

Family at the Center: Making the Family History Center a Sacred Place



*“Jesus said several times, ‘Come, follow me.’ His was a program of ‘do what I do,’ rather than ‘do what I say.’... He walked and worked with those he was to serve. His was not a long-distance leadership. He was not afraid of close friendships.... The leaven of true leadership cannot lift others unless we are with and serve those to be led” (Spencer W. Kimball, “Jesus: The Perfect Leader,” *Ensign*, Aug. 1979, p5).*

THE ROLE OF THE CENTER

Centers are a resource for priesthood leaders and consultants to minister in the work of salvation, including missionary work, convert retention, activation of less-active members, temple and family history work, and teaching the gospel.

Centers inspire and help Church members engage in family history activities, including sharing and preserving family stories and photos, and indexing.

Centers provide personalized assistance, training, research expertise, and convenient access to family history resources.

Learn more about your calling by visiting the family history callings page at www.lds.org/fhcallings.

THE ONE-ON-ONE EXPERIENCE

The purpose of the one-on-one experience is to help individuals based on their needs and understanding, while making family history a spiritual work grounded in good research.

1. Prepare spiritually.
2. Discover family goals.
3. Review trees ahead of time.
4. Prepare and deliver personalized lesson plans.
5. Consider how you can help the family take names to the temple.
6. Find others to teach.

Learning more about how to help others have personal family history experiences at www.lds.org/helpingothers.



ONE-ON-ONE EXPERIENCES AT THE CENTER

As you teach individuals at your center, you will help your guests have powerful heart-turning experiences. Follow these best practices as you plan and prepare for individual needs:

- Coordinate with priesthood leaders on member and area needs.
- Pray and allow the Spirit to guide you in how to bring one-on-one experiences to your center.
- Pray to be guided by the Spirit as you research and prepare for each person you help.
- Allow each center consultant to participate in their own one-on-one lesson.
- Follow the principles outlined in the Helping Others Love Family History lesson plan found here: www.lds.org/fhpreparelesson.

Follow these practical strategies as you teach to individual needs:

- Help walk-ins have a meaningful first-time experience. Invite them to come back for a personal lesson.
- Ensure each center consultant understands and feels comfortable teaching to individual needs.
- Invite youth and families to come to the center for a personalized experience.
- Invite leaders to participate in having a personal family history lesson.
- Have leaders invite members and those in their area to attend the family history center.
- Support the full-time missionaries in their family history efforts.

SPIRITUAL CENTER EXPERIENCES

Ensure that everyone has a good experience when they come to the family history center. Use these best practices spontaneously to help ensure guest interactions are positive and heart-turning:

1. Keep a prayer in your heart, and allow the Spirit to guide you as you work with others.
2. Listen to the Holy Ghost, and learn how the Holy Ghost speaks to you.
3. Use the one-on-one principles spontaneously.

Helpful Hints and Questions

► Ask about a specific ancestor.

Is there someone that has been on their mind?

Is there someone they would like to learn more about?

► Use historical records to learn more about individual ancestors.

► Search for images, articles, and records of an individual ancestor.

If patrons already have a document, image, or article to scan, ask them a question about the ancestor in this document, image, or article.

► Look for opportunities to provide walk-ins and guests to have a heart-turning experience.

If patrons are looking for details about a certain ancestor, ask them what they already know, and encourage them to record these memories.

Invite guests to record one memory while they are at the center.

Invite walk-ins to have a follow-up one-on-one experience.

If patrons don't know any information about a specific ancestor, ask if there is a family member they can call or contact who would have more information.