

Class Handout

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Feel free to call, Text or email questions. I will get back as soon as I can 😊

Class objective:

Focusing on one simple goal: helping people actually engage in family history—not because they feel pressured, but because they feel something meaningful.

"As leaders and consultants, we often feel responsible to 'get family history going.' But today we're going to shift how we think about that."

"Here's a key idea for today: We cannot make hearts turn—but we can create opportunities where hearts might turn."

Purpose To help leaders and Family History Consultants who are interested in promoting family history work in their unit find tools and suggestions to help.

What have we tried to get family history going in our units? Guilt. Lectures, Pleading. Begging. Has any of it worked? Why not? Family history is a work of love: Love for God Love for our fellow humans Love for those beyond the veil We can't make people's hearts turn, but we can help facilitate opportunities. Further, much of it is dependent on leader's cooperation and support.

My story of sacrament meeting talk 2 years ago

Addressing needs of various individuals in the unit. It is very very hard to have a "whole unit" event. Few people will come that are new...one or two....but mostly die hard Family History people. It is worth a try...even getting one or two tuned in is great but do not expect a mass conversion to family history.

Here are things that have worked or are working in some other units across the world (I seem to collect these ideas haha!)

How to work with:

A Brand new Family history consultants or older seasoned consultants learning new things (I have had better luck with new consultants).

One of one training with them using (Make a spread sheet and have them mark off as they complete each section Trainer checks a couple of times per week. As they learn one section they are asked to locate a non member or less active or a seemingly disinterested

member. Tell them you need to practice and could they meet with you for an hour in their home or the church or FHC and practice teaching them. No pressure. It can light a spark in the student to truly practice and feel the spirit and may catch someone that connects to the gathering of Israel beyond the veil. Many times people are intimidated by FH because they see us and think that is toooooo much not understanding that FH is actually very simple now. If nothing else it is practice for your newbie. See Figures 1 for the best training and learning resources as a new ...or needing more training.. As they complete they meet with a ward member to practice with them.

B. Family History Consultants using FamilySearch tools - Identify members with record hints. Here is how:

Go to the member...say something like (pray first of course) Sister so and so. You may have a notification from family search that you have a family member with a record that needs to be attached. Could I catch you after church (or other time but be specific and insist that it only takes a very few minutes) and get that taken care of with you so I can mark it off?

You are likely going to have to help them make an account and go through a quick process. You may need to make a follow up for other record hints and or to review the detail page for the person. This can spark an individual to see how very easy it is and you can invite them and follow up with them to continue. Go to "Activities" and then Record Hints. They may spy other categories of interest too!

C.Missionary work - Invite non-members to learn family history - Hold simple classes or meetings -

Ask in RS/Priesthood/SS meetings if there are members who have a non member friend or relative that has expressed interest in researching their family. Use these members to develop and hold a small special class, members must come with them, limit to like 4 or six. Limiting seems more exclusive. The spirit can be really strong and can lead to spiritual experiences for both the member and friend

D. Tree display - Leaves for ordinances - Encourage unity, not competition Leaves on tree for ordinances completed. Pockets with Family Name cards. Anyone going to the temple should take a Family Name or a WARD family name. This promotes love and unity in helping each other.

E. Youth Prior to a youth temple trip have a carnival. Games can include ringing the spires of a "temple" (traffic cones) , learning name review, learning various aspects of family search such as Pioneer ancestors or Missionary ancestors etc. End with them using Ordinances ready to locate a relative to do the work for on the temple trip. Serve popcorn and drink. We were creative and did many things and earned tickets. Be aware there may be issues with accounts etc.

a. “Unity Youth Project”

A few weeks prior to a youth temple trip you can implement this activity. It is designed to unify the Seniors and Youth in the ward. “Hearts knit together”

Meet with the older ward members. Explain that you need each couple or single pair (2 deep) to have a youth assigned to them. They are to invite the youth to dinner or dessert in an evening. During the evening they will get to know the youth. The older members will express their love for the temple and bear their testimony of it. At the get together they will present the youth with a name of one of their ancestors who need baptism. (Prior to their meeting with the youth Ward FHC will work with the oldster to identify this ancestor as well as to identify info about the ancestor) In telling the youth about this ancestor the oldster will ask them to do the baptism and confirmation of this person and give as much information as they have identified. The youth take the name with them to the temple trip. After the temple trip the youth returns the name slip to the member and reports about their experience.

