

PHASE II: AARONIC PRIESTHOOD LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Introduction: Now that the seeds of leadership have been sown in your ward AP quorums, and the YM presidents know how to train new quorums, we need to turn our attention to making sure the seeds sprout and take root.

To make sure the soil is fertile for true AP leadership, there are two things the adult leaders must do:

- Make sure that ward YM presidents and bishops understand and do their part.
 1. Is the bishop asking the questions in PEC, Bishopric Meeting, BYC?
 2. Is the YM President making sure new quorum presidencies are trained within the first four weeks of their ministry?
- The Lord, through revelation, has asked Aaronic Priesthood Presidencies to do four things: preside, sit in council, teach their duties according to the covenants, and edify the members of their quorum. (*D&C 107:85-88.*) We must facilitate the increasing quality of those four areas.

How do we do this?

- We go back to each quorum presidency and advisor and ask to meet with them again to see how they are doing.
 1. Administer a quorum physical exam.
 2. Understand that it may take several months (even years) to turn these changes in behavior into quorum traditions.
 3. Look at the exam and then re-teach areas that they are struggling with.

There is a priority of implementation.

1. Are they saying the Purposes of the Aaronic Priesthood at the beginning of each meeting?
2. Have they created their goals, written them down and posted them on the wall in their quorum room?
3. Have they created a PPI sheet based on the goals?
4. Are they having PPI's?

If not, help them get started on those 4 beginning steps.

If they are, begin teaching them how to use PPI's by teaching them the commitment pattern found in the missionary white handbook, D&C 50:13-22, and *Preach My Gospel*.

The commitment process teaches young Aaronic Priesthood leaders how to invite their quorum members to “come unto Christ.” They do this by teaching their quorum members to make and keep commitments that help them prepare to make covenants with the Lord in the temple. As they learn the commitment process, they will be better prepared to be missionaries, fathers and leaders in the Melchizedek Priesthood.

THREE RESOURCES TO TEACHING THE COMMITMENT PROCESS

The commitment process is a modern term for helping people repent and come to Christ. As we teach this process to the YM and their leaders, we will be basing our instruction from the following three sources.

1. Missionary Handbook (p. 3-4)

“The Lord desires the conversion of each soul [quorum member]. Proselyting [Personal Priesthood Interviews] is the process by which you can help people make and keep commitments that will lead them through the conversion process...

“Follow the set of guidelines and skills based on D&C 50:13-22 in your [PPI’s]. This set of guidelines is called the commitment pattern. First *prepare* your contacts to feel the Spirit. As they feel the influence of the Holy Ghost, *invite* them to commit to read, pray, attend church meetings, and eventually be baptized. Then *follow up* with encouragement and support, helping in a spirit of love and empathy to *resolve concerns* they may have. Use this same pattern in your leadership activities.” [*Underlining mine, italics the church’s.*]

2. Doctrine and Covenants 50:13-22

13. Wherefore, I the Lord ask you this question –unto what were ye ordained? 14. To preach my gospel by the Spirit, even the comforter which was sent forth to teach the truth.

17. Verily I say unto you, he that is ordained of me and sent forth to preach the word of truth by the Comforter, in the Spirit of truth, doth he preach it by the Spirit of truth or some other way? 18. And if it be some other way it is not of God.

19. And again, he that receiveth the word of truth, doth he receive it by the Spirit of truth or some other way? 20. If it be some other way it is not of God.

21. Therefore, why is it that ye cannot understand and know, that he that receiveth the word by the Spirit of truth receiveth it as it is preached by the Spirit of truth? 22. Wherefore, he that preacheth and he that receiveth, understand one another, and both are edified and rejoice together.

3. Preach My Gospel (Chapter 11 “How Do I Help People Make and Keep Commitments?” pp. 195-201).

Activity: Teaching the Commitment Process Through Role Play

Materials needed: The quorum goals and PPI sheet.

Process:

1. Sit down and model a PPI with a member of the presidency.
2. Then have each member of the presidency have a PPI with each other, until everyone has had an opportunity to participate as the leader and quorum member.
3. Be “the Spirit” as they walk through the PPI and coach them in using the correct principles as follows.

A. Prepare and resolve concerns

1. Teach the doctrine and/or principle. Testify.
2. Teach the blessings that will come into their lives through obedience.
3. Check for understanding. “Is this something you could do?” If no, ask why. Answer all concerns. Then ask again, “Is there any reason that would keep you from doing this?” or “Is this something you would like to do?” If no, ask why. Answer all concerns. Keep repeating the process until all concerns are answered. When they answer, “Yes,” move on to the next step.

B. Invite

1. Normally, you will invite them with a “Will you...” question.
 - Will you read your scriptures?
 - Will you pray every day?
 - Will you attend seminary?
 - Will you do two more requirements for *Duty to God* this week?
2. Pray with them as they ask for God’s help to keep their commitments.

C. Follow up

1. Set a time when you will meet back together (return and report). You may wish to call or talk to them during the week to give encouragement.
2. If they break their commitments, be patient and loving. Go through the commitment process again. Re-teach the principle by the Spirit, invite and follow up.

