



strengthening
our home
and family

Deseret Book®

Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Good Books

Packet #060105

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.

Good Books

Thought:

Begin early to expose children to books. . . . It takes time, yes, much of it. It takes self-discipline. . . . But it will never be a bore as you watch young minds come to know characters, expressions, and ideas. Good reading can become a love affair, far more fruitful in long-term effects than many other activities in which children use their time.

(Gordon B. Hinckley as quoted in David C. Dollahite, *Strengthening Our Families: An In-Depth Look at the Proclamation on the Family*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2000], p. 92.)

Purpose:

To help family members recognize the value of good books.

Song:

“Search, Ponder, and Pray,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 109

Scripture:

And as all have not faith, seek ye diligently and teach one another words of wisdom; yea, seek ye out of the best books words of wisdom; seek learning, even by study and also by faith.

(Doctrine and Covenants 88:118)

Lesson:

On a piece of paper draw a simple outline of a house. Tell your family that the Lord revealed some excellent ideas about making our home more like heaven to Joseph Smith. Make a list inside the house outline of those instructions in D&C 88:118. Then write how your family might make these instructions more a part of our home. Your completed list might look like this:

Seek ye diligently and teach one another.

Hold family home evening.

Seek ye out of the best books words of wisdom.

Read with family members.

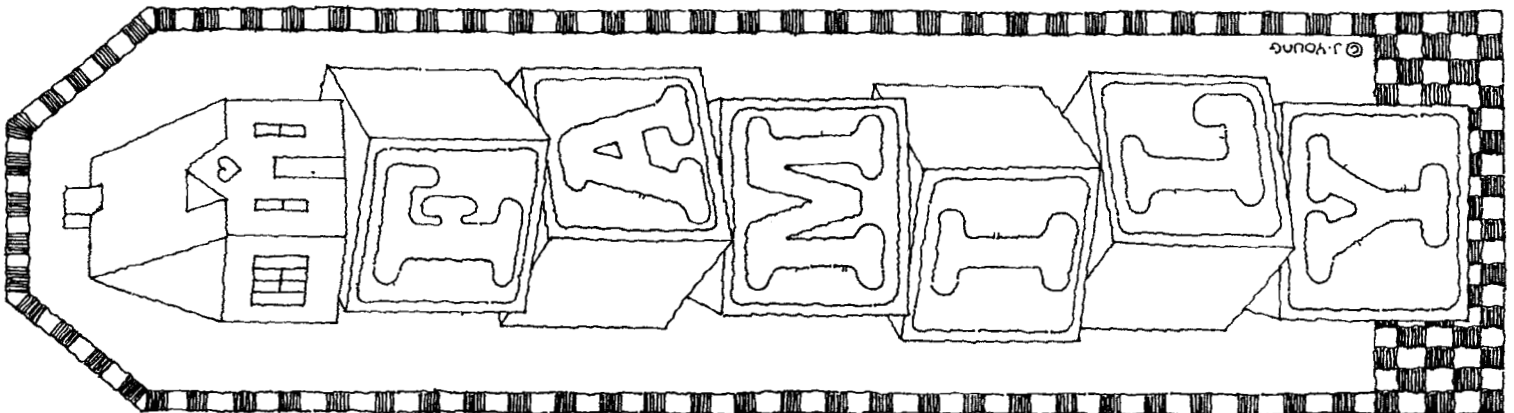
Seek learning, even by study and also by faith.

Have good books in our home.

(adapted from Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The Doctrine and Covenants*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2004], p. 190.)

Story:

I will never forget the day in autumn when I walked across the sunlit campus at Brigham Young University toward the Quonset huts that ringed the campus in the fifties. It was late afternoon, and the sidewalk was deserted. My destination was a small graduate class in Greek literature taught by Dr. Hugh B. Nibley.



Only four or five other students sat with me in the hot metal building. Ten minutes passed, and the young man next to me said, "Ten minutes past class time. We don't have to wait any longer. I'm outta here!" He started picking up his books, and the rest of us looked uncertain.

At that moment the back door banged open, and we heard footsteps running up the aisle. We turned to see Dr. Nibley. He was wearing an old army sweater, his pant cuff was wrapped in a bicycle clip, and his hair was blowing in the wind of his motion. In his arms he carried two huge leather volumes which he slammed onto the lecture table. He turned to greet us in his eager voice. Speaking at breathtaking speed, he walked back and forth in front of us, his eyes sparking with excitement.

"What would you *do*," he exclaimed delightedly, "if I told you that they have just discovered a machine that will allow you to live in the mind of a man who lived three thousand years ago?"

