



strengthening
our home
and family

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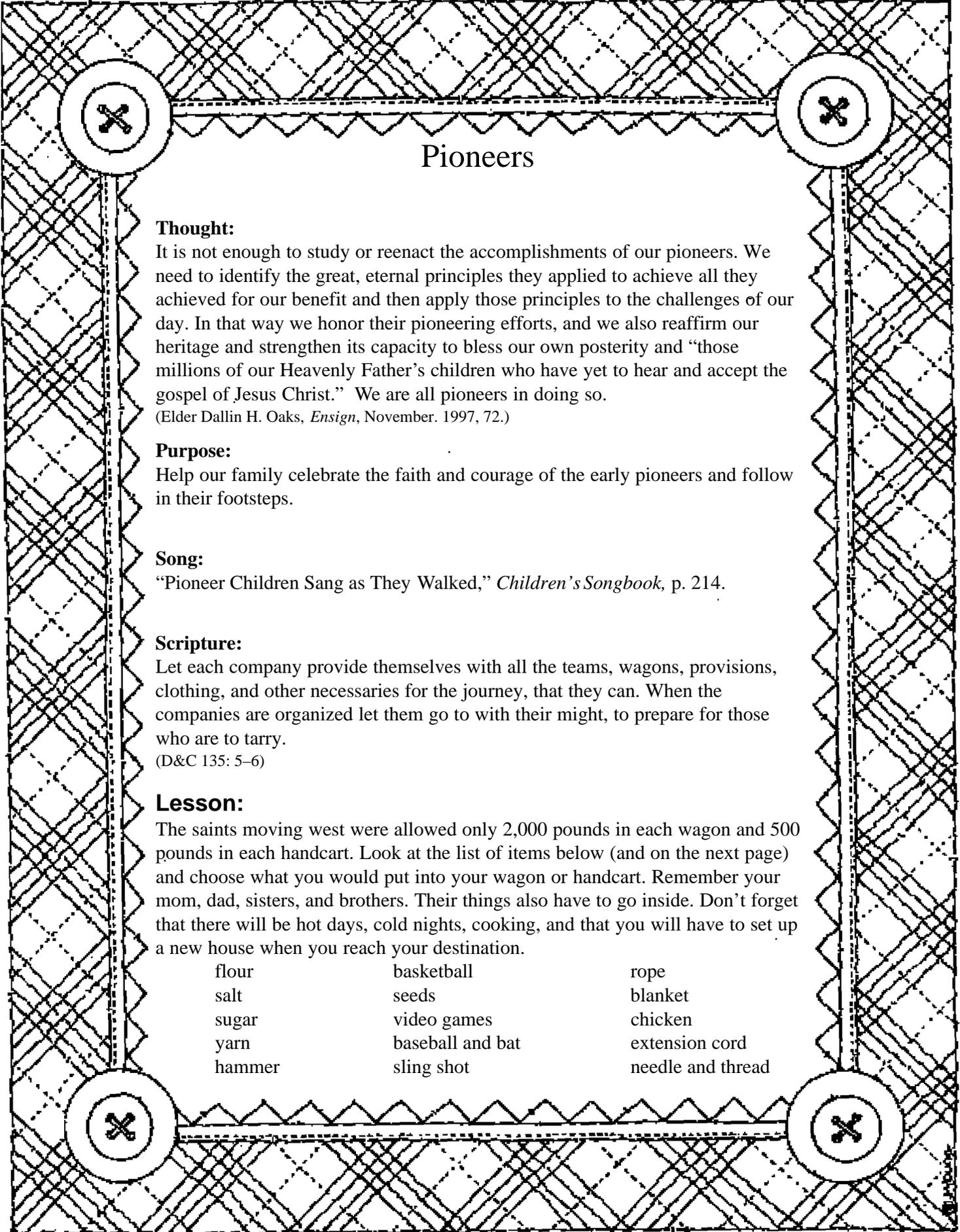
Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Pioneers

Packet #070304

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.



Pioneers

Thought:

It is not enough to study or reenact the accomplishments of our pioneers. We need to identify the great, eternal principles they applied to achieve all they achieved for our benefit and then apply those principles to the challenges of our day. In that way we honor their pioneering efforts, and we also reaffirm our heritage and strengthen its capacity to bless our own posterity and “those millions of our Heavenly Father’s children who have yet to hear and accept the gospel of Jesus Christ.” We are all pioneers in doing so.

(Elder Dallin H. Oaks, *Ensign*, November, 1997, 72.)

Purpose:

Help our family celebrate the faith and courage of the early pioneers and follow in their footsteps.

