

FAITH IN GOD

FOR BOYS



*“That they might know thee
the only true God, and Jesus Christ,
whom thou hast sent.”*

John 17:3

My name is _____



I AM A CHILD OF GOD

I know Heavenly Father loves me, and I love Him.

I can pray to Heavenly Father anytime, anywhere.

I am trying to remember and follow Jesus Christ.



Our Dear Young Friend,

You are a child of God. He is your Heavenly Father. He loves you and cares about you. He wants you to have faith in Him and pray to Him often—anytime, anywhere.

He hopes you will keep the covenant you made when you were baptized and follow the teachings and example of Jesus Christ. He has given you the gift of the Holy Ghost to guide you, a family to love and teach you, and Primary leaders and teachers to help you.

You are now preparing to receive the Aaronic Priesthood. Use these years to learn about the priesthood and to be worthy and ready to receive it.

We encourage you to learn and live the gospel, serve others, and use the talents Heavenly Father has given you to learn and do many good things. Earning the Faith in God Award will help you become the kind of person you would like to be and the person Heavenly Father knows you can become.

We love you and pray for you.

The First Presidency

MY BAPTISMAL COVENANT

When I was baptized I made a covenant
to take upon me the name of Jesus Christ
and to serve Him and be obedient.

Heavenly Father has given me the Holy Ghost.

Through the Atonement of Jesus Christ,
I can be forgiven of my sins when I repent.

If I keep my baptismal covenant,
I can return to live with Him.



When I take the sacrament, I renew my covenant
to take upon me the name of Jesus Christ,
to always remember Him,
and to obey His commandments.
When I do this, I can feel the Holy Ghost guiding me.

(See Mosiah 18:8–10 and D&C 20:37.)



FAITH IN GOD AWARD REQUIREMENTS

You may begin to work on the Faith in God Award when you turn eight years old. To earn the award, complete the requirements in this guidebook before your twelfth birthday. Your parents and Primary leaders can help you with the activities.

Basic Requirements

An important part of faith in God is keeping your baptismal covenant and staying spiritually strong. To help you develop faith and resist temptation, do the following things:

- Pray daily to Heavenly Father.
- Read the scriptures regularly.
- Keep the commandments and live “My Gospel Standards” (see back cover).
- Honor your parents and be kind to your family.
- Pay your tithing and attend tithing settlement.
- Attend sacrament meetings and Primary regularly.


Other Requirements

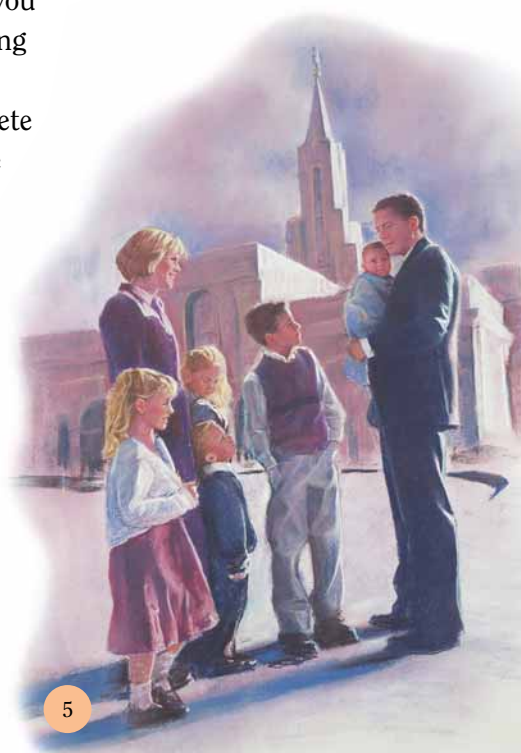
Doing the following activities will help your understanding and testimony of the gospel grow:

- Write your testimony.
- Memorize the Articles of Faith and explain what they mean.

- Complete activities in the guidebook for:
 - Learning and Living the Gospel (page 6)
 - Serving Others (page 8)
 - Developing Talents (page 10)
 - Preparing for the Priesthood (page 12)
- Have an interview with your bishop or branch president.

Some ideas for activities to earn the Faith in God Award are listed in this guidebook. With help from your parents or Primary leader, you can also plan and do other activities. Use the chart on page 20 to track your progress.

