



strengthening
our home
and family

Deseret Book®

Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Ancestors

Packet #020406

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.



Ancestors

Thought:

Over the years as my thoughts and heart have turned to the lives of my noble ancestors, my appreciation for them has increased. Learning about my ancestors has not only turned my heart to them but has helped me see eternity more clearly. My own life is rooted not just in the present, but in the lives of my ancestors as well.

(Spencer W. Kimball, "The Things of Eternity—Stand We in Jeopardy?," *Ensign*, Jan. 1977, 3)

Song:

"Family History" *Children's Songbook*, p. 94.

Scripture:

And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

(Malachi 4:6)

Lesson:

Gather your family around a tree, or show them a picture of a tree, or have them draw one. Ask them to identify the tree's different parts. (Roots, trunk, branches, leaves.) Talk about the phrase "family tree" and discuss why a family might be compared to a tree. Give the following four labels to a family member: parent, yourself, child, grandchild. Ask him or her to place each label on the part of the tree that best represents that role in a family (roots = parents; trunk = yourself; branches = child; leaves = grandchild).

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The Book of Mormon*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 51.)

Story:

Grandpa Really Knew God

(John Forest Barker)

"Oh, Daddy, why are we going through Weber Canyon again?" The voice came from the back seat of the car. It was Andrew, one of my five little backseat drivers.

"Yes, dear," agreed my wife. "It seems like we go there every time we take a drive."

My answer came slowly. I often sat by my grandfather's side as he drove his car up this very canyon. No words can describe my feelings of joy and happiness

as I rode along with Grandpa.

Moments passed in silence as I drove along reminiscing. “Daddy,” said Andrew, finally, “tell us what you are thinking.”

“I was remembering how your great-grandfather used to bring me up here years ago. I loved to go with him. Most often we started out to go fishing, but many times the trip became a nature hike, a history tour, or a lesson in developing the ability to enjoy people.

“I remember days when the fish were not biting and how restless I would get. I can almost hear Grandpa’s voice, ‘Now, Sonny, the fish can’t help it if they’re not hungry.’ Then, after a long pause, ‘You know, some of the helpers the Savior chose were fishermen. He chose them partly because they had learned to be patient. Now you be patient too, like a good fisherman. Sit down here and I’ll tell you something.’ I would sit down by him on an old drift log, pole in hand, and listen. At times like this Grandpa would talk about a rock he had found, a plant, an animal, or an interesting person. Above all, his stories showed how God loves everything, and how we should respect every living thing.

“I’ll never be able to remember the names of all the people Grandpa introduced me to. But I will remember the pleasure written on their faces when they saw him and said, ‘Well, Bishop, how are you?’ You could just feel the respect he had for them. At times we would go a mile or so out of our way to meet a sheepherder in the mountains. I could tell he had great respect for these people by the tone of his voice and the eagerness he showed to see them. As I grew older I came to understand what he was really doing. He was obeying the two great commandments, first to love God and second to love your neighbor.

“Over the years I slowly came to think that Grandpa really knew God, that he was—well—a sort of partner with him. He always seemed to know what God wanted, and he tried to walk in his way.

“One day in October my brother and I were picking apples with Grandpa. Whenever he found an apple with a worm hole in it, he would put it in his pocket. After he had collected several, he called, ‘Hey boys! Come down here a minute.’ Handing us the apples and pointing to the corn silo a distance away he said, ‘Let’s see if you can throw these into the silo.’ We talked about going into the mountains the next Saturday and made plans. Somehow he didn’t show quite the interest he had on past occasions.

“That’s how we spent the day the last time we were with Grandpa. He said good-bye to us, and we walked home. He went to the house. He told Grandma he would go out to the garden and cut the flowers for the dining room table. As Grandpa knelt down to cut the flowers with his pocketknife he looked up, smiled, and winked at Grandma standing at the window. Then he died—no pain, no struggle—he just passed on.”

As I finished my story, there was silence in the car for a moment. Then Andrew, our five-year-old, said, “Daddy, I like to ride up Weber Canyon.”

We all laughed. We knew what he meant.

