

Starting: Sunday, 6 January, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Sunday Meeting Schedule

The Sunday Church meetings will consist of a 60-minute sacrament meeting each Sunday, focused on the Savior, the ordinance of the sacrament, and spiritual messages. After time for transition to classes, Church members will attend a 50-minute class that will alternate each Sunday:

- Sunday School will be held on the first and third Sundays of the month.
- Priesthood quorums, Relief Society, and Young Women meetings will be held on the second and fourth Sundays.
- Meetings on the fifth Sunday will be under the direction of the bishop.

Primary will be held each week during this same 50-minute period and will include singing time and classes.



With respect to the Sunday meeting schedule, the senior leaders of the Church have been aware for many years that for some of our precious members, a three-hour Sunday schedule at church can be difficult. This is particularly true for parents with small children, Primary children, elderly members, new converts, and others.²

But there is so much more to this adjustment than just shortening the Sunday meetinghouse schedule. President Nelson has acknowledged with gratitude how much is being accomplished as

a result of your faithfulness to previous invitations. He and the entire leadership of the Church desire to bring greater gospel joy—to parents, children, youth, singles, the elderly, new converts, and those people the missionaries are teaching—through a home-centered, Church-supported, balanced effort. The purposes and blessings associated with this adjustment and other recent changes include the following:

- Deepening conversion to Heavenly Father and the Lord Jesus Christ and strengthening faith in Them.
- Strengthening individuals and families through home-centered, Church-supported curriculum that contributes to joyful gospel living.
- Honoring the Sabbath day, with a focus on the ordinance of the sacrament.
- Helping all of Heavenly Father’s children on both sides of the veil through missionary work and receiving ordinances and covenants and blessings of the temple.

Home-Centered, Church-Supported Gospel Learning

This Sunday schedule allows more time for a home evening and to study the gospel at home on Sunday or at other times as individuals and families may choose. A family activity night could be held on Monday or at other times. To this end, leaders should continue to keep Monday evenings free from Church meetings and activities. However, time spent in home evening, gospel study, and activities for individuals and families may be scheduled according to their individual circumstance.



Family and individual gospel study at home will be significantly enhanced by a harmonized curriculum and a new *Come, Follow Me* resource for individuals and families that is coordinated with what is being taught in Sunday School and Primary.³ In January, the Church’s youth and adult Sunday School and Primary classes will be studying the New Testament. The new home-study *Come, Follow Me* resource for individuals and families—also covering the New Testament—is designed to help members learn the gospel in the home. It explains: “This resource is for every individual and family in the Church. It is designed to help [us better] learn the gospel—whether on [our] own or with [our] family. ... The outlines in this [new] resource are organized according to a weekly ... schedule.”⁴

The new Primary *Come, Follow Me* lessons taught in church will follow the same weekly schedule. The adult and youth Sunday School classes on the first and third Sundays will be coordinated so that they will support the new *Come, Follow Me* home resource. On the second and fourth Sundays, adults in priesthood and Relief Society will continue to study the teachings of Church leaders, with emphasis on the current messages of modern prophets.⁵ Young women and Aaronic Priesthood young men will study gospel topics on those Sundays.

The new home-study resource provides “Ideas for Family Scripture Study and Family Home Evening.”⁶ The outlines for each week contain helpful study ideas and activities for individuals and families. The *Come, Follow Me* resource for individuals and families also has many illustrations that will help enhance individual and family learning, especially for children.⁷ This new resource will be provided to each household by December of this year.

President Nelson, from his initial address to the members of the Church in January, has exhorted us to prepare for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ by walking the covenant path.⁸

World conditions increasingly require deepening individual conversion to and strengthening faith in Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ and His Atonement. The Lord has prepared us, line upon line, for the perilous times that we now face. In recent years, the Lord has guided us to address related core concerns, including:

- Honoring the Sabbath day and the sacred ordinance of the sacrament has again been emphasized for the last three years.
- Under the bishop's direction, strengthened elders quorums and Relief Societies are focused on the purpose and divinely appointed responsibilities of the Church² and helping members make and keep sacred covenants.
- Ministering in a higher and holier way is being joyfully adopted.
- Beginning with the end in mind, temple covenants and family history service are becoming a purposeful part of the covenant path.

The adjustment announced this morning is yet another example of guidance for the challenges of our day.