

# **Preparing Spiritually for the Dedication Of the Tucson Arizona Temple**

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## **Introduction to Family Temple Preparation Materials**

The following materials may assist members to prepare themselves spiritually and physically to attend the Tucson Temple Open House and Dedication. Families are encouraged to study the principles contained in this material, even if they do not plan to attend the Open House and Dedication.

Families are encouraged to prayerfully use these materials to meet their individual needs.

### **Resource Material:**

The primary reference material for these family home evening discussions is the booklet, Temples of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints published by the Ensign Magazine and available through the Church Distribution Center and LDS bookstores; in the lesson materials, it will be referred to as “Temple booklet.” Many scriptural references to the Holy Scriptures are cited, both ancient and modern. There are excellent books available in LDS bookstores and online, including:

The Holy Temple (Boyd K. Packer)

The House of the Lord (James E. Talmage)

The Encyclopedia of Mormonism (Macmillan Publishing Company, edited by Daniel H. Ludlow)

Through Temple Doors (John K. Edmunds)

Temples in the Last Days (Royden G. Derrick)

## **Attending the Temple Open House—An Opportunity to Prepare for the Tucson Temple Open House and Dedication and to Share the Gospel with Others**

### **Purpose of Discussion:**

The Open House will provide an opportunity for us to (1) more fully prepare for attending the Dedication, and (2) help our non-member friends and acquaintances feel the Spirit in the Temple, thereby giving them a desire and opportunity to learn more about the Gospel.

### **Points to Discuss:**

1. An Open House, to which both members of all ages and interested non-members of the Church are invited, will be held as follows:

Free reservations for the public open house of the Tucson Arizona Temple will be made available through the Church's online reservation system <https://templeopenhouse.lds.org/> beginning Monday, May 15, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. Please follow the link below on or after that time to obtain your tickets. The open house begins Saturday, June 3, and continues through Saturday, June 24, 2017, except for Sundays, June 4, 11, and 18. Open House tours will be available from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Mondays.

This is a wonderful opportunity for all in our community to learn more about the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day saints.

2. As a family, we have an opportunity to invite many non-members: acquaintances, friends and family to attend the Open House. This is a unique opportunity to share the Gospel with others by inviting them to tour the Temple. The Gospel will be more effectively introduced into guests' lives if we as members take them to the temple, not just send them.
3. We will make arrangements for tickets (no cost) for our family and invited guests to attend the Open House. If we can't do it through the system as noted above, we will check with our Ward Mission Leader for assistance.
4. Using 3 x 5 cards, we may start a list now of those we would like to invited to tour the Temple with us. We'll refer to them and update them between now and the Open House.
5. We need to rely on the Spirit when thinking about who to invite to the Open House. If we let the Spirit direct, we won't pre-judge and decide who would go and who wouldn't be interested. Often, those we would least expect to go will be the ones who will end up going.
6. To give family members an idea of what to expect when going to the Open House, you may want to show some of the photographs of the inside of Temples throughout the world from the booklet, "Temples of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints."
7. You may want to share your testimony with family members of the wonderful opportunity it will be to have a Temple closer to your home, to be able to take friends to the Open House, and to prepare spiritually to attend the Dedication.

## **Preparing for the Dedication of the Tucson Arizona Temple**

### **Purpose of Discussion:**

Give family members an overview of the concepts and principles we will be discussing between now and the time of the Temple's dedication.

