

Family LIGHTS THE World



MONDAY
OCTOBER 26TH
—2015—

Family Home Evening Lesson | Use in conjunction with the Family Lights the World event

On Monday, Oct. 26th, families all over the world will be joining with Gathering Families and the World Congress of Families to shine a bright light on the blessings that the family brings to society.

This Family Night Lesson is provided to help your family celebrate with families all over the world. No matter where you are, or what time you will be having Family Night with your family, please join with everyone at 7:30pm MST (America) by shining a light—a flashlight, lantern or beam—into the sky as a united symbol that the family lights the way to eternal happiness. Feel free to gather with neighbors, friends and ward members when it's time to shine your lights into the sky!

PURPOSE OF THIS LESSON:

To help family members understand that the family shines God's light unto the world, is a resource of strength for all people, and is the reason for mortal life and the hope for eternal life.

PREPARATION:

Read through the listed selection of talks from Latter-day Saint leaders and decide which talk or talks will inspire your family. Consider asking one or more family members to read an assigned talk and to come ready to share their thoughts.

MATERIALS:

- Scriptures
- A flashlight
- A paper and pencil for each family member

OPENING PRAYER

OPENING SONG:

[The Family is of God](#) (Go to the link and scroll down to find the song title with audio link and/or sheet music. You can also access the song and a song video [here](#).)

Prior to the lesson

1. Turn the flashlight on and hide it somewhere in the room where the light is bright enough that the family will not notice that the flashlight is on.

Lesson:

2. Tell your family that you have hidden a flashlight somewhere in the room. Ask them to see if they can see where it is without getting up from where they are sitting.
3. Have a family member turn out the lights in the room.
 - a. Ask your family to see if they now can now see where the flashlight is.
 - b. Ask, "Why were you able to see it much more easily with the lights turned off?"

Explain to your family that we are living in a world that is becoming darker and more wicked. Many forces in society are trying to destroy the family unit in order to remove God's light from the world. But, as the world darkens, our family's light will shine brighter to those around us. The last days will provide us with great opportunities to stand as witnesses to the great Plan of Happiness for families.

We can help strengthen our own family by:

- a. Following the counsel of modern day prophets found in:
[The Family: A Proclamation to the World](#)
 - b. Showing others how blessed we feel to be part of a family
4. Share the messages you've pre-planned from the following selections:

Selection of Lesson Resources:

[Teaching the Doctrine of the Family](#) – By Julie B. Beck, Relief Society General President, Ensign Magazine, March 2011

[Disciples and the Defense of Marriage](#) – By Elder Russell M. Nelson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles – Ensign Magazine, August 2015

[Strengthening the Family: The Family Is Central to the Creator's Plan](#) – Ensign Magazine, December 2004

[Defender of the Family Proclamation](#) – By Bonnie L. Oscarson, Young Women General President – Conference Address given April 2015

[Be a Disciple 24/7](#) – Elder Russel M Nelson of the Quoroum of the Twelve Apostles – BYU Summer Commencement speech August 14, 2014

[Strengthening Families: Our Sacred Duty](#) – Elder Robert D. Hales Quorum of the Twelve Apostles – Conference Address given April 1999

Idea for a closing thought from [Strengthening the Family](#):

“The family is the primary support structure in God’s plan to help us resist evil, overcome weakness, and work out our salvation. For this reason, we should do all we can to strengthen the family in these days of confusion and opposition.”

“As Satan and his emissaries work to tear down the family, many people are losing sight of the joys and blessings a strong and loving family can offer. In this gathering gloom, the teachings and ordinances of the restored gospel shine as a unique beacon of hope. As we build our families upon the gospel’s firm foundation, our light will shine brighter and attract those who are seeking hope and happiness in a deteriorating world that offers neither.”

Additional Activity Idea: My Family and I Can Make Our Light Brighter

Give each family member a pencil and paper. Ask each person to write down one goal for each of the following:

1. Write something I can do better in the coming year to strengthen my own family?
2. Write something your family can do in the coming year to strengthen another family.

Then, read everyone’s ideas aloud and talk about how you’re going to accomplish them. If you want, put your ideas into a time-capsule and tell your family that you will pull them out in one year to see how you did!

CLOSING SONG: [Teach Me To Walk in the Light](#)

CLOSING PRAYER

[Family Lights the World Event Lighting Ceremony](#)

If you have scheduled your Family Night to coincide with the Family Lights the World lighting ceremony, then plan to gather outside with your family—and others if you choose—at 7:30pm MST (America) to shine your lights into the sky.

You might like to provide treats and music, and gather in your community to enjoy the spirit of this wonderful evening together.

Families Truly Light The Way To Eternal Happiness!