For the Strength of Youth Resources for Teaching Standards

RESOURCES

This guide is a compilation of the most current and effective Church resources related to the standards in *For the Strength of Youth*. It will enable you to see at a glance conference talks, quotes from living prophets, media, and scriptures associated with each standard. It also suggests some possible questions to start an interactive discussion. This collection is not comprehensive; you may have favorite materials you will want to add to this guide to customize it for your personal use.

All of this guide's resources are linked to their original sources for easy access when using your smartphone or other electronic device. This guide will be updated each general conference. If you desire to use this resource, you may request an electronic copy or a hard copy to carry with you in your scriptures.

The following Internet sites may be helpful in discovering new or existing resources to address a specific need:



standards.lds.org



Strength of Youth Media 2012: "Arise and Shine Forth" (standards)



Strength of Youth Media 2013: "Stand Ye in Holy Places" (curriculum)

Message from The First Presidency



WORDS OF LIVING PROPHETS

President Thomas S. Monson

"We have the capacity and the responsibility to stand as a bulwark between all we hold dear and the fatal contamination of ... sin. An understanding of who we are and what God expects us to become will prompt us to ... seek the good life. ... Let us shun those things which will drag us down. Let our hearts be pure. Let our lives be clean."

Teachings of Thomas S. Monson, comp. Lynne F. Cannegieter (2011), 59

President Henry B. Eyring

"Don't worry about how inexperienced you are or think you are, but think about what, with the Lord's help, you can become.

... I can't be a perfect servant every hour, but I can try to give more effort than I thought I could. With that habit formed early on, I will be prepared for trials later. You and I can be prepared with the strength to keep our oath and covenant through the tests that will surely come as we approach the end of life."

"Preparation in the Priesthood: 'I Need Your Help,'" Ensign or Liahona, Nov. 2011, 58-59

President Dieter F. Uchtdorf

"We all search for happiness, and we all try to find our own 'happily ever after.' The truth is, God knows how to get there! And He has created a map for you; He knows the way. He is your beloved Heavenly Father, who seeks your good, your happiness. He desires with all the love of a perfect and pure Father that you reach your supernal destination. ... All you have to do is trust your Heavenly Father. Trust Him enough to follow His plan."

"Your Happily Ever After," Ensign or Liahona, May 2010, 126-27

Agency and Accountability

TALKS AND ARTICLES

 Thomas S. Monson, "The Three Rs of Choice," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2010, 67–70



- Robert D. Hales, "Agency: Essential to the Plan of Life," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2010, 24–27
- Wolfgang H. Paul, "The Gift of Agency," Ensign or Liahona, May 2006, 34-35

WORDS OF LIVING PROPHETS

"Decisions are constantly before us. To make them wisely, courage is needed—the courage to say no, the courage to say yes. Decisions *do* determine destiny."

President Thomas S. Monson, "The Three Rs of Choice," Ensign or Liahona, Nov. 2010, 68

SCRIPTURE

"That every man may act ... according to the moral agency which I have given unto him, that every man may be accountable for his own sins."

Doctrine and Covenants 101:78

VIDEOS



"Dare to Stand Alone"



"The Sting of the Scorpion"

- 1. When have you experienced a situation similar to Elder Patrick Kearon's example in the video "The Sting of the Scorpion"?
- 2. Parents and leaders, why is it important to be patient when youth choose to disobey?
- 3. How does obedience to the commandments protect your agency or freedom to choose?

Dating

TALKS AND ARTICLES

• "Dating Advice from Prophets and Apostles," *New Era*, Apr. 2010, 2–5

WORDS OF LIVING PROPHETS

"You young people ... have an important responsibility in choosing not only whom you will date but also whom you will marry."

President Thomas S. Monson, "Whom Shall I Marry?" *New Era*, Oct. 2004, 4, 6

SCRIPTURE

"For intelligence cleaveth unto intelligence; wisdom receiveth wisdom; truth embraceth truth; virtue loveth virtue; light cleaveth unto light; mercy hath compassion on mercy and claimeth her own; justice continueth its course and claimeth its own; judgment goeth before the face of him who sitteth upon the throne and governeth and executeth all things."

