

WOMEN OF FAITH STAND FOR TRUTH AND RIGHTEOUSNESS

—compiled by Kim Allphin

Start with all the YW together except for the YCLs in place. 4 torch bearers (Liahonas) take one group at a time of YW & leaders (4th years, 3rd yrs, 2nd yrs and last 1st yrs) down the trail toward the gym. They will stop in front of each of the 6 scripture hero's scenes along the pathway.

LIAHONAS 1-4: *Takes a group out, one group approx every 5 minutes* “Sisters, I am Liahona and much like the Liahona in Lehi's time I am here to show you the direction to go into the wilderness. We are here tonight in a wilderness much as Lehi once was. In the world we live in today, there is much that is complicated & confusing & like a wilderness, it is easy to lose our way. We may feel, like we have no light to find our way. Heavenly Father has given us light in many ways to help us pass safely through our wilderness. One way is through the examples of women in the scriptures- often they made a difference by living the values they held dear. Light your torch & follow me back through time as we visit with Women of Faith who Stand for Truth & Righteousness” *(Each YW receives a small torch - flashlight now)*

RUTH & NAOMI *Scene: hay bails & holding wheat in hand baskets, draped white sheets, soft music*

Naomi- I am Naomi and this is Ruth and we represent the value Faith. There was a great famine in the land of Judea. My husband, Elimelech, and I took our 2 boys and fled our home near Bethlehem and went to the land of Moab. Moab was primarily made up of the descendants of Lot, Abraham's nephew; however, it was a land that was much different from our home for it was a nation of idolaters. My husband and I agonized over the challenge of raising our sons in such a place far from the good influence of our family and friends. Not long after moving to Moab our family suffered the loss of my dear husband Elimelech. As I mourned for the loss of my sweetheart I was blessed with 2 beautiful Moabite daughter-in-laws.

Ruth- I am Ruth one of Naomi's daughter-in-laws. Orpah and I married the two sons of Naomi. I was blessed with a good husband and a wonderful mother-in-law. My appreciation and love for Naomi was profound and we lived happily for 10 years.

Naomi- Then tragedy struck again: both my sons died. I grieved my loss and determined to return to my homeland and kin. I had nothing to give my daughter-in-laws and suggested that they return to their families.

Ruth- We both wanted to go with Naomi, but she finally convinced Orpah to returned to her mother, however, I would not leave. I pleaded with Naomi to let me go with her to Bethlehem. I said, “Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people will be my people, and thy God my God” (Ruth 1:16).

Naomi- Together we traveled back to Bethlehem.

Ruth- It was harvest time when we arrived. During the harvest men gathered the grain into small bunches. As they worked, some stalks fell to the ground. Poor people were allowed to gather, or glean, the stalks left behind. Because we had no food, I offered to glean the fields to get grain for Naomi and me. (Ruth 2:2).

Naomi- I suggested that Ruth go to the fields of a righteous relative of my husbands named Boaz. Having learned of our circumstances Boaz was impressed with Ruth's goodness and kindness that she showed me. Boaz told her, “the Lord recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the Lord God of Israel” (Ruth 2:12).

Ruth- Boaz was good to me and told me I could always glean from his fields. He even instructed his harvesters to leave grain behind for me to gather (Ruth 2:8-16). Naomi wanted me to have children so she taught me the customs of the Israelites and told me to go to Boaz and ask to be his wife. I did what Naomi said to do, and Boaz, knowing that I was a virtuous and kind woman, married me (Ruth 3:1-4:12). Because of our faith in God we were blessed through our trials. I became the grandmother of Jesse the father of King David, and it was through this line that the Savior Jesus Christ was born.

MARY & ANGEL *Scene: A simple nativity stable with cut out cow & sheep, a wooden manger draped in a blue blanket, music instrumental 'O Holy Night', stable lanterns for light*

MARY: I am Mary and I have inherited divine qualities and strive to develop them. Quiet, serene, cautious, but ever graceful and dignified. I represent Divine Nature. I was very young when an angel of the Lord appeared to me & said,

ANGEL: "Hail, thou art highly favored. The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women."

