



strengthening
our home
and family

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Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: The Apostle Paul

Packet #040407

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 Apostle Paul

Thought:

The Apostle Paul was a man of vision, a man of action, and a man of letters. A visit by the resurrected Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus changed the course of his life, and from that moment he dedicated himself to preaching the gospel, becoming one of the greatest missionaries in history.

(David Rolph Seely and Jo Ann H. Seely, "Paul: Untiring Witness of Christ," *Ensign*, Aug 1999, 22)

Song:

"Called to Serve," *Children's Songbook*, p. 174.

Scripture:

Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God.

(1 Corinthians 1:1)

Lesson:

Ask your family to list some locations where they have had friends or family serve missions. Explain that Acts 16 describes part of Paul's second mission. In this chapter there are many places listed where Paul visited, and some of those places have unusual names. To understand this part of Paul's mission, read Acts 15:40–41 together and find the name of Paul's companion for this mission. Have everyone turn to the maps in the back of the Bible and find the map of Paul's missionary journeys (Map 13 in post-1999 copies of the Bible; Map 20 in pre-1999 copies; see also the chart "The Missionary Journeys of Paul" on pages 162–63 of this volume). Invite one family member to read aloud the first twelve verses of Acts 16 while the others look at their maps to find the places listed there. Follow the line on the map charting Paul's second mission though Asia Minor.

Invite your family to suggest ways that Paul's missionary travels would have been different from a missionary today.

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The New Testament*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2006], p. 185.)

Story:

For many years Paul traveled and preached the gospel. He healed many people and performed many miracles. But he was stoned, imprisoned, and often persecuted for his faith in Jesus Christ.

Once Paul [was taken] to Felix, the Roman governor in Caesarea. The Jews told the Romans that Paul was plotting to rebel against them. Paul was brought to trial. During his trial, Paul preached the gospel to Felix and the others who were there.

Felix kept Paul prisoner for two years. After two years, a new ruler named

Festus decided to give Paul to the Jews to be tried. Paul knew that such a trial would not be fair. He said, "But I am a citizen of Rome." By Roman law, that meant they had to send him to Rome to be tried. There he could explain his case to Caesar and let Caesar decide if he was innocent or guilty.

The Romans put Paul on a ship going to Italy. The ship sailed for many days. Finally, the sailors stopped at the island of Crete. Winter was coming, and the sea was getting too dangerous for sailing. But the captain of the ship was impatient. He wanted to sail on anyway.

[Paul warned them not to leave, but] they set out again. Soon the south wind began to blow, and the sailors lost their way. Fierce winds and great waves tossed the ship. The sailors tried everything to save the ship. But nothing helped.

The passengers were terrified. Paul said to them, "Sirs, you should have listened to me and not left Crete. But now I tell you to be of good cheer. No one will lose his life. Only the ship will be lost. This night an angel told me, 'Fear not, Paul. You must be brought before Caesar. God will keep everyone who sails with you safe.'"

Fourteen days later, the storm still raged. The ship was in shallow waters. The crew saw the danger. They began to take down the lifeboats so they could abandon the ship. But Paul said to the centurion, "Unless they stay in the ship, you cannot be saved."

This time the centurion believed Paul. He cut the ropes of the lifeboats to keep the sailors from escaping. Paul then told the 216 passengers they should eat, because they would need their strength. He told them again that they would not lose their lives.

After they ate, daylight came. Once more the crew tried to sail. But the winds were too strong and the waves too violent. The ship ran aground, and the waves broke it apart.

As the ship began to sink, the soldiers were afraid they would be punished if they lost the prisoners. So they decided to kill the prisoners. But the centurion wanted to save Paul. He ordered all the prisoners to jump into the sea and swim to shore. Grabbing boards and pieces of the ship, the prisoners all made it safely to the island of Melita.

People on the island saw what was happening. They helped rescue the passengers. They built a fire and brought food and clothing and cared for the injured. Paul also helped.

Paul and the other prisoners stayed in Melita for three months. Finally, another ship came and took them to Rome.

Paul lived in a house in Rome for two years. Even though he was still a prisoner, the Romans let him have visitors. He taught all who came to him about the Lord Jesus Christ. He even called the Jewish leaders together and tried to teach them the gospel, but they would not listen.

Eventually Paul was released. After that he was arrested and put in prison several more times. Finally he was killed. But Paul had done what the Lord commanded him to do, and so he was at peace. In one of his last letters he wrote, "I am ready to be offered. The time for me to leave this life is near. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."

