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.
Book of Mormon

Conference Talk:

Thought:
The Book of Mormon is a book with a promise. Although its history is compelling by itself, it is a book of scriptural significance that should be received and read under the influence of the Holy Ghost.

Song:
“The Golden Plates,” Children’s Songbook, p. 86

Scripture:
Behold, I would exhort you that when ye shall read these things, if it be wisdom in God that ye should read them, that ye would remember how merciful the Lord hath been unto the children of men, from the creation of Adam even down until the time that ye shall receive these things, and ponder it in your hearts.
And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost.
(Moroni 10:3-4)

Lesson:
Ask your family whom they would like to see and talk to when they die. Read as a family 2 Nephi 33:10–15, Ether 12:38–41, and Moroni 10:27, 34. Ask:
• Whom will we see after we die? (Nephi and Moroni—the first and last writers of the Book of Mormon.)
• Why will we stand before them?
• What will they have to say to us?
• How do you imagine you will feel when you meet them?
• What would you like to say to them?
Invite members of your family to share their testimony of the Book of Mormon. You may want to take the time and formally write them out (as did Nephi and Moroni and others) and keep these written testimonies in a special place in your family history.

Story:
Some time ago I held in my hand my mother’s copy of her favorite book. It was a timeworn copy of the Book of Mormon. Almost every page was marked; in spite of tender handling, some of the leaves were dog-earred, and the cover was worn thin. No one had to tell her that one can get closer to God by reading the Book of Mormon than by any other book. She was already there. She had read it, studied it, prayed over it, and taught from it. As a young man I held her
book in my hands and tried to see, through her eyes, the great truths of the Book of Mormon to which she so readily testified and which she so greatly loved . . . .

However, the Book of Mormon did not yield its profound message to me as an unearned legacy. I question whether one can acquire an understanding of this great book except through singleness of mind and strong purpose of heart. We must ask not only if it is true, but also do it in the name of Jesus Christ. Said Moroni, “Ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost” (Moroni 10:4).

I can now see more clearly through the eyes of my own understanding what my mother could see in her precious old worn-out copy of the Book of Mormon.

(James E. Faust, Stories From My Life, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2001], 36, 38.)

**Activity:**

- Play “Scripture Chase.”

Have each family member write a topic (that could be found in the Book of Mormon) on a slip of paper. Put all the slips into a bowl or basket. Take turns drawing a slip of paper out of the bowl. Give everyone a set amount of time (possibly 2 minutes) to find a scripture with that topic. Very young children can be teamed up with an older family member. The first person or team to find a scripture gets two points. Everyone who finds a scripture in the allotted time gets one point. Have each person read aloud their scripture before drawing the next slip.

The person with the most points at the end of the game wins.
Refreshment

Banana Bread
(contributed by Barbara B. Smith)

2 c. flour
1 tsp. baking soda
1 c. sugar
1/4 c. butter
1/2 tsp. salt
3 ripe bananas, crushed
2 eggs
1/2 c. chopped nuts

Preheat oven to 350° F. Sift together flour and soda, then mix all ingredients together and pour into a greased 8 x 2 1/2 x 4 1/2-inch loaf pan and bake 1 hour.
Makes 1 loaf.

Elaine Cannon, Five-Star Recipes from Well-Known Latter-day Saints, [Salt Lake City: Eagle Gate, 2002] p. 28.)