MARY: I felt such confusion and fear, but the ANGEL said:

ANGEL: "Fear not, Mary, for thou hast found favor with God. And shall conceive in thy womb and shall bring forth a son, and shall call his name Jesus."

MARY: I knew that I had been called to perform a great thing not possible on my own. But Heavenly Father blessed me with the divine qualities that I needed to bear and raise the Son of God. I was also blessed to be engaged to Joseph of the house of David and a righteous man. He through his understanding and love joined me in a calling from God to raise his only begotten. I then married Joseph and our journey began. We traveled to Bethlehem to pay our taxes and because of no room in the inn; we ended up here in this stable to deliver my baby. It was here that a miracle happened! It may seem a great thing, to be the mother of Christ, but it was not of me. With God, nothing is impossible, I was just a girl as young as many of you, and I helped a great light, the salvation of all, to be brought into the world. And now—in my arms—is the Son of God, my son. My purpose is complete with his birth, and soon the world will know their savior has been born. A man who will accomplish things unimaginable for their eternal life for in him is the ability to sacrifice everything for their salvation—and mine. (Mt. 1:16-23; 2:11:13:55) (1 Ne. 11:1; Mosiah 3:8; Alma 7:10; 19:13)

QUEEN ESTHER & SERVANT *Scene: Palace setting with golden riches & tapestry rug*

I am Queen Esther that you read about in the Old Testament. I represent Individual Worth. I was born when the Jews were in captivity in Babylon. After my parents passed away, my cousin Mordecai who raised me as if I was his own daughter took me in. The Queen of our land, Vashti, was commanded to appear before the king, but she refused. This disobedience made the king so angry that he removed Vashti from the throne. To find a new queen, all the fairest maidens in the land were brought to the king to see who would find favor in his eyes. I was chosen and made the new queen. However, the king did not know that I was Jew. The King's counselor was Haman. Haman wanted everyone to bow to him and give him reverence, but my cousin; Mordecai would not give reverence to anyone but the Lord. Haman obtained an order from the king that Mordecai and all the Jews be put to death! This was my dilemma: It was against the law to approach the king without being summoned. Such an act was punishable by death. If I were to remain quiet, I would enjoy a life of luxury and ease. I could live the life of a queen or risk my life to save my family and people. My cousin, Mordecai said to me: "Who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" His words were true, who knew whether I was come to the kingdom for such a time as this. I asked my cousin, Mordecai to gather all the Jews in Shushan and fast three days for me. Spiritually prepared, I approached the king. With every step I wondered, "Will he hold out the royal scepter?" "Will he condemn me to death?" "Will he drop me into poverty and oblivion?" I stood before the king calmly knowing that I was totally vulnerable. I also knew that I had appealed to God for help and that there was a great moral wrong about to be committed. I had to be responsible to God who made me, no matter what the moral consequences. The king received me and I invited the king and Haman to a feast I had arranged. During the feast, Haman's plot was unveiled and my cousin, Mordecai received great honors. Young Women, you are like me, Esther. You must prepare because your time has come. You MUST possess the spiritual strength to overcome your challenges, laying your faults on the altar & giving your lives to the Lord. Whether we are rich or poor, popular or not popular, we are all the same in the eyes of the Lord. He is not a respecter of persons or stature. He knows us for who we are & treasures our Individual Worth because we are all of Royal Birth.

