

Sacred Places Upon the Earth

Building our foundation on the Lord Jesus Christ through temples.



Holiness to the Lord

The temple is the house of the Lord where sacred promises and covenants are made with Heavenly Father. In this booklet you will find three lessons to help you and your family better understand the importance of the temple and the blessings it can bring.

Before the Feather River California Temple is dedicated, it will be open to the public for tours. Please invite friends and family to attend the open house with you to share the beauty and peace of the temple.

LESSON 1

Building Temples Unto the Lord

THE TEMPLE IS CENTERED IN THE SAVIOR

Everything in the temple points us to Jesus Christ. As we participate in temple ordinances, we are assured that He is mindful of us. He is involved in our lives and He is dedicated to our eternal happiness. His presence can be felt as we strive to follow Him in our daily lives. As we draw closer to the Savior, we learn more about Him. His life provides a perfect pattern of righteousness and happiness for all of us.

SUGGESTED MUSIC

"Families Can Be Together Forever,"
Hymn 300

"The Lord Gave Me a Temple,"
Children's Songbook 153

INTRODUCTION

"The temple is a sacred place, and the ordinances in the temple are of a sacred character. Because of its sacredness, we are sometimes reluctant to say anything about the temple to our children and grandchildren.

As a consequence, many do not develop a real desire to go to the temple, or when they go there, they do so without much background to prepare them for the obligations and covenants they enter into.

I believe a proper understanding or background will immeasurably help prepare our youth for the temple. This understanding, I believe, will foster within them a desire to seek their priesthood blessings just as Abraham sought his." (EZRA TAFT BENSON, "WHAT I HOPE YOU WILL TEACH YOUR CHILDREN ABOUT THE TEMPLE," AUGUST 1985)

LESSON

Display a picture of the Feather River California Temple. (see the cover of this booklet)

Ask members of your family what they think of when they see the temple. (*Heavenly Father, the Savior, the Holy Ghost, sacred ordinances, sealing of families, baptisms for the dead, blessings, peace, joy, worthiness, etc.*) Discuss your answers.

Explain that the temple is the House of the Lord. "It is the most sacred spot on the earth to which the Savior will come.

President Harold B. Lee said to the missionaries in the Salt Lake Temple, "These are His houses...where the Son of Man can come. What more likely place is there for the Savior to come than to this temple?" (EZRA TAFT BENSON, "TEMPLE MEMORIES," JANUARY 1972)

WHY DO WE DESIRE TO BE IN THE TEMPLE? *(To learn more about the Savior, to feel peace, to do work for the dead, to be sealed to our family, to be in the House of the Lord, etc.)*



MESSAGE

Read the following message by, President James E. Faust:

"Great blessings for us and for our families come from going to the temple. We can live worthy of these blessings by obeying the commandments."

Here are some of the blessings President James E. Faust mentioned: "We are living in the greatest day of temple building. The faithful Saints who pay their tithes and offerings have made this possible, and each will receive eternal blessings.

Each temple building is an inspiration, magnificent and beautiful in every way, but the temple building

alone does not bless. The blessings come through obedience and faithfulness to priesthood authority and covenants made.

In the magnificence and splendor of our modern temples, well might we pause and reflect upon the laborers without shirts and shoes who built the Nauvoo and Kirtland Temples. Each temple that stands today is a vindication of Joseph and Hyrum Smith and a triumph for them and all of our people who suffered the destruction, the beatings, and the murders at the hands of cruel tyrants in the mobs who drove our people west.

In the temples of the Lord, we learn obedience. We learn sacrifice. We have our lives consecrated to holy purposes.

We can see in vision the countless couples in their youth and beauty coming to be married. We see clearly the unspeakable joy on their countenances (faces) as they are sealed together [for eternity]. We can see unnumbered families surrounding the altar, all clothed in white, with bowed heads and clasped hands, as they are sealed one to another. We can see the army of angelic young children coming to the house of the Lord with awe and wonder to be baptized for the dead.

We see heavenly hosts unnumbered whose eternal Odysseys (journeys) have been suspended as they wait for their vicarious work to be done. We can see families dancing, shouting, and crying with joy in their being united in another world.

