



# *New Beginnings/YW in Excellence Ideas for 2011*

This document contains ideas for New Beginnings and YW in Excellence that center around the 2011 Mutual Theme: The 13th article of faith and use the music from the CD “We Believe.” If you use one of these “theme ideas” for New Beginnings, try using one of the other “theme ideas” for your young women in Excellence near the end of the year. Even though they use the same music, it is a great way to tie your year together, and if your youth already know the music, it will be all that more meaningful for them!

## *Theme Ideas:*

“We Believe”

“Happily Ever After” OR “Once Upon a Time”

“Black and White”

# Ideas for New Beginnings/YW in Excellence

Theme:

## We Believe (13th article of faith)

### Invitations

Use the "We Believe" invitation on the Free Downloads page on [jennyphillips.com](http://jennyphillips.com) or make your own using the "We Believe" logo that you can download on the Free Downloads page as well.

### Signs

Create signs that have to do with words in the 13th article of faith and put them along the sidewalk as they come in or inside leading into the cultural hall or chapel:

Honest

True

Chaste

Virtuous

Benevolent

Doing Good

Lovely

Praiseworthy

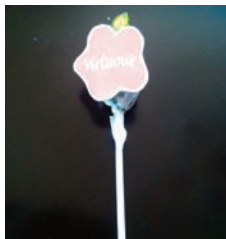
Of Good Report

### Cupcake Centerpiece

1. Place frosted cupcake inside clear plastic cup.



2. Cut out template on following page and tape to sucker.



3. Place suckers in center of cupcakes. Put inside clear bag and tie off with bow



*true*

*doing  
good*

*honest*

*praiseworthy*

*chaste*

*lovely*

*virtuous*

*benevolent*

*true*

*doing  
good*

*honest*

*praiseworthy*

*chaste*

*lovely*

*virtuous*

*benevolent*

### **“Idea: We Believe” Centerpieces**

Buy “We Believe” vinyl on [jennyphillips.com](http://jennyphillips.com) for only \$2.50 each and make “Be Strong” tiles or chunky woods to use as centerpieces. (Instructions included when you purchase vinyl). You could put a sticker under 1 chair at each table and whoever has the sticker under their chair gets to take the centerpiece home.



### **Idea: Ensign Blocks**

At an activity before New Beginnings or Young Women in Excellence have girls bring old copies of their Ensigns or New Eras. Have a lesson about the 13th article of faith and teach them the things they should seek after. Have them go through their magazines and cut out pictures that reflect the principles you taught them. This will teach them to seek after the good. To contrast you could bring a magazine of the world and ask them what is being taught in comparison with what is being taught by the Lord.

Take the pictures that the girls found and mod podge them to blocks of wood. Paint the wood blocks before you add picture. Save blocks and bring them to decorate tables at New Beginnings.



## Program Ideas

Put on the musical program "We Believe" by Jenny Phillips. This musical program is the perfect way to introduce the theme for 2011, and highlight the talents of the girls as they participate in the program. A script can be downloaded on the free download page of [jennyphillips.com](http://jennyphillips.com).

The following is an example program outline for New Beginnings:

Opening Hymn  
Opening Prayer  
Welcome from YW president  
Short talk on Personal Progress  
Highlighting girls (new girls and those who have completed their Personal Progress)  
Program: "We Believe"  
Optional closing remarks by a leader  
Closing Prayer

The following is an example program outline for YW in Excellence:

Opening Hymn  
Opening Prayer  
Welcome from YW president  
Short talk from a YW on a value project experience  
Program: "We Believe"  
Optional closing remarks from bishop, stake president, YW president, etc.  
Closing Prayer  
Value Projects Exhibit in the cultural hall

## Other Program Ideas

--If you don't want to put on the whole "We Believe" program or use the program script, you could open or close your program with the song "We Believe"

--One ward put on a program were they assigned each of the songs in the program (there are 6 songs) to one young women. The young women prepared a short talk that went with that particular song, and then the song was performed (not necessarily by the speaker). The young women read scriptures that went along with the message of the song, and gave their own thoughts and testimonies on the message.