Note: Adult seniors participating should probably have youth protection training. If a married couple is not available two singles could meet with the youth and each give them a name etc. This activity creates love and special bonds between the youth and individuals in the unit.

F, 5th Sunday lesson or Ward activity

Only somewhat effective as many will “tune out” but you may reach a few.

The premise of the lesson or presentation is preserving what we have not researching for more. Especially effective if taught by someone who has lost their home or valuables through flood, fire etc. Show how important documents and photos can be preserved in family search memories. Also verbal testimonies and memories for future generations. Then at the end of the 5th Sunday lesson, if given that way, send a sign up around to those who are interested in a further class in this....set up! This can spark interest in family search as a whole and preserving family information.

G. Name review Group

Family Search is in great need of name review. There are members who are in great need of service. Older seniors, new members, some who won't accept another calling. This is a great way to help in many ways. Have one person called Ward Temple Specialist, They lead the group. Create a calling name and each reviewer should be called and set apart. They will train the members called on how to do name review. There will be assignments....so

many names reviewed each week and reported to the leader. The leader reports to the Ward Temple Family History Leader (for accountability). They can meet together periodically (for fellowship and helping each other), be invited to the Ward Family History committee meetings and also have individual assignments. It gets much work done and is a meaningful calling.

H. The Gift of Family Figure 2

Several weeks prior to the planned event (Christmas, Easter or other) posters in the unit hint at something coming...referencing a "gift". Example: Christmas is coming! What do you give coworkers, mailman, friends, etc???? The answer is coming!! Meanwhile identify several well trained family history consultants who will help with the project. The day of kickoff a table set up in the hall of the unit with those consultants and posters etc is necessary. Each has a stack of the "Gift of Family" cards ready to explain. Note: some will take and pitch, some will not be interested but some will stop and listen. Some of those will follow through!

The idea is to give the gift of family by prayerfully considering who to give this opportunity to....with the end result being a person not of our faith being introduced to Family Search, genealogy and family history. (the by product is the member has to follow through and come with them to the report and will be caught up in it as well!) The card is given then collected by a certain date filled out. It is then turned in to the Ward Temple Family History Leader who assigns FHC to take on a card. Basic research and documentation of findings is done. It should be put on group sheets and pedigree charts....4 or 5 generations max with sources documented. A time is then set to meet with the member and friend. At the meeting you will go over the information found and offer to set up a Family Search account and have them enter the findings. Hopefully they will wish to continue SET AN APPOINTMENT with the member and friend to return. Make sure at the report that the member and friend are aware this is a service and the findings are not by a professional genealogist.

Well trained FH consultants are a must for this. A work evening or day is a good idea to work together on filling out and finding information.

Design or redesign the card to be generic or to fit the holiday it is used for.

I. New members - grow members who love Family History from the start

A wonderful program to help brand new members develop a love for family history and the temple:

A ward family history consultant is called to be a ward missionary as well. They attend the Ward Missionary Correlation meeting. Their purpose is to work with new members, attending

their baptism and meeting with them on week one of the new member's new life. At that meeting an account is set up and Family Search is explained. Missionaries who worked with them may be invited as well to be comfortable.

Regular new member baptism sessions were scheduled. The new members ministering brothers and sisters were asked to attend. Additionally previous "new" members were encouraged and invited to attend with their family names as they continued to work in Family History. New members are invited and encouraged to attend baptism sessions until they were able to receive their endowments, working with a FH consultant on a regular basis to expand their tree and identify ancestors to do baptisms for. This group tends to become close friends and do each other's opposite gender names, creating an even closer bond.

The Ward FH consultant/Missionary coordinates it and follows through, also being careful to identify who is on date for baptism and reporting in Missionary and Ward Temple Family History committee meetings on progress and temple attendance.

Note: When making appointments at the Temple Baptistry for new Member baptisms please tell them there is a brand new member. A member of the temple presidency likely will want to talk to your group before you begin. It is beautiful.

Additional thoughts:

Family History Consultants in your ward and branch can wear name tags from Family Search. They are green with the FS logo and the consultants name.

If they wear them to all Ward meetings and activities once in a while someone will come to them asking for help or advice.

