

YW Manual 1 Lessons 7 & 8

A traveler passed a stone quarry and saw three men working. He asked each man what he was doing. Each man's answer revealed a different attitude toward the same job. "I am cutting stone," the first man answered. The second replied, "I am earning three gold pieces per day." The third man smiled and said, "I am helping to build a house of God."

- How did each man's attitude affect how he looked at his task?
- Why would the third man be the most likely to consider his job interesting and worthwhile?

Point out that we can have positive or negative attitudes about our divine roles of wife and mother. Some look at these roles as being demeaning and full of drudgery, but our roles are actually a part of a solemn promise that we made before we came to earth. They are part of the blessings that come to us as daughters of God.

Hand out purses and talk a bit about the joys of being a woman - consider some of the points that have been made in the previous lessons 5 and 6. Then open purse and read quote on flap:

"As you stand as a witness in your home, you will strengthen your family. Too often we think the phrase of the Young Women theme "to strengthen home and family" applies only to the future responsibilities of young women as wives and mothers, but it also applies to their responsibilities as daughters and sisters in their homes here and now.

Explain that they will be filling their purses with things that will help them to strengthen home and family through the understanding of their divine roles of wife and mother.

Sister Beck: I have often heard my father describe my mother as a woman with a "mother heart," and that is true. Her mothering influence has been felt by many hundreds, perhaps thousands of people, and she has refined the role of nurturer to an art form. Her testimony of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ and strong sense of identity and purpose have guided her life.

She took longer than most women to find her husband, but during her single years she had devoted her life to progress. Though it was uncommon at the time, she was university educated and advancing in a career. Following her marriage, children arrived in quick succession; and in a short span of years, she was the mother of a large family. All the knowledge she had acquired, all her natural abilities and gifts, all her skills were channeled into an organization that had no earthly bounds. As a covenant-keeping daughter of God, she had prepared all her life for motherhood.

What is a mother heart and how is one acquired? We learn about some of those qualities in the scriptures. To paraphrase Proverbs: "Who can find a ... woman [with a mother heart]? for her price is far above rubies. ... She ... worketh willingly with her hands. ... With the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard. ... She stretcheth out her hand to the poor. ... Strength and honour are her clothing. ... She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness" (Prov. 31:10, 13, 16, 20, 25–27). A woman with a mother heart has a testimony of the restored gospel, and she teaches the principles of the gospel without equivocation. She is keeping sacred covenants made in holy temples. Her talents and skills are shared unselfishly. She gains as much education as her circumstances will allow, improving her mind and spirit with the desire to teach what she learns to the generations who follow her.

Female roles did not begin on earth, and they do not end here. A woman who treasures motherhood on earth will treasure motherhood in the world to come, and "where [her] treasure is, there will [her] heart be also" (Matt. 6:21). By developing a mother heart, each girl and woman prepares for her divine, eternal mission of motherhood.

Discuss quote. Pass out hearts and have girls write a few words which describe how they can develop a “mother heart”.

“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).

Explain that 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.

Explain that even though she does not yet manage a home of her own, a young woman is still a homemaker and can still improve the atmosphere of her home. The way she does this can bring great joy to her family.

Pass out brooms and answer these questions: How are housework and homemaking intertwined? How can both bring rewards? Write a few words on back of broom that explain.

Gary E. Stevenson, “Sacred Homes, Sacred Temples,”: “We are blessed to live in a temple-building dispensation in which 175 temples have been dedicated or announced. Under the definition of “Temple” in the Bible Dictionary, we read the following: “It is the most holy of any place of worship on the earth,” followed by this insightful statement: “Only the home can compare with the temple in sacredness.” For me this suggests a sacred relationship between the temple and the home. Not only can we turn the doors of our homes to the temple, or the house of the Lord; we can make our homes a “house of the Lord.”

Recently, in a stake conference, all present were invited by the visiting authority, Elder Glen Jenson, an Area Seventy, to take a virtual tour of their homes using their spiritual eyes. I would like to invite each of you to do this also. Wherever your home may be and whatever its configuration, the application of eternal gospel principles within its walls is universal. Let’s begin. Imagine that you are opening your front door and walking inside your home. What do you see, and how do you feel? Is it a place of love, peace, and refuge from the world, as is the temple? Is it clean and orderly? As you walk through the rooms of your home, do you see uplifting images which include appropriate pictures of the temple and the Savior? Is your bedroom or sleeping area a place for personal prayer? Is your gathering area or kitchen a place where food is prepared and enjoyed together, allowing uplifting conversation and family time? Are scriptures found in a room where the family can study, pray, and learn together? Can you find your personal gospel study space? Does the music you hear or the entertainment you see, online or otherwise, offend the Spirit? Is the conversation uplifting and without contention? That concludes our tour. Perhaps you, as I, found a few spots that need some “home improvement”—hopefully not an “extreme home makeover.”

Whether our living space is large or small, humble or extravagant, there is a place for each of these gospel priorities in each of our homes.

