

Ministering Principles

MINISTERING THROUGH THE **CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAM**

*Inviting others to grow and helping them
along the way is the essence of ministering.*

Opportunities abound for ministering through the Children and Youth program. Maybe you have children or youth of your own at home. Maybe you're a leader in the program or you minister to families with children and youth. Or maybe you *happen to know* some children and youth (that should cover just about all of us). Whatever your situation may be, there are many ways to use the program or its principles to bless the lives of others.

Developing Ourselves Together

At the heart of Children and Youth is a focus on trying each day to become more like the Savior, who ministered perfectly. Many of those who have participated in the program have learned that the more you progress in various

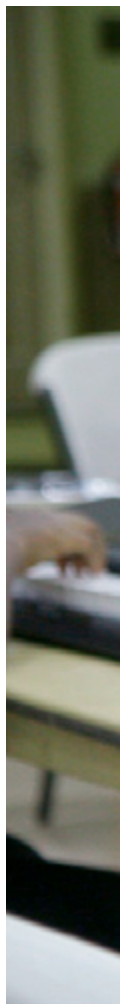
areas of your life, the better equipped you are to help or minister to others.

But with the Children and Youth program, blessing others doesn't have to wait until you've learned something. The act of learning itself provides opportunities to minister.

For a young man named Prophet living in Ghana, setting the goal in Children and Youth to learn how to play the piano was only the beginning. "It's my goal to also help other people know what I am learning," Prophet says.

Even though he's not yet an instructor, his goal has already grown into something much bigger than he ever imagined. There are now 50 students taking piano classes at the

PHOTOGRAPH BY TOM GARNER



meetinghouse alongside Prophet. And just who is teaching Prophet and those other 50 students? Alexander M. and Kelvin M., both age 13. “We want to show acts of kindness to other people,” Kelvin says.

Three days a week the two youth teach basic piano lessons for free to all who come to learn. There has

been an added benefit to the piano lessons. Several of the students introduced to the Church through piano lessons later studied the gospel and decided to be baptized.

As we make efforts to improve ourselves, we can minister to others by inviting them to join with us.



PHOTOGRAPH BY ISAAC DARKO-ACHEAMPONG



PHOTOGRAPH BY ALEXANDER K. BOATENG



A Winning Recipe for Ministering

As a stake Primary president, Sabrina Simões Deus Augusto of Curitiba, Brazil, has seen how the personal development aspects of the program bless the children and youth in her stake. But she has also seen many ways to use what she has learned about personal development in her assignment as a ministering sister.

“When I develop a talent,” Sister Augusto says, “I can use that talent to bless someone I minister to.”

Sister Augusto taught one of the sisters to whom she is assigned how to make chocolate truffles. That sister now makes and sells the truffles to help supplement her family’s income. “Months later, I was blessed when another sister taught me how to make honey bread that I could sell,” Sister Augusto said. “Developing and sharing our talents can bless each other’s lives and deepen our relationships as ministering sisters.” ■

HOW CAN THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAM HELP YOU MINISTER?

1. Invite others to participate in the Children and Youth program.

You can invite the families of youth and children you minister to to participate in the Children and Youth program. They may be interested in participating in the activities, personal development, or even gospel study aspects of the program. (For more information about ministering through *Come, Follow Me*, see “Ministering through *Come, Follow Me*,” in the September 2020 *Ensign*.)

2. Support their goals.

As a ministering brother or sister to families with youth, you’re in a natural position to support the goals they might be working toward in Children and Youth. While their goals are personal, if you know what they are interested in, you could offer to help in a variety of ways. This could take the form of finding the art supplies they’re looking for, serving as a judge for their cookie making, or becoming a mentor in an area where you have knowledge. Do you know how to change the oil in a car? Mend torn clothing? Are you an expert at interviewing for jobs? You can offer to share knowledge or skills you have if they are interested.

3. Invite others to be part of your own personal development.

Personal development isn’t reserved for children and youth. You can participate in the program yourself no matter your age. As you spend time improving the spiritual, social, physical, and intellectual areas of your life, you’ll be better prepared to minister to individuals, no matter who you meet. And like Prophet in Ghana, you can bless others by inviting them to participate with you, whether that’s organizing piano lessons, going to an exercise class, or learning a language together.

4. Make ministering a goal.

Consider spending time each day for ministering. This could be sending a text or stopping by to see how things are going or to set up a get-together. It might include taking time to calendar the birthdays of those you minister to or following them on social media to find out what they’re interested in or have been doing lately. Just taking five minutes to think about what someone else needs can lead to inspired ideas that could make a difference.



ONE BY ONE

“A hallmark of the Lord’s true and living Church will always be an organized, directed effort to minister to individual children of God and their families. Because it is His Church, we as His servants will minister to the one, just as He did.”

President Russell M. Nelson,
“Ministering with the Power and Authority of God,” *Ensign*, May 2018, 69.

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES

Send us your experiences of ministering or being ministered to. Go to [ensign.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](https://www.ChurchofJesusChrist.org) and click “Submit an Article or Feedback.”