EVE & GARDEN ATTENDANT *Scene: Eden, a lush garden feel, rainforest sounds music*

I am Eve. I was the first Woman on the earth. I represent knowledge. I was in the Garden of Eden with my husband, Adam. My husband, Adam, held the Priesthood and I served in matriarchal partnership with the Patriarchal priesthood. I was at Adam's side as an intelligent, contributing, and equal partner. Mine was the honor of being the first Mother. I felt a great responsibility to teach my children. As a mother, I called upon the Lord in prayer. I made known to my children the difference between good and evil. I also taught them redemption and eternal life which God giveth unto all the obedient. I also taught my children to read and write. We were record keepers. It was

important for me to teach my children to keep our language pure and undefiled. The Lord has said, "Teach ye diligently "Things both in heaven—Astronomy. "And in the earth—Everything pertaining to the cultivation of the soil. "And under the earth—Mineralogy, geology, etc. "Things which have been—History, in all its branches. "Things which must shortly come to pass—Prophecies. "Things which are at home and abroad—Domestic and foreign politics. "Wars—perplexities—judgment—The signs of the times, by which the observer may know that the day of the Lord is at hand. "A knowledge of countries and kingdoms—physical and political geography, languages, etc. "These studies, the Lord considers necessary. [D&C 88:80 quoted.] God does not require all His servants to become doctors, or professors, or even profound students of these subjects, but He expects them to know enough of these things to be able to magnify their callings as His ambassadors to the world." You Young Women have a living Prophet, Gordon B. Hinckley, who teaches the importance of Being Smart. The Lord wants you to educate your minds and hands, whatever your chosen field. You must train yourselves. Seek for the best schooling available. Become a workman of integrity in the world that lies ahead of you. I repeat, you will bring honor to the Church and you will be generously blessed because of that training. The most important knowledge in the world is gospel knowledge. It is a knowledge of God and his laws, of those things that men must do to work out their salvation with fear and trembling before the Lord. (Gen. 1,2,3,4) Eve: (Moses 2:27; 3:21-25; 4:6-27; 5:1-27; 6:2,9; Abr. 4:27-31)

SARIAH & NEPHI'S WIFE *Scene: simple tent in the wilderness and rug out front on the ground, baskets, blankets, wilderness/forest sounds on tape, lighting- tiki torches / lanterns*

I am Siariah and I represent Choice and Accountability. Throughout a life of many adventures while being the wife to the prophet, Lehi, I learned of the great importance of choice and accountability in our lives. When the Lord instructed my husband, Lehi, to leave the comforts of our home in Jerusalem, it was truly a test of faith for my family. Because Lehi did prophesy unto the people concerning their iniquity and they were seeking to destroy his life, we packed up and left the home we loved, leaving behind our gold and silver and all precious things. After a long, trying journey into the wilderness, the Lord would then send my sons back to Jerusalem to retrieve the sacred records from Laban. As a mother who loves her sons, I naturally worried and also truly mourned because I believed they were perished in the dessert. I spoke harshly to my husband saying, "You have led us out from the land of our birth and now my sons are no more." Although, my faith was strengthened as I witnessed my sons return. I then knew that the Lord was protecting my family and leading us through my husband, a prophet of God. I remember giving thanks to God for the sure knowledge that He was guiding us through the wilderness and I did stop murmuring. I bore testimony to my sons saying, "now I know of a surety that the Lord hath commanded my husband to flee into the wilderness, yea, I also know of a surety that the Lord hath protected my sons and delivered them out of the hands of Laban, and given them power whereby they could accomplish the thing which the Lord hath commanded them." Though the travel continued to be difficult and the trials great, the Lord turned my weaknesses into strengths and my burdens felt light with the help of the Lord. My husband's visions continued throughout the wilderness, but not all were blessed to see or even understand the visions and instructions from the Lord. This led to many arguments and hurt feelings amongst our family. As the mother, this weighed very heavy on my heart, but the Lord helped me make good choices to continue to lead my family, with Lehi, in love and peace. As I reflect upon our journey and experiences through the wilderness, I, Sariah, understand that choice and accountability for the good can lead us with or against the Lord's will. Let us all choose to go through our own journey of life--- on the Lord's side.

