



strengthening
our home
and family

Deseret Book®

Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: The Old Testament

Packet #050107

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 Old Testament

Thought:

The Old Testament testifies of Christ's coming and his mission. . . . The Old Testament, like other scriptures, is a handbook on how to proceed in times of threatened adversity. . . . The Old Testament provides many examples of the importance of heeding and following the Lord's warnings concerning impending distress or disaster. . . . I feel that it is important for us to become familiar with these spiritual fundamentals.

(Marion G. Romney, "'Records of Great Worth,'" *Ensign*, Sep 1980, 3)

Song:

"The Books in the Old Testament" *Children's Songbook*, p. 114.

Scripture:

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

(*Psalms 119:105*)

Lesson:

Divide your family into pairs and give each pair a paper with the following scrambled words: SMAP, OOTTSENOF, EBLI NDAYOTIICR, and ILATPCO IGEUD.

Explain to the family that the Church has provided for us, along with the Bible, many things that can help us understand the Bible and its teachings. Have the family members unscramble the words to find out what the helps are. After they have discovered what the four helps are (Maps, Footnotes, Bible Dictionary, and Topical Guide), tell them that you are going to learn more about one of the helps: Footnotes.

Have family members open their Old Testament to any page and find a verse that has small a's, b's, and c's next to some of the words. Now find the verse number at the bottom of the page. After the letter a you might find a scripture reference such as Matt. 10:10. This scripture may help you understand the verse better. Instead of the scripture reference you might find the letters TG and then a word. If you look up this word in the Topical Guide you will find a list of scriptures that might help you understand the verse you are reading.

In the Old Testament, some of the footnotes say HEB and are followed by one or more words. This is because the Old Testament was originally written in the Hebrew language and later translated into English. These footnotes explain what some of the Hebrew words meant.

Many footnotes help explain difficult words and sentences and even some parts that have been mistranslated. When you see a JST, that stands for Joseph Smith

Translation. With Heavenly Father's inspiration Joseph Smith corrected parts of the Bible that were not translated correctly. A good example is found in 1 Samuel 16:14. It says that "an evil spirit from the Lord troubled him." Look in the footnote to see what Joseph Smith indicated it should really say.

As you can see, the footnotes aren't something that you just read through. But when you're reading the scriptures and don't understand something, you often can go to the footnotes for help.

(Allan K. Burgess and Max H. Molgard, *Fun For Family Night: Book 3, New Testament Edition*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1995], p 91-93.)

Story:

Probably the greatest enemy to understanding the Old Testament is the inertia that most people experience when facing any worthwhile but difficult task. A great stake president, whose stake led the Church in many statistics, had a wise answer to those critics who said that quality home teaching was more important than having a record of 100 percent home teaching. He said, "That is very true. However, I don't see how you can have quality home teaching if you don't go at all. Any home that is missed won't have any kind of home teaching whatever. It all begins with getting to every home, and getting there does not constitute poor home teaching. it is the beginning of good home teaching." To paraphrase him a little: "You certainly cannot begin to understand the Old Testament until you begin to read it. No amount of looking at it on the shelf or reading about what others have said about it will be of much value until you have read it yourself at least one time. Those who really understand it have read the Book of Mormon many times and the Old Testament at least a few times. Then they have consulted the experts.

(Glenn L. Pearson, *The Old Testament: A Mormon Perspective*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1980], p 163.)

Activity:

1. Have the family sit in a circle on chairs or on the floor.
2. Choose one person to stand in the middle of the circle.
3. Give one bean to two of the people sitting in the circle.
4. Explain that the object of the game is to keep the middle person from finding the beans. Those in the circle put their hands in front of them with the palms together (in prayer-like position). They should hold or pass the bean without letting the middle person notice.
5. On the word "go," the two people with the beans enclose them in their hands. Each then places both hands between the hands of the person on his right. He can either keep the bean or pass it to the other person. That person then turns to the person on his right and does the same thing. This continues around the circle for thirty seconds.
6. At the end of the thirty seconds everyone stops. With all hands closed, the person in the middle has one chance to guess where one of the bean is, he must touch the hand he chooses. If the guess is correct, he changes places with the person who has the bean. If the guess is incorrect, he stays in the middle and the people with the beans reveal where they are. The beans are then passed for another thirty seconds and the person guesses again.
7. Continue this activity as long as you desire.
8. At the end of the activity ask those who were in the middle if they had any special way of trying to determine where the beans were, or if they just guessed. Explain to the family that Heavenly Father has given us ways to know the truth and that we do not have to guess what the truth may be. The scriptures are where we find Heavenly Father's truths.

