young men to share what they learned today. Do they understand what it means to have faith in Jesus Christ? What feelings or impressions do they have? Do they have any additional questions? Would it be worthwhile to spend more time on this doctrine?*

---

## Invite to act

*The young man who is conducting concludes the meeting. He could:*

- Share his feelings about what it means to have faith in Jesus Christ and what he plans to do to act on this faith.
- Discuss with the quorum how their faith is manifest in their priesthood service.



# Selected Resources

---

*Excerpt from “Faith,” True to the Faith (2004), 54–56*

## **Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ**

In order for your faith to lead you to salvation, it must be centered in the Lord Jesus Christ (see Acts 4:10–12; Mosiah 3:17; Moroni 7:24–26; Articles of Faith 1:4). You can exercise faith in Christ when you have an assurance that He exists, a correct idea of His character, and a knowledge that you are striving to live according to His will.

Having faith in Jesus Christ means relying completely on Him—trusting in His infinite power, intelligence, and love. It includes believing His teachings. It means believing that even though you do not understand all things, He does. Remember that because He has experienced all your pains, afflictions, and infirmities, He knows how to help you rise above your daily difficulties (see Alma 7:11–12; D&C 122:8). He has “overcome the world” (John 16:33) and prepared the way for you to receive eternal life. He is always ready to help you as you remember His plea: “Look unto me in every thought; doubt not, fear not” (D&C 6:36).

## **Living by Faith**

Faith is much more than passive belief. You express your faith through action—by the way you live.

The Savior promised, “If ye will have faith in me ye shall have power to do whatsoever thing is expedient in me” (Moroni 7:33). Faith in Jesus Christ can motivate you to follow His perfect example (see John 14:12). Your faith can lead you to do good works, obey the commandments, and repent of your sins (see James 2:18; 1 Nephi 3:7; Alma 34:17). Your faith

can help you overcome temptation. Alma counseled his son Helaman, “Teach them to withstand every temptation of the devil, with their faith on the Lord Jesus Christ” (Alma 37:33).

The Lord will work mighty miracles in your life according to your faith (see 2 Nephi 26:13). Faith in Jesus Christ helps you receive spiritual and physical healing through His Atonement (see 3 Nephi 9:13–14). When times of trial come, faith can give you strength to press forward and face your hardships with courage. Even when the future seems uncertain, your faith in the Savior can give you peace (see Romans 5:1; Helaman 5:47).

## **Increasing Your Faith**

Faith is a gift from God, but you must nurture your faith to keep it strong. Faith is like the muscle of your arm. If you exercise it, it grows strong. If you put it in a sling and leave it there, it becomes weak.

You can nurture the gift of faith by praying to Heavenly Father in the name of Jesus Christ. As you express your gratitude to your Father and as you plead with Him for blessings that you and others need, you will draw near to Him. You will draw near to the Savior, whose Atonement makes it possible for you to plead for mercy (see Alma 33:11). You will also be receptive to the quiet guidance of the Holy Ghost.

You can strengthen your faith by keeping the commandments. Like all blessings from God, faith is obtained and increased through individual obedience and righteous action. If you desire to enrich your faith to the highest possible degree, you must keep the covenants you have made.



## What does it mean to repent?

Jesus Christ suffered the penalty for our sins so that we can repent. Repentance is a change of heart and mind that brings us closer to God. It includes turning away from sin and turning to God for forgiveness. It is motivated by love for God and a sincere desire to obey His commandments.

---

### Prepare yourself spiritually

*Prayerfully study these scriptures and resources. What inspires you to repent?*

What experiences have you had with repentance? Without discussing personal sins, how can you share how repenting has helped you come closer to Heavenly Father?

Some young men may be struggling with unworthiness. This will affect their ability to serve as faithful priesthood holders. How can you be sensitive to them and invite the Spirit to help them desire to repent?

Isaiah 1:18 (Through repentance, we can be cleansed from our sins)

Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:8 (We all have sinned)

Alma 19:33 (Repentance brings a change of heart)

Alma 36:6–24 (Alma repents and receives forgiveness through the grace of the Savior)

Alma 39:8 (We cannot hide our sins from God)

D&C 58:42–43 (To repent, we must confess and forsake our sins)

“Repentance,” *For the Strength of Youth* (2011), 28–29

Dieter F. Uchtdorf, “Point of Safe Return,” *Ensign or Liahona*, May 2007, 99–101

D. Todd Christofferson, “The Divine Gift of Repentance,” *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2011, 38–40

Videos: “Not a One-Time Thing,” “Within Bounds”

---

### Let the young men lead

*A member of the quorum presidency (or an assistant to the bishop in the priests quorum) conducts the quorum meeting. He leads the young men in counseling together about quorum business, teaches them their priesthood duties (from the scriptures and the Duty to God book), and invites an adviser or other quorum member to teach a gospel lesson. He could prepare by filling out a quorum meeting agenda during a presidency meeting.*

---

## Begin the learning experience

Choose from these ideas or think of your own to review the doctrine from last week's lesson and introduce this week's lesson:

- Ask the young men to draw pictures that remind them of something they learned last week, and discuss together what they draw.
- Have a young man hold his arms straight out and hold a heavy object in each hand while quorum members discuss how sin can be like a heavy burden. During the discussion, place more heavy objects on the young man's hands. Remove the objects, and invite the young men to share what they learn about sin and repentance from this object lesson.

---

## Learn together

Each of the activities below can help the quorum members understand what it means to repent. Following the inspiration of the Spirit, select one or more that will work best for your quorum:

- Invite a quorum member to teach a portion of this lesson. He could do this as part of his Duty to God plan to learn and teach about repentance (see "Understand Doctrine," page 18, 42, or 66).
- Ask one of the young men to hide an object while the other quorum members are watching. Ask another quorum member to try to find the object. What does this example teach about trying to hide sins from God? (see Alma 39:8). What scripture stories can the young men share that teach us that we cannot hide our sins from God? (see, for example, Jonah 1–2; 2 Samuel 11–12; Acts 5:1–11). Invite the young men to discuss the following questions in small groups: What are some of the ways people try to hide their sins? What would you say to help someone understand that we cannot hide our sins?
- Invite a young man to hold up a picture of Alma and the sons of Mosiah (see *Gospel Art Book*, 77) and summarize the story of their repentance (see Alma 36:6–24). Ask the young men to individually read Alma 36:13, 17–20, 23–24, identify principles of repentance in these verses, and then share in small groups what they learned. Invite the young men to think of and write down something they can do to apply the principles of repentance in their own lives.
- Invite each young man to study part of "Repentance" in *For the Strength of Youth* or selected portions of one of the talks suggested in this outline. Have the young men mark and share anything that stands out to them. Invite them to anonymously write down any questions they have about repentance. Invite the bishop to answer these questions and share how repentance is tied to priesthood power.

## Teaching tip

"It is the pupil who has to be put into action. When a teacher takes the spotlight, becomes the star of the show, does all the talking, and otherwise takes over all of the activity, it is almost certain that he is interfering with the learning of the class members" (Asahel D. Woodruff, in *Teaching, No Greater Call* [1999], 61).

## 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 young men see the power of daily repentance in their lives?

- Show the video "Within Bounds." Invite half of the quorum members to look for things they learn from this video about what it means to repent, and invite the other half to look for the role of the bishop in helping us repent. Ask them to share what they learn. What would they say to friends who may be afraid to talk to the bishop about mistakes they have made?

*Ask the young men to share what they learned today. Do they understand what it means to repent? What feelings or impressions do they have? Do they have any additional questions? Would it be worthwhile to spend more time on this doctrine?*

---

## Invite to act

*The young man who is conducting concludes the meeting. He could:*

- Share his feelings or ask quorum members to share their feelings about the Savior and what it means to repent.
- Invite the young men to examine their lives and determine what they need to change.

# Selected Resources

---

*“Repentance,” For the Strength of Youth, 28–29*

*By this ye may know if a man repenteth of his sins— behold, he will confess them and forsake them. Doctrine and Covenants 58:43*

The Savior suffered for our sins and gave His life for us. This great sacrifice is called the Atonement.

Through the Atonement, you can receive forgiveness and be cleansed from your sins when you repent.

Repentance is more than simply acknowledging wrongdoings. It is a change of mind and heart. It includes turning away from sin and turning to God for forgiveness. It is motivated by love for God and the sincere desire to obey His commandments.

Satan wants you to think that you cannot repent, but that is absolutely not true. The Savior has promised you forgiveness if you will humble yourself and make the effort that repentance requires. If you have sinned, the sooner you repent, the sooner you begin to make your way back and find the peace and joy that come with forgiveness. If you delay repentance, you may lose blessings, opportunities, and spiritual guidance. You may also become further entangled in

sinful behavior, making it more difficult to find your way back.

Some people knowingly break God’s commandments, planning to repent later, such as before they go to the temple or serve a mission. Such deliberate sin mocks the Savior’s Atonement.

To repent, you need to confess your sins to the Lord. Then seek forgiveness from those you have wronged, and restore as far as possible what has been damaged by your actions. As you strive to repent, seek help and counsel from your parents. Serious sins, such as sexual transgression or use of pornography, need to be confessed to your bishop. Be completely honest with him. He will help you repent. If you have a question about what should be discussed with the bishop, talk with your parents or with him.

When you do what is necessary to repent and receive forgiveness, you will know for yourself the power of the Atonement and the love God has for you. You will feel the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ, which will bring you great strength, and you will become more like Him.



## MARCH: THE ATONEMENT OF JESUS CHRIST

# What is grace?

Grace is divine help and strength that we receive through the Atonement of Jesus Christ. Through grace, we are saved from sin and death. In addition, grace is an enabling power that strengthens us from day to day and helps us endure to the end. Effort is required on our part to receive the fulness of the Lord's grace.

---

### Prepare yourself spiritually

*What scriptures and other sources have helped you understand grace? What are you impressed to share with the young men so that they can understand grace?*

Ephesians 2:8–9; 2 Nephi 25:23 (By grace we are saved)

Bible Dictionary, "Grace"

Philippians 4:13; Jacob 4:6–7 (The grace of Jesus Christ gives us strength)

David A. Bednar, "In the Strength of the Lord," *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2004, 76–78

Moroni 10:32–33 (Grace can make us perfect in Christ)

"Grace," *True to the Faith* (2004), 77–78

---

What does grace mean to you? How have you felt the power of Jesus Christ help you change your life?

What do the young men know about grace? How can you help them understand the power of grace in their lives? How can grace help the young men as they strive to fulfill their priesthood duties?

### Let the young men lead

*A member of the quorum presidency (or an assistant to the bishop in the priests quorum) conducts the quorum meeting. He leads the young men in counseling together about quorum business, teaches them their priesthood duties (from the scriptures and the Duty to God book), and invites an adviser or other quorum member to teach a gospel lesson. He could prepare by filling out a quorum meeting agenda during a presidency meeting.*

---

### Begin the learning experience

*Choose from these ideas or think of your own to review the doctrine from last week's lesson and introduce this week's lesson:*

- Bring an object or picture, and ask the young men how it relates to what they learned during last week's lesson. What have they done during the past week as a result of what they learned?
- Ask the young men what they know about grace. What do they think grace means? How do they see grace in their own lives? in their priesthood service? Do they believe they are saved by

of grace? What questions do they have about grace? As part of this discussion, you may want to share the definition of grace at the beginning of this outline.

---

## Learn together

*Each of the activities below can help the quorum members understand the doctrine of grace. Following the guidance of the Spirit, select one or more that will work best for your quorum:*

- Invite a quorum member to teach a portion of this lesson. He could do this as part of his Duty to God plan to learn and teach about the Atonement (see “Understand Doctrine,” page 18, 42, or 66).
- Write brief summaries of the scriptures from this outline, and place one summary on each wall of the room. Assign each young man to read one of the scriptures then find and stand by the summary that matches his scripture. Ask the young men to share what they learn from their scriptures about grace. What evidence of grace do they see in their lives? What examples can they think of from the scriptures?
- Invite each quorum member to make a list of things he learns as he reads about grace in the Bible Dictionary and in *True to the Faith*. Ask the young men to share something from their lists and explain why it is meaningful to them. Invite them to find pictures (in the *Gospel Art Book* or a Church magazine) that show people who received grace or help from God, and ask them to share what they learn about these people in pairs or small groups. What similar experiences can they share from their own lives?
- Bring a branch from a tree to quorum meeting, and invite the young men to find out how the Savior used branches to teach about grace in John 15:1–10. What insights do they gain about grace from these verses? Invite a quorum member to use the branch you brought to summarize to the rest of the quorum what he learned about grace.
- Write on the board the following questions: What is grace? How did grace help Elder Bednar? How can grace help you? Invite the young men to read Elder David A. Bednar’s talk “In the Strength of the Lord,” looking for answers to these questions, and ask them to share what they find.

*Ask the young men to share what they learned today. Do they understand the doctrine of grace? What feelings or impressions do they have? Do they have any additional questions? Would it be worthwhile to spend more time on this doctrine?*

## Teaching tip

“There may ... be times when you do not know the answer to a question. If this happens, simply say that you do not know. You may want to say that you will try to find the answer. Or you may want to invite learners to find the answer, giving them time in another lesson to report on what they have learned” (*Teaching, No Greater Call* [1999], 64).

## Teaching in the Savior's way

The Savior taught His followers by helping them see examples of His teachings in their everyday lives. He used simple stories, parables, and real-life examples that made sense to them. How can you use examples to teach the young men about grace and how grace works in their lives?

---

## Invite to act

*The young man who is conducting concludes the meeting. He could:*

- Bear his testimony of the power of grace.
- Lead a discussion on how the Savior's grace can help quorum members fulfill their priesthood duties more effectively.



# Selected Resources

---

*Excerpt from "Grace," True to the Faith (2004), 77–78*

The word *grace*, as used in the scriptures, refers primarily to the divine help and strength we receive through the Atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Apostle Peter taught that we should “grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18).

## **Salvation by Grace**

Because of the Fall, everyone will experience temporal death. Through grace, made available by the Savior’s atoning sacrifice, all people will be resurrected and receive immortality (see 2 Nephi 9:6–13). But resurrection alone does not qualify us for eternal life in the presence of God. Our sins make us unclean and unfit to dwell in God’s presence, and we need His grace to purify and perfect us “after all we can do” (2 Nephi 25:23).

The phrase “after all we can do” teaches that effort is required on our part to receive the fulness of the Lord’s grace and be made worthy to dwell with Him. The Lord has commanded us to obey His gospel, which includes having faith in Him, repenting of our sins, being baptized, receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost, and enduring to the end (see John 3:3–5; 3 Nephi 27:16–20; Articles of Faith 1:3–4). The prophet Moroni wrote of the grace we receive as we come unto the Savior and obey His teachings:

“Come unto Christ, and be perfected in him, and deny yourselves of all ungodliness; and if ye shall deny yourselves of all ungodliness, and love God with all your might, mind and strength, then is his grace sufficient for you, that by his grace ye may be perfect in Christ; and if by the grace of God ye are perfect in Christ, ye can in nowise deny the power of God.

“And again, if ye by the grace of God are perfect in Christ, and deny not his power, then are ye sanctified in Christ by the grace of God, through the shedding of the blood of Christ, which is in the covenant of the Father unto the remission of your sins, that ye become holy, without spot” (Moroni 10:32–33).

## **Receiving Grace throughout Your Life**

In addition to needing grace for your ultimate salvation, you need this enabling power every day of your life. As you draw near to your Heavenly Father in diligence, humility, and meekness, He will uplift and strengthen you through His grace (see Proverbs 3:34; 1 Peter 5:5; D&C 88:78; 106:7–8). Reliance upon His grace enables you to progress and grow in righteousness. Jesus Himself “received not of the fulness at first, but continued from grace to grace, until he received a fulness” (D&C 93:13). Grace enables you to help build God’s kingdom, a service you cannot give through your strength or means alone (see John 15:5; Philippians 4:13; Hebrews 12:28; Jacob 4:6–7).



## Why do I need to forgive others?

In order to receive forgiveness for our sins, we need to forgive others. Forgiving others allows us to overcome feelings of anger, bitterness, or revenge. Forgiveness can heal spiritual wounds and bring the peace and love that only God can give.

---

### Prepare yourself spiritually

*Which scriptures will help the young men recognize the blessings that will come into their lives as they forgive others?*

Matthew 5:44; D&C 64:9–11 (We are commanded to forgive everyone)

Matthew 6:14–15; 18:21–35 (To receive forgiveness, we must forgive others)

Luke 23:34 (Jesus Christ forgave those who crucified Him)

Gordon B. Hinckley, “Forgiveness,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2005, 81–84

Dieter F. Uchtdorf, “The Merciful Obtain Mercy,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2012, 70–76

Video: “Reclaimed”

Video: “Forgiveness: My Burden Was Made Light”

---

What have you learned by forgiving others? Can you think of a time when forgiving someone has helped you feel peace and love?

What experiences are the young men having in which they need to forgive others? What do they need to learn about forgiving themselves? How can you help the young men learn to forgive so that they can find peace?

Note: If the young men have questions about forgiveness in cases of abuse, suggest that they seek counsel from their bishop or branch president.

### Let the young men lead

*A member of the quorum presidency (or an assistant to the bishop in the priests quorum) conducts the quorum meeting. He leads the young men in counseling together about quorum business, teaches them their priesthood duties (from the scriptures and the Duty to God book), and invites an adviser or other quorum member to teach a gospel lesson. He could prepare by filling out a quorum meeting agenda during a presidency meeting.*

---

### Begin the learning experience

*Choose from these ideas or think of your own to review the doctrine from last week’s lesson and introduce this week’s lesson:*

- What do the young men remember from the previous lesson? What were they invited to do? What experiences have they had applying what they learned?
- Ask the young men to think about a time when they have had to forgive someone. Invite them to share their experience, if they feel comfortable doing so. What happened as a result? How might things have been different if they hadn’t forgiven?

---

## Learn together

Each of the activities below can help the quorum members understand the importance of forgiving others. Following the guidance of the Spirit, select one or more that will work best for your quorum:

- Divide the quorum into groups, and invite each group to read selections from the talks provided in this outline or another talk of your choice. Ask the young men to mark parts of the talk that impress them. Invite them to share what they marked and explain why it is meaningful to them.
- Read together the parable of the unmerciful servant in Matthew 18:23–35, and help the young men calculate and compare the debts of the servant and his fellowservant (see “Weights and Measures” in the Bible Dictionary). What do the young men learn from this parable about forgiveness? Invite the young men to find and share other scriptures that teach the importance of forgiving others (such as the scriptures suggested in this outline).
- Ask the young men to compare examples of forgiving others found in the scriptures. You could review the examples of Joseph in Egypt (see Genesis 45:1–7), Nephi and his brothers (see 1 Nephi 7:21), Jesus Christ on the cross (see Luke 23:34), or others. Why is it important to forgive others? Show the video “Forgiveness: My Burden Was Made Light,” and ask the young men to share their impressions. What other examples of forgiveness could they share?
- Ask the young men to find something in the scriptures that the Savior taught about forgiving others and share what they find with the class (for examples, see Matthew 5:44; 6:14–15; 18:22–23). Ask them to share experiences of the peace that comes from forgiving others. Why is it important to learn to forgive ourselves? As part of this discussion, the young men could watch the video “Reclaimed” and share what they learn from the video about forgiving themselves.
- Write the following questions on separate slips of paper, and hand one to each quorum member: Why do we need to forgive everyone? Why is the Lord the only one who can decide whether or not a person should be forgiven? Why is failure to forgive such a great sin? Invite each young man to ponder his question as he reads Doctrine and Covenants 64:9–11. Then invite the young men to share their thoughts and insights.

