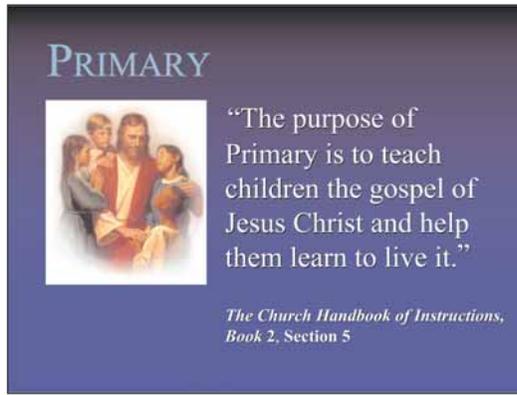


Primary *Faith in God* Guidebooks Training

9 April 2003

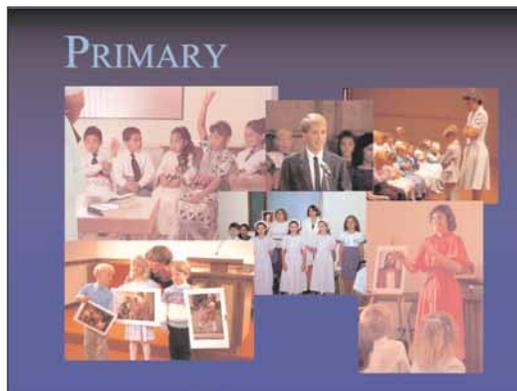
THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

PURPOSE OF PRIMARY

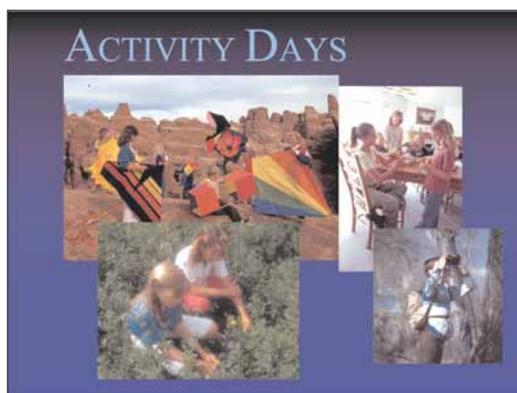


The purpose of Primary is to “teach children the gospel of Jesus Christ and help them learn to live it” (*Church Handbook of Instructions, Book 2: Priesthood and Auxiliary Leaders* [1998], 229). This purpose is based on 3 Nephi 22:13: “And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children.”

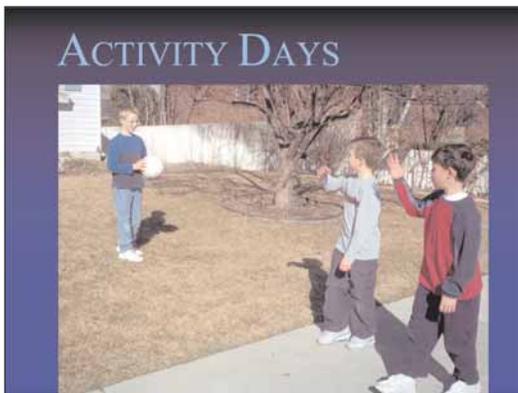
Sunday Primary and Activity Days



The purpose of Primary is accomplished as children are taught the gospel on Sunday by loving and prepared leaders. Children are given opportunities to pray, give talks, study scriptures, sing Primary songs, and participate in engaging sharing times and class lessons.

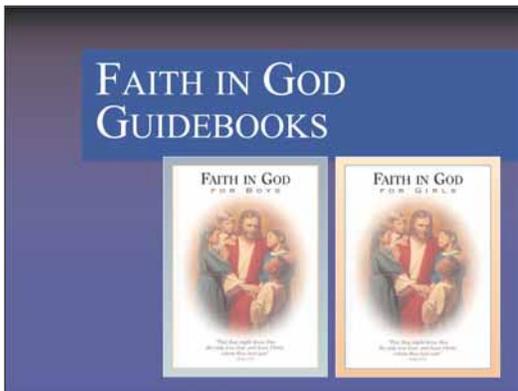


Activity days are usually held twice a month for children ages 8 through 11. They are held during the week and provide opportunities for children to learn to live the gospel with joy. Activity days are an opportunity to experiment upon the word and to practice gospel habits. As the children gather, they also have fun and build gospel-centered friendships.



