



Putting Jesus at the Center of Your Ward | An Interview with David Butler

March 26, 2025

This is a rebroadcast. The episode originally published in 2020.

Kurt Francom:

How's your teaching calling going? Have you ever asked a question during the second hour and suddenly everyone is looking at the carpet in silence? There are proven methods to stimulate class discussion that work like a charm. David Farnsworth does a masterful job presenting on this very subject in the Teaching Saints virtual library. What questions get people talking? How can you effectively listen to the answer they're saying without being distracted of where you want to take the class next? These are crucial principles to consider, especially in this time of Come Follow Me Sunday School. You can watch David Farnsworth's presentation by visiting [leadingsaints.org slash 14](https://leadingsaints.org/14). There, you can gain free access for 14 days to the Teaching Saints virtual library, where you'll find hours and hours of content to help you be a better prepared Sunday teacher. Before we jump into the content of this episode, I kind of feel it's important that I introduce myself. Now, many of you have been around a long time. You're well familiar with my voice and with Leading Saints as an organization, but if you're not, well, my name is Kurt Francom and I am the Executive Director of Leading Saints and the podcast host. Now, Leading Saints is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping Latter-day Saints be better prepared to lead. We do that through content creation like this podcast and many other resources at leadingsaints.org. We don't act like we have all the answers or know exactly what a leader should do or not do, but we like to explore the concepts of leadership, the science of leadership, what people are researching about leadership, and see how we can apply them to a Latter-day Saint world. So, here we go. The following episode is a throwback episode, one that was

published previously and was extremely popular. To see the details of when this was originally published, see the show notes. Enjoy this throwback episode. Folks, we did it. I had the opportunity to track down Dave Butler from Don't Miss This, the YouTube channel that many of you are familiar with. It's one of these come-follow-me YouTube channels where every week they put out a video discussing some of the concepts in that week's come-follow-me lesson. Dave Butler's been in the CES program and teaching. He currently teaches at Utah Valley University Institute of Religion. He's such a phenomenal teacher. Obviously, I don't need to say that to those who have seen David Butler in action. He is so real and fun, which won't surprise you in this episode where we just talk real. And it's a fun discussion and he's funny and it's but but he's so sincere and he's had an opportunity to serve as a bishop. And so this is an interview, a conversation with Dave Butler that you probably won't find anywhere else, because we delve into his journey as being a bishop and how he approached the the different concerns with the word council and sacrament meeting and how he developed vision and purpose and some of his tips are so helpful. You're going to love it. And then we just jump into his teaching style where he always teaches in the context of grace and how you do that. Books he's written, Come Follow Me. of how we should see Come Follow Me and what do we do if we start to beat ourselves up about failing at Come Follow Me. And so why we should call it a resource and not a program, like so many pearls of wisdom here. You're going to love it. So here's my interview with Dave Butler. Here I am on the campus of UVU, I guess we're not, we're in the Institute building, the Utah Valley University Institute building with Dave Butler. How are you, Dave? Very good. Thank you. Awesome. You know, I went here when it was UVSC. Oh, really? Yeah. I have a two year degree. So I've walked these halls and attended classes here and it's kind of cool to be back. You are at home.

Kurt Francom:

That's right. Welcome home. Thank you. Thank you.

David Butler:

So how long have you been here? Um, this I three years, I think, um, yeah, someone just asked me yesterday. And so I was trying to figure it out and then I got bored trying to figure it out. So, but about three years. Yeah.

Kurt Francom:

And so what's your journey into the CES? I mean, did you ever either return missionaries? Like there's nothing else I must do in this world, but teach the gospel. Maybe opposite.

David Butler:

I mean, I... Wait, not opposite, because I really came home and I liked teaching the gospel. Yeah, sure. I taught at the MTC and loved teaching at the MTC. It was kind of my first teaching experience ever, was teaching at the MTC, and I would like if they called me tomorrow and said, do you want to come back and teach for 7.50 an hour? I would just, I would not even pray about it. I would do it. I would just go because I loved it so much. Um, it honestly, like it was golden to me. Um, this is pretty golden here too. In fact, like, at the UVU. Sort of an extension of the MTC in some ways, right? It feels like it. It's just, it's super great. So anyways, I actually had, I have like a distinct memory from high school sitting in economics class and maybe it's because it was economics and just sitting there and like drifting off, which was a normal thing for me and thinking to myself, why would anybody be a teacher? What a dumb idea. You know, I legit, like I was like, I, and I made a vow to myself, no matter what, I will never ever be a teacher. You know?

Kurt Francom:

Yes. Famous last words, right?

David Butler:

I legit, it was like, I'm not ever, ever going to do it. And then I was in college and I had no idea what I wanted to do with my life. Still don't for the record. Like I still am like, kind of consider this like a temporary thing. This is fun, so you'll do this a while. Yeah, this is now like an 11-year or whatever, 12-year temporary thing. You know, which isn't that long, you know. But I was in college and met up with a buddy of mine, we went out to lunch and we were going to start a dental lab together.

Kurt Francom:

Oh, just because you didn't want to become a dentist.

David Butler:

No, no. My dad's a dentist. So for some reason, I felt like I was an expert in that field. And it felt like, oh, we can make a dental lab and it was going to be good money and like a great part time job, maybe turned into something afterwards or. And so we were meeting to kind of talk about details. And he he I said, what are what classes are you taking this semester is about to start at BYU. And he'd said, I'm gonna take this one called teaching the gospel. And I was like, oh, well, I needed a religion credit. And I was like, that would be cool. Like, I should take it with you because that'd be fun, number one, to take a class together. That's how all my class decisions went, by the way. Like they had nothing to do with... Like what I needed or whatever, it was purely like, oh, I'll take it with a friend. And I didn't know that it was like what's called pre-service, like this class to kind of help find people who are interested in teaching seminary and institute. And it's not only that, it's also like legit for people who like want to learn how to be a better teacher. And so I was like, well, I feel like I'm gonna teach my whole life. you know, at home, in church, wherever. So I might as well be great. And I went in and they started talking about seminaries and I was like, what in the world is going on? I didn't even know that seminary was like a thing.

Kurt Francom:

Cause you're from Texas. Yeah. Early morning seminary. Yeah.

