



strengthening
our home
and family

Deseret Book®

Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Joseph F. Smith

Packet #070206

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.

Joseph F. Smith

Quote:

In 1915, [Joseph F. Smith and] the First Presidency of the Church inaugurated the home evening program by a letter. I recall when my own father read that letter to the family at the supper table on the farm. When he concluded the letter, he said, “The Presidency has spoken, and this is the word of the Lord to us!” From that time forward, we diligently held family home evenings in my boyhood home.

(Ezra Taft Benson, *Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1988].)

Song:

“The Family,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 194.

Scripture:

This scripture is part of a vision that President Smith had in 1918:

All these had departed the mortal life, firm in the hope of a glorious resurrection, through the grace of God the Father and his Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

I beheld that they were filled with joy and gladness, and were rejoicing together because the day of their deliverance was at hand.

(Doctrine and Covenants 138:14–15)

Highlights from the Life of Joseph F. Smith:

1838: Born in Far West, Missouri

1844: Father (Hyrum) and Uncle (Joseph) were murdered in Carthage Jail

1848: Drives ox team to Salt Lake Valley

1852: Baptized in Salt Lake City

1854–57: Mission to Hawaii

1860–63: Mission to Great Britain

1864: Second mission to Hawaii

1866: Ordained an Apostle

1874–74, 1877: Mission President of Great Britain and European Mission

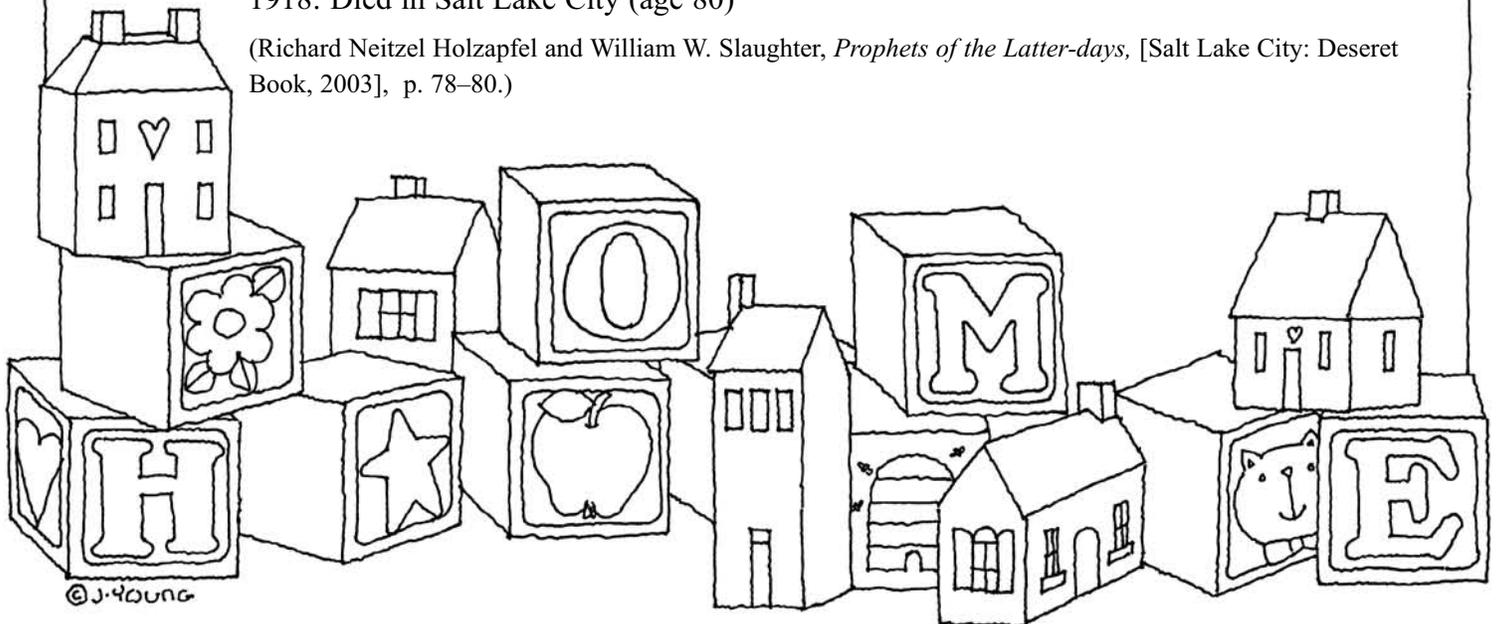
1891: Becomes President of the Church

1915: Introduces Family Home Evening

1918: Has vision of the redemption of the dead

1918: Died in Salt Lake City (age 80)

(Richard Neitzel Holzapfel and William W. Slaughter, *Prophets of the Latter-days*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 78–80.)



Stories:

It was late at night, and five-year-old Joseph F. Smith was lying in bed. But his eyes were wide open, and he was having trouble getting to sleep. It had rained earlier in the day and then had grown hot and muggy.

Although still very young, Joseph F. was old enough to understand that his father, Hyrum Smith, was in great danger. Three days earlier, Hyrum had left their home in Nauvoo, Illinois, with his younger brother, the Prophet Joseph Smith. They went to a nearby town, Carthage, to answer charges made by people who accused them of wrong-doing. Hyrum and Joseph knew they were in danger . . . but they were willing to go and clear up any misunderstandings.

