



strengthening
our home
and family

Deseret Book®

Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Agency

Packet #010205

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.

Agency

Thought:

The basic principle of free agency gives us the election to obey or disobey.
(President Howard W. Hunter)

Purpose:

To teach our family that our Heavenly Father loved us enough to let us choose whether to follow his plan or not.

Song:

"Choose the Right Way," *Children's Songbook*, p. 160.

Scripture:

The Lord said unto Enoch: Behold these thy brethren; they are the workmanship of mine own hands, and I gave unto them their knowledge, in the day I created them; and in the Garden of Eden, gave I unto man his agency
(Moses 7:32)

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 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. Praise them for being obedient. Tell them 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:

U-Dandy Resented Restraint

(David O. McKay)

Recently I had great pleasure in training a well-bred colt. He had a good disposition, clean, well-rounded eye, was well-proportioned, and all in all, a choice equine pos-session. Under the saddle he was as willing, responsive, and co-operative as a horse could be. He and my dog "Scotty" were real companions. I liked the way he would go up to something of which he was afraid. He had confidence that if he would do as I bade him he would not be injured.

But "U-Dandy" resented restraint. He was ill-contented when tied and would nibble at the tie-rope until he was free. He would not run away, just wanted to be free. Thinking other horses felt the same, he would proceed to untie their ropes. He hated to be confined in the pasture, and if he could find a place in the fence where there was only smooth wire, he would paw the wire carefully with his feet until he could step over to freedom. More than once my neighbors were kind enough to put him back in the field. He learned even to push open the gate. Though his depredations were provoking and sometimes expensive, I admired his intelligence and ingenuity.

But his curiosity and desire to explore the neighborhood led him and me into trouble. Once on the highway he was hit by an automobile, resulting in a demolished machine, injury to the horse, and slight, though not serious, injury to the driver.

Recovering from that, and still impelled with a feeling of wanderlust he inspected the fence throughout the entire boundary.

He even found the gates wired. So, for awhile we thought we had "U-Dandy" secure in the pasture.

One day, however, somebody left the gate unwired. Detecting this, "U-Dandy" unlatched it, took "Nig," his companion, with him, and together they visited the neighbor's field. They went to an old house used for storage. "U-Dandy's" curiosity prompted him to push open the door. Just as he had surmised, there was a sack of grain. What a find! Yes, and what a tragedy! The grain was poison bait for rodents! In a few minutes "U-Dandy" and "Nig" were in spasmodic pain, and shortly both were dead.

How like "U-Dandy" are many of our youth! They are not bad; they do not even intend to do wrong, but they are impulsive, full of life, full of curiosity, and long to do something. They, too, are restive under restraint, but if they are kept busy, guided carefully and rightly, they prove to be responsive and capable; but if left to wander unguided, they all too frequently find themselves in the environment of temptation and too often are entangled in the snares of evil.

(Linda Ririe Gundry, Jay A. Parry, and Jack M. Lyon, editors, *Best-Loved Christmas Stories of the LDS People*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2001] p. 429.)

Activity:

Draw a line down the middle of a large sheet of paper or poster board. Have your family read Alma 29:4–5 and find the opposites contained in the verses. List one word on the left side of the board and its opposite on the right side of the board. When finished, the board might look something like the chart below:

Life		Death
Salvation		Destruction
Good		Evil
Joy		Remorse of conscience

Ask your family which list they would rather have and why. What would they be willing to do to enjoy those things? Look again at Alma 29:4–5 and underline phrases showing that God allows us to have what we want (for example, “he granteth unto men according to their desire”; “he allotteth unto men . . . according to their wills”; “it is given according to his desires”). Ask:

- How might knowing that the Lord “granteth unto men according to their desire” in this life affect our decisions for the future?
- What can we do to show the Lord that we want life and salvation more than death and destruction?

(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. 196.)

Extra:

- Memorize as poetry the first verse of “Know This That Every Soul is Free,” *Hymns*, p. 240.
- Pass a basket of small candies around the room. Tell each person which candy they must choose. Pass it a second time letting each person choose their own candy.

Refreshment

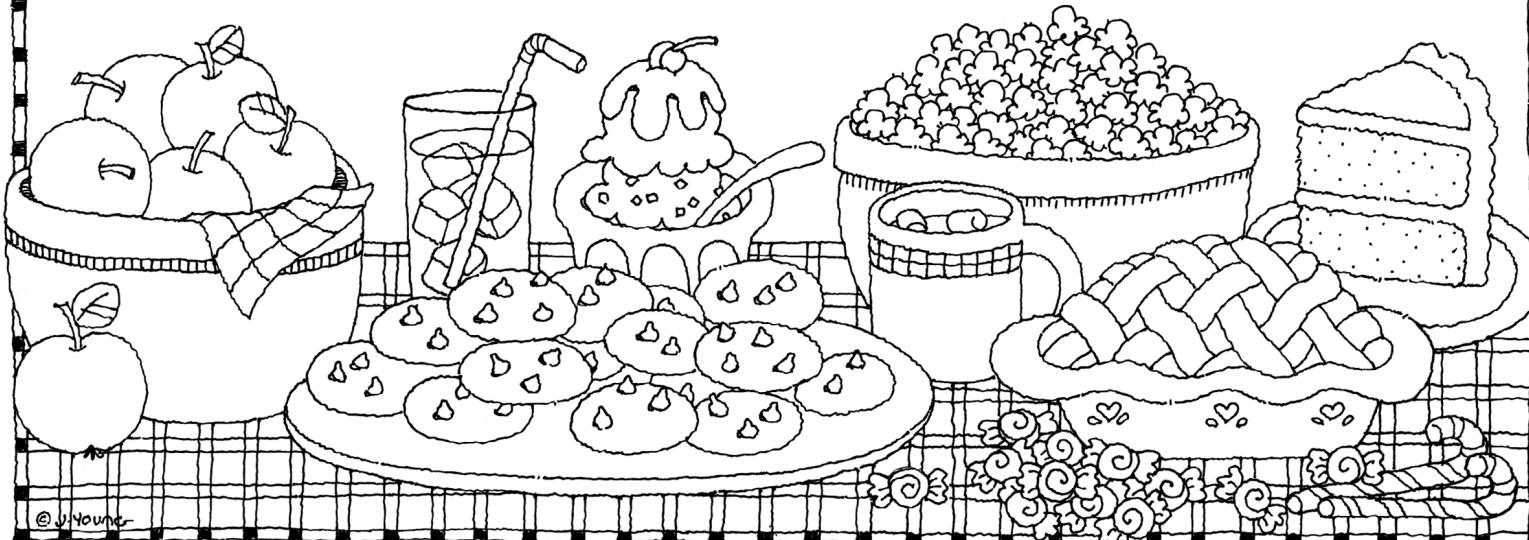
Chewy Chex® Mix

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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