

the Friend

JANUARY • 2004





Heavenly Father Is There

A few months ago, my mama read a story to me from the *Friend*. It was about a little boy who wanted to know if Heavenly Father was real (“Micah’s Miracle,” October 2002, 4–6). One night he had a terrible nightmare. When he woke up, he prayed for help to feel safe. At the same moment, his dad woke up and decided that he should check on his son. When his dad came, the little boy knew that his prayer had been answered and that Heavenly Father really was there and loved him.

Shortly after hearing this story, I was playing with my little brother Samuel (3) on the balcony of our home. Before I knew it, Samuel had closed the door and locked me on the outside. I couldn’t open the door and started shouting for someone to come and open it. But no one heard me. I remembered the story, so I decided to pray that my mama would know where to look for me. At the same time, Mama felt that she should look for me, and she decided to check the balcony first. I was really excited because I had had an answer to my prayer, just like the little boy in the story. I know that Heavenly Father is there and answers my prayers.

*Emily Erlacher, age 5
Lichtenberg, Austria*

A Family Forever

My family lives on a half-acre of land. We have 27 fruit trees and eight grapevines that we can pick fruit from. It is fun to eat fruit and watch it grow. The prophet has asked us to grow our own food. We like to listen to the prophet.

We also listen to him when he says to go to the temple. Our family was sealed in the Mesa Arizona Temple on 23 May 2002. We can now be a family forever! We do not need to worry about when we die or after we die. The sealing power is forever, like the prophet and Heavenly Father promised.

I like to play the piano. I was asked to play “Families Can Be Together Forever” in sacrament meeting. It was special to me because we had just been sealed. That song means more to me now than when I first learned it, because now it can come true. I am thankful that we were sealed and that Heavenly Father loves children.

*Tauni Marie Wiessner, age 6
Gilbert, Arizona*



Don’t Drink That

One day I was playing at my friend Jon’s house. He offered me something to drink.

It looked like juice, but I felt something inside that said, “Don’t drink that.” So I said, “I’ll have water.” I found out later that the drink he offered me was iced tea. I am grateful that the Holy Ghost can tell us what not to do if we listen inside our hearts.

*Jennifer Bement, age 9
Kent, Washington*



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the friend

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



HIDDEN CTR RING

Even though Primary children all over the world speak different languages, we're all learning the same thing: to become like Jesus Christ by choosing the right. In each issue of the *Friend* this year, we have hidden a picture of a CTR ring in a different language. As you look for the English CTR ring hidden in this issue, remember to follow the Savior's example by treating people kindly.





Come Listen to
a Prophet's Voice

More Blessed to Give

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



Giving to those in need is important. President Monson tells of a Sunday School teacher who taught him to share.

I express gratitude for a Sunday School teacher [named] Lucy Gertsch. She was beautiful, soft-spoken, and interested in us. She made the scriptures actually come to life.

We undertook a project to save nickels and dimes for what was to be a gigantic party. Sister Gertsch kept a careful record of our progress. As boys and girls with typical appetites, we [imagined] cakes, cookies, pies, and ice cream. This was to be a glorious occasion—the biggest party ever.

None of us will forget that gray Sunday morning in January when our beloved teacher announced to us that the mother of one of our classmates had passed away. We thought of our own mothers and how much they meant to us. We felt sorrow for Billy Devenport in his great loss.

The lesson that day was from the book of Acts, chapter 20, verse 35: “Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.” Lucy Gertsch asked, “How would you like

to follow this teaching of the Lord?

How would you feel about taking your party fund and, as a class, giving it to the Devenports as an expression of our love?” The decision was unanimous. We counted very carefully each penny and placed the total sum in a large envelope.

Ever shall I remember the tiny band walking those three city blocks, entering Billy’s home, greeting him, his brother, sisters, and father. Noticeably absent was his mother. Always I shall treasure the tears which glistened in the eyes of each one present as the white envelope containing our precious party fund passed from the delicate hand of our teacher to the needy hand of a grief-stricken father. We fairly skipped our way back to the chapel. Our hearts were lighter than they had ever been, our joy more full, our understanding more profound. We [had] learned through our own experience that indeed it is more blessed to give than to receive. ●

From an April 1992 general conference address.



Lost in a Blizzard



BY DANNY AND LINDI ANDERSON

(Based on a true story)

Yea, humble yourselves, and continue in prayer unto him (Alma 34:19).

I stood with my face pressed against the window, trying to see the shed next to our house. For three days, the whirling, howling wind had threatened to blow our house down. We were in the middle of a big blizzard. My family was living in Wisdom, Montana, where Dad was working on a large cattle ranch. He said I was his best cowhand, aside from Mom, of course.

“Danny, it’s time to go feed the cows,” Mom called as she walked into the room carrying my two-year-old sister Brenda. My other sister, June, trailed behind.

We bundled up in our coats, hats, and gloves, and climbed into the red pickup. “We should have a truck

with four-wheel-drive in these conditions,” Dad said, shaking his head. Mom looked at Dad with concern. But she knew that the cattle must be fed, even in a fierce storm like this.

The raging wind yanked the truck from side to side as we drove to the haystack. A frozen snowdrift completely covered the fence. It was frozen so hard that the cows could walk right over it and eat the hay.

When Dad opened the truck door and jumped out, a cold blast of wind made us huddle in our coats. It took Dad a long time to dig the tractor out of the snow and load it with hay. It took even longer to move the hay to where the cows could eat it. The wind kept blowing it away.

Finally the cattle were fed, and we headed for home. The wind had picked up speed and was blowing snow from the open fields all around us, surrounding us with white. Snow had also blown across the road, creating huge snowdrifts. Dad had to speed up before each snowdrift. Without a running start, the truck couldn’t make it through them. It seemed like it took forever just to go a short distance.

About the time Mom said we were a mile from home, we hit a drift that stopped us in our tracks. Dad and Mom worked for some time to dig us out, but we stayed stuck. They climbed back into the truck and Dad thought for a moment.

“Danny,” he said, “you and I will walk to the house and come back for Mom and the girls on the snowmobiles.”

“Good idea, Dad!” I exclaimed. Excitement welled up inside me. I loved riding the snowmobiles! I slid out of the truck and walked in Dad’s footprints through the snowdrifts toward home. Even though the wind threatened to knock me down, and the snow blowing against my face felt like bundles of knives skinning me, I still felt like I was having a great adventure with Dad.

Anticipation kept my feet going until we arrived at the shed with the snowmobiles. I looked up at Dad. “Can I ride up over the hill?” I asked. “I’ll stay alongside the road and then go on down to the truck.”

“No, Son. Please stay on the road,” Dad said without hesitation. He turned and looked right at me. “Blizzards are very dangerous, Danny. You need to stay on the road and go straight to the truck. Do you understand?”

“Yes, Dad.”

He started a snowmobile for me. “Can I go now?” I asked.

“OK, but remember to stay on the road. It will guide you back to the truck.”

I climbed on the snowmobile and headed out. “I’ll go over the hill. It will be faster. I can beat Dad back to the truck,” I thought once I was out of Dad’s sight. I quickly turned and drove up the hill. The wind swirled around me and I was having trouble seeing very far ahead. But I was having fun. Surely I could beat Dad to the truck.

I rode and rode in what I thought was the right direction. No truck. I rode further. Still no truck. Fear started to creep up inside me. “I should be to the truck by now.” I came to a large ravine, stopped, and looked around, trying to recognize my surroundings.

“Where am I?” This wasn’t fun anymore. My glorious adventure was gone, and I was freezing! The wind yanked at me. It was so loud I couldn’t think.

I was lost and plain scared. “What can I do?” I remembered Dad’s words and how I had disobeyed him. I closed my eyes tight, trying to hold back the tears. Suddenly I realized I could die in this blizzard!

“Oh please, someone help me.” My words were scattered by the wind just as the hay had been.

Then I felt a warm, tingling feeling spread over me like a blanket. I knew what I needed to do. I quickly climbed off the snowmobile and knelt beside it to offer a simple prayer. “Heavenly Father,” I said, “I’m lost. I’m sorry I disobeyed Dad. Please help me get home.”

As soon as I finished my prayer, a feeling inside me said, “Look up.” I looked up and saw the power lines. This was the way home and an answer to my prayer!

