
LESSON 1

Becoming a Missionary

Ponder: Why and How Should I Serve a Mission?



Watch this video and write in your journal the most important points you learn:

Your Day for A Mission

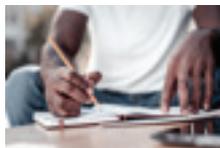
President Russell M. Nelson has said: “I am inviting every young woman and every young man between the ages of 12 and 18 in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to enlist in the youth battalion of the Lord to help gather Israel.... There is nothing happening on this earth right now that is 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” (*Worldwide Youth Devotional, June 2018*).

That invitation applies equally to single adult men age 18 to 25 in the Church who have not yet served a full-time mission, and to sisters age 19 to 39 who desire to serve a full-time mission.

- Review the “Standard Interview Questions for Prospective Missionaries” and “Standard Interview Questions for Prospective Missionaries – Frequently Asked Questions”.



As you ponder the counsels and the questions above, why do you feel the Lord wants you to serve a full-time mission?



Record Your Feelings:

Study and Discuss: The Call to Serve

- Study the following guidelines about your preparation to serve a full-time mission. Discuss what you learn with your missionary preparation class members, your Sunday School teacher, quorum or auxiliary leader, a family member, or a friend.
- Write down the impressions you feel and ideas you learn through these discussions about preparing to serve a mission. Choose to obey these

guidelines diligently in order to obtain the full blessings of serving as a full time missionary.

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. 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” (Doctrine and Covenants 4:5; adapted from *Handbook 1:4:1*)

The Lord expects each prospective missionary 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 from *Handbook 1:4.2* and *Handbook 2:8.7* 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. Counsel with your quorum or auxiliary leaders and advisers. Seek their help and support in learning the gospel and building your faith and desire to serve the Lord.
3. Counsel with good returned missionaries about their mission experiences and ask what helped them to succeed and grow in their calling.
4. Attend seminary (youth) and institute (young adult) and be diligent in fulfilling your assignments to strengthen your missionary preparation.
5. Seek opportunities to serve in the Church, including service as a ministering brother or sister. Practice teaching in quorum or class meetings and in other settings.

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 Church leaders (adapted from *Handbook 1:4.6*).

Prepare to Serve

- Set a date when you will be ready to serve a mission. Start preparing today.
- Set a goal to improve your spiritual and temporal self-reliance. Start making your best effort to achieve it. Self-reliance is the ability, commitment, and effort to provide the spiritual and temporal necessities of life for self and family.
- The statements listed below will help you assess how self-reliant you are at this time. Read each statement and decide how true it is about you. Choose the most appropriate response from the response key and write your response in your journal.
 1. I pray and study the scriptures daily.
 2. I take the sacrament weekly.
 3. I hold a current temple recommend.
 4. My life is centered on things that matter most.
 5. I make the effort to find work for which I am paid.
 6. I pay tithing and fast offerings when I earn money.
 7. I follow a budget when I spent money.
 8. I exercise regularly, and I am physically fit.
 9. I look for opportunities to serve others.
 10. I feel deep gratitude daily for the Lord's blessings to me.
- You may repeat this exercise every four weeks to see the improvement you are making as you continue with your missionary preparation.
- Get personal copies and study daily from the *Book of Mormon* and the *Missionary Handbook* (available online) until you arrive at the Missionary Training Center.
- Use every opportunity to share the gospel with friends and family members from now on.
- Get a personal copy of the self-reliance booklet *My Foundation for Self-Reliance*. Study and do all the exercises pertaining to the principle in Chapter 1 “Self-Reliance is a Principle of Salvation.”
- Ask your quorum or auxiliary leader about joining a self-reliance group in your ward or stake, and plan to complete the twelve-week group process.