

Hatch Patch Creations

Family Home Evening Made Easy

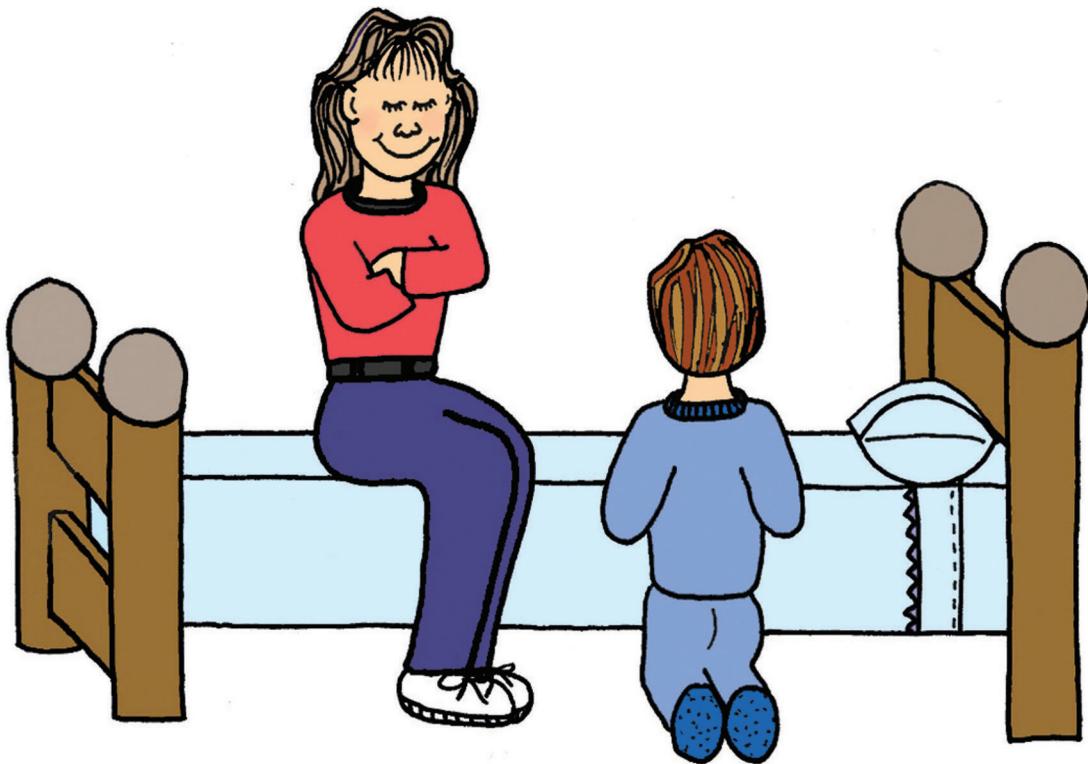
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Prayer Family Home Evening Packet



Contents:

Story, Picture Sheets, Game,
Scripture, Treat Recipe

\$7.00

Prayer Family Home Evening Packet *Home Evening Outline*

Opening Prayer
Opening Song
Scripture

Story
Game

Closing Song
Closing Prayer
Refreshments

Suggested Songs: "A Child's Prayer", pg. 12 (Childrens)

"Can A Little Child Like Me", pg. 9 (Childrens)

"Did You Think To Pray", pg. 140 (Hymn)

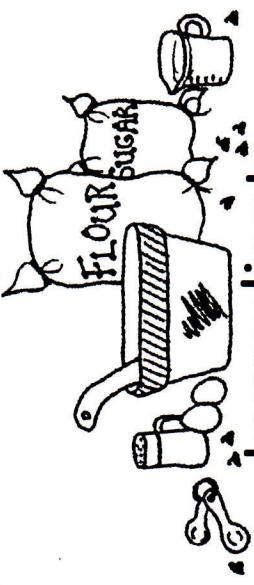
Scriptures: Alma 37:37, Matthew 7:7

Story: Color graphics with markers, colored pencils, chalks, etc. Use flannel, or laminate and cut out and place magnets on back of graphics. etc.