I hopped back on my snowmobile and carefully followed the power lines back to the house. Leaving my snowmobile running, I ran inside to see if Dad had made it back with Mom and the girls. No one was there. I turned and ran back outside, jumped on the snowmobile, and started for the truck, this time following the road. But I only made it a few yards when the snowmobile ran out of gas. I was so



cold! I ran back inside and curled up in a sleeping bag to warm up.

Moments later, Dad, Mom, and my sisters arrived home on the other snowmobile.

“Danny!” Mom exclaimed as she rushed in, pulled me to her, and held me tight. “What happened? Why didn’t you make it to the truck?”

I looked up into her eyes and told the truth: I had disobeyed Dad and gotten lost. “Mom, I know Heavenly Father loves me because I made it home safe again. He answered my prayer today.” ●

Danny and Lindi Anderson are members of the Ashley First Ward, Vernal Utah Maeser Stake.



“The Lord will hear your prayers in time of need.”

Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “The Power of a Strong Testimony,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2001, 88.



Whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven (Matthew 16:19).

My mother died when I was five years old. We lived in Guatemala City, Guatemala, and at that time we were not members of the Church. My father believed in God but didn't know anything about the plan of salvation or



what had become of his wife's spirit. It was hard for him to raise four children alone.

When I was about 12 years old, my sister saw two missionaries walking past our house and invited them in. They taught us the gospel, and after a few weeks my sister and I decided to be baptized. But my father wasn't sure. A brother in the

Blessings of the

BY ELDER ENRIQUE R. FALABELLA
Area Authority Seventy, Central America Area



My sister saw two missionaries walking past our house and invited them in.

ward visited him and left a pamphlet about the plan of salvation. When my father read that our family could be together forever, he knew he wanted to join the Church. It was the answer to his hopes and dreams.

At that time the nearest temple was in Mesa, Arizona, in the United States. It was difficult to make such an expensive trip. Later, when my father was called as

Temple

district president, the mission president asked him, “Well, what are you planning to do?”

“We are going to the temple,” my father answered. He organized a group of about 100 people who traveled together to the Mesa Arizona Temple. Our family was sealed, and we all felt my mother’s presence. We knew she had accepted the gospel.

When my wife, Blanca, and I were married, the laws of Guatemala required that we be married civilly first. I didn’t like that ceremony—it said that we were married only until death. The next day we left for Arizona, though we had to sell some of our possessions to afford the trip. Being sealed to my wife in the temple for eternity was one of the most joyful experiences of my life.

But we soon discovered that we didn’t have enough money to return to Guatemala. When we went to church, a man shook my hand and left a U.S. \$20 bill in it. Another man did the same. I had said nothing of our problems. But we had told Heavenly Father.

I was a stake president when the temple in Guatemala was announced. It was my privilege to help raise funds for the temple and prepare the people to be worthy to enter it. We were asked to raise U.S. \$10,000. Children, young people, and adults all participated. The people of the stake were so enthusiastic that we raised about \$27,000—almost three times as much as our goal.

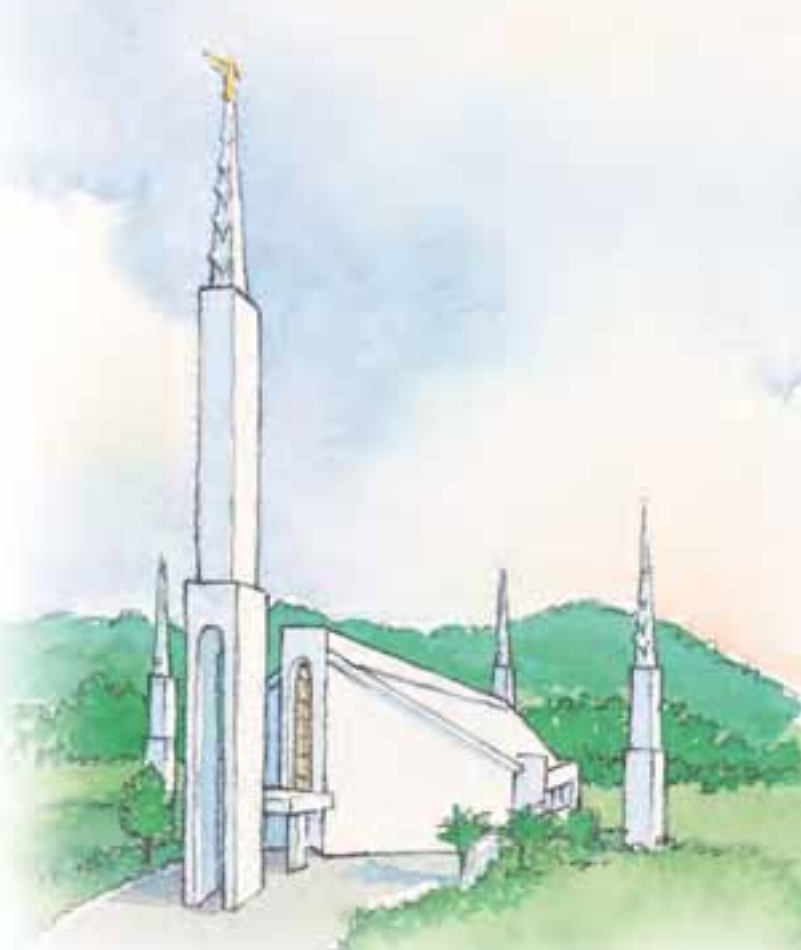
When our youngest child, Daniel, was 11 years old, he told us he wanted a special gift when he turned 12. He wanted to go to the temple and be baptized for

some of his ancestors. The whole family got involved in family history. We grew closer to our living relatives and found several ancestors whose temple work had not been done. On my son’s 12th birthday, he was baptized for these people. I performed the ordinances. Daniel gained a greater testimony of temple work.

As you can see, many of the best moments of my life have been spent in the house of the Lord. It can be the same for each of you.

Always remember that our Lord Jesus Christ loves children. When we read about His visit to the Americas after His Resurrection, we learn that He called the children to Him and blessed each of them. There are not many times in the scriptures when the writer couldn’t record the things that were said, but this was one of them. The words and the blessings were so sacred they could not be written. (See 3 Nephi 17:12–23.) Jesus loves you just as He loved those children.

I believe that my testimony was just as firm when I was 12 years old as it is today. You do not have to be a grown-up to have a testimony of Jesus Christ or to make a difference. Perhaps sometimes you don’t realize how much good you are doing for your parents, for your relatives, and for the world. ●



