



"There is too little religious devotion, love, and fear of God in the home; too much worldliness, selfishness, indifference, and lack of reverence in the family, or these never would exist so abundantly on the outside. Then, the home is what needs reforming... teach them by your own precept and example, by your own fireside" (Joseph F. Smith, "Worship in the Home," Improvement Era, December 1904, 135).

The Role of Parents in Teaching/Converting Youth

Will the Parents of Zion Falter? NO!

How Will Your Children Turn Out?

"In terms of your happiness, in terms of the matters that make you proud or sad, nothing—I repeat, nothing—will have so profound an effect on you as the way your children turn out.



"You will either rejoice and boast of their accomplishments or you will weep, head in hands, bereft and forlorn, if they become a disappointment or an embarrassment to you" (Gordon B. Hinckley, *Great Shall Be the Peace of Thy Children*, Ensign, Nov. 2000, 50).

2 Timothy 3:1-5

"(1) But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of stress. (2) For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, (3) inhuman, implacable, slanderers, profligates, fierce, haters of good, (4) treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God" (*Revised Standard Version*, in *Eight Translation New Testament* [Tyndale House Publishers: Wheaton, Ill., 1974] pp. 1543,1545).

Our Wicked World

"I know of nothing in the history of the Church or in the history of the world to compare with our present circumstances. Nothing happened in Sodom and Gomorrah which exceeds in wickedness and depravity that which surrounds us now.

"Words of profanity, vulgarity, and blasphemy are heard everywhere... Unspeakable wickedness and perversion were once hidden in dark places; now they are in the open, even accorded legal protection.

Wicked World (Cont.)

"At Sodom and Gomorrah these things were localized. Now they are spread across the world, and they are among us

(President Boyd K. Packer, *The One Pure Defense*, Address to CES Religious Educators, 6 February 2004, Salt Lake Tabernacle, 4).

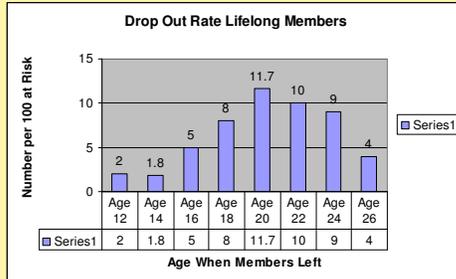


Satan is Winning

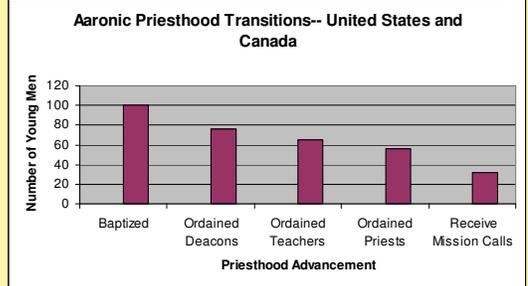
"Satan's legions are many. In their battle to enslave mankind, they use weapons such as selfishness; dishonesty; corruption; sexual impurity, be it adultery, fornication, or homosexuality; pornography; permissiveness; drugs, and many others.

"I believe Satan's ultimate goal is to destroy the family, because if he would destroy the family, he will not just have won the battle; he will have won the war" (*Ensign*, January 1974, p. 108; emphasis added).

Look What Is Happening!



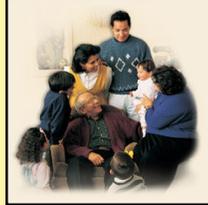
Look Again!



Reclaiming Our Children

As parents, we must reduce and simplify. We need reconstruct our lives so that we can focus on our **number one** priority:

Teaching our Children the Gospel



Never Miss An Opportunity to Teach

“A wise parent would never miss a chance to gather children together to learn the doctrine of Jesus Christ. Such moments are so rare in comparison with the efforts of the enemy. For every hour the power of the doctrine is introduced into a child’s life, there may be hundreds of hours of messages and images denying or ignoring the saving truths” (Elder Henry B. Eyring, “The Power of Teaching Doctrine,” *Ensign*, May 1999, 74).



III John 1:4

“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.”

“The home and family have vital roles in cultivating personal faith and testimony. The family is the basic unit of society; the best place for individuals to build faith and strong testimonies is in righteous homes filled with love..... Strong, faithful families have the best opportunity to produce strong, faithful members of the Church” (Elder M. Russell Ballard, “Feasting at the Lord’s Table,” *Ensign*, May 1996, 81).



How Much Would You’re Children Know?

Elder A. Theodore Tuttle asked, “How would you pass the test, parents, if your family was isolated from the Church and you had to supply all religious training? Have you become so dependent on others that you do little or nothing at home?”

“Tell me, how much of the gospel would your children know if all they knew were what they had been taught at home? Ponder that. I repeat, how much of the gospel would your children know if all they knew is what they had been taught at home?” (A. Theodore Tuttle, “Therefore I was Taught,” *Ensign*, November 1979, 27).

First Presidency Letter

"We call upon parents to devote their best efforts to the teaching and rearing of their children in gospel principles which will keep them close to the Church. The home is the basis of a righteous life, and no other instrumentality can take its place or fulfill its essential functions in carrying forward this God-given responsibility.

