



## **Why Your Elders Quorum Needs Round Tables | An Interview from Salty Saints**

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Kurt Francom:

Anthony Sweat has easily become one of my favorite BYU professors to interview. He's been on the podcast several times, and he also has a remarkable presentation about ambiguity of doctrine in our Questioning Saints virtual library. He discusses healthy and unhealthy ways we approach doctrine, how to help others reconcile doctrine they find difficult to believe, especially when we don't know much about it. You can watch Professor Sweat's entire interview in the Questioning Saints Library by going to [leadingsaints.org slash 14](https://leadingsaints.org/14). This will give you access for 14 days at no cost to watch this presentation. You'll be better prepared as a leader when you do. So you're checking us out as maybe a potential podcast you could start listening to. I know many of you have been listening for a long time, but let me just talk to the newbies for a minute. What is Leading Saints? What are we trying to do here with this podcast? Well, let me explain. Leading Saints is a nonprofit organization, a 501c3 is what they call it, and we have a mission to help Latter-day Saints be better prepared to lead. Now, of course, that often means in the context of a calling. It may mean in your local community, your work assignments. We've heard about our content influencing all sorts of leaders in all sorts of different contexts. We invite you to listen to this episode and maybe a few others of our 500 plus episodes that we have out there. Jump in and begin to learn and begin to consider some of these principles we talk about on the Leading Saints podcast. Here we go. Welcome back to the Leading Saints podcast. Today, I'm introducing an interview that I actually didn't do. I, like many others, follow various content creators online, came across the Salty Saints YouTube channel, which is done by Hayden Holm and his brother, and they typically just soapbox about different cultural dynamics in our faith. They're fun guys to listen to, lighthearted, but share some great opinions, some

controversial opinions at times, some may say. But they did a few episodes about elders quorum. And of course, I was intrigued by this. And it led to them finding someone in their audience who's an elders quorum president in North Carolina. His name is Daniel Ockey, and he shared about his experience being an elders quorum president and some effective things he does. Essentially, it's a how I lead interview, but just not on the Leading Saints podcast. So I reached out to Hayden and said, yo, can we repurpose this content to be on Leading Saints so that we can share it with the masses? And he agreed. Here is a phenomenal episode about one Elders Quorum's experience and I think you'll appreciate it. There's a lot of good principles to take away. So here we go.

Hayden Holm:

Welcome back to Salty Saints. My name is Hayden Holm. I'm joined today by a guest, Daniel Ockey. He's shaking things up in the Elder's Quorum. He commented on the Elder's Quorum video, which by the way, did a lot better than I thought it would. His comments stood out among the other 100 plus comments that we got on that video because he's doing a lot of really cool things in his Elder's Quorum, and I wanted to figure out what's going on. So Daniel, could you tell us a little bit about your ward? What kind of ward are you in? What's the makeup of your elders quorum? Are you the president? And what kind of things are going on?

Daniel Ockey:

Yeah, absolutely. Thanks for having me on, Hayden. Appreciate it. And I appreciated your video. If you haven't watched that video, I'd recommend watching that before you watch this. But I'm based in Charlotte, North Carolina. We're Southeast Charlotte. And we have a newly formed ward. and that formed end of last summer of 2024. And I was an Elder's Quorum president in the ward previous to that for only two to three months before moving to this Elder's Quorum. But our ward is probably, I shouldn't quote numbers here that I'm not too confident in, but we're a little bit smaller of an Elder's Quorum. We're struggling, we don't have called teachers per se, most of them are being used in the auxiliaries, the primary, the young men's, things like that. And so, but the church is growing here in Charlotte, especially with the announcement of the temple. So with that being said, though, our range does go from new fathers and single individuals to all the way up to people who are retired or in their 80s.

Hayden Holm:

Okay. So is it one of those... Yeah, is it like a newly wed, nearly dead kind of ward? Or do you have a good mix of families and stuff like that?

