

Youth Leadership

Week One: A leader has a vision.

MORONI AND THE TITLE OF LIBERTY In the middle of Alma, the Nephites and the Lamanites were again at war. A young captain named Moroni led the Nephites to a victory, only to then discover dissension among the Nephites and within the church. A man named Amalickiah decided he wanted to become the king and he was able to convince a lot of Nephites to follow him.

Read and discuss:

Alma 46: 8-13

Alma 46: 18-21

Alma 46: 28-29, 36

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO HAVE A VISION Write on the whiteboard “What does it mean to have a vision?” Brainstorm how having a vision can help an organization. What did it do for Moroni’s people? How can it help you?

THE VISION OF THE CHURCH The church has a four fold mission:

- 1) Proclaim the Gospel
- 2) Perfect the Saints
- 3) Redeem the Dead
- 4) Care for the Poor and Needy

In what ways does the church fulfill each of these missions? In what ways can you as a presidency assist in fulfilling these missions?

THE WORK OF A QUORUM OR CLASS PRESIDENCY Invite presidency members to read together General Handbook: Serving in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1.2 (<https://bit.ly/3foq2Zp>), and invite them to look for the work the Lord has called them to accomplish. Why is this work important?

ENGAGING QUORUM OR CLASS MEMBERS IN THE WORK Ask presidency members to review what they have discussed and planned as a presidency. Print these questions and hand them to the youth.

- How are we already focused on the work of the gospel?
- Where can we improve?
- What can we do to care for those in need?
- How can we help all feel invited and welcome to join us?

- How can we encourage participation in family history and temple work? See other possible questions in the “Counsel Together” section of each lesson in Come, Follow Me—For Aaronic Priesthood Quorums and Young Women Classes.

ACTIVITY Help your presidency come up with a one or two sentence mission statement (a short statement that says what the purpose of your presidency is) for your organization. Also set 1-2 goals for your class or quorum. Have them write it down in their binders so they can look at it when they are planning activities.

SUPPORTING RESOURCES

- General Handbook, chapter 1
- “Youth Responsibility in the Work of Salvation” video (<https://bit.ly/3iZV63Y>)
- Carol F. McConkie, “Here to Serve a Righteous Cause,” Ensign or Liahona, Nov. 2015, 12–14
- Ephesians 4:11–13; Moroni 10:32; Moses 1:39

Week Two: A leader serves others.

AMMON, A SERVANT LEADER Ammon left his home to go and preach the gospel to the Lamanites. He was captured and brought before King Lamoni. When the king offered one of his daughters to Ammon as his wife, Ammon refused and offered to be a servant for the king instead. He then protected the king's flocks, slaying the robbers' leader and cutting off the arms of many others. The servants then returned and told the king what Ammon had done.

Read and discuss:

Alma 18: 10-14

Alma 18: 20-23

Ammon then taught King Lamoni and ended up converting a large group of Lamanites. How did serving others help Ammon convert them to the gospel?

SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES CAN HELP US FOLLOW THE SAVIOR In His youth, Jesus Christ "increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man" (Luke 2:52). Ask quorum and class presidency members to discuss why service and activities are important. How can they help us become more like the Savior?

SERVING AND MINISTERING What is the difference between serving and ministering? Brainstorm on the whiteboard.

JESUS CHRIST TAUGHT US HOW TO MINISTER To help quorum or class presidency members see Jesus Christ as their example of ministering, you could invite them to talk about His teachings and example of service (see Luke 10:25-37; 3 Nephi 17:5-10). Explain that ministering is caring for someone as the Savior would. When has someone done this for you, and how did it make you feel? How does Christ's example apply to our efforts to minister to our quorum or class members? To others?

WE CAN ACCOMPLISH THE LORD'S WORK THROUGH MINISTERING To help presidency members receive inspiration on how to minister to the members of their quorum or class, invite them to discuss each person by name (the secretary can obtain a class roster from the Member Tools app or the ward clerk). The following questions can help:

- What are each person's unique strengths and challenges?
- What can we do that might help them (for example, in service and activities and Sunday meetings)? Ask presidency members to also consider how they can encourage quorum and class members to use their strengths and talents to minister to others, both inside and outside their quorum or class.
- How can we make sure everyone feels included, even if they aren't in the presidency?

Invite the quorum or class presidency to act on what they feel inspired to do. They may want to review and modify plans made in their most recent presidency meeting to include their new ideas. Make sure they understand that sensitive information shared about individuals should be kept confidential.

ACTIVITY Set a timer for two minutes and go around the room listing who we can serve or minister to and how we can help them. After, decide if you want to follow through on any of the ideas.