Doctrine and Covenants 88:40

DISCUSSION

- 1. What is the purpose of dating? How does dating help to prepare you for marriage in the temple?
- 2. What are the advantages of not steady dating someone in high school even if you both have high standards?
- 3. Why is it better to date in groups?
- 4. Describe one of your favorite dates. What made it so fun?





Mormonad: "Wish You Were Here"



"A Brand New Year 2010: Dating"

Dress and Appearance

TALKS AND ARTICLES

- Robert D. Hales, "Modesty: Reverence for the Lord," *Ensign*, Aug. 2008, 34–39
- Jeffrey R. Holland, "To Young Women," Ensign or Liahona, Nov. 2005, 28–30



• D. Todd Christofferson, "A Sense of the Sacred," New Era, June 2006, 28-31

WORDS OF LIVING PROPHETS

" 'Do not underestimate the important symbolic and actual effect of appearance. Persons who are well groomed and modestly dressed invite the companionship of the Spirit of our Father in Heaven and are able to exercise a wholesome influence upon those around them.' ...

"Just as the Church's temples portray light and an inner beauty through their outward appearance, so we must be thoughtful and careful about how we dress and what we put on our personal temples."

Elder David A. Bednar, "Ye Are the Temple of God," Ensign, Sept. 2001, 19

SCRIPTURE

"Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God?"

1 Corinthians 6:19

VIDEOS



"Deep Beauty"

- 1. How does your understanding of the sanctity of the body influence your choice of clothing? What messages do you send to others by the way you dress?
- 2. How does the way you dress affect your ability to receive impressions from the Spirit?
- 3. What would you change about how you dress if you were in the Lord's presence?

Education

TALKS AND ARTICLES

- Dallin H. Oaks and Kristen M. Oaks, "Learning and Latter-day Saints," *Liahona*, Apr. 2009, 26–31
- Quentin L. Cook, "Strengthen Faith as You Seek Knowledge," *Liahona*, Sept. 2008, 10–14



WORDS OF LIVING PROPHETS

"The purpose of God's creations and of His giving us life is to allow us to have the learning experience necessary to come back to live with Him in eternal life."

President Henry B. Eyring, "Real-Life Education," New Era, Apr. 2009, 4

"You must get all of the education that you possibly can. ... Sacrifice anything that is needed to be sacrificed to qualify yourselves to do the work of the world. ... Train your minds and hands to become an influence for good as you go forward with your lives."

President Gordon B. Hinckley, "Words of the Prophet: Seek Learning," *New Era*, Sept. 2007, 2, 4

VIDEOS



"Seminary Can Change Lives"



"Surfing or Seminary?"

SCRIPTURE

"And as all have not faith, seek ye diligently and teach one another words of wisdom; yea, seek ye out of the best books words of wisdom; seek learning, even by study and also by faith."

Doctrine and Covenants 88:118

- 1. How can you seek learning by study and also by faith?
- 2. How will getting an education bless you now? How will it bless your future family?

Entertainment and Media

TALKS AND ARTICLES

- M. Russell Ballard, "Be Strong in the Lord," Ensign, July 2004, 8–15
- David A. Bednar, "The Hearts of the Children Shall Turn," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2011, 24–27

WORDS OF LIVING PROPHETS

"I raise an apostolic voice of warning about the potentially stifling, suffocating, suppressing, and constraining impact of some kinds of cyberspace interactions and experiences upon our souls."

Elder David A. Bednar, "Things as They Really Are," *Liahona*, June 2010, 26

SCRIPTURE

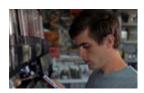
"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

Phillipians 4:8; see also 1 Nephi 15:34

DISCUSSION

- 1. How does your choice of media influence your thoughts and actions?
- 2. How can you help your friends know about your standards regarding what you listen to and watch? How can you influence them to keep high standards as well?
- 3. How could spending too much time playing video games affect the gifts and talents the Lord has given you?
- 4. How can today's technology help you be a better servant of our Heavenly Father?





