



strengthening
our home
and family

Deseret Book®

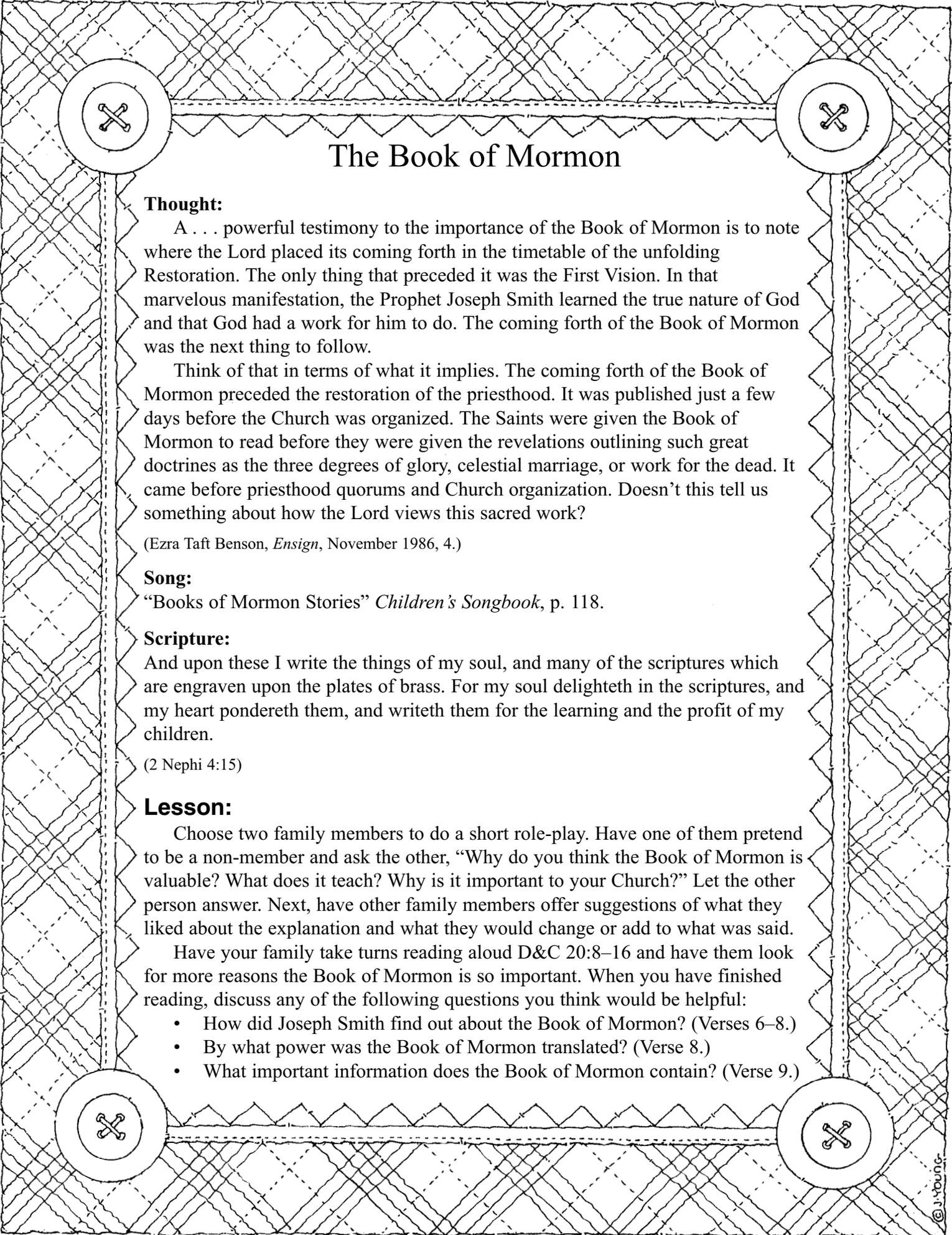
Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: The Book of Mormon

Packet #060107

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.



The Book of Mormon

Thought:

A . . . powerful testimony to the importance of the Book of Mormon is to note where the Lord placed its coming forth in the timetable of the unfolding Restoration. The only thing that preceded it was the First Vision. In that marvelous manifestation, the Prophet Joseph Smith learned the true nature of God and that God had a work for him to do. The coming forth of the Book of Mormon was the next thing to follow.

Think of that in terms of what it implies. The coming forth of the Book of Mormon preceded the restoration of the priesthood. It was published just a few days before the Church was organized. The Saints were given the Book of Mormon to read before they were given the revelations outlining such great doctrines as the three degrees of glory, celestial marriage, or work for the dead. It came before priesthood quorums and Church organization. Doesn't this tell us something about how the Lord views this sacred work?

