

Sources and Information on “The Family Proclamation”

“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, *Ensign*, Nov. 1995, 82

President Gordon B. Hinckley, “What is a Family?” *Ensign*, Nov. 1995, 81

Cynthia Doxey, “Singles and the Proclamation on the Family,” *Ensign*, Jan. 2004, 33

“Strengthening the Family,” (*Ensign* series, Dec. 2004, 50; Jan. 2005, 48; Feb. 2005, 28; Apr. 2005, 18; June 2005, 26; July 2005, 66; Aug. 2005, 16; Sep. 2005, 58; Oct. 2005, 8; Dec. 2005, 34

Craig H. Hart, Lloyd D. Newell, Elaine Walton, David C. Dollahite, *Helping and Healing our Families*, Deseret Book, 2005

Shirley R. Klein, E. Jeffrey Hill, *Creating Home as a Sacred Center*, BYU Academic Publishing, 2005

E. Jeffrey Hill, “The Proclamation - A Guide, a Comfort, and an Inspiration,” *Ensign*, April 2006, 52

Family Guidebook, *The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, Salt Lake City, Utah, 2001

Elder M. Russell Ballard, “The Sacred Responsibility of Parenthood,” *Ensign*, March 2006, 26
“To parents everywhere, my counsel is simple: Get a copy of “The Family: A Proclamation to the World.” Read it and strive to align your marriage and your family to its inspired, revealed direction from the Lord. Then be the very best and act the very best you can. God will give you strength beyond your own as you strive daily to fulfill the most sacred mortal responsibility He gives to His children. Listen to the voice of the Spirit and the counsel of the living prophets. Be of good cheer. God did not place you on earth to fail, and your efforts as parents will not be counted as failure unless you give up.”

When Satan wants to disrupt the work of the Lord, he doesn't poison the world's peanut butter supply, thus bringing the Church's missionary system to its collective knees. He doesn't send a plague of laryngitis to afflict the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. He doesn't legislate against green Jell-O or casseroles. When Satan truly wants to disrupt the work of the Lord, he attempts to confuse gender and he attacks God's plan for His children. He works to drive a wedge of disharmony between a father and a mother. He entices children to be disobedient to their parents. He makes family home evening and family prayer inconvenient. He suggests family scripture study is impractical. That's all it takes, because Satan knows that the surest and most effective way to disrupt the Lord's work is to diminish the effectiveness of the family and the sanctity of the home.”

Elder Dennis B. Neuenschwander, “Holy Place, Sacred Space,” *Ensign* May, 2003, 71

“Our homes, likewise, are holy places filled with sacred space. Though not always tranquil, our homes can be filled with the Spirit of the Lord. The First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles teach in “The Family: A Proclamation to the World,” “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.”

Elder Francisco J. Vinas, “Applying the Simple and Plain Gospel Principles in the Family,” *Ensign*, April 2004, 18

President Thomas S. Monson, “Heavenly Homes, Forever Families,” *Worldwide Leadership Training Meeting, Supporting the Family, Church Satellite System*, Feb. 2005

Susan W. Tanner, General Young Women’s President, “I Am the Light Which Ye Shall Hold Up,” *General Young Women’s Conference*, March 2006

President Thomas S. Monson, “The master’s Blueprint,” *Ensign*, January 2006, 3

Elder M. Russell Ballard, “Creating a Gospel-Sharing Home,” *Ensign*, General Conference, April 2006

MY HOME AS A TEMPLE

Kristine Manwaring

(“Strengthening Our Families, An In-Depth Look at the Proclamation on the Family,”
ed. David C. Dollahite, *Desert Book Company, 2000, 94*)

I have spent too much time in my home discouraged. I want to rear my children in a celestial atmosphere. “With all my heart I believe that the best place to prepare for . . . eternal life is in the home,” said President David O. McKay, and his words resonate to the core of my being. Yet, believing something does not automatically make it happen. In the abstract, I love my family, I love my home, and I wouldn’t want to be anywhere else. In the reality of three meals a day, soccer games, dirty laundry, reports on Spain, and strep throat, the connection between eternal life and daily life often escapes me.

