

O Be Wise

President D. Todd Christofferson, *Second Counselor in the First Presidency*

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION • SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026 • OCTOBER 2026 GENERAL CONFERENCE

THE BIG IDEA

Gambling takes something for nothing at someone else's expense, so I can stay away from it and use my time and money to do good, like Jesus.

You'll need: Nothing.

1 HOOK

2 MIN

QUICK STORY A U.S. president known for saying very little came home from church. His wife asked what the preacher talked about. He said: Sin. She asked: Well, what did he say? Guess his answer.

Then: He said: He was against it. President Christofferson told this story (first shared by President Gordon B. Hinckley) to make a point about gambling. President Hinckley's words: "I think I could answer the question concerning gambling just that briefly. We are against it."

2 KEY TEACHINGS FROM PRESIDENT CHRISTOFFERSON

8–10 MIN

1 It's everywhere now, and it's built for you to lose

"Simply put, the industry's entire business model is built on its customers losing money."

— President D. Todd Christofferson • exact words

FOR AGES 8–11: MAKE IT CONCRETE

Think of a carnival game that looks easy but is set up so most people lose. Gambling companies make money only when the people playing lose. Now it's on phones, so it's always there.

DEEP CUT • AGES 12–16

He shared that in the U.S., 36 percent of boys ages 11–17 reported gambling last year, rising to almost half at 17. "Surveys reveal that people know that in gambling the odds are stacked against them, and the house always wins—they just don't think it will win against them personally." Sports betting apps and prediction markets are aimed right at your age.

2 It's morally wrong: something for nothing, at someone else's expense

"For us as Latter-day Saints, overarching all other concerns is the fact that gambling is morally wrong."

— President D. Todd Christofferson • exact words

"Gambling is built on the desire to obtain something for nothing. Its structure requires that any gain comes at others' expense."

— President D. Todd Christofferson • exact words

FOR AGES 8–11: MAKE IT CONCRETE

If you win a bet, someone else loses. That's hard to square with loving your neighbor as yourself. Jesus is a giver, not a taker.

DEEP CUT • AGES 12–16

Even if you think you'd never get hooked, he asked who is watching you. Paul taught that a choice that's fine for a strong believer can become a stumbling block for someone weaker (1 Corinthians 8:9). Who looks to you as an example?

3 Spend it on good instead

“Remembering President Oaks’s comments about “opportunity cost” and the opportunities lost when a person devotes time and money to gambling, my plea again is not only to refrain from gambling but to use the time and resources saved thereby for doing good.”

— President D. Todd Christofferson · exact words

FOR AGES 8–11: MAKE IT CONCRETE

Opportunity cost means: if you spend an hour or ten dollars on one thing, you can’t spend it on something else. What good could that hour or money do instead?

DEEP CUT · AGES 12–16

President Oaks has taught us to ask, about every decision, where it will lead. President Christofferson said a life well lived is being and doing better without others doing worse. Try his question on a few of your own habits.

3 INTERACTIVE MOMENT

2–3 MIN

SCENARIO A friend says: Let’s each put five dollars on tonight’s game. It’s just for fun. What do you say? Younger kids pick a reply; older kids write one that’s honest and not preachy.

Reveal: President Christofferson’s line: “Gambling, even for fun, leads in the opposite direction.” Good replies are short and friendly: “I’m out on betting, but I’m in for watching. Bring snacks?”

4 TALK ABOUT IT

3 MIN

YOUNGER (8–11)

What’s something good you could do with one hour, or with five dollars, that would help someone?

OLDER (12–16)

He asked how our example affects others. Who might be watching how you handle things like this?

5 RECAP: THE KIDS EXPLAIN IT

2 MIN

Ask the kids to give the three reasons in their own words: why are we against gambling? Then read his closing, from the prophet Jacob: “O be wise; what can I say more?” (Jacob 6:12)

Listen for: The house always wins (it’s built on losing). Something for nothing at others’ expense (not Christlike). Opportunity cost: use the time and money for good.

6 TESTIMONY OF JESUS CHRIST

1 MIN

A parent shares how Jesus Christ’s example of giving rather than taking has blessed your family.

7 THIS WEEK, AS A FAMILY

1 MIN

ONE THING TO DO President Christofferson said: “Today, I am pleading with all of us to live life on a higher plane.” This week, choose one good cause together (a neighbor, a food drive, a ward project) and give it an hour of your time or a few dollars.

☐ Mon ☐ Tue ☐ Wed ☐ Thu ☐ Fri ☐ Sat ☐ Sun

Scripture: Jacob 6:12; Doctrine and Covenants 58:27; 1 Corinthians 8:9 · **Full talk:** [churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2026/10/19christofferson](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2026/10/19christofferson)

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