



strengthening  
our home  
and family

## **Deseret Book®**

Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: John the Baptist

Packet #040207

### **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.



## John the Baptist

### Thought:

John's mission was important enough that it was made known to prophets and seers hundreds of years beforehand. . . . His forthcoming birth was announced by the angel Gabriel and . . . The Savior himself praised John as a prophet without peer.

(Robert J. Matthews, "'There Is Not a Greater Prophet': The Ministry of John the Baptist," *Ensign*, Jan 1991, 13)

### Song:

"Baptism," *Children's Songbook*, p. 100

### Scripture:

In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

(Matthew 3:1-2)

### Lesson:

Come to Family Home Evening dressed in shorts, a towel (wrapped around your waist), and bare feet, saying, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord." Also bring a container of honey and a picture of grasshoppers placed on a plate. Ask your family to scan Matthew 3:1–6 and find answers to the following questions:

- Who am I?
- Why do you think I'm dressed this way?
- How do you like my diet?
- What is my mission?

Invite a family member to read the first paragraph of the entry for "John the Baptist" in the Bible Dictionary, page 714. Ask your family what they learned about John's mission.

Take turns reading Matthew 3:2–6 again. Ask:

- What message did John teach the Jews?
- Why did he teach them this message?
- How is this message similar to the one being taught by missionaries today?
- How will this message help "prepare . . . the way of the Lord" in our day?

Discuss ways your family can also prepare for the coming of the Lord and set goals to become more prepared.

(Dennis H. Leavitt and Richard O. Christensen, *Scripture Study for Latter-day Saint Families: The New Testament*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2006], p. 7.)

## Story:

Zacharias and Elisabeth lived in the days of Herod the Great, the governor of Judea. They had been married many years but had no children. This caused them great sorrow. However, they loved the Lord and trusted in his wisdom.

Now in that day there were twenty-four orders of priests. The orders of priests took turns serving in the temple. However, there were thousands of priests in each order. Because of this, the chance to serve in the temple was rare. But when the week came for the order of Abia to serve, Zacharias was chosen.

Each morning of the week of his service, Zacharias climbed the steps to the temple. While he entered the temple, the people waited outside. Alone he walked to the altar that stood before the veil. On the altar he lighted the incense.

One day as he was lighting the incense, the angel Gabriel appeared. When Gabriel lived on the earth, he was called Noah. "Fear not, Zacharias," Gabriel said. "I am sent to give you good news. Your prayer is heard. Your wife Elisabeth shall bear a son."

Zacharias was amazed. But he listened to what Gabriel said. "You shall call the baby John. He shall drink no wine or strong drink. He shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even before he is born. He will prepare a people for the Lord."

"How shall I know this is true?" Zacharias asked. "I am an old man. My wife is also old."

"You shall not be able to speak until after the baby is born," Gabriel answered.

Outside the people began to worry. Why was Zacharias taking so long? When he finally came out, the people were more amazed. Zacharias could not speak!

Just as the angel promised, Elisabeth had a son. Friends and family were happy for Elisabeth and Zacharias. When he was eight days old, they went to the temple to circumcise the baby. The people called the baby Zacharias. But Elisabeth said, "No, his name is John."

"No one in your family is called John," they said. Then they made signs to Zacharias to see what name he wanted.

On a tablet Zacharias wrote, "His name is John."

As soon as he wrote the words, Zacharias could speak. All who heard him remembered his words. They knew this baby would become a very special man.

(Sherrie Johnson, *Bible Treasury for LDS Children*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1999], p. 87.)

## Activities:

Remind your family that John the Baptist came to teach people about the Savior and to get them ready to hear Jesus' teachings. Divide the family into two or more groups. Give each group a paper with the word "PRINCIPLES" written vertically on it. From this word each team is to make up sentences showing a principle the Savior taught during his ministry. When finished, each group can share their sentences with the rest of the family.

(Alma Heaton, *The LDS Game Book*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1968], p. 288.)

## Refreshment

### Honey Peanut-Butter Cookies

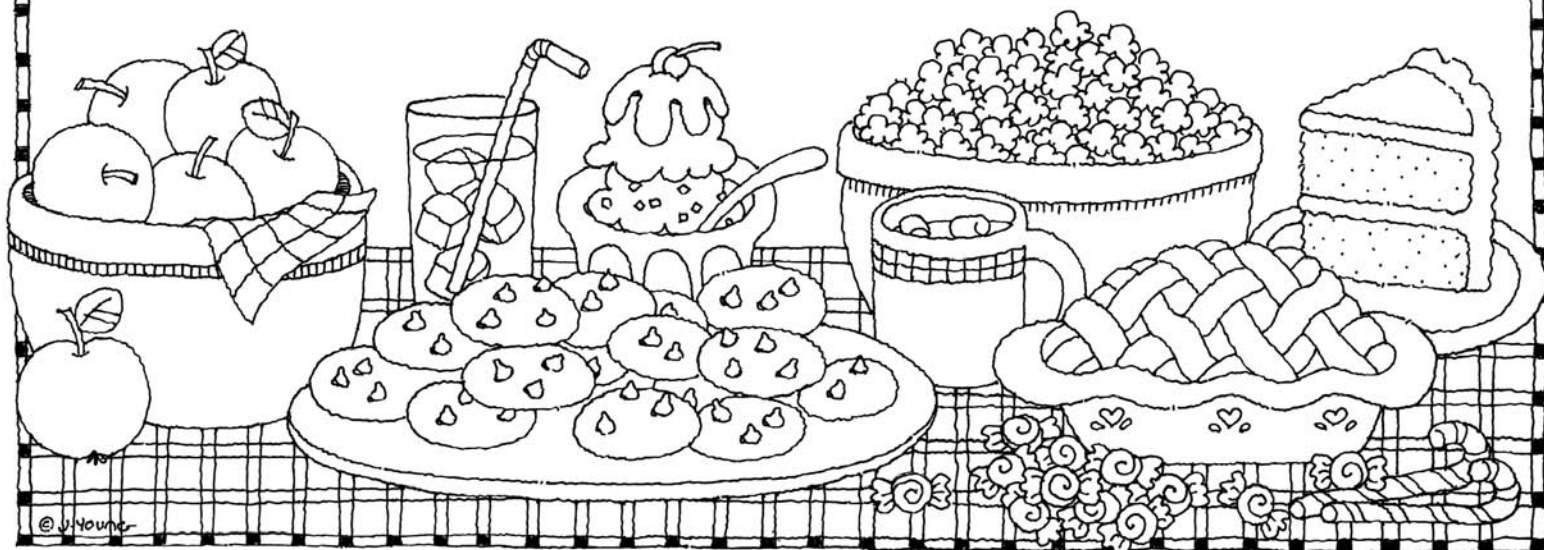
1/4 cup shortening  
1/2 cup peanut butter  
1/2 cup sugar  
1/2 cup honey  
1 egg beaten

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 dough into 2 rolls. Wrap in wax paper and chill. Cut dough in 1/2-inch slices, and place on ungreased cookie sheet. Bake at 400 degrees for 6 to 8 minutes. Makes 2 dozen cookies.

Note: Cookies may also be formed 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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