



Initial Orientation and Training

# PRIMARY PRESIDENT

*The purpose of Primary is to teach children the gospel of Jesus Christ, help them learn to live it, strengthen testimonies, and prepare them to make and keep sacred covenants.*

## WHAT AM I CALLED TO DO?

Assist parents and the priesthood in bringing “to pass the immortality and eternal life of man” (Moses 1:39) by watching over and strengthening children ages 18 months to 11 years.

- Prepare spiritually.
- Participate in councils.
- Minister to children and leaders.
- Teach the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Administer the Primary program.

## HOW DO I PREPARE SPIRITUALLY?

- Study the scriptures.
- Pray, ponder, be worthy, and listen for revelation.
- Obey the commandments and exemplify gospel standards.
- Rejoice in the privilege to serve.

## WITH WHOM DO I COUNSEL?

Plan and solve problems as you counsel with:

- Your presidency.
- Your priesthood adviser.
- Ward or branch council members.
- The stake Primary presidency.

## HOW DO I PARTICIPATE IN COUNCILS?

- Prepare yourself to receive revelation.
- Represent the needs of children and their families.
- Offer observations, concerns, and recommendations on a variety of agenda items.
- Follow the direction of priesthood leaders.

## HOW CAN I MINISTER TO:

- *Children:* Activate and retain children as you help them feel loved, learn the gospel of Jesus Christ, and feel the Spirit.
- *Leaders:* Motivate and strengthen leaders as you orient, build relationships, and give ongoing support.

## HOW DO I TEACH THE GOSPEL TO CHILDREN?

- Love those you teach.
- Teach the doctrine in leadership meetings, classes, and activities.
- Teach by the Spirit.
- Invite diligent learning by helping children apply gospel principles.

## ADMINISTER THE PRIMARY PROGRAM

### WHAT TOOLS HELP ME TEACH AND MINISTER TO CHILDREN?

#### Scriptures

- Help children understand, love, and apply the scriptures. Use them in every part of Primary.

#### Sunday Instruction

- Opening or closing exercises
- Sharing time
- Music time
- Class

#### Faith in God

- Use *Faith in God* to help children live the gospel.
- Exemplify and teach “My Gospel Standards.”
- Encourage children to memorize the Articles of Faith.

#### Annual Gospel Instruction

- The Children’s Sacrament Meeting Presentation allows children to teach and bear testimony.
- The Priesthood Preview is under the direction of the bishop and helps 11-year-old boys prepare to receive the priesthood.

#### Scouting (U.S. and Canada)

- Provide opportunities for boys to learn, serve, and practice Christlike skills.

### WHAT RESOURCES CAN HELP ME?

- Scriptures
- *Church Handbook of Instructions, Book 2*, section 5, “Primary”
- *Outline for Sharing Time and the Children’s Sacrament Meeting Presentation*
- Primary manuals
- *Faith in God* guidebooks
- *Children’s Songbook*
- *Friend or Liahona* magazines
- LDS.org
- *Teaching, No Greater Call* manual
- Worldwide leadership training meetings
- *Scouting Handbook* (U.S. and Canada)

**IN WHICH MEETINGS AM I ASKED TO PARTICIPATE?**

- Ward or branch council
- Stake and general leadership training
- Ward Scout committee meeting (U.S. and Canada)

**FOR WHICH MEETINGS AM I RESPONSIBLE?**

- Sunday and weekday Primary
- Presidency meeting
- Ward or branch Primary leadership

**WHAT SHOULD I DO FIRST?**

- Meet with my presidency.
- Prepare for Sunday Primary.
- Get to know the children.

**WHAT'S NEXT?**

- Continue to learn your responsibilities as you meet regularly with your priesthood adviser and stake Primary presidency.
- Continue to study the handbook and counsel with your presidency.
- Implement what you learn as needs and resources allow.

*“Our Heavenly Father gave His Son. The Son of God gave His life. We are asked by Them to give our lives, as it were, in Their divine service. Will you? Will I? Will we? There are lessons to be taught; there are kind deeds to be done; there are souls to be saved. . . . Reach out to rescue those who need your help. Lift such to the higher road and the better way. As we sing in Primary: ‘Lead me, guide me, walk beside me, / Help me find the way. / Teach me all that I must do / To live with him someday’ ” (Thomas S. Monson, “Becoming Our Best Selves,” Ensign, Apr. 2006, 5).*

*“Every member of the Church is important to us. Indeed, every person—member or not—is important to us, but surely among the most significant of all our responsibilities is the responsibility to protect and nurture the children of the Church. . . . We care so much about you and about the children you are teaching. Prepare well to bless these little ones. Give it your best effort. Your influence will, quite literally, affect these children for eternity. Enjoy the assignment that you have, and discharge it faithfully. . . . However much we love and admire children, I am certain we underestimate who and what a child is and what in the hands of God he or she may become. May God bless you always in your sacred opportunity to help save the children of this Church” (Jeffrey R. Holland, Message to Primary Leaders, Mar. 2006).*