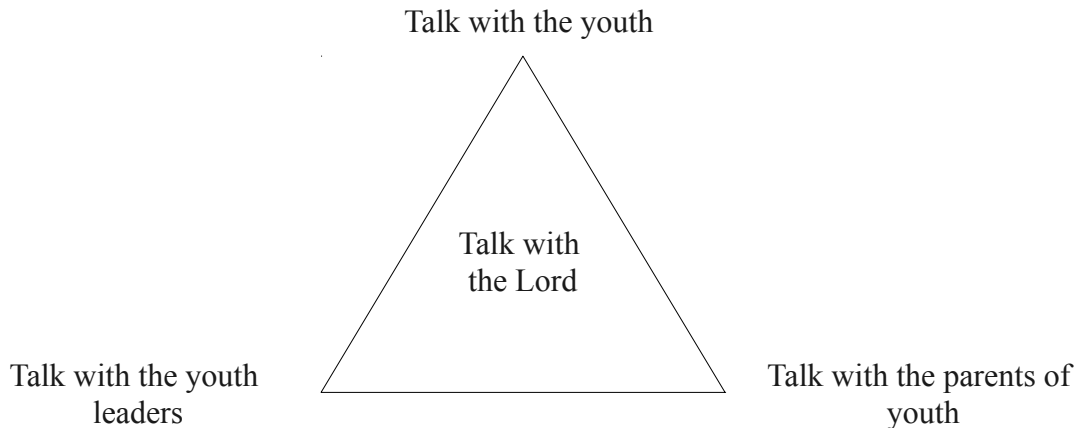


Determining What to Teach

Know your youth

Part of your calling is to teach as the Savior taught. This means knowing those you teach so that you may better meet their needs. This is the first step; even before planning you must know those you are teaching so that your teaching is not in vain. Getting to know the needs of the youth is easier than you may think, but it does require effort on your part.



Prepare yourself spiritually

Once you have come to know the youth, you are one step closer to teaching as the Savior taught. The next step is to study the gospel. Each learning outline comes with an introductory section called “Prepare yourself spiritually.” In this section, you will find a list of scriptures and talks that assist in the study of a gospel topic. Prayerfully study and ponder the resources you have been given. The resources are there to help you as a teacher learn the gospel first. As teachers, we are under the same admonition given to Hyrum Smith:

Doctrine and Covenants 11:21

Seek not to declare my word, but first seek to obtain my word, and then shall your tongue be loosed; then, if you desire, you shall have my Spirit and my word, yea, the power of God unto the convincing of men.

Determine what to teach

Once you have come to know the youth and studied the gospel for yourself, you are better prepared to determine what to teach. In the previous step, you came to more fully understand the gospel of Jesus Christ, and now it is your responsibility to make connections between what you just studied and the needs of your youth. This requires you to decide which of the provided resources you need to use in your lesson and how to use them. You cannot and should not use every resource available; pick and choose the scriptures and talk segments that will best help the youth become more fully converted to the gospel of Jesus Christ, just as you did as you studied the resources for yourself. This requires constant communication with your Heavenly Father through study and prayer.