--Create a slide show of the youth in your ward/stake to go along with the song "We Believe."

## Refreshment Idea: "Lovely and of Good Report" Refreshments

We seek after all good things in life including foods that are lovely and of good report! Serve a variety of fresh vegetables and dip, fruit kabobs, homemade wheat bread with butter and jam, etc.

# Ideas for New Beginnings/YW in Excellence

Theme:

## Happily Ever After or Once Upon a Time

### Theme:

This program/ theme is centered around how the principles in the 13th article of faith and the young women's program help lead us to "Happily Ever After"--eternal life. Centers around the song "Happily Ever After" by Jenny Phillips and the general conference take "Your Happily Ever After" by Elder Uchtdorf.

### Idea: Decorations

#### Fairy tales

Decorate with a fairy tale theme:

\*(Steer clear of Disney princess images that are dressed immodestly such as Jasmine and Ariel, Princesses and the Frog, etc. We don't want to be sending the youth the message that immodesty makes us beautiful like a princesses.)

-Gather fairy tale books from around the ward and use as centerpieces at the tables.

-Have a different leader assigned to decorate each table as a certain fairy tale. For example:

-The Three Little Pigs: A 3 little pigs book (can checkout at library) a couple of bricks, straw, sticks

-Little Red Riding Hood: Red material (representing her red cape), a basket filled with baked goods, flowers

-The Gingerbread Man: Rolling pin, gingerbread men cookies, cookie cutters

-Cinderella--a small hand broom, a rag, a crown, a pumpkin

-Snow White--Red apples, mirror

-Make main table our real life fairy tale--you could represent different parts of our mortal journey with a baby blessing dress and blanket, a baptism dress, a wedding dress, scriptures, journals, family pictures, etc.

#### Write Your Own Story Decorations

-Instead of decorating with known fairy tales, you could choose to emphasize the concept of the YW writing their own stories.

-Decorate with blank paper, open blank paper books, pens, feather pens,

#### Map to Happily Ever After

In his talk, "Your Happily Ever After," Elder Uchtdorf talks about how our Heavenly Father has given us a map to help us achieve our happily ever after.

-Decorate with maps, compasses, sets of scriptures, Strength of Youth pamphlets

### Idea: Dinner fit for a Princess

Five Course Meal

Course 1-Warm wassail

Course 2-Salad

Course 3-Soup

Course 4-Large roll

Course 5-Strawberry Tarts

## **Idea: Fairy tale Refreshments**

Consider having everyone sit at tables after the program for "Fairy tale Refreshments." These refreshments will be served to the young women and their parents by fairy tale characters. You don't need to serve all the items. Just pick and choose what works best for you.

Pink Princess Punch: Have it served by a leader dressed as a princess. You can use frozen pink lemonade concentrate to make pink lemonade, and you can add frozen (thawed) or fresh strawberries and even gingerale.

Red Riding Hood's Rolls: Have the rolls served by a leader dressed like red riding hood (even if it's just a red piece of cloth as a cape). Have her pass out the rolls from a basket. You may want to have a thing of honey butter on each table.

The Gingerbread Man: Have a leader dressed up in an apron, holding a rolling pin in one hand, serve small "Gingerbread Men" cookies on a cookie sheet.

Princess Pea Salad: Have a leader dressed as a princess serve this pea salad from a fancy silver tray. Simply have small plates of green salad, with peas on top (use frozen peas that have been thawed in the refrigerator), and ranch dressing.

## **Refreshment Idea: Medieval Fruit Tarts**

### Easy Fruit Tarts

Mini frozen tart shells (from your grocer), thawed and baked

Vanilla pudding

fresh chopped strawberries, and/or fresh raspberries, blueberries

Whipped cream (optional)

Spoon pudding into the tart shell until it's about half full. Decoratively arrange the fruit on top. Top with whipped cream, if desired, before serving.