Activity #1: Prayer Pillow Cases - Purchase ahead of time, a plain white, cotton pillow case for each member of the family or sew your own. Cut out the designs on the stencil provided in this packet, or purchase precut stencils of your own. Using paint markers or acrylic paint mixed with a fabric medium and a stencil brush, have each family member stencil his own pillow case. Allow the pillow cases ample drying time before placing on a pillow. Instruct your children that these pillow cases should remind them to say their prayers both at night before bed and also in the morning when they awaken.

Activity #2: Bean Bag Toss - Fill a few small, closable, plastic baggies with rice, beans, macaroni, etc. You may want to double bag in case one comes open. Place a large, heavy bowl or container at one end of the room. Laminate and cut out the question cards. Ask the questions one at a time. Whoever answers the question correctly, gets a chance to throw the bean bag into the bowl or container. Whenever a person or child gets the bean bag into the bowl or container, they win a prize. Prizes can be whatever you like. You can make this as easy or hard as you wish depending upon the ages of the children. Different shaped containers can be fun and make it more difficult.

Peanut Butter Prayer Cookies



Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 tsp. vanilla
- 1/2 cup creamy peanut butter
- 1 egg
- 3 tbsp. milk
- 1 3/4 cups flour
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 cup shortening
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup brown sugar

Directions:

- Preheat oven to 375 degrees. In a bowl, mix sugar, shortening, brown sugar and egg. Add peanut butter and milk. Mix thoroughly. Add salt and baking soda. Shape dough into balls and place on an un-greased cookie sheet. Bake for ten minutes. ENJOY!

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Prayer

Andrew was spending the night with his friend, Curt. Andrew had never been in an L.D.S. home before. He noticed several things as he wandered through the house. A large picture of Jesus hung in the foyer and the air smelled sweet and fresh. Andrew liked the feeling he had as the two little boys played together. Soon Andrew's stomach began growling and he was glad when Curt's mother called them to come to the dinner table.

Beautiful cloth mats were placed on the table in front of each chair and wonderful smells were coming from the kitchen. Andrew was very hungry as he anxiously sat down next to Curt and began filling his plate with the food from the table. Father looked a little stern and cleared his throat. Curt tapped Andrew on the leg and shook his head, "No" as Andrew looked around the table a little bewildered. Mother explained that they always had a prayer of blessing on the food before they ate. Everyone folded his arms and bowed his head. Andrew felt a little uneasy as Father began speaking to God and asking for the food to be blessed. All kinds of questions were running through his head as Father said, "Amen." He would ask Andrew about it later.

The boys had a great time throughout the evening playing ball in the backyard and challenging each other to a computer game. Time went by quickly and soon Mother's voice was heard calling the boys downstairs. Andrew and Curt raced each other down the staircase and into the family room where the rest of the family was gathered. "Hmm," Andrew thought. "This looks serious."

Father motioned for the boys to come into the room and kneel down with him, Mother, and Amy. Andrew couldn't figure out what was going on but soon he realized that the family was going to pray. That uncomfortable feeling came again. As Father began the prayer, Andrew opened one eye to look around. Mother had her arm around Amy as they knelt by a large chair. Father was kneeling alone, his head bowed and his hands folded in front of him. Father's voice was soothing and gentle and he spoke to the Lord with such confidence. Andrew listened intently. He had never heard someone speak to God this way. There seemed to be a softness about the room and Andrew's heart felt peaceful.

Father said, "Amen," and then grabbed Curt and hugged him enthusiastically.

"I sure hope he's not going to hug me," Andrew thought as he raced to leave the room.

"Good night, Curt," Father called.

It was time for bed. By now, Andrew had many questions for his friend and he couldn't wait until they were alone so he could ask them. But Mother followed them to Curt's bedroom and sat right down on his bed. "All right, boys," she said, "let's say our prayers."

