

Sample

Temple and Family History Discovery Experience

This Sample 45-minute lesson curriculum can be used to share with ward mission leaders and new converts, Ward counsel, Stake Council, Ward full time missionaries, auxiliary groups, SS lesson, youth groups, EQ/RS classes – and modified for not-members)

Before participants come, encourage them to download app on the phone, log in – populate tree and browse around to see what they discover and bring usernames and passwords. This will help them follow alone on their devices. Identify as many helpers as possible to ask to come and help with the class by walking around and answering individual questions (These helpers need only know the bare minimum on FamilySearch. As long as you have one helper who is very knowledgeable, you can keep teaching.) This lets the whole class move more quickly. Ask someone to keep the class on time (listed in red) . Their job is to be curious about each participant's family history.

As the participants come into the room they may be asked by helpers if they have downloaded their Family Tree to the phone. If not, the helpers can assist. If a participant hasn't been able to do any of the above preparation, have a slide or a poster on how to do that and encourage them to do it while waiting for the lesson to start. Also be sure they have directions to see (on a slide or on the board) on **how to connect their phones to the internet.**

Write the rest of the agenda outline on board before starting (everything in green)

A. Testimony sharing

Commit, pray, share: - 5 minutes

1. Start out with a story in your personal life of how TFH (Temple and Family History) participation, simply done, has increased your own ability to deal with life's difficulties and encouraged you in your everyday life. Or how it might have helped with your own identity as a child of God, a Disciple of Christ and a member of an eternal family or personalized your experience in the temple. Ask: "How have you turned the hearts of your family to one another?"

2. **Encourage/invite** them to **COMMIT, PRAY AND SHARE:** President Nelson *"I promise you that as you increase your time in temple and family history work, you will increase and improve your ability to hear Him."*

a. **COMMIT:** to open their own "Personal Plates" daily. Your personal plates are found on your phone which include: Scriptures, Words of the prophets, Family's History on the FamilySearch Tree app. **COMMIT TO ATTENDING TEMPLE REGULARLY.**

b. When you are there (in the temple and on the FS Tree app): **PRAY** about what Heavenly Father wants you to learn, follow His promptings and then...

c. **SHARE** with someone else. Share your own experience with Commit, Pray and Share and opening your "Personal Plates" (Elder Gong speaks of this) in your own life.

B. **Discovery and service: 15 minutes total** All through the lesson repeat asking the question: **What does Heavenly Father want you to do with what you are learning? –**

1. Tree views – **5 of the 15 minutes** - ask them questions about what they are seeing (such as “who is from New Zealand, Germany, Tonga, Mexico.” Or “Who needs more stories attached?” “Did they die young?”)

Very simple research skills everyone needs to have:

What is there?

What is Missing?

Where are they from?

What can I add? (memory, source, details they might need to go home and ask)

2. Own Person profile page – **5 of the 15 minutes**

Add a memory to **your** profile page Write one thing they know to be true (one sentence) add a selfie, tag and save.

Notice:

What is there?

What is missing?

What can they add? Create a list of things to assign questions to go home and fill in.

Teach them to use phone “notes” to ask yourself questions to learn answers – Teach how to swipe and use back arrows and history tabs to navigate between multiple pages on phone. Go home and complete the following tasks:

- add more memories.
- interview grandparent and add to their memory page.
- add a source
- look at all the sources already attached

3. **ADD A BRIEF LIFE HISTORY FOR YOURSELF** **5 of the 15 minutes** **Go Home and Do the same for all immediate family:** Make sure parents, grandparents, spouse, children, siblings have all their page’s completed and create a Brief Life History for them.

Explain Private vs. Public record

4. Temple – Ordinance Ready **10 minutes**

Pick ordinance, pick a person – view relationship, view person.

Take a person, not just a name – check their sources out – it’s the bedrock of their story.

What is there?

What is missing?

What can you add?

Who has missing ordinances in that family (siblings, children, spouse, parents?) Take another person – reserve their ordinance work. Make sure their ordinances are completed.

Create a brief life history to add to their profile page

Walk in the temple with New Eyes (check out Elder Duncan's talk – A Voice of Gladness April 2023 General Conference) with your arm around your ancestor **for their first time binding themselves to the Savior.**

Print out ordinance cards.

Print out and glue a brief life history on the back of card (or write) to remind yourself who you are taking – it will be much more personal.

If you are working with older folks, and they are working on computers,

Add **15 more minutes** to the class time and teach them about the home page of their FamilySearch account. (This page is not on cell phones)

1. Begin by teaching them how to find themselves back to that home page if they get lost. (in top left corner the FS logo – the green tree- is on every page in FS).
2. Show them how they can find their tree and themselves (Under "Recents")
3. The left side of the page is like a Family Social Media page where their closer living relatives are posting. The Right Side of the page is for research and we aren't going to teach them how to research today. They can collaborate – make comments and maybe even get together with these cousins.
4. Have them make themselves a list of questions they don't understand rather than asking them to the teacher (if they have a helper, they sure can ask them.) We want them to go home and do more digging and be curious and talk to their living family to get answers and come back to the FSC to dig more. (This way the work goes on and on).

Helpers should be asking them lots of questions about their family and how they can "fill in the blanks"