

## Self-Reliance Newsletter

Feb 2016

### Principle #5 – Work: Take Responsibility

**Note:** In this and future documents, the pdf files will contain live hypertext links to enable easier access to the resources listed. Previous documents have been updated too.

I have archived previous principles and will save future principles at this URL:

<http://www.selfrelianceclub.com/srp.html>

In the last few weeks, I have had the opportunity to teach the 3rd hour combined lesson in the YSA Branch and the R1 HP group lesson on the topic of self-reliance. I have linked the lesson presentation and all of the handout attachments for your convenience

<http://www.selfrelianceclub.com/Self-Reliance%20Presentation.pdf>

This site also contains other self-reliance resources, some not found anywhere else.

The church focuses on 12 principles of employment self-reliance, as found in the newly developed booklet, [My Foundation: Principles, Skills, Habits.](#)

Other Booklets available:

[Leader Guide](#)

[My Path](#)

[Starting and Growing My Business](#)

[My Job Search](#)

[Education for Better Work](#)

I wish to help you focus on the elements of Employment as it is fundamental to achieving most of the other elements. As a service, periodically, I will send information to stake and unit leaders about one of the twelve principles. Someone is available to teach in your unit for Sunday lessons on self-reliance, employment, etc.

**Attention Youth Leaders:** Now is an important time in the lives of youth to develop a good work ethic and learn the basic principles of self-reliance. I am available to teach youth lessons on self-reliance, employment, self-employment, etc. if desired.

# 5 WORK: TAKE RESPONSIBILITY

## WORK: TAKE RESPONSIBILITY

**Ponder:** Why do you feel Heavenly Father wants us to take personal responsibility for our lives?

**Watch:** "Sedrick's Journey" (No video? Read the next page.)

**Discuss:** How does Sedrick use his agency and take responsibility for his future? What would happen to Sedrick if he blamed someone else for his challenges?

**Read:** 2 Nephi 2:16, 26; Doctrine and Covenants 42:42 (on the right)

**Practice:** Turn to a group member close to you. Together, read the statement below by the Prophet Joseph Smith. He describes his personal situation growing up. Discuss these questions:

- What was his temporal situation?
- What do you learn about self-reliance from the Prophet's words?
- What did the Prophet mean by "continuous labor"?

"As my father's worldly circumstances were very limited, we were under the necessity of laboring with our hands, hiring out by day's work and otherwise, as we could get opportunity. Sometimes we were at home, and sometimes abroad, and by continuous labor were enabled to get a comfortable maintenance."

Joseph Smith—History 1:55

**Practice:** Think about how to take more personal responsibility for your self-reliance. Write two or three changes you want to make in your actions or attitudes.

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**Commit:** Commit to doing the following actions during the week. Check the boxes when you complete each task:

- Practice taking responsibility every day.
- Teach this principle to your family.
- Continue to practice the previous foundation principles.

*"Wherefore, the Lord God gave unto man that he should act for himself ... [and men and women are free] to act for themselves and not to be acted upon."*

2 NEPHI 2:16, 26

*"Thou shalt not be idle; for he that is idle shall not eat the bread nor wear the garments of the laborer."*

DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS 42:42



### SEDRICK'S JOURNEY

If you are unable to watch the video, read this script.



**SEDRICK:** My name is Sedrick Kambesabwe. I live in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. I'm a member of the LDS Church.

I'm a branch missionary in the village of Kipusanga. I need to prepare to go on a foreign mission. In order to go on a mission, I need a passport, which now costs 250 US dollars.

To earn money, my father and I buy bananas. Some villages produce a lot of bananas: Ttshabobo, Lusuku, and Kamanda.

*Ttshabobo is about 9 miles from here. Lusuku is 18 miles. Kamanda is 18 as well. We go there and buy bananas, and we bring them back here to sell.*

*To go to the villages we use a bicycle. We can take four or six bunches of bananas.*

*When I go by bike, it can take an hour and a half each way, if the bike is working and I have the strength. When it is midday and the heat is oppressive, I move slowly because of the heat and the sun.*

*I can do two trips per day if I wake up very early in the morning. It is a good way to help pay for my passport.*

*Now I'm earning money, little by little, so I'm saving for both school expenses and the mission. And now, after four years of work, I have enough money for my passport, plus 70 dollars saved.*

*"God has designed this mortal existence to require nearly constant exertion. . . . By work we sustain and enrich life. . . . Work builds and refines character, creates beauty, and is the instrument of our service to one another and to God. A consecrated life is filled with work, sometimes repetitive, . . . sometimes unappreciated but always work that improves, . . . lifts, [and] aspires."*

D. TODD CHRISTOFFERSON,  
"Reflections on a Consecrated Life," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2010, 17

Ezra Taft Benson  
April Conference, 1965 - Ensign, May 1965

For years we have been counseled to have on hand a year's supply of food, Yet there are some today who would not start storing until the Church comes out with a detailed monthly home storage program. Now suppose that never happens? We still cannot say we have not been told.

Should the Lord decide at this time to cleanse the Church...a famine in this land of one year's duration could wipe out a large percentage of slothful members, including some ward and stake officers. Yet we cannot say we have not been warned.

Victor L. Brown  
October Conference 1980  
Ensign, Nov. 1980, p. 79 – 81

Our concern and the thrust of my message, which has been repeated from this pulpit many times, is that the welfare program rests on the basic principle of personal and family preparedness, not on Church preparedness. We are concerned that because the Church program includes production projects, canneries, bishops' storehouses, Deseret Industries, and other visible activities, our people are mistakenly led to believe these things replace the need for them to provide for themselves. This simply is not so.

It would appear that in altogether too many cases the teachings about preparedness have been either misunderstood or knowingly rejected. Many of our members appear to feel that when difficulty comes, the Church will come to their aid, even when they could have prepared themselves had their priorities been appropriate.

References:

[Self-Reliance Services](#)

[The Blessing of Work](#)

[Work and Self Reliance – Pr. Heber J. Grant](#)

[New member discussions on self-reliance and preparedness](#)

[PH and RS manual lessons on self-reliance](#)

[Skills and Talents Survey Forms](#)

[The Celestial Nature of Self-Reliance](#)

[Self-Reliance Assessment Form](#)

[Personal and Family Preparedness Standards and Goals](#)

[Personal and Family Preparedness Goal Sheet](#)

Archive of Newsletters:

[Self-Reliance Newsletter #1 – Oct 2015 – Faith in Jesus Christ](#)

[Self-Reliance Newsletter #2 – Nov 2015 – Use Time Wisely](#)

[Self-Reliance Newsletter #3 – Dec 2015 – Be Obedient](#)

[Self-Reliance Newsletter #4 – Jan 2016 – Manage Money](#)

Sincerely,  
Michael J. Goodwin  
Stake Employment Specialist  
Rockford Illinois Stake  
779-203-0451