*Ask the young men to share what they learned today. Do they understand the importance of forgiving others? What feelings or impressions do they have? Do they have any additional questions? Would it be worthwhile to spend more time on this doctrine?*

## Teaching tip

“Teachers who lecture most of the time or answer every question themselves tend to discourage learners from participating” (*Teaching, No Greater Call* [1999], 64).

## Teaching in the Savior's way

In every setting, the Savior was the example and mentor for His disciples. He taught them to pray by praying with them. He taught them to love and serve by loving and serving them. He taught them to forgive others by forgiving them. How can you be an example of the principles you are teaching?

---

## Invite to act

*The young man who is conducting concludes the meeting. He could:*

- Encourage quorum members to think of someone they need to forgive and to make a commitment to forgive that person.
- Invite quorum members to share what they've learned with their families.



## MARCH: THE ATONEMENT OF JESUS CHRIST

# What is the resurrection?

Through the Atonement of Jesus Christ, all people will be resurrected. Our bodies and our spirits will be reunited in a perfect, immortal state. An understanding and testimony of the resurrection can give us hope and perspective as we experience the challenges and triumphs of life.

What do you know about the resurrection? What insights do we have about the resurrection from modern-day scripture?

What do the young men understand about the resurrection? How can a greater understanding of the resurrection influence how they feel about their physical bodies?

---

### Prepare yourself spiritually

*What scriptures or other resources could you use to help teach the young men about the resurrection? What are you impressed to share?*

Luke 24 (The Resurrection of Jesus Christ)

Thomas S. Monson, “He Is Risen!” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2010, 87–90

1 Corinthians 15 (Because the Savior overcame death, we will all be resurrected)

Thomas S. Monson, “Mrs. Patton—the Story Continues,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2007, 21–24

Alma 11:41–45 (When we are resurrected, our spirits and bodies are reunited, and we are judged)

Dallin H. Oaks, “Resurrection,” *Ensign*, May 2000, 14–16; *Liahona*, July 2000, 16–19

Alma 40–41 (Alma explains the resurrection to his son Corianton)

Video: “He Is Risen”

---

### Let the young men lead

*A member of the quorum presidency (or an assistant to the bishop in the priests quorum) conducts the quorum meeting. He leads the young men in counseling together about quorum business, teaches them their priesthood duties (from the scriptures and the Duty to God book), and invites an adviser or other quorum member to teach a gospel lesson. He could prepare by filling out a quorum meeting agenda during a presidency meeting.*

---

### Begin the learning experience

*Choose from these ideas or think of your own to review the doctrine from last week’s lesson and introduce this week’s lesson:*

- Invite the young men to open to a scripture they learned about during last week’s lesson. Encourage a few to share their scripture, what they learned, and what they are doing to live by its teachings.

- Ask the young men what they celebrate at Easter. What are some of the symbols of Easter? How do these symbols teach them about the resurrection?

---

## Learn together

*Each of the activities below can help the quorum members understand the resurrection. Following the guidance of the Spirit, select one or more that will work best for your quorum:*

### Teaching tip

“When you use a variety of learning activities, learners tend to understand gospel principles better and retain more. A carefully selected method can make a principle clearer, more interesting, and more memorable” (*Teaching, No Greater Call* [1999], 89).

- Select some passages from 1 Corinthians 15 about the resurrection. Invite the young men to read the passages, in small groups or individually, and create a summary statement of what they learn about the resurrection (for example, verses 1–8 could be summarized as “There are witnesses of the resurrection”). Why do the young men feel it is important for them to know these truths about the resurrection?
- Ask the young men to imagine that a friend who is not a member of the Church has lost a loved one. Invite half of the young men to read Alma 40 and the other half to read Alma 41. Ask them to make a list of teachings about the resurrection in these chapters that they could share with their friend. Then have them share their lists with the rest of the class.
- Invite the young men to write down some questions they have about the resurrection (or prepare some yourself). Give each young man a section of Elder Dallin H. Oaks’s talk “Resurrection,” and ask him to look for answers to these questions. Invite the young men to share what they learn, and ask them how their lives are blessed because they know these things about the resurrection.
- Hand out several of the *Teachings of Presidents of the Church* books (or make copies of selected chapters), and invite the young men to find teachings from the latter-day prophets about the resurrection. Ask them to share what they find with the class.
- Invite the young men to find hymns about the resurrection (look in the topical index at the back of the hymnbook for ideas). Sing a few of these as a class. Look at the scriptures in the footnotes of the hymn, and discuss what they teach.

*Ask the young men to share what they learned today. Do they understand the resurrection better? What feelings or impressions do they have? Do they have any additional questions? Would it be worthwhile to spend more time on this doctrine?*

---

## Invite to act

*The young man who is conducting concludes the meeting. He could:*

- Bear his testimony of the resurrection.
- Invite the quorum members to learn more about the resurrection in their personal scripture study and share what they learn with the quorum.

## Teaching in the Savior's way

Jesus Christ used the scriptures to teach about His mission. He taught His disciples to think about scriptures for themselves and to use them to answer their questions. How can you help the young men turn to the scriptures to understand God's plan and the blessings that await them?





## MARCH: THE ATONEMENT OF JESUS CHRIST

# How can the Atonement help me during my trials?

As part of His atoning sacrifice, the Savior took upon Himself our pains and sicknesses. Because He has experienced our trials, He knows how to help us. When we exercise faith in Jesus Christ, He will give us strength and ease our burdens.

---

### Prepare yourself spiritually

*As you prepare, prayerfully study these resources and others that have helped you turn to the Savior in times of need.*

Think about the trials you have faced. How have you received strength through the Atonement?

Consider the young men in the quorum. What trials are they facing? What personal experiences, scriptures, and quotes do you want to share with them? Are there personal experiences the young men could share with each other?

Matthew 11:28–30; Philippians 4:13; 1 Nephi 17:3; Helaman 5:12; D&C 68:6 (Jesus Christ can give us strength and ease our burdens)

Mosiah 23:12–16; 24:8–17 (The Lord strengthens the people of Alma to help them bear their burdens)

Alma 7:11–13 (Jesus Christ understands our suffering because He experienced it)

David A. Bednar, “The Atonement and the Journey of Mortality,” *Ensign*, Apr. 2012, 40–47

Shayne M. Bowen, “‘Because I Live, Ye Shall Live Also,’” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2012, 15–17

“Adversity,” *True to the Faith* (2004), 8–11

Video: “God Will Lift Us Up”

---

### Let the young men lead

*A member of the quorum presidency (or an assistant to the bishop in the priests quorum) conducts the quorum meeting. He leads the young men in counseling together about quorum business, teaches them their priesthood duties (from the scriptures and the Duty to God book), and invites an adviser or other quorum member to teach a gospel lesson. He could prepare by filling out a quorum meeting agenda during a presidency meeting.*

---

### Begin the learning experience

*Choose from these ideas or think of your own to review the doctrine from last week’s lesson and introduce this week’s lesson:*



- Ask the young men to talk about some of the things they learned in last week's lesson. Give them time to share any experiences they have had as they have put into action what they learned.
- Give each quorum member a piece of paper and ask him to write down a trial he is going through. Ask the

young men to ponder how Jesus Christ can give them strength during their trials. Encourage them to write down thoughts or impressions they have about how to overcome this trial as they learn about the doctrine of the Atonement.

---

## Learn together

*Each of the activities below can help the quorum members understand how the Atonement can help them during their trials. Following the guidance of the Spirit, select one or more that will work best for your quorum:*

- Invite a quorum member to teach a portion of this lesson. He could do this as part of his Duty to God plan to learn and teach about the Atonement (see "Understand Doctrine," page 18, 42, or 66).
- Divide the quorum into groups. Have each group read one or more of the scriptures in this outline and summarize what they read to the quorum. Invite the young men to write down how the things they learn from these scriptures can help them overcome their trials. Encourage them to share what they wrote, if they feel comfortable doing so. Consider sharing your own experiences.
- As a class, read Mosiah 24:8–17. Invite the young men to share what they learn from the experience of Alma and his people. With permission from the bishop, invite some of their fathers to come to the class and share how the Savior has strengthened them in their trials.
- Show the video "God Will Lift Us Up." How would the young men answer the question posed by Elder Robert D. Hales at the beginning of the video? What did Brittany do to find strength to overcome her trial? Invite the young men to ponder and write down ways they can follow Brittany's example as they face their own trials.
- Invite the young men to read or watch the story about how Elder Shayne M. Bowen coped with the loss of his son (in the talk "'Because I Live, Ye Shall Live Also'"). Ask them to think about the following question as they read or watch: How did the Atonement help Elder Bowen during his trial? Invite them to share their thoughts. Ask the young men to think about a trial they are currently experiencing. How can they draw strength from the Atonement?

## Teaching tip

"Discussions in small groups can instantly involve those who seem to be losing interest and concentration" (*Teaching, No Greater Call* [1999], 72).

## Teaching in the Savior's way

The Savior used the scriptures to teach and testify about His mission. This lesson contains many powerful scriptures that teach how the Savior will strengthen us during our trials. As the young men study and discuss these scriptures, the Holy Ghost will testify of their truth.

*Ask the young men to share what they learned today. Do they understand how the Atonement can help them during their trials? What feelings or impressions do they have? Do they have any additional questions? Would it be worthwhile to spend more time on this doctrine?*

---

## Invite to act

*The young man who is conducting concludes the meeting. He could:*

- Share an experience in which the Savior helped him face a trial and challenge quorum members to rely on the Savior to face their trials.
- Lead a discussion on how quorum members can use what they learned today to encourage someone in need of the Savior's help.

## UNIT OVERVIEW

# April: The Apostasy and the Restoration

*“I have sent forth the fulness of my gospel by the hand of my servant Joseph”*  
(D&C 35:17).

The outlines in this unit will help the young men understand the Great Apostasy and how Jesus Christ restored His Church and the fulness of His gospel through the Prophet Joseph Smith. In this unit the young men can learn about the key events of the Restoration and discover the relevance of those events in their lives.

Aaronic Priesthood holders have a priesthood duty to share the gospel and invite all to come unto Christ. The experiences they have in this unit can help them proclaim the message of the Restoration with clarity and power, both now as Aaronic Priesthood holders and in the future as full-time missionaries.

---

### Learning outlines

Seek the inspiration of the Spirit as you select from the outlines below. Let the questions and interests of the young men guide you as you decide what to emphasize in this unit and how long to spend on a topic.

These outlines are not meant to prescribe what you will say and do in the quorum meeting. They are designed to help you learn the doctrines for yourself and prepare learning experiences adapted to the needs of the young men you teach.

To make Duty to God part of the Sunday quorum meeting, you may consider teaching the Duty to God outline below during this unit.

*How can I invite all to come unto Christ? (Duty to God)*

*Why was a restoration necessary?*

*How was the priesthood restored?*

*What was Joseph Smith’s role in the Restoration?*

*Why is the First Vision important?*

*Why do we need the Book of Mormon?*

### Prepare yourself spiritually

To help the young men learn the doctrine related to the Apostasy and Restoration, you must understand and live this doctrine yourself. Study the scriptures and other resources provided in the learning outlines and look for statements, stories, or examples that may be especially relevant or inspiring. Then use the learning outlines to plan ways to help quorum members discover these truths for themselves, gain a testimony of them, and live by what they learn.

### Counsel together

Counsel with the quorum presidency and with other teachers, leaders, and parents about the young men.

What questions and needs do the young men have? What are they learning about the Apostasy and the Restoration in other settings—at home, in seminary, in Sunday School? How will this influence your preparation to teach this unit? (If sensitive information is shared in these conversations, please keep it confidential.)

## **Mutual**

Many of the lesson topics and learning activities in this unit would work well as Mutual activities. Work with quorum presidencies in selecting and planning appropriate activities to reinforce what the young men learn on Sunday.

## **Duty to God**

The following sections from the *Duty to God* book relate to the lessons in this unit:

Invite All to Come unto Christ, pages 28–29, 52–53, 76–77

Understand Doctrine, pages 18–20, 42–44, 66–68

## DUTY TO GOD

# How can I invite all to come unto Christ?

On the day the restored Church was organized, the Lord gave Aaronic Priesthood holders the duty to invite all to come unto Christ (see D&C 20:59). When Aaronic Priesthood holders fulfill this duty, they bring the blessings of the restored gospel to Heavenly Father's children. They also strengthen their own testimonies and prepare themselves for a lifetime of missionary service.



What experiences have you had with inviting others to learn about the gospel? How have others helped you come unto Christ?

Many young men do not know that as Aaronic Priesthood holders they have a priesthood duty to invite all to come unto Christ. What can you do to help them understand and fulfill this sacred duty? What would inspire them to share the gospel with their friends and family?

---

## Prepare yourself spiritually

*Prayerfully study these scriptures and resources. What impressions do you receive as you study?*

*Fulfilling My Duty to God* (2010), 28–29, 52–53, 76–77

1 Timothy 4:12 (Be an example of the believers)

Alma 17:2–3 (The sons of Mosiah prepared themselves to share the gospel)

Moroni 10:32–33 (Moroni's invitation to come unto Christ)

D&C 4 (Attributes that qualify us for serving the Lord)

D&C 20:46–59 (Aaronic Priesthood holders have a duty to invite all to come unto Christ)

D&C 42:6 (Preach the gospel by the power of the Spirit)

“What Is My Purpose as a Missionary?”  
*Preach My Gospel* (2004), 1–15

Video: “Inviting All to Come unto Christ”

---

## Let the young men lead

*A member of the quorum presidency (or an assistant to the bishop in the priests quorum) conducts the quorum meeting. He leads the young men in counseling together about quorum business, teaches them their priesthood duties (from the scriptures and the Duty to God book), and invites an adviser or other quorum member to teach a gospel lesson. He could prepare by filling out a quorum meeting agenda during a presidency meeting.*

---

## Begin the learning experience

Choose from these ideas or think of your own to review last week's lesson and introduce this week's lesson:

- Ask the young men to share something they remember from last week's discussion. Why was this memorable to them?
- Invite the young men to search Doctrine and Covenants 20:59 and identify the priesthood duties mentioned there. Invite a few young men to share an experience they have had sharing the gospel with a family member, less-active friend, or friend of another faith. What was the result?

---

## Learn together

*The purpose of this lesson is to help each young man make a plan to fulfill his priesthood duty to share the restored gospel of Jesus Christ with someone. Give the young men time during quorum meeting to write plans in their Duty to God books. Encourage them to share their plans with each other, and in future quorum meetings, invite them to share experiences they have inviting others to come unto Christ.*

- Invite the young men to find scriptures that use phrases like "come unto Christ" or "come unto me" (see Matthew 11:28; Moroni 10:32; D&C 20:59). What does it mean to "come unto Christ"? What do they learn from these verses that inspires them to invite others to come unto Christ? (See *Duty to God*, 28.) Invite the young men to turn to the "Act" section of their *Duty to God* books (page 29, 55, or 77) and make plans to invite someone to come unto Christ.
- Read together Doctrine and Covenants 20:53, and make a list of ways home teachers can "watch over the church always, and be with and strengthen them." How can the young men improve as home teachers? Consider inviting the elders quorum president to talk to the quorum about how to be a good home teacher. (See *Duty to God*, 52, 76.) Invite the young men to turn to the "Act" section of their *Duty to God* books (page 55 or 77) and make plans to become better home teachers.
- Show a picture of Ammon, and ask the quorum to summarize the story of Ammon teaching the Lamanites (see Alma 17–19). Contrast this story with Corianton's experience (see Alma 39:1–11). How does our example affect our ability to teach the gospel to others? (See *Duty to God*, 28.) Invite the young men to turn to page 29 of their *Duty to God* books and make plans to share the gospel by being a good example.
- Bring items or pictures that represent the virtues, attributes, and gifts that can help quorum members be better missionaries now, such as those listed in Doctrine and Covenants 4 and Alma 17:2–3, 9 (for example, you could bring a seed to represent faith or

### Teaching tip

"Listen sincerely to learners' comments. Your example will encourage them to listen carefully to one another. If you do not understand someone's comment, ask a question. You might say, 'I'm not sure I understand. Could you explain that again?' or 'Could you give me an example of what you mean?'" (*Teaching, No Greater Call* [1999], 64).

work gloves to represent diligence). Invite the young men to match the items with words and phrases they find in these verses.

- Show the video “Inviting All to Come unto Christ,” and invite quorum

*Ask the young men to share what they learned today. Do they understand their priesthood duty to invite all to come unto Christ? What feelings or impressions do they have? Do they have any additional questions? Would it be worthwhile to spend more time on this doctrine?*

---

## Invite to act

*The young man who is conducting concludes the meeting. He could:*

- Invite the young men to write plans in the “Act” section of their *Duty to God* books (page 29, 53, or 77).
- Counsel with the quorum about how they could encourage a less-active member to participate in the quorum and come back to church.

members to look for what the Aaronic Priesthood holders in this video did to help their quorum grow. Discuss what they could do to have similar experiences in their quorum.

## Teaching in the Savior’s way

The Savior invited others to testify of truths they learned so the Spirit could touch their hearts. “Whom say ye that I am?” He asked. As Peter responded, his testimony was strengthened: “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:15–16). How can sharing the gospel strengthen the testimonies of the young men in the quorum?



## Why was a restoration necessary?

During His mortal ministry, Jesus Christ established His Church with priesthood authority. It was led by prophets and apostles who taught true doctrine and received revelation that was recorded as scripture. With the death of the apostles, priesthood authority was taken from the earth, revelation ceased, and essential doctrines were lost or corrupted. Through the Prophet Joseph Smith, the Church that Jesus Christ established was restored.

What effects of the Apostasy have you seen in the world? How has the Restoration of the gospel blessed you?

What do the young men need to know about the Apostasy and the Restoration? How can an understanding of the Apostasy and the Restoration help them?

---

### Prepare yourself spiritually

*Prayerfully study these scriptures and resources. What do you feel will help the young men understand why a restoration was necessary?*

Ephesians 4:11–14; Articles of Faith 1:6 (The Church today has the same organization as the Church in the Savior’s day)

Isaiah 29:13–14; Amos 8:11–12; 2 Thessalonians 2:3; 1 Nephi 13:24–29 (The Church was lost through apostasy)

D&C 1:17–23, 30 (Jesus Christ restored His Church through Joseph Smith)

Joseph Smith—History 1:6–20 (Joseph Smith’s First Vision)

Robert D. Hales, “Preparations for the Restoration and the Second Coming: ‘My Hand Shall Be over Thee,’” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2005, 88–92

“Apostasy,” *True to the Faith* (2004), 13–14

“Restoration of the Gospel,” *True to the Faith*, 135–39

*Preach My Gospel* (2004), 35–38, 45

Video: “A Search for Truth” (no download available)

---

### Let the young men lead

*A member of the quorum presidency (or an assistant to the bishop in the priests quorum) conducts the quorum meeting. He leads the young men in counseling together about quorum business, teaches them their priesthood duties (from the scriptures and the Duty to God book), and invites an adviser or other quorum member to teach a gospel lesson. He could prepare by filling out a quorum meeting agenda during a presidency meeting.*



---

## Begin the learning experience

Choose from these ideas, or think of your own, to review last week's lesson and introduce this week's lesson:

- Ask a young man to share how something he learned last week influenced him at home, at school, or with friends.
- Use an object to teach the young men the need for the Restoration (such as something that is broken and cannot be repaired but must be replaced). What other objects can the young men think of to use in teaching others about the need for the Restoration?

