

Creating Forever Families



President Parker

This is a year of family conferences. Many years ago I taught a family who held family conferences regularly. The point of their family conferences was simply to make good memories. Doing your family history lets those of you who know, help those of you that don't. I was impressed with the number of messages concerning the family in General Conference last week. Sister Oscarson talked about being defenders of the family. Elder Packer: You will do no greater work than within the walls of your own home. Elder Anderson: The family is ideal for raising children. Elder Cook: We must be in the forefront in protecting time for family. Elder Oaks: The family is part of God's plan, it is a sacred duty. The ultimate treasure in earth and heaven are our children.

The family is under attack. Satan attacks that which he cannot have, and creates substitute units. How grateful I am for the direction we receive as parents and church leaders. As a boy, I would be invited to eat at a friend's house. I would ask my mom if it was okay and she would say, "Yes, but mind your manners." And I knew what that meant. Don't put your elbows on the table, don't chew with your mouth full, say please and thank you. In Nephi 5:27 it says they lived after the manner of happiness. He had many challenges – and so do we. That verse begins with "and it came to pass." It didn't happen instantly, but it came to pass eventually. They lived after the manner of happiness – there were rules, gospel manners, that lead to happiness. Gospel manners bring the greatest happiness. We need to embrace our gospel manners. Time spent with your family provides great memories of basking in truth and gospel manners.

Our Stake Family History Day was a great success. President Parker and Steve Gough gave the keynote addresses, and then those attending experienced three rotations into several classes on how to do all

facets of Family History. One of the classes highlighted 3rd ward people as Joy Gough provided ideas and taught the importance of doing Family Conferences. The David Sperry family, the Boyacks, the Olsens, the Hopkins, the Stepan, and the Gough families were all filmed doing Family History conferences and various activities with their families. (See Smilebox posted on main page!)

President Parker has asked us to hold a family conference this summer with our families, and have it focus on family history activities. Plan one for your family, and create some great family history events that will bond your family together and connect them with their heritage. Attached is a list of activities and ideas that you can do with them. Have fun!

Family History Focused Activities and Events with Your Family

1. Do a driving tour of the homes and neighborhood where you or your ancestors lived and tell stories about what happened at each home.
2. Visit gravesites of some of your ancestors, and tell stories about them.
3. Spend a day honoring an ancestor where you tell their stories, fix the food they liked, go to the places where they lived or worked. Print a picture of them and give it to your children.
4. Find a few stories for a few ancestors that can be acted out by your families, and have a day where you gather and act out those stories. Assign one story to each family to have prepared. It may work well to narrate the stories as they are being acted out. Let props be very simple, and just enjoy the messages in the stories.
5. Spend a couple of hours learning and doing indexing together. Work in pairs so you help each other. It is more fun when you work together. Possibly make a time goal where you add up how many names have been done by each team. Reward the winners.
6. Have a family movie night where old family movies are shown. Hoot and holler and cry over some of the great memories captured. Serve popcorn and root beer floats.
7. Create a scavenger hunt at a cemetery. Photograph items previously, and print them up on a paper. Have the team members cross off each item as it is found. End up at an ancestor's gravestone and tell a story about them.
8. Go to a cemetery and do a treasure hunt of all the ancestor names whom you belong to. See how many headstones can be found, and have a treasure "buried" at the last one the treasure may be a printed story or picture, along with a treat.
9. Spend an evening or day finding an ancestor to do temple work for. Go that evening and do the work for one you have chosen. Have dinner or dessert together.
10. Have a family dinner where every family brings one dish that denotes where an ancestor originated from. Enjoy the evening talking about that ancestor and tell stories.
11. Go visit an older living family member, and have them tell you stories of their life. Record them telling the stories, then afterward type the stories up and give them to family members.
12. Go spend an hour or so at a cemetery of an ancestor and photograph the headstones with your cell phones and enter the information into Billion Graves where you can connect the pictures you have taken to the pedigrees of those people.
13. Create an event with your family where everyone wears clothes from the years that you were dating in, and tell them the story of your courtship. Play the music that was playing at the time. Make food that you ate, and have a "wedding cake" to celebrate your marriage and family.
14. Go visit a shut in person. Take a treat or meal to them. Have them talk about their life. Write down one of the stories that they told for them to have for their personal history.
15. Have a game night where you do old fashioned indoor or outdoor games with your family. Make sure you do some fun relays. Make old fashioned desserts like homemade ice cream.

16. Go visit an older relative for an afternoon; take them for a ride to visit somewhere significant to them. Bring a treat. Have them tell stories. Write those stories down. Have them show you their pictures.
17. Have grandchildren over, or teach members of your own family how to make a recipe that has been handed down from your parents or another generation. Talk about that person.
18. Invite a widow or widower for dinner that may or may not be a relative. Have them talk about their life stories.
19. Make an Ancestor Bingo game with the name FAMILY at the top. Put in each square an ancestor picture with their name included.
20. Make an ancestor matching card game with two matching cards for each ancestor.
21. At the beginning of a new year, on a special holiday, or another occasion, have each family bring 10 trivia questions with answers that pertain to their family for the previous year. Put the trivia questions in a bowl and have family members pull them out and try to answer them. Questions correctly answered are retained by the person who answered them. Prizes for the most correct answers.
22. Make homemade bubbles and watch young and old squeal and shout when they see the fabulous 1-2 foot bubbles tunnel through the air. Recipe: 1/2 cup liquid Joy soap, 1 1/2 cup water, and 1 teaspoon glycerin. Mix together and pour into a shallow flat and large in diameter dish. Make a circle wand 8-12 inches in diameter with a handle. You may need to wrap the circle with some yarn so the bubble solution sticks to it.
23. Have an evening where each family acts out a favorite scripture story with very simple props. Make sure they remember that scriptures stories are simple personal history stories written by prophets and prominent people.
24. Make a puzzle from a family portrait or ancestor picture. Find a lab in town who prints them. Keep them in your available toy collection. Talk about the family members as they put the puzzles together.
25. On the first Sunday of the month, have every family member write down a personal history story that will begin to create their personal history. Have an evening where some can share their stories.