SUPPORTING RESOURCES

- Service and activity ideas at ChildrenandYouth.ChurchofJesusChrist.org
- General Handbook: Serving in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, chapter 20, ChurchofJesusChrist.org
- JustServe.org • “Service and Activities” video General Handbook: Serving in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, chapter 21, ChurchofJesusChrist.org
- 2 Corinthians 6:4–7; Mosiah 18:8–9; Doctrine and Covenants 84:106
- “We Are Strong Together” video

Week Three: A leader motivates others.

BRIGHAM YOUNG AND THE HANDCART COMPANIES Have one of the youth read the following story. A large group of Europeans arrived in Florence, Nebraska late in the year in 1856. They decided to press forward to the Salt Lake valley even though they knew they could hit winter weather. President Brigham Young had no knowledge of them until October 4, when an elder informed him. He immediately called a meeting to organize a rescue effort.

Then, the next morning, he announced at Sunday morning services, “Many of our brethren and sisters are on the plains with handcarts...and they must be brought here...go and bring in those people now on the plains, and attend strictly to those things which we call temporal...otherwise your faith will be in vain.”

The next day was general conference and he again called for teams, wagons, blankets, stockings, shoes, and supplies. In response to the urgency, many of the sisters immediately donated petticoats, stockings, and anything they could spare right there in the tabernacle! The next day, October 7, sixteen supply wagons met and within a few days more men and wagons joined the rescue.

The immigrants in the Willie and Martin handcart companies were already suffering and dying from the cold and lack of food. They did their best to press west while the wagons drove east. There was a huge storm on October 19, stranding everyone. Riders from the wagons pressed forward, found the handcart companies, and provided hope until the wagons arrived.

John Chislett of the handcart company wrote of meeting the rescue party: “Just as the sun was sinking beautifully behind the distant hills, ... several covered wagons, each drawn by four horses, were seen coming towards us. ... Shouts of joy rent the air; strong men wept until tears ran freely down their furrowed and sunburnt cheeks, and little children ... fairly danced around with gladness. ... The [rescuers] were so overcome that they could not for some time utter a word. ... They felt that they had, in a great measure, contributed to our sad position; but ... how bravely they worked to bring us safely to the valley—to the Zion of our hopes!”

How did Brigham Young motivate the Saints to help? What steps did he take and when did he take them?

GREAT LEADERS LEARN TO DELEGATE It’s impossible for leaders to do all that needs to get done. In this story we see how everyone worked together to save the handcart companies. Print the following questions and hand them out to members of the presidency to take turns reading to the group. Discuss each one before moving to the next.

- How do you choose who to delegate to?

- What do you say when you are asking someone to do something? Practice for a few minutes if you feel your presidency needs it. Discuss what it means to be specific and articulate when making assignments.
- What do you do if someone says no?
- Who is going to follow up on assignments that are made?

A LEADER USES THEIR VOICE FOR GOOD Sometimes it can be really hard to speak up, especially in front of our peers. It takes courage, confidence, and practice. Write these questions on the blackboard and have the youth answer them in their binders. You might consider discussing these privately in individual interviews if you feel your youth are struggling to speak up in group settings.

- Is it hard for you to offer your opinion and/or volunteer for things? Why?
- What are your fears surrounding speaking up?
- What is one small goal you can set to start practicing this skill?

ACTIVITY Print each person a chart of responsibilities for the adult leaders, the president, the counselors, and the secretary. Some examples of items to add are keeping track of youth birthdays, printing agendas for meetings, assigning youth to prayers/lessons on Sundays, reminding youth of the things they have volunteered to do, bringing items needed for activities, taking pictures for activities, making a calendar of activities, planning activities, coordinating family history and temple activities, and being the youth mission leader.

President	
1st Counselor	
2nd Counselor	
Secretary	
Adult leaders	

It can be helpful at the end of every meeting to ask, “WHO does WHAT by WHEN and HOW do we follow up?” This will help you know if all the details have been discussed and delegated!

Week Four: A leader listens.

THE SAVIOR AND THE WOMAN AT THE WELL Jesus passed through Samaria early on in his ministry. He came across a woman who was gathering water at the well and he asked her to get him some water. She was confused because the Jews had nothing to do with the Samaritans.

Read and discuss or watch the Bible video (4:11):

John 4: 10-19, 25-26, 28-29

What did this woman learn because she listened and perceived? What can we learn when we listen with not just our ears, but with our hearts?

LISTENING IS A SKILL WE CAN PRACTICE Have your presidency list some ways they can show people they listening to them on the whiteboard. Some examples are turning toward someone, putting away a phone, making eye contact, and asking questions. After the discussion, consider asking questions like:

- What do we learn when we listen to other people?
- When do you feel the president should offer their opinion and why (beginning, middle, end)?
- How do you feel when someone really listens (or doesn't listen) to you?
- What do you think it means to "counsel together?"