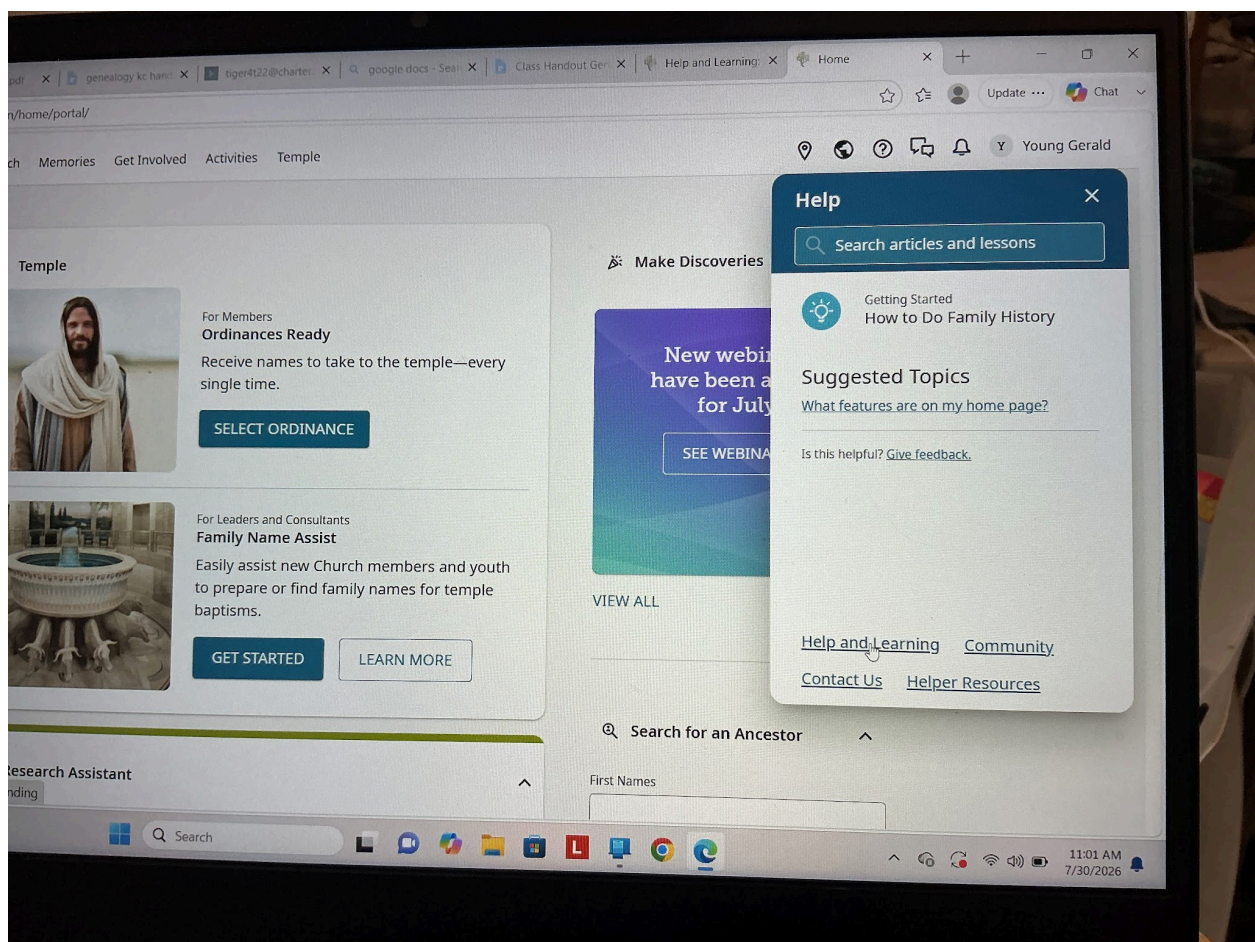
Order at: Facmaterials.byu.edu

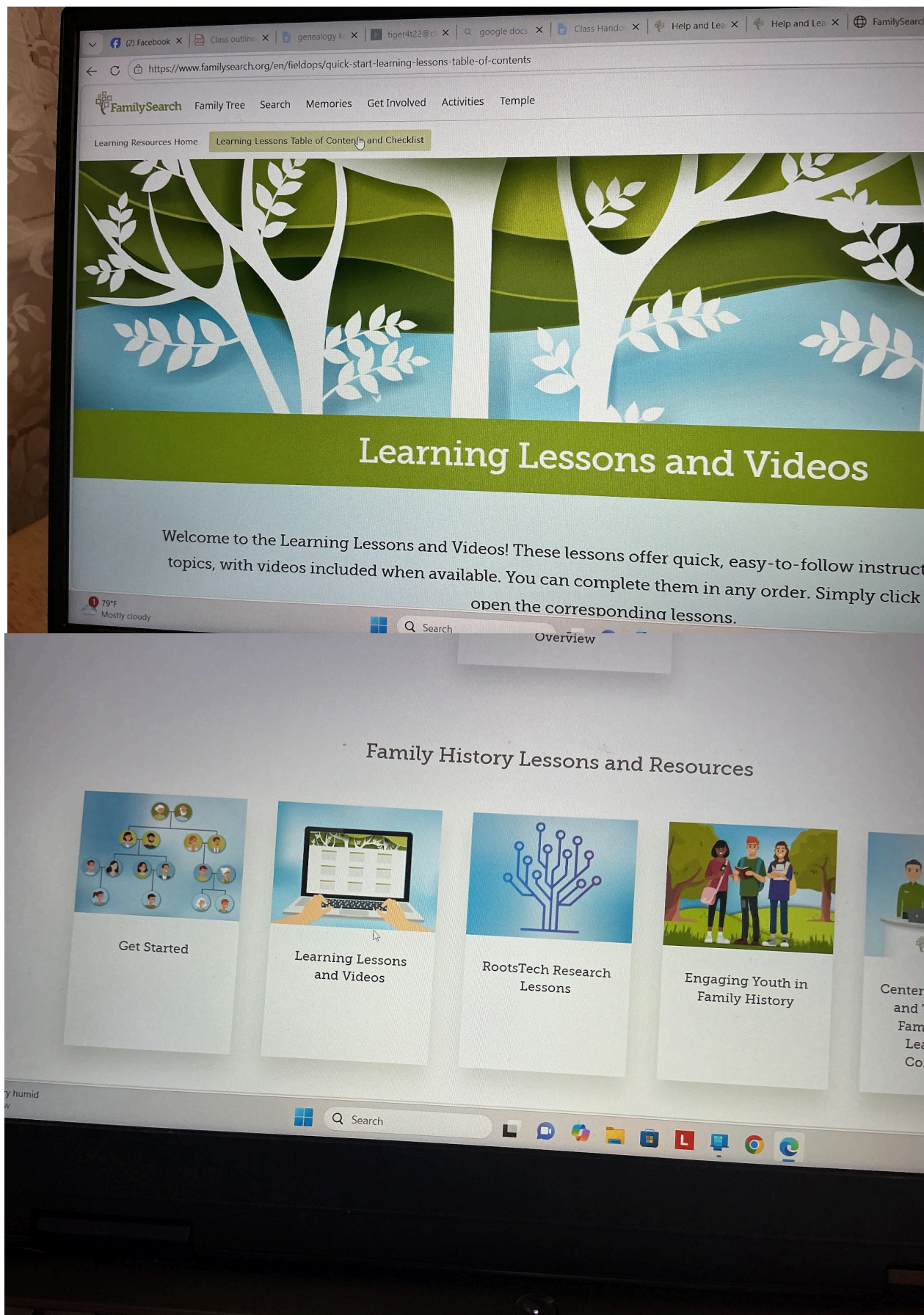
Individual Family History Consultants praying and fasting for the one is the most effective. Pray to know who to reach out to..then do it. Follow through and work with them one on one. If it happens to be a bishopric member's family or ward council member or family all the better. This can soften resistant hearts and show them the blessings of gathering Israel beyond the veil. It is hard for those of us who love this work and it can be frustrating for others to miss the vision of the blessings of it....pray for yourself to have a soft heart, a love for the members and to hear the Spirit when He whispers who to reach and how to reach them.

