

“Multiply, and Replenish the Earth” (Genesis 1:28)

Student 1. Read aloud the following statement by Sister Julie B. Beck, former Relief Society General President:



“Whereas in many cultures in the world children are ‘becoming less valued’ [James E. Faust, “Challenges Facing the Family,” *Worldwide Leadership Training Meeting*, Jan. 10, 2004, 2], in the culture of the gospel we still believe in having children. . . . President Ezra Taft Benson taught that young couples should not postpone having children and that ‘in the eternal perspective, children—not possessions, not position, not prestige—are our greatest jewels’ [*To the Mothers in Zion* (pamphlet, 1987), 3, 4]” (Julie B. Beck, “Mothers Who Know,” *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2007, 76).

Student 2. Read aloud the following statement by Elder D. Todd Christofferson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles:



“God ordained that men and women should marry and give birth to children, thereby creating, in partnership with God, the physical bodies that are key to the test of mortality and essential to eternal glory with Him. . . .

“A family built on the marriage of a man and woman supplies the best setting for God’s plan to thrive—the setting for the birth of children, who come in purity and innocence from God, and the environment for the learning and preparation they will need for a successful mortal life and eternal life in the world to come” (D. Todd Christofferson, “Why Marriage, Why Family,” *Ensign or Liahona*, May 2015, 51, 52).

Student 3. Read the following statement by Elder Joseph W. Sitati of the Seventy:



“Our physical bodies are a blessing from God. We received them for the purposes of fulfilling Heavenly Father’s work ‘to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man’ [Moses 1:39]. The body is the means by which we can attain our divine potential.

“The body enables Heavenly Father’s obedient spirit children to experience life on earth [see Moses 5:10–11]. Bearing children gives other spirit children of God the opportunity to also enjoy life on earth. All who are born in mortality have the opportunity to progress and to be exalted if they obey God’s commandments.

“Marriage between a man and a woman is the institution that God ordained for the fulfillment of the charge to multiply” (Joseph W. Sitati, “Be Fruitful, Multiply, and Subdue the Earth,” *Ensign or Liahona*, May 2015, 127).

Discussion Questions

- What do these statements teach about the role of the commandment to multiply and replenish the earth in the plan of salvation?
- In what ways does having children help us participate in the plan of salvation?
- Why do you think it is important for Latter-day Saint youth to understand the importance of the commandment to multiply and replenish the earth?

