



strengthening
our home
and family

Deseret Book®

Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Joseph Smith

Packet #060106

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.



Joseph Smith

Thought:

It is by no means improbable that some future textbook, for the use of generations yet unborn, will contain a question something like this: What historical American of the nineteenth century has exerted the most powerful influence upon the destinies of his countrymen? And it is by no means impossible that the answer . . . may be thus written: *Joseph Smith, the Mormon prophet* . . .

(Josiah Quincy as quoted in Richard Neitzel Holzapfel and William W. Slaughter, *Prophets of the Latter-days*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 7.)

Song:

“Praise to the Man,” *Hymns*, 27

Scripture:

Joseph Smith, the Prophet and Seer of the Lord, has done more, save Jesus only, for the salvation of men in this world, than any other man that ever lived in it.

(Doctrine and Covenants 135:3)

Highlights from the Life of Joseph Smith:

1805: Born in Sharon, Vermont

1811: Suffers from typhoid fever

1820: First Vision

1830: Publishes the Book of Mormon, Organizes the Church

1835: Organizes the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

1836: Dedicates the first temple, in Kirtland, Ohio

1838: Imprisoned in Liberty Jail

1842: Organizes the Relief Society

1844: Killed in Carthage, Illinois (age 38)

(Richard Neitzel Holzapfel and William W. Slaughter, *Prophets of the Latter-days*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 7.)

Story:

Joseph Receives the Golden Plates

Knowing that he was soon to return to the place where the golden plates were buried for his next appointment with the angel, Joseph continued preparing himself to be worthy. He felt he would get the plates this year, but he worried about what would happen then. Tales of how he had found a “gold bible” had gotten out, and he was afraid people would try to steal the plates from him.

He and Emma talked about it. “I’ll need to go to the hill after midnight during the early hours of September 22,” Joseph explained. “Fortunately, most people will be asleep then.”

Emma nodded. “I’ll go with you and keep watch while you speak with the angel.”

“Thank you, Emma,” Joseph said. “Are you sure you won’t be afraid?”

“Not if you’re there,” Emma told him. Joseph smiled at his bride.

They still had a few details to work out, such as how they would get there and back. . . .

Mr. Knight and Mr. Stowell had stopped by to stay with the Smiths for a couple of days. Joseph and Emma quietly borrowed Mr. Knight's horse and wagon and headed to the hill.

Joseph guided the horse as Emma held the lantern. They proceeded slowly so that the wagon would not rattle too much and wake people along the way. It was almost pitch black outside, with only the faintest sliver of a moon. Occasional clouds scudded across it, blocking out what little light it provided.

At the bottom of the hill, Joseph stopped the wagon. "All right, Emma," he whispered. "I'll be back soon."

He asked if she wanted him to leave the lantern. "No," she said. "I'll be less likely to be seen here in the darkness."

Grasping the handle of the lantern, Joseph climbed the hill to the clearing where the stone box was buried. He was puffing by the time he reached it, partly from the exertion and partly from nervousness. The angel had told him, he remembered, that if he accepted the call to translate the plates, he would be severely persecuted. His life would never again be the same. As the angel had said, his name would someday be known for both good and evil throughout the world.

He wondered if he could do it. But there was no turning back now.

As Joseph cleared the dirt and grass away from the stone lid, the Angel Moroni once again appeared, lighting up the clearing. "You have been found worthy, Joseph," he said.

As he gazed at the plates, Joseph heard Moroni tell him that he would now be responsible for them. "You must use every effort to preserve them," the angel said, "until I return to take them back."

Then Moroni disappeared, and the clearing was dark except for the dim flicker of the lantern.

The golden plates were heavy. Over fifty pounds, Joseph guessed. Joseph quickly took off his coat to wrap around the plates and the Urim and Thummim. He felt he had to shield them from curious eyes, even though no one else was there. Starting down the hill, he hoped the light from the lantern and the pale glimmer from the moon would show him a place where he could hide the plates for a few hours. He needed time to plan how to carry out the huge job he'd been given.

In the dark woods on the hillside, Joseph found a fallen log with a hollow large enough to hide the plates. After covering them with dead leaves and twigs, he held up the lantern to make sure nothing could be seen of them. Satisfied that they were safe, he returned to where Emma waited with the horse and wagon.

(Richard E. Turley Jr. and Lael Littke, *Stories from the Life of Joseph Smith*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 41.)

Activities:

Cut nine cards from heavy paper. Label the cards as follows: Scriptures, Prayer, Prophets, Conference, Parents, Holy Ghost, Teachers, Blessings, Truth. (Make sure the words are not visible from the back.)

