



## **How I Lead at Young Women Camp | An Interview with Vivian Bishop-Cook**

**February 15, 2023**

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Hey, hey, any youth leaders out there? Serving with youth in the church is probably one of the most enjoyable callings, but it brings with it a lot of responsibility. How do we effectively lead this rising generation? Well, I have good news for you. Leading saints is organized the young saints virtual library where we have 20 plus hours of presentations all about how to lead youth. We cover topics like how to help youth transition into adulthood, how to help them avoid loneliness, how to handle smartphones in class, and we even go over scientific data about how latter day saint youth differ from other youth. If you'd like to review the young saints library at no cost for 14 days, simply go to leading saints dot org slash 14 that's leading saints dot org slash one four. While you're at it, we'll give you access to all of our virtual libraries that cover several leadership related topics. So click the link in the show notes or simply visit leading saints dot org slash one four. So my name is Kurt Francom and I am the founder and executive director of leading saints and obviously the host of the leading saints podcast. Now I started leading saints back in 2010. It was just a hobby blog and it grew from there by the time 2014 came around. We started the podcast and that's really when it got some attraction and took off 2016, we became a 501c3 nonprofit organization and we've been growing ever since. And now I get the opportunity of interviewing and talking with remarkable people all over the world. Now this is a segment we do on the leading saints podcast called how I lead. And we reach out to everyday leaders, they're not experts, gurus, authors, PhDs, they're just everyday leaders who've been asked to serve in a specific leadership calling and we simply ask them, how is it that you lead? And they go through some remarkable principles that should be in a book that should be behind a PhD.

They're usually that good. And we just talk about sharing what the other guy's doing. And I remember being a leader, just simply wanting to know, okay, I know what I'm trying to do, but what's the other guy doing? What's working for him? And so that's why every Wednesday or so we publish these how I lead segments to share. Today I'm in Green Bay, Wisconsin, with Vivian Bishop-Cook. How are you Vivian? I'm great. You go by Viv, right? I do. And you're the first female bishop that we've had on the podcast. Yes. Is that your maiden name? It is. And then you married a Cook. I did. Nice. Yeah. And he's a good one. Is he? Yeah. Yeah, you'll keep him? Yeah. You're awesome. Forever. Forever. That's the deal, right? Nice. And were you originally from? I'm from Dallas, Texas. You kind of have that text too. I've been up here 25 years though. I can't shake it, huh? I have my husband says I speak text console. Oh yeah? Oh boy. That's dangerous. We need to translate this one later on. And so what brought you up to Wisconsin? So my ex-husband and a job, and then I stayed. So a good place to live? It is great to raise kids here. The weather is the weather and winters are terrible. But otherwise, it's good. It's really cold. It's very cold. Yeah. Wow. And you're also a therapist? I am. So how long have you been doing that? I have been doing that about 8 years. I have a private practice and see about 95% of members from our faith and I love it. Are there that many latter day saint therapists to refer to in this area? There was not. There was only two of us. And we live about two hours apart. And she's amazing. And so often we'll refer to each other. She does a lot of couples therapy, and I do as well. And then I have a specialty with addictions. And so I work with a lot of people with pornography addictions. And so we just refer back and forth to each other often. But yeah, we have a great relationship between Shanna. Nice. Well, that's good to hear the bishops and whatnot have letter seen therapist or refer to. I'm sure other therapists are still helpful. But just have that foundation as they walk in is awesome.

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Yeah. So I always love to ask what therapist what are you seeing right now? I mean, you deal with a lot of pornography, struggles and whatnot. Anything specific that I'm intrigued by a therapist's perspective is what's going on in the mind of Latter day Saints. Yeah, I think for the adult population, I really see a lot of people that have self esteem issues and are trying to work on balance in their lives. And so they're trying to balance, you know, the myriad of things that they have going on. You know, it's like the spinning plates type. Metaphor. And so oftentimes, there's a few of those plates that keep falling off or they can't put on, you know, lots of people have, I think, everything's a relationship. So a lot of people have relationship issues, whether it's with themselves with family members, with their spouse, with God. And so we work, I mean, I pretty much work in the relationship field. And I think with our youth, I typically don't see children, so anyone teenage and above is who I see. And teenagers, yeah, it's a struggle. It's a struggle with COVID. And a lot of anxiety and social issues that are really popping up right now depression is always been on the forefront. And so yeah, I work with kids a lot on how they can manage themselves in their lives. Yeah, it's just that I guess living in the modern age with a lot of demands and then with church on top of that and the responsibilities the expectations and