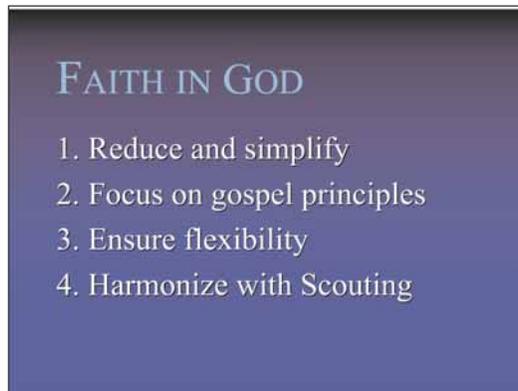
Activity days are one of Primary's most successful tools for conversion, activation, and retention. Neighborhood children and less-active children often come, feel the Spirit, and enjoy the friendship.

In addition, activity days provide experiences that help boys prepare for the Aaronic Priesthood and girls become righteous young women. This helps children make the transition into youth programs and their future roles.



Under the direction of our priesthood leaders, we are happy to announce a change in activity days. We would like to present the *Faith in God* guidebooks!

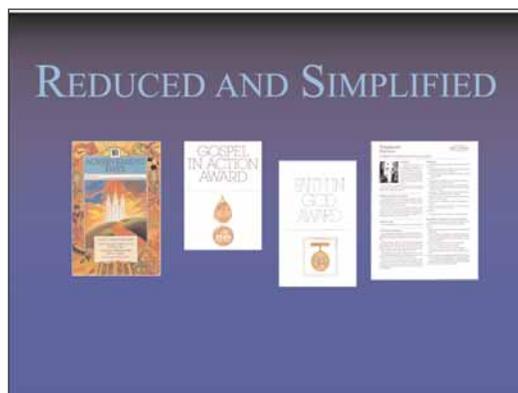
CHANGES



The purposes of the changes are to:

1. Reduce and simplify
2. Focus on gospel principles
3. Ensure flexibility
4. Harmonize with Scouting

The instructional materials and awards used for activity days have been improved to reduce and simplify; focus on gospel principles; ensure flexibility for children, families, and local units; and to harmonize with Scouting.



The following materials and awards are being replaced: the *My Achievement Days* booklet, the Gospel in Action application card and jewelry, the Cub Scout Faith in God Award application card and emblem, and the publication *Priesthood Preview*.

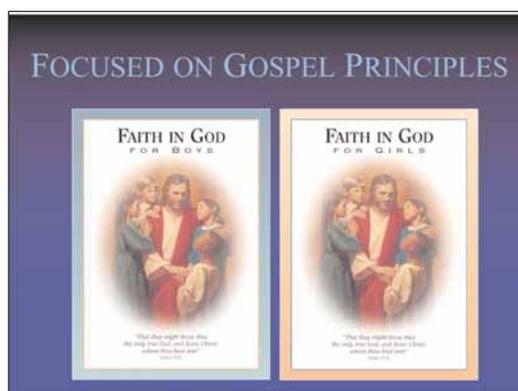
All the principles that were in these materials have now been incorporated into *Faith in God for Girls* and *Faith in God for Boys*. These two guidebooks will be the only materials needed for children ages 8 through 11 for activity days except in areas where Cub Scouting is part of the Church program. When a child turns eight, he or she will receive a *Faith in God* guidebook.

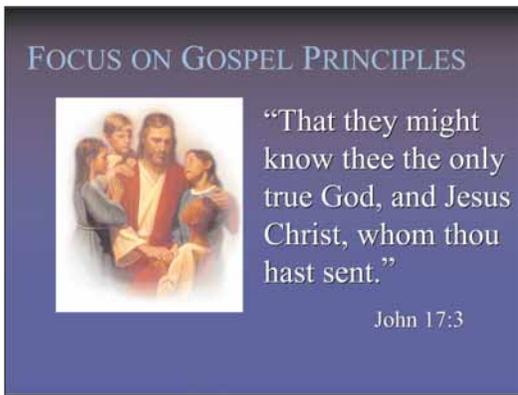
Faith in God is simple.

Everything needed is in the two guidebooks, including an award certificate that recognizes the child's accomplishments. Eliminating other materials and awards saves time and money and simplifies distribution efforts.

Faith in God is focused on gospel principles.