(Allan K. Burgess and Max H. Molgard, *Fun For Family Night: Book 3, New Testament Edition*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1995], p. 43.)

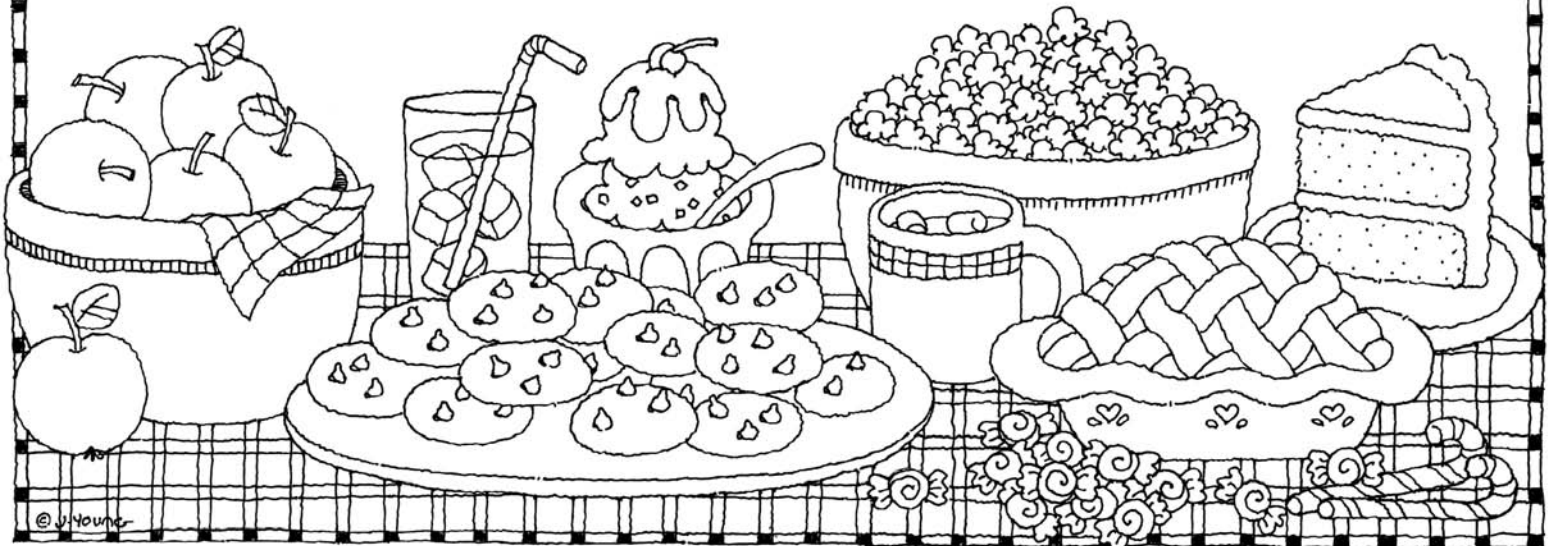
Refreshment

Hanukkah Doughnut Balls

- 2 1/2 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 2 eggs
- 1 1/2 cups sour cream
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/4 cups vegetable oil for deep frying
- 1 cup powdered sugar

In a large mixing bowl, combine flour, baking powder, eggs, sour cream, sugar, vanilla, and salt until well blended. (The batter will be soft.) Heat oil in a deep skillet until oil is hot enough to fry a 1-inch cube of bread in 1 minute. Carefully place dough by tablespoonfuls into the oil. Fry doughnuts, a few at a time, for 3 to 5 minutes or until golden brown on all sides. Remove from pan with a slotted spoon. Drain on paper towels. When all doughnuts are cooked, pour powdered sugar into a plastic or paper bag. Add a few doughnuts at a time, close bag, and shake gently until well coated. Serve warm. Makes 25.

(*Lion House International*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1997], p. 114.)



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