

How to Teach a Family History Sunday School Class

by Liz Snow Sept 2006

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“All of our vast family history endeavor is directed to temple work. There is no other purpose for it. The temple ordinances become the crowning blessings the Church has to offer.”

President Gordon B. Hinckley, *Ensign*, May 1998, p. 88

All family history consultants should register at-

<http://consultant.familysearch.org>

You will need your ward unit number and your membership number.

Who teaches a Family History Sunday School Class?

When assigned by the bishopric, family history consultants teach a family history class during Sunday School. The bishopric **can** call members to attend the class. Handbook, Temple and Family History 2006 pg. 266

Where do you get the Curriculum?

The current curriculum for the class is -“A Members Guide to Temple and Family History Work” published in 1993. This booklet can be purchased free of charge at any LDS distribution center. Corrections for a members guide- <http://familyhistory.byu.edu/corrections.asp>

Teaching Sunday School in the Family History Center-

Do a hands on course of BYU Religion 261- <http://261.byu.edu/>

A Members Guide..... isn't written in Sunday School format. Now what?

<http://www.ohanasoftware.com/?sec=lessons> You will find Beginning Family History Lessons by Liz Snow. You will need to scroll down the page. These lessons are based on “A Members Guide.....”

You can download the classes from the internet. You need to have adobe reader to access the lesson material. Then save it to your computer.

- Be flexible in how much you can get done each week.
- The class can (if need be), lengthened to additional weeks, to complete the class.
- Make sure the students know they have an assignment each week, and what the assignment is.

What if you don't have the internet at the church?

- You can use a dial up connection to your hall phone.
- A few churches now have wireless internet connections.
- Use a PowerPoint presentation of the internet pages and how to use them.

On the www.ohanasoftware.com website, I have a few PowerPoint presentation by the side of the Basic Family History class lessons. There are also other PowerPoint presentations on that website.

Other lessons on www.ohanasoftware.com.

Beginning PAF lessons by Liz Snow and many other topics. Look on the green Lessons tab at the top of their home page and on the left side under LDS Ward Consultants helps.

Other resources for Sunday School Lessons-

- **Lessons by Keith Erikson on the BYU website-** <http://familyhistory.byu.edu/teaching.asp>
- **BYU- Idaho Family History Website-**

<http://abish.byui.edu/specialCollections/FHC/SundaySchool.pdf#search='Ward%20family%20history%20consultants>

- Website by Alan Jones- <http://members.cox.net/fhconsultants/>
- Website by Michael T. Ritchey- <http://www.ancestrylessons.com/beyond-the-veil/>
- Website by Terry Mason- <http://www.tmason1.com/lds/lessons.htm>
- PAF Users Group teachers/class- <http://www.uvpafug.org/classes/>
- St. George Regional Family History Center website- <http://www.familyhistorycenter.org/fhc-classes.html>
- Website by Dawn Bushman- <http://members.cox.net/dawnbushman1/StartHere.html>
- BYU Religion 261 – <http://261.byu.edu/>
- BYU PAF tutorial- <http://paftutorial.byu.edu/>
- Lesson on PAF- open PAF, go to Help, click on lessons.
- Institute Religion 261- student manual- http://www.ldscs.org/inst_manuals/FamHistCompGd36405000/start_here.pdf
- Institute Religion 261- teacher manual www.ldscatalog.com Product # 35132000

After teaching Basic Family History - what next?

Take a ward survey to see what your ward member's family history needs are.

Other topics that I have taught in Sunday School-

5 Weeks- Preparing Names for Temple Ordinances-

Week 1- Cleaning up the data in your PAF file.

Week 2- Signing on to www.familysearch.org with membership number and confirmation date. Making a focus list in PAF with people who are qualified for ordinances.

Hours that the local family history center is open.

Week 3- How to search www.familysearch.org

Week 4- How to use PAF Insight to search for temple ordinances.

Week 5- How to Use TempleReady

The topics in the 5 Weeks-Preparing Names for Temple Ordinances can be found on - <http://www.ohanasoftware.com/?sec=ldswc&page=FHC> Look for each topic separately. You must scroll down the page to Family History Center Training by Liz Snow.

4 weeks of PAF

4 weeks on Writing a Personal History- use the class period to write and share stories.

4 weeks of How to Use www.familysearch.org

What to do if you don't have computers to teach with in your Sunday School class?

- Ask to have a computer on a rolling cart in your Ward Library.
- Use a lap top computer hooked to a projection machine and show an image on the classroom wall.
- See if your class members have their own laptop computers to bring.
- If your class members can't have a "hands-on" experience, you will have to move slower in your class

to make sure they all understand the concepts.

- Teach the same class more than once and encourage people to take the class more than one time. This will help them feel more confident in their family history skills.

Follow the inspiration of the spirit!

Each ward and it's members are on their own level in their family history work. Try to meet the needs of your specific ward members.

****For a copy of this handout in electronic format with hyperlinks to the websites- go to- <http://ohanasoftware.com/?sec=ldsdc&page=training> You will find the handout in WordPerfect Format, or as a Word Document. Also the PowerPoint Presentation is there, if you want to review or use it. ****