

LESSON 45 by Dennis Roberts

The Family is Ordained of God

(Objective: help members understand the eternal importance of family)

Welcome

What organization would you most trust to take care of your family?

1- The family is central to God's plan

- Fmly PtoW: 2-4 Why do we need this counsel today?
- Supplement #1 President Gordon B. Hinckley
- Fmly PtoW: 8 What does it mean "ordained of God"?
- Fmly PtoW: 12 What is taught about our potential?

2- Through ordinances, families can be together eternally

- Fmly PtoW: 18 What is purpose of mortal life?
- Fmly PtoW: 24 What is required for eternal families?

3- The power to create mortal life is sacred

- Fmly PtoW: 32 What is said regarding power to procreate?
- Supplement #2 Elder Henry B. Eyring
- Supplement #3 Elder Jeffrey R. Holland

4- Parents have duty to care for each other & children

- Fmly PtoW: 41 What sacred duties do parents have?
- Supplement #4 President Gordon B. Hinckley
- Fmly PtoW: 43 What is parents duty to children?
- Fmly PtoW: 47 Who is accountable if children not taught?

5- Successful families are based on righteous principles

- Fmly PtoW: 55 How do teachings of JC bring happiness?
- Fmly PtoW: 57 Successful marriages are based on what?
- Fmly PtoW: 60,63 What is responsibility of dad and mom?
- Supplement #5 President Gordon B. Hinckley

6- Strengthening families is everyone's responsibility

- Fmly PtoW: 70 If family ignored, what are consequences?
- Fmly PtoW: 77 Why include government officers?

Application

No matter our current status, we can be influential in promoting family values. The question is not if, but how.

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LESSON 45 SUPPLEMENTS

SUPPLEMENT #1

President Gordon B. Hinckley

"Why do we have this proclamation on the family now? Because the family is under attack. All across the world families are falling apart. The place to begin to improve society is in the home. Children do, for the most part, what they are taught. We are trying to make the world better by making the family stronger" ("Inspirational Thoughts," *Ensign*, Aug. '97, 5).

SUPPLEMENT #2

Elder Henry B. Eyring

"Children are the inheritance of the Lord to us in this life and also in eternity. Eternal life is not only to have forever our descendants from this life. It is also to have eternal increase. We can understand why our Heavenly Father commands us to reverence life and to cherish the powers that produce it as sacred. If we do not have those reverential feelings in this life, how could our Father give them to us in the eternities?"

(*"The Family," Ensign*, Feb. 1998, 15).

SUPPLEMENT #3

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland

"*The body is an essential part of the soul. ... We declare that one who uses the God-given body of another without divine sanction abuses the very soul of that individual, abuses the central purpose and processes of life.*

(Gen Conf., Oct. 1998)

SUPPLEMENT #4

President Gordon B. Hinckley

"When you are married, be fiercely loyal one to another. Selfishness is the great destroyer of happy family life. If you will make your first concern the comfort, the well-being, and the happiness of your companion, your marriage will go on throughout eternity"

(*"Excerpts from Recent Addresses of President Gordon B. Hinckley," Ensign*, Dec. 1995, 67).

SUPPLEMENT #5

President Gordon B. Hinckley

"If there is to be a return to old and sacred values, it must begin in the home. It is here that truth is learned, that integrity is cultivated, that self-discipline is instilled, and that love is nurtured. Sisters, guard your children. ... Nothing is more precious to you as mothers, absolutely nothing. Your children are the most valuable thing you will have in time or all eternity. You will be fortunate indeed if, as you grow old and look at those you brought into the world, you find in them uprightness of life..."

(*"Walking in the Light of the Lord," Ensign*, Nov. 1998, 99).

1 **LESSON 42 SUPPLEMENTS** *by Dennis Roberts*

2 **THE FAMILY: A PROCLAMATION TO THE WORLD**

3 *The First Presidency and Council of the Twelve Apostles of*
4 *The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*

5
6 We, the First Presidency and the Council of the Twelve Apostles
7 of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, solemnly
8 proclaim that marriage between a man and a woman is
9 ordained of God and that the family is central to the Creator's
10 plan for the eternal destiny of His children.

