"The Family: A Proclamation to the World" Came from God to Help My Family

THE FAMILY A PROCLAMATION TO THE WORLD

THE FIRST PRESIDENCY AND COUNCIL OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

We the first presidency and the Council of the Twelve Aposites of The Church of Jesus Christ of Later-day Saints, asolemyly prodain that marriage between a man and a woman is ordained of God and that the family is central to the Creator's plan for the eternal destiny of His children.

the Creator's plan for the eternal destudy of this challenge.

ALL HUMAN BEINGS—male and female—are created in the image of God. Each is a beloved spirit son or daughter of heavenly parents, and, as such, each has a divine nature and destiny. Gender is an essential characteristic of individual premortal, mortal, and eternal identity and purpose.

premortal, mortal, and elernal identity and purpose.

IN THE PREMORTAL REALM, spirit sons and daughters and worshipped God as their Eternal Father and accepted His plan by which, His children could obtain a physical by and gain earthy experience to progress toward perform and ultimately realize their divine destiny as heirs of fection and ultimately realize their divine destiny as heirs of fection and ultimately realize their divine destiny as heirs of terion and ultimately realize their divine destiny as heirs of terion and ultimately realize their divines enables family element life. The divine plan of happiness enables family entry and the presence of contamination of the presence of God and for familities to be united elernally.

The BURNET COMMANNAMENT that Cod once to Adam and Even

for families to be united eternally.

THE RIST COMMANDMENT that God gave to Adam and Eve pertained to their potential for parenthood as husband and wife. We declare that God's commandment for His children wife. We declare that God's some mandment for His children turber declare that God has commanded that the sacred provers of procreation are to be employed only between more and woman, lawfully wedded as husband and wife.

We never see the meaner by which mortal life is created to be

 W_{EDECLARE} the means by which mortal life is created to be divinely appointed. We affirm the sanctity of life and of its importance in God's eternal plan.

HUSBAND AND WIFE have a solemn responsibility to love and care for each other and for their children. "Children are an heritage of the Lord" (Psalm 1273). Parents have a sacred duty to tear their children in love and righteousness, sacred duty to tear their children in love and righteousness.

to provide for their physical and spiritual needs, and to teach them to love and serve one another, observe the com-mandments of God, and be law-abiding citizens wherever they live. Husbands and wives—mothers and fathers— will be held accountable before God for the discharge of these obligations.

these obligations.

THE PARMLY is ordained of God. Marriage between man and woman is essential to His eternal plan. Children are entitled to birth within the bonds of natrimony, and to be reared by to birth within the bonds of matrimony, and to be reared by plete fidelity. Happiness in family life is most likely to be plete fidelity. Happiness in family life is most likely to be actived when founded upon the teachings of the Lord achieved when founded upon the teachings of the Lord less Christ. Successful marriages and families are established and maintained on principles of faith, prayer, repensible and maintained on principles of faith, prayer, repensible and maintained on principles of faith, prayer, september of the proprofession, which was a standard and an entities of the standard activities. By divine design, fathers are to preside over their families. Mothers are primarily responsible to provide the necessities of the nurture of their children. In these sacred responsible to provide the necessities of the nurture of their children. In these sacred responsible to provide the necessities of the nurture of their children. In these sacred responsible to provide the necessities of the nurture of their children. In these sacred responsible to provide the necessities of the nurture of their children. In these sacred responsible to provide the necessities individual adaptation. Extended stances may necessitate individual adaptation. Extended them were the nurture of their children and the necessities individual adaptation. Extended the nurture of their children and the necessities individual adaptation. Extended the nurture of their children and the necessities individual adaptation.

 $W_{\text{E WARN}}$ that individuals who violate covenants We warn that individuals who violate covenants of classity, who abuse spouse or offspring, or who fail to the fill family responsibilities will one day stand accountable of the family standard will one day stand accountable the family standard will bring upon individuals, communities, and the family will bring upon individuals, communities, and nations the calamittes foretold by ancient and modern propohets.

WE CALL UPON responsible citizens and officers of gov-renment everywhere to promote those measures designed to maintain and strengthen the family as the fundamental maintain and strengthen the family as unit of society.

By Erin Sanderson and Jean Bingham

hildren have a lot of power—power to make a difference in families! All families are not the same, but every family is important to Heavenly Father. He wants our families to be strong, so He gave us "The Family: A Proclamation to the World" to help us. Heavenly Father knows that you can help your family be strong.

You are part of an eternal family that needs your help.

You can bring happiness, kindness, and love to your family.

You can listen to each other, work and play together, forgive and help each other.

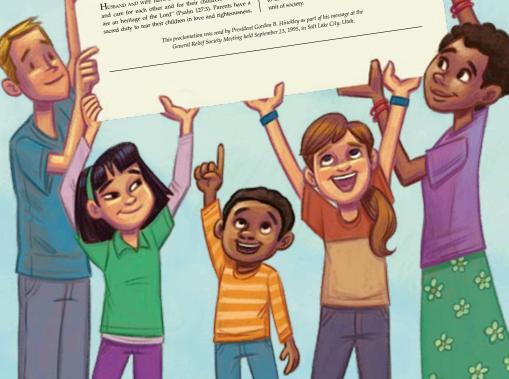
You can read the scriptures with your family. You can be a good example to your family as you pray and keep the commandments. •

SCRIPTURE

John 15:11

IDEAS FOR FAMILY TALK

Heavenly Father wants all families to be strong and to return to Him. Talk about what each member of the family can do to help your family be strong.





I can strengthen my family by

YOU CAN!



Decorate a clean, empty can with this label (at right) and some photos or drawings. Fill in the word strips with ideas about how you can strengthen your family. Cut out the word strips and put them in the can. Each day choose a word strip from the can and do what it says. As you try to live your ideas, you can make a difference in your family!

