



strengthening
our home
and family

Deseret Book®

Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Youth

Packet #050212

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.

Youth

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read “Counsel to Youth,” by President Boyd K. Packer, *Ensign*, Nov 2011, 16.

Thought:

Youth today are being raised in enemy territory with a declining standard of morality. But as a servant of the Lord, I promise that you will be protected and shielded from the attacks of the adversary *if* you will heed the promptings that come from the Holy Spirit.

(President Boyd K. Packer, “Counsel to Youth,” *Ensign*, Nov 2011, 16.)

Song:

“True to the Faith,” *Hymns* #254.

Scripture:

O, remember, my son, and learn wisdom in thy youth; yea, learn in thy youth to keep the commandments of God.

(Alma 37:35)

Lesson:

Before family scripture study, ask the father of your family to be prepared to share his most heartfelt counsel to his children. When ready, invite him to share his counsel. Read Alma 37:35–37 aloud to your family. Ask if there are any similarities between Alma’s counsel to Helaman and your father’s counsel to them. Ask:

- What two gospel principles did Alma specifically admonish Helaman to keep? (Keep the commandments and pray.)
- Why do you think Alma encouraged Helaman to keep the commandments?
- What counsel did Alma give concerning prayer?

Prepare the following “prayer checklists” for each family member:

List 1:

I do not have personal prayer.

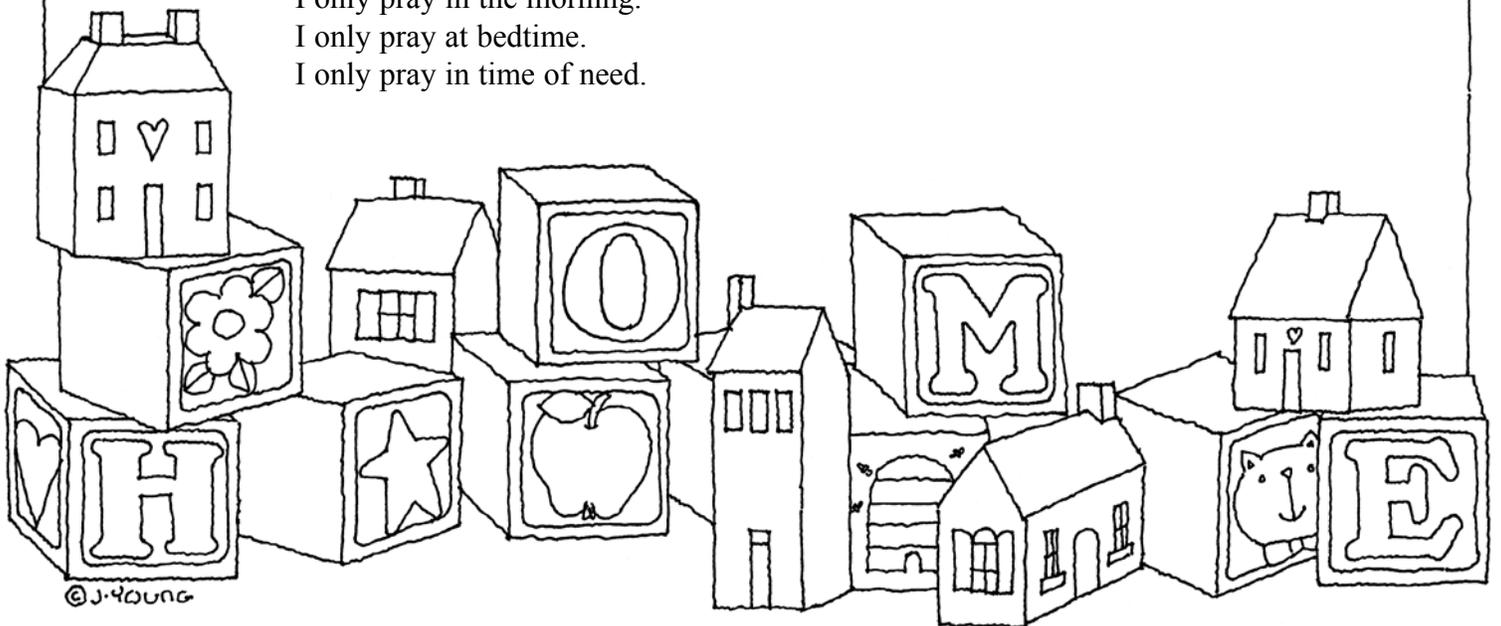
I only pray at mealtime.

I only pray with the family.

I only pray in the morning.

I only pray at bedtime.

I only pray in time of need.



List 2:

I pray out loud.

I pray silently.

I read scriptures before praying.

I ponder before praying.

I pray during the day.

I listen for answers.

Ask your family which list best represents the counsel Alma gave his son. Which list would bring you the greatest comfort or direction or help?

Encourage family members to keep the “prayer checklists” as a reminder to improve their prayers and gain the blessings that come with doing so.

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The Book of Mormon*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 209.)

Story:

Bernard F. Fisher

Graduating from high school, leaving very special friends and the stabilizing influence of home, to enter the United States Navy was a large step in my life. I am sure that my seminary teacher at Davis High School [in Kaysville, Utah] was well aware of the new environmental and psychological change that would take place. As I stopped by the seminary building to say farewell, Brother Ensign invited me to visit and add his comments to many other well-wishers. He said, “I want to tell you something and subsequently would like to have you promise to write once a month.” Continuing, he suggested that I wouldn’t understand the full significance of his counsel; but if I was diligent and faithful in my correspondence, I would develop a broader understanding of what it meant. His instructions were to start each letter with this statement, “I am in the world but not of the world.”

