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# December 13-19 "The Family: A Proclamation to the World"

1. **Scripture Hop** – Watch "[What is the Purpose of Family?](#)" one-minute video from the church. Give a quick explanation of the Family Proclamation. Explain that today's scripture hop is a small piece of this proclamation. Follow directions on page 3 below.
2. **Family Proclamation for Kids** – Print pages 4-5 below to make and read the Family Proclamation for Kids. The wording for this comes directly from the church's website, which also has some great ideas for teaching the Family Proclamation to kids (see [this link](#) for details). We've used this with our kids in the past, but I think it's so important to review the concepts in it. Since we've done it before, we'll probably just read the pages and discuss each, but if you need something to better keep the attention of the kids you're teaching, you could also use the interactive version we made a couple years ago to help break it up. The interactive version can be found at [this link](#) (use pages 3-5). You could also cut apart each page, hide them, and discuss them as they're found.
  - *Note: Page 6 of this mentions that men and women can use their bodies to create babies together. If your kids are super young and you want something a little less specific that just says that men and women need to be married before they have babies, [click here for another version](#).*



3. **Defend the Proclamation Role-Play** – One of the talks linked in the manual is "[Defenders of the Family Proclamation](#)" by Bonnie L. Oscarson. I thought it was great, and if you have older family members, it could be great to read it with them. Since our kids are younger, this is our plan:
  - Show picture of Marie Madeline Cardon. Explain that she was a girl who lived in Italy. She stood up to angry mobs in order to defend the church.
  - Sister Oscarson said, "I would like to issue a challenge for all of us as women of the Church to be defenders of "The Family: A Proclamation to the World." Just as Marie Madeline Cardon courageously defended the missionaries and her newly found beliefs, we need to boldly defend the Lord's revealed doctrines describing marriage, families, the divine roles of men and women, and the importance of homes as sacred places—even when the world is shouting in our ears that these principles are outdated, limiting, or no longer relevant. Everyone, no matter what their marital circumstance or number of children, can be defenders of the Lord's plan described in the family proclamation. If it is the Lord's plan, it should also be our plan!"
  - **Role-Play:** Take turns holding the Family Proclamation while defending it against different scenarios. Help the kids practice defending what it says about marriage, parenthood, and the home in loving ways. Some things you could say to them could include:
    - It's not cool to spend time with your family.
    - It's not important to get married to a righteous person.
    - Being a righteous mother/father/daughter/son isn't important.



4. "I Can" Handprint Activity – Read page 6 below (from *The Friend*). Then have each family member trace their hands on paper, cut them out, and glue everyone's hands together in a line while talking about how they're an important part of the family.
  - You could also help them write one of these "I Can" statements on their hand:
    - I Can Help My Family Be Strong
    - I Can Bring Happiness, Kindness, and Love to My Family.
    - I Can Listen to My Family, Work and Play Together, Forgive, and Help Each Other.
    - I Can Read the Scriptures With My Family
    - I Can Be A Good Example to My Family as I Pray and Keep the Commandments.
5. Mini Love Notes – Watch "[What Matters Most](#)" video from the church. Mom/Dad have notes already written to kids telling them how much we love them. Then have everyone write notes to family members or others we love (can use the mini "I Love You" notes on page below or make your own). I was thinking it could be fun to mail some of these out to family members as well, and maybe include small treats with them.
6. Song/Popsicle Stick Manger Craft – Review the phrase from the Proclamation: "Happiness in family life is most likely to be achieved when founded upon the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ."
  - Sing/watch this [sing-a-long video for "Away in a Manger"](#) while reviewing why His birth is important to us.
  - Use popsicle sticks to build a manger. Follow instructions found [here](#).
7. Favorite Family Treat – Let everyone work together to help make a favorite family treat.

## Additional Ideas:

More Great Free Ideas at [www.theredcrystal.org](http://www.theredcrystal.org)

Video of President Hinckley reading the Proclamation with pictures

Family Proclamation Go Fish Game [Family Proclamation "Go Fish!" | We Talk of Christ, We Rejoice In Christ](#)

A Year of FHE Activity [A Year of FHE: Year 01/Lesson 14: A Proclamation to the World & Family Goals](#)

Activity from The Friend ['The Family: A Proclamation to the World' Came from God to Help My Family \(churchofjesuschrist.org\)](#)

[\(18\) Pinterest](#)

["I Am a Child of God" Sing-a-long](#)

# SCRIPTURE Hop

(FAMILY PROCLAMATION)

Cut apart the following strips and spread them out far enough in a room so that the kids will need to hop from one strip to another. Make sure to keep them in the correct order. Have them stand by the first one and help them say the top line out loud. Explain what it means. Then have them jump to the next one and do the same thing until they've jumped on each of them, said them out loud, and discussed them one at a time. Then have them start back at the beginning and practice saying the phrases in order while hopping from strip to strip again. Try going a little faster each time. Repeat as many times as wanted/needed. These can also be used as flash cards, taped onto the wall to practice throughout the week, etc.



