Case Study #2

# Before Class

## Step 1:

Review the following talks from when we studied from Proclamation paragraph 2. Answer the following questions.

### Talks:

* [Choices for Eternity](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/broadcasts/worldwide-devotional-for-young-adults/2022/05/12nelson?lang=eng) – President Russell M. Nelson, Sunday, May 15, 2022
* [Marriage is Essential to His Eternal Plan](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/2006/06/marriage-is-essential-to-his-eternal-plan?lang=eng) – Elder David A. Bednar
* [It is Not Good for Man and Woman to be Alone](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2001/10/it-is-not-good-for-man-or-woman-to-be-alone?lang=eng) – Sister Sheri Dew

### Questions:

1. Answer parts A and B.
   1. List our three most important and unchanging identifiers according to President Nelson.

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| **1.** | A child of God |
| **2.** | A child of the covenant |
| **3.** | A disciple of Jesus Christ |

* 1. Explore at least two reasons why “as senior apostle on the earth” he felt he needed to make this clear to young adults in 2022 (at least one of the reasons must come from President Nelson’s talk).

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| **1.** | The current state of the world |
| **2.** | The power of covenants with God |

1. Answer parts A and B.
   1. Provide dictionary definitions of “different,” “distinct,” and “complementary” (use this exact spelling vs. ‘complementary’).

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| **Different** | Not the same as another or each other; not alike in nature, form, or quality; distinct. |
| **Distinct** | Readily perceived by the senses or intellect; clear; plain; unmistakable. |
| **Complementary** | Serving to complete or enhance; supplying what is lacking. |

* 1. Analyze how, according to Elder Bednar, each of these concepts relate to the process of females and males ‘*completing and perfecting*’ each other.

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| 1. **Different:** Men and women are created with inherent differences in temperament, capacities, and perspectives. These differences are divinely designed and essential for a fulfilling marriage. 2. **Distinct:** Because they are different, men and women each bring unique strengths and talents to a relationship. These distinct contributions allow them to contribute equally, yet differently. 3. **Complementary:** The differences and distinct qualities of men and women make them complementary, leading to mutual growth and perfection. |

1. Sister Dew outlined the Lord’s “*divine pattern*” for women and men and provided an example each of how each gender could misunderstand their role.
   1. Detail the specific misunderstanding Sister Dew discussed for each gender.

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| **Gender** | **Misunderstanding** |
| **Female** | Some women might think their spiritual gifts are less important than men's or that they need to act like men to succeed. This can make them feel less confident in their own abilities. It's crucial for women to recognize their unique divine potential and the value of their specific contributions. |
| **Male** | Some men might focus too much on being in charge, forgetting the importance of working together with women. This can lead to them not recognizing the equal worth and abilities of women. Men should strive for partnerships built on respect and shared responsibility. |

* 1. Propose how you and your spouse could work together to avoid this misperception.

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| We would be both give 100%, not 50-50. We would work hard to give each other our best selves all the time while also being comfortable with each other when they are not doing well. It's ok not to be ok and we would both accept each other when they aren’t able to complete their responsibilities and make up for each other's weaknesses. That is what gives each other the motivation to help each other. |

## Step 2:

Craft a faithful and respectful response to someone who is having difficulty seeing the combination (marriage) of male and female genders as a necessity to experience the full blessing of God’s eternal plan of happiness? (Minimum **2 paragraphs** with **at least one scripture** and **one church leader quote**.)

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| I understand that you are struggling to see why marriage between a man and a woman is so important in God's plan. many people have similar feelings so its understandable. God's plan is about love and happiness for everyone, even when it's hard to understand how parts of it work. We don't always have all the answers, but we can trust that God loves us.  Elder Bednar taught that the family is the most important organization and that men's and women's unique and are needed for God's work to be fulfilled. "The family is the most important organization in time and all eternity." While we might not fully understand how this works in every situation, we can trust God's wisdom. 1 Corinthians 2:9 says that God has blessings prepared for us that we can't even imagine. Focus on faith and trusting God is a good place to start |

# During and After Class

## Step 3:

Complete the following Case Study Activity by reading the scenario and providing the information requested.

### Scenario:

You recognize that your children are experiencing a deliberate battle against God's plan for families. They are hearing from others that society's evolving views on gender roles and family are healthy because they allow people to “be who they are.” Additionally, your children are facing criticism about the Church from those who believe that the Church teaches that women are not equal to men. And they hear criticism about the Church from others that the Church isn't accepting of people’s agency to identify according to their own convictions. Your children were recently asked by a friend, "Why does your church only accept male and female gender identities, and with those two identities, why does the Church get to choose who identifies as male and female?” Your children say to you, "Is it true; does the Church take away people's agency? Is the Lord and His Church against those who identify differently?" You don't want your children to be confused about God’s plan for His sons and His daughters. You want them to understand who God is and the divine nature and destiny of His children as taught in the Family Proclamation. You want them to feel sure about the doctrine and be able to defend God's plan and purposes in respectful and thoughtful ways, that show genuine love and concern for all their brothers and sisters in the world, even those who believe differently. You know that while the doctrine is firm, God's second commandment to truly love others does not exclude those whose agency allows them to make different decisions.

### Questions:

1. **Identify at least three assumptions about marriage/family/gender in secular society that your children will need the most protection from?**

Respond briefly to each of the three assumptions or ideas. **Clearly and respectfully** explain God’s truths as taught in the Family Proclamation. Show also that you understand the perspective and the agency of those who hold those beliefs.

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| **Assumption or Ideas** | **Brief Explanation on How to Respond** |
| Men are better than women. | Men and women, especially in marriage, are equal in God's eyes, and should be equal to each other. Each has their own responsibilities and strengths that they can offer the other and those that they have care over such as their children. It’s a common misconception that men and women should not be equal or that the differences in men and women make them unequal. Many people see women as less important in the relationship as traditionally they don’t make money fo the family. This is not true. |
| Gender can be changed whenever we want, | God made man and woman with different strengths and weaknesses. God assigned each spirit child a gender that will fit them and will help them progress to their own exaltation the best. |
| Marriage ends at death | Marriage is an important and serious covenant relationship between man, woman, and God. This three-way covenant of eternal marriage lasts for eternity and is a very important relationship to enter into. Eternal life never ends and neither does marriage. |

1. **Identify at least three truths\* that you feel are most crucial/fundamental for your children’s understanding when responding to worldly ideas and assumptions. How will knowing God’s truths help your children successfully fulfill God’s plan for them? How will knowing God’s truths help them respond lovingly to the accusations in the scenario?**

\*These truths will come from the scriptures, the Family Proclamation, and/or Church Leaders (cite your source for each truth).

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| **Truth (3 Total)** | **Briefly explain how each relates to and informs the scenario.** |
| Marriage between a man and a woman is ordained by God | This is an obvious truth after realizing that it is necessary for exaltation. It must be important to God. We need not focus on whos more important than the other but why each is important. |
| Our gender is an essential part of who we are, both now and eternally. | We were made as the gender we are in the premortal life and we will continue to be the gender we are after this life, so we cant change what we are by just changing our body or the way we think. Our sex is a patrt of our spirit. |
| We are all children of God. | God created us to be who we are, and if we change that we are ganging Gods plan for us as going against God. We should do our best to align with Gods will so we will one day become like him, just as we become silulatr to our earthl;y fathers. |