Indeed, Paul not only kept the faith, but he gave that faith to many others.

(Sherrie Johnson, *Bible Treasury for LDS Children*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1999], p. 127-129.)

Activity:

Each person in turn follows a line drawn on the floor by placing the heel of one foot against the toe of the other. About every three feet he must stop and place a seed (from which the gospel may grow) in a small cup or bowl set about 1 1/2 feet from the line. When the end is reached, he runs back and touches the next person who plants his gospel seeds in the same manner.

(Alma Heaton, *The LDS Game Book*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1968], p. 36.)

Refreshment

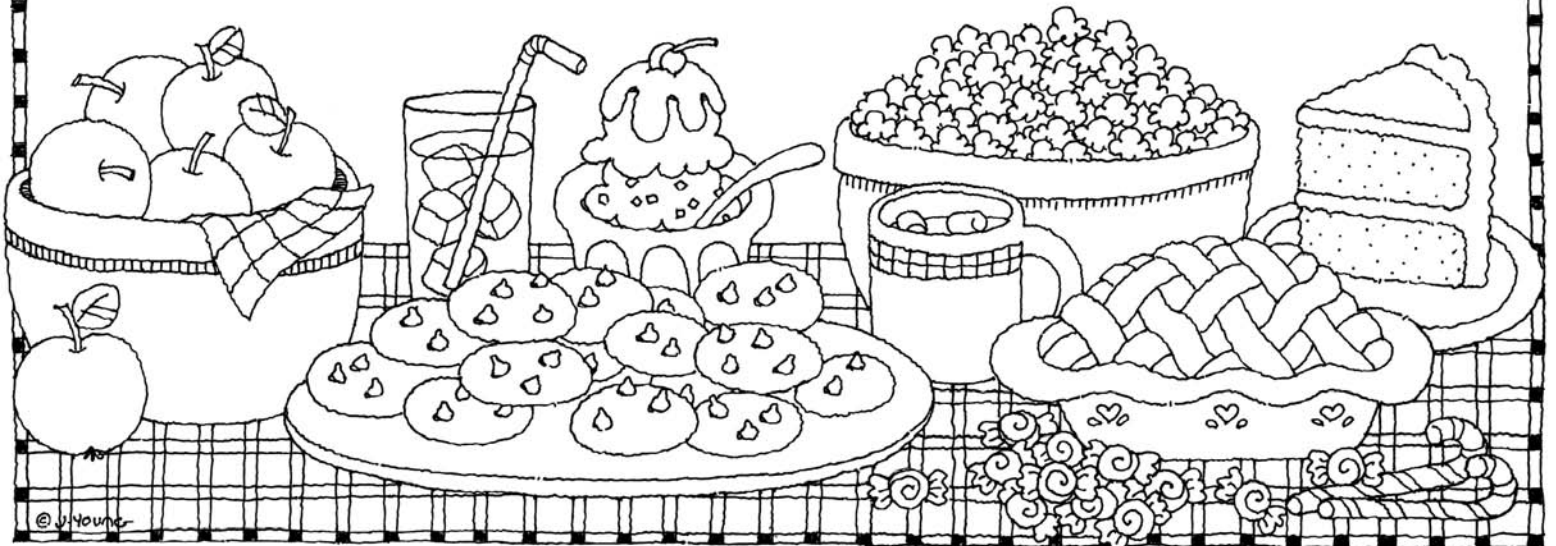
Sunflower Seed Cookies

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 cup butter | 1 teaspoon soda |
| 1 cup granulated sugar | 1/2 teaspoon baking powder |
| 3/4 cup brown sugar | 2 cups oatmeal |
| 1/4 cup honey | 1/2 teaspoon salt* |
| 2 eggs | 2/3 cup sunflower seeds, shelled |
| 1 teaspoon vanilla | 1 cup coconut |
| 2 3/4 cups flour | |

Preheat oven to 350° F. In a large mixing bowl, blend butter and sugars until light and fluffy. Add honey, eggs, and vanilla; beat at medium speed until light and fluffy. Add flour, soda, baking powder, oatmeal, and salt. When ingredients are well incorporated, turn off the mixer and scrape down the sides of the bowl. Add sunflower seeds and coconut. Mix again briefly, then drop by rounded tablespoonfuls onto a greased cookie sheet. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes. Makes 3 to 4 dozen cookies.

*If using salted sunflower seeds, decrease salt to 1/4 teaspoon.

(*Lion House Desserts*, [Salt Lake City: Eagle Gate, 2000], p. 128.)



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