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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Standards

Packet #040406

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
- 3. Involvement.** Involve everyone in the family; help little children take part.
- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.

Standards

Thought:

[Our] standards have come from [the Lord]. Some of them may appear a little out of date in our society, but this does not detract from their validity nor diminish the virtue of their application. The subtle reasoning of men, no matter how clever, no matter how plausible it may sound, cannot abridge the declared wisdom of God.

(Gordon B. Hinckley, *Be Thou an Example*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1981], p. 12.)

Song:

“Stand for the Right,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 159.

Scripture:

Choose you this day whom ye will serve; ... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

(Joshua 24:15.)

Object Lesson:

Items needed: A sponge and some colored water in a pan.

Presentation: Place the colored water in the pan. Touch one end of the sponge into the water, carefully. Say, “Suppose I want to get just the small corner of this sponge colored in this water. Soon, no matter how careful I am, in my desire to get just a little of the sponge wet, the colored water has entered into much of the sponge. In is just that way with those who desire to try just a little sin.”

Discuss how our gospel standards can keep us from sin.

(Albert L. Zobell, Jr., *Talks to See*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1971], p. 57.)

Story:

A Critical Crossroad

In the fateful war year of 1942, I was inducted into the United States Army Air Corps. One cold night at Chanute Field, Illinois, I was given all-night guard duty. As I walked around my post, I meditated and pondered the whole miserable long night through. By morning I had come to some firm conclusions. I was engaged to be married and knew that I could not support a wife on a private’s

pay. In a day or two I filed my application for officer's candidate school. Shortly thereafter I was summoned before the Board of Inquiry.

The questions asked of me at the officers' Board of Inquiry took a very surprising turn. Nearly all of them centered on my missionary service and beliefs. "Do you smoke?" "Do you drink?" "What do you think of others who smoke and drink?" I had no trouble answering these questions.

"Do you pray?" "Do you believe that an officer should pray?" The officer asking these questions was a hard-bitten career soldier. He did not look like he had prayed very often. I pondered. Would I give him offense if I answered how I truly believed? I wanted to be an officer very much so that I would not have to do all-night guard duty and KP, but mostly so my sweetheart and I could afford to be married.

I decided not to equivocate and responded that I did pray and that I felt officers might seek divine guidance as some truly great generals had done. I added that I thought that officers should be prepared to lead their men in all appropriate activities, if the occasion requires, including prayers.

More interesting questions came. "In times of war should not the moral code be relaxed? Does not the stress of battle justify men in doing things that they would not do when at home under normal circumstances?"

I recognized that here was a chance perhaps to make some points and look broad-minded. I knew perfectly well that the men who were asking me this question did not live by the standards that I had been taught. The thought flashed through my mind that perhaps I could say that I had my own beliefs but did not wish to impose them on others. But there seemed to flash before my mind the faces of the many people I had taught the law of chastity as a missionary. In the end I simply said, "I do not believe there is a double standard of morality."

I left the hearing resigned to the fact that these hard-bitten officers would not like the answers I had given to their questions and would surely score very low. A few days later when the scores were posted, to my astonishment I had passed. I was in the first group taken for officer's candidate school! I graduated, became a second lieutenant, and married my sweetheart.

This was one of the critical crossroads of my life. Not all of the experience in my life turned out the way I wanted them to, but they have always strengthened my faith.

(James E. Faust, *Stories From My Life*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2001], p. 1–3.)

Activity:

Play Charades. Make slips of paper with standards found in *The Strength of Youth* pamphlet such as keep the Sabbath Day holy, choose good friends, dress modestly, no tatoos, keep the Word of Wisdom, choose good books, choose good music, choose good movies and TV shows, use clean language, and honesty. Have family members take turns selecting a paper and acting out the standard.

Refreshment

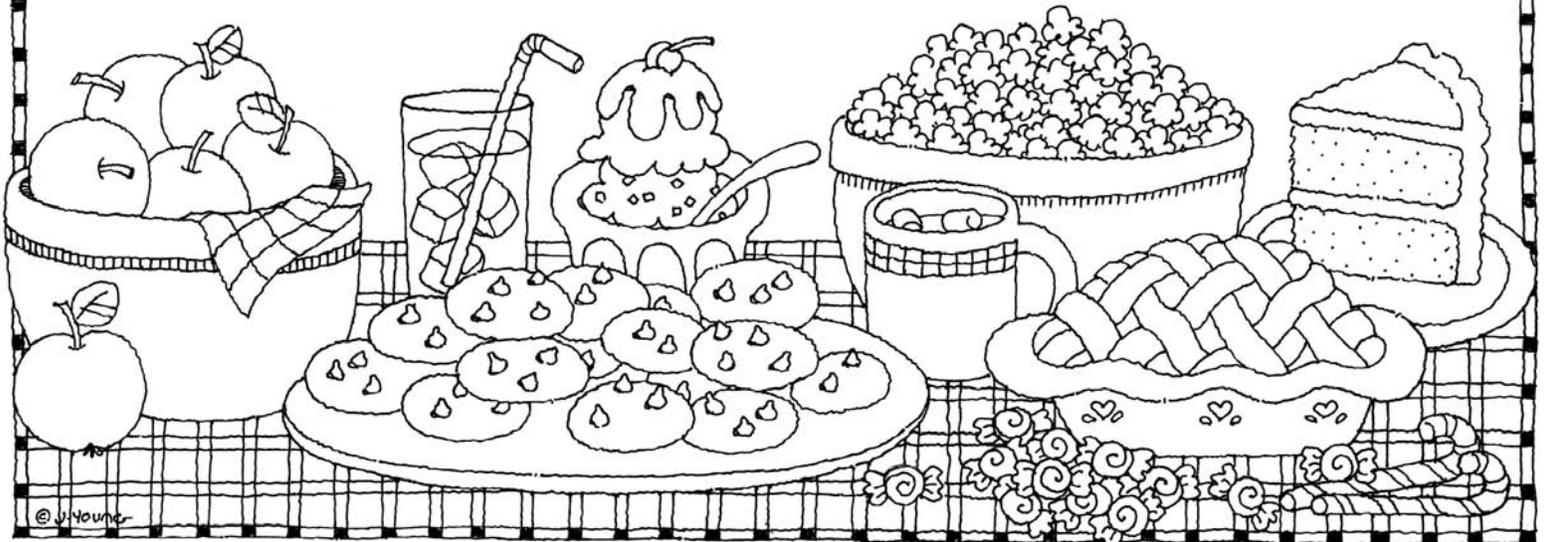
Raisin Cookies

2 cups raisins
1 cup water
1 cup butter or margarine
1 1/2 cups sugar
3 eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla

3 1/2 cups flour
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 cup nuts, chopped
granulated sugar

In a small saucepan over medium heat boil raisins and water until the water evaporates (check often so pan doesn't become dry, burning the raisins). Remove from heat and set aside. In a large mixing bowl, cream together butter or margarine and sugar. Add eggs and vanilla, and mix well. Stir in raisins. Sift or sift together flour, salt, baking soda, and cinnamon; add to creamed mixture. Stir in nuts and mix well. Form dough into balls the size of a walnut, roll in sugar, and place on greased cookie sheet. Bake at 375 degrees for 10 to 12 minutes. Makes 2 dozen cookies.

(Paula Julander and Joanne Milner, *Utah State Fare*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 1995], p. 132.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: The Good Samaritan

Packet #040507

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
- 3. Involvement.** Involve everyone in the family; help little children take part.
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- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.

The Good Samaritan

Thought:

The Jericho Road may not be clearly marked. Neither may the injured cry out, that we may hear. But when we walk in the steps of that good Samaritan, we walk the pathway that leads to perfection.

(Thomas S. Monson, "Your Jericho Road," *Ensign*, Feb 1989, 2)

Song:

"Love One Another," *Children's Songbook*, p. 136.

Scripture:

Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

(1 John 4:11)

Lesson:

Ask each family member to write down on a piece of paper as many of their neighbors as they can. Have each one share their list and ask them why they stopped their list where they did. Talk about how far away a person can live and still be a neighbor.

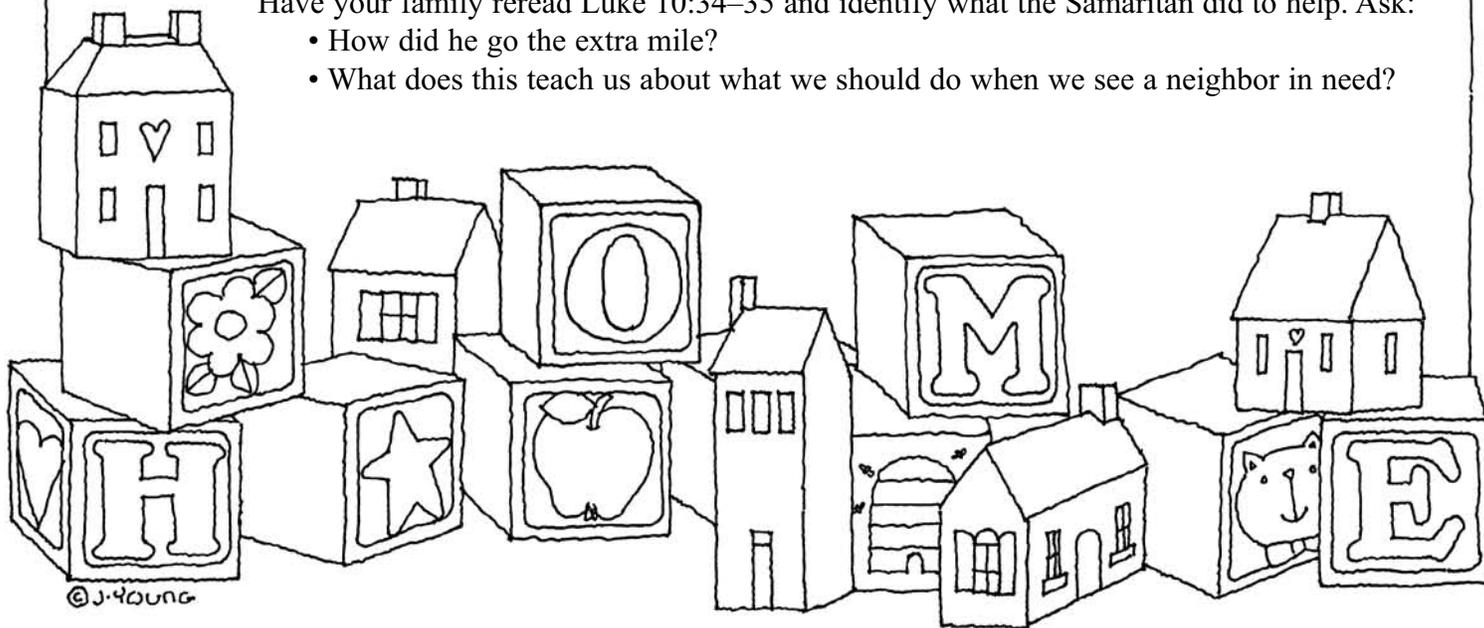
Tell your family that Jesus talked about this same question. Have your family read Luke 10:25 together and identify the question the lawyer asked. Have a family member read aloud Luke 10:26–28 and find the response to the question. Read verse 29 to your family and ask someone why the lawyer wanted to know who his neighbor was. (He didn't want to love everybody.)

Have your family take turns reading a verse from Luke 10:30–37. After reading the parable of the Good Samaritan, ask:

- What two people passed by and didn't help? (A priest and a Levite; verses 31–32.)
- Why do you think these religious leaders did not offer to help?
- Who stopped to help? (A Samaritan; verse 33.)
- How did the Jews and the Samaritans feel about each other? (See Bible Dictionary, "Samaritans," 768.)
- How did the Samaritan act in a Christlike manner?
- Which one would you rather have as a neighbor?
- What can you do to be a better neighbor?

Have your family reread Luke 10:34–35 and identify what the Samaritan did to help. Ask:

- How did he go the extra mile?
- What does this teach us about what we should do when we see a neighbor in need?



Share your feelings with your family about being a “neighbor” and challenge them to look for opportunities to be a good “neighbor.” You may want to follow up tomorrow with your family and ask them what experiences they had..

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The New Testament*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2006], p. 95.)

Story:

The Lord’s Gift of Love

Daniel A. Tolman

I’m not sure why, but I grew up feeling quite judgmental and critical of other people. I would see a panhandler on the street and would wonder why he didn’t get a job. If an unkempt man or woman got onto the transit bus, I would mentally criticize them for not taking better care of themselves. When I saw someone on the TV news who had suffered a tragic loss of home or property and was broken up about it, I would mentally ask them why they placed so much value on temporal things.

When I was dealing with friends and family I was thoughtful and caring (at least that was my personal view of myself). But when I looked at people I didn’t know, I would judge them, whether positively or negatively, and my judgment would often be harsh and unloving. To make matters worse, all of this judgment and lack of love was subconscious; I wasn’t even aware that I was doing it.

I knew the Lord’s commandment that I must love my neighbor as myself. I knew that loving my neighbor (even panhandling, unkempt “Samaritans”) was the second greatest commandment. And certainly I treated everyone with respect. But somehow that knowledge hadn’t reached the feeling level of my heart.

As I grew and progressed in the gospel, I went through a series of stages, as I suppose everyone does. First I knew that I needed to overcome a number of weaknesses if I wanted to please God. Then, having done well in that effort over time and continuing in faithfulness, I felt I was safely on track. But finally, I had a feeling of “divine discontent” (as Elder Neal A. Maxwell puts it), and with the help of the Lord I was able to identify other areas of my life where I fell short. One serious flaw the Lord showed me was my lack of a loving and compassionate heart.

I began to pray for the gift of charity. Over time I felt my feelings soften some, but I knew I still had a long way to go.

“What more can I do?” I asked. It wasn’t my behavior that I was trying to change; it was my heart. One day I saw a young man get on the bus with a companion and sit only a few seats away from me. He had several earrings in each ear. He had long, straggly, blond hair; it looked like it hadn’t been washed for weeks. His jeans were torn and his sandled feet were dirty. He carried the smell of alcohol about him. He and his companion were talking loudly enough that I could hear their coarse, vulgar language. As I began to slip into my old mode of being judgmental, I stopped myself and begged the Lord for forgiveness. “How could I judge one of thy children like that?” I asked. “Judging is wrong. I don’t even know the man.”

While I was praying in my heart, the Spirit whispered, “Ask your Father in Heaven if you can see this young man as he sees him.” I was surprised at the thought, but I followed the prompting. I was almost immediately filled with a deep feeling of sadness at the course in life the young man had taken. And then, right on the heels of that first feeling, I felt a love for this man I had never met. Instead of wanting to judge him, I wanted to bless him.

Not long after that, I saw an older woman who looked like she had had a hard life. She wasn't the kind of person I would normally want to have anything to do with. "Ask your Father in Heaven if he will help you love this woman," the Spirit whispered, not in words but in a clear feeling. I silently offered a prayer asking for the gift of love for that specific woman. The feeling came instantly, filling my heart. I knew that this woman, despite any mistakes she had made in life, had true value to our Father, and that she must have value to me also. What's more, I didn't simply know it intellectually. I felt in my heart that feeling of the value of this, my sister, to our Heavenly Father and to me.

I have seldom since fallen back into the spirit of judgment. I don't like the way that spirit feels, and when my mind starts to take me there, I utter a prayer in my heart that the Lord will grant me the wonderful gift of his love. As I seek it, seeking also to be worthy and to honestly be open to the blessing, it comes and softens my life.

(Jay Parry, *Everyday Miracles*, [Salt Lake City: Eagle Gate, 2001], p. 148.)

Activity:

Have each member of the family write on a piece of paper some act of kindness he may perform for someone else and sign his name. Have each person put their paper in a box and say, "I have a kindness." Set a timer and pass the box around the family, when the timer sounds the person holding the box takes a paper from the box. He will then receive the kindness written on the paper. Keep passing until everyone has received a paper.

Refreshment

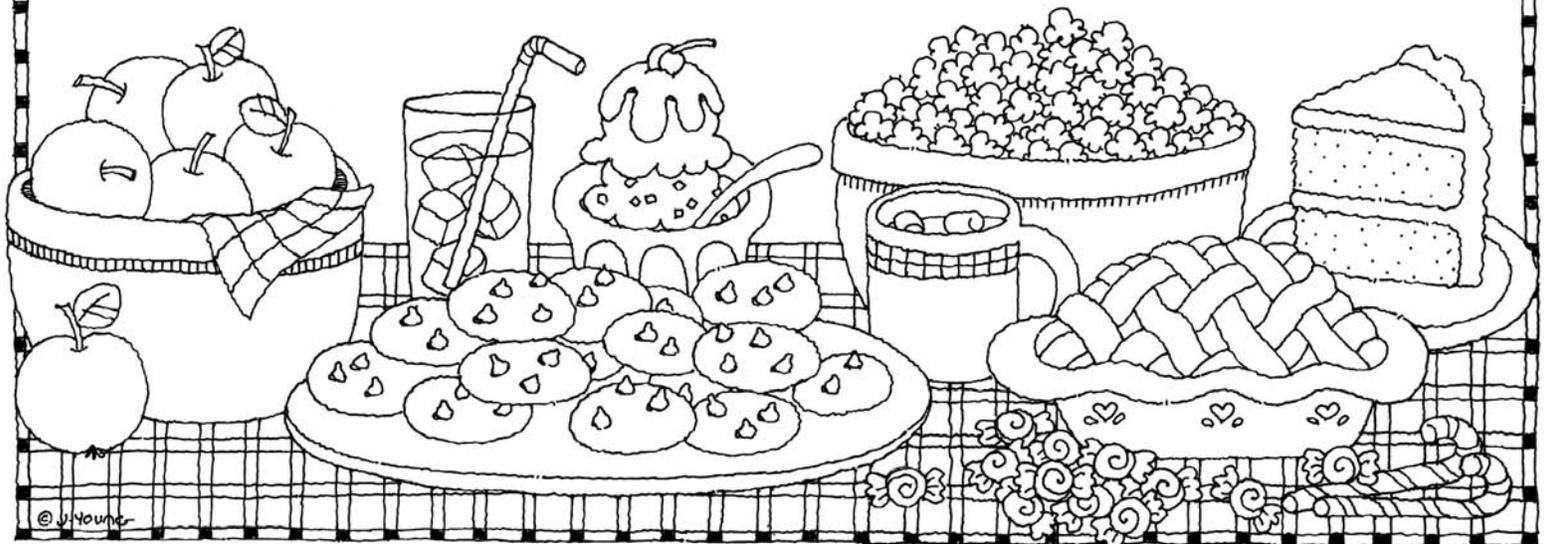
Peach Berry Smoothies

16 ounces strawberry yogurt
1 cup fresh peaches, sliced
1 cup fresh strawberries, sliced*
1 cup crushed ice

Combine yogurt, peaches, strawberries, and ice in blender. Cover and blend 30 to 60 seconds, or until smooth. Serve immediately. Makes 4 one-cup servings.

* Frozen strawberries may be substituted. Thaw and drain before using.

(*Lion House Entertaining*, [Salt Lake City: Eagle Gate, 2001], p. 39.)



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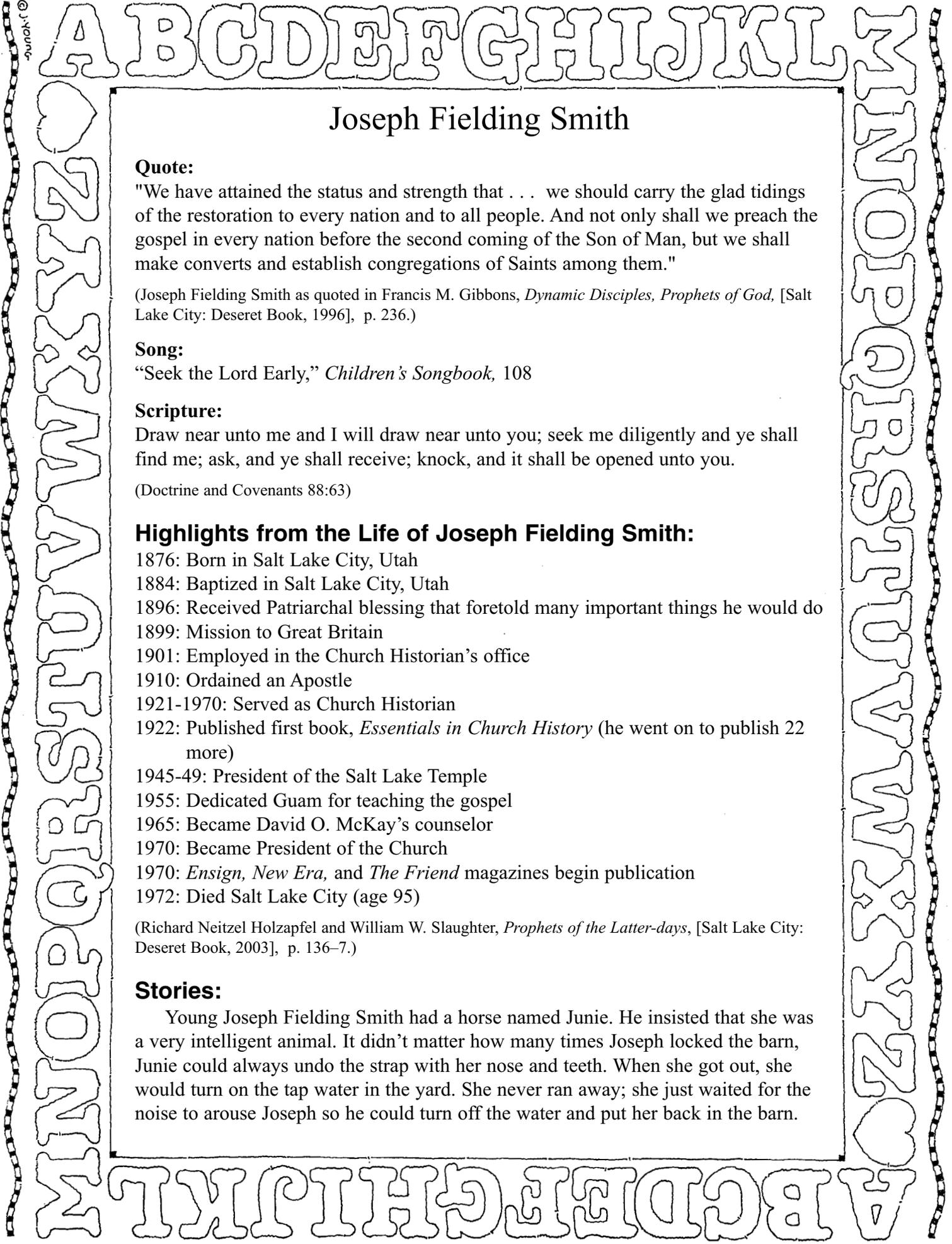
Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Joseph Fielding Smith

Packet #080106

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

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Joseph Fielding Smith

Quote:

"We have attained the status and strength that . . . we should carry the glad tidings of the restoration to every nation and to all people. And not only shall we preach the gospel in every nation before the second coming of the Son of Man, but we shall make converts and establish congregations of Saints among them."

(Joseph Fielding Smith as quoted in Francis M. Gibbons, *Dynamic Disciples, Prophets of God*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1996], p. 236.)

Song:

"Seek the Lord Early," *Children's Songbook*, 108

Scripture:

Draw near unto me and I will draw near unto you; seek me diligently and ye shall find me; ask, and ye shall receive; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

(Doctrine and Covenants 88:63)

Highlights from the Life of Joseph Fielding Smith:

- 1876: Born in Salt Lake City, Utah
- 1884: Baptized in Salt Lake City, Utah
- 1896: Received Patriarchal blessing that foretold many important things he would do
- 1899: Mission to Great Britain
- 1901: Employed in the Church Historian's office
- 1910: Ordained an Apostle
- 1921-1970: Served as Church Historian
- 1922: Published first book, *Essentials in Church History* (he went on to publish 22 more)
- 1945-49: President of the Salt Lake Temple
- 1955: Dedicated Guam for teaching the gospel
- 1965: Became David O. McKay's counselor
- 1970: Became President of the Church
- 1970: *Ensign*, *New Era*, and *The Friend* magazines begin publication
- 1972: Died Salt Lake City (age 95)

(Richard Neitzel Holzapfel and William W. Slaughter, *Prophets of the Latter-days*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 136-7.)

Stories:

Young Joseph Fielding Smith had a horse named Junie. He insisted that she was a very intelligent animal. It didn't matter how many times Joseph locked the barn, Junie could always undo the strap with her nose and teeth. When she got out, she would turn on the tap water in the yard. She never ran away; she just waited for the noise to arouse Joseph so he could turn off the water and put her back in the barn.

One day Joseph's father teased him about Junie being smarter than her master. He showed the boy how to buckle the strap around the post and under the crossbar. Then he said to the horse, "Young lady, let's see you get out now." Joseph and his father left the barn and walked across the yard, but before they reached the house, Junie was at their side. Joseph grinned and said, "Father, now who's smarter."

Joseph's father had to leave home at times to avoid angry enemies of the Church who sought to put him in jail. One day Joseph was waiting in the parlor for a special blessing from his father when he saw his mother getting ready to leave with his father and his baby sister. Young Joseph was used to his father's leaving, but his mother had usually not gone also. They were going to Hawaii, a long way from home, and Joseph was afraid he would never see them again. He was eight years old and had just been baptized, so he felt he must be brave and not cry, but he could not help himself. Tears were in his parents' eyes, too. Joseph stayed with his older brothers and sisters while his parents were away. He was very happy when they returned two and a half years later, bringing a new baby brother with them.

Joseph was very close to his mother. She taught him about prayer and about Joseph Smith and the Prophet's vision. During the summertime when his chores were done, he enjoyed sitting under a tree reading and memorizing the scriptures, because he knew them to be true. He loved to read the history of the Church and any other books he could get hold of to read.

(Linda Cory Robinson, *Boys Who Became Prophets*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1998], p. 57–9.)

Activities:

Remind your family that Joseph Fielding Smith loved to study the scriptures. Read and discuss Alma 37: 38–47 as described below, to see how you can benefit from reading the scriptures also.

If you have a compass, show it to your family and teach them how it works. If you do not have a compass, show the picture of Lehi with the Liahona (if available, use Gospel Art Picture Kit, no. 302) or a drawing of a Liahona as a ball with some pointers or arrows. (See 1 Nephi 16:10 for a description.) Discuss what a compass or Liahona is used for.

Write the following quiz on a large sheet of paper or poster board and have your family look for the answers as they review Alma 37:38–47:

- Why was the Liahona given to Lehi's family? (Verse 39.)
- What made the Liahona work? (Verse 40.)
- When would the Liahona cease to work? (Verse 41.)
- What happened to Lehi's family when they failed to heed the Liahona? (Verses 42–43.)
- What did Alma compare to the Liahona? (Verse 44.)
- Where will the "word of Christ" point us? (Verses 44–45.)
- How can scripture study help us "look to God and live"?

Discuss as a family how often they look at and heed their personal Liahonas. Invite them to share an experience when the Spirit gave them direction as a result of scripture study.

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The Book of Mormon*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 209.)

Refreshment

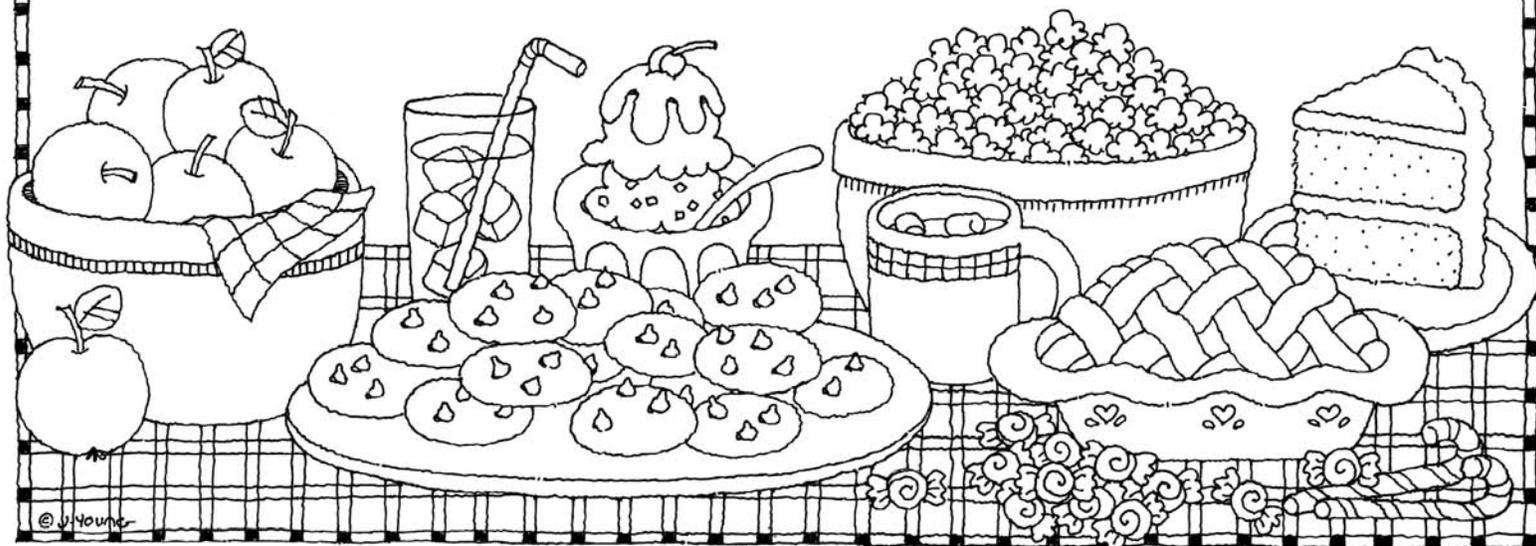
Joseph Fielding Smith's Favorite Sherbet

5 cups sugar
1 teaspoon salt
3 tablespoons cornstarch
2 quarts water
1 quart whipping cream
2 quarts milk
Juice of 6 oranges
Juice of 2 lemons
1 16-ounce can crushed pineapple and juice
3 or 4 bananas, mashed

In a large saucepan combine sugar, salt, cornstarch, and water. Cook till clear, then cool. Add whipping cream and milk. Add orange juice and lemon juice, crushed pineapple, and mashed bananas. Pour into 8-quart ice cream freezer and freeze. (Cut recipe in half to make 4 quarts.)

Source: Amelia Smith McConkie, daughter of President Joseph Fielding Smith.

(Lion House Desserts, [Salt Lake City: Eagle Gate, 2000], p. 56.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Harold B. Lee

Packet #080206

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

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Harold B. Lee

Quote:

“On the early morning [after his ordination] with my wife I kneeled in humble prayer, and suddenly it seemed as though my mind and heart went out to over three million people in the entire world. I seemed to have a love for every one of them no matter where they lived nor what their color was, whether they were rich or poor, whether they were humble or great, or educated or not. Suddenly I felt as though they all belonged to me, as though they were all my own brothers and sisters.”

(Harold B. Lee as quoted in Richard Neitzel Holzapfel and William W. Slaughter, *Prophets of the Latter-days*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 151.)

Song:

“Kindness Begins with Me,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 145.

Scripture:

And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

(Matthew 25:40)

Highlights from the Life of Harold B. Lee:

1899: Born in Clifton, Idaho

1907: Baptized in Logan, Utah

1916–20: Teaches school in Idaho

1920–22: Mission to Western States

1923–28: Principal of Salt Lake’s Granite school district

1930: Becomes a Stake President

1935: Develops the church’s welfare program

1941: Ordained an Apostle

1958: Visits the Holy Land

1970: Becomes Joseph Fielding Smith’s counselor

1972: Becomes President of the Church

1972: Creates the Aaronic Priesthood MIA program

1973: Died in Salt Lake City (age 74)

(Richard Neitzel Holzapfel and William W. Slaughter, *Prophets of the Latter-days*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 151.)

Stories:

Along with the other church members, the Lee family donated nickels, butter, and eggs to buy Church materials and keep up the meetinghouse. When Harold was a deacon, part of his responsibility was to help take care of the church house. He washed the chimney, filled coal-oil lamps, swept the floor, and chopped wood for the stove.

During the years his father served as bishop of their ward, Harold often helped his father load sacks of grain or bundles of clothing into the back of their pony cart. Then after sunset, so as to protect the privacy of those he would visit, Harold's father would take the load to distribute to the poor and needy in his ward. This made a lasting impression on young Harold, and he would

remember his father's kindness many years later when he was called to organize a welfare program for the entire Church.

Harold decided early on he wanted to become a teacher. He got along well with people and had an outgoing personality. He went to the Albion State Normal School to earn his teaching certificate and passed the final exams with high scores. He must have studied hard, though. He lost twenty pounds while preparing for the tests!

Harold was only seventeen years old when he got his first teaching job at the Silver Star School, a one-room school near Weston, Idaho. Some of the students were older than he was. The school had a pot-bellied stove in the middle of the room to keep them warm. This stove had a long pipe that had a habit of falling down, scattering black soot everywhere, and filling the room with smoke.

A year later Harold was hired as the principal of the nearby Oxford School. Some of his students were rather rough and mischievous, and Harold had his hands full keeping the classroom in order. They once hid his horse while he was visiting with someone, and he had to walk several miles home. But he soon made friends with the students by playing basketball with them during their lunch break.

After teaching school for four years, Harold was called by President Heber J. Grant to the Western States Mission.

(Susan Arrington Madsen, *The Lord Needed a Prophet*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1990], p. 172, 174.)

Activity:

Ask each family member to draw a temple or a chapel. Ask them to show their picture and also tell how that building is used to help build the kingdom of God. Read aloud D&C 78:3 and have them identify the building mentioned in that verse. Ask them how a bishop's storehouse is different from a temple. (The Lord's storehouse receives, holds, and dispenses consecrated offerings of the Saints. It may be a list of available services, money in an account, food in a pantry, or commodities in a building. Faithful members consecrate to the bishop their time, talents, skills, compassion, materials, and financial means in caring for the poor and in building up the kingdom of God on the earth.)

Talk about and explain some of the resources the Church has today to care for the needs of members. Ask family members to list as many as they can think of before you share the following list:

- Fast offering money.
- Food orders from a bishop's storehouse.
- Deseret Industries items.
- Ward, stake, and regional employment specialists and centers.
- LDS Family Services.
- Service from ward and stake members.
- The Perpetual Education Fund.
- Canneries, orchards, farms, and other welfare properties.
- Humanitarian funds and aid.

Explain that President Lee oversaw the beginnings of these welfare services and programs.

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The Doctrine and Covenants*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2004], p. 166.)

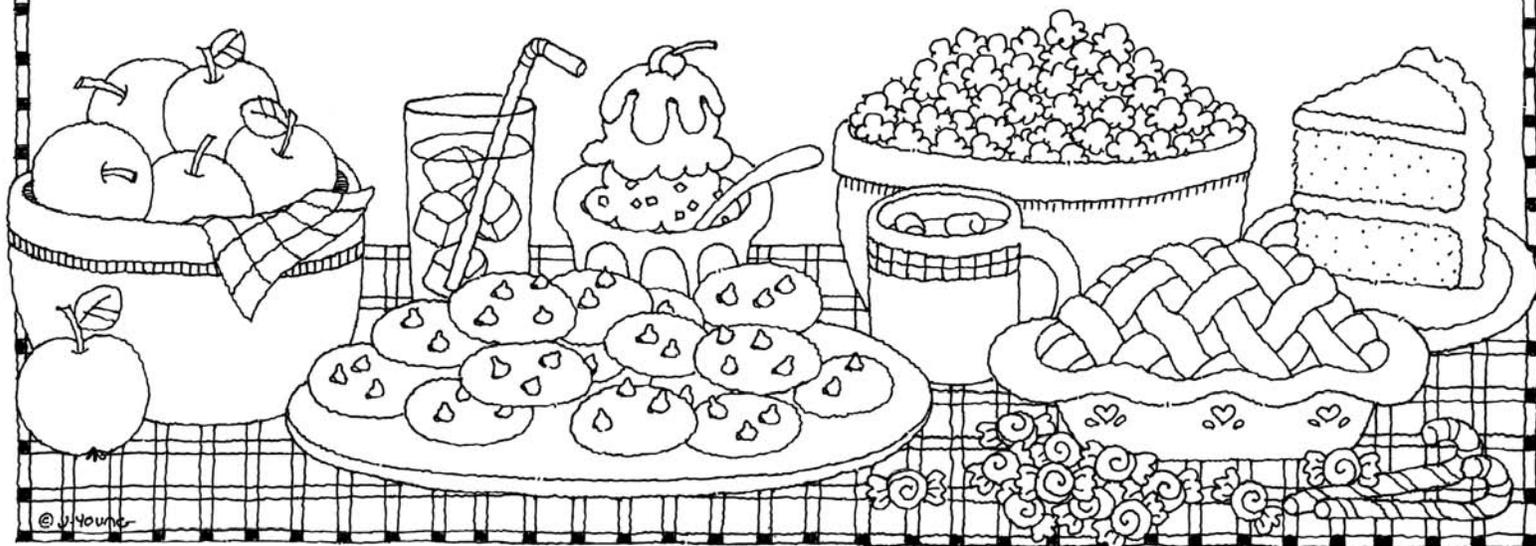
Refreshment

Snickerdoodles

2 3/4 c. self-rising flour
2 tsp. cream of tartar
1 tsp. baking soda
1/2 c. butter, softened
1/2 c. shortening
1 1/2 c. granulated sugar
2 eggs
4 Tbs. sugar
4 tsp. cinnamon

Preheat oven to 400° F. Sift together flour, cream of tartar, baking soda, and salt; set aside. Cream butter, shortening, sugar, and eggs. Stir in dry ingredients. Chill dough for 10 to 15 minutes. Mix together 4 tablespoons sugar and 4 teaspoons cinnamon. Form dough into balls and roll in sugar and cinnamon. Place about 2 inches apart on an ungreased cookie sheet. Bake at 400° F. approximately 8 to 10 minutes or until lightly browned.
Makes 4 dozen cookies.

(Elaine Cannon, *Five-Star Recipes from Well-known Latter-day Saints*, [Salt Lake City: Eagle Gate, 2002], p. 245.)



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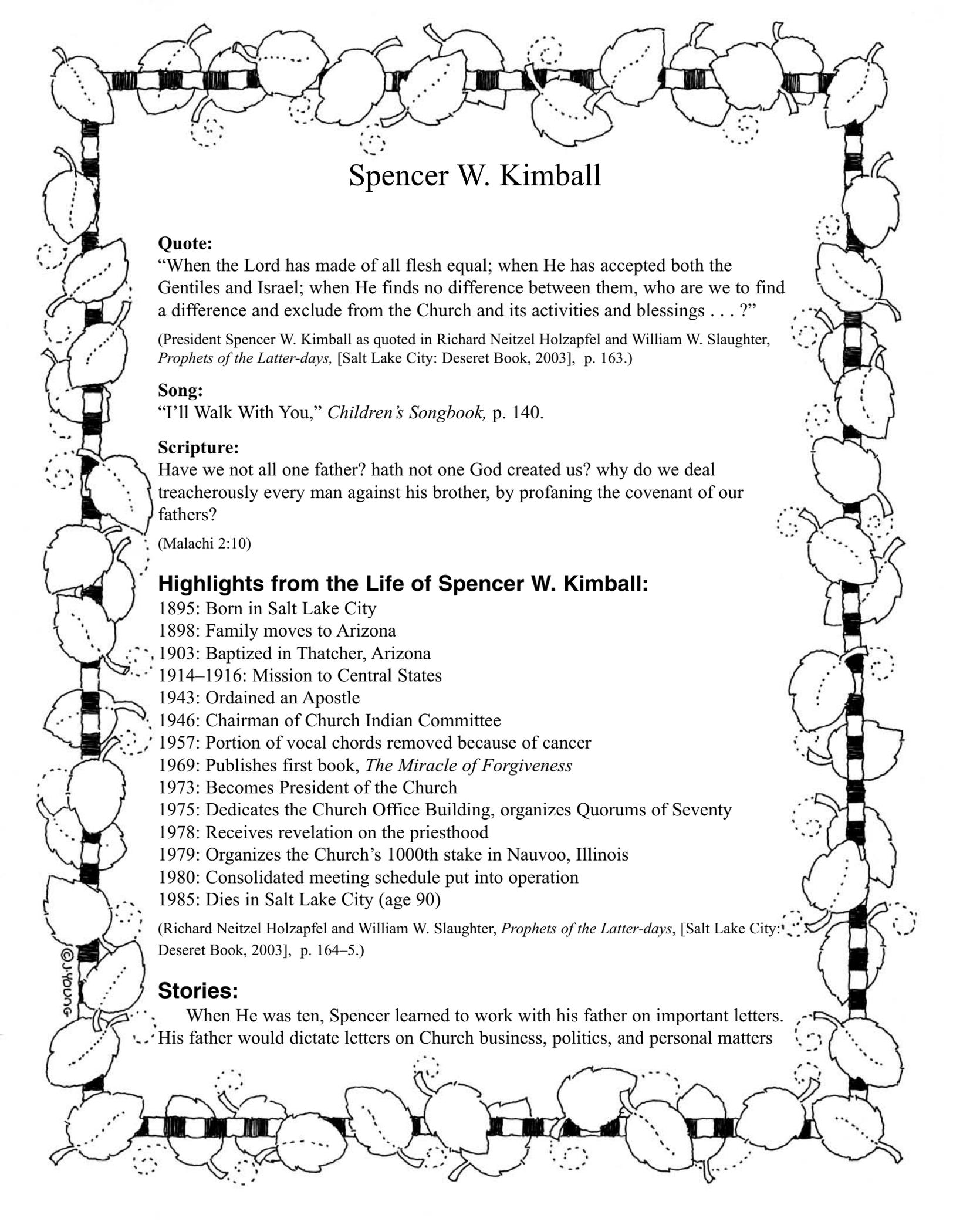
Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Spencer W. Kimball

Packet #080306

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
- 3. Involvement.** Involve everyone in the family; help little children take part.
- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.



Spencer W. Kimball

Quote:

“When the Lord has made of all flesh equal; when He has accepted both the Gentiles and Israel; when He finds no difference between them, who are we to find a difference and exclude from the Church and its activities and blessings . . . ?”

(President Spencer W. Kimball as quoted in Richard Neitzel Holzapfel and William W. Slaughter, *Prophets of the Latter-days*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 163.)

Song:

“I’ll Walk With You,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 140.

Scripture:

Have we not all one father? hath not one God created us? why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother, by profaning the covenant of our fathers?

(Malachi 2:10)

Highlights from the Life of Spencer W. Kimball:

1895: Born in Salt Lake City

1898: Family moves to Arizona

1903: Baptized in Thatcher, Arizona

1914–1916: Mission to Central States

1943: Ordained an Apostle

1946: Chairman of Church Indian Committee

1957: Portion of vocal chords removed because of cancer

1969: Publishes first book, *The Miracle of Forgiveness*

1973: Becomes President of the Church

1975: Dedicates the Church Office Building, organizes Quorums of Seventy

1978: Receives revelation on the priesthood

1979: Organizes the Church’s 1000th stake in Nauvoo, Illinois

1980: Consolidated meeting schedule put into operation

1985: Dies in Salt Lake City (age 90)

(Richard Neitzel Holzapfel and William W. Slaughter, *Prophets of the Latter-days*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 164–5.)

Stories:

When He was ten, Spencer learned to work with his father on important letters. His father would dictate letters on Church business, politics, and personal matters

to Spencer, who wrote them in longhand and then typed them with his two-finger method.

As a deacon, Spencer was playful, but he took his duties seriously. If his companion did not show up when they were to collect fast offerings, he would go out to do it himself. When he was fourteen the Sunday School superintendent met him after class one Sunday. Spencer was afraid that he was going to be scolded for teasing the girls and pulling their hair. Instead, he was asked to teach a Sunday School class. The next year he was called to be the stake Sunday School chorister.

One day at stake conference one of the speakers, who was a daughter of Brigham Young, asked if everyone had read completely through the Bible. After conference Spencer went home, got out the Bible, and began reading. It took about a year to finish reading it, and he did not understand some parts of it, but he felt good knowing that he had kept a promise to himself.

(Linda Cory Robinson, *Boys Who Became Prophets*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1998], p. 68–9.)

Activity:

Place a treat into two or three containers of differing sizes and colors. Make sure the treats are the same kind, but cannot be seen from the outside.

Show the containers and point out all their differences. Shake them and point out that they even sound different. Ask the family if they can guess what is inside. Ask them if they think it is different also. Open the containers and show the family that the containers have the same items inside.

Tell your family that people are like containers. Even though they may be different on the outside, inside they are very much the same.

Prepare a chalkboard, poster, or paper by drawing a vertical line down the middle. Label one side “different” and the other “same.” Hold up a picture showing people of many races. How are these people different? How do you think they are alike? Write the answers in the correct column.

Remind your family that President Kimball taught us to love all people.

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *Sharing Time, Family Time, Anytime: Book Two*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1994], 43.)

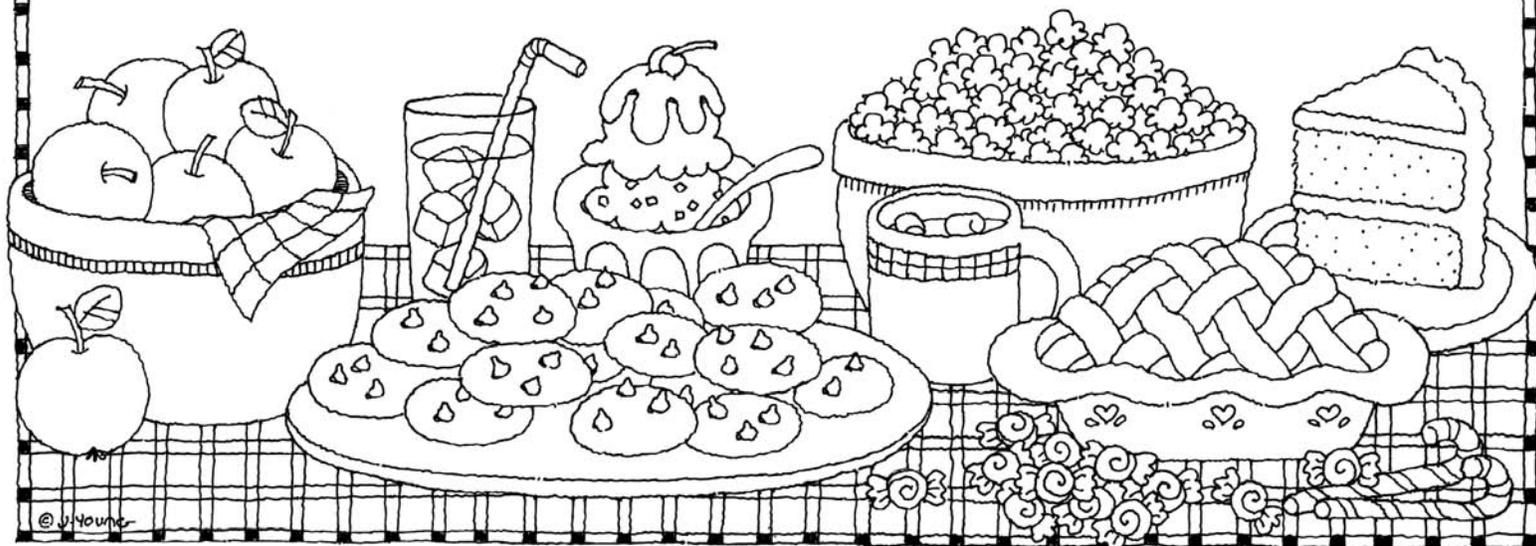
Refreshment

Spencer W. Kimball's Raspberry Cheesecake

- 1 3-ounce package lemon gelatin
- 1 cup hot water
- 1 cup evaporated milk, chilled and whipped
- 1 8-ounce package cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoons lemon juice
- 1/2 cup butter
- 28 graham crackers, crushed
- 1 cup whipping cream, whipped and sweet

In a mixer bowl dissolve gelatin in hot water; cool and blend in whipped evaporated milk. In a separate bowl, beat cream cheese with sugar. Gently combine gelatin mixture with cream cheese mixture; fold in lemon juice. In another bowl, melt butter and combine with cracker crumbs. Place half of crumbs on bottom of 9x13-inch pan. Pour gelatin/cream cheese mixture on top and sprinkle with remaining crumbs. Chill at least 3 hours to set. Serve with whipped cream and raspberries. Makes 10 to 12 servings.

(Lion House Desserts, [Salt Lake City: Eagle Gate, 2000], p. 14.)



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Lengthen Your Stride: The Presidency of Spencer W. Kimball
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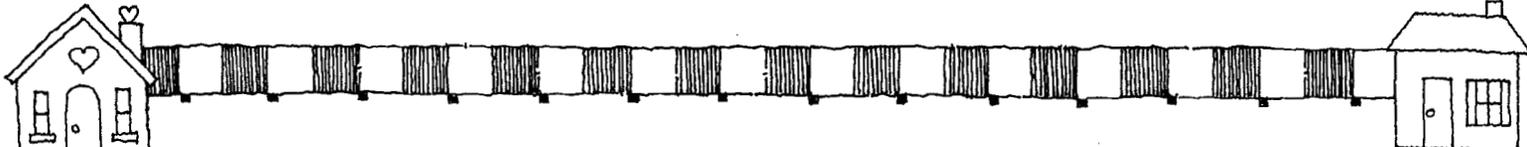
Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Becoming Like Christ

Packet #120405

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

1. **Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
2. **Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
3. **Involvement.** Involve everyone in the family; help little children take part.
4. **Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
5. **Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.



Becoming Like Christ

Thought:

I testify to you that there is no greater, more thrilling, and more soul-ennobling challenge than to try to learn of Christ and walk in His steps. Our model, Jesus Christ, walked this earth as “the Exemplar.” . . . “What would Jesus do?” or “What would He have me do?” are the paramount personal questions of this life. Walking in His way is the greatest achievement of life.

(Ezra Taft Benson, “Think on Christ,” *New Era*, Apr. 1994, 4)

Song:

“Lord, I Would Follow Thee,” *Hymns*, 220.

Scripture:

For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

(John 13:15)

Lesson:

Prepare four wordstrips: Obeyed Parents, Served Others, Prayed, Forgave Others. Obtain a picture of Jesus Christ.

Play a guessing game of “Who am I?” give clues that describe an individual in your group. Use physical characteristics such as hair length, eye color, age, and so on. This can be repeated two or three times.

Following the game, point out that people can be recognized by their physical characteristics. People can also be recognized by their spiritual characteristics.

Play the game of “Who am I?” again. Explain that this time group members will try to guess who the individual is by spiritual characteristics. Pass out the wordstrips and have the children display them. Invite your family to guess what individual is described by all four wordstrips. Show the picture of Christ. Explain that we can recognize Christ through these and other spiritual characteristics.

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *Sharing Time, Family Time, Anytime: Book Two*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1994], p. 18-19.)

Scripture Stories:

Display pictures of stories from Christ’s life. Briefly tell each story in your own words.

Luke 2:42-52, Jesus teaching in the temple (Gospel Art Kit 205). Point out that Jesus was obedient to his parents and went home with them.

Mark 8:1-9, Jesus feeding the four thousand (GAK 212). Point out that Jesus had compassion on the multitude and did not want them to be hungry.

Luke 22:39-46, Jesus praying in Gethsemane (GAK 227). Point out how earnestly he prayed and that he encouraged his disciples to pray also.

Luke 23:33-34, the Crucifixion (GAK 230). Explain that Jesus asked Heavenly FATHER to forgive those who were crucifying him.

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *Sharing Time, Family Time, Anytime: Book Two*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1994], p. 19.)

Activity:

Tell the following unfinished stories, or use stories of your own that meet the needs of your group. Have the group decide which action on the wordstrips would solve the story in a Christlike way.

1. Marcie came home from school one day and found her little sister playing in her room. Her sister had accidentally dropped a little porcelain ballerina that had been Marcie's favorite. What should Marcie do? (Be forgiving.)
2. Timothy's mother asked him to come home right after school to help rake leaves in the yard. But on his way home his friends invited him to play ball at the park. What should Timothy do? (Obey his parents.)
3. Karen was going to her friend's house. As she walked down the sidewalk she passed her neighbor Mrs. Simmons. Mrs. Simmons was an elderly widow. Karen noticed that she was sitting in a rocking chair on her porch and that she looked lonely. Karen knew Mrs. Simmons would enjoy a visitor. What should Karen do? (Offer service.)
4. Aaron got lost in the woods when his family went camping. He was frightened and felt alone. What should Aaron do? (Pray.)

Explain that Jesus set a wonderful example for us to follow. We should often ask ourselves, "What would Jesus do?" Then we should do our best to try to be like him.

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *Sharing Time, Family Time, Anytime: Book Two*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1994], p. 19.)

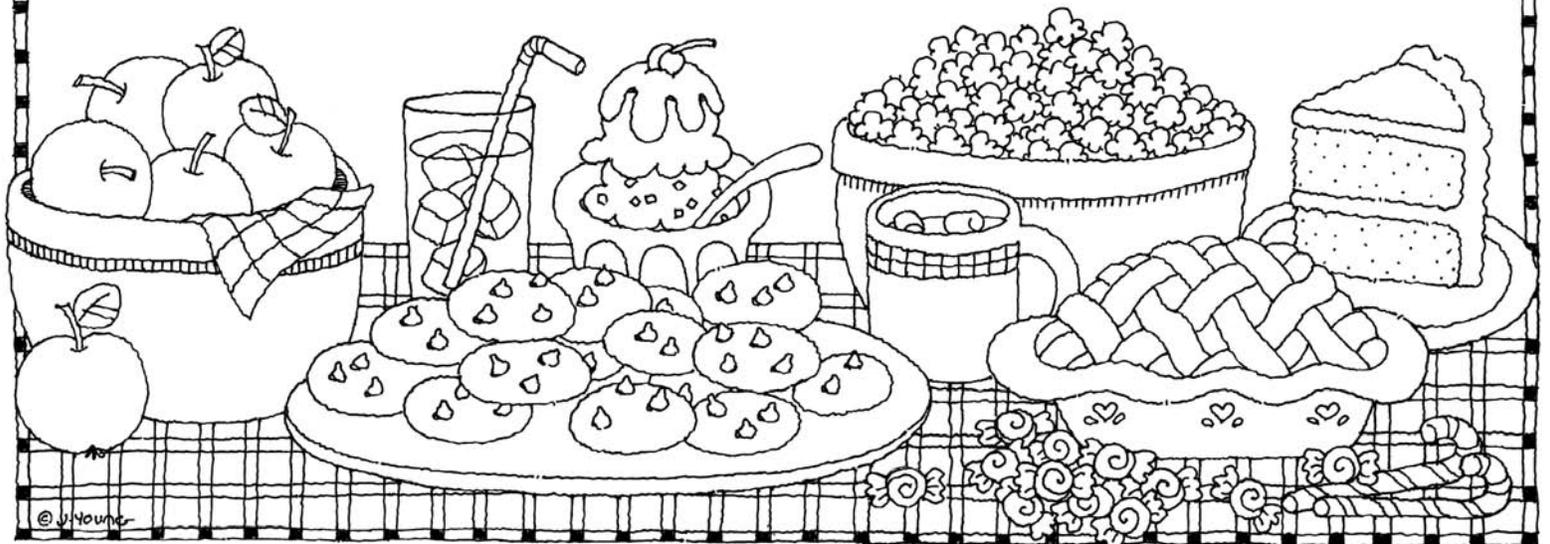
Refreshment

Quick Fruit Dip

1 1/3 cups low-fat vanilla yogurt
1/4 cup strawberry jam
1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon

Combine all ingredients and chill for one hour before serving.

This is a fast, delicious treat. Serve with strawberries, grapes, pineapple, and bananas.
(Hollee Eckman and Heather Higgins, *All That Jam*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 2003], p. 56.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Service

Packet #120206

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
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- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.



Service

Thought:

We must surely realize that there can be no true worship of Him who is the Christ without giving of ourselves. ... If we give such service, our days will be filled with joy and gladness. More important, they will be consecrated to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and to the blessing of all whose lives we touch.

(Gordon B. Hinckley, "Giving Ourselves to the Service of the Lord," *Ensign*, Mar. 1987, 2)

Song:

"Give, Said the Little Stream," *Children's Songbook*, p. 236.

Scripture:

And behold, I tell you these things that ye may learn wisdom; that ye may learn that when ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God.

(Mosiah 2:17)

Lesson:

Before beginning family home evening, find a seed and the fruit or vegetable it came from (or a picture of them). Also prepare a piece of paper for each family member with the following written on it, but do not give it to them until later.

A Small or Simple Thing I Can Do For . . .

My family:

My friend or neighbor:

My church or community:

Show the seed and ask:

- What sort of plant does this seed come from?
- What does the seed have to do with D&C 64:33?
- Can you tell about a time when someone did a small and simple thing that lifted your spirits and brightened your day?

Share this statement from Elder M. Russell Ballard:

"We observe vast, sweeping world events; however, we must remember that the purposes of the Lord in our personal lives generally are fulfilled through the small and simple things, and not the momentous and spectacular." (*Ensign*, May 1990, 6.)

Give family members the previously prepared pieces of paper and some pencils and invite them to write down, privately, one simple thing they can do to make someone's life better in each of the categories.

Read together D&C 64:22, 34. Ask:

- What does the Lord say He requires of us?
- What is meant by the phrase "the heart and a willing mind"?

- Why is it not enough just to be obedient; why does the Lord require that we do things for the right reason?

Take turns reading D&C 64:37–43. As you do, ask family members to look for some “great” things that will come to the earth because the Lord has restored His Church. Highlight the things you discover and discuss them together. Share your testimony of your family doing your small part in the kingdom so the Church can fill the earth and Zion can flourish.

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The Doctrine and Covenants*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2004], p. 266.)

Story:

Recently, while in my car leaving my office I was stopped two blocks away at a stoplight. A man who appeared to be homeless walked across the crosswalk in front of me. I couldn’t help but notice his shoes. Actually, the shoes were only a façade. As he approached, his toes were visible where the top of the shoe should have connected with the sole. As he walked away, even more visible were the bare bottoms of his feet as he tried to walk swiftly away, obviously struggling not to limp as he tried to walk as normal as possible. . . .

I drove away but could not get the scene out of my mind. While turning on to the freeway, I thought of my closet full of shoes and about trying to decide which pair to wear. I looked down at my new walking shoes that were so comfortable. The next exit was more than a mile away, but I took it and drove back to try and see if I could help this man in some way.

“A few minutes later I was back on the same street, and sure enough he was still walking. I looked again at his feet and in a quick glance determined that his shoe size would be very close to my own. I turned into a parking lot and stopped near the sidewalk, where he would have to walk right past me, untied my shoes, held them inside the car and as he walked past called to him, ‘Sir, may I see you for a minute?’ He hesitated briefly, not sure that I was calling to him. When he came over to the window of the car I said, ‘I couldn’t help but notice your shoes.’ He said, ‘Yeah, I’ve been doing a lot of walking lately.’ I handed him my shoes through the car window. He asked, ‘What size are they?’ ‘Size 9,’ I said. ‘That’s my size,’ he said, and then offered a very sincere, ‘Mister, thanks a lot.’

I don’t think I will ever forget his face. As he walked away and as I drove away in my stocking feet, I felt a calm, peaceful feeling.

(Guy A. Irwin, *Church News*, November 24, 1990, p. 11.)

Activity:

Plan a family service project. There are people all around us who would appreciate help; people who are sick and would enjoy a visit; people who are lonely or discouraged; people who are elderly, crippled, or shut-in; and people who are our neighbors but whom we hardly see. These people all give us an opportunity for serving them. If you have not become aware of your neighbor’s needs, consider asking your children or consulting with your bishop.

Make some decisions about who will contact the person to be served; what tools, gifts, or refreshments need to be taken; what special preparation each member of the family needs to make; and how your service will be done. Even if you just plan a short visit with someone, have each family member prepare to contribute something to the conversation.

Service projects need not be large and time-consuming. It is better to do smaller and more frequent projects of love than to become bogged down in attempting something too large and too complicated.

(Eric G. Stephan and Judith Stephan Smith, *What Happy Families Are Doing*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1981], p. 120.)

Refreshment

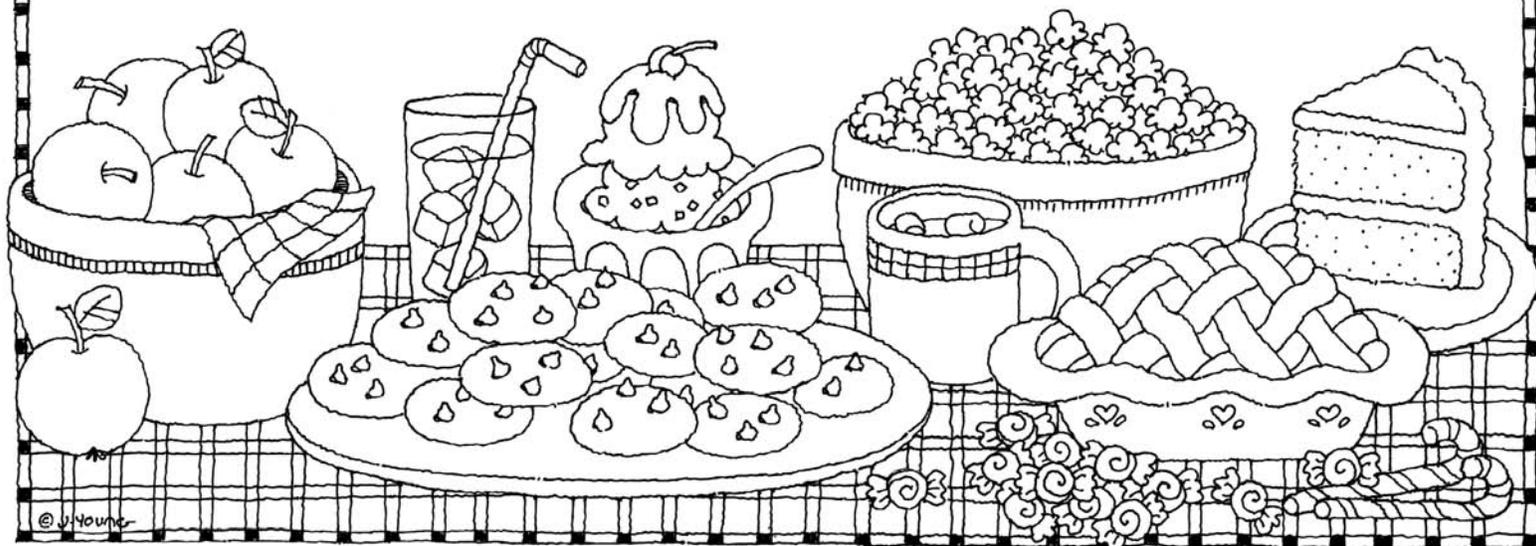
Chocolate Almond Balls

- 1 8-ounce chocolate bar with almonds
- 1 8-ounce tub frozen whipped topping, thawed to room temperature
- 30 vanilla wafers, crushed

Melt chocolate bar in top of a double boiler. Cool slightly (don't let it become cold). Stir in thawed whipped topping. Using heaping teaspoonfuls of candy, shape into balls and roll in vanilla wafer crumbs. Keep in freezer for two hours before serving. Store in freezer. Makes about 4 dozen.

Note: For variety, roll balls in candy sprinkles, coconut, or chopped nuts.

(*Lion House Christmas*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 2006] p. 134.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: The Birth of Christ

Packet #120306

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

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The Birth of Christ

Thought:

The most important event in the history of the world was the birth of Jesus Christ. From the days of Adam to John the Baptist—some four millennia—righteous men and women looked to the day of His heralded birth. Prophets foretold the event, and sacrifices, symbolism, and signs portended His birth.

(Ezra Taft Benson, “Jesus Christ: Our Savior, Our God,” *Ensign*, Apr. 1991, 2)

Song:

“Away in a Manger” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 42.

Scripture:

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

(Luke 2:11)

Lesson:

Invite family members to show with their fingers how many wise men came to see Jesus. Show a picture of the wise men with King Herod (such as Gospel Art Kit, no. 203, or *Ensign*, Dec. 1997, 44). Ask why they think most people believe there were three. Have your family look for how many wise men are mentioned as you study Matthew 2.

Read together Matthew 2:1–11 and discuss the following questions:

- Where was Jesus born and who was the king of Judea? (Verse 1.)
- Who were the wise men looking for? (See Matthew 2:2, footnote a. The wise men were not seeking just a “king” but the “Messiah.”)
- Why were Herod and “all Jerusalem with him” troubled? (Herod was a jealous king and didn’t want anyone else, not even a son, to take his throne.)
- Why do you think Herod really wanted to know where and when this “King of the Jews” was born? (See verse 16.)
- How did the wise men find Jesus?
- Where did the wise men find Jesus? (Invite family members to mark the words house and young child.)

Ask family members if they noticed the words manger or baby or any mention of the number of wise men. What does this tell us about the Christmas story as it is told year after year?

Share the following statements by Elder Bruce R. McConkie:

“There came from unnamed eastern lands . . . an unspecified number of wise men. Whether they were two, three, or twenty in number is a matter of pure speculation.” (Doctrinal New Testament Commentary, 1:102–3.)

“It appears from Matthew’s account . . . that . . . the wise men came two or three years after the birth of our Lord. It was a ‘young child,’ not a baby, they were seeking; he was found in a ‘house,’ not a manger; and Herod ‘sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem,

and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under.”” (Mormon Doctrine, 230.)

Invite family members to look once more at Matthew 2:10–11 and mark phrases that show how the wise men felt about finding the young child. Have family members record in their journals how they would have felt if they had been the ones who found the child Jesus.

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The New Testament*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2006], p. 6.)

Story:

The Wondrous Gift

(Spencer W. Kimball)

We set up the evergreen tree with its gleaming, brightly colored lights; we hang wreaths and bells; and we light candles—all to remind us of that wondrous gift, the coming of our Lord into the world of mortality.

We send Christmas cards to numerous friends and relatives, pulling back into happy memories the loved ones who have moved out of our immediate association. Like the wise men who opened their treasury and presented to Jesus gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh, we present to our loved ones things to eat and wear and enjoy.

Though we make an effort to follow the pattern of gift giving, sometimes our program becomes an exchange—gift given for gift expected. Never did the Savior give in expectation. I know of no case in his life in which there was an exchange. He was always the giver, seldom the recipient. Never did he give shoes, [socks], or a vehicle; never did he give perfume, a shirt, or a [coat]. His gifts were of such nature that the recipient could hardly exchange or return the value. His gifts were rare ones: eyes to the blind, ears to the deaf, and legs to the lame; cleanliness to the unclean, wholeness to the infirm, and breath to the lifeless. . . . His gifts were . . . light in the darkness, forgiveness to the repentant, hope to the despairing. His friends gave him shelter, food, and love. He gave them of himself, his love, his service, his life. The wisemen brought him gold and frankincense. He gave them and all their fellow mortals resurrection, salvation, and eternal life. We should strive to give as he gave.

(*The Gifts of Christmas*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1999], p. 129.)

Activity:

Take a tour of your home, looking at the Christmas decorations. Explain to everyone the meaning behind the symbols of Christmas. For example, the green of the tree represents life, the red ornaments the blood of the crucified Lord, the candy candy the crooked staff of the shepherds, the stars the Bethlehem star marking the Savior’s birthplace, the candle the “light of the world,” and the wreath symbolizes the eternal round of everlasting life that the Savior gave us.

(Kimberly L. Bytheway and Diane H. Loveridge, *Tradition*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 89.)

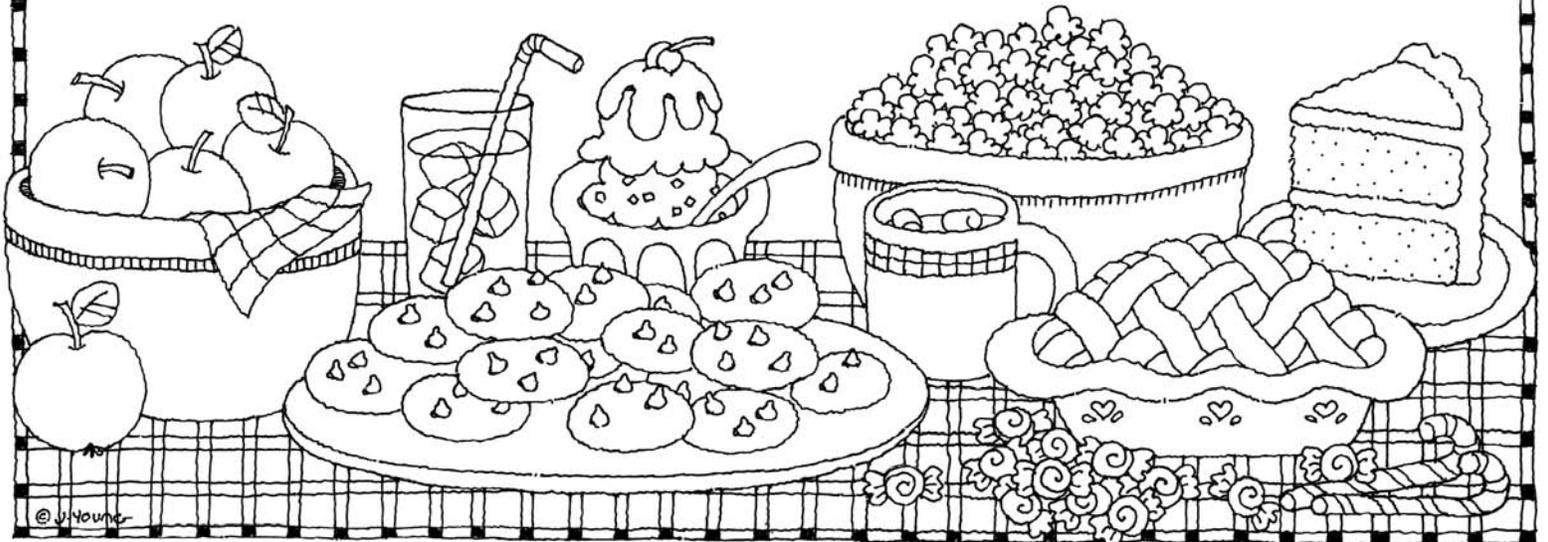
Refreshment

Danish Christmas Cookies

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 cup butter | 1/2 teaspoon salt |
| 1 cup brown sugar | 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon |
| 1 cup dark corn syrup | 4 to 5 cups flour |
| 1 tablespoon grated orange peel | 1/4 cup finely chopped almonds |
| 1 teaspoon cardamom | Split blanched almonds |
| 1 teaspoon cloves | |

Melt butter in a large saucepan; add brown sugar and corn syrup. Remove from heat and stir in orange peel, cardamom, cloves, salt, and cinnamon. Add enough flour to make an easily manageable dough. Knead in chopped almonds. Shape dough into two rolls about 15 inches long. Refrigerate dough for up to three weeks. When ready to bake, cut into thin slices and place on lightly greased baking sheet. Decorate each cookie with an almond half. Bake at 375 degrees F. about 8 minutes or until crisp. Cool on wire rack. Store in tightly covered container. Makes 15 dozen.

(*Lion House International*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1997], p. 94.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Family Traditions

Packet #020106

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
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Family Traditions

Thought:

If we will build righteous traditions in our families, the light of the gospel can grow ever brighter in the lives of our children from generation to generation. We can look forward to that glorious day when we will all be united together as eternal family units to reap the everlasting joy promised by our Eternal Father for His righteous children.

(L. Tom Perry, "Family Traditions," *Ensign*, May 1990, 19)

Song:

"Love Is Spoken Here," *Children's Songbook*, p. 190

Scripture:

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

(Proverbs 22:6)

Lesson:

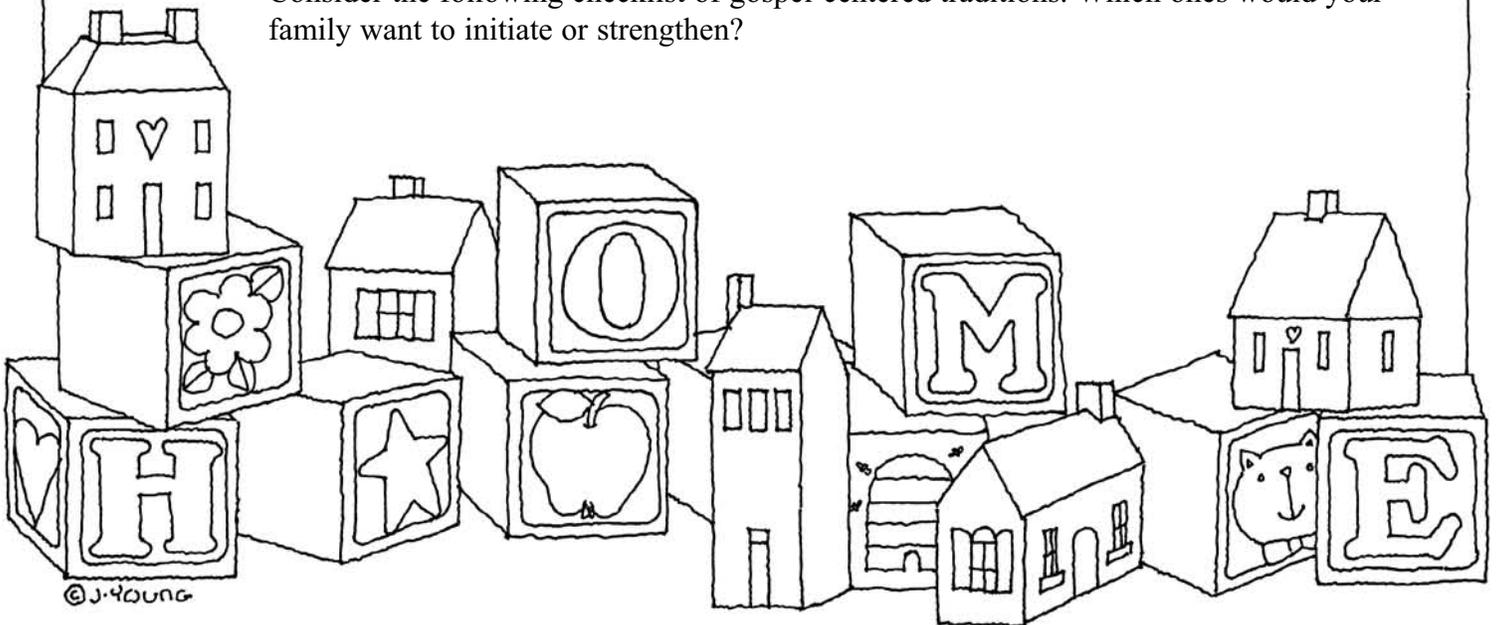
Family cohesiveness, love, and unity don't just happen. Close-knit families are not born, they are made. One way to succeed in building family unity is to create and strengthen family traditions.

There are three basic kinds of traditions found in a Latter-day Saint home. Gospel traditions, family customs, and traditions that our forefathers have handed down to us.

Gospel Traditions

Holding a family home evening can become a gospel-centered family tradition. In homes where family time is scheduled for each Monday evening, a tradition is established which all family members know they can depend on. With that recurring dependability, it becomes easier for a busy father to say to his business associates, "I'm sorry, but I have a previous appointment for Monday evening. Perhaps we could meet at another time." In one family, if the phone rings during this special time together, the children answer by saying, "I'm sorry, we are holding family home evening. Could you call back later?" When family home evening becomes a tradition, it provides an opportunity to relax, to be undisturbed, and to enjoy each other as family members. It is the family's island in a swirling stream of weekly events.

Consider the following checklist of gospel-centered traditions. Which ones would your family want to initiate or strengthen?



1. We pay tithing each month.
2. We have family prayer each day.
3. We hold a weekly family home evening.
4. We plan how to keep each Sabbath day holy.
- 5 We fast regularly.
6. We attend Church meetings weekly.
7. We magnify our Church callings.
8. We engage in reading the scriptures consistently.
9. We contribute regularly to missionary work.
10. We respond to calls for welfare assignments.
11. We have a tradition of giving priesthood blessings in our home.
12. Temple marriage is the tradition in our family.
13. We serve on missions.
14. Our family eating habits exclude items not in harmony with the Word of Wisdom.
15. We consistently read good literature, select beneficial television programs, listen to uplifting music, and attend worthwhile cultural events.

Observe which activities are practiced consistently in your family. Now consider which traditions you would like to strengthen. Discuss with family members which traditions they think Heavenly Father would like the family to strengthen. With the family, plan an activity that could become a tradition.

Family Customs

What special traditions are unique to your family? Perhaps you have a favorite story describing how dad proposed to mom. Or is it traditional to have pizza and root beer at a time when the family watches television together? Do you have a tradition of singing certain songs as you travel long distances in the car? What about special ways that you celebrate birthdays or baptism? Do you hug or kiss each other after daily family prayer? Is there a traditional Sunday dinner in your home? What is different about it? Do you eat in the dining room or use special dishes? Are special guests invited or special manners observed? Do you have special family traditions related to the celebration of Christmas, Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Valentine's Day, Halloween, New Year's Eve, Independence Day, and Thanksgiving?

Children love special family traditions. They depend on the security of repeated activities. Even adults need some structure and pattern in their daily activities. Encourage your family to recognize and maintain its useful family traditions.

Traditions of Our Ancestors

It is interesting to discover the origin and meanings of the given names and surnames of our ancestors. Our parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents had physical features that have been passed on to us. By obtaining pictures of our ancestors and examining them carefully, we can discover new qualities about ourselves. We can learn much about how our ancestors lived by studying the history, customs, and geography of the area where they lived. Collecting and telling stories about our forefathers is a good way to strengthen family traditions. Stories about the sacrifices that ancestors made to join the Church and assist their families make deep impressions upon all of us. Experiences that contributed to the strong testimony of our forefathers need to be repeated.

Family traditions provide security as we go through life. We can return again and again to our traditions and find emotional and spiritual strength.

(Eric G. Stephan and Judith Stephan Smith, *What Happy Families Are Doing*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1981], p. 107–112.)

Story:

We have many family traditions which make holidays and birthdays special family times. Certainly, one of the joys of our family has been reading aloud together. From the time our first child was a toddler we've been regular patrons of the public library. For many years we'd make monthly pilgrimages to return an apple box full of books to the children's library and fill it up again with a new batch. We'd read nap-time and bedtime stories together—can't you just picture me with a child on each knee, one or two on each side, two or three on the floor in front, one in the most coveted place of all—on the back of the couch behind me, brushing my hair. I would read such tales as *Black Beauty*, *Tom Sawyer*, and *The Prince and the Pauper* to the children who were a little older to make the task of doing dishes more enticing, and I have tried to always have many, many good books around to satisfy the children's own insatiable appetites for individual reading.

For several summers we had the wonderful fun of spending a couple of weeks at an Arizona dude ranch where my husband would take a turn at being ranch physician. Although our cabin was crowded and rustic, the children loved it. They loved the horses, the baby pigs, the homemade ice cream, the rodeos, and the huge campfires where we'd all sit around on logs and sing cowboy songs. My children even loved that good old Arizona dirt. The first summer we went, I struggled valiantly to keep us clean; after that I just relaxed and got dirty with the rest of them.

(Margaret Richards, *LDS Women's Treasury: Insights and Inspiration for Today's Woman*)

Activities:

Play “Sardines.” Sardines is the opposite of Hide and Go Seek. Everyone stands in the kitchen and one person goes and hides. The point of the game is to find that one person and hide with them. Whoever is the last one to find everyone is the one who's it next time.

(David C. Dollahite, *Strengthening Our Families*, [Brigham Young University: School of Family Life, 2000], p. 326.)

Refreshment

Mud Pie Brownies

4 eggs
2 cups sugar
1 cup butter or margarine, softened
1/3 cup unsweetened cocoa, or 2 squares melted
unsweetened chocolate
1 1/2 cups flour
1 teaspoons vanilla
2 cups chopped pecans or walnuts

1 cup flaked coconut
1 (7-ounce) jar Marshmallow Creme

Chocolate Frosting

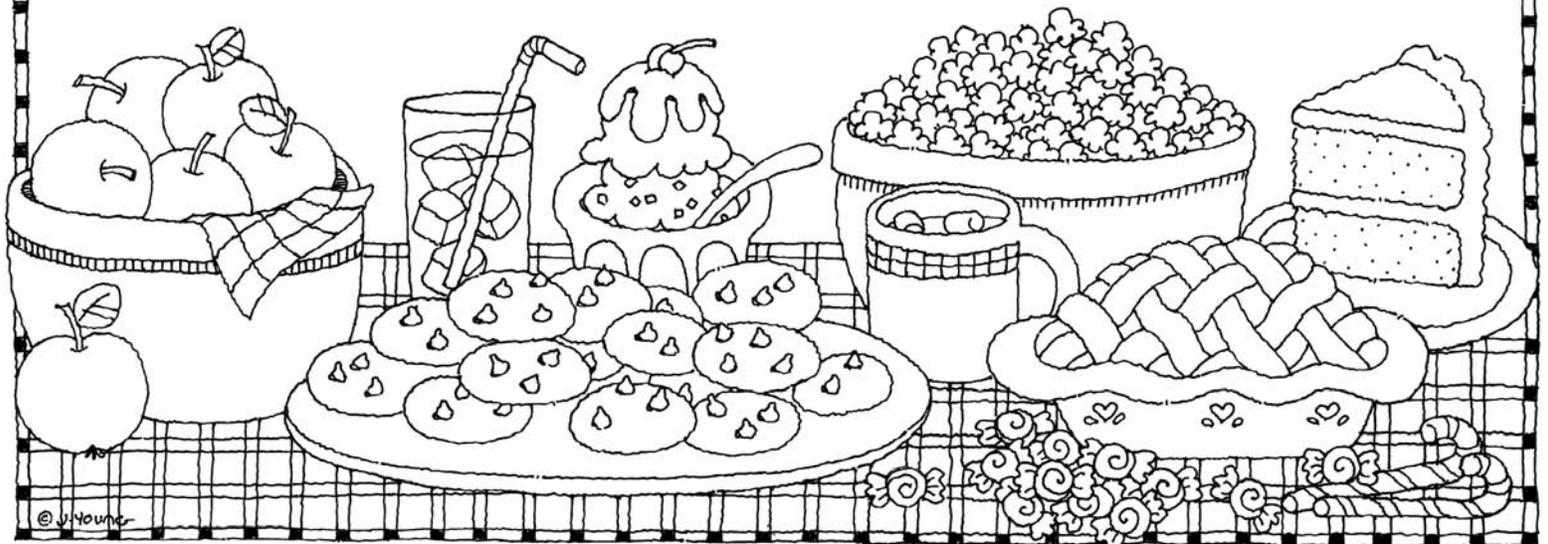
1/2 cup butter or margarine
1/4 cup milk
3 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 cups powdered sugar

In a large bowl, beat together eggs, sugar, and butter or margarine. Beat in cocoa or melted chocolate and flour. Stir in nuts and coconut. Pour batter into a greased 9x13-inch pan. Bake at 350 degrees for about 30 minutes.

While brownies are baking, make Chocolate Frosting. In a large saucepan, melt butter over medium heat. Stir in milk, cocoa, and vanilla until well blended. Add powdered sugar and stir in. Use hand mixer to beat until smooth.

Remove brownies from oven. While hot, spread with Marshmallow Cream, then swirl in Chocolate Frosting.

(Julie Badger Jensen, *Essential Mormon Celebrations*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2005] p. 24.)



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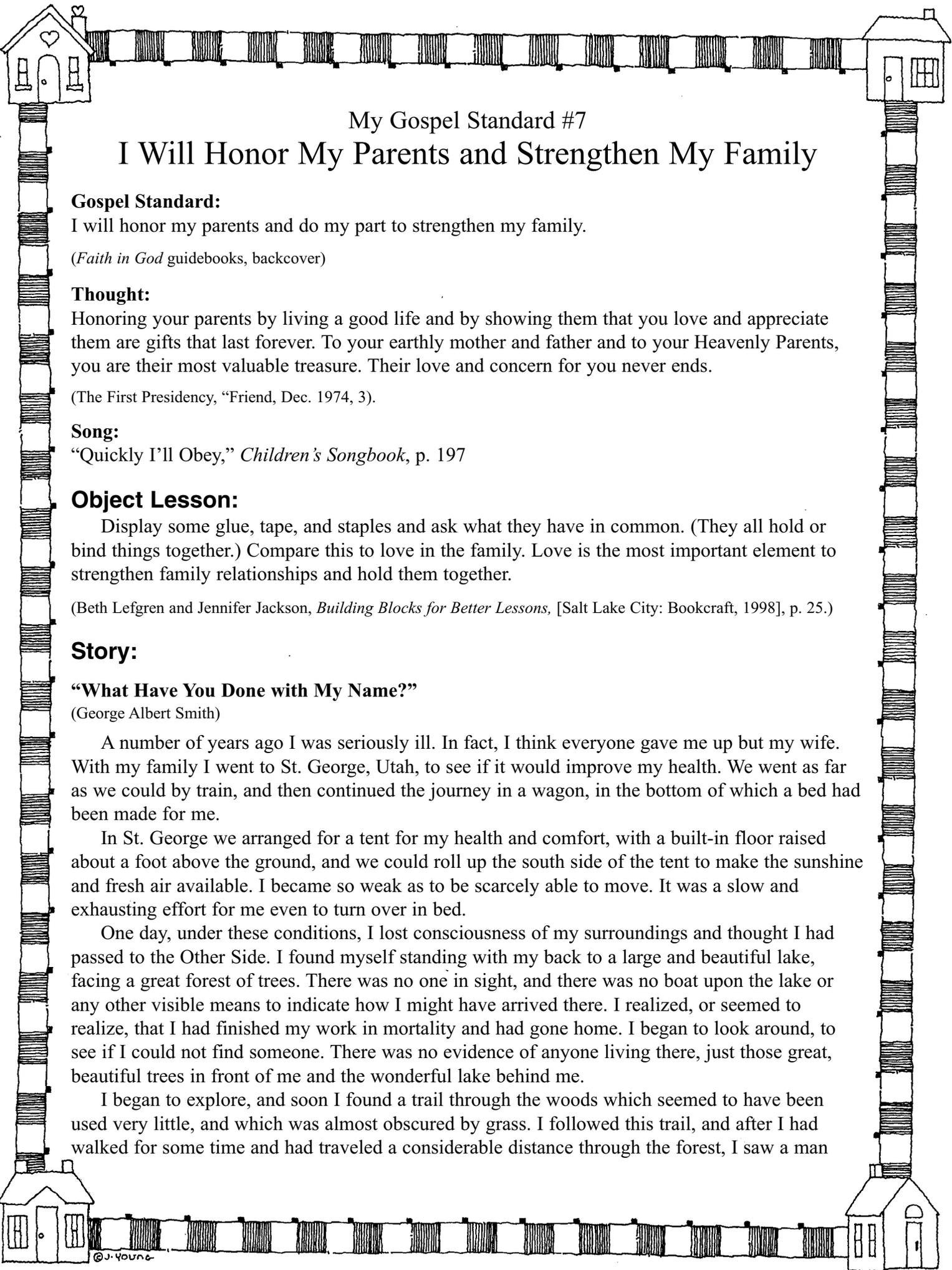
Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: I Will Honor My Parents and Strengthen My Family

Packet #020207

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
- 3. Involvement.** Involve everyone in the family; help little children take part.
- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.



My Gospel Standard #7

I Will Honor My Parents and Strengthen My Family

Gospel Standard:

I will honor my parents and do my part to strengthen my family.

(*Faith in God* guidebooks, backcover)

Thought:

Honoring your parents by living a good life and by showing them that you love and appreciate them are gifts that last forever. To your earthly mother and father and to your Heavenly Parents, you are their most valuable treasure. Their love and concern for you never ends.

(The First Presidency, "Friend, Dec. 1974, 3).

Song:

"Quickly I'll Obey," *Children's Songbook*, p. 197

Object Lesson:

Display some glue, tape, and staples and ask what they have in common. (They all hold or bind things together.) Compare this to love in the family. Love is the most important element to strengthen family relationships and hold them together.

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *Building Blocks for Better Lessons*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1998], p. 25.)

Story:

"What Have You Done with My Name?"

(George Albert Smith)

A number of years ago I was seriously ill. In fact, I think everyone gave me up but my wife. With my family I went to St. George, Utah, to see if it would improve my health. We went as far as we could by train, and then continued the journey in a wagon, in the bottom of which a bed had been made for me.

In St. George we arranged for a tent for my health and comfort, with a built-in floor raised about a foot above the ground, and we could roll up the south side of the tent to make the sunshine and fresh air available. I became so weak as to be scarcely able to move. It was a slow and exhausting effort for me even to turn over in bed.

One day, under these conditions, I lost consciousness of my surroundings and thought I had passed to the Other Side. I found myself standing with my back to a large and beautiful lake, facing a great forest of trees. There was no one in sight, and there was no boat upon the lake or any other visible means to indicate how I might have arrived there. I realized, or seemed to realize, that I had finished my work in mortality and had gone home. I began to look around, to see if I could not find someone. There was no evidence of anyone living there, just those great, beautiful trees in front of me and the wonderful lake behind me.

I began to explore, and soon I found a trail through the woods which seemed to have been used very little, and which was almost obscured by grass. I followed this trail, and after I had walked for some time and had traveled a considerable distance through the forest, I saw a man

coming towards me. I became aware that he was a very large man, and I hurried my steps to reach him, because I recognized him as my grandfather [George A. Smith]. In mortality he weighed over three hundred pounds, so you may know he was a large man. I remember how happy I was to see him coming. I had been given his name and had always been proud of it.

When Grandfather came within a few feet of me, he stopped. His stopping was an invitation for me to stop. Then . . . he looked at me very earnestly and said:

“I would like to know what you have done with my name.”

Everything I had ever done passed before me as though it were a flying picture on a screen—everything I had done. Quickly this vivid retrospect came down to the very time I was standing there. My whole life had passed before me. I smiled and looked at my grandfather and said:

“I have never done anything with your name of which you need be ashamed.”

He stepped forward and took me in his arms, and as he did so, I became conscious again of my earthly surroundings. My pillow was as wet as though water had been poured on it—wet with tears of gratitude that I could answer unashamed.

I have thought of this many times, and I want to tell you that I have been trying, more than ever since that time, to take care of that name. So I want to say . . . : Honor your fathers and your mothers. Honor the names that you bear, because some day you will have the privilege and the obligation of reporting to them (and to your Father in heaven) what you have done with their name.

(George Albert Smith, *Sharing the Gospel with Others*, selected and compiled by Preston Nibley (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1948), pp. 111–12.)

Activities:

Play “Sideways Centipede.”

Have the family line up side by side. Tie each person’s legs to the legs of the people on both sides of them at their knees with rags or short pieces of rope. The father calls out directions and the entire family runs to a goal and back.

Explain that our parents can help us know which way to go and that when we follow their counsel, and if the family works together, it is easier to get to the goal.

(adapted from George and Jeane Chipman, *Games! Games! Games!*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 1983], p. 211.)

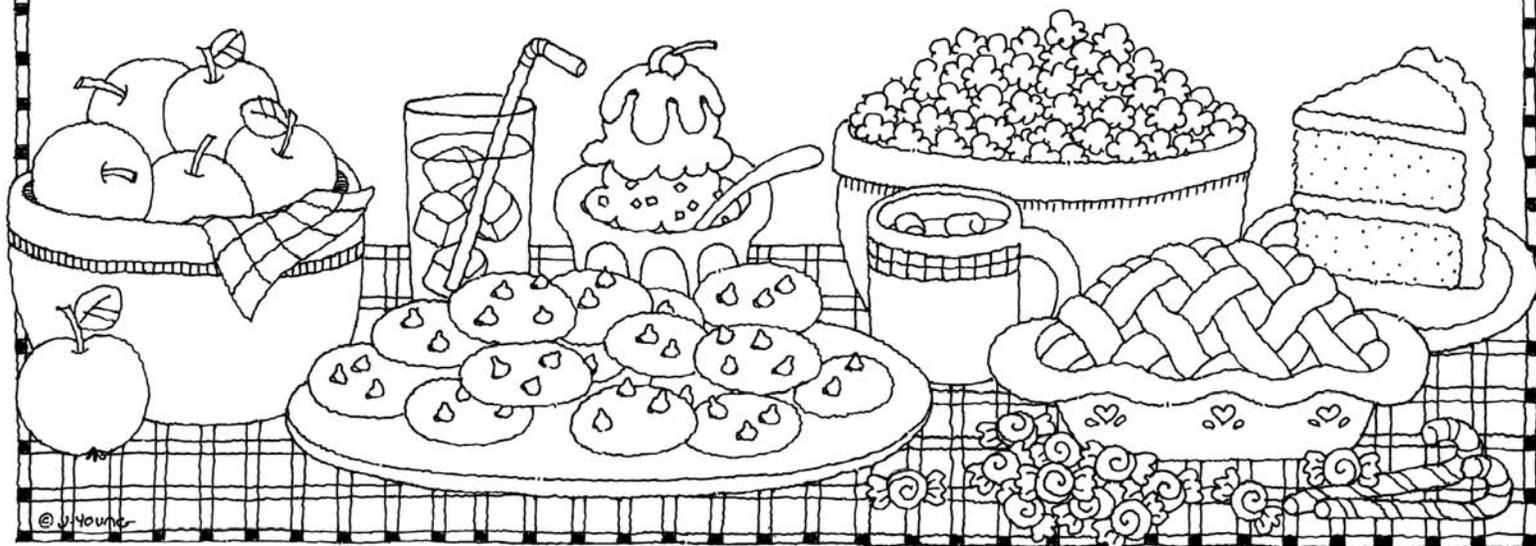
Refreshment

Granola

- 4 cups quick Quaker® oats
- 3/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup flaked coconut
- 1/2 cup sliced almonds
- 1/2 cup pecans or walnuts, coarsely chopped
- 1/4 cup water
- 1/4 cup vegetable or olive oil
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1/4 cup peanut butter
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

In a large bowl, mix together oats, brown sugar, coconut, almonds, and pecans or walnuts; set aside. In a saucepan, stir together water, oil, honey, and peanut butter; bring to a boil. Remove from heat; add vanilla and stir honey mixture into oats mixture. Spread on a large greased baking sheet. Bake at 325 degrees for about 45 minutes, stirring occasionally. Makes about 2 pounds.

(Julie Badger Jensen, *Essential Mormon Celebrations*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2005] p. 93.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Marriage

Packet #020206

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
- 3. Involvement.** Involve everyone in the family; help little children take part.
- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.

Marriage

Thought:

I believe in marriage. I believe it to be the ideal pattern for human living. I know it to be ordained of God.

(Boyd K. Packer, "Marriage," *Ensign*, May 1981, 13)

Song:

"Love At Home," *Hymns*, # 294.

Scripture:

Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord.

(1 Corinthians 11:11)

Object Lessons:

Take two magnets and show how they attract one another. Explain that love brings two people together. After they are married and have children, love unites the entire family. Then turn them around so they repel rather than attract each other. Without love the family will lack strength and fall apart.

Take a plastic easter egg apart and attempt to roll the two halves across the table. (They will not roll because of their shape.) Put the halves together. Show how they roll smoothly across the table. Explain that if two people are truly united they can move together toward eternal life.

(Alma Heaton, *Tools for Teaching*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1979], p. 17, 25.)

Story:

The Quiche Mayas of Guatemala

(President Milton R. Hunter)

I had been informed that the Quiche Mayas of Guatemala still retained many of their ancient traditions, some of which evidently had their roots in Book of Mormon times, and so when I received the assignment to tour the Central American Mission, I wrote to President [Edgar] Wagner and requested that his missionaries arrange for me to interview some of the old Quiche Maya Indians at Totonicapan.

When I arrived at Totonicapan I found that the missionaries had engaged the services of a man named Jesus Caranza Juarez. Mr. Juarez was a very intelligent person. He had a thorough understanding of the traditions and religion of the Quiche Maya people.

I asked one of the missionaries to act as an interpreter. I said to the missionary, "Do not give Mr. Juarez any leading questions that might indicate to him the kind of answers that we desire to receive. I want to know the exact and accurate traditions of his people, and so I would suggest that you ask simple, straightforward questions."

The first question I asked was: ‘What are the Quiche Maya practices and teachings regarding marriage?’”

Mr. Juarez immediately replied: “Marriage is the most sacred, the most revered, the most holy, and the greatest of all the religious teachings and practices in the Quiche Maya religion. We have two kinds of marriages. In one kind the ceremony is performed by the priest. Only the good people marry in this kind of marriage. By good people I mean those who do not get drunk, those who do not steal nor lie, and those who are morally clean—in brief, the people who live in accordance with all the teachings of the Quiche Maya religion.”

Then he said, “The priest performs the marriage ceremony for those good people; and when he marries them, they are married not only for this life but for the next world also. They remain husband and wife forever.”

I was surprised, in fact astonished, to get such an explanation regarding the marriage custom of the Quiche Maya Indians. . . .

Although I was greatly surprised to find that the Quiche Maya Indians practice a form of marriage that they believe will endure throughout the next world, I was pleased to learn that such was their tradition because I have understood that every time the gospel of Jesus Christ has been on the earth in its fulness, God’s true law of celestial marriage has constituted part of that gospel.

I also know that the true gospel of Jesus Christ was had in ancient America in Book of Mormon days, and certainly the Nephites would have had the true order of celestial marriage. Thus the Quiche Maya Indians of Guatemala, being descendants of the Book of Mormon peoples, have preserved in their system of marriage certain things that hold a resemblance to the true order of marriage as given by the Lord to the Nephites.

(Leon R. Hartshorn, *Outstanding Stories by General Authorities*, vol. 3)

Activity:

Give each person a copy of the mixed-up quote below by Elder Bruce R. McConkie. Explain that there are seven important words in the quote that have been scrambled. Have them see if they can unscramble the words to find out what the quote really says.

Discuss as a family what kind of commitments and choices need to be made in order for us to marry the right person in the right place by the right authority. Review together what the words peace, joy, and exaltation mean.

There is not a single thing that any Latter-day Saint will ever do in the world that will compare in importance to rirmyan the right nrspoe, in the right epacl, by the right hiuaottyr, because that order and system opens the door to eeapc, and yjo hre and eternal aiaenoxttle hereafter.
—Bruce R. McConkie

(Max H. Molgard and Allan K. Burgess, *The Best of Fun for Family Night*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 90.)

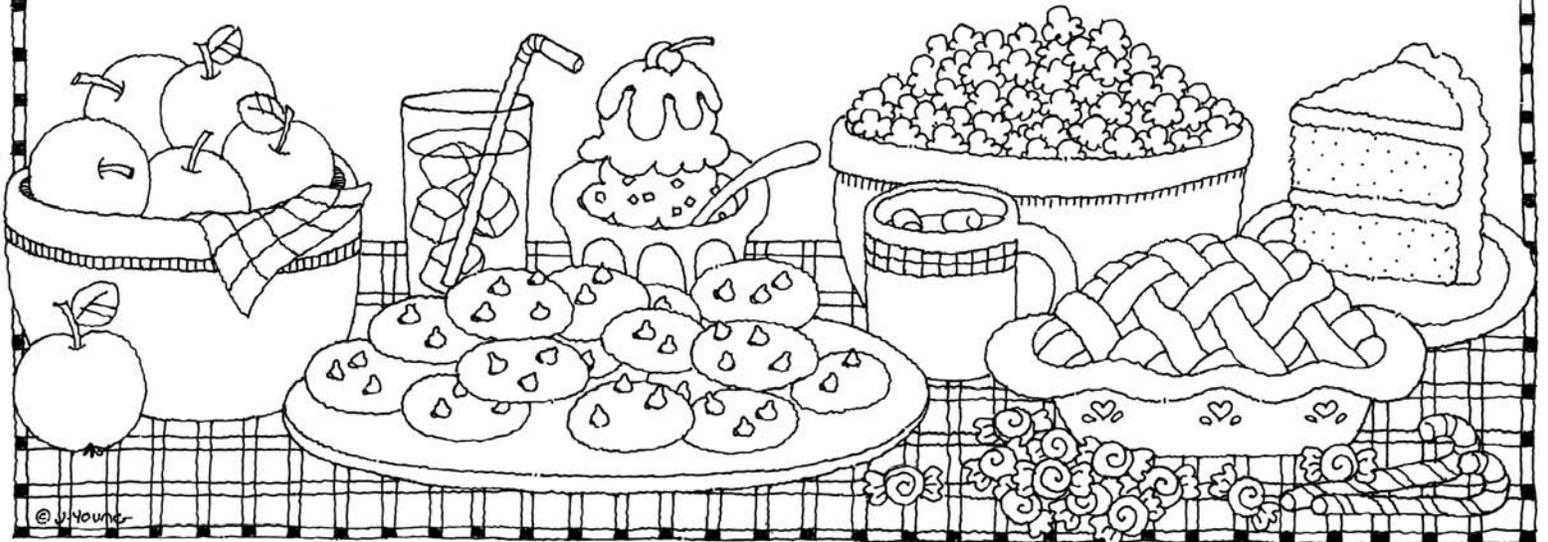
Refreshment

Easy Cherry Cheesecake

- 2 cups graham cracker crumbs
- 1/2 cup melted margarine or butter
- 1 8-ounce package cream cheese, softened
- 2 tablespoons milk
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 cups whipped topping (1 envelope mix prepared by package directions)
- 1 can cherry pie filling

In a 9x13x2-inch pan, mix graham cracker crumbs with melted margarine. Use a fork and level well, then press firmly in bottom and along sides of pan. In a medium bowl, combine and mix the cream cheese, milk, powdered sugar, and vanilla until smooth. Fold in the whipped topping. Spread over cracker crumbs, then cover with chilled cherry pie filling. Chill 2 hours. Makes 18 to 24 servings.

(*Lion House Desserts*, [Salt Lake City: Eagle Gate, 2000] p. 15.)



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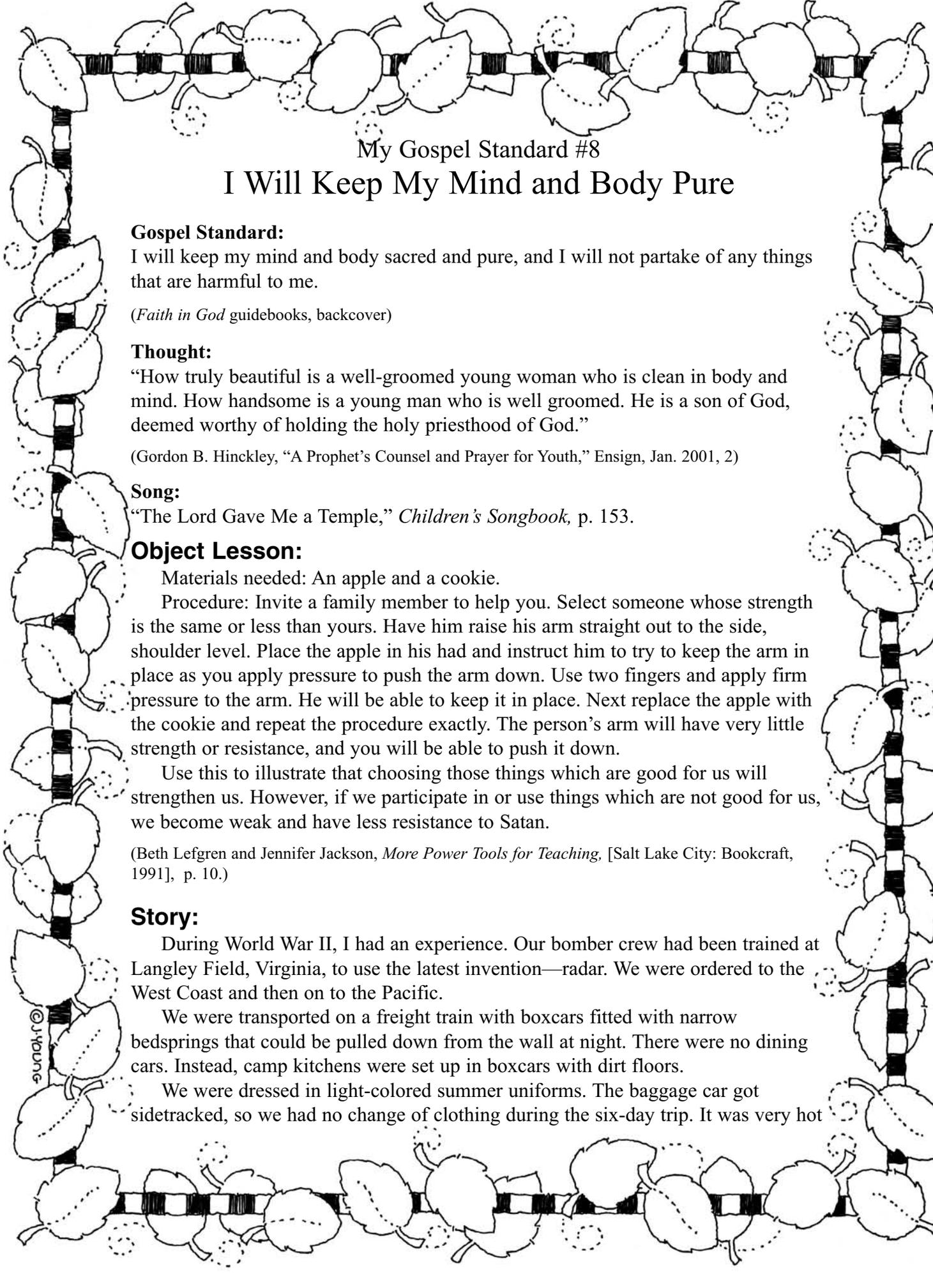
Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: I Will Keep My Mind and Body Pure

Packet #020307

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
- 3. Involvement.** Involve everyone in the family; help little children take part.
- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.



My Gospel Standard #8

I Will Keep My Mind and Body Pure

Gospel Standard:

I will keep my mind and body sacred and pure, and I will not partake of any things that are harmful to me.

(*Faith in God* guidebooks, backcover)

Thought:

“How truly beautiful is a well-groomed young woman who is clean in body and mind. How handsome is a young man who is well groomed. He is a son of God, deemed worthy of holding the holy priesthood of God.”

(Gordon B. Hinckley, “A Prophet’s Counsel and Prayer for Youth,” *Ensign*, Jan. 2001, 2)

Song:

“The Lord Gave Me a Temple,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 153.

Object Lesson:

Materials needed: An apple and a cookie.

Procedure: Invite a family member to help you. Select someone whose strength is the same or less than yours. Have him raise his arm straight out to the side, shoulder level. Place the apple in his hand and instruct him to try to keep the arm in place as you apply pressure to push the arm down. Use two fingers and apply firm pressure to the arm. He will be able to keep it in place. Next replace the apple with the cookie and repeat the procedure exactly. The person’s arm will have very little strength or resistance, and you will be able to push it down.

Use this to illustrate that choosing those things which are good for us will strengthen us. However, if we participate in or use things which are not good for us, we become weak and have less resistance to Satan.

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *More Power Tools for Teaching*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1991], p. 10.)

Story:

During World War II, I had an experience. Our bomber crew had been trained at Langley Field, Virginia, to use the latest invention—radar. We were ordered to the West Coast and then on to the Pacific.

We were transported on a freight train with boxcars fitted with narrow bedsprings that could be pulled down from the wall at night. There were no dining cars. Instead, camp kitchens were set up in boxcars with dirt floors.

We were dressed in light-colored summer uniforms. The baggage car got sidetracked, so we had no change of clothing during the six-day trip. It was very hot

crossing Texas and Arizona. Smoke and cinders from the engine made it very uncomfortable. There was no way to bathe or to wash our uniforms. We rolled into Los Angeles one morning—a grubby-looking outfit—and were told to return to the train that evening.

We thought first of food. The ten of us in our crew pooled our money and headed for the best restaurant we could find.

It was crowded, so we joined a long line waiting to be seated. I was first, just behind some well-dressed women. Even without turning around, the stately woman in front of me soon became aware that we were there.

She turned and looked at us. Then she turned and looked me over from head to toe. There I stood in that sweaty, dirty, sooty, wrinkled uniform. She said in a tone of disgust, “My, what untidy men!” All eyes turned to us.

No doubt she wished we were not there; I shared her wish. I felt as dirty as I was, uncomfortable and ashamed.

Later, when I began a serious study of the scriptures, I noticed references to being spiritually clean. One verse says, “Ye would be more miserable to dwell with a holy and just God, under a consciousness of your filthiness before him, than ye would to dwell with the damned souls in hell.” (Mormon 9:4)

(Boyd K. Packer, *Memorable Stories with a Message*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2000], p. 31.)

Activity:

The Word of Wisdom teaches us how to keep our physical temples clean and pure so the Spirit of the Lord can be with us. Use the following activity to help the family become better acquainted with the Word of Wisdom:

Turn to section 89 in the Doctrine and Covenants. Read a question and have them find the verse that answers the question. You may want to discuss some of the verses as you read them.

1. What is tobacco supposed to be used for? (Verse 8. Sick cattle.)
2. What reason does God give for warning and forewarning us by giving us the Word of Wisdom? (Verse 4. The evils and designs which exist in the hearts of conspiring men. Such men, knowing that the things they make and sell destroy our health and even kill many people, meet together to plan how they can get more people to use their products so they can make more money.)
3. Name one of the promises of the Word of Wisdom. (Verses 18-21. These promises are spiritual and physical.)
4. What three verses talk about alcoholic beverages or strong drinks? (Verses 5-7.)
5. What grain does God say can be made into a mild drink? (Verse 17. Barley.)
6. The words *wholesome*, *prudence* (which means caution and wisdom), and *thanksgiving* are sometimes called the spirit of the Word of Wisdom. These quality help us judge what we should eat and drink. In which two verses are these three words found? (Verse 10-11.)
7. What has God ordained or chosen to be the staff of life? (Verse 14. Grains.)
8. In which city was the Word of Wisdom received? (Section heading or verse 1. Kirtland.)
9. Where does it say that the Word of Wisdom is “adapted to the capacity of . . . the weakest of all saints”? (Verse 3.)
10. Where does it say that hot drinks are not for the body or belly? (Verse 9. Joseph Smith indicated the Lord meant tea and coffee when he said “hot drinks.”)

(Max Molgard and Allan K. Burgess, *The Best of Fun for Family Night*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 71.)

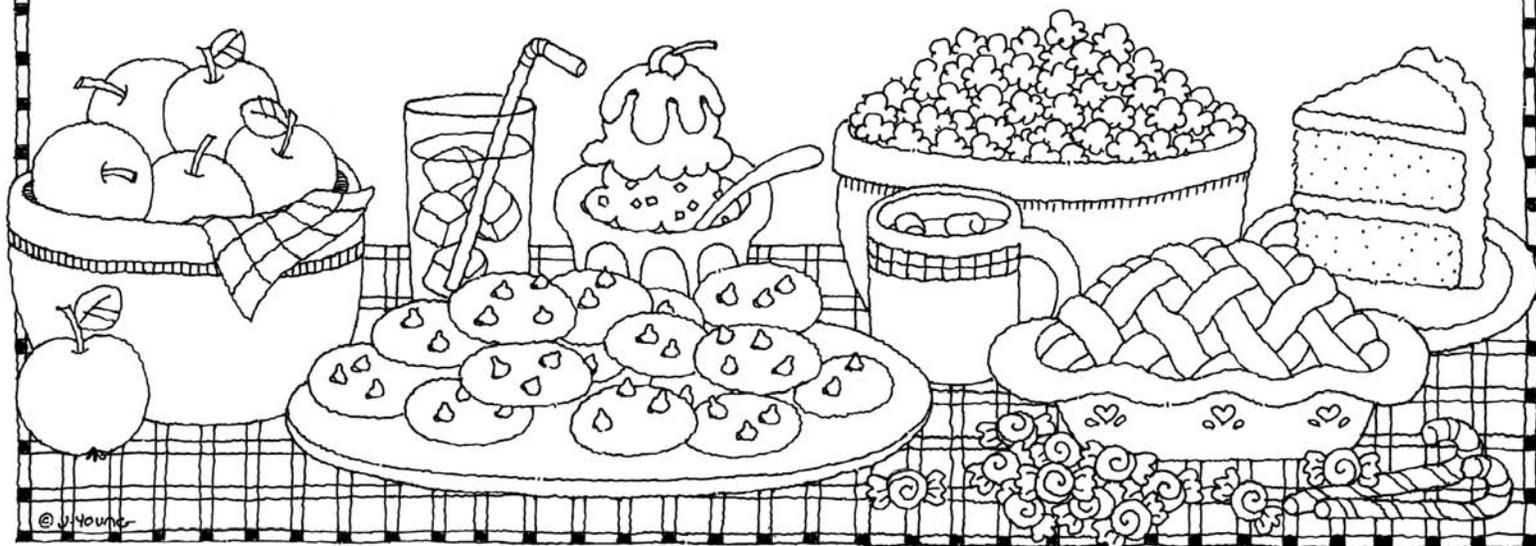
Refreshment

Mystery Dessert

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 egg
- 1 can fruit cocktail or other "mystery" fruit
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/2 cup brown sugar (to sprinkle on top)

Combine all ingredients, except brown sugar, in a baking dish. Level and top with brown sugar. Bake at 325° F. for 45 minutes. Tastes great topped with ice cream.

(Janene W. Baadsgaard, *The LDS Mother's Almanac*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003] p. 330.)



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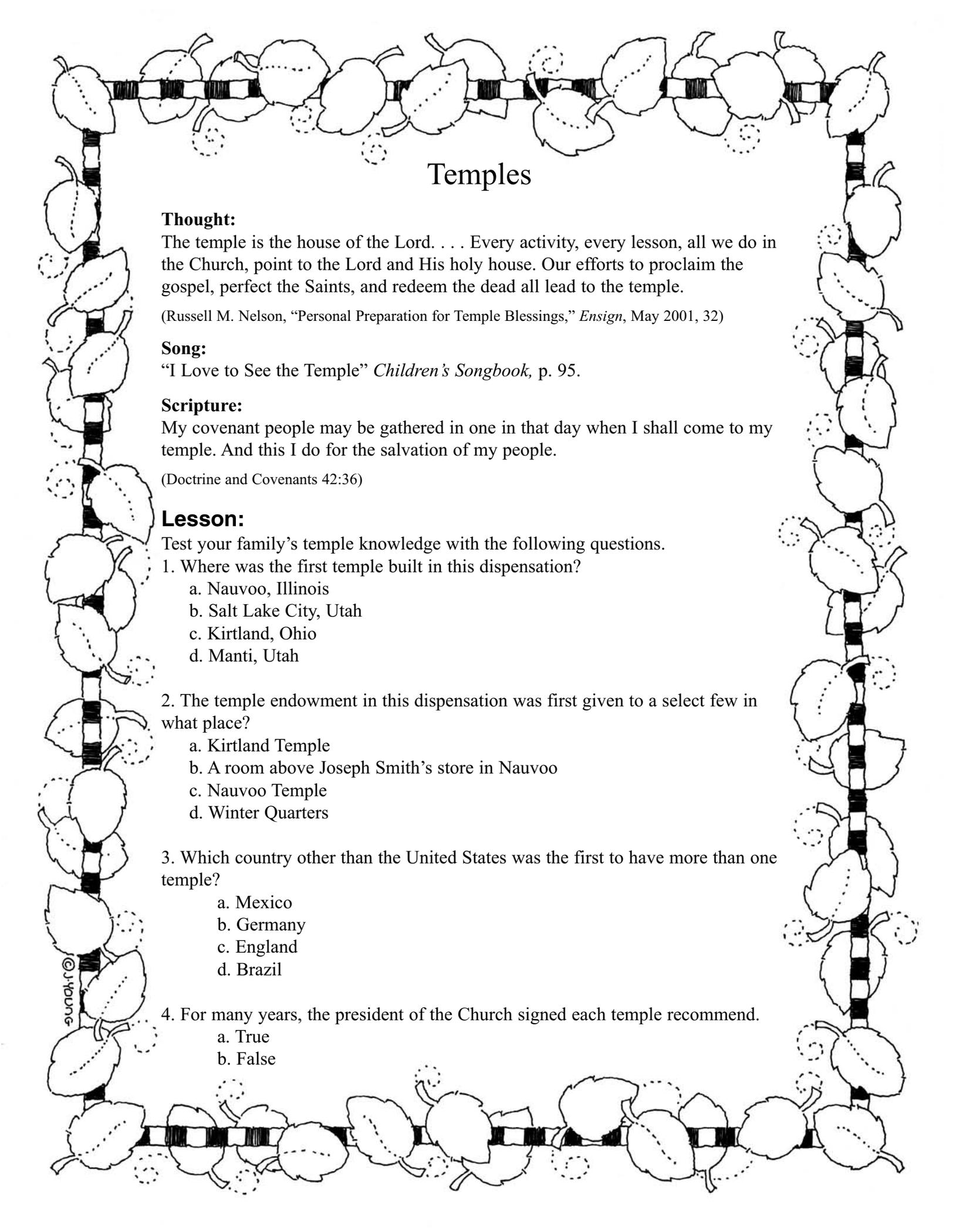
Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Temples

Packet #020306

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
- 3. Involvement.** Involve everyone in the family; help little children take part.
- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.



Temples

Thought:

The temple is the house of the Lord. . . . Every activity, every lesson, all we do in the Church, point to the Lord and His holy house. Our efforts to proclaim the gospel, perfect the Saints, and redeem the dead all lead to the temple.

(Russell M. Nelson, "Personal Preparation for Temple Blessings," *Ensign*, May 2001, 32)

Song:

"I Love to See the Temple" *Children's Songbook*, p. 95.

Scripture:

My covenant people may be gathered in one in that day when I shall come to my temple. And this I do for the salvation of my people.

(Doctrine and Covenants 42:36)

Lesson:

Test your family's temple knowledge with the following questions.

1. Where was the first temple built in this dispensation?
 - a. Nauvoo, Illinois
 - b. Salt Lake City, Utah
 - c. Kirtland, Ohio
 - d. Manti, Utah
2. The temple endowment in this dispensation was first given to a select few in what place?
 - a. Kirtland Temple
 - b. A room above Joseph Smith's store in Nauvoo
 - c. Nauvoo Temple
 - d. Winter Quarters
3. Which country other than the United States was the first to have more than one temple?
 - a. Mexico
 - b. Germany
 - c. England
 - d. Brazil
4. For many years, the president of the Church signed each temple recommend.
 - a. True
 - b. False

5. The saints held general conference in the nearly completed Nauvoo Temple in October 1845.
 - a. True
 - b. False

6. In which temple did Lorenzo Snow see the Savior?
 - a. Manti Utah Temple
 - b. St. George Utah Temple
 - c. Logan Utah Temple
 - d. Salt Lake Temple

7. Joseph Fielding Smith was once president of the Salt Lake Temple.
 - a. True
 - b. False

8. What ordinances are performed in temples today?
 - a. Baptisms, confirmations, and priesthood ordinances
 - b. Washings and anointings
 - c. Endowments and sealings
 - d. All of the above

9. How many oxen hold up the baptismal fonts in latter-day temples? What do they represent?

10. Which temple is the tallest?
 - a. Los Angeles California
 - b. Salt Lake Temple
 - c. Washington D.C. Temple
 - d. Manti Utah Temple

11. What happened to the original Nauvoo Temple
 - a. It was burned
 - b. It was hit by a tornado
 - c. It was destroyed by flood
 - d. Both a and b

12. How many years was the Salt Lake Temple under construction?
 - a. 10
 - b. 25
 - c. 40
 - d. 30

13. Moses had a portable temple that the Israelites used as they traveled in the wilderness.
 - a. True
 - b. False

1.c, 2.b, 3.b, 4.a, 5.a, 6.d, 7.a, 8.d, 9.Twelve, The Tribes of Israel, 10.c (288 feet), 11.d, 12.c, 13.a
(Chad Hawkins, *Youth and the Temple*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 2002], p. 119–126.)

Story:

Brother Kimball, Have You Ever Been to Heaven?

(Spencer W. Kimball)

More than once I have repeated an experience I had in getting my portrait painted. Lee Greene Richards was selected as the artist, and we began immediately. I sat on a chair on an elevated platform in his studio and tried very hard to look handsome. . . . With paints, brushes, and palette ready, the artist scrutinized my features and daubed on the canvas. I returned many times to the studio, finally the portrait was near completion. This particular day was a busy one like most others. I suppose I was daydreaming, and quite detached from this world. Apparently he had difficulty translating my faraway gaze onto the canvas. I saw the artist lay down his palette and paints, fold his arms, and look straight at me, and I was shocked out of my dreaming by the abrupt question: “Brother Kimball, have you ever been to heaven?”

My answer seemed to be a shock of equal magnitude to him as I said without hesitation: “Why, yes, Brother Richards, certainly. I had a glimpse of heaven just before coming to your studio.” I saw him assume a relaxed position and look intently at me, with wonder in his eyes. I continued:

“Yes. Just an hour ago. I was in the holy temple across the way. The sealing room was shut off from the noisy world by its thick, white-painted walls; the drapes, light and warm; the furniture, neat and dignified; the mirrors on two opposite walls seeming to take one in continuous likenesses on and on into infinity; and the beautiful stained-glass window in front of me giving such a peaceful glow. All the people in the room were dressed in white. Here were peace and harmony and eager anticipation. A well-groomed young man and an exquisitely gowned young woman, lovely beyond description, knelt across the altar. Authoritatively, I pronounced the heavenly ceremony which married and sealed them for eternity on earth and in the celestial worlds. The pure in heart were there. Heaven was there.

(Leon R. Hartshorn, *Classic Stories from the Lives of Our Prophets*)

Activity:

Play “*Hunt the Ring*.”

“It” stands in the middle of a circle of players. A piece of string long enough to go around the circle is slipped through a ring and the ends tied. All players in the circle grasp the string. “It” counts to ten with eyes closed so as not to see the ring passed initially. The ring is concealed under a player’s hand and is passed from player to player. “It” must find the player under whose hand the ring is concealed. The player caught with the ring becomes “it.”

Explain to your family that a ring is a symbol of eternity, since it has no beginning and no end. The temple is where we are able to make eternal covenants and become a forever family.

(Alma Heaton, *The LDS Game Book*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1968], p. 95.)

Refreshment

Meltaway Cookies

These cookies literally melt in your mouth.

- 1 cup butter
- 3/4 cup cornstarch
- 3/4 cup powdered sugar
- 1 cup flour
- 1 recipe Cream Cheese Frosting (see below)

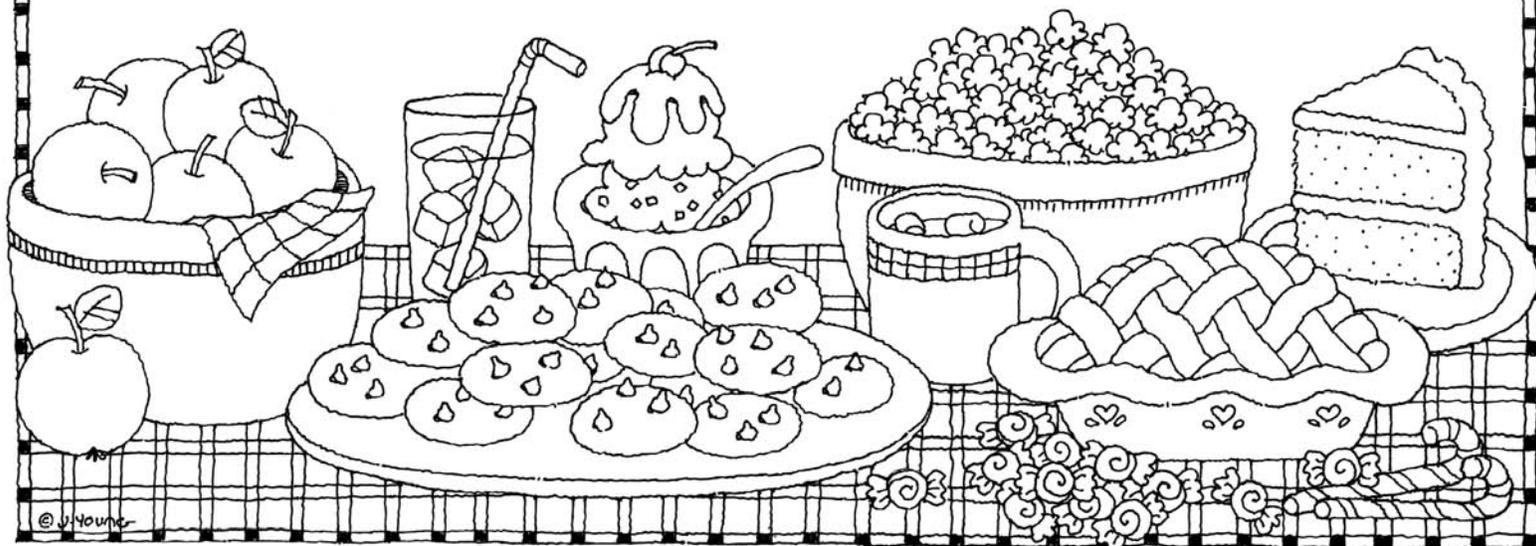
In a medium bowl cream butter until fluffy. Add cornstarch and sugar and blend well. Beat in flour until thoroughly mixed. Drop by small teaspoons onto baking sheet and flatten out with the bottom of a glass. (Dip glass in powdered sugar to prevent sticking). Bake at 350° F. for 10 to 12 minutes. Cool on wire rack and frost with Cream Cheese Frosting.

Cream Cheese Frosting

- 1 (3-ounce) package cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla

Mix all ingredients together. Color with food coloring if desired.

(Julie Badger Jensen, *The Essential Mormon Cookbook*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2004], p. 118.)



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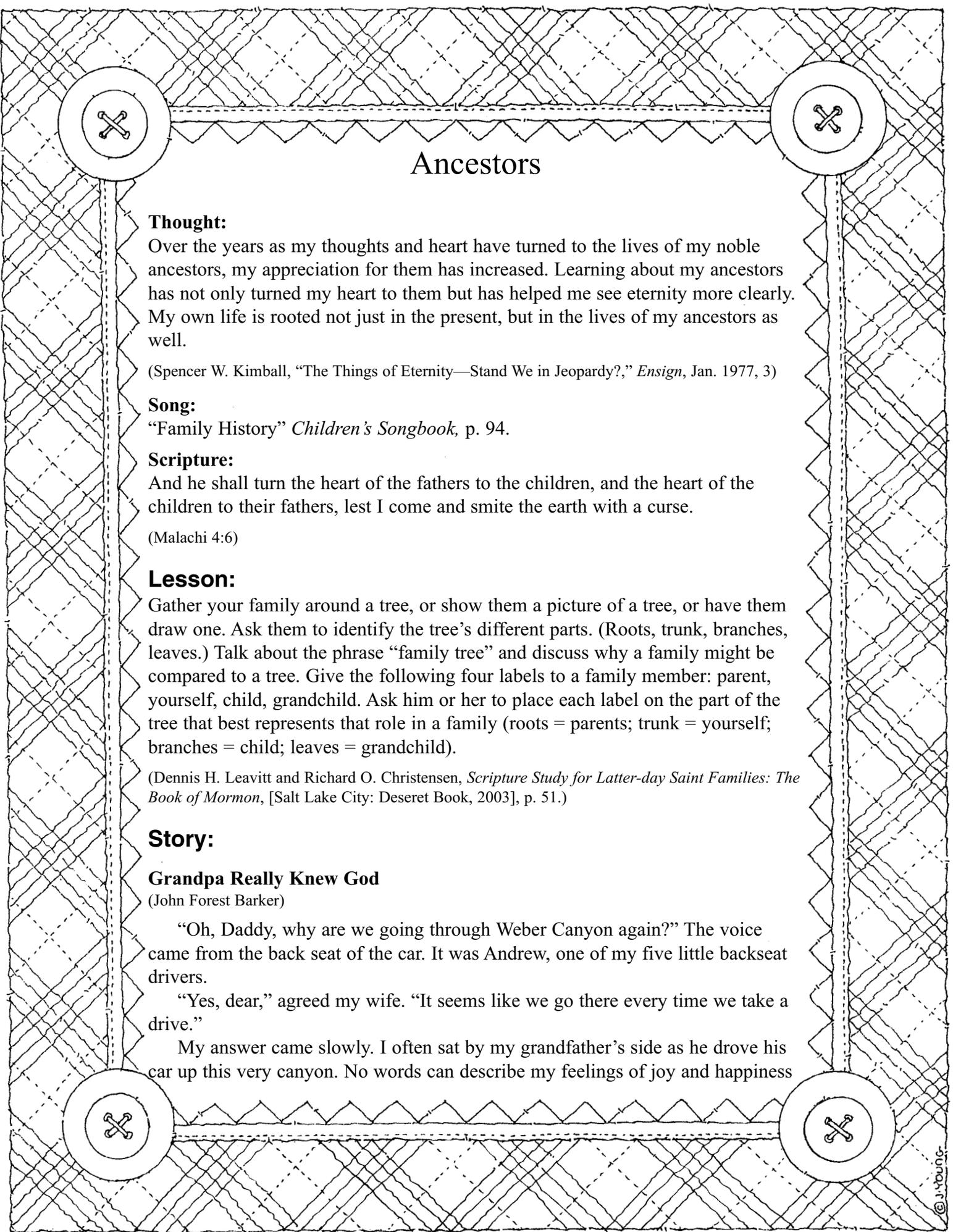
Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Ancestors

Packet #020406

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
- 3. Involvement.** Involve everyone in the family; help little children take part.
- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.



Ancestors

Thought:

Over the years as my thoughts and heart have turned to the lives of my noble ancestors, my appreciation for them has increased. Learning about my ancestors has not only turned my heart to them but has helped me see eternity more clearly. My own life is rooted not just in the present, but in the lives of my ancestors as well.

(Spencer W. Kimball, "The Things of Eternity—Stand We in Jeopardy?," *Ensign*, Jan. 1977, 3)

Song:

"Family History" *Children's Songbook*, p. 94.

Scripture:

And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

(Malachi 4:6)

Lesson:

Gather your family around a tree, or show them a picture of a tree, or have them draw one. Ask them to identify the tree's different parts. (Roots, trunk, branches, leaves.) Talk about the phrase "family tree" and discuss why a family might be compared to a tree. Give the following four labels to a family member: parent, yourself, child, grandchild. Ask him or her to place each label on the part of the tree that best represents that role in a family (roots = parents; trunk = yourself; branches = child; leaves = grandchild).

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The Book of Mormon*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 51.)

Story:

Grandpa Really Knew God

(John Forest Barker)

"Oh, Daddy, why are we going through Weber Canyon again?" The voice came from the back seat of the car. It was Andrew, one of my five little backseat drivers.

"Yes, dear," agreed my wife. "It seems like we go there every time we take a drive."

My answer came slowly. I often sat by my grandfather's side as he drove his car up this very canyon. No words can describe my feelings of joy and happiness

as I rode along with Grandpa.

Moments passed in silence as I drove along reminiscing. “Daddy,” said Andrew, finally, “tell us what you are thinking.”

“I was remembering how your great-grandfather used to bring me up here years ago. I loved to go with him. Most often we started out to go fishing, but many times the trip became a nature hike, a history tour, or a lesson in developing the ability to enjoy people.

“I remember days when the fish were not biting and how restless I would get. I can almost hear Grandpa’s voice, ‘Now, Sonny, the fish can’t help it if they’re not hungry.’ Then, after a long pause, ‘You know, some of the helpers the Savior chose were fishermen. He chose them partly because they had learned to be patient. Now you be patient too, like a good fisherman. Sit down here and I’ll tell you something.’ I would sit down by him on an old drift log, pole in hand, and listen. At times like this Grandpa would talk about a rock he had found, a plant, an animal, or an interesting person. Above all, his stories showed how God loves everything, and how we should respect every living thing.

“I’ll never be able to remember the names of all the people Grandpa introduced me to. But I will remember the pleasure written on their faces when they saw him and said, ‘Well, Bishop, how are you?’ You could just feel the respect he had for them. At times we would go a mile or so out of our way to meet a sheepherder in the mountains. I could tell he had great respect for these people by the tone of his voice and the eagerness he showed to see them. As I grew older I came to understand what he was really doing. He was obeying the two great commandments, first to love God and second to love your neighbor.

“Over the years I slowly came to think that Grandpa really knew God, that he was—well—a sort of partner with him. He always seemed to know what God wanted, and he tried to walk in his way.

“One day in October my brother and I were picking apples with Grandpa. Whenever he found an apple with a worm hole in it, he would put it in his pocket. After he had collected several, he called, ‘Hey boys! Come down here a minute.’ Handing us the apples and pointing to the corn silo a distance away he said, ‘Let’s see if you can throw these into the silo.’ We talked about going into the mountains the next Saturday and made plans. Somehow he didn’t show quite the interest he had on past occasions.

“That’s how we spent the day the last time we were with Grandpa. He said good-bye to us, and we walked home. He went to the house. He told Grandma he would go out to the garden and cut the flowers for the dining room table. As Grandpa knelt down to cut the flowers with his pocketknife he looked up, smiled, and winked at Grandma standing at the window. Then he died—no pain, no struggle—he just passed on.”

As I finished my story, there was silence in the car for a moment. Then Andrew, our five-year-old, said, “Daddy, I like to ride up Weber Canyon.”

We all laughed. We knew what he meant.

(Leon R. Hartshorn, *Powerful Stories from the Lives of Latter-day Saint Men*)

Activity:

Play “Grandfather’s Grocery Store.”

“It” says “my grandfather owns a grocery store and in his store he has . . .” and then give a clue about the item you are thinking of. The other family members ask questions until they get it right.

(David C. Dollahite, *Strengthening Our Families*, [Brigham Young University: School of Family Life, 2000], p. 326.)

Refreshment

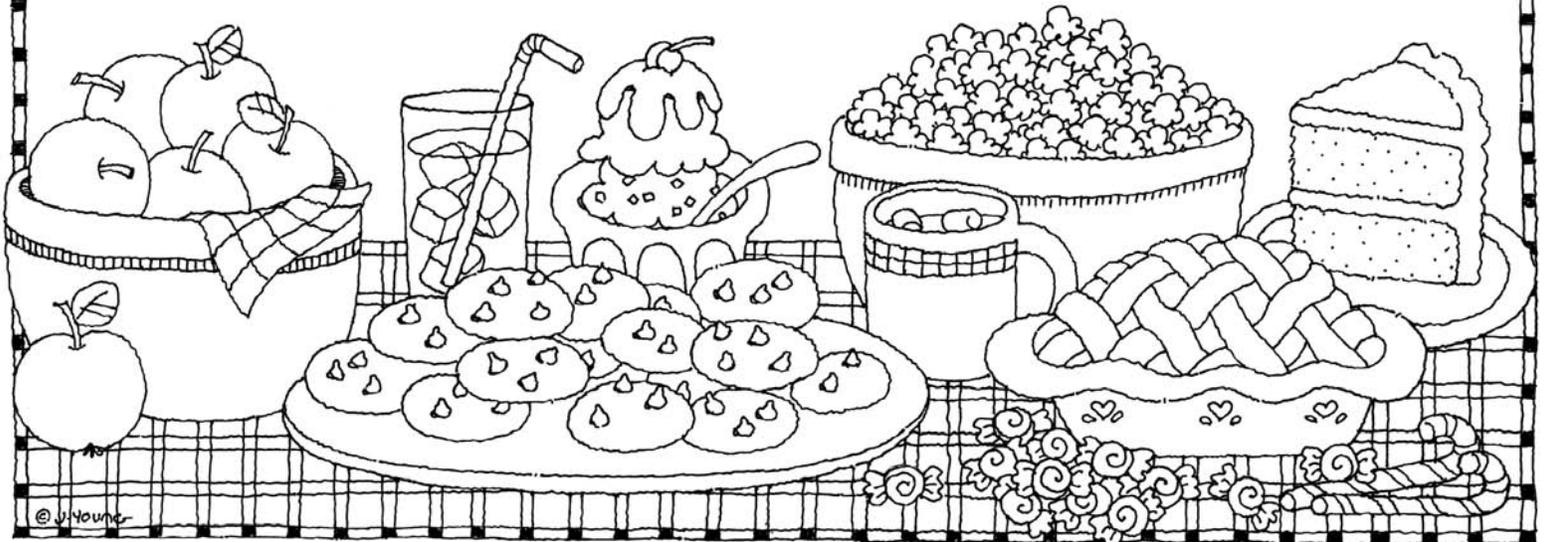
Old Fashioned Apple Pie

Pastry for 1 two-crust pie
4 cups peeled and sliced cooking apples
1 cup sugar
1/4 cup flour
1 teaspoon cinnamon

1/8 teaspoon nutmeg
2 tablespoons butter
Milk
Sugar and cinnamon

Prepare pastry for two-crust pie, using your favorite recipe or purchased crust. Line a 9-inch pie plates with bottom pastry crust; roll out top crust. In a large bowl, combine apple slices, sugar, flour, cinnamon, and nutmeg. Mix well. Spoon into lined pie plate, and dot with butter. Adjust top crust over filling, trimming excess pastry. Make several slits in top crust so steam can escape; then brush lightly with milk and sprinkle with sugar and cinnamon. Bake at 400 degrees for 45 minutes or until pastry is golden brown. Serves 6 to 8.

(Paula Julander and Joanne Milner, *Utah State Fare*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 1995], p. 45.)



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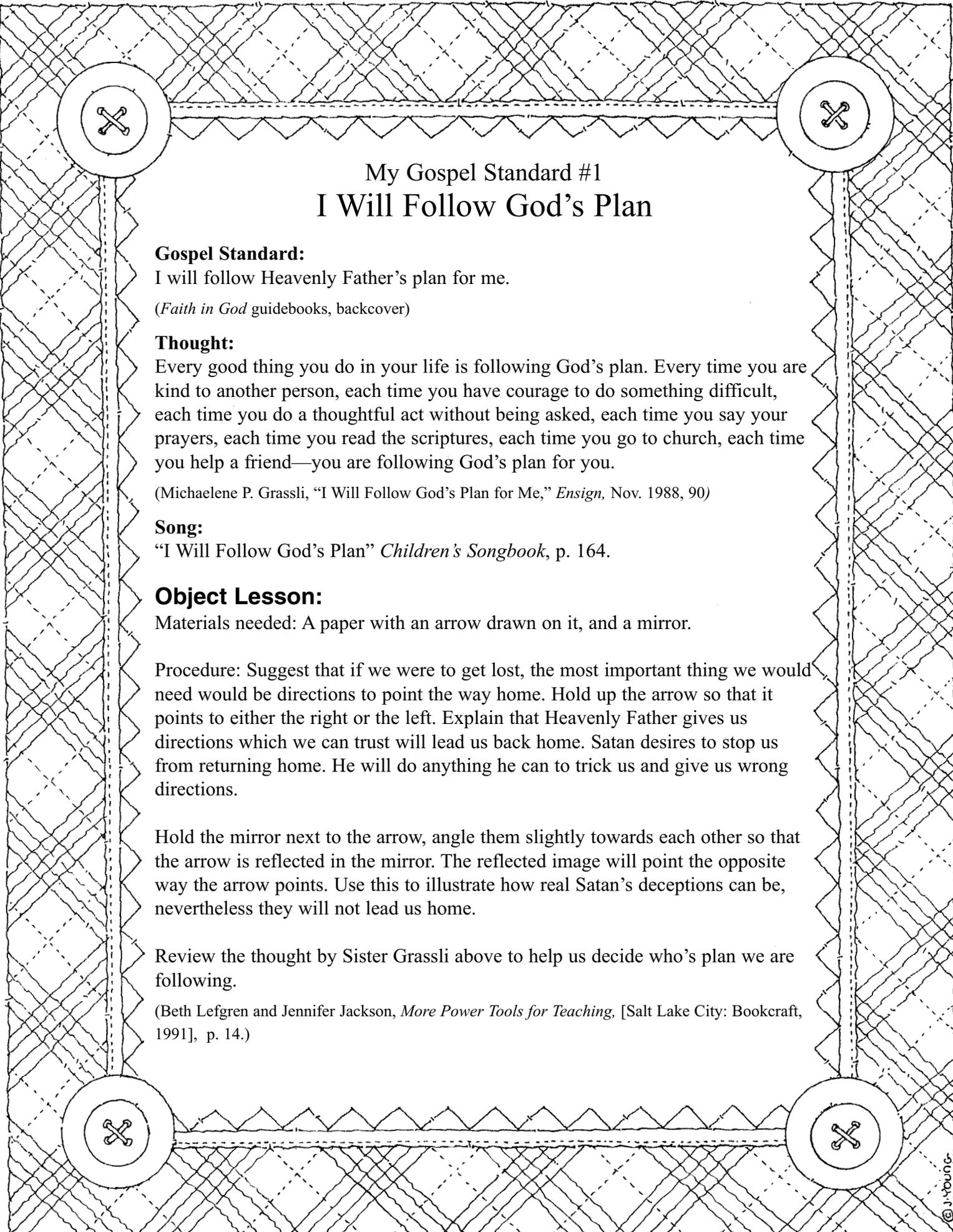
Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: I Will Follow God's Plan

Packet #010107

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
- 3. Involvement.** Involve everyone in the family; help little children take part.
- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.



My Gospel Standard #1 I Will Follow God's Plan

Gospel Standard:

I will follow Heavenly Father's plan for me.

(*Faith in God* guidebooks, backcover)

Thought:

Every good thing you do in your life is following God's plan. Every time you are kind to another person, each time you have courage to do something difficult, each time you do a thoughtful act without being asked, each time you say your prayers, each time you read the scriptures, each time you go to church, each time you help a friend—you are following God's plan for you.

(Michaelene P. Grassli, "I Will Follow God's Plan for Me," *Ensign*, Nov. 1988, 90)

Song:

"I Will Follow God's Plan" *Children's Songbook*, p. 164.

Object Lesson:

Materials needed: A paper with an arrow drawn on it, and a mirror.

Procedure: Suggest that if we were to get lost, the most important thing we would need would be directions to point the way home. Hold up the arrow so that it points to either the right or the left. Explain that Heavenly Father gives us directions which we can trust will lead us back home. Satan desires to stop us from returning home. He will do anything he can to trick us and give us wrong directions.

Hold the mirror next to the arrow, angle them slightly towards each other so that the arrow is reflected in the mirror. The reflected image will point the opposite way the arrow points. Use this to illustrate how real Satan's deceptions can be, nevertheless they will not lead us home.

Review the thought by Sister Grassli above to help us decide who's plan we are following.

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *More Power Tools for Teaching*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1991], p. 14.)

Story:

When I was a girl of about ten, one summer afternoon a friend and I took blankets and crackers out into the hayfield behind our Idaho home. The hay, in the middle of the summer, was sweet-smelling, lush, and so tall that when we spread our blankets in the middle of the field, we could sit on our blankets and eat crackers with the hay making a wall around us and hiding us from sight. There we were in a world all of our own.

We liked to pick the dandelions that grew large and abundantly there. We split their stems lengthwise—have any of you ever done that?—and submerged the stems in the water of the irrigation ditch. As we watched, the dandelion stems began to curl from the end. We split the stem a little farther, and each piece curled until the entire stem was a fluff of curly fibers.

It was an afternoon of wonder for us. We were there all alone under that bright, blue, clean, warm sky. It seemed as if God had created this day and dandelion stems especially for us to enjoy. I said to my friend, “Don’t you just feel happy inside?”

My friend looked at me and said, “No, I don’t.”

I was shattered by her blunt, almost emotionless statement. “Why?” I exclaimed.

“Because it won’t last,” she said. “You can be happy for a minute, but not for very long. Life just doesn’t make sense to me.”

I didn’t know what to say to my friend that day, but I do now. . . .

I wish that day in the green hayfield that I had been able to help my friend. I knew the plan, but I didn’t know that was what she needed to hear. Life would have made sense to her had she known Heavenly Father’s plan. I hope someone taught her. I wish I had been the one. Today’s world needs [children] who know the purpose of life and who can with courage and sincerity make a declaration of their determination to follow God.

(Michaelene P. Grassli, “I Will Follow God’s Plan for Me,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1988, 90)

Activity:

Blindfold everyone in the family except for one person. He is the captain. Line up everyone but the captain single file with each members’ hands on the shoulders of the person in front of them. Have the captain set up a route with pillows that represent dangerous reefs. Mark off the harbor on the far side of the room. The captain cannot lead the team, but must call out instructions from a distance. He calls out signals to the “ship” to help them navigate across the room among the pillows and into the harbor. Take turns being the captain. Discuss how important it is to listen to the directions the captain gives you so you can make it into the harbor safely. Compare this to following Heavenly Father’s plan for us.

(adapted from George and Jeane Chipman, *Games! Games! Games!*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 1983], p. 110.)

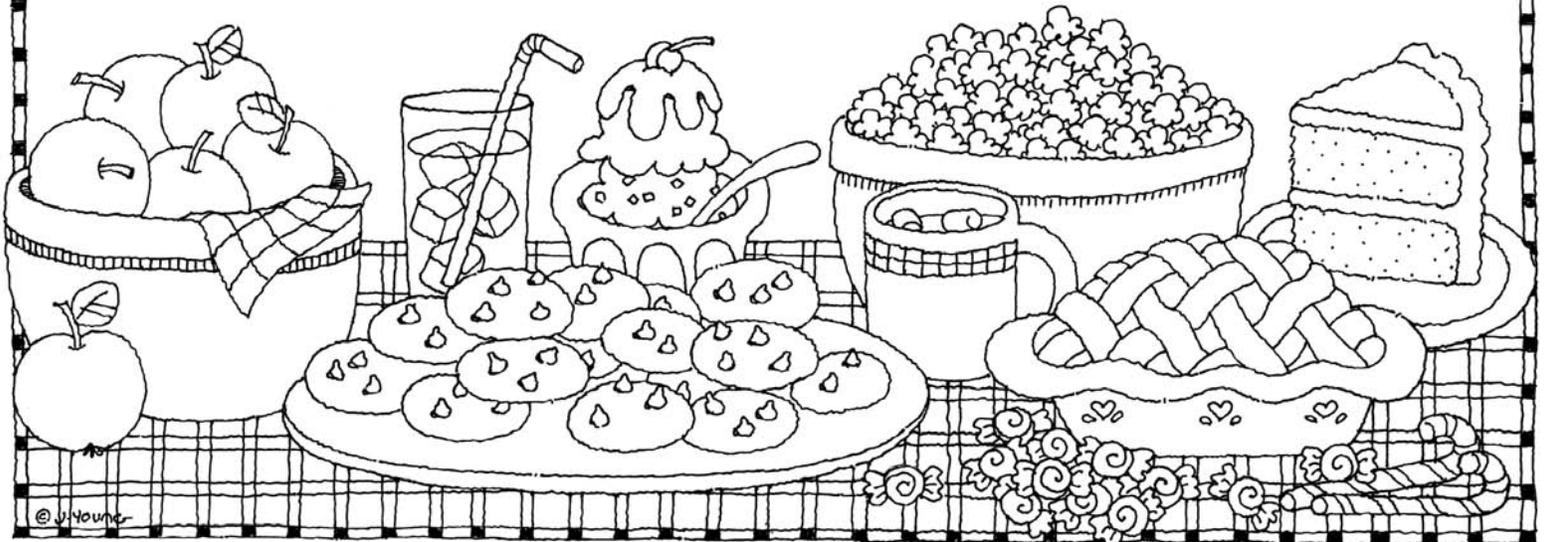
Refreshment

Peanut Butter Cookies

- 5 1/4 cups flour
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup butter
- 3/4 cup shortening
- 1 3/4 cups sugar
- 1 3/4 cups brown sugar
- 4 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 3/4 cup peanut butter

Line cookie sheet with waxed paper; set aside. In medium bowl, mix flour, baking soda, and salt; set aside. In large mixing bowl, cream butter, shortening, sugar, brown sugar, eggs, and vanilla. Stir in peanut butter. Add flour mixture and stir until well blended. Drop dough by tablespoonfuls onto cookie sheet. Using fork dipped in flour, flatten each cookie slightly in a crisscross pattern. Bake at 350 degrees for 8 to 10 minutes or until slightly golden around the edges. Do not overbake. Makes 5 dozen 3-inch cookies.

(*Lion House Classics*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 2004], p. 110.)



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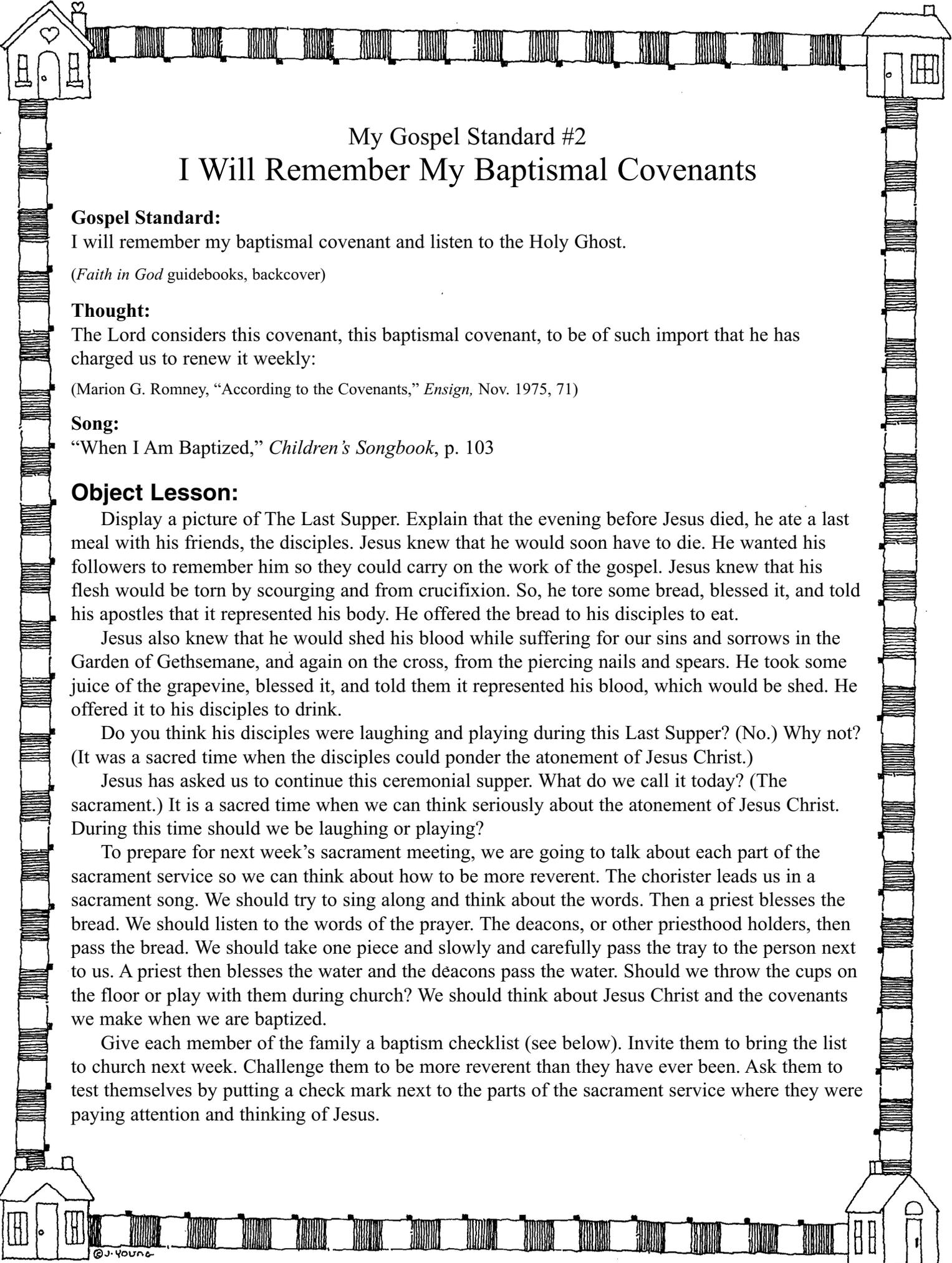
Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: I Will Remember My Baptismal Covenants

Packet #010207

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
- 3. Involvement.** Involve everyone in the family; help little children take part.
- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.



My Gospel Standard #2

I Will Remember My Baptismal Covenants

Gospel Standard:

I will remember my baptismal covenant and listen to the Holy Ghost.

(*Faith in God* guidebooks, backcover)

Thought:

The Lord considers this covenant, this baptismal covenant, to be of such import that he has charged us to renew it weekly:

(Marion G. Romney, "According to the Covenants," *Ensign*, Nov. 1975, 71)

Song:

"When I Am Baptized," *Children's Songbook*, p. 103

Object Lesson:

Display a picture of The Last Supper. Explain that the evening before Jesus died, he ate a last meal with his friends, the disciples. Jesus knew that he would soon have to die. He wanted his followers to remember him so they could carry on the work of the gospel. Jesus knew that his flesh would be torn by scourging and from crucifixion. So, he tore some bread, blessed it, and told his apostles that it represented his body. He offered the bread to his disciples to eat.

Jesus also knew that he would shed his blood while suffering for our sins and sorrows in the Garden of Gethsemane, and again on the cross, from the piercing nails and spears. He took some juice of the grapevine, blessed it, and told them it represented his blood, which would be shed. He offered it to his disciples to drink.

Do you think his disciples were laughing and playing during this Last Supper? (No.) Why not? (It was a sacred time when the disciples could ponder the atonement of Jesus Christ.)

Jesus has asked us to continue this ceremonial supper. What do we call it today? (The sacrament.) It is a sacred time when we can think seriously about the atonement of Jesus Christ. During this time should we be laughing or playing?

To prepare for next week's sacrament meeting, we are going to talk about each part of the sacrament service so we can think about how to be more reverent. The chorister leads us in a sacrament song. We should try to sing along and think about the words. Then a priest blesses the bread. We should listen to the words of the prayer. The deacons, or other priesthood holders, then pass the bread. We should take one piece and slowly and carefully pass the tray to the person next to us. A priest then blesses the water and the deacons pass the water. Should we throw the cups on the floor or play with them during church? We should think about Jesus Christ and the covenants we make when we are baptized.

Give each member of the family a baptism checklist (see below). Invite them to bring the list to church next week. Challenge them to be more reverent than they have ever been. Ask them to test themselves by putting a check mark next to the parts of the sacrament service where they were paying attention and thinking of Jesus.

- I can sing the sacrament song.
- I can listen to the sacrament prayers.
- I can take the sacrament reverently.
- I can think of the life of Jesus Christ.
- I can think of the death of Jesus Christ.
- I can think of my baptismal covenant.

(Christena C. Nelson, *I Will Make and Keep My Baptismal Covenant*, [Salt Lake City: Eagle Gate, 2000], p. 39.)

Story:

The Baptism of Elder Angel Abrea

Angel, the oldest of the two sons of Edealo and Zulema Estrada Abrea, was born September 13, 1933, in the sprawling Argentine metropolis of Buenos Aires. The Abreas were a close, loving family, whose principles of morality, integrity, and hard work were taught by example. Edealo and Zulema respected and supported each other as well as their sons, Angel and his brother, Oscar, who was seven years younger.

Edealo, a salesman and businessman with an interest in politics, once served as the mayor of a smaller Argentine city. Zulema, like her husband, was very proud of her children and encouraged them to succeed, convincing them of the importance of obtaining a good education. Though she wanted Angel to have some exposure to religion, she didn't want him to attend the Catholic Church, the religion of 90 percent of her countrymen. Instead she sent him to a Lutheran primary school and occasionally to Lutheran meetings on Sunday. But she was not really satisfied with that, and the family seemed to be "waiting for something to believe in," Elder Abrea recalled later.

Then one day Zulema invited in two sister missionaries from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints who had knocked on her door. She was immediately interested in their message and, at their suggestion, began reading the Book of Mormon with nine-year-old Angel. Though he didn't understand everything he read, he had a special feeling about the book. A year later, in 1943, Zulema and Angel were baptized. Oscar, then three years old, was baptized when he turned eight. Zulema and her sons attended all of their meetings, walking two miles to the rented house where the tiny local branch met.

From the beginning, Edealo Abrea fully supported his wife and sons and was a staunch defender of the Church, though he never became a member himself. Early one Sunday morning he taught Angel a valuable lesson. About a year after Angel's baptism, he woke up on a Sunday morning and decided he didn't feel like walking the distance to the meeting place. "I think maybe I'll stay home today," he informed his mother. Sitting on his son's bed, Edealo told his son, "Angel, if you are going to be a member of that church, you are going to have to be loyal to all of the covenants you made when you were baptized. You made a commitment, and you will have to honor it. Now get up, get dressed, and go to church."

(Derin Head Rodriguez, *From Every Nation: Faith-Promoting Personal Stories of General Authorities from Around the World*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1990].)

Activities:

Give everyone a pencil and piece of paper. Keep the people as quiet as possible and have them record on their paper all the sounds they hear in the next five minutes. (This game works especially well outside.) After five minutes are up, the person with the most things on his list is the winner. Let each person read his list. Liken this to listening to the Holy Ghost.

(Alma Heaton, *The LDS Game Book*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1968], p. 139.)

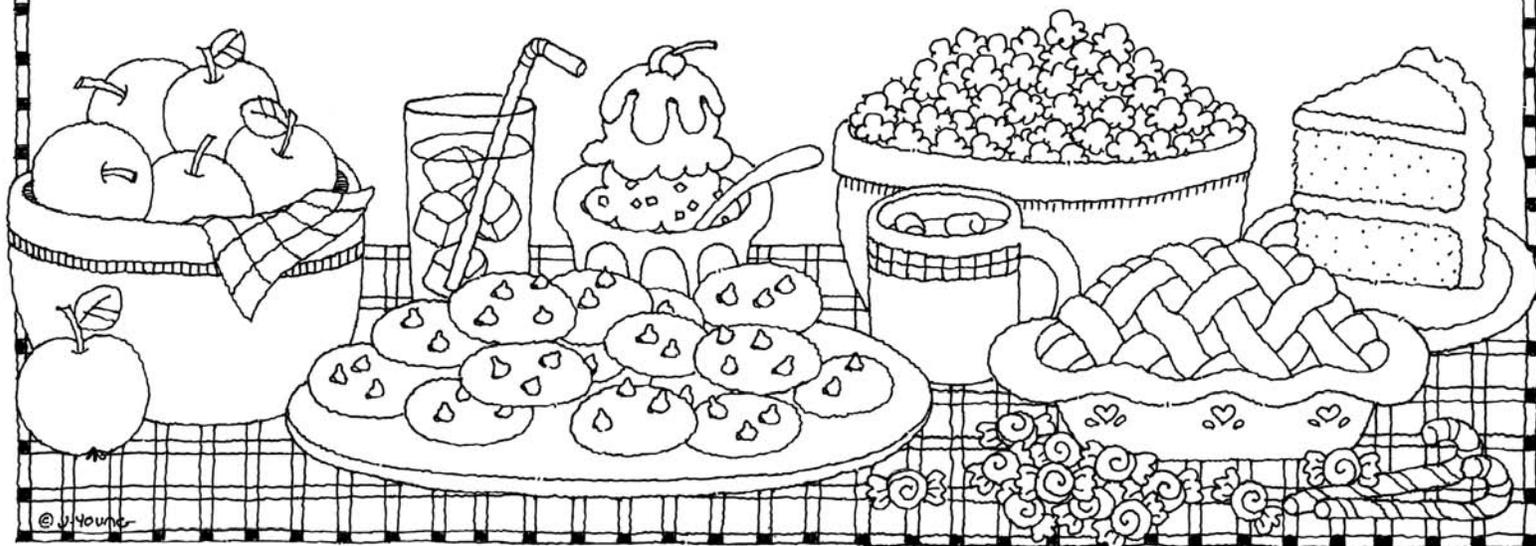
Refreshment

Toffee Torte

- 1 package devil's food cake mix
- 1 16-ounce carton frozen whipped topping
- 1/3 cup chocolate syrup
- 7 English toffee bars (Heath® or Skor®), crushed

Grease and flour two 9-inch round cake pans. Prepare and bake the cake according to package directions. Cool on a wire rack. (If time permits the cakes can be frozen for easier handling.) Carefully cut each layer horizontally to make 2 layers. Place thawed whipped topping in a bowl and fold in chocolate syrup and 6 of the crushed candy bars. Place one layer of the cake on a serving plate and spread with topping mixture. Repeat with the remaining 3 layers. Frost the sides and top with the topping mixture. Sprinkle the remaining crushed bar on top of the cake.

(*Lion House Dessert*, [Salt Lake City: Eagle Gate, 2000] p. 25.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: I Will Choose the Right

Packet #010307

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
- 3. Involvement.** Involve everyone in the family; help little children take part.
- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
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My Gospel Standard #3 I Will Choose the Right

Gospel Standard:

I will choose the right. I know I can repent when I make a mistake.

(*Faith in God* guidebooks, backcover)

Thought:

Heavenly Father will help you choose the right. You are a child of God, and He wants you to return to live with Him again. Remember, you can pray to Heavenly Father anytime, anywhere, and He will bless you with courage to choose the right.

(Margaret S. Lufferth, First Counselor in the Primary General Presidency)

Song:

“Choose the Right Way,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 160.

Lesson:

Ask the family if they have ever seen a growth chart (If you have one show it). Sometimes families like to keep a record of how their children are growing. (Ask a child to demonstrate the procedure with you.) They stand the child against a chart that is taped to the wall, place a book or ruler horizontally on the child’s head, and mark where the ruler touches the chart. They list the date they measured the child. By doing this periodically, they create a record of growth.

Just as we grow physically, we can also grow spiritually. Every time we choose the right, our faith in Jesus Christ gets bigger and stronger.

Mark a piece of paper into 1-inch segments. As you tell the following story, have family members mark Nephi’s spiritual growth on the paper with a crayon or marker.

Nephi prayed to know the truth. The Lord softened his heart and he believed. He did not rebel when his family had to leave Jerusalem.

Nephi returned to the city and obtained the brass plates. He did not give up, even though his brothers attacked him and Laban tried to kill him.

Nephi believed the Lord could show him the vision of the tree of life. The Lord gave him that vision and helped him understand it.

When Nephi’s bow broke, instead of complaining he made a new bow and arrow and asked his father where he should go to find food.

Though he was not a shipbuilder, Nephi followed the Lord’s directions in building tools and a ship to take his family to the promised land.

Ask: what would it be like if we could measure our spiritual growth as we do our physical growth? One way to do this is to write down your experiences of choosing the right. As you get older and read those accounts, you will find that you have been spiritually maturing.

(Christena C. Nelson, *Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1998], p. 47.)

Story:

The Two Men Inside

An old Indian once asked a white man to give him some grain. The man gave him a small sack full.

The next day he came back and asked for the white man. "I found a dollar among the grain," he said.

"Why don't you keep it?" asked a bystander.

"I've got a good man and a bad man here," said the Indian, pointing to his chest, "and the good man said, 'It is not mine; give it back to the owner.' The bad man said, 'Never mind; you got it, and it is your own now.' The good man said, 'No, no, you must not keep it.' So I didn't know what to do and I tried to go to sleep, but the good and the bad men kept talking all night, and troubling me, and now I bring the money back so they can stop fighting and I can feel good."

(Rick Walton and Fen Oviatt, editors, *Stories for Mormons*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1983], p. 86.)

Activity:

Play "Steps to Heaven."

The first player says "I'm going on a trip to Heaven and the steps are ____." He then names something that will help him get to Heaven that begins with an "A." The second person says "I'm going on a trip to Heaven and the steps are ____." He then repeats what the person before him said and then names something that will help him get to Heaven that begins with a "B." Keep going until all the letters of the alphabet have been used.

Each person can come up with their own words. Here are some examples:

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| A. Attending Church | N. Nice |
| B. Baptism | O. Obedience |
| C. Celestial Living | P. Prayer |
| D. Dependability | Q. Quiet |
| E. Eternity | R. Repentance |
| F. Faith | S. Sunday School |
| G. Goodness | T. Tithing |
| H. Honesty | U. Unselfishness |
| I. Inspiration | V. Voice |
| J. Joy | W. Worship |
| K. Kindness | X. Excellence |
| L. Love | Y. Youth |
| M. Mission | Z. Zion |

Explain that each "step" is a choice to do what is right.

(Alma Heaton, *The LDS Game Book*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1968], p. 55.)

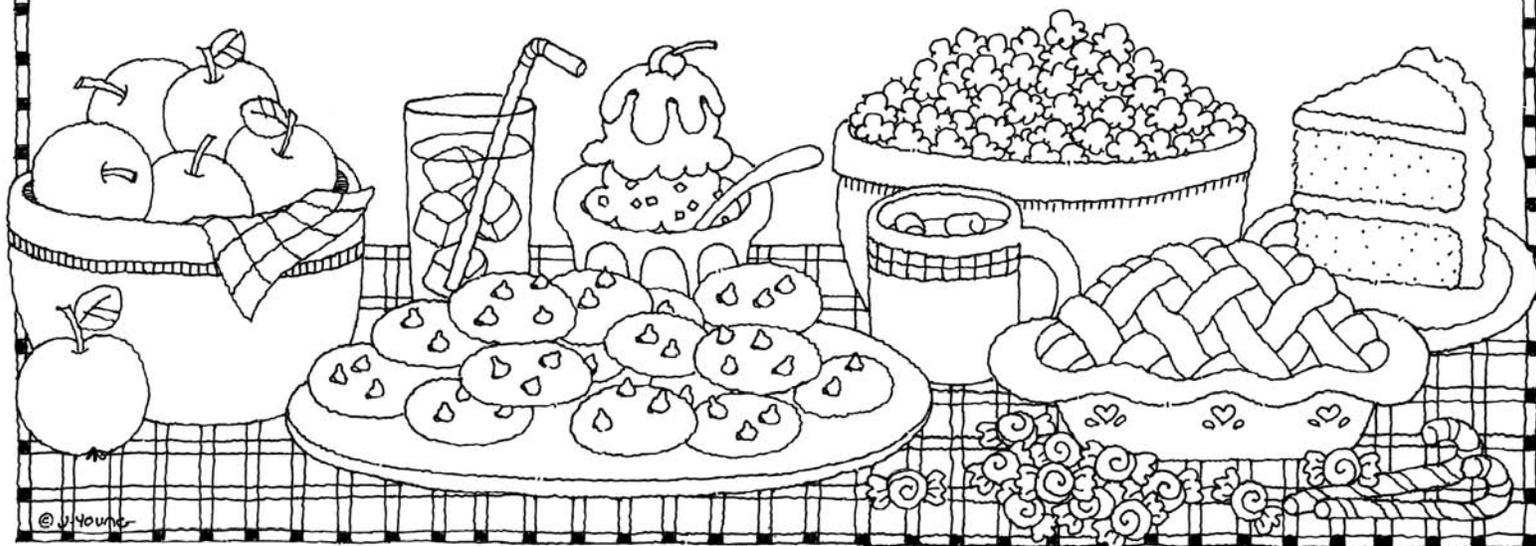
Refreshment

Chocolate Crackle Cookies

1/4	cup shortening, melted	2 1/2	cups flour
1/4	cup cocoa	1/2	teaspoon salt
1/2	cup oil	1 1/2	teaspoons baking powder
2	cups sugar	1/2	cup walnuts, chopped
4	eggs	1/2	cup chocolate chips (optional)
2	teaspoons vanilla	1/2 to 1	cup powdered sugar

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a large mixing bowl, cream together shortening, cocoa, oil, sugar, eggs, and vanilla until well mixed. Add flour, salt, and baking powder. Mix well, then add walnuts and chocolate chips, if desired. (Dough will be very sticky and almost runny.) Refrigerate dough for 2 to 3 hours or overnight. Drop and gently roll dough by tablespoonfuls in powdered sugar, being careful not to overhandle dough. Place on a greased or wax paper-covered cookie sheet. Bake for 9 to 10 minutes. Do not overbake. The cookie dough may be stored in the refrigerator for up to 5 days; baked cookies will store for at least 2 weeks, if well covered and refrigerated. These cookies freeze beautifully. Makes approximately 5 dozen cookies.

(*Lion House Classics*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 2004] p. 10.)



