

8 steps to getting to know ancestors you take to the temple

A simple universal guide that fits right in your pocket

A. Open Notes on your phone and type in the following steps:

1. What's there?
2. What's missing?
3. What can you add?
4. What questions do you have? Tasks to complete?
5. Read and extract information from sources
6. Create a Brief Life History
7. Check immediate family & repeat steps 1-6
8. Access Ordinances Ready & repeat steps 1-7

B. Floating between notes and FamilySearch apps follow along on your phone

C. Start with own tree/fan to complete steps 1-4 on all views

D. On own personal profile page complete steps 1-7

E. Step 8 is to Open Temple "Ordinances Ready" page. Find the ancestor who is ready to receive their ordinances.

Complete Steps 1-6

Then catch all that ancestor's immediate family: spouses, children, siblings, parents. Make sure they have had their ordinances completed. Repeat Steps 1-7 for each additional family member.

This is how most members of the Church are going to find their family and bring them to Christ in the temple. Easily done in minutes on your phone.

How to use our “8-Step Universal Guide” to get to know our ancestors

Open up the FamilySearch tree app on the phone and ask yourself the first four questions on every page you visit. Make notes on discoveries, what’s missing, what you can contribute and what questions you have the need to find an answer for. Ask Heavenly Father and go to the FamilySearch Center nearest you and find the answers.

Here are a list of reasons people don’t engage in Family History:

It’s too hard.

I don’t have time.

I don’t have any skill

It’s too complicated.

It’s all done.

I don’t see what my ancestors can help me with and I am overwhelmed already.

The temple work is already available, what else do they need me for?

I’m not interested – it’s boring.

Every time I hear about engaging in Family History, I feel guilty.

I cannot seem to make any headway in finding new family members to add to the tree. I go round and round in circles.

I’d rather be on social media.

I don’t see what it is that I can contribute.

Using our simple guide to get you started you will find with a prayer; Heavenly Father opens up your heart to know how to help Him minister to others through easy ways, accessing our ancestors, learning and applying their stories, and take them to the temple.

Here are some examples of how you can use the guide in ministering:

1. The person you minister to feels lonely, afraid, traumatized, discouraged. Help them tap into how their family history can help them as they discover their ancestors and learn from their lives. Just ask the first 4 questions of our guide when their tree is open on any of their ancestor’s profile pages. It can be done in minutes.
2. You are a newbie genealogists, helping at the FamilySearch Center. Someone comes in the door with a question you don’t know the answer to. Ask them to start making notes of their questions. Help them start to discover the answers by encouraging them to practice the first 4 questions on their own fan and profile page with those family members who are most closely related to them. If the first 5 generations aren’t accurate, they may not ever be able to research affectively their older ancestors. Once they enter any information they might have on their first 4 generations, they will get to know their family as well as become more skilled to research those more illusive ancestors. They will feel curious and comfortable asking a ton of questions which will eventually result in answers. Teach them that asking the most questions makes the best students.

3. You just received a calling in the Relief Society Presidency with stewardship over Temple and Family History. You are feeling out of your element. Use the guide to become familiar with how the FamilySearch website works and how it can be used to engage your sisters in simple Family Activities. This guide will add to lessons given in bite size pieces, showing them quickly how to access ordinance ready. It will help them easily get to know the ancestor they take to the temple and make sure all of the immediate family members of that ancestor have their ordinances completed. Most of us servants are called to serve in an uncomfortable calling. Prayer will fill in all we lack. Have you prayed on how you can help others with Temple and Family History? (This goes for EQ and Ward/Stake Consultants and leaders)
4. So many members of the church have a very full tree. Start with them throwing out the gospel net through the ancestors that are already on "ordinances ready". It's just waiting for them to pick up. Work with our guide starting with the person on that list and make sure all their spouses, children, siblings, parents and other spouses and children have their ordinances completed. If not, work the guide with each person who does not have ordinances reserved or completed. Create a brief life history to attach to the back of ordinance cards and take a person and their family you've come to love and serve them at the temple.
5. When one of your family members is having a really hard time, Open the FamilySearch Tree app and ask Heavenly Father how your shared ancestors' lives can serve as a comfort for that person. Show them using the "8 Step Guide" on how they can regularly open the FS tree app and hear Heavenly Father's guidance through their ancestors stories.
6. When you are helping another person on any website/page you visit use the 4 steps to extract as much information as possible from the page, recording your discovery and questions. It is an easy method for organizing your search, creating a list of questions to be answered later, keeping your enthusiasm alive. It will help you simply flesh out your family, connecting you more personally to their lives. It is a simple way to leave with tasks to pick up easily when you return to your Family History projects.
7. I'm on my way to the temple I use the guide to share with my husband about the people we will be taking to the temple.

