

Family Work

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“I believe that second only to ensuring that every child receives an understanding of the gospel of our Lord and Savior is teaching them the joy of honest labor.” (L. Tom Perry, Oct. 1986, “The Joy of Honest Labor”)

“Work is always a spiritual necessity even if, for some, work is not an economic necessity.” (Neal A. Maxwell, April 1998, “Put Your Shoulder to the Wheel”)

Goals:

1. Help our children learn how to work.
2. Help them to develop positive attributes like stick-to-it-iveness and being cheerful even when they are doing something they don't want to do.
3. Help them learn skills to help them prepare to take care of their own future family.
4. Prepare them to effectively serve the Lord.

The law of the harvest. “For whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.” (Galatians 6:7)

“I hope that we understand that, while having a garden, for instance, is often useful in reducing food costs and making available delicious fresh fruits and vegetables, it does much more than this. Who can gauge the value of that special chat between daughter and Dad as they weed or water the garden? How do we evaluate the good that comes from the obvious lessons of planting, cultivating, and the eternal law of the harvest? And how do we measure the family togetherness and cooperating that must accompany successful canning? Yes, we are laying up resources in store, but perhaps the greater good is contained in the lessons of life we

learn as we live providently and extend to our children their pioneer heritage” (President Spencer W. Kimball, “Welfare Services: The Gospel in Action,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1977, 78).

Blessings:

1. The kids have a way of earning money.
2. They don't have to work on Sunday.
3. Learning different skills and attributes.
4. Learning how to meet and interact with people.
5. Learning to be dependable.
6. Learning to get up early and work hard, and to work long hours even when you want to give up.
7. Sacrifice, satisfaction, and pride in the accomplishment.
8. Great conversations as we work side by side.
9. Children enjoy each other.
10. Balm in difficult circumstances.

“At the end of a day's work, there were stories to tell, experiences to laugh at, accomplishments to brag about...Our family work has become a big factor in bringing a higher degree of love, peace, and unity into our home. Many neighbors have commented on how much our children really enjoy each other.” (President Dean Jarman, October 1982, “The Blessings of Family Work Projects”)

How to Start:

1. Start with the work you are already doing and get everyone involved.
2. Teach and mentor our children in what we want done and how. Praise them. A lot.
3. Work with our children, side by side, even after they know how to do it.
4. The Prophet said to plant a garden.
5. Expand out.
6. Other types of work.
7. Keep at it.

Great resources:

- Kathleen S. Bahr & Cheri A. Loveless: “Family Work,” BYU Magazine, Spring 2000
- Dieter F. Uchtdorf, October 2009, “Two Principles for Any Economy”
- L. Tom Perry, October 1986, “The Joy of Honest Labor”
- Dean Jarman, October 1982, “The Blessings of Family Work Projects”