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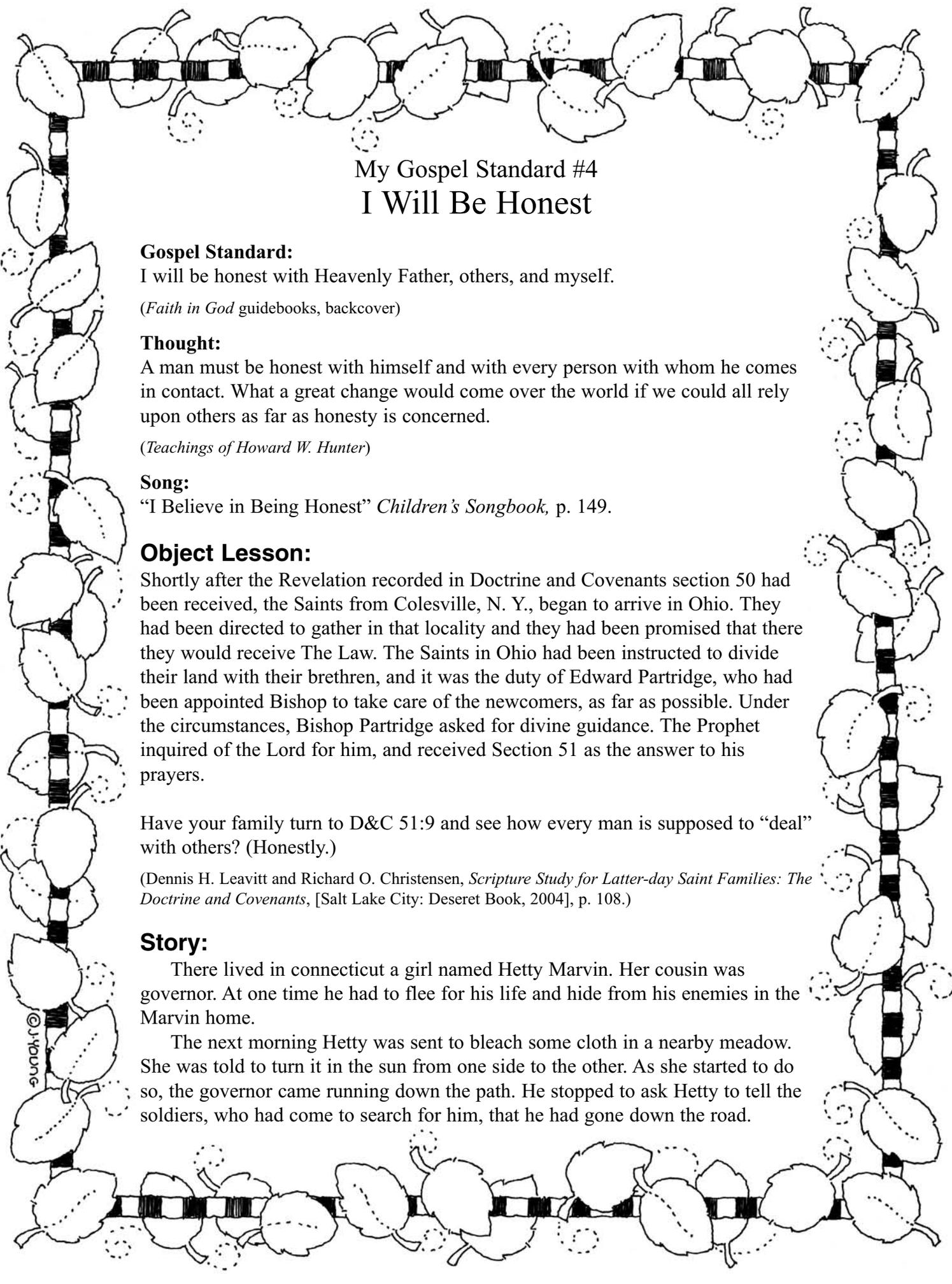
Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: I Will Be Honest

Packet #010407

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
- 3. Involvement.** Involve everyone in the family; help little children take part.
- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.



My Gospel Standard #4 I Will Be Honest

Gospel Standard:

I will be honest with Heavenly Father, others, and myself.

(*Faith in God* guidebooks, backcover)

Thought:

A man must be honest with himself and with every person with whom he comes in contact. What a great change would come over the world if we could all rely upon others as far as honesty is concerned.

(*Teachings of Howard W. Hunter*)

Song:

“I Believe in Being Honest” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 149.

Object Lesson:

Shortly after the Revelation recorded in Doctrine and Covenants section 50 had been received, the Saints from Colesville, N. Y., began to arrive in Ohio. They had been directed to gather in that locality and they had been promised that there they would receive The Law. The Saints in Ohio had been instructed to divide their land with their brethren, and it was the duty of Edward Partridge, who had been appointed Bishop to take care of the newcomers, as far as possible. Under the circumstances, Bishop Partridge asked for divine guidance. The Prophet inquired of the Lord for him, and received Section 51 as the answer to his prayers.

Have your family turn to D&C 51:9 and see how every man is supposed to “deal” with others? (Honestly.)

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The Doctrine and Covenants*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2004], p. 108.)

Story:

There lived in Connecticut a girl named Hetty Marvin. Her cousin was governor. At one time he had to flee for his life and hide from his enemies in the Marvin home.

The next morning Hetty was sent to bleach some cloth in a nearby meadow. She was told to turn it in the sun from one side to the other. As she started to do so, the governor came running down the path. He stopped to ask Hetty to tell the soldiers, who had come to search for him, that he had gone down the road.

“Then,” said the governor, “I’ll go the opposite direction down to the river, and they won’t be able to catch me.”

“I can’t do that,” answered Hetty, “for I’d be telling a lie.”

“But you must help me,” he begged, “or I may lose my life.”

“Hide under this pile of linen,” Hetty said, “and I won’t tell anyone where you are even if I am killed for it.”

The sound of horses coming toward them could be heard in the distance. “It’s my only chance,” he said. “I’ll get down as you say.”

The young girl covered him completely just as the soldiers on horseback rode up to her.

“Did you see a man running by here?” asked the captain.

Hetty nodded.

“Which way did he go, child?”

“I promised not to tell, sir.” said Hetty quietly.

“But you must,” said the captain, “or you’ll be punished.”

Hetty refused to answer even though others in the group tried to get her to do so. Finally one of the men said, “If you won’t tell us which way the governor went, then just tell us the last thing he said to you.”

“His last words were, ‘It’s my only chance. I’ll get down as you say.’”

The men nodded in silent agreement and then turned their horses toward the river, thinking the words went that the governor would get down to the river.

(Lucile C. Reading, *Shining Moments, Volume 2*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1987], p. 13.)

Activity:

Play “Live-the-Truth” game. Make a gameboard with 30 to 40 squares in a row. Write “Answer a question” on 12 to 15 of the spaces. Use a button or coin as your marker. Try to get from the “start” to the “finish.” Have the whole family work together as a team. Have family members take turns rolling a dice or spinning a spinner from a game you have at home and moving the marker the number of spaces indicated. When a person lands on “Answer a question,” he or she reads one of the questions on the list aloud. The other members, acting as the Spirit, encourage them by whispering together, “Live the truth. Live the truth. Choose the right. Live the truth.” The person then states what he or she would do. Continue until the marker reaches the finish. Reemphasize that to choose the right is to be honest, to live the truth.

1. Your parents want you to get an achievement award. You are tempted to lie and say you have done some of the requirements that you really haven’t completed. What will you do?
2. Some kids at school are making fun of “Mormons.” They ask you if you are one. What will you say?
3. You heard some gossip you are pretty sure is true. You think it would be exciting to pass it along to all your friends. What will you do?
4. Your mother asks you to deliver something to someone around the block. When you get to the next block, you cannot find the right place, so you go home. You are afraid your mom will be mad if you tell her what happened. You are thinking about just not saying anything and hoping she will not notice. What will you do?

5. You forgot about your Primary activity day. When your teacher asks you why you did not attend, you are embarrassed to tell her the truth. You are tempted to tell her you were sick. What will you say?
6. Your father tells you he will give you two dollars for every half hour that you spend weeding the garden. You are tempted to tell him it took longer than it really did, to get more money. What will you do?
7. It is the day of the school field trip, but you forgot all week to bring your money. When your teacher questions you about it, you are tempted to tell her you handed it in. What will you say?
8. You buy some candy at the store. The cashier gives you too much change back. What will you do?
9. You want your friends to think you are a good ball player. So when they ask you how you played, you are tempted to stretch the truth. What will you say?
10. You are tempted to change your report card before showing it to your parents. What will you do?
11. Your older brother asks you not to play with his video game. When he is gone, you are tempted to sneak in and play with it. What will you do?
12. Your teacher assigns you to write a poem. You do not enjoy writing. You are tempted to copy a poem your older sister wrote a few years ago. What will you do?
13. You find a wallet with \$50 in it. You are tempted to keep it, even though there is a name and address inside. What will you do?
14. Your parents are gone. You are tempted to watch a television show that they have asked you not to watch. What will you do?

(adapted from Christena C. Nelson, *Choose the Right*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1996], p. 80.)

Refreshment

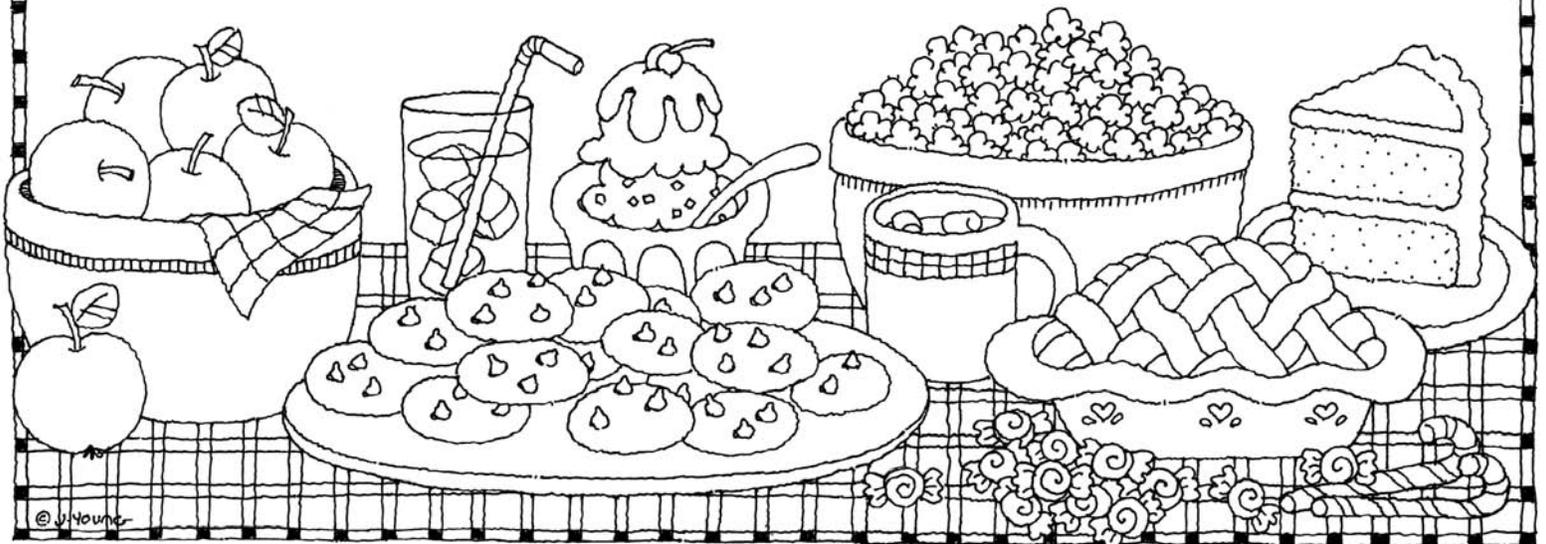
Speedy Cinnamon Sticks

These breadsticks are fast and fun.

- 1 loaf frozen bread dough
- 1/2 cup brown or white sugar
- 1 tablespoon cinnamon
- 1/4 cup butter, melted

Thaw frozen bread dough for about 3 hours. Mix sugar with cinnamon. Cut loaf lengthwise into 4 strips. Cut strips horizontally in thirds, making 12 strips. Combine sugar and cinnamon. Roll each piece of dough in butter, then in sugar cinnamon mixture. Stretch and twist. Place on greased baking sheet and let raise 1 hour; bake at 400° F. for about 12 minutes or until lightly browned; sprinkle with additional sugar. Makes 12 cinnamon sticks.

(Julie Badger Jensen, *The Essential Mormon Cookbook*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2004], p. 153.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Easter

Packet #040206

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
- 3. Involvement.** Involve everyone in the family; help little children take part.
- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.

Easter

Thought:

Easter is the celebration of the free gift of immortality given to all men, restoring life and healing all wounds. Though all will die as part of the eternal plan of growth and development, nevertheless we can all find comfort in the Psalmist's statement, "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning." (Ps. 30:5.)

(Howard W. Hunter, "An Apostle's Witness of the Resurrection," *Ensign*, May 1986, 15)

Song:

"Did Jesus Really Live Again?," *Children's Songbook*, p. 64.

Scripture:

And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.

He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

(Matthew 28:5-6)

Lesson:

Show the front page of the newspaper. The story that gets the highest or biggest headline on the front page is supposed to be the most important event or story of the day. Explain that they are going to learn about the most important event that has happened in the history of the world.

Tell the Easter story in your own words using Gospel Art Kit pictures: 227 Gethsemane, 230 The Crucifixion, and 233 Mary and the Resurrected Lord. Emphasize the important points of the Atonement and Resurrection through these stories.

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *Sharing Time, Family Time, Anytime: Book Two*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1994], p. 3.)

Story:

Don't Cry!

(David O. McKay)

When I was but a boy, several of us had been playing with firecrackers on Twenty-eighth street in Ogden. We did not know then that one of our playmates had powder in his pocket. . . . Unfortunately, in a moment of thoughtlessness, this young boy broke what we called a "lighter," and while it still had sparks in it, he put it in his pocket where the powder lay, and an explosion occurred. His clothes were set on fire, which we, his associates, tried to extinguish as best we could; but he was very severely and fatally burned.

Two or three days later his playmates sat in the funeral services. I chanced to be near enough to the mother to hear [the Stake President] say: "Don't cry, Ann! Don't cry! You'll meet your boy again." And then . . . a cry came from that mother . . . "Oh, if I only knew!"

No parent can lay aside a child without longing, . . . No husband can kneel at the side of a departed wife; no wife can kneel at the side of a departed husband; not child can depart with a loving parent without being filled with an ardent desire to meet that loved one again somewhere in a better world.

To sincere believers in Christianity, to all who accept Christ as their Savior, his resurrection is not a symbolism but a reality.

As Christ lived after death, so shall all men, each taking his place in the next world. . . . Because our Redeemer lives, so shall we.

(The Gift of the Atonement, [Salt Lake City: Eagle Gate, 2002], p. 81-2.)

Activity:

Read the scriptural passages as a family, then fill in the blanks.

John 19:38–42

1. _____ of Arimathaea was given the body of Jesus. (Joseph)
2. _____ brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes to anoint the body of Jesus. (Nicodemus)
3. In the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a _____. (garden)
4. The Jews _____ day (Sabbath) was nigh at hand. (preparation)

Matthew 27:62–66

5. The chief priests and _____ came to Pilate. (Pharisees)
6. They were afraid the disciples would _____ the body of Jesus and claim that he was resurrected. (steal)
7. Pilate let them seal the _____ and set a guard to watch the tomb. (stone)

Matthew 28:2–4

8. An _____ of the Lord rolled back the stone. (angel)
9. His face was like _____. (lightning)
10. The guards shook from fear and became as _____ men. (dead)

Matthew 28:11–15

11. Some of the soldiers told the _____ priests all that had happened. (chief)
12. The priests gave large sums of _____ to the soldiers to lie about what had happened. (money)
13. The soldiers' story that the disciples had stolen the body of Jesus was commonly _____ at the time Matthew wrote his book. (reported)

Matthew 27:52–53

14. Many _____ were opened and the bodies of dead saints were resurrected. (graves)
15. These saints went into the holy _____ (Jerusalem) and appeared to many. (city)

John 20:1–12

16. Mary Magdalene came to the tomb on the _____ day of the week. (first)
17. Mary ran and told _____ and the other disciple (John) that the tomb was empty. (Peter)
18. Both disciples ran to the tomb and saw the empty _____ clothes lying inside. (linen)

19. They did not understand the scripture that taught that Jesus would _____ again from the dead.
(rise)
20. The disciples left, but Mary stood at the sepulchre _____. (weeping)
21. She saw two _____ who asked her why she cried. (angels)

John 20:13–18

22. She then saw _____ but did not recognize him. (Jesus)
23. Jesus said, “_____, why weepest thou?” (Woman)
24. Mary thought Jesus was the _____ and she told him someone had taken the body of Jesus.
(gardener)
25. When Jesus said, “_____,” she turned and recognized him. (Mary)
26. Jesus told Mary not to hold or embrace him because he had not as yet _____ to his Father.
(ascended)
27. Mary told the disciples that she had seen the _____. (Lord)

Luke 24:36–39

28. Jesus appeared to the Apostles and said, “_____ be unto you.” (Peace)
29. The Apostles were frightened, thinking that Jesus was a _____. (spirit)
30. Jesus asked them to handle him and see that he was not a spirit but that he had a body of flesh and _____. (bones)

(Max H. Molgard and Allan K. Burgess, *The Best of Fun for Family Night*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 84-5.)

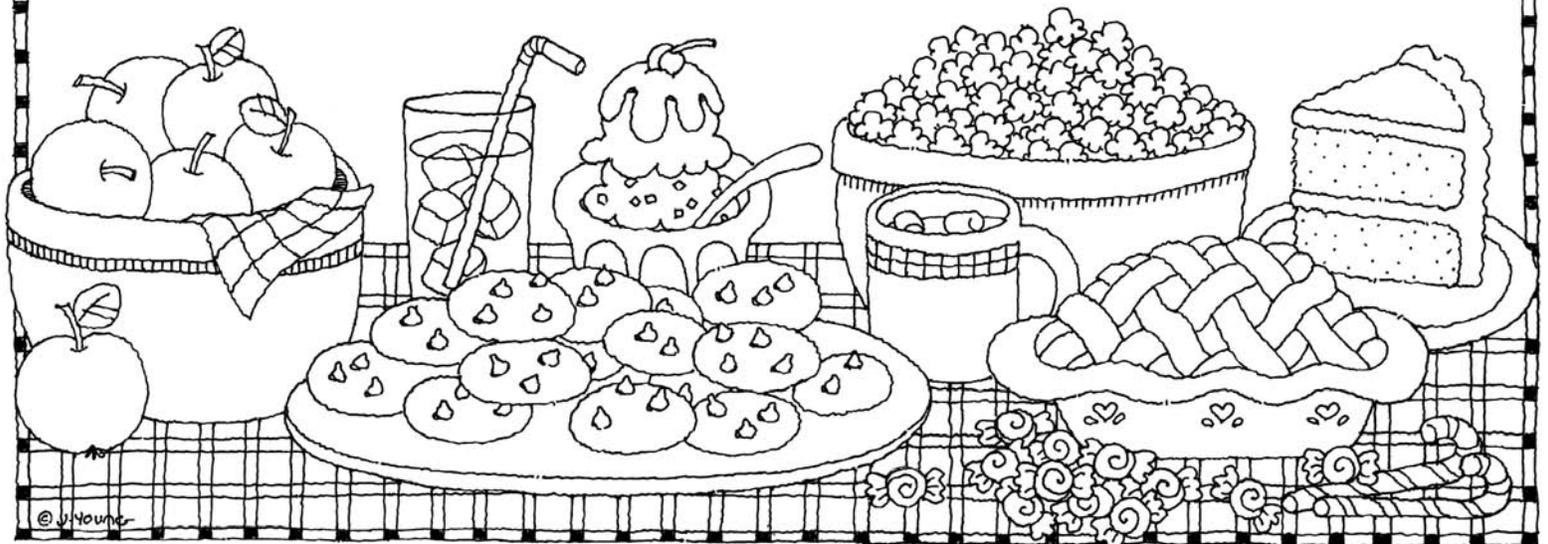
Refreshment

Little Nests

- 1/4 cup butter or margarine
- 1 cup miniature marshmallows
- 1 cup All-Bran® cereal
- 1 small package mini robin eggs

In a small saucepan, melt butter or margarine over low heat. Add miniature marshmallows. Stir until marshmallows are melted. Remove from heat: add cereal and stir just until coated. When cool enough to handle, form into eight little nests. Place on waxed paper. After about 1 hour, press in center of each nest to form indention. Place three robin eggs in center of each nest.

(Julie Badger Jensen, *Essential Mormon Celebrations*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2005] p. 44.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Simon Peter

Packet #040307

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
- 3. Involvement.** Involve everyone in the family; help little children take part.
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- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.

Simon Peter

Thought:

Peter was always at the center of action—risking mistakes and suffering criticism and even persecution. He stood at the Lord’s side, missed no opportunity to learn from the Master, defended Him in Gethsemane, and after the crucifixion testified courageously for a third of a century.

(Richard Lloyd Anderson, “Simon Peter,” *Ensign*, Feb 1975, 47)

Song:

“Faith,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 96.

Scripture:

And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

(Luke 22:31-32)

Lesson:

Read Luke 22:31–32 to your family. Ask them who desires to have Peter? What did Jesus say Peter still needed to become? Have your family take turns reading Luke 22:33–38. Ask them what the Savior said would happen to Peter. Continue taking turns reading Luke 22:54–62. If it is available, show your family Peter’s Denial (Gospel Art Kit, no. 229.) Ask:

- What two things happened right after Peter denied Christ the third time? (Verses 61–62.)
- How do you think Peter felt when the Savior turned and looked at him?
- How could this experience help Peter become more converted?
- Why do you think Peter denied he knew Christ three different times?

Tell your family that after this experience Peter became one of the great defenders of Christ and the faith. Ask them why they think he became so strong in the faith after this experience. Ask, What experiences have you had that have strengthened your testimony?

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The New Testament*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2006], p. 109.)

Story:

After the Savior’s death, Peter became the head of the Church.

One day, Peter and John were on their way to the temple. They passed a lame man. He asked for alms.

Peter stopped. “Look on us,” he said.

The man looked at Peter. He thought Peter would give him money. But instead, Peter said, “I have no silver or gold. But what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.”

Peter took the man by the right hand and lifted him to his feet. Suddenly his ankles were strong. He began to leap and dance with joy. Excited and grateful, he walked into the temple with Peter and John. All who saw this were amazed. They, too, praised God and wondered at the miracle.

Peter said to the people, “You men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Why do you look on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk? Faith in Jesus Christ has made this man strong.”

As Peter taught the people, the priests, Sadducees, and captain of the temple became very upset. Peter was preaching the teachings of Jesus. They could not let such doctrines continue to spread! They wanted to destroy the followers of Christ. So they put Peter and John in prison.

The next morning Peter, John, and the man who was healed were brought before Caiaphas and other Jewish rulers. The rulers asked, “By what power did you perform this miracle?”

Peter was filled with the Holy Ghost. He said, “You crucified Jesus but God raised him from the dead. It is through the name of Jesus Christ that this man stands before you whole.”

The leaders talked together. They said, “What shall we do to these men? They have done a miracle. We cannot deny it. But let us threaten them so that no one else will learn of this thing.”

They said to Peter and John, “Do not preach or teach anymore in the name of Jesus!”

But Peter and John answered, “Is it right to obey you or to obey God? You judge. We must speak the things which we have seen and heard.”

The priests tried long and hard, but they could think of nothing to accuse Peter and John of doing. Reluctantly, they let them go. Peter and John went back to the other apostles and told them what had happened.

When the rulers discovered that Peter and John were still preaching, they became angry. They cast them into prison again. But an angel of the Lord came during the night, opened the doors, and led them out of the prison. The angel said, “Go, stand and teach in the temple.”

Early the next morning, Peter and John went to the temple and began to teach. The chief priests did not know they had escaped from the prison. They asked for the prisoners to be brought before them. The soldiers returned shortly. They reported, “The prison is safely shut. The guards are at their posts. But the prisoners are gone.”

Just then a messenger arrived. He said, “The men you put in prison are standing in the temple teaching the people.”

The priests sent soldiers to the temple. They brought Peter and John back.

“Didn’t we command you not to teach in this name?” the priests said. “You have filled Jerusalem with his doctrine. You intend to bring this man’s blood upon us!”

Peter and John answered, “We ought to obey God rather than men.”

(Sherrie Johnson, *Bible Treasury for LDS Children*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1999], p. 121-123.)

Activity:

Write on a piece of paper in two columns the lists shown below so you can play a matching game. Ask individual family members to match the occupations in Column 2 with the people listed in Column 1.

Peter	Tax collector
Jesus	U.S. Secretary of Agriculture
Joseph Smith	Tentmaker
Matthew	Fisherman
Moses	Carpenter
Paul	Shepherd
Ezra Taft Benson	Farmer

If your family is unsure of their answers, review the following references: Peter (Matthew 4:18– 19), Jesus (Mark 6:3), Joseph Smith (Joseph Smith–History 1:58), Matthew (Matthew 9:9, footnote b), Moses (Exodus 3:1), Ezra Taft Benson (he served as U.S. Secretary of Agriculture for President Dwight D. Eisenhower for 8 years).

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The New Testament*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2006], p. 167.)

Refreshment

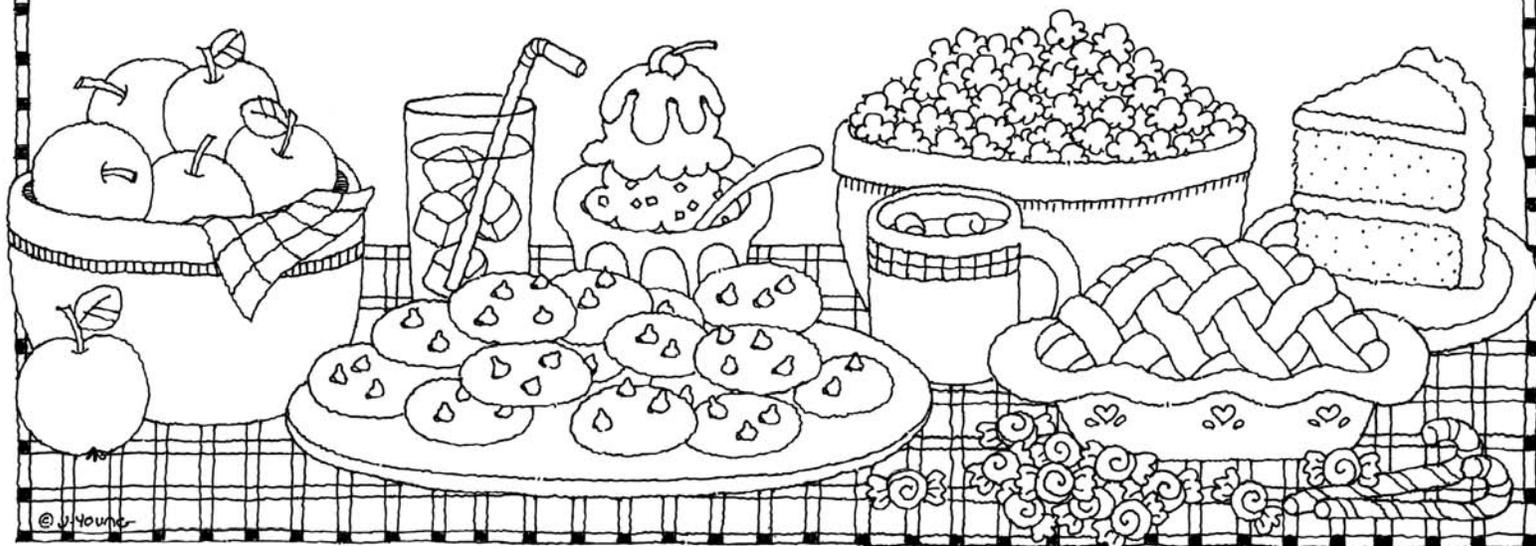
Toll House Pie

Terrific! You'll be surprised how easy it is to make.

- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 cup butter, melted
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1 cup chocolate chips
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- 1 pie crust
- Whipped cream, sweetened
- Ice cream, if desired

Combine sugars in a large bowl; add melted butter, eggs, and flour. Beat until well mixed. Batter will be thin. Stir in chocolate chips and pecans. Place in a 9-inch pie crust (may use a frozen crust). Place on a baking sheet and bake at 325 degrees for 50 to 60 minutes. Top with whipped cream or ice cream to serve. Makes 6 servings.

(Julie Badger Jensen, *Essential Mormon Celebrations*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2005] p. 67.)



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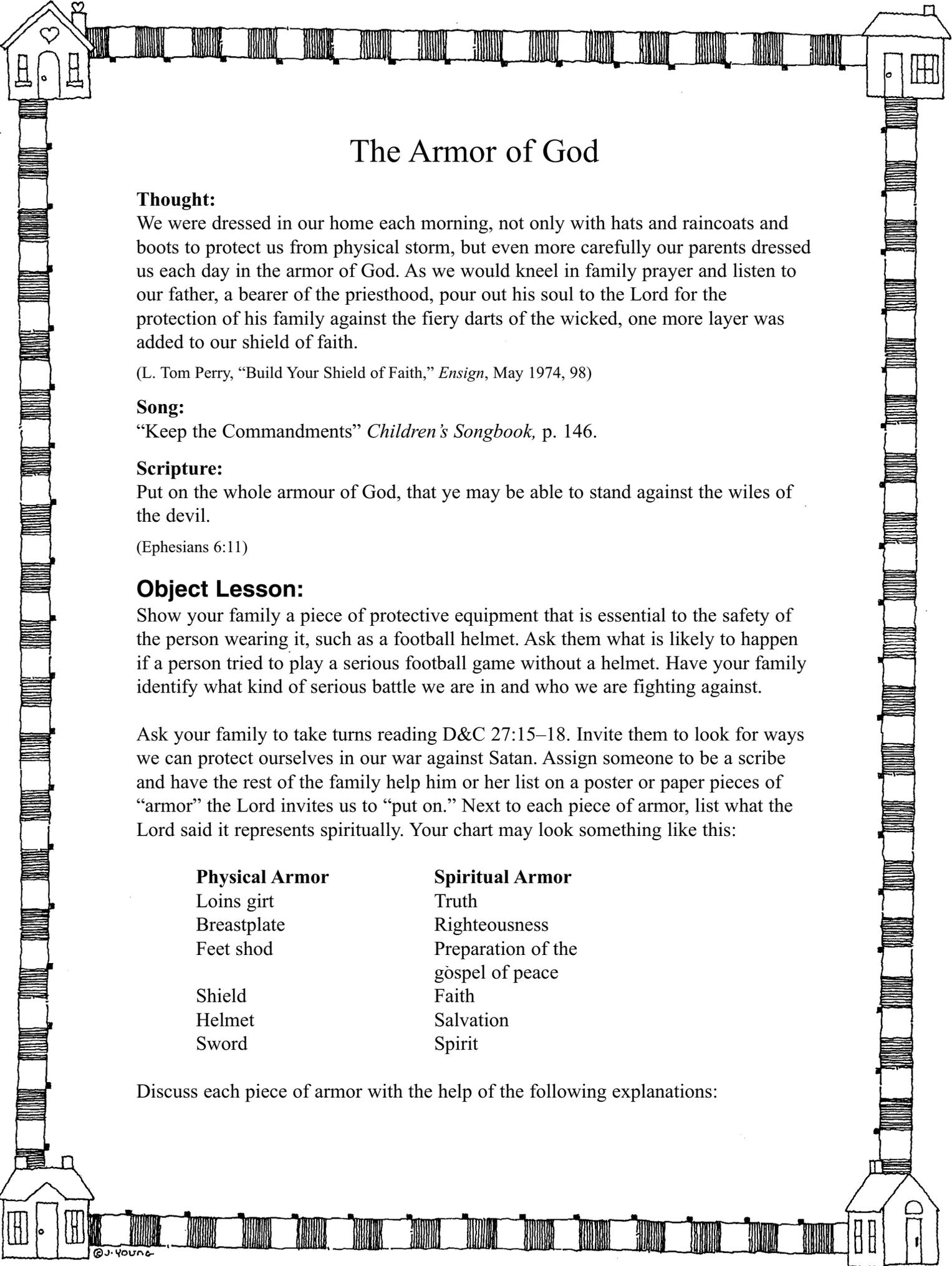
Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: The Armor of God

Packet #040306

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
- 3. Involvement.** Involve everyone in the family; help little children take part.
- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.



The Armor of God

Thought:

We were dressed in our home each morning, not only with hats and raincoats and boots to protect us from physical storm, but even more carefully our parents dressed us each day in the armor of God. As we would kneel in family prayer and listen to our father, a bearer of the priesthood, pour out his soul to the Lord for the protection of his family against the fiery darts of the wicked, one more layer was added to our shield of faith.

(L. Tom Perry, "Build Your Shield of Faith," *Ensign*, May 1974, 98)

Song:

"Keep the Commandments" *Children's Songbook*, p. 146.

Scripture:

Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

(Ephesians 6:11)

Object Lesson:

Show your family a piece of protective equipment that is essential to the safety of the person wearing it, such as a football helmet. Ask them what is likely to happen if a person tried to play a serious football game without a helmet. Have your family identify what kind of serious battle we are in and who we are fighting against.

Ask your family to take turns reading D&C 27:15–18. Invite them to look for ways we can protect ourselves in our war against Satan. Assign someone to be a scribe and have the rest of the family help him or her list on a poster or paper pieces of "armor" the Lord invites us to "put on." Next to each piece of armor, list what the Lord said it represents spiritually. Your chart may look something like this:

Physical Armor

Loins girt
Breastplate
Feet shod

Shield
Helmet
Sword

Spiritual Armor

Truth
Righteousness
Preparation of the
gospel of peace
Faith
Salvation
Spirit

Discuss each piece of armor with the help of the following explanations:

“Loins girt about with truth.” Tell your family that to be “girt about” is to have a large belt around you, and that the “loins” are your many vital organs and the sacred procreative parts of your body.

“Breastplate of righteousness.” Ask, “What important organ does a breastplate cover?” (The heart.)

“Feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace.” Ask your family how far they think they could walk without shoes compared to how far they could walk with shoes. Remind them that mortal life is like a long journey to a place we can’t really see at this time.

“Shield of faith.” Have your family look again at D&C 27:17 and identify what the shield specifically does. (Stop the fiery darts of the wicked.) Ask them why they think Satan’s weapon is compared to a dart rather than a large tank or cannon. Invite them to give examples of how others (including Satan) have tried to get them to doubt the truths of the gospel. How has your faith helped you to overcome?

“Helmet of Salvation.” A helmet of salvation shall guide our thinking all through our days. How would remembering Christ more regularly help us resist the influence the devil tries to have over us?

“Sword of my Spirit.” Ask your family how the sword is different from the other pieces of armor listed. (It is a weapon rather than merely protection.) What are some ways we can receive God’s word through the Spirit?

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The Doctrine and Covenants*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2004], p. 55–6.)

Story:

One day I was made an attractive offer by a group of marines, buddies of mine, as we were about to go on liberty. It wasn’t until after we were on our way that I discovered this was not the best of company to be in. It was then that I found out the reason they had invited me. It was because they knew of my standards. They knew that I would be sober when it was time to return to the base, and I could guide them back.

We found ourselves in Los Angeles on a streetcar headed toward a dance hall. They had already started to drink a little, and I was ready to part their company. It was here that that protective shield took over and I knew of the prayers of my parents for my welfare. The streetcar stopped and allowed new passengers to come aboard. The new passengers separated me from my buddies and pushed me to the back of the car. It was there that I discovered a nice group of young people standing and seated. Immediately upon finding me in their company, one spoke up and said, “Hi, Marine! We’re Mormons. What do you know about our Church?”

I answered, “Plenty,” and got off the streetcar with them and went to a ward social.

You see, the shield of faith was there. It was protecting me from the fiery darts of the wicked in order that in a proper time in my life I would be worthy to take an angel into the temple of the Lord and there at its altar be sealed together for time and all eternity.

I know by personal experience the value of having noble parents to build around their children a

protective shield of faith of our Lord and our Savior Jesus Christ. I give you my witness that it works. Should not every child of God be given that opportunity in their lives—to start each day having their fathers blessing their home and giving them that protective shield of faith as they depart from the home to go about their every activity.

(L. Tom Perry, “Build Your Shield of Faith,” *Ensign*, May 1974, 98)

Activity:

Create a cardboard and aluminum foil armor for the smallest person in your family. Assign family members to certain elements of the armor.

Refreshment

Angel Fluff

- 1 9-ounce loaf angel food cake
- 1 cup whipped cream, whipped until stiff
- 1 cup half-and-half cream
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/3 cup lemon juice
- Pineapple Sauce (below)

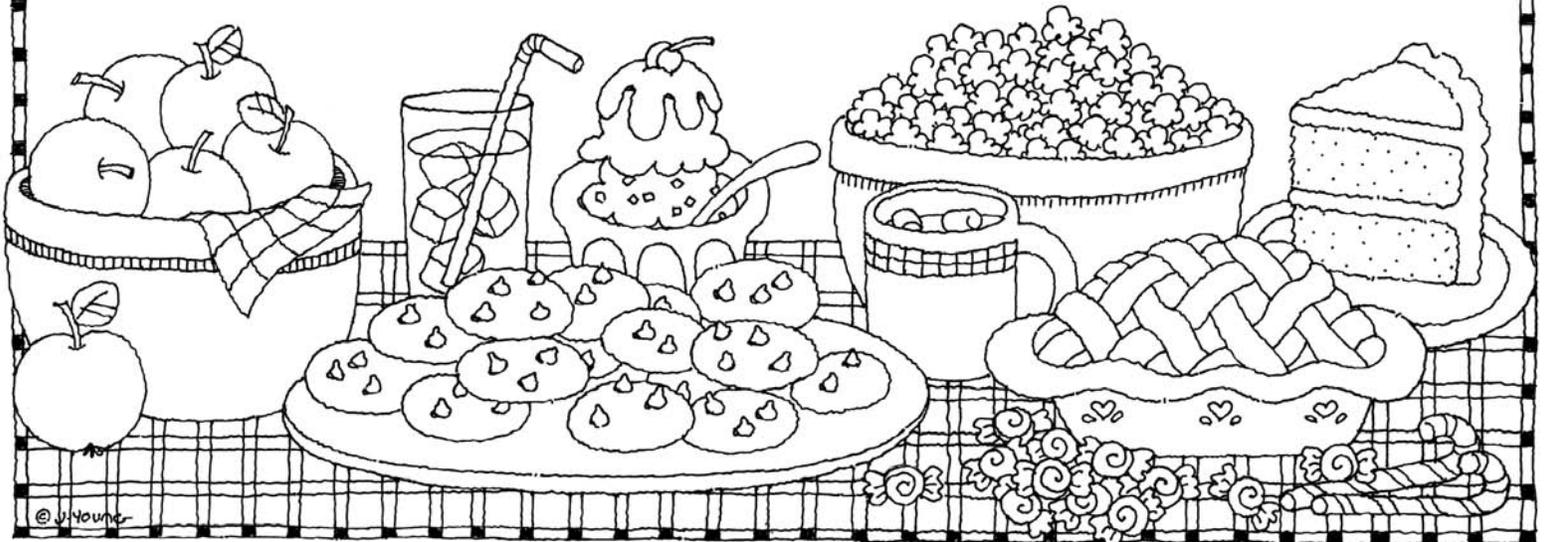
Pineapple Sauce

- 4 tablespoons cornstarch
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 1/4 cups pineapple juice
- 1/4 cup lemon juice

In large, attractive, 2-quart serving bowl, break cake into bite-sized pieces. In small bowl of electric mixer or with hand electric mixer, gradually whip half-and-half into a fluffy, thick liquid. Beat sugar gradually into cream mixture, then slowly beat in lemon juice. Pour mixture over cake pieces. Chill for at least 2 hours. Spoon onto dessert plates and serve with Pineapple Sauce. Makes 8 servings.

For Pineapple sauce: In small saucepan, combine cornstarch and sugar; mix well. Add pineapple juice; cook on medium heat, stirring constantly, until clear and thickened, about 5 minutes. Add lemon juice. Remove from heat. Chill.

(*Lion House Classics*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2004], p. 101.)



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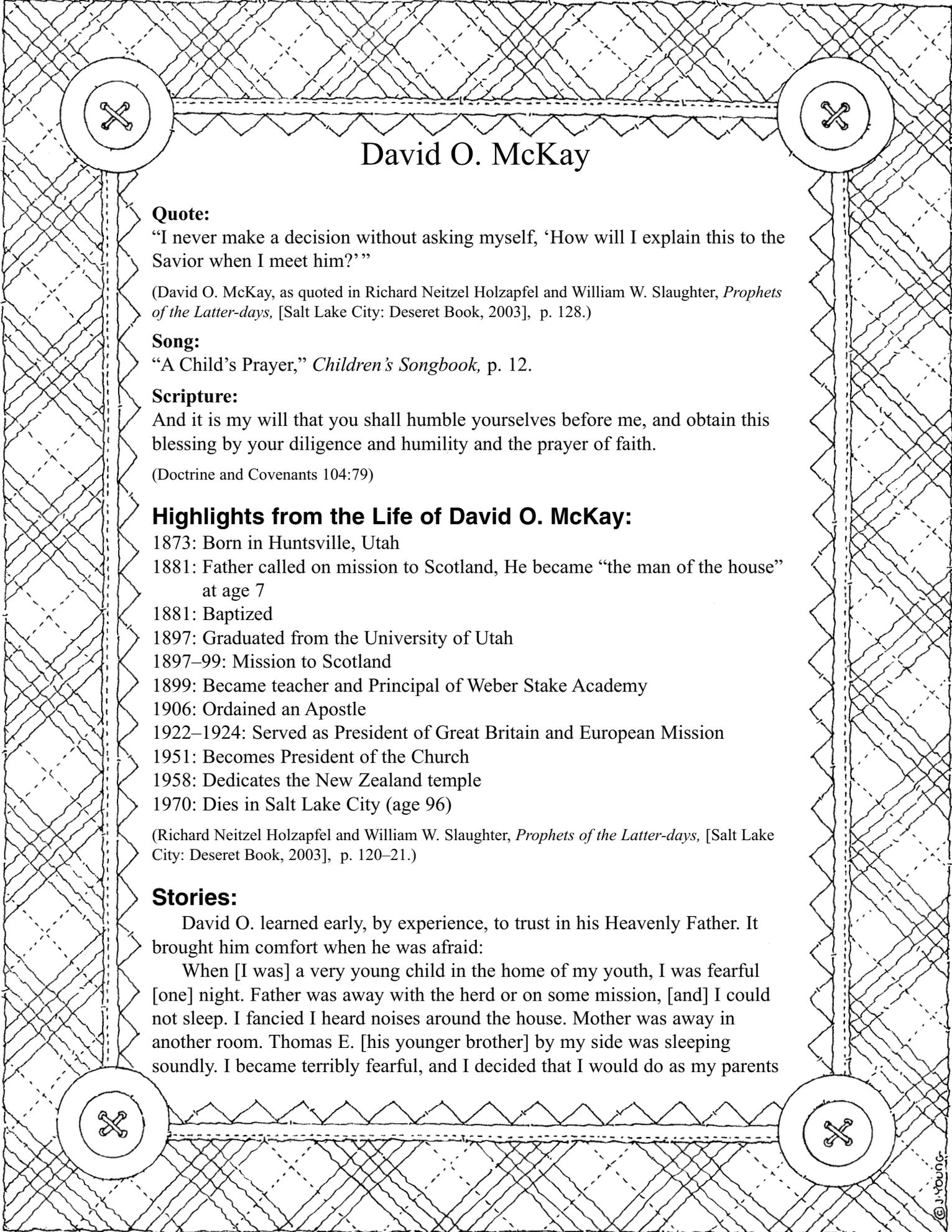
Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: David O. McKay

Packet #070506

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
- 3. Involvement.** Involve everyone in the family; help little children take part.
- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.



David O. McKay

Quote:

“I never make a decision without asking myself, ‘How will I explain this to the Savior when I meet him?’”

(David O. McKay, as quoted in Richard Neitzel Holzapfel and William W. Slaughter, *Prophets of the Latter-days*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 128.)

Song:

“A Child’s Prayer,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 12.

Scripture:

And it is my will that you shall humble yourselves before me, and obtain this blessing by your diligence and humility and the prayer of faith.

(Doctrine and Covenants 104:79)

Highlights from the Life of David O. McKay:

1873: Born in Huntsville, Utah

1881: Father called on mission to Scotland, He became “the man of the house” at age 7

1881: Baptized

1897: Graduated from the University of Utah

1897–99: Mission to Scotland

1899: Became teacher and Principal of Weber Stake Academy

1906: Ordained an Apostle

1922–1924: Served as President of Great Britain and European Mission

1951: Becomes President of the Church

1958: Dedicates the New Zealand temple

1970: Dies in Salt Lake City (age 96)

(Richard Neitzel Holzapfel and William W. Slaughter, *Prophets of the Latter-days*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 120–21.)

Stories:

David O. learned early, by experience, to trust in his Heavenly Father. It brought him comfort when he was afraid:

When [I was] a very young child in the home of my youth, I was fearful [one] night. Father was away with the herd or on some mission, [and] I could not sleep. I fancied I heard noises around the house. Mother was away in another room. Thomas E. [his younger brother] by my side was sleeping soundly. I became terribly fearful, and I decided that I would do as my parents

had taught me to do—pray. I thought I could not pray without getting out of bed and kneeling, and that was a terrible test.

But I finally did bring myself to get out of bed and kneel and pray to God to protect Mother and the family. And a voice as clear to me as mine is to you said, “Don’t be afraid. Nothing will hurt you.” Where it came from, what it was, I am not saying. You may judge. To me it was a direct answer, and there came an assurance that I should never be hurt in bed at night.

When he was fourteen, David O. received his patriarchal blessing from John Smith, patriarch to the Church. The blessing contained important clues to the young man’s future life. Among other things, the patriarch said:

Thou art in thy youth and need instruction, therefore I say unto thee, be taught of thy parents the way of life and salvation, that at an early day you may be prepared for a responsible position. The Lord has a work for thee to do, in which thou shalt see much of the world, assist in gathering scattered Israel and also labor in the ministry. It shall be thy lot to sit in council with thy brethren and preside among the people and exhort the Saints to faithfulness.

When the blessing was finished, the kindly patriarch put his hands on David O.’s already muscular shoulders and said, “My boy, you have something to do besides playing marbles.” At first, David O. didn’t understand what the patriarch meant by that comment. David O. went into the kitchen where his mother was preparing dinner and said, “If he thinks I’m going to stop playing marbles, he is mistaken!” But his wise mother explained that what he meant was that the things David O. was interested in now—like marbles and other boyhood games—would someday be put aside as he grew to manhood and became involved in much more important tasks.

(Susan Arrington Madsen, *The Lord Needed a Prophet*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1996], p. 142-3.)

Activity:

Explain that President McKay was well-known for a motto he lived by. While in Scotland as a Mission President he saw these words carved in stone: “Whate-er thou art, act well thy part.” He took that as his personal motto and it gave him a lifelong sense of purpose.

President McKay is also known for saying “No other success can compensate for failure in the home.” This advice has helped many families set their priorities.

As a family, decide on a motto for your family to live by. On a large piece of poster paper create a family flag or coat of arms that contains your family’s motto. Decorate it with your choice of crayons, markers, stickers, glitter, etc.

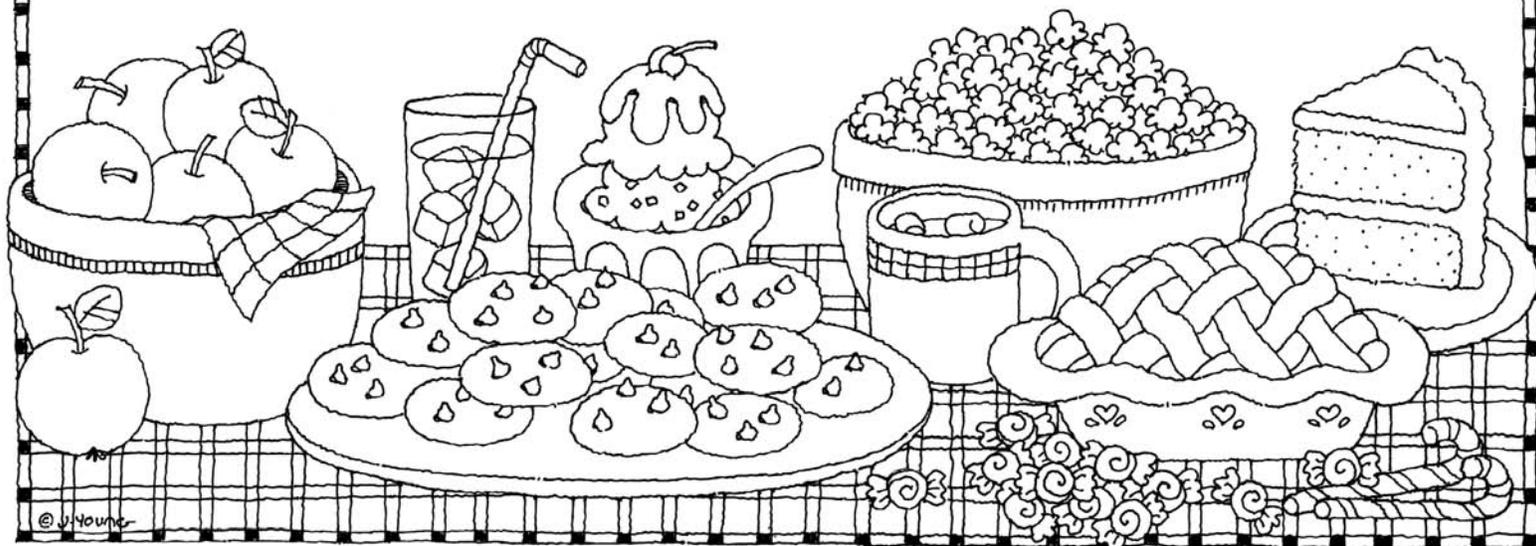
Refreshment

David O. McKay's Baked Apples

6 apples
1 cup brown, white, or maple sugar
Lemon juice
Cinnamon
Butter
Cream

Preheat oven to 375° F. Wash and core apples. Fill center of each apple with 1 tablespoon sugar, sprinkling a little over the outside. Then sprinkle with lemon juice and cinnamon, and dot with butter. Place in deep casserole with a lid. Add enough water to cover bottom of baking dish. Cover and bake about 35 minutes or until tender. Remove apples and boil syrup remaining in the casserole dish until thick. Pour syrup and thick cream over apples to serve. (If apples are baked uncovered, it is necessary to baste them during cooking.) Makes 6 servings.

(*Lion House Desserts*, [Salt Lake City: Eagle Gate, 2000], p. 53.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Joseph F. Smith

Packet #070206

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
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Joseph F. Smith

Quote:

In 1915, [Joseph F. Smith and] the First Presidency of the Church inaugurated the home evening program by a letter. I recall when my own father read that letter to the family at the supper table on the farm. When he concluded the letter, he said, “The Presidency has spoken, and this is the word of the Lord to us!” From that time forward, we diligently held family home evenings in my boyhood home.

(Ezra Taft Benson, *Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1988].)

Song:

“The Family,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 194.

Scripture:

This scripture is part of a vision that President Smith had in 1918:

All these had departed the mortal life, firm in the hope of a glorious resurrection, through the grace of God the Father and his Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

I beheld that they were filled with joy and gladness, and were rejoicing together because the day of their deliverance was at hand.

(Doctrine and Covenants 138:14–15)

Highlights from the Life of Joseph F. Smith:

1838: Born in Far West, Missouri

1844: Father (Hyrum) and Uncle (Joseph) were murdered in Carthage Jail

1848: Drives ox team to Salt Lake Valley

1852: Baptized in Salt Lake City

1854–57: Mission to Hawaii

1860–63: Mission to Great Britain

1864: Second mission to Hawaii

1866: Ordained an Apostle

1874–74, 1877: Mission President of Great Britain and European Mission

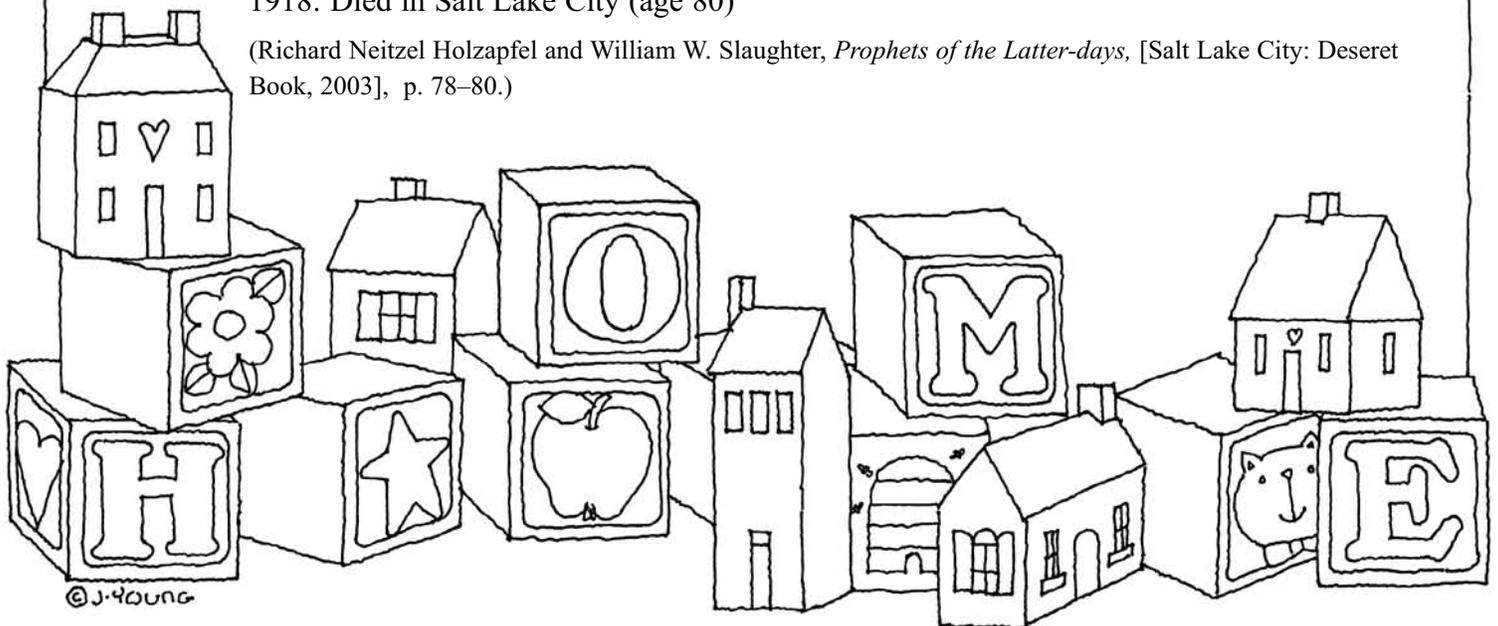
1891: Becomes President of the Church

1915: Introduces Family Home Evening

1918: Has vision of the redemption of the dead

1918: Died in Salt Lake City (age 80)

(Richard Neitzel Holzapfel and William W. Slaughter, *Prophets of the Latter-days*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 78–80.)



Stories:

It was late at night, and five-year-old Joseph F. Smith was lying in bed. But his eyes were wide open, and he was having trouble getting to sleep. It had rained earlier in the day and then had grown hot and muggy.

Although still very young, Joseph F. was old enough to understand that his father, Hyrum Smith, was in great danger. Three days earlier, Hyrum had left their home in Nauvoo, Illinois, with his younger brother, the Prophet Joseph Smith. They went to a nearby town, Carthage, to answer charges made by people who accused them of wrong-doing. Hyrum and Joseph knew they were in danger . . . but they were willing to go and clear up any misunderstandings.

Now, as Joseph F. lay awake, he remembered saying goodbye to his father. He had been standing out by the road in front of their home. Hyrum rode up to him on horseback and said, "Son, we have been ordered to go to Carthage to meet with the governor." Then leaning forward from his saddle, he picked Joseph F. up. "I must leave you now," he said tenderly. "Be a brave boy and help your dear mother all you can." He kissed his young son, gave him a warm hug, and carefully set him back down on the ground. Hyrum rode away with several other men. Young Joseph F. remembered wondering if he would ever see his father alive again. . . .

Suddenly, Joseph F. sat up in bed as he heard someone knocking loudly on the window downstairs. He heard the words that broke his heart. A man outside the window called out in a trembling voice, "Sister Smith, Sister Smith, we bring you sad news. Your husband has been killed."

Joseph F.'s father, Hyrum, and the Prophet Joseph had been shot by a mob as they were being held at Carthage Jail. The date was June 27, 1844, and Hyrum was forty-four years old. Young Joseph F. would remember it as the saddest day of his life..

(Susan Arrington Madsen, *The Lord Needed a Prophet*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1990], p. 89–90.)

After the death of Hyrum and Joseph, President Brigham Young told the Saints that they must leave Nauvoo if they were to find peace. Their destination would be a place they believed God had prepared for them. There they hoped to worship God without fear of persecution.

Joseph F., at the age of seven, drove their ox team two hundred miles to Winter Quarters, a temporary stopping place on the west bank of the Missouri River. His five-year-old sister, Martha Ann, often sat by him on the driver's seat. Mary, her children, and stepchildren lived there a year and a half while they prepared for the journey west.

As they traveled, Joseph F. cared for the animals, chopped wood for their cooking fires, and hauled water from nearby streams. He was having to do the work of a man while still a young boy.

In the spring of 1848, Mary Fielding Smith's little caravan joined the rest of a wagon train of other faithful Latter-day Saints and began the thousand-mile journey west to the Salt Lake Valley. As they began their long journey, the reins of one of Mary's four wagons were in the firm grip of her nine-year-old son, Joseph F. By now Joseph was an excellent driver. He was experienced in yoking and unyoking the oxen and carefully guided the animals over many dangerous trails from his perch on the driver's seat.

(Susan Arrington Madsen, *The Lord Needed a Prophet*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1990], p. 91–3.)

Activity:

In celebration of Joseph F. Smith beginning the Family Home Evening program, play a traditional FHE game such as "Mormonary" (similar to "Pictionary"). Prepare in advance several cards with the names of familiar Primary songs or scripture stories. Use a dry erase board, chalkboard, or large pad of paper to draw on. Have family members take turns selecting a card and drawing a picture within an allotted time (one minute is good) that will help the family guess the song or story written on the card.

(adapted from Debbie Stapley, *Having Fun Together*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1992], p. 151.)

Refreshment

Joseph F. Smith's Custard Pie

Pastry for 1-crust pie

2 cups milk

4 eggs

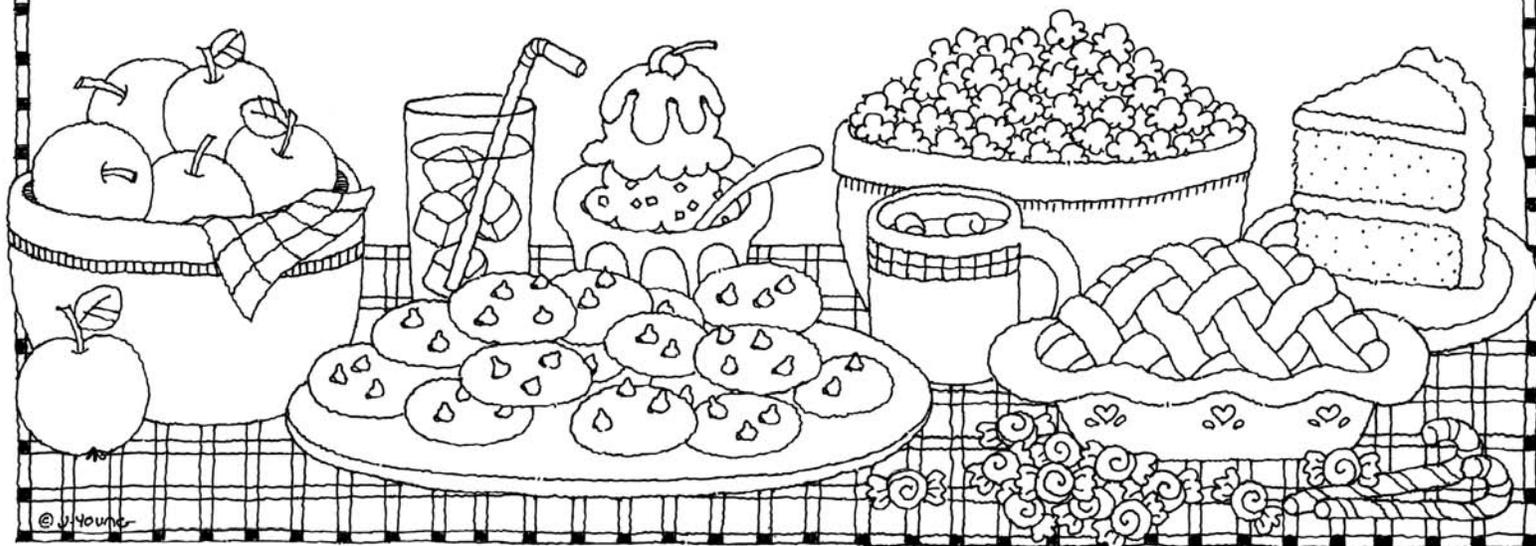
1/2 cup sugar

Pinch salt

Generous sprinkling nutmeg

Preheat oven to 375° F. Put milk in a medium bowl. Beat eggs and strain through fine sieve into bowl of milk. Add sugar, salt, and nutmeg. Stir well and pour into pie shell. Bake until knife inserted in the center just barely comes out clean, about 50 to 60 minutes. Do not overcook, or custard will become watery. Makes 6 to 8 servings.

(*Lion House Desserts*, [Salt Lake City: Eagle Gate, 2000], p. 79.)



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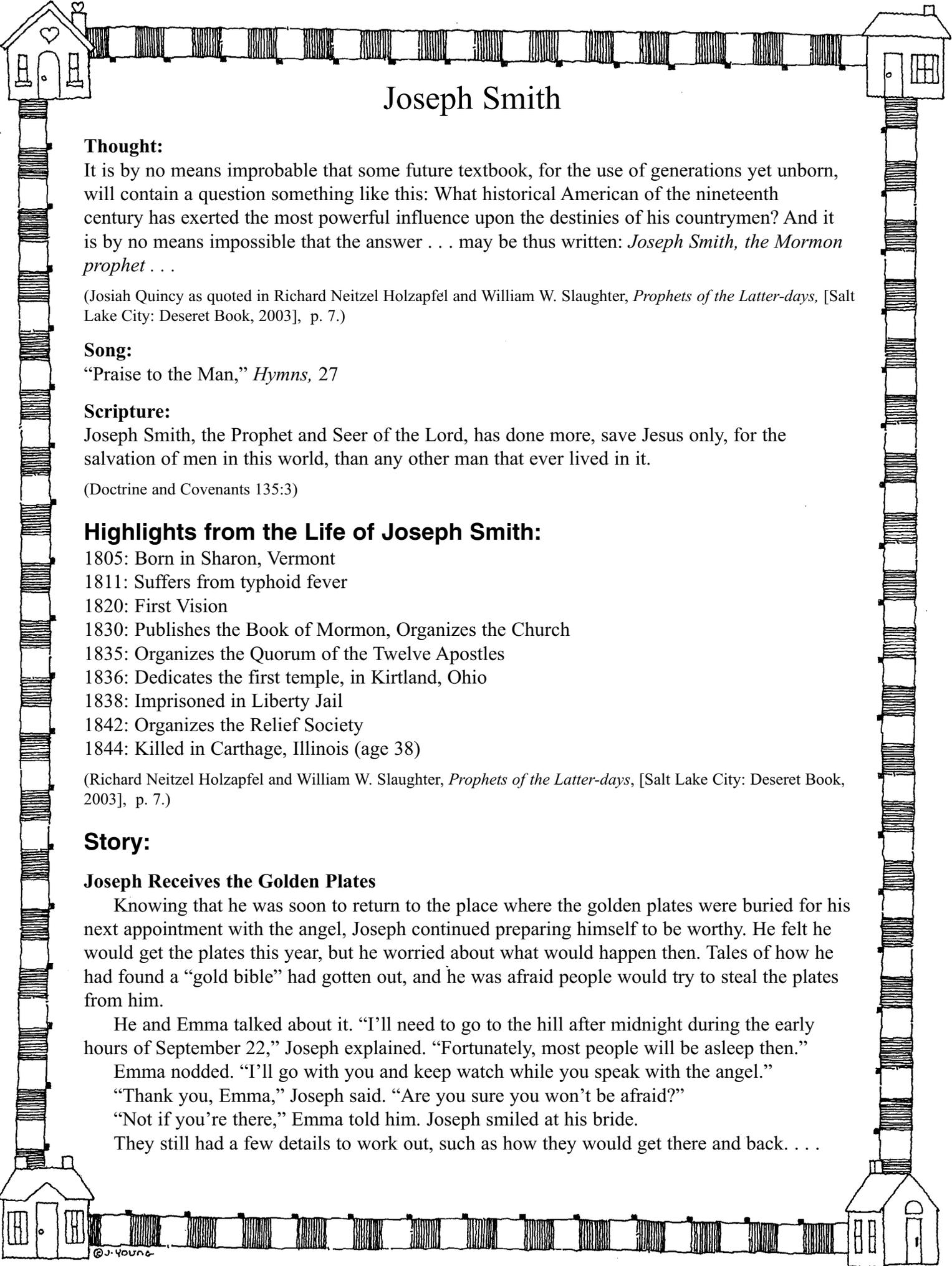
Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Joseph Smith

Packet #060106

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

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Joseph Smith

Thought:

It is by no means improbable that some future textbook, for the use of generations yet unborn, will contain a question something like this: What historical American of the nineteenth century has exerted the most powerful influence upon the destinies of his countrymen? And it is by no means impossible that the answer . . . may be thus written: *Joseph Smith, the Mormon prophet* . . .

(Josiah Quincy as quoted in Richard Neitzel Holzapfel and William W. Slaughter, *Prophets of the Latter-days*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 7.)

Song:

“Praise to the Man,” *Hymns*, 27

Scripture:

Joseph Smith, the Prophet and Seer of the Lord, has done more, save Jesus only, for the salvation of men in this world, than any other man that ever lived in it.

(Doctrine and Covenants 135:3)

Highlights from the Life of Joseph Smith:

1805: Born in Sharon, Vermont

1811: Suffers from typhoid fever

1820: First Vision

1830: Publishes the Book of Mormon, Organizes the Church

1835: Organizes the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

1836: Dedicates the first temple, in Kirtland, Ohio

1838: Imprisoned in Liberty Jail

1842: Organizes the Relief Society

1844: Killed in Carthage, Illinois (age 38)

(Richard Neitzel Holzapfel and William W. Slaughter, *Prophets of the Latter-days*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 7.)

Story:

Joseph Receives the Golden Plates

Knowing that he was soon to return to the place where the golden plates were buried for his next appointment with the angel, Joseph continued preparing himself to be worthy. He felt he would get the plates this year, but he worried about what would happen then. Tales of how he had found a “gold bible” had gotten out, and he was afraid people would try to steal the plates from him.

He and Emma talked about it. “I’ll need to go to the hill after midnight during the early hours of September 22,” Joseph explained. “Fortunately, most people will be asleep then.”

Emma nodded. “I’ll go with you and keep watch while you speak with the angel.”

“Thank you, Emma,” Joseph said. “Are you sure you won’t be afraid?”

“Not if you’re there,” Emma told him. Joseph smiled at his bride.

They still had a few details to work out, such as how they would get there and back. . . .

Mr. Knight and Mr. Stowell had stopped by to stay with the Smiths for a couple of days. Joseph and Emma quietly borrowed Mr. Knight's horse and wagon and headed to the hill.

Joseph guided the horse as Emma held the lantern. They proceeded slowly so that the wagon would not rattle too much and wake people along the way. It was almost pitch black outside, with only the faintest sliver of a moon. Occasional clouds scudded across it, blocking out what little light it provided.

At the bottom of the hill, Joseph stopped the wagon. "All right, Emma," he whispered. "I'll be back soon."

He asked if she wanted him to leave the lantern. "No," she said. "I'll be less likely to be seen here in the darkness."

Grasping the handle of the lantern, Joseph climbed the hill to the clearing where the stone box was buried. He was puffing by the time he reached it, partly from the exertion and partly from nervousness. The angel had told him, he remembered, that if he accepted the call to translate the plates, he would be severely persecuted. His life would never again be the same. As the angel had said, his name would someday be known for both good and evil throughout the world.

He wondered if he could do it. But there was no turning back now.

As Joseph cleared the dirt and grass away from the stone lid, the Angel Moroni once again appeared, lighting up the clearing. "You have been found worthy, Joseph," he said.

As he gazed at the plates, Joseph heard Moroni tell him that he would now be responsible for them. "You must use every effort to preserve them," the angel said, "until I return to take them back."

Then Moroni disappeared, and the clearing was dark except for the dim flicker of the lantern.

The golden plates were heavy. Over fifty pounds, Joseph guessed. Joseph quickly took off his coat to wrap around the plates and the Urim and Thummim. He felt he had to shield them from curious eyes, even though no one else was there. Starting down the hill, he hoped the light from the lantern and the pale glimmer from the moon would show him a place where he could hide the plates for a few hours. He needed time to plan how to carry out the huge job he'd been given.

In the dark woods on the hillside, Joseph found a fallen log with a hollow large enough to hide the plates. After covering them with dead leaves and twigs, he held up the lantern to make sure nothing could be seen of them. Satisfied that they were safe, he returned to where Emma waited with the horse and wagon.

(Richard E. Turley Jr. and Lael Littke, *Stories from the Life of Joseph Smith*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 41.)

Activities:

Cut nine cards from heavy paper. Label the cards as follows: Scriptures, Prayer, Prophets, Conference, Parents, Holy Ghost, Teachers, Blessings, Truth. (Make sure the words are not visible from the back.)

Mix up the squares and place them face down on the floor or table in three rows of three.

The idea of the game is to see how many squares a family member has to turn over before he or she can find the truth. As soon as one person finds the truth square, the squares are reshuffled and placed down for the next family member. Each person may take several turns if time permits.

Another variation of play is to have family members take turns trying to uncover the truth square. Each person turns over only one square, then the next person turns over a square, until the word Truth is discovered.

Explain that Joseph Smith was searching for the truth, and because of him we now have the true church. The other words in the game help us find the truth, but without the restoration of the gospel, we wouldn't be able to have the whole truth.

(Max H. Moldgard and Allan K. Burgess, *The Best of Fun for Family Night*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 32-4.)

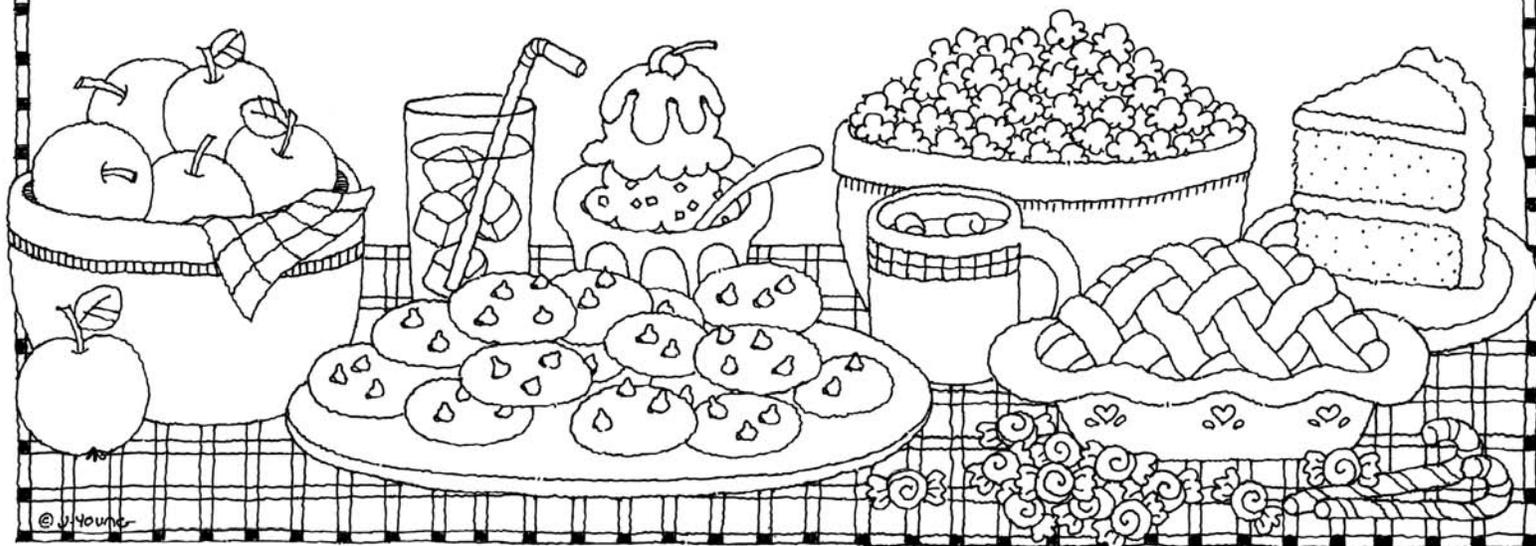
Refreshment

Old-Time Cinnamon Jumbles

- 3/4 cup sugar
- 3 teaspoons cinnamon
- 1 1/2 cups shortening or butter
- 3 cups sugar
- 3 eggs
- 2 1/2 cups buttermilk
- 3 teaspoons vanilla
- 6 cups flour
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt

Mix together 3/4 cup sugar and the cinnamon; set aside. In a bowl, cream together shortening or butter, 3 cups sugar, and eggs. Stir in buttermilk and vanilla. Sift together flour, baking soda, and salt. Stir into creamed mixture; mix well. Chill dough until it thickens. Drop rounded teaspoonfuls about 2 inches apart on a lightly greased baking sheet. Sprinkle generously with sugar-cinnamon mixture. Bake at 400 degrees until lightly browned, about 8 to 10 minutes. Makes approximately 5 dozen cookies.

(Paula Julander and Joanne Milner, *Utah State Fare*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 1995], p. 197.)



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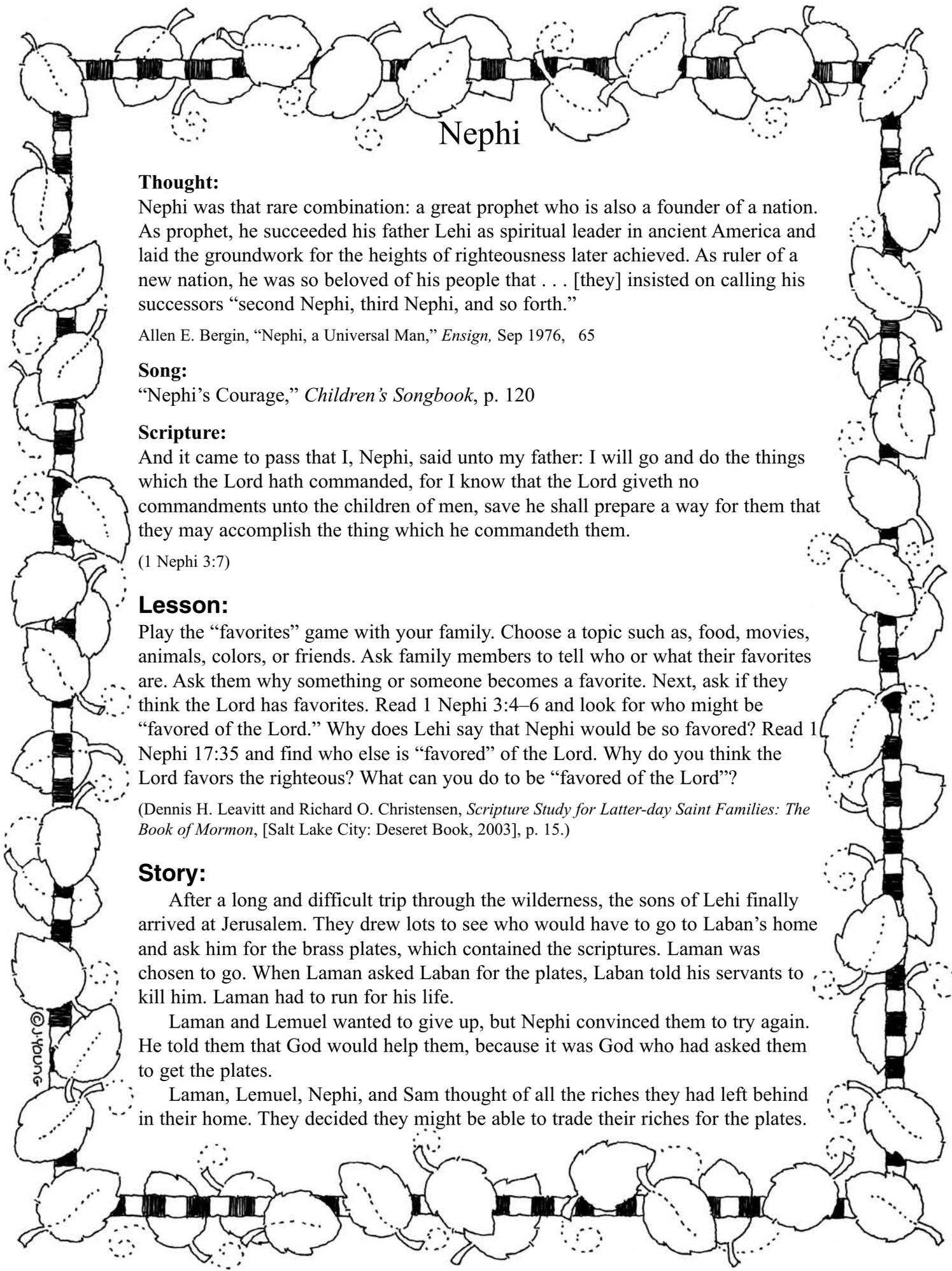
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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Nephi

Packet #060207

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

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Nephi

Thought:

Nephi was that rare combination: a great prophet who is also a founder of a nation. As prophet, he succeeded his father Lehi as spiritual leader in ancient America and laid the groundwork for the heights of righteousness later achieved. As ruler of a new nation, he was so beloved of his people that . . . [they] insisted on calling his successors “second Nephi, third Nephi, and so forth.”

Allen E. Bergin, “Nephi, a Universal Man,” *Ensign*, Sep 1976, 65

Song:

“Nephi’s Courage,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 120

Scripture:

And it came to pass that I, Nephi, said unto my father: I will go and do the things which the Lord hath commanded, for I know that the Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men, save he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them.

(1 Nephi 3:7)

Lesson:

Play the “favorites” game with your family. Choose a topic such as, food, movies, animals, colors, or friends. Ask family members to tell who or what their favorites are. Ask them why something or someone becomes a favorite. Next, ask if they think the Lord has favorites. Read 1 Nephi 3:4–6 and look for who might be “favored of the Lord.” Why does Lehi say that Nephi would be so favored? Read 1 Nephi 17:35 and find who else is “favored” of the Lord. Why do you think the Lord favors the righteous? What can you do to be “favored of the Lord”?

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The Book of Mormon*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 15.)

Story:

After a long and difficult trip through the wilderness, the sons of Lehi finally arrived at Jerusalem. They drew lots to see who would have to go to Laban’s home and ask him for the brass plates, which contained the scriptures. Laman was chosen to go. When Laman asked Laban for the plates, Laban told his servants to kill him. Laman had to run for his life.

Laman and Lemuel wanted to give up, but Nephi convinced them to try again. He told them that God would help them, because it was God who had asked them to get the plates.

Laman, Lemuel, Nephi, and Sam thought of all the riches they had left behind in their home. They decided they might be able to trade their riches for the plates.

They went back to their home and got their gold and silver and went again to Laban's house.

Laban was such a wicked man that he took their gold and silver and sent his servants to kill all four of the brothers. Once again they had to run for their lives. They hid in a cave outside the city.

Laman and Lemuel were angry, and they began to hit Nephi and Sam with a stick. While they were hitting their brothers, an angel appeared and told them to stop. The angel promised them that they would be able to get the plate if they tried again.

Laman and Lemuel were still afraid, so Nephi told his brothers that he would go back to Laban's house alone and get the plates. Nephi didn't know how we was going to do it, be he planned on trusting in the Lord and listening to the Holy Ghost. Nephi waited until it was dark and then went into the city. As he approached Laban's house, he found King Laban lying on the ground, drunk. The Holy Ghost commanded Nephi to kill Laban and put on his clothes, and Nephi obeyed. When he approached the servant Zoram, who was guarding the plates, Zoram thought Nephi was Laban, and so he gave Nephi the plates.

Zoram walked with Nephi until they were out of the city. When he realized that Nephi was not Laban, Zoram began to run. Nephi captured Zoram and promised him that he would be a free man if he joined their family in the wilderness. Zoram decided he would join them, and he lived with them from then on.

(Allan K. Burgess and Max H. Molgard, *Fun For Family Night: The Book of Mormon Edition*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1990], p. 30.)

Activity:

Give each member of the family a sheet of paper and a pencil or pen. Younger children can be assisted by parents or older children.

Tell them you are going to read several things that God has asked us to do. Ask them to write down the two things they think are, or will be, the hardest for them to do. Tell them not to let anyone see what they write.

Read the following items and add some of your own if you desire: Serve a full-time mission; Pay a full tithing; Forgive others even if they don't act as if they are sorry; Keep the Sabbath day holy; Obey their parents; Be unselfish and share with others; Live the Word of Wisdom; Avoid bad language.

Once everyone has written down the two things that they feel are most difficult for them, tell the family that you are going to see how well you know each other. Choose one family member and have each person guess one thing that they think this member wrote down. Then have the person read the two things they have written. Each family member that correctly named one of the things receives one point.

Then choose another family member and do the same thing until all members have shared what they wrote on their papers. The person with the most matches wins.

Note: The purpose of this activity is not to single out family members and make them feel discouraged, rather, it is to provide all family members with the opportunity to become better acquainted and to help them, through increased family support, to faithfully keep the commandments. If you feel uncomfortable identifying negative traits, have each family member write down the commandments that he or she feels are the easiest to live.

Discuss when we are asked to do things we feel are hard, we can remember how God helped Nephi and we can ask him to help us also. Discuss how the Lord can help them with the commandments that the family members feel are difficult to keep.

(Allan K. Burgess and Max H. Molgard, *Fun for Family Night: The Book of Mormon Edition*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1995], p. 29.)

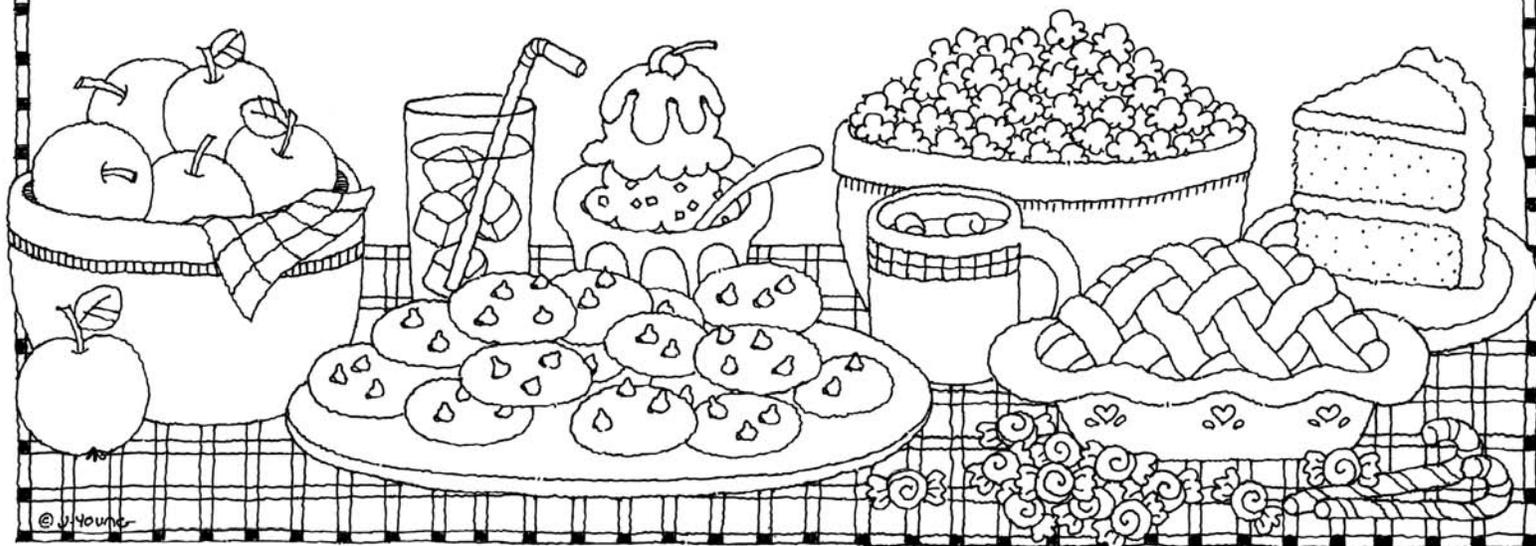
Refreshment

Sour Cream Poundcake

- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter
- 2 1/4 cups sugar
- 6 eggs
- 3 cups flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon soda
- 1 cup dairy sour cream
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/2 teaspoon lemon extract
- 1/2 teaspoon orange extract

Cream butter until soft. Add sugar gradually, beating until light and fluffy. Add eggs, one at a time, beating thoroughly after each. Sift together flour, salt, and soda; add to batter alternately with sour cream, beating until smooth. Add flavorings. Prepare fluted (bundt) cake pan by coating generously with vegetable oil spray, then sprinkling with granulated sugar; or grease pan heavily. Pour batter into prepared pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour or until done. Cool cake for 10 minutes; remove from pan.

(Winnifred C. Jardine, *Mormon Country Cooking*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1980] p. 269.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Brigham Young

Packet #060206

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
- 3. Involvement.** Involve everyone in the family; help little children take part.
- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.

Brigham Young

Thought:

He was the wisest, kindest, and most loving of fathers. His constant thoughtfulness for our happiness and well-being endeared him to all of us. . . . I shall always be grateful that I was born his daughter.

(Clarissa H. Young, as quoted in Francis M. Gibbons, *Dynamic Disciples, Prophets of God*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1996], p. 51.)

Song:

“The Handcart Song,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 220.

Scripture:

What I the Lord have spoken, I have spoken, and I excuse not myself; and though the heavens and the earth pass away, my word shall not pass away, but shall all be fulfilled, whether by mine own voice or by the voice of my servants, it is the same.

(Doctrine and Covenants 1:38)

Highlights from the Life of Brigham Young:

1801: Born in Whitingham, Vermont

1830: Introduced to the Book of Mormon

1832: Baptized

1835: Ordained an Apostle

1840: Mission to England

1844: Becomes the leader of the Church

1850: Becomes the Governor of Utah Territory

1853: Breaks ground for the Salt Lake Temple

1877: Died in Salt Lake City (age 76)

(Richard Neitzel Holzapfel and William W. Slaughter, *Prophets of the Latter-days*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 22.)

Story:

The second daughter of the family, Fanny, was about thirteen years old when Brigham was born. Because their mother was sick with consumption, Fanny became the substitute mother for the family. Brigham would cling to her and cry if anyone else tried to hold him or take care of him. She carried him on her hip as she did the chores, even while she milked the cow.

As a boy, Brigham was teased about making a path between his bed and the bread cupboard. Always having to go to bed hungry, he would get up for extra slices of bread and butter to snack on at night. In later years, after his was married and had a family of his own, Brigham made sure that the cupboards were full of crackers, fruit, and molasses so that his children need not be hungry between meals.

Brigham’s family were very poor, but they were rich with love. After chores, the family would gather around their father and listen to him read stories from the Bible. Music was also

important to them, and the children learned to sing solos and duets.

In Brigham Young's day, not many children who lived in the country went to school for very long. Few children learned to spell well. In fact, if a person could spell well and do simple arithmetic, he could become a school teacher in a country school.

Although Brigham went to school only eleven and a half days in his whole life, he did learn to read. In fact, he became one of the most intelligent and well-read man of his day. He learned primarily from the things around him—his home, the forest, and the animals. He learned to make bread, wash dishes, milk cows, and make butter.

(Lynda Cory Robinson, *Boys Who Became Prophets*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1998], p. 10.)

Activity:

Give everyone a paper and pencil. Have them write the letters BRIGHAM vertically down the paper. Give each person a set amount of time to write a word beginning with each letter, that describes Brigham Young.

(adapted from Alma Heaton, *The LDS Game Book*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1968], p. 35, 273.)

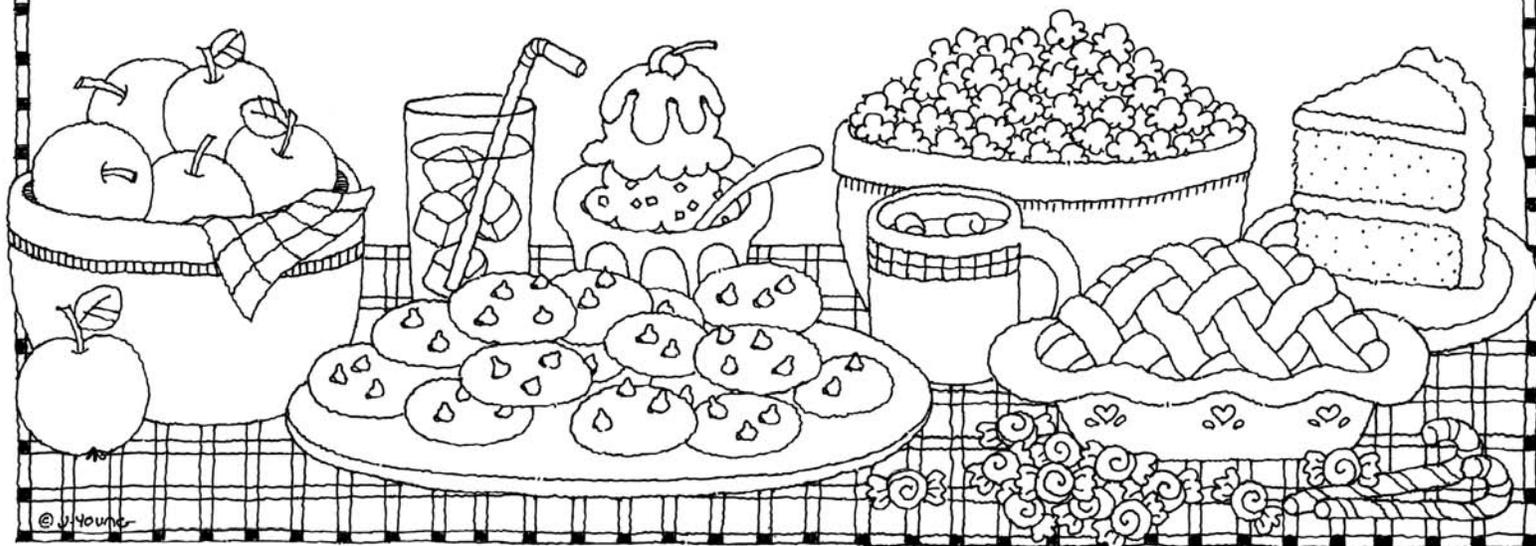
Refreshment

Cheese Spoon Bread

1 cup milk
1 cup yellow cornmeal
1 cup cold milk
1 teaspoon salt
1/4 cup butter or margarine
1 1/2 cups sharp Cheddar cheese, shredded
4 eggs, separated

Heat 1 cup milk in heavy saucepan. Combine cornmeal, cold milk, and salt. Pour into hot milk, stirring constantly. Cook about 5 minutes, stirring frequently, until thickened. Remove from heat; stir in butter and cheese. Beat egg yolks until thick and lemon-colored. Stir small amount of hot cornmeal mixture into egg yolks; then add egg mixture to remaining cornmeal, stirring constantly. Carefully fold in stiffly beaten egg whites. Pour mixture into well buttered 2-quart casserole. Bake for 35 to 40 minutes at 375 degrees. Serve immediately with butter or margarine, if desired. Good with honey or maple syrup. 6 to 8 Servings.

(Winnifred C. Jardine, *Mormon Country Cooking*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1980], p. 46.)



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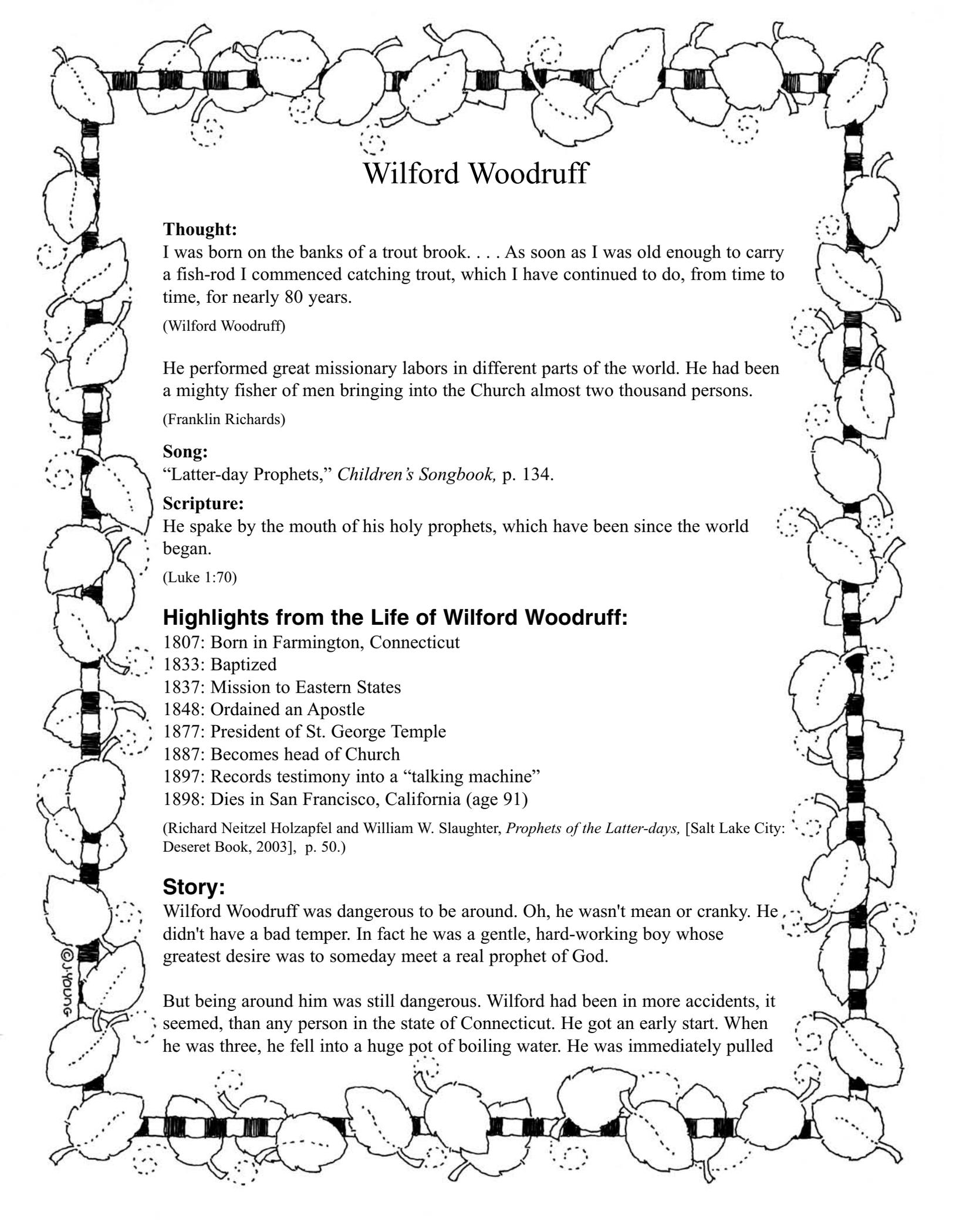
Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Wilford Woodruff

Packet #060406

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
- 3. Involvement.** Involve everyone in the family; help little children take part.
- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.



Wilford Woodruff

Thought:

I was born on the banks of a trout brook. . . . As soon as I was old enough to carry a fish-rod I commenced catching trout, which I have continued to do, from time to time, for nearly 80 years.

(Wilford Woodruff)

He performed great missionary labors in different parts of the world. He had been a mighty fisher of men bringing into the Church almost two thousand persons.

(Franklin Richards)

Song:

“Latter-day Prophets,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 134.

Scripture:

He spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began.

(Luke 1:70)

Highlights from the Life of Wilford Woodruff:

1807: Born in Farmington, Connecticut

1833: Baptized

1837: Mission to Eastern States

1848: Ordained an Apostle

1877: President of St. George Temple

1887: Becomes head of Church

1897: Records testimony into a “talking machine”

1898: Dies in San Francisco, California (age 91)

(Richard Neitzel Holzapfel and William W. Slaughter, *Prophets of the Latter-days*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 50.)

Story:

Wilford Woodruff was dangerous to be around. Oh, he wasn't mean or cranky. He didn't have a bad temper. In fact he was a gentle, hard-working boy whose greatest desire was to someday meet a real prophet of God.

But being around him was still dangerous. Wilford had been in more accidents, it seemed, than any person in the state of Connecticut. He got an early start. When he was three, he fell into a huge pot of boiling water. He was immediately pulled

out, but he was burned badly. When he was five, Wilford fell down a flight of stairs and broke his arm.

Once he was feeding pumpkins to his father's cattle in a pasture. A large bull was eating too much, Wilford decided, so he took a pumpkin away from him. The bull was so angry that he charged Wilford—who held the pumpkin in his arms and ran down the hill as fast as he could go! With the bull right on his heels, Wilford tripped, fell to the ground, and the pumpkin rolled out of his arms. He was astonished when the bull leaped over him, ran his horns into the pumpkin, and tore it to pieces!

Wilford also broke his leg while playing at his father's sawmill. He was kicked in the stomach by an ox. He fell from the top of a hay wagon, and the load of hay toppled over on him. Another time a wagon overturned on Wilford and his father, and he once fell out of a tree and landed fifteen feet below flat on his back.

As if those accidents weren't enough, Wilford nearly drowned in the Farmington River, nearly froze to death after falling asleep in a blinding snowstorm, was bitten by a sick dog, and at age seventeen was thrown from a horse—breaking one leg and injuring both ankles. There were many more dangerous and hair-raising experiences, but you get the idea: It was dangerous to be around Wilford Woodruff.

How did he survive so many close calls? How was he able to escape death so many times? Wilford answered that himself:

“It seemed to me at times as though some invisible power were watching my footsteps in search of an opportunity to destroy my life. I therefore ascribe my preservation on earth to the watchcare of a merciful Providence, whose hand has been stretched out to rescue me from death when I was in the presence of the most threatening dangers.”

Wilford felt sure his life was being spared for a special reason.

(Susan Arrington Madsen, *The Lord Needed a Prophet*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1996], p. 59–60.)

Activity:

Play “Fish in the Sea”

Seat everyone in a circle on chairs with one person standing in the middle. Have everyone count off as either a salmon, mackerel, or cod, including the person in the middle.

The person in the middle calls out one of the three fish. All those with that fish must change seats. While they are scurrying to a new seat, the person in the center sits in one of the vacant chairs leaving someone without a seat.

The person left without a seat then continues the game by calling out another fish, and the game continues as before. If the person in the center calls out “All the fish in the sea!” everyone changes seats.

Remind your family members that President Woodruff loved to fish, and that, as a great missionary, he was also considered a great fisher of men.

(adapted from George and Jeane Chipman, *Games! Games! Games!*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 1983], p. 15, 18.)

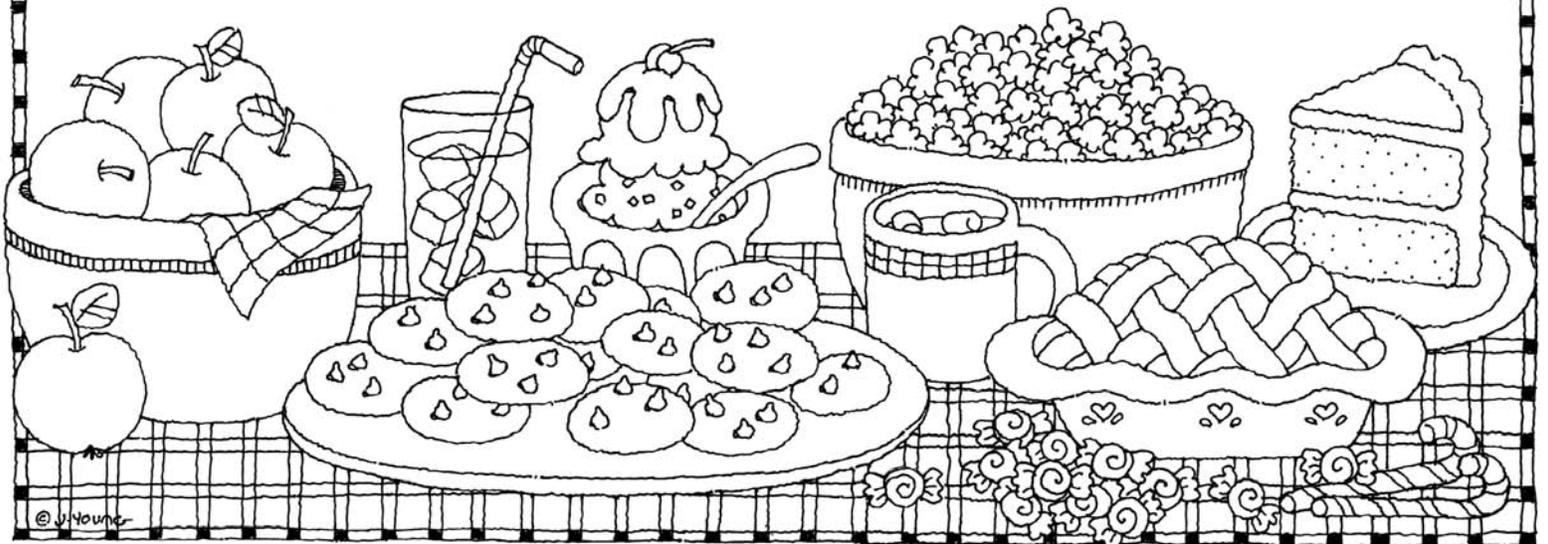
Refreshment

Gingerbread

- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine
- 1 egg, well beaten
- 1 cup molasses
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 1/2 cups sifted flour
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ginger
- 1/2 teaspoon powdered cloves
- 1 cup very hot water
- Bananas
- Whipped cream

Cream sugar and butter well. Add eggs and molasses; beat well. Sift dry ingredients together and add to creamed mixture. Add hot water and beat until smooth (batter will be very thin). Pour into well-greased 9x13-inch baking pan. Bake at 350 degrees for about 40 minutes or until cake tests done. Serve warm or cold with sliced bananas and whipped cream.

(*Lion House Classics*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 2004], p. 101.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: I Will Read and Watch Pleasing Things

Packet #030107

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
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- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.

A B C D E F G H I J K L

My Gospel Standard #10 I Will Read and Watch Pleasing Things

Gospel Standard:

I will only read and watch things that are pleasing to Heavenly Father.

(*Faith in God* guidebooks, backcover)

Thought:

How do you learn to think? By reading the scriptures; by conversations with good people, leaders, others; by reading good books; and by watching good television. . . . Children, fill your minds with good thoughts, take in good information, read good books. What a wonderful thing it is that we have minds to work with!

(Elder Richard E. Turley Sr., "Friend to Friend," *Friend*, Apr 1999, 6)

Song:

"I Have Two Ears" *Children's Songbook*, p. 269.

Lesson:

Help your children realize that they should select their reading material wisely. Let them know that if they were to read a book a week (and few will) for the next seventy years, they would read 3,640 books in that period of time. A remarkable number, they might reasonably think, until they learn that there are already more than 15 million volumes in the United States Library of Congress and that new books are spewing from the presses of the world at the rate of a thousand titles a day, which means there will be more than 25 million additional volumes in seventy years. The message: There is no time for trash or for reading anything in print that is not helpful and uplifting.

A sensitive father described how they are solving two problems: "When we became aware of how many hours each day our children were watching TV programs of little or no value, and some that were actually extremely sordid, vulgar, and violent, we decided that some changes needed to be made. We invested in a video recorder and then made an agreement that each week we would go through the TV listings and together with our children select the programs we considered to be of greatest educational and cultural worth. We would program the recorder to record them. Then on Saturday, the children could look forward to a few hours of choice entertainment and learning. In the process we built up a good library of excellent programs. We noticed that immediately our children's grades shot up. The children were happier. Their self-esteem increased because they were accomplishing more and they didn't seem to miss the hours they used to spend with trashy movies, game shows, and cartoons. Television has become a tool for progress in our home rather than a mammoth negative intrusion in our lives."

(Barbara K. Christensen and Joe J. Christensen, *Making Your Home a Missionary Training Center*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1985].)

M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

A B C D E F G H I J K L

Story:

My father was the twelfth of thirteen children. They were very poor, and each child had to work to help support their immigrant family. In those days they felt it their duty to work and develop a good trade rather than spend more time in school. While my father was still in elementary school, he decided that he was through with school, which was not uncommon in those days when school would often be interrupted by dropping out to work to help support the family. He wrote in his personal history, "Then a new teacher came to town. He met me downtown and asked if I was going to school. When I said no, he said to me, 'Why not try it for three or four days and see if you won't like it?' I was like a great many other boys, restless, and education didn't mean much. My parents were very poor and my father encouraged me to learn a trade and not worry about school. But I couldn't resist the new teacher's challenge. He brought a new awakening in me. He never answered a question outright but rather told us where to find the answer in a book. He would write the name of the book on the board. My urge for information-finding has never left me. When I read a good book, I am in a new world." My father continued to learn. He had a real thirst for learning, cultivated by his teacher's love of books. One of my cherished memories of both my parents is of them with a book in their hands. They both became very well educated—beyond most earned degrees.

As I grew up there was never a birthday nor Christmas at our home without our receiving the gift of a well-chosen book. Mother always wrote some appropriate lines in the inside cover. When we were young and money was hard to come by, and also because some of my mother's favorite books were out of print, I remember going with her to secondhand stores to buy books. We would look through stacks of them and sort out the ones she wanted to use as gifts. Then we would take them home and sterilize them in the oven before she made the presentation. I have listened by the hour to my mother recite poetry and stories with great morals.

(Barbara K. Christensen and Joe J. Christensen, *Making Your Home a Missionary Training Center*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1985].)

Activity:

1. Give everyone a pencil and piece of paper.
2. Have everyone write at the top of the paper the first sentence of what might be a story. You could let the stories be a surprise or assign a topic.
3. Have everyone pass his paper to the person on his left. Everyone writes on the new paper a second sentence that continues the story of the first sentence.
4. Have everyone fold the top of his paper over the first sentence so only the sentence he just wrote is showing. Have everyone pass his paper to the person on his left.
5. Continue in this manner, each person writing a sentence, folding over the sentence written by the person just before him, then passing the paper to the person on his left.
6. After a dozen or so sentences have been written, each person in turn unfolds his paper, stands, and reads aloud the entire story.

(George and Jeane Chipman, *Games! Games! Games!*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 1983], p. 62.)

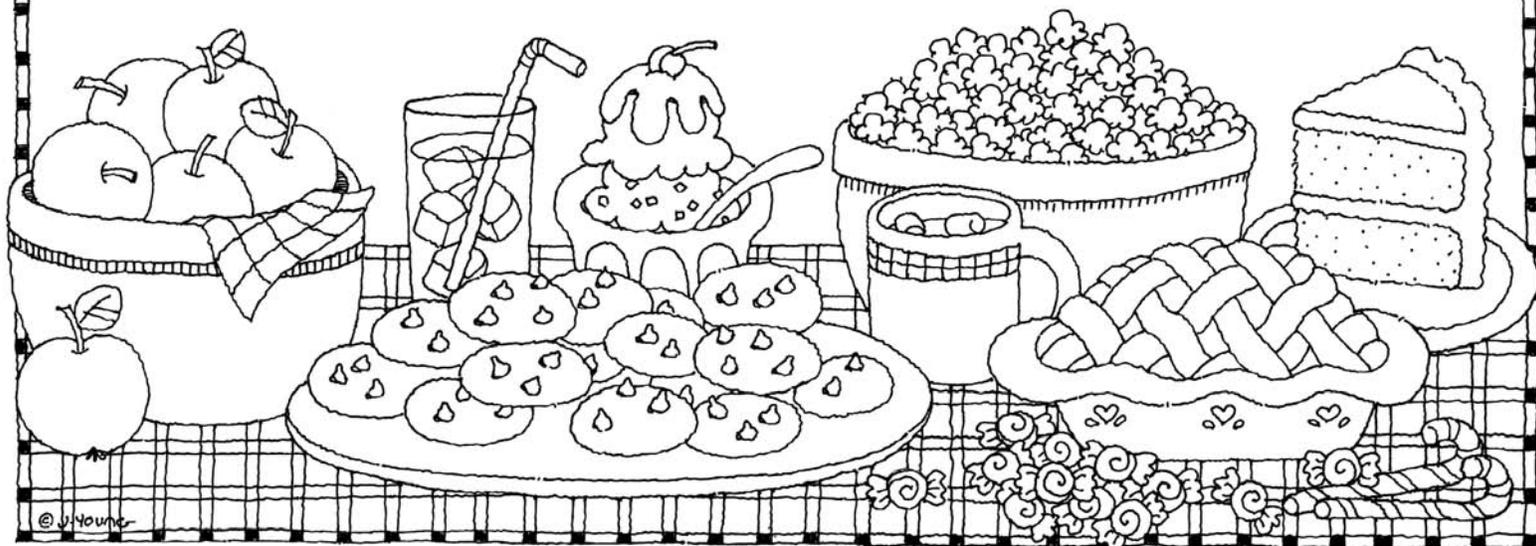
Refreshment

Thumbprints

8 ounces	cream cheese, softened
3/4 cup	butter
1 cup	powdered sugar
2 1/4 cups	flour
1/2 tsp.	baking soda
1 cup	pecans, finely chopped
1 tsp.	vanilla
	jam of your choice

Beat cream cheese, butter, and powdered sugar in large mixing bowl at medium speed. Add flour and baking soda and mix well. Add chopped nuts and vanilla and chill for 30 minutes. Heat oven to 350 degrees. Shape dough into 1-inch balls. Place on ungreased cookie sheet. Indent centers and fill each with 1 teaspoon of your favorite jam. Bake for 14-16 minutes or until edges begin to brown. Cool on wire rack. Use a variety of jams—the cookies will look beautiful on a serving plate.

(Holle Eckman and Heather Higgins, *All That Jam*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 2003], p. 73.)



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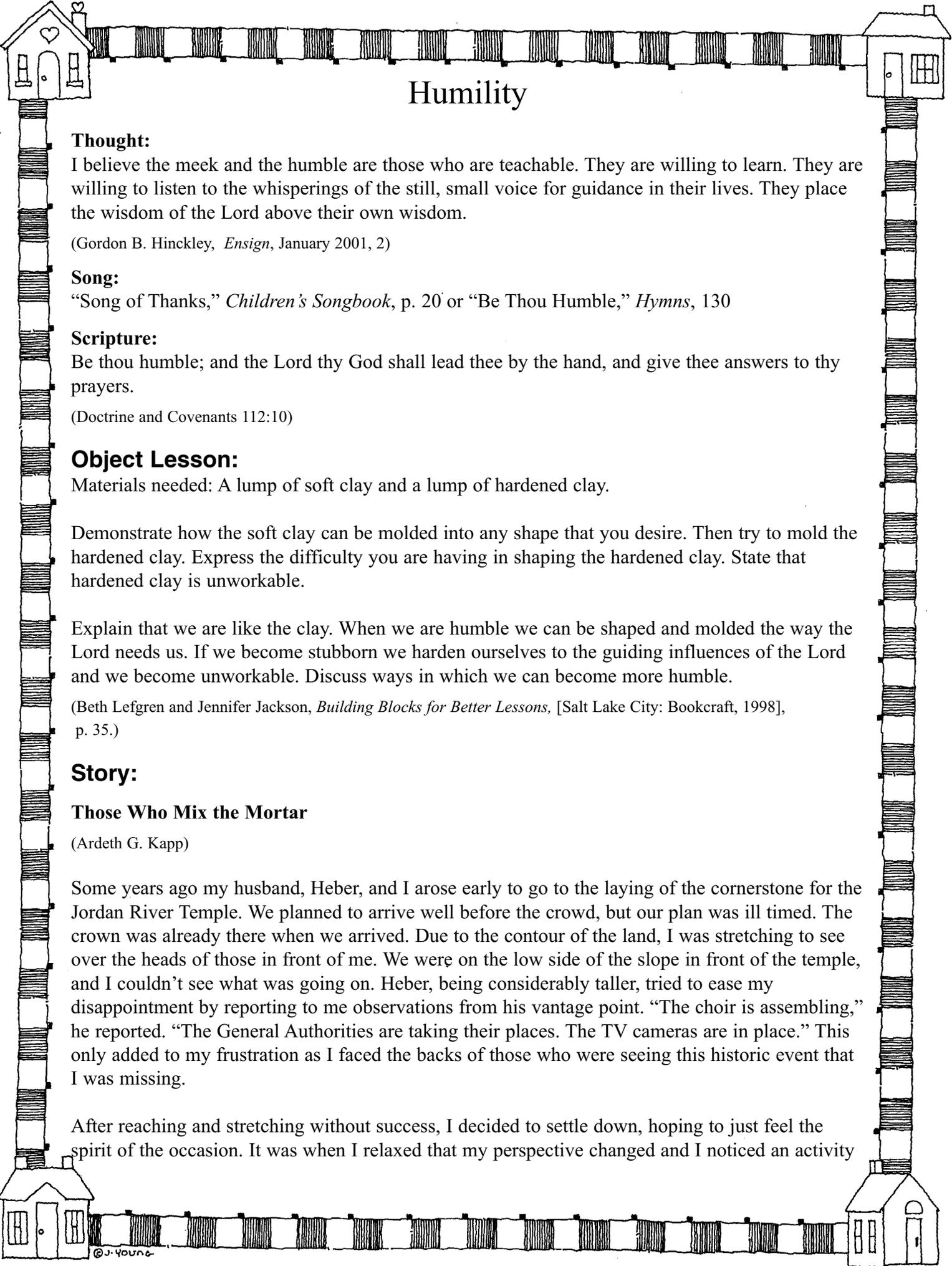
Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Humility

Packet #030106

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

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Humility

Thought:

I believe the meek and the humble are those who are teachable. They are willing to learn. They are willing to listen to the whisperings of the still, small voice for guidance in their lives. They place the wisdom of the Lord above their own wisdom.

(Gordon B. Hinckley, *Ensign*, January 2001, 2)

Song:

“Song of Thanks,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 20 or “Be Thou Humble,” *Hymns*, 130

Scripture:

Be thou humble; and the Lord thy God shall lead thee by the hand, and give thee answers to thy prayers.

(Doctrine and Covenants 112:10)

Object Lesson:

Materials needed: A lump of soft clay and a lump of hardened clay.

Demonstrate how the soft clay can be molded into any shape that you desire. Then try to mold the hardened clay. Express the difficulty you are having in shaping the hardened clay. State that hardened clay is unworkable.

Explain that we are like the clay. When we are humble we can be shaped and molded the way the Lord needs us. If we become stubborn we harden ourselves to the guiding influences of the Lord and we become unworkable. Discuss ways in which we can become more humble.

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *Building Blocks for Better Lessons*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1998], p. 35.)

Story:

Those Who Mix the Mortar

(Ardeth G. Kapp)

Some years ago my husband, Heber, and I arose early to go to the laying of the cornerstone for the Jordan River Temple. We planned to arrive well before the crowd, but our plan was ill timed. The crown was already there when we arrived. Due to the contour of the land, I was stretching to see over the heads of those in front of me. We were on the low side of the slope in front of the temple, and I couldn’t see what was going on. Heber, being considerably taller, tried to ease my disappointment by reporting to me observations from his vantage point. “The choir is assembling,” he reported. “The General Authorities are taking their places. The TV cameras are in place.” This only added to my frustration as I faced the backs of those who were seeing this historic event that I was missing.

After reaching and stretching without success, I decided to settle down, hoping to just feel the spirit of the occasion. It was when I relaxed that my perspective changed and I noticed an activity

at the far northeast side of the temple. there I observed two men dressed in dark pants, white shirts, and ties, each holding a shovel. I saw them empty sacks of concrete into a wheelbarrow, pour in water, and mix the contents.

In time, after the choir sang and the presiding authorities had delivered impressive messages, Heber reported that the cameras were moving to the location for the placement of the cornerstone. At that moment the men who had been mixing the mortar pushed the wheelbarrow forward and quickly disappeared behind the scene. Then the cornerstone was anchored in place.

On the television news that evening, I saw what the cameras saw. But they did not see what I had seen. And even today, years later, I never drive past the Jordan River Temple without thinking of those men who mixed the mortar—those whose quiet, unsung labors played a major role in the placement of the cornerstone for the house of the Lord in a building that will stand against all the storms of life.

Given a choice, would you be willing to serve with the men who mix the mortar? Small acts of service, small sacrifices, small notes and calls, words of encouragement one to another—these “small things” are the mortar that helps hold life together.

(*Good Deeds*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 14–5.)

Activities:

While everyone uses the soft clay to model one of God’s creations and while you eat the treat, play “Humility.” A handful of beans is given to each person. Each player takes part in a conversation. A specified number of beans is lost each time the terms “me” or “I” are spoken. The person who collects the most beans is the winner.

(Alma Heaton, *The LDS Game Book*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1968], p. 139.)

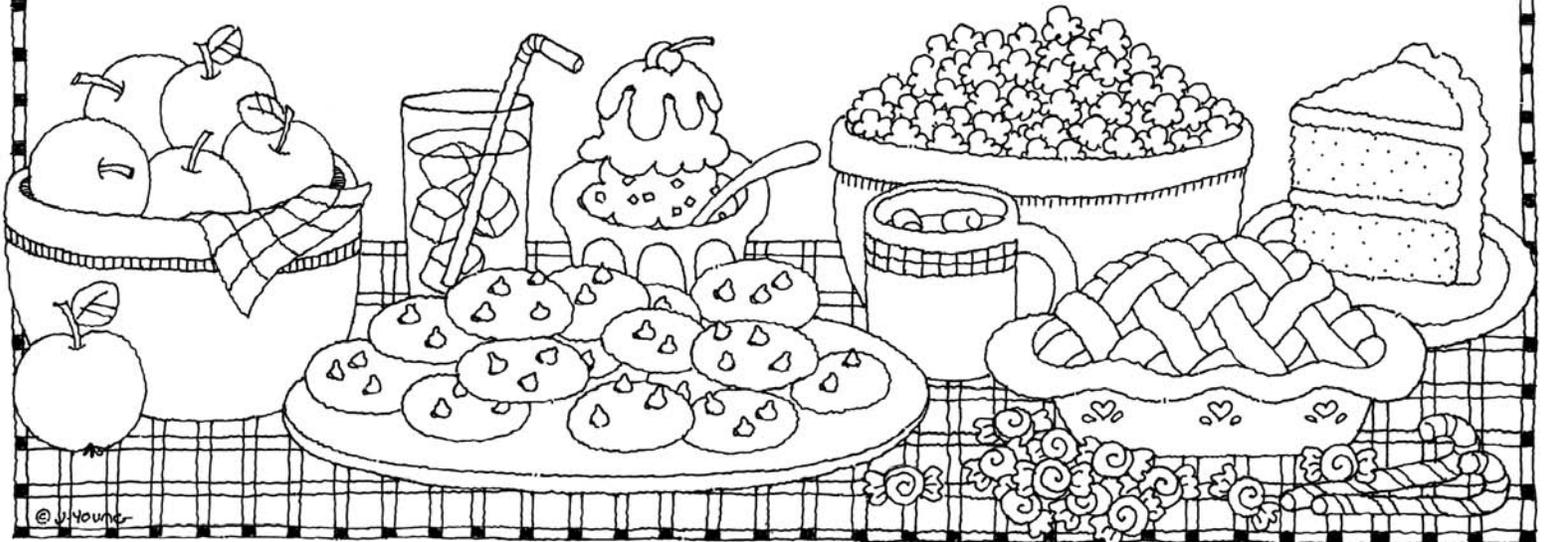
Refreshment

Applesauce Cookies

- 2 cups flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1/2 teaspoon cloves
- 1/2 cup shortening
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 cup applesauce
- 1 12-ounce bag chocolate chips

Combine all ingredients in a large bowl. Drop by spoonfuls onto ungreased cookie sheets and bake at 350 degrees F. for 10 to 15 minutes, until just golden brown.

(Janene W. Baadsgaard, *The LDS Mother's Almanac*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003] p. 330.)



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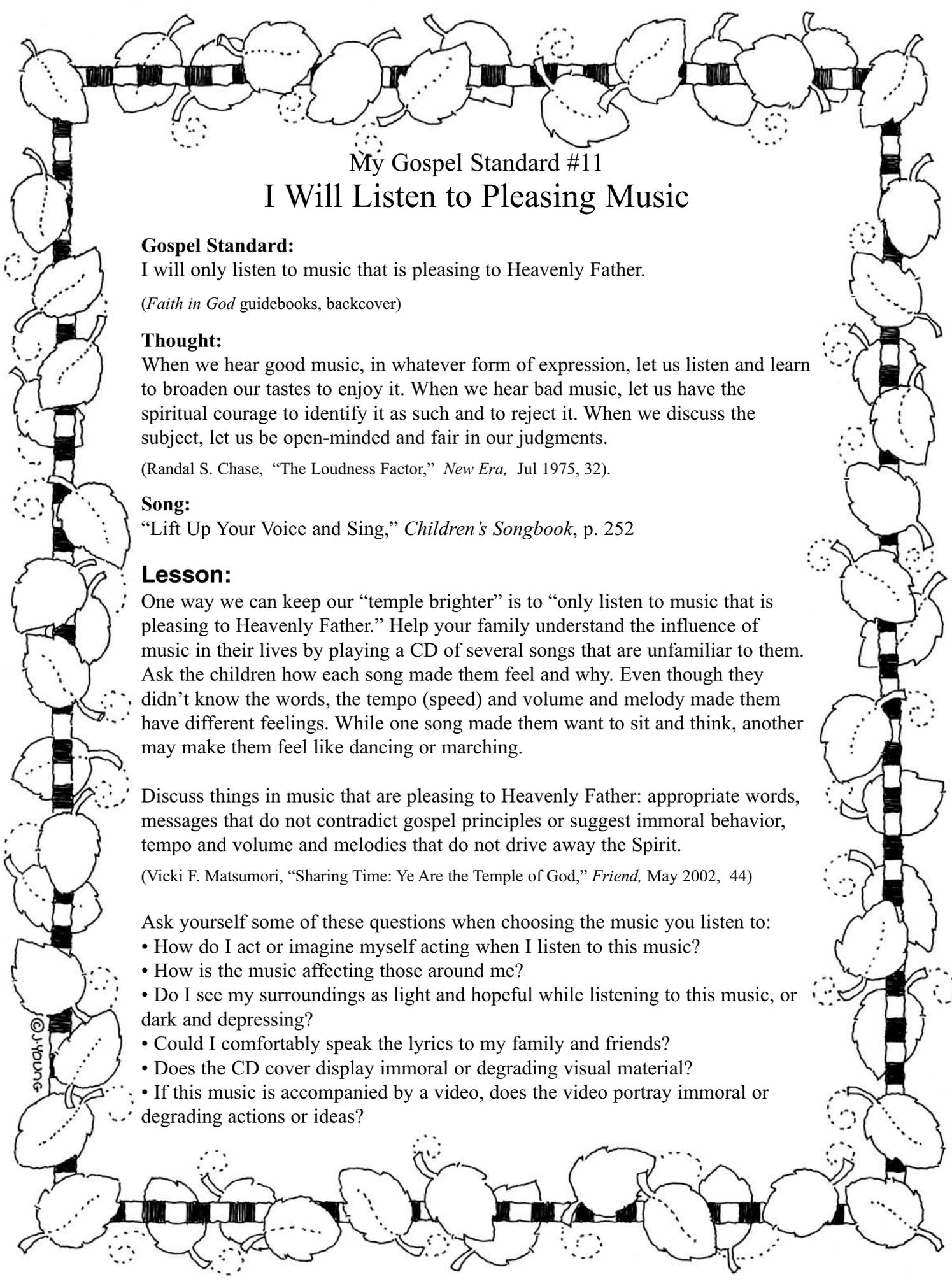
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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: I Will Listen to Pleasing Music

Packet #030207

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
- 3. Involvement.** Involve everyone in the family; help little children take part.
- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
- 5. Relax and enjoy it.** The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.



My Gospel Standard #11

I Will Listen to Pleasing Music

Gospel Standard:

I will only listen to music that is pleasing to Heavenly Father.

(*Faith in God* guidebooks, backcover)

Thought:

When we hear good music, in whatever form of expression, let us listen and learn to broaden our tastes to enjoy it. When we hear bad music, let us have the spiritual courage to identify it as such and to reject it. When we discuss the subject, let us be open-minded and fair in our judgments.

(Randal S. Chase, "The Loudness Factor," *New Era*, Jul 1975, 32).

Song:

"Lift Up Your Voice and Sing," *Children's Songbook*, p. 252

Lesson:

One way we can keep our "temple brighter" is to "only listen to music that is pleasing to Heavenly Father." Help your family understand the influence of music in their lives by playing a CD of several songs that are unfamiliar to them. Ask the children how each song made them feel and why. Even though they didn't know the words, the tempo (speed) and volume and melody made them have different feelings. While one song made them want to sit and think, another may make them feel like dancing or marching.

Discuss things in music that are pleasing to Heavenly Father: appropriate words, messages that do not contradict gospel principles or suggest immoral behavior, tempo and volume and melodies that do not drive away the Spirit.

(Vicki F. Matsumori, "Sharing Time: Ye Are the Temple of God," *Friend*, May 2002, 44)

Ask yourself some of these questions when choosing the music you listen to:

- How do I act or imagine myself acting when I listen to this music?
- How is the music affecting those around me?
- Do I see my surroundings as light and hopeful while listening to this music, or dark and depressing?
- Could I comfortably speak the lyrics to my family and friends?
- Does the CD cover display immoral or degrading visual material?
- If this music is accompanied by a video, does the video portray immoral or degrading actions or ideas?

- Does the group or individual performing promote standards similar to my own?
- Is the music helping me accomplish my current goals? (Some music may help you while jogging but may not be the best when studying for school or preparing for a Church meeting.)
- Do I think, act, or feel contrary to the teachings of Christ when I listen to this music?

(Laura Andreasen, "Pop Quiz," *New Era*, Jun 2006, 8–9)

Story:

Gifts From My Mother

Sylvia Probst Young

Yesterday, at the home of a friend, I admired a delicately beautiful figurine. "That," she said proudly, "is a gift from my mother. It was imported from Italy."

On my way home I thought about the gifts my mother had given me. Materially I don't have much from her . . .

Mother had a deep appreciation for good music, and she helped us to gain a love for it. Whenever I think of our front room I remember the corner where the organ stood, and the young people who gathered around it to sing together. Some of us children were always practicing on that old pump organ, and Mother willingly did washings to pay for music lessons.

My mother was deeply spiritual; her family and my father's had come to America for the gospel, and to them it was the most precious thing in the world. We learned about the Lord very early, and we were taught the value and importance of prayer and faith, repentance and baptism, the paying of tithing and the Word of Wisdom.

Our winter nights were spent around a wood-burning stove reading the gospel together. We took turns reading chapters from the Bible and the Book of Mormon. Together, we read the life of Christ from the New Testament, and Joseph Smith's Story. From the Old Testament, we read the stories of all the wonderful old prophets—Moses, Joseph, Samuel, Daniel, or sometimes Mother told these stories. She loved to tell stories, and she was a wonderful storyteller. Through her teachings we learned the great value of spiritual blessings and gained a knowledge of the truth.

These are some of the gifts my mother gave to me. Time cannot efface them nor can thieves break in and take them from me. These gifts are far more precious than rubies, and for them I shall be eternally grateful to the wonderful woman who was my mother.

(Leon R. Hartshorn, *Remarkable Stories from the Lives of Latter-day Saint Women*, vol. 1, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1973].)

Activity:

Have each family member write the last line of the thirteenth article of faith, "If there is anything virtuous, lovely, or of good report, or praiseworthy, we seek after these things," on a large paper musical note. Have each one decorate their note and show it to the family. Then place it by their radio or CD player as a reminder to choose good music.

Vicki F. Matsumori, "Sharing Time: Ye Are the Temple of God," *Friend*, May 2002, 44

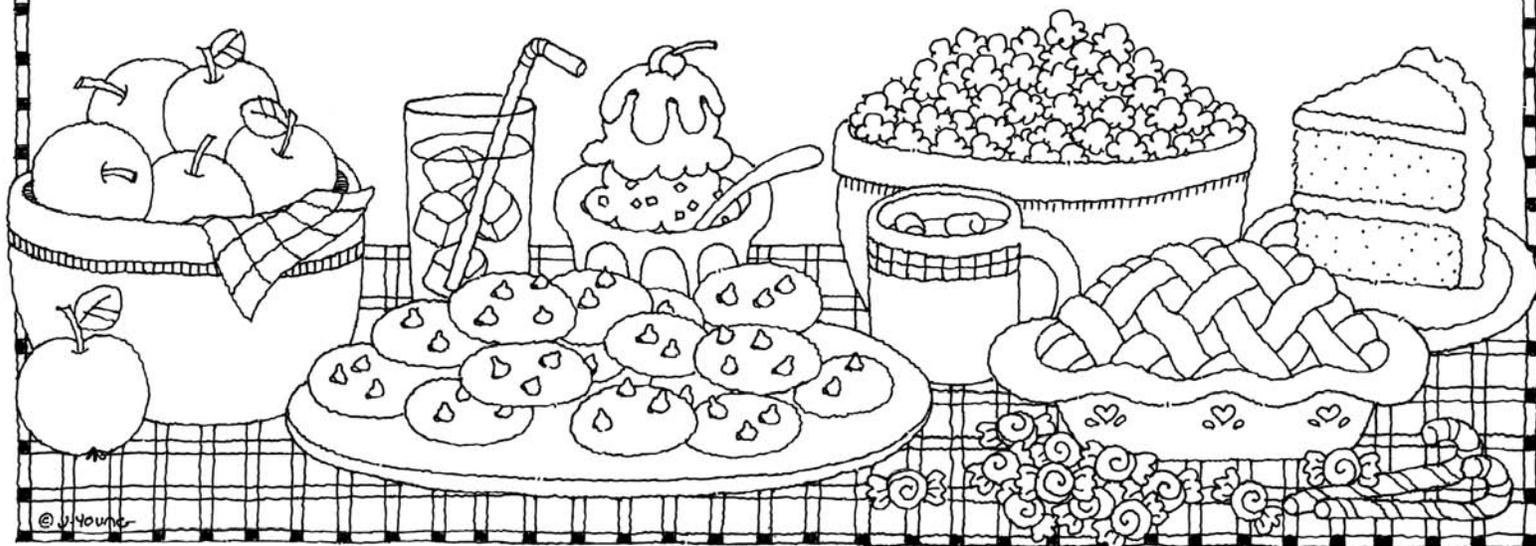
Refreshment

Apple Spice Cake

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1/2 cup shortening | 1/2 teaspoon salt |
| 1 1/2 cups sugar | 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon |
| 1 egg | 1/2 teaspoon cloves |
| 1 1/2 cups applesauce | 1/2 teaspoon allspice |
| 2 1/2 cups flour | 1/2 cup hot water |
| 2 teaspoons soda | 1/2 cup nuts |
| | 1 cup raisins |

Preheat oven to 350° F. Grease and flour a 9x13x2-inch cake pan or two 8-inch round pans. Cream shortening and sugar together in a large mixing bowl. Add egg and beat until creamed; add applesauce and mix well. In a separate bowl, sift together the flour, soda, and spices. Add half of the flour mixture and blend in, followed by half of the water. Repeat, adding remaining flour and water. Fold in nuts and raisins. Pour into prepared pan(s) and bake for 45 minutes. Cut into squares. Makes 15 to 20 servings.

(Lion House Desserts, [Salt Lake City: Eagle Gate, 2000] p. 10.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Kindness

Packet #030206

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
- 3. Involvement.** Involve everyone in the family; help little children take part.
- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.

Kindness

Thought:

Kindness is the essence of a celestial life. Kindness is how a Christlike person treats others.

(Joseph B. Wirthlin, "The Virtue of Kindness," *Ensign*, May 2005, 26)

Song:

"I'll Walk With You," *Children's Songbook*, p. 140.

Scripture:

And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.

(Luke 6:31)

Lesson:

Print "Kindness is a way of showing love" on a large strip of paper. Print the following words on slips of paper: PARENTS, BROTHERS AND SISTERS, FRIENDS, PLANTS AND ANIMALS. Obtain five pictures of Christ: Jesus healing the blind (Gospel Art Kit 213), Sermon on the Mount (GAK 212), Christ and the Children (GAK 216), boy Jesus in the temple (GAK 205), Mary and Martha (GAK 219).

Hold up the pictures of the Savior. Ask the children what Jesus was doing (helping, serving, loving, and so on). Point out that Jesus always helped in a kind way. Tell the children that Jesus taught us to always show kindness. Being kind was one way Jesus showed love. Post the wordstrip and read it with your family.

Have family members take turns selecting a word slip. Have them discuss how they can show kindness to the subject on their paper. Remind them that being kind is more than just hugging and speaking nicely—kindness is also doing things for others.

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *Sharing Time, Family Time, Anytime: Book Two*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1994], p. 59.)

Story:

Are You Having a Bad Day?

(Mary Ellen Edmunds)

Love requires courage. To share in Christ's way is a courageous undertaking. Do it. Do it now. Respond to promptings that come. If we feel compassion or empathy without doing something, we may diminish our power to act, to respond.

I find that I think of kind things more often than I do kind things. I'll get an idea, a prompting, but then too many times I chicken out. When I do respond, I have great adventures.

Once I was in a store standing in line to check out. (I have lots of experiences with that particular activity, and I almost always get in the slowest line; I don't know if it's a gift or a talent.) Anyway, I noticed that the woman behind the checkout counter seemed to be in a less-than-pleasant mood. She kind of locked horns with a person ahead of me in line. I couldn't really hear or tell exactly what happened, but the clerk was not happy. A little prompting came inside of me: "Say something nice to her." "I don't want to." "She needs it." (Do you ever have conversations like this with the still small voice?) "She'll bite my head off." Back and

forth it went. I was getting closer. My heart was pounding the way it does when you sit in a testimony meeting and you know you're going to get up and you also know you're going to die at the pulpit.

And then I was there, right up close to her. She was punching the keys and all. And this is what came out of my mouth: "Are you having a bad day?" It came out kindly and gently and seemed to catch her way off guard. She looked at me, getting ready to bite, and then said, "Does it show?" "Kind of." She then told me that yes, she was having a very hard, bad, ugly day, and she told me some of the reasons why.

I didn't know what to do. I was screaming at the still small voice in my mind, "Now what? You didn't tell me what to do next!" But it came out: "Can I do anything to help you?" She looked at me with this what-in-the-world kind of look. It was an awkward moment. Then I said, "I know how to take out the trash." And we both laughed.

We continued talking to each other as she finished ringing up my purchases. She thanked me as I left, and I felt so happy I was grinning—not just smiling, but grinning. I felt good all over. I'm not sure if that little exchange did much for the woman at the checkout, but it made a huge difference in my day and is a sweet memory even now, years later.

(Mary Ellen Edmunds, *Love Is a Verb*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1995], p. 3–4.)

Activity:

Play "Do You Love Your Neighbor."

Items Needed: Chairs or seats for each player, minus one. So if 6 people are playing you'll need five chairs. You can use a couch, just clarify how many seats it holds.

Preparation: Setup chairs in a circle facing inwards.

Directions: Choose someone to be "it" and have them stand in the center of the circle of chairs, everyone else should take a seat. "It" then goes up to one of the seated people and asks, "Do you love your neighbor?" the person then chooses to say "yes" or "no". If they say "yes" then the person's two neighbors (the ones seated directly to their left and right) have to switch seats before "it" can steal one of their chairs. Who ever is left standing is "it". If the person says "no" they then says, "but I love people who _____." They fill in the blank with anything pertaining to one or more players. Those players must then leave their seat and try to find a new one before "it" steals their chair.

Example: It asks me, "Do you love your neighbor?" and I reply, "No, but I love people wearing red." Everyone playing with red somewhere on their body must get up from their seat, including myself since my shirt has red on it. The it person takes my seat, I take player two's seat who was wearing red socks, and player two is left standing because no one else was wearing red. Player two is now "it" and asks player 4 if they love their neighbor. Player four says yes, and the two people seated on the right and left of player 4 must switch seats.

Note: To make the game more exciting for larger groups you can make a rule that you can't take the seat directly to your left or right, making it easier for "it" to steal a seat.

Refreshment

Luscious Lemon Cake

1 cup all-purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon baking powder
3 egg yolks
1 cup sugar, divided
1 tablespoon water

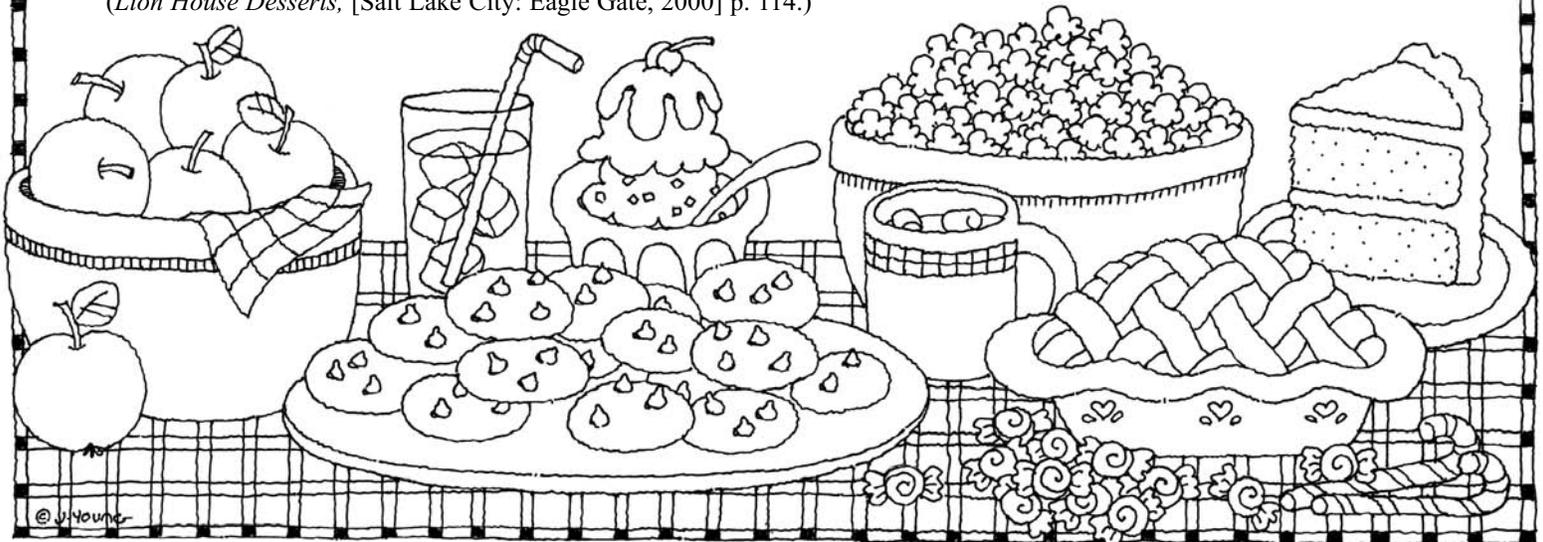
2 tablespoons lemon juice
1 1/2 teaspoon lemon rind, grated
1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla
3 egg whites
1 to 2 cups canned lemon pie filling
powdered sugar

Combine flour, salt, and baking powder and set aside. In a medium bowl, beat egg yolks and 1/2 cup of sugar until thick and lemon colored. In a separate bowl, mix together water, lemon juice, lemon rind, and vanilla; add this alternately with the flour mixture to the egg yolk mixture. Mix until smooth.

In a separate bowl, beat egg whites until soft peaks form. Gradually add remaining 1/2 cup of sugar and beat until stiff peaks form. Slowly pour the lemon mixture into the egg white mixture, folding together while you pour. Gently pour the batter into an ungreased 9-inch bundt cake pan.

Bake at 350° for 25 to 30 minutes, or until toothpick inserted into the center of cake comes out clean. Place cake upside down to cool. When cool, remove cake from pan and cut in half horizontally. Spread bottom half of cake with lemon pie filling and replace top half. Dust with powdered sugar. Makes 10 servings.

(*Lion House Desserts*, [Salt Lake City: Eagle Gate, 2000] p. 114.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: I Will Seek Good Friends

Packet #030307

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
- 3. Involvement.** Involve everyone in the family; help little children take part.
- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.

My Gospel Standard #12

I Will Seek Good Friends

Gospel Standard:

I will seek good friends and treat others kindly.

(*Faith in God* guidebooks, backcover)

Thought:

In my childhood, I was blessed with many good friends, friends who deeply influenced my life.

(Elder Gordon Taylor Watts, "Friend to Friend: Best Friends," *Friend*, Feb 2002, 8)

Song:

"Love One Another," *Children's Songbook*, p. 136.

Object Lesson:

Materials needed: chalk dust.

Procedure: After "chalking" your hands, show them to your family. Ask them what would happen if you shook hands with them or patted them on the back. Discuss.

Explain that friendship is much like the chalk dust. As we associate with friends, their good or bad qualities can rub off on us. Discuss how having a good friend can really support a person. Discuss what makes a friend.

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *More Power Tools for Teaching*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1991], p. 23.)

Story:

Being a Friend First

Ardeth G. Kapp

Years ago when I had just turned seventeen, I left my small hometown of Glenwood, Alberta, Canada, which has a population of approximately three hundred people. I went away for my senior year of high school because the courses I needed for graduation were not available to me at home. I knew only one person in my new school, and I was scared. I hadn't had any experience in making friends except with those I had grown up with. I didn't wear the latest fashions like the other girls, so I looked different. I wasn't part of the in-group or of any group, for that matter. I was away from home, homesick, and lonesome. Even if they had asked me, I didn't have the money to do the things the other kids did. I yearned for friends. There was so much talking going on, it seemed that everyone else had lots of friends. How do you get in? I wondered. Now one was discourteous, but I felt ignored, as if they didn't know I was there.

Can you imagine how desperately I wanted friends, or at the least one friend? I remember feeling alone, a long way from home. Kneeling by my bed day after day, night and morning. I prayed for friends, I pleaded for friends. I wanted boyfriends, girlfriends, young and older friends, member and non-member friends. I felt I needed friends for my survival. I talked to my Father in Heaven and promised that in every way I would strive to do what was right no matter what, if I could just be helped to know how to make friends in my new situation. The

thought came to my mind that maybe there were others who felt as I did; maybe I should try to forget about myself and be a friend first. I thought, I can smile, and I can say hi.

I believe that thought was a whispering of the Spirit in answer to my prayer. I began to focus on being a friend instead of having a friend. I listened to the Spirit. I did smile, and I said hi to everyone. I learned to be friendly. At first it was hard, but before long it became easier. At the end of my senior year, I was nominated by the student body as the representative girl for the high school where I had attended only one year. Some may have considered it a popularity victory, but I'll always know it was in answer to the fervent prayer of a sixteen-year-old who learned how to be friends with everybody.

(Jay A Parry, editor, *Everyday Answers*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 77.)

Activity:

Play "River Crossing"

Materials: Paper or fabric cut into 18x18-inch "rocks," 3 per team.

This game is best played in a large area. First, mark the boundaries of your "river" so the shores are as far apart as possible. The object is for each team to cross the river, using only their rocks and not touching the alligator-infested water, in the quickest time possible. You'll need to move the rocks as you go. Your family will quickly discern that only two people can cross at a time, with one returning with the rocks to fetch the next person. This activity is an excellent one to use to teach the importance of having good friends working together and looking out for one another as they travel the perilous waves of life.

(Clark L. and Kathryn H. Kidd, Kent D. and Shannon Pugmire, *Ward Activities for the Clueless*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 2001], p. 112.)

Refreshment

Jeff's 2 and 2 Brownies

2 cups brown sugar 2 eggs 2 cups quick oats
2 cubes margarine 2 cups flour

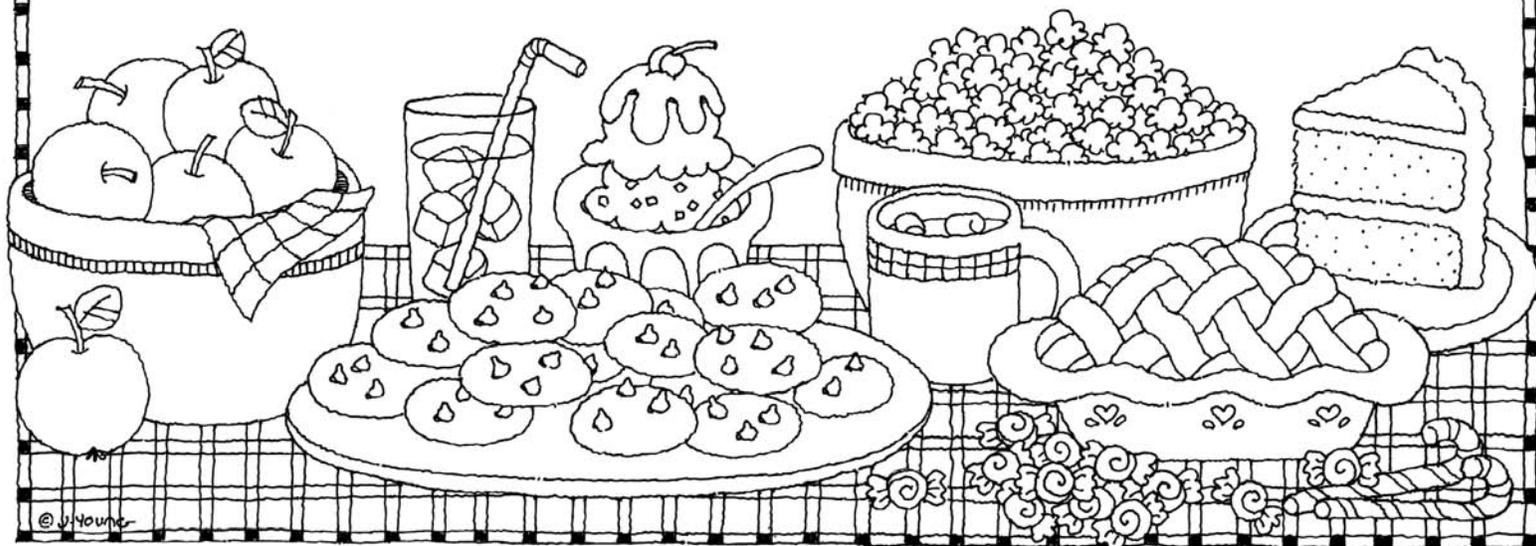
Cream together brown sugar and margarine. Add eggs and mix well. Add flour and oats. Mix well. Pat dough with hands into an 11-inch by 16-inch cookie sheet with sides. It will be like pressing cookie dough into the pan. Bake about 22 minutes at 350 degrees. Frost with chocolate frosting and cut into squares while still warm.

Frosting

3/4 cube margarine 2 tablespoons hot water
2 heaping tablespoons instant cocoa mix 2 cups powdered sugar
1 tablespoon dark cocoa

Melt margarine in a pan. Add both kinds of cocoa and water to margarine. Put powdered sugar in a mixing bowl. Then pour cocoa mixture into powdered sugar and stir until smooth. If frosting is too stiff, add an additional teaspoon of water.

(Karla C. Erickson, *Kids in the Kitchen*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1980] p. 25.)



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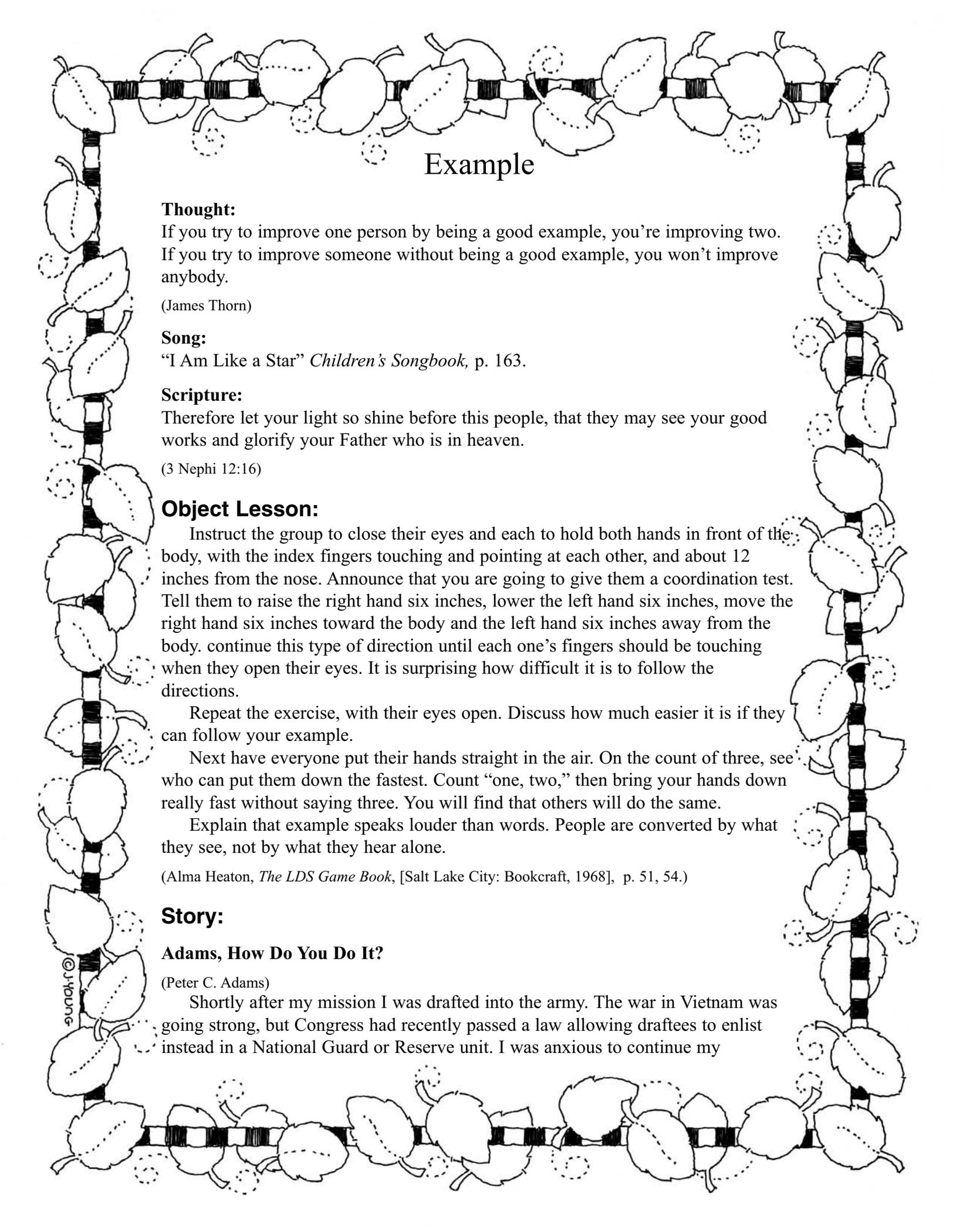
Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Example

Packet #030306

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
- 3. Involvement.** Involve everyone in the family; help little children take part.
- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.



Example

Thought:

If you try to improve one person by being a good example, you're improving two. If you try to improve someone without being a good example, you won't improve anybody.

(James Thorn)

Song:

"I Am Like a Star" *Children's Songbook*, p. 163.

Scripture:

Therefore let your light so shine before this people, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

(3 Nephi 12:16)

Object Lesson:

Instruct the group to close their eyes and each to hold both hands in front of the body, with the index fingers touching and pointing at each other, and about 12 inches from the nose. Announce that you are going to give them a coordination test. Tell them to raise the right hand six inches, lower the left hand six inches, move the right hand six inches toward the body and the left hand six inches away from the body. Continue this type of direction until each one's fingers should be touching when they open their eyes. It is surprising how difficult it is to follow the directions.

Repeat the exercise, with their eyes open. Discuss how much easier it is if they can follow your example.

Next have everyone put their hands straight in the air. On the count of three, see who can put them down the fastest. Count "one, two," then bring your hands down really fast without saying three. You will find that others will do the same.

Explain that example speaks louder than words. People are converted by what they see, not by what they hear alone.

(Alma Heaton, *The LDS Game Book*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1968], p. 51, 54.)

Story:

Adams, How Do You Do It?

(Peter C. Adams)

Shortly after my mission I was drafted into the army. The war in Vietnam was going strong, but Congress had recently passed a law allowing draftees to enlist instead in a National Guard or Reserve unit. I was anxious to continue my

university education and took that option. I enlisted in the Air National Guard and went to basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas.

I was worried when I went. Friends and acquaintances seemed eager to tell me horror stories of “boot camp.” The drill instructors (DIs) were abusive, they said. DIs went out of their way to harass their trainees; the DIs would use a lot of profanity and would “get in your face,” doing everything they could to break you down. The other trainees, as a rule, would be crude and rough.

It seemed particularly hard to go from the sweet and gentle mission atmosphere to the worldly setting of boot camp. I prayed before I went that I would be able to adjust well without lowering my standards. I prayed further that I would be a good example to both my fellow airmen and to the DIs.

On my first day I discovered that there were two other Mormons in our eighty-man squad (officially called a flight). By the third day one of the three had been transferred out, leaving just two of us. We were assigned to bunks on opposite ends of the floor, so I didn’t have a lot of opportunity to spend time with my fellow Mormon.

On my first night I wondered if I should kneel by my bed and say a prayer. I finally decided that I would say my prayer while lying on my bunk. But after the lights were off I heard a young Baptist kid two bunks over kneel on the floor. I repented and did the same every night thereafter.

The training was rough, just as my friends had predicted. I wasn’t in the best of shape physically, and the running and other exercise was demanding. Nor have I ever considered myself particularly coordinated, and the close-ranks marching required quite a bit of concentration. I did better with the classroom work; I was able to quickly pick up on the material they were teaching us, and I did well with the tests.

We had two primary DIs assigned to our flight. From the very first day they started a “good guy-bad guy” routine with us. One would be tough and coarse and demanding, while the other would be nice to us. Then the next day they would reverse roles, trying to keep us off balance. Rather than watch for what we did well, they seemed to watch for us to make a mistake. They took pride in giving out demerit slips (“gigs”) for even the smallest infraction. Those who got gig slips had to pull extra guard duty or extra kitchen duty—or they could even have their Sunday privileges removed from them.

We didn’t get any leave time for the first several weeks, but after the first Sunday we were allowed to take a couple of hours to attend the church meeting of our choice, which was held at the base chapel. Sundays became my oasis. I would walk over to the little chapel and meet with a number of other LDS airmen; the meetings were conducted by an LDS chaplain. Often the missionaries attended as well. The other LDS fellow in my flight joined me in trying to get some of our new friends to attend church with us, but few were willing to. Time off was so precious that most of the men felt they had other things to do with their short break.

As the weeks went by the men kept track of those in our flight who still hadn’t received any gigs. After a couple of weeks there were only a half dozen of us left. Then, one by one, the DIs found cause to give out gigs to those who hadn’t received them. Eventually only one man in the eighty-man flight hadn’t received a single demerit—me. The other airmen watched me from day to day, wondering how I did it. The DIs continued to give out gigs freely. Even those who tried hard not to get one continued to slip up one way or another. Gigs were given for not marching correctly, for slacking off during a run, for not having shoes shined, for not standing properly at attention, for talking when we were supposed to be silent, for averting our eyes when the DI was yelling at us, for not making our beds exactly right, for not having our foot lockers properly arranged, and so forth.

“Adams, how do you do it?” the airmen began to ask me, first one, then another, then a third. “It’s impossible not to get a single gig.”

I just smiled. They knew I was a Mormon. They knew I didn't smoke, drink, or swear. I had prayed that the Lord would help me to be a good example to the other men, and he was answering my prayer in a surprising way. I'm not one who likes to be in the limelight, but the Lord wanted to set me up as a light on a hill for those other airmen to see.

In our last week the flight was given the opportunity to send two airmen to a special competition to choose the best airman from our entire class. One of the two airmen was appointed by our DIs. The other was chosen by popular vote, using a secret ballot. I was almost unanimously selected by the airmen in my barracks. "Why did you pick Adams?" the DIs asked. The answer: "He's the best airman we've got. He's never gotten a single gig."

The DIs were surprised; they couldn't understand how they had failed to give me my full share of demerits. They watched me closer during that last week, trying to find an excuse to give me a gig slip. The Lord continued to help me, and I was able to complete my time in boot camp without receiving a demerit.

I did not win the competition for top airman of our class. I wasn't able to bring any of my new associates into the Church. But I was able to plant some seeds among all the other men in my flight; I was able to be an example for them as well as for my drill instructors. The Lord helped me through that experience with the sustaining influence of his Spirit, blessing me according to the prayers of my heart.

(Jay A. Parry, *Everyday Miracles*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2002], p. 119.)

Activity:

Play "Follow the Leader," or sing "Do As I'm Doing" on page 276 of the *Children's Songbook*. Have each family member take a turn at being the leader.

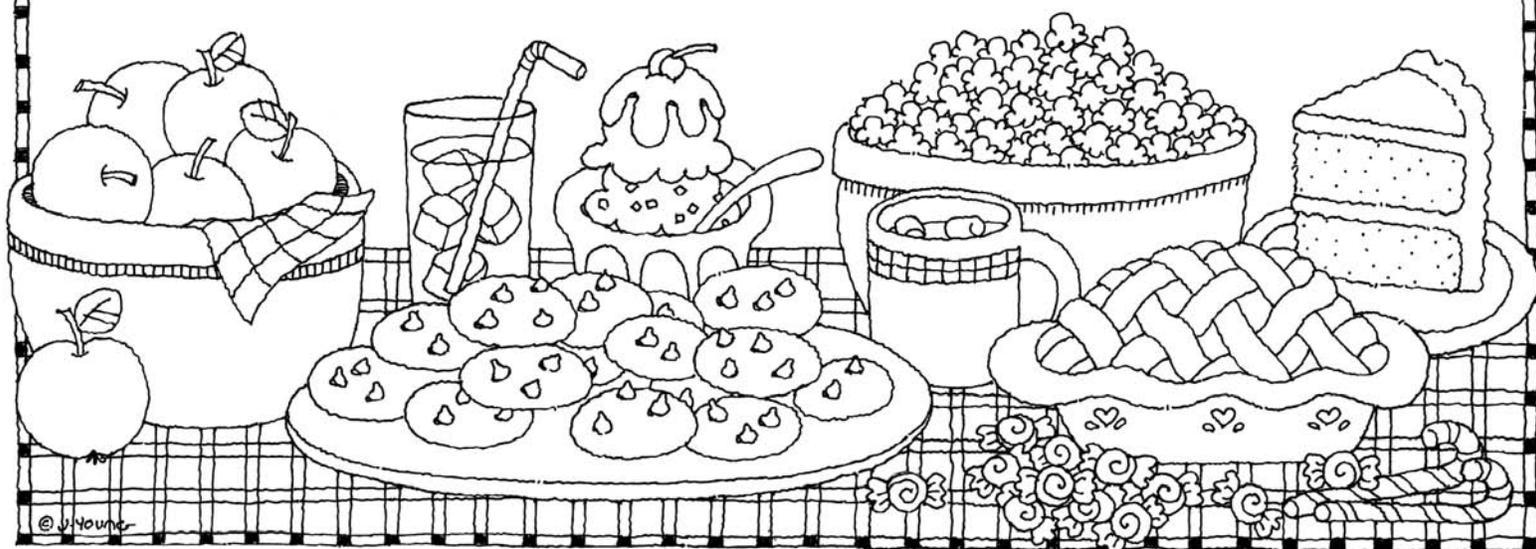
Refreshment

Layered Party Bars

- 1/2 cup butter or margarine
- 1 1/2 cups graham cracker crumbs (16 single crackers)
- 1 can (14 oz.) sweetened condensed milk
- 1 package (6 oz.) semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1 1/2 cups flaked coconut
- 1 cup nuts, chopped

In 13 x 9-inch baking pan, melt butter. Sprinkle graham cracker crumbs over butter. Pour sweetened condensed milk over crumbs. Top evenly with remaining ingredients, pressing down gently. Bake at 350 degrees for 25 to 30 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool thoroughly before cutting. Store, loosely covered, at room temperature.

(Winnifred C. Jardine, *Mormon Country Cooking*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1980], p. 282.)



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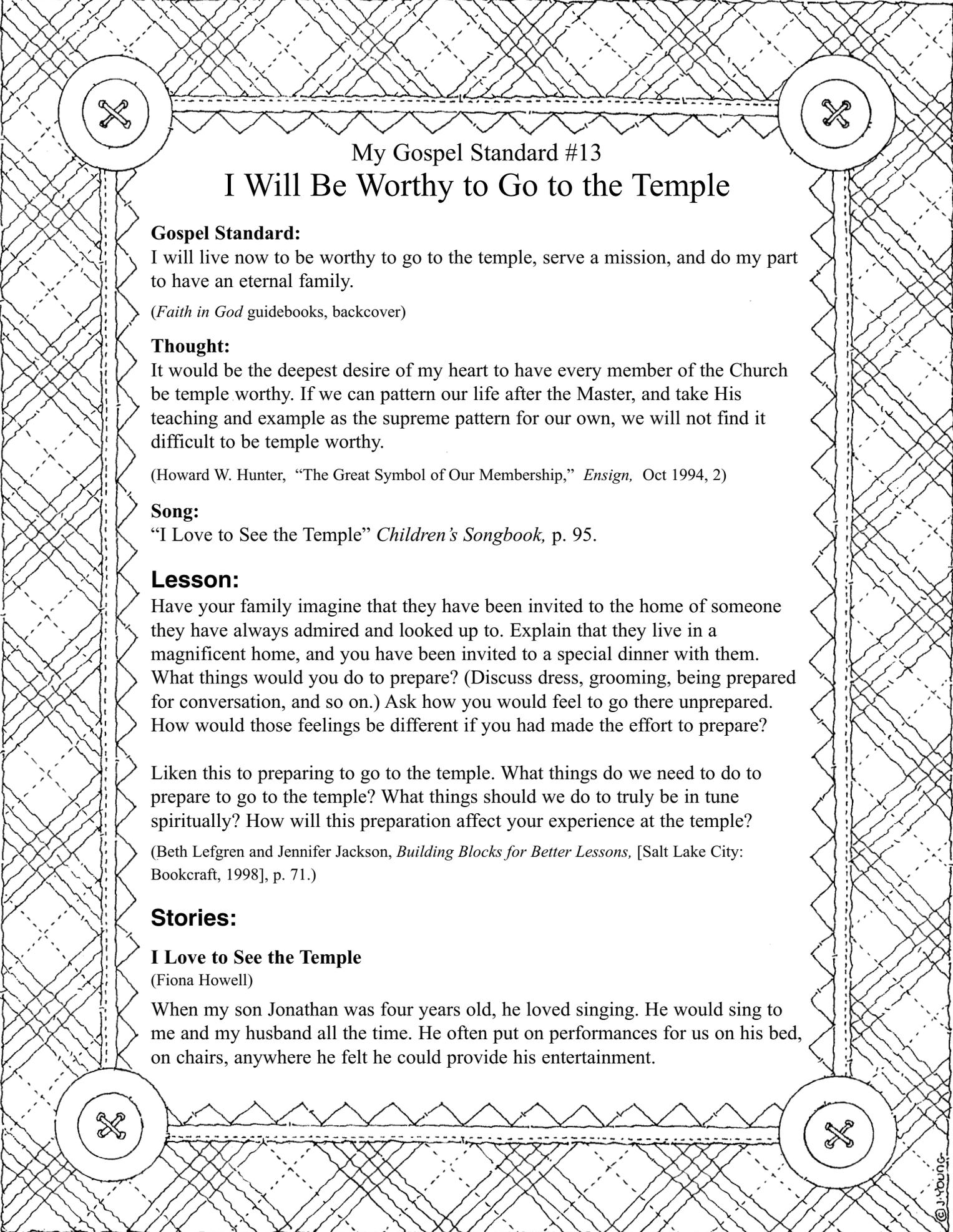
Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: I Will Be Worthy to Go to the Temple

Packet #030407

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
- 3. Involvement.** Involve everyone in the family; help little children take part.
- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.



My Gospel Standard #13
I Will Be Worthy to Go to the Temple

Gospel Standard:

I will live now to be worthy to go to the temple, serve a mission, and do my part to have an eternal family.

(*Faith in God* guidebooks, backcover)

Thought:

It would be the deepest desire of my heart to have every member of the Church be temple worthy. If we can pattern our life after the Master, and take His teaching and example as the supreme pattern for our own, we will not find it difficult to be temple worthy.

(Howard W. Hunter, "The Great Symbol of Our Membership," *Ensign*, Oct 1994, 2)

Song:

"I Love to See the Temple" *Children's Songbook*, p. 95.

Lesson:

Have your family imagine that they have been invited to the home of someone they have always admired and looked up to. Explain that they live in a magnificent home, and you have been invited to a special dinner with them. What things would you do to prepare? (Discuss dress, grooming, being prepared for conversation, and so on.) Ask how you would feel to go there unprepared. How would those feelings be different if you had made the effort to prepare?

Liken this to preparing to go to the temple. What things do we need to do to prepare to go to the temple? What things should we do to truly be in tune spiritually? How will this preparation affect your experience at the temple?

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *Building Blocks for Better Lessons*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1998], p. 71.)

Stories:

I Love to See the Temple

(Fiona Howell)

When my son Jonathan was four years old, he loved singing. He would sing to me and my husband all the time. He often put on performances for us on his bed, on chairs, anywhere he felt he could provide his entertainment.

One night he was standing on our coffee table in the living room asking for requests. We requested a family favorite, “I Love to See the Temple.”

At the top of his voice, he sang, “For the temple is a house of God, a place of love and beauty. I’ll ‘repair’ myself while I am young . . .”

At the time we thought it was funny how he mixed up the word repair for prepare, but my mother reminded me that not only do we need to prepare ourselves to enter the house of the Lord, in some cases we also need to repair ourselves. The Lord has given us the law of repentance to do just that, repair ourselves so we may receive his blessings, including those of the temple.

(*Sunshine from the Latter-day Saint Child’s Soul*, [Salt Lake City: Eagle Gate, 2001], p. 149.)

Preparing for the Temple

(Chad Hawkins)

As the youngest of four children, I was not old enough to attend any of my siblings’ temple marriages. I remember feeling sad because I couldn’t be more involved in those special events, but I am grateful for the wonderful example my brothers and sister set for me. While my sister was being married in the Idaho Falls Idaho Temple, I sat outside on the temple steps, thinking that temples were for adults only and no place for a young boy like me. I have since learned that I was wrong.

Though children can’t participate in all the ordinances of the temple, the temple remains a special place for every one of Heavenly Father’s worthy children—the young, middle-aged, and elderly. A person is never too young or too old to become acquainted with the Lord. . . . Although your first trip to the temple may seem far off, you should begin preparing now.

(Chad Hawkins, *Youth and the Temple*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 2002], p. 69.)

Activity:

1. Place ten short pieces of masking tape on the floor approximately two feet apart. (Some other material, such as string or books, could be used if tape is not available.)
2. One family member is chosen as the leader. Each member of the family stand even with the most distant piece of tape and the leader stands in front, facing the rest of the family.
3. The leader, while holding his hands behind his back, clenches a penny in one hand. He then holds both clenched hands in front of him and each family member guesses which hand holds the penny.
4. After all of the players have made a guess, the leader opens his hands and reveals the penny. Those who guessed correctly move up one step to the next piece of tape. Those who guessed incorrectly have to stay where they are.
5. The leader then hides the penny again and the same process is repeated. The family member who reaches the end tape first is the winner and can become the leader if another game is played.

The application of this game is very simple. Those who make right choices in life progress faster and farther than those who don’t. When proper choices are made in our growing-up years we progress to the point at which we are worthy to go to the temple. This is one of the greatest blessings that can come to us. (Luckily when we are making choices in life we don’t have to “guess,” we have scriptures, leaders, and parents that can help us choose right.)

(Max H. Molgard and Allan K. Burgess, *The Best of Fun for Family Night*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 90.)