Daniel Ockey:

I have a good mix of families. I have a good mix of families. So the ward we were in previously, before this ward split, I was a little bit on the younger side with a couple, with a little bit more of the older generation. But I would say most of them had a couple of kids on the younger side. with a strong youth program. So the church is, you didn't know church is doing well in Charlotte, North Carolina. Yeah. No, it's been awesome. So we, um, so I, I was called in last as an elders

quorum president last, uh, last April into the ward previous before the split. And, um, I had been serving on the high council before, so I'd been pretty involved in the, in, in that wards elders quorum. Right. And I guess, To be completely frank, I was tired of Elders Quorum myself. I really resonated with your video because I found myself not wanting to go to Elders Quorum, even though that was one of my main responsibilities on high council was to support this group. These were great brothers. The presidency was great. They weren't doing anything wrong, per se. I just wasn't looking forward to it. I wasn't excited about Sunday, nor did I feel you know, that I was, uh, specifically on Sundays, I was going to, to form a brotherhood there. There are, there were other activities that were kind of forming outside of that, that were good that I, you know, we have friends and stuff, but it just Sundays were painful. Yeah. So it's, it's to me what elders quorum has been a lot of my life, not every Sunday and not every ward. And I'm not prescribing this is to be everyone's experience. This is just mine. Yeah. Is that, Um, we go to the elders quorum. There's some Joe, you know, we crack a few jokes in the beginning announcements.

Hayden Holm:

Yeah.

Daniel Ockey:

A brother stands up, pulls out a phone and we basically read through a talk in general conference. We're sitting in hard metal roles, rows in the back of chairs in the back of the cultural hall. And half the brothers are checking ESPN on their phones. I don't know what they're doing. I shouldn't judge. But we're not an engaged group having a discussion, per se.

Hayden Holm:

Right. So you go around the room, you're reading paragraphs. Everyone has to ask the last person, like, where did you stop reading? So I can pick up on that. Yeah. I've been in many of those lessons myself. Yeah.

Daniel Ockey:

Exactly. And I've got young kids. You know, one of them needs help. I would rather be in the hallway than I would be in the, in the old school. Right. And so I just felt, I felt terrible about that. If a little guilty, even though it wasn't necessarily my fault. And I also was like, well, I can do some, when I got called elders quorum president, I felt like I can do something about this. We don't have to just do what has always been done. We can, we can make a change. And so, yeah, exactly.

Hayden Holm:

You're getting crazy on me here. Yeah.

Daniel Ockey:

We're going crazy. I need to be careful here. So, I think, and again, I'm not claiming to have found solutions or to be perfect. I just, what I am saying is I, I, I've tried to do things a little bit differently than what I just described.

Hayden Holm:

Yeah. So let's get into that. So I remember reading in your comments, something about like round tables and like a snack and discussions and stuff like that. And I was just like, this is crazy. This is amazing. So give me, give me the formula. Let's, let's crack it open and examine the for a little bit.

Daniel Ockey:

Absolutely. So, um, I got invited, I was at a restaurant and I got invited to this Christian men's group where once a month on a Friday morning they do a breakfast and a round table around a campfire and we just talk about issues that are difficult specifically for men. And I learned from that, I saw the attendance at those events, and I saw how the men bonded, sitting in a circle, talking about specific topics that we're all dealing with, that we don't really talk about, eating food. And I was like, you know, which one of us aren't hungry? We've been dealing with our families and kids, we're bored, and we wanna talk, we wanna talk about the real things that are facing us, but we're not really given that opportunity all the time. I just said, we're setting up round tables that are sitting in the cultural hall every time. And we set up three to four tables in the back of the cultural hall around chairs. And the first seven minutes when you walk in, we dump fruit snacks and, you know, whatever healthy chip we can find at Costco on the table. And the first seven minutes are a snack and chat. So you come into the cultural hall and you grab a bag of chips and a fruit snack and you just sit and you talk to the guy next to you. And I cannot tell you The people that used to come in and just said not talk to anybody what would what would start to happen cuz. When you're eating it's natural to start socializing so people will start talking i don't really know you when you're sitting in a circle. It's not so comfortable you like craning your head to the side sitting on a hard metal chair trying to turn behind your right so it just it just created this natural social socialization in unity that. we, we've just seen the benefit of, and does everybody talk to everybody? Of course not. There's still the brethren who kind of keep to themselves, but they have had more conversations than they normally do have.

