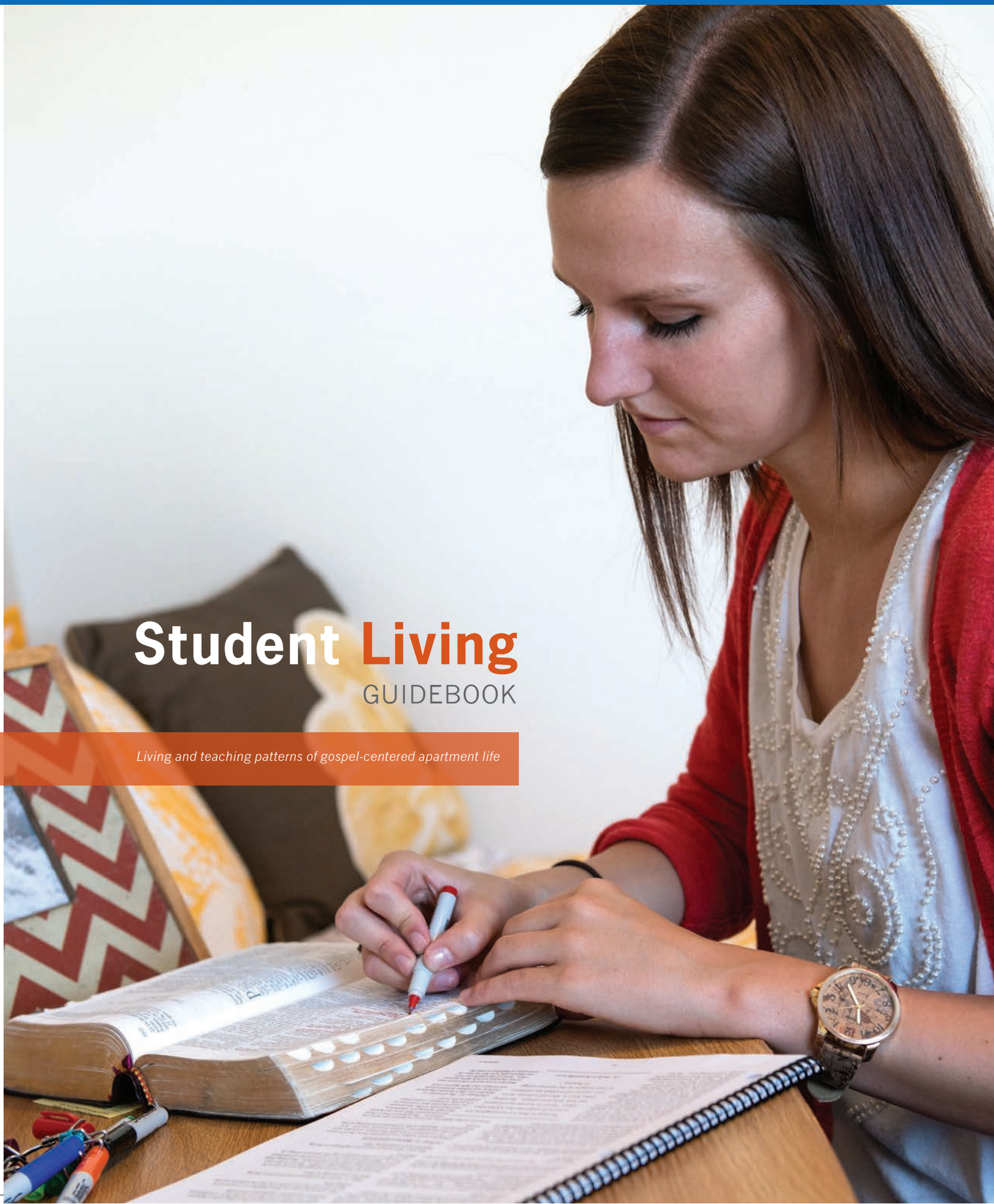


# Student **Living**

## GUIDEBOOK

*Living and teaching patterns of gospel-centered apartment life*





## Table of Contents

<b>Purpose and Intended Use of this Guidebook</b> .....	1
<b>An Overview of Student Living</b> .....	1
<b>Guiding Principles</b> .....	3
Principle One: Love .....	3
Principle Two: Shared Responsibility .....	4
Principle Three: Mutual Respect.....	5
<b>“Becoming” Through Student Living</b> .....	7
The Challenge to Become .....	7
Men and Women of Greater Integrity .....	7
Good Neighbors.....	7
Natural Leaders .....	8
<b>Roles and Responsibilities</b> .....	9
Roommates and Friends .....	10
Ecclesiastical Leaders .....	10
Apartment Owners and Managers .....	11
University .....	13
<b>Core Concepts</b> .....	14
Matthew 18 Principle .....	14
The Code of Silence .....	14
Genuinely Concerned Neighbors.....	14
<b>Ward Implementation of Student Living</b> .....	15
<b>Student Living Lessons</b> .....	16
<b>Lesson Topics</b> .....	16
Building Zion .....	16
Love.....	16
Shared Responsibility.....	17
Mutual Respect .....	17
Apartment Life .....	18
<b>Determining What to Teach</b> .....	19
<b>Study Resources</b> .....	20
Talks .....	20
Videos.....	20





## Purpose and Intended Use of this Guidebook

The Student Living Guidebook (1) provides a clear and thorough description of the purpose, principles, and desired outcomes of Student Living, (2) defines the structure and recommended implementation of the Student Living model, and (3) offers educational and resource materials for teaching and reinforcing the primary principles associated with gospel-centered apartment life.