David Butler:

Yeah. And so I didn't know that like, and then, and then like we had an assignment to go watch a seminary class and I went to one and I was like, then for the first time I put two and two together why there were all these mini churches in Utah. Like I always saw these- Right by high schools. Right, and I never had put it together, they were by high schools. I have zero sense of direction, you should know. So like, I will drive on a road I have driven on. 98 times and it is a

new experience for me, which makes my life really fun. I actually live a really fun life because I will drive on this road and be like, well, cool road. And Jenny's like, this is how we come home every week. And I'm like, oh, well, it looks different today. But, um, so I put it all together and I went in and I was like, wait, this is like a church, like a little church. And I was so fascinated and still no interest really in teaching. Although I should say this, I also put together when I was in that class, There was this poster on campus at BYU that said something about, do you wanna teach youth? And every time I saw that poster, like I was drawn to it. Like legit, like more than just like, oh, what a, I mean, it was a dumpy looking poster, like bad marketing. Like it just wasn't cool or anything, but I like had like a spiritual draw to it. And so, anyways... So, little by little, you were... Yeah, yeah. It's so funny that I looked back years later, it's like, I really think I was drawn to that, you know? Whether, I don't know, whether it was heaven drawing me to it or just a personal interest, I don't know. But there was some sort of draw to it. And anyways, I took the class and then I moved to Hawaii.

Kurt Francom:

And to go to school, right?

David Butler:

And so I just kind of left that behind. And when we moved back, we moved back mostly because Jenny was about to have a baby and we thought, what are we doing? Like, are we going to live here forever or what? Anyways, and part of that decision was, I'm still sort of intrigued by what could be, you know, in that world. And yeah. So, so anyways, there you go. I, so I kind of fell into it.

Kurt Francom:

So there wasn't like a moment where you thought, all right, now I, I promised myself I'll be a teacher, but just little by little, suddenly this is the direction. Yeah.

David Butler:

And I still, I still like at least once a year, I have a running, like, voice in the back of my head that's always just a battle, I guess. It's just kind of like, I don't think I want to do this forever. I'm too bored of things too fast, where I'm just like, what else should I do? Where else should I go? And I have too much of an entrepreneurial spirit where I'm like, I want to build something and I want to grow it. But then I also love Like, I love being in the classroom, and I love one-on-ones with people, and I love the connections and relationships I've made in this world, you know? I don't think I was put together to work for anybody. So that's probably why. I don't love administrative things at all. I don't love meetings. I love them zero. And so all of that part of this world can grind on me. But then I'll get back into the classroom. and have that experience, and then I think, oh, I love this. So somehow if I can find a way to do that without all the meetings and the schedules and the, you know, then it would be great. But yeah, so I fell into it. Don't know how long I'll do it, but for sure I know I want to teach people about Jesus. my whole life in some way, whether it's a formal classroom or not. And I love people. I love people's stories. I love people. They're my passion. So that's awesome. So this place, teaching in this kind of place is like, I mean, I've had a chance to leave several times and nothing's been. better. I mean, more money, better schedule, sure, all those, but I'm like, if... Man, I just love people and Jesus too much that this place fits me in that regard. Yeah. Sometimes I don't feel like I fit in in this world, the Seminary Institute world. I've always felt like a square peg here that I just think a little differently and I can tell and It's a little bit too formal for my personality. It's all been fine, mostly because I love everybody I worked with and all the students, you know? I mean, some of the people I've taught are still like, they're like my dear friends. They'll be lifelong friends. And so it's just been fantastic.

Kurt Francom:

Let's talk about that more, because I'm curious, because I know there are people, certain people that may be called to a leadership position and they think, ooh, like I get, that I was called and I'm happy to serve, but I just don't fit this mold. Maybe articulate that further. What do you mean by that? I mean, is it you don't love the white shirt and tie daily? Or I mean, worse not. That's the easiest thing to say. And he is in his gym clothes right now for the record.

David Butler:

I meant to get here early to work out before the podcast and then the schedule didn't work out.

Kurt Francom:

But how would you articulate that more that people can maybe relate to you? I mean, without getting yourself in trouble.

David Butler:

No, no, no. I don't think it's a secret and I don't think there's anything wrong with it either. I mean, look, a business gets to decide what their brand is going to be, you know, and it's like, okay, this is our business and someone's decided what the brand is going to be. And like, and if you don't want to, be that brand, then that's the business's decision, right? So it's not like I'm in no position to like start a revolution or anything like that. I do like to push boundaries a little bit and say like, wait, why are we doing this? And not to be contrary, legitimately because I was texting with Jenny the other day and she just said, do you think you were just born that way that you question everything and that you wonder? And she says, I just have always just done what people told me to do. And that's her personality. And I was like, oh, well. Probably, I mean, because I don't wake up in the morning and think, what can I question? What can I push against? I legitimately am like, wait, why are we doing this? When I was serving as bishop, don't let me get away from whatever your question was. You have to remind me what it is in a second. When I was serving as bishop, there were several times where I was like, I would look at sacrament meeting and I would think, how come we do the sacrament first? And why does a man always speak last? And why do we have song talks? And I was like, is that a rule? Can we change that? It just doesn't seem... And so like, and why do we have... And, you know, the young women would come like, we need a camp director. And I was like, why do you need a camp director? Does camp have to be five days? Is that a rule? Like, or, you know, like the scouts, like Jenny served in cub scouts and nursery at the same time because nobody else would take the calling. And you were the Bishop. She was like, I'll just do it. She was like, I'll just do it. I mean, she loved nursery by the way, but she hated Cub Scouts. And I was like, I don't think you have to meet every week. If it's burnout for you, then give homework to the kids for like the second week of the month. And then the fourth one can be the pack, whatever. And then I was like, you don't have to do it how everybody's always done it. Like find the best way. Sometimes I dream of like, And maybe it can happen post-corona. I dream of like... Does that world exist really? Please tell me it exists. Please tell me or I will die. I'm like, what if a ward scrapped everything, you know, all programs, And you walked in and looked at people first and said, what do the people actually need? And then start bringing in programs that match the needs instead of getting called as a young women's president and saying, what's a young women's president supposed to do? Give me my like, what are all the things? Oh, well, you're supposed to do camp once a year and you're supposed to, and they actually might look identical. It might end up looking, because if I did that and walked in and said, okay, what do our

people need? Well, what we would want something for to study the scriptures together as a community. And I think, and then we would invent Sunday school. And we're like, okay, and then we would probably need something for the kids. And then we would invent primary, you know, which is what happened initially, right? That's where all these came from.

Kurt Francom:

Yeah, it didn't come from the profit.

David Butler:

It came from sort of grassroots.

Kurt Francom:

Yeah, the need, what was the need?