Hayden Holm:

And, uh, that's great because there's always that, that one elders quorum teacher that says like, Hey, I'm going to get you guys to talk today. So everyone divvy up into groups and we're going to talk. And it turns into like, like three or four groups happening and then like a bunch of guys just kind of sitting there awkwardly like, am I going to be with you guys? I'm going to be with you guys or I'm just going to look at my phone, you know? So having the round table, it seems like that's almost forcing them to engage with other people, you know? And then bringing the snack

element is great because I once heard like the secret to a man's heart is through his stomach, right? It's like, yeah, I mean, that's absolutely the case for me. Like for me, uh, Chanel might get a little upset with me about this, but one of the first things she made for me, she cooked when I was going to BYU, Idaho, and she burnt waffles. I was just like, my mom was a baker growing up. and food was big for me and so like I saw that she burnt waffles and I was like whoa I don't see I don't see a lifetime of happiness here you know but but after that she was like I can actually cook it's okay so then she made like a big you know like orange chicken with a banana cream pie and stuff like it was phenomenal and so I was like after that I was like okay let's make this happen. I can I can see a lifetime with you now. You know, this is great. But but I totally get that. And men socialize through action as well. They don't socialize just by conversation. So like if you're giving them something to eat, they're gonna open up and then you're giving them also just through eating natural opportunities to in a normal and natural way bond and connect with each other. That's fascinating. So what else?

Daniel Ockey:

What else are you doing? So anyway, that alone will change your elders quorum lessons, I promise, if you just implement that. So then the next thing we did is in the handbook, it talks about starting every elders quorum with a council. about needs and challenges that others are facing. So we're, I'm not trying to deviate from what is, is, I mean, I'm not trying to, I want to follow the handbook. I want to do the right things. Yeah. Um, but, but you know, how do we know what the needs of the brothers are? Do we just guess it's like, well, what if we just sent out an anonymous Google survey link and, Just have them tell us, what are you facing? Let's talk about any challenge or question you have going on right now. We don't know who it is. Send out the email before and just submit these things. And then we just literally, at the beginning of every Elders Quorum, take another seven minutes, or until everybody's done commenting, and go through the questions that people have. And the first, and once a quarter, we dedicate an entire meeting to a council, where we just go through questions.

Hayden Holm:

Wow. So what kind of questions do you get?

Daniel Ockey:

Well, all sorts. And it's been so helpful to have like data of what the brothers are dealing with. And it's stuff that they're not, they're not going to raise their hand and be like, uh, my marriage is failing, you know, questions that, that kind of help us understand what the deeper issues are. So this last Sunday, the question was, how do I know if I shouldn't take the sacrament?

Hayden Holm:

Whoa.

Daniel Ockey:

You know,

Hayden Holm:

And that's not something that someone's going to raise their hand like, excuse me, excuse me, how do I know when I'm not worthy? Like, how do I know that I messed up in a big way? You know, it's like, wow, that's so that's a fascinating question. And you're there in a pool of strength with high priests, with elders, a lot of different experience, who can then pull from that and help that brother understand in a completely anonymous way. That's genius.

Daniel Ockey:

Former bishops, yeah, it was great. We had a 10 minute discussion about this and just the end message of that was we don't self-disqualify from the sacrament. If we've done something that we need to talk to the bishop about, we take care of that. But that's between you and the bishop and the Lord. But there's a lot of things that you can repent of and still participate. You don't self-disqualify from the sacrament unless it's something that's pretty serious and needs to be discussed. So that was a great question. We've had a question of if the church is true, why are there so few members?

Hayden Holm:

Hmm.

Daniel Ockey:

You know, we've had the question of, uh, how do I, you know, how do I solve, uh, how do I help my children come back to church? How do I, uh, so like real down to earth nitty gritty questions, guys, why are we going to elders quorum and just talking about fluff? I mean, the gospel is not fluff, but like, let's take the real challenges we're dealing with and take the reality of the gospel and all its beauty and actually apply it to the real things we're facing and leave feeling strengthened. And like, I can take an, I can do it this week because I've got, I've got brothers, I've got Jesus Christ on my side and I have his true gospel. Right. And I have it. And if we don't connect that to the realities that we're facing in our life, I think that, I think that we're going to struggle. I think that the brothers are going to struggle. The families are going to struggle. And, and we don't, we have an hour every two hours, every month to make a difference. Let's make a difference.