The contents found in the following pages are intended to be used by stake and ward leaders,

approved housing owners and managers, and university employees to create and foster a culture in which students learn and live the principles of Zion in their apartments and homes.

We invite you to be thoughtful and prayerful in your study of this guidebook and consciously apply the principles of Student Living while inspiring and encouraging others to do the same.

## An Overview of Student Living

The Lord commands us to “seek to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion” (D&C 6:6; 11:6; 12:6; 14:6). We can respond to this call by living in a way that leads us to and places us in Zion. Truly, “we no longer think of Zion as *where* we are going to live; we think of it as *how* we are going to live” (Elder Jeffrey R. Holland, “Israel, Israel, God is Calling,” CES Devotional,

Sept. 9, 2012). We can build Zion in our apartments through the practical, everyday work of living the basic principles of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Student Living provides a blueprint for us to build little Zions in our apartments so we can build Zion in our homes. Student Living is not a program. It is a model that governs and



influences the way we live and assists students to establish patterns of gospel-centered lives. All BYU-Idaho students are inherently enlisted in Student Living.

The three guiding principles of Student Living are love, shared responsibility, and mutual respect.

1. Love - love for God and love for neighbor.
2. Shared responsibility - roommates are their brother's keeper.
3. Mutual respect - roommates live the Golden Rule.

The apartment represents the most natural and effective place for students to learn and apply these principles. By so doing, students will develop qualities, form habits, acquire skills, and establish patterns that will strengthen relationships with roommates and engender a spirit of unity, integrity, responsibility,

forgiveness, and love in the apartment—all of which will serve to bless future homes and families and prepare students for service in the Church, community, and workplace.

Through a deliberate and coordinated effort among the university, campus stakes and wards, and apartment owners and managers, the aforementioned principles are taught and reinforced to the student body. Indeed, “everyone at [BYU-Idaho]—faculty, staff, students, ecclesiastical leaders, and so forth—has a responsibility to impact others for good. Each interaction with a student or colleague is a potential teaching and learning opportunity” (David A. Bednar, “Inaugural Response,” Ricks College, Feb. 27, 1998). Student Living calls on all individuals at or affiliated with BYU-Idaho—especially those who interact closely with students—to live and teach the principles that contribute to a more Christ-like culture of student and apartment life.



# Guiding Principles

The guiding principles of Student Living are:

1. **Love.** This principle primarily refers to our love for God. Loving and caring for roommates will be a natural extension of our sincere love for God (4 Nephi 1:15-16).
2. **Shared Responsibility.** This principle denotes our covenant responsibility to lift, comfort, and care for our brothers and sisters (Mosiah 18:8-9). Shared responsibility affirms our role as our brother's keeper.
3. **Mutual Respect.** The Golden Rule is at the heart of this principle (Matthew 7:12). Mutual respect also includes sharing and responsibly fulfilling obligations and opportunities to maintain the physical and spiritual condition of the apartment.

## PRINCIPLE ONE: LOVE

### *Love thy neighbor as thyself*

Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin taught: "On one occasion the Pharisees tried to trap Jesus by asking Him a seemingly impossible question: 'Master,' they asked, 'which is the great commandment in the law?' . . . He replied: 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets' (Matthew 22:36-40). Since that day, this inspired pronouncement has been repeated through many generations.

### *Love is the beginning, the middle, and the end of the pathway of discipleship*

"Now, for us, the measure of our love is the measure of the greatness of our souls. . . . Love is the beginning, the middle, and the end of the pathway of discipleship. It comforts, counsels, cures, and consoles. . . .

"For me, the Prophet Joseph Smith has always exemplified the pure love of Christ. Many asked why he gained so many followers and retained them. His answer: 'It is because I possess the principle of love.' . . .

"Sometimes the greatest love is not found in the dramatic scenes that poets and writers immortalize. Often, the greatest manifestations of love are the simple acts of kindness and caring we extend to those we meet along the path of life. . . .

### *Love strengthens obedience*

"When we love the Lord, obedience ceases to be a burden. Obedience becomes a delight. When we love the Lord, we seek less for things that benefit us and turn our hearts toward things that will bless and uplift others. . . .



### ***Serving others is a reflection of love***

“When Jesus gave His disciples a new commandment to ‘love one another; as I have loved you’ (John 13:34), He gave to them the grand key to happiness in this life and glory in the next. Love is the greatest of all the commandments—all others hang upon it. It is our focus as followers of the living Christ. It is the one trait that, if developed, will most improve our lives” (“The Great Commandment,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2007).

“But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant” (Matthew 20:25-27). See also John 13:5, 12, 14.

### ***Love requires action***

“True love requires action. We can speak of love all day long—we can write notes or poems that proclaim it, sing songs that praise it, and preach sermons that encourage it—but until we manifest that love in action, our words are nothing but ‘sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal’” (1

Corinthians 13:1; Dieter F. Uchtdorf, “You are My Hands,” *Ensign*, May 2010).