## **Program Ideas**

Put on the musical program "Happily Ever After" by Jenny Phillips (uses music from the CD "We Believe.") This musical program is the perfect way to introduce the theme for 2011, and highlight the talents of the girls as they participate in the program. A script can be downloaded on the free download page of [jennyphillips.com](http://jennyphillips.com).

The following is an example program outline for New Beginnings:

Opening Hymn

Opening Prayer

Welcome from YW president

Short talk on Personal Progress

Highlighting girls (new girls and those who have completed their Personal Progress)

Program: "Happily Ever After" (35-40 min long)

Optional closing remarks by a leader

Closing Prayer

The following is an example program outline for YW in Excellence:

Opening Hymn

Opening Prayer

Welcome from YW president

Short talk from a YW on a value project experience

Program: "Happily Ever After" (35-40 minutes long)

Optional closing remarks from bishop, stake president, YW president, etc.

Closing Prayer

Value Projects Exhibit in the cultural hall

## **Other Program Ideas**

--If you don't want to put on the whole "Happily Ever After" program or use the program script, you could open or close your program with the song "Happily Ever After," and or play the video "Happily Ever After." (Preview and purchase on [jennyphillips.com](http://jennyphillips.com))

--Create your own program that goes along with Elder Uchtdorf's talk "Your Happily Ever After." You could:

-Give leaders and/or girls a certain paragraph from the talk to give a 5-7 minute talk on.

-Have a musical number for the song "Happily Ever After."

-Play the video "Happily Ever After" at the beginning or ending of the program.

# Ideas for New Beginnings/YW in Excellence

Theme:

## Black and White

**-We Clearly See Between Wrong and Right-**

**Theme Objective:** In a world that is blurring morals and lines between right and wrong, this theme is a reminder that the Lord's standards are clear and that there is no gray area to the Lord. The 13th article of faith makes it clear what we believe. Here are some other scriptures and quotes that go along with this theme:

Luke 16:13 (3 Nephi 13:24): "No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

Elder Marion G. Romney who, at a Brigham Young University devotional in 1955, stated: "Now there are those among us who are trying to serve the Lord without offending the devil."

Elder Mark E. Peterson ("Way to Peace" pg, 180): "President George Albert Smith taught us to "stay on the Lord's side of the line." Which line? That which is drawn between good and evil, between obedience and its opposite. But is this a sharp line of cleavage, or is it indistinct, providing a "gray area" in which we may cross partly over, and still keep one foot on the Lord's side? Does it allow us in this way to serve two contrary masters in an effort to get gain from both?"

With the Lord there are no "gray areas." We are for Him or we are not. He asks us to serve Him with ALL our hearts, might and minds, and no one can give his all and still hold something back. But many nevertheless try to create "gray areas" to justify their compromises. This they do in many ways. . . . And what of the moral law? Does God allow any gray areas" there? Can we be just a little unchaste and still please Him who said He cannot look upon sin with the least degree of allowance? . . . It is so in all we do. We must serve God with our whole heart, remembering that He allows for no "gray areas" where we may compromise with sin."

### Idea: Theme Songs

-“We Believe” (On the CD “We Believe”)

\*This song goes great with the theme with lyrics like “We can clearly see between right and wrong” and “We are not deceived by the forces that fight against what’s right, Our trust is in Christ”

### Invitations

Make invitations with a black and white theme.

### Everything Black and White

Have everything at your event black and white that you can. For example:

1. Black paper cups, white paper plates, white utensils, black or white table clothes.
2. Have the leaders all wear black and white.
3. Have all the decorations be black and white

The idea behind this is to remind the youth that the difference between right and wrong is black and white. Even though the world tries to put black for white or any shade of gray for white, the gospel makes it clear what is right and what is wrong, and it never changes.

What is white? The 13th article of faith defines that in a declarative and positive way.

### **Black and White “We Believe” Tiles or Boards for Centerpieces**

Buy “We Believe” vinyl on [jennyphillips.com](http://jennyphillips.com) for only \$2.50 each and make “Be Strong” tiles or chunky woods to use as centerpieces. If you buy the cream colored vinyl (which looks really white) and put it on a black tile or wood painted black, it goes all with your “black and white” theme. (Instructions included when you purchase vinyl). You could put a sticker under 1 chair at each table and however has the sticker under their chair gets to take the centerpiece home.