In order to keep the temple and those who attend it sacred and worthy, the Lord has established standards through His servants, the prophets. We may be well-advised to consider together, in family council, standards for our homes to keep them sacred and to allow them to be a “house of the Lord.”

(D&C 88:119) The admonition to “establish ... a house of prayer, a house of fasting, a house of faith, a house of learning, a house of glory, a house of order, a house of God” provides divine insight into the type of home the Lord would have us build. Doing such begins the construction of a “spiritual mansion” in which we all may reside regardless of our worldly circumstance—a home filled with treasure that “neither moth nor rust doth corrupt.”

Discuss quote. Pass out temples and write a few words on back that describe ways in which the girls can help make their homes like the temple now.

What does the world say about motherhood/homemaking? With so many conflicting worldly views of women’s roles, how can we know and follow Heavenly Father’s plan for womanhood?

President David O. McKay said: “Motherhood is near to divinity. It is the highest, holiest service to be assumed by [a woman]”

William R. Wallace, that “the hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world.”

Discuss quotes. Pass out suns and have girls write one or two words on the back that describe how they feel about their divine roles as women.

Watch video: PARABLE OF THE PURSE

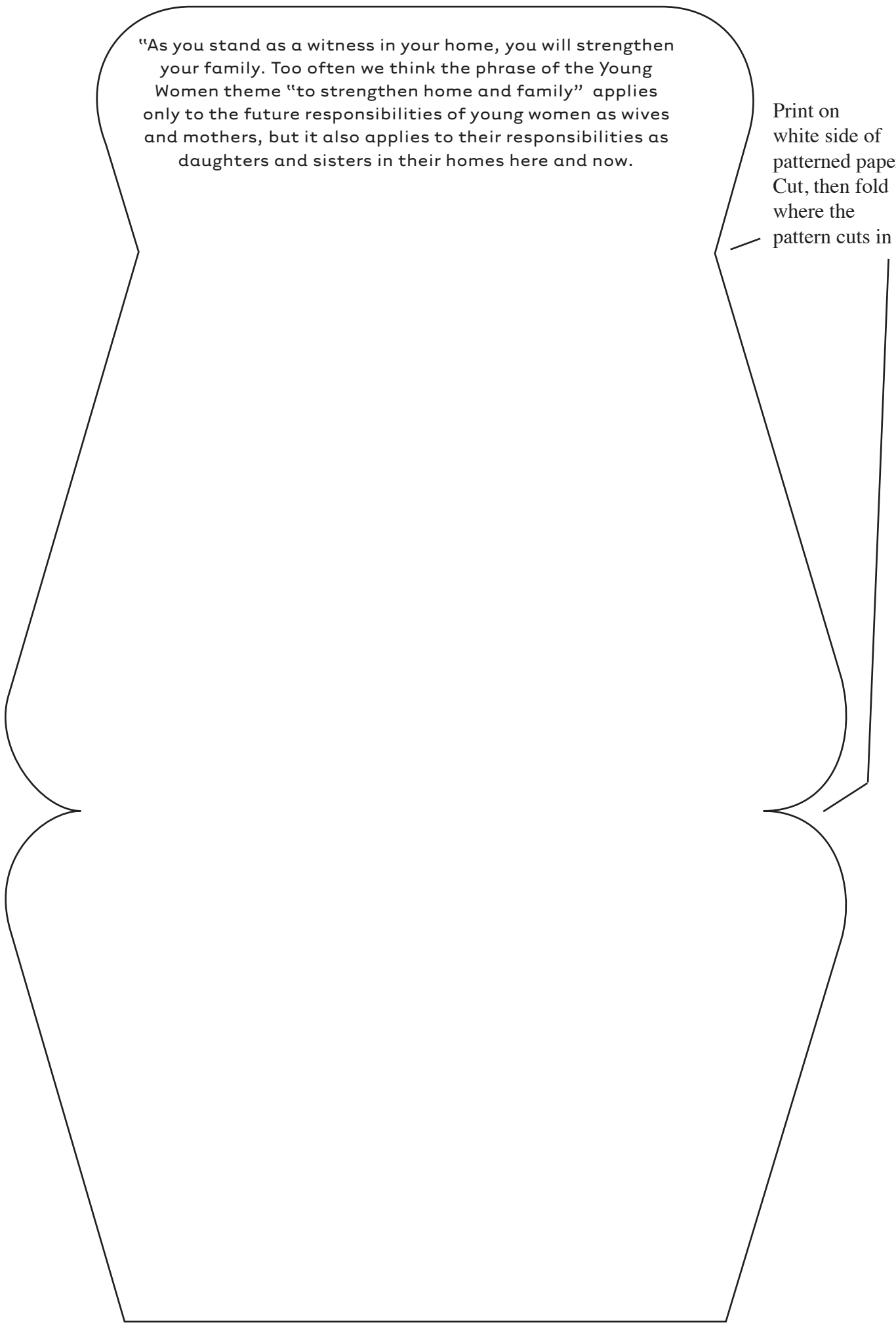
Discuss how the things the young women are doing now - their interests, their habits, the things they carry in their “purses” - have a big impact on who they are and who they are becoming.