### **Points to Discuss:**

1. Attending a Temple dedication may be a once in a lifetime opportunity for the family.
2. Without going into detail, show pictures contained in the Temples booklet so the special nature of Temples will be better understood.
3. Point out that Temples are unique buildings in the Church, erected for holy purposes pertaining to family relationships and our eternal relationship with Heavenly Father.
4. After Temples are built and all members, as well as the public, are invited to go through the Temple during the Open House, the Temple will be cleaned and prepared for Dedication. There will be three Dedication sessions and the first of those sessions will be broadcast to all of Arizona. As a family, we will arrange our schedule so nothing will interfere with our attending as a family.
5. "Dedication is the act of devoting or consecrating something to the Lord, or 'setting apart' something for a specific purpose in building the Kingdom of God. It is a Priesthood function performed through an official and formal act of prayer..." (Encyclopedia of Mormonism)
6. The Dedication of a Temple is so sacred that the Prophet of the Church, one of his counselors, or a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, preside over each Dedication and offer the Dedicatory prayer. Other General Authorities also attend.
7. As baptized members of the Church living within the boundaries of the Temple District, if found worthy by our Bishop, we may have an opportunity to attend a Dedication Service.
8. Discuss "What do we as a family, and what do I personally, need to do to be worthy to attend a Dedication Session? What do I need to do to purify my life so I will feel worthy to be in the presence of the Lord as an invited guest in His House?"
9. Through our Family Home evenings between now and the time of Dedication, we will be preparing ourselves spiritually for this wonderful experience.

## **The Temple is the House of the Lord**

### **Purpose of Discussion:**

Help us understand why Temples are different than regular houses of worship, what happens when a Temple is dedicated, and the work that goes on in the Temple as it relates to families.

### **Points to Discuss:**

1. What makes temples different from regular church chapels?
2. What happens when a Temple is dedicated?
3. Discuss the family as a divine institution, and how much of the work that goes on in Temples is concerned with the family.
4. How vicarious work done in behalf of the dead shows love on the part of the living who do the sacred work in the Temple.
5. How family history research is a vital link in the work of the Temple.

### **Resource Material:**

**Temples** pamphlet, p. 5

**“Why These Temples?”** President Gordon B. Hinckley

*(You may want to relate a true story from the Family’s personal experience, or from other resources)*

## **The Holy Temple; The Endowment, Temples and Eternal Marriage, and Salvation for the Dead**

### **A. The Holy Temple**

#### **Purpose of the Discussion:**

To help us understand the Temple is holy because it is the House of the Lord; the importance of our worthiness to be in the House of the Lord, the sacredness of the Temple and the sealing power manifested there, and the adversary's opposition to the Temple and the work done there.

#### **Pointes to Discuss:**

1. The tribute written over the doors of the Temple
2. The sacred nature of Temple worship and Temple work
3. The importance of being worthy to enter the Temple
4. The use of symbols as the Lord's way of teaching us in the Temple
5. The sealing power delegated from Heavenly Father to man is the "transcendent delegation of spiritual authority from God to man."
6. Why opposition from the adversary often manifests itself when Temples are built unto the Lord
7. The Temple as a protection to us as a Church and a people

#### **Resource Material:**

**Temples** pamphlet, pp. 6-11

**"The Holy Temple"** Elder Boyd K. Packer

## **B. The Endowment**

### **Purpose of Discussion:**

To better understand what the Temple Endowment is.

### **Points to Discuss:**

1. Elder James E. Talmage's overview, including obligations on the part of the individual and the blessings that come
2. Elder John A. Widtsoe's description of the several divisions of the Endowment
3. President Brigham Young's definition and the importance of the Endowment after we leave mortality
4. President Joseph Fielding Smith's comments concerning the protection that comes to those who make covenants in the Temple
5. Discuss the meaning of the word "covenant"

### **Resource Materials:**

Temples pamphlet, pp. 12-14

**"Endowed with Covenants and Blessings"** February 1995 Ensign

**Bible Dictionary**

**Encyclopedia of Mormonism**

## **C. Temples and Eternal Marriage**

### **Purpose of Discussion:**

To help us understand that Temple marriage is a covenant that bridges death, transcends time, and binds together into eternity.

### **Points to Discuss:**

1. The origin of eternal marriage
2. The Savior's teaching of the principle through the parable of the woman who had seven husbands, all brothers to the first
3. The temporary nature of civil marriage
4. The new and everlasting covenant of marriage
5. Self-imposed limitations of those who fail to comply with Heavenly Father's requirements

### **Resource Material:**

Temples, pamphlet pp. 15-19

**"Temples and Eternal Marriage"** President Spencer W. Kimball

## **D. Salvation for the Dead**

### **Purpose of Discussion:**

To help us understand the validity of vicarious service for those who have died and that Temples are built to help bring salvation to those who have died without having the blessings of Gospel ordinances in their mortal lives.