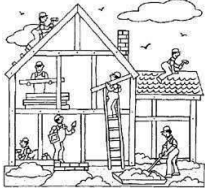
HAPPINESS



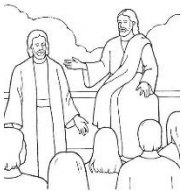
In FAMILY life



IS MOST LIKELY TO BE ACHIEVED



When founded upon



THE TEACHINGS OF THE LORD

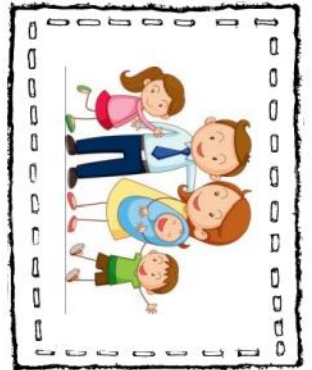
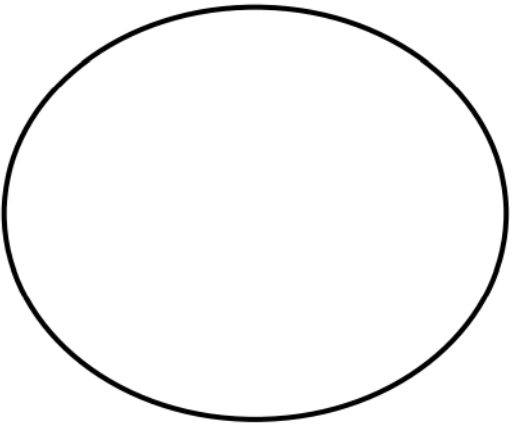


JESUS CHRIST

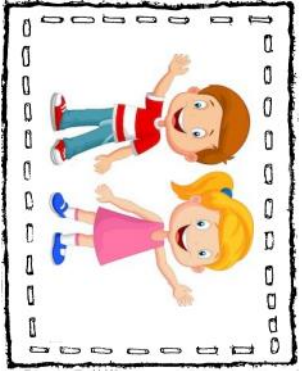
# THE FAMILY: A PROCLAMATION TO THE WORLD FOR KIDS



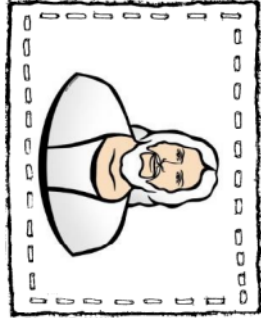
## My Family Picture:



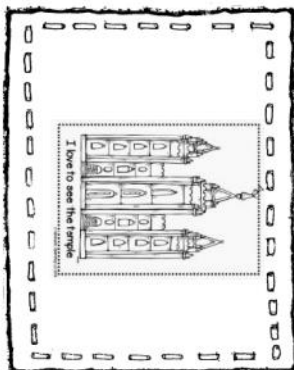
1) This proclamation was written to the world by the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. It teaches what Heavenly Father wants us to know about families. Heavenly Father wants men and women to be married and create families because families are one of the most important parts of the plan of salvation. Families help us reach our "eternal destiny," which is to learn and grow to become more like our Heavenly Parents.



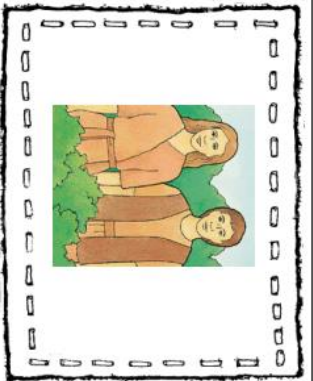
2) Every single person on earth is an important child of Heavenly Parents. We can grow up to be like Them! Each person here on earth was created as a girl or a boy even before they were born. They are here as a girl or a boy for a reason. And after this life, they will continue to be a girl or a boy.



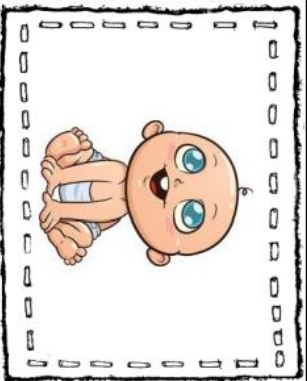
3) Before we were born on earth, we lived with Heavenly Father as His spirit daughters and His spirit sons. Heavenly Father told us He had a plan for us. In this plan we would get a body by being born on earth. We would have experiences that would help us grow. We could choose to learn and become more like our Heavenly Parents. One day we would return to Them. We loved Heavenly Father and accepted His plan.



