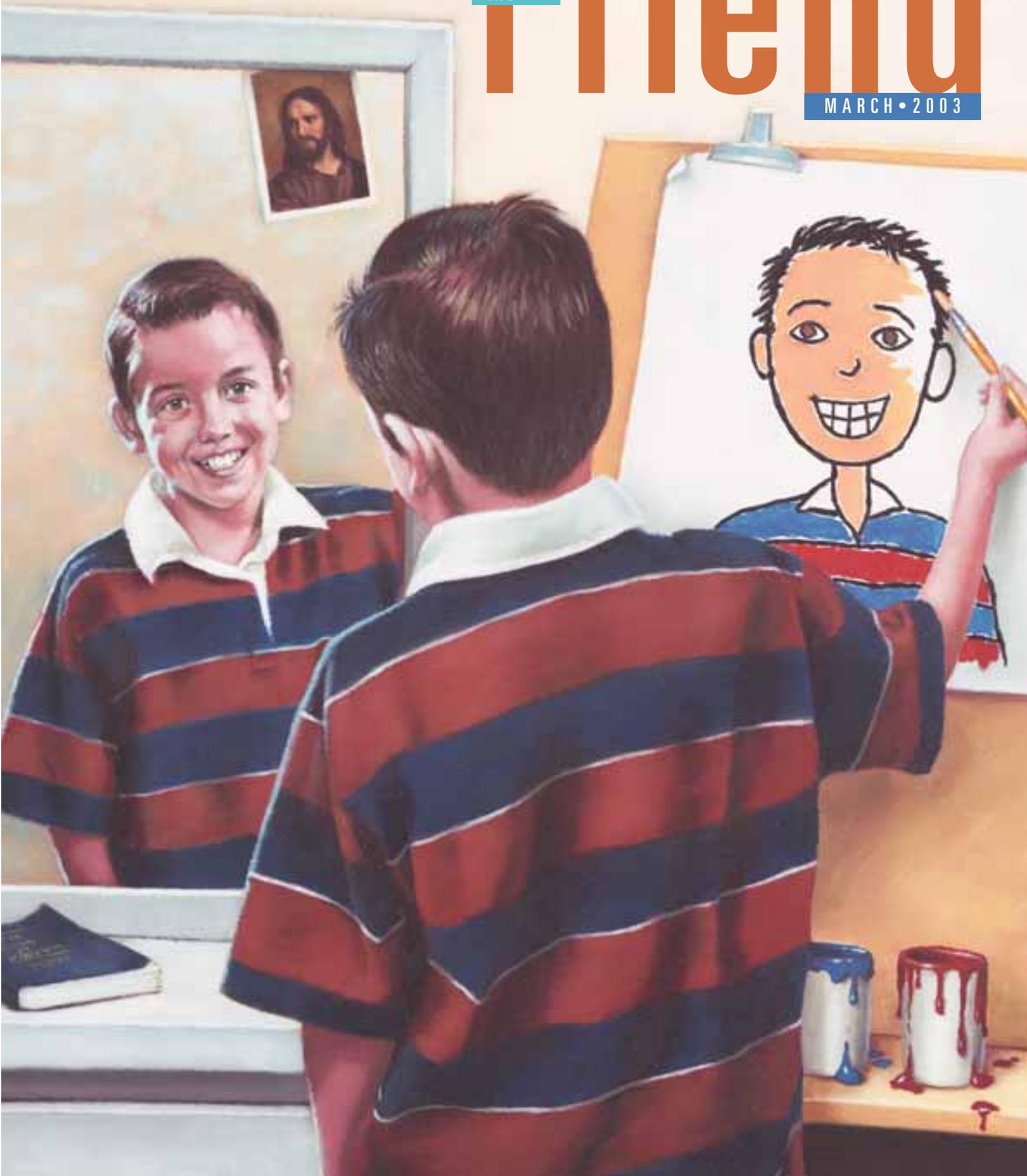


the Friend

MARCH • 2003



“Stay on the Porch”



We had just moved to Maryland. A big semi truck came to our new home to deliver all of our things. My sister and I were outside, playing in the front yard and watching the moving people unload the truck. We listened to them when they said, “Stay on the porch.”

Suddenly our van came crashing out of the truck, and three men were hurt. Mom was really afraid that we were hurt, because one of the moving people came inside to ask her to call 911 and told her that someone had been run over. But we were OK because we were on the porch. The moving people said, “It was a good thing that you listened to us. You could have been hurt really badly.”

I’m glad that I’m obedient. I want to obey Heavenly Father, and I know that I get blessings when I do.

Amy Pearson, age 5, and her sister, Rachel, age 3
Eldersburg, Maryland

The Power of Prayer



When I was nine years old, we lived in Fillmore, Utah. One rainy day, my mom, my two sisters, and I left for Kanab, Utah, to help my great-granny. We were on a winding road where you can’t see what is coming toward you until it is right there. The rain started pouring so hard that it was even harder to see. We had to keep driving because there were no places to pull over. I asked Mom if I should say a prayer. She said yes, so I did. I asked Heavenly Father to let the rain slow down until we got across Bear Valley. After a few seconds, the rain came down only very lightly and almost stopped. When we turned onto Highway 89, the rain picked up again, but we could see. We felt good about continuing our trip.

This year, we moved to Price, Utah. It started raining really hard while we were trying to load the moving truck. I went into my empty bedroom and asked Heavenly Father to let the rain quit until we were finished. It did quit, and we even had some sun. I told my parents what I had done, and Mom cried and hugged me because she remembered about Bear Valley, too. It didn’t rain again until we left Fillmore with all our things loaded.

I have a strong testimony of the power of prayer. I know that Heavenly Father listens to children. I will be a deacon soon, and I know I will need to use prayer constantly to help me fulfill my duties. And I know that He will be there and will listen to me.

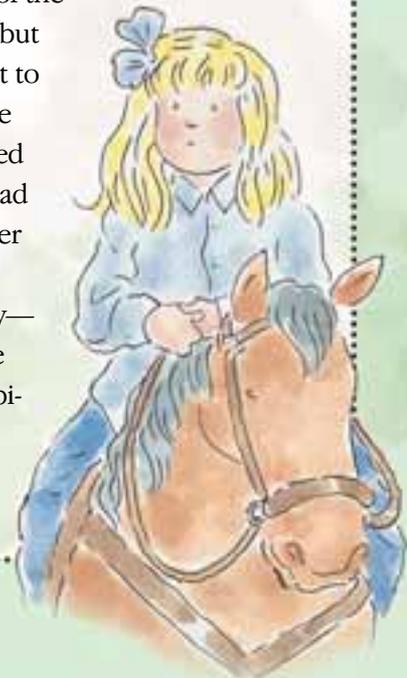
Kass Esplin, age 11
Price, Utah

Listening to the Still, Small Voice



This summer, while we were camping, my little brother fell into the fire and burned his hand badly. We prayed, then Mom saddled our horse and told me to ride and find my dad, who wasn’t with us yet. I had to go four miles (over 6 km) to get out of the canyon. I looked and looked but couldn’t find Dad. When I got to the locked gate that led to the main road, I got off and walked to it. I heard a voice in my head telling me to go back the other way. So I walked back to my horse and rode the other way—and found Dad! We were able to get my brother to the hospital, where he was helped.

Aubrey Kofford, age 8
Pingree, Idaho



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March 2003

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Cover by Mark W. Robison

the friend

A children's magazine published by
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

HIDDEN CTR RING

We know that we are
children of God and
that He wants us to
love and serve one another.
Think of ways you can do
this as you search for the
CTR ring hidden in this
issue of the *Friend*.



Come Listen to
a Prophet's Voice

The Path



The path to happiness may not always be easy to walk, but it is not hidden. President Thomas S. Monson, First Counselor in the First Presidency, states clearly where it is found.

BY PRESIDENT THOMAS S. MONSON
First Counselor in the First Presidency

The path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day (Proverbs 4:18).

A line from the delightful play *The King and I* gives us encouragement. . . . The King of Siam lay dying. With him is Anna, his English tutor, whose son asks her the question, “Was he as good . . . as he could have been?”

Anna answers wistfully, “I don’t think any man has ever been as good . . . as he could have been—but this one [really] tried.”¹

The Prophet Joseph declared, “Happiness is the object and design of our existence; and will be the end thereof, if we pursue the path that leads to it; and this path is virtue, uprightness, faithfulness, holiness, and keeping all the commandments of God.”²

Let us walk these . . . paths. To help us do so we can follow the shortest sermon in the world. It can be found on a common traffic sign. It reads, “Keep Right.”

This advice was found and followed by Joe, who had been asked to get up at six in the morning and drive a crippled child 50

miles (80 km) to a hospital. He didn’t want to do it, but he didn’t know how to say no. A woman carried the child out to the car and set him next to the driver’s seat, mumbling thanks through her tears. Joe said everything would be all right and drove off quickly.

After a mile or so, the child inquired shyly, “You’re God, aren’t you?”

“I’m afraid not, little fellow,” replied Joe.

“I thought you must be God,” said the child. “I heard Mother praying next to my bed and asking God to help me get to the hospital, so I could get well and play with the other boys. Do you work for God?”

“Sometimes, I guess,” said Joe, “but not regularly. I think I’m going to work for Him a lot more from now on.”

. . . Will you? Will I? Will we? I pray humbly, yet earnestly, that we will. ●

From an April 1999 general conference address.

NOTES

1. Richard Rogers and Oscar Hammerstein II (Williamson Music, Inc., 1951).
2. *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, ed. Joseph Fielding Smith (1976), 255–56.



FAITHFULNESS

UPRIGHTNESS

VIRTUE



**KEEP
RIGHT**

TALENTS

BY T. S. HETTINGER
(Based on a true story)

For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required
(Luke 12:48).

How many pennies are equal to a nickel?"

Mrs. Connor, the kindergarten teacher, asked.

Christopher's hand shot into the air, but Mrs. Connor acted as if she hadn't seen him. She called on Tony, who wasn't even raising his hand. Tony fidgeted in his seat, staring at the floor. "Five?" he asked doubtfully.

"That's right! Good job, Tony." Mrs. Connor walked over to Tony and mussed his hair a bit. That was something she did when she was happy with you. Tony smiled with relief.

Christopher sat poised for action as the next question was asked.

"How many pennies are equal to a dime?"

Christopher raised his hand high above his head, but Mrs. Connor called on Caroline.

"Next question: How many pennies equal a quarter?"

Christopher waved frantically. "I know, I know," he chanted in a half whisper.

Again he was overlooked. Disappointed, he slumped back and gave up. He didn't even raise his hand for the next two questions, though he knew that the answers were fifty and one hundred. "Why doesn't she call on me?" he wondered. "She must not like me."





“Christopher.”

She was calling on him! His heart leapt with excitement. He sat up and faced the teacher, ready to answer any question she might ask.

“How many pennies are equal to five dollars?”

“Wow!” Christopher thought. “That’s a new question.” He paused, thinking hard. Then he saw how it worked. “Five hundred,” he answered.

“Very good, Christopher! How did you know that?”

“I have an electronic brain—just like my dad!”

Mrs. Connor smiled. “Well, I guess you must.”

Christopher grinned as the class moved on to the next subject. Mrs. Connor still liked him. He was smart. He was happy with himself.

When the final bell rang that afternoon, Christopher quickly stuffed his homework into his backpack and ran for the door. He couldn’t wait to tell his mom that he had answered the hardest question. Maybe he would even call and tell Dad.

Mom was waiting just outside the kindergarten room. “Hurry, Son,” she called. “We need to get you to soccer practice.” Christopher had forgotten about practice, but he was eager to go. It was his first year playing soccer, and he was looking forward to his first game on Saturday.

“How was school?” Mom asked in the car.

“Great! Mrs. Connor asked me how many pennies were in five dollars, and I knew that the answer was five hundred.”

“That’s wonderful, Chris. How did you know that?”

Christopher shrugged. “I guess I’m just the smartest person there is—except for Dad.”

“Oh, Christopher.” Mom was using her worried voice. “That kind of attitude will get you in trouble. I’m glad you do well in school. You are very blessed, but that doesn’t mean you’re better than anyone else.” She stopped talking, seeing that he wasn’t really paying attention.

Christopher was thinking about Saturday’s game. He imagined himself powering past the other team, scoring goal after goal. He could almost hear the crowd cheering him on to victory.

Saturday morning, Christopher got up early and dressed in his soccer uniform—shin guards and all. The game was at 11:00, and he wanted to be ready. At 10:30 he was sitting in the car, water bottle in hand, wishing Mom and Dad would hurry.

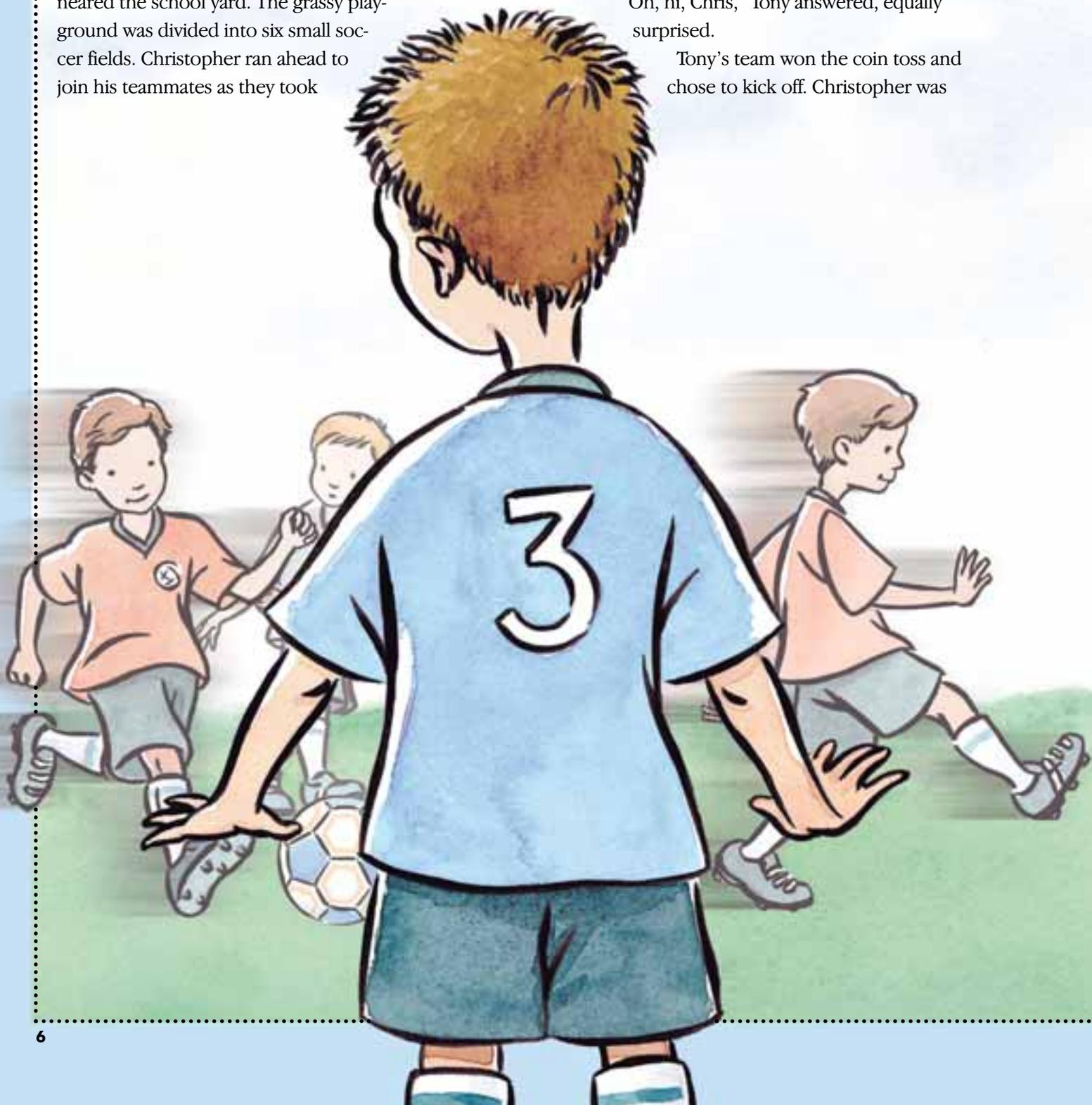
“There’s my coach!” Christopher shouted as they neared the school yard. The grassy playground was divided into six small soccer fields. Christopher ran ahead to join his teammates as they took

turns kicking the ball into the net. The excitement level was high.

The referee called the two teams to the center of the field for the coin toss. Christopher looked at the player across from him and was surprised to see Tony. “Hi, Tony!” he said. “I didn’t know you played soccer.”

“Oh, hi, Chris,” Tony answered, equally surprised.

Tony’s team won the coin toss and chose to kick off. Christopher was



surprised to see Tony lining up to kick the ball. A team's best player usually did that. At the signal, Tony nudged the ball gently, and one of his teammates kicked it back to him. Then Tony took over, dribbling the ball down the field and blasting a shot into the net. Christopher's team tried to stop him but couldn't. Just that fast, the score was one to nothing!

Christopher was amazed. Tony was the best soccer player he'd ever seen!

Now Christopher's team got to kick off. Taylor, the best player on the team, ran and kicked the ball with all his might. Christopher ran along with Taylor, surprised at how different a game was from practice. In practice you could take your time, plan your passes, and move steadily down the field. In a game everything happened quickly. There was no time to stop and think. Christopher stayed with the mass of players kicking the ball back and forth, and managed a few good kicks. When the referee signaled the end of the first half, the score was five to one. Christopher's team was losing.

Tony continued his stunning performance in the second half. Christopher did pretty well. He almost scored a goal, but the ball bounced off the goalpost. The final score was eight to two.

The two teams lined up to give each other high fives.

Christopher stopped when he reached Tony. "Congratulations!" he said.

"Thanks."

"You're an awesome player. Where did you learn to play like that?"

"From my dad. He's the greatest soccer player ever. He plays with me every night."

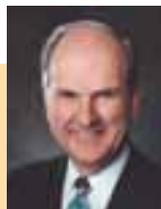
"I wish I was as good as you," Christopher said. "You scored more goals than my whole team!"

Tony smiled. He held his head high as they left the field.

Christopher was quiet on the ride home.

"What are you thinking about, Son?" Dad asked.

"About Tony," Christopher answered. "He's in my class at school, and he can't answer math questions



"Joy cometh in the morning when personal talents are developed. Each of us is blessed with different potential. I don't think I could get up early enough to become a portrait painter.

But I have appreciated teachings since my earliest childhood from parents who knew the joy that good music brings."

Elder Russell M. Nelson
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles
From an October 1986 general conference address.

very well. I always thought he was, well, sort of dumb. But he plays soccer way better than I do, and I'm the smartest one in my class. How can that be?"

