

SUNDAY SCHOOL

A Leader's Guide

"Wherefore, now let every man learn his duty, and to act in the office in which he is appointed, in all diligence" (Doctrine and Covenants 107:99).

GOSPEL LEADERSHIP

All leaders strive to lead according to five basic principles of leadership:

- Prepare spiritually.
- Participate in councils.
- Minister to others.
- Teach the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Administer the organization.

PRIESTHOOD LEADERSHIP

Stake President

- Calls and sets apart the stake Sunday School president and counselors. Calls and sets apart a Sunday School secretary if needed.
- Assigns a counselor in the stake presidency to oversee the stake Sunday School and to orient and train the stake Sunday School presidency.
- Assigns a stake high councilor to work with the stake Sunday School presidency.
- Provides time in stake presidency meetings for the counselor working with the Sunday School to report the progress, needs, and concerns of the Sunday School presidency.

Stake Presidency

The counselor assigned to oversee the Sunday School:

- Meets regularly with the stake Sunday School presidency to counsel about the progress, needs, and concerns of the members of the stake and then reports to the stake president.
- Orients the stake Sunday School president using the *Church Handbook of Instructions; Teaching, No Greater Call*; this guide; and Sunday School materials on LDS.org.
- Oversees the meetinghouse libraries in the stake.

Bishop

- Ensures that the teaching in a ward is edifying and doctrinally correct.
- Calls and sets apart the ward Sunday School president and counselors, all of whom must be priesthood holders. Calls and sets apart a Sunday School secretary if needed.
- Assigns a counselor to oversee the Sunday School, including the meetinghouse library.
- During ward council, invites the Sunday School president to lead a discussion and provide instruction on how to improve gospel learning and teaching in the ward.

Bishopric

- The counselor assigned to oversee the Sunday School meets regularly with the ward Sunday School presidency to counsel about the progress, needs, and concerns of the members of the ward and then reports to the bishop in bishopric meeting.

STAKE SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

Stake Sunday School President

- Supports the stake presidency.
- Meets regularly with the counselor in the stake presidency and the high councilor who oversee the Sunday School.
- Plans and holds regular Sunday School presidency meetings to counsel together.
- Attends and participates in stake council meetings.

Stake Sunday School Presidency

- Orients all ward Sunday School presidencies by using the *Church Handbook of Instructions; Teaching, No Greater Call*; this guide; and Sunday School materials on LDS.org.
- Instructs and supports ward Sunday School presidencies.
- Arranges with ward leaders to visit ward meetings and classes periodically.
- Participates in stake auxiliary training when provided.

WARD SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

Ward Sunday School President

- Submits recommendations to the bishop for ward members to serve in the following positions: counselors in the Sunday School presidency, Sunday School teachers, ward and assistant ward librarians, and, when needed, Sunday School secretary.
- Meets regularly with the counselor in the bishopric who oversees the Sunday School.
- Plans and holds Sunday School presidency meetings regularly.
- Assigns his counselors to oversee areas of responsibility within the Sunday School.
- Orients and trains Sunday School teachers using the *Church Handbook of Instructions; Teaching, No Greater Call*; and Sunday School materials on LDS.org.
- Attends ward council prepared to conduct training and suggest ways members can improve learning and teaching at church and in homes.

Ward Sunday School Presidency

- Orients and provides ongoing support to all Sunday School teachers by using the *Church Handbook of Instructions; Teaching, No Greater Call*; and Sunday School materials on LDS.org.
- Oversees efforts to improve gospel learning and teaching in Sunday School.
- Counsels with priesthood and auxiliary leaders to improve learning and teaching in all organizations in the ward.

- Under the direction of the bishop, teaches “The Teaching the Gospel Course” outlined in *Teaching, No Greater Call*, pages 186–239.
- Visits Sunday School teachers to address their questions and concerns and discuss ways they can better serve class members.
- Visits Sunday School classes.
- Uses attendance information to determine ways to meet members’ needs and help them participate.
- Oversees the ward meetinghouse library by orienting librarians and recommending an annual budget for the library.
- With bishopric approval, invites members to serve as Sunday School class presidents.
- Attends stake Sunday School leadership meetings.