



strengthening  
our home  
and family

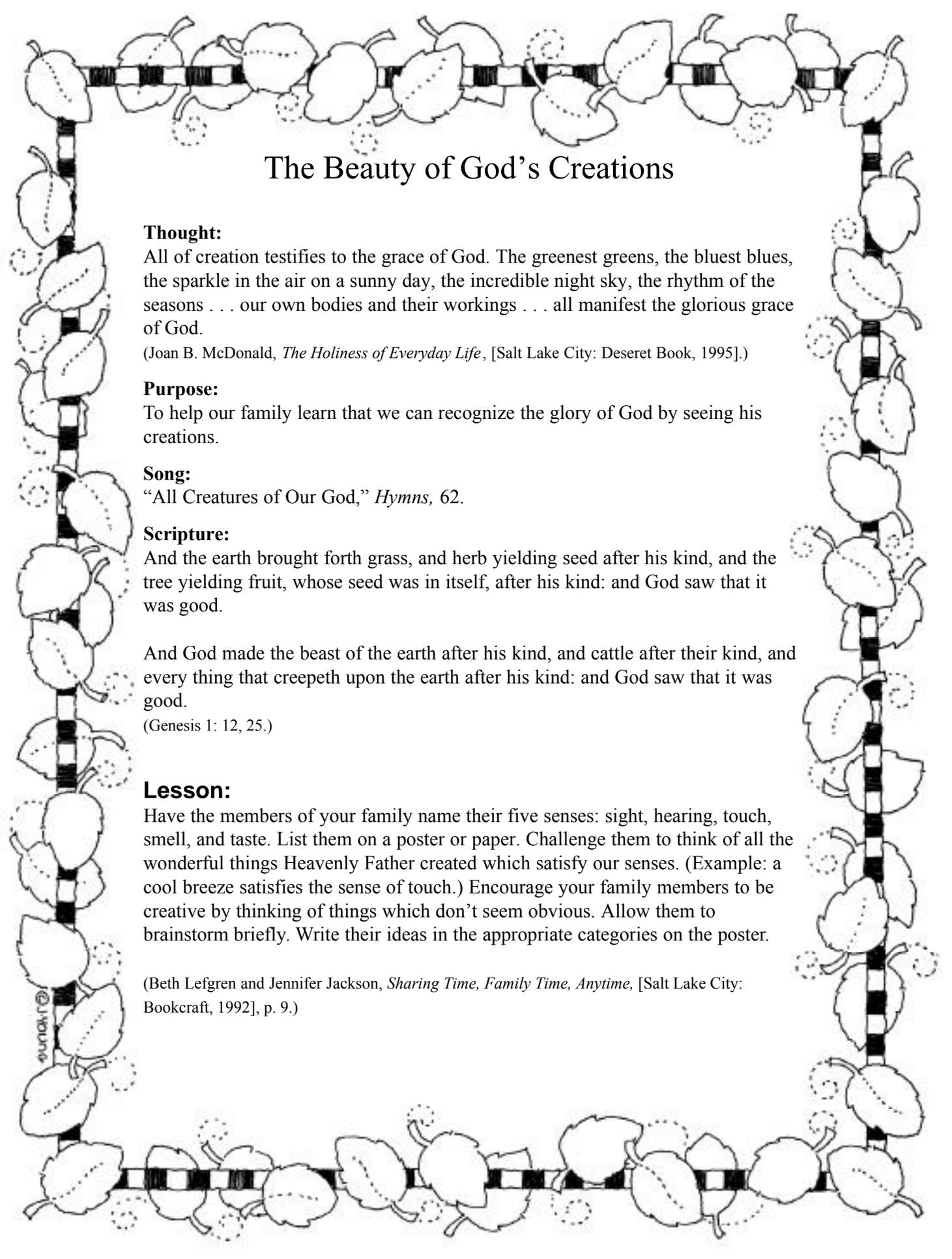
**Deseret Book®**  
Family Home Evening Materials

Theme: The Beauty of God's Creations

Packet #050404

### **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.



## The Beauty of God's Creations

**Thought:**

All of creation testifies to the grace of God. The greenest greens, the bluest blues, the sparkle in the air on a sunny day, the incredible night sky, the rhythm of the seasons . . . our own bodies and their workings . . . all manifest the glorious grace of God.

