



Funtastic Family Home Evenings  
*Easy to Prepare! Fun to Share!*

## STICKING TOGETHER

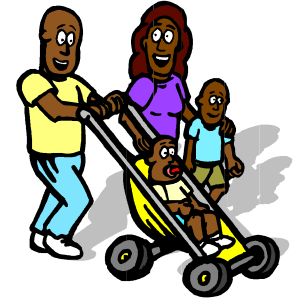
(Ages ~ 5 and older)

### PURPOSE

To help family members better understand the importance of developing family unity

### MATERIALS

- A small stick (or popsicle stick) for each member of the family
- A small string or rubber band
- Paper and pencils



### SUGGESTED SONG

- [Love at Home](#), #294 in *Hymns*

### LESSON IDEAS

1. Give each person in your family a piece of paper and a pencil. Invite them to write down one or two words that come to their minds as they watch the following:
  - a. Video, [Love Is Spoken Here](#)
  - b. Ask each to share what they wrote down
2. Give everyone in the family a small stick. Ask someone to break a stick in half (the stick should be thin enough for someone to break).
3. Gather all of the sticks and put a string/rubber band around them. Give the sticks to someone in the family. Ask if he/she can break the sticks now that they are together (The sticks should be difficult to break as a group).
  - a. Ask, “How are those sticks like our family?” (When we ‘stick’ together we are stronger!)
4. Share the quote by President Spencer W. Kimball: “It is against the home and family life that Satan has aimed his greatest efforts to destroy” (*My Beloved Sisters*, p.27).
  - a. Ask, “Why do you think Satan is so determined to destroy families?”
  - b. Help your family understand that if Satan can destroy a family it makes it easier for him to ‘break’ and destroy the individuals one by one.
5. You may want to share one of the following stories:
  - a. Younger children, [The List](#)
  - b. Older children, *The Lord Was In It* (below)
  - c. Discuss what the family members did in each story to create unity.

6. Invite the family to name things families can do to keep strongly united.
  - a. Family prayer
  - b. Family home evening
  - c. Family scripture study
  - d. Helping and serving each other
  - e. Not fighting or arguing
7. Read Mosiah 4:14 as a family.
8. Bear testimony of the importance of keeping your family strong through love and kindness.

#### ACTIVITY IDEAS

- Have family members draw or color (use the picture below) a family picture with the quote, “Let’s stick together!” Encourage them to hang it somewhere they can see it all week.
- Take a family photo and put the quote “Let’s Stick Together” on it.
- Play [Friends](#) (family members should be best of friends!)

## THE LORD WAS IN IT

Elder Gene R. Cook

About a year or so ago, one afternoon one of my sons (about 16 at the time) came home from school very upset about things. He had a big day coming the next day. He had had a hard time with some tests and some friends had given him a hard time as well. He was really down. He proceeded to cause some contention and real conflict in the family. My wife and I thought, "Well, should we get involved?" As the night wore on we thought, "No, we'll let it pass. He'll sleep through this thing and be better in the morning." We opted to not get involved, which is not easy sometimes, but I think we were wise to not do so that night.

The next morning, however, the problems started again at breakfast. Because he was upset he ended up offending one of his sisters and causing her to cry by his words and some curt statements. When breakfast was over, I took him by the arm and said, "John (I'll not use his real name), come on. Come in here a minute." And I took him in my bedroom, shut and locked the door, and knelt down. He knelt down as well, still mad.

I did my best to offer a prayer for my boy. "Heavenly Father, bless him. He's hurting today. He's had some problems with the family. He didn't study for these tests he's got today as much as he should have and he's worried." And I expressed my love to him the best I could in the prayer and exercised my faith on his behalf that the Lord would help him and save him that day if he would humble his heart.

Of course, as your own child would have done, in a matter of a minute or so, his heart was very humbled. As soon as the "amen" was uttered, he said, "Dad, let me pray." And in his prayer he asked forgiveness of the Lord. He told the Lord he would go ask for forgiveness of his sister and that he was wrong. He was feeling great stress but he believed that the Lord would help him and again asked forgiveness. With the "amen" of that prayer, a father and a son embraced one another in great love, and with the Lord now in it, the love between the two of us was enriched a hundredfold.

John went off to school that day. He had a great day, fared well in his tests, and came home on "cloud nine" thrilled to tell me and his mom that he had had a great day and that he knew the Lord had intervened and helped him. He had no doubt about that.