David Butler:

And it was just like, and then someone asked the question, but now like it's all set up and it's kind of like, instead we're so program centered instead of people centered. And I don't think we have to scrap everything, but I think we ought to scrap mindset and start with thinking like, if I got called as a young woman's president, I don't know why I keep using that. I will never be a young woman's president, everybody. You know, but you know, I just, I would want to go in and say, okay. Here are the girls, and here are the other leaders, and what do they need? What can we create for Them?

Kurt Francom:

And there's so many reasons that this is perpetuated. You may be called as a young women's president, and not you, but others. And you sort of feel like, well, what was the last person doing? And that must have worked, so let's keep doing that, right? And so we just sort of do it. Or I don't want to change it and hurt her feelings or his feelings, because obviously you had something going there. But I remember when I got called into the stake presidency, we were starting the ward conferences. And we had seen, I'd been a bishop before that, we'd seen how the stake did ward conferences. And we just took a moment as the stake presidency said, let's imagine we know nothing about ward conferences. And somebody hands us a handbook and says, there's a few paragraphs in there. whatever your purpose is. And so me and the other counselor, we went into a room for a couple hours and we just said, we know nothing. And what does this say? And we, we just wrote down what it said. And then we said, now let's create something remarkable following these guidelines. And we went in a completely different direction as the old stake presidency. And it was remarkable. Right. But I think it's, especially from a leadership standpoint, it's just that exercise of saying, okay, let's imagine you've never heard of girls camp before. Yeah. What do we do? What does the handbook say? And then what do the girls really need? Yeah. You know, do we have to go to a campground or all these things, right?

David Butler:

Yeah. And I really think the power comes in like beginning with people and purposes. And I think that's where the exercise is. It's not like an exercise of like, let's be different for the sake of being different because my type of personality could easily fall into that where it's like, you're just, you know, and I, and I could see where somebody, and I feel like I have to check myself all the time. Like, Have I now given myself this new identity of the guy who does things differently? And I really don't. I honestly do not think of myself that way. And I don't mean to be contrary. And I don't want people to think that I am. But I learned somewhere along the road that there isn't a mold. And once I feel like I gave that up, any last thought of like, there are ways that things should be done and stuff, I just... I mean, there's things I feel like are just really loose that we don't necessarily hold loosely. And there are things that I think are really important and we should hold those, like those should be the shoulds. And, and figuring out what that is, I think is important for a person.

Kurt Francom:

So going back to your time as a Bishop, like, was it just any way, any other ways this, this personality trait or this perspective was manifest other than maybe just asking questions and more often, or how else did this manifest itself as in your role as Bishop?

David Butler:

And what do you mean?

Kurt Francom:

As far as pushing against sort of that culture that sometimes is established, it's often termed the unwritten order of things, which like the men speaking or praying at the end of the meeting, like that's the unwritten order of things. I don't even understand that phrase. Right, yeah, but it's one that gets thrown around. So is there anything else you did to sort of just stay fresh and making sure that you're really focusing on people rather than programs?

David Butler:

Um, well, I think, um, one of the things that I, um, looked for my ward council, like serving with my ward council is at that time as Bishop is one of the sweetest experiences of my whole life. Um, I didn't wanna be Bishop. I didn't wanna be in charge. That's not my personality to be the in charge person. You know, like I just, I wanna be the idea generator and like The,

Kurt Francom:

The teacher, I remember.

David Butler:

Yeah, yeah, you know what I mean? And the thing I hated most about being bishop was just like, everybody wanted to ask me about all the things. You know, like, how many cups should we buy? And I was like, I don't want to be in charge of everything. And then I want to show up to

the Christmas party and like it and not be in charge of it. You know what I mean? And so all the things that I was in charge of, I remember first getting called. I'm going to get to your question, I promise.

Kurt Francom:

Yeah, you're good.

David Butler:

And like reading through the handbook. And I was like, I'm in charge of everything. And then my daughter passed by, she's like, well, you are the bishop. I was like, well, I shouldn't be in charge of all this. Anyways, I didn't like being in charge of everything, but serving with that ward council, one of the things that I looked for when I called somebody to the ward council, I mean, before I... Because when extending callings, I always started with just like, I'm just looking and asking and thinking and stuff like that. And then I would be prayerful about it. But one of the questions I would ask is, does this person have a missionary heart? Meaning, are they a people-centered person? Because I was like, that's who I want in serving together on this. I called ourselves the worship team. The worship team. Yeah, I was like, you guys. And one of the things that we did is I just said, listen, one of the things that I loved with our ward council is we got together as a ward council right as we were being trained on sacrament meeting on the Sabbath day. Do you remember that?

Kurt Francom:

Yeah, it was a big push, yeah.

David Butler:

Yeah, yeah. And I was struck. I remember President Nelson, before he was President Nelson, just pleading, let's give sacrament meeting back to the Savior. And looking at it, when they said,

the question that the Quorum of the Twelve and First Presidency went to the Lord with was, how do we increase faith in God and the Savior? And I was like, that's where we have to start, because that is what's going on here. It's not, let's do Sabbath day stuff, and let's do something with sacrament meeting. It was, what was the actual question? The question was, how do we increase faith in God the Father and the Son? So we took that and then we just said, let's make sacrament meeting a meeting where people leave with a more thrilling feel for God the Father and the Son and like with greater faith in them and trust in them and just loving them and feeling loved more. Like that's our like, that's our purpose and our, intention. And I called them the worship team because I was like, listen, in every other church,

Kurt Francom:

They got a worship team, right?

David Butler:

Yeah. And you have to create an experience for people that they're going to come back to. Yeah. It's people centered. It's like, let's create something for the people.

Kurt Francom:

Or they can go down the street and find a better church that does that. Exactly. Yeah. Where we're sort of like, no, actually you live on the street, so you go to this church. Right. Yeah.

David Butler:

It's like, you have to come to this church. And I was like, and sometimes you're like, if you don't come to sacrament meeting, then you don't get a temple regimen. And you're supposed to come to sacrament meeting. I guess if it's dumb or bad, then you have to deal with it. And it's like, what if we shifted our thinking and like, let's actually create a meaningful experience like our jobs depend on it. Let's pretend like our jobs depend on it here. And I'm not saying that that's

the approach that other faiths take. I legitimately like believe and feel and have seen that they take the approach of, we got to give our people an experience with God. So let's do it.

