

# *Happily Ever After*

Script by Jenny Phillips

## Songs:

1. Happily Ever After  
Honest
2. Return to Virtue
3. In the Strength of the Lord

*\*This program does not include the songs  
"Stay" or "We Believe" which is on the CD  
"We Believe"*

## Video Clips:

*We Seek After These Things  
Happily Ever After*

These video clips can be purchased  
at [www.JennyPhillips.com](http://www.JennyPhillips.com) (select "Buy" from the main menu) for a low price.  
Preview the video on [JennyPhillips.com](http://JennyPhillips.com).

# Happily Ever After

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## **Narrator #1**

Every day, we are writing the story of our lives. There is something amazing that happens to each of us when we come to really understand and believe why we are here on this earth. Satan also knows about this transforming power. He knows that if we understand and believe in our divinity, our purpose and our design, then we will act differently in this life. We will write our story much differently.

So why *are* you here on this earth? Ages and ages ago, a mighty God organized you into a spirit after His own image. He gave you intelligence and endowed you with free agency that you might be able to think and choose and learn for yourself. He gave you gifts and talents, and for millions of years, He taught you, and helped you develop those talents and gifts. He knew you and He loved you.

In the bible, the Lord said to Jeremiah: “Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee...” (Jer: 1:5)

We truly are sons and daughters of God. We were taught the gospel and given the chance to choose to progress by coming to this earth. Spencer W. Kimball said: “We made vows, solemn vows, in the heavens before we came to this mortal life . . . We committed ourselves to our Heavenly Father, that if He would send us to the earth and give us bodies and give us the priceless opportunities that earth life afforded, we would keep our lives clean and would marry in the holy temple and would rear a family and teach them righteousness. This was a solemn oath, a solemn promise. He promised us an eventful mortal life with untold privileges and providing we qualified in the way of righteousness, we would receive eternal life and happiness and progress. There is no other way to receive these rewards.” (*Be Ye Therefore Perfect*, pg. 2)

## **Narrator #2**

We have waited millions of years to receive these bodies and have this mortal experience. And now we are here. Every day, every hour, we are writing our mortal story.

George Q. Cannon taught: “The days of our probation are not many. We shall have but one probation. This is the opportunity for us to gain this experience, and we should make use of it carefully. We should not allow the day to pass without profiting by it. We should look upon this existence as an exceedingly precious one, in view of the object of our Father in placing us here.” (Nov. 2, 1895, *DW* 51:802-3)

## **Perform the Song: “Happily Ever After”**

(2 females or a group of females)

## **Narrator #3:**

Elder Uchtdorf said: “Once upon a time” promises something: a story of adventure and romance, a story of princesses and princes. It may include tales of courage, hope, and everlasting love. In many of these stories, nice overcomes mean and good overcomes evil. But perhaps most of all, I love it when we turn to the last page and our eyes reach the final lines and we see the enchanting words “And they lived happily ever after.” Isn’t that what we all desire: to be the heroes and heroines of our own stories; to triumph over adversity; to experience life in all its beauty; and, in the end, to live happily ever after?” (General Conference, April 2010)

There are so many good and praiseworthy things we can fill our mortal story with every day of our lives.

Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin said: “We have so much good from which to choose that we need never to partake of evil . . . If we seek things that are virtuous and lovely, we surely will find them. Conversely, if we seek for evil, we will find that also.” (*Finding Peace in Our Lives*, pg. 130)

Our Heavenly Father wants us to seek out all that is virtuous and lovely that we might enjoy all that is good in this life. Even though there is so much evil around us, we can still choose to write a story that shuns that evil and seeks for the good.

Joseph B. Wirthlin said “We live in troubled times, but we can seek and obtain the good despite Satan's temptations and snares . . . When we seek anything ‘virtuous, lovely, or of good report or praiseworthy,’ we are seeking to emulate the Savior and follow his teachings. Then we are on the path that will lead us to eternal life.” (*Finding Peace in Our Lives*, pg. 136)

## **Play the Video: “We Seek After These Things”**

*[The video “We Seek After These Things” uses the song “We Seek After These Things.” If you want to use the video, but also want live singers, there is a version of the video on the DVD that has the song without the singers so you can show the video while live singers perform. Preview and purchase the video on [www.jennyphillips.com](http://www.jennyphillips.com).]*

### **Narrator #4**

If our stories are to end with Happily Ever After on the last page, we have to have written a story that includes honesty and integrity. Being honest has always been a trait of great disciples of Christ. Honesty is one of the fundamental requirements for both the terrestrial and celestial kingdoms. In Psalms 101:7 it says: “He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house; he that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight.”

### **Narrator #1**

It is always an inspiring thing to see someone who is striving to be completely honest like President Karl G. Maeser, who once said: “I have been asked what I mean by word of honor. I will tell you. Place me behind prison walls—walls of stone ever so high, ever so thick, reaching ever so far into the ground—there is a possibility that in some way or another I may be able to escape; *but* stand me on the floor and draw a chalk line around me and have me give my word of honor never to cross it. Can I get out of that circle? No, never! I’d die first!” (*Vital Quotations*, comp. Emerson Roy West, Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1968, pg. 167.)