"We counsel parents and children to give highest priority to family prayer, family home evening, gospel study and instruction, and wholesome family activities. However worthy and appropriate other demands or activities may be, they must not be permitted to displace the divinely-appointed duties that only parents and families can adequately perform" (*First Presidency Letter*, 11 Feb. 1999).

What to Teach?

"Teach your children gospel principles. Teach them it pays to be good. Teach them there is no safety in sin. Teach them a love for the gospel of Jesus Christ and a testimony of its divinity. Teach your sons and daughters modesty and teach them to respect manhood and womanhood. Teach your children sexual purity, proper dating standards, temple marriage, missionary service, and the importance of accepting and magnifying Church callings. Teach them a love for work and the value of a good education. Teach them the importance of the right kind of entertainment, including appropriate movies, videos, music, books, and magazines. Discuss the evils of pornography and drugs and teach them the value of living a clean life" (Ezra Taft Benson, *Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson*, p. 517).

Parents, Teach Your Children!

"I just want to make a plea to you people here, you parents who have young families, many of you, in this stake: Take advantage of the great responsibility and opportunity that you have to teach your children, to rear them in the light of the gospel, to build faith in their hearts, to sit down with them. If you can't do it at the dinner table, and I'm sorry if you can't, then you have a family home evening, and don't miss it. Talk with them about these things. Let them feel of your love for the Lord. Let them hear you testify of the truth of this work. Let them partake of the good that comes from a father and a mother who seek to do the right thing and do it while they're young.

Parents, Teach Your Children

"Parents should talk with their children about the blessing that the Word of Wisdom is, about the good that comes from paying tithes and fast offerings, about missionary work and how they might share the gospel, about the welfare plan and what it seeks to accomplish...

"I want to tell you— I want to promise you—your fathers and mothers, if you will do that, your children will grow up with love for the Lord, and the greatest reward you can have in this life, nothing excepted, will be to see your children walk in truth before the Lord" (President Gordon B. Hinckley, "Special Visitor Attends Stake Conference," *Church News*, November 16, 2002; 3; emphasis added).

Teach Your Children When They Are Young

Enough Said!



Children Need to Teach the Gospel

- Youth not only need to be taught, but in order to be truly converted, they need to teach the gospel.
- They need to teach it formally and informally. They need to take lesson time in FHE.
- They need the opportunity to direct scripture study. They need to be given opportunities in their own homes to explain and testify of principles of the gospel.



Conversion comes through Participation

“Real conversion comes only with personal participation. No one is as fully converted to a thing as the individual who is devoting his time and best efforts to it. Genuine and final conversion comes only through the thrills of knowledge derived from first-hand participation” (Frederick J. Pack, *Improvement Era*, Vol. 32, March 1920, No. 5, 431-432).



Students Should Share and Discuss

“The more [children] discuss what the gospel actually means in their lives, the more will be their inspiration, growth, and joy as they try to solve their personal concerns and challenges” (Joseph B. Wirthlin, *Ensign*, January 1989, 15).




Let All Participate

“At your meetings you should begin at the top of the roll and call upon as many members as there is time for to bear their testimonies and at the next meeting begin where you left off and call upon others, so that all shall take part and get into the practice of standing up and saying something. Many may think they haven’t any testimony to bear, but get them to stand up and they will find the Lord will give them utterance to many truths they had not thought of before. More people have obtained a testimony while standing up trying to bear it than down on their knees praying for it” (in Junius F. Wells, “Historic Sketch of the YMMIA, *Improvement Era*, June 1925, 715).



True Disciples Testify

We are true disciples of Christ; we ought to testify every day in every Latter-day Saint home to our wives/husbands, siblings, and children. These are the people we should love most on this earth. These are those we want to know the truth of this mighty work. Opportunities will come at school, in our work, and in the community to testify to our friends and neighbors not of our faith in a humble and sweet way, as well as to testify to each other and build greater faith.

“For example, a son may say to us, “I sure think President Hinckley is a good man.”

“We could say, “Indeed, he is wonderful.”

“What if instead we said, “Son, I know he is a prophet of God, a seer, and a revelator. He may be one of the greatest prophets that ever lived.”

“Can you see the difference? Can you feel the difference?”

“A daughter might say, “We have a nice bishop.”

“We could respond, “Yes, sweetheart, he is.”

“What if we took this opportunity to say, “Sweetheart, he was called by God by revelation. He has the mantle upon him, and he is guided by inspiration in his calling.”



Parents and Children Testify

“Children need to hear their parents testify. Siblings can strengthen each other, and their friends can be lifted spiritually.

“Can you think of anything in this generation that would affect members of the Church more than living to be worthy of the Holy Ghost constantly and testifying as guided and directed by the Holy Ghost of the truth of this great, majestic, divine work and more especially of Him whose work this is? (Vaughn J. Featherstone, “Things Too Wonderful For Me,” *BYU Devotional*, 13 Feb. 2001).



