

# Family History for Beginners

FIND

TAKE

TEACH



## EVERYONE IS PART OF AN **ETERNAL FAMILY**

The purpose of this lesson is to motivate Church members to make family history part of their worship and to use the Sabbath day to accomplish family history work as a family. This lesson is designed to help class members further discover their eternal families. Regardless of age or marital status, everyone is part of Heavenly Father's eternal family.

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### LESSON SEGMENTS:

**Presentation Time:** 30–40 minutes

**Activity Time:** 60 minutes

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### MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Computer
- Projector
- Presentation slides
- Printed handouts

### PREPARE

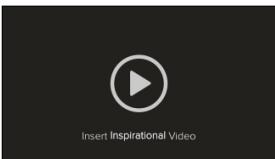
- 1. Review the presentation slides, videos, activities, and other resources provided in the lesson. Select those appropriate for your class. You must select at least one inspirational video and one activity. Slides will direct you where videos and activities should be placed.
- 2. Download lesson videos in advance and save videos to your computer. When presenting, play videos from your computer and delete the “insert video slide,” or add videos to the slides using the **Insert video** tab (insert the videos from your computer, not the website).
- 3. Run through the presentation slides before teaching this lesson to make sure all the slides and videos are working properly.
- 4. Print handouts to share with the class.

*Refrain from focusing too much on technical details, such as record types and how to find them. Avoid telling stories of ancestors who are difficult to find so that class members are not scared away. Refrain from sharing personal biases about which family tree program to use.*

## INTRODUCTION



### Welcome



Insert an “Inspirational” video provided in the materials list, and show it to the class.



Explain that the family history experience is life changing. In a training meeting with Church leaders, Elder Quentin L. Cook of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles taught the importance of family history and outlined a new approach to family history: Find a name, take it to the temple, and teach others what you have learned to do.

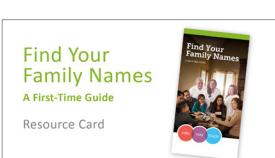


Insert the “Find, Take, Teach” video provided in the materials list, and show it to the class.



Share with the class your experience finding a name and taking it to the temple. Ask class members to share their experiences as well.

Explain that the purpose of this class is to help each class member further discover their eternal families by following the steps to Find, Take, and Teach.



Introduce class members to the *Find Your Family Names: A First-Time Guide* resource card. Briefly explain the three different paths to find names.



Find out which path each class member should use by listing the three paths and asking class members to raise their hand when you read the path that best corresponds with what their family tree looks like. You may also ask how many are unsure of what their tree looks like and encourage them visit FamilySearch.org after the lesson to find out.

Explain that most family trees are not symmetrical, so class members may need to follow more than one path to expand the different branches of their tree. Encourage class members to prayerfully seek guidance from the Spirit on where to start.

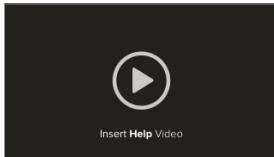


On this path, none of your parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents appear in the family tree. It is rare to have a completely empty tree, but if that is the case, the easiest people to find are those in the first four generations. Living relatives often remember these family members.

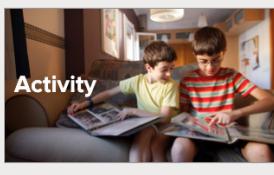
Share a story of one of your ancestors, or ask a class member to share a story. Ask class members how they feel as they listen to or share family stories. Sharing family stories is one way to begin participating in family history.



Introduce the class to the *My Family: Stories That Bring Us Together* booklet. Explain that all three groups can fill out either the paper booklet or go to FamilySearch.org/myfamily to fill out the electronic version. Use the booklet to preserve family information such as photos, names, dates, and precious family stories.



If needed, show the class a “Help” video related to using the *My Family: Stories That Bring Us Together* booklet from the materials.



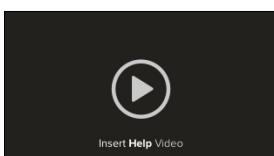
Invite participants to turn to someone sitting next to them and share a story about their parents, grandparents, or great-grandparents. Give them 2 or 3 minutes to do this.



Invite all class members to write down and upload a story or upload a photo of an ancestor.



On this path, where much of the work has been done back to the early 1800s, you can often find success in looking for descendants of an early ancestor.



Ask a class member to share a personal experience finding a family name using descendancy view or show a “Help” video from the materials list to the class.



Invite class members to take the *Find Your Family Names: A First-Time Guide* resource card home, and then they can go to FamilySearch.org/Find-Take-Teach and follow the steps on the resource card to find a family name. Encourage them to find names as a family when possible.



On this path, some of your parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents appear in the family tree. To expand the tree, class members can use Landscape View on FamilySearch.org to expand their tree and look for green temple icons. To get started, go to FamilySearch.org/Find-Take-Teach, and follow the steps on the resource card for this path.

Class members with a partial tree can also follow either of the other paths, depending on which branch of their tree they are working on.



Ask a class member to share a personal experience finding a family name on his or her tree.



As you conclude the lesson, we encourage you to extend an invitation to the class to take the *Find Your Family Names: A First-Time Guide* resource card home and use it to find a name. Then they can take the name to the temple and teach their family and others to do the same. Remind the class of the blessings that come through family history, and encourage the class to do family history work with their immediate and extended family members.

Regardless of membership status or activity level, all family members can enjoy the blessings of family history. Assure the class that there are consultants who can help them, no matter their tree status.

## Closing

