

2: Start with Stories



THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

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

Report	Ask the class members to report on their assignment of talking with a former family history consultant. Allow them to share what they learned.
Introduction	Many Church members don't know how to get started with their family history, or they are not initially interested in doing it. How can you help yourself and others get started? Start with stories, photos, and talking with your family. Starting with stories can help turn your hearts to your ancestors and can help you care about them enough to receive temple ordinances on their behalf. It is important to record stories and preserve photos so that other family members can be touched and brought closer to their ancestors.
Video	Watching My Grandson Play Ball (2:37)
Discussion	<p>Question: What stories do you remember about an ancestor? How do stories make you feel? Hearing a story about someone makes you feel closer to that person; it helps you care a little more about him or her.</p> <p>"This restoration was accompanied by what is sometimes called the Spirit of Elijah—a manifestation of the Holy Ghost bearing witness of the divine nature of the family" (Russell M. Nelson, ("A New Harvest Time," <i>Ensign</i>, May 1998, 34).</p> <p>Read: Galatians 5: 22–23 and Doctrine and Covenants 2.</p> <p>Question: What are the fruits of the Spirit as mentioned by Paul in Galatians? Paul talks about love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance as fruits of the Spirit. Many of those feelings are the same ones you have when you remember and share memories of your ancestors.</p> <p>Question: What is the significance of feeling the Spirit as we remember our ancestors? It is this manifestation of the Holy Ghost that turns your hearts to your fathers, so you can receive temple ordinances in their behalf. It is important to teach people when they are feeling the Spirit, so they can recognize it.</p>
Video	Start with Stories (4:07)

2: Start with Stories

- Discussion Question: How can stories help members turn their hearts to their ancestors?
Stories provide a way to connect to an ancestor, regardless of your age. All members of a family can learn from and connect to ancestors through stories about them.
- Question: What steps did the consultant take to help the member?
First, she shared a story about her family, and then she encouraged the member to share stories about her family. She encouraged the member to talk with her family and fill out the booklet. Then she helped to enter the information on FamilySearch.org. She reserved the names for temple ordinances and printed the Family Ordinance Request. Then she encouraged the member to perform the temple ordinances.
- Handout [*My Family: Stories That Bring Us Together*](#). This booklet is helpful for members who are not comfortable with technology or who are just starting their family history. Notice how the booklet is organized to record stories and basic information for four generations. You can get copies of the *My Family: Stories That Bring Us Together* booklet from your high priests group leader or bishop. Copies are available from Church distribution (store.lds.org).
- Video [*An Introduction to My Family Booklet*](#) (5:23)
- Discussion Question: What is the helper number?
In order to help a member, you must enter his or her helper number. Unless the member has changed it to something else, this number is the last five digits of his or her membership record number. A member can get this number from his or her temple recommend or from the ward clerk.
- Question: When would you need to use the helper function? You may need to use it when someone else does not feel comfortable using a computer or does not have access to a computer.
- Video [*FamilySearch: Photos and Stories*](#) (1:16)
- Demo Demonstrate the following on FamilySearch.org.
1. Sign in to FamilySearch.org.
 2. On the FamilySearch home page, click **Family Booklet**, and show the options to fill in an online version, help someone else, and order a booklet.
 3. On the family booklet page, click **Help Others**, and show what information is needed in order to help enter information for someone else.
 4. On the Family Tree, show where the photos, stories, and documents appear with a person's details.
 5. Under Memories, show how to view photos added by yourself and others.
 6. On a photo submitted by someone else, click the **yellow banner** to show the relationship.
 7. Show how to add a photo.
 8. Show how to add a tag that identifies each person in the photo.
 9. Show how to add a story.
 10. Show how to add a document.
 11. At the top, click **Get Help**, and then **Help Center**. Point out the help and training resources available for the Memories feature.
- Discussion Question: When would you use the booklet, and when would you have others add their photos and stories directly to FamilySearch.org?
A member's level of experience with computers or with family history will help you determine

2: Start with Stories

whether to use the booklet or just use the computer. You may want to use the booklet with those who are new to family history, who are not comfortable in using a computer, or who do not have access to a computer.

Question: What are some different ways to digitize photos?

You can use a scanner, smartphone, digital camera, and so forth. FamilySearch has an app that will take a picture of a photo and upload it to FamilySearch. Most family history centers have scanners available.

Assignments Do the following:

- Fill out the booklet *My Family: Stories That Bring Us Together* as much as you can.
- Add any new information, photos, and stories to FamilySearch.org.
- Who in your family or ward would be blessed by this experience? Help someone else get started using photos, stories, or the booklet.

Handouts [My Family: Stories That Bring Us Together: Instructions for Consultants](#) (PDF). This handout provides details on how to sign in as a helper to add information from the booklet.

[My Family: Stories That Bring Us Together, a Quick Start Guide](#) (PDF). This handout has instructions for using the booklet *My Family: Stories That Bring Us Together*.

[Memories: A Quick Start Guide](#) (PDF). This handout has step-by-step instructions for photos and stories.

[Being a Helper: A Quick Start Guide](#) (PDF). This handout provides details on using the Helper function.

[Teach: Start with Stories](#) (PDF). This handout has tips on helping members start with stories.