



Why Your Ward Should Be Using the Ward History Tool | A How I Lead Interview with Beth Zeleny

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Kurt Francom:

Okay, so you're here for some great church leadership content. The podcast is great, but there's also another piece of content you need to be enjoying each week. It is the Leading Saints email newsletter. Now, I get it. Email newsletters feel so 2006, you know? But it isn't as old-fashioned as you might think. It's actually one of the most popular pieces of content that Leading Saints produces. Each week I share a unique leadership thought that can only be found in the newsletter. I keep it short and sweet, most can read it in less than five minutes, and then we share with you recent content you might have missed, throwback episodes, and leading saints events that happen more often than you might anticipate. If you want to make sure you are on the email list, simply visit [leadingsaints.org slash 14](https://leadingsaints.org/14). That's [leadingsaints.org slash 14](https://leadingsaints.org/14). That will also get you 14 days access to our full library of content not available to the general public. So look for Leading Saints in your inbox by going to [leadingsaints.org slash 14](https://leadingsaints.org/14) or click the link in the show notes. So my name is Kurt Francom, and I am the founder and executive director of Leading Saints and obviously the host of the Leading Saints podcast. Now, I started Leading Saints back in 2010. It was just a hobby blog, and it grew from there. By the time 2014 came around, we started the podcast, and that's really when it got some traction and took off 2016, we became a 501c3 nonprofit organization and we've been growing ever since. And now I get the opportunity of interviewing and talking with remarkable people all over the world. Now this is a segment we do on the Leading Saints podcast called How I Lead. And we reach out to everyday leaders, they're not experts, gurus, authors, PhDs, they're just everyday leaders who've been

asked to serve in a specific leadership calling and we simply ask them, How is it that you lead? And they go through some remarkable principles that should be in a book, that should be behind a PhD. They're usually that good. And we just talk about sharing what the other guy is doing. And I remember being a leader, just simply wanting to know, okay, I know what I'm trying to do, but what's the other guy doing? What's working for him? And so that's why every Wednesday or so, we publish these how I lead segments to share. This is the Leading Saints podcast and welcome back to another episode. Now, I listen, I'll be honest. I'm worried people are just going to skip this episode. They're going to see something related to word history specialists and they'll be like, boring. I felt this interview was incredibly inspiring. I know that sounds weird, but hang with me here. I talked with Beth Zeleny from Maple Valley, Washington, and she is her word history specialist. She made me aware of this remarkable tool that the church released. That's right, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Somewhere in the church office building in downtown Salt Lake, they put together a remarkable tool that makes ward history, recording ward history, fun and easy and engaging. And you got to know about this, okay? So hang with me. applaud you for trusting me enough to hit play on this episode. You're going to enjoy this, and you're going to be inspired by it, and you're going to send it to your bishop and your bishopric and your stake presidency and saying, hey, let's do this, right? So listen how Beth uses the Ward History tool on churchofjesuschrist.org, really easy to get to, really simple to use, and how she goes about recording history, getting pictures, approaching members to share their story. So, so simple, so easy. Every ward needs their ward history specialist listening to this and using it and all the organizational leaders. It's going to be phenomenal. Let's get to it. Here's my interview with Beth Zeleny from Maple Valley, Washington, the ward history specialist in her ward. All right, Beth Zeleny, welcome to the Leading Saints podcast

Beth Zeleny:

Hi, thanks.

Kurt Francom:

Now you are in, is it Maple? What was it? Maple Valley, Washington, right? Correct. Nice. And just outside of Seattle. Is that the best way to? OK, awesome. Are you how long have you lived there? Born and raised or?

Beth Zeleny:

One year. One year. I'm an Easterner. Oh, really? Here I am in the Pacific Northwest, really out of my element. But this is the friendliest place I've ever been, to be honest.

Kurt Francom:

Oh, that's encouraging. Yeah. Nice. So where did you have you spent most of your adult life?

Beth Zeleny:

In northern Virginia.

Kurt Francom:

Really? Okay.

Beth Zeleny:

That's a beautiful part of the country as well. It is. It is. This is amazing.

