



strengthening  
our home  
and family

## **Deseret Book®**

Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: The Book of Mormon

Packet #100104

### **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.

# The Book of Mormon

## Thought:

I would like to discuss one of the most significant gifts given to the world in modern times. The gift I am thinking of is more important than any of the inventions and technological revolutions. This is a gift of greater value to mankind than even the many wonderful advances we have seen in modern medicine. It is of greater worth to mankind than the development of flight or space travel. I speak of the gift of the Book of Mormon.

(Ezra Taft Benson, "The Keystone of Our Religion," *Ensign*, Jan. 1992, 2)

## Purpose:

Help family members understand the importance of studying the Book of Mormon which contains the fullness of the gospel.

## Song:

"Book of Mormon Stories," *Children's Songbook*, p. 118.

## Scripture:

And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost.

(Moroni 10:4)

## Object Lesson:

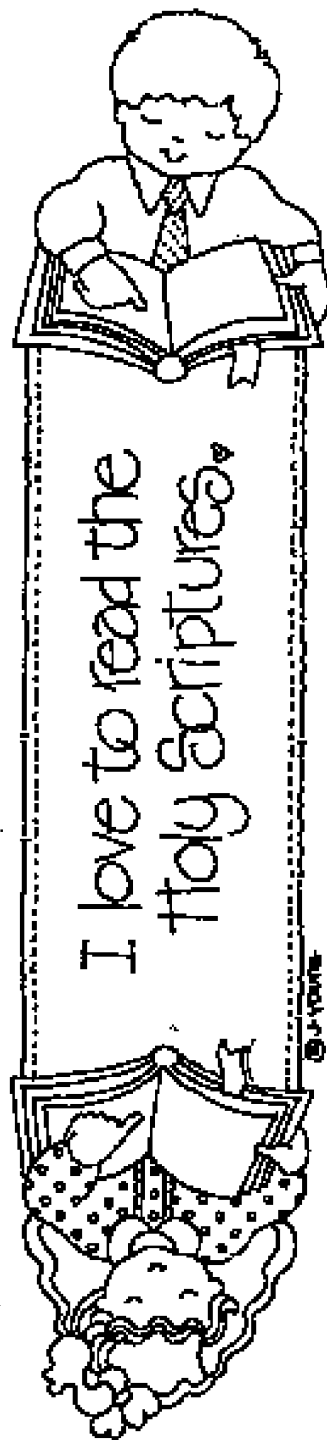
Write the last part of D&C 42:12 on one poster board: "Teach the principles of my gospel, which are in the Bible and the Book of Mormon, in the which is the fullness of the gospel." Cut the poster board into several pieces, similar to a jigsaw puzzle.

Give members of your family some of the pieces of the scripture puzzle. (Reserve a few key pieces that would keep them from being able to read the verse.) Place a blank poster board on a table or other flat surface. Instruct your family to put the puzzle together on the blank poster board. Tape the pieces down when they are done.

Display the poster with the unfinished puzzle on it. Ask your family if they can read the verse. They won't be able to because of the missing pieces. Tell them that like the puzzle, the Bible is missing some of the "plain and precious" parts of the gospel. The Book of Mormon fills in some of those missing pieces and gives us the fullness of the gospel.

Use the missing pieces to complete the puzzle. Have the group read the scripture.

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *Building Blocks for Better Lessons*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1998], p.14.)



## Story:

### “I Felt Such a Desire to Read the Book”

(Mary Lightner)

Quite a number of the residents of Kirtland accepted baptism. Mother and myself also, in the month of October, 1830. A branch of the Church was organized. . . .

John Whitmer came and brought a Book of Mormon. There was a meeting that evening, and we learned that Brother Morley had the book in his possession—the only one in that part of the country.

I went to his house just before the meeting was to commence, and asked to see the book; Brother Morley put it in my hand; as I looked at it, I felt such a desire to read it, that I could not refrain from asking him to let me take it home and read it, while he attended meeting. He said it would be too late for me to take it back after meeting, and another thing, he had hardly had time to read a chapter in it himself, and but few of the brethren had even seen it, but I pled so earnestly for it, he finally said, “Child, if you will bring this book home before breakfast tomorrow morning, you may take it.” He admonished me to be very careful, and see that no harm came to it.

If any person in this world was ever perfectly happy in the possession of any coveted treasure, I was when I had permission to read that wonderful book. Uncle and Aunt were Methodists, so when I got into the house, I exclaimed, “Oh, Uncle, I have got the ‘Golden Bible.’” Well, there was consternation in the house for a few moments, and I was severely reprimanded for being so presumptuous as to ask such a favor, when Brother Morley had not read it himself. However, we all took turns reading it until very late in the night. As soon as it was light enough to see, I was up and learned the first verse in the book.

When I reached Brother Morley’s they had been up for only a little while. When I handed him the book, he remarked, “I guess you did not read much in it.” I showed him how far we had read. He was surprised and said, “I don’t believe you can tell me one word of it.” I then repeated the first verse, also the outlines of the history of Nephi. He gazed at me in surprise, and said, “Child, take this book home and finish it, I can wait.”

Before or about the time I finished the last chapter, the Prophet Joseph Smith arrived in Kirtland, and moved into a part of Newel K. Whitney’s house (Uncle Algernon’s partner in the Mercantile Business), while waiting for his goods to be put in order. Brother Whitney brought the Prophet Joseph to our house and introduced him to the older ones of the family (I was not in at the time). In looking around he saw the Book of Mormon on the shelf, and asked how that book came to be there. He said, “I sent that book to Brother Morley.”

