



strengthening
our home
and family

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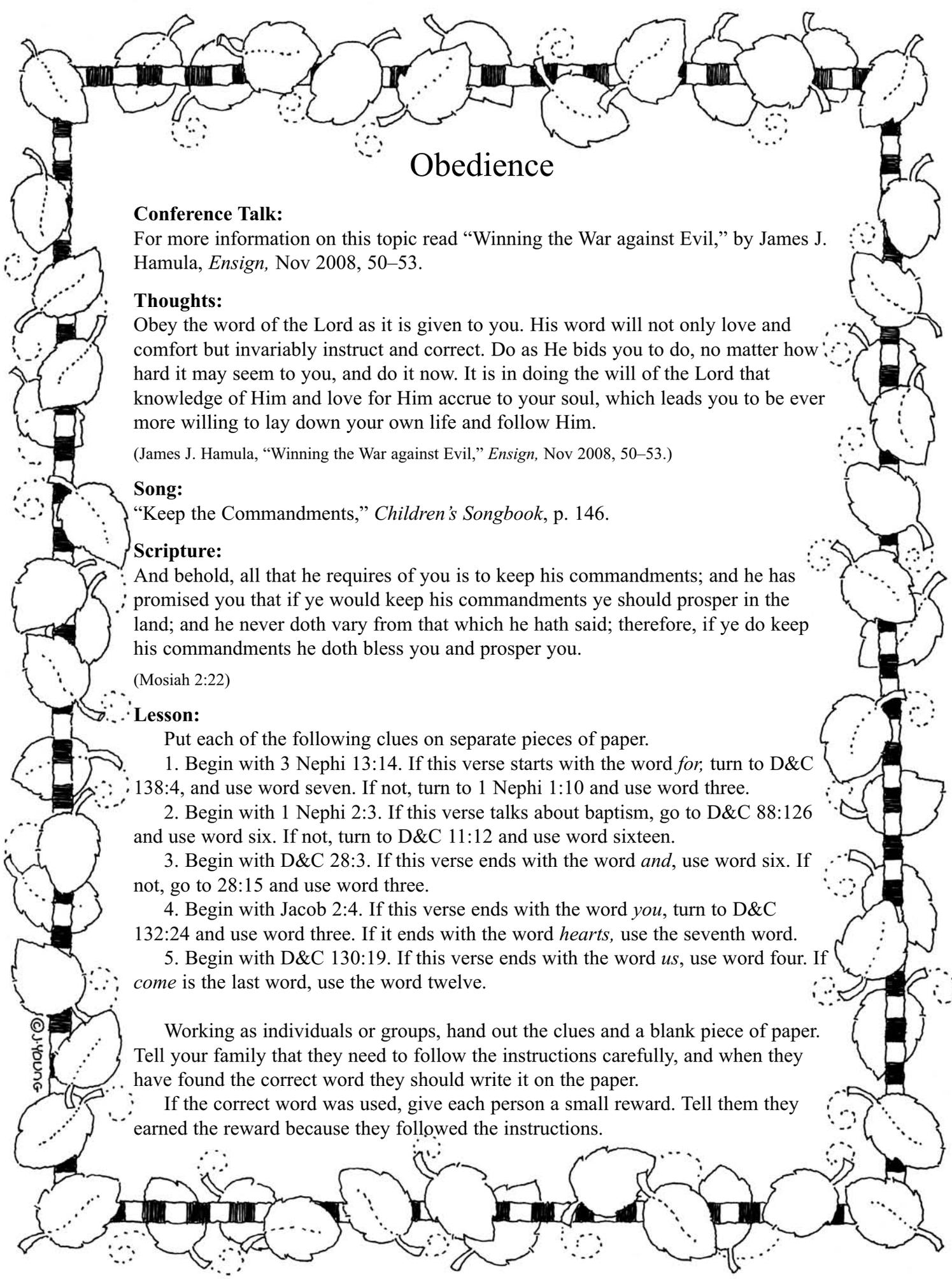
Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Obedience

Packet #040209

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.