Kurt Francom:

I want to take just a quick time out and just illustrate what you're talking about because, or highlight it, because oftentimes I talk about the importance of, or other people I interview talk about the importance of establishing a strong vision in a ward. And people are like, well, what does that look like? I mean, We just make sure the doors are unlocked and sacraments pass and we go home, right? But this is a perfect example of what a strong vision looks like, that we're going to focus on this question and sacrament is going to be everything. We're the worship team, right? I mean, even the simple tactic of labeling your ward council as a team of some type of worship or whatever, pick whatever name, like that's different. And that brings a different feel and people lean in in those meetings. when that happened.

David Butler:

Yeah, because we did the same thing with home teaching and visiting teaching, where we sat together. We honestly worked on sacrament meeting the whole time that I was bishop. We kept coming back to it. We honestly kept coming back to it. And I was like, you guys, we have got to like end every sacrament meeting and feel like, do people love God? more after that meeting? And do they feel loved by him more? And if not, what do we do? We're missing it. Let's change it. And we worked on so many things, so many things through that.

Kurt Francom:

So what did you do? I'm just curious. What did that lead to? What ideas?

David Butler:

It led... One of the things that we did that I thought ended up so personally significant was we divided up the ward into groups of 15 to 20 and assigned for the rest of the year, I can't remember what month we started, out the rest of the year, the second and third hour of church. Like we gave them a date, this is your date that you're coming. And we gathered around the sacrament table and we taught for the second and third hour of church that group. So they came out of whatever classes they were in and we made arrangements.

Kurt Francom:

So this was during three hour church, right?

David Butler:

Yeah, it was way back in those days. And for two hours, we talked about what we called the story of the lamb. And we went from Adam and Eve in Genesis and asking how do we get back and the sacrifice of the lamb being introduced all the way through the Last Supper and we told the story of Jesus and how that story is retold every single week in the sacrament. That it is this long. This is the story being retold. It's the redemption story being retold every single week so that we root ourselves in it. And it was like we had just beautiful and our word council divided up and we taught together and we used some of the training clips and we just said like, let's teach everybody the significance of the sacrament and how it can be this instrument of worship and how it can connect us to God in a really significant way. So we began with like, this really will be the highlight of the meeting and not just like kind of like... We'll pause now. Yeah, do the sacrament real quick and then get to the speakers.

Kurt Francom:

Yeah.

David Butler:

And that's why everybody's here, is to hear somebody speak. You know, it's like, let's really... So we really like... It took us like eight months to get through the whole ward.

Kurt Francom:

Really?

David Butler:

And we did it with the primary and primary teachers and we gave people permission, like, I mean, made arrangements permission. That's not like we were like the czar or something. We made arrangements so that if a family wanted to come in with their kids.

Kurt Francom:

Like just the family.

David Butler:

And just the family and talk about the sacrament, like on a Thursday night to like help their kids realize like, okay, so that's why we are, you know, gonna come a little bit early. That's why we're, you know, just to like,

Kurt Francom:

Yeah. And it makes an impression on those young minds. Yeah.

David Butler:

And it's like, this is why we're saying like, you know, anyways, to teach that. And then, yeah, I, that was just, and then, and then we took like the actual like program itself, you know, like, and we just said, okay, so, okay, how do we, what do we want people to speak on? And we started like, we changed like what we spoke on. So we would do these like series almost where it was like, okay, um, we took the names of Christ. And we brought people in who were gonna speak like a month ahead of time, and we're just like, we want you to pick one of the names of Christ in the scriptures and tell us what you learned about that name in the scriptures, but then specifically how you've seen him as the shepherd or the advocate in your own story. And then we did the book of John. And we gave someone just a chapter of the book of John, and we moved to the whole book of John, and we were just like, what do you find and learn and feel about the Savior in this chapter? Wow. So we shifted what we were speaking on, and we gave people a new focus on speaking. We would really bring them in. and like talk to them about... It's like an orientation type of meeting. Yeah, I was like, this is our purpose with the sacrament meeting. This is what we're going for. And your contribution is what's going to make it so holy because of the time that you'll put in. And like your experience is what we want to hear. Like your personal journey and relationship. Like don't give us a book report on a conference talk. Like, and we specifically tried to push back on that to just be like, yeah, and, and it can be raw and it can be messy. And that will actually is what's going to make it spectacular. And so, so we pushed on topics and like, then the order of things, like we actually put a musical number in at the beginning of the meeting. Yeah.

Kurt Francom:

I call that a general conference style. Like I said, we're going to do this joint conference style, and people are just going to be sitting there chatting, and then all of a sudden this choir starts, or this solo begins. It's awesome. It's powerful.

David Butler:

Yeah, and then we started doing a mini talk before the sacrament about the sacrament. Because I always thought to myself, you come in the sacrament meeting, And you've got four kids and you just got done like yelling at them because they couldn't find their shoes, for heaven's sake, like our house is not that big. And we are just a hot mess in the pew, so mad. And then all of a sudden it's just like, okay, well now... Here's some water. Yeah, let's start to

sacrament him. And it's like, nobody got a chance to get warmed up to like what was about to happen. So I was like, let's... give people a chance to warm up to it. Whatever the sacrament hymn's gonna be, let's open it up and teach what the lines are actually teaching. Wow. So that people are thinking as they... Anyways, those are all just ideas, but the point was that we just started with... What is this meeting actually for? What are we trying to accomplish? And we legitimately just felt really strongly about, I want this to be a meeting where people like learn to love God more and feel connected to the Father and the Son in significant ways. So what do we do to make that happen? And then all these just... And other ideas that weren't as good or didn't work. The concession stands didn't really fly. That didn't work out as well. It just was a mess and we had to buy vacuums and didn't have the budget.

Kurt Francom:

But, um, anyways, so nice. So with the, with the speaker method, I mean, with like high council speakers or stake speakers, did you just sort of roll them into that, that routine and process?

David Butler:

Well, I actually just went to the stake president and I just said, what is the purpose of the high council speaker? Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa.

Kurt Francom:

You can't ask that.

David Butler:

I was like, are they coming with your message? Is that what your intention is? And I had two different stake presidents, both good friends of mine, and I just was like, This is what we're trying to do in our ward, is what we're trying to do. And so that's what we did. So sometimes they really came with like, this is the kind of stake president felt impressed that he wants this

message given to the ward. And it was like, perfect. So it kind of was just like a pause from the book of John. And sometimes I'd ask, do you want the high council speaker to come? Because we're good. If not, if you don't insist on them coming, we have people that we, you know, and if they did, if they wanted like stake representation there or whatever, then we would give that high council person like our topic.

