

Return and Report



Accountability

Having accountability is being liable to answer for one's conduct.

D&C 72:3

And verily in this thing ye have done wisely, for it is required of the Lord, at the hand of every steward, to render an account of his stewardship, both in time and in eternity.

The Return and Report principle is about being accountable. Giving an account of your actions will send a message that you are someone that others can count on.

D&C 104:12-13

That every man may give an account unto me of the stewardship which is appointed unto him. For it is expedient that I, the Lord, should make every man accountable, as a steward over earthly blessings, which I have made and prepared for my creatures.

Who Are You Accountable To?

God

With God guiding you daily, you can make prayer a time to return and report to Him about how you are following through with promptings and keeping His commandments.

Romans 14:12

So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

Self

If you have goals or expectations for yourself, keeping track of your progress is a great way to hold yourself accountable.

2 Timothy 4:7-8

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

Parents

Reporting to your parents can really help your home run more smoothly, and improve your relationship with them.

Family Members

If a family member is counting on you, open communication about how you are fulfilling their expectations can bring trust.

Leaders

When a leader who has your best interest gives you an assignment, your report will help them know how best to help you succeed.

Return

Go to the person who gave you the assignment. Rather than just passively waiting for them to come to you, seek them out. Don't delay, make your report right away.

Luke 10:17

And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.

Report

Tell how you accomplished the task, or if there are any problems describe what they are and ask for help.

Ezekiel 9:11

And, behold, the man clothed with linen, which had the inkhorn by his side, reported the matter, saying, I have done as thou hast commanded me.

John 17:4

I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.

Ask

A really great way to show accountability is to ask if there is anything more that you can do. This shows that you are a willing servant.

Alma 18:14

Therefore Ammon turned himself unto the king, and said unto him: What wilt thou that I should do for thee, O king?

Benefits of Returning and Reporting



Your Leaders Know How You are Doing

Remember, all of these people care about you and want to see you succeed. If they see you are struggling with something, they can help. If they know you are accomplishing your task, then they are happy for your success and can praise you. But if they have no idea what happened to you, then they are left only wondering and your progress and growth are hindered.

You Stay on Track

It is easy to get distracted, lose focus, and forget about your assignment. With someone to report to, you will be more motivated to get it done.

You Build a Trusting Relationship With Your Leaders

They learn that they can count on you, and you learn that they care about you.

You Progress

As you report about your progress, your leader is able to give further steps and opportunities for you to grow.

You Become More Responsible

When you are able to follow the simple habit of returning and reporting, you become capable of taking care of yourself and others.

If you have ever been on the other side of having someone return and report to you that they have accomplished what you asked of them, you know it feels great! And being trusted feels great too!

Return and Report Hero Printable Posters

Mary Magdalene, Johanna and Mary the mother of James were among the first to learn of Jesus' resurrection. They did not delay in reporting this to the apostles.

Helaman sent an epistle to Moroni stating the affairs of the people that he was protecting and reporting on the victory that his army had achieved.

Joseph Smith reported to the Lord in prayer that the saints had done all that He had commanded, in building the Kirtland temple as a place where the Lord could manifest Himself unto them.

Jesus ascended to Heavenly Father very soon after His resurrection to report to Heavenly Father on the fulfillment of His great mission.

With these posters, you will be reminded and inspired to Return and Report just as these valiant heroes did.