---

## Learn together

Each of the activities below can help the quorum members understand why the Restoration of the gospel was necessary. Following the inspiration of the Spirit, select one or more that will work best for your quorum:

- Invite a quorum member to teach a portion of this lesson. He could do this as part of his Duty to God plan to learn and teach about the Apostasy and the Restoration (see "Understand Doctrine," page 18, 42, or 66).
- Show the video "A Search for Truth," and have the young men identify what Wilford Woodruff was looking for in the true Church. Why is it important to have these things? How has the restoration of these things blessed the young men? Invite them to share other things that impress them about Wilford Woodruff's search for truth.
- Divide the quorum in half, and ask one group to teach the quorum about how Jesus Christ established His Church and how it was lost through the Apostasy. Ask the other group to teach about the Restoration. Give them time to prepare using *Preach My Gospel* (pages 35–38 and 45), *True to the Faith* (pages 13–14 and 135–39), and the scriptures suggested in this outline. You may want to make these assignments a few days before quorum meeting.
- Assign each of the young men a scripture about the Apostasy or the Restoration (such as those suggested in this outline). Ask the young men to draw a picture that represents what they learn from their scripture, and have them share it with the quorum. Discuss as a quorum the blessings we have received because the gospel was restored.
- Give each young man the name of a person mentioned in Elder Robert D. Hales's talk "Preparations for the Restoration and the Second Coming: 'My Hand Shall Be over Thee'" (such as William Tyndale, Johannes Gutenberg, or Martin Luther). Ask the young men to read or watch the talk

### Teaching tip

"You can demonstrate that you are listening by displaying an expression of interest. You can look at the speaker rather than at your lesson materials or other things in the room. You can encourage the speaker to complete his or her thoughts without interruption. You can avoid jumping into conversations prematurely with advice or judgments" (*Teaching, No Greater Call* [1999], 66).

## Teaching in the Savior's way

The Savior used the scriptures to teach and testify about His mission. He taught people to think about the scriptures for themselves and use them to find answers to their own questions. How can you help the young men use the scriptures to answer their questions?

and find out what that person did to prepare the world for the Restoration. Invite them to share what they find.

*Ask the young men to share what they learned today. Do they understand the need for the Restoration of the gospel? What feelings or impressions do they have? Do they have any additional questions? Would it be worthwhile to spend more time on this doctrine?*

---

## Invite to act

*The young man who is conducting concludes the meeting. He could:*

- Tell why the Restoration was necessary and why it is important to him.
- Invite other quorum members to share their impressions about what they have learned.

# Selected Resources

---

*Excerpt from “Apostasy,” True to the Faith (2004), 13–14*

When individuals or groups of people turn away from the principles of the gospel, they are in a state of apostasy.

Periods of general apostasy have occurred throughout the history of the world. After times of righteousness, people have often turned to wickedness. One example is the Great Apostasy, which occurred after the Savior established His Church. After the deaths of the Savior and His Apostles, men corrupted the principles of the gospel and made unauthorized changes in Church organization and priesthood ordinances. Because of this widespread wickedness, the Lord withdrew the authority of the priesthood from the earth.

During the Great Apostasy, people were without divine direction from living prophets. Many churches were established, but they did not have priesthood power to lead people to the true knowledge of God the Father and Jesus Christ. Parts of the holy scriptures were corrupted or lost, and no one had the authority to confer the gift of the Holy Ghost or perform other priesthood ordinances. This apostasy lasted until Heavenly Father and His Beloved Son appeared to Joseph Smith in 1820 and initiated the restoration of the fulness of the gospel.

We now live in a time when the gospel of Jesus Christ has been restored. But unlike the Church in times past, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will not be overcome by general apostasy. The scriptures teach that the Church will never again be destroyed (see D&C 138:44; see also Daniel 2:44).

*Excerpt from “Restoration of the Gospel,” True to the Faith (2004), 135–39*

When Jesus Christ was on the earth, He established His Church among His followers. After His Crucifixion and the deaths of His Apostles, the fulness of the gospel was taken from the earth because of widespread apostasy. Many men and women sought the fulness of gospel truth during the centuries of the Great Apostasy, but they were unable to find it. Although many preached with sincerity about the Savior and His teachings, none had the fulness of the truth or priesthood authority from God.

The Great Apostasy was a time of spiritual darkness, but we now live in a time when we can partake of “the light of the glorious gospel of Christ” (2 Corinthians 4:4; see also D&C 45:28). The fulness of the gospel has been restored, and the true Church of Jesus Christ is on the earth again. No other organization can compare to it. It is not the result of a reformation, with well-meaning men and women doing all in their power to bring about change. It is a restoration of the Church established by Jesus Christ. It is the work of Heavenly Father and His Beloved Son.

As a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, you can receive blessings that were absent from the earth for almost 2,000 years. Through the ordinances of baptism and confirmation, you can receive the remission of your sins and enjoy the constant companionship of the Holy Ghost. You can live the gospel in its fulness and simplicity. You can gain an understanding of the nature of the Godhead, the Atonement of Jesus Christ, the purpose of life on earth, and the reality of life after death. You have the privilege of being guided by living prophets, who teach God’s will in our day. Temple ordinances enable you to receive guidance and peace, prepare for eternal life, be sealed to your family for eternity, and provide saving ordinances for your deceased ancestors.



## How was the priesthood restored?

The priesthood was restored to Joseph Smith by the laying on of hands by those who held it anciently. In May 1829, John the Baptist restored the Aaronic Priesthood, and shortly thereafter, Peter, James, and John, three of the Savior's original Apostles, restored the Melchizedek Priesthood. On April 3, 1836, Moses, Elijah, and Elias restored additional priesthood keys.

How have you gained a testimony of the restoration of the priesthood? How has this testimony made a difference in your priesthood service?

What do the young men know about the restoration of the priesthood? What experiences have they had that have helped build their testimony of priesthood authority?

---

### Prepare yourself spiritually

*Prayerfully study these scriptures and resources. What inspires you about the restoration of the priesthood?*

Hebrews 5:4; Articles of Faith 1:5 (A man must be called of God to receive the priesthood)

D&C 1:20 (The gospel was restored that every man might speak in the name of the Lord)

D&C 13; Joseph Smith—History 1:68–72 (John the Baptist restored the Aaronic Priesthood)

D&C 27:12–13 (Peter, James, and John restored the Melchizedek Priesthood)

D&C 110 (Moses, Elijah, and Elias restored additional priesthood keys)

David A. Bednar, "The Powers of Heaven," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2012, 48–51 (see also the video "Priesthood Authority and Power")

Jeffrey R. Holland, "Our Most Distinguishing Feature," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2005, 43–45.

Video: "Restoration of the Priesthood"

Video: "Elder Perry on the Priesthood, Part 4: Restoration Makes Authority Clear" (no download available)

---

### Let the young men lead

*A member of the quorum presidency (or an assistant to the bishop in the priests quorum) conducts the quorum meeting. He leads the young men in counseling together about quorum business, teaches them their priesthood duties (from the scriptures and the Duty to God book), and invites an adviser or other quorum member to teach a gospel lesson. He could prepare by filling out a quorum meeting agenda during a presidency meeting.*

---

## Begin the learning experience

Choose from these ideas, or think of your own, to review last week's lesson and introduce this week's lesson:

- Ask a few young men to write one sentence on the board that summarizes an important truth they learned last week.
- If possible, share your priesthood line of authority with the quorum and explain what it is (or invite a young man to share his). What does the line of authority teach the young men about the restoration of the priesthood?

---

## Learn together

Each of the activities below can help the quorum members understand the restoration of the priesthood. Following the inspiration of the Spirit, select one or more that will work best for your quorum:

- Invite a quorum member to teach a portion of this lesson. He could do this as part of his Duty to God plan to learn and teach about the restoration of the priesthood (see "Understand Doctrine," page 18, 42, or 66).
  - Display pictures depicting events of the restoration of the priesthood (see *Gospel Art Book*, 93–95), or watch the video "Restoration of the Priesthood." Have the young men identify key participants in these events (such as Joseph Smith, John the Baptist, Elijah, and so on). Read scriptures about the events (such as those suggested in this outline), and ask young men what questions they have. Ask each young man to share one way the priesthood has blessed him.
  - Give the young men the questions that Elder L. Tom Perry answers in "Elder Perry on the Priesthood, Part 4: Restoration Makes Authority Clear."
- Have the young men write down answers to the questions before they watch the video; then show the video and invite them to share any additional insights they gain from Elder Perry's answers. Ask them to share how they felt when they received the priesthood.
- Divide Elder Jeffrey R. Holland's talk "Our Most Distinguishing Feature" among the young men. Ask the young men to search their sections of the talk, looking for answers to the questions "How is the priesthood conferred?" and "Why is the priesthood given in this way?" As part of this discussion, invite the young men to read Hebrews 5:4 and Articles of Faith 1:5. Why is it important for Aaronic Priesthood holders to know about the restoration of the priesthood?

### Teaching tip

"If several people have comments about a subject, you may want to say something like, 'We'll hear your comments first and then yours.' Then those you teach will remain orderly because they know that they will have an opportunity to speak" (*Teaching, No Greater Call* [1999], 69).

## Teaching in the Savior's way

The Savior saw His disciples' potential and found unique ways to help them learn and grow—ways that would work best for them. You have a unique opportunity to help each young man gain a testimony of the restoration of the priesthood. This testimony can bless him, his family, and others eternally.

- Show the video "Priesthood Authority and Power," and discuss as a quorum the questions Elder David A. Bednar's father asked (or invite the young men to read about this

experience in the talk "The Powers of Heaven"). In what ways should we be different from other men in the world because we hold the priesthood?

*Ask the young men to share what they learned today. Do they understand the restoration of the priesthood better? What feelings or impressions do they have? Do they have any additional questions? Would it be worthwhile to spend more time on this doctrine?*

---

## Invite to act

*The young man who is conducting concludes the meeting. He could:*

- Share his feelings about the restoration of the priesthood or invite others to do the same.
- Invite quorum members to create an outline to teach others about the restoration of the priesthood (see *Duty to God*, 18, 42, or 66).

# Selected Resources

---

*Excerpt from David A. Bednar, "The Powers of Heaven," Ensign or Liahona, May 2012, 48–51*

I was reared in a home with a faithful mother and a wonderful father. My mom was a descendent of pioneers who sacrificed everything for the Church and kingdom of God. My dad was not a member of our Church and, as a young man, had desired to become a Catholic priest. . . .

As a boy I asked my dad many times each week when he was going to be baptized. He responded lovingly but firmly each time I pestered him: "David, I am not going to join the Church for your mother, for you, or for anyone else. I will join the Church when I know it is the right thing to do."

I believe I was in my early teenage years when the following conversation occurred with my father. We had just returned home from attending our Sunday meetings together, and I asked my dad when he was going to be baptized. He smiled and said, "You are the one always asking me about being baptized. Today I have a question for you." I quickly and excitedly concluded that now we were making progress!

My dad continued, "David, your church teaches that the priesthood was taken from the earth anciently and has been restored by heavenly messengers to the Prophet Joseph Smith, right?" I replied that his statement was correct. Then he said, "Here is my question. Each week in priesthood meeting I listen to the bishop and the other priesthood leaders remind, beg, and plead with the men to do their home

teaching and to perform their priesthood duties. If your church truly has the restored priesthood of God, why are so many of the men in your church no different about doing their religious duty than the men in my church?" My young mind immediately went completely blank. I had no adequate answer for my dad.

I believe my father was wrong to judge the validity of our Church's claim to divine authority by the shortcomings of the men with whom he associated in our ward. But embedded in his question to me was a correct assumption that men who bear God's holy priesthood should be different from other men. Men who hold the priesthood are not inherently better than other men, but they should act differently. Men who hold the priesthood should not only receive priesthood authority but also become worthy and faithful conduits of God's power. "Be ye clean that bear the vessels of the Lord" (D&C 38:42).

I have never forgotten the lessons about priesthood authority and power I learned from my father, a good man not of our faith, who expected more from men who claimed to bear God's priesthood. That Sunday afternoon conversation with my dad many years ago produced in me a desire to be a "good boy." I did not want to be a poor example and a stumbling block to my father's progress in learning about the restored gospel. I simply wanted to be a good boy. The Lord needs all of us as bearers of His authority to be honorable, virtuous, and good boys at all times and in all places.





# What was Joseph Smith's role in the Restoration?

After centuries of apostasy, the Lord restored His Church and the fulness of the gospel through the Prophet Joseph Smith. This Restoration began with Joseph's First Vision, in which Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ appeared. Through the Prophet Joseph, the Lord brought forth the Book of Mormon and other scriptures, restored priesthood authority, and established His Church.

---

## Prepare yourself spiritually

*As you prayerfully study these scriptures and resources, what do you feel inspired to share with the young men?*

2 Nephi 3:3–25 (Ancient prophets foresaw Joseph Smith's mission as prophet and seer)

D&C 35:17–18 (Through the Prophet Joseph Smith, the Lord restored the fulness of the gospel)

D&C 76:22–24 (Joseph Smith's testimony of Jesus Christ)

D&C 135:3 (Through the Prophet Joseph Smith, the Lord gave us additional scripture)

Joseph Smith—History 1:11–25 (God the Father and Jesus Christ appeared to Joseph Smith)

Henry B. Eyring, "An Enduring Testimony of the Mission of the Prophet Joseph," *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2003, 89–92

Tad R. Callister, "Joseph Smith—Prophet of the Restoration," *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2009, 35–37

"Joseph Smith," *True to the Faith* (2004), 89–90

Video: "Joseph Smith: The Prophet of the Restoration" (13:15), *Church History* (3-DVD set); also online (no download available)

How has your life been influenced by the life and mission of Joseph Smith? How did you gain your testimony of Joseph Smith?

Do the young men have a testimony of the Prophet Joseph Smith? How can you help them strengthen it?

---

## Let the young men lead

*A member of the quorum presidency (or an assistant to the bishop in the priests quorum) conducts the quorum meeting. He leads the young men in counseling together about quorum business, teaches them their priesthood duties (from the scriptures and the Duty to God book), and invites an adviser or other quorum member to teach a gospel lesson. He could prepare by filling out a quorum meeting agenda during a presidency meeting.*



---

## Begin the learning experience

*Choose from these ideas or think of your own to review last week's lesson and introduce this week's lesson:*

- Invite a young man to draw a picture on the board that symbolizes what the quorum learned last week, and have the other young men guess what he has drawn.
- Before the quorum meeting, invite a few young men to come prepared to tell the quorum about something God restored through Joseph Smith and to share his testimony of Joseph Smith's mission as a prophet.

---

## Learn together

*Each of the activities below can help the quorum members understand Joseph Smith's role in the Restoration. Following the guidance of the Spirit, select one or more that will work best with your quorum:*

- Invite quorum members to make a list of the things the Lord gave us through Joseph Smith, then read Doctrine and Covenants 135:3 and add to the list if necessary. How are our lives different because of the work the Lord did through Joseph Smith?
- Invite the young men to read Joseph Smith—History 1:7–20, looking for truths Joseph Smith learned through the First Vision. What did Joseph learn about Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ? about himself? about the adversary? Why are these truths important for us to understand today?
- Show the video “Joseph Smith: The Prophet of the Restoration,” and ask the young men to share something they learn or something that impresses them about the Prophet Joseph Smith. Consider relating how you gained your testimony that Joseph Smith was a prophet.
- Invite the young men to read pages 89–90 in *True to the Faith* or Elder Tad R. Callister's talk “Joseph Smith—Prophet of the Restoration.” Invite them to choose a few sentences they would use if they were asked to describe why Joseph Smith is important. Ask a few young men to tell what sentences they chose and why.

*Ask the young men to share what they learned today. Do they understand the role of Joseph Smith in the Restoration of the gospel? What feelings or impressions do they have? Do they have any additional questions? Would it be helpful to spend more time on this doctrine?*

### Teaching tip

“Use the current editions of the standard works and the lesson materials published by the Church. Consider the methods suggested in the lesson manual before consulting other resources for ideas. Any materials or ideas you use that are not found in the manual should emphasize truth and goodness” (*Teaching, No Greater Call* [1999], 91).

## Teaching in the Savior's way

The Savior invited others to act in faith and live the truths He taught. In all His teaching He focused on helping His followers live the gospel with all their hearts. How can you help the young men see how their testimonies of Joseph Smith should be reflected in their daily lives?

---

## Invite to act

*The young man who is conducting concludes the meeting. He could:*

- Share his feelings about why Joseph Smith is important to his life and invite other quorum members to do the same.
- Discuss with the quorum their priesthood duty to teach others about the mission of Joseph Smith.

# Selected Resources

---

*“Joseph Smith,” True to the Faith (2004), 89–90*

In the spring of 1820, 14-year-old Joseph Smith was searching for the true Church of Jesus Christ when he read a passage in the Bible: “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him” (James 1:5; see also Joseph Smith—History 1:11–12). With simple, unwavering faith, young Joseph followed the counsel in that passage. He went alone to a grove of trees, where he prayed to know which church he should join. In answer to his prayer, God the Father and Jesus Christ appeared to him. Among other things, They told him that he should join none of the churches then in existence. (See Joseph Smith—History 1:13–20.)

As Joseph Smith proved his worthiness, he was given a divine mission as a prophet of God. Through him, the Lord accomplished a great and marvelous work

that included bringing forth the Book of Mormon, restoring the priesthood, revealing precious gospel truths, organizing the true Church of Jesus Christ, and establishing temple work. On June 27, 1844, Joseph and his brother Hyrum were killed in an attack by an armed mob. They sealed their testimonies with their blood.

For your testimony of the restored gospel to be complete, it must include a testimony of Joseph Smith’s divine mission. The truthfulness of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints rests on the truthfulness of the First Vision and the other revelations the Lord gave to the Prophet Joseph. President John Taylor, the third President of the Church, wrote, “Joseph Smith, the Prophet and Seer of the Lord, has done more, save Jesus only, for the salvation of men in this world, than any other man that ever lived in it” (D&C 135:3).



## Why is the First Vision important?

In the spring of 1820, God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, appeared to the Prophet Joseph Smith. This vision, which marked the beginning of the Restoration of the gospel, is the most important event since the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Joseph Smith’s humble prayer led to the restoration of gospel truths, priesthood authority, and saving ordinances. “That one revelation answers all the [questions] regarding God and his divine personality. ... His interest in humanity through authority delegated to man is apparent. The future of the work is assured. These and other glorious truths are clarified by that glorious first vision” (*Teachings of Presidents of the Church: David O. McKay* [2003], 93).

---

### Prepare yourself spiritually

*As you prepare, prayerfully study these scriptures and resources and others that you choose. What do you feel will be most meaningful to the young men you teach?*

Joseph Smith—History 1:11–19, 24–25

Dieter F. Uchtdorf, “The Fruits of the First Vision,” *Ensign or Liahona*, May 2005, 36–38

Video: “The Restoration”

---

How did you receive a witness that Joseph Smith saw God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ? How has your life been blessed because of this testimony? What is the significance of the First Vision for you?

How can studying the First Vision deepen the testimony of each young man in your quorum? How can you help the young men understand the significance of this great event?

### Let the young men lead

*A member of the quorum presidency (or an assistant to the bishop in the priests quorum) conducts the quorum meeting. He leads the young men in counseling together about quorum business, teaches them their priesthood duties (from the scriptures and the Duty to God book), and invites an adviser or other quorum member to teach a gospel lesson. He could prepare by filling out a quorum meeting agenda during a presidency meeting.*

---

### Begin the learning experience

*Choose from these ideas or think of your own to review last week’s lesson and introduce this week’s lesson:*

- Give each quorum member a chance to name one thing he remembers from last week’s lesson.
- As a quorum, sing the hymn “Joseph Smith’s First Prayer” (*Hymns*, no. 26). Invite the young men to share their feelings about Joseph Smith and his experience seeing and speaking to God the Father and Jesus Christ.