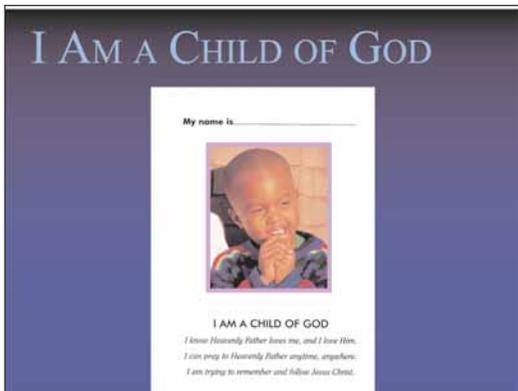
The *Faith in God* guidebooks focus on following the Savior, keeping baptismal covenants, living gospel principles, and developing enduring testimonies of faith. Let's look at some of the ways this is done:



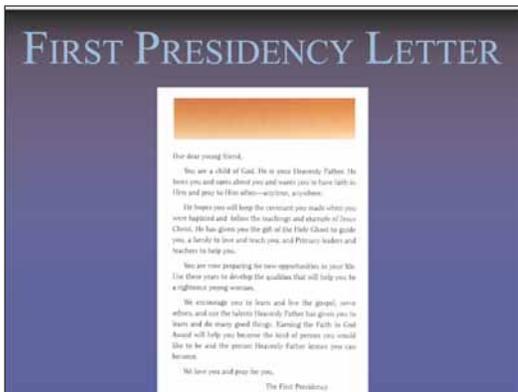


On the cover is a beautiful picture of Christ with children and a scripture: “That they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent” (John 17:3).

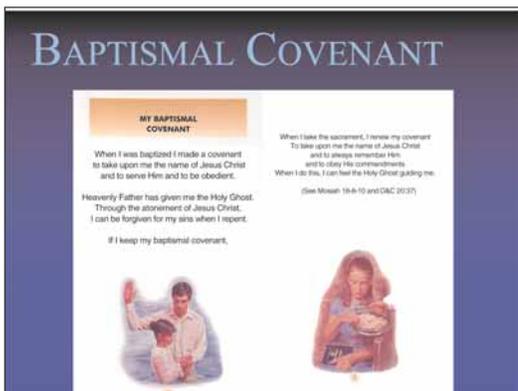
Each section begins with a foundation scripture.



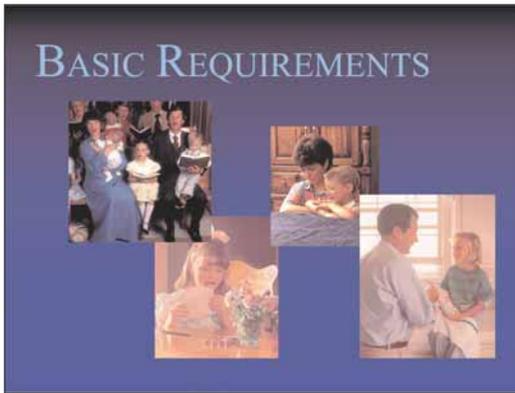
On the inside front cover is a place for the child’s picture and a statement we want every child to understand: “I am a child of God. I know Heavenly Father loves me, and I love Him. I can pray to Heavenly Father anytime, anywhere. I am trying to remember and follow Jesus Christ.”



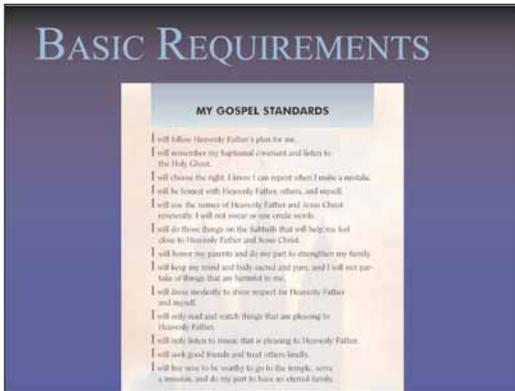
Included is a letter of love, encouragement, and counsel from the First Presidency.



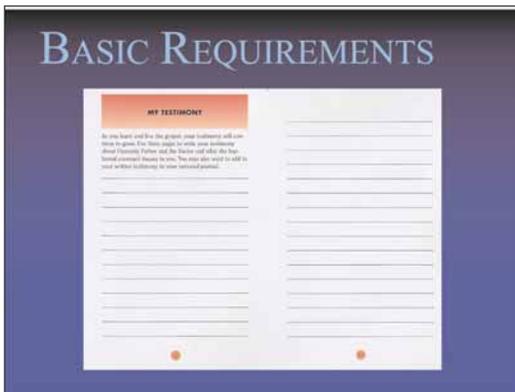
Also included is a statement written for children that reviews the covenant each child made when he or she was baptized.



