

Prophetic Succession

Family Home Evening Lesson

Opening Hymn: Latter-day Prophets, Children's Songbook #134

Opening Prayer: By Invitation

Lesson:

Before discussing how a new Prophet is chosen, define what a Prophet is, what they do and what blessings we receive from following their counsel. Lastly, outline how a new prophet is selected and how we can sustain him in his new calling.

What Is A Prophet?

- "A prophet is a man called by God to be His representative on earth. When a prophet speaks for God, it is as if God were speaking (see D&C 1:38 printable*). A prophet is also a special witness for Christ, testifying of His divinity and teaching His gospel."

- *Chapter 9 Prophets of God - Gospel Principles*

What Do Prophets Do?

- "A prophet teaches truth and interprets the word of God. He calls the unrighteous to repentance. He receives revelations and directions from the Lord for our benefit. He may see into the future and foretell coming events so that the world may be warned."

- *Chapter 9 Prophets of God - Gospel Principles*

- "Like the prophets of old, prophets today testify of Jesus Christ and teach His gospel. They make known God's will and true character. They speak boldly and clearly, denouncing sin and warning of its consequences. At times, they may be inspired to prophesy of future events for our benefit. We sustain the President of the Church as our prophet, seer, and revelator—the only person on the earth who receives revelation to guide the entire Church."

- *Prophets, True to the Faith*

- See Amos 3:7 printable*

What Blessings Do We Receive From Following the Prophet?

- See Doctrine & Covenants 21:4-6 printable*

- "The Lord will never permit me or any other man who stands as President of this Church to lead you astray. It is not in the programme. It is not in the mind of God. If I were to attempt that, the Lord would remove me out of my place."

- *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Wilford Woodruff [2004], 199*

How Is A New Prophet Selected? (see *Seniority Graphic* under "Activities"):

- When a Prophet dies the First Presidency is dissolved and the next Prophet is almost always (chosen unanimously by the still living Apostles) the senior most living Apostle, or in other words the Apostle who was ordained (not by age) to his office first of all the other living Apostles. This Apostle can be one of the former counselors or the President of the Quorum of the Twelve.

He prays and selects his two counselors from any of the current Apostles, prior counselors or new Apostle(s). He is set apart by the new President of the Twelve and all of the remaining Apostles. The remaining Apostles are then organized by seniority (ordination date) with the most senior Apostle acting as President of the Quorum of the Twelve.

How Can We Sustain The New Prophet?:

"How can we sustain the prophet? We should pray for him. His burdens are heavy, and he needs to be strengthened by the prayers of the Saints. We should study his words. We can listen to his conference addresses. We can also subscribe to the Ensign or Liahona so we can read his conference addresses and other messages he gives. We should follow his inspired teachings completely. We should not choose to follow part of his inspired counsel and discard that which is unpleasant or difficult."

- *Chapter 9 Prophets of God - Gospel Principles*

Online Videos:

We Need Prophets - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j8nSv95wXyM>
 Follow The Prophet - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AM8aBrgsxfq>

Activities:

1. Seniority Graphic / New Prophet Process
2. Prophet Fun Facts
3. Latter-day Prophet Matching Game - <http://www.livecrafteat.com/craft/general-conference-matching-game-latter-day-prophets/>

Closing Hymn: We Thank Thee O God For A Prophet, LDS Hymnbook #19

Closing Prayer: By Invitation

Doctrine & Covenants 1:38

What I the Lord have spoken, I have spoken, and I excuse not myself; and though the heavens and the earth pass away, my word shall not pass away, but shall all be fulfilled, whether by mine own voice or by the voice of my servants, it is the same.

Doctrine & Covenants 21:4-6

**Wherefore...thou shalt give heed unto all his words
and commandments which he shall give unto you
as he receiveth them,
walking in all holiness before me;
For his word ye shall receive, as if from mine own
mouth, in all patience and faith.
For by doing these things the gates of hell shall not
prevail against you; yea, and the Lord God will
disperse the powers of darkness from before you,
and cause the heavens to shake for your good,
and his name's glory.**

Amos 3:7

**Surely the Lord God will
do nothing,
but he revealeth his
secret unto his servants
the prophets.**

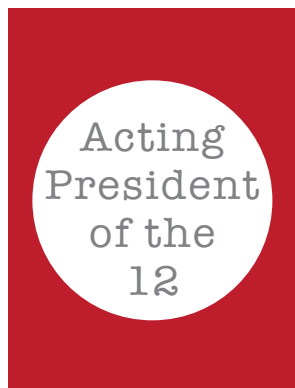
New Prophet Process

#1 in Seniority.
Was previously one of the
Counselors or the
Acting President of the
Quorum of the Twelve.



Chosen though
inspiration by the Prophet,
from the Quorum of the
Twelve Apostles regardless
of seniority.
When released, they
return to their order of
seniority in the
Quorum of the Twelve.


Most senior Apostle,
not currently in the Presidency.



New Prophet Process

Print this page onto cardstock. Cut out these cards and place them on the correct spaces on the "New Prophet Process" chart.
 Write the names of the current 1st and 2nd counselors on the appropriate card and place them next to the Prophet.
 Then, place their other card in their current order on the seniority chart of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.

President Thomas S. Monson October 10, 1963	President Russell M. Nelson April 7, 1984	Elder Dallin H. Oaks May 1984	Elder M. Russell Ballard October 6, 1985	Elder Robert D. Hales April 2, 1994	Elder Jeffrey R. Holland June 23, 1994
President Henry B. Eyring April 1, 1995	President Dieter F. Uchtdorf October 2, 2004	Elder David A. Bednar October 7, 2004	Elder Quentin L. Cook October 6, 2007	Elder D. Todd Christofferson April 5, 2008	Elder Neil L. Anderson April 4, 2009
Elder Ronald A. Rasband October 3, 2015	Elder Gary E. Stevenson October 3, 2015	Elder Dale G. Renlund October 3, 2015	1st Counselor President _____ _____ _____	2nd Counselor President _____ _____ _____	New Apostle Elder _____ _____ _____



FUN FACTS

quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Draw a line from the person to their fun fact!
All facts are gathered from lds.org.

RUSSELL M. NELSON ●

- President of Brigham Young University Idaho from 1997-2004

DALLIN H. OAKS ●

- Received a Doctor of Jurisprudence from Stanford University

M. RUSSELL BALLARD ●

- Former Professor of Medicine at University of Utah

ROBERT D. HALES ●

- Mission President in New York & former COO of Huntsman Chemical Corporation

JEFFREY R. HOLLAND ●

- A justice of the Utah Supreme Court from 1980-1984

DAVID A. BEDNAR ●

- Internationally renowned surgeon and medical researcher

QUENTIN L. COOK ●

- Served mission in Argentina and received law degree from Duke.

D. TODD CHRISTOFFERSON ●

- Attended Utah St and Mission President in Japan

NEIL L. ANDERSEN ●

- Called as President of the Canada Toronto Mission in 1974

RONALD A. RASBAND ●

- Obtained master and doctor of philosophy degrees in American Studies from Yale University

GARY E. STEVENSON ●

- Served in the United States Air Force as a jet fighter pilot

DALE G. RENLUND ●

- Mission President in France & Harvard MBA

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* Answer Sheet *

