



strengthening
our home
and family

Deseret Book[®]

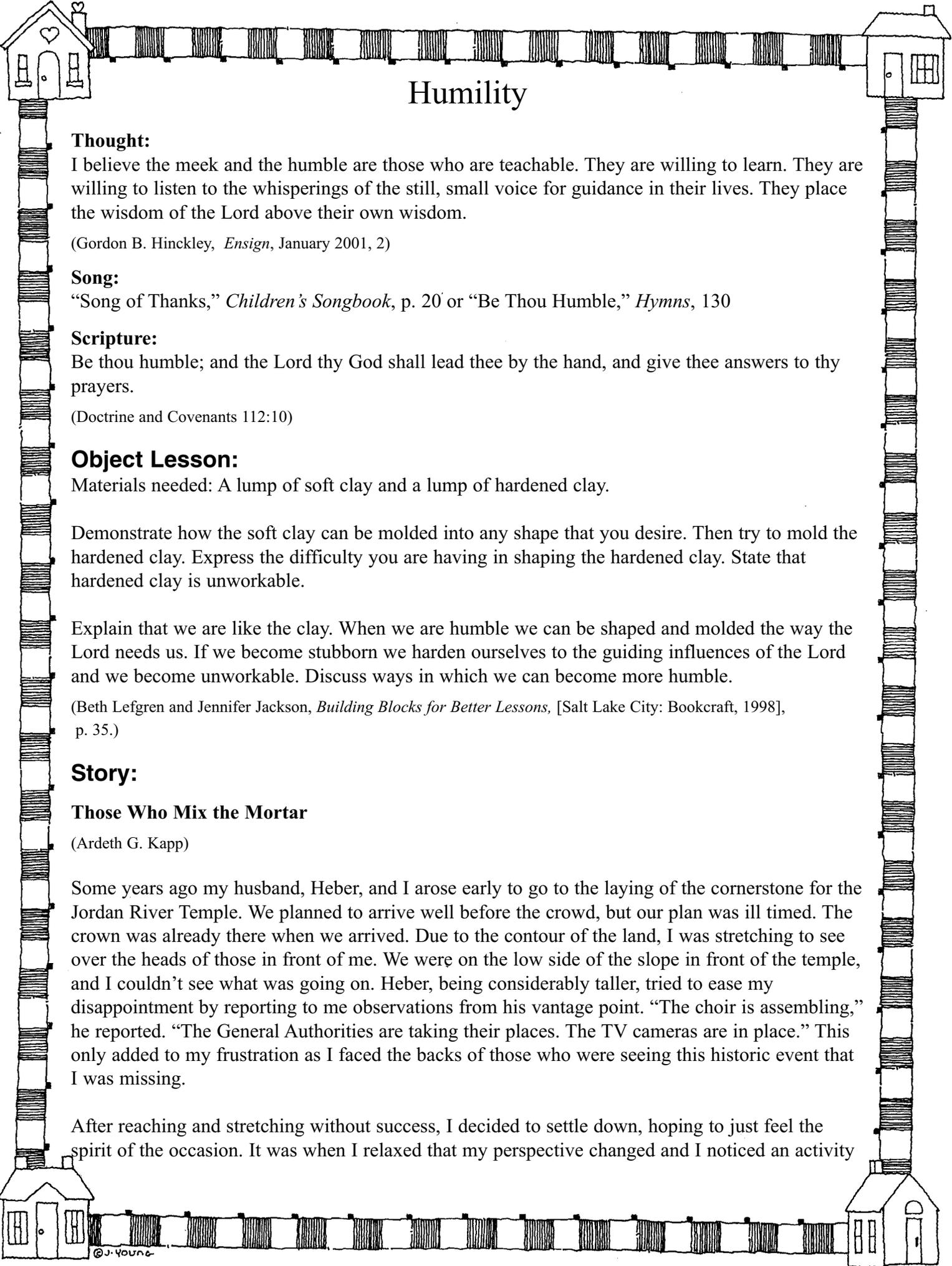
Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Humility

Packet #030106

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.



Humility

Thought:

I believe the meek and the humble are those who are teachable. They are willing to learn. They are willing to listen to the whisperings of the still, small voice for guidance in their lives. They place the wisdom of the Lord above their own wisdom.

(Gordon B. Hinckley, *Ensign*, January 2001, 2)

Song:

“Song of Thanks,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 20 or “Be Thou Humble,” *Hymns*, 130

Scripture:

Be thou humble; and the Lord thy God shall lead thee by the hand, and give thee answers to thy prayers.

(Doctrine and Covenants 112:10)

Object Lesson:

Materials needed: A lump of soft clay and a lump of hardened clay.

Demonstrate how the soft clay can be molded into any shape that you desire. Then try to mold the hardened clay. Express the difficulty you are having in shaping the hardened clay. State that hardened clay is unworkable.

Explain that we are like the clay. When we are humble we can be shaped and molded the way the Lord needs us. If we become stubborn we harden ourselves to the guiding influences of the Lord and we become unworkable. Discuss ways in which we can become more humble.

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *Building Blocks for Better Lessons*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1998], p. 35.)