Kurt Francom:

Yeah.

Kurt Francom:

And this is another point I need to pause and underscore because that relationship between the bishop and the stake presidency, like I remember going from bishop to the stake presidency and you sort of feel like, okay, now I'm like a super bishop and I create super programs and I do super interviews with people. And, but what we, when we get in that mode, you overshadow the keys of the bishop and their autonomy and whatnot. And so having some of these discussions where, you know, you go to the stake presidency and say, okay, why are you doing this? Like really sell me on this because I've got a great program going here. I've got this idea. So if you want to do this, great, but you need to explain to me why this happened and really sort of push them on some of those things, you know, obviously in a friendly, respectful manner, but you're going to discover further effectiveness in some of these, these things we do.

Kurt Francom:

Right. Yeah.

Kurt Francom:

Yeah.

Kurt Francom:

That's awesome.

David Butler:

I thought that was great to do that, you know, and it's just like, Oh, okay. I don't, I'm not trying to get out of line or whatever.

Kurt Francom:

Cause a lot of stake presidents, a lot of stake presidents can see like the high council week is like, Oh, we're sort of helping you out. Hey, here's a speaker. You know, you don't got to worry about a speaker that week. Like, Oh, good. All right. Cause I'm really not sure if people are saying no or whatever. Right.

David Butler:

And I did not think they needed to come for that reason. My thought was that you do not need to come to give me a break. Right. our preference would be for our word to hear from our people. You know, that's like my that's that would be my preference. It's kind of like what I went in with. But I also like appreciate and understand that a stake president's vision and a stake president's like, kind of impressions as they put their kind of hand on the pulse of the entire stake in area. I do not have, like I don't have that. And sometimes it's awesome to get somebody outside of our neighborhood, you know, who can come in and give their like thoughts and impressions on. I think it's good for people to see like, oh, you know, because really in an to divide up a ward by neighborhood, means that you have very, very little, like, diversity. Right. Because, like, similar income status, similar, like, draw, you know, like, all these people, like, wanted to be close to a freeway, and all these people, like, could afford this neighborhood, and all these people liked the parks, or... So, sometimes, within a stake, you could get a little bit more, and it's nice. And Utah's maybe harder, because the whole neighborhood's a stake, but... Exactly, exactly. So,

there's so much benefit to it. I just wanted to ask... Again, we ended up doing the same thing, but it was nice to like, what's the purpose of this? You know?

Kurt Francom:

Yeah.

David Butler:

And like, it just gave it a little bit more punch and power to like, begin with, like, in someone's individual worship. If they take this approach, what am I supposed to do? as a member of this church. Well, I'm supposed to pray every day, and I'm supposed to, and I'm supposed to, and I'm supposed to, right? And do that. And what if they did it in their own individual worship? They scrapped it, and they said, started with, I wanna make a connection with God every day. You know, what could I do? I bet the list would look the same. They would say, I want to open his words. And I want to spend time in prayer. And but because you started with that question first, how do I make a connection? then all of those, that list all of a sudden becomes super, way more meaningful than like, oh, I'm supposed to do it to, you know, fit the mold. Instead of like, I actually like, I started at a square one and I said, okay, Like, how do I show devotion to God? Because I want to. I want to show my love and devotion to Him. He has won me over. He loved me, so I want to love Him back. Like, I want to. So I will contribute my, I'll give my heart to Him, and I'll contribute my money and my time to him because I feel passionate about his kingdom and different than someone saying like, oh, we do this as a church. We pay tithing and we serve and we...

Kurt Francom:

just start over, you know. And sometimes it's difficult for leaders to get in that mindset because I think there is a large emphasis on the law of obedience. And you feel like if I'm stepping out of bounds or out of the box here, I feel like I'm sort of the rogue here, even though nobody can point to the handbook that I'm supposed to do this way. But man, I don't want to be, I don't want to, you know, cause a red flag where I'm stepping out of line because I just want to be a good boy, you know, and do what's right, you know.

David Butler:

Which actually is, I had lunch with a friend of mine a couple months ago, and he was talking about his experience as a missionary, and he and I have super different personalities. And also the same. So it's kind of fun, but we see things and one of them is like obedience was one of the topics that we talked about. And he just talked about as a missionary, how he was like, no, I was in my house at nine o'clock, not a minute later, every single day. And I do not operate like that, where I'm just like, that just seems a little bit arbitrary. Like, of course, I would try but if something happened, like if I stopped somebody and we were having a conversation, then a person is gonna dominate the clock more. You know what I mean? Like, I just think differently in that way. But I realized as we were having lunch, for the first time, it was significant for me to see like, that's how you show love is in your life. your stickler approach, which sounds... I shouldn't use that, but that's what I used to see. I was like, you're such a stickler. But I was like, oh, you are showing such a high value and reverence for God in the way that you are so strict in what you're doing. And I said to him, I was like, that's actually admirable. That's how someone's showing love. If it's their expression of love, then I think it's beautiful. If it's, oh, God gets mad at you if you don't, or I'm scared if I don't.

Kurt Francom:

Or an expression of judgment on others.

David Butler:

Or like, I'll be in trouble if I don't do this. this is what you're supposed to do. Or if I find some sort of like higher value in myself because I do it better than other people, I was like, then I think it's dangerous. But if you are doing that as an expression of like, this is how I show devotion, because that's sincerely when he was talking, I was like, I used to just think people like you were a little bit. I don't know the nice way to say, um, you know, whatever, uh, I was like, um, and now I'm seeing like, Oh, there's love underneath that. And a lot of it. Right. And shame on me for, you know, thinking I was better than you and you were better than me in our approaches to how we worship. And I think that's beautiful about God that he can relate to us in so many different ways and we can relate to him in so many different ways. And so let us worship how, where, or what we may. even within our own faith tradition, I think.

