



strengthening  
our home  
and family

## **Deseret Book®**

Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: Repentance

Packet #120508

### **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.

thank you so very much

## Repentance

### Conference Talk:

For more information on this topic read “A Matter of a Few Degrees,” by Dieter F. Uchtdorf, *Ensign*, May 2008, 57–60.

### Thought:

Through serving our fellowmen we come to know the Lord. Service makes us strong in our faith and useful in His kingdom.

(Dieter F. Uchtdorf, “A Matter of a Few Degrees,” *Ensign*, May 2008, 57–60.)

### Song:

“Help Me, Dear Father,” *Children’s Songbook*, p. 99.

### Scripture:

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(1 John 1:9)

### Object Lesson:

Make a poster with the word REPENTANCE written in bold black letters. With a red marker, make a large heart around the word. Cut the poster into four pieces to form a puzzle. On the back of each piece write one of the four steps in repentance: 1. sorrow for the sin, 2. confess the sin, 3 forsake the sin, 4. make restitution for the sin.

Display a doormat. Point out that it is put in front of the door to provide those who enter to wipe their feet so they will not soil the inside of the home.

Heavenly Father loves us and wants us to return to his home. Because no unclean thing can enter into his presence, he has also placed a “doormat” outside his home. His doormat is called “repentance.”

Pass out the four puzzle pieces. Invite the person who has #1 to read what is written on the back of his piece. Put the piece on the floor or table. Explain that to sorrow means to feel very sorry that you sinned.

Have the person who has #2 to read her step. Ask her to fit the second piece to the puzzle on the floor or table. Explain that to confess the sin means to pray and tell Heavenly Father what you did and how sorry you are. (You may wish to point out that some serious sins must be confessed to the bishop too.)

Ask the person with #3 to read and place his piece. Help the family understand that to forsake the sin means to never do it again.

Ask the person with #4 to read and place the final piece to complete the puzzle. Teach the group that to make restitution means to make good or to give payment for a sin.

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *Sharing Time, Family Time, Anytime: Book Two*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1994], p. 80.)

I love you • hugs • you're the best!

please • you're welcome • yes!

I'm so grateful • thanks

**Story:**

(Marion G. Romney)

Four Latter-day Saint boys set out from a Utah city on a cross-country trip. They had saved all their money during the last year of high school for this purpose, and now that graduation was over, they packed their suitcases into the trunk of their car and said good-byes to worrying parents and envious friends. It was a matter of considerable celebration when they crossed the Utah state line and entered into another state. . . .

One of the boys . . . proposed to his friends that they forget all about being Mormons for the duration of their adventure. Asked why by the other three puzzled boys, he said that they could now afford to "let their hair down" and sample some of the excitement enjoyed by other people, not of the Mormon church. "Anyway," he argued, "what difference will it make? Nobody out here in the world knows us or cares anything about our church connections."

The thrill of the new experience weighted their judgment, and the group made an agreement to give it a try. . . .

Nightfall on the first day of the journey found them at a famous tourist attraction spot, and they made arrangements for camping near the resort. After the evening meal they gathered at the large hotel for the night's entertainment. No sooner had they arrived when the ringleader of the boys suggested that they begin here and now sampling the things they had so long been denied by strict parents and teachers. The first thing that caught their eyes was a large neon sign at the far end of the lounge. It read, "Bar—beer, cocktails." Thinking it a moderate nod in the direction of "sinning just a little bit," they agreed to go into the bar and order a glass of beer for each one. There was a nervous air about them as they entered the gaudily lighted bar and surveyed the counters loaded with intriguing bottles of liquor. The boy who had been delegated to give the order lost his voice on the first try and had to swallow hard to get out an understandable, "Four glasses of beer, please."

What the beer lacked in palatability, the atmosphere and thrill more than made up. They grew bolder and began to talk of the next adventure they would undertake. The talk was growing racy when suddenly a well-dressed man entered the bar and walked straight toward their table. The look on the stranger's face and the determined pace at which he walked toward them left the boys completely unnerved.

When the man reached the table at which the boys were sitting, he extended his hand to one of them and said, "I beg your pardon, but aren't you George Redford's son from Utah?"

The boy was speechless and terrified. His fingers froze around the base of the glass of beer and he answered in a wavering voice. "Why, yes, sir, I am."

"I thought I recognized you when you came in the lobby of the hotel," the stranger continued. "I am Henry Paulsen, vice-president of the company your dad works for, and I met you and your mother last winter at a company dinner at the Hotel Utah. I have never forgotten how you explained your Mormon priesthood to one of the other executives of our company who asked you what it meant to be a Mormon boy. I must say I was a little surprised to see you head for the bar, but I suppose that with Mormons as well as non-Mormons, boys will be boys when they're off the roost."

