

1: Understand Your Calling

New Consultant Training

These lessons are for new family history consultants. The instructor can be another consultant, a priesthood leader, or a family history center director or staff member. This is an outline for a class. Videos and handouts (PDFs) are available for these lessons at <https://www.lds.org/callings/temple-and-family-history/family-history-consultants>. If you want to use the videos and handouts, you can download them before you teach the lesson.

Teaching Tips

- Provide a time when new consultants can use their own family tree to practice what they learn on FamilySearch.org. It can be at the end of class or at another assigned time. Make sure there are enough people to help answer questions and provide support.
- Consultants will have many questions. Answer what you can in class, but do not let the class get sidetracked. If necessary, ask class members to write down questions to ask at the end of the class.

Lesson

Introduction The main responsibility of family history consultants is to help Church members find and prepare names of their ancestors for temple ordinances. Family history consultants are essential to successful family history work. They help individuals and families experience the joy of doing family history. While consultants need not be experts in family history research, they should be comfortable using the resources at FamilySearch.org and helping others use them. These FamilySearch resources include family trees, historical records, and the FamilySearch indexing program.

Consultants take the initiative to reach out to members, especially those who are not comfortable using technology. They help a few individuals or families at a time to work on their own family history so they can perform temple ordinances for their deceased relatives.

Video [Rise to Your Call](#) (1:58)

Discussion Question: What stood out to you in this video?
You are called to help members provide saving ordinances for their ancestors. “Your call has eternal consequences for others and for you. In the world to come, thousands may call your name blessed, even more than the people you serve here. They will be the ancestors and the descendants of those who chose eternal life because of something you said or did, or even what you were” (Henry B. Eyring, “Rise to Your Call,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2002, p. 76).

Video [Overview Video: Family History Consultant](#) (1:35)

Discussion Question: What does a consultant do?
A consultant assists priesthood leaders and Church members in preparing names of their ancestors for temple ordinances. A consultant may also:

- Serve in family history centers.
- Assist others with more advanced research efforts.
- Train other consultants.

Question: What do you need to know to help members in your ward prepare names of their ancestors to take to the temple?

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Consultants need to be familiar with the resources available on FamilySearch.org. Family history consultants can be successful just knowing how to help members use FamilySearch.org to find, record, and reserve names for temple ordinances.

The high priests group leader directs the work of family history consultants. He may assign consultants to work with specific ward members. Consultants may also reach out to ward leaders and members to find out who would like help.

Video [*Tips for Working with Leaders*](#) (4:21)

Discussion Question: How do consultants find ward members to help?
The high priests group leader may assign consultants to work with specific ward members. Consultants may also reach out to ward leaders and members to find out who would like help.

Question: What should consultants focus on?
Consultants should help members focus on the temple and performing temple ordinances for their own ancestors.

Question: What are some of the reasons members do not submit the names of ancestors for temple ordinances?

- They don't know how to start.
- They are not interested in it or too busy.
- They think it is too hard or complex.
- They think it is all done.

As part of this training, you will learn how to find and take a name to the temple. By experiencing this process yourself, you become a witness of the joy you feel in doing family history and temple work. We hope this training will help you assist all members to find the names of ancestors to take to the temple.

Assignment Ask the class members to talk to someone who has been a family history consultant, if possible, and ask that person about his or her experiences.

Handouts [*Family History Consultant: Training Summary and Resources*](#) (PDF). This handout provides a summary of what a family history consultant does as well as resources for consultants.

[*Understand Your Calling*](#) (PDF). This handout has possible questions you can ask someone about his or her experience as a family history consultant.