



Funtastic Family Home Evenings
Easy to Prepare! Fun to Share!

How Much Do You Know About Patriarchal Blessings?

(Ages ~ 12 and older)

PURPOSE

- To help family members better understand the purpose of patriarchal blessings

MATERIALS

- A compass or a road map (or use pictures below)
- Paper and pencil for each member of the family
- You may find it helpful to read the following articles as you prepare this lesson:
 - [About Patriarchal Blessings](#) (*New Era*, 2005).



SUGGESTED SONG

- “[Lead Me Into Eternal Life](#)” hymn #45 in *Hymns*

LESSON IDEAS

1. Begin by showing your family the picture of the man who is lost (below)
 - a. Ask, “If someone is lost, what are some of the things he could use to find his way?”
 - A GPS (picture below)
 - A map (picture below)
 - A compass (picture below)
2. Explain that sometimes in life we aren’t sure which way to go:
 - a. Which school should I go to?
 - b. Whom should I marry?
 - c. What should I study in school?
 - d. What should I do as a career?
3. Ask, “What are some of the resources Heavenly Father has given us to help guide us in our lives?”
 - a. Prayer
 - b. Scriptures
 - c. Fasting
 - d. Talking with family, friends
 - e. Church leaders
4. Point out that another help Heavenly Father gives us is a patriarchal blessing.
 - a. Explain that you have a True-False quiz to see how much family members know about patriarchal blessings.

5. Give everyone a piece of paper and pencil to respond to the quiz found below.
 - a. As you correct the quiz you may want to share the quotes regarding each question.

6. Following the quiz you may want to share the following quote:
 - a. President Gordon B. Hinckley: “I count my patriarchal blessing as one of the great sacred things of my life. A patriarchal blessing is a unique and sacred and personal and wonderful thing given to every member of this Church who lives worthy of it. What a unique, personal, individual, wonderful thing is a patriarchal blessing spoken by authority of the priesthood” (*Ensign*, Aug. 1997, 5–6).

7. Testify that patriarchal blessings can provide comfort, direction, warnings, and promises for our lives if we live worthy to receive them.
 - a. You may want to share an experience where your patriarchal blessing was a blessing in your life.

How Much Do You Know About Patriarchal Blessings? **True or False?**

1. The main purpose of a patriarchal blessing is to tell you everything that will happen in your life.
2. Anybody can receive a patriarchal blessing.
3. If a person is faithful, all patriarchal promises will be fulfilled in the person's lifetime.
4. Everyone in a family will have the same lineage.
5. A person's patriarchal blessing will always be understandable to the one who receives it.
6. A patriarchal blessing can be shared with friends, neighbors and ward members.
7. A patriarchal blessing will tell you if you are going to go on a mission, be married and have children in this life.
8. A patriarchal blessing will tell you of the major callings you will hold in your life.
9. To receive a patriarchal blessing you must first be interviewed by the bishop and stake president.
10. If we live worthy the Lord will fulfill all of the promises given in our patriarchal blessing.

Answers and Discussion

1. False.
 - a. “A patriarchal blessing has two main purposes. First, the patriarch will be inspired to declare your lineage—the tribe of Israel to which you belong. Second, guided by the spirit of prophecy, the patriarch will pronounce blessings and may also provide promises, cautions, or admonitions that apply specifically to you. Your patriarchal blessing may point out certain things you are capable of achieving and blessings you can receive if you exercise faith and live righteously” [New Era, 2005](#)).
2. False. Patriarchal blessings are for worthy members of the Church who are mature enough to begin to understand the blessing.
 - a. President Gordon B. Hinckley stated: “I hope that we are encouraging those who are mature enough to understand the importance of a patriarchal blessing to receive one. I count my patriarchal blessing as one of the great sacred things of my life” (*Ensign*, Aug. 1997, 5–6).
3. False.
 - a. Elder John A. Widtsoe, former member of the Quorum of the Twelve, said: “It should always be kept in mind that the realization of the promises made may come in this or the future life. Men have stumbled at times because promised blessings have not occurred in this life. They have failed to remember that, in the gospel, life with all its activities continues forever and that the labors of earth may be continued in heaven. Besides, the Giver of the blessings, the Lord, reserves the right to have them become active in our lives, as suits His divine purpose. We and our blessings are in the hands of the Lord” (*Evidences and Reconciliations*, p. 75).
 - b. President James E. Faust also stated: “This was well illustrated in my father’s patriarchal blessing. He was told in his blessing that he would be blessed with “many beautiful daughters.” He and my mother became the parents of five sons. No daughters were born to them, but they treated the wives of their sons as daughters. Some years ago when we had a family gathering, I saw my father’s daughters-in-law, granddaughters, and great-granddaughters moving about, tending to the food and ministering to the young children and the elderly, and the realization came to me that Father’s blessing literally had been fulfilled. He has indeed many beautiful daughters. The patriarch who gave my father his blessing had spiritual vision to see beyond this life. The dividing line between time and eternity disappeared” (*Ensign*, Nov. 1995, 63-64).
4. False.
 - a. President James E. Faust: “Some might be disturbed because members of the same family have blessings declaring them to be of a different lineage. A few families are of a mixed lineage. We believe that the house of Israel today constitutes a large measure of the human family. Because the tribes have intermixed one with another, one child may be declared to be from the tribe of Ephraim and another of the same family from Manasseh or one of the other tribes. The blessing of one tribe, therefore,

may be dominant in one child, and the blessing of another tribe dominant in yet another child. So, children from the same parents could receive the blessings of different tribes” (*Ensign*, Nov. 1995, 63-64).

5. False.
 - a. President James E. Faust: “The patriarch promised that my blessing would ‘be a comfort and a guide’ to me throughout my life. As a boy I read it over and over again. I pondered each word. I prayed earnestly to understand fully the spiritual meaning. Having that blessing early in my life guided me through all of the significant events and challenges of my life. I did not fully understand the meaning of my blessing until I gained more maturity and experience (*Ensign*, Nov. 1995, 63-64).
6. False.
 - a. President James E. Faust: “A patriarchal blessing is very sacred and personal, but it may be shared with close family members” (*Ensign*, Nov. 1995, 63-64).
7. False.
 - a. President James E. Faust also stated: “The fact that one’s patriarchal blessing may not mention an important event in life, such as a mission or marriage, does not mean that it will not happen” (*Ensign*, Nov. 1995, 63-64).
8. False.
 - a. President James E. Faust: “. . . a person should not expect the blessing to detail all that will happen to him or her or to answer all questions” (*Ensign*, Nov. 1995, 63-64).
9. False. Only the bishop needs to interview.
10. True.
 - a. “I, the Lord, am bound when ye do what I say; but when ye do not what I say, ye have no promise” (Doctrine and Covenants 82:10).
 - b. You may want to share an experience where something promised in your patriarchal blessing was fulfilled.







