

**Women and Service in the Kingdom**  
**A Sharing Time or family night lesson for girls and boys**

Materials Needed and Preparation:

1. Copy of “The Family: A Proclamation to the World” downloadable from lds.org
2. Tape and/or magnets for posting pictures
3. Pictures of current Relief Society, Young Women, and Primary General Presidents. (Download from <http://www.lds.org/church/leaders/general-auxiliaries?lang=eng>).
  - Post these pictures on the board turned over so the children can’t see them.
4. Pictures to illustrate the history and purpose of Relief Society: pictures of Emma Smith, Eliza R. Snow, Zina Young, the Relief Society seal, and pictures representing the 3 purposes of Relief Society. (See file with easy-to-print pictures at [PrimaryinZion.wordpress.com](http://PrimaryinZion.wordpress.com)). You’ll need one set of these pictures for the puzzle activity (particularly good for Junior Primary) and two sets for the matching game (particularly good for Senior Primary).
  - Prepare the puzzle: Cut one set of each of these seven pictures into two puzzle pieces, and post half of each picture on the walls around the room.
  - Prepare the matching game: For the other two sets of these pictures, you may want to attach them to heavier paper so children won’t see through. Post them turned over on the chalkboard.

Lesson Presentation:

**1. Introduction:** We have had some lessons in Primary about how exciting it is that boys can prepare to receive the priesthood when they turn 12, and how the priesthood can bless everyone. Today, I am excited that I get to teach a lesson about what girls can prepare to do in our church, and how we are all blessed through the service of girls and women in our church.

**2. “The Family: A Proclamation to the World”**

- *Hold up a copy of the proclamation. Explain “proclamation” in your own words; something like “an important announcement.”*
- *Read or have a child read this quote from the proclamation:*  
“All human beings - male and female [that means men, women, boys and girls] - are created in the image of God. Each is a beloved spirit son or daughter of heavenly parents...”
- *Express how the Spirit can help us to know that these words are true. Help the children to understand that girls, boys, women and men are all important and loved by our heavenly parents.*
- Sing “I am a Child of God” (*Children’s Songbook*, 2)

**3. Learning about current church leaders who are women:**

- *Point to the pictures of current church leaders, posted face down on the board. Ask a child to turn over the pictures, one at a time, to learn about women who are current general leaders in our church. As you talk about each woman, have the child hold up the picture.*
- **Sister** \_\_\_\_\_ is the general president over all of the Primaries in our church. Primary was first started over a hundred years ago with 215 children. Now there are over a million children in Primary all over the world! Sister \_\_\_\_\_ wants each child in Primary – that’s each of you - to feel Heavenly Father’s love for you.
- **Sister** \_\_\_\_\_ is the general president over all of the Young Women in the world. Young Women are between the ages of 12 to 18. When girls turn 12, they graduate from Primary and go into the Young Women’s organization.
- *For senior Primary only, have a girl read the letter below from former YW General President Sister Dalton:*

Dear Primary young women,

We are so excited for the day when you will join Young Women! You are a precious daughter of Heavenly Father. In Young Women you will learn to stand as His witness at all times and in all things and in all places. You will receive a necklace to remind you to stand for truth and righteousness and let the Savior's light shine to all the world. Your Personal Progress book will help you study the scriptures, set personal goals, and progress on the path to the temple. All these things will help you prepare to be a wife and mother and a great leader in the world.

Sincerely,

Elaine S. Dalton

(*Friend* magazine, October 2012, 25)

- *Emphasize that the girls will learn more about being part of the Young Women's organization when they turn 12 and graduate from Primary.*
- **Sister \_\_\_\_\_** is the General President of the Relief Society. Young Women enter Relief Society when they turn 18. Relief Society is the organization that all of the women in the church belong to. The Relief Society is one of the largest women's organizations in the world.
- Watch for these women next time you see General Conference. You might hear a talk or prayer from them or one of their counselors.

#### **4. Learning about the history and work of Relief Society:**

- Now we'll learn about some of the first leaders in Relief Society and what Relief Society is all about.
- *Explain how to do the puzzle activity or matching game:*

*Puzzle activity (particularly good for Junior Primary): One piece of each picture puzzle will be on the chalkboard and the matching pieces of the puzzles will be taped to the walls of the Primary room. Ask a child to choose a puzzle piece from one of the walls of the Primary room and match it to the puzzle piece on the chalkboard. Once a child has found where the puzzle piece fits, talk briefly about the picture (see discussion points below).*

*Matching game (particularly good for Senior Primary): Post two of each picture face down on the chalkboard. Each child turns over two pictures at a time. When a child finds a match, talk briefly about the picture (see discussion points below). **Tip:** To help the matching activity go faster, let each child turn over 3 pictures at a time instead of just 2.*

Discussion points: from lds.org and *Daughters in My Kingdom: The History and Work of Relief Society*

#### **Sister Emma Smith:**

- \* First president of Relief Society (appointed March 17, 1842, the day Relief Society was organized).
- \* Loving mother of 11 children, including two who were adopted.
- \* Collected hymns for the first hymnbook that our church had.
- \* Helped people who were sick and let poor people stay in her home.
- \* Helped her husband, the prophet Joseph Smith.

#### **Sister Eliza R. Snow:**

- \* Second General Relief Society President.
- \* Good student and famous for her writing and speaking in public.
- \* Wrote the words to many church hymns that we still sing today ("O My Father", "How Great the Wisdom and the Love" etc.)

\* Helped to start the Young Women and Primary organizations in our church.

\*Sister of the prophet Lorenzo Snow.

**Sister Zina Young:**

\*Third General Relief Society President.

\*Helped people who were sick and delivered many babies in Utah.

\*Opened a nursing school and encouraged women in our church to get medical training to become doctors and nurses.

***Relief Society Seal and Motto (picture of Relief Society seal):***

“Charity never faileth” is the Relief Society motto or saying. It comes from the scriptures (1 Corinthians 13:8).

This motto helps remind women in Relief Society that they want to try to love others the way that Jesus did.

**3 purposes of Relief Society:**

***Increase faith in Jesus Christ and His Atonement (picture of CTR shield):*** This CTR shield means that women in Relief Society want to Choose The Right and have faith in Heavenly Father and Jesus. Learning to Choose The Right is something we work on for our whole lives, not just in Primary!

***Strengthen families and homes through ordinances and covenants (picture of a family praying together):***

Women in Relief Society learn to take good care of themselves. They prepare to be good parents and teach the gospel to their children. They also help others learn to be good parents.

***Work in unity to help those in need (picture of women gardening):*** Women in Relief Society try to help people in their wards, communities and in the world. They might help people who need food and clothing or comfort people who are sad. All of us have times when we need help and Relief Society is an organization that can help each one of us.

**5. Conclusion:**

- *Emphasize that all of the women in our church have different gifts and talents that they use to serve others and help further the work of Heavenly Father.*
- *Bear testimony of Relief Society, of Heavenly Father’s love for each of us, and the blessings we receive through the service of girls and women in our church.*