



strengthening
our home
and family

Deseret Book®

Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: The Plan of Salvation

Packet #010105

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 Plan of Salvation

Thought:

The great plan of salvation is operating, not only here in this world but also throughout the many worlds which our Heavenly Father has created, not only on this side of the veil but on the other side also. It makes very little difference [where] we serve, so long as our service is actuated by a spirit of devotion, a spirit of loyalty, a spirit of love, and is in line with these eternal principles which our Heavenly Father has been kind enough to reveal unto us.

(Ezra Taft Benson, Washington D.C. Stake Conference, 8 March 1959.)

Purpose:

To help family members understand that our Heavenly Father has a plan for us that allows us to return to live with him.

Song:

“I Will Follow God’s Plan,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 164

Scripture:

And the great God has had mercy on us, and made these things known unto us that we might not perish; yea, and he has made these things known unto us beforehand, because he loveth our souls as well as he loveth our children; therefore, in his mercy he doth visit us by his angels, that the plan of salvation might be made known unto us as well as unto future generations.

(Alma 24:14)

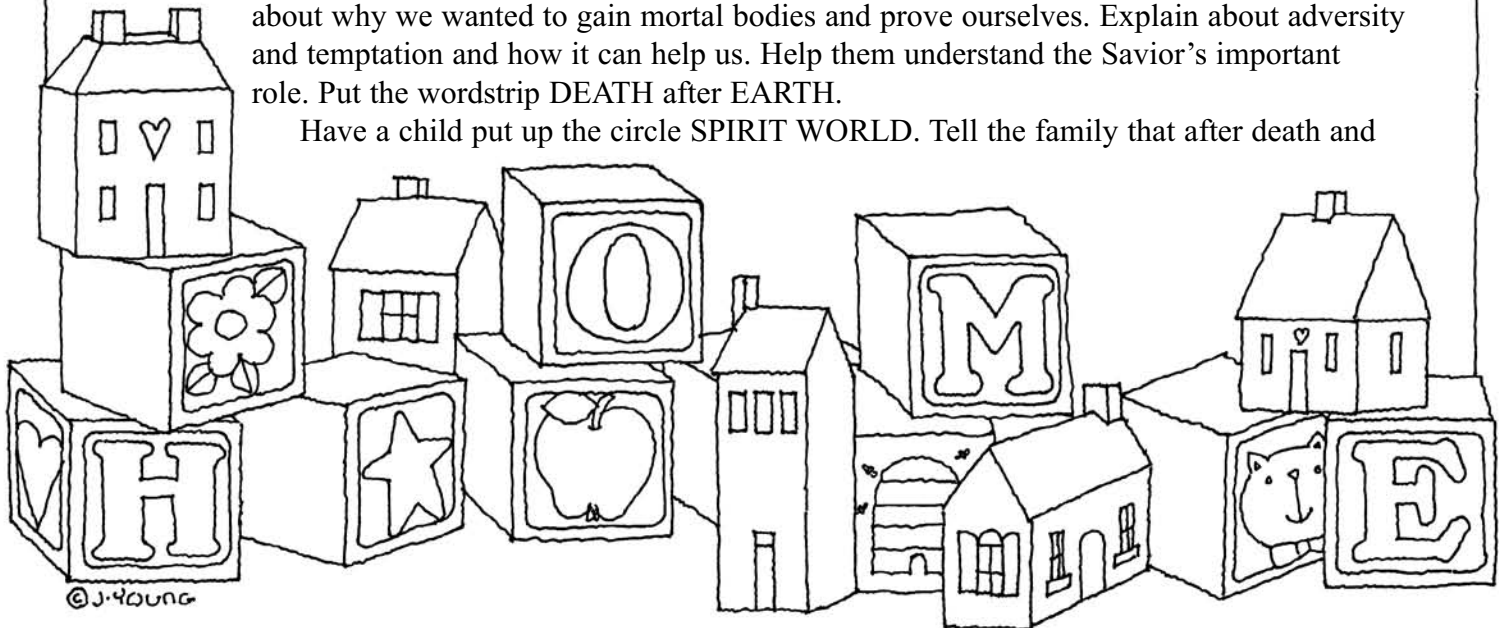
Lesson:

Prepare six paper circles. Write one of the following on each circle: PRE-EARTH LIFE, EARTH, SPIRIT WORLD, TELESTIAL, TERRESTRIAL, and CELESTIAL. Prepare three word strips: BIRTH, DEATH, and JUDGMENT.

Have a child put up the circle PRE-EARTH LIFE. Briefly tell the family how we all lived with Heavenly Father in the premortal existence. Talk about the war in heaven and their part in it. Let them know that they were on the “winning” side. Explain that when it was time for us to be born as mortals, we left Heavenly Father’s kingdom and came to earth. Put wordstrip BIRTH after the circle.

Have a child put up the circle EARTH. Tell the family that when we were born we forgot about the pre-earth life. This needed to happen so that we could exercise faith and obedience. Briefly talk about why we wanted to gain mortal bodies and prove ourselves. Explain about adversity and temptation and how it can help us. Help them understand the Savior’s important role. Put the wordstrip DEATH after EARTH.

Have a child put up the circle SPIRIT WORLD. Tell the family that after death and



before resurrection we live in a place called the spirit world. Help the children understand that this is not a spooky place but a place where many important things happen. Put the wordstrip JUDGMENT.

Have a child put up the three circles: TELESTIAL, TERRESTRIAL, and CELESTIAL. Explain that after we are judged for what we did on earth, we will enter one of the three kingdoms. Ask which kingdom Heavenly Father lives in. Tell the children that if they keep the commandments and follow the Savior's example, they will be able to enter the celestial kingdom because of their faith and God's grace. Tell them that Heavenly Father wants us all to come and dwell with him because he loves us so much.

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *Sharing Time, Family Time, Anytime*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1992], p. 64.)

Story:

As missionaries trying to teach a man in Argentina decades ago, my companion and I taught the discussion presenting the plan of salvation, including the options for our future life, when the man abruptly cut us off by saying, "Don't talk to me about any more life. I hate *this* life. I don't want any *more* life!" Needless to say that shook us up a little. We didn't really know how to continue. According to our Latter-day philosophy, the purpose of life is more life. As I have thought about that learning experience over the years, I have arrived at some conclusions. Actually, we don't have a choice about whether we will live forever or not. It is a fact. All of us are going to become immortal and live forever (see 1 Corinthians 15:22; Alma 11:42–44). The choice we do have is where we are going to live, in what condition we are going to live, and with whom we are going to live. You are deciding your destiny by how you live everyday.

(D. Kelly Ogden, *8 Mighty Changes God Wants for You Before You Get to Heaven*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2004], p. 156-7.)

Activity:

Play "What's Missing?" by covering the wordstrips and circles from the lesson with a cloth and removing one of the pieces. Remove the cloth and have family members guess which one is missing. Review what that piece had to do with the lesson.

Extras:

- Read about the council in heaven in Moses 4: 1–4 and Abraham 3:27–28.
- Play "God's Plan For Me" by discussing situations and identifying the child's plan and God's plan. Then identify how the child will feel inside when he or she chooses each of these plans. Situations could be things such as: 1. Your mother asks you to clean your room right now. You are tired and want to finish watching your favorite TV show. 2. You are at the grocery store. Your father will not let you get a treat. 3. It is after school. You are in a hurry to attend an important practice. You start to walk home the usual way. Suddenly you get a strong feeling that you should not go that way. The only other way is to walk clear around the block. 4. Your brother just hit you in the mouth. You are angry and want to get back at him.

(Christena C. Nelson, *The Gospel Can Bring Me Peace*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1993], p. 12.)

