

SEMINARY IS WORTH IT!



What's one thing Latter-day Saint youth all over the world have in common? They are seminary students! Youth attend seminary in many different ways. Some wake up at 5:00 a.m. to go before school, while others attend in between their regular school classes. On rare occasions, some students go on the weekends or use Skype to participate.

Regardless of whether they are sacrificing sleep or weekend football games, over 390,000 youth worldwide cheerfully participate in seminary. Here's what they have to say about the blessings of seminary:

It might require some sacrifice, but these youth know what a blessing seminary can be.

"I don't think of it as getting an hour less sleep; I think of it as an hour to prepare myself spiritually."

Megan C., 17, California, USA

"Because of seminary, my testimony has been strengthened greatly, and I have a surer knowledge of the scriptures. My testimony of the Savior's sacrifice in Gethsemane is stronger because of seminary."

Vina C., 17, Hong Kong, China

"Seminary is the one constant place where I can feel the Spirit. In my home I am the only active member, but my parents are very supportive. Because of seminary, I am growing so much."

Amanda L., 17, Utah, USA

"Seminary grounds you for what's going on during the day. If I think that bad thoughts are coming on, I can think about the seminary lesson. It expands beyond seminary."

Eric G., 15, Ipswich, England

"It's really important to go to seminary because we can learn more about our Church and build up our relationship with Heavenly Father. The reason I like seminary is that I can know more about the history of the Church and really know that the gospel is true and that Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ do love me!"

Breck M., 17, Kentucky, USA

"I love seminary because it helps me make decisions. In the classes I feel the Spirit of the Lord and have a confirmation that this is the gospel of Christ. There's no way to not love it. I know that my study during these four years will help me to serve a mission."

Karolina O., 16, João Pessoa, Brazil

"Even though you may not want to get up that early in the morning, you're filled with this special spirit a little bit more every day. Your peers notice that about you, and sometimes it makes them want to know more about why you're like that." ■

Karen K., 18, Maine, USA

THE SCRIPTURES MADE A DIFFERENCE IN ME

By Maria Mahonri-Yggrazil Andaca

In the Philippines, there are science high schools for academically gifted students. Students in these schools take more subjects, spend more hours in class, and devote more effort to schoolwork.

This kind of environment was toxic for me. I gave up so many things upon entering this school. I stopped learning how to play instruments. I almost never attended Church activities, and I would occasionally miss Church services on Sundays for inter-school competitions. I struggled attending seminary, although the classes were conveniently offered during weekends.

One Saturday, my seminary teacher told us about how busy she was in high school, and yet she managed to still do her seminary assignments and study the scripture mastery scriptures. She challenged us to do the same.

Challenges enliven me, so I took this one. I carried my scripture mastery cards with me everywhere. I prayed for help to manage it with my school demands. I used every

window of time I had. I memorized scriptures while commuting to school. I chatted less and would take the cards out of my pocket. My friends noticed; shuffling the scripture cards became our new activity during breaks and lunchtime. They enjoyed quizzing me. Some started to bring their scriptures—even those who belonged to other denominations. They shared about activities at their own churches. I felt the atmosphere around me change, and school felt lighter and better.

My three younger sisters followed that lead, and now my family reaps the blessings of the scriptures in our relationships at home. It was more than just memorizing words; my seminary teacher taught me the difference the scriptures would make in me and in the people around me. I know that whatever challenge or trial comes to my family and friends, we will always find strength, guidance, and repose in the words of our loving Savior. ■

The author lives in Metro Manila, Philippines.



TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SEMINARY

"When you have the chance to be involved in seminary, ... take advantage of that opportunity. ... Much of what you take from your seminary experience depends on your attitude and your willingness to be taught.

May your attitude be one of humility and a desire to learn. ... [Seminary] played a vital role in my development and the development of my testimony. Seminary can change lives."

President Thomas S. Monson, "Believe, Obey, and Endure," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2012, 128.