---

## Learn together

Each of the activities below can help the quorum members learn about Joseph Smith's First Vision. Following the guidance of the Spirit, select one or more that will work best with your quorum:

- Invite the young men to write down some of the blessings they have received because of the First Vision. Ask them to look for other blessings of the First Vision as they read the last 10 paragraphs of President Dieter F. Uchtdorf's talk "The Fruits of the First Vision." Invite them to share what they find and their feelings about the importance of the First Vision.
- As a quorum, read about Joseph Smith's First Vision in Joseph Smith—History 1:7–20. Invite the young men to look for truths we can learn from Joseph's experience (for example, the Father and the Son are real, separate beings; Satan and his power are real, but God's power is greater; God hears and answers prayers; revelation has not ceased). Invite a young man to write the truths on the board. How are these truths different from what other religions believe? How would our lives be different if we did not know these things?
- Invite the young men to silently read and ponder Joseph Smith's First Vision and his testimony in Joseph Smith—History 1:11–19, 24–25 (or watch the video "The Restoration"). Ask them to think about why the First Vision is significant in the history of the world. Why is it important to us as individuals? Share your testimony about the importance of the First Vision, and invite the young men to share their thoughts and testimonies.
- Invite the young men to review scriptural accounts of God the Father and Jesus Christ manifesting Themselves to people on earth (such as Matthew 3:13–17; Acts 7:54–60; 3 Nephi 11:3–10). You could also show pictures of these events (see *Gospel Art Book*, 35, 63, and 82). Ask them to summarize each account. Then invite them to read Joseph Smith History 1:17 (see *Gospel Art Book*, 90). How was Joseph Smith's First Vision similar to these other manifestations? How was it unique? Invite the young men to share why the First Vision is important to them.

Ask the young men to share what they learned today. Do they understand Joseph Smith's First Vision better? What feelings or impressions do they have? Do they have any additional questions? Would it be helpful to spend more time on this doctrine?

---

## Invite to act

The young man who is conducting concludes the meeting. He could:

- Share his feelings about the importance of the First Vision.
- Invite quorum members to share what they learned today with a friend or family member.

## Teaching tip

"Ask those you teach what they might say if someone wants to know what they have learned from the lesson" (*Teaching, No Greater Call* [1999], 94).

## Teaching in the Savior's way

The Savior invited His followers to testify to others of the truthfulness of His teachings. As they did, the Spirit touched their hearts. How can you encourage the young men to bear testimony to each other?



# Why do we need the Book of Mormon?

The Book of Mormon was written for our day. It testifies of Jesus Christ, contains the fulness of His gospel, and restores truths lost through the Apostasy. Joseph Smith taught that the Book of Mormon is “the keystone of our religion, and a man would get nearer to God by abiding by its precepts, than by any other book” (introduction to the Book of Mormon).

---

## Prepare yourself spiritually

*Prayerfully study these scriptures and resources. How can you help the young men feel the power of the Book of Mormon?*

1 Nephi 13:40; 2 Nephi 3:12 (The Book of Mormon restores precious truths and confounds false doctrines)      Book of Mormon title page and introduction

2 Nephi 25:23, 26; 33:10–11 (The Book of Mormon writers testify of Jesus Christ)      Jeffrey R. Holland, “Safety for the Soul,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2009, 88–90

2 Nephi 29:7–11 (The Book of Mormon shows that God speaks to His children in many nations)      Tad R. Callister, “The Book of Mormon—a Book from God,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2011, 74–76

D&C 20:8–16; 42:12 (The Book of Mormon contains the fulness of the gospel of Jesus Christ)      Video: “The Book of Mormon: An Apostle’s Introduction” (no download available)

Think about experiences you have had studying the Book of Mormon. Why is the Book of Mormon important to you?

How is the Book of Mormon influencing the lives of the young men? What can the young men do to strengthen their testimonies of the Book of Mormon? How could the Book of Mormon help them address modern-day challenges?

---

## Let the young men lead

*A member of the quorum presidency (or an assistant to the bishop in the priests quorum) conducts the quorum meeting. He leads the young men in counseling together about quorum business, teaches them their priesthood duties (from the scriptures and the Duty to God book), and invites an adviser or other quorum member to teach a gospel lesson. He could prepare by filling out a quorum meeting agenda during a presidency meeting.*

---

## Begin the learning experience

Choose from these ideas or think of your own to review last week's lesson and introduce this week's lesson:

- Invite several young men to share what impressed them the most from last week's lesson.
- As a quorum, build or draw a keystone arch (see *Preach My Gospel*, 103). Ask the young men to explain why Joseph Smith said the Book of Mormon is the keystone of our religion (see the introduction to the Book of Mormon).

---

## Learn together

Each of the activities below can help the quorum members understand the importance of the Book of Mormon. Following the inspiration of the Spirit, select one or more that will work best for your quorum:

- Ask each young man to read one of the scriptures listed in this outline or the title page of the Book of Mormon, looking for answers to the question "Why do we need the Book of Mormon?" Invite the young men to write their answers on the board. Ask them to choose one of the answers on the board that they would like to learn more about and share what they chose.
- Ask the young men to think of questions their friends may have about the Book of Mormon. How might they answer them? What can they share from Elder Tad R. Callister's talk "The Book of Mormon—a Book from God"? Ask quorum members to role-play how they would invite a friend to read the Book of Mormon. How would they explain what the Book of Mormon is and why we need it? What verses would they share from the Book of Mormon? How would they explain that the Book of Mormon is another testament of Jesus Christ? Consider inviting the young men to open their *Duty to God* books to page 29, 53, or 77 and write the name of someone they could invite to read the Book of Mormon.
- Invite each young man to find a scripture in the Book of Mormon that is important to him or has influenced his life. Divide the quorum into small groups of two or three, and ask each young man to share his chosen scripture, why it is important to him, and any experiences he has had with that passage. Invite a few young men to share with the entire quorum. What do these experiences teach us about the importance of the Book of Mormon?

### Teaching tip

"When one person reads aloud, you should encourage others to follow along in their scriptures. Invite them to listen and look for specific principles or ideas. Allow time for them to turn to each scripture passage before it is read. If a passage contains unusual or difficult words or phrases, explain these before the passage is read. If anyone in the group might have difficulty reading, ask for volunteers instead of having them take turns" (*Teaching, No Greater Call* [1999], 56).

## Teaching in the Savior's way

The Savior invited others to act in faith to learn the truths of the gospel. He taught us, "Ask, and ye shall receive" (John 16:24). How can you encourage the young men to follow this pattern as they seek to gain or strengthen their testimonies of the Book of Mormon? (see Moroni 10:3–5).

- Show the video "The Book of Mormon: An Apostle's Introduction," and ask quorum members to write down answers to the question "Why do we need the Book of Mormon?" as

they watch. Have them share what they write. How would their lives be different if they did not have the Book of Mormon?

*Ask the young men to share what they learned today. Do they understand why the Book of Mormon is important? What feelings or impressions do they have? Do they have any additional questions? Would it be worthwhile to spend more time on this doctrine?*

---

## Invite to act

*The young man who is conducting concludes the meeting. He could:*

- Invite a few young men to share their testimonies of why we need the Book of Mormon and explain how they learned it is true.
- Hand out missionary copies of the Book of Mormon, if possible, and invite each quorum member to write his testimony in the front and give the book to someone.



# Selected Resources

---

*Excerpt from Tad R. Callister, "The Book of Mormon—a Book from God," Ensign or Liahona, Nov. 2011, 74–76*

But why is the Book of Mormon so essential if we already have the Bible to teach us about Jesus Christ? Have you ever wondered why there are so many Christian churches in the world today when they obtain their doctrines from essentially the same Bible? It is because they interpret the Bible differently. If they interpreted it the same, they would be the same church. This is not a condition the Lord desires, for the Apostle Paul declared that there is "one Lord, one faith, one baptism" (Ephesians 4:5). To help bring this oneness about, the Lord established a divine law of witnesses. Paul taught, "In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established" (2 Corinthians 13:1).

The Bible is one witness of Jesus Christ; the Book of Mormon is another. Why is this second witness so crucial? The following illustration may help: How many straight lines can you draw through a single point on a piece of paper? The answer is infinite. For a moment, suppose that single point represents the Bible and that hundreds of those straight lines drawn through that point represent different interpretations of the Bible and that each of those interpretations represents a different church.

What happens, however, if on that piece of paper there is a second point representing the Book of Mormon? How many straight lines could you draw

between these two reference points: the Bible and the Book of Mormon? Only one. Only one interpretation of Christ's doctrines survives the testimony of these two witnesses.

Again and again the Book of Mormon acts as a confirming, clarifying, unifying witness of the doctrines taught in the Bible so that there is only "one Lord, one faith, one baptism." For example, some people are confused as to whether baptism is essential for salvation even though the Savior declared to Nicodemus, "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (John 3:5). The Book of Mormon, however, eliminates all doubt on that subject: "And he commandeth all men that they must repent, and be baptized in his name, . . . or they cannot be saved in the kingdom of God" (2 Nephi 9:23).

There exist various modes of baptisms in the world today even though the Bible tells us the manner in which the Savior, our great Exemplar, was baptized: "[He] went up straightway out of the water" (Matthew 3:16). Could He have come up out of the water unless He first went down into the water? Lest there be any discord on this subject, the Book of Mormon dispels it with this straightforward statement of doctrine as to the proper manner of baptism: "And then shall ye immerse them in the water" (3 Nephi 11:26).

# May: Prophets and Revelation

*“We believe all that God has revealed, all that He does now reveal, and we believe that He will yet reveal many great and important things pertaining to the Kingdom of God”* (Articles of Faith 1:9).

The outlines in this unit will help each young man learn to recognize the voice of the Lord as He speaks to him through the scriptures, living prophets and apostles, and personal revelation by the Holy Ghost to his heart and mind. The scriptures include the commandment for priesthood holders to “give diligent heed to the words of eternal life” and “live by every word that proceedeth forth from the mouth of God” (D&C 84:43–44). In this unit, you can help the members of your quorum obey this counsel by instilling in them a love for God’s word.

---

## Learning outlines

Seek the inspiration of the Spirit as you select from the outlines below. Let the questions and interests of the young men guide you as you decide which outlines to teach and how long to spend on a topic.

These outlines are not meant to prescribe what you will say and do in class. They are designed to help you learn the doctrine for yourself and prepare learning experiences adapted to the needs of the young men you teach.

To make Duty to God part of the Sunday quorum meeting, you may consider teaching the Duty to God outline below during this unit.

*Why is it important to study the scriptures? (Duty to God)*  
*Why is it important to listen to and follow the living prophets?*

*How do I receive personal revelation?*

*How can I make my prayers more meaningful?*

*How can I strengthen my testimony?*

*What has President Monson taught Aaronic Priesthood holders?*

*How can a patriarchal blessing help me?*

## Prepare yourself spiritually

To help the young men learn about prophets and revelation, you must understand and live the doctrine yourself. Study the scriptures and other resources provided in the learning outlines, and look for statements, stories, or examples that may be especially relevant or inspiring. Then use the learning outlines to plan ways to help quorum members discover truths for themselves, gain a testimony of them, and live by what they learn.

## **Counsel together**

Counsel with the quorum presidency and with other teachers, leaders, and parents about the young men. What questions and needs do the young men have? What are they learning about prophets and revelation in other settings—at home, in seminary, in Sunday School? How will this influence your preparation to teach this unit? Write your thoughts and impressions below. (If sensitive information is shared in these conversations, please keep it confidential.)

## **Mutual**

Many of the lesson topics and learning activities in this unit would work well as Mutual activities. Work with quorum presidencies in selecting and planning appropriate activities to reinforce what the young men learn on Sunday.

## **Duty to God**

The following sections from the *Duty to God* book relate to the lessons in this unit:

Pray and Study the Scriptures, pages 14–15, 38–39, 62–63

Understand Doctrine, pages 18–20, 42–44, 66–68



## DUTY TO GOD

# Why is it important to study the scriptures?

The scriptures contain the word of God. Latter-day prophets counsel us to study the scriptures every day, both individually and with our families. Studying the scriptures can help us know Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ, give us power to resist temptation, and strengthen us in our challenges.

How has studying the scriptures been a blessing in your life? What experiences can you share with the young men?

What verses of scripture do you think could be meaningful to the young men in the quorum? What can you do to help the young men make their scripture study more meaningful and effective?

---

### Prepare yourself spiritually

*Prayerfully study the following scriptures and resources. What do you feel will help the young men understand the importance of studying the scriptures?*

Joshua 1:8; 2 Timothy 3:16–17; 1 Nephi 15:24; 2 Nephi 32:3; Alma 17:2–3; Helaman 3:29–30; D&C 18:33–36; 21:4–6; 84:85 (Blessings of studying the scriptures)

*Fulfilling My Duty to God* (2010), 14–15, 38–39, 62–63

Ezra Taft Benson, “The Power of the Word,” *Ensign*, May 1986, 79–82

Richard G. Scott, “The Power of Scripture,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2011, 6–8

D. Todd Christofferson, “The Blessing of Scripture,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2010, 32–35

“Scriptures,” *True to the Faith* (2004), 155–59

Video: “Fulfilling Your Duty to God”

Video: “The Book of Mormon: Messages from Heaven”

---

### Let the young men lead

*A member of the quorum presidency (or an assistant to the bishop in the priests quorum) conducts the quorum meeting. He leads the young men in counseling together about quorum business, teaches them their priesthood duties (from the scriptures and the Duty to God book), and invites an adviser or other quorum member to teach a gospel lesson. He could prepare by filling out a quorum meeting agenda during a presidency meeting.*

---

## Begin the learning experience

*Choose from these ideas or think of your own to review last week's lesson and introduce this week's lesson:*

- Invite the young men to think of an object that could represent what they learned and shared in last week's discussion. Ask them to explain what the object has to do with what they learned.
- Invite the young men to share one of their favorite scriptures in pairs or with the entire quorum. Encourage them also to share an experience they had that made the scripture meaningful to them. What do the young men learn about the importance of the scriptures from these experiences?

---

## Learn together

*The purpose of this lesson is to help each young man make a plan to establish or strengthen a habit of regular scripture study. Give the young men time during quorum meeting to write plans in their Duty to God books. Encourage them to share their plans with each other, and in future quorum meetings, invite them to share experiences they have fulfilling their plans.*

### Teaching tip

“The spirit must be present for a gospel message to be carried to the hearts of those you teach (see 2 Nephi 33:1; D&C 42:14). Therefore, you should use methods that will set the proper tone for the lesson and invite the Spirit” (see *Teaching, No Greater Call* [1999], 91).

- Invite the young men to open their *Duty to God* books to page 14 or 38. Assign one of the scripture references from these pages to each member of the quorum (see also the scriptures listed in this outline). Invite quorum members to look for and share words that describe how we should approach a study of the scriptures and the blessings that will come as we study the scriptures. Invite them to make plans to begin or strengthen a habit of regular scripture study (see *Duty to God*, page 15, 39, or 63).
  - Invite the young men to watch the video “The Book of Mormon: Messages from Heaven” or to read “The Importance of Daily Scripture Study” from *True to the Faith* (pages 155–56). Ask them to look for answers to the question “Why is it important that I study the scriptures?” Invite them to share what they find. Ask a few young
- Invite the quorum members to read sections of one of the talks suggested in this outline. Ask them to share what they learn about the scriptures and the blessings of scripture study. When have they seen the power of scripture study in their own lives?
- Invite the quorum members to read sections of one of the talks suggested in this outline. Ask them to share what they learn about the scriptures and the blessings of scripture study. When have they seen the power of scripture study in their own lives?

thoughts with the quorum. (See *Duty to God*, 62.) Invite them to turn to page 15, 39, or 63 of their *Duty to God* books and write down their plans to improve their personal scripture study.

men to share how they study the scriptures. With permission of the bishop, consider inviting a father or

other ward member to share briefly how he or she studies the scriptures.

*Ask the young men to share what they learned today. Do they understand why it is important to study the scriptures? What feelings or impressions do they have? Do they have any additional questions? Would it be worthwhile to spend more time on this doctrine?*

---

## Invite to act

*The young man who is conducting concludes the meeting. He could:*

- Share with the quorum his personal scripture study plans.
- Explain that during quorum meeting for the next few weeks, quorum members will be invited to share a scripture they've read during the week and explain why it's meaningful to them.

## Teaching in the Savior's way

The Savior used the scriptures to teach and testify about His mission. He taught people to think about scriptures for themselves and use them to find answers to their own questions. How can you help the young men use the scriptures to find answers to their questions?

# Selected Resources

---

*Excerpt from “Scriptures,” True to the Faith (2004), 155–59*

## **Importance of Daily Scripture Study**

The principal purpose of scriptures is to testify of Christ, helping us come unto Him and receive eternal life (see John 5:39; 20:31; 1 Nephi 6:4; Mosiah 13:33–35). The prophet Mormon testified:

“Whosoever will may lay hold upon the word of God, which is quick and powerful, which shall divide asunder all the cunning and the snares and the wiles of the devil, and lead the man of Christ in a strait and narrow course across that everlasting gulf of misery which is prepared to engulf the wicked—

“And land their souls, yea, their immortal souls, at the right hand of God in the kingdom of heaven, to sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and with Jacob, and with all our holy fathers, to go no more out” (Helaman 3:29–30).

Latter-day prophets counsel us to study the scriptures every day, both individually and with our families. They encourage us, as Nephi encouraged his brethren, to liken the scriptures to ourselves, finding ways that the sacred accounts of old apply in our lives today (see 1 Nephi 19:23–24). They exhort us to “search the scriptures” (John 5:39) and “feast upon the words of Christ” (2 Nephi 32:3).

You will benefit greatly by following this counsel. Daily, meaningful scripture study helps you be receptive to the whisperings of the Holy Ghost. It builds your faith, fortifies you against temptation, and helps you draw near to your Heavenly Father and His Beloved Son.

Develop a plan for your personal study of the scriptures. Consider setting aside a certain amount of time each day to study the scriptures. During that time, read carefully, being attentive to the promptings of the Spirit. Ask your Heavenly Father to help you know what He would have you learn and do.

Continue reading the scriptures, particularly the Book of Mormon, throughout your life. You will rediscover the treasures of the scriptures again and again, finding new meaning and application in them as you study them at different stages of life.

If you are married, set aside time each day to read the scriptures as a family. This effort may be difficult, but it will yield wonderful, eternal results. Under the guidance of the Spirit, plan scripture reading that will meet the needs of your family. Do not be afraid of reading the scriptures to small children. The language of those sacred records has power to touch even the very young.





## Why is it important to listen to and follow the living prophets?

We sustain the members of the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles as prophets, seers, and revelators. Their teachings reflect the will of the Lord. They give us instruction, warnings, and counsel from the Lord for our day. We are blessed with safety, peace, and spiritual strength when we listen to and obey their counsel.

---

### Prepare yourself spiritually

*Prayerfully study the following scriptures and resources. What do you feel prompted to share with the young men?*

Amos 3:7; D&C 1:4, 37–38; Moses 6:26–38 (The Lord speaks to us through His prophets)

Henry B. Eyring, “Trust in God, Then Go and Do,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2010, 70–73

D&C 21:1, 4–7 (The Lord promises great blessings to those who follow the prophet)

Claudio R. M. Costa, “Obedience to the Prophets,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2010, 11–13

D. Todd Christofferson, “The Doctrine of Christ,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2012, 86–90

Video: “Watchmen on the Tower”

---

What counsel have living prophets given that you have applied in your life? How have you been blessed for following that counsel?