"Things as They Really Are"



"Watch Your Step"

Family

TALKS AND ARTICLES

• Robert D. Hales, "The Eternal Family," *Ensign*, Nov. 1996, 64–67

WORDS OF LIVING PROPHETS

"The home is the first and most effective place for children to learn the lessons of life: truth, honor, virtue, self-control; the value of education, honest work, and the purpose and privilege of life. Nothing can take the place of home in rearing and teaching children, and no other success can compensate for failure in the home."

President David O. McKay, in Family Home Evening Manual (1968), iii

"The family is ordained of God. Marriage between man and woman is essential to His eternal plan. ... Happiness in family life is most likely to be achieved when founded upon the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ."

"The Family: A Proclamation to the World," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2010, 129



VIDEOS



"What Matters Most"



"Through Small Things"

SCRIPTURE

"Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land." Exodus 20:12

- 1. What can you do to help strengthen your family and make it successful?
- 2. What can parents and siblings do to encourage their sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, to feel confident and loved?
- 3. What can we do to be a righteous influence in the lives of our children and youth?

Friends

TALKS AND ARTICLES

• Jeffrey R. Holland, "Real Friendship," *New Era*, June 1998, 62–66

WORDS OF LIVING PROPHETS

"My young friends, be strong. ... Be the one to make a stand for right, even if you stand alone. Have the moral courage to be a light for others to follow. There is no friendship more valuable than your own clear conscience, your own moral cleanliness—and what a glorious feeling it is to know that you stand in your appointed place clean and with the confidence that you are worthy to do so."

President Thomas S. Monson, "Examples of Righteousness," *Ensign or Liahona*, May 2008, 65

SCRIPTURE

"Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you."

John 15:14

DISCUSSION

- 1. What is the definition of a true friend?
- 2. How can you be a good friend and an example?
- 3. Is it okay to have friends who are not of our faith?
- 4. Why is it so important to choose friends with high standards?



VIDEOS



"Same Jersey"



"A True Friend"

Gratitude

TALKS AND ARTICLES

- Henry B. Eyring, "Remembrance and Gratitude," *Ensign*, Nov. 1989, 11–13
- Dieter F. Uchtdorf, "Have We Not Reason to Rejoice?" *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2007, 18–21

WORDS OF LIVING PROPHETS

"To express gratitude is gracious and honorable, to enact gratitude is generous and noble, but to live with gratitude ever in our hearts is to touch heaven."

President Thomas S. Monson, "The Divine Gift of Gratitude," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2010, 90

VIDEOS



"Consider the Blessings"

SCRIPTURES

"Blessed be the name of our God; let us sing to his praise, yea, let us give thanks to his holy name, for he doth work righteousness forever." Alma 26:8

"Thou shalt thank the Lord thy God in all things." Doctrine and Covenants 59:7

- 1. To whom can you express sincere gratitude for your blessings?
- 2. How does gratitude help you get through difficult trials?
- 3. What role does the Holy Ghost play in your ability to be grateful?
- 4. In the materialistic environment of today, how do you learn to value and be grateful for nonmaterial blessings?

Honesty and Integrity

TALKS AND ARTICLES

- David A. Bednar, "Be Honest," *New Era*, Oct. 2005, 4–9
- James E. Faust, "Honesty—A Moral Compass," *Ensign*, Nov. 1996, 41–44
- Joseph B. Wirthlin, "Personal Integrity," Ensign, May 1990, 30-33

WORDS OF LIVING PROPHETS

"You and I bear the responsibility to become people of integrity and honesty—people who are true and trustworthy when no one is watching and when no one else is around."