The basic requirements for the children are to pray daily, read the scriptures regularly, keep the commandments, honor their parents, treat their family members kindly, pay tithing, attend sacrament and Primary meetings, and uphold



“My Gospel Standards,” which have been reordered and changed slightly to place a stronger focus on families.



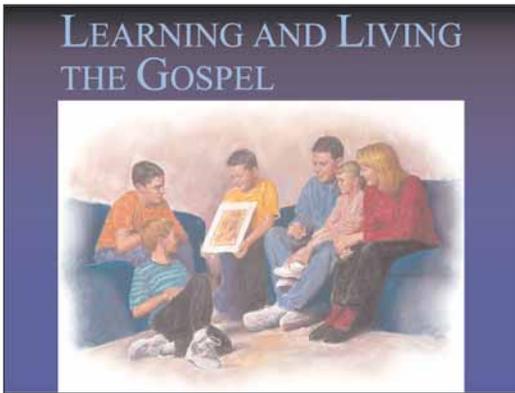
Other requirements include having the child write his or her testimony



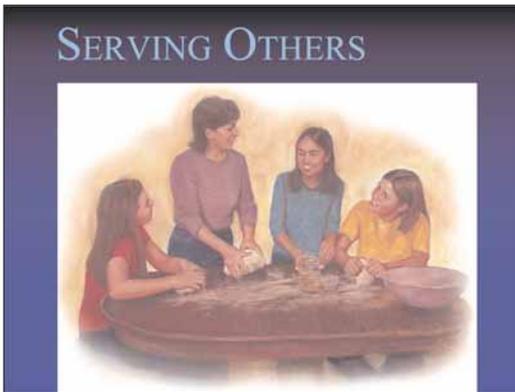
and memorizing the Articles of Faith, which are included in the guidebooks.

To make these guidebooks more accessible to children, the principles taught have been reduced from 12 areas to 3:

1. Learning and living the gospel

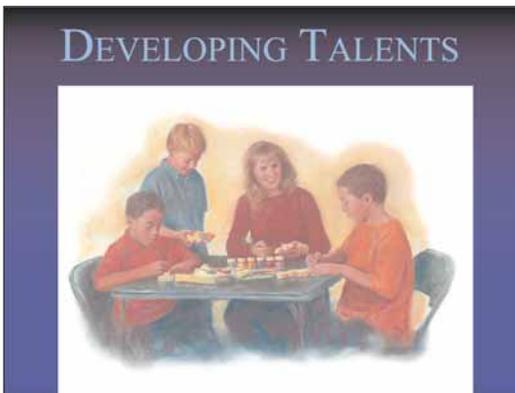


2. Serving others



3. (and) Developing talents

Children complete two activities in each area for each year they are involved in the Faith in God program.



PREPARING FOR THE PRIESTHOOD



PREPARING FOR YOUNG WOMEN



In addition, 11-year-old boys complete activities to help them prepare to receive the Aaronic Priesthood. Eleven-year-old girls complete activities to help them become righteous young women and prepare to participate in the Young Women Personal Progress program.

FLEXIBLE



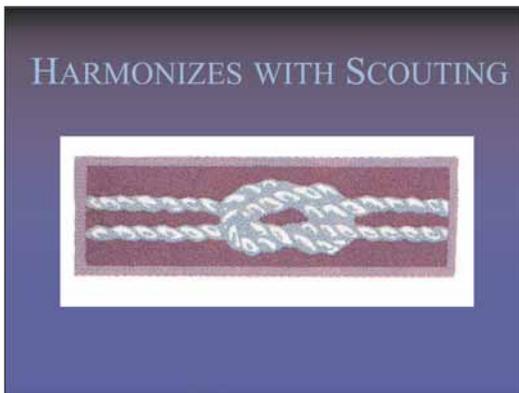
Faith in God is flexible.

Activity days are a time to work on Faith in God. As in the past, they are usually held twice each month.

FLEXIBLE

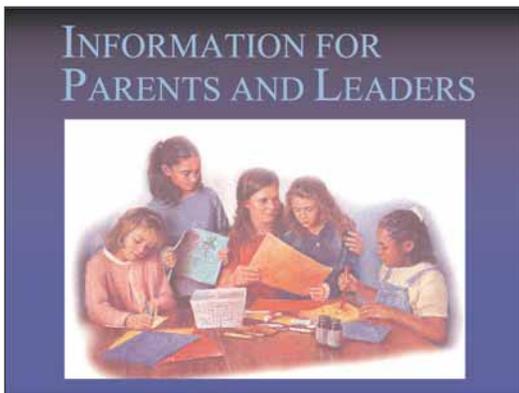


Where it is difficult to gather, the children may work on Faith in God individually or with their families. There are suggested activities for each area, but the children may also plan their own activities in each of the three areas that will help them learn and live the gospel, serve others, and develop talents.

