

Teacher's Supplement - Our Children

PROCEDURE

Section 1

Motivation/Introduction

Examples of common terms of endearment for children:

- Chip off the old block
- Apple of my eye
- Pride and joy
- Bundle of joy
- Precious gift from God
- _____

Lesson Development

Scriptural Guidance in Raising Children

Scriptural texts for Section 1 listed below.

Examples of Youth Favored by the Lord

JOSEPH – gift of spiritual dreams and interpretation as a teenager, Genesis 37

RUTH – a young, childless widow who chose to care for her widowed mother-in-law and who chose to serve the God of her mother-in-law; Ruth was favored with another husband, Boaz, with whom she became the great-grandparents of David, king of Israel, Ruth 1:16-17, 2:11-12

SAMUEL – educated and employed in the Lord's work after being weaned, 1 Samuel 1:22-28

DAVID - divine strength in fighting the bear, lion, and Goliath; demonstration of strong faith in youth, 1 Samuel 17:33-37

DAVID – spiritual gift of writing psalms of praise

ESTHER – young, orphaned virgin who gained favor of king Ahasuerus and saved her people from annihilation – Esther 2:2,7 and 15; 4:16; 5:2

DANIEL, HANANIAH, MISHAEL, AZARIAH – spiritual gifts of knowledge, skill in learning and wisdom as children

DANIEL – gift of interpreting visions and dreams, Daniel 1:17

MARY – chosen by God to be the mother of Jesus; a virgin suggesting that she was young, 1 Nephi 11:13, Luke 1:30

JESUS – great knowledge and understanding at age twelve, Luke 2:41-27

Roles of Parents and Children

Parent's Roles

- To teach, to instruct
- To preserve and hand down the records
- To ensure continuity of faith from generation to generation

Children's Roles

- Believe
- Desired
- Seek the Lord
- Seek counsel from mature saints
- Heed good counsel

Benefits of diligence and persistence of spiritual instruction:

- Faith developed
- Sought a relationship with the Lord
- Received salvation
- Accepted position of spiritual leadership within the family and in the Church
- Church prospered
- Walk with God matured from childhood to adulthood
- Parents are joyful
- Loving and peaceful relationship between the child and parent

Section 2

Identifying and Supporting Spiritual Goals Through Stages of Child's Development

Examples for approaching and achieving identified goals for children:

- Sing hymns or read scriptures aloud while child is developing in womb
- Sing hymns or read Bible and Book of Mormon stories to the child in infancy and early childhood
- Model prayer and teach children how to pray
- Model consistent attendance at church and bring children
- Model active participation in church services, classes, activities, and work parties, etc., and bring children as appropriate.
- Hold family scripture discussions
- Model prayer in decision making and offer sound guidance
- Model joy in serving the Lord and share testimony of God's goodness.
- Affirm your love and God's love for child, and benefits of having Jesus as their friend
- Model love and mercy when correcting children.
- Model and teach honor for parents and for God

Things that Distract or Hinder Children's Spiritual Development

- Negative attitudes and behaviors of role models
- Unmet needs (love, acceptance, mercy, food, shelter, safety, meaningful relationships)
- Low self-worth
- _____

Activity: Q12 Letter to Parents and Dream

- Threat of a real enemy exists
- Situation is urgent
- Enemy is attacking and will continue to attack our children
- Enemy desires to draw the youth away from the safety of the Church
- Youth did not heed the warnings of the brothers
- Brothers, representing the ministry, could not save the children without the help of God
- Children did not recognize their threat and did not realize they were being pursued
- Fast and pray for our youth seeking God's protection
- Parents and the Church need to be proactive in protecting the youth
- Gain the hearts and attention of the children while they are young
- Parents and the Church should be forward with addressing sin and with teaching children how to recognize and avoid sin and temptation

Section 3

Life Application

Assess and Address Spiritual Needs of the Youth

“Sample – Planning For Spiritual Welfare and Development of Youth” on subsequent pages.

