***Come and See***

**Inviting All to Attend the Philadelphia Temple Open House**

With the opening of the Philadelphia Pennsylvania Temple and the Open House that will take place for about a month beforehand, we have a wonderful opportunity to invite friends and family to *Come and See* the beauty of the temple and feel the spirit of that sacred edifice.

This document provides an outline of things that can be taught to our members to encourage them to invite all who they can to the Open House. These ideas can be tailored and taught in a special fireside, a combined Relief Society/Priesthood meeting, or a Gospel Doctrine/Gospel Essentials class, Mutual or combined Young Women/Aaronic Priesthood class, or a Primary Sharing Time. This outline can also be used in Family Home Evenings.

**A Model Invitation**

The day after John the Baptist declared Jesus to be the Lamb of God, Jesus found Philip and extended the invitation to follow Him. Philip accepted that invitation. He then went looking for his friend, Nathaniel, to share with him the joy he now had. Finding Nathaniel, he testified that he had found Him of whom the prophets had testified would come—Jesus of Nazareth. We all know of Nathaniel’s next question, “Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?” What we don’t know is if Nathaniel was being sincere or not. But, Philip’s kind response was warmly inviting. He simply said, “*Come and see.*” Nathaniel accepted that invitation and had an experience that increased his faith and changed his life.

**Information about the Open House**

*Tour Description:*

* The tours will begin in the new meetinghouse next to the temple.
* Visitors will be shown a brief video providing an explanation of the purpose of temples.
* Small groups will then enter the temple and be guided through the rooms on all four floors.
* A brief explanation of the purpose of specific rooms will be given by a tour guide.
* At the end of the guided tour, there will be sister missionaries available in a reception area to answer questions anyone may have.
* Visitors are welcome to fill out a comment card, if they wish.
* There is also a reception area and roof top garden where they can take pictures with the temple behind them.
* Visitors will learn of our faith in Christ and eternal nature of families.
* Tours will be available in Spanish and other languages.

*Invitation Cards:*

* “Member Invitation Cards” (in English and Spanish) have been sent to your stake president for distribution to the members of the stake.
* These Member Invitation Cards will have a picture of the Philadelphia Temple on the front and include the dates and times of the tours, a map of the area surrounding the temple, and additional information about the event.
* An electronic version will also be available for you to attach to emails.
* The invitation cards will provide the following information regarding the Open House:
  + Free public tours: All ages welcome.
  + Open House dates and times:

Wednesday, August 10, through Friday, September 9, 2016

Mondays, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Tuesdays - Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

No tours on Sundays

* + For reservations please visit [templeopenhouse.lds.org](http://templeopenhouse.lds.org/) or call 855-537-2000.
  + Tour includes a short video and walking tour.
  + Comfortable shoes and modest attire is recommended.
  + Wheelchair accessible.
  + Service animals are not permitted in the temple.
  + Please refrain from smoking on temple and chapel property.
  + Please consider using public transportation.
  + For additional information visit [philadelphiamormontemple.org](http://philadelphiamormontemple.org).

*What else your guests will need to know about the Open House:*

* The tour should take approximately 45 minutes.
* A tour will begin about every 5 minutes.
* Parking
  + Parking is limited.
  + Use of public transportation is strongly recommended. SEPTA’s Suburban Station is closest.
  + Carpooling is also strongly recommended if visitors do not want to use public transportation.
* Obtaining Free Tickets
  + Go to the website on the Member Invitation Card to sign up and obtain tickets for a free tour.
  + Group reservations can be scheduled by calling the number on the Member Invitation Card.
* Walk-ins without reservations is possible
  + There may be a longer wait for those who do not register; registration is strongly encouraged.

**Preparing to Invite**

Remember: You’re just asking if they would like to see the inside of the Temple. They are your friends! But, if you still need some help:

* Overcome Fear through Love (see [2 Timothy 1:7](https://www.lds.org/scriptures/nt/2-tim/1.7?lang=eng#6) and [Moroni 7:48](https://www.lds.org/scriptures/bofm/moro/7.48?lang=eng#47))
* Prayer and Fasting (see [Alma 17:3](https://www.lds.org/scriptures/bofm/alma/17.3?lang=eng#2))
  + Ask in prayer that the Lord will direct you to those whom He would like you to invite.
  + Hold a special fast (as an individual, a family, a ward, or a stake) to seek the Lord’s help in determine who to invite and how to invite them to the Open House.

**Identifying Who to Invite**

Remember: this invitation should not be limited to those you feel may be ready for baptism! The Open House is not a proselyting activity. It is just a chance for your friends to Come and See the Temple and feel its spirit.