Ideas using the "8-step Universal Guide" to build trees:

One-on-one helping other's discover their family:

.Help someone add memories to their tree. Asking the first 4-steps allows people to feel empowered immediately to contribute and not overwhelmed with what they don't know yet. We're not telling them anything, they are just figuring it out by asking themselves these questions. Show a friend at lunch, in the car or in the hallway at church. Show someone during a community or school activity or in the street with a neighbor. Here's something you could naturally say in any conversation: "I have a really cool app you may be interested in..." Encourage them to tap on any icon or drop-down boxes in Family History Websites. Start discovering and make notes on what they learned.

.Help someone grow their tree by teaching them the "8-Steps" that they can take away and repeat at home. Sometimes really good genealogists answer all their questions without giving them simple instructions on how to discover on their own. This "8-Steps" can be those instructions.

.Using this guide, help new converts simply find their family and take them to the temple soon after being baptized.

.Sit outside Bishops/Stake President's offices and help someone **leave with a temple recommend and a family member** to take to the temple (print it out right there).

Lessons/Activities:

.Teach this guide as a foundation for any Temple and Family History SS, RS, EQ, YW/YM or seminary lesson using the first 4 steps and add a brief life history right on their phone – print out ordinance cards and attach the brief life history to remind you who you are serving in the temple.

.Use this guide to create a local Community Family History Class helping others find and discover their family

.Offer a free Family History Discovery class to any organization that might need a class using this guide.
(Computer Clubs, Story writing groups, Kid's camps)

Service:

.Have a booth at a "Just Serve" event to help people quickly discover their family using these "8-steps". (Don't hesitate to have a booth at every ward/stake activity)

.Teach the 11-year-olds going to the temple how to bring their own family to the temple with this Universal guide – it will help personalize their temple experience.

.Teach the youth to serve the elderly in the ward who don't know the computer well using these "8-Steps" to find their family and reserve temple ordinances. Then go do their baptisms/confirmations for them.

.Teach the youth to share with a friend how easy it is to discover family with our guide all on the phone.

.Create a "Just Serve" project in your stake offering to teach groups of people in the community a free Family History class focused on the "8-steps".

.Use these "8 steps" as a research methodology and guide in an afterschool Family History Club.

Using the "8-step" guide create gifts for family and friends:

.Looking for a gift for Grandma? Create an illustrated storybook honoring her life.

.Put together little Grandma books to give to family of your life, their life and ancestor's lives.

. Give a teacher/neighbor/friend their family tree in a booklet with any memories you can attach on individuals. This universal guide can get you familiar on how to navigate on FamilySearch.org.

.Create an artistic Family Tree poster, placemat, quilt, embroidery or painting using the discoveries you made simply with the "8-Steps".

Connecting living family using this Guide:

.Zoom with siblings – teach them the "8-Steps" and create a monthly zoom together sharing what everyone discovered that month.

.Family members who are struggling with their testimony – show them their tree and individuals' lives to feel Heavenly Father's spirit show them the eternal nature of family. Our guide can help you.

.Offer to help family who are not members of the church, tying your family closer together in conversations. This guide is a simple one to help direct your conversation.

FIND AND BIND Activity Ideas

Our hope is you will use this work of Temple and Family History as a ministering tool. Ask Heavenly Father: “How can we use participation in Temple and Family History as a way to meet your own needs or someone in your ward’s or your own living family’s needs?”

(Think: This person is lonely, this person has trials and stress, this person needs family healing, this person has kids leaving the church, this person has testimony struggles, this person or family members has addiction trials, etc. This person is having a hard time hearing Heavenly Father.) Invite them to become involved with Temple and Family History it can help them along their covenant path.

Activity ideas: (In FamilySearch there are many “Activity” ideas to engage in)

Remember the binding goes many ways – to your ancestors, to your descendants and to your living family:

1. Help someone log in to FamilySearch and start adding their family to the shared tree.
2. Interviewing parents, grandparents, neighbors, the lonely, attaching interview (oral or written) to the memories page of FamilySearch (FS)
3. Group games where Family History (FH) is shared (i.e.: speed dating, Matching games “Whose who’s ancestors?” Upset the Fruit basket, Relays, Speed dating (call it speed connecting) etc. Any game can use the theme of Family History
4. Youth Firesides where everyone brings a family story to share and bear testimony how that family member (living or dead) has influenced their life to want to be worthy to take an ancestor to the temple.
5. Give the gift of memories to grandparent/parent (StoryWorth.com is a really good way to get their memories into a book!)
6. Give the gift of memories to posterity: Write your own personal history, preserve your own memories to FamilySearch.
7. Use family texts to share family stories.
8. Ask your ministering sister or brother about their life and make up a little booklet with their story to give to them.
9. In the car, waiting at the Dr’s. office, talk to your child/sister/parent about what and who you discovered in the FS app.
10. Family History Fair– different booths to learn how to attach memories, indexing, Discovery Experiences (a Discovery Experience is finding and binding you to your living family and ancestor in any way. One on one consulting is a very helpful way to do this.)