Kurt Francom:

Yeah, that's powerful. So that's maybe a good transition to the, you know, come follow me. And you've got a very popular YouTube channel. Don't miss this with Emily Belle Freeman that I think every Latter-day Saint is aware of, I'm sure, and subscribe. But, and this concept of Come Follow Me, and this is something I've really wrestled with personally, and as, you know, Come Follow Me has been more established where it went from, you know, obviously we were given the inspiration, which is phenomenal, like a more focused at home, you know, home-focused church and having these remarkable experiences. us as human beings, we sort of mess things up or we, we, we try, I don't know how to say, but us as members of the church, we sometimes think, well, I don't know what to do. So what I'm going to do is, Oh look, there's Dave Butler on YouTube. Hey kids, sit down. Play, okay, I'm good, right? And I know this is like some indictment of what you're doing, and I don't think you intended it to be like, okay, instead of going to Sunday school, watch us. You intended it more of a supplemental thing, and now there's more of these channels popping up, and everybody has their guy or gal or whatever that they watch to quote-unquote supplement their study. But it's so easy to be like, I don't know how to have these conversations with my kids. And Dave Butler, Emily Freeman, they're so good at what they do. Let's just do that. And so I've really struggled to try to establish this without falling into like, well, kids, this is what we do. This is the program and everybody sit down and open a verse or watch this. What general guidance would you have as far as finding more grace in this process of Come Follow Me?

David Butler:

Well, actually, for the first time, as you were just talking, this thought occurred to me that First of all, I want to get rid of calling it a program. If we called it a resource instead of a program, that would be step one to making it a lot more powerful. And the name of it is Come Follow Me. So the name of it tells you its purpose, right? This is one more resource, one more on-ramp to coming unto Christ and learning to be a disciple of Him. And if somebody just took that approach and went from there, I think it could... Instead of being stressed out about, am I doing this right? Like when somebody asks, am I doing this right? Like I'm like, I think you're missing... Yeah, red flag. Yeah, you're missing... Trying to reevaluate, yeah. Yeah, I'm not saying that you're wrong or there's something wrong with you. I'm just saying like, oh, It's a red flag to me because I'm like, I bet you're so stressed about it. And I don't think you ought to be. I think you ought to feel like it's important. Stress is an indication of that you actually care. And that's good. I'm glad that you're wrestling with it. And I'm glad that you care because I think that's fantastic for somebody. Because I do the same. But if you're stressed about, I might be doing this wrong

or right, I think that's the wrong thing to care about. And I think you ought to care about, are we meeting the mark as a family? And what's the mark? And it's like, oh, we are trying to do something to come under Christ, to learn of him more, to love him more. And so Jenny and I, And we keep switching and changing, but we have our purpose, which is our time together in scripture is going to be to love God and love each other more. And that's the mark that we're going to hit. And so we designed our own way of doing it that meets our family's needs. So for example, let me just give you an example, and then I'll tell you where we've changed it, is we've thought, Okay, we're gonna take just one verse out of the chapter. That's all we're gonna do. And we're gonna just talk about it. We're just gonna have a conversation about that one verse. I'm gonna pick a good one, because it's gotta be one that can create a conversation. Because we were reading through a whole chapter, and everyone left mad and dumber, or whatever, and it just was like, I'm not gonna do this. We're not loving God more at the end, and we don't love each other at the end. So I was like, we're missing our mark, you know? And so for the age of our kids, we did that. And then it's fantastic. And then we got to notice we were doing like a big family home evening, like extended. And our kids didn't know any of like the stories. And I want them to know the stories because like that's a way that you can remember principles, like storytelling is so important. So now Jenny and I have started like, oh, we better adjust it a little bit because I actually want them to know the stories because the stories are going to help them love. Does that make sense? Like it all matches up to that, to that mark. But I just think if some, you just got to start with like, what are we, what are we trying to do, you know, and implement it. And it takes planning. Like it takes a little bit of effort for it to be effective. I think like we have to sit down at the beginning of the week and say like, okay, what are we going to do on each of the days? And like, I can just, it just sure we can just like plop down and like open the book up and like, let's just see. And, and that's great. Like, I'm not against that, but it's just like, Oh, it just wouldn't be what we were trying to do with it. Right. So we want to be a little bit more.

Kurt Francom:

Yeah, and it goes back to your earlier principle of creating a worship team in your ward. We're essentially doing that at home, saying, all right, team, you are the worship team of this home, and what's this look like? What does come follow me look like to you? And we have this book, these resources, and I love using that term. We have these resources, what do you wanna do? How can we come follow Christ?

David Butler:

Yeah, yeah, and then now we've got this new idea where it's like, we've got a 15-year-old and a 13-year-old and 11-year-old, you know, who I'm trying to emphasize their own personal study of

the scriptures right now. And so once summer's done, because nobody wants to do anything in the summer, right? Second summer, one second summer's done. Like we've, Jenny and I've talked about like, let's give them a day where they are the ones who pick the verse and say like, this was really significant to me when I read, you know, and it's just, anyways, it takes more planning.

Kurt Francom:

Yeah, for me personally, like sometimes I fall into this trap where I'd feel like, come follow me is like homework. You know, it's like, okay, this chap, this week we're doing these, these chapters and I didn't mean to make time for homework, you know, and I sit down sometimes and I kind of get in that trap of like going through the motions or, um, and I'm sort of on this kick right now where I completely refuse to believe that God has ever disappointed in me. It's just, it's not helpful to my spiritual progress. Sure, maybe if I went and murdered a bunch of people, yeah, then maybe there'd be some disappointment there. But when I am not doing it the right way, there's no disappointment there. It's helped me to sort of step back and be like, you know, I'm just here. I haven't had like, you know, I've had those moments where I sit down with scriptures and I'm like, I'm making connections and hold this Hebrew word and Oh, Latin. Great. And over in this reference. Right. And it's like, so spiritually like, uh, uplifting and invigorating. And there's other times where it's like, it's almost like God is just saying like, would you just take your nose out of the book for a minute? Just be with me for a minute, you know? And, and just to be okay with that. And, and sometimes several weeks go by and people are like, Oh, you know, we're on this story. I'm like, wait, what story are we on? Like, I haven't even looked at the book for three weeks, but in my heart, I feel like, you know, that's okay. Like, I just want you to hear.

David Butler:

I made a connection with God, you know?

Kurt Francom:

Yeah.

David Butler:

We have got some sort of bizarre culture and maybe it's a culture that exists in other faiths as well. Or I've been thinking recently about like manifest itself really strong in missionaries. You know, if a missionary goes and serves for three months and comes home, for some reason that's shameful. But I'm like, stop. Erase everything you know about the missionary program. And what if you met this kid and you found out that he left for three months to go try and increase faith in God in some other place? Be so proud of that kid. You'd be like, that's awesome. You really gave up three months of your life? You gave up two weeks of your life to go do something like that, that's amazing, you know, but for some reason we've got this bizarre culture of like if you didn't hit the standard is supposed to be that that's a disappointment. You know? And I love what you're saying about that. I don't think God ever gets disappointed in what we haven't done. I think he's just thrilled with anything that we are doing. You know? And it's just weird to think that what if somebody serves for a year, for the rest of their life they'll feel like, how disappointing. It's like, erase that. I want you to know how thrilled God is, and the rest of us are, that you served for a year.

