



Lesson Fourteen: Joseph at Home

Inquiry Questions:

- Is a person most themselves when at home with their family?
- Do you feel a closer sense of a person through their family, or through their public life, church leadership in this case?

Historical Context: Bios of Joseph Smith III's wives and a listing of his children:

Emmeline Griswold was born in 1838, married Joseph III in 1856, and died in 1869.
Her children were:

- Emma Josepha who lived from 1857 to 1940
- Evelyn Rebecca who was born and died in 1859
- Carrie Lucinda who lived from 1861 to 1944
- Zaide Viola who lived from 1863 to 1891
- Joseph Arthur who lived from 1865 to 1866

Bertha Madison was born in 1843, married Joseph III in 1869, and died in 1896.
Her children were:

- David Carlos who lived from 1870 to 1886
- Mary Audentia who lived from 1872 to 1963 (Mary composed the tune for the hymn *The Old Old Path* after her cousin Vida E. Smith came to her with the words)
- Frederick Madison who lived from 1874 to 1946 (Frederick served as president of the church from 1915 to 1946)
- Israel Alexander who lived from 1876 to 1958 (Israel served as president of the church from 1946 to 1958)
- Kenneth who was born and died in 1877
- Bertha Azubah who lived from 1878 to 1884
- Hale Washington who lived from 1881 to 1956
- Blossom who was born and died in 1883
- Lucy Yeteve who lived from 1884 to 1945

Ada Clark was born in 1871, married Joseph III in 1898, and died in 1915.
Her children were:

- Richard Clark who lived from 1898 to 1969
- William Wallace who lived from 1900 to 1989 (W. Wallace served as president of the church from 1958 to 1978)
- Reginald Archer who lived from 1903 to 1974

Pre-Class Reading:

Joseph Smith III: A Pragmatic Prophet by Roger Launius, Chapter Fourteen: Joseph at Home



Discussion Questions:

As you reflect on the women in Joseph Smith III's life, consider the following questions:

- What did they have anything in common?
- What needs in Joseph's life did they meet?

Did you find the information in Chapter Fourteen (Joseph's home and family life) significant?

- Does knowing Joseph's personal life make him more understandable and relatable?

Page 330 discusses one of Joseph's "pet sermons" to his children.

- Do you find his advice relevant and valid?
- Which one of his children did not follow his advice consistently?

How do you think Joseph Smith III's life without his father impacted his (JSIII) ability to relate to his own children later in life? What role did Lewis Bidamon have on Joseph Smith III's ability to mature into adulthood?

Class Activity:

Using the labels provided create Joseph III's family tree. If you have time include the city or house the family was living in when marriages took place, and when each member was born.

If additional time permits, create a timeline for the family including birth, marriage, death, and any other dates you feel are significant.

Reading Assignment:

Joseph Smith III: Pragmatic Prophet, Chapter Fifteen: Twilight

Joseph Smith III: Pragmatic Prophet by Roger Launius and a variety of historical reprints are available at www.redbrickstore.com. All Red Brick Store purchases help preserve Community of Christ historic sites.

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