Refreshment

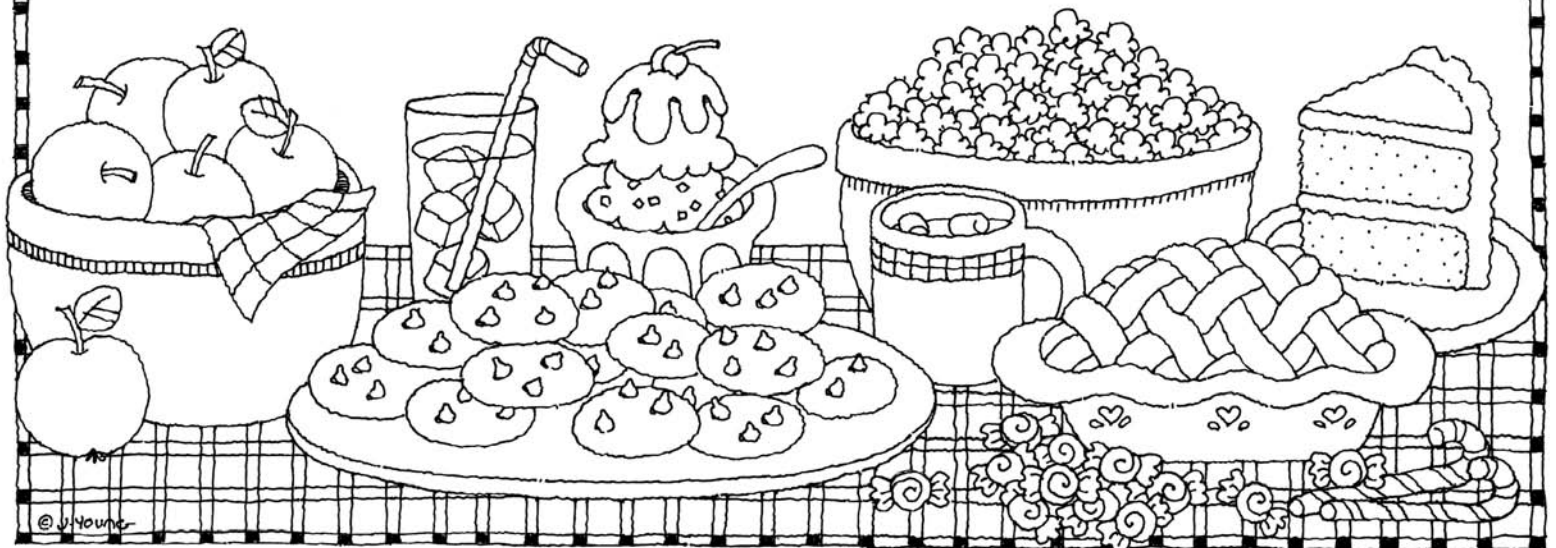
Oatmeal Fudge Bars

1 cup margarine
2 cups brown sugar
2 eggs
2 teaspoons vanilla
2 1/2 cups flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon salt

1 1/2 cups quick-cooking oats
1 can (14 ounces) sweetened condensed milk
1 package (12 ounces) semisweet chocolate chips
1/4 cup margarine
2 teaspoons vanilla
1 cup chopped walnuts (optional)

Grease a 9x13-inch baking pan; set aside. In large mixer bowl, cream margarine and brown sugar; add eggs and vanilla. In small bowl, sift flour, baking soda, and salt; add to creamed mixture. Mix in oats. In heavy saucepan, mix sweetened condensed milk, chocolate chips, and margarine; heat just till melted. Stir in vanilla and nuts. Spread two-thirds of dough into prepared baking pan. Spread with chocolate mixture. Drop remaining one-third of dough on top by spoonfuls; Bake at 350 degrees for 25 minutes. Cool, then cut into bars. Makes 36.

(Lion House Classics, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 2004] p. 105.)



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