Hayden Holm:

Right, so are you telling me we don't need another lesson on how not to judge other people and that we need to love more? Is that what you're saying? That we can actually grapple with difficult questions?

Daniel Ockey:

I think we should grapple with difficult questions. So we do the same thing with lessons. The handbook says you talk about topics and themes from general conference. Well, let's take, submit an anonymous survey. What do you want to talk about in lessons? Let's answer them with topics and themes from general conference. So in the family proclamation of the world, we're talking about marriage, right? Marriage is a continual theme that's coming up in these surveys of people in our world where that's a struggle. So what does it mean in the church? You know, we have a real discussion. What does it mean to preside in the home versus church as equal partners in love and righteousness? Is the husband, the boss, does he decide everything? How do we grapple with this? And what do we, you know, and let's use doctrine and let's use the handbook and let's use the family proclamation. We're not, we're not trying to spit opinions here. This is, let's be true to the church material.

Hayden Holm:

And for those who don't know, I mean, the church just came out with an update this last weekend where you can now ask the AI that the church came out with of the handbook. So if you have really specific idiosyncratic questions, you can just pitch those right into the church's AI and it'll direct you where to go in the handbook, which is fantastic. And I'm sure that'll probably help make for some great discussions in elders quorum.

Daniel Ockey:

No, great. Yeah, I'm glad you brought that up. I wasn't aware. So absolutely.

Hayden Holm:

But oh, yeah, I was geeking out about it, because I had to do like a lot of setting apart and stuff on Sunday. And I was just like, Oh, man, what's the wording on this? And it just brought it right up. And so I didn't have to go on his big scavenger hunt or anything like that.

Daniel Ockey:

That is a great feature, because that is a real pain of the handbook sometimes. Yeah. So anyway, Sundays have changed. And I knew we were onto something, and I always joke about this, when I saw the dads who would normally leave to go help their kids and never come back, they started to come back. They started to come back and finish the meeting. They would take care of their kids.

Hayden Holm:

You've never seen that.

Daniel Ockey:

I've never seen that.

Hayden Holm:

That is wild. I've got a lot of questions. So first of all, where did you come up with these ideas? Is this something that just like one morning you're like, boom, round tables, snacks, I'm going to give it a shot. Did you hear it from somewhere else? What, what's the process There?

Daniel Ockey:

Yeah. I mean, I, I, I run a company, I run a, I run a business. And so I just, I really believe in client feedback and customer feedback. And if you don't ask, you don't get. And so I, and then I, you know, the experience of going to that Christian men's group, I, I genuinely prayed. I just said, you know, God, how do we help the brothers? How do we help the brothers on Sunday? What do we do? And I've just acted on the ideas that have come. And it's gone really well. The previous ward that we implemented this, I've done it now in two wards. I was in the ward that's split now, this new ward. They've kept the round tables and the snacks and the surveys as well. It's still going.

Hayden Holm:

Whoa, so you're onto something. So something is sticking, something is sticking.

Daniel Ockey:

I mean, I think once you go round table snack, it's hard to go back.

Hayden Holm:

That's right. Well, and finally, you can use up that budget, you know, like there's such little amount of budget given to the elders quorum, spend it on snacks, you know, it's like, that's better than just like rolling it over to the next year, you know, or not even get it.

Daniel Ockey:

Absolutely. And you know, you can buy snacks that are not expensive. You can spend 10 to 20 bucks. Yeah, you know, twice a month, and you don't eat at all. And you can roll it over to the you know, you bring that, yeah, it has not been as expensive as, as I expected. Um, one thing we do do with the snacks is they are for the elders quorum. So when all the kids rush in after we don't hand them out to the primary kids or they're for the dad, the dads are, and the, and the men, they're free to take them home, but we don't hand them out to Them.

Hayden Holm:

Good for you, look at that. You're like, hey, these are dad snacks, okay? These are sacred.