Why is it important for the young men in your quorum to have a testimony of the living prophets? How can you help them see what a privilege it is to have living prophets to guide them today?

### Let the young men lead

*A member of the quorum presidency (or an assistant to the bishop in the priests quorum) conducts the quorum meeting. He leads the young men in counseling together about quorum business, teaches them their priesthood duties (from the scriptures and the Duty to God book), and invites an adviser or other quorum member to teach a gospel lesson. He could prepare by filling out a quorum meeting agenda during a presidency meeting.*

---

## Begin the learning experience

*Choose from these ideas or think of your own to review last week's lesson and introduce this week's lesson:*

- Choose a key word from last week's lesson, and invite a quorum member to draw a picture of it while the other quorum members guess the word. Ask the quorum to explain why that word was important in last week's lesson.
- Show pictures of the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve Apostles (such as those in the conference issue of the *Ensign* or *Liahona*). Bear your testimony that all of these men are prophets, seers, and revelators. What messages do the young men remember hearing from a member of the First Presidency or Quorum of the Twelve?

---

## Learn together

*Each of the activities below will help the quorum members understand the importance of following the living prophets. Following the inspiration of the Spirit, select one or more that will work best for your quorum:*

- Assign each young man one of the scriptures suggested in this outline and ask him to look for reasons we need a prophet and blessings that come from following the prophet. Invite him to share his thoughts.
- Invite quorum members to imagine that a friend of another faith asks them, "Why do you have a prophet?" "What is your prophet like?" or "What has the prophet said to you?" How would the young men respond?
- Give each young man a copy of Elder Claudio R. M. Costa's talk "Obedience to the Prophets," and ask him to choose one or more of the 14 principles Elder Costa describes and read about it. Ask him to report to the quorum the principle he chose and what it teaches him about following the living prophets. Why do the young men feel these principles are important for us as priesthood holders?
- Show the video "Watchmen on the Tower." Invite the young men to share what they learn about the importance of following the prophet. Review with them the titles of President Thomas S. Monson's most recent general conference talks and discuss what the prophet is warning us about today.

*Ask the young men to share what they learned today. Do they understand why it is important to listen to and follow the living prophets? What feelings or impressions do they have? Do they have any additional questions? Would it be worthwhile to spend more time on this doctrine?*

### Teaching tip

"We should study the scriptures, teachings of latter-day prophets, and lesson materials thoroughly to be sure we correctly understand the doctrine before we teach it" (*Teaching, No Greater Call* [1999], 52).

---

## Invite to act

*The young man who is conducting concludes the meeting. He could:*

- Share his feelings about the opportunity to know about and follow the living prophets.
- Ask quorum members to share an experience in which they followed the prophet and how it has influenced their lives.

## Teaching in the Savior's way

The Savior asked questions to those He taught and gave them opportunities to ask their own questions. What questions can you ask that will help the young men think and feel deeply about living prophets? How can you show that you are interested in their answers?

# Selected Resources

---

*Excerpt from Claudio R. M. Costa, "Obedience to the Prophets," Ensign or Liahona, Nov. 2010, 11–13*

In 1980, when President Ezra Taft Benson was serving as President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, he gave a powerful message about obedience to the prophets at a BYU devotional in the Marriott Center. His great talk, titled "Fourteen Fundamentals in Following the Prophet," touched my heart. It made me feel good that I had made the decision to follow the prophets for the rest of my life when I accepted baptism in the Lord's true Church.

I would like to share with you some of the principles that President Benson taught:

*"First: The prophet is the only man who speaks for the Lord in everything" (1980 Devotional Speeches of the Year [1981], 26). . . .*

*Second fundamental: "The living prophet is more vital to us than the standard works" ("Fourteen Fundamentals," 26). . . .*

*Third fundamental: "The living prophet is more important to us than a dead prophet" ("Fourteen Fundamentals," 27). . . .*

*Fourth fundamental: "The prophet will never lead the Church astray" ("Fourteen Fundamentals," 27). . . .*

*Fifth fundamental: "The prophet is not required to have any particular earthly training or credentials to speak on any subject or act on any matter at any time" ("Fourteen Fundamentals," 27). . . .*

*"Sixth: The prophet does not have to say 'Thus saith the Lord' to give us scripture. . . .*

*"Seventh: The prophet tells us what we need to know, not always what we want to know" ("Fourteen Fundamentals," 27, 28). . . .*

*Eighth fundamental: "The prophet is not limited by men's reasoning." . . .*

*"Ninth: The prophet can receive revelation on any matter—temporal or spiritual. . . .*

*"Tenth: The prophet may be involved in civic matters. . . .*

*"Eleventh: The two groups who have the greatest difficulty in following the prophet are the proud who are learned and the proud who are rich. . . .*

*"Twelfth: The prophet will not necessarily be popular with the world or the worldly. . . .*

*"Thirteenth: The prophet and his counselors make up the First Presidency—the highest quorum in the Church. . . .*

*"Fourteenth: The prophet and the presidency—the living prophet and the first presidency—follow them and be blessed; reject them and suffer" ("Fourteen Fundamentals," 29).*



## How do I receive personal revelation?

Each of us is entitled to personal revelation to guide our own lives. In order to receive personal revelation, we must prepare by living worthily and studying and pondering the scriptures. If we seek and ask, God will reveal His will to us through the Holy Ghost.

---

### Prepare yourself spiritually

*As you prepare, prayerfully study these scriptures and resources. What do you feel inspired to share with the young men?*

1 Kings 19:9–12; Helaman 5:30; D&C 6:14–16, 23; 8:2–3; 11:12–14 (Ways the Spirit speaks to us)

John 14:26–27 (The Holy Ghost can help us remember things and feel peace)

Ether 2–3; D&C 9:7–9 (Personal revelation must be accompanied by our own thought and study)

Henry B. Eyring, “Where Is the Pavilion?” *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2012, 72–75

Richard G. Scott, “How to Obtain Revelation and Inspiration for Your

Personal Life,” *Ensign or Liahona*, May 2012, 45–47

David A. Bednar, “The Spirit of Revelation,” *Ensign or Liahona*, May 2011, 87–90

“Learn to Recognize the Promptings of the Spirit,” *Preach My Gospel* (1999), 96–97

“Revelation,” *True to the Faith* (2004), 140–44

Videos: “Patterns of Light: Spirit of Revelation,” “Hearing His Voice”

How do you know when you have received personal revelation? How has learning to recognize personal revelation blessed your life?

Why is it important for the young men to understand how to receive personal revelation? How can personal revelation help Aaronic Priesthood holders fulfill their priesthood duties? How will you help them learn to recognize personal revelation?

---

### Let the young men lead

*A member of the quorum presidency (or an assistant to the bishop in the priests quorum) conducts the quorum meeting. He leads the young men in counseling together about quorum business, teaches them their priesthood duties (from the scriptures and the Duty to God book), and invites an adviser or other quorum member to teach a gospel lesson. He could prepare by filling out a quorum meeting agenda during a presidency meeting.*

---

## Begin the learning experience

*Choose from these ideas or think of your own to review last week's lesson and introduce this week's lesson:*

- How has last week's lesson affected the young men's lives? What have they done differently because of what they learned? What blessings have come from their actions?
- Write on the board "I know I am receiving personal revelation when \_\_\_\_\_." Ask the young men how they would complete this sentence. Invite them to continue to ponder this statement during the lesson and look for additional answers.

---

## Learn together

*Each of the activities below will help the quorum members understand how to receive personal revelation. Following the inspiration of the Spirit, select one or more that will work best for your quorum:*

- Ask the young men if they know what a pavilion is and what its purpose is. Invite the young men to read D&C 121:1–4, in which Joseph Smith describes feeling separated from God by a "pavilion" or covering (encourage them to read the section heading also to gain historical context). In these verses, what does the pavilion represent? Invite the young men to read President Henry B. Eyring's stories about receiving revelation regarding his profession (in his talk "Where Is the Pavilion?"), and ask them to list things that might create a pavilion between us and God and ways we can remove that pavilion. Are there other things they can think of to add to their lists? Invite them to ponder what they will do to improve their communication with Heavenly Father.
- Write on the board the scriptures suggested in this outline. Assign each young man one of them and ask him to identify what it teaches about how the Holy Ghost communicates with us. Have the young men write what they find on the board next to each scripture reference. Invite the young men to share any experiences they have had in which the Holy Ghost has spoken to them in one of these ways. Have they ever sought or received personal revelation to guide them in fulfilling their priesthood duties? You could also share an experience you have had.
- Make a copy of the chart on pages 96–97 of *Preach My Gospel* for each young man. Invite the young men to review the chart and its descriptions of how the Holy Ghost communicates with us. Ask them to write about a time when they have experienced any of the feelings, thoughts, or impressions described in the chart. Invite a few young men to share what they wrote with the rest of the quorum.

### Teaching tip

"Perhaps the greatest temptation of the teacher struggling to maintain the attention of [a] class is the use of the sensational story. There are a number of these, of very questionable origin, continually being circulated throughout the Church. ... These are not teaching tools: stability and testimony are not built on sensational stories" (Joseph F. McConkie, in *Teaching, No Greater Call* [1999], 53).

- Invite the young men to read the section titled “Patterns of Revelation” from Elder David A. Bednar’s talk “The Spirit of Revelation” or watch the video “Patterns of Light: The Spirit of Revelation.” Ask them to identify phrases or sentences that explain how the Holy Ghost communicates with us. Why is it important for Aaronic Priesthood holders to understand how the Holy Ghost communicates? How can He help with important decisions we must make? Invite the young men to list some important decisions they will need to make in the next few years. With permission from the

bishop, invite exemplary priesthood holders from the ward to share how they have sought personal revelation to make similar decisions.

- Show the video “Hearing His Voice,” and ask the young men to look for things the youth in this video did to prepare themselves to receive personal revelation. What are some other ways we can prepare ourselves? (see 3 Nephi 17:2–3; D&C 9:7–8). Encourage the quorum members to accept the challenge that the youth in the video accepted, and invite them to share their experiences in a future quorum meeting.

*Ask the young men to share what they learned today. Do they better understand how to receive personal revelation? What feelings or impressions do they have? Do they have any additional questions? Would it be worthwhile to spend more time on this doctrine?*

---

## **Invite to act**

*The young man who is conducting concludes the meeting. He could:*

- Share experiences he has had seeking and receiving personal revelation.

- Invite quorum members to look for ways they could improve their priesthood service by seeking personal revelation.

## **Teaching in the Savior’s way**

The Savior invited those who followed Him to act in faith and live the truths He taught. He focused on helping His followers live the gospel with all their hearts by providing them with powerful learning experiences. How can you teach the young men to act in faith and live the truths they learn?



# Selected Resources

---

*Excerpt from David A. Bednar, "The Spirit of Revelation," Ensign or Liahona, May 2011, 87–90*

Revelations are conveyed in a variety of ways, including, for example, dreams, visions, conversations with heavenly messengers, and inspiration. Some revelations are received immediately and intensely; some are recognized gradually and subtly. The two experiences with light I described help us to better understand these two basic patterns of revelation.

A light turned on in a dark room is like receiving a message from God quickly, completely, and all at once. Many of us have experienced this pattern of revelation as we have been given answers to sincere prayers or been provided with needed direction or protection, according to God's will and timing. Descriptions of such immediate and intense manifestations are found in the scriptures, recounted in Church history, and evidenced in our own lives. Indeed, these mighty miracles do occur. However, this pattern of revelation tends to be more rare than common.

The gradual increase of light radiating from the rising sun is like receiving a message from God "line upon line, precept upon precept" (2 Nephi 28:30). Most frequently, revelation comes in small increments over time and is granted according to our desire, worthiness, and preparation. Such communications from Heavenly Father gradually and gently "distil upon [our souls] as the dew from heaven" (D&C 121:45). This pattern of revelation tends to be

more common than rare and is evident in the experiences of Nephi as he tried several different approaches before successfully obtaining the plates of brass from Laban (see 1 Nephi 3–4). Ultimately, he was led by the Spirit to Jerusalem, "not knowing beforehand the things which [he] should do" (1 Nephi 4:6). And he did not learn how to build a ship of curious workmanship all at one time; rather, Nephi was shown by the Lord "from time to time after what manner [he] should work the timbers of the ship" (1 Nephi 18:1).

Both the history of the Church and our personal lives are replete with examples of the Lord's pattern for receiving revelation "line upon line, precept upon precept." For example, the fundamental truths of the restored gospel were not delivered to the Prophet Joseph Smith all at once in the Sacred Grove. These priceless treasures were revealed as circumstances warranted and as the timing was right. . . .

We as members of the Church tend to emphasize marvelous and dramatic spiritual manifestations so much that we may fail to appreciate and may even overlook the customary pattern by which the Holy Ghost accomplishes His work. The very "simplicity of the way" (1 Nephi 17:41) of receiving small and incremental spiritual impressions that over time and in totality constitute a desired answer or the direction we need may cause us to look "beyond the mark" (Jacob 4:14).



## How can I make my prayers more meaningful?

Heavenly Father loves us and wants us to communicate with Him through prayer. When we pray, we should tell Heavenly Father what we feel in our hearts. We should not repeat meaningless words or phrases. Through sincere, heartfelt prayer, we can feel the nearness of our Heavenly Father.

---

### Prepare yourself spiritually

*As you prepare, prayerfully study these resources. What would you like the young men to discover about prayer?*

Luke 22:41–42; Helaman 10:5; D&C 46:30–31 (We should seek God’s will when we pray)

3 Nephi 14:7; D&C 9:7–8 (Prayer should be accompanied by faithful effort)

3 Nephi 17–19 (Jesus Christ prays with the Nephites and teaches about prayer)

Moroni 10:3–5 (Pray with faith, a sincere heart, and real intent)

Bible Dictionary, “Prayer,” 752–53

David A. Bednar, “Ask in Faith,” *Ensign or Liahona*, May 2008, 94–97

David A. Bednar, “Pray Always,” *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2008, 41–44

*Fulfilling My Duty to God* (2010), 38

“Prayer,” *True to the Faith* (2004), 118–23

Video: “The First Step”

---

What meaningful experiences have you had with prayer? What have these experiences taught you about communicating with Heavenly Father? What have you done to make your prayers more meaningful?

When have you heard the young men in your quorum pray? How can you help them make their prayers more meaningful? How can understanding how to communicate with Heavenly Father help them now and in the future?

### Let the young men lead

*A member of the quorum presidency (or an assistant to the bishop in the priests quorum) conducts the quorum meeting. He leads the young men in counseling together about quorum business, teaches them their priesthood duties (from the scriptures and the Duty to God book), and invites an adviser or other quorum member to teach a gospel lesson. He could prepare by filling out a quorum meeting agenda during a presidency meeting.*

---

## Begin the learning experience

*Choose from these ideas or think of your own to review last week's lesson and introduce this week's lesson:*

- Ask the young men to draw a picture representing something they learned in last week's lesson, and ask them to share their pictures. What have they done to apply what they learned? Do they have any questions or additional insights about what they learned?
- Ask the young men to make a list of ways we communicate with others. How are these communication methods similar to praying to Heavenly Father? How are they different? What questions do the young men have about prayer?

---

## Learn together

*Each of the activities below will help the quorum members understand how to make their prayers more meaningful. Following the inspiration of the Spirit, select one or more that will work best for your quorum:*

- Invite the young men to find in the scriptures an example of prayer that they find inspiring (if necessary, suggest that they read the scriptures listed in this outline). Ask them to share what they find and what they learn about prayer from the example.
- Invite the young men to read a scripture about prayer (such as those suggested in this outline). Ask them to write down a principle about prayer they learn from the scripture and an example of that principle from their lives or the lives of others. Invite them to share what they wrote with another quorum member. What did the young men learn from each other that can help them make their prayers more meaningful?
- Provide each quorum member with a section from one of Elder David A. Bednar's talks suggested in this outline. Invite them to underline practical advice Elder Bednar gives to help us make our prayers more meaningful. Ask the young men to share what they find. Then invite them to imagine that they are teaching someone to pray. What would they teach, and how would they teach it? Consider role-playing a possible teaching situation.
- Divide chapters 17, 18, and 19 of 3 Nephi among the young men. Then ask the young men to read their assigned sections and share what they learn about prayer from Jesus Christ's example and teachings and from the examples of His disciples.
- Ask each young man to study one of the principles of prayer discussed in *True to the Faith*, pages 119–21, or in the entry about prayer in the Bible Dictionary. Invite him to teach the quorum what he learns. Encourage the young men to share personal examples when they teach.

### Teaching tip

"After one person has responded to a question or offered an insight, invite the others to either add to the comment or express a different opinion. When someone asks a question, redirect it to others rather than answer it yourself. For example, you could ask, 'Would anyone care to answer that question?'" (*Teaching, No Greater Call* [1999], 67).

- As a quorum, work on the first learning activity on page 38 of the *Duty to God* book. Give the young men time in quorum meeting to write or revise their plans to establish a habit of regular prayer (see page 15, 39, or 63).

*Ask the young men to share what they learned today. Do they understand how to make their prayers more meaningful? What feelings or impressions do they have? Do they have any additional questions? Would it be worthwhile to spend more time on this doctrine?*

---

## **Invite to act**

*The young man who is conducting concludes the meeting. He could:*

- Share his plan to establish or strengthen a habit of regular prayer.
- Share personal experiences that have taught him the power of prayer.

## **Teaching in the Savior's way**

The Savior loved and prayed for those He taught. When we get to know and love those we teach, we pray for them by name and for specific challenges and opportunities they may be facing.

# Selected Resources

---

*Excerpt from Elder David A. Bednar, “Pray Always,”  
Ensign or Liahona, Nov. 2008, 41–44*

Simply stated, prayer is communication to Heavenly Father from His sons and daughters on earth. “As soon as we learn the true relationship in which we stand toward God (namely, God is our Father, and we are his children), then at once prayer becomes natural and instinctive on our part” (Bible Dictionary, “Prayer,” 752). We are commanded to pray always to the Father in the name of the Son (see 3 Nephi 18:19–20). We are promised that if we pray sincerely for that which is right and good and in accordance with God’s will, we can be blessed, protected, and directed (see 3 Nephi 18:20; D&C 19:38). . . .

There may be things in our character, in our behavior, or concerning our spiritual growth about which we need to counsel with Heavenly Father in morning prayer. After expressing appropriate thanks for blessings received, we plead for understanding, direction, and help to do the things we cannot do in our own strength alone. For example, as we pray, we might:

- Reflect on those occasions when we have spoken harshly or inappropriately to those we love the most.
- Recognize that we know better than this, but we do not always act in accordance with what we know.
- Express remorse for our weaknesses and for not putting off the natural man more earnestly.
- Determine to pattern our life after the Savior more completely.
- Plead for greater strength to do and to become better.

Such a prayer is a key part of the spiritual preparation for our day.

During the course of the day, we keep a prayer in our heart for continued assistance and guidance—even as Alma suggested: “Let all thy thoughts be directed unto the Lord” (Alma 37:36).

We notice during this particular day that there are occasions where normally we would have a tendency to speak harshly, and we do not; or we might be inclined to anger, but we are not. We discern heavenly help and strength and humbly recognize answers to our prayer. Even in that moment of recognition, we offer a silent prayer of gratitude.