Now, as Joseph F. lay awake, he remembered saying goodbye to his father. He had been standing out by the road in front of their home. Hyrum rode up to him on horseback and said, "Son, we have been ordered to go to Carthage to meet with the governor." Then leaning forward from his saddle, he picked Joseph F. up. "I must leave you now," he said tenderly. "Be a brave boy and help your dear mother all you can." He kissed his young son, gave him a warm hug, and carefully set him back down on the ground. Hyrum rode away with several other men. Young Joseph F. remembered wondering if he would ever see his father alive again. . . .

Suddenly, Joseph F. sat up in bed as he heard someone knocking loudly on the window downstairs. He heard the words that broke his heart. A man outside the window called out in a trembling voice, "Sister Smith, Sister Smith, we bring you sad news. Your husband has been killed."

Joseph F.'s father, Hyrum, and the Prophet Joseph had been shot by a mob as they were being held at Carthage Jail. The date was June 27, 1844, and Hyrum was forty-four years old. Young Joseph F. would remember it as the saddest day of his life..

(Susan Arrington Madsen, *The Lord Needed a Prophet*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1990], p. 89–90.)

After the death of Hyrum and Joseph, President Brigham Young told the Saints that they must leave Nauvoo if they were to find peace. Their destination would be a place they believed God had prepared for them. There they hoped to worship God without fear of persecution.

Joseph F., at the age of seven, drove their ox team two hundred miles to Winter Quarters, a temporary stopping place on the west bank of the Missouri River. His five-year-old sister, Martha Ann, often sat by him on the driver's seat. Mary, her children, and stepchildren lived there a year and a half while they prepared for the journey west.

As they traveled, Joseph F. cared for the animals, chopped wood for their cooking fires, and hauled water from nearby streams. He was having to do the work of a man while still a young boy.

In the spring of 1848, Mary Fielding Smith's little caravan joined the rest of a wagon train of other faithful Latter-day Saints and began the thousand-mile journey west to the Salt Lake Valley. As they began their long journey, the reins of one of Mary's four wagons were in the firm grip of her nine-year-old son, Joseph F. By now Joseph was an excellent driver. He was experienced in yoking and unyoking the oxen and carefully guided the animals over many dangerous trails from his perch on the driver's seat.

(Susan Arrington Madsen, *The Lord Needed a Prophet*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1990], p. 91–3.)