"Everyone is different, Chris," Dad began. "We all have different talents. What's important to remember is that we should always do our best. You may never be as good at soccer as Tony is, and he may never be as good at math as you are. But if you both try hard and do the best

you can, both of your parents will be proud of you. We're Heavenly Father's children, and He doesn't demand that we all be math whizzes or score ten goals. He only asks that we do the very best we can with the talents He's given us."

Christopher thought for a moment. "But what if our best isn't good enough?"

"That's the point, Son," Dad explained. "Our best is always good enough." ●



Remember



From an interview with Elder Walter F. González of the Seventy, currently serving in the South America North Area; by Christine Rappleye

O, remember, my son, and learn wisdom in thy youth; yea, learn in thy youth to keep the commandments of God (Alma 37:35).

I come from Uruguay, where I learned that the Book of Mormon is true. I first knew in my heart and then in my mind. When I read the first few pages of 1 Nephi, I knew there was something special about this book. I had such strong feelings that I could not hide my emotions! Something was telling me it was true. I can testify that the Book of Mormon invites the Spirit of God, which is the Holy Ghost.

If the Book of Mormon is true and teaches about Jesus Christ, then Joseph Smith is a prophet. If Joseph Smith is a prophet, then the Church has to be true. That is the way I came to know that the Church is true.

Before I joined the Church, I had been taught good principles by my parents. Some of them were principles of the gospel, but my parents didn't know they were teachings of the Church. I knew basic things about Jesus Christ, but I had never

had to find out if they were true. When I was searching for an answer about the Church, I decided to pray on my knees for the first time in my life. It was different from how I had prayed before. We need more people on their knees to receive testimonies. Spiritual experiences need to be remembered.

I try to remember my first experience of conversion and keep it alive for myself and my family. I think it is important to remember such spiritual experiences. When you remember them, they help you endure to the end.

We can learn from the Book of Mormon. When Alma taught as a missionary and as a father, he taught that we should remember the gospel (see Alma 37:13). Lehi did, too. He said to remember the way the Lord led him and his family to the promised land (see 2 Nephi 1:1–5). I always try to remember the way I was converted and the way I know that the Church is true. Remembering has helped me throughout the 30 years I have been a member of the Church.

1. At about age two

2. At about three years of age

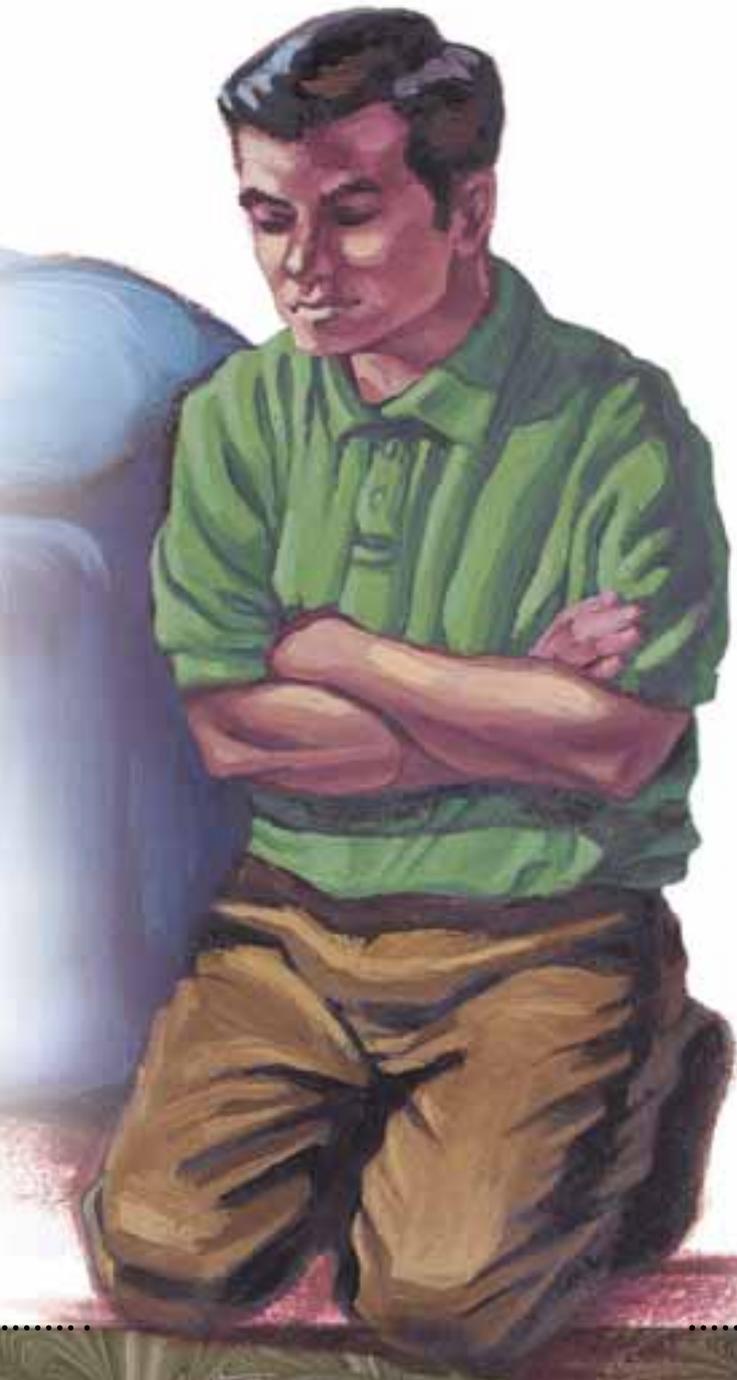
3. Playing soccer with his brother Luis at age 10



Another thing we need to remember is that we have made covenants with the Lord. We are a covenant-making people. The temple is a symbol of those covenants. It is very important not to take these covenants for granted. We need to understand them and ponder them. That will raise our level of commitment.

There are commitments we can make to help prepare us to make covenants, such as the baptismal

covenant. These commitments include reading the Book of Mormon every day, praying on your knees every day, and going to church every week. When you are keeping these commitments, you are preparing yourself to obey a covenant—a covenant like the baptismal covenant, which will prepare you to go to the temple. If you keep your commitments, whatever they are, they will help you keep your covenants.



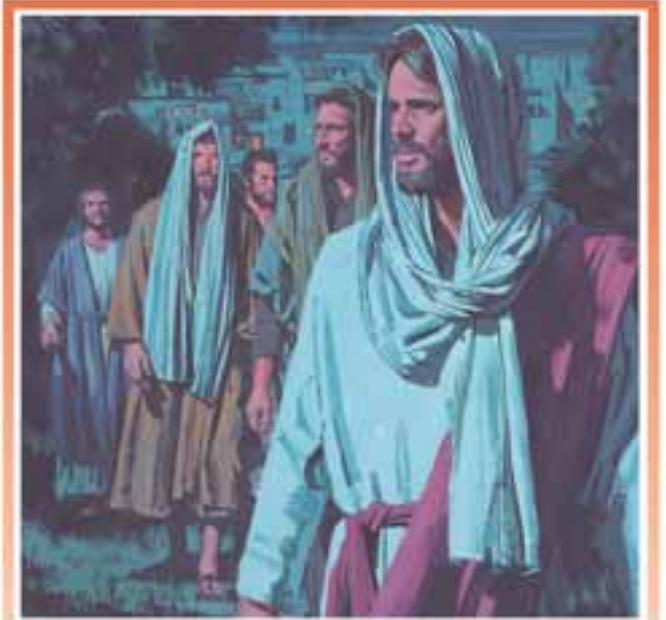
Elder González with his wife, Zulma, and their family

When an investigator decides to learn more about the Church, the missionaries invite him or her to make smaller commitments, such as praying, attending church, and reading the scriptures. When an investigator keeps these commitments, the missionaries know that he or she is preparing to make the covenant of baptism and is receiving a testimony.

The Book of Mormon was the key to my conversion. The reason I love the Book of Mormon is that through it, we can know about Jesus Christ. We can learn that He is the Son of God and our Savior. We can develop our own testimonies of Him. He can become real to us. He is real. As we get closer to Him and keep our commitments and covenants, we can also feel His love, which is real. Always remember Him and how you developed your testimony of Him. ●

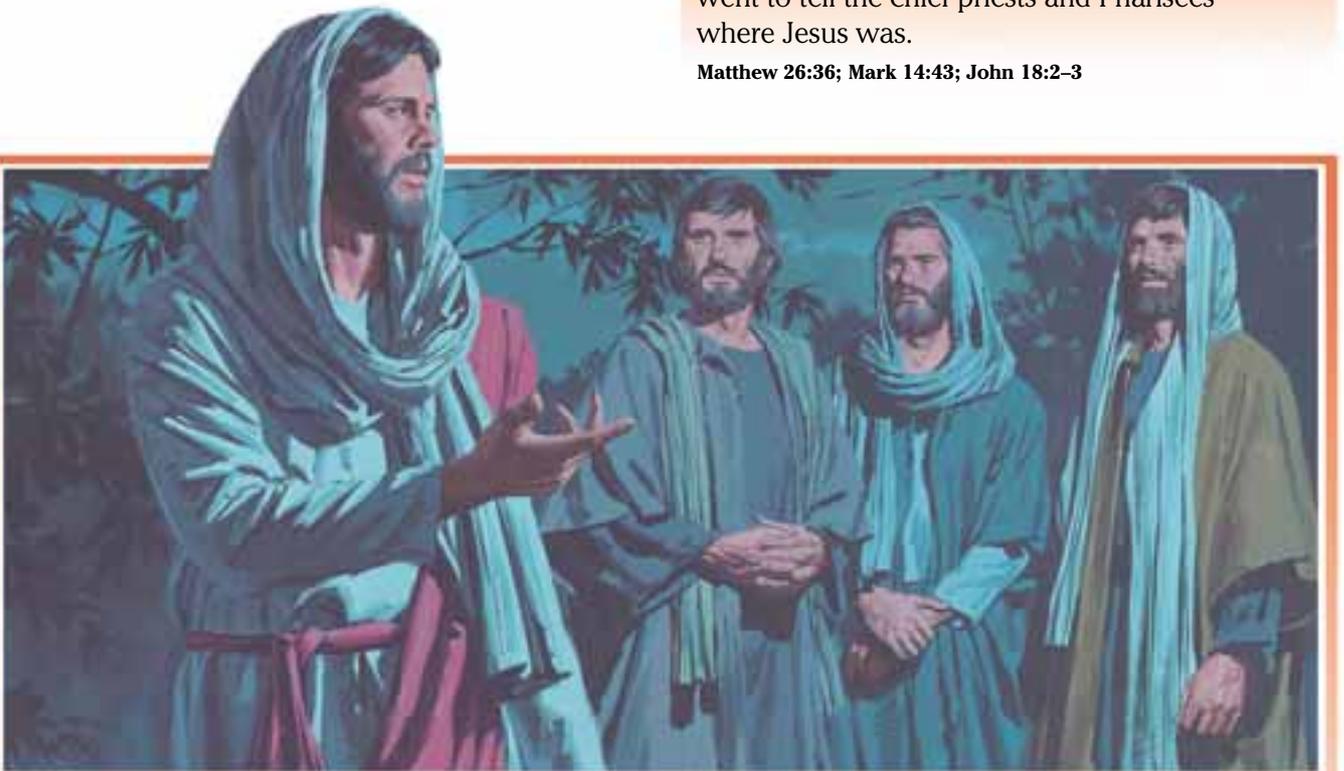
JESUS SUFFERS IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

Chapter 51



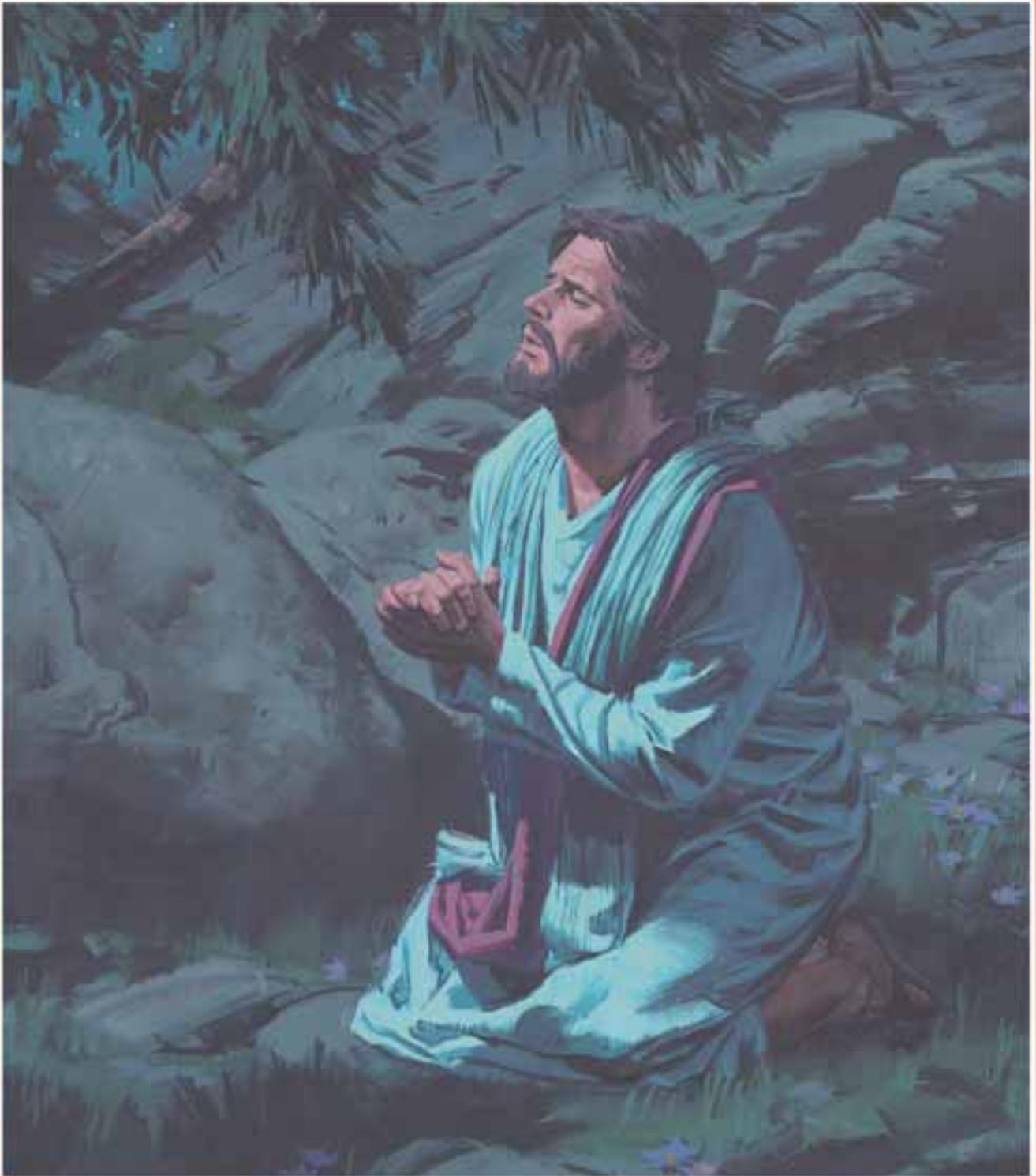
Jesus and the Apostles went to the Garden of Gethsemane. Judas did not go with them. He went to tell the chief priests and Pharisees where Jesus was.

Matthew 26:36; Mark 14:43; John 18:2-3



The Savior asked Peter, James, and John to go with Him into the garden and wait while He went farther and prayed.

Matthew 26:36-38; Mark 14:33-34



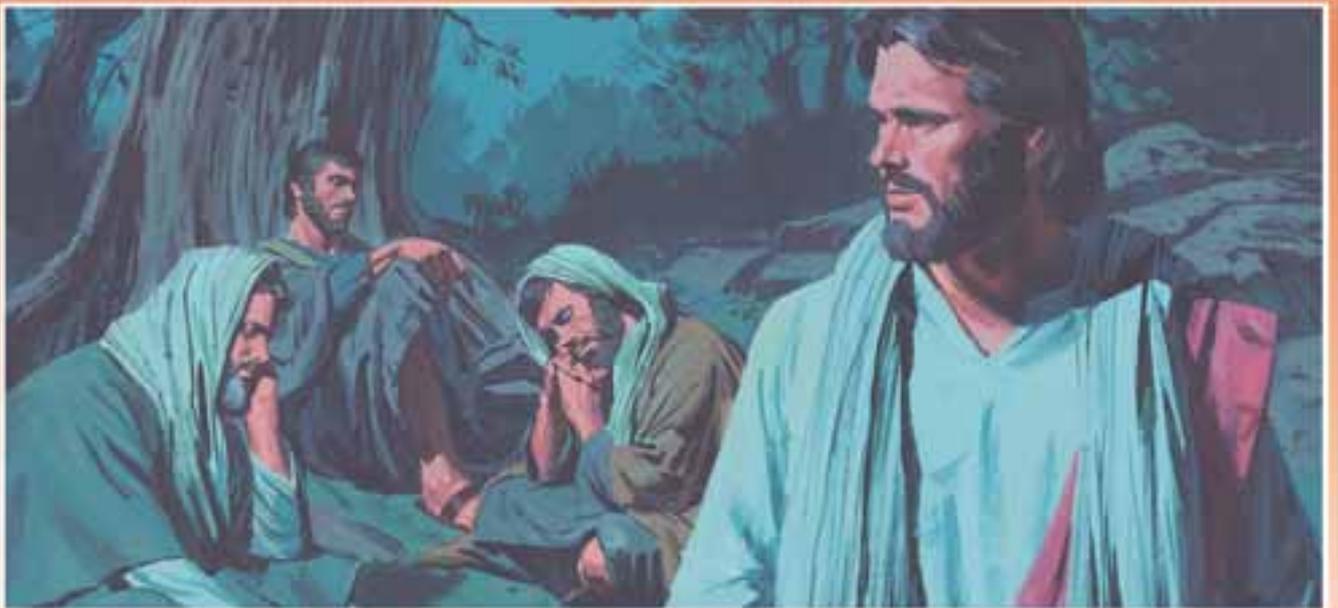
He knew He would suffer for the sins of all people. He did not want to suffer, but He chose to obey Heavenly Father.