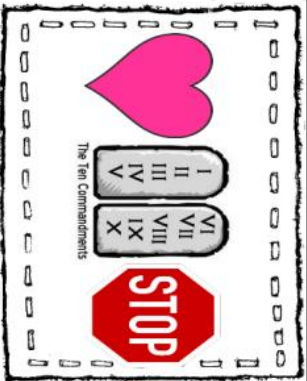
4) Because we know about Heavenly Father's plan, we know we can be a family even after we die. In the temple, we make promises with Heavenly Father and learn how to be obedient. We can also be sealed as a family in the temple, which means that if we are faithful, we can live with Heavenly Father and our families forever.



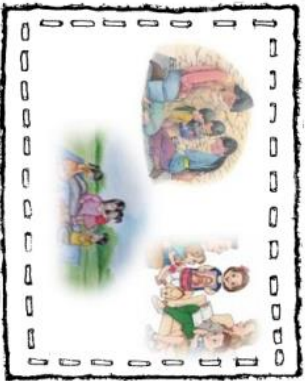
5) Adam was the first man on earth, and Eve was the first woman on earth. They were husband and wife. God told Adam and Eve to start a family. Today, Heavenly Father still wants men and women to get married and have families.



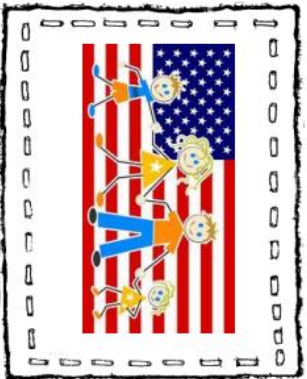
6) One of the things men and women can do with their bodies is create babies together. This is a very beautiful, special power! It's a way men and women show they love each other. Heavenly Father says men and women should get married before they use this sacred power. Life is a wonderful gift. Having a body is an important part of God's plan for us.



7) Moms and dads are supposed to take care of each other and their children. This is very important to Heavenly Father because He loves His children! He wants parents to teach their children to love and serve each other, keep the commandments, and obey the law.



8) Heavenly Father teaches us how families can be the most happy. He says children should be born to moms and dads who are married, love each other, and teach about Jesus Christ. Faith, prayer, kindness, and having fun together can all make your family stronger. Fathers and mothers both do important things. They work together to care for their families. Even if life doesn't go as planned, we should do the best we can to have a happy family.



9) Heavenly Father knows how we treat our family. People who hurt their family members will have to answer to Him one day. Many prophets have taught that families are important. Families make neighborhoods and countries stronger. We should tell our government leaders that we care about families and ask them for help making our families as healthy and happy as they can be.



**Because of Jesus Christ, we can live with Heavenly Father and our families forever if we keep the commandments.**

# “The Family: A Proclamation to the World” Came from God to Help My Family

By Erin Sanderson and Jean Bingham

Children have a lot of power—power to make a difference in families! All families are not the same, but every family is important to Heavenly Father. He wants our families to be strong, so He gave us “The Family: A Proclamation to the World” to help us. Heavenly Father knows that **you** can help your family be strong.

**You** are part of an eternal family that needs your help.

**You** can bring happiness, kindness, and love to your family.

**You** can listen to each other, work and play together, forgive and help each other.

**You** can read the scriptures with your family.

**You** can be a good example to your family as you pray and keep the commandments. ♦

## THE FAMILY A PROCLAMATION TO THE WORLD

THE FIRST PRESIDENCY AND COUNCIL OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES  
OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

WE, THE FIRST PRESIDENCY and the Council of the Twelve Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, solemnly proclaim that marriage between a man and a woman is ordained of God and that the family is central to the Creator's plan for the eternal destiny of His children.

ALL HUMAN BEINGS—male and female—are created in the image of God. Each is a beloved spirit son or daughter of heavenly parents, and, as such, each has a divine nature and heavenly potential, and, as such, each has a divine nature and heavenly potential. Gender is an essential characteristic of individual identity, mortal, and eternal identity and purpose.

IN THE PREMORTAL REALM, spirit sons and daughters knew and worshipped God as their Eternal Father and accepted His plan by which His children could obtain a physical body and gain earthly experience to progress toward perfection and ultimately realize their divine destiny as heirs of eternal life. The divine plan of happiness enables family relationships to be perpetuated beyond the grave. Sacred ordinances and covenants available in holy temples make it possible for individuals to return to the presence of God and for families to be united eternally.

THE FIRST COMMANDMENT that God gave to Adam and Eve pertained to their potential parenthood as husband and wife. We declare that God's commandments for His children while we dwell on the earth remain in force. We solemnly and emphatically declare that the sacred powers of procreation are to be employed only between man and woman, lawfully wedded as husband and wife.

