

Ministering with Temple and Family History

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Loving and ministering to friends, neighbors, and those you are assigned is the perfect opportunity for you to share what you know about temple and family history. Come and learn how to invite others to come unto Christ using your love for family history. This class highlights natural and fun ways family history can lead to meaningful ministering.

Objectives of presentation

Provide vision: Ministering and temple and family history are one work—gathering and strengthening Heavenly Father’s children on both sides of the veil.

Provide how-to suggestions: Provide simple ideas that help members seek the Spirit and know how to incorporate temple and family history work into their own ministering.

What is ministering? What is temple and family history work? Where do these definitions overlap?

1. We can seek to help friends, neighbors, and ward members take the next step on the covenant path as we focus on life events—births, deaths, reunions, ordinances, ordinations, and so on.

2. We can seek to help those to whom we minister help their ancestors take the next step on the covenant path. Focus on children, youth, and adults capturing memories, finding names, and taking those names to the temple. We might start with:

- New and returning members.
- Children approaching January of the year they turn 12 and receiving a limited-use recommend.
- Those who have lost a loved one (memories, photos, funeral talks, holidays).
- Anyone we minister to who might want a supportive friend helping navigate temple and family history work.

3. Apply the ministering principles of flexible, customized, and Spirit led to family history. Make family history part of your ministering toolbox. Share your gifts!

- Flexible: Start where they are. Help them connect and belong.
- Customized: May or may not be about research. Could be focused on memories and family information.
- Spirit led: Listen for what someone really needs. Ideas could include planned or spontaneous activities.

For more information, see ministering.lds.org.

Ten Ideas to Get Started

We have spent the last two months testing each of these ideas in a ministering setting. Today, we're prepared to share what we learned—the successes and the not-so successes.

1. Talk about a tradition. (Jenifer)
2. Record a family memory. (Tony)
3. Make a recipe. (Jenifer)
4. Share a photo. (Jenifer)
5. Take a class together. (Jenifer)
6. Attend the temple together. (Jenifer, Tony)
7. Record an oral history. (Jenifer)
8. Share the *My Family: Stories That Bring Us Together* booklet. (Tony)
9. Find a family name. (Tony)
10. Start or add to a tree and do research. (Tony)

Please share your experiences with us of ministering with temple and family history! Email them to the addresses on the previous page.