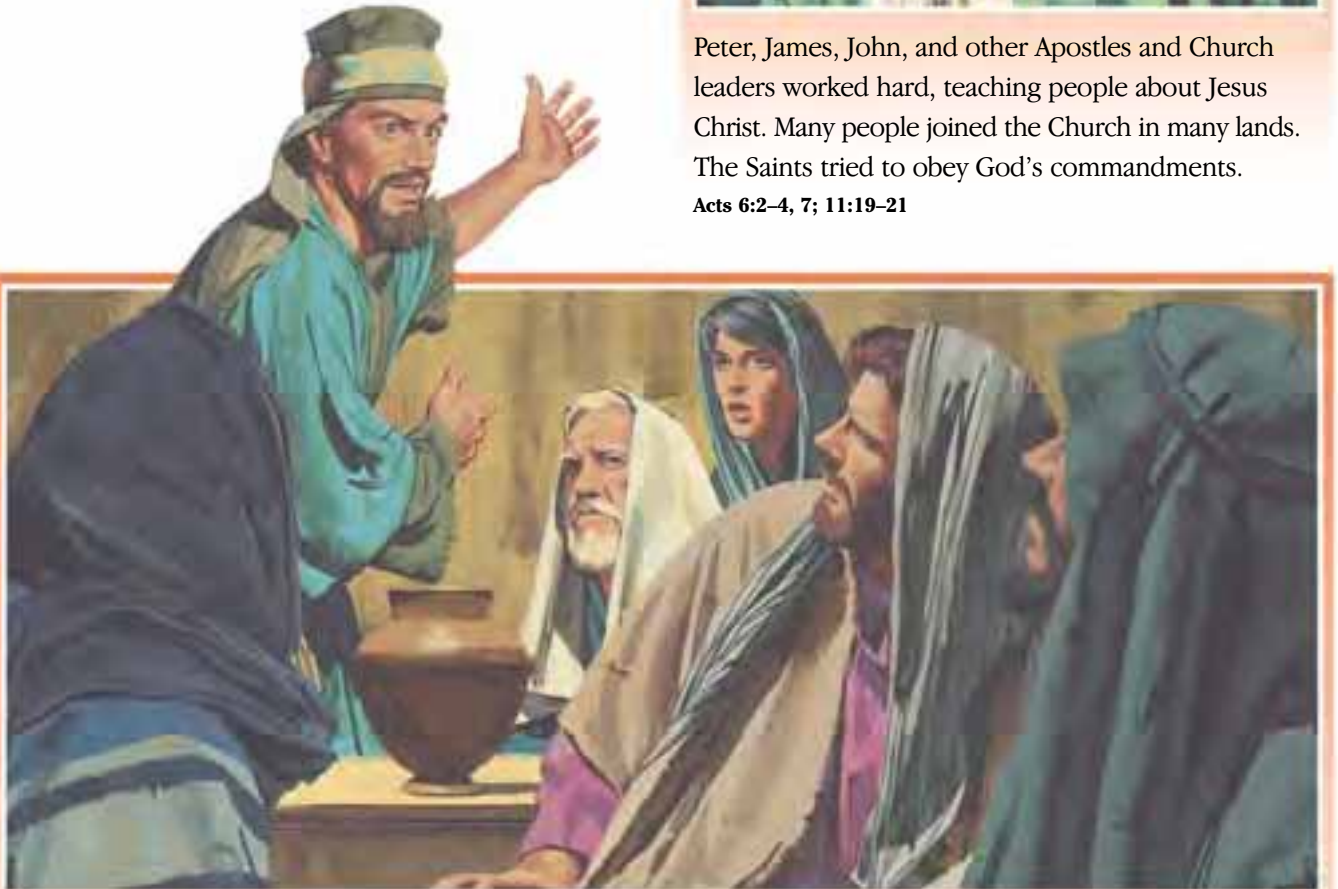
AFTER THE NEW TESTAMENT

Chapter 64



Peter, James, John, and other Apostles and Church leaders worked hard, teaching people about Jesus Christ. Many people joined the Church in many lands. The Saints tried to obey God's commandments.

Acts 6:2-4, 7; 11:19-21



Wicked people did not want the Saints to believe in Jesus Christ and obey God's commandments, so they tried to change the commandments. Some Saints believed the wicked people. They stopped believing in Jesus and did not obey His commandments.

Galatians 1:6-8; Titus 1:10-11; 1 John 2:18-19



Many righteous Saints were killed. When the Apostles were killed, there was no one to lead the Church. The Church of Jesus Christ was not on the earth anymore. The keys of the priesthood were taken from the earth, and the people did not have prophets to guide them. The Apostles Peter and Paul had said this would happen.

Matthew 23:34; 24:8–10; Romans 8:36; 1 Corinthians 4:9–13; 1 Peter 4:12; James E. Talmage, *Jesus the Christ*, 3rd ed. (1916), 745–46



Hundreds of years went by. There were many different churches, but none of them had Apostles. Their leaders did not have the priesthood. None of the churches was the Church of Jesus Christ. However, prophets had said that after many years the Church of Jesus Christ would be on the earth again.

Acts 3:19–26; 2 Thessalonians 2:1–4; 2 Timothy 4:3–4



In 1820 a boy named Joseph Smith wanted to know which church was the Church of Jesus Christ. He went into the woods near his home, knelt, and asked God to tell him which church was right.

Joseph Smith—History 1:3, 5, 10, 14–15



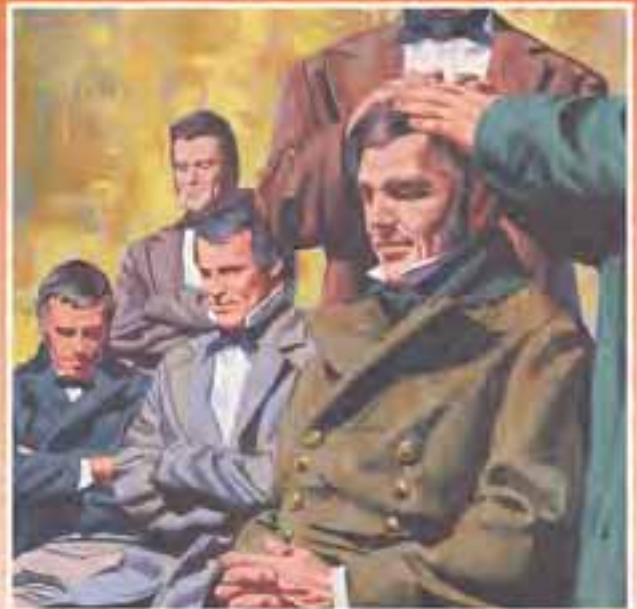
Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ came to Joseph Smith. The Savior told Joseph not to join any of the churches because none of them was right.

Joseph Smith—History 1:17–19



God chose Joseph Smith as the prophet to bring the Church of Jesus Christ back to the earth. God sent angels to give Joseph the priesthood, and He helped Joseph translate the Book of Mormon. On 6 April 1830, the Church of Jesus Christ was organized.

Joseph Smith—History 1:33, 66–75



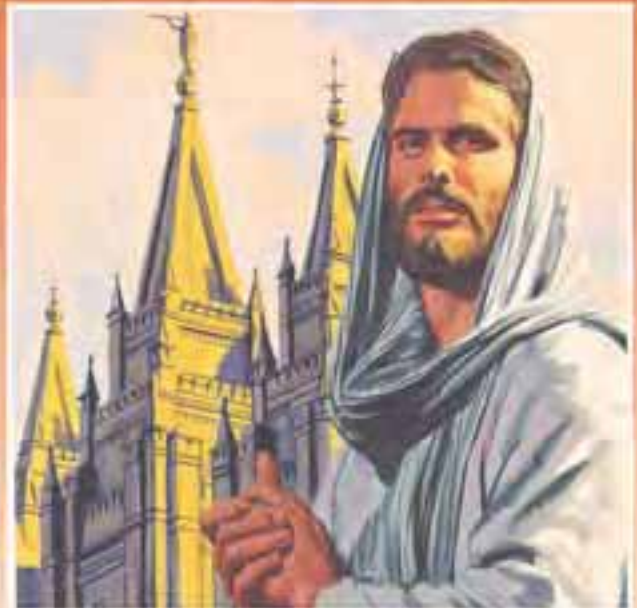
Just as Jesus chose Twelve Apostles to help Him when He was on the earth, Twelve Apostles were chosen to help Joseph Smith lead the Church. They were given the power to teach the gospel and to do miracles.

D&C 102:3; 107:22–23, 35



Jesus wants everyone to know about His Church. When He was on the earth, He sent missionaries to teach His gospel. Jesus told Joseph Smith to send missionaries to teach all people about the gospel of Jesus Christ.

D&C 1:18, 30



The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the same church Jesus and His Apostles had when they lived on earth.

D&C 115:4

Friends in the News



Bethany "Bessie" Miranda Woodruff, 4, West Jordan, Utah, is a good helper. She enjoys learning about Jesus and singing "I Am a Child of God." She likes to play with her family.



Mason Watch, 5, Hemet, California, likes to play baseball and soccer. He enjoys going to Primary and is a good example to his brother and sister.



Haley Ann Bendall, 11, Sierra Vista, Arizona, is a wonderful big sister and enjoys going to activity days. She is looking forward to going to the temple when she turns 12.



Zachary Bennett Hudson, 9, Spruce Grove, Alberta, Canada, enjoys jumping on the trampoline and reading books. His favorite Book of Mormon prophet is Nephi. He is a good missionary to his friends.



Emily Elizabeth Gautier, 6, Dunn, North Carolina, enjoys sharing her testimony with others. She wants to be a veterinarian. She enjoys gymnastics and playing soccer with her sister, Alexis.



Tanner Nephi Clark, 8, Layton, Utah, likes to eat, swim, and play outside with friends and family. He enjoys going to church and school. He is the youngest of five children.