WE DECLARE the means by which mortal life is created to be divinely appointed. We affirm the sanctity of life and of its importance in God's eternal plan.

HUSBAND AND WIFE have a solemn responsibility to love and care for each other and for their children. “Children and one for each other and for their children.” Children are an heritage of the Lord” (Psalm 127:3). Parents have a sacred duty to rear their children in love and righteousness,

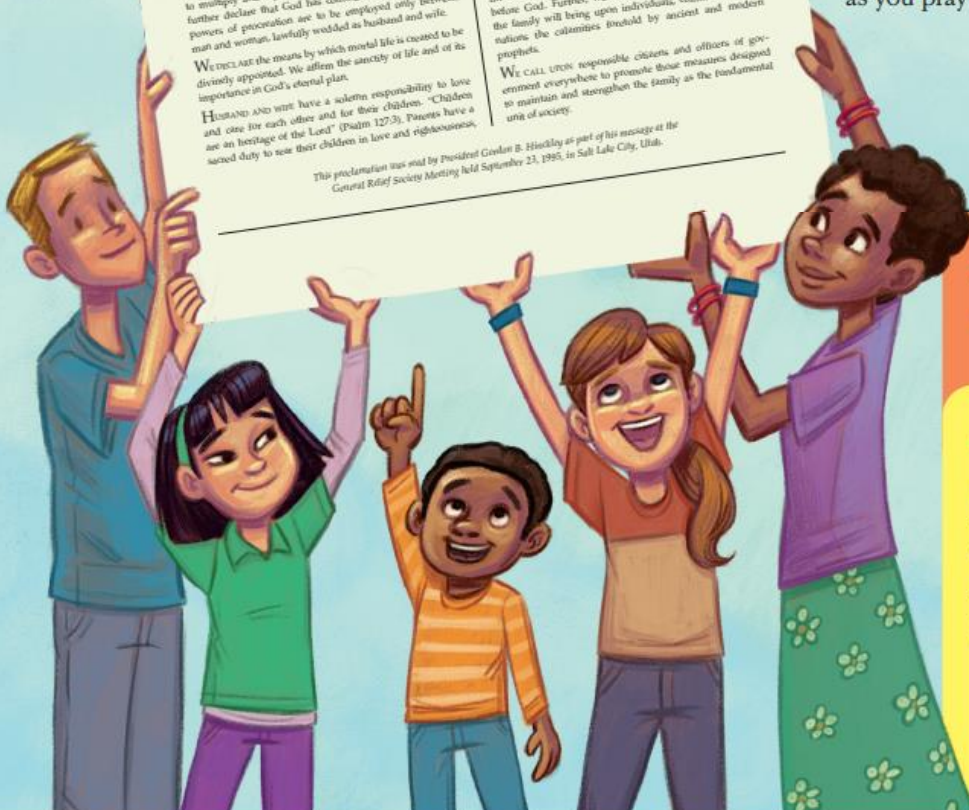
to provide for their physical and spiritual needs, and to teach them to love and serve one another, observe the commandments of God, and be law-abiding citizens wherever they live. Husbands and wives—mothers and fathers—will be held accountable before God for the discharge of these obligations.

THE FAMILY is ordained of God. Marriage between man and woman is essential to His eternal plan. Children are entitled to birth within the bonds of matrimony, and to be reared by a father and a mother who honor marital vows with complete fidelity. Happiness in family life is most likely to be achieved when founded upon the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ. Successful marriages and families are established and maintained on principles of faith, prayer, repentance, forgiveness, respect, love, compassion, work, and wholesome recreational activities. By divine design, fathers are to preside over their families in love and righteousness, and are responsible to provide the necessities of life and protection for their families. Mothers are primarily responsible for the nurture of their children. In those circumstances where both fathers and mothers are obligated to help one another as equal partners. Disability, death, or other circumstances may necessitate individual adaptation. Extended families should lend support when needed.

WE WARN that individuals who violate covenants of chastity, who abuse spouse or offspring, or who fail to fulfill family responsibilities will one day stand accountable before God. Further, we warn that the disintegration of the family will bring upon individuals, communities, and nations the calamities foretold by ancient and modern prophets.

WE CALL UPON responsible citizens and officers of government everywhere to promote those measures designed to maintain and strengthen the family as the fundamental unit of society.

This proclamation was read by President Gordon B. Hinckley as part of his message at the General Relief Society Meeting held September 23, 1995, in Salt Lake City, Utah.



### SCRIPTURE

- John 15:11

### IDEAS FOR FAMILY TALK

Heavenly Father wants all families to be strong and to return to Him. Talk about what each member of the family can do to help your family be strong.

I LOVE YOU 

I LOVE YOU 

I LOVE YOU 

I LOVE YOU 

# THE FAMILY

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