



strengthening  
our home  
and family

**Deseret Book<sup>®</sup>**  
Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Missionary Work

Packet #020108

### **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.



# Missionary Work

## Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read “The Stone Cut Out of the Mountain,” by Gordon B. Hinckley, *Ensign*, Nov 2007, 83–86.

## Thought:

A marvelous and wonderful thing is coming to pass. The Lord is fulfilling His promise that His gospel shall be as the stone cut out of the mountain without hands which would roll forth and fill the whole earth.

(Gordon B. Hinckley, “The Stone Cut Out of the Mountain,” *Ensign*, Nov 2007, 83–86.)

## Song:

“Called to Serve,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 179

## Scripture:

And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

(Matthew 24:14)

## Lesson:

Obtain a picture of Christ calling Peter and Andrew to follow him. Cut out enough paper dolls for your entire family plus a few extras.

Show your family the paper doll cutouts. Explain that they represent all the members of your family. Invite each family member to come forward and take a paper doll for themselves. After they are seated, point out the dolls that are left. They represent friends, family members, or neighbors who are not members of the Church. They are not able to listen to the music or hear the lessons. They may not have anyone to teach them about the gospel. Express the sorrow that Heavenly Father must feel because of this.

Display the picture of Christ calling the fishermen. Explain that Christ wanted everyone to have the gospel. He needed help to teach the gospel to everyone, so he began to call people to help him. Tell them that “fishers of men” means missionaries. He taught these men what they should do to be good missionaries.

Again, show the leftover cutouts. Help your family understand that some of these people need to learn more about the gospel. We are the ones who Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ need to help them. Jesus was a wonderful missionary, if we want to follow him we should be missionaries too. He has already taught us how. Review some of the ways your family can be missionaries.

(adapted from Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *Sharing Time, Family Time, Anytime*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1992], p. 49.)

## Story:

I begin with a parable: and then I have a test for you.

Imagine that our bishop has appointed you and me to plan a picnic for all of the ward members. It is to be the finest social in the history of the ward, and we are to spare no expense.

We reserve a beautiful picnic ground in the country. We are to have it all to ourselves; no outsiders will interfere with us.

The arrangements go very well, and when the day comes the weather is perfect. All is

beautifully ready. The tables are in one long row. We even have tablecloths and china. You have never seen such a feast. The Relief Society and the Young Women have outdone themselves. The tables are laden with every kind of delicious food: cantaloupe, watermelon, corn on the cob, fried chicken, hamburgers, cakes, pies-you get the picture.

We are seated, and the bishop calls upon the patriarch to bless the food. Every hungry youngster secretly hopes it will be a short prayer.

Then, just at that moment, there is an interruption. A noisy old car jerks into the picnic grounds and sputters to a stop close to us. We are upset. Didn't they see the Reserved signs?

A worried-looking man lifts the hood; a spout of steam comes out. One of our brethren, a mechanic, says, "That car isn't going anywhere until it is repaired."

Several children spill from the car. They are ragged and dirty and noisy. And then an anxious mother takes a box to that extra table nearby. It is mealtime. The children are hungry. She puts a few leftovers on the table. Then she nervously moves them about, trying to make it look like a meal for her hungry brood. But there is not enough.

We wait impatiently for them to quiet down so that we can have the blessing and enjoy our feast.

Then one of their little girls spies our table. She pulls her runny-nosed little brother over to us and pushes her head between you and me. We cringe aside, because they are very dirty. Then the little girl says, "Ummm, look at that. Ummm, ummm, I wonder what that tastes like."

Everyone is waiting. Why did they arrive just at that moment? Such an inconvenient time. Why must we interrupt what we are doing to bother with outsiders? Why couldn't they have stopped somewhere else? They are not clean! They are not like us. They just don't fit in.

Since the bishop has put us in charge, he expects us to handle these intruders. What should we do? Of course, this is only a parable. But now for the test. If it really happened, my young friends, what would you do?

I will give you three choices.

First, you could insist that the intruders keep their children quiet while we have the blessing. Thereafter we ignore them. After all, we reserved the place.

I doubt that you would do that. Could you choke down a feast before hungry children? Surely we are better than that! That is not the answer.

The next choice. There is that extra table. And we do have too much of some things. We could take a little of this and a little of that and lure the little children back to their own table. Then we could enjoy our feast without interruption. After all, we earned what we have. Did we not "obtain it by [our own] industry," as the Book of Mormon says? (See Alma 4:6.)

I hope you would not do that. There is a better answer. You already know what it is.

We should go out to them and invite them to come and join us. You could slide that way, and I could slide this way, and the little girl could sit between us. They could all fit in somewhere to share our feast. Afterwards, we will fix their car and provide something for their journey.

Could there be more pure enjoyment than seeing how much we could get those hungry children to eat? Could there be more satisfaction than to interrupt our festivities to help our mechanic fix their car?

