

Seminary Lesson

November 7, 2025

Doctrine and Covenants 127-128, Part 2

"Baptism for Your Dead"

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Prepare to Study

Opening Activities



Choose a hymn or song to invite the Spirit



Say an opening prayer together

Create Your Note

In your seminary notebook, create a note for this lesson:

- Write down any questions you have
- Look for answers as we study

Introduction

Historical Context

Joseph Smith wrote letters to the Saints about the **doctrine of baptism for the dead**.

He expounded upon biblical prophecies to help the Saints understand the importance of being baptized on behalf of their relatives who had died.

This lesson can help you find information about your deceased ancestors and prepare you to perform ordinances for them in the temple.

Opening Activity

List Your Ancestors

In your study journal:

1. List as many of your ancestors as you can think of
2. Circle those ancestors who have received baptism in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Self-Assessment

On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 = *not confident*, 5 = *very confident*)

How confident are you in your ability to do family history and temple work for your ancestors?

Background Context

Joseph Smith's Situation

The Accusation

Missouri authorities accused Joseph Smith of helping plan an attack on former governor Lilburn W. Boggs.

The Response

Joseph suspected if he returned to Missouri, he would be killed, so he went into hiding.

The Revelation

While hiding in Edward Hunter's home, Joseph had many thoughts and feelings about baptisms for the dead.

Scripture Study

Doctrine and Covenants 128:15-18

What to Look For

As you read, look for what the prophets taught about:

- The doctrine of eternal families
- Baptism for the dead

Prophets and Their Teachings

Joseph Smith

Verses 15, 18

The Apostle Paul

Verses 15-16

Prophet Malachi

Verse 17

Insights from Church Leaders

The Blessing

Many youth have discovered that family history and temple work:

- ✨ Deepens testimony of the plan of salvation
- 🕊 Increases the influence of the Spirit
- 🛡 Decreases the adversary's influence
- 👨👩👧👦 Helps them feel closer to family
- 🕊 Helps them feel closer to Jesus Christ

"This work saves not just the dead; it saves all of us" - D&C 128:18

Elder Quentin L. Cook

"Baptism for Your Dead"

The doctrine of the family in relation to family history and temple work is clear. The Lord in initial revelatory instructions referred to **"baptism for your dead"** D&C 127:5; emphasis added. Our doctrinal obligation is to **our own ancestors**. This is because the celestial organization of heaven is based on **families**.

Elder Quentin L. Cook, "Roots and Branches," May 2014

Scripture Activity

Read Doctrine and Covenants 127:5-6

Reflection Question

What do you imagine it will be like to meet your deceased ancestors?

How might they react to the temple and family history work you have done?

Take a moment to think about this...

Activities

Choose One or More

Activity 1: Writing My Family's Story

Complete activities in the *My Family: Stories That Bring Us Together* booklet

OR

Visit Family History Activities and choose **three activities**

Activity 2: Temple and Family History Work

Questions and Answers

Common Questions We'll Explore

1 What is the "dispensation of the fulness of times"?

D&C 128:20

2 How can performing ordinances for our ancestors help us become like Jesus Christ?

3 What blessings are promised to those who participate in temple and family history work?

Question 1: Dispensation of the Fulness of Times

Definition

Dispensation: A period of time when the Lord reveals His doctrines, ordinances, and priesthood.

The Dispensation of the Fulness of Times: The current dispensation that began with Joseph Smith.

Joseph Smith Taught

"The dispensation of the fullness of times will bring to light the things that have been revealed in all former dispensations; also other things that have not been before revealed. He shall send Elijah, the Prophet, etc., and restore all things in Christ"

Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith, pages 510-11

Question 2: Becoming Like Christ

Video Resources





Elder Gerrit W. Gong "Happy and Forever" General Conference, Oct 2022

President Henry B. Eyring "I Love to See the Temple" General Conference, Apr 2021





Question 3: Blessings Promised

What Do We Receive?

Spiritual Blessings

-  Increased influence of the Spirit
-  Deeper testimony
-  Protection from adversary
-  Closer to Jesus Christ

Family Blessings

-  Stronger family bonds
-  Love for ancestors grows
-  Desire to attend temple
-  Eternal perspective

Video Resources





Elder David A. Bednar - "The Hearts of the Children Shall Turn" (Oct 2011)

Elder Dale G. Renlund - "Family History and Temple Work: Sealing and Healing" (Apr 2018)

Reflect and Connect

Share What You Learned

You can share (text, audio, or video):

-  An image of activities you completed
-  Information about a deceased family member you learned about
-  Questions this lesson raised and how you'll find answers
-  Anything that inspires you to be a better disciple of Jesus Christ

Your reflections help deepen your learning and inspire others

Key Takeaways

Remember These Truths



"Baptism for YOUR dead"- Our doctrinal obligation is to our own ancestors



Heaven is organized by families- Temple work creates eternal bonds



This work saves us too- Family history blesses both the dead and the living



God trusts you- You have the technology, access, and ability to do this work

Final Reflection

Look back at your confidence rating from the beginning

On a scale of 1 to 5, how confident are you NOW in your ability to do family history and temple work for your ancestors?

Has your confidence changed? Why or why not?

Thank You

Questions?

Feel free to ask any questions about temple and family history work.

This Week's Challenge

1. Log into [FamilySearch.org](https://familysearch.org)
2. Explore your family tree
3. Find one new thing about an ancestor
4. Share what you learned

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- Doctrine and Covenants 128:18

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