

PRINCIPLE 2 SELF-RELIANCE

Be Self-Reliant

As Church members, we are encouraged to be self-reliant and independent. We should care for ourselves and our families before we seek help elsewhere. We should prepare for both our day-to-day needs and for emergencies. This is called "personal and family preparedness" or "provident living."

Blessings Are Promised

The Lord promises blessings to those who prepare for their own needs. Families that practice personal and family preparedness can live confidently and enjoy security in the midst of troubles and uncertainty.

Find Out

- If the members understand what personal and family preparedness means.
- How they feel about the need to be self-reliant.

Testify: Express your feelings about:

The blessings of being prepared for daily life and for emergencies.
Your experiences with provident living.

SCRIPTURAL RESOURCES

Mosiah 4:14-16,26 (Teach your children the principles of provident living.)

1 Timothy 5:8 ("If any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel")

D&C 75:28 (Every man "is obliged to provide for his own family. ")

D&C 78:14 (Through the Lord's providence, "the church may stand independent above all other creatures.")

D&C 104:11-18 (The Lord provides for the needs of his Saints.)

Topical Guide: Work; Work, Value of.

"The responsibility for each member's spiritual, social, emotional, physical, or economic well-being rests first, upon himself, second, upon his family, and third, upon the Church. Members of the Church are commanded by the Lord to be self-reliant and independent to the extent of their ability" (Presiding Bishopric [Victor L. Brown, H. Burke Peterson, J. Richard Clarke], Sept. 1977, quoted in *Ensign*, Mar. 1978, p. 20).

PRINCIPLE 3 PERSONAL AND FAMILY PREPAREDNESS

Be Prepared

Members should prepare themselves in six areas:

- *Literacy and education.* Members should be able to read, write, and do basic mathematics. They should study the scriptures and good books.
- *Career development.* The family head should select a vocation and learn the skills needed in that vocation. Each child should prepare for a career.
- *Financial and resource management.* Members should have financial goals, pay tithes and offerings, avoid unnecessary debts, and save for the future.
- *Home production and storage.* Members should become as self-sufficient as possible by producing food, sewing clothes, and making household items. Where legal, they should store one year's supply of food, clothing, and (if possible) fuel.
- *Physical health.* Members should obey the Word of Wisdom and practice the principles of nutrition, physical fitness, weight control, immunization, accident prevention, mental health, and medical care.
- *Social, emotional, and spiritual strength.* By living gospel principles, members can gain social, emotional, and spiritual strength.

Find Out

- How the new members feel about each of the areas of personal and family preparedness.
- If they understand how these areas of preparation relate to the principle of self-reliance.

SCRIPTURAL RESOURCES

D&C 38:30 ("If ye are prepared ye shall not fear. ")

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

D&C 88:119 ("Organize yourselves; prepare every needful thing.")

D&C 89:18-21 (The promises of the Word of Wisdom.)