Suggestions/Scriptures for Further Study/ Exploration/ Extension of Topic

Church Education Lesson Plans

- Abinadi Teaches God's Commandments
- Obedience Is Better Than Sacrifice
- The Fruit of the Spirit –Love
- The Fruit of the Spirit –Joy

Section 1 - Scriptural Texts

A. Deuteronomy 6: 1-9

[1] Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it:

[2] That thou mightest fear the LORD thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged.

[3] Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the LORD God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey.

[4] Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:

[5] And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

[6] And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

[7] And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

[8] And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.

[9] And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

Mosiah 2:

[5] And it came to pass that when they came up to the temple, they pitched their tents round about, every man according to his family, consisting of his wife, and his sons, and his daughters, and their sons, and their daughters, from the eldest down to the youngest, every family being separate one from another.

Mosiah 4:

[14] And ye will not suffer your children that they go hungry, or naked; neither will ye suffer that they transgress the laws of God, and fight and quarrel one with another, and serve the devil, who is the master of sin, or who is the evil spirit which hath been spoken of by our fathers, he being an enemy to all righteousness.

[15] But ye will teach them to walk in the ways of truth and soberness; ye will teach them to love one another, and to serve one another.

B. Proverbs 22:6

[6] Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

Alma 37:

[35] O, remember, my son, and learn wisdom in thy youth; yea, learn in thy youth to keep the commandments of God.

Alma 36:

[3] And now, O my son Helaman, behold, thou art in thy youth, and therefore, I beseech of thee that thou wilt hear my words and learn of me; for I do know that whosoever shall put their trust in God shall be supported in their trials, and their troubles, and their afflictions, and shall be lifted up at the last day.

Alma 38:

[2] And now, my son, I trust that I shall have great joy in you, because of your steadiness and your faithfulness unto God; for as you have commenced in your youth to look to the Lord your God, even so I hope that you will continue in keeping his commandments; for blessed is he that endureth to the end.

Examples of Youth Favored by the Lord

A. 3 Nephi 17:

[12] So they brought their little children and set them down upon the ground round about Him, and Jesus stood in the midst; and the multitude gave way till they had all been brought unto him.

[21] And when he had said these words, he wept, and the multitude bare record of it, and he took their little children, one by one, and blessed them, and prayed unto the Father for them.

[22] And when he had done this he wept again;

[23] And he spake unto the multitude, and said unto them: Behold your little ones.

[24] And as they looked to behold they cast their eyes towards heaven, and they saw the heavens open, and they saw angels descending out of heaven as it were in the midst of fire; and they came down and encircled those little ones about, and they were encircled about with fire; and the angels did minister unto them.

B. Mormon 1:

[1] And now I, Mormon, make a record of the things which I have both seen and heard, and call it the Book of Mormon.

[2] And about the time that Ammaron hid up the records unto the Lord, he came unto me, (I being about ten years of age, and I began to be learned somewhat after the manner of the learning of my people) and Ammaron said unto me: I perceive that thou art a sober child, and art quick to observe;

[3] Therefore, when ye are about twenty and four years old I would that ye should remember the things that ye have observed concerning this people; and when ye are of that age go to the land Antum, unto a hill which shall be called Shim; and there have I deposited unto the Lord all the sacred engravings concerning this people.

[4] And behold, ye shall take the plates of Nephi unto yourself, and the remainder shall ye leave in the place where they are; and ye shall engrave on the plates of Nephi all the things that ye have observed concerning this people.

[5] And I, Mormon, being a descendant of Nephi, (and my father's name was Mormon) I remembered the things which Ammaron commanded me.

[15] And I, being fifteen years of age and being somewhat of a sober mind, therefore I was visited of the Lord, and tasted and knew of the goodness of Jesus.

[16] And I did endeavor to preach unto this people, but my mouth was shut, and I was forbidden that I should preach unto them; for behold they had willfully rebelled against their God; and the beloved disciples were taken away out of the land, because of their iniquity.

