

Challenge 2017 Implementation Ideas for Wards

All ideas suggested here are simply to provide resources for wards, and are not prescriptive. Ward councils should decide what ideas will work best for their wards. Links to all resources mentioned below, in addition to many others, are available at ldsteach.org/family. Additionally, there is a folder online at bit.ly/FH17-folder with all presentations and more.

Every ward should create a plan that includes:

- Who: Who will lead out in this initiative? Who will we ask to be Finders/Teachers? Who will teach any classes we offer?
- What: What resources and ideas will we use in the ward? Which of the resources and ideas will we share with our members to explore on their own?
- How: How will we provide our members with the support they will need? How will we share the resources? How will we keep track of who has completed the challenge and who needs assistance? How can we best use our Temple and Family History Consultants? How can we help our members catch the spirit of the challenge? How can we prevent discouragement? How should we recognize the end of the challenge or track our growth?

As part of this plan, you may wish to consider:

- Sharing the challenge in a 5th Sunday Lesson in Priesthood/Relief Society or as a Sunday School lesson. You may choose to share the PowerPoint with embedded video for classes, available at bit.ly/FH17-ppt-classes with the script available at bit.ly/FH17-script. This is designed to be a full class presentation, guided by a leader.
- Holding a series of small workshops (there is a downloadable workshop plan provided at bit.ly/FH17-workshop).
- Sharing the videos for youth and for finders/teachers (more experienced members) from bit.ly/FH17-folder.
- Providing the link to the short presentation for members bit.ly/FH17-ppt-intro in ward bulletins, on social media, or in other communication channels.
- Polling members to match those with little or no experience with those who have completed charts and can help (the Finders/Teachers). Prayerfully and carefully match individuals. Often, the most experienced family historians do not make the best teachers if they overwhelm the inexperienced. The Spirit of this work is the key.

→ Assigning the spiritual aspects of family history as topics for sacrament meeting talks. Possible ideas include:

- The blessings of eternal families (including that through family history, we can all be a part of an eternal family)
- The plan of salvation and the necessity of family history work
- The infinite nature of the atonement
- The blessings of doing temple work
- How the temple leads people closer to the Savior

Find conference talks about family history that may be used as resource material at bit.ly/famhistory-conf.

→ Providing the brochure Family History: Get Started Now, available for purchase from the Church at bit.ly/challenge2017-brochure.

→ Having workshop-based classes for the Family History Class where members can be matched one-on-one with a Finder/Teacher. Remember that the wifi in the buildings will likely not support large scale workshops.

→ Having the ward council members complete their charts first or at least early in the process. This will not only allow them to lead by example, but also to develop the ability to help others.

→ Helping families organize themselves to do baptisms/confirmations during the temple's family times in the baptistry. The Family Priority Times for the Dallas temple are:

- T-Th: 7am - 6pm
- Friday: 7am - 9pm
- Saturday: 7am - 11am & 5pm - 8pm

Families must schedule these times in advance by calling 972-991-1273. The more Priesthood available to accompany the families makes the schedule more flexible, as the temple will not have to provide brethren.

→ As part of the initiative, temple recommends may need to be renewed. Consider reviewing who may need to obtain a current recommend.

→ If your ward does not have very many people who can serve as Finders/Teachers, you may wish to communicate with Temple and Family History Consultants to find others in the Stake willing to help.

→ Direct questions about the challenge to your ward's high council representative.

→ Email info@ldsteach.org with requested resources.