Daniel Ockey:



Well, I do think, though, it would create a problem, because what happens if the kids got them, they would run around and make the mess after church, which- Every week, they would start coming to Elders Quorum, yeah.

Hayden Holm:

And then the dads would just be like, here are your snacks, I gotta save these now for you, yeah. No, I get that.

Daniel Ockey:

Right, right, so we've said no to that. The other cool thing that's happened is, in doing our monthly meeting with the Relief Society, they've started doing surveys and understanding what problems the Relief Society sisters are facing. And so here we're getting this data from the brothers and the sisters, and we're starting to see the patterns of what they're both facing. And we're able to work together with the bishop and the ward council to actually target the real problems and address them in our Sunday meetings. And this, just ask, ask and then pray. Great information precedes great revelation. So that's where I would say this has come from.

Hayden Holm:

Well, that is phenomenal. So what kind of engagement are you seeing? So you rolled all this stuff out. You're saying more brethren are talking to each other. What else are you seeing in the quorum?

Daniel Ockey:

In the ward previously, our elders quorum attendance was the highest that it ever was. In the two and a half years I was there. In this ward, there's been kind of a calling shift, and sometimes they need more subs.

Hayden Holm:

You gotta build momentum a little bit, yeah.

Daniel Ockey:

We're building more momentum, and then we brought two wards together, and so it seemed like in the previous ward there was kind of just more cohesion and being able, like this was like a spark that kind of lit the fire. This just felt a little more slow going, but at the same time, we have brothers from other wards who attend our elders quorum .

Hayden Holm:

Really?

Daniel Ockey:

And their own ward. So they'll come and attend.

Hayden Holm:

They double dip.

Daniel Ockey:

Look at that. With the chip and the meal.

Hayden Holm:

That is fascinating. That's a great call out there. I'm always in it for the dad jokes. But I mean, that is fascinating that you are getting brothers that are going to an extra hour on Sundays. They are checking out. So that they can sit in a meeting that is actually engaging them and that is actually providing them that brotherhood I think that goes to I think the point that you were calling out earlier that that lack of brotherhood isn't being felt and it's actually being I Think men crave that and so to see men actually take time aside and say I'm gonna go visit this one Are these young men that are going are they older or older?

Daniel Ockey:

Young men, and it's not a ton, there's one or two. But still, it stuck out to me, and we'll have visitors, right? And the comments are very positive, just I've never been in Elders Quorum like this. We've had a brother publicly ask for a priesthood blessing in Elders Quorum, when we were giving a blessing on blessing. Can you imagine having a brother in Elders Quorum stand up and say, I'm really struggling, can I get a blessing right now?

Hayden Holm:

Wow. And to have that level of comfort in the quorum is... insane. You know, it's like I, I just thinking about that with the quorums that I've been in, it's like, yeah, I, I'm barely comfortable enough to just like start up a side conversation. You know, just like, Hey, how are you doing? You know, good. Oh, yeah, me too. But that's, that's amazing. That because that that shows that this, this brother has reached a certain comfort level. And he feels a certain connectedness to the quorum and a certain level of security with them. That's phenomenal. So what kind of, have you received any pushback? Like have there been any like angry high priests that are like, this isn't the way that we did it. Hey, cut that out. Anything like that? No.

Daniel Ockey:

No, in fact, it seems like the high priests love it the most.

Hayden Holm:

They're like, finally some snacks up in here. You usually have to go to nursery to get These.

Daniel Ockey:

Exactly, exactly. So my first Sunday in the old ward, we had a member of the state presidency there. And it normally elders quorum falls on the second and fourth Sunday. So it's never fast Sunday, but it was for some reason, a state conference in a general conference or something. And so that Sunday actually happened to be fast Sunday. So I accidentally brought snacks on fast Sunday, which was funny, but, um, Yeah, exactly.

Hayden Holm:

But I won't tell anybody. Yeah.

Daniel Ockey:

Yeah. Well, he knows I have received, uh, I've been very open, you know, I'm, I will follow the direction of the leaders if I, if I get, I'm not, I'm not trying to, I'm not trying to break anything. I'm just, I'm trying to serve the brothers. That's what we're trying to do. And when I say I, I'm talking about my presidency.