Matthew 26:39-44



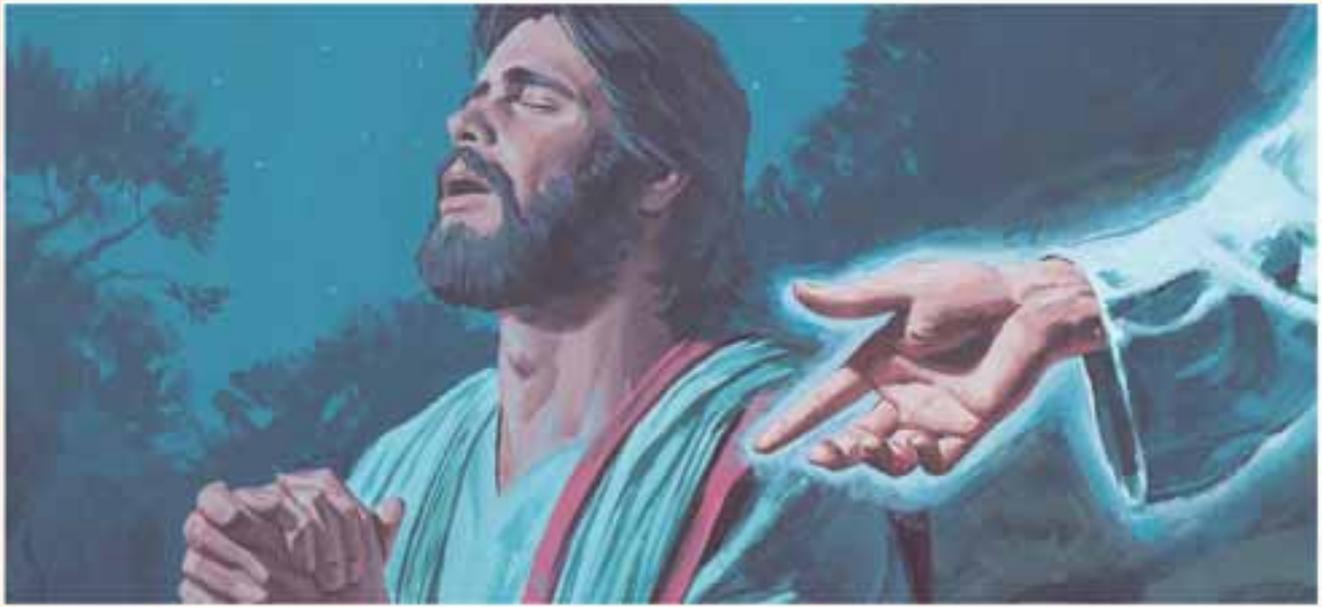
Peter, James, and John fell asleep while Jesus prayed. Jesus saw them sleeping and asked them to stay awake.

Matthew 26:40-41



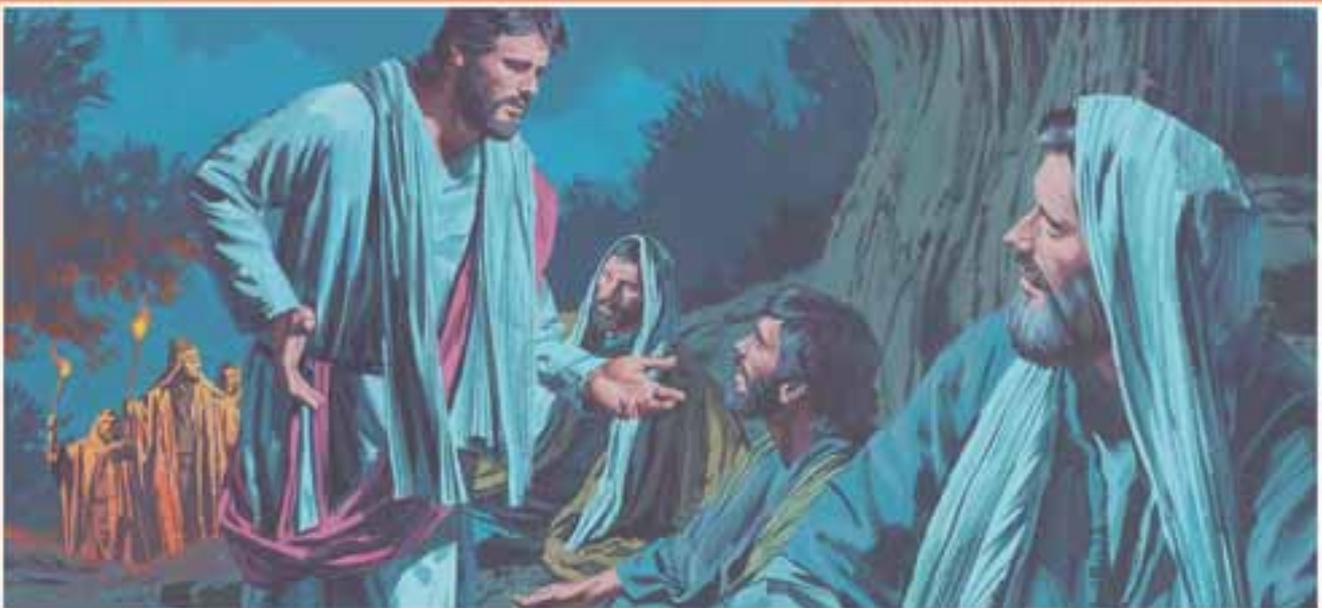
He prayed again. Peter, James, and John wanted to stay awake. But they were very tired and fell asleep again. Jesus again saw them sleeping. He went back to pray.

Matthew 26:42-44



As Jesus prayed, He began to tremble. He suffered so much that blood came out of His skin. He was suffering for the sins of all people so if they would repent, they could be forgiven. While He suffered and prayed, an angel came to strengthen Him.

Luke 22:42–44; D&C 19:16–18



Jesus woke up Peter, James, and John and told them He would be betrayed, then killed by wicked people who were coming to get Him.

Matthew 26:45–46



If we love one another, [God's] . . . love is perfected in us (1 John 4:12).

Gift from Alice

BY TONIA A. DATTAGE

(Based on a true story)

Katie* was going roller-skating for her birthday party and was thinking about whom to invite. She wanted Jenny and Vicki to come—they were in her Primary class. She would invite Teresa, too, of course. She was Katie's best friend.

As Katie waited for her Primary teacher to start the class, she noticed Alice walk in. Alice didn't come to Primary very often. Her clothes looked worn, and her hair wasn't combed. Katie thought that Alice's words sounded funny when she talked and that Alice smelled strange. Alice hardly ever said anything at all. She mostly just sat there with her head down. Katie thought that Alice had probably never been invited to a birthday party.

Katie had been to Alice's house once, when Mom was delivering something to Alice's mother for Relief Society. Alice's family was very large, and Katie wondered where they all slept, because they lived in a small trailer. When Mom had knocked on the door and one of the older children answered, Katie could see how dirty it was inside. Mom explained what she had and asked that it be given to Alice's mother. The boy didn't say

anything. He just took it and shut the door. Katie was glad for her own clean home, even if she did have to share a room with her older sister, Tara.

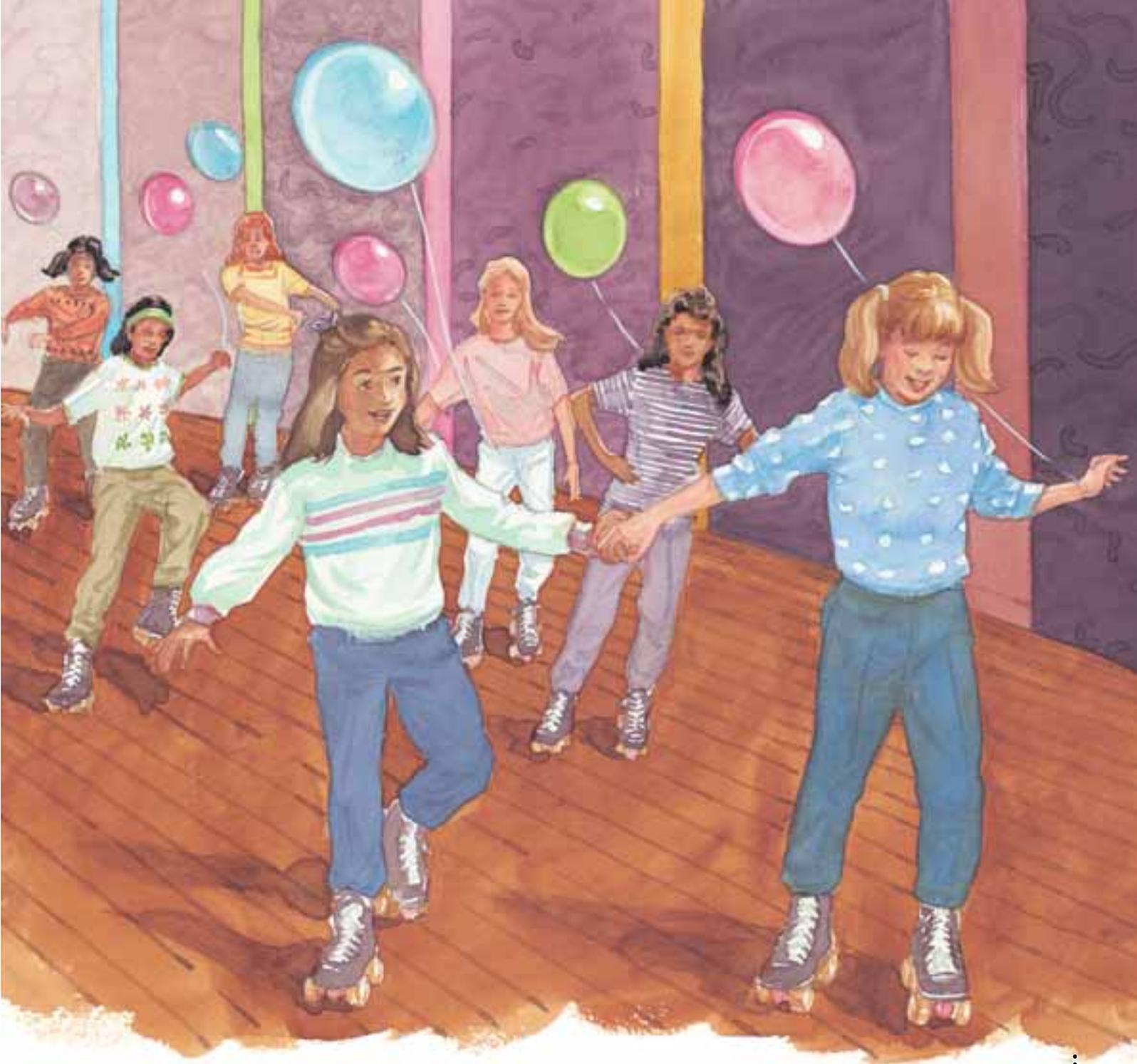
Looking at Alice now, Katie remembered that visit, and she felt bad for the sad-faced girl sitting alone. She thought about Jesus and how He treated those who were poor, or sick, or didn't fit in.

The next day when Mom asked if she was ready to work on birthday invitations, Katie announced that she would like to invite Alice.

Katie wondered what her friends might think and what Alice might wear. Most of all, Katie worried that Alice wouldn't come. Katie talked to Mom and to Tara about her concerns, and they worked out a plan.

When it came time to deliver Alice's invitation, Katie had butterflies in her stomach. Tara went to the door with her. A circle of little faces appeared, but no one spoke. "Is Alice here, please?" Katie asked.

One child left, and a few moments later, Alice was at the door. "Here." Katie thrust the white envelope toward her. "This is for you. It's an invitation to my birthday party."



Alice didn't say anything, but she looked surprised. "It's next Wednesday," Katie said. "My mom and I will pick you up at eleven." Katie and her sister said good-bye and got back in the car with big smiles on their faces.

On the way to Alice's house Wednesday morning, Katie said a silent prayer that Alice would come. When

she and Mom arrived, Alice's whole family was outside. Katie felt awkward with all those children staring at her. She was relieved when Alice came toward her and silently followed Katie into the back seat.

At Katie's house, Alice was welcomed by Tara.

"We have a while before the other girls arrive," Katie told her. "Let's go to Tara's and my room."

In the bedroom, Alice looked around, amazed.

“Wow! Your room is really pretty!”

Tara opened the closet. “I think we are the same size,” she said to Alice. “I can lend you some pants and a shirt, if you’d like. Then you won’t have to roller-skate in a dress.” She pulled out a pair of blue pants and a matching top. “I think these will fit.”

“You can get dressed in there.” Katie pointed to the bathroom.

Alice looked into the bathroom and seemed ready to cry. “What’s wrong?” Tara asked.

Alice whispered, “Can I wash my hair, please?”

“Of course!” Katie told her kindly. “Would you like us to help you wash it in the sink?”

Tara and Katie helped Alice wash her hair. They helped her comb and style her hair, then left her alone to bathe and dress.

When Alice came out, there was a smile on her face. It was the first time Katie had ever seen her smile.

“Let’s eat,” the sisters said as they led Alice to the kitchen.

Alice didn’t say much during lunch, but she seemed to enjoy the food, and she ate everything on her plate.

After lunch, Tara took Alice aside and showed her the present she had gotten for Katie. “I have some paper we can wrap it in, and a marker to sign our names.”

“Oh!” Alice was excited. “I would love to give Katie a present.”

She and Tara wrapped the present and printed their names neatly on the outside.

Then the other party guests started to arrive. Katie had told her friends that Alice was going to be there. Each greeted Alice kindly, and soon she was talking with everyone. They opened presents and ate birthday cake. On the way to the roller rink, Katie didn’t get to sit by Alice—one of the other girls wanted to.

Katie and Teresa took Alice’s hands and helped her skate around the circular room. Alice giggled with delight. Katie had never heard Alice laugh before. Soon everyone was taking turns being Alice’s partner.

One of the girls came up to Katie and said, “I wish I had invited Alice to my birthday party.”

“There is always next year,”

Katie said.

When the party was over, Mom took Alice home. Before getting out of the car, she grabbed Katie’s hand, squeezed hard, and said, “Thank you.”

As Katie rode home, she thought about her birthday presents. She liked them all, but her favorite one was the smile, laugh, and “Thank you” from Alice.

* Names have been changed.



“Some lessons in life are learned from your parents, while others you learn in school or in church. There are, however, certain moments when you know our Heavenly Father is doing the teaching and you are His student.”

President Thomas S. Monson
First Counselor in the First Presidency
From an October 1995 general conference address.



Powerful Ideas

BY ELDER DALLIN H. OAKS

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Some knowledge is more important than others. That principle also applies to what we call spiritual knowledge.

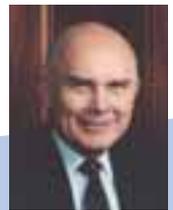
Consider the power of the idea taught in our beloved song “I Am a Child of God” (*Hymns*, no. 301). . . . Here is the answer to one of life’s great questions, “Who am I?” I am a child of God with a spirit lineage to heavenly parents. That parentage defines our eternal potential. . . . It can strengthen each of us to make righteous choices and to seek the best that is within us. . . .

When we understand our relationship to God, we also understand our relationship to one another. All men and women on this earth are the offspring of God, spirit

brothers and sisters. What a powerful idea! No wonder God’s Only Begotten Son commanded us to love one another. If only we could do so! What a different world it would be if brotherly and sisterly love and unselfish assistance could transcend [rise above] all boundaries of nation, creed, and color. Such love would not erase all differences of opinion and action, but it would encourage each of us to [be against] actions rather than actors.

The eternal truth that our Heavenly Father loves all his children is an immensely powerful idea. It is especially powerful when children can visualize it through the love and sacrifice of their earthly parents. Love is the most powerful force in the world.

From an October 1995 general conference address.



Did you know that Elder Dallin H. Oaks worked as a radio announcer when he was in high school? He was also president of a university and a judge. He teaches us about knowing who we are.

I Am a Child of God

BY VICKI F. MATSUMORI



All of you are children of the most High
(Psalm 82:6).

Name some of your favorite Primary songs.
Why did you choose those particular songs?

You probably enjoy them because they have a good melody or an important message.

One song that is a favorite for Primary children throughout the world is “I Am a Child of God.” It was written for a Primary conference in 1957 by Sister Naomi W. Randall and Sister Mildred T. Pettit. Sister Randall prayed for help in writing the message. She awoke in the middle of the night with the words of the song in mind. She mailed the words, or lyrics, to Sister Pettit, who lived in California. Sister Pettit put the words to music.

A few years later, President Spencer W. Kimball, then a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, suggested changing “Teach me all that I must know” to “Teach me all that I must do.” He said that “to know

isn’t enough. . . . We have to do something.” (*Friend*, Oct. 1984, 14.)

In Primary, you learn some important truths when you sing this song. You learn that you really are a child of God. You learn that Heavenly Father has sent you to a home with parents to help you. And, especially, you learn that when you do what is right, you can one day return to live with Heavenly Father.

Personalized Picture and Frame

Cut out the frame on the thick dark line and glue it to heavy paper or lightweight cardboard. Fold under the strip at the bottom as a stand for the frame. Decorate it by cutting out the items—or drawing other items—that show things you like to do or want to do, then gluing the items to the frame. Attach a picture—or draw one—of yourself in the middle of the frame. Place it where it will remind you that you are a child of God and have been blessed with many talents. ●

Sharing Time Ideas

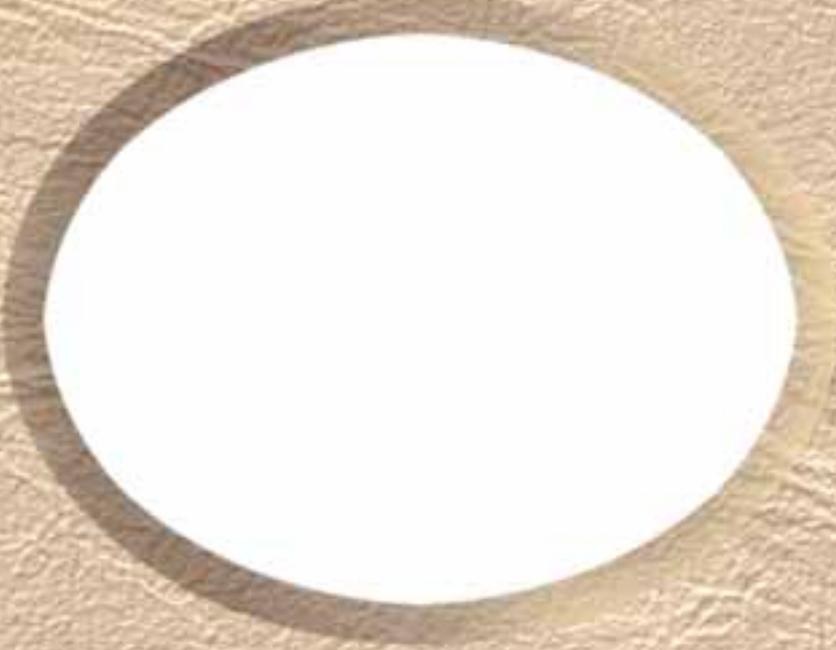
(Note: All songs are from *Children’s Songbook (CS)* unless otherwise indicated; GAK = Gospel Art Kit; TNGC = *Teaching, No Greater Call*)

1. Display pictures of some of the children in your Primary. Tell how each child is different—and special. Testify of each child’s divine nature.
Help the children memorize Articles of Faith 1:7 by writing it on the chalkboard. Have the children repeat it, then choose a child to erase one or two words. Continue the process until no words remain on the chalkboard.
Discuss various talents and personality traits, such as being good at athletics, music, or art; being friendly; being kind. Have the children stand in a circle. Choose one child to be “It.” The child who is It tosses a beanbag or other item to someone standing in the circle and calls out a talent such as “athletics,” then counts quickly to 10. The child who catches the beanbag must name an athletic talent, such as “playing soccer,” before It reaches 10; if not, he becomes It. Sing “I Am a Child of God” (pp. 2–3).
2. Have the children suggest people from the scriptures whom they admire, such as Moses, Daniel, David, Esther, Paul, Nephi, Alma. Write the list

on the chalkboard. Divide the children into groups and allow them to choose one of the people from the list and dramatize a story from the life of that person (see *TNGC*, 166). As they take turns presenting their dramatization, allow the Primary to guess which person’s story is being portrayed. After each presentation, discuss the qualities of nobleness and greatness shown by the scripture person. Sing songs that talk about these qualities. Read Abr. 3:22–23. Bear testimony that all of these scripture people were among those who were chosen in pre-earth life. Moreover, each child was also “chosen before [he/she] wast born.” Challenge the children to live their lives like the noble and great people in the scriptures.