### **Program Ideas**

Put on the musical program “We Believe” by Jenny Phillips. This musical program is the perfect way to introduce the theme for 2011, and it highlight the girls as they participate in the program. It goes along perfectly with the theme “black and white” because the 13th article of faith lays out clearly what we believe and seek for, there are no gray areas. A script can be downloaded on the free download page of [jennyphillips.com](http://jennyphillips.com).

The following is an example program outline for New Beginnings:

Opening Hymn & Opening Prayer  
Welcome from YW president  
Short talk on Personal Progress  
Highlighting girls (new girls and those who have completed their Personal Progress)  
Program: “We Believe” (about 35 minutes)  
Optional closing remarks by a leader  
Closing Prayer

The following is an example program outline for YW in Excellence:

Opening Hymn & Opening Prayer  
Welcome from YW president  
Short talk from a YW on a value project experience  
Program: “We Believe” (about 35 minutes)  
Optional closing remarks from bishop, stake president, YW president, etc.  
Closing Prayer  
Value Projects Exhibit in the cultural hall

### **Other Program Ideas**

--If you don't want to put on the whole “We Believe” program or use the program script, you could open or close your program with the song “We Believe”

---Create a “Black and White” slide show of the youth in your ward/stake to go along with the song “We Believe.”

### **Refreshment Idea: “Black and White” Sundaes**

White Vanilla Ice Cream with any of the following “black and white” only toppings: chocolate sauce, marshmallow cream, white chocolate chips, crushed oreos, mini marshmallows, black or white sprinkles, whipped cream.

### **Refreshment Idea: “White Chocolate Dipped Oreos”**

Take black and white Oreo cookies and dip one half of them in white chocolate let them dry. This a great “black and white” refreshment.

### **Gift Idea:**

Give out a black and white gift such as a little bag of black and white jelly beans. Or you could give out a “We Believe: Songs for Youth 2011” CD. You can purchase those in bulk for \$3 each on [jennyphillips.com](http://jennyphillips.com). You could print out and cut out the tags on the following page. Punch a hole in the corner, and tie the CD with a black ribbon.

## It's "black and white"

In a world that is blurring morals and lines between right and wrong, the Lord's standards are clear. There are no gray areas. We don't believe in being partway honest.

We don't believe in being chaste only when we want to. The 13th article of faith makes it clear what we believe. The difference between righteousness and wickedness is "black and white."

We believe in being honest

We believe in being true

We believe in being chaste

We believe in being benevolent

We believe in being virtuous

We believe in doing good to all men

## It's "black and white"

In a world that is blurring morals and lines between right and wrong, the Lord's standards are clear. There are no gray areas. We don't believe in being partway honest.

We don't believe in being chaste only when we want to. The 13th article of faith makes it clear what we believe. The difference between righteousness and wickedness is "black and white."

We believe in being honest

We believe in being true

We believe in being chaste

We believe in being benevolent

We believe in being virtuous

We believe in doing good to all men

## It's "black and white"

In a world that is blurring morals and lines between right and wrong, the Lord's standards are clear. There are no gray areas. We don't believe in being partway honest.

We don't believe in being chaste only when we want to. The 13th article of faith makes it clear what we believe. The difference between righteousness and wickedness is "black and white."

We believe in being honest

We believe in being true

We believe in being chaste

We believe in being benevolent

We believe in being virtuous

We believe in doing good to all men

## It's "black and white"

In a world that is blurring morals and lines between right and wrong, the Lord's standards are clear. There are no gray areas. We don't believe in being partway honest.

We don't believe in being chaste only when we want to. The 13th article of faith makes it clear what we believe. The difference between righteousness and wickedness is "black and white."

We believe in being honest

We believe in being true

We believe in being chaste

We believe in being benevolent

We believe in being virtuous

We believe in doing good to all men