These boys had heard a sermon they would never hear duplicated at the pulpit. They were sick, ashamed, and crestfallen. As they left their half-filled glasses and walked out through the hotel lobby, they had the feeling that everyone was looking at them. The cover of darkness was kind as they made their way to their camp. "You just can't win," said the boy who had proposed their dropping their true identity, trying to ease the tension.

"I'm not so sure," replied the boy to whom the stranger had spoken. "If we have any sense left, we can make this experience into the most winning lesson of our lives."

(Edited by Linda Ririe Gundry, Jay A. Parry, and Jack M. Lyon, *Best-Loved Stories of the LDS People: Volume 2*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1988], p.260.)

**Activity:**

Play "Satan Says."

The leader does things usually involving quick physical movements. The group are to do whatever he does when he precedes his instructions with the words, "Simon says." However, if the leader tells the group that "Satan says" the group should not obey. The object is to see how long each person can follow directions without doing what "Satan says."

(Alma Heaton, *The LDS Game Book*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1968], p. 38.)

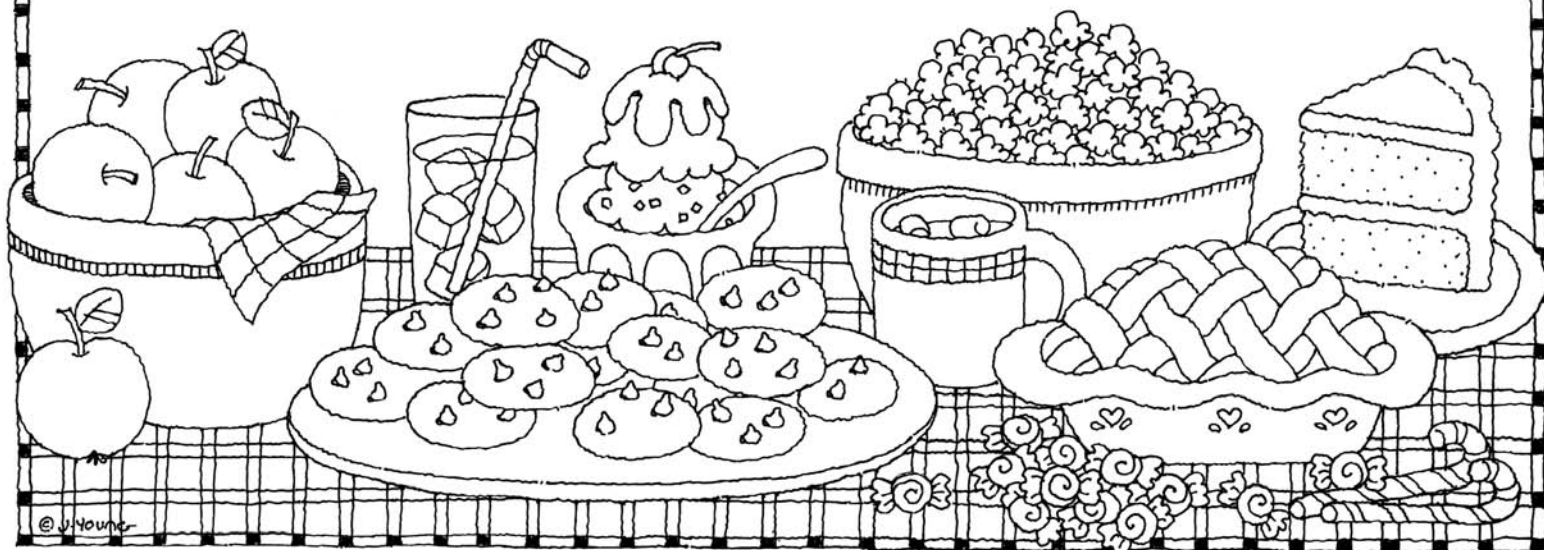
## Refreshment

### Honey Nut Bars

- 1/2 cup shortening or margarine
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup honey
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 3/4 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup rolled oats
- 1 cup coconut
- 1/2 cup nuts, chopped

In a large mixing bowl, cream shortening or margarine, sugar, honey, vanilla, and beaten eggs. Stir or sift together flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt; add to creamed mixture. Mix well. Stir in oats, coconut, and nuts. Spread dough on greased 9 x 13-inch pan. Bake at 350 degrees for no longer than 12 to 14 minutes. Remove from oven when batter is barely cooked; it will continue cooking for a minute or two, and can become too dry if overcooked. Cool and cut into bars. Makes 2 dozen bars.

(Paula Julander and JoAnne Milner, *Utah State Fare*, [Salt Lake City: Shadow Mountain, 1995], p. 108.)



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