

“The purposes of home, family, and personal enrichment are to strengthen faith in Jesus Christ and to teach parenting and homemaking skills. Enrichment is a time for sisters to socialize, learn, and be uplifted. In planning meetings and activities, leaders should (1) consider the needs and interests of sisters in the ward, (2) counsel with priesthood leaders, and (3) plan activities with prayer and purpose (see *Church Handbook of Instructions, Book 2: Priesthood and Auxiliary Leaders*, 222). Efforts should be made to involve all sisters.” (**Guidelines for Relief Society Home, Family, and Personal Enrichment Meetings and Activities, Ids.org, Relief Society**)

Enrichment Activities are an organized means to help us accomplish the purposes of Relief Society. We all agree we should be preparing for the coming of the Lord. The **Three-fold Mission of the Church** is a good guide to remind us where we should aim our efforts: **Those who have not met the church yet, or accepted its teachings, Those of us who want to move forward and be perfected, and THOSE WHO NEVER GOT A CHANCE AND NEED OUR HELP.**

It helps to put someone “in charge” of the activity or group, but it can be male or female, whoever has a love for that particular activity. Avoid the “learning curve” anxiety by asking someone who already knows something about “it”. A person with a personal interest needs little motivation to see it to the end.

Activities can be a **one time, a few times, or an indefinite time activity**. It has to do with interest level, reaching the goal set, or offering it so all interested can participate. It is my experience that a one time activity seldom accomplishes the full objective, unless you do a series of related activities. Even still, in order to allow all to participate, you might want to repeat the series, or offer multiple opportunities to participate: your objective is to reach as many people as possible through involvement and/or participation.

With Enrichment Nights being held quarterly, less sisters have been participating in “Relief Society” involvement. Their time is being replaced with other things that eat time and are offering more “worldly” or “empty” achievements. *Relief Society Activities provide a re-focusing of what is important to Latter-Day Saints and what our purpose is.*

Activities are very casual in that friends can get together (“when two or more are gathered...”). Groups should adapt to anyone who wants to join at any time. **Friends, family, neighbors, members, non-members, ward members or not, children, spouses, large groups, you name it, can be involved in any given activity.** The RS may organize a group, a woman may organize a group, a man may organize a group (in behalf of the RS); an idea might generate from any direction. All of this can serve as a Relief Society Activity.

Every ward has great talent. *Use your ward members. Use non-members in your neighborhood.* Team people together so its not quite so overwhelming. If you have more than one specialist in a certain area, use them both or take turns using them. The more the merrier. This is an opportunity to make all ward members feel needed and valued, or invite non-members to participate in a non-threatening “Mormon activity”, and they might just be influenced to redirect the path their life is taking them.

Remember, the purpose is to keep the focus on everyone accomplishing the work of the Lord.

****I would like to create a list of interesting activities that we can all use to generate new, helpful ideas in our own wards and stakes. Please contribute your ideas for activities and I will add them to the lists I have started****