Elder David A. Bednar, "Be Honest," *New Era*, Oct. 2005, 9

SCRIPTURE

"Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not bear false witness."

Exodus 20:15-16

DISCUSSION

- 1. What is wrong with telling a lie or cheating in school?
- 2. What are the consequences of being dishonest (to friends, family, society, and God)?
- 3. Why should you be honest in all you think, do, and say?
- 4. How does your honesty or dishonesty affect the trust others have for you?



"Honesty: You Better Believe It!"



"Stay within the Lines"



Language

TALKS AND ARTICLES

• Thomas S. Monson, "Priesthood Power," Ensign or Liahona, May 2011, 66–69

WORDS OF LIVING PROPHETS

"The language we use projects the images of our hearts, and our hearts should be pure."

Elder Dallin H. Oaks, "Reverent and Clean," *Ensign*, May 1986, 51

SCRIPTURE

"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers."

Ephesians 4:29

DISCUSSION

- 1. What do the words you use say about you?
- 2. How can you be an example of the believers in word and in conversation? (See 1 Timothy 4:12.)
- 3. How are the words you use a reflection of your self-control?



VIDEOS



"No Cussing Club"

Music and Dancing

TALKS AND ARTICLES

· Marcos A. Aidukaitis, "Caught in a Cumbuca," Liahona, Mar. 2010, 48-51

WORDS OF LIVING PROPHETS

"Be selective in what you listen to and produce. It becomes part of you. It controls your thoughts and influences the lives of others as well. I would recommend that you go through your music and throw away that which promotes degrading thoughts. Such music ought not to belong to young people concerned with spiritual development."

President Boyd K. Packer, "Worthy Music, Worthy Thoughts," New Era, Apr. 2008, 9

SCRIPTURES

"For my soul delighteth in the song of the heart; yea, the song of the righteous is a prayer unto me, and it shall be answered with a blessing upon their heads."

Doctrine and Covenants 25:12

"Praise the Lord with singing, with music, with dancing, and with a prayer of praise and thanksgiving."

Doctrine and Covenants 136:28

DISCUSSION

- 1. How much time do you spend listening to music?
- 2. What type of music do you enjoy?
- 3. Why do some youth listen to bad music even when they know it is wrong? How does it affect them?
- 4. How does listening to uplifting music affect your spirit?
- 5. Why do you think it is important to sing the hymns in sacrament meeting?



"The Song of the Heart"



Physical and Emotional Health



TALKS AND ARTICLES

- Boyd K. Packer, "The Word of Wisdom: The Principle and the Promises," *Ensign*, May 1996, 17–19
- Russell M. Nelson, "We Are Children of God," Ensign, Nov. 1998, 85-87
- David A. Bednar, "Ye Are the Temple of God," Ensign, Sept. 2001, 14-21

WORDS OF LIVING PROPHETS

"A consecrated life respects the incomparable gift of one's physical body, a divine creation in the very image of God. A central purpose of the mortal experience is that each spirit should receive such a body and learn to exercise moral agency in a tabernacle of flesh. A physical body is also essential for exaltation, which comes only in the perfect combination of the physical and the spiritual, as we see in our beloved, resurrected Lord."

Elder D. Todd Christofferson, "Reflections on a Consecrated Life," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2010, 17

SCRIPTURE

"And all saints who remember to keep and do these sayings, walking in obedience to the commandments, shall receive health in their navel and marrow to their bones; And shall find wisdom and great treasures of knowledge, even hidden treasures; And shall run and not be weary, and shall walk and not faint."

Doctrine and Covenants 89:18-20

VIDEOS



"A Brand New Year 2010: Physical Health"

- 1. How would you explain to a friend how properly caring for our bodies affects us spiritually?
- 2. What are you doing each day to care for your body physically as well as emotionally?