Refreshment

Fruit Salsa with Sugar Cinnamon Chips

Fruit Salsa

- 2 Granny Smith apples
- 1 Bartlett pear
- 1 c. strawberries
- 1 mango
- 2 Tbs. fresh lemon juice
- 1 Tbs. brown sugar, packed

Cinnamon Chips

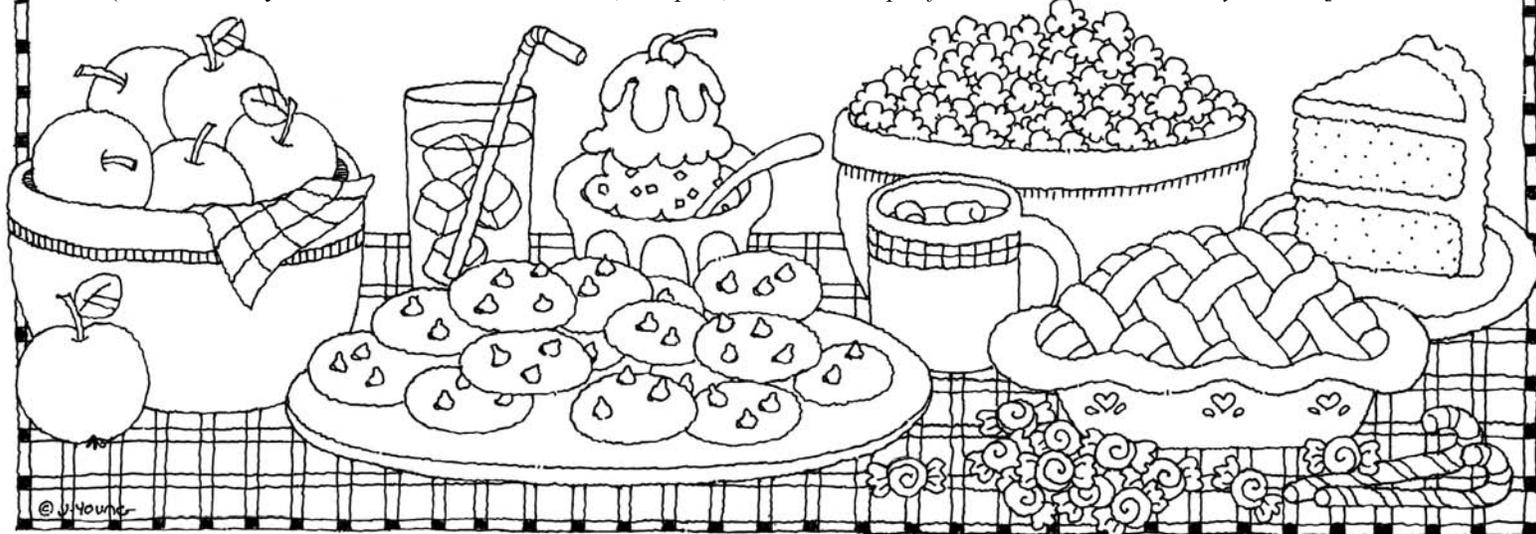
- 6 large flour tortillas
- 4 Tbs. sugar
- 1 Tbs. cinnamon

To make salsa, peel, core, and chop apples. Wash and chop pear, strawberries, and mango. Place fruit in medium bowl and stir in lemon juice and brown sugar to coat. Chill in refrigerator. You can mix and match any of your favorite fruits to make this salsa.

To make cinnamon chips, preheat oven to 375° F. Combine cinnamon and sugar in small bowl. Using water spray bottle, lightly spray tortillas and sprinkle with cinnamon-sugar mixture. Using pizza cutter, cut each tortilla into 8 wedges. Place tortilla wedges on baking sheet and bake 10 to 12 minutes or until crispy. Remove from oven and cool.

Serves 6.

(Contributed by Chad Hawkins. Elaine Cannon, compiler, *Five Star Recipes from Well-Known Latter-day Saints*, [Salt Lake



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: The Old Testament

Packet #050107

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
- 3. Involvement.** Involve everyone in the family; help little children take part.
- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.

The Old Testament

Thought:

The Old Testament testifies of Christ's coming and his mission. . . . The Old Testament, like other scriptures, is a handbook on how to proceed in times of threatened adversity. . . . The Old Testament provides many examples of the importance of heeding and following the Lord's warnings concerning impending distress or disaster. . . . I feel that it is important for us to become familiar with these spiritual fundamentals.

(Marion G. Romney, "Records of Great Worth," *Ensign*, Sep 1980, 3)

Song:

"The Books in the Old Testament" *Children's Songbook*, p. 114.

Scripture:

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

(*Psalms 119:105*)

Lesson:

Divide your family into pairs and give each pair a paper with the following scrambled words: SMAP, OOTTSENOF, EBBLI NDAYOTIICR, and ILATPCO IGEUD.

Explain to the family that the Church has provided for us, along with the Bible, many things that can help us understand the Bible and its teachings. Have the family members unscramble the words to find out what the helps are. After they have discovered what the four helps are (Maps, Footnotes, Bible Dictionary, and Topical Guide), tell them that you are going to learn more about one of the helps: Footnotes.

Have family members open their Old Testament to any page and find a verse that has small a's, b's, and c's next to some of the words. Now find the verse number at the bottom of the page. After the letter a you might find a scripture reference such as Matt. 10:10. This scripture may help you understand the verse better. Instead of the scripture reference you might find the letters TG and then a word. If you look up this word in the Topical Guide you will find a list of scriptures that might help you understand the verse you are reading.

In the Old Testament, some of the footnotes say HEB and are followed by one or more words. This is because the Old Testament was originally written in the Hebrew language and later translated into English. These footnotes explain what some of the Hebrew words meant.

Many footnotes help explain difficult words and sentences and even some parts that have been mistranslated. When you see a JST, that stands for Joseph Smith

Translation. With Heavenly Father's inspiration Joseph Smith corrected parts of the Bible that were not translated correctly. A good example is found in 1 Samuel 16:14. It says that "an evil spirit from the Lord troubled him." Look in the footnote to see what Joseph Smith indicated it should really say.

As you can see, the footnotes aren't something that you just read through. But when you're reading the scriptures and don't understand something, you often can go to the footnotes for help.

(Allan K. Burgess and Max H. Molgard, *Fun For Family Night: Book 3, New Testament Edition*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1995], p 91-93.)

Story:

Probably the greatest enemy to understanding the Old Testament is the inertia that most people experience when facing any worthwhile but difficult task. A great stake president, whose stake led the Church in many statistics, had a wise answer to those critics who said that quality home teaching was more important than having a record of 100 percent home teaching. He said, "That is very true. However, I don't see how you can have quality home teaching if you don't go at all. Any home that is missed won't have any kind of home teaching whatever. It all begins with getting to every home, and getting there does not constitute poor home teaching. it is the beginning of good home teaching." To paraphrase him a little: "You certainly cannot begin to understand the Old Testament until you begin to read it. No amount of looking at it on the shelf or reading about what others have said about it will be of much value until you have read it yourself at least one time. Those who really understand it have read the Book of Mormon many times and the Old Testament at least a few times. Then they have consulted the experts.

(Glenn L. Pearson, *The Old Testament: A Mormon Perspective*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1980], p 163.)

Activity:

1. Have the family sit in a circle on chairs or on the floor.
2. Choose one person to stand in the middle of the circle.
3. Give one bean to two of the people sitting in the circle.
4. Explain that the object of the game is to keep the middle person from finding the beans. Those in the circle put their hands in front of them with the palms together (in prayer-like position). They should hold or pass the bean without letting the middle person notice.
5. On the word "go," the two people with the beans enclose them in their hands. Each then places both hands between the hands of the person on his right. He can either keep the bean or pass it to the other person. That person then turns to the person on his right and does the same thing. This continues around the circle for thirty seconds.
6. At the end of the thirty seconds everyone stops. With all hands closed, the person in the middle has one chance to guess where one of the bean is, he must touch the hand he chooses. If the guess is correct, he changes places with the person who has the bean. If the guess is incorrect, he stays in the middle and the people with the beans reveal where they are. The beans are then passed for another thirty seconds and the person guesses again.
7. Continue this activity as long as you desire.
8. At the end of the activity ask those who were in the middle if they had any special way of trying to determine where the beans were, or if they just guessed. Explain to the family that Heavenly Father has given us ways to know the truth and that we do not have to guess what the truth may be. The scriptures are where we find Heavenly Father's truths.

(Allan K. Burgess and Max H. Molgard, *Fun For Family Night: Book 3, New Testament Edition*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1995], p. 43.)

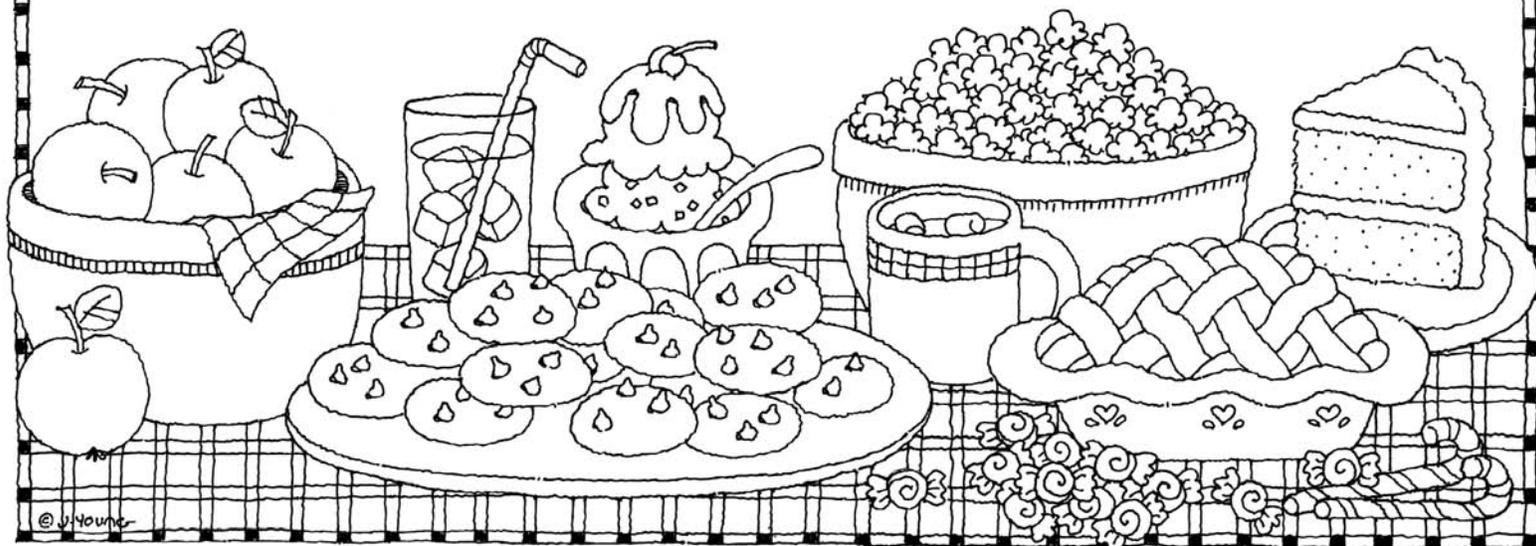
Refreshment

Hanukkah Doughnut Balls

- 2 1/2 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 2 eggs
- 1 1/2 cups sour cream
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/4 cups vegetable oil for deep frying
- 1 cup powdered sugar

In a large mixing bowl, combine flour, baking powder, eggs, sour cream, sugar, vanilla, and salt until well blended. (The batter will be soft.) Heat oil in a deep skillet until oil is hot enough to fry a 1-inch cube of bread in 1 minute. Carefully place dough by tablespoonfuls into the oil. Fry doughnuts, a few at a time, for 3 to 5 minutes or until golden brown on all sides. Remove from pan with a slotted spoon. Drain on paper towels. When all doughnuts are cooked, pour powdered sugar into a plastic or paper bag. Add a few doughnuts at a time, close bag, and shake gently until well coated. Serve warm. Makes 25.

(*Lion House International*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1997], p. 114.)



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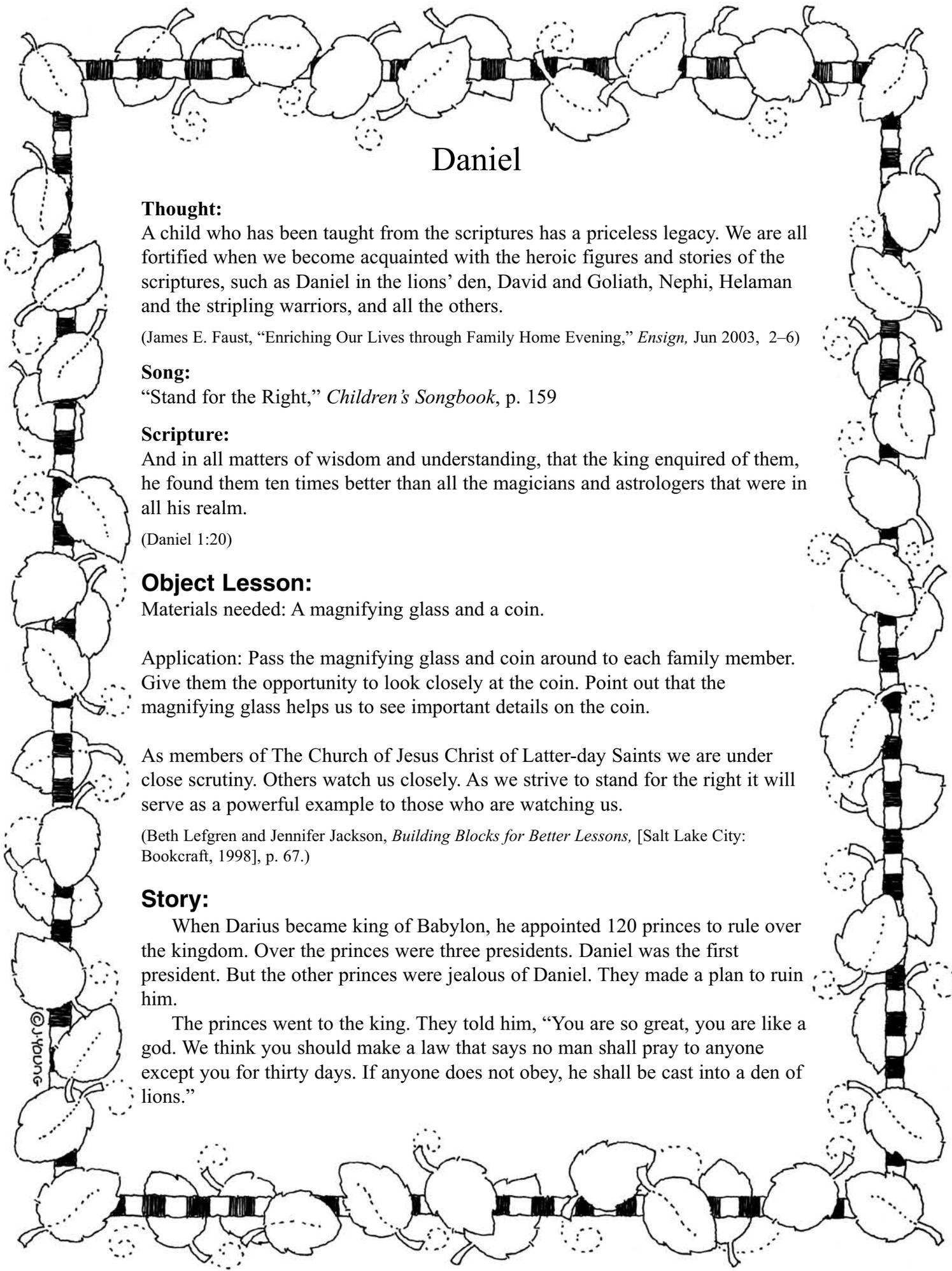
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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Daniel

Packet #050207

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
- 3. Involvement.** Involve everyone in the family; help little children take part.
- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
- 5. Relax and enjoy it.** The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.



Daniel

Thought:

A child who has been taught from the scriptures has a priceless legacy. We are all fortified when we become acquainted with the heroic figures and stories of the scriptures, such as Daniel in the lions' den, David and Goliath, Nephi, Helaman and the stripling warriors, and all the others.

(James E. Faust, "Enriching Our Lives through Family Home Evening," *Ensign*, Jun 2003, 2–6)

Song:

"Stand for the Right," *Children's Songbook*, p. 159

Scripture:

And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm.

(Daniel 1:20)

Object Lesson:

Materials needed: A magnifying glass and a coin.

Application: Pass the magnifying glass and coin around to each family member. Give them the opportunity to look closely at the coin. Point out that the magnifying glass helps us to see important details on the coin.

As members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints we are under close scrutiny. Others watch us closely. As we strive to stand for the right it will serve as a powerful example to those who are watching us.

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *Building Blocks for Better Lessons*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1998], p. 67.)

Story:

When Darius became king of Babylon, he appointed 120 princes to rule over the kingdom. Over the princes were three presidents. Daniel was the first president. But the other princes were jealous of Daniel. They made a plan to ruin him.

The princes went to the king. They told him, "You are so great, you are like a god. We think you should make a law that says no man shall pray to anyone except you for thirty days. If anyone does not obey, he shall be cast into a den of lions."

King Darius liked their idea. He made the law.

Now, Daniel knew of the law, but he loved God more than any man. So three times a day, he went into his house, knelt by a window, and prayed. This was exactly what the princes hoped. When they saw Daniel praying to God, they hurried to tell the king.

The princes said to the king, “Daniel disobeys your law. He still prays three times a day to his God.”

King Darius was unhappy when he heard this. He loved Daniel very much and did not want to throw him to the lions. But the men insisted. They said, “Remember, O king, that no law of the king may be changed.”

The king was trapped by his own law. So he had Daniel cast into the den of lions. But he said to Daniel, “Your God will save you.”

Then he left Daniel alone with the hungry lions.

All that night the king fasted. He was so worried about Daniel that he could not sleep. Early the next morning, he ran to the lions’ den. He cried out, “Daniel, O Daniel! Has your God saved you from the lions?”

Daniel answered, “O king, live forever. My God has sent his angel and has shut the lions’ mouths. They have not hurt me.”

The king was very glad. He had Daniel taken out of the den. Then he had the men who accused Daniel cast into the lions’ den.

After this King Darius sent a message to all the people of his kingdom. It said, “I make a law that in all my kingdom men should fear the God of Daniel, for he is the living God.”

(Sherrie Johnson, *Bible Treasury for LDS Children*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1999], p. 84.)

Activity:

Pass out a paper and pencil to each person (or have family members work in pairs). Read the following words and have each person write them on his paper: inside, stand, friends, good, right, courage, wrong, help.

Have each person or group write a brief statement that includes the eight chosen words and describes how they can have moral courage as Daniel did. Here is an example; “When friends want us to do something wrong and we have the courage to stand up for the right, we feel good inside and it helps our friends also.”

Have each person share what they have written and briefly discuss the importance of standing up for the right.

(Allan K. Burgess and Max H. Molgard, *Fun for Family Night: Book 3, The New Testament Edition*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1995], p. 183.)

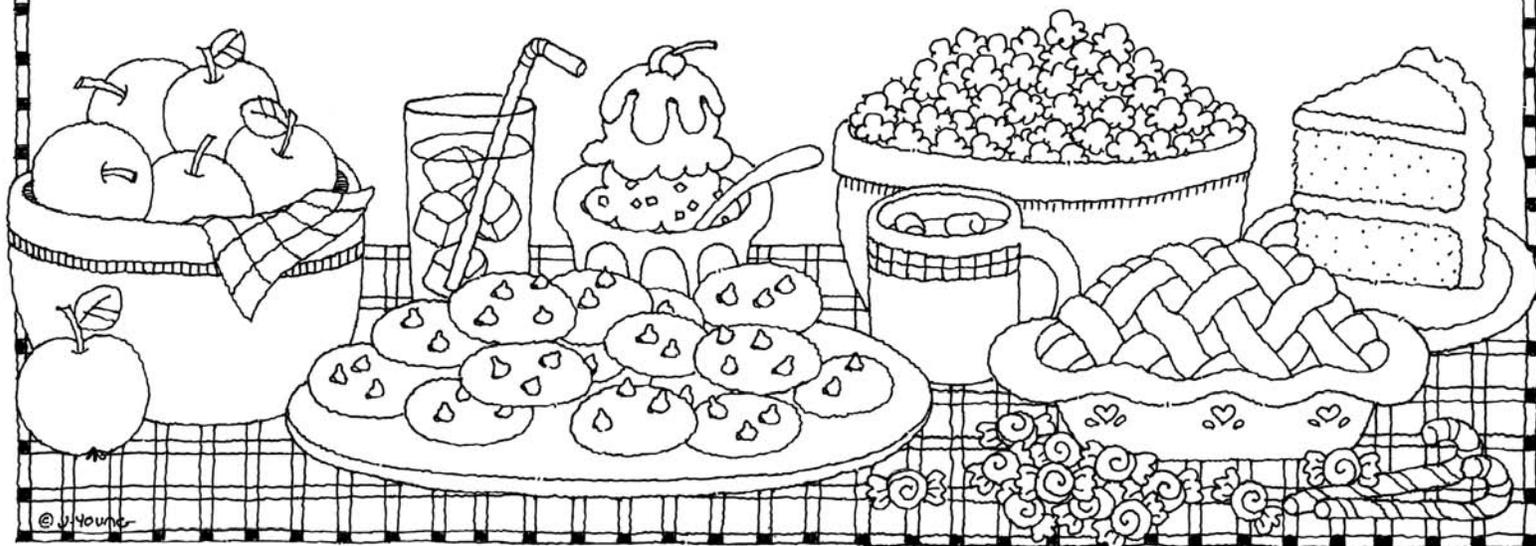
Refreshment

Dessert Quesadillas

- 6 (6-inch) flour tortillas
- cooking oil or nonstick spray
- 2 ounces Swiss cheese, shredded
- 3 ounces cream cheese
- 1/4 cup jam
- 1 (1.5 ounce) bar milk chocolate, broken

Brush one side of each tortilla with cooking oil or spray with nonstick cooking spray. Stir together Swiss cheese and cream cheese; spread evenly over unoiled side of 3 tortillas. top with jam and chocolate pieces. top with remaining tortillas, oiled side up. heat a heavy skillet or griddle over medium heat. Cook quesadillas, one at a time, bout 1-2 minutes per side until chocolate is melted. Cut each quesadilla into 4 wedges.

(Holle Eckman and Heather Higgins, *All That Jam*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 2003] p. 104.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Fasting

Packet #050306

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
- 3. Involvement.** Involve everyone in the family; help little children take part.
- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.

Fasting

Thought:

Fasting, coupled with mighty prayer, is powerful. It can fill our minds with the revelations of the Spirit, it can strengthen us against times of temptation.

(Joseph B. Wirthlin, "The Law of the Fast," *Ensign*, May 2001, 73.)

Song:

"In Fasting We Approach Thee," *Hymns*, 139.

Scripture:

And on this day thou shalt do none other thing, only let thy food be prepared with singleness of heart that thy fasting may be perfect, or, in other words, that thy joy may be full.

Verily, this is fasting and prayer, or in other words, rejoicing and prayer.

(Doctrine and Covenants 59:13–14)

Lesson:

Have your family silently read Alma 28:1–5. Ask them to ponder these events. Then discuss these questions together:

- Why would this war have been difficult to witness?
- How might it feel to lose a loved one during battle?
- What do you think you might have done to help deal with the sorrow and pain you would have felt if you were living then?

Have your family read Alma 28:6 and look for what the people did to help ease their pain. How would fasting and prayer bring relief? Have you ever fasted to gain help during times of great sorrow?

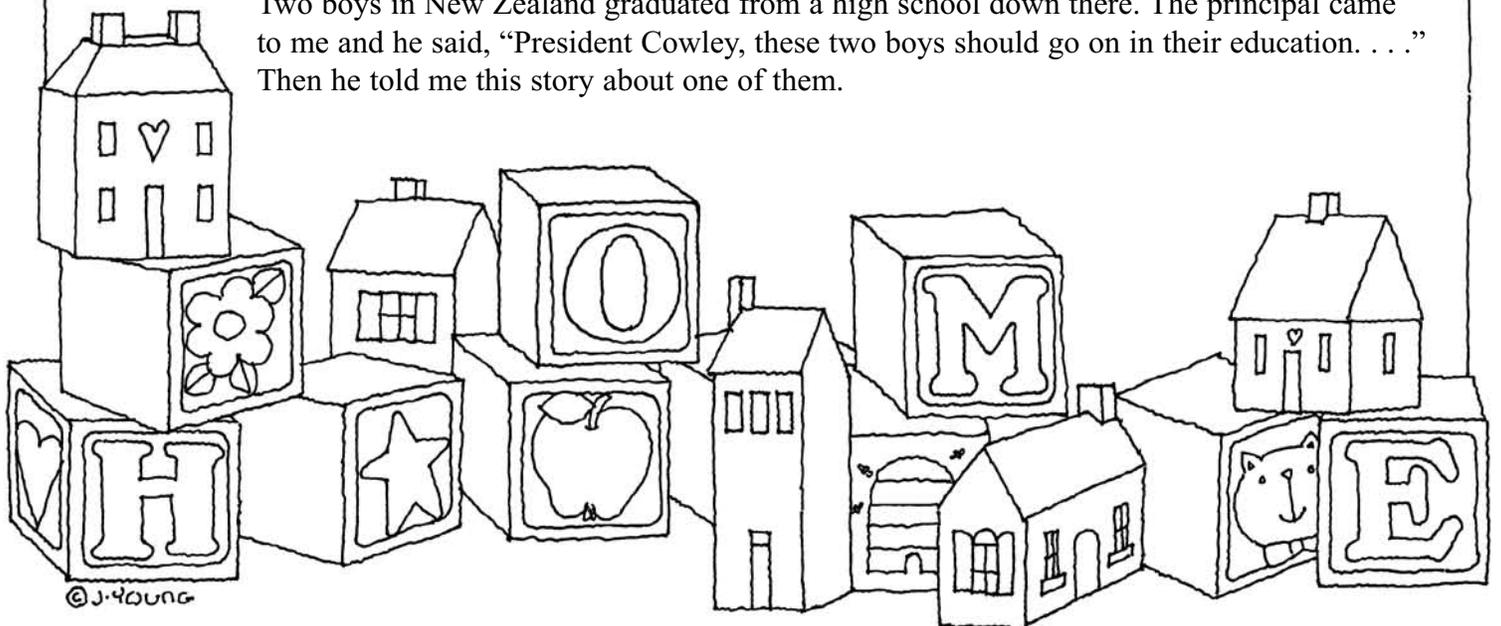
(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The Book of Mormon*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 204.)

Story:

"He Fasted, and He Prayed"

(Matthew Cowley)

Two boys in New Zealand graduated from a high school down there. The principal came to me and he said, "President Cowley, these two boys should go on in their education. . . ." Then he told me this story about one of them.



“This young man came to me one day. He was living in the dormitory. He was what they called the monitor. It wasn't a native high school, but he was a native. He came to me one day, and he said, ‘Mr. Hogan, I want to go home for three days.’ I said, ‘Why, you can't go home, you have a job here. What do you want to go home for?’ He said, ‘Well, I am preparing to take my matric,’ [as they call it down there, matriculation examination for entrance into a university]. He said, ‘I want to go home for three days and fast and pray.’

“I was astonished. I excused myself and went to my office and called up one of your members, one of our native members, and I said, ‘Listen to me, do you people have in your Church something you call fasting?’ He said, ‘Yes.’ I said, ‘What do you do it for?’ ‘When we want a blessing, we fast and pray.’ I said, ‘Well, I have read about it in the Bible, but I have never heard of anybody doing it.’ I went back to the young man and said, ‘You go home for three days.’ He went home, and he fasted, and he prayed, and he was the top man in passing his matric examination.”

So he and his cousin went on to the university—one to study dentistry and one to study medicine.

(Jay A. Parry, Jack M. Lyon, and Linda Ririe Gundry, editors, *Best-Loved Stories of the LDS People, Volume 2*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1999], p. 63.)

Activity:

Play “My Eyes Are Open.”

From one to four people are sent out of the room and an object is hidden in plain sight. The people come back and try to see the object. When one person sees it, he returns to his seat and says, “My eyes are open.” Continue until all have found it. Play as many times as you'd like.

Remind your family that sometimes we can't see things that are right before our eyes. We need to use spiritual insight as well as physical vision. Fasting can increase our spirituality and help us “see” the things the Lord wants us to do.

(Alma Heaton, *The LDS Game Book*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1968], p. 50.)

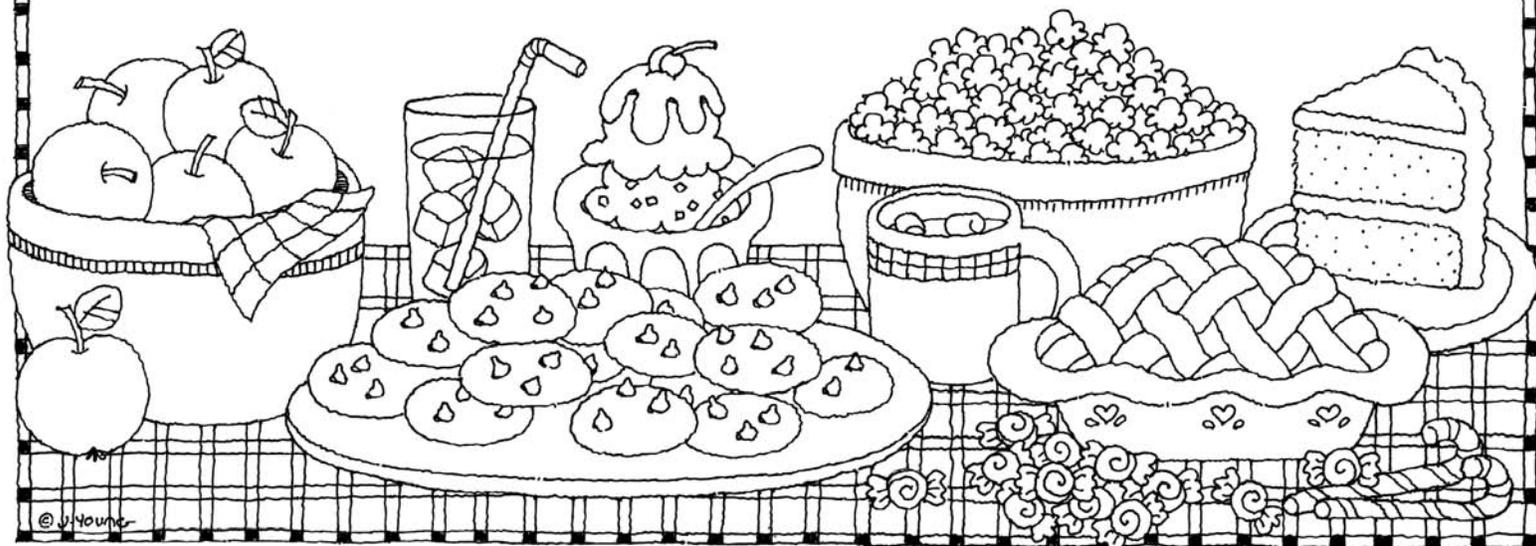
Refreshment

Doughnut Balls

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 2 1/2 cups flour | 1 teaspoon vanilla |
| 1 teaspoon baking powder | 1/4 teaspoon salt |
| 2 eggs | 1 1/4 cups vegetable oil for deep-frying |
| 1 1/2 cups sour cream | 1 cup powdered sugar |
| 2 tablespoons sugar | |

In a large mixing bowl, combine flour, baking powder, eggs, sour cream, sugar, vanilla, and salt until well blended. (The batter will be soft.) Heat oil in a deep skillet until oil is hot enough to fry a 1-inch cube of bread in 1 minute. Carefully place dough by tablespoonfuls into the oil. Fry doughnuts, a few at a time, for 3 to 5 minutes or until golden brown on all sides. Remove from pan with slotted spoon. Drain on paper towels. When all doughnuts are cooked, pour powdered sugar into a plastic or paper bag. Add a few doughnuts at a time, close bag, and shake gently until well coated. Serve warm. Makes 25.

(Lion House International Recipes, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1997], p. 114.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Noah

Packet #050307

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
- 3. Involvement.** Involve everyone in the family; help little children take part.
- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.

Noah

Thought:

Just as the prophets of the Old Testament guided the covenant people through generations of ancient times, so do our prophets guide us during our mortal journey in these latter days. We welcome the opportunity to heed these watchmen on the tower, for we know that in following their counsel, we are following the Lord.

(Gary J. Coleman, "Lessons from the Old Testament: Watchmen of the Lord," *Ensign*, Sep 2006, 64–67)

Song:

"Follow the Prophet," *Children's Songbook*, p. 110, verse 3.

Scripture:

And Noah did according unto all that the LORD commanded him.

(Genesis 7:5)

Lesson:

Display pictures of four or five prophets such as Isaiah, Samuel the Lamanite, Lehi, Moses, and Noah. Ask which one told the people to repent, and live the commandments or they would be punished. (All of them.) Ask which prophet told the people to repent or they would be destroyed by a flood. (Noah.) Tell the family that these prophets were very spiritual men. They loved the Savior and tried to help the people learn about him. Sometimes the people listened to what the prophet said and repented, and sometimes they did not. When a prophet said something would happen, it happened. Heavenly Father helped them to know about future events. This is called revelation.

Discussion: What does a prophet do? (He receives messages from Heavenly Father.)

Who can be a prophet? (A man who has lived righteously, obeyed Heavenly Father's commandments, holds the Melchizedek Priesthood, and is called of God.)

Why does Heavenly Father want us to have prophets? (Following the prophet will help us choose the right, will make us happy, will help us to follow the Savior, etc.)

Who is our prophet today? (Show the Church President's picture.) What has he asked us to do? (Read the Book of Mormon, obey our parents, etc.) Why would Heavenly Father want us to do these things? (Answers will vary.)

Tell the family that when we hear a prophet speak to us it's as though Heavenly Father is speaking to us. If we obey the words of a prophet, we will find happiness in all that we do and we will be able to follow Jesus.

(adapted from Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *Sharing Time, Family Time, Anytime*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1992], p. 20-21.)

Story:

Noah was a just man who loved God. For 120 years he tried to teach the gospel to the people who lived on the earth. He warned them, "Repent of your sins and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, and you shall receive the Holy Ghost. If you do not do this, the floods will come."

But the people were violent and full of anger and wickedness. They wouldn't listen to Noah.

Finally, God told Noah to build a great ship called an ark. He told Noah to build it out of gopher wood. It was to be 450 feet long, 76 feet wide, and 45 feet tall.

Noah went to work and built the ark. When he had finished, God told him exactly what to put inside it. Of all the clean beasts, he told Noah to take seven males and seven females. Of the unclean beasts, he told Noah to take two males and two females. He told Noah to put food in the ark for all the animals and for his family, and seeds to plant after the Flood. Noah did all that Heavenly Father commanded. Then Noah, his wife, his sons—who were named Shem, Ham, and Japheth—and his sons' wives all moved into the ark.

It began to rain. It rained for forty days and forty nights. The water covered the ground and then the houses and the trees. Then it covered the mountains. The people who had scoffed at Noah and refused to repent were drowned.

After the rains stopped, Noah and his family floated on the great sea while the water slowly went down. After 150 days, the ark finally came to rest on the mountain of Ararat. Noah waited forty more days. Then he opened a window and sent out a dove. The dove could find no place to land, and it came back to the ark.

After seven more days, Noah again sent out the dove. It returned again, but this time it had an olive leaf in its mouth. The sight of the leaf filled Noah and his family with hope.

Noah waited seven more days, then sent the dove out again. This time it never returned. It had found a place to live! After more than a year, the day finally came when Noah opened the door and his family and the animals left the ark.

To thank God for being saved, Noah built an altar and offered sacrifices. In return, God made a promise to Noah. This promise is called a covenant. God said, "The waters shall never again come to destroy all living things. As a token of this promise, I will place a rainbow in the sky."

After leaving the ark, Noah farmed the earth and made a home for his family. Children were born, and the earth was filled again with living things.

(Sherrie Johnson, *Bible Treasury for LDS Children*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1999], p. 12.)

Activity:

Seat everyone in a circle with someone standing in the center of the circle. This person will be the "zookeeper."

The zookeeper points to someone, calls out the name of an animal and counts to ten. The person pointed to must make the sound of the animal before the zookeeper reaches ten; otherwise, he trades places with the zookeeper. If the person makes the sound of the animal before the zookeeper reaches ten, the zookeeper points to someone else and calls out the name of another animal.

Select someone to be an impartial judge to decide if the sounds made are close enough to the correct animal sounds.

If the person pointed to doesn't know the proper sound, the zookeeper must demonstrate it before trading places with the person who made the mistake.

(George and Jeane Chipman, *Games! Games! Games!*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 1983], p. 64.)

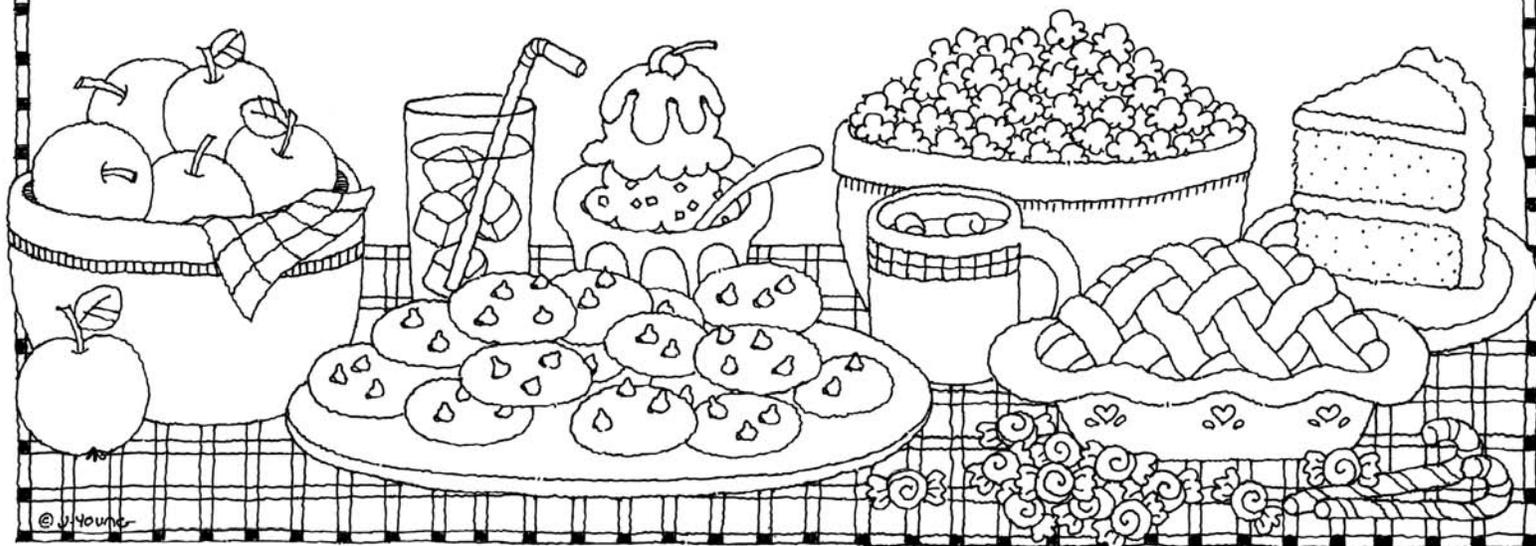
Refreshment

Buttermilk Pie

- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1/2 cup Bisquick
- 1/3 cup margarine or butter, melted
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 3 eggs

Grease pie tin. Mix all ingredients and pour into pie tin. Bake at 350 degrees for about 30 minutes, or until knife inserted in center comes out clean. Cool five minutes. Serve warm or cold with fresh fruit or caramel sauce and whipped cream.

(Lion House Classics, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 2004] p. 116.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Repentance

Packet #050406

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
- 3. Involvement.** Involve everyone in the family; help little children take part.
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- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M

Repentance

Thought:

One of the questions we must ask of our Heavenly Father in private prayer is this: "What have I done today, or not done, which displeases Thee? If I can only know, I will repent with all my heart without delay."

(Henry B. Eyring, "Do Not Delay," *Ensign*, Nov. 1999, 33)

Song:

"Help Me Dear Father," second verse, *Children's Songbook*, p. 99.

Scripture:

In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness for Judea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

(Matthew 3:1-2)

Object Lesson:

Materials Needed: Several heavy books.

Application: Invite a member of your family to help with this demonstration. Have the person stretch their arms out in front of them, with their elbows locked and palms up. Place the book on the palms of their hands. Explain that when we sin it is like a burden that we carry with us. Each sin we commit adds to that burden. Place another book on top of the first one. Give several examples of sin: lying, gossiping, anger, and so on. With each example add another book to the stack. Ask the volunteer to explain how they are feeling. Would the burden eventually make them miserable? Ask your family what would help the person feel better (putting the books down). How can we put down the burden of sin? (repent). Have the person put down the books. Ask them to describe how it feels to set the load down (relieved). Liken this to the feeling repentance brings.

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *Building Blocks for Better Lessons*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1998], p. 54.)

Story:

A Younger Brother's Courage

(Michaelene P. Grassli)

Eleven-year-old Shane stood in testimony meeting and bore his testimony. At the conclusion he said, "Brothers and sisters, I know the gospel is true, and when I grow up I want to be a missionary and tell everyone that the gospel is true so they can be happy. I pray for Cory [his older brother] that he will repent, that he will

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stop doing what he is doing wrong, and that he will prepare himself to be worthy to serve a mission.”

Those of us in the congregation were in awe at Shane’s courageous declaration. We wondered what would happen.

A year and a half later, at his missionary farewell, Cory said, “I have had several people ask me what made me decide to go on a mission. It’s because a year and a half ago I was sitting in testimony meeting with my family, and I didn’t take the sacrament. Shane noticed that, and when he bore his testimony, he challenged me to repent and prepare for a mission. I thought, if Shane wants to go on a mission and he’s watching me as his example, I have to live up to what he expects of me. The courage of my little brother made me want to go on a mission and gave me the courage to change so I could.”

(Sunshine for the Latter-day Saint Missionary Soul, [Salt Lake City: Eagle Gate, 2000] p. 220.)

Activity:

Trace five footprints on colored paper. Label them as follows: 1. Admit you did something wrong. 2. Say, “I’m sorry.” 3. Promise not to do the wrong again. 4. Correct what you did wrong. 5. Remember to forgive others.

Cut out the footprints and hide them around the room. Have the children find them, one at a time, and bring them to the front of the room. Have another person put them in order. Talk about the steps and why repentance should follow that order. Ask what would happen if we skipped a step.

(Shauna Mooney Kawasaki, My Family Can Be Forever; [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 37.)

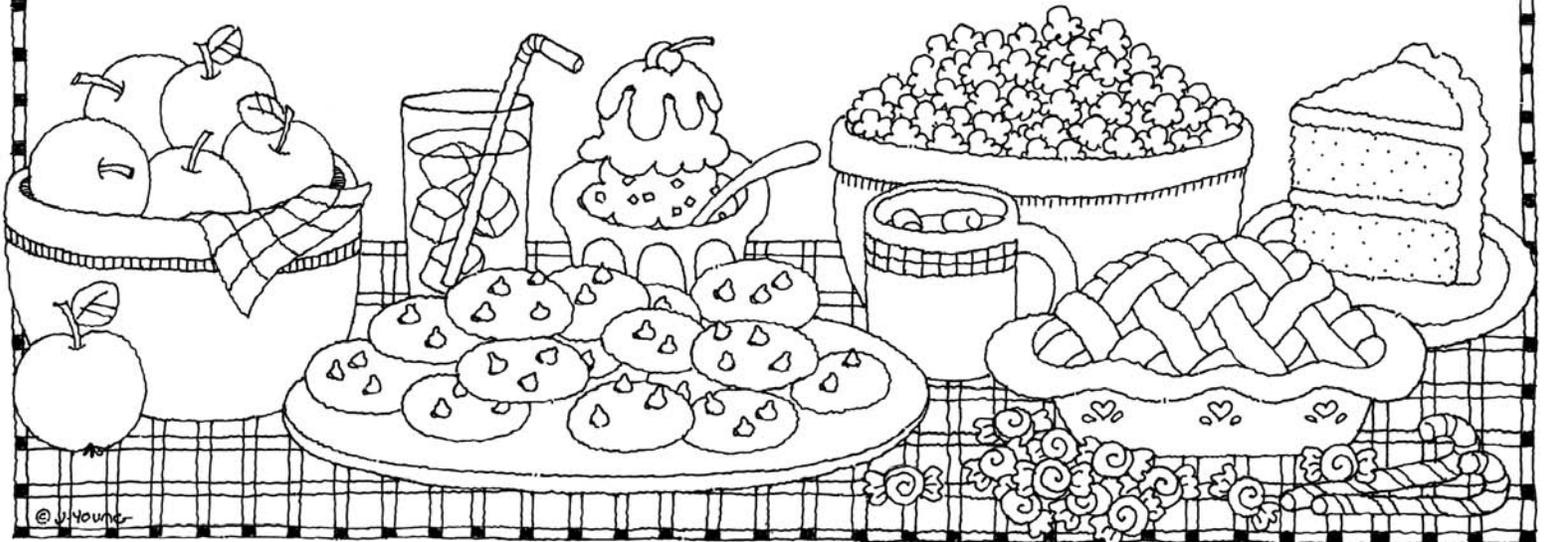
Refreshment

Butter Pecan Squares

1/2 cup butter, softened
1/2 cup packed brown sugar
1 egg
1 teaspoon vanilla
3/4 cup flour
2 cups milk chocolate chips
3/4 cup chopped pecans

In a large mixer bowl cream butter, sugar, egg, and vanilla till light and fluffy. Blend in flour. Stir in 1 cup chocolate chips and 1/2 cup pecans. Pour into greased 8-inch square baking dish. Bake at 350° F. for 25 to 30 minutes. Remove from oven and immediately sprinkle with remaining 1 cup chips. When chips melt, spread evenly over top with knife. Sprinkle with 1/4 cup pecans. Cool, then cut into squares. Makes 16.

(*Lion House Desserts*, [Salt Lake City: Eagle Gate, 2001], p. 121.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Jonah

Packet #050407

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
- 3. Involvement.** Involve everyone in the family; help little children take part.
- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.

Jonah

Thought:

Because the Lord is kind, He calls servants to warn people of danger. That call to warn is made harder and more important by the fact that the warnings of most worth are about dangers that people don't yet think are real. Think of Jonah. He fled at first from the call from the Lord to warn the people of Nineveh who were blinded to the danger by sin. He knew that wicked people through the ages have rejected prophets and sometimes killed them. Yet when Jonah went forward with faith, the Lord blessed him with safety and success.

Henry B. Eyring, "A Voice of Warning," *Ensign*, Nov 1998, 32

Song:

"Keep the Commandments" *Children's Songbook*, p. 95.

Scripture:

And behold, all that he requires of you is to keep his commandments; and he has promised you that if ye would keep his commandments ye should prosper in the land; and he never doth vary from that which he hath said; therefore, if ye do keep his commandments he doth bless you and prosper you.

(Mosiah 2:22)

Object Lesson:

Hold up your hands and show your family how you can move your fingers. Explain that you can choose how your hands will move. Help your family understand that although you can choose to move your own hands and fingers you cannot make that choice for anyone else.

Have your family members hold their hands up. Ask them to do something with their hands (open and close fingers, spread fingers wide, touch the thumb and pointer fingers, and so forth). Do several things with your family. Praise them for being obedient.

Tell your family that, just as they chose to be obedient with their hands, they can also choose to be obedient with their bodies and minds.

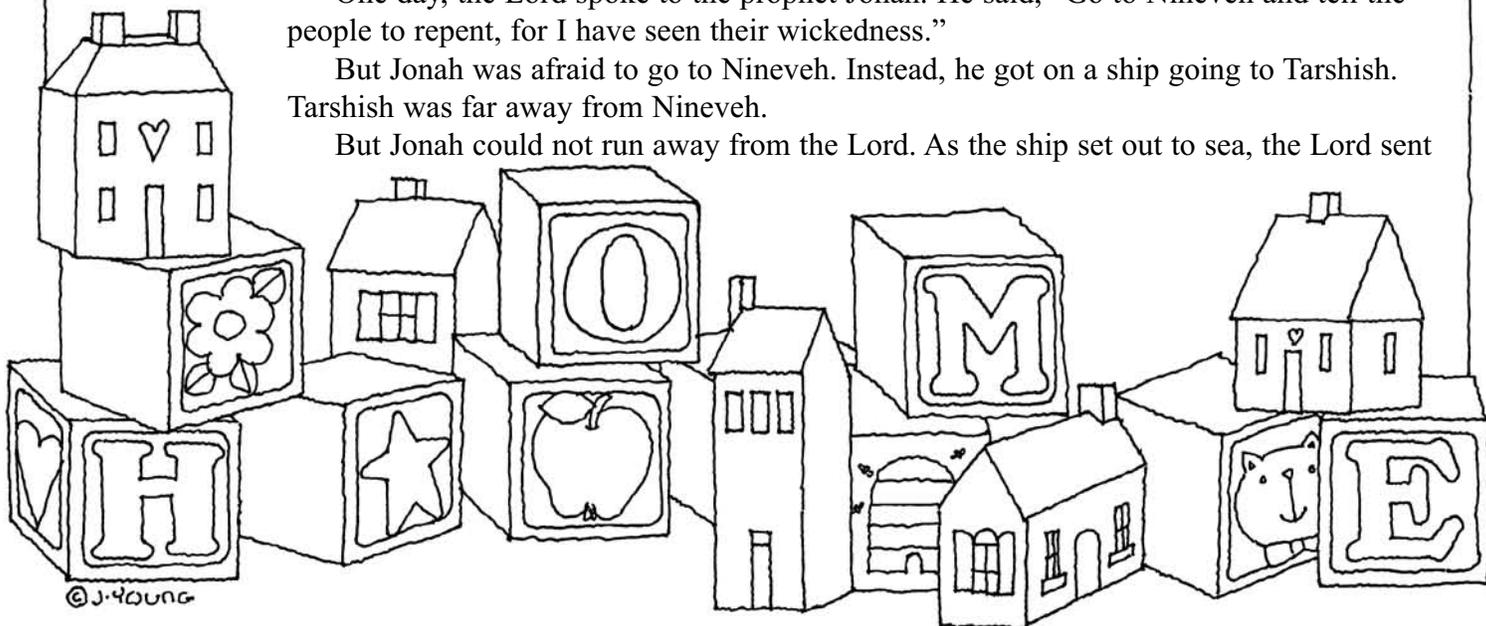
(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *Building Blocks for Better Lessons*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1998], p. 46.)

Story:

One day, the Lord spoke to the prophet Jonah. He said, "Go to Nineveh and tell the people to repent, for I have seen their wickedness."

But Jonah was afraid to go to Nineveh. Instead, he got on a ship going to Tarshish. Tarshish was far away from Nineveh.

But Jonah could not run away from the Lord. As the ship set out to sea, the Lord sent



a great storm. The wind beat against the ship so hard the sailors thought it would break. They threw out their belongings into the water to make the ship lighter. But that did not help.

Jonah was asleep inside the ship. He didn't even know about the storm. When the shipmaster found Jonah, he woke him. "Why are you sleeping?" he asked. "Get up and pray to your God so that we will not die!"

But the storm went on. The sailors cast lots to find out who was causing this trouble. The lot fell upon Jonah.

The men asked Jonah, "What work do you do? Where do you come from?"

Jonah answered, "I am a Hebrew. I fear the Lord who has made the sea and the dry land." Then he told them how he had come to be on the ship.

When the sailors knew Jonah had fled from the Lord, they were even more afraid. "Why have you done this?" they asked. "What shall we do with you now?"

Jonah replied, "Throw me into the sea. Then the sea will be calm. For I know it is because of me that this great storm has come."

The men did not want to hurt Jonah. They rowed hard and tried to bring the ship to land, but they couldn't. Not knowing what else to do, they finally threw Jonah into the raging sea. As soon as they did, the storm stopped.

As for Jonah, the Lord sent a great fish to swallow him. Jonah stayed in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights. While he was there, he prayed to the Lord. He repented of the wrong he had done in not going to Nineveh. After Jonah repented, the Lord spoke to the fish. It spit Jonah out onto the dry land.

Again the Lord said to Jonah, "Go to Nineveh and preach to the people."

This time Jonah obeyed. He went to Nineveh and preached the word of the Lord. To his surprise the people listened and believed. To show their repentance, they fasted and put on sackcloth. Even the king arose from his throne, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. Because of this, the judgments of God did not fall upon the people of Nineveh.

(Sherrie Johnson, *Bible Treasury for LDS Children*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1999], p. 85.)

Activity:

Have each family member evaluate his attitude of obedience with the help of an "obedience meter." Give each family member a piece of paper and a pencil or pen and have them answer each question with "yes," "sometimes," or "no." Then have each one total his points and see how he has done. Tell the family in advance that no one will see the evaluation but the writer, so they can be honest with themselves. If some family members desire to share with others some of the things they are not doing, it may be helpful to discuss ways family members can improve in these areas.

1. I study the scriptures daily.
2. I have my personal prayers daily.
3. I live the Word of Wisdom.
4. I willingly attend all three "block" meetings.
5. I am properly selective in the TV and movies I watch.
6. I pay an honest tithe.
7. I am morally clean and dress modestly.
8. I am a peacemaker and try not to argue with family members.
9. I am honest. I tell the truth and do not cheat or steal.
10. I stand up for the right even when I have to stand alone.

Obedience meter: 10 points for yes, 5 points for sometimes, 0 points for no.

1-29: Not looking good, 30-49: On shaky ground, 50-79: Good start but still need improvement, 80-100: future looks "rock" solid—but don't relax.

(Allan K. Burgess and Max H. Molgard, *Fun for Family Night: Book 3, The New Testament Edition*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1995], p. 46.)

Refreshment

Grandpa Glen's Famous Oatmeal Chocolate Chip Cookies

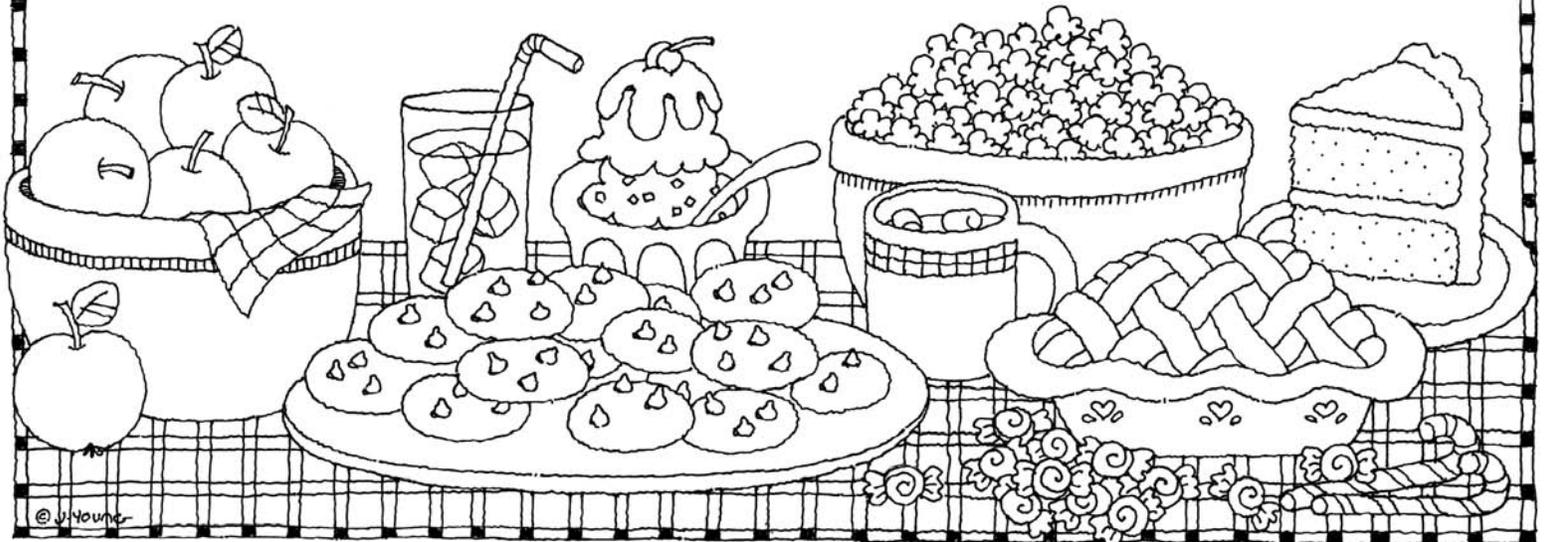
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|----------------------------|--|
| 1 c. butter, softened | 1 tsp. baking soda |
| 1 c. brown sugar, packed | 1 tsp. cinnamon |
| 1/2 c. granulated sugar | 1/2 tsp. salt |
| 2 eggs | 3 c. old-fashioned oatmeal (don't use quick cooking) |
| 1 tsp. vanilla | 1 c. semisweet chocolate chips |
| 1 1/2 c. all-purpose flour | |

Preheat oven to 350° F. Cream together butter and sugars; add eggs and vanilla; beat well. Combine flour, baking soda, cinnamon, and salt. Mix well and add to above mixture. Stir in oatmeal and chocolate chips. Drop by rounded tablespoonfuls onto ungreased cookie sheet. Bake 8 to 10 minutes, or until light golden brown. Cool on cookie sheet for one or two minutes. Remove to wire rack. Serve with tall glass of cold milk. Expect lots of smiles and hugs.

For bar cookies: spread batter in an ungreased 9x13-inch baking pan. Bake at 350° F. for 30 to 35 minutes. Cut into squares and serve.

Makes 3 dozen cookies.

(Contributed by Glen Hopkinson. Elaine Cannon, compiler, *Five Star Recipes from Well-Known Latter-day Saints*, [Salt Lake City: Eagle Gate, 2002], p. 235.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Follow the Prophet

Packet #050506

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
- 3. Involvement.** Involve everyone in the family; help little children take part.
- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.

Follow the Prophet

Thought:

We are fortunate today to have the servant of the Lord who presides over the Church, the mouthpiece of the Lord to us, sitting in our midst. There are thousands of people who would walk any distance they were able, in order that they might see the face and touch the hand of the Prophet of the Lord, and yet there are many of our own people who disregard his guidance and his counsel.

(George Albert Smith, *Conference Report, October 1943*, p. 47.)

Song:

"Follow the Prophet," *Children's Songbook*, p. 110-11.

Scripture:

Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.

(Amos 3:7)

Lesson:

On a large sheet of paper write the name of each prophet (scriptural or latter-day) family members can remember. Try to fill the entire sheet.

Obtain a General Authority chart from the November issue of the Ensign. Point out that all of these men were "called of God, by prophecy and by the laying on of hands by those who are in authority . . ." (Article of Faith 1:5).

(Shauna Mooney Kawasaki, *I Belong to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, [Salt Lake City: Eagle Gate, 2002], p. 52.)

Stories:

A poignant example from Church history portrays the spiritual power that attends one who follows the counsel of prophets. Ephraim Hanks had known Brigham Young since the Nauvoo days. Eph's loyalty to the Brethren and his willingness to obey strictly the counsel of the prophet on any matter caused him to be much beloved and trusted by President Young, by whom Eph had been tested on more than one occasion.

On a fall morning in 1848, President Young drove to where Eph was building an adobe house inside the Old Fort. Looking over the completed foundation, he inquired as to the thickness of the rock wall. "Eight inches," replied Eph. "Tear it

down and build it twice that thick," suggested Brigham, who then promptly drove away before Eph could answer. To rebuild meant hauling more rock and doing twice the work they thought was necessary. Nevertheless, they widened the foundation to sixteen inches according to the leader's instruction. Eph was fitting the rafters on the house a month later when a heavy rain began falling, ultimately causing widespread flooding and considerable damage in parts of the valley. Eph's reinforced walls stood firm against the resulting deluge, however, thus preventing a possible collapse of the entire structure. Others were not so fortunate. From then on when Brigham talked, Eph listened.

Not long following this incident with Brigham Young, Eph met the Mormon leader at a dance in Salt Lake City. Again he counseled Eph. This time Eph was to go home and shave his face. Like many men of his day, Eph wore a beard almost to his waist. Somewhat puzzled, he left the social and rode home, pondering the unusual request. In an hour, however, he returned to the dance without a beard, but still wearing a mustache which he hadn't shaved. Still not satisfied with his appearance, Brigham Young indicated with a sweep of the hand across Eph's face that he wanted a clean shave. Excusing himself a second time, Eph complied by shaving his entire face.

Because of his obedience to counsel and his loyalty to the Brethren, Eph Hanks became a spiritual giant in his own right and was able to render significant service to the Church and to his fellowmen. Because of this gift, Eph Hanks was able not only to serve but also to actually save lives that would have been lost had he not been able to discern the workings of the Spirit.

(Brent L. Top, Larry E. Dahl, Walter D. Bowen, *Follow the Living Prophets*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1993].)

Activity:

Play a riddle game by giving hints about each of the prophets in the song "Follow the Prophet." sing the song together.

(Shauna Mooney Kawasaki, *I Belong to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, [Salt Lake City: Eagle Gate, 2002], p. 52.)

Refreshment

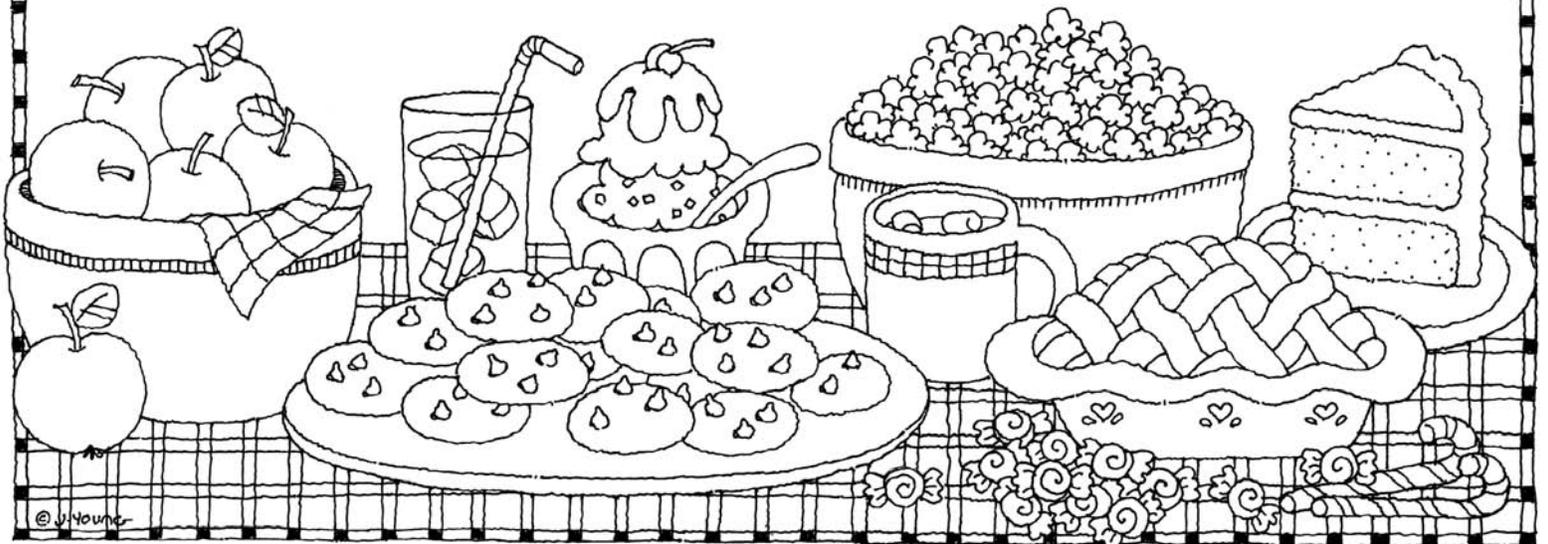
Mother Goose Popcorn

This sweet, colorful popcorn has become a tradition for many families. For some reason, blue or green popcorn is more fun to eat.

1 cup milk
2/3 cup butter
2 cups sugar
Food coloring
Approximately 1 1/2 cups popcorn kernels

Pop popcorn. In a saucepan, melt milk, butter, and sugar over medium heat. Bring mixture to a boil, stirring constantly, and cook until it reaches a soft ball stage (225 degrees). Remove from heat, add food coloring to make desired color, and mix well. Pour over popcorn, mixing until candy mixture thoroughly coats popcorn.

(Debbie Stapely, *Having Fun Together*; [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1992], p. 23.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Sabbath Day

Packet #010406

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
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Sabbath Day

Thought:

Keeping the Sabbath day holy is much more than just physical rest. It involves spiritual renewal and worship. . . . This need for physical, mental, and spiritual regeneration is met in large measure by faithful observance of the Sabbath day.

(James E. Faust, "The Lord's Day," *Ensign*, Nov. 1991, 33)

Song:

"The Chapel Doors" *Children's Songbook*, p. 156.

Scripture:

But remember that on this, the Lord's day, thou shalt offer thine oblations and thy sacraments unto the Most High, confessing thy sins unto thy brethren, and before the Lord.

(Doctrine and Covenants 59:12)

Lesson:

Sometimes we concentrate on the things we shouldn't do on Sundays instead of focusing on the things we can and should do. Remembering that the Sabbath is a day set aside for us to do good, to loose people from their bonds, to do the Lord's work, and to draw closer to God. Split the family into groups and see which group can come up with the most ideas of acceptable things that can be done on the Sabbath. After ten minutes, have each group share their ideas.

After each group has shared their ideas, you may desire to share some of the following ideas that other families have come up with.

1. Read scriptures, Church magazines, and other uplifting books.
2. Sing Church music.
3. Look at family pictures, slides, or videos.
4. Plan family night activities.
5. Take gifts to or spend time with those who are sick.
6. Prepare Church lessons and fulfill other Church assignments.
7. Write in one's journal or write personal history.
8. Write to or visit relatives and friends.
9. Write to missionaries.
10. Have family home evening or a gospel discussion.
11. Read with children.
12. Compile family history.
13. Visit the sick, the elderly, and the lonely.
14. Hold interviews with family members.
15. Attend Church meetings.

Z Y X W V U T S R Q P O N M

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A B C D E F G H I J K L

16. Give father's blessings.
17. Do home or visiting teaching.
18. Visit the temple grounds.
19. Tell inspirational stories.
20. Play quiet, uplifting games as a family.

(Max H. Molgard and Allan K. Burgess, *The Best of Fun for Family Night*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 63.)

Story:

The Greatest Privilege

(Marilyn McMeen Miller)

When I was a child in Junior Sunday School, I was not much concerned about keeping the Sabbath day holy or about taking on many of the responsibilities my family had accepted when we became members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. I liked going with my parents to be sealed in the temple, and I liked Primary. But I didn't like the long meetings and having to give talks and to fast and to pay tithing.

At the time my baby brother was born, we lived in a non-Mormon community near downtown Denver, Colorado. Our three-story, middle-class brick home was in an unusual spot, not far from two extreme levels of society—the slums to the north and the mansions of the wealthy across the park.

I was so eager to make friends with the wealthy children who lived in those beautiful homes across the park that I couldn't think of anything else. When a little girl from one of these homes invited me to come over one Sunday so her parents could take us to their ranch to ride horses, I was wild with excitement. I didn't even think about missing Sunday School. How disappointed I was when my mother reminded me that I had promised to give the sacrament gem in Junior Sunday School that morning!

Why did I have to go to church? Why did I have to give the sacrament gem? Why didn't any of my other friends have to go to church or pay tithing or fast or give talks? Before we were members of the Church we could do as we pleased. I resented the restrictions placed upon me now.

My mother was wise and kind. She said briefly, "You don't want to miss church. It is one of the greatest privileges you have."

I did not see it that way. But when I called my friend, she said they would be going to the ranch on Sunday afternoons for a while. If I was free, I should drop over some other Sunday.

During the next week my baby brother was born, and my mother became gravely ill. She lay in the hospital near death for a number of days.

In the evenings we three girls would play out on the porch in the gathering twilight, walking the railing and listening to the sounds of the hundreds of cars pounding and spinning their tires over the pavement, waiting for my father to come home. When he arrived, his face was always drawn and worn.

Each time we listened breathlessly to his reports of Mother's condition. It was always the same—critical.

The next Sunday afternoon arrived. Hesitantly I dressed in my boots and jeans and looked out toward the park from my window for Father's return from the hospital. Finally I saw him walk slowly across the lawn to the house.

"How's Mama?" we whispered, afraid to ask.

My father did not speak for a moment. "If Heavenly Father takes her," he finally reasoned slowly, "we must have faith that it is the right decision."

"Will Mama go away for good?" my sister asked.

My father took my sister in his arms and said, "Your mama will never go away for good. That is why we are fortunate in being Latter-day Saints. We were sealed as a family in the temple, and that means Mother will always be with us. She may go to visit Heavenly Father for a while, but all of us will always be together." I could see tears glistening in his eyes. "We are so blessed by Heavenly Father and by the privilege of belonging to his church."

At that moment I remembered my mother's smiling eyes and her gentle smile. Then I seemed to hear her words. "You don't want to miss church. It is one of the greatest privileges you have."

I raced upstairs and got out of my boots and jeans and into my Sunday clothes.

That evening as I took the sacrament, I said a silent prayer of thanks to my Heavenly Father that I was there, that I had the privilege of taking the sacrament, that I had the privilege of being a Latter-day Saint so I could always stay with my family.

I never prayed so hard in my life as I did that week. Night after night beside my narrow bed I talked to my Heavenly Father and promised him that I would go to sacrament meeting and pay my tithing. I promised him that I would try to be a good Latter-day Saint if only he would let my mother live.

We were blessed, and my mother's life was spared. But I was doubly blessed, for I also learned how fortunate I was to be a Latter-day Saint and to have the privilege of going to church.

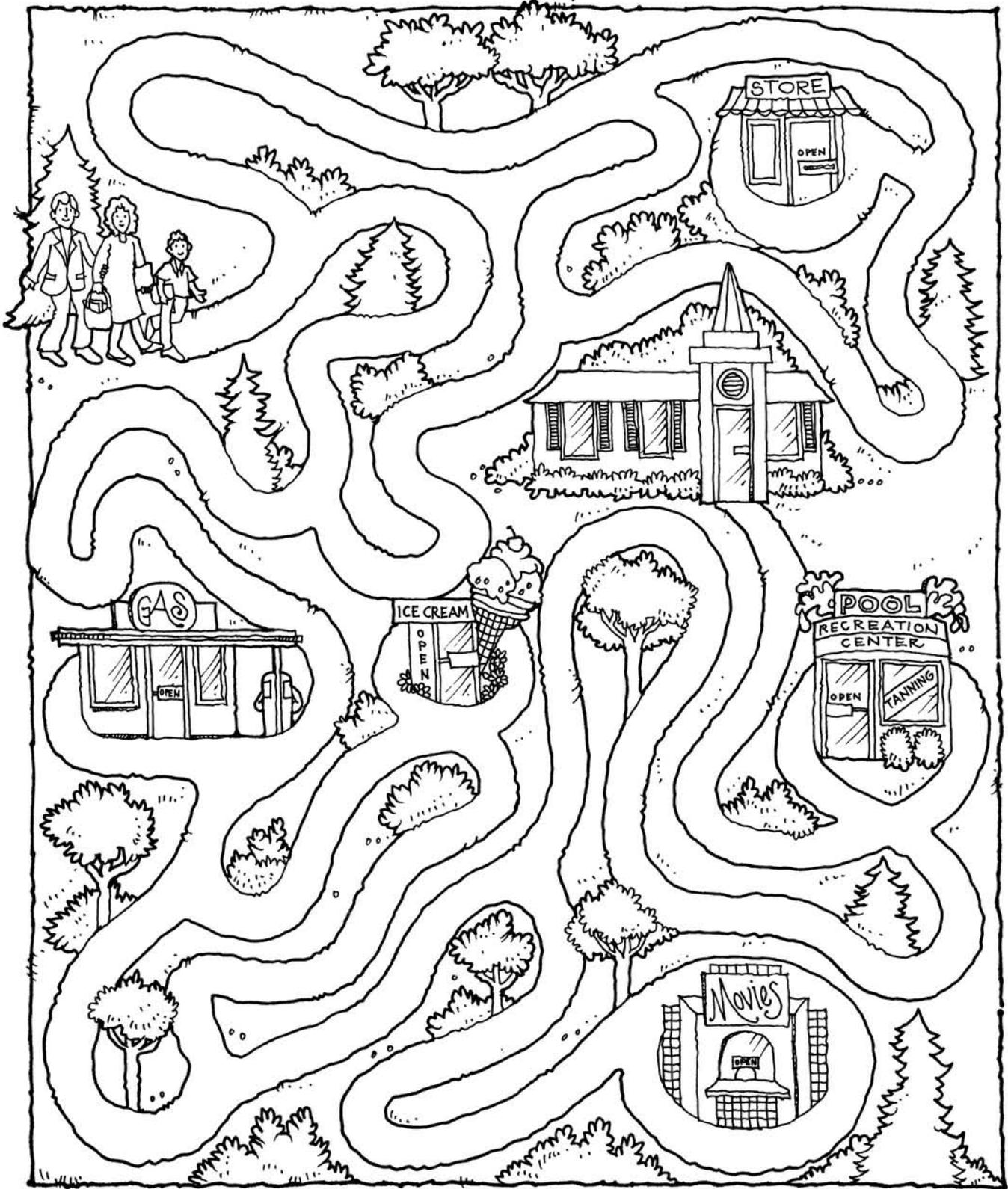
(Leon R. Hartshorn, *Remarkable Stories from the Lives of Latter-day Saint Women*, vol. 2)

Activity:

Make a copy of the Sunday Plan maze for each family member (see next page). Talk about the choices you need to make to keep the Sabbath day holy.

(Shauna Mooney Kawasaki, *I Will Follow God's Plan for Me*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2004], p. 51.)

SUNDAY PLAN



STARTING IN THE TOP LEFT-HAND CORNER, FOLLOW THE SABBATH-DAY MAZE TO CHURCH. KEEP THE SABBATH DAY HOLY BY AVOIDING PLACES WE SHOULDN'T BE ON SUNDAYS. THESE PLACES WILL LEAD YOU TO A DEAD END. GOING TO CHURCH WILL BRING YOU HAPPINESS AND PEACE.

Refreshment

Peanut Butter Cookies

5 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons baking soda
1 teaspoon salt
1 cup butter
3/4 cup shortening

1 3/4 cups sugar
1 3/4 cups brown sugar
4 eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla
3/4 cup peanut butter

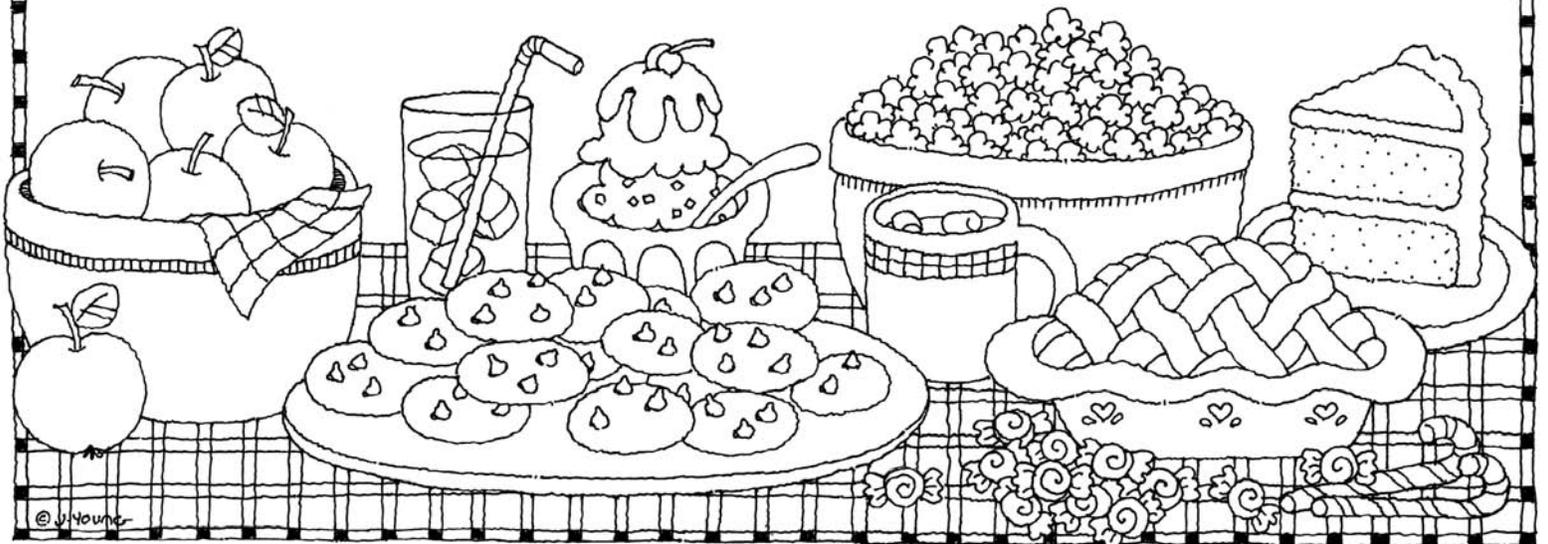
Preheat oven to 350°. Line a cookie sheet with wax paper and set aside.

Mix flour, baking soda, and salt together in a medium bowl and set aside. In a large mixing bowl, cream together butter, shortening, sugar, brown sugar, eggs, and vanilla. Stir in peanut butter. Add flour mixture a little at a time and stir until well blended.

Drop dough by tablespoonfuls onto cookie sheet. Using a fork dipped in flour, flatten each cookie slightly in a crisscross pattern. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes or until slightly golden around the edges. Do not overbake. Makes

5 dozen 3-inch cookies.

(*Lion House Entertaining*, [Salt Lake City: Eagle Gate, 2001], p. 46.)



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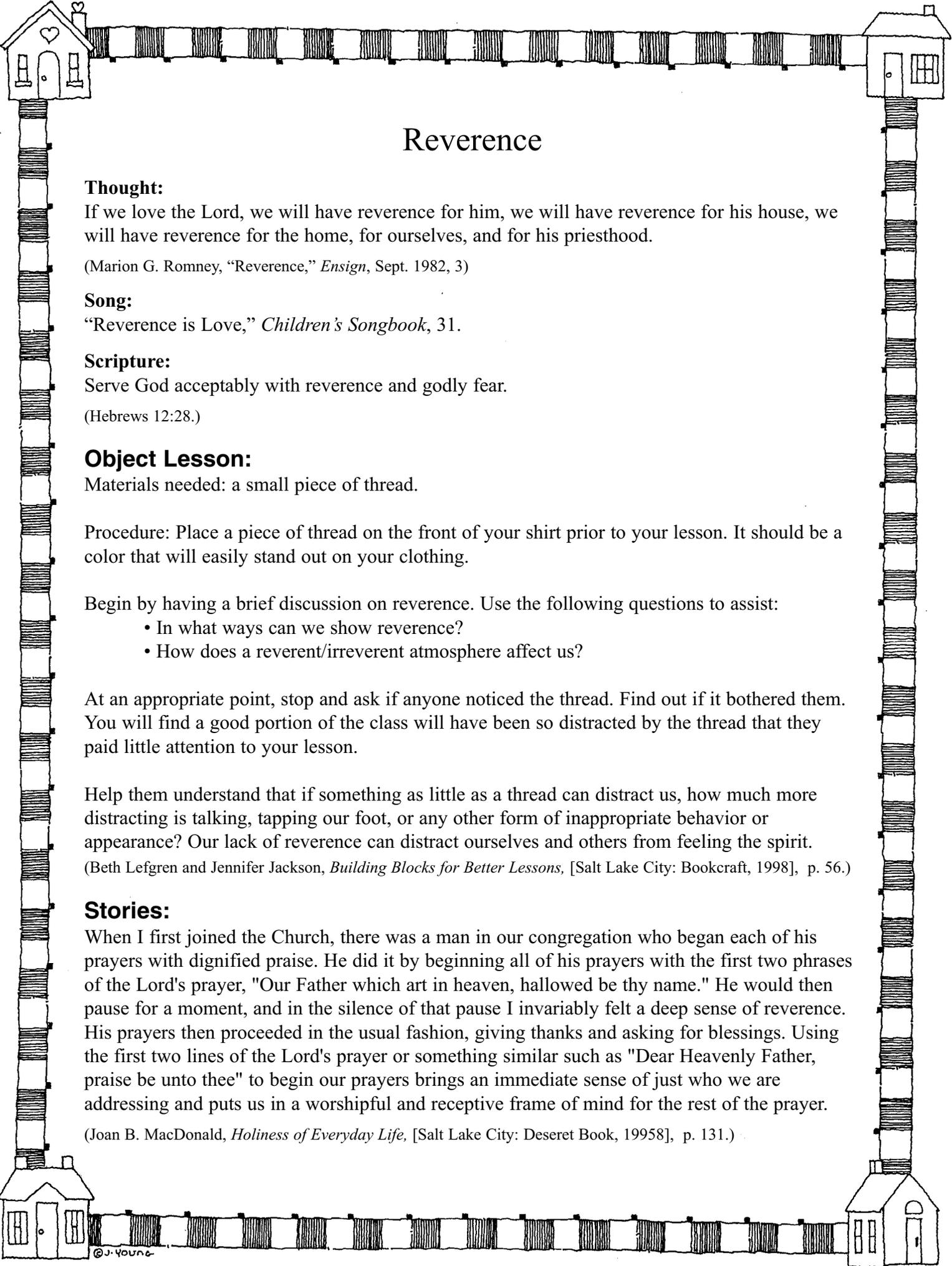
Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Reverence

Packet #010506

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
- 3. Involvement.** Involve everyone in the family; help little children take part.
- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.



Reverence

Thought:

If we love the Lord, we will have reverence for him, we will have reverence for his house, we will have reverence for the home, for ourselves, and for his priesthood.

(Marion G. Romney, "Reverence," *Ensign*, Sept. 1982, 3)

Song:

"Reverence is Love," *Children's Songbook*, 31.

Scripture:

Serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.

(Hebrews 12:28.)

Object Lesson:

Materials needed: a small piece of thread.

Procedure: Place a piece of thread on the front of your shirt prior to your lesson. It should be a color that will easily stand out on your clothing.

Begin by having a brief discussion on reverence. Use the following questions to assist:

- In what ways can we show reverence?
- How does a reverent/irreverent atmosphere affect us?

At an appropriate point, stop and ask if anyone noticed the thread. Find out if it bothered them. You will find a good portion of the class will have been so distracted by the thread that they paid little attention to your lesson.

Help them understand that if something as little as a thread can distract us, how much more distracting is talking, tapping our foot, or any other form of inappropriate behavior or appearance? Our lack of reverence can distract ourselves and others from feeling the spirit.

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *Building Blocks for Better Lessons*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1998], p. 56.)

Stories:

When I first joined the Church, there was a man in our congregation who began each of his prayers with dignified praise. He did it by beginning all of his prayers with the first two phrases of the Lord's prayer, "Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name." He would then pause for a moment, and in the silence of that pause I invariably felt a deep sense of reverence. His prayers then proceeded in the usual fashion, giving thanks and asking for blessings. Using the first two lines of the Lord's prayer or something similar such as "Dear Heavenly Father, praise be unto thee" to begin our prayers brings an immediate sense of just who we are addressing and puts us in a worshipful and receptive frame of mind for the rest of the prayer.

(Joan B. MacDonald, *Holiness of Everyday Life*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 19958], p. 131.)

[My father] knew the name of every tree, shrub, and wildflower—not just the common name but the Latin name and the botanical family. When we traveled as a family, he kept a record of any trees or plants he did not recognize, and when we got home (if he could not learn the answer by asking people on the way) he researched until he identified each one.

On every drive, at least once, my father would talk about the land. “Have you ever seen anything more beautiful?” he would ask. He would stop the car and wave his hand at the vista as though it were a great pageant and he was the impresario.

A brilliant sunset would bring him to silence. The car would roll to a halt, and my father would gaze at the dying sun staining the air with the colors of peonies and hollyhocks and nightshade—and he would stand transfixed by the beauty. He savored such moments as he would a symphony, and his reverence of that glory was transmitted to his children.

(Jaroldeen Edwards, *Celebration! Ten Principles of More Joyous Living*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1995], p. 122–23.)

Activity:

Give each person a paper and pencil and at a given signal jots down five items which are found in the home that reminds him of peace. Everyone then takes turns explaining why each item listed reminds him of peace. Help family members understand that feeling of peace is a reverent feeling.

(Alma Heaton, *The LDS Game Book*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1968], p. 58.)

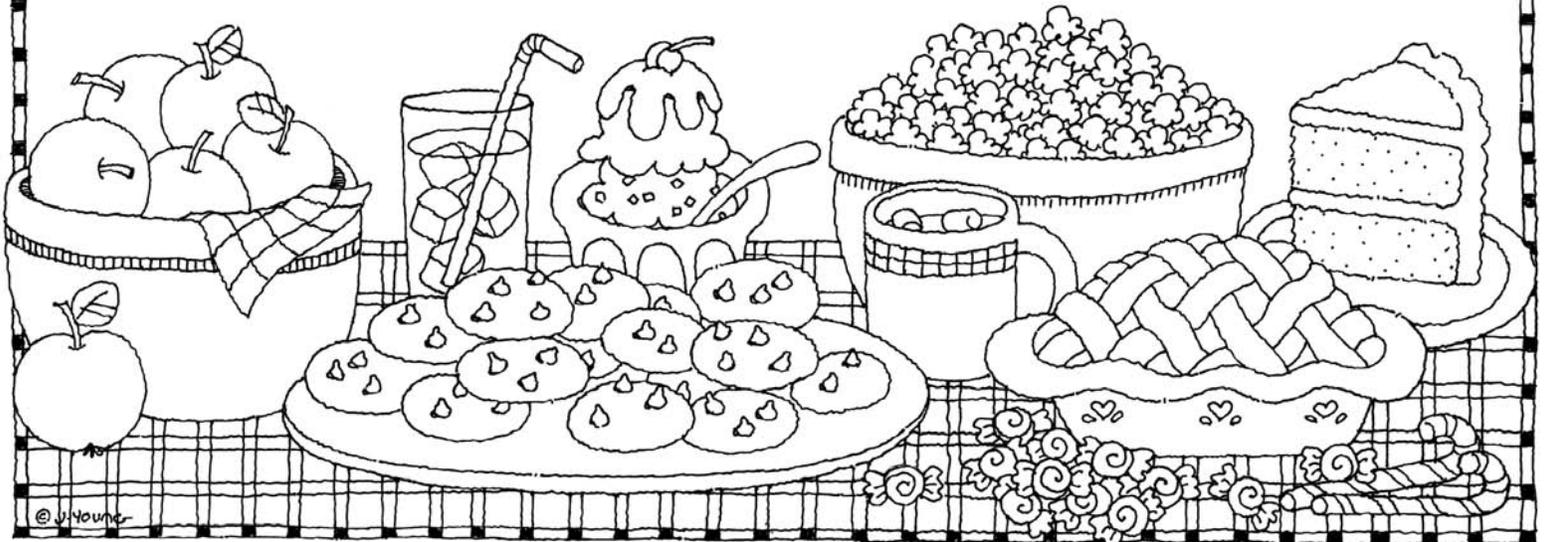
Refreshment

Scotties

- 1 14-ounce package caramels
- 3 tablespoons margarine
- 3 cups Rice Krispies cereal
- 1 pound white chocolate

Melt margarine in saucepan and add caramels. Melt caramels over very low heat and stir often to keep from sticking or scorching. In a large bowl, pour caramel mixture over Rice Krispies. Mix lightly so you don't crush cereal. Form into balls about an inch in diameter. Melt chocolate in saucepan over very low heat. Dip balls into white chocolate and place on waxed paper until chocolate hardens.

(Karla C. Erickson, *Kids in the Kitchen*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1980], p. 31.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Heber J. Grant

Packet #070306

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
- 3. Involvement.** Involve everyone in the family; help little children take part.
- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.

Heber J. Grant

Quote:

“I recall sitting in this tabernacle when I was fourteen or fifteen—up in the balcony right behind the clock—and hearing Heber J. Grant tell of his experience in reading the Book of Mormon when he was a boy. . . . There came into my young heart on that occasion a resolution to try to do what the Lord has commanded.”

(President Gordon B. Hinckley as quoted in Richard Neitzel Holzapfel and William W. Slaughter, *Prophets of the Latter-days*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 97.)

Song:

“Love One Another,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 136.

Scripture:

A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

(John 13:34–35)

Highlights from the Life of Heber J. Grant:

1856: Born in Salt Lake City

1864: Baptized

1880: Becomes President of the Tooele, Utah Stake

1882: Ordained an Apostle

1901: Dedicates Japan for missionary work

1904–1906: President of Great Britain and European Mission

1918: Becomes President of the Church

1936: Introduces the church welfare program

1938: Introduces the first Deseret Industries Store

1945: Dies in Salt Lake City (age 88)

(Richard Neitzel Holzapfel and William W. Slaughter, *Prophets of the Latter-days*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 92–3.)

Stories:

[Heber J. Grant’s] mother seems to have convinced him that the word *can't* just didn't exist.

For instance, Heber loved baseball, but he wasn't very strong and couldn't hit or throw the ball far. He was often called “sissy” or “ramrod” on the playground at school. Heber’s long arms and legs caused one boy to refer to him as “that grasshopper dude.” Determined to improve, Heber told his mother, “I’m going to play on the ball team that will win the state championship!”

Heber shined forty pairs of shoes to earn money to buy his own baseball. Then, every evening for months he practiced throwing the ball at the side of a barn. To improve his catching, he hired the hardest thrower in school to pitch “bullets” at him. After hours of practice, his arm ached, but Heber was now strong enough and good enough for the best team. To the surprise of many, but

not his mother, Heber achieved his goal. He played on the Red Stockings team that won the state championship at the end of the season. He became a local hero.

There was another time when Heber showed great determination. Schoolmates teased him for having poor handwriting. “Hentracks!” one boy said. “Lightning has struck the ink bottle” jeered another. Heber vowed to improve. After many hours of practice, he had such beautiful penmanship that people paid him to write holiday and business cards for them. He won a prize for his handwriting and became a professor of penmanship!

(Susan Arrington Madsen, *The Lord Needed a Prophet*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1996], p. 109.)

[When he was grown, Heber] supported good causes with his time and his money. He seldom refused aid to anyone who sought it. And much of his charity was anonymous. He enjoyed paying off the mortgages for friends and widows who were in financial straits. . . . “President Grant was the most liberal and generous man with his personal means that I have ever known,” wrote his long-time secretary, Joseph Anderson. “In fact, I doubt if any have excelled him in this respect. He was a man who thoroughly enjoyed making money, but not for the purpose of accumulating it. His only desire was to have money that he might do good with.”

(Francis M. Gibbons, *Dynamic Disciples, Prophets of God*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1996], p. 172–3.)

When [Heber] went to Joseph F. Smith’s office, he learned that President Smith was golfing. Heber felt that the business at hand could not wait until Joseph F. Smith returned to the Church headquarters, so he decided to track him down at the golf course. When Heber arrived, President Smith sensed that he was upset. “Heber, you are tense and overworked,” he said. “You should learn to play this game.” He was stunned by the suggestion—there was simply too much work and already not enough time to complete it. President Smith continued, “Many times I, myself, get overworked, weary and so tense I can accomplish but little. So I drop everything and come play golf.” He tried to reassure Heber that in the end he was more productive: “There is something about hits game that relaxes me and causes me to forget my anxieties. When I get back to the office I can accomplish more in a few hours than I could in days when I am so tense.”

Heber refuse the offer. . . . Joseph F. Smith spoke with presidential authority: “Heber, I command you to take that club and play out this round with me.”

He then related: “I took to playing golf and learned that President Smith was right. Nothing I can do relaxes me half a much as two hours on the golf course. I can return to the office and unravel problems that seemed unsolvable when I was tired and tense.”

(Richard Neitzel Holzapfel and William W. Slaughter, *Prophets of the Latter-days*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 92–3.)

Activity:

Play “Frisbee golf.” Provide everyone with a Frisbee (or use actual or toy golf balls and clubs, rocks, or sticks). Pick a different person to be in charge of each “hole.” The person in charge picks an object to be the hole or cup. He establishes par by saying, for example, “I can hit that barrel next to the tree in four throws.” The par is then four.

The person who sets par throws first, trying to hit the object selected. After everyone has had one throw, the person whose Frisbee is closest to the object throws first from where his Frisbee landed. Everyone else takes his turn according to how close the Frisbee is. Play continues in this manner until everyone has hit the object with his Frisbee. Each player’s score is a total of his points above or below the par for each hole. The winner is the person with the lowest score after eighteen holes.

(George and Jeane Chipman, *Games! Games! Games!*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 1983], p. 105.)

Refreshment

President Grant's favorite dessert was Fig Pudding.

Fig Pudding

1/4 cup butter

1/2 cup sugar

1 egg

1 1/2 cups sifted flour

2 cups chopped dried figs

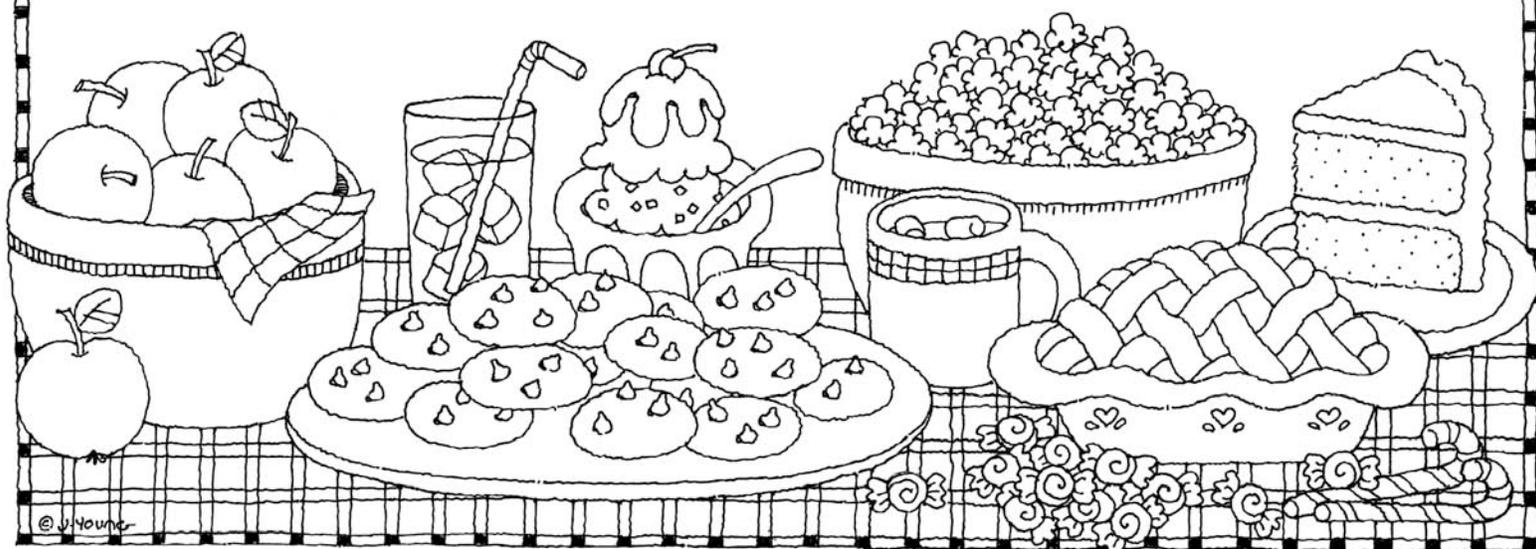
2 teaspoons baking powder

1/4 teaspoon salt

1/2 cup milk

1/2 teaspoon vanilla

Cream the butter, add the sugar and the well-beaten egg. Take out about 2 tablespoons of the flour and mix with the figs. Sift together the remaining flour and the baking powder and salt and add alternately with the milk to the butter and egg mixture. Stir in the flour-coated figs and add the vanilla. Bake in a greased baking dish for about one hour in a moderate oven (350 degrees F.). Serve hot with lemon sauce or hard sauce to which a little lemon juice has been added.



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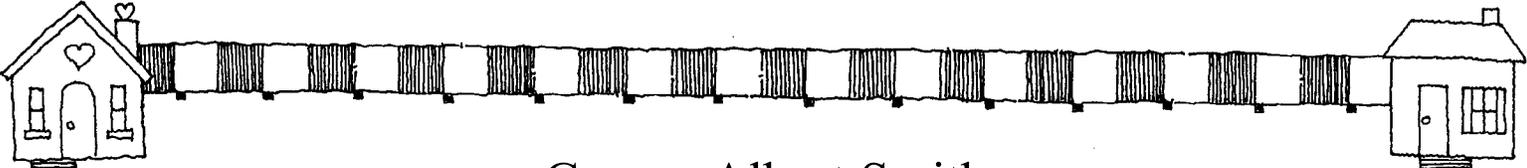
Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: George Albert Smith

Packet #070406

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
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- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.



George Albert Smith

Quote:

“His wonderful sense of humor is something that really should be written about, his joking with his children and his grandchildren, has made the fun that we have enjoyed all through our lifetime; anniversaries and holidays have been great events in our family.”

(Emily Smith Stewart, as quoted in Richard Neitzel Holzapfel and William W. Slaughter, *Prophets of the Latter-days*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 108.)

Song:

“Seek the Lord Early,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 108.

Scripture:

Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;
And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone.

(Ephesians 2:19–20)

Highlights from the Life of George Albert Smith:

1870: Born in Salt Lake City

1878: Baptized

1884: Received Patriarchal blessing, was told he’d become an apostle

1891: Mission to Southern Utah

1892–94: Mission to Southern States

1903: Ordained an Apostle

1919–1921: Served as President of Great Britain and European Mission

1931: Becomes member of national Boys Scouts of America board

1934: Receives silver buffalo award (highest award for Boy Scout leaders)

1949: First TV broadcast of General Conference

1951: Dies in Salt Lake City (age 81)

(Richard Neitzel Holzapfel and William W. Slaughter, *Prophets of the Latter-days*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 106–7.)

Story:

As twelve-year-old Doug Scalley embarked on a summer vacation of hiking, climbing, and exploring in the greater Yellowstone Snake River area, he met another boy who shared his sense of adventure. Soon they were planning and preparing for a day-long quest. The night before “the big day,” Doug’s friend unloaded some worrisome news—his seventy-six-year-old grandfather wanted to join the quest.

Although anxious that an old man would slow them down, Doug figured the “grandfather will only last a few miles.” On the appointed day the two boys began their trek in the company of a tall, thin gentleman wearing a “wide-brimmed Scout hat, a heaving Scouting jacket, a neckerchief around his collar, knee-length pants, and laced-up hiking boots.”

The three headed up the trail together, but soon the boys excitedly hurried along “the narrow path” until the friend’s grandfather called for them to come back. Assuming he was

going to announce his return to the cabin, the boys were surprised when the grandfather pointed down to two sets of animal prints in the dirt. As the three knelt for a closer look, he explained: “This one is the mother deer. The imprint isn’t very deep, and the strides are short. That’s how you can tell it’s not a buck; its a doe. She has a little one with her.”

Far from tiring, the grandfather walked on, pointing out different wildflowers, trees, bushes, and edible plants. Over the next few hours, he taught the young boys different ways to track animals, broken branches, rubbed tree moss, overturned rocks, and rarely noticed, narrow woodland pathways. After practicing their tracking skills, the three returned to their cabins as the sun began to go down. The boys were exuberantly exhausted.

The next morning Doug appreciatively delivered his mother’s freshly baked rolls to his friend’s grandfather. Doug and his family were not Latter-day Saints, but his mother mentioned the man “was someone important in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints—‘Maybe you should ask for his autograph.’”

After thanking him for a wonderful day, Doug asked the gentleman to sign the paper and the piece of kindling wood he brought with him. After leaving the cabin, Doug looked at the wood on which was written, “George Albert Smith—Scouter.” On the paper was written, “The pathway of righteousness is the highway of happiness. Don’t lose your way.” They were messages Doug Scalley never forgot, especially later when he prepared to be baptized.

(Richard Neitzel Holzapfel and William W. Slaughter, *Prophets of the Latter-days*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 105.)

Activity:

Go for a hike around your neighborhood or play “Capture the Flag” a traditional scout game.

Each team has its own territory in which its Scouts are free to move as they please, but on which opponents enter at their peril. The territories are separated by a boundary line such as a brook or a trail, etc. Any Scout crossing this line may be captured by the enemy.

The teams assemble close together at a starting point near the center of the line, each team in its own territory. On a signal the teams proceed to set their flags at any point within 200 steps of the starting point. The flags must be visible, although it is permissible to place them as inconspicuously as possible.

After three minutes another signal is given for start of game. The object now is to enter the enemy's territory, capture the flag, and carry it across the line into home territory without being caught. Scouts may be posted to guard the flag, but not get nearer than 50 feet to it, unless an enemy Scout goes within the 50-foot circle. They may then follow him.

Any Scout found in the enemy's territory may be captured by grasping him long enough for the captor to say "Caught!" three times. When a Scout is captured he must go with captor to the “guard house”—a tree or rock from the boundary line.

A prisoner may be released by a friend touching him, provided the prisoner at that time is touching the guard house with a hand or a foot, whereupon both return to their own territory. If the rescuer is caught by the guards before he touches the prisoner, he, too, must go to the guard house. A rescuer can rescue only one prisoner at a time.

If the flag is successfully captured, it must be carried across the line into home territory. If the raider is caught before he reaches home, the flag is set up again at the point where it was rescued and the game as before. If neither side captures the enemy's flag within the time agreed up on (say, 1/2 hour) the game is won by the team with the most prisoners.

(1947 *Scoutmaster's Handbook*, p. 447-8.)

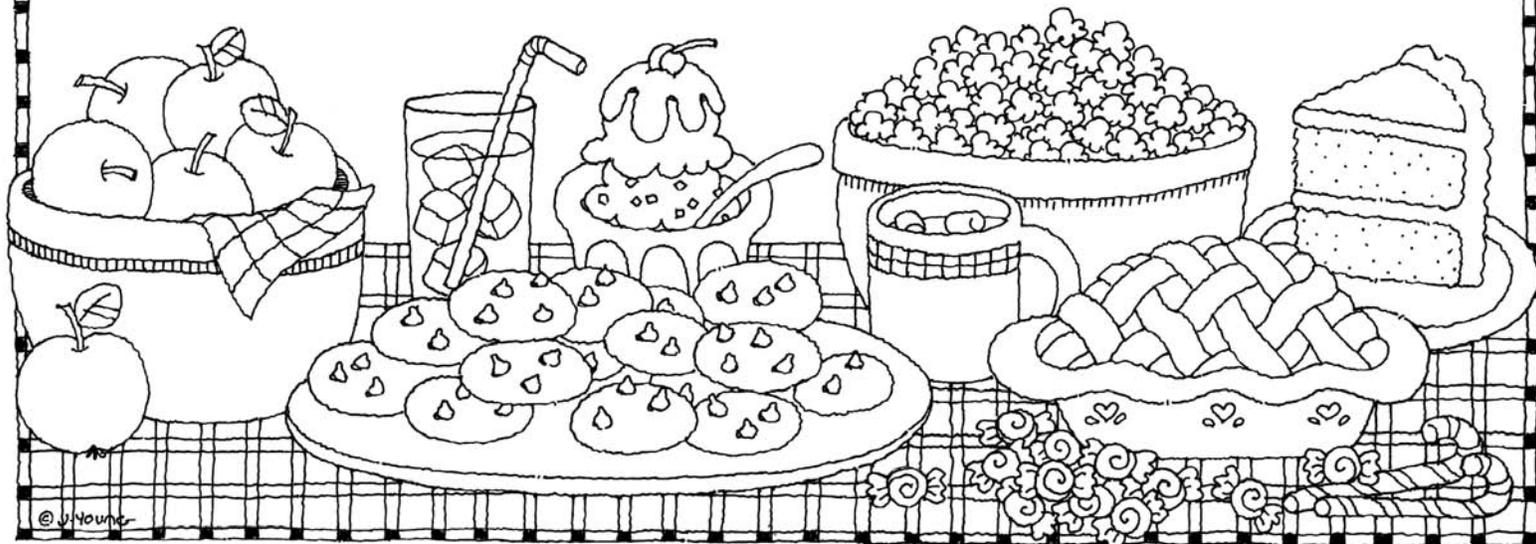
Refreshment

Soft Gingersnap Cookies

- 3/4 cup butter or margarine, softened
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 1/4 cup molasses
- 2 1/4 cups flour
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ginger
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- granulated sugar

Cream together butter or margarine, brown sugar, egg, and molasses. In a separate bowl, combine all remaining ingredients except granulated sugar; add to creamed mixture and beat together. Cover bowl and chill in refrigerator for at least 1 hour. Using 1 tablespoon as a measure, roll dough into balls, making about 24 dough balls. Dip tops in granulated sugar. Place balls, sugared side up, on greased baking sheets about 3 inches apart. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 to 12 minutes. Immediately remove cookies from baking sheets and cool on wire racks. Makes 24 large cookies.

(Julie Badger Jensen, *Essential Mormon Celebrations*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 2005], p. 32.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Education

Packet #110306

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

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Education

Thought:

You need all the education you can get. Sacrifice a car; sacrifice anything that is needed to be sacrificed to qualify yourselves to do the work of the world. That world will in large measure pay you what it thinks you are worth, and your worth will increase as you gain education and proficiency in your chosen field.

(Gordon B. Hinckley, "A Prophet's Counsel and Prayer for Youth," *Ensign*, Jan. 2001, 2)

Song:

"Teach Me to Walk in the Light," *Children's Songbook*, p. 117.

Scripture:

But to be learned is good if they hearken unto the counsels of God.

(2 Nephi 9:29)

Object Lesson:

Materials: A bowl filled with wheat or other whole grain.

Presentation: Ask what would happen if this grain was left in a dry place. Ask what would happen if it was planted and given water. Discuss.

Give a definition of wisdom (ability to judge what is right or true). Explain that the grain is like knowledge. To become wisdom, experience and time must be added. Ask what kind of experience can help make knowledge into wisdom (education).

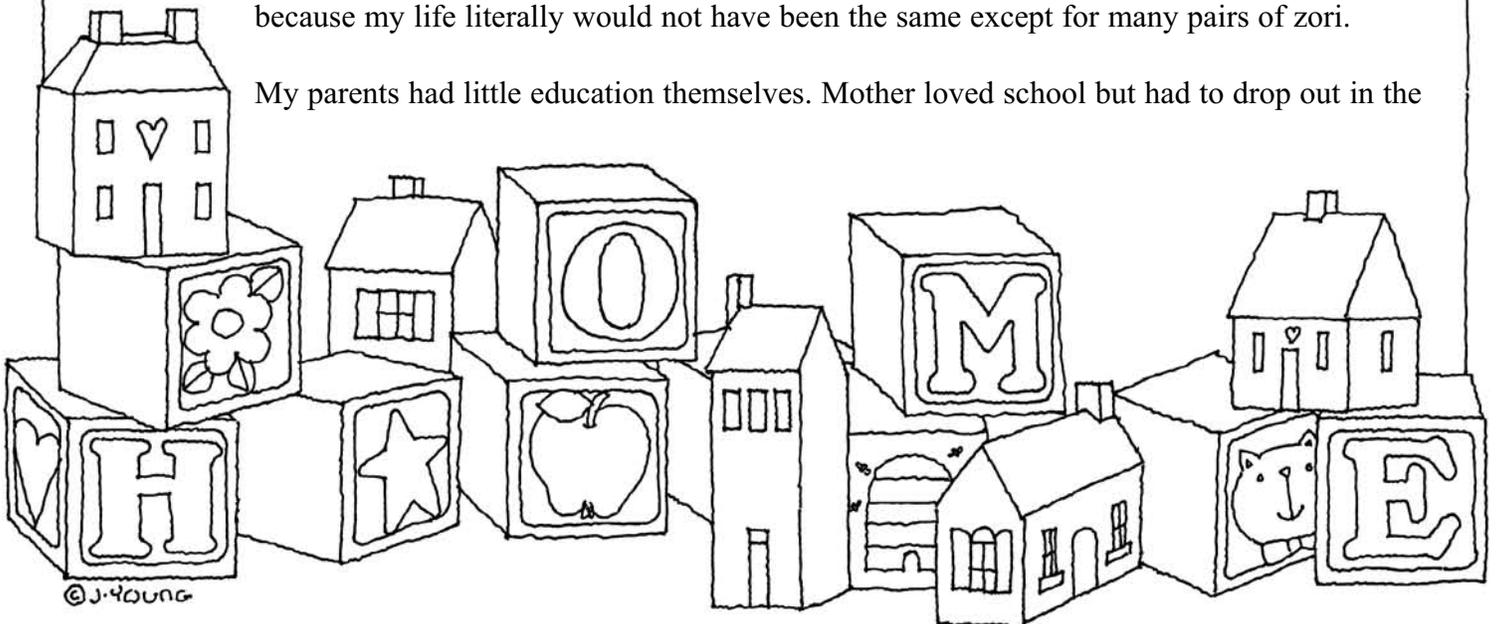
(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *More Power Tools for Teaching*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1991], p. 102.)

Story:

Walk in My Zori

There is a saying in the American West about walking in the other person's moccasins. Well, in Hawaii we have Japanese slippers called zori instead. These slippers are very special to me, because my life literally would not have been the same except for many pairs of zori.

My parents had little education themselves. Mother loved school but had to drop out in the



sixth grade to care for her two younger sisters after her mother died. My parents wanted me to get an education so that I could have a better future than being a plantation laborer, as they were.

From the time I was fifteen, I lived away from home, working as a maid to put myself through high school. Then later, when I was going to college in Honolulu, I worked selling jewelry at Sears-Roebuck and as a clerk at the Swedish consulate. My burning desire was to become a teacher. My parents helped me with the tuition, but there was never very much money. I had to be careful of every penny. I thought that the money for my tuition came from my father's earnings, and it was only after I had graduated from college that I learned differently. My family earned my tuition fifty cents at a time by making zori.

Think of it. Each week, a contractor would bring a huge pile of lauhala leaves to our village and pick up the finished zori, which were sold all over the islands, or maybe in the Far East, and in import-export stores. The lauhala leaves are long, with a row of spines running down each edge, and very fibrous. My two little brothers, Hiro and Tsugio, would prepare the leaves by scraping off the spines. I'm sure there were many times when their fingers would bleed from being torn by the thorns. Then they would scrape the fleshy part of the leaf away, leaving only the flat, fibrous part, soak this in water to make it pliable, and then roll it up into a little bundle to be stored until my parents could work on it. My father would slice the leaves with his sharp razors and weave the strips into the zori fabric. My mother would sew the fabric on her little foot-powered treadle sewing machine to a pattern form, trim the top edge and roll it over and sew it so that it wouldn't unravel, and then sew it to the fabric sole to finish the zori. My tuition was about three hundred dollars per semester, so at fifty cents a pair that meant my family would have to make six hundred pairs of zori every three or four months.

Whenever I went home for vacations, I always helped with the zori. Everyone in our little village was poor and anxious to do any kind of piece work they could, and I just thought this was part of our family's work. I did not realize that this was the sacrifice of my whole family for my education.

Every time I see these zori, I think of my family sustaining me so that I could walk forward into my future. And I appreciate that sacrifice.

(Chieko N. Okazaki, *Lighten Up! Finding Real Joy in Life*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1993], p. 29.)

Activity:

Have everyone sit or stand on the floor, single file and facing forward, train-style. Have a simple object drawn on a piece of paper and show it to the last person in the line. They are to draw this object with their fingers on the back of the person in front of them. That person draws the same object on the back of the person in front of him, and so does each person up the line. The first person in the line will draw the object on paper. See if the beginning and ending pictures resemble each other. Trade places and draw a new picture.

(Clark L. and Kathryn H. Kidd, Kent D. and Shannon Pugmire, *Ward Activities for the Clueless*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 2001], p. 294.)

Refreshment

Norwegian Pancakes

4 eggs

1/2 c. warm water

1 tsp. vanilla

1/3 c. sugar

1/3 c. melted butter

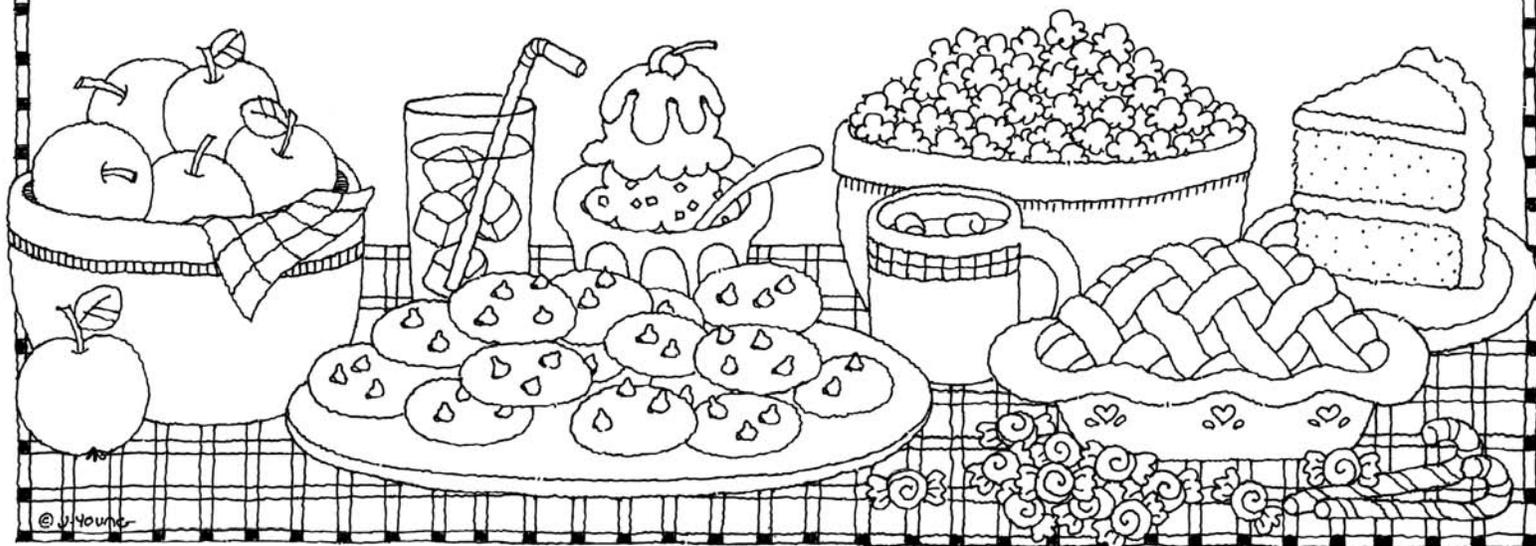
1 1/4 c. flour

1 c. milk

Toppings: powdered sugar, butter, jam, syrup, or fruit topping

Butter a sauté pan or griddle. Beat eggs, water, and vanilla. Beat in sugar; then butter, flour, and milk, beating after each addition. Heat pan to medium; then pour batter by scoopfuls onto griddle (or single scoop for sauté or crêpe pan). Turn quickly and do not overcook. Stack the crêpe-like pancakes and keep in warm place until serving. Serve, buttered and rolled with topping like a crêpe—or serve flat and sprinkled with powdered sugar, allowing individual choice of toppings.

(5 Star Recipes from Well-Known Latter-day Saints, [Salt Lake City: Eagle Gate, 2002], p. 171.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Happiness

Packet #110406

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
- 3. Involvement.** Involve everyone in the family; help little children take part.
- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M

Happiness

Thought:

Having lived quite a few years now, I have concluded that since we don't always desire that which is good, having all our desires granted to us would not bring us happiness. In fact, instant and unrestrained gratification of all our desires would be the shortest and most direct route to unhappiness. The many hours I have spent listening to the tribulations of men and women have persuaded me that both happiness and unhappiness are much of our own making. . . . Our search for happiness largely depends on the degree of righteousness we attain, the degree of selflessness we acquire, the amount and quality of service we render, and the inner peace that we enjoy.

(James E. Faust, "Our Search for Happiness," *Ensign*, Oct. 2000, 2)

Song:

"Lift Up Your Voice and Sing," *Children's Songbook*, p. 252.

Scripture:

Behold, I say unto you, wickedness never was happiness.

(Alma 41:10)

Lesson:

Explain to your family members that Philippians 4 is about happiness and that they will be the ones to teach it. Depending on the ages and size of your family, divide them into two to four groups. Listed below are scripture blocks, and ideas for each group to help prepare them to teach. Assign them to read the verses, identify secrets to happiness, and then share them with the family.

Group 1: Verses 1–5

- How does the service in verse 3 bring happiness?
- Give an example of when serving brought you joy.
- What hymn does verse 4 remind you of? (See "Rejoice, the Lord Is King," Hymns, no. 66. You might even sing it together.)
- What difference does footnote 5a make to the meaning of the verse?
- How does gentleness bring happiness?

Group 2: Verses 6–7

- What insights do footnotes 6a and 6b add to these verses?
- How might making requests to God be better than worrying?
- In what ways does the peace of God "surpass all understanding"?
- Describe a time when God gave you peace in the midst of difficulties.

M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

A B C D E F G H I J K L

Group 3: Verse 8–10

- What Article of Faith does verse 8 remind you of? (You might want to write Articles of Faith 1:13 next to verse 8.)
- How does thinking about the kinds of things mentioned in verse 8 bring happiness?
- How does exposure to evil influences take away our happiness?

Group 4: Verses 11–13

- How did Paul learn to be content in every situation? (Verse 12; Paul’s personal experiences.)
- What is the opposite of “content”? (Dissatisfied.)
- How does contentment bring happiness?
- How would trusting in God’s strength help? (Verse 13.)
- When is a time that the Lord strengthened you?

Have your family list ways the gospel of Jesus Christ brings happiness to them.

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The New Testament*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book 2006], p. 244.)

Story:

Grabbing After a Shadow

(Milton Hunter)

When I was in grade school I recall that there was a simple story in our primer that was merely interesting to me at that time. Now, however, it is more important, especially when I make an application of it to experiences of life.

I read about a dog that went to a meat market and got a large piece of meat. He started home with that piece of meat. On the way home he had to cross over a bridge that spanned a beautiful, sparkling stream of water. When he got in the middle of that stream of water he looked over the edge of the bridge into the water and saw another dog with a piece of meat in its mouth. This covetous dog opened his mouth to grab the meat from the other dog and thereupon dropped his meat into the water. It floated away. To his dismay he found that the other dog had lost his meat also.

Here is the application: The covetous dog found he was grabbing after a shadow. There are many, shadows of true happiness in this life after which human beings grab; and, just as the old dog lost his valuable meat, to our sorrow we lose what is most precious, most valuable to us in life, if we grab after those shadows of happiness and thereby substitute them for something that is real and of genuine value.

(“The Eternal Quest for Happiness,” *BYU Speeches of the Year*, May 12, 1964, pp. 4-5.)

Activity:

Select an “it” to start the game. He will choose some officer in the Church, such as the bishop, and say, “I am the bishop. I am happy when . . . (Think of something which would make the bishop happy.)” Then beginning at his right each member of the family in turn says, “I am the bishop” and he names some way in which people can make the bishop happy. For example, “I am the bishop; I am happy when the priests are reverent at the sacrament table.” When a family member names what “it” is thinking about, that person becomes “it.”

(Alma Heaton *The LDS Game Book*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1968], p. 58.)

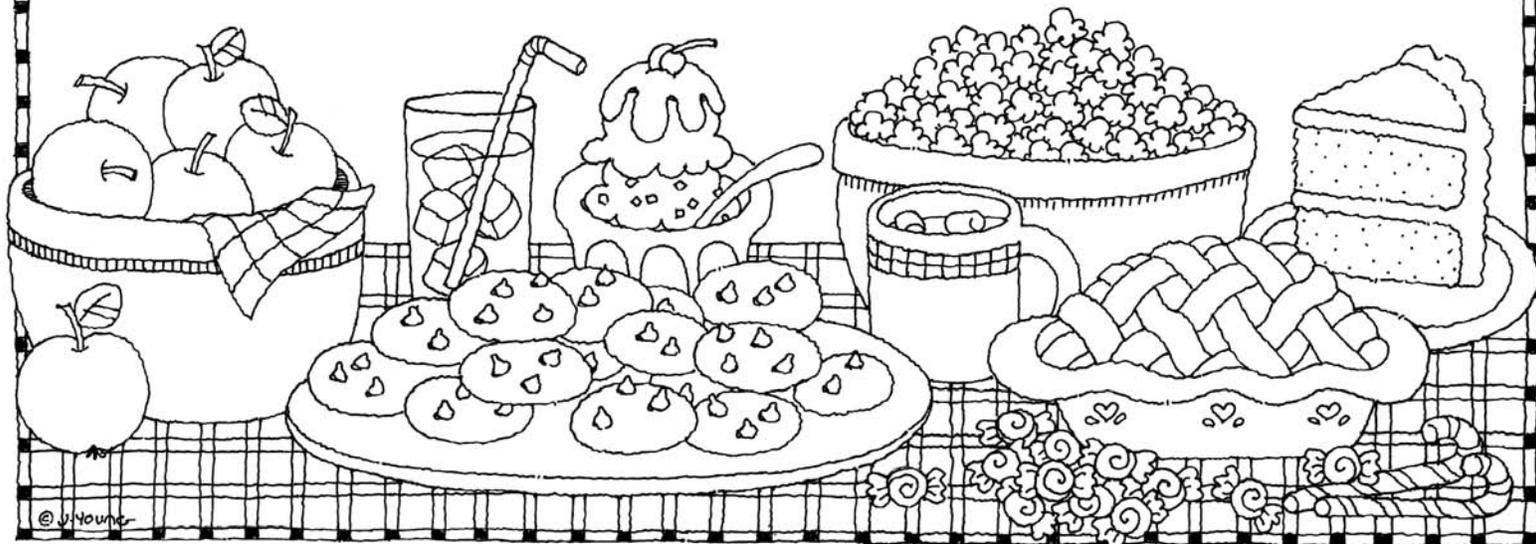
Refreshment

Pumpkin Cake

3/4 cup shortening
1 1/4 cups sugar
2 eggs
1 cup canned or cooked pumpkin
3/4 cup milk
1 teaspoon soda
2 1/4 cups sifted flour
pinch salt
3 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon cloves
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
1 cup broken nuts

Cream together shortening and sugar. Add eggs; beat until light and fluffy. Combine pumpkin, milk, and soda; add alternately with sifted dry ingredients. Stir in nuts. Pour into a greased and floured 9 x 13-inch pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 40 to 45 minutes or until done. Frost, if desired, with cream cheese frosting.

(Winnifred C. Jardine, *Mormon Country Cooking*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1980], p. 260.)



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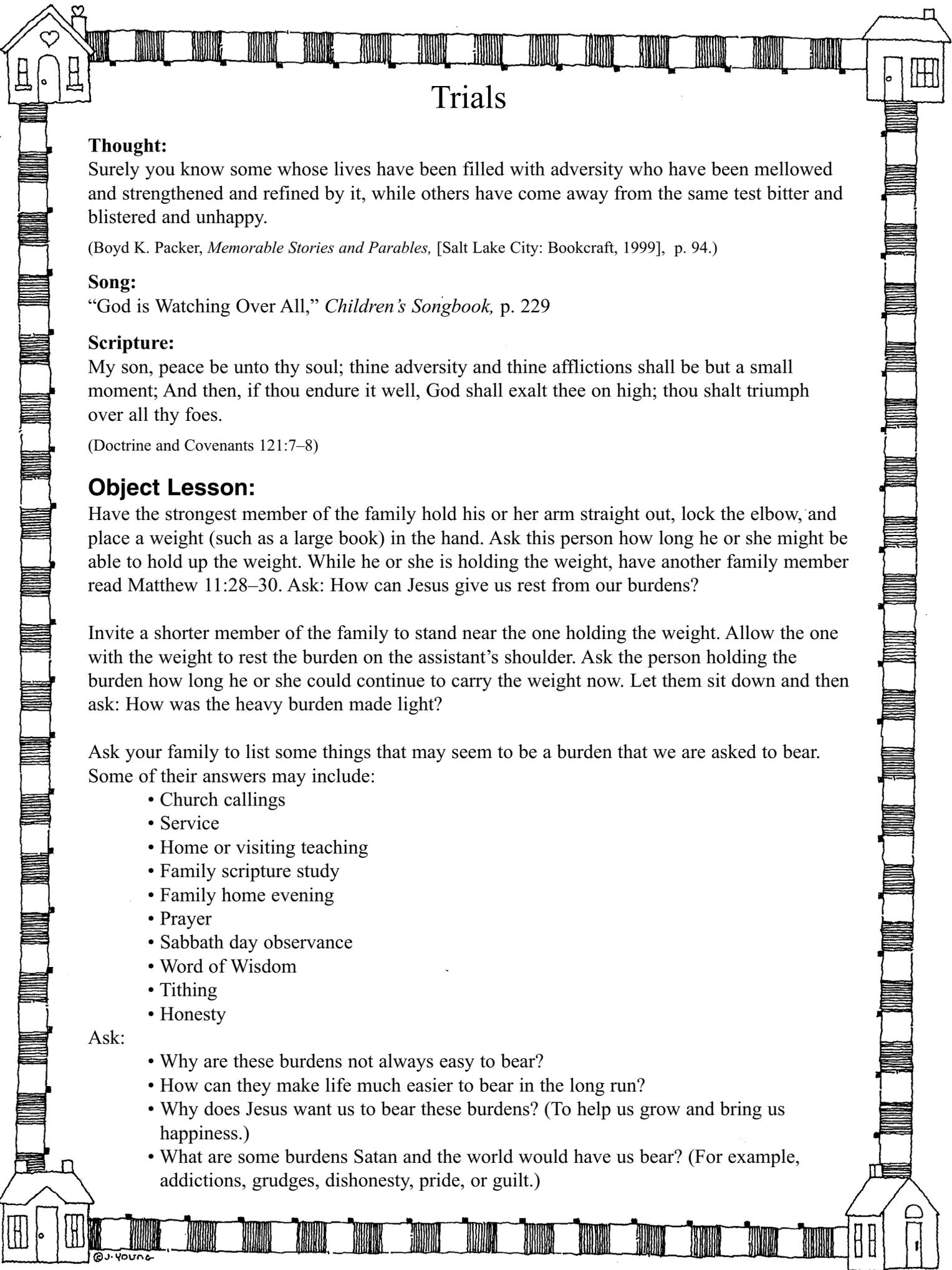
Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Trials

Packet #100106

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
- 3. Involvement.** Involve everyone in the family; help little children take part.
- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.



Trials

Thought:

Surely you know some whose lives have been filled with adversity who have been mellowed and strengthened and refined by it, while others have come away from the same test bitter and blistered and unhappy.

(Boyd K. Packer, *Memorable Stories and Parables*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1999], p. 94.)

Song:

“God is Watching Over All,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 229

Scripture:

My son, peace be unto thy soul; thine adversity and thine afflictions shall be but a small moment; And then, if thou endure it well, God shall exalt thee on high; thou shalt triumph over all thy foes.

(Doctrine and Covenants 121:7–8)

Object Lesson:

Have the strongest member of the family hold his or her arm straight out, lock the elbow, and place a weight (such as a large book) in the hand. Ask this person how long he or she might be able to hold up the weight. While he or she is holding the weight, have another family member read Matthew 11:28–30. Ask: How can Jesus give us rest from our burdens?

Invite a shorter member of the family to stand near the one holding the weight. Allow the one with the weight to rest the burden on the assistant’s shoulder. Ask the person holding the burden how long he or she could continue to carry the weight now. Let them sit down and then ask: How was the heavy burden made light?

Ask your family to list some things that may seem to be a burden that we are asked to bear. Some of their answers may include:

- Church callings
- Service
- Home or visiting teaching
- Family scripture study
- Family home evening
- Prayer
- Sabbath day observance
- Word of Wisdom
- Tithing
- Honesty

Ask:

- Why are these burdens not always easy to bear?
- How can they make life much easier to bear in the long run?
- Why does Jesus want us to bear these burdens? (To help us grow and bring us happiness.)
- What are some burdens Satan and the world would have us bear? (For example, addictions, grudges, dishonesty, pride, or guilt.)

- Why would Satan want us to bear these burdens? (To damn us, or stop our progression and bring us misery.)
- In what ways are the Lord’s burdens much lighter in comparison to Satan’s burdens?

Testify to your family that the Lord’s burdens will help us avoid Satan’s burdens and will bring joy and satisfaction.

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The New Testament*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2006], p. 22.)

Story:

The Good That Can Grow Out of Tragedy

(President James E. Faust)

Jeff and Joyce Underwood, of Pocatello, Idaho, are friends I have been grateful to come to know. They are parents of Jeralee and their other five children. One day in July 1993, their daughter Jeralee, age eleven, was going door to door collecting money for her newspaper route. Jeralee never returned home—not that day, nor the next day, nor the next, nor ever.

Two thousand people from the area had gone out day after day to search for her. Other churches sent support and food for the searchers. It was learned that Jeralee had been abducted and murdered by an evil man. When her body was found, the whole city was horrified and shocked. All segments of the community reached out to Joyce and Jeff in love and sympathy. Some became angry and wanted to take vengeance.

After Jeralee’s body was found, Jeff and Joyce appeared with great composure before the television cameras and other media to publicly express their profound thanks to all who had helped in the search and who had extended sympathy and love. Joyce said, “I know our Heavenly Father has heard and answered our prayers, and he has brought our daughter back to us.” Jeff said, “We no longer have doubt about where she is.” Joyce continued, “I have learned a lot about love this week, and I also know there is a lot of hate. I have looked at the love and want to feel that love, and not the hate. We can forgive.”

Elder Joe J. Christensen and I, representing the General Authorities, were among the thousands privileged to attend Jeralee’s funeral service. The Holy Spirit blessed that gathering in a remarkable way and spoke peace to the souls of those who attended. Later, President Kert W. Howard, Jeralee’s Stake President wrote, “The Underwoods have received letters from people both in and out of the Church stating that they prayed for Jeralee, and they hadn’t prayed in years, and because of this, they had renewed their desire to return to the Church.” President Howard continued, “We will never know the extent of activation and rededication this single event has caused. Who knows the far-reaching effects Jeralee’s life will have for generations untold?” Many have come into the Church because they wanted to know what kind of religion could give the Underwoods their spiritual strength.

(James E. Faust, *Stories From My Life*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2001], p. 21–23.)

Activities:

Show your family how to write principles by explaining that many principles are written as “If—then” statements. On top of a sheet of paper, write: “If I _____, then _____.” Share the following examples from 1 Peter 5:6–11:

- If I humble myself, *then* eventually I will be exalted. (Verse 6.)
- If I cast my burdens upon the Lord, *then* He will help me. (Verse 7.)
- If I am watchful, *then* I will be able to escape the temptations of Satan. (Verse 8.)
- If I am patient in suffering, *then* God will strengthen me. (Verse 10.)

Ask your family to think of as many “If—then” examples as they can. Write them on the sheet of paper.

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The New Testament*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2006], p. 297.)

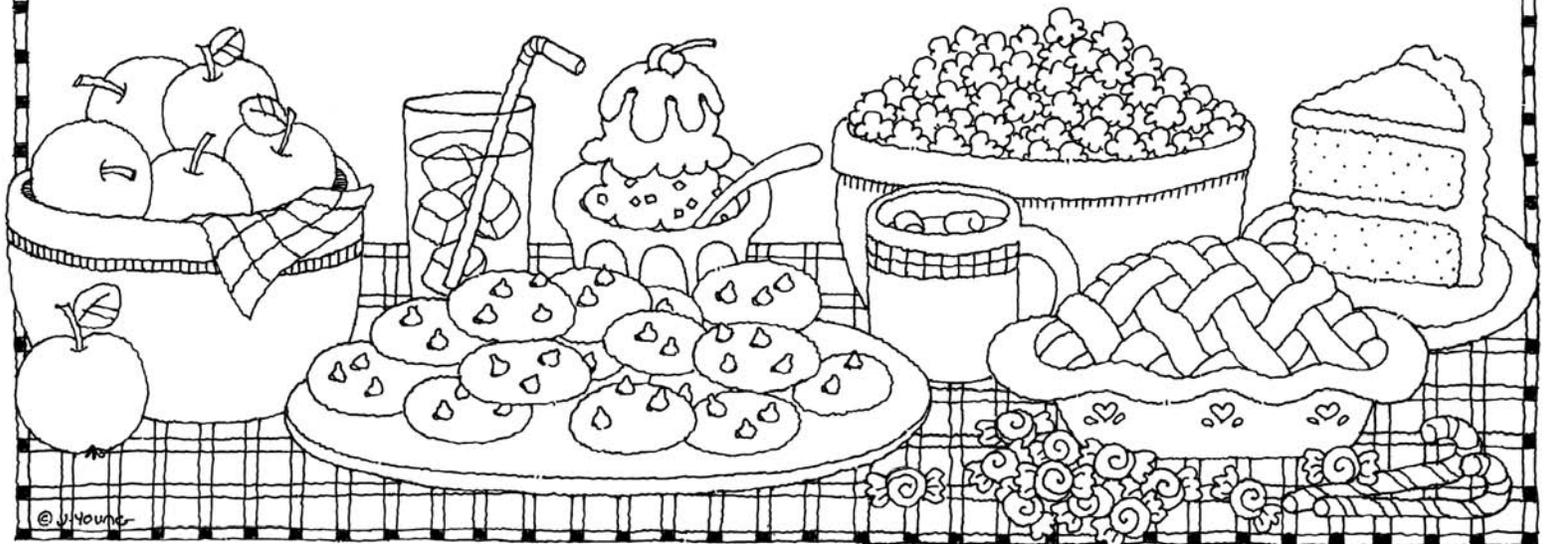
Refreshment

Peanutty-Choco Jumble

- 1 cup (6 ounces) milk chocolate chips
- 1 cup (6 ounces) semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 cup peanut butter
- 1 12.3-ounce box Crispix® cereal
- 2 cups powdered sugar

Melt chocolate chips and peanut butter in microwave or in double boiler over hot, simmering water. Pour mixture over cereal in a large bowl. Mix well. Pour powdered sugar in large brown paper bag. Add cereal mixture and shake until coated. Makes approximately 12 cups.

(*Lion House Christmas*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 2006], p. 140.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Testimony

Packet #100206

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
- 3. Involvement.** Involve everyone in the family; help little children take part.
- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.

Testimony

Thought:

Clearly, in our world today it is a rare and precious thing to have a testimony that God our Heavenly Father lives; that His Son, Jesus Christ, is our Savior and Redeemer; and that priesthood authority to administer the gospel of Jesus Christ has been restored once again upon the earth. The profound blessing of having a testimony of these truths cannot be measured or ever taken for granted.

(M. Russell Ballard, "Pure Testimony," *Ensign*, Nov. 2004, 40.)

Song:

"I Know My Father Lives," *Children's Songbook*, p. 194.

Scripture:

And by the power of the Holy Ghost ye may know the truth of all things.

(Moroni 10:5)

Object Lesson:

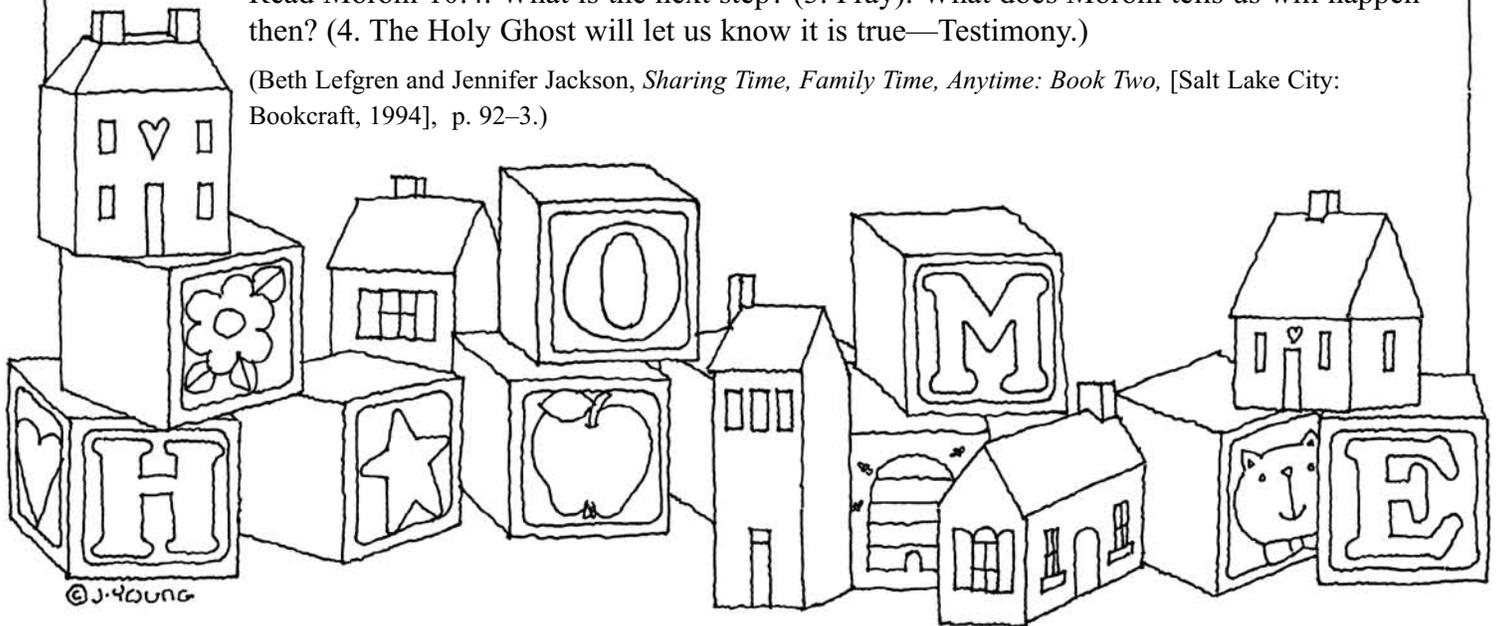
Materials needed: a bag or pillow case, two or three items to go into the bag. Use items that the children would recognize but that are not too common: wallet, cassette tape, hair dryer, and so on.

Place one item in the bag, making sure the family does not see it. Invite a child to come up and feel what is in the bag. Instruct him or her to describe to the group what it feels like. The child should not tell what it is made of, only how it feels. (Example: "It feels long. It feels hard. It feels cold.") The child may give the group only three clues, and then the group must guess what it is. Usually they are unable to guess from just the description. Next, invite another child from the group to feel the same object. Ask them if they can tell what it is now. The child should be able to easily identify the object. Emphasize that it is much easier to tell what something is by feeling it yourself than by having it described to you. Liken this to a testimony. Someone can describe his or her testimony to you, but to really know what a testimony is, you must feel it yourself. Repeat the activity one or two times.

Explain that in the last chapter of the Book of Mormon, Moroni tells us how to gain a testimony. Have the children listen carefully to Moroni 10:3. Moroni tells us two things we must do to gain a testimony. What are they? (1. Read scriptures. 2. Ponder them.)

Read Moroni 10:4. What is the next step? (3. Pray). What does Moroni tell us will happen then? (4. The Holy Ghost will let us know it is true—Testimony.)

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *Sharing Time, Family Time, Anytime: Book Two*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1994], p. 92–3.)



Story:

Testimony

(by H.G.B.)

Elder J. D. H. McAllister traveled with me in Arkansas, and for the first two months of our labors, when called upon to talk, would not [take more than] five minutes, and often not half that time. He would not possess courage to try to talk longer, and would take his seat.

He would often say that he could not account for his being called on a mission. “What can I do? I do not even know that this latter-day work is true. My father has often borne testimony that he knew this work to be true. He is a good man and I believe his testimony; but I do not know it to be true for myself.”

However, an opportunity occurred that dispelled all these doubts, and planted in the place thereof, facts and certainties.

I had taken a severe cold, and was so hoarse that I could not talk. A meeting was to be held, and at that meeting some one would have to preach.

The only alternative was for him to attend and do the preaching. To do this he had to travel five or six miles across the “slashes,” face a large congregation composed almost entirely of strangers, and do all the preaching, and that, too, alone.

I never, while in that country, heard the last of the praises heaped upon him by the people for the “best sermon” they had ever listened to. He had no difficulty in testifying to the divinity of the great latter-day work. The Holy Spirit rested upon him, and he could not keep back this testimony, which was as new to him as it was to those that heard him.

That day’s work is no doubt remembered by him with the greatest pleasure of any event of his life, and will prove as profitable as any in his future career.

(Gems for the Young Folks: Faith-Promoting Series, no. 4, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book].)

Activity:

Two people are sent out of the room and an object is hidden in plain sight. The people come back and try to see the object. When a person sees it, he returns to his seat and says, “My eyes are open.” Play until everyone has at least one turn.

Liken this to gaining a testimony: sometimes we don’t see things that are right before our eyes, but once we can “see” it, it is obvious to us.

(adapted from Alma Heaton, The LDS Game Book, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1968], p. 50.)

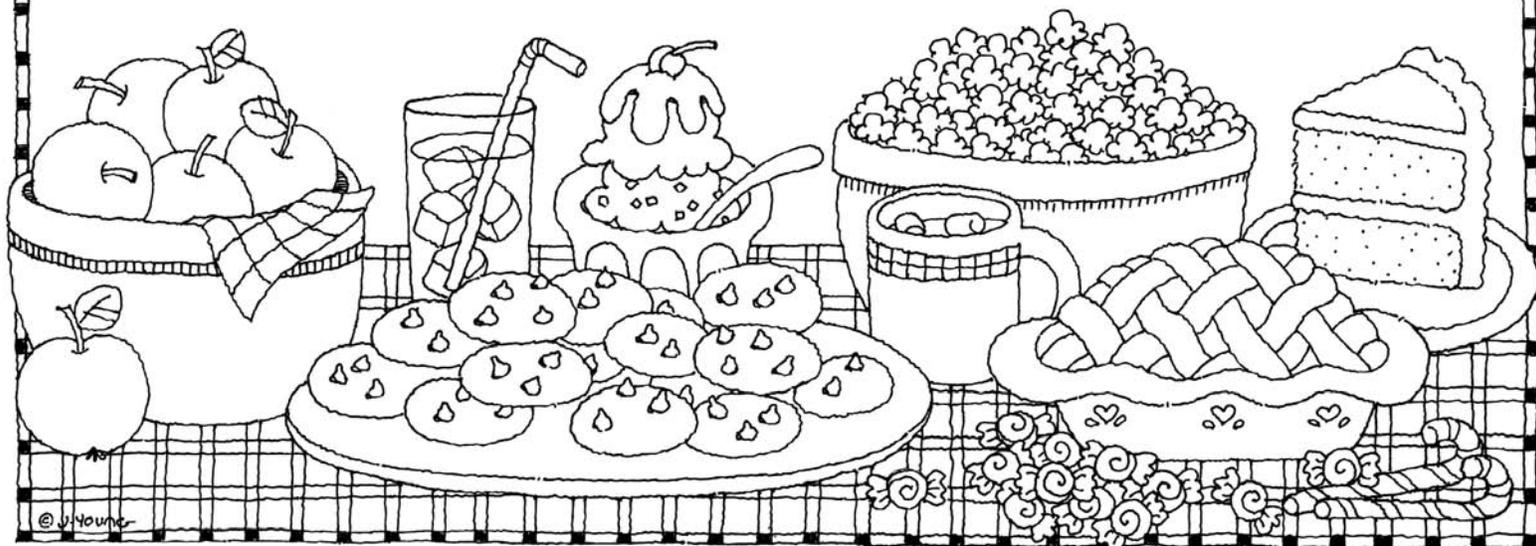
Refreshment

Apple Alice

3 apples, peeled and sliced
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 cup sugar
1 cup flour
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup butter or margarine
1 egg

Place apples in a 9-inch glass pie plate. Combine cinnamon and sugar, and sprinkle about half over the apples. In a mixing bowl combine flour and salt; cut in butter. Add egg and mix lightly. With buttered fingers, spread carefully over tops of apples (they may not be completely covered). Sprinkle with remaining sugar and cinnamon. Bake at 375 degrees until apples are done and top is golden brown, approximately 40 minutes.

(Paula Julander and Joanne Milner, *Utah State Fare*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 1995], p. 105.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Stand for the Right

Packet #100306

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
- 3. Involvement.** Involve everyone in the family; help little children take part.
- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.

Stand for the Right

Thought:

If we are to hold up this Church as an ensign to the nations and a light to the world, we must take on more of the luster of the life of Christ individually and in our own personal circumstances. In standing for the right, we must not be fearful of the consequences. We must never be afraid.

(Gordon B. Hinckley, "An Ensign to the Nations, a Light to the World," *Ensign*, Nov. 2003, 82)

Song:

"Stand for the Right," *Children's Songbook*, p. 159.

Scripture:

Stand as a witness of God at all time and in all things, and in all places.

(Mosiah 18:9)

Object Lesson:

Show the family a reflector from a bike or other object (reflectors can be purchased at most hardware stores). Reflectors are so named because they "reflect" light from another light source. Reflectors serve two purposes. First, they keep you from danger, such as going off the road or hitting another object. Second, they can mark the proper course to follow.

As members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints we, in a sense, are reflectors. We reflect the love and truth of the gospel. As we stand for the right we will help keep others from danger. Our examples can help other people stay on the right path.

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *Building Blocks for Better Lessons*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1998], p. 68.)

Story:

"I Can't Sing This"

(Randal A. Wright)

While attending a youth conference in a southern state, I listened as several youth bore their testimonies. Michelle, a beautiful African-American girl, walked up to the podium and told of her life's goal to be a recording artist and of the events that had recently happened in the pursuit of this goal.

She said that she had worked hard and that it finally appeared as if her dream would come true. Representatives from a recording company came to her home with a song and offered her the opportunity to make her first recording. Michelle felt like jumping up and down, she was so excited. But then she began reading the words to the song that had been written for her, and a sick feeling came over her. She felt her newfound dream slipping away. The lyrics were not up to Church standards. They weren't too bad, but she didn't feel good about performing something that went against her values and beliefs.

There was silence in the room, and then Michelle looked up at the recording company representatives and said, "I can't sing this song. Its words go against what I believe." The people tried to convince her that one song wouldn't matter. Michelle knew what she felt, but it hurt. After all, this was the big opportunity she had been waiting for.

But some things in life cannot be bought. Michelle stood up for what she knew was right. The answer was no. She could not and would not sing that song. The representatives left, and Michelle went to her room and cried herself to sleep. But she felt good that she had had the courage to stand up for what was right.

Two days later someone knocked at Michelle's front door. There stood the same people who had visited her before. They explained that they had changed the lyrics just for her and that they still wanted her to sing it. This young woman, who stood up for what was right even when circumstances and those around her encouraged her to compromise her standards, now has her first recording out and will probably have many more to come. But more important, she knows the joy that comes from doing what is right.

(Jay A. Parry, *Everyday Heroes*, [Salt Lake City: Eagle Gate, 2002], p. 140.)

Activity:

Divide the family into two equal teams, and have everyone surround a large mat or area marked off on the floor.

The "referee" calls, "Take the mat!" and both teams jump onto the mat. The object is for each team to try to push the other team members off the mat. Once a player is off the mat, he must wait out the rest of the round.

The referee blows a whistle (or calls "stop") and all pushing stops. Each team scores a point for each of its team members still on the mat.

Liken this to the need to stand firm for the things we know are right.

(George and Jeane Chipman, *Games! Games! Games!*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 1983], p. 98.)

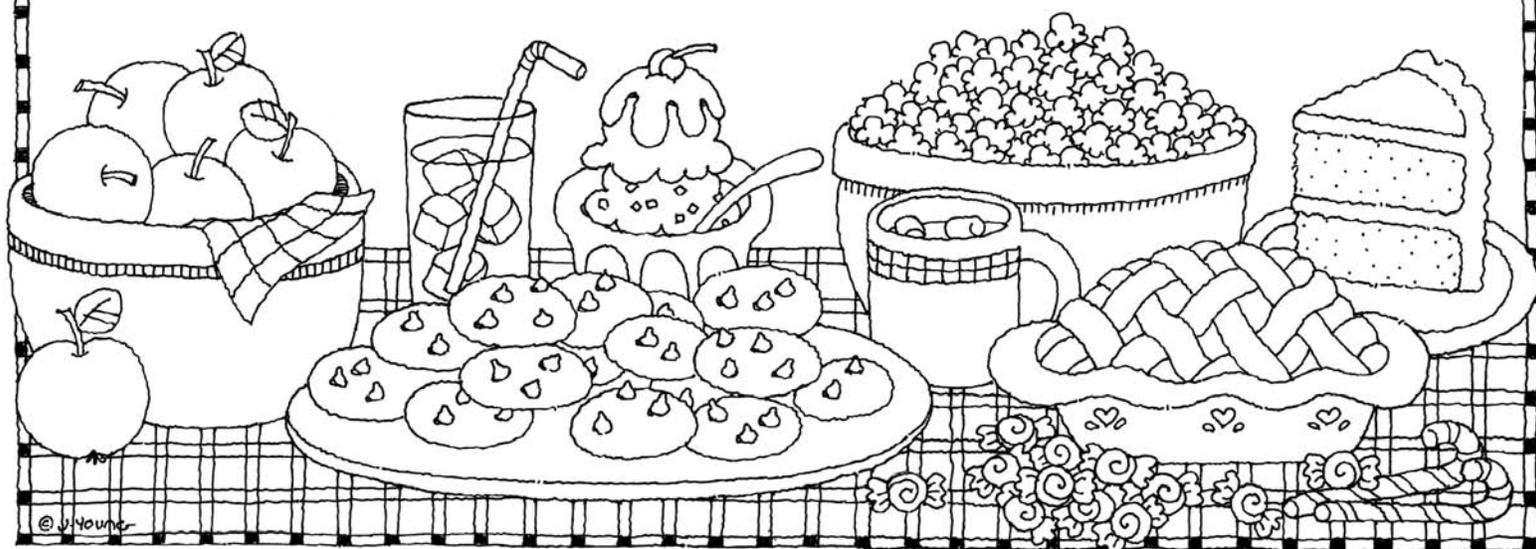
Refreshment

Poppy Seed Cake

- 1 package (18 ounces) yellow cake mix
- 1 package (3 3/4 ounces) instant vanilla pudding mix
- 4 eggs
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 teaspoon almond flavoring
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine, melted
- 1/4 cup poppy seeds

In large bowl of electric mixer, combine cake and pudding mixes, eggs, sour cream, water, rum flavoring, butter, and poppy seeds. Blend well on low speed, then beat at medium speed for 5 minutes. Pour batter into well-greased and lightly floured Bundt pan. Bake at 350 degrees for about 45 minutes, or until cake tests done. Remove from oven and cool in pan for 15 minutes. Turn out onto cake rack and cool completely. Sift a light dusting of powdered sugar over cake, if desired.

(*Lion House Christmas*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 2004], p. 98.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Choice and Accountability

Packet #100406

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
- 3. Involvement.** Involve everyone in the family; help little children take part.
- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.

Choice and Accountability

Thought:

In this life we have to make many choices. Some are very important choices. Some are not. Many of our choices are between good and evil. The choices we make, however, determine to a large extent our happiness or our unhappiness, because we have to live with the consequences of our choices. Making perfect choices all of the time is not possible. It just doesn't happen. But it is possible to make good choices we can live with and grow from.

(James E. Faust, "Choices," *Ensign*, May 2004, 51)

Song:

"Choose the Right Way," *Children's Songbook*, p. 160.

Scripture:

And they are free to choose liberty and eternal life, through the great Mediator of all men, or to choose captivity and death.

(2 Nephi 2:27)

Object Lesson:

Materials needed: Several nickels.

Hold one of the nickels up and describe the two sides of the nickel. On a table, balance each coin on its edge. Ask one family member to carefully place each coin face up. Discuss how they made deliberate choices to place the coins in a certain position.

Reposition the coins on their edges. Explain that, like the coins, we have two sides—positive and negative. We can usually make the choice that decides which side we will show the world. Sometimes, however, we allow outside influences (stress, fear, etc.) to make that decision for us (hit the table with your fist)—then things don't turn out quite the way we planned. Discuss ways that negative influences can be lessened or brought under control, so we can be in charge of the decisions we make.

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *More Power Tools for Teaching*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1991], p. 9.)

Story:

"I Must Join the Church"

(Marvin J. Ashton)

In the mission field I once met a young woman who had been a member of the Church for three years and who had been serving as a full-time missionary for three months. "How is your missionary life going?" I asked. "Quite well," she said. I could tell by her tone that perhaps she wanted to say more, so I said, "Share with me. Why do you report 'quite well' instead of 'very well'?" She replied, "Sometimes my heart

aches when I look back and realize what a decisive choice I had to make.” When I probed further, she told me this story:

“I had to make a choice between membership in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and my mother’s continuing love. My testimony and the conviction of my heart and mind told me the Church was true and that I must accept it. When I went to my mother and shared with her my desires and feelings, she told me, ‘If you join the Mormon Church, just remember you don’t have a mother anymore.’ Elder Ashton, it was not easy for me to say to my mother, ‘I must join the Church. It is true, and I cannot deny it. I hope, Mother, that this will not be your decision, but if I must choose, I must choose the Church.’” Then she concluded, “It is not a pleasant and happy situation to be without a mother, but I know that with God’s help I will win her back.”

Not many of us must choose between church and parents. We have to admire a person who not only has joined the Church, accepted it fully, and is now sharing with others, but who also has the courage, after having made this important choice, to say, “I know that with God’s help I will win my mother back.”

(Sunshine for the Courageous Latter-day Saint Soul, [Salt Lake City: Eagle Gate, 2001], p. 134–5.)

Activity:

Play the game Hangman. Draw the hangman gallows on a piece of paper and provide fourteen blank spaces for the word “accountability.” Add a part of the body each time a wrong letter is guessed. Once the word accountability is guess, explain what that word means (responsible for one’s choices and actions).

(adapted from Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The New Testament, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2006], p. 116.)

Refreshment

Meltaway Cookies

These cookies literally melt in your mouth.

- 1 cup butter
- 3/4 cup cornstarch
- 3/4 cup powdered sugar
- 1 cup flour
- 1 recipe Cream Cheese Frosting (see below)

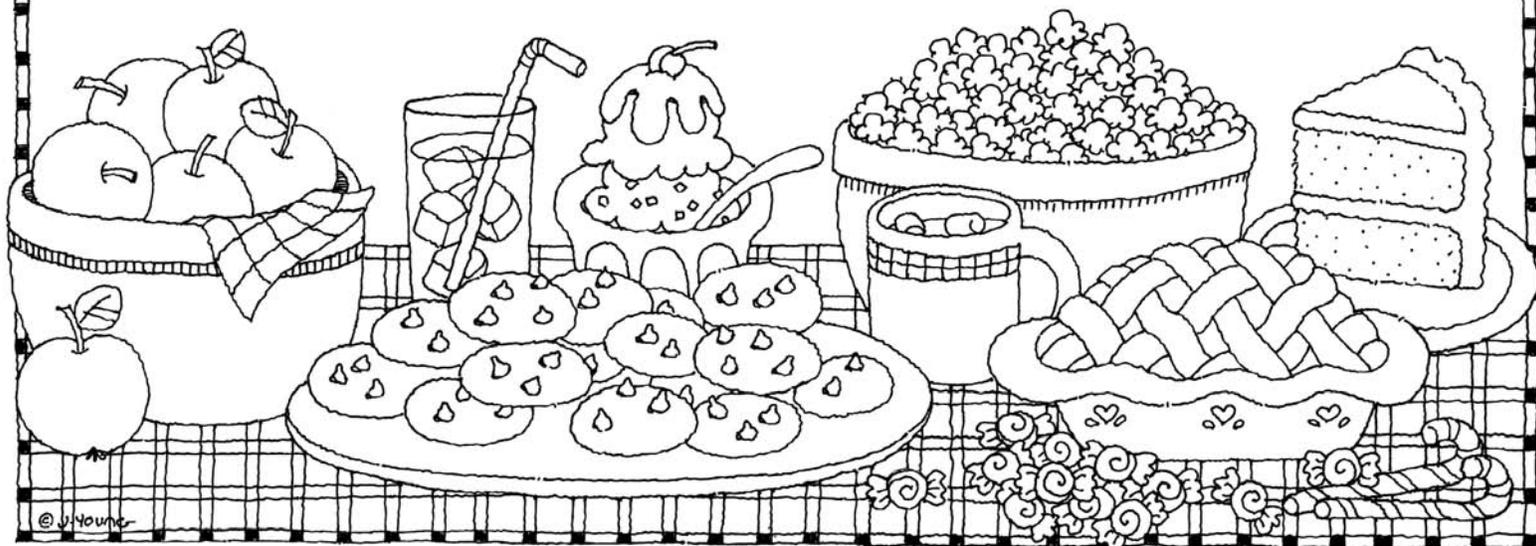
In a medium bowl cream butter until fluffy. Add cornstarch and sugar and blend well. Beat in flour until thoroughly mixed. Drop by small teaspoons onto baking sheet and flatten out with the bottom of a glass. (Dip glass in powdered sugar to prevent sticking). Bake at 350° F. for 10 to 12 minutes. Cool on wire rack and frost with Cream Cheese Frosting.

Cream Cheese Frosting

- 1 (3-ounce) package cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla

Mix all ingredients together. Color with food coloring if desired.

(Julie Badger Jensen, *Essential Mormon Cookbook*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 2004], p. 118.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Prophecies of Christ

Packet #120205

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
- 3. Involvement.** Involve everyone in the family; help little children take part.
- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.

Prophecies of Christ

Thought:

Like the polar star in the heavens, . . . there stands the Redeemer of the world, the Son of God, certain and sure as the anchor of our immortal lives. He is the rock of our salvation, our strength, our comfort, the very focus of our faith. . . .

Our knowledge comes of the witness of a prophet in this dispensation who saw before him the great God of the universe and His Beloved Son, the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ. They spoke to him. He spoke with Them.

(Gordon B. Hinckley, "We Look to Christ," *Ensign*, May 2002, 90)

Song:

"Samuel tells of the Baby Jesus," *Children's Songbook*, 36.

Scripture:

And we talk of Christ, we rejoice in Christ, we preach of Christ, we prophesy of Christ, and we write according to our prophecies, that our children may know to what source they may look for a remission of their sins.

(2 Nephi 25:26)

Lesson:

Obtain pictures of Lehi (Gospel Art Kit 300), King Benjamin (GAK 307), Abinidi (GAK 308), Alma (GAK 321), Samuel (GAK 314).

Read the following scriptures to see what prophecies these ancient prophets made about the coming of Christ.

Lehi: 1 Nephi 10:4-8

King Benjamin: Mosiah 3:5-8

Abinidi: Mosiah 16:7-8

Alma: Alma 7:7-13

Samuel: Helaman 14:2-6

(Shauna Mooney Kawasaki, *I Will Trust in Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2005], p. 58-59.)

Story:

This story gives a latter-day prophet's testimony of Jesus Christ.

This is Christ's Birthday

(Shauna Stewart Larsen)

My grandfather, George Albert Smith, had heard my brother, sister, and me talk about what we wanted for Christmas for weeks. We described, in detail, what we would get, what color, what size, and on and on.

Christmas Eve finally arrived and we all hung up our stockings on the fireplace mantel, still

hoping aloud for LOTS of gifts.

Just before we went to bed, Grandfather said, “Wait a minute, I have to get my stocking.” Pretty soon he came back with his blue eyes twinkling. He carried a great big scout sock in his hand. What’s more, he had taken a pair of scissors and cut off the toe of the stocking. He hung up his stocking with great glee and then went over and got the empty coal bucket and put it right beneath the stocking.

Well, I was very impressed with how smart Grandfather was. Not only would Santa have to fill his stocking, but he’d have to fill the coal bucket too. What a smart idea!

Christmas morning, after breakfast, we opened the doors to the living room and raced in to where the tree was. I was especially anxious to see what Santa had left Grandfather.

But when I saw his stocking, my heart sank, and my eyes filled with tears, because Santa had left my very SPECIAL Grandfather a switch and coal and onions.

Grandfather saw the tears in my eyes and he pulled me towards him and said, “Now Shauna, you must remember that this is Christ’s birthday we are celebrating and even Santa doesn’t like to see anyone be greedy.”

I learned a great lesson, one I’ve never forgotten, and one I’ve always been grateful for.

(Best-Loved Christmas Stories of the LDS People, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2001], p. 87.)

Activity:

Play “Message Relay.” Explain that the prophets have a message for us about Christ. If we don’t get the right message we will miss out on eternal life.

Have two copies of a scripture typed out. Divide them into single words. Put them in two containers on a chair in the front of the room.

Divide the family into two groups. On a starting signal, one person at a time from each group rushes up and picks up a word from their container and brings it back to the group, then the next person does the same, and so on. The group together assembles the scripture. The winner is the first group to have the scripture put together correctly.

(Alma Heaton, The LDS Game Book, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1968], p. 27.)

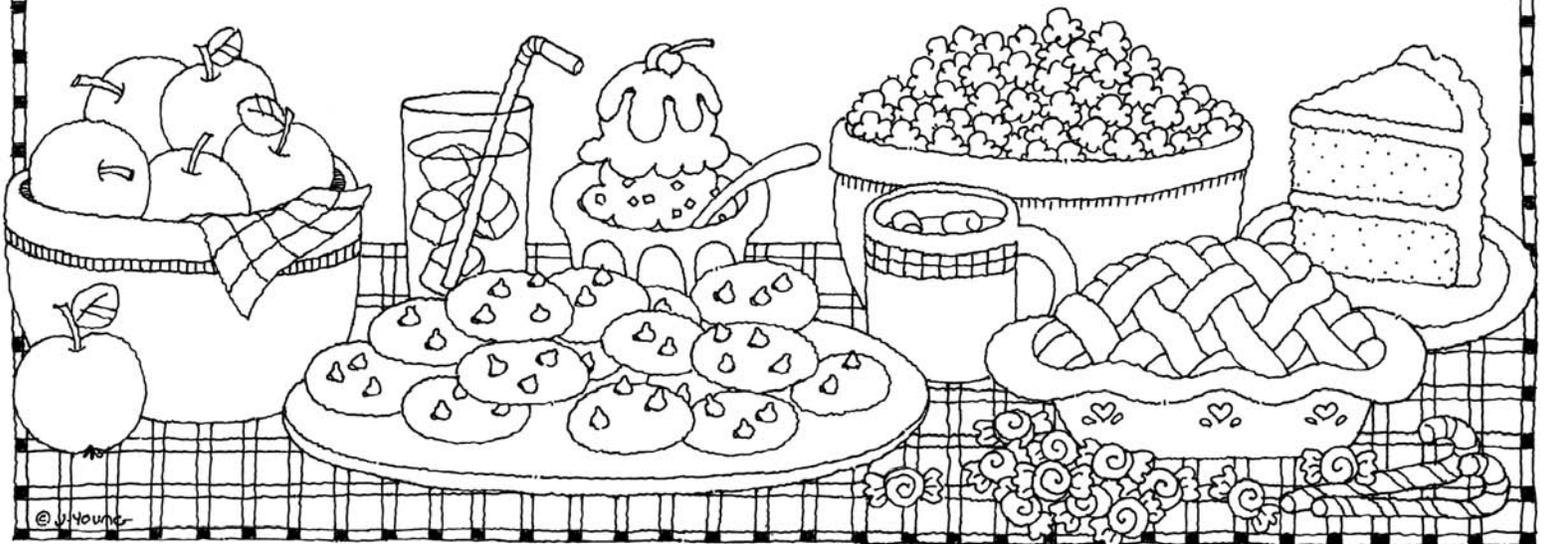
Refreshment

English Toffee

- 2 1/2 cups sugar
- 2 cups butter
- 1/2 cup water
- 3 tablespoons light corn syrup
- 1 cup slivered almonds
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 2/3 cup semisweet chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup ground almonds

In a heavy saucepan, combine sugar, butter, water, and corn syrup. Cover and bring to a boil. Remove cover and cook over medium heat until mixture turns golden, stirring frequently. Add slivered almonds, and continue cooking, stirring frequently to about 300 degrees on a candy thermometer, or until a little of the candy, dropped into cold water, becomes hard and brittle. Remove from heat and add vanilla. Pour into an ungreased 13 x 9-inch pan. Sprinkle chocolate over hot candy, and cover with a sheet of aluminum foil to melt. Sprinkle with ground almonds. Makes approximately 2 pounds candy.

(Paula Julander and Joanne Milner, *Utah State Fare*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 1995] p. 47.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Howard W. Hunter

Packet #090106

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
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Howard W. Hunter

Quote:

“Howard always wanted to do good and be good. A wonderful brother, he looked out for me. He was kind to our mother and father. Howard loved animals and regularly brought home strays.”

(Dorothy Rasmussen as quoted in Richard Neitzel Holzapfel and William W. Slaughter, *Prophets of the Latter-days*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 191.)

Song:

“We Thank Thee, O God for a Prophet,” *Hymns*, 19

Scripture:

We believe in the same organization that existed in the Primitive Church, namely, apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers, evangelists, and so forth.

(Articles of Faith 1:6)

Highlights from the Life of Howard W. Hunter:

1907: Born in Boise, Idaho

1911: Contracted and recovered from Polio

1920: Baptized in Boise, Idaho

1927: Leader of band “Hunter’s Crooners” that plays on a cruise ship

1928: Moves to California

1939: Graduates from law school

1940: Became a Bishop

1950: Became a Stake President

1959: Ordained an Apostle

1989: Dedicated BYU Jerusalem Center

1994: Became President of the Church

1995: Died in Salt Lake City (age 87)

(Richard Neitzel Holzapfel and William W. Slaughter, *Prophets of the Latter-days*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 192.)

Stories:

The Council of the Twelve was gathered for their usual Thursday meeting in the Salt Lake Temple. Elder Howard W. Hunter was absent and, for the first time, late. They waited, and then they heard a kind of *kahlump, kahlump*. It was Brother Hunter pushing his walker from the elevator to the room. He usually crossed that distance in a wheelchair. Elder Hunter entered the room and almost collapsed in a chair. Elder Maxwell recalled, “We do not often applaud in the

temple, but we all stood up and applauded that day, and then one by one went around and kissed him and hugged him. The doctors had said that he would not walk again, but he had overcome that verdict.”

(Truman G. Madsen, *The Presidents of the Church*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2004], p. 381.)

Whether it was being trapped in an elevator in the dark in a wheelchair, or having the chorister faint in the middle of a meeting, President Hunter was always calm, even in the middle of a storm. The most extreme example happened in the Marriott Center. A man stood up to the pulpit with a briefcase and threatened President Hunter that he would detonate a bomb unless President Hunter read a statement.

President Hunter stood before a full Marriott Center audience and said, “I won’t.”

“You will,” threatened the man again, “or I will set off a bomb.”

President Hunter refused; he was both steel and velvet.

The audience began to sing “We Thank Thee, O God for a Prophet,” distracting the man, and the authorities took him away. President Hunter then continued his speech with barely a pause.

(Truman G. Madsen, *The Presidents of the Church*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2004], p. 393.)

Activity:

On small index cards or pieces of cardstock make 45 prophet cards. Write each latter-day prophet’s name on three cards: Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, John Taylor, Wilford Woodruff, Lorenzo Snow, Joseph F. Smith, Heber J. Grant, George Albert Smith, David O. McKay, Joseph Fielding Smith, Harold B. Lee, Spencer W. Kimball, Ezra Taft Benson, Howard W. Hunter, and Gordon B. Hinckley.

Shuffle all the cards and then deal five cards to each player. Put the rest of the cards in a draw pile. The dealer starts the game by asking any other players for all his “President Kimball” cards (or other prophet of his choosing). If the dealer gets a card he can continue to ask until the player he asks doesn’t have the card he asked for. A player who does not have the card asked for says, “go fish.” The first player then takes a card from the “draw” pile. When a player gets all three of a prophet’s card, that is a match. The winner is the one with the most prophet matches. As time allows, have each family member tell a story or something they remember about the prophets they have matches for.

(Jeni Gochnour, *Family Home Evening Games*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1999], p. 20.)