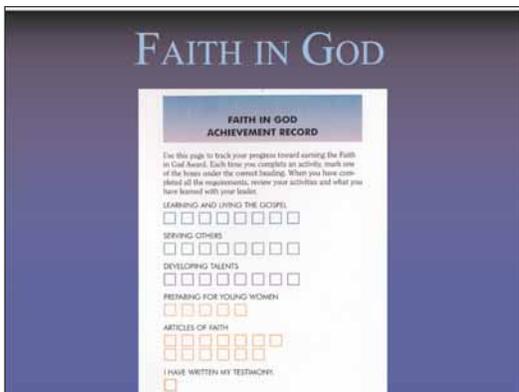


Faith in God harmonizes with Scouting.

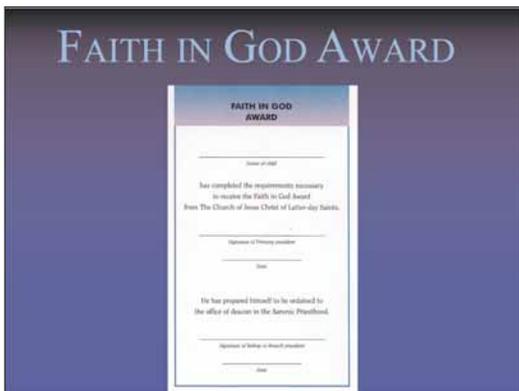
In the United States and Canada, boys who participate in Cub Scouts can earn the Scouting Religious Square Knot patch by completing activities in the guidebook that are marked with the square knot symbol. Many Faith in God activities meet the requirements for Cub Scouts and 11-year-old Scouts.



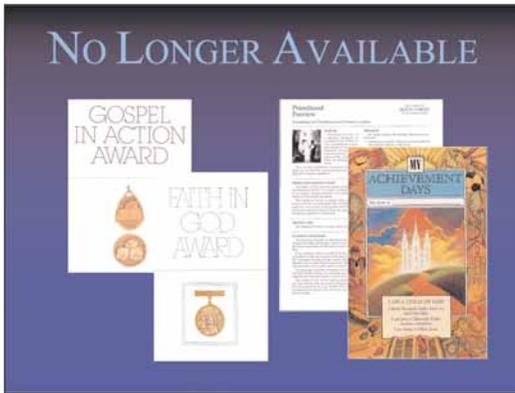
All the information parents and leaders need to implement Faith in God is within the guidebooks.



There is also a page for the child to track his or her progress.



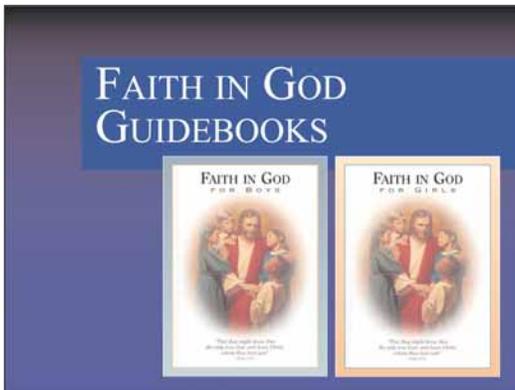
On the inside of the back cover is the Faith in God Award certificate, which includes a place for signatures of the Primary president and bishop or branch president. The award is simple, uniform throughout the Church, and included in the guidebook. The children will learn that the joy of living the gospel is the most important reward they can receive.



Children in English-speaking areas start Faith in God in July 2003. After July 2003, the *My Achievement Days* booklet, the Gospel in Action application card, the Cub Scout Faith in God Award application card, and the *Priesthood Preview* publication will no longer be available. The Gospel in Action jewelry and the Cub Scout Faith in God Award emblem will be available only while supplies last. Children who have already begun the old programs and want to finish them may do so until 31 December 2003.

For all other areas, the *Faith in God* guidebooks will be available as they are translated and will be ready for full implementation by January 2004.

Many of the achievements and goals that children have already completed in Achievement Days and Gospel in Action transfer easily to the new *Faith in God* guidebooks.



These guidebooks will become treasures for the children as activities progress and testimonies are recorded. As children experiment upon the word, they will develop and strengthen their testimonies. They will learn the gospel of Jesus Christ and how to live it with joy!