falling short and feeling like you shouldn't fall short and then it piles up and people really struggle. Oh yeah. And you know there's a marginalization of our population too and so I see a lot of people not as many, but I see a lot of people who are the LGBTQ+ community and a lot of them are trying to figure out what to do with their faith, what do you do with that? What do you do with your membership within our church? How are you balancing all of that? So I think balance is always the big buzzword for my practice and for who I see and how we can better balance things better, whether it's our mental health or chemical health, our social, the relationships that we have, how we incorporate all that in our faith. And we're never not busy. Yeah. It has so true. Is that true? And then you have, you have a vast amount of experience with girls camp. Is that right? I do. We're born in this world with a few purposes. And one of those was to go to a lot of girls camps. Is that right? And do you enjoy it? I love camp. I loved camp before I knew what young women camp was. I have older sisters and they had incredible experiences. They taught me songs. I was looking forward to it. And I had really, really great camp experiences that led me to love it. I had incredible leaders who are still message almost every year after camp thanking them. For all the work. Because as a youth I had no idea how much work was going to be put into this. And so I messaged them, I had, I just had leaders who knew me and who knew what was going to be very important for me. And even to the point I had a leader that would schedule some rebellion time, because some of us were just born with a rebellious nature, and or developed into that somehow. And so it was just incredible how they knew and how they knew those specific needs, even outside of what a manual says. Yeah, yeah, that's so rebellion time. How did that work? Is this something you do? No. Okay, all right. All right. No way. I am the one that's doing a little off course something sometimes. It's not never bad. But yeah, so like one year, we were wise CLs and I knew our leader knew that we were all on the fringe, you know, most of us were on the Friends at that point. And myself, you know, end up leaving the church, not that much after that. For a bit, and she just knew she had to do something to rein us in. And otherwise we were going to go maybe do some really, really. Really be nothing but rebellion. No, just naughty, right? If we're left to our own devices. And so she secretly let us go to town with her. And we got ice cream. I know it felt like you weren't spray painting. The ice cream. But it's what we needed.

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We needed an outlet to do something that helped us feel special, helped us feel like we were doing something against the rules, so to say. And we were with a leader going to get ice cream, you know? And that was just something that was just really special. And it rained us in. It really did. Yeah. Thankfully, I have learned from some of that. But the camp that we get to, it's so far. Out there. It would take, yeah, people would notice someone's gone. Nice. To run to the little dairy Queen in town. But yeah, no, I just had a special leaders who knew us and knew the nuances of what we needed. And like I said outside of a manual, they hit all the manual points if that makes sense, but yeah, just and that just has developed into a love of camp as an adult. Yeah. So how many camps have you done? I was trying to think about it. Yeah, so in my adult