“Only the home can compare with the temple in sacredness,” the LDS Bible Dictionary (p.781) tells me. When I think of “sacred” I think of temples, I picture white couches, hushed voices, crystal chandeliers, and uninterrupted worship. I cannot recall ever leaving the temple wishing I hadn’t been there or begrudging the time I spent serving our ancestors. It seems everything in the temple runs according to plan and that everything I do there is part of a larger, meaningful whole. Homes, on the other hand, are noisy, messy, often disorganized, and characterized by nothing but interruptions. The demands during a single day are relentless, and it is not uncommon for both mother and father to feel used or spent. Even in the quiet moments, I usually find myself cooking, folding laundry, giving spelling quizzes, and playing Legos. These activities do not feel sacred to me, and, if the truth be told, I’d rather not be doing them so much of the time. What possible definition of the word *sacred* could apply to these two seemingly opposite experiences?

When I was first presented with the idea that homes should be sacred, I tried to make my home fit the kind of cleanliness and order I thought the temple represented. Instead of a temple-like home, I ended up with a growing resentment toward the things that homes exist for. Cooking and laundry became onerous because the tasks created disorder. I even developed an intolerance for the cheerful chaos that burst through the back door with my children as the school bus pulled away. I became confused. Is my home still sacred when it is messy? What about when it is loud? What if I have children or friends who do not want to be reverent? Do they still get to come into my home? The harder I pushed my family to fit my narrow definition of sacred, the more anxious and less temple-like we all felt.

Then I began walking in the mornings with a wise neighbor who has come to believe that the work of feeding, clothing, and nurturing one another is every bit as spiritual as it is physical. She feels strongly that when ordinary, life-sustaining tasks are done together as a family, they bind family members to one another in small but critical ways. I was startled to realize that she saw as “sacred” the tasks that I always thought were obstacles to sacredness. And for evidence, she turned to the scriptures. The parable of the sheep and the goats found in Matthew 25 clearly shows that Christ will judge us according to our willingness to feed and clothe “the least of these my brethren” (verse 40). Does this include members of our own families? In fact, Christ used imagery of feeding and washing and cleaning throughout His parables and object lessons. “He shall feed his flock like a shepherd” (Isa. 40:11). He will wash “away the filth of the daughters of Zion” (2 Ne. 14:4) and “sweep away the bad out of [His] vineyard” (Jacob 5:66). He even likens Himself to a hen who “gathereth her chickens under her wings” (Matt. 23:37).

Even more striking to me, Christ not only spoke of these things, He personally did them. He fed multitudes with limited tangible resources in a miraculous example of His attention to our physical as well as spiritual hunger. He washed the feet of His disciples to illustrate the humble service required of a Master and to reveal what He was willing to do that we might be entirely clean. In the book of Moses, He states that He, Himself, made the coats of skins to clothe Adam and Eve. When seen in this new light, my perception of tasks like peeling potatoes and scrubbing floors began to turn upside down and inside out. It was becoming obvious to me that when we care for the physical as well as the spiritual needs of our families, we are patterning our lives after the Savior.

One morning my friend commented about the struggle mothers face when cleaning up after children. She worried that if mothers think they have to maintain temple-like standards of cleanliness, they will focus on the cleaning itself and miss out on the wonderful opportunity to work side-by-side with their children. “Are we doing a disservice to mothers if we hold out the temple as a standard for them to emulate?” she asked. Her question touched a raw nerve. It brought back painful memories of my own attempts to make my home like a temple, and I wanted to object. I went home and looked up the exact wording of the “Temple” entry in the Bible Dictionary. There it was again: “Only the home can compare with the temple in sacredness.” There was no hint that we should try to make our homes sacred like the temple. The sacredness is somehow already there. For the rest of the day, parallels between my routines at home and those at the temple flooded my mind. In the temple, for instance, we worship as a group. The pace for the entire group is set by the slowest member. I thought of how family scripture reading or dressing for church or even passing the food at dinner is almost always determined by our two-year-old. In the temple what we do with our hands is just as important as what we say with our lips. Certainly I show my love for my family with both my hands and my lips during the rituals of homemaking. I vocally tell my children I love them, but an understanding of the depth of my love comes when my hands clean up their vomit or gently scrub their backs or hang on to the seats of their bicycles or hold their hands as we cross the street. I even thought about what it is we are taught at the temple. In both settings we learn of our true identity and our connections and obligations to one another. Elder Boyd K. Packer stated, “Most of what I know about how our Father in Heaven really feels about us, His children, I have learned from the way I feel about my wife and my children and their children. This I have learned at home.”