3. Review the stages of our lives in the plan of salvation with the children. Make wordstrips of the various parts of the plan, or make copies of the figures from *Primary 6* manual, Lesson 1, p. 2. Place the wordstrips around the room. Have children locate a wordstrip or figure, then stand in the correct order.

Use simple costumes to have additional children represent a mother, father, and grandparent. Place this family in front of the Earth Life sign.



Fold

Choose another child to stand in front of the Premortal Life sign. Sing “I Lived in Heaven” (p. 4). Discuss the blessings of coming to an earthly family. Have the child move from Premortal Life to the family in front of Earth Life. Have the mother place a baby blanket around the child to show the love that a family provides. Sing “A Happy Family” (p. 198).

Explain that part of the plan is to leave earth life. Move the grandparent from Earth Life to Spirit World and talk of the sadness the family feels because the grandparent is no longer with them, but of the peace they feel in knowing that his/her spirit lives on. Sing “Families Can Be Together Forever” (p. 188). Discuss the role the Savior plays in the plan of salvation. Have a child hold a picture of Jesus Christ in front of the Resurrection sign. Sing an Easter song. Discuss how each child can qualify for the celestial kingdom as he/she chooses the right. Sing v. 4 of “I Am a Child of God” (pp. 2–3).

Bear testimony of your love and appreciation for the Savior.

4. Help the children understand the qualities they have because they are sons and daughters of God. Obtain two objects that are similar, yet different, such as different-size balls, differently colored books, and types of shoes. Also locate a picture of a child and a picture of Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ, such as *The First Vision* (GAK 403). Hide the objects and the pictures in the room before sharing time. Have children take turns locating the objects and pictures and then matching them. Discuss how the balls, although different in size or color or purpose, also have similarities. They are round, they roll, they bounce, etc. Discuss the other objects. Discuss the differences and similarities the children have with Heavenly Father and the Savior.

Review some of the Savior’s qualities and what each child might do to develop these qualities. Divide the Primary into eight groups and give each group one of the following GAK pictures representing His teachings: 208, 212, 213, 216, 217, 218, 221, 226. Have the children review the story on the back of the picture or read the scripture references given there, then decide what quality Jesus taught or exhibited. Have them think of a modern situation in which they could use the same quality. Have the groups take turns presenting their modern situation to the Primary, then showing their picture and telling the story of what Jesus taught or did in that situation. Sing songs that reinforce the principles each group teaches.

Use the same GAK pictures to sing the first verse of “I’m Trying to Be like Jesus” (pp. 78–79):

“I’m trying to be like Jesus; I’m following in his ways. [208, John the Baptist Baptizing Jesus]

“I’m trying to love as he did, in all that I do and say. [226, Jesus Washing the Apostles’ Feet]

“At times I am tempted to make a wrong choice, [221, The Ten Lepers]

“But I try to listen as the still small voice whispers, [217, Woman at the Well]

“Love one another as Jesus loves you. [216, Christ and the Children]

“Try to show kindness in all that you do. [218, The Good Samaritan]

“Be gentle and loving in deed and in thought, [213, Jesus Healing the Blind]

“For these are the things Jesus taught.” [212, Sermon on the Mount]

Invite the children to share their favorite story about Jesus Christ with their family in family home evening.

For younger children: Hide the GAK pictures listed above in the Primary room before sharing time. Repeating the following process for each picture, have a child locate a picture by giving a clue: move your hands farther apart as he/she gets farther away from the picture, and closer

as he/she gets closer to it. Have the child retell the story shown in the picture and discuss what quality Jesus showed or taught. Just as it was easier to find the picture when the child watched and followed your clue, it will be easier to develop qualities that help us to return to Heavenly Father as we watch and follow the Savior’s example. Working with the class teachers, have the children think of a situation in which they could exhibit that quality today. Invite a class to dramatize that situation. Sing a song that reinforces the principle, such as “I’ll Walk with You” (pp. 140–141).

5. Help the children understand that as a child of God, each can help his/her family by having an understanding heart. Briefly share the story about Solomon, who desired to be a good king and asked God for an understanding heart (see 1 Kings 3:5, 9–12). Discuss what it means to have an understanding heart.

On paper hearts, write some case studies (see *TNGC*, 161–162) of family situations, such as 1) A younger brother hurt his arm in an accident with your scooter. You have an understanding heart. What can you do? 2) Your mother is late making dinner because she picked up your sister from soccer practice. You have an understanding heart. What can you do? 3) Your friend wants you to play. You see your father working in the yard after a hard day at work. You have an understanding heart. What can you do?

Put the paper hearts into a container. Have the children take turns choosing a situation from the container and then answering it. Sing “Where Love Is” (pp. 138–139).

Have the children make coupons of acts of service they will do for members of their family through the week. A coupon could be given to each family member or placed in a booklet. Have the children share some of their ideas for service, such as make one bed (in addition to the child’s own bed); do the dishes; set the table; baby-sit for an hour; read to a younger child; help with homework.

Sing songs from the *CS* “Service” listing in the Topics index.

Class presentation: Assign class members to write the situations, find songs, and practice reading aloud 1 Kings 3:9–12 for this Idea. Also ask each class member to perform an act of service for someone in his/her family before the presentation. At the conclusion of sharing time, have the class members report on the services they did for their families, what they learned, and how it made them feel. Invite the entire Primary to do something during the week to help a member of their families.

6. *Song presentation:* Enlarge a picture of a family, then cut the picture into eight horizontal strips. Write one line of each of the four verses of “I Am a Child of God” (pp. 2–3) on the back of each strip. Do not write out the chorus. Place the pieces in random order, with the words facing outward, throughout the room.

Sing the song and have the children join you for the parts they know. Have a child raise her/his hand when she/he has located the correct line of the song, then place it on the front board or wall. Continue singing the song, stopping to re-sing lines or verses if the children are unsure of the words. When the lines are in order, tape it together and reverse it to show the completed picture. Bear testimony that the children are indeed children of God.

Invite members who speak other languages to sing and teach the first verse of “I Am a Child of God” in those languages.

7. Additional *Friend* resources: “God’s Power Within You,” Jan. 2002, 2–3; “All About Me!” Jan. 2002, 13; “Lacy’s Talent,” Jan. 2002, 42–44; “Spiritual Power of Our Baptism,” Mar. 2000, IFC; “Love at Home,” June 1996, 44–45. *Ensign* resources: “Gifts of the Spirit,” Feb. 2002, 12–20; “Them That Honour Me I Will Honour,” May 2001, 45–47.



Peter's and Aaron's families

BY CHRISTINE RAPPLEYE

Photos by Larry Zimmerman
and Christine Rappleye

If two's company, and
three's a crowd, then
what is 14? Just ask

10-year-old cousins

Peter and Aaron

Zimmerman. Peter

is the second

youngest of

nine children,

and Aaron is

the second of

five children.

Peter has six

older brothers, one older

sister, and one younger

brother. His oldest brother,

Joseph, served a mission in

Peru and now attends Brigham

Young University. His sister

Camilla is also going to school

there. Josh is serving a mission in

the Madagascar Antananarivo

Mission. Peter and his family write

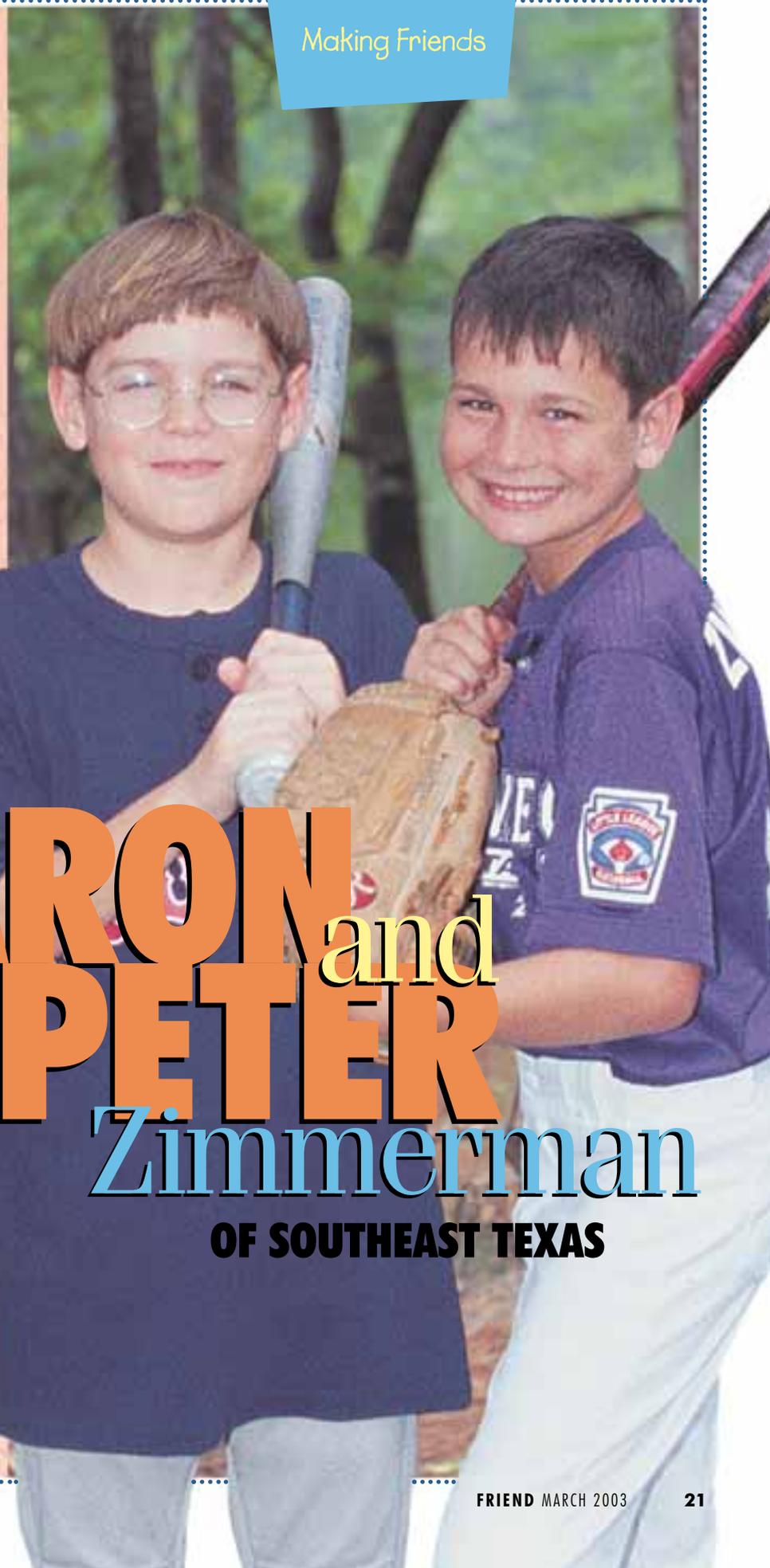
to him every week. Peter and his

brothers Matthew (17), Spencer (15),

Timothy (13), Stephen (12), and

Aaron (left) and Peter

AARON and PETER Zimmerman OF SOUTHEAST TEXAS



Adam (8) are all preparing to go on missions and are excited each week to receive letters from Josh.

Aaron is the second oldest in his family. He and his older brother Zachary (12), younger sisters Makinzie (8) and Cassidie (5), and younger brother Jacob (2), all enjoy family home evenings and playing together.

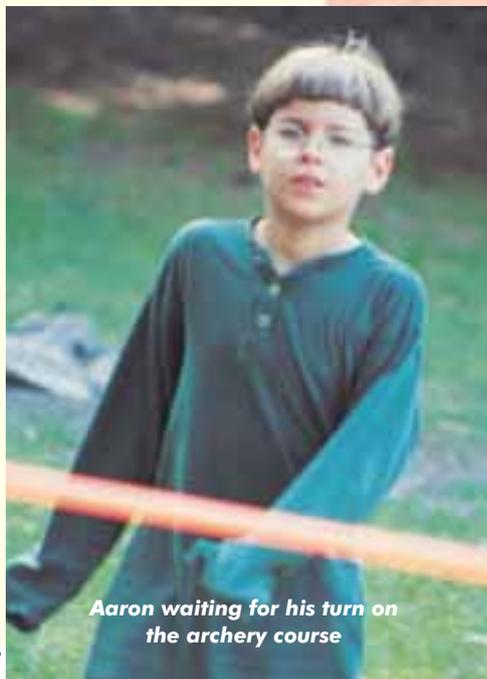
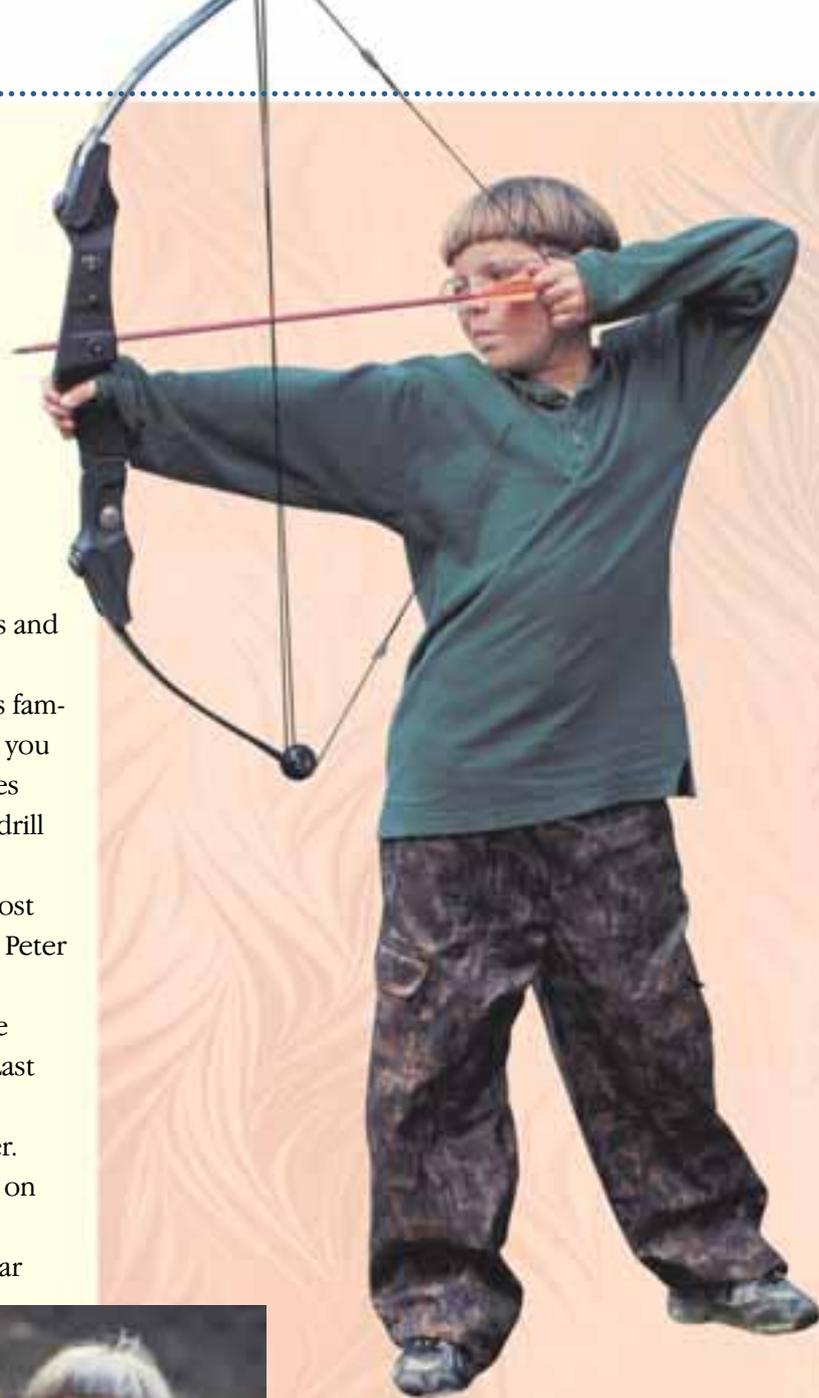
Peter's family lives in Port Neches, and Aaron's family lives in Nederland. From both of their homes, you can see oil refineries. Their cities are only 30 miles (48 km) from the Gulf of Mexico, where big rigs drill for oil under the ocean.

Both boys like to play baseball. They have almost enough family members to play their own game! Peter and Aaron play on their city's Little League team. Aaron likes to play catcher because he gets to see most of the action. Peter likes to play first base. Last year, he played on the city all-star team.

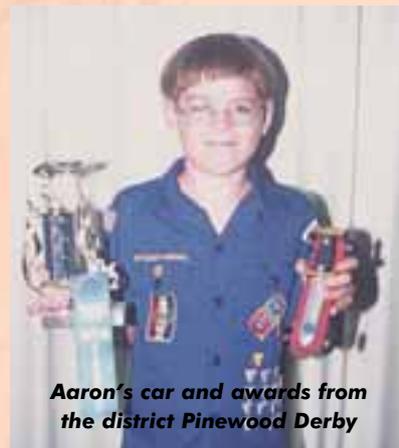
Both boys like the outdoors and playing soccer. They are in the same Webelos den and like to go on camp-outs.

In their pack's Pinewood Derby race, Peter's car won first place, by a fraction of a second, over Aaron's car! Peter and his dad worked together to make a spaceship car, and Aaron and his dad designed his car to look like a knife. At the district Pinewood Derby race, Peter won third place overall, and both boys received design awards.

