



strengthening
our home
and family

Deseret Book®

Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Testimony

Packet #010408

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.



Testimony

Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read “Why Are We Members of the Only True Church?,” by Enrique R. Falabella, *Ensign*, Nov 2007, 14–15

Thought:

The most valuable power we can possess is the treasure of a personal testimony of our Lord Jesus Christ and His atoning power.

(Enrique R. Falabella, “Why Are We Members of the Only True Church?,” *Ensign*, Nov 2007, 14–15)

Song:

“The Church of Jesus Christ” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 77.

Scripture:

Nevertheless, ye are blessed, for the testimony which ye have borne is recorded in heaven for the angels to look upon; and they rejoice over you, and your sins are forgiven you.

(Doctrine and Covenants 62:3)

Lesson:

Preparation: Prepare from construction paper the parts of a house: foundation, walls (the structure itself), windows, door, and roof. Gather some sand and rock or concrete.

Explain that building a testimony is like building a house.

What is the first thing you need to build your house? (Hint: this the something that keeps the floors off the ground.)

A foundation. (Post the foundation.) The foundation must be very strong because it holds up the whole house. Display the sand and the rocks. Ask which item would be strongest and best to use for the foundation? (The rock or concrete.) Explain that Jesus Christ is the rock that is the foundation of our testimony. He is strong and powerful and will always support us.

What is the next thing our house needs?

Walls. (Put the walls onto the foundation of the house.) Walls are very important because they give us a secure place to live. A testimony of Joseph Smith is like having walls on our house. There is security in knowing that he was the prophet who restored the gospel.

What is our house missing?

A roof. (Place the roof on the house.) A roof protects us from the rain and the other elements. It keeps our house warm and safe. Having a testimony that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the only true church is just as important as the roof on a house. Other churches have good people in them but only have part of the gospel, and that would be like a roof with holes in it. We all know what happens when a roof has a hole in it. It leaks!

Our house is still missing something. What is it?

Windows and a door. (Put the windows and door on the house.) They help us to see what’s outside. We can be better prepared by this. For instance, if we see that it is raining, we can take an umbrella. A testimony of our prophet is like the windows and doors of a house. Through revelation from Heavenly Father, the prophet can prepare us for the latter days.

Explain that just as each part of the house is vital, so is each part of our testimony.

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *Sharing Time, Family Time, Anytime*, [Salt Lake City: Book, 1992], p. 98–9.)

Story:

(Patriarch Eldred G. Smith)

Declare your testimony to others on every occasion. There is a power in bearing your testimony.

I remember an occasion in the mission field in Germany, when I had been tracting. I was getting a bit discouraged, having met nothing but passive attention. After climbing some stairs I knocked on a door, and a large man opened it and with a very gruff attitude greeted me. I gave him my brief message, as we did in those days in presenting a tract at the door. He turned and picked up a handful of leaflets off the table near the door, and shook them in my face, and declared to me that I was the fifth person who had been to his door that day with just such leaflets. He was a large man and very rough in his approach. I expected any moment that I might be thrown down the stairs, but he declared that none of us knew that we had the gospel. He said, "You all say that it is true, this is the way; you all say that. None of you know."

I met the challenge, and I stood straight before him and looked him square in the eyes. And I bore my testimony to him that I knew that this is the gospel of Jesus Christ and the only method by which he could gain salvation, and I went on at some length bearing my testimony to this man. Afterward I was surprised at the fluency of my speech because I had not been in Germany very long. I did not understand the language very well, but when I had finished, he had changed his tone entirely and very humbly begged my pardon and promised to read the tract, which I am sure he did.

(Leon R. Hartshorn, *Outstanding Stories by General Authorities, Volume 2*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1971].)

Activity:

Play "Out the Window."

Have the entire family quietly look out the window for a set amount of time (such as one or two minutes). After the time is up, the playing starts. In order, each player tells one thing that he saw as he was looking out the window. Each player must not repeat an object given by a previous player. As players can no longer give new items they drop out. The last player to mention a new item is the winner.

