



“See that ye love one another; cease to be covetous; learn to impart one to another as the gospel requires. Cease to be idle; cease to be unclean; cease to find fault one with another. . . . And above all things, clothe yourselves with the bond of charity, as with a mantle, which is the bond of perfectness and peace.” (D&C 88:123–25)



LDS.org video
“Musical Presentation:
The Family Is of God”
<https://goo.gl/qWB9Fj>

Music from Children’s Songbook & Hymns

- Family History—I Am Doing It (CS, 94)
- A Happy Family (CS, 198)
- *Children’s Songbook* songs about family (188–211)
- Families Can Be Together Forever (CS, 188; *Hymns*, 300)
- Love at Home (*Hymns*, 294)

Quotes

“The ultimate end of all activity in the Church is that a man and his wife and their children can be happy at home” (Boyd K. Packer, “The Witness,” *Ensign*, May 2014).

“Parents should act to preserve time for family prayer, family scripture study, family home evening, and the other precious togetherness and individual one-on-one time that binds a family together and fixes children’s values on things of eternal worth” (Dallin H. Oaks, “Good, Better, Best,” *Ensign*, November 2007).



Mormonads—Family
and Family History
<https://goo.gl/LDkH6S>

Scripture Stories

Sometimes Lehi’s family works well together, and other times there is a lot of conflict. They travel in the wilderness together, get the brass plates, build a boat, cross the ocean, and build a new life in the promised land (see 1 Nephi 2–5, 7, 16–18).

Families come to the temple to offer sacrifices and listen to King Benjamin. He teaches them to serve and obey God, have faith, pray, and serve others. At one point he says, “Teach [your children] to love one another, and to serve one another” (Mosiah 4:15) (see also Mosiah 2–5).

Gospel Art Pictures

- *Jesus Praying with His Mother* (#33)
- *Lehi and His People Arrive in the Promised Land* (#71)
- *King Benjamin Addresses His People* (#74)

Church History

When did family home evening as a church program start? 1915. Joseph F. Smith inaugurated family home evening in an official letter from the First Presidency. For the original letter, see the appendix, pages 236–37. For a short video on the inauguration of family home evening, see <https://goo.gl/oXGvNF>.

President David O. McKay reemphasized the family home evening program, and a family home evening manual was published to support families each year from 1970–85 (see a Church News article on LDS.org titled “2015 Marks Two Milestones for Family Home Evening” at <https://goo.gl/EC8V3U>).

On September 23, 1995, “The Family: A Proclamation to the World,” a declaration from the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, was published. President Gordon B. Hinckley read the proclamation in the women’s session of general conference in October 1995 (see Gordon B. Hinckley, “Stand Strong against the Wiles of the World,” *Ensign*, November 1995, or online at <https://goo.gl/LzYTwL>. President Hinckley introduces the proclamation at 19 minutes 32 seconds).

For the Church’s views on same-sex attraction and marriage, see LDS.org’s gospel topics “Same-Sex Attraction” at <http://goo.gl/buPxcP> and “Same-sex Marriage” at <http://goo.gl/5HPZEQ>.



LDS.org video “Ministry of Joseph F. Smith: Family Home Evening Inaugurated”
<https://goo.gl/oXGvNF>



LDS.org video of President Hinckley’s conference talk, “Stand Strong against the Wiles of the World,” in which he introduced “The Family: A Proclamation to the World”
<https://goo.gl/LzYTwL>

Adaptations for Younger Children

Quote

“I will honor my parents and do my part to strengthen my family” (“My Gospel Standards”).

Lesson from *Behold Your Little Ones*

“I Love My Family” (Lesson 11, pp. 48–51) and “I Will Obey” (Lesson 14, pp. 60–63).

Faith in God

“Honor your parents and be kind to your family” (p. 4).

“Give an opening and a closing prayer in family home evening or at Primary. Share your feelings about how prayer protects us and helps us to stay close to Heavenly Father and the Savior” (p. 6).

“Read ‘The Family: A Proclamation to the World.’ Make a list of things you can do to help strengthen your family and make a happy home. Share the list with your parents or Primary leader” (p. 13).