I think those few comments transcribed from rote memory to paper each month had a great influence during the succeeding days and the personal challenges that were to follow. I, as any young man would do, thought a great deal about home and the very special people I had relied on. I remembered the comments of Brother Ensign and soon developed a limited understanding of what he was trying to convey to me.

As we grow through adolescence to maturity, we form trusts and cherish certain individuals who have a tremendous influence on our lives. If, in our youth, we build a strong cache of strength from which to draw in our later and more vulnerable years, the vices and corrupt influences are lessened. Likewise, if our maturing environment is steeped in violence, immorality, or dishonesty, that is also the cache of ideals from which we will draw.

(Leon R. Hartshorn, *Powerful Stories from the Lives of Latter-day Saint Men*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1974].)

Activity:

Give each person a paper and pencil. Have them write STRENGTH OF YOUTH vertically down the left side of the paper. Each person needs to think of a word for each letter than would describe a strong and dedicated member of the church. (Example: S-service, T-true, R-reliable, etc.) Share your words with each other.

Refreshment

Moon Cake

Makes 20 servings

Cake

1 cup water
½ cup margarine
1 cup all-purpose flour
4 eggs

Topping

1 (8-ounce) package cream cheese
3 ½ cups milk
1 (3.4-ounce) package vanilla instant pudding mix
1 (12-ounce) container frozen whipped topping,
thawed, or 2 cups fresh whipped cream
¼ cup chocolate syrup
½ cup chopped walnuts, pecans, or sliced almonds

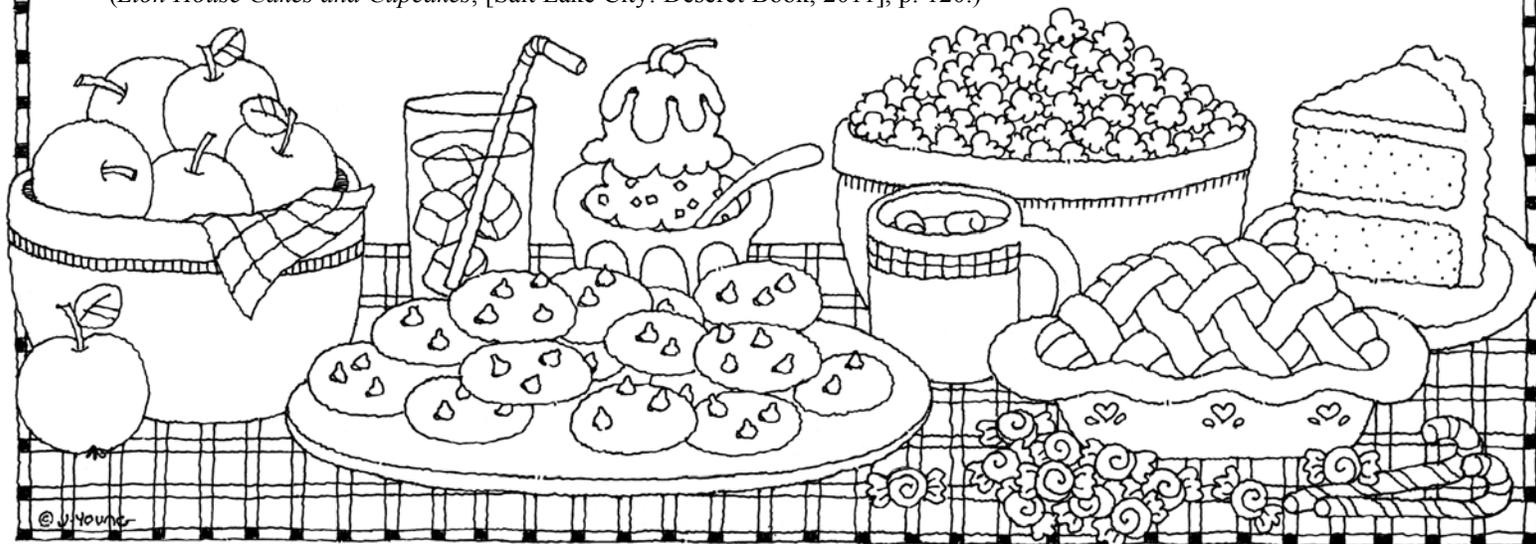
Preheat oven to 400 degrees F.

For cake: In a small saucepan, bring water and margarine to a boil. Add the flour all at once and stir rapidly until the mixture forms a ball. Remove from heat. Add eggs to the hot mixture, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Spread dough on an ungreased 11 x 15-inch cookie sheet. Bake 30 minutes. Cool. (Crust will look like the moon's surface, which is how it got its name.) Don't prick, let it stand as is.

For topping: In a large bowl, beat cream cheese until it is very soft. In another bowl, mix the milk and pudding mix. Blend cream cheese with the pudding and mix together until smooth. Spread on crust and refrigerate 20 minutes.

Generously top with whipped topping or whipped cream. Drizzle with chocolate syrup and sprinkle with nuts.

(*Lion House Cakes and Cupcakes*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2011], p. 120.)



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