

Guidelines and suggestions for home-centered worship

* - denotes addition or change since previous posting

Sunday home-centered worship

The father presides over meetings in the home. When a father is not present, the mother presides. Presiding in the case of home worship means ensuring proper administration of the sacrament when performed, selecting speakers/lessons/topics, ensuring proper atmosphere for worship and learning, and directing the meeting by the Spirit.

Please remember that the home should be as sacred a place as the temple. We worship God on the Sabbath, regardless of location. As such, it is recommended that attire and behavior be such that shows God our respect and love for Him and His Only Begotten Son.

The bishop has authorized worthy Priesthood holders to administer the sacrament in their homes weekly. Priests or Melchizedek Priesthood holders may prepare, bless, and pass, teachers may prepare and pass, deacons may pass. Please review section 18.9.3 in the General Handbook for directions on performing the ordinance. Note that in the absence of unbroken bread, an unbroken cracker or other clean food may be used. A clean plate and clean cups may be used in place of trays. A clean, white cloth/towel may be used as a cover, though this is not required for the ordinance. Please find the sacramental prayers in D&C 20:77-79, remember to use 'water' instead of 'wine'. Priesthood holders should not be forced to exercise their Priesthood nor shamed if they do not wish to do so. If anyone has questions as to their worthiness to administer, please contact the bishop for guidance. Further questions should be directed to your ministering brethren.

It is acceptable to have small groups (i.e. friends, extended families) gather together for worship. However, nobody should feel obligated to invite others nor should anyone feel obligated to participate at someone else's home. Please use wisdom and remember we are trying to prevent the spread of disease.

Members who desire to partake the sacrament but without access to Priesthood holders in their home will be served **once a month**, per directions from the First Presidency. If you do not have Priesthood holders in your home to perform this ordinance, please contact your ministering brethren and ask them to perform this service. If a brother is not comfortable doing such, please be understanding and do not make him feel bad. Contact Harold Lewis or Devan Ozment, whose phone numbers are in LDS tools. They will put you in contact with someone to serve. Please do not solicit sacrament administration from brethren, however feel free to accept an invitation for administration.

Talks – feel free to invite members of the family to prepare and share talks on an assigned topic. Soon topics will be posted on the ward website's 'Home Church' page that you may use if desired. Help children, youth, and those new in the gospel learn how to prepare and present a talk.

Please consider using the *Come Follow Me For Individuals and Families* resource book for gospel study. However, you may also study topics that you feel are especially needful for your situation. Please teach children, youth and those new in the gospel how to prepare and instruct a lesson. The

presiding person may invite each member of your family to share testimony as he feels appropriate. Family councils may also be considered in addition to worship and study time.

Please check the ward website 'Org' tab for postings on lessons from Sunday School teachers, youth leaders, RS/EQ leaders, etc. These are meant to support your own study, not replace it.

Guidelines for meetings and other items

All worship services, meetings, and activities normally held at the building

Canceled until further notice

Parents, continue working with your children on the Children and Youth Program. You might contact their regular activity leaders for suggestions. Continue to support them in their goals.

Baptisms, weddings, funerals

These services are permitted, but only close family, and those deemed necessary will attend. Requests for a small number of other individuals will be considered on a case by case basis.

Welfare/spiritual guidance

Please contact the ward executive secretary for an appointment with the bishop as normal. The storehouse is still open for use by those authorized by the bishop.

Seminary

Canceled until further notice

Full-time missionaries

Dinner appointments are still allowed. Missionaries are required to keep a distance of 3 feet from others; no hand-shaking. They are still allowed to proselyte and teach lessons.

Ward missionaries

Please continue to serve, but use similar precautions as those used by full-time missionaries.

Ministering

Continue ministering and serving as normal (or better :) Remember – ministering does not have to be a face to face visit, it can be a text, e-mail, phone call. Limit personal interaction to support our leader's directions.

Blessings

If you are requesting a blessing from your ministering brethren and have tested positive or have a reasonable suspicion of COVID-19 exposure, please inform them. Should they decline to perform a blessing, please be understanding and do not make them feel bad. Contact Bro. Lewis or Ozment for assistance. Brethren – please use sanitary precautions and limit your times with people who might have been exposed.

Church cleaning

Canceled until further notice

Family Home Evening

Continues as usual – learn, grow closer, and have fun!

Unofficial gatherings

That's up to you, but use wisdom and follow the Spirit

Tithing

Please pay your tithing and other offerings online. If you need help setting this up, please seek assistance from your ministering brethren/sisters first. Bishopric and a clerk will be available at the church from 10 – 10:30 AM on Sundays to accept it for those who cannot or do not wish to do so. We will also provide envelopes so you can mail your tithing to the bishop.

Temple service

All temples are currently closed for proxy ordinances until further notice. Living ordinances may be scheduled following the normal procedures. Contact the ward executive secretary for an interview with the Bishop as a first step.

For now, temple recommend renewals will continue as normal. If you have reason to believe you've been exposed to COVID-19 or you have tested positive, please do not schedule an appointment until after you are cleared.

Stay connected with each other and the Church using the Gospel Living App!

Ward executive secretary is Clayton Garner – phone is in LDS tools – please text and he will contact you as soon as he can.

Stake executive secretary is David Harris – phone is in LDS tools – please text and he will contact you as soon as he can.

* - Guidelines for brethren administering the sacrament in member homes

1. Do not go into the homes of other members if you are sick or exhibiting any symptoms of illness (including fever, cough, shortness of breath, headache, runny nose, sore throat, etc.).
2. Do not go into the homes of other members if they, or any members of their household, are sick or have any symptoms of illness. Call ahead to confirm.
3. No handshaking - limit your hand to hand contact with those you minister to.
4. Ask those that you are ministering to how regularly they would like the sacrament administered in their home (those who are at greater risk of COVID-19 symptoms may request once a month instead of every week).
5. Wash your hands with soap and water PRIOR to leaving your home to administer the sacrament.
6. Wash your hands AGAIN with soap and water in the member's home immediately before preparing and administering the sacrament. Do not touch your phone between preparing and administering the sacrament.

7. Partaking of the sacrament with the members you are ministering to is NOT advised.
8. Limit the time spent in the member's home. Do not stay longer than is necessary.
9. Wash your hands with soap and water after arriving home from administering the sacrament in another member's home.