

AARONIC
PRIESTHOOD
TEACHER



FULFILLING OUR
DUTY TO GOD



***“Behold,
I am a
disciple of
Jesus Christ,
the Son
of God.”
3 Nephi 5:13***

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In this guidebook, the terms *stake president* and *bishop* refer also to *district president* and *branch president*, and the terms *stake* and *ward* refer also to *district* and *branch*.



“The teacher’s duty is to watch over the church always, and be with and strengthen them.”
D&C 20:53

MESSAGE FROM THE FIRST PRESIDENCY

You live in a day of great challenges and opportunities. You have been called to make a difference in the world. As a son of God, with the power of the Aaronic Priesthood, you can be a wonderful force for good.

You can provide service, giving of your time, talents, and energies without thought of reward. You can fulfill priesthood duties, such as preparing the sacrament and serving as a home teacher. You can lift others by your example. You can strengthen yourself, building faith and testimony, living the gospel while you learn it and share it.

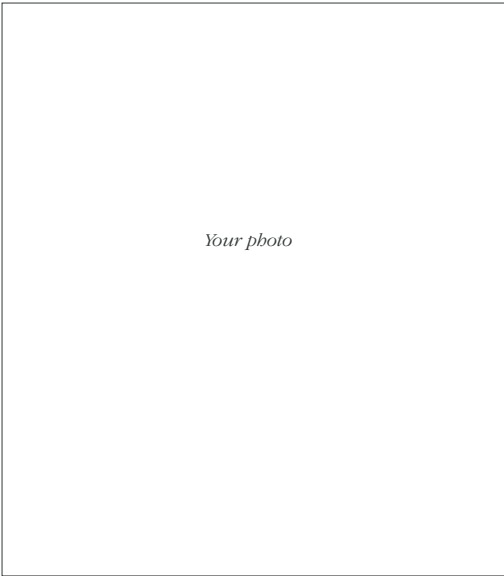
You have a responsibility to learn what Heavenly Father wants you to do and then to do your best to follow His will. This guidebook, along with *For the Strength of Youth*, will help you learn and do your duty to God. We hope you will earn the Duty to God Award and that it will become a symbol of your preparation to receive the Melchizedek Priesthood.

The Lord believes in you and has an important mission for you to do. He will help you as you turn to Him in prayer. Listen for the promptings of the Spirit. Obey the commandments. Make and keep covenants that will prepare you for the temple. Work with your parents and leaders as you set goals and strive to achieve them. You will feel a great sense of accomplishment as you fulfill your duty and prepare for the exciting challenges of the future.

The First Presidency



***“Every . . .
teacher . . .
is to be
ordained
according to
the gifts and
callings of
God unto
him; and he
is to be
ordained by
the power
of the Holy
Ghost.”
D&C 20:60***



This guidebook belongs to:

I was ordained a teacher on (date):

At (ward and stake):

By:

Who holds the priesthood office of:

THE PREPARATORY PRIESTHOOD

As a teacher, you are ready for additional opportunities and responsibilities in the priesthood. You will now be permitted to prepare the sacrament, just as the Savior did for the disciples. Your experience in the priesthood has prepared you to serve as a home teacher. Be valiant in fulfilling your duty. As you take this next step, continue to strive to accomplish the purposes of the Aaronic Priesthood, which include:

- Become converted to the gospel of Jesus Christ and live its teachings.
- Serve faithfully in priesthood callings, and fulfill the responsibilities of priesthood offices.
- Give meaningful service.
- Prepare and live worthily to receive the Melchizedek Priesthood and temple ordinances.
- Prepare to serve an honorable full-time mission.
- Obtain as much education as possible.
- Prepare to become a worthy husband and father.
- Give proper respect to women, girls, and children.

“For this cause I have sent you—that you might be obedient, and that your hearts might be prepared to bear testimony of the things which are to come.”
D&C 58:6

*“To warn,
expound,
exhort, and
teach, and
invite all to
come unto
Christ.”
D&C 20:59*

YOUR DUTY TO GOD

The Duty to God program helps you achieve the purposes of the Aaronic Priesthood. As a teacher, you can earn a Duty to God certificate by completing the requirements in this guidebook. You may already have earned a certificate as a deacon, and you can still earn one as a priest. If you earn all three certificates, you will earn the Duty to God Award. To earn the certificate as a teacher, you must complete the following:

- Priesthood Duties and Standards (page 11)
- Family Activities (page 12)
- Quorum Activities (page 14)
- Personal Goals in each of 4 categories:
 - Spiritual Development (page 16)
 - Physical Development (page 19)
 - Educational, Personal, and Career Development (page 21)
 - Citizenship and Social Development (page 23)
- Duty to God Service Project (page 26)
- My Personal Journal (page 27)

Ask your parents and quorum leaders for help in setting these goals. Set your goals prayerfully. Be sure to choose challenging goals that will help you reach your potential. As you work on a requirement, ask yourself: How will this help me on my mission? How will it prepare me for the temple? How will it strengthen my testimony? How will it help

me serve others or help my parents? Your annual interview with your bishop is a good time to review your goals.