life, I think I did 5 as a youth, and then in my adult life, I think about 15 or 16. And you did win this past summer? Yes. Nice. Maybe next summer? They always have me coming back. Okay. And is it typically are you in a young woman's presidency or the camp director or so I've been ward camp director? I've been in the staking women's presidency, helping plain camp. I've been and then most recently, the stake camp director and in our stake, we only do stake camp. And so that was interesting during COVID. Those two years that we had to do some different things. But yeah, and then outside of that, if I didn't have a young woman calling that calling, there were yellow Texas twang giving out. If I didn't have one, then I would always volunteer to do something like the service project. I've done those for a few years workshops, you know, come as a speaker, like those types of things, yeah. So let's jump into some principles here, like if you're talking to a first year camp director or even the young women's presidency, stake award. Like, what are some, what principles should we start on as far as always keep this in mind? Yeah, so I call it the three ring circus. And you know often like a circus, you just have a lot of acts going on at the same time because you need to appease all the different interests. And so I call it the three ring circus and the three rings are faith, friendship, and fun. And I always add in faith, I think that's, you know, our girls, they would love us to run a fun camp only. A fun and friendship camp. But we're not the wine CA. We're not the Salvation army. We're not camping alaia here. We need to run a faith based camp. And so that is a guaranteed aspect of our camps that we do. So that's like the overarching these are the three pillars that we're going to make sure our present and obvious. At one point or another you're doing one of these three things. Absolutely. Yep. Nice. And oftentimes, we're doing all three at the same time. But yeah, something might be a little bit more spiritual, something might be a little bit more friend based. And then we've developed just through amazing inspiration from personal inspiration from presidency inspiration from the camp guideline that was brilliantly put out years ago. I'm such a fan of the new way of doing camps, such a fan, everyone is. I don't know a person that wants us to do certification. Talk about fun, right? Talk about fun. But it makes so much sense, especially with a global church, it makes so much sense to do a camp that is so geared towards your girls. And we are very young women forward. So much so that I have to think about the leaders at some point. Oh yeah, we do need to take care of this. And we need to do this. And in our stake, we have it's hard to keep using the word amazing all the time because you want to use something else. But they truly are amazing. We have the best leaders. We have the best cook. I always tell her, are we doing this again this year? Because if she doesn't come, I'm not coming. You feed people, they're happy. We have amazing priesthood leaders that come, so yeah. We're very blessed in this area. Nice. Anything else with this friendship and fun. These are words. Are they in a manual somewhere or did you come up with these ones? Yeah, there are principles. They're based out of this out of the manual, but we kind of take it out to a different level, I guess. If that makes sense.

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And really geared a lot of our staff, but they are definitely principles within the camp guidelines. And how do they show up as you're in the planning phase? Are you always coming back to these or how does that look in application? We do. So one of the things that we have morphed into is what the church wants us to do, which is have our why seals lead. You know, they're called our youth camp leaders. And one of those principles I learned a long, long, long time ago, as a leader, is we have to mentor and coach them. You know, that is also, you know, in my practice and in my family, we have 8 kids. And 6 grandbabies. So in our families, the parenting style that is most recommended today with all the information that we've linked all over the years is coaching, where you coach your kid and how you do that is you set up the guidelines for them, right? You set up the criteria, you let them go for a little bit and practice this, right? And then you come back and you work on those skills with them. I've done this with activity days. I've done this with young activity day girls. One of them was a leader for all of our activities. And we mentored them. It's not the easy way. Has anyone has ever worked with you? No, it is not the easier way, but it's the better way. Yeah. It's not easy to get teenagers to respond 25. We have 25 Y CLs this year. Wow. To respond, and that's only out of 65 girls total. We had a ton that came back which I'm so happy. It says a lot about our camp and says a lot about the leaders and the structure and how involved they wanted to be. And we do something a little bit different than what the church recommends, which is we actually allow anyone 16 to 18 years old because of the proximity of our stake. We span two stakes, two time zones, is huge area. We allow all of our young women in that age range to be Y cls. Okay, so in a typical stake, they would just kind of like a calling, right? Anybody in that, if you want to come to camp, we'll find you. We will find something for you to do. Now, of course, we have those girls who are more experienced and more talented leadership. And so they've taken that role. One of the things that we do a little bit differently in our stake too is we call a Y CL director. And so she is actually over all the Y CLs as well. With me or the camp director. And so we had, and we do that by inspiration. We call her. She's not set apart. It's just an assignment. And we have an amazing and amazing experience with that. And so I work with her on specific things. One of those is that, and just for our ICL's because we're so spread out and are sake. We end up doing a lot of virtual meetings. And so we set those up on Sundays. In between, when church is done, dinner is done, and then the evening starts. Because all of our wife seals in that age range are always so busy. And so we do a lot of virtual meetings and have them bring things. We split up into committees and have each of those girls who are over committees. And, you know, we do the aspects of camp like crafts and the workshops. And we do like the service project. We do the fun. We just call it activities. The fun activities. And so each of the girls can find an interest, they find something they buy in, which is huge, getting their buy in. And then they plan them. And we mentor them as a stake in women's presidency, the camp leadership. We're mentoring them. We have each one of those leaders who's over one of who's the leader over one of these subcommittees or committees. And it's just great. The girls are amazing in those because they're smaller groups. They are shyer girls can have more of a voice. And they just do, it just seems to work. It just works. So one little detail about the opening up to any 16 to 18 year old girl that wants to be a white CL. How do you communicate that? Do you make an announcement? Do you just let them know that the previous camp, they want to come back? Or how does that work? It's a standard in our stake, because we only do stake camp. It's a standard. So we've always had that, yeah. And we do have girls who are on the spectrum. We

have special needs girls, and we just find something for them to do. Sometimes, you know, we have really, really shy girls. Probably the majority are shyer. Sure. And so they get to stand in the back. But they're still a part of the leadership. And I will always always believe and promote that our why CLs, they're the heart of camp.

