

Lesson 7: Homemaking**Homemaking Is an Important and Sacred Responsibility**

Homemaking is one of the responsibilities we have been given. Heavenly Father wants all men and women to give their greatest priority to their homes, their spouses, and their families. Our families are part of our divine mission.

Observe the devotion shown by the mother in the following story.

Read story

- Why is it important for every young woman to appreciate and understand her mother's role as a homemaker?

The joy experienced by Kristy's mother can be experienced by each of us. The personal satisfaction that comes to a homemaker in knowing that she is contributing to her family's happiness sustains her through her daily activities. When members of her family express gratitude, she feels even greater satisfaction.

- How can we show gratitude to our mothers?

Homemaking Is More Than Housekeeping

Homemaking involves a wide variety of activities, all of them important. Of great importance, of course, is keeping a house clean and taking care of the physical needs of the family members. However, there is another important side to homemaking.

Sister Belle S. Spafford, a former general president of the Relief Society, points out:

"Homemaking, as I view it, falls into two major divisions: homemaking and housekeeping. Homemaking takes into account the spiritual values: love, peace, tranquility, harmony among family members, security. It makes of a place of residence a spot to which family members can retire from a confused and troubled world and find understanding and rejuvenation. Its character is quietness; it evidences good taste, culture, and refinement. Men, women, and children alike have their individual contributions to make to good home and family life, and each shares in its benefits.

"Housekeeping involves the work of keeping a house clean, orderly, and well managed. This includes financial management, failure in which often becomes a source of family friction" (Belle S. Spafford, *A Woman's Reach* [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1974], pp. 24–25).

- How are housework and homemaking intertwined?
- How can both bring rewards?
- Describe a home where spiritual values are being developed.
- Why are skills like money management or food preparation important in creating a home where the spirit of God can dwell?

A Young Woman Can Be a Homemaker Now

- How can you be a homemaker in your home now?

Group Project

Even though you do not yet manage a home of your own, a young woman is still a homemaker and can still improve the atmosphere of her home. The way you do this can bring great joy to your family.

Read story

- In what ways did Karen bring joy to her brothers? Her father? Her mother?
- How can homemaking bring you closer to your family?
- How do order and cleanliness encourage family members to do their best?
- Why is it a good feeling to come home to a clean house?
- How does a well-kept home reflect the love family members have for each other?
- How does homemaking add to the spiritual atmosphere of a home?

A home that is orderly and well cared for and that invites the Spirit of the Lord builds confidence and pride in the people who live there. They feel more comfortable and peaceful. It is also a place where their faith and testimony can grow. Such a home requires the efforts of everyone who lives there and reflects the concern that family members have for each other. It is a home that evidences industry and hard work.