The closest temple is the Houston Texas Temple. Both Aaron and Peter turned eight a few months



Aaron waiting for his turn on the archery course



Aaron's car and awards from the district Pinewood Derby

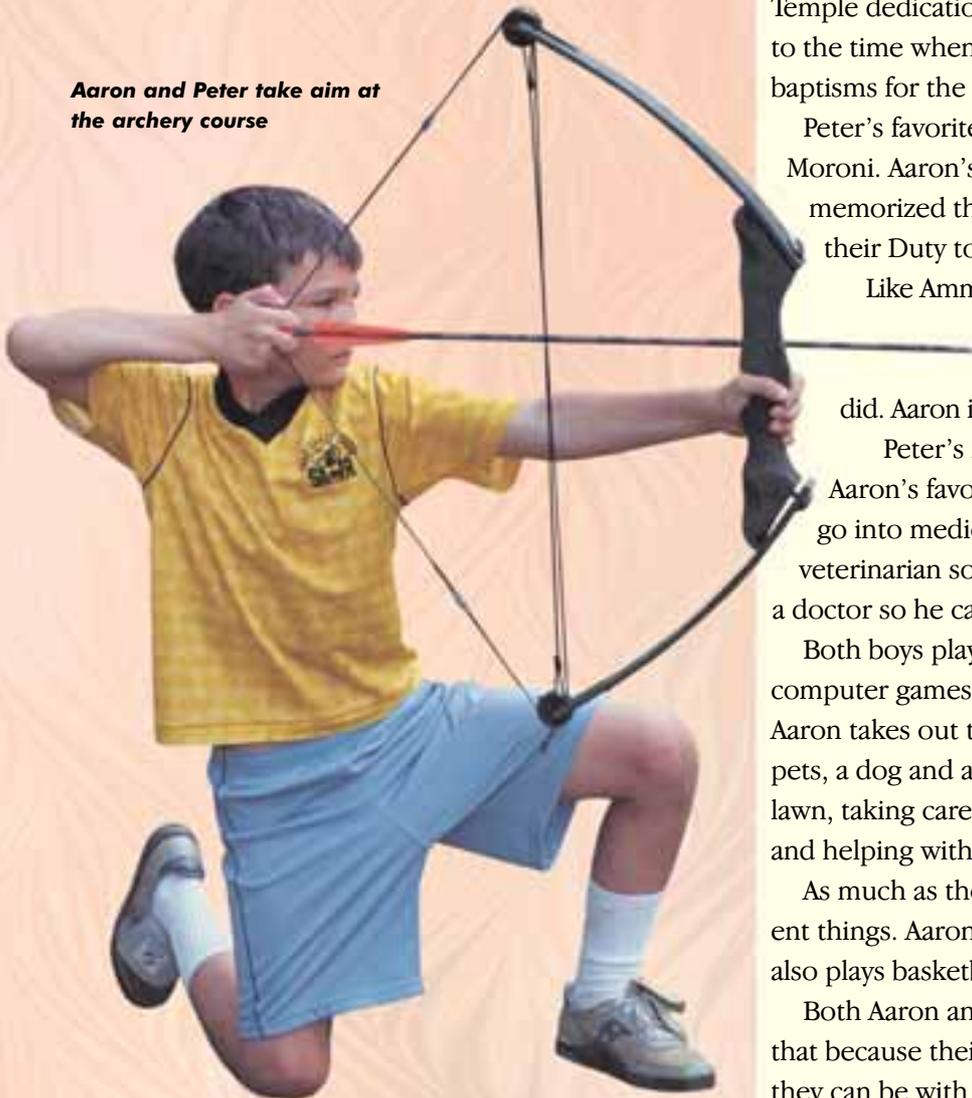


*Peter canoeing during the
Cub Scout camp-out*



*Playing with the family dog,
Rocky, in the backyard*

**Aaron and Peter take aim at
the archery course**



before the dedication—each was baptized by his dad—so they were able to attend the temple open house and the dedication. “The temple was very white and very clean,” Aaron said.

They also saw the satellite broadcast of the Winter Quarters Nebraska Temple dedication. Both Peter and Aaron look forward to the time when they can go inside the temple to do baptisms for the dead.

Peter’s favorite scripture story is about Captain Moroni. Aaron’s favorite is about Ammon. Both have memorized the Articles of Faith and have earned their Duty to God Awards.

Like Ammon, Aaron is doing his best to be a missionary. He invited a friend to join their Cub Scout pack, and he did. Aaron is very excited about that!

Peter’s favorite subject at school is math. Aaron’s favorite is science. They both want to go into medicine when they grow up—Peter as a veterinarian so he can help animals, and Aaron as a doctor so he can try to save people’s lives.

Both boys play the piano, like to draw, play computer games, and help their families at home. Aaron takes out the garbage and helps care for their pets, a dog and an iguana. Peter helps by mowing the lawn, taking care of the family dog, cleaning his room, and helping with the dishes.

As much as they are alike, they do like some different things. Aaron has a green belt in karate, and Peter also plays basketball.

Both Aaron and Peter love their families and know that because their parents were sealed in the temple, they can be with their families forever. ●

Heavenly Father Loves You

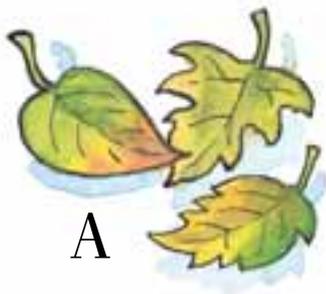
(A picture to color)

He gives you flowers every spring,
A sunrise every morning,
And a family who loves you!

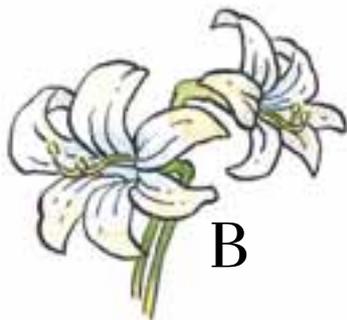




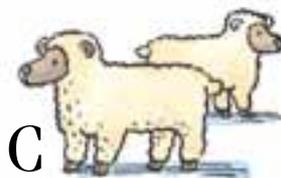
ILLUSTRATED BY JERRY HARSTON



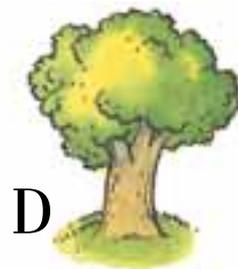
A



B



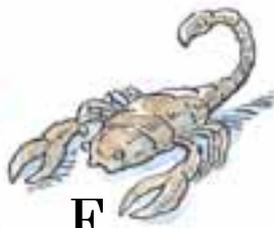
C



D



E



F



G



H

New Testament Scripture Pictures

BY CYNTHIA RAKES BOWDEN

Find the picture for the missing word in each of these scriptures from the New Testament, then put the correct letter in the blank. If you need help, look up the scripture.

1. "Because strait is the _____, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" (Matthew 7:14).

2. "Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth _____, ye know that summer is nigh" (Matthew 24:32).

3. "Then he took the five loaves and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed them, and brake, and gave to the disciples to set before the multitude. And they did eat, and were all filled: and there was taken up of fragments that remained to them twelve _____." (Luke 9:16–17.)

4. "If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a _____?" (Luke 11:11–12.)

5. "Consider the _____ how they grow: they toil

not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these" (Luke 12:27).

6. "Then said he, Unto what is the kingdom of God like? and whereunto shall I resemble it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and cast into his garden; and it grew, and waxed a great _____; and the fowls of the air lodged in the branches of it." (Luke 13:18–19.)

7. "And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the _____, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables; And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise" (John 2:15–16).

8. "But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a _____ of water springing up into everlasting life" (John 4:14).

(See answers on page 31.)



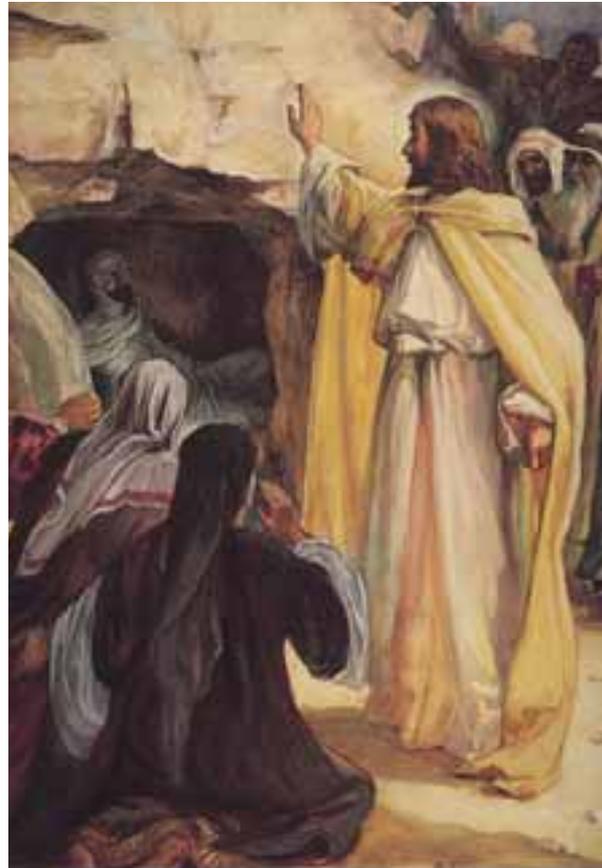
New Testament Riddle

BY DONNA LUGG PAPE

My sisters spoke to Jesus,
And many tears they shed.
Then Jesus came up to my grave
And raised me from the dead.

Who am I?
Who were my sisters?

To check your answers and to learn more about this event, read John 11:1-44.



Caring Characteristics

BY GUY BELLERANTI

Find your way through the maze by connecting the letters to spell these important characteristics in the order given: dependability, faithfulness, generosity, honesty, humility, purity. You may move forward, backward, up, down, and diagonally, but connect each letter only once. After you find all the words, write the unconnected letters (reading from left to right and top to bottom) on the blanks below to find one more important characteristic.

Start	D	N	D	G	E	L	I	L	N	E	N	
	E	P	E	A	B	I	T	U	T	S	S	
	L	M	E	N	A	F	Y	F	N	E	G	
	E	U	I	S	I	T	H	Y	E	R	O	
	H	S	L	E	N	Y	H	T	I	S	T	
	Y	T	S	I	T	O	P	U	R	I	Y	End

(See answer on page 31.)

GOBO FAN

By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another
(John 13:35).

Mother knelt down and brushed the red clay from the tombstone. Sarah read the faded words: "GOBO FANGO, AGED 30 YEARS." She paused a moment and then asked, "Who is Gobo Fango?"

Mother began pulling the weeds that had grown up around the old stone. She motioned for Sarah to sit down next to her under the shady tree that covered this part of the cemetery.

"Gobo was a valiant Saint," Mother answered, "a courageous child from South Africa. He was one of the first African pioneers to join the early Saints in the West, and he is a member of our family."

Sarah looked confused. "But, Mother, we are not from South Africa. We are from California."

Mother laughed. "We are now, but our ancestors back at the time of the pioneers came from all over the world."

"What is an ancestor?"

"Good question. An ancestor is a member of our family who lived a long time ago."

"You mean like Granny?"

"Yes, and her parents before her, and their parents before them. Learning about them is what we call family history," Mother explained. "Would you like to hear the story about Gobo Fango?"

"Oh, yes!"

Mother sat back and started the amazing story of a little boy and his mother who was



G O

BY TESS HILMO
(Based on a true story)

very ill. “Gobo was a three-year-old boy in 1857. His mother knew that she was dying and could no longer care for him, so she tucked him into the branches of a tree on the Talbots’ property. Ruth Talbot soon found the starving boy and gently coaxed him from the tree. Tired and cold, little Gobo climbed down and into the arms of his new mother. The entire Talbot family cared for Gobo as one of their own.

“When the family was taught by Mormon missionaries and joined the Church, they had a strong desire to follow President Brigham Young’s counsel to join the Saints in America. The Civil War was starting, and it was dangerous to bring Gobo to America because he was black. When the ship’s captain refused to allow Gobo on the boat, Henry Talbot knelt and asked for Heavenly Father’s guidance. He knew that Gobo would not be able to take care of himself if left behind.

“An idea came to Brother Talbot—his prayer was answered! He would roll Gobo into a large rug and smuggle him on and off the ship. Gobo was afraid to be wrapped inside the dark, heavy carpet. However, he had faith in the prophet’s counsel to go to America, so he remained very still and quiet. No one knew of the precious treasure tucked away in the old, faded rug.

“Once in America, Gobo was excited to start his new life there. He wanted to meet the prophet and see the temple that the missionaries in Africa had told him about.

“The family journeyed mostly by train. At one station, they were startled by an angry mob boarding it. Someone had told them that a child

slave was being smuggled through. Gobo was not a slave, but the mob would not have believed it.

“Quickly Sister Talbot lifted her large hoop skirt and hid him underneath. Gobo pulled his knees tightly against his chest and held his breath until the mob left and his mother took him upon her lap. She reminded him that he was a child of God and explained that their home with the Saints in Utah would be a place of acceptance and love for their entire family, including Gobo. She assured him that their fellow brothers and sisters in the gospel understood what it was like to be persecuted and judged. Surely they would not turn Gobo away.

“Sister Talbot was right, and as soon as they could, the Talbots adopted Gobo.

“Once in Utah, Gobo grew into a righteous, hard-working shepherd. He was always faithful to his baptismal covenants. In 1886, when a tablet of paper



cost two cents, he willed his entire life savings—some five hundred dollars—to help build the Salt Lake Temple. Years later, the temple work was done for Gobo and he was sealed to Ruth and Henry Talbot in the very temple he helped build.”

Sarah’s mother smiled. “And that is the story of Gobo Fango.”

“Wow!” Sarah exclaimed. “I never knew that he was part of our family!”

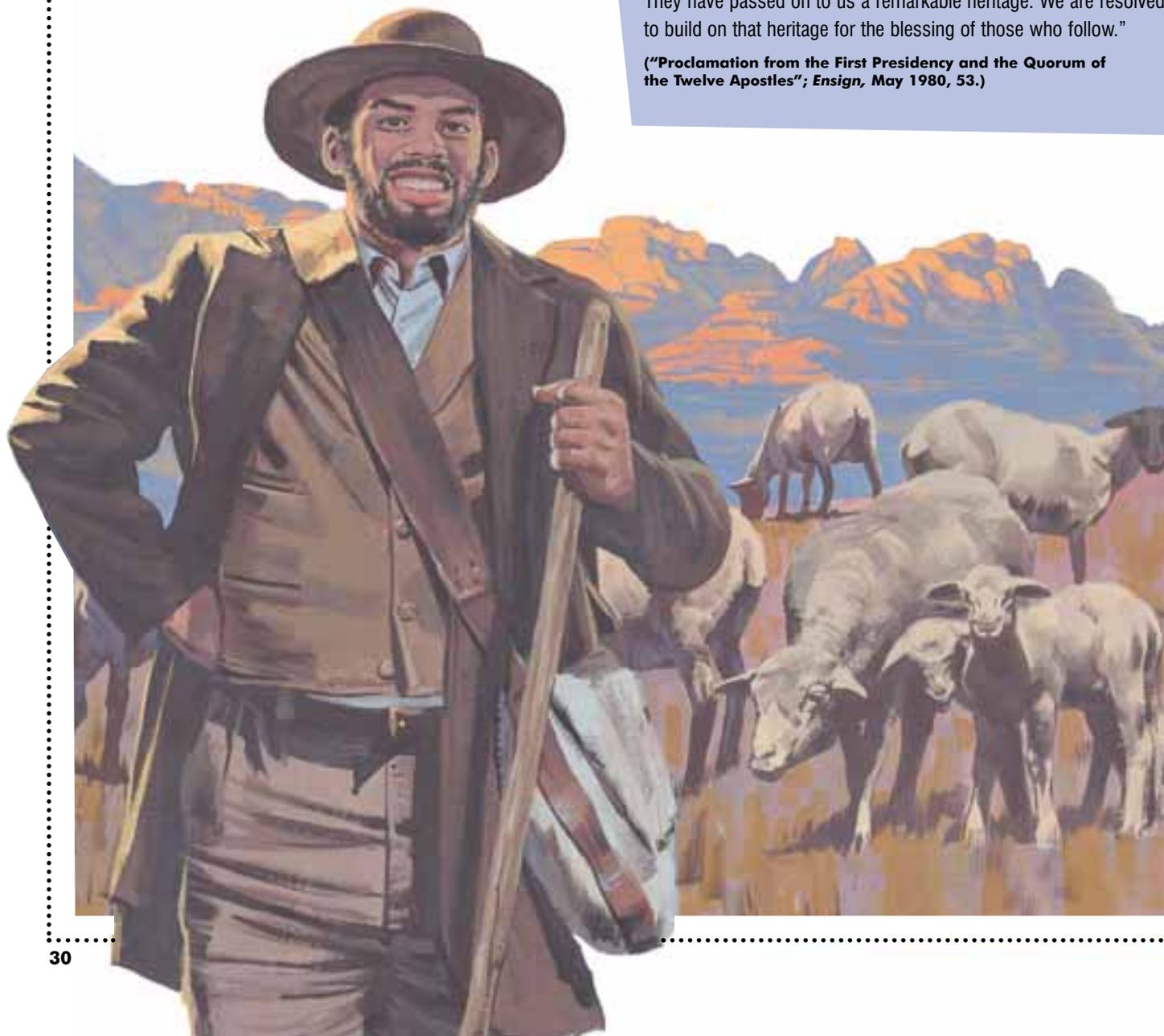
“It is important to remember that pioneers came from all areas of the world,” Mother said, “North

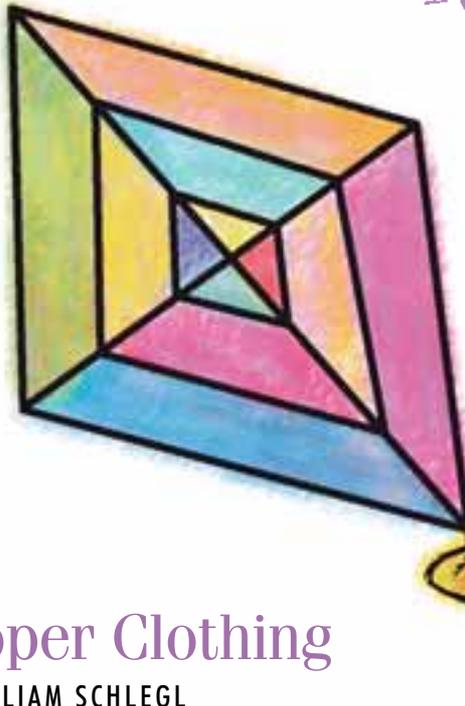
America, South America, Europe, and Africa.”

Suddenly, the thought of family history and pioneers meant something more to Sarah. It wasn’t something just for adults. It was for her. Even an eleven-year-old girl like herself could learn a lesson of love and acceptance and faith from little Gobo Fango. ●

“We contemplate humbly and gratefully the sacrifices of those who have gone before us. . . . We are thankful for their faith, for their example, for their mighty labors and willing consecrations. . . . They have passed on to us a remarkable heritage. We are resolved to build on that heritage for the blessing of those who follow.”

