Family Home Evening Lesson Idea

Topic: The home is the best place to learn righteous principles and good values.

• Our commandment isn’t to simply bear children but it is to “bear them with the idea that we will save them.” (Elder Holland, Roundtable Discussion, 2008).

• The Proclamation states that it is the duty and responsibility of parents to rear children in love and righteousness. We will be accountable for upholding those family responsibilities.

• The home is the first learning place for children. The examples of parents are crucial in the upbringing, values, and morals the children will have.

• When we put Heavenly Father first, He will take care of the rest. When our family is struggling, we can turn to Him and He can help heal us and comfort us.

• We need to establish good family patterns and traditions. It is important to keep an eternal perspective on the family here on earth so that we can create strong and lasting relationships with our family members. We can create great memories that will remain with us after death.

• When family life at home is good, children tend to do better physically, socially and mentally. They learn to be good citizens, kind friends and charitable people.

• Fathers have a divine role as the patriarch of the home and the holder of the priesthood. Mothers have a divine role of nurturers . Together, they help each other and work as equal partners.

• Pray for your children and pray for their success. Pray for them that they might know the truth of the gospel and that they will strive towards worthy goals.

• “…Home, then, needs to be the safe place, the place where all the members of the family can come and know that they’re loved and that they are safe from the things of the world and that they’re OK” (Cheryl C. Lant, Roundtable Discussion, 2008).

• “Home is not just a place; it is a feeling, and it is a spirit” (Susan W. Tanner, Roundtable Discussion, 2008).

• Eat meals together! Christ taught during meals and it was a wonderful opportunity to teach.

• “Avoid taking the world’s models as our guides in parenting and marriage and all of those things that have eternal importance” (Dallin H. Oaks, Roundtable Discussion, 2008).

• “The most important of the Lord’s work you [fathers] will ever do will be the work you do within the walls of your own home” (Harold B. Lee).

• With love in my heart for the fathers in Israel, may I suggest ten specific ways that fathers can give spiritual leadership to their children:

* 1. Give father’s blessings to your children. Baptize and confirm your children. Ordain your sons to the priesthood. These will become spiritual highlights in the lives of your children.
* 2. Personally direct family prayers, daily scripture reading, and weekly family home evenings. Your personal involvement will show your children how important these activities really are.
* 3. Whenever possible, attend Church meetings together as a family. Family worship under your leadership is vital to your children’s spiritual welfare.
* 4. Go on daddy-daughter dates and father-and-sons’ outings with your children. As a family, go on campouts and picnics, to ball games and recitals, to school programs, and so forth. Having Dad there makes all the difference.
* 5. Build traditions of family vacations and trips and outings. These memories will never be forgotten by your children.
* 6. Have regular one-on-one visits with your children. Let them talk about what they would like to. Teach them gospel principles. Teach them true values. Tell them you love them. Personal time with your children tells them where Dad puts his priorities.
* 7. Teach your children to work, and show them the value of working toward a worthy goal. Establishing mission funds and education funds for your children shows them what Dad considers to be important.
* 8. Encourage good music and art and literature in your homes. Homes that have a spirit of refinement and beauty will bless the lives of your children forever.
* 9. As distances allow, regularly attend the temple with your wife. Your children will then better understand the importance of temple marriage and temple vows and the [eternal family](http://lds.org/ensign/2003/05/the-importance-of-the-family?lang=eng) unit.

• 10. Have your children see your joy and satisfaction in service to the Church. This can become contagious to them, so they, too, will want to serve in the Church and will love the kingdom.

• Matthew 12:25

• The home prepares us and the home cannot be replaced