

## **BYU Education Week Guidelines for Preparing Your Presentations**

The following is intended to be a guide as you prepare your outlines and presentations. The principles shared below are provided with the intent to help you strengthen the religious content of your classes.

All presentations should be consistent with the principles of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ, regardless of subject matter.

### Strengthen Faith

The presentations should help your audience strengthen their relationship with, and faith in Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ. They should also strengthen their testimony of the Restoration of the gospel of Jesus Christ, including The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the living prophets.

### Key Sources

When considering resources, give priority to the use of scriptures and current emphases and teachings of the living prophets and apostles and general Church leaders, especially recent, repeated and established teachings.

Consider the context of scriptures and quotes and be faithful to the intended meaning as demonstrated in repeated teachings of Church leaders. Share information on your topic without contradicting, opposing or undermining the Church or its doctrine, policies or leaders.

### Share Messages that Build

In the process of preparing your messages, consider how they will teach and impact participants. Messages can acknowledge that we have differences and challenges, but should not foster doubt, contention, or misunderstanding, and should address the positive, provide encouragement, and stress personal growth and application of gospel principles. When addressing a sacred or sensitive topic, focus on aligning your message with the patterns modeled in Church leadership messages.

### Content Cautions

Carefully consider the tone and content of your messages, avoiding:

- anything that distorts Church doctrine or distracts from gospel truths
- doctrinal speculation or personal interpretation
- leadership training that falls under priesthood keys (training for callings)
- prescriptive statements, (e.g. if you do A, then B will happen)
- giving individual counseling (financial, marital, parental, etc.).