Exploring Your Family Tree

With so much information gathered already, you can learn a lot about your family by connecting to extended family through a family tree.

Modify this activity as needed and use your own ideas to make it work for your family or group.

For younger children:
Find a large tree nearby or a photo of a tree and discuss the parts of the tree and why they are important. Discuss how the tree is like your family and what you can do to help it grow. The activity “I Can Climb My Family Tree” from the May 2013 Friend may help you introduce everyone to the Family Tree on FamilySearch.org. You can add your photos on FamilySearch.org by clicking on Memories/Gallery then click on the “+” button.

Activity for older children and teenagers:
Go to FamilySearch.org and take a few minutes to review the information about your Family Tree. You can also change the view to Fan Chart or Portrait to see other ways to view your family. As you explore, you can look for green arrows, indicating temple ordinances to be done, look for holes where people are missing, or see if there are any famous people in your tree. If you have a full tree, you can view the descendants of an ancestor to find individuals who need temple ordinances.

Additional resources:

• “I Can Climb My Family Tree” (May 2013, Friend)
• Introduction to Puzzilla.org.

Ideas for facilitating this with your class, group, or quorum:

• As class members explore their family trees, invite them to share the stories they find and the areas that they could work on. Some of them may even be related without knowing it.

• You could also make a scavenger hunt out of it, looking for certain names, dates, or record types.