11
12 All human beings—male and female—are created in the image
13 of God. Each is a beloved spirit son or daughter of heavenly
14 parents, and, as such, each has a divine nature and destiny.
15 Gender is an essential characteristic of individual premortal,
16 mortal, and eternal identity and purpose.

17
18 In the premortal realm, spirit sons and daughters knew and
19 worshiped God as their Eternal Father and accepted His plan by
20 which His children could obtain a physical body and gain earthly
21 experience to progress toward perfection and ultimately realize
22 his or her divine destiny as an heir of eternal life. The divine
23 plan of happiness enables family relationships to be
24 perpetuated beyond the grave. Sacred ordinances and
25 covenants available in holy temples make it possible for
26 individuals to return to the presence of God and for families to
27 be united eternally.

28
29 The first commandment that God gave to Adam and Eve
30 pertained to their potential for parenthood as husband and wife.
31 We declare that God's commandment for His children to
32 multiply and replenish the earth remains in force. We further
33 declare that God has commanded that the sacred powers of
34 procreation are to be employed only between man and woman,
35 lawfully wedded as husband and wife.

36
37 We declare the means by which mortal life is created to be
38 divinely appointed. We affirm the sanctity of life and of its
39 importance in God's eternal plan.

41 Husband and wife have a solemn responsibility to love and care
42 for each other and for their children. "Children are an heritage of
43 the Lord" (Psalms 127:3). Parents have a sacred duty to rear
44 their children in love and righteousness, to provide for their
45 physical and spiritual needs, to teach them to love and serve
46 one another, to observe the commandments of God and to be
47 law-abiding citizens wherever they live. Husbands and wives—
48 mothers and fathers—will be held accountable before God for
49 the discharge of these obligations.

50
51 The family is ordained of God. Marriage between man and
52 woman is essential to His eternal plan. Children are entitled to
53 birth within the bonds of matrimony, and to be reared by a father
54 and a mother who honor marital vows with complete fidelity.
55 Happiness in family life is most likely to be achieved when
56 founded upon the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ.
57 Successful marriages and families are established and
58 maintained on principles of faith, prayer, repentance,
59 forgiveness, respect, love, compassion, work, and wholesome
60 recreational activities. By divine design, fathers are to preside
61 over their families in love and righteousness and are
62 responsible to provide the necessities of life and protection for
63 their families. Mothers are primarily responsible for the nurture
64 of their children. In these sacred responsibilities, fathers and
65 mothers are obligated to help one another as equal partners.
66 Disability, death, or other circumstances may necessitate
67 individual adaptation. Extended families should lend support
68 when needed.

69
70 We warn that individuals who violate covenants of chastity, who
71 abuse spouse or offspring, or who fail to fulfill family
72 responsibilities will one day stand accountable before God.
73 Further, we warn that the disintegration of the family will bring
74 upon individuals, communities, and nations the calamities
75 foretold by ancient and modern prophets.

76
77 We call upon responsible citizens and officers of government
78 everywhere to promote those measures designed to maintain
79 and strengthen the family as the fundamental unit of society.

80 *This proclamation was read by President Gordon B. Hinckley as part of his message at the*
81 *general Relief Society meeting held 23 September 1995 in Salt Lake City, Utah.*

LESSON 45 *by Dennis Roberts*

The Family is Ordained of God

(Objective: help members understand the eternal importance of family)

Welcome

Use PP to introduce lesson

1- The family is central to God's plan

- a. Fmly PtoW: 2-4 Why do we need this counsel today?----- Is this considered scripture? Why? So how does it affect us?
- b. *Supplement #1 President Gordon B. Hinckley* ----- *Children need home taught appropriate behavior & /accept responsibility*
- c. Fmly PtoW: 6 What does it mean "ordained of God"? ----- Why is family "central to plan"? (create spirit children and worlds)
- d. Fmly PtoW: 12 What is taught about our potential? ----- Line 15 teachers gender is important (world today downplays gender)