### **Points to Discuss:**

1. A key principle to understanding salvation for the dead is the principle of vicarious service, in which one person acts in behalf of another
2. “Spirit prison” and how the ordinances of the Temple can “free” a person from spiritual prison
3. The need for baptism for the dead and the scriptural basis of this sacred practice
4. The right of choice exercised by those in the spirit world who are free to accept or reject the vicarious service performed in the behalf
5. Joseph Smith’s experiences, which show how important work for the dead is—turning hearts of fathers to their children and children to their father
6. President Joseph F. Smith’s vision concerning Jesus’s visit to the spirit world after his crucifixion

### **Resource Material:**

Temples, pamphlet pp. 21-25

“Salvation for the Dead” February 1995 Ensign

*(You may want to relate a true story from your family’s personal experience or from other resource materials)*

## **The History of Temples and their Importance in God's Plan**

### **Purpose of Discussion:**

To help us understand that Temples, both ancient and modern, are an important part of carrying out Heavenly Father's purposes for His children.

### **Points to Discuss:**

1. Essential idea of a Temple and the meaning of the word
2. Sanctuaries and the Tabernacle in ancient Israel
3. David and Solomon and Temple building
4. Reconstruction of the Temple by Herod I, King of Judea
5. Incidents in the Savior's life associated with the Temple
6. Temples among the Nephites in the Americas
7. The importance of Temples from the beginning of the Dispensation through the Prophet Joseph Smith
8. Revelations concerning the Kirtland and Nauvoo Temples; Salt Lake Temple taking 40 years to complete
9. Tucson Arizona Temple also built after the manner of other Temples: a result of revelation to leaders of the Church, sacrifice of members through payment of tithes and other offerings, and spiritual preparation of members who will worship there

### **Resource Material:**

**Temples**, pamphlet pp. 34-41

**"A History of Temples"** James E. Talmage

*(You may want to relate a true story from you family's personal experience or from other resources)*

## **The Order of the Priesthood, Family Government, and The Temple**

### **Purpose of Discussion:**

To help us understand important concepts, including what it means to enter into the order of the Son of God, the fullness of the Melchizedek Priesthood, the patriarchal order, the order of family government, and sealing power.

### **Points to Discuss:**

1. What does President Benson say is the equivalent of entering into the order of the Son of God?
2. How does one enter into the fullness of the Melchizedek Priesthood?
3. How was Adam able to bring himself and his righteous posterity into God's presence? How do we do this today?
4. Discuss the "order of priesthood," "Patriarchal order" and the "order of family government"
5. Discuss the significance of Section 2 of the Doctrine and Covenants
6. What priesthood was Elijah to reveal? What is the fullness of the Melchizedek Priesthood, and how does one get it?
7. What are the keys of sealing power?
8. When a couple enter into the eternal marriage covenant, what do they enter into?
9. To what does entering into the order of the priesthood entitle us?
10. What other blessings come to us as we attend the temple and perform the ordinances administered therein?

### **Resource Material:**

**Temples**, pamphlet pp. 42-45

**"What I Hope You Will Teach Your Children About the Temple"** Ezra Taft Benson, August 1985 Ensign

## **Purposes of the Temple and the Importance of Temple Worship**

### **Purpose of Discussion:**

To help us better understand the many purposes of the Temple and how it assists in our lives.