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They are. They're the heart. Everyone else is the structure participants, you know, the managers, the chaos coordinator, they are the heart of camp. And they're the ones that the younger girls look up to, they're the ones who have to be a 100% on task on example. And so we really instill that with them from the beginning and we have had so much success. We've had young women who have really grown have grown at a week of camp, not even a week. Have been able to grow and develop in themselves who feel a part of something bigger than them who feel like they're contributing and sometimes they don't have that in their usual lives in their normal lives. Talk me through as far as mentoring. Like any specific examples come to mind of what that looks like and how do you actually go about mentoring? I know, it's the secret sauce here, so listen up, man. All right. So one of the things we've really switched over and I'll tell you, like I said, it's not the easier way to have white seals lead. It's not the easier way to have them do our workshops. It's not the easier way to have them. The method, especially for my generation above, is to burn yourself out. You do it, you do it amazing. And then you end up in your office. And then you end up in my office. That's a client, right? No, you end up burnt out. And no one else has learned your secret sauce. That's the problem. If no one else has the opportunity, they won't develop, and the reason why we became all of us in my generation and like me became amazing is because we had so much practice. And we had great mentors. So I'll give you an example, so we have them do a devotional. We don't have our leaders do them very often. We might have our special one come in. I've come in to some of them. And done that. But we'll have them do a devotional. And we, as part of one of our spiritual rings of our circus, we actually shut camp down. This is something I'm so proud of. We shut camptown for 45 minutes and have an individual spiritual time. It's been so popular that our young men's camp has now adopted that. Oh, awesome. It is many of our girls favorite part of camp, which you imagine. There's other rings of the circus, right? And this one is so amazing. So we have one of our west yells to a devotional right before that. 5 minutes, maybe. You go ten or 20 or 30, we lose them. And so they do a 5 to ten minute devotional. So I don't pick the topic. I allow them to pick the topic. Because I want them to go through that inspiration mode. You know, what is that like? Sometimes we do that and talks or speaking engagements that we do. We're not given a topic, and so I allow them that opportunity to go off inspiration to come back to me, and say, this is what I'm thinking about doing sister cook. And then I walk them through, tell me what are the points that you're trying to make? Where are you going to go with the experience? If you had an experience with this, you're going to get so many more people involved. And what you have to say. And so we do that and we go through that. I give them a couple of weeks to do that. And then we set up another time to meet back. And then they just run me through it. Okay, so when

you say, for this 45 minute inspiration time, this is during girls camp. During camp every day. Every day in the evening. It's in the morning. In the morning. One of the first things you do, or no, they'll never do it. Okay, gotcha. All right. So it's mid morning. And so we have our flag ceremony. After breakfast, after cleanup, everybody's ready for the day, you know? And then we do, we come back into our lodge, and then our Y CL does a devotional. Okay. And then we and then we go right into individual spiritual time. And so we have a whole spiritual table of things that girls can take with them if they want. We have hymnals. We have preached my gospel, you know, we have scriptures. We have all these different things. They also, we allow them to use their phone in moderation. And so they can use their phone for things like come follow me. And they're not getting the signal anyways, so they're just going to our signal is really bad. They have to have it already loaded on their phone, thankfully. And so they go. And it's the quietest time our leaders get to do it as well. And it is incredible. And are there any specific rules like you can't talk or anything? Can we ask them not to share with each other? Unless it is something that makes sense.