The spirit and blessings of the temple can fill our homes as we live worthy lives. Even before we are old enough to go to the temple, we can prepare our hearts by being obedient and choosing the right. When we do go to the temple, we can share its blessings with our ancestors." (JAMES E. FAUST, "COME LISTEN TO A PROPHET'S VOICE: TEMPLE BLESSINGS," AUGUST 2001)

WHO SHOULD BE ABLE TO ENJOY THE BLESSINGS OF THE TEMPLE? *(every person who is worthy)*

WHO IS BLESSED THROUGH TEMPLE WORK? *(The individual doing the work, those who are having the work done for them, and our posterity.)*

FAMILY ACTIVITY

For 1-2 minutes, have each family member write down every name that comes to mind. *(This can be family, friends, members of the church, nonmembers, coworkers, teachers, neighbors, etc.)*

After the time is up, each family member should read through the names on his/her list and think about each person individually, now considering each person on the list as someone to invite to the open house of the Feather River California Temple.

During the week place the lists in prominent places in the home making it easy for them to be seen often. The names should be prayerfully reviewed and considered as people who would benefit from learning more about temples.

As new names are thought of throughout the week they should be added to the list.

ACTIVITY FOR CHILDREN

1. Instruct children to draw a picture of a temple on one side of a white sheet of paper.
2. Have the children turn the paper over and draw their family.
3. Hold paper up to the light to see the family in the temple.
4. Discuss the joy and importance of going to the temple as a family.
5. Set goals to attend the temple as a family.

LESSON 2

The Feather River California Temple Foundation

“And ye shall build it on the place where you have contemplated building It, for that is the spot which I have chosen for you to build it, If ye labor with all your might, I will consecrate that spot that it shall be made holy.”

DOCTRINE & COVENANTS
124:43-44

SUGGESTED MUSIC

“How Firm a Foundation,” Hymn 85

“The Wise Man and the Foolish Man,” Children’s Songbook 281

LESSON

Having a firm foundation is important when building a temple. Having a firm personal foundation in the gospel is key to building your testimony of Jesus Christ.

Discuss and compare the similarities of the strong foundation that the Lord’s house is built upon and the sure foundation of a personal testimony of Jesus Christ and His restored gospel.



Elder and Sister Watkins at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Feather River California Temple

Both of these foundations will keep the temple and ourselves strong and safe “...that when the devil shall send forth his mighty winds, yea, his shafts in the whirlwind, yea, when all his hail and his mighty storm shall beat upon you, it shall have no power over you to drag you down to

the gulf of misery and endless wo, because of the rock upon which ye are built, which is a sure foundation, a foundation whereon if men build they cannot fall.” (HELAMAN 5:12)

FOUNDATIONS

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the groundbreaking ceremony for the Feather River California Temple was attended by only 8 people. It was a small but meaningful ceremony to dedicate the land that the temple would be built upon.

Elder Paul H. Watkins of the Area Seventy, presided over the meeting. In the dedicatory prayer, Elder Watkins prayed, “As the temple foundation is poured, and the walls are placed, and the roof is formed, let us all revitalize our foundational faith in apostles and prophets with Jesus Christ being our chief cornerstone.”

President Russell M. Nelson said, “My dear brothers and sisters, these are the latter days. If you and I are to withstand the forthcoming perils and pressures, it is imperative that we each have a firm spiritual foundation built upon the rock of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ.” (RUSSELL M. NELSON, “THE TEMPLE AND YOUR SPIRITUAL FOUNDATION” OCTOBER 2021)

WHAT PRINCIPLES OF FAITH ARE IMPORTANT TO YOU IN YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY?

WAS IT TAUGHT TO YOU BY YOUR PARENTS? YOUR PRIMARY TEACHERS? BY THE MISSIONARIES?

Take a moment to contemplate where you learned them, how you felt and how it has helped your testimony to grow.

FAMILY DISCUSSION

Talk about when you or a family member has gone through a hard time or trial.

HOW DID THEY OVERCOME IT?

HOW DID THEY RELY ON THE LORD AND THEIR TESTIMONY TO OVERCOME THEIR WEAKNESS?

HOW DID YOU HELP AND LIFT ONE ANOTHER DURING THIS TIME?