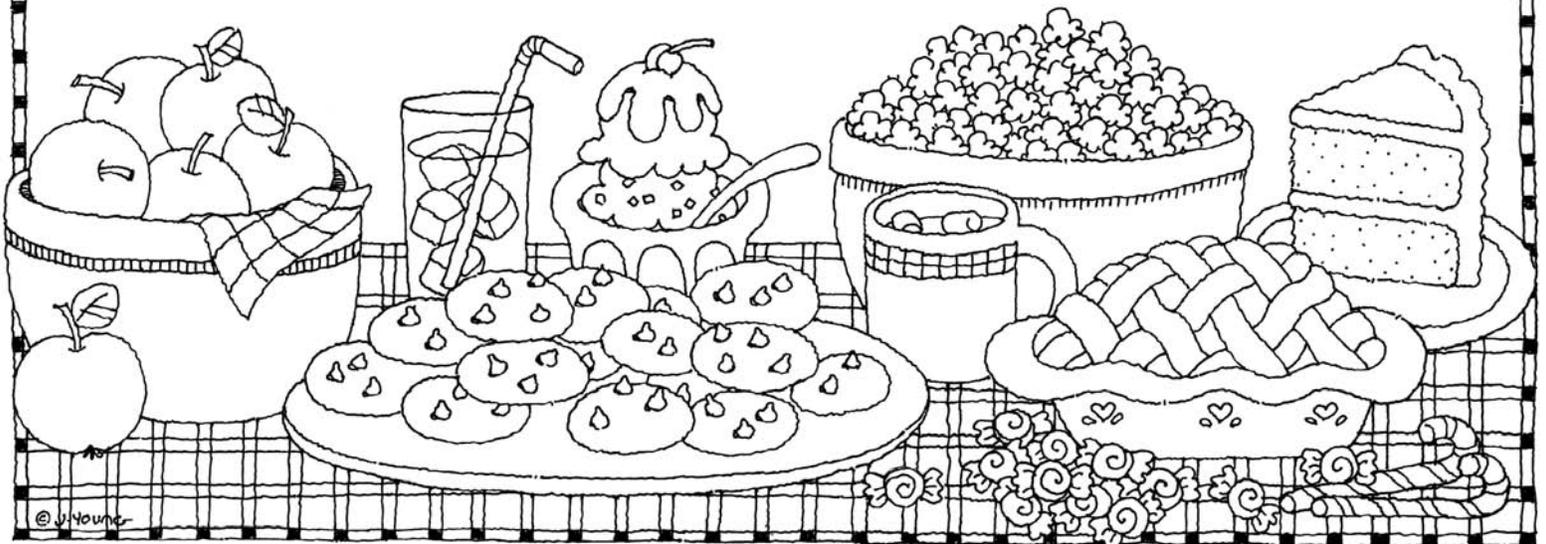
Refreshment

Shufly Cake

- 4 1/4 cups flour
- 1 cup light brown sugar
- 3 cup sugar
- 1 cup butter
- 2 cups boiling water
- 1 cup molasses
- 1/4 cup apricot jam
- 1 tablespoon cinnamon
- 2 teaspoons soda

Blend flour, sugars, and butter until crumbly. Set aside 1 cup of crumbs for topping. Mix boiling water, molasses, jam, cinnamon, and soda. Add to remaining crumbs. Grease and flour 13 x 9-inch pan. Pour in batter and sprinkle with reserved crumbs. Bake at 350 degrees for 40–45 minutes. Do not overbake.

(Holle Eckman and Heather Higgings, *All That Jam*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 2003], p. 81.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Gordon B. Hinckley

Packet #090206

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
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- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.

Gordon B. Hinckley

Quote:

“Perhaps no man has ever come to the Presidency of the Church who has been so well prepared for the responsibility. Through sixty years of Church administration he has known personally, been taught by, and in one capacity or another served with every president of the Church from Heber J. Grant to Howard W. Hunter. . . . No man in the history of the Church has traveled so far to so many places in the world with such a single purpose in mind—to preach the gospel, to bless and lift up the Saints, and to foster the redemption of the dead.”

(Jeffery R. Holland as quoted in Richard Neitzel Holzapfel and William W. Slaughter, *Prophets of the Latter-days*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 207.)

Song:

“Latter-day Prophets,” *Children’s Songbook*, 134

Scripture:

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.

(Ephesians 4:11–12)

Highlights from the Life of Gordon B. Hinckley:

- 1910: Born in Salt Lake City, Utah
- 1919: Baptized in Salt Lake City, Utah
- 1932: Graduated from the University of Utah
- 1933–35: Mission to Great Britain
- 1935: Employed in Church’s publicity department
- 1956: Became a Stake President
- 1961: Ordained an Apostle
- 1982: Became a counselor in the First Presidency
- 1995: Became President of the Church
- 2000: Dedicated 21 temples and the Conference Center
- 2001: Dedicated the Church’s 100th temple in Boston
- 2001: Dedicated temple in Nauvoo, Illinois
- 2006: Will become the oldest church president in December (age 96 years and 6 months)

(Richard Neitzel Holzapfel and William W. Slaughter, *Prophets of the Latter-days*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 206.)

Stories:

Gordon was a great handyman. He built a home for his family in East Mill Creek. He could install a furnace, shingle a roof, or get the family car up and running again. Once, while visiting a friend’s house Gordon’s daughter Kathleen was surprised to hear that they had taken a broken kitchen toaster to a repairman. “I was shocked!” remembers Kathleen. “I didn’t know there were people who repaired toasters. I thought everyone’s father took care of things like that.”

(Susan Arrington Madsen, *The Lord Needed a Prophet*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1990], p. 249.)

A little-known fact about President Hinckley is that while he was studying English, he wanted to be an architect. What has he done with that propensity? Three hundred fifty chapels have been built each year during most of his mature life. He has been involved personally in the planning, groundbreaking, and dedication (or rededication) of more than one hundred temples and counting. He is responsible for the landscaping and beautification project that transformed the Hotel Utah into the Joseph Smith Memorial Building. Another achievement is the huge Conference Center north of Temple Square. President Hinckley has become virtually an architect, an engineer, and a builder.

(Truman G. Madsen, *The Presidents of the Church*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2004], p. 423.)

Activity:

Select one person to be blindfolded and two to be “prophets.” Blindfold the player and then hide an object such as a book somewhere in the room. The prophets, one false and one true, then start giving instructions to the blindfolded player who does not know which is the true prophet. The player must select one voice to follow, then follow it until he is either led into a dead end or is led to the object.

Explain that throughout this life there are many people who would like to tell us where to go or what to do, but we must select the voice of the true prophet in order to find the truth.

(Alma Heaton, *The LDS Game Book*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1968], p. 292.)

Refreshment

Custard

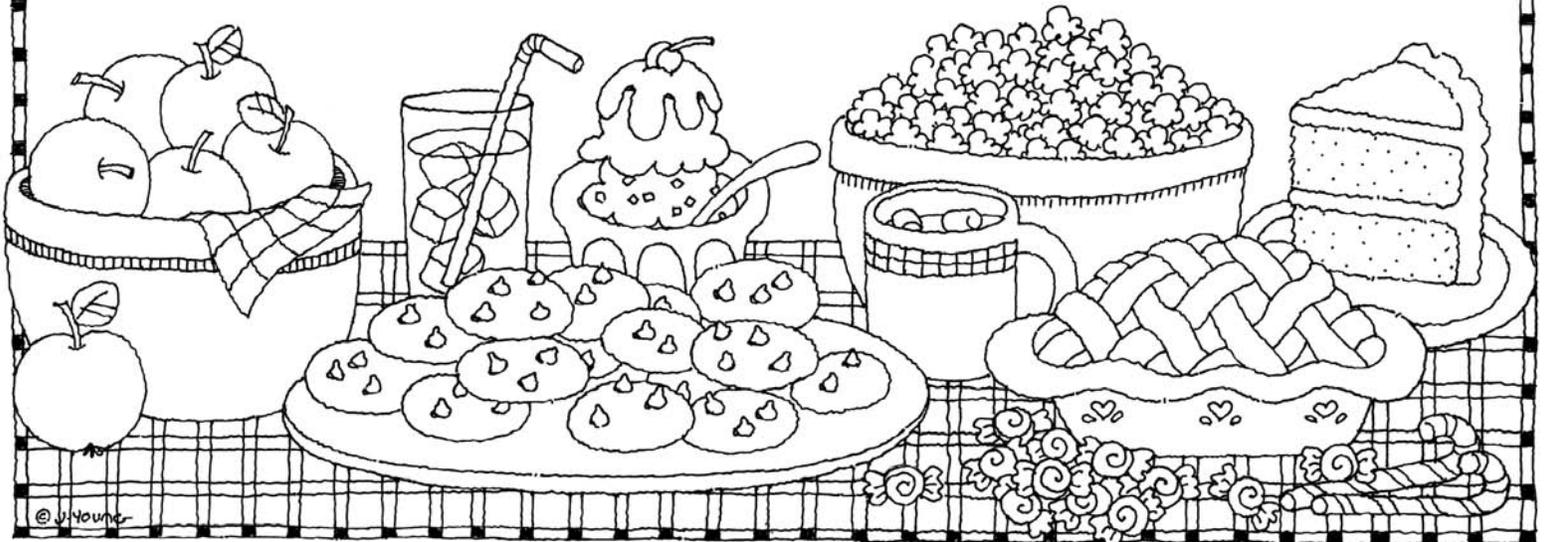
3 c. whole or 2% milk
3 eggs
1 tsp. vanilla
1/3 c. sugar
1/2 c. brown sugar
Nutmeg

Preheat oven to 350° F. In blender, mix milk, eggs, vanilla, and white sugar. Sprinkle brown sugar over bottom of small loaf pan. Pour milk mixture on top and sprinkle with nutmeg. Place loaf pan in larger, oblong cake pan filled with an inch of water. Bake for 70 minutes (or until knife inserted in center comes out clean). Remove and allow to cool slightly; then refrigerate for at least 4 hours. Refrigerated, it will keep for at least 1 week.

Serves 4 to 5.

Contributed by Jane Hinckley: "Custard is a comfort food. My mom often made it while we were growing up. I love it, my husband, Richard, loves it, and our children love it. I also love giving it to friends because I feel it is different from what most people give them. Richard's father, President Gordon B. Hinckley, served a mission in England, so he has always liked it."

(Elaine Cannon, *Five-Star Recipes from Well-known Latter-day Saints*, [Salt Lake City: Eagle Gate, 2002], p. 245.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Patriarchal Blessings

Packet #090306

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
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Patriarchal Blessings

Thought:

The same Lord who provided a Liahona for Lehi provides for you and for me today a rare and valuable gift to give direction to our lives, to mark the hazards to our safety, and to chart the way, even safe passage—not to a promised land, but to our heavenly home. The gift to which I refer is known as your patriarchal blessing. Every worthy member of the Church is entitled to receive such a precious and priceless personal treasure.

(Thomas S. Monson, “Your Patriarchal Blessing: A Liahona of Light,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1986, 65)

Song:

“I Am A Child of God,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 2.

Scripture:

And again, verily I say unto you . . . that my servant Hyrum may take the office of Priesthood and Patriarch, which was appointed unto him by his father, by blessing and also by right; That from henceforth he shall hold the keys of the patriarchal blessings upon the heads of all my people.

(Doctrine and Covenants 124:91–92)

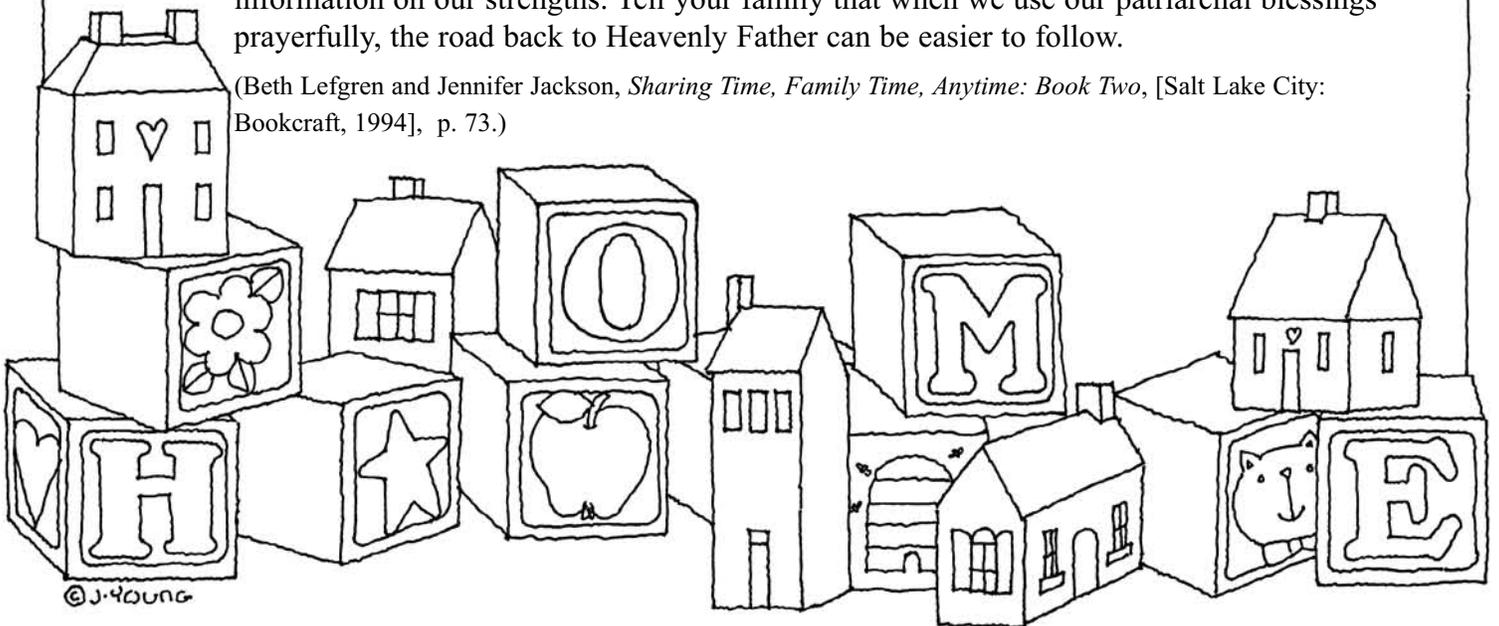
Object Lesson:

Obtain a world or country map, state map, and city map. As a family decide together on a special place you would like to visit such as a zoo or a museum. Using the world map, ask the family to find the destination. Now, using the state map, ask the same question. Tell the family that the maps can probably help you get to the city, but you would need to rely on road signs or other people to help find the destination or the best way to go.

Find the destination using the city map. Talk about how you use the state map to get you into the city, and then, using the city map, decide the best way to get to your destination. Show how the city map indicates one-way streets, dead ends, and important intersections.

Liken the maps to the scriptures and patriarchal blessings. Scriptures have answers for getting back to our eternal destination, but patriarchal blessings are given to us by Heavenly Father as personal guides (like a city map). Patriarchal blessings give us individual blessings, warnings, guidance, and information on our strengths. Tell your family that when we use our patriarchal blessings prayerfully, the road back to Heavenly Father can be easier to follow.

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *Sharing Time, Family Time, Anytime: Book Two*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1994], p. 73.)



Story:

"A Patriarchal Blessing" by Carl W. Buehner

I want to talk a little about another patriarchal blessing; and I hope you will pardon me if this gets a little personal. I know about this and have seen it fulfilled. I have also heard of many others, until I have a great faith and a great belief that these blessings can be very important in directing our lives, if we live to make these blessings come true.

I think many of you know that I am just a little immigrant kid, who was brought to this country by parents who were converted to the gospel in a foreign land. My father and mother were converted to the Church shortly after they were married. As soon as they could accumulate enough means to get across the ocean to America, they came here to settle in Salt Lake City, as thousands of others have done.

Two years after arriving in Salt Lake City, my father had a desire to become a cement contractor. Cement was sort of a miracle product that had not been on the market too long, and he saw in it great possibilities. He had had no previous experience other than working for a contractor for about a year's time; but already, he could see that out of cement could be made many things that had never been tried before. He, and one or two men whom he had employed, began working with cement. In a short period of time, they made the first cast concrete products that had ever spanned over an opening, such as over windows or doors. As a mason laying brick got up to a certain point, he could pick up a piece of stone that had been made, lay it in place, and continue his work. This had not been done before. Even the art of making ornamental stone progressed, as the years went by, until there seemed no limit to its possibilities.

While this art was still in its very elemental stage, my father received his patriarchal blessing. Among other wonderful things said in this blessing was the statement that he and his sons would help erect temples for this church. At the time this blessing was given, there was no possibility or idea in the world that such a thing could ever happen. I was the oldest of eight sons, and I had two sisters—ten children altogether in our family. All of the surviving sons are still in business together. I can tell you that as of today, we have done considerable work on ten of these temples. My father has been dead for twenty-five years; and yet, I have seen this fulfillment of his patriarchal blessing all but to the letter. . . .

When the [statue of the] Angel Moroni, now located on the highest spire of the Los Angeles Temple, was completed in clay in our shop here in Salt Lake City, 15,000 people came to see it before it was covered with plaster. The mold was sent back east to be cast in aluminum. The entire exterior walls of that Los Angeles Temple were made right here in our little factory. The same is true of the outside walls of the Idaho Falls Temple and the large addition to the Canadian Temple. We have modeled in our factory the oxen that support the baptismal fonts for the Swiss Temple, the London Temple, the New Zealand Temple, the Idaho Falls Temple, and we have done considerable work on other temples.

I have seen that part of a patriarchal blessing fulfilled verbatim. I do not know how a patriarch, in about 1910 or 1911, could have foreseen what would happen fifty years later, had it not been that the inspiration of the Lord was heavily upon him. He could see that if a man was faithful in the future to the Church and lived for the fulfillment of the blessing, everything stated in his blessing could come to pass.

(Leon R. Hartshorn, *Powerful Stories from the Lives of Latter-day Saint Men*)

Activity:

Give each family member a copy of a patriarchal blessing, their own if possible, or an ancestor's blessing. Each blessing has three important kinds of information: lineage, blessings, and warnings. Have family members read their copy and underline, in pencil, the lineage. Then have them use one color marker to highlight blessings and another color for warnings or guidance. Remind everyone that patriarchal blessings are sacred and personal and should be shared outside the family only when the Spirit prompts.

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *Sharing Time, Family Time, Anytime: Book Two*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1994], 74.)

Refreshment

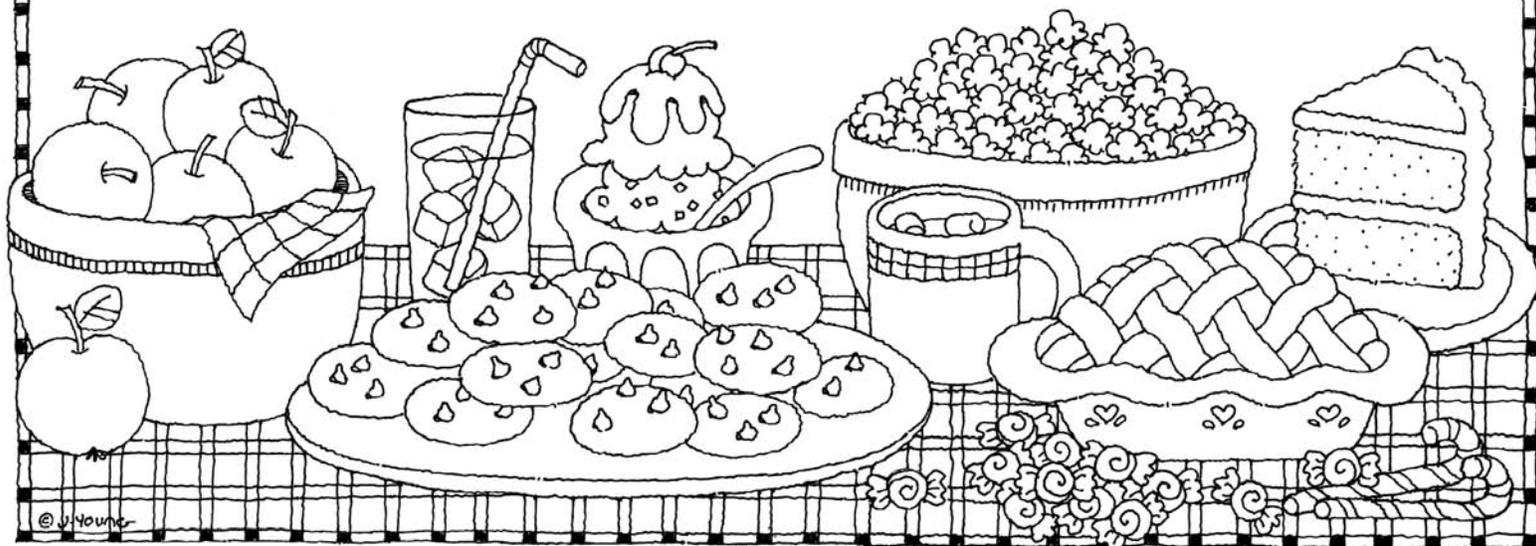
Peanut Butter Bars

This is a treat kids will love to make, serve, and eat.

- 12 whole graham crackers, crushed
- 1 cup margarine or butter, softened
- 1 cup peanut butter
- 3 1/2 cups powdered sugar
- 1 (12-ounce) package chocolate chips

Combine graham cracker crumbs, margarine or butter, peanut butter, and powdered sugar in a large bowl. Pat firmly into a greased 9x13-inch pan. Melt chocolate chips in the microwave for 20-second intervals until smooth when stirred. Frost mixture with melted chocolate. Refrigerate. When chilled, cut into small squares.

(Julie Badger Jensen, *The Essential Mormon Cookbook*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2004], p. 92.)



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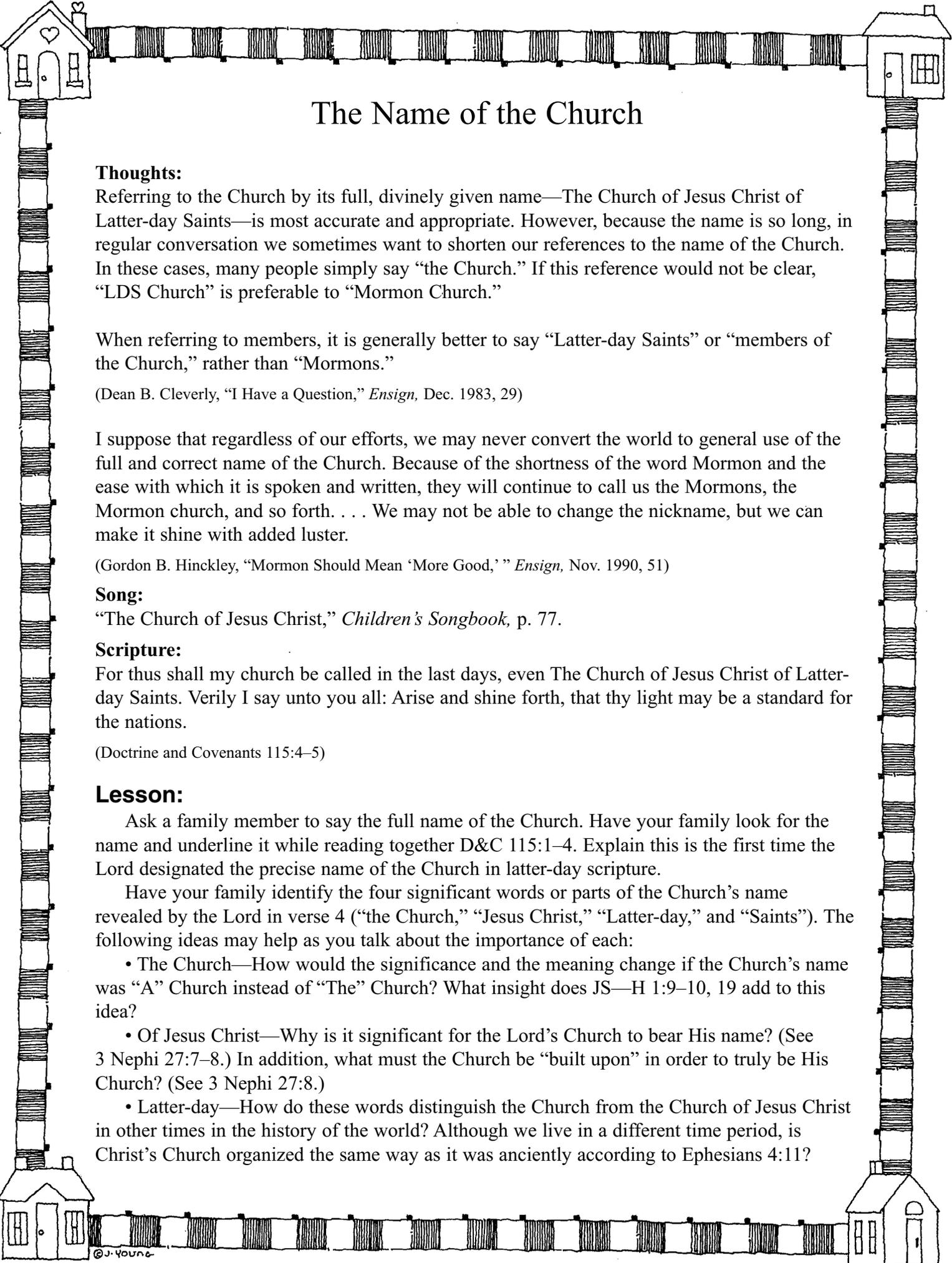
Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: The Name of the Church

Packet #090406

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
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- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.



The Name of the Church

Thoughts:

Referring to the Church by its full, divinely given name—The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints—is most accurate and appropriate. However, because the name is so long, in regular conversation we sometimes want to shorten our references to the name of the Church. In these cases, many people simply say “the Church.” If this reference would not be clear, “LDS Church” is preferable to “Mormon Church.”

When referring to members, it is generally better to say “Latter-day Saints” or “members of the Church,” rather than “Mormons.”

(Dean B. Cleverly, “I Have a Question,” *Ensign*, Dec. 1983, 29)

I suppose that regardless of our efforts, we may never convert the world to general use of the full and correct name of the Church. Because of the shortness of the word Mormon and the ease with which it is spoken and written, they will continue to call us the Mormons, the Mormon church, and so forth. . . . We may not be able to change the nickname, but we can make it shine with added luster.

(Gordon B. Hinckley, “Mormon Should Mean ‘More Good,’” *Ensign*, Nov. 1990, 51)

Song:

“The Church of Jesus Christ,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 77.

Scripture:

For thus shall my church be called in the last days, even The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Verily I say unto you all: Arise and shine forth, that thy light may be a standard for the nations.

(Doctrine and Covenants 115:4–5)

Lesson:

Ask a family member to say the full name of the Church. Have your family look for the name and underline it while reading together D&C 115:1–4. Explain this is the first time the Lord designated the precise name of the Church in latter-day scripture.

Have your family identify the four significant words or parts of the Church’s name revealed by the Lord in verse 4 (“the Church,” “Jesus Christ,” “Latter-day,” and “Saints”). The following ideas may help as you talk about the importance of each:

- The Church—How would the significance and the meaning change if the Church’s name was “A” Church instead of “The” Church? What insight does JS—H 1:9–10, 19 add to this idea?
- Of Jesus Christ—Why is it significant for the Lord’s Church to bear His name? (See 3 Nephi 27:7–8.) In addition, what must the Church be “built upon” in order to truly be His Church? (See 3 Nephi 27:8.)
- Latter-day—How do these words distinguish the Church from the Church of Jesus Christ in other times in the history of the world? Although we live in a different time period, is Christ’s Church organized the same way as it was anciently according to Ephesians 4:11?

- Saints—What does the Bible Dictionary say the word “Saint” means? According to D&C 115:5 what can we do to be examples of Saints?

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The Doctrine and Covenants*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2004], p. 257.)

Story:

"Say, Hanks, Do You Believe in Jesus Christ?" by Elder Marion D. Hanks

The story that I want to mention occurred in the middle of the summer some years ago, at a naval training center. The man opposite me in the room had the many stripes on his arm that signified long and distinguished service; I was an apprentice seaman in boot camp. Nonetheless, Commander Hamilton, as he greeted me at the door, was most gracious—called me "Mr. Hanks," seated me with cordiality, and we talked as equals. He had invited me to discuss the possibility of a chaplaincy. I was quick to tell him that because of a mission, I had not finished an academic degree and didn't qualify under the Navy's standards. He as quickly responded that he felt he could do something about getting that requirement waived, all things else being favorable. After a little more conversation, this rangy, fine looking man, who had everything about him that was manly and attractive and was a chaplain and servant of the Lord, not of our faith, said to me, "Before I recommend you to the Chief of Chaplains, do me a favor, please. Talk to me about your experience in your Church, about what you think may help me recommend you as qualified to represent the Lord in the military chaplaincy."

And so I began, with earnestness and honesty, to try to tell him what I felt, out of our common experience in the Church, might qualify me to serve in that very significant role. He who had been so courteous and so kind began to be fidgety, and I quickly knew that I wasn't making it, that I was losing. And I became a little more anxious, trying to tell him what there is, this stage-by-stage opportunity in the Church for a young person to develop the quality to be a servant of God. I told him from the beginning—the early two and a half minute talks, the scouting, the deacon opportunity, the Sunday School teaching, and the mission.

After a time his demeanor completely changed. He finally interrupted me. He said, "Say, Hanks, do you believe in Jesus Christ?"

I said, "Yes, sir. Everything I believe relates to Jesus Christ. The name of the Church that I belong to is his name. My faith revolves around him as my Savior."

He, looking at his watch, said, "Well, you have been talking seven minutes and you haven't said so." I think I have not made that mistake again.

(Leon R. Hartshorn, *Outstanding Stories by General Authorities, vol. 1*)

Activity:

Place a pop bottle and a box of toothpicks on a table. Have everyone take a turn placing a toothpick across the bottle top. Play continues until the stack of toothpicks gets so high that it falls. The person who put the last toothpick on is out of the game.

Remove the toothpicks and start another round. Continue eliminating players and starting new rounds until one person is left. That person is the toothpick champion.

Explain that toothpick tower did not have a strong foundation in the pop bottle, but the church has a firm foundation to build on. That foundation is our Savior, Jesus Christ.

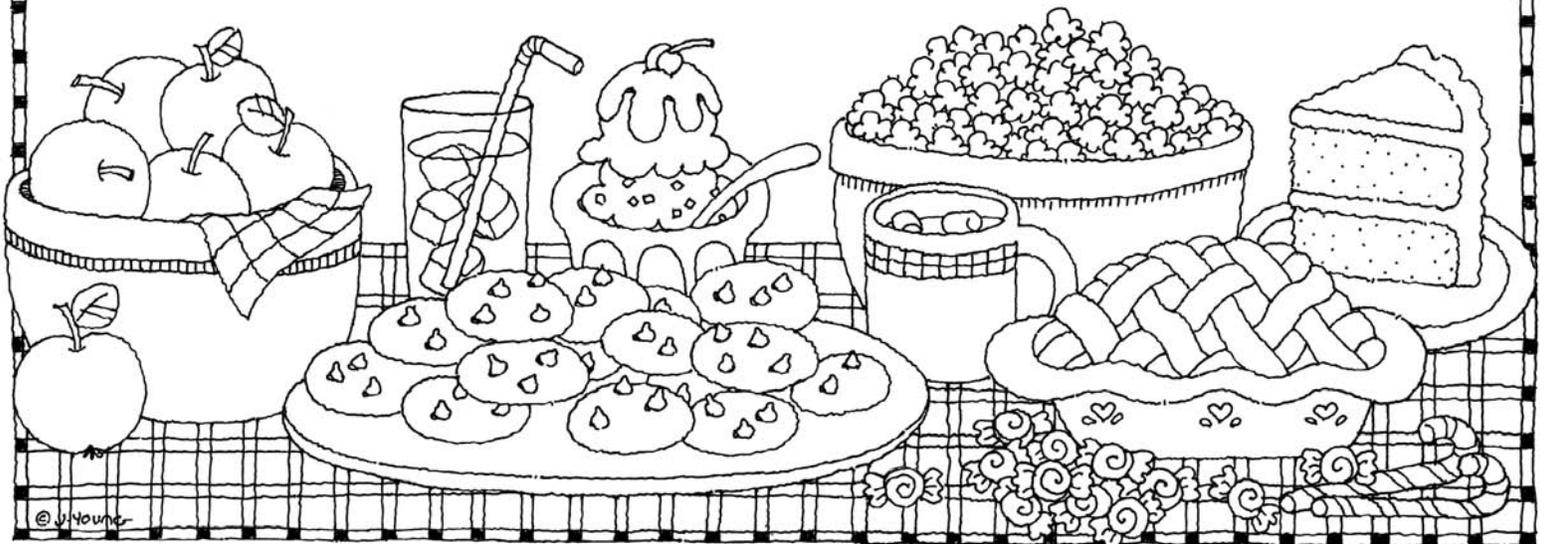
Refreshment

Strawberry Salad

- 1 8-ounce tub Cool Whip®, thawed
- 1 16-ounce carton cottage cheese
- 1 small package strawberry gelatin, dry
- 1 20-ounce can crushed pineapple, drained
- Fresh strawberries, sliced

Combine all ingredients, chill until ready to serve

(Janene W. Baadsgaard, *The LDS Mother's Almanac*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 334.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Forever Families

Packet #100507

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

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As President Wood was ready to seal the children to the parents, he said he felt impressed to ask if the information on the sealing sheet was complete. After being assured that the record was right, he again began the ceremony. He said he again felt impressed to ask if she had other children whose names should be on the sheet. She said she had other living adult children who were not members of the Church and hence their names should not be included. The third time the President started the ceremony, whereupon he stopped and said, "I heard a voice quite distinctly saying 'I am her child.'" He again asked the mother if she had another child that was not on the sheet. She answered, with tears running down her face, "Yes, I had another daughter who died when twelve days old and she was overlooked in preparing the information." When the group learned how the President knew of the other child, "all in the room shed tears of joy to know of the apparent nearness of our kindred dead."

A very similar incident to the above was also related by Edward J. Wood. He told of a widow who came to have two living children sealed to her and her dead husband. The two children, ages nine and twelve, were standing just inside the sealing room door to witness the sealing of the parents, when a peculiar light appeared over the two children and President Wood said, "I saw another child standing with the two." He asked the mother about a third child and found there had been such, but by neglect, the information was not recorded. "As I told her how I knew," said President Wood, "the child disappeared from the other two."

(Edited by Jay A. Parry, Jack M. Lyon, Linda Ririe Gundry, *Best-Loved Stories of the LDS People, Volume 2*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1999], 365)

Activity:

Using a piece of masking tape, make a line at one end of the room. This will be the starting line for the players.

Put a set of children's blocks (different shapes if possible) in a box at the other end of the room, next to a hard, flat surface (a hardbound book, a little table, etc.).

Ask someone to be the timer. He will give the "go" signal and, after exactly one minute, he will call "stop."

Form two teams behind the line. On the word go, the first person in team one runs to the box of blocks, picks up one block, and places the block on the hard surface. Once he has picked up a block, he cannot put it back in the box. He then runs back to the line and the next team member does the same thing. This continues until one minute is up or the blocks tip over.

The team scores one point for each block the team stacked if the stack did not fall. There is no score if any blocks fell.

The play then rotates to the next team. The game continues until both of the teams have had the opportunity to stack the blocks a specified number of times.

(Allan K. Burgess and Max H. Nolgard, *Fun for Family Night, Book Two*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1992], 117-8.)

Refreshment

Pumpkin Cheesecake

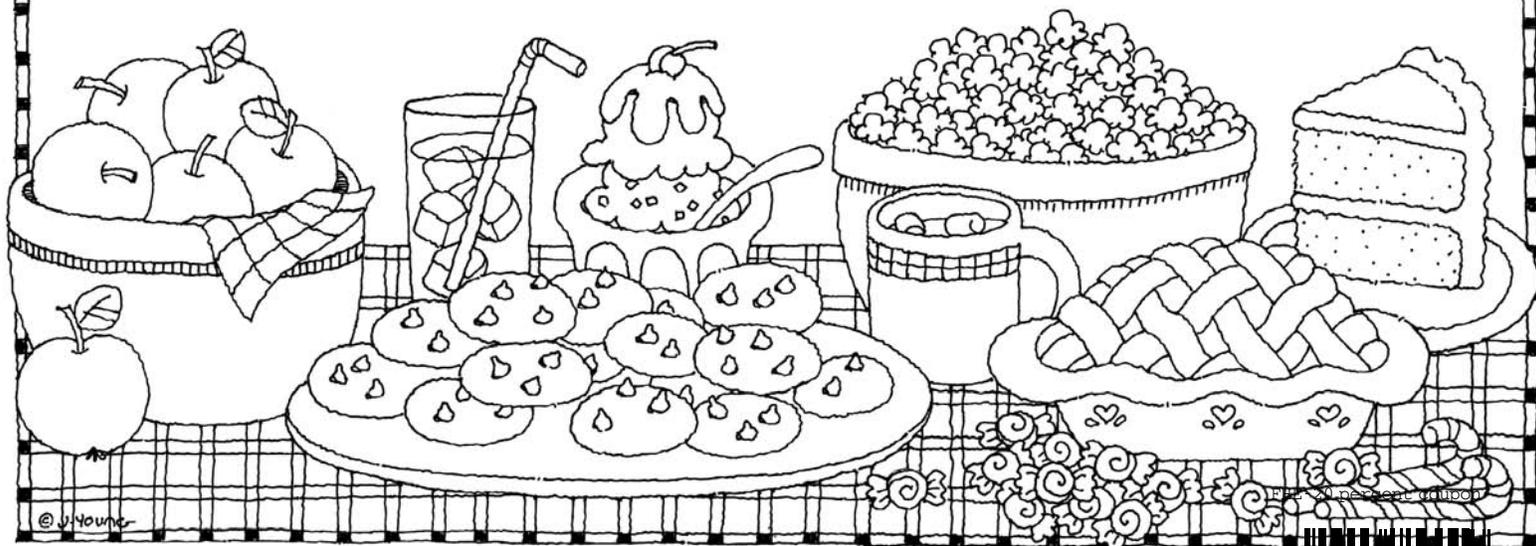
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| 1 1/4 cups gingersnap cookie crumbs (about twenty 2-inch cookies) | 1 teaspoon ground ginger |
| 1/4 cup margarine or butter, melted | 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves |
| 3 packages (8 ounces each) cream cheese, softened | 1 can (16 ounces) pumpkin |
| 1 cup sugar | 4 eggs |
| 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon | 2 tablespoons sugar |
| | 12 walnut halves |
| | 3/4 cup chilled whipping cream |

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Mix cookie crumbs and margarine. Press evenly on bottom of springform pan, 9 x 3 inches. Bake 10 minutes; cool. Reduce oven temperature to 300 degrees.

Beat cream cheese, 1 cup sugar, the cinnamon, ginger, and cloves in a 4-quart bowl on medium speed until smooth and fluffy. Add pumpkin. Beat in eggs, one at a time, on low speed. Pour over crumb mixture. Bake until center is firm, about 1 1/4 hours. Cool to room temperature. Cover and refrigerate at least 3 hours but no longer than 48 hours.

Cook and stir 2 tablespoons sugar and the walnuts over medium heat until sugar is melted and nuts are coated. Immediately spread on a dinner plate; cool. Carefully break nuts apart to separate if necessary. Remove cheese cake from pan. Beat whipping cream in chilled 1 1/2 quart bowl until stiff. Pipe whipped cream around edge of cheesecake; arrange walnuts on top. Serves 12.

(Betty Crocker Sunday Dinner Cookbook, [Hoboken NJ: Wiley Publishing and Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2007], p. 168.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Forever Families

Packet #100507

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

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Forever Families

Thought:

A home is much more than a house built of lumber, brick, or stone. A home is made of love, sacrifice, and respect. We are responsible for the homes we build. We must build wisely, for eternity is not a short voyage.

(Thomas S. Monson, "Heavenly Homes, Forever Families," *Ensign*, Jun 2006, 98–103)

Song:

"Families Can Be Together Forever," *Children's Songbook*, p. 188.

Scripture:

The Prophet Elijah was to plant in the hearts of the children the promises made to their fathers, foreshadowing the great work to be done in the temples of the Lord in the dispensation of the fullness of times, for the redemption of the dead, and the sealing of the children to their parents.

(Doctrine and Covenants 138:47–48)

Object Lesson:

Materials needed: Strips of paper for a paper chain. Form half of them into circles by stapling them together.

Procedure: Pass each family member a circle made out of a paper strip. Point out that these links represent each person. Explain that if they were to try and make a chain they couldn't because there is nothing to bind the links together. Now pass around the additional strips of paper and a stapler. These additional pieces of paper represent love. Use these strips of paper to loop through two links and bind them together. Allow the family to fashion a chain after this pattern. Explain that love is a powerful way to bind ourselves as a family.

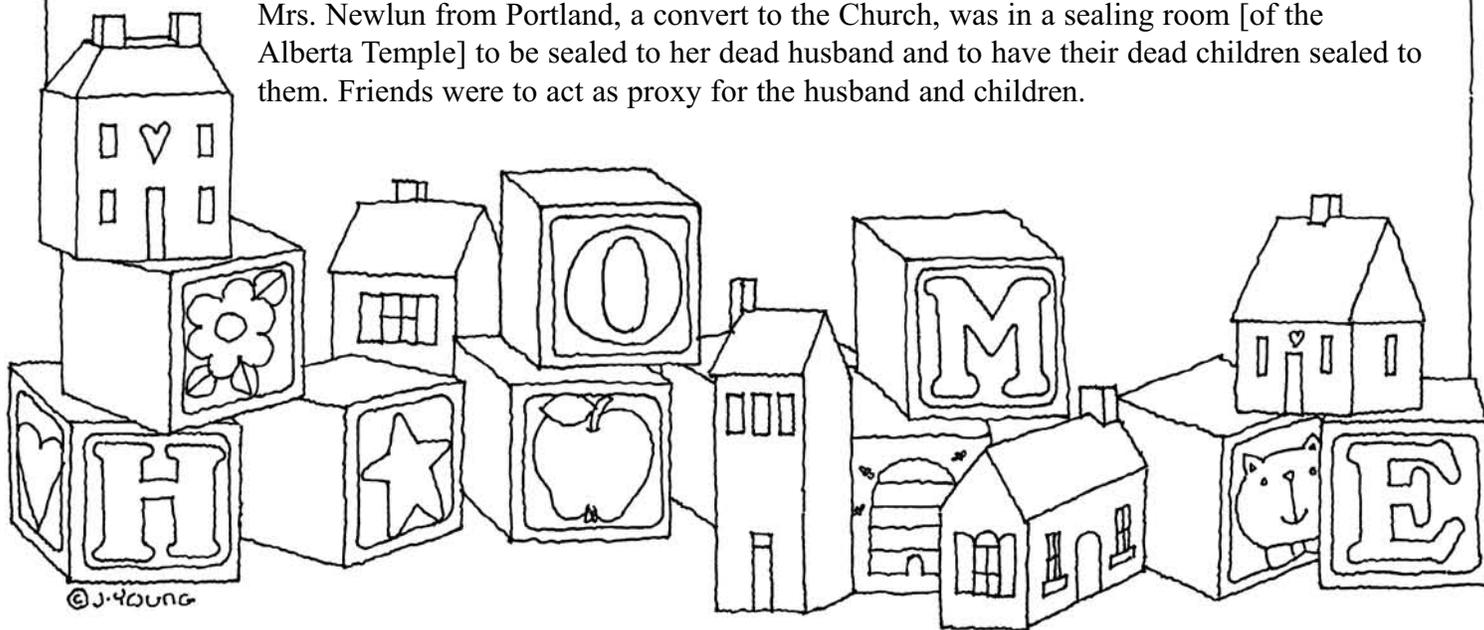
(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *More Power Tools for Teaching*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1991], p. 44.)

Story:

I Am Her Child

(Melvin S. Tagg)

Mrs. Newlun from Portland, a convert to the Church, was in a sealing room [of the Alberta Temple] to be sealed to her dead husband and to have their dead children sealed to them. Friends were to act as proxy for the husband and children.



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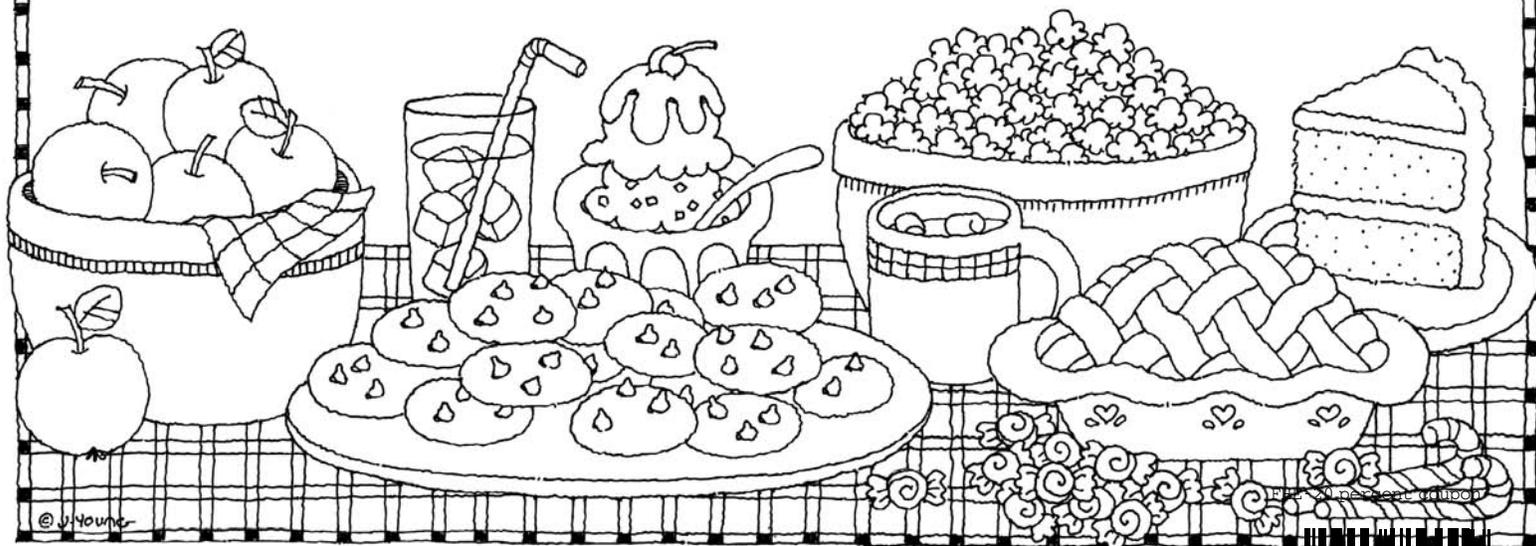
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| 1/4 cup margarine or butter, melted | 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves |
| 3 packages (8 ounces each) cream cheese, softened | 1 can (16 ounces) pumpkin |
| 1 cup sugar | 4 eggs |
| 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon | 2 tablespoons sugar |
| | 12 walnut halves |
| | 3/4 cup chilled whipping cream |

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(Betty Crocker Sunday Dinner Cookbook, [Hoboken NJ: Wiley Publishing and Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2007], p. 168.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Godhead

Packet #030408

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

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Godhead

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read “The Only True God and Jesus Christ Whom He Hath Sent,” by Jeffrey R. Holland, *Ensign*, Nov 2007, 40–42

Thought:

We declare it is self-evident from the scriptures that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost are separate persons, three divine beings.

(Jeffrey R. Holland, “The Only True God and Jesus Christ Whom He Hath Sent,” *Ensign*, Nov 2007, 40–42)

Song:

“The First Article of Faith” *Children’s Songbook*, p.122.

Scripture:

The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man’s; the Son also; but the Holy Ghost has not a body of flesh and bones, but is a personage of Spirit. Were it not so, the Holy Ghost could not dwell in us.

(Doctrine and Covenants 130:22)

Lesson:

Invite your family to list the three members of the Godhead. Then talk about whether the members of the Godhead are three separate beings or one person. (See D&C 130:22.) Read Mosiah 15:1 and ask:

- Which member of the Godhead came to earth and was born of a virgin? (Jesus.)
- What name was Jesus known by in the Old Testament? (See D&C 110:1–4.)
- From what you’ve just learned, who was Abinadi referring to when he said, “God himself shall come down among the children of men”?

Families with older children can also read Mosiah 15:2 and ask:

- How is Jesus Christ both the Father and the Son?

Write the following statement on a piece of paper and show it to your family: “All fathers are sons, but not all sons are fathers.” Discuss whether or not your family thinks that statement is true, and help them understand what it means.

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland explained, “There are ways in which Christ is so united with his Father that in some assignments he rightfully plays a fatherly role and rightfully bears the title of Father in doing so.” (*Christ and the New Covenant*, p. 183.) To help more fully explain this difficult doctrine, you may wish to review the following scriptures with your family: Hebrews 1:2; Moses 1:33; D&C 19:16.

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The Book of Mormon*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 131.)

Story:

Pen Pal Convert

Helen Patten

Helen Patten was in the fifth grade when she began writing to a pen pal by the name of Charlotte Alvoet in Dundee, Scotland. Helen told her what she did in Primary, later Mutual, and sent pictures of the Church’s temples and other buildings, and places of interest in Utah.

An elder from Helen's ward, Bruce Draper, was called on a mission to Scotland. Since Helen secretly wished that he might teach the gospel to Charlotte, she wrote a letter to Elder Draper, telling him about Charlotte and giving her address in case he should be assigned to work in Dundee.

About a week later Charlotte wrote to Helen telling her of the visit of two "Yanks." It so happened that Charlotte had gone to a concert, so she was not home when they first called. The elders waited about two hours for her return but finally they had to leave. They left word with her grandmother that they wanted to call again the following Saturday. Charlotte returned home about fifteen minutes after they left. When she heard of the visit, she was so anxious to see these young men that she wrote to Helen that she could hardly wait for the next Saturday to come.

The next letter Helen received began, "Guess who was baptized yesterday! Guess who will be confirmed tomorrow! Guess who is the happiest girl in the world! ME ME ME!" She went on to write that both she and her mother had been converted in only two weeks.

Subsequent letters told of her interest in church activities, her new friends, and her part in the branch's roadshow.

On August 21, she wrote the following:

"I just had to write this to you. I absolutely had to. I guess if I did not I would burst. Oh, the marvelous happening all because of being a Mormon. I must tell you from the beginning or I'll get too mixed up.

"You see, [my school] is a Presbyterian school, where pupils of all Protestant faiths attend (Methodists, Episcopalian, and all that). In school we have one period each week for instruction in religion, and this is in the Presbyterian faith. Well, when I was baptized, there was little change since all we did was read the Bible. But this year our teacher decided that our religion period should be informal and should be a period for debate, so he said he would ask us to write one question that he would try to answer and that the class would discuss.

"I didn't ask one question—I asked six! I knew all the answers, but I wanted to explain our teachings and doctrine to him. . . . [One of the questions I asked was concerning] the nature of the Godhead (if they were three in one or three separate beings).

"None of my friends had questions, so mine were all copied. Well, a fortnight later (yesterday) the teacher decided that we would discuss the question concerning the personality of our Father in heaven. He blithered on for a wee while about heathens and atheists. Then we got down to business. I brought up the belief of some that our Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost are three in one. Since we don't believe that, I told him so. He asked me for proof, and was he surprised when I rattled off a list of scriptures! You see, I had sat up the night before reading the books I was given when the elders were teaching me. I read scriptures concerning our Father being separate from Jesus Christ and the Holy Ghost. After I had proved my point that they were not three in one, my master went on to another subject, saying, 'Of course, we all know God is a spirit,' and I read more scriptures about our Father in heaven having a body, hair, eyes, and back parts. It was marvelous. One thing led to another, and soon I was deep in telling the class the Joseph Smith story. I was inspired, and I know I had the Holy Ghost and the Spirit of the Lord within me as I talked. At the end I took over the class and was answering questions. Now twenty-one people know about Joseph Smith and heard my testimony as I bore it to them. They also saw the Book of Mormon.

"May God bless you always,
Love, Charlotte"

(Leon R. Hartshorn, *Inspiring Stories for Young Latter-day Saints*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1975].)

Activity:

Make a collage. You will need a big piece of paper, old magazines, scissors, and paste. Find pictures in the magazines of things God made and cut them out. Paste them on the paper.

(Ann Laemmlen and Jackie Owen, *Articles of Faith Learning Book*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1990], p. 16.)

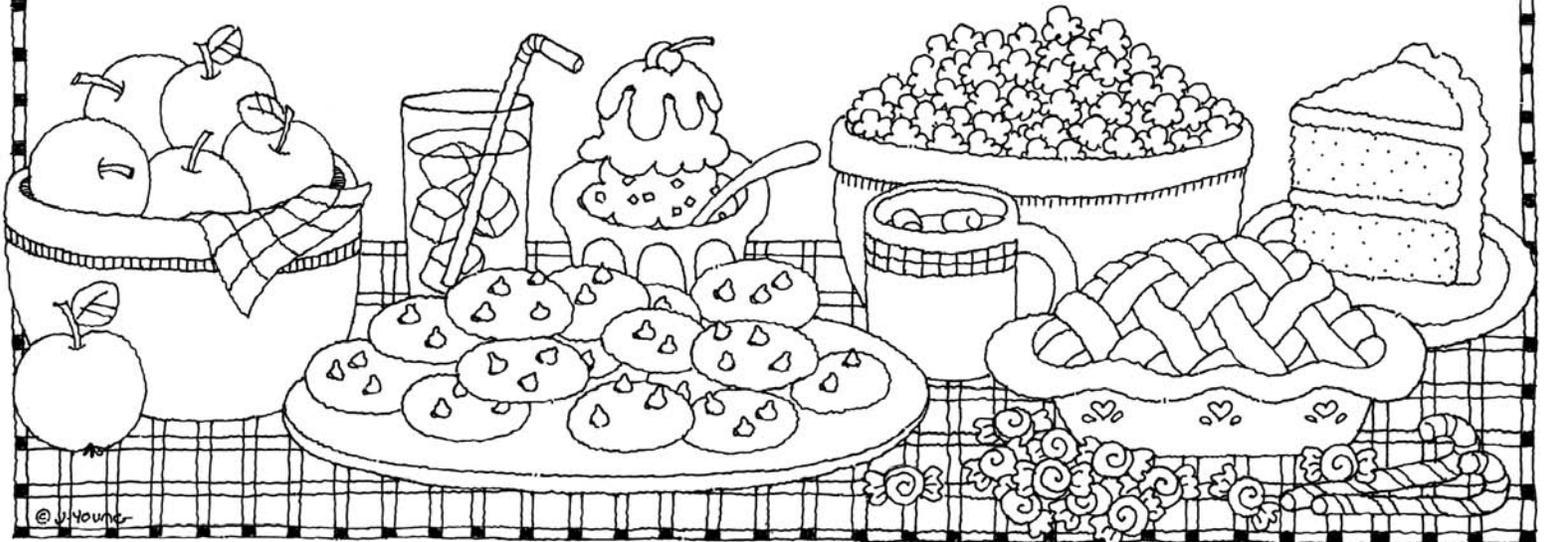
Refreshment

Chocolate Balls

1 can (14 ounces) sweetened condensed milk
1/4 cup cocoa
1 tablespoon butter or margarine
6 to 8 tablespoons chocolate-flavored sprinkles
Small foil or paper decorator cups (optional)

Combine condensed milk, cocoa, and butter or margarine in a medium saucepan. Cook over medium-low heat, stirring constantly for 7 to 8 minutes or until candy forms a ball around the spoon and pulls away from the sides of the pan. Remove from heat and allow to cool to room temperature. Place chocolate sprinkles in a small dish. Butter your hands and shape cocoa mixture into 1-inch balls. Gently roll balls in the chocolate sprinkles and place in individual decorator cups. Cover and chill before serving. Makes about 2 dozen balls.

(*Lion House International*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1997] p. 124.)



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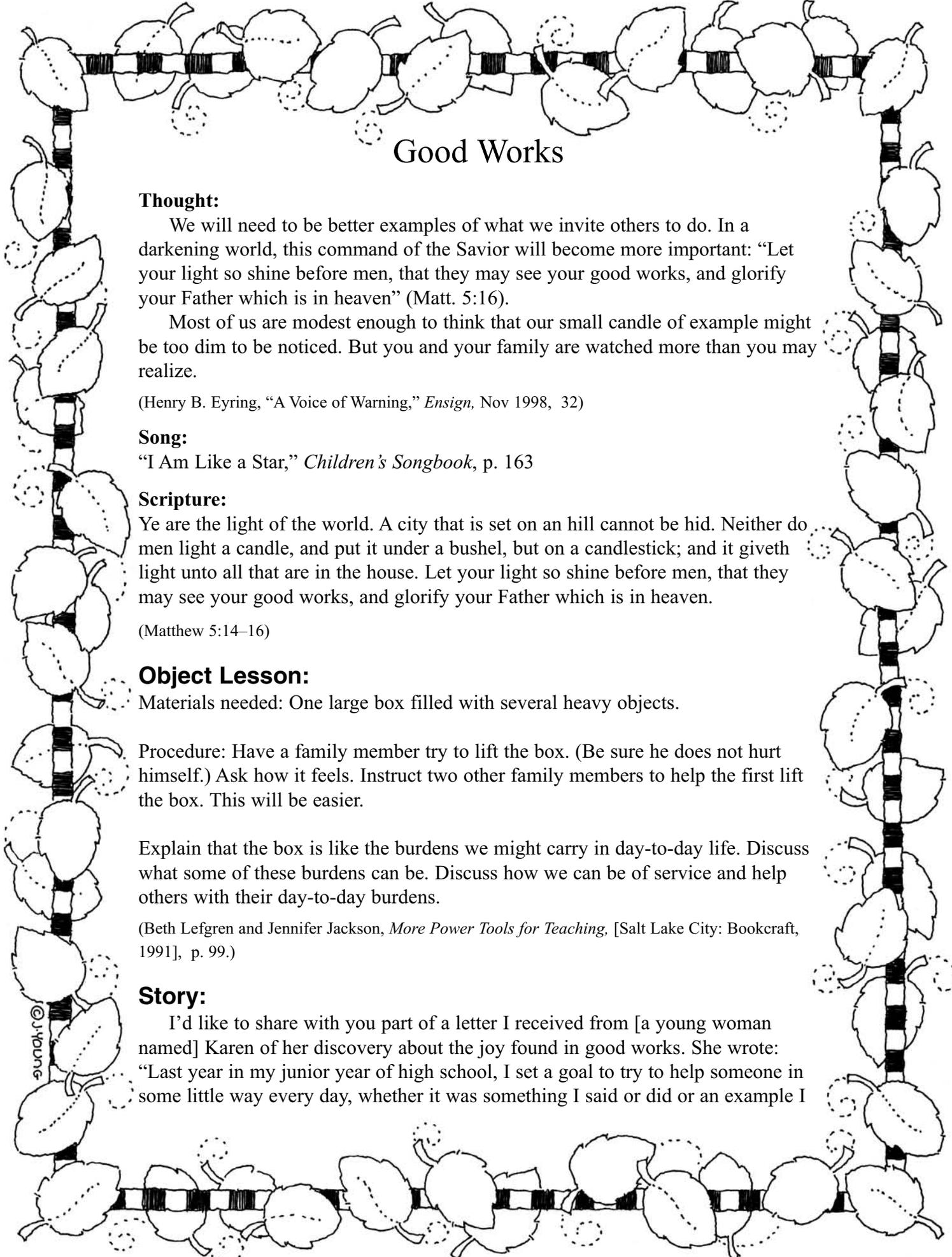
Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Good Works

Packet #100207

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

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- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
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- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.



Good Works

Thought:

We will need to be better examples of what we invite others to do. In a darkening world, this command of the Savior will become more important: “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (Matt. 5:16).

Most of us are modest enough to think that our small candle of example might be too dim to be noticed. But you and your family are watched more than you may realize.

(Henry B. Eyring, “A Voice of Warning,” *Ensign*, Nov 1998, 32)

Song:

“I Am Like a Star,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 163

Scripture:

Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

(Matthew 5:14–16)

Object Lesson:

Materials needed: One large box filled with several heavy objects.

Procedure: Have a family member try to lift the box. (Be sure he does not hurt himself.) Ask how it feels. Instruct two other family members to help the first lift the box. This will be easier.

Explain that the box is like the burdens we might carry in day-to-day life. Discuss what some of these burdens can be. Discuss how we can be of service and help others with their day-to-day burdens.

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *More Power Tools for Teaching*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1991], p. 99.)

Story:

I’d like to share with you part of a letter I received from [a young woman named] Karen of her discovery about the joy found in good works. She wrote: “Last year in my junior year of high school, I set a goal to try to help someone in some little way every day, whether it was something I said or did or an example I

set. I decided to do this prayerfully. So every day before I went to school, I prayed and asked Heavenly Father to let me have the influence of the Spirit, to know what he wanted me to do or say. I began to see how everything we do affects others. The longer I did it, the happier it made me and the more I wanted to continue.

“I began to feel better about myself and at the same time more humble. I feel so much closer to my Heavenly Father. Through my actions, I began to have a different outlook on all my brothers and sister around me. I began to realize that everyone, everywhere, no matter what the circumstances, is great in worth to the Lord and so should be to me. We all have the potential of perfection, with traits given through our Father in heaven. And everyone should be treated with respect. I feel as though I am beginning to understand what love can really be, and it makes me feel better inside to feel that love.”

Karen did what Christ has invited each of us to do. . . . Karen applied a gospel principle and now has a personal testimony of the promised blessings that come through good works.

(Ardeth G. Kapp, *I Will Find Joy in Service*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1990], p. 6–7.)

Activities:

Play “Do This and More.” One player begins the game by doing something, such as putting the thumbs to the ears and wiggling the fingers, then he points to another player who must repeat that action and add one of his own, such as putting his hand under his chin and wiggling his fingers. The next player adds another action and each successive player must repeat, in order, all of the actions of the other players and add another.

Liken this to doing more than we are asked. Do more service than that which is asked of you. Go the “second mile.”

(Alma Heaton, *The LDS Game Book*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1968], p. 108.)

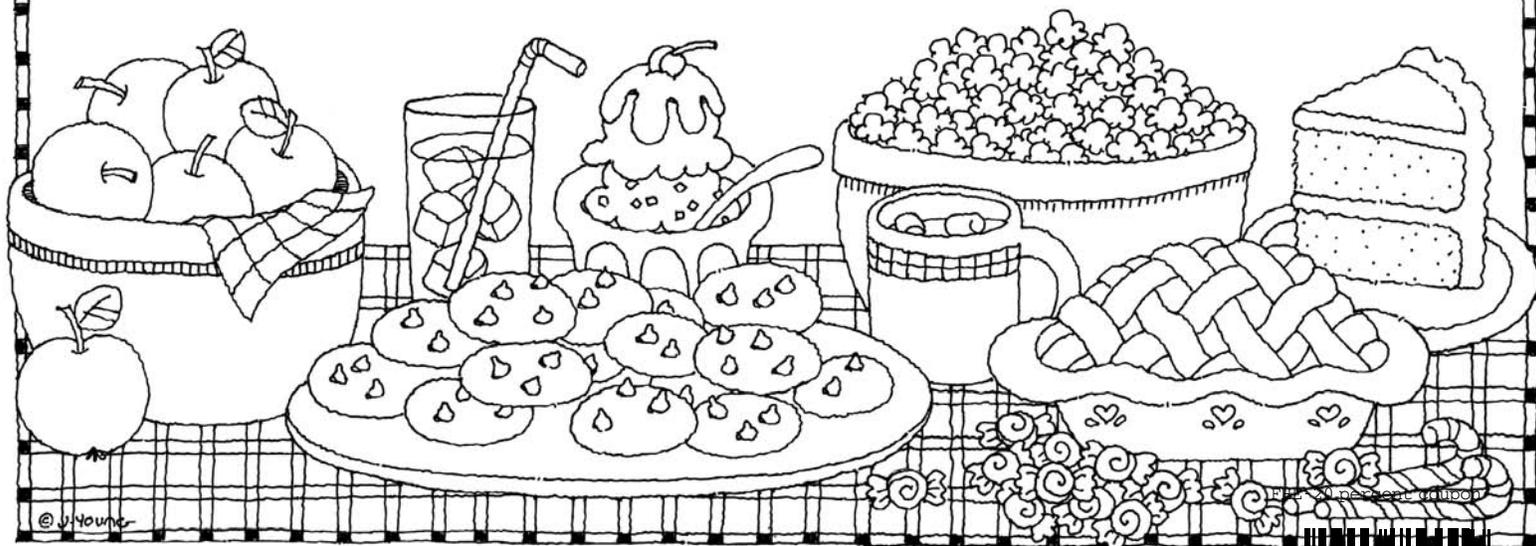
Refreshment

Just Peachy Bruschetta

8-ounce loaf baguette bread
8 ounces cream cheese
1 tablespoon honey
2 cups peaches, sliced
1/4 cup peach jam

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Cut bread into 3/4-inch-thick slices. Place in a single layer on ungreased cookie sheet. Bake for 10 minutes or until light brown. Mix together cream cheese and honey; spread on one side of each slice of bread. Arrange peach slices on the cream cheese, Heat jam in saucepan over low heat until melted. Brush jam over peaches.

(Holley Eckman and Heather Higgins, *All that Jam*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 2003], 43.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Gratitude

Packet #110307

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

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thank you so very much

Gratitude

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read “Gratitude: A Path to Happiness” by Bonnie D. Parkin, *Ensign*, May 2007, 34.

Thought:

Through [gratitude], we become spiritually aware of the wonder of the smallest things, which gladden our hearts with their messages of God's love.

(Bonnie D. Parkin, “Gratitude: A Path to Happiness,” *Ensign*, May 2007, 34)

Song:

“My Heavenly Father Loves Me,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 228.

Scripture:

Live in thanksgiving daily, for the many mercies and blessings which he doth bestow upon you.

(Alma 34:38)

Lesson:

As a family, make a list of things you are thankful for. Read D&C 78:19 aloud and ask what this verse has to do with the list you compiled. Ask:

- Why do you think it is important to show gratitude?
- What do Alma 34:38 and D&C 46:7 teach about this principle?
- What are some ways you could better show gratitude for your blessings?
- What could our family do to show appropriate gratitude more often?

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The Doctrine and Covenants*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2004], p. 167.)

Story:

One of the advantages of having lived a long time is that you can often remember when you had it worse. I am grateful to have lived long enough to have known some of the blessings of adversity. My memory goes back to the Great Depression, when we had certain values burned into our souls. Because we had so little, one of these values we learned was gratitude for that which we had. The Great Depression in the United States in the early thirties was a terrible schoolmaster. We had to learn provident living in order to survive. Rather than create in us a spirit of envy or anger for what we did not have, it developed in many a spirit of gratitude for the meager, simple things with which we were blessed, like hot, homemade bread and oatmeal cereal and many other things.

As another example, I remember my beloved grandmother Mary Caroline Roper Finlinson making homemade soap on the farm. Her recipe for homemade soap included rendered animal fat, a small portion of lye as a cleansing agent, and wood ashes as an abrasive. The soap had a very pungent aroma and was almost as hard as a brick. There was no money to buy soft, sweet-smelling soap. On the farm, there were many dusty, sweat-laden clothes to be washed and many bodies that desperately needed a Saturday night bath. If you had to bathe with that

I love you • hugs • you're the best!

please • you're welcome • yes!

I'm so grateful • thanks

homemade soap, you could become wonderfully clean, but you smelled worse after bathing than before. Since I use soap more now than I did as a child, I have developed a daily appreciation for mild, sweet-scented soap.

The story of the thankful Samaritan has great meaning. As the Savior went through Samaria and Galilee, “he entered into a certain village, [and] there met him ten men that were lepers” and who “lifted up their voices and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.” Jesus told them to go show themselves unto the priest.

And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed.

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And fell down . . . at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan.

And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?

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And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole. (Luke 17:11-19)

Leprosy was so loathsome a disease that those afflicted were not permitted under the law to come close to Jesus. Those suffering from this terrible disease were required to agonize together, sharing their common misery (see Leviticus 13:45-46). Their forlorn cry, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us” must have touched the Savior's heart. When they were healed and when they had received priestly approval that they were clean and acceptable in society, they must have been overcome with joy and amazement. Having received so great a miracle, they seemed completely satisfied. But they forgot their benefactor.

It is difficult to understand why the nine lepers were so lacking in gratitude. Such ingratitude is self-centered. It is a form of pride.

In addition to personal gratitude as a saving principle, I should like to express a feeling for the gratitude we ought to have for the many blessings we enjoy.

(James E. Faust, *Finding Light in a Dark World*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1995].)

Activity:

Have each family member take a turn drawing something they are thankful for as the other family members guess what it is.

On Thanksgiving day, just before the meal, put three or four kernels of dried corn on each plate. Remind the children how the Indians helped the Pilgrims plant corn. Take turns removing one kernel at a time and naming something for which we are thankful.

(Eric G. Stephen and Judith Stephen Smith, *What Happy Families Are Doing*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1981], p. 103.)

Refreshment

Chocolate Brownie Pudding

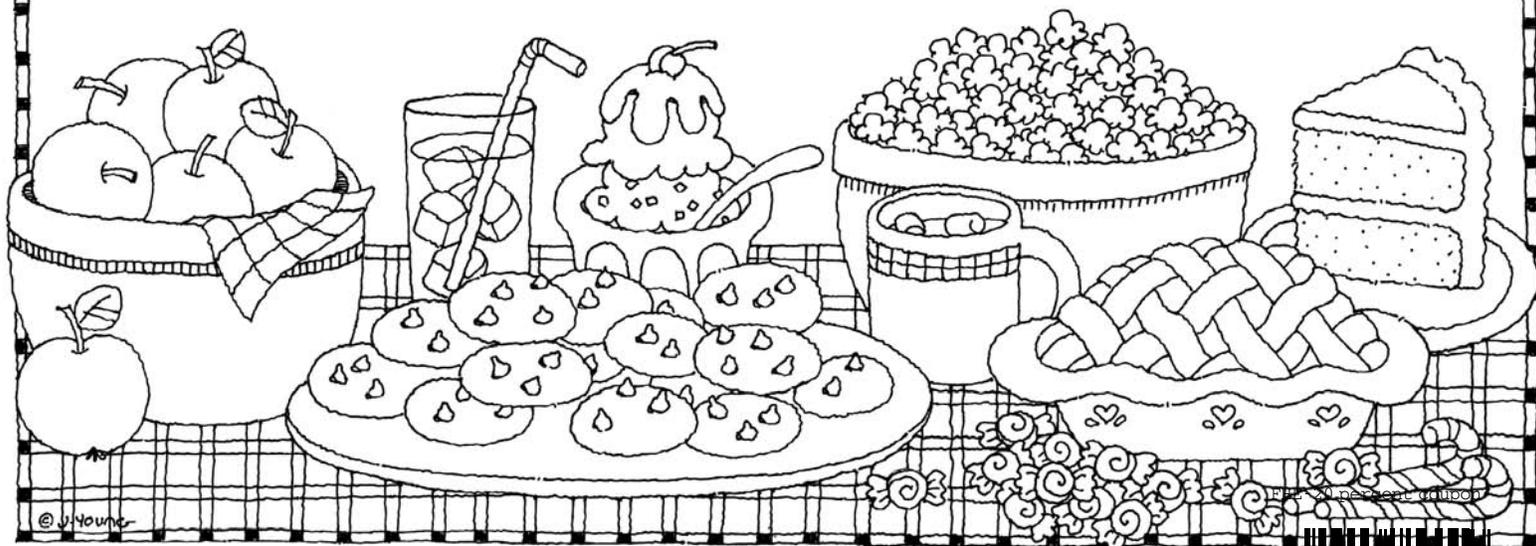
2 cups all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
1 1/2 cups sugar
1/4 cup cocoa
1 teaspoon salt
1 cup milk

2 teaspoons vanilla
1/4 cup butter, melted
1 1/2 cups walnuts, chopped
1 1/2 cups brown sugar
1/2 cup cocoa
3 1/2 cups hot water

Preheat oven to 350° F. Grease a 9x13x2-inch pan and set aside. Measure flour, baking powder, sugar, 1/4 cup cocoa, and salt into a bowl and mix together. Add milk, vanilla, and melted butter and mix until incorporated. (This can be mixed by hand or with the mixer.) Stir in the walnuts. Pour into prepared pan and set aside.

In a large bowl mix together brown sugar and 1/2 cup cocoa. Pour hot water over sugar and cocoa mixture and mix together. When well blended, slowly pour over the flour mixture in baking pan. (The baking pan will be very full, so handle carefully when putting it in the oven.) Bake for 35 to 40 minutes. Cut into 15 squares.

(*Lion House Desserts*, [Salt Lake City: Eagle Gate, 2000] p. 33.)



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Packet #110307

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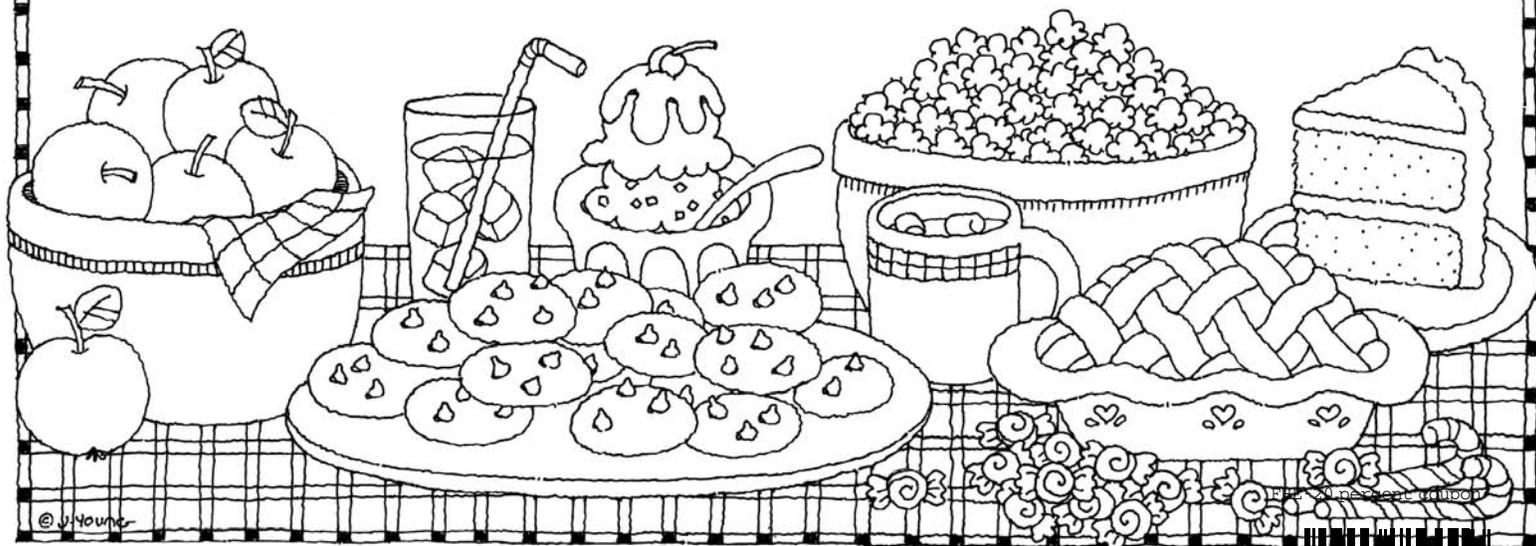
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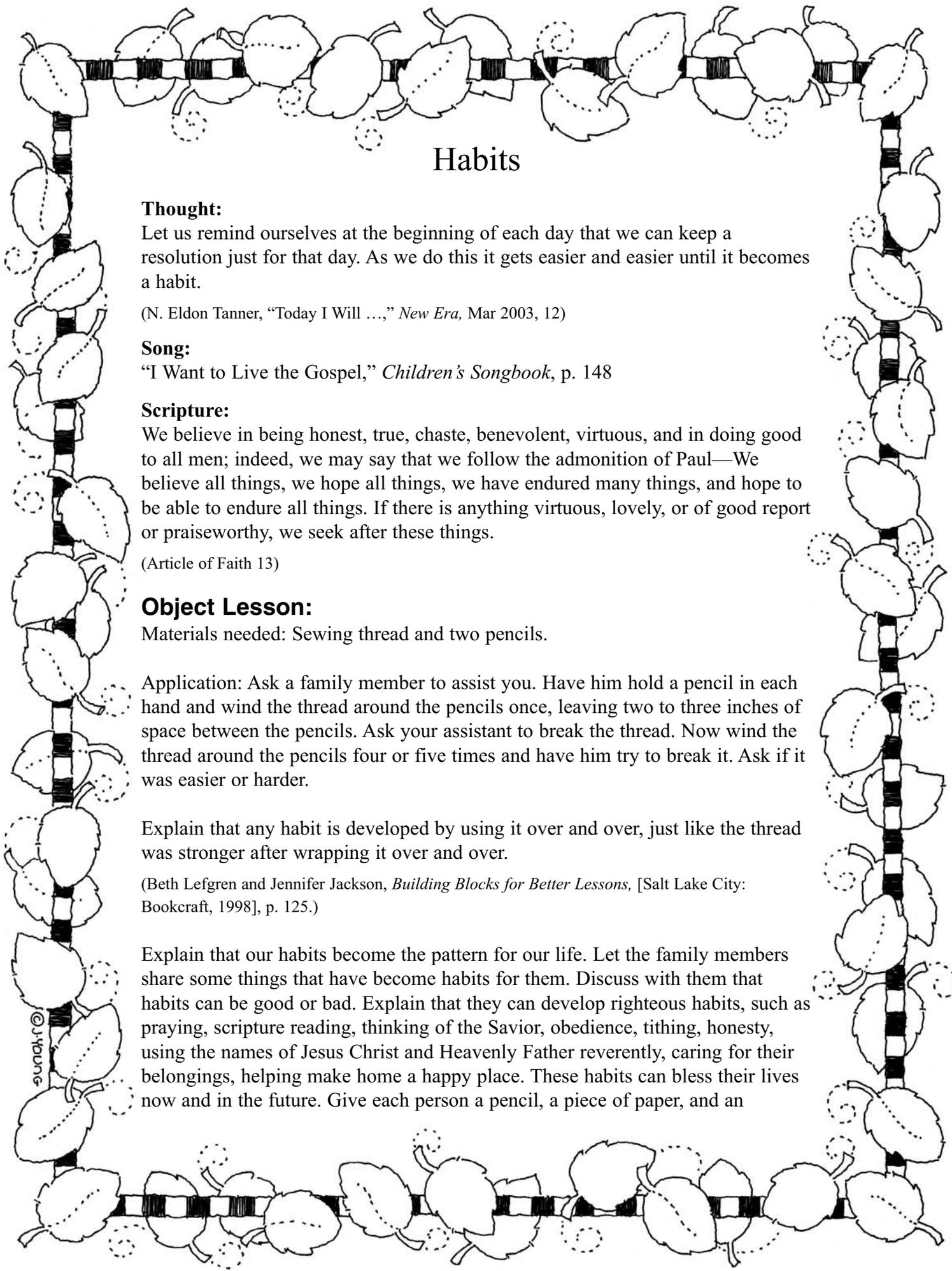
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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Habits

Packet #080207

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Habits

Thought:

Let us remind ourselves at the beginning of each day that we can keep a resolution just for that day. As we do this it gets easier and easier until it becomes a habit.

(N. Eldon Tanner, "Today I Will ...," *New Era*, Mar 2003, 12)

Song:

"I Want to Live the Gospel," *Children's Songbook*, p. 148

Scripture:

We believe in being honest, true, chaste, benevolent, virtuous, and in doing good to all men; indeed, we may say that we follow the admonition of Paul—We believe all things, we hope all things, we have endured many things, and hope to be able to endure all things. If there is anything virtuous, lovely, or of good report or praiseworthy, we seek after these things.

(Article of Faith 13)

Object Lesson:

Materials needed: Sewing thread and two pencils.

Application: Ask a family member to assist you. Have him hold a pencil in each hand and wind the thread around the pencils once, leaving two to three inches of space between the pencils. Ask your assistant to break the thread. Now wind the thread around the pencils four or five times and have him try to break it. Ask if it was easier or harder.

Explain that any habit is developed by using it over and over, just like the thread was stronger after wrapping it over and over.

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *Building Blocks for Better Lessons*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1998], p. 125.)

Explain that our habits become the pattern for our life. Let the family members share some things that have become habits for them. Discuss with them that habits can be good or bad. Explain that they can develop righteous habits, such as praying, scripture reading, thinking of the Savior, obedience, tithing, honesty, using the names of Jesus Christ and Heavenly Father reverently, caring for their belongings, helping make home a happy place. These habits can bless their lives now and in the future. Give each person a pencil, a piece of paper, and an

envelope. Have her/him write on her/his paper a righteous habit she/he would like to begin forming, then put it in her/his envelope. Tell them to take their papers out each morning and read them to help remember their goals.

(Karen Ashton, "Sharing Time: I Will Make Important Choices Now," *Friend*, Nov 1997, 14)

Stories:

A certain man who is very successful now was very poor when he was a boy. When asked how he became successful, he said, "My father taught me never to play until my work was finished, and never to spend my money until I had earned it. If I had but an hour's work in the day, I must do that the first thing, and in an hour. And after that I was allowed to play; and then I could play with much more pleasure than if I had the thought of an unfinished task before my mind. I early formed the habit of doing everything on time, and it soon became easy to do so. It is to this I owe my success."

(Rich Walton and Fern Oviatt, *Stories for Mormons*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1983], p. 125.)

A young mother leaving for a weekend trip deposited her eighteen-month-old baby in the arms of his grandmother.

"Thanks, Mom, you're a dear. . . . Oh, one more thing. Before you feed him, would you please put his little hands together and help him say a simple blessing on his food. We have family prayer with him at night, too. If you and Dad wouldn't mind kneeling by the side of his crib for prayers—he's used to it. I think it would help him feel more secure."

As her daughter disappeared down the driveway, the grandmother thought about the request. What wise parents they are, she decided. A habit in the making at eighteen months will be a way of life at eighteen years.

Leon R. Hartshorn, *Remarkable Stories from the Lives of Latter-day Saint Women, vol. 1*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Company, 1973].)

Activity:

Play "Mother, May I?" adding *please* and *thank you* to the regular play. One person is the mother (or captain) and stands facing away from a line of players. She then chooses a family member and announces her instructions. These follow a pattern, such as, "Brian, you may take 'x' giant/regular/baby steps forward/backward." The child responds with "Mother may I, please?" Mom then states "Yes" or "No" and the child says "thank you" before completing the action. If the child forgets to ask "Mother may I?" or say please or thank you he/she goes back to the starting line. First one to touch Mother wins.

Explain that we should be in the habit of using kind words such as please and thank you.

Refreshment

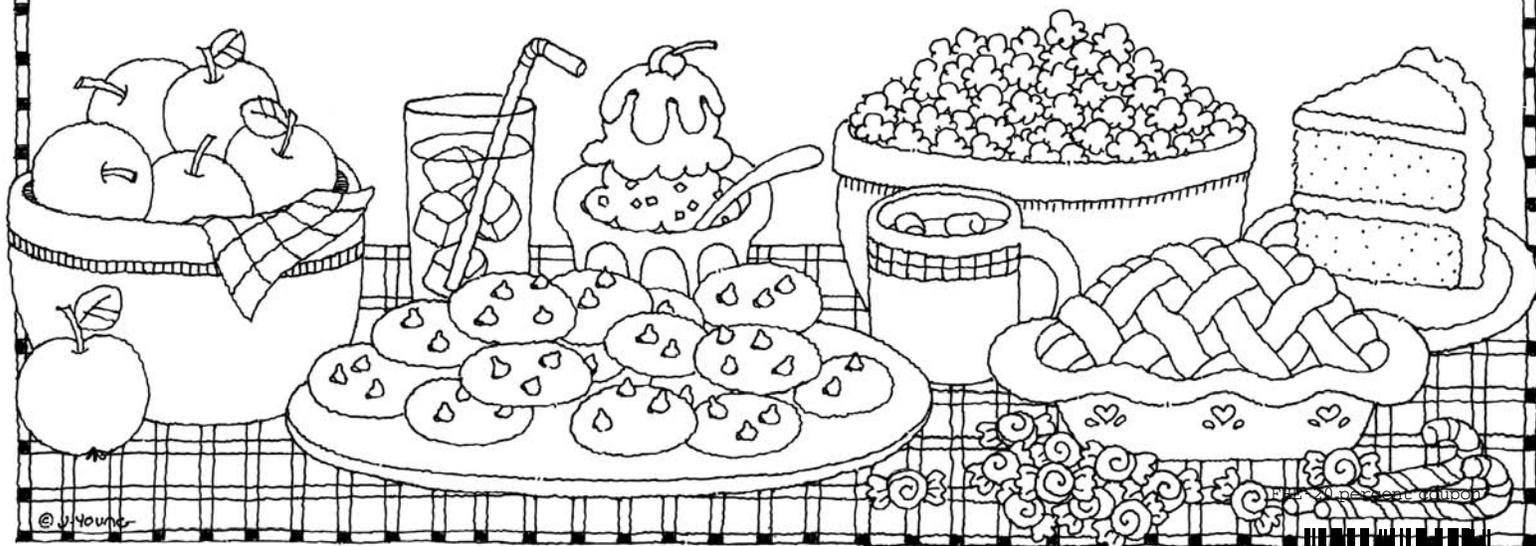
Lemon Bars

Light, lemony, and luscious!

- 2 cups sifted flour
- 1/2 cup sifted powdered sugar
- 1 cup butter or margarine
- 4 beaten eggs
- 2 cups sugar
- 1/3 cup lemon juice
- 1/4 cup flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder

Sift together the 2 cups flour and powdered sugar. Cut in butter with pastry blender or knives until mixture clings together. Press into an 8x8-inch pan. Bake at 350° F. for 20 to 25 minutes or until lightly browned. Beat together eggs, sugar, and lemon juice. Sift together the 1/4 cup flour and baking powder. Stir into egg mixture. Pour over baked crust. Bake at 350° F. for about 25 minutes longer. Sprinkle with additional powdered sugar. Cool. Cut into bars. Makes 9 bars.

(Julie Badger Jensen, *The Essential Mormon Cookbook*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2004], p. 59.)



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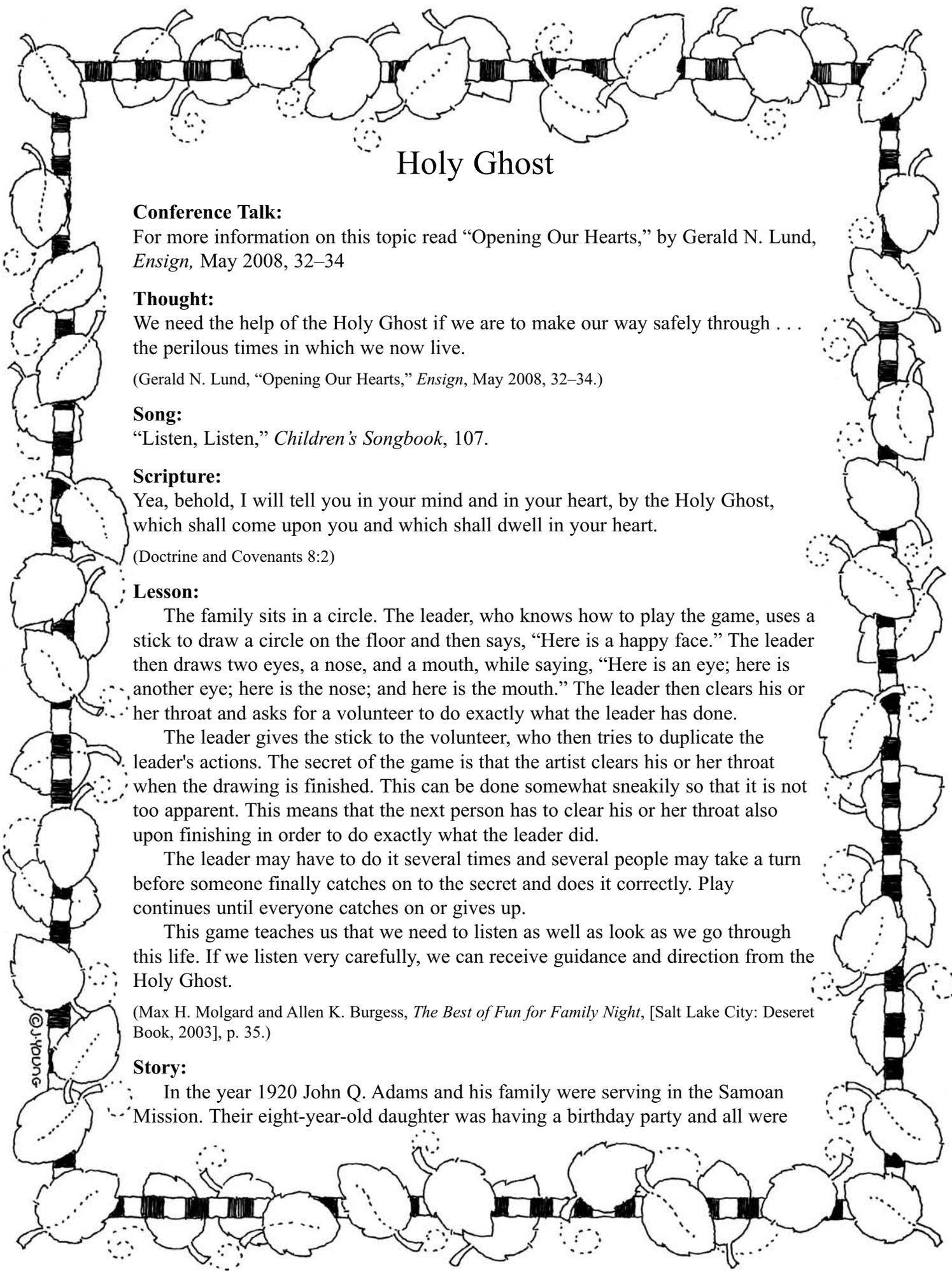
Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Holy Ghost

Packet #080208

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
- 3. Involvement.** Involve everyone in the family; help little children take part.
- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.



Holy Ghost

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read “Opening Our Hearts,” by Gerald N. Lund, *Ensign*, May 2008, 32–34

Thought:

We need the help of the Holy Ghost if we are to make our way safely through . . . the perilous times in which we now live.

(Gerald N. Lund, “Opening Our Hearts,” *Ensign*, May 2008, 32–34.)

Song:

“Listen, Listen,” *Children’s Songbook*, 107.

Scripture:

Yea, behold, I will tell you in your mind and in your heart, by the Holy Ghost, which shall come upon you and which shall dwell in your heart.

(Doctrine and Covenants 8:2)

Lesson:

The family sits in a circle. The leader, who knows how to play the game, uses a stick to draw a circle on the floor and then says, “Here is a happy face.” The leader then draws two eyes, a nose, and a mouth, while saying, “Here is an eye; here is another eye; here is the nose; and here is the mouth.” The leader then clears his or her throat and asks for a volunteer to do exactly what the leader has done.

The leader gives the stick to the volunteer, who then tries to duplicate the leader's actions. The secret of the game is that the artist clears his or her throat when the drawing is finished. This can be done somewhat sneakily so that it is not too apparent. This means that the next person has to clear his or her throat also upon finishing in order to do exactly what the leader did.

The leader may have to do it several times and several people may take a turn before someone finally catches on to the secret and does it correctly. Play continues until everyone catches on or gives up.

This game teaches us that we need to listen as well as look as we go through this life. If we listen very carefully, we can receive guidance and direction from the Holy Ghost.

(Max H. Molgard and Allen K. Burgess, *The Best of Fun for Family Night*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 35.)

Story:

In the year 1920 John Q. Adams and his family were serving in the Samoan Mission. Their eight-year-old daughter was having a birthday party and all were

having a great time, when Brother Adams received the impression that he should leave the party and cross the river, which was not far away. Because he could see no reason why he should do this, he ignored the feeling. The impression came a second time, even stronger than before, but once again he decided not to do so. The same feeling came a third time, but this time he saw a certain spot where he should go.

When the feeling would not leave him, he crossed the river bridge and began climbing the slope on the other side. He hadn't gone far before someone called out to him. He soon found one of the Church members who was in serious need of his assistance. This man had accidentally cut an artery in his foot while cutting kindling wood and was bleeding badly.

The injured man could not walk, and Brother Adams could not carry him, so he ran quickly for help. The man fainted before they were able to get him home. However, through prayer, faith, and good care, the man recovered.

Because Brother Adams finally heeded the promptings of the Holy Ghost, the man's life was saved and he became one of the area's best missionaries.

(Jeremiah Stokes, *Modern Miracles* [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1945], pp. 56–58.)

Activity:

Play “Hot or Cold.”

Everyone leaves the room except for one person, who hides a small object, such as a coin, key, or thimble. Most of the object needs to be in plain sight. The rest of the family then returns to the room and searches for the object. When someone spots the object, he or she sits down and yells out some prearranged comment such as “Hot dog,” or “I know where it is.” The rest of the family continues to hunt until everyone has found the object.

If the object is difficult to find, the players can ask for help. The person who hid the object then tells the players, based on how close they are to the object, whether they are hot or cold. The closer they are to the object, the hotter they are. The one helping can use words such as “You are in the deep freeze,” or “You are getting warmer,” or “You are burning up.”

When everyone has found the hidden object, the person who found it first gets to hide it, and the game continues.

Sometimes we can solve problems by ourselves, but many times we need to listen for the direction of the Holy Ghost.

(Max H. Molgard and Allen K. Burgess, *The Best of Fun for Family Night*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 36.)

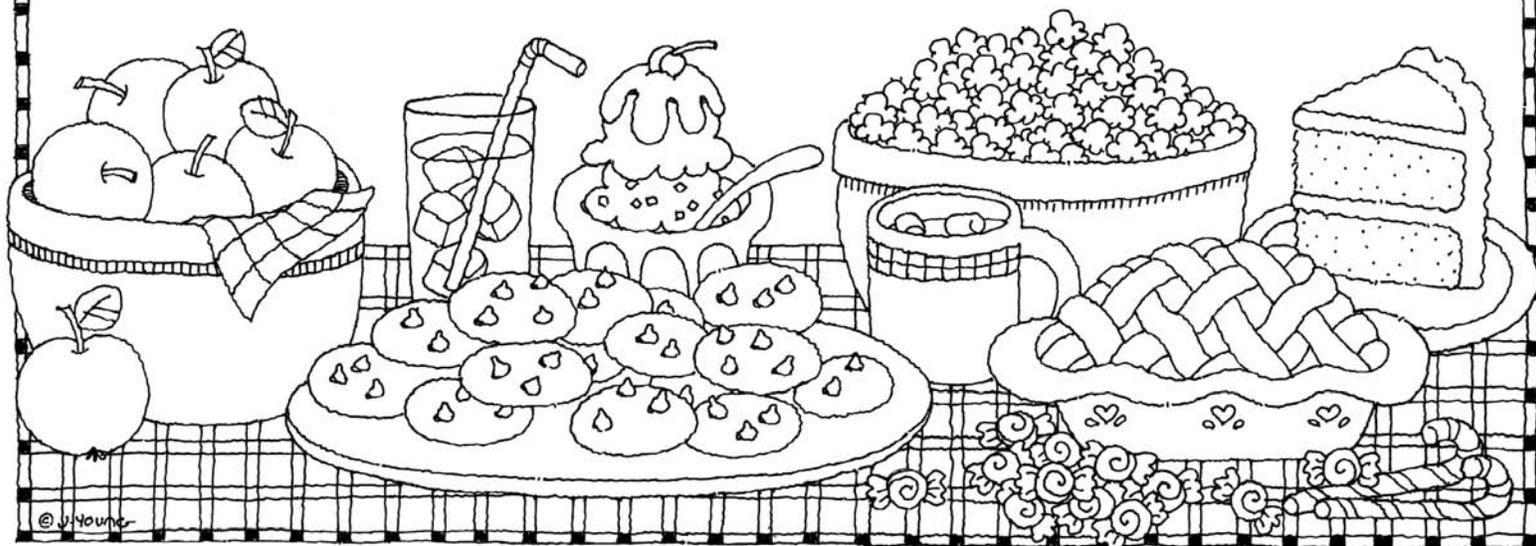
Refreshment

Peanut Butter Fudge

3 c. sugar
1 c. cocoa
1/2 tsp. salt
2 c. milk
1/2 c. butter
1 Tbs. vanilla
1 (8-oz.) jar chunky peanut butter

Mix sugar, cocoa, and salt in large, non-stick pot. Stir in milk and blend well. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat, allowing it to cook at moderate boil until a tablespoon of fudge forms a ball when dropped into a cup of cold water. Cut up butter into pieces and place in mixing bowl, along with vanilla; then pour fudge over butter. Place the bowl in cold water for half an hour; then, while mixture is still warm, beat with electric mixer, while dropping chunky peanut butter into the batter. When it begins to lose its luster and becomes harder to beat, pour it onto a buttered plate and it is ready to be enjoyed.

(Elaine Cannon, *Five-Star Recipes*, [Salt Lake City:Eagle Gate, 2002], p. 253.)



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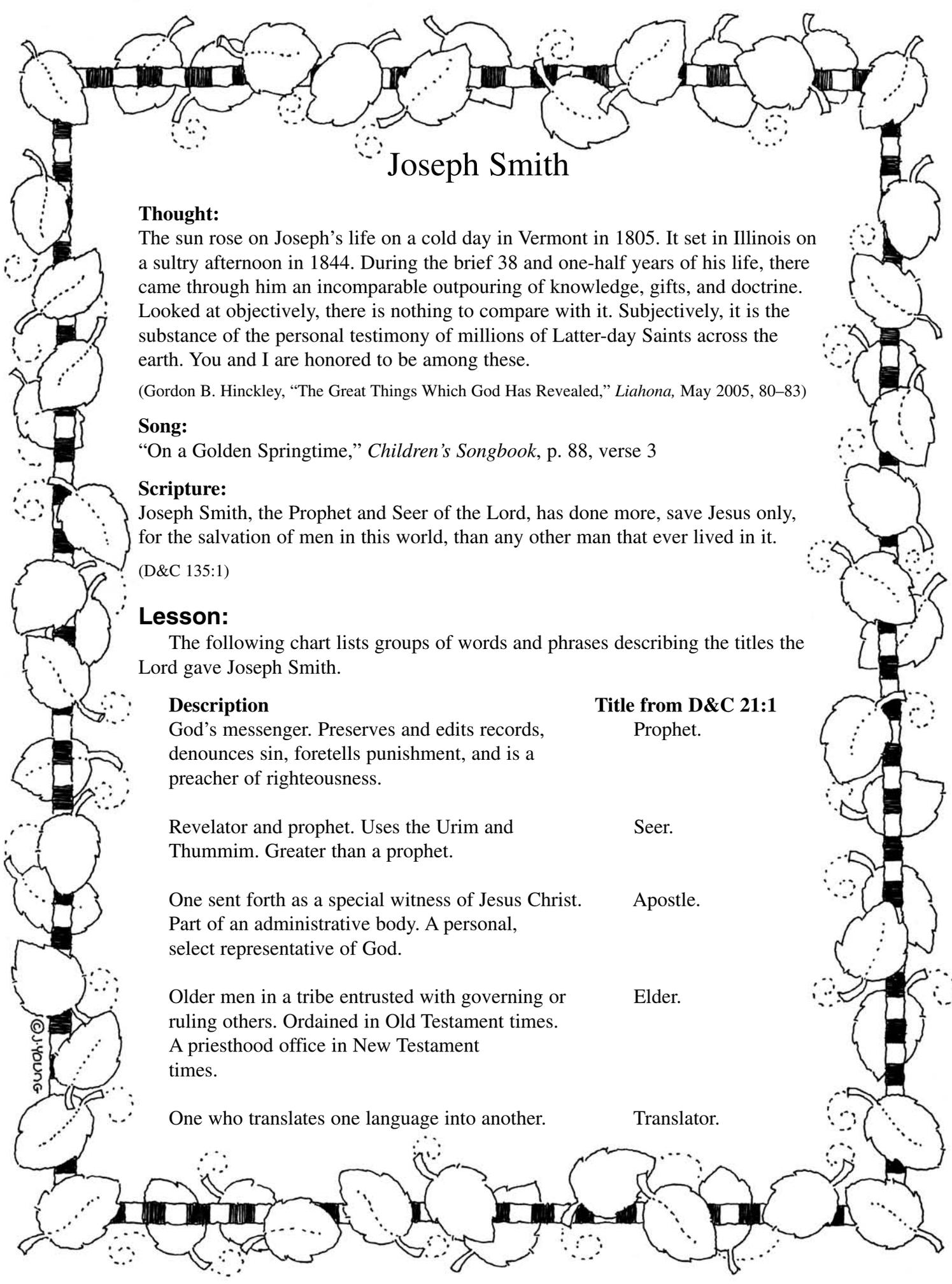
Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Joseph Smith

Packet #070207

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
- 3. Involvement.** Involve everyone in the family; help little children take part.
- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.



Joseph Smith

Thought:

The sun rose on Joseph's life on a cold day in Vermont in 1805. It set in Illinois on a sultry afternoon in 1844. During the brief 38 and one-half years of his life, there came through him an incomparable outpouring of knowledge, gifts, and doctrine. Looked at objectively, there is nothing to compare with it. Subjectively, it is the substance of the personal testimony of millions of Latter-day Saints across the earth. You and I are honored to be among these.

(Gordon B. Hinckley, "The Great Things Which God Has Revealed," *Liahona*, May 2005, 80–83)

Song:

"On a Golden Springtime," *Children's Songbook*, p. 88, verse 3

Scripture:

Joseph Smith, the Prophet and Seer of the Lord, has done more, save Jesus only, for the salvation of men in this world, than any other man that ever lived in it.

(D&C 135:1)

Lesson:

The following chart lists groups of words and phrases describing the titles the Lord gave Joseph Smith.

Description	Title from D&C 21:1
God's messenger. Preserves and edits records, denounces sin, foretells punishment, and is a preacher of righteousness.	Prophet.
Revelator and prophet. Uses the Urim and Thummim. Greater than a prophet.	Seer.
One sent forth as a special witness of Jesus Christ. Part of an administrative body. A personal, select representative of God.	Apostle.
Older men in a tribe entrusted with governing or ruling others. Ordained in Old Testament times. A priesthood office in New Testament times.	Elder.
One who translates one language into another.	Translator.

Show each description to your family and have them find the word that matches the description from D&C 21:1. Have them use their Bible Dictionary if they need help.

Invite everyone to underline in D&C 21:1 all of the titles by which Joseph Smith is known. Then ask:

- How did Joseph Smith act in that specific role (of apostle, prophet, elder, and so on)?
- Which of those roles has the current prophet functioned in?
- Can the current prophet fulfill all those functions as the need arises?

Bear your testimony that the president of the Church holds all the keys of God's power that have been restored to the earth at this time.

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The Doctrine and Covenants*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2004], p. 43.)

Story:

“He Asked Emma’s Forgiveness”

(David Whitmer)

[Joseph Smith] was a religious and straightforward man. He had to be; for he was illiterate and he could do nothing himself. He had to trust in God. He could not translate unless he was humble and possessed the right feelings towards everyone. To illustrate so you can see: One morning when he was getting ready to continue the translation, something went wrong about the house and he was put out about it. Something that Emma, his wife, had done. Oliver and I went upstairs and Joseph came up soon after to continue the translation but he could not do anything. He could not translate a single syllable. He went downstairs, out into the orchard, and made supplication to the Lord; was gone about an hour—came back to the house, and asked Emma’s forgiveness and then came upstairs where we were and then the translation went on all right. He could do nothing save he was humble and faithful.

(Editors, Jack M. Lyon, Linda Rire Gundry, and Jay A. Parry, *Best-Loved Stories of the LDS People*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1997].)

Activities:

Play “Timber!”

1. Seat everyone in a circle with someone standing in the middle. The circle should be at least fifteen feet across.
2. Have everyone choose a type of tree, such as oak, redwood, or pine, and tell what he has chosen. No two trees should be the same.
3. The person in the center holds a broom vertically (a stick or mop handle will also do) with one end resting on the floor. He calls out one of the trees and hollers “Timber!” while letting go of the broom. The person whose tree was called must catch the broom handle before it hits the floor. If not, he trades places with the one in the center. If the person catches it in time, the person in the center does it again, calling out someone else’s tree name.

Tell your family that Joseph Smith learned to work hard on his family farm. Cutting down trees was one of the things they needed to do to clear the land so they could plant their crops.

(George and Jeane Chipman, *Games! Games! Games!*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 1983], p. 53.)

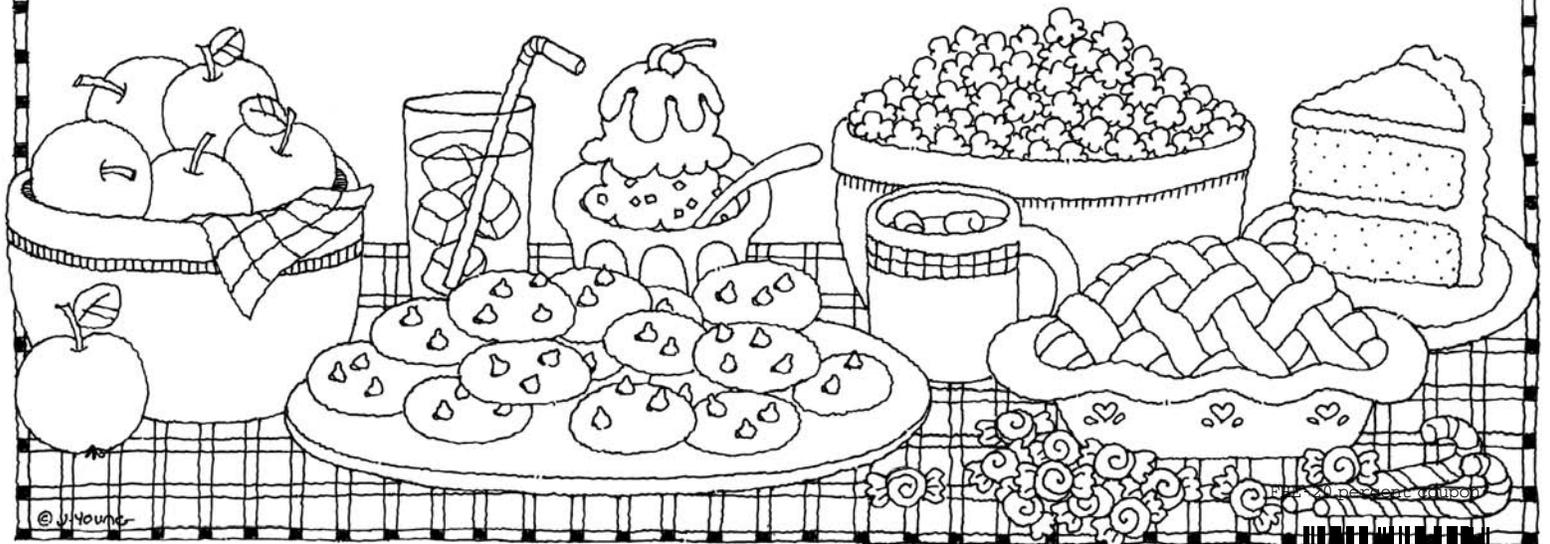
Refreshment

Quick Butterscotch Crunchies

2 packages (6 oz. each) butterscotch chips
1/2 cup peanut butter
6 cups cornflakes

Melt butterscotch chips and peanut butter together over medium heat. Stir in cornflakes. Drop from teaspoon onto waxed paper, shaping cookies with spoon. Allow to set.

(Winnifred C. Jardine, *Mormon Country Cooking*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1980], p. 280.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Humanitarian Aid

Packet #120208

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
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- 5. Relax and enjoy it.** The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.

Humanitarian Aid

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read “And Who Is My Neighbor?,” by H. David Burton, *Ensign*, May 2008, 51–52.

Thought:

May we press forward to lighten the load of neighbors, encourage and assist the downtrodden, open our purses to assist the poor, and extend our helping hands.

(H. David Burton, “And Who Is My Neighbor?,” *Ensign*, May 2008, 51–52.)

Song:

“Go the Second Mile,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 167

Scripture:

And remember in all things the poor and the needy, the sick and the afflicted, for he that doeth not these things, the same is not my disciple.

(Doctrine and Covenants 52:40)

Lesson:

Have family members read 2 Nephi 20:1–2 and find one of the evil practices the Lord condemns. (Unfair treatment of the poor.) Now read D&C 104:15–18 to see the modern teachings of the Lord concerning this doctrine. Ask how the Church helps us fulfill this responsibility. (Fast offerings, welfare projects, home teaching, humanitarian aid, perpetual education fund, and so on.)

Ask family members what they could do personally to help the needy. Then ask what you could do as a family.

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The Book of Mormon*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2004], p. 72.)

Story:

Vicki Vehar, a member of Naperville Second Ward in Chicago, . . . has always taken time for community service, even though she is very busy as a financial planner, wife, mother, and now worker in the Chicago Temple.

When she read about a program in which excess food [was] collected from places such as restaurants and grocery stores and distributed to food banks and shelters for the homeless, she believed it was an idea that could work in her area. She began investigating the availability of surplus food and the need for it in the Chicago area. One of the places she called to offer help in arranging for food was the Salvation Army.

The night following her call, a freak tornado struck the Plainsfield-Joliet area, about thirty-five miles southwest of Chicago. The twister plowed down a three-mile swath several blocks wide, destroying everything in its path and killing twelve people. The next morning, Vicki received a call from the same Salvation Army worker she had spoken to the previous day: Could she possibly help provide some volunteers to assist the tornado victims?

Although this wasn't the kind of help she had originally offered, it was still an opportunity to serve. Vicki called the mission president, and within an hour, eight missionaries—one couple, four elders, and two sisters—were on the scene. The women distributed hamburgers and other

foodstuffs, donated by a national fast-food chain, to people whose homes had been destroyed; the men began helping with the salvage process.

The next morning, Vicki got an elated phone call from the woman at the Salvation Army. "I don't know how you did it, but your church is absolutely wonderful!" the woman exclaimed.

(Derin Head Rodriguez, "Reaching Out," *Ensign*, Jan. 1992, p. 70)

Activity:

Play "Win All You Can."

1. Give all the players pencils and pieces of paper, and have them number their papers from one to ten. Tell them that the object of the game is to win all you can.

2. Instruct the players to mark X's or O's beside the number of the round they are in. After each round, they will see what everyone else has marked.

3. Explain the scoring system.

a. If everyone has the same mark (X or O), everyone scores ten points.

b. If everyone but one person has the same mark, that one person scores thirty points, and the others, five apiece.

c. If everyone but two people has the same mark, those two score twenty apiece, and the others, five apiece.

d. If the group has a mixture of X's and O's, everyone scores one point.

4. Let the group discuss before each round how to mark the round. Make it clear that no one is bound to follow the group's decision.

5. At the end of round six, tell the group that the scoring will change so that all points earned for the next round will be doubled. At the end of round seven, tell the group that the points earned in round nine will be multiplied by ten. At the end of the last round, points will be multiplied by one hundred.

6. Compare scores. Explain that the "you" in "win all you can" may be interpreted as referring to the group as a whole or to the individual.

(George and Jeane Chipman, *Games! Games! Games!*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 1983], p. 156.)

Refreshment

Apple Crisp

Topping

- 1 cup butter, cold
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup flour
- 1 cup oatmeal
- 1/4 teaspoon baking powder

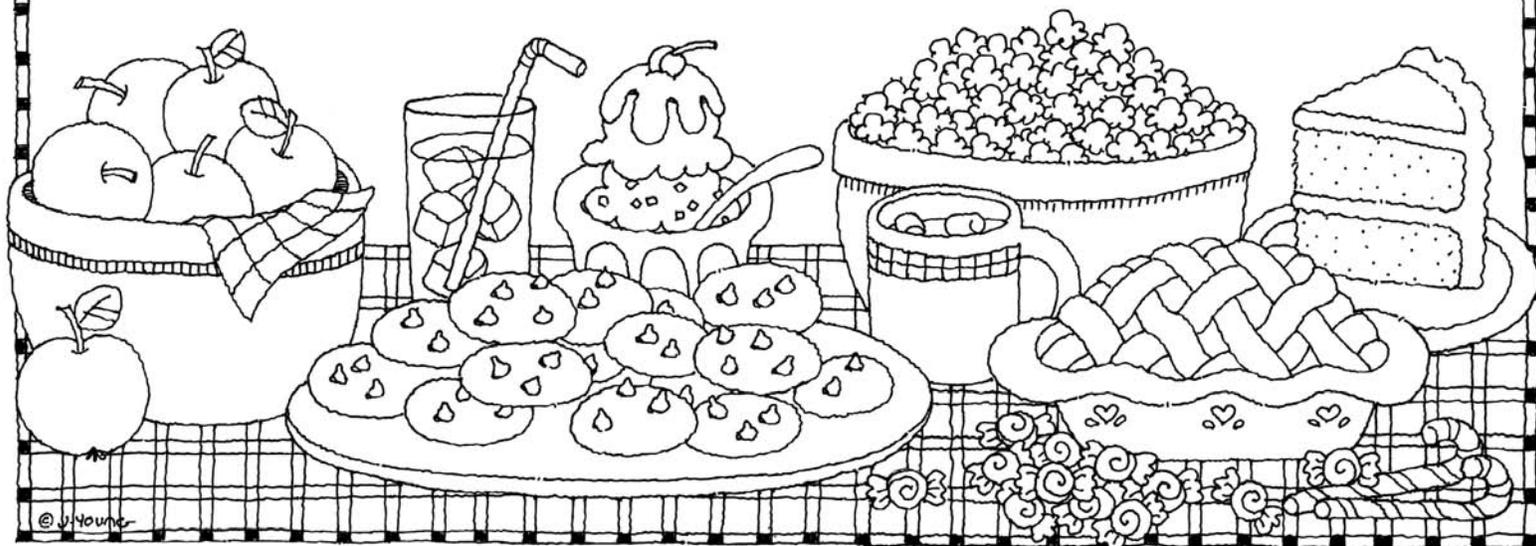
Filling

- 6 cups canned apples or 6 to 8 fresh apples, peeled and sliced
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon

In a large bowl mix together butter, brown sugar, flour, oatmeal, and baking powder just until the butter is broken up and ingredients are mixed. Mixture should be crumbly. Set aside.

Place apples in a 9x13-inch pan. Sprinkle with sugar, salt, and cinnamon. Then crumble crisp topping on top. Bake at 350° F. for 25 to 35 minutes or until golden brown. (If fresh apples are used, bake for 45 minutes.) Serve warm or cold, with whipped cream or ice cream. Makes 12 to 15 servings.

(*Lion House Desserts*, [Salt Lake City: Eagle Gate, 2000] p. 52.)



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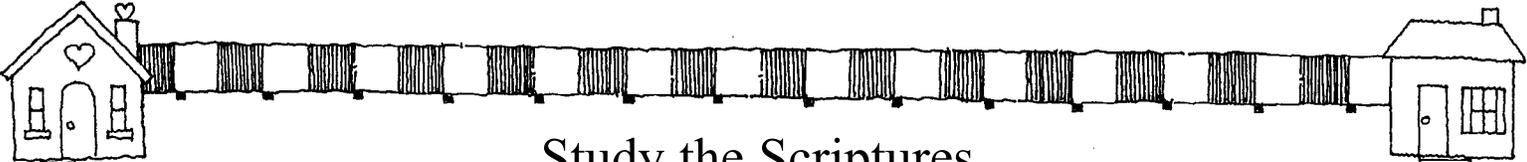
Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Study the Scriptures

Packet #050106

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
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- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.



Study the Scriptures

Thought:

Reading the Book of Mormon together as a family will especially bring increased spirituality into your home and will give both parents and children the power to resist temptation and to have the Holy Ghost as their constant companion.

(Ezra Taft Benson)

Song:

“Search, Ponder, and Pray,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 109

Scripture:

And upon these I write the things of my soul, and many of the scriptures which are engraven upon the plates of brass. For my soul delighteth in the scriptures, and my heart pondereth them, and writeth them for the learning and the profit of my children.

(2 Nephi 4:15)

Lesson:

Have one member of your family pretend that he or she owns a grocery store. Have them “sell” some food items to other family members, who buy the items with either real or play money. Discuss what it means to make a profit. Explain that profit is not just what people pay the owner for a product. The profit is what is left after paying for expenses (including the cost of products to sell, rent, and wages). Profit can be thought of as income minus expenses.

Now read Mosiah 1:5–7 together and ask what King Benjamin says we can “profit” from. Explain that to profit from the scriptures means we can gain more benefits out of study than we will expend in effort. Discuss the following:

- What “expenses” are there for scripture study? (Time and effort that could be spent on other activities.)
- What are some benefits of scripture study? (Increased testimony, understanding of the gospel, and so on.)
- How have you “profited” from scripture study?

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The Book of Mormon*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 114.)

Story:

The Spirit Teaches Scripture

(Jean Asay)

Our daughter was just beginning her sophomore year in high school. With all the excitement surrounding the first school dance of the year and with many of her friends going with dates, she became painfully aware of how long it would be before her sixteenth birthday—May 25. Her awareness was heightened when she, too, was invited to go to the first dance. She replied, with commitment, that she was waiting until she turned sixteen to date. But, she admitted later, it did

seem like a challenge to miss all of the dances and date activities for the year ahead of her.

Two months later she was invited to attend another school dance, which had a number of daytime activities associated with it. Many of her friends were going, the appeal became more than she had anticipated, and finally she asked if she could accept this one date. She assured us that she did not intend to make it a regular thing, but wondered if this one time couldn't be an exception. The more she talked about it, the more she wanted to go, until finally, after a week of hoping that her desire would pass, we realized we needed to help her make the right decision and feel good about it—instead of our just saying no.

After much prayer and thought and sensing her deep feelings, we pondered the situation together one evening. I felt a little uncertain as I heard myself finally saying to her, “If you will take one week to study your scriptures with this question in your heart, and pray about it in a way that you can hear Heavenly Father’s answer—not just your own desire, but Heavenly Father’s answer—we will abide by your decision.” I was somewhat surprised that I had put us in that situation, but I had felt impressed to say it. She assured me that she would do her best.

Less than a week later she came to us saying that she had made her decision. She said she had received an answer—but it was not the one she wanted. She had done as we had asked, and one night while she was reading, a passage of scripture was transferred off the page and into her heart by the Spirit. She knew not only that it was true but also that it had personal relevance for her at this particular time:

“Verily I say, men should be anxiously engaged in a good cause, and do many things of their own free will, and bring to pass much righteousness;

“For the power is in them, wherein they are agents unto themselves. And inasmuch as men do good they shall in nowise lose their reward.

“But he that doeth not anything until he is commanded, and receiveth a commandment with doubtful heart, and keepeth it with slothfulness, the same is damned” (D&C 58:27–29).

The course, which had seemed so vague to her before, was now clear. She had no doubt. She was content.

In a moment of her life when I had the courage to step back and let scripture and Spirit blend their power in instruction, our daughter learned more profoundly than she ever could have from my feeble reasoning.

(Jay A. Parry, editor, *Everyday Miracles*, [Salt Lake City: Eagle Gate, 2001], p. 52.)

Activities:

Get a medium-sized box or jar and decorate the outside. Write down words like sharing, the Golden Rule, the Ten Commandments, sacrifice, prayer, fasting, obedience, or love. Let each member of the family select a slip of paper. Use the scriptures to find out more about what they've chosen.

(Candace Smith, *The Sunday Activity Book*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1983], p. 85.)

Refreshment

Orange Rolls

These rolls are super-easy and delicious.

- 1/2 cup butter, melted
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 orange peel, grated
- 18 frozen dinner rolls
- 1 recipe Orange Glaze (see below)

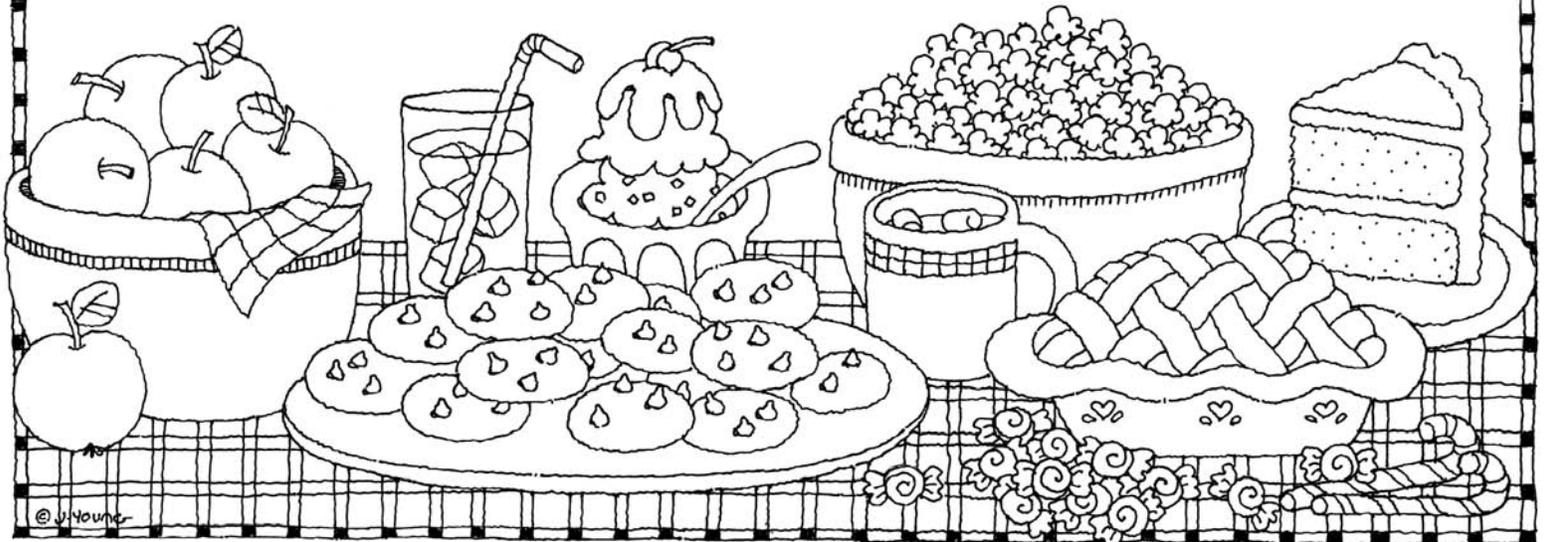
Combine melted butter, sugar, and grated orange peel in a bowl. Dip rolls in mixture and place in muffin tins. Allow to rise for three hours. Bake at 350° F. for 10 to 15 minutes or until lightly browned. Frost with Orange Glaze while still warm. Makes 18 rolls.

Orange Glaze

- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 2 tablespoons butter, softened
- 2 tablespoons orange juice

Mix ingredients together.

(Julie Badger Jensen, *The Essential Mormon Cookbook*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2004] p. 99.)



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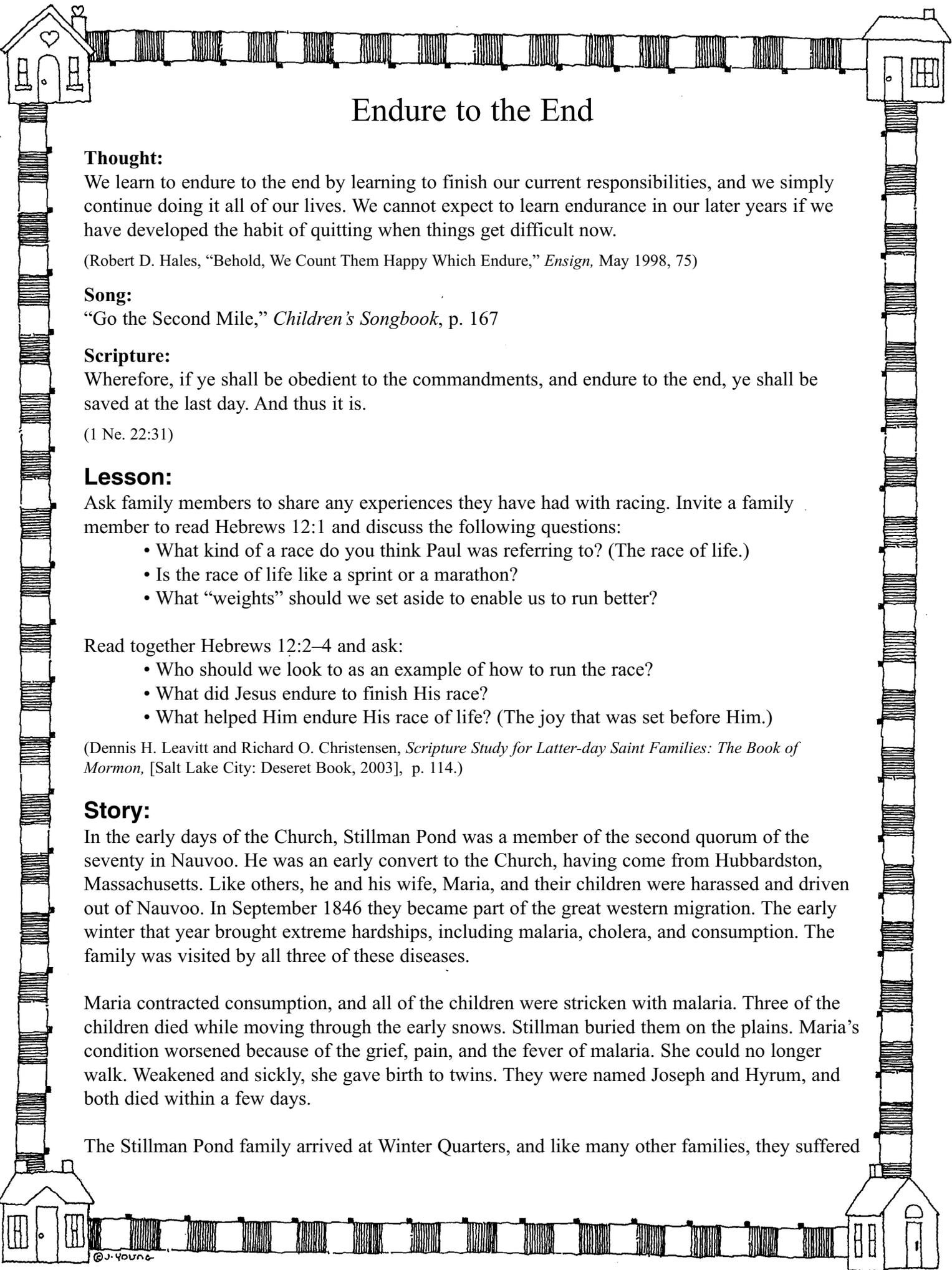
Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Endure to the End

Packet #110106

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

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Endure to the End

Thought:

We learn to endure to the end by learning to finish our current responsibilities, and we simply continue doing it all of our lives. We cannot expect to learn endurance in our later years if we have developed the habit of quitting when things get difficult now.

(Robert D. Hales, "Behold, We Count Them Happy Which Endure," *Ensign*, May 1998, 75)

Song:

"Go the Second Mile," *Children's Songbook*, p. 167

Scripture:

Wherefore, if ye shall be obedient to the commandments, and endure to the end, ye shall be saved at the last day. And thus it is.

(1 Ne. 22:31)

Lesson:

Ask family members to share any experiences they have had with racing. Invite a family member to read Hebrews 12:1 and discuss the following questions:

- What kind of a race do you think Paul was referring to? (The race of life.)
- Is the race of life like a sprint or a marathon?
- What "weights" should we set aside to enable us to run better?

Read together Hebrews 12:2–4 and ask:

- Who should we look to as an example of how to run the race?
- What did Jesus endure to finish His race?
- What helped Him endure His race of life? (The joy that was set before Him.)

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The Book of Mormon*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 114.)

Story:

In the early days of the Church, Stillman Pond was a member of the second quorum of the seventy in Nauvoo. He was an early convert to the Church, having come from Hubbardston, Massachusetts. Like others, he and his wife, Maria, and their children were harassed and driven out of Nauvoo. In September 1846 they became part of the great western migration. The early winter that year brought extreme hardships, including malaria, cholera, and consumption. The family was visited by all three of these diseases.

Maria contracted consumption, and all of the children were stricken with malaria. Three of the children died while moving through the early snows. Stillman buried them on the plains. Maria's condition worsened because of the grief, pain, and the fever of malaria. She could no longer walk. Weakened and sickly, she gave birth to twins. They were named Joseph and Hyrum, and both died within a few days.

The Stillman Pond family arrived at Winter Quarters, and like many other families, they suffered

bitterly while living in a tent. The death of five children coming across the plains to Winter Quarters was but a beginning.

The journal of Horace K. and Helen Mar Whitney verifies . . . four more of the children of Stillman Pond perished . . . with chills and fever.

Four months later, on May 17, 1847, his wife, Maria Davis Pond, also died. Crossing the plains, Stillman Pond lost nine children and a wife. He became an outstanding colonizer in Utah and later became a leader in the quorums of the seventy. Having lost these nine children and his wife in crossing the plains, Stillman Pond did not lose his faith. He did not quit. He went forward.”

(James E. Faust, *Ensign*, Feb. 2006, 6–7.)

Activities:

Play Bumblebee Buzz. Two family members at a time stand back to back. At the signal they take a long breath, turn and face each other, and begin to buzz like bees. The one wins who buzzes the longest with one breath without stopping. If one starts laughing and thus stops buzzing he loses. Continue until a champion is determined.

(Alma Heaton, *The LDS Game Book*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1968], p. 243.)

Refreshment

Kelli's Rocky Road Pie

- 1 package instant chocolate pudding
(3 3/4-ounce size)
- 1 1/2 cups milk
- 3 cups miniature marshmallows
- 1 carton non-dairy whipped topping
(12-ounce size)
- 1 cup chopped walnuts

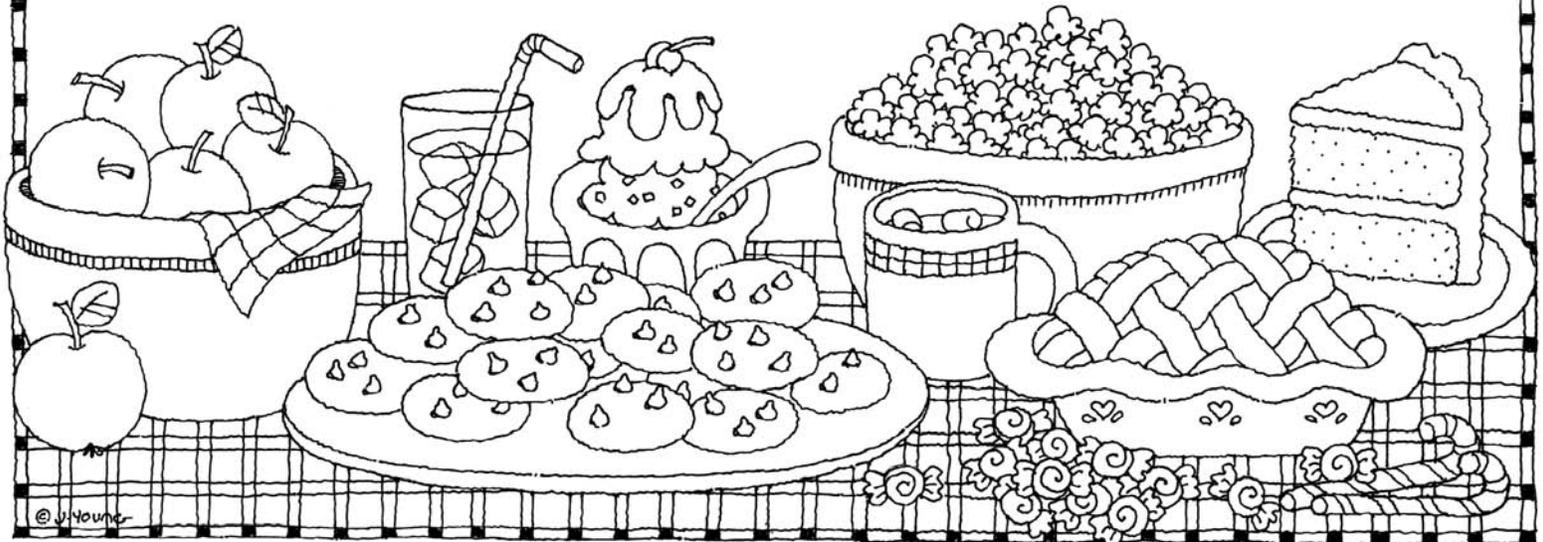
Kelli's Krumbly Pie Krust

- 1 cube margarine
- 8 whole graham crackers
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 2 cups instant oats

Pour milk into a blender and add pudding. Blend until the pudding is mixed well. Pour into a bowl. Add marshmallows and 6 heaping tablespoons of whipped topping. Mix all ingredients gently. Use one of Kelli's Krumbly Pie Crusts and put 6 heaping tablespoons of whipped topping in the pie shell. Then pour pudding mixture on top of the whipped topping. Sprinkle nuts on top. Put in the refrigerator for two hours before serving. This pie may be frozen overnight (put plastic wrap over the top and sides) and it will taste delicious on a hot day. Serves 6 to 8.

Crust: Melt margarine in a small saucepan over the stove. Put graham crackers into a heavy plastic bag and tie the end of the bag. With a rolling pin, crush the graham crackers until they are smooth. Pour the crumbs into a bowl. Add brown sugar and oats and mix well. Pour melted margarine over the cracker mixture and mix well. Pat half of the mixture into a 9-inch pie pan, makes two 9-inch pie crusts.

(Karla C. Erickson, *Kids in the Kitchen*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1980] p. 23.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Be a Missionary

Packet #110206

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
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- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.

Be a Missionary

Thought:

Member-missionary work is powerful and essential to establishing and building up the Church. But our current level of member-missionary work is inadequate. We can and must do better. In the United States, only about 35 percent of active members consistently do member-missionary work.

(M. Russell Ballard, "Members Are the Key," *Ensign*, Sept. 2000, 8)

Song:

"I Want to Be a Missionary Now," *Children's Songbook*, p. 168.

Scripture:

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth.

(Romans 1:16)

Object Lesson:

Materials Needed: treats for your family.

Application: Begin by taking a treat for yourself. Eat it and describe how good it tastes. Ask someone to describe how good it tastes. (They won't know.) Ask why that person doesn't know. (They have not tasted it.)

Explain that the gospel is like this treat. Others can see that you have it, but not until you offer to share it they cannot enjoy it themselves. Discuss the importance of sharing the gospel with everyone. Share the treat with the entire group.

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *Building Blocks for Better Lessons*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1998], p. 44.)

Story:

Taxi Talk

(Janet Peterson)

"I create opportunities for missionary work," states Bill Cortelyou, who has been a cab driver in a Boston suburb for twenty-two years. During the past fifteen years Brother Cortelyou has given away more than 6,000 copies of the Book of Mormon and 10,000 pamphlets of The Prophet Joseph Smith's Testimony to his passengers and other people he meets.

Brother Cortelyou files the material alphabetically by language and keeps them in a box in his cab or in an athletic bag that he carries when he uses public transportation. "Then when I meet an Ethiopian, for example, and ask if he speaks Amharic, I can quickly hand him the appropriate copy," says Brother Cortelyou. "I usually have something with me to give away. Otherwise, it is a lost opportunity."

Because Boston is a center for medicine, technology, finance, and education, people from

all over the world gather there. Since Brother Cortelyou's route includes Logan International Airport, he transports visitors from places such as India, Nigeria, Japan, Bolivia, and Italy. Among his passengers have been scientists, doctors, Nobel Prize winners, priests, rabbis, and government officials from many nations. He has given away copies of the Book of Mormon and Joseph Smith pamphlets in more than thirty-five languages, including Polish, Thai, Greek, Swahili, and Vietnamese. "Rarely do I encounter somebody who speaks a language that I don't have something for," he says.

On an average day Bill makes twenty trips in his cab. He typically gives Joseph Smith pamphlets or copies of the Book of Mormon to four or five of his passengers. "People don't often turn down my offer, because the Spirit helps me," he says. "They're usually very kind and receptive. Sometimes my offer leads to a discussion about the Church.

"I know of one person who has been baptized from my giving her a Book of Mormon. I would love to know about others, but when we give service we do not always know the outcome. My missionary work is to create opportunities for someone to make the choice about learning the truth of the gospel."

Brother Cortelyou grew up on Long Island, New York, and joined the Church while in his thirties. Though he did not have the opportunity to serve a full-time mission, missionary work is now one of the great joys of his life.

(Jay A. Parry, *Everyday Heroes*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2002] p. 81.)

Activity:

To be better prepared to teach others what you believe have each family member memorize one article of faith.

Divide your family into missionary companionships. Have a three-legged race with each companionship to show that missionaries succeed when they find ways to work well together.

(Clark L. and Kathryn H. Kidd, Kent D. and Shannon Pugmire, *Ward Activities for the Clueless* [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 2001], p. 161.)

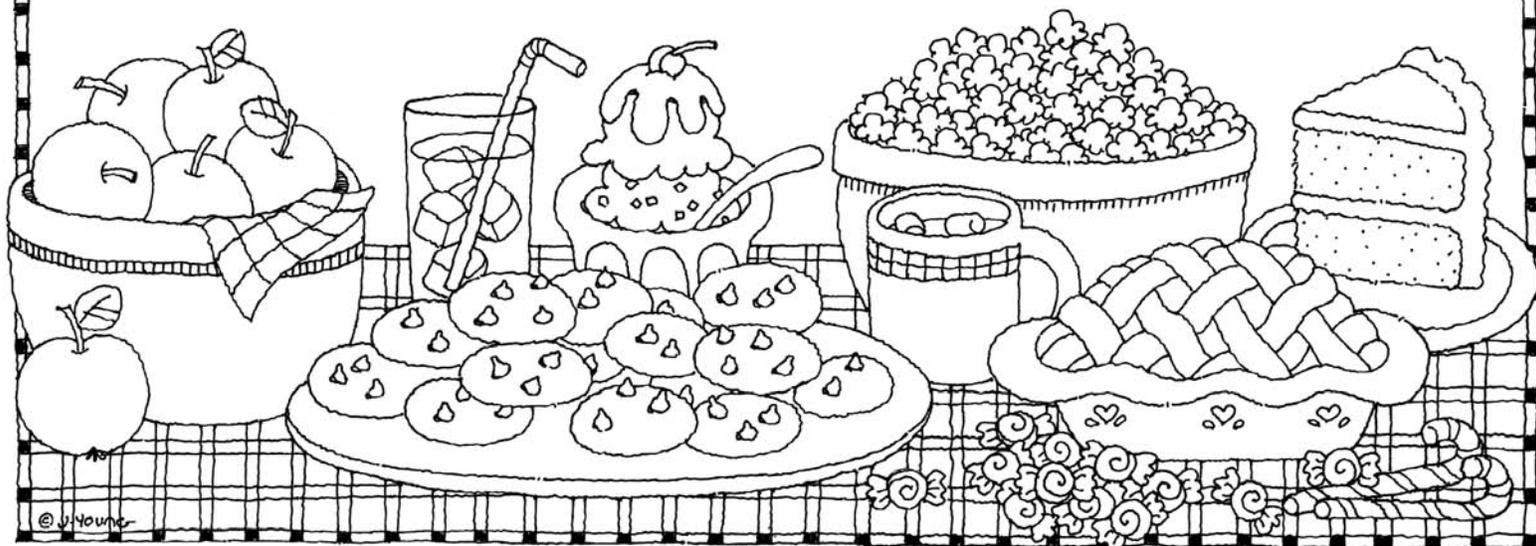
Refreshment

Chocolate Balls

1 can (14 ounces) sweetened condensed milk
1/4 cup cocoa
1 tablespoon butter or margarine
6 to 8 tablespoons chocolate-flavored sprinkles
Small foil or paper decorator cups

Combine condensed milk, cocoa, and butter or margarine in a medium saucepan. Cook over medium-low heat, stirring constantly, for 7 to 8 minutes or until candy forms a ball around the spoon and pulls away from the sides of the pan. Remove from heat and allow to cool to room temperature. Place chocolate sprinkles in a small dish. Butter your hands and shape cocoa mixture into 1-inch balls. Gently roll balls in the chocolate sprinkles and place in individual decorator cups. Cover and chill before serving. Makes about 2 dozen balls.

(*Lion House International*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1997] p. 124.)



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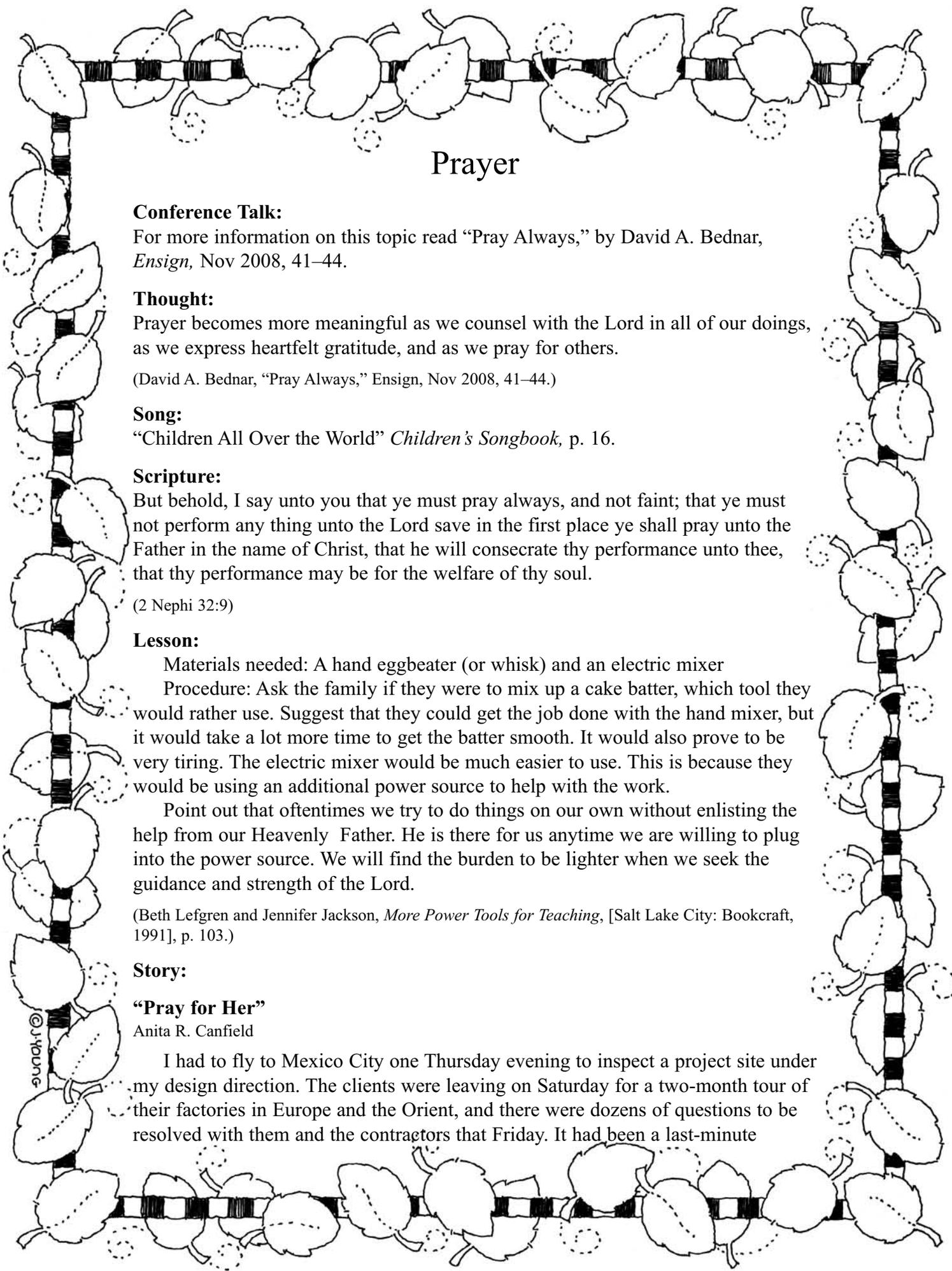
Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Prayer

Packet #030209

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
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Prayer

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read “Pray Always,” by David A. Bednar, *Ensign*, Nov 2008, 41–44.

Thought:

Prayer becomes more meaningful as we counsel with the Lord in all of our doings, as we express heartfelt gratitude, and as we pray for others.

(David A. Bednar, “Pray Always,” *Ensign*, Nov 2008, 41–44.)

Song:

“Children All Over the World” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 16.

Scripture:

But behold, I say unto you that ye must pray always, and not faint; that ye must not perform any thing unto the Lord save in the first place ye shall pray unto the Father in the name of Christ, that he will consecrate thy performance unto thee, that thy performance may be for the welfare of thy soul.

(2 Nephi 32:9)

Lesson:

Materials needed: A hand eggbeater (or whisk) and an electric mixer

Procedure: Ask the family if they were to mix up a cake batter, which tool they would rather use. Suggest that they could get the job done with the hand mixer, but it would take a lot more time to get the batter smooth. It would also prove to be very tiring. The electric mixer would be much easier to use. This is because they would be using an additional power source to help with the work.

Point out that oftentimes we try to do things on our own without enlisting the help from our Heavenly Father. He is there for us anytime we are willing to plug into the power source. We will find the burden to be lighter when we seek the guidance and strength of the Lord.

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *More Power Tools for Teaching*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1991], p. 103.)

Story:

“Pray for Her”

Anita R. Canfield

I had to fly to Mexico City one Thursday evening to inspect a project site under my design direction. The clients were leaving on Saturday for a two-month tour of their factories in Europe and the Orient, and there were dozens of questions to be resolved with them and the contractors that Friday. It had been a last-minute

request on their part, and my trip was going to be an overnight but very intense visit.

I arrived at the hotel around midnight and went immediately to sleep. Around 3:00 in the morning, I was awakened by an excruciating, stabbing pain in my mouth with what would be classified as an extreme dental emergency.

My husband had done some dental work on me earlier in the week in preparation for further work the next week. I was in excruciating pain. I didn't know what to do. A million dollars' worth of decisions was resting on me the next day. I had to be clearminded and alert, especially with the language barrier; my Spanish is only adequate and requires great concentration on my part.

My first thought was to call my husband and get the name of a drug that would stop the pain. Then I worried that it wouldn't be the same dosage or type in Mexico. Then I wondered if the concierge would be able to find someone at 3:00 in the morning to even obtain it. And then, with complete realization, it occurred to me that any drug strong enough to knock out this pain would completely knock me out, and I would be useless the next day. I didn't know what to do.

Then came the distinct and clear message: "You have faith. You know what to do."

I climbed out of bed, knelt in prayer, and told the Lord of my situation and all that concerned me, and I asked him to please take away the pain long enough for me to complete my work the next day. Before I said "in the name of Jesus Christ, amen," the pain vanished. Instantly, in a moment, it was gone. I thanked him and went back to sleep.

The next day I was able to answer the questions, make urgent and very critical decisions, and finish on time to catch my flight home. By the time I was in customs in Los Angeles, the pain was returning. When I landed in Las Vegas several hours later, I had another full-blown dental emergency!

But that is not the whole story. Two days later was fast Sunday. In our monthly family testimony meeting, I told of my experience and my witness of the power of faith and prayer.

My fifteen-year-old son grew amazed. I could see his countenance change. When I finished speaking he asked, "Mom, was this Thursday night?"

"Yes," I said.

"And was it about 2:00 in the morning?"

I thought about that. It was 3:00 in Mexico, but with the hour time change, I told him it was 2:00 in Las Vegas.

Suddenly he was filled with emotion and told me the beginning of the story. He had been awakened at 2:00 in the morning that night with a voice that said, "Your mother is in trouble; pray for her." He had slipped out of bed, and on his knees, with real intent, had said, "Heavenly Father, my mom has faith. Tell her what to do."

The Lord heard his prayer and reminded his mother of her faith and that she knew what to do.

(Jay A. Parry, editor, *Everyday Answers*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 40.)

Activity:

Play "Listen."

One player is blindfolded and seated near one end of the room. The other players line up and one at a time attempt to pass "it," without being discovered. Players whom "it" hears passing him drop out. The last player left in the game wins. First player caught is "it" for the new game.

Remind your family that they have to listen, or we may not know the answers to our prayers.

(Alma Heaton, *The LDS Game Book*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1968], p. 103.)

Refreshment

Blueberry Pizza

Crust:

- 1/2 cup butter
- 1/4 cup powdered sugar
- 1 cup flour

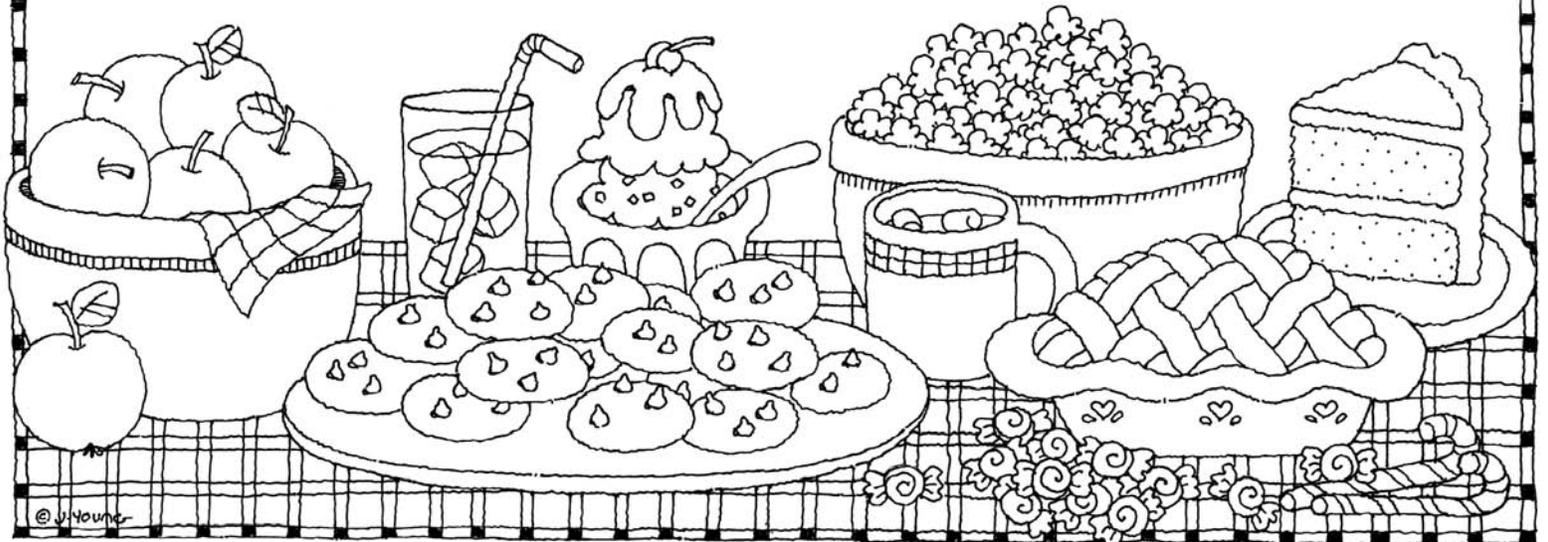
Filling:

- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 8 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 2 cups whipped topping
- 8 ounces blueberry jam

Mix crust ingredients and pat into a well-greased round pizza pan. Bake for 15 minutes at 325 degrees. Let cool.

Beat powdered sugar and cream cheese; fold in whipped topping and spread over crust. Top with jam and chill.

(Holle Eckman and Heather Higgins, *All that Jam*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 2003], p. 102.)



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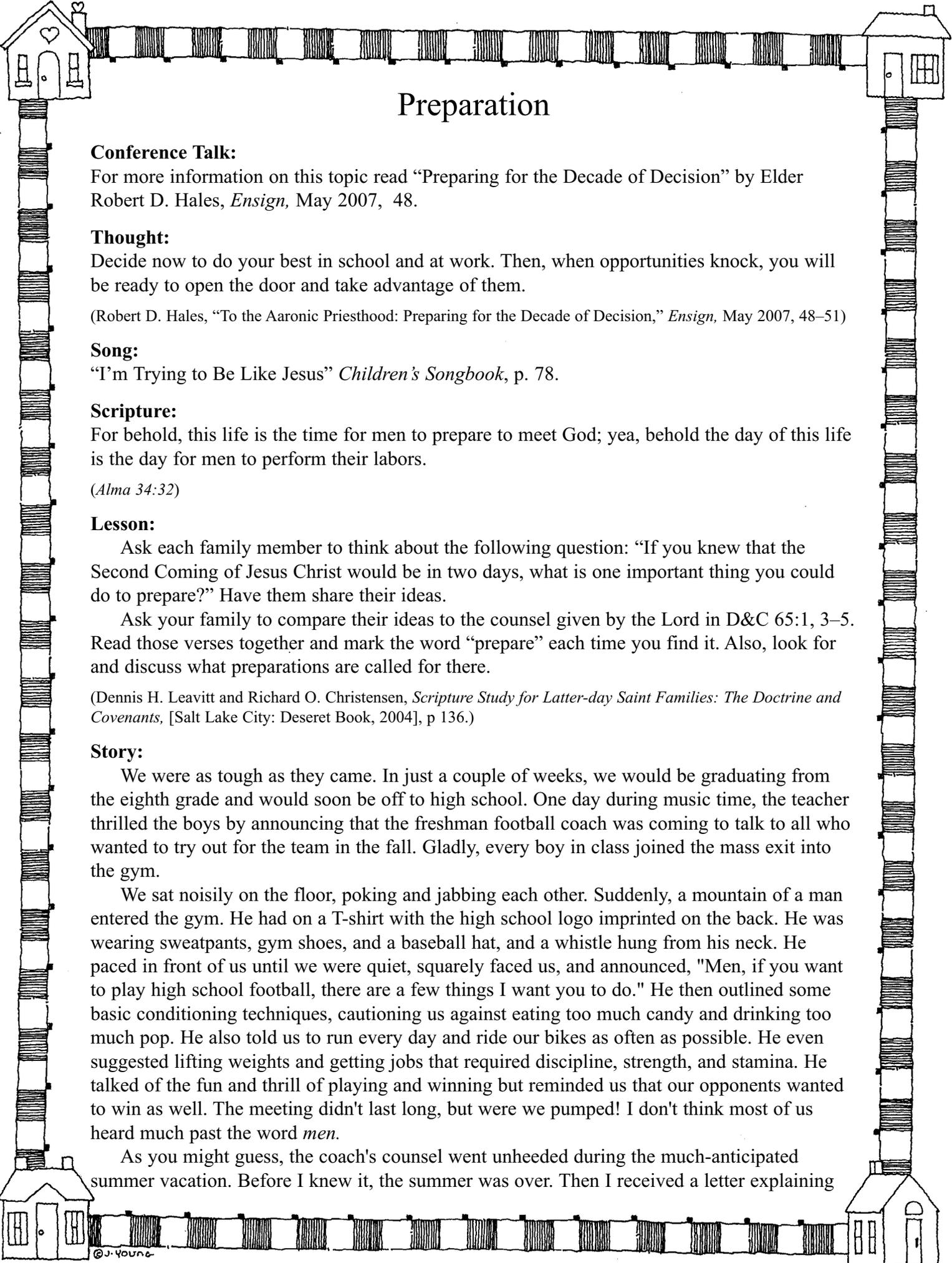
Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Preparation

Packet #120507

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
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Preparation

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read “Preparing for the Decade of Decision” by Elder Robert D. Hales, *Ensign*, May 2007, 48.

Thought:

Decide now to do your best in school and at work. Then, when opportunities knock, you will be ready to open the door and take advantage of them.

(Robert D. Hales, “To the Aaronic Priesthood: Preparing for the Decade of Decision,” *Ensign*, May 2007, 48–51)

Song:

“I’m Trying to Be Like Jesus” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 78.

Scripture:

For behold, this life is the time for men to prepare to meet God; yea, behold the day of this life is the day for men to perform their labors.

(*Alma 34:32*)

Lesson:

Ask each family member to think about the following question: “If you knew that the Second Coming of Jesus Christ would be in two days, what is one important thing you could do to prepare?” Have them share their ideas.

Ask your family to compare their ideas to the counsel given by the Lord in D&C 65:1, 3–5. Read those verses together and mark the word “prepare” each time you find it. Also, look for and discuss what preparations are called for there.

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The Doctrine and Covenants*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2004], p 136.)

Story:

We were as tough as they came. In just a couple of weeks, we would be graduating from the eighth grade and would soon be off to high school. One day during music time, the teacher thrilled the boys by announcing that the freshman football coach was coming to talk to all who wanted to try out for the team in the fall. Gladly, every boy in class joined the mass exit into the gym.

We sat noisily on the floor, poking and jabbing each other. Suddenly, a mountain of a man entered the gym. He had on a T-shirt with the high school logo imprinted on the back. He was wearing sweatpants, gym shoes, and a baseball hat, and a whistle hung from his neck. He paced in front of us until we were quiet, squarely faced us, and announced, “Men, if you want to play high school football, there are a few things I want you to do.” He then outlined some basic conditioning techniques, cautioning us against eating too much candy and drinking too much pop. He also told us to run every day and ride our bikes as often as possible. He even suggested lifting weights and getting jobs that required discipline, strength, and stamina. He talked of the fun and thrill of playing and winning but reminded us that our opponents wanted to win as well. The meeting didn’t last long, but were we pumped! I don’t think most of us heard much past the word *men*.

As you might guess, the coach’s counsel went unheeded during the much-anticipated summer vacation. Before I knew it, the summer was over. Then I received a letter explaining

when and where to pick up my football gear. . . .

We were ordered onto the field to warm up by knocking shoulder pads with each other. It felt sort of funny but good. We were then assigned positions according to size and to where we happened to be standing. We were taught a few plays that we practiced for about thirty minutes. The weather was hot, and we were all thirsty. The coach blew the whistle, and we all lined up on the goal line. We expected a short pep talk, then the welcome coolness of the showers. We were mistaken. He said, "When I blow the whistle, you run full speed down to the twenty-yard line and line up there." We didn't see much sense in that, but we all obeyed anyway. At the twenty-yard line, he blew the whistle again and had us run back to the goal line. Now things were getting ridiculous. Why would he want us to just run back and forth?

On the second sprint, several of my friends ran off to the side, ripped off their helmets, and started throwing up. I guess the combination of heat, physical exertion, and poor physical condition took its toll. I laughed to myself. On the way back from the twenty-yard line, several more dropped out. On the next trip to the twenty-yard line, I started feeling sick. More dropped out. On the way back to the goal line, I dropped out and joined my friends.

The coach called us all together and sternly chewed us out for not taking seriously his challenge to prepare. He informed us that we would meet at six the next morning for a three-hour workout and then run some more wind sprints. Several kids muttered unmentionable words under their breath and assured him they wouldn't be there. They walked to the locker room and turned in their gear. No glory for them.

True to his word, we started practice at six the next morning. Although it wasn't as hot as the day before, most of us had lost our breakfast by the end of practice—including me, about halfway through the wind sprints. About six or seven boys walked off the field when the coach announced that we would meet again at 4:30 that afternoon for another practice session. Turning in their equipment, they told us how stupid we were to put up with such nonsense. They challenged us all to boycott the practice and show the coach a thing or two. We declined.

The afternoon practice was terrible. Several times, I entertained thoughts of quitting. . . . More than half the team quit that afternoon.

The next morning, we were wondering if the coach was trying to kill us. We decided among ourselves that we were as tough as he was and would not give up, no matter what. No one dropped out after that. The soreness was gone after about a week, and practices started to be fun. Our anticipation of the first game greatly increased our excitement. By the end of the season, we determined that the coach was right—football was fun! We were the mighty freshman football team, and our motto became No Guts, No Glory.

The lessons I learned from this experience also apply to preparing for [other experiences including serving] a mission. Too many young men and women seem to think all they have to do is show up and they will be prepared to serve. . . . Start preparing today by doing what missionaries do. What a shame it is to be unprepared when it's your time to play.

(Randy L. Bott, *Prepare With Honor*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book 1995], p. 1–3)

Activity:

Play "Find Your Home Town."

A map is placed on the wall and the participants are blindfolded and given pins. The one who can stick his pin closest to his own home town wins the game.

Liken the game to preparation. When we are unprepared it is as if we are blindfolded. If we are prepared, we will be better able to "see" and know what to expect of each situation.

(Alma Heaton, *The LDS Game Book*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1968], p. 121.)

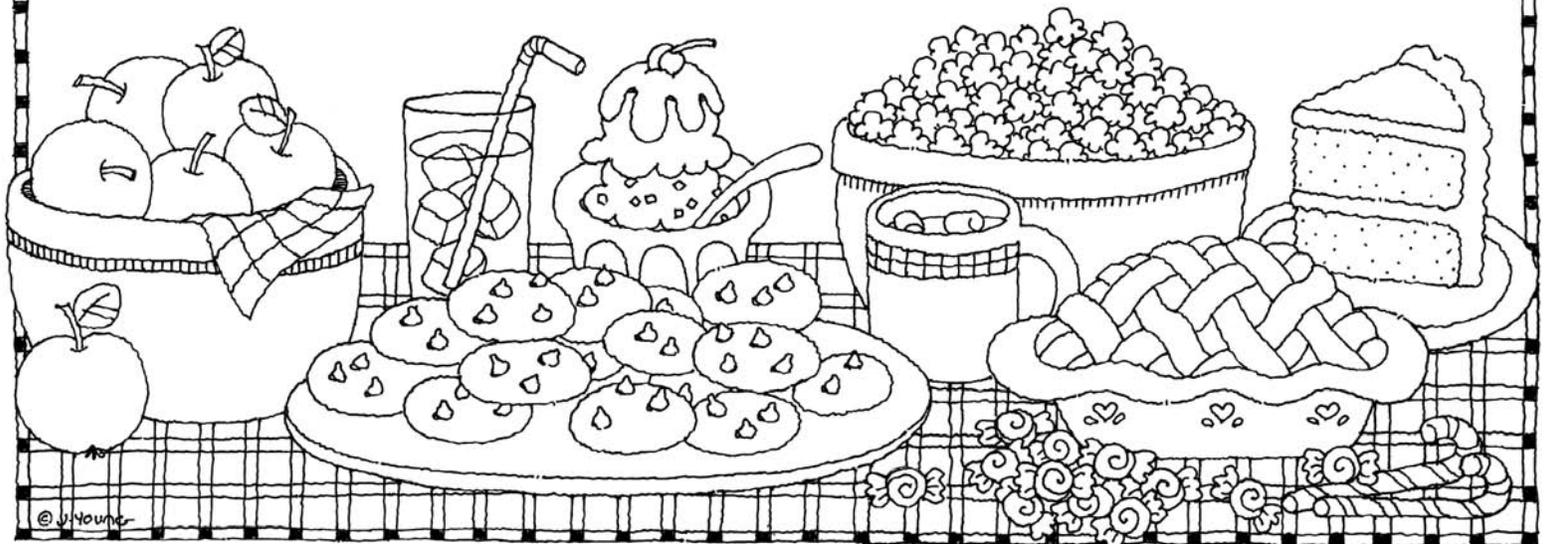
Refreshment

Caramel Krisps

3 tablespoons butter
4 cups miniature marshmallows
1/2 cup caramel ice cream topping
6 cups Kellogg's® Rice Krispies cereal

Melt the butter in large saucepan over low heat. Add the marshmallows and stir until completely melted. Remove from heat. Add caramel topping, stirring until well mixed. Add the cereal and stir until it is well coated. Butter a 9 x 13-inch baking dish. Pour in the cereal mixture and press it into pan with a buttered spatula. Cool, and then cut into 24 squares.

(Clark L. and Kathryn H. Kidd, *52 Weeks of Recipes for Students, Missionaries, and Nervous Cooks*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2007], p. 73.)



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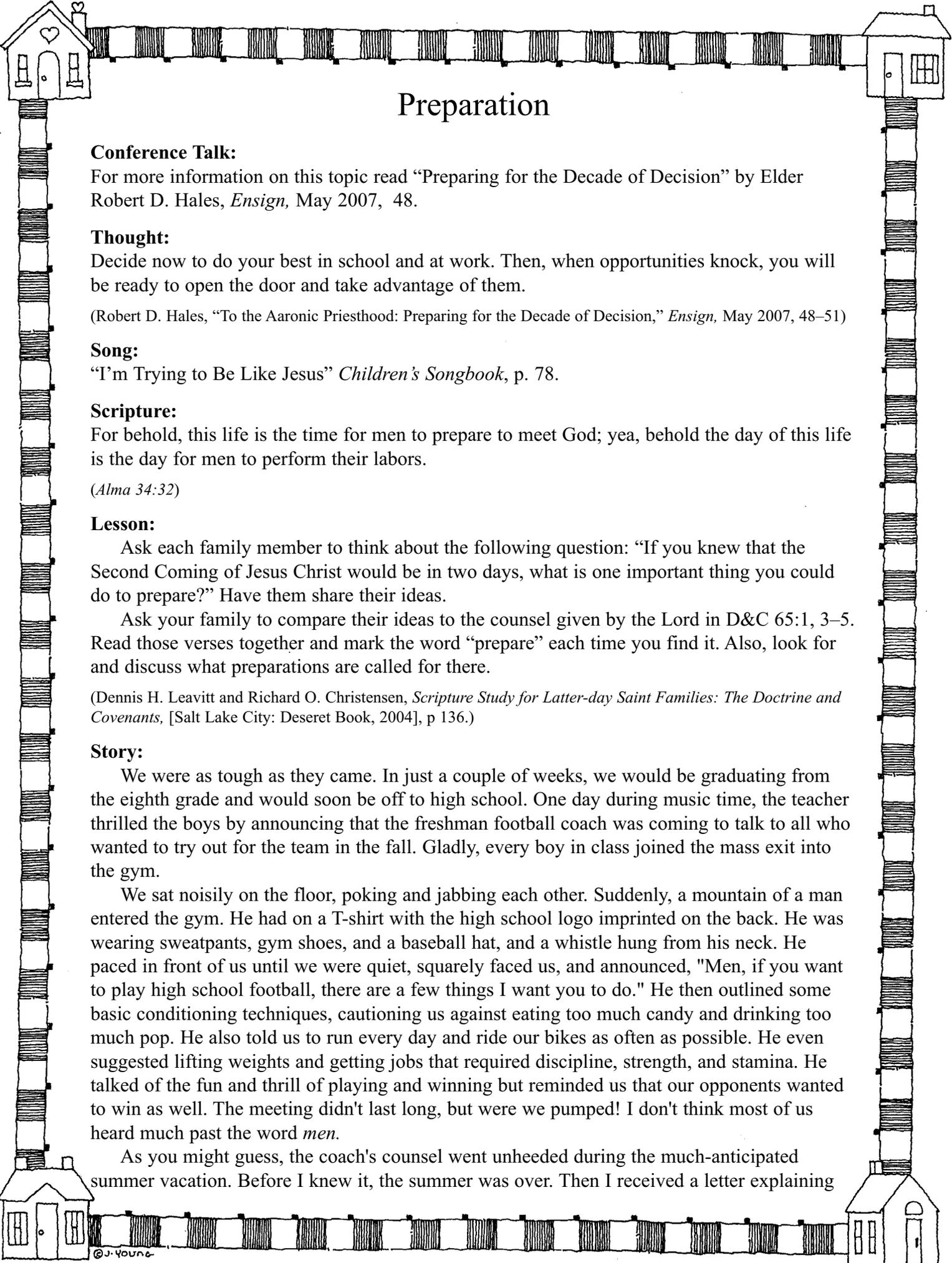
Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Preparation

Packet #120507

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Preparation

Conference Talk:

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Thought:

Decide now to do your best in school and at work. Then, when opportunities knock, you will be ready to open the door and take advantage of them.

(Robert D. Hales, “To the Aaronic Priesthood: Preparing for the Decade of Decision,” *Ensign*, May 2007, 48–51)

Song:

“I’m Trying to Be Like Jesus” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 78.

Scripture:

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(*Alma 34:32*)

Lesson:

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Story:

We were as tough as they came. In just a couple of weeks, we would be graduating from the eighth grade and would soon be off to high school. One day during music time, the teacher thrilled the boys by announcing that the freshman football coach was coming to talk to all who wanted to try out for the team in the fall. Gladly, every boy in class joined the mass exit into the gym.

We sat noisily on the floor, poking and jabbing each other. Suddenly, a mountain of a man entered the gym. He had on a T-shirt with the high school logo imprinted on the back. He was wearing sweatpants, gym shoes, and a baseball hat, and a whistle hung from his neck. He paced in front of us until we were quiet, squarely faced us, and announced, “Men, if you want to play high school football, there are a few things I want you to do.” He then outlined some basic conditioning techniques, cautioning us against eating too much candy and drinking too much pop. He also told us to run every day and ride our bikes as often as possible. He even suggested lifting weights and getting jobs that required discipline, strength, and stamina. He talked of the fun and thrill of playing and winning but reminded us that our opponents wanted to win as well. The meeting didn’t last long, but were we pumped! I don’t think most of us heard much past the word *men*.