* Make a list of people you would like to invite.
  + Families you home/visit teach, neighbors, friends, family, coworkers, doctors and dentists, anyone you have already talked to about the temple or the Church.
  + Groups, such as local genealogy/historical centers.
  + Suggest a family reunion be held this summer in our area and make a tour part of the reunion.
* Talk with your family around the dinner table or in Family Home Evenings who you should invite.
* When someone comes to mind, write their name down.
* Listen to the promptings of the Spirit as you go through the day.

**Suggestions on How to Invite**

*In person or over the phone*

* Have Member Invitation Cards with you at all times to hand one to someone.
* Make sure you know the dates of the Open House.
* Create opportunities to invite someone, or look for opportunities that present themselves.
  + Invite a friend to lunch.
  + Talk to your neighbor while you are both working in the yard.
  + Talk with friends in between classes at school or at the bus stop.
  + Chat with someone at work.
  + Make a special home or teaching visit (don’t assume active members will automatically go).
  + Make a special phone call to a friend.
  + Post a Member Invitation Card where people are likely to see it.
* *Start the invitation* with things like:
  + “Have you ever wondered what Mormon temples look like inside?”
  + “Did you know that my Church is building a new temple in Philadelphia? Here is a picture of it.”
  + “My Church is holding an Open House for the new temple we are building in Philadelphia, and I’ve been thinking about who I would like to invite.”
  + “Do you know why Mormons are so interested in genealogy?”
  + “I see you are interested in genealogy. Do you know what Mormons believe about our ancestors?”
* *Give a little more information* like:
  + “Temples are very special and sacred to Mormons.”
  + “Temples are very meaningful to me and I’d like to share a unique opportunity with you.”
  + “The Church is holding an Open House where you can tour the temple for free.”
* *Extend the invitation* with things like:
  + “Here is an invitation card with information on the Temple Open House.”
  + “As my friend, would you like to come with me and get a tour of the inside of the Temple?”

*Via email or Text*

* Make emails personal… avoid mass emails; personal invitations will more likely be accepted.
* In your email, *start the invitation*, *give a little more information*, and *extend the invitation*, similar to above.
* Keep the invitation short and simple.
* Include an electronic version of the Member Invitation Card.
* Include the link to the website where they can reserve their free tickets.

*Via Social Media*

* On Facebook, like the Philadelphia Mormon Temple Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/philadelphiamormontemple>
* Share posts from the page on your own personal page.
* On Twitter, consider following @PhillyLDSTemple and re-tweeting events.
* On Instagram, consider doing the same: PhillyLDSTemple.
* Take pictures of your loved ones, church auxiliary groups, home and visiting teaching families, or youth groups by the temple and post them online—use #PhillyLDSTemple.
* Include simple comments about your love of the temple and its beauty.
* Be careful how you respond to questions because many—all at different levels of understanding—can read your answers. Keep answers simple, kind, and respectful.

**Answering Questions You Might be Asked**

*Suggestions when answering questions*

* Listen to the promptings of the Spirit.
* Please remember—we are trying to reach those who are not members of our church. Please avoid the use of church jargon that may not be understood. We want messages about the temple to be easily accessible and relevant to everyone. For example:

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| Instead of saying… | Try saying… |
| Ward | Congregation |
| Stake | Region |
| Ordinance | Religious ceremony or sacred rite |
| Covenant | Promise or commitment |
| Endowment | Religious ceremony, sacred rite, instruction |
| Testimony | Personal conviction |
| Baptisms for the dead | Special ceremonies on behalf of our ancestors |
| Sealing | Religious ceremony binding a couple and families forever |
| Worthy members | Church members who are actively engaged in the faith |
| Temple recommend | Authorization by Church leaders that we are able to enter to temple |

* Keep answers simple.
* Remember not to share things too sacred to discuss outside of the temple.
* Speak in tones reflective of the sacredness of temples.
* Emphasize that we worship the Savior in the temples.
* Many questions are answered by the Member Invitation Cards, so be sure you have one with you.
* Don’t be afraid to say “I don’t know” if you can’t answer a question.

*Questions about the Temple and the Family:*

You might consider studying the questions and answers at Mormon.Org on Temples [[LINK](https://www.mormon.org/faq/topic/temples/question/use-of-temples)] and on the Family [[LINK](https://www.mormon.org/faq/topic/family)]. There is also a link with youth explaining how they answer questions about the temple [[LINK](http://media.ldscdn.org/pdf/magazines/new-era-december-2012/2012-12-09-questions-and-answers-eng.pdf)]. Below are possible questions you may be asked, along with possible answers.

