

YOUTH VOICES: BLESSINGS OF FAMILY HISTORY

Youth from New York, USA, were recently invited by their stake presidency to find a family name to take to the temple as part of a special youth conference. They discovered great blessings as they felt their hearts turning to their fathers (see Malachi 4:5–6).

Taking Family Names to the Temple

- “I used to think that family history was just another thing to check off, but now I realize these are *real* people who have been waiting for years. My temple experience is different when I take family names. I suppose it’s because of all the hard work, time, and prayers that went into finding *one* name. But *one* name is worth it because that is *one person* who needs to be with Father in Heaven.” —Hannah A., age 13
- “After finding a person, you start to connect with that person in the spirit world. Bringing your own names is a way to strengthen this bond. It helps you to understand your eternal family.” —Spencer S., age 15
- “Bringing family names to the temple helps you realize the reality of who these

people were. They are not just names on a piece of paper; they are real brothers and sisters who share your history—and are a part of it.” —Lilli N., age 16

Receiving Blessings

- “I’ve noticed a difference in my life. It’s a warm and protective feeling.” —Noah R., age 13
- “You can feel in your heart that you are part of a greater work. Giving your family the opportunity to receive temple blessings is a feeling like no other.” —Corinne C., age 17
- “I’ve felt more comfortable and calm since I started doing family history. When I take family names to the temple, it gives me an overwhelming sense of joy.” —Tyler M., age 16
- “It has increased my love for the Savior, Heavenly Father, and my ancestors. It has

helped me become closer with my direct family and increased my testimony of the gospel.” —Alexandra H., age 14

- “I’ve been a lot happier.” —Ross S., age 12
- “With each name, I feel an overwhelming sense of peace and excitement, like the person has been waiting just for me.” —Rhiannon B., age 15
- “I know where I came from, and my confidence is building.” —Eliza L., age 13
- “I’ve been less contentious in my house.” —Gehrig L., age 12
- “I understand the importance of families more and more. I want to be closer with my family on earth.” —Emma L., age 15
- “It’s helped me further understand God’s plan for us. I feel closer to Heavenly Father and the gospel because I better understand the ordinances that are taking place.” —Noah C., age 14 ■

What Will You Do?

What will you do to “claim those blessings” of finding family names and then taking them to the temple? Make a plan today to bring the promises of receiving both parts of the blessing in your life.