At the end of our day, we kneel again and report back to our Father. We review the events of the day and express heartfelt thanks for the blessings and the help we received. We repent and, with the assistance of the Spirit of the Lord, identify ways we can do and become better tomorrow. Thus our evening prayer builds upon and is a continuation of our morning prayer. And our evening prayer also is a preparation for meaningful morning prayer.

Morning and evening prayers—and all of the prayers in between—are not unrelated, discrete events; rather, they are linked together each day and across days, weeks, months, and even years. This is in part how we fulfill the scriptural admonition to “pray always” (Luke 21:36; 3 Nephi 18:15, 18; D&C 31:12). Such meaningful prayers are instrumental in obtaining the highest blessings God holds in store for His faithful children.



## How can I strengthen my testimony?

A testimony is a spiritual witness of the truth given by the Holy Ghost. As members of the Church, we have sacred opportunity and responsibility to obtain our own testimonies. If we seek a testimony through study, prayer, and living the gospel, the Holy Ghost will help us know for ourselves that the gospel is true.

How have you gained your own testimony? How has your testimony influenced your life as a husband, father, priesthood holder, and disciple of Christ?

What do you know about the testimonies of the young men in your quorum? How will having a strong testimony influence their lives now and in the future? What can you do to encourage quorum members to strengthen their testimonies?

---

### Prepare yourself spiritually

*Prayerfully study the following scriptures and resources. What do you find that will inspire the young men to gain a testimony?*

John 7:16–17 (If we do the Lord’s will, we will gain a testimony)

1 Corinthians 2:9–13; Alma 5:45–46; D&C 8:2–3 (The Holy Ghost testifies of truth)

James 1:5; 1 Nephi 10:17–19; 15:11; 3 Nephi 18:20; Moroni 10:3–5 (To obtain a testimony, we must ask and seek for one)

Mosiah 26:3; Alma 12:11 (Obstacles to obtaining a testimony)

D&C 9:7–9 (We must study for ourselves before we ask)

Dieter F. Uchtdorf, “Waiting on the Road to Damascus,” *Ensign or Liahona*, May 2011, 70–77 (see also the video “Waiting on Our Road to Damascus”)

Quentin L. Cook, “Can Ye Feel So Now?” *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2012, 6–9

“A Testimony of the Truth,” *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: David O. McKay* (2003), 163–64

“Testimony,” *True to the Faith* (2004), 178–80

Video: “The First Step”

---

### Let the young men lead

*A member of the quorum presidency (or an assistant to the bishop in the priests quorum) conducts the quorum meeting. He leads the young men in counseling together about quorum business, teaches them their priesthood duties (from the scriptures and the Duty to God book), and invites an adviser or other quorum member to teach a gospel lesson. He could prepare by filling out a quorum meeting agenda during a presidency meeting.*

---

## Begin the learning experience

*Choose from these ideas or think of your own to review last week's lesson and introduce this week's lesson:*

- Invite the young men to share any experiences they have had applying a principle from last week's lesson. You might want to share one of your own to help get the discussion started.
- Give each young man a piece of paper, and ask him to make a list of things about the gospel that he knows to be true. Give the young men several minutes to write their responses. Invite them to share what they wrote and share how they came to know these things. Consider sharing the story of how President David O. McKay gained his testimony (see *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: David O. McKay*, 163–64). What do the young men learn from this story about gaining or strengthening their own testimonies?

---

## Learn together

*Each of the activities below will help the quorum members learn how to gain their own testimonies. Following the inspiration of the Spirit, select one or more that will work best for your quorum:*

- Invite a quorum member to teach a portion of this lesson. He could do this as part of his Duty to God plan to learn and teach about prayer and personal revelation (see “Understand Doctrine,” page 18, 42, or 66).
- Ask some of the young men to read 1 Nephi 10:17–19, and ask others to read Alma 5:45–47. What did Nephi and Alma do to gain their own testimonies? What else can the young men learn from these examples? What other examples can they find in the scriptures? Invite them to share experiences they have had that have strengthened their testimonies. What can they do to seek more experiences like these?
- Assign each young man to study one of the main sections of President Dieter F. Uchtdorf's talk “Waiting on the Road to Damascus” (or show the video “Waiting on Our Road to Damascus”). Invite the young men to look for what President Uchtdorf teaches about gaining a testimony, and ask them to share what they find. Write on the board, “Gaining a testimony is like\_\_\_\_\_.” Invite a few young men to come to the board and share how they would complete this statement.
- Ask each young man to read one of the scriptures in this outline to find ways to gain and strengthen a testimony or things that prevent us from gaining a testimony. After they have shared some ideas, ask them to think about ways they can help other quorum members strengthen their testimonies. How can they help family members? friends at school?

### Teaching tip

“Often a lesson will contain more material than you are able to teach in the time you are given. In such cases, you should select the material that will be most helpful for those you teach” (*Teaching, No Greater Call* [1999], 98).



- Invite each young man to make a list of things that might weaken his testimony and ways he can keep it strong as he reads the 9th and 10th paragraphs of Elder Quentin L. Cook’s talk “Can Ye Feel So Now?” Ask the young men to share examples they have seen that illustrate something from their lists.

*Ask the young men to share what they learned today. Do they understand how to gain their own testimonies? What feelings or impressions do they have? Do they have any additional questions? Would it be worthwhile to spend more time on this doctrine?*

---

## Invite to act

*The young man who is conducting concludes the meeting. He could:*

- Share his testimony of the importance of each person gaining his or her own testimony of the gospel.
- Invite quorum members to think of things they can do to strengthen their testimonies.
- Invite other quorum members to share their testimonies.

## Teaching in the Savior’s way

The Savior invited His disciples to testify of truth, and as they did, the Spirit touched their hearts. Think about the young men in your class and their life experiences. As you teach, look for opportunities for the young men to share their testimonies about gospel truths—in both formal and informal ways.



# Selected Resources

---

*Excerpt from Dieter F. Uchtdorf, "Waiting on the Road to Damascus," Ensign or Liahona, May 2011, 70–77*

## **Belief Comes One Step at a Time**

One dear sister had been a faithful member of the Church all her life. But she carried a personal sorrow. Years before, her daughter had died after a short illness, and the wounds from this tragedy still haunted her. She agonized over the profound questions that accompany an event such as this. She frankly admitted that her testimony wasn't what it used to be. She felt that unless the heavens parted for her, she would never be able to believe again.

So she found herself waiting.

There are many others who, for different reasons, find themselves waiting on the road to Damascus. They delay becoming fully engaged as disciples. They hope to receive the priesthood but hesitate to live worthy of that privilege. They desire to enter the temple but delay the final act of faith to qualify. They remain waiting for the Christ to be given to them like a magnificent Carl Bloch painting—to remove once and for all their doubts and fears.

The truth is, those who diligently seek to learn of Christ eventually will come to know Him. They will personally receive a divine portrait of the Master, although it most often comes in the form of a puzzle—one piece at a time. Each individual piece may not be easily recognizable by itself; it may not be clear how it relates to the whole. Each piece helps us to see the big picture a little more clearly. Eventually, after enough pieces have been put together, we recognize the grand beauty of it all. Then, looking

back on our experience, we see that the Savior had indeed come to be with us—not all at once but quietly, gently, almost unnoticed.

This can be our experience if we move forward with faith and do not wait too long on the road to Damascus.

*Excerpt from Quentin L. Cook, "Can Ye Feel So Now?" Ensign or Liahona, Nov. 2012, 6–9*

Many who are in a spiritual drought and lack commitment have not necessarily been involved in major sins or transgressions, but they have made unwise choices. Some are casual in their observance of sacred covenants. Others spend most of their time giving first-class devotion to lesser causes. Some allow intense cultural or political views to weaken their allegiance to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Some have immersed themselves in Internet materials that magnify, exaggerate, and, in some cases, invent shortcomings of early Church leaders. Then they draw incorrect conclusions that can affect testimony. Any who have made these choices can repent and be spiritually renewed.

Immersion in the scriptures is essential for spiritual nourishment. [See John 5:39; Amos 8:11; see also James E. Faust, "A Personal Relationship with the Savior," *Ensign*, Nov. 1976, 58–59.] The word of God inspires commitment and acts as a healing balm for hurt feelings, anger, or disillusionment. [See Alma 31:5.] When our commitment is diminished for any reason, part of the solution is repentance. [See Alma 36:23–26.] Commitment and repentance are closely intertwined.



## What has President Monson taught Aaronic Priesthood holders?

Part of our oath and covenant as priesthood holders is to receive the Lord's servants, including the living prophet, and live by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God (see D&C 84:36, 44). President Thomas S. Monson has taught Aaronic Priesthood holders to be willing and worthy to do their duty. He encourages us to stand up for righteous principles, even if we must stand alone. He wants us to understand how to use the priesthood to bless and serve those around us.

What have you learned from President Monson about priesthood service? How have you applied his teachings and example?

Do the young men in your quorum know what President Monson has said to them as priesthood holders in recent conferences? How can you help the young men see how President Monson's messages apply to their lives?

---

### Prepare yourself spiritually

*Prayerfully study these recent addresses by President Monson to priesthood holders:*

"See Others as They May Become," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2012, 68–71

"Dare to Stand Alone," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2011, 60–67

"Willing and Worthy to Serve," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2012, 66–69

Videos: "Missionary Work: A Priesthood Duty," "Dare to Stand Alone"

---

### Let the young men lead

*A member of the quorum presidency (or an assistant to the bishop in the priests quorum) conducts the quorum meeting. He leads the young men in counseling together about quorum business, teaches them their priesthood duties (from the scriptures and the Duty to God book), and invites an adviser or other quorum member to teach a gospel lesson. He could prepare by filling out a quorum meeting agenda during a presidency meeting.*

---

## Begin the learning experience

Choose from these ideas or think of your own to review last week's lesson and introduce this week's lesson:

- Divide the young men into pairs. Ask them to share with each other something they remember from last week's lesson.
- Review as a quorum the "Priesthood Duties" section of the *Duty to God* book, and write the duties on the board (see page 23, 46–47, or 70–71). What has President Monson taught about these duties? During the lesson, have the young men add to the board anything they find that President Monson has taught about their priesthood duties.

---

## Learn together

Each of the activities below will help the quorum members study recent messages from President Thomas S. Monson to priesthood holders. Following the inspiration of the Spirit, select one or more that will work best for your quorum:

- Give each young man a copy of one of President Monson's recent addresses to priesthood holders (see the talks listed in this outline). Invite the young men to find a story in the talk, retell it to the quorum in their own words, and share what it teaches about priesthood service.
  - Invite the young men to read one of President Monson's recent talks and find a statement that they would like to remember. Give each young man a small card, and have him write the statement on the card. Ask quorum members to share their statements and explain why they chose them.
  - Show one or both of the videos suggested in this outline, and give each young man time to write a short summary of his thoughts and impressions. Invite the young men to share with the quorum what they wrote.
- How can following President Monson's counsel in these videos help us become better priesthood servants?
- Ask the young men to find scriptures that President Monson uses to teach about priesthood service. Invite them to share with each other what they learn from these scriptures. Encourage them to use the footnotes to find other scriptures that teach about the priesthood. How will they apply what they found as they fulfill their priesthood duties?
  - Invite half of the quorum to search one of President Monson's talks and look for things he asks priesthood holders to do. Ask the other half to search the same talk looking for blessings he promises. Ask quorum members to share what they find. How will they apply his counsel to their priesthood service?

### Teaching tip

"Avoid trying to teach all that could be said on a particular subject. Those you teach will likely already have some understanding of the subject. Remember that your lesson is not the only time they will learn about the subject" (*Teaching, No Greater Call* [1999], 99).

*Ask the young men to share what they learned today. Do they understand President Monson's messages to them? What feelings or impressions do they have? Do they have any additional questions? Would it be worthwhile to spend more time on this topic?*

---

## **Invite to act**

*The young man who is conducting concludes the meeting. He could:*

- Share his feelings about President Monson.
- Invite other quorum members to share their impressions about what they have learned.
- Invite quorum members to make or improve their plans in the "Priesthood Duties" section of the *Duty to God* book based on what they learned today.

## **Teaching in the Savior's way**

In every setting, the Savior was an example and mentor. He taught His disciples to pray by praying with them. He taught them to love and serve by the way He loved and served them. He taught them how to teach His gospel by the way He taught it. How will you, as a priesthood holder, be an example and mentor to the young men in your quorum?

# Selected Resources

---

*Excerpt from Thomas S. Monson, "Willing and Worthy to Serve," Ensign or Liahona, May 2012, 66–69*

As we perform our duties and exercise our priesthood, we will find true joy. We will experience the satisfaction of having completed our tasks.

We have been taught the specific duties of the priesthood which we hold, whether it be the Aaronic or the Melchizedek Priesthood. I urge you to contemplate those duties and then do all within your power to fulfill them. In order to do so, each must be worthy. Let us have ready hands, clean hands, and willing hands, that we may participate in providing what our Heavenly Father would have others receive from Him. If we are not worthy, it is possible to lose the power of the priesthood; and if we lose it, we have lost the essence of exaltation. Let us be worthy to serve.

President Harold B. Lee, one of the great teachers in the Church, said: "When one becomes a holder of the priesthood, he becomes an agent of the Lord. He should think of his calling as though he were on the Lord's errand." . . . [*Stand Ye in Holy Places: Selected Sermons and Writings of President Harold B. Lee* (1976), 255.]

Miracles are everywhere to be found when the priesthood is understood, its power is honored and used properly, and faith is exerted. When faith replaces doubt, when selfless service eliminates selfish striving, the power of God brings to pass His purposes.

The call of duty can come quietly as we who hold the priesthood respond to the assignments we receive.

President George Albert Smith, that modest but effective leader, declared, "It is your duty first of all to learn what the Lord wants and then by the power and strength of His holy Priesthood to [so] magnify your calling in the presence of your fellows . . . that the people will be glad to follow you." . . . [George Albert Smith, in Conference Report, Apr. 1942, 14.]

Brethren, the world is in need of our help. Are we doing all we should? Do we remember the words of President John Taylor: "If you do not magnify your callings, God will hold you responsible for those whom you might have saved had you done your duty"? [*Teachings of Presidents of the Church: John Taylor* (2001), 164.] There are feet to steady, hands to grasp, minds to encourage, hearts to inspire, and souls to save. The blessings of eternity await you. Yours is the privilege to be not spectators but participants on the stage of priesthood service. Let us hearken to the stirring reminder found in the Epistle of James: "Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." [James 1:22.]

Let us learn and contemplate our duty. Let us be willing and worthy to serve. Let us in the performance of our duty follow in the footsteps of the Master. As you and I walk the pathway Jesus walked, we will discover He is more than the babe in Bethlehem, more than the carpenter's son, more than the greatest teacher ever to live. We will come to know Him as the Son of God, our Savior and our Redeemer. When to Him came the call of duty, He answered, "Father, thy will be done, and the glory be thine forever." [Moses 4:2.]



## How can a patriarchal blessing help me?

A patriarchal blessing is personal revelation for our lives. It helps us understand our potential and the blessings we can receive if we are faithful. It may contain promises, admonitions, or warnings to guide our lives. It also helps us know that Heavenly Father knows and cares about us personally.

---

### Prepare yourself spiritually

*As you prepare, prayerfully study these scriptures and resources. What do you find that will be most helpful to the young men you teach?*

Alma 16:16–17; 3 Nephi 17:2–3 (We should prepare our hearts to receive instruction from the Lord)

3 Nephi 20:25–27 (The house of Israel blesses families of the earth)

D&C 82:10; 130:20–21 (Blessings are conditioned upon obedience)

Henry B. Eyring, “Help Them Aim High,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2012, 60–67

Boyd K. Packer, “Counsel to Youth,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2011, 16–19

“About Patriarchal Blessings,” *New Era*, Mar. 2004, 32–35; or *Liahona*, Mar. 2004, 18–21

“Patriarchal Blessings,” *True to the Faith* (2004), 111–13

If you have received a patriarchal blessing, how has it guided your life? How has it helped you in times of adversity? How has it inspired you?

In what ways can a patriarchal blessing be a guide in the lives of the young men you teach? Why is it important for them to know their lineage in the house of Israel? How can you help them prepare to receive a patriarchal blessing?

---

### Let the young men lead

*A member of the quorum presidency (or an assistant to the bishop in the priests quorum) conducts the quorum meeting. He leads the young men in counseling together about quorum business, teaches them their priesthood duties (from the scriptures and the Duty to God book), and invites an adviser or other quorum member to teach a gospel lesson. He could prepare by filling out a quorum meeting agenda during a presidency meeting.*

---

## Begin the learning experience

*Choose from these ideas or think of your own to review last week's lesson and introduce this week's lesson:*

- Show an object or picture to remind the young men about last week's lesson. What experiences have they had applying what they learned? Ask them if they have any further questions or comments about the topic of that lesson.
- Write on the board, "How can a patriarchal blessing help me?" Ask the young men to suggest answers to this question. Refer back to this question throughout the lesson.

---

## Learn together

*Each of the activities below will help the quorum members learn about patriarchal blessings. Following the inspiration of the Spirit, select one or more that will work best for your quorum:*

- Invite one or more young men to share their experiences receiving a patriarchal blessing (or share your own experience). How have their patriarchal blessings helped them? (Remind the quorum that the specific content of patriarchal blessings is sacred and should not be shared.) Cut a copy of the article "About Patriarchal Blessings" into pieces, one for each question and answer. Invite a quorum member to select one piece of the article and share the question and answer with the quorum. What other questions do the young men have?
- With the bishop's permission, invite the stake patriarch to talk to the quorum about patriarchal blessings. Encourage the young men to ask any questions they have.
- Ask the young men to write down any questions they have about patriarchal blessings. As a quorum, look for answers in *True to the Faith*, pages 111–13.
- As a quorum, read President Boyd K. Packer's comments about his patriarchal blessing in "Counsel to Youth" or President Henry B. Eyring's story about receiving his blessing in "Help Them Aim High." Ask the young men to identify ways a patriarchal blessing could help them and share what they find.
- Invite the young men to read the scriptures suggested in this outline and share what they feel each scripture teaches them about patriarchal blessings.

*Ask the young men to share what they learned today. Do they understand patriarchal blessings better? What feelings or impressions do they have? Do they have any additional questions? Would it be worthwhile to spend more time on this doctrine?*

### Teaching tip

"When an individual asks a question, consider inviting others to answer it instead of answering it yourself. For example, you could say, 'That's an interesting question. What do the rest of you think?' or 'Can anyone help with this question?'" (*Teaching, No Greater Call* [1999], 64).

---

## Invite to act

*The young man who is conducting concludes the meeting. He could:*

- Invite quorum members who have not received their patriarchal blessings to do something specific to prepare.
- Invite quorum members who have received their patriarchal blessings to study them regularly.

## Teaching in the Savior's way

The Savior knows the young men in your quorum, and He knows who they can become. He has a work for each of them to do, and He wants to help them accomplish that work. How can you teach the young men about the Savior's love for them as you talk about patriarchal blessings?



# Selected Resources

---

*Excerpt from "About Patriarchal Blessings," New Era, Mar. 2004, 32–35; or Liahona, Mar. 2004, 18–21*

## **What is a patriarchal blessing?**

A patriarchal blessing has two main purposes. First, the patriarch will be inspired to declare your lineage—the tribe of Israel to which you belong. Second, guided by the spirit of prophecy, the patriarch will pronounce blessings and may also provide promises, cautions, or admonitions that apply specifically to you. Your patriarchal blessing may point out certain things you are capable of achieving and blessings you can receive if you exercise faith and live righteously.

