



strengthening
our home
and family

Deseret Book®

Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Priesthood

Packet #060204

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.



Priesthood

Thought:

One day, Elder LeGrand Richard's son (a deacon) came home and asked, "Daddy, I have more authority than the President of the United States, haven't I?" Elder Richards said, It took my breath away. I had to think pretty fast, and finally I said, "Well, yes, you do. The President of the United States gets his authority from the people, and when his term of office expires, his authority is all gone. Yours comes from the Lord, and if you will live for it, it will be yours forever and ever."

(Conference Report, Oct. 1967, 109)

Purpose:

Help our families understand what the priesthood is and how to honor it.

Song:

"The Priesthood is Restored," *Children's Songbook*, p. 89.

Scripture:

And also all they who receive this priesthood receive me, saith the Lord.
(D&C 84: 35)

Lesson:

When I was a boy, sometimes I'd bring things home that my mother wished I hadn't—a snake or a turtle or a worm. She'd usually ask me three questions:

What is that?

Where did you get it?

What are you going to do with it?

When you receive the Aaronic Priesthood and bring it into your home, you mother will be thrilled. But if she asked you the same three questions about the priesthood, how would you answer?

What is It? I'm sure you've noticed the stars and planets shining in the sky on a dark night. Do you know what holds them in place? *Priesthood*. Do you know by what power they were created? *Priesthood*. And do you know what power you have? *Priesthood*.

Simply put, the priesthood is the power and authority of God, delegated to man on earth. We use the priesthood to do the Lord's work on earth.

Where did you get it? You got your priesthood from the person who ordained you, but it goes back a lot further than that. In 1829, John the Baptist, the same person who baptized Jesus, appeared and ordained Joseph Smith and Oliver

Cowdery to the Aaronic Priesthood. A personal “line of authority” will show how your priesthood was passed from Jesus Christ himself all the way down to you.

What are you going to do with it? You are going to serve, that’s what. We use the priesthood to make others’ lives better. That’s the Lord’s work on earth. The way to served God is to serve each other, and that’s what Priesthood is all about.

A big part of what you do with the priesthood is to help in performing ordinances. Ordinances include things like baptism and administration of the sacrament.

(John Bytheway, *Honoring the Priesthood as a Deacon, a Teacher, and a Priest*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 2002], p. 7–14, abridged.)

Story:

The Signal the Doctors Needed

Richard T. Sowell

One Sunday morning when I was serving as bishop many years ago, I was approached by Bishop Lou Stephenson (who was the bishop of the ward that shared our building). He said, “I have just received a call from the hospital. They have a girl there who wants to be administered to by the Mormon priesthood. Do you have anyone who can go with me?” I told him that I was free and would be glad to go with him.

When we arrived at the hospital we were told two girls had been injured in a one-car accident in the desert about fifty miles away. They had been thrown from their car and had lain out in the winter weather for most of the night. Finally a truck driver had noticed the car and found the two girls. He called for help, and they were brought to our hospital in Nampa, Idaho.

The emergency room where the girls were was bustling with activity. Doctors and nurses were rushing in and out with great concern on their faces. The hospital was run by the Catholic Sisters of Mercy. The sister in charge told the supervising doctor that the “men from the church are here.” The doctor answered brusquely that they were very busy with these two girls; if we must come into the emergency room, he said, we were to quickly do what we had to do and to stay out of the way.

The girls were on tables a few feet apart. One girl was covered with dried blood and had many cuts and bruises. She was a mess. The other girl looked to be unconscious, but didn’t seem to be cut up so badly. The medical team was focused on the girl who appeared to be hurt so badly. We went first to the other girl and spoke to her, asking her name, but we didn’t expect a response. She was able to whisper her name. One of us anointed her with oil. Then, as we gently rested our hands on her head to seal the anointing, she abruptly sat straight up, and projected the most vile black fluid from her mouth across the room. I was amazed at the force with which she vomited that black liquid.

Startled, the medical team immediately left the first girl and came to where we were. Bishop Stephenson and I stepped out of the way. One of the doctors said, “This girl is badly hurt. She’s bleeding internally, and if we don’t act fast she could bleed to death.”

We moved across the room, administered to the first girl, and then left the hospital to return to our meetings. Later in the day we learned that the girl who had been covered with blood had experienced primarily surface injuries and would recover very quickly. The second girl was indeed badly hurt internally and could have bled to death while the doctors worked on her friend. The doctors agreed that if she hadn’t thrown up when she did, they wouldn’t have known the extent of her injuries. It seemed clear that her vomiting when we were giving her the blessing had most likely saved her life. It took

some time for her to heal, but she did heal and was able to go on the mission that she had been preparing for.

What a blessing it was that these girls had the presence of mind to ask for a priesthood blessing. And what a great blessing that the Lord, through a priesthood administration of two of his sons, enabled the girl's body to send the doctors the very signal they needed so they could respond to her injuries and save her life.

(as quoted in Jay A. Parry, *Everyday Miracles*, [Salt Lake City: Eagle Gate, 2001] p. 180.)

Activity:

As a family, act out Alma 15:5–12. Invite someone to play the following parts: Alma, Zeezrom, and a narrator. Give each actor a copy of the following script and have them act it out.

Narrator: (Read Alma 15:5.)

Alma: Believest thou in the power of Christ unto Salvation? (Verse 6.)

Zeezrom: Yea, I believe all the words that thou hast taught. (Verse 7.)

Alma: If thou believest in the redemption of Christ thou canst be healed. (Verse 8.)

Zeezrom: Yea, I believe according to thy words. (Verse 9.)

Alma: O Lord our God, have mercy on this man and heal him according to his faith which is in Christ. (Verse 10.)

Narrator: (Read Alma 15:11–12.)

Ask your family by what power Zeezrom was healed. Share any examples from your family of the gift of healing. Bear your testimony of the importance of having faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and in the power of the priesthood.

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: Book of Mormon*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 177.)

Extras:

- Review the responsibilities of each office in the priesthood.
- Discuss who holds the priesthood in your immediate and extended family.

Refreshment

Mississippi Mud

CAKE

1 cup margarine
2 cups sugar
1/3 cup cocoa
2 tablespoons vanilla
4 eggs
1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1 1/2 cups nuts, chopped
1 pound miniature marshmallows

FROSTING

1/4 cup margarine
1 1/2 cups powdered sugar
1/3 cup cocoa
1/3 cup evaporated milk

Preheat oven to 350°. Grease and flour a 9x13-inch cake pan. Cream margarine and sugar together. Beat in cocoa and vanilla. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Blend in flour. Add nuts and mix lightly. Spread evenly in prepared pan and bake for 25 minutes.

Remove from oven and sprinkle the marshmallows on top while hot. Return to the oven for 3 more minutes. (Marshmallows will puff up.) Allow to cool for 1 hour, then frost.

To make frosting, place margarine, powdered sugar, cocoa, and milk in mixing bowl and start mixing on low speed. When ingredients are incorporated, turn speed to high and beat well. Spread on top of the marshmallows. Let set for about 12 hours, if possible, to allow the marshmallows to be cut more easily. Makes 20 servings.

(*Lion House Entertaining*, [Salt Lake City: Eagle Gate, 2001], p.133.)



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