

PATRIARCHAL BLESSINGS

- are like personal scripture.
- are blessings directly from God.
- have several purposes.
- declare your lineage in a tribe of the house of Israel.
- give guidance.
- promise blessings to the faithful.

HOW DO I KNOW WHEN I'M READY?

Every worthy, baptized member of the Church can and should receive a patriarchal blessing. But how can you know when to seek one? Basically, you need to be worthy and mature enough to understand the sacred nature and importance of the blessing. Pray and ponder about it. Then talk to your parents and your bishop or branch president, who can help you determine your readiness.

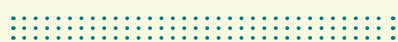
By Ashley Dossdall

One Sunday, the stake patriarch led our lesson about patriarchal blessings. Before this lesson, I knew almost nothing about these blessings. I'd heard about them once or twice, and my brother had recently received his, but I didn't really understand their purpose.

In his lesson, the stake patriarch taught us that a patriarchal blessing is like personal scripture. It's a blessing directly from God with several purposes. One is to declare your lineage in a tribe of the house of Israel. Others are to give you guidance and to promise you blessings Heavenly Father will give you if you're faithful. The patriarch taught that we should always remain worthy to receive a patriarchal blessing and that we need to turn to our blessing often once we have it.

I listened closely to this lesson and took lots of notes in my journal.

"MAYBE I SHOULD GET MY BLESSING"



AS I STUDIED AND
PRAYED ABOUT WHAT
THE PATRIARCH TAUGHT,
I RECEIVED
A CALL TO ACT.

During the lesson, I kept thinking, "Maybe I should get my blessing." That idea stuck.

Later that day, I asked my dad to help me understand the roles and blessings of the tribes of the house of Israel. It was long and hard, but we figured it out, and I recorded what we learned in my journal. It was so neat because I learned some things that I didn't know before. I also read some talks about patriarchal blessings, and I did some other research on them.

As I studied and thought about patriarchal blessings, I prayed to know if I should receive mine. The Spirit let me know that I needed to get it soon, and I plan to do so. I'm so grateful for the patriarch's lesson. It helped me understand patriarchal blessings and eventually encouraged me to get mine. **NE**

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ILLUSTRATION BY BEN SOWARDS



A RARE AND VALUABLE GIFT

"The same Lord who provided a Liahona for Lehi provides for you and for me today a rare and valuable gift to give direction to our lives, to mark the hazards to our safety, and to chart the way, even safe passage—not to a promised land, but to our heavenly home. The gift to which I refer is known as your patriarchal blessing. Every worthy member of the Church is entitled to receive such a precious and priceless personal treasure."

President Thomas S. Monson, "Your Patriarchal Blessing: A Liahona of Light," *Ensign*, Nov. 1986, 65.



Share and Learn Online

Share your experiences and learn more about patriarchal blessings at lds.org/go/blessingNE5. You'll also find more resources in the *Come, Follow Me* lessons at lds.org/go/MayYW5 (Young Women) and lds.org/go/MayAP5 (Aaronic Priesthood).