Kurt Francom:

Like, that's fantastic. Yeah, that's powerful. And this is a good segue into your style of teaching, where you're always coming from the point of grace. And there's even been moments where I've been watching you and Emily on YouTube and I'll pause it and I'll turn my wife. I say, do you see how he taught that right there? Like he taught that from grace where so often I hear these phrases in our culture and the sacrament of like, are we really considering the importance of the temple? Are we really making it a priority in our life? Are we really praying with fervor and, you know, where it's projecting this like, Oh yeah, that's right. You know, I'm really not, I'm not measuring up. Thank you for the reminder, you know, but the way you, you position things, I'm just curious to explore this and maybe help us understand where we as leaders can come from this position of grace, of, just reminding through any gospel principle, any gospel story, look at this grace, like he's a savior after his people, not after his programs. Any thoughts or instruction you could give us There?

David Butler:

Oh, thoughts, not instruction, because I just think that there's value in, again, when somebody stands up at the pulpit to do that, My assumption is that it's being done from a place of love for

God, and it's like, oh, that's fantastic. But I just don't... I feel like people who feel loved, love well. And I just think the heart and soul of the gospel of Christ is, for God so loved the world that he sent his son. Like, I feel like that is, I just don't agree with this idea of like, some like methods of teaching, like just seem to be based off of fear, you know, and I'm just like, I just don't think that's a good idea. It's like, we better not teach grace, or the teenagers might send their life away. And I want to say, when has that ever worked? And I understand that as parents and leaders, we love like our kids so much that we will go to a place of fear to protect them. Like I really will scare the hell right out of you. Like I mean that like in like, so heaven can come in. Like, because I'm so afraid and I'm just like, that place doesn't seem to be a place of, and I'm saying this as a parent of a 15 year old, where I am tempted on the daily. You've gone to battle. I will scare you. I can see how tempting it is to tell you there are punishments and there are... And I'm just like, that just doesn't seem to motivate people ever. Not the way love can. Not the way a God that's bigger than that can. Not the way that grace can. Like, I love when John says, we love him because he first loved us. Like, parents that way. The Ten Commandments start with this. Before commandment number one, he says, you remember first, I'm the God that brought you out of Egypt. Remember, I delivered you first. Now, do you want to live this fulfilling life? Let me show you how. You know? Yeah. Instead of, you better do A, B, and C, or you'll never make it. That kind of approach is, and it can be painted all sorts of different ways, you know? But I just actually believe that we are, like you said, God's not disappointed in us, that he loves. There's a place for... One thing I learned one time is salvation was won by the Father and the Son and the cross. Like that was their work. It's discipleship that requires my heart, mind and strength. And when I confuse the two, I think it can be frustrating and totally burdensome. So when you confuse the two as far as... Salvation and discipleship. Oh, gotcha.

Kurt Francom:

You know? Like it's not our job to do the salvation thing.

David Butler:

That's done. But do I want to put my hands, my heart and life into God's hands and be his disciple? Yes. Do I want him to transform me into someone better? Yes. Then he's like, then I'll show you how. And it requires sacrifice and it requires like hard things and it requires trust and it's like, okay, okay. But that's not a journey towards winning his favor. And if it's a journey to winning his favor, then I think it's when it becomes like overwhelming and impossible. And it's like, what if you just went into it knowing that God already loves you? He already is into you. He already has proven his love to you. Then all of a sudden, I'm like, I want to follow a God like that. Every week, I feel like that's what the sacrament says. Here's the story. The story of

redemption is being acted out again. The crucifixion is being reenacted every single week. Now I get to go into my week knowing that God is for me, that he loves me. And like now I obey because he won me over. I wanna follow that God. I wanna put my life into his hands.

Kurt Francom:

There's no fear there, it's all love.

David Butler:

Yeah, right. That just seems to like be, I mean, it's how I see the world, number one. I don't feel like I wake up in the morning and have to readjust my thinking to that. It's just kind of how, I see things, and I feel like I see that happening in scripture also. I was like, that seems to be how he parents.

Kurt Francom:

You know, that's not like... And I know, like, as I go, and I completely agree with you, but as I go down this path with some people, they turn to me and say, Kurt, I get what you're saying, however, Let me show you a few scriptures, how sore you know not of the punishment that will come to you, right? Like they can oftentimes point out scriptures that seem like God seems pretty disappointed there and he seems pretty angry there. And so what about that? So then we get in our modes of bishop or parent and we think, well, I've got to, sometimes I have to bring down the hammer and I've got to, you know, inject fear into them so that they are back on the salvation path. Um, you know, so how do you balance that or how do you, Get through that.

David Butler:

Well, I think like in our Come Follow Me lesson coming up, right, or in the Book of Mormon, we're going to study where Alma talks to his son, Corianton, and he says to him in the verse, he says this, I would not dwell upon your crimes to harrow up your soul if it were not for your good.

But what he's doing is he is teaching him it's not a fear of God, it's a fear of sin. And that's the difference. is sometimes we might take an approach of teaching someone to be afraid of God's punishment, and God's punishment is not inflicted by God. That's the way it's worded in scripture, but it's like the punishment is inflicted naturally by the law. Does God want us to fear sin? Yes. Should we ever fear God, like afraid of God, not like the fear, the way the Old Testament uses, respect and love and reverence, but there's the difference. Like there is a place for understanding the consequence of justice, you know, just like meaning like that type of justice, like the law will inflict its punishment Like, but it's not God who's doing it. Right. Right. It's just people are being turned over to the natural consequences of sin. Like the natural consequence of sin is entropy. It's chaos. It's death. You should fear those things, right? They are scary. They will bring destruction to you, but God's not inflicting it. He's the rescuer. Right from the beginning moment of scripture, the beginning story of scripture is Adam and Eve, Disobeying God. I'm talking about it the way it's told as a metaphor, not like what the actual history is. So before someone sends an email and says, actually, Eve made a wise choice. The way it's told in Genesis is like a metaphor story. They eat the forbidden fruit. and they run and they hide. And my question is, why are you running and hiding? And it's because someone has put an idea in their mind about God that makes them think he's the kind of person they would want to run and hide from. So what did the devil teach you about him that makes you think, you would want to run and hide from the only one who can rescue you and the only one who can save you. There are consequences to eating that fruit. There are consequences to sin. But God is a savior and a rescuer, not an inflictor of those things. And I think that would be the difference. That's powerful.