The 4 areas of personal development are:



***“And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.”
Luke 2:52***



AARONIC PRIESTHOOD AND SCOUTING

As a teacher, you can continue to experience adventure, challenge, and responsibility through Scouting. If you have not completed your Eagle Scout Award, continue to work toward it. Continue to live the Scout Oath, Law, Motto, and Slogan. These will all help you prepare for the Melchizedek Priesthood, the temple, and your mission.



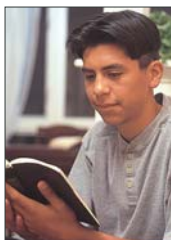
DUTY TO GOD CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS

The requirements for earning the Duty to God certificate for teachers are outlined below.

Priesthood Duties and Standards

Remain worthy to represent the Savior by doing all of the following regularly:

1. Keep the commandments.
2. Live the standards in *For the Strength of Youth*.
3. Have daily personal prayer.
4. Read the scriptures.
5. Attend seminary, where available; otherwise, enroll in the appropriate seminary home-study course.
6. Attend sacrament meeting, priesthood meeting, and other Church meetings.
7. Keep the Word of Wisdom.
8. Pay a full tithing.
9. Prepare the sacrament.
10. Serve as a home teacher as assigned by your priesthood leaders.
11. Perform other assigned priesthood duties.



***“Seek ye out of the best books words of wisdom; seek learning, even by study and also by faith.”
D&C 88:118***

“Appoint among yourselves a teacher, and let not all be spokesmen at once; but let one speak at a time and let all listen unto his sayings, that when all have spoken that all may be edified of all, and that every man may have an equal privilege. See that ye love one another.”
D&C
88:122–23



Family Activities

Do all of the following. Have a parent initial each goal when you complete it.

_____ 1. In the Book of Mormon, read Alma through Moroni, and discuss with your family what Alma, Helaman, and Moroni foretold about Christ. Also discuss the brother of Jared and the strength of his faith.

_____ 2. Study *For the Strength of Youth*. Discuss each topic with your parents, and explain why each is important to young men and women.

_____ 3. Read about the following topics in *True to the Faith* or *Gospel Principles*, and teach 2 of them to your family: conversion, faith, forgiveness, the Holy Ghost, obedience,

the plan of salvation, prayer, prophets, repentance, and revelation.

_____ 4. Under the direction of your parents, organize and teach at least 4 family home evening lessons each year. You may want to consider using topics from *For the Strength of Youth*, *True to the Faith*, or *Gospel Principles*.

_____ 5. Memorize the words and learn to conduct at least 3 hymns each year, 1 hymn in 2/4 time, 1 in 3/4 time, and 1 in 4/4 time.

_____ 6. Learn to prepare and use a simple budget. Keep a budget for at least 2 months.

_____ 7. Study and briefly describe to your parents your country's constitution and the events that led to its creation.

_____ 8. Plan an activity in which you and your family serve a neighbor or relative. Carry out the activity together.



***“Teach them to walk in the ways of truth and soberness; ye will teach them to love one another, and to serve one another.”
Mosiab 4:15***

Quorum Activities

Do all of the following. Have a priesthood leader initial each goal when you complete it.

- _____ 1. Read Doctrine and Covenants 20:53–57. Also read “Teaching” in *True to the Faith*, or read the *Teaching Guidebook*. Discuss with a priesthood leader how you can be a good home teacher.
- _____ 2. As assigned by a priesthood leader, give at least one 4- to 5-minute talk each year in priesthood or sacrament meeting.
- _____ 3. Under the direction of a priesthood leader, teach or help teach 1 or more lessons in the teachers quorum meeting.
- _____ 4. With your quorum, discuss how to prepare for and serve a full-time mission and ways to assist the full-time missionaries in your area.
- _____ 5. Invite and bring to Church meetings a friend, a less-active member, or a new member your age.
- _____ 6. Participate in baptisms for the dead, if possible. If not, talk with a priesthood leader about the temple and what it means to Latter-day Saints.
- _____ 7. Under the direction of a priesthood leader, participate in at least 1 teachers quorum service project each year.



