

SOME



ACTIVITY

FIND

TAKE

TEACH



TALK TO YOUR GRANDMOTHER

The purpose of this activity is to get to know a family member better and possibly learn information that will help you to find more family members by searching records. You can gather family history stories and learn helpful information about important life events through interviewing a living relative (such as a parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, or other relative) or family friend.

As stories are gathered and shared, participants will be able to feel the Spirit and the love they have for their family.

TIME:

35–50 minutes

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Paper for each class member to write a family story
- Pen or pencil for each class member

Optional Materials:

- A photo or artifact that illustrates a family story you are going to share
- If appropriate for the members in your area, tablets, smartphones, or computers to record stories
- The FamilySearch Memories app
- Printed “Family Interview Questions” (located at the end of these materials)

PREPARE

- 1. Review the activity instructions below.
- 2. Gather all materials needed for the class.
- 3. Prayerfully select a relative to contact. This could be a member of your immediate family or an extended family member.
- 4. Think of the things you would like to ask.
- 5. Contact and interview the relative.
- 6. Record the stories you hear and other helpful information and add them to FamilySearch. If desired, you can record the family member sharing his or her own story using the FamilySearch Memories app.
- Optional:* Ask a class member to come prepared to share a family story he or she would like preserved—something that makes the person appreciate the family more or that strengthens the person when times are difficult or that just makes him or her happy.
- Optional:* Gather examples of how people have contacted and recorded memories of their relatives.

CONDUCT THE ACTIVITY

We encourage you to modify this activity as needed and to use your own ideas and creativity as you accommodate to the needs and the interests of the people in your area.

Step 1: Introduce the Activity

Bear your testimony of the importance of family stories, and invite the class to preserve their family history stories by interviewing family members and then adding these stories to FamilySearch.

Step 2: Discuss the Importance of Gathering and Recording Stories

Share that in Nigeria they have a saying that when an old man dies, a library burns. You can save your family library by recording your family stories now. Ask the class to think of someone who could share family stories with them. Ask them to write the name down. Point out that the Spirit probably helped them think of that person.

Step 3: Share Your Story

Tell the class about your personal experience recording a family story.

Step 4: Gather and Record Stories

Discuss ways you can record family stories. (For example, you could take notes and write the story from the notes, use an audio recorder, film the person, record the person using a digital device with the FamilySearch Memories app, call the person and record the stories over the phone, and so on.) If circumstances permit, invite class members to record the story directly on the Memories mobile app.

If class members have family members present in the room, invite them to interview one of them and to record the

interview. Class members can refer to the family interview questions to begin, or they can come up with their own questions. Encourage them to take pictures and to have fun creating memories.

You could also encourage class members to call a family member to interview over the phone. This will allow those who do not have family members present to participate in the activity and learn something new about their family. Allow them sufficient time to learn new family stories and to gather information from the family members they call. (Where possible, encourage class members ahead of time to mention this call to the family member they will be interviewing so he or she will be prepared to receive the call.)

Spend most of the activity time gathering and recording stories.

Step 5: Share Stories

Invite a few of the class members to share an interesting story they discovered.

Step 6: Add Memories to FamilySearch

Invite class members to visit FamilySearch and add their recorded memories. Provide a demonstration of how to do this if needed (and if time allows).

Step 7: Invite

Ask the class to continue recording and sharing family stories with their children and other family members.

ADDITIONAL IDEAS FOR CONDUCTING THE ACTIVITY

Below are some additional ideas for this activity. You do not have to use these additional ideas.

Idea 1: Briefly show how simple it is to add stories to or write stories in Family Tree. Show how class members can improve them or fix mistakes. If you have available computers, help them to add the story they wrote down to FamilySearch. If you do not have a computer for each person to use, rotate users, and ask those class members who use the computers first to help another class member to do this activity when it is his or her turn at the computer.

Idea 2: Conduct a live interview with someone in the stake that has an interesting story. Discuss why it would be important to have this person's story recorded.

Idea 3: Ask children to interview parents or grandparents who are with them at the family history fair and to have the information recorded in

FamilySearch.org. You could also send youth home with a list of questions to learn more about their grandparents.

Idea 4: If family members are called for a phone interview, you might have a discussion following the activity about where these family members were located, who made the furthest call, and what information class members were able to learn.

Idea 5: If bandwidth permits you might set up Skype, Google Chat, or FaceTime stations where class members can talk with and interview family members who are not present. Encourage class members ahead of time to mention this call to the family member they will be interviewing so he or she will be prepared to receive the call.

FAMILY INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Below are questions that you might ask to learn more about your parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, and other relatives. Select the questions that you feel would be best to ask your family member, or create your own questions.

1. What is one of your favorite childhood memories?
2. What was your most embarrassing moment?
3. What do you remember about your grandmother or grandfather?
4. What is one of your favorite family memories?
5. How is life different now than when you were a child?
6. What was your favorite food or toy as a child?
7. What was your favorite family tradition?
8. What activities did you participate in as a youth?
9. Did you go to church as a child? If so, what was it like?
10. What was your house like as a child?
11. What occupations did your father and mother have?
12. What is one life lesson that you learned from your father or mother (or both)?
13. When you were young, what did you want to be when you grew up?
14. What was your favorite subject to study in school?
15. What jobs have you had? What did you like about them?
16. Where is an interesting place you have traveled to?
17. How did you meet your spouse?
18. What was it like having a family and raising children?
19. What does family mean to you?
20. What would you like future generations of your family to remember about you?
21. _____? (Create your own question.)
22. _____? (Create your own question.)
23. _____? (Create your own question.)
24. _____? (Create your own question.)