Michael Wilcox, in his book *House of Glory*, states that “as we pray for understanding, we can be assured that everything in the temple is beautiful. . . . The temptation to reject a symbol as unedifying says much more about our ignorance of its meaning than about the symbol itself. If we understand it, it would be beautiful and powerful.” As I have prayed for an understanding and testimony of the sacredness of my home, I have learned to apply this same principle to the ceremonies of making a home. Only when I cease to feel “above” mundane tasks like taking out the garbage or sweeping the kitchen floor do I glimpse their symbolic and sacred nature. As I clean windows, for instance, I notice the sunlight shining through more clearly, affirming that Jesus Christ is the source of all light. When I choose to spend a particular moment serving my family in this way over the many other possibilities, I remember that Mosiah taught that “when [we] are in the service of [our] fellow beings” we are also in the service of our God (Mosiah 2:17).

I learn even more when I share these tasks with my children. One Saturday morning my nine-year-old daughter and I were cleaning our large kitchen window together. I was outside and she was inside. We both sprayed the entire window with cleaner and when I looked at the

window, I couldn't see her at all. Gradually, as we both wiped away the spray, her image became clearer until, with both the dirt and the spray gone, I could see her with perfect clarity. Our relationship is sometimes stormy, and the incident reminded me of my need to constantly keep wiping away surface tensions, judgmental thoughts, and misunderstandings whenever her true identity and potential are temporarily clouded from my vision.

On the days I don't really feel like laboring for and with my family, my reluctance itself teaches me about my relationship with my Heavenly Father, His Son Jesus Christ, and my own progress toward Them. How much greater Their love for us must be than what I am capable of, for They never tire of listening to our prayers nor are They inconvenienced by our constant need for Their help.

Realizing something of the spiritual value of homemaking has made me more aware of the need to more fully involve my family in these tasks. My husband and I no longer simply delegate chores to our children each day. We wash dishes and make beds alongside them. By doing so, we have been blessed with opportunities to teach our children and be taught ourselves with a frequency and a depth we previously never imagined. A year ago, I spent most of my dishwashing time muttering under my breath and trying to jam too many dishes into the limited dishwasher space. Now, every time I invite a child to thrust his or her hands into the warm, soapy water with mine, I learn something new about that child's spirit and life. It is only when doing dishes together that my twelve-year-old son, who mostly speaks in monosyllables about his experiences at school, reveals who his friends are and why he has chosen them, the pressure he feels about his grades, how much he likes math, and what he thinks about his teacher. Paradoxically, what I previously labeled "mindless" and once thought of as interruptions to spiritual growth are becoming the core of what makes my home feel sacred. As I cook meals, wash dishes, make beds, and sweep floors, I am continually in the midst of both teaching and being taught about charity, humility, hope, and faith. I am exchanging independence and "everyone seeking after their own" for a mutual dependence and unity in purpose that surely is related to Zion. I feel the sacredness in my home not only when it is clean, but also when we are in the process of getting it that way. Some days I don't even mind that we will go through the process again the next day.

Much of my discouragement at home was due to a sense of failure I felt for not being able to create sacredness artificially there. How comforting it is to be released from that burden. With joy and gratitude I now realize I need only look for the way sacredness already surrounds me.

SELECTED BLUEPRINTS FOR A “HEAVENLY HOME”

Scripture Study:

President Marion G. Romney, “The Book of Mormon,” *Ensign*, May 1980, 67

“I feel certain that if, in our homes, parents will read from the Book of Mormon prayerfully and regularly, both by themselves and with their children, the spirit of reverence will increase, mutual respect and consideration for each other will grow. The spirit of contention will depart.”

Prayer:

H. Kent Rappleye, “No Substitute for Family Prayer,” *Ensign*, Feb. 2001, 25

Elder M. Russell Ballard, “The Sacred Responsibilities of Parenthood,” *Ensign*, March 2006, 26

“Remember, also there is great power in prayer. I strongly encourage personal and family prayer, which are important in building strong families.”