Uncle told him how his niece had obtained it. He asked, “Where is your niece?” I was sent for; when he saw me he looked at me so earnestly, I felt almost afraid. After a moment or two he came and put his hands on my head and gave me a great blessing, the first I ever received, and made me a present of the book, and said he would give Brother Morley another.

*(Sunshine for the Latter-day Saint Missionary Soul, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2000], p. 4-5.)*

## Activity:

### City of Nephi

Materials: Empty cardboard boxes, approximately the size of cereal boxes; brown wrapping paper; pencils; markers; white glue; glue sticks; poster paint; brushes; scissors; cardboard; pictures from the ward library.

To make this a real learning activity, the leader may have to do some scripture study first. Look through the Book of Mormon, gleaning all the details you can about city life. As the children build the city, have them look up some of the references you have discovered and try to incorporate those details into their city. Use a large piece of brown wrapping paper as your base. Decide where you want the streets, rivers, lakes, or other formations to be and pencil them in. Arrange and adjust the boxes as the buildings until you're happy with the layout. Don't forget that you can stack smaller boxes on top of bigger ones in creating the buildings. Have pictures of Nephite cities from the ward library so the children can get ideas about what they might have looked like. If any of the boxes are too tall for the city, use the scissors to trim them down. With the pencil, mark where the buildings are going to go, then remove them from the base. Paint the "streets" of the city. Paint any bodies of water. Paint the boxes to look like buildings. Don't forget a temple. When the paint is dry, glue the box buildings to the brown-paper base. Use the cardboard to create any other details, such as trees. You can also use cotton balls to make shrubs and green felt for grass, or any other items from around your home that would help make the city more realistic.

For another activity, you might make play clay for the children to form and paint Lamanites and Nephites, pots, baskets, or animals to bring the City of Nephi to life.

(Clark L. and Kathryn H. Kidd, Kent D. and Shannon Pugmire, *Ward Activities for the Clueless*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 2001], p. 165.)

### **Extras:**

- Learn the song "The Books in the Book of Mormon," *Children's Songbook*, p. 119
- Play "Where in the Scriptures?" Choose four to six different things for your family to search for in their scriptures. They could find the verse where Nephi built the boat, or where King Benjamin gave his address, or where Alma the Younger was converted.
- Make a copy of the "I love to read the Holy Scriptures" bookmark included in this lesson for each family member. Let each person color or decorate their own bookmark.

## Refreshment

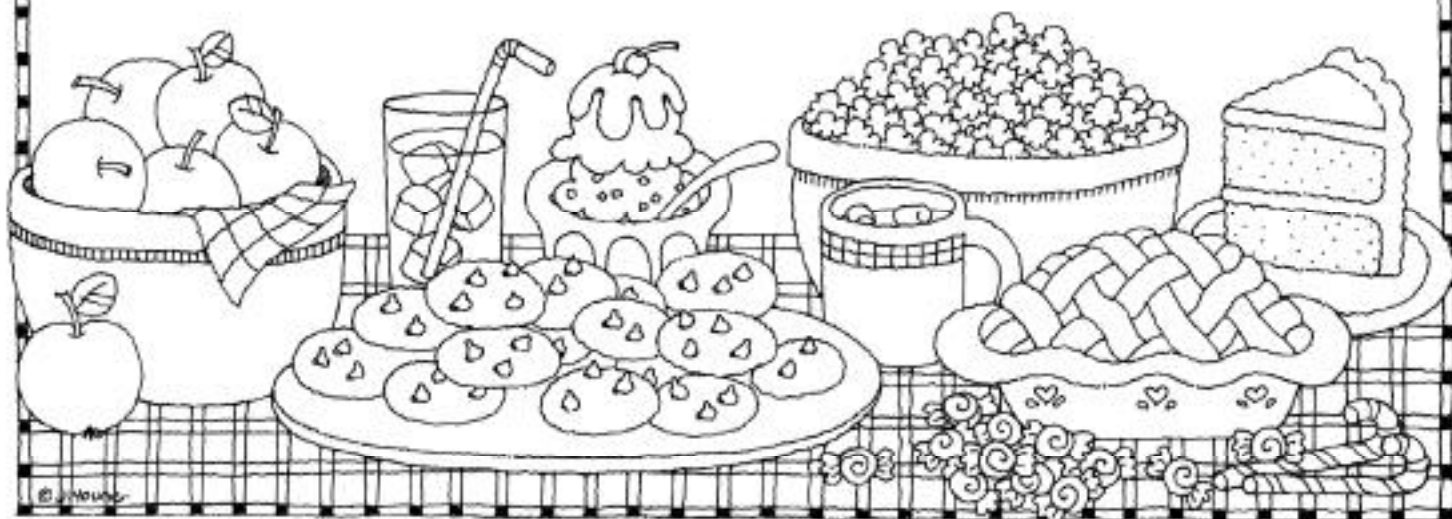
### Honey Peanut-Butter Cookies

1/4 cup shortening  
1/2 cup peanut butter  
1/2 cup sugar  
1/2 cup honey  
1 egg beaten

2 cups flour  
1 teaspoon baking powder  
1/4 teaspoon baking soda  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
3/4 cup nuts, chopped

In large mixing bowl, cream shortening and peanut butter together. Add sugar and continue creaming. Add honey gradually and beat until light. Add egg and mix well. Stir or sift together flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt; add to creamed mixture. Stir in nuts; mix well. Form cookies by shaping dough into balls, placing them on cookie sheet, and flattening with a fork to make a crisscross pattern.

(*Utah State Fare*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 1995], p. 107.)



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