If honesty is a part of our story, our story will also be one of confidence, peace, and power. It is never the princesses in fairytales that are deceitful, dishonest or that cheat and steal. Those things are always done by the evil characters like the wicked stepmother, the witch, or the bad wolf. Remember that you are the princess in this story.

## **Perform Song: “Honest”**

(Female Soloist)

### **Narrator #2**

Elder Uchtdorf taught “beloved young sisters, stay true to what you know is right. Everywhere you look today, you will find promises of happiness. Ads in magazines promise total bliss if you will only buy a certain outfit, shampoo, or makeup. Certain media productions glamorize those who embrace evil or who give in to base instincts. Often these same people are portrayed as models of success and accomplishment.

In a world where evil is portrayed as good and good as evil, sometimes it is difficult to know the truth... We all search for happiness, and we all try to find our own “happily ever after.” The truth is, God knows how to get there! And He has created a map for you; He knows the way . . . All you have to do is trust your Heavenly Father. Trust Him enough to follow His plan.” (General Conference, April 2010)

Close quote. The plan of our Heavenly Father includes virtue. We can never make it to “Happily Ever After” if we step off the path of virtue.

### **Narrator #3**

The first step to being virtuous is being modest. Elder L. Tom Perry said: “Our dress will reflect the way we intend to live.” (“Train Up a Child”, *Ensign*, Nov 1988, 73)

James E. Faust talked about those who dressed immodestly. He said: “Against their own self-interest, they present themselves to others in the worst possible way.” (“The Dignity of Self,” *Ensign*, May 1981, 8) Close quote.

We didn’t wait millions of years to gain a body only to dishonor it by using it as an instrument to create lustful and lowly thoughts in others.

Satan plays on our deep desires to want to be beautiful, noticed, and even powerful. But the eternal truth is that immodesty is never a beautiful thing—it is a reflection of someone who either does not understand or does not care about their purpose on the earth. How easy it is for anyone to put on something too tight, too short, or too low cut and get attention from it. But the attention received is only lust. Its power and attraction is hollow and temporary. Elder Holland said: “lust changes as quickly as it can turn a pornographic page or glance at yet another potential object for gratification walking by.” (“Place No More for the Enemy of My Soul,” *Liahona*, May 2010, 44–46)

Spencer W. Kimball explains how we can be attractive in the right way: “You girls go and find the modest clothes and wear them, make them as beautiful as you can and be attractive and make up to your boyfriends in bright intellect and sweet spirit and attractive demeanor that which some girls can only do with their bodies. It is a pretty weak girl if she has only her body to attract somebody . . . Any young woman who conducts herself so as to be attractive spiritually, mentally, and physically, but will not by word, nor dress, nor act stir or stimulate to physical reactions, she is a jewel.” (Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball, pg 285)

### **Narrator #4**

Although much of the world seems to have disregarded the commandment of chastity, we read in the bible:

“*Be not deceived: neither fornicators . . . nor adulterers . . . shall inherit the kingdom of God.*” (1 Corinthians 6:9-10)

Satan *has* deceived many into believing that sexual sin is normal and not a big deal. Spencer W. Kimball said: “Chastity and virtue are ‘most dear and precious above all things,’ more valuable than rubies or diamonds, than herds and flocks, than gold and silver, or than automobiles and land. But, sadly, in many cases they are on sale at the cheapest shops and at the cheapest prices.” (pg. 256, Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball)

Close quote.

There is no doubt in our world today that Satan has successfully spread the philosophy that we do not need to practice self-restraint with our sexual appetites. “You do not need to restrain yourself from these pleasures or wait until marriage,” he says “Do what you feel like doing when you want to do it.”

But what would happen in your life if you didn’t practice self-restraint with what you ate? You may feel like eating a bag of Oreos and a box of doughnuts every day, but if you don’t restrain yourself, consequences will follow.

What would happen if people didn’t practice self-restraint when they felt angry?

What would happen if you didn’t practice self constraint with your spending? If you bought everything you wanted, when you wanted it, you would very soon be facing some serious consequences.

Satan’s false message today is that there are no consequences that follow sexual activity outside of marriage and that we do not need to restrain ourselves.

Ezra Taft Benson said: “Do not be misled by Satan’s lies. There is no lasting happiness in immorality. There is no joy to be found in breaking the law of chastity . . . We must not be misled into thinking these sins are minor or that consequences are not that serious. One of the most sobering statements about being chaste is that of Alma to his son Corianton: “Know ye not, my son,” he said, “that these things are an abomination in the sight of the Lord; yea, *most abominable above all sins* save it be the shedding of innocent blood or denying the Holy Ghost?” (Alma 39:5, italics added).

