



strengthening
our home
and family

Deseret Book®

Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Wilford Woodruff

Packet #060406

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.



Wilford Woodruff

Thought:

I was born on the banks of a trout brook. . . . As soon as I was old enough to carry a fish-rod I commenced catching trout, which I have continued to do, from time to time, for nearly 80 years.

(Wilford Woodruff)

He performed great missionary labors in different parts of the world. He had been a mighty fisher of men bringing into the Church almost two thousand persons.

(Franklin Richards)

Song:

“Latter-day Prophets,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 134.

Scripture:

He spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began.

(Luke 1:70)

Highlights from the Life of Wilford Woodruff:

1807: Born in Farmington, Connecticut

1833: Baptized

1837: Mission to Eastern States

1848: Ordained an Apostle

1877: President of St. George Temple

1887: Becomes head of Church

1897: Records testimony into a “talking machine”

1898: Dies in San Francisco, California (age 91)

(Richard Neitzel Holzapfel and William W. Slaughter, *Prophets of the Latter-days*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], p. 50.)

Story:

Wilford Woodruff was dangerous to be around. Oh, he wasn't mean or cranky. He didn't have a bad temper. In fact he was a gentle, hard-working boy whose greatest desire was to someday meet a real prophet of God.

But being around him was still dangerous. Wilford had been in more accidents, it seemed, than any person in the state of Connecticut. He got an early start. When he was three, he fell into a huge pot of boiling water. He was immediately pulled

out, but he was burned badly. When he was five, Wilford fell down a flight of stairs and broke his arm.

Once he was feeding pumpkins to his father's cattle in a pasture. A large bull was eating too much, Wilford decided, so he took a pumpkin away from him. The bull was so angry that he charged Wilford—who held the pumpkin in his arms and ran down the hill as fast as he could go! With the bull right on his heels, Wilford tripped, fell to the ground, and the pumpkin rolled out of his arms. He was astonished when the bull leaped over him, ran his horns into the pumpkin, and tore it to pieces!

Wilford also broke his leg while playing at his father's sawmill. He was kicked in the stomach by an ox. He fell from the top of a hay wagon, and the load of hay toppled over on him. Another time a wagon overturned on Wilford and his father, and he once fell out of a tree and landed fifteen feet below flat on his back.

As if those accidents weren't enough, Wilford nearly drowned in the Farmington River, nearly froze to death after falling asleep in a blinding snowstorm, was bitten by a sick dog, and at age seventeen was thrown from a horse—breaking one leg and injuring both ankles. There were many more dangerous and hair-raising experiences, but you get the idea: It was dangerous to be around Wilford Woodruff.

How did he survive so many close calls? How was he able to escape death so many times? Wilford answered that himself:

“It seemed to me at times as though some invisible power were watching my footsteps in search of an opportunity to destroy my life. I therefore ascribe my preservation on earth to the watchcare of a merciful Providence, whose hand has been stretched out to rescue me from death when I was in the presence of the most threatening dangers.”

Wilford felt sure his life was being spared for a special reason.

(Susan Arrington Madsen, *The Lord Needed a Prophet*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1996], p. 59–60.)

Activity:

Play “Fish in the Sea”

Seat everyone in a circle on chairs with one person standing in the middle. Have everyone count off as either a salmon, mackerel, or cod, including the person in the middle.

The person in the middle calls out one of the three fish. All those with that fish must change seats. While they are scurrying to a new seat, the person in the center sits in one of the vacant chairs leaving someone without a seat.

The person left without a seat then continues the game by calling out another fish, and the game continues as before. If the person in the center calls out “All the fish in the sea!” everyone changes seats.

Remind your family members that President Woodruff loved to fish, and that, as a great missionary, he was also considered a great fisher of men.

(adapted from George and Jeane Chipman, *Games! Games! Games!*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 1983], p. 15, 18.)

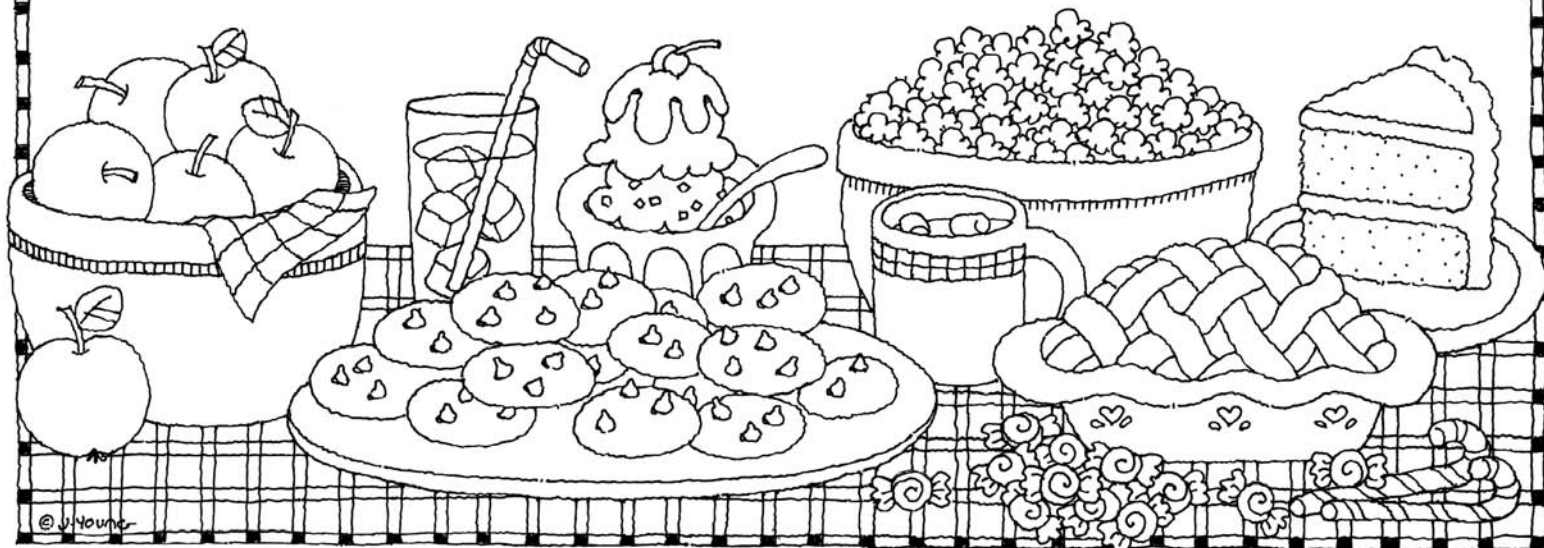
Refreshment

Gingerbread

- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine
- 1 egg, well beaten
- 1 cup molasses
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 1/2 cups sifted flour
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ginger
- 1/2 teaspoon powdered cloves
- 1 cup very hot water
- Bananas
- Whipped cream

Cream sugar and butter well. Add eggs and molasses; beat well. Sift dry ingredients together and add to creamed mixture. Add hot water and beat until smooth (batter will be very thin). Pour into well-greased 9x13-inch baking pan. Bake at 350 degrees for about 40 minutes or until cake tests done. Serve warm or cold with sliced bananas and whipped cream.

(*Lion House Classics*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 2004], p. 101.)



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