Obedience

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read “Winning the War against Evil,” by James J. Hamula, *Ensign*, Nov 2008, 50–53.

Thoughts:

Obey the word of the Lord as it is given to you. His word will not only love and comfort but invariably instruct and correct. Do as He bids you to do, no matter how hard it may seem to you, and do it now. It is in doing the will of the Lord that knowledge of Him and love for Him accrue to your soul, which leads you to be ever more willing to lay down your own life and follow Him.

(James J. Hamula, “Winning the War against Evil,” *Ensign*, Nov 2008, 50–53.)

Song:

“Keep the Commandments,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 146.

Scripture:

And behold, all that he requires of you is to keep his commandments; and he has promised you that if ye would keep his commandments ye should prosper in the land; and he never doth vary from that which he hath said; therefore, if ye do keep his commandments he doth bless you and prosper you.

(Mosiah 2:22)

Lesson:

Put each of the following clues on separate pieces of paper.

1. Begin with 3 Nephi 13:14. If this verse starts with the word *for*, turn to D&C 138:4, and use word seven. If not, turn to 1 Nephi 1:10 and use word three.
2. Begin with 1 Nephi 2:3. If this verse talks about baptism, go to D&C 88:126 and use word six. If not, turn to D&C 11:12 and use word sixteen.
3. Begin with D&C 28:3. If this verse ends with the word *and*, use word six. If not, go to 28:15 and use word three.
4. Begin with Jacob 2:4. If this verse ends with the word *you*, turn to D&C 132:24 and use word three. If it ends with the word *hearts*, use the seventh word.
5. Begin with D&C 130:19. If this verse ends with the word *us*, use word four. If *come* is the last word, use the word twelve.

Working as individuals or groups, hand out the clues and a blank piece of paper. Tell your family that they need to follow the instructions carefully, and when they have found the correct word they should write it on the paper.

If the correct word was used, give each person a small reward. Tell them they earned the reward because they followed the instructions.

Gather the papers together and place them in random order. Have the family arrange them in the correct order. (“Obedience leadeth unto eternal life”).

What is eternal life? (Life with Heavenly Father.)

What does it mean to be obedient? (To keep the commandments.)

Explain that the commandments are instructions Heavenly Father gives to us. When we follow the instructions, or obey, we earn a reward. What is that reward? (Eternal life with Heavenly Father.)

What are some commandments that Heavenly Father has given us? (Baptism, tithing, and so on.)

Where can we find these commandments? (Scriptures, listening to leaders, and so on.)

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *Sharing Time, Family Time, Anytime, Book Two*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1988], 67.)

Story:

Joseph F. Smith

I recollect most vividly a circumstance that occurred in the days of my childhood. My mother was a widow, with a large family to provide for. One spring when we opened our potato pits she had her boys get a load of the best potatoes, and she took them to the tithing office; potatoes were scarce that season. I was a little boy at the time, and drove the team. When we drove up to the steps of the tithing office, ready to unload the potatoes, one of the clerks came out and said to my mother, "Widow Smith, it's a shame that you should have to pay tithing." He said a number of other things that I remember well, but they are not necessary for me to repeat here. The . . . name of that tithing clerk was William Thompson, and he chided my mother for paying her tithing, called her anything but wise or prudent; and said there were others who were strong and able to work that were supported from the tithing office. My mother turned upon him and said:

"William, you ought to be ashamed of yourself. Would you deny me a blessing? If I did not pay my tithing, I should expect the Lord to withhold His blessings from me. I pay my tithing, not only because it is a law of God, but because I expect a blessing by doing it. By keeping this and other laws, I expect to prosper and to be able to provide for my family." Though she was a widow, you may turn to the records of the Church from the beginning unto the day of her death, and you will find that she never received a farthing from the Church to help her support herself and her family; but she paid in thousands of dollars in wheat, potatoes, corn, vegetables, meat, etc. The tithes of her sheep and cattle, the tenth pound of her butter, her tenth chicken, the tenth of her eggs, the tenth pig, the tenth calf, the tenth colt—a tenth of everything she raised was paid. . . . She prospered because she obeyed the laws of God. . . . That widow was entitled to the privileges of the house of God. No ordinance of the Gospel could be denied her, for she was obedient to the laws of God.