(Ezra Taft Benson, *Ensign*, November 1986, 4.)

Song:

"Books of Mormon Stories" *Children's Songbook*, p. 118.

Scripture:

And upon these I write the things of my soul, and many of the scriptures which are engraven upon the plates of brass. For my soul delighteth in the scriptures, and my heart pondereth them, and writeth them for the learning and the profit of my children.

(2 Nephi 4:15)

Lesson:

Choose two family members to do a short role-play. Have one of them pretend to be a non-member and ask the other, "Why do you think the Book of Mormon is valuable? What does it teach? Why is it important to your Church?" Let the other person answer. Next, have other family members offer suggestions of what they liked about the explanation and what they would change or add to what was said.

Have your family take turns reading aloud D&C 20:8–16 and have them look for more reasons the Book of Mormon is so important. When you have finished reading, discuss any of the following questions you think would be helpful:

- How did Joseph Smith find out about the Book of Mormon? (Verses 6–8.)
- By what power was the Book of Mormon translated? (Verse 8.)
- What important information does the Book of Mormon contain? (Verse 9.)

- How did the Book of Mormon writers get that information? (Verse 10.)
- What does the Book of Mormon “prove” and “show”? (Verses 11–12.)
- What will happen to those who accept the Book of Mormon? (Verses 13–14.)
- What will happen to those who reject it? (Verse 15.)

Tell your family how you feel about the Book of Mormon and how the principles it teaches have blessed your life.

(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. 39.)

Story:

The Cheapest Book in the Store

Robert E. Wells

I listened to this experience at a stake conference as told by a member who had been asked to give his testimony about his conversion.

The brother said he rode to and from work about an hour each way on a company bus to a sugar mill outside of town. He liked to read books on the boring ride but did not have the money to buy new books. He had a favorite bookstore which also sold used and secondhand books. One day, with very little money, he entered the store and asked the owner what the cheapest big book was, of over two hundred pages, in the entire place.

The owner pointed to a box of very old books in a corner. “Those are about to be junked,” he said. “The prices are marked, but I might even lower it more if you find something you like.”

The interested reader dug through the box of dusty and discarded volumes. The cheapest one in the whole box was a very tattered, coverless, stained, but intact Book of Mormon. He bought it because it had over five hundred pages and was the cheapest book there. He had already read the Koran, the Talmud, and the Bible, so he thought the Book of Mormon would be as educational as any other religious book. He was a voracious reader and liked the printed word, he explained to the store owner.

On the bus he started to read the old, beaten Book of Mormon. He did not mind the double columns with every verse numbered, because he felt it gave a certain dignified importance to each thought. He did not mind the lack of illustrations, nor did he expect any in such a book. But the spirit of the contents intrigued him. He liked the old-fashioned and unique way the story began. He followed it carefully, pondering over what he was reading.

This fellow got all the way to 2 Nephi chapter 2, when something strange began stirring within him. . . .

The brother giving his conversion story went on to say that as he read in this chapter he felt an urge to pray to God for the first time in his adult life. He said he had gone to Mass as a boy with his mother until he was about twelve; then, since his father never went, he decided that he was grown up enough that he did not have to go to Mass nor pray anymore.

Now he offered a simple prayer to God in his mind, saying, God, what is this book? What am I feeling? What am I supposed to do about it?

He said his answer was nothing more than the impression to wait and God would tell him more. That night, the fellow was reading in his humble home when two missionaries on their way home felt a distinct inspiration to stop at his door. They followed the Spirit. As the man opened the door to their knock, the entry light fell on the Book of Mormon that one of the missionaries held in his hand in such

a way that the title was easily visible to him. He exclaimed, “You’ve got my book!” The missionary held his book more tightly, thinking, “No, this is my book.” The fellow explained, “No—it’s just that I have never seen a Book of Mormon with a cover on it. Come on in! I want to talk to you.” He later joined the Church.

(*Sunshine for the Latter-day Missionary Soul*, [Salt Lake City: Eagle Gate, 2000], p 17.)

Activity:

On separate pieces of paper write the following Treasure Hunt clues:

1. Look in the place where cookies are sometimes found.
2. Check for a clue in a place where it is freezing.
3. Music sometimes comes from this place.
4. Find something that helps you sleep at night.
5. Look in the place where bread turns brown and crisp.
6. Check the place where you look for your toothbrush.
7. This clue is next to something that rings.
8. This clue is not cornflakes.
9. Here is your reward for being completely obedient.

On the back of each clue, write one of the following words (these will be used later to form a message): us, the, us, I. Because, Lord, he, loves, commandments, gives.

