

FIND AND BIND Activity Ideas (can be modified for not members)

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.

Each one of these activities can be a stand-alone Discovery Experience

Activity ideas: (In Family Search 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 Family Search 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 Family Search (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 Family Search.
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 Family Search: 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 Family Search 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.
21. 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 Family Search 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 to Memories and add the story of the heirloom. Whose was it and why is it important to the family?
36. Social Media on Family Search. 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, 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 Family Search.
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 Family Search 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. A 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 Family Search 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 Family Search 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.