

**1.** Being part of a family is a great blessing. Some families have a father, mother, brothers, and sisters. Others have a single parent with children, while other families consist of just one or two persons.

**2. Are all families important to Heavenly Father's plan? (Yes.)**

“Your family can provide you with companionship and happiness, help you learn correct principles in a loving atmosphere, and help you prepare for eternal life. Not all families are the same, but each is important in Heavenly Father's plan.” *For the Strength of Youth: Fulfilling Our Duty to God, p. 10* © 2008 Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.

**3.** When Howard W. Hunter was a boy, his father was not a member of the church, but his home was filled with correct principles and a loving atmosphere. Howard's mother faithfully prepared her family for eternal life. She taught her children to pray, took them to church and instilled in them a love for the gospel. As Howard's testimony grew, like his mother, he too became a great example to all who knew him.

**4. Watch chapter 10 (31:20)** from The Modern Prophets *Howard W. Hunter* DVD.

**5. How was Howard's family blessed by his and his mother's example?** (Discuss ideas. Emphasize that Howard's father eventually joined the church and their family was sealed in the temple.)

**6. What can each of us do to help our family prepare for eternal life?** (Discuss ideas.)

“It is important to establish patterns of righteousness in your own life, which will enable you to set a good example for your family, whatever form your family may take. The example of your righteous life will strengthen your family. President Hinckley gave the young women ‘a simple four-point program’... that will not only ‘assure your happiness’ but will bless your family as well. He counseled each of us to ‘(1) pray, (2) study, (3) pay your tithing, and (4) attend your meetings.’” *Mary N. Cook, Oct 2007 General Conference* © 2008 Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.

**7. How can praying, studying the scriptures, paying our tithing and attending our church meetings bless our family?** (Discuss ideas.)

“Family prayer, family scripture study, family home evening, and the other precious togetherness and individual one-on-one time binds a family together and fixes children's values on things of eternal worth.” *Dallin H. Oaks, General Conference, October 2007* © 2008 Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.

**8.** President Hunter knew the importance of family and the gospel. As a stake president in California, He even started a Family Home Evening program fifteen years before the church officially announced their program. He later said, “We simply must have love and integrity and strong principles in our homes. ... We need to try harder to live the gospel in our family circles. Our homes deserve our most faithful commitments.” *Howard W. Hunter, Ensign, May 1990* © 2008 Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.

**9. Does holding Family Home Evening strengthen our family?** (Discuss ideas.)

“The ideal way to transform your home into a house of learning is to hold family home evening faithfully. In 1915, the First Presidency instructed local leaders and parents to inaugurate a home evening, a time when parents should teach their families the principles of the gospel.” *Joseph B. Wirthlin, Ensign, May 1993* © 2008 Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.

**Quote:** “Strengthening families is our sacred duty as parents, children, extended family members, leaders, teachers, and individual members of the Church.” Robert D. Hales © 2008 Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.