Keep the first clue and hide the rest of the clues in the places indicated by the previous clue. For example, since the first clue says, “Look in the place where cookies are sometimes found,” the second clue could be hidden in the cookie jar or wherever your family keeps cookies. Since the second clue says, “Check for a clue in a place where it is freezing,” the third clue could be hidden in the freezer. If a clue doesn’t match your circumstances, replace it with another clue.

Along with the last clue, hide a reward that can be shared with the whole family.

Hand the first clue to a member of the family. Have him read the clue aloud and find the second clue. The second clue is brought back to the family and given to another family member, who reads that clue and leads the search until the third clue is found. Family members can tag along on the hunt or wait until it is their turn to hunt.

When all the clues and the reward have been found, have the family members turn the clues over. Ask them to assemble the words so that they spell out an important sentence. The first word is numbered so they can get started correctly. (The sentence is: Because the Lord loves us, he gives us commandments.)

Explain the correlation between the Treasure Hunt game and the scriptures. Because family members followed the directions on each card carefully, they were led to a reward. Similarly, because the Lord loves us he give us instructions that lead to blessings when we follow them. These instructions are in the scriptures.

(Allan K. Burgess and Max H. Molgard, *Fun For Family Night: The Book of Mormon Edition*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1990], p. 3–4.)

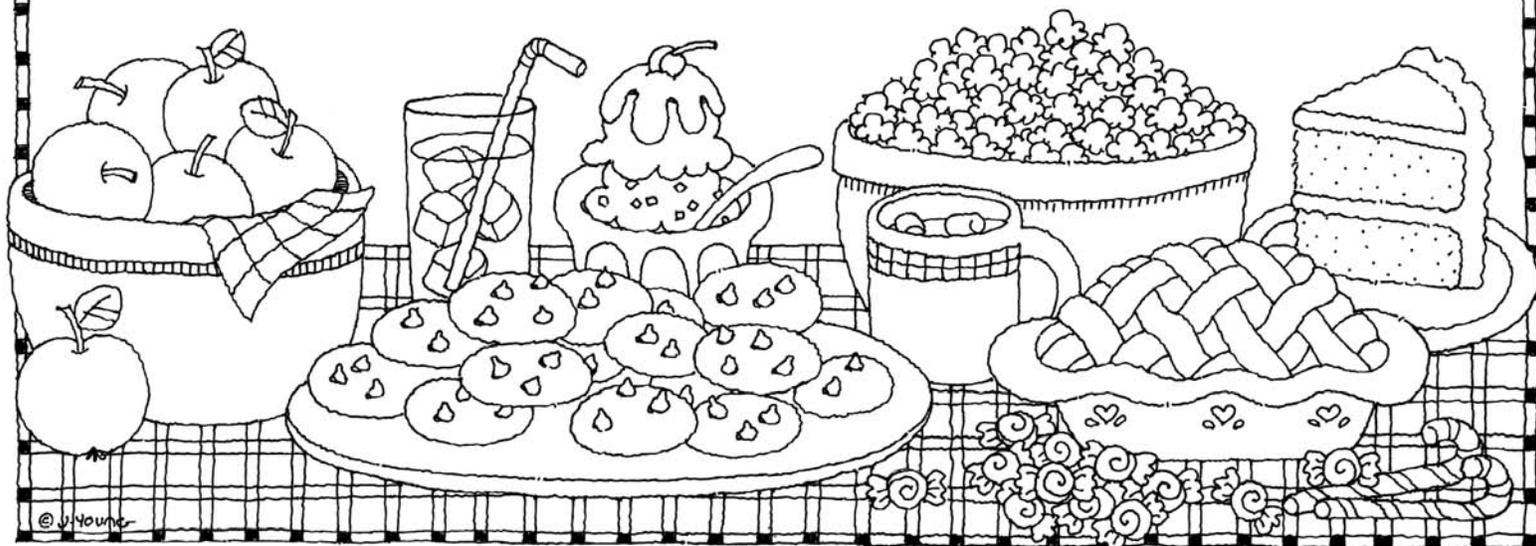
Refreshment

Butter Pecan Squares

1/2 cup butter, softened
1/2 cup packed brown sugar
1 egg
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 cup flour
2 cups milk chocolate chips
3/4 cup chopped pecans

In a large mixer bowl cream butter, sugar, egg, and vanilla till light and fluffy. Blend in flour. Stir in 1 cup chocolate chips and 1/2 cup pecans. Pour into greased 8-inch square baking dish. Bake at 350° F. for 25 to 30 minutes. Remove from oven and immediately sprinkle with remaining 1 cup chips. When chips melt, spread evenly over top with knife. Sprinkle with 1/4 cup pecans. Cool, then cut into squares. Makes 16.

(*Lion House Desserts*, [Salt Lake City: Eagle Gate, 2000], p. 121.)



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