Song:

“Pioneer Children Sang as They Walked,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 214.

Scripture:

Let each company provide themselves with all the teams, wagons, provisions, clothing, and other necessities for the journey, that they can. When the companies are organized let them go to with their might, to prepare for those who are to tarry.

(D&C 135: 5–6)

Lesson:

The saints moving west were allowed only 2,000 pounds in each wagon and 500 pounds in each handcart. Look at the list of items below (and on the next page) and choose what you would put into your wagon or handcart. Remember your mom, dad, sisters, and brothers. Their things also have to go inside. Don’t forget that there will be hot days, cold nights, cooking, and that you will have to set up a new house when you reach your destination.

flour	basketball	rope
salt	seeds	blanket
sugar	video games	chicken
yarn	baseball and bat	extension cord
hammer	sling shot	needle and thread

saw	shoes	bonnet
soda pop	Book of Mormon	shirt
scissors	knife, fork, spoon	wheel
light bulb	journal	radio
pans	hat	harmonica
dishes	dog	barrel
pen and ink	bellows	doll
fishing pole	microwave oven	umbrella

(Shauna Mooney Kawasaki, *A Link to the Past: Fun with Church History*, [Salt Lake City: Eagle Gate, 2000], p. 18.)

Story:

The Mishaps of Mary Bathgate and Isabella Parks

Daniel McArthur

[On 16 August 1856 on the pioneer trail] Sister Mary Bathgate was badly bitten by a large rattlesnake, just above the ankle, on the back part of her leg. She [and Sister Isabella Park were] about half a mile ahead of the camp at the time it happened. . . . They were both old women, over sixty years of age, and neither of them had ridden one inch since they had left Iowa campground. Sister Bathgate sent a little girl hurrying back to have me and Brothers Leonard and Crandall come with all haste, and bring the oil with us, for she was bitten badly.

As soon as we heard the news, we left all things, and, with the oil, we went posthaste. When we got to her she was quite sick, but said that there was power in the priesthood, and she knew it. So we took a pocketknife, cut the wound larger, and squeezed out all the bad blood we could. . . . We then . . . anointed her . . . and laid our hands on her in the name of Jesus, and felt to rebuke the influence of the poison, and she felt full of faith. We then told her that she must get into the wagon, so she called witnesses to prove that she did not get into the wagon until she was compelled to because of the cursed snake. We started on and traveled two miles, when we stopped to take some refreshment. Sister Bathgate continued to be quite sick, but was full of faith, and after stopping one and a half hours we hitched up our teams. As the word was given for the teams to start, old Sister Isabella Park ran in before the wagon to see how her companion was. The driver, not seeing her, hallooed at his team, and they being quick to mind, Sister Park could not get out of the way, and the fore wheel struck her and threw her down and passed over both her hips. Brother Leonard grabbed hold of her to pull her out of the way, before the hind wheel could catch her. He only got her part way and the hind wheel passed over her ankles.

We all thought that she would be all mashed to pieces, but to the joy of us all, there was not a bone broken, although the wagon had something like two tons burden on it, a load for four yoke of oxen. We went right to work and applied the same medicine to her that we did to the sister who was bitten by the rattlesnake, and although quite sore for a few days, Sister Park got better, so that she was [back walking] before we got into the Valley, and Sister Bathgate was right by her side, to cheer her up.

(as quoted in Jack M. Lyon, Linda Ririe Gundry, and Jay A. Parry, *Best-Loved Stories of the LDS People*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1997], p. 98.)

Activity:

Choose one or more of the following pioneer activities.

Make Butter: You will need several of the smallest baby food jars you can collect and enough whipping cream to fill the jars 1/4 to 1/2 full. Place a small amount of cream in each jar and have the children shake it vigorously until butter is formed. Provide small sections of johnnycake (or bread) and a plastic knife to let them try their creation (see recipe in Refreshment section).

Wade through an Icy River: You will need a plastic child's wading pool and a lot of ice. Let the children take their shoes and socks off and wade through the water. Explain to them that the pioneers had to endure icy rivers even when the weather was very cold. Tell a true story about the pioneers crossing a river.

Make Oiled Paper Windows: You will need brown paper grocery bags, scissors, cooking oil, and paper towels. When pioneers built homes, they often didn't have enough money to buy glass windows. Instead of using glass, they used oiled paper in their window frames to let in the light and help keep the wind and bugs out. Try this activity to let the children see how oiled paper can become translucent. Cut the brown paper grocery sack into small enough sections to work with, about 12x12 inches square. Use a paper towel to spread the cooking oil onto both sides of the square paper grocery sacks. Wipe the squares with a clean paper towel to remove the excess oil. You now have paper ready to become a window.