Sarah Millar, 4, Brisbane, Australia, enjoys going to Primary and learning new songs. She practices the songs at home, then sings them to her neighbors. This is her way of sharing the gospel with others.



Kyrk Taylor, 9, Sundance, Wyoming, likes to give talks in Primary—and he gets lots of opportunities to do so, with only seven children in his branch. Kyrk can sing all thirteen articles of faith songs.



Akira Gollihue, 6, Chiefland, Florida, is a big help to her family. She enjoys going to Primary and saying her prayers. She also likes to sing and play computer games.



Jace Barker, 6, Ogden, Utah, loves to spend time with his family. He enjoys playing basketball, going to Primary, and reading the Book of Mormon with his family. He is a great student.



Autumn Chandler, 5, Mission, Texas, enjoys doing crafts and art projects. Her favorite Primary song is "I Love to See the Temple." She is a big help to her mom and dad and a wonderful big sister.



Dane Adams, 6, Rosamond, California, has memorized all thirteen articles of faith. He likes to read the scriptures, attend Primary, and learn about the gospel.



Kristie Lynn Francisco, 10, Vernal, Utah, is the youngest of five children. She likes horses, riding her bike and scooter, and roller-blading. She has introduced many of her friends to the Church.



Nathaniel Cottle, 9, Portland, Oregon, enjoys playing soccer and baseball. He is very creative and likes to build things. Nathaniel feels the Spirit when he hears scripture stories.



Michelle Jenkins, 11, Yorktown, Virginia, was born in Japan. She has read the Book of Mormon three times and writes in her journal daily. Her favorite Primary song is "Love Is Spoken Here."



Sheldon Lehi Smith, 5, Beaufort, South Carolina, likes to draw, swim, and play baseball with his three brothers. He is a big help to his mom and dad. He enjoys the activities and stories in the *Friend*.



Jessy Secrist, 6, Apple Valley, California, brightens her family's home with her laughter. She likes to read books and play with dolls. Her favorite song is "I Love to See the Temple."



Jacob Bangerter, 5, Centerville, Utah, enjoys sports, especially baseball and basketball. He also likes to snowboard and ride his bike. He is a kind and loving boy who enjoys his friends and family.



Heather Jones, 7, Stafford, Virginia, is a cheerful girl who likes to sing, play the piano, and jump rope. The youngest of six children, Heather is looking forward to being baptized.



Justin Maughan, 10, Lake Mary, Florida, is working toward his Faith in God Award. He reads the scriptures daily and enjoys writing in his journal.



Kelsi Bell, 3, Salt Lake City, Utah, likes to dance, sing, and ride her bike. She likes her Sunbeam class, and her favorite Primary song is "Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam."



John Sheen, 11, Chandler, Arizona, enjoys playing hockey and spending time with his friends. He also plays the viola. He is a good missionary to his friends and looks forward to receiving the priesthood.



Sarah Madelyn Pronk, 8, Kirkland, Washington, likes to draw pictures, play games, and read. She especially likes to read the Book of Mormon. Her favorite Primary song is "Latter-day Prophets."

Please send submissions to Friends in the News, 24th Floor, 50 East North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah 84150-3220. For scheduling reasons, submissions selected may not appear in the magazine for at least 10 months. Ages shown are those at the time of submission. Children whose pictures are submitted must be at least three years old. Due to the number of submissions received, they cannot all be published. Upon request, material not published will be returned to sender if a self-addressed, stamped envelope is enclosed.




I Am a Child of God

BY SHEILA E. WILSON

I am a child of God. I know Heavenly Father loves me, and I love Him. I can pray to Heavenly Father anytime, anywhere. I am trying to remember and follow Jesus Christ (Faith in God guidebook, inside front cover).



 Who are you? Do you know? You know your name, and you know you belong to a family here on earth. Your parents and family love you. You are special to them. You are also special to Heavenly Father. He is the father of your spirit. You lived with Him in heaven before you came to earth. Everyone born on the earth is a child of Heavenly Father.

You do not remember living with Heavenly Father, but you are His child. The scriptures teach us that “all of [us] are children of the most High” (Psalm 82:6). “The most High” means Heavenly Father.

Do you have the same color eyes as your mother? Is the color of your hair like your father’s? Children often are very much like their parents. The Bible teaches us that “God created man in his own image” (Genesis 1:27). To be created in His image means that you look like your

Heavenly Father. It also means you can become like Him.

Prophets testify that you are a child of God and that He knows and loves you. Each time you sing “I Am a Child of God” (*Children’s Songbook*, 2–3), you also

testify that you know who you are. Your Heavenly Father loves you. He will answer your prayers and help you to become like Him. You are His child, and He wants you to return to live with Him again someday.

Scripture Box

Carefully remove page 17, and mount it on heavy paper. Cut around the solid black line. Fold on the dotted lines to make a box. Glue the end flaps. Fold the top end flap to close the box, but don’t glue it shut. Draw or glue a picture of yourself inside the blank frame. Read the scripture reference on each side of the box.

Cut out the scripture reference strips, and place them in the box. Each day choose a reference, and mark it in your scriptures. The scriptures will remind you who you are. Share the box during family home evening. ●

Sharing Time Ideas

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

1. Show the children a picture of a baby, or invite a new mother and her baby to come and tell about the preparations for the baby's birth (for example, family members were excited, bought a crib, got clothes ready, prepared a room, knew they would love the baby). Liken this to how Heavenly Father feels about all of us. He prepared this world for us to live in. He rejoices as we grow, learn, and make right choices that will help us return to Him someday. Share an example of how knowing that you are a child of God has helped you to choose the right. Prepare some case studies (see TNGC, 161–62) that demonstrate that because I am a child of God I will choose and act accordingly. Make cutouts of children from red, yellow, and blue paper. As the children sing "I Am a Child of God," let them pass along the cutouts. When the music stops, if they are holding a red child, have them name one way they know Heavenly Father loves them; if holding a yellow child, have them name one way they can show their love for Heavenly Father; and if holding a blue child, have them resolve a case study you have prepared. Give each child a paper doll. Let them write one way they know they are children of God and take it home to share with their families.

2. Ask the children to stand up whenever you make a statement that describes them. Ask them to stay sitting down if the statement does not describe them. Use statements that demonstrate the similarities and differences among the children in your class, such as—everyone with a nose, everyone with brown eyes. Discuss how families are similar and different. We all have characteristics similar to our Heavenly Father because we are His children. We can grow spiritually to be like our Heavenly Father. On one side of the chalkboard write, "Heavenly Father is," and on the other side write, "I can be." Have the children list some of Heavenly Father's characteristics (loving, kind, generous, and so on). Then have them list some of those qualities that they have or would like to develop.

Adapting: Older children could look up scriptures that describe Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ's attributes (see Topical Guide) and add them to the list. Younger children could choose and post pictures showing Christlike attributes to make their list. They could repeat out loud, "I am a child of God, and I can become more _____." Fill in the blank with an attribute such as obedient, friendly, and so on. Help the children understand their worth and potential (see D&C 18:10; Moses 1:39).

3. On two separate pieces of paper, write *know* and *do*. Show the words to the children. Tell them to watch closely and sing the word when you hold it up. Sing the chorus of "I Am a Child of God" (pp. 2–3). The first time, hold up the word *know* in place of *do*. Ask the children to sing it again using the word *do* at the appropriate time. Ask how changing the word *know* for *do* changes the meaning of the song. President Spencer W. Kimball asked Sister Naomi Randall, the author of the song, if they could change the word *know* to *do*. He felt that while it is important to know what is right, it is more important to do what is right. Only in this way can we be sure of returning someday to our heavenly home to live always with our Heavenly Father (see *Friend*, Mar. 1978, 7).

Around the room place pictures and/or wordstrips of things we know (for example, prophets, scriptures, parents, commandments, prayer). Pair two children, and as the Primary sings a song, have them look for a picture that matches the song. Ask them to tell of something we can do because of the knowledge we have. For example, (a) Sing: "Search, Ponder and Pray"

(p. 109); Find: a picture of scriptures; Tell: We know the scriptures are true; Do: We should read and study the scriptures daily; (b) Sing: "I Need My Heavenly Father" (p. 18); Find: a picture of prayer; Tell: We know we need our Heavenly Father; Do: We should pray to Him every morning and night.

