

Engaging Gospel Doctrine (Episode 87.2)

LESSON 10 (STUDY NOTES)

[Birthright Blessings: Marriage in the Covenant](#)

Hook	It would not be an overstatement to say that the primary focus of an LDS upbringing points towards a temple marriage and family. But what difference does a temple marriage really make? And what are the principles of successful marriage and parenting? And what does any of that have to do with the assigned Old Testament reading?
Goal	Class members should understand the relationship between a temple marriage and a successful marriage, and feel informed, empowered, and motivated to apply the principles of healthy relationships to their lives.
Overview	(see below)
Conclusion	

I. Sunday School

- a. Point out the connections and distance between these stories and the “get married in the temple” theme of the lesson manual
- b. Lessons learned from the Biblical narratives (we had a continuous section of the OT assigned this lesson, yay!)
 - i. Ideas of marrying within your culture in the reading
 - ii. Other comments on the people and events
- c. Importance/benefits of preparing to be married in the temple (make personal comments about the idea of being born in the covenant and sealed in the temple)
- d. Quotes about temple marriage
- e. Principles of healthy marriage and parenting
- f. Conclusion

find Kirby article and Fox 13?

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/lifestyle/57535616-80/temple-family-kirby-lds.html.csp>

Marvin J. Ashton

<http://scriptures.byu.edu/gettalk.php?ID=2167>

Here's a quote from Elder Ashton in 1972:

"Have you arrived when you go to the temple? Is temple marriage your destination? Over the years, I have heard hundreds of my young associates say, 'I want to make the temple. A temple marriage is my goal.'

To qualify one's self to go to the temple is a lofty ambition, a worthy achievement. We need to remind ourselves of its eternal purposes. However, we have not arrived when we share the blessings of the temple. Oftentimes there are real dangers in our lives when we allow lofty ideals and goals, such as temple marriage, to become an end instead of a means. All of our priorities must be properly placed within the framework of eternity if we are to avoid the stagnations of arriving.

I think it was Louis J. Halle who said, 'To snatch the passing moment and examine it for signs of eternity is the noblest of occupations.' To gain exaltation after celestial marriage, continued devotion and righteousness are required. It is a continuing process, not a state of arrival."

Marion D. Hanks <http://scriptures.byu.edu/gettalk.php?ID=4038>

But a marriage designed to last forever will be a good marriage, growing and gracious. Sometimes the distinctive elements of temple marriage are thought of as being exclusive in duration and authority. Of course, everyone who comes to the temple to be married understands that the ceremony is performed by God's authority for time and eternity. But the remarkable revealed ceremony at the altar in a temple contemplates much more than this. The quality of the relationship thus established is of highest importance. Wonderful promises are sealed upon a man and woman in temple marriage, and the realization of the promised blessings is related directly to their understanding and keeping the solemn commitments they make to each other and the Lord.

Married people should be best friends; no relationship on earth needs friendship as much as marriage.

Friendship in a marriage is so important. It blows away the chaff and takes the kernel, rejoices in the uniqueness of the other, listens patiently, gives generously, forgives freely. Friendship will motivate one to cross the room one day and say, "I'm sorry; I didn't mean that." It will not pretend perfection nor demand it. It will not insist that both respond exactly the same in every thought and feeling, but it will bring to the union honesty, integrity. There will be repentance and [forgiveness](#) in every marriage—every good marriage—and respect and trust.

And all these and other elements we are not able to mention eloquently declare that such a union doesn't just happen.

So the need becomes clear for careful, thoughtful preparation, selection, and courtship. No one should be unwise enough to count on an across-the-crowded-room romanticized live-happily-ever-after marriage made without proper thoughtfulness, preparation, and prayer. Marriage is an everyday and every-way relationship in which honesty and character and shared convictions and objectives and views about finances and family and life-style are more important than moonlight and music and an attractive profile.

It is simple to see, isn't it, that the kind of marriage we're talking about doesn't just happen? The foundation is laid in the House of the Lord. The marriage is pronounced by authority of God. And then it is fashioned by two who are wholesome, prepared emotionally and practically, and who are honest. It requires being ready to go to a temple, being mature enough to make promises and keep them and to receive holy promises and qualify for them.

While marriage is difficult, and discordant and frustrated marriages are common, yet real, lasting happiness is possible, and marriage can be more an exultant ecstasy than the human mind can conceive. This is within the reach of every couple, every person. "Soul mates" are fiction and an illusion; and while every young man and young woman will seek with all diligence and prayerfulness to find a mate with whom life can be most compatible and beautiful, yet it is certain that almost any good man and any good woman can have happiness and a successful marriage if both are willing to pay the price.

The formula is simple; the ingredients are few, though there are many amplifications of each.

First, there must be the proper approach toward marriage, which contemplates the selection of a spouse who reaches as nearly as possible the pinnacle of perfection in all the matters which are of importance to the individuals. And then those two parties must come to the altar in the temple realizing that they must work hard toward this successful joint living.

Second, there must be a great unselfishness, forgetting self and directing all of the family life and all pertaining thereunto to the good of the family, subjugating self.

Third, there must be continued courting and expressions of affection, kindness, and consideration to keep love alive and growing.

Fourth, there must be a complete living of the commandments of the Lord as defined in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

With these ingredients properly mixed and continually kept functioning, it is quite impossible for unhappiness to come, misunderstandings to continue, or breaks to occur.

Divorce attorneys would need to transfer to other fields and divorce courts would be padlocked.