EMMA SMITH & CHILD

Scene: 1800's feel, rocking chair with yellow quilt in lap & a side table with oil lamp & scriptures & old hymnal, early hymns played in the background

I am Emma Smith and I represent Good Works. The Lord blessed me from my childhood throughout my adult years to enjoy serving and loving others through good works. My family was the first permanent settlers in Harmony, Pennsylvania and I was the seventh of nine children. I enjoyed riding horses and canoeing on the Susquehanna with my brothers. I attended school whenever opportunity permitted, including a year beyond the common grammar school education of my brothers and sisters. All of my childhood experiences prepared me for a lifetime of good works. After marrying Joseph Smith, a former employee of my father, on Jan. 18, 1827, many new and wonderful adventures took place. Being the wife of the prophet of the Lord lead to many blessings and experiences that built my testimony daily. In the fall of 1827, Joseph received the gold plates and began to translate them as directed by the

Lord. I was able to serve as a scribe during the early part of the translation of the Book of Mormon. I remember relieving Oliver Cowdery when he tired from writing. I am satisfied that no man could have dictated the writing of the manuscripts unless he was inspired. Joseph would dictate to me hour after hour; and when returning after meals, or after interruptions, he would at once begin where he had left off, without either seeing the manuscript or having any portion of it read to him. As a witness to this spiritual work, I knew the Lord was directing my husband. In 1830 I was instructed by the Lord to compile a book of hymns for the Church, a task that took me five years to complete. Also when the Relief Society was organized in Nauvoo in 1842, I was called as the first general president. Through this calling I was able to care for many ill and homeless Saints in addition to my own children and Joseph's extended family. Although I experienced the great blessing to perform good works throughout my life, I also learned to endure many great trials and hardships. Joseph and I had eleven children, two of whom were adopted. Six of those little ones died at birth, in infancy, or early childhood. I didn't know a settled home until Nauvoo. We suffered much tribulation, was robbed and ridiculed, and we often went hungry during Joseph's long absences due to imprisonment or duties as the prophet of the church. I struggled to provide for the children during those times. Although I have experienced much persecution and sorrow, I have been able, with the Lord's help, to endure those tribulations and maintain faith in God. I feel a divine trust in God that all things shall work for good. The Lord blessed me with several significant blessings. Section 25 of the Doctrine and Covenants, was addressed directly to me. Telling me that "Behold thy sins are forgiven thee, and thou art an elect lady, whom I have called." This was a great strength to me through many trying times. My sacrifice and willingness to give up the pleasures of this world to follow my husband were described by my mother-in-law, Lucy Mack Smith. She spoke kind words when she said, "I have never seen a woman in my life, who would endure every species of fatigue and hardship, from month to month, and from year to year, with that unflinching courage, zeal, and patience which she has ever done; for I know that which she has had to endure--she has been tossed upon the ocean of uncertainty--she has breasted the storms of persecution, and buffeted the rage of men and devils, which would have borne down almost any other women." In section 25 the Lord spoke to me, Emma Smith, as well as each of you when he said... "If Thou art faithful and walk in the paths of virtue before me, I will preserve Thy life and Thou shall receive an inheritance in Zion." It is my hope that each of us can be faithful to the gospel. I personally know how hard life's trials can become, but we must conquer these hardships by loving and serving others through good works.

FINALE: *All the Women of the scriptures follow the last group of YW to the finale and then stand in line, on the side. All YW are sitting on the ground a power point picture presentation up on the wall of WOMEN OF THE SCRIPTURES, (pictures to rotate 3 times for a total of 30 minutes until the final group arrives)*

LIAHONA #5: *Address the entire group:* We are in a wilderness, but we are not without light. We have many Liahonas to be our examples and guides - our Prophet, our parents, our leaders, and the scriptures. Most important, the Lord has said, "I will be your light in the wilderness; and I will prepare the way before you, if it so be that ye shall keep my commandments. And we have our own light within us."
(Scene: YCLs - Stripling mothers enter. They stand in front of a mural of a Mayan temple & Aztec background music)

#1 WARRIOR MOTHER: "I am a **mother of a stripling warrior**, nameless, and shall remain so because I represent all valiant mothers who lived with integrity. *(pointing over towards the other mothers)* Our country was in a great war, but our husbands had buried their swords & covenanted with the Lord to never raise arms again. Now the land was being ravaged and many of our people were dying.