Activity:

In celebration of Joseph F. Smith beginning the Family Home Evening program, play a traditional FHE game such as "Mormonary" (similar to "Pictionary"). Prepare in advance several cards with the names of familiar Primary songs or scripture stories. Use a dry erase board, chalkboard, or large pad of paper to draw on. Have family members take turns selecting a card and drawing a picture within an allotted time (one minute is good) that will help the family guess the song or story written on the card.

(adapted from Debbie Stapley, *Having Fun Together*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1992], p. 151.)

Refreshment

Joseph F. Smith's Custard Pie

Pastry for 1-crust pie

2 cups milk

4 eggs

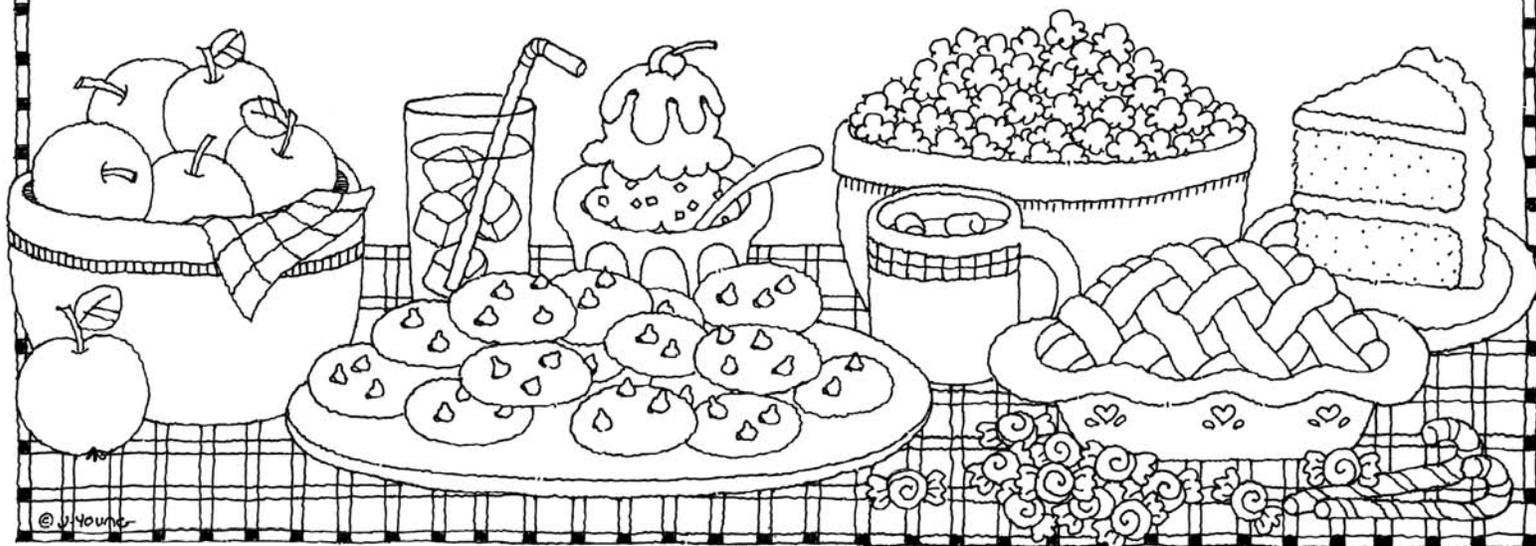
1/2 cup sugar

Pinch salt

Generous sprinkling nutmeg

Preheat oven to 375° F. Put milk in a medium bowl. Beat eggs and strain through fine sieve into bowl of milk. Add sugar, salt, and nutmeg. Stir well and pour into pie shell. Bake until knife inserted in the center just barely comes out clean, about 50 to 60 minutes. Do not overcook, or custard will become watery. Makes 6 to 8 servings.

(*Lion House Desserts*, [Salt Lake City: Eagle Gate, 2000], p. 79.)



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