President James E. Faust, “Dear are the Sheep That Have Wandered,” *Ensign*, May 2003, 61

“Good parents are “those who have loving, prayerfully, and earnestly tried to teach their children by example and precept to pray, and to walk uprightly before the Lord” (D&C 68:28).

Home & Family Gospel Art Kit, “Prayer”, 606

“Heavenly Father loves us and wants our families to be strong and live righteously. He has given us guidance to help us have Christ-centered homes. “Organize yourselves, prepare every needful thing; and establish a house, even a house of prayer, a house of fasting, a house of faith, a house of learning, a house of glory, a house of order, a house of God” (D&C 88:119).

Family prayer is essential to building strong families. When families speak regularly with Heavenly Father, they grow closer to Him and to each other. Prayer helps families focus on the most important things in life as family members express gratitude for their blessings and each other and evaluate their family’s needs.

Great blessings are given to families who gather together each morning and evening for family prayer. Children will learn to pray to their Heavenly Father. Even small children can take their turn, with parents giving help if needed. Through family prayer, parents can teach the principles of faith, humility, and love. Family prayer unites family members, strengthens faith, and helps families gain answers to their prayers.

Heavenly Father loves us and wants our families to be strong and live righteously. Praying together as a family is a way to grow closer to our Father In Heaven and to each other. We are able to thank Heavenly Father for our many blessings and ask for His guidance in strengthening our family.”

Family Home Evening:

“Family Home Evening: It’s a Matter of Time,” *Ensign*, Oct. 2005, 10

Family Councils:

Elder M. Russell Ballard and his wife Barbara Ballard, “Family Councils: A Conversation with Elder and Sister Ballard,” *Ensign*, June 2003, 14

Communication:

Elder Joe J. Christensen, "Responding to Challenges through Positive Communication," *Marriage and Family Relations*, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 18-20

C. Ross Clement, "Talking with Teens," *Ensign*, June 2005, 32

President Spencer W. Kimball, *Conference Report*, April 1954, 106

Elder L. Lionell Kendrick, "Christlike Communications," *Ensign*, Nov. 1988, 23

Brent L. Top and Bruce A. Chadwick, "Helping Children Develop Feelings of Self-Worth," *Ensign*, Feb. 2006, 33

J. Thomas Cearley, "Stop Using Words That Hurt," *Ensign*, March 2006, 58
"Instead of yelling

1. Pause and reconsider what you're going to say. Then think of a better response - or no response at all for the time being.
2. Remember the last time you felt like yelling, and concentrate on what you did that helped you then.
3. When tempted to yell or use demeaning or threatening words, count to 20 or more before you yell.
4. Put your child, and even yourself, in a time-out chair. Just sit there and cool off for a few minutes.
5. Sing or hum a favorite hymn.
6. Call a friend to talk or to even temporarily relieve you of childcare, if necessary.
7. Go outside for a breath of fresh air. Look at the sky to get the bigger picture.
8. Write a brief list of your immediate feelings of frustration. Then write feelings you think you may still have in 10 minutes or so."

"The home should be a safe, sacred place of refuge. Family members who avoid contention and who treat each other with kindness and love will be blessed for their efforts."

"...Showing nonverbal interest in what your child has to say by paying attention, maintaining eye contact without staring, and appearing interested instead of distant or bothered.

...Asking questions that invite your child to talk, such as, "It looks like something is troubling you. Want to tell me about it?"

...Selectively rephrasing what you hear, such as "You're worried that others don't like you." Rephrasing conveys interest in and understanding of your child's message. If you didn't hear it accurately, your child can clarify the message."

Discipline:

President Gordon B. Hinckley, "There is need for discipline with families. But discipline with severity, discipline with cruelty, inevitably leads not to correction but rather to resentment and bitterness. It cures nothing and only aggravates the problem."

President James E. Faust, Second Counselor in the First Presidency. “Our best method for correcting children when they have done wrong is by firmness, love, patience, kindness, persuasion, and reason.”

Love:

C. Ross Clement, “Show an Increase of Love,” *Ensign*, June 2005, 32

“The single most important thing we can do for our children is to love them as the Savior loves each one of us (see John 13:34-35). When our children know that we truly love them, they are more likely to listen to our counsel, follow our example, and accept our discipline.”