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We had a leader that took a non member girl aside and walked through some different things and questions that she had. But our girls, they want that time. We used to do 30 minutes, and that was our number one requested time. The first year we started was to make it longer. Not better food, not more fun. It was like the number one request was can you make spiritual time longer? Wow. So now you said about 45 minutes. Yeah. If we do an hour, it's too long. Yeah. Yeah, yeah. Can I share one quick experience? And we had a girl who super active family, her dad's branch, presidents, really very faithful members, and she was an older wife CL. We call them super white CLs once they've served as a YC L and then they get a cape and a mask. It's amazing. Like literally? We theme. The crap out of everything at camp, are you kidding me? It's amazing. And so she was a super was y'all. And she was thinking about going on a mission. And so she decided to take one of the preach my gospel manuals that books that we had over there. And this was the first time that she had opened up a preach my gospel. Super active family, very faithful, something that would be a little surprising for some of us. But it was the first time and she knew she had a really cool experience for her testimony about it. During testimony meeting that she knew that this was what she needed to do and she served a mission and it was cool to have been able to really present that opportunity for someone. Yeah. And so you mentioned they do this and then there's a mentorship component to it. Like they may meet with you or something. So when I do, if they do the devotional, any of our ICL's. Yeah, I'm always doing if they're just doing the devotional, which is just a talk. A short talk. That they, I'll meet with them throughout our preparation for camp. Gotcha. And then right before camp. And so they're going to this process of thinking, you don't come to them and say, we'd like you to talk on this topic. The hope is that they're sort of wrestling with this opportunity so that they come up with their own inspiration and what they're going to address during the devotional right before the spiritual time. Yeah. Wow. One time we had one of our wife CL's two was like, I think I need to

change this. And this is the day before she was giving it at camp. And I knew she was prepared. And mentored her and knew that what she was talking about was amazing. She told me the topic that she wanted to talk about. And it was like ding ding, we both just felt it, that she needed to do that one. And so that's even cool. To go through. But my favorite part is not even the mentoring. My favorite part is the incidental learning. So when I meet with them, we're not just talking about devotional, right? I'm getting to really know what's going on in her life. I'm getting to know, you know, where her struggles are, where testimony is. I'm really getting to know all these different things. And she's getting to know me and feeling another layer of love and care and concern in her life. And so it's not just that we're talking about this devotional that's probably the least amount of success that's happening within, you know? Within that time frame, but it's really that we get to talk about recognizing the spirit. We're going to talk about recognizing inspiration. We talk about how do you think about these girls, you know, who you're delivering this message to. It's not only the delivery, it's the recipient. And we get to talk about the struggles in her life. I probably bring that a little extra. Just having the therapy backgrounds and counseling backgrounds, so that part is my favorite where we're sitting by the water and we're talking about the struggles and her family. And then we also get to talk about how she's been inspired to give to talk about the women in the scriptures. And along with your background, like bringing that vulnerability and struggle to the surface, like in these devotionals and whatnot. Is that the hope or? Oh, I'm always approval. I'm like, why are you delivering this? Yeah. Why does the lord want you? What do you bring? That is really special to this. And Tapping into that. And then really coaching them too on where to be vulnerable and where to wear it over sharing us. You know? And we've always struggled with that with testimony meetings in our stake.

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And so one of the other principles that we really, really work on is what a testimony is. And so we start day one because the idea is, you know, it's not an open mic night. It's not group therapy. Which some of our testimonies, it's not a testimony about your friend making you get up there. And bear a testimony. Because there's a testimony meeting near the end of camp assume, right? So you are sort of preparing for that. It's just not something you throw in there. We don't. We really prepare them. We encourage them to, you know, to know what the 5 points of the testimony are. We encourage them to bear testimony about a principle of the gospel, a spiritual experience, and that's what we provide all week. So that someone brand new, we have lots and lots of non members who can. We have lots of girls who are at inactive less active. And so we have to provide those opportunities because they don't have them typically in their lives. Yeah. It's great. What other component or dynamic to you? Do you have going on? This is interesting. So one of the other rings of our camp is friendship. And that is really important to me. Some of our girls, they live in really low, so, so economic areas of our stake, a lot of them go to school with such a few amount of people on a thousand kids in my freshman class. And they have ten 15 maybe 40 in their school. And you're like, wow, your area of opportunity is so small for friendship. And so it was really important to me and just weighing on my heart and