"Another one!" Andrew thought to himself. "All this family does is pray." And Mother had said the word, "let's," which meant that she expected Andrew to pray right along with Curt. Well, he would have no part of that! Then Mother motioned him onto his knees beside one of the twin beds in the room.

Very reluctantly, Andrew kneeled and folded his arms on the top of the bed. He listened as Mother would say the words and Curt would repeat them. He buried his head in his arms and mumbled slightly so that Mother would think he was praying, too. He had never prayed before and he felt a little awkward kneeling on the floor. Then a strange thing happened. Andrew began listening to the words Mother was saying and suddenly, he felt warm and cozy. He knew about God, but he had never talked to Him! "Could people really talk to Him?" he thought. Andrew and Mother certainly were. They were asking Him all sorts of things. Suddenly, the prayer was over and Curt jumped into bed, pulling the covers up to his chin. Mother reached down and kissed Curt on the forehead and then she pulled down the covers of Andrew's bed. She motioned for him to climb in and he slid down inside the warm blankets. Mother sat down on the end of the bed.

"Andrew, have you ever said your prayers before?" she asked.

Sheepishly, Andrew shook his head, "No."

"Would you like me to help you say your own prayer?" she continued. There was no way Andrew wanted to say his own prayer with Curt watching but Mother kept asking him. He would say his prayer quickly and then maybe Mother would leave them alone so they could sneak out of bed and play for a little while.

After kneeling again beside the bed, Andrew began repeating the words Mother said. They asked the Lord to bless his family and to protect him as he went through the next day. They even asked Heavenly Father to help him with his schoolwork on Monday. Even though Andrew felt uneasy, he also felt good about his prayer. It was almost as though the day now had a proper ending.

"Do you know why we pray to our Heavenly Father?" Mother asked. Andrew shook his head. He didn't have a clue. Mother began softly, "When we left our Heavenly home to come here on Earth, our Father provided a way that we could always be close to Him. When we pray, He listens perfectly and He always hears us. He loves us so much and it makes Him feel bad when we don't care enough to talk to Him every day. It shows our love for Him and our faith in Him when we pray." Andrew was listening intently, but Curt had fallen asleep and was gently snoring under his blanket.

After Mother tiptoed from the room, Andrew lay awake thinking about what she had said. He had never thought about speaking to God and yet there were so many things that he had to say. Andrew's eyes began to flutter and soon he was also snoring under the covers.

Prayer is such a wonderful, individual thing. The more we pray, the closer we will feel to our Heavenly Father and the less we will be tempted to do bad things.

DISCUSSION:

Here are five questions to see how much you know about prayer.

1. When do we pray? The really nice thing about praying is that we can do it anytime. We have been asked to try to say our prayers morning and night and pray over our meals. Our prayers can be said silently, to ourselves and not heard by others, only by God. We can keep a prayer in our heart all day long if we want to and we can approach our Heavenly Father any time of the night or day.

2. Where do we pray? When we say our morning and evening prayers, it is nice to say them in private or with someone's help. Then we can truly say what is on our minds and in our hearts. Whenever possible, we should kneel down, fold our arms and bow our head to show respect for our Father in Heaven. **Parents Note: Some children are afraid of the dark, monsters or other things. It is uncomfortable for them to kneel in the dark. Also, children who have been abused in some way are uncomfortable kneeling. Prayers can be said and heard from any position.**

3. What is the language of prayer? We should always refer to our Father in Heaven as just that. We should use "Thee", "Thou", "Thy" and "Thine" when speaking to Him.

