

In recent years, the Church has been blessed with prophetic direction and inspired guidance for our times. Members and leaders have faithfully aligned with this direction as each new recent revelation has been lovingly shared. To provide further encouragement and direction we would like to review specific members' and leaders' individual responsibilities. This list is not meant to be comprehensive but will shine a spotlight on some of the recent adjustments. We will also highlight some of the ways these responsibilities can be adapted as world circumstances, such as contagion, earthquakes, famine or other forms of national or worldwide unrest make meeting together regularly temporarily impossible.



President Russell M. Nelson stated, "Please be assured that revelation continues in the Church and will continue under the Lord's direction until 'the purposes of God shall be accomplished, and the Great Jehovah shall say the work is done.'"



As the work of the Lord has hastened in recent years, revelation has guided the creation and implementation of new initiatives and directives, creating an interlocking pattern of strength for all members of the Church throughout the world, independent of our ability to meet together in wards and stakes. We could list many but will highlight a few, including:

Home-centered, Church-supported Come, Follow Me curriculum,

Sabbath-day adjustments at home and at church,

Teaching in the Savior's Way and teacher council meetings,

Ministering and ministering interviews,

Strengthened quorums and Relief Societies,

Adaptations in the organization of Aaronic Priesthood quorums and Young Women classes, and

Children and Youth.

More will change, but the fundamental objective of all we do will remain the same—strengthening each member's faith in Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ.

### All Members

- Improving Sabbath day observance
- Studying Come, Follow Me
- Focusing on ministering
- Supporting the rising generation



All members have responsibility to continually be:

Improving Sabbath-day observance,

CLICK Studying Come, Follow Me,

CLICK Focusing on ministering, and

CLICK Supporting the rising generation.

Each of these responsibilities can be carried out both at church and at home and whether current circumstances allow members to gather as wards and branches or not.

### Families

- Regularly studying *Come, Follow Me* in the home
- Finding ways to serve and minister
- Helping and supporting one another
- Enjoying home evening and family activities
- Using Children and Youth to focus on becoming more like the Savior



Families have responsibility to focus on:

Regularly studying Come, Follow Me in the home,

CLICK Finding ways to serve and minister to others as a family,

CLICK Helping and supporting one another in personal and family goals,

CLICK Enjoying home evening and family activities, and

CLICK Using Children and Youth to focus on becoming more like the Savior.

### Come, Follow Me Connecting Virtually

- YSA and single adults study
- Extended families sharing thoughts and testimonies
- Members using social media to share inspirational messages



BOOK OF MORMON 2020 Come, Follow Me — For Individuals and Families Living, Learning, and Teaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ

*Come, Follow Me* has prepared the Church to study as families in our homes. In uncertain and troubling times of isolation, members are finding ways to reach out with *Come, Follow Me* to include via technology extended family, single adults, and others of different faiths.

CLICK YSAs and single adults are using technology such as Zoom, FaceTime, and Skype to hold Sunday *Come, Follow Me* study sessions.

CLICK Extended family members are using private group video chats to record testimonies and share what they've learned in their individual studies.

CLICK Members all over the world are using social media and even the phone to share inspirational messages regarding *Come, Follow Me*, #HearHim, and #StrivetoBe. President Nelson said in a recent Facebook post, "What is true is that amid the gloomy darkness of a troubled world, the light of Jesus Christ shines ever brighter. He can speak truth to our hearts and minds." Members and families are encouraged to share this light with the world even under current constraints. People are learning to stay socially connected even when they have to be physically distanced.

Much good is happening, and we should share these ideas and successes with each other so we can stay connected to the gospel.

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Under typical circumstances, Primary leaders have responsibility for: Helping parents prepare their children for baptism at age 8, CLICK Instructing Primary teachers regarding *Come, Follow Me*, CLICK Helping activity leaders support parents and children in accomplishing the objectives of Children and Youth, and CLICK Helping parents prepare children for temple experiences.

