

# Session 1–Becoming a Missionary

## Why and How Should I Serve a Mission

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### A PROPHET’S INVITATION

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*“I am inviting every young woman and every young man between the ages of 12 and 18 in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to enlist in the youth battalion of the Lord to help gather Israel... There is nothing happening on this earth right now that is more important than that. There is nothing of greater consequence. Absolutely nothing. This gathering should mean everything to you. This is the mission for which you were sent to earth.”*

– President Russell M. Nelson, Worldwide Youth Devotional, Date

The Prophets invitation to the youth is extended in equal measure to young single adults between the ages of 18 and 25 in the Church who have not yet served a full-time mission

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### RESOURCE VIDEOS

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“Your Day for A Mission”

<https://www.lds.org/youth/video/your-day-for-a-mission?lang=eng>

“A Day in the Life of a Mormon Missionary”

<http://broadcast2.lds.org/newsroom/2013-04-1010-london-mormon-missionaries-newsroom-version-8000k-eng.mov?download=true>

“The Dedicated Life of a Mormon Missionary”

<http://www.mormonnewsroom.org/topic/missionary-program>

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### DOCTRINAL DISCUSSION

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The Oath and Covenant of the Priesthood is a Covenant of Service

“For whoso is faithful unto the obtaining these two priesthoods of which I have spoken, and the magnifying their calling, are sanctified by the Spirit unto the renewing of their bodies. **They become the sons of Moses and of Aaron and the seed of Abraham**, and the church and kingdom, and the elect of God. And also all they who receive this priesthood receive me, saith the Lord; For he that receiveth my servants receiveth me; And he that receiveth me receiveth my Father; And he that receiveth my Father receiveth my

Father's kingdom; therefore all that my Father hath shall be given unto him. And this is according to the oath and covenant which belongeth to the priesthood."

-D&C 84:33-39

### **Teachings of the Prophets**

*"...the obligation to proclaim the restored gospel of Jesus Christ is inherent in the Oath and Covenant of the Priesthood into which we enter... All of us who have received the holy priesthood bear the sacred obligation to bless the nations and families of the earth by proclaiming the gospel and inviting all to receive by proper authority the ordinances of salvation.... Missionary work essentially is a priesthood responsibility, and all of us who hold the priesthood are the Lord's authorized servants on the earth and are missionaries at all times and in all places—and we always will be. Our very identity as holders of the priesthood and the seed of Abraham is in large measure defined by the responsibility to proclaim the gospel.... These blessings are obtained only by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Brethren, the process of becoming a missionary is directly related to understanding who we are as the seed of Abraham."*

*-Elder David A. Bednar, October General Conference; 2005*

### **The Call to Serve**

Full-time missionary service is a privilege for members who are called through inspiration by the President of the Church. Missionary service is literally service to the Lord and His Church. Its objective is not primarily the personal development of a missionary, although righteous service invariably produces that result. (H1:4.1)

Missionaries who represent the Lord and His Church must be properly called and set apart (see D&C 42:11). This calling is extended only to those who are worthy and able to accomplish it. Missionary service demands faith, desire, and consecration. Missionary candidates should have an eagerness and a desire to serve the Lord as His ambassadors. They should be filled with "faith, hope, charity and love" and have "an eye single to the glory of God" (D&C 4:5).

### **Preparing to Serve as a Full-time Missionary (adopted from H1:4.2, and H2:8.7)**

The Lord expects each able young man to prepare spiritually, physically, mentally, emotionally, and financially for missionary service. Personal preparation includes studying the gospel and the scriptures, especially the Book of Mormon, and building a testimony.

The following suggestions will guide you in preparing to serve as a full-time missionary:

1. Develop the desire to work cooperatively with your parents or guardians, and with your Church leaders to learn as much as you can about what is expected of you to qualify to serve a mission. Worthiness, gospel knowledge and testimony, physical fitness, social

and emotional maturity, and financial preparation are essential parts of your preparation. Setting a date for when you will submit your missionary application will help you to become focused in your preparations.

