

FAMILY HISTORY DISCUSSION GROUP

Session 2 — Getting Connected

"Start Small, Think Big"

FACILITATOR

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DATE

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How Did It Go?

● LEVEL 1

Did you write down names, birth dates, and birthplaces of parents and grandparents?



● LEVEL 2

Did you create a free FamilySearch account?



● LEVEL 3

Did you look at your FamilySearch tree to see if your family line was already there?



★ LEVEL 4

Did you decide what you want to discover or preserve next?



No wrong answers here — whatever you got done is progress.

What We're Covering Tonight

1

Setting Up & Navigating

Creating and learning your way around your FamilySearch account home base.

2

Adding People

Building your family tree one relationship at a time with confidence.

3

Unlocking Ancestry

Linking your accounts to access premium Ancestry tools at no cost.

🎯 Goal for tonight: Your accounts will be set up and connected by the time we finish.

Your FamilySearch Home Base

- 1 Go to **FamilySearch.org** on your computer or browser
 - 2 In the top right corner, select **Sign Up**
 - 3 Enter your name, email, and password to initialize your account
 - 4 This becomes your permanent, free family tree — shared collaboratively with the world
- ✓ Already have an account? Skip ahead — we'll go deeper into your tree next.

Building Your Tree, Step by Step

1 Open Tree

Select **Family Tree** from the top navigation menu.

2 Pedigree View

View your parents, grandparents, and siblings visually.

3 Select "Add"

Click **Add Person** on any empty branch spot.

4 Fill What You Know

Enter name, birth date, birthplace — *gaps in knowledge are completely okay!*

5 Find an Ancestor

Check if someone already exists in the world tree before creating a duplicate.

🌱 Start Small. You don't need every detail today — just get names in the tree.

One Family, Two Kinds of Trees

FamilySearch Tree

Shared "World Tree"

Everyone works on the same tree together. Duplicate work gets merged, and research discoveries are shared automatically with researchers worldwide.

Ancestry Tree

Private & Personal Tree

Only you (and people you explicitly invite) can see or edit it. Gives you total freedom and control over your personal research space.

 Having your own private tree is one of the top benefits of connecting to Ancestry — it's your space to build and explore at your own pace.

 You don't have to choose — most people use both trees for different purposes.

Free Ancestry Access Benefit

Special Membership Perk

As members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, you can subscribe at **no cost** to Ancestry's premium online services — through FamilySearch's *Third-Party Access* page.

 Connecting your accounts unlocks seamless record searching across both platforms.



Building a Bridge Between Your Accounts

Let's Connect Your Accounts

- 1 Sign in to **FamilySearch.org**
- 2 Scroll to the footer, open **Site Map**, and select **Third-Party Access**
- 3 On the Third-Party Access page, find the **Ancestry card** and select **Join for Free**
- 4 Follow sign-up steps — enter your **Church membership number** to link accounts
- 5 **Confirm Connection:** In Ancestry, check *Profile → Account Settings* — it will display your connected status!

Once You're In, Here's What Opens Up



Build Your Tree

Import your FamilySearch tree info to jumpstart your personal Ancestry tree seamlessly.



Global Records

Search over 30 billion international historical records to find elusive ancestor records.



Ancestry Hints

Automated leaf notifications alert you to new record clues that match your family lines.



AncestryDNA

Explore ethnic origins & connect with distant relatives (*DNA kit requires additional fee*).

More Free Partner Services



MyHeritage

Global records, DNA ethnicity testing, & direct sync with FamilySearch.



Storied

Historical newspapers, stories, and print-ready StoriedBooks.



Newspaper Archive

Search millions of historical newspapers for ancestor mentions.



FindMyPast

Exceptional British, Irish, and Commonwealth record collections.



American Ancestors

Deep New England and early American genealogy records.



Filae

Comprehensive French genealogy records and regional family trees.



Geneanet

Extensive European genealogy archives, especially strong across France and neighboring countries.

No need to explore all of these today — know they exist when your research expands!

A Few Places to Start



FamilySearch.org

Your collaborative world family tree — 100% free forever for everyone.



Ancestry.com

Free premium access for LDS members via the Third-Party Access portal.



matttolman.com

Session 1 recaps and notes are live now. Future class materials posted weekly.



MyFamilyQuest.com

Matt's personal family history site — an example of starting small and thinking big.

See You Next Time

Start Small, Think Big.

 ssion recording available soon

 ve Q&A / Linking walkthrough now

Sel topic requests anytime

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