

Description: In this activity, your family will learn how they can help the gospel grow and fill the earth to gather scattered Israel, just like the chain of children from around the world grows when unfolded.

What you need: ■ A copy of “Filling the Earth” activity (artwork included with this lesson) 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: (Younger children will need help from an older sibling or parent.)

Since the early days of the Restoration, church leaders have worked at the task of sharing the Gospel and gathering Israel. As early as 1837, missionaries served in foreign missions. The work continues today with over 53,000 full time missionaries throughout the world.

How many members were there when the Church was organized in 1830? (Six.)

How many members are there today? (Over 16 million.)

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.

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 the Gospel grow 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. Inviting others to family home evening can help them learn Gospel principles in a loving family atmosphere.

Just like this chain of children grew, each of us can help the gospel grow and fill the earth.