Kurt Francom:

Yeah. And I mean, sometimes you do have to, you know, with your son or with a youth in the ward or a couple in the ward, you have to have a real conversation about sin and there's consequences to the path you're going down. And we want you to know we always love you here and the Savior will always be battling for your heart. He's always after you.

David Butler:

But it cannot be me versus you and God versus you. Right.

Kurt Francom:

Yeah.

David Butler:

Right? Like if you have somebody who has a problem with pornography, that will degrade and destroy their soul. It will lead to death. It does. And it leads to the death of society and the death to self-esteem and respect. It leads to that. It leads to the death of love. Someone should be really nervous and worried about where that's gonna lead, but never worried and nervous about God.

Kurt Francom:

Yeah, and turning to God for help from that sin.

David Butler:

Right, that you can go to him with it, and he doesn't, as Elder Renlund said a couple years ago, he doesn't recoil when he sees you come to him. the mess you're in, and ooh, what have you done? You know, like never. But from day one, from day one, we've been thinking that. And that's our common, that's our biggest wedge in our relationship with God, I think. It has its root in that, so. Awesome.

Kurt Francom:

Well, we've covered some good things and man, anything we haven't touched on as far as, you know, the leadership and things that you would want to mention before we wrap up?

David Butler:

Oh man, no, I didn't even have anything, you know, that I would... I really don't feel like I'm... I'm just born and bred thinking that... Leadership is just love. We've got an organization and a hierarchy or whatever in the church. And sometimes that can become such a stumbling block to people when they see it. How come that person's in that position or that person's in that position? And almost like someone can think God's got a good old boys club or something like that. And I just want to remind everybody God's government is a family. And for practical reasons, sometimes there's organizational structure.

Kurt Francom:

Scaffolding. Yeah, yeah.

David Butler:

But it's like, it honestly is like, we are a family. We are a family that's divided into families. You know what I mean? And it's like, if someone can see that vision of leadership, then I think that would be so valuable to people to be able to see that. But no, I think we're all just... figuring this out together like a family does, you know? Right.

Kurt Francom:

So if people do want to learn more about you, what you're doing with Emily Belle Freeman and your books and whatnot, where would they go to find more about Dave Butler?

David Butler:

Oh, nowhere. You don't want to, but if you did... Our YouTube channel is called Don't Miss Us. And I should say something about that, where I hope everybody would realize that like, oh, we see ourselves just as another resource. It's like, hey, here are some thoughts. Let's get into the

scriptures. And what I found is that's been the most beneficial thing, I think, with that YouTube channel. And it's the reason we keep doing it. Because we just filmed two more yesterday, and it is a pain in the rear. It takes so much time. Yeah, yeah, yeah, here we are doing that, you know? And it's just like, I just think it's fantastic for people to have a chance to get in their scriptures again. And people will stop us and they'll say like, oh, you have just changed my life. And I wanna say, oh no, God did. And you got into the scriptures and started spending time with him, like you were saying. And we just became an on-ramp. into that. And that's what the Come Follow Me resource can be, is an on-ramp. And that's what Sunday School can be, is an on-ramp. And it's just on-ramp into relationship with God. And I think that that's its value and purpose. And people can use it however they want. I don't think that, you know... Yeah. They should, you know, just whatever you will. Great.

Kurt Francom:

If it helps. Yeah. Yeah.

David Butler:

Why are we sad?

Kurt Francom:

If it makes you fall asleep at night? Great.

David Butler:

Yeah, exactly. So that's called don't miss this.

Kurt Francom:

And, um, then you have some, some great books that, uh, desert book that I've read and, oh, thank you.

David Butler:

And I sent a trilogy coming on here, but yeah, I just got the third one just, uh, in the mail yesterday.

Kurt Francom:

And you focused on the Trinity, right?

David Butler:

The God, the father, Father to the Savior. And then now the Spirit is coming out. And then Instagram, our Instagram, we have a don't miss this Instagram and then Mr. Dave Butler's mine. You're a good follow because you're real. It's just like, Oh, you're nice.

Kurt Francom:

Here I am with my kids. I'm normal. So last question I have for you as you reflect back, particularly in your roles as a leader at times as a bishop and others, that role as a leader, how has that made you a better follower or a disciple of Jesus Christ?

David Butler:

Um, one thing that I did love about, um, serving as a leader was the chance to just spend time with people. And it just emphasized even more strongly that love God, love people. That's what it's all about, is that. And it is just so inspiring to have a chance to hear people's faith questions, to learn more about their faith story, to see God rescuing people. Like, it just was, I just got more opportunities to have a front row seat in watching God intervene and move into people's stories. And that was one of the best parts about that particular role. But I just feel like that gets to be everybody's experience, you know, wherever it is that they're serving in the church and particularly, like, I've just always seen, I've been called to help take the story of redemption to the world and to love people really well. Like, that's what I feel like I've been called to do. I've got different assignments that fall under that bigger umbrella. And some of those have been like within the church, you know, but I feel like it can just be everybody's experience to take that front row seat. But seeing that has made me love God even more. And that's made me a better disciple, to just see like, oh, God really is bigger than I ever thought He was. And He really does love people as deeply as I've always thought He did. And those experiences, you know, seeing that's made me just love Him even more.

Kurt Francom:

That concludes my interview with Dave Butler. Isn't he fun guys? I mean, get yourself a leadership style like Dave Butler has a leadership style. He's just such a real person. And even walking out, like by the time, uh, you know, he showed me out of the building. Uh, I just felt like we were old friends and I'm looking forward to future, um, future interactions with him. If you have any other suggestions of individuals I should reach out to connect with interview, uh, I would love to hear it. Go to [leading.saints.com slash contact](http://leading.saints.com/contact). And if you don't have a person to recommend. Would you just go there and tell me your favorite episode? Like, I just love getting the emails where people say, man, I've listened to this particular episode four times and I love it, right? That's good feedback and something that helps me realize, hmm, maybe I should have that person on again, or maybe we should have that person write an article or whatever it is. Like, just good feedback is really awesome and I'm addicted to email. I know I need to get over it, but I'd love to see your email come through. And that concludes this throwback episode of the Leading Saints podcast. Remember, up your teaching game by listening to the David Farnsworth presentation by visiting [leadingsaints.org slash 14](http://leadingsaints.org/slash/14).

Elder Gordon B. Hinckley:

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.