(“Proclamation from the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles”; *Ensign*, May 1980, 53.)





Triangle Kite

BY WENDI SILVANO

How many triangles can you find in this kite?

Proper Clothing

BY WILLIAM SCHLEGL

We wear shoes to protect our feet, and clothes to protect our bodies. To find out what we need to “wear” to protect our spirits, solve this puzzle. Write the letter on the blank that comes in alphabetical order two letters after the letter below the blank. We have put in the first letter to start you out. (For this puzzle A follows Z.) Look up the scripture to check your answer.

“ P

____ N ____ S ____ R ____ M ____ L ____ R ____ F ____ C ____ U ____ F ____ M ____ J ____ C

____ Y ____ P ____ K ____ M ____ S ____ P ____ M ____ D ____ E ____ M ____ B ____ R ____ F ____ Y ____ R

____ W ____ C ____ K ____ Y ____ W ____ Z ____ C ____ Y ____ Z ____ J ____ C ____ R ____ M

____ Q ____ R ____ Y ____ L ____ B ____ Y ____ E ____ Y ____ G ____ L ____ Q ____ R ____ R ____ F ____ C

____ U ____ G ____ J ____ C ____ Q ____ M ____ D ____ R ____ F ____ C ____ B ____ C ____ T ____ G ____ J

(Ephesians 6:11).



Funstuf Answers

New Testament Scripture Pictures: (1) E, (2) A, (3) H, (4) F, (5) B, (6) D, (7) C, (8) G.
Caring Characteristics: gentleness.
Triangle Kite: 32.

For Little Friends



Talents Game

Everyone has talents. Heavenly Father wants us to enjoy our talents and the talents of others. He also wants us to use our talents to help people. Glue this page to heavy paper and then cut out the cards and stack them facedown. Feel free to make talent cards of your own and add them to the game.

Each time you play the game, someone is chosen to be "It." It pretends to be a person with a problem and tells the players about it. Each player in turn draws

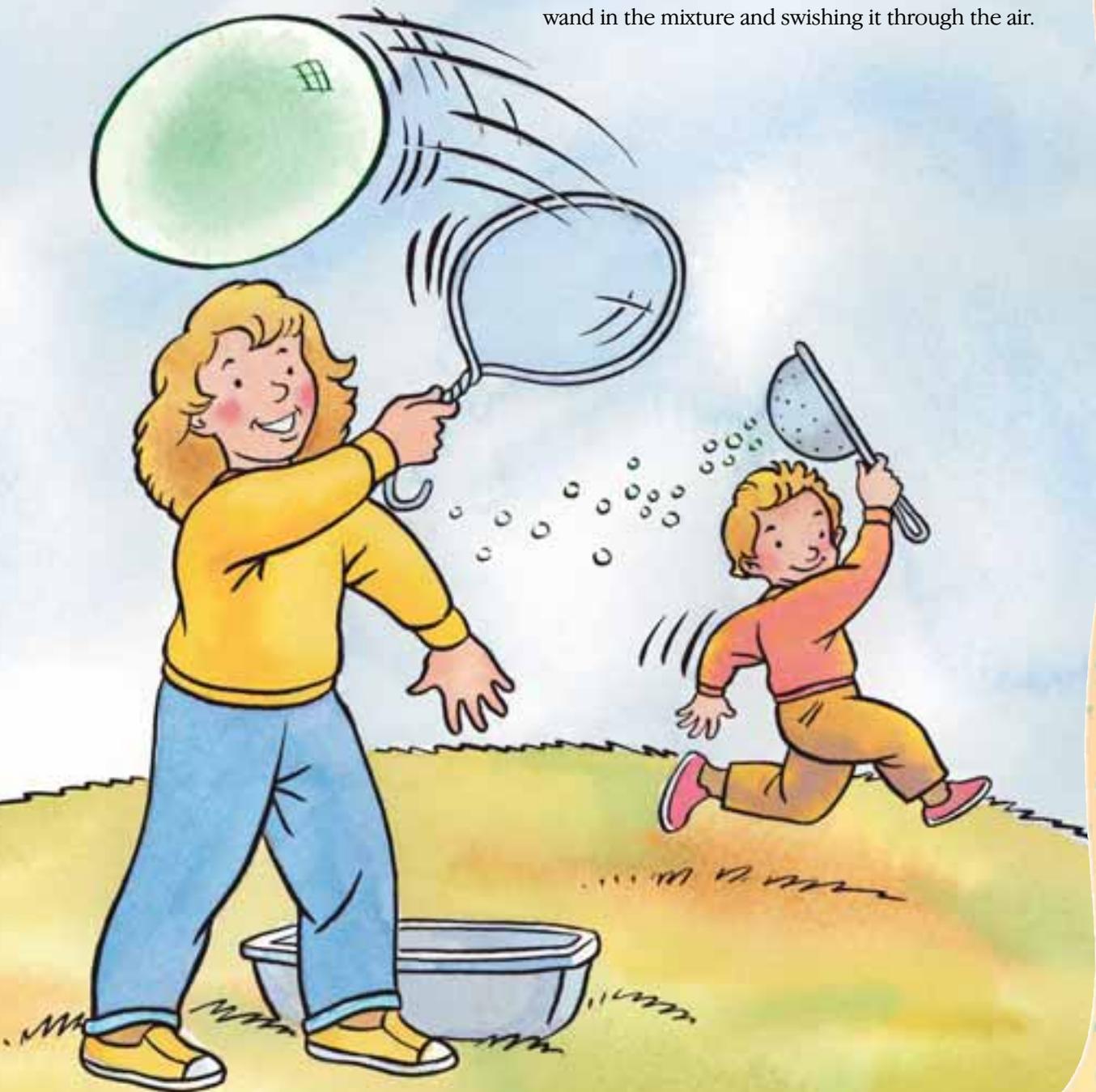
a card from the top of the pile, names the talent, and tells how that talent could be used to help It. Other players may then add their own thoughts. After each card, It tells how much (or how little) he or she has been helped. When all the cards have been used, if It feels "much better," everyone wins. If It doesn't feel much better, you still don't lose, because you tried. Note: Some cards may suggest different talents to different players.

Leprechaun Bubble Mix

BY DENISE KIRBY

- 1 cup grease-cutting dishwashing liquid**
- 10 cups distilled water**
- 3 tablespoons glycerin (available at drug stores)**
- green food coloring**

Mix all the ingredients (stir; don't shake) in a large bucket. Collect an assortment of large bubble wands. Hangers, colanders, spatulas—anything that has holes and can withstand being dunked in water will work. Use your imagination. Then head outdoors and fill the neighborhood with leprechaun bubbles by dipping the wand in the mixture and swishing it through the air.





Hannah

BY MARGARET WIMMER

(Based on a true story)

Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 18:4).

Hannah sat under the kitchen table, crying softly. “What’s wrong, Hannah?” Mama asked. “I can’t do anything right.”

Mama got under the table with her and held her close. “That’s not true.”

“Yes it is. I’m always making mistakes and having accidents.”

Mama thought a moment. Then she helped Hannah out from under the table. “Come with me,” she said. They went to the hallway mirror and looked at their reflections. “Do you know what I see, Hannah?”

Hannah stared at her reflection. “What?” she asked, still sniffing.

“A very important person who’s loved very much.”

Hannah smiled a little.

“And I see a beautiful smile, too. Daddy and I love you because you are special just the way you are.”

“But I can’t do anything right,” Hannah protested. “I spill my milk. I can’t tie my own shoes or button my shirt. I can’t even write all of my ABCs.”

“Hannah, you do a lot of things really well,” Mama reassured her. “You draw beautiful pictures of flowers and animals. You always talk kindly to our neighbor, Mrs.

Green. And how could I hang the laundry on the clothesline without you there to hand me the clothespins? You’re my helper.”

When Hannah still didn’t look convinced, Mama went to the closet and got out a picture album. She led Hannah to the sofa and opened the album. “Do you know who this baby is?” Mama asked.

Hannah smiled. “That’s me.” She loved looking at these pictures.

“And what a good baby you were! You couldn’t do anything for yourself yet, so Daddy and I fed you when you were hungry, washed you when you were dirty, and loved you with all our hearts.”

Hannah studied the picture.

Mama turned several pages. “This photo was taken when you were about one. You were just beginning to walk.”

“Did I fall a lot?”

Hannah asked.

“Yes, you did. But you always got up and tried again. Now you can run and jump and dance beautiful dances.”

They browsed on through the book and saw many pictures of Hannah. In each photo, she was a little older and able to do more things by herself.

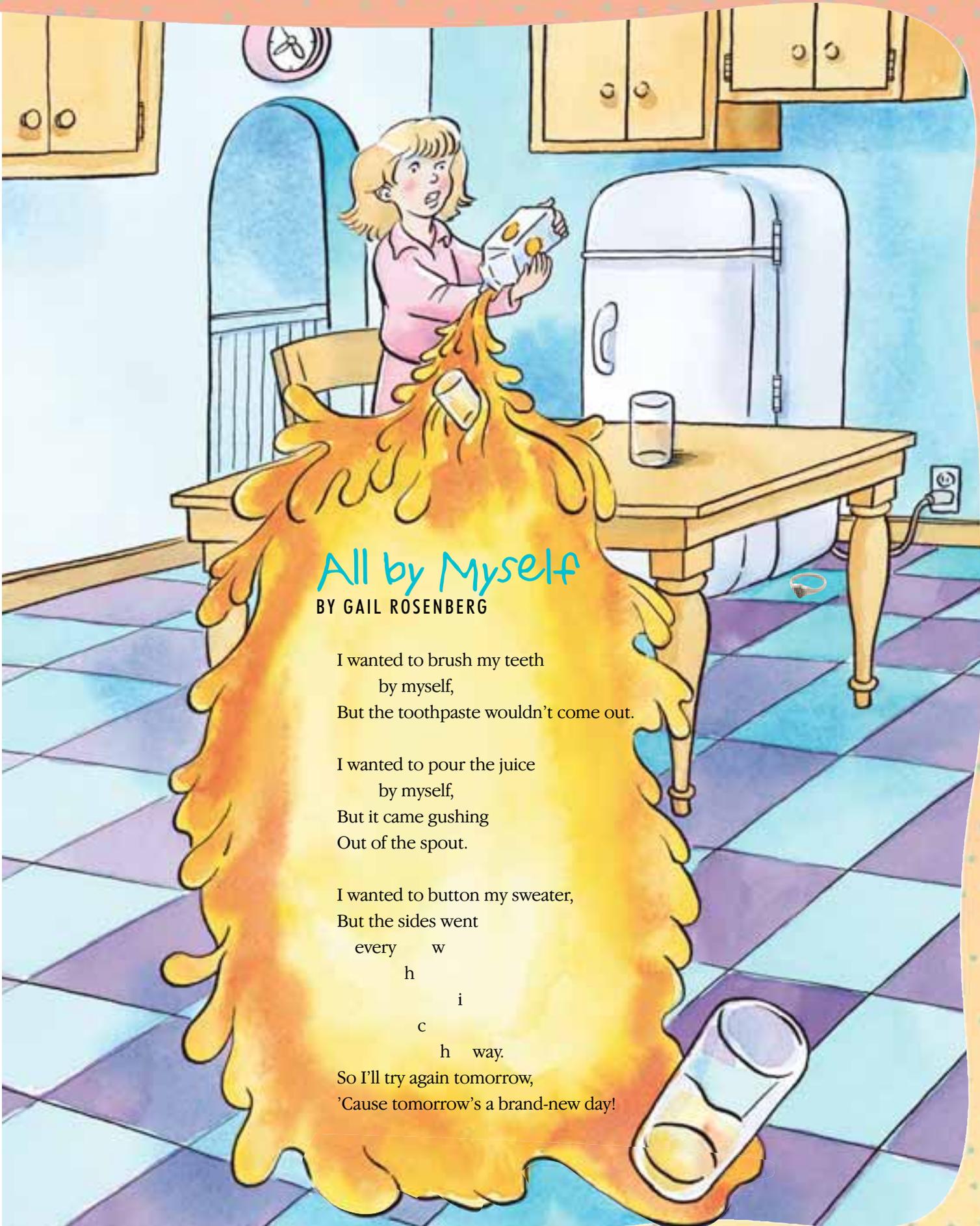
“Everything we learn

to do must be practiced over and over before we can do it well,” Mama said. “But remember that we will always love you, no matter what you can or can’t do.”

“Just like Heavenly Father loves us—just the way we are.” Hannah remembered learning this in Primary.

“That’s right. Heavenly Father loves us even when we’re not perfect. But He also helps us grow,” she added, hugging her special Hannah.





All by Myself

BY GAIL ROSENBERG

I wanted to brush my teeth
by myself,
But the toothpaste wouldn't come out.

I wanted to pour the juice
by myself,
But it came gushing
Out of the spout.

I wanted to button my sweater,
But the sides went
every w
h
i
c
h way.

So I'll try again tomorrow,
'Cause tomorrow's a brand-new day!

All of you are children of the most High (Psalm 82:6).

You have many gifts from God. Some of you are good at sports. Some are peacemakers. Some can make people laugh and feel better about themselves. Some know just when something needs to be done and do it. Some can sing or dance or do gymnastics. Some are good at math or science or spelling. Some have lots of good ideas for better ways to do things. Some are good with animals.

These are all wonderful gifts, but there are other gifts that Church members have. They are spiritual gifts, and all are needed in the Church. The Apostle Paul wrote about them in his first letter to the people of Corinth:

“No man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.

“Now there are diversities of [many different] gifts, but the same Spirit.

“And there are differences [in how these gifts are used], but the same Lord. . . .

“It is the same God which worketh all in all.”

(1 Corinthians 12:3–6.)

wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

“To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

“To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues [the ability to speak different languages]; to another the interpretation of tongues [understanding of different languages]” (verses 8–10).

Then Paul explains that we are to use these spiritual gifts for the good of the Church, and that because all are needed, we must not think that the gift we have is more important. He said that if “one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or [if] one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it” (verse 26).

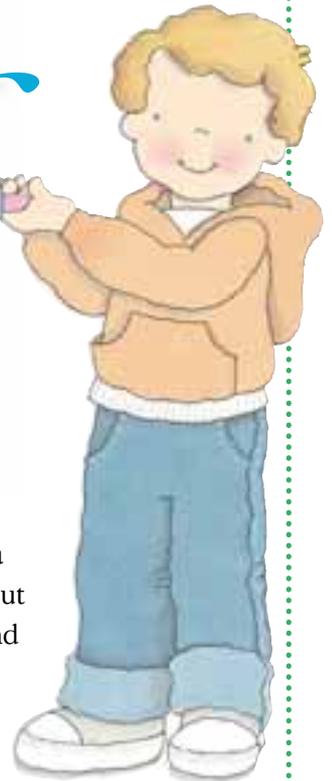
Finally, Paul said that we need to work hard to recognize the gifts we have and to help them grow so that we can help each other the very best we can.

Gifts from God

Paul lists many of these gifts, and says that each of us can recognize the gift or gifts we have from the Spirit:

“To one is given by the Spirit the word of

Instructions: Mount page 37 on a piece of white or colored paper, cut out the strips, then make loops and link them together with glue or staples to form a gifts chain. All gifts are important, and together they form a strong chain.



Sports  Sports  Sports

Faith  *Faith*  *Faith*

Music  Music  Music

Peacemaker  *Peacemaker*  *Peacemaker*

Math  Math  Math

Languages ^(Gift of Tongues)  *Languages* ^(Gift of Tongues)  *Languages* ^(Gift of Tongues)

Good with *Animals*  Good with *Animals*  Good with *Animals*

Prophecy  *Prophecy*  *Prophecy*

Friendly  Friendly  Friendly

Healing  *Healing*  *Healing*

Science  Science  Science

Wisdom  *Wisdom*  *Wisdom*

Our Creative Friends

Blue Bird

I see a blue bird in the sky.
Why, why does it get so high?
I see a blue bird in the sky.
Why, why does it fly so high?
Heavenly Father gave it wings
So it can fly over everything.

*Tabatha Keeler, age 7
Las Vegas, Nevada*

My Hero

My hero died on Calvary.
He took my sins upon Him
So I can live with Him again.
My hero on the third day rose
From the tomb.
He took away the world's gloom.
My hero is Jesus.
I love Jesus. He loves me.
I want to do all I can to live with Him again.

*Chelsey Earl, age 11
Magna, Utah*

Coda

Wags tail,
Leans down on both front paws,
Jumps,
Bites the grasshopper,
Chews and chews for minutes,
Then tries to catch another—
Coda will never give up!

*Hailee Richards, age 8
Silverdale, Washington*

The Beach

I feel the goldish brown sand under my feet.
I hear the graceful ocean beat.
I see the ocean and sky are one sheet.
I taste the salty water—phooey!
My mom's going to be mad at me.
I smell the salt water with glee.

*Josh Barringer, age 7
Charlotte, North Carolina*

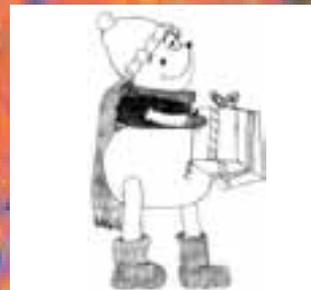
Temple

T is for truth inside.
E is for eternal covenants we make.
M is for mercy of the plan of salvation.
P is for people who do the work for their ancestors.
L is for the love that is sealed inside.
E is for ever (forever) as families should be.

*Nicole Martin, age 9
Raymond, Alberta, Canada*



*Garrett Wilford Perkins, age 9
Clay Springs, Arizona*



*Hayley Duckworth, age 11
Big Rapids, Michigan*



*Ryan Hoyne, age 6
Sandy, Utah*



*Alex Sheppert, age 4
Morgantown, West Virginia*



*Kegan Dales, age 5
Flemingsburg, Kentucky*



*Caleb L. West, age 6
Freeport, Illinois*



*Will Groesbeck, age 9
Kingwood, Texas*



*Angela Robinson, age 8
Alexandria, Virginia*



*Tyler Nelson, age 10
Kennewick, Washington*



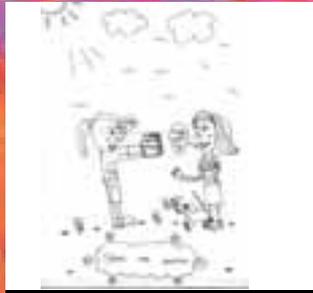
*Abigail Ellsworth, age 7
Greendale, Wisconsin*



*Dallin Harris, age 6
Meridian, Idaho*



*Rebekah Blair, age 3
Rancho Cordova, California*



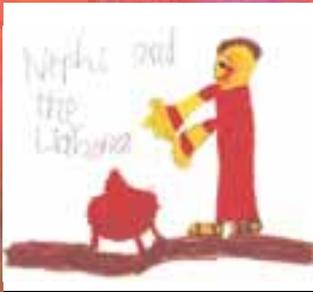
*Deedra Ramachandram, age 7
Malaysia*



*Bethany Campbell, age 10
Littleton, Colorado*



*Mabonrri Gutierrez Herrera, age 9
Oaxaca, Mexico*



*Elena Watts, age 6
Dayton, Nevada*



*Candace P. Fitisemanu, age 6
Mangere, New Zealand*



*Ariel Smith, age 10
Magna, Utah*



*Dallin Jeffs, age 6
Lafayette, Indiana*

The Christ Will Come Once Again

The Christ will come once again.
He will heal us one and all
And teach the people, big and small.
He will give His blessings to the true.