# Sharing Love with Children

- Sending messages to children
- Holding online activities and driving by with a honk and a wave
- Encouraging focus on Children and Youth goals



During the current unusual circumstances, Primary leaders and teachers need to find creative ways to connect with the children in their classes. Many are too young to have their own cell phones or to use technology extensively. CLICK Primary teachers are recording and sending video messages of love to their class through parents. Some are leaving notes on the door or drawing chalk messages on their sidewalks.

CLICK Holding online activities using technology and where locations allow, driving by each child's home and honking and waving at the family are unique ways primary leaders are finding to connect with their class members. CLICK Activities leaders are staying connected with the children by helping parents with ideas for personal goals with Children and Youth during times of potential boredom.

Finding ways to magnify callings within restrictive limitations has created a wealth of creative ideas we encourage everyone to share!

### Stake Leaders

- Helping bishops focus on children, youth, and young single adults
- Strengthening elders quorum and Relief Society presidencies
- Helping ward leaders
  accomplish objectives of:
  - Come, Follow Me
  - Children and Youth
  - Ministering
- Teaching how to conduct ministering interviews



When world conditions are operating normally, stake leaders have responsibility to be:

Helping bishops focus on children, youth, and young single adults,

CLICK Strengthening elders quorum and Relief Society presidencies to accomplish the work of salvation and exaltation,

CLICK Helping ward leaders accomplish the objectives of:

Come, Follow Me

Children and Youth

Ministering, and

CLICK Teaching elders quorum and Relief Society presidencies how to conduct ministering interviews.

### Leading the Stake: Providing Comfort and Guidance

- Using technology to hold interviews and meetings
- Sending messages to specific groups to share inspiration and hope



During unusual circumstances where typical practices need to be adjusted, stake leaders are using technology to hold interviews and conduct stake business.

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CLICK In addition, they are using technology to target specific groups including youth or single adults, sending messages of inspiration and hope.



Regarding the bishop's vital role, President Nelson said, "His first and foremost responsibility is to care for the young men and young women of his ward." We have elevated the responsibilities of elders quorum presidencies and Relief Society presidencies. While leaders still act under the bishop's direction and guidance, the primary responsibility for the work salvation is being delegated to the elders quorum and Relief Society, thus allowing the bishop to provide increased focus on youth.

# Bishop and Bishopric

- Being actively involved with Children and Youth
- Calling, setting apart, and orienting quorum and class presidencies
- Holding monthly ward youth council
- Meeting with youth
- Delegating to elders quorum and Relief Society presidencies



When the Church is functioning as it regularly does, bishops and their counselors should be:

CLICK Actively involved with children, young men, and young women,

CLICK Calling, setting apart, and orienting quorum and class presidencies, CLICK Holding monthly ward youth council,

CLICK Meeting with youth for temple recommends, priesthood ordinations, and personal interviews, and

CLICK Delegating to elders quorum and Relief Society presidencies.

### Caring for the Ward and Youth without Meeting

- Using technology to hold meetings, activities, devotionals, and so on
- Using Circles in Gospel Living app
- Providing announcements via email or social media



When the world is experiencing tumultuous times and restrictions are in place, there are many different ways the bishop and bishopric can care for the ward and youth without meeting in person.

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CLICK Bishops are using technology such as Zoom, FaceTime, and Skype to hold meetings, activities, devotionals, and so on.

CLICK They are holding discussions with the youth and staying connected with their lives using the Circles feature in the Gospel Living app.

CLICK They are providing announcements, instructions, and inspiration to ward members using technology such as email, private ward Facebook pages, and other forms of digital communication and social media.

### Ward Council Members

- Focusing on each child and youth by name and home circumstances
- Helping families and leaders accomplish objectives of:
  - Come, Follow Me
  - Children and Youth
  - Ministering



Even when ward council members are not able to meet in person, they still have a responsibility to be focusing on the retention and testimony of *each* child and youth, knowing their name, and understanding (or being aware of) their home circumstances.