If you are a Cub Scout, you can also earn the Scouting Religious Square Knot patch. To do this, complete all the activities with the  next to them.






LEARNING AND LIVING THE GOSPEL

*“Learn wisdom in thy youth; yea, learn in thy youth
to keep the commandments of God.”*

Alma 37:35

Complete at least two of the following activities each year:

- Explain how taking the sacrament helps you renew your baptismal covenant. In a family home evening, teach others about things we can do to remain faithful.
- Give a family home evening lesson on Joseph Smith’s First Vision (see Joseph Smith—History 1:1–20). Discuss how Heavenly Father answers our sincere prayers. 
- Mark these verses about the Holy Ghost in your scriptures: John 14:16–17, 2 Nephi 32:5, and Moroni 10:5. Discuss ways the Holy Ghost helps you.
- Read a recent conference address given by the prophet. Decide what you can do to follow the prophet, and do it.
- Give an opening and a closing prayer in family home evening or at Primary. Share your feelings about how prayer protects us and helps us to stay close to Heavenly Father and the Savior. 
- Tell a story from the Book of Mormon that teaches about faith in Jesus Christ. Share your testimony of the Savior. 
- Read D&C 89. Discuss how Heavenly Father blesses us when we faithfully live the Word of Wisdom. Help plan

and conduct an activity to teach the Word of Wisdom to others.

- Prepare a pedigree chart with your name and your parents' and grandparents' names. Prepare a family group record for your family and share a family story. Discuss how performing temple work blesses families. ☞☞
 - Learn to sing "Choose the Right" (*Hymns*, no. 239). Explain what agency is and what it means to be responsible for your choices. Discuss how making good choices has helped you develop greater faith.
 - Plan and complete your own activity that will help you learn and live the gospel (write the activity below).
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SERVING OTHERS

“And behold, I tell you these things that ye may learn wisdom; that ye may learn that when ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God.”

Mosiah 2:17

Complete at least two of the following activities each year:

- Read and discuss the parable of the good Samaritan (see Luke 10:30–37). Plan and complete a service project that helps a family member or neighbor. After completing the project, discuss how it helped your faith grow stronger.




- Write a letter to a teacher, your parents, or your grandparents telling them what you appreciate and respect about them. ≡≡≡
 - Make a list of the qualities you like in a person. Choose one quality to develop in yourself. Discuss how showing respect and kindness strengthens you, your family, and others.
 - Plan, prepare, and serve a nutritious meal.
 - Entertain young children with songs or games you have learned or made yourself. Show that you know how to care for and protect a young child.
 - Learn about and practice good manners and courtesy.
 - Plan and hold a parent-child activity, such as a dinner, picnic, hike, day trip, or service project.
 - Read the twelfth article of faith. Discuss what it means to be a good citizen and how your actions can affect others.
 - Help your Primary leaders plan and carry out an upcoming quarterly activity. ≡≡≡
 - Plan and complete your own activity to serve others (write the activity below).
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DEVELOPING TALENTS

“For all have not every gift given unto them; for there are many gifts, and to every man is given a gift by the Spirit of God.”

Doctrine and Covenants 46:11

Complete at least two of the following activities each year:

- Learn how to budget and save money. Discuss why it is important to faithfully pay our tithing and how Heavenly Father blesses us when we do (see 3 Nephi 24:10–11). Pay your tithing and begin saving for a mission.
- Learn to sing, play, or lead a song from the *Children’s Songbook*. Teach or share the song in a family home evening or at Primary. Discuss how developing talents helps prepare us for service to Heavenly Father and others.
- Write a poem, story, or short play that teaches a principle of the gospel or is about Heavenly Father’s creations. 
- Make an item from wood, metal, fabric, or other material, or draw, paint, or sculpt a piece of art. Display your finished work for others to see.
- Visit an art museum or attend a concert, play, or other cultural event. Share your experience with your family or activity day group.
- Read D&C 88:118. Discuss what it means to “seek learning, even by study and also by faith.” Improve your personal study habits by doing such things as learning



how to choose and read good books or being prepared for school each day.