Beth Zeleny:

When the sun shines, you've got these beautiful Douglas firs and Mount Rainier and it's magical.

Kurt Francom:

I bet. I bet. And your name was kind of thrown into the hat here as we're constantly looking for individuals to interview for the How I Lead segment, which this is. And you are a Ward History Specialist. Is that the right term?

Beth Zeleny:

Correct.

Kurt Francom:

And you don't have much knowledge of leading saints, which is great. We want to hear from everybody and how they're going after these callings. And again, not that you're the expert and figured everything out. So how did this, is there a story behind how you were called to this position?

Beth Zeleny:

Yeah, I guess in December, at the end of 2023, the counselor in the bishopric just stopped by and said he wanted to release me from teaching Sunday school. And which I love doing and wanted me to do this word history specialist calling that he and the bishop felt I had moved there for this purpose. Oh, wow.

Beth Zeleny:

I know the pressure was on.

Beth Zeleny:

So we talked about it because I just said, I am not a historian at all. I don't scrapbook. I don't do that kind of stuff. And we talked about the vision and what we were going to do and how we were going to approach this. And we decided that it was going to be like building Nephi's boat. And we might get some wrong, you know, measurements or some wrong lumber or whatever,

but we'd figure it out. And the really, really neat thing is that the three days after I was sustained into this calling, we got this wonderful new website, the Unit History website that the church has set up.

Kurt Francom:

Oh, interesting. Okay.

Beth Zeleny:

And so, you know, that's been that has just made this calling so fun and so easy. So the church sent me an email with this link to get on to our very own unithistory.org site. And it made this so easy and so fun. So in the past, what was supposed to happen in the past at the end of the year, auxiliaries and organizations would write their annual reports. and give them to the ward clerk and then they would go to the stake clerk and eventually they'd make their way to Salt Lake City. Ward members never saw these annual reports and really didn't know what was in them. Now, the church has made this site, these unit history websites for stakes and wards, so that folks can go in and they can post their activities that they do all year long. They can put photos in there, write their little stories, and they don't have to wait till the end of the year to do it. great feature, even better than that, I think, is that this is an opportunity for all of the ward members to actually go in and see these stories. And many of the stories, well, in our case, especially most of the stories, are not about the activities that different organizations are doing, but that they are stories that come from the members themselves. their testimonies and their experiences. So it's really been great. It's a great way to record who we are, what our ward is like, who our members are.

Kurt Francom:

Yeah, so this is helpful. So any member of the ward can go to this place? Or does that go through you?

Beth Zeleny:

Yeah, any member can go and look at the stories that are on there. The folks that can actually write the stories are all of the leaders of the different organizations and auxiliaries. So all the leaders, presidents and counselors and secretaries, Bishop Rick, you know, and assorted other people, the ward mission leader, and then myself. Now, if, so those, all of those folks have writing privileges, they can go in and they can write their stories. And then a few of us, the Bishopric and myself, the Word History Specialists, have the privileges to go in and post or publish the stories. And so they will sit there and waiting for us to approve them and then post them. But members who do not have writing privileges, they're the ones that I work with especially, and they will send me their stories through email, and then I go ahead and post them. And then I send them a link and say, go into the site. I send the link to the website. They log in with their church account information, look at their story, and if they want something changed, they let me know and I can edit it.

Kurt Francom:

Fascinating. So where does a ward find these things? Or like, where do you go to find this access?

Beth Zeleny:

Actually, you can get to it very easily from the main page of the church website. And so you can access it on your computer or on your phone. And as I said, anybody can go in and read the stories. And that is so really faith promoting, because we've got stories in there from many members of our ward. They're sharing stories about service, about temple, family history work. Oh, about their callings as well, spiritual experiences they've had as they fulfill their callings. And so this becomes a record, a part of a record of our ward. And to me, it's like we're saying, here we are, this is us.

Kurt Francom:

Yeah. So do you know specific, like if I'm on the homepage, I'm just trying to do this live here. Do I, uh, I'm logged in. All right.

