



# Instructions for Sharing Time and the Children's Sacrament Meeting Presentation

## Dear Primary Presidencies and Music Leaders,

This year we will have the sacred blessing and opportunity to help each child in Primary come to know that he or she is a child of God. We hope that the children will learn this important truth as they feel our Heavenly Father's love for them. As you prayerfully teach the doctrines in these sharing time lessons, you can help the children understand their divine identity, purpose, and potential. You can help them increase their faith in Jesus Christ and their testimony of our Heavenly Father's plan for them. And you can give them hope for their future and strengthen their desire to stay on the path back to our Heavenly Father.

Seek the help of the Spirit as you prepare, teach, and testify of these truths. Families will be blessed by your devoted efforts. We love you and extend our gratitude for the dedicated service you are giving to fortify and protect our precious children.

## The Primary General Presidency

### Instructions for Sharing Time

#### Gospel Instruction

Use this booklet as you prepare to teach a 15-minute lesson each week during sharing time. You may supplement the weekly lessons with other Church-approved materials, such as the *Friend* or the *Liahona*. The following guidelines will help you plan and present lessons.

*Love Those You Teach.* Show your love for the children by learning their names and being aware of their interests, talents, and needs.

*Teach the Doctrine by the Spirit.* As you prepare lessons, pray for guidance and strive to strengthen your testimony of the principles you will teach. This will help you teach by the Spirit.

*Invite Learning.* This booklet is designed to help you know not only *what* to teach but also *how* to teach and invite learning. You will teach the doctrine more effectively as you do the following three things in every lesson:

1. Identify the doctrine. Clearly introduce the doctrine that the children will be learning. Consider ways to do this verbally and visually. (For some examples, see the lessons for the fourth week in February and the third week in July.)

2. Encourage understanding. Ensure that the children gain a deeper understanding of the doctrine through a variety of teaching methods that engage them in learning, such as singing songs, role-playing, and reading scriptures.
3. Encourage application. Give the children opportunities to apply the doctrine in their lives. Consider how they can express feelings about or set a goal related to the doctrine.

**Each week, plan ways to (1) identify the doctrine, (2) help the children understand it, and (3) help them apply it in their lives.**

This booklet provides complete lessons for some of the weeks in the year. Ideas, but not complete lessons, are included for the other weeks. Supplement those ideas with some of your own. You can get ideas by reading other lessons in this

booklet. When there is a fifth Sunday, use this time to review previous lessons. The Spirit can guide you as you plan and prepare activities for lessons.

Work with the music leader as you prepare your lessons. Singing songs will help reinforce the doctrines you are teaching. Occasionally you may invite teachers and their classes to help you with parts of the gospel instruction.

**Available online:** The information, visuals, and resources referenced in this booklet are available online in the *Serve and Teach* section of [LDS.org](http://LDS.org).

Some lessons suggest inviting guest speakers to participate in Primary. You should get the approval of your bishop or branch president before inviting these individuals to participate.

Accompanying the lessons are several teaching tips that will help you improve your ability to teach. The lessons also include pictures that will help you see what an activity looks like. Although developing teaching skills is important, your own spiritual preparation and testimony are what will invite the Spirit to confirm these doctrines in the hearts of the children.

## Singing Time

Music in Primary should establish a reverent atmosphere, teach the gospel, and help children feel the influence of the Holy Ghost and the joy that comes through singing. A 20-minute segment of sharing time should be devoted to singing and teaching music. This will ensure that you have enough time to teach new music and to help the children enjoy singing.

This booklet includes a song for the children to learn this year (see page 28). It also includes a section titled “How to Use Music in Primary” (see pages 26–27) and additional ideas for teaching songs to children (see pages 3, 11, 17).



**Preparation:** *Pray for guidance and seek the influence of the Spirit as you prepare your sharing times. As you prepare and teach with the Spirit, He will confirm the truthfulness of what you teach.*

## Guidelines for the Sacrament Meeting Presentation

Under the direction of the bishop or branch president, the children’s sacrament meeting presentation is normally given during the fourth quarter of the year. Meet with the counselor in the bishopric or branch presidency who oversees Primary early in the year to discuss preliminary plans. Obtain his approval when the plans are completed.

Plan for the children to present the program based on the monthly sharing time themes. Throughout the year, keep notes of children’s talks and personal experiences for possible use in the presentation. As

you plan for the children to share what they have learned about this year’s theme, think of ways they can help the congregation focus on the gospel doctrines they are teaching. A member of the bishopric may conclude the meeting with brief remarks.

As you prepare the presentation, remember the following guidelines:

- Practices should not take time away from classes or families unnecessarily.
- Visuals, costumes, and media presentations are not appropriate for sacrament meeting.



## Resources Used in This Booklet

The following abbreviations are used throughout the booklet:

- CS *Children’s Songbook*  
GAB *Gospel Art Book*

Many lessons include suggestions for using pictures. You can find pictures in the *Gospel Art Book*, Primary manual picture packets, and Church magazines and online at [images.lds.org](http://images.lds.org).

## Curriculum for 2018

### General Curriculum

Nursery: *Behold Your Little Ones*; Sunbeams: *Primary 1*; CTR 4–7: *Primary 2*; Valiant 8–11: *Primary 6*

### Basic Curriculum

Sunbeams: *Primary 1*; CTR 4–7: *Primary 2*; Valiant 8–11: *Primary 4*

**Resources:** *You can find additional teaching resources such as coloring pages, stories, and activities in the Friend, Liahona, nursery manual, and Gospel Art Book. Use these resources to supplement your lessons. Also look for a list of resources on specific gospel topics from the Friend at [friend.lds.org](http://friend.lds.org). These resources may be printed and used in teaching the children.*