

"Missionary work is a priesthood duty...We assure the young sisters of the Church; however, that they make a valuable contribution as missionaries, and we welcome their service."

— President Thomas S. Monson

"President Monson never intended for all of the young women in the Church to go on missions by dropping [the] age [to 19]. We're very grateful for those who go. It's changed the face of the Church. ... But we do not want anyone feeling inadequate or left out or undignified or tarnished because she did not choose to serve a mission. And we're a little irritated with young men who say, 'Well, I'm not going to date you because you didn't serve a mission.' ...We do not want that kind of climate over dating or marriages. ...It isn't our place to pass a judgment."

— Elder Jeffrey R. Holland



Do I need to serve a mission?

According to churchofjesuschrist.org/youth, "As with praying about any question, there is great value in understanding and following the principles in Doctrine and Covenants 9:7-9 and 8:2-3 – study it out. Counsel with your parents and priesthood leaders, decide what you think is best for your circumstances, and then ask Heavenly Father to either confirm your choice or help you know it's not the right decision. Be open to His will and timing for you, even if the answer is not what you'd hoped or expected."

How will my answer come?

Your answer may come in a variety of ways. Sometimes the most difficult answer may be no answer at all. Elder Richard G. Scott taught that when this happens it is evidence that God trusts you and the decisions you will make. He also taught that "When you are living righteously and are acting with trust, God will not let you proceed too far without a warning impression if you have made the wrong decision."

I'm still not sure if I should go; should I be preparing for a full-time mission anyway?

"The qualities that will help you be a successful missionary include following and teaching with the Spirit, loving others, obeying the commandments, developing Christlike attributes, working hard, and serving others" (see Preach My Gospel, 10-11). As you prepare for a full-time mission, you will also be preparing to be a life-long member missionary. Whether you share the gospel with or without a "name tag," the preparation that you start now will bless your life and will help bring others unto Christ.

*"Trust in the
Lord with all
thine heart;
and lean not
unto thine own
understanding.
In all thy ways
acknowledge
him, and he
shall direct thy
paths"*

Proverbs 3:5-6