Read Helaman 5:12 and discuss how it relates to your family.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Just like building a strong foundation for the temple, building your personal testimony is done “brick by brick” with the mortar to hold it in place.

Get some pieces of paper and cut them into twelve 4” wide rectangle strips to resemble the shape of a brick. Then cut the paper into twelve 2” wide rectangle strips to resemble a mortar line holding the brick in place. (tip: use red paper for the brick and white paper for the mortar)

On the “red” brick papers write the things you know to be true. Example: *I know that Jesus Christ is my Savior.*

On the “white” mortar papers write

how you know the principle is true.

Example: *Atoning Sacrifice*

As you fill out your bricks and mortar papers, each family member can help build a visual version of their testimony. Creating a personal foundation.



Courtesy of Steve Jones

Once your foundation is complete you can put your family picture at the top. Reminding you that these faith-building principles will help your family stay strong when the hardships & trials of life, and the temptations of the adversary come. Your foundation is sure “built upon the rock of our Redeemer.”

SAMPLE BELOW

I know I am a child of God.	I know that Jesus Christ is the Savior and Redeemer of the world.	I know Joseph Smith is the prophet who restored the true church.
Happiness & Joy	His Atoning Sacrifice	Knowledge
I know the Book of Mormon is the Word of God.	I know President Nelson is a Prophet called by God.	I know Heavenly Father lives and loves me.
Ponder	Obedience	Trust
I know I need to pray each day.	I know attending church each Sunday blesses my life.	I know that reading my scriptures every day feeds my soul.
Faith	Partake of the Sacrament	Study



The Story Behind the Temple Lot

In 1911 the Church built the first California meetinghouse in Gridley, a city just a half hour north of Yuba City.

In the early 1970s, before the Church owned the property, Mehar Tumber's family, devout Sikhs, owned the land, where they grew peaches.

Mehar's daughter, Raji, remembers the day her father told the family he had sold the property to the Church. “He had the biggest smile on his face and was so happy... He thought it was a blessing to have a religious organization ... as an anchor to our property.”

In 1979 the Yuba City Stake Center was built on the 9-acre lot and served the church members and community for nearly 40 years.

In 2018 President Russell M. Nelson announced plans to build the 38,000-square-foot Feather River California Temple in place of the Yuba City Stake Center.

LESSON 3

Temple Open House & Dedication

“Each holy temple stands as a symbol of our membership in the Church, as a sign of our faith in life after death, and as a sacred step toward eternal glory for us and our families.”

**RUSSELL M. NELSON,
“PERSONAL PREPARATION
FOR TEMPLE BLESSINGS,”
APRIL 2001**

“One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.”

PSALM 27:4

SUGGESTED MUSIC

“I’ll Go Where You Want Me to Go,”
Hymn 270

“I Love to See the Temple,” Children’s
Songbook 95

LESSON

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE TEMPLE?

To members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, temples are literally the “house of the Lord.”

Temples are sacred buildings in which Latter-day Saints receive instruction about the purpose of life and their relationship to God.

There they take part in religious ceremonies, called ordinances, that reach beyond mortality for themselves and on behalf of deceased ancestors. During these ordinances, they make covenants with God. Vicarious ordinances such as eternal marriage and proxy baptisms for the dead are done only in temples.

These ordinances make it possible for individuals to return to the presence of God and for families to be united eternally.

WHAT IS IT LIKE INSIDE THE TEMPLE?

Many people are under the impression that the interior of a Latter-day Saint temple is like a great hall or cathedral.

Actually, temples are made up of a number of rooms designed to accommodate certain functions such as marriages, baptisms, and religious instructional sessions.

Inside the temple, Church members change into simple, modest, white clothing before taking part

in temple ceremonies. The white temple clothing symbolizes purity and reverence.

WILL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC EVER SEE THE INSIDE OF THE TEMPLE?

Yes. After the temple is completed, an open house is held for the general public. During the open house, public tours are organized and information is provided to answer questions and explain the different functions and ceremonies performed in the temple.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A TEMPLE AND A MEETINGHOUSE?

Meetinghouses are open to all, and everyone is welcome to attend the Sunday worship services and other activities held there. After temples are dedicated, only faithful Latter-day Saints may enter them.

Meetinghouses are open and busy all day on Sunday, while temples are generally closed that day.