*“Be ye clean
that bear the
vessels of the
Lord.”*

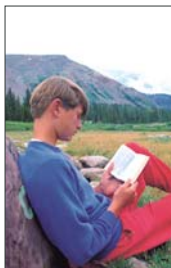
D&C 38:42

Personal Goals

To earn a Duty to God certificate as a teacher, you must complete 8 or more personal goals under each of the 4 categories that follow.

If these suggested goals do not fit your needs or abilities, you can modify the requirements with the approval of your parents and Aaronic Priesthood leaders. Discuss your goals with your parents and a priesthood leader.

Have a parent or priesthood leader initial each goal when you have completed it. Keep a summary of your progress on page 32.



Spiritual Development

Complete 8 or more goals from this category. You can select from the goals listed below or write your own. These goals should help you strengthen your testimony, learn your priesthood duties, and understand the doctrines of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

_____ 1. Study the purposes of the Aaronic Priesthood found on page 7. Discuss what it means to “become converted to the gospel of Jesus Christ and live its teachings.”

_____ 2. Discuss with your parents or a priesthood leader what it means to keep the Sabbath day holy. Practice appropriate Sabbath observance.

_____ 3. Prepare and present at least 2 home teaching lessons.

_____ 4. Recite from memory the Articles of Faith and Doctrine and Covenants 13.

_____ 5. Read and discuss a general conference address that teaches about the evils of immorality and pornography.

_____ 6. Complete a family group record for each of your grandparents where they are listed as children.

_____ 7. Write regularly in a personal journal for at least 3 months.

_____ 8. Regularly add to your mission fund in preparation for and anticipation of receiving a call to serve a full-time mission.



*“O ye that
embark in
the service
of God, see
that ye serve
him with
all your
heart, might,
mind and
strength.”
D&C 4:2*

_____ 9. Collect recipes for a dozen meals that a missionary can prepare quickly. Prepare at least 4 of these meals.

_____ 10. Write 3 letters of appreciation to your family or ward members during the year. Thank them for their kindness and support.

_____ 11. Develop a list of 10 qualities that you admire in your father or another adult, and discuss them.

_____ 12. Read at least 2 stories from a Church magazine. Share them with your family in family home evening or with a priesthood leader.

“Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction.”
James 1:27



13. _____

Physical Development

Complete 8 or more goals from this category. You can select from the goals listed below or write your own. These goals should help you develop good health habits, become more physically fit, learn teamwork, and practice safety.

- _____ 1. Run 5 kilometers or 3 miles in 30 minutes or less.
- _____ 2. Swim 75 meters using 2 different strokes.
- _____ 3. Demonstrate lifesaving skills in the water.
- _____ 4. Hike 15 kilometers or 9 miles with a pack in 1 day.
- _____ 5. Participate in a group cultural arts performance such as a road show, play, folk dance, or other activity in a church, school, or community function.
- _____ 6. Teach a younger brother or sister or ward member how to play an indoor game or sport.
- _____ 7. Participate on a sports team in the quorum, ward, school, or community.
- _____ 8. Learn to play or officiate a sport of your choice.
- _____ 9. If local conditions permit, participate in a 3-day quorum camping trip under the supervision of your leaders and other qualified adults.



“And also that every man should . . . enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God.” Ecclesiastes 3:13



_____ 10. Explain to your parents or a priesthood leader how to survive for 48 hours if lost in the wilderness in both warm and cold seasons. Identify edible plants and animals, and explain how you would ensure the safety of drinking water.

_____ 11. Learn and demonstrate the most important distress signals to use during a crisis or when you are lost.

_____ 12. Teach first aid skills to your family or quorum members.

_____ 13. _____

Educational, Personal, and Career Development

Complete 8 or more goals from this category. You can select from the goals listed below or write your own. These goals should help you become more self-reliant, develop talents, and gain leadership qualities.

- _____ 1. Continue your education, and develop additional skills in reading, writing, and mathematics.
- _____ 2. Improve your reading skills by reading at least 6 issues of a Church magazine.
- _____ 3. Choose 3 careers that interest you. Think of several questions you have about each career, and discuss them with your parents, a priesthood leader, or others who can help you learn about these careers. Emphasize the positive aspects of each career as they relate to your personal characteristics and life goals.
- _____ 4. Visit at least 3 places where people perform work you might enjoy. Find out what they like and dislike about their work and how they prepared themselves to do it. Describe to your parents or a priesthood leader how you would feel about working at such a job.
- _____ 5. If a vocational interest test is available, take it, and discuss the results with your parents. If classes are offered at your school that could help you prepare for a potential career, discuss with your parents or a priesthood leader how they could help you do this.





