



**October 2016**  
**Visiting Teaching Message:**  
**The Family is**  
**Ordained of God**

"In the words of [the Primary song] 'The Family Is of God,' ... we are reminded of pure doctrine," said Carole M. Stephens, First Counselor in the Relief Society General Presidency. "We learn not only that the family is of God but also that we are each part of God's family. ...

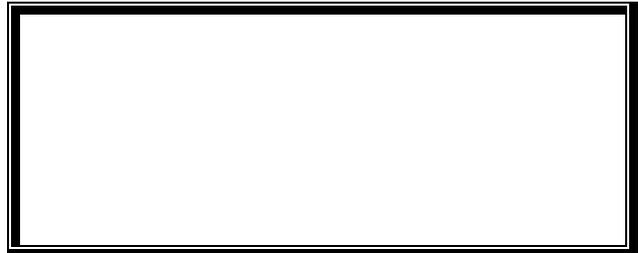
"... The Father's plan for His children is a plan of love. It is a plan to unite His children—His family—with Him."

Elder L. Tom Perry (1922–2015) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles said: "We also believe that strong traditional families are not only the basic units of a stable society, a stable economy, and a stable culture of values—but that they are also the basic units of eternity and of the kingdom and government of God.

"We believe that the organization and government of heaven will be built around families and extended families."

"Everyone, no matter what their marital circumstance or number of children, can be defenders of the Lord's plan described in the family proclamation," said Bonnie L. Oscarson, Young Women General President. "If it is the Lord's plan, it should also be our plan!"

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Doctrine and Covenants 2; 1-3 Behold, I will reveal unto you the Priesthood, by the hand of Elijah the prophet, before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And he shall plant in the hearts of the children the promises made to the fathers, and the hearts of the children shall turn to their fathers. If it were not so, the whole earth would be utterly wasted at his coming.



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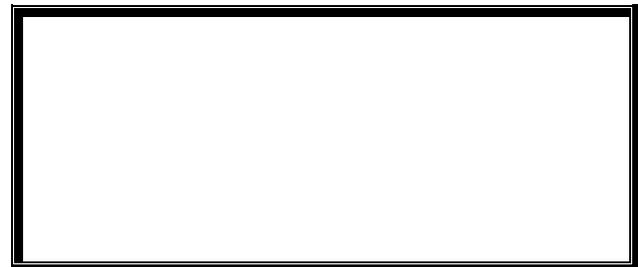
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Doctrine and Covenants 139:19 And again, verily I say unto you, if a man marry a wife by my word, which is my law, and by the new and everlasting covenant, and it is sealed unto them by the Holy Spirit of promise, by him who is anointed, unto whom I have appointed this power and the keys of this priesthood; and it shall be said unto them—Ye shall come forth in the first resurrection; and if it be after the first resurrection, in the next resurrection; and shall inherit thrones, kingdoms, principalities, and powers, dominions, all heights and depths—then shall it be written in the Lamb’s Book of Life, that he shall commit no murder whereby to shed innocent blood, and if ye abide in my covenant, and commit no murder whereby to shed innocent blood, it shall be done unto them in all things whatsoever my servant hath put upon them, in time, and through all eternity; and shall be of full force when they are out of the world; and they shall pass by the angels, and the gods, which are set there, to their exaltation and glory in all things, as hath been sealed upon their heads, which glory shall be a fulness and a continuation of the seeds forever and ever.

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Sister Julie B. Beck, former Relief Society General President, taught that the theology of the family is based on the Creation, the Fall, and the Atonement of Jesus Christ:

“The Creation of the earth provided a place where families could live. God created a man and a woman who were the two essential halves of a family. It was part of Heavenly Father’s plan that Adam and Eve be sealed and form an eternal family.

“... The Fall made it possible for them to have sons and daughters.

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**Pumpkin Brownies**

- ½ cup butter
- 1 cup caster sugar
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon\*\*
- ½ teaspoon ginger\*\*
- ¼ teaspoon allspice\*\*
- ¼ teaspoon cloves\*\*
- 2/3 cup pecans or 2/3 cup white chocolate chips (optional)
- ¼ teaspoon (pinch) salt
- 1 egg
- ½ cup pumpkin, cooked and mashed
- ¾ cup plain white flour

Cream butter and sugar in a bowl. Add egg and stir by hand. Add spices and flour and stir till just combined. (if desired, add 2/3 cup chopped pecans)

Bake at 350F / 175C for 20-25 minutes. Allow the brownies to cool before serving, they will be very moist, almost like pumpkin pie filling.

\* For those who need a chocolate hit with their brownies, add 2/3 cup dark chocolate chips. You won't regret it.

\*\*substitute the above spices with 2 tsp. commercial pumpkin pie spice.

“[Christ’s] Atonement allows for the family to be sealed together eternally. It allows for families to have eternal growth and perfection. The plan of happiness, also called the plan of salvation, was a plan created for families. ...

“... This was Christ’s doctrine. ... Without the family, there is no plan; there is no reason for mortal life.”

**With love from your visiting teacher!**

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