Beth Zeleny:

So if you go, you're in your, on the homepage.

Kurt Francom:

Yep. ChurchJesusChrist.org.

Beth Zeleny:

Yeah. If you click on my home and you see all these little tiles are going to come up.

Kurt Francom:

Yes. Okay.

Beth Zeleny:

You should see a tile. You might have to keep scrolling across until you see one that says unit history.

Kurt Francom:

All right. I got it.

Beth Zeleny:

Okay. So you click on that.

Kurt Francom:

I'm about to expose my ward if they have nothing here.

Beth Zeleny:

Now, the way to get into it is you log in with your church account information, which is the same if you're making donations or going to the temple site or whatever. And then you will see how many stories or what the stories are that your award has posted. So tell me how many stories you see.

Kurt Francom:

Okay. So we have, I see four. Okay. September 23rd or September of 2023, May of 2024, April of 2023. And then we had a word split back in June of 2024 and they put something up here. There's pictures. Oh my goodness. We're on top of it. So this is cool. I had no idea this was here.

Beth Zeleny:

There it is. And so my, so ours started, um, just January of this year. So it's new. And we have 121 stories in There.

Kurt Francom:

Oh my goodness.

Beth Zeleny:

That's fantastic. They're just remarkable. And so the kind of stories that we have, well, typically I can tell you about the process that I go through to get these stories. I just, I listen to people and what they're saying so that I know what's happening in their lives. And I listen when people are bearing their testimonies in testimony meeting or giving talks in sacrament meeting. I listen to conversations and also in lessons, Sunday school lessons, Relief Society lessons, primary, that sort of thing. And so when I hear a very, you know, a personal story that is uplifting and will help bring someone to the Savior, will strengthen the youth or tells about missionary efforts, that sort of thing. What I do then is I go to that person. So it's like right after sacrament meeting, I will go right up to them and I'll say, you know, I'd like a piece of your talk to put in our ward history. I'd like to record it. And so what I'd like to do, um, if they have their talk on their phone, I'll say, just email me, send me your, send me your talk and I'll pull out of it, you know, the section that I want. Or, you know, if they don't have it that way, I say, that's fine. Are you willing to have this be part of our word history? And if they say yes, I will go ahead and take a picture of them right there. So I have a photo of them to put with the story. And then, um, I go home and I follow up with the email and I say, we talked this morning about having your story be part of our ward history. I would love to have that recorded to be part of who we are, have your experience be, you know, it would, it will be forever part of our ward. And so the email tells them, you know, I

explain what our site is like, that it's secure. Other people are not going to be able to get into our ward site. It's secure. I summarize what it is I'd like them to write about. And I say they have up to 5,000 characters to write their story. And then I say just hit reply and respond and then hit send. So I give them a week to respond. And if they don't respond, I will send another email and say, I'm looking forward to posting your story. And then if they still don't respond, even though they said they would to begin with, if they don't respond after two times, I drop it because I don't want to be a nag. I don't want them to run the other way when they see me at church. But when they do respond, I post their story unedited. So it's their words, their language. I post the photo along with it, and I send them a link in email so that they can go on, log in and see their story. And then let me know if they want anything changed, the title changed or anything else. So in my experience, so I've been doing this since January, Uh, half of the people that say they're going to send me a story and do a story, half of them actually end up doing it.

Kurt Francom:

Wow. Okay.

Beth Zeleny:

So I don't know if that's good or bad. That's just turns out to be the number.

Kurt Francom:

Yeah. That sounds pretty good to me.

Beth Zeleny:

So there's a lot of stories I wish we got, but they don't come through. Um, you know, but, but I think we're, I think the stories we do have are just really wonderful. So, so for instance, in one week, if I asked four people for stories, I'll end up getting two of those.

Kurt Francom:

Yeah, just to clarify, these are these are so you talk about, you hear people in sacramenting and you'll approach them after and get maybe sort of a highlight of their talk on that day. But these are separate from that these are just you approach different people in the ward just to get their general story.

