



strengthening
our home
and family

Deseret Book®

Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Reverence

Packet #020105

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.

Reverence

Thought:

When the names of God the Father and his Son, Jesus Christ, are used with reverence and authority, they invoke a power beyond what mortal man can comprehend.

(Dallin H. Oaks, *Ensign*, May 1986, p. 51.)

Purpose:

To help family members understand that reverence is a feeling of love and respect for Heavenly Father and His Church.

Song:

“Reverence is Love,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 31

Scripture:

Remember that that which cometh from above is sacred, and must be spoken with care, and by constraint of the Spirit . . .

(Doctrine and Covenants 63:64)

Object Lesson:

Materials needed: A pot, a large serving spoon, a delicate goblet or glass, and a small teaspoon.

Application: Take the large spoon and bang the pot loudly several times. Then use the teaspoon to carefully tap the glass, producing a delicate ringing sound.

Compare this to irreverent/reverent behaviors and attitudes. Irreverent actions can distract and interfere with the feelings of the Spirit. Reverent actions create an atmosphere that invites the Spirit.

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *Building Blocks for Better Lessons*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1998], p. 56.)

Story:

I have fond memories of working with my father on our family farm. I admit I didn’t enjoy digging ditches or checking the irrigation at two o’clock in the morning, but I loved being with my father and working with the animals and plants. I believe the farm helped me learn reverence for God’s creations and for God Himself.

I remember going out with Dad to examine our fields after the early spring planting. He would locate a seed with his fingers and carefully push away the soil,

looking to see if germination was occurring. “See,” he would say to me, “this is the stem starting to emerge that will seek sunlight, and note the primal root that will sink down into the soil for moisture and nutrients. It’s alive, Keith.” Then, almost as if he were tucking a child into bed, he would gently place the soil around the seed again.

I also developed reverential respect for God’s handiwork as I worked on our dry farm in the low hills above Lehi, Utah. From my perch on the tractor I could see Utah Lake, Mount Timpanogos, and the western mountains. I enjoyed the company of hawks and other wildlife. As I gazed at the brilliant sunsets, I would marvel at the beauty God has provided for us during our journey on earth.

Experiences such as these were so indelibly implanted on my mind that when the prophet of my youth spoke on reverence, I could relate. In April 1967 President David O. McKay (1873–1970) said: “Reverence is profound respect mingled with love.”

Reverence is more than being quiet. It encompasses being in awe of our Father in Heaven and all with which He has blessed us. Our regard for sacred things, our behavior in the home and at church, and our attitude toward those who hold the priesthood all serve as measures of our reverence.

(Keith L. Smith, “Reverence,” *Ensign*, July 2003, p. 60.)

Activity:

Ask each family member to bring a “treasure” to Family Home Evening. Have them show their treasure and tell why it is so special to them.

Discuss how we treat things we treasure. Do we hold them differently? Do we speak in a different way about them? How do we want other people to hold our treasure? Do we want them to be careful or careless? Tell the children that how we treat our treasures is a way of showing respect and reverence.

Heavenly Father has given us many things that He treasures. List on a paper or poster some of the treasures that Heavenly Father allows us to take care of. (Earth, scriptures, family, home, church, other people, ourselves, etc.) Ask: How does Heavenly Father want us to take care of his treasures? How can we show respect and reverence for what Heavenly Father loves?

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *Sharing Time, Family Time, Anytime*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1992], p. 78.)

Extras:

- Talk about preparing for the Sabbath on Saturday, so there is a more reverent mood on Sunday.
- Speak Jesus Christ’s name with great reverence and love at the end of every prayer. Never mumble the name of Christ or skip over it, or miss the opportunity to use descriptive words such as *Savior, Friend, Brother, Beloved, Loving, Kind, Merciful, Gracious, Compassionate*, in connection to his name.

(Melodie Webb, *250 Ways to Connect with Your Family*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 7.)

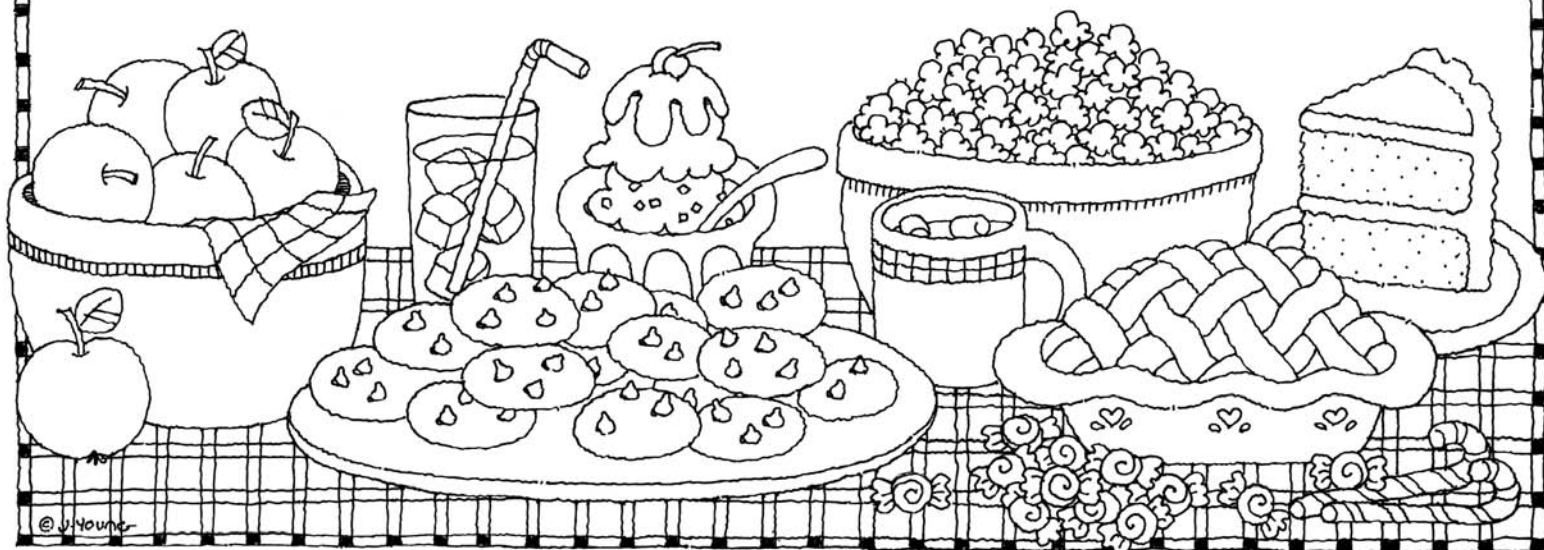
Refreshment

Chip/Vegetable Dip

- 8 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 cup grated cheese
- 1 16-ounce package frozen broccoli
- 1 package Italian dressing mix

Combine all ingredients in a medium-sized baking dish and bake at 350° for 15 to 20 minutes. Serve with your favorite chips or veggies.

(Janene W. Baadsgaard, *The LDS Mother's Almanac*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003] p. 331.)



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