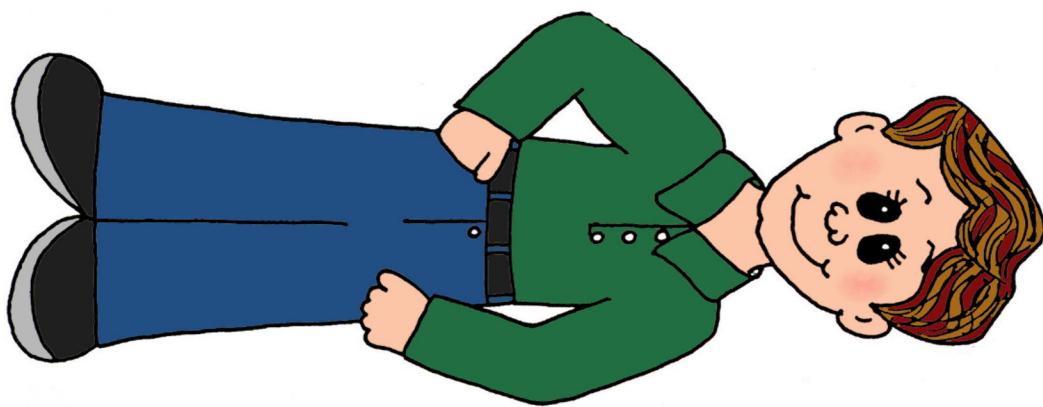
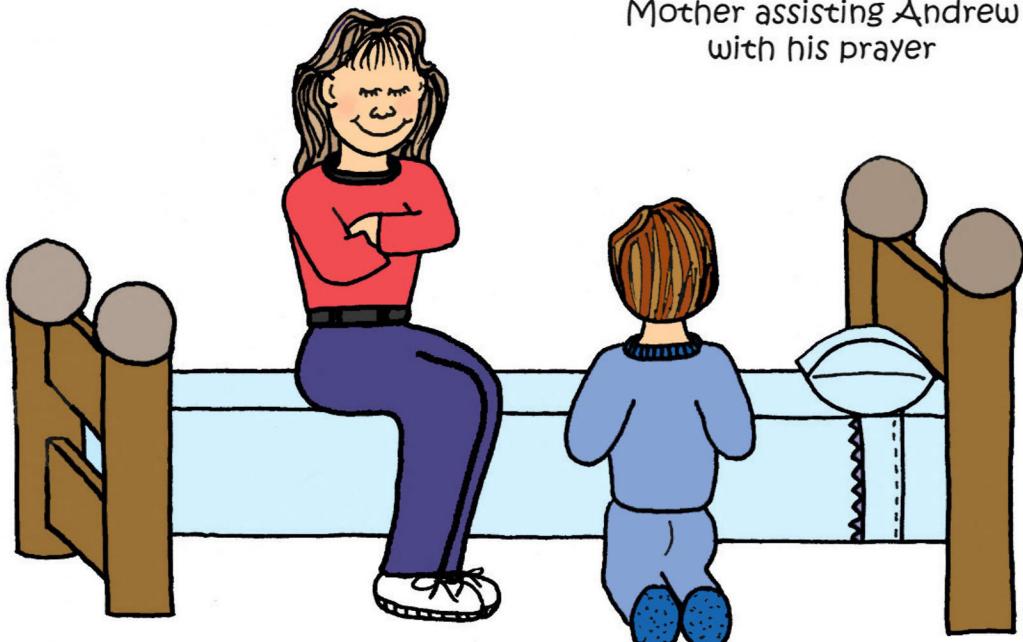
4. For what should we pray? We can ask for anything our hearts desire but it needs to be a righteous desire. Our Father in Heaven is all wise and all loving and will grant us the things we ask for that he feels are right for us. We should pray for safety for those we love, for help in our school work, for health blessings, really for anything that is on our minds. Our Heavenly Father is concerned about what we are concerned about. Talk to Him about it. It will make all the difference in the world.

5. What will it take to get answers to our prayers? Here comes that "Faith" word again. What is it that we need to have faith in and just what is faith? We need to believe in the Savior, Jesus Christ. Isn't that simple? As for faith, Alma describes it perfectly in Alma 32:21. "And now as I said concerning faith - faith is not to have a perfect knowledge of things: therefore if ye have faith ye hope for things which are not seen, which are true. The prophet Moroni also worded it beautifully in Ether 12:6 of the Book of Mormon. He said: "I would show unto the world that faith is things which are hoped for and not seen; wherefore, dispute not because ye see not, for ye receive no witness until after the trial of your faith."

