

Turning the Hearts of the Children to Their Fathers

By Sister Kathy Christensen

Question: What can busy, active families do to connect with their grandparents, ancestors, and their heritage?

Here are several ideas to get Latter-day Saint families started.

Several would make fun and interesting family home evening lessons.

- 1) Take the children/grandchildren to visit an elderly grandparent, aunt or uncle and ask them questions relating to their life experiences. Use your cell phone to record their stories and take a photo of them with your kids.
- 2) Gather photo copies of as many ancestors as you can find. Many may have already been posted on FamilySearch sites. For family home evening, mix up the photos and see how many the children can identify. Put several photos in inexpensive frames and place them around the house.
- 3) Play charades with children or grandchildren, using clues from incidents in the lives of family members or ancestors. After the clue is guessed correctly, show a photo of that person. It's fun to use simple props like a shawl, cowboy hat, cane, etc.
- 4) Using the internet, research some heroes on your family tree. Later you can collect and print booklets with stories of their lives and deeds.
e.g.: Mayflower passenger, pioneers, Great Depression, WWI, WWII, inventors, friend of a prophet, homesteader, poet, statesman, etc.
- 5) Have a celebration of the one hundredth birth date of a grandparent or other family member. This could easily be worked into a family reunion.
- 6) Write you own life story. Include many photos, stories, testimony, mission call, etc. Print copies on paper or provide electronic copies for family members.
- 7) Take your children or grandchildren to the Family History Center and look up basic information on one or two of their ancestors. If possible, find one with photos or add photos.
- 8) For a family vacation visit historical places where your ancestors lived, worked, explored, fought in wars, where temple marriages occurred, etc.
 - a. Nauvoo
 - b. Winter Quarters
 - c. Homestead areas like NE Idaho, Southern Utah, New England
 - d. Battle fields, etc.
- 9) Hang up a world map and let children pinpoint where different ancestors came from, travelled to, or served a mission. Their names can be printed on small slips of paper and attached to each pin.
- 10) When appropriate, pass down family keepsakes and heirlooms. Clearly label each item with names and importance, such as: item which crossed the plains, used during a war, item worn, their Bible or Book of Mormon, hymn book, diary, figurine, and antique furniture.
- 11) For additional ideas visit: familysearch.org/discovery/

Take lots of photos with the older generation. Most of us link our early memories of family to the photos that were taken with them.