



strengthening  
our home  
and family

## **Deseret Book®**

Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: John Taylor

Packet #060306

### **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.

# John Taylor

## Thought:

My father, John Taylor, stood for so many fine principles of living. . . . With all the many responsibilities he took the time to get his family together and teach them how to live the Gospel. He wanted them to be well educated, so the first school was held over the granary where the older children taught the younger ones. He also had neighbor children in the school.

(Ida Oakley Taylor Whitaker as quoted in Richard Neitzel Holzapfel and William W. Slaughter, *Prophets of the Latter-days*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 44.)

## Song:

"A Poor Wayfaring Man of Grief," *Hymns*, 29. (John Taylor sang this hymn for Joseph and Hyrum Smith shortly before they were killed.)

## Scripture:

Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.

(Amos 3:7)

## Highlights from the Life of John Taylor:

1808: Born in Milnthrope, England

1832: Moves to Toronto, Canada

1836: Baptized

1838: Ordained an Apostle

1844: Witnesses the martyrdom of Joseph and Hyrum Smith and is wounded

1846: Mission to Great Britain

1847: Arrives in Salt Lake Valley

1877: Becomes head of Church

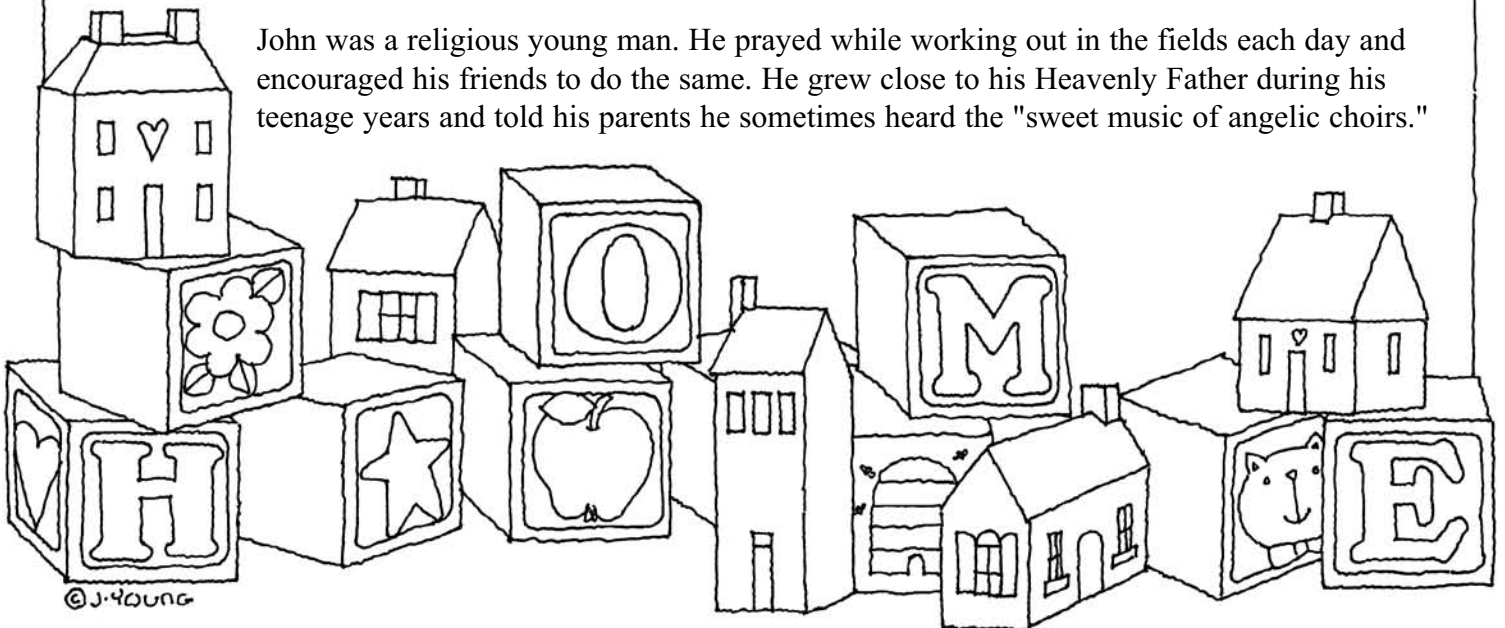
1884: Dedicates the Logan Temple

1887: Dies in Kaysville, Utah (age 78)

(Richard Neitzel Holzapfel and William W. Slaughter, *Prophets of the Latter-days*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 36.)

## Story:

John was a religious young man. He prayed while working out in the fields each day and encouraged his friends to do the same. He grew close to his Heavenly Father during his teenage years and told his parents he sometimes heard the "sweet music of angelic choirs."



John had spiritual experiences that he did not understand at the time but that foretold future events in his life. For instance, while still a small boy, John saw a vision in which "an angel in heaven was holding a trumpet to his mouth, sounding a message to the nations." "What could it mean?" he asked himself.

John joined the Methodist Church in England when he was sixteen and a year later became a traveling minister. But still he felt there was something more God wanted him to do.

Once, while on his way to preach to a small group, John learned more clearly where he should perform his mission. He told a friend, "I have a strong impression on my mind that I have to go to America and preach the gospel." He knew very little about America except for what he had learned in school. John was puzzled as to why he should go there instead of staying in England to preach to his friends and neighbors.