Elder Neal A. Maxwell served with President Hunter in the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles and said of him, “President Howard W. Hunter is a meek man. He once refused a job he needed as a young man because it would have meant another individual would have lost his job. This is the same lowly man, when I awakened after a weary and

dusty day together with him on assignment in Egypt, who was quietly shining my shoes, a task he had hoped to complete unseen. Meekness can be present in the daily and ordinary things” (Neal A. Maxwell, “Meek and Lowly,” Brigham Young University 1986–87 Devotional and Fireside Speeches [1987]).

## **PRINCIPLE TWO: SHARED RESPONSIBILITY**

### ***Am I my brother’s keeper?***

Kim B. Clark, BYU-Idaho President, related: “The Savior taught us about silence in the parable of the Good Samaritan. When the priest and the Levite came upon a wounded man by the side of the road, they were silent. They took no action to help, nor did they tell anyone of the man in trouble. The Samaritan, in contrast, spoke in word and deed. He bandaged the man’s wounds and took him to an inn. The Samaritan told the innkeeper about the wounded man and arranged for his care.

### ***Roommates get involved***

“The man by the road represents so many of our brothers and sisters, so many of us wounded by the perils of mortal life and the battles of the Great War.

And yet, in our modern society, the Enemy has spread fear of getting involved when someone is in trouble and has fostered a social stigma that attaches to people who speak up in the face of evil. The Enemy whispers, ‘Don’t get involved; it’s not your problem. Don’t tell; you will be a tattletale.’

“Here is an example: A lonely, confused young man gets addicted to pornography by first



starting with the wrong movies and then edging into material that is increasingly sleazy, vile, and immoral. He stops going to church, and there is darkness in his eyes. The young man is spiritually wounded on the battlefield of the Great War. His roommates know. But they are silent. They do nothing to help him, and they say nothing to him or to anyone else as he descends into an earthly hell until he is bound in the chains of an awful addiction.

### ***Roommates refer for help when needed***

“Oh brothers and sisters, don’t leave the wounded on the battlefield! Stick together. You don’t need to be a more ‘righteous-than-thou’ person. We are all sinners. We all have troubles. We have all been wounded spiritually. But you who have felt the redeeming power of Christ, you who know His love and His grace, you know He can heal all wounds. If you reach out in a spirit of love and humility, you can help the spiritually wounded find the Savior. If you need to, call for the medics: talk to your bishop, call the Dean of Students, tell someone who can do something that you have a friend in trouble. Don’t be silent. Don’t leave the wounded on the battlefield!” (“The Power of the Holy Temple,” BYU-Idaho Devotional, Jan. 15, 2008).

### ***Roommates are responsible for one another***

“During a lifetime we oscillate repeatedly between being nurturing shepherds and nurtured sheep. That fact underlines our mutual

interdependence—for we are all ‘the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand’ (Psalms 95:7). We are responsible for each other . . . as brothers and sisters freely ‘willing to bear one another’s burdens’ and ‘comfort those that stand in need of comfort’ (Mosiah 18:8-9). We cannot escape that responsibility, nor expect someone else to accept it for us” (Alexander B. Morrison, “Fire Where Once Were Ashes,” *Ensign*, Aug. 7, 1990).

### ***Roommates strengthen one another***

“Therefore, strengthen your brethren in all your conversation, in all your prayers, in all your exhortations, and in all your doings” (D&C 108:7).

### **PRINCIPLE THREE: MUTUAL RESPECT**

#### ***An expression of Christ-like living***

Terrance D. Olson taught: “Respect is an expression

of our sense of universal brotherhood or sisterhood—a testimony of our membership in the human family. It acknowledges our common humanity and shows our reverence for children of God. The gospel teaches us that we are to hold the same esteem for others that we hold for ourselves (see D&C 38:25; Matthew 7:12). Acting disrespectfully suggests that we do not esteem the other person as ourselves. . . . True respect, then, comes as we develop our ability to love our brothers and sisters as ourselves. . . .

“Underlying principles of respect that were once commonplace in society have increasingly given way to unkind behavior. . . .

### **SHARED RESPONSIBILITY**

- Am I my brother’s keeper?
- Roommates get involved
- Roommates refer for help when needed
- Roommates are responsible for one another
- Roommates strengthen one another



### ***Roommates value and respect one another***

“While the gospel teaches us to be respectful toward others without qualification, sometimes we may find ourselves falling into rationalizations about being disrespectful based on their behavior. A person who causes a problem is often seen as warranting disrespectful treatment. . . . This kind of thinking shifts responsibility for our behavior to others. It makes us think that our disrespectful acts are someone else’s fault. . . .

“Gossip, [an] everyday form of disrespect, is incompatible with love. What we say about people in their absence should be what we would say to them, with love, if they were present.

“Empathy. Feeling empathy for others is a symptom of respectful behavior, while feeling unsympathetic is a symptom of disrespectful acts. . . . To ridicule others is to deny our brotherhood and sisterhood.

“Care. Respect is also synonymous with care and concern. We respect those we care about. Sometimes we excuse our disrespect, even for people we care about, by holding against them *their* lack of caring or concern for us.

