

Family Missionary Plan

A Plan to Help Missionaries Train Members and Leaders

Introduction

A recent survey in the SACTM showed that 59% of the people missionaries found to teach were from tracting and talking to people, and only 17% came from working with the members. In contrast, only 27% of baptisms were a result of missionaries tracting and talking to people while 58% were a result of working members. Therefore the focus of this program is to help members overcome the roadblocks that keep them from inviting their friends, neighbors, and coworkers to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

President Gordon B. Hinckley taught: “So many of us look upon missionary work as simply tracting. Everyone who is familiar with this work knows there is a better way. That way is through the members of the Church. Whenever there is a member who introduces an investigator, there is an immediate support system. The member bears testimony of the truth of the work. He is anxious for the happiness of his investigator friend. He becomes excited as that friend makes progress in learning the gospel.

“The full-time missionaries may do the actual teaching, but the member, wherever possible, will back up that teaching with the offering of his home to carry on this missionary service. He will bear sincere testimony of the divinity of the work. He will be there to answer questions when the missionaries are not around. He will be a friend to the convert who is making a big and often difficult change. ... The process of bringing new people into the Church is not the responsibility alone of the missionaries. They succeed best when members become the source from which new investigators are found” (Ensign, May 1999, 105–6).

Step 1: Build a Relationship of Trust. Have the members share with you their conversion story. This will remind them of feelings they had at the time of their conversion. As Elder Bednar taught: sometimes we have to move back in order to go forward. When Nephi’s brethren opposed him when he was commanded to build the ship, he eventually convinced them by recounting the history of God’s dealing with Israel. By getting them to share their conversion story it will remind them that should keep the covenant they made at the time of their baptism: “And none were received unto baptism save they took upon them the name of Christ, having a determination to serve him to the end.” Moroni 6:3

- You don’t know them until you know their story.
- You can’t move forward until you go back.

Two questions you can ask members:

1. What part or principle of the Gospel stood out to you the most?
2. When were you converted?

1 Nephi 17 chapter heading

- Nephi recounts the Lord's dealings with Israel.
- Nephi teaches from the scriptures. God prepares a way to keep his commandments.

Preach My Gospel, Chapter 10

- Something people say will go with a principle of the gospel.

Step 2. Help Them Catch the Vision

- START WITH THE LEADERS!!
- All Good work starts with the Leaders.
 - Luke 22:32- The Lord told Peter: "I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren."
- When the members see the leaders setting the example they will follow.

Get the members involved with missionary work from the beginning of the process.

Step 3. Help Members Develop Faith and Overcome Doubts (spiritual confidence)

- How did you feel at the beginning of your mission sharing the gospel?
 - **Alma 27:6**
 - When we hear something for the first time we look at the negative parts.
- Members most likely feel scared and unsure about doing missionary work.
 - **Alma 17:2-3**
 - What brought Alma joy is that the sons of Mosiah were with him when he was converted to the gospel.
 - Spiritual confidence can be gained by "much prayer and fasting".
- Spiritual Experiences will seal friendships for eternity.

Step 4. Give them the tools to do the work

- Start off small (see Alma 37:6)
 - Pass along cards
 - Pamphlets/pamphlet teaching
 - Copies of the Book Of Mormon
 - Teach them how to create curiosity
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Step 5. Demonstrate and Practice

- *Preach My Gospel*, Pg. 162, 10th bullet point in Ideas for Helping Members Box: Help them practice what they could say to their friends.
- Role Play with the members, help them get comfortable.

- Show them what not to do. (Pointless questions, wasting time, etc.)
- Do it right. Show them how to have a gospel conversation.
- **Bad example:** A person at work might ask the member, "How was your weekend?" "It was okay, I mowed the lawn and worked on the house a little." Opportunity lost!

- **Better Example:** "How was your weekend?" "It was great!" "What made it so great?" "I listened to a 13 year-old young man give the most interesting presentation on the life of Jesus Christ." "Wow, where were you to able to hear something like that?" Now, you have made the person curious about a gospel related subject and he is asking *you* questions. The door is now open. Practice these scenarios such as these with the members until they feel comfortable with the concept.

- Alma 8:27- Alma and Amulek tarried many days together.
 - During this time they may have been practicing how to teach.
- Alma 9
 - Alma started teaching first.

Step 6. Test the Promises of God with the Members

If we prayerfully set goals that are in harmony with the Savior's command to "teach all nations", He will prepare ways for us to accomplish those goals. Help the members set dates when they will invite their friends to hear the message of the Restoration.

- *Preach My Gospel*, page 162, 7th Bullet point in the Ideas for Helping Members box: Help them to set date when they will invite their friends to learn about the message of the Restoration.
- *Preach My Gospel*, page 146, quote by Elder Ballard: "I am so thoroughly convinced that if we don't set goals in our life and learn how to master the techniques of living to reach our goals, we can reach a ripe old age and look back on our life only to see that we reached but a small part of our full potential. When one learns to master the principles of setting a goal, he will then be able to make a great difference in the results he attains in this life." Also *Preach My Gospel*, page 150, quote by President Monson: "When performance is measured, performance improves. When performance is measured and reported, the rate of improvement accelerates."
- Alma 6:1 or 2
 - High Priests were called to watch over the people.
 - There needs to be a member with each investigator to support them.

Videos that could be used to enhance the presentation and/or used when teaching the members:

We Are One is a great video to help in catching the vision:

<https://www.lds.org/media-library/video/2013-06-001-we-are-one?lang=eng>

Small And Simple Things is another one to help with catching the vision and showing some tools that could be used:

<https://www.lds.org/youth/video/by-small-and-simple-things-sharing-the-gospel?lang=eng>

I'll Go Where You Want Me to Go is yet another that helps in catching the vision:

<https://www.lds.org/media-library/video/2013-06-1031-ill-go-where-you-want-me-to-go?lang=eng>

Member Missionary – The Bishops shows an example of testing the promises and can help with training ward/branch leaders and can be downloaded at: <https://www.lds.org/media-library/video/2013-06-017-member-missionary-work?lang=eng>

My Work and My Glory – A New Vision for the Work of Salvation can also help to enthuse the leaders and can be downloaded at:

<https://www.lds.org/training/wwlt/2013/hastening/members-and-missionaries?lang=eng#media=>