Mix up the squares and place them face down on the floor or table in three rows of three.

The idea of the game is to see how many squares a family member has to turn over before he or she can find the truth. As soon as one person finds the truth square, the squares are reshuffled and placed down for the next family member. Each person may take several turns if time permits.

Another variation of play is to have family members take turns trying to uncover the truth square. Each person turns over only one square, then the next person turns over a square, until the word Truth is discovered.

Explain that Joseph Smith was searching for the truth, and because of him we now have the true church. The other words in the game help us find the truth, but without the restoration of the gospel, we wouldn't be able to have the whole truth.

(Max H. Moldgard and Allan K. Burgess, *The Best of Fun for Family Night*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 32-4.)

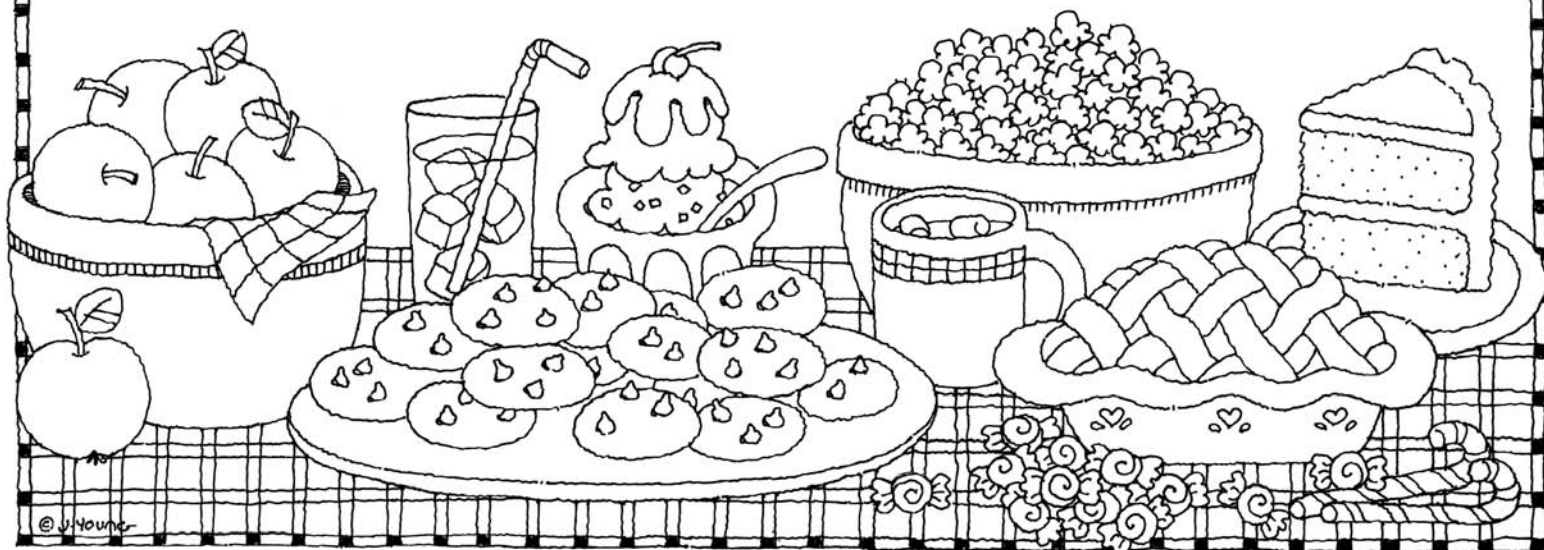
Refreshment

Old-Time Cinnamon Jumbles

- 3/4 cup sugar
- 3 teaspoons cinnamon
- 1 1/2 cups shortening or butter
- 3 cups sugar
- 3 eggs
- 2 1/2 cups buttermilk
- 3 teaspoons vanilla
- 6 cups flour
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt

Mix together 3/4 cup sugar and the cinnamon; set aside. In a bowl, cream together shortening or butter, 3 cups sugar, and eggs. Stir in buttermilk and vanilla. Sift together flour, baking soda, and salt. Stir into creamed mixture; mix well. Chill dough until it thickens. Drop rounded teaspoonfuls about 2 inches apart on a lightly greased baking sheet. Sprinkle generously with sugar-cinnamon mixture. Bake at 400 degrees until lightly browned, about 8 to 10 minutes. Makes approximately 5 dozen cookies.

(Paula Julander and Joanne Milner, *Utah State Fare*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 1995], p. 197.)



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