### ***Respect for others shows reverence for God and for His creations***

“Respect is an expression of Christlike living. It is closely linked to all other qualities we are counseled to cultivate: patience, long-suffering, brotherly kindness, and love unfeigned [D&C

121:41-42]. It is a feature of selfless service and humble repentance. It is essential when healing or dissolving hostilities. Respect for others shows reverence for God and for His creations. Through showing respect, we truly

feel more a part of the human family and recognize and honor our common divine parentage” (“Cultivating Respect,” *Ensign*, Oct. 2001).

### ***Roommates live the Golden Rule***

“Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets” (Matthew 7:12).



### ***Respect leads to a happier apartment***

President Monson stated: “As in all relationships—happiness abounds when there is respect for each other. One must have a capacity to work out problems, a willingness to give and take, and a genuine unselfishness. . . .

“Particularly to those not yet married I counsel: Those who marry in the hope of forming a permanent partnership require certain skills and attitudes of mind. They must be skillful in adapting to each other; they need capacity to work out mutual problems; they need willingness to give and take in the search for harmony; and they need unselfishness of the highest sort—thought for their partners taking the place of desire for themselves. This is respect. It is part of our quest for the abundant life” (“In Quest of the Abundant Life,” *Ensign*, March 1988).

# “Becoming” Through Student Living

Through an emphasis on true principles, Student Living fosters personal honor, inspires conversion in addition to compliance, and produces blessings of strength and happiness. This requires the law—commandments, rules, guidelines, and standards—to be “written not with ink, but with the spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart” (2 Corinthians 3:3) in each and every BYU-Idaho student. It also requires students to value the promises and covenants they have made by living in accordance with them at all times and in all things, and to encourage and support others to do the same.

## The Challenge to Become

“In contrast to the institutions of the world, which teach us to know something, the gospel of Jesus Christ challenges us to *become* something. . . . the Final Judgment is not just an evaluation of a sum total of good and evil acts—what we have done. It is an acknowledgment of the final effect of our acts and thoughts—what we have become. It is not enough for anyone just to go through the motions. The commandments, ordinances, and covenants of the gospel are not a list of deposits required to be made in some heavenly account. The gospel of Jesus Christ is a plan that shows us how to become what our Heavenly Father desires us to become” (Dallin H. Oaks, “The Challenge to Become,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2000).

It is ultimately desired that, through Student Living, students will become men and women of greater integrity, good “neighbors” who understand and embrace their responsibility toward others, and natural leaders who know how to teach and how to learn.

## Men and Women of Greater Integrity

Student Living encourages students to hold themselves and others accountable for acting and living in accordance with the promises and covenants they have made. This responsibility and

associated accountability will help students become men and women of greater integrity as they learn to live the standards for the right reasons and are afforded the opportunity to “enforce in their own lives that which is ultimately unenforceable” (David A. Bednar, “In the Path of Their Duty,” *BYU-Idaho Devotional*, Sept. 1, 1998).

In addition, “a person of integrity will assist others to be honest . . . People of integrity will neither foster, nourish, embrace, nor share [a] lie” (Marvin J. Ashton, “This Is No Harm,” *Ensign*, May 1982). Therefore, personal integrity will not only influence an individual student to maintain a life of honor but also stir within him or her the obligation to encourage others to do the same.

## Good Neighbors

The Savior commanded us to “love thy neighbour as thyself” (Matthew 22:39). Student Living invites and encourages roommates to be genuinely engaged in one another’s lives, thus creating opportunities to live this commandment and become better “neighbors.” Elder David A. Bednar described the type of environment that Student Living desires to foster at BYU-Idaho: “We . . . want an environment on this campus where appropriately and genuinely concerned ‘neighbors,’ in the true scriptural sense of the word neighbor, would remind, help, and encourage [one another] to consistently think, speak, and act in a way that invites the Spirit of the Holy Ghost among us” (“In the Path of Their Duty,” *BYU-Idaho Devotional*, Sept. 1, 1998).

By understanding and ultimately embracing this responsibility, students will become the type of neighbor described by the Savior in the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:27-37). They will recognize when someone is in need, display compassion, and do all within their capacity to assist and serve. They will respect the agency of others, yet not hesitate



to reach out in a spirit of love and friendship when a brother or sister is spiritually wounded.

### **Natural Leaders**

Because it is not a program with rigidly defined protocols, Student Living allows students to teach and support one another in the apartment in the most natural way possible. Students will act on principles and pray for guidance as they address unique issues in the apartment that couldn't possibly be resolved by means of a prescription.

For the Good Samaritan, the moment to serve came naturally as he made his journey. Assisting a wounded man was certainly not part of the Samaritan's initial plans and inevitably slowed his arrival to his desired destination; nevertheless, he recognized a need and had the courage to act in accordance with his conscience—even the light of Christ bestowed upon us all.

Likewise, for BYU-Idaho students, apartment leadership is natural and often unassuming; it is leadership with a small 'I'. Small 'I' leadership occurs without status or station; it is authentic and selfless. It occurs as life occurs—one moment at a time. Small 'I' leadership responds to the realities of life and does not cater to convenience. It is also equally proactive in nature—strengthening and building others by precept and example.