4. Share with the children Bishop H. Burke Peterson's testimony of prayer: "I want you to know that I know that whenever one of Heavenly Father's children kneels and talks to him, he listens. I know this as well as I know anything in this world—that Heavenly Father listens to every prayer from his children. . . . No matter what we may have done wrong, he listens to us. I also believe he answers us" (*Ensign*, June 1981, 73). It is through prayer that Heavenly Father helps His children make correct choices.

Divide the children into four groups. Give each group a scripture reference. Have each group read and discuss the reference to find out (a) who the prophet is, (b) what difficult choice or problem he had, and (c) God's answer to him through prayer. Choose children to retell the story or act it out for the Primary to watch and listen for the problem and answer. Have the younger children draw pictures to illustrate the story. Examples: Joseph Smith (Joseph Smith—History 1:7–19); Mosiah (Mosiah 28:1–8); Enos (Enos 1:1–8); Brother of Jared (Ether 2:14–25). Share a personal experience and your testimony of how your prayers have been answered. Invite the children to say their personal prayers each day this week.

5. Teach the children that their bodies are temples, and sing "The Lord Gave Me a Temple" (p. 153). Learning and living My Gospel Standards will help them care for their body inside and out. ("I will keep my mind and body sacred and pure, and I will not partake of things that are harmful to me; I will dress modestly to show respect for Heavenly Father and myself; I will only read and watch things that are pleasing to Heavenly Father.") Choose an object or picture to represent each of the three standards, i.e. an apple, a good book, and a picture of a modestly dressed child. Write one of the standards on the board. Choose one child to go out of the room and one to hide the object. Have the child return and find the object by having the children repeat the standard over and over. As the child gets closer to the object, the children recite it more loudly. When the child is far away from the object, the children recite it more softly. When the child has found the object, have him or her name one way we can live this standard. Cover the standard and play again. Post the next standard and repeat. For older children, you might do two standards at a time. Sing "Keep the Commandments" (pp. 146–47) and pass the three objects. When the music stops, children name the gospel standard that goes with their object and what they can do to live it. Encourage the children to recite the standards they have learned to a family member.

6. Prophets teach us how we can live again as families in heaven. Teach children the counsel of our prophets. Use counsel given at recent general conferences, or see the following *Friend* references: Mar. 1997, 6; May 2001, inside front cover; June 2002, 10; Dec. 2002, 22. Pair an older child with a younger child. Have the children look up and match scripture references with the prophet's counsel and draw an object that goes along with the counsel given. Children can take turns displaying their picture and showing (through actions) ways they can follow the prophet while the others guess. Sing "Follow the Prophet" (pp. 110–11). Bear testimony of the blessings of following the prophet's counsel so we can live again with Heavenly Father.

7. Additional resources: *Gospel Principles*, Chap. 2; *Friend*, Mar. 1978, 7; *Friend*, Feb. 1994, 12; *Friend*, Feb. 2002, 31, idea no. 4; *Family Home Evening Resource Book*, 27–30.

Fold but don't glue

I am a child of God (see Psalm 82:6; D&C 76:24).

I was created in the image of God (see Moses 2:27).

Heavenly Father blessed me with a physical body. My body is a temple (see 1 Corinthians 3:16-17).

Heavenly Father sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to earth to help me return to Him (see D&C 49:5).

Heavenly Father gave me an earthly family to help me and to guide me (see D&C 68:25-28).



I lived in heaven with Heavenly Father (see D&C 93:29).

Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ want me to be happy (see 2 Nephi 2:25).

Heavenly Father loves me and gives me certain talents (see D&C 46:11).

Heavenly Father gave me the scriptures so I can learn about Him (see D&C 33:16).

Heavenly Father listens to and answers my prayers (see D&C 112:10).

I can return to live with Heavenly Father someday (see D&C 78:7).

Glue

Glue



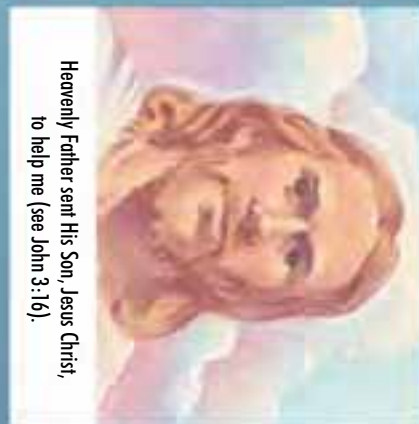
I am a child of God; my Heavenly Father loves me (see Psalm 82:6).



Heavenly Father has given me an earthly family (see D&C 68:25-28).



I live in a beautiful world created for me (see D&C 14:9).



Heavenly Father sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to help me (see John 3:16).

Because of His love for me, Heavenly Father—through Jesus Christ—created this beautiful world for me (see D&C 14:9).

I can show my love for Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ by keeping the commandments (see John 14:15).

Heavenly Father listens to and answers my prayers (see D&C 112:10).



Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ will help me obey the commandments (see 1 Nephi 3:7).

I am trying to remember and follow Jesus Christ so I can live with Him someday (see John 14:3).

Glue

Glue



Song of Faith

BY RONDA GIBB HINRICHSEN
(A true story)

The song of the righteous is a prayer unto me
(D&C 25:12).

It had just started to rain when seven-year-old Angela stepped into the tent. Her two older brothers, Michael and Mark, were already inside. Mom and Dad had their own tent set up not far away.

“Let’s say our prayers before we get into our sleeping bags,” Michael said.

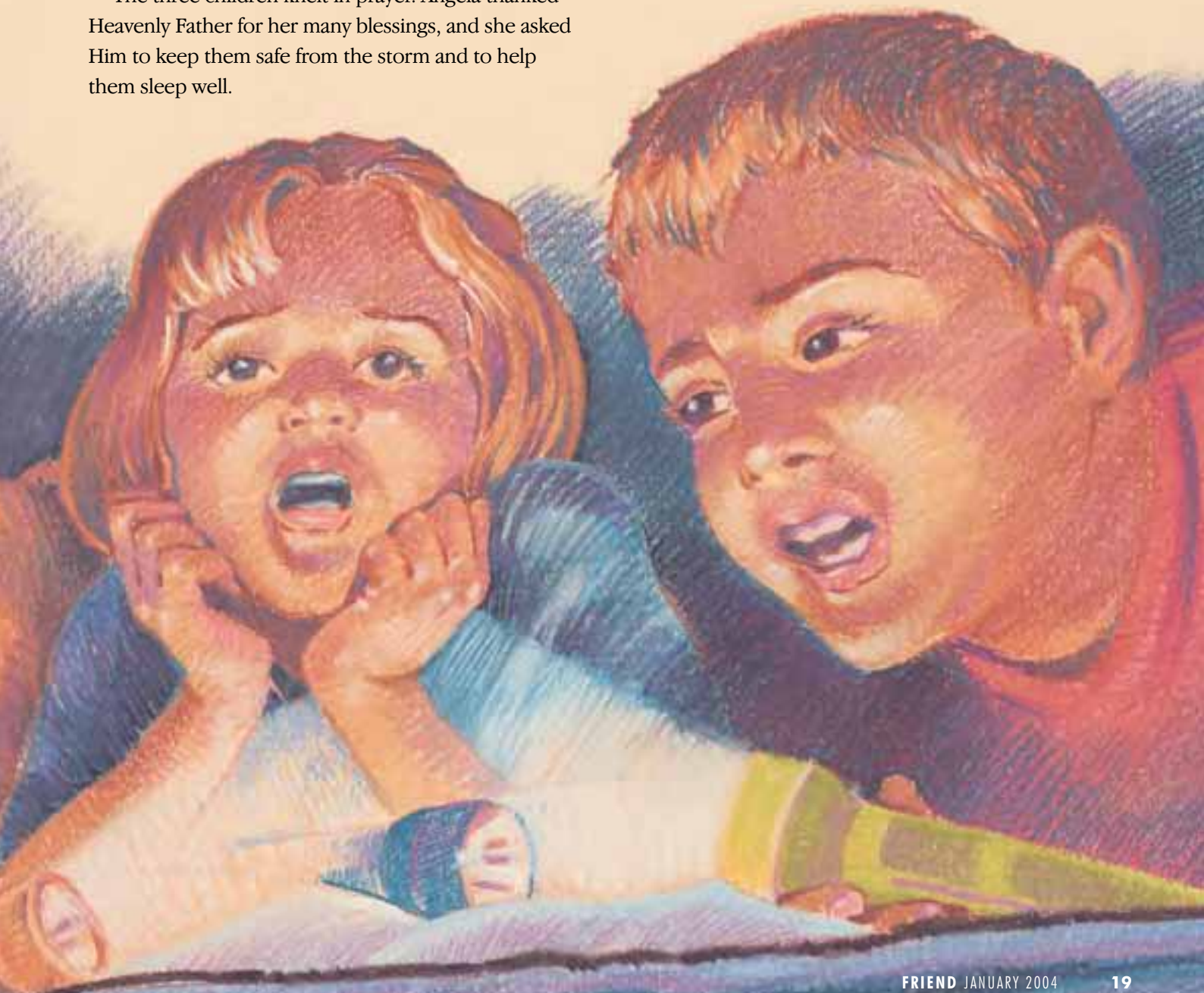
The three children knelt in prayer. Angela thanked Heavenly Father for her many blessings, and she asked Him to keep them safe from the storm and to help them sleep well.