- List five things you can do to help around your home. Discuss the importance of obeying and honoring your parents and learning how to work.
 - Plan a physical fitness program for yourself that may include learning to play a sport or game. Participate in the program for one month.
 - Learn about and practice good nutrition, good health, and good grooming, including modest dress.
 - Plan and complete your own activity that will help you develop your talents (write the activity below).
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PREPARING FOR THE PRIESTHOOD

“The Priesthood of Aaron . . . is an appendage to the greater, or the Melchizedek Priesthood, and has power in administering outward ordinances.”

Doctrine and Covenants 107:13–14

Complete the following activities while you are 11 years old. They will help you prepare to receive the Aaronic Priesthood and become a righteous young man.

- Learn about the restoration of the Aaronic Priesthood (see D&C 13, 107:20, and Joseph Smith—History 1:68–73).
- Read D&C 20:57–60 and *Aaronic Priesthood: Fulfilling Our Duty to God [Deacon]*, page 7. Discuss with a parent or leader the purposes of the Aaronic Priesthood and what it means to do your duty to God.
- Talk with the deacons quorum presidency about the role of the deacons quorum. Write in your journal how you can serve the Lord as a member of a deacons quorum.
- Read D&C 88:77–80, 118 and D&C 130:19. Discuss with a parent or Primary leader how important a good education is and how it can help strengthen you as a priesthood holder in your home and family and in the Church.

- Read “The Family: A Proclamation to the World.” Make a list of things you can do to help strengthen your family and make a happy home. Share the list with your parents or Primary leader. ➡



MY TESTIMONY

As you learn and live the gospel, your testimony will continue to grow. Use these pages to write your testimony about Heavenly Father and the Savior. Also write what the baptismal covenant means to you. You may also want to add to your written testimony in your personal journal.

THE ARTICLES OF FAITH

OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

1. WE BELIEVE in God, the Eternal Father, and in His Son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost.
2. WE BELIEVE that men will be punished for their own sins, and not for Adam's transgression.
3. WE BELIEVE that through the Atonement of Christ, all mankind may be saved, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel.
4. WE BELIEVE that the first principles and ordinances of the Gospel are: first, Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; second, Repentance; third, Baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; fourth, Laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost.
5. 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.
6. WE BELIEVE in the same organization that existed in the Primitive Church, namely, apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers, evangelists, and so forth.
7. WE BELIEVE in the gift of tongues, prophecy, revelation, visions, healing, interpretation of tongues, and so forth.
8. WE BELIEVE the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God.
9. 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.
10. WE BELIEVE in the literal gathering of Israel and in the restoration of the Ten Tribes; that Zion (the New Jerusalem) will be built upon the American continent; that Christ will reign personally upon the earth; and, that the earth will be renewed and receive its paradisiacal glory.
11. WE CLAIM the privilege of worshipping Almighty God according to the dictates of our own conscience, and allow all men the same privilege, let them worship how, where, or what they may.
12. WE BELIEVE in being subject to kings, presidents, rulers, and magistrates, in obeying, honoring, and sustaining the law.
13. WE BELIEVE in being honest, true, chaste, benevolent, virtuous, and in doing good to all men; indeed, we may say that we follow the admonition of Paul—We believe all things, we hope all things, we have endured many things, and hope to be able to endure all things. If there is anything virtuous, lovely, or of good report or praiseworthy, we seek after these things.

JOSEPH SMITH

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND LEADERS

Parents have the responsibility to help their children learn and live the gospel. Primary leaders and teachers assist parents in this important responsibility. This Faith in God guidebook is a resource to help boys and girls achieve their great potential as children of God.


PURPOSE

The purpose of the Faith in God guidebooks is to help boys and girls ages 8 through 11 live gospel principles, develop testimonies, build friendships, and prepare to receive the Aaronic Priesthood or become a righteous young woman. Children who complete the requirements in the guidebook can earn the Faith in God Award.

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

Children participate in activities that help them develop gospel habits such as praying, reading the scriptures, and living “My Gospel Standards” (see back cover). They also participate in a variety of activities in the following areas: (1) learning and living the gospel, (2) serving others, (3) developing talents, and (4) preparing for the priesthood or for Young Women.

The activities for the program are outlined in two guidebooks: *Faith in God for Boys* and *Faith in God for Girls*. Children may work on the activities at home, with their family, or at Primary activity days (see page 18).