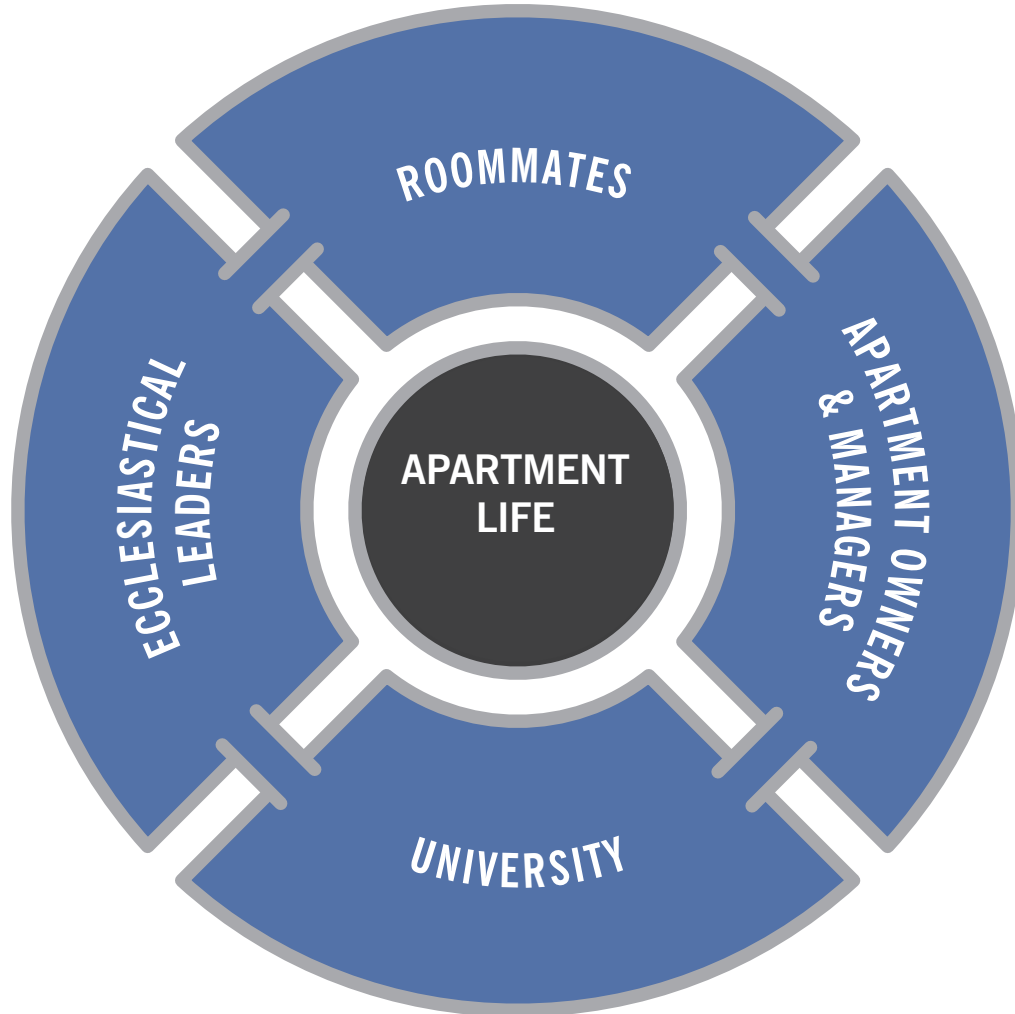
Henry B. Eyring prophesied that BYU-Idaho students “will be natural leaders who know how to teach and how to learn . . . [and] will become legendary for their capacity to build the people around them and to add value wherever they serve (Henry B. Eyring, “A Steady, Upward Course,” BYU-Idaho Devotional, Sept. 18, 2001). Student Living contributes to the fulfillment of this prophecy by empowering students to teach, lead, and learn from one another in an environment governed by honor and void of unhealthy authority. Students will indeed become natural leaders as they strive to support one another in living a life of honor and follow the final counsel given to the lawyer who learned an inspired lesson of love and leadership: “Go, and do thou likewise” (Luke 10:37).





## Roles and Responsibilities

Roommates, ecclesiastical leaders, apartment owners and managers, and the university assume related yet unique roles and responsibilities within Student Living. The diagram below illustrates the interconnected relationship among these four groups and their influence on apartment life.



### **Roommates and Friends**

Strive to learn and consistently live the principles of love, shared responsibility, and mutual respect in their apartments and throughout the complex.

### **Ecclesiastical Leaders**

Provide opportunities for students to learn the principles and associated practices of Student Living in ward and stake meetings, including Home Evening activities and lessons.

### **Apartment Owners and Managers**

Cultivate a culture in the complex in which the principles of Student Living are learned, understood, and applied by students and management alike.

### **University**

Promotes understanding and implementation of Student Living in all settings through the development of lessons, training, and assessment.

## Roommates and Friends

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Each and every member of an apartment complex or ward plays a critical role in fulfilling the intended purpose of Student Living. Fundamentally, the responsibility lies with individual roommates to live up to the promises they have made, apply the principles of the gospel in their apartments, and encourage those around them to do the same.

