

The Family Discovery Kit

Simple ways to discover family stories, build connection, and turn hearts toward the temple.

Start small. Start joyful. You do not need to be an expert; you just need curiosity and one willing moment together.

How to Use This Kit

Choose one activity that fits your family tonight. Some activities take five minutes; others work well for family home evening, youth activities, reunions, or temple preparation.

A simple pattern

Choose an activity, learn or share one story, then save something: a photo, a written memory, a recording, a recipe, or a name ready for temple work.

Young children	My Family Workshop or Children Sharing Stories
Youth or cousins	Ancestor Speed Dating or Record a Relative Story
A family reunion	Fast Friendship, Heritage Cookbook, or Living History Improv
Only five minutes	5-Minute Sabbath Challenge or Indexing Power Hour
A temple focus	Ordinances Ready Temple Preparation

What to save afterward

- A photo with a short caption
- A written story from a child or parent
- A short audio or video recording
- A recipe and the memory behind it
- A family name prepared for temple ordinances

1. Ancestor Speed Dating

30-60 min

A fast, joyful way to make ancestors feel real.

Best for: Families with youth, cousins, or extended family gatherings

Try it:

- Each person chooses one ancestor and learns a few facts.
- Sit across from someone and introduce yourself as that ancestor.
- Rotate every 3 minutes and ask follow-up questions.
- End by sharing which ancestor surprised or inspired you.

Why it works: It turns names on a chart into people with voices, choices, and courage.

Make it a memory

Take a photo of each participant with the ancestor name they represented, then save the story or reflection in FamilySearch Memories.

2. Family History Mystery Night

45-90 min

Turn your home into a detective agency.

Best for: Families who like puzzles, records, maps, and old photos

Try it:

- Choose one mystery: an unknown photo, missing place, family legend, or confusing record.
- Gather clues from FamilySearch, letters, maps, photos, and relatives.
- Assign simple roles: researcher, note-taker, clue keeper, presenter.
- Share what you found and decide the next clue to chase.

Why it works: Curiosity creates momentum, and working together makes research less intimidating.

Make it a memory

Save the solved story, the question you are still working on, or a photo of the clues as a memory.

3. My Heritage Cookbook

Flexible

Food plus story creates powerful connection.

Best for: All ages, especially family dinners and reunions

Try it:

- Choose a family recipe or food tradition.
- Share who made it and when your family ate it.
- Tell one memory connected to the recipe.
- Optional: gather recipes into a printed or digital family cookbook.

Why it works: Food carries identity, place, memory, and belonging.

Make it a memory

Photograph the recipe or finished dish, then save the story behind it to the ancestor profile when appropriate.

4. 5-Minute Sabbath Challenge

5 min

A quiet weekly habit for busy families.

Best for: Busy families, Sabbath evenings, or one-on-one moments

Try it:

- Look at one ancestor photo, read one short story, or pick one unfamiliar name.
- Ask: What strength did they show?
- Ask: How can I apply that today?
- Write or say one sentence about what you learned.

Why it works: Small, repeated moments can turn hearts without overwhelming anyone.

Make it a memory

Save the one-sentence reflection as a memory, or add it to a family journal.

5. Smartphone Cemetery Walk

1-2 hrs

Connect physical history with digital records and service.

Best for: Youth, families with smartphones, or service activities

Try it:

- Choose a cemetery and check what has already been photographed.
- Use a cemetery app such as BillionGraves to photograph headstones clearly.
- Transcribe names and dates if needed.
- Look for connections to FamilySearch profiles.

Why it works: It combines outdoor service, technology, records, and real people.

Make it a memory

Save a short reflection about the service project, especially if you helped another family find a record.

6. Fast Friendship with Seniors

60-90 min

Youth interview ward seniors and preserve living memories.

Best for: Youth activities, ministering moments, or intergenerational gatherings

Try it:

- Arrange chairs in pairs and provide simple question prompts.
- Ask about childhood, traditions, faith, work, and meaningful memories.
- Record on the interviewee's device when possible.
- Share recordings with the senior or family afterward.

Why it works: It strengthens generations in both directions.

Make it a memory

With permission, save a recording, transcript, or favorite quote for the family.

7. Indexing Power Hour

10-30 min

Small digital service that helps records become searchable.

Best for: Tech-friendly families, youth, or short waiting-room moments

Try it:

- Open FamilySearch Get Involved.
- Review highlighted names from indexed records.
- Confirm, correct, or mark unsure.
- Set a simple goal: one batch per person.

Why it works: Simple service opens doors for discovery and temple work.

Make it a memory

Share what country, record type, or name you helped with.

8. My Family Workshop

30-45 min

Help children see where they fit in the family story.

Best for: Primary children and young families

Try it:

- Print or draw a simple 4-generation family chart.
- Add names, photos, birthplaces, or drawings.
- Talk about names they recognize and people they want to learn about.
- Choose one person to learn more about next.

Why it works: Children love seeing themselves as part of something larger.

Make it a memory

Take a picture of the chart or child's drawing and save it as a family keepsake.

9. Living History Improv

45-60 min

Act out an ancestor story so it becomes memorable.

Best for: Creative families, reunions, and youth groups

Try it:

- Choose one true ancestor story.
- Create a short skit, monologue, or simple reading.
- Use simple props, photos, or costumes if helpful.
- Record the performance.

Why it works: Stories become real when they are experienced, not only read.

Make it a memory

Save the recording, script, or a photo from the activity in FamilySearch Memories.

10. Ordinances Ready Temple Preparation

10-20 min

Move from discovery to temple service.

Best for: Temple-ready members and families preparing for a temple trip

Try it:

- Open the FamilySearch Family Tree app.
- Tap the Temple icon and select Ordinances Ready.
- Choose an ordinance and review available names.
- Print cards or save the QR code for temple printing.

Why it works: Discovery naturally leads to sacred ordinances.

Make it a memory

Record how it felt to take a family name to the temple or prepare one for another family member.

Interview Prompts

Use these questions with children, youth, parents, grandparents, ward members, or relatives at a reunion. Pick only a few; the goal is connection, not completion.

- What was your home like when you were young?
- What family tradition do you remember most?
- Who taught you something important?
- What challenge helped shape your faith or character?
- What did your parents or grandparents do that you still remember?
- What song, food, place, or object brings back a memory?
- What advice would you give your children or grandchildren?
- What story do you hope your family never forgets?

Before you record

Ask permission. Keep living-person details private when needed. Share recordings with the person or family, and save memories in FamilySearch when appropriate.

One-Page Planning Sheet

Activity we will try	
Date / place	
Who will participate?	
What ancestor, relative, or story will we focus on?	
What will we save afterward?	
Who will upload or preserve the memory?	
One thing we felt or learned	

If you feel overwhelmed, start with one photo, one question, one story, or one name. Small beginnings can lead to lasting family connection.

Quick Decision Guide

Acting or creativity: Living History Improv

Puzzles and clues: Family History Mystery Night

Cooking or family meals: My Heritage Cookbook

Technology: Indexing Power Hour or Smartphone Cemetery Walk

Temple focus: Ordinances Ready Temple Preparation

Grandparent stories: Fast Friendship with Seniors

Busy schedule: 5-Minute Sabbath Challenge

Young children: My Family Workshop

Need help?

Contact a Ward Temple and Family History Consultant. We would be happy to help you choose an activity, save a memory, or prepare a family name for the temple.