Home Environment:

President Gordon B. Hinckley, “The Environment of Our Home,” *Ensign*, June 1985, 3

Brad J. Bushman, “It’s “Only” Violence,” *Ensign*, June 2003, 62

Elder Spencer J. Condie, “The Message: Mushrooms, Music, Movies, and Magazines,” *New Era*, Feb.1990, 4

“Music, movies, and magazines have a lot in common with mushrooms. For example, they come in countless varieties. Just as some mushrooms are edible and desirable and nutritious, certain kinds of music, movies, and magazines provide nutrition for the soul as they edify, entertain, and uplift.

And just as there are different kinds of poisonous mushrooms, so are there different kinds of music, movies and magazines that poison the spirits of men and women. Some of these poisons are very much like jack-o-lantern mushrooms because their impact is so repulsive and objectionable that we immediately reject them.

But there are other kinds of music, movies, and magazines that work very much like the “destroying angel”; that is, at first we have no idea that what we are listening to or watching or reading is slowly and surely poisoning our very souls.

Often we hear people comment on different entertainments, and we will hear something like, “This tape by the Dirty Gym Sox has ten good songs and only two bad ones. “Or, “it was a great movie (or video), with only two or three bad scenes.” Or, “*Most* of the articles in this magazine are very interesting and insightful.” But in 1988, only a few toxic mushrooms in a whole dishful put five Oregon people in the hospital on the verge of death.”

Elder Marvin J. Ashton, “Rated A,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1977, 71

“A diet of violence or pornography dulls the senses and future exposures need to be rougher and more extreme. Soon the person is desensitized and is unable to react in a sensitive, caring, responsible manner, especially to those in his own home and family. Good people can become infested with this material and it can have terrifying, destructive consequences.”

The Stranger

A few months before I was born, my Dad met a stranger who was new to our small town. From the beginning, Dad was fascinated with this enchanting newcomer and soon invited him to live with our family. The stranger was quickly accepted and was around to welcome me into the world a few months later.

As I grew up, I never questioned his place in my family. In my young mind, he had a special niche. My parents were complementary instructors. Mom taught me the word of God, and Dad taught me to obey it. But the stranger? He was our storyteller. He would keep us spellbound for hours on end with adventures, mysteries and comedies. If I wanted to know anything about politics, history, or science, he always knew the answers about the past, understood the present and even seemed able to predict the future! He took my family to the first major league ball game. He made me laugh, and he made me cry. The stranger never stopped talking but my parents didn't seem to mind. Sometimes one of them would get up quietly while the rest of us were shushing others to listen to what he had to say, and would go elsewhere. (I wonder now if they ever prayed for the stranger to leave.)

Dad ruled our household with certain moral convictions, but the stranger never felt obligated to honor them. Profanity, for example, was not allowed in our home ... not from us, our friends or any visitors. One long-time visitor, however, got away with four-letter words that burned my ears and made my dad squirm and my mother blush. My parents seldom drank alcohol in the home. But the stranger encouraged us to try it on a regular basis. He made cigarettes look cool, cigars manly and pipes distinguished. He talked freely (much too freely) about sex. His comments were sometimes blatant, sometimes suggestive, and generally embarrassing. I now know that my early concepts about relationships were influenced strongly by the stranger. Time after time, he opposed the values of my parents, yet he was seldom rebuked ... and NEVER asked to leave. More than fifty years have passed since the stranger moved in with our family. He has blended right in and is not nearly as fascinating as he was at first. Still, if you were to walk into my parents' den today you would still find him sitting over in his corner, waiting for someone to listen to him talk and watch him draw his pictures.

His name? We just call him TV.

Mario Hipol, "Fighting Internet Filth," *Ensign*, Aug. 2005. 54

"Helping Children Understand the Media's Influence," *Ensign*, Jan. 1987

William A. Schaefermeyer, "Can I Watch a Movie?" *Ensign*, Dec. 1991

"First Presidency Preface," *Hymns*, 1985

"Music has boundless powers for moving families toward greater spirituality and devotion to the gospel. Latter-day Saints should fill their homes with the sound of worthy music."

