



Using *True to the Faith*

T*True to the Faith: A Gospel Reference* (item no. 36863) has been an invaluable resource for our family to learn the gospel together. For Christmas a few years ago, my husband and I gave a copy to each family member, from our oldest child to our youngest grandchild. We then used it as the basis for family home evenings with our extended family.

During the first lesson we introduced the book and got acquainted with it by playing a game we called “*True to the Faith*

Chase.” Since the book is arranged alphabetically by topic from *Aaronic Priesthood* to *Zion*, someone would call out a topic and family members would see how fast they could turn to that page. The winner would call out the next word.

On Easter we asked everyone to find something in *True to the Faith* about Jesus Christ to share, and at Thanksgiving the assignment was to find something each person was thankful for.



We have also played “Name that Topic.” In this game, someone reads a paragraph from the book, ending with, “*True to the Faith*.” Then family members try to guess the topic. If no one can figure it out, the person reads on until someone knows the answer. Whoever gives the first correct answer leads out next.

We have found many uses for *True to the Faith* and believe it can help nurture families in gospel learning. ■

Marilynne Linford, Utah, USA

ILLUSTRATION BY BETH WHITAKER

HELPS FOR HOME EVENING

“The Tradition of Light and Testimony,” page 28:

Summarize the article and consider inviting your family to create a visual aid in some way to demonstrate the purpose of scaffolding. Consider discussing together how the Church’s structure gives your family “scaffolding” to “reach higher” to build your family and other aspects of your life.

“**Prophets at Christmastime,**” page 52: After reading several stories from the lives of our latter-day prophets, consider sharing with your family experiences you have had in which your life or the lives of others were touched by service or a special experience during a past Christmas. You may want to discuss ways to follow the examples of our prophets during this season.

“**The Safety and Peace of Keeping the Commandments,**” page 62: Those with young children might want to have them draw pictures of people doing

righteous things along a road leading to a picture of a temple. Other families might consider reading the entire article and discussing it, emphasizing that “the pathway to happiness begins with righteousness through obedience to the commandments” (page 64).

By Laura E. Wilson

Prophets at Christmastime

Gifts of Love
Giving gifts of love and service to those less fortunate has been a hallmark of the prophet Christmas experiences. In 1957, during the Great Depression, President Harold B. Lee was president of a large state in Salt Lake City, Utah. President Lee determined that he would know the needs of his state members and do everything he could to alleviate their needs. By 1957, he learned that more than half of the state, about 500,000 people, were dependent on others for help, including about 1,000 children under the age of 16.

He realized members to collect toys and organized work shops to repair, paint, and clean old toys or make new ones so no child would be without on Christmas. He decided that every family in the state should have a dinner for Christmas and asked his staff to make the happen. “Come to an Apostle, Elder Lee was asked to organize the Church’s welfare program based on similar principles of service, sacrifice, and work.”

As a boy, President Thomas S. Monson was celebrating Christmas when his friend asked a troubling question, “What does today mean to you?” He responded that it meant the children, but then he realized that his understanding of Christmas had never been correct. Not only that, but there was nothing in his friend’s home with which to prepare a Christmas dinner. “I produced a solution,” said President

Remembering a Family
One of the recent Christmas President Lee told his family members occurred in 1958, when he returned home on Christmas Eve to the family home in Whitney, Idaho, USA, after a two-and-a-half-year mission to England. This joyful reunion with his parents and 10 brothers and sisters was his first with enthusiasm and excitement for Christmas. As a special treat, his parents allowed him to stay up to help with Christmas preparations after the other children were in bed. As he worked alongside his parents, he quickly learned his mission experiences. He couldn’t hold back the tears during this “holy evening” in his childhood home.

The prophet first encouraged us to show love to our families on Christmas. President Joseph F. Smith remembered one Christmas as a young father when he had no money—no even a penny—for gifts for his children. Just before Christmas he left his home and walked down the street looking at all the wonderful things in the shop windows but knowing that he could buy none of them. When he passed a fruit stand, he placed and “kissed” a child to allow him to eat some fruit. He kept his eyes on the child and played with his children all day, “grateful and happy only for them.” “I have received [Jesus] as a Christmas present for which I am grateful.” They were meted the following April.

Monson: “I had no money, no children, no money. They remembered I did have two pet rabbits. Immediately I took my hand for the head and rubbed it on the child’s back, placed the rabbit in a box, and looked for the boy to take with the rabbit. ‘Here, take these two rabbits. They’re good to eat—just like chickens.’ ‘You came early to me and I closed the door to the empty stable back. It’s not so bad. At least, a feeling of somebody’s joy filled my heart. It was a memorable Christmas.’”

his children, he had remembered given them the greatest gift any father could—his love and his time.

The Prophet Joseph Smith spent the Christmas of 1838 imprisoned in Liberty Jail in Missouri. He and several companions were held in a small basement dungeon that was cold, dark, and smoky from the open fire they were forced to use. The ceiling was so low that could stand up straight. But there was a bright reason that Christmas season. The Prophet with his wife, Emma, was able to visit Joseph shortly before Christmas for several days. “What more, she had brought their own, Joseph Smith. Finding the love of his family, Joseph wrote words of encouragement to the saints from the dungeon: “We glory in our affliction, because we know that God is with us.”

In 1977 President James E. Faust was adjusting to life without his beloved wife Ethel, who had recently died. Ethel had a habit of giving her children a single woman with a beautiful singing voice, perform at her funeral. Through the experience, James Faust and Joseph Faust, both became better acquainted and their mutual affection blossomed into love. He accepted his proposal of marriage shortly after Christmas. In contemplating the gifts he had received the Christmas of 1977, President Faust wrote, “I have received [Jesus] as a Christmas present for which I am grateful.” They were meted the following April.