Hayden Holm:

Yeah.

Daniel Ockey:

So that, no, I have not received any, any negative pushback at all. And I think so far,

Hayden Holm:

Well, that's encouraging to hear. And it sounds like the word is rallying behind you. What about Relief Society? Have you gotten any comments from sisters about this?

Daniel Ockey:

The sisters will joke and say, man, Elders Quorum is looking good because they'll peek in, you know, and their husband and there's, you know, we're all sitting in tables and we're eating and looks like we're having a good time. That's been a good thing. I think the biggest change that has been cool to me, again, is that the sisters have taken the surveys. We've run a joint Elders Quorum Relief Society survey around attending the temple, which is one of our core responsibilities, is helping members attend the temple and seeing what the barriers to people attending the temple are. It's helped us just become more unified and work as a team, but nothing really nothing really crazy there as far as like the roof siding, sitting in round tables and eating snacks. They get their own room already.

Hayden Holm:

Okay, so now I'm going to ask the question that I know everybody is dying to get the answer to right now, and that is the tables. Who is setting up and taking down these tables? What kind of effort are you expending doing that?

Daniel Ockey:

Yeah, so originally, it was me coming in every Sunday and saying, let's get the tables going, can I get some help? Probably for the first two months. I did that in the old ward and I've now done that in this ward. Now, the brothers just do it. Really? Well, and my presidency has been a core part of that. But now when I walk into the back culture hall, most of the tables are already set up with the chairs and people are helping. So it's become part of the culture. But it takes work. It takes a consistent effort. Basically, if the default is sitting in rows of chairs, that's what people are going to do. But if you change the default saying, no, we're doing tables every time, no matter what, Eventually, it's like, okay, that's what we're doing.

Hayden Holm:

Well, I don't know if this was for all wards, but I remember this initiative being pushed out a handful of years ago saying we need to get semi circles set up, you know, and so they were, they were like, we need stadium seating in the elders quorum gymnasium. And it started off as a semi circle. And then I've noticed over the years that slowly that semicircle has kind of like turned back into just rows, you know, and because you could still find a back row in the semicircle. They just said like two or three rows up and it just was like rows 2.0, you know, where the purpose the principle of that was like we want brethren looking at each other more and engaging with each other more. Uh, so that's amazing to hear that the the tables are working Yeah, I would say that's a great all right.

Daniel Ockey:

I'm gonna cut you off, but that's a great point You can create rows behind the semi-circle when it's the table and there's only four tables And you only have chairs set up around the tables. It's weird if you go take a chair and sit in the back corner

Hayden Holm:

Right, right.

Daniel Ockey:

You know, like you can. We're not going to stop you.

Hayden Holm:

It becomes more uncomfortable. Like you're calling more attention to yourself by trying to be an outcast or trying to be detached from everyone than if you were to just grab a seat at a table.

Daniel Ockey:

You walk in, you belong. And that's what I think brothers need to feel.

Hayden Holm:

100% totally agree with that. What would be your advice to elders quorum presidencies who are just starting up, they want to make a change right now, and they want to kind of fix the culture of the elders quorum. How do they get started?

Daniel Ockey:

Yeah, I think it comes down to always going to God first. I'm not prescribing this is what every elders quorum in the world needs to do and I don't receive revelation for all that. I would say get with your presidency and discuss these ideas and see if it makes sense for you to try in your elders quorum. We don't have to do things the way they've always been done. We can focus on Jesus Christ and make it an enjoyable experience. If this is the church of joy, let's make it joyful. And then when you get that Sunday meeting right, everything else gets easier. The out-of-Sunday activities, the brotherhood, people actually know each other, the ministering interviews, and all that begins to compound to be able to actually make an Elders Quorum that's a brotherhood united in serving God's children. And I think that's what it really comes down to.

Hayden Holm:

That is fast. So you've actually seen more brothers come out to activities and stuff like that, uh, after you implemented these changes.