1. What are Mormon or LDS temples?

*Temples are sacred places where members of the LDS Church can pray and commune with their Father in Heaven. Temples are quiet, sacred and an integral part of the LDS faith, providing members the opportunity to participate in religious ceremonies, such as marriages and baptisms.*

1. What is the difference between a temple and an ordinary church building?

*Attending church on Sundays is similar to attending church in other Christian religions. Church meetinghouses are open to all, and everyone is welcome to attend. There, we worship Jesus Christ together in what is called a sacrament meeting. That is followed by various classes of instruction. During the week, other church activities are held there, such as neighborhood dinners, youth activities, or even a community blood drive.*

*Temples, which are closed on Sundays, are used only for sacred ceremonies that bless individuals and bind families together for eternity. During the week, they typically open early in the morning and quietly operate throughout the day.*

1. What goes on inside LDS or Mormon temples?

*In temples, members are taught about Jesus Christ and the purpose of life. In the temple we learn where we came from, the creation of the Earth, and what is possible for us after we die. We also make sacred promises to follow the Savior. Sacred ceremonies or rites are performed to bind husband, wife, and children together as families forever. These ceremonies are also performed by members on behalf of their deceased ancestors who did not have the opportunity while they lived on the earth to make these promises.*

1. Why is family so important to Mormons?

*We believe that the family is ordained of God. Happiness in family life is most likely to be achieved when founded upon the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

1. Do Mormons believe that families will live together in heaven?

*Yes! We believe the sealing power that the Lord gave to Peter in the New Testament is held by leaders in the Church today. Thus, we believe that if a man and woman have their marriage “sealed” in a temple and keep their promises to each other and to the Lord, their marriage will not end at death, but will continue throughout the eternities. Children can also be sealed to their parents and the family can be together forever.*

1. Why do Mormons perform baptisms for the dead?

*Jesus taught that baptism is essential to enter the Kingdom of God. Many have lived and died without the opportunity to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ. We believe they are being taught the gospel while they wait to be resurrected. We perform baptisms on their behalf so that, if they accept the gospel, they will have received the ordinance of baptism. If they choose not to accept the gospel, we have still provided a sacred service of love to those individuals who have gone before us. This is why the Church is so interested in Genealogy and Family History.*

1. What does it mean to “dedicate” a temple?

*The dedication of a temple, in a real way, gives the building to the Lord. The temple becomes the House of the Lord. A dedication is a simple meeting where talks are given, hymns are sung, and a prayer is offered to dedicate the temple to the Lord.*

1. After the temple is dedicated, why can’t people who are not Mormons go inside?

*Since a dedicated temple is considered the House of the Lord, it should not seem strange that the temples are held sacred and only those who have prepared themselves through baptism into the LDS Church and live according to the teachings of the Church should be able to enter such a special place.*

*But, before a temple is dedicated, an Open House is held for the general public (typically for several weeks). The Open House for the Philadelphia Temple is August 10 through September 9. During the Open House, public tours are provided so the public can see the inside of a temple. Brief explanations of the purpose of the various rooms in the temple will be given. COME AND SEE!*

1. Why are only some Mormons allowed into temples?

*Much like algebra is needed to understand calculus, members of the Church must have enough time in the Church to learn the basics of the doctrine of the Church so they will better understand what is being taught in the temple. We hold the ceremonies of the temple so sacred that only those who are living the standards of the Church are able to enter. And because these things are sacred, we do not talk about them in detail outside of the temple.*

1. What is it like inside the temple?

*Many people are under the impression that the interior of a Latter-day Saint temple is like a great hall or cathedral. Actually, temples are made up of numerous smaller rooms designed to accommodate ceremonies such as marriages and baptisms, small gatherings for instruction, as well as personal reflection and contemplation. Inside the temple, Church members change into simple and modest white clothing before taking part in temple ceremonies. The white temple clothing symbolizes purity and reverence. COME AND SEE!*

1. Is the Philadelphia Temple just like the Salt Lake Temple or the Washington DC Temple?

*We do the same things as in the Salt Lake or Washington temples, but the interior decorations and design are different. The Philadelphia temple was designed to reflect the architecture and history of the city of Philadelphia.*

1. Will missionaries start contacting me if I go to the Open House?

*No. We are simply inviting our friends to see the inside of the temple. No one will ask you for your name or contact information. You may leave a comment card if you wish, but you do not need to include your name.*

**Practicing to Invite through Role Playing**

Role playing can be an excellent way to prepare and overcome any hesitancy to invite someone to the Open House.

Invite members to come up and role play extending an invitation and answering questions.

**The Challenge**

Wouldn’t it be wonderful if 150,000 of Heavenly Father’s children attended the Philadelphia Temple Open House?

WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP MAKE THAT HAPPEN?

GO FORTH AND INVITE!