mind that each of our girls would go home with a friend from camp. And because we only meet once, especially our 11, 12, 13 year olds, they're only meeting our stake, members once a year. You know, our 14, 15, 16 and up. Get to do youth conference and have other activities that we typically do for our older kids. And so I wanted them to have I wanted them to have a friend. And so the inspiration popped into my mind that we needed to do companions. Oh yeah? Campaigns. I love it. So everything we do is so geared towards the gospel, right? You know, we call our tour chart ministering opportunities. I told you, we think the crap out of everything. But it's really to develop that. We do ministering. We need to really engage our girls and what ministering is from a young age. You know, so we decided to do campaigns. And of course, you know, a companion is what you have on your mission and duos or trios. And so that's what we do. So the YC L director, so that is one of our YC L's who's been appointed by the lord. We prayerfully and I can't even die. It's hard to describe what that experience is like with her because some of the girls we don't know, but some of them we gain such incredible inspiration on who to partner with each other. So because we have 13 units in our sake, we don't want them paired with someone in their award or units or twig, I call them the small branches. We also want to do a variety of ages. So that we don't just have two 11 year olds together, know nothing. About campia. But it is something that has become such an incredible tradition, and our stake that they look forward to it so much. And so we also gear activity. So the first night we tell them who their companions are. And pair them up, and then we have a couple of icebreaker games that they do. And then we have a campaigning activity that we do each day after that. And so one of them might be that they sit with their companions during or companions during a meal. Another one is they have to do we ask them to do a craft or make something for them and it is amazing. So everyone gets to know someone, especially for a very shy girls, like they get to know someone outside of who they're comfort comfortable with. Yeah, and so you have certain activities that are focused on bringing those companions together. It's not that they have to do everything together throughout the whole camp. Yeah, because we divide up our girls, typically we stay by wards in our cabins, and then, and then we do by years, you know, we have them do certain activities. So I can get to know girls within their age range, and then we do our campaigns. And it is amazing. I love that. That's cool.

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Anything else. By these ideas and I want to make sure we don't miss anything. I know they're so great, right? Yes. They're awesome, amazing, as you said, right? I know it's hard not to use the word amazing all the time. I know. So like I was saying, so we have our wife seals lead. And that has something that has been something for anyone that's feeling guilt on that. It took us a while to come around on that. Because of, you know, we just let a lot of the challenges of our stake just impede that. And so this year we did something different. We let. We invited our YC L's to help us with our workshops. And so that was something that we hadn't, we've always had them involved with the ideas of them who we could invite. But we hadn't actually involved them in doing the workshops. And so this was the first year that we did that and it was super successful.

Because there's always this sort of tension of maybe the adult leaders will just handle this. Right. And always try and yield to the YC els. Yes. And so we had them do so we do groups. We had them do it in groups. And so we had one group that did hair, and so we did a hair tensile hair braiding hair wrapping, and it is such a special experience to have the young women do these things. Like we forget that as adults sometimes I'm guilty of that for getting that, that instead of bringing in an expert to do this, it might be better for our young women to see someone more approachable with them. And someone who is struggling up there to remember how to do this, or is an expert at a young age. And is really showing these girls and teaching them with another sewing group who did many styles of sewing, and that led us into our, we always do a service project. It was something I brought when I didn't have a young woman calling, I brought that years ago. And we just maintain that, which has been amazing, so we've done days for girls. Out in our camp, we've done tie blankets for the Linus project. We've done, oh man, this year we decided to do flannel hats. And we did them for originally doing them for you for the Ukraine. But because our camp was the project we were doing was so late in the year. They actually are requesting different supplies now. And so more medical and more expensive. Supplies. So as the lord would have it, he had such a great. He just knows how to do things and how then to do open another window, right? And so we had a couple of schools in this area, a lower socioeconomic schools who were doing a big clothing drive. And school supply drives, so we got to do those for them. Which we had some of the Y cs then volunteer at the drive and to keep camp going. Which is one of the things that our leadership really wants us to do is how do you keep camp going throughout the year? And not just have this be amazing week. And then that's it. And so some of those things are the friendship that the girls develop. And we really encourage them to trade SnapChat. Whatever you need to do, Facebook, texting, whatever get the people's contact from camps that keep you going. You can stay in contact and maintain that friendship. Anything else. That you want to share with the world. I can't share all my secrets. That's right. That's fair enough. That's fair enough. You mentioned to sort of reflect back on your life. You mentioned there was a time that you were outside of this church. You're raised in the church? Yes. And then was it early 20s or what's the time frame where most people were we have the highest population of members leave and that in that late teen that YSA that young single adult age range and it was interesting, you know, I had a series of things just happen in my life and choices I made. And I just found myself at one point with one foot in the gospel and one foot out. And that draw to leave the church and to live a different life was just really, it was too much. It was too enticing.