CLICK Helping families and leaders accomplish the objectives of: *Come, Follow Me*, Children and Youth, and Ministering,

## Counseling via Technology

- Using technology to hold and attend meetings
- Ministering and holding ministering interviews with technology
- Meeting with members using technology



CLICK In current conditions, leaders are using technology such as Zoom, FaceTime, and Skype to hold and attend meetings.

CLICK They are ministering and holding ministering interviews using technology,

CLICK And they are meeting with and counseling together with members using technology.

### Elders Quorum and Relief Society

- Accepting responsibility for all aspects of the work of salvation
- Organizing ministering and conducting ministering interviews
- Teaching members to implement *Come, Follow Me*
- Helping with temporal and spiritual self-reliance



Elders quorum and Relief Society presidents have expanded roles, and the following are their responsibilities when members are able to meet regularly together. They should be:

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CLICK Accepting responsibility for all aspects of the work of salvation and exaltation,

CLICK Organizing ministering and conducting ministering interviews,

CLICK Teaching members how to implement Come, Follow Me, and

CLICK Helping individuals and families with temporal and spiritual self-reliance.



When world conditions prevent meeting in person, Relief Society and elders quorum presidents have an even greater responsibility to care for the members of their ward. Many of the normal ways that we lift and care for members have to be adjusted and adapted. This is a time to do more and do better, just differently.

CLICK Relief Societies and elders quorums are using technology such as Zoom, FaceTime, and Skype to hold meetings, ministering interviews, and activities.

CLICK The Circles portion of the Gospel Living app has recently been expanded to include groups for all adults—including both Relief Societies and elders quorums—which provides an additional way to stay connected with each other.

CLICK Leaders are also meeting the needs of those whose needs are greatest by ministering using technology.

### Ministering Interviews

- Holding trainings by stake leaders
- Discussing both members' needs and strengths
- Using interviews to teach members how to minister



The primary responsibility of Relief Society and elders quorum presidencies is to care for the temporal and spiritual needs of their members. Rather than personally visiting each member to provide this care, they are assisted by ministering sisters and brothers, who provide invaluable information about the members' needs. Ministering and ministering interviews have been taught extensively during leadership meetings. However, the greatest opportunity for growth regarding ministering is through interviews. These ministering interviews can be conducted in person when circumstances allow or virtually as the current world situation dictates.

When allowed to meet in person, the following are reminders of important principles. Leaders should be:

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CLICK Holding trainings at the stake level on how to ask meaningful questions. CLICK During ministering interviews, presidency members should be discussing both members' needs and strengths.

CLICK They should be using interviews to teach members how to minister. Information gathered during ministering interviews can be confidentially shared as appropriate in ward council meetings. Ward members, including youth, should be spoken of by name and family situation.

Elder Christofferson, Elder Stevenson, and Sister Aburto testified of the power of meaningful ministering interviews. Video clips of their trainings can be found on ministering.ChurchofJesusChrist.org. During these trainings, they introduced us to the "busy guy" and the elders quorum president who lovingly taught him how to minister—in person and via technology. Here are these three short clips again.



(Ministering Interviews Example: Elders Quorum Member Series Over 18 Months)

### Ministering: Spiritual Nurturing during Times of Physical Distancing

- Holding interviews via video conferencing
- Ministering using technology such as texting, phone calls, and emails
- Using social media to uplift and edify



When national or worldwide conditions dictate a change in how we conduct ministering and ministering interviews, the following practices can be adapted to fit local needs.

CLICK Relief Society and elders quorum presidencies should be holding interviews via video conferencing or other available technology.

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CLICK Ministering brothers and sisters should be using technology such as texting, phone calls, emails, or other technology to reach out and lift and encourage those to whom they minister.

CLICK Both presidency members and ministering brothers and sisters could be using social media to uplift and edify each other, creating groups or pages where members can connect electronically.