In countries where Scouting is part of the Church program, boys work on Faith in God along with Cub Scouting. Many of the Cub Scout activities can fulfill requirements for the Faith in God Award. Completion of all activities in this guidebook marked with a  qualifies a boy for the Scouting Religious Square Knot patch.

PRIMARY ACTIVITY DAYS

Primary activity days are designed to provide boys and girls ages 8 through 11 with opportunities to work on activities in the Faith in God program. Activity days are usually held twice a month in a home or at the meetinghouse. The local budget allowance should cover expenses for Primary activity days. Activity days should open and close with prayer. Depending on local needs and circumstances, an activity day may be held at the same time as other Church activities on days other than Sunday.

Occasionally, leaders may wish to invite younger Primary children to participate with the 8- through 11-year-olds in an activity day. This should occur no more than once each quarter. Activity days involving all the children are planned by the Primary presidency. Many of the ideas in this guidebook could be used to plan these activity days. The presidency may wish to invite the activity days leader and children ages 8 through 11 to assist in planning and carrying out the activity.

PRIMARY LEADERS AND TEACHERS

Under the direction of the Primary presidency, a Primary teacher or other worthy adult serves as the activity days leader. Activity days for girls should be led by an adult woman. Where Scouting is authorized, it is used in place of activity days for boys. When planning activities, leaders should consider ideas from this guidebook, “My Gospel Standards,” the *Friend*, and the children themselves. Parents and others with specific skills may be invited to help.

Parents may help their sons and daughters complete the activities in the guidebooks, especially where it is difficult for children to gather for Primary activity days.

PRIESTHOOD PREVIEW

Each year, the bishopric meets with all 11-year-old boys and their parents to help them understand the importance of the priesthood and strengthen their commitment to prepare to

receive it. Members of the Primary presidency also attend the meeting.

ORIENTATION AND RECOGNITION

When a boy or girl turns eight years of age, a member of the Primary presidency and the activity days leader give the child and parents a copy of the guidebook and explain the purpose of activity days and how the Faith in God Award is earned.

Recognition for accomplishments should be ongoing, as follows:

1. As children complete activities, they can track their progress by marking the chart on page 20 of this guidebook.
2. At least twice a year, a Primary activity day (or a Cub Scout Pack meeting) should include opportunities for the children to share what they have learned and accomplished.
3. When all required activities are completed, the Primary president and the bishop or branch president sign the Faith in God Award certificate on the last page of this guidebook. A member of the bishopric, branch presidency, or Primary presidency recognizes the child's accomplishment in Primary.

Parents and leaders should help the children understand that the joy of living the gospel is the most important reward.



FAITH IN GOD ACHIEVEMENT RECORD

Use this page to track your progress toward earning the Faith in God Award. Each time you complete an activity, mark one of the boxes under the correct heading. When you have completed all the requirements, review your activities and what you have learned with your leader.

LEARNING AND LIVING THE GOSPEL

SERVING OTHERS

DEVELOPING TALENTS

PREPARING FOR THE PRIESTHOOD

ARTICLES OF FAITH

I HAVE WRITTEN MY TESTIMONY.

I WAS INTERVIEWED BY MY BISHOP OR
BRANCH PRESIDENT ON _____.

FAITH IN GOD AWARD

Name of child

has completed the requirements necessary
to receive the Faith in God Award
from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Signature of Primary president

Date

He has prepared himself to be ordained to
the office of deacon in the Aaronic Priesthood.

Signature of bishop or branch president

Date

MY GOSPEL STANDARDS

- I will follow Heavenly Father's plan for me.
- I will remember my baptismal covenant and listen to the Holy Ghost.
- I will choose the right. I know I can repent when I make a mistake.
- I will be honest with Heavenly Father, others, and myself.
- I will use the names of Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ reverently. I will not swear or use crude words.
- I will do those things on the Sabbath that will help me feel close to Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ.
- I will honor my parents and do my part to strengthen my family.
- I will keep my mind and body sacred and pure, and I will not partake of things that are harmful to me.
- I will dress modestly to show respect for Heavenly Father and myself.
- I will only read and watch things that are pleasing to Heavenly Father.
- I will only listen to music that is pleasing to Heavenly Father.
- I will seek good friends and treat others kindly.
- I will live now to be worthy to go to the temple, serve a mission, and do my part to have an eternal family.

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

ENGLISH