Our sons, not bound by the covenant of the fathers, could no longer stand by without defending the liberty of our people. We mothers taught our sons to keep the commandments of God, and they walked with integrity before Him. Although our boys were naïve & idealistic because they had never fought, they did not fear death. We mothers had to show the greatest courage because we understood the true cost of the sacrifice about to be made. We were full of fear of letting go while at the same time we had the comfort of knowing that the Lord would be watching over our children in His righteous endeavor. We had the Integrity to stand for what we knew was correct.

#2 WARRIOR MOTHER: I too send my son as a warrior. After the great battle, the Nephites emerged victorious, but not without great loss of life. But when Helaman numbered the stripling warriors, to his great joy, not one soul of them had been lost. Yea, they had fought with the strength of God, and never were men known to have fought with such miraculous strength and with such mighty power. A child cannot go down a path unknown to him. A mother must go before him, carrying a light to show the way, we as mothers are commanded to teach our children to walk upright before the Lord. (*Alma 24,27, 53:16*) We have had the moral courage to make our actions consistent with our knowledge of right and wrong.

Later Christ came to our land and blessed our people! Please prepare yourselves to become mothers of Integrity and to stand as a witness of Him.

LIAHONA #5: “I, Liahona, like each of you, have been given the noble calling to become a righteous influence, to stand as witnesses of God in all times and in all things and in all places, while we strive to live the Young Women values we hold dear.”

Gordon B. Hinckley *Ensign*, Nov. 1989, 94 (*recorded talk*) I see young women, radiant in the beauty of youth, whose virtue is more precious than rubies—young women who are bright and who study with enthusiasm and diligence to learn the word of the Lord and also to equip themselves to take their places with honor and ability in the world in which they will live. I see young women who know the word of God and can quote it; who know the standards of the Church and live by them; who have a sense of worth and a wondrous sensitivity to the beauties of life and nature, music and art; who treasure truth and seek to enlarge their understanding of it; Who have determined that worthiness to enter the house of the Lord for a divine endowment and an eternal sealing is the most desirable of all goals. Can anyone doubt that there is something divine within you? Please know that we do love you & that we are concerned with your happiness as daughters of God & as our sisters in the Church. I looked into the eyes of beautiful young women—women of virtue and strength and capacity, young women who knew much of purpose & goodness and art and learning. To you women, I wish to issue a challenge tonight. That challenge is to rise to the stature of the divine within you. As you have been told, yours is a godly inheritance. “I am a child of God” is not an idle or meaningless statement.

You were there “when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons [and daughters] of God shouted for joy.” (*Job 38:7*.) You brought some of that inheritance with you when you came “trailing clouds of glory ... from God who is our home.” (William Wordsworth, “Ode: Intimations of Immortality from Recollections of Early Childhood,”)

You were there when “there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. ...” (*Rev. 12:7, 9*.) You were among those who chose to follow the plan of Him who became our Redeemer rather than the plan of him who became our adversary. Great and marvelous is your place in the plan of God our Eternal Fathers you choose to Come unto Christ. (*tape ends*)

Women are the modern day LDS heroes of today - You **are** Women of Faith- just like the women of the scriptures that you have visited with tonight. Mary, the mother of Christ, and our great prophet Joseph Smith were only teens, like you, when our Heavenly Father heard their concerns and answered their prayers.

Our Savior’s love is endless and he has a great desire for us to follow him because He is the way and the light. His plan is the only plan for true happiness through eternal families. Again I wish to repeat President Hinckley’s challenge to us tonight. That challenge is to rise to the stature of the divinity within you. **YOUNG WOMEN OF THESE LATTER-DAYS! HOLD YOUR TORCHES HIGH, THAT CHRIST’S TRUE LIGHT THROUGH YOU WILL SHINE, HIS NAME TO GLORIFY!**

Please stand with me and hold your torch high as we recite the YW Theme and Motto. Then our closing prayer will be given by the Stake President.