11. FamilySearch Center (FHC) 7-8 p.m. T, W, TH: Bring your whole family, RS, EQ, Youth group, SS class in to learn 5 ways to use a phone to Find and Bind Family. Or we'll come to you.
12. Walk-in to the FamilySearch Center – Tuesdays, Wednesdays -10-4, Thursday 10-4.
13. Bring the missionaries and their investigators into the family history and we'll help them discover their families.
14. Seminary class– participate in a discovery experience together. We can help you prepare.
15. Learn how to use “Ordinance Ready” in FamilySearch: prepare names, learn about ancestors, and do their ordinances. Glue a little life sketch to each ordinance card.
16. Use your Family Home Evening to learn the FamilySearch App. Do some of the activities, Discover and get to know your ancestors
17. Scavenger hunts among members, take a pic and record a story for the member and attach to FS
18. Progressive dinners with theme of Family History sharing
19. Identifying new members, neighbors, friends that you may help learn about their family in FS
20. Pray to know how to help someone in need by showing them their family's history.

Participate in a personal history writing class or run one.
22. Offer older folks help in getting their personal legacy put together. (I run a Guided-Legacy Building Course, I'd be happy to send you some information on how I help people put together their photos, heirlooms, stories, journals and create videos and other media to preserve it.)
23. Prepare the 11-year-olds to go to temple through a 11 to Heaven preview (like the Priesthood Preview)
24. Provide navigating FamilySearch website training. (We call it the library tour of FS)
25. Provide your RS/EQ, Primary, the Ward T & FH challenge for the year/month/week in ward or organization bulletins/newsletters/social media
26. Have a “Ancestor of the Week” (remember kids in elementary school: “Star of the Week”) during YW and YM or primary opening exercises
27. Baptize a Whole Ward on the other side of the Veil (Stake Youth planning to baptize a whole stake in summer)

28. Youth can teach their family or friends how to attach memories
29. Serve your ancestors by using the FS app: "Get Involved". Indexing helps the researchers how to find new family members. It also teaches the computer to search for new names to add to your portion of the shared tree.
30. Cultural night: Bring recipes and traditions from their ancestor's countries and teach how to attach to memories
31. Heirloom night: Bring living family traditions (games, family vacations, heirlooms, etc.) and photo and attach memories
32. Use your own personal detail page to record some of your own personal histories
33. "What kind of ancestor will you be Night": Provide prompts to be used to record a memory on that prompt (Injuries, sport competitions, drama production memories, First bike, first stitches, family vacations, etc.) attach to your own detail page. (only you can see it). Can even add up to 10 photos to go with the story.
34. Scan small sections of ancestor's already written stories circulating around the family and add to the "story" section of Memories (there is a scan tool that makes it easy to attach or take a photo of the paragraph and add a picture along with it.)
35. Take photos of family heirlooms and attach Memories and add the story of the heirloom. Whose it was and why is it important to the family?
36. Social Media on FamilySearch. The home page is all about your close ancestors. Learn who they are from the photos and documents that your living relatives have attached. You may also send them a message to learn more or organize a Family reunion.
37. Set up a story time after dinner with your family sharing stories from ancestors. Use their stories as bedtime stories.
38. Make a big bulletin board in your house or garage full of all your ancestor's photos, and/or your own grandchildren's photos.
39. Have a bulletin board in your room with most recent story you found of an ancestor.
40. How to have a "family story" conversation starter. People always have family stories they want to share.
41. Record a story of your grandparent onto their FS page, attach a photo of you and them.
42. Record an Interview with a sibling before they get baptized or go on a mission and ask them questions about their testimony and attach to FS
43. Plan a whole family vacation around your family's history. Provide a guide of stories, photos from google earth, and take photos of your family in front of the old houses and schools your ancestor attended, farms and buildings they worked in.