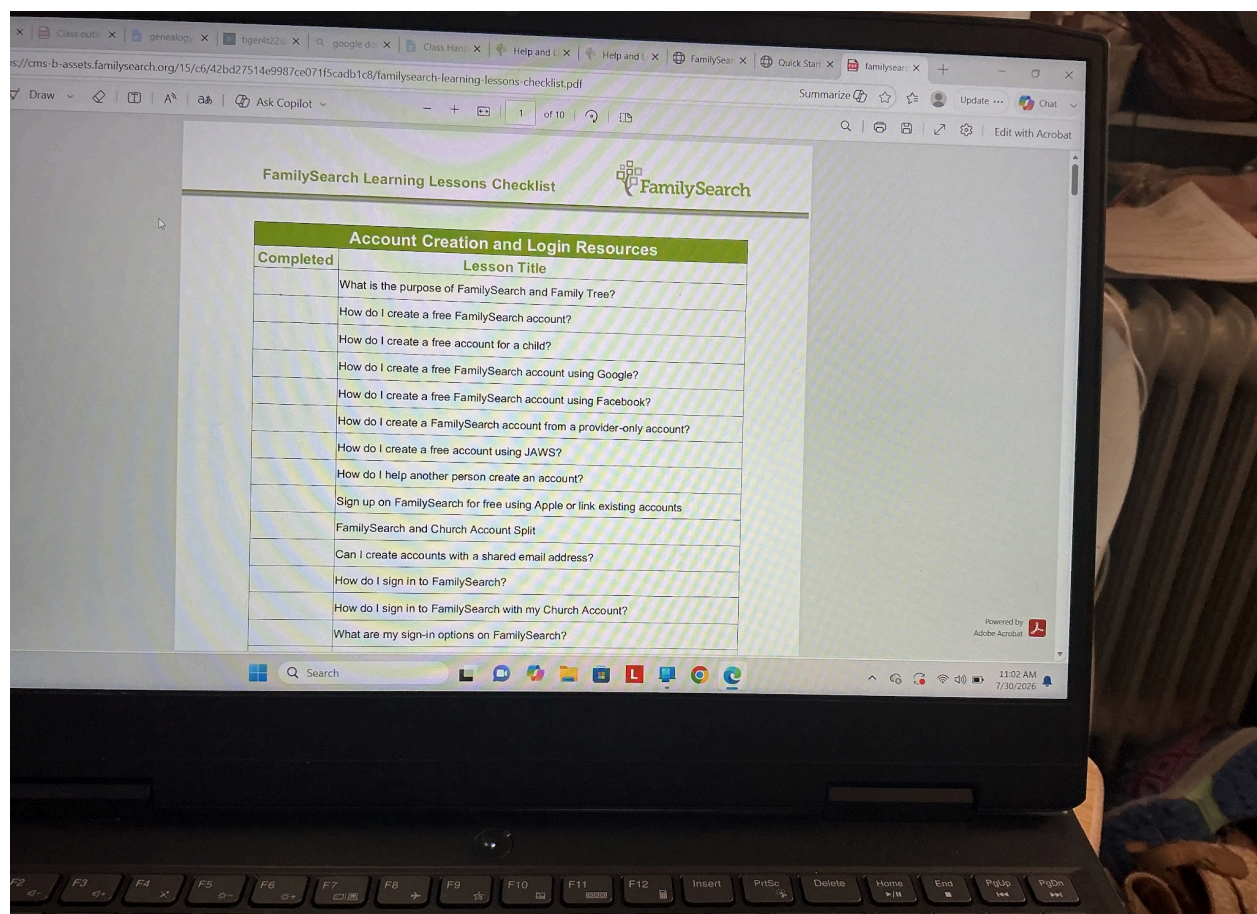
Reach out to families by offering to come, as a FH consultant and do a family home evening for them. Use some ingenuity to develop a lesson that meets the needs of the ages in the family.

Search "Ancestor's Plea" on YouTube. It is a great addition to any program or presentation. Be aware that although hearts may be touched by such things, ACTION is rarely the result. It takes one on one invitation, love and spiritual prompting.