(Jack M. Lyon, Linda Ririe Gundry, Jay A. Parry, *Best-Loved Stories of the LDS People, Vol. 1*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1997].)

Activity:

Instruct the group to close their eyes and each to hold both hands in front of the body, with the index fingers touching and pointing at each other, and about 12 inches from the nose. Announce that you are going to give them a coordination test. Tell them to raise the right hand six inches, lower the left hand six inches, move the right hand six inches away from the body and the left hand six inches toward the body. Continue this type of direction until each one's fingers should be touching when the group opens their eyes. It is surprising how poorly some people follow instructions.

Gospel application: We should to follow (obey) the gospel teachings.

(Alma Heaton, *The LDS Game Book* [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1968], p. 51.)

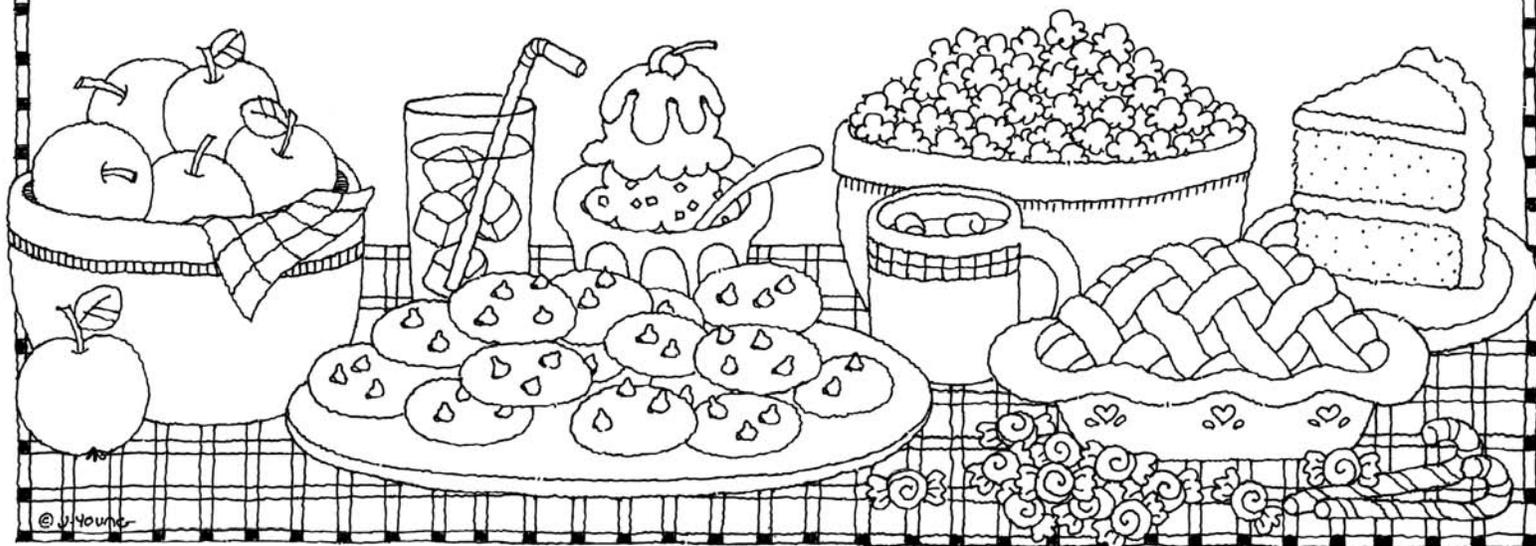
Refreshment

Fool Proof Fudge

- 3 cups chocolate chips
- 1 14-ounce can sweetened condensed milk
- Dash salt
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla

Cook and stir chocolate chips and condensed milk over low heat until chocolate is melted. Stir in salt and vanilla. Pour into an 8x8-inch baking pan. Chill 2 hours.

(Janene W. Baadsgaard, *The LDS Mother's Almanac*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003] p. 232.)



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