“An Uplifting Environment, Lesson 47, YW2, 34824

“Louise was a member of a large family. Times were very hard, and her father brought home a meager income. The humble family home consisted of two rooms and a lean-to porch on the back. With only two beds for the entire family, Louise and her eleven brothers and sisters slept most of the time on the floor. In warm weather the boys slept outside or in a shed behind the house. Although the physical environment of this family showed poverty and want, the children used their creative and imaginative minds to make their home life beautiful.

Louise tells about how in her younger years she looked forward enthusiastically to each Thursday night. This was the night she and her sisters had their turn to sleep in the bed. It was also the night when they could have their “orchestra practice.” With no real musical instruments available, they each chose their favorite imaginary instrument and spent the evening humming and singing every melody they knew while beating out the rhythm on an imaginary drum or playing an imaginary violin, banjo, saxophone, clarinet, or bass. But the favorite instrument of all was the “grand piano.” The little girls would take turns sitting on an old chair at the foot of the bed (the only metal bedstead in the house) and using it as a keyboard for their imaginary piano. Louise loved that piano. No performance by Bach or Beethoven was ever more eloquent than her performances as she rolled melodious scales up and down those imaginary ivory keys.

It was not until many years later, after the struggle of getting through school and after being married, that Louise was able to have a real piano. Her dream of playing a musical instrument did come to pass. And the joy of hearing great performers and artists, especially her own daughters, themselves accomplished musicians, was a great fulfillment in her life. It was the fulfillment of a dream of a little girl who lived in humble circumstances but who had a heart always reaching up and out in search of beauty.”

Elder H. Burke Peterson, “Leave it Alone,” *New Era*, 44

“Satan has slyly and slowly lowered the social norms of morality to a tragic and destructive level.

Part of the tragedy I speak of is that many do not recognize they are trapped or soon will be. They see this as a form of entertainment that serves as a relief from the troubles of the day. In reality, *it is only relieving them of their spirituality* and their capacity to draw on the powers of heaven in times of need.

We must come to understand fully the consequences of having an appetite for such entertainment. Such an appetite can lead to an eternal penalty. No person can look at, read about, or listen to such explicit vulgarity, even in its mildest form, without bringing sorrow to a loving God and injury to one’s own spirit. We cannot look at or listen to these unholy depictions in our own living room or wherever they are shown without suffering the consequences - and those consequences are very real.

We must remember our rewards for righteous living are only partially enjoyed in this mortal life. Likewise, our miseries for breaking the commandments of God will not all be realized fully as we live here on the earth. Eternity is a long, long time.

Stay away from any movie, video, publication, or music - *regardless of its rating* - where illicit behavior and expressions are part of the action ... Our standards should not be dictated by the rating system. I repeat, because of what they *really* represent, these types of movies, music, tapes, and other products serve the purposes of the author of all darkness.

Darkness eliminates light. The effect of this is that we cannot think as clearly on life's challenges - be they business, church, school, family, or personal. We have cluttered the channel to the source of all light with various unclean images. Our entitlement to personal revelation on any subject is severely restricted. We don't do as well in school or at work. We are left more on our own, and as a result we make more mistakes and we are not as happy. Remember, our mind is a wonderful instrument. It will record and keep whatever we put into it, both trash and beauty. When we see or hear anything filthy or vulgar, whatever the source, our mind records it. As it makes the filthy record, beauty and clean thoughts are pushed into the background. Hope and faith in Christ begin to fade, and more and more, turmoil and discontent become our companions."

President Gordon B. Hinckley, "Great Shall Be the Peace of Thy Children," *Ensign*, Nov. 2000, 50

President Spencer W. Kimball, "The Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball," ed. Edward L. Kimball, (Salt Lake City: *Bookcraft*. 1982), 379-380

"Wear modest clean clothing. Your clothing doesn't need to be new and [it] should have some fashion of course, but [it] should be clean, modest, and neat. Be dignified in your outward manner and in your inward morality. . . If we dress in a shabby or sloppy manner, we tend to think and act the same way. I am positive that personal grooming and cleanliness, as well as the clothes we wear, can be tremendous factors in the standards we set and follow on the pathway to immortality and eternal life."