Figure 1







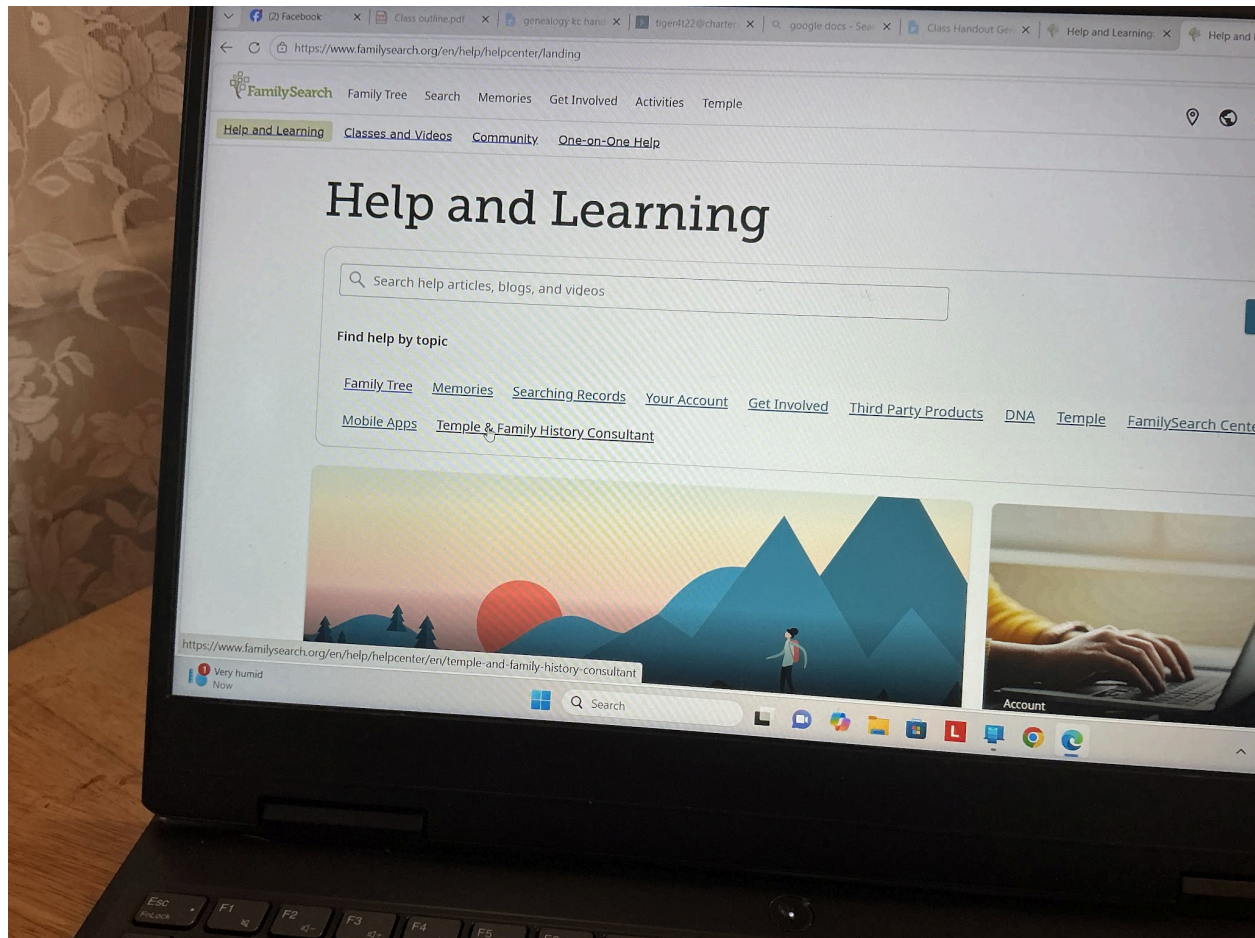
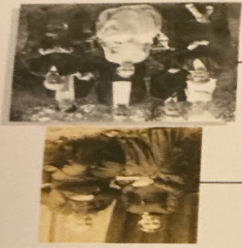


Figure 2

OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

JESUS CHRIST

THE CHURCH OF



Tell Me About Your Family

This card will be used to gather genealogy information about your family. Please tell us how to contact you so that we can arrange delivery of the information we find.

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____

Day Phone _____ Evening Phone _____

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY AND FILL OUT THIS CARD WITH AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE
PLEASE FORMAT ALL DATES MM/DD/YYYY

YOU			
Your Name _____		Spouse's Name _____	
Birth Date _____	City & State _____	Birth Date _____	City & State _____
YOUR PARENTS			
Father's Name _____		Mother's Maiden Name _____	
Birth Date _____	City & State _____	Birth Date _____	City & State _____
Death Date _____	City & State _____	Death Date _____	City & State _____
Marriage Date _____		City & State _____	
YOUR FATHER'S PARENTS			
Grandfather's Name _____		Grandmother's Maiden Name _____	
Birth Date _____	City & State _____	Birth Date _____	City & State _____
Death Date _____	City & State _____	Death Date _____	City & State _____
Marriage Date _____		City & State _____	
YOUR MOTHER'S PARENTS			
Grandfather's Name _____		Grandmother's Maiden Name _____	
Birth Date _____	City & State _____	Birth Date _____	City & State _____
Death Date _____	City & State _____	Death Date _____	City & State _____
Marriage Date _____		City & State _____	