

**1. Watch chapter 12 from the Animated Complete Learning System, *The Prodigal Son* DVD.**

(Also available for viewing online.)

**2.** “I know of no more beautiful story in all literature than that found in the fifteenth chapter of Luke. It is the story of a repentant son and a forgiving father...There is no peace in reflecting on the pain of old wounds. There is peace only in repentance and forgiveness. *Gordon B. Hinckley, Tambuli, Nov. 1991* © 2006 *Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.*

**3. The Savior’s love and compassion eternally surround every soul who walks the earth.**

“Every man, woman, or youth who returns home after a prodigal journey or an inactive period will find the Savior waiting with open arms. His atoning act will satisfy justice and extend mercy to all who will “come unto him.” (See D&C 18:11.)...All who are active have someone close who may be inactive, indifferent, or clothed in transgression’s soiled robes. They need the sweet, abiding love of a compassionate parent or loving brother or sister. Jesus will bless every member of the Church who will go out and bring someone back.” Vaughn J. Featherstone, *Ensign*, Nov. 1982, © 2006 *Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.*

**4. The family plays an important role in Heavenly Father’s plan.**

Before we came to earth we lived with our Heavenly Father. We accepted His plan to come to earth, gain a physical body and choose between right and wrong. He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Savior. He has also given us families to love and help us along the way.

**5. Work towards Eternal Life as a family.**

Eternal life means to become like Heavenly Father and live happily with our families forever. An eternal family doesn’t just happen because of the sealing covenants we make in the temple. How we behave in this life will decide if we will be together as an eternal family. To receive the blessings of the temple sealing we have to keep the commandments and behave in a way that our families will want to live with us forever. Heavenly Father and Jesus love every one and want every family to be sealed in the temple and return to live with them forever.

**6. People are often kinder to strangers than to their family members that they love. Why is this and what can we do differently?**

The Savior taught us, “A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.” John 13:34. The Savior loves us even when we are not doing everything we should. We should follow His example by showing love to our own family members in this same way.

**7. Read the theme:** As part of this family and Heavenly Father’s family we will do our part to help every family member so that we will have “No empty chairs in our Heavenly Home.”

(See activity for ways to help you be a “Family 4 Eternity.”)