### Aaronic Priesthood and Young Women Leaders

- Fostering a nurturing, supportive relationship with each youth
- Preparing presidencies to lead
- Helping youth focus on accomplishing objectives of:
  - Come, Follow Me
  - Children and Youth
  - Ministering



In both Personal Progress and Scouting, the most important element was the nurturing, supportive relationship between the leaders and the youth, not the specific merit badge or Personal Progress requirement. As we move forward to a less-structured, more personally adaptable approach, Aaronic Priesthood and Young Women leaders have the following responsibilities:

CLICK Not losing, but fostering, the element of the nurturing, supportive relationship between leader and youth,

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CLICK Preparing presidencies to lead and allowing quorum and class presidencies to fulfill their responsibilities, and

CLICK Helping youth focus on accomplishing the objectives of: *Come, Follow Me*, *Children and Youth, and* 

Children and Youth, and Ministering

### Stay Home, Stay Connected

- Using technology to hold meetings, activities, devotionals, and so on
- Using Circles in Gospel Living app
- Helping them focus on Children and Youth goals
- Creating instant choirs, scripture exchanges, online group games



Youth need increased love and attention from their leaders in the current confusion of the world environment. Aaronic Priesthood and Young Women leaders throughout the world are finding ways to connect their classes and quorums and keep them united by:

CLICK Using technology such as Zoom, FaceTime, and Skype to hold meetings, activities, devotionals, and so on,

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CLICK Using Circles in the Gospel Living app to share inspirational messages with the youth and hold faith-based discussions,

CLICK Helping the youth focus on Children and Youth, encouraging them to continue to deepen their connection to heaven during these troubling times, and

CLICK Creating instant choirs, scripture exchanges, online group games, and other ideas. Many are being shared via social media channels by youth throughout the world.

Much good is happening, and we should share these ideas and successes with each other so we can stay connected to the youth and help them stay connected to the gospel.

### Ward Youth Council

- Focusing on the work of salvation and exaltation
- Discussing class and quorum members by name and home circumstances
- Discussing briefly the activities planned during presidency meetings



When able to meet in person, the ward youth council should be: Focusing on discussing the work of salvation and exaltation, CLICK Discussing members of classes and quorums by name and understanding (or being aware of) their family circumstances, and CLICK Discussing activities briefly. Planning should be done by youth in individual class presidency meetings.



The ward youth council can continue to take this opportunity to focus on the work of salvation and exaltation during this time of social isolation by: CLICK Reaching out individually to members of the class or quorum, and CLICK Ministering to and serving each other.

### Quorum and Class Presidencies

- Meeting regularly to plan and coordinate service and activities
- Ministering to class members
- Actively participating in the work of salvation and exaltation
- Developing leadership skills



Quorum and class presidencies have the following responsibilities during times of stability as well as in times when meetings cannot be held:

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CLICK Meeting regularly—in person or via technology—to discuss each class or quorum member and to plan and coordinate appropriate service and activities,

CLICK Ministering to class members,

CLICK Actively participating in the ward youth council, and

CLICK Developing leadership skills and gaining confidence in their ability to lead

### Stay Home, Stay Connected

- Using technology to hold meetings, activities, devotionals, and so on
- Using Circles in Gospel Living app
- Creating instant choirs, scripture exchanges, online group games



As we stay home to stay safe, how do we still stay connected? This is a time for youth and their leaders to do more as they stay connected by:

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CLICK Using technology such as Zoom, FaceTime, and Skype to hold meetings. Class and quorum presidency members should encourage everyone to attend these as they are able and can share the messages received with those unable to attend.

CLICK Young Men and Young Women youth leaders are using Circles to share inspirational messages with their class members. Sunday School teachers are having *Come, Follow Me* discussions using Circles with their class members. Class presidencies should encourage participation and help facilitate good discussions among the youth.

CLICK Some are creating instant choirs, scripture exchanges, or online group games. These and other ideas are being shared by youth throughout the world using social media channels.

Much good is happening, and we should share these ideas and successes with each other so we can stay connected to the gospel.



President Russell M. Nelson stated: "May each of us signify by our <u>actions</u> that we are true disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. May we renovate our lives through our faith and trust in Him. May we access the power of His Atonement by our repentance each day. And may we dedicate and rededicate our lives to serving God and His children—on both sides of the veil."

# THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

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