As you might guess, the coach’s counsel went unheeded during the much-anticipated summer vacation. Before I knew it, the summer was over. Then I received a letter explaining

when and where to pick up my football gear. . . .

We were ordered onto the field to warm up by knocking shoulder pads with each other. It felt sort of funny but good. We were then assigned positions according to size and to where we happened to be standing. We were taught a few plays that we practiced for about thirty minutes. The weather was hot, and we were all thirsty. The coach blew the whistle, and we all lined up on the goal line. We expected a short pep talk, then the welcome coolness of the showers. We were mistaken. He said, "When I blow the whistle, you run full speed down to the twenty-yard line and line up there." We didn't see much sense in that, but we all obeyed anyway. At the twenty-yard line, he blew the whistle again and had us run back to the goal line. Now things were getting ridiculous. Why would he want us to just run back and forth?

On the second sprint, several of my friends ran off to the side, ripped off their helmets, and started throwing up. I guess the combination of heat, physical exertion, and poor physical condition took its toll. I laughed to myself. On the way back from the twenty-yard line, several more dropped out. On the next trip to the twenty-yard line, I started feeling sick. More dropped out. On the way back to the goal line, I dropped out and joined my friends.

The coach called us all together and sternly chewed us out for not taking seriously his challenge to prepare. He informed us that we would meet at six the next morning for a three-hour workout and then run some more wind sprints. Several kids muttered unmentionable words under their breath and assured him they wouldn't be there. They walked to the locker room and turned in their gear. No glory for them.

True to his word, we started practice at six the next morning. Although it wasn't as hot as the day before, most of us had lost our breakfast by the end of practice—including me, about halfway through the wind sprints. About six or seven boys walked off the field when the coach announced that we would meet again at 4:30 that afternoon for another practice session. Turning in their equipment, they told us how stupid we were to put up with such nonsense. They challenged us all to boycott the practice and show the coach a thing or two. We declined.

The afternoon practice was terrible. Several times, I entertained thoughts of quitting. . . . More than half the team quit that afternoon.

The next morning, we were wondering if the coach was trying to kill us. We decided among ourselves that we were as tough as he was and would not give up, no matter what. No one dropped out after that. The soreness was gone after about a week, and practices started to be fun. Our anticipation of the first game greatly increased our excitement. By the end of the season, we determined that the coach was right—football was fun! We were the mighty freshman football team, and our motto became No Guts, No Glory.

The lessons I learned from this experience also apply to preparing for [other experiences including serving] a mission. Too many young men and women seem to think all they have to do is show up and they will be prepared to serve. . . . Start preparing today by doing what missionaries do. What a shame it is to be unprepared when it's your time to play.

(Randy L. Bott, *Prepare With Honor*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book 1995], p. 1–3)

Activity:

Play "Find Your Home Town."

A map is placed on the wall and the participants are blindfolded and given pins. The one who can stick his pin closest to his own home town wins the game.

Liken the game to preparation. When we are unprepared it is as if we are blindfolded. If we are prepared, we will be better able to "see" and know what to expect of each situation.

(Alma Heaton, *The LDS Game Book*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1968], p. 121.)

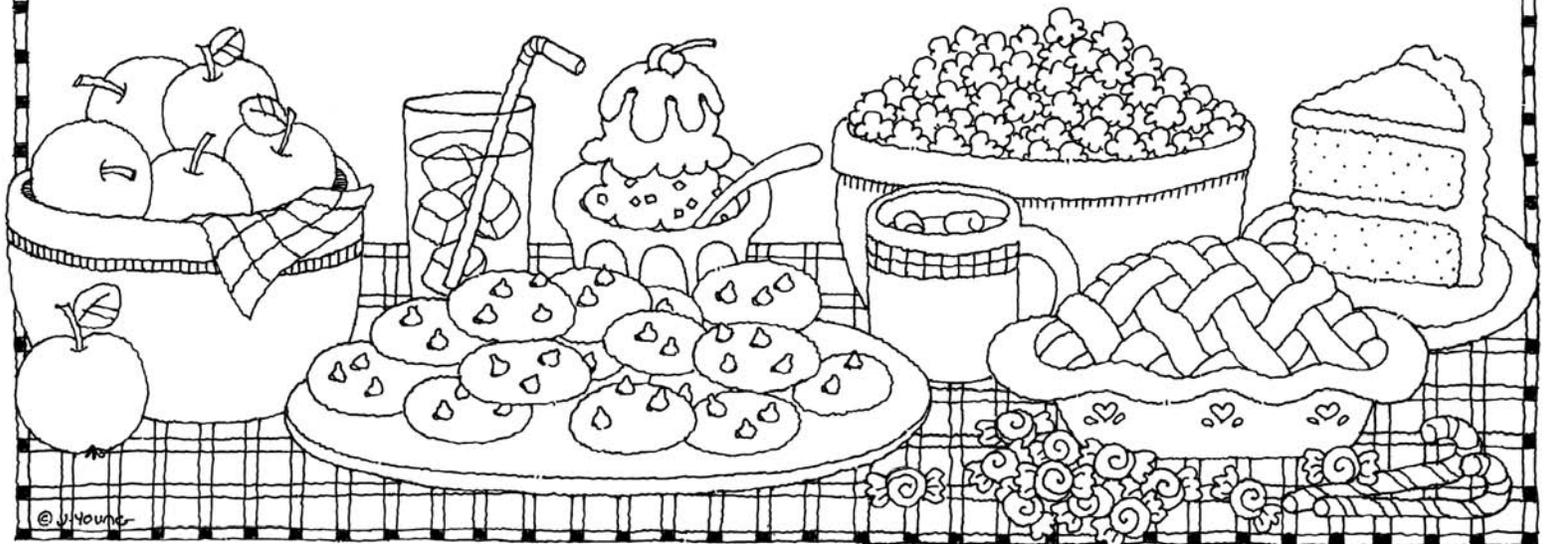
Refreshment

Caramel Krisps

3 tablespoons butter
4 cups miniature marshmallows
1/2 cup caramel ice cream topping
6 cups Kellogg's® Rice Krispies cereal

Melt the butter in large saucepan over low heat. Add the marshmallows and stir until completely melted. Remove from heat. Add caramel topping, stirring until well mixed. Add the cereal and stir until it is well coated. Butter a 9 x 13-inch baking dish. Pour in the cereal mixture and press it into pan with a buttered spatula. Cool, and then cut into 24 squares.

(Clark L. and Kathryn H. Kidd, *52 Weeks of Recipes for Students, Missionaries, and Nervous Cooks*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2007], p. 73.)



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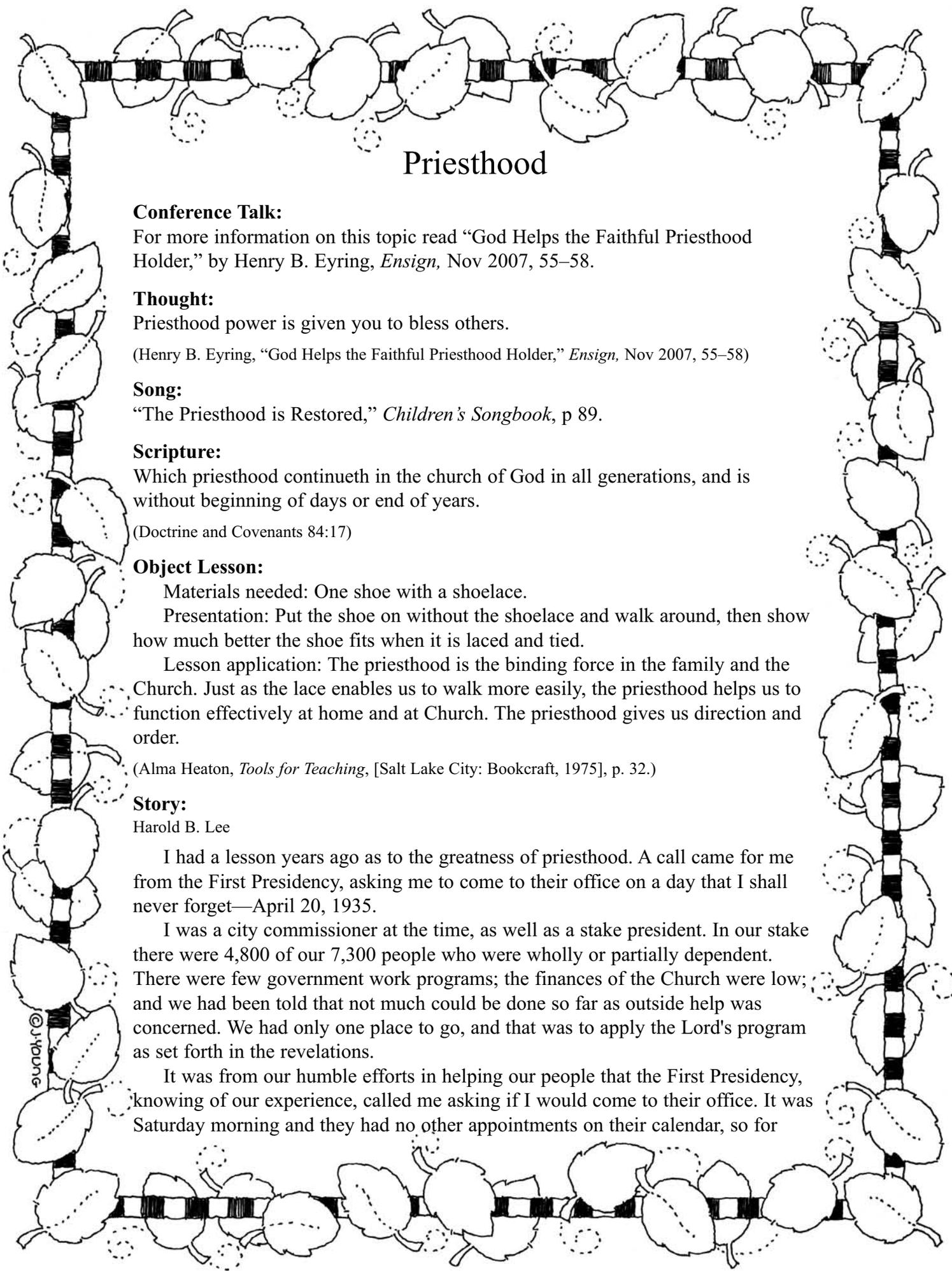
Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Priesthood

Packet #060208

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
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- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.



Priesthood

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read “God Helps the Faithful Priesthood Holder,” by Henry B. Eyring, *Ensign*, Nov 2007, 55–58.

Thought:

Priesthood power is given you to bless others.

(Henry B. Eyring, “God Helps the Faithful Priesthood Holder,” *Ensign*, Nov 2007, 55–58)

Song:

“The Priesthood is Restored,” *Children’s Songbook*, p 89.

Scripture:

Which priesthood continueth in the church of God in all generations, and is without beginning of days or end of years.

(Doctrine and Covenants 84:17)

Object Lesson:

Materials needed: One shoe with a shoelace.

Presentation: Put the shoe on without the shoelace and walk around, then show how much better the shoe fits when it is laced and tied.

Lesson application: The priesthood is the binding force in the family and the Church. Just as the lace enables us to walk more easily, the priesthood helps us to function effectively at home and at Church. The priesthood gives us direction and order.

(Alma Heaton, *Tools for Teaching*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1975], p. 32.)

Story:

Harold B. Lee

I had a lesson years ago as to the greatness of priesthood. A call came for me from the First Presidency, asking me to come to their office on a day that I shall never forget—April 20, 1935.

I was a city commissioner at the time, as well as a stake president. In our stake there were 4,800 of our 7,300 people who were wholly or partially dependent. There were few government work programs; the finances of the Church were low; and we had been told that not much could be done so far as outside help was concerned. We had only one place to go, and that was to apply the Lord's program as set forth in the revelations.

It was from our humble efforts in helping our people that the First Presidency, knowing of our experience, called me asking if I would come to their office. It was Saturday morning and they had no other appointments on their calendar, so for

hours they talked with me. They told me they wanted me to resign from the city commission and they would release me from being stake president; they wished me now to head up the welfare movement to turn the tide from government relief and help put the Church in a position where it could take care of its own needy.

After that morning I drove my car up to the head of City Creek Canyon into what was then called Rotary Park, and there, all by myself, I offered one of the most humble prayers of my life.

There I was, just a young man in my thirties. My experience had been limited. I was born in a little country town in Idaho and had hardly been outside the boundaries of the states of Utah and Idaho. And now, to put me in a position where I was to reach out to the entire membership of the Church worldwide, was one of the most staggering contemplations I could imagine. How could I do it with my limited understanding?

As I knelt down, my petition was, "What kind of an organization should be set up in order to accomplish what the Presidency has assigned?" And there came to me on that glorious morning one of the most heavenly realizations of the power of the priesthood of God. It was as though something were saying to me, "There is no new organization necessary to take care of the needs of this people. All that is necessary is to put the priesthood of God to work. There is nothing else that you need as a substitute."

(Best-Loved Stories of the LDS People, Vol. 2, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2004], p. 54.)

Activity:

Play "Robot." Have Dad be the robot. Little children sit on his shoulders, larger ones control him standing beside him. Two taps on his head tell him to go forward. One tap means to stop. A tug on the right ear means to go to the right, and a tug on the left ear means turn left.

Let everyone have a turn "controlling" Dad.

Remind the family that Dad holds the priesthood and that gives him the authority to act in God's name. When he is using the priesthood, he needs to listen to God and follow His commands.

(adapted from Mina S. Coletti and Roberta Kling Giese, The Family Idea Book Two, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1982], p. 103.)

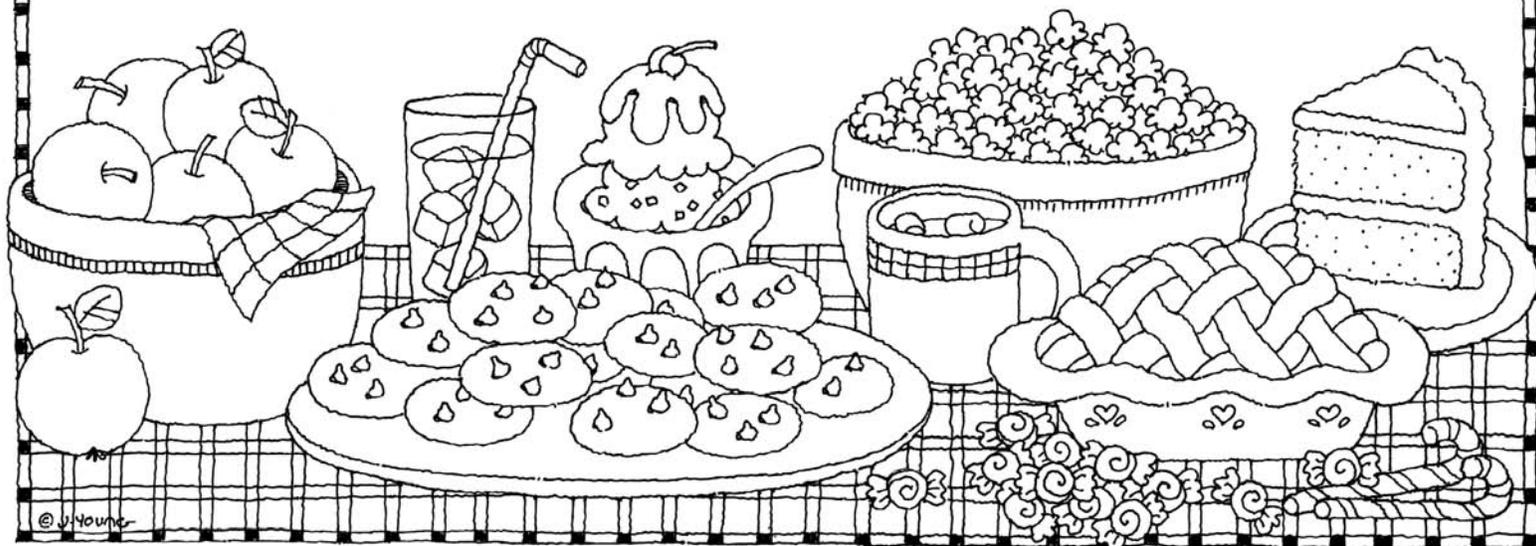
Refreshment

Frozen Raspberry Delight

- 2 c. crushed chocolate wafer cookies
- 1/3 c. butter or margarine, melted
- 1/4 c. sugar
- 1 c. chocolate fudge sauce, softened
- 1 qt. vanilla ice cream, slightly softened
- 1 pt. raspberry sherbet, slightly softened
- 1 (12-oz.) pkg. frozen raspberries (without syrup)
- 1 (8-oz.) tub frozen whipped topping, thawed

In a medium bowl, combine chocolate wafers, melted butter, and sugar; mix well. Reserve 1/4 cup to use as topping. Press remaining crust into 9x13-inch pan. Refrigerate 15 minutes. Spread chocolate fudge sauce over crust. Spoon vanilla ice cream over chocolate. Place spoonfuls of sherbet randomly over ice cream; use a knife to swirl gently. Top with raspberries gently pressed into ice cream. Spread whipped topping over berries and top with reserved crumbs. Cover; freeze 6 hours or overnight. Let stand at room temperature for 15 to 20 minutes before serving. Serves 20.

(Compiled by Elaine Cannon, *5 Star Recipes*, [Salt Lake City: Eagle Gate, 2002], p. 205.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Priorities

Packet #110107

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
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Priorities

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read “Who’s on the Lord’s Side?” by Charles H. Dahlquist, *Ensign*, May 2007, 94.

Thought:

Each day of your life you will make choices, the result of which will land you either on one side of that line or on the other. And so I issue the challenge: . . . live your life in such a way that when you are faced with a choice between good and evil and when deep inside you can hear the question, “Who’s on the Lord’s side?”—you will be prepared to answer with all your strength, “I am!”

(Charles W. Dahlquist II, “Who’s on the Lord’s Side?,” *Ensign*, May 2007, 94–96)

Song:

“Who’s On the Lord’s Side?” *Hymns*, 260.

Scripture:

Choose you this day whom ye will serve; . . . but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

(Joshua 24:15)

Object Lesson:

Materials needed: A yellow felt-tip pen. A marked book.

Procedure: Show the pen to the class and a page from the book that has been marked. Explain that you used the marker to emphasize important passages. This helps you to recognize essential points when you review for a test. In our everyday lives many things demand our time and attention.

The gospel gives us the perspective we need to emphasize those things which are truly important. If we use the gospel to set priorities, we will be able to pass the “test” of this mortal existence.

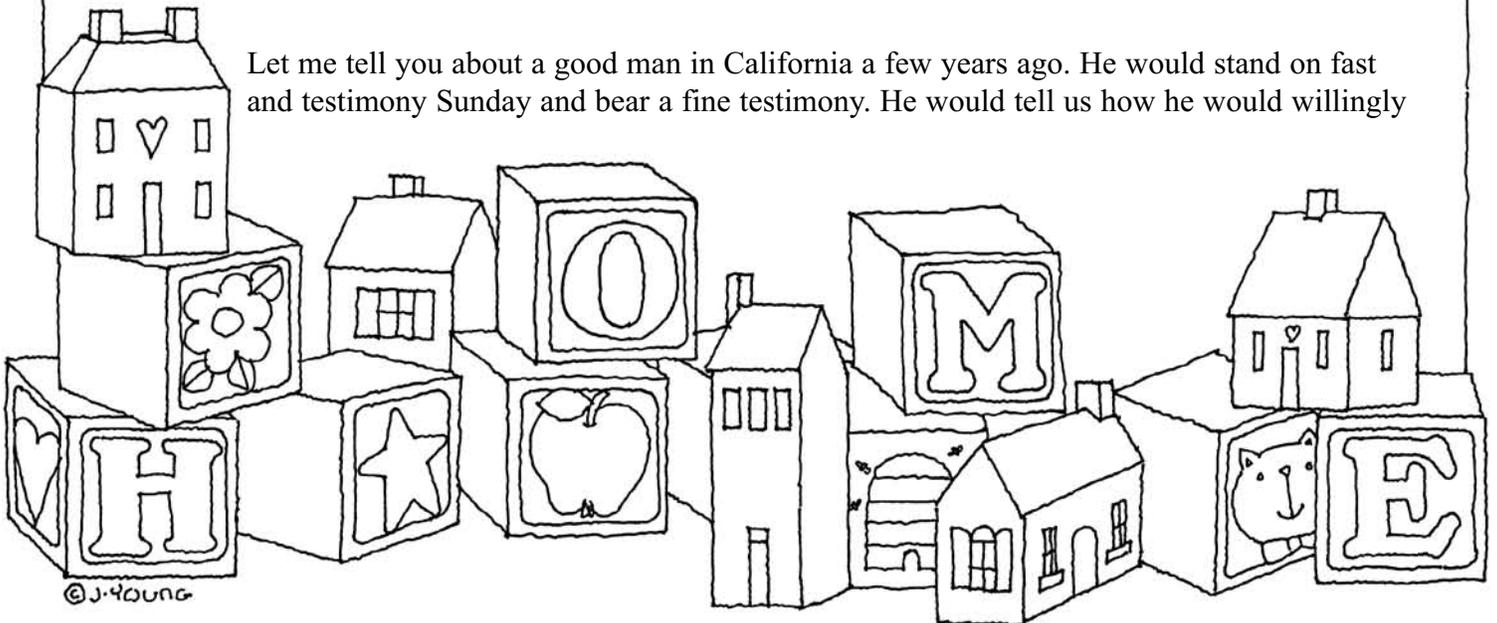
(Alma Heaton, *Tools for Teaching*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1979], p.35.)

Story:

"It Sounded True, It Sounded Real"

(Bishop Robert L. Simpson)

Let me tell you about a good man in California a few years ago. He would stand on fast and testimony Sunday and bear a fine testimony. He would tell us how he would willingly



give his life for the Church when the persecutions come upon us again—someday. It sounded true, it sounded real. Then we would meet this good brother out in the foyer afterward and shake his hand and thank him for sharing his testimony with us. We would say something like, “Now, Brother So-and-so, how about home teaching next Tuesday night?” “Well,” he would reply, “I am sorry, but I have been watching [my favorite TV show] on Tuesday nights, and I will not be able to make it. But some day I am going to give my life for this great Church, some day I am going to make the great sacrifice, but I cannot be available next Tuesday night. I have some personal interests to take care of!”

My dear young friends, you know as well as I that when that someday might come, this good man will not be available to his Heavenly Father. He will not be standing in defense of what he believes, because he will perhaps have a personal interest that will take priority.

(Leon R. Hartshorn, *Outstanding Stories by General Authorities*, vol. 2, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1971].)

Activity:

Play “Who’s the Leader?”

Players stand in a circle. One player leaves the room. A leader is selected, and the whole group of players begin to clap. This is the signal for the player who left the room to return. he goes to the center of the circle and tries to find out which player is leading the group in its action. In the meantime the leader changes from clapping to jumping, hopping, patting his head, and immediately the players do the same thing. Sometimes it takes quite a while for the player in the center to discover who the leader is, especially if the group members do not watch the leader. They can watch others in the circle and get the next action as quickly as watching the leader. This game is good played to music.

(Alma Heaton, *The LDS Game Book*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1968], 299.)

Explain that if we know what our priorities are and are determined to do good, we will be able to follow good examples (and ignore those that are bad).

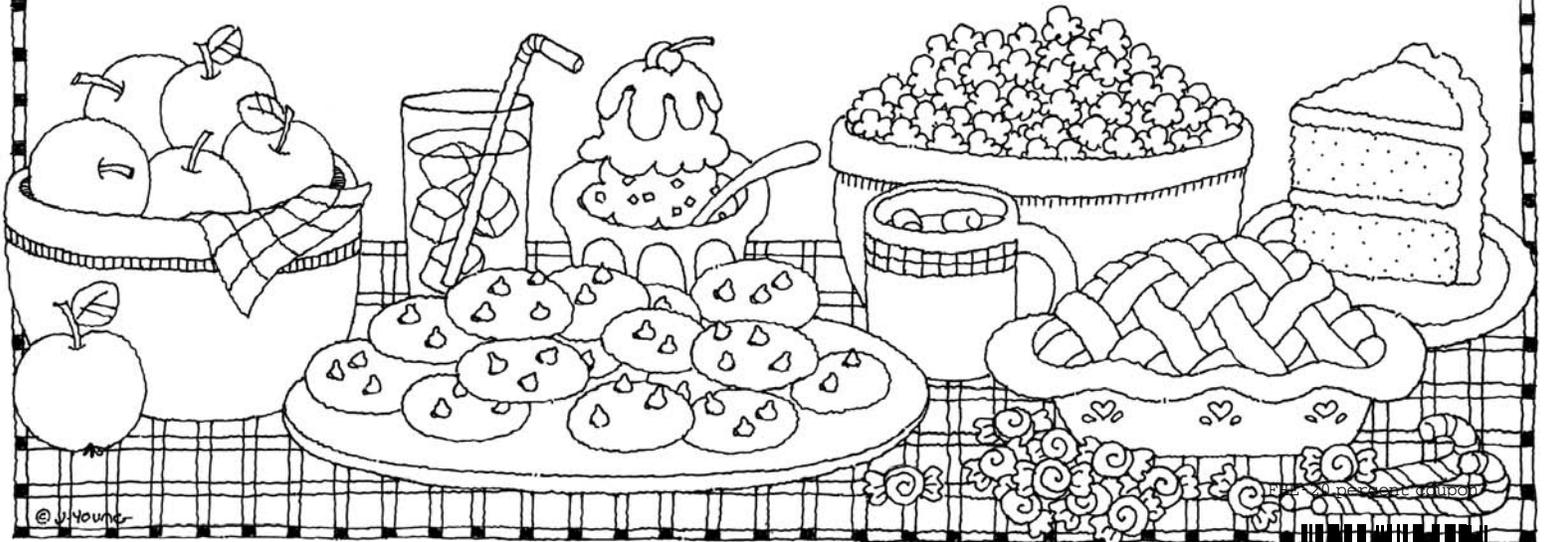
Refreshment

Quick Caramel Corn

- 2 gallons popped corn (1 cup unpopped)
- 1/2 cup butter
- 2 cups packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup light corn syrup
- 1 tablespoon water
- Pinch baking soda

Place popped corn in a large pan; set aside. Melt butter in saucepan. Add brown sugar, corn syrup, and water. Cook and stir until mixture reaches a hard boil. Add a pinch of baking soda. Remove from heat and pour over popcorn. Stir to coat thoroughly. Cool; then break into clusters. Store in covered container. Makes 12 to 18 servings.

(Lion House Christmas, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 2006], 136.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Priorities

Packet #110107

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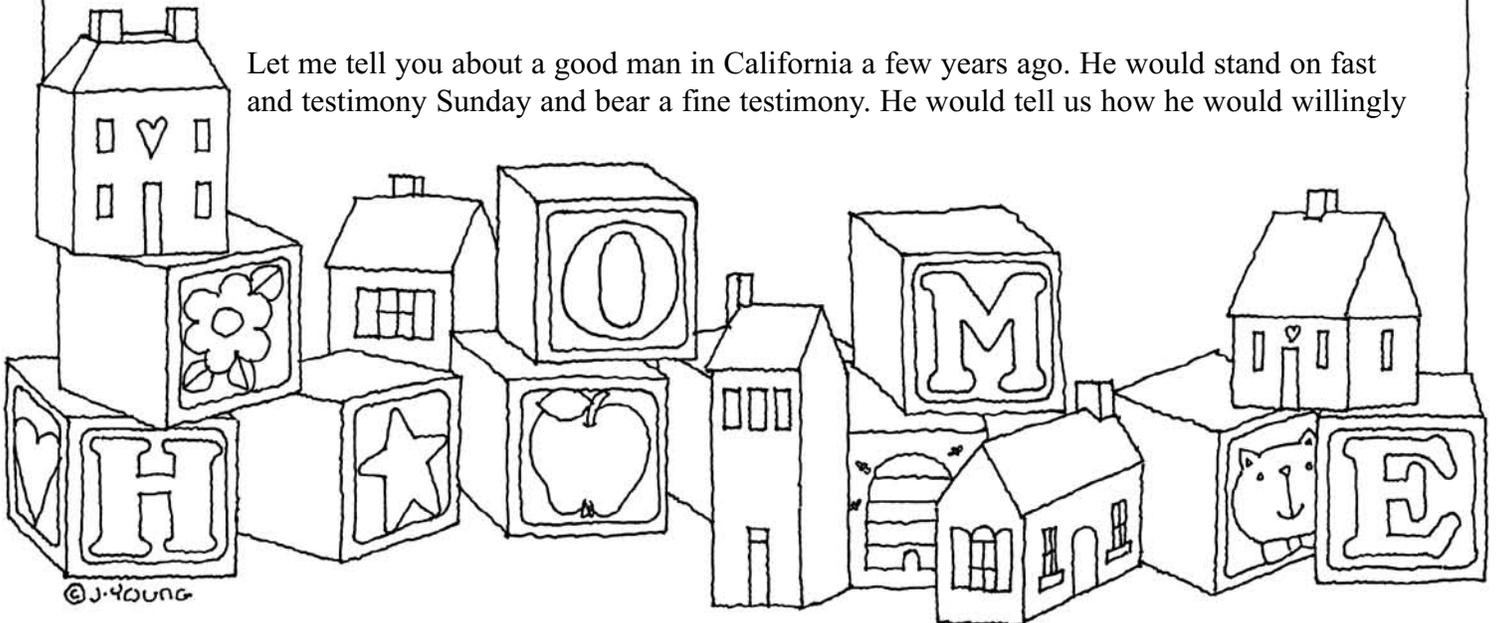
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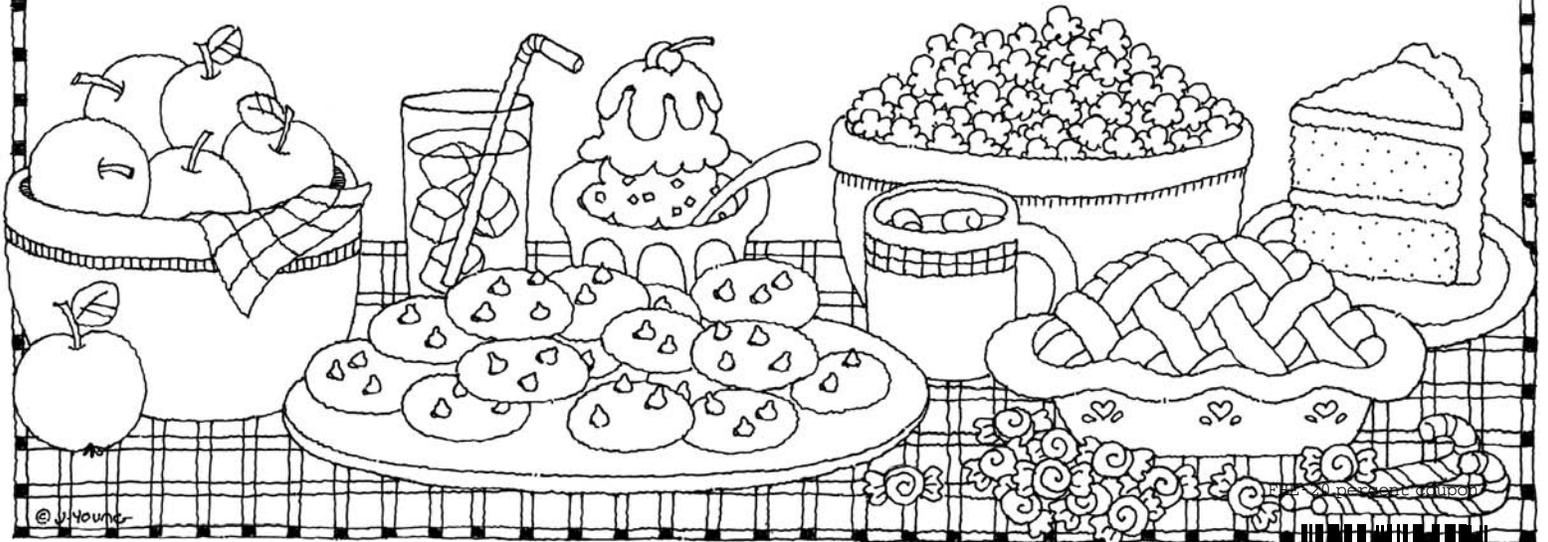
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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Priorities

Packet #040308

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

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Priorities

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read “Good, Better, Best,” by Dallin H. Oaks, *Ensign*, Nov 2007, 104–8.

Thought:

We have to forego some good things in order to choose others that are better or best because they develop faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and strengthen our families.

(Dallin H. Oaks, “Good, Better, Best,” *Ensign*, Nov 2007, 104–8.)

Song:

“Choose the Right Way,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 160.

Scripture:

Say unto this people: Choose ye this day, to serve the Lord God who made you.

(Moses 6:33)

Lesson:

Show your family a picture of the Savior, some money, and an article of clothing. Ask your family to think about how they would rank these three items in importance. Have a family member read Matthew 6:24 and then discuss the following questions:

- What is mammon? (See footnote 24e.)
- How can worldly possessions get in the way of gaining a strong testimony?
- How might the Savior rank these three items in importance?

Explain to your family that riches can be used for good if we seek God first. Ask a family member to read Jacob 2:18–19 and Matthew 6:33 (include footnote 33a). Share your feelings regarding putting God first and how that priority has blessed your life.

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The New Testament*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2006], p. 14.)

Story:

It was a very hot summer day. Five-year-old Joshua was riding his bike in the park. He was hot and tired, so he stopped to rest. At the snack stand, Joshua saw some other boys buying ice cream cones. He wished he had an ice cream cone too. One of the boys saw Joshua and asked, “Do you want some ice cream?” Joshua nodded. “I’ll trade you my ice cream cone for your bike,” the boy offered. Joshua looked at his bike and then at the ice cream, trying to decide what to do. Just then, his older brother came looking for him. What do you think happened?

After the family has finished the story, explain that to trade the bike for the ice cream would not have been a fair trade. The bike was more valuable. Joshua was tempted to trade because he was hot and the ice cream looked so good.

Satan tempts us in a similar way, He tries to tempt us to be disobedient to Heavenly Father’s commandments. If we choose to follow Satan’s temptations, we trade the blessings

Heavenly Father has promised us. They are much more valuable than the momentary pleasures Satan tries to tempt us with.

Challenge the family to think of things that Satan tempts them to do. Compare them with the blessings Heavenly Father offers them. Ask them if it would be a good trade.

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *Sharing Time, Family Time, Anytime: Book Two* [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1997].)

Activity:

Play “Slide Right.”

All players, except one, are seated in a closed circle which contains one empty chair. One player is “it” and stands in the center. He tries to seat himself in the vacant chair that is continually being taken by the person next to it. “It” calls “slide right” or “slide left” and thus controls the direction the group moves. When he calls “slide right,” the person who finds the chair on his right empty, must slide into it. When “slide left” is called, each player is responsible for occupying the vacant chair on his left. When “it” gets a chair, the person who should have taken the chair becomes “it.”

Discuss how Satan is constantly trying to get into our lives.

(Alma Heaton, *The LDS Game Book*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1968], p. 43.)

Refreshment

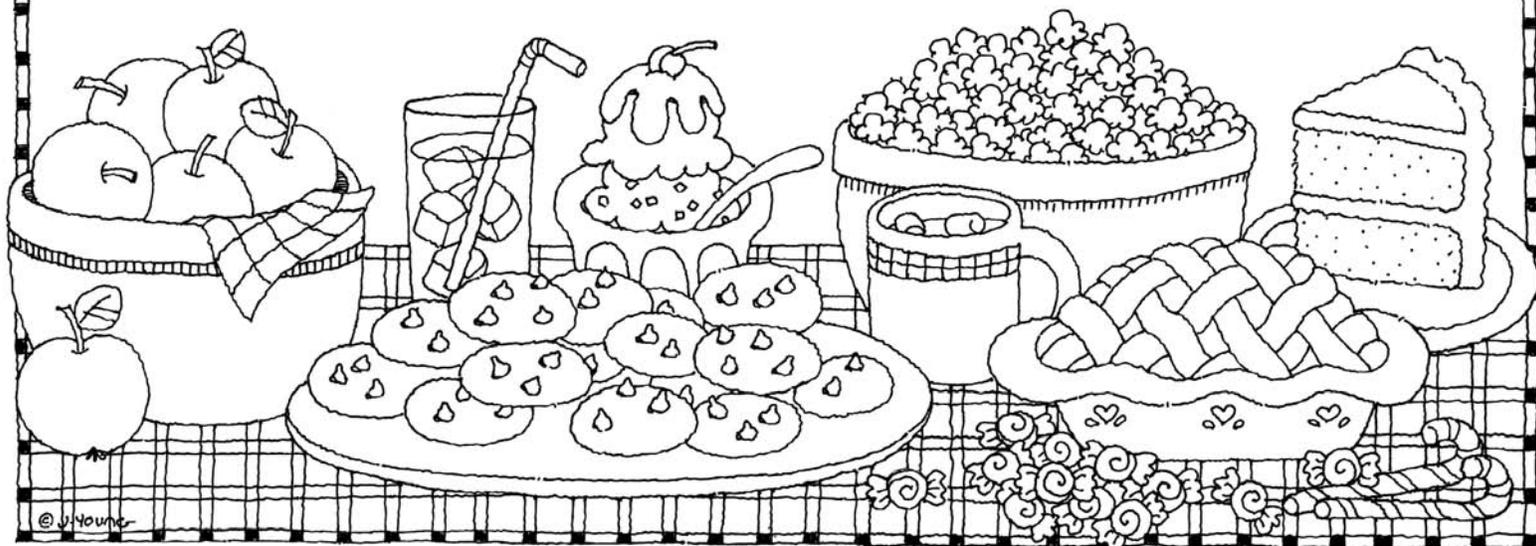
Peanut Butter Cookies

They'll disappear!

- 1 cup butter or margarine
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup peanut butter
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 3 cups flour
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- Sugar
- Hershey's® candy kisses (optional)

In a bowl, cream together butter or margarine, sugar, brown sugar, eggs, peanut butter, and vanilla. In a separate bowl, stir together flour, baking soda, and salt; add to creamed mixture and beat together. Roll dough into 1 1/2-inch balls and roll in sugar. Bake at 375 degrees for 8 to 10 minutes. While still warm, place Hershey's candy kiss on top, if desired. Makes 5 dozen cookies.

(Julie Badger Jensen, *Essential Mormon Celebrations*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2005], p. 66.)



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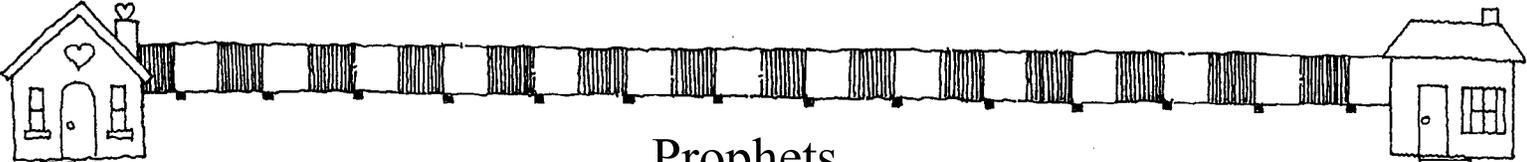
Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Prophets

Packet #090508

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
- 3. Involvement.** Involve everyone in the family; help little children take part.
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Prophets

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read “Looking Back and Moving Forward,” by Thomas S. Monson, *Ensign*, May 2008, 87–90.

Thought:

I have the sure knowledge . . . that God directs His prophet.

(Thomas S. Monson, “Looking Back and Moving Forward,” *Ensign*, May 2008, 87–90.)

Song:

“Latter-day Prophets” *Children’s Songbook*, p.134.

Updated words from the June 2008 *Friend*:

Latter-day prophets are: number one,
Joseph Smith; then Brigham Young;
John Taylor came third, we know;
Then Wilford Woodruff; Lorenzo Snow;
Joseph F. Smith (remember the F);
Heber J. Grant; and George Albert Smith;
David O. McKay was followed by Joseph Fielding Smith,
Then Harold B. Lee, Spencer W. Kimball,
Ezra Taft Benson, Howard W. Hunter.
Gordon B. Hinckley, Thomas S. Monson.
These are the latter-day prophets.

Scripture:

Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.

(Amos 3:7)

Lesson:

Before telling the story of Samuel the Lamanite, have a bag of large marshmallows on hand.

The story of Samuel the Lamanite is found in Helaman, chapters 13 through 15. The following scriptures are significant: Helaman 13:2–6; 14:2–5, 9–11, 20–21, 29–31; 16:1–2. How we respond to the prophet’s counsel is a good indication of how committed we are to the Lord.

Have Dad (or Mom or another family member) play the role of the prophet Samuel. He can stand on a table, at the top of the stairs, or somewhere else where he is higher than the rest of the family. He will then call out to the family, admonishing them to live gospel standards. The family, on the other hand, will role-play the part of the wicked Nephites who refused to hearken to the prophet. They will refuse to keep the standards and will attempt to hit the prophet (Dad) with stones (marshmallows).

For example, Dad could say, “The Lord commands you to dress modestly.” The family would respond, “No! We don’t care what the Lord wants. We won’t dress modestly!” Dad could say, “Don’t date until you’re sixteen.” The family could shout back, “We will date when we are fifteen if we want to!”

At the end of the activity, ask the family how it felt to reject the prophet. Read in the Book of

Mormon about the consequences the Nephites faced for rejecting Samuel the Lamanite and stoning other prophets in their day (3 Nephi 9:1–4, 10–12).

The consequences for not following the prophet today are just as serious. The Savior is coming soon and we need to be prepared. The prophet is like a watchman on a tower. Just like Samuel the Lamanite, he is standing on higher ground and can see farther ahead. He is a prophet, seer, and revelator, which means that Heavenly Father shows him the future and lets him know what we need to do to be prepared. Even if we aren't physically throwing rocks at the prophet, we are still rejecting him when we do not do what he says.

(Deborah Pace Rowley, *Before They Turn Twelve*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2007], p. 6.)

Story:

by Arch Madsen

I remember being in New York when President [David O.] McKay returned from Europe. Arrangements had been made for pictures to be taken, but the regular photographer was unable to go, so in desperation the United Press picked their crime photographer—a man accustomed to the toughest type of work in New York. He went to the airport, stayed there two hours, and returned later from the darkroom with a tremendous sheaf of pictures. He was supposed to take only two. His boss immediately chided him. "What in the world are you wasting time and all those photographic supplies for?"

The photographer replied very curtly, saying he would gladly pay for the extra materials, and they could even dock him for the extra time he took. It was obvious that he was very touchy about it. Several hours later the vice-president called him to his office, wanting to learn what happened. The crime photographer said, "When I was a little boy, my mother used to read to me out of the Old Testament, and all my life I have wondered what a prophet of God must really look like. Well, today I found one."

(Edited by Jay A. Parry, Jack M. Lyon, and Linda Rire Gundry, *Best-Loved Stories of the LDS People, Vol. 2*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1999]. p.390.)

Activity:

Obtain pictures of several latter-day prophets (from the Gospel Art Kit or lds.org). Have a family member select one picture without the others seeing which one they selected. The other family members ask yes and no questions (such as "Does he have a beard?" "Is he wearing glasses?" etc.) to determine which prophet they have chosen.

Refreshment

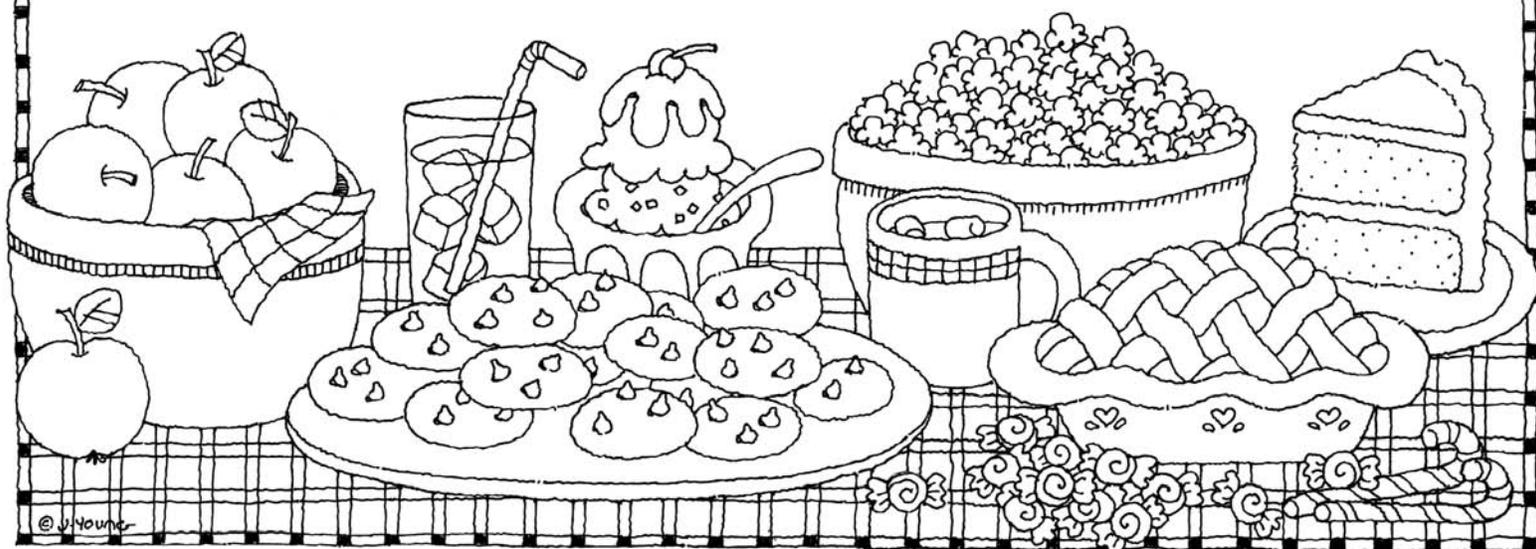
Peanut Butter Yummies

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup light corn syrup
- 1 cup peanut butter
- 2 1/2 cups Rice Chex® cereal
- 2 1/2 cups Rice Krispies® cereal

Combine the sugar and corn syrup in a medium saucepan. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat, stirring often. Maintain a rolling boil for about 1 minute. Remove from heat. Add the peanut butter to the hot syrup and stir until thoroughly mixed. Combine cereals in a large bowl. Pour hot peanut butter syrup over the cereals and stir with a large wooden spoon. Spoon cookie-sized amounts onto waxed paper and let cool before serving.

Makes 2 dozen.

(Jill McKenzie, *52 Weeks of Proven Recipes for Picky Kids*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 2008] p. 57.)



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Theme: Pure Love

Packet #020208

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Pure Love

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read “The Great Commandment,” by Joseph B. Wirthlin, *Ensign*, Nov 2007, 28–31

Thought:

True love lasts forever. It is eternally patient and forgiving. It believes, hopes, and endures all things. That is the love our Heavenly Father bears for us.

(Joseph B. Wirthlin, “The Great Commandment,” *Ensign*, Nov 2007, 28–31)

Song:

“As I Have Loved You,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 136.

Scripture:

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

(Matthew 22:37–39)

Lesson:

Cut out a bunch of red paper hearts. Pass a few out to each family member. Have them write down kind deeds that another family member has done for them on each heart and tape it to the wall. Soon the wall will be filled with love.

(adapted from Kimberly L. Bytheway and Diane H. Loveridge, *Traditions*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 17.)

Story:

It was just a harmless prank, that’s all it was. And it wasn’t as if Old Lady Hayes didn’t deserve it. The way she used to scream at us for “borrowing” a few of her precious raspberries each summer, like we were stealing gold out of Fort Knox . . . well, she had it coming.

At least, that’s the way we saw it as George finished tying the string to the red, heart-shaped box. We giggled as Ron added the final touch: two plastic red roses, glued to the lid. “I wonder what will surprise her most,” I asked as George practiced jerking the box out of reach by yanking on the string. “Seeing a box of candy on her step, or watching it fly away when she tries to pick it up?”

We laughed as we watched George make Albert chase the box around the garage. For a chubby 10-year-old, Albert did a good imitation of Mrs. Hayes’s hunched hobble and her seemingly permanent scowl. And we howled when he picked up a broom and pretended to ride it through the midwinter air while shouting, “I’m Old Lady Hayes, the driedest-up old prune in the West!”

Ron was first to notice my dad in the doorway. Within seconds, Ron’s anxiety was shared by all but Albert, who continued to swoop around the garage until he came face-to-belt-buckle with our silent observer. For a moment the only movement in the room came from the little puffs of steam escaping our mouths. Dad broke the stillness by walking slowly to the empty candy box lying on the floor. He picked it up and dangled it by the string, watching it swing back and forth. Then he looked into the eyes of the frightened boys.

And, as was his custom, he looked into their hearts as well.

“It doesn’t seem so long ago that I was pulling Valentine’s Day pranks,” he said as he laid the box on a workbench. “One year my cousins and I decided to pull one on our Grandma Walker even though we loved her. We were just feeling devilish and decided to have some fun at her expense.

“Early in the evening we snuck up to her doorstep with a can of red paint. Grandma was hard of hearing, so we didn’t have to worry about being very quiet. Which was a good thing, because every time we thought about how funny it was going to be to see Grandma try to pick up a valentine that was just painted on her doorstep, we couldn’t keep from laughing.

“It didn’t take long, and it wasn’t very artistic. But for an old woman with bad eyes, it would do. We kicked the door and hid behind bushes. When Grandma finally appeared she stood in the doorway, her gray hair pulled back tightly into her usual bun, wiping her hands on her usual apron. She must have heard the commotion in the bushes because she looked in our direction and spoke loudly enough for us to hear: ‘Who could be knocking at my door?’ Then she looked down. Even from fifteen feet away we could see the joy in her eyes when she spotted a splash of red at her feet.

“‘Oh, look! A valentine for Grandma!’ she exclaimed. ‘And I thought I’d be forgotten again this year!’

“She tried to retrieve her prize. This was the moment we had been waiting for, but somehow it wasn’t as much fun as we expected. Grandma groped at the fresh paint for a moment. Slowly, she figured out the prank. She tried to smile. Then, with as much dignity as she could muster, she turned and walked back into her house, absently wiping red paint on her white apron.”

Dad paused, and for the first time I noticed that his eyes were moist. He took a deep breath. “Grandma died later that year,” he said. “I never had another chance to give her a real valentine.”

He took the box from the bench and handed it to me. Then he turned and left the garage.

Later that night a red, heart-shaped box with two plastic roses on it was placed on Mrs. Hayes’s front doorstep by six giggling boys. We hid behind snow-covered bushes to see how she would react to receiving a full pound of candy and nuts.

With no strings attached.

(Joseph Walker, *Look What Love Has Done* [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 2007].)

Activity:

Make special valentines for the widows in your neighborhood. Talk about the specific people and try to decorate the valentines according to what you think they like. Draw pictures of special talents they have, and write a note inside wishing them a happy Valentine’s Day.

(Kimberly L. Bytheway and Diane H. Loveridge, *Traditions*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 16.)

Refreshment

Cutout Sugar Cookies

- 2 cups granulated sugar
- 1 cup shortening
- 3 eggs
- 1 cup milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 teaspoon lemon extract
- 6 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon soda
- 3 1/2 teaspoons baking powder

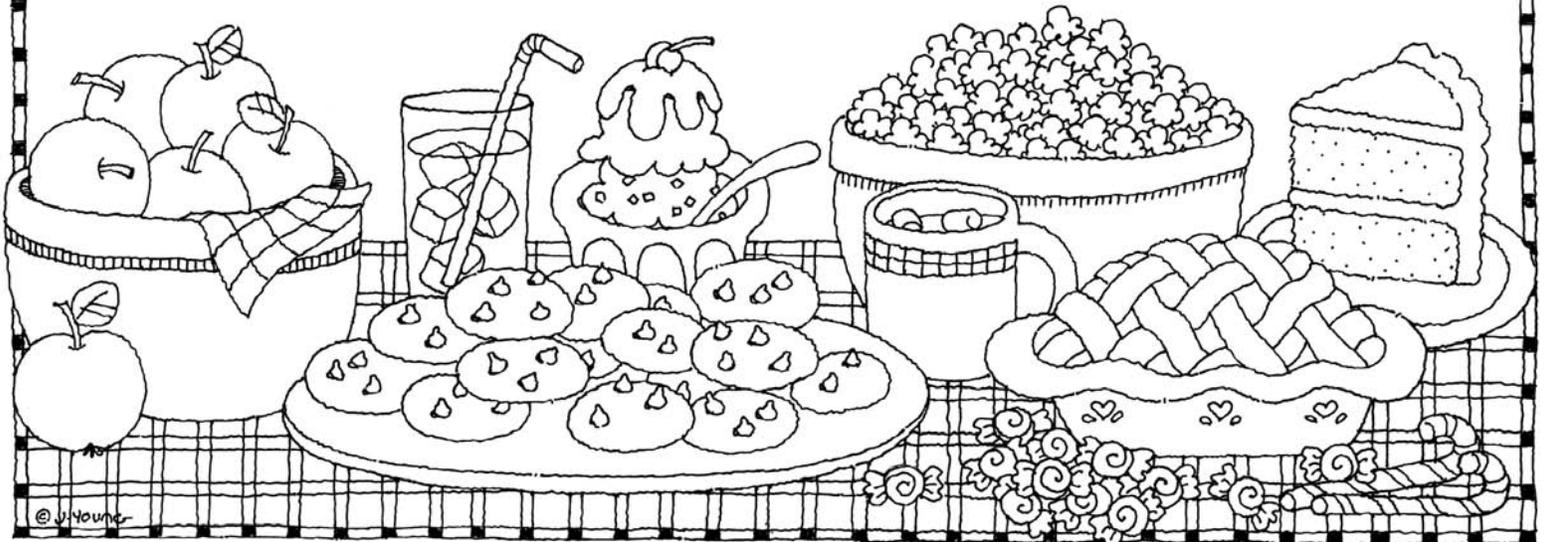
Butter Cream Icing

- 3/4 cup butter
- 3/4 cup shortening
- 4 2/3 cups powdered sugar
- 1 1/2 teaspoons lemon juice
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla
- 1/3 cup water

Preheat oven to 400° F. Line a cookie sheet with wax paper and set aside. In a large mixer bowl cream together sugar, shortening, and eggs. Add milk, vanilla, and lemon extract; mix at low speed. In a separate bowl, mix flour, salt, soda, and baking powder. Add to the sugar mixture until well incorporated. Roll out 1/8-inch thick; cut out in desired shapes. Bake for 6 minutes, being careful not to overbake. Cookies should be light golden brown around the edges. Frost with Butter Cream Icing. Makes 5 to 6 dozen cookies.

Icing instructions: In a large mixer bowl combine butter, shortening, and sugar and beat until very creamy. Add lemon juice and vanilla. Mix until well blended. Add water and mix until very light.

(Lion House Desserts, [Salt Lake City: Eagle Gate, 2000], p. 103.)



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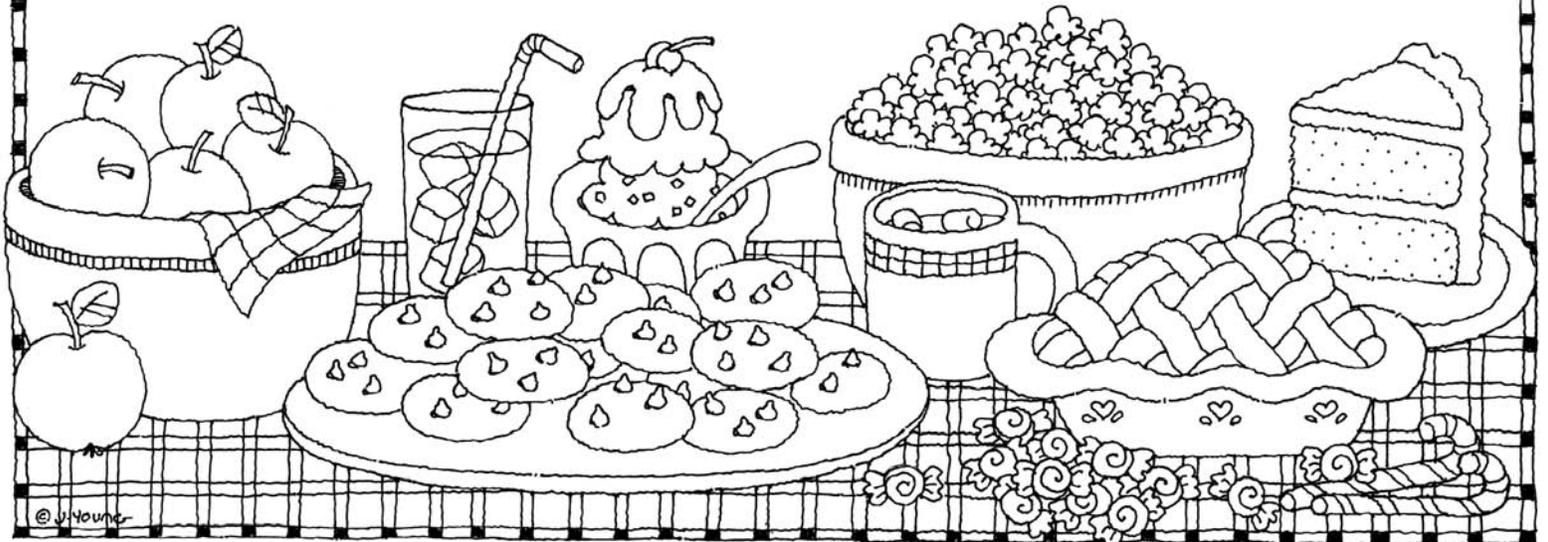
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Theme: Remembering

Packet #120307

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Remembering

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read “Remember and Perish Not” by Elder Marlin K. Jensen, *Ensign*, May 2007, 36.

Thought:

We often speak of remembering our sacred covenants and God’s commandments and of remembering and performing saving ordinances for our deceased ancestors. Most importantly, we speak of the need to remember our Savior Jesus Christ.

(Marlin K. Jensen, “Remember and Perish Not,” *Ensign*, May 2007, 36–38)

Song:

“I Will Follow God’s Plan,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 164.

Scripture:

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

(John 14:26)

Lesson:

Set a timer for three minutes. Have your family name as many stories about Jesus as they can remember. Have one family member put tally marks on a paper for each story named. When the time is up, count the tally marks and praise their good work.

Select two or three of the stories they named, and ask what we can learn from them. (Example: The story of Jesus healing the ten lepers teaches us to show gratitude.) Remembering Jesus helps us to choose the right. When we have a challenge or decision we must think of His example and ask ourselves, “What would Jesus do?” Then we must do our best to follow that example.

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *Sharing Time, Family Time, Anytime: Book Two*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1994], p. 85.)

Story:

I love Sundays. I love the rush of getting ready, the bustle of dressing up, my husband making pancakes in the kitchen, my daughters looking radiant, and my sons in ties passing the sacrament. I love organ music, singing loud, and visiting with friends. Most of all, I love listening to, discussing, and thinking about spiritual principles, higher values, and eternal truths. During the sacrament I reflect, evaluate, and reassess. How am I doing? Often, not as well as I'd like. But this week, I promise myself, I'll do better. I've promised to remember the Savior, and this week I will. No matter what, Lord, this week I will remember you.

Then comes Monday morning. Monday follows Sunday like the tail on a dog. I keep thinking maybe someday it won't, but it always does. And on Monday morning, life gets hard. The bustle of getting ready for church on Sunday is like a movie scene in slow motion compared to Monday. Weekday mornings are always chaotic—too many people need to use the bathroom at the same time; do all the kids have their lunch?; Danny needs a check for music lessons; who will drive

Adam's project to school? Whether we're hurrying off to a job, racing to get to school on time, or facing a mountain of laundry and the leftover mess from the weekend, Monday morning hits us like a runaway train. I always find that on Mondays, by noon or before, I've forgotten. I've forgotten what seemed so urgent just the day before. I've forgotten Christ. I've not just forgotten that, somehow, I want him to be Lord of my whole life (not just my Sunday mornings); I've forgotten him altogether. Thoughts of God, Christ, scripture, or church don't even occur to me. This workaday week is such another world, a world totally other. The pace is other, the priorities are other, what matters and what doesn't, who matters and who doesn't, what I need to do and how I need to be while I'm doing it—all are other. It's as if we go to sleep Sunday night on a ranch in Wyoming and wake up Monday morning in downtown Manhattan. And we wonder: Which world is real?

Which world is most important? Are these two worlds related at all?

If so, why do they feel so separate? Why is moving from one to another so jarring?

Is it possible to integrate the spirit of Sunday into the world of Monday through Saturday?

How? Given the hectic nature of each day, how do we remember even to try?

For me, the question became, Is there some way work itself can remind me to remember? I was thrilled to discover that the answer is yes—a resounding, even thundering yes! Moreover, I believe work can be more than a reminder of lessons learned on Sunday; work has lessons of its own to teach. If we allow it, what we learn on Sunday will inform and affect what we do and learn Monday through Saturday. Likewise, what we do and learn Monday through Saturday informs and affects our experiences on Sunday. "The spirit and the body are the soul of man." (D&C 88:15.) The Sabbath and the workday, the sacred and the secular, are the soul of our lives. Though they often feel separate, different, other, they are not. All things are spiritual to the Lord. If I am to become more like my Heavenly Father, then all things must be spiritual to me also.

(Joan B. MacDonald, *Holiness of Everyday Life*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1995].)

Activity:

Print two copies of five to twelve different pictures of Jesus Christ (see the Gospel Art Picture Kit on lds.org). Place face down on the floor in random order. Play a matching game, giving everyone a turn to try to find pictures that match.

Refreshment

Quick Peppermint-Stick Cake

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 2 cups whipping cream, plus sugar to sweeten | 10 small candy canes |
| 2 peppermint sticks or candy canes, crushed | Sprigs of holly, for garnish |
| 2 drops red food coloring | 1 recipe Chocolate Sauce (see below) |
| 1 large angel food cake | |

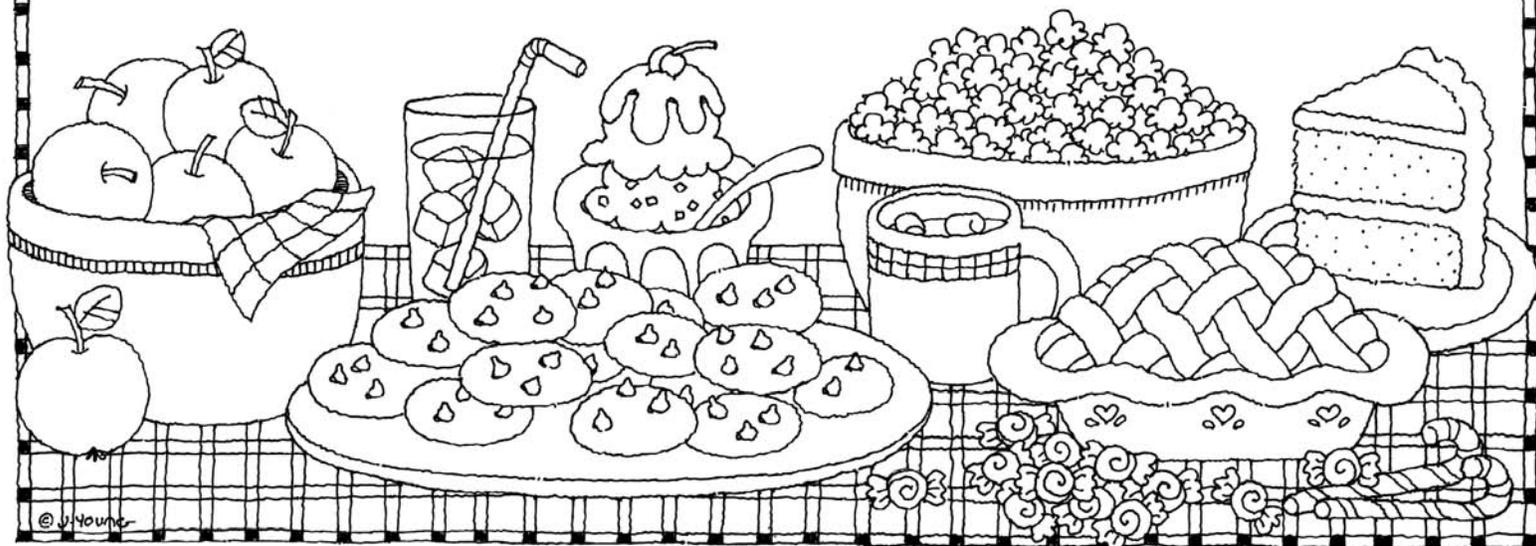
Whip cream until stiff, adding sugar to sweeten. Stir in crushed peppermint sticks and red food coloring. Slice cake into three layers. Spread flavored whipped cream in between each layer and on top and sides of cake. Garnish individual servings with a small candy cane and holly, if desired. Pass Chocolate Sauce for topping. Makes 10 servings.

Chocolate Sauce

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | (14-ounce) can Eagle Brand® sweetened condensed milk |
| 1 | (1-ounce) square unsweetened chocolate |
| 1 | tablespoon vanilla |

Place sweetened condensed milk and chocolate square in a microwave-safe bowl and cook on high power for two minutes. Remove from microwave. Add vanilla and beat with hand mixer until smooth. Refrigerate sauce until cooled to desired temperature. Mixture will thicken as it cools. Sauce can be made ahead and reheated.

(Julie Badger Jensen, *Essential Mormon Celebrations*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2005] p. 7.)



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Theme: Remembering

Packet #120307

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
- 3. Involvement.** Involve everyone in the family; help little children take part.
- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.

Remembering

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read “Remember and Perish Not” by Elder Marlin K. Jensen, *Ensign*, May 2007, 36.

Thought:

We often speak of remembering our sacred covenants and God’s commandments and of remembering and performing saving ordinances for our deceased ancestors. Most importantly, we speak of the need to remember our Savior Jesus Christ.

(Marlin K. Jensen, “Remember and Perish Not,” *Ensign*, May 2007, 36–38)

Song:

“I Will Follow God’s Plan,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 164.

Scripture:

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

(John 14:26)

Lesson:

Set a timer for three minutes. Have your family name as many stories about Jesus as they can remember. Have one family member put tally marks on a paper for each story named. When the time is up, count the tally marks and praise their good work.

Select two or three of the stories they named, and ask what we can learn from them. (Example: The story of Jesus healing the ten lepers teaches us to show gratitude.) Remembering Jesus helps us to choose the right. When we have a challenge or decision we must think of His example and ask ourselves, “What would Jesus do?” Then we must do our best to follow that example.

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *Sharing Time, Family Time, Anytime: Book Two*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1994], p. 85.)

Story:

I love Sundays. I love the rush of getting ready, the bustle of dressing up, my husband making pancakes in the kitchen, my daughters looking radiant, and my sons in ties passing the sacrament. I love organ music, singing loud, and visiting with friends. Most of all, I love listening to, discussing, and thinking about spiritual principles, higher values, and eternal truths. During the sacrament I reflect, evaluate, and reassess. How am I doing? Often, not as well as I'd like. But this week, I promise myself, I'll do better. I've promised to remember the Savior, and this week I will. No matter what, Lord, this week I will remember you.

Then comes Monday morning. Monday follows Sunday like the tail on a dog. I keep thinking maybe someday it won't, but it always does. And on Monday morning, life gets hard. The bustle of getting ready for church on Sunday is like a movie scene in slow motion compared to Monday. Weekday mornings are always chaotic—too many people need to use the bathroom at the same time; do all the kids have their lunch?; Danny needs a check for music lessons; who will drive

Adam's project to school? Whether we're hurrying off to a job, racing to get to school on time, or facing a mountain of laundry and the leftover mess from the weekend, Monday morning hits us like a runaway train. I always find that on Mondays, by noon or before, I've forgotten. I've forgotten what seemed so urgent just the day before. I've forgotten Christ. I've not just forgotten that, somehow, I want him to be Lord of my whole life (not just my Sunday mornings); I've forgotten him altogether. Thoughts of God, Christ, scripture, or church don't even occur to me. This workaday week is such another world, a world totally other. The pace is other, the priorities are other, what matters and what doesn't, who matters and who doesn't, what I need to do and how I need to be while I'm doing it—all are other. It's as if we go to sleep Sunday night on a ranch in Wyoming and wake up Monday morning in downtown Manhattan. And we wonder: Which world is real?

Which world is most important? Are these two worlds related at all?

If so, why do they feel so separate? Why is moving from one to another so jarring?

Is it possible to integrate the spirit of Sunday into the world of Monday through Saturday?

How? Given the hectic nature of each day, how do we remember even to try?

For me, the question became, Is there some way work itself can remind me to remember? I was thrilled to discover that the answer is yes—a resounding, even thundering yes! Moreover, I believe work can be more than a reminder of lessons learned on Sunday; work has lessons of its own to teach. If we allow it, what we learn on Sunday will inform and affect what we do and learn Monday through Saturday. Likewise, what we do and learn Monday through Saturday informs and affects our experiences on Sunday. "The spirit and the body are the soul of man." (D&C 88:15.) The Sabbath and the workday, the sacred and the secular, are the soul of our lives. Though they often feel separate, different, other, they are not. All things are spiritual to the Lord. If I am to become more like my Heavenly Father, then all things must be spiritual to me also.

(Joan B. MacDonald, *Holiness of Everyday Life*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1995].)

Activity:

Print two copies of five to twelve different pictures of Jesus Christ (see the Gospel Art Picture Kit on lds.org). Place face down on the floor in random order. Play a matching game, giving everyone a turn to try to find pictures that match.

Refreshment

Quick Peppermint-Stick Cake

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 2 cups whipping cream, plus sugar to sweeten | 10 small candy canes |
| 2 peppermint sticks or candy canes, crushed | Sprigs of holly, for garnish |
| 2 drops red food coloring | 1 recipe Chocolate Sauce (see below) |
| 1 large angel food cake | |

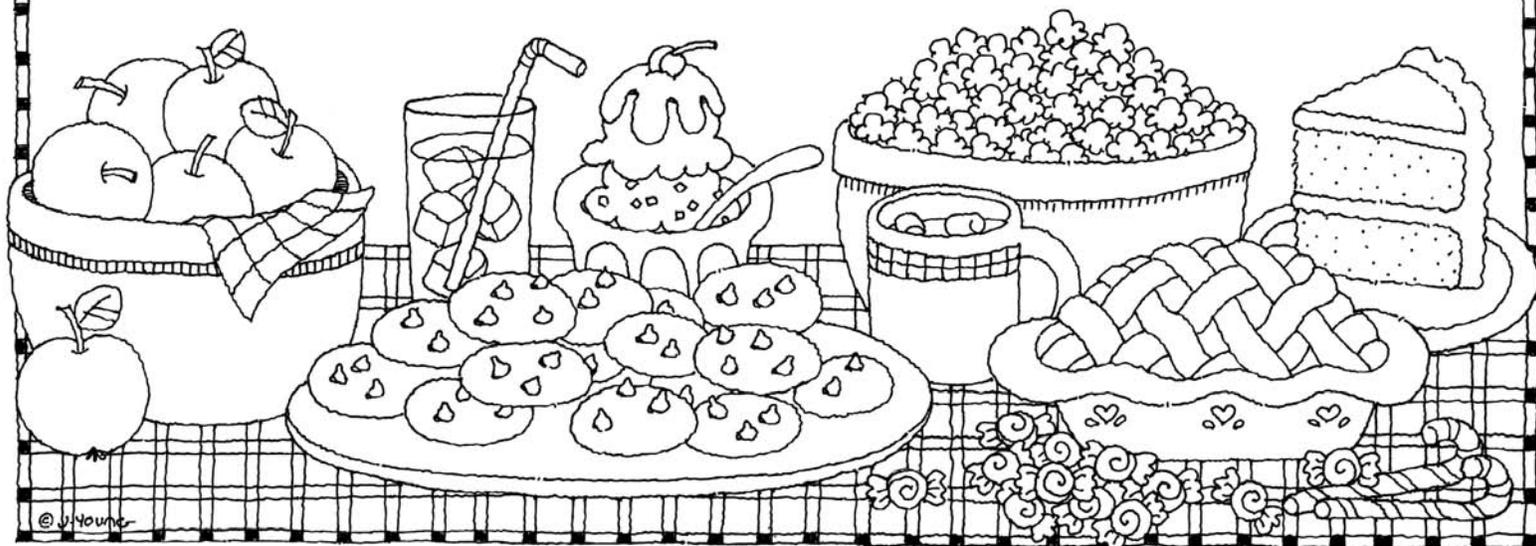
Whip cream until stiff, adding sugar to sweeten. Stir in crushed peppermint sticks and red food coloring. Slice cake into three layers. Spread flavored whipped cream in between each layer and on top and sides of cake. Garnish individual servings with a small candy cane and holly, if desired. Pass Chocolate Sauce for topping. Makes 10 servings.

Chocolate Sauce

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | (14-ounce) can Eagle Brand® sweetened condensed milk |
| 1 | (1-ounce) square unsweetened chocolate |
| 1 | tablespoon vanilla |

Place sweetened condensed milk and chocolate square in a microwave-safe bowl and cook on high power for two minutes. Remove from microwave. Add vanilla and beat with hand mixer until smooth. Refrigerate sauce until cooled to desired temperature. Mixture will thicken as it cools. Sauce can be made ahead and reheated.

(Julie Badger Jensen, *Essential Mormon Celebrations*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2005] p. 7.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Repentance

Packet #050208

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Repentance

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read “Clean Hands and a Pure Heart,” by David A. Bednar, *Ensign*, Nov 2007, 80–83.

Thought:

Our sincere desire should be to have both clean hands and a pure heart.

(David A. Bednar, “Clean Hands and a Pure Heart,” *Ensign*, Nov 2007, 80–83.)

Song:

“Repentance,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 98.

Scripture:

Now this is the commandment: Repent, all ye ends of the earth, and come unto me and be baptized in my name, that ye may be sanctified by the reception of the Holy Ghost, that ye may stand spotless before me at the last day.

(3 Nephi 27:20)

Object Lesson:

Materials needed: A small chest with a padlock and a key (lock the padlock).

Procedure: Show the chest and state that inside is the eternal joy that we all seek. Explain that you will not be able to reach that eternal joy because a sin has locked the box.

Show the key. Explain that Heavenly Father has given us a way to rid ourselves of sin and unlock the box so we can achieve eternal joy. This key is called repentance.

State that we can see the key or hold it or even put the key into the lock, but until we *use* the key the box will remain locked and the treasure we seek will be unavailable. Demonstrate with the key and the padlock as you speak.

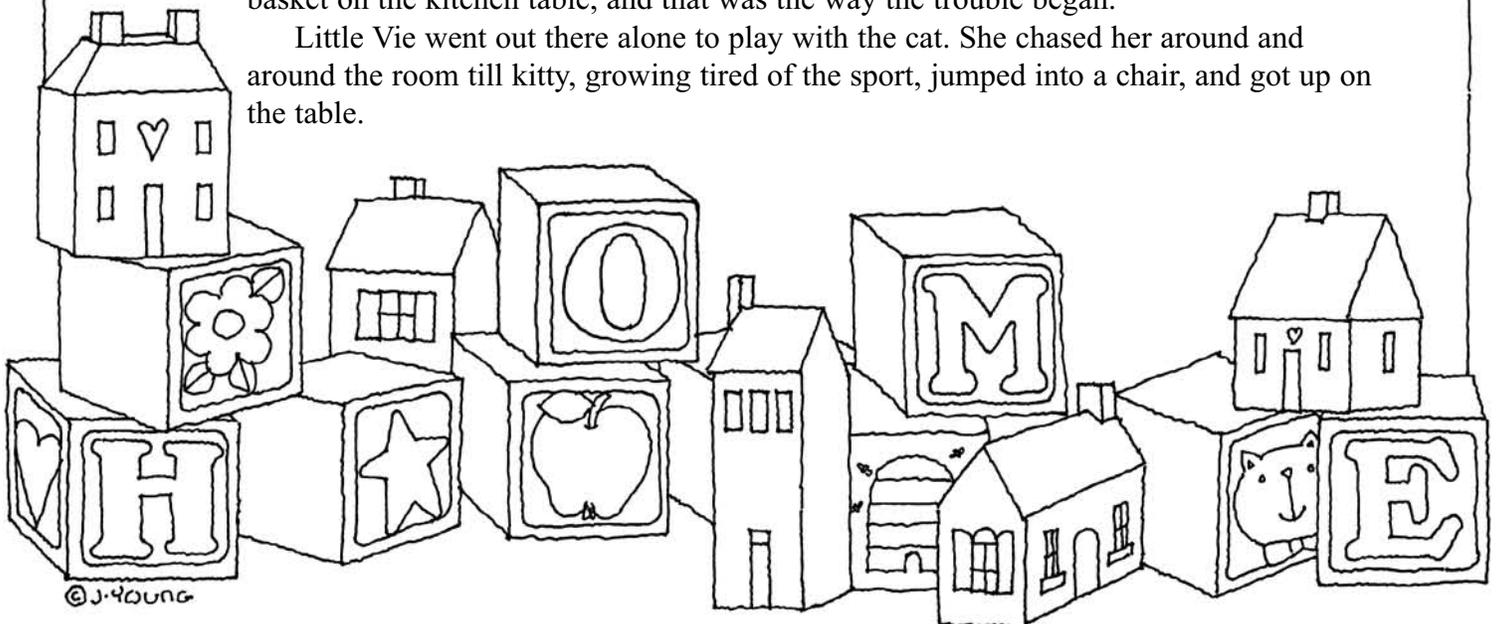
(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *More Power Tools for Teaching*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1991], p. 59.)

Story:

It was only a fruit dish of white china with gilt bands around it, but little Vie admired it very much and called it “Mamma’s gold basket.”

One afternoon Aunt Emily came to make a call, and Mama brought in the basket filled with nice Florida oranges. After everybody had eaten an orange, and Aunt Emily had gone, sister Anna set the basket on the kitchen table, and that was the way the trouble began.

Little Vie went out there alone to play with the cat. She chased her around and around the room till kitty, growing tired of the sport, jumped into a chair, and got up on the table.



“Come down! Come down!” said little Vie. “You must not smell those oranges with your nose. Come down!”

But kitty did not come; she was trying to decide whether the beautiful yellow balls were good to eat. Then Vie caught her by the tail and pulled her backward. She did not do it roughly, but somehow that gold basket got in the way. Perhaps kitty’s paw touched it, perhaps it was Vie’s arm; but, at any rate, the basket was overturned. Down it fell, broken in pieces upon the floor!

Vie stared in surprise at the dreadful ruin and then stared at the oranges rolling helter-skelter under the stove.

“Who did that? How did it fall?” thought she.

But, the next moment, it came over her that she was herself the one to blame.

Little Vie’s forehead was wrinkled, her eyes were full of tears.

“I’ll go tell Mamma I did it, and I’m sorry. No, I’ll tell her kitty did it—I guess kitty did do it. Naughty kitty!”

The little girl moved one foot, and then she stood still again. The clock ticked very loud—you know how a clock does tick sometimes.

“No, I won’t tell Mamma anything; I won’t go into the parlor at all. I’ll go out in the yard, and then Mamma will think kitty broke the basket, for kitty will be in here all alone.”

Vie took three steps toward the outside door, and then she stood still again, and the clock ticked worse than ever. It seemed as if the clock was watching to see Vie make up her mind.

“Tick, tock—if you go and leave the kitty in here alone, it will be the same as a lie—tick, tock—same as a lie.” It wasn’t that the clock actually said that, but it sounded just like the clock.

“Will it be the same as a lie, a true lie?” said the child. “I will not tell a lie,” said Vie, turning her back to the outside door and putting her foot down hard. “I will not tell a lie.” And with that she ran into the parlor. She ran every step of the way as fast as she could run and sobbed out, “Oh, Mamma, it wasn’t the kitty; it was I! But I didn’t mean to at all!”

And her mamma kissed her and said she knew it was an accident.

(A Story to Tell, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2004], p.102.)

Activity:

Give everyone in your family a large sheet of newspaper. Challenge them to make a very small, tight ball out of the newspaper. Point out that wrinkling and working the newspaper first will help to soften it and make it more pliable. Have everyone toss you their newspaper ball. Hold one up and help your family understand how making the newspaper balls is similar to earth life. During our lives we are often exposed to worldliness and wickedness. We may find that we have given in to temptation and sinned. We will feel unclean. Instruct family members to look carefully at their hands. They will notice the residue of newsprint.

Pass out pre-moistened hand wipes and have everyone clean their hands. Ask them how it feels. Explain that the relief of repentance brings us joy.

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, Building Blocks for Better Lessons, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1998], p. 53.)

Refreshment

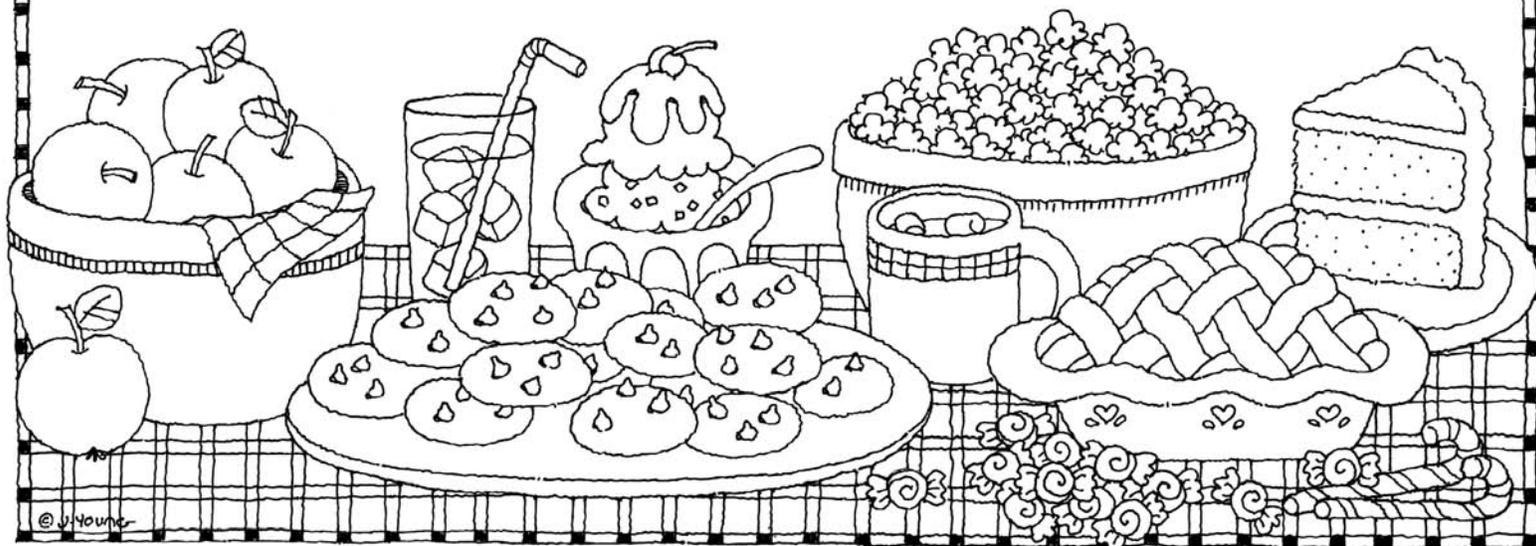
Strawberry Whip

A healthy and delightful drink.

- 2 cups sliced strawberries
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 cup vanilla yogurt
- 1/2 cup pineapple juice
- 1 cup crushed ice

Sprinkle berries with sugar. Place in blender or food processor with yogurt and pineapple juice. Blend well. Add crushed ice. Blend. Makes two generous, frosty drinks.

(Julie Badger Jensen, *The Essential Mormon Cookbook*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2004], p. 12.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Individual Worth

Packet #090307

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

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Individual Worth

Thought:

While it's important to be well-dressed and well-groomed, if you base your self-worth on looks, you will never be pleased. ... Everyone has things about themselves—inside and out—that they would love to change. ...

Try to see yourself and others as the Lord does. "The Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7). ... We need to develop a self-worth that's not selfish and that comes from seeing ourselves and others as God sees us: as His children. We shouldn't measure our worth on an earthly scale, because our origins are divine.

("To the Point," *New Era*, Sep. 2007, 31)

Song:

"Where Love Is," *Children's Songbook*, p. 138.

Scripture:

Remember the worth of souls is great in the sight of God.

(Doctrine and Covenants 18:10)

Lesson:

Play a guessing game of "Who am I?" Give clues that describe an individual in your family. Use physical characteristics such as hair length, eye color, age, and so on. This can be repeated twice or three times.

Following the game, point out that people can be recognized by their physical characteristics. People can also be recognized by their spiritual characteristics.

Play the game of "Who am I?" again. Explain that this time family members will try to guess who the individual is by spiritual characteristics.

Talk about what makes family members unique and what makes them similar. Show a picture of Jesus Christ. Explain that Jesus set a wonderful example for us to follow. We should do our best to try to be like him.

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *Sharing Time, Family Time, Anytime: Book Two* [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1994], p. 18.)

Story:

Of Infinite Worth

It was early morning, and my thoughts were about young women as I went through some correspondence on my desk. I opened one letter, which began, "Dear Sister Kapp: First of all, let me tell you who I am." I expected a name to follow, but that was not the case. The writer continued, "I am of infinite worth!"

Infinite worth. Oh, how I wish that each young woman could feel that confidence, that assurance, that eternal truth. If only that knowledge could be firmly established in her heart and mind, and she would have the assurance that she, too, is precious in the sight of God, what a great blessing that would be.

Yes, I thought as I read the letter, you are of infinite worth, and so is every other young woman I know and all the ones I don't know. How wonderful it is to know that each one has her own divine mission, a mission that is significant in God's eternal plan. This knowledge can give us peace and purpose even in troubled times. Unfortunately, however, not everyone believes this great truth, and that is sad indeed.

Often in my travels people will recognize me and comment, "You're Sister Kapp, aren't you?" And I will reply, "Yes, I am." Then, with sincere interest, I will ask, "And who are you?" Too often the answer is, "Oh, I'm nobody." Right then I feel an intense desire to correct the error, to recall the thought, and to introduce the speaker to his or her own magnificent self.

How I wish I could visit with each person individually. First I would listen and then we would talk. I would learn from you and you would learn from me. We would share our thoughts and feelings about important things. I would want you to know that it doesn't matter who we aren't when we know who we are.

(Ardeth Greene Kapp, *The Joy of the Journey*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1992].)

Activity:

Have an impromptu talent night.

Refreshment

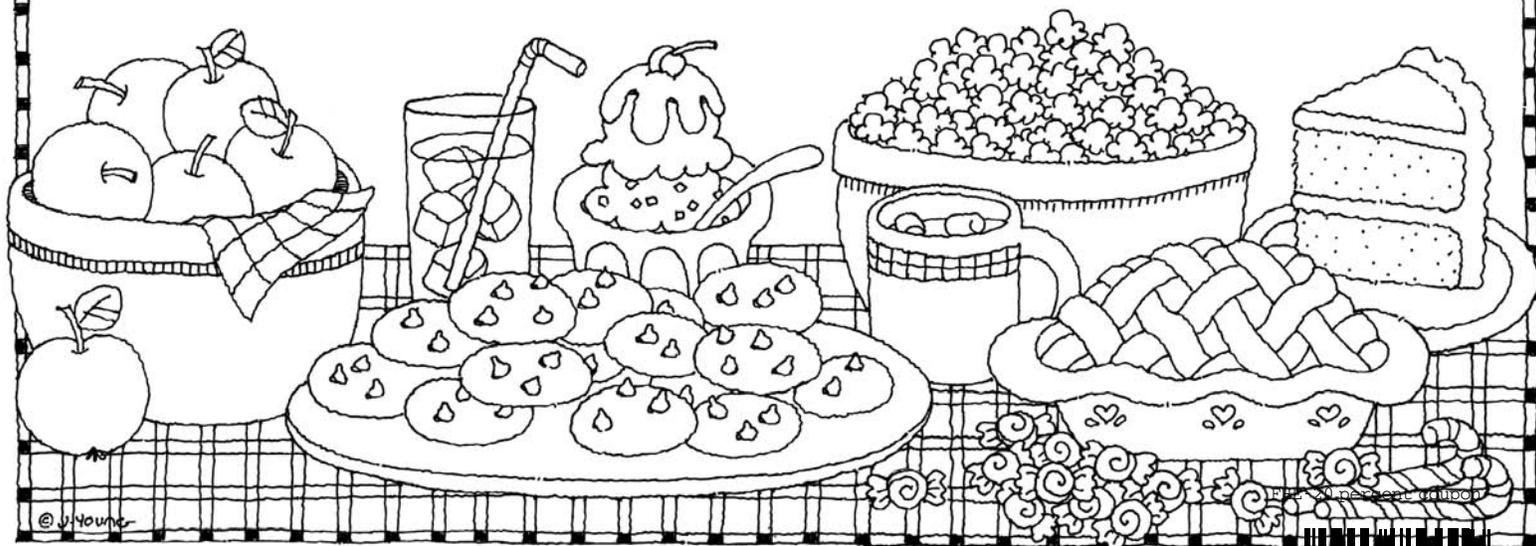
Handmade Ice Cream

For each person:

- | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|---------------------------------|
| 1 | cup milk | 1 | gallon-size Ziploc® bag |
| 1 | cup half-and-half | | Duct tape |
| 1/2 | teaspoon vanilla extract | 2 | pounds crushed ice or ice cubes |
| 1/2 | cup sugar | 1 | cup coarse rock salt |
| 1 | cup fresh or frozen strawberries or raspberries (optional) | 1/2 | cup water |
| 1 | quart-size Ziploc® bag | | Towel |

In a medium bowl, mix together milk, half-and-half, vanilla, and sugar. If adding fruit, mix all ingredients in blender. Pour mixture into a quart-size Ziploc bag. Squeeze out excess air and seal with duct tape. Put the quart-size bag into the gallon-size bag and fill the gallon bag with ice, salt, and water. Squeeze excess air out of bag and seal with duct tape. Toss the bag up and down for about 10 minutes. Use a hand towel to prevent hands from getting cold. When ice cream is frozen, rinse off quart-size bag and cut off a corner of the bag. Squeeze ice cream into a paper cup; enjoy! Makes a 1 1/2 cup serving.

(Julie Badger Jensen, *Essential Mormon Celebrations*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2005] p. 88.)



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Theme: Integrity

Packet #100307

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Integrity

Thought:

My brothers and sisters, let us live true to the trust the Lord has placed in us. Let us strive for personal, practical integrity in every endeavor, regardless of how mundane or inconsequential it may seem. The small matters accumulate to shape the direction of our lives.

(Joseph B. Wirthlin, "Personal Integrity," *Ensign*, May 1990, 30)

Song:

"Primary Colors," *Children's Songbook*, p. 258.

Scripture:

And again, verily I say unto you, blessed is my servant Hyrum Smith; for I, the Lord, love him because of the integrity of his heart, and because he loveth that which is right before me, saith the Lord.

Doctrine and Covenants 124:15

Object Lesson:

Materials needed: a coin and a disc the same size cut from cardboard

Procedure: Show the coin. Explain that they all know what this is. It is a coin that is genuine and can be spent anywhere in the country. Show the piece of cardboard. Ask what makes it different from the coin. It is the same shape. It is about the same weight. We could take a coloring pencil and make it the same color. What is the difference? Yes, the coin was made in a mint, having authority, and the coin is so marked as the official coin of the realm and can so act.

Every day of our lives we fill with many acts. As we live our lives through, let's make sure we are genuine, and our acts are as they are intended to be.

(Albert L. Zobell, Jr., *Talks to See*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1971], p. 118.)

Integrity is often described as having the moral courage to make our actions consistent with our knowledge of right and wrong. When we have this moral courage others will know they can depend on us to always be "genuine" like the real coin rather than the false one.

Story:

We Want a Man of Character

(Hugh B. Brown)

While I was in training [for the military], a young Mormon boy came into the camp. He was awkward. He was not educated very well, but he was a young Mormon boy who had been taught to live the gospel. After one parade, when he had gone through everything backwards, he was called by the captain to come into his office. The captain said, "I have noticed you, young fellow. You are from Cardston, aren't you?"

He said, "Yes, sir."

"You are a Mormon, I suppose."

"Yes, sir."

"Well, I just wanted to make friends with you. Will you have a glass of beer?"

"Sir, I do not drink liquor."

The captain said, "The —— you don't. Maybe you will have a cigar then."

He said, "Thank you, sir, but I do not smoke."

The captain seemed much annoyed by this, and he dismissed the boy from the room.

When the young man went back to his quarters, some of the lesser officers accosted him angrily and said, "You fool, don't you realize the captain was trying to make a friend of you, and you insulted him to his face?"

The young Mormon boy answered, "Gentlemen, if I must be untrue to my ideals and my people and do things that I have been instructed all my life I should not do, I'll quit the army."

When the time came for the final examinations in that camp, the captain sent this young man down to Calgary from Sarcee Camp to do some work for him, and they were having examinations while he was gone. When he returned the captain said, "Now you go in the other room there, and I will give you the list of questions, and you can write your examination."

He went in and returned and said, "Sir, all the books we have studied are there on that desk. Surely you don't want me to write my examination there where I can turn to those books."

The captain said, "That is just what I do want. I know from my knowledge of you that you will not open a one of those books. You will be honorable, you will be honest, and I trust you."

Well, that young man, while overseas later on in the war, was sent for by his captain, who had then become a lieutenant colonel, in response to a call from general headquarters for the best man he had in his battalion. They had a special mission for him to perform. They said, "We don't care anything about his education or his training. We want a man who can't be broken when put under test. We want a man of character." The lieutenant colonel, his former captain, selected and assigned this young man who had the courage to stand before him and say, "I do not smoke. I do not drink."

(Edited by Jay A. Parry, Jack M. Lyon, Linda Ririe Gundry, *Best-Loved Stories of the LDS People, Volume 2*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1999], 181)

Activity:

Play "Hunt the Ring."

"It" stands in the middle of a circle of players. A piece of string long enough to go around the circle is slipped through a ring and the ends tied. All players in the circle grasp the string. "It" counts to ten with eyes closed so as not to see the ring passed initially. The ring is concealed under a player's hand and is passed from player to player. "It" must find the player under whose hand the ring is concealed. The player caught with the ring becomes "it."

(Alma Heaton, *The LDS Game Book*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1968], p. 95.)

Refreshment

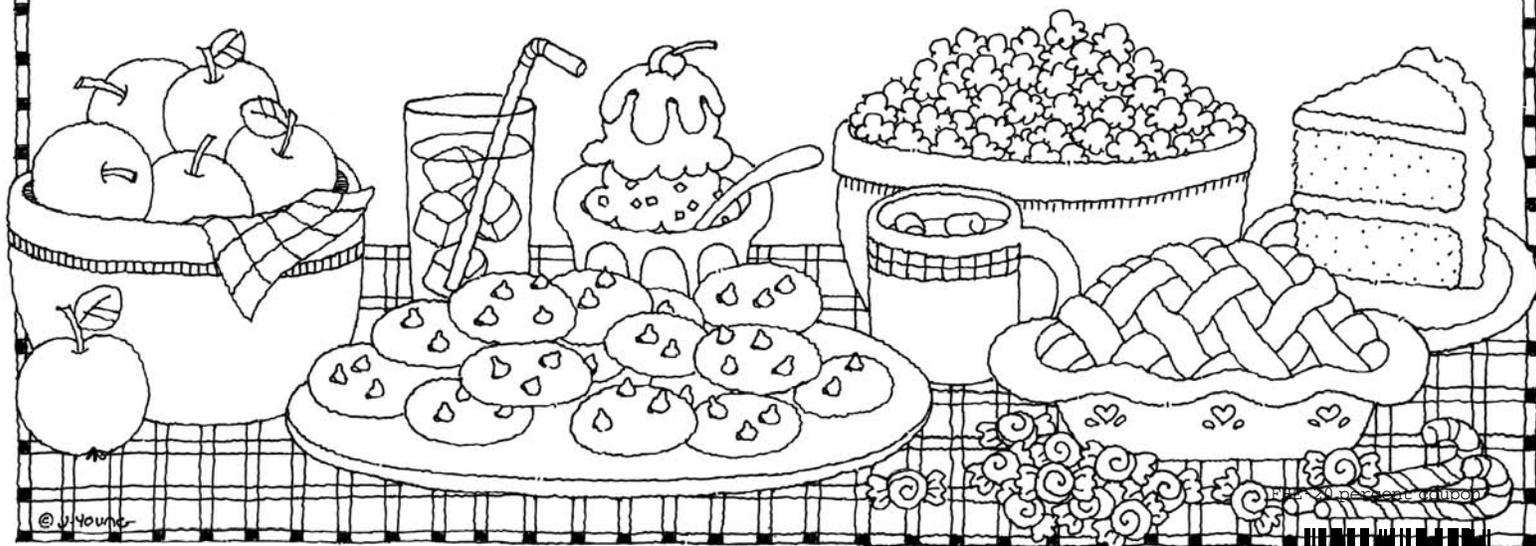
Chocolate Mousse

4 tablespoons unsalted butter
12 ounces dark chocolate, broken up
6 eggs, separated
2 cups heavy cream
1/2 cup powdered sugar

Melt the butter and chocolate in the top of a double boiler set over simmering water. Stir until smooth. Pour into a large bowl and cool slightly.

Beat the egg yolks until blended and light yellow in color. Incorporate yolks into melted chocolate mixture. In a medium bowl, whip the cream until soft peaks form. Add powdered sugar and beat until stiff but not dry. Fold into the chocolate mixture. In a medium bowl beat the egg whites until stiff but not dry. Fold into the chocolate and cream mixture. Chill for several hours. Makes 16 servings.

(*Lion House Weddings*, [Salt Lake City: Eagle Gate, 2003] p. 96.)



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"Yes, sir."

"Well, I just wanted to make friends with you. Will you have a glass of beer?"

"Sir, I do not drink liquor."

The captain said, "The —— you don't. Maybe you will have a cigar then."

He said, "Thank you, sir, but I do not smoke."

The captain seemed much annoyed by this, and he dismissed the boy from the room.

When the young man went back to his quarters, some of the lesser officers accosted him angrily and said, "You fool, don't you realize the captain was trying to make a friend of you, and you insulted him to his face?"

The young Mormon boy answered, "Gentlemen, if I must be untrue to my ideals and my people and do things that I have been instructed all my life I should not do, I'll quit the army."

When the time came for the final examinations in that camp, the captain sent this young man down to Calgary from Sarcee Camp to do some work for him, and they were having examinations while he was gone. When he returned the captain said, "Now you go in the other room there, and I will give you the list of questions, and you can write your examination."

He went in and returned and said, "Sir, all the books we have studied are there on that desk. Surely you don't want me to write my examination there where I can turn to those books."

The captain said, "That is just what I do want. I know from my knowledge of you that you will not open a one of those books. You will be honorable, you will be honest, and I trust you."

Well, that young man, while overseas later on in the war, was sent for by his captain, who had then become a lieutenant colonel, in response to a call from general headquarters for the best man he had in his battalion. They had a special mission for him to perform. They said, "We don't care anything about his education or his training. We want a man who can't be broken when put under test. We want a man of character." The lieutenant colonel, his former captain, selected and assigned this young man who had the courage to stand before him and say, "I do not smoke. I do not drink."

(Edited by Jay A. Parry, Jack M. Lyon, Linda Ririe Gundry, *Best-Loved Stories of the LDS People, Volume 2*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1999], 181)

Activity:

Play "Hunt the Ring."

"It" stands in the middle of a circle of players. A piece of string long enough to go around the circle is slipped through a ring and the ends tied. All players in the circle grasp the string. "It" counts to ten with eyes closed so as not to see the ring passed initially. The ring is concealed under a player's hand and is passed from player to player. "It" must find the player under whose hand the ring is concealed. The player caught with the ring becomes "it."

(Alma Heaton, *The LDS Game Book*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1968], p. 95.)

Refreshment

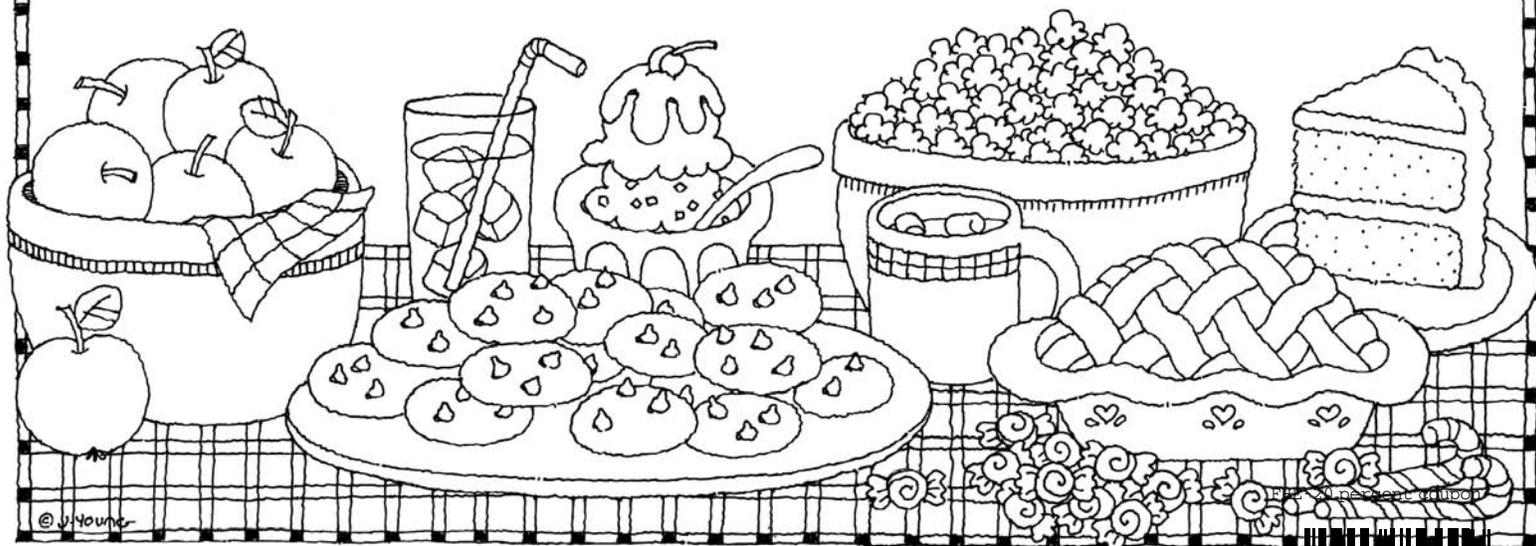
Chocolate Mousse

4 tablespoons unsalted butter
12 ounces dark chocolate, broken up
6 eggs, separated
2 cups heavy cream
1/2 cup powdered sugar

Melt the butter and chocolate in the top of a double boiler set over simmering water. Stir until smooth. Pour into a large bowl and cool slightly.

Beat the egg yolks until blended and light yellow in color. Incorporate yolks into melted chocolate mixture. In a medium bowl, whip the cream until soft peaks form. Add powdered sugar and beat until stiff but not dry. Fold into the chocolate mixture. In a medium bowl beat the egg whites until stiff but not dry. Fold into the chocolate and cream mixture. Chill for several hours. Makes 16 servings.

(*Lion House Weddings*, [Salt Lake City: Eagle Gate, 2003] p. 96.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Jesus Christ

Packet #120408

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
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- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.

Jesus Christ

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read “Born Again,” by D. Todd Christofferson, *Ensign*, May 2008, 76–79.

Thought:

About a century before the birth of Christ, King Benjamin taught his people of the Savior’s advent and Atonement. The Spirit of the Lord wrought such a mighty change in the people that they had “no more disposition to do evil, but to do good continually”.

(D. Todd Christofferson, “Born Again,” *Ensign*, May 2008, 76–79.)

Song:

“He Sent His Son” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 34.

Scripture:

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

(Luke 2:11)

Lesson:

Place a picture of Christ’s birth in a plastic sheet protector.

Cut a sheet of paper into five strips. Label each strip as follows:

1. Son of God, 2. Creator, 3. Savior, 4. Example, 5. Friend. Tape these strips over the picture of Christ’s birth.

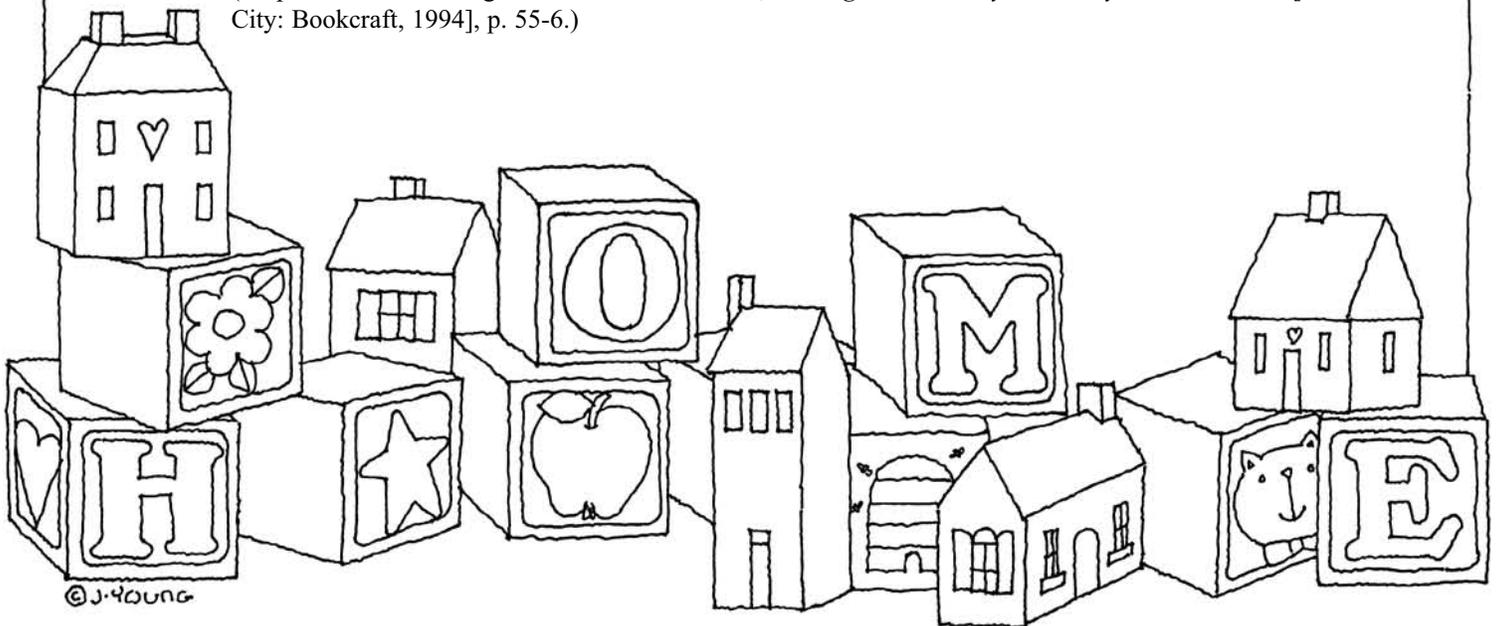
Write the following verses on small pieces of paper and place them in a bowl or basket.

1. “Behold I am Jesus Christ, the Son of God” (D&C 6:21)
2. “I have made the earth, and created man upon it” (Isaiah 45:12)
3. “Behold, I am Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world” (D&C 43:34)
4. “For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you” (John 13:15)
5. “Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you” (John 15:14)

Have the family members take turns drawing papers from the bowl and have them read their verse. Ask the family: “Who does this verse tell you that Jesus is?” Match it to one of the strips covering the picture and remove that strip. Repeat until the picture is revealed.

Discuss how the baby Jesus grew up to become all the names you read about.

(adapted from Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *Sharing Time, Family Time, Anytime: Book Two* [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1994], p. 55-6.)



Story:

(Elaine Cannon)

The Nativity never was presented with more significance for me than the day a young friend of mine brought her "special needs class" to our home for a Christmas program. There was a heartbreaking mix of [disabled children]. An unusually abundant spirit accompanied them, as if angels ushered them in.

They were costumed in familiar makeshift robes charmingly depicting the characters. There were Joseph, Mary, and a Herald Angel with a tinsel halo, robed in a twin-size sheet shrouding a wheelchair. There was a shepherd draped in a paisley beach towel with a curved staff carved from styrofoam, mounted on one crutch. A pair of lambs (one on all fours and one wearing a head cage and reclining in a custom-sized canvas stroller) were draped with sheepskin. A small soul held a dowel with a shaking foil star. The Three Wise Men sparkled in recycled and revamped Deseret Industries gowns of lamé, sequins, and velvet.

Make-up surely heightened the drama of things by bolstering confidence in performing. Every one of the participants wore lipstick and rouged cheeks that could neither disguise nor enhance the radiance from a choice eternal spirit within.

The teacher narrated while the needful action was accomplished. There was only one slight change in the script. It was the angel who "brought forth" from the side of the wheelchair a swaddled teddy bear ("Firstborn Son") and laid it in armless Mary's lap.

By the time the Three Wise Men were propelled onto the scene to nod, bow with clasped hands, or kneel as their afflictions permitted, my soft heart was swollen to the season of wonder! The symbolic gold, frankincense, and myrrh [were] dutifully dumped on the quaint scene.

This group of Heavenly Father's specially beloved children had gifted me with a dimension that my many seasons had seldom equaled.

(Keeping Christmas: Stories from the Heart, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1996], p.79.)

Activity:

Have your family act out the nativity story as you read Luke 2: 1, 3-16 and Matthew 2: 1-2, 9-16.

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

Lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

Refreshment

Holiday Trifle

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1/2 of a baked angel food cake | 1 c. heavy cream, whipped |
| 1 (4 3/4-oz.) pkg. Junkett® Danish Dessert, raspberry flavor | 3 Tbs. sugar |
| 1 c. frozen raspberries, crushed | 1 tsp. vanilla |
| 1 (5.1-oz.) pkg. vanilla instant pudding | 3 bananas |
| 2 1/2 c. milk | Maraschino cherries, well drained and halved |

Cut angel food cake into bite-sized squares and set aside.

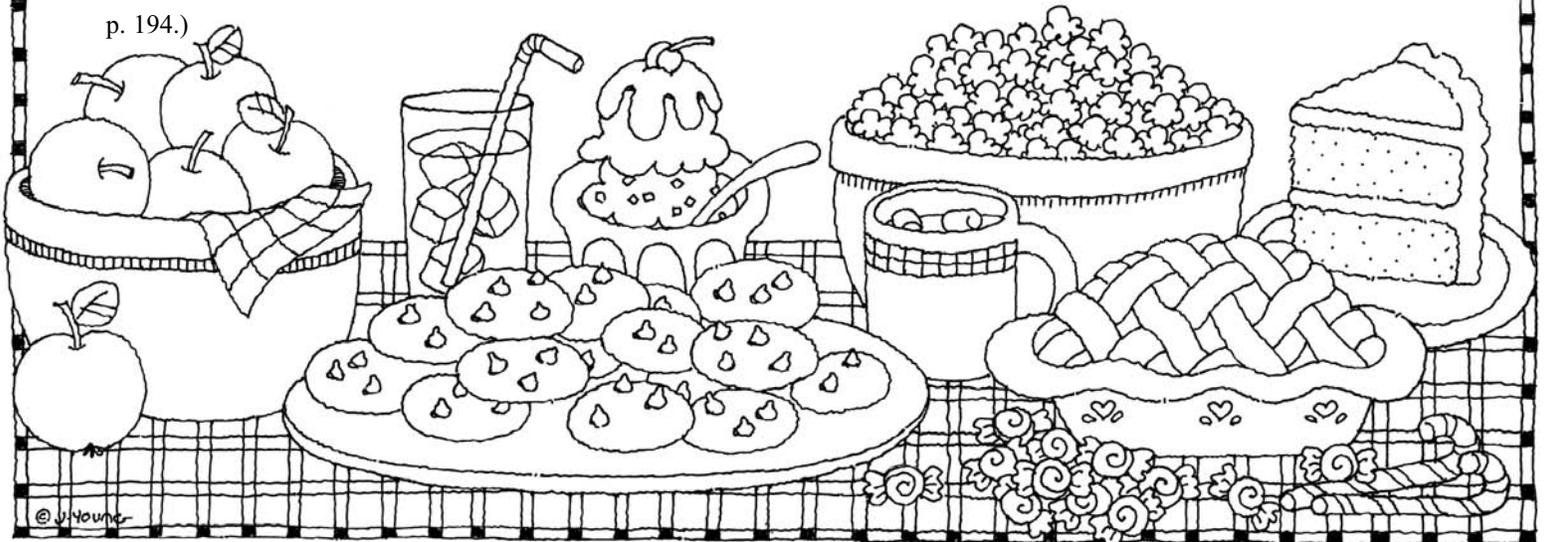
Prepare Danish dessert according to for pudding package directions; allow the dessert to cool, then add crushed frozen raspberries and set aside.

In a separate bowl, prepare pudding by pouring milk into the powdered pudding mix and stirring well; set aside. Combine whipped cream, sugar, and vanilla, then fold into pudding. Slice in bananas and stir.

To assemble the trifle, repeat the following three times: (1) Layer a third of the cake pieces in the bottom of the trifle bowl, (2) drizzle a third of the raspberry dessert over the cake, and (3) spoon a third of the vanilla pudding over the raspberry dessert. Decorate the top layer with real holly leaves and halved Maraschino cherries to make holly berry design. (Be sure to drain the cherries well, as they might “bleed” into the pudding.)

Serves 10 to 12.

(edited by Elaine Cannon, *Five-Star Recipes from Well-Known Latter-day Saints*, [Salt Lake City: Eagle Gate, 2002], p. 194.)



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FHE 4909757



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Knowledge

Packet #090407

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
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- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.

Knowledge

Thought:

So the challenge is the same for us all—to continue learning throughout our lives, and especially learning more about the gospel.

(Joe J. Christensen, “Resolutions,” *Ensign*, Dec 1994, 62–67)

Song:

“Search, Ponder, and Pray” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 109.

Scripture:

And as all have not faith, seek ye diligently and teach one another words of wisdom; yea, seek ye out of the best books words of wisdom; seek learning, even by study and also by faith.

(Doctrine and Covenants 88:118)

Lesson:

Divide a sheet of paper in half. On the left side write “Things we can take with us after death” and on the right side write “Things we cannot take with us after death.” Have your family suggest things they can and cannot take with them while another person records their responses. Invite someone to read verses 18–19. Ask:

- What is one thing verse 18 suggests that we can take with us?
- How do we gain more knowledge and intelligence in this life? (Verse 19.)
- Why might we want to be diligent and obedient in this life?
- How does diligence and obedience to God help us gain knowledge? (Compare D&C 93:36–40.)
- Do you think the Lord could help us learn more about any subject we might be studying?

Encourage your family to include the Lord as they seek diligently for knowledge and intelligence.

Story:

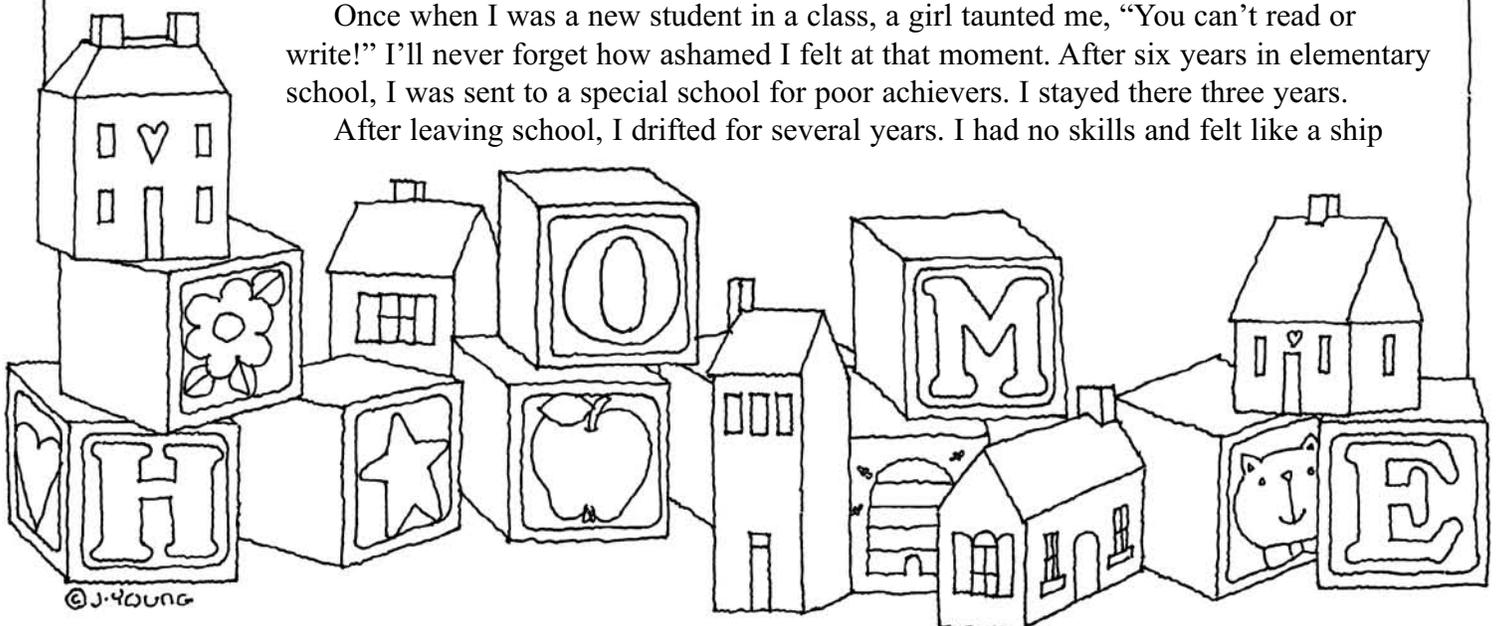
I Couldn’t Read or Write

(By Gunther Steffans, as told to Paul Conners)

My father was a long-distance truck driver who drank alcohol and was prone to violence. On those rare instances when he was home, he often beat his four children. As a result of my home situation, I lacked confidence in my ability to do anything right, including schoolwork. I withdrew into my own world and couldn’t seem to learn anything.

Once when I was a new student in a class, a girl taunted me, “You can’t read or write!” I’ll never forget how ashamed I felt at that moment. After six years in elementary school, I was sent to a special school for poor achievers. I stayed there three years.

After leaving school, I drifted for several years. I had no skills and felt like a ship



without a rudder. Then I met a neighbor who became like a father to me. He encouraged me to seek knowledge, to use my intelligence. One day I saw him compose a telegram. Sending a telegram would be a simple thing for most people, and I determined then that one day I would learn to read and write properly so that I, too, could send a telegram.

I began to ask questions. The world suddenly became a fascinating place. I enrolled in an adult extension class and read my first complete book, a 150-page children's book. Deciphering its contents occupied me for a long time. Next I enrolled in an evening middle school where I had a wonderful, caring teacher. Thanks to this dedicated teacher, I finally learned to read and write. Just knowing how to do these simple things that most people take for granted gave me a magnificent feeling.

One day two missionaries gave my brother a copy of the Book of Mormon during a street contact in Cologne, Germany. I was curious about the book and began reading it. I caught the spirit of it. My desire to learn the gospel was insatiable. Then I read the Bible. Suddenly I realized that I, who had been a learning-disabled boy, had read the two most important books in the world!

I wanted to find the missionaries and felt driven to travel to the center of Cologne, where I found the elders at an information booth they had set up. I received instruction from the missionaries, and a week and a half later I was baptized.

Two years later I began a full-time mission in England and had to learn a new language. This successful experience was the crowning event of my life up to that time. My faith and my missionary experiences gave me great inner strength and confidence. I knew I really could do anything I wanted to do. My future depended only on what I was willing to work for.

When I returned from my mission, I was allowed to enroll in a school equivalent to an American high school. A year later I graduated. An even greater blessing came to me when I qualified for advanced study at a university. For a learning-disabled boy who could neither read nor write, I acknowledge the loving hand of my Heavenly Father, who opened the way for me to overcome my challenges.

(Gunther Steffans and Paul Conners, "I Couldn't Read or Write," *Ensign*, Oct. 1996, 52–53)

Activity:

Play "How, When, and Where." A player leaves the room while the family selects a noun; for example, "trip." The player returns and asks each person the three questions, "How do you like it?" "When do you like it?" and "Where do you like it?" The answers might be "Long and drawn out," to the first; "In the fall," to the second; "In the hills," to the third. The player whose answer reveals the chosen word is the next to leave the room.

(Alma Heaton, *The LDS Game Book*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1968], p. 102.)

Refreshment

Million-Dollar Cookies

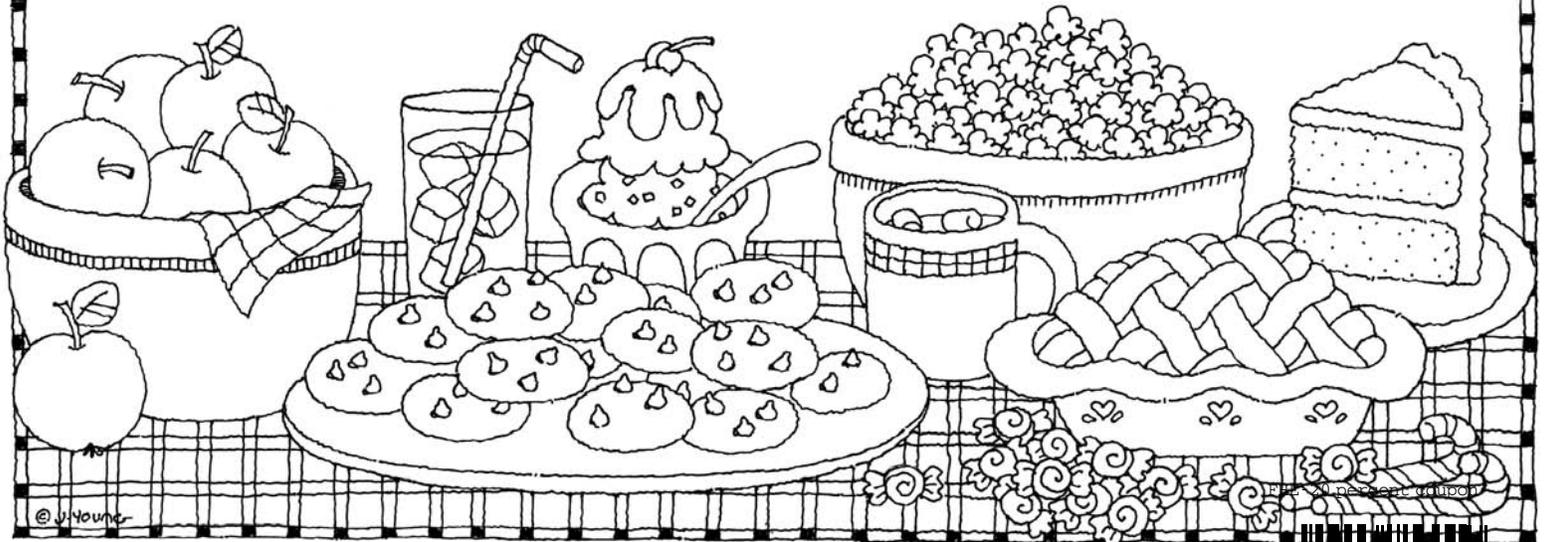
2 cups shortening
1 cup granulated sugar
1 cup brown sugar
2 eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla

1 teaspoon almond flavoring
4 cups flour
2 teaspoons baking soda
2 teaspoons cream of tartar

Grease a cookie sheet and set aside. In a large mixer bowl cream shortening, sugars, eggs, vanilla, and almond flavoring till fluffy. In another bowl sift flour, baking soda, and cream of tartar together. Add gradually to creamed mixture. Chill. Mold dough into 1-inch balls. Place onto prepared cookie sheet. Flatten each cookie with bottom of a drinking glass dipped in sugar. Bake for 10 minutes at 350° F. Cool on wire rack. Store in covered container. Makes 5 dozen cookies.

Variations: Add chocolate chips, chopped nuts, or raisins to batter before chilling. Drop by spoonfuls onto cookie sheet and bake as above.

(*Lion House Desserts*, [Salt Lake City: Eagle Gate, 2000], p. 131.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Knowledge

Packet #080108

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

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Knowledge

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read "Testimony," by Dallin H. Oaks, *Ensign*, May 2008, 26–29.

Thought:

Knowledge encourages obedience, and obedience enhances knowledge.

(Dallin H. Oaks, "Testimony," *Ensign*, May 2008, 26–29)

Song:

"I Know My Father Lives," *Children's Songbook*, p. 5

Scripture:

And a portion of that Spirit dwelleth in me, which giveth me knowledge, and also power according to my faith and desires which are in God.

(Alma 18:35)

Object Lesson:

Materials Needed: Several books relating to medicine. (Any profession, engineering, computer technology, etc. will work well.)

Procedure: Show the books to your family. Explain that you have decided to become a doctor and that these books will help you achieve that goal. Ask if holding the books will give you the ability to be a doctor. Will carrying them for a week or so give you the knowledge you need? The answers to these two questions will obviously be no. Discuss why not.

Explain that knowledge is not gained that way. In order to gain knowledge it is necessary to put forth effort and study from the correct books.

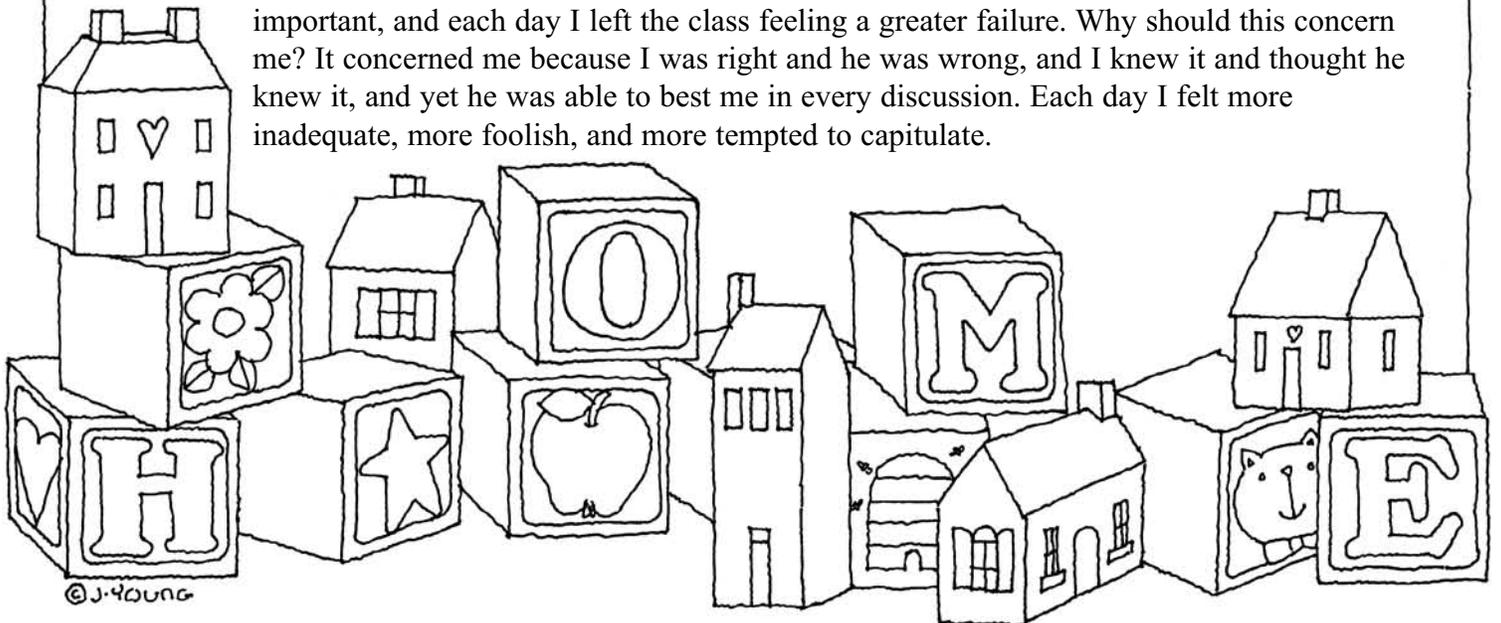
(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *More Power Tools for Teaching*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1991], p. 43.)

Story:

Near the end of the course work for my doctorate at Brigham Young University I was enrolled with three others in a philosophy class. Two of us were completing our doctorates; the other two were just beginning their graduate work.

There arose an issue between myself and the other doctoral candidate. The professor deftly moderated the contest without taking either side. The debate became more intense, and the other two students took sides, one on each.

So there we were, two contestants, each with a "second." The issue grew more important, and each day I left the class feeling a greater failure. Why should this concern me? It concerned me because I was right and he was wrong, and I knew it and thought he knew it, and yet he was able to best me in every discussion. Each day I felt more inadequate, more foolish, and more tempted to capitulate.



Then one of the most important experiences of my entire education occurred. One day as we were leaving class, his "second" made the comment to me, "You're losing, aren't you?"

There was no pride left to prevent me from consenting to the obvious. "Yes, I'm losing."

"Do you know what's the matter with you?" he asked.

I became interested and answered, "I would like very much to know."

"The trouble with you," he said, "is that you are fighting out of context."

I asked him what he meant; I didn't know and he couldn't explain it. He just said, "You are fighting out of context."

That night I thought continuously about it. It wasn't the grade or the credit I was concerned about—it was bigger than that. I was being beaten and humiliated in my efforts to defend a principle that was true. The statement, "You are fighting out of context" stayed in my mind. Finally, in my humiliation I went before the Lord in prayer. Then I knew.

The next day we returned to class, this time to stay in context. When the debate was renewed, instead of mumbling some stilted, sophisticated, philosophical statement, calculated to show I was conversant with philosophical terminology and had read a book or two, instead of saying, "The a priori acquisition of intelligence as though from some external source of enlightenment," I stayed in context and said, "Revelation from God."

Suddenly the tables were turned. I was rescued from defeat, and I learned a lesson I would not forget. I stand in debt to the unassuming student from whose remark I learned so much. . . .

In any field of knowledge, there are prerequisites. At a university, for example, a number of courses there are required prerequisites. You cannot register for Chemistry 371 without first having taken Chemistry 106. To enroll in Education 657 you must first have completed either Education 460 or 550. And so on. If you take the advanced course first without the prerequisite or equivalent training, likely you will founder. Without knowledge of the basic principles of a discipline, you may misunderstand, even reject, elements that are positively true when related to foundation principles of the discipline.

In the gospel there are some prerequisite courses without which the deeper meaning of some principles of the gospel may not be understood, in fact which may be completely misunderstood. For instance, the conditions under which personal revelation can be received could hardly be accepted or understood by one who has not completed the prerequisite courses of faith, repentance, baptism, and the reception of the Holy Ghost.

(Boyd K. Packer, *Memorable Stories and Parables*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1997], 73.)

Activity:

Make eighteen cards with one of the following letters on each card: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, J, K, L, M, N, P, R, S, T, W.

Make a list of the following categories: Animals Found in the Scriptures, New Testament, Articles of Faith, Book of Mormon, Family, Pioneers, Old Testament, Priesthood, Primary Songs, Love, Temples, Word of Wisdom, Sacrament, Children, Doctrine and Covenants, Friends, Presidents of the Church, and Prayer.

Decide if you are going to play in teams or as individuals. Place the cards face down on the floor or table. Have a family member choose one of the categories from the list. Have another family member choose an alphabet card.

The first person or team that can give a word that begins with the letter, and can explain what the word has to do with the category gets to keep the letter card. The person or team that wins that round chooses the category for the next round. He then picks another letter and play continues.

The game ends when all eighteen letters are gone. The winner is the person or team that collects the most letters.

(Note: You may want to let younger children say *any* word that begins with the letter.)

Allan K. Burgess and Max H. Molgard, *Fun for Family Night: Book of Momorn Edition*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1990], 22.)

Refreshment

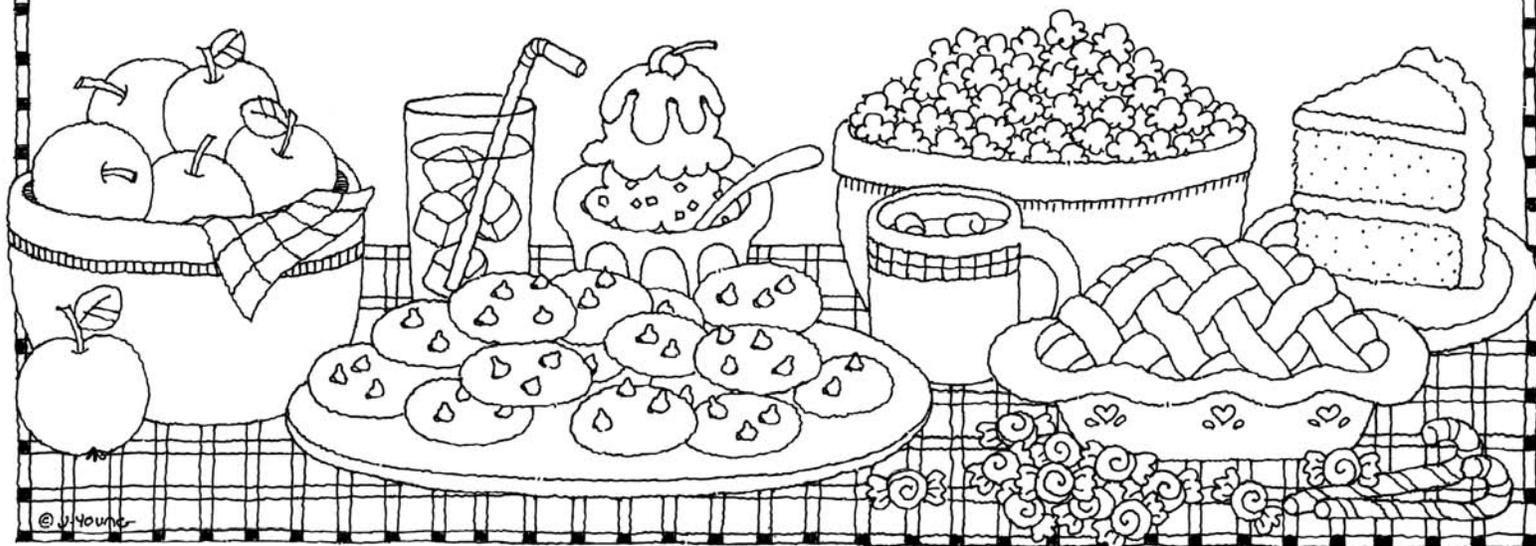
Frozen Fruit Dessert

- 1 gallon pineapple sherbet, softened
- 3 packages (10 ounces each) frozen raspberries, thawed
- 5 bananas, cubed

Fold ingredients together. Put into covered plastic containers and freeze. Dessert may be made ahead of time and stored in freezer. Makes 35 servings.

Note: You can also use equal parts pineapple sherbet and vanilla ice cream, softened.

(*Lion House Classics*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 2004] p. 129.)



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Weed Your Brain, Grow Your Testimony (talk on CD)
My Book of Mormon ABC's

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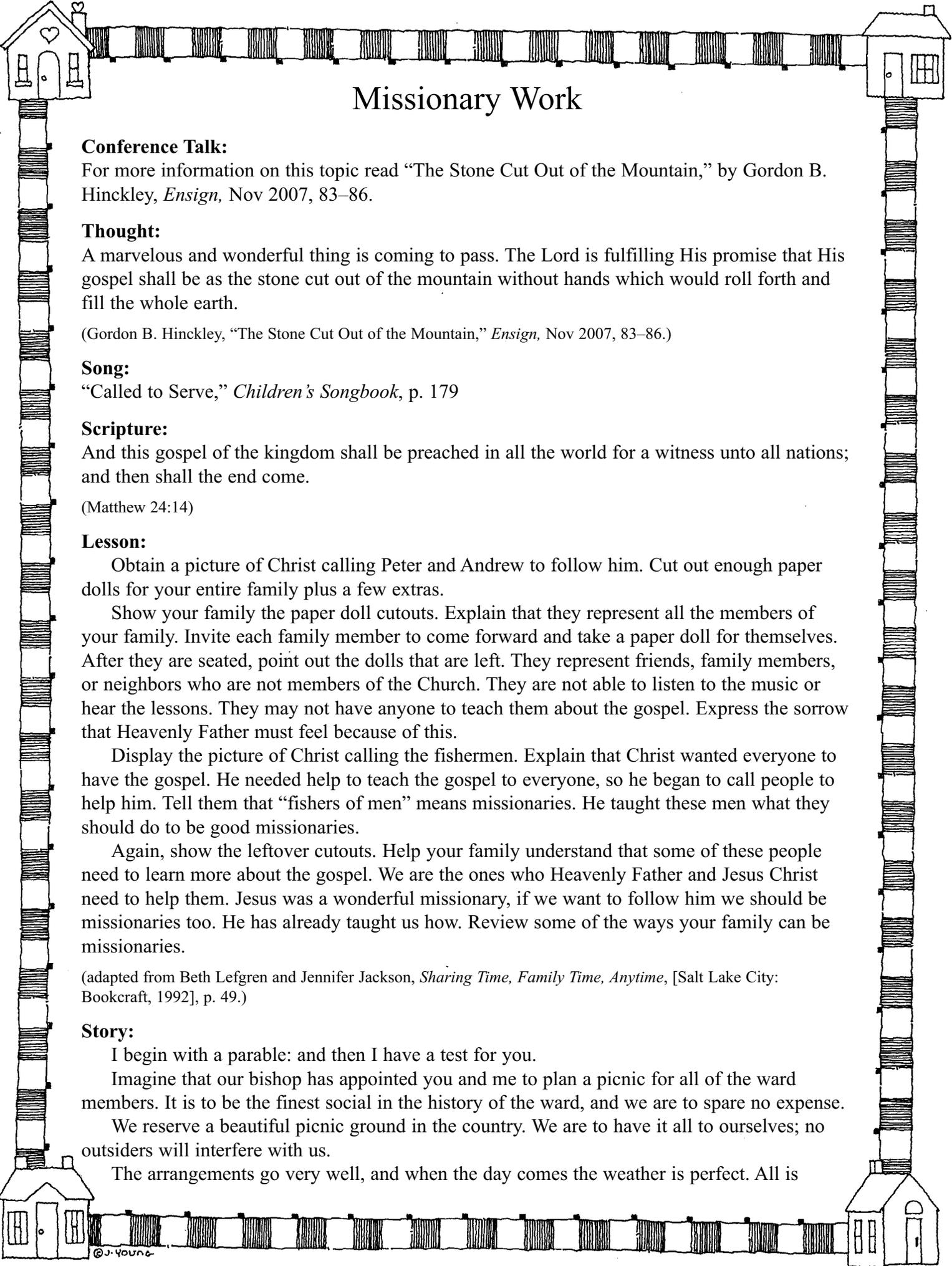
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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Missionary Work

Packet #020108

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
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Missionary Work

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read “The Stone Cut Out of the Mountain,” by Gordon B. Hinckley, *Ensign*, Nov 2007, 83–86.

Thought:

A marvelous and wonderful thing is coming to pass. The Lord is fulfilling His promise that His gospel shall be as the stone cut out of the mountain without hands which would roll forth and fill the whole earth.

(Gordon B. Hinckley, “The Stone Cut Out of the Mountain,” *Ensign*, Nov 2007, 83–86.)

Song:

“Called to Serve,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 179

Scripture:

And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

(Matthew 24:14)

Lesson:

Obtain a picture of Christ calling Peter and Andrew to follow him. Cut out enough paper dolls for your entire family plus a few extras.

Show your family the paper doll cutouts. Explain that they represent all the members of your family. Invite each family member to come forward and take a paper doll for themselves. After they are seated, point out the dolls that are left. They represent friends, family members, or neighbors who are not members of the Church. They are not able to listen to the music or hear the lessons. They may not have anyone to teach them about the gospel. Express the sorrow that Heavenly Father must feel because of this.

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Again, show the leftover cutouts. Help your family understand that some of these people need to learn more about the gospel. We are the ones who Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ need to help them. Jesus was a wonderful missionary, if we want to follow him we should be missionaries too. He has already taught us how. Review some of the ways your family can be missionaries.

(adapted from Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *Sharing Time, Family Time, Anytime*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1992], p. 49.)

Story:

I begin with a parable: and then I have a test for you.

Imagine that our bishop has appointed you and me to plan a picnic for all of the ward members. It is to be the finest social in the history of the ward, and we are to spare no expense.

We reserve a beautiful picnic ground in the country. We are to have it all to ourselves; no outsiders will interfere with us.

The arrangements go very well, and when the day comes the weather is perfect. All is

beautifully ready. The tables are in one long row. We even have tablecloths and china. You have never seen such a feast. The Relief Society and the Young Women have outdone themselves. The tables are laden with every kind of delicious food: cantaloupe, watermelon, corn on the cob, fried chicken, hamburgers, cakes, pies-you get the picture.

We are seated, and the bishop calls upon the patriarch to bless the food. Every hungry youngster secretly hopes it will be a short prayer.

Then, just at that moment, there is an interruption. A noisy old car jerks into the picnic grounds and sputters to a stop close to us. We are upset. Didn't they see the Reserved signs?

A worried-looking man lifts the hood; a spout of steam comes out. One of our brethren, a mechanic, says, "That car isn't going anywhere until it is repaired."

Several children spill from the car. They are ragged and dirty and noisy. And then an anxious mother takes a box to that extra table nearby. It is mealtime. The children are hungry. She puts a few leftovers on the table. Then she nervously moves them about, trying to make it look like a meal for her hungry brood. But there is not enough.

We wait impatiently for them to quiet down so that we can have the blessing and enjoy our feast.

Then one of their little girls spies our table. She pulls her runny-nosed little brother over to us and pushes her head between you and me. We cringe aside, because they are very dirty. Then the little girl says, "Ummm, look at that. Ummm, ummm, I wonder what that tastes like."

Everyone is waiting. Why did they arrive just at that moment? Such an inconvenient time. Why must we interrupt what we are doing to bother with outsiders? Why couldn't they have stopped somewhere else? They are not clean! They are not like us. They just don't fit in.

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Could there be more pure enjoyment than seeing how much we could get those hungry children to eat? Could there be more satisfaction than to interrupt our festivities to help our mechanic fix their car?

Is that what you would do? Surely it is what you should do. But forgive me if I have a little doubt. Let me explain.

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Activity:

Play "Missionary Tag."

All players except one form into pairs (companions) and link one arm. Pairs spread out over area. The one single player is "It" (also known as the "runner").

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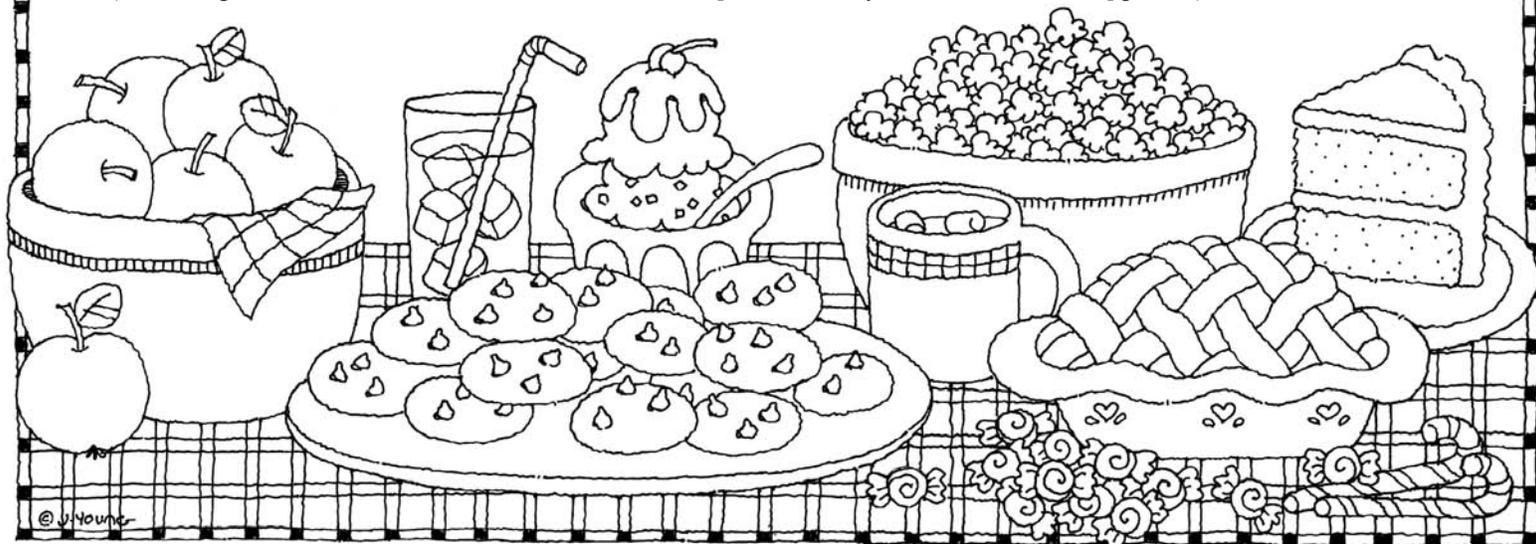
Refreshment

Courtship Brownies

- 2 cups sugar
- 1 cup butter, at room temperature
- 4 eggs
- 6 (1-ounce) squares unsweetened baking chocolate
- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup milk
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- Cream Cheese Frosting (canned or home made)
- 1/2 cup milk chocolate chips, melted

In a large bowl beat together sugar, butter, and eggs. In a separate bowl, melt chocolate squares in microwave on high for 20-second intervals until smooth. Add melted chocolate to first mixture. In a separate bowl sift together flour, baking powder, and salt. Stir into chocolate mixture. Add milk and vanilla and beat together. Pour into a greased 9x13-inch pan. Bake at 350° F. for about 30 minutes. Cool. Frost with Cream Cheese Frosting and drizzle with melted chocolate if desired. Makes 16 brownies.

(Julie Badger Jensen, *The Essential Mormon Cookbook*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2004] p. 145.)



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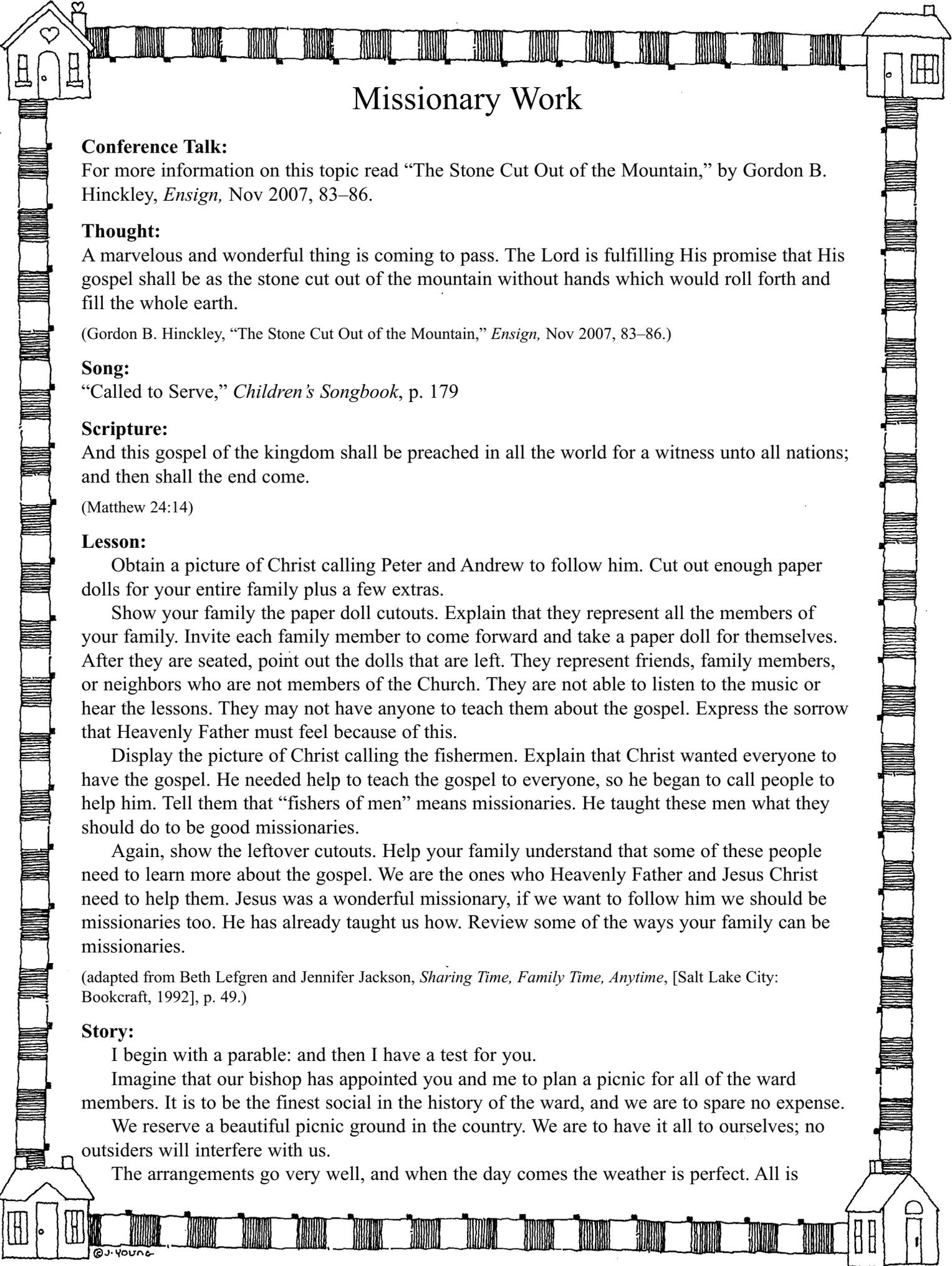
Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Missionary Work

Packet #020108

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
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Missionary Work

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read “The Stone Cut Out of the Mountain,” by Gordon B. Hinckley, *Ensign*, Nov 2007, 83–86.

Thought:

A marvelous and wonderful thing is coming to pass. The Lord is fulfilling His promise that His gospel shall be as the stone cut out of the mountain without hands which would roll forth and fill the whole earth.

(Gordon B. Hinckley, “The Stone Cut Out of the Mountain,” *Ensign*, Nov 2007, 83–86.)

Song:

“Called to Serve,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 179

Scripture:

And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

(Matthew 24:14)

Lesson:

Obtain a picture of Christ calling Peter and Andrew to follow him. Cut out enough paper dolls for your entire family plus a few extras.

Show your family the paper doll cutouts. Explain that they represent all the members of your family. Invite each family member to come forward and take a paper doll for themselves. After they are seated, point out the dolls that are left. They represent friends, family members, or neighbors who are not members of the Church. They are not able to listen to the music or hear the lessons. They may not have anyone to teach them about the gospel. Express the sorrow that Heavenly Father must feel because of this.

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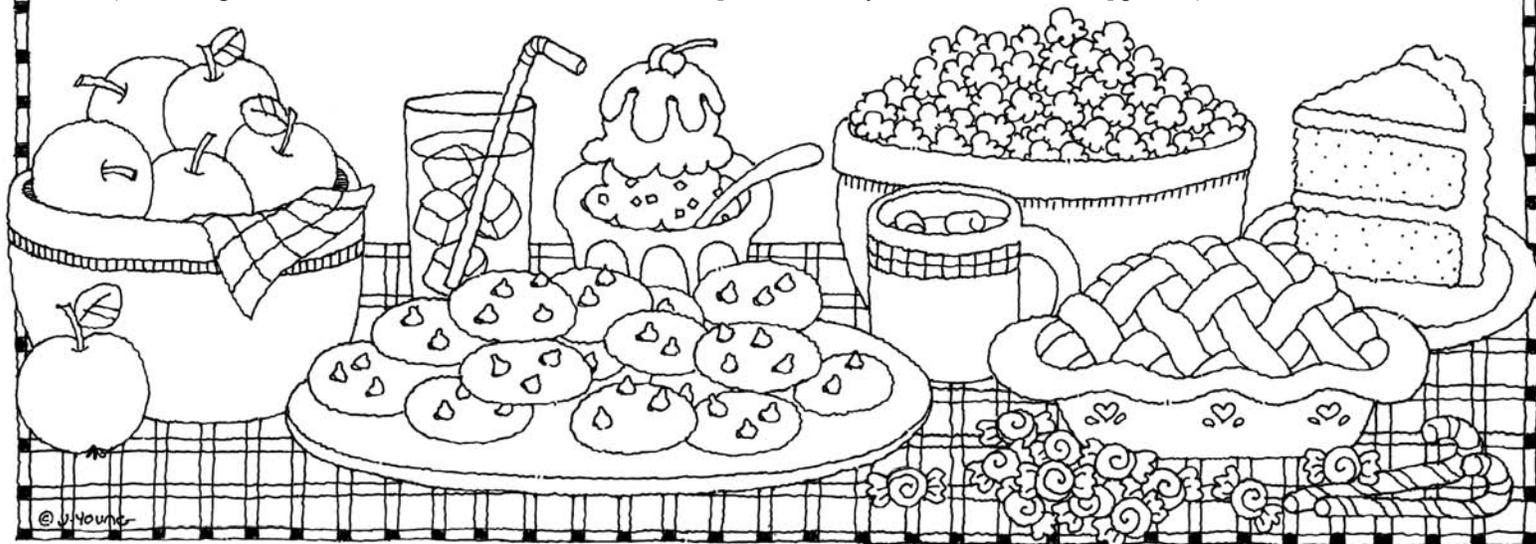
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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Mothers

Packet #050108

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

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Mothers

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read “Mothers Who Know,” by Julie B. Beck, *Ensign*, Nov 2007, 76–78.

Thought:

When mothers know who they are and who God is and have made covenants with Him, they will have great power and influence for good on their children.

(Julie B. Beck, “Mothers Who Know,” *Ensign*, Nov 2007, 76–78.)

Song:

“Mother Dear,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 206

Scripture:

And they rehearsed unto me the words of their mothers, saying: We do not doubt our mothers knew it.

(Alma 56:48)

Lesson:

Have your family read silently Alma 56:45–48. Then give each person an opportunity to describe the mothers of these young men in one sentence. Write their descriptions on a sheet of paper.

Next have your family take turns sharing favorite memories about their mother or grandmother. Have each person give a one-sentence description of his or her mother or grandmother and write these on another paper. Discuss the similarities between the two lists. What qualities do all good mothers share? How does a testimony of the gospel affect the qualities and the effectiveness of a mother?

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The Book of Mormon*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 235.)

Story:

To this day I can’t tell you why that Cub Scout roller skating party was so all-fired important to me. For some reason, I was absolutely obsessed with going to the Rustic Rink with all my fellow Cubs and lacing on a pair of heavy black roller skates.

But there was a problem. It was a Cubs-and-Parents affair, which meant that I had to invite Mom and Dad. Which was okay, except for one thing. I had long since figured out that my parents were a little different from most of my friends’ folks. For one thing, they were older—Dad was 53 at the time, Mom was 47—and both were physically less active than other parents in the neighborhood. My friends would go skiing and camping with their parents. Mine let me watch The Mickey Mouse Club nearly every day.

Which is why it surprised me a little when Mom responded so positively to the skating party when I finally found the courage to bring it up.

“But I’ve never been roller skating before,” Dad protested.

“Then it’s time you learned,” Mom replied. “Besides, you used to ice skate.”

“Wanda, that was forty years ago.”

“Oh, you know how it is with those kinds of things,” Mom assured him. “Once you learn

them you never forget them.” She placed her hands lovingly on my shoulders. “If it means so much to him, Bud, don’t you think we should at least give it a try?”

Dad looked at me with mock frustration.

“All right,” he said with a shrug and a chuckle. Then he pointed a finger directly at me. “But you better plan on following right behind me so I can land on you when I fall.”

Actually, that job fell to Mom. Since she had actually roller skated when she was young, she was designated as the couple’s Skating Expert. It was her task to support Dad as he made his herky-jerky, clackety-clacking way around the rink and to go down with him whenever he fell, which was about once every twenty yards. The two of them would sit on the floor after each fall, giggling like teenagers, and then they would struggle to their feet and begin again.

Clackety-clack. Thud. Ha-ha-ha.

Only I wasn’t laughing. Most of the other parents skated pretty well. Ron and Don’s dad could skate backwards, for Pete’s sake. But there was my roly-poly Mom trying to support my nearly white-haired father, who couldn’t seem to grasp the concept of gliding on skates. They went down—again and again—in an embarrassing gale of laughter, making enough noise that you could barely hear the Beach Boys tunes blaring from the rink’s loudspeakers.

I don’t think I even told my parents “thank you” as we drove home from the party that night. I vaguely remember hearing my Mom mention that her back was a little sore, but mostly I was up to my earlobes in humiliation and self-pity.

My mortification turned to shame when Mom awakened in the middle of the night, her back in agony. Dad gave her aspirin. He alternated putting a heating pad on her back and then massaging it until dawn. Though she tried to be brave, Mom couldn’t keep from moaning in pain—low and guttural—and tears rolled down her cheeks until her pillow glistened with moisture. I tried to sleep through it, but it was impossible with the remorse that enveloped me. As the first light of day peeked over the mountains, Dad prepared to take Mom to the emergency room. I heard him sadly tell my sister that it was his fault for being so darn clumsy.

But I knew whose fault it really was. When I finally saw her in the hospital, I was almost overwhelmed with guilt. She had slipped a disc in her back and was in traction, which looked to me like something straight out of a torture chamber. Her head was held in place by an ugly assortment of cables and harnesses that kept her looking straight ahead. A stack of weights was attached to her feet, seeming to turn her into the rope in a painful game of tug-of-war.

And I had put her there. For all I knew, I could have killed her. For the first time I understood how selfless her concern for me had been. And how selfish I had been.

“Mom . . .” I could barely speak.

“Joey? Is that you, Son? I’m sorry, I can’t see you.” Again she was apologizing for something that wasn’t her fault. I figured it was my turn to ask forgiveness.

“Mom . . . last night . . . the roller skating . . .” I couldn’t even form the words.

“Oh, yes—the roller skating,” she said. Then she smiled as best she could in that harness. “We did have a wonderful time, didn’t we?”

In time Mom recovered from the injuries she suffered at the Rustic Rink. Thankfully, I hadn’t killed her. But her back was never the same.

And neither, I hope, was I.

(Joseph Walker, *Look What Love Has Done*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 2007], 19.)

Activity:

Take ten paper cups and write a number on the bottom of each cup, numbering them from 1 to 10.

Use masking tape to make a line extending across the floor near one end of the room. Near the other end of the room make a short line with the masking tape.

Mix up the numbered cups and place them on the longer line of masking tape. Leave an inch or two between each cup.

Cut into ten separate strips the statements that follow these instructions. Place them in a bowl.

One family member goes to the short line at one end of the room. Standing behind the line, he tries to knock one of the cups off the masking tape line by rolling a small ball. If he knocks a cup off the line, he reads the number that is on the bottom of the cup. He then draws a statement from the bowl and reads the statement to the rest of the family inserting the number on the bottom of the cup into the blank.

The family then needs to do what the statement says.

1. Name _____ things Mother likes to do during the summer.
2. Name _____ things Mother does really well.
3. Name _____ books Mother has read.
4. Name _____ things you like about Mother.
5. Name _____ things Mother likes to eat for breakfast.
6. Name _____ of Mother's relatives by name, listing only relatives who are not in the room.
7. Name _____ animals Mother likes.
8. Name _____ of Mother's favorite Book of Mormon stories.
9. Name _____ things Mother does every day.
10. Name _____ of Mother's favorite desserts.

(adapted from Max H. Molgard and Allan K. Burgess, *The Best of Fun for Family Night*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], 4-5.)

Refreshment

Iced Carrot Cookies

1	cup shortening	2	teaspoons baking powder
3/4	cup sugar	1/2	teaspoon salt
2	eggs	3/4	cup coconut
1	cup cooked, mashed carrots		Orange Frosting (below)
2	cups flour		

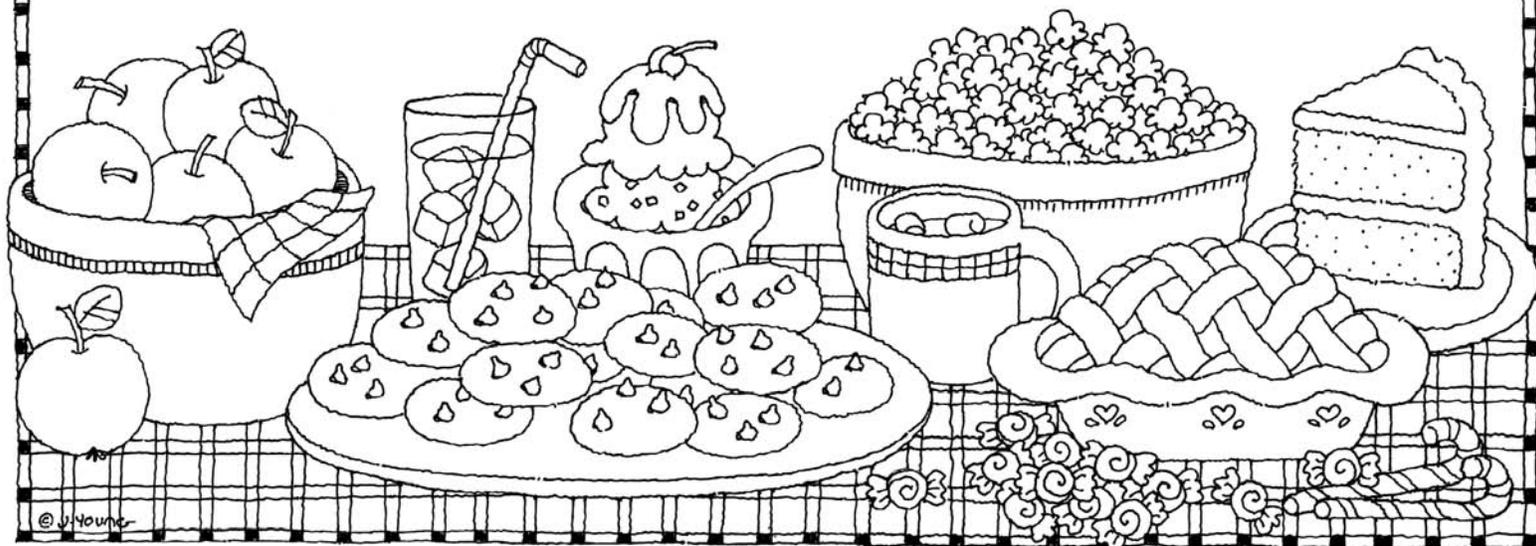
In large mixing bowl, cream shortening and sugar. Add eggs; beat until fluffy. Add mashed carrots. Sift flour, baking powder, and salt; add to creamed mixture. Stir in coconut. Drop by teaspoonfuls onto greased cookie sheet. Bake at 400 degrees for 10 minutes. Cool, then ice with Orange Frosting (next page). Makes 4 dozen small cookies.

Orange Frosting

1	tablespoon orange juice
2	teaspoons grated orange peel
1	cup powdered sugar
2	tablespoons soft margarine

In small bowl, combine all ingredients; stir until well mixed.

(*Lion House Classics*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 2004] p. 107.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Oliver Cowdery

Packet #070507

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

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Oliver Cowdery

Thought:

We owe so much to Oliver Cowdery for his special service as a scribe.

(Neal A. Maxwell, “By the Gift and Power of God’,” *Ensign* Jan 1997, 36)

Song:

“The Priesthood is Restored,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 89.

Scripture:

Oliver Cowdery, verily, verily, I say unto you, that assuredly as the Lord liveth, who is your God and your Redeemer, even so surely shall you receive a knowledge of whatsoever things you shall ask in faith, with an honest heart, believing that you shall receive a knowledge concerning the engravings of old records, which are ancient, which contain those parts of my scripture of which has been spoken by the manifestation of my Spirit.

(D&C 8:1)

Lesson:

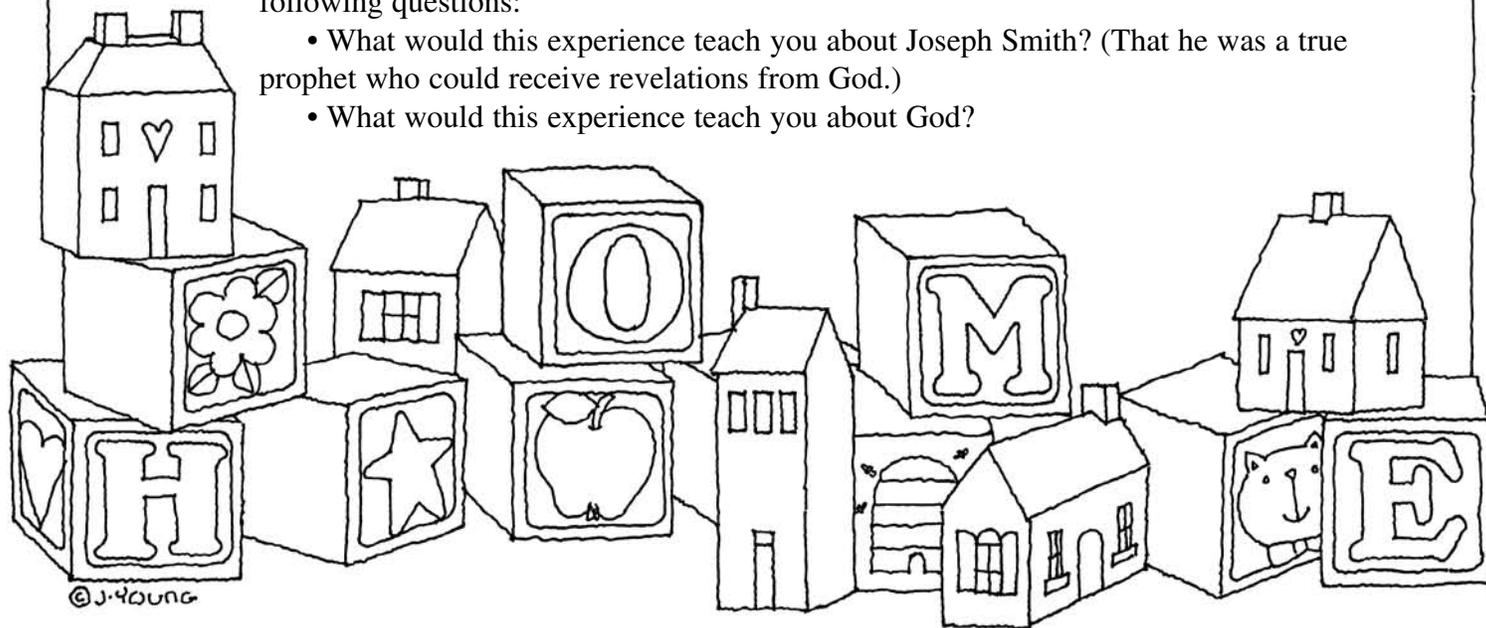
Ask family members to briefly write down one thing that happened to them yesterday that they think no other family member would know about. When everyone has finished, ask the following questions:

- How common is it for you to have experiences that only you know about?
- Do you think any family member could guess what you wrote on your paper?
- Who, besides yourself, knows about that event and what you wrote on your paper? (God.)

Tell your family that Oliver Cowdery had an experience while living in Palmyra, New York, that he had not shared with anyone. He explained, “After [I] had gone to [Joseph Smith’s] father’s to board, and after the family had communicated to [me] concerning [Joseph] having obtained the plates, that one night after [I] had retired to bed [I] called upon the Lord to know if these things were so, and the Lord manifested to [me] that they were true, but [I] had kept the circumstance entirely secret, and had mentioned it to no one.” (Account related by Joseph Smith in *History of the Church*, 1:35.)

Read D&C 6:14–24 as a family. Look for evidences that show the Lord knew about Oliver Cowdery’s experience, even though no one else did. When you have finished, discuss some of the following questions:

- What would this experience teach you about Joseph Smith? (That he was a true prophet who could receive revelations from God.)
- What would this experience teach you about God?



- If you were Oliver Cowdery, what phrases would have given you comfort? Why?
- What feelings did Oliver Cowdery experience from the Holy Ghost? (Enlightenment [see verse 15]; peace [see verse 23]; a witness of truth [see verse 24].)
- How are these feelings similar to the times when you have felt the influence of the Holy Ghost?