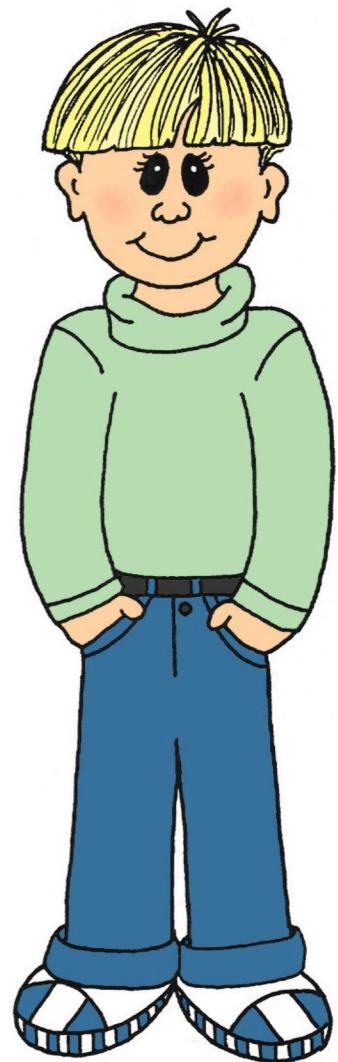
Faith can be a very misunderstood word. We don't have to know something for sure to have faith. We hope for things that we believe are true. This makes having faith much easier than thinking we have to "know" for a surety. If we know something, we have no need of faith because we know it. Isn't that wonderful?

Talking to our Heavenly Father and asking for those things that we not only need, but want, is what He would have us do. Praying is our communication with Heaven. It is so important that we all learn to pray.