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And I spent about 8 years outside of the gospel and outside the church I did, you know, I really thankfully I had the foresight to really look at other religions and faiths. But everything led me back to where we are. And but I'm grateful for that knowledge and understanding and education. And then, yeah, like the prodigal son, I'm the prodigal daughter that came back to what she knew and what a cold time for I meant was when I was able to go home and to go through the

temple with my family. And for them to be in that experience as well. It's an incredible, incredible and special one for my family. Nice. And every year, those girls are grateful you came back. I love it. One more question for you about any other concept or principle that you want to make sure we cover before we wrap up? Or do we do a good job? We did great. Yeah, I was trying to think, you know, if we look at the faith, you know, the friendship and fun, one of those things that we did differently in our stake because we go to the same camp every year, I mean, we've been going to camp Susan and anago Wisconsin for over 20 years. I don't even know how much longer than that. I just know at least 20 years. It is a perfect camp for our size and no one's coming through there. It's not like a state park. It's very secluded and has a water feature. Has ample ample room for everybody. So our stake did a high adventure for our young women who are 16 and above. And started doing that each year. Because some of the things we couldn't provide them, we couldn't provide them with more adventurous things because of the limitations of our camp. And the limitations of the proximity of our camp to now have lots of people driving to other places to do that was a big expense and just wasn't worth it. And so that's been a little, you know, that's been a balance that we've had to do that some of our girls want. They want things that the boys have done. They want things that other camps provide. They want they want more than fun. They want to venture. And safe adventure. And so that is something that our stake has done really well in the past was created another opportunity. For our young women to then experience something that didn't take away from the camp experience, but then could also be something separate. Yeah. Awesome. Yeah. Well, last question I have for you is as you reflect back on these years of leading in some fashion with girls camp. How is being a leader helped you become a better follower of Jesus Christ? Oh. I feel like my career path has led me to work in the trenches of the atonement. As a therapist and counselor, and when I, when I work with our youth, how do you not see them in the way that our savior has experienced us? Because he suffered for us in the garden of guest amani, he experienced everything that we've experienced, the good, the bad and the ugly, and now he goes through it with us. Again, he's already gone through it for us, and then now goes through it with us. And I think of our young women and I think of the potential that they have, I see them for more than the struggles. I see them for more than the piercings and the crazy hair colors and the limitations of what their circumstances have provided. No fault of their own. And that love that our father in heaven who created us and who knows us more than anyone, it is a beautiful thing to see the individual worth of someone, you know? We've had those values in the past, the values aren't gone. The focus is just upgraded in our in the young women programs. And I see the opportunity for us to continue to see and then to love those around us as God and our brother. See and love. Right? Isn't that what we're supposed to do? Yeah. I mean, isn't that the idea is that we can shake off some of the temporal things to really see someone for who they truly are.

00:45:04 - 00:47:34

But my favorite saying is, you know, come as you are, but don't play in the stay that way. 'cause we're going to develop you and we're going to add joy and light and love to your life. And I think that's being a great disciple. That's what Christ did. That's what he did on this earth. Maybe not as much fun, but what a great opportunity that some of us get to do the fun too. And that concludes this how I lead interview. I hope you enjoyed it and I would ask you, could you take a minute and drop this link in an email on social media in a text, wherever it makes the most sense and share it with somebody who could relate to this experience. And this is how we, how we develop as leaders, just hearing what the other guys doing, trying some things out, testing, adjusting, for your area, and that's where great leadership is discovered, right? So we would love to have you share this with somebody in this calling or a related calling, and that would be great. And also, if you know of somebody, any type of leader who would be a fantastic guest on the how I lead segment, reach out to us, go to leading saints dot org slash contact, maybe send this individual an email, letting them know that you're going to be suggesting their name for this interview. We'll reach out to them and see if we can line them up. So again, go to leading saints dot org slash contact and there you can submit all the information and let us know. And maybe they will be on a feature how I lead segment on the leading saints podcast. And remember, go to leading saints dot org slash 14 to access our full young saints virtual library. 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 all and 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 can not shrink nor run away. And to which we must face up with boldness and courage and ability