

Implementation of the New Duty to God Program

Instructions for Bishops and Branch Presidents

KEY OBJECTIVES OF THE IMPLEMENTATION

- Stake presidencies and stake Young Men presidencies instruct bishoprics, Young Men presidencies, and Aaronic Priesthood quorum presidencies on using the Duty to God book.
- Each ward and branch holds a meeting with young men, parents, and leaders to introduce the new program.
- Every young man receives a copy of the Duty to God book and begins using it.
- Duty to God becomes a regular part of Sunday quorum meetings and Mutual.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What is the purpose of the new Duty to God program?

The new Duty to God program focuses on the spiritual development of young men, with activities grounded in the scriptures. It is a tool to help young men:

- Strengthen their testimonies and their relationship with God.
- Learn and fulfill their priesthood duties.
- Live the standards from *For the Strength of Youth*.

Carrying out the activities in the Duty to God book can also strengthen relationships between parents and their sons, among quorum members, and between young men and their leaders.

The new program does not overlap or compete with Scouting, but it does include some activities relating to physical, educational, and social development.

How can I obtain additional copies of the Duty to God book?

Additional books may be purchased through Church Distribution Services.

What should a young man do if he is close to earning a certificate or the medallion in the previous Duty to God program?

Young men should begin using the new Duty to God program as soon as it is implemented in their ward or branch. Many young men have worked hard to complete the requirements of the previous program; during the transition to the new program, the certificates and medallion from the previous program will still be available for young men who want to earn them.

For example, if a priest is close to completing the previous program, he may choose to complete those requirements and receive the medallion in addition to working in the new Duty to God book.

If a deacon or teacher is close to earning one of the certificates, he may choose to complete those requirements in addition to working in the new Duty to God book.

Where can leaders find additional information about Duty to God?

Additional information about the new Duty to God program can be found at DutytoGod.lds.org.

IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS

Included with these instructions are books for each active young man in your ward or branch, along with a DVD introducing the program. Working with your Young Men presidency, develop a plan to implement the new Duty to God program in your ward or branch. You may want to consider some of the following as you prepare your plan.

1. Become familiar with the Duty to God book and related materials. In particular, study the instructions to parents and leaders found on pages 90–102 of the book.
2. Within three weeks of receiving the new materials, consider holding a meeting with all the young men in the ward or branch, together with parents and Young Men leaders. During this meeting you could:
 - a. Use the DVD to introduce the program (if possible).
 - b. Give each young man a copy of the book.
 - c. Study together pages 90–102 to give an overview of the organization of the book and the roles of parents and leaders.
 - d. Encourage young men to begin using the book. As they do so, they will have opportunities to study, make plans, carry out their plans, and share their feelings and accomplishments.
3. Encourage parents to become actively involved in their sons' efforts and progress in the new Duty to God program.
4. Encourage quorum advisers to use the Duty to God book, along with the existing curriculum, in their Sunday quorum meetings. For example:
 - a. Based on the needs of the quorum, select topics from the book for quorum members to study together (such as "Pray and Study the Scriptures" or "Administer Priesthood Ordinances"). Many lessons in the Aaronic Priesthood manuals address these same topics. Quorum members could complete the learning activity for the topic together during a quorum meeting. Quorums could revisit topics as often as necessary.
- b. Give quorum members time to write plans to act on what they have learned. Encourage young men to share their plans with each other, as appropriate. Some plans can be prepared together as a quorum.
- c. Encourage young men to share with their parents what they are learning and the plans they have made.
- d. In subsequent quorum meetings, invite quorum members to share experiences and feelings they have had while carrying out their plans. Advisers should share some of their experiences as well. This could be a regular part of quorum meetings (for example, the first few minutes of the meeting).
5. Encourage quorum advisers and presidencies to look for ways to use Mutual activities to help quorum members carry out the plans they make in the Duty to God book.
6. For an interactive version of the Duty to God book and additional resources, visit DutytoGod.lds.org (in selected languages).