Beth Zeleny:

Okay, so both. So for instance, we have a sister in our ward who was born in Denmark. She's in her 80s now. She joined the church with her mother in Denmark when she was a young girl, and then they came to the United States. And so she has got an amazing story. and about her life in Denmark in the church and then coming here. And so we have her, so that is her story about her life in the church in Denmark and here. So that's an experience. We have another brother who who bakes bread for the local food bank. And so that's a great story about his service to the

community. And so that's a story. Now, we also have stories about the youth when they went on a temple baptism trip. And so we have a picture of the youth. And for some of them, it was their first time. And so they share their experiences, what it felt like, what it meant to them. So we're getting a mixture of stories. personal experiences, but also some activities. For instance, the Relief Society had a Bunko night, so they have a story about their Bunko night.

Kurt Francom:

Ah, that's fantastic.

Beth Zeleny:

Something else that I watch for is at the beginning of the year, you know, we had some new deacons, new priests, new teachers, and this was going to be the first time they were going to prepare sacrament or bless sacrament or whatever. And so I went up and asked them, would you be willing to share your feelings about what it was like to pass sacrament for the first time? And so I worked with them and their parents, sent out the email. The kids wrote what they thought, sent that on to me, and I had a photo. And so I attached that and put that in. So lots and lots of different. Also, I send emails out to missionaries who are out in the field from our ward and get a report from them. You know, where are you? What's happening? Share a spiritual experience. And they write back with a photo of themselves and a couple paragraphs. Also, I highlight when people move into the ward, I go up and meet the family, the new family, and invite them to write for us. So we get a couple paragraphs and they tell us what brought them here. And I asked them to share a special or spiritual experience their family has had. So it's a nice way to include them in our ward right from the beginning. And so we do that as well. Our bishop sends out, almost on a weekly basis, an update every Saturday evening. And it's usually a spiritual thought. It's an experience from his life. And so I put his little updates in there every week too. So I just really, I really love it that This is so, so inclusive. I've asked and have received from the ward organist, the choir director, the ward music leader, to share their stories about maybe special experiences they've had in their calling, preparing music or choosing music. They have been amazing stories of how their testimonies have been strengthened through music, playing music or choosing. And so this is, that's why I say this is our word history site is who we are. This is us. It's really inspiring.

Kurt Francom:

Wow. I had no idea this was all here. And then the way you're using it is so inspiring. Just this past Sunday, all the young men took a few minutes in sacrament meeting and they shared, obviously, faith-promoting stories from young men's camp this past summer, right? So what a great opportunity to approach those young men and say, hey, let's get this down in writing and put it in there. Is there a way to attach audio or recordings like that?

Beth Zeleny:

No video, but photos and documents. So documents and photos. I wish we could do videos. That's not there yet. Maybe it'll come. I know that we had, let's see, we've had a lot of service

things done too. Our ward just helped to clean the Seattle Washington Temple. And so we had a big group there. And so we snapped a photo and talked about that. I think that these are the kinds of things that, you know, that maybe our wards are all doing, but this is an opportunity to make it a matter of record. And for the ward members, as I said, every ward member can go onto this site and read the stories and really be uplifted by them. Yesterday was our stake conference. I'll tell you, every Sunday I go to church and I say, I pray and say, okay, what stories? I need to find those stories. Help me to hear them and see them. Well, at Stake Conference, it was wonderful because one of our young women spoke in the general session of Stake Conference. And that was a, that was an amazing thing to have that happen for her to speak. And now I went up to her right afterwards and, you know, said, we need to have at least a part of your talk in, in our Word History site, which she did. She went home and she shortened it to match the requirements and, and it's in there. We had, there was a primary children's choir that sang, and some of our children from our ward sang in the choir. And so we put that in too, to highlight that. Anyway, it is a record of us as a ward and as individuals.

Kurt Francom:

Yeah. And in a hundred years, 200 years, this would be really cool for them to look back on, especially, you know, our grandkids or great grandkids. I think you're right

Beth Zeleny:

Because, you know, the church, the church stores the data. We don't have to worry about that. It's, it's like family search and that sort of thing. It's, it's all stored. And to be honest with you, I believe that this is our little book that we are going to present to the Lord and say, here we are. Yeah, that's cool. Will you take us in?