(Leon R. Hartshorn, *Powerful Stories from the Lives of Latter-day Saint Men*)

Activity:

Play “Grandfather’s Grocery Store.”

“It” says “my grandfather owns a grocery store and in his store he has . . .” and then give a clue about the item you are thinking of. The other family members ask questions until they get it right.

(David C. Dollahite, *Strengthening Our Families*, [Brigham Young University: School of Family Life, 2000], p. 326.)

Refreshment

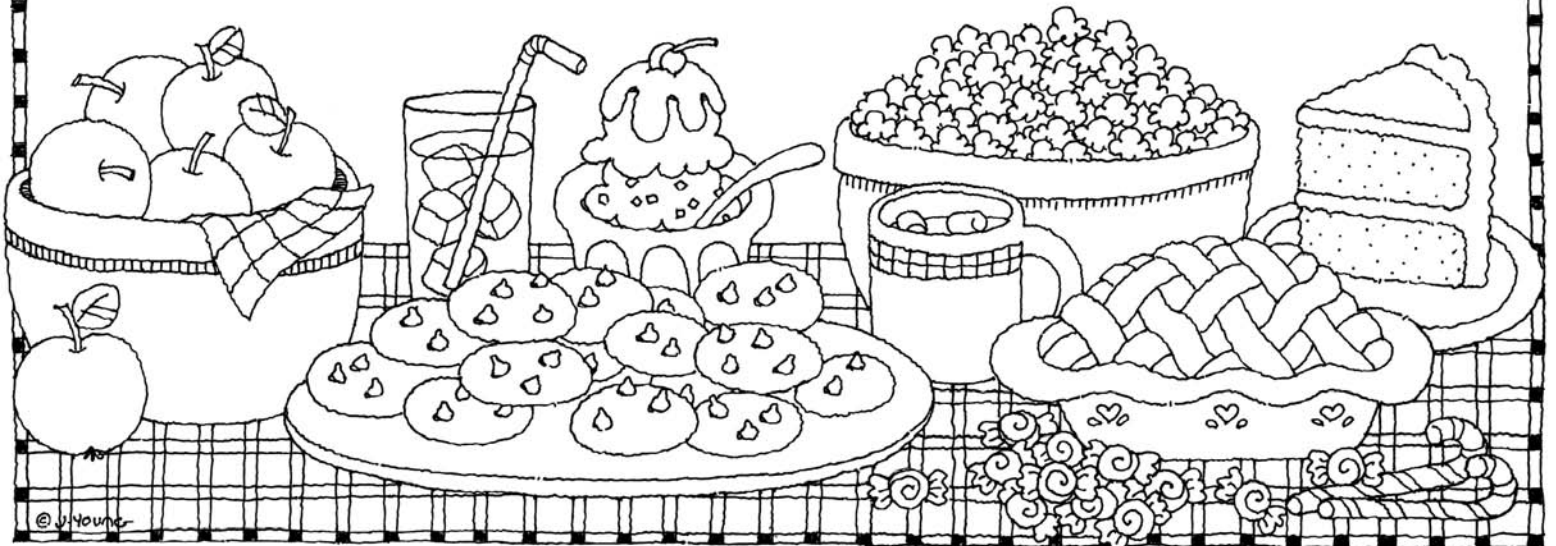
Old Fashioned Apple Pie

Pastry for 1 two-crust pie
4 cups peeled and sliced cooking apples
1 cup sugar
1/4 cup flour
1 teaspoon cinnamon

1/8 teaspoon nutmeg
2 tablespoons butter
Milk
Sugar and cinnamon

Prepare pastry for two-crust pie, using your favorite recipe or purchased crust. Line a 9-inch pie plates with bottom pastry crust; roll out top crust. In a large bowl, combine apple slices, sugar, flour, cinnamon, and nutmeg. Mix well. Spoon into lined pie plate, and dot with butter. Adjust top crust over filling, trimming excess pastry. Make several slits in top crust so steam can escape; then brush lightly with milk and sprinkle with sugar and cinnamon. Bake at 400 degrees for 45 minutes or until pastry is golden brown. Serves 6 to 8.

(Paula Julander and Joanne Milner, *Utah State Fare*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 1995], p. 45.)



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