## **Why is lineage important?**

Every member of the Church belongs to one of the twelve tribes of Israel. Those who aren't literal descendants are "adopted" into the house of Israel through baptism. Knowing your lineage can be a helpful guide in your life, because belonging to one of the twelve tribes brings the blessings and missions specific to each tribe. The blessings Jacob gave his sons (the heads of each of the tribes) can be found in Genesis 49.

## **Who may receive a patriarchal blessing?**

All worthy members of the Church are entitled to and should receive a patriarchal blessing regardless of how long they have been members.

## **How old do I have to be for a blessing?**

There is no set age. You should be old enough to appreciate the sacred nature of the blessing.

## **How is the blessing given?**

The patriarch will place his hands on your head and give the blessing through inspiration. It will be

revealed direction for you. The blessing will then be transcribed so that you can have a written copy to study throughout your life. The Church will also keep a copy of your blessing in case you ever lose yours.

## **How do I get a patriarchal blessing?**

Make an appointment for an interview with your bishop. He will determine your readiness and worthiness and either give you a recommend or help you prepare to receive one. After receiving your recommend, you may contact the patriarch to schedule an appointment. Ask your bishop or the patriarch who may accompany you to your blessing, such as your parents. And bring your recommend to the appointment.

## **How do I know if I'm ready?**

The desire to receive a patriarchal blessing should come from a desire to know and live God's will for you. Curiosity or pressure from others isn't the right reason to get a blessing. The bishop will help determine if you are ready for the blessing.

## **How can I prepare?**

You should do everything possible to draw closer to the Lord. Prayer, fasting, scripture study, meditation, and repentance can help. Concerns about worldly things should be left behind for such a sacred occasion.

## **When will the promises in my blessing be fulfilled?**

Occasionally patriarchal blessings reveal things from our pre-earth life. But mostly they are guides for present and future living. Because blessings are eternal in nature, they may include possibilities beyond mortal life.

## UNIT OVERVIEW

# June: Priesthood and Priesthood Keys

*“The keys of the kingdom of God are committed unto man on the earth” (D&C 65:2).*

The outlines in this unit will help each young man “learn his duty, and to act in the office in which he is appointed, in all diligence” (D&C 107:99). In this unit, you can help the members of your quorum see how they can bless Heavenly Father’s children through their worthy exercise of the priesthood.

---

### Learning outlines

Seek the inspiration of the Spirit as you select from the outlines below. Let the questions and interests of the young men guide you as you decide what to emphasize in this unit and how long to spend on a topic.

These outlines are not meant to prescribe what you will say and do in class. They are designed to help you learn the doctrine for yourself and prepare learning experiences adapted to the needs of the young men you teach.

To make Duty to God part of the Sunday quorum meeting, you may consider teaching the Duty to God outline below during this unit.

*How does worthiness affect priesthood power? (Duty to God)*

*What is the priesthood?*

*What are the keys of the priesthood?*

*What are my duties as an Aaronic Priesthood holder?*

*Why should I serve a mission?*

### Prepare yourself spiritually

To help the young men learn the doctrine of the priesthood and priesthood keys, you must understand and live this doctrine yourself. Study the scriptures and

other resources provided in the learning outlines, and look for statements, stories, or examples that may be especially relevant or inspiring. Then use the learning outlines to plan ways to help quorum members discover truths for themselves, gain a testimony of them, and live by what they learn.

### Counsel together

Counsel with the quorum presidency and with other teachers, leaders, and parents about the young men. What questions and needs do the young men have? What are they learning about the priesthood and priesthood keys in other settings—at home, in seminary, in Sunday School? How will this influence your preparation to teach this unit? (If sensitive information is shared in these conversations, please keep it confidential.)

### Mutual

Many of the lesson topics and learning activities in this unit would work well as Mutual activities. Work with quorum presidencies in selecting and planning appropriate activities to reinforce what the young men learn on Sunday.

## **Duty to God**

The following sections from the *Duty to God* book relate to the lessons in this unit:

Live Worthily, pages 16–17, 40–41, 64–65

Understand Doctrine, pages 18–20, 42–44, 66–68

Priesthood Duties, 22–29, 46–53, 70–77



## DUTY TO GOD

# How does worthiness affect priesthood power?

Priesthood authority comes through ordination, but priesthood power requires personal righteousness, faithfulness, obedience, and diligence. Even if we receive priesthood authority by the laying on of hands, we will have no priesthood power if we are disobedient, unworthy, or unwilling to serve.

What is the difference between priesthood authority and priesthood power? Why is worthiness a prerequisite to gaining priesthood power?

How can you help the Aaronic Priesthood holders understand the relationship between worthiness and priesthood power? What are some temptations young men face that might cause them to lose power in the priesthood?

---

### Prepare yourself spiritually

*As you prepare, prayerfully study these scriptures and resources. What do you feel inspired to share with the young men?*

D&C 38:42 (Priesthood holders are commanded to be clean)

D&C 121:34–46 (Priesthood power is dependent upon one’s righteousness)

David A. Bednar, “The Powers of Heaven,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2012, 48–51

“Live Worthily,” *Fulfilling My Duty to God* (2010), 16–17 (deacons), 40–41 (teachers), 64–65 (priests)

Video: “Sanctify Yourselves”

---

### Let the young men lead

*A member of the quorum presidency (or an assistant to the bishop in the priests quorum) conducts the quorum meeting. He leads the young men in counseling together about quorum business, teaches them their priesthood duties (from the scriptures and the Duty to God book), and invites an adviser or other quorum member to teach a gospel lesson. He could prepare by filling out a quorum meeting agenda during a presidency meeting.*

---

## Begin the learning experience

Choose from these ideas or think of your own to review last week's lesson and introduce this week's lesson:

- During the week, invite several young men to come to quorum meeting prepared to share experiences they had that are related to last week's lesson.
  - Have a young man turn off the lights in the classroom. How useful is a light bulb without electrical power?
- How does this relate to a priesthood holder? Read together Doctrine and Covenants 121:36–37, and ask the young men to discuss how righteousness affects priesthood power.

---

## Learn together

*The purpose of this lesson is to help each young man understand how their worthiness affects their priesthood power. As part of this lesson, quorum members should make plans in their Duty to God books to study and live the standards in For the Strength of Youth. Before quorum meeting, invite the young men to bring their Duty to God books with them to church. In future quorum meetings, invite them to share experiences they are having as they fulfill their plans.*

- Invite the young men to read Doctrine and Covenants 38:42; 121:34–46 and answer the following questions: How does sin affect priesthood power? What are the principles that govern the use of the priesthood? Invite the young men to talk about priesthood holders they know who exemplify the principles governing priesthood power. (See *Duty to God*, 40, 64.) Ask them to turn to the “Act” section of their *Duty to God* books (page 17, 41, or 65) and make plans to live more worthy of the priesthood by studying and following the standards in *For the Strength of Youth*.
- Invite one quorum member to tell the story of Joseph resisting Potiphar's wife (see Genesis 39, 41) and another to tell the story of David giving in to temptation (see 2 Samuel 11–12). As a

quorum, discuss what these stories teach about the connection between priesthood power and personal worthiness. How was Joseph blessed for his faithfulness? What could David have done to avoid his tragedy? (See *Duty to God*, 64.) Invite the young men to turn to the “Act” section of their *Duty to God* books (page 17, 41, or 65) and make plans to live more worthy of the priesthood.

- Ask the young men to read Mosiah 4:30 and Doctrine and Covenants 63:16 and identify the consequences of having unclean thoughts. Have them contrast these warnings with the blessings of letting “virtue garnish [our] thoughts unceasingly” (D&C 121:45). (See *Duty to God*, 40.) Invite the young men to turn to the “Act” section

### Teaching tip

“When you teach from the scriptures, it is often helpful to have learners look or listen for something specific” (*Teaching, No Greater Call* [1999], 55).

of their *Duty to God* books (page 17, 41, or 65) and make plans to live more worthy of the priesthood.

- Invite the young men to search Elder David A. Bednar's talk "The Powers of Heaven," looking for statements that teach them about worthiness and priesthood power. Then invite them to share with the quorum what they find.

*Ask the young men to share what they learned today. Do they understand how worthiness affects priesthood power? What feelings or impressions do they have? Do they have any additional questions? Would it be worthwhile to spend more time on this doctrine?*

---

## **Invite the young men to act**

*The young man who is conducting concludes the meeting. He could share with the quorum the plans he has made to study and apply standards in For the Strength of Youth. He could also explain that for the next several weeks, quorum members will be asked to share how fulfilling their plans is helping them live worthy to exercise their priesthood.*

## **Teaching in the Savior's way**

The Savior teaches by word and by example and invites us to follow Him. As you seek to follow the example of Jesus Christ and live worthy of the priesthood you bear, you will be able to teach with power and authority.

# Selected Resources

---

*Excerpt from David A. Bednar, "The Powers of Heaven," Ensign or Liahona, May 2012, 48–51*

The priesthood is the authority of God delegated to men on the earth to act in all things for the salvation of mankind (see Spencer W. Kimball, "The Example of Abraham," *Ensign*, June 1975, 3). Priesthood is the means whereby the Lord acts through men to save souls. One of the defining features of the Church of Jesus Christ, both anciently and today, is His authority. There can be no true Church without divine authority.

Ordinary men are given the authority of the priesthood. Worthiness and willingness—not experience, expertise, or education—are the qualifications for priesthood ordination.

The pattern for obtaining priesthood authority is described in the fifth article of faith: "We believe that a man must be called of God, by prophecy, and by the laying on of hands by those who are in authority, to preach the Gospel and administer in the ordinances thereof." Thus, a boy or a man receives the authority of the priesthood and is ordained to a specific office by one who already holds the priesthood and has been authorized by a leader with the necessary priesthood keys.

A priesthood holder is expected to exercise this sacred authority in accordance with God's holy mind, will, and purposes. Nothing about the priesthood is self-centered. The priesthood always is used to serve, to bless, and to strengthen other people. . . .

As we do our best to fulfill our priesthood responsibilities, we can be blessed with priesthood power. The power of the priesthood is God's power operating through men and boys like us and requires personal righteousness, faithfulness, obedience, and diligence. A boy or a man may receive priesthood authority by the laying on of hands but will have no priesthood power if he is disobedient, unworthy, or unwilling to serve.

"The rights of the priesthood are inseparably connected with the powers of heaven, and . . . the powers of heaven cannot be controlled nor handled only upon the principles of righteousness.

"That they may be conferred upon us, it is true; but when we undertake to cover our sins, or to gratify our pride, our vain ambition, or to exercise control or dominion or compulsion upon the souls of the children of men, in any degree of unrighteousness, behold, the heavens withdraw themselves; the Spirit of the Lord is grieved; and when it is withdrawn, Amen to the priesthood or the authority of that man" (D&C 121:36–37; emphasis added).

Brethren, for a boy or a man to receive priesthood authority but neglect to do what is necessary to qualify for priesthood power is unacceptable to the Lord. Priesthood holders young and old need both authority and power—the necessary permission and the spiritual capacity to represent God in the work of salvation.





## What is the priesthood?

The priesthood is the eternal power and authority of our Heavenly Father. Through the priesthood, God created and governs the heavens and earth. Through this power He redeems and exalts His children. God grants the use of His priesthood to worthy men to bless and serve His children. Men who honor the priesthood can be authorized to preach the gospel, administer ordinances of salvation, and lead the Church.

---

### Prepare yourself spiritually

*As you prepare, prayerfully study these scriptures and resources. What do you feel impressed to share with the quorum?*

Matthew 3:1–6; 28:19; John 15:16  
(Priesthood holders preach the gospel)

Acts 3:1–8; James 5:14–15 (Priesthood holders give blessings to heal the sick and afflicted)

Hebrews 5:4 (Priesthood holders are called of God)

3 Nephi 11:12; 18:1–5; D&C 107:20  
(Priesthood holders administer ordinances)

D&C 20:38–67 (Duties of priesthood holders)

D&C 65:2; 124:123 (Priesthood holders help govern the Church)

D&C 121:34–41 (The authority of the priesthood operates only on principles of righteousness)

Thomas S. Monson, “Willing and Worthy to Serve,” *Ensign or Liahona*, May 2012, 66–69

Dieter F. Uchtdorf, “The Joy of the Priesthood,” *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2012, 57–60

“Priesthood,” *True to the Faith* (2004), 124–28

Video: “Power of God”

Video: “Blessings of the Priesthood” (no download available)

In what ways has the priesthood blessed your life? What are some meaningful experiences you have had with the priesthood that you could share with the young men?

What could you do before quorum meeting to find out what each young man knows about the priesthood? What experiences have they had using the priesthood? How might this influence what you decide to teach?

---

### Let the young men lead

*A member of the quorum presidency (or an assistant to the bishop in the priests quorum) conducts the quorum meeting. He leads the young men in counseling together about quorum business, teaches them their priesthood duties (from the scriptures and the Duty to God book), and invites an adviser or other quorum member to teach a gospel lesson. He could prepare by filling out a quorum meeting agenda during a presidency meeting.*



---

## Begin the learning experience

*Choose from these ideas or think of your own to review last week's lesson and introduce this week's lesson:*

- Ask a young man to come to quorum meeting prepared to share what he learned from last week's lesson. Encourage him to share his feelings and testimony.
- Invite the young men to role-play a discussion in which a friend of another faith asks, "What is the priesthood?" How would they describe the priesthood? What experiences could they share? Share with the young men the definition of priesthood given at the beginning of this outline.

---

## Learn together

*Each of the activities below will help quorum members understand the priesthood.*

*Following the inspiration of the Spirit, select one or more that will work best for your quorum:*

- Invite a quorum member to teach a portion of this lesson. He could do this as part of his Duty to God plan to learn and teach about the priesthood and priesthood keys (see "Understand Doctrine," page 18, 42, or 66).
- Give the young men copies of President Thomas S. Monson's talk "Willing and Worthy to Serve." Ask each young man to read the first seven paragraphs and find words or phrases President Monson uses to explain what the priesthood is, and have him write the words or phrases on the board (some examples may include *channel*, *power of God*, and *opportunity to bless*). What do these words mean? What else did they learn about the priesthood? What experiences have they had that have strengthened their testimonies of the priesthood?
- Divide the quorum into small groups. Assign each group one or more of the scriptures suggested in this outline, and ask them to look for the duties of priesthood holders in those scriptures. Invite them to search through the *Gospel Art Book* to find pictures of individuals performing priesthood duties, and ask them to explain how others are blessed through this service. Invite the young men to share their experiences fulfilling their priesthood duties and to describe how their services affects others.
- Write on the board "What blessings have come into your life because of the priesthood?" Invite the young men to ponder this question and share their answers. Show one of the videos listed in this outline, and invite the young men to look for answers to questions such as "What is the priesthood?" and "How does the priesthood bless us?"

### Teaching tip

"Testify whenever the Spirit prompts you to do so, not just at the end of each lesson. Provide opportunities for those you teach to bear their testimonies" (*Teaching, No Greater Call* [1999], 45).

- Invite the young men to find examples in the scriptures of people who were blessed by the priesthood (for some ideas, they could refer to the scriptures suggested in this outline). Ask them to share the examples they find and their own experiences witnessing the power of the priesthood.

*Ask the young men to share what they learned today. Do they understand the priesthood better? What feelings or impressions do they have? Do they have any additional questions? Would it be worthwhile to spend more time on this doctrine?*

As a quorum, read the first four paragraphs of the last section of President Dieter F. Uchtdorf's talk "The Joy of the Priesthood." How does President Uchtdorf feel about the priesthood? Invite the young men to share their own feelings about what it means to hold the priesthood.

### **Teaching in the Savior's way**

The Savior trusted His disciples, prepared them, and gave them important responsibilities to teach, bless, and serve others. How can you help the young men become converted to the doctrine of the priesthood so that serving others becomes a part of their lives?

---

### **Invite to act**

*The young man who is conducting concludes the meeting. He could:*

- Share his feelings about the priesthood and what it means in his life.
- Challenge quorum members to share with a family member or friend what they learned and felt about the priesthood in today's class.

# Selected Resources

---

*Excerpt from Thomas S. Monson, "Willing and Worthy to Serve," Ensign or Liahona, May 2012, 66–69*

As we perform our duties and exercise our priesthood, we will find true joy. We will experience the satisfaction of having completed our tasks.

We have been taught the specific duties of the priesthood which we hold, whether it be the Aaronic or the Melchizedek Priesthood. I urge you to contemplate those duties and then do all within your power to fulfill them. In order to do so, each must be worthy. Let us have ready hands, clean hands, and willing hands, that we may participate in providing what our Heavenly Father would have others receive from Him. If we are not worthy, it is possible to lose the power of the priesthood; and if we lose it, we have lost the essence of exaltation. Let us be worthy to serve.

President Harold B. Lee, one of the great teachers in the Church, said: "When one becomes a holder of the priesthood, he becomes an agent of the Lord. He should think of his calling as though he were on the Lord's errand." . . . [*Stand Ye in Holy Places: Selected Sermons and Writings of President Harold B. Lee* (1976), 255.]

Miracles are everywhere to be found when the priesthood is understood, its power is honored and used properly, and faith is exerted. When faith replaces doubt, when selfless service eliminates selfish striving, the power of God brings to pass His purposes.

The call of duty can come quietly as we who hold the priesthood respond to the assignments we receive.

President George Albert Smith, that modest but effective leader, declared, "It is your duty first of all to learn what the Lord wants and then by the power and strength of His holy Priesthood to [so] magnify your calling in the presence of your fellows . . . that the people will be glad to follow you." . . . [George Albert Smith, in Conference Report, Apr. 1942, 14.]

Brethren, the world is in need of our help. Are we doing all we should? Do we remember the words of President John Taylor: "If you do not magnify your callings, God will hold you responsible for those whom you might have saved had you done your duty"? [*Teachings of Presidents of the Church: John Taylor* (2001), 164.] There are feet to steady, hands to grasp, minds to encourage, hearts to inspire, and souls to save. The blessings of eternity await you. Yours is the privilege to be not spectators but participants on the stage of priesthood service. Let us hearken to the stirring reminder found in the Epistle of James: "Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." [James 1:22.]

Let us learn and contemplate our duty. Let us be willing and worthy to serve. Let us in the performance of our duty follow in the footsteps of the Master. As you and I walk the pathway Jesus walked, we will discover He is more than the babe in Bethlehem, more than the carpenter's son, more than the greatest teacher ever to live. We will come to know Him as the Son of God, our Savior and our Redeemer. When to Him came the call of duty, He answered, "Father, thy will be done, and the glory be thine forever." [Moses 4:2.]



## What are the keys of the priesthood?

Priesthood keys are the authority Heavenly Father has given to priesthood leaders to direct the use of His priesthood on earth. Jesus Christ has given to the members of the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve Apostles all the keys to lead the Church. Priesthood keys are also given to stake presidents, bishops, and quorum presidents—including Aaronic Priesthood quorum presidents.

---

### Prepare yourself spiritually

*Prayerfully study these scriptures and resources. What will help the young men understand priesthood keys?*

Matthew 16:18–19 (Peter is promised the keys of the kingdom of God)

D&C 65:2 (Priesthood keys are necessary for the gospel to go forth)

D&C 124:123, 142–43 (Presidents hold priesthood keys to govern the work of the ministry)

Henry B. Eyring, “Called by God and Sustained by the People,” *Ensign*, June 2012, 4–5

D&C 132:7 (The President of the Church is the only person on earth authorized to exercise all priesthood keys)

Russell M. Nelson, “Keys of the Priesthood,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1987, 36–39

Mosiah 25:19 (Mosiah authorizes Alma to establish the Church through priesthood keys)

“Priesthood Keys,” *True to the Faith* (2004) 126–27

Video: “Learn Your Duty”

Think of the priesthood leaders in your life. Why is it important for you to sustain those who hold priesthood keys? What experiences have you had sustaining Church leaders that you can share with the young men?

