

Serving as a Temple and Family History Consultant

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“The Lord is hastening His work to gather Israel. That gathering is the most important thing taking place on earth today. . . . And if you choose to, if you want to, you can be a big part of it. You can be a big part of something big, something grand, something majestic!”

—Russell M. Nelson, Worldwide Youth Devotional, June 3, 2018

Class Objectives

This class will address the following questions:

- Why me?
- What is family history?
- What is my role?
- What do I do?
- How do I help others?
- How do I succeed?

Why Me?

Many different talents and abilities are helpful in this calling. You may have been called because of your ability to work well with people, your organizational skills, your experience with technology, or maybe even your love for the temple or family history.

Whatever the reason, and whatever strengths you bring to the calling, your efforts will bless generations.

What is Family History?

Many temple and family history consultants and members believe that family history is difficult to do, that it is overly technical, or that it is only for “the older generation.” You have the opportunity to change this mindset as you help others experience the simple joys of family history and help them partake of its many blessings.

Family history is about finding inspiration in a family’s story, both past and present. It includes discovering and sharing interesting details about homelands and traditions in natural and normal ways.

What Is my Role?

WARD TEMPLE AND FAMILY HISTORY LEADER

Your great blessing will be to oversee temple and family history efforts in your ward. It is an important part of the gathering of Israel and the work of salvation. As you prepare spiritually and love those you serve, you will know how to best share the joy to that comes from discovering, gathering, and connecting with family—on both sides of the veil.

Your specific responsibilities will be determined by your local priesthood leadership based on individual unit needs.

Possible responsibilities:

- Receive direction from the bishop and elders quorum president and counsel with the Relief Society president (or assigned counselor) to make an action plan for temple and family history work in the ward
- Help members (including youth and new and returning members) prepare for and attend the temple
- Raise awareness of the blessings of attending and serving in the temple.
- Help members discover and share family history experiences in natural and normal ways.
- In coordination with the Primary Presidency, help children turning 12 and their families discover and gather their ancestors through temple and family history work and prepare to receive a limited-use recommend.
- In coordination with the ward mission leader, help those being taught the missionary lessons to learn about the temple, discover their family history, and prepare names for temple ordinances.
- Provide direction and onboarding orientation to temple and family history consultants.

TEMPLE AND FAMILY HISTORY CONSULTANT

At the Leadership Session at RootsTech 2108, Elder Bradley G. Foster spoke directly to temple and family history consultants. “You consultants have one of the most exciting and profound callings in the Church. Heavenly Father wants all of His children home again, ‘in families and in glory.’ Imagine your unique role in that plan.”

Elder Foster emphasized the role of a consultant in creating moments of discovery for the individuals and families they serve. “One of the most important things a temple and family history consultant can do is to create personal moments of discovery for the people they help. You will strive to help all members have their own moment of discovery. That same spirit we feel upon discovering our family moves us to gather them. Everyone deserves to be remembered.

“We do that through stories, photos, and other memories, along with the names, dates, and places into the family tree. This family effort connects and binds us together in love on both sides of the veil. It heals us and ultimately seals us for eternity through the covenants and ordinances of the temple.

“Under the direction of your priesthood leaders, as you minister to those you are called to help, angels will accompany you and them.”

What do I do?

Your calling is to help people have inspiring family experiences that point to the temple. As you do, you’ll share the joy to that comes from discovering, gathering, and connecting with family—on both sides of the veil.

Some areas of focus may include:

- Supporting families in their efforts to attend the temple and discover more about their family and homelands.
- Helping members, including youth, new, and returning members, to identify ancestors awaiting temple ordinances.
- Finding ways to help members discover and share family stories and records in natural and normal ways.
- Supporting ward or stake temple and family history goals.

How do I help others?

A good way to engage others in temple and family history is through personalized family history experiences. A personalized family history experience is a meeting between a temple and family history consultant and an individual or family where the consultant shares an activity or family history information prepared especially for that meeting. This can take place in a home or another convenient location that is conducive to the Spirit. As members engage in personalized family history experiences, they learn more about themselves, grow in their testimony of the plan of salvation, and gain strength to overcome trials.

How Do I Succeed?

Many resources have been created to help you succeed in your calling, including a getting started orientation. This orientation, along with additional resources, can be accessed through www.familysearch.org/callings

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