Repentance

TALKS AND ARTICLES

- Boyd K. Packer, "How to Survive in Enemy Territory," *Ensign*, Oct. 2012, 28–31
- D. Todd Christofferson, "The Divine Gift of Repentance," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2011, 38–41

WORDS OF LIVING PROPHETS

"Whoever you are and whatever you have done, you can be forgiven. Every one of you ... can leave behind any transgression with which you may struggle. It is the miracle of forgiveness; it is the miracle of the Atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ. But you cannot do it without an active commitment to the gospel, and you cannot do it without repentance where it is needed. I am asking you ... to be active ... and ... be clean. If required, I am asking you to *get* active and *get* clean."

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland, "We Are All Enlisted," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2011, 45

SCRIPTURE

"Behold, he who has repented of his sins, the

same is forgiven, and I, the Lord, remember them no more. By this ye may know if a man repenteth of his sins—behold, he will confess them and forsake them."

Doctrine and Covenants 58:42-43

DISCUSSION

- 1. What keeps us from repenting?
- 2. What did Jesus Christ mean when He said, "For behold, I, God, have suffered these things for all, that they might not suffer if they would repent" (Doctrine and Covenants 19:16).
- 3. What are the blessings of being forgiven?



VIDEOS



"A Change of Heart"



"Reclaimed"

Sabbath Day Observance

TALKS AND ARTICLES

- L. Tom Perry, "The Sabbath and the Sacrament," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2011, 6–9
- Don R. Clarke, "Blessings of the Sacrament," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2012, 104–6

WORDS OF LIVING PROPHETS

"When Sunday morning arrives ... be well rested, properly dressed, and spiritually prepared to partake of the emblems of the sacrament and receive the enlightening, edifying, ennobling power of the Holy Ghost. ... Honor the Sabbath all day long and experience its spiritual blessings throughout the week."

Elder L. Tom Perry, "The Sabbath and Sacrament," Ensign or Liahona, May 2011, 9

SCRIPTURE

"Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day is the sabbath of rest, an holy convocation; ye shall do no work therein: it is the sabbath of the Lord in all your dwellings."

Leviticus 23:3

"And he commanded them that they should observe the sabbath day, and keep it holy, and also every day they should give thanks to the Lord their God."

VIDEOS



"Blessings of the Sacrament"

Mosiah 18:23

- 1. What blessings can be yours when you keep the Sabbath day holy?
- 2. Why isn't there a list of what you can and can't do on the Sabbath?
- 3. How can you know if what you are doing is keeping the Sabbath day holy?
- 4. How can keeping the Sabbath day holy be a protection and a blessing in your life?



Service

TALKS AND ARTICLES

• M. Russell Ballard, "Be Anxiously Engaged," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2012, 29–31

WORDS OF LIVING PROPHETS

"We are surrounded by those in need of our attention, our encouragement, our support, our comfort, our kindness. ... We are the Lord's hands here upon the earth, with the mandate to serve and to lift His children. He is dependent upon each of us."

President Thomas S. Monson, "What Have I Done for Someone Today?" *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2009, 86

SCRIPTURE

"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; see also James 1:27

DISCUSSION

- 1. What Christlike attributes did Brandon exhibit in the video "Sharing the Light of Christ"?
- 2. Why do you think service is such a large part of our religious culture?
- 3. How does an individual go about developing Christlike attributes to prepare to serve?
- 4. How does service relate to the second great commandment? (See Matthew 22:39.)





"Sharing the Light of Christ"



"Dayton's Legs"

Sexual Purity

TALKS AND ARTICLES

- Boyd K. Packer, "Why Stay Morally Clean," *Ensign*, July 1972, 111–13
- Jeffrey R. Holland, "Personal Purity," *Ensign*, Nov. 1998, 75–78

WORDS OF LIVING PROPHETS

"To be entrusted with the power to create life carries with it the greatest of joys and dangerous temptations. The gift of mortal life and the capacity to kindle other lives is a supernal blessing. Through the righteous exercise of this power, as in nothing else, we may come close to our Father in Heaven and experience a fulness of joy. This power is not an incidental part of the plan of happiness. It is the key—the very key."