The influence of roommates is greatest when they develop meaningful relationships with one another, establish patterns of communication through apartment prayer and regular apartment councils, exhibit the utmost integrity, and seek for help when needed. In short, students are expected to:

- Learn and ponder the principles of Student Living through active participation in complex-sponsored Student Living Meetings, Home Evening groups, and other ward and complex meetings, activities, and events.
- Discuss the principles with roommates and neighbors and encourage one another to apply them in the apartment.
- Create and foster a culture of Zion in the apartment through the practical application of love, shared responsibility, and mutual respect.

## Ecclesiastical Leaders

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### Stake President

- Learns and teaches the principles of Student Living and familiarizes himself with the Student Living lessons.
- Instructs and advises bishops regarding the implementation of Student Living at the ward level.
- Assigns a high councilor to advise, encourage, and assist the wards in their efforts to implement Student Living.

### High Councilor

- Works under the direction of the stake president to implement and assess Student Living throughout the stake.



- Trains and instructs bishops at the request of the stake president.
- Trains and instructs Home Evening coordinators and group leaders.
- Assists the stake presidency in reviewing relevant assessment data collected and distributed by the university.

### **Bishop**

- Learns and teaches the principles of Student Living and familiarizes himself with the Student Living lessons.
- Extends callings to Home Evening coordinators and group leaders.
- Ensures that Home Evening coordinators and group leaders clearly understand their role and provides guidance and direction to them regarding the teaching of Student Living lessons in Home Evening.
- Prescribes additional ways in which the principles and associated practices of love, shared responsibility, and mutual respect are discussed and emphasized within the ward.
- Utilizes the ward council to cultivate and foster the principles of Student Living throughout the ward.

### **Home Evening Coordinator**

- Strives to learn and understand the principles of Student Living through personal preparation and application.
- Works under the direction of the bishop to implement Student Living within the ward.
- Trains and instructs Home Evening group leaders on a regular basis (ideally twice a month) in an effort to prepare them to effectively facilitate Student Living lessons within their respective groups.

- Participates in ward council and interfaces with all ward leaders to cultivate and foster the principles of Student Living throughout the ward.

### **Home Evening Group Leader**

- Strives to learn and understand the principles of Student Living through personal preparation and application.
- Works under the direction of the Home Evening coordinator to incorporate Student Living into Home Evening on Monday nights.
- Dedicates at least one Home Evening a month to a group discussion of a Student Living lesson.
- Determines which Student Living lesson(s) to teach each month. The lesson(s) may be recommended by the bishop, the Home Evening coordinators, or other ward/stake leaders.
- Knows each of the group members personally so that Student Living lessons can be tailored to minister to individual needs.
- Ensures each lesson is planned and prepared well before the scheduled Home Evening.
- Helps any others who may be assigned to teach the lesson do so in a way that invites the Spirit.
- Regularly reports observations (and attendance if requested) to Home Evening coordinators.

### **Apartment Owners and Managers**

#### **Owners**

- Learn the principles, sub-principles, and related doctrines and concepts of Student Living and study the Student Living lessons.





- Develop and execute a written Student Living plan addressing the following areas:
  1. Promotion
    - Visually represent Student Living principles, sub-principles, quotes, and concepts throughout the property via pictures, photos, paintings, vinyl lettering, framed designs or documents, etc.
    - Familiarize students with Student Living principles through emails, texts, newsletters, flyers, contests, events, activities, etc.
    - Share and promote Student Living with prospective tenants and parents.
  2. Manager Training
    - Establish clear expectations for managers to learn, live, and teach Student Living principles.
    - Provide regular training to managers to guide and support them in their Student Living efforts.
  3. Student Interaction
    - Include Student Living as a discussion item and point of emphasis on each manager meeting agenda.
    - Ensure that the beginning of the semester Student Living Meeting represents an apartment life discussion centered on the principles and associated practices of Student Living.
    - Refer naturally to Student Living principles and concepts while addressing student issues and/or concerns.
    - Integrate Student Living principles and concepts into all other formal and informal interaction with students.
  4. Assessment
    - Develop and implement specific techniques and methods to assess the effectiveness of the Student Living plan.
    - Meet periodically with the Housing & Student Living Office to discuss the

progress and influence of Student Living on the property and to review the owner's Student Living plan.

- Support managers in their active participation in the monthly Manager Forum sponsored by BYU-Idaho. Discuss with them what they are learning and what they have been invited to do.
- Attend and actively participate in the annual Owners Summit and Housing & Student Living Conference.

### **Managers**

Includes all on- and off-site managers and assistant managers.

- Learn the principles, sub-principles, and related doctrines and concepts of Student Living and study the Student Living lessons.
- Model and teach the principles of Student Living through formal and informal interaction with students. This may occur in some of the following ways:
  - Welcome letters to students and parents.
  - Student Living Meetings at the beginning of each semester.
  - Tours for prospective tenants.
  - Check-ins for current students.
  - Clean checks.
  - Emails, texts, flyers, newsletters, etc.
  - Lounge and/or apartment décor

(e.g., pictures, paintings, vinyl letters, framed designs or documents, etc.)

- Website.
- Training meetings with student employees and volunteers.
- Property-sponsored activities or events.
- Execute the property's Student Living plan.
- Attend and actively participate in the monthly Manager Forum.
- Attend and actively participate in the annual Housing & Student Living Conference.