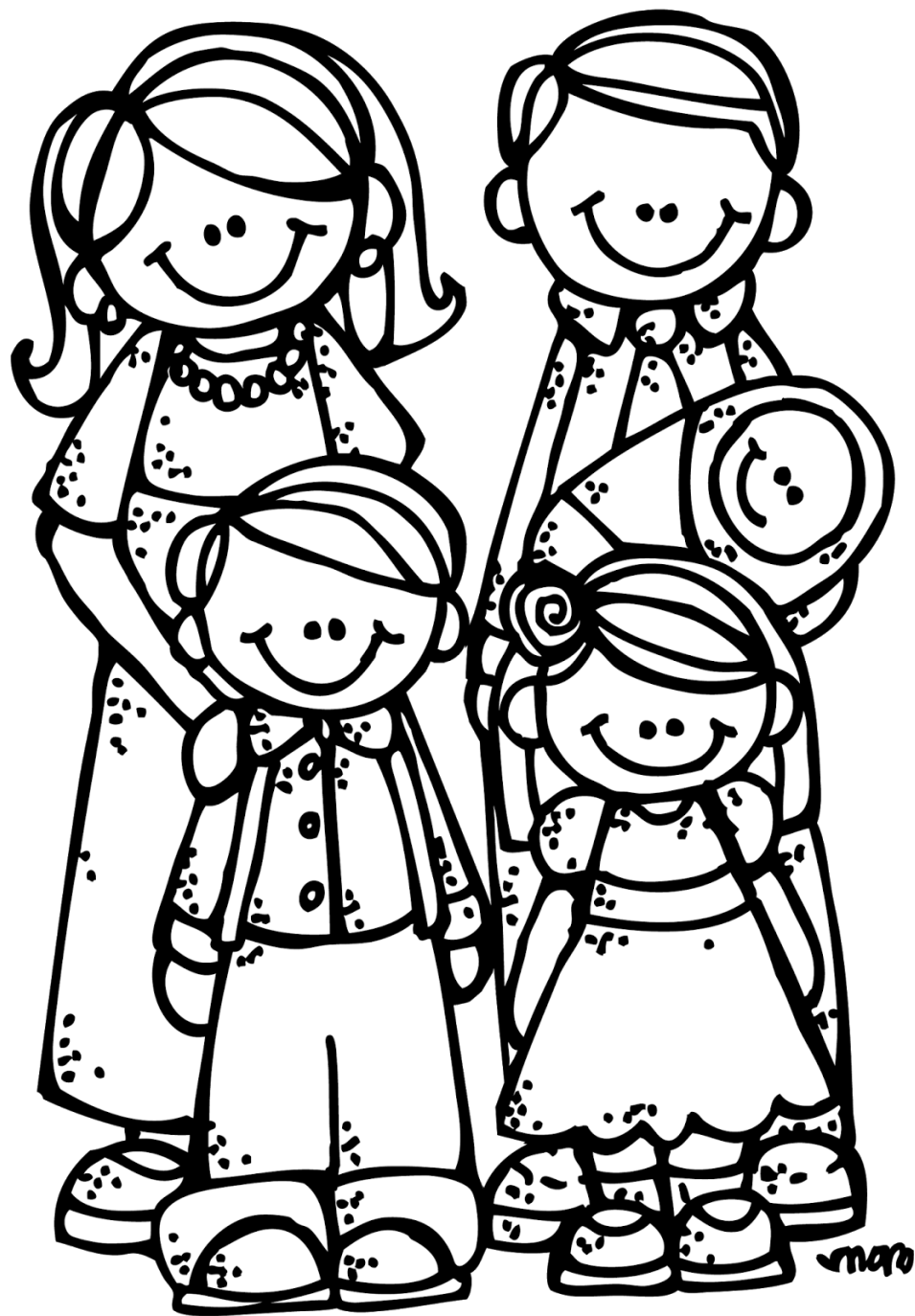
Now I don't tell you that story for that part, but for that which happened later. About two weeks after this incident, Dad was on his ear a bit. We were at breakfast and I was not as responsive to some of the children as I should have been. I was feeling the pressure and the strain of having to direct some important meetings and give a couple of talks that day. I was feeling about like my boy had felt--the same kind of thing. I was not very responsive and caused a bit of a problem with one of my children at breakfast.

At the end of breakfast that morning, John took me by the arm and said, "Hey, Dad, come with me a minute." We went in the same bedroom. He shut the door and locked it. He knelt down and I knelt down. I then heard a good boy offer a prayer for his Dad saying some things like, "My Dad's really worried. He's got some things that he's not had a chance to do as much on as he would have liked to do. He's got some meetings he's concerned about and some talks. Please help him, Heavenly Father. Inspire him."

It didn't take long for a heart that wasn't as humble as it should have been to be rapidly humbled. And then the father offered a prayer of thanksgiving for a good son and asked forgiveness of the Lord as well. Interestingly, another hug and a lot more love multiplies. I've often wondered why the love multiplies so. It is because the Lord is in it, not just a dad and a mom giving counsel or advice to children. But the Lord was in it, and when He gets in it, revelation flows and love multiplies.

Well, I went off to work that day, and I'm sorry to say that I kind of forgot about it because I was so swept away with what I had to do. When I pulled into the garage that evening, this same son, who had called ahead to find out what time I had left the office, was waiting for me. When he saw me he said something like, "Well, Dad, how did your day go?" Then, of course, that morning's experience flashed back in an instant and I felt a little embarrassed at not having remembered it because it was such a significant thing. I said, "Son, this has been a great day. My concerns were unfounded, and the Lord did bless me and I was able to give my talks." I told him what had happened, that I felt like the Lord really enriched what I did and blessed the people who listened.

He then said, "I already know." I said, "What do you mean?" He said, "Well, I already knew, Dad. That's the way the Lord does it." He said, "I've prayed for you, if I haven't lost track, about seventeen times today. I prayed in about every class. I prayed when I was at the cafeteria. I even prayed when I was in the bathroom that the Lord would bless you today." And then he added again, "I already knew" (excerpt from talk to CES seminary and institute faculty, June 30, 1989).



*Let's Stick Together!*