44. Become the true storyteller for your family. Bind the stories into a book, add photos, memorabilia.
45. Illustrate your ancestor's stories, bind and give to a parent or grandparent.
46. Use your family/relative or ancestor's stories to help a friend find courage, repentance, and forgiveness. Better yet, show them their ancestor's stories in FS to inspire them.
47. Help a younger sibling collect stories and photos directly from ancestors. Print off the memories found in FS. Bind and give to parent/grandparent for Birthday or Christmas, or Mother's/Father's Day.
48. Volunteer in Temple. Record your own stories of miracles that happen as you serve in the temple.
49. Record stories of miracles you experience as you participate in Family History as a testimony on to your personal detail page in FamilySearch.
50. Volunteer in FHC (you can be trained.) We need volunteers. All Ward TFH Consultants serving on the Ward Committee are asked to help at the Family History Center mentoring. Youth members can also volunteer.
51. Indexing parties: Get a group of friends/youth together to index together.
52. Teach others how to use their phone app for finding and binding.
53. Child feeling lonely because of divorce or some other trauma. Have them create a visual tree on the wall of their room. Use FamilySearch to talk about their relatives and cousins and then build a tree with their photos or tape a memory or story of one of their ancestors that teaches them resilience and courage. They are "never alone." – Elder Stevens
54. Family Home evening share own Families stories of miracles, priesthood blessings, hard work. Record the storytelling.
55. Set up traditions that include storytelling. At Christmas everyone shares a memory of a family member in the room and what you learn from them and what you admire about them. At Thanksgiving write a thank you note to each of your family members.
56. Collect for each Mother's Day a memory ("A Day in the Life") of each of children/grandchildren and add photos and give to Mom for Mother's Day. Or ask your children to give you a little memory from the past year as a gift each birthday.
57. Create traditions of service as a family. Record into FS the events with photos.
58. Arrange a family reunion and have a computer that can be a bank for everyone's memories. Everyone can bring their own USB stick to copy the files. The stories can be added to everyone's FS page. Or have a virtual family reunion on zoom once a year, tell you stories

59. Encourage youth to be their family's storyteller. They can draw, photograph, dramatize, record a reading, video a family event. Illustrate written story. Gather details about a relative, ancestor and write up a life sketch to share.
60. Friends struggling with trials.... turn them onto the FamilySearch App. Have them pray to know how Heavenly Father can help them through their ancestor's stories.
61. Learn how to access "Ordinance Ready" find: "Learn More" and create a life sketch from the person's detail page and sources.
62. Have Monthly Sunday night relative zooms. Do "Getting to know you games" or invent any other kind of zoom game to let everyone get to know your ancestors.
63. Have a Family Home Evening where you are given a prompt: (Like favorite hiding place in the house you all grew up in. Or What Mom and Dad tried to teach us, that we didn't ever learn? Or what characteristic did you inherit from parents?)
64. Use carpooling time, facetime with living family to share hard things experienced and help bind your living family with compassion and empathy. Share on FS how your living family helps you.
65. Write one line you know to be true and take a selfie and attach it to your own FS page (it is private, no one will see it).
66. Create a "living family history". Text cousins and other living relatives and ask them questions about growing up and what's hard in their life, how they handle trials, what are some of their hobbies, etc. Make a communal living history, bind and share with whomever wants a copy.
67. Watch "The Promised Blessings of Temple and Family History Work". Make a list of blessings you would like to claim. Then ask Heavenly Father to show you how through participating in this marvelous work of gathering and connecting our families on both sides of the veil.
68. Set a family goal of Opening the FamilySearch App and ask Heavenly Father to show us how we can learn, preserve, or share from our Ancestor's stories on a regular basis. (Maybe instead of looking at social media or sharing on social media once we find their stories/photos).
69. Bring in your youth group to church next to the temple and learn how to use "ordinance ready" on their phones. Pick ancestors to learn about the ancestors they will take to the temple and print out the cards (using sources, detail page, memories attached). Have lunch and go baptize a whole stake or ward of ancestors.
70. Ask Youth to teach a SS or Seminary lesson on their Family History and how it helps them in their lives. Find every reason to have youth help in Temple and Family History Lessons.
71. Youth interview each other about their family's history and attach to memories.

72. Open up RootsTech from previous years and find a class on getting your family involved in Family History and use to help you family during Family Home Evening.
73. Create traditions for Sunday evening journaling, writing thank you notes to family for their service.
74. Ask an organization you belong to if you can give them a quick tutorial on the FS Tree App. No need for them to log in. (you will need to log out to demonstrate on your phone – practice so it doesn't default back to your app.)
75. Encourage Bishop to ask youth to talk about their Family's history and how it affects their lives right now.
76. Integrate booths (interview or photo) in October for Family History Month activities.
77. Honor a grandparent/parent night.
78. Instead of bringing someone soup, show them how to easily use the FS Tree app to gain perspective and comfort from their own ancestors.
79. Create a High School Service/Family History Club which does all the above.
80. Connect with "Just Serve" on Family History Projects you may perform in your area. Interview elderly and help them connect to their living family with the interview.
81. Start an Introduction to FamilySearch class at any local library, Sr. Centers, Sr. Living communities or through the adult education at local colleges and universities.