Kurt Francom:

That's cool. Love it. Uh, are you finding, like, do you, do you find yourself trying to look for moments to take a quick photo at church of, uh, I don't know, like lessons happening or do you just mainly, I mean, how do you handle photos or getting photos

Beth Zeleny:

So what I do is, well, you know, I use my phone for the photos. And so, um, when I go up to talk to somebody, like if we get a new missionary in the ward, I go right up to him and meet the new missionary or a new family. And I snapped the photo right then. So even though I don't have their story, I snap their photo and then I bring it home and upload it. So I have, you know, I have a file full of photos and I'm ready for them. So when the story gets written, I can just attach the photo to it. Some stories, for instance, the Bishop's Weekly Updates, they don't always have a photo of him per se. So what I do is I will go to the church website, to the media library. And I go to the images section, and I'll put in what I'm looking for, like car beside the road. He told a story about running out of gas. And so I will get them from the church websites, media library, and I've

always been able to find photos that I want there. So lots of good photos of the Savior. or children singing or whatever it is. And that way I'm not concerned. I don't have to be concerned about copyright infringements or that sort of thing. If I am taking a picture or want to use a photo of a minor, we definitely get permission from the parents to do that. I do assure people this is a secure site. However, you know, if they don't want their child to be in that photo, we respect that.

Kurt Francom:

Yeah, yeah, that's a good just emphasize you said a few times, but this isn't the type of stuff that it's not going to come up in a Google search or something. No, that like the church has a lockdown. So only members of the ward are going to be able to see it. Is that accurate?

Beth Zeleny:

Correct. Correct. You can't see mine, and I can't see yours. And so if somebody moves away, they're not going to be able to get back into their old wards history.

Kurt Francom:

Interesting. Yeah. Okay. I was gonna ask about just like ward engagement. It sounds like I mean, primarily, you're creating a historical historic record, not necessarily worried that members of the ward are getting in there and reading us. I mean, sure, it'd be great if they did. But is there anything you do to stimulate that engagement of the current ward members?

Beth Zeleny:

So everyone who writes a story for me, I of course, send them the link so they can go on see right away. But I also I'm also, I have, let's see, actually every week in our ward bulletin, I have a recurring announcement about the ward history site and that it's available year round for ward members to view. I give them the link to it and, you know, log in with your church account. And then urge them or encourage them that when your family or you have an inspirational experience regarding temple, family history, missionary service, testimony of Christ, that will strengthen the ward members and become part of our ward's history to please send me your story and we will get it posted. To be honest, I have received no stories that way, so I need to be proactive about that. I do, as often as I can, I will sit next to someone or go up and talk to someone and say, Hey, have you been on the Ward history site lately? Have you seen some of the stories that are on there? And so I can get to folks that way, one by one. And certainly people who give me stories, they go in and look at their stories and look at other stories. I haven't yet, I've requested, but I haven't yet been able to speak in sacrament meetings about this. But I would love to either, like in Relief Society or priesthood or whatever, I would love to be able to go and just say, all right, everybody pull out your phones, and then help them navigate to the site, and then go ahead and get in and see it. So they have been finding it one by one, but as the whole ward, that hasn't happened yet.

Kurt Francom:

Yeah, yeah. Now I'm logged in on my unit history here. And I was going to mention that the simple if you need just a direct link, it's just unit.history.churchofjesuschrist.org. So we'll link to that. And then it will take you to your ward when you know that when you're logged in.

Beth Zeleny:

Yeah, it'll it'll take you to yours.

Kurt Francom:

Yeah, so it gives me an option to create a story. Now I'm the Elders quorum president.

Beth Zeleny:

Oh, you can do that Then.

Kurt Francom:

So I can create a story, but not every member is going to see create story when they log in.

Beth Zeleny:

They will not have that square that says create a story. Okay. Now you can write that story. Uh, it, you cannot publish it though. So your bishopric or your word history specialist will go in and they have a little section that says manage stories. They will go in and they'll see that something is waiting to be approved and then they can hit the button to publish it.

