

Consultants: Nurturing the New and Tender in the Gospel

“We invite all of God’s children on both sides of the veil to come unto their Savior, receive the blessings of the holy temple, have enduring joy, and qualify for eternal life” (Russell M. Nelson, “Let Us All Press On,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2018, 118–119).

“We encourage everyone to get on the covenant path as soon as possible—even and especially when they are new and tender in the gospel—and then stay focused on the blessings of the temple....Those who are new and tender in the gospel include 12-year-old youth and new converts.... As they are focused on temple and family history work, more will remain active. More will be protected when storms and fierce winds strike. We invite all new converts and new 12-year-olds to discover and gather their families and become active participants in the plan of salvation.... Involvement in family history helps these members feel close to the temple, regardless of where the temple is located. It’s not a matter of geography” (Dale G. Renlund, RootsTech Family History Leadership Session, 2018).

“That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him” (Ephesians 1:10).

Gathered into Garners – Alma 26:5-6 “To be gathered, each of God’s children needs to receive, in person or vicariously, baptism and confirmation. Once they are gathered by baptism and confirmation, they are to receive, in person or vicariously, the ordinances of the temple.

“Receiving the ordinances of the temple is something the Book of Mormon refers to as being gathered into garners. This . . . gathering provides these protections: ‘Yea, they shall not be beaten down by the storm at the last day; yea, neither shall they be harrowed up by the whirlwinds; but when the storm cometh they shall be gathered together in their place, that the storm cannot penetrate to them; yea, neither shall they be driven with fierce winds whithersoever the enemy listeth to carry them’” (Dale G. Renlund, RootsTech Family History Leadership Session, 2018).

New Converts

“If I were a missionary today, my two best friends would be the ward mission leader and the ward temple and family history consultant.” (Russell M. Nelson, RootsTech 2017).

“Every new convert needs three things:

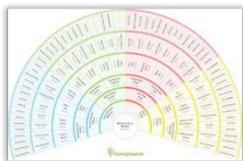
1. “A friend....

2. “A responsibility....

3. “‘Nourished by the good word of God’

(Moroni 6:4)” (Gordon B. Hinckley, “Find the Lambs, Feed the Sheep,” *Ensign or Liahona*, May 1999, 108.

Family History



Typically viewed as the activities of learning about ancestry

Temple



Viewed as the goal, but often somewhat separate from Family History

A study commissioned by the Church shows there is a consistent disconnect between family history and the vision of going to the temple. Family history activities of learning about their ancestry (such as completing family trees, indexing, filling out the *My Family: Stories That Bring Us Together* booklet only), did not necessarily connect or lead people to the temple. Focus was on the task rather than the principle.

Connect doing family history with the temple. Do NOT put an artificial boundary between them.

“When recent converts perform baptisms and confirmations in the temple with family names within the first two months, convert retention improves significantly.... The work is hastening on both sides of the veil ... and we must hasten the work on this side by beginning with the end in mind” (Brent H. Neilson, RootsTech Family History Leadership Session, 2018).

Conversion with Temple and Family History: Being converted to temple and family history work motivates people to commit to baptism so they can bless their family members in the temple; people learn the purpose of the temple, and this creates anticipation for the blessings of the temple.

Family History has a positive impact on retention: Recent converts who participated in family history and temple work indicated having strong spiritual experiences they could often recall and reference. They also indicated they often shared that experience with a friend or member. There is a strong correlation between family history and retention.

Youth Turning 12

“We desire to involve 11-year-old children and even younger children in family history work and encourage them to qualify for a limited-use temple recommend when they turn 12 years old. We desire to involve every new convert who is 12 years old and older in family history work and obtain a limited-use recommend” (Dale G. Renlund, RootsTech Family History Leadership Session, 2018).

“If I were a bishop, Primary leader, youth leader, parent, or anyone else who loves a child and wants to see him or her stay on the covenant path, one of my best friends would be the ward temple and family history consultant” (Dale G. Renlund, RootsTech Family History Leadership Session, 2018).

These specific benefits come to children who participate in family history:

1. Receive an increase in confidence. More resilience, more self-control, and less anxiety.
2. Have a sense that they are part of something greater and have a feeling of belonging.
3. Are led to pray and better understand how to listen to the Spirit.

4. Can have a powerful influence in encouraging their family members to take part in discovering, gathering, and then connecting ancestors by performing ordinances in the temple. Family history work is missionary work.
5. Often have a pure and simple faith that helps them to be successful as they do family history research.
6. Learn the blessings of family history.
7. Are excited to go to the temple. (Joy D. Jones, RootsTech Family History Leadership Session, 2018).

New Guidelines for Temple and Priesthood Preparation Meeting

I can “[increase] in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man” (Luke 2:52). I can “be about my Father’s business” (Luke 2:49) and understand my role in God’s plan. I can go to the temple with my family (Luke 2:41–47) as circumstances permit.

Activities for Youth and Families

“Children resonate to meaningful family stories and love discovery experiences.... Working with children might require different methods than working with adults. But I promise you that it’s worth the effort...plus, it can be fun” (Joy D. Jones, RootsTech Family History Leadership Session, 2018).

“Leaders—and especially temple and family history consultants—not only teach what needs to be done, but also promise the blessings that flow as a result of uniting eternal families on both sides of the veil. Whenever we teach an important doctrine, we also teach the blessings that flow as a result of living the doctrine” (Quentin L. Cook, RootsTech Family History Priesthood Leadership Session, 2018).

“Your worship in the temple and your service there for your ancestors will bless you with increased personal revelation and peace and will fortify your commitment to stay on the covenant path” (Russell M. Nelson, “We Go Forward Together,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, April 2018, 7).