

## Notice

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Date: February 14, 2019

To: General Authorities; General Auxiliary  
Presidencies; and the following leaders in the  
United States and Canada: Area Seventies;  
Stake, Mission, and District Presidents; Bishops  
and Branch Presidents; Stake, District, Ward,  
and Branch Councils

From: Priesthood and Family Department (1-801-240-2134)

Subject: Being Wise in Managing Finances

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THE CHURCH OF  
**JESUS CHRIST**  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

For many years, Church leaders have asked local leaders to practice and teach principles of sound financial management, including making wise investment decisions.

To that end, stake presidents and bishops should review the enclosed resource, “Being Wise in Managing Our Finances,” with their stake or ward council. To reinforce these principles with ward members, the bishop or someone under his direction (such as a self-reliance specialist or a member who is experienced in financial affairs) should prepare and teach a fifth-Sunday lesson in March or June 2019 for the adult members of the ward.

This notice, with enclosure, is being translated and will be distributed to units identified as French and Spanish in the United States and Canada. If leaders need this notice in additional languages, they may contact the Area Presidency. Area leaders can forward requests to the Priesthood and Family Department at ext. 2-2933.

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# Being Wise in Managing Our Finances

For many years, Church leaders have taught members to wisely manage their finances, including their investment decisions. To reemphasize these principles, the bishop or someone under his direction (a self-reliance specialist or another member who is experienced in financial affairs) should prepare and teach a fifth-Sunday lesson to adult members of the ward.



## PREPARE YOURSELF SPIRITUALLY

Heavenly Father cares about how we manage our financial resources; to Him, temporal matters are also spiritual matters (see Doctrine and Covenants 29:34). Your goal is to help members understand principles of good financial management and avoid unwise use of their financial resources. As you do, be careful to avoid comparisons between people, and be cautious about using negative personal examples. Ensure that your discussion aligns with principles taught by Church leaders.

**Prepare to teach this sensitive topic by reviewing all of the materials included with this outline. Here are a few questions to prayerfully consider as you prepare to teach members of your ward:**

- What are some of the financial challenges that members of your ward are facing?
- What principles do members of your ward need to understand in order to be more self-reliant financially?
- What have Church leaders taught about wise financial management?

As part of your preparation, you could review “Become a Wise and Faithful Steward,” “Work Together to Manage Money,” and “Hold Regular Family Councils” in *Personal Finances for Self-Reliance* (pages 6–7, 24–28; available on the Gospel Library app) and “Family Finances” on [topics.lds.org](https://topics.lds.org).

## LEARN TOGETHER

Use the following ideas or an idea of your own based on the needs of the members of your ward.

**Invite the members of your ward to review the following statement from the First Presidency letter dated March 7, 2013:**

*“We are concerned that some Church members ignore the oft-repeated direction to prepare and live within a budget, avoid consumer debt, and to save against a time of need. Consideration should also be given to investing wisely with responsible and established financial institutions. We are also concerned that there are those who use relationships of trust to promote risky or even fraudulent investment and business schemes.*

*“While all investments carry an element of risk, that risk can be managed by following sound and proven financial principles: first, avoid unnecessary debt, especially consumer debt; second, before investing, seek advice from a qualified and licensed financial advisor; and third, be wise.”*

## Possible discussion questions:

- How has following the First Presidency’s counsel blessed us and our families?
- What risks are we taking if we do not follow this counsel?

- What wise financial principles and practices should we consider? Your list should include ideas like the following:
  - Always pay your tithing first.
  - Assist others temporarily by paying a generous fast offering.
  - Record how much money you earn and spend.
  - Be unified with your family and the Lord in your approach to finances.
  - Don't spend more than you earn.
  - Save money for emergencies.
  - Avoid unnecessary debt.
  - Show integrity in all financial decisions.
  - Be a good steward over spiritual and temporal blessings.
  - Remember that we are accountable for our actions toward ourselves, our families, others, and the Lord.
- Approach risky situations cautiously and wisely to avoid the negative consequences of poor decisions.
- Avoid investments that are “too good to be true.”
- Do not invest if you cannot afford to lose your investment.
- Avoid the temptation of “get rich quick” investments.
- Note that poor investment decisions often lead to other unwise or even illegal decisions.
- Be aware of fraudulent activity used to take advantage without providing value.
- After a discussion about these principles, members could practice applying these principles by role-playing a few scenarios. These scenarios will vary depending upon the country or region in which you live. You might seek ideas for these scenarios from your ward council.

You might recommend that members discuss these principles in a family council.

**If your ward would benefit from a discussion about investment risk, you could discuss the following principles:**

- While we generally trust others, we use wisdom when investing.
- As all investments carry risk, verify the legitimacy of the investment and the company and representatives providing the services.
- Be cautious when high-pressure or fear tactics are used.
- Be wary of persuasion by power or position rather than the strength of the opportunity.
- Protect personal and financial information to minimize the risk of exploitation.

**INVITE TO ACT**

Encourage members to ponder how they will apply what they have discussed in this meeting. For example, they could counsel with the Lord about their finances this week and seek His help.

**The following resources are available for those who want to learn more about finances:**

- Bryan Sudweeks and E. Jeffrey Hill, “An Eternal Perspective on Personal and Family Finance,” *Ensign*, July 2016, 20–25.
- Marvin J. Ashton, “Guide to Family Finance,” *Liahona*, Apr. 2000, 42–47.
- Karianne Salisbury, “Protecting Family Finances by Avoiding Fraud,” *Ensign*, July 2008, 76–77.
- Self-reliance group about personal finances (organized by your ward or stake).