_____ 6. Discuss how your chosen career would allow you to maintain the moral standards of the Church.

_____ 7. Learn and explain the entrance requirements for a technical school, college, or university; describe to your parents or a priesthood leader at least 5 classes that interest you.

_____ 8. Learn to play a musical instrument.

_____ 9. Attend a “career night” where a guest speaker describes the steps a person should take to apply for a job and what characteristics employers look for in new employees.

_____ 10. Collect 3 different job applications, and fill them out as practice.

_____ 11. In a language other than your own, learn to bear your testimony, and memorize Articles of Faith 1–6.

_____ 12. Use a computer to prepare a Church talk, a school assignment, or another similar task.

_____ 13. _____



*“Thus they were all equal, and they did all labor, every man according to his strength.”
Alma 1:26*

Citizenship and Social Development

Complete 8 or more goals from this category. You can select from the goals listed below or write your own. These goals should help you serve others, improve social skills, and become a better member of your family, ward, community, and nation.

_____ 1. Learn and practice proper personal hygiene and grooming, and explain to your parents or a priesthood leader why these skills are important to your success and well-being.

_____ 2. Under the direction of a priesthood leader, plan and participate in at least 1



combined activity with your quorum members and the young women in the ward.

_____ 3. Volunteer for 4 or more afternoons or evenings at a hospital, home for the aged, center for the disabled, welfare center, or homeless shelter.

_____ 4. Invite your grandparents or other senior citizens to share their childhood memories with you. Take notes of the major highlights in their lives.

_____ 5. Attend a village, community, or city council meeting, and share your impressions of the experience with your parents or a priesthood leader.

_____ 6. Visit a legal court, and share your impressions of the experience with your quorum or family.

_____ 7. Learn and sing, alone or with a group, your national anthem; explain its origin to your parents or a priesthood leader.

_____ 8. Discuss with your parents or a priesthood leader ways to help prevent crime in your area.

_____ 9. Develop a list of music, movies, television programs, and printed materials that are in harmony with gospel standards.

_____ 10. With your quorum members, plan and participate in an “etiquette dinner.” The guests of honor could be quorum members’ parents.



*“Behold, I, the Lord, have brought you together that the promise might be fulfilled, that the faithful among you should be preserved and rejoice.”
D&C 62:6*

_____ 11. As assigned by a priesthood leader, give at least 1 talk in sacrament meeting, or give a speech at school or in the community.

_____ 12. With approval of neighborhood or community leaders, organize a project to clean and repair a public park or gathering place. Help maintain the grounds for 2 months.

_____ 13. _____

“And behold, I tell you these things that ye may learn wisdom; that ye may learn that when ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God.”
Mosiah 2:17



DUTY TO GOD SERVICE PROJECT

Giving service to others is one of the purposes of the Atonement Priesthood. Choose a service project that benefits your family, ward, stake, or community. You should plan, prepare, and carry out the project. The project needs to be approved by your parents and quorum adviser.

If you earn the Eagle Scout Award while you are a teacher, the Eagle service project may count for both the Eagle Scout Award and the teacher Duty to God service project. You are encouraged to involve other members of your quorum in completing the project.

MY PERSONAL JOURNAL

One of the best goals you can set is to keep a journal. It becomes more and more interesting and valuable as you grow older. It will give you a lifelong record of your growth and accomplishments. It is a place to record your spiritual impressions and feelings. To earn the Duty to God certificate for teachers, you must fill in the journal section of this guidebook. But you can actually write much more than just these pages. You can use your journal, a notebook, or additional paper.



YOUR DUTY TO GOD RECORD SHEET

Check or initial the appropriate box as you complete each section. Your bishop will sign your Completion of Duty to God page when you have completed the requirements in the following areas. Then you can receive your Duty to God certificate.

Priesthood Duties and Standards	
Family Activities	
Quorum Activities	
Personal Goals	
Spiritual Development	
Physical Development	
Educational, Personal, and Career Development	
Citizenship and Social Development	
Duty to God Service Project	
My Personal Journal	



COMPLETION OF DUTY TO GOD

Name

has completed all the requirements necessary to receive the Duty to God for Teachers certificate. He has faithfully performed his priesthood duties and lived the standards of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He has performed service, built faith and testimony, and prepared himself to be ordained to the office of priest in the Aaronic Priesthood.

Signature of bishop or branch president

Date

*And now my beloved brethren,
I have said these things unto you
that I might awaken you
to a sense of your duty to God,
that ye may walk blameless before him,
that ye may walk after
the holy order of God,
after which ye have been received.*

Alma 7:22

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

ENGLISH



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