



Sprouting Simple Seeds of Faith *Ideas for Grandparents*

"...By small and simple things are great things brought to pass," Alma 37:6

"In faith, we plant the seed, and soon we see the miracle of the blossoming. Men have often misunderstood and have reversed the process. They would have the harvest before the planting" President Spencer W. Kimball

Prayer:

"With the influences of evil that surround our children, can we even imagine sending them out in the morning without kneeling and humbly asking together for the Lord's protection? Or closing the day without kneeling together and acknowledging our accountability before Him and our thankfulness for His blessings? Brothers and sisters, we need to have family prayer."

--Neil L. Andersen, "Prophets and Spiritual Mole Crickets," Ensign, Nov. 1999, 17

Family Prayer

- Be Consistent: morning and evening prayer
- Encourage family members to pray for one another

Personal Prayers:

- As a parent, pray to know specific ideas and needs of each one of your children and how best to reach them.
Remember that Heavenly Father knows them better than you do.

Scripture Study

"Without reservation I promise you that if each of you will observe this simple program, regardless of how many times you previously may have read the Book of Mormon, there will come into your lives and into your homes an added measure of the Spirit of the Lord, a strengthened resolution to walk in obedience to His commandments, and a stronger testimony of the living reality of the Son of God."
Gordon B. Hinckley "A Testimony Vibrant and True," Ensign, Aug. 2005, 5-6

- Read each day as a family and individually

Family Home Evening:

"We call upon parents to devote their BEST efforts to the teaching and rearing of their children in gospel principles which will keep them close to the Church. The home is the basis of a righteous life, and no other instrumentality can take its place or fulfill its essential functions in carrying forward this God-given responsibility.

"We counsel parents and children to give highest priority to family prayer, family home evening, gospel study and instruction, and wholesome family activities." The First Presidency: Gordon B. Hinckley, Thomas S. Monson, James E. Faust, emphasis added (letter, 11 Feb. 1999; printed in the Ensign, June 1999, 80).

- Share a scripture with the family and have it posted in a visible area throughout the week.
- Include a "scheduling" session to work out the week's schedule.
- Use your resources. Glean ideas from family and friends that work well in their homes. Use the churches resources; the Friend, New Era, Ensign, web page, FHE Manual etc.

Temple Worship

"And that all people who shall enter upon the threshold of the Lord's house may feel thy power, and feel constrained to acknowledge that ... it is thy house, a place of thy holiness." Joseph Smith, D&C 109:13

- Make Temple Attendance a Family Affair: schedule temple sessions with your endowed children.
- Hang pictures of the temple in your home and in your children's rooms.
- Do Baptisms for the dead with your teenage grandchildren then take them out for a treat afterwards.
- Actively and appropriately teach about the temple.
- Work together as a family to prepare names of deceased ancestors for temple work.

Creating Relationships of Trust and Love

"Just as Jesus used a child in His mortal ministry as an example for the people of the pure love they must and could have to be like Him, He has offered us the family as an example of an ideal setting in which we can learn how to love as He loves.

That is because the greatest joys and the greatest sorrows we experience are in family relationships." Henry B. Eyring, "Our Perfect Example," Ensign, Nov. 2009, 70-73.

- Plan, organize and enjoy family vacations together
- Keep a scrapbook of family fun.
- Have a family "magnet." Something fun to draw the family together (i.e. ski boat, 4-wheelers, camping traditions, cabin, snowmobiles, etc.).
- Go on bike rides, walks, or hikes together.
- Go on walks and acknowledge God's creations
- Grandparents sponsor a family co-ed softball team. Join a community league and enjoy the family unity that comes from playing together as a team.
- Be a grateful family, teach gratitude
- Read to grandchildren
- Send birthday cards that arrive on grandchildren's birthdays.
- Email your grandchildren often if you are unable to see or talk to them regularly.
- Teach grandchildren skills you have developed such as: music lessons, athletics, artistic skills, gardening techniques, equestrian skills, fishing, carpentry, etc.
- Open your home for family gatherings
- Share stories from your life with your child
- Express sincere love verbally each and every day.
- Attend your grandchild's events and activities.
- Organize family reunions: Visit Church history sites, save and go to Disneyland or another "fun" place, visit local places of interest or fun together.
- Plan and organize "family youth conferences." Each family member is part of the planning and has responsibilities for different parts of the conference, such as transportation, lodging, menus, activities, devotionals. Go somewhere and include devotionals and testimony meetings in your experience.
- Have a favorite camping tradition.

- Give your married children some together time and invite the grandchildren over for a “sleepover.”
- Have entertaining things at your home: basketball standards, footballs, bikes, dress-up clothes, play kitchens, Lego's, jump ropes, trampoline, Wii, etc.
- Keep quick foods and treats available for drop-in visitors; ice cream, cookies, candy, fruit, etc.
- Make bread with your grandchildren. Give each child a piece of dough and let him kneed and shape his own small loaf of bread. Bake in small loaf pans. Then have a lunch with warm bread and milk.
- Make cookies with your grandchildren.
- Send good books to your grandchildren with a tape of you reading the story.
- Help at your grandchildren’s school.
- Put away the cell phone when you are with your children.

Church Involvement

“Serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.” (Deut. 11:13.)

- Have a tradition of attending General Priesthood, General Relief Society Conference, or General Young Women’s meetings, and then follow up with an ice cream social or other treat.
- Play church and other uplifting and edifying music in your home.
- Attend and participate in family baptisms, priesthood ordinations, mission calls and settings apart. Follow these sacred ordinances with a family testimony meeting.
- Set the example for your grandchildren, Go on a mission.
- Make small quiet books from pictures of: Family members, Scripture stories, Temples, pictures of apostles and/or prophets.
- Heed the prophet’s council immediately, such as reading the entire Book of Mormon before the end of the year.
- Be an example by serving willingly and with a good attitude.

Fasting

Fasting is a principle of power. It changes lives. Shayne M. Bowen, "Fasting with Power," Ensign, Apr 2009, 64-67

- Fast together as a family for special needs within the family.