

LESSON 1

THE PURPOSE OF TEMPLE AND FAMILY HISTORY WORK

Objective

When class members complete this lesson, they should understand basic doctrines of temple and family history work.

Preparation

In preparation for this lesson:

- Prayerfully study pages 1–5 of the *Member's Guide to Temple and Family History Work*.
- Obtain a copy of the *Member's Guide* for each class member.
- Watch the following segments of the *Temple and Family History Course DVD*. (If you are not able to show the segments, you can cover some of the same information by presenting the discussion activity that follows the showing of the segments.)
 - “Saviors on Mount Zion” (3:38 minutes)
 - “To Turn the Hearts” (4:15 minutes)
- Reserve a DVD player from the meetinghouse library for the class session.

Activity

Give each class member a copy of the *Member's Guide*. Encourage class members to study it carefully and bring it to class with them each week.

Key Points

1. The Great Plan of Happiness

Have someone read the first paragraph on page 1 of the *Member's Guide*. Then ask:

- What is Heavenly Father's plan for His children?
- What is the role of temple ordinances in our Father's plan?

After class members discuss these questions, share the statement by President Boyd K. Packer found on page 1 of the *Member's Guide*.

Bear testimony of the importance of temple blessings for each child of God.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

Notes

2. Eternal Families Are Part of the Plan

Invite someone to read President Gordon B. Hinckley's statement found on page 2 of the *Member's Guide*. Then discuss the following questions:

- What does God want for families?
- How can we help our ancestors receive the joy and happiness that come from family life?



DVD Presentation

Before showing this DVD segment, ask class members to look for how family history work is like the Savior's Atonement, although on a much smaller scale.

Show "Saviors on Mount Zion" (3:38 minutes).

Discuss

Invite class members to discuss their impressions of the DVD presentation. Then ask:

- What does it mean to become saviors on Mount Zion?

Read and discuss the statement by the Prophet Joseph Smith about how we can become saviors on Mount Zion, found on page 3 of the *Member's Guide*.

3. The Mission of Elijah

Have class members read the following scriptures:

- Malachi 4:5–6
- 3 Nephi 25:5–6
- Doctrine and Covenants 2:1–3

Ask class members:

- Why is the prophecy of Elijah's return repeated so often in the scriptures?



DVD Presentation

Before showing this DVD segment, ask class members to look for how we can turn our hearts to our ancestors.

Show "To Turn the Hearts" (4:15 minutes).

Discuss

Discuss the answers to the following questions:

- How was the prophecy of Elijah's return fulfilled?
- What can we do to turn our hearts to our ancestors?
- How might we expect to have our ancestors' hearts turned to us?

Notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

Bear testimony of the blessings that come through temple and family history work.

Encourage class members to:

- 3