The Christ will come once again.
He'll teach us of things we should do
To follow Him, that we might be counted
Among the chosen few.

The Christ will come once again.
He will forgive us of our sin.
We will see where the nail marks have been.
With Him, eternal glory we can win.

The Christ will come once again.
We will understand His great sacrifice and sob.
For we know without a doubt
That this is He, the loving Son of God.

*Eleora S. Nelson, age 10
Riverton, Utah*

A Whisper

What's a whisper?
A river? A spring?
No, a whisper is
A quiet thing.
A whisper is
Like a little mouse,
Small and smart,
Unlike a huge house.

Whispers are for rainy days,
For laughing, secrets, anything.
Whispers make me so happy that
I want to sing.

Whispers are delicate,
Tiny and quiet,
Most unlikely
To cause a riot.

*Leah Davis, age 9
Tucson, Arizona*

Jesus

Oh my! Oh my!
Jesus is coming to earth.
I clap my hands,
1, 2, 3,
And give Him a flower
That you can see.

*Amber Lewis, age 6
Idaho Falls, Idaho*

*Lynelle Thompson, age 6
Long Beach, California*



The Rainbow's Magic

The rainbow seems to be taking me to another world.
Its beauty seems like magic when I try to reach out and
touch it.

I can hear the thunder calling the rainbow to follow it.
Its beauty is as lovely as a bird's morning song.
When it fades, it is as though I have lost a special friend.

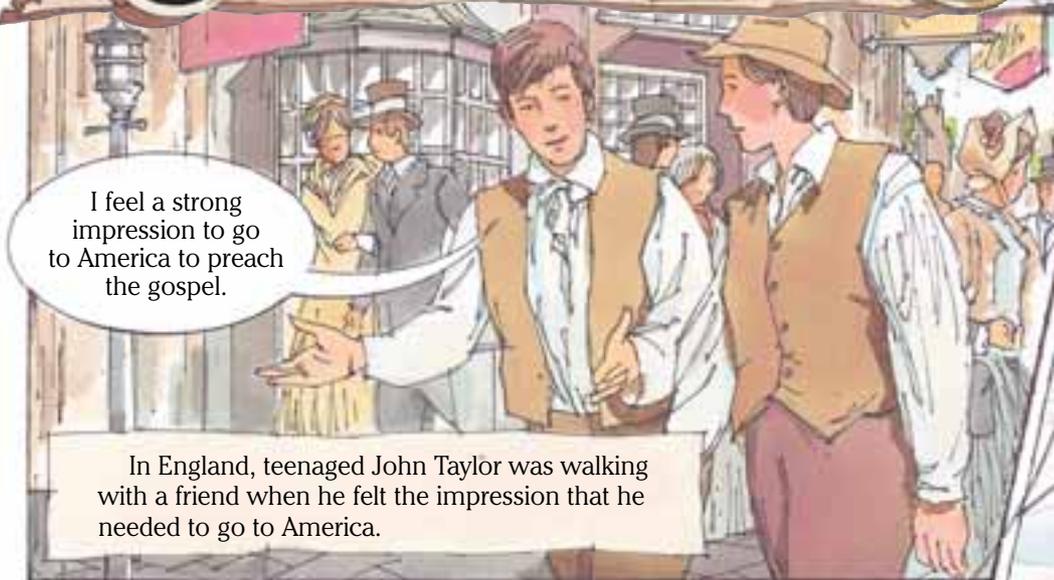
*Emma Bowen, age 9
Niwot, Colorado*



From the Life of President John Taylor

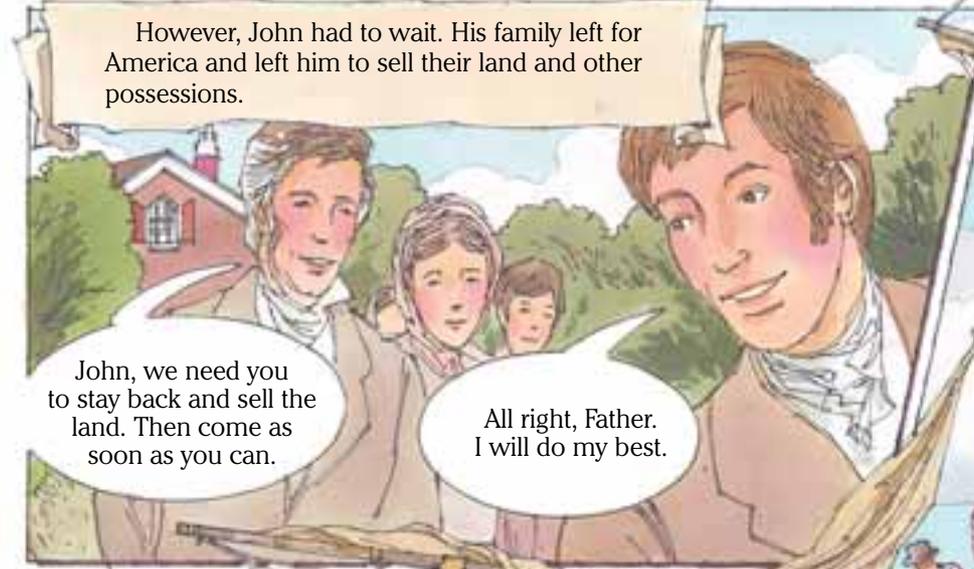


Going to America



I feel a strong impression to go to America to preach the gospel.

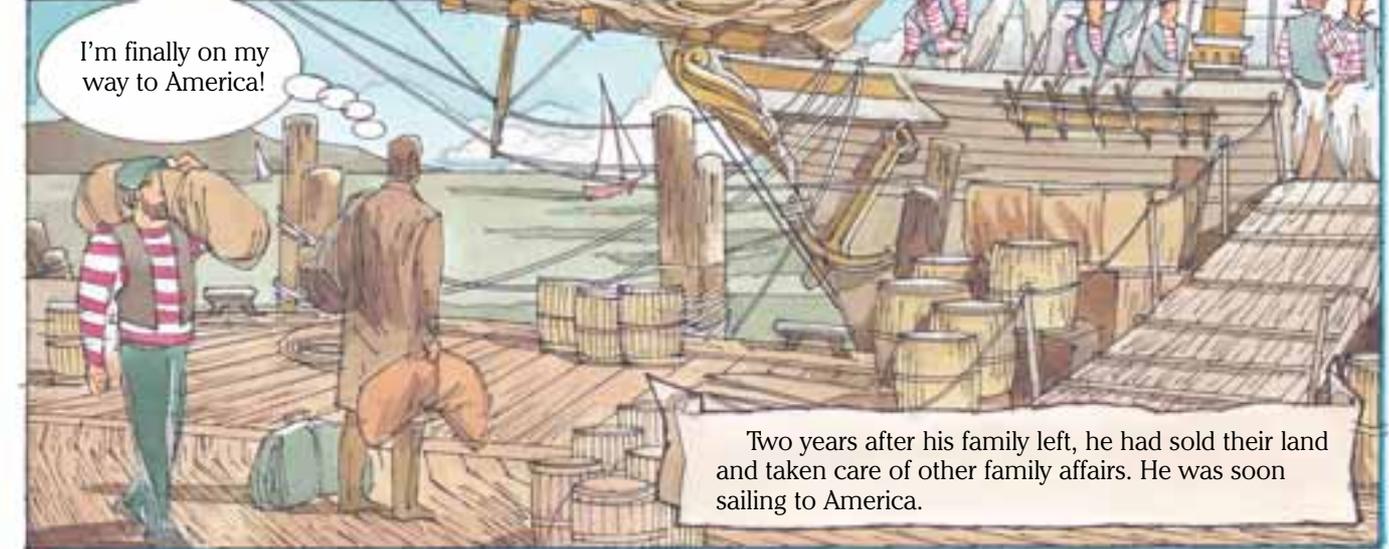
In England, teenaged John Taylor was walking with a friend when he felt the impression that he needed to go to America.



However, John had to wait. His family left for America and left him to sell their land and other possessions.

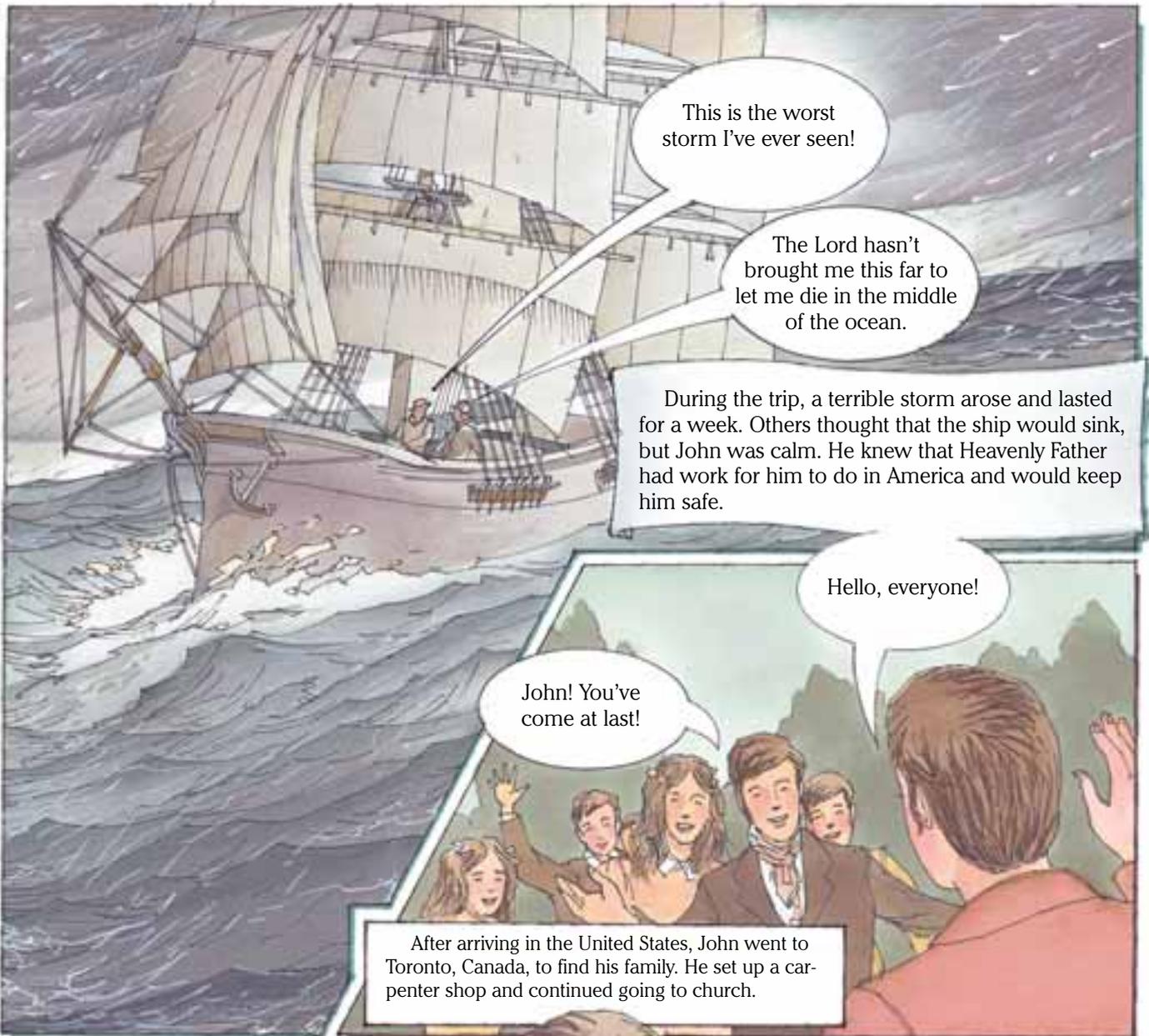
John, we need you to stay back and sell the land. Then come as soon as you can.

All right, Father. I will do my best.



I'm finally on my way to America!

Two years after his family left, he had sold their land and taken care of other family affairs. He was soon sailing to America.



This is the worst storm I've ever seen!

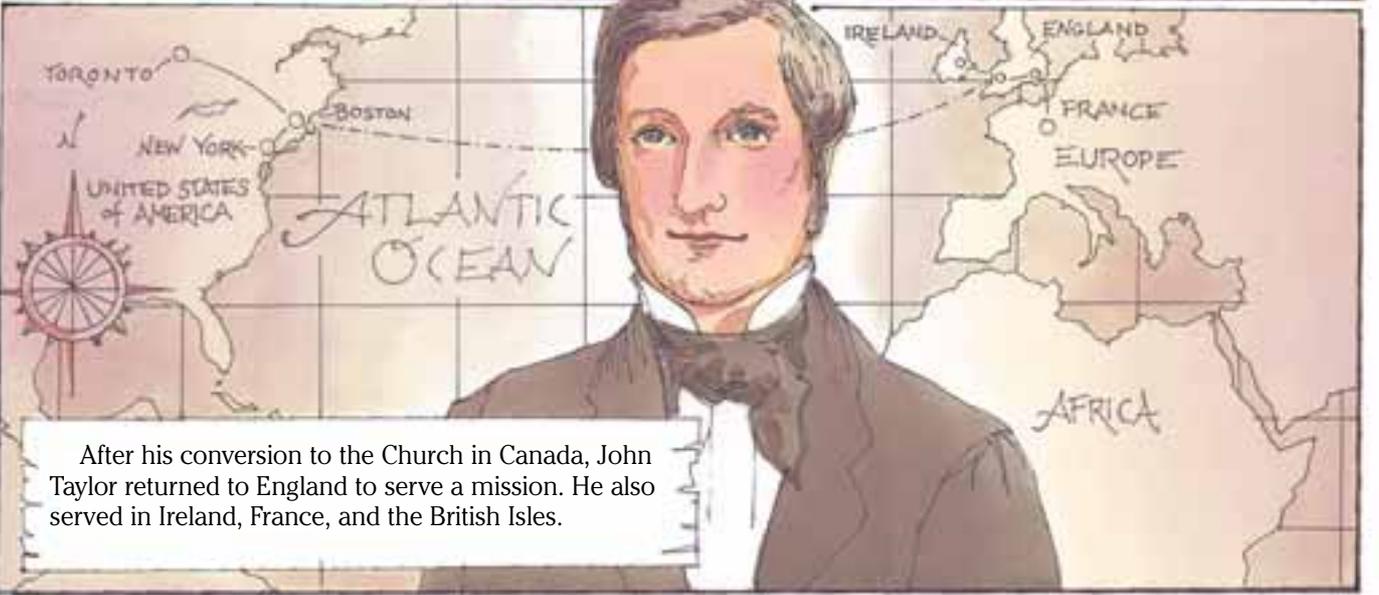
The Lord hasn't brought me this far to let me die in the middle of the ocean.

During the trip, a terrible storm arose and lasted for a week. Others thought that the ship would sink, but John was calm. He knew that Heavenly Father had work for him to do in America and would keep him safe.

Hello, everyone!

John! You've come at last!

After arriving in the United States, John went to Toronto, Canada, to find his family. He set up a carpenter shop and continued going to church.



After his conversion to the Church in Canada, John Taylor returned to England to serve a mission. He also served in Ireland, France, and the British Isles.

(Ensign, June 1993, 9; February 1980, 53-54.)

Trying to Be Like Jesus

He that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life (John 8:12).



Red Wagon

By Tyler, Nicole, and Ryan Best

One spring day, we were playing in our front yard. A very old, rusty, and dented van pulled up and parked on our street. A tiny old lady got out. She didn't seem very strong. She opened the back of her van and



gathered in her arms many heavy, new, yellow-page phone books. She began to deliver them to the houses on our street.

We watched as she delivered the few she could carry and then went back to her van to get more. It took her quite a while to do just a few. They looked heavy!

Mom thought we could let her use our red wagon to put the books in. She could pull it around our neighborhood. The four of us went over to talk to her. She said that the wagon would be helpful because the books get heavy, especially when she delivered them in office buildings.

We ended up giving her our red wagon to keep. Even though we liked playing with it, we knew that she needed it more than we did.

Several days later, as we were driving to school, we saw our tiny friend with the wagon, delivering more books. We felt really good knowing that we were trying to be like Jesus!

Ryan, Tyler, and Nicole Best, ages 5, 9, and 7, are members of Hermosa Vista Ward, Mesa Arizona Citrus Heights Stake.

Helping

By Aura Laineenkare

Many times I have helped my grandma to cook food, and my mom to clean.

Aura Laineenkare, age 6, is a member of Turun First Ward, Tampereen Finland Stake.



Special Day

By Chelsea Bohonis-Schiemann

Do you know what my favorite day is? Saturday! You get to relax. You can do whatever you want. (Well, but you do have to clean your room.) But if you think about it, Sunday is a special day, too. You get to go to church. You also get to relax. Well, you're not supposed to buy things, and you're supposed to keep the Sabbath Day holy, but you shouldn't need to work.

When I was about five years old, one of my best friends invited me to his birthday party. I was so excited! But when I got home and gave Mom the invitation, she told me that it was on a Sunday. She didn't say that I couldn't go, but she didn't say that I could. She said that I should pray about it.

So I prayed about it. About five days before the party, I thought, "What would I do if Jesus were here—go or don't go to the party? I don't think I would go if He were here."

So I called my friend and said, "I can't come to the party because it's on a Sunday." He said, "That's fine." I felt disappointed, but I knew that it was the right thing to do.

Chelsea Bohonis-Schiemann, age 9, is a member of Vancouver First Ward, Vancouver British Columbia Stake.



Being Honest

By Eric Steven Eckersley

One day after school, when we were waiting for the school bus, a friend who was in another class gave me an expensive video game. My parents wondered if

my friend's parents knew that he had given it to me. We agreed that if his parents wrote a note that it was OK, I could keep it.

I didn't know my friend's last name, so the next day, I took the game to my teacher and explained about it. My teacher took the game to my friend's teacher, who called his parents. My friend's parents didn't want him to give away the game, so he took it home. Both teachers were impressed with how honest I was, and my teacher even e-mailed my mom about it. I was glad that I did the right thing.

Eric Steven Eckersley, age 7, is a member of Spring Branch, Katy Texas Stake.