But John's trust in the Lord was great. Six years later (in 1832) he made the voyage—which began so dangerously—to America. He joined his parents and four brothers and sisters who had traveled ahead of him and had settled near Toronto, Canada.

In Canada, John met two people who would change his life. The first was Leonora Cannon, a lovely Englishwoman, who became his wife. The second was a husky, black-haired Mormon missionary named Parley P. Pratt.

When the Taylors met Elder Pratt, he was an apostle of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Even though John was serving as a Methodist preacher, he and his wife felt strongly that their church did not have the complete truth. "This isn't the work the Lord sent me here to do," John said sadly to his wife. Something was still missing.

For three weeks, John followed Elder Pratt from place to place listening to him preach. He was determined to prove Elder Pratt wrong . . . or right. He wrote down his sermons and compared them to the Bible. John and Leonora also studied the Book of Mormon, which Elder Pratt had given them.

To their joy, after a great deal of study and prayer, John and Leonora knew that Elder Pratt was teaching the truth they had been searching for. They were baptized members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in May 1836.

(Susan Arrington Madsen, *The Lord Needed a Prophet*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1996], p. 48–9.)

### **Activity:**

Write down a number of questions about John Taylor. Divide the family into two teams. Make a tick tack toe outline on a large sheet of paper and put a number in each square. Each team member, in turn, may choose a square. If he answers a question correctly, his team's marker is placed over that square's number in the outline. The first team to make a "tick tack toe" wins.

(Alma Heaton, *The LDS Game Book*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1968], p. 273.)

## Refreshment

### Peach Cobbler

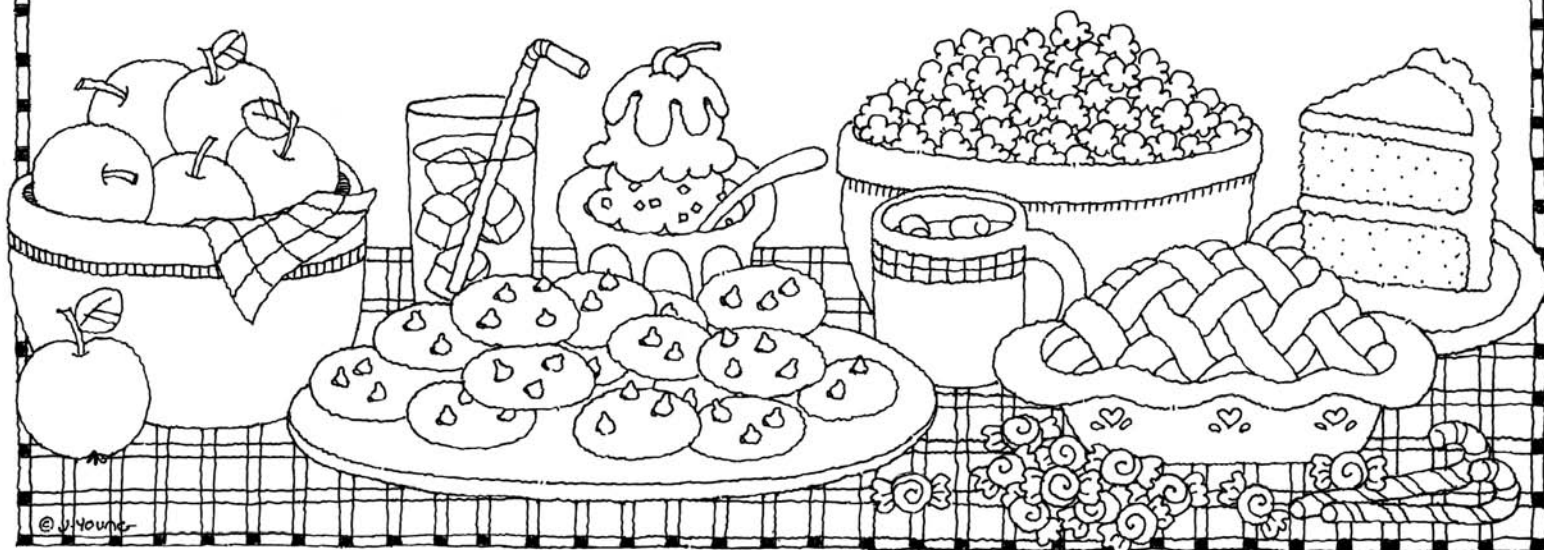
1/4 cup margarine  
1/2 cup sugar  
1 cup all-purpose flour  
2 teaspoons baking powder  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1/2 cup milk  
1 quart bottled peaches, drained and sliced\*  
cinnamon and sugar  
whipped cream or vanilla ice cream

In a medium bowl, cream together margarine and sugar. Add flour, baking powder, salt, and milk. Mix well and spread into a well-greased 9x9-inch pan.

Drain peaches, reserving 3/4 cup liquid. Slice peaches and place on top of batter. Sprinkle with cinnamon and sugar; pour reserved liquid over top. Bake at 375° for 45 minutes. Serve warm or cold with whipped cream or vanilla ice cream. Makes 8 to 10 servings.

\* Canned sliced peaches may be substituted.

(*Lion House Entertaining*, [Salt Lake City: Eagle Gate, 2001], p. 57.)



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