(Joan B. McDonald, *The Holiness of Everyday Life*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1995].)

**Purpose:**

To help our family learn that we can recognize the glory of God by seeing his creations.

**Song:**

"All Creatures of Our God," *Hymns*, 62.

**Scripture:**

And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

(Genesis 1: 12, 25.)

**Lesson:**

Have the members of your family name their five senses: sight, hearing, touch, smell, and taste. List them on a poster or paper. Challenge them to think of all the wonderful things Heavenly Father created which satisfy our senses. (Example: a cool breeze satisfies the sense of touch.) Encourage your family members to be creative by thinking of things which don't seem obvious. Allow them to brainstorm briefly. Write their ideas in the appropriate categories on the poster.

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *Sharing Time, Family Time, Anytime*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1992], p. 9.)

## **Story:**

### **The Happiest Season**

An old man was asked, “Which is the happiest season of life?”

He answered, “When spring comes and, under the influence of the gentle warmth of the atmosphere, the buds begin to show themselves and to turn into flower, I think to myself, ‘Oh, what a beautiful season is spring!’ Then when summer comes and covers the trees with thick foliage, when the birds are so happy in singing their pretty songs, I say to myself, ‘Oh, summer is a fine thing!’ Then when autumn arrives, and I see the same trees laden with the finest and most tempting fruits, I cry out, ‘Oh, how magnificent is autumn!’ And, finally, when the rude and hard winter makes its appearance, and there are neither leaves nor fruits on the trees, then, through their naked branches, I look upward and perceive, better than I could ever do before, the splendid stars that glitter in the sky.”

(As quoted in Rick Walton and Fern Oviatt, *Stories for Mormons*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1983], p. 14.)

## **Activity:**

Gather pictures to represent the following: the world, light and darkness, water and land, plants, sun and moon, living creatures, and Adam and Eve. Print the following scriptures on individual slips of paper: Genesis 1:1, 1:3–4, 1:9, 1:11, 1:16, 1:24, 1:27.

Pass out the pictures and the scripture slips to the family members randomly. Ask them to read the scriptures to the group. (Be sure the verses are in the proper order.) After the verse is read, have the group choose the picture that matches the verse. This continues until all the pictures are in order depicting the Creation.

(Beth Lefgren and Jennifer Jackson, *Sharing Time, Family Time, Anytime*, [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1992], p. 9.)

## **Extras:**

- Make bird feeders from pine cones coated with peanut butter and seeds.
- Take a walk with your family. Take turns wearing a blindfold and experience the world through touch, smell, and sounds.
- Plant a family tree.
- Have each family member write a poem that begins “When I looked out the window . . .”

# Refreshment

## **Fruit Salsa with Sugar Cinnamon Chips**

Chad Hawkins

### *Fruit Salsa*

- 2 Granny Smith apples
- 1 Bartlett pear
- 1 c. strawberries
- 1 mango
- 2 Tbs. fresh lemon juice
- 1 Tbs. brown sugar, packed

### *Cinnamon Chips*

- 6 large flour tortillas
- 4 Tbs. sugar
- 1 Tbs. cinnamon

To make salsa, peel, core, and chop apples. Wash and chop pear, strawberries, and mango. Place fruit in medium bowl and stir in lemon juice and brown sugar to coat. Chill in refrigerator. You can mix and match any of your favorite fruits to make this salsa.

To make cinnamon chips, preheat oven to 375° F. Combine cinnamon and sugar in small bowl. Using water spray bottle, lightly spray tortillas and sprinkle with cinnamon-sugar mixture. Using pizza cutter, cut each tortilla into 8 wedges. Place tortilla wedges on baking sheet and bake 10 to 12 minutes or until crispy. Remove from oven and cool.

Serves 6.

(*Five Star Recipes from Well-Known Latter-day Saints*, compiled by Elaine Cannon, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2002], p. 14.)