Roles of Parents and Children

A. 1 Nephi 1:

[1] I Nephi, having been born of goodly parents, therefore I was taught somewhat in all the learning of my father; and having seen many afflictions in the course of my days, nevertheless, having been highly favored of the Lord in all my days; yea, having had a great knowledge of the goodness and the mysteries of God, therefore I make a record of my proceedings in my days.

1 Nephi 2:

[16] And it came to pass that I, Nephi, being exceedingly young, nevertheless being large in stature, and also having great desires to know of the mysteries of God, wherefore, I did cry unto the Lord; and behold he did visit me, and did soften my heart that I did believe all the words which had been spoken by my father; wherefore, I did not rebel against him like unto my brothers.

[17] And I spake unto Sam, making known unto him the things which the Lord had manifested unto me by his Holy Spirit. And it came to pass that he believed in my words.

Mosiah 1:

[2] And it came to pass that he had three sons; and he called their names Mosiah, and Helorum, and Helaman. And he caused that they should be taught in all the language of his fathers, that thereby they might become men of understanding; and that they might know concerning the prophecies which had been spoken by the mouths of their fathers, which were delivered them by the hand of the Lord.

[3] And he also taught them concerning the records which were engraven on the plates of brass, saying: My sons, I would that ye should remember that were it not for these plates, which contain these records and these commandments, we must have suffered in ignorance, even at this present time, not knowing the mysteries of God.

[5] I say unto you, my sons, were it not for these things, which have been kept and preserved by the hand of God, that we might read and understand of his mysteries, and have his commandments always before our eyes, that even our fathers would have dwindled in unbelief, and we should have been like unto our brethren, the Lamanites, who know nothing concerning these things, or even do not believe them when they are taught them, because of the traditions of their fathers, which are not correct.

Alma 39:

[10] And I command you to take it upon you to counsel with your elder brothers in your undertakings; for behold, thou art in thy youth, and ye stand in need to be nourished by your brothers. And give heed to their counsel

1 Nephi 2:16

[16] And it came to pass that I, Nephi, being exceedingly young, nevertheless being large in stature, and also having great desires to know of the mysteries of God, wherefore, I did cry unto the Lord; and behold he did visit me, and did soften my heart that I did believe all the words which had been spoken by my father; wherefore, I did not rebel against him like unto my brothers.

Sample- Planning for Spiritual Welfare and Development of Youth

Driving Force - accepted revelation, Dream - October 8, 2011 and Apostle's Message, "Our Children" Nov. 2011

- Threats exist for the children of The Church of Jesus Christ
- The Church of Jesus Christ has lost youth and is at risk of losing more
- The priesthood, of The Church of Jesus Christ, should be watchmen - to sound the alarm, to act, to care for the children of the Church

Action Plan – Led by branch officers, elders, and teachers

- Seek God's blessing and intervention through fasting and prayer throughout the process
- Every parent actively participates in spiritual development of their child and other youth
- Ordained and auxiliary officers and teachers take personal interest in youth and provide opportunities for inclusion
- Teach relevant lessons on basic beliefs of the Church. Consider lesson topics in Q12 "Our Children" parent letter and utilize Education Committee online lesson plans in addition to other resources.
- _____

Sample - Strategy for planning meeting(s)

A. Assess attitudes, behaviors, barriers of youth and parents

- Engagement (Mentally, emotionally, physically, spiritually)
- Respect/ honor (God, parents, ministry, saints)
- Understanding/belief (God's love, mercy, duty, responsibility)
- _____

B. Identify at-risk behavior

- Youth, parents identify what and why behaviors exist
- Observation/insight of others

C. Address at-risk behavior

- Include participants, including youth, in problem solving

D. Evaluate existing programs and consider new ones

- Compare existing programs with goals and objectives and identify where to improve
- Assess need for new services to meet goals and objectives.

E. Implementation

1. Prioritize needs
2. Identify and recruit human resources/talents
3. Set realistic goals (small steps)
4. Develop action plan(s)
5. Set a start date and end date
6. Assess outcomes
7. Adjust strategies
8. Reset-start date and end date
9. Repeat steps 6. – 8. as ne