

October: "The Family: A Proclamation to the World" Came from God to Help My Family

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Amalickiah was a wicked man. He promised the Nephites many things if they would make him the king. Many people believed him and turned away from righteousness.

Moroni was the captain over the Nephite armies. He was righteous and believed in Jesus Christ. When Moroni heard that many people were being led away by Amalickiah, Moroni became angry with him. He knew the people were in danger of losing their freedom.

Moroni tore off a piece of his coat and wrote on it, "In memory of our God, our religion, and freedom, and our peace, our wives, and our children". He fastened the fabric to the end of a pole and called it the title of liberty. Then he prayed for the people and visited them, waving the title of liberty and calling on the Nephites to join him in protecting their freedom.

We live in a time when there are people like Amalickiah who want to lead us away from following Heavenly Father's plan. One of the most important parts of that plan is families. Heavenly Father wants members of the Church to understand His plan for families. The First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles wrote "The Family: A Proclamation to the World" to declare what we believe about families. Like the title of liberty, the proclamation can encourage us to remember and explain what we believe. This proclamation came from our Heavenly Father and can bless all families if we follow its counsel.

OCTOBER WEEK 1
"The Family: A Proclamation to the World"
came from God to help my family.



Marriage is approved of the Lord. The scriptures teach that "marriage is ordained of God" for His children, and also "whatsoever God doeth, it shall be forever." His way of everlasting marriage is filled with hope and promise, and is designed to lead to happiness here and to be like Heavenly Father.

After the earth was prepared, God brought man and woman together in the Garden, and the first wedding occurred. They were not yet subject to mortal death, and no time limitations were placed upon their marriage. God declared, "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."

When Christ lived on the earth, He quoted this commandment and added, "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." He gave His disciples power to bind in heaven that which is bound on earth. Paul declared that "neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord."

Through the Proclamation to the Family we learn that a marriage between a man and a woman is essential to God's plan. Marriage is a commandment and an essential step in the process of creating a loving family relationship that can be forever because our Heavenly Father loves us so much.

OCTOBER WEEK 2
Marriage between a man and a
woman is essential to God's plan.



When you hear the word happiness, what do you think of? In a general conference address, Sister Coleen K. Menlove, quoted children explaining what they think happiness looks like. One child said, "Happiness looks like a smile that you can see in people's eyes so that you know they really are happy." Another child answered, "Happiness is a big word with flowers all around it." Another said, "Happiness looks peaceful like Jesus and Heavenly Father". Heavenly Father wants us to find happiness in being with our families now and for eternity. That's why He sent His Son to be an example for us. Sister Menlove said, "The Savior, Jesus Christ, showed us the way to happiness and told us everything we need to do to be happy". Those things we need to do include following the commandments found in the scriptures and given to us by modern prophets. President Gordon B. Hinckley said, "The way of happiness is found in ... obedience to the commandments of ... the Lord Jesus Christ". As we keep the commandments, remember our baptismal covenants, and are worthy to have the Holy Ghost with us, we can feel peace and bring happiness to our families.

OCTOBER WEEK 3
When family life is founded on the teachings
of Jesus Christ, we can be happy.





You can strengthen your family as you learn, play, serve, and work together. Sister Barbara B. Smith, a previous Relief Society general president said: "Remember that a family established in love ... is maintained through work and service. A home is strengthened by work when workers receive respect".

Working together in your home helps you to be responsible and to be grateful for the work others do for you. Serving your family members shows that you love them. Sharing talents or hobbies and participating in fun activities with your family teaches you more about your family members.

We can learn about working, serving, and playing together in family home evening. Prophets have promised us that our families will grow stronger when we use this time to study gospel principles and enjoy being together.

President Ezra Taft Benson (1899–1994) taught: "Families must spend more time together in work and recreation. Family home evenings should be scheduled once a week as a time for recreation, work projects, skits, songs around the piano, games, special refreshments, and family prayers. ... This practice will bind a family together, in love, pride, tradition, strength, and loyalty".