After her prayer, she slid into her sleeping bag. For a long time all was quiet except for the plomp, plomp, plomp of the rain against the roof of their tent. Then she heard Michael’s voice. “Hey, Angela, wasn’t Mount Rushmore cool?”

“Yes,” she answered with a yawn.

“So were the animals in the park,” said Mark.

“I liked them, too,” Angela agreed. She pictured the



buffalo calves grazing so close to the road that she could see their eyes watching the slow-moving cars.

Flash! Boooooom!

Angela squeezed her eyes tight. "Go to sleep," she told herself. "It's just thunder." It had rained almost every day that her family had been on vacation. Every time it rained, lightning shot across the sky like hot arrows, and thunder echoed on and on like beating drums.

Flash! Boooooom!

Angela pulled the sleeping bag over her head. "Go to sleep," she told herself again.

"Mark, are you awake?" Michael whispered into the darkness.

"Hmmm?" Mark's voice was heavy with sleep.

"Are you awake?"

Flash!

Mark opened his eyes. "I am now," he said.

Boooooom!

"Angela, are you awake?" Michael asked.

"Yes," Angela whimpered. "I'm scared.

I want to go to Mom and Dad's tent."

"It's raining too hard," Michael said.

"You'll get soaking wet. Besides, it's not safe to go out in the lightning."

Angela frowned. "But I'm really scared."

Flash! Flash!

"You don't need to be scared," Mark said. "The lightning is really cool! It's just a bunch of static electricity in the clouds."

Boooooom!

"And the thunder sounds like a big whip!" he added.

Angela shuddered. "I don't like it!"

Flash! Boooooom!

"Well, then think of things that make you happy,"

Mark suggested. "That might help."

Angela closed her eyes and thought about a field of yellow flowers. She imagined herself running down a hill into the field, laughing.

Flash! Boom! Flash! Flash! Boooooom!

"It's not working," Angela said, shaking. "I'm still scared."

Suddenly, rain began pelting their tent. Angela

scrunched deep within her sleeping bag. What could she do to stop feeling scared? Then a quiet thought entered her mind. "Why don't we sing?" she shouted, hoping her brothers could hear her above the noise. "My Primary teacher said that singing Primary songs can help us feel better."

"OK," Mark said loudly. "What should we sing?"

"How about 'I Am a Child of God'?" Michael suggested. Slowly, quietly, Angela started to sing.

*"I am a child of God,
And he has sent me here . . ."*

Angela stopped. Her brothers weren't singing with her. "They must not be able to hear me," she thought.

So she sang louder.

*"Has given me an earthly home
With parents kind and dear."*

Her brothers were singing now.

*"Lead me, guide me, walk beside me,
Help me find the way.
Teach me all that I must do
To live with him someday."
(Children's Songbook, 2-3.)*

Flash! Boom!

"Now what should we sing?" Angela asked.

"Let's sing that one again," Michael said.

Over and over, Angela, Michael, and Mark sang "I Am a Child of God" until the storm

passed and peace returned to their tent.

"It worked!" Angela told herself as she snuggled into the warmth of her sleeping bag. "Finally I can go to sleep." As she closed her eyes, another thought gently filled her mind. "I am a child of God, and I know He will help me find the way." ●

Ronda Gibb Hinrichsen is a member of the Perry Third Ward, Willard Utah Stake.



"Just like the beautiful Primary song you sing, each of you truly is a child of God."

President Ezra Taft Benson (1899-1994), "To the Children of the Church," Ensign, May 1989, 81.

M I C H A E L *and*

K A Y L E N E

Shumsky

of Winnipeg,
Manitoba, Canada

BY SHANNA GHAZNAVI
Church Magazines

Manitoba, Canada, is the “slushie” capital of the world. And on a hot summer day, the Shumsky family really enjoys these ice-cold drinks. Mostly, the Shumskys just enjoy spending time together, whether they’re camping, tobogganing, or playing musical instruments.



Michael is learning to play the guitar, and Kaylene is learning to play the piano. All the members of the Shumsky family like to play musical instruments.

Michael Shumsky is seven, and his sister Kaylene is nine. They have eight other brothers and sisters, and they also have four nephews and three nieces. They like having a big family—especially when they go to the local amusement park to ride the bumper cars, because there’s one

for every member of the family, and they fill the entire ride!

In their ward in Winnipeg, the Primary is small. Michael and Kaylene are the only members of the Church in their school.

“Michael is really missionary-minded,” says his mom, Judy. When the missionaries in his ward had an open house at the church, Michael wrote his testimony in a few copies of the Book of Mormon and did his best to give them to his friends at school. None of his friends were interested, but Michael says that he’s not going to give up.

Both Michael and Kaylene love to see the temple. The Shumskys try to take their whole family to visit the temple in Saskatchewan (the province to the west of

Manitoba) at least once a year. Kaylene remembers when she went to the Regina Saskatchewan Temple open house: “I liked all the mirrors,” she says. “You can see on and on in them. It was pretty.”

“I liked the chandelier,” says Michael. He tries to make his home like the temple as much as he can. His dad says, “Michael often cleans the chandelier in the living





room to make it shine like the one in the temple.”

“He’s a good helper,” says Mom.

Kaylene tries to make her home better, too. “She’s a peacemaker,” says her sister Stephanie. And she helps her brothers and sisters out with lots of things. Kaylene is really good at taking care of little children, like her brother Nathaniel, who’s three. “She’s mature for her age and very reliable,” says her older brother Daniel.

Not only is Kaylene a good baby-sitter, but she is also a fine artist. Kaylene is in a special art class, and her artwork decorates many of the walls in the Shumsky house. “When I need help in art, she helps me,” says Stephanie, her 13-year-old sister.

Michael likes to build things, especially spaceships. And, being the tallest in his class, he really enjoys basketball, too. “My best sport is basketball,” he says, smiling.

Both Kaylene and Michael try to make their house beautiful on the outside as well as on the inside. They recently helped paint their front steps, and they each planted flowerbeds outside their house.

Kaylene and Michael are also learning how to play musical instruments. Michael

strums away, practicing on his guitar, while Kaylene is learning to play the piano. All the Shumsky children and their parents play musical instruments. Even little Nathaniel likes to blow on his recorder. One thing the family likes to do together is to support each other at music concerts and activities. But the most important things the Shumskys like to do together are to have family scripture study, family prayer, and family home evening.

Whether they are having fun on the bumper cars or taking the long trip to the temple, Michael and Kaylene love being with their family and learning about the gospel. ●

Michael and Kaylene often help with chores at home. They also like to have fun with their family. But the things they like to do best with their family are to have family prayer, scripture study, and family home evening.



I Will Follow the Savior



The beginning of a new year is a good time to make resolutions, such as deciding how we can improve in living the gospel of Jesus Christ. Since the Savior himself lived a perfect life, we should try to follow His example.

