**2018 Little Philmont - Fulfilling My Duty to God**

**(YM Presidency Training; YM/Parent Fireside; Sunday Discussion – 45 – 60 minutes)**

**Audience:**

* Young Men Presidency
* Bishopric
* Parents & YM

**Materials Needed:**

* Fulfilling My Duty to God books
* Handouts [Presentation, Fireside Outline, Tracker templates, Talk by Robert Hales “Our Duty to God-The Mission of Parents & Leaders to the Rising Generation”]

**Presentation (45 – 60 Minutes):**

1. **Introduction (YM President) - 30 minutes**
2. **Message from the First Presidency**

“*You live in a day of great opportunities and challenges—a day in which the priesthood has been restored. You have the authority to administer the ordinances of the Aaronic Priesthood. As you prayerfully and worthily exercise that authority, you will greatly bless the lives of those around you.*

*This book, along with the scriptures and For the Strength of Youth, will help you fulfill your responsibilities.*

*Heavenly Father has great trust and confidence in you and has an important mission for you to fulfill. He will help you as you turn to Him in prayer, listen for the promptings of the Spirit, obey the commandments, and keep the covenants that you have made. You will feel a great sense of accomplishment as you fulfill your duties, and you will be prepared to receive the Melchizedek Priesthood, receive the covenants and ordinances of the temple, worthily serve a full-time mission, and become a righteous husband and father. May the Lord continue to bless you in these efforts.” The First Presidency*

1. **Duty to God Program**
2. **Learn -** The purpose of the “Learn” section. Each part of this book begins with a learning activity that helps the young men learn what Heavenly Father wants them to do and why it is important. When a young man knows the “why” behind his priesthood duties, the Holy Ghost inspires him to act, and his actions can increase his faith and testimony.
3. **Act -** The purpose of the “Act” section. After completing the learning activity, the young men are encouraged to make plans to fulfill their priesthood duties and increase their spiritual strength. Making their own plans allows young men to:

* Exercise their agency.
* Adapt the activities to their individual circumstances.
* Develop spiritual self-reliance.

1. **Share -** The purpose of the “Share” section. Once the young men have worked on their plans for a period of time, they are encouraged to talk with others about their experiences. Sharing their experiences will:

* Strengthen their testimonies and their understanding of the gospel.
* Allow them to see the progress they are making.
* Increase their confidence and ability to talk about gospel truths.

**Young men may be uncomfortable sharing at first, but the more opportunities they have to do it, the more comfortable they will feel.** **The following week you can ask specific questions on progress, challenges, etc. of the goals they set.**

1. **Roles & Responsibilities of Advisers & Parents 8.3.4**

*“Adult members of the Church should understand that Personal Progress and Duty to God requirements are not just lengthy lists of items to check off. They are personal goals set by each young man and young woman to help them become worthy to receive temple ordinances, serve missions, enter into eternal marriage, and enjoy exaltation. But let it be understood: for young men and young women to try to accomplish these goals alone would be a great loss and tragedy!”* Elder Robert Hales

1. **Advisers’ Responsibilities –** Share what parents and YM can expect from their advisers. **[Shows your commitment]**
2. **Learn** - Advisers, consider making time for the young men to work on the learning activities together as a quorum. For example, you could do this during quorum meeting or Mutual. You could assign the young men to work on a learning activity on their own and report on it during a quorum meeting. Counseling together as a quorum about priesthood duties, spiritual strength, and the Lord’s standards will build quorum unity.
3. **Act** - Some young men may need guidance in making their plans. Advisers, consider making time for young men to counsel together as a quorum as they write their individual plans. For example, you could do this during quorum meeting or Mutual. Or you could invite the young men to write their plans on their own or with their parents and share their plans during a quorum meeting. Either way, encourage them to share their plans with their parents.
4. **Share** - Advisers, consider making time for young men to share with quorum members the experiences they are having as they fulfill their plans. For example, during the first few minutes of quorum meeting the quorum president could invite the young men to talk about what they are learning as they fulfill their plan to study the scriptures regularly (see the "Pray and Study the Scriptures" pages for deacons, teachers, and priests). Or he could invite them to share an experience they had serving others (see the "Serve Others" pages for deacons, teachers, and priests). Hearing about the experiences their fellow quorum members are having reminds young men of their own plans and encourages them to have experiences of their own. Encourage the young men to discuss their plans and experiences with their parents also.
5. **Parents’ Responsibilities** - *“It is impossible to overestimate the influence of parents who understand the hearts of their children. Research shows that during the most important transitions of life—including those periods when youth are most likely to drift away from the Church—the greatest influence does not come from an interview with the bishop or some other leader but from the regular, warm, friendly, caring interaction with parents….”* Elder Robert Hales
6. **Learn** - Parents, consider working on the learning activities with your son soon after he is ordained to a priesthood office. Ask your son to share with you what he is learning about fulfilling his duty to God.
7. **Act** - As the young men counsel together as a quorum about their plans, they give each other ideas and support. Likewise, parents can give their sons ideas and support as they make their plans. By sharing their plans with quorum members and parents, young men strengthen their commitment to fulfill those plans. Some plans can be made and carried out as a quorum or as a family.
8. **Share** - Parents, ask your son to discuss with you what he is learning and the experiences he is having. This will help him see the progress he is making.
9. **Counsel from Elder Robert Hales -** *“Fathers, mothers, and leaders of youth, we urge you to participate in Personal Progress and Duty to God with your children and with the youth. Not only will they grow; you will grow too. And just as importantly, you will grow together in a bond of faith and friendship that will allow you to strengthen each other and stay on the gospel path forever, to indeed be an eternal family.*

