



Long-Distance Family Home Evening

My sister-in-law and I felt like we were missing out on the blessings of having family home evening with family; she had recently divorced and my husband was inactive, and our children were grown and had families of their own. My sister-in-law suggested we hold a monthly family home evening together on the phone since she and I live several hundred miles apart. I thought that was a great idea. We decided that

each Monday we would discuss a different general conference talk (though we have deviated from that plan a few times). We alternate who chooses the talk, and we

both read it ahead of time. Sometimes the person leading the discussion will e-mail in

advance so we can coordinate the treat. We often finish by playing a few rounds of Internet Scrabble. We have been holding these family home evenings for over three years now, and it has been our sweetest and most rewarding time together. ■

Penelope Jensen, Washington, USA



PHOTOGRAPH BY ROBERT CASEY

HELPS FOR HOME EVENING

“Natural Disasters: We Don’t Have to Be Afraid,” on page 22: Read the article beforehand and prayerfully ponder what your family can do to better prepare for natural disasters in your area. Then, as Elder Ellis suggests, utilize family home evening to put the inspiration you receive into action. You may decide to put together emergency packs, replenish your home food storage, or discuss how to be spiritually prepared. Emphasize Elder Ellis’s reassuring message that “when we are prepared, we can weather any storm.”

“Keeping the Faith in a World of Confusion,” on page 26: Consider sharing Bishop Caussé’s classroom experience found at the beginning of the article and then asking family members what they would have done in that situation. You may want to review the principles Elder Caussé follows to remain firm in his testimony (i.e., seek truth continually, accept unanswered questions, seek the testimony of the Spirit, seek the words of prophets and apostles, and nourish your faith).

“Finding Power in the Scriptures,” on page 54: As you read the article, invite family members to listen for the blessings that come from reading the scriptures regularly. Afterward, you may want to make a list of the blessings everyone heard. Together, evaluate your family scripture study habits and make a plan for improvement if necessary.

By Holly Van Workum-Mason

FINDING POWER IN THE SCRIPTURES

These members testify that scriptures have the power to change lives.

Powerful promises have entered our lives as we read the scriptures. We can find strength, comfort, and peace in the words of Jesus Christ. President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Second Counselor in the First Presidency, said, “I would like to see every Latter-day Saint have a personal relationship with the scriptures of God here on this earth.”

Our individual circumstances may vary, but we can each look to a divine source of power—the scriptures. Latter-day Saints should make their testimonies of the power that have led by “reading upon the word of Christ” (2 Nephi 31:20).

Overcoming Weakness
When he was a child, Walter Hildes of Pleasant, USA, had a learning disability. In order to read the scriptures, he had to be read to.

Walter began by reading a chapter a day, and he progressed. He would often read more. Within a few years, he had read the entire standard works of the Church. When he heard the counsel of President Ezra Taft Benson (1978) to read the Book of Mormon regularly, he read that book as well.

KEY POINTS

- Invite the Spirit into our personal lives and our homes.
- Find blessings of reassurance during hardships.
- Reorganize the Lord’s word in our lives.

and the Son; and ye have received the Holy Ghost, which witnesseth of the Father and the Son, unto the fulfilling of the promise which he hath made, that if ye entered in by the way ye should receive.

“I suggest that you recognize scriptures that nourish your heart and fill your mind with understanding. When you are weak, the Lord has caused them to be revealed, that the power that is contained within them is a significant need in the Christian’s journey. These scriptures, when read with understanding, direction, and power that flow from the scriptures, especially the words of the Lord, will carry you forward, all men, in the name of Jesus Christ, my Father, who shall have the glory forevermore in the family of God.” (Ensign, May 2008)

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