"I mean," he went on, his voice so swift, intense, and exuberant that I felt breathless just listening, "I mean, not just look at his brain. No! Literally be in his mind! Hear what he hears! Think what he thinks! Smell what he smells! Feel what he feels!?"

He paused and looked at us intensely for a moment. Then he went over and picked up one of the heavy volumes, and he shook it in our faces.

"Well!" he said with a triumphant smile and a voice of great celebration. "Surprise, surprise! Here it is! Here it is!"

I looked up at the book looming over my head, and I felt the fire of his conviction.

Of course! Through the wonder of books for a time we can experience and think great thoughts, great events, great ideas. Through books, in one lifetime we can live a thousand lives!

(Jaroldeen Edwards, *Celebration*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1995], p. 95–96.)

Activity:

Prepare enough copies of the bookmark on the previous page for each family member. Let everyone color or decorate their bookmark as they like.

Extras:

- Make a family "bookworm" by looping strips of paper together into a chain. Add a body section for each book a family member reads.
- Have a "book review" night. Have each family member share their favorite book.
- Go to the library as a family.

Refreshment

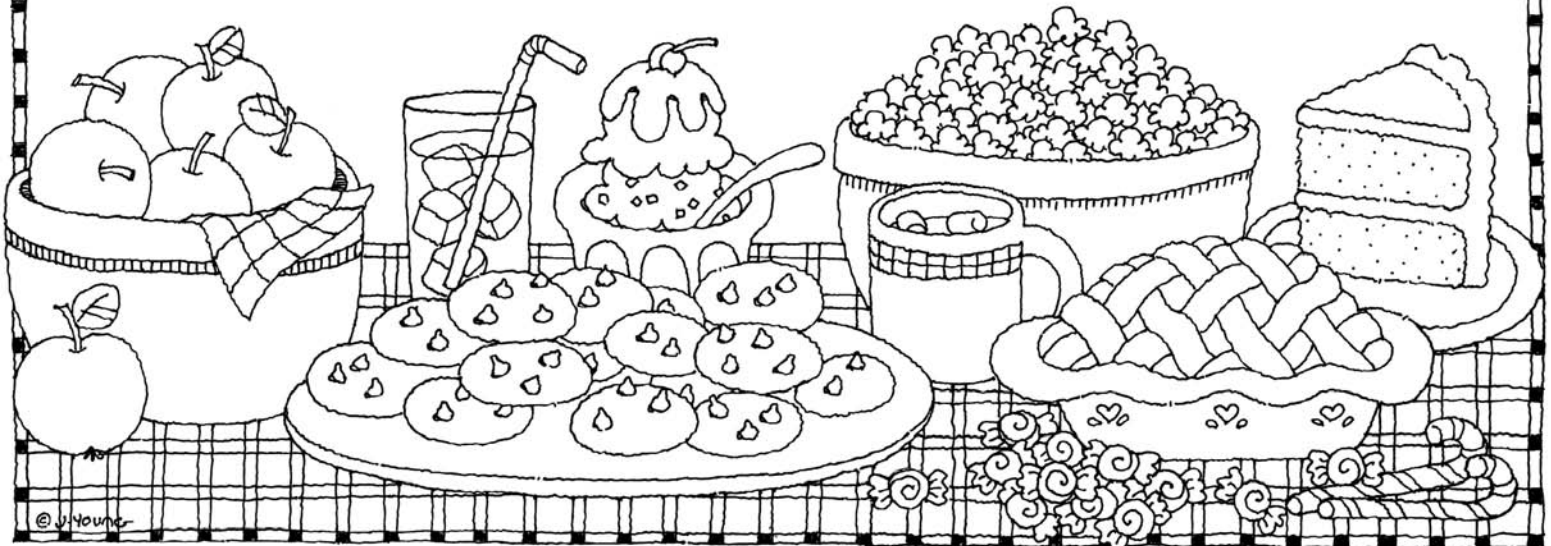
Chocolate Applesauce Cake

1/2 cup butter or margarine
1 cup sugar
1 egg
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 cup applesauce
1/2 cup water
1 1/2 cups flour

1/3 cup cocoa
1 1/2 teaspoons baking soda
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon cloves
1/4 teaspoon nutmeg

Cream butter or margarine, sugar, and eggs. Add vanilla, applesauce, and water. Stir or sift together flour, cocoa, baking soda, salt, cinnamon, cloves, and nutmeg. Add to applesauce mixture, and mix well. Pour into a greased and floured 9 x 5 x 3-inch loaf pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes. Turn out on a wire rack and cool.

(Paula Julander and Joanne Milner, *Utah State Fare*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 1995] p. 151.)



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