Kurt Francom:

Wow. That's cool.

Beth Zeleny:

And then you'll see it.

Kurt Francom:

Yeah. Yeah. That's cool.

Beth Zeleny:

So I just want to encourage you as elders quorum president to get some stories written in There.

Beth Zeleny:

Don't wait until the end of the year.

Kurt Francom:

I will report back, Beth, and let you know when I create my first story here.

Beth Zeleny:

Because I know, I know like our Elders Quorum has done some really fun and neat service activities. Yeah. And they've put them in. If I know, as far as the organizations go, I will send every once in a while, I'll send an email out to all of the leaders of all the organizations. And I'll just remind them that, you know, and I've worked with them all. so that they know how to use this site and they know it's easy, it's fun, they've all done it and I will encourage them to go ahead and put their stories in all year long rather than waiting to the end of the year. Also, if I know something's coming up, like there was a youth camp out, I'll send an email to all the youth leaders and I'll say, please decide who's going to take photos, who's going to write your story and go ahead and get it in there. So, I do not feel like my job is to do their work because they all have writing privileges. So, I leave it up to them to do that. I tend to really work with the members to get their stories on. Yeah, interesting. Cool. Yeah, I made that decision. I said, no, they're also able. They've got, you know, all of your presidency and your secretary have writing privileges.

Kurt Francom:

Yeah. And you kind of act as sort of this, this is prompt every once in a while that, Hey, remember this is part of something we need to do, right? Yeah.

Beth Zeleny:

That's cool. Sometimes they do it. Sometimes they don't.

Kurt Francom:

Yeah. As humans do. Yeah.

Beth Zeleny:

But I'll tell you, it takes maybe 10 minutes to get your story in There.

Kurt Francom:

Yeah, right. And I noticed the when I log in here, there's a link to a quick start guide, and they've got awesome resources introduction that talk, walk you through how to create stories, approve stories, and then they even have some handouts here, two handouts below. Learn why we create and keep ward and stake histories and how to proceed or how the process is changing with the release of the unit history tool. So, yeah, lots of resources really jump in.

Beth Zeleny:

Yeah, you will not be writing those histories at the end of the year, you know, scrambling to remember everything that happened and then handing them in and having them go up the chain. No, it's right here. It's right here.

Kurt Francom:

Wow, that's powerful. Cool.

Beth Zeleny:

It is. It's so powerful. So fun.

Kurt Francom:

Yeah. Yeah, they make it so easy. All right. What else do we miss Beth? I mean, this is a good synopsis.

Beth Zeleny:

Yeah, so I want to again say that our unit history website opened eight months ago in January 2024, and we now have 121 stories on there. The most entries that we have are from testimonies of the ward members, which I love. For instance, you know, we have a story about a woman who told how her daughter, when her daughter was young, and she had an illness that made her blind. And she was in the hospital and coming out of her blindness, and she was very frightened, because everything the little girl saw was scary to her. And the mother was just at wit's end, trying to figure out how can she help her daughter to not be so afraid of even the mother. And prayed and said, Heavenly Father, I don't know what to do. I'm out of answers. What should I do? And she received a very clear, specific answer of what to do to help her daughter. And she did it. And it worked, of course. And she just wanted to testify how the Lord really understands and wants to be part of our lives, the hard things and just so many things to be grateful for there. Another, this was interesting. One of our missionaries told about how when she was teaching, there was a brother who was a member and he was actually a He was a counselor in the bishopric. His wife was not a member and he just wanted his wife to be baptized. And so as a missionary, this young woman was saying how she received a prompting to tell him that he needed to read the Book of Mormon with his wife every day. And so he did it. With his wife, he sat down and read the Book of Mormon a little bit every day. And in time, she decided that this was for her. She wanted to be part of this church. And so this missionary just said, I know the power of the Book of Mormon and how it can really help to convert people to the Savior. a great story. And now that's part of our ward history. We have a young woman in our ward who was studying American Sign Language and just loves it. And as she worked so hard at it, she realized, you know what, this is one of my spiritual gifts, because she was picking it up so quickly. And she told about how She learned how to pray in sign language. She went to the stake center where there was a game night, an American Sign Language game night. And she was able to play games and communicate with the deaf members there. And she said, you know, what I learned from this is that Heavenly Father cares about the things that we love and that we can use these things to help him do his work. So aren't these the kind of stories that you

want to have saved and you want your members to see? I mean, I'm getting goosebumps just remembering about them. So there's a lot of power in the stories themselves. And then there's a lot of power in this website that these things are now recorded and are going to be saved for years and years and years.

