

Finding Joy With Ward Temple and Family History Consultants and Missionaries

President Russell M. Nelson perhaps said it best:

If I were a missionary today,
my two best friends in the ward or branch
in which I would be serving would be the ward
mission leader and the ward temple
and family history consultant.

People have an inborn desire to know
something about their ancestors.

President Russell M. Nelson

Regardless of what your calling is in the Church, we are all brothers and sisters in the Gospel. Fellowshiping is a key ingredient in embracing the Gospel plan. Our ward temple and family history consultants are ready and able to assist members of our ward. Never underestimate the inborn desire to know something about ones ancestors. Below are some principles for helping others that all of us need to embrace. Together when we coordinate our efforts for others. And when are aligned with the missionaries, the Lord will be with us. Join hands to together and take notice of your own family history needs near and far and don't hesitate to contact a ward temple and family history consultant for assistance. Ward consultants can examine your family trees remotely directly from FamilySearch to offer you suggestions of what can be done. Then meeting together one-on-one will not be an introductory occurrence but rather an action-oriented encounter with a plan-of-action in place to possibly implement. All that is needed is a cordial message to your ward consultant and they will have FamilySearch send you an email to grant them access to your Family Tree to initiate this opportunity for consultation in advance of any formal meeting.

Principles for Helping Others

Following fundamental gospel principles will help you succeed in your temple and family history calling as well as members of your ward in fellowshiping together when doing temple and family history efforts.

Pray

Prayer leads to inspiration and is an essential component in every aspect of the experience. Pray as you prepare to meet the needs of the individual or family. Pray to be led to ancestors who are waiting for their temple ordinances to be completed. Consider inviting those you are helping to pray and seek inspiration as well.

Prepare

Preparation builds confidence in yourself and trust between you and those you serve. It also contributes to an effective experience. In preparing, you identify opportunities in advance and how to share them. You also identify pitfalls to avoid and successes to celebrate. Be sensitive to difficult family relationships or

complex family trees. When possible, create opportunities in temple and family history service that family members can enjoy together.

Minister One-on-One

To minister is to focus on creating an experience that brings joy to others. We show great kindness when we listen to and care about “the one.” Experiences should fit the individual’s knowledge of family history and should be considerate of his or her time. Seek opportunities to show increased love for those you are helping.

Invite

Personalized experiences should include an invitation to learn by doing. Temple and family history service provides opportunities for individuals to participate in the plan of salvation and receive spiritual strength. Our invitations to act are intended to be simple and achievable.

Putting These Principles Into Action!

Consider the words of Elder David A. Bednar.

**Preaching the gospel and seeking after
our dead are... one great work.**

Elder David A. Bednar

To hear the counsel of both of these two General Authorities of our Church, click on this link to view a 3:55 minute video based on a true-story when their stake was struggling. The URL is <https://www.familysearch.org/calling/?page=3>. And when both ward consultants and missionaries are involved, even more progress can be generated as these two General Authorities have clearly articulated.