STRENGTH COMES FROM LISTENING AND COUNSELING TOGETHER The Lord's way of leading His Church is through councils (see Doctrine and Covenants 43:8–10). Counseling together can help us to be unified as a quorum or class presidency, led by the Spirit in making decisions, and more effective in doing the Lord's work. How can counseling together help us make better decisions?

COUNSELING TOGETHER CAN HELP US RECEIVE REVELATION Elder Neil L. Andersen taught that "revelation is scattered among us" (in "Auxiliary Panels Use New Training Library," Ensign or Liahona, Apr. 2011, 76). Counseling allows us to gather that revelation as we plan and carry out the Lord's work. Lead a discussion around these two questions:

- Why is it important for everyone to contribute in a council and how can we help everyone feel comfortable?
- What can we do to invite and listen to the Holy Ghost as we counsel together? Think about a challenge or need in your quorum or class. Practice counseling together about how to address it.

ACTIVITY To illustrate this idea, you could give each member of the presidency a few pieces of a simple puzzle and invite them to work together to complete the puzzle. What would the puzzle be like if it didn't have all the pieces?

SUPPORTING RESOURCES

- Matthew 18:20 • Ether 2:14–3:16
- Doctrine and Covenants 88:122
- Doctrine and Covenants 107:84–87
- M. Russell Ballard, “Strength in Counsel,” Ensign, Nov. 1993, 76–78
- General Handbook: Serving in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 10.4, 11.3.4, ChurchofJesusChrist.org
- “A Spirit of Unity” video

Week Five: A leader is organized.

ELIZA R. SNOW Joseph Smith originally organized the Relief Society on March 17, 1842. He organized it after the manner of the priesthood and Eliza R. Snow was called as a secretary. Unfortunately with the Saints then getting expelled from Nauvoo, the Relief Society fell into disorganization until 1855 when Brigham Young reorganized it. He asked Eliza to assist the Bishops in reorganizing all the branches of the Relief Society. She travelled abroad, spoke in public meetings, fastidiously took notes and minutes at meetings (sometimes referring back to the first notes she took back in Nauvoo), wrote articles, wrote poems and hymns for the church, and more! Many of her notes and minutes are available for us to read online. She believed that what she was doing was important and that she was constructing a significant, enduring record.

How are we blessed by what Eliza R. Snow did during her lifetime? Why is what she did important and how can we learn from her example?

THE LORD INVITES US TO ORGANIZE OURSELVES Read Doctrine and Covenants 88:119. Discuss how the Lord’s instruction to “organize yourselves” applies to quorum and class presidency meetings. What are some things we can do to organize our meetings and activities?

PLANNING FOR MEETINGS HELPS US ORGANIZE THE LORD’S WORK Help the quorum or class presidency fill out a sample agenda in preparation for their next presidency meeting. Consider discussing the following questions together:

- Why is it important to consider questions like those on the sample agenda?
- What other meetings or activities could we prepare for in this way?
- How can we invite the Holy Ghost to help us as we plan and conduct meetings? (See Moroni 6:9; Doctrine and Covenants 46:2.)
- What is the purpose of the meeting/activity we are planning?

You could also invite presidency members to prepare an agenda for the next quorum or class meeting that follows the outline provided in each lesson in Come, Follow Me—For Aaronic Priesthood Quorums and Young Women Classes. Invite them to think about items they discussed in their presidency meeting that also need to be discussed with quorum and class members. If time allows, you could invite them to practice conducting a meeting using an agenda they prepared. Periodically, you may want to discuss how presidency members felt about a meeting.

As part of this discussion write “Meetings” on the whiteboard. Write each question below in circles coming off of the center circle. Tell the youth that each of these are part of having a meeting. Have them draw it in their binders, too!

- What did we do to invite the Spirit into the meeting? (See Doctrine and Covenants 6:32.)

- Did we try to include everyone?
- How can we improve?
- Did this meeting/activity fulfill its purpose? Why or why not?

WE CAN ACCOMPLISH THE LORD'S WORK THROUGH PURPOSEFUL PLANNING

Invite presidency members to review the principles listed in *Service and Activity Guidelines for Youth*. Have them use the *Service and Activity Planner* to help them make a list of a few service and activity ideas that follow those principles. Ask them to plan one of those activities in more detail using the *Detailed Service and Activity Plan*. In a future presidency meeting, ask them to review the activities they have had and how successful they were, according to the principles in *Service and Activity Guidelines for Youth*.

SUPPORTING RESOURCES

- General Handbook: Serving in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 10.4, 11.3.4, ChurchofJesusChrist.org
- “So Great a Cause” video
- “Effective Aaronic Priesthood Presidency and Quorum Meetings” video
- “Aaronic Priesthood Quorum Presidency Meeting” video