Kurt Francom:

So good. So good. Yeah, definitely. Make sure everybody has that. I mean, the ward historian, right?

Beth Zeleny:

They need a ward history specialist. Unfortunately, you know, I get excited about this. And I told my daughter about it. And she says, Mom, I think you're only ward in the church that's doing this. It's a missed opportunity, you know, and I told my mother about it and told her how to go on. Look in her. She goes, there's nothing in There.

Kurt Francom:

And I said, Oh, wow. Awesome. We need to have some type of competition. Who can, who can beat Beth's number, you know, on stories on the workbook or on the word history.

Beth Zeleny:

One thing you can always start with is I always think of first look for first. So the first time somebody gives a sacrament meeting talk, I'm all over that. It was their first experience. And now young children now are giving talks in sacrament meetings. So that's going to be a really fun thing. The first time somebody gives a primary talk all over the first, the first time, you know, when somebody is ordained to a, to the priesthood or whatever, you know, a first is really important. Oh yeah. Newly baptized people first. Yeah. So we've got, We've got some good stories there to a sister who was baptized. So we have a story before she was baptized, and then after she was baptized, she wanted to tell how she felt. And great. And then of course, the eight year olds, you know, so some of these things you can see coming on the horizon and plan for them and know that they're coming. Other ones are just, just really special gifts that, oh, here's somebody moved into our ward. Yeah, we want them to feel like they are part of us. And here's a way we can do that.

Kurt Francom:

Yes. Well, I just realized last, uh, let's see, uh, last week when we had elders quorum, uh, I took a picture of this kind of this activity we are doing. So I'm going to take that picture of Beth, going to write some up and, uh, post it. So you've, you've, uh, lit the fire in my heart. This is good. You've got it. You've got it. And you're going to enjoy it. It's going to be so fun. You're going to enjoy it. Yeah, very good. Any other point principle story that that we've missed or I think we did a pretty good job here.

Beth Zeleny:

I think we did a really good job.

Beth Zeleny:

I yeah. Again, the call is just for people to utilize this resource. You know, it's technology being used in a good way for a great purpose. And again, I just feel like this is Heavenly Father has given us this So we can turn around and give Him this gift and say, here we are.

Kurt Francom:

And that concludes this How I Lead interview. I hope you enjoyed it. And I would ask you, could you take a minute and drop this link in an email, on social media, in a text, wherever it makes the most sense and share it with somebody who could relate to this experience. And this is how we develop as leaders, just hearing what the other guy is doing, trying some things out, testing, adjusting for your area. And that's That's where great leadership is discovered, right? So we would love to have you share this with somebody in this calling or a related calling, and that would be great. And also, if you know somebody, any type of leader, who would be a fantastic guest on the How I Lead segment, reach out to us. Go to leadingsaints.org contact. Maybe send this individual an email letting them know that you're going to be suggesting their name for this interview. We'll reach out to them. See if we can line them up. So again, go to leading-saints.org slash contact. And there you can submit all the information and let us know. And maybe they will be on a future how I lead segment on the leading saints podcast. And remember to get on the email newsletter list, simply go to leading-saints.org slash 14.

SPEAKER_00:

It came as a result of the position of leadership which was imposed upon us by the God of heaven who brought forth a restoration of the gospel of Jesus Christ. And when the declaration was made concerning the only true and living church upon the face of the earth, we were immediately put in a position of loneliness. The loneliness of leadership. from which we cannot shrink nor run away, and to which we must face up with boldness and courage and ability.