
Activity Time

Gathering the Family of God

Description: All of us belong to God's family! Discuss ways we can help to gather the family of God on both sides of the veil and help it to grow, like a paper chain grows as it's unfolded.

What you need: ■ A copy of the "Gathering the Family of God" activity for each child and scissors.

Preparation:

1. Print out the artwork.
2. Cut along dotted lines.
3. Fold each group of children, accordion style, along solid black lines.
4. Cut around the figure, careful not to cut along the folds where the hands touch (this can be done before or after the activity).

Activity: Explain: Since the early days of the Restoration, church leaders have worked at the task of building up Christ's Church. As early as 1837, missionaries served in foreign missions. The work continues today with over 50,000 full time missionaries throughout the world.

Ask: How many members were there when the Church was organized in 1830? (Six.)
How many members are there today? (Almost 17 million.)

Explain: Heavenly Father loves all his children and wants them all to have the opportunity to accept the Gospel and return to live with Him someday, even those who have died.

Give each family member a folded children chain (unfold as you discuss each topic).

- a. Sharing our testimonies will help others gain and strengthen their testimonies.
- b. Sharing copies of the Book of Mormon with people not of our faith will help build up the Church by giving more people the opportunity to read it and gain a testimony of it.
- c. The missionaries have a greater chance of being invited into homes to teach the Gospel when members refer names of interested people to them.
- d. Setting a good example for family members, neighbors, and friends is a reflection of the church to people not of our faith. Your example can influence others to join the church.
- e. Inviting others to Church activities, meetings, and firesides, where they can feel of the spirit and love of our Heavenly Father can help them want the Gospel in their lives.
- f. Doing family history work helps our ancestors have the opportunity to be baptized and receive other important ordinances in the temple.

Just like this chain of children grew, each of us can help the family of God grow and be gathered together in love.