Hand Sewing: The pioneers didn't have sewing machines, so everything they sewed was by hand. Let the children see how nice a seam they can sew with real fabric—that has been cut in the shape of pants, shirts, or dresses—needles, and thread. For the younger children, cut out shapes of clothing from cardstock (the children can decorate them later with markers) with holes punched around the outside. To get them started, either help them tie a big knot in the end of the yarn, or show them how to keep the yarn from going through the hole by taping the tail to the back of the card and close to the first hole to be laced. Make sure to wrap a piece of tape around the “needle” end to keep the yarn from unraveling as they stitch.

(Clark L. and Kathryn H. Kidd, Kent D. and Shannon Pugmire, *Ward Activities for the Clueless*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 2001], p. 178–181.)

Extras:

- Tell stories of any pioneer ancestors your family might have.
- Review the origin of your family name and what it means.
- Look at a map that shows the pioneer trail. Talk about how far you may need to walk to school or other activities compared to how far the pioneers had to walk.
- Have a taffy pull.

Refreshment

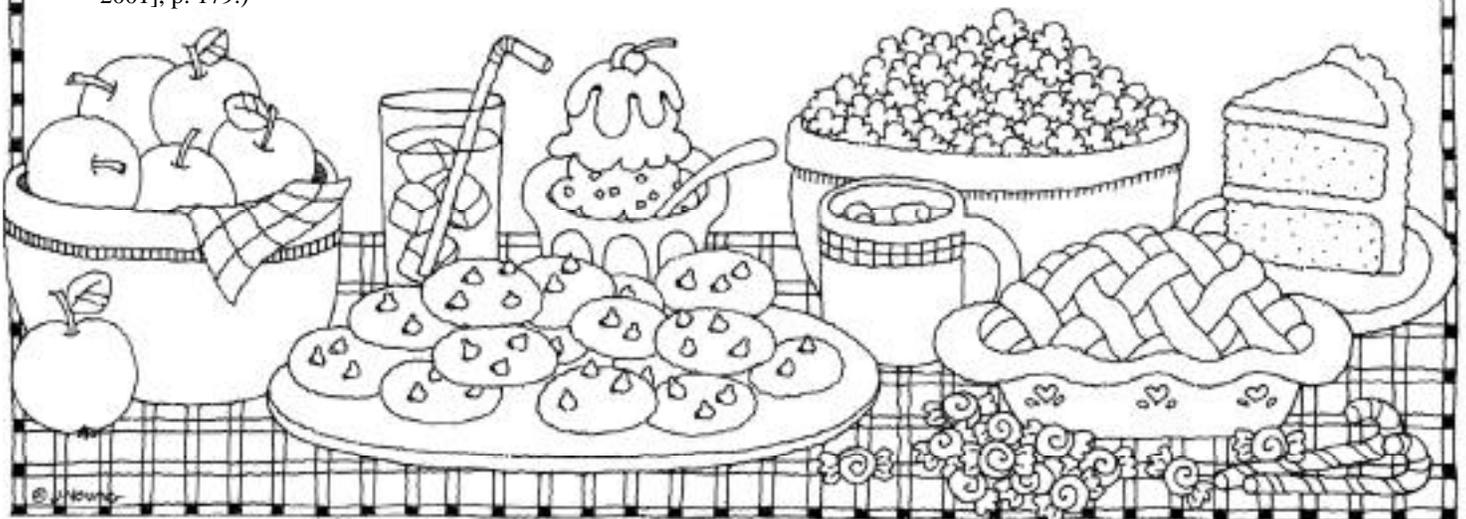
Johnnycake was a staple in the pioneer diet because it used only basic ingredients. It was often made with just cornmeal and water. Here is a more appealing recipe that can be made to serve with the homemade butter.

Johnnycake

2 eggs
1 cup water
3/4 cup milk
2 tablespoons oil
1 teaspoon salt
2 cups yellow cornmeal
Butter

Mix the eggs, water, milk, oil, and salt together in a bowl. Stir in the cornmeal until smooth. Heat the griddle or frying pan. Put a small amount of oil on the griddle to keep the cakes from sticking. Pour about 1/4 cup (less for bite-sized samples) of batter onto the heated griddle. Fry the cake until done on one side, then turn over and cook the other side. Makes twelve cakes.

(Clark L. and Kathryn H. Kidd, Kent D. and Shannon Pugmire, *Ward Activities for the Clueless*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 2001], p. 179.)



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