"An Uplifting Environment," Lesson 47, YW2, 34824

"Carla and Jenny Lynn are sisters who shared the same room. However, the room contained two totally different types of environments. Carla had posters of rock music stars and handsome men on the walls of her side of the room. A radio played loud rock music whenever she was at home. Clothes were piled on every chair and chest and were draped on the closet door. She had difficulty finding her shoes because the bottom of her closet was always cluttered, as was the space under her bed. Her soiled laundry was mixed up with her clean clothes until it was hard to distinguish which was which. Her bed was seldom made.

Jenny Lynn, on the other hand, decorated her walls with high school souvenirs and pictures of her friends and family. She had a large picture of a temple on one wall, along with small pictures she had received at Church of the Savior and the prophet. Her closet was usually organized and she usually made her bed. She kept the drapes open to allow the sunshine into the room whenever possible."

President Ezra Taft Benson, "Born of God," *Ensign*, Nov. 1985, 6

"People who are "captained" by Christ will be consumed in Christ. Enter their homes, and the pictures on their walls, the books on their shelves, the music in the air, their words and acts reveal them as Christians.

How can you create a protective Christ-centered environment in your home? What pictures and words can you hang on your walls? What music can you listen to? What verses can you memorize as a family to plant God's word deep within your heart? How can you systematically teach your children at all times and all places to serve the Lord?

Take a look around your home and as a family decide which items lead you closer to Christ and which ones lead you away from Him. It might be time to do a little housecleaning, or it may just be a good time to add a few items bringing Christ foremost in your minds.”

President David O. McKay, *Gospel Ideals: Selections from the discourses of David O. McKay*, (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book), 481

“The young son took the father from room to room and showed him the furnishings, the paintings on the walls and so forth, and the father said, “This is lovely. I congratulate you, but, Son, I have looked in vain for anything that indicates that you have a place here for God. “In writing about it later, the young man said, “I went through the rooms later, and I found that Father was right. . . .” Let us go back to our homes and see whether the spirit of our homes is such that if an angel called, he would be pleased to remain.”

President Gordon B. Hinckley, “Worldwide Leadership Training Meeting,” *The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, Salt Lake City, UT:LDS Church, June 2004

“I am surrounded . . . by interesting things that prompt me to do my best regardless of the circumstances. Here is a small statue of the resurrected Savior. The original, large statue by Thorvaldsen is in Copenhagen, Denmark. I recently was there and saw it. It is a constant reminder of Him in whose service you and I are engaged.

I have a small statue of the Prophet Joseph, who is my great inspiration. I testify that he was indeed a prophet of God, foreordained to come forth in this season of the Lord’s work to serve as the first President of the Church, our great seer and revelator.

As I sit at my desk, behind me is a portrait of Brigham Young. I know that he is constantly looking over my shoulder. I cannot escape an awareness of that. Now and again, when I face a perplexing problem, I turn around and look at him and ask, “President Young, what would you do?” I think I see a little smile come into his face, and he says, “I have done my work. Now you do yours.”

Here is an interesting piece of sculpture showing my grandfather burying his wife and half-brother somewhere on the vast prairie that they were crossing in 1850 en route to the Salt Lake Valley. We have no idea where that burial took place. But I see in him the faith and resolution that caused him to pick up his infant child and bring her on to the valley of the Great Salt Lake. I know that no matter how hard I work, it will never be as hard as he worked, nor will I pay so great a price in the service I give. He was stake president when there were only 25 of them in the entire church.

Here is a bust of my father. He too was a stake president. He presided over the largest stake in the church, with more than 15,000 members. I might say parenthetically that I likewise served as stake president as have my two sons. We are four generations of stake presidents. I know what is entailed in such a responsibility.

Here is an interesting little piece of sculpture. It represents a group of deacons. One has kicked off his shoes. They are typical of restless boys. They are a reminder of our obligation to the Aaronic Priesthood.

Right behind you on the wall is a framed picture. In this small photo I am with Ronald Reagan when he was president of the United States. It is a reminder that we who follow after the Lord Jesus Christ also live in Caesar’s world.”

Traditions:

L. Tom Perry, "Family Traditions," *Ensign*, May, 1990, 20

"If we will build righteous traditions in our families, the light of the gospel can grow ever brighter in the lives of our children from generation to generation. We can look forward to that glorious day when we will all be united together as eternal family units to reap the everlasting joy promised us by our Eternal Father for his righteous children."