The Plano Texas Stake Preparedness Challenge

For October—“Be Faithful”

“And inasmuch as they are faithful they shall be preserved, and I, the Lord, will be with them.”(D&C 61:10)

What a beautiful assurance of how we can be prepared for the tumultuous times ahead of us in these latter days. Four of the best ways of staying faithful (and assuring that our children will know how to as well), are to follow the spiritual preparedness goals set by our Stake leaders as outlined below. If we follow these goals, weekly renew our covenants with the Savior by partaking of the Sacrament, keep His commandments and pay an honest tithe, we truly need not fear.

Spiritual Goals

**First Spiritual Goal: Make twice daily personal prayer a habit. Set aside time for twice daily family prayer as well.**

“We are all children of God. He loves us and knows our needs, and He wants us to communicate with Him through prayer. We should pray to Him and no one else. The Lord Jesus Christ commanded, ‘Ye must always pray unto the Father in my name’ ([3 Nephi 18:19](https://www.lds.org/scriptures/bofm/3-ne/18.19?lang=eng#18)). As we make a habit of approaching God in prayer, we will come to know Him and draw ever nearer to Him. Our desires will become more like His. We will be able to secure for ourselves and for others blessings that He is ready to give if we will but ask in faith.” (from [www.lds.org/topics/prayer?lang=eng](http://www.lds.org/topics/prayer?lang=eng)). We should start our day with prayer. We should likewise end our day with prayer and we should pray and have an attitude of prayer throughout the day.

**Second Spiritual Goal: Hold weekly Family Home Evenings with your family**.

Follow the advice of our modern day prophets and hold weekly Family Home Evenings (preferably on a Monday night). A wealth of information on making successful Family Home Evenings can be found on the Church’s website: [www.lds.org](http://www.lds.org) Click on “Resources,” then “Home and Family,” then, “Family Home Evening.” Try having at least one FHE this month centered on the Savior and on the theme “Be Faithful.” Another Family Home Evening this month could be on fire safety (see first Emergency Preparedness Task for this month).

**Third Spiritual Goal: Have daily personal and family scripture study.**

The suggested scripture reading for the month of October is 3 Nephi 6- 3 Nephi 25. If this does not fit in with your family, go at your own pace or select other scriptures to fit your family needs. “Be Faithful” at keeping up with your personal and family scripture study. Time spent in this area will pay big dividends not only in this life, but in the eternities as well.

**Fourth Spiritual Goal: Do family history work and attend the temple regularly**. Fulfill the Plano Stake Goals of spending at least **one hour of indexing** each month, **one hour of family history** each month and of taking **one family name to the temple** each year. Contact your ward or branch family history specialist to find out more. Register yourself at: <https://familysearch.org/>. Make plans to attend the temple regularly. If you do not currently possess a temple recommend, see your Bishop or Branch President to make plans to obtain one.

Financial Objectives:

**First Financial Objective: Review and/or renew life and health insurance.** Re-enroll in your health insurance if it is time to do that on your plan. If you and your family have no health insurance, check into what is available to you. If possible, see that the income earners for your family are covered with adequate life insurance for their survivors to continue on without them if necessary. Also if possible see that you are insured so that your medical and burial expenses are paid for and your financial obligations will be covered if something should happen to you.

**Second Financial Objective: Continue working on your financial goals.** Continue making and living by your budget.Continue to work toward reducing and getting out of debt. Continue to build your savings.See [www.providentliving.org](http://www.providentliving.org) for more information and help on financial planning (click on “Finances”).

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Emergency Preparedness Tasks:

**First Preparedness Task: Make a fire safety plan for your household.** If you do not already have working smoke detectors, now would be a good time to purchase them. Purchasing fire ladders for upper story windows is also a good idea. Make a plan as to what your family members should do in the event your home catches fire. See the handout entitled “Fire Safety Tips” under the Preparedness Challenge tab in the “Resources” section for this month in the Plano Stake preparedness website: [www.preparednessplano.org](http://www.preparednessplano.org). Consider making your fire escape plan and having a fire safety drill as the focus of a family home evening during this month. Have children who sleep on the upper story of your home practice putting the fire ladder out the window (without actually climbing out) so they will know how to do it if the time comes.

**Second Preparedness Task**: **Put together an auto emergency kit for your vehicle(s)**

See the Handout: “An Emergency Kit for Your Vehicle” in the “Resources” section for this month in the Plano Stake preparedness website: [www.preparednessplano.org](http://www.preparednessplano.org). Maintain your vehicles in good mechanical condition. Stress to your family members automobile safety and avoiding distracted driving from texting and cell phone usage. Make sure all family members are properly restrained (faithfully wearing seatbelts) while in the car and that child safety seats are installed and used correctly. Maintain vehicle gas tanks at half full.

**Third Preparedness Task: Store oils and fats.** Crisco shortening (in cans), stored properly will last indefinitely. While not the healthiest fat to eat on a regular basis, it could come in handy for emergency storage and to make baked goods (such as pie crust or biscuits). Store shortening and oil unopened in the original container in a cool (74° or less), dark place. Rotate your oil storage often. For an article on storing fats by Oscar Pike, a professor in the food science department at BYU see: [www.lds.org/ensign/1999/06/random-sampler/storing-fats-and-oils?lang=eng](http://www.lds.org/ensign/1999/06/random-sampler/storing-fats-and-oils?lang=eng). Determine what your oil and fat needs are for three-months (or longer), and make a plan to purchase as much of these items as you can during this month of October.

**It’s General Conference time—remember to check your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide monitors and inventory and update your 72 Hr. Kits!**