### **Narrator #1:**

*[While the Narrator is coming up and speaking, you may choose to have the choir for the next song coming up onto the stand and having several of the girls holding gold banners.]*

*[You may choose to START “Return to Virtue” music here, so the intro is playing while the narrator speaks.]*

In 2008 the general young women’s president, Elaine Dalton said: “Now is the time for each of us to arise and unfurl a banner to the world calling for a return to virtue. May we so live that we can be instruments in preparing the earth for His Second Coming, “that when he shall appear we shall be like him, . . . *purified* even as he is pure.” (“A Return to Virtue,” *Ensign*, Nov 2008, 78–80)

## **Perform the Song: “Return to Virtue”**

(Female Choir or Trio)

### **Narrator #2**

Boyd K. Packer said: “We sometimes wonder: if the plan really is the great plan of happiness, why must we struggle to find the fullness of it in mortal life?

If you expect to find only ease and peace and bliss during Act II [mortality], you surely will be frustrated. You will understand little of what is going on and why things are permitted to be as they are.

Remember this! The line “*And they all lived happily ever after*” is never written into the second act. That line belongs in the third act when the mysteries are solved and everything is put right.” (*Mine Errand From the Lord*, pg. 3)

Elder Uchtdorf reminds us “For a moment, think back about your favorite fairy tale. In that story the main character may be a princess or a peasant; she might be a mermaid or a milkmaid, a ruler or a servant. You will find one thing all have in common: they must overcome adversity... In stories, as in life, adversity teaches us things we cannot learn otherwise. Adversity helps to develop a depth of character that comes in no other way. Our loving Heavenly Father has set us in a world filled with challenges and trials so that we, through opposition, can learn wisdom, become stronger, and experience joy.” (General Conference, April 2010)

### **Narrator #3**

In our pursuit to reach “happily ever after” we will inevitably face trials and adversity. We will also face our own weaknesses. We need strength beyond ourselves to make the journey. That is why our Heavenly Father sent His Son Jesus Christ to be our Savior. When the forests fill with darkness, and the wolves seek our souls, when we have lost our way, or when we feel we just can’t go on, we can rely on the strength of the Lord.

### **Perform the Song: “In the Strength of the Lord”**

(Female Soloist or Male Soloist—there are versions of the song in both a female and male key)

### **Narrator #4**

““Happily ever after” is not something found only in fairy tales,” Elder Uchtdorf said. “You can have it! It is available for you! But you must follow your Heavenly Father’s map.

Sisters, please embrace the gospel of Jesus Christ! Learn to love your Heavenly Father with all your heart, might, and mind. Fill your souls with virtue, and love goodness. Always strive to bring out the best in yourself and others . . . You are truly royal spirit daughters of Almighty God. You are princesses, destined to become queens. Your own wondrous story has already begun. Your “once upon a time” is now.” (General Conference, April 2010)

### **Play the Video: “Happily Ever After”**

### **Leaders Remarks**

You may choose to close the program with remarks/testimony from a leader.

# Program Instructions

## You will need the following:

### **Narrators**

The script lists 4 narrators. They can be all young women or a mix between leaders and young women. Also, you can modify the program so that one person narrates the whole thing, or that every narration part is by someone different.

### **Choir**

There is one song that necessitates a choir. You could have as few as 4-5 youth and leaders in the choir, or as many as you want.

### **Soloists**

These songs require a soloist:

1. Happily Ever After (1-2 females OR it can be sung by a group of girls)
2. Honest (female)
4. In the Strength of the Lord (female or male)

The songs don't have to be strictly solos. You can break them up so that a song is sung by 2 or more girls, each who sing a solo verse and sing the chorus together. Or, several girls can sing the whole song together.

### **Accompaniment Tracks or Sheet Music and Piano Player**

You may use the accompaniment tracks included on the CD, use a pianist, or use a combination of the two.

### **Microphones/ A Way to Play the Accompaniment Tracks**

Your church should have microphones and microphone hook-ups in the chapel and the cultural hall. You will also need a way to play the minus tracks CD (unless you are using live piano for the entire program), either with a borrowed or rented sound system, or a nice portable stereo. Also, your ward or stake technical specialist can usually show you how to hook up the CD player to the church's speakers in the chapel or cultural hall.

### **DVD of the video clips and video projector**

If you are using the video clips (strongly suggested for this program), you will need a video projector. You can buy the video clips on DVD at [JennyPhillips.com](http://JennyPhillips.com) (click on "Buy" from the main menu). You can connect a DVD player or a laptop computer that plays DVDs to the video projector to play the clips.

### **When to put on the program**

You can put on *Happily Ever After* any time of the year as a ward or stake youth fireside, New Beginnings program, Young Women in Excellence program, girls' camp fireside, or youth activity.

### **Making copies of the script**

You may make copies of the script without permission.

### **Bulk CDs and rehearsal songbook**

To make rehearsing this program fit your budget, we offer “We Believe” bulk CDs (without the jewel case or CD booklet) for \$3 each on [JennyPhillips.com](http://JennyPhillips.com). These CDs are perfect to give out to the YW/YM so that they can learn the music. They are also great to give out as gifts at your event.

**Tips/Ideas**

Visit the Free Downloads page on [JennyPhillips.com](http://JennyPhillips.com) to download invitations, decoration ideas, activity ideas, and more!