Invite family members to write down an experience when the Lord answered their prayers. Ask them to keep this experience in their journals, so they can refer to it later in their lives.

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The Doctrine and Covenants*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2004], p. 10.)

Story: .

On April 7, 1829, Joseph started translating with Oliver Cowdery serving as his scribe. The two of them worked very well as a team. As the work went on, Joseph and Oliver learned that the Savior himself had visited the [Book of Mormon] people in the new land, after His crucifixion. The Savior taught them the principles of His gospel and established His church among them.

Joseph and Oliver were especially interested in what He had said about baptism. “I give unto you power that ye shall baptize this people,” the Savior had said, “when I am again ascended into heaven.”

Clearly, this meant that baptism must be performed by someone who had the authority to do so. Joseph and Oliver talked about it and decided that no one in their day held this authority. Only God could restore it to earth.

The two men prayed to know how they could bring about the restoration of the priesthood authority. It wasn’t long before they found out.

One morning as they sat down to work, a commandment came through the Urim and Thummim. It told Joseph and Oliver to be baptized.

They still weren’t sure exactly what to do. So on May 15, 1829, they went into the woods to pray for further knowledge. As they prayed, a messenger from heaven came down in a shaft of light. The angel identified himself as John, who had been called John the Baptist in the New Testament. It had been he who baptized Jesus in the River Jordan.

The angel laid his hands upon their heads, saying, “Upon you my fellow servants, in the name of Messiah, I confer the Priesthood of Aaron, which holds the keys of the ministering of angels, and of the gospel of repentance, and of baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; and this shall never be taken again from the earth, until the sons of Levi do offer again an offering unto the Lord in righteousness.”

John said he acted under the direction of Peter, James, and John, who held the keys of the Priesthood of Melchizedek, which Joseph and Oliver would later receive. He told them they should now go into the water and be baptized. Joseph was to baptize Oliver, then Oliver was to baptize Joseph, under the authority of the new priesthood they had received.

They hurried to the nearby Susquehanna River, where they waded into the water and baptized each other, as they’d been told to do. Then, as instructed by the angel, Joseph laid his hands on Oliver’s head and ordained him to the Aaronic Priesthood. Oliver did the same for Joseph.

After this spiritual experience, Joseph and Oliver found that their understanding of their work greatly increased. The meanings of scripture passages were made much clearer to them. They were so excited that they wanted to shout it out to all the world.

When John the Baptist had bestowed the Aaronic Priesthood upon him and Oliver, he had spoken

of a greater priesthood after the order of Melchizedek that would soon be given to them. This priesthood would give them the necessary keys and authority to organize the true church at a time that would soon be revealed.

One day, probably in May 1829, just as John had promised, Peter, James, and John did indeed appear to Joseph and Oliver between Harmony and Colesville where Joseph Knight lived. The exact date of this restoration is not known, nor is the exact place where it occurred.

The important thing is that it happened. Peter, James, and John, ancient apostles of Jesus Christ, laid their hands on the heads of the two men and bestowed the Melchizedek Priesthood, restoring to the earth authority that would be needed to reorganize and operate Christ's church.

This restoration placed a heavy responsibility on Joseph and Oliver, but they accepted it with joy and returned to their work of translation with renewed determination and urgency.

(Richard E. Turley Jr. and Lael Littke, *Stories from the Life of Joseph Smith*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 37-40.)

Activity:

Play a game with your family. One player leaves the room. In his absence the others change the position of the chairs or other items in the room. "It" is called and upon his return must point out the changes. If he is successful another "it" is chosen.

Explain that Oliver Cowdery and Joseph Smith were paying attention to the scriptures as they translated them. When they noticed something different than what they currently knew (the need for baptism by Priesthood authority) they went to the Lord to find out what they should do.

Refreshment

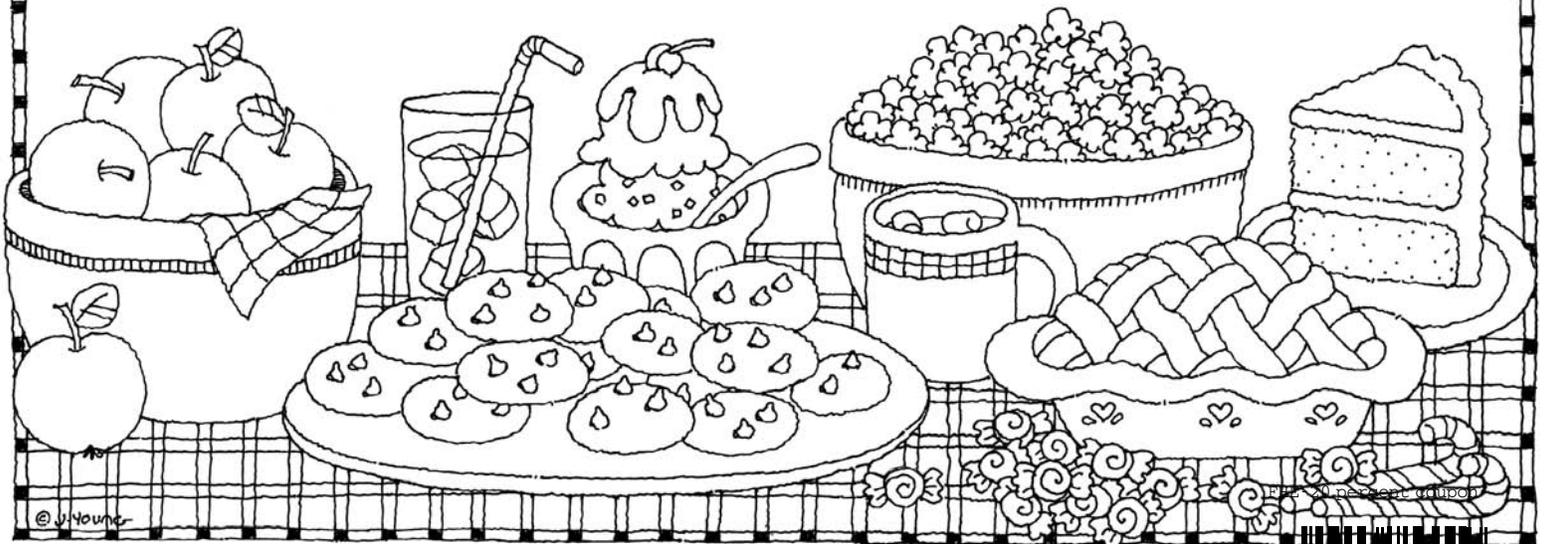
Oatmeal Raisin Cookies

2/3 cup granulated sugar
2/3 cup packed brown sugar
1/2 cup margarine or butter, softened
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon vanilla
1/2 teaspoon baking powder

1/2 teaspoon salt
2 eggs
3 cups quick-cooking or old-fashioned oats
1 cup all-purpose flour
1 cup raisins, chopped nuts, or semisweet
chocolate chips, if desired

1. Heat oven to 375 degrees F.
2. Mix all ingredients except oats, flour, and raisins in large bowl. Stir in oats, flour, and raisins.
3. Drop dough by rounded tablespoonfuls about 2 inches apart onto ungreased cookie sheet.
4. Bake 9 to 11 minutes or until light brown. Immediately remove from cookie sheet. Cool on wire rack.

(Betty Crocker Sunday Dinner Cookbook, [Hoboken, NJ: Wiley Publishing and Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2007] p. 20.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Persistence

Packet #080307

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
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- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.

Persistence

Thought:

That which we persist in doing becomes easier for us to do—not that the nature of the thing has changed, but that our power to do has increased.

(Heber J. Grant, quoting Emerson)

Song:

“Choose the Right Way,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 160.

Scripture:

And we know that all men must repent and believe on the name of Jesus Christ, and worship the Father in his name, and endure in faith on his name to the end, or they cannot be saved in the kingdom of God.

(Doctrine and Covenants 20:29)

Lesson:

Cut two semi-circular arrows. When put together they should form a circle as well as point to each other. Label one instruction and the other practice.

Show a picture of a famous basketball player to your family. Tell them to imagine that the famous ball player is coming to their home. He is coming to teach them everything he knows about basketball: dribbling, passing, shooting, blocking, and much more. They watch him carefully and listen to everything he says. But that is not enough. He tells them that they have to practice everything he teaches them. So they begin to practice every day. He agrees to come and watch them practice. When he sees something they need to improve on, he stops them and gives more instruction. Then they practice again.

This continues day after day. He gives them the help they need, and they practice diligently each move he teaches them.

Put up the arrow labeled instruction. The first step in becoming good at something is receiving instruction from someone who is already experienced. Put up the next arrow, labeled practice, to form a circle. The second part of becoming good at something is to practice what we have been taught. As we practice we receive more instruction to make us even better. Then we practice what we have learned. This is a cycle which repeats itself over and over.

Another word for practicing, or trying something over and over, is persistence.

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *Sharing Time, Family Time, Anytime*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1992], p. 62.)

Story:

“The Result Was Spectacular”

John R. Talmage

While serving as president of the University of Utah, James E. Talmage learned to ride a bicycle for transportation.

Some time after James had achieved reasonable proficiency in handling his machine on standard roads, he showed up at the front door one evening a full hour late for dinner and scarcely recognizable.

[His wife, May,] nearly went into shock, for her husband was a frightening sight. Battered,

bruised, and bleeding profusely, clothes torn in a dozen places and covered with dust and mud, James looked as though he had been caught in a riot, or at least a fight of unusual violence. Neither, it developed, had been the case.

Half a block from the Talmage home a single-plank footbridge crossed the ditch of running water that separated the street from the footpath. Until now, James had dismounted when he reached this point in a homeward journey, and crossed the narrow bridge on foot. Today, he had decided that he had reached the point in his development as a cyclist where he should no longer resort to this prudent maneuver, but rather ride over the bridge in the manner of an accomplished veteran of the two-wheeler.

Having so decided, James approached the bridge resolutely, confident that he would negotiate the tricky passage in a manner to be proud of and to impress neighbors, if any should chance to be watching, with his skill and casual daring. He turned sharply from the road toward the bridge with scarcely any diminution of speed. The result was spectacular and observers, if any there were, must indeed have been impressed, but in a very different way from that intended. The professor's bicycle went onto the plank at an oblique angle and quickly slid off the side, throwing its rider heavily into the ditchbank.

Dazed, bruised, bleeding, and humiliated, Dr. Talmage was not convinced that the difficult maneuver was beyond his skill. Rather, he was stubbornly determined to prove that he could and would master the difficulty.

For the next hour, the president of the University of Utah might have been observed trundling his bicycle fifty yards or so down the road from the bridge, mounting and riding furiously toward the plank crossing, turning onto it with grim-lipped determination—and plunging off it in a spectacular and bone-shaking crash into the rough ditchbank. Uncounted times this startling performance was repeated, but in the end mind triumphed over matter, will power over faltering reflexes, and the crossing was successfully made. Not just once, but enough times in succession to convince James that he was capable of performing the feat without mishap at any time he might desire to do so. From then on, he never again dismounted to cross the bridge, albeit he never made the crossing without experiencing deep-seated qualms which he kept carefully concealed from any who might be watching.

(Jay A. Parry, Jack M. Lyon and Linda Ririe Gundry, *Best-Loved Stories of the LDS People*, vol. 3, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 200], p. 164-5.)

Activity:

Set up an obstacle course using chairs, tables, broomsticks, or other items. Select someone to walk blindfolded from one end of the obstacle course to the other. If he touches any obstacles he must start over, but someone will give him verbal directions through the course.

Let each family member try the obstacle course. Explain that the more you try it, the easier it gets.

(adapted from George and Jeane Chipman, *Games! Games! Games!*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 1983], p. 163.)

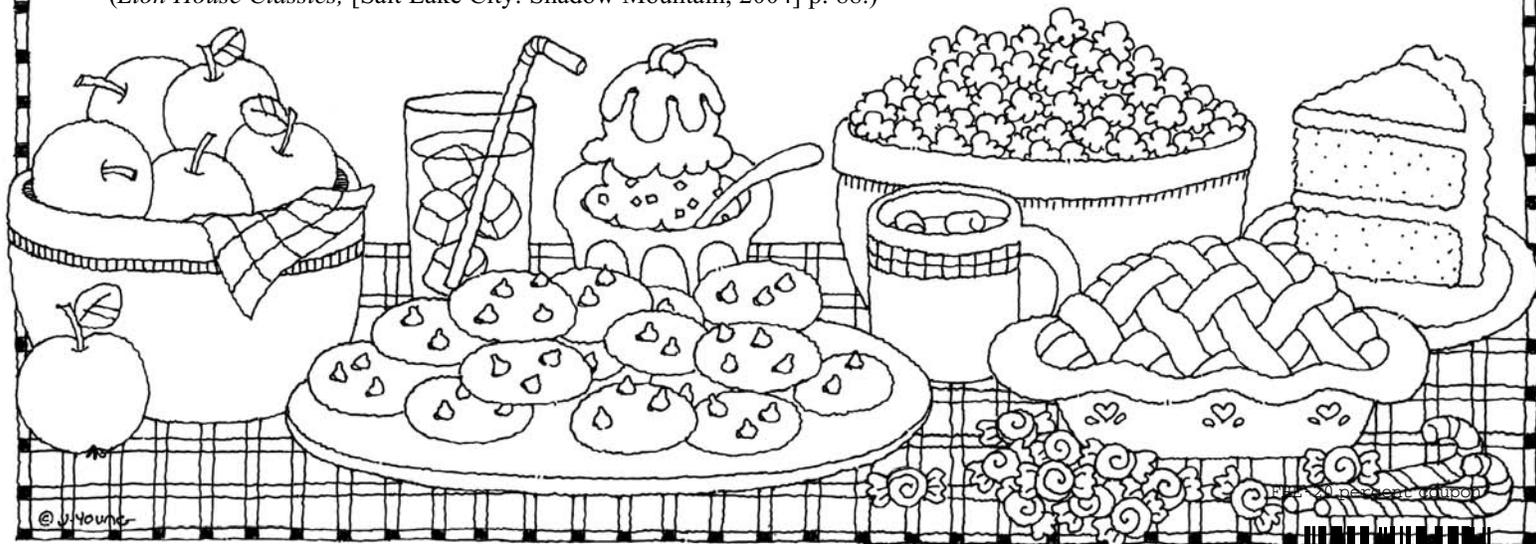
Refreshment

Zucchini Bread

- 3 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 3 eggs
- 1 cup oil
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 tablespoon vanilla
- 2 cups zucchini, grated
- 1 cup walnuts, chopped

Grease well large 8x4-inch loaf pan or 2 small 7x3-inch loaf pans. Set aside. In large bowl, mix flour, baking soda, baking powder, and cinnamon. Set aside. In separate mixing bowl, beat eggs until light and foamy. Add oil, sugar, vanilla, and zucchini; mix well. Add flour mixture and mix just until moist. (Overmixing causes tunnels and a coarse texture.) Fold in nuts. Pour into prepared pan or pans. (Pans should be about two-thirds full.) Bake at 325 degrees for 45 to 50 minutes for large loaf or 35 minutes for small loaves, or until wooden toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Do not overbake. Serves 10 to 12.

(*Lion House Classics*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 2004] p. 88.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Plan of Salvation

Packet #080308

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A B C D E F G H I J K L M

Plan of Salvation

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read "The Gospel of Jesus Christ," by L. Tom Perry, *Ensign*, May 2008, 44–46.

Thought:

The gospel teaches us all we need to know to return to live with our Father in Heaven as resurrected and glorified beings.

(L. Tom Perry, "The Gospel of Jesus Christ," *Ensign*, May 2008, 44–46.)

Song:

"I Lived in Heaven" *Children's Songbook*, p. 4.

Scripture:

For behold, this is my work and my glory—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man.

(Moses 1:39)

Object Lesson:

Show your family some of the obituary articles from today's newspaper. Ask them if most people know the day they are going to die. If tomorrow were your turn to die, what would be some of your concerns?

Read Alma 34:31–36 as a family and look for what Amulek said we ought to be concerned about. Ask:

- What is one of the main reasons we are here on earth?
- What did Amulek say was our best preparation for the time when we will stand before God?
- What rewards will come to those who live each day prepared to meet God?

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The Book of Mormon*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 204.)

Story:

One day [Anna Widtsoe] asked a neighbor . . . to recommend a shoemaker to whom she might take her son's shoes for repair. One Olaus Johnsen, a very competent, honest workman, was recommended. . . .

With a parcel containing a pair of old shoes, the widow set forth in the warm sunshine of the spring of 1879 for the half-hour walk to Johnsen's shoemaker shop. It certainly did not occur to her that she was making the most fateful visit of her life. . . .

Klaus Johnsen was a wholesome, well-spoken man in his forties, a workman who knew his craft. . . . [He] agreed to put soles on the shoes, strong enough to last a good while even under the wear of a lively, active lad, who was always moving about. The details of business were soon agreed upon; the commonplaces of courteous people were exchanged; the widow was about to leave the shop.

M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z A B C D E F G H I J K L

Anna Widtsoe's hand was on the door latch, when the shoemaker said, somewhat hesitatingly, for the business was concluded and the lady was a stranger, "You may be surprised to hear me say that I can give you something of more value than soles for your child's shoes." She was surprised. She looked into the eyes of the man, who stood straight and courageous in his shop.

"What can you, a shoemaker, give me better than soles for my son's shoes? You speak in riddles," she answered.

The shoemaker did not hesitate. "If you will but listen, I can teach you the Lord's true plan of salvation for his children. I can teach you how to find happiness in this life, and to prepare for eternal joy in the life to come. I can tell you whence you came, why you are upon earth, and where you will go after death. I can teach you, as you have never known it before, the love of God for his children on earth."

Understanding, happiness, joy, love—the words with which she was wrestling! But, this was a shoemaker shop. This man was clearly a humble man who knew little of the wisdom of schools and churches. She felt confused. She simply asked, "Who are you?"

"I am a member of the Church of Christ—we are called Mormons. We have the truth of God."

Mormons! It was terrible. She had innocently walked into a dangerous place. Hurriedly she thanked the shoemaker, left the shop, and climbed the hill.

Yet, as she walked homeward, the words of the shoemaker rang in her ears; and she remembered a certain power in his voice and majesty in his bearing when he delivered his message and bore his testimony. He was a shoemaker, but no ordinary man. Could it really be that the Mormons had the truth of the Lord? No, it was absurd! But, it made her thoughtful and restless. When the repaired shoes were brought to the house a day or two later by the shoemaker's young son Anna Widtsoe found, carefully tucked into each shoe, Mormon tracts. . . .

The tracts in the shoes aroused her curiosity to the extent that one Sunday she went to a Mormon meeting. She knew her Bible, but gradually she began to comprehend that her reading had been colored and overshadowed by the teachings of the church of her childhood; and that these men, these Mormon missionaries, accepted the Bible in a truer, more literal manner. She liked it. At length she had to admit that the Bible was all on the side of the Mormons.

At length, on April 1, 1881, a little more than two years after she first heard the gospel, she was baptized into the Church by Elder Anthon L. Skanchy.

(Leon R. Hartshorn, *Outstanding Stories by General Authorities*, vol. 3, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1974].)

Activity:

With blocks, Legos, or other building components, construct a building or tower with your family. Plan what you are going to build first, then create what you planned. Talk about how knowing what you were going to build, helped you create it.

Refreshment

Moon Cake

1 cup water
1/2 cup margarine
1 cup all-purpose flour
4 eggs
1 8-ounce package cream cheese

3 1/2 cups milk
5 3-ounce packages vanilla instant pudding mix
1 12-ounce carton whipped topping, thawed*
1/4 cup chocolate sauce
1/2 cup nuts, chopped

Preheat oven to 400°. In a small saucepan, mix the water and margarine. Bring to a boil. Add the flour all at once and stir rapidly until the mixture forms a ball. Remove from heat and cool.

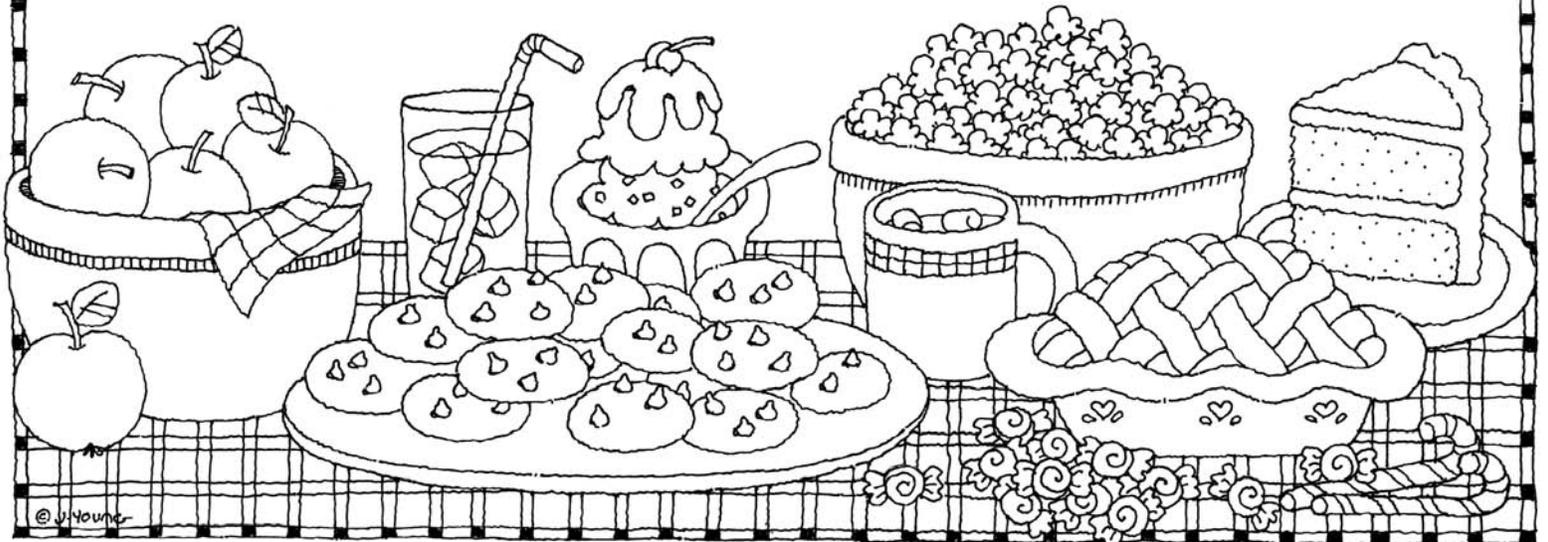
With a wooden spoon or electric mixer, beat in the eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Spread dough on an 11x15-inch ungreased cookie sheet. Bake for 30 minutes. Cool. (Crust will look like the moon's surface, which is how it gets its name.) Don't prick, let stand as is.

Beat the cream cheese until it is very soft. In another bowl, mix the milk and pudding mix. Blend cream cheese with pudding and mix together until smooth. Spread on crust; refrigerate 20 minutes.

Generously top with whipped topping. Drizzle with chocolate sauce and sprinkle with chopped nuts. Makes 20 servings.

* Whipping cream may be substituted.

(*Lion House Entertaining*, [Salt Lake City: Eagle Gate, 2001], p. 115.)



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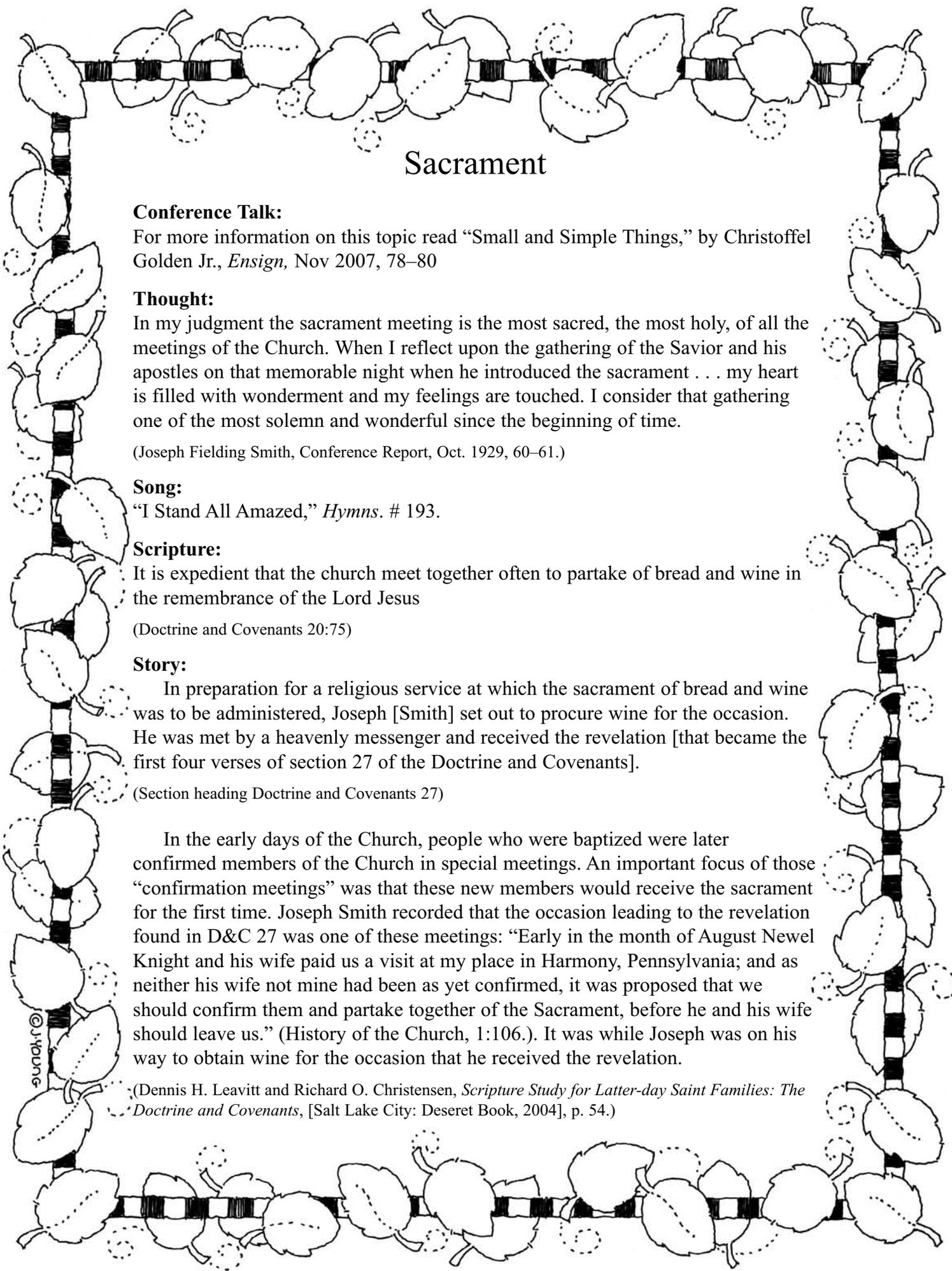
Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Sacrament

Packet #030208

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Sacrament

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read “Small and Simple Things,” by Christoffel Golden Jr., *Ensign*, Nov 2007, 78–80

Thought:

In my judgment the sacrament meeting is the most sacred, the most holy, of all the meetings of the Church. When I reflect upon the gathering of the Savior and his apostles on that memorable night when he introduced the sacrament . . . my heart is filled with wonderment and my feelings are touched. I consider that gathering one of the most solemn and wonderful since the beginning of time.

(Joseph Fielding Smith, Conference Report, Oct. 1929, 60–61.)

Song:

“I Stand All Amazed,” *Hymns*. # 193.

Scripture:

It is expedient that the church meet together often to partake of bread and wine in the remembrance of the Lord Jesus

(Doctrine and Covenants 20:75)

Story:

In preparation for a religious service at which the sacrament of bread and wine was to be administered, Joseph [Smith] set out to procure wine for the occasion. He was met by a heavenly messenger and received the revelation [that became the first four verses of section 27 of the Doctrine and Covenants].

(Section heading Doctrine and Covenants 27)

In the early days of the Church, people who were baptized were later confirmed members of the Church in special meetings. An important focus of those “confirmation meetings” was that these new members would receive the sacrament for the first time. Joseph Smith recorded that the occasion leading to the revelation found in D&C 27 was one of these meetings: “Early in the month of August Newel Knight and his wife paid us a visit at my place in Harmony, Pennsylvania; and as neither his wife nor mine had been as yet confirmed, it was proposed that we should confirm them and partake together of the Sacrament, before he and his wife should leave us.” (History of the Church, 1:106.) It was while Joseph was on his way to obtain wine for the occasion that he received the revelation.

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The Doctrine and Covenants*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2004], p. 54.)

Lesson:

Set before the family a piece of bread and a cup of water. Ask them what they think about when they see these emblems.

Assign one member of the family to be a scribe. Ask your family to name every part or element of the sacrament they participate in each week. (Singing the hymn, blessing the sacrament, passing the sacrament, eating the bread and drinking the water, and so on.) Once the list is made, have the scribe mark with an “E” the things on the list that are “essential to have” as part of the sacrament, and note with an “N” the things that are “nice but not essential” to have as part of the sacrament.

Read D&C 27:1–4 and look for what the angel told Joseph Smith. Discuss the following questions:

- What did the messenger say was not essential to the sacrament? (Have the scribe make sure this is on the list with an “N” next to it.)
- What did he say was essential? (Have the scribe make sure this is on the list with an “E” next to it.)
- What does it mean to partake of the sacrament with an eye “single” to the Savior’s glory?
- According to verse 2, what is one way we can partake of the sacrament “with an eye single” to the Savior? (By remembering Christ’s sacrifice.)
- What other things could we think about to help remember Christ during the sacrament?

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The Doctrine and Covenants*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2004], p. 54.)

Activity:

Play the following action memory game with your family. Have everyone stand up. Explain that you will do several actions such as clapping, shaking your head, touching your elbow, and so on. The children must watch carefully. They are to repeat your actions in the same order. Begin with only one action, and add an action each time. Challenge them to see how many actions they can follow. Encourage them to help each other too.

Praise them for watching, remembering, and following so carefully. Liken this to remembering Jesus and following his example.

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *Sharing Time, Family Time, Anytime: Book Two*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1994], p. 84.)

Refreshment

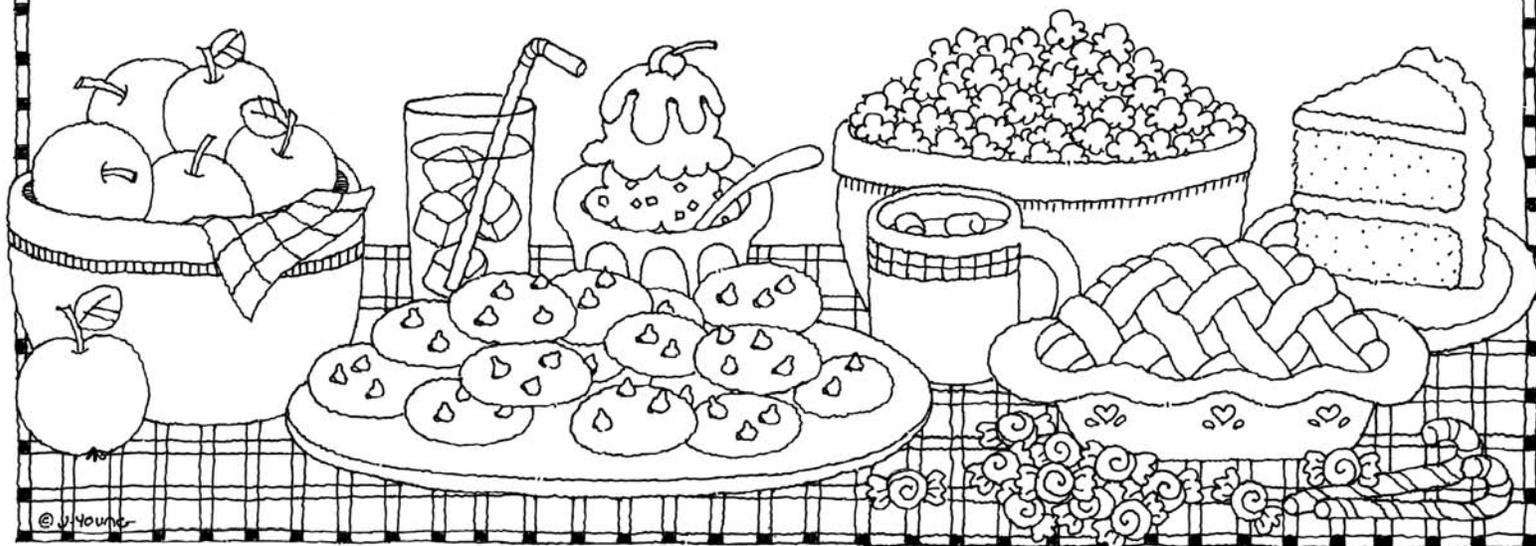
Scandinavian Wheat Bread

- 1 medium potato
- 3 cups water
- 1 package (1 tablespoon) active dry yeast
- 1/4 cup lukewarm water
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 2 tablespoons oil
- 3 cups whole wheat flour
- 3 cups white flour

Wash, peel, and dice one medium potato. Place in a saucepan with 3 cups water. Simmer until tender. Drain, saving 2 cups of the potato water. Mash potato. Dissolve yeast in 1/4 cup lukewarm water. In a large bowl, combine potato water, yeast, mashed potato, honey, salt, oil, and 2 cups whole wheat flour. Beat together for five minutes. Continue adding wheat and white flours until dough can be kneaded into a smooth ball. Cover and let rise until double in bulk. Punch down and knead again for 5 to 10 minutes. Cover and let rise again. Divide dough in half, and shape into 2 loaves. Place in greased 9 x 5 x 3-inch loaf pans. Cover lightly with clean dish towel and let rise 20 to 30 minutes. Bake at 375 degrees for 30 minutes.

Serve warm with honey or jam.

(Paula Julander and Joanne Milner, *Utah State Fare*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 1995], p. 193.)



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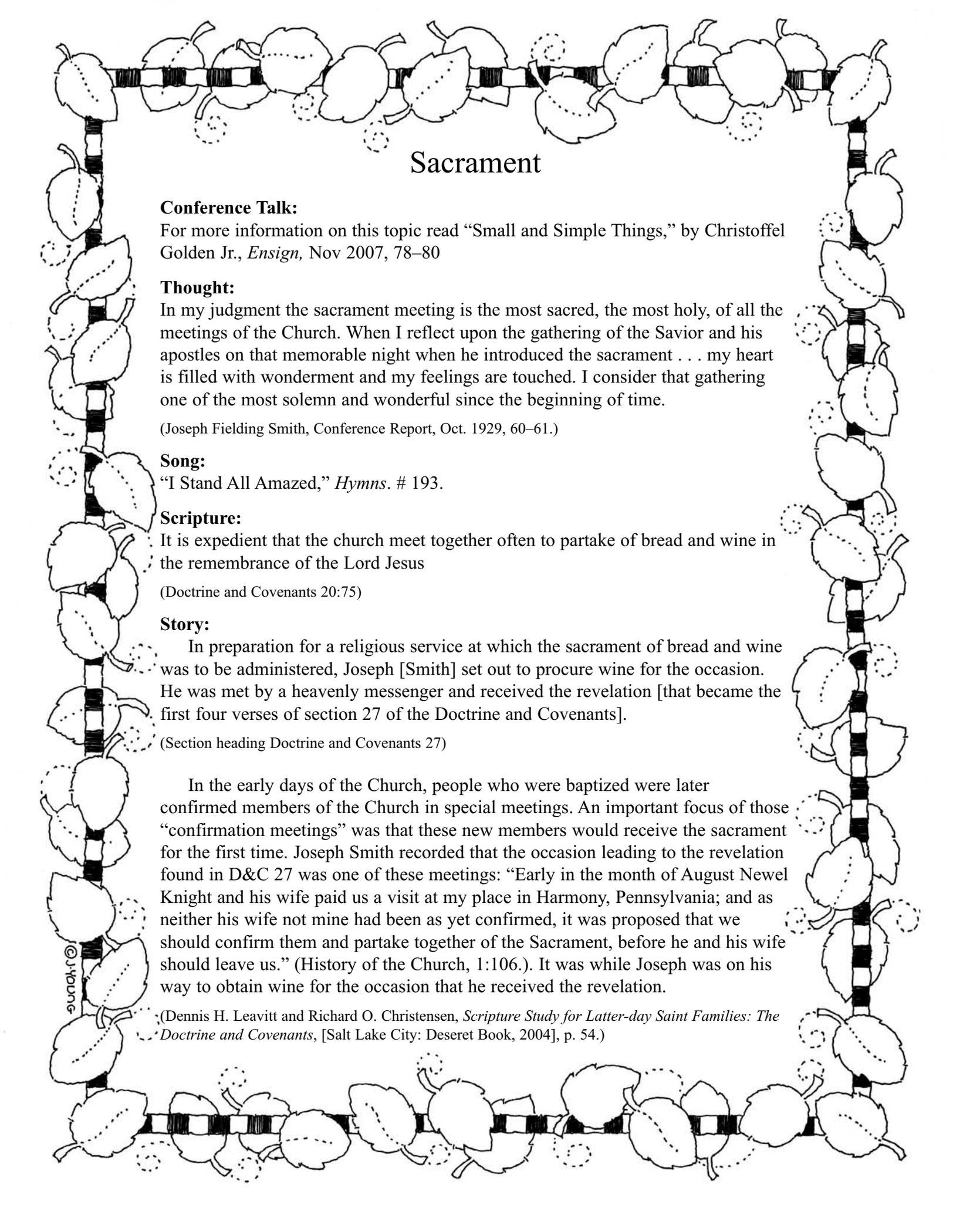
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Theme: Sacrament

Packet #030208

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Lesson:

Set before the family a piece of bread and a cup of water. Ask them what they think about when they see these emblems.

Assign one member of the family to be a scribe. Ask your family to name every part or element of the sacrament they participate in each week. (Singing the hymn, blessing the sacrament, passing the sacrament, eating the bread and drinking the water, and so on.) Once the list is made, have the scribe mark with an “E” the things on the list that are “essential to have” as part of the sacrament, and note with an “N” the things that are “nice but not essential” to have as part of the sacrament.

Read D&C 27:1–4 and look for what the angel told Joseph Smith. Discuss the following questions:

- What did the messenger say was not essential to the sacrament? (Have the scribe make sure this is on the list with an “N” next to it.)
- What did he say was essential? (Have the scribe make sure this is on the list with an “E” next to it.)
- What does it mean to partake of the sacrament with an eye “single” to the Savior’s glory?
- According to verse 2, what is one way we can partake of the sacrament “with an eye single” to the Savior? (By remembering Christ’s sacrifice.)
- What other things could we think about to help remember Christ during the sacrament?

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The Doctrine and Covenants*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2004], p. 54.)

Activity:

Play the following action memory game with your family. Have everyone stand up. Explain that you will do several actions such as clapping, shaking your head, touching your elbow, and so on. The children must watch carefully. They are to repeat your actions in the same order. Begin with only one action, and add an action each time. Challenge them to see how many actions they can follow. Encourage them to help each other too.

Praise them for watching, remembering, and following so carefully. Liken this to remembering Jesus and following his example.

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *Sharing Time, Family Time, Anytime: Book Two*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1994], p. 84.)

Refreshment

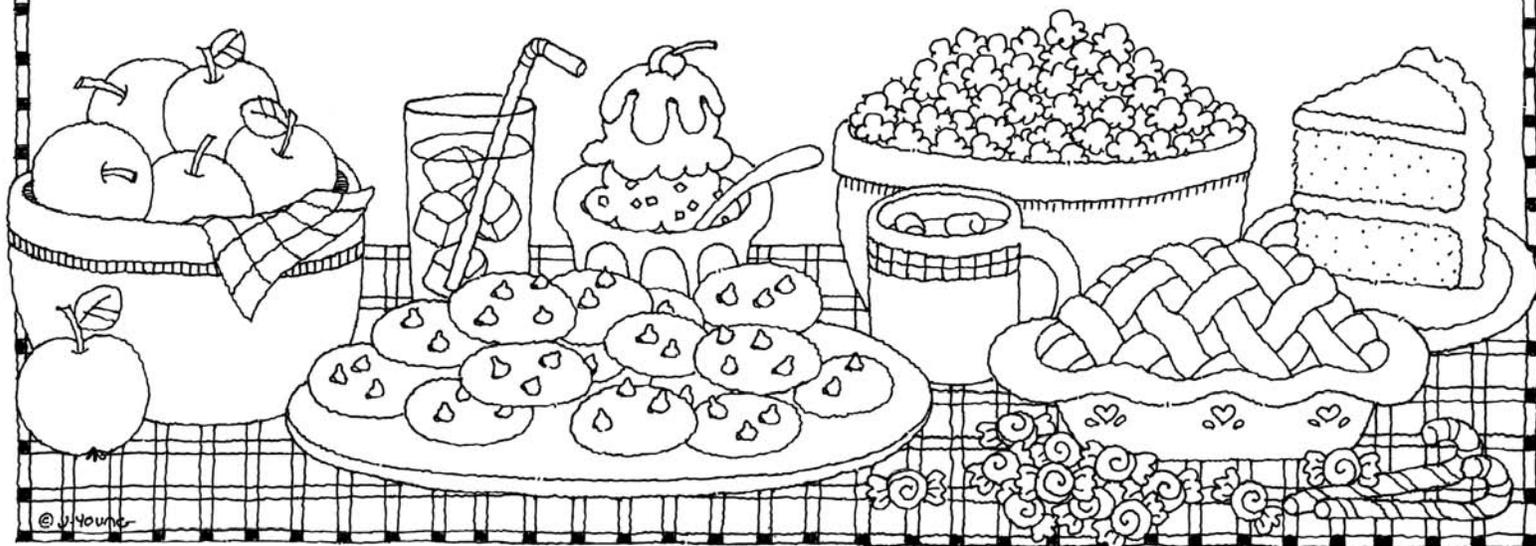
Scandinavian Wheat Bread

- 1 medium potato
- 3 cups water
- 1 package (1 tablespoon) active dry yeast
- 1/4 cup lukewarm water
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 2 tablespoons oil
- 3 cups whole wheat flour
- 3 cups white flour

Wash, peel, and dice one medium potato. Place in a saucepan with 3 cups water. Simmer until tender. Drain, saving 2 cups of the potato water. Mash potato. Dissolve yeast in 1/4 cup lukewarm water. In a large bowl, combine potato water, yeast, mashed potato, honey, salt, oil, and 2 cups whole wheat flour. Beat together for five minutes. Continue adding wheat and white flours until dough can be kneaded into a smooth ball. Cover and let rise until double in bulk. Punch down and knead again for 5 to 10 minutes. Cover and let rise again. Divide dough in half, and shape into 2 loaves. Place in greased 9 x 5 x 3-inch loaf pans. Cover lightly with clean dish towel and let rise 20 to 30 minutes. Bake at 375 degrees for 30 minutes.

Serve warm with honey or jam.

(Paula Julander and Joanne Milner, *Utah State Fare*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 1995], p. 193.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Sacrifice

Packet #020308

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- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.

Sacrifice

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read “A Broken Heart and a Contrite Spirit,” by Bruce D. Porter, *Ensign*, Nov 2007, 31–32.

Thought:

As we make the sacrifice to Him of all that we have and all that we are, the Lord will fill our hearts with peace.

(Bruce D. Porter, “A Broken Heart and a Contrite Spirit,” *Ensign*, Nov 2007, 31–32)

Song:

“Give, Said the Little Stream,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 236.

Scripture:

Verily I say unto you, all among them who know their hearts are honest, and are broken, and their spirits contrite, and are willing to observe their covenants by sacrifice—yea, every sacrifice which I, the Lord, shall command—they are accepted of me.

(Doctrine and Covenants 97:8)

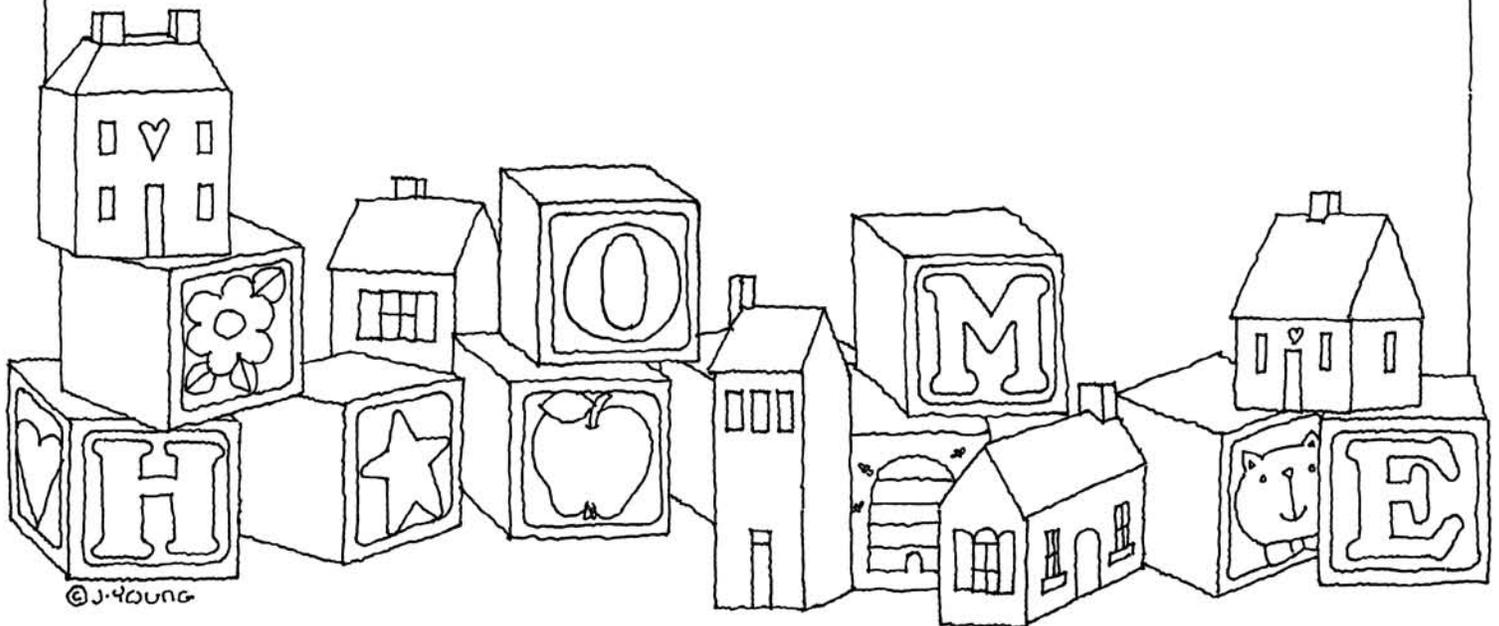
Lesson:

Materials needed: A glass of ice water.

Display the glass of ice water and ask the class if the water appears desirable. Most will express a fairly positive attitude toward it. Then ask them to imagine that they have been working in the garden on a hot summer day. There is no shade. They are bent over pulling weeds all afternoon. They are sweating and their mouth is dry from the dust. Ask them how desirable the glass of water will appear after this hard day of work.

State that we experience a similar feeling in life when we sacrifice time, effort, or means for any good thing. This holy act of sacrifice leads us to a greater appreciation of what we do have. It helps us focus on our many blessings that we take for granted.

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *More Power Tools for Teaching*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1991], p. 64.)



Story:

Elder W. Craig Zwick served as president of the Chile Santiago South Mission from 1989 to 1992. He presided over a mission that saw more than five thousand convert baptisms per year. The growth was exciting as well as challenging for President Zwick and his wife, Jan. But one of the most satisfying experiences of their mission was to see young Chileans come into the mission field and not only experience success but also develop the leadership skills they needed to serve in their home wards and stakes.

Some of the Chilean missionaries had to sell musical instruments or other possessions to finance their missions. Many worked multiple jobs to raise sufficient funds for their missions, and many served in spite of parents who would not or could not support them. Most came from humble backgrounds. In many cases the missionaries who came from LDS families had never been sealed in the temple. But at the end of their missions, the families would often travel, at great sacrifice, to Santiago, where they could pick up their missionary and receive their endowments and sealings in the Santiago Chile Temple. These families would then return home, and the young returned missionaries would use the faith and understanding they had gained to strengthen the members in their wards and stakes.

(Dean and Tom Hughes, *We'll Bring the World His Truth: Missionary Adventures from Around the World*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1995].)

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Have everyone sit in chairs formed into a circle.

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Start by calling out the name of one of the scripture characters.

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A person must take the place of the person in the center if he gets swatted before calling out another name (or by mistake calls out his own name or the name of the person in the center).

Any person replacing the center person must swat that person if he sits down before calling out a new name. If he remembers and gets back up before being hit he is safe; otherwise, he goes right back into the center.

(George and Jeane Chipman *Games! Games! Games!*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 1983], p. 50.)

Refreshment

Impossibly Easy French Apple Pie

3 large all-purpose apples (Braeburn, Gala, or Haralson),
peeled and thinly sliced (3 cups)
1/2 cup Bisquick mix
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 cup milk
1 tablespoon margarine or butter, softened
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
2 eggs

Streusel Topping

1/2 cup Bisquick mix
1/4 cup chopped nuts
1/4 cup packed brown sugar
2 tablespoons firm margarine or butter

Heat oven to 350 degrees F. Grease pie plate, 9 x 1 1/4 inches.

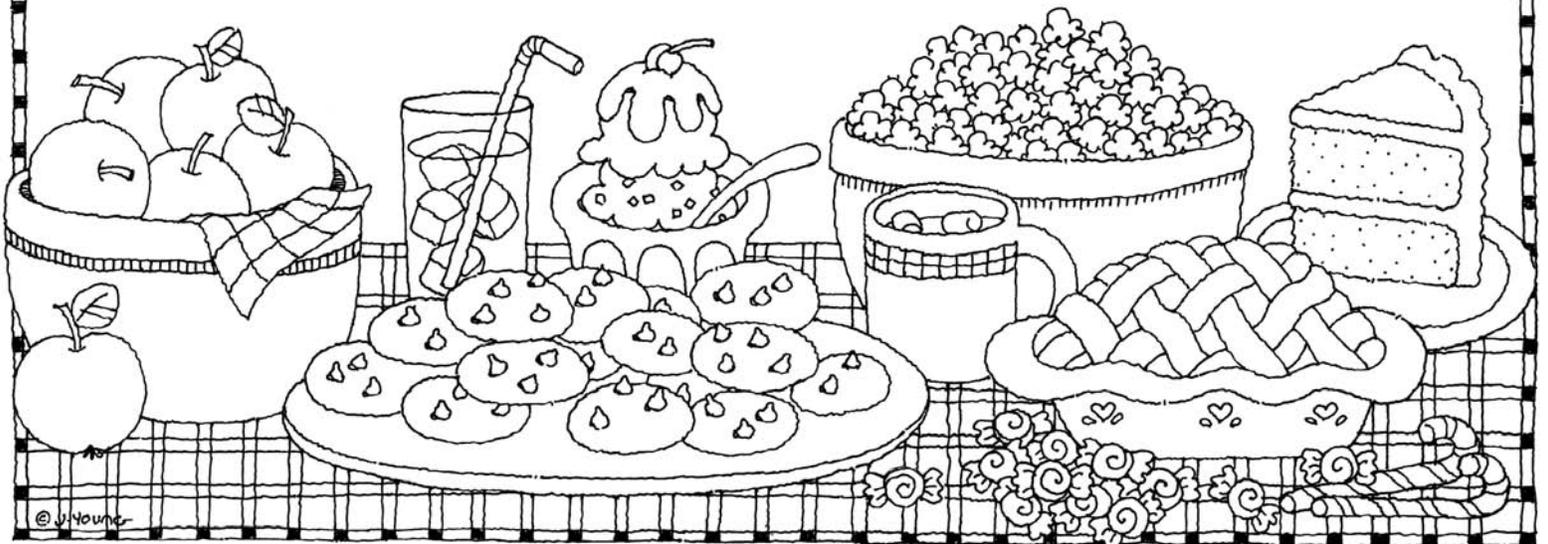
Make Streusel topping by mixing Bisquick, nuts and brown sugar. Cut in margarine, using fork or pastry blender, until mixture is crumbly.

Spread apples in pie plate.

In separate bowl, stir in remaining ingredients until blended. Pour over apples. Sprinkle with topping.

Bake 40 to 45 minutes or until knife inserted in center comes out clean. Cool 5 minutes.

(*Betty Crocker Sunday Dinner Cookbook*, [Hoboken, NJ: Wiley Publishing and Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2007], p. 172.)



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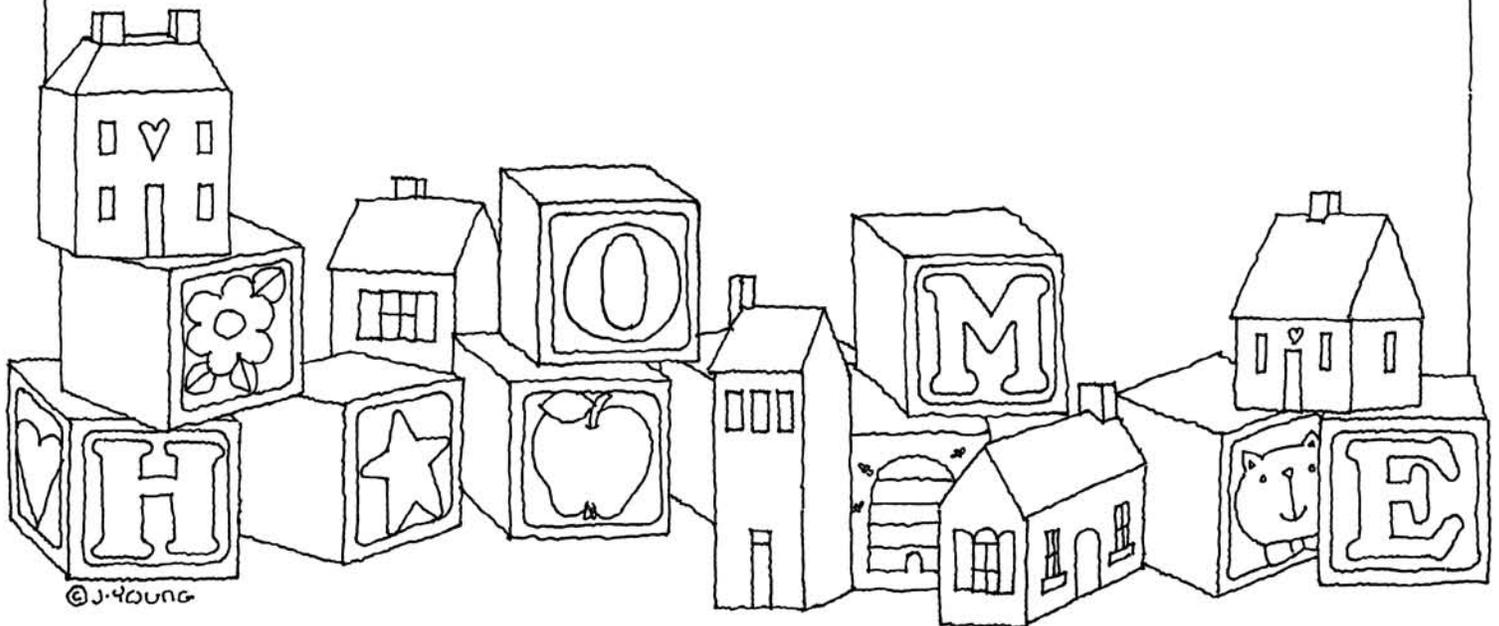
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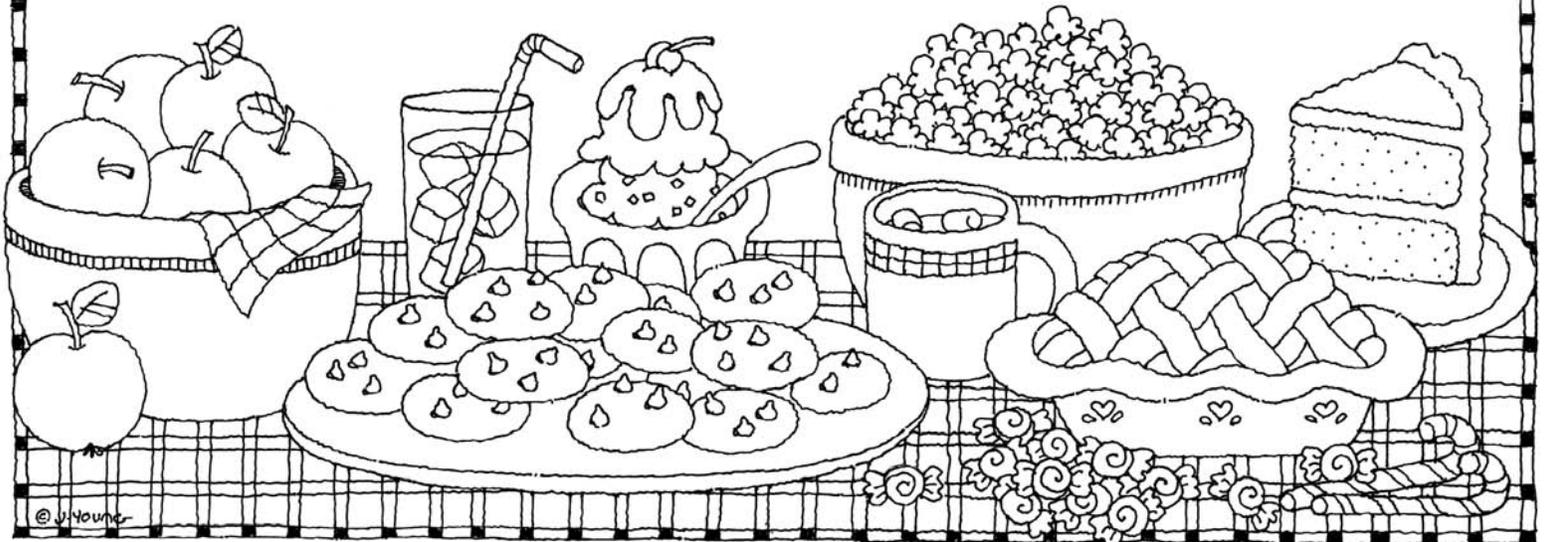
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Theme: Scriptures

Packet #030108

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Conference Talk:

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The Bible and the Book of Mormon are both witnesses of Jesus Christ. They teach that He is the Son of God, that He lived an exemplary life, that He atoned for all mankind, that He died upon the cross and rose again as the resurrected Lord. . . . Love for the Book of Mormon expands one’s love for the Bible and vice versa.

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Song:

“Search, Ponder, and Pray,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 109

Scripture:

In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.

(2 Corinthians 13:1)

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Divide your family into pairs and give each pair a list of the following scrambled words:

SMAP

OOTTSENOF

EBBLI NDAYOTIICR

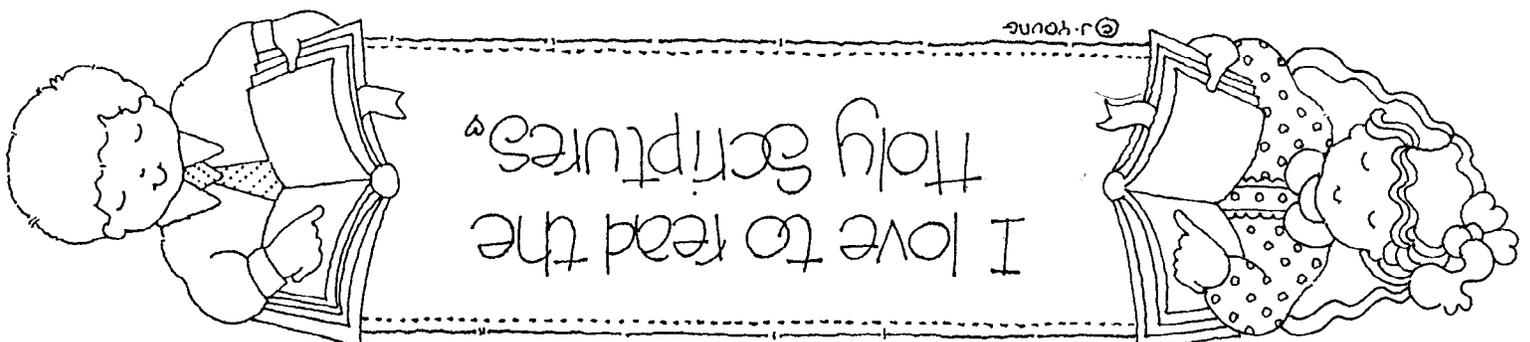
ILATPCO IGEUD

Explain to the family that the Church has provided for us many things that can help us to better understand the scriptures. Their list contains four of those helps. Have the family members unscramble the words to find out what the helps are. After they have discovered what the helps are (Maps, Footnotes, Bible Dictionary, and Topical Guide), tell them you are going to learn more about one of the helps: Footnotes.

Have you ever wondered what all of the writing is at the bottom of each page in your scriptures? This writing is called footnotes. Footnotes are there to help us better understand what we are reading.

Open your scriptures to any page and find a verse that has small a’s, b’s, and c’s next to some of the words. Now find the verse number at the bottom of the page. After the letter a you might find a scripture reference (such as Matt. 10:10). This scripture may help you understand the verse better. Instead of a scripture you might find the letters TG and then a word. If you look up this word in the Topical Guide you will find a list of scriptures that might help you understand the verse you are reading.

Some of the footnotes say HEB and are followed by one or more words. This is because the Old



Testament was originally written in the Hebrew language and later translated into English. These footnotes explain what some of the Hebrew words meant. Some of the footnotes say GR, because the New Testament was originally written in Greek.

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As you can see, the footnotes aren't something you just read through. But when you're reading your scriptures and don't understand something, you often can go to the footnotes for help.

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The Book of Mormon and *The Cat in the Hat*

Julie Sessions

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I feel like the special spirits that are being sent to the earth right now are yearning to feel the Spirit and learn truth and righteousness. It is our joy and responsibility to teach them and learn from them.

(*Sunshine from the Latter-day Saint Child's Soul*. [Salt Lake City: Eagle Gate, 2001], 42.)

Activity:

Do a "Footnotes Activity."

Using footnotes on page 1190 (Matthew chapter 3) of the LDS edition of the Bible, fill in the blanks.

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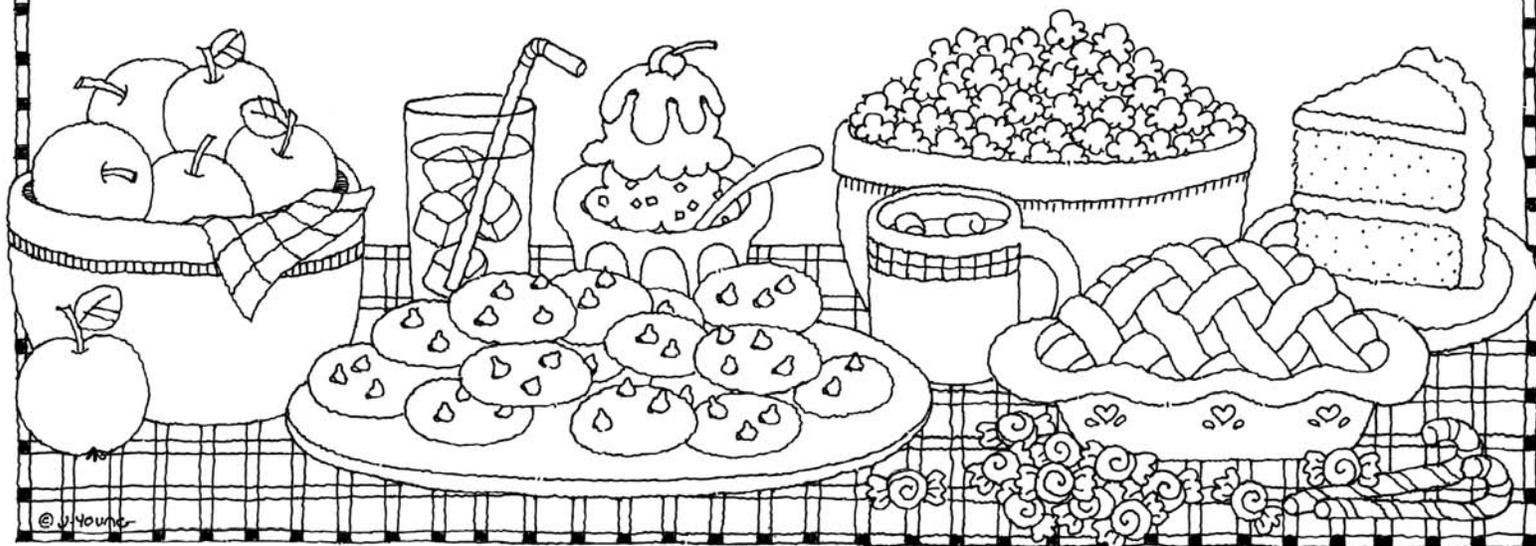
Refreshment

Peanut Butter Yummies

- 1 package graham crackers, finely chopped
- 1 pound powdered sugar
- 2 cups peanut butter
- 1 cup butter, divided
- 1 cup your favorite jam
- 12 ounces semisweet chocolate chips

Combine graham cracker crumbs, powdered sugar, peanut butter, and $\frac{2}{3}$ cup butter by hand until well blended. Press into a 8 x 8-inch square pan. Spread jam on crumb mixture. In small saucepan, combine remaining $\frac{1}{3}$ cup butter and chocolate chips, heat until melted. Spread over jam. Refrigerate for 1 hour and serve in small pieces.

(Holle Eckman and Heather Higgins, *All that Jam*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 2003] p. 80.)



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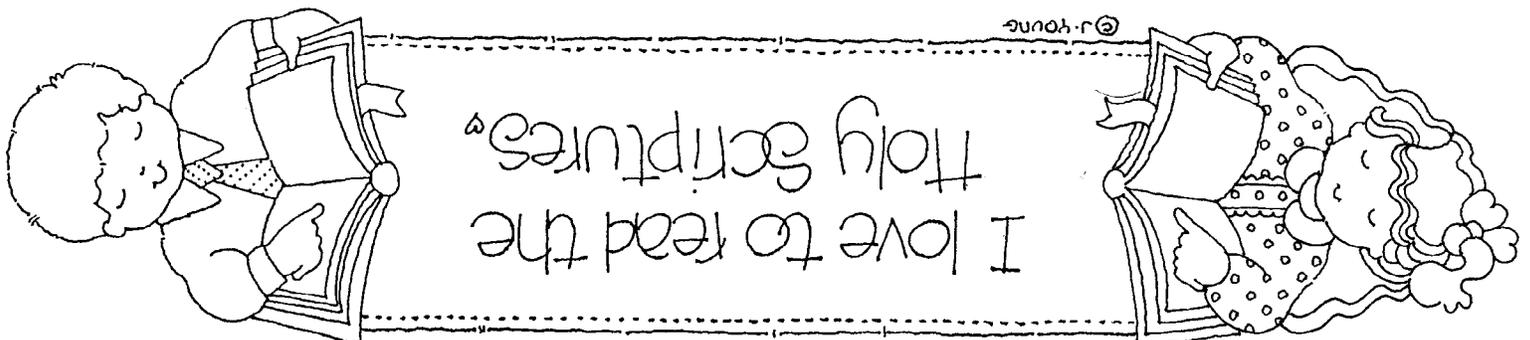
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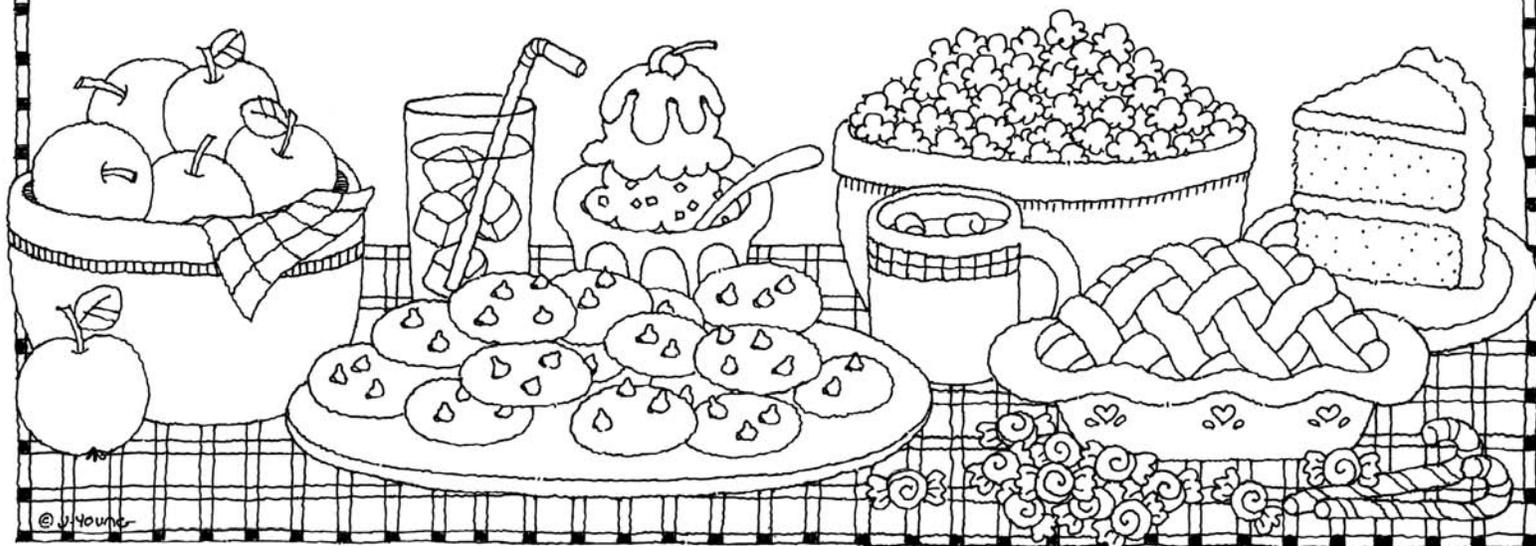
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- 12 ounces semisweet chocolate chips

Combine graham cracker crumbs, powdered sugar, peanut butter, and $\frac{2}{3}$ cup butter by hand until well blended. Press into a 8 x 8-inch square pan. Spread jam on crumb mixture. In small saucepan, combine remaining $\frac{1}{3}$ cup butter and chocolate chips, heat until melted. Spread over jam. Refrigerate for 1 hour and serve in small pieces.

(Holle Eckman and Heather Higgins, *All that Jam*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 2003] p. 80.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Self-Reliance

Packet #120107

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
- 3. Involvement.** Involve everyone in the family; help little children take part.
- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.

Self-Reliance

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read "Lay Up in Store" by Bishop Keith B. McMullin, *Ensign*, May 2007, 51.

Thought:

A cardinal principle of the gospel is to prepare for the day of scarcity. Work, industry, frugality are part of the royal order of life.

(Keith B. McMullin, "Lay Up in Store," *Ensign*, May 2007, 51–53)

Song:

"Today, While the Sun Shines" *Hymns*, 229.

Scripture:

Prepare ye, prepare ye for that which is to come, for the Lord is nigh.

(*Doctrine and Covenants 1:12*)

Lesson:

Make a list with your family of the kinds of things your family is making payments on instead of owning free and clear.

Divide your family into two groups. Ask both groups to search D&C 104:78–86. Ask one of the groups to find all of the reasons why the Lord wants the Saints to pay their debts. Have the other group find all of the blessings that will come to the Saints for working toward and achieving the goal of being debt free.

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The Doctrine and Covenants*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2004], p 231.)

Story:

"Brother Kimball, Have You Ever Been to Heaven?" by Spencer W. Kimball

Once we were in a distant stake for conference. We came to the unpretentious home of the stake president at mid-day Saturday. We knocked at the door, and it was opened by a sweet mother with a child in her arms. She was the type of mother who did not know there were maids and servants. She was not an artist's model, nor a society woman.

Her hair was dressed neatly; her clothes were modest, tastefully selected; her face was smiling; and though young, she showed the rare combination of maturity of experience and the joys of purposeful living.

The house was small. The all-purpose room into which we were welcomed was crowded and in its center were a long table and many chairs. We freshened up in the small bedroom assigned to us, made available by 'farming out' to the neighbors some of the children, and we returned to this living room. She had been very busy in the

kitchen. Her husband, the stake president, soon returned from his day's labors and made us welcome and proudly introduced us to all of his children as they returned from their chores and play.

Almost like magic the supper was ready, for 'many hands make light work,' and these numerous hands were deft and experienced ones. Every child gave evidence of having been taught responsibility. Each had certain duties. One child quickly spread a tablecloth; another placed the knives and forks and spoons; and another covered them with the large plates turned upside down. (The dishes were inexpensive.) Next came large pitchers of creamy milk, sliced homemade bread, a bowl at each place, a dish of fruit from storage, and a plate of cheese.

One child placed the chairs with backs to the table, and without confusion, we all knelt at the chairs facing the table. One young son was called on to lead in family prayer. It was extemporaneous, and he pleaded with the Lord to bless the family and their schoolwork, and the missionaries, and the bishop. He prayed for us who had come to hold conference that we would 'preach good,' for his father in his church responsibilities, for all the children that 'they would be good, and kind to each other,' and for the little cold shivering lambs being born in the lambing sheds on the hill this wintry night.

A very little one said the blessing on the food, and thirteen plates were turned up and thirteen bowls filled, and supper proceeded. No apologies were offered for the [simple] meal, the home, the children, or the general situation. The conversation was constructive and pleasant. The children were well-behaved. These parents met every situation with calm dignity and poise. . . . It was most refreshing to sit with a large family where interdependence and love and harmony were visible and where children were growing up in unselfishness. So content and comfortable were we in the heart of this sweet simplicity and wholesomeness that we gave no thought to the unmatched chairs, the worn rug, the inexpensive curtains, [or] the numbers of souls that were to occupy the few rooms available. . . . I glimpsed heaven that day.

(Leon R. Hartshorn, *Classic Stories from the Lives of Our Prophets*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book 1971].)

Activity:

Play "Circle Tag."

Players for a circle, standing about three feet away from each other. At a signal from the leader all start running in the same direction around the circle, trying to tag the person in front and also to avoid being tagged by the man behind. When the leader yells "switch," everyone reverses and chases the man who was chasing him. Players drop out quickly as they are tagged. The circle must be maintained in size as the players drop out.

(Alma Heaton, *The LDS Game Book*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1968], p. 201.)

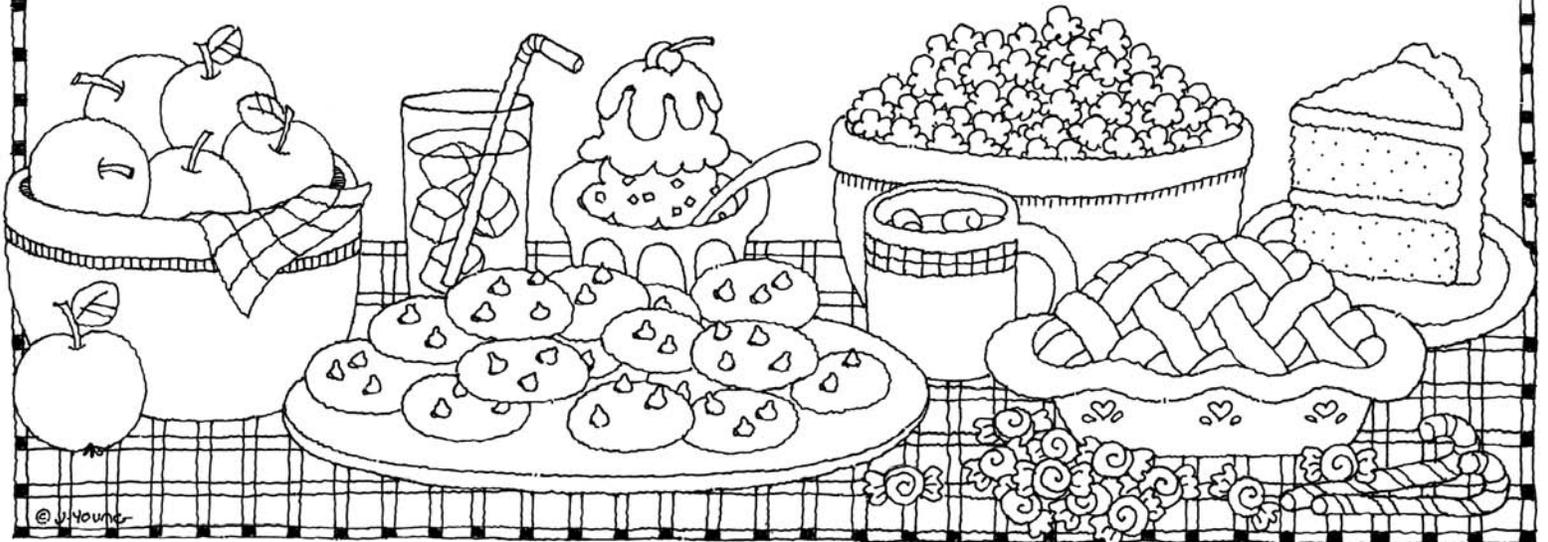
Refreshment

Cinnamon Stack Biscuits

2 cups flour, stirred then measured
3 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 teaspoon cream of tarter
1/2 teaspoon salt
3 tablespoons sugar
1/2 cup shortening
2/3 cup milk
1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter or margarine, melted
1/4 cup sugar
1 tablespoon cinnamon

In a large mixing bowl stir together first five ingredients. Cut in shortening until mixture forms coarse crumbs. Add milk; stir until mixture forms ball. Turn onto lightly floured board; knead gently 4 or 5 times. Roll dough into rectangle 16 x 10 inches. Brush with melted butter; sprinkle with mixture of 1/4 cup sugar and cinnamon. Cut lengthwise into five 2-inch strips. Stack the five strips; cut into 12 pieces. Place cut-side down in 12 greased muffin tins. Bake 12 to 15 minutes at 425 degrees.

(Winnifred C. Jardine, *Mormon Country Cooking*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1980], p. 40.)



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Theme: Self-Reliance

Packet #120107

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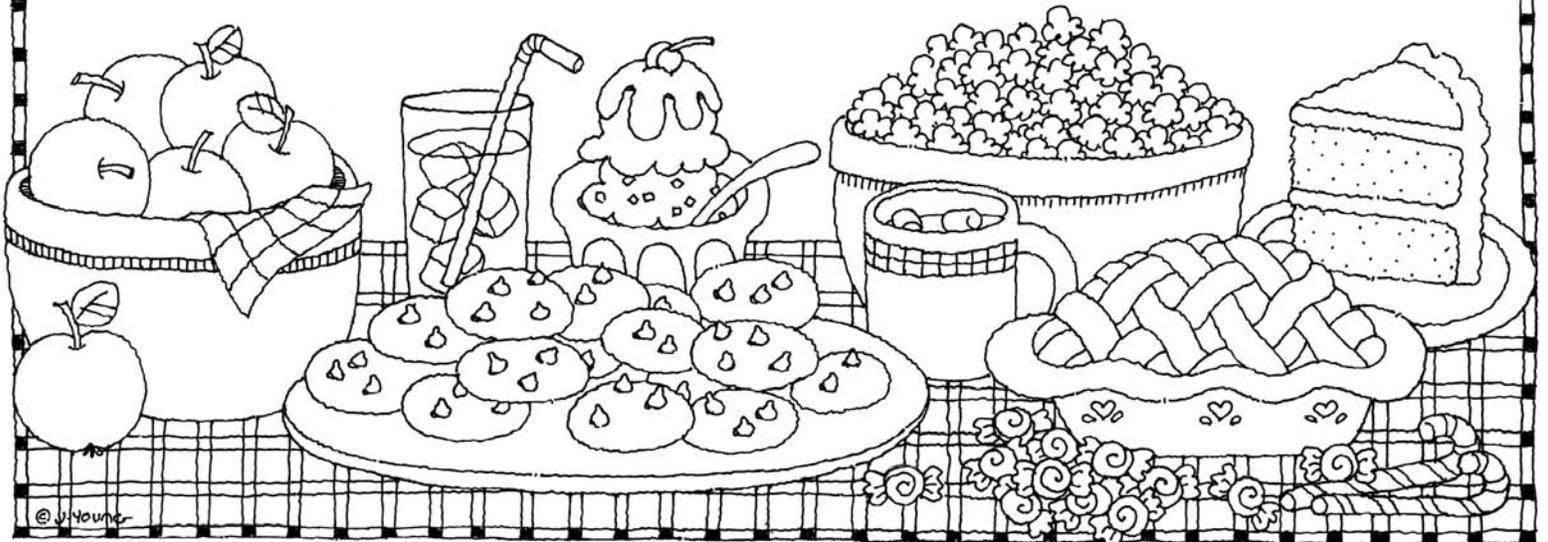
Refreshment

Cinnamon Stack Biscuits

2 cups flour, stirred then measured
3 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 teaspoon cream of tarter
1/2 teaspoon salt
3 tablespoons sugar
1/2 cup shortening
2/3 cup milk
1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter or margarine, melted
1/4 cup sugar
1 tablespoon cinnamon

In a large mixing bowl stir together first five ingredients. Cut in shortening until mixture forms coarse crumbs. Add milk; stir until mixture forms ball. Turn onto lightly floured board; knead gently 4 or 5 times. Roll dough into rectangle 16 x 10 inches. Brush with melted butter; sprinkle with mixture of 1/4 cup sugar and cinnamon. Cut lengthwise into five 2-inch strips. Stack the five strips; cut into 12 pieces. Place cut-side down in 12 greased muffin tins. Bake 12 to 15 minutes at 425 degrees.

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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Service

Packet #030508

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

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Service

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read “Service,” by Steven E. Snow, *Ensign*, Nov 2007, 102–4

Thought:

Service is to be given unselfishly, with no thought of personal gain or reward. It is to be given as needed, not when convenient.

(Steven E. Snow, “Service,” *Ensign*, Nov 2007, 102–4)

Song:

“I’m Trying to Be Like Jesus” *Children’s Songbook*, p.78, verse 2.

Scripture:

And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

(Matthew 25:40)

Object Lesson:

Materials needed: One large box filled with several heavy objects.

Have a family member try to lift the box. (Be sure he does not hurt himself.) Ask how it feels. Instruct two other family members to help the first lift the box. This will be easier.

Explain that the box is like the burdens we might carry in day-to-day life. Discuss what some of these burdens could be. When we give service we can help others with their day-to-day burdens.

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *More Power Tools for Teaching*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1991], p. 99.)

Story:

The Great “Bale-Out”

Edgar E. Eaton

Grant Tracy grumbled as he wrestled with his hay crop just outside of Carbonado, Washington. A rainstorm threatened. This was July, when it’s not supposed to rain, even in usually damp Puget Sound country. But the clouds wrapped themselves around each other like huge clumps of dirty cotton, dark and rumbling. And a thunderstorm would ruin his hay.

To top it off, Brother Tracy had promised his barn to the stake youth that night for a barn dance following their annual youth conference. Even with the help of his sons and their families, Brother Tracy was convinced he would never get the hay in before the rain, and the teenagers on their way only accentuated his problem.

For six hours that morning the 200 Auburn Washington Stake teenagers and 50 leaders had cleaned yards and homes, painted inside and out, put booklets together, fixed food, cleaned headstones in a cemetery, and helped with children.

For six hours they had fun together helping others. Then they cleaned up and returned to church for dinner and a testimony meeting. Now it was fun and games time at the Tracys’. They arrived in cars, vans, and pickups—ready to dance. And dance they did until around 10:00 p.m. It was about then that Chris and Jeff Williams of the Buckley Ward, who had worked for Brother Tracy on the farm at times, could see that even though he had finished baling the hay, he was

going to have trouble getting it in the barn before the storm.

Chris and Jeff went to Rae Dell Killstrom, one of the Young Women leaders, and told her they were going to “buck hay.” A self-declared “city slicker,” Sister Killstrom thought that they meant they were going to go play in the hay. Picturing them with hay all over them she said no, if they left the dance they couldn’t come back.

But then Sister Killstrom talked with Geraldine Tracy, Grant’s wife. Once she understood the problem, she talked with other stake leaders and found that some of them had just been discussing the same thing. And that was it. As soon as the problem was explained to the kids, there was no hesitating. With no gloves and with bare arms, they marched out, swarming over the fields like seagulls attacking crickets.

By then it was pitch dark and lightning danced across the sky, illuminating groups of young people everywhere, racing the weather. Within an hour the hay was in the barn and stacked—stacked by a bunch of kids in their party clothes.

Grant Tracy was overwhelmed. “Oh, man, I’ll tell you, it was unbelievable,” he recalls. “It just gave me . . .” He breaks off, searching for the right words. “You could see kids all over the field.” He pauses again. “It would bring tears to anyone’s eyes. It couldn’t have been a more perfect ending to their conference.”

If Grant Tracy ever builds a monument on his farm, it won’t have a seagull on it. It’ll be a golden replica of a teenager with a smile on his face and a bale of hay in his hands.

(*Good Deeds*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], 51.)

Activity:

Give each person a pencil and paper with the word “SERVICE” printed down the left side of the paper. The object of the game is to see how many words you can make starting with each of the letters S, E, R, V, I, C, E. These words must in some way pertain to service or describe some kind of service you can do.

Decide on a service project to participate in as a family during the upcoming week.

(adapted from Alma Heaton, *The LDS Game Book*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1968], p. 60.)

Refreshment

Fruit Pizza Dessert

4 ounces cream cheese, softened
1/2 cup butter or margarine
1 1/4 cups flour
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 recipe Cream Cheese Topping (see next column)
2 cups sliced fresh strawberries
2 kiwi fruit, peeled and sliced
3 fresh peaches, sliced, or 1 (11-ounce) can mandarin oranges, drained

Cream Cheese Topping

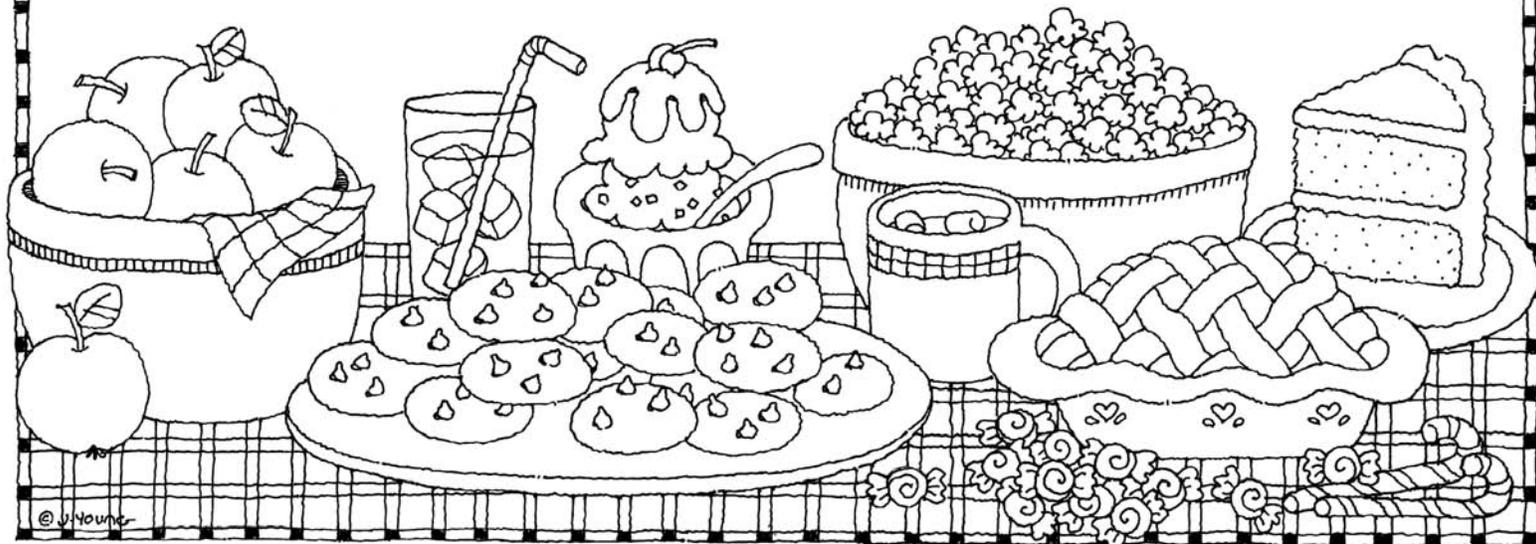
12 ounces cream cheese
1/3 cup sugar
1 tablespoon lemon juice
1 cup non-dairy frozen whipped topping

Combine cream cheese, sugar, and lemon juice. Mix until well blended. Fold in whipped topping.

In a large bowl combine cream cheese and butter or margarine. Mix until well blended. Add flour and salt. Mix well. Form into a ball, wrap with plastic wrap, and chill for at least 1 hour. On a lightly floured surface, roll out dough to form a 12-inch circle. Place in a 12-inch greased tart or pizza pan. Prick the bottom and sides with a fork. Bake at 425° F. for 12 to 15 minutes or until golden brown. Remove from oven and cool.

Meanwhile, prepare the Cream Cheese Topping; spoon over crust. Arrange fruits in circles atop the filling, working toward the center of the tart—arrange strawberries around outer edge of pan, then kiwi fruit slices, fresh peach slices or mandarin oranges, and more strawberries in the center. Makes 10 to 12 servings.

(Julie Badger Jensen, *The Essential Mormon Cookbook*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2004] p. 18.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Service

Packet #030409

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Service

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read “O Ye That Embark,” by Henry B. Eyring, *Ensign*, Nov 2008, 57–60.

Thought:

When we give our all in . . . service, the Lord will give us all the courage we need and the assurance that He goes with us and that angels will bear us up.

(Henry B. Eyring, “O Ye That Embark,” *Ensign*, Nov 2008, 57–60.)

Song:

“Go the Second Mile” *Children’s Songbook*, p.167.

Scripture:

Therefore, O ye that embark in the service of God, see that ye serve him with all your heart, might, mind and strength, that ye may stand blameless before God at the last day.

(Doctrine and Covenants 4:2)

Lesson and Activity:

Explain that as we try to become like Christ, we can follow his example of serving others. Have a family discussion. Ask: What is foster care? How would it feel to be a foster child? How important are simple things, like saying “I love you!” to children in foster care?

Tell your family that they are going to do a service project making birthday cards for children in foster care. Brainstorm ideas about what kinds of cards these children would like.

Gather materials to be used for making birthday cards— blank note cards, envelopes, colored paper, cardstock, stickers, markers, crayons, glue, scissors, and so on. Have a card- making night where you make many cards, for all age groups and genders, that say “Happy Birthday” or “We love you!” Let young children color and cut to their hearts' content! Let teens or older children design their own cards—ones that are suitable for other teens.

Have the entire family sign each card. Do not seal the cards in the envelopes; simply slip them in the envelopes without sealing so the foster care people can decide who is an appropriate recipient of the card. Have fun making tons of cards!

Deliver the cards to your local children’s foster-care facility. (Call your county government if you’re not familiar with the location or contact information.)

(Merrilee Boyack, *52 Weeks of Fun Family Service*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2007], p. 9, 102.)

Story:

She Saw My Need

Jenna Trevors

Soon after the birth of my fifth child, I bought a new home and was preparing to make the big move. I was very tired. I hardly had the energy to care for my children, let alone do all the other things that now faced me with the move to another home—unpacking, putting things in order, and even painting the outside of the house.

We finally got all of our possessions moved to the new house. As I sat in the living room holding my newborn daughter, surrounded by many boxes and feeling overwhelmed by all the

work that was left to do, a knock sounded at my door. I opened the door and there stood Susan, one of my new neighbors, a woman who lived just down the street. She said, “I am here to help you.” I couldn’t believe she would be so concerned about me. She saw my circumstances but made no judgments. And she didn’t offer to help—she just informed me that that’s what she was going to do.

Susan showed up every day, cheerful, willing, and energetic. She stayed at least eight hours a day for many days, until everything in the house was put away. Then she continued to come for two more weeks to help me paint the outside of my house. I never called her to ask her to help. But each morning as I went out to start painting I would see her walking up the street in her “paint clothes.” Through it all, we laughed, groaned under the load, and shared deep feelings with one another.

But that wasn’t all she did. After a time Susan saw another need. She began to help me sort and organize all of my papers. Though the task was tedious and very time consuming, she helped me go through every paper I had. She showed me how to set up files and keep things in order. She also helped me organize everything else in my house, making it easier to care for and keep clean.

It wasn’t that Susan was bored and had nothing to do. She had a busy home and six children of her own to care for. She just saw a need, and she and her family made sacrifices to fill that need.

I can’t imagine how I would have survived those days without Susan. She was able to turn a huge trial into a blessing—and became my dear friend forever.

(Leon R. Hartshorn, *Inspiring Stories for Young Latter-day Saints*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1975].)

Refreshment

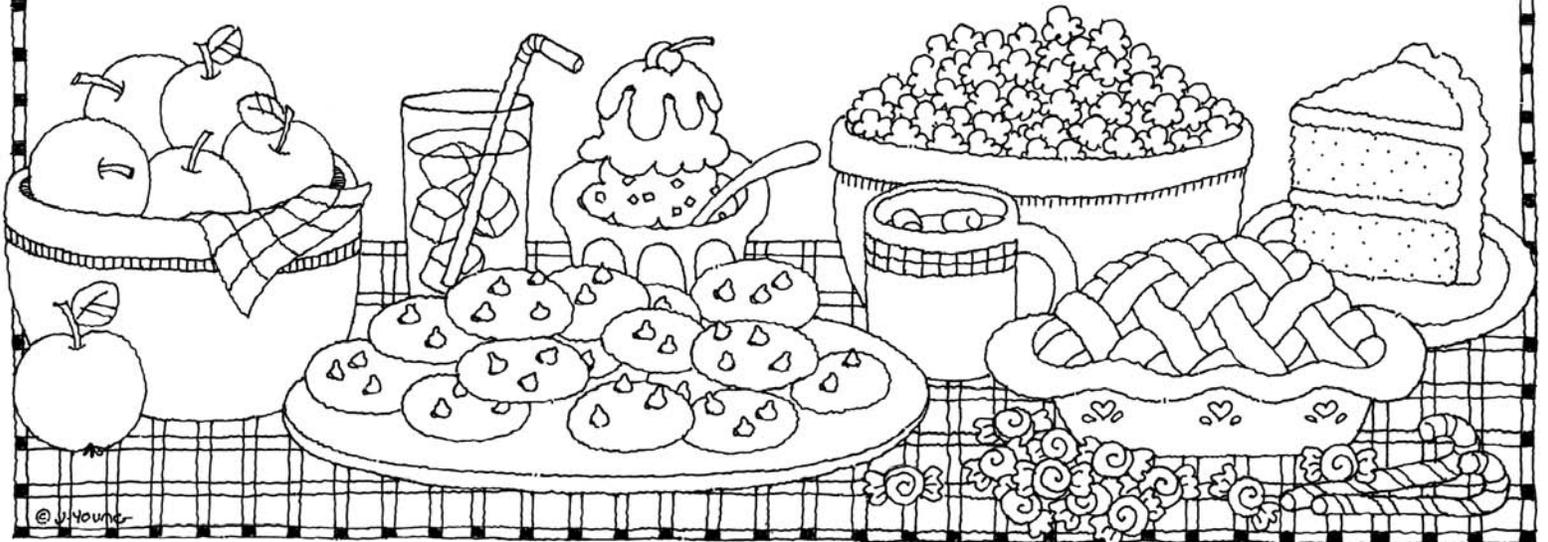
Ice Cream Sundae Pie

1 graham cracker pie crust (buy it pre-made at the grocery store)
4 cups ice cream, slightly softened, any flavor
1 cup ice cream topping (fudge sauce, caramel, or butterscotch)
Whipped cream, for topping
Nuts, for topping
Maraschino cherries, for topping

Place a thin layer of ice cream on top of the pie crust; cover it with a thin layer of ice cream topping. Continue alternating layers of softened ice cream and topping. Cover the pie with foil or plastic wrap and place it in the freezer. Freeze until the pie is firm, at least four or five hours. To serve, slice it into wedges and top with whipped cream, nuts, cherries, and extra topping.

Serves 6 to 8.

(Clark L. and Kathryn H. Kidd, *52 Weeks of Recipes for Students, Missionaries, and Nervous Cooks*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2007] p. 101.)



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Theme: Service

Packet #120108

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Service

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read “Service, a Divine Quality,” by Carlos H. Amado, *Ensign*, May 2008, 35–37.

Thought:

Through serving our fellowmen we come to know the Lord. Service makes us strong in our faith and useful in His kingdom.

(Carlos H. Amado, “Service, a Divine Quality,” *Ensign*, May 2008, 35–37.)

Song:

“Give, Said the Little Stream,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 236.

Scripture:

When ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God.

(Mosiah 2:17)

Object Lesson:

Materials needed: A comb and some small bits of tissue.

Application: Have a member of your family use the comb on their hair. Then demonstrate how the comb can pick up the bits of tissue. As the comb is used it develops static electricity. This power can be used to draw things towards it.

Compare this to service. As we use our time and abilities to serve others, a feeling of charity develops. This draws us together and strengthens our relationships.

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *Building Blocks for Better Lessons*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1998], p. 61.)

Story:

LaRue H. Soelberg

This Christmas had begun like any other. The laughter of our happily excited children was evidence that Santa had indeed been able to decipher the hastily scrawled notes mailed weeks before.

As was our custom, LeRoy and I would wait until the children had sufficient time to inspect, test, compare and segregate their new treasures before we would open our gifts.

The similarity of this Christmas, to any other, ended here.

The loud knock on the front door demanded immediate answer.

“Come quick!” There was urgency in our friend’s voice. “I think you have a fire at your store!”

Fears flooded my mind as I ran through the vacant lot to the store—a small grocery business, which was not yet half paid for.

There were no flames rising from the building, but the windows were solid black!

A fireman came running up and put his hand against the window.

“No heat!” he seemed relieved, “and there’s no fire now—let’s open it up.”

Our hopes were raised. Perhaps we had not lost everything!

He turned the key and pushed open the door. The dense, choking smoke that had filled every minute space of the small building drifted out into the street.

My heart sank! It was like looking at the inside of a coal-black furnace. Not a crack, not a corner, not one can stacked beneath another, had escaped the ugly black filth!

LeRoy, with the help of some of the firemen, removed the motor that had burned itself out. We stood gazing in disbelief at the result.

True, the store had not burned, but was it salvageable? Perhaps the building and equipment could be cleaned, but what about the thousands of bottles, cans and cartons? Even if they could be saved, how could we possibly survive the closing of business for even a few days?

“Only one thing to do.” The voice was surprisingly cheerful. “Let’s see if we can clean it up.”

We were reluctant to accept this offer of help. After all, wasn’t this Christmas? A day to be spent with family and loved ones.

“Come on,” he joked, “my son will be glad to get me out of the house so that he can play with his electric train. Get me a bucket and some soap.”

No sooner would we equip one volunteer with cleaning items, when another would appear at the door, demanding, as one neighbor put it, “A chance to participate in this joyful, holiday project.”

Each person who came to the door uttered an astonished, “Oh, no!” and then, “Where do you want me to start?”

By 11 a.m. there were more than forty people—friends, neighbors, firemen, patrons and new acquaintances, scrubbing away at the terrible black goo. Still they kept coming! We were overwhelmed!

The men had taken over the cleaning of the ceiling, the most stubborn and difficult task of all. The women were working in twos, taking items off the shelves, cleaning what they could and boxing the rest.

One young lad, who was recuperating from a broken leg, made trips to the cafe to get hamburgers and potato chips to feed the workers. Another brought turkey and rolls, which, I’m certain, were to have been the biggest part of their Christmas dinner.

An energetic teenager must have run twenty miles emptying buckets and refilling them with clean hot water.

A service station operator brought hundreds of old cleaning rags.

An electrician worked on a motor replacement and soon had the refrigerator case operating again. This was no ordinary cleaning job. Every inch had to be scrubbed, scoured, washed and rinsed. Sometimes this procedure had to be repeated seven times before the white of the walls and ceiling would show through. Yet everyone was laughing and joking, as though they were having a good time!

“Actually, I only dropped by to supervise,” came a comment from behind the bread rack.

“I bet this cures you of following fire trucks,” a fireman chided his wife.

We all laughed when an attractive blonde woman, who was perched on top of the vegetable case, and now bore a striking resemblance to a chimney sweep, burst out with a chorus of “Chim Chim Cheree.”

It was shortly after 2 a.m. when we locked the front door. Everyone had gone. As they finished their jobs, they just slipped out—not waiting for a word of thanks or a smile of appreciation.

We walked home hand in hand. Tears flowed freely down my cheeks. Not the tears of frustration and despair that had threatened earlier, but tears of love and gratitude. Business would open as usual tomorrow—because fifty-four kind people had the true spirit of Christmas in their hearts.

Our children had left the tree lights burning and our presents lay unopened in a neat pile on the floor. They would wait until morning. Whatever those gaily wrapped packages contained would be dwarfed, indeed, by the great gift of friendship given to us that Christmas Day.

(Edited by Linda Ririe Gundry, Jay A. Parry, and Jack M. Lyon, *Best-Loved Christmas Stories of the LDS People*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2001], p.392.)

Activity:

Plan a family service project.

The real secret to enjoyable and useful family service projects comes in planning together as a family and participating together in carrying out the plans. After you have selected a person to help and a service that would be helpful, make some decisions about who will contact the person to be served; what tools, gifts, or refreshments need to be taken; what special preparation each member of the family needs to make; and how your service will be done so that it will be easily accepted by the person you are trying to help. Even if you just plan a short visit with someone, have each family member prepare to contribute something to the conversation.

Service projects need not be large and time-consuming. It is better to do smaller and more frequent projects of love than to become bogged down in attempting something too large and too complicated. Consider also that it is not always necessary to leave your home. Sometimes the shy, elderly neighbor or the lonely friend would be helped more by being brought into your own home. The new atmosphere of your home, the friendly family relationship, and the comfort of an unhurried meal may be the most useful help your family could render.

(Eric G. Stephan and Judith Stephan Smith, *What Happy Families Are Doing*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1981], p. 120.)

For more family service project ideas see *52 Weeks of Fun Family Service* by Merrilee Boyack, Deseret Book, 2007.

Refreshment

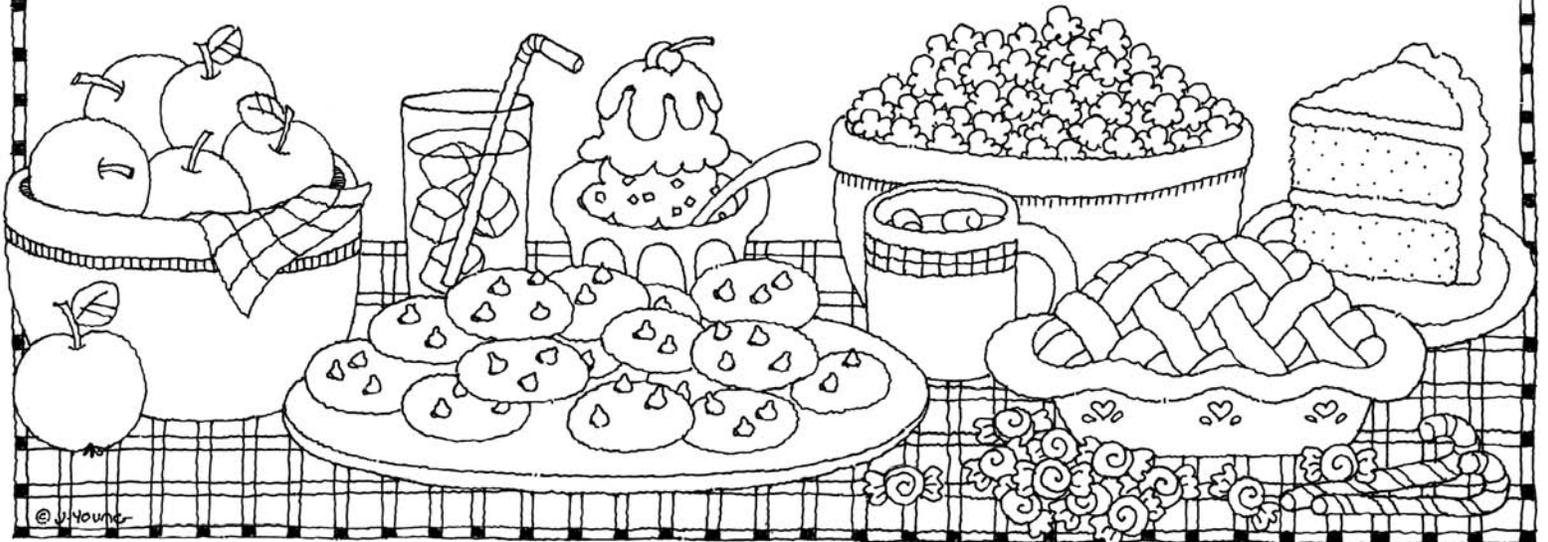
Peanutty-Choco Jumble

- 1 cup (6 ounces) milk chocolate chips
- 1 cup (6 ounces) semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 cup peanut butter
- 1 12.3-ounce box Crispix® cereal
- 2 cups powdered sugar

Melt chocolate chips and peanut butter in microwave or in double boiler over hot, simmering water. Pour mixture over cereal in a large bowl. Mix well. Pour powdered sugar in large brown paper bag. Add cereal mixture and shake until coated. Makes approximately 12 cups.

For Giving: Pour into snack basket lined with plastic wrap, and decorate with ribbon.

(*Lion House Christmas*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 2006], p. 140.)



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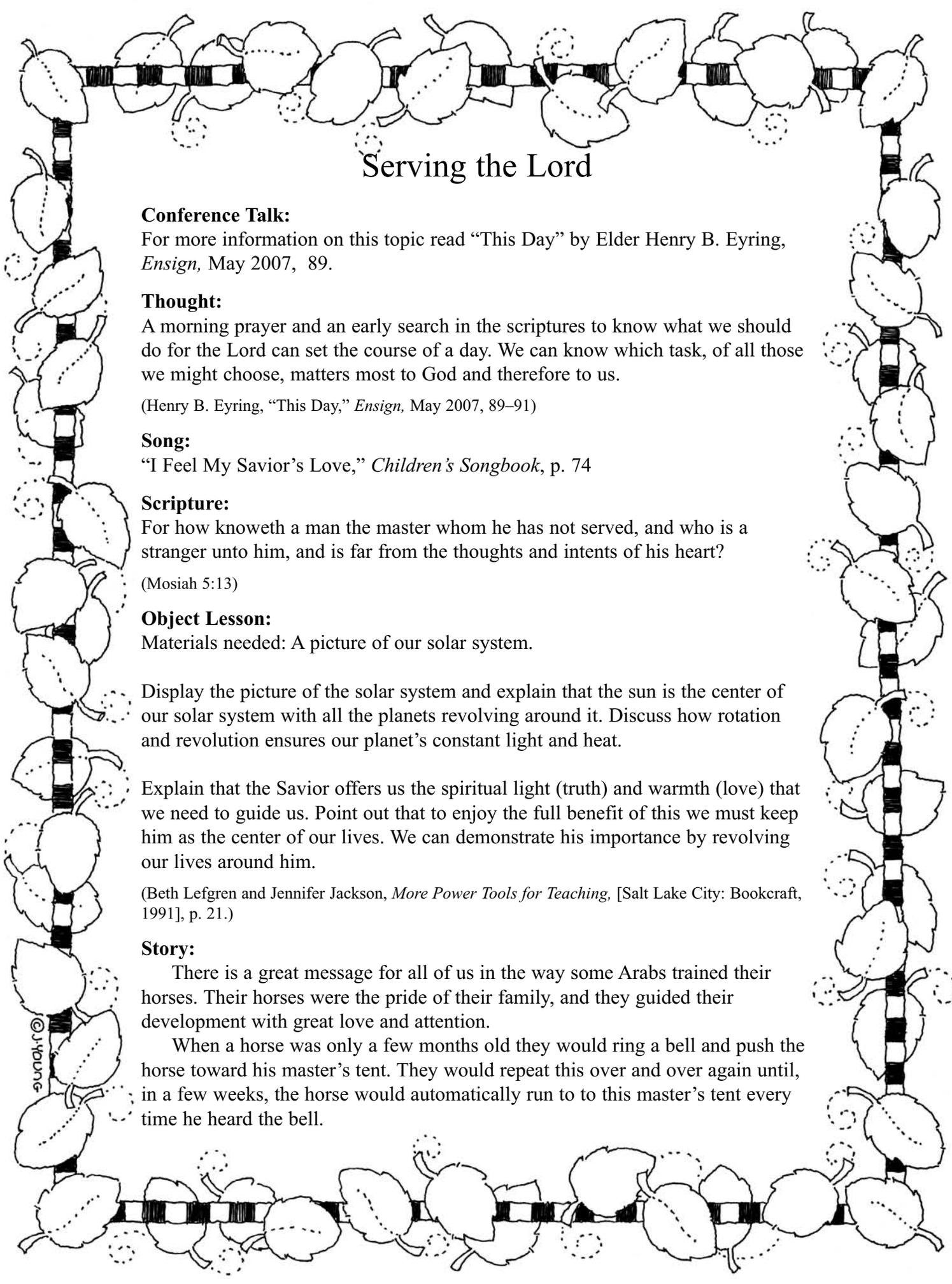
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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Serving the Lord

Packet #120207

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
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- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.



Serving the Lord

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read “This Day” by Elder Henry B. Eyring, *Ensign*, May 2007, 89.

Thought:

A morning prayer and an early search in the scriptures to know what we should do for the Lord can set the course of a day. We can know which task, of all those we might choose, matters most to God and therefore to us.

(Henry B. Eyring, “This Day,” *Ensign*, May 2007, 89–91)

Song:

“I Feel My Savior’s Love,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 74

Scripture:

For how knoweth a man the master whom he has not served, and who is a stranger unto him, and is far from the thoughts and intents of his heart?

(Mosiah 5:13)

Object Lesson:

Materials needed: A picture of our solar system.

Display the picture of the solar system and explain that the sun is the center of our solar system with all the planets revolving around it. Discuss how rotation and revolution ensures our planet’s constant light and heat.

Explain that the Savior offers us the spiritual light (truth) and warmth (love) that we need to guide us. Point out that to enjoy the full benefit of this we must keep him as the center of our lives. We can demonstrate his importance by revolving our lives around him.

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *More Power Tools for Teaching*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1991], p. 21.)

Story:

There is a great message for all of us in the way some Arabs trained their horses. Their horses were the pride of their family, and they guided their development with great love and attention.

When a horse was only a few months old they would ring a bell and push the horse toward his master’s tent. They would repeat this over and over again until, in a few weeks, the horse would automatically run to to this master’s tent every time he heard the bell.

Around the time a horse turned three years old he faced a test to determine whether he would be obedient under all conditions. An obedient horse was worth a great deal, while a horse that was not dependable was not worth much at all.

Finally the great test comes. Every day for years they have rung the bell and the horse has responded, but so far no great sacrifice has been asked of the horse. On exam day this changes. They keep the horse away from water for three days, so getting a drink of water is about all the horse is thinking of. They then let down the bars to the corral and the horse takes off for the watering hole. When he is halfway to the water, they ring the bell. If he doesn't respond but continues on toward the water, he is a cull and will not be of much worth to the family. If he heads for his master's tent as soon as he hears the bell, he is a thoroughbred and becomes very valuable.

For those who love the Lord and desire to serve him, their obedience becomes as natural to them as the thoroughbred horse responding to the bell.

(Allan K. Burgess and Max H. Molgard, *Fun for Family Night, Book Three: New Testament Edition*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1995], p.45.)

Activity:

Explain that sometimes we get so busy in our lives that we don't stop, look, and listen to the things around us that are most important.

Divide the family into two teams and give each team a pencil and paper. Have each team write S, T, O, and P. at the top of their paper. Each team has one minute to write down all the words they can think of that start with S, T, O, and P. The words must have something to do with things that are important to the family or blessing the family has received.

When the time is up, each team shares the words they have listed, and team members explain why each word is important to the family.

(Allan K. Burgess and Max H. Molgard, *Fun for Family Night: Book of Mormon Edition*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1990], p. 97.)

Refreshment

Turtle Cheesecake

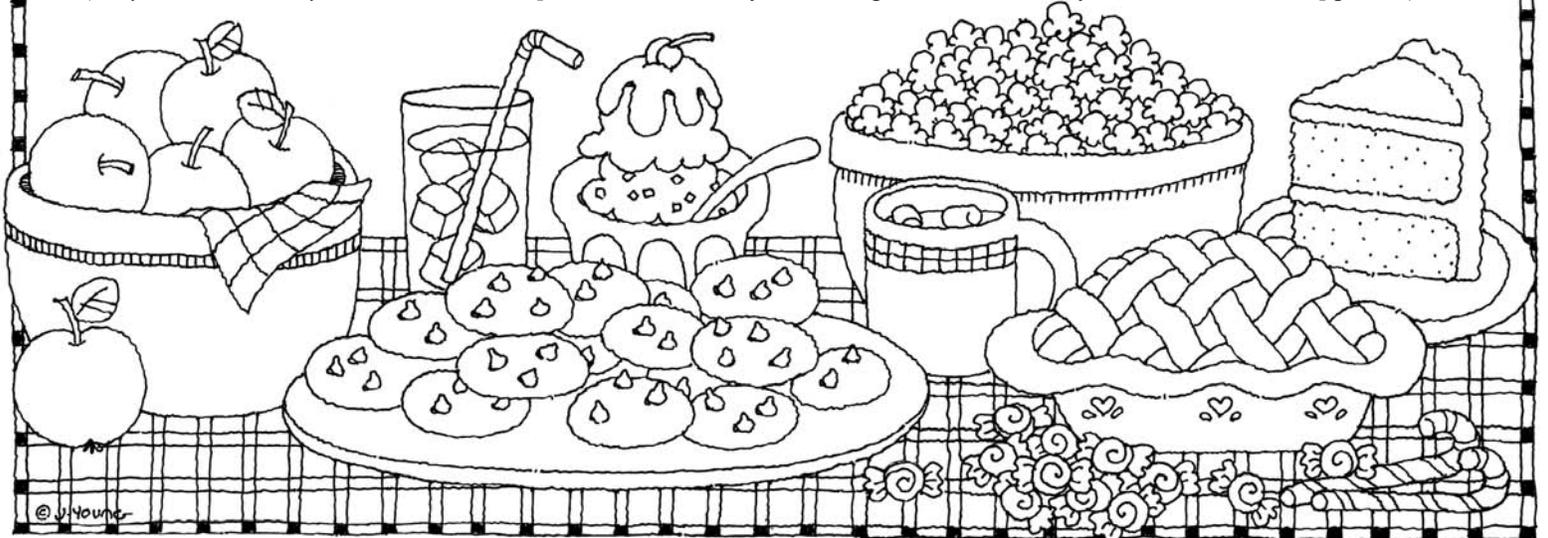
- 1 1/2 cups finely crushed vanilla wafer cookies (about 40 cookies)
- 1/4 cup butter or margarine, melted
- 2 packages (8 ounces each) cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 2 eggs
- 1/4 cup hot fudge topping
- 1/2 cup coarsely chopped pecans

Heat oven to 350 degrees F. Mix cookie crumbs and butter in medium bowl. Press firmly against bottom and side of pie plate, 9 x 1 1/4 inches.

Beat cream cheese, sugar, vanilla and eggs in large bowl with electric mixer on low speed until smooth. Pour half of the mixture into the pie plate. Add hot fudge topping to remaining cream cheese mixture in bowl; beat on low speed until smooth. Spoon over vanilla mixture in pie plate. Swirl mixtures slightly with tip of knife.

Bake 40 to 50 minutes or until center is set. (Do not insert knife into chocolate because the hole may cause the cheesecake to crack as it cools.) Cool at room temperature for 1 hour. Refrigerated at least 2 hours until chilled. Serve with caramel topping and pecans. Store covered in refrigerator.

(Betty Crocker Sunday Dinner Cookbook, [Hoboken, NJ: Wiley Publishing and Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2007] p. 167.)



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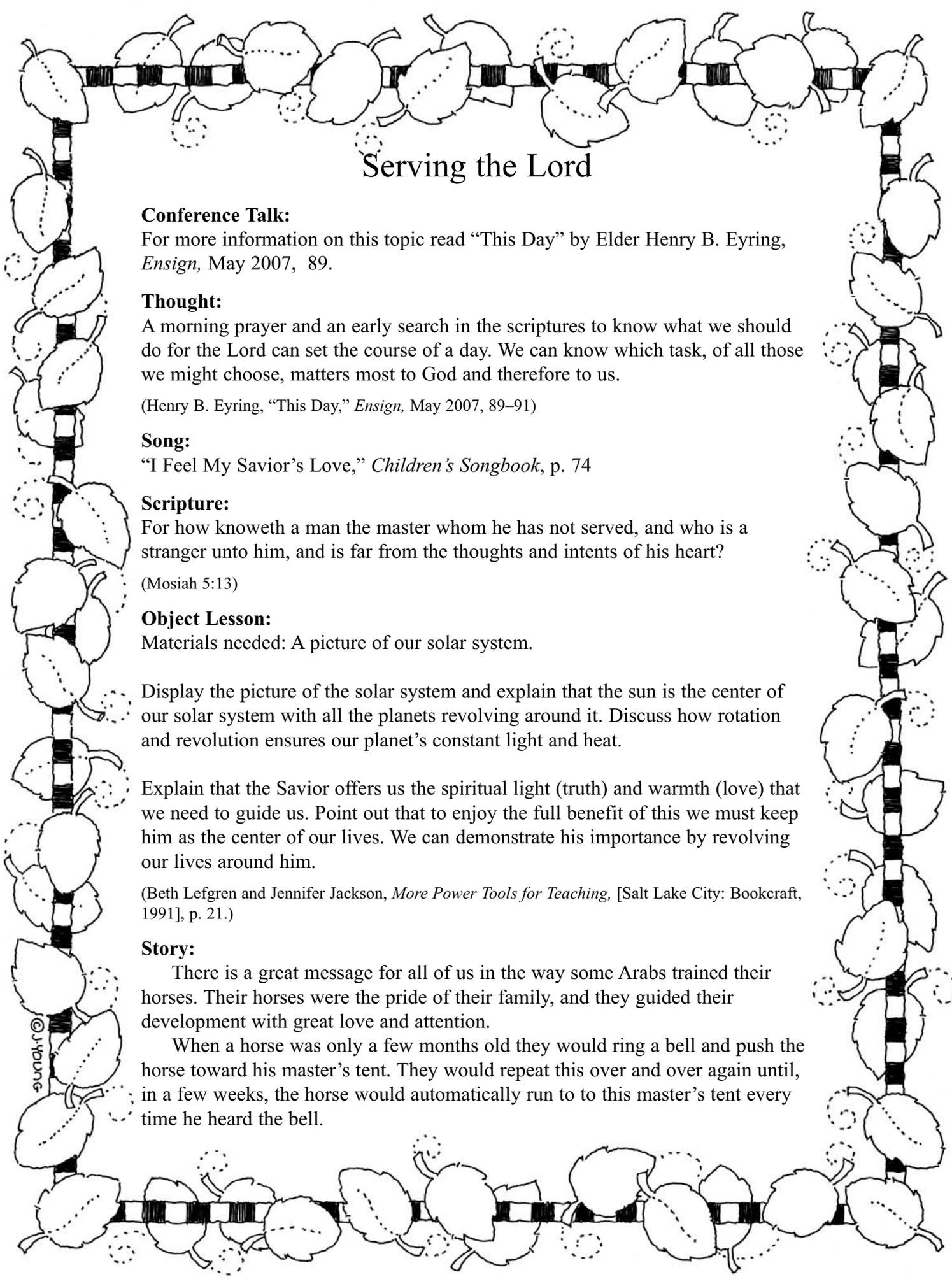
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Theme: Serving the Lord

Packet #120207

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Refreshment

Turtle Cheesecake

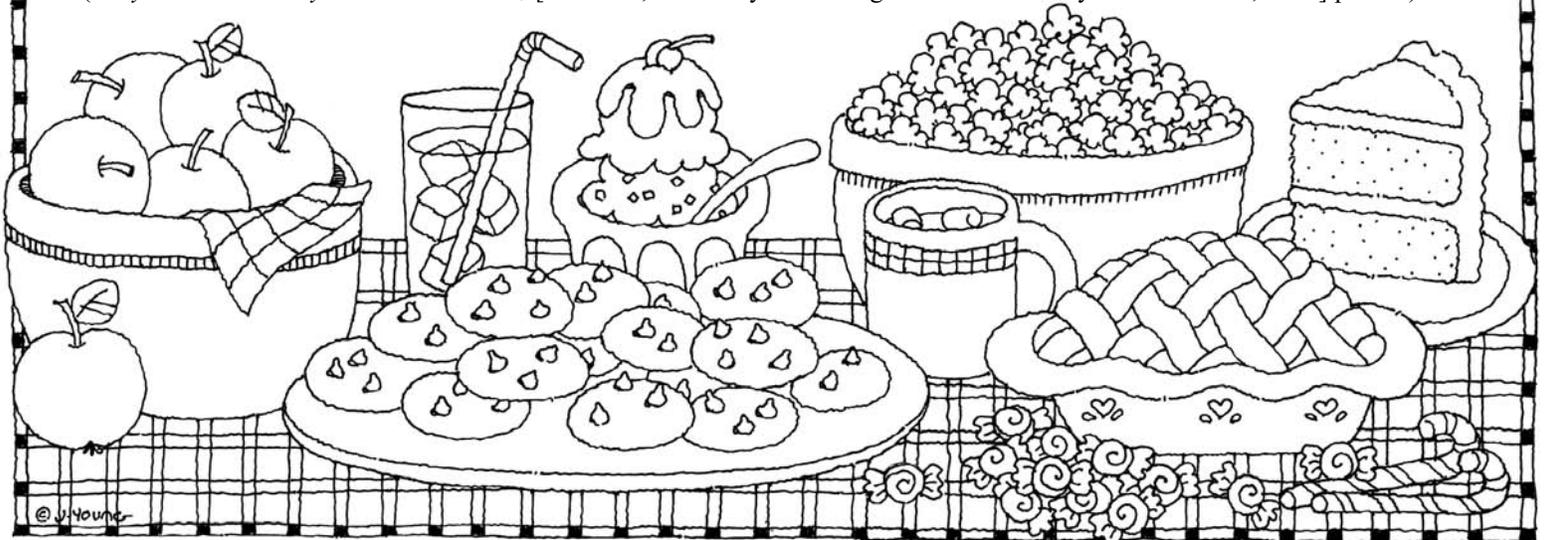
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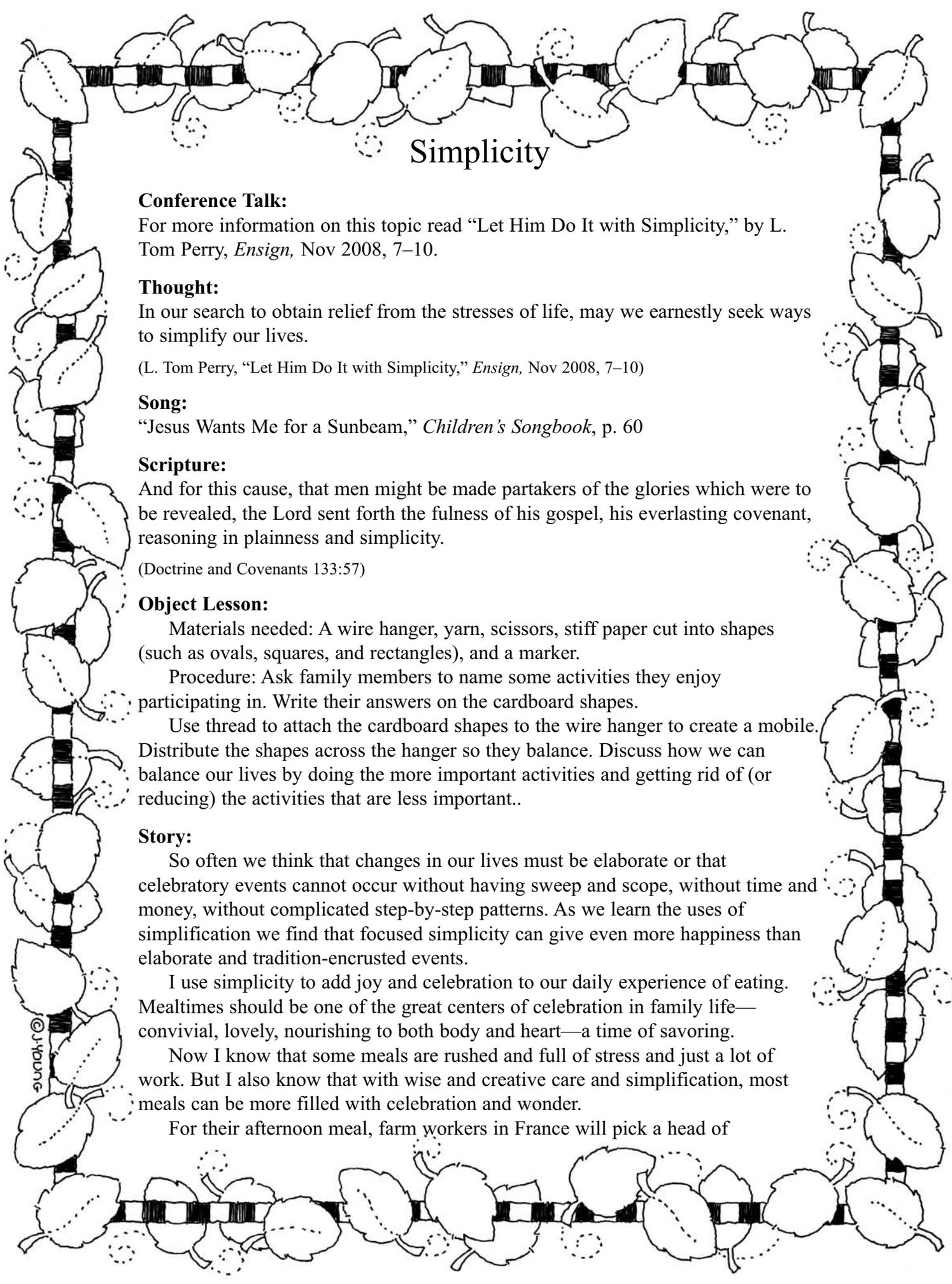
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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Simplicity

Packet #010209

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
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Simplicity

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read “Let Him Do It with Simplicity,” by L. Tom Perry, *Ensign*, Nov 2008, 7–10.

Thought:

In our search to obtain relief from the stresses of life, may we earnestly seek ways to simplify our lives.

(L. Tom Perry, “Let Him Do It with Simplicity,” *Ensign*, Nov 2008, 7–10)

Song:

“Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 60

Scripture:

And for this cause, that men might be made partakers of the glories which were to be revealed, the Lord sent forth the fulness of his gospel, his everlasting covenant, reasoning in plainness and simplicity.

(Doctrine and Covenants 133:57)

Object Lesson:

Materials needed: A wire hanger, yarn, scissors, stiff paper cut into shapes (such as ovals, squares, and rectangles), and a marker.

Procedure: Ask family members to name some activities they enjoy participating in. Write their answers on the cardboard shapes.

Use thread to attach the cardboard shapes to the wire hanger to create a mobile. Distribute the shapes across the hanger so they balance. Discuss how we can balance our lives by doing the more important activities and getting rid of (or reducing) the activities that are less important..

Story:

So often we think that changes in our lives must be elaborate or that celebratory events cannot occur without having sweep and scope, without time and money, without complicated step-by-step patterns. As we learn the uses of simplification we find that focused simplicity can give even more happiness than elaborate and tradition-encrusted events.

I use simplicity to add joy and celebration to our daily experience of eating. Mealtimes should be one of the great centers of celebration in family life—convivial, lovely, nourishing to both body and heart—a time of savoring.

Now I know that some meals are rushed and full of stress and just a lot of work. But I also know that with wise and creative care and simplification, most meals can be more filled with celebration and wonder.

For their afternoon meal, farm workers in France will pick a head of

cauliflower, steam it whole, marinate the tender florets in oil and vinegar with herbs and Parmesan cheese, and, with a loaf of fresh, crusty bread, make that their entire meal.

My family has tried it—and it is not only delicious but such a delightful break from traditional meals. That simple meal is an experience that helps us savor one flavor to the fullest, to think of the bounties and variety of the harvest of this earth, and to feel a shared delight with unknown workers in a distant land.

At the height of strawberry season, or asparagus season, or corn season, or artichoke season, we have often made our entire meal of the single delicious variety of fruit or vegetable. I remember my father saying once, as my mother rationed out the strawberry shortcake, "Strawberry season is so short—don't you think that just once during the season everyone should have absolutely as many strawberries as he could possibly want?"

A few weeks later we drove across the border from Canada to Kalispell, Montana, and on the way home we bought a flat of strawberries at a roadside stand. We had only a couple of hours' drive back to the border, and we could not take any produce back into Canada, so we ate strawberries until we could scarcely swallow.

Most of the family fell asleep, but I was sitting in the front seat talking to my father. He was still eating strawberries, and the border was getting closer and closer. Any berries that were left would be confiscated. I watched his hand as it reached up to the dashboard to choose a berry from the box that was balanced there. He would eat the strawberry, savor it, and then in a minute, his hand would reach out again.

Finally his hand hovered for a good thirty seconds and then returned to the steering wheel—empty.

"Well," my father muttered to himself, "I have finally, for once in my life, had all the strawberries I can eat."

If we are to simplify our homes, our lives, and the work we do, it is very important to know ourselves. No two people will ever simplify in the same way because things that are unnecessary complications to one person may be a joy to another.

(Jaroldeen Edwards, *Celebration! Ten Principles of More Joyous Living*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1995].)

Activity:

Play a simple game such as marbles, chinese checkers, jacks, or pick-up-sticks.

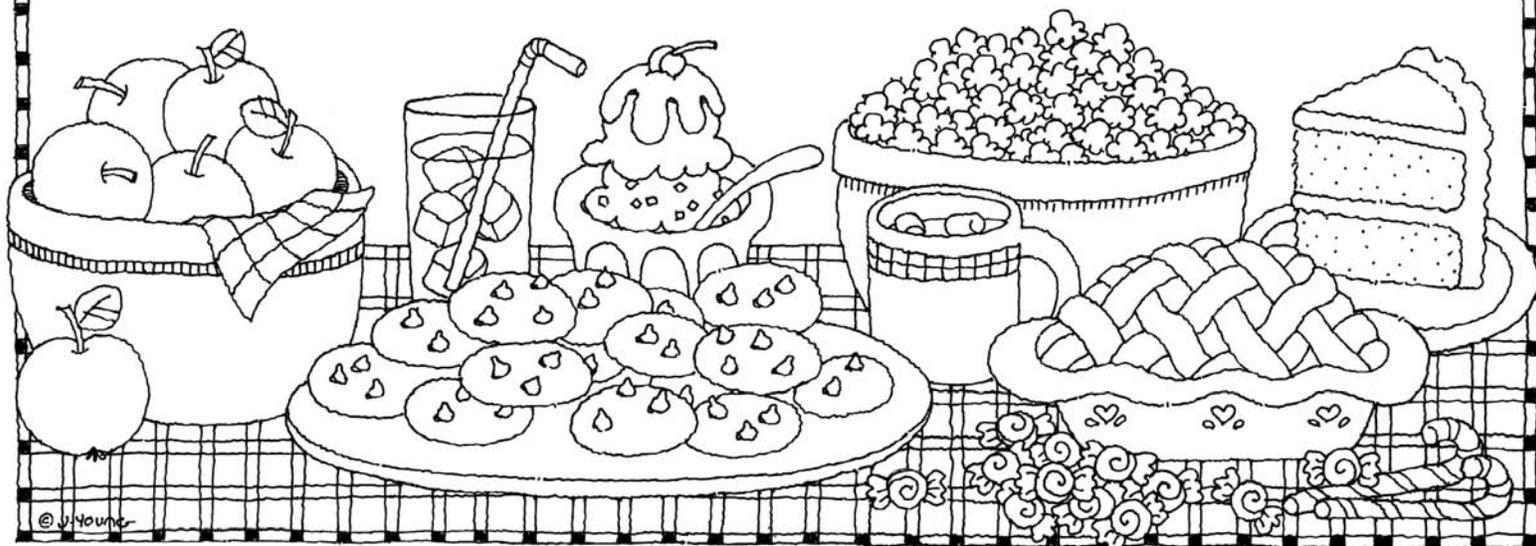
Refreshment

Cox Honey Cookies

- 1 1/2 cups shortening
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup honey
- 4 cups flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 3 teaspoons cinnamon

In a large mixing bowl, cream shortening, 2 cups sugar, eggs, and honey. Sift together flour, salt, baking soda, and baking powder. Stir into creamed mixture. Combine 1/2 cup sugar and 3 teaspoons cinnamon. Form heaping teaspoonfuls of dough into balls and roll each ball in sugar/cinnamon mixture. Place balls on a greased cookie sheet. Bake at 325 degrees for 8 to 10 minutes, or until lightly browned. Do not over bake. Makes 3 dozen cookies.

(Paula Julander and Joanne Milner, *Utah State Fare*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 1995] p. 21.)



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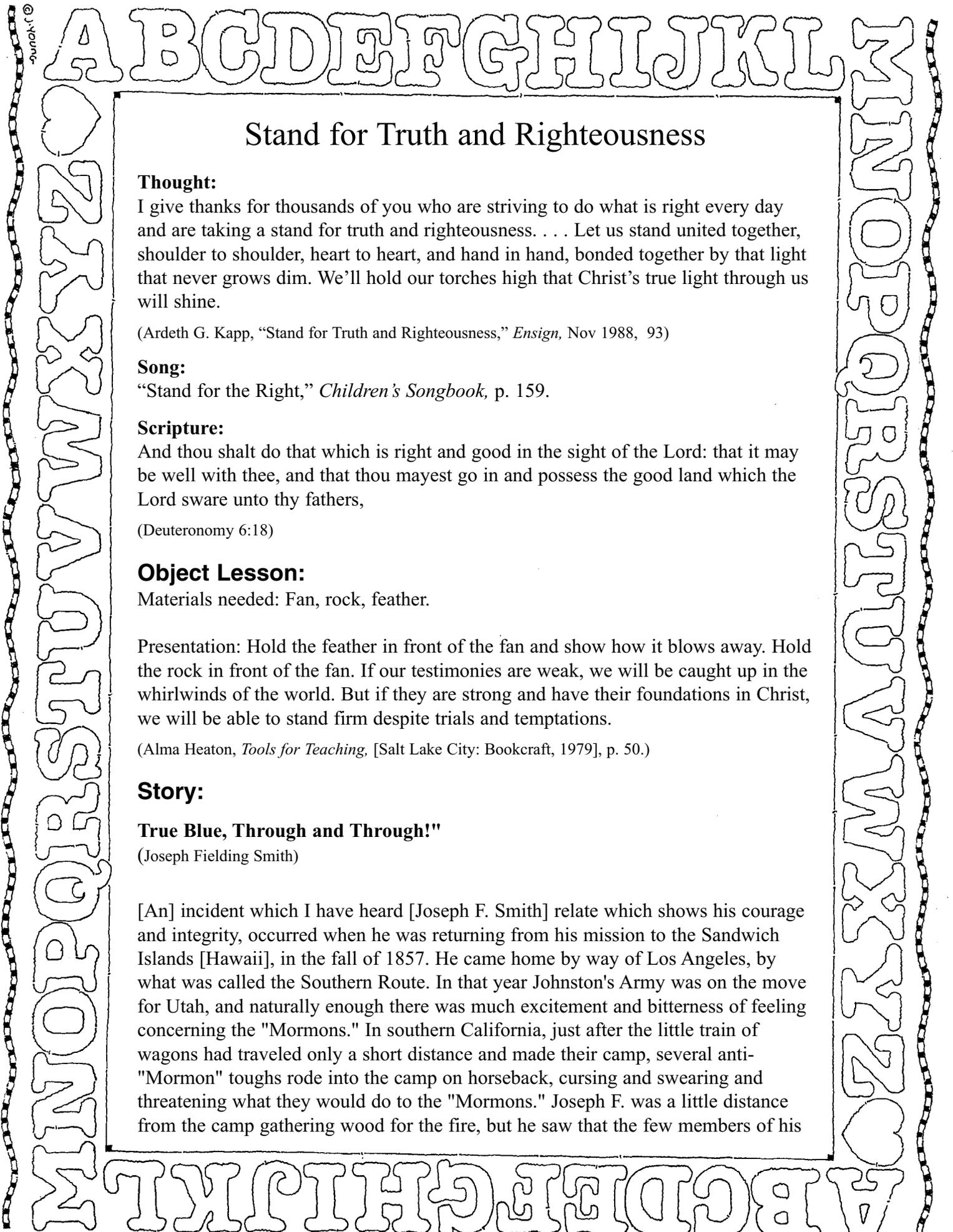
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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Stand for Truth and Righteousness

Packet #100407

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
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Stand for Truth and Righteousness

Thought:

I give thanks for thousands of you who are striving to do what is right every day and are taking a stand for truth and righteousness. . . . Let us stand united together, shoulder to shoulder, heart to heart, and hand in hand, bonded together by that light that never grows dim. We'll hold our torches high that Christ's true light through us will shine.

(Ardeth G. Kapp, "Stand for Truth and Righteousness," *Ensign*, Nov 1988, 93)

Song:

"Stand for the Right," *Children's Songbook*, p. 159.

Scripture:

And thou shalt do that which is right and good in the sight of the Lord: that it may be well with thee, and that thou mayest go in and possess the good land which the Lord sware unto thy fathers,

(Deuteronomy 6:18)

Object Lesson:

Materials needed: Fan, rock, feather.

Presentation: Hold the feather in front of the fan and show how it blows away. Hold the rock in front of the fan. If our testimonies are weak, we will be caught up in the whirlwinds of the world. But if they are strong and have their foundations in Christ, we will be able to stand firm despite trials and temptations.

(Alma Heaton, *Tools for Teaching*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1979], p. 50.)

Story:

True Blue, Through and Through!"

(Joseph Fielding Smith)

[An] incident which I have heard [Joseph F. Smith] relate which shows his courage and integrity, occurred when he was returning from his mission to the Sandwich Islands [Hawaii], in the fall of 1857. He came home by way of Los Angeles, by what was called the Southern Route. In that year Johnston's Army was on the move for Utah, and naturally enough there was much excitement and bitterness of feeling concerning the "Mormons." In southern California, just after the little train of wagons had traveled only a short distance and made their camp, several anti-"Mormon" toughs rode into the camp on horseback, cursing and swearing and threatening what they would do to the "Mormons." Joseph F. was a little distance from the camp gathering wood for the fire, but he saw that the few members of his

own party had cautiously gone into the brush down the creek, out of sight. When he saw that, he told me, the thought came into his mind, "Shall I run from these fellows? Why should I fear them?" With that he marched up with his arm full of wood to the campfire where one of the ruffians, still with his pistol in his hand, shouting and cursing about the "Mormons," in a loud voice said to Joseph F.:

"Are you a 'Mormon'?"

And the answer came straight, "Yes, siree; dyed in the wool; true blue, through and through."

At that the ruffian grasped him by the hand and said:

"Well, you are the _____ pleasantest man I ever met! Shake hands, young fellow, I am glad to see a man that stands up for his convictions."

Edited by Jack M. Lyon, Linda Ririe Gundry, Jay A. Parry, *Best-Loved Stories of the LDS People, Vol. 1*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1998], 50)

Activity:

Have one person start by saying "I am going to stand for truth and righteousness when I am at _____." They fill in the blank with somewhere that begins with an A, such as the airport. The next person repeats the phrase, filling in the blank with something that begins with a B. Keep taking turns until you have used all the letters in the alphabet. (Examples: bathroom, school, zoo, etc.)

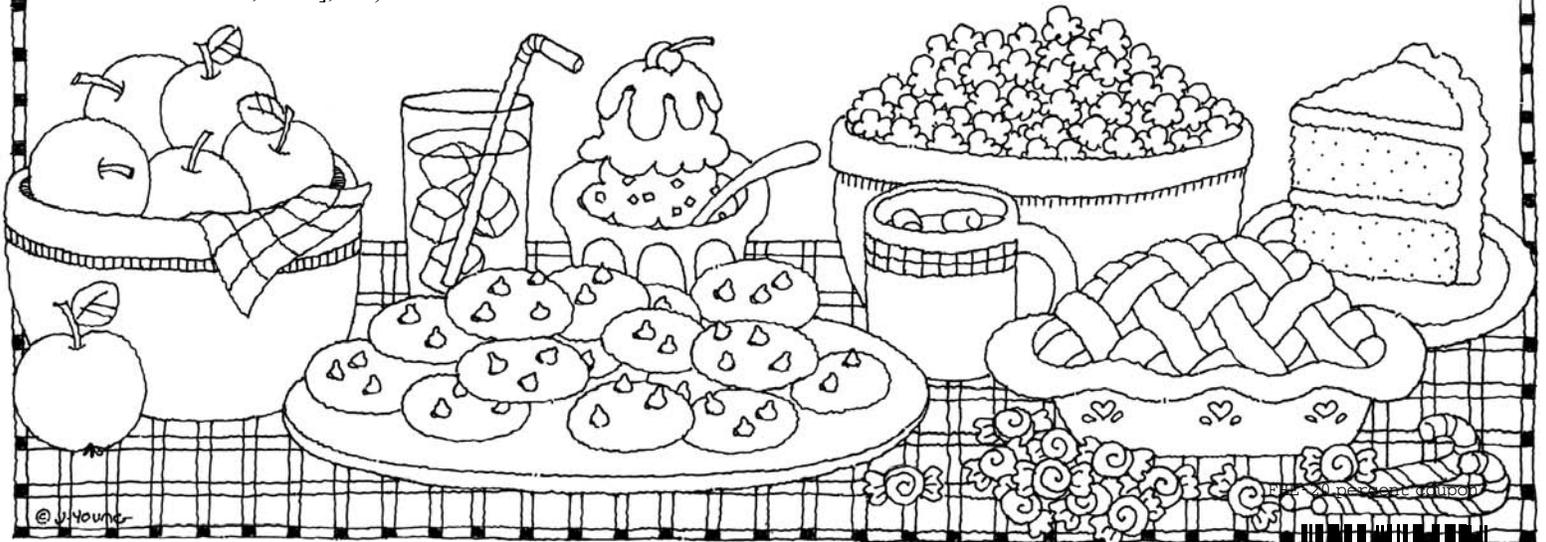
Refreshment

Melanie's Baked Apples

- 1 package Pillsbury crescent rolls
- 2 apples, peeled, quartered, and cored
- 1/4 cup butter, melted
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 (12-ounce) can lemon-lime soda

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Roll out one crescent roll for each apple piece. (You can roll out the crescent roll with a drinking glass if you don't have a rolling pin.) Then wrap the dough around the apple quarters. Pinch the seams closed as much as possible. (It's fine if there are exposed pieces of apple.) Place each apple bundle seam-side down in a baking dish. Pour melted butter over the apple bundles. In a small bowl, combine sugar, cinnamon, and nutmeg, then sprinkle the mixture over the buttered apples. Pour half of the lemon-lime soda over the mixture. (You can drink or discard the rest.) Bake until browned and bubbly, about 10 to 12 minutes. Serve hot with vanilla ice cream or whipped cream. Serves 8.

(Clark L. and Kathryn H. Kidd, *52 Weeks of Recipes for Students, Missionaries, and Nervous Cooks*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2007], 54.)



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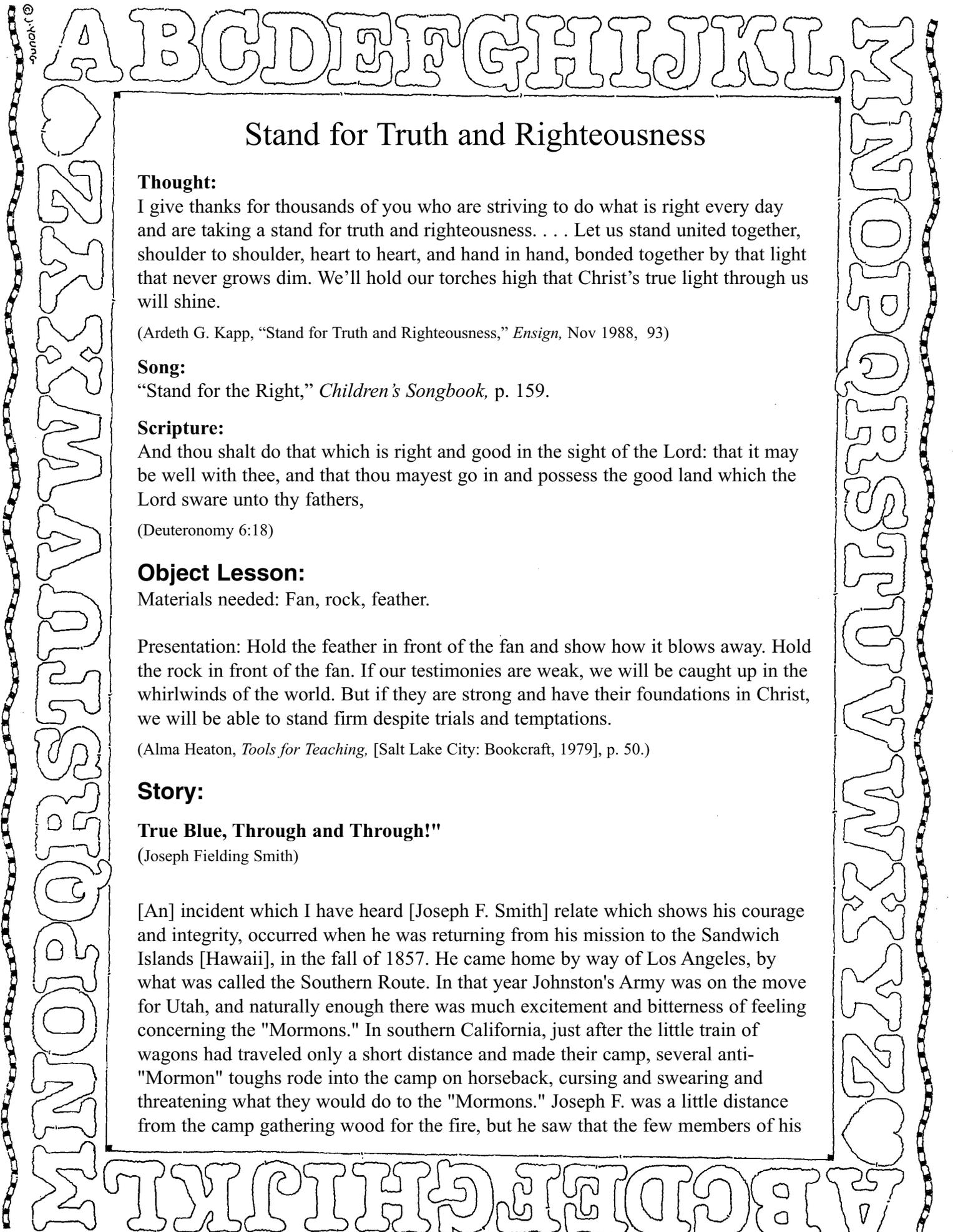
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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Stand for Truth and Righteousness

Packet #100407

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
- 3. Involvement.** Involve everyone in the family; help little children take part.
- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.



Stand for Truth and Righteousness

Thought:

I give thanks for thousands of you who are striving to do what is right every day and are taking a stand for truth and righteousness. . . . Let us stand united together, shoulder to shoulder, heart to heart, and hand in hand, bonded together by that light that never grows dim. We'll hold our torches high that Christ's true light through us will shine.

(Ardeth G. Kapp, "Stand for Truth and Righteousness," *Ensign*, Nov 1988, 93)

Song:

"Stand for the Right," *Children's Songbook*, p. 159.

Scripture:

And thou shalt do that which is right and good in the sight of the Lord: that it may be well with thee, and that thou mayest go in and possess the good land which the Lord sware unto thy fathers,

(Deuteronomy 6:18)

Object Lesson:

Materials needed: Fan, rock, feather.

Presentation: Hold the feather in front of the fan and show how it blows away. Hold the rock in front of the fan. If our testimonies are weak, we will be caught up in the whirlwinds of the world. But if they are strong and have their foundations in Christ, we will be able to stand firm despite trials and temptations.

(Alma Heaton, *Tools for Teaching*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1979], p. 50.)

Story:

True Blue, Through and Through!"

(Joseph Fielding Smith)

[An] incident which I have heard [Joseph F. Smith] relate which shows his courage and integrity, occurred when he was returning from his mission to the Sandwich Islands [Hawaii], in the fall of 1857. He came home by way of Los Angeles, by what was called the Southern Route. In that year Johnston's Army was on the move for Utah, and naturally enough there was much excitement and bitterness of feeling concerning the "Mormons." In southern California, just after the little train of wagons had traveled only a short distance and made their camp, several anti-"Mormon" toughs rode into the camp on horseback, cursing and swearing and threatening what they would do to the "Mormons." Joseph F. was a little distance from the camp gathering wood for the fire, but he saw that the few members of his

own party had cautiously gone into the brush down the creek, out of sight. When he saw that, he told me, the thought came into his mind, "Shall I run from these fellows? Why should I fear them?" With that he marched up with his arm full of wood to the campfire where one of the ruffians, still with his pistol in his hand, shouting and cursing about the "Mormons," in a loud voice said to Joseph F.:

"Are you a 'Mormon'?"

And the answer came straight, "Yes, siree; dyed in the wool; true blue, through and through."

At that the ruffian grasped him by the hand and said:

"Well, you are the _____ pleasantest man I ever met! Shake hands, young fellow, I am glad to see a man that stands up for his convictions."

Edited by Jack M. Lyon, Linda Ririe Gundry, Jay A. Parry, *Best-Loved Stories of the LDS People, Vol. 1*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1998], 50)

Activity:

Have one person start by saying "I am going to stand for truth and righteousness when I am at _____." They fill in the blank with somewhere that begins with an A, such as the airport. The next person repeats the phrase, filling in the blank with something that begins with a B. Keep taking turns until you have used all the letters in the alphabet. (Examples: bathroom, school, zoo, etc.)

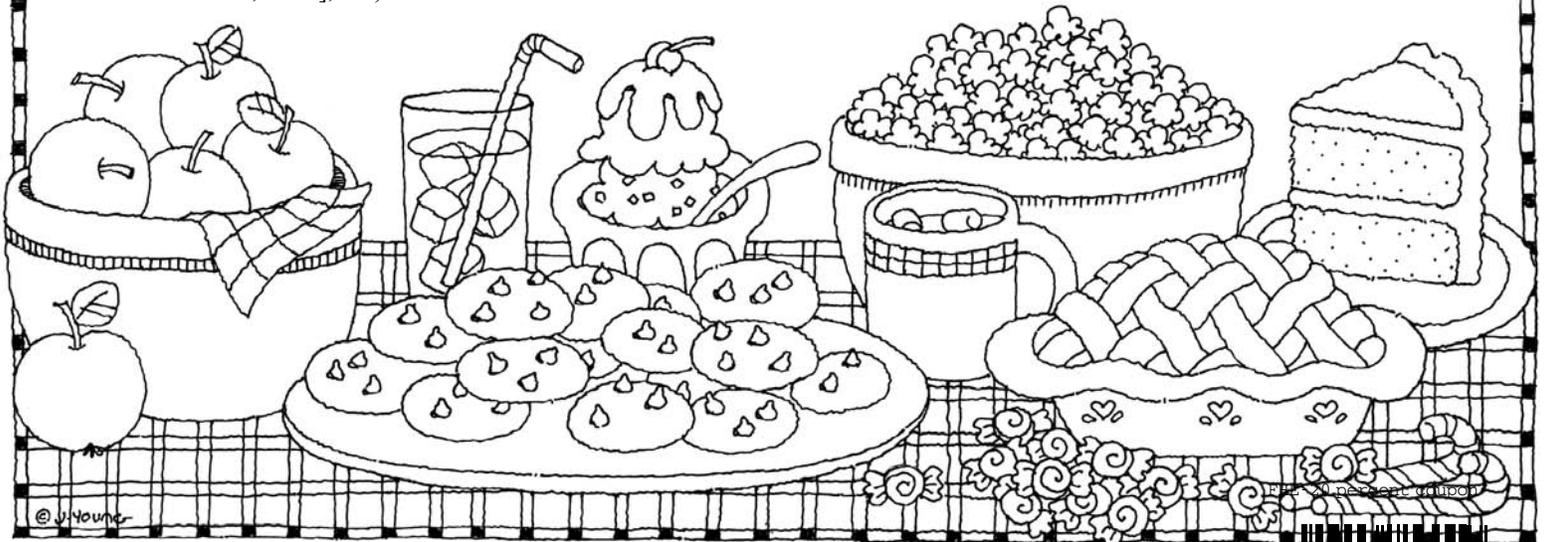
Refreshment

Melanie's Baked Apples

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- 2 apples, peeled, quartered, and cored
- 1/4 cup butter, melted
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 (12-ounce) can lemon-lime soda

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Roll out one crescent roll for each apple piece. (You can roll out the crescent roll with a drinking glass if you don't have a rolling pin.) Then wrap the dough around the apple quarters. Pinch the seams closed as much as possible. (It's fine if there are exposed pieces of apple.) Place each apple bundle seam-side down in a baking dish. Pour melted butter over the apple bundles. In a small bowl, combine sugar, cinnamon, and nutmeg, then sprinkle the mixture over the buttered apples. Pour half of the lemon-lime soda over the mixture. (You can drink or discard the rest.) Bake until browned and bubbly, about 10 to 12 minutes. Serve hot with vanilla ice cream or whipped cream. Serves 8.

(Clark L. and Kathryn H. Kidd, *52 Weeks of Recipes for Students, Missionaries, and Nervous Cooks*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2007], 54.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Temples

Packet #060308

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
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A B C D E F G H I J K L M

Temples

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read "The Power of Godliness Is Manifested in the Temples of God," by Octaviano Tenorio, *Ensign*, Nov 2007, 95–97.

Thought:

In the holiness of the temple . . . the power of godliness is manifested to all people who . . . come to make sacred covenants.

(Octaviano Tenorio, "The Power of Godliness Is Manifested in the Temples of God," *Ensign*, Nov 2007, 95–97.)

Song:

"I Love to See the Temple" *Children's Songbook*, p. 95.

Scripture:

And verily I say unto you, let this house be built unto my name, that I may reveal mine ordinances therein unto my people.

(Doctrine and Covenants 124:40)

Lesson:

Show your family pictures of temples and talk about why we build temples. Divide your family into two groups. Have both groups read D&C 97:10–17, with one group looking for how temples are built and the other group looking for ways temples can bless our lives. Have both groups report their findings. Ask:

- How do these verses explain why we need a recommend to enter the temple?
- What does the Lord promise if we keep the temple undefiled?

Ask family members who have been to a temple to share their testimony of feeling God's presence in that holy place.

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The Doctrine and Covenants*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2004], p. 211.)

Story:

I grew up in the shadows of the Alberta Temple. I remember the stories of my grandfather, Daniel Kent Greene, a man of great faith. A family history records that "on November 5, 1913, the ground-breaking ceremony was held" for the construction of the Alberta Temple, and "Daniel K. Greene . . . plowed the first furrow for the excavation work."

In the beautiful baptismal font in that temple . . . I performed many baptisms for the dead. It . . . has provided a guide and a comfort for my life. I remember well when I was sixteen years old being rushed to Calgary for a serious operation in which I was expected, according to the specialists, to lose my equilibrium and my hearing if I lived. My parents, who were faithful temple workers for many years, explained to me with great faith that they were putting my name on the prayer roll in the temple and all would be well. I remember living in anticipation of going to the temple one

M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z A B C D E F G H I J K L

day and coming to understand how that worked.

When I was a teenager, the missionaries of the Western Canadian Mission gathered at the temple for a conference, and it was then that I met Elder Heber Kapp. Eventually my fervent prayers were answered, for a few years later we were sealed in that temple for time and all eternity.

Whenever I enter the beautiful Alberta Temple after these many years, thoughts come flooding to my mind. I feel like a child once again at home in the family circle. I almost anticipate the presence of my parents and grandparents. Being there is a wonderful foretaste of the joy we will have when we return to our ultimate home.

(Ardeth Greene Kapp, *The Joy of the Journey*, [Salt Lake City, Deseret Book, 1992].)

Activity:

Print pictures of ten different temples from around the world. Use a world map or globe. Show a picture of a temple and let family members try to guess which temple it is. Mark each temple location on the map. Point out that temples are built around the world to offer all worthy members of the Church the opportunity to partake of temple ordinances and blessings.

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *Building Blocks for Better Lessons*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1998], p. 71.)

Refreshment

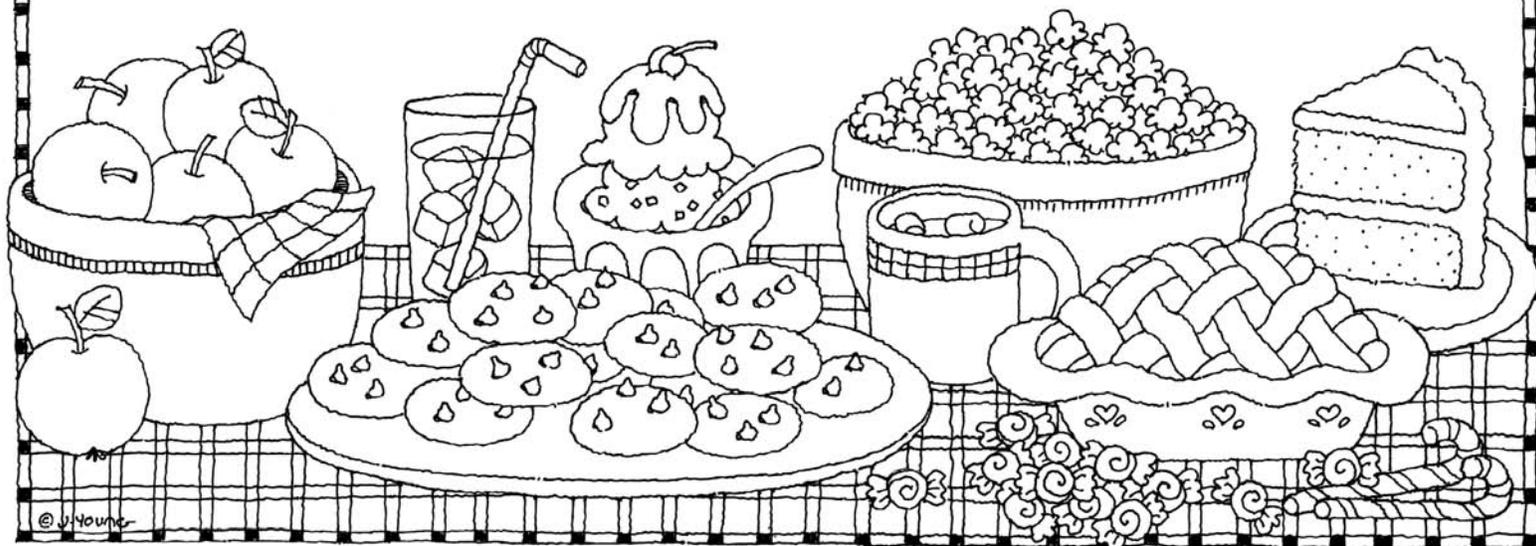
Honey Peanut-Butter Cookies

1/4 cup shortening
1/2 cup peanut butter
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 cup honey
1 egg, beaten
2 cups flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
1/4 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 cup nuts, chopped

In a large mixing bowl, cream shortening and peanut butter together. Add sugar and continue creaming. Add honey gradually and beat until light. Add egg and mix well. Stir or sift together flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt; add to creamed mixture. Stir in nuts; mix well. Form dough into 2 rolls. Wrap in wax paper and chill. Cut dough in 1/2-inch slices, and place on ungreased cookie sheet. Bake at 400 degrees for 6 to 8 minutes. Makes 2 dozen cookies.

Note: Cookies may also be formed by shaping dough into balls, placing them on cookie sheet, and flattening with a fork to make a crisscross pattern.

(Paula Julander and Joanne Milner, *Utah State Fare*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 1995], p. 107.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Temples

Packet #020309

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

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Temples

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read “Celestial Marriage,” by Russell M. Nelson, *Ensign*, Nov 2008, 92–95.

Thought:

Sacred ordinances and covenants available in holy temples make it possible for individuals to return to the presence of God and for families to be united eternally.

(“The Family: A Proclamation to the World,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1995, 102.)

Song:

“I Love to See the Temple” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 95.

Scripture:

And I, Nephi, did build a temple; and I did construct it after the manner of the temple of Solomon . . . and the workmanship thereof was exceedingly fine.

(2 Nephi 5:16)

Lesson:

Materials needed: Two envelopes and two sets of pictures of individual family members. If pictures are unavailable, simply write the names on separate papers.

Procedure: Place a set of family pictures in each envelope. Leave one envelope open, seal the other.

Hold up both envelopes, and explain that the open one represents a family who has not been sealed for all eternity in the temple. The closed envelope represents a family that has been sealed. Shake the envelopes. Soon the pictures from the open envelope will start to fall, scattering onto the ground. However, the family that is sealed stays in the envelope. Explain that being sealed for eternity means that they can remain together even after they die.

If your family isn’t currently sealed, set a goal to work toward this blessing.

(Adapted from Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *Power Tools for Teaching*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1881], p. 77.)

Story:

Llewelyn R. McKay

After the dedication of the temple site at Bern, Switzerland, the spectators gathered around father [David O. McKay] to shake his hand and to ask for his autograph.

One sweet, old lady came up to him and placed a small purse in his hand. Father beckoned to me to act as interpreter. With tears in her eyes, she said: “President McKay, ever since I learned that a temple was to be built in my land, I have saved a ten-centime piece each week. I am quite ill and very old, so I shall never be able to do work in the temple when it is built, but I wish to do my part in helping the great cause.”

The actual amount in the purse, figured in dollars and cents, was not much, but each week's savings meant less food for that dear, old soul. She was giving all she could with a deeper sincerity than is perhaps felt by many others who offer more—and even when she knew that no return in the use of the temple would ever come to her, she was happy in the thought that she was helping her fellow men.

This is why, I am sure, that father put his arm around her, and with tears in his eyes, thanked her in behalf of all her fellow Church members throughout the world, and added: "You are true gold; I am sure God is pleased with your sincere heart and worthy soul; and in behalf of the Church I accept this gift in the spirit in which it is given!"

The old sister hobbled away, lame and decrepit in body, but with a smile which reflected the happy sparkle in her eyes and of her beautiful soul!

(Jay A. Parry, Jack M. Lyon, Linda Ririe Gundry, *Best-Loved Stories of the LDS People, Vol. 2*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1999], p. 98.)

Activity:

Have the entire family stand on one end of the room. Place a box, a stool, or a chair at the other end of the room. The father walks up to and around the "goal." He returns to the starting line, takes the mother's hand, and walks her around the goal. They return to the starting line and one of the children joins them, linking hands with the mother. The trip to the goal and back continues until the whole family is walking.

As the line increases, the first players have to take only a few steps in each direction and swing their line around in order to pick up the rest of the family.

Variations: Walk cross-legged; skip; hop; walk backwards, etc.

(Alma Heaton, *The LDS Game Book*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1968], p. 200.)

Refreshment

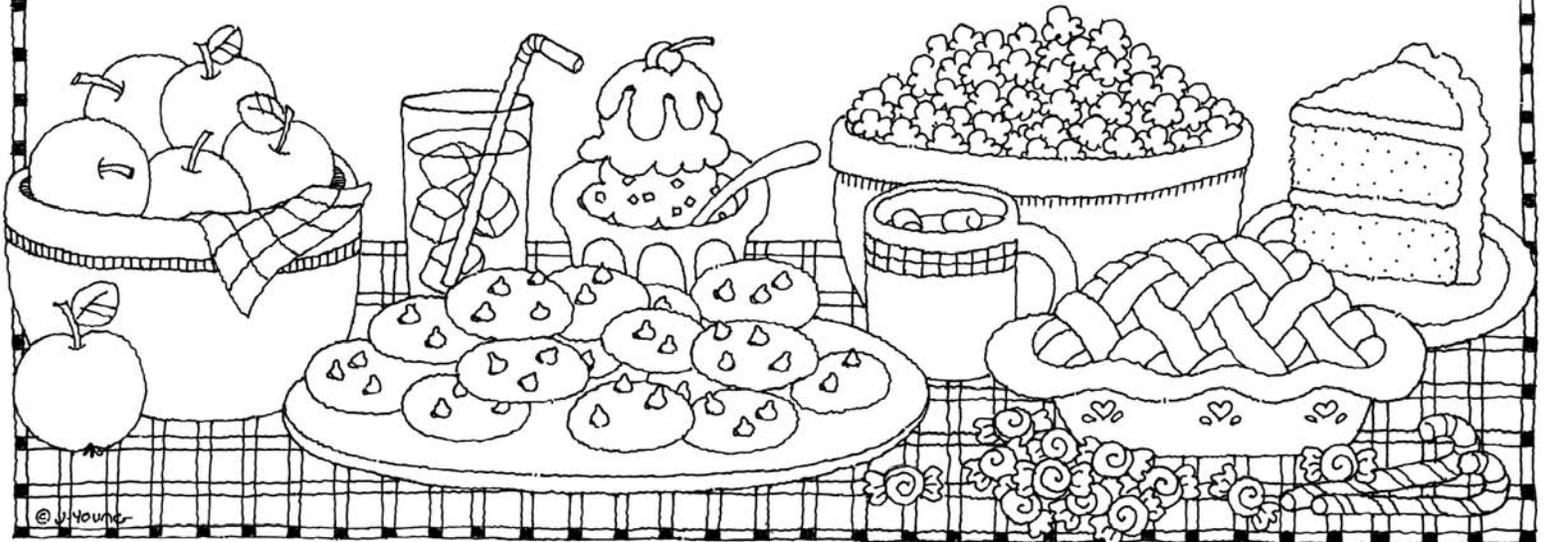
Susie's Turtle Cake

- 1 box German chocolate cake mix, mixed according to directions on box but not yet baked
- 48 Kraft® caramels (1 14-ounce bag)
- 1/2 cup evaporated milk
- 2 cups pecans, chopped
- 3/4 cup (1 1/2 sticks) butter (not margarine!)
- 2 cups semi-sweet chocolate chips
- Whipped cream, for topping

Grease and flour a 9X13-inch pan. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Pour half of the cake batter into the prepared pan. Bake 15 minutes. While the cake is baking, melt the caramels, milk, and butter in a large saucepan over medium heat. Pour the mixture over the partially baked cake. Sprinkle half of the pecans and half of the chocolate chips over the caramel mixture. Pour the rest of the batter over that. Sprinkle the rest of the nuts and chocolate chips on top. Bake 20 more minutes. It won't look quite done when it's finished, but it will firm up when it sets. (It tastes better the second day!) Serve topped with whipped cream.

Serves 12 to 16.

(Clark L. and Kathryn H. Kidd, *52 Weeks of Recipes for Students, Missionaries, and Nervous Cooks*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2007], p. 93.)



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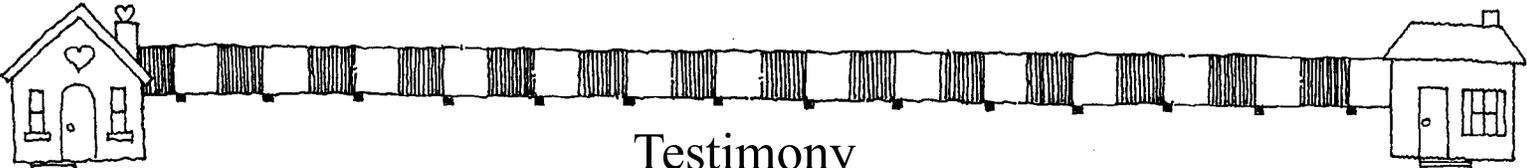
Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Testimony

Packet #010408

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Testimony

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read “Why Are We Members of the Only True Church?,” by Enrique R. Falabella, *Ensign*, Nov 2007, 14–15

Thought:

The most valuable power we can possess is the treasure of a personal testimony of our Lord Jesus Christ and His atoning power.

(Enrique R. Falabella, “Why Are We Members of the Only True Church?,” *Ensign*, Nov 2007, 14–15)

Song:

“The Church of Jesus Christ” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 77.

Scripture:

Nevertheless, ye are blessed, for the testimony which ye have borne is recorded in heaven for the angels to look upon; and they rejoice over you, and your sins are forgiven you.