President Boyd K. Packer, "Cleansing the Inner Vessel," Ensign or Liahona, Nov. 2010, 74

SCRIPTURE

"Know ye not, my son, that these things [sexual sins] are an abomination in the sight of the Lord; yea, most abominable above all sins save it be the shedding of innocent blood or denying the Holy Ghost?"

Alma 39:5

DISCUSSION

- 1. Why is sexual sin so serious?
- 2. How would you explain to a friend your standard of sexual purity?
- 3. What steps can you take to avoid sexual temptations?
- 4. When is sexual expression appropriate and why?

VIDEOS



"Chastity: What Are the Limits?"



"I Choose to Be Pure"



"Return to Virtue"





Tithes and Offerings

TALKS AND ARTICLES

• Thomas S. Monson, "Be Thou an Example," *Ensign*, Nov. 1996, 44–47



• Jeffrey R. Holland, "Like a Watered Garden," Ensign, Nov. 2001, 33-35

WORDS OF LIVING PROPHETS

"One of the blessings that comes from paying a full tithing is developing faith to live an even higher law. To live in the celestial kingdom, we must live the law of consecration. There we must be able to feel that all we are and all we have belong to God."

President Henry B. Eyring, "The Blessings of Tithing," *Ensign*, June 2011, 4

VIDEOS



"Jesus Teaches about the Widow's Mites"

SCRIPTURE

"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts."

Malachi 3:10-11

- 1. How would you explain to a friend why God's commandment for all—even the poor—to pay tithing is just?
- 2. If sometimes you don't recognize immediate or tangible blessings when you pay tithing, what other evidence do you have that God is blessing you for your obedience to this commandment?



Work and Self-Reliance

TALKS AND ARTICLES

• Dieter F. Uchtdorf, "Two Principles for Any Economy," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2009, 55–58



• L. Tom Perry, "Becoming Self-Reliant," Ensign, Nov. 1991, 64-66

WORDS OF LIVING PROPHETS

"The Lord's way is not to sit at the side of the stream and wait for the water to pass before we cross. It is to come together, roll up our sleeves, go to work, and build a bridge or a boat to cross the waters of our challenges."

President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, "Providing in the Lord's Way," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2011, 54

VIDEOS



"A Work in Progress"

SCRIPTURE

"And it came to pass that I, Nephi, did cause my people to be industrious, and to labor with their hands."

2 Nephi 5:17

- 1. What are the blessings that come from successfully completing a difficult task?
- 2. How can temporal self-reliance help your spiritual well-being?
- 3. How will the ability to work affect your future?
- 4. What might be keeping you from learning to work hard?

Go Forward with Faith

TALKS AND ARTICLES

- Thomas S. Monson, "Dare to Stand Alone," Ensign or Liahona, Nov. 2011, 60–67
- Dallin H. Oaks, "The Challenge to Become," *Ensign*, Nov. 2000, 32–34

WORDS OF LIVING PROPHETS

"Despite the opposition, trials, and temptations, you need not fail or fear. ... [You] are being raised in enemy territory with a declining standard of morality. But as a servant of the Lord, I promise that you will be protected and shielded from the attacks of the adversary *if* you will heed the promptings that come from the Holy Spirit."

President Boyd K. Packer, "Counsel to Youth," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2011, 16, 18

SCRIPTURE

"Wherefore, ye must press forward with a steadfastness in Christ, having a perfect brightness of hope, and a love of God and of all men. Wherefore, if ye shall press forward, feasting upon the word of Christ, and endure to the end, behold, thus saith the Father: Ye shall have eternal life."

2 Nephi 31:20

DISCUSSION

- 1. What are some of the challenges you face? How might the standards help you overcome them?
- 2. How might living the standards now bless your life now? How will it bless your family now and your future family?
- 3. What are the private religious behaviors—the righteous habits—that will help you go forward with faith?



VIDEOS



"Sanctify Yourselves"



"Pure and Simple Faith"