2- Through ordinances, families can be together eternally

- a. Fmly PtoW: 18 What is purpose of mortal life?----- Third paragraph summarizes Plan of Salvation for the world
- b. Fmly PtoW: 24 What is required for eternal families?----- What temple ordinances? (Shanna share feelings about doing sealings for anniversary)

3- The power to create mortal life is sacred

- a. Fmly PtoW: 32 What is said regarding power to procreate? ----- Why is obedience to this commandment important?
- b. *Supplement #2 Elder Henry B. Eyring* ----- *How does the world treat powers of procreation? Examples?*
- c. *Supplement #3 Elder Jeffrey R. Holland*----- *If we don't talk about sex with our children, who will?*

Lora Scarborough is doing some temple work for ancestors

Brad Pitt adopting Agelina Jolie's children but will consider marriage later on

4- Parents have duty to care for each other & children

- a. Fmly PtoW: 41 What sacred duties do parents have?----- To each other first and then to children also
- b. *Supplement #4 President Gordon B. Hinckley* ----- *How can good parents end up not putting each other first? What is result?*
- c. Fmly PtoW: 43 What is parents duty to children?----- List the 6 things we are to teach children: →
- d. Fmly PtoW: 47 Who is accountable if children not taught?----- When can parents teach children?

More Stuff #1

- 1-FHE
 2-family & personal prayers
 3-mealtimes
 4-bedtimes
 5-traveling together
 6-working together
 7-teaching opportunities

- 1-rear children in love & righteousness
 2-provide for their physical needs
 3-provide for spiritual needs
 4-teach to love & serve one another,
 5-observe the commandments
 6-be law-abiding citizens

Fathers: provide necessities & protection
 Mothers: nurturing

5- Successful families are based on righteous principles

- a. Fmly PtoW: 55 How do teachings of JC bring happiness? ----- Compare to world
- b. Fmly PtoW: 57 Successful marriages are based on what? ----- Nine principles
- c. Fmly PtoW: 60,63 What is responsibility of dad and mom? -----
- d. *Supplement #5 President Gordon B. Hinckley*

- 1-faith
 2-prayer
 3-repentance
 4-forgiveness
 5-respect
 6-love
 7-compassion
 8-work
 9-wholesome recreation

6- Strengthening families is everyone's responsibility

- a. Fmly PtoW: 70 If family ignored, what are consequences? ----- Do children still have free agency?
- b. Fmly PtoW: 77 Why include government officers? ----- Can nations be strong if families are not?

Jerry Farwell and lawyers on Sean Hannity
 Pre-emptive letters and free representation

Application

How can we gain a testimony of this proclamation? By living it!

.Next Lesson

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LESSON 45 More Stuff

-1-

President Spencer W. Kimball said: “It is the responsibility of the parents to teach their children. The Sunday School, the Primary, [Mutual,] and other organizations of the Church play a secondary role” (*The Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball*, ed. Edward L. Kimball [1982], 332).

-2-

President Gordon B. Hinckley told a gathering of mayors and other public officials: “To you men and women of great influence, you who preside in the cities of the nation, to you I say that it will cost far less to reform our schools, to teach the virtues of good citizenship, than it will to go on building and maintaining costly jails and prisons. ... But there is another institution of even greater importance than the schools. It is the home. I believe that no nation can rise higher than the strength of its families” (“U.S. Conference of Mayors,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1998, 109).

-3-

Henry B. Eyring: For some of us, the test in that schoolroom of mortality will be to want marriage and children in this life, with all our hearts, **only to have it delayed or denied**. Even such a sorrow can be turned to blessing by a just and loving Father and his Son, Jesus Christ.

No one who strives with full faith and heart for the blessings of eternal life will be denied. And how great will be the joy and how much deeper the appreciation then after enduring in patience and faith now.

-4-

Nearly half of all American children will experience the divorce or separation of their parents. There were 1.2 million divorces [in 1999], and slightly more than half involved minor children. Some 1.3 million children were born to unmarried women. In addition, millions of children live with step-parents. (*U.S. News and World Report*, Jan. 17, 2000, p. 46)

-5- **Assault on the Family**
(on white board)

