

## FHE Lesson: Sacred Homes, Sacred Temples

By Betty Allen - Adapted from a Conference Address by Elder Gary E. Stevenson free download at [www.VisitingTeaching.net](http://www.VisitingTeaching.net)

**Opening Song:** I Love to See the Temple - Page 95

**Opening Prayer:** by invitation

**Scripture:** D&C 88:119

*“Organize yourselves; prepare every needful thing; and establish a house, even a house of prayer, a house of fasting, a house of faith, a house of learning, a house of glory, a house of order, a house of God.”*

**Story:** (by Elder Gary E. Stevenson)

I remember a warm, sunny afternoon when spring was trying to nudge its way through a long winter in Cache Valley, Utah. My father, whose Saturdays were always filled with chores for his grandsons, stopped by our home with an offer to “go for a ride.” Always happy to ride in Grandpa’s truck, our four- and six-year-old sons scurried into the back jump seat, and I joined my father in the front. Our drive took us through the streets of downtown Logan, which wrap around the Logan Temple, prominently situated on a hill, centered beautifully in the city. As we moved further away from the city, we turned from paved, busy streets to seldom-used dirt roads, where we crossed old bridges and weaved through trees far into the country. We were far from any other traffic and all alone.

Realizing his grandsons were in a place they had not been before, my father stopped the truck. “Do you think we are lost?” he asked the wide-eyed boys as they gazed out the windshield across the valley. Followed by a moment of silent assessment came the profound reply of a young child. “Look,” he said, pointing his finger, “Grandpa, you are never lost when you can see the temple.” Our eyes turned, focusing with his, seeing the sun glistening off the spires of the Logan Temple, far across the valley.

**Lesson:**

*(Show the picture of a Temple)*

“We are never lost when we can see the Temple!” This applies to each of us today. Whenever we feel lost or afraid we can close our eyes and visualize the temple and allow the peace and assurance of its promises to carry us through each and every trial and challenge we meet in life.

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Many of us have not yet been through the temple to experiencing that atmosphere. Does that mean we cannot draw upon those feelings?

Under the definition of “Temple” in the Bible Dictionary, we read the following: “It is the most holy of any place of worship on the earth.” Then it says: “Only the home can compare with the temple in sacredness.” What a profound statement.

We can learn to feel those same feelings that exist in the temple in our very homes. We must teach ourselves to call upon these feelings of peace and safety at times when we need them the most. This becomes easier and easier to do the more we practice. And the best place to practice is at Home.

**Can** any home be a haven from confusion and chaos? **Yes.** **Is** every home a place of peace, joy, and safety? Unfortunately, no. So how can we make sure our homes become places where our families can learn and practice this skill? By making our home a “house of the Lord.”

### **Activity:**

*(Copy the paper glasses onto cardstock to make enough for the whole family. Have everyone cut them out and assemble them as a mini activity or you may have them made ahead of time. Cut out the lens so that one may see through them.)*

These are spiritual glasses and we are going to take a tour of our home to see if we are creating a “house of the Lord.”

*(Begin outside facing your house.)*

Imagine yourself arriving home. What do you see? Is the appearance of our home inviting? What do you feel? Do you get a relaxed, peaceful feeling come over you as you approach or do you feel anxious and apprehensive to enter?

*(Open the front door and enter the house.)*

What do you see and feel now? Is it a place of love, peace, and a refuge from the world, as is the temple? Is it clean and orderly?

*(Walk into each bedroom.)*

Is your bedroom or sleeping area a place for personal prayer? Does the appearance of your room invite the Spirit? Can you find your personal gospel study space?

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*(Walk through the main parts of your house.)*

Do you see uplifting images which include appropriate pictures of the temple and the Savior? Is your gathering area or kitchen a place where food is prepared and enjoyed together, allowing uplifting conversation and family time? Are scriptures found in a room where the family can study, pray, and learn together? Does the music you hear or the entertainment you see, online or otherwise, offend the Spirit? Is the conversation uplifting and without contention?

*(Remove the glasses and return to your seats.)*

That concludes our tour. How did we do? Do we have a few “home improvements” to make or do we need an “extreme home makeover?” I think we can all agree that we can always make improvements.

Let’s go over each of the questions we were asked during the tour and answer them honestly. Let’s jot down ideas of what we can do to improve our home environment to make it feel more like the temple.

### **Activity:**

*(Copy the “Home Improvement Questionnaire” onto sheets of paper or enlarge to make a chart. This activity maybe done individually or as a family.)*

### **Closing:**

Whether our living space is large or small, humble or extravagant, there is a place for each of these gospel priorities in our home. Let us strive to make these changes that we may “establish . . . a house of prayer, a house of fasting, a house of faith, a house of learning, a house of glory, a house of order, a house of God.” Doing this begins the construction of our “spiritual mansion” where we can practice that feeling of peace and safety that we will draw upon many times in our lives. The one that will deliver us from the world and draw us back “home” each time we close our eyes and picture the temple as our home.

May we never forget the words spoken by an innocent child: “We are never lost when we can see the temple.”

**Closing Prayer:** by invitation

**Refreshments:** of your choice

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### Home Improvement Questionnaire

- How did you feel as we approached our home? Can it be improved?

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- How did you feel as we entered?

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- Did you feel loved and safe? YES NO What changes can be made to better create those feelings?

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- Is it clean and orderly? YES NO What can we do to improve on this?

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- Do we see uplifting images throughout the house? (pictures of Christ or the temple) YES NO Is there anything we can add?

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- Is your bedroom a place for personal prayer? YES NO If not, what can we change to help it become such?

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- Is your gathering area or kitchen a place where food is prepared and enjoyed together allowing uplifting conversation and family time? YES NO How can we improve on this?

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- Are the scriptures found in a room where the family can study, pray and learn together? YES NO

- Do you have a personal study space? YES NO If not, can you create one? YES NO

- Does the music you hear or the entertainment you see online or on TV offend the Spirit? YES NO Name changes that can be made to improve on this.

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- Is the conversation in your home uplifting & without contention? YES NO How can a positive change be made?

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### Spiritual Glasses