### **University**

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- Develops written and online materials for students, ecclesiastical leaders, owners and managers, and university employees to use in their respective areas of influence to teach and support the application of Student Living in the apartment.
- Promotes the teaching of Student Living principles to the general student body through curriculum and media development, educational campaigns, and related campus events.
- Responds to invitations from ward and stake leaders, apartment managers, faculty, and student-led campus organizations to teach and train as needed.

# Core Concepts

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Student Living embraces a few fundamental concepts and teachings that can naturally be reinforced in connection with the guiding principles. All those with influential roles and responsibilities within Student Living may benefit from a careful study of these core concepts related to gospel-centered apartment life.

## **Matthew 18 Principle**

If thy brother trespass against thee (1) go and tell it to him between thee and him alone; (2) if he will not hear thee, take with thee two or three more; (3) if he neglects to hear them, take it to the church (see Matthew 18:15-17).

Encourage students to humbly address concerns at the source of conflict. The Savior affirmed that “if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother” (Matthew 18:15).

## **The Code of Silence**

“The Savior taught us about silence in the parable of the Good Samaritan. When the priest and the Levite came upon a wounded man by the side of the road, they were silent. They took no action to help, nor did they tell anyone of the man in trouble.

“In our modern society, the Enemy has spread fear of getting involved when someone is in trouble and has fostered a social stigma that attaches to people who speak up in the face of evil. The Enemy whispers, ‘Don’t get involved; it’s not your problem. Don’t tell; you will be a tattletale’” (Kim B. Clark, “The Power of the Holy Temple,” BYU-Idaho Devotional, Jan. 15, 2008).

## **Genuinely Concerned Neighbors**

“We do not want an environment on this campus characterized by self-appointed, judgmental, and self-righteous spiritual vigilantes. We do want an environment on this campus where appropriately and genuinely concerned “neighbors” in the true scriptural sense of the word neighbor, would remind, help, and encourage us to consistently think, speak, and act in a way that invites the Spirit of the Holy Ghost among us” (David A. Bednar, “In the Path of their Duty,” BYU-Idaho Devotional, Sept. 1, 1998).





# Ward Implementation of Student Living

Home Evening represents the most widely used channel through which Student Living is administered within campus stakes and wards. The following represents key points and best practices to consider when implementing Student Living through Home Evening.

- Bishops call and assign Home Evening coordinators to implement Student Living within the Home Evening organization. Bishops also extend calls to Home Evening group leaders accompanied by an explanation of their specific responsibilities and an expectation that they dedicate at least one Monday a month to the teaching of Student Living lessons.
- High councilors provide training to Home Evening coordinators and group leaders as part of stake auxiliary training. Student Living instructors (university student leaders) may be invited to participate in this training.
- High councilors periodically observe and assess training meetings between Home Evening coordinators and group leaders. High councilors provide consistent and ongoing support to the Home Evening organization.
- Home Evening coordinators train Home Evening group leaders on a regular basis (preferably twice a month) in an effort to prepare them to effectively facilitate Student Living lessons within their respective groups.
- Home Evening coordinators participate in ward council and interface with all ward leaders to cultivate and foster the principles of Student Living throughout the ward and to report statistics and other assessment results as requested.
- Wards that utilize *Teaching, No Greater Call* to train teachers may consider inviting Home Evening coordinators and group leaders to participate as well.



# Student Living Lessons

Student Living lessons focus on roommate relationships and apartment life. The purpose of each lesson is to help students learn and live the principles of Zion in their apartments and develop patterns of gospel-centered living.

The lessons are specifically developed around five main topics: Building Zion in Your Apartment, Love, Shared Responsibility, Mutual Respect, and Apartment Life. The title of each lesson poses a question relevant to each topic.

Each lesson includes references and links to teachings of Church leaders, BYU-Idaho devotional speakers, videos, and other material to aid in your preparation. The lessons are entirely online at [www.byui.edu/student-living](http://www.byui.edu/student-living) and will be updated regularly to include additional and/or different resources; so check back often for the most current material.

## Lesson Topics

### Building Zion

The Prophet Joseph taught: “The building up of Zion is a cause that has interested the people of God in every age; . . . we are the favored people that God has made choice of to bring about the Latter-day glory; . . . We ought to have the building up of Zion as our greatest object” (*Teachings of the Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith* [Melchizedek Priesthood and Relief Society course of study, 2007], 186).

The lessons in this topic focus on the practical work of building Zion. Titles may include “What is Zion and why is building Zion important?” and “How can I build Zion in my own apartment?”

President Kim B. Clark emphasized: “The Lord’s purposes in your lives extend far beyond this campus. . . . This is His promise I will make to you: If you are true to your covenants, if you will act in faith to help your roommates and your friends, you will learn how to build Zion together. The spirit of Zion and the patterns of Zion will get into your hearts, and you will build Zion wherever you go. . . . And the blessing of Zion—the blessings of unity, holiness,

righteousness, peace, joy, happiness, and power—will flow into your life and into the lives of your family forever” (“Building Zion Together,” BYU-Idaho Devotional, Sept. 15, 2009).

