



I Want to Take Family Names to the Temple, Where Do I Start?

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Many people don't know how to take their own family names to the temple. It is possible. In this class we'll help you see how to find and reserve names, what help is available, and what you can do now.

Benefits of family history

President Russell M. Nelson has said, “Anytime you do anything that helps anyone—on either side of the veil—take a step toward making covenants with God and receiving their essential baptismal and temple ordinances, you are helping to gather Israel.” Participating in temple and family history work enables the salvation of the dead but it also brings joy and blessings to the living. Those that do the work can see their ancestors as people with hardships, triumphs, shortcomings and they can feel a sense of connection and belonging.

What is FamilySearch?

FamilySearch is a nonprofit family history organization dedicated to connecting families across generations and is the largest genealogy organization in the world. The services provided at familysearch.org are free and allow access to historical records, a community building a public tree, volunteer opportunities, cloud storage for family memories, mobile applications, and much more. FamilySearch is a service provided by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and is the primary tool for

reserving family names for the temple.

The Family Tree

Start with the following question, “Does my current family tree allow me to take names to the temple?” Remember that your first few generations matter and are foundational. Start by filling out as much of your first four generations on familysearch.org as you can. Don’t worry if someone else has done all the temple work, or if you think it is too technical, or if you think you don’t have time. Just begin. Remember the following:

1. You’ll need a free LDS Account if you don’t already have one. Your LDS Account is the same account you would use for signing into Gospel Library, lds.org, online donations, LDS Tools, etc. Your ward clerk can help you get the information you need to create an account.
2. The Family Tree is collaborative. The purpose of the tree is to work together and share information, so we can create a record of all of God’s children. Each ancestor in the tree has a unique ID number. Deceased people can be seen by anyone with an account and living people can only be seen by the person who adds them. You can also access the tree by using the free Family Tree app.
3. Certain Information is required for reserving names in order to perform temple ordinances. If the person is not a close relative to you and was born less than 110 years ago, you’ll need permission to perform the ordinance. The following is required to generate a name to take to the temple: name, sex, deceased, one date and one place. “Reserving” means that you’ve indicated to others that you’re going to perform the ordinances. You can also share names with the temple. “Ordinances Ready” is under the temple tab in the Family Tree app and is a new feature that can help with this process.
4. It’s always helpful to find a helper. Most people don’t like to be alone with technical experiences. FamilySearch is often easiest to navigate with a friend that has used the tool. There is help available at RootsTech, online at familysearch.org, from stake and ward consultants, from friends, and in local family history centers.

A few things you can do now

1. Sign in with your LDS account. FamilySearch, like other church applications, is free.
2. Look at your first four generations. Connecting the first few generations in Family Tree enables FamilySearch to find more about your family.
 - a. If your first few generations are full, stay in the tree and start working to find/prepare a name to take to the temple.
 - b. If first few generations are empty, start to gather information (start with “My Family” booklet or tri-fold pamphlet), and then put the information into the Family Tree online. Talking to your immediate and extended family is the best place to start. Some family members will be willing to share, others may not be. Seek the Spirit to guide you in your approach.
3. Use “Ordinances Ready” in the FamilySearch Family Tree app.
 - a. When you’re planning to go to the temple, you can use “Ordinances Ready” to reserve an ancestor’s ordinances.
 - b. “Ordinances Ready” will look for a name through several different approaches.
 - c. In the future, Ordinances Ready will allow you to easily exchange temple names with your extended family, ward members, and stake members.
4. Go to the temple with YOUR family names. You can print cards from the temple icon/tab.
5. Research your family to identify more ancestors to add to the tree. Historical records that have been indexed can provide hints (look for blue record icons). Once you find a hint you can compare names, dates, places, relationships and decide if it’s about your ancestor. If it is, you can attach that record and save the information to that person in Family Tree. Some records will provide clues to other relatives not added yet to Family Tree.

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