



strengthening
our home
and family

Deseret Book®

Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Discipleship

Packet #040109

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.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M

Discipleship

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read "Christian Courage: The Price of Discipleship," by Robert D. Hales, *Ensign*, Nov 2008, 72-75.

Thought:

Through the years we learn that challenges to our faith are not new, and they aren't likely to disappear soon. But true disciples of Christ see opportunity in the midst of opposition.

(Robert D. Hales, "Christian Courage: The Price of Discipleship," *Ensign*, Nov 2008, 72-75.)

Song:

"I'm Trying to Be like Jesus," *Children's Songbook*, p. 162.

Scripture:

Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed.

(John 8: 31)

Lesson:

Make a poster like the following to display to your family:

Activity	Cost
To learn from and play like a master pianist	\$50/hour
To learn from and play like a golf pro	\$60/hour
To learn how to swim well from a certified teacher	\$10/half-hour
To receive training to become a doctor	\$30,000/year
To follow Jesus and become His disciple	??????

Have your family suggest the cost for the last item by reading Matthew 16:24-27. Remind them to check the footnotes for help from the Joseph Smith Translation.

After writing suggestions on the poster, have them give responses to the questions in verse 26. Then ask:

- Is the cost we wrote on the poster really worth it? Why?
- How does verse 27 provide an answer for why it's worth it?

Write the following sentence on your poster: "If I gain the things of the world but lose my soul, I have _____." Invite your family to suggest how they would complete that sentence. Encourage family members to write that sentence in their journals and identify one specific thing they could do during the upcoming week to "take up [Jesus'] cross."

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The New Testament*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2006], p. 32.)

M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

A B C D E F G H I J K L

Story:

What Would the Savior Do?

Anita R. Canfield

A husband and wife I'll call Jim and Martha brought hope back into their lives as they brought hope to someone else through love and service. They had been married thirty years. Their children were doing well, their financial security was established, they were enjoying life and each other, they were the best of friends. Then the devastating news came that Martha was dying. It was a slow-growing disease but an incurable one. She could expect to live two, maybe three more years. After the anger, denial, and sorrow of it all passed, they began to make plans. They would travel and visit their children and spend all their time together.

Then at a Church auxiliary meeting it came to Martha's attention that a family in their ward was in need. The husband was not active in the Church; the wife, who was not a member, had recently had a stroke and was paralyzed permanently. She was only twenty-nine years old and the couple had three small children. Their meager savings were gone, spent on hospital bills. The husband was struggling to look after the children, maintain a job, and care for his invalid wife.

Martha went home from that meeting touched deeply by the plight of these people. For the first time since hearing of her own condition, she felt the relief of being concerned for someone else. Through a sleepless night she thought about how good her life with Jim had been, how blessed and full. This illness was a mountain for them, but they had the hope of eternal life together someday. She knew they had the resources to alleviate some suffering for this young couple. What would the Savior do? For the first time in months she felt a brightness of hope. This is right, she thought. She felt the Spirit moving her toward a love of God and of all men.

When morning came she told Jim of her restless night, of her promptings to help, of the hope she was feeling. She said that to travel would be nice, but after she was gone Jim would only have photographs and a few memories of that time. If they helped this family, Jim would see the fruits of their labors for years to come. She asked him if that wasn't what the gospel was all about? She could die having been productive to the end, and she said it would bring peace to everyone.

Jim could not disagree. He felt the Spirit, and he sensed renewed hope. That morning they knelt in prayer for guidance, for inspiration, for love. That evening they paid their first visit to this needy little family.

In the two years and eight months that followed they brought hope into the lives of this couple. They remodeled their living room, adding a bigger window so the mother could watch her children at play and be able to enjoy the outside. Jim and Martha bought her a special bed so she could be more comfortable by her window to the world. They worked hard planting a rose garden right in front of this window, and they also maintained the yard work. They spent countless hours tending the children and holding them, trying to comfort them as their mother no longer could. They took the children on short trips with them, to the park, on numerous picnics. They made sure they went to church every Sunday. Jim and Martha made special meals twice a week and had family home evening on Mondays with the family. It wasn't long before the father was attending church again. And soon after that his wife wanted the missionary lessons.

The stake missionaries were called in, and Jim and Martha helped make every meeting a special event. It was a joyous and emotional day when Jim helped lower this young wife and mother into the baptismal font. Tears streamed down his cheeks as he helped support her fragile body while her

husband raised his hand to the square and began, “Having been commissioned of Jesus Christ . . .”

That night Martha told Jim, “These have been the best years of my life. I love the Lord, I love life, I am at peace.”

Martha was too ill to attend the temple to see them sealed. But Jim reported back every detail, and when the photographs arrived she lovingly memorized each one. Martha passed away several months later.