Is that what you would do? Surely it is what you should do. But forgive me if I have a little doubt. Let me explain.

We, as members of the Church, have the fulness of the gospel. Every conceivable kind of spiritual nourishment is ours. Every part of the spiritual menu is included. It provides an unending supply of

spiritual strength. Like the widow's cruse of oil, it is replenished as we use it and shall never fail (see 1 Kings 17:8-16).

And yet there are some people across the world and about us-our neighbors, our friends, some in our own families-who, spiritually speaking, are undernourished. Some of them are starving to death!

If we keep all our spiritual blessings to ourselves, it is not unlike feasting before those who are hungry.

We are to go out to them, and to invite them to join us. We are to be missionaries.

(Boyd K. Packer, *Memorable Stories and Parables*. [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1997], 66.)

### **Activity:**

Play "Missionary Tag."

All players except one form into pairs (companions) and link one arm. Pairs spread out over area. The one single player is "It" (also known as the "runner").

The "runner" may run up beside any companionship and link his arm with one free arm of a companionship. This makes 3 people together which is not allowed. So, the member of the companion team that the "runner" did not link arms with is now the "runner."

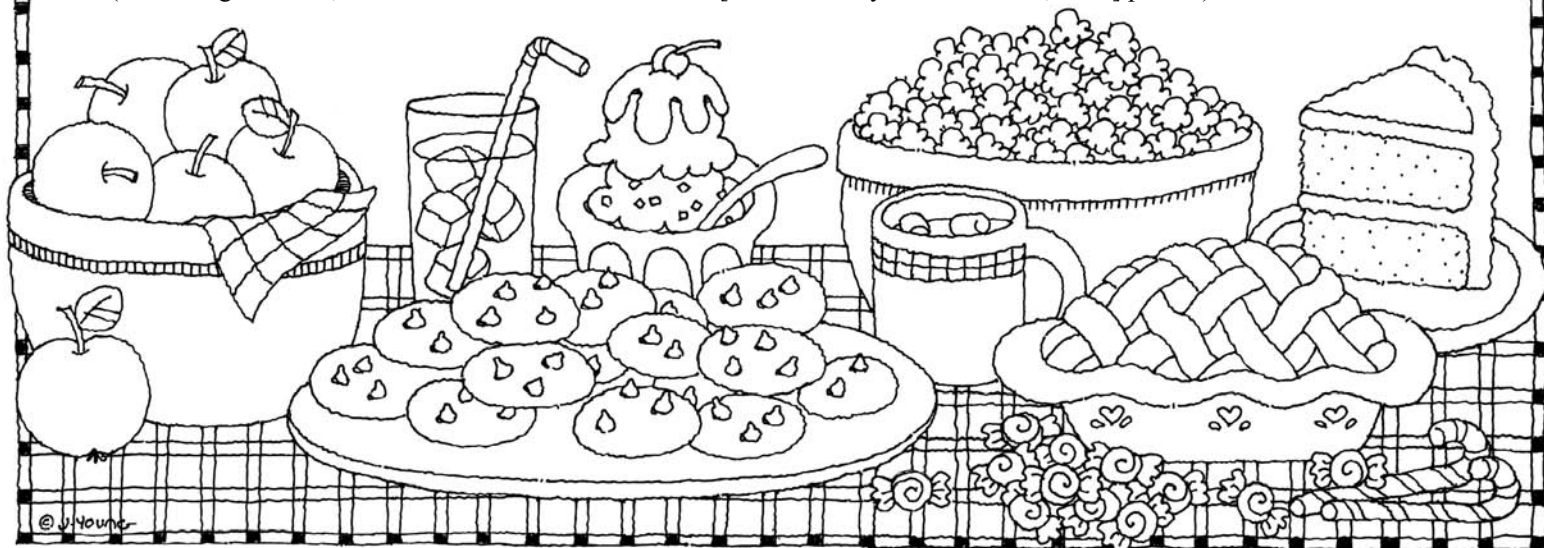
## Refreshment

### Courtship Brownies

- 2 cups sugar
- 1 cup butter, at room temperature
- 4 eggs
- 6 (1-ounce) squares unsweetened baking chocolate
- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup milk
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- Cream Cheese Frosting (canned or home made)
- 1/2 cup milk chocolate chips, melted

In a large bowl beat together sugar, butter, and eggs. In a separate bowl, melt chocolate squares in microwave on high for 20-second intervals until smooth. Add melted chocolate to first mixture. In a separate bowl sift together flour, baking powder, and salt. Stir into chocolate mixture. Add milk and vanilla and beat together. Pour into a greased 9x13-inch pan. Bake at 350° F. for about 30 minutes. Cool. Frost with Cream Cheese Frosting and drizzle with melted chocolate if desired. Makes 16 brownies.

(Julie Badger Jensen, *The Essential Mormon Cookbook*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2004] p. 145.)



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