First, Clean Up

By Wellesley Shumway

One day, my brother and I were at our friend's house. I was painting. My friend wanted to paint, too.

"First," his mom said, "you must clean up your toys."

I helped him clean up his toys. When we were done, I was glad that I had helped him. I am thankful that I can learn and try to be like Jesus Christ.

Wellesley Shumway, age 6, is a member of Edgemont Sixth Ward, Provo Utah Edgemont Stake.



Choose the Right

BY ROBERT PETERSON



These boys know that it is important to help each other choose the right. Can you help them find the following items hidden in the picture: an ax, a basketball, a bird, a comb, a cupcake, a feather, an ice-cream cone, a saltshaker, a screwdriver, a shark, a spoon, and a swan? Then color the picture.

Friends in the News



Tyler Cook, 8, Las Vegas, Nevada, is excited to be a Cub Scout. He likes to play computer games, and he is a very good artist.



Cassandra Mingl, 4, Sydney, Australia, likes her Sunbeam class. She enjoys swimming, going to the beach, and dancing. She sings Primary songs to anyone who will listen.



Stephen Clarkson, 11, Corpus Christi, Texas, enjoys school and was recognized as Most Outstanding Boy in his fifth grade class. He reads his scriptures and prays daily, and he is kind and honest.



Kathleen Uplasi Pau, 8, Independence, Missouri, likes to play sports with her friend Melonie. Kathleen was very happy when her dad baptized her. She likes Activity Days, singing, reading, and writing.



Joaquin Barrios Vega, 7, Salt Lake City, Utah, was born in Uruguay. He recently won a contest for young writers and illustrators. He loves the gospel and is eager to be baptized.



Jenna Sutherland, 5, Meridian, Idaho, loves babies. Her favorite food is Chinese noodles. She enjoys gymnastics. This is a surprise from her older sister Kylie.



A talented soccer player, **Jacob Curtis**, 7, Temecula, California, likes to read, ride his bike, and play computer games. He is looking forward to being a missionary, like his older brother.



Lyndee Shane Manning, 3, West Des Moines, Iowa, likes to sing, draw, dance, and listen to music. She likes to play with her brother Andrew and help care for her baby brother, Gage.



A good storyteller, **Lincoln Last**, 5, Hurricane, Utah, keeps his family entertained around the dinner table. His favorite family activity is boating. He is good at creating things with plastic building blocks.



Chasity Estes, 11, Port Neches, Texas, likes to ride horses, dance ballet, cheerlead, and play the piano. Last year in school she received the President's Award.



Lochlan Hunter Quiner, 3, Kodiak Island, Alaska, likes books, playing with his sister Cecily, going to church, and making people smile. He loves his family. He enjoys the outdoors, bugs, and dancing.



Kelsie Houghtaling, 7, Astoria, Oregon, likes to play the piano, ride horses, and go to church. She loves her older brother and sister. She is her family's "precious gift from Heavenly Father."



Brady England, 5, Mason, Ohio, likes soccer and scooters. He enjoys visiting cousins and grandparents across the country and has been in 19 states. He helps take good care of his baby brother, Tanner.



Cambria Reagan, 4, Centennial, Colorado, loves to see the Denver Temple near her home. She and her family have visited the Salt Lake Temple. Her family is eager to see the Nauvoo Temple.



Jared Nardone, 7, Vandenberg Air Force Base, California, is usually very cheerful. He enjoys basketball and soccer. He likes spending time with his family and always has a smile on his face.



Andrea Shaw, 9, New Hyde Park, New York, enjoys cheerleading and soccer. She wants to be a singer when she grows up. She likes Primary, playing with her older sister, Ellen, and drawing.



Zachary Strickland, 4, Knoxville, Tennessee, enjoys playing games with Mom and Dad. He learned to read by reading the Book of Mormon with his family. His favorite verses begin, "And it came to pass. . ."



Kristen Sampson, 10, Hamlet, North Carolina, enjoys Activity Days and has already earned her Gospel in Action Award. She likes homeschool, drawing, attending church, and serving others.



Jared Nay, 10, Centerville, Utah, likes basketball and his dogs. His family often hears him singing Primary songs around the house. He likes to give family home evening lessons from the *Friend*.



Kaylee Carter Sokol, 8, Bakersfield, California, is a kind and loving friend to all. She wants to do what Jesus would do. Her favorite things are reading, playing games, and collecting rocks.



Matthew Stewart, 4, Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada, likes playing hockey and soccer and going to the park. He loves to bear his testimony. He likes wrestling with his dad and with his brother, Parker.



Ana Sofia Cabrera Sollo, 7, Oaxaca, Mexico, likes to study the scriptures, jump rope, play with dolls, have pretend dinner parties, tend the baby, and play tag. She loves visiting her grandmothers and aunts.



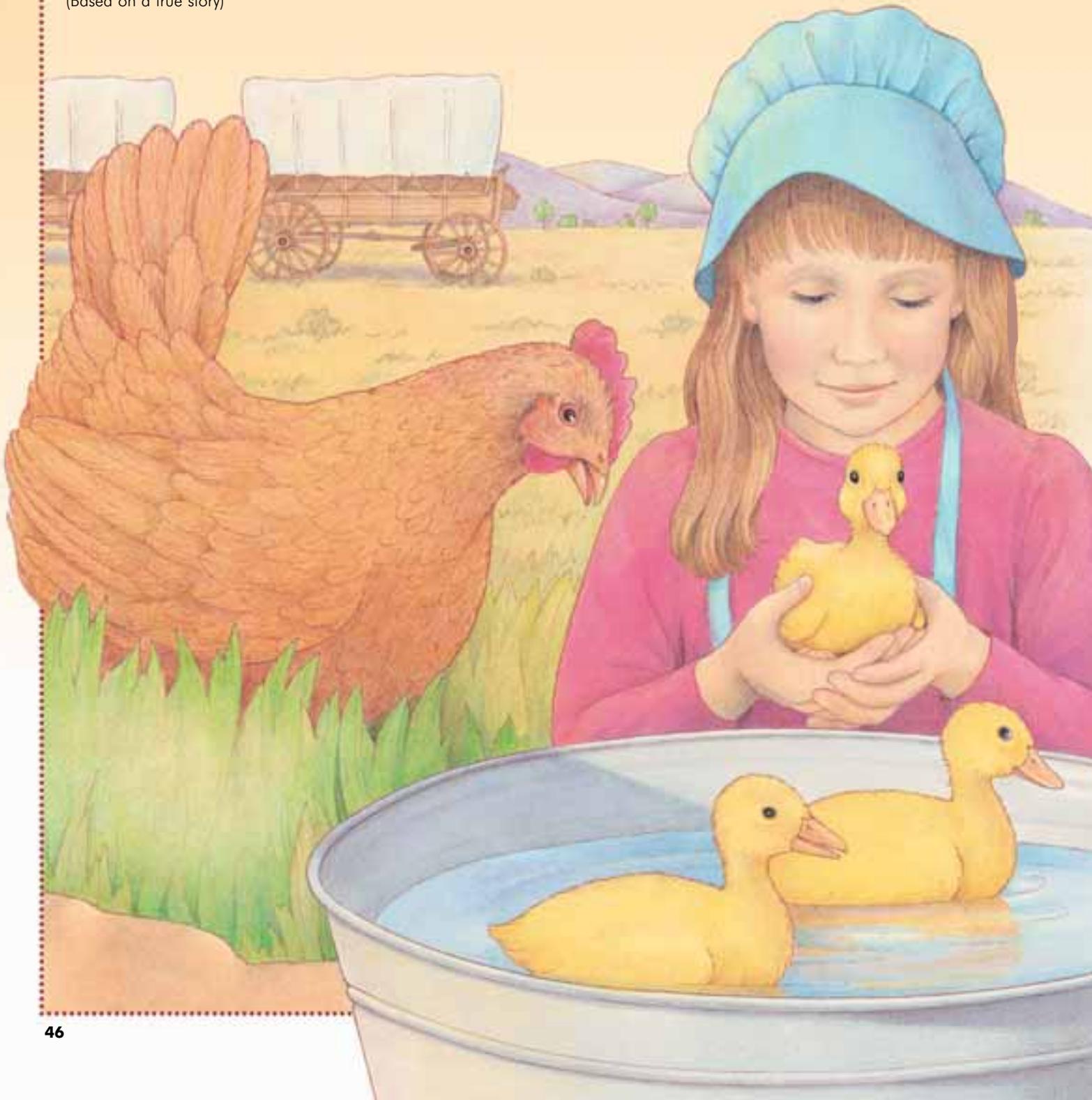
Jace Paul, 6, South Jordan, Utah, is eager to be baptized with his three cousins when they all turn eight. He hopes to be a missionary someday. He enjoys fishing, camping, reading, and building with blocks.



Like her daddy, **Marissa Ross**, 5, Catoosa, Oklahoma, likes the outdoors. She helps take care of her baby brother, Brandon. Drawing, reading, and playing with dolls are also favorite activities.

Grandma Emily's Chicken

BY SARA LEWIS
(Based on a true story)



His people . . . are willing to bear one another's burdens, that they may be light (Mosiah 18:8).

Rachel ran through the living room and rushed up the stairs to her bedroom. She and her best friend, Becca, were going to the park to try out Becca's new rollerblades.

As Rachel was pulling her own rollerblades out from under her bed, Mom came into the room. "I'm going over to Sister Heaton's for a few hours, and I need you to stay with David."

"But Becca and I are going to the park right now!"

"I'm sorry to ruin your plans, Rachel, but Sister Heaton still isn't feeling well after her operation, and I promised to help take care of her today. David will be up from his nap in about a half hour, and then you two can play for a while until Dad gets home."

"But I don't want to play with David—I want to go to the park!"

"I know you do, but today you need to stay home and take care of your little brother. You can go to the park tomorrow. I'm sorry, but Sister Heaton needs me, and I need you to help me."

As Rachel watched Mom going down the street, she was so angry that she almost cried. Why did she have to take care of David? It wasn't fair that she had to give up a trip to the park just so her mom could take care of somebody.

She called Becca to tell her the bad news, and as she hung up the phone, the doorbell rang. It was Aunt Pearl, her mom's younger sister.

"Hi, Aunt Pearl. Mom's not here."

"That's OK—I can't stay. I just came to return your mom's sewing machine. Mine is fixed

now, so I don't need hers anymore. And I thought that maybe I'd spend a few minutes with my favorite niece!"

Rachel gave her a weak smile and tried to seem happy, but Aunt Pearl noticed Rachel wasn't really feeling happy.

"What's wrong?"

"Oh, I was going to go to the park with Becca, but Mom told me I had to stay and take care of David so she could help a woman in our ward."

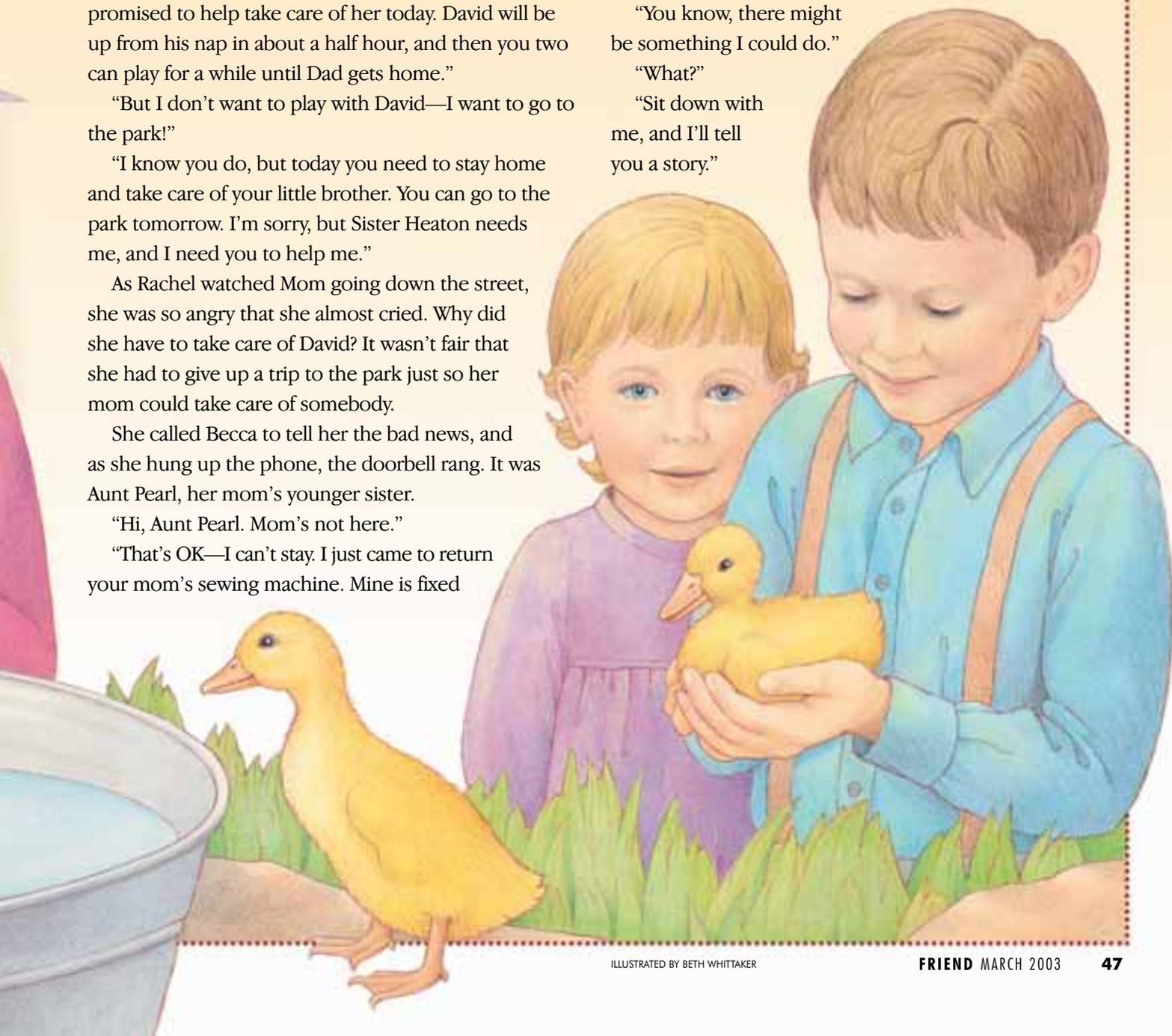
"That's too bad. If it were any other day but today, I'd stay so you could be with your friend. But I have a doctor's appointment, and I can't reschedule it."

"I guess I'll be OK. It's just that I really wanted to go to the park today."

"You know, there might be something I could do."

"What?"

"Sit down with me, and I'll tell you a story."



Rachel wasn't sure a story would fix things—a story couldn't baby-sit for her. But Aunt Pearl usually knew what she was talking about, so Rachel followed her to the couch.

“When your great-great-grandmother Emily Burk left Nauvoo to come west, she had an old hen she wanted to bring with her. It had been doing something rather unusual—sitting on a nest of duck eggs—and Emily just couldn't leave her behind. So she set up a box in the wagon for the nest. Soon the ducklings hatched, and every night when the wagon train stopped, Emily filled a washtub with water and let the little ducks swim. Everyone in camp came to watch them.

“You see, Rachel, part of being a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is helping others. There's even a scripture in the Book of Mormon that tells us how important it is to 'bear one another's burdens' [Mosiah 18:8]. Heavenly Father wants us to take care of those who can't take care of themselves.”

“You mean, just like Emily took care of the chicken and like the chicken took care of the ducks?”

“And just like the Lord took care of the pioneers and how He still takes care of all of us. He wants us to be happy, so He watches over us.”

“Why doesn't He take care of Sister Heaton instead of having Mom do it?”

“That's how He is taking care of Sister Heaton—through your mother. Most of the time Heavenly Father answers our prayers through someone else.”

“So Mom is Heavenly Father's answer to Sister Heaton's prayers?”

“Probably. Your mother is helping Sister Heaton rest and get her mind off her troubles, sort of like those

ducklings helped the tired pioneers find a little bit of enjoyment at the end of their long days.”

“But why do I have to baby-sit?”

“So your mom can help Sister Heaton. The ducks wouldn't have been able to bring some enjoyment to the pioneers if the chicken hadn't cared for them. Your mom wouldn't be able to help Sister Heaton if she did not know you would take good care of your brother while she's gone.”

“So, in a way, I'm helping Sister Heaton too?”

“In a very big way.”

“Then I guess I don't feel so bad about waiting until tomorrow to go skating.”

“I'm glad you think so.”

As Aunt Pearl left, Rachel heard David waking up. On her way upstairs to get him, she thought more about what Aunt Pearl had said. Rachel was still a bit disappointed to miss out on the trip to the park, but it helped to know that taking care of David helped Heavenly Father take care of Sister Heaton. ●



“As we keep the commandments and [serve], the Lord can 'pour out his Spirit more abundantly upon [us]' (Mosiah 18:10; see D&C 20:77). The reward for obedience and service is not

only the gift of the Holy Ghost but also special gifts of the Spirit. Paul defines the fruits of the Spirit as love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, and meekness (see Galatians 5:22–23). The Holy Spirit blesses us with Christlike attributes as we serve each other.”

Elder Merrill J. Bateman
Of the Seventy
(*Ensign*, Jan. 1999, 10.)



Guide to the *Friend*



The Guide to the Friend can help you find stories or articles for preparing lessons or talks for church or for family home evening. Look for the FHE symbol on the pages mentioned in the Family Home Evening Ideas. The Primary theme for March is "I know who I am."



Family Home Evening Ideas

1. Tell the story "Talents" (pp. 4–7). Talk about the different kinds of talents people are blessed with. Invite family members to point out each other's talents. Make a copy of pages 24–25 for everyone and spend some time coloring the picture. Hang the finished pictures throughout your house.
2. Begin by reading "Powerful Ideas" by Elder Dallin H. Oaks (p. 17). Then tell the story "Gift from Alice" (pp. 14–16). How did Katie and her family help Alice? How did Alice help them? Is there someone you can help this week?
3. Do two activities using the scriptures. First, memorize "New Testament Riddle" (p. 27), and repeat it to your family. Help them to come up with the right answers by



See pages 14–16.

- telling the story in John 11:1–44. Then pass out copies of "Proper Clothing" (p. 31) and work the puzzle. Check your answers in Ephesians 6:11.
4. Invite a young family member to tell the story "Hannah" (p. 34). Pass a mirror around. As each person looks at his or her reflection, have each say something like "I am a child of God, and He will help me to grow and to develop my talents." End with the poem "All by Myself" (p. 35).
5. Take turns telling the experiences of the children fea-

tured in the Trying to Be Like Jesus section (pp. 42–43). Invite each family member to take a turn telling something he or she has done or plans to do to show that he or she follows the Savior.



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*All of you are children
of the most High
(Psalm 82:6).*