(Doctrine and Covenants 62:3)

Lesson:

Preparation: Prepare from construction paper the parts of a house: foundation, walls (the structure itself), windows, door, and roof. Gather some sand and rock or concrete.

Explain that building a testimony is like building a house.

What is the first thing you need to build your house? (Hint: this the something that keeps the floors off the ground.)

A foundation. (Post the foundation.) The foundation must be very strong because it holds up the whole house. Display the sand and the rocks. Ask which item would be strongest and best to use for the foundation? (The rock or concrete.) Explain that Jesus Christ is the rock that is the foundation of our testimony. He is strong and powerful and will always support us.

What is the next thing our house needs?

Walls. (Put the walls onto the foundation of the house.) Walls are very important because they give us a secure place to live. A testimony of Joseph Smith is like having walls on our house. There is security in knowing that he was the prophet who restored the gospel.

What is our house missing?

A roof. (Place the roof on the house.) A roof protects us from the rain and the other elements. It keeps our house warm and safe. Having a testimony that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the only true church is just as important as the roof on a house. Other churches have good people in them but only have part of the gospel, and that would be like a roof with holes in it. We all know what happens when a roof has a hole in it. It leaks!

Our house is still missing something. What is it?

Windows and a door. (Put the windows and door on the house.) They help us to see what’s outside. We can be better prepared by this. For instance, if we see that it is raining, we can take an umbrella. A testimony of our prophet is like the windows and doors of a house. Through revelation from Heavenly Father, the prophet can prepare us for the latter days.

Explain that just as each part of the house is vital, so is each part of our testimony.

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *Sharing Time, Family Time, Anytime*, [Salt Lake City: Book, 1992], p. 98–9.)

Story:

(Patriarch Eldred G. Smith)

Declare your testimony to others on every occasion. There is a power in bearing your testimony.

I remember an occasion in the mission field in Germany, when I had been tracting. I was getting a bit discouraged, having met nothing but passive attention. After climbing some stairs I knocked on a door, and a large man opened it and with a very gruff attitude greeted me. I gave him my brief message, as we did in those days in presenting a tract at the door. He turned and picked up a handful of leaflets off the table near the door, and shook them in my face, and declared to me that I was the fifth person who had been to his door that day with just such leaflets. He was a large man and very rough in his approach. I expected any moment that I might be thrown down the stairs, but he declared that none of us knew that we had the gospel. He said, "You all say that it is true, this is the way; you all say that. None of you know."

I met the challenge, and I stood straight before him and looked him square in the eyes. And I bore my testimony to him that I knew that this is the gospel of Jesus Christ and the only method by which he could gain salvation, and I went on at some length bearing my testimony to this man. Afterward I was surprised at the fluency of my speech because I had not been in Germany very long. I did not understand the language very well, but when I had finished, he had changed his tone entirely and very humbly begged my pardon and promised to read the tract, which I am sure he did.

(Leon R. Hartshorn, *Outstanding Stories by General Authorities, Volume 2*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1971].)

Activity:

Play "Out the Window."

Have the entire family quietly look out the window for a set amount of time (such as one or two minutes). After the time is up, the playing starts. In order, each player tells one thing that he saw as he was looking out the window. Each player must not repeat an object given by a previous player. As players can no longer give new items they drop out. The last player to mention a new item is the winner.

Remind the family that the windows on your "testimony house" represented the prophet. As we follow the prophet, we can gain a stronger testimony.

(adapted from Alma Heaton, *The LDS Game Book*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1968], p. 104.)

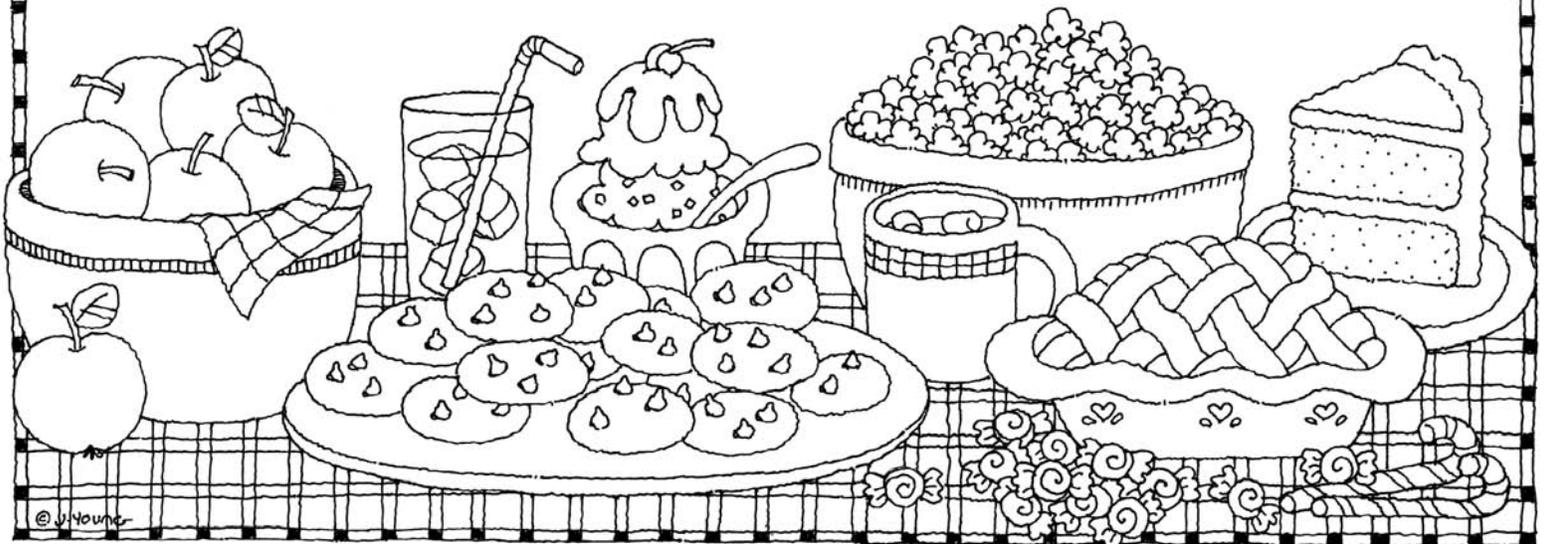
Refreshment

Cheesy Cornbread

- 1 egg
- 3/4 cup milk
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 3/4 cup flour
- 2 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1/2 cup yellow cornmeal
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. In a mixing bowl, beat the egg, then add the milk and vegetable oil. In another bowl, combine the flour, baking powder, salt, and sugar. Stir in the cornmeal and shredded cheese to the dry mixture. Add the dry mixture to the wet mixture and stir until the dry ingredients are just barely wet. Grease an 8x8-inch glass baking pan and pour the batter into the pan. Bake 20 to 25 minutes, or until lightly browned on top. Cut into 9 squares.

(Clark L. and Kathryn H. Kidd, *52 Weeks of Recipes for Students, Missionaries, and Nervous Cooks*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2007], p. 103.)



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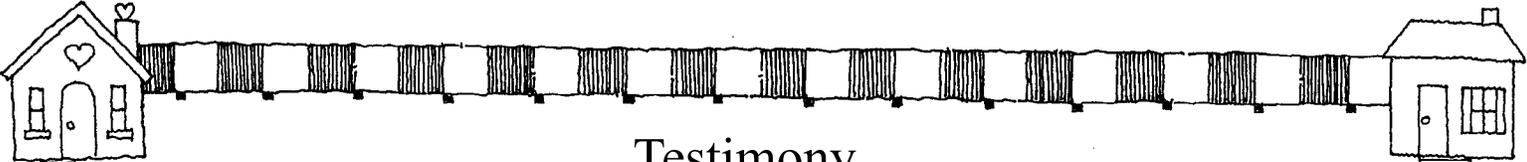
Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Testimony

Packet #060508

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Testimony

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read "Knowing That We Know," by Douglas L. Callister, *Ensign*, Nov 2007, 100–101.

Thought:

If you want to know that you know that you know, a price must be paid. And you alone must pay that price. There are proxies for ordinances, but none for the acquisition of a testimony.

(Douglas L. Callister, "Knowing That We Know," *Ensign*, Nov 2007, 100–101.)

Song:

"I'm Trying to Be Like Jesus" *Children's Songbook*, p.78, verse 2.

Scripture:

Behold, I say unto you they are made known unto me by the Holy Spirit of God. Behold, I have fasted and prayed many days that I might know these things of myself. And now I do know of myself that they are true; for the Lord God hath made them manifest unto me by his Holy Spirit; and this is the spirit of revelation which is in me.

(Alma 5:46)

Object Lesson:

Materials needed: A flashlight, a lamp, and a candle.

Display the items on a table. Ask your family what they have in common. (They provide light.) Ask when they would probably be used. (At night.) Discuss why. Ask your family what they would do if the light suddenly went out at night. Ask how easy it would be to find a source of light in the dark. Discuss how knowing where the source of light is and what condition it is in helps us to be prepared.

Explain that our testimony is like the light. We seldom appreciate or even look for it in the daytime (good times). We really depend on our testimony during the difficult time in our life. Discuss why it is important to keep our testimony strong during the good times so that we will be prepared for difficult times.

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *More Power Tools for Teaching*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1991], p. 99.)

Story:

I learned a long time ago that spiritual knowledge is described in a different language than is secular knowledge.

On this I had a valuable experience before I was a General Authority. It affected me profoundly. I sat on a plane next to a professed atheist who ridiculed my belief in God. I bore my testimony to him: "There is a God. I know He lives!"

He said: "You don't know. Nobody knows that. You can't know it." When I would not yield, the atheist posed perhaps the ultimate challenge to testimony. "All right," he said in a sneering, condescending way, "you say you know." Then, "Tell me how you know."

I could not do it. I was helpless to communicate. When I used the words spirit and witness, the atheist responded, "I don't know what you are talking about." The words prayer, discernment, and faith also were meaningless to him.

"You see," he said, "you don't really know. If you did, you would be able to tell me how you know."

Perhaps, I thought, I had borne my testimony to him unwisely, and I was at a loss as to what to do. Then came the experience. A thought, a revelation, came into my mind, and I said to the atheist: "Let me ask you a question. Do you know what salt tastes like?"

"Of course I do," was his reply.

"When did you taste salt last?"

"I just had dinner on the plane."

"You just think you know what salt tastes like," I said.

He insisted, "I know what salt tastes like as well as I know anything."

"If I gave you a cup of salt and a cup of sugar, could you tell the salt from the sugar if I let you taste them both?"

"Now you are getting juvenile," he said. "Of course I could tell the difference. I know what salt tastes like. I know it as well as I know anything."

"Then," I said, "assuming that I have never tasted salt, explain to me just what it tastes like."

After some thought, he ventured, "Well-I-uh, it is not sweet, and it is not sour."

"You've told me what it isn't, not what it is."

After several attempts, of course he could not do it. He could not convey, in words alone, so ordinary an experience as tasting salt.

I bore testimony to him once again and said: "I know there is a God. You ridiculed that testimony and said that if I did know, I would be able to tell you exactly how I know. My friend, spiritually speaking, I have tasted salt. I am no more able to convey to you in words alone how this knowledge has come than you are able to tell me what salt tastes like. But I say to you again, there is a God! He lives! And just because you don't know, don't try to tell me that I don't know, for I do!"

Since then I have never been embarrassed or ashamed that I could not explain in words alone everything I know spiritually, or tell just how I received it. From such experiences we will surely suffer some humiliation, but that is good for our faith. And we have an ever-present guide. We will be tested, but we will never be left without help.

(Boyd K. Packer, *Memorable Stories and Parables*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1997], 57.)

Activity:

Give each person a pencil and paper and have them trace their hand. On each finger have them write something they have a testimony of (such as Heavenly Father, Jesus Christ, Joseph Smith, the Book of Mormon, and current prophets and apostles.) Have each person take turns and share their testimonies.

Refreshment

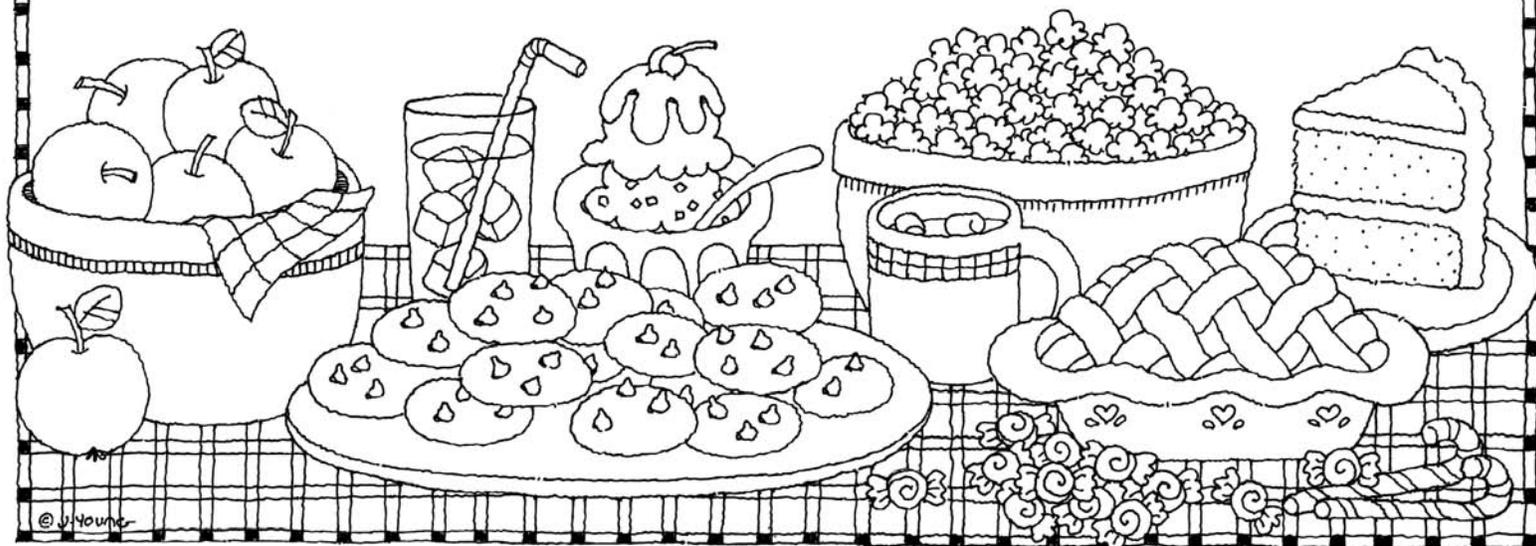
Cherry Dump Cake

Throw this dessert together in a hurry.

- 2 (21-ounce) cans cherry pie filling
- 1/2 teaspoon almond extract (optional)
- 1 package yellow cake mix
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine, melted
- Whipped cream, for topping
- Ice cream, if desired

Combine cherry pie filling and almond extract, then pour into a 9x13-inch baking dish. Sprinkle cake mix over cherries. Melt butter and pour evenly over cake mix. Bake at 350 degrees for 35 to 40 minutes. Serve warm with whipped cream or ice cream. May also be made with a chocolate cake mix. Makes about 12 servings.

(Julie Badger Jensen, *Essential Mormon Celebrations*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2005] p. 33.)



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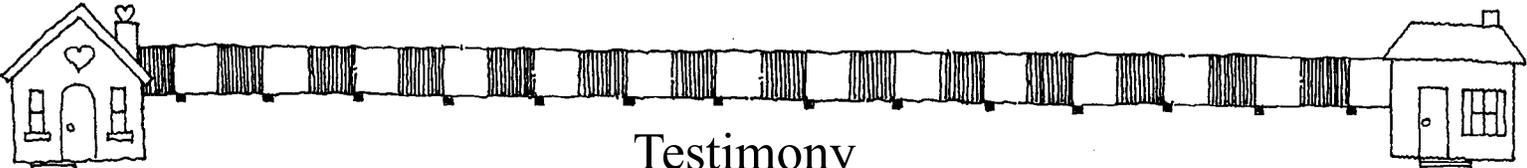
Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Testimony

Packet #010408

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
- 3. Involvement.** Involve everyone in the family; help little children take part.
- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.



Testimony

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read “Why Are We Members of the Only True Church?,” by Enrique R. Falabella, *Ensign*, Nov 2007, 14–15

Thought:

The most valuable power we can possess is the treasure of a personal testimony of our Lord Jesus Christ and His atoning power.

(Enrique R. Falabella, “Why Are We Members of the Only True Church?,” *Ensign*, Nov 2007, 14–15)

Song:

“The Church of Jesus Christ” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 77.

Scripture:

Nevertheless, ye are blessed, for the testimony which ye have borne is recorded in heaven for the angels to look upon; and they rejoice over you, and your sins are forgiven you.

(Doctrine and Covenants 62:3)

Lesson:

Preparation: Prepare from construction paper the parts of a house: foundation, walls (the structure itself), windows, door, and roof. Gather some sand and rock or concrete.

Explain that building a testimony is like building a house.

What is the first thing you need to build your house? (Hint: this the something that keeps the floors off the ground.)

A foundation. (Post the foundation.) The foundation must be very strong because it holds up the whole house. Display the sand and the rocks. Ask which item would be strongest and best to use for the foundation? (The rock or concrete.) Explain that Jesus Christ is the rock that is the foundation of our testimony. He is strong and powerful and will always support us.

What is the next thing our house needs?

Walls. (Put the walls onto the foundation of the house.) Walls are very important because they give us a secure place to live. A testimony of Joseph Smith is like having walls on our house. There is security in knowing that he was the prophet who restored the gospel.

What is our house missing?

A roof. (Place the roof on the house.) A roof protects us from the rain and the other elements. It keeps our house warm and safe. Having a testimony that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the only true church is just as important as the roof on a house. Other churches have good people in them but only have part of the gospel, and that would be like a roof with holes in it. We all know what happens when a roof has a hole in it. It leaks!

Our house is still missing something. What is it?

Windows and a door. (Put the windows and door on the house.) They help us to see what’s outside. We can be better prepared by this. For instance, if we see that it is raining, we can take an umbrella. A testimony of our prophet is like the windows and doors of a house. Through revelation from Heavenly Father, the prophet can prepare us for the latter days.

Explain that just as each part of the house is vital, so is each part of our testimony.

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *Sharing Time, Family Time, Anytime*, [Salt Lake City: Book, 1992], p. 98–9.)

Story:

(Patriarch Eldred G. Smith)

Declare your testimony to others on every occasion. There is a power in bearing your testimony.

I remember an occasion in the mission field in Germany, when I had been tracting. I was getting a bit discouraged, having met nothing but passive attention. After climbing some stairs I knocked on a door, and a large man opened it and with a very gruff attitude greeted me. I gave him my brief message, as we did in those days in presenting a tract at the door. He turned and picked up a handful of leaflets off the table near the door, and shook them in my face, and declared to me that I was the fifth person who had been to his door that day with just such leaflets. He was a large man and very rough in his approach. I expected any moment that I might be thrown down the stairs, but he declared that none of us knew that we had the gospel. He said, "You all say that it is true, this is the way; you all say that. None of you know."

I met the challenge, and I stood straight before him and looked him square in the eyes. And I bore my testimony to him that I knew that this is the gospel of Jesus Christ and the only method by which he could gain salvation, and I went on at some length bearing my testimony to this man. Afterward I was surprised at the fluency of my speech because I had not been in Germany very long. I did not understand the language very well, but when I had finished, he had changed his tone entirely and very humbly begged my pardon and promised to read the tract, which I am sure he did.

(Leon R. Hartshorn, *Outstanding Stories by General Authorities, Volume 2*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1971].)

Activity:

Play "Out the Window."

Have the entire family quietly look out the window for a set amount of time (such as one or two minutes). After the time is up, the playing starts. In order, each player tells one thing that he saw as he was looking out the window. Each player must not repeat an object given by a previous player. As players can no longer give new items they drop out. The last player to mention a new item is the winner.

Remind the family that the windows on your "testimony house" represented the prophet. As we follow the prophet, we can gain a stronger testimony.

(adapted from Alma Heaton, *The LDS Game Book*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1968], p. 104.)

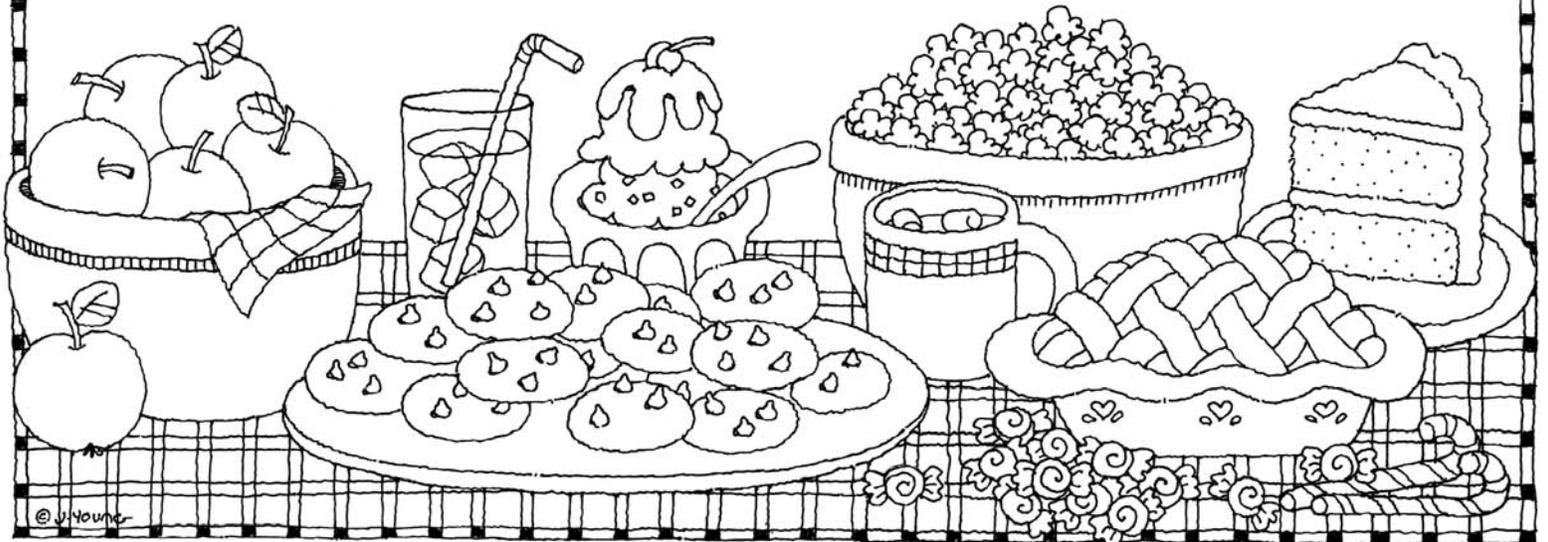
Refreshment

Cheesy Cornbread

- 1 egg
- 3/4 cup milk
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 3/4 cup flour
- 2 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1/2 cup yellow cornmeal
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. In a mixing bowl, beat the egg, then add the milk and vegetable oil. In another bowl, combine the flour, baking powder, salt, and sugar. Stir in the cornmeal and shredded cheese to the dry mixture. Add the dry mixture to the wet mixture and stir until the dry ingredients are just barely wet. Grease an 8x8-inch glass baking pan and pour the batter into the pan. Bake 20 to 25 minutes, or until lightly browned on top. Cut into 9 squares.

(Clark L. and Kathryn H. Kidd, *52 Weeks of Recipes for Students, Missionaries, and Nervous Cooks*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2007], p. 103.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Resurrection

Packet #030308

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
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- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M

Resurrection

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read "Mrs. Patton—the Story Continues," by Thomas S. Monson, *Ensign*, Nov 2007, 21–24.

Thought:

I express . . . my personal testimony as a special witness, . . . that God our Father . . . had a Son who died, even Jesus Christ the Lord; that He is our advocate with the Father, the Prince of Peace, our Savior and divine Redeemer, and one day we [will] see Him face-to-face.

(Thomas S. Monson, "Mrs. Patton—the Story Continues," *Ensign*, Nov 2007, 21–24)

Song:

"Did Jesus Really Live Again?" *Children's Songbook*, p. 64.

Scripture:

And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen.

(Matthew 28:5–6)

Object Lesson:

Materials needed: An ink pen with an ink cartridge that can be removed.

Begin this lesson by comparing the pen and ink cartridge with our body and spirit. When we are born, our spirit enters our body. Place the ink cartridge inside the pen. Explain that we can accomplish many things when our spirits are coupled with our mortal bodies. Draw a simple sketch with with the pen. When we die, our spirits are removed from our bodies. Take the cartridge out of the pen, and lay the pen down. Explain that the mortal body is left behind and the spirit goes on. The spirit can still do many things, though not as easily. Christ has promised us that someday we will be resurrected, or that our spirits will be reunited with our bodies. Slip the ink cartridge back into the pen. Explain that after our bodies and spirits are reunited, we are promised that they will never be separated again.

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *Power Tools for Teaching*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1988], p. 73.)

Story:

"I Forgot to Tell You, But He Rose Again"

James A. Cullimore

The story is told of a man walking down a street in Chicago who came to a store window where there was displayed a beautiful picture of the crucifixion. As he stood gazing spellbound at the vivid picture story, he suddenly became conscious that at his side stood a little boy. The boy too was gazing at the picture, and his tense expression made the man know that the crucifixion had really gripped the eager little soul.

M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

A B C D E F G H I J K L

Touching the boy on the shoulder, the man said, "Sonny, what does it mean?"

"Don'cha know?" he answered, his face full of the marvel of the man's ignorance. "That there man is Jesus, and them others is Roman soldiers, and the woman crying is his mother, and," he added, "they killed him."

The man was loath to leave the window, but he could not tarry always at the tragic scene, so he turned away and walked down the street. In a few moments he heard pattering footsteps, and there came rushing toward him the little boy.

"Say, mister!" he exclaimed breathlessly. "I forgot to tell you, but he rose again!"

Yes, he rose again. The advent on earth of the Redeemer is of less importance than the conquest of death and the grave, for it was only by rising from the grave that he could redeem the world. Hence, his resurrection signals the redemption of mankind and becomes one of the greatest of all occasions for every child of God.

(Leon R. Hartshorn, *Outstanding Stories by General Authorities*, vol. 3, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1974].)

Activity:

Fill in the prices for all or some of the items on the list below.

Divide the family into two or three teams. Give each team a pencil and paper.

Describe one of the items on your list and have the teams write down how much they think the item sells for. The team that comes closest—without guessing a higher price than the actual price of the item—scores five points. If everyone guesses too high, they all write down new guesses. This is done until someone earns the five points.

Play continues until you have priced as many items as you desire. The team with the highest number of points is declared the winner.

Have each family member share what worth they feel the gift of the resurrection is. Christ's resurrection made it possible for all of us to be resurrected.

The Price is Right

Ten gallons of gasoline

A bag of potato chips

A can of hair spray

A 21" television

A digital camera

A fly swatter

A frozen pizza

A living room sofa

A boy's dress shirt

4 AA batteries

An MP3 player

A leather-bound triple combination

A pair of tennis shoes

A frozen dinner

A container of ice cream

A garden hose

A mop

A wheelbarrow

A container of dish soap

A container of laundry detergent

(Allan K. Burgess and Max H. Molgard, *Fun for Family Night: New Testament Edition*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1995], p. 159.)

Refreshment

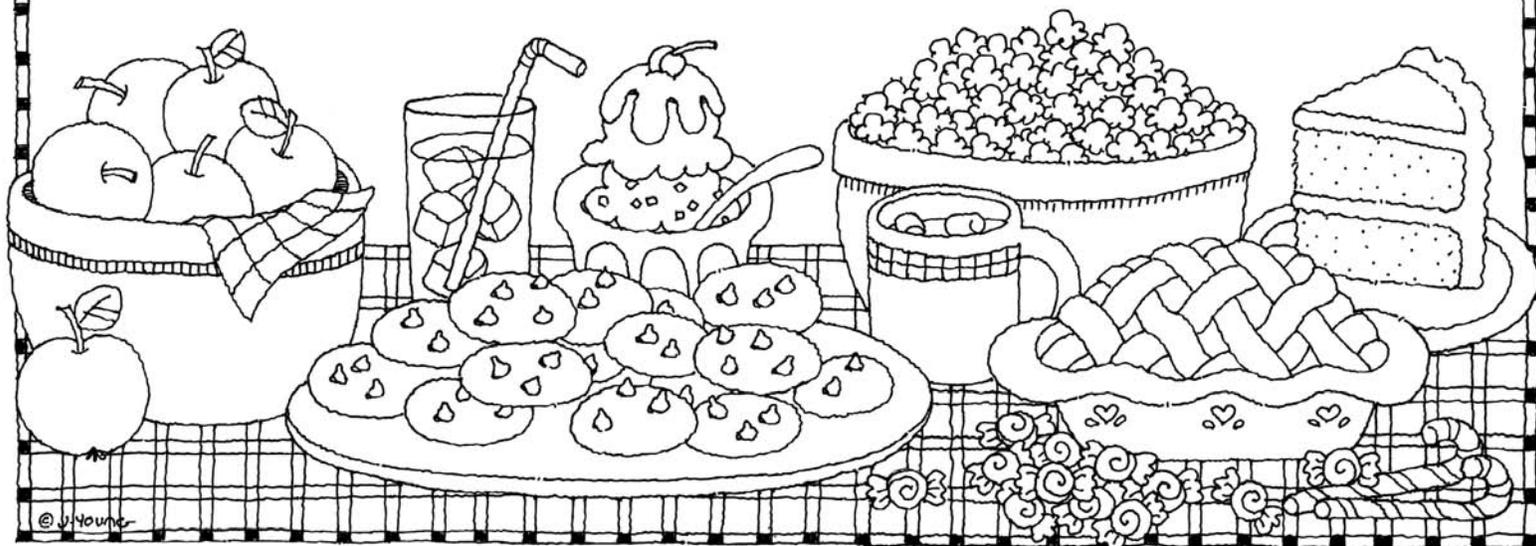
Paradise Cake

- 1 11.5-ounce can mandarin oranges, with juice
- 4 eggs
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 1 package yellow pudding cake mix
- 1 20-ounce can crushed pineapple, with juice
- 1 3-ounce package vanilla instant pudding
- 1 8-ounce carton frozen whipped topping, thawed

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 9 x 13-inch baking pan. Combine mandarin oranges, including juice, with eggs and oil in a mixing bowl; beat well. Stir in cake mix and beat again until well mixed. Pour into greased baking pan. Bake for 30 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in center of cake comes out clean. Cool on a wire rack.

Drain pineapple, reserving all but one-fourth of its juice. Make topping by mixing crushed pineapple and reserved juice, vanilla instant pudding, and whipped topping. Spread onto cooled cake in pan. Refrigerate until ready to serve. Makes 12 to 16 servings.

(Lion House Christmas, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 2006], p. 97.)



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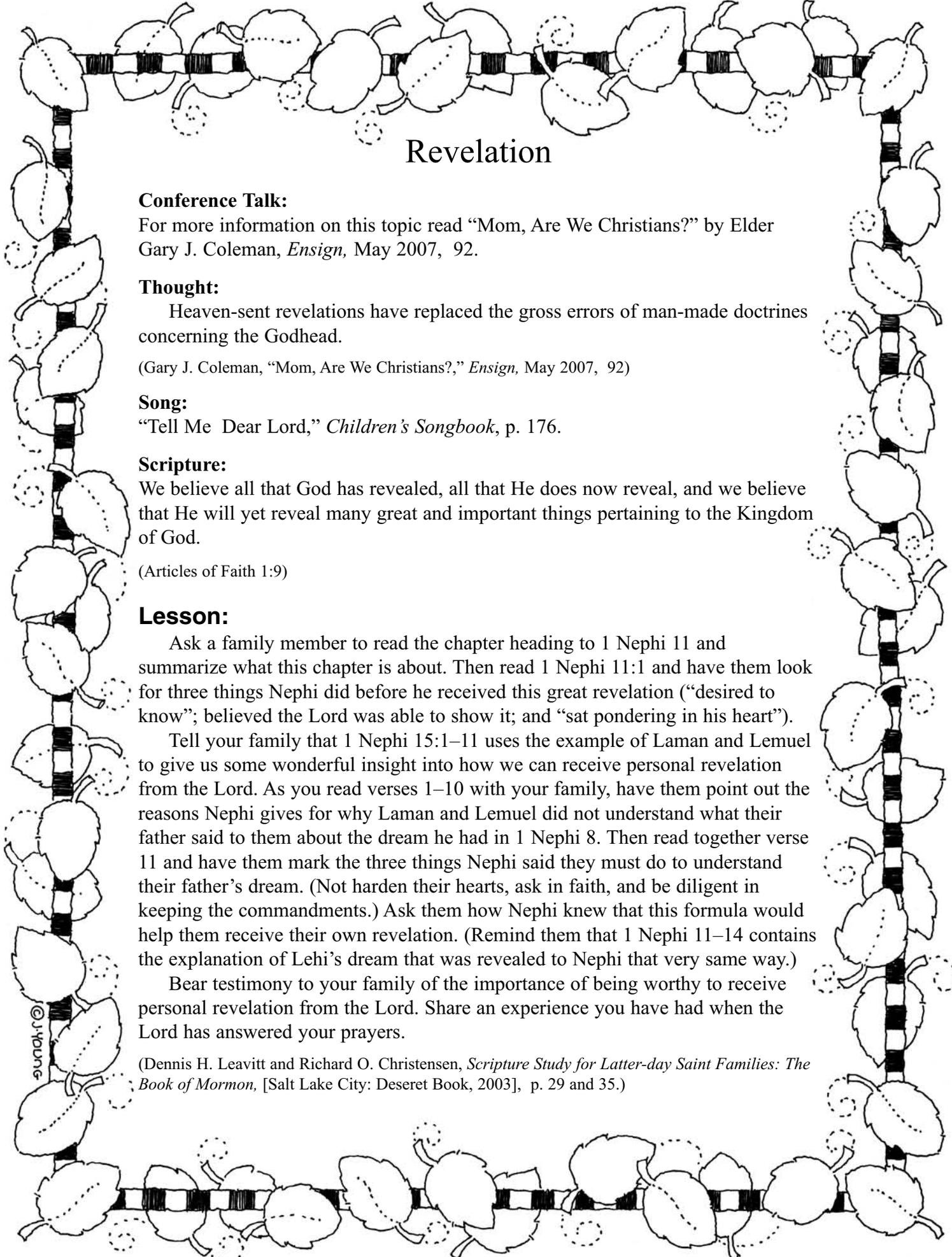
Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Revelation

Packet #110207

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
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Revelation

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read “Mom, Are We Christians?” by Elder Gary J. Coleman, *Ensign*, May 2007, 92.

Thought:

Heaven-sent revelations have replaced the gross errors of man-made doctrines concerning the Godhead.

(Gary J. Coleman, “Mom, Are We Christians?,” *Ensign*, May 2007, 92)

Song:

“Tell Me Dear Lord,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 176.

Scripture:

We believe all that God has revealed, all that He does now reveal, and we believe that He will yet reveal many great and important things pertaining to the Kingdom of God.

(Articles of Faith 1:9)

Lesson:

Ask a family member to read the chapter heading to 1 Nephi 11 and summarize what this chapter is about. Then read 1 Nephi 11:1 and have them look for three things Nephi did before he received this great revelation (“desired to know”; believed the Lord was able to show it; and “sat pondering in his heart”).

Tell your family that 1 Nephi 15:1–11 uses the example of Laman and Lemuel to give us some wonderful insight into how we can receive personal revelation from the Lord. As you read verses 1–10 with your family, have them point out the reasons Nephi gives for why Laman and Lemuel did not understand what their father said to them about the dream he had in 1 Nephi 8. Then read together verse 11 and have them mark the three things Nephi said they must do to understand their father’s dream. (Not harden their hearts, ask in faith, and be diligent in keeping the commandments.) Ask them how Nephi knew that this formula would help them receive their own revelation. (Remind them that 1 Nephi 11–14 contains the explanation of Lehi’s dream that was revealed to Nephi that very same way.)

Bear testimony to your family of the importance of being worthy to receive personal revelation from the Lord. Share an experience you have had when the Lord has answered your prayers.

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The Book of Mormon*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 29 and 35.)

Story:

"I Experienced a Shock"

Elder Joseph F. Merrill

Some years ago I was appointed to go to one of the stakes and re-organize the stake presidency. I was to go alone. After the meeting I spoke to President Clark and said, "You are acquainted in that stake. Who would you suggest to be the new president?" He said that he had no suggestions. I said, "I don't know a single soul in that stake except a public school teacher and I know he isn't going to be the president because he is not valiant in the faith. What shall I do?" He told me to go out and fulfill my appointment.

I went to President McKay and said, "I know you are acquainted in that stake because I am going to release the president you installed ten years ago. Who do you suggest?" He told me he had no suggestions. What could I do? I was going out there unacquainted. Well in view of some previous experiences I had, I decided to send over to the Presiding Bishop's office and get a list of all the priesthood authorities in that stake. That list came to me a little later, and the holders of the priesthood occupying positions of more or less importance were all listed in the wards in which they lived and the wards were listed alphabetically. I spread that sheet out in front of me and locked the door. Then I got down on my knees and prayed. When I got half-way down I experienced something . . . as true as I stand here I experienced a shock.

For many years I have been in charge of the electrical laboratory at the University of Utah and if ever I went to the switchboard and wanted to know if a couple of the terminals were alive, if the power was O.K., I quickly passed my finger on one terminal and passed another finger over the other terminal and I experienced a shock. If I did I would know the terminals were alive. This was not dangerous because there was never enough power to make it so.

I experienced exactly that kind of a shock when my eyes fell upon a name. I looked more carefully and this revelation in these words were impressed upon my mind, not in words audibly spoken, but nevertheless just as indelible as if spoken in tones of thunder, "He is the man." . . .

With the feeling "He is the man" simultaneously came that feeling of peace, of knowledge. I actually knew, I felt I knew and with satisfaction I went out and I knew who was to be president of that stake. We admonished them to ask God for guidance. We asked them to send a silent prayer to heaven to help them to feel. Seventy-six of these slips came back and sixty-nine had the name written on them. The name of the man I knew to be president of the stake. I asked the president, "Is brother so and so here?" He told me that he was sitting in the back. That was the first time I had ever seen the man.

Well how may we know then that a revelation is divine? Through feeling. It may be scholars would say, "My, my emotion." Do we not get knowledge through feeling? If I had a headache wouldn't I know it? How else can we know it?

I once went to a doctor and said, "Three days ago I fell on my shoulder and something is wrong with it." He took some X-rays and told me to come back the next day. The next day he told me that there was nothing wrong and he swung my arm around. I said, "Doctor, you say nothing is wrong, but if I gave vent to my feeling I would scream. The pain you are causing is so great that I can hardly stand it." I know I had a pain. How did I know? Through feeling.

(Leon R. Hartshorn, *Exceptional Stories from the Lives of Our Apostles*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1972].)

Activities:

Play "Pin the Tail on the Donkey." Play the standard game of blindfolding each player who then attempts to pin the tail on the donkey (or feather on turkey or other variation). The Church without revelation is comparable to pinning the tail on the donkey blindfolded. We need revelation to do the things the Lord would have us do.

(Alma Heaton, *The LDS Game Book*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1968], p. 42.)

Refreshment

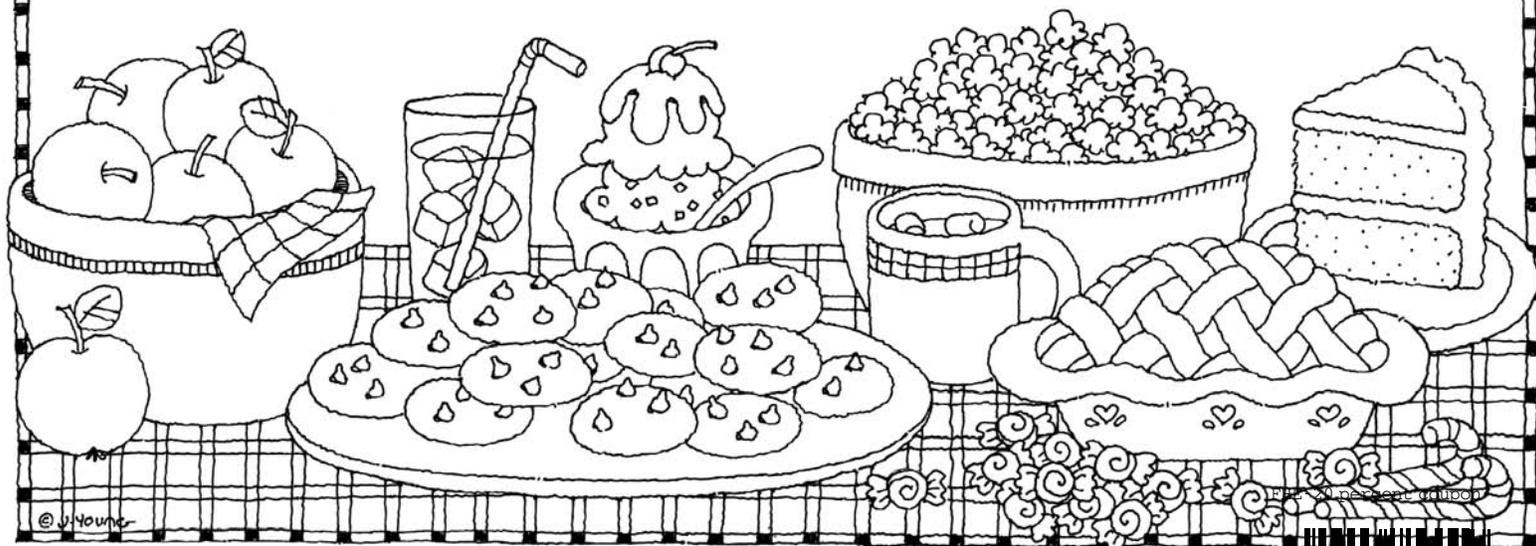
Apple Crisp

Serve this delicious dessert with ice cream or whipped cream.

- 3 large apples (Golden Delicious or Rome Beauty)
- 3/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine
- 3/4 cup rolled oats
- Ice cream or whipped cream, if desired

Peel, core, and thinly slice apples. Arrange in buttered 9-inch-round baking dish. Combine brown sugar and flour. Cut butter into mixture as for pastry. Stir in rolled oats. Spoon topping over apples, pressing down lightly. Bake at 350° F. for 35 to 40 minutes. Serve warm with ice cream or whipped cream. Makes 4 servings.

(Julie Badger Jensen, *The Essential Mormon Cookbook*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2004], 85.)



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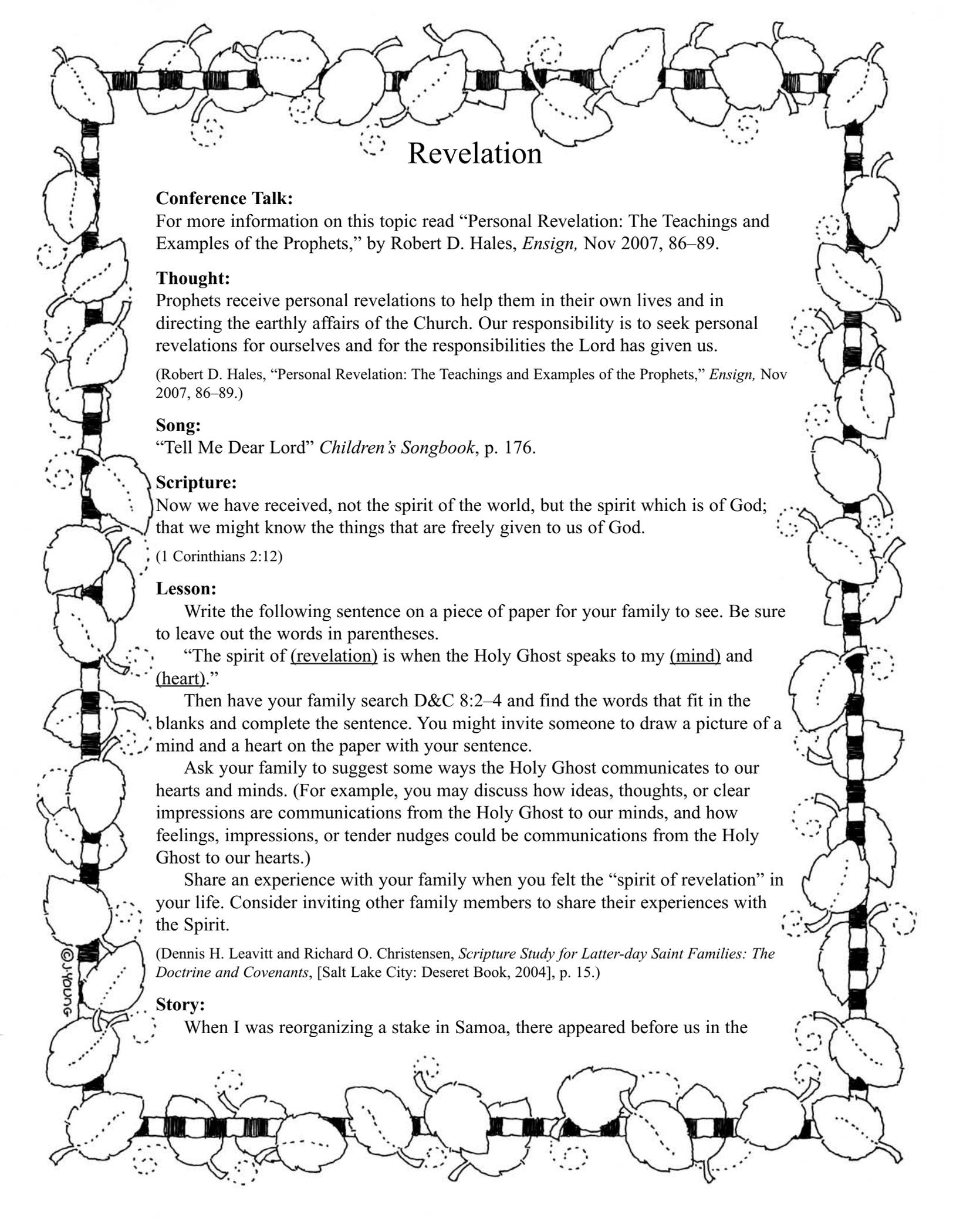
Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Revelation

Packet #050408

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

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Revelation

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read “Personal Revelation: The Teachings and Examples of the Prophets,” by Robert D. Hales, *Ensign*, Nov 2007, 86–89.

Thought:

Prophets receive personal revelations to help them in their own lives and in directing the earthly affairs of the Church. Our responsibility is to seek personal revelations for ourselves and for the responsibilities the Lord has given us.

(Robert D. Hales, “Personal Revelation: The Teachings and Examples of the Prophets,” *Ensign*, Nov 2007, 86–89.)

Song:

“Tell Me Dear Lord” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 176.

Scripture:

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

(1 Corinthians 2:12)

Lesson:

Write the following sentence on a piece of paper for your family to see. Be sure to leave out the words in parentheses.

“The spirit of (revelation) is when the Holy Ghost speaks to my (mind) and (heart).”

Then have your family search D&C 8:2–4 and find the words that fit in the blanks and complete the sentence. You might invite someone to draw a picture of a mind and a heart on the paper with your sentence.

Ask your family to suggest some ways the Holy Ghost communicates to our hearts and minds. (For example, you may discuss how ideas, thoughts, or clear impressions are communications from the Holy Ghost to our minds, and how feelings, impressions, or tender nudges could be communications from the Holy Ghost to our hearts.)

Share an experience with your family when you felt the “spirit of revelation” in your life. Consider inviting other family members to share their experiences with the Spirit.

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The Doctrine and Covenants*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2004], p. 15.)

Story:

When I was reorganizing a stake in Samoa, there appeared before us in the

interviews those wonderful Samoan brethren. One of them, a branch president, stood there—white shirt and tie, lava-lava tied around his waist, barefooted. I told him we were organizing a stake and seeking a stake president and asking his suggestions on men who could fill that position. He said, “Yes, I know. I’ve prayed about this.” and he continued, “I’ve come to know, by the voice of the Spirit, that Bishop Iona will be our new stake president.”

He was right. But I wasn’t anxious to have him make the announcement, and so I pressed him for another name.

He said, “No, just one name.”

And I said, “Suppose he were not available or not eligible? Won’t you suggest another name?” He stood there for a few minutes, and then, looking me straight in the eye, he said, “Elder Packer, are you asking me to go against the witness of the Spirit?” This wonderful man was possessed of that Spirit, as all of us can be, each of us answering the calls that come.

I affirm that the principle of revelation is constantly operative in the Church. Every week as the Apostles go out across the world, we have those experiences. We don’t talk about them much. They are like the other miracles; they are the signs that follow those who believe. Let us all be reverently grateful for the sustaining power of the Spirit.

(Boyd K. Packer, *Memorable Stories with a Message*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2000], p. 108.)

Activity:

String a long piece of yarn through different rooms of the house starting in the kitchen. Have the family follow the yarn until they find a treasure at the end. The treasure could be the treat or a message concerning the lesson.

(Mina S. Coletti and Roberta Kling Giese, *The Family Idea Book*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1980], p. 31.)

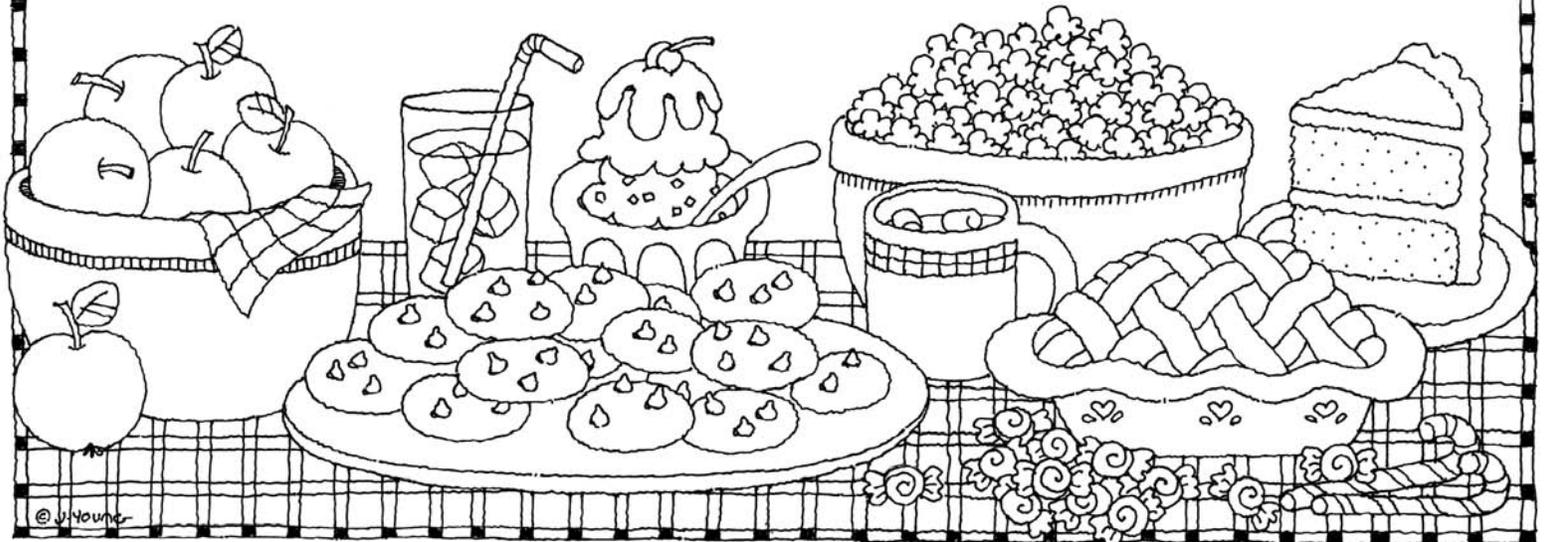
Refreshment

Brownies

- 1 cup plus 5 tablespoons margarine
- 1 cup cocoa
- 2 2/3 cups sugar
- 6 large eggs
- 2 2/3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup walnuts, chopped
- 1 cup chocolate chips (optional)

Preheat oven to 350° F. Grease or spray a 9x13x2-inch cake pan. In a large saucepan, melt margarine and cocoa over a low heat. Pour into a large mixing bowl with the sugar and mix until creamy. Add eggs and mix well together, then add flour. Stir in nuts and chocolate chips, if desired. Pour into prepared pan. Bake for 20 to 30 minutes. Cut into 15 to 18 squares.

(*Lion House Desserts*, [Salt Lake City: Eagle Gate, 2000] p. 123.)



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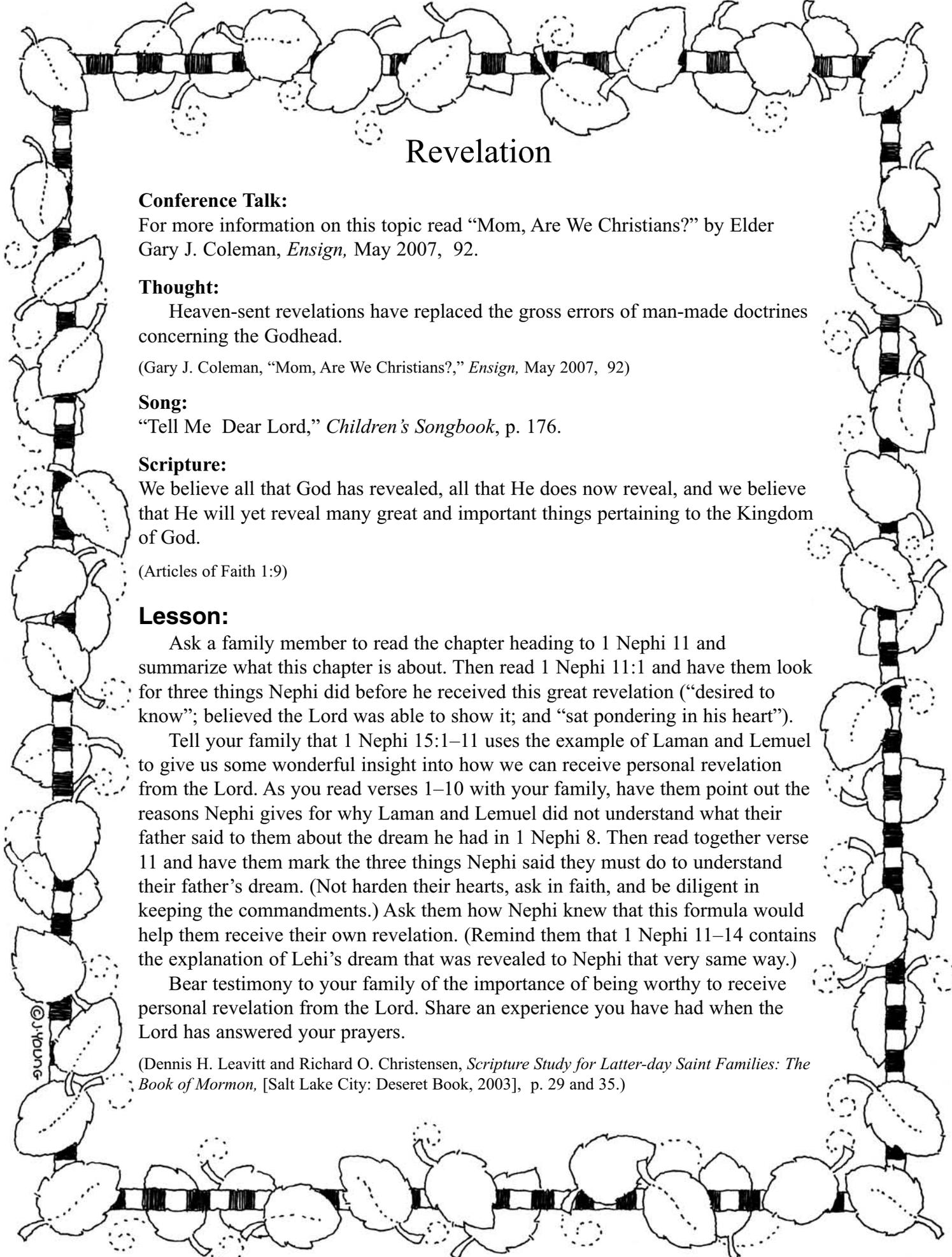
Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Revelation

Packet #110207

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
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Revelation

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read “Mom, Are We Christians?” by Elder Gary J. Coleman, *Ensign*, May 2007, 92.

Thought:

Heaven-sent revelations have replaced the gross errors of man-made doctrines concerning the Godhead.

(Gary J. Coleman, “Mom, Are We Christians?,” *Ensign*, May 2007, 92)

Song:

“Tell Me Dear Lord,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 176.

Scripture:

We believe all that God has revealed, all that He does now reveal, and we believe that He will yet reveal many great and important things pertaining to the Kingdom of God.

(Articles of Faith 1:9)

Lesson:

Ask a family member to read the chapter heading to 1 Nephi 11 and summarize what this chapter is about. Then read 1 Nephi 11:1 and have them look for three things Nephi did before he received this great revelation (“desired to know”; believed the Lord was able to show it; and “sat pondering in his heart”).

Tell your family that 1 Nephi 15:1–11 uses the example of Laman and Lemuel to give us some wonderful insight into how we can receive personal revelation from the Lord. As you read verses 1–10 with your family, have them point out the reasons Nephi gives for why Laman and Lemuel did not understand what their father said to them about the dream he had in 1 Nephi 8. Then read together verse 11 and have them mark the three things Nephi said they must do to understand their father’s dream. (Not harden their hearts, ask in faith, and be diligent in keeping the commandments.) Ask them how Nephi knew that this formula would help them receive their own revelation. (Remind them that 1 Nephi 11–14 contains the explanation of Lehi’s dream that was revealed to Nephi that very same way.)

Bear testimony to your family of the importance of being worthy to receive personal revelation from the Lord. Share an experience you have had when the Lord has answered your prayers.

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The Book of Mormon*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 29 and 35.)

Story:

"I Experienced a Shock"

Elder Joseph F. Merrill

Some years ago I was appointed to go to one of the stakes and re-organize the stake presidency. I was to go alone. After the meeting I spoke to President Clark and said, "You are acquainted in that stake. Who would you suggest to be the new president?" He said that he had no suggestions. I said, "I don't know a single soul in that stake except a public school teacher and I know he isn't going to be the president because he is not valiant in the faith. What shall I do?" He told me to go out and fulfill my appointment.

I went to President McKay and said, "I know you are acquainted in that stake because I am going to release the president you installed ten years ago. Who do you suggest?" He told me he had no suggestions. What could I do? I was going out there unacquainted. Well in view of some previous experiences I had, I decided to send over to the Presiding Bishop's office and get a list of all the priesthood authorities in that stake. That list came to me a little later, and the holders of the priesthood occupying positions of more or less importance were all listed in the wards in which they lived and the wards were listed alphabetically. I spread that sheet out in front of me and locked the door. Then I got down on my knees and prayed. When I got half-way down I experienced something . . . as true as I stand here I experienced a shock.

For many years I have been in charge of the electrical laboratory at the University of Utah and if ever I went to the switchboard and wanted to know if a couple of the terminals were alive, if the power was O.K., I quickly passed my finger on one terminal and passed another finger over the other terminal and I experienced a shock. If I did I would know the terminals were alive. This was not dangerous because there was never enough power to make it so.

I experienced exactly that kind of a shock when my eyes fell upon a name. I looked more carefully and this revelation in these words were impressed upon my mind, not in words audibly spoken, but nevertheless just as indelible as if spoken in tones of thunder, "He is the man." . . .

With the feeling "He is the man" simultaneously came that feeling of peace, of knowledge. I actually knew, I felt I knew and with satisfaction I went out and I knew who was to be president of that stake. We admonished them to ask God for guidance. We asked them to send a silent prayer to heaven to help them to feel. Seventy-six of these slips came back and sixty-nine had the name written on them. The name of the man I knew to be president of the stake. I asked the president, "Is brother so and so here?" He told me that he was sitting in the back. That was the first time I had ever seen the man.

Well how may we know then that a revelation is divine? Through feeling. It may be scholars would say, "My, my emotion." Do we not get knowledge through feeling? If I had a headache wouldn't I know it? How else can we know it?

I once went to a doctor and said, "Three days ago I fell on my shoulder and something is wrong with it." He took some X-rays and told me to come back the next day. The next day he told me that there was nothing wrong and he swung my arm around. I said, "Doctor, you say nothing is wrong, but if I gave vent to my feeling I would scream. The pain you are causing is so great that I can hardly stand it." I know I had a pain. How did I know? Through feeling.

(Leon R. Hartshorn, *Exceptional Stories from the Lives of Our Apostles*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1972].)

Activities:

Play "Pin the Tail on the Donkey." Play the standard game of blindfolding each player who then attempts to pin the tail on the donkey (or feather on turkey or other variation). The Church without revelation is comparable to pinning the tail on the donkey blindfolded. We need revelation to do the things the Lord would have us do.

(Alma Heaton, *The LDS Game Book*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1968], p. 42.)

Refreshment

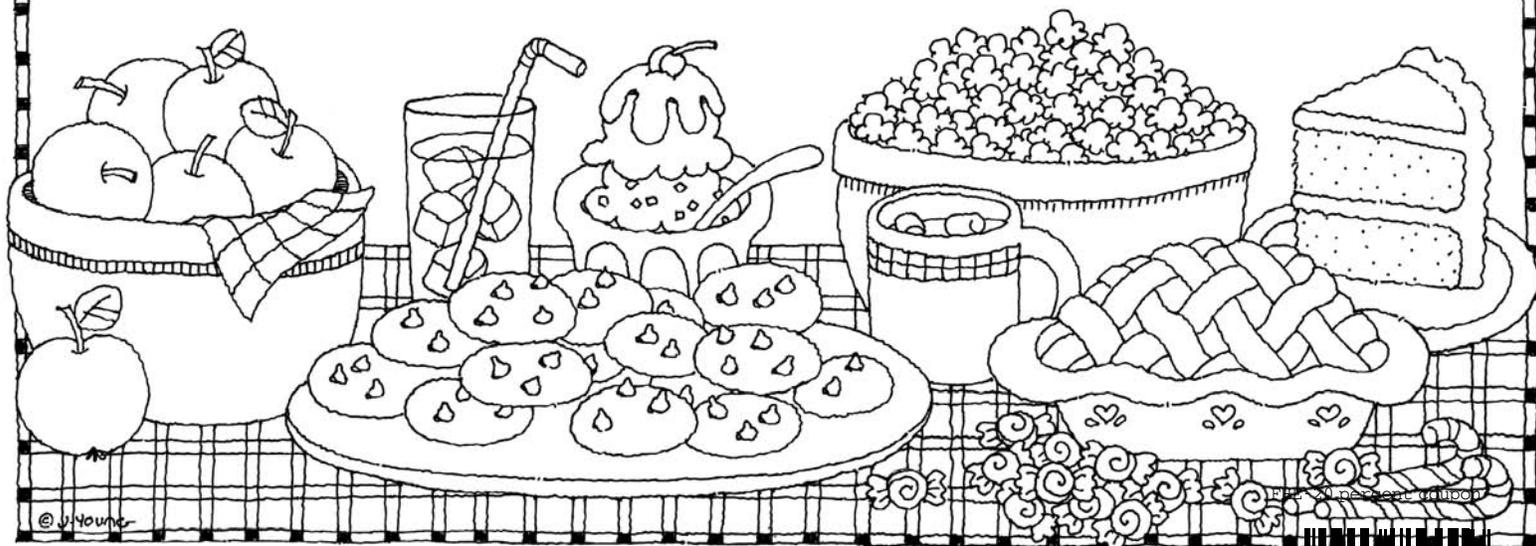
Apple Crisp

Serve this delicious dessert with ice cream or whipped cream.

- 3 large apples (Golden Delicious or Rome Beauty)
- 3/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine
- 3/4 cup rolled oats
- Ice cream or whipped cream, if desired

Peel, core, and thinly slice apples. Arrange in buttered 9-inch-round baking dish. Combine brown sugar and flour. Cut butter into mixture as for pastry. Stir in rolled oats. Spoon topping over apples, pressing down lightly. Bake at 350° F. for 35 to 40 minutes. Serve warm with ice cream or whipped cream. Makes 4 servings.

(Julie Badger Jensen, *The Essential Mormon Cookbook*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2004], 85.)



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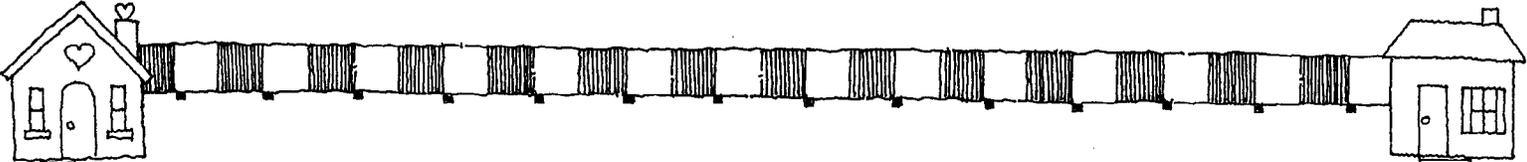
Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Tithing

Packet #110407

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Tithing

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read “Will a Man Rob God?” by Elder Yoshihiko Kikuchi, *Ensign*, May 2007, 97.

Thought:

Brothers and sisters, let us demonstrate our faith. Let us show our willingness to obey. I promise you, in the name of Jesus Christ, when you and I pay honest, true tithes to the Lord, the Lord will open the windows of heaven.

(Yoshihiko Kikuchi, “Will a Man Rob God?,” *Ensign*, May 2007, 97)

Song:

“I’m Glad to Pay a Tithing,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 150.

Scripture:

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

(Malachi 3:10)

Object Lesson:

Show your family ten objects of equal value—apples, coins, or the like. As you have the following discussion, separate them one by one.

Suppose your earnings for a month amounted to these. And you had promised to pay a tenth, or one of these, as a tithing. How easy it is to pay the first and have nine left. But when the first goes to the landlord, and the second goes to the grocer, and the third goes to that good-natured fellow at the service station, and the fourth goes to the baker, and the fifth, and the sixth, and the seventh, just go . . .

Suddenly the realization that there is but one left comes to you. How much harder is it at that moment to give the remaining one as tithing. Too often at that moment such a person by default joins the kind of people who were admonished by Malachi: “Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.”

(Albert L. Zobell, Jr., *Talks to See*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1971], p. 114.)

Story:

The Little White Box

Janet W. Breeze

One of the early memories of my childhood concerns the subject of tithing. I was four. My father had just passed away, and my mother had taken employment in a downtown department store. I don't remember how the subject came up, but I vividly remember Mother saying, “You have more money when you pay your tithing.”

Like a typical four-going-on-five, I asked, “How come?”

“Because,” she said, “when you give the Lord his money first, that leaves you with less.”

With less money, you watch it more closely. And when you avoid spending money foolishly, you have more.”

Even though I still didn't know the difference between a dime and a dollar, outside of their physical size, what my mother said made sense. But, like a good teacher who recognizes the value of repetition, she made certain that the first time she told me was not the last time she told me. And, as I grew older, I was encouraged to make my first “little white box.”

It turned out to be quite a production. I painted it with fancy flowers; and on the center of the lid, in macaroni alphabets, I glued the letters T-I-T-H-I-N-G.

Even though, as I became a career girl, the little white box was later replaced by numbers in an account book and check- book, by the time I entered marriage, tithing was a natural and acceptable part of my life. Since then, things have happened that have convinced me more thoroughly than ever that the Lord does bless us when we comply with the things he asks of us.

One of many incidents stands out in my mind. It was shortly after our first baby was born. My husband was an enlisted man in the army. We lived comfortably, but somehow the money we had just didn't seem to want to stretch into the shape of baby furniture, and we were too far away from home to borrow a crib from relatives. Since babies have to have someplace to sleep, it was a temptation to buy a crib rather than pay our tithing. But we didn't give in.

Then a mysterious letter came in the mail. From the Department of the Army, it was addressed to me. It stated that through some oversight, my allotment checks had not started as soon as they should have. Enclosed was a check correcting the error made over a year before. Even though it was money we should have received anyway, we deemed it a great blessing that it had somehow been saved until a time when we could better use it.

Now it is our duty to share this wonderful law of tithing with our children. As soon as that first precious baby grew into a little girl with a piggy bank, we told her about tithing. At that time, we had a weekly family home evening that consisted of a story about Jesus, ring-around-the-rosy, and an ice cream cone. One night, before the ice cream cone, we sat at the kitchen table and, with white paper, glue, and crayons, decorated a “little white box,” which read “Claudia's Tithing.” Thereafter, each family home evening Daddy would give her ten pennies. One penny was to go in the little white box and nine were to go in her piggy bank.

Last December, Claudia carried the little white box to her first tithing settlement. The bishop handed her a receipt, and we explained to her what it was. She later told her grandmother, “This paper means I gave Heavenly Father back his money.”

Grandmother was so pleased that she opened her handbag and brought forth two nickels. She said, “For a very good little girl.”

Claudia took the money to her bedroom. She put one nickel in her piggy bank—and one in her little white box.

Is a child ever too young to be taught the gospel?

(Leon R. Hartshorn, *Remarkable Stories from the Lives of Latter-day Saint Women*, vol. 2. [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Company, 1975].)

Activity:

Play “Pitching Pennies.”

Select a target. This could be a line or mark on the floor or the line where a wall meets the floor. Have the competitors each throw a penny as close as possible to the target. The person who's penny is closest wins the points decided up on before the pitch. Keep playing until someone reaches a specified score.

(George and Jeane Chipman, *Games! Games! Games!*. [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 1983].)

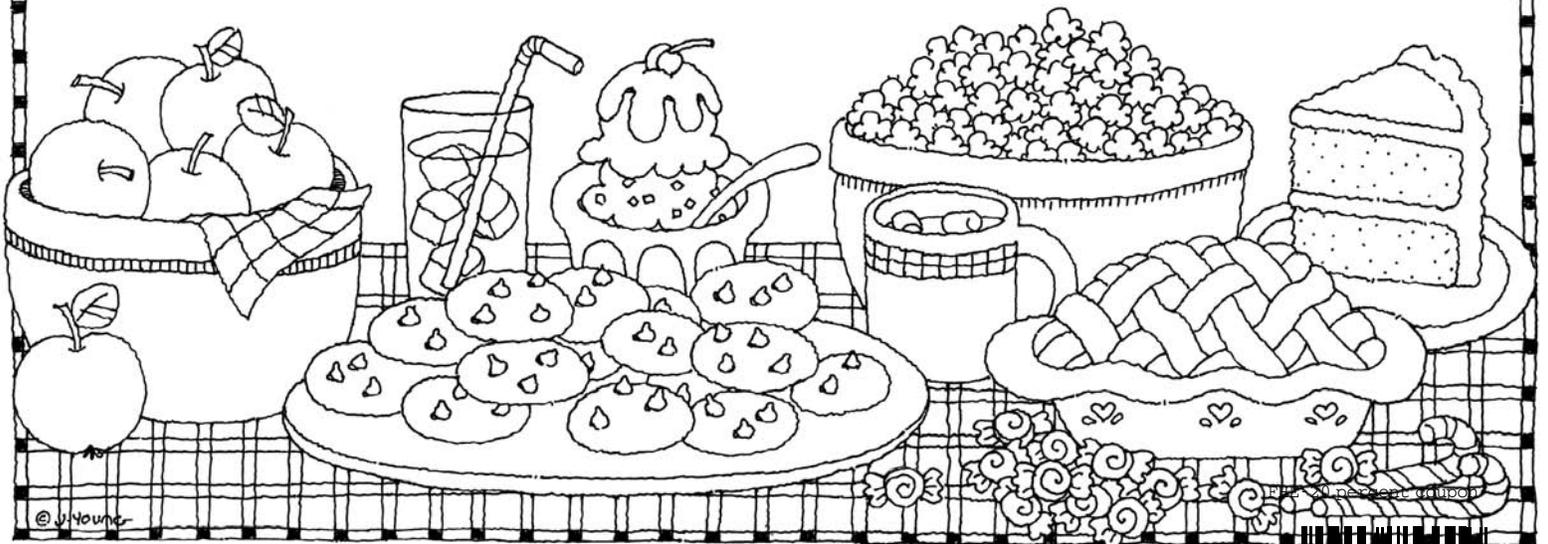
Refreshment

Three Minute Cobbler

- 1/2 cup (1 stick) butter
- 1 cup flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 3/4 cup milk
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 (15-ounce) can fruit, drained, or 1 (21-ounce) can fruit pie filling

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Melt butter in a 1-quart, square, baking dish in the microwave. Add flour, sugar, baking powder, milk, and salt. Stir to combine (this will remove most of the lumps, but mixture will be lumpy). Drain fruit and pour on top of the flour mixture. Do not stir! Bake until brown on top, about 50 minutes This dessert is great with ice cream or whipped cream.

(Clark L. and Kathryn H. Kidd, *52 Weeks of Recipes for Students, Missionaries, and Nervous Cooks*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2007], 21.)



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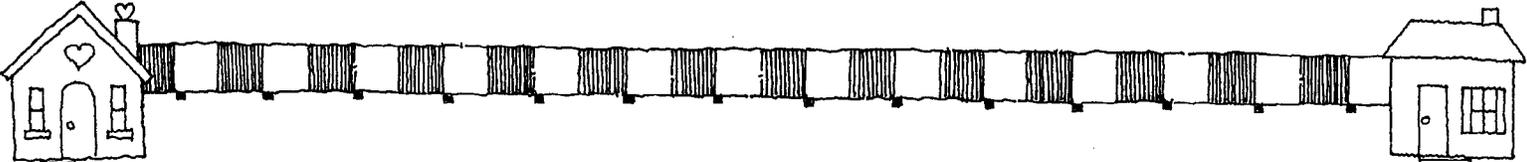
Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Tithing

Packet #110407

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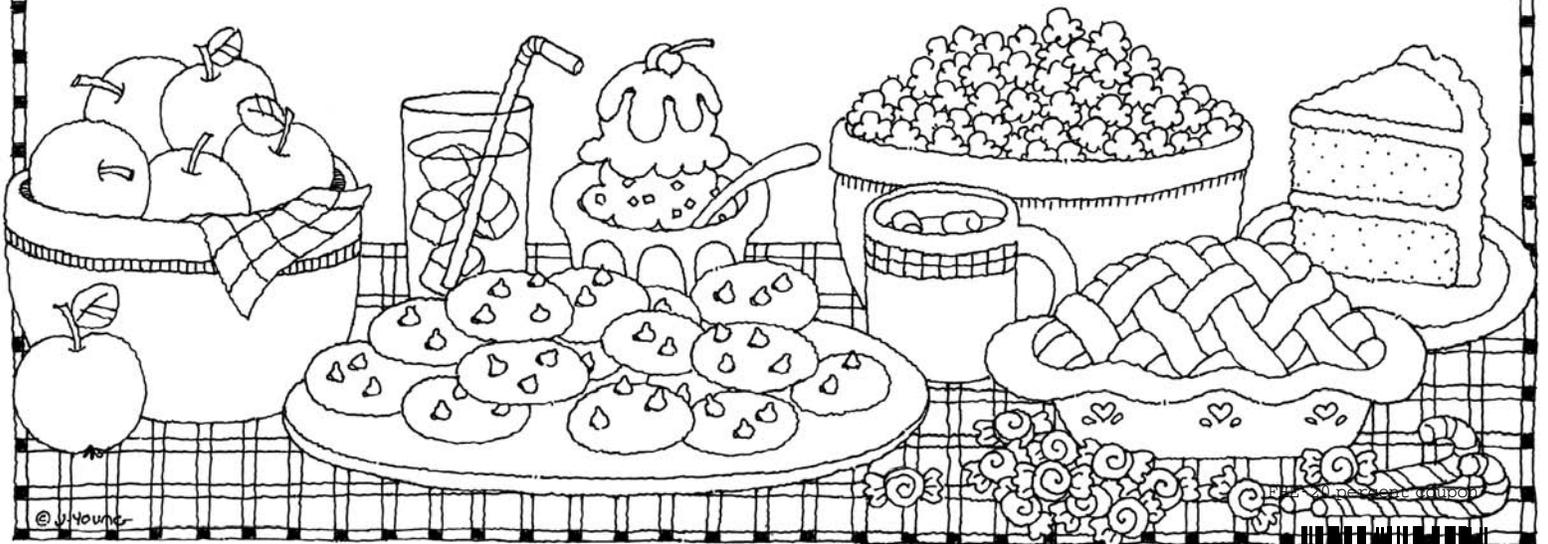
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- 2 teaspoons baking powder
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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Tolerance

Packet #080407

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

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Tolerance

Thought:

We must recognize at the outset that there is a difference between tolerance and tolerate. Your gracious tolerance for an individual does not grant him or her license to do wrong, nor does your tolerance obligate you to tolerate his or her misdeed. . . . Together we may stand, intolerant of transgression but tolerant of neighbors with differences. . . . Our beloved brothers and sisters throughout the world are all children of God.

(Russell M. Nelson, “Teach Us Tolerance and Love,” *Ensign*, May 1994, 69)

Song:

“We Are Different” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 263.

Scripture:

Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him.

(John 13:16)

Object Lesson:

Materials needed: An apple, an orange, and a banana.

Procedure: Ask which of the fruits you display is better than the others. Ask for personal favorites. Explain that even though you might like one kind of fruit better than another, it does not take away from the value of the other fruits; and explain that not everyone will prefer the same kind of fruit over another.

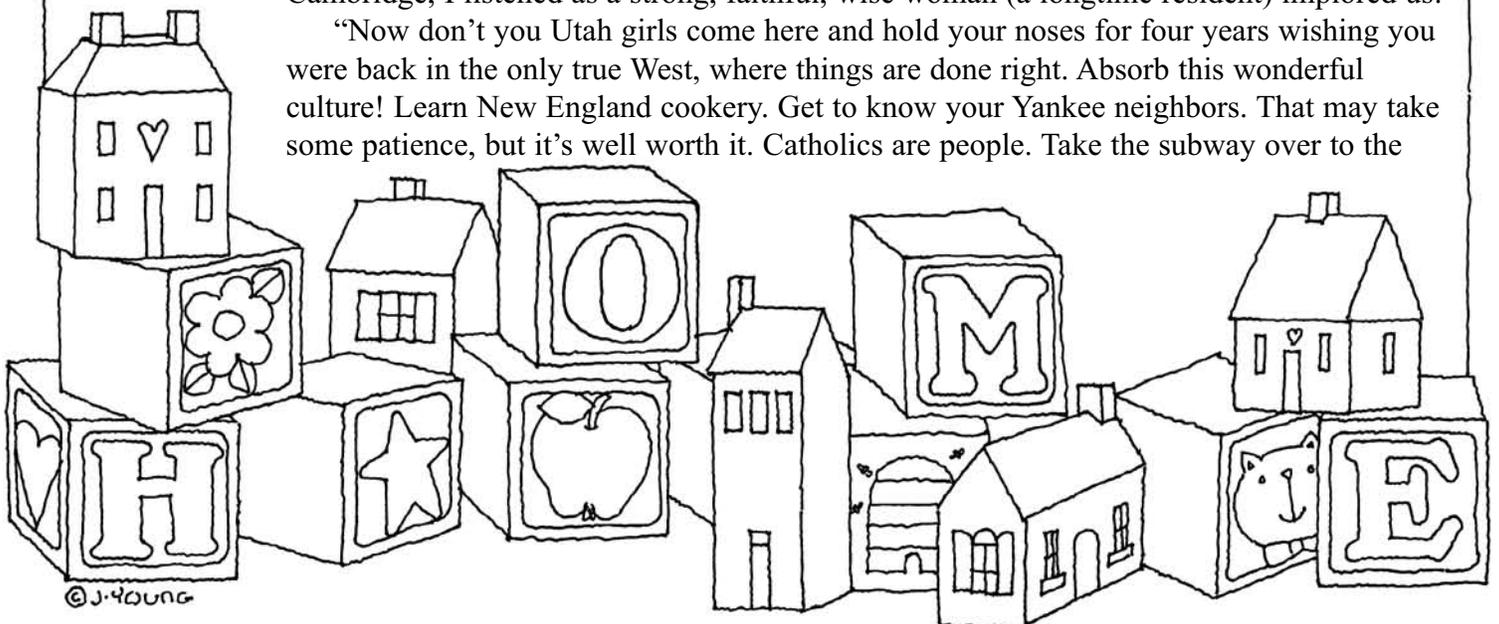
Liken the fruit to people. People are just a little different from each other in personality and in physical stature, but that does not lessen their worth to their Father in Heaven.

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *More Power Tools for Teaching*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1991], p. 36.)

Story:

As a young bride, newly arrived in Cambridge, Massachusetts, I experienced some cultural shock. In those days Boston billed itself as the hub of culture, which included the leading families of a society very unfamiliar to me. In our first Relief Society meeting in a little old house on Brattle Street in Cambridge, I listened as a strong, faithful, wise woman (a longtime resident) implored us:

“Now don’t you Utah girls come here and hold your noses for four years wishing you were back in the only true West, where things are done right. Absorb this wonderful culture! Learn New England cookery. Get to know your Yankee neighbors. That may take some patience, but it’s well worth it. Catholics are people. Take the subway over to the



Esplanade and hear the Boston Symphony, free, this summer. Do it; then you, as well as your husbands, will have something to take home.”

I believed her. Her sound advice changed my responses, and changed my life. When our four years were over, my husband brought home a Ph.D., and I came back loving New England—its speech patterns, seafood, Catholics, and all. This kind sister taught me about differences and a most impressive lesson on tolerance, and I learned that tolerating differences can lead to love.

Tolerance so often does lead to love. Most of our missionaries serving throughout the world would bear testimony to that, as would those who have returned.

Because my father served for three years in Samoa, I grew up loving the Samoan people, their customs, their food, and their language. My brother served in Alaska. Our son served in Germany. Our daughter served in Argentina. My husband and I served in New England. We’ve also spent much time in Israel and have had extended visits to Yugoslavia, Taiwan, and Hong Kong. So in three generations my family has had the blessing of going over much of the world delivering a message, but also bringing home a message of kinship and love for many peoples.

I can see in my mind’s eye dear Sini Salanoa, our Samoan friend, half a world away from his beloved islands for the first time, asking us in his broken English to “be his family” during his time in Boston in 1953. And beautiful, fourteen-year-old Julie Wang, whom we met in K’Liao, a tiny fishing village in Taiwan. In her quiet Chinese manner she described her first prayers, which began with sweet familiarity: “Hello, God. This is Julie Wang.” Or fine, spiritual Gunther Myer from Germany, who joined our family for scripture study on Sunday evenings for a whole year. These represent so many who have enriched our lives. There are no divisive differences between us. Our commitment to the gospel becomes the great common denominator. We know whose we are, all of us.

(Ann N. Madsen, “Tolerance, the Beginning of Christlike Love,” *Ensign*, Oct 1983, 26)

Activity:

Arrange with one family member to dress up in all the extra clothing, jewelry, etc. that she can wear. Have her enter the room walking slowly back and forth twice, while the other family members are asked to observe everything she is wearing. This should be made as difficult as possible, by including a hat, coat, scarf, earrings, bracelet, handbag, and any other items that might be handy.

After she leaves the room each family member is asked to write down on paper a list of the girl’s complete wardrobe. Have the girl return and let everyone check their list.

Explain that while this is a fun game, we sometimes focus too much on what other people are wearing. We shouldn’t judge someone by how fashionable or expensive their clothing is.

(adapted from Alma Heaton, *The LDS Game Book*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1968], p. 128.)

Refreshment

Fudge Pudding Cake

They'll think it's magic! A fudgy chocolate pudding cake that "bakes" right in the microwave.

1 cup all-purpose flour
1/4 cup granulated sugar
2 tablespoons baking powder
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup milk
2 tablespoons vegetable oil

1 teaspoon vanilla
1 cup chopped nuts
1 cup packed brown sugar
1/4 cup baking cocoa
1 3/4 cups boiling water

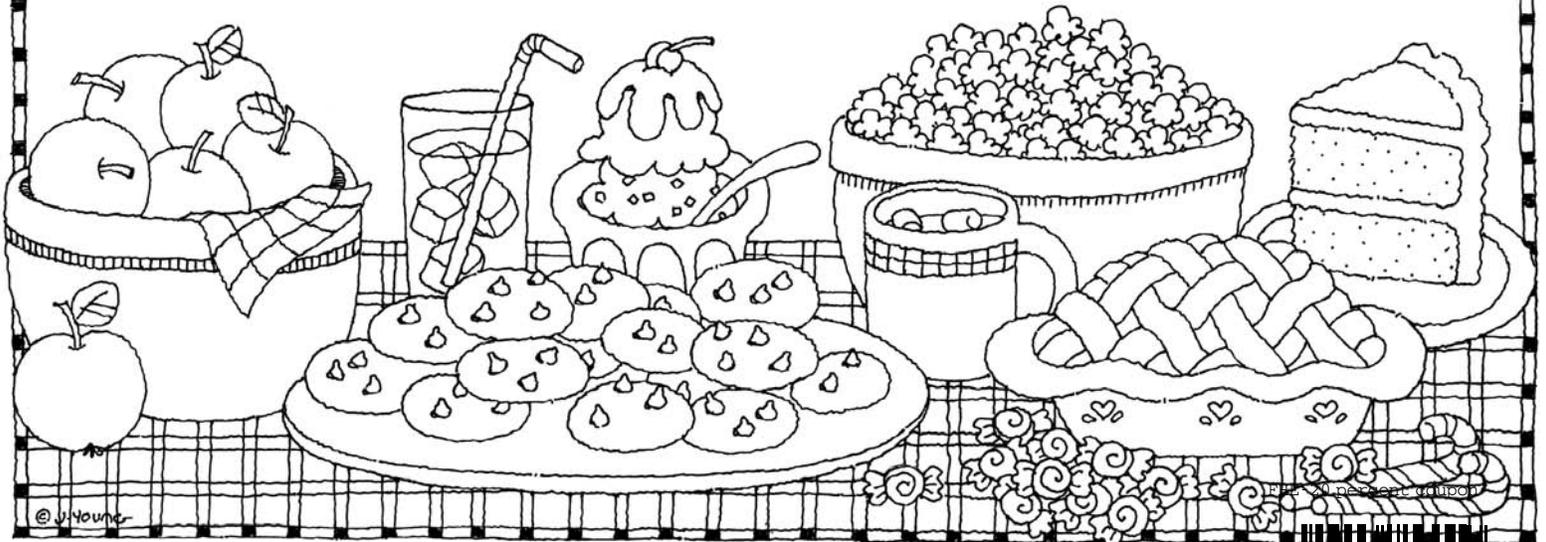
Mix flour, granulated sugar, 2 tablespoons cocoa, the baking powder, and salt in 2-quart microwaveable casserole.

Stir in milk, oil, and vanilla. Stir in nuts. Spread evenly in casserole. Mix brown sugar and 1/4 cup cocoa; sprinkle over batter. Pour boiling water over batter.

Microwave uncovered on medium (50%) 9 minutes; rotate casserole 1/2 turn. Microwave on high 5 to 6 minutes or until top is almost dry.

Serve warm with ice cream or whipped cream. Serves 9.

(*Betty Crocker Sunday Cookbook*, [Minneapolis: Wiley Publishing and Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2007], p.153.)



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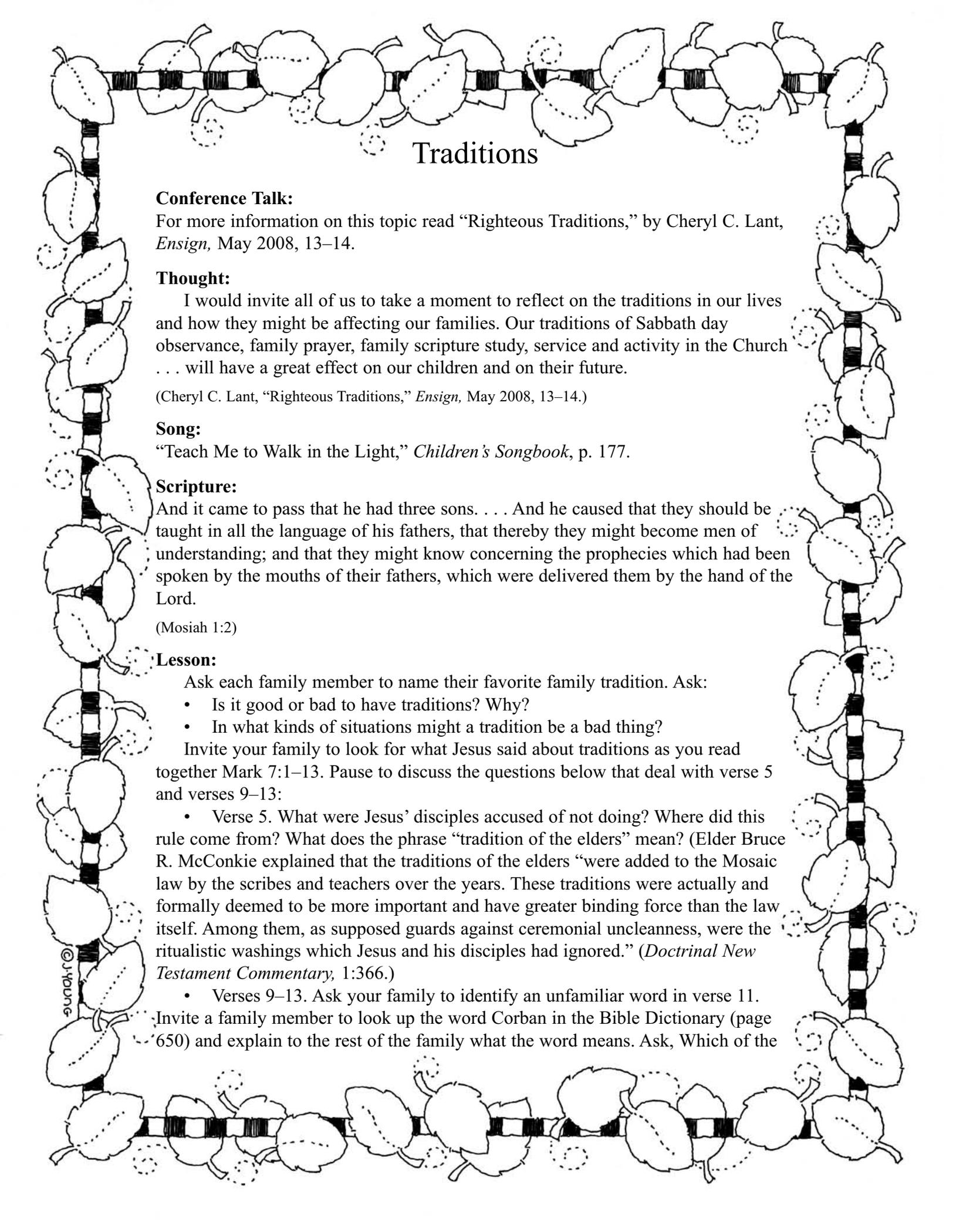
Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Traditions

Packet #110408

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
- 3. Involvement.** Involve everyone in the family; help little children take part.
- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.



Traditions

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read “Righteous Traditions,” by Cheryl C. Lant, *Ensign*, May 2008, 13–14.

Thought:

I would invite all of us to take a moment to reflect on the traditions in our lives and how they might be affecting our families. Our traditions of Sabbath day observance, family prayer, family scripture study, service and activity in the Church . . . will have a great effect on our children and on their future.

(Cheryl C. Lant, “Righteous Traditions,” *Ensign*, May 2008, 13–14.)

Song:

“Teach Me to Walk in the Light,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 177.

Scripture:

And it came to pass that he had three sons. . . . And he caused that they should be taught in all the language of his fathers, that thereby they might become men of understanding; and that they might know concerning the prophecies which had been spoken by the mouths of their fathers, which were delivered them by the hand of the Lord.

(Mosiah 1:2)

Lesson:

Ask each family member to name their favorite family tradition. Ask:

- Is it good or bad to have traditions? Why?
- In what kinds of situations might a tradition be a bad thing?

Invite your family to look for what Jesus said about traditions as you read together Mark 7:1–13. Pause to discuss the questions below that deal with verse 5 and verses 9–13:

- Verse 5. What were Jesus’ disciples accused of not doing? Where did this rule come from? What does the phrase “tradition of the elders” mean? (Elder Bruce R. McConkie explained that the traditions of the elders “were added to the Mosaic law by the scribes and teachers over the years. These traditions were actually and formally deemed to be more important and have greater binding force than the law itself. Among them, as supposed guards against ceremonial uncleanness, were the ritualistic washings which Jesus and his disciples had ignored.” (*Doctrinal New Testament Commentary*, 1:366.)

- Verses 9–13. Ask your family to identify an unfamiliar word in verse 11. Invite a family member to look up the word Corban in the Bible Dictionary (page 650) and explain to the rest of the family what the word means. Ask, Which of the

Ten Commandments did this tradition cause people to break?

If possible, ask a returned missionary in your family if they ever met a person who had no interest in the gospel message because he/she was born into a particular religion and intended to die in that religion. Ask what this has to do with good or bad traditions.

As a family make a list of the positive traditions your family has and how those traditions help support righteous goals.

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The New Testament*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2006], p. 65.)

Story:

(D. M. Brown)

The fragrance of gingerbread always makes me think of Suzie and the year I was going to have a perfect Christmas. During past Christmas seasons, I had always been too busy to create the Christmas traditions I felt would build a lifetime of memories for my family. But that Christmas was going to be different. That year my time was my own, and I meant to make every minute of the holiday season count. I would make handpainted ornaments, home-sewn gifts, beautiful decorations, artistically wrapped packages, and baked goods to fill a freezer. I was baking gingerbread men for the tree the day my nine-year-old daughter brought Suzie home from school.

“Mama, this is my new friend, Suzie,” Debbie announced, presenting a rather chubby, cheerful-looking little girl. Suzie reminded me of a California poppy, with her red-gold mop of curly hair and a freckled nose that twitched eagerly as she breathed in the spicy fragrance.

I took two warm gingerbread men from a pan and gave them to Suzie and Debbie. Soon the two girls were helping my seven-year-old son, Mark, hang gingerbread men on the tree. (Of course, the cookies never stayed long on the tree. The children and their friends ate all of them every few days, and we replenished the supply weekly. As a result, our house smelled gingery from Thanksgiving to New Year’s Day.)

Later, Suzie’s mother telephoned, and in a tired-sounding voice, she asked me to send Suzie home.

The Sunday after Thanksgiving, I was still working on my perfect Christmas. I had decided to mail my Christmas cards early, and so I had spread the dining-room table with Christmas cards, address books, stamps, and green- and red-ink pens with which to address the envelopes. I was all set to start when Mark came in.

“Mama, we talked in Primary today about helping other people,” he told me. “Our Primary teacher said a lonely lady in our ward needs help.”

“Oh? What’s the lady’s name?” I asked, wondering if I had met her.

“I can’t remember . . . something long and hard to say,” Mark said, “but Sister Jones wrote it on the blackboard, and I’d remember it if I saw it.”

He went to the desk drawer and pulled out the ward list. After a moment he gave a shout of triumph. “Here it is!” he cried. He thrust the page under my nose, and I glanced at the name by his finger before turning back to address my Christmas cards. The name was difficult to pronounce.

Mark borrowed my pen and drew a green circle around the name in the ward list before putting it back in the drawer.

“I want to go visit that lonely lady and take something to her. Can we make something for her now?” Mark wanted to know.

“Not today, Mark. It’s Sunday, and I don’t bake on Sundays. Besides, this lady doesn’t even know us. Surely she wouldn’t want a visit from strangers,” I explained. “Today we are going to start addressing our Christmas cards. For once I’m going to get our cards mailed before December twenty-third. If you want to help someone, you can help me.”

In the days that followed, Mark persisted in reminding me about the lonely lady. Twice he asked to

make something for the woman, but both times I was involved in other projects.

One Tuesday afternoon Suzie again came home with Debbie. That day I was putting together my specialty: a gingerbread train. Each car carried tempting cargo such as breadsticks, candy canes, and cinnamon bears. Suzie's eyes sparkled when I gave her a few chocolate-chip cookie wheels to "glue" into place with frosting. She ate one of them.

"I wish my Mom made gingerbread trains," she said. "Last year she made a neat gingerbread house, but this year she said it was too much work."

"It is a lot of work," I agreed, remembering the year I had been too busy with church and community duties to make my gingerbread train. The children had been very disappointed that year, but not this year. This year everything would be perfect.

A week later Debbie came home from school just as I was taking a fresh batch of gingerbread men from the oven.

"Too bad Suzie isn't here," she said, biting off one cookie foot. "Suzie loves our gingerbread men. She wasn't in school today, though."

Debbie set down her cookie, suddenly serious. "They said Suzie's mama took too many pills, and she's in the hospital. She might die."

"Oh, Debbie, are you sure?" I asked in dismay.

Debbie nodded. "Sally Miller told me Sister Miller was at the hospital with Suzie's mama all night," she said. Sister Miller was our Relief Society president.

"I didn't know Suzie was a member of the Church," I said, surprised. "I've never seen her at meetings."

"Suzie said they used to come all the time before her dad died," Debbie said. "He got killed in a car accident this summer."

"Poor Suzie!" I said. "Her poor mother! And I don't even know her name."

I called Sister Miller to see if I could be of any help in caring for Suzie during the crisis. I also asked for Suzie's mother's name. When she told me, it sounded vaguely familiar. I hung up the phone repeating the name when a devastating thought struck me. With a sinking feeling, I took the ward list from the desk drawer and turned some pages. Yes, there it was, circled in green ink—the name of Suzie's mother, the name of Mark's lonely lady whom I had never found time to help.

Suzie was with us that night when we received word that her mother had died.

I asked myself over and over: What if we had gone to visit her when Mark first wanted to? Would it have mattered that we were strangers? Would she have been a little less lonely, a little less desperate? I thought of the tired voice on the telephone, asking me to send Suzie home that first day we made gingerbread.

When Suzie went away a week later to live with her grandparents, we gave her our gingerbread train. The bright eyes that had sparkled as she helped make the train had lost some of their glow, but Suzie managed a little smile and a thank-you.

A gingerbread train. A very small gift. Too little. Too late. As Suzie took a halfhearted nibble from a breadstick, I saw more than a saddened little girl holding a cookie train. I saw myself with painful clarity: a woman so involved with the things of Christmas that I had lost touch with the very spirit of Christmas, without which there can never be a "perfect Christmas." I would never again forget.

Every holiday season since then, the fragrance of gingerbread reminds me of Suzie . . . and I cry.

(Linda Rire Gundry, Jay A. Parry, Jack M. Lyon, *Best-Loved Christmas Stories of the LDS People*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 413-16.)

Activity:

Discuss the meaning and origin of your family's surname. Discuss any meaningful reasons for choosing the first and middle names of each family member. How can we live up to the hopes, aspirations, and directions that these names provide us?

(adapted from Eric G. Stephan and Judith Stephan Smith, *What Happy Families Are Doing*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1981], p. 111.)

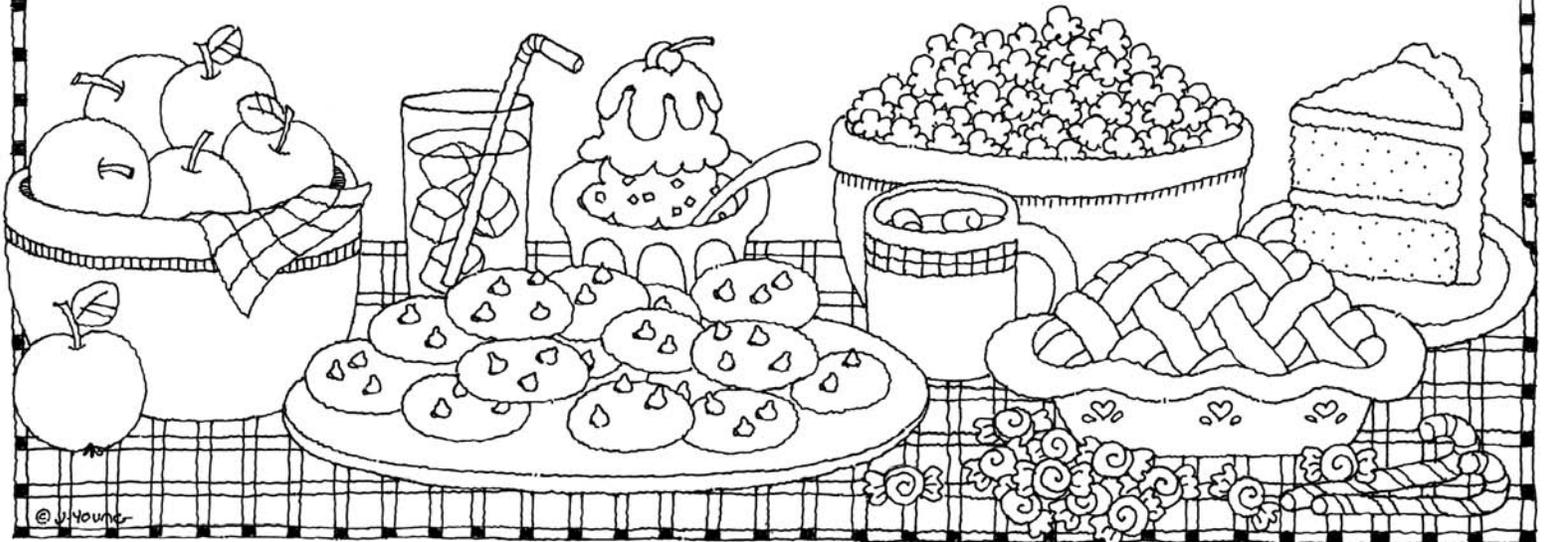
Refreshment

Ginger Cookies

- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 3/4 cup shortening
- 1/4 cup molasses
- 1 egg
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 1/2 teaspoons ginger

Preheat oven to 350° F. In a large mixing bowl, combine sugars and shortening until mixture is light and fluffy. Add molasses and egg; beat well. Add flour, soda, salt, cinnamon, and ginger and beat well. Scrape down the sides of bowl, then mix again. Drop dough by rounded tablespoonfuls onto a lightly greased cookie sheet. Press down each cookie with the bottom of a glass dipped in sugar. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes, being careful not to overbake.

(*Lion House Desserts*, [Salt Lake City: Eagle Gate, 2000] p. 114.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Truth

Packet #110208

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
- 3. Involvement.** Involve everyone in the family; help little children take part.
- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.

Truth

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read “The Power of Light and Truth,” by Robert R. Steuer, *Ensign*, May 2008, 99–101.

Thought:

To be at peace in these wonderful yet challenging times, we must learn true doctrine, gain pure testimony, and live the truths of the gospel courageously.

(Robert R. Steuer, “The Power of Light and Truth,” *Ensign*, May 2008, 99–101.)

Song:

“I Am a Child of God,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 2.

Scripture:

And now, as the preaching of the word had a great tendency to lead the people to do that which was just—yea, it had had more powerful effect upon the minds of the people than the sword, or anything else, which had happened unto them—therefore Alma thought it was expedient that they should try the virtue of the word of God.

(Alma 31:5)

Lesson:

Bring several different light sources to family scripture study—for example, a match, an oil-burning lamp, a flashlight, and a table lamp. Without giving any explanation, make the room as dark as possible and then use the light source that gives out the least amount of light. Then add the next brightest light source and continue on until you use the one that gives off the most light. Ask:

- What happened to the darkness with each new light source? (As the light increased, the darkness decreased.)
- Which light would you prefer if you were alone in the dark? Why?
- According to D&C 50:24, where does all light come from?
- Do you know some people who seem to have more “light” than others?

Read together D&C 93:23–36 and discuss the following questions:

- How would you define truth? (Verse 24.)
- Where does all truth come from? (Verse 26.)
- In what ways is truth similar to light?
- If we want more light and truth, what must we do? (Verses 27–28.)
- What other word is used for “light and truth” in verse 36? (Intelligence.)

Show again the different light sources and ask your family to think about which one might best represent them at the present time. Help them know that they can increase their light and truth by keeping the commandments.

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The Doctrine and Covenants*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2004], p. 202-3.)

Story:

Philo Dibble

One morning I was standing at my gate when two men drove up in a two-horse wagon . . . one asked me if I had heard the news, and informed me that four men had come to Kirtland with a golden

Bible and one of them had seen an angel. They laughed and ridiculed the idea, but I did not feel inclined to make light of such a subject. I made no reply, but thought that if angels had administered to the children of men again I was glad of it; I was afraid, however, it was not true. . . .

The following morning I hitched up my carriage and drove to Kirtland, one of my neighbors accompanying us with his team and family. On arriving there, we were introduced to Oliver Cowdery, Ziba Peterson, Peter Whitmer, Jr., and Parley P. Pratt. I remained with them all day, and became convinced that they were sincere in their professions. . . .

That evening [Oliver] preached at Brother Isaac Morley's, and . . . dwelt upon the subjects of repentance and baptism and the bestowal of the Holy Ghost, and promised that all who embraced these principles with honesty of heart should receive a testimony. He also requested all who wished to be baptized to make it manifest by arising. Five persons, among whom were William Cahoon and myself, arose. I then made preparations for baptism by borrowing a suit of clothes. My wife thought I was too hasty, and said if I would wait awhile perhaps she would go along with me. She was a Baptist by persuasion. I paid no heed to her, but went forthwith and was baptized by Parley P. Pratt. This was on the 16th of October, 1830. When I came out of the water, I knew that I had been born of water and of the spirit, for my mind was illuminated with the Holy Ghost. . . .

The next morning I started home a happy man. All my neighbors were anxious to know the result of my visit to Kirtland, and I was visited by two Campbellite preachers, named respectively Scott and Williams, one of whom remarked, "Mr. Dibble, I understand you have joined the 'Mormons.' What reason have you to believe they have the truth?"

I told them, "The scriptures point to such a work, which should come forth."

He then asked me where I found it. I took the Bible and opened it where it speaks of truth springing out of the earth, and righteousness looking down from above. He read it and handed it to the other preacher. They made no comments.

I bore my testimony to them of what I had received, and Mr. Scott said, "I don't doubt, Mr. Dibble, that you have received all you say, because you are honest, but they are impostors."

I then asked Mr. Scott if he believed the Lord would bless the labors of a false prophet, to which they did not stop to reply but left, and told the people it was no use talking to me.

One of my neighbors came to me and said, "We have sent a man down to York State to find out the truth of this work, and he is a man who will not lie. If he returns and says it is false, will you believe him?"

I told him I would believe the truth, and asked him if that man (whose name was Edward Partridge) should come back and say it was false if he would believe him.

He replied, "Yes; for he is a man who would not lie for his right arm!"

I then added, "If he says it is true, will you then believe him?" to which he reluctantly replied that he would.

Shortly after this, however, when Brother Partridge wrote back and said that he had been baptized, and was then preaching the gospel, this man shunned me, and for a long time afterwards gave me no chance to talk with him. But when we met, I asked him what he thought of Brother Partridge, and he replied that he was honest, but had been deceived.

(Jay Parry, Jack Lyon, and Linda Gundry, *Best-Loved Stories of the LDS People, volume 3*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2000], p 508-511.)

Activity:

"It" stands in the middle of a circle of players. A piece of string long enough to go around the circle is slipped through the string and the ends tied. All players in the circle grasp the string. "It" counts to ten with eyes closed so as to not see the ring passed initially. The ring is concealed under a player's hand and is passed from player to player. "It" must find the player under whose hand the ring is concealed. The player caught with the ring becomes "it." The truth is often hidden and we must search it out.

(Alma Heaton, *The LDS Game Book*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1968], p. 95.)

Refreshment

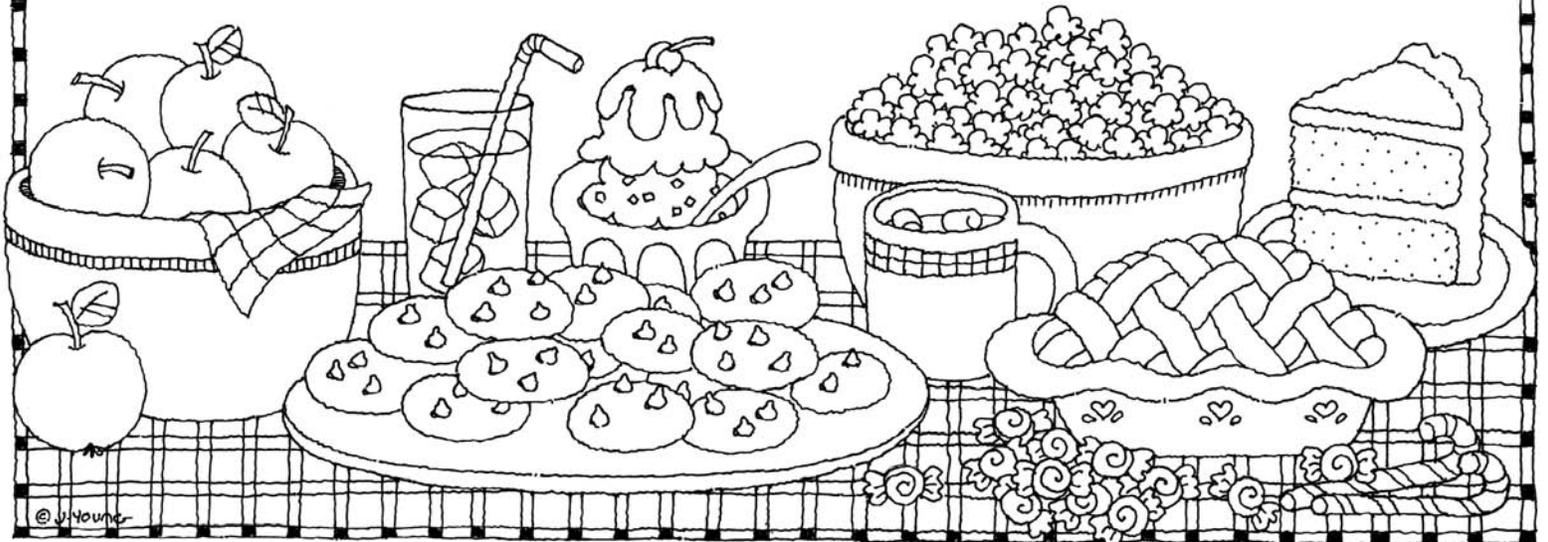
Baked Apples

A sweet and spicy side dish.

- 6 apples (Rome beauties work well)
- 1/4 cup cranberries
- 1/4 cup walnuts
- 1/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/4 cup bread crumbs
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- Zest of 1 lemon
- 3 tablespoons butter, melted

Core apples. Remove a 1/2-inch slice from the bottom of the apples so they will sit flat in a pan. Place in a greased baking dish and set aside. In a bowl, combine remaining ingredients. Stuff apples with mixture. Bake, covered with foil, at 375 degrees for about 25 minutes or until filling is cooked and bubbly. Makes 6 servings.

(Julie Badger Jensen, *Essential Mormon Celebrations*, [Salt Lake City:Deseret Book, 2005], p. 123.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Fasting

Packet #030309

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

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A B C D E F G H I J K L M

Fasting

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read “God Loves and Helps All of His Children,” by Keith B. McMullin, *Ensign*, Nov 2008, 75–78.

Thought:

A few years ago a high-ranking official from China visited Salt Lake City. . . . Fasting and giving the value of the meals not eaten to help the poor captured his attention. . . . He said, “If we all loved each other like this, the world would be a more peaceful place.”

(Keith B. McMullin, “God Loves and Helps All of His Children,” *Ensign*, Nov 2008, 75–78.)

Song:

“Because I Have Been Given Much,” *Hymns*. # 219.

Scripture:

Verily, this is fasting and prayer, or in other words, rejoicing and prayer.

(Doctrine and Covenants 59:14)

Lesson:

Do an activity with your family that involves things that go together, or pairs. As you say the first word or show the first item, have your family fill in the blank with the name of the second item.

- “Salt and _____” (pepper)
- “Table and _____” (chairs)
- “Husband and _____” (wife)
- “Shoes and _____” (socks)

Tell your family that Jesus demonstrated the power of “pairing” two important principles. Have your family look for the important pair as they read the story in Mark 9:14–29. Ask:

- After Jesus had cast out the evil spirit, what did His disciples ask privately?
- What was Jesus’ response?
- How does prayer make fasting more meaningful?
- How does fasting make prayer more meaningful?

Ask family members if they have had an experience with fasting and prayer they would be willing to share. Invite the family to unite in fasting and prayer next fast Sunday.

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The New Testament*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2006], p. 69.)

M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

A B C D E F G H I J K L

Story:**"He Fasted, and He Prayed"**

Matthew Cowley

Two boys in New Zealand graduated from a high school down there. The principal came to me and told me this story about one of them.

"This young man came to me one day. He was living in the dormitory. He was what they called the monitor. It wasn't a native high school, but he was a native. He came to me one day, and he said, 'Mr. Hogan, I want to go home for three days.' I said, 'Why, you can't go home, you have a job here. What do you want to go home for?' He said, 'Well, I am preparing to take my matric,' [as they call it down there, matriculation examination for entrance into a university]. He said, 'I want to go home for three days and fast and pray.'

"I was astonished. I excused myself and went to my office and called up one of your members, one of our native members, and I said, 'Listen to me, do you people have in your Church something you call fasting?' He said, 'Yes.' I said, 'What do you do it for?' 'When we want a blessing, we fast and pray.' I said, 'Well, I have read about it in the Bible, but I have never heard of anybody doing it.' I went back to the young man and said, 'You go home for three days.' He went home, and he fasted, and he prayed, and he was the top man in passing his matric examination."

(Jay A. Parry, Jack M. Lyon, Linda Ririe Gundry, editors, *Best-Loved Stories of the LDS People, Vol.2*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1999], 63-64.)

Activity:

Divide your family into two teams. Give each team a paper and pencil. Set a timer for a predetermined amount of time (2 or 3 minutes) and have each team write down as many "pairs" as they can think of (like the examples in the lesson). Give one point to each team for items on the list that the other team didn't think of.

Refreshment

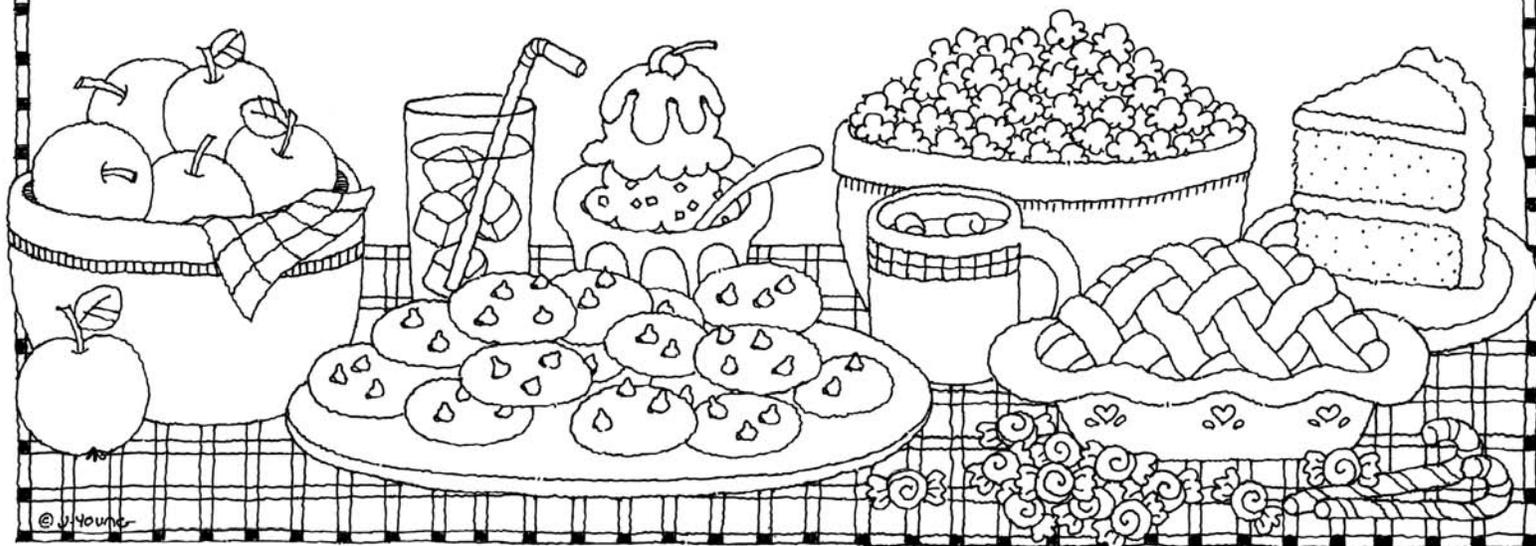
Chewy Chex® Mix

This treat is a hit with all ages.

- 8 cups Rice Chex (or the Chex cereal of your choice)
- 1 cup coconut
- 1 cup sliced almonds
- 1 cup chow mein noodles
- 1/4 cup butter or margarine
- 6 cups miniature marshmallows

Combine Chex, coconut, almonds, and noodles in a large bowl. Melt butter over medium heat; blend in marshmallows and stir until melted. Pour over cereal mixture; spread on waxed paper to cool. Store in an airtight container or individual plastic bags. Makes about 10 cups.

(Julie Badger Jensen, *The Essential Mormon Cookbook*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2004], p. 130.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Attitude

Packet #080107

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
- 3. Involvement.** Involve everyone in the family; help little children take part.
- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.

Attitude

Thought:

Remember, a good attitude produces good results, a fair attitude fair results, a poor attitude poor results. We each shape our own life, and the shape of it is determined largely by our attitude.

(M. Russell Ballard, "Providing for Our Needs," *Ensign*, May 1981, 85)

Song:

"If You're Happy" *Children's Songbook*, p. 266.

Scripture:

Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

(Romans 15:13)

Lesson:

Ask family members which of the following would be the most difficult for them to deal with:

1. Moving from your home because your parents lost their jobs.
2. Spending many weeks in a hospital because of illness.
3. Temporarily living in a shelter and relying on food storage because of a natural disaster.

Together, read 1 Nephi 16:13–21 and find out what challenges Lehi's family faced. Ask why this would be a difficult challenge. How does it compare to the three examples above?

Ask your family to look again at verse 20 and tell how most of the group, including Lehi, reacted to the lack of food. Murmuring may be a common reaction to hardship and hunger, but did complaining help solve their problem?

Compare the complaining of this group with what Nephi did in verses 22–30. How could Nephi's non-complaining and productive example help us in our difficult situations?

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The Book of Mormon*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 37.)

Story:

Daddy, I Sure Do Love You

(Elder Paul H. Dunn)

Have you ever noticed that whenever a person seems out of sorts or somewhat cantankerous, we often say, "He got up on the wrong side of the bed"? Were you ever accused of having such an attitude? A few months ago I was close to having "one of those days." It came about in this way:

About midnight I received a telephone call from one of the teachers in our institute of religion program, which I was coordinating at the time, and he reported that he couldn't possibly teach his early morning class the next day because of ill health. He wondered if I would teach it for him. I assured him I would and told him not to worry, though I wondered how adequately the material could be prepared in the time left that night to meet the challenge of the group.

After hanging up, I immediately started to prepare my lesson and finally at two a.m., not being able to see the words on the page, I went to bed. Needless to say I was tired and in need of a good night's sleep. I didn't stand much chance of getting it, however, since the class next morning met at seven a.m. and was thirty miles from home, all of which required that I get up at five o'clock. This meant only three hours of sleep at the most.

Shortly after going to bed, and not having quite fallen asleep, I was brought back to reality by my four-year-old youngster, who insisted that she have a drink of water—she simply could not get along without it until morning. So, after a hard struggle, I pulled myself together, secured the drink of water, and went back to bed only to be awakened a few moments later by another daughter who had just experienced a horrible nightmare. Her anxious summons brought me to my feet in a hurry, and in my excitement to answer her call, I failed to turn on the hall light. As I made my way in the dark, I was suddenly stopped in my journey by a door that had been left ajar. After a few seconds and with a newly acquired bump, I hastened to her side and gave the comfort that was needed.

Once again I crawled back between the warm covers with a hope that the remaining hours would give peace and rest, only to be brought slyly and slowly back to life by my wife, who had been awakened by the previous interruptions. She had just remembered that she needed the car the next morning for her church assignment and was wondering what arrangements could be made in order that we both might meet our appointments. When the problem was finally solved, it was three o'clock, and when, shortly after, the alarm rang at five, you can imagine how I felt. After such a night I was getting up on the wrong side of the bed, and my attitude was not the kind that should be taken into a class of religion.

And then it happened—the little thing that changed the gloom of the night into the brightness of a beautiful day. As I was leaving the house, the four-year-old, who had started the series of events the night before, appeared at the door, pulled on my coat tail, and then, with my help, climbed into my arms, took hold of both of my ears with her little hands, and without any warning kissed me as hard as she could right on the nose and said, "Daddy, I sure do love you. You are sure a good sport." "A good sport, eh!" and I tried to smile away the frown that had settled throughout my whole system. "Yep! You're the best daddy in the whole world," and planting another kiss on my neck, she slid to the floor and ran back to her bed.

What was about to be a bad morning for me turned out to be one of my best. As I drove to my assignment with a song in my heart, I thought of my many blessings.

(Leon R. Hartshorn, *Outstanding Stories by General Authorities*, vol. 3, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1974].)

Activity:

1. Seat everyone in the room.
2. Pick someone to be the "poor kitty."
3. The object is for the person who is kitty to get someone to laugh. Kitty goes up to people one at a time on his hands and knees and meows. That person must stroke kitty's head and say, "Poor Kitty," three times without laughing or even smiling. If that person smiles, the two trade places with each other and the game continues..

(George and Jeane Chipman, *Games! Games! Games!*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 1983], p. 36.)

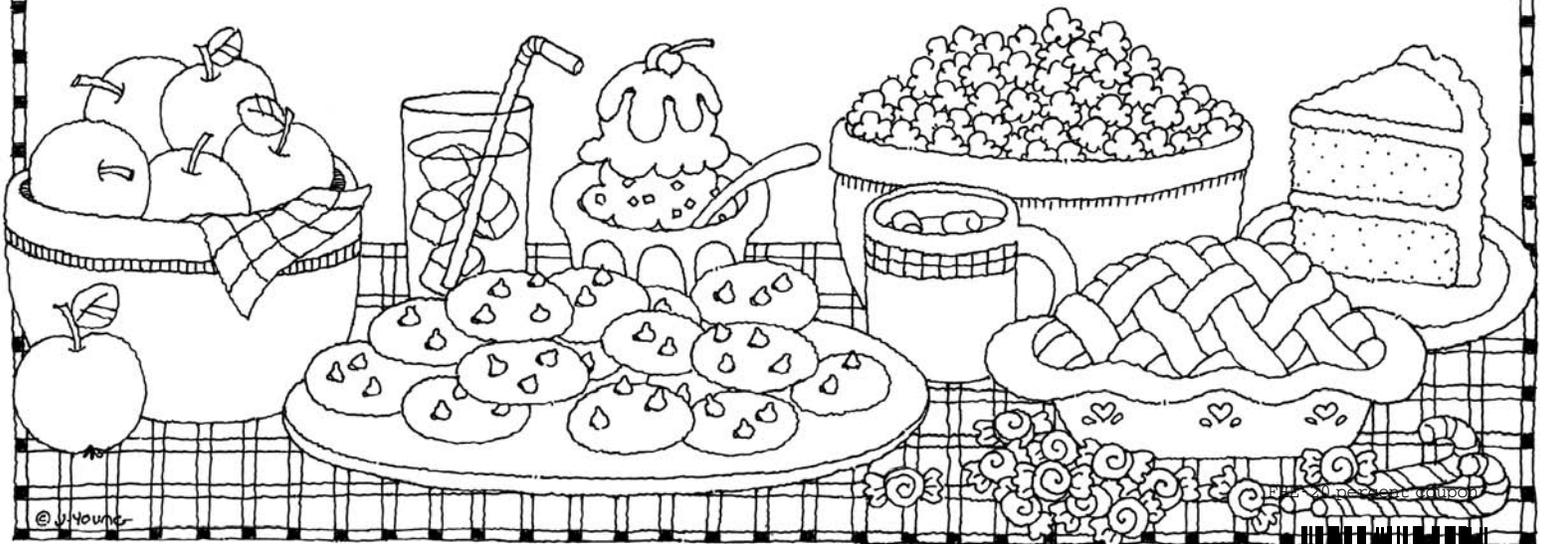
Refreshment

Grandma's Favorite Iced

- 1 can frozen orange juice concentrate (6-ounce size)
- 1 cup milk
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 16 large ice cubes

Put all ingredients into blender. Blend until smooth. Serves 3 to 5 people.

(Karla C. Erickson, *Kids in the Kitchen*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1980], p. 7.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Be Extraordinary

Packet #060408

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
- 3. Involvement.** Involve everyone in the family; help little children take part.
- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.

Be Extraordinary

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read “After All We Can Do,” by Claudio D. Zivic, *Ensign*, Nov 2007, 98–99.

Thought:

We, as members of the Church of Jesus Christ, have chosen not to be ordinary men and women. Claudio D. Zivic, “After All We Can Do,” *Ensign*, Nov 2007, 98–99.)

Song:

“I Am Like a Star” *Children’s Songbook*, p.163.

Scripture:

But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way. (1 Corinthians 12:31)

Lesson:

Have family members search Alma 1:25–33 and mark or list each place that describes the righteousness of members of the Church. After reading the verses, have your family share the things they marked. Now, as a family, read Alma 1:32 and mark how those who were not members of the Church were different. Ask, “Can that same contrast be seen today between faithful Church members and those who do not believe? Are we becoming more like the world?” Share the following quotation from President Gordon B. Hinckley: “I lift a warning voice to our people. We have moved too far toward the mainstream.” (“Look to the Future,” *Ensign*, November 1997, p. 69.) Share with your family what that statement means to you. As a family, identify ways members of Christ’s church should be different from the world.

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The Book of Mormon*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 155.)

Story:

When I was 12 years old, my mother died, leaving my father with six children. There were few educational opportunities in our area, and many people were satisfied with a fourth-grade education. But I wasn’t. I held on to a dream of finishing my studies.

My opportunity came when I moved to the city of Santarém, Brazil, at age 17. My father arranged for me to live with some people he knew, and I began taking a few classes. My work barely paid for the school materials I needed.

During my first year there, the people I lived with asked me to affiliate with their church. I repeatedly refused their request. The third year came, and I still hadn’t joined their church. Then one day they asked me to find another place to live. I was devastated.

The next day I didn’t go to work or to school. I remembered my stepmother’s friend who lived close by and resolved to talk to her.

When I arrived, Maria Jose welcomed me. After I explained my situation, she asked that I go and get my things and come stay at her home. There seemed to be something extraordinary about her kindness.

After a few days, as she was preparing food, she told me that missionaries from her church were coming to eat lunch. Her goodness made me curious about her beliefs.

I spoke with Elder Riggs and Elder Marcio during lunch and set up a time to hear a

discussion. By the appointment the next day, I had read the Book of Mormon and prayed about it but hadn't felt anything unusual. But before the missionaries began, they promised me that if I would open my heart I would know that the things they would teach were true.

They didn't need to say anything more, because while they spoke I knew by a strong feeling that this was the Church of Jesus Christ. Three weeks later I became a member.

I later served full time in the Brazil Curitiba Mission. I love this gospel and the opportunity I had to do for others the same work those missionaries did for me.

I couldn't join one church—even when my decision left me homeless. But in finding a home and Christlike friend, I found the true Church of Jesus Christ.

(Loucas Soares Nobre, "Not Really Homeless," *New Era*, Sep 2004, 39.)

Activity:

Mark a line on the floor with tape. Place four or five obstacles on the line. Each family member is blindfolded one at a time and must walk this line. Other family members help by telling when he is off the line and when he is about to come to an obstacle.

Explain that as we go through life it is important to "walk the straight and narrow." Our leaders and family members can help us stay on the straight path.

(adapted from Alma Heaton, *The LDS Game Book*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1968], p. 122.)

Refreshment

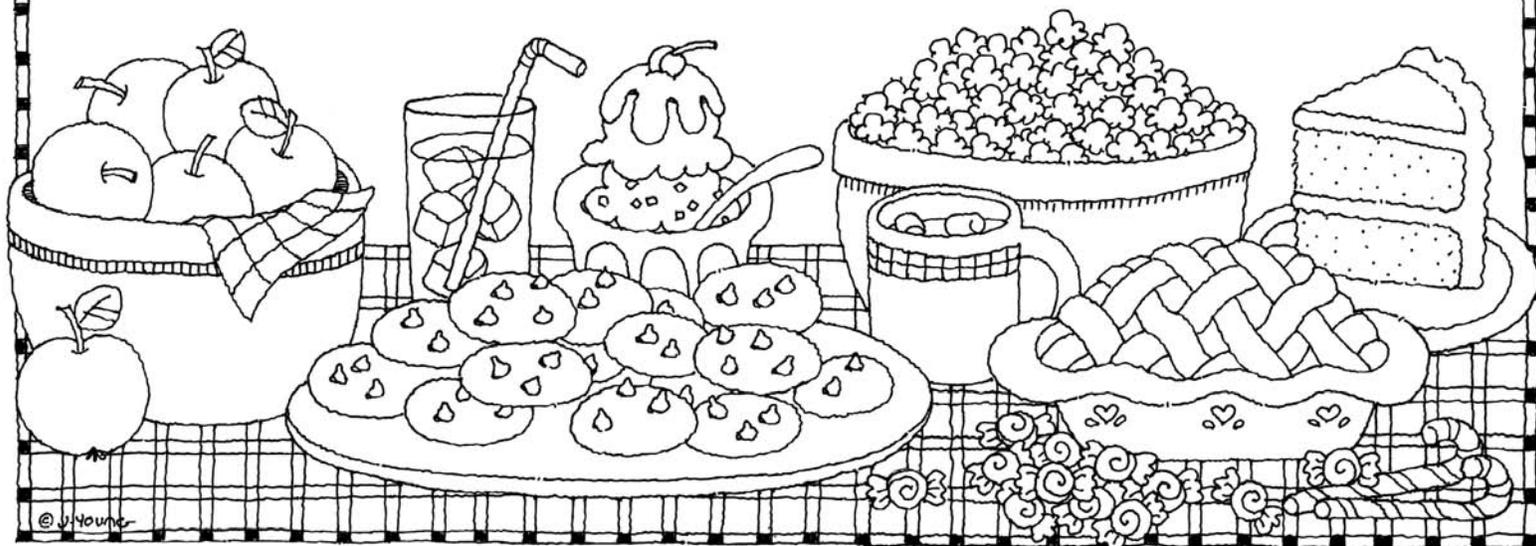
Chocolate Cheesecake

2 cups Oreo® cookie crumbs, rolled fine
3 8-ounce packages cream cheese, softened
1 cup sugar
3 eggs
3/4 teaspoon vanilla
1/3 cup chocolate syrup
1 pint sour cream
3 tablespoons sugar
1/2 teaspoon vanilla
Chocolate chips

Crush whole Oreo cookies, including frosting centers, to make 2 cups of fine crumbs. Press evenly into the bottom and sides of a 10-inch springform pan.

Whip cream cheese in a mixer bowl; gradually add sugar; then add eggs one at a time. Stir in vanilla. Stir in chocolate syrup. Pour filling into crust. Bake 40 minutes. Whip sour cream; add sugar and vanilla. Spread on top of cheesecake and return to oven. Bake for 10 more minutes. Cool before removing sides from springform pan. Garnish with a few chocolate chips. Refrigerate until ready to serve. Makes 10 to 12 servings.

(*Lion House Desserts*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1997] p. 124.)



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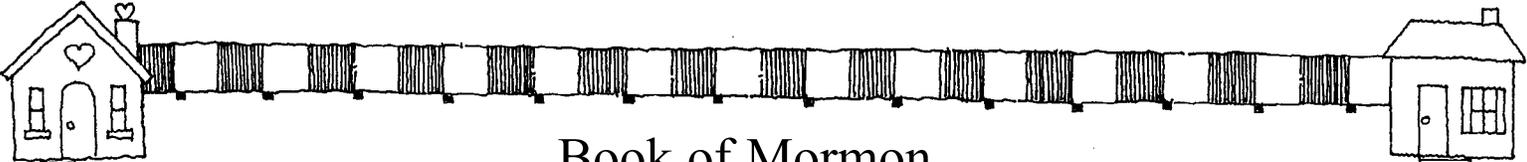
Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Book of Mormon

Packet #030509

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
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Book of Mormon

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read “Because My Father Read the Book of Mormon,” by Marcos A. Aidukaitis, *Ensign*, Nov 2008, 15–17.

Thought:

The Book of Mormon is a proof that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is true.

(Marcos A. Aidukaitis, “Because My Father Read the Book of Mormon,” *Ensign*, Nov 2008, 15–17.)

Song:

“Book of Mormon Stories,” *Children’s Songbook*, p.118.

Scripture:

And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost. And by the power of the Holy Ghost ye may know the truth of all things.

(Moroni 10:4–5)

Lesson:

Write the following Treasure Hunt clues on separate pieces of paper.

1. Look in the place where cookies are sometimes found.
2. Check for a clue in a place where it is freezing.
3. Music sometimes comes from this place.
4. Find something soft, that helps you sleep well at night.
5. Look in the place where the bread turns brown and crisp.
6. Check the place where you look for your toothbrush.
7. This clue is next to something that rings.
8. Here is your treasure.

Keep the first clue and hide the rest of the clues in the places indicated by the previous clue. Place a copy of the Book of Mormon with the last clue. Explain the correlation between the treasure hunt and the Book of Mormon. Because family members followed the directions on each card carefully, they were led to the treasure. Because God loves us, he give us instructions that help lead us back to Him. They are found in the scriptures.

(adapted from Allan K. Burgess and Max H. Molgard, *Fun for Family Night: Book of Mormon Edition*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1990], p. 3.)

Story:

I have a little set of scriptures that my mom and dad gave me when I turned seventeen. I had read the Book of Mormon before, but one day it was different. Perhaps I was more in tune with the Spirit or maybe I had studied more diligently and prayed more fervently. I was young, but I wanted to know for myself if the Book of Mormon was true.

On that particular day I came to the part about faith in the thirty-second chapter of Alma. As I finished that chapter, I experienced a feeling that I recognized as a witness from the Holy Ghost. I knew the Book of Mormon was true. I wanted to stand up and shout. I wanted to tell the whole world what I knew and how I felt, but I was alone. So, with tears of joy streaming down

my face, I wrote on the margins, all the way around the page, the feelings in my heart at that moment. I made a big red star in the margin on top of the page and wrote, "May 31st, 7:30 A.M. This I know, written as if to me." Then I wrote in the margin on one side of the page, "I have received a confirmation. I know the Book of Mormon is true!" Across the margin on the other side of the page I wrote, "One month ago I began fasting each Tuesday for a more sure knowledge. This I know."

When I read the Book of Mormon, I feel as if I am getting letters from home from my Heavenly Father, who is guiding me with inspiration in the important choices I must make each day. When I consider how much I love the Book of Mormon and how frequently I turn to it for guidance, inspiration, encouragement, confidence, and increased faith, I wonder sometimes if my great love for this book might have been passed down to me by my great-grandmother.

Almost a century and a half ago, a copy of the Book of Mormon was brought into the home of Susan Kent, my great-grandmother, when she was sixteen years of age. After studying the book, Susan gained a testimony of its messages that was so strong that she could not reject it, although to accept it meant a great sacrifice for her.

At the time Susan was engaged to a young man, and she felt that she could not endure being separated from him; but he would have nothing to do with anyone who would join the Mormons. She did not stop to count the cost. She chose the path of peace for her conscience. However, her heart was so grieved that she could partake of no nourishment for several days. She lapsed into a coma so profound that it had the appearance of actual death. Preparations were being made for her funeral when she awoke asking, "How long have I slept?" With tender care she slowly regained her health, and she and her sister, Abbigale, and their parents joined the Church. I will be eternally thankful to Susan Kent for her testimony of the Book of Mormon and what it meant in her life and now in mine.

(Ardeth Greene Kapp, *My Neighbor, My Sister, My Friend*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1990].)

Activity:

Make 9 cards with one of the following statements on each card:

- Lehi's family travels to the promised land.
- The sons of Mosiah convert thousands of Lamanites.
- King Benjamin speaks from the tower.
- Jesus visits the American continent.
- Nephi gets the brass plates.
- Samuel preaches from the city wall.
- Captain Moroni make the title of liberty.
- An angel appears to Alma the Younger
- Happiness

To begin the game, read each card and have someone tell at least one thing about the event listed on the card. If children in the family are older, have each person tell one thing about the event listed on the card. Then mix up the cards and place them face down in three rows of three.

The idea of the game is to see how many cards a family member has to turn over before he or she can find happiness. As soon as one person finds the happiness card, the cards are reshuffled and placed down for the next family member.

Help family members understand that happiness comes from reading the scriptures.

(adapted from Allan K. Burgess and Max H. Molgard, *Fun for Family Night: Book of Mormon Edition*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1990], p. 4.)

Refreshment

Chocolate Mint Brownies

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 cup butter, softened
- 4 eggs
- 4 (1-ounce) squares baking chocolate
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 2 cups flour
- 1/4 teaspoon baking powder

MINT FROSTING

- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1 teaspoon peppermint extract
- 5 drops red or green food coloring
- 4 cups powdered sugar

CHOCOLATE GLAZE

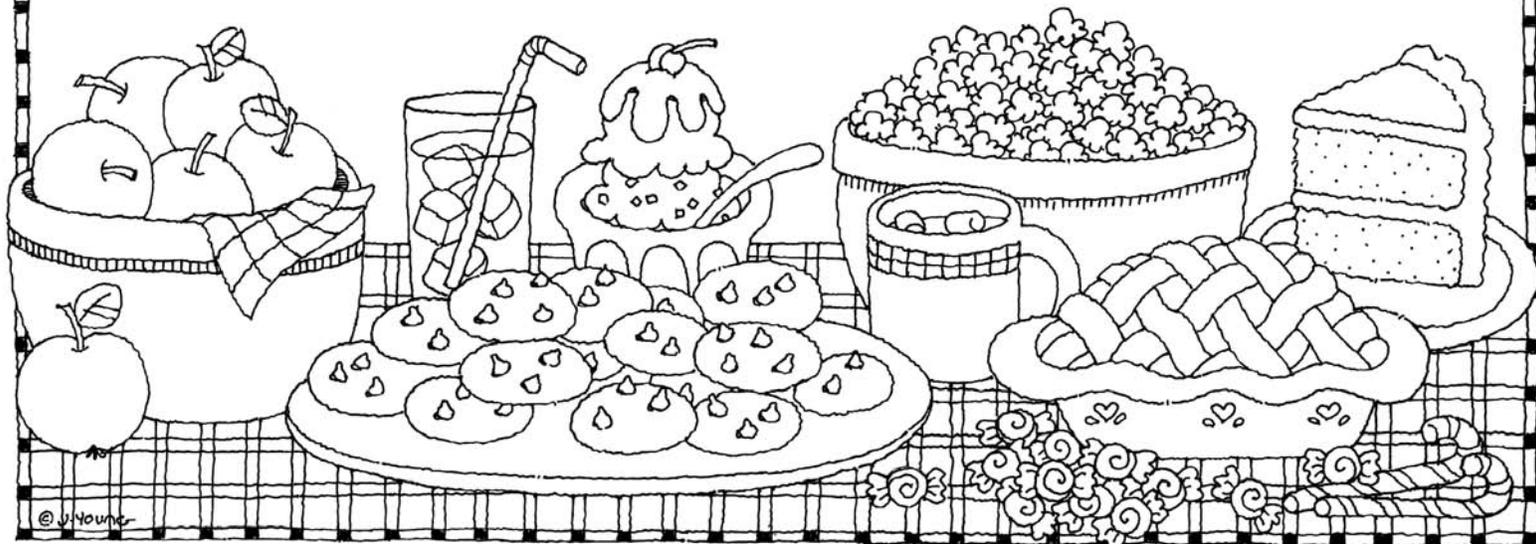
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 1/2 cup chocolate chips
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

In a large bowl, cream together sugars and butter until fluffy. Beat in eggs until well blended; set aside. In a small bowl, microwave baking chocolate for 1 minute. Stir and continue to heat at 10-second intervals just until melted. Add melted chocolate to the sugar and butter mixture. Add vanilla. In a separate bowl, stir together flour and baking powder; add to creamed mixture and mix well. Spread batter into a greased 9x13-inch baking dish and bake at 325 degrees for about 25 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in center comes out with a few fudgy crumbs. When brownies are cool, frost with Mint Frosting and refrigerate for an hour. Drizzle Chocolate Glaze over frosting before serving. Makes about 15 brownies.

Frosting: Mix butter, milk, peppermint extract, and food coloring together. Add powdered sugar and mix well.

Glaze: Microwave butter and chocolate chips together on high power for one minute. Add vanilla and stir. Randomly drizzle glaze over frosted brownies.

(Julie Badger Jensen, *Essential Mormon Celebrations*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2005] p. 49.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Brigham Young

Packet #070407

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
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Brigham Young

Thought:

Brigham Young led boldly because he was certain of his direction and his destination. Brigham Young's approach to life and leadership was simple: "My religion is to know the will of God and do it."

(Ronald K. Esplin, "Brigham Young: Fire in His Bones," *Liahona*, Mar 1997, 18)

Song:

"Pioneer Children Sang as they Walked," *Children's Songbook*, p. 214.

Scripture:

Dear and well-beloved brother, Brigham Young, verily thus saith the Lord unto you: My servant Brigham, it is no more required at your hand to leave your family as in times past, for your offering is acceptable to me. I have seen your labor and toil in journeying for my name.

(D&C126:1-2)

Object Lesson:

Materials needed: One old-fashioned tool (manual) and one newer tool of the same variety (electric).

Procedure: Show the tools and ask what their use might be. Indicate that the older tool was very modern in its own time and then discuss the similarities and the differences between the tools. Explain that even though the tools are different, their basic use is the same. Tell the class that the most important thing is not the tool but how it is handled and what is the ultimate goal for its use. Point out that both tools can be used to turn out quality work.

Explain that these tools are like changes in church leadership. Even though the leader has changed, the ultimate goal has not. An example of this is when Brigham Young took over leadership of the church after Joseph Smith died.

(adapted from Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *More Power Tools for Teaching*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1991], p. 57.)

Story:

The members of the Church were confused after the death of Joseph. Since he was the first President of the restored Church, they had never before had to seek a new leader. They didn't know how the next prophet would be selected.

To make things worse, most of the Twelve Apostles were away from Nauvoo on missions and were not able to help and direct the people. Brigham Young was President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, and he knew that the Twelve Apostles held the priesthood keys for directing the Church. The problem was that

he was in another state when he heard about Joseph's death.

Even though the Twelve Apostles had authority from God to guide the Church, several men tried to take over the leadership of the Church. One of these men was Sidney Rigdon, who tried to get the members to choose him as their leader before Brigham Young could return to Nauvoo.

However, Brigham returned in time, and a special conference was called to decide who would lead the Church. Sidney Rigdon spoke at the morning meeting. He was a great speaker and spoke for an hour and a half, but he could not convince the members of the Church that he was called by God to lead them.

Brigham Young spoke in the afternoon. Because God wanted everyone to know that Brigham Young should lead the Church, He performed a great miracle. As Brigham Young was speaking, it seemed to many present that he looked and sounded just like Joseph Smith. It was God's way of showing the people that Brigham Young should follow Joseph as the next leader of the Church. After witnessing this great miracle and feeling the Spirit of the Holy Ghost, all of the Church members present voted to sustain Brigham Young and the other members of the Quorum of the Twelve as the leaders of the Church.

God knows who he wants to lead his Church, and he prepares them so that they will be ready. He prepared Brigham Young, and he prepares his prophets today. When a prophet dies and a new one is chosen, we can be sure that he has been chosen and prepared by God.

(Allan K. Burgess and Max H. Molgard, *Fun for Family Night: Book Two, Church History Edition*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1992], p. 215–216.)

Activity:

Brigham Young is best known for being a great pioneer leader. He led the members of the Church from Nauvoo to Utah and had them build many new towns throughout the west.

Have everyone pretend they are pioneers. The first person says, "I'm going to cross the plains and I'm taking _____." They fill in the blank with something that begins with the letter "A." The second player says, "I'm going to cross the plains and I'm taking _____ and _____." They name something that begins with the letter "B" and then repeat the first person's item. Keep going around the group until you have gone through the entire alphabet.

Refreshment

Apple Crisp

Topping

- 1 cup butter, cold
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup flour
- 1 cup oatmeal
- 1/4 teaspoon baking powder

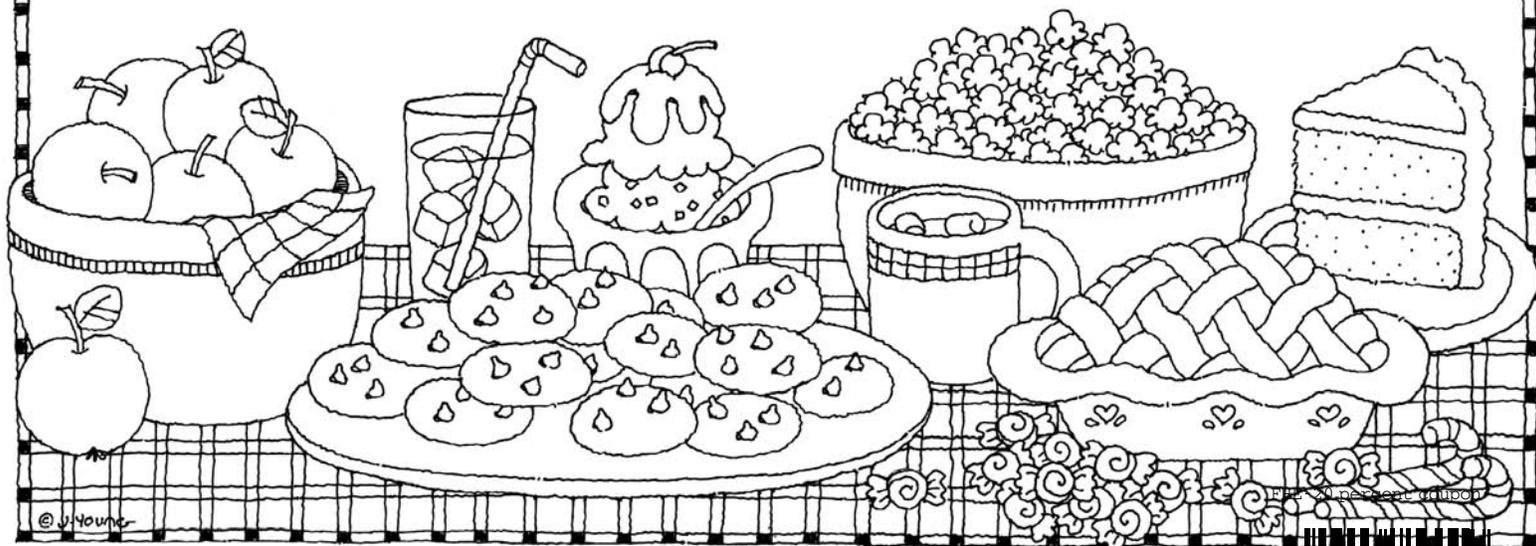
In a large bowl, mix butter, brown sugar, flour, oatmeal, and baking powder just until butter is broken up and ingredients are mixed. Mixture should be crumbly. Set aside.

Filling

- 6 cups canned apples or 6 to 8 fresh apples, peeled and sliced
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon

Place apples in 9x13-inch pan. Sprinkle with sugar, salt, and cinnamon. Crumble crisp topping on top. Bake at 350 degrees for 25 to 35 minutes or until golden brown. (If fresh apples are used, bake 45 minutes.) Serve warm or cold, with whipped cream or ice cream. Makes 12 to 15 servings.

(*Lion House Classics*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 2004], p. 123.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Choices

Packet #010109

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
- 3. Involvement.** Involve everyone in the family; help little children take part.
- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.

Choices

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read "Walk in the Light," by Henry B. Eyring, *Ensign*, May 2008, 123–25.

Thought:

You make choices every day and almost every hour that keep you walking in the light or moving away toward darkness.

(Henry B. Eyring, "Walk in the Light," *Ensign*, May 2008, 123–25.)

Song:

"Choose the Right Way" *Children's Songbook*, p. 160.

Scripture:

For behold, the Spirit of Christ is given to every man, that he may know good from evil; wherefore, I show unto you the way to judge; for every thing which inviteth to do good, and to persuade to believe in Christ, is sent forth by the power and gift of Christ; wherefore ye may know with a perfect knowledge it is of God.

(Moroni 7:16)

Object Lesson:

Materials needed: water, red food coloring, red punch mix, and cups.

Preparation: Prepare two pitchers, one of red food coloring and water, and another of red punch.

Procedure: Precede this object lesson with a discussion of Satan's enticements. Explain that he'll try hard to make his traps look appealing and good however, the only source of true joy and happiness is from our Father in Heaven. Anything else is counterfeit.

Follow this discussion by serving punch. Instead of punch, use the food coloring and water. The family will notice the lack of flavor. Use this opportunity to compare it to Satan's approach. He makes sin so inviting; but once we partake, we realize it's a counterfeit to joy. Heavenly Father offers us the real thing. Conclude by serving the real punch.

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *Power Tools for Teaching*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1988], p. 90.)

Story:

President Milton R. Hunter

The Prophet Joseph Smith termed it this way, that the purpose of our existence is that we might have happiness. We want to be happy today, tomorrow, next week, next year, ten years from now, a hundred years from now, a thousand years from now, a million years from now.

I was in a stake conference one time, and I made a remark similar to the statement I just made. There were several little boys sitting on the front row. One little chap spoke aloud what he was thinking. He said, "Oh, we won't live that long!"

This gave me a fine opportunity to make an explanation. I said, "Young man, we will live that long. We live forever and ever."

Permit me to give you a little illustration. If we take a pencil and put a dot on the wall over there, we could call that dot mortality. Then if we take that pencil and run a line clear around this big fieldhouse in which we are meeting, we could call that line the eternal existence or life we shall live. Notice that the dot is very, very small in comparison to the line; and yet it is most important, extremely important, because the joy that we have throughout the eternities or the sorrow that we have throughout the eternities is determined by the choices we make during our mortal lives. Also, the status of our life or existence, the future world in which we live, will be determined by what happens in this little dot, or, in other words, in this short span of life that we live here in mortality.

(Leon R. Hartshorn, *Outstanding Stories by General Authorities, Vol. 3*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1974].)

Activity:

Play "Hot Potato."

1. Form people into a circle, seated or standing.
2. Throw an object back and forth across the circle. A ball or bean bag could be used.
3. Set a timer (an egg timer or a watch, for instance) for any length of time up to one minute.

Music accompaniment, such as provided by a CD player, may be desirable.

4. When the timer rings, the person holding the ball is holding the "hot potato" and is eliminated from the circle. Play continues until only one person remains.

(George and Jeane Chipman, *Games! Games! Games!*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 1983], p. 22.)

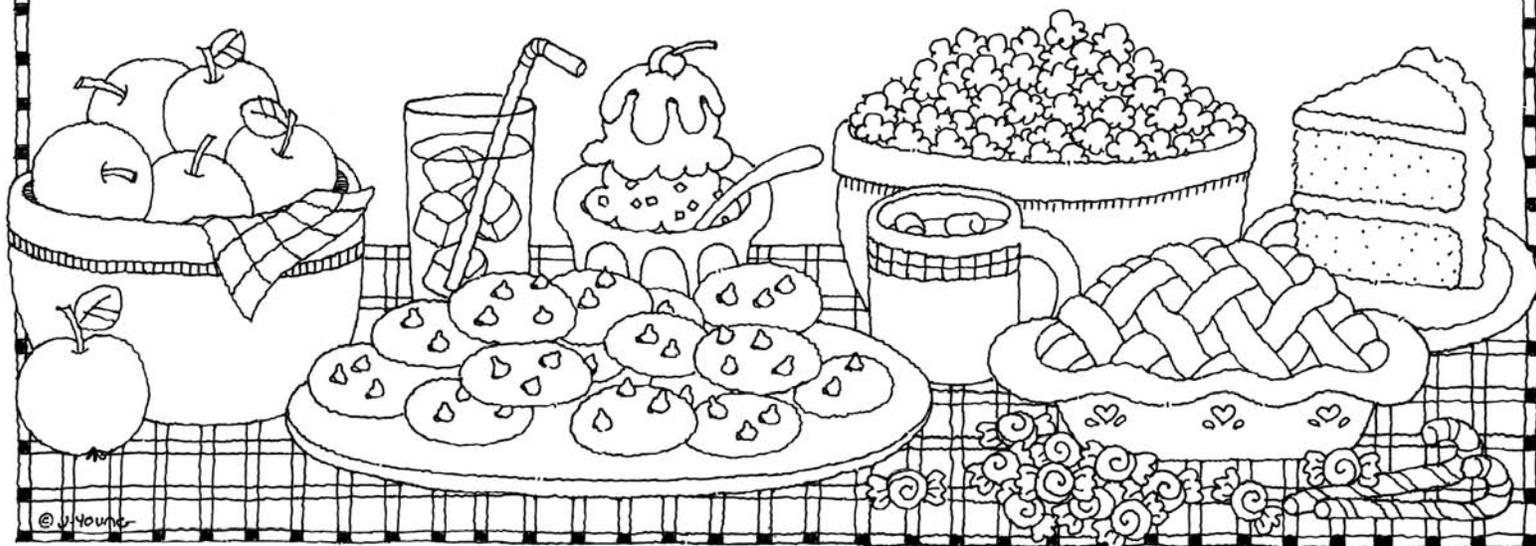
Refreshment

Chocolate Cream Crunch

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 cup finely chopped pecans
- 1/2 cup margarine, softened
- 1 8-ounce package cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1 8-ounce tub Cool Whip®, thawed and divided
- 1 6-ounce package instant chocolate pudding
- 1 6-ounce package instant vanilla pudding
- 3 cups milk, divided

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Make crust by combining flour, pecans, and margarine in a small bowl. Press into bottom of 9x13-inch pan. Bake 20 minutes. Cool completely on wire rack. Blend cream cheese and powdered sugar with an electric mixer until fluffy. Fold in 1 cup of the Cool Whip. Blend well and spread over cooled crust. Chill. Combine instant chocolate pudding and 1 1/2 cups milk. Mix until smooth. Pour over cream cheese layer. Chill. Pudding will thicken in refrigerator. Repeat with instant vanilla pudding. Chill. Frost with remaining Cool Whip. Cut into 4-inch squares and serve. Makes 28 squares.

(Jill McKenzie, *52 Weeks of Proven Recipes for Picky Kids*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 2008], p. 67.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Church History

Packet #020209

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

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- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.

Church History

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read “The Truth of God Shall Go Forth,” by M. Russell Ballard, *Ensign*, Nov 2008, 81–84.)

Thought:

Nearly 18 decades have passed since the organization of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1830. We have had 178 years to observe the fulfillment of prophecy and to watch “the truth of God” as it goes “forth boldly, nobly, and independent.”

(M. Russell Ballard, “The Truth of God Shall Go Forth,” *Ensign*, Nov 2008, 81–84.)

Song:

“The Golden Plates,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 86.

Scripture:

The word of the Lord concerning his church, established in the last days for the restoration of his people, as he has spoken by the mouth of his prophets, and for the gathering of his saints to stand upon Mount Zion, which shall be the city of New Jerusalem.

Verily this is the word of the Lord, that the city New Jerusalem shall be built by the gathering of the saints, beginning at this place, even the place of the temple, which temple shall be reared in this generation.

(Doctrine and Covenants 84:2,4)

Activity:

Write the following words or phrases on separate slips of paper: “Gold plates,” “breastplate,” “sword of Laban,” “Urim and Thummim,” “Liahona,” and “angel.”

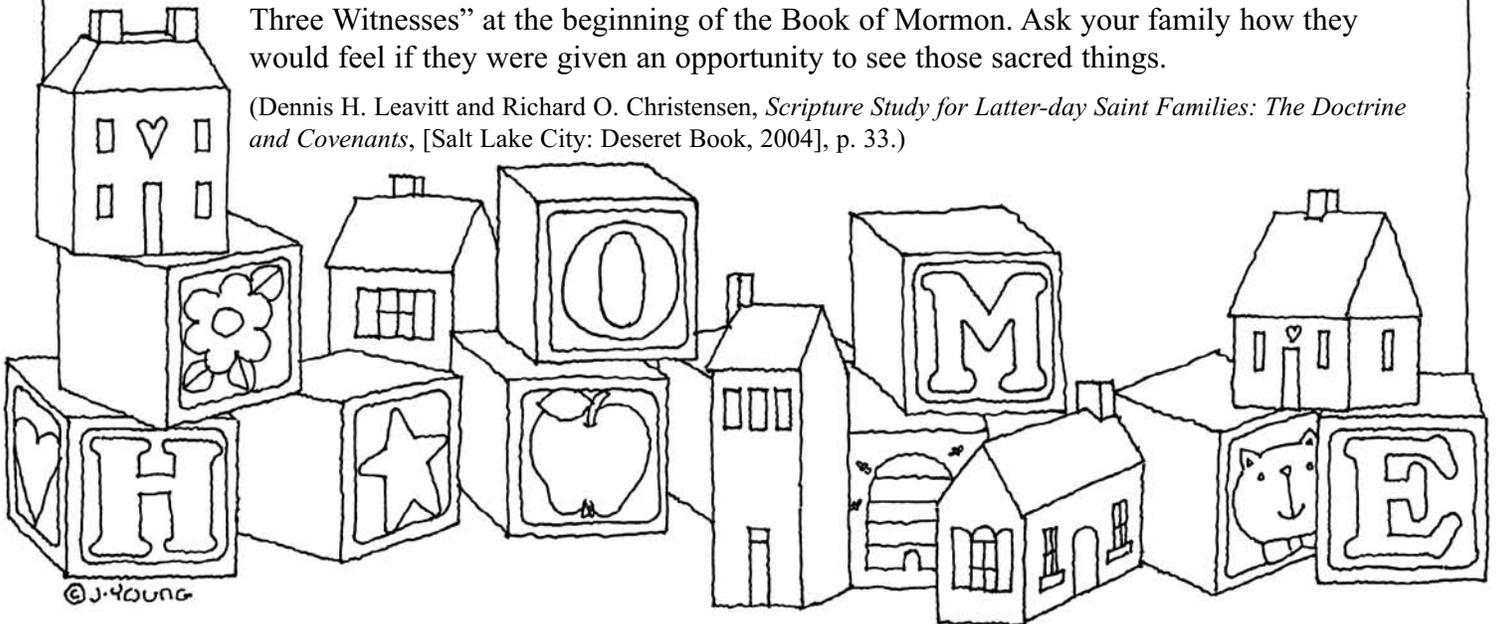
Give each family member one or more slips of paper. Have them take turns describing that item to the rest of the family (without saying the word on the slip of paper) until someone guesses what the item is.

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The Doctrine and Covenants*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2004], p. 33.)

Lesson:

When each item [in the activity] has been guessed, have your family guess what these items have in common. To find out, read the section heading for D&C 17; D&C 17:1; and the “Testimony of the Three Witnesses” at the beginning of the Book of Mormon. Ask your family how they would feel if they were given an opportunity to see those sacred things.

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The Doctrine and Covenants*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2004], p. 33.)



Story:

Joseph and Oliver were warmly welcomed at the Whitmer home, but it was hard for Mrs. Whitmer to have them there. She had a large family of sons with just one daughter living at home to help with all the housework. The two of them had to prepare all the meals, plant and tend the garden, bake the bread, churn the butter, make and mend the clothing, and do much of the other work on the farm. Mrs. Whitmer did not complain, but she wasn't sure she could take care of two more people.

One day she felt very discouraged as she went out to milk the cows. Before long she came back to the house filled with joy. When asked why she looked so happy, she replied, "I have seen the messenger." She went on to say that she had come upon an elderly man out near the barn. Her description of him showed he was the same man . . . that Joseph, Oliver, and David had seen on their journey from Pennsylvania.

Mrs. Whitmer said the man told her that she would be blessed for providing a safe place for Joseph and Oliver to work. Then he took out the golden plates and showed them to her. "They were fastened together with rings on the right side," she told her family, "so that the pages would turn over from left to right." The man turned several of the plates, leaf by leaf.

She, Mary Musselman Whitmer, was the first person besides Joseph to actually see the golden plates. Seeing them was her own personal reward for taking care of Joseph and Oliver. But soon other people would see them for a different purpose, to be witnesses to the world.

(Richard E. Turley and Lael Littke, *Stories from the Life of Joseph Smith* [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2004], p. 79.)

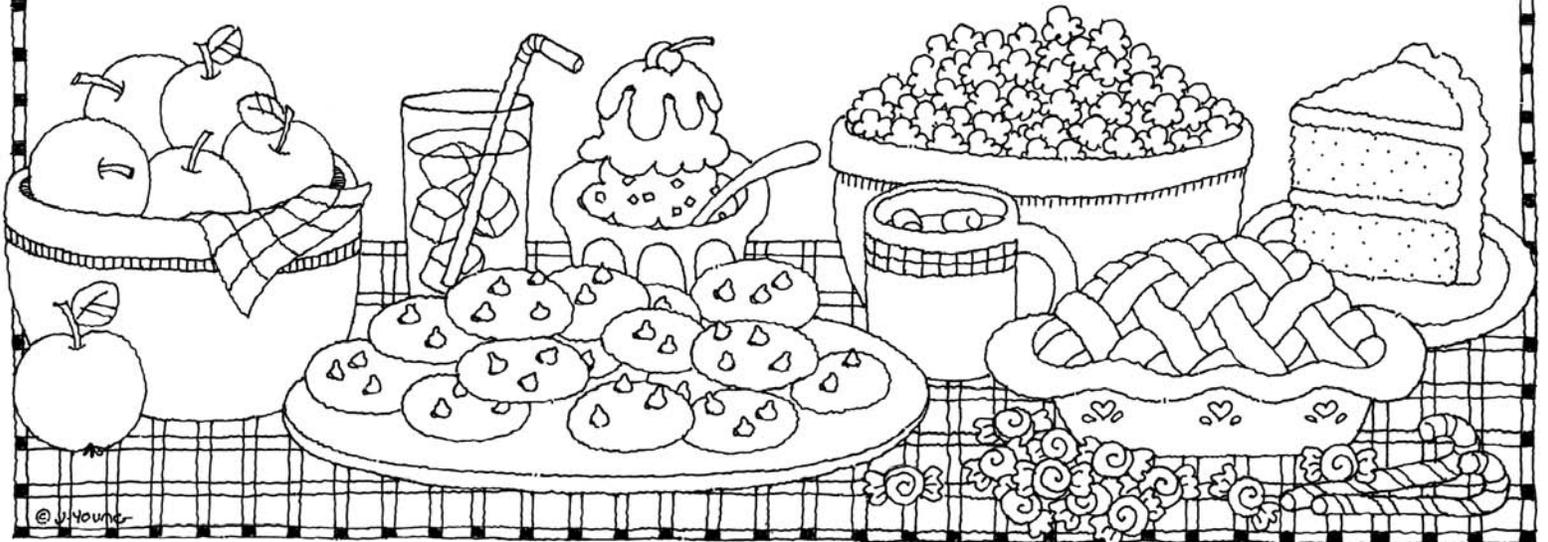
Refreshment

Old-Time Cinnamon Jumbles

1 cup sugar
3 teaspoons cinnamon
1 1/2 cups shortening or butter
3 cups sugar
3 eggs
2 1/2 cups buttermilk
3 teaspoons vanilla
6 cups flour
1 1/2 teaspoons baking soda
1 1/2 teaspoons salt

Mix together 1 cup sugar and the cinnamon; set aside. In a bowl, cream together shortening or butter, 3 cups sugar, and eggs. Stir in buttermilk and vanilla. Sift together flour, baking soda, and salt. Stir into creamed mixture; mix well. Chill dough until it thickens. Drop rounded teaspoonfuls about 2 inches apart on lightly greased baking sheet. Sprinkle generously with sugar-cinnamon mixture. Bake at 400 degrees until lightly browned, about 8 to 10 minutes. Makes approximately 5 dozen cookies.

(Lion House Desserts, [Salt Lake City: Eagle Gate, 2000], p. 103.)



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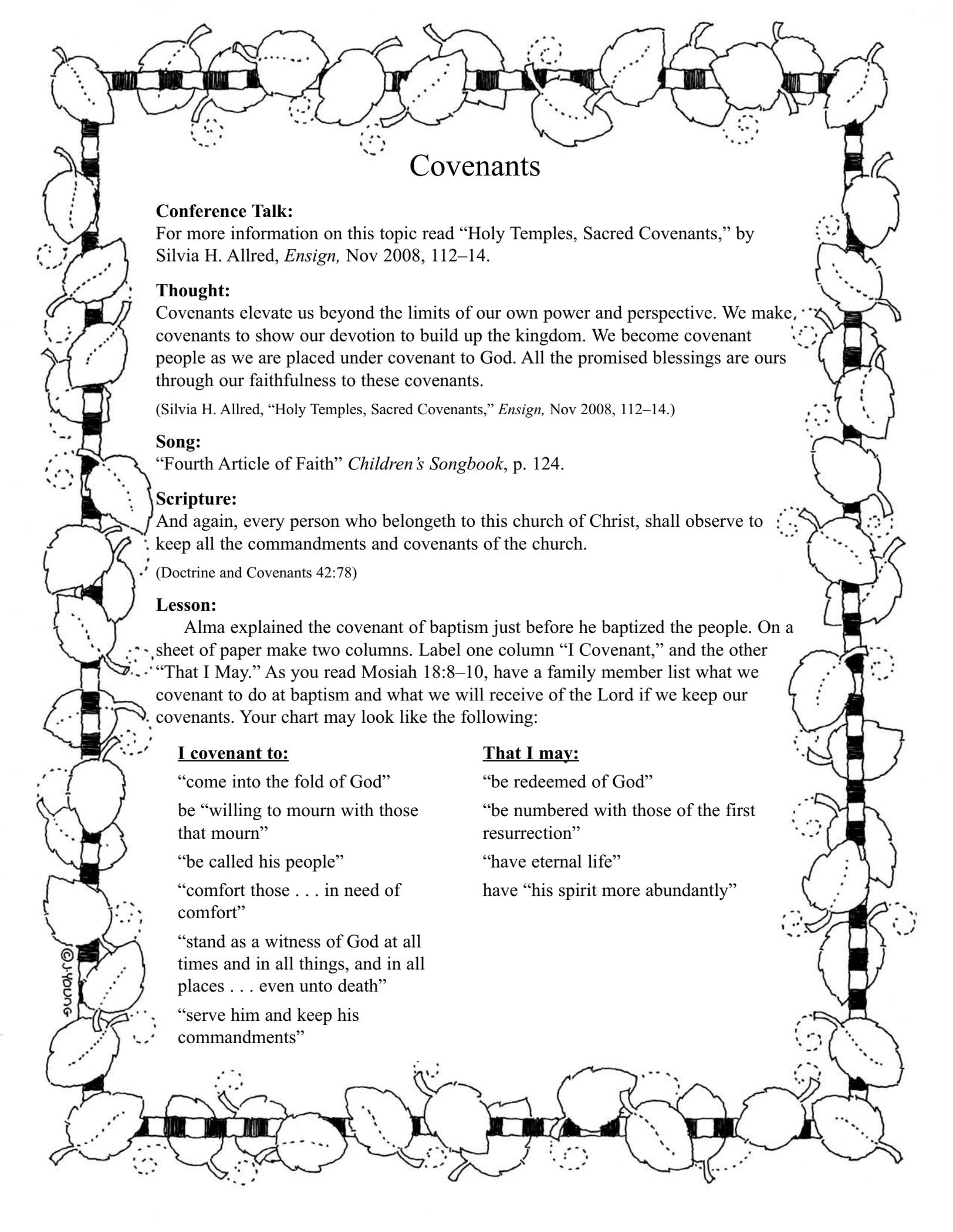
Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Covenants

Packet #020409

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

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Covenants

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read “Holy Temples, Sacred Covenants,” by Silvia H. Allred, *Ensign*, Nov 2008, 112–14.

Thought:

Covenants elevate us beyond the limits of our own power and perspective. We make covenants to show our devotion to build up the kingdom. We become covenant people as we are placed under covenant to God. All the promised blessings are ours through our faithfulness to these covenants.

(Silvia H. Allred, “Holy Temples, Sacred Covenants,” *Ensign*, Nov 2008, 112–14.)

Song:

“Fourth Article of Faith” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 124.

Scripture:

And again, every person who belongeth to this church of Christ, shall observe to keep all the commandments and covenants of the church.

