



strengthening
our home
and family

Deseret Book®

Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Obey the Commandments

Packet #010405

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.

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Obey the Commandments

Thought:

Obedience is the most genuine way to show our love for God.
(Howard W. Hunter)

Purpose:

To help our family learn that through obeying the commandments we can return to live with our Father in Heaven.

Song:

“Keep the Commandments” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 146.

Scripture:

Thou shalt therefore obey the voice of the LORD thy God, and do his commandments and his statutes, which I command thee this day.
(Deuteronomy 27:10)

Object Lesson:

Draw a large square on a piece of paper. Tell your family that it represents the four sides of a fence. Explain that many people might consider this fence restrictive and try to jump or climb over it. Others would consider the fence as a way to keep anything from hurting them.

Heavenly Father has given us a protective fence called the commandments. Invite family members to name some of the commandments. Write them around the outside of the square. Ask how each of these commandments protects us.

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *Sharing Time, Family Time, Anytime: Book Two*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1994], p. 65–66.)

Story:

How to Be Exactly Obedient

Even Jesus, the greatest person ever to live on this earth, won the prize of eternal glory only by strict obedience to the will of his Father.

Noah was another superb example. Long before the rains came, while it was still dry, the Lord commanded him to build a ship to save his family from a great flood. That would be like the Lord commanding his servant, Brother Ogden, to take his family from Provo, Utah, and flee up the canyon eastward into Heber Valley, and there build a spaceship. The world would soon be destroyed, and that would be the only way for my family and me to escape and be saved. My

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reaction, of course, would be "But Lord, I don't know how to build a spaceship." I suspect Noah must have felt the same way. But he responded. He did exactly as the Lord instructed him (the Lord providing the details after Noah demonstrated his willingness to obey), and, in the end, the prophet and his family were saved and thus perpetuated the human race. We all appreciate Noah's obedience: we are all descendants of Noah, and his obedience preserved our option to come here for this crucial mortal probation.

(D. Kelly Ogden, *Before You Get to Heaven: 8 Mighty Changes God Wants for You*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2004], p. 106–107.)

Activity:

On one side of a paper, list the following actions: stay up too late, exercise, arrive late for school or work, break a traffic law, smile, eat too much, drive on a flat tire, prepare well for an assignment or test. If you desire, list any others that are applicable for your family. Draw a line down the middle of the paper.

Briefly discuss what the word consequences means. Tell your family that every choice has a consequence. Sometimes the consequences do not happen for a long time, but there is always a consequence. Go through the list and have family members tell what the consequence of each action might be. On the other side of the line, write one or two consequences of each action. Determine whether the action shows obedience or disobedience.

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *Building Blocks for Better Lessons*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1998], p. 9.)

Extras:

- Play “Simon Says.” Liken keeping the commandments with following “Simon’s” instructions exactly.
- Teach the following verse:

While I Am Young

(Mabel Jones Gabbott)

If I can learn while I am young
To listen and obey,
When I am older, doing right
Will be the easier way.

(Joyce Bowen Maughan, *Talks for Tots*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1985], p. 139.)

Refreshment

Chocolate Marshmallow Surprises

2 c. flour
1/2 tsp. soda
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 c. cocoa
1/2 c. shortening
1 tsp. vanilla
1 c. sugar
1 egg
1/2 c. milk
20 marshmallows, cut in half

Chocolate Icing (see recipe)
Nut topping, if desired

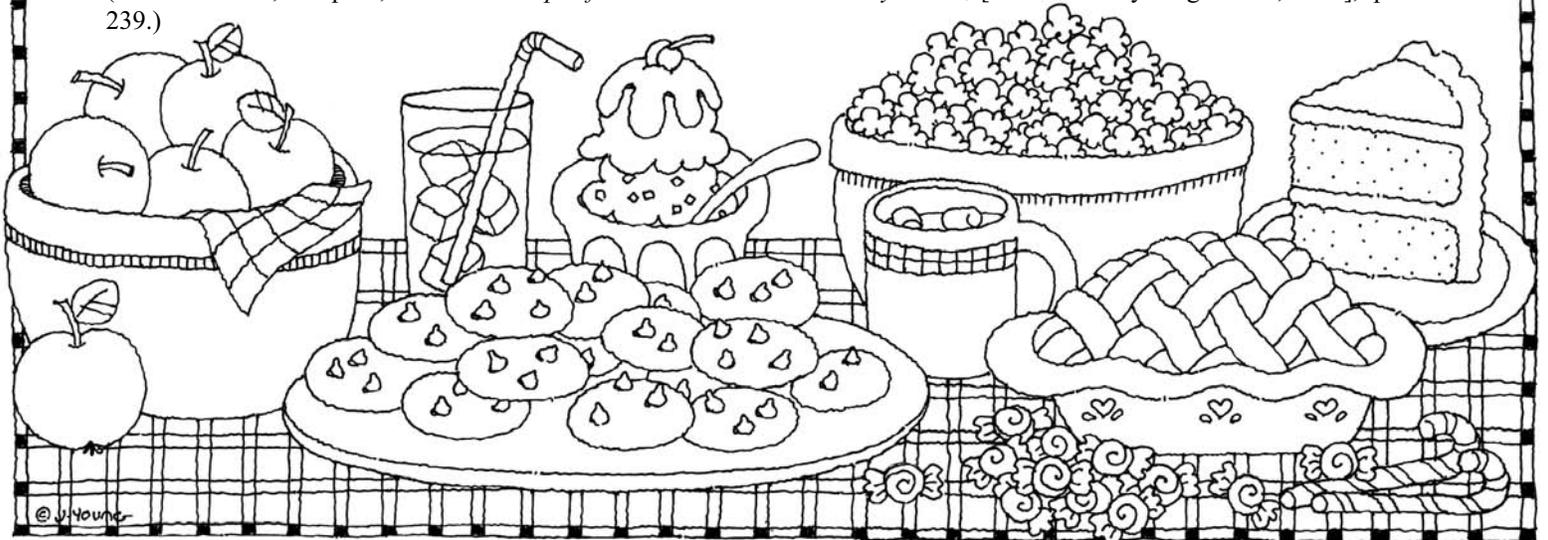
Chocolate Icing

1 1/2 c. powdered sugar
2 Tbs. cocoa
Dash salt
3 Tbs. milk
1 Tbs. butter
1 Tbs. shortening

Preheat oven to 350° F. Stir together flour, soda, salt, and cocoa; set aside. In a separate bowl, cream together shortening, vanilla, sugar, and egg. Alternately blend in dry ingredients and milk. Drop batter from a teaspoon 2 inches apart on ungreased baking sheet. Bake 8 minutes. Remove cookies from oven, set one marshmallow half on each cookie and return to oven for 1 minute more. Remove from oven and set aside for 1 minute; then drop a spoonful of icing on each marshmallow-topped cookie, letting it drizzle over all. Sprinkle with crushed nuts, if desired. Makes 3 to 4 dozen cookies.

For icing, combine powdered sugar, cocoa, and salt. Heat together milk and butter and beat enough of it into the powdered mixture, along with shortening, to make a soft icing.

(Elaine Cannon, compiler, *Five Star Recipes from Well-Known Latter-day Saints*, [Salt Lake City: Eagle Gate, 2002], p. 239.)



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