Remind the family that the windows on your "testimony house" represented the prophet. As we follow the prophet, we can gain a stronger testimony.

(adapted from Alma Heaton, *The LDS Game Book*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1968], p. 104.)

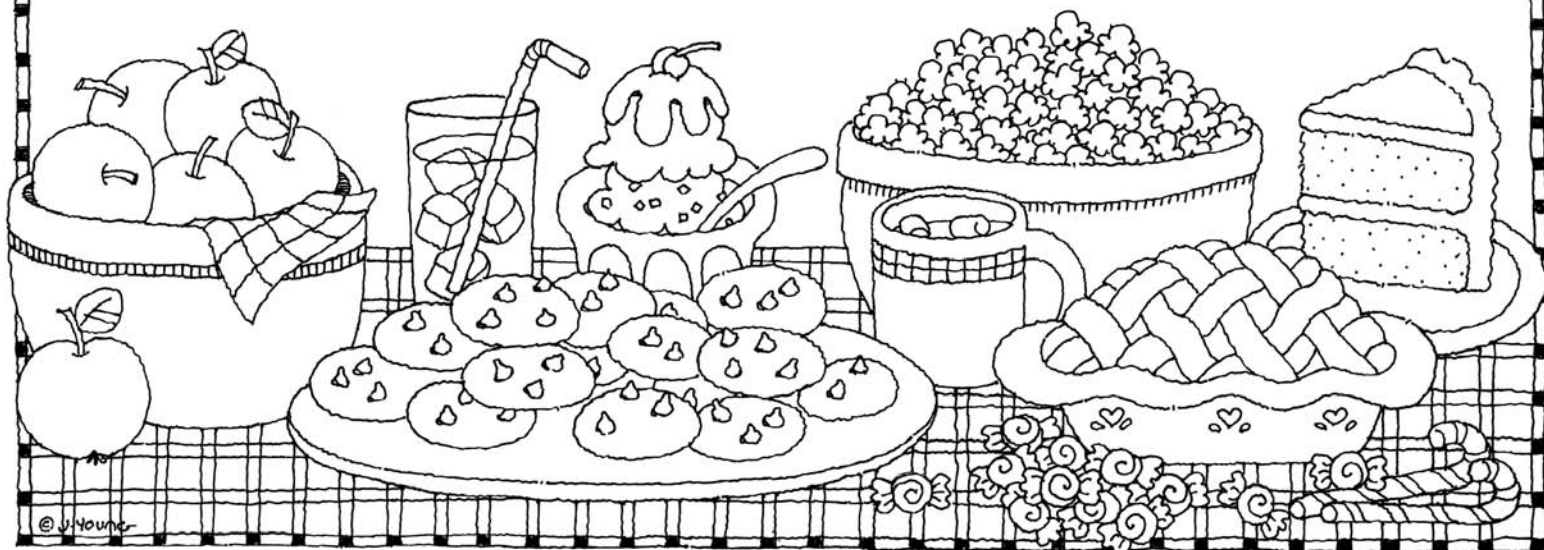
Refreshment

Cheesy Cornbread

- 1 egg
- 3/4 cup milk
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 3/4 cup flour
- 2 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1/2 cup yellow cornmeal
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. In a mixing bowl, beat the egg, then add the milk and vegetable oil. In another bowl, combine the flour, baking powder, salt, and sugar. Stir in the cornmeal and shredded cheese to the dry mixture. Add the dry mixture to the wet mixture and stir until the dry ingredients are just barely wet. Grease an 8x8-inch glass baking pan and pour the batter into the pan. Bake 20 to 25 minutes, or until lightly browned on top. Cut into 9 squares.

(Clark L. and Kathryn H. Kidd, *52 Weeks of Recipes for Students, Missionaries, and Nervous Cooks*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2007], p. 103.)



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