The fast Sunday after the funeral, the young husband bore his testimony of the Savior’s love in his life. He said he had seen the Savior on the faces of Jim and Martha. Love, he said, had brought back hope into his life and the lives of his family. Even the hope, he wept, of eternal life.

Not long after that his wife also died. . . .

A love of God and of all men brings a true and perfect brightness of hope, even to the end.

(Jay Parry, editor, *Everyday Heroes*, [Salt Lake City: Eagle Gate, 2002], p. 7.)

Activity:

Play Who Are Your Neighbors?

Give each member of the family a biblical name. Seated in a circle, each person learns the names of those sitting next to him. “It” walks around inside the circle, suddenly stops, and pointing at someone, says, “Who are your neighbors?” and counts to ten. That player must give the names of both neighbors on right and left before “it” counts to ten or must exchange places with “it.”

(Alma Heaton, *The LDS Game Book*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1968], p. 45.)

Refreshment

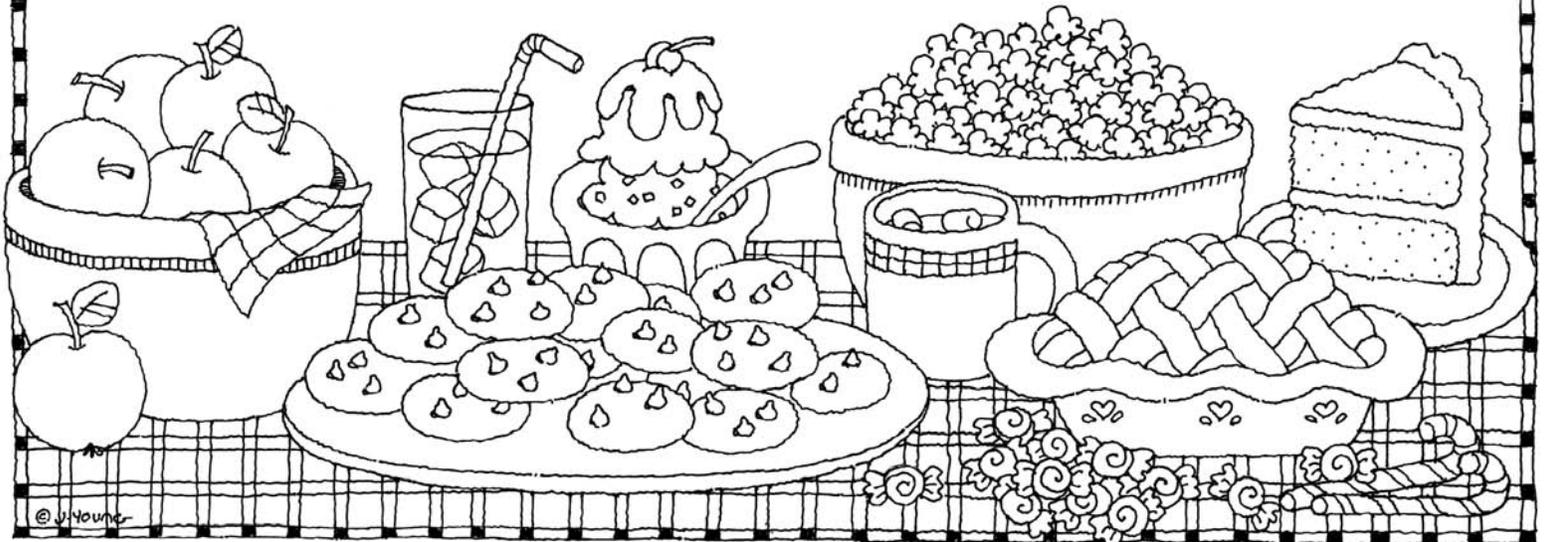
Strawberry Mousse

- 1 1/4 cup strawberries
- 1/4 cup cold water
- 1 1-ounce package unflavored gelatin
- 1/4 cup boiling water
- 1 teaspoon lemon zest
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1 1/2 cups heavy cream
- 4 mint leaves

Set aside 6 large strawberries for the garnish. Wash and remove stems from the rest of the strawberries. Pour cold water into a small bowl and sprinkle with gelatin. Let stand for 2 minutes. Pour boiling water over the gelatin mixture and whisk until gelatin is dissolved.

Pour the gelatin mixture into a blender; add strawberries, lemon zest, and sugar and puree until smooth. Whip the cream with an electric mixer until it forms soft peaks; set aside a few dollops for garnish. Gently fold the strawberry-gelatin mixture into the whipped cream. Spoon the mousse into parfait or stemmed glasses, cover, and refrigerate for at least 3 hours. Just before serving, garnish each glass with reserved whipped cream, strawberries, and mint leaves. Serves 4 to 6.

(Jill McKenzie, *52 Weeks of Proven Recipes for Picky Kids*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 2008], p. 109.)



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