### Love

“And it came to pass that there was no contention in the land, because of the *love of God* which did dwell in the hearts of the people” (4 Nephi 1:15; emphasis added). As Mormon synthesized the records, he thoughtfully, purposely, and specifically attributed the societal peace the people were enjoying at that time to their love of God.

The lessons in this topic focus on the first and second great commandments to love God and love our neighbor as ourselves. Ultimately, our love and genuine concern for roommates will be a





natural extension of our love of God. Lesson titles may include “What impact can my love for God have on my relationships with my roommates?” and “How can I show love for my roommates in practical ways?”

### **Shared Responsibility**

“Be aware of those around you. Someone you know may be lonely, or discouraged, or lost. Someone you know may be struggling with the patterns of Zion. A friend, a roommate, a classmate may still be caught up in Babylon. . . . Walk the Jericho Road and help those who are alone and wounded. Act in a spirit of mildness and meekness with a voice full of kindness and love. Have lunch with your friend who is struggling. Visit and listen. Share your feelings and your concern. Pray together. Share your testimony of the Savior, of His love, and of His healing power. . . . You will feel a sense of responsibility, and love, and hope” (Kim B. Clark, “Building Zion Together,” *BYU-Idaho Devotional*, Sept. 15, 2009).

These lessons underscore our covenant responsibility to lift, encourage, look out for, and protect our roommates and neighbors. Lesson

titles may include “How can my roommates and I live the principle of shared responsibility?” and “What does it mean to be my brother’s keeper?”

### **Mutual Respect**

“Respect is an expression of our sense of universal brotherhood or sisterhood—a testimony of our membership in the human family. It acknowledges our common humanity and shows our reverence for children of God. The gospel teaches us that we are to hold the same esteem for others that we hold for ourselves (see D&C 38:25; Matthew 7:12). Acting disrespectfully suggests that we do not esteem the other person as ourselves. . . . True respect, then, comes as we develop our ability to love our brothers and sisters as ourselves” (Terrance D. Olson, “Cultivating Respect,” *Ensign*, Oct. 2001).

The lessons in this topic focus on making the Golden Rule central to apartment life, accentuating the positive when communicating and interacting with roommates, and acknowledging and embracing our obligation to maintain a clean, orderly, and wholesome physical and spiritual environment.



## Apartment Life

“Perhaps some of you have already participated in an academic internship. What you may not recognize is that literally thousands of informal internships which are preparing you for life are already in place at BYU-Idaho. Most of you are participating in one right now. ‘Oh really?’ you may say. ‘So who are the internship providers?’ They are your roommates . . .

“For this internship to produce maximum preparation for life benefits and have the desired results, you must decide what you want to accomplish, what will be your guiding

principles, and then strive to apply those principles. This includes having your eyes wide open to all of the opportunities for learning that are available” (Kathleen Gee, “Roommates: Preparation for Marriage and Family,” BYU-Idaho Devotional, June 12, 2001).

The Apartment Life lessons focus on being the kind of roommate you would want for yourself. They also emphasize learning from current apartment experiences as preparation for marriage and family life. Titles may include “How can I become a better roommate?” and “How can apartment life prepare me for life as a spouse and parent?”



## Determining What to Teach

There will be more lessons than can be taught in a given semester. A stake president or bishop may identify specific lessons to be taught within his respective stake or ward. Or, the ward council (under the direction of the bishop) and Home Evening coordinators/group leaders may collectively determine which lessons best meet the needs of the ward.

Apartment managers may also utilize the lessons for teaching, coaching, and advising purposes outside the ward or Home Evening setting. Campus employees may do the same. As you plan what to teach, consider what experiences the members of your ward or complex may be having. What needs do they have that might be aided by a certain lesson? Let needs, not a predetermined schedule, guide the selection of what you teach.





# Study Resources

The following materials represent foundational resources for understanding and teaching Student Living. Many of these materials are integrated in the Student Living lessons. Some, however, are not included and can provide greater breadth and depth to any Student Living or apartment life discussion. A current list of resources can always be found online at [www.byui.edu/student-living](http://www.byui.edu/student-living).

## Talks

- David A. Bednar, “In the Path of Their Duty,” BYU-Idaho Devotional, Sept. 1, 1998
- Joseph B. Wirthlin, “The Great Commandment,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2007
- Kim B. Clark, “The Power of the Holy Temple,” BYU-Idaho Devotional, Jan. 15, 2008
- Kim B. Clark, “Building Zion Together,” BYU-Idaho Devotional, Sept. 15, 2009
- Dieter F. Uchtdorf, “The Merciful Obtain Mercy,” *Ensign*, May 2012

- Troy Dougherty, “The Practical Work of Building Zion in our Apartments and Homes,” BYU-Idaho Devotional, Jan. 21, 2014
- Thomas S. Monson, “Love—the Essence of the Gospel,” *Ensign*, May 2014

## Videos

The following Student Living videos can be found online at [www.byui.edu/student-living](http://www.byui.edu/student-living).

- A Pattern for Becoming Like the Savior
- History and Principles
- Building Zion
- Wards and Stakes
- Apartment Managers
- Wounded on the Battlefield
- Light: A Student Living Apartment
- Apartment Council
- Student testimonials of the practical application of love, shared responsibility, and mutual respect