*It is our imperative duty to help youth understand and believe the gospel in a deeply personal way. We can teach them to walk in the light, but that light cannot be borrowed. They must earn it for themselves. They must obtain their own light of testimony directly from the source of spiritual light—God Himself—through prayer and study and pondering. They must understand who they are and who Heavenly Father wants them to become. In these perilous times it is not enough for our youth to merely know. They must do. Wholehearted participation in ordinances, quorums and auxiliaries, inspired programs, and fortifying activities helps youth put on the whole armor of God. Will we help them put on that armor so they can withstand the fiery darts of the adversary? To truly choose the Lord’s way, they must know His way. And to truly know His way, we must teach and lead them to act, to participate, to do…*

*The greatest missionary work we will ever do will be in our homes. Our homes, quorums, and classes are part of the mission field. Our children and grandchildren are our most important investigators. If someone in your family is wandering in strange paths, you are a rescuer, engaged in the greatest rescue effort the Church has ever known. I testify from personal experience: There is no failure except in giving up. It is never too early or too late to begin. Do not worry about what has happened in the past. Pick up the phone. Write a note. Make a visit. Extend the invitation to come home. Don’t be afraid or embarrassed. Your child is Heavenly Father’s child. You are about His work. He has promised to gather His children, and He is with you.”*

1. **Goal Setting (Parents and YM) – 15-20 minutes**

During Fireside/5th Sunday discussion, provide 15-20 minutes for parents to work with their son on reviewing and setting goals to work on Duty to God. After DTG quorum lesson, allow 5-10 minutes for quorum members to set goals. **[Use this time to walk around to listen to conversations and answer questions. Pass their individual tracker to record their goal and collect afterwards.]**

1. **Tracking Progress 8.3.5 – 5 minutes**
2. Advisers should maintain a tracking system (paper/electronic) to track the progress of each YM this includes helping YM set and accomplish goals in the DTG program.
3. Set aside time each month to discuss, set and track goal progress as a quorum and/or individually to address any needs, questions or concerns. This could be done in quorum meetings or activities or in their homes.
4. Discuss each YM’s progress during **monthly** YM and Quorum Presidency meetings. Address the needs of each YM. Some families will need more support than others.
5. **Fireside – 5 minutes**

The YM President with support from the Bishop should led an **Annual** Fireside or 5th Sunday discussion with parents and YM by to discuss the DTG program including the roles of parents and advisers. 15 minutes should be set aside for parents to work with their son on reviewing and setting goals to work on Duty to God. September is a good time as this is at the beginning of the school year to regain focus for the upcoming year.

1. **Recognition 8.3.1 – 5 minutes**

YM must be recognized for their efforts for completing DTG. Bishops are responsible to ensure YM are recognized. This can be done in many ways, but at a minimum each YM should be recognized in sacrament meeting when he has completed the Duty to God program.

1. **Q&A - 5 Minutes**

Address and questions and concerns. **[Any unique or unhelpful comments – simply request to talk to parents “off-line” to avoid disruption and tone of the discussion.]**

1. **Closing– 5 minutes**

Closing remarks supporting the effort to Fulfilling My Duty to God and the importance of advisers and parents working with these YM to develop a personal relationship with their Father in Heaven.

**If you have any questions or challenges with implementing:**

**Ed Tucker, Kingwood Stake YM Presidency**

**346.225.9015 or 713.899.4062**

**Edward.V.Tucker@gmail.com**