Daniel Ockey:

Well, we're, we're working on getting our activities going. That's been a little bit of a struggle to be honest. But, but what I have noticed is brothers know each, we're getting to know each other actually in the Sunday meeting, right? It's like, how many have you gone to for years where you still don't know the five brothers who sit on the other side? You know, it's like, you got to sit and talk and talk because you've been eating chips together. And eventually it seemed like, well, what do you do for work? You know, like, Oh yeah, it'll come up.

Hayden Holm:

Yeah.

Daniel Ockey:

It'll come up. It'll come up. And we've seen things like that happen. And so just facilitating the connections, I'm a believer. I will suggest this and implement it everywhere I go unless instructed to otherwise.

Hayden Holm:

That's amazing. So now, kind of as the final question, I want to speak to the elders that want to connect. They want brotherhood, but they don't feel like their elders quorum presidency is currently providing that. Like they're kind of stuck in a forgotten elders quorum. What would your suggestion or your advice be to those elders that feel like they're being looked over, they're being forgotten, they want to connect, but they can't?

Daniel Ockey:

Show them this video and skip this question. It's a great question, because if you're not in a position to actually suggest change or implement change, that can be difficult. You can only do so much. I think genuinely one of the cool things I think that's happening as Latter-day Saints we are, like yourself, are becoming active and creating content and channels. And I think as we connect more and recognize that we're not islands on our elders quorums, that we can learn from each other and see what's working. I'm a big believer in prayer. I really believe that if you feel that your elder's karma is a forgotten, lonely island that has no brotherhood and you feel lost or forgotten about, going to your knees is the best place to get answers of what to do next. And I know from my own experience that if you do that, direction and answers will come and what actions to take. And it really will just come down to acting on them. Whether that is showing this conversation to your elders quorum presidency and sharing it, whether it is suggesting or just setting up tables and saying, is it okay if I set up tables and, or I bring a snack to share, you know, whatever that may be, just, just making the effort.

Hayden Holm:

I mean, I've, I've served in a handful of elders quorum presidencies where like, if I were to get some kind of feedback like that, I don't know a single presidency that would be like, no, no, no, no, we're not going to do that. Where like, if someone were like, Hey, I have some questions that I'd love to ask. Do you think we could start up like a quorum doc or something like that? We can start asking these questions. And I think that would be more than welcome from my experience, but I love how you keep bringing it back to personal revelation. I think that's absolutely true. And, uh, I, I think it's following the example of the brethren as well. Like these, Like if you look at President Nelson, since he's become prophet, he's got a great track record of shaking things up and making changes.

Daniel Ockey:

And so by- It's in time.

Hayden Holm:

Yeah.

Daniel Ockey:

Yeah. Yeah.

Hayden Holm:

And so I mean, that's your following is example by just refusing to accept that things are going to be the way they are always and forever by shaking things up. I think you're following that example of the prophet as well. So I think that's that's fantastic. And I think it's been a great conversation. We really appreciate you coming on and sharing your story. for anyone out there that is in a forgotten lonely elders quorum be sure to pray you know find that revelation approach your elders quorum presidency see if you can find some change that way if if you are still stuck and you want to connect with other people we've got a discord server DadsNeedFriends.com. We're not selling anything. We just game. We just talk and we game. We have like little chat channels about different aspects of life. So come join us if that's your thing. If not, no worries. And so with that being said, is there anything else you want to say to elders quorum presidencies or anything like that?

Daniel Ockey:

Shake it up and make elders quorum a place that everyone actually wants to be. Instead of just doing the minimum.

Hayden Holm:

Did I just hear you say, make elders quorum great again? Is that what I heard?

Daniel Ockey:

I pretty much just said, make elders quorum great again.

Hayden Holm:

Right on.

Kurt Francom:

All right, that concludes this interview. I appreciate them allowing me to borrow their content and repurposing it for the Leading Saints audience. Be sure to check out Salty Saints. We'll put all the links that they share in the show notes as well, related to this episode. And yeah, go subscribe to their stuff and share your opinion over there as well. And together as a, you know, the gathering of Latter-day Saints online. Hopefully, we're improving the experience, the gospel, Zion, and building it together. So, thanks for joining us. Remember, go to [leadingsaints.org](https://leadingsaints.org) to access the remarkable presentation by Anthony Sweatt about ambiguity and doctrine.

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.