2. Obtain a copy from your bishop or branch president and carefully study the “Standard Interview Questions for Prospective Missionaries”. Seek the help of your parents or guardians, and your leaders as you work to fulfill all requirements.
3. Counsel with your quorum leaders and advisers and seek their help and support in learning the gospel and building your faith and desire to serve the Lord. For young men, many of the goals and activities suggested in the Duty to God program will help you prepare for missionary service. Young women will find the goals and activities of the Personal Progress program equally helpful.
4. Counsel with exemplary returned missionaries about their mission experiences and what helped them to succeed and grow in their calling.
5. Attend seminary (youth) and institute (young adults) and be diligent in fulfilling your assignments to strengthen your missionary preparation.
6. Seek opportunities to serve in the Church, including service as a ministering brother or sister, and to practice by teaching in quorum or class meetings and in other settings.
7. Obtain a personal copy and diligently study each of the main resources for missionary work: the scriptures especially the Book of Mormon, the Missionary Handbook, and Preach My Gospel. Study these resources daily to develop your own testimony and your Personal relationship with the Lord through an understanding of the following:
  - *Learn how to recognize the influence of the Holy Ghost*
  - *Learn the doctrine of the Atonement of Jesus Christ,*
  - *Understand the doctrine of the plan of salvation, baptism, and the gift of the Holy Ghost.*
  - *Develop a testimony of the restoration of the gospel through the Prophet Joseph Smith.*
8. Share the gospel with friends and family members.

### **The Missionary Handbook**

These guidelines concern personal conduct, language, dress and grooming, music and other media, computers, finances, staying together as companions, refraining from inappropriate contact with children and members of the opposite sex, obeying local laws and customs, and communicating with family members. Study and determine to diligently obey these guidelines, for your physical and spiritual safety.

Missionaries who do not follow all the guidelines in the Missionary Handbook are unlikely to obtain the full blessings of serving a full-time mission.

### **Financing Missionary Service (adopted from H1:4.6)**

The primary responsibility to provide financial support for a missionary lies with you, the prospective missionary and your family. Generally, you should not rely entirely on people outside of your family for financial support.

You and your family should make appropriate sacrifices to provide financial support for your mission. It is better for you to delay a mission for a time to earn money toward your mission support than to rely entirely on others. Every effort you make to provide financial support for your mission will be rewarded with great blessings from the Lord throughout your life.

If, despite your best efforts, you and your family are not able to provide sufficient funds for your preparation and for your full-time mission service, you should speak to your leaders. (adopted from H1:4.6)

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## **“COME FOLLOW ME”**

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After studying the above resources and following the inspiration of the Spirit, complete the activities below to help you understand how better to become a missionary.

Read Doctrine and Covenants 84:33-39 and look for answers to the following questions:

- How can a priesthood holder magnify their calling?
- What does it mean to become a son of Moses and of Aaron and the seed of Abraham?
- What are the Father's promises to us if we receive the priesthood and magnify our calling therein?

Record your thoughts in your study journal. Share them with your family or other members of the class.

Read the material in Session 1 about serving a full-time mission and ponder the following questions:

- What can I do to better prepare Spiritually, Physically, Mentally and emotionally for missionary service?
- How will following the conduct outlined in the Missionary Handbook help me obtain the full blessings of serving a full-time mission?
- What can I do to provide the needed financial support for my mission?

Record your thoughts in your study journal. Share them with your family or other members of the class.

## View the Video “Your Day for a Mission”

- Ponder Sid Going and Elder Anderson’s statement that missionary service should be about “what can I give, not what can I get.”

Record your thoughts in your study journal. Share them with your family or other members of the class.

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## MISSIONARY APPLICATION – MAKE A WRITTEN PLAN

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1. Humbly prepare for and obtain a Patriarchal Blessing.
2. Set a date for when you will be ready to submit your application to serve a full-time mission
3. Make a written plan during the next week to :
  - Complete reading and studying the resources listed in item #7 of the section Preparing to Serve as a Full-time Missionary, before you submit your application to serve.
  - Read the Book of Mormon before you submit your application to serve.
  - Outline how you will provide for the costs of your mission service. Include in your plan a budget for all necessary expenses to prepare you to begin your service, (clothing, passport, supplies, etc.) As part of your plan, and if needed, prepare a goal of who else you will request to contribute towards the total cost of your mission.
4. Share your written plan with your parents or guardians, your Bishop or Branch President and your teacher if you are in a class. Start using your plan immediately and review it weekly and refine it throughout your period of preparation, as you learn new information and receive new thoughts and insights.

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## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

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“The Rising Generation and Mission Preparation” - S Mark Palmer

[www.lds.org/liahona/2018/07/afs-local-news/local-news-001?lang=eng](http://www.lds.org/liahona/2018/07/afs-local-news/local-news-001?lang=eng)

“How to Prepare To Be a Good Missionary”

<https://www.lds.org/new-era/2007/03/how-to-prepare-to-be-a-good-missionary?lang=eng&r=1>

“Preparing Emotionally for Missionary Service” - Robert K Wagstaff

<https://www.lds.org/ensign/2011/03/preparing-emotionally-for-missionary-service?lang=eng& r=1>

“Standard Interview Questions for Prospective Missionaries - Frequently Asked Questions”

<https://www.mormonnewsroom.org/multimedia/file/standard-interview-questions-for-prospective-missionaries.pdf>