

Theme and Focus Ideas

<u>Month</u>	<u>Theme</u>	<u>Some Related Areas and Principles</u> *focus on one or more
January	Order	Home organization/church organization family organization/the creation/plan of salvation/goals
February	Love	Love in the family/loving our neighbors/morality/ chastity/brotherhood/dating/courtship/marriage/loving ourselves/YW theme and values/covenants
March	Unity	Family unity/teamwork/wholesome family recreation/. Christ-like communication/world-wide brotherhood/zion
April	Spirituality	Victory over self/the Sacrament/prayer/faith scripture study/testimony/repentance/baptism/honesty/ integrity/the Sabbath day/the Holy Ghost
May	Talents/Gifts	The arts/journals/testimony/spiritual treasures/ the armor of God/our talents/sharing our talents/ gifts of the spirit/education
June	Joy	Plan of salvation/the temple/choosing the right/ being happy/internalizing the gospel/ the joy of work/covenants/eternal marriage/relationships
July	Heritage	Family heritage/pioneer heritage/family history and temple work/family reunions/freedom/ family traditions/wholesome family recreation
August	Light	Light of example/gaining knowledge light and truth/happiness/prayer/faith/education/ missionary work/the light of Christ
September	Purpose	Being the Lord's instrument/patriarchal blessings/priesthood blessings/the Book of Mormon/ plan of salvation/families are forever/YW Theme-values/ obedience/covenants/purposes of the Aaronic Priesthood
October	Harvest	Missionary work/gardens/work/follow the Prophet family preparedness/the plan of salvation/repentance
November	Gratitude	Gratitude attitude/memories/records/repentance/ the life of Christ/the Atonement/thanksgiving/prayer/ true religion
December	Charity	Charitable service/follow the Savior/Christmas brotherly love/the pure love of Christ/gifts and giving/ family traditions

“...we should build a consistent, planned program of introducing the principles of the gospel [to our children]...Of course there are other organizations that can help, but we should want to be certain that we know what they are learning, and that we take the time and have the patience to determine carefully and in a planned, organized way, that they are growing up with a sure foundation on which to build their lives.” Elder L. Tom Perry *Ensign* Nov. 1988

A PLAN FOR TEACHING THE GOSPEL IN OUR HOMES

1. **Select** a gospel theme and focus (see idea list on reverse side). Make your list for the year.
2. **Prepare** for the month:
 - **Post the theme and focus for the month, along with a supporting scripture, hymn, and quote from the Prophet or an Apostle** (On the fridge? On a table easel? On a bulletin board?). One idea is to memorize the scripture by repeating it before meals, and to learn the hymn by singing it together as often as you can (accompaniment CD's and tapes are available from church distribution). Read the preface of the hymnbook for motivation.
 - **Weave the month's focus into your plans for Monday night family home evenings, Sunday instruction for your family, and scripture study.** Most church resources have a topical index, and now many (including the scriptures, church magazines, the Family Home Evening Resource Book and the Gospel Art Picture Kit) are available on www.lds.org.
 - **Organize and schedule a “wrap-up” recreational activity for the end of the month** to pull together what you have taught, bear testimony of its truthfulness and create a fun family memory putting the principle into practice.
3. **Proceed** with your plans!
 - Planning ahead allows parents to **discuss and pray** about **family needs, how to teach, what resources are available, and what they want to have happen each month.** (see 2 Nephi 25:26, Mosiah 4:15, 3 Nephi 22:13, D&C 68:25, D&C 93:40)
 - **Enjoy carrying out your plans together!** The enthusiasm generated by having a plan is contagious, and provides opportunities for **input** from all family members.
 - With this plan, you can **“divide and conquer.”** How do you eat an elephant? A bite at a time! Pres. Woodruff said: “Do not be discouraged because you cannot learn all at once; learn one thing at a time, learn it well, and treasure it up, then learn another truth and treasure that up, and in a few years you will have a great store of useful knowledge which will not only be a great blessing to yourselves and your children, but to your fellow men.” (G. Homer Durham, *Discourses of Wilfred Woodruff*, Bookcraft, 1969)
 - **Be persistent**—you may not teach and do all you want to each month, but your daily efforts add up to weeks, months, and years of diligence! (see Mosiah 4:27)
 - **Be flexible**—the principles of the gospel can be woven into a personalized curriculum adaptable for families with young children, teens (or both), singles, or empty-nesters.
 - **Seize teaching moments** to discuss and testify of the truthfulness of the principle—meal time, travel time, bed time, prayer time, family home evening, scripture study, parent-child interviews, family council, journal writing, etc. In the Book of Mormon, Enos relates: “the words that I had often heard my father speak concerning eternal life and the joy of the saints” brought him to his knees to pray and repent.

“And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down and when thou riseth up.” (Deut. 6:7)