

Joseph Smith Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith Family Reunion Children Activities – August 3, 2013 This Is The Place Heritage Park in Salt Lake City

Compiled by Frances Orton

They children changed stations. Activities were planned out by Joy Ercanbrack. Don Lee and his family directed and managed the children's activities.

Sharing Time Experience, for youth ages 3 to 9 or 10

Children would gather first for a short sharing time to learn about the Smith family and the original Zion's Camp; then divide into groups to rotate through four activity stations. The youngest children should have a parent attend with them.

While Joseph Smith was in Kirtland, Ohio he learned that the Saints in Missouri were being driven from the homes by an enemy mob. The Lord revealed to Joseph that he should find men to go help the Missouri Saints.

Station 1, Miracle of Joseph's Leg

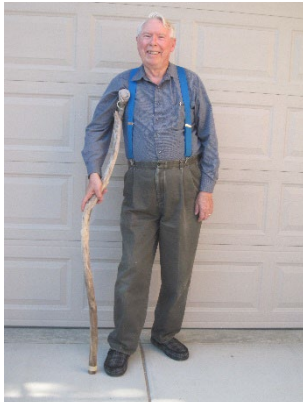
Teach the younger children about the miracle of Joseph's leg being saved. Activities will help them understand the blessing of having legs and learn how important it was for Joseph to have two legs to do the great work our Heavenly Father needed him to do. Imagine carrying the Golden Plates if his leg had not healed and he still needed a crutch. The Smith family prayed for Joseph and his brothers carried him about their home until he recovered.

Take turns walking with crutches

Try to lift the replica of the golden plates, count how many steps they can take

Three-legged race (The Smith brothers were very close and could depend on each other for help. You will need to work together too in this race.)

Don Lee and his family made crutches for the reunion. There was a variety of sizes ranging from 35 inches up to 45 inches, to fit most of the children.



Don Lee



Ashley Cox



Joshua Cox



The garage door serves as size scaling

Station 2, March of Zion's Camp *Hark! Listen to the trumpeters!*

Zion's Camp journey began in May 1834 with about 100 men. Two of Joseph's brothers, Hyrum and William, volunteered to go, plus a brother-in-law _____ who was married to their sister Sophronia and a Smith cousin. As they marched, new recruits joined them. By the middle of June, the group numbered 207 men, 11 women, 11 children. Marching almost 1000 miles to Missouri in the heat and humidity would have been difficult. The men sang this song as they marched to keep their spirits up.

Learn the first verse of *Hark! Listen to the trumpeters!* These words lend themselves to fun actions or images, even marching drums (chopsticks on tin or cardboard cans to create a rhythm). You could have pictures of the Smith brothers on popsicle sticks that the children could march along to the music.

Hark! listen to the trumpeters!
They sound for volunteers
On Zion's bright and flowery mount
Behold the officers.
Their horses white, their armor bright
With courage bold they stand,
Enlisting soldiers for their King
To march to Zion's land.

Sources

Listen to music in a beautiful Zion's Camp arrangement with men singing the first verse here:
Seminary Music: Doctrine and Covenants
<https://www.lds.org/music/library/seminary-music-doctrine-and-covenants?lang=eng#d>

Full lyrics can be found at:
www.lds.org/friend/1993/05/march-of-zions-camp?lang=eng

Two LDS versions of the song can be found here and printed from pdf form:
http://www.hymnwiki.org/wiki/images/4/4a/075_Hark%21_Listen_to_the_Trumpeters.pdf
http://www.hymnwiki.org/wiki/images/f/f7/058_Hark%21_Listen_to_the_Trumpeters.pdf

Station 3, Make a Zion's Camp Sword

Make noodle swords and learn a short drill.

Swords up, at your pocket.
Swords up, sweep to the shoulder, at your pocket.
Swords up, sweep right to the shoulder, left to the ground back to the your pocket, etc.

The men were prepared to defend the Missouri Saints, but did not have to use their weapons. Instead, the Lord protected members of Zion's Camp from the mob with a huge thunderstorm.

"When the men of Zion's Camp reached Missouri, they camped by a river. After dark a mob, which had been watching Zion's Camp, crept up on them to kill them. The wind blew over trees, the river flooded the land, giant hailstones pelted down, and lightning flashed everywhere, killing one mobster and injuring others. The survivors fled, realizing that God was helping the men of Zion's Camp..." (Read more of the story in the Friend, November 1986.)

Make the sound of rainstorm: start by gently rubbing hands together, as everyone joins in following your direction, the sound will become louder and sound like a real thunderstorm.
Rub hands together

Snap your fingers
Tap two fingers to you palm
Clap hands
Slap thighs
Stomp feet, continue to slap thighs
Reverse order until you are back to the soft sound of the wind by rubbing hands together.

Station 4, Wiggly Worm Trail Mix

This station would be a snack stop, but also includes a great Zion’s camp story. You could make a game of sorting the wigglers from the trail mix before eating them.

Wiggly Worm Trail Mix

- 1 cup miniature pretzels
- 1 cup Teddy Grahams
- 1 cup dry roasted peanuts
- 1 cup M&M’s
- 1 cup gummy worms

Mix together and store in individual snack-size Ziploc bags.

One of the troubles the men faced in Zion’s camp was not enough food or water. The water was so muddy, the men tried to shake the “wigglers” (mosquito larva) out before drinking it. Many of them became very sick with cholera.

The illness attacked those who had been obedient as well as those who had quarreled and complained. Even the Prophet Joseph and his brother Hyrum became sick. Joseph and Hyrum were so sick they thought they were going to die, and they tried several times to pray for help. Suddenly Hyrum sprang to his feet and exclaimed, “Joseph, we shall return to our families. I have had an open vision, in which I saw mother kneeling under an apple tree; and she is even now asking God, in tears, to spare our lives. ... The Spirit testifies, that her prayers, united with ours, will be answered” (quoted in Lucy Mack Smith, *History of Joseph Smith*, p. 229).

Optional activity: plant an apple tree to remember the answer to Hyrum’s prayer.





Singing at the Adult Meeting