(Doctrine and Covenants 42:78)

Lesson:

Alma explained the covenant of baptism just before he baptized the people. On a sheet of paper make two columns. Label one column “I Covenant,” and the other “That I May.” As you read Mosiah 18:8–10, have a family member list what we covenant to do at baptism and what we will receive of the Lord if we keep our covenants. Your chart may look like the following:

I covenant to:

“come into the fold of God”
be “willing to mourn with those that mourn”
“be called his people”
“comfort those . . . in need of comfort”
“stand as a witness of God at all times and in all things, and in all places . . . even unto death”
“serve him and keep his commandments”

That I may:

“be redeemed of God”
“be numbered with those of the first resurrection”
“have eternal life”
have “his spirit more abundantly”

Ask how Alma's people felt about the covenants they made with the Lord. (See Mosiah 18:11.) How will keeping our covenants show the Lord how we feel about our baptism? Discuss as a family ways they can mourn with, comfort, share a witness with, or bear the burdens of another person, especially other family members.

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The Book of Mormon*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 135.)

Story:

I would like to tell the young people of an experience I had when I was a very young man and was talking with a very old man. This is the story he told me.

When he was a little boy-that would be nearly one hundred years ago-he lived in a very small community a long way from Salt Lake City. One of the men in the ward, a close relation to the President of the Church, had passed away. When the funeral was held, everyone in the ward went to the funeral, as was the custom. So this little boy went with his father and mother to the funeral. Just as the service was about to begin, to their great surprise in walked the prophet, the President of the Church. He had come a long way by train and then by buggy to attend the funeral service of his relative.

The service was similar to those of other funerals. Some kind things were said about the deceased man. He was described as a good man. Someone said that he had given flour to the widows, and he had helped those in the ward. We like to say kind things at funerals, of course.

The concluding speaker was the President of the Church. What he said was not comforting. He gave a talk that perhaps only the President of the Church could give; and he perhaps could speak in that way only because he was speaking about a relative. He confirmed that this man had been a good man and said that the good things he had done would earn him a reward; but then he said: "The fact is, he did not keep his covenants."

This man, when he was young, had gone to the temple to be married, to be sealed. Some sweet young girl had persuaded him to change his habits and become worthy, so he stopped doing some wrong things, began to pay his tithing and attend church, eventually received a temple recommend; and then the couple went to the temple and were sealed. But after a while, because the temple was a long way away and they did not return, he forgot. He began to slip back into some of his old habits. He forgot to pay his tithing. He ceased being the man he had become.

His relative, the President of the Church, knew all this, so he acknowledged that all the good he had done would earn him rewards, but he said, "The fact is, he did not keep his covenants." There were things he did that he should not have done, for he had covenanted not to do them. Similarly there were things he had covenanted to do that he had not done. So he had covenanted not to do some things and covenanted to do some things, and he had become loose and lazy on those things. He was basically a good man, maybe a good Christian as far as the world would judge it. But he had not kept his covenants, his agreements.

(Boyd K. Packer, *Memorable Stories and Parables*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1997], p. 48.)

Activity:

Ask each family member to write "what my family means to me . . ." on a slip of paper. Mix them up and try to guess who wrote each one.

(Mina S. Coletti and Roberta Kling Giesea, *The Family Idea Book*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1980], p. 48.)

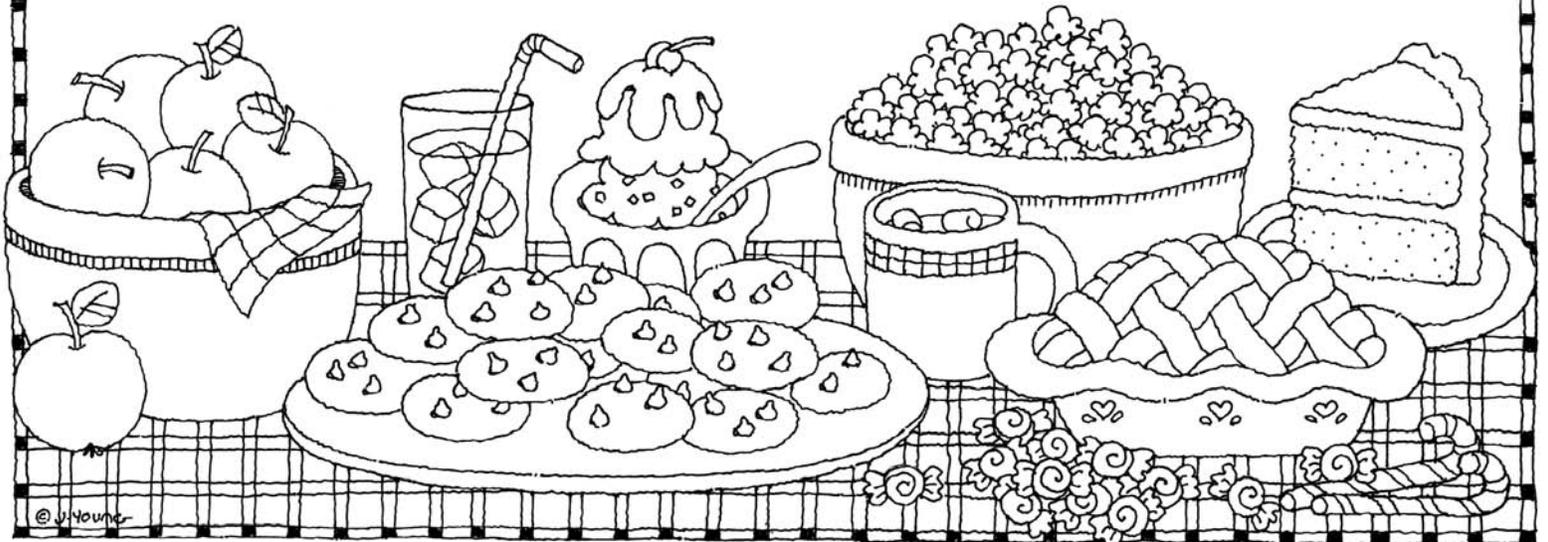
Refreshment

Strawberry-Banana Sorbet

- 1 medium ripe banana
- 3 cups frozen unsweetened strawberries
- 1/2 cup frozen concentrate cranberry juice cocktail
- 1 tablespoon light corn syrup

Wrap peeled banana in plastic and freeze. In a food processor or blender, puree the strawberries until very smooth. Add the juice concentrate and continue blending until smooth, about 1 minute. Slice the frozen banana and add slices a few at a time, continuing to blend until completely smooth. Blend in corn syrup. May be served immediately, or place in a chilled bowl, covered, and frozen for 50 minutes. Sorbet will keep in freezer for up to 1 week, let soften slightly before serving. Makes 6 servings.

(*Lion House Lite Recipes*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1996] p. 152.)



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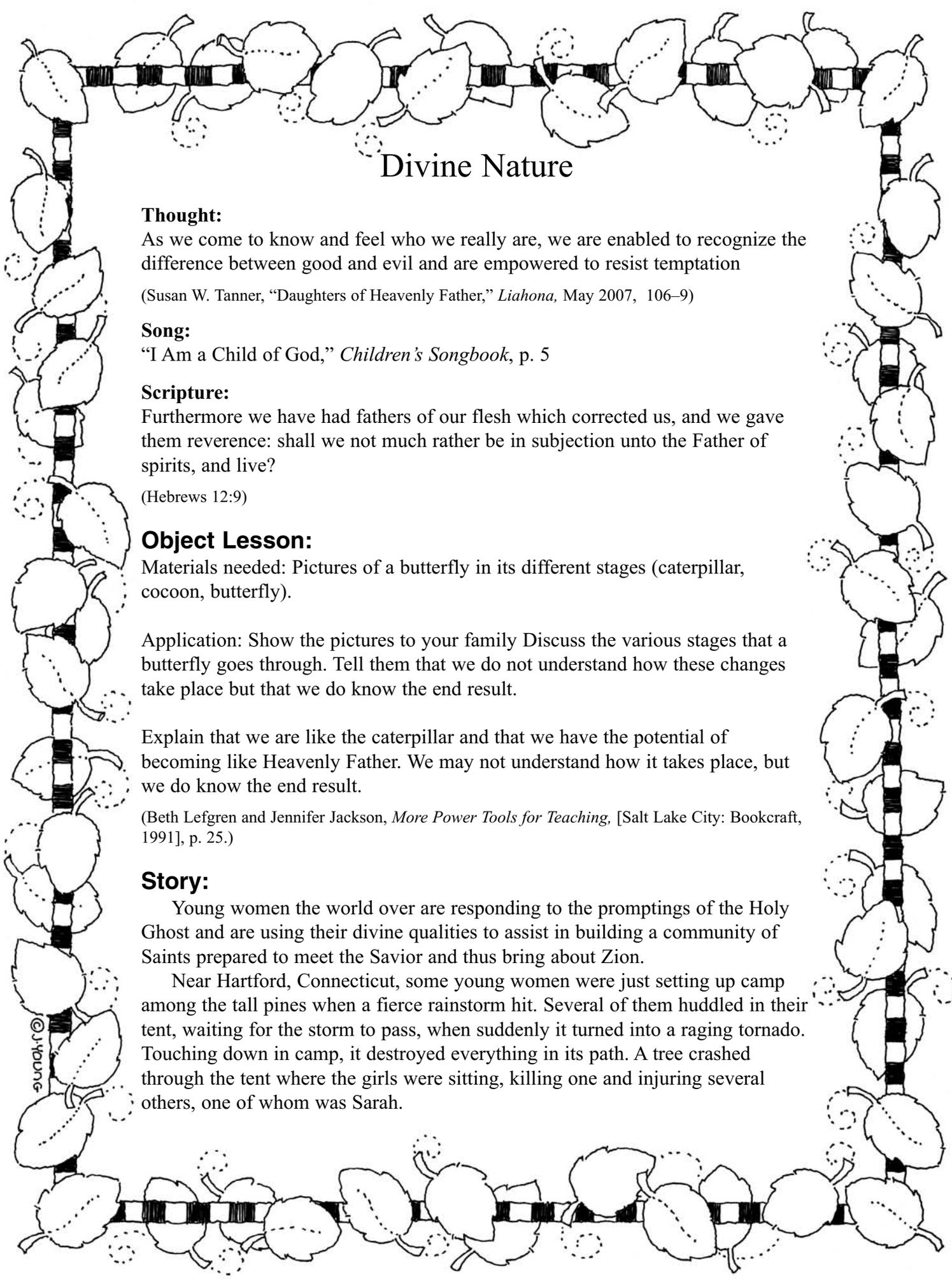
Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Divine Nature

Packet #090207

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Divine Nature

Thought:

As we come to know and feel who we really are, we are enabled to recognize the difference between good and evil and are empowered to resist temptation

(Susan W. Tanner, "Daughters of Heavenly Father," *Liahona*, May 2007, 106–9)

Song:

"I Am a Child of God," *Children's Songbook*, p. 5

Scripture:

Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

(Hebrews 12:9)

Object Lesson:

Materials needed: Pictures of a butterfly in its different stages (caterpillar, cocoon, butterfly).

Application: Show the pictures to your family. Discuss the various stages that a butterfly goes through. Tell them that we do not understand how these changes take place but that we do know the end result.

Explain that we are like the caterpillar and that we have the potential of becoming like Heavenly Father. We may not understand how it takes place, but we do know the end result.

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *More Power Tools for Teaching*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1991], p. 25.)

Story:

Young women the world over are responding to the promptings of the Holy Ghost and are using their divine qualities to assist in building a community of Saints prepared to meet the Savior and thus bring about Zion.

Near Hartford, Connecticut, some young women were just setting up camp among the tall pines when a fierce rainstorm hit. Several of them huddled in their tent, waiting for the storm to pass, when suddenly it turned into a raging tornado. Touching down in camp, it destroyed everything in its path. A tree crashed through the tent where the girls were sitting, killing one and injuring several others, one of whom was Sarah.

A few weeks later, I went with two members of the stake presidency and the stake Young Women president to visit Sarah in the hospital. We found her sitting in a chair by the door. We had no sooner come into the room than a small, badly crippled boy with a big smile appeared at the door with his parents. He was sitting in a combination wheelchair-bed. Sarah welcomed him warmly and asked him to show us some of his drawings, detailed pictures that were painstakingly and superbly crafted. She confided that she was worried about him because he was facing yet another operation. He was just one of the friends she had made in the hospital, for as soon as she had been able to move about, she had begun to get acquainted with and to cheer up the other patients. Compassion, love, and unselfish service were divine qualities I could see in Sarah.

(Jayne B. Malan, *I Have Inherited Divine Qualities*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1990], p. 9.)

Activity:

Items needed: A dry erasable board with a marker, a chalkboard with chalk, or a large pad of paper with a marker. A list of scripture stories (see below) copied on to small cards or slips of paper. and a timing device (such as an egg timer.)

Play: A player selects a card and tries to draw a picture within the allotted time (one minute is good) that will help his family members guess the scripture story. Play continues until everyone has had a change to draw a picture. Explain that these scripture stories are all great examples of faith.

David and Goliath

Noah's Ark

2,000 Stripling Warriors

Nephi's Broken Bow

Daniel and the Lion's Den

Nephi Obtains the Brass Plates

The First Vision

Moses Parts the Red Sea

Peter Walks on Water

Christ Heals the Blind Man

(adapted from Debbie Stapley, *Having Fun Together*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1992], p. 151.)

Refreshment

Butter Crumscious Cake

CRUMB TOPPING

1/4 c. butter or margarine
1/2 c. flour
1/2 c. brown sugar, firmly packed

CAKE

2 c. flour
1/2 tsp. salt

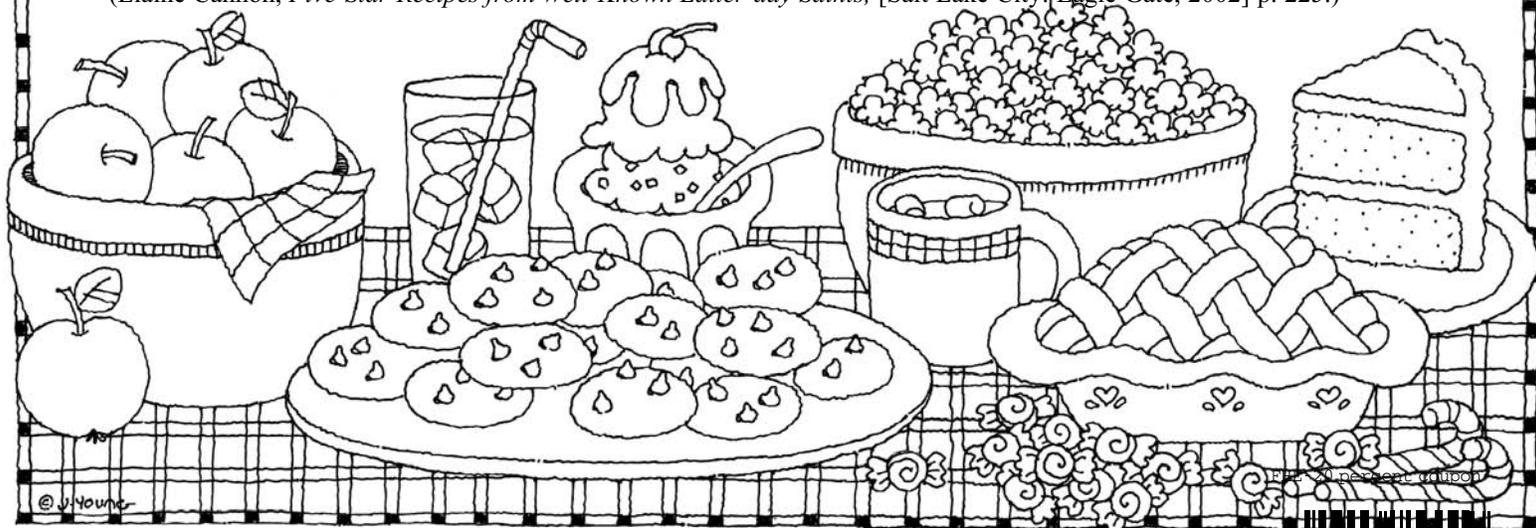
1/2 tsp. baking soda
2 tsp. baking powder
1 (8-oz.) pkg. cream cheese
1 1/4 c. sugar
2 eggs, unbeaten
1 tsp. vanilla
1/2 c. milk
1/2 c. nuts, chopped (optional)

Preheat oven to 350° F. Grease and flour a 9x13-inch baking pan. In a small mixing bowl, prepare topping first by cutting butter into flour and sugar until a crumb texture forms. Set aside.

For cake: In another bowl, sift together the flour, salt, baking soda, and baking powder. In a large mixing bowl, blend the cream cheese until smooth, gradually adding sugar. Blend in the unbeaten eggs and vanilla. Alternately add milk and dry ingredients to the batter.

Turn batter into baking pan; sprinkle with crumb topping, along with chopped nuts (optional). Bake for 30 to 40 minutes.

(Elaine Cannon, *Five-Star Recipes from Well-Known Latter-day Saints*, [Salt Lake City: Eagle Gate, 2002] p. 225.)



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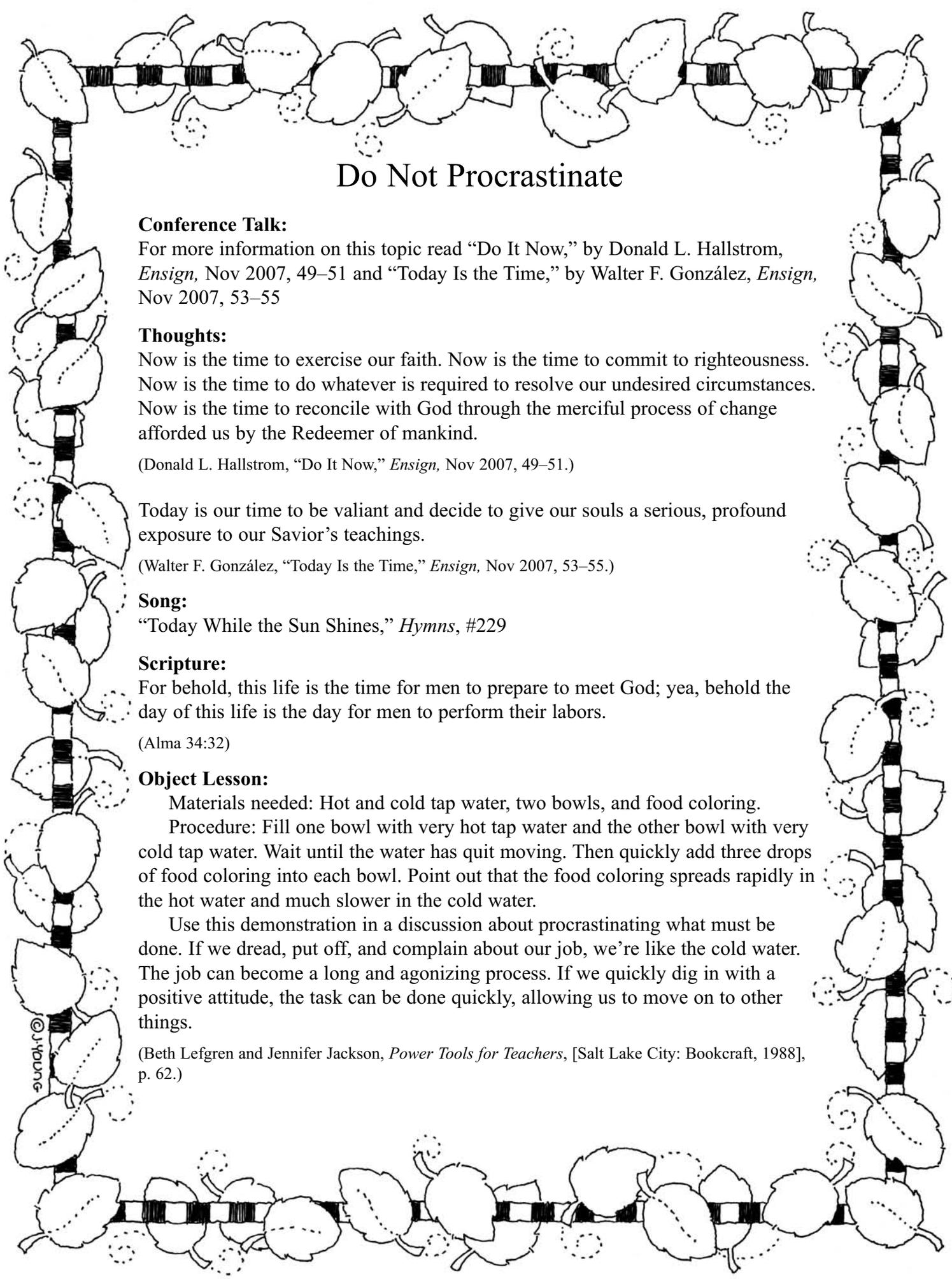
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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Do Not Procrastinate

Packet #040208

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

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Do Not Procrastinate

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read “Do It Now,” by Donald L. Hallstrom, *Ensign*, Nov 2007, 49–51 and “Today Is the Time,” by Walter F. González, *Ensign*, Nov 2007, 53–55

Thoughts:

Now is the time to exercise our faith. Now is the time to commit to righteousness. Now is the time to do whatever is required to resolve our undesired circumstances. Now is the time to reconcile with God through the merciful process of change afforded us by the Redeemer of mankind.

(Donald L. Hallstrom, “Do It Now,” *Ensign*, Nov 2007, 49–51.)

Today is our time to be valiant and decide to give our souls a serious, profound exposure to our Savior’s teachings.

(Walter F. González, “Today Is the Time,” *Ensign*, Nov 2007, 53–55.)

Song:

“Today While the Sun Shines,” *Hymns*, #229

Scripture:

For behold, this life is the time for men to prepare to meet God; yea, behold the day of this life is the day for men to perform their labors.

(Alma 34:32)

Object Lesson:

Materials needed: Hot and cold tap water, two bowls, and food coloring.

Procedure: Fill one bowl with very hot tap water and the other bowl with very cold tap water. Wait until the water has quit moving. Then quickly add three drops of food coloring into each bowl. Point out that the food coloring spreads rapidly in the hot water and much slower in the cold water.

Use this demonstration in a discussion about procrastinating what must be done. If we dread, put off, and complain about our job, we’re like the cold water. The job can become a long and agonizing process. If we quickly dig in with a positive attitude, the task can be done quickly, allowing us to move on to other things.

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *Power Tools for Teachers*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1988], p. 62.)

Story:

A story tells of a young couple who wanted a beautiful home. They were certain that when they owned a home that was as large and elaborate as those of their neighbors, their lives would be filled with joy. Until then, life would just be hard work. The couple scrimped and saved, denying themselves and their children all the simple pleasures. They worked through Saturdays and holidays, neglecting all the sweet and tender years of their children's growing up. They had no birthday parties, few presents, no family outings or vacations. Life was hard and cheerless, but how, they asked themselves, could anyone expect to be happy in their tiny, cramped, old house? They needed their dream house to be happy.

Everything bright and light-hearted disappeared in the grim feeling that the only purpose of each day was to labor for the imagined future. Kind words, patience, treats, fun, humor, and freedom—all were put aside for some later date when the family would live in the impressive home where joy would be waiting.

The grayness of their daily lives was alleviated only by the thought of that dreamed-of house. And so the parents pinched and struggled their way toward joy.

After twenty-five years the couple finally built the lovely home they had spent their lives working toward. It was everything they had ever dreamed of, with its ample bedrooms and splendid furnishings. They moved in, expecting joy to be waiting there for them. But the rooms of the mansion were empty of joy. The children had long since grown and scattered, their childhood memories dull and cheerless. Now, busy with their own lives, they had little desire to come home to visit.

Indeed, the rooms of the great new house were empty of all the things that had been neglected through the years. The mansion was empty of laughter, family, friends, warmth, and fun because the parents had failed to feel or create those things. The parents discovered in their huge, hollow home one of the great truths about joy: a family that cannot be happy in a cottage cannot be happy in a mansion. Happiness is not a place—it is a way of life.

(Jaroldeen Asplund Edwards, *Celebration!*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1995], p. 6)

Activity:

Play “Passing Poison.”

Form a circle with everyone facing inward. Give one person an object such as an old shoe. On a signal such as a whistle or the starting of music the person passes the object to his right. Each person must take the object when passed to him, and pass it to the person to his right.

When another signal is given (a timer beeping or the music ending), the person left holding the object must leave the circle. The winner is the last person left when the signal is given to stop.

(George and Jeane Chipman, *Games! Games! Games!*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 1983], p. 35.)

Refreshment

Hot Orange Rolls

Rolls

1 tablespoon yeast
pinch of sugar
1/4 cup water
1/4 cup milk
1 tablespoon butter
1/2 cup sugar

1/2 teaspoon salt
3 eggs, beaten
4 cups all-purpose flour

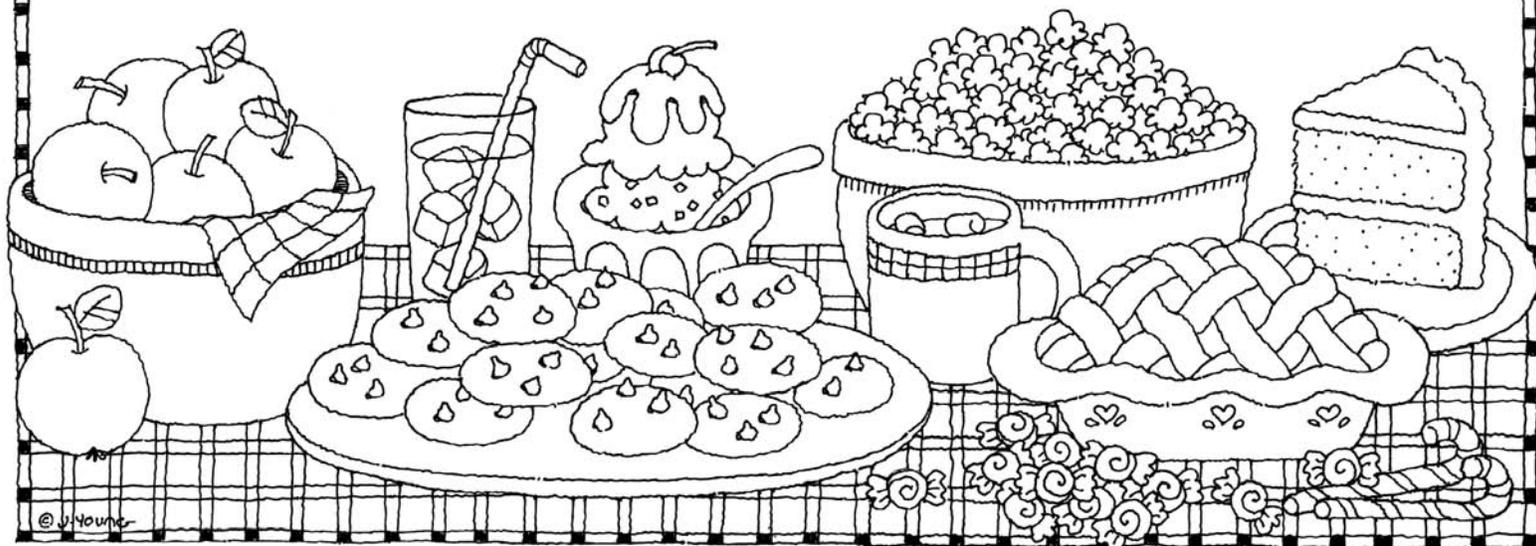
Orange Sugar Mixture

1/2 cup softened butter or margarine
1/2 cup sugar
grated peel from 1 large orange

Dissolve yeast and pinch of sugar in 1/4 cup water. Set aside. In a small saucepan, heat milk, butter, sugar, and salt until butter is melted. Cool to lukewarm and transfer to bowl. Beat in yeast mixture, eggs, and 1 cup of the flour. Let rise until bubbly. Gradually add remaining flour and beat well with spoon or mixer. (It is not necessary to knead.) Cover and let rise until dough doubles in bulk.

In a medium bowl, mix butter, sugar, and grated orange peel; set aside. Roll dough out on lightly floured surface into rectangle and spread with the orange sugar mixture, reserving a little to sprinkle over rolls when done. Roll up as for cinnamon rolls. Cut into slices and place in greased muffin tins. Let rise until double in size. Bake at 375° for 15 to 20 minutes. Sprinkle with reserved sugar mixture. Makes 18 rolls.

(*Lion House Entertaining*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 2001] p. 70.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Do Your Best

Packet #040108

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

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A B C D E F G H I J K L M

Do Your Best

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read "Raising the Bar," by L. Tom Perry, *Ensign*, Nov 2007, 46-49

Thought:

We remind you that where much is given, much is required. Be certain that you easily clear the minimum standards . . . [be] worthy in every way to make and to keep sacred temple covenants. . . . Prepare yourself to be more effective.

(L. Tom Perry, "Raising the Bar," *Ensign*, Nov 2007, 46-49)

Song:

"I Will Be Valiant" *Children's Songbook*, p. 162.

Scripture:

Verily I say unto you all: Arise and shine forth, that thy light may be a standard for the nations.

(Doctrine and Covenants 115:5)

Lesson:

Have your family imagine that they are just getting on an airplane to fly across the country. As they enter, the pilot greets them. As part of their conversation with him, someone asks, "So how long have you been flying planes?"

He responds, "Well, I've never actually flown a plane. But I really like planes; I always have! And I've read tons of books on flying planes, so I'm excited to try it. I'm sure I'll do just fine."

Ask your family how that response would make them feel. Why would his lack of experience concern you? Read the following statements:

"David O. McKay said, 'The rich rewards come only to the strenuous strugglers.' In other words, to those who not only have faith but are willing to work and sacrifice in order to achieve their goals." (O. Leslie Stone, "The Constant Exercise of Our Faith," *Ensign*, July 1973, pp. 60.)

Ask your family why a person who hears the gospel but doesn't actually live it is deceiving himself.

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The Book of Mormon*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 295.)

Story:

Bailey the Bench-Warmer

(M. H. Austin)

Robbie Bailey tugged his blue baseball cap low on his forehead as he started through the gate at the baseball park. It was going to be hot in the dugout today.

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A B C D E F G H I J K L

"Hey, Robbie," someone called.

Robbie turned to see Johnny Warner from his class at school. "Hi, Johnny. Did you come to see the Bluejays beat the Hornets?" he asked with a grin.

"I sure did," Johnny replied amiably. "Now that my team is out of the running, I'd like to see you Bluejays win the championship."

"With Ken Davis, we can't lose," Robbie declared with pride. "He's the leading hitter in the league."

Robbie was confident that the Bluejays could win today. And if his team won, they would earn the right to go to Capitol City for the state play-off. Every member of the team would get to make the trip, even the "scrubs."

"By the way, Robbie," Johnny asked, "what position do you play?"

"Me?" Robbie exclaimed in surprise. "I don't play at all! 'Bailey the Bench-warmer'—that's me!"

"Well, good luck anyway," Johnny said.

"Thanks," Robbie replied as he hurried across the field to join his team.

After the pre-game warm-up, Robbie went to the dugout with the other younger boys who were substitutes on the team. Some of the scrubs were restless, hoping that they would get to play today. But Robbie knew he wasn't good enough to play with the first team. He would only strike out or cause his team somehow to lose the game. He didn't mind being a bench-warmer at all. He took his usual place at the far end of the bench and settled back to watch the game.

By the last inning, the Bluejays led the Hornets by two runs. With two outs, the Bluejay pitcher took his time pitching to the next batter. He whiffed in two fast strikes. One more strike, and the championship would belong to the Bluejays.

Then, without warning, the Hornet batter slammed a hit past the shortstop into left field. Ken Davis, the left fielder, ran over to cover the play. As he scooped up the ball to make his throw to the infield, he pulled back his right hand with a cry of pain. He barely managed to make the throw.

Robbie jumped to his feet in alarm. Ken was hurt! Coach Reynolds ran onto the field to examine Ken's hand. He began to lead him from the field.

Ken was rubbing his hand and grimacing in pain by the time he reached the dugout. "It's a badly jammed finger," Coach Reynolds explained. "He can't possibly play any more." He turned toward the bench, searching among the substitutes for someone to take Ken's place.

Robbie shrank down against the bench, hoping he would not be noticed. As Coach Reynolds' gaze settled upon him, his heart began to pound. Surely Coach wasn't thinking of sending him into the game.

"Robbie," called Coach Reynolds, "out to left field."

Robbie's legs were rubbery when he tried to stand up. His shoes felt as if their soles were made of lead. He could never take Ken's place!

"Hurry up, Rob," Coach Reynolds instructed.

Robbie stumbled to left field in a daze. His knees were trembling as the Bluejay pitcher began his windup. If only this Hornet batter could be put out so that the game would be over!

Then he heard the crack of the bat. A fly ball flew straight toward him. He ran forward and floated under the ball, trying to keep it in sight while he waited to make his catch. He felt the ball plop into his glove—and then fall to the ground. He had dropped it!

He scrambled after the ball and threw it to the shortstop as quickly as he could, but he was too late. Two Hornet runs scored. The game was tied.

Although the next Hornet batter made the third out, Robbie blinked back tears as he left the field. It

was all his fault that the game was tied now. Sick at heart, he climbed into the dugout in disgrace. He slid onto the bench and sat with bowed head, his hands clenched between his knees. He couldn't bring himself to face his teammates, especially Ken Davis.

Then to his astonishment, he heard Coach Reynolds calling him. "Hurry up, Robbie. You're first at bat."

Robbie couldn't believe Coach meant to leave him in the game. "I'll only strike out," he murmured.

He felt a hand clap his shoulder. He looked up to see Ken Davis giving him an encouraging smile. "Just do the best you can," Ken said. "That's all anybody can do." Ken shoved him out of the dugout. Someone handed him a bat and a helmet.

Robbie stepped into the batter's box. Out on the mound the Hornet pitcher seemed to tower over him. The first pitch came in so fast that Robbie's bat never left his shoulder. Strike one!

As soon as the next pitch started toward him, Robbie began to swing with all his strength. Strike two!

Three more pitches whipped across the plate. Dimly Robbie heard the umpire's count: three balls and two strikes.

"Look sharp, Robbie," Coach Reynolds warned.

In desperation, Robbie faced the pitcher for the last pitch. The Hornet pitcher threw the ball so fast that he barely saw it. At the last second, though, he thought the ball dipped low, and he held up on his swing. "Ball four; take your base!" the umpire called.

On first base Robbie tried to remember all the things Coach had taught them in practice. Where to stand, when to run. The next two Bluejay batters were thrown out at first base, but their sacrifice hits moved Robbie to third base. The next Bluejay hitter slammed a grounder toward second base.

"Home, Robbie, home!" Coach Reynolds called out.

Robbie darted for home plate as fast as he could. He slid across the plate just under the catcher's glove. The umpire's arms spread wide as he gave the call: "Safe!"

The game was over. The Bluejays had won on Robbie's scored run.

Robbie felt himself being pounded on the back by his happy teammates. "But I didn't do anything at all," he protested. "It was the other fellows who kept hitting the ball to bring me in."

"Yes, but you had to get on base first," Ken said.

"That's right, Robbie" said Coach Reynolds. "Baseball is a team effort. As long as each player does the best he can, it all adds up."

Johnny Warner was waiting for Robbie outside the ball park. "Congratulations on winning the championship," he said. "But I thought you said you didn't play."

"I don't usually," Robbie explained.

"Well, you did all right today," Johnny said.

"I did the best I could," Robbie replied with a grin. As Ken Davis had said, "That's all anybody can do."

(Leon R. Hartshorn, *Inspiring Stories for Young Latter-day Saints*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1975].)

Activity:

Read 3 Nephi 14:24–27 together with your family. Have them draw a picture of the two houses described in those verses and what would happen to them in a great storm.

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The Book of Mormon*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 295.)

Discuss how doing what the Lord asks of us, and doing our best at it, grants us blessings (we will not be washed away by the storms of life).

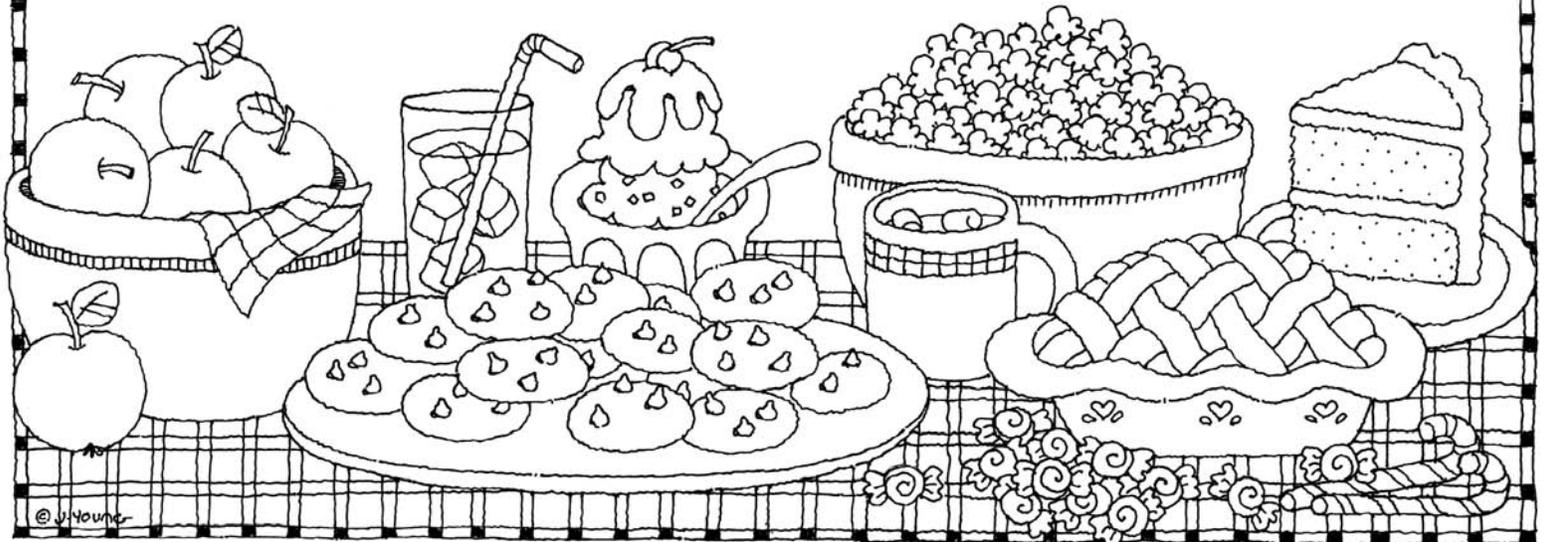
Refreshment

Jenny's Real Cool Cookies

- 1/2 cup canned milk
- 1 cube margarine
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 3 cups quick oats
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup coconut
- 2 tablespoons cocoa

In a saucepan mix canned milk, margarine, and sugar. Bring to a boil and let boil for 3 minutes. In large bowl mix oats, vanilla, coconut, and cocoa. Pour cooked sugar mixture over oatmeal and mix well until all oatmeal is well covered. Drop by teaspoons onto waxed paper and let cool.

(Karla C. Erickson, *Kids in the Kitchen*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1980], p. 31.)



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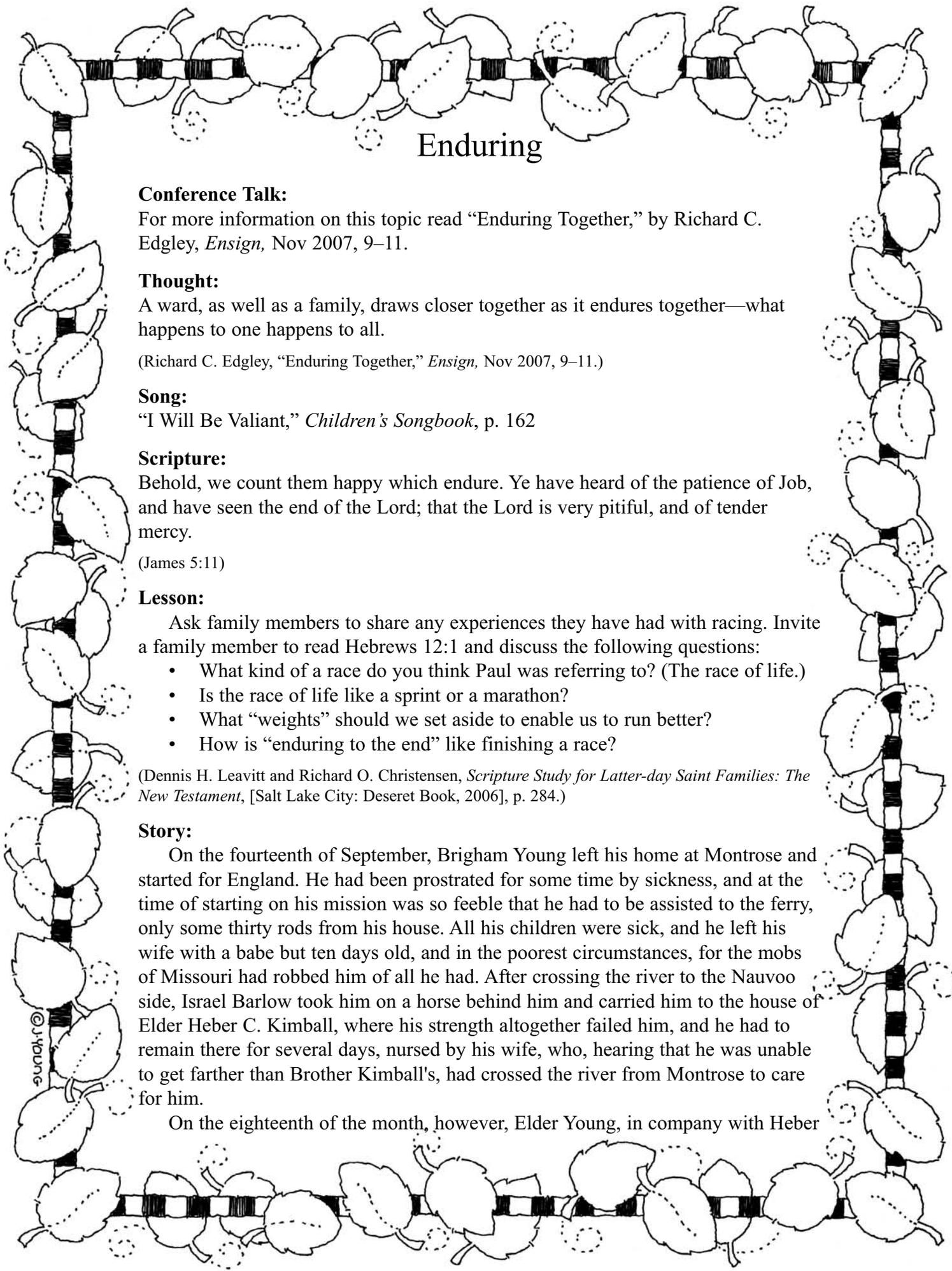
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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Enduring

Packet #010208

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Enduring

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read “Enduring Together,” by Richard C. Edgley, *Ensign*, Nov 2007, 9–11.

Thought:

A ward, as well as a family, draws closer together as it endures together—what happens to one happens to all.

(Richard C. Edgley, “Enduring Together,” *Ensign*, Nov 2007, 9–11.)

Song:

“I Will Be Valiant,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 162

Scripture:

Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

(James 5:11)

Lesson:

Ask family members to share any experiences they have had with racing. Invite a family member to read Hebrews 12:1 and discuss the following questions:

- What kind of a race do you think Paul was referring to? (The race of life.)
- Is the race of life like a sprint or a marathon?
- What “weights” should we set aside to enable us to run better?
- How is “enduring to the end” like finishing a race?

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The New Testament*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2006], p. 284.)

Story:

On the fourteenth of September, Brigham Young left his home at Montrose and started for England. He had been prostrated for some time by sickness, and at the time of starting on his mission was so feeble that he had to be assisted to the ferry, only some thirty rods from his house. All his children were sick, and he left his wife with a babe but ten days old, and in the poorest circumstances, for the mobs of Missouri had robbed him of all he had. After crossing the river to the Nauvoo side, Israel Barlow took him on a horse behind him and carried him to the house of Elder Heber C. Kimball, where his strength altogether failed him, and he had to remain there for several days, nursed by his wife, who, hearing that he was unable to get farther than Brother Kimball's, had crossed the river from Montrose to care for him.

On the eighteenth of the month, however, Elder Young, in company with Heber

C. Kimball, made another start. A brother by the name of Charles Hubbard sent a boy with a team to take them a day's journey on their way. Elder Kimball left his wife in bed shaking with ague, and all his children sick. It was only by the assistance of some of the brethren that Heber himself could climb into the wagon. "It seemed to me," he remarked afterwards in relating the circumstance, "as though my very inmost parts would melt within me at the thought of leaving my family in such a condition, as it were, almost in the arms of death. I felt as though I could scarcely endure it."

"Hold up!" said he to the teamster, who had just started. "Brother Brigham, this is pretty tough, but let us rise and give them a cheer." Brigham, with much difficulty, rose to his feet, and joined Elder Kimball in swinging his hat and shouting, "Hurrah, hurrah, hurrah for Israel!" Sisters Young and Kimball, hearing the cheer came to the door—Sister Kimball with great difficulty—and waved a farewell; and the two apostles continued their journey without purse, without script, for England.

B. H. Roberts, *A Comprehensive History of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, 6 vols. (Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1930), 2:23-24.

Activity:

Play "Bumblebee Buzz."

Two family members stand back to back. At the signal they take a long breath, turn and face each other, and begin to buzz like bees. The one wins who buzzes the longest with one breath without stopping. If one starts laughing and thus stops buzzing he loses. Continue until a champion is determined.

(Alma Heaton, *The LDS Game Book*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1968], p. 243.)

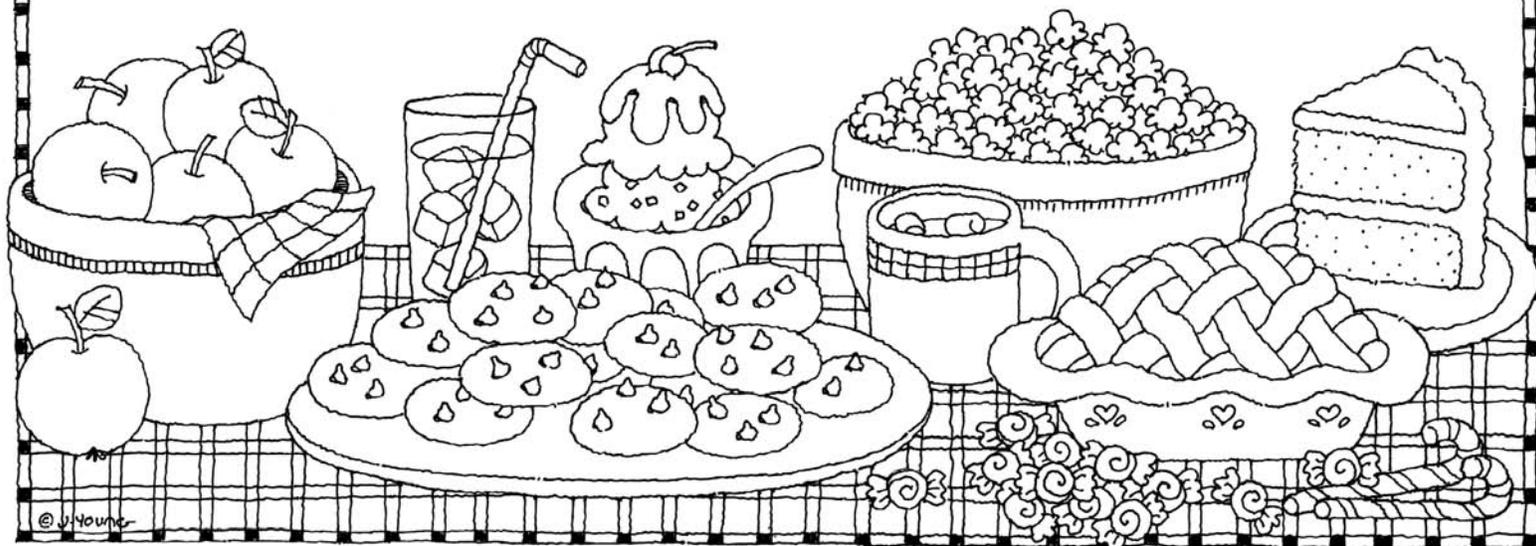
Refreshment

Chocolate Cheesecake

- 2 cups Oreo® cookie crumbs, rolled fine
- 3 packages (8 ounces each) cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup sugar
- 3 eggs
- 3/4 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/3 cup chocolate syrup
- 1 pint sour cream
- 3 tablespoons sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
- Chocolate chips

Crush whole Oreo cookies, including frosting centers, to make 2 cups fine crumbs. Press evenly onto bottom and sides of 10-inch springform pan. Whip cream cheese in mixer bowl; gradually add sugar, then eggs one at a time. Stir in vanilla. Stir in chocolate syrup. Pour filling into crust. Bake at 300 degrees for 55 minutes. Whip sour cream; add sugar and vanilla. Spread on top of cheesecake and return to oven. Bake 10 more minutes. Cool before removing sides from springform pan. Garnish with a few chocolate chips. Refrigerate until ready to serve. Makes 10 to 12 servings.

(*Lion House Classics*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 2004] p. 103.)



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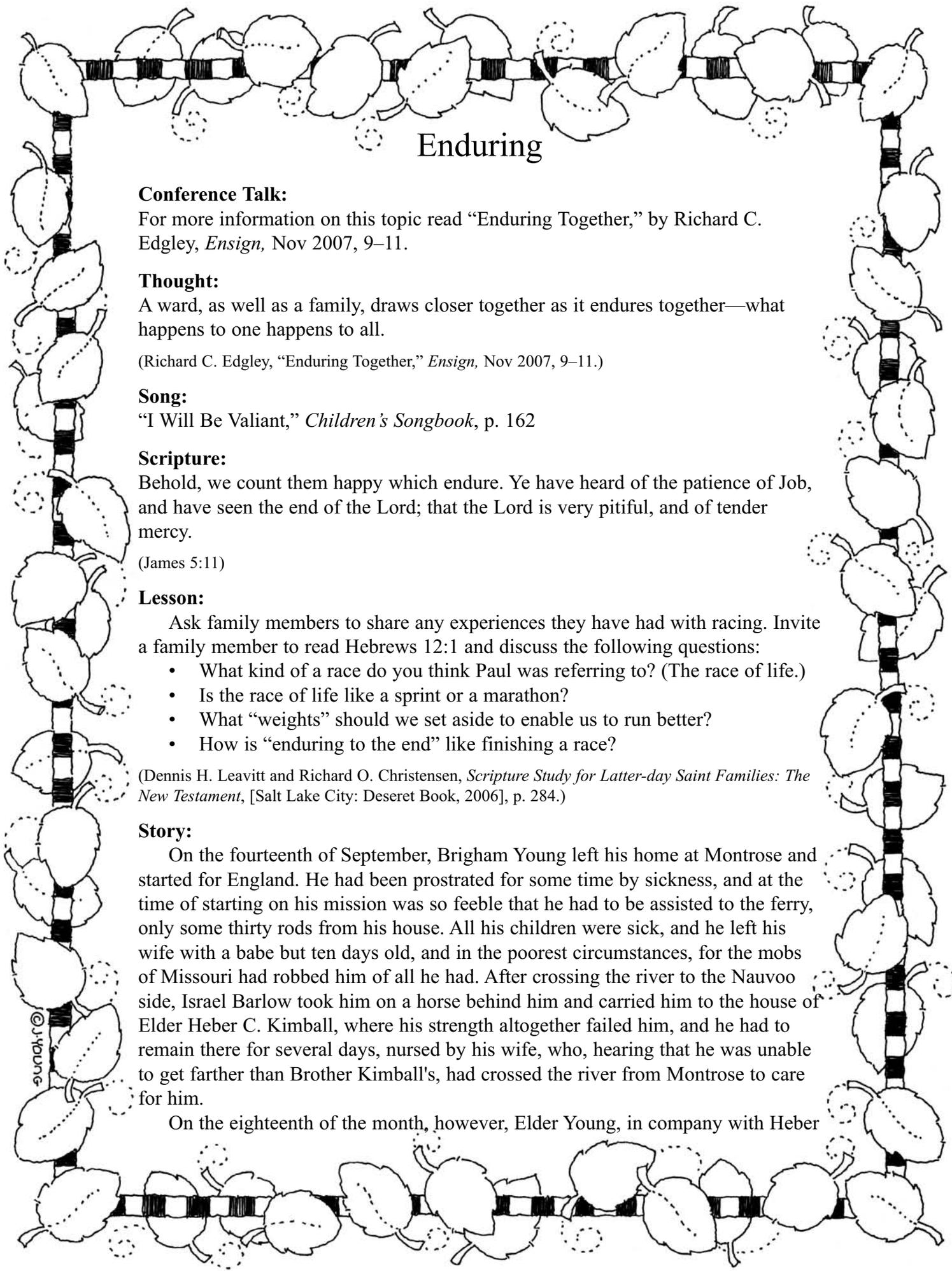
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Theme: Enduring

Packet #010208

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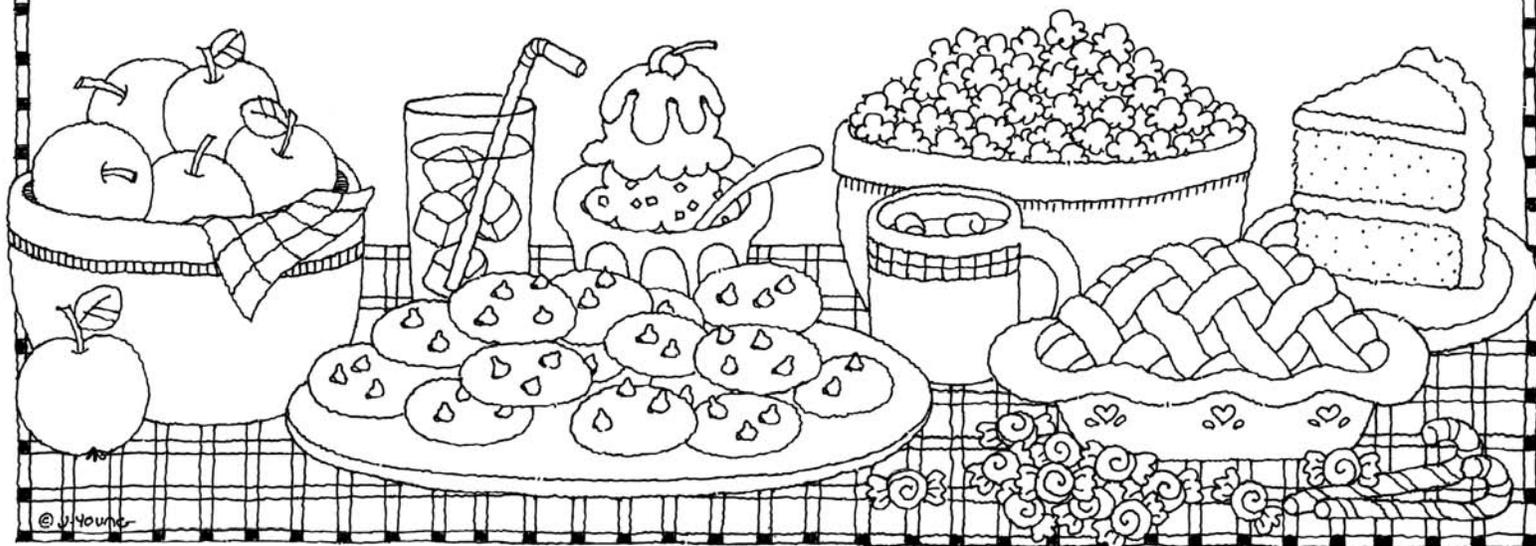
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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Equality

Packet #010108

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A B C D E F G H I J K L M

Equality

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read "The Weak and the Simple of the Church," by Boyd K. Packer, *Ensign*, Nov 2007, 6-9

Thought:

No member of the Church is esteemed by the Lord as more or less than any other. It just does not work that way! . . . I bear witness . . . that the worth of souls is great in the sight of God—every soul.

(Boyd K. Packer, "The Weak and the Simple of the Church," *Ensign*, Nov 2007, 6-9.)

Song:

"Jesus Said Love Everyone" *Children's Songbook*, p. 61.

Scripture:

Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.

(Acts 10:34-35)

Lesson:

Get two cups that you can't see through, one that is old and worn and one that is new and nicer. Make some mud and smear it on the inside of the nicer cup. Show your family the outside of the cups and a jug of milk and ask them which cup they would choose to drink from. Then show them the inside and ask them which cup they would prefer now. Invite them to talk about why they chose the ordinary cup over the nicer cup.

Invite your family to think of some people they know that the world would think are very ordinary but who are really wonderful and Christlike people on the inside. Read together 1 Samuel 16:7 and then decide as a family how to finish the following sentence.

"What I am on the _____ is more important than what I look like on the _____."

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The New Testament*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2006], p. 44.)

Story:

I was miserable. Everything was going wrong in my life. I understand that in the eyes of a seventeen-year-old, every problem seems magnified; however, I really felt I had hit bottom. My ship was taking on water fast.

One night, speaking in confidence to my mother, I told her, "I feel like I am drowning." She responded, "But, Art, you're a strong swimmer."

I was failing four out of five classes in school. The principal had recently called me

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A B C D E F G H I J K L

into his office to tell me that he was kicking me out of "his" school. If I wanted to complete my education, he demanded that I do it elsewhere. His remarks cut to my very center: "Art, you are a loser. You always have been and always will be. You will never serve a mission for your church—why would they want you? You'll never be an Eagle Scout—you haven't got what it takes. You'll never graduate from high school, and certainly not mine." With that, I was sent home.

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As a struggling seventeen-year-old, that truth is what was taught to me through the avenue of prayer. It has served me well through some of the darkest hours of my life.

(Art E. Berg, *Finding Peace in Troubled Waters*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1995].)

Activity:

Play "Who Am I?"

One family member thinks of a famous person while others try to guess who it is by asking him questions. He can only answer by saying "yes" or "no." Limit questions to 20. Repeat with another family member thinking of a famous person. Continue as long as your family likes.

Explain that even though some people are more well-known, that doesn't make them more important to the Lord.

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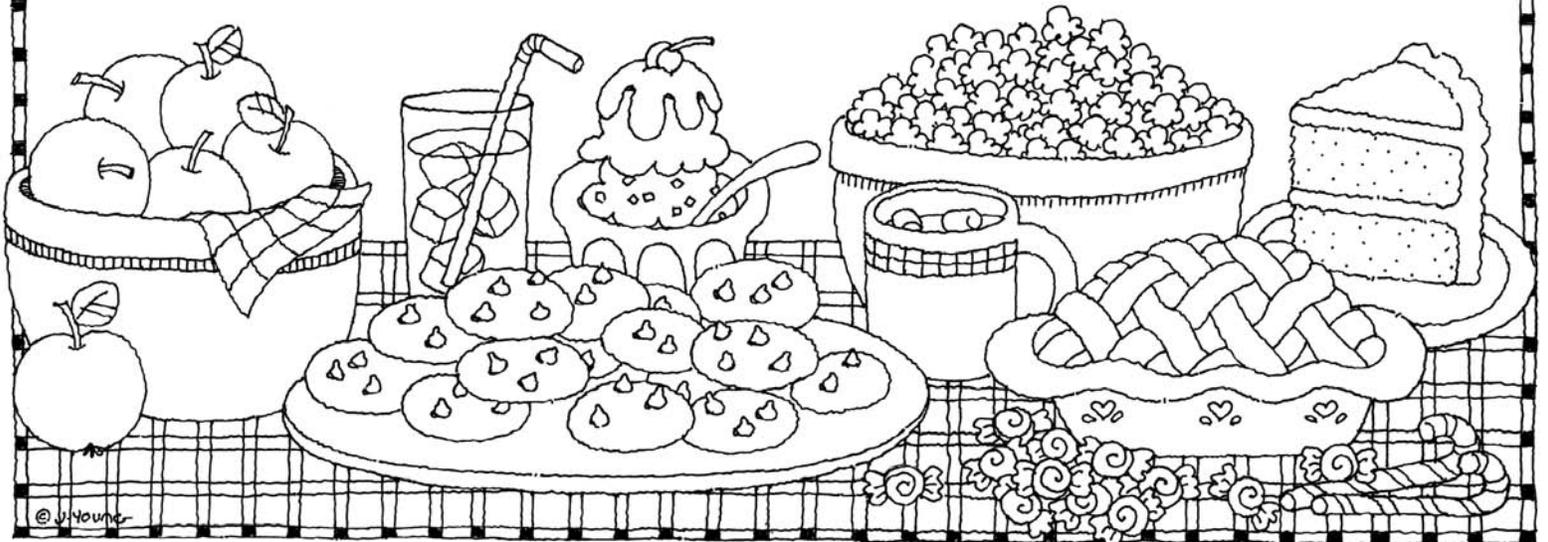
Refreshment

Poor Man's Pudding

2/3 cup uncooked rice
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
2 quarts milk
2/3 cup seedless raisins
nutmeg

In a saucepan, combine rice, sugar, cinnamon, milk, and raisins. Place over medium heat and, stirring constantly, heat until near boiling point. Remove from heat and pour into a well-buttered 3 1/2 or 4-quart baking dish. Bake at 200 degrees for 2 to 3 hours. Stir 2 or 3 times during the first hour. Sprinkle the top with nutmeg, and continue cooking for additional 1 to 2 hours. Pudding is done when liquid is all absorbed.

(Paula Julander and Joanne Milner, *Utah State Fare*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 1995], p. 132.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Equality

Packet #010108

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

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A B C D E F G H I J K L M

Equality

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read "The Weak and the Simple of the Church," by Boyd K. Packer, *Ensign*, Nov 2007, 6–9

Thought:

No member of the Church is esteemed by the Lord as more or less than any other. It just does not work that way! . . . I bear witness . . . that the worth of souls is great in the sight of God—every soul.

(Boyd K. Packer, "The Weak and the Simple of the Church," *Ensign*, Nov 2007, 6–9.)

Song:

"Jesus Said Love Everyone" *Children's Songbook*, p. 61.

Scripture:

Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.

(Acts 10:34–35)

Lesson:

Get two cups that you can't see through, one that is old and worn and one that is new and nicer. Make some mud and smear it on the inside of the nicer cup. Show your family the outside of the cups and a jug of milk and ask them which cup they would choose to drink from. Then show them the inside and ask them which cup they would prefer now. Invite them to talk about why they chose the ordinary cup over the nicer cup.

Invite your family to think of some people they know that the world would think are very ordinary but who are really wonderful and Christlike people on the inside. Read together 1 Samuel 16:7 and then decide as a family how to finish the following sentence.

"What I am on the _____ is more important than what I look like on the _____."

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The New Testament*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2006], p. 44.)

Story:

I was miserable. Everything was going wrong in my life. I understand that in the eyes of a seventeen-year-old, every problem seems magnified; however, I really felt I had hit bottom. My ship was taking on water fast.

One night, speaking in confidence to my mother, I told her, "I feel like I am drowning." She responded, "But, Art, you're a strong swimmer."

I was failing four out of five classes in school. The principal had recently called me

M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

A B C D E F G H I J K L

into his office to tell me that he was kicking me out of "his" school. If I wanted to complete my education, he demanded that I do it elsewhere. His remarks cut to my very center: "Art, you are a loser. You always have been and always will be. You will never serve a mission for your church—why would they want you? You'll never be an Eagle Scout—you haven't got what it takes. You'll never graduate from high school, and certainly not mine." With that, I was sent home.

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Explain that even though some people are more well-known, that doesn't make them more important to the Lord.

(Alma Heaton, *The LDS Game Book*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1968], p. 34.)

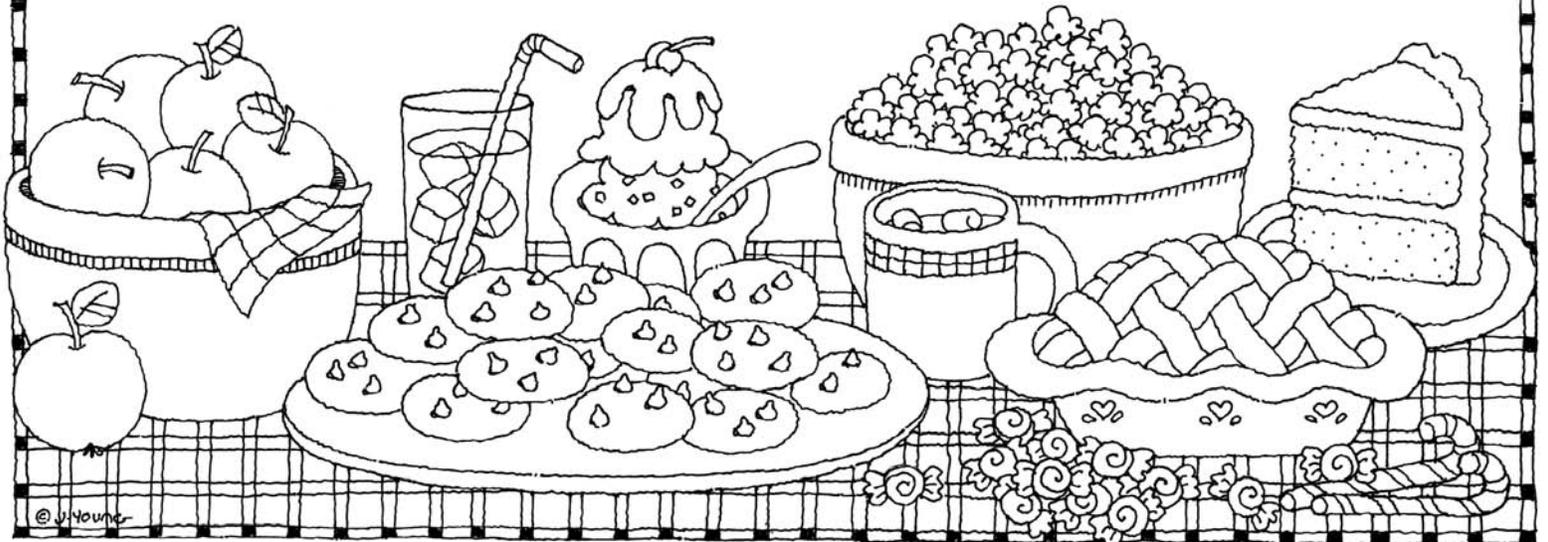
Refreshment

Poor Man's Pudding

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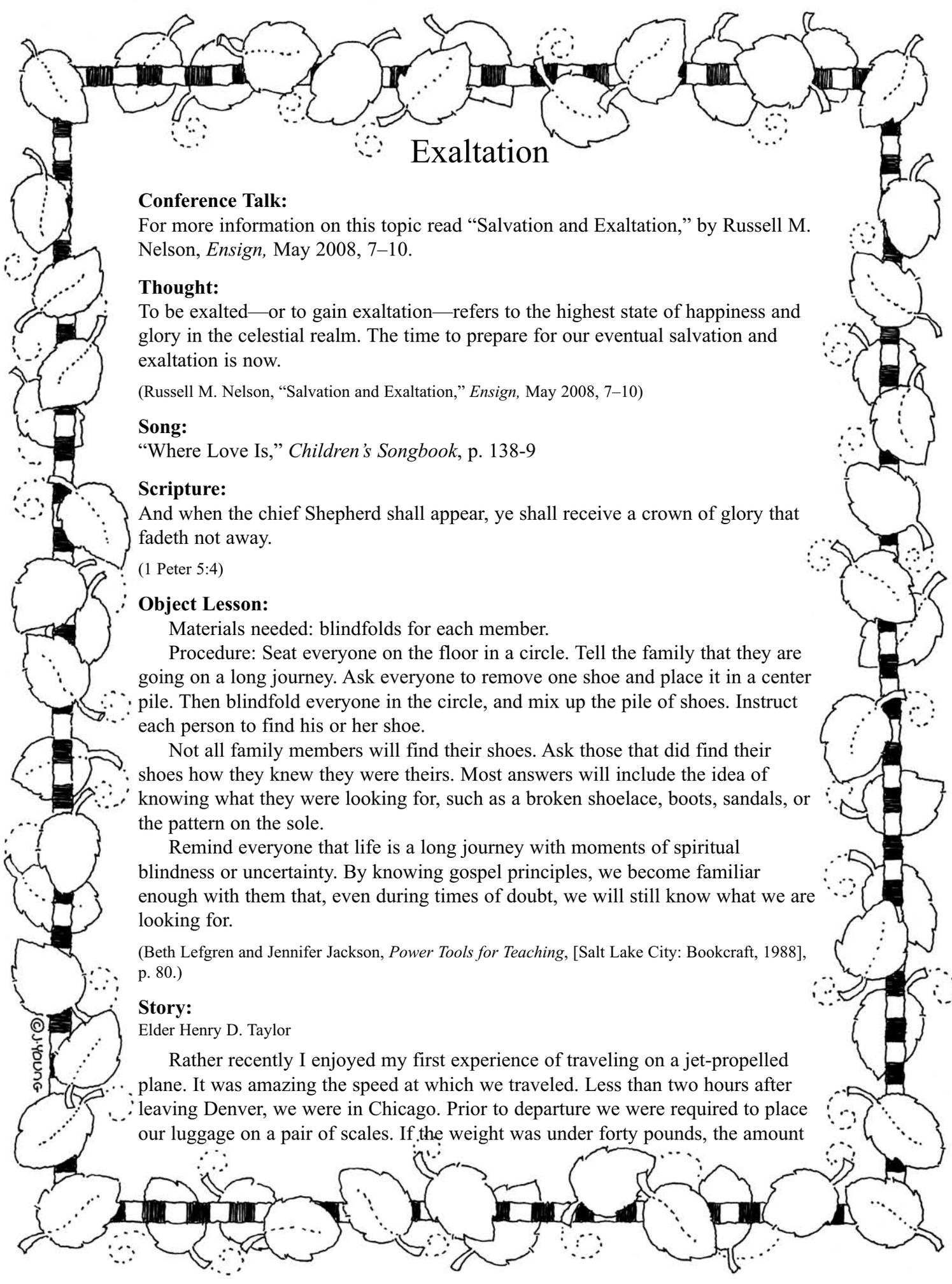
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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Exaltation

Packet #070208

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

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Exaltation

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read “Salvation and Exaltation,” by Russell M. Nelson, *Ensign*, May 2008, 7–10.

Thought:

To be exalted—or to gain exaltation—refers to the highest state of happiness and glory in the celestial realm. The time to prepare for our eventual salvation and exaltation is now.

(Russell M. Nelson, “Salvation and Exaltation,” *Ensign*, May 2008, 7–10)

Song:

“Where Love Is,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 138-9

Scripture:

And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

(1 Peter 5:4)

Object Lesson:

Materials needed: blindfolds for each member.

Procedure: Seat everyone on the floor in a circle. Tell the family that they are going on a long journey. Ask everyone to remove one shoe and place it in a center pile. Then blindfold everyone in the circle, and mix up the pile of shoes. Instruct each person to find his or her shoe.

Not all family members will find their shoes. Ask those that did find their shoes how they knew they were theirs. Most answers will include the idea of knowing what they were looking for, such as a broken shoelace, boots, sandals, or the pattern on the sole.

Remind everyone that life is a long journey with moments of spiritual blindness or uncertainty. By knowing gospel principles, we become familiar enough with them that, even during times of doubt, we will still know what we are looking for.

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *Power Tools for Teaching*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1988], p. 80.)

Story:

Elder Henry D. Taylor

Rather recently I enjoyed my first experience of traveling on a jet-propelled plane. It was amazing the speed at which we traveled. Less than two hours after leaving Denver, we were in Chicago. Prior to departure we were required to place our luggage on a pair of scales. If the weight was under forty pounds, the amount

allowed each passenger, a green light flashed. But if the weight exceeded forty pounds, a red light flashed and a bell rang. The weight exceeding the allowance is considered excess baggage and a penalty or additional charge is levied. When the red light flashes, one begins to consider the unnecessary articles he could have left behind, such as an extra pair of shoes, for example.

The thought occurred to me that this earth life is also a rapid flight or journey. We are traveling toward a desirable destination, that of eternal life and exaltation. Now the Lord has said, "For behold, this is my work and my glory—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man." (Moses 1:39.)

Our goal should be to become perfect, even as our Father in heaven is perfect. It would be well in early life to select and make secure the characteristics and traits needed for this journey of life, discarding the ones which are harmful and which might be classed as excess baggage. We can then be sure, as we continue our journey, that the green light and not the red one will be flashing.

What are some of the traits that might be regarded as excess baggage on our journey toward perfection? To mention but a few: hate and anger and the holding of grudges, a hot temper and a quick tongue, envy, jealousy, and greed, a critical attitude resulting in faultfinding, backbiting, and judging harshly. All these are excess baggage, and we shall have to pay dearly for them.

In contrast there are certain basic, essential characteristics or traits that are very desirable. They constitute legitimate or necessary baggage on our life's journey.

(Leon R. Hartshorn, *Outstanding Stories by General Authorities*, vol. 3, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1974].)

Activity:

Play Ring Toss.

Throw rings at pegs placed at various distances from a starting line. The nearest peg could represent baptism; the next confirmation; the next temple marriage; the next the first resurrection; and the furthest peg the celestial kingdom. Players must progress in order from closest to most distant peg. Pegs are placed far enough apart that a person generally has to throw several times to get the ring over the peg. Players cannot progress to the next stage until they have thrown the ring over the peg. The pegs should have the stages written on them. (Note: for younger families, bean bags and baskets may be easier.)

Gospel application: Eternal progression gained slowly and only as one progressively meets requirements of higher laws. One must live the "lesser" law before he can live the "greater."

(Alma Heaton, *The LDS Game Book*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1968], p. 42.)

Refreshment

Fudge Pudding Cake

They'll think it's magic! A fudgy chocolate pudding cake that "bakes" right in the microwave.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 cup all-purpose flour | 1 teaspoon vanilla |
| 1/4 cup granulated sugar | 1 cup chopped nuts |
| 2 tablespoons baking powder | 1 cup packed brown sugar |
| 1/4 teaspoon salt | 1/4 cup baking cocoa |
| 1/2 cup milk | 1 3/4 cups boiling water |
| 2 tablespoons vegetable oil | |

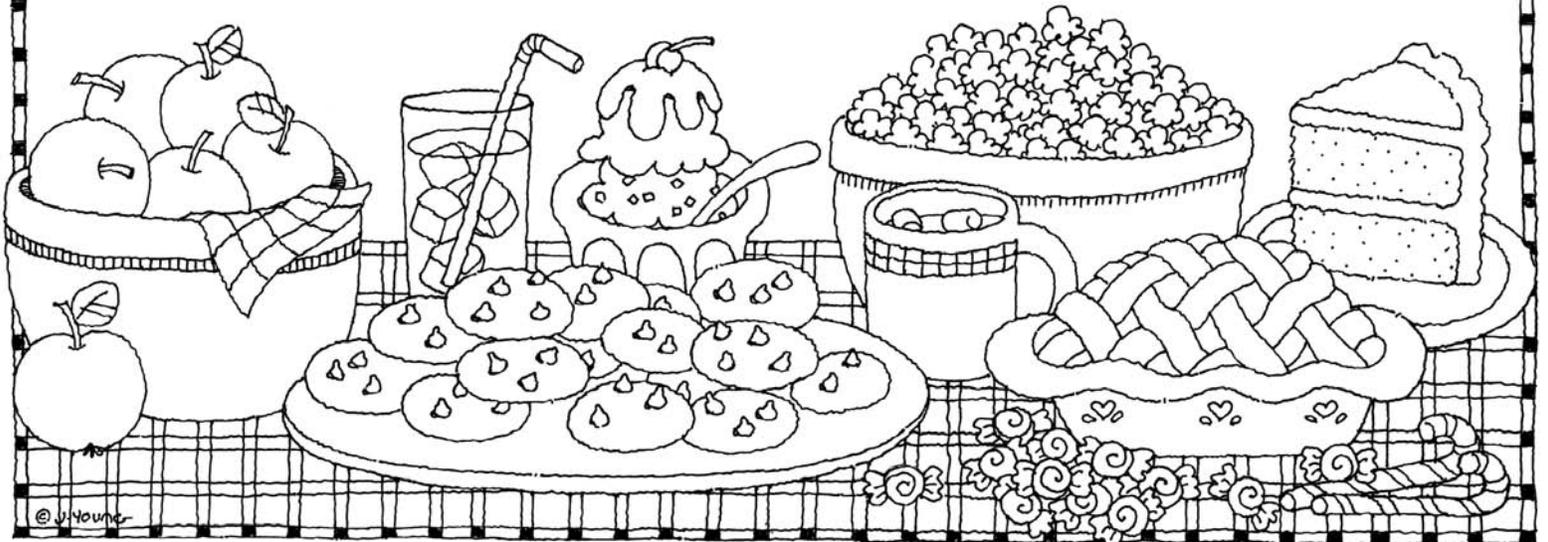
Mix flour, granulated sugar, 2 tablespoons cocoa, the baking powder, and salt in 2-quart microwaveable casserole.

Stir in milk, oil, and vanilla. Stir in nuts. Spread evenly in casserole. Mix brown sugar and 1/4 cup cocoa; sprinkle over batter. Pour boiling water over batter.

Microwave uncovered on medium (50%) 9 minutes; rotate casserole 1/2 turn. Microwave on high 5 to 6 minutes or until top is almost dry.

Serve warm with ice cream or whipped cream. Serves 9.

(Betty Crocker Sunday Cookbook, [Minneapolis: Wiley Publishing and Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2007], p.153.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Faith

Packet #090107

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Faith

Thought:

Regardless of what may come, may faith, immovable and constant, shine above us as the polar star. Please, dear Father, bless us with faith.

(Gordon B. Hinckley, "Till We Meet Again," *Liahona*, Jan 2002, 104-5)

Song:

"I Know My Father Lives" *Children's Songbook*, p. 5.

Scripture:

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

(Hebrews 6:11)

Lesson:

Write the words "signs" and "faith" on two separate papers. Hold both words up and ask your family which of these should come first. Ask them to explain why they think the Lord expects us to have faith before we are given signs or miracles.

Explain that another word for signs is "miracles." Ask your family to think of some examples of miracles they have witnessed or read about in scripture. Read together the discussion under "Miracles" in the Bible Dictionary (see pages 732-33). Ask your family to identify and then discuss one teaching about miracles they did not understand before they read the Bible Dictionary definition.

Explain that you want to create a "family test." Have each family member silently read D&C 63:7-12 and write three questions about signs and faith that these verses answer. When all are finished, give all family members an opportunity to ask one of their questions. Have the others give correct answers after each question. Testify that as we exercise faith, the Lord can perform miracles, according to His will, in our behalf.

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: Doctrine and Covenants*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2004], p 130.)

Story:

What Do You Know about Old Joe Smith?"

(From Edwin Rushton Journal)

After sailing from England, our immigrant company reached Nauvoo, April 13, 1843. Father was very anxious to find the members of his family already established there, and hurried towards the town in search of them. He had gone only a short distance when he met a man riding a beautiful black horse. The man accosted him, saying, "Hey, Bub, is that a company of Mormons just landed?"

In much surprise, Father answered, "Yes, sir."

"Are you a Mormon?" the stranger continued.

"Yes sir," Father again answered.

"What do you know about old Joe Smith?" the stranger asked.

"I know that Joseph Smith is a prophet of God," said Father.

"I suppose you are looking for an old man with a long, gray beard. What would you think if I told you I was Joseph Smith?" the man continued.

"If you are Joseph Smith," said Father, "I know you are a prophet of God."

In a gentle voice, the man explained, "I am Joseph Smith. I came to meet those people, dressed as I am in rough clothes and speaking in this manner, to see if their faith is strong enough to stand the things they must meet. If not, they should turn back right now."

(Jack M. Lyon, Linda Ririe Gundry, Jay A. Parry, *Best-Loved Stories of the LDS People, Vol. 1*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1997], p 128.)

Activity:

The prophet Mormon was a great example of faith. Each of the words below shares something with MORMON. Three letters to be exact. Each of the words below had either the letters MOR or MON in them. Use the clues to correctly fill in the blanks and complete the words.

1. _____ (Put on the whole of this, of God.)
2. _____ (Something funny.)
3. _____ (Delicious drink on a summer day.)
4. _____ (Day of the week.)
5. _____ (The love of this is the root of all evil.)
6. _____ (After the darkness of night comes this.)
7. _____ (Gossips spread these.)
8. _____ (Believing Saints bear this often.)
9. _____ (Don't put off until then what you can do today.)
10. _____ (The state where Joseph Smith was born.)

(Answers: 1. armor, 2. humor, 3. lemonade, 4. Monday, 5. money, 6. morning, 7. rumors, 8. testimony, 9. tomorrow, 10. Vermont.)

(Rick Walton and Shauna Mooney Kawasaki, *The Big Book of Scripture Activities*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1996], p. 98.)

Refreshment

Caramel Apple Squares

1 3/4 cups unsifted flour	1 cup butter, cold
1 cup quick cooking oatmeal	1 cup walnuts, chopped
1/2 cup firmly packed brown sugar	20 caramels, unwrapped
1/2 teaspoon baking soda	1 can sweetened condensed milk
1/2 teaspoon salt	1 21-ounce can apple pie filling

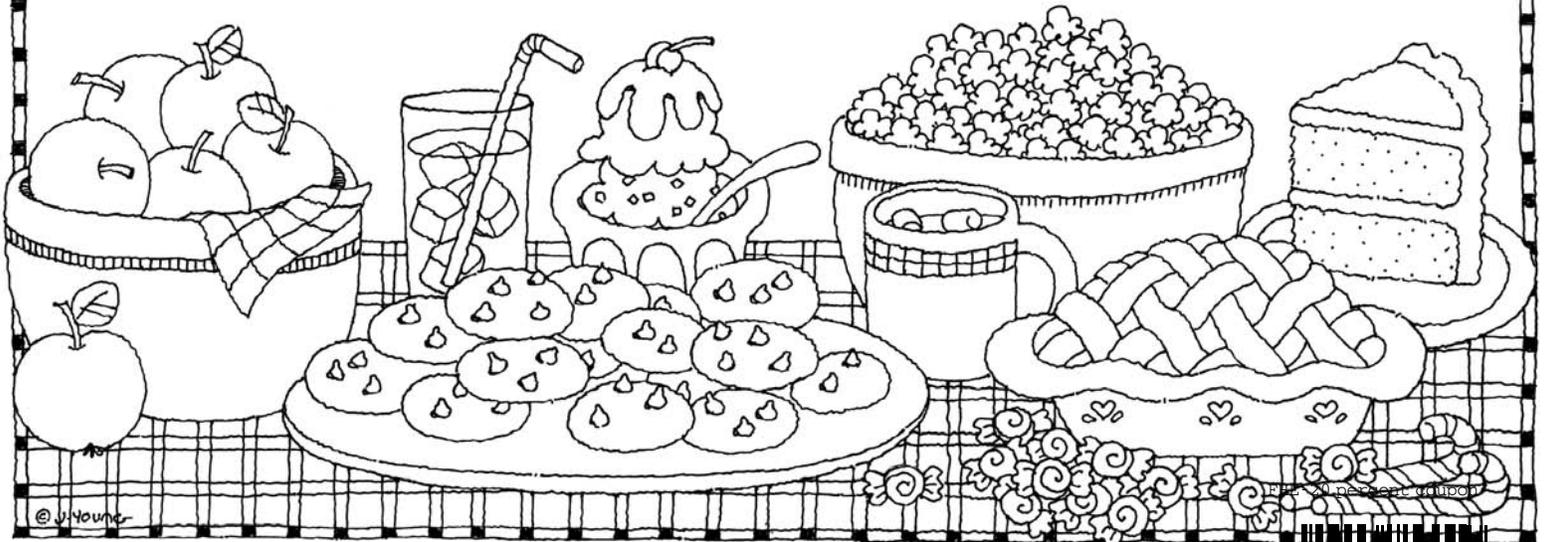
In a large bowl, combine the flour, oatmeal, brown sugar, baking soda, and salt. Cut in the butter until crumbly. Reserve 1 1/2 cups of this crumb mixture; press the remaining mixture on the bottom of a 9x13-inch baking pan.

Bake at 375° for 15 minutes; remove from oven. Add the nuts to the reserved mixture and set aside.

In a heavy saucepan over low heat (or in a microwave-safe bowl) melt the caramels with the condensed milk, stirring until smooth. Spoon the apple filling over the baked crust. Top with the caramel mixture, then crumble the reserved crumb mixture over the top.

Bake 20 minutes or until set. Cool and cut into squares. This may be served warm with ice cream. Makes 24 squares.

(*Lion House Entertaining*, [Salt Lake City: Eagle Gate, 2001], p. 123.)



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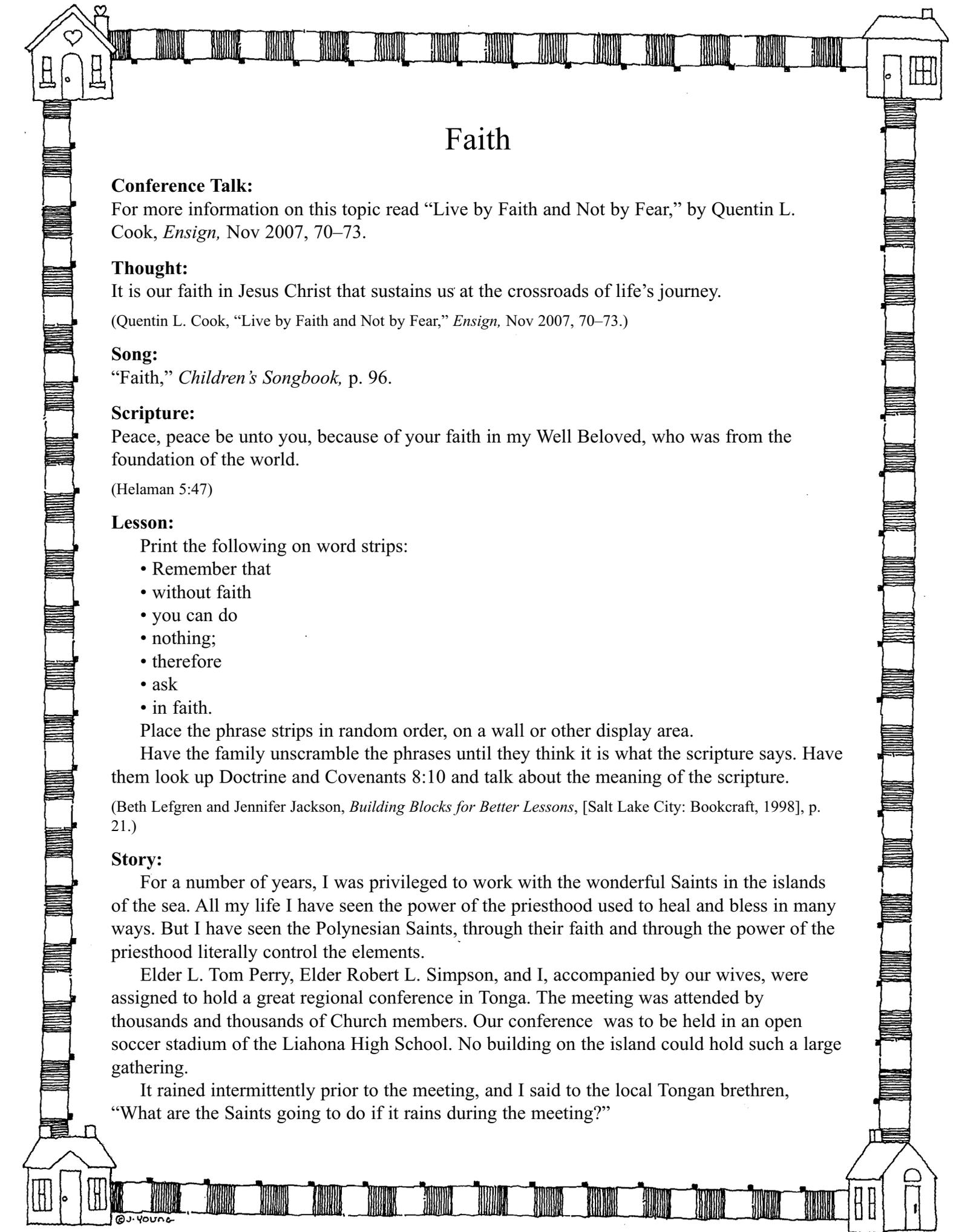
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Theme: Faith

Packet #050308

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Faith

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read “Live by Faith and Not by Fear,” by Quentin L. Cook, *Ensign*, Nov 2007, 70–73.

Thought:

It is our faith in Jesus Christ that sustains us at the crossroads of life’s journey.

(Quentin L. Cook, “Live by Faith and Not by Fear,” *Ensign*, Nov 2007, 70–73.)

Song:

“Faith,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 96.

Scripture:

Peace, peace be unto you, because of your faith in my Well Beloved, who was from the foundation of the world.

(Helaman 5:47)

Lesson:

Print the following on word strips:

- Remember that
- without faith
- you can do
- nothing;
- therefore
- ask
- in faith.

Place the phrase strips in random order, on a wall or other display area.

Have the family unscramble the phrases until they think it is what the scripture says. Have them look up Doctrine and Covenants 8:10 and talk about the meaning of the scripture.

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *Building Blocks for Better Lessons*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1998], p. 21.)

Story:

For a number of years, I was privileged to work with the wonderful Saints in the islands of the sea. All my life I have seen the power of the priesthood used to heal and bless in many ways. But I have seen the Polynesian Saints, through their faith and through the power of the priesthood literally control the elements.

Elder L. Tom Perry, Elder Robert L. Simpson, and I, accompanied by our wives, were assigned to hold a great regional conference in Tonga. The meeting was attended by thousands and thousands of Church members. Our conference was to be held in an open soccer stadium of the Liahona High School. No building on the island could hold such a large gathering.

It rained intermittently prior to the meeting, and I said to the local Tongan brethren, “What are the Saints going to do if it rains during the meeting?”

Their answer was, without hesitation, “It is not going to rain.”

I responded, “I certainly hope that is true. But what will we do if it rains?”

The brethren said, “Elder Faust, it will not rain.” And it did not rain until our meeting was over. I have seen this same kind of faith many times.

(James E. Faust, *Stories From My Life*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2001], p. 79-80.)

Activity:

Prepare ahead by copying the letters to spell out F-A-I-T-H on individual sheets of paper. Each family member will need all five letters.

Play the “Go Forward with FAITH” game. Give each player a set of cards that spell out F-A-I-T-H. Have everyone stand on one side of the room. Players take turns answering the questions for the letter F. When they have answered, they can toss their letter F in front of them and then jump to it. Throw as far as you think you can jump but no farther. If you jump short of the card, you must return to your previous spot and answer the question again. When each person has moved to his or her new position, continue with the A card and so on. Play until each person has landed on their H card.

Game questions:

F: Tell your FEELINGS about your FAMILY and Jesus Christ.

A: Tell what ACTIONS you can do to strengthen your faith.

I: Faith is needed IN obeying which commandments?

T: Share your TESTIMONY about the Book of Mormon and the prophet.

H: Tell how faith HELPS you in your life.

(Deborah Pace Rowley, *Before They Turn Twelve*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2007], p. 97.)

Refreshment

Pineapple Upside Down Cake

2/3 cup butter

3/4 cup brown sugar, packed

1 (16-ounce) can pineapple rings

Maraschino cherries (one cherry per pineapple ring)

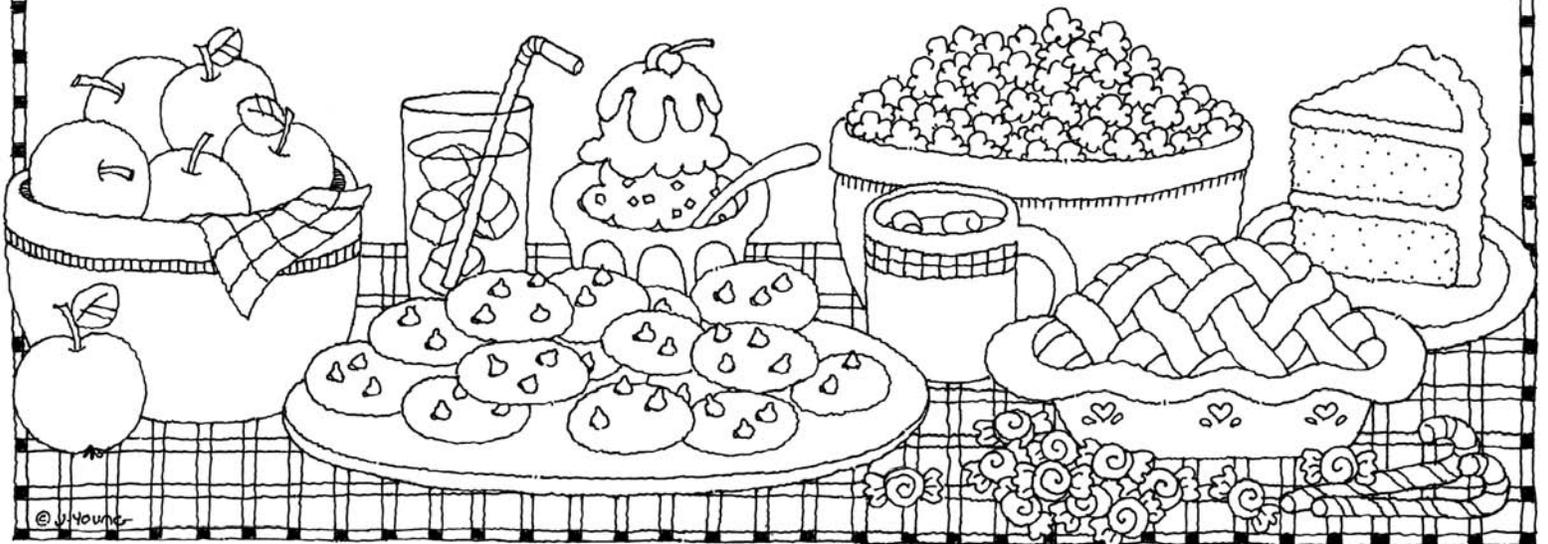
Pecan halves (optional)

1 box yellow cake mix, prepared according to package directions

Heat oven to 375 degrees F. Place the butter and brown sugar in a glass, rectangular baking dish and place the dish in the oven until the butter melts and the sugar dissolves. Remove the dish and place the pineapple rings in the butter and sugar mixture. Put a cherry in the center of each pineapple ring. (You could also put pecan halves in the spaces between the pineapple rings.) Pour the cake batter over the pineapple and cherries. Bake for about 35 minutes. Let cool for 5 minutes, then loosen the edges with a knife and turn the cake over onto a large tray or cookie sheet. Serve with whipped cream, or just eat it fresh from the oven.

Serves 10 to 12.

(Clark L. and Kathryn H. Kidd, *52 Weeks of Recipes for Students, Missionaries, and Nervous Cooks*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2007], p. 49.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Family

Packet #070308

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
- 3. Involvement.** Involve everyone in the family; help little children take part.
- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.

Family

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read “Restoring Faith in the Family,” by Kenneth Johnson, *Ensign*, May 2008, 15–17.

Thought:

Stable families provide the fabric that holds society together, benefiting all mankind.

(Kenneth Johnson, “Restoring Faith in the Family,” *Ensign*, May 2008, 15–17)

Song:

“Love is Spoken Here,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 190.

Scripture:

But ye will teach them to walk in the ways of truth and soberness; ye will teach them to love one another, and to serve one another.

(Mosiah 4:15)

Object Lesson:

Materials needed: Two magnets.

Presentation: Choose two members of the family and give them each a magnet. have them put the two magnets together. Explain that love brings people together. Love unites the entire family. Then have them turn the magnets around so that they repel rather than attract each other. Explain that without love the family will lack strength and may fall apart. We need to take the proper steps to keep love strong in the family.

(Alma Heaton, *Tools for Teaching*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1979], p. 17.)

Story:

The Unknown Treasure

Jutta Baum Busche

In our home there was little religious education, although my parents were Protestant. My family simply did not talk about religion. But my father's brother was a Protestant minister. I remember a time when this uncle's wife came to visit. Before my aunt arrived, my father instructed us, "When she is here, we must have a prayer before we eat." I will never forget how comical and strange it was to hear my father offer a blessing on the food in words and tone of voice so unfamiliar to us that it struck me as hypocritical. Yet, as I grew up, frequently in the evening I knelt at my bedside on my own initiative to pray to my Heavenly Father because, even without religious instruction, I felt in my heart that there must be someone whom I could trust and love—someone who knew me and cared about me. What a privilege it would have been to be reared in a family that was well-grounded in the restored gospel!

When the missionaries first came to our door in Dortmund, Germany, my husband and I had not been married long. Our first son was only three months old. I was and always will be grateful each minute of my life for the message that came to us through these young

missionaries. I was impressed with many things about these young men. One was the loving way they talked about their families. . . . I sensed such humble honesty in their expressions of testimony that I was compelled to listen.

(LDS Women's Treasury: Insights and Inspiration for Today's Woman [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1997].)

Activity:

As a family, put together a puzzle.

Refreshment

Fresh Cherry Cobbler

4 cups fresh sour cherries, washed and pitted*

1 cup sugar

1 tablespoon instant tapioca

1 teaspoon vanilla

1 tablespoon lemon juice

1 cup flour

1 cup sugar

1/2 cup milk

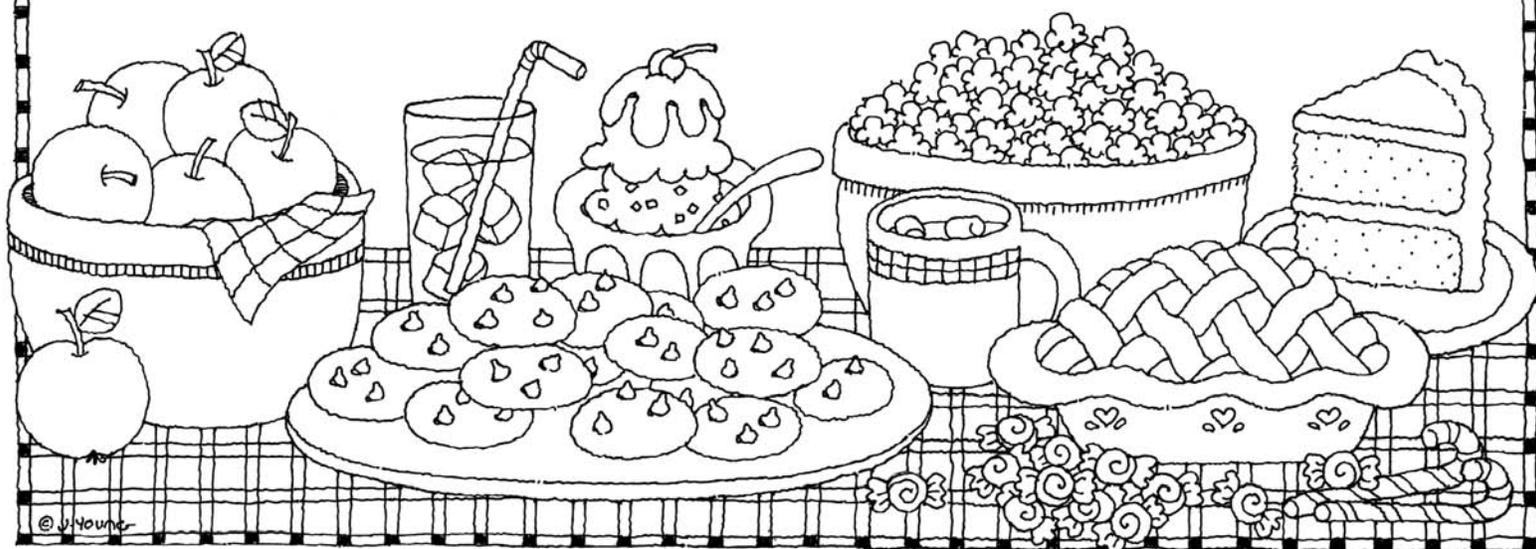
1 1/4 teaspoons baking powder

1/2 cup butter or margarine

In a saucepan, combine cherries, 1 cup sugar, tapioca, vanilla, and lemon juice. Stirring frequently, heat over medium-low heat until sugar is dissolved. Mix together flour, 1 cup sugar, milk, and baking powder. Melt butter in 9-inch square baking dish in 350-degree oven. Pour batter on top of melted butter, and spoon cherries on top of batter. Bake uncovered at 350 degrees for 30 to 35 minutes.

*Note: 4 cups canned or bottled sour cherries may be used instead of fresh cherries. Drain and proceed as directed.

(Paula Julander and Joanne Milner, *Utah State Fare*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 1995], p. 178.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Emma Smith

Packet #070307

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
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- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.

Emma Smith

Thought:

Emma Smith, the Prophet's wife, is remembered as a woman who faithfully supported her husband. Emma was a woman of great faith and courage whom the Lord addressed twice in the Doctrine and Covenants.

(Susan Easton Black, "Happiness in Womanhood," *Ensign*, Mar 2002 12)

Song:

"Sing a Song," *Children's Songbook*, p. 253.

Scripture:

Hearken unto the voice of the Lord your God, while I speak unto you, Emma Smith, my daughter; for verily I say unto you, all those who receive my gospel are sons and daughters in my kingdom. Behold, thy sins are forgiven thee, and thou art an elect lady, whom I have called.

(D&C 25:1, 3)

Lesson:

Invite your family to play a game called "Name that Hymn." Divide your family into teams. Have someone play or hum the first few notes of different hymns. See which team is first to name the hymn as the notes are played. You could also use songs from the Children's Songbook. Ask:

- What are your favorite Church hymns or songs?
- How does sacred music help you worship the Lord?

Read D&C 25:11–12 together as a family. Then ask:

- What was Emma Smith asked to do for the Church?
- What did the Lord teach about music?

Consider reading together the section on music in the For the Strength of Youth pamphlet or the First Presidency Preface in the front of the LDS hymnbook. Discuss as a family what you can do to enhance the positive power of music in your lives.

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The Doctrine and Covenants*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2004], p. 50.)

Story:

Joseph got a chance to earn some of the money the family needed [to pay for their farm]. In the fall of 1825, a man named Josiah Stowell from Pennsylvania came to Palmyra looking for Joseph, who was now almost twenty. . . . [He was looking for a lost gold mine.] He offered Joseph money to dig for him, whether they found the mine or not.

Joseph thought how badly his family needed money and finally agreed to do what Mr. Stowell asked. He went with Mr. Stowell to Harmony, Pennsylvania, and helped him dig.

They continued the work for nearly a month without success. Joseph told Mr. Stowell that it was no use to continue. Reluctantly Mr. Stowell agreed that they should stop digging.

Joseph did not find the Spanish treasure, but he did find a treasure of quite a different kind.

While in Harmony, he boarded with a family by the name of Hale. They had a daughter named Emma, a pretty girl with dark hair and hazel eyes. Joseph enjoyed her good humor and bright personality. He liked the way she cheerfully went about her work. He spent as much time as he could with her.

But not long after he gave up digging for Mr. Stowell, Joseph decided to return to his family in New York. Though he hadn't known Emma long, he liked her a lot and would think about her often while they were apart. . . .

After the harvest, the wheat was [to be] delivered to Mr. Stowell and Mr. Knight. In December Father Joseph prepared to go to Pennsylvania to get the money for it. Joseph had been thinking a lot about the lovely girl he had met in Harmony. When his father was ready to go, Joseph pulled his parents aside and said, "I would like to go with you, Father. I've been lonely since Alvin died, and if you have no objection, I would like to get married to Miss Emma Hale, if she will have me."

His parents smiled at his eagerness and looked at each other understandingly. "We have no objection," Father Joseph said. "In fact, we hope you'll bring her home with you so we may enjoy her company."

Joseph and his father set out for Pennsylvania with everything looking bright and hopeful for their family. For the first time since Joseph had been born, they would own a farm and a comfortable home. Life seemed good.

It seemed even better when they got to the Hale house. Emma was excited to see Joseph again. He could tell that she liked him as much as he liked her. But Emma's parents were not as pleased to see Joseph as Emma was. They wanted their daughter to marry well, and to them, Joseph was just a boy who had helped Josiah Stowell dig for treasure.

"They'll accept you eventually," Emma assured Joseph.

Joseph spent most of the next few months working in southern New York, not too far from Harmony, Pennsylvania. He went to Harmony whenever possible to visit Emma.

But Emma's father, Isaac Hale, still did not like him. He looked down on Joseph and thought he was rough and careless, especially compared with Emma, who was a schoolteacher. Isaac Hale refused to let his daughter marry Joseph.

Over the next while, Joseph tried to better himself. He went to school. Friends who knew of his honesty and hard work helped him out. Martin Harris, a Palmyra farmer Joseph had worked for, bought him a new suit of clothes. Mr. Knight, who thought Joseph was the best worker he'd ever hired, let him use his horse and sleigh to visit Emma.

Emma made it plain that she liked this handsome young man who appeared so often at her door. At age twenty, Joseph was six feet tall and muscular, like his father. He had blue eyes under thick eyelashes, and light auburn hair. His smile was easy and warm.

When Emma asked her father once again to approve her marriage to Joseph, he once again bellowed his refusal.

Discouraged, Joseph returned to Palmyra, arriving in time for his yearly visit to the Hill Cumorah, on September 22, 1826. But it wasn't long before he headed back to Harmony. Hyrum had recently married, and that only made Joseph lonelier for Emma. He was determined to do something about his love for her.

Mr. Stowell showed him what he could do. "You're twenty-one years old now," he said, "and Emma is twenty-two. You're legally old enough to make your own decisions. You don't need Mr. Hale's permission to get married." Emma soon agreed, and on January 18, 1827, they quickly and

quietly got married. Nobody from either of their families was present.

After their marriage, Emma went back to Palmyra with Joseph. They settled down to live with the Smiths, and Joseph again became part of the family farming operation. Now happily married, Joseph and Emma looked forward to what the future might hold.

(Richard E. Turley Jr. and Lael Littke, *Stories from the Life of Joseph Smith*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 37-40.)

Activity:

Explain that the first hymnbook Emma made consisted of words only. The hymns were sung to different tunes the Saints were familiar with. The same hymn could be sung to different tunes. As an example, the words to hymn no. 2, “The Spirit of God,” can also be sung to the tune of Hymn no. 3, “Now Let Us Rejoice,” and vice versa.

For fun, mix and match the words and tunes of the following hymns: no. 7, “Israel, Israel God Is Calling”; no. 26, “Joseph Smith’s First Prayer”; no. 102, “Jesus, Lover of My Soul”; no. 163, “Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing.”

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The Doctrine and Covenants*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2004], p. 50.)

Refreshment

Pull-Apart Rolls

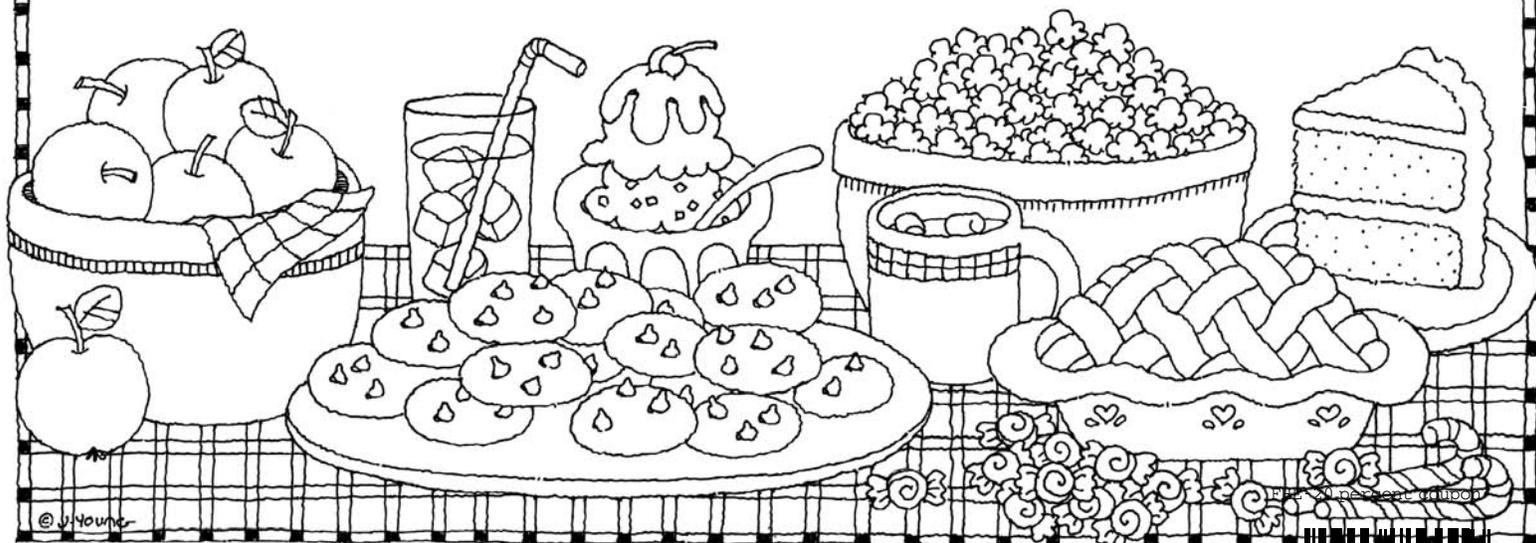
This delightful pull-apart loaf is also known as monkey bread or bubble loaf. For fun variations, after rolling the balls in butter, roll them in a cinnamon and sugar mixture or in a savory blend of fragrant herbs.

3 1/2 to 3 3/4 cups all-purpose flour
2 tablespoons sugar
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 package active dry yeast

1/4 cup margarine or butter
1 egg
1/4 cup margarine or butter, melted

1. Grease 12-cup bundt cake pan or tube pan, 10 x 4 inches.
2. Mix 1 1/2 cups of the flour, the sugar, salt and yeast in a 3-quart bowl. Heat milk and 1/4 cup margarine in 1-quart saucepan over medium-low heat, stirring frequently, until very warm (120 degrees F.) Add milk mixture and egg to flour mixture. Beat on low speed until moistened; beat 3 minutes on medium speed. Stir in enough remaining flour to make dough easy to handle.
3. Turn dough onto lightly floured surface. Knead until smooth and elastic, about 5 minutes. Shape dough into 24 balls. Dip each ball of dough into the melted margarine. Layer evenly in pan. Cover and let rise in warm place until double, 20 to 30 minutes.
4. Heat oven to 350 degrees F. Bake until golden brown, 25 to 30 minutes. Cool 2 minutes; invert onto heatproof serving plate. Serve warm.

(Betty Crocker Sunday Dinner Cookbook, [Hoboken, NJ: Wiley Publishing and Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2007] p. 20.)



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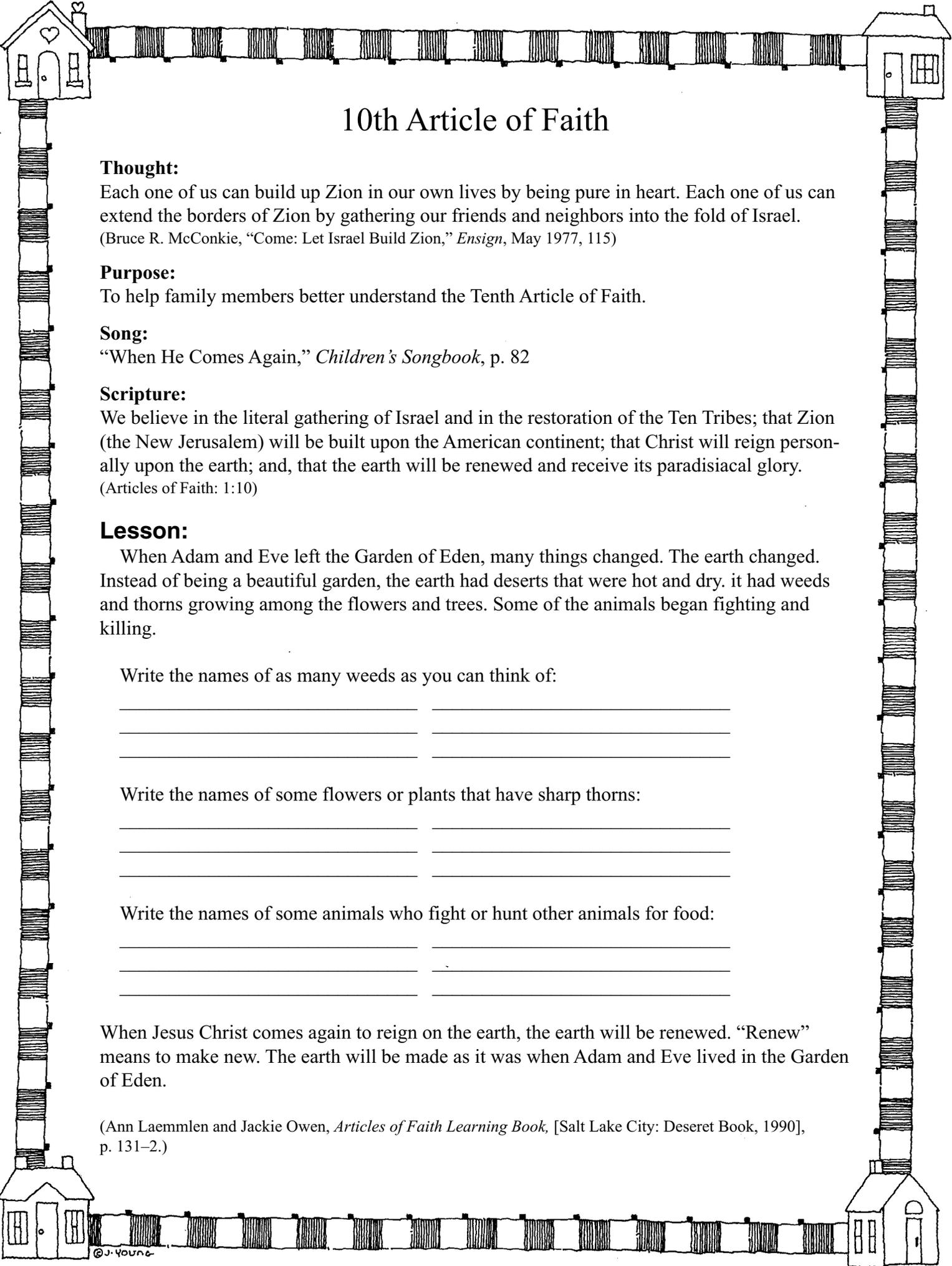
Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: 10th Article of Faith

Packet #090105

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
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10th Article of Faith

Thought:

Each one of us can build up Zion in our own lives by being pure in heart. Each one of us can extend the borders of Zion by gathering our friends and neighbors into the fold of Israel. (Bruce R. McConkie, "Come: Let Israel Build Zion," *Ensign*, May 1977, 115)

Purpose:

To help family members better understand the Tenth Article of Faith.

Song:

"When He Comes Again," *Children's Songbook*, p. 82

Scripture:

We believe in the literal gathering of Israel and in the restoration of the Ten Tribes; that Zion (the New Jerusalem) will be built upon the American continent; that Christ will reign personally upon the earth; and, that the earth will be renewed and receive its paradisiacal glory. (Articles of Faith: 1:10)

Lesson:

When Adam and Eve left the Garden of Eden, many things changed. The earth changed. Instead of being a beautiful garden, the earth had deserts that were hot and dry. It had weeds and thorns growing among the flowers and trees. Some of the animals began fighting and killing.

Write the names of as many weeds as you can think of:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Write the names of some flowers or plants that have sharp thorns:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Write the names of some animals who fight or hunt other animals for food:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

When Jesus Christ comes again to reign on the earth, the earth will be renewed. "Renew" means to make new. The earth will be made as it was when Adam and Eve lived in the Garden of Eden.

(Ann Laemmlen and Jackie Owen, *Articles of Faith Learning Book*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1990], p. 131-2.)

Story:

The Kingdom of God or Nothing

(Written by President McKay at Ogden, Utah)

Just above the pulpit in the meeting-house where as a boy I attended Sunday services, there hung for many years a large photograph of the late President John Taylor, and under it, in what I thought were gold letters, this phrase: "The Kingdom of God or Nothing."

The sentiment impressed me as a mere child years before I understood its real significance. I seemed to realize at that early date that there is no other Church or organization that approaches the perfection or possesses the divinity that characterizes the Church of Jesus Christ. As a child I felt this intuitively; in youth, I became thoroughly convinced of it; and today I treasure it as a firm conviction of my soul.

I desire to testify to another thing: The Lord is not only guiding his Church, but overruling the destiny of nations preparatory to the preaching of the gospel "to every nation, kindred, tongue and people." Dreadful as are the perilous conditions in war-torn countries today, we may rest assured that out of it all will come better opportunities for the honest men and women of the world to hear the "Glad tidings of great joy" as heralded again in this the last and greatest of all dispensations. Out of the darkness, now brooding over the nations, made more gloomy and terrible by the thunderings and tempests of war and bloodshed will come the dawn of that long expected day, when "peace and good will" will reign over all the earth.

Upon Latter-day Saints rests the responsibility of preaching the true gospel of peace to mankind. O may we be equal to this responsibility!

(David O. McKay and Clare Middlemiss, *Cherished Experiences from the Writings of President David O. McKay*)

Activity:

Here are the names of the Twelve Tribes of Israel. Rewrite them in alphabetical order in the blanks at the right.

- | | |
|--------------|---------|
| 1. Dan | A _____ |
| 2. Simeon | B _____ |
| 3. Asher | D _____ |
| 4. Judah | E _____ |
| 5. Naphtali | G _____ |
| 6. Reuben | I _____ |
| 7. Zebulun | J _____ |
| 8. Benjamin | M _____ |
| 9. Issachar | N _____ |
| 10. Ephraim | R _____ |
| 11. Manasseh | S _____ |
| 12. Gad | Z _____ |

(Ann Laemmlen and Jackie Owen, *Articles of Faith Learning Book*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1990], p. 134.)

Extras:

- Draw a picture of how beautiful you think the earth might be when it receives its paradisiacal glory.

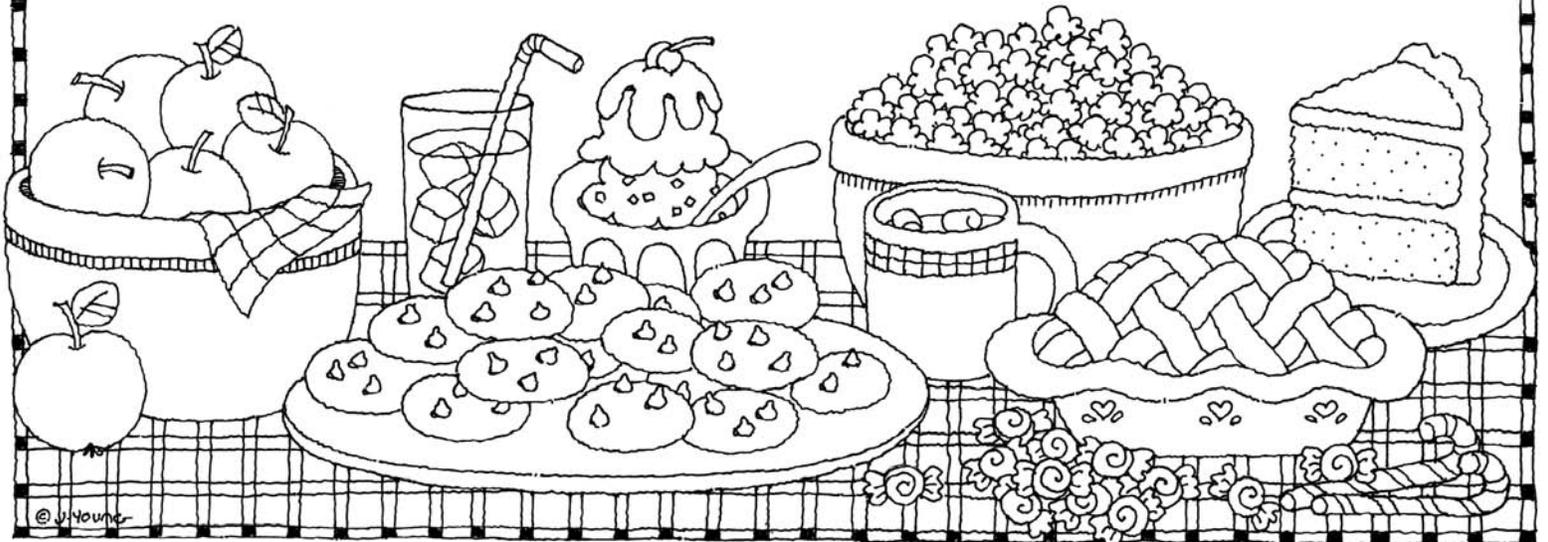
Refreshment

Toffee Torte

- 1 package devil's food cake mix
- 1 16-ounce carton frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 7 English toffee bars (such as Heath® or Skor®), crushed

Grease and flour two 9-inch round cake pans. Prepare and bake the cake according to package directions. Cool on a wire rack. (If time permits, the cakes can be frozen for easier handling.) Carefully cut each layer horizontally to make 2 layers. Place whipped topping in a bowl and fold in 6 of the crushed candy bars. Place one layer of the cake on a serving plate and spread with topping mixture. Repeat with remaining three layers. Frost the sides and top with topping mixture. Sprinkle the remaining crushed candy bar on top of the cake. Makes 12 to 14 servings.

(*Lion House Weddings*, [Salt Lake City: Eagle Gate, 2003] p. 100.)



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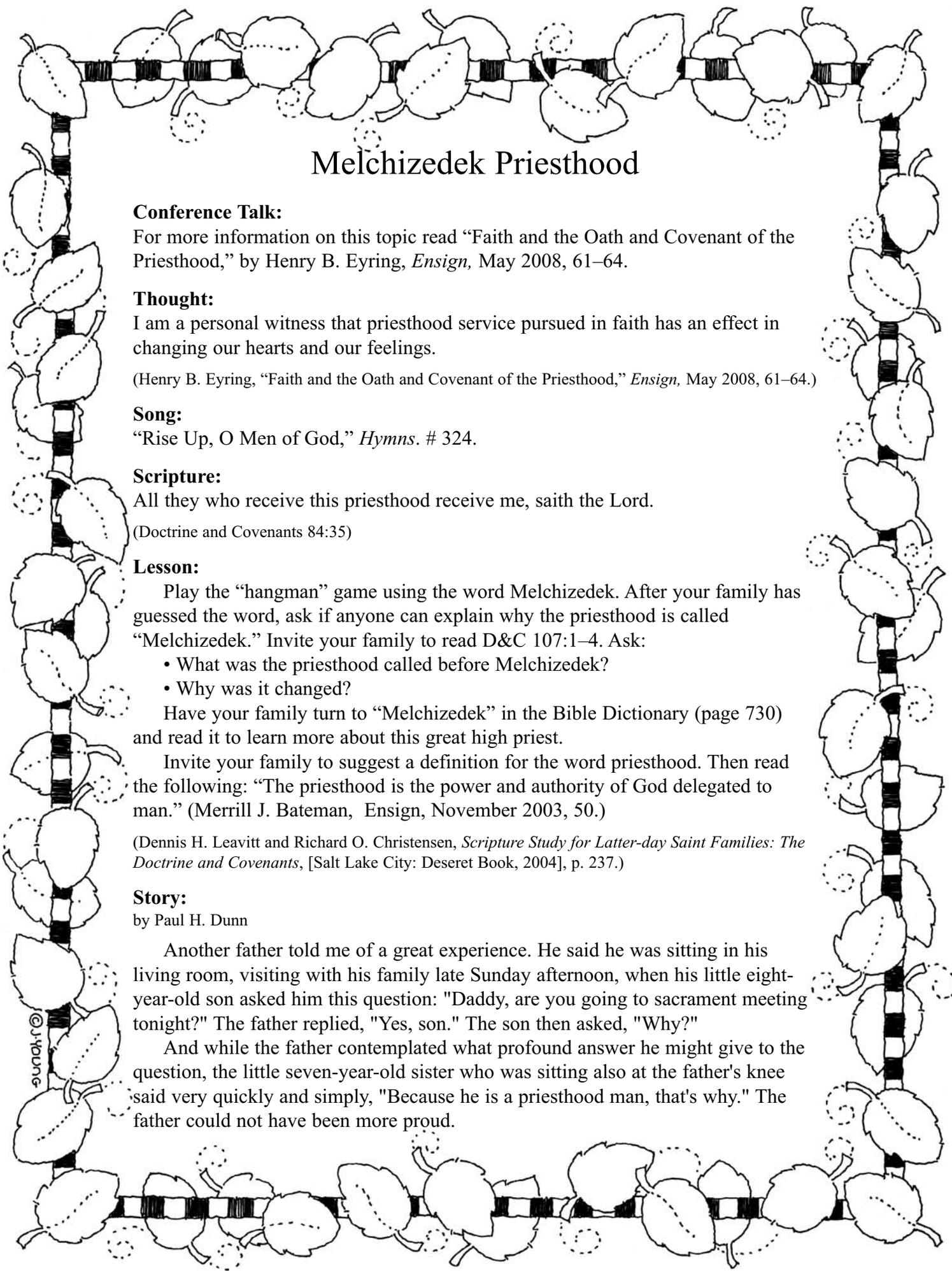
Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Melchizedek Priesthood

Packet #090208

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
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Melchizedek Priesthood

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read “Faith and the Oath and Covenant of the Priesthood,” by Henry B. Eyring, *Ensign*, May 2008, 61–64.

Thought:

I am a personal witness that priesthood service pursued in faith has an effect in changing our hearts and our feelings.

(Henry B. Eyring, “Faith and the Oath and Covenant of the Priesthood,” *Ensign*, May 2008, 61–64.)

Song:

“Rise Up, O Men of God,” *Hymns*. # 324.

Scripture:

All they who receive this priesthood receive me, saith the Lord.

(Doctrine and Covenants 84:35)

Lesson:

Play the “hangman” game using the word Melchizedek. After your family has guessed the word, ask if anyone can explain why the priesthood is called “Melchizedek.” Invite your family to read D&C 107:1–4. Ask:

- What was the priesthood called before Melchizedek?
- Why was it changed?

Have your family turn to “Melchizedek” in the Bible Dictionary (page 730) and read it to learn more about this great high priest.

Invite your family to suggest a definition for the word priesthood. Then read the following: “The priesthood is the power and authority of God delegated to man.” (Merrill J. Bateman, *Ensign*, November 2003, 50.)

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The Doctrine and Covenants*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2004], p. 237.)

Story:

by Paul H. Dunn

Another father told me of a great experience. He said he was sitting in his living room, visiting with his family late Sunday afternoon, when his little eight-year-old son asked him this question: “Daddy, are you going to sacrament meeting tonight?” The father replied, “Yes, son.” The son then asked, “Why?”

And while the father contemplated what profound answer he might give to the question, the little seven-year-old sister who was sitting also at the father's knee said very quickly and simply, “Because he is a priesthood man, that's why.” The father could not have been more proud.

And may I say tonight, brethren, that more important than being a Princeton man, a Yale man, a Harvard man, or any other kind of man, is the honor of being a "priesthood man." That is the great lesson I have learned tonight again as I have listened to the testimony of President McKay, who has exemplified these very principles in deed.

(Leon R. Hartshorn, *Outstanding Stories by General Authorities, vol. 1*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1970].)

Activity:

Play "What's My Line."

1. Have everyone in the room silently think of an occupation.
2. Have each person in turn pantomime the type of work involved in his occupation. For example, a dentist might pretend to pull a tooth; and airline pilot might pretend to fly around the room; a construction worker might act out using a jackhammer.
3. When a player completes his demonstration, all the other layers try to guess his line of work.

(George and Jeane Chipman, *Gams! Games! Games!*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 1983], p. 59.)

After everyone has had a turn, remind the family the most important "occupation" for a man is to be a "priesthood man."

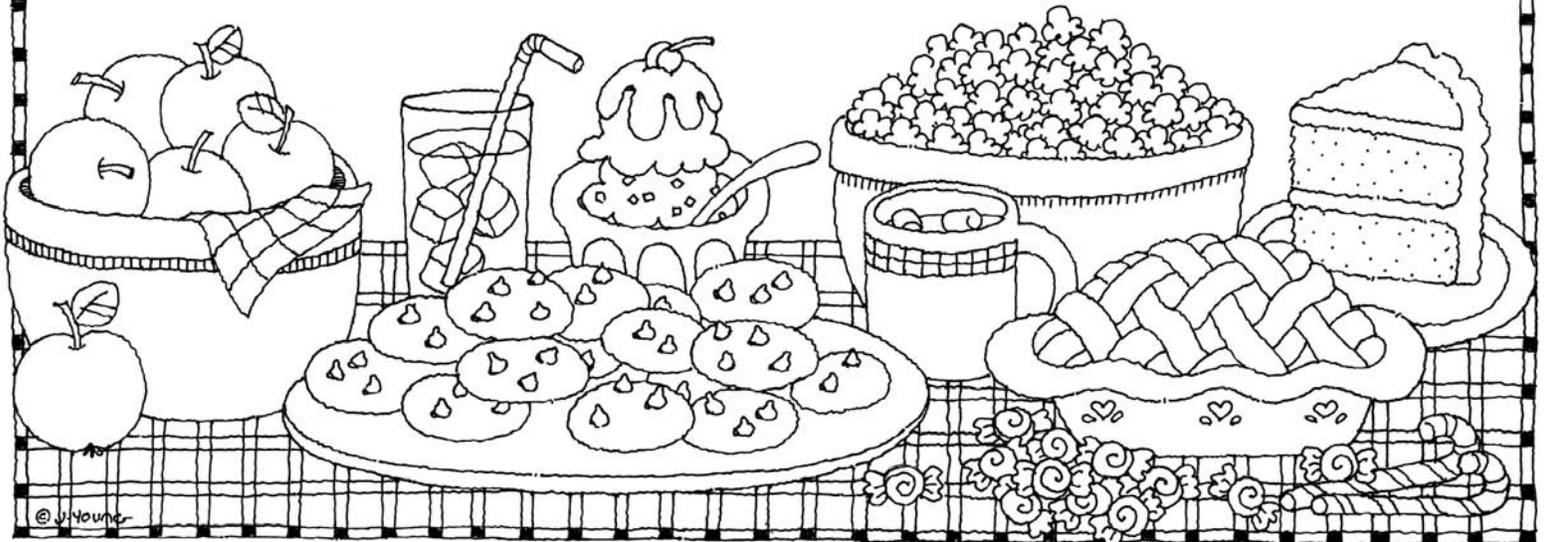
Refreshment

ELIZA'S BANANA-NUT BREAD

1/2 cup butter or margarine
1 cup sugar
2 eggs
2 cups mashed ripe banana
2 cups flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 cup walnuts, chopped

Cream together butter, sugar, and eggs. Stir in mashed bananas. Stir or sift together flour, baking soda, and salt. Add to banana mixture, and mix thoroughly. Stir in nuts. Pour into greased and floured 9x3x5-inch loaf pan or three small loaf pans. Bake at 350 degrees for 35 to 45 minutes. Turn out on rack and cool before slicing.

(Paula Julander and Joanne Milner, *Utah State Fare*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 1995], p. 151.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: The New Testament

Packet #040107

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

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The New Testament

Thought:

Let us study, learn, and live the hard doctrines the Savior taught in the New Testament, that our Christlike behavior may move us up to a much higher level of spiritual attainment.

(James E. Faust, "The Surety of a Better Testament," *Ensign*, Sep 2003, 2-6)

Song:

"The Books in the New Testament," *Children's Songbook*, p. 116.

Scripture:

Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

(John 5:39)

Object Lesson:

Materials needed: Several types of books (cookbook, auto repair, gardening).
Pictures from the life of Christ, such as His birth, the boy in the temple, blessing the children, stilling the storm, the Crucifixion, and resurrection.

Procedure: Show your family the various books you've brought. There are many different types of books. If you wanted a recipe for cookies, you would look in a cookbook. If you wanted information on growing vegetables you would read a gardening book. It's important to use a book that will give you the right information. Heavenly Father has given us the scriptures to help us. By reading them we can learn about Jesus and how to be more like him.

Show the pictures of Christ's life. Explain that the New Testament is where we can learn the stories of the life of Christ

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *Sharing Time, Family Time, Anytime*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1992], p. 83-4.)

Story:

"The New Testament Really Works"

(Paul H. Dunn)

Some time ago I had a challenge as a father when one of my daughters, during her junior high school days, came to me with a social problem which was

very disturbing. My daughter at the time was involved with a social group consisting of seven girls (four members of the Church and three nonmembers). The four had a silent pact, as it were, to try to convert the other three. As they were lunching together, as they frequently did, one of the young Latter-day Saint girls commenced to tell an off-color story. It was in poor taste, and totally out of order.

My daughter came home that night and recounted the situation; in fact, she was even bold enough to tell me the story. It was a problem! "Now," she said, "Dad, don't tell me what's right and what's wrong. I think I understand the principles of the gospel sufficiently to know that that wasn't the thing to do. But," she said, "What do you do when you find yourself in this kind of situation? How do you handle it?"

She didn't add this postscript, but I could see it in her eyes: "Remember, Dad, the important thing at my age is to be included. And remember, sir, any fifteen-year-old wants to be popular, to be accepted, to be wanted, and they don't want things to be too 'churchy!'" She was saying, in effect, "Will you give me an answer, and at the same time, keep me popular." Well, now, that is a task for any teacher or parent.

So we visited for a while and time won't permit all the details. I try frequently to get my daughters to see the principles of the gospel and their application to life. I turned, after some discussion, to the cleansing of the temple experience recorded in Matthew, Mark and Luke. You will recall the story of the Pharisees, the Sadducees, and the practices of the money changers. (I didn't take a lot of time to give her the history or background, although there are times when the history is needed and helpful. Somehow she could still live in this life without all of the excess baggage, as it were. Oh, I am not trying to suggest that these things aren't important to know historically, but more important than knowing the dimensions of the Nauvoo Temple, more important than knowing how many missions we have in the Church, more important than knowing what exactly will occur in the millennial reign, is the ability to apply divine principles daily so that life can be happy and truly enjoyed.) So as I read the cleansing of the temple story, I asked her, "What do you get out of this story?"

She said, "Well, the Savior was upset."

I said, "May I suggest one thought. He was saying to His peer group that there comes a time in every person's life when he has to stand up and be counted; and while it may not be the popular thing to do, there are times when you have to do what's right even though it isn't easy. You may have to stand alone a few times."

I said, "You think about that. Then you and I will have another talk."

She thought about it and came back a little while later and said, "I can't think of any way yet to apply the principles, Dad."

So we talked some more.

I said, "I'll tell you what, if the Savior was right, let's you and I go out in the garage, and I'll make a cat-o-nine-tails whip, and you go over tomorrow and clean out that junior high school of all its iniquities."

"Dad," she said, "you have missed the point. You can't do that and be popular."

I said, "All right, how's this for an idea? How would it be, the next time you find yourself in that kind of social situation and somebody starts to tell an off-colored story, you stand up and say, 'Now you listen here, we won't have any more of that!'"

She said, "Dad, you just haven't got it! I couldn't do that!"

Well, I thought maybe she would think that way, and I said, "Well, now, why don't you submit a plan?"

She said, "Let me think some more." She walked away with that look, "How did I ever get you for a Dad!"

I went about my business. A new day came and went, and as I returned home the next day I found

my wife was in the kitchen peeling potatoes for supper. As I approached her to give her a little kiss, I noticed she was holding back the tears. I thought, "Potatoes don't do this."

"What's the matter honey?"

She said, "It is your daughter! Better go see her."

I thought, "Another crisis!" So I tiptoed into the back bedroom and there was a sweet experience awaiting me. This little lady, who had wrestled with life as it really is, was sitting on the bed pushing back a few tears all of her own, although she is not overly emotional.

I said, "Well, tell me what is the matter."

She said, "Dad, it is an interesting thing. I took the cleansing of the temple story to task today and tried it out."

I said, "Oh, did you clean out the junior high?"

"No," she said, "I called M_____ (who was the girl that had told the off-color story, her LDS friend) and said, 'Can you walk home with me?' 'Yes.' So we walked home. I brought her into the bedroom and sat her down and I said, 'M_____, I just want you to know that our friendship means a great deal to me. Yesterday you really put all of us on the spot. I felt it and I think you did. I know you didn't mean to cause feelings or tension, but when you told that story it reduced all of us in the eyes of our non-Latter-day Saint friends. Now, while I appreciate your intent was maybe honorable and you thought this was a clever way to be noticed, I wonder if the next time you feel that you have to do this would you warn me in advance so that I could be excused?'"

M_____ broke down and put her arms around this daughter and said, "Will you forgive me?"

She said, "Dad, we cried for half an hour." Then the climax: "You know what, Dad?"

I said, "No, what?"

She said, "The New Testament really works, doesn't it?"

Yes, "the New Testament really works." Because when you come to understand the concepts and the principles contained in it and you make the proper application in life, it doesn't matter whether you are sitting in a parked car; it doesn't matter whether you are at the ball game; it doesn't matter whether you are in the athletic contest—you will be able to draw upon the gospel principles and solve life's daily challenge and thus find eternal joy and happiness that we each seek.

May I suggest that happiness, as I have come to know it and to appreciate it—limited as it might be—is being able to discipline self, to accept the standards of the gospel of Jesus Christ and again make proper application to daily living.

(Leon R. Hartshorn, *Outstanding Stories by General Authorities, vol. 1*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1970].)

Activity:

The leader name a book from the New Testament. The rest of the players name books one by one, each player taking his turn around the circle. When a mistake is made, that person goes to the end of the line.

Variation: When the leader names a book, he points to another person and starts counting to ten. If he can count to ten before this person can name another book, that person has to go to the end; if not, he points to another person and starts counting again. No book can be repeated.

(Alma Heaton, *The LDS Game Book*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1968], p. 296.)

Refreshment

Easter Basket Cake

Colorful, fast, and fantastic!

- 1 package yellow or devil's food cake mix
- 4 cups flaked coconut
- 1 teaspoon milk or water
- Yellow food coloring
- Green food coloring

3 1/2 cups frozen non-dairy whipped topping, thawed

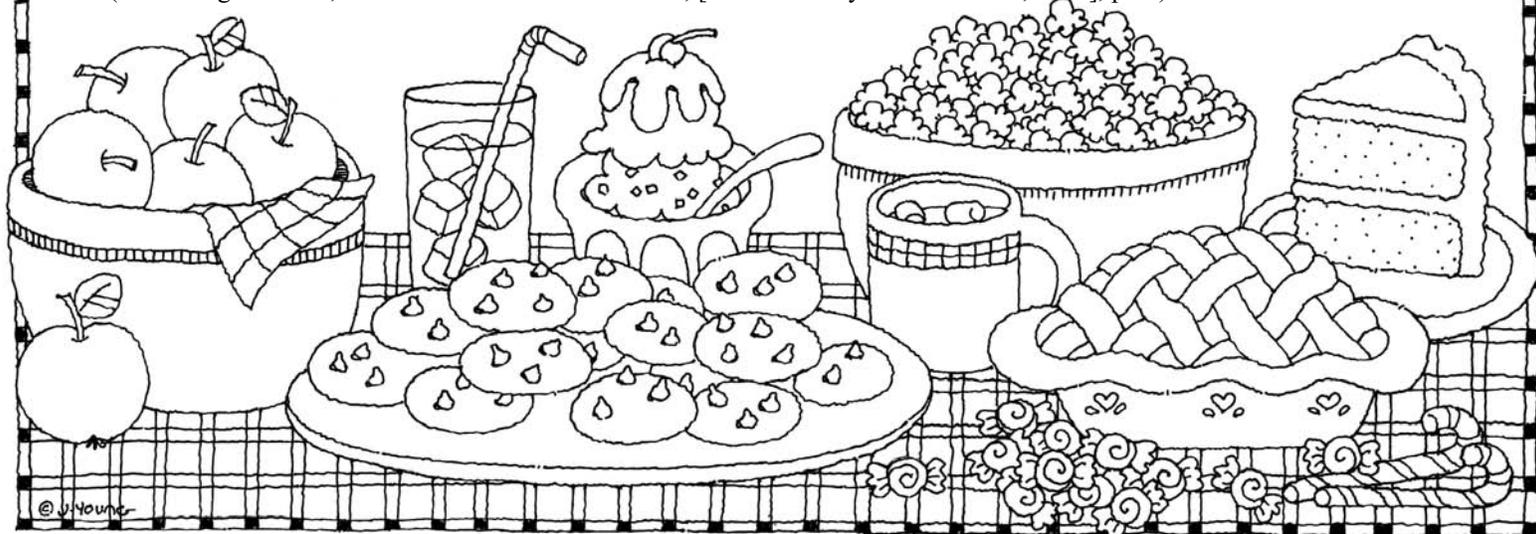
Prepare cake mix as directed on package, baking in a well-greased 10-inch Bundt pan. Cool. To remove, loosen edges with a knife and turn cake upside down to resemble a basket.

Tint the coconut by placing 2 cups of the coconut in a plastic bag. Add 1/2 teaspoon of the milk or water mixed with a few drops of yellow food coloring. Secure bag tightly and shake until evenly coated. Repeat above steps to color the remaining coconut green.

Frost cake with whipped topping. Gently press yellow coconut on sides of cake to resemble a straw basket. Sprinkle green coconut over top of cake.

Make a handle by bending a spring branch or using braided pipe cleaner and inserting ends into top of cake at opposite sides. Garnish with jellybeans and small chocolate eggs. Store cake in refrigerator. This recipe may also be adapted to make individual cupcake baskets. Makes 10 to 12 servings.

(Julie Badger Jensen, *Essential Mormon Celebrations*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2005], p. 9.)



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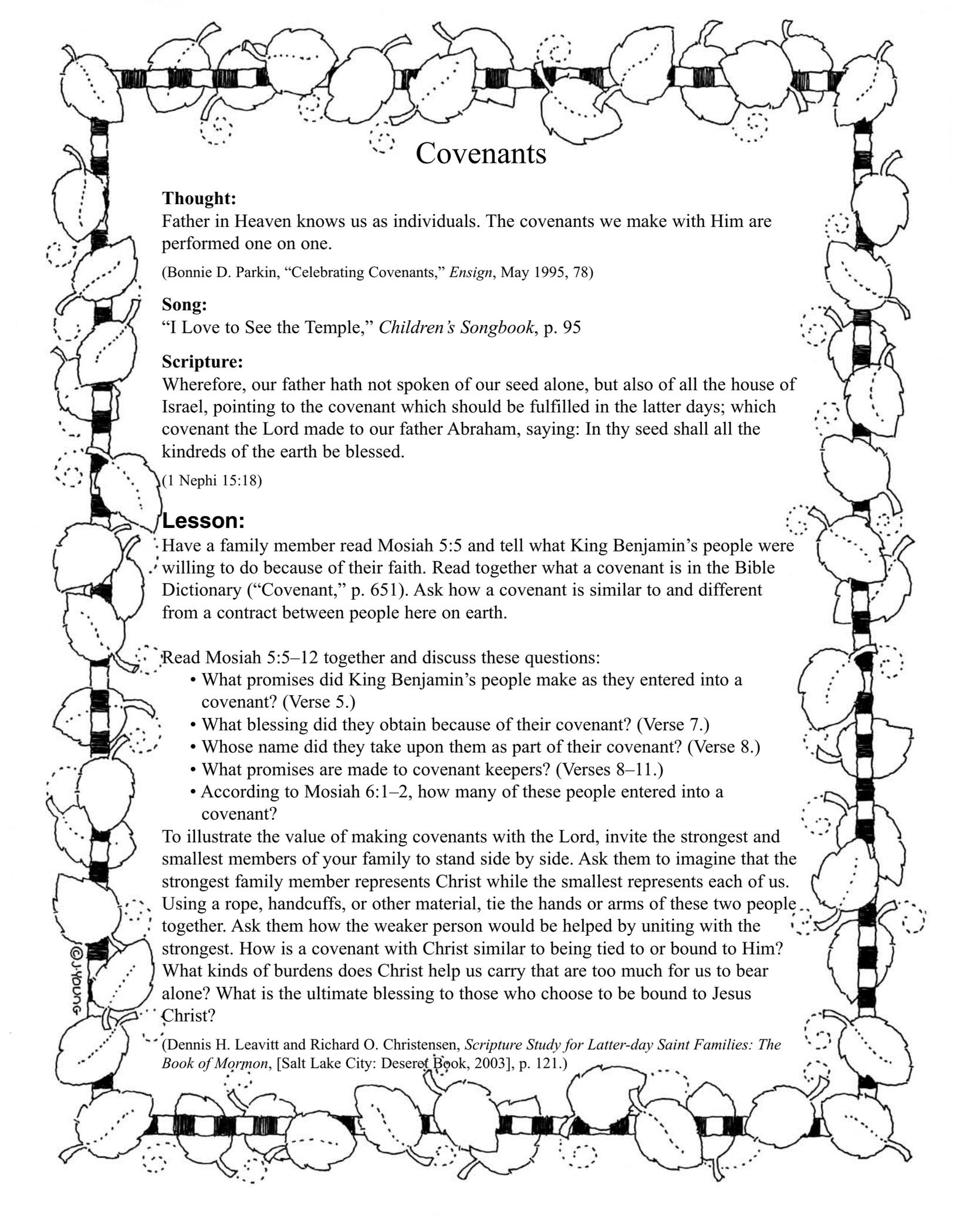
Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Covenants

Packet #040106

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
- 3. Involvement.** Involve everyone in the family; help little children take part.
- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
- 5. Relax** and enjoy it. The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.



Covenants

Thought:

Father in Heaven knows us as individuals. The covenants we make with Him are performed one on one.

(Bonnie D. Parkin, "Celebrating Covenants," *Ensign*, May 1995, 78)

Song:

"I Love to See the Temple," *Children's Songbook*, p. 95

Scripture:

Wherefore, our father hath not spoken of our seed alone, but also of all the house of Israel, pointing to the covenant which should be fulfilled in the latter days; which covenant the Lord made to our father Abraham, saying: In thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed.

(1 Nephi 15:18)

Lesson:

Have a family member read Mosiah 5:5 and tell what King Benjamin's people were willing to do because of their faith. Read together what a covenant is in the Bible Dictionary ("Covenant," p. 651). Ask how a covenant is similar to and different from a contract between people here on earth.

Read Mosiah 5:5–12 together and discuss these questions:

- What promises did King Benjamin's people make as they entered into a covenant? (Verse 5.)
- What blessing did they obtain because of their covenant? (Verse 7.)
- Whose name did they take upon them as part of their covenant? (Verse 8.)
- What promises are made to covenant keepers? (Verses 8–11.)
- According to Mosiah 6:1–2, how many of these people entered into a covenant?

To illustrate the value of making covenants with the Lord, invite the strongest and smallest members of your family to stand side by side. Ask them to imagine that the strongest family member represents Christ while the smallest represents each of us. Using a rope, handcuffs, or other material, tie the hands or arms of these two people together. Ask them how the weaker person would be helped by uniting with the strongest. How is a covenant with Christ similar to being tied to or bound to Him? What kinds of burdens does Christ help us carry that are too much for us to bear alone? What is the ultimate blessing to those who choose to be bound to Jesus Christ?

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The Book of Mormon*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 121.)

Story:

Keeping Covenants

I would like to tell the young people of an experience I had when I was a very young man and was talking with a very old man. This is the story he told me.

When he was a little boy-that would be nearly one hundred years ago-he lived in a very small community a long way from Salt Lake City. One of the men in the ward, a close relation to the President of the Church, had passed away. When the funeral was held, everyone in the ward went to the funeral, as was the custom. So this little boy went with his father and mother to the funeral. Just as the service was about to begin, to their great surprise in walked the prophet, the President of the Church. He had come a long way by train and then by buggy to attend the funeral service of his relative.

The service was similar to those of other funerals. Some kind things were said about the deceased man. He was described as a good man. Someone said that he had given flour to the widows, and he had helped those in the ward. We like to say kind things at funerals, of course.

The concluding speaker was the President of the Church. What he said was not comforting. He gave a talk that perhaps only the President of the Church could give; and he perhaps could speak in that way only because he was speaking about a relative. He confirmed that this man had been a good man and said that the good things he had done would earn him a reward; but then he said: "The fact is, he did not keep his covenants."

This man, when he was young, had gone to the temple to be married, to be sealed. Some sweet young girl had persuaded him to change his habits and become worthy, so he stopped doing some wrong things, began to pay his tithing and attend church, eventually received a temple recommend; and then the couple went to the temple and were sealed. But after a while, because the temple was a long way away and they did not return, he forgot. He began to slip back into some of his old habits. He forgot to pay his tithing. He ceased being the man he had become.

His relative, the President of the Church, knew all this, so he acknowledged that all the good he had done would earn him rewards, but he said, "The fact is, he did not keep his covenants." There were things he did that he should not have done, for he had covenanted not to do them. Similarly there were things he had covenanted to do that he had not done. So he had covenanted not to do some things and covenanted to do some things, and he had become loose and lazy on those things. He was basically a good man, maybe a good Christian as far as the world would judge it. But he had not kept his covenants, his agreements.

[The Lord] cannot break [His] promises; you will receive what is promised. But if you do not keep your part of the covenant the promises will not be fulfilled. There cannot be justice in your receiving the reward if you have not earned it Keep your covenants. Keep your covenants.

(Boyd K. Packer, *Memorable Stories and Parables*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1997], p. 48–51.)

Activities:

Have family members take turns sitting back-to-back on the floor. As they work together and push against each other's back they can stand up without using their hands. Compare this to the two-way promises of a covenant.

Refreshment

Banana Bread

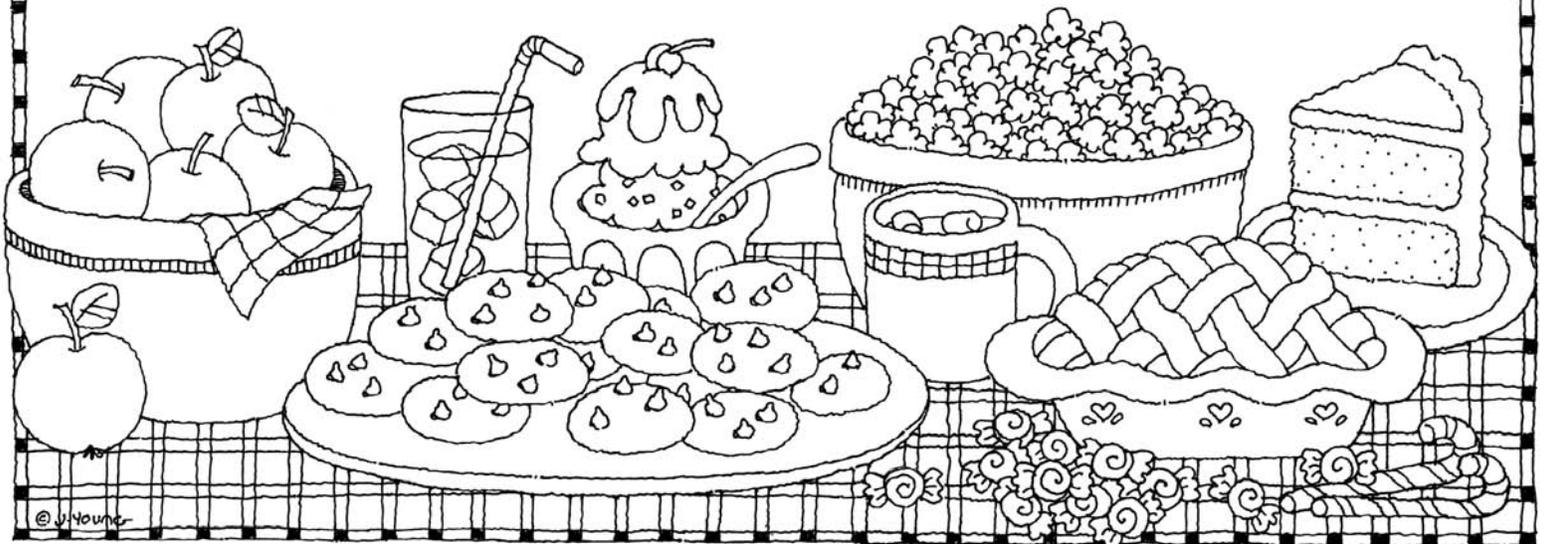
Barbara B. Smith

2 c. flour
1 tsp. baking soda
1 c. sugar
1/4 c. butter
1/2 tsp. salt
3 ripe bananas, crushed
2 eggs
1/2 c. chopped nuts

Preheat oven to 350° F. Sift together flour and soda, then mix all ingredients together and pour into a greased loaf pan and bake 1 hour.

Makes 1 loaf.

(Elaine Cannon, *Five-Star Recipes from Well-known Latter-day Saints*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2002] p. 28.)



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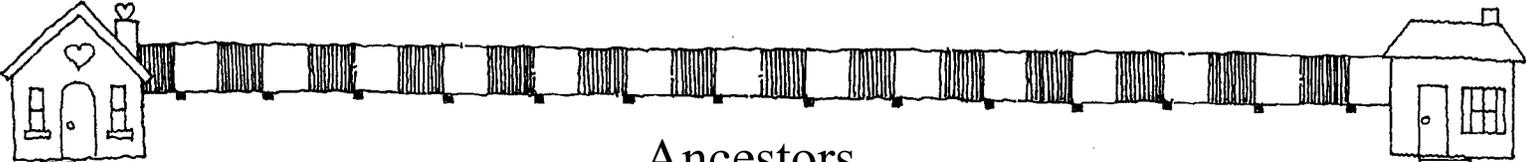
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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Ancestors

Packet #020109

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
- 2. Prioritize.** Make Family Home Evening a priority; learn to say no to other activities.
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- 4. Commitment.** Be committed and be consistent. Set a designated time and stick to it. Holding Family Home Evening on a weekly basis takes dedication and planning on the part of all family members.
- 5. Relax and enjoy it.** The most important thing your children will remember is the spirit they feel in your family home evenings and activities. Be sure the atmosphere is one of love, understanding, and enjoyment.



Ancestors

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read “Faith of Our Father,” by Dieter F. Uchtdorf, *Ensign*, May 2008, 68–70, 75.

Thought:

I marvel at the different backgrounds of members of the Church. You come from all walks of life—all cultures, languages, political circumstances, and religious traditions.

(Dieter F. Uchtdorf, “Faith of Our Father,” *Ensign*, May 2008, 68–70, 75.)

Song:

“Family History,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 94

Scripture:

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.

(Doctrine and Covenants 2:2)

Lesson:

Ask your family, “What is the only passage of scripture quoted in all four standard works of the Church?”

Write the following scripture passages on four slips of paper and give them to four different family members: 3 Nephi 25:5–6; Malachi 4:5–6; D&C 2:2 and 110:15; Joseph Smith—History 1:38–39. Have each one read aloud his or her verses. Then discuss the following questions:

- When did the Lord promise to send Elijah?
- Why must Elijah come?
- What happens if he doesn’t come?
- Has Elijah come, or are we still waiting for him?

Share the following statement from President Ezra Taft Benson:

“Elijah brought the keys of sealing powers—that power which seals a man to a woman and seals their posterity to them endlessly, that which seals their forefathers to them all the way back to Adam. This is the power and order that Elijah revealed—that same order of priesthood which God gave to Adam and to all the ancient patriarchs which followed after him.” (“What I Hope You Will Teach Your Children about the Temple,” *Ensign*, August 1985, pp. 9–10.)

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The Book of Mormon*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 311.)

Story:

Ardeth G. Kapp

Months ago we had talked about the forthcoming Christmas and made the traditional gift list that ranged from the ridiculous to the sublime. . . . Heber's list of wants was short, as usual; but he did express a concern for the responsibility he had as a stake president to lead the way, and it bothered him that his family history was not compiled. His family group sheets were incomplete. While the information was probably available from aunts and uncles, his own brothers and sisters had little or no information. He felt anxious about this, but wasn't sure it was a Christmas list item, at least not the kind you could get from the mail-order catalog or

even ZCMI. That was months ago, and now my prayer was being answered. The hands on my watch seemed to stand still while I worked. Everything was coming together so beautifully.

The gift was finally wrapped. I could hardly believe I had done it, but there it was—the evidence of hours and hours of work. I hurried back and slipped into bed. It was 5:45 a.m. I had made it! It didn't matter now, and it's a good thing, because children's voices were heard from the other room. "Grandpa says it's time we can get up. Hurry, hurry. We can't wait," they said. And neither could I. There were so many gifts for everyone. . . .

I handed Heber my gift. He tore off the cover. A book. A book of remembrance—full. Pages and pages with pictures and stories never before recorded, a result of many secret trips to Ogden while he was in his many meetings, interviewing relatives and sorting through records and histories. The first page of the gift began with a letter, "Dear Heber. As I have copied, reviewed, and prepared these sheets and interviewed family members, your ancestors have become very real to me, and I have an increased appreciation and understanding of the greatness and nobility in the man I married. In interviews with those who knew and remembered your parents, I learned that your father always wanted your mother to be with him, in the fields if possible, and even wherever he was in the house. You must have inherited that. Although I never met your father, and your mother only once, when we meet, I know I'll love them and know them better because of this gift I have prepared for you, which really has been a gift for me."

I don't remember any of the other gifts that year, but Heber and I will never forget the spirit of that glorious Christmas celebration.

(Celebration of Christmas: A Collection of Stories, Poems, Essays, and Traditions by Favorite LDS Authors, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Company, 1988].)

Activity:

Fill in the names of a family tree for your family. If possible, show pictures of or share stories about the family members on your family tree.

Refreshment

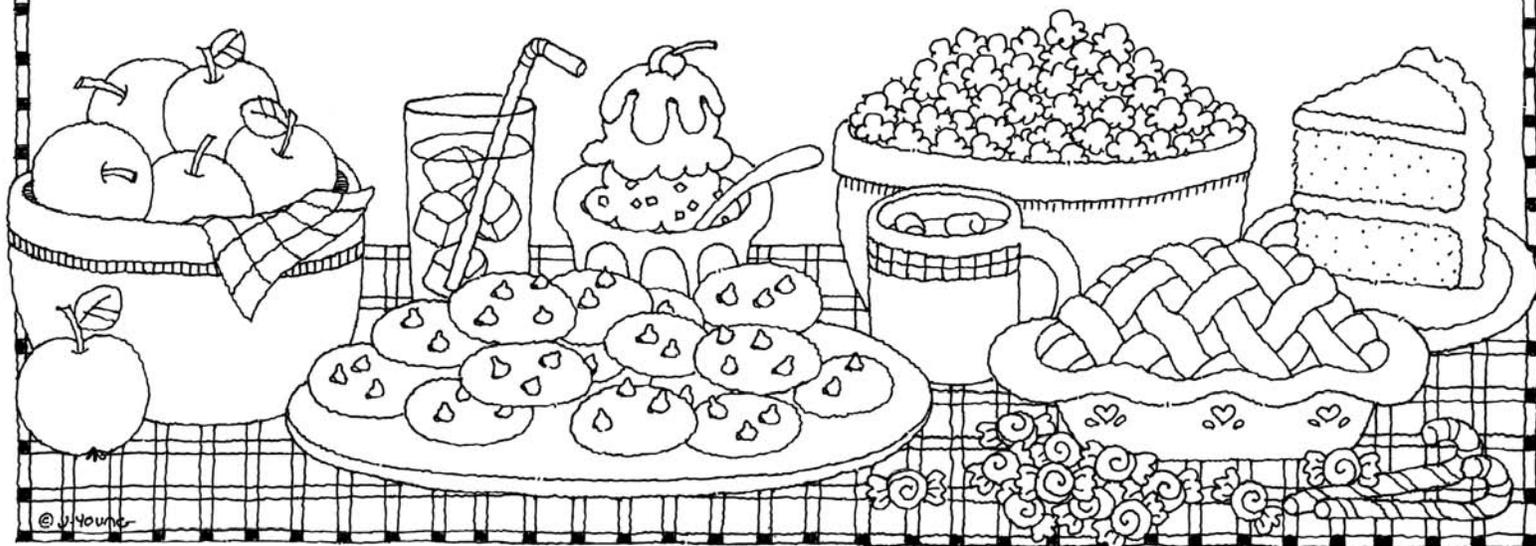
Cherry Crisp

- 2 (21-ounce) cans cherry pie filling
- 1 box yellow cake mix
- 1 3/4 cups chopped pecans
- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter, melted

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Pour the pie filling into the bottom of a 9x13-inch glass baking dish. Sprinkle the cake mix over the top but do not stir. Top with the chopped pecans, then pour the melted butter on top of that. Bake for about 30 minutes. Cool and then serve. Optionally, top with some vanilla ice cream or freshly whipped cream.

Serves 6 to 8.

(Clark L. and Kathryn H. Kidd, *52 Weeks of Recipes for Students, Missionaries, and Nervous Cooks*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2007] p. 106.)



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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Apostles

Packet #090408

5 tips for successful Family Home Evenings

- 1. Pray.** Pray about the needs of your family as you consider topics for home evenings, and pray as you prepare.
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Apostles

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read “The Twelve,” by Boyd K. Packer, *Ensign*, May 2008, 83–87.

Thought:

For the Church to be His Church, there must be a Quorum of the Twelve who hold the keys.

(Boyd K. Packer, “The Twelve,” *Ensign*, May 2008, 83–87.)

Song:

“The Fifth Article of Faith” *Children’s Songbook*, p.125.

Scripture:

And as I said unto mine apostles, even so I say unto you, for you are mine apostles, even God's high priests; ye are they whom my Father hath given me; ye are my friends.

(Doctrine and Covenants 84:63)

Lesson:

Show your family a picture of each member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles and First Presidency, but do not show their names. (These pictures can be found in a recent May or November *Ensign*.) Let each family member see how many of these men they can name.

Explain that Jesus also called Twelve Apostles when He was on earth. Have your family try to name as many of Jesus’ original Twelve Apostles as they can. Ask family members to read Mark 3:16–21 and find the names of the original Twelve Apostles.

Discuss the following questions:

- According to Mark 3:13–15, what did Jesus ask these men to do?
- According to the Bible Dictionary (“Apostle,” 612), what is the principal responsibility of an Apostle?
- How do Apostles witness that Jesus is the Christ today?
- What messages do you remember from the Apostles in the last conference?

Invite family members to share feelings, testimonies, or personal experiences they may have had with today’s Apostles.

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The New Testament*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2006], p. 59.)

Story:

by F.A. Hammond

On the 6th day of September 1848, we arrived in Great Salt Lake City. I remember thinking the name was much larger than the city, which consisted of three mud forts called the North, South and Middle Forts, enclosing ten acres in each fort, if my memory is not at fault. The Saints . . . were all located inside these forts or enclosures, probably in round numbers not exceeding fifteen hundred souls. . . .

On the 20th of September, 1848, President Brigham Young and company arrived in the valley from Winter Quarters. I sought and obtained an introduction to him. I was profoundly impressed with his appearance. Never did a man make such an impression upon me as he did; and I was more than willing to accept him as the great leader and prophet and counselor to the people of God. This testimony has never wavered in the least from that day to the present.

I had a great desire to make the acquaintance of Apostle Parley P. Pratt, for I revered him as my father in the gospel, on account of the *Voice of Warning*, which had much to do in converting me to the faith.

One afternoon soon after my arrival, I dressed myself up in my best bib and tucker, and Brother Van Cott took me up to introduce me to Apostle Parley P. Pratt. We found him threshing beans before his door, with a wagon box with sides turned down for a floor. He was barefooted, in shirt sleeves, and wore a home-made straw hat with brim nearly separated from the crown, and his ears protruding between crown and brim of his hat. I must confess I was a good deal surprised to find my ideal Apostle in such a plight, and forced to labor in such a manner for his support, for I had the old sectarian idea about the grave and reverend appearance of prophets and apostles, who had little if anything to do with secular or temporal affairs. With such views I could hardly receive Brother Pratt as the man who wrote so many inspired books.

In introducing me, Brother Van Cott stated that I was lately from the Sandwich Islands, and had resided there some three years. Brother Pratt flung down his flail and, seating himself on a fence, began talking about the people on those far-off isles belonging to the house of Israel. A flood of light and truth flowed in a perpetual stream from his lips, and his whole soul was inspired with his theme. I soon lost all sight of his bare feet, his dilapidated hat and general appearance, and was all imbued with the spirit of the great latter-day gathering promised by the Lord to His people, the house of Israel. Never in all my life had I heard such a discourse so full of inspiration and prophecy concerning the great work of the Lord in the latter days. I found my ideal Apostle to be all that I had imagined and far more.

(Edited by Jay A. Parry, Jack M. Lyon, and Linda Rire Gundry, *Best-Loved Stories of the LDS People*, Vol. 3, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2000]. p.17–18.)

Activity:

Attach a long piece of white paper to the wall with masking tape. On the table spread many issues of the *Ensign* (or other age-appropriate church magazines). Each member of the family picks out an issue and looks through it looking for messages from the apostles. They should select statements of counsel and write them on the paper with a felt-tip pen: “Plant a garden,” “Don’t shop on Sunday,” “Fellowship an inactive family,” and so on. After looking over the list, choose two items that your family wants to work on for the next month.

(Eric G. Stephan and Judith Stephan Smith, *What Happy Families Are Doing*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1981], p. 35.)

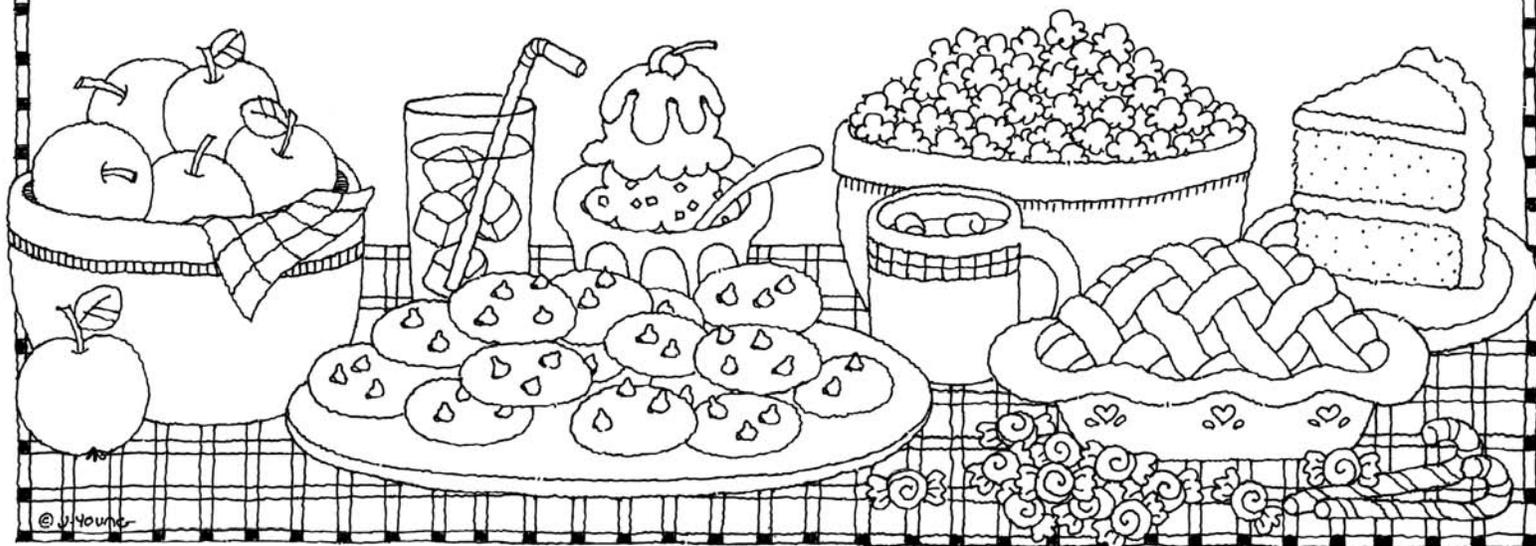
Refreshment

Honey Candy

2 cups honey
1 cup sugar
1 cup cream

Combine ingredients in heavy saucepan. Stir over low heat until sugar is dissolved. Cook, stirring as little as possible, until mixture reaches hard ball stage (260 degrees). Remove from heat; pour onto buttered shallow pan or buttered platter. Turn edges in with spatula so they will not harden and candy will cool more quickly. When barely cool enough to handle, pull, using only buttered finger tips, until light and fluffy. Twist into ropes of desired thickness. With scissors cut into pieces of desired size.

(Winnifred C. Jardine, *Mormon Country Cooking*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1980] p. 301.)



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