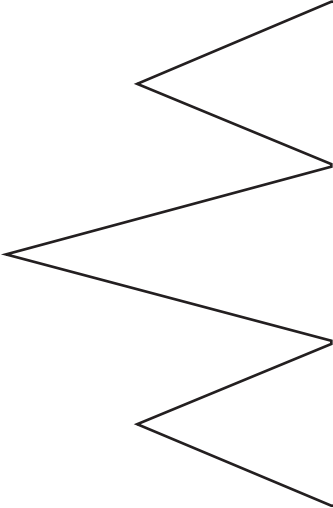
Follow up activity: Do any of the following that the girls are interested in, or have a relay race and do several things as quickly as possible after brief instruction.

1. Invite a specialist to teach the class how to replace a faucet washer, change a fuse, repair an electric plug, unclog a sink or drain, or hang a picture.
2. Learn correct techniques of minor clothing repair and hold a mending party with class members.
3. Invite a specialist to teach the use of color, style, and fabric in clothing, and apply this information to planning clothing.
4. Invite a specialist to teach what to look for when buying clothes and fabrics, how to read and understand labels, and how to care for fabrics.
5. Invite a mother to teach the class how to bathe, dress, change, feed, and care for infants and young children, including how to comfort a fussy baby.
6. Invite a specialist to teach the class about money management, budgeting, and credit buying.
7. Invite a specialist to teach about home decorating, including the use of color, balance, harmony, and proportion and ways young women can improve the appearance of their homes.
8. Plan and hold a special food event, such as a cake-decorating party, an international food fair, a breakfast party, or a heritage cooking night.
9. Have a recipe-sharing party where everyone brings a favorite food for the others to sample and where recipes are exchanged.
10. Hold a “creative-cookery night” by dividing the class into teams to prepare food from ingredients placed in a sack or box.

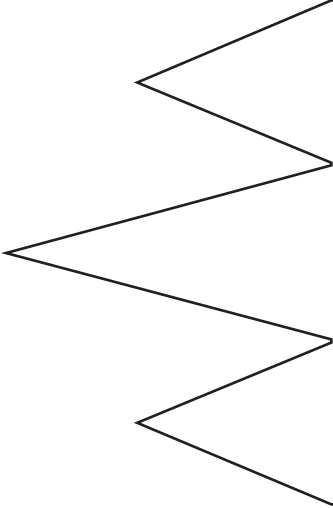
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Print on white side of patterned paper. Cut, then fold where the pattern cuts in

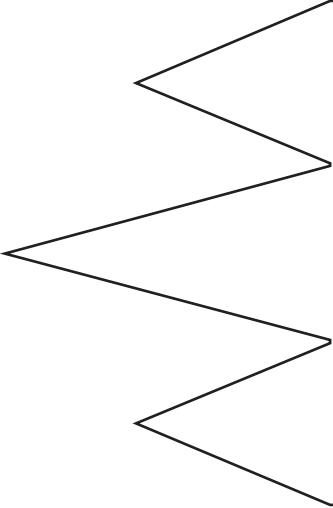




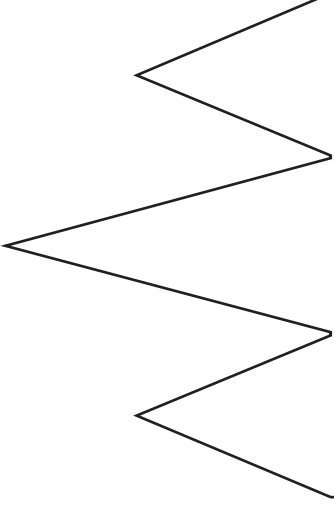
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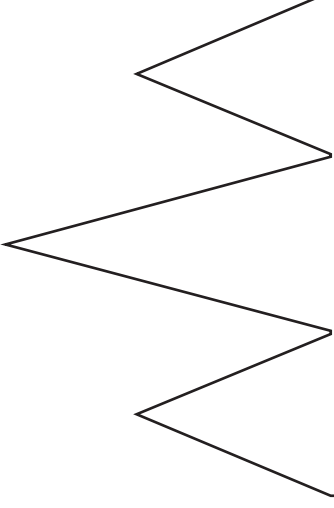
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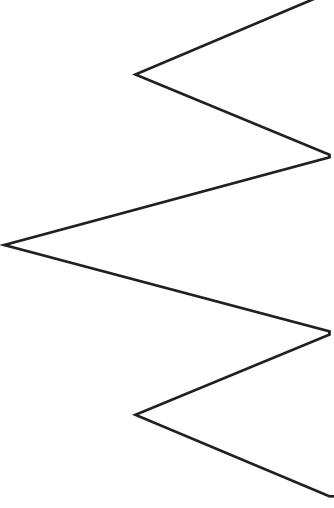
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Print on white paper

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Print on yellow paper. Fringe bottom of “brooms” and layer circles like a sun, if desired.

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