Fortifying Our Children with the Armor of God



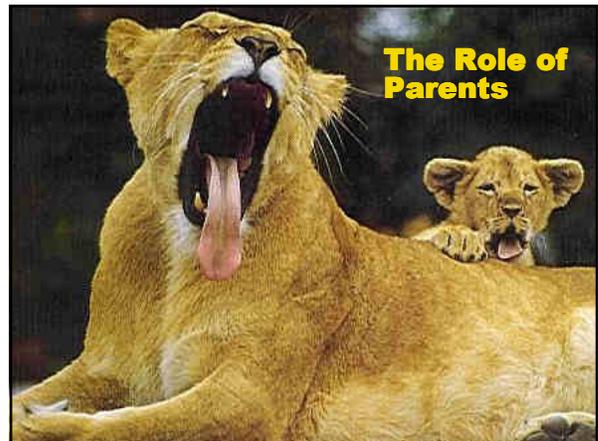

“The more righteous and upright, pure and undefiled, the Latter-day Saints become, the less power will Satan have over them, for in proportion to your unity and uprightness, honesty, and fidelity to the cause in which you are engaged, in such proportion will the power of the adversary be weakened, and those who are seeking to entice your sons and daughters into haunts of shame, and dens of wickedness, that they might be defiled, corrupted, wicked and like the rest of them will have less power over you, if you will watch your children better, and live better lives yourselves” (Joseph F. Smith, *CR*, October 1911, p. 11).

How Will They Know?

How will they learn that, though they go astray,
 God will forgive and help them find the way?
 How will they feel the Spirit day by day?
 How will they know unless we teach them so?

How will they live when they at last are grown?
 How will they give to children of their own?
 How will they reflect the values we have shown?
 How will they know, as on through life they go?
 How will they know unless we strive to teach them so?

The Role of Parents



Age Old Question

How Do We Transfer:
 Our knowledge
 Our beliefs
 Our values
 Our testimony

To her?




Elder Eyring



...we make the mistake, too often, of putting our efforts and concerns as parents into keeping [children] submissive to us and to our leadership...

how do we transfer that natural submissiveness of our children to the Lord Jesus Christ? How do we help our children follow the Savior in submissiveness?

In transmitting "religious traditions, 3 main styles

#1 Unconfident Transmitters

- Unsure about their own values
- Children sense those doubts



Difficult Questions

- Does the Lord really answer prayers?
- Does the Lord really forgive?
- Does the Lord bless some people more than others?
- Is life fair?

#2 Confident Transmitters



Comfortable and confident in their beliefs
See themselves as teachers

...ye fathers provoke not your children to wrath; but bring them up in the 1) nurture and 2) admonition of the Lord. (Eph 6:4)

#3 Overconfident Transmitters



Forceful
Overbearing
Child sense a "phoniness"

M. GAWAIN WELLS



I watched a father "teaching" his daughter to swim one day several years ago. She was quite frightened of the water, so, of course, since he knew that there is nothing to be afraid of and that he is quite capable of protecting her, he told her to relax...

When she continued to be afraid in spite of the father's telling- equals-teaching-equals-behavior-change effort, Dad became more and more irritated, increasing the volume and insistence of his so-called teaching, which by now was sounding more like demand and command.

Soon his daughter was more afraid of her father than she was of the water, and she was now more afraid of the water than before being "taught" to not be afraid... She was by now looking for any avenue of escape from the situation and did not learn to swim in this session.

More important to her development, she had learned more about her father than about swimming. And, if these experiences continue in myriads of other small moments of so-called teaching, she will learn more about her feelings about herself being an incapable, fearful child than about the supposed objects of teaching, whatever they might be, because what she internalizes is what Dad is saying to her about her as a person.

(BYU Devotional, Jan, 1995)

Example of all three

16? MOM! That rule is stupid!

Unconfident Response
"Well, I'm sure there's a reason for it, honey..."

Confident Response
"Let's talk about why the Lord wants you to wait..."

Overconfident Response
"Are you saying the prophet is stupid? Are you?"

Personality Styles

<p>Talkers</p> <p>Orientation: Friends Room: disorganized Interests: social, events, music Motivation: Being "Nice" Strengths: Friendly, fun Concerns: Follow through, Making promises, Missing details, swayed by peers.</p>	<p>Doers</p> <p>Orientation: Accomplishment Room: Awarads Friends: other doers, followers Interests: Doing things Motivation: Image Strengths: Natural leaders Problem areas: Lack of patience, can be intolerant, worldly</p>
<p>Thinkers</p> <p>Orientation: Analyzes Everything Room: Cluttered with "things" Friends: Few, maybe a loner Motivation: Figuring it out Strengths: insights, problem solvers Concerns: may question church leaders, authorities; won't accept surface answers</p>	<p>Planners</p> <p>Orientation: predictability Room: Pretty organized Friends: yes, but not the center of attention Motivated: Security, low risk Strengths: good worker, consistent Concerns: Can get lost, may not verbalize problems</p>

Elder Eyring

First, we can introduce our children to the Savior through prayer and the scriptures. They can't, with their physical eyes, see him leading their family, but they can feel his reality. That means **we must do more than teach the mechanics of prayer and more than simply make the scriptures available.**

One purpose of family and private prayer must be to seek spiritual experiences for our children.