### **Points to Discuss:**

1. The Temple as a house or home of the Lord
2. A place of instruction (the “University of the Lord”)
3. A place of peace
4. A place of covenants, which will help us live righteously
5. A place of blessings
6. A place where ceremonies pertaining to godliness are presented
7. A place of revelation
8. A place where all are equal
9. Temple worship is eternally a part of the Gospel. The term, “Temple Worship” is a more complete and accurate description of the phrase “go to the Temple” often used by those who go there and perform sacred ordinances
10. The center part the Temple plays as part of the journey of eternal beings

### **Resource Material:**

**Temples**, pamphlet pp. 46-48

**“Looking Toward the Temple”** John A. Widtsoe

*(You may want to relate a true story from you family’s personal experience or from other resources)*

## **When We attend the Temple Dedication; After the Dedication—The Blessing and Responsibility of Having a Temple Nearby**

### **A. When we Attend the Temple Dedication**

#### **Purpose of Discussion:**

To familiarize us with the Dedication Service itself so that it will be a faith-promoting and spiritual experience for us. *(This material should be given a short time prior to the Dedication)*

#### **Points to Discuss:**

1. The Dedication is set for August 13, 2017 and we need to be in touch with the Bishop concerning a recommend to attend. If found worthy, each of us will receive a ticket to attend one session
2. A member of the First Presidency or other General Authority conducts each Dedication Session
3. The Dedication service usually includes the following elements:
  - a. Music by a choir, including members from stakes in the Temple District and singing by the congregation
  - b. A Cornerstone Ceremony (First Session only), in which copies of scriptures, history of the Church in our area, names of building contractors and others associated with completion of the Temple, and other special items are placed in a corner of the Temple.
  - c. Talks by General and local authorities
  - d. Singing “The Spirit of God Like a Fire is Burning,” which was also sung at the first Temple Dedication in this the Dispensation of the Fullness of Times
  - e. Participating in the Hosanna Shout, which each of us is to bring to the Temple
  - f. The Dedicatory Prayer offered by a General Authority under Apostolic Authority. The same prayer is given at each session, and is written down. It is longer than most prayers offered in church meetings. It is patterned after the first Dedicatory Prayer offered in this dispensation at the Dedication of the Kirtland Temple *(Read Section 109 of the Doctrine and Covenants—it will give you an idea of the type of prayer that will be offered)*

#### **Resource Material:**

**Doctrine and Covenants Section 109**

**Encyclopedia of Mormonism**

## **B. After the Dedication—The Blessing and Responsibility of Having a Temple Nearby**

### **Purpose of Discussion:**

To help us understand our own responsibility to worthily attend our own Tucson Temple as frequently as circumstances will allow.

### **Points to Discuss:**

1. A Tucson Arizona Temple President and his wife, the Temple Matron have been called to serve by the First Presidency of the Church. The Temple Presidency consists of three men, and the Temple Matron has two assistants to help her. They oversee all the work of the Temple, set the spiritual tone of the Temple, and supervise the performance of sacred ceremonies and ordinances therein. All Temples are administered under the direction of the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.
2. The Tucson Arizona Temple depends on those living in the Temple District to assist. There is a wonderful spirit of love in the Temple. Temple workers assist worthy members as they participate in baptisms for the dead, confirmations, the endowment, and Temple sealings. All ordinance workers are recommended by their local priesthood leaders. The work done in the Temple is so sacred that each person recommended to be either an ordinance worker or sealer is cleared by the First Presidency of the Church. After appropriate interviews, the person is set apart by the laying on of hands by those having the proper authority.
3. Temple sealers are called and are blessed with sealing powers by the Prophet through a member of the First Presidency or quorum of Twelve Apostles by the laying on of hands.
4. Youth aged 12-17, who are worthy, have the opportunity to be baptized on behalf of the dead. Adults who have received their own endowments are encouraged to attend the Temple and worship therein on a frequent basis. All full-time missionaries are endowed at the Temple prior to departing on their missions.
5. As a family, we want to strive to be worthy of the blessings of the Temple, to become a forever family, sealed by the power of the priesthood. We commit ourselves to strive to be worthy to marry in the Temple, to perform sacred ordinances in the Temple, and to worship in the Temple. If we are not yet worthy to participate in Temple ordinances and Temple Worship, we will strive to live worthy so that the time will come when we will be able to do so.

### **Resource Material:**

**Encyclopedia of Mormonism**, Volume 4, Temple President and Matron; Administration of Temples, pp. 1445-1446; 1456-1458