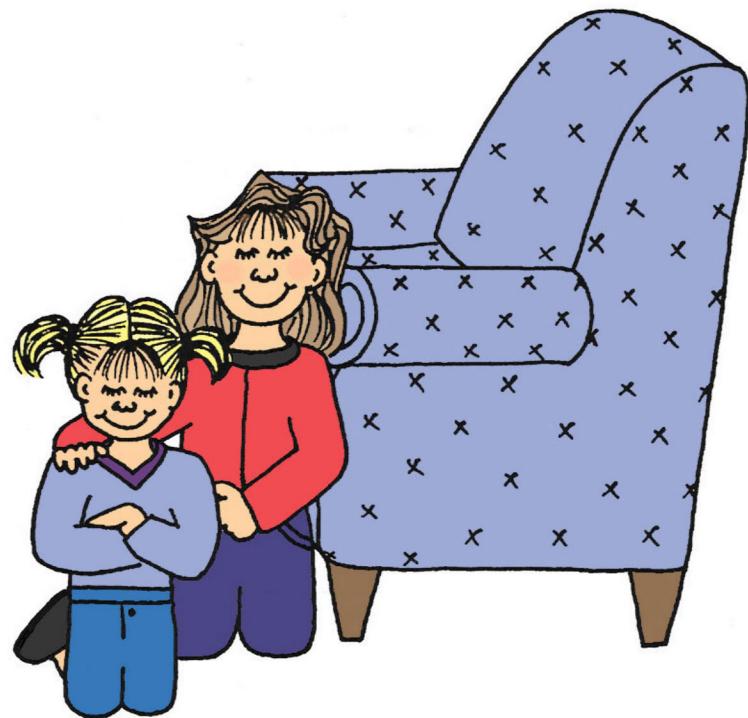
Mother assisting Andrew
with his prayer



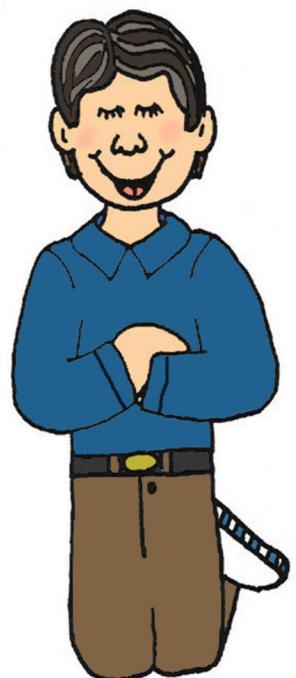
Andrew

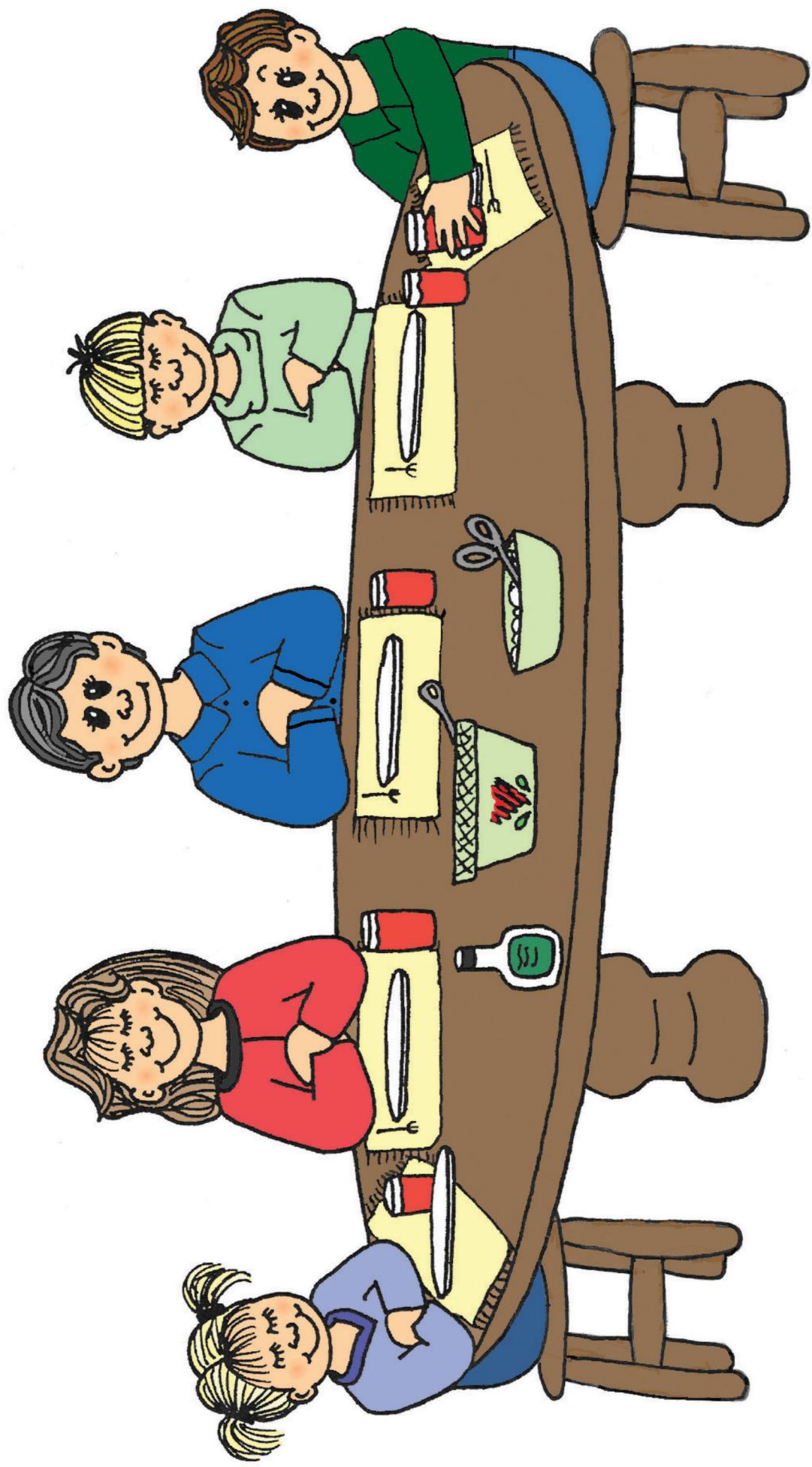


Curt



Family Prayer





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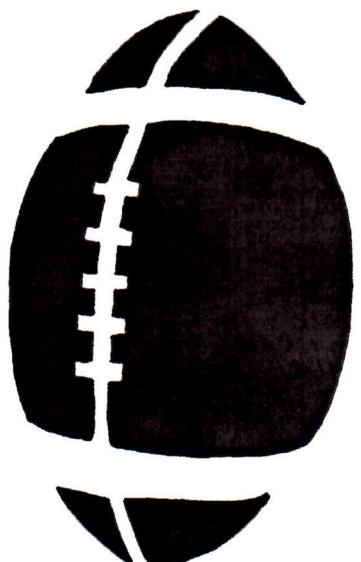
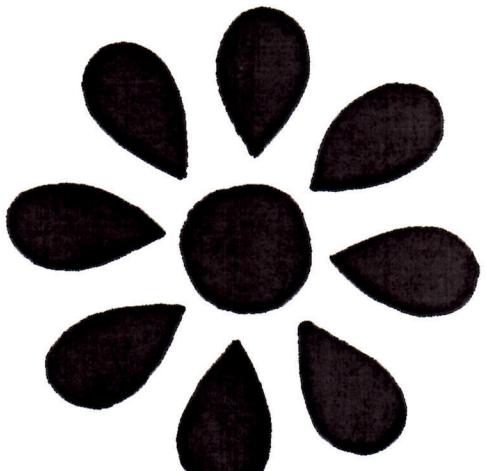
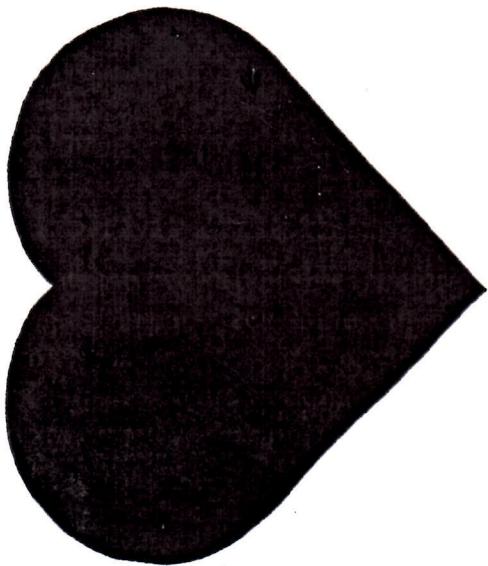
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Stencil Sheets

Laminate the two stencil sheets before cutting. Using an x-acto knife, cut out the solid images. Be sure to protect the work surface you are working on. X-acto knives are very sharp.



What was the name
of the boy
who came to
visit Curt?

Answer: Andrew

What was the name
of the boy,
Andrew came
to visit?

Answer: Curt

What picture
hung in the foyer
of their home?

Answer: A picture
of Jesus

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What picture
hung in the foyer
of their home?

Answer: A picture
of Jesus

What did the boys
do after dinner?

Answer: They went
outside and played ball
and then played a
computer game.

Was there a tablecloth
on the dinner table
or something else?

Answer: Place mats were
on the table

What was the
first prayer
given that night?

Answer: The blessing
on the food

Who said
the prayer
on the food?

Answer: Father

“COUNSEL WITH THE LORD IN
ALL THY DOINGS, AND HE WILL
DIRECT THEE FOR GOOD; YEA,
WHEN THOU LIEST DOWN AT
NIGHT LIE DOWN UNTO THE
LORD, THAT HE MAY WATCH OVER
YOU IN YOUR SLEEP; AND WHEN
THOU RISEST IN THE MORNING
LET THY HEART BE FULL OF
THANKS UNTO GOD; AND IF YE DO
THESE THINGS, YE SHALL BE
LIFTED UP AT THE LAST DAY.”

ALMA 37:37