What can you do to help the young men understand the significance of priesthood keys in the Church? How can you help the quorum president use his priesthood keys to bless the lives of quorum members?

---

### Let the young men lead

*A member of the quorum presidency (or an assistant to the bishop in the priests quorum) conducts the quorum meeting. He leads the young men in counseling together about quorum business, teaches them their priesthood duties (from the scriptures and the Duty to God book), and invites an adviser or other quorum member to teach a gospel lesson. He could prepare by filling out a quorum meeting agenda during a presidency meeting.*

---

## Begin the learning experience

*Choose from these ideas or think of your own to review last week's lesson and introduce this week's lesson:*

- Invite two young men to share something they remember from last week's lesson and how it has influenced their actions during the week.
- Invite the young men to ponder and answer questions like the following: If you were on vacation away from a church, could you administer the sacrament to your family? Encourage them to look for answers in "Priesthood Keys," *True to the Faith*, 126–27.

---

## Learn together

*Each of the activities below will help quorum members understand priesthood keys. Following the inspiration of the Spirit, select one or more that will work best for your quorum:*

- Invite a quorum member to teach a portion of this lesson. He could do this as part of his Duty to God plan to learn and teach about the priesthood and priesthood keys (see "Understand Doctrine," page 18, 42, or 66).
- In his talk "Keys of the Priesthood," Elder Russell M. Nelson uses an example from his profession as a doctor to explain priesthood keys. Read his example as a quorum. What in this analogy could represent the priesthood? priesthood keys? priesthood leaders who hold keys? Invite the young men to think of their own object lesson that they could use to explain priesthood keys.
- Write the following scripture references on the board: Matthew 16:18–19; D&C 124:123, 142–43; D&C 132:7. Invite quorum members to read each of the scriptures and write a one-sentence summary of what they learn about priesthood keys from the verses. Have each young man read one of his summaries aloud, and ask the other young men to identify which scripture he is summarizing. Ask the quorum members why it is important to them that the priesthood keys are on the earth today.
- Invite the young men to read President Henry B. Eyring's article "Called of God and Sustained by the People," looking for examples of ways we sustain our priesthood leaders. Bring copies of Church magazines, and ask the young men to find and share pictures in the magazines that represent ways to sustain priesthood leaders. What do the young men do to sustain their leaders? What could they say if they hear someone criticizing a priesthood leader?
- Show the video "Learn Your Duty." What does Brother Gibson invite quorum presidencies to do? What does he invite quorum members and

### Teaching tip

"Ask questions that require learners to find answers in the scriptures and the teachings of latter-day prophets" (*Teaching, No Greater Call* [1999], 62).

advisers to do? What will we do to act on his invitations? Consider inviting the quorum president to lead this discussion.

- Invite some of the young men to find an example of people in the scriptures who rejected their priesthood leaders, such as Saul (see 1 Samuel 15:1–28), Laman and Lemuel (see 1 Nephi 18:9–14), and the children

of Israel (see D&C 84:23–25). Ask the rest of the young men to find examples of people who followed a priesthood leader, such as the widow of Zarephath (see 1 Kings 17:8–16), Naaman (2 Kings 5:8–14), and the Nephites (see 3 Nephi 9:10–15). Ask them to share with their stories and explain what these stories teach about the consequences of rejecting or honoring priesthood leaders.

*Ask the young men to share what they learned today. Do they understand the keys of the priesthood better? What feelings or impressions do they have? Do they have any additional questions? Would it be worthwhile to spend more time on this doctrine?*

---

## **Invite to act**

*The young man who is conducting concludes the meeting. He could:*

- Share his feelings about the priesthood leaders who have been called to preside at this time.
- Lead a brief discussion about what quorum members can do to more fully sustain their priesthood leaders.

## **Teaching in the Savior's way**

The Savior called and set apart leaders to direct and govern His Church (see Matthew 10:1–5). How can you help quorum members feel gratitude for those who are called to serve and help them?

# Selected Resources

---

*Excerpt from Russel M. Nelson, "Keys of the Priesthood," Ensign or Liahona, Nov. 1987, 36–39*

You all know how valuable keys can be. Many, if not most, of us carry keys in our pockets at this very moment.

But the keys about which I shall speak are far more important. They are precious, powerful, and invisible! Some can lock and unlock in heaven as well as on earth. I speak of keys of the priesthood.

You boys hold what is sometimes referred to as the preparatory priesthood. Preparation, priesthood service, and keys are all related, but different. Service of any type requires preparation. But proper authorization to give that service requires keys. May I illustrate?

Prior to my call to the Twelve, I served as a medical doctor and surgeon. I had earned two doctor's

degrees. I had been certified by two specialty boards. That long preparation had consumed many years, yet it carried no legal permission. Keys were required. They were held by authorities of the state government and the hospitals in which I desired to work. Once those holding proper authority exercised those keys by granting me a license and permission, then I could perform operations. In return, I was obligated to obey the law, to be loyal, and to understand and not abuse the power of a surgeon's knife. The important steps of preparation, permission, and obligation likewise pertain to other occupations.

Why is the power to act in the name of God more important? Because it is of eternal significance. We should understand the source of our authority and something of the keys that control its power. They may benefit every man, woman, and child who now lives, who has lived, and who yet will live upon the earth.





## What are my duties as an Aaronic Priesthood holder?

The Lord has said that every man who has been ordained to the priesthood should “learn his duty” and “act ... in all diligence” (D&C 107:99). As Aaronic Priesthood holders, we perform priesthood ordinances, serve others, and invite all to come unto Christ.

---

### Prepare yourself spiritually

*Prayerfully study the following scriptures and resources. What can you share with the young men to help them understand their duties?*

D&C 20:46–59; 84:111 (Aaronic Priesthood holders administer ordinances and invite all to come unto Christ)

D&C 84:33–34; 107:99 (Aaronic Priesthood holders should learn their duties and be faithful in fulfilling them)

D&C 107:68 (Aaronic Priesthood holders serve others as they assist the bishop in administering temporal things)

Thomas S. Monson, “Willing and Worthy to Serve,” *Ensign or Liahona*, May 2012, 66–69

*Fulfilling My Duty to God* (2010), 23, 46–47, 70–71

Video: “Fulfilling Your Duty to God”

Think about how you felt when you first received the Aaronic Priesthood. What did having this authority mean to you? How did holding the priesthood influence your thoughts and actions?

Most Aaronic Priesthood holders are aware of their duties to administer the sacrament but may not be aware of their duties to serve others and invite others to come unto Christ. What can you do to help the young men become aware of and fulfill all of their priesthood duties?

---

### Let the young men lead

*A member of the quorum presidency (or an assistant to the bishop in the priests quorum) conducts the quorum meeting. He leads the young men in counseling together about quorum business, teaches them their priesthood duties (from the scriptures and the Duty to God book), and invites an adviser or other quorum member to teach a gospel lesson. He could prepare by filling out a quorum meeting agenda during a presidency meeting.*



---

## Begin the learning experience

Choose from these ideas or think of your own to review last week's lesson and introduce this week's lesson:

- Ask the young men to share something they remember from last week's lesson. What questions do they still have? How did they live what they learned last week?
- Write on the board the three categories of priesthood duties suggested in *Duty to God*: "Administer Priesthood Ordinances," "Serve Others," and "Invite All to Come unto Christ." Ask the young men to write on the board as many of their priesthood duties as they can in each category. Refer back to this list throughout the lesson, and add to it as the young men discover other duties.

---

## Learn together

Each of the activities below will help quorum members understand their duties as bearers of the Aaronic Priesthood. Following the inspiration of the Spirit, select one or more that will work best for your quorum:

- Some quorum members may be working on the "Priesthood Duties" section of their Duty to God plans (see *Duty to God*, pages 23–29, 46–53, 70–77). Invite one or more to share their experiences.
- Invite the young men to read about their priesthood duties in D&C 20:46–59 and *Duty to God* (pages 23, 46–47, or 70–71). Ask them to identify priesthood duties and list them on the board. Ask the young men what duties they learned about that they did not know they had. What can they do to fulfill these duties?
- Invite the young men to search the scriptures and identify examples of individuals who fulfilled their priesthood duties (for example, Matthew 3:1–6, 13–17; Jacob 1:18–19; Alma 15:16–18; 3 Nephi 18:1–5). Ask them to share their examples and identify what category from *Duty to God* each example belongs to ("Administer Priesthood Ordinances," "Serve Others," or "Invite All to Come unto Christ"). How were the people in these scriptures blessed through priesthood service?
- Ask the young men to read portions of President Thomas S. Monson's talk "Willing and Worthy to Serve" and share passages that inspire them to fulfill their priesthood duties. Invite the young men to write about an experience they had when they exercised their priesthood or learned from the example of another priesthood holder. How has holding the priesthood been a blessing to the young men and their families?

### Teaching tip

"As you prayerfully prepare to teach, you may be led to emphasize certain principles. You may gain an understanding of how best to present certain ideas. You may discover examples, object lessons, and inspiring stories in the simple activities of life. You may feel impressed to invite a particular person to assist with the lesson. You may be reminded of a personal experience that you can share" (*Teaching, No Greater Call* [1999], 48).

*Ask the young men to share what they learned today. Do they understand their priesthood duties better? What feelings or impressions do they have? Do they have any additional questions? Would it be worthwhile to spend more time on this topic?*

---

## **Invite to act**

*The young man who is conducting concludes the meeting. He could:*

- Invite the young men to make plans in one of the “Priesthood Duties” sections of their *Duty to God* books and share with each other what they plan to do.
- Challenge quorum members to share with a family member something they learned about their priesthood duties.

## **Teaching in the Savior’s way**

In every setting, the Savior was an example and mentor to His disciples. He taught them to pray by praying with them. He taught them to love and serve by the way He loved and served. He taught them how to teach His gospel by the way He taught it. Help the young men fulfill their duties by teaching the gospel as the Savior taught.

# Selected Resources

---

*Excerpt from Thomas S. Monson, “Willing and Worthy to Serve,” Ensign or Liahona, May 2012, 66–69*

My beloved brethren, how good it is to meet with you once again. Whenever I attend the general priesthood meeting, I reflect on the teachings of some of God’s noble leaders who have spoken in the general priesthood meetings of the Church. Many have passed to their eternal reward, and yet from the brilliance of their minds, from the depths of their souls, and from the warmth of their hearts, they have given us inspired direction. I share with you tonight some of their teachings concerning the priesthood.

From the Prophet Joseph Smith: “Priesthood is an everlasting principle, and existed with God from eternity, and will to eternity, without beginning of days or end of years.” [*Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith* (2007), 104.]

From the words of President Wilford Woodruff, we learn: “The Holy Priesthood is the channel through which God communicates and deals with man upon the earth; and the heavenly messengers that have visited the earth to communicate with man are men who held and honored the priesthood while in the flesh; and everything that God has caused to be done for the salvation of man, from the coming of man upon the earth to the redemption of the world, has been and will be by virtue of the everlasting priesthood.” [*Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Wilford Woodruff* (2004), 38.]

President Joseph F. Smith further clarified: “The priesthood . . . is . . . the power of God delegated to

man by which man can act in the earth for the salvation of the human family, in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost, and act legitimately; not assuming that authority, nor borrowing it from generations that are dead and gone, but authority that has been given in this day in which we live by ministering angels and spirits from above, *direct from the presence of Almighty God.*” [Joseph F. Smith, *Gospel Doctrine*, 5th ed. (1939), 139–40; emphasis added.]

And finally from President John Taylor: “What is priesthood? . . . It is the government of God, whether on the earth or in the heavens, for it is by that power, agency, or principle that all things are governed on the earth and in the heavens, and by that power that all things are upheld and sustained. It governs all things—it directs all things—it sustains all things—and has to do with all things that God and truth are associated with.” [*Teachings of Presidents of the Church: John Taylor* (2001), 119.]

How blessed we are to be here in these last days, when the priesthood of God is upon the earth. How privileged we are to bear that priesthood. The priesthood is not so much a gift as it is a commission to serve, a privilege to lift, and an opportunity to bless the lives of others.

With these opportunities come responsibilities and duties. I love and cherish the noble word *duty* and all that it implies.



## Why should I serve a mission?

President Thomas S. Monson has said: “Every worthy, able young man should prepare to serve a mission. Missionary service is a priesthood duty—an obligation the Lord expects of us who have been given so very much. Young men, I admonish you to prepare for service as a missionary” (“As We Meet Together Again,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2010, 5–6).

---

### Prepare yourself spiritually

*Prayerfully study the following scriptures and resources. What do you feel will inspire the young men to prepare for missionary service?*

Matthew 28:19–20; D&C 50:13–14; 88:81 (We have a duty to share the gospel)

D&C 4 (Attributes that qualify us to serve the Lord)

D&C 18:9–16 (The worth of souls is great in the sight of God)

Neil L. Andersen, “Preparing the World for the Second Coming,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2011, 49–52; see also the video “Your Day for a Mission”

W. Christopher Waddell, “The Opportunity of a Lifetime” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2011, 50–52

Video: “Missionary Work: A Priesthood Duty”

Think of the joy you or someone you know experienced serving a full-time mission. What blessings have come into your life because of missionary work?

What experiences have the young men had sharing the gospel with others? What can you do to help the Aaronic Priesthood holders increase their desire to serve a mission?

---

### Let the young men lead

*A member of the quorum presidency (or an assistant to the bishop in the priests quorum) conducts the quorum meeting. He leads the young men in counseling together about quorum business, teaches them their priesthood duties (from the scriptures and the Duty to God book), and invites an adviser or other quorum member to teach a gospel lesson. He could prepare by filling out a quorum meeting agenda during a presidency meeting.*

---

## Begin the learning experience

*Choose from these ideas or think of your own to review last week's lesson and introduce this week's lesson:*

- Ask each young man to spend about a minute writing down as many things as he can remember from last week's lesson. Invite the young men to share their lists.
- Divide the young men into groups, and invite them to discuss possible answers to the question "Why should I serve a full-time mission?" Invite one of the young men from each group to write a few of their answers on the board.

---

## Learn together

*Each of the activities below will help quorum members understand why they should serve a mission. Following the inspiration of the Spirit, select one or more that will work best for your quorum:*

- Invite the young men to read Doctrine and Covenants 18:9–16 individually and look for answers to the question "Why has the Lord given priesthood holders the duty to share the gospel?" Invite a few of them to share their answers with the quorum. Why is the worth of a soul great in the sight of God? What experiences have the young men had sharing the gospel that they could share with the quorum?
- Show the video "Missionary Work: A Priesthood Duty." Invite several young men to share their feelings about President Monson's words. Encourage the young men to write down why they would like to serve a full-time mission, and invite them to display what they have written in a place where it will remind them of their desire to serve.
- Read together one or more of the scriptures suggested in this outline, and then ask the young men how they think the world might be different if everyone knew about and lived the gospel. What problems or challenges in the world today are solved when we live the gospel? How is your life different because of the gospel?
- Show the video "Your Day for a Mission" (or read as a quorum the experience of Sid Going in Elder Neil L. Andersen's talk "Preparing the World for the Second Coming"). Ask quorum members to list some of the things that might prevent young men from going on a mission. Help them contrast this list with the great blessings that come from missionary service.
- Write the question from the title of this outline on the board. Invite the quorum members to look for answers

### Teaching tip

"A skilled teacher doesn't think, 'What shall I do in class today?' but asks, 'What will my students do in class today?'; not, 'What will I teach today?' but rather, 'How will I help my students discover what they need to know?'" (Virginia H. Pearce, in *Teaching, No Greater Call* [1999], 61).

to this question as they read Doctrine and Covenants 2:2–4 or the following statement from Elder Russell M. Nelson: “The decision to serve a mission will shape the spiritual destiny of the missionary, his or her spouse, and their posterity for generations to come. A desire to serve is a natural

outcome of one’s conversion, worthiness, and preparation” (“Ask the Missionaries! They Can Help You!” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2012, 18). With the permission of the bishop, invite a returned missionary to share with the quorum how his missionary service has blessed his life.

*Ask the young men to share what they learned today. Do they understand why they should serve full-time missions? What feelings or impressions do they have? Do they have any additional questions? Would it be worthwhile to spend more time on this doctrine?*

### **Teaching in the Savior’s way**

The Savior invited His disciples to act in faith and live the truths He taught. He found opportunities for them to learn through experiences (see Luke 5:1–11). What can the young men do now that will inspire in them a desire to serve a full-time mission?

---

### **Invite to act**

*The young man who is conducting concludes the meeting. He could:*

- Share what he is doing now to prepare to serve a full-time mission.
- Invite the quorum to set a goal to memorize Doctrine and Covenants section 4 over the next several months.
- Invite quorum members to complete one of the activities for preparing to serve a full-time mission in the *Duty to God* book (pages 87–88).

# Selected Resources

---

*Excerpt from Neil L. Andersen, "Preparing the World for the Second Coming," Ensign or Liahona, May 2011, 49–52*

Those who follow the game of rugby know that the New Zealand All Blacks, a name given because of the color of their uniform, is the most celebrated rugby team ever. To be selected for the All Blacks in New Zealand would be comparable to playing for a football Super Bowl team or a World Cup soccer team.

In 1961, at age 18 and holding the Aaronic Priesthood, Sidney Going was becoming a star in New Zealand rugby. Because of his remarkable abilities, many thought he would be chosen the very next year for the national All Blacks rugby team.

At age 19, in this critical moment of his ascending rugby career, Sid declared that he would forgo rugby to serve a mission. Some called him crazy. Others called him foolish. They protested that his opportunity in rugby might never come again.

For Sid it was not what he was leaving behind—it was the opportunity and responsibility ahead. He had a priesthood duty to offer two years of his life to declare the reality of the Lord Jesus Christ and His restored gospel. Nothing—not even a chance to play on the national team, with all the acclaim it would bring—would deter him from that duty.

He was called by a prophet of God to serve in the Western Canadian Mission. Forty-eight years ago this month, 19-year-old Elder Sidney Going left New Zealand to serve as a missionary for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Sid told me of an experience he had on his mission. It was evening, and he and his companion were just about to return to their apartment. They decided to visit one more family. The father let them in. Elder Going and his companion testified of the Savior. The

family accepted a Book of Mormon. The father read all night. In the next week and a half he read the entire Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants, and the Pearl of Great Price. A few weeks later the family was baptized.

A mission instead of a place on the New Zealand All Blacks team? Sid responded, "The blessing of [bringing others] into the gospel far outweighs anything [you] will ever sacrifice."

You're probably wondering what happened to Sid Going following his mission. Most important: an eternal marriage to his sweetheart, Colleen; five noble children; and a generation of grandchildren. He has lived his life trusting in his Father in Heaven, keeping the commandments, and serving others.

And rugby? After his mission Sid Going became one of the greatest halfbacks in All Blacks history, playing for 11 seasons and serving for many years as captain of the team.

How good was Sid Going? He was so good that training and game schedules were changed because he would not play on Sunday. Sid was so good the Queen of England acknowledged his contribution to rugby. [Sid Going was awarded with an MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire) in 1978 for his contributions to the sport of rugby (see Howitt, *Super Sid*, 265).] He was so good a book was written about him titled *Super Sid*.

What if those honors had not come to Sid after his mission? One of the great miracles of missionary service in this Church is that Sid Going and thousands just like him have not asked, "What will I get from my mission?" but rather, "What can I give?"

Your mission will be a sacred opportunity to bring others to Christ and help prepare for the Second Coming of the Savior.