Activity 🕒

Get a stack of wooden pencils (or thin, breakable sticks). Show your family the pencils. Pick one up and break it. Show how it isn’t strong by itself. Then pick up as many pencils as you have people in your family and try to break the bunch. Show that together your family is stronger. Then look at fun family pictures together and reminisce. Talk about what you like about your family. Talk about what makes you strong and what could make you stronger.

Christina Shelley Albrecht

Adaptations for Older Children and Teens

Quotes

“Understanding the eternal nature of the temple will draw you to your family; understanding the eternal nature of the family will draw you to the temple” (Gary E. Stevenson, “Sacred Homes, Sacred Temples,” *Ensign*, May 2009).

“The devil is well organized. Never in our day has he had so many emissaries working for him. . . . Satan uses many tools to weaken and destroy the home and family and especially our young people. Today, as never before, it seems the devil’s thrust is directed at our youth. . . . The family home evening is an important barrier to the works of Satan. The [Young Men and Young Women programs] must protect our youth against every evil influence and should fill a vacuum left by rejecting worldly enticements. And, of course, a great panacea for all problems and personal doubts: prayer—private and family prayer, night and morning” (Ezra Taft Benson, “Satan’s Thrust—Youth,” *Ensign*, December 1971).

Preach My Gospel

“The Gospel Blesses Families,” pp. 3, 32; “Eternal Marriage,” pp. 85–86; “Addressing the Importance of the Family,” pp. 159–60.

Personal Progress

Knowledge #2—“Learn a new skill or talent that will help you care for your own future family” (p. 38).

Integrity #7—Make a list of things that strengthen families as well as things you are aware of that weaken families. Research the topic of how to create a strong family by reading conference talks and “The Family: A Proclamation to the World” (p. 64).

Duty to God

Study the doctrinal topic of “Eternal Families and Family History Work.” Record what you learn and share what you learned with your parents or a priesthood leader (see pp. 18–21, 42–45, 66–69).

Look over the section “For the Strength of Youth: Family and Friends.” Work on it, or review what you did if you have already done this section (*Duty to God*, pp. 79–83).

Activity

Have everyone write down their favorite things about each person in the family. Then have everyone share what they wrote. Talk about different things your family has done together that you’ve enjoyed. Make sure to talk about day-to-day things as well as occasional activities you’ve done. Tell your family that *what* the family does together isn’t as important as the feeling of connectedness and closeness that everyone shares. Then talk about memories of big and little things that stand out—times when family members felt really close. It could be as small as a special moment during family prayer, or as big as a family trip. Look at family pictures together, either for family home evening or sometime during the week.



Daily Scriptures

Family

Sunday

“See that ye love one another; cease to be covetous; learn to impart one to another as the gospel requires. Cease to be idle; cease to be unclean; cease to find fault one with another. . . . And above all things, clothe yourselves with the bond of charity, as with a mantle, which is the bond of perfectness and peace.” (D&C 88:123–25)

Monday

“A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you. . . . By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.” (John 13:34–35)

Tuesday

“Children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them.” (Psalm 127:3–5)

Wednesday

“Rejoice, and be filled with the love of God. . . . And ye will not have a mind to injure one another, but to live peaceably. . . . And ye will not suffer your children that they go hungry, or naked; neither will ye suffer that they transgress the laws of God, and fight and quarrel one with another, and serve the devil, who is the master of sin, or who is the evil spirit which hath been spoken of by our fathers, he being an enemy to all

righteousness. But ye will teach them to walk in the ways of truth and soberness; ye will teach them to love one another, and to serve one another.” (Mosiah 4:12–15)

Thursday

“In the celestial glory there are three heavens or degrees; And in order to obtain the highest, a man must enter into this order of the priesthood [meaning the new and everlasting covenant of marriage]; And if he does not, he cannot obtain it. He may enter into the other, but that is the end of his kingdom; he cannot have an increase.” (D&C 131:1–4)

Friday

“If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father’s commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.” (John 15:10–12)

Saturday

“[The people of Nephi] did walk after the commandments which they had received from their Lord and their God, continuing in fasting and prayer, and in meeting together oft both to pray and to hear the word of the Lord. . . . There was no contention in the land, because of the love of God which did dwell in the hearts of the people.” (4 Nephi 1:12, 15)