Besides Sunday services, meetinghouses can be used for a variety of other activities such as a special dinner, a youth activity, or even a community blood drive. Temples are used only for sacred ordinances that bless individuals and bind families together for eternity.

WHAT IS AN OPEN HOUSE?

A temple open house is when members of the church, as well as non-members, are invited to learn more about the temple through touring the inside as well as enjoying the temple grounds.

The open house allows each person who desires, to enjoy the beauty and peace of the temple.

It provides an opportunity to learn

about each of the rooms inside the temple where sacred ordinances such as the sealing of families and baptisms for the dead take place.

WHY DON'T I HAVE TO HAVE A TEMPLE RECOMMEND DURING AN OPEN HOUSE?

The temple is built for the purpose of housing the work of sacred ordinances, however, it is still just a beautiful building until it has been dedicated.

WHAT CAN I EXPECT WHEN I ATTEND THE FEATHER RIVER CALIFORNIA TEMPLE OPEN HOUSE?

You can expect to feel a great sense of peace. You will be in the House of the Lord that teaches of Jesus Christ and where the cares of daily life are left behind.

When going through a temple's open house, the visitors are placed into small groups to help the tour run smoothly. Next, the group watches a movie about Jesus Christ and briefly explains the beliefs of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The group will then be led to the temple where a member of the church who has attended a dedicated temple (an endowed member) begins the tour. As the rooms in the temple are visited the purpose of the room is explained without going through the actual sacred ordinance.

WHAT IS A TEMPLE DEDICATION AND WHO CAN ATTEND THE DEDICATION?

A temple dedication is when a member of the First Presidency or Quorum of the Twelve Apostles dedicates the temple as a House of the Lord.

At this time the temple becomes a sacred and holy place where only worthy members of the church who hold a temple recommend may enter.

There are some temple dedications that are broadcasted into stake centers allowing members of the church to be a part of the dedication. Because of the sacred nature

of the dedication, you must have a special recommend or a temple recommend from your Bishop to participate in it.



Sealing room of the Arequipa Peru Temple

MESSAGE

Read the following message from, President Thomas S. Monson about the open house and dedication of the Toronto, Ontario, Canada Temple:

Another transcendent blessing came the last weekend of August when a magnificent temple of the Lord was dedicated in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. In its gleaming glory, the temple seems to beckon to each who views its splendor, "Come! Come to the house of the Lord. Here is found 'rest for the weary and peace for the soul.'"

And how the people did come! First, they thronged to the public open house, where reverently and quietly they viewed the interior of the temple and learned the purpose for its erection and of the blessings, which the temple can provide. One visitor described the temple's beauty with the words, "This is a center of serenity."

As she was about to leave the temple, a young girl said, "Mommy, this is beautiful here. I don't want to go."

One woman surprised an usher with her request: "I have been so

impressed with what I have seen. How do I join your church?" (THOMAS S. MONSON, "DAYS NEVER TO BE FORGOTTEN," OCTOBER 1990)

FAMILY DISCUSSION

Discuss the experiences of those who attended the Toronto, Ontario, Canada Temple Open House.

HOW DID THE EXPERIENCE THEY HAD AT THE OPEN HOUSE INFLUENCE THEIR LIVES AND HELP THEM TO FEEL ABOUT THE TEMPLE?

HOW CAN WE PREPARE TO HAVE A SPECIAL EXPERIENCE AT THE FEATHER RIVER CALIFORNIA TEMPLE OPEN HOUSE?

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Review the lists of names created in the previous Family Home Evening lesson.

Discuss any names that stood out throughout the week. Prayerfully consider how to invite these individuals to attend the Feather River California Temple Open House.

Set family/personal goals to attend the open house and dedication, as well as to invite these friends, family, and acquaintances to attend the open house.

Discuss your goals and record them. Report progress towards your goals at your next Family Home Evening.



Baptistry of the Lisbon Portugal Temple



“Positive spiritual momentum increases as we worship in the temple and grow in our understanding of the magnificent breadth and depth of the blessings we receive there. I plead with you to counter worldly ways by focusing on the eternal blessings of the temple. Your time there brings blessings for eternity.”

RUSSELL M. NELSON, “NOW IS THE TIME,” APRIL 2021

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

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