Story:

Those Who Mix the Mortar

(Ardeth G. Kapp)

Some years ago my husband, Heber, and I arose early to go to the laying of the cornerstone for the Jordan River Temple. We planned to arrive well before the crowd, but our plan was ill timed. The crown was already there when we arrived. Due to the contour of the land, I was stretching to see over the heads of those in front of me. We were on the low side of the slope in front of the temple, and I couldn’t see what was going on. Heber, being considerably taller, tried to ease my disappointment by reporting to me observations from his vantage point. “The choir is assembling,” he reported. “The General Authorities are taking their places. The TV cameras are in place.” This only added to my frustration as I faced the backs of those who were seeing this historic event that I was missing.

After reaching and stretching without success, I decided to settle down, hoping to just feel the spirit of the occasion. It was when I relaxed that my perspective changed and I noticed an activity

at the far northeast side of the temple. there I observed two men dressed in dark pants, white shirts, and ties, each holding a shovel. I saw them empty sacks of concrete into a wheelbarrow, pour in water, and mix the contents.

In time, after the choir sang and the presiding authorities had delivered impressive messages, Heber reported that the cameras were moving to the location for the placement of the cornerstone. At that moment the men who had been mixing the mortar pushed the wheelbarrow forward and quickly disappeared behind the scene. Then the cornerstone was anchored in place.

On the television news that evening, I saw what the cameras saw. But they did not see what I had seen. And even today, years later, I never drive past the Jordan River Temple without thinking of those men who mixed the mortar—those whose quiet, unsung labors played a major role in the placement of the cornerstone for the house of the Lord in a building that will stand against all the storms of life.

Given a choice, would you be willing to serve with the men who mix the mortar? Small acts of service, small sacrifices, small notes and calls, words of encouragement one to another—these “small things” are the mortar that helps hold life together.

(*Good Deeds*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 14–5.)

Activities:

While everyone uses the soft clay to model one of God’s creations and while you eat the treat, play “Humility.” A handful of beans is given to each person. Each player takes part in a conversation. A specified number of beans is lost each time the terms “me” or “I” are spoken. The person who collects the most beans is the winner.

(Alma Heaton, *The LDS Game Book*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1968], p. 139.)

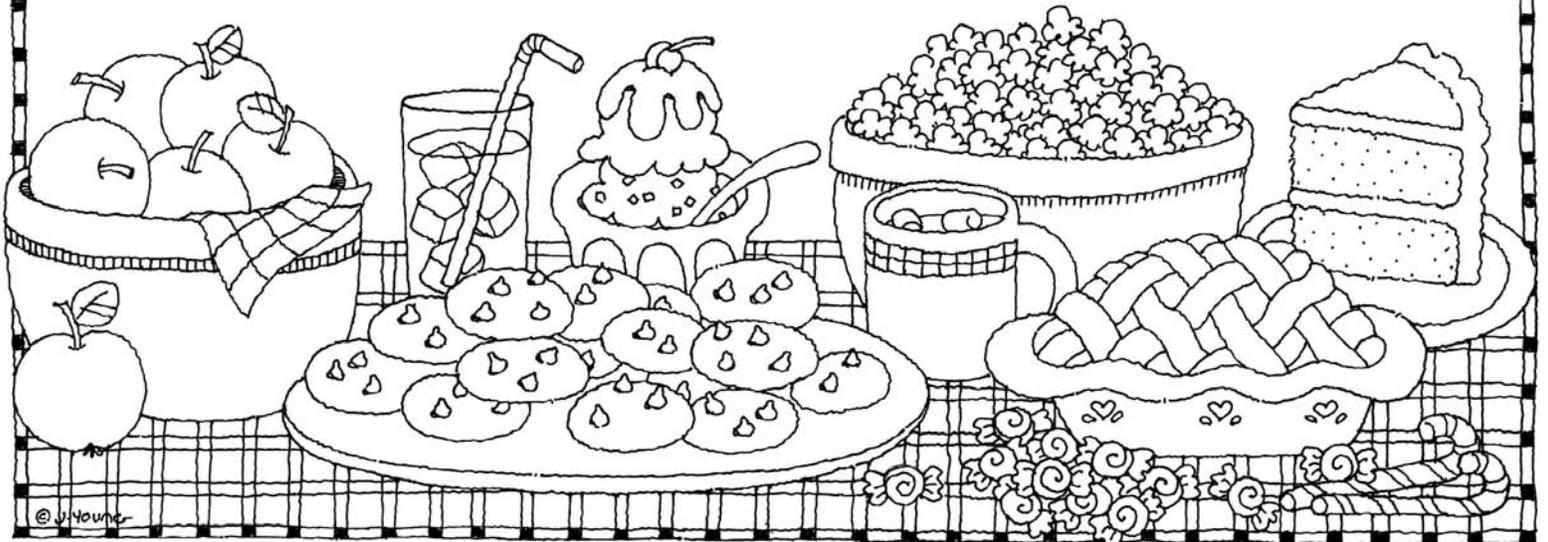
Refreshment

Applesauce Cookies

- 2 cups flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1/2 teaspoon cloves
- 1/2 cup shortening
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 cup applesauce
- 1 12-ounce bag chocolate chips

Combine all ingredients in a large bowl. Drop by spoonfuls onto ungreased cookie sheets and bake at 350 degrees F. for 10 to 15 minutes, until just golden brown.

(Janene W. Baadsgaard, *The LDS Mother's Almanac*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003] p. 330.)



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