Instructions

1. Remove pages 24–25 from the magazine, and mount them on heavy paper.
2. Look up the scriptures in the first column on the chart. Each one will present one of the Savior's teachings or tell of an incident from His life.
3. Study each scripture carefully and identify the gospel principle being taught. (A *principle* is a gospel truth that we should live.) The picture above the scripture reference will give you a hint.
4. Write the principle in the second column.
5. Plan something you can do to better live the gospel principle, and then write it or draw a picture of it in column three.
6. Hang the chart where you will see it every day to remind you of your resolutions.
7. Do what you have planned, and strive to live a more Christlike life.



Savior's Teaching



John 13:34

Principle Taught



3 Nephi 14:12

How I Will Follow Him



My Family Can Be Forever



Before we came to earth, Heavenly Father taught us the great plan of happiness. The family is central to His plan. Because He loves us, He has given us families so that we can love and learn from one another. By following Heavenly Father's plan, families can return to Him and live with Him forever.

Prayerfully read the scriptures and quotations referred to on this year's poster, and present the poster article/activity for each month in family home evening. As you do, you will remember the blessings of being a member of a family. And you will learn ways to make your family stronger.

Instructions

1. Open the staples, remove the poster from the magazine, and reclose the staples.
2. Cut out the foundation stones, and put them in an envelope. Cut out the pieces of the house, and put them in a different envelope.
3. At the beginning of each month, find the right foundation stone and house piece for that month in the envelopes (all pieces are labeled by month on the back). Read and memorize the scripture or quotation on the back of the house piece. Then glue the pieces in place. Then read and prepare the poster/activity in that month's *Friend* (see contents—Poster Article). Plan with your parents when you can present it in family home evening. When you attach the October piece, make sure there is no glue on the back of the door. In November, cut the door on the dotted lines and fold it open. In December, draw or glue a picture of your own family on the doorway piece.

Additional copies of the poster (item no. 24959) are available from Church distribution centers.

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ENGLISH

September: Successful . . . families are established and maintained on principles of faith, prayer, repentance, compassion, work, and wholesome recreational activities" (Ensign, Nov. 1995, 102).

August: Successful . . . families are established and maintained on principles of faith, prayer, repentance, [and] forgiveness" (Ensign, Nov. 1995, 102).

March: Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).

June: "And ye will not have a mind to injure one another, but to live peaceably" (Mosaic 4:13).

November: "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy" (Exodus 20:8).

February: "The family is ordained of God" (Ensign, Nov. 1995, 102).

"I am a child of God. I know Heavenly Father loves me, and I love Him. I can pray to Heavenly Father anytime, anywhere. I am trying to remember and follow Jesus Christ" (Faith in God guidebook, inside front cover).

January:

January

February

April

May

June

July

October

December

March

August

September

November

"And whatsoever thing persuadeth men to do good is of me; for good cometh of none save it be of me. . . . I am the light, and the life, and the truth of the world" (Ether 4:12).

December:

"Happiness in family life is most likely to be achieved when founded upon the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ" (Ensign, Nov. 1995, 102).

April:

July: "Let this house be built unto my name, that I may reveal mine ordinances therein unto my people" (D&C 124:40).

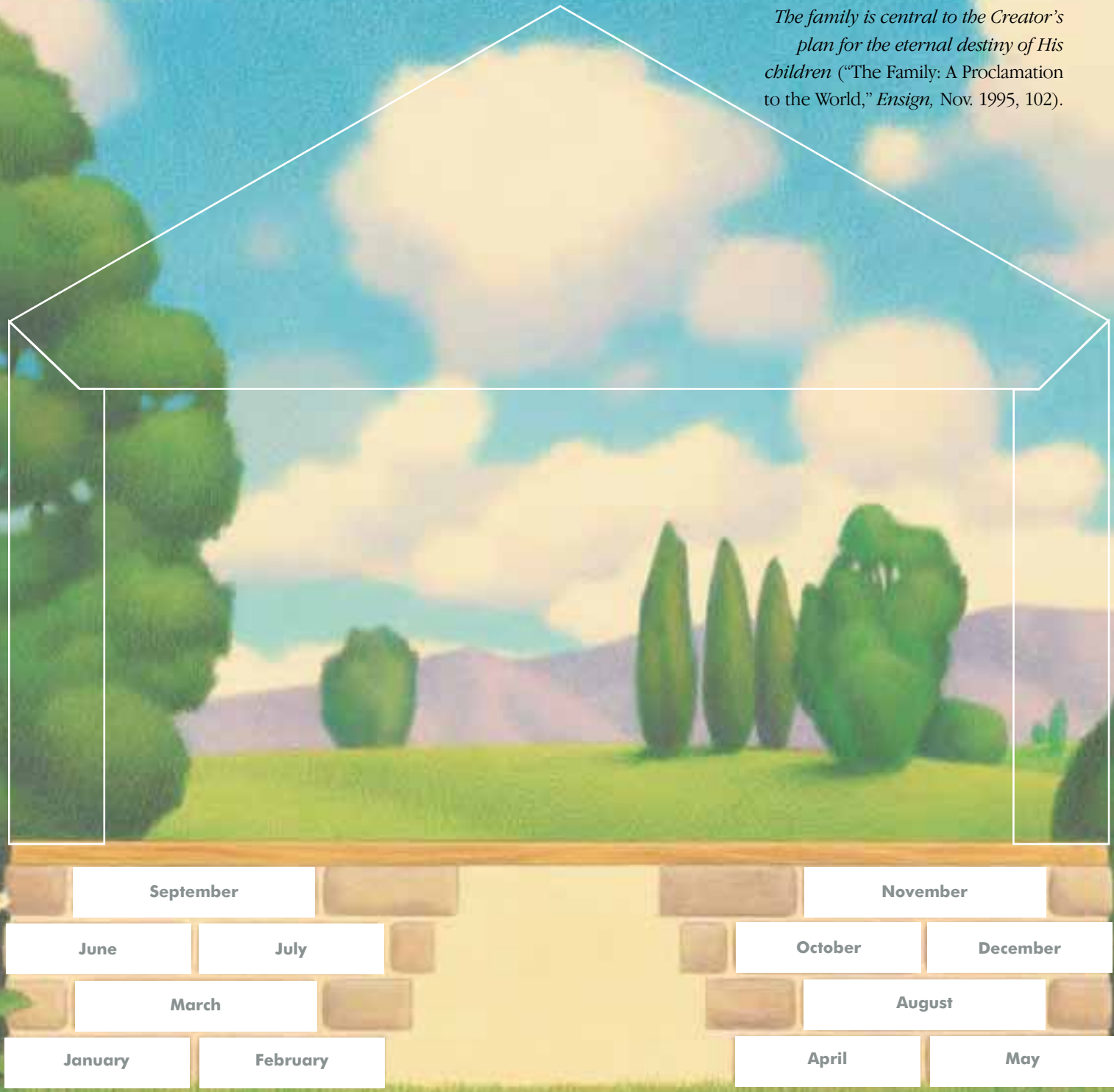
"What I the Lord have spoken, I have spoken. . . . whether by mine own voice or by the voice of my servants, it is the same" (D&C 1:38).

October:

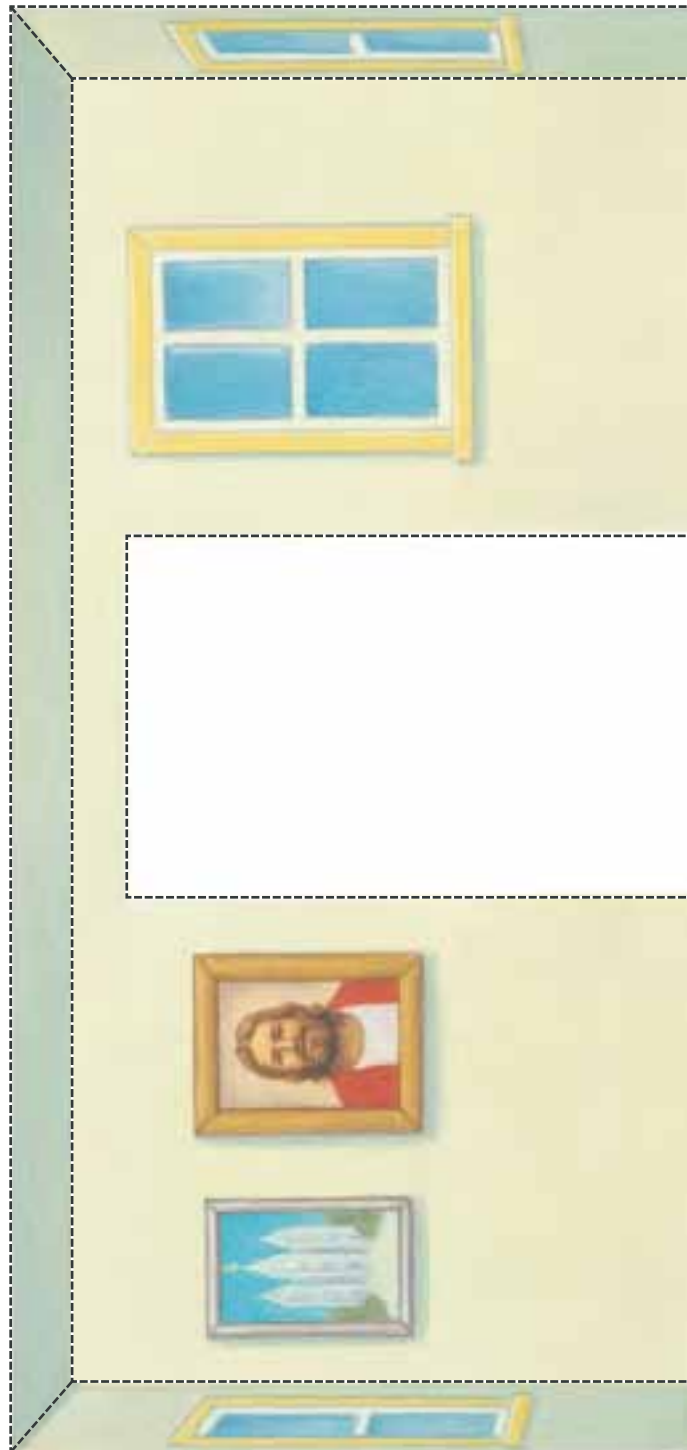
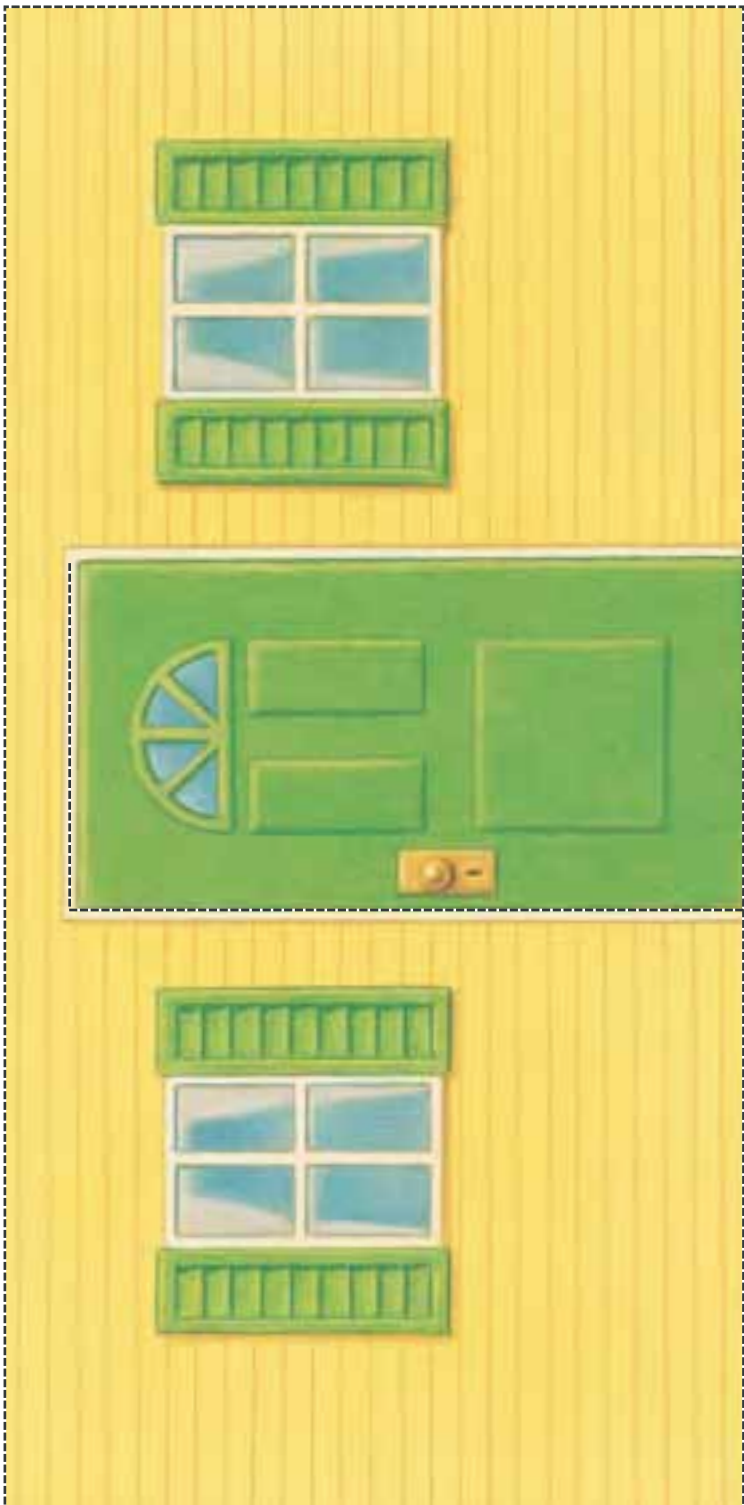
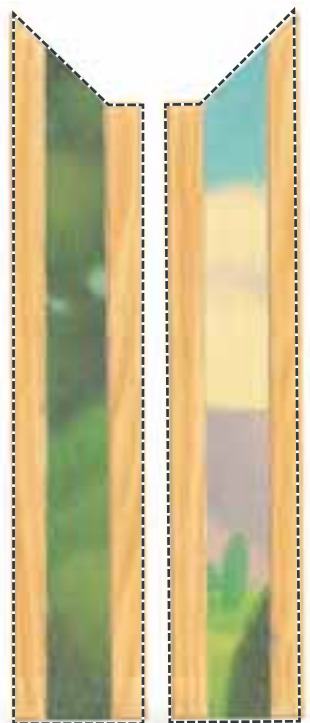
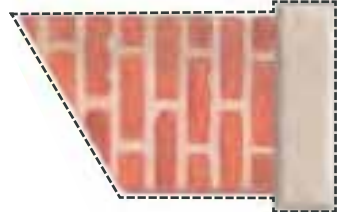
May: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right" (Ephesians 6:1).

My Family Can Be Forever

The family is central to the Creator's plan for the eternal destiny of His children ("The Family: A Proclamation to the World," *Ensign*, Nov. 1995, 102).



ILLUSTRATED BY STEVE KROPP



- I am a child of God.
- The family is central to Heavenly Father's plan.
- Families can be happy when they follow Jesus Christ.
- Family members have important responsibilities.
- Heavenly Father teaches me how to strengthen my family.
- Temples unite families.
- Prophets teach me how to strengthen my family.
- My family is blessed when we remember Jesus Christ.
- Jesus Christ makes it possible for me to live with Heavenly Father again.
- Faith, prayer, repentance, and forgiveness can strengthen my family.
- Respect, love, work, and wholesome recreation can strengthen my family.
- Keeping the Sabbath day holy can strengthen my family.



D&C 119:4



John 5:39



Exodus 20:12



Alma 37:37



I Will Go and Do

BY ANN WOODBURY MOORE

Nephi, in the Book of Mormon, is well-known for his obedience. “I will go and do the things which the Lord hath commanded,” he told his father, “for I know that the Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men, save he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them” (1 Nephi 3:7).

Many other people in the Book of Mormon were obedient to the Lord’s commandments and the teachings of the prophets. Can you match these individuals with their actions? See answers below.



1 Abinadi

A The Lord commanded him in a dream to “take his family . . . into the wilderness. . . . And he left his house, and the land of his inheritance, and his gold, and his silver, and his precious things, and . . . departed into the wilderness” (see 1 Nephi 2:2, 4).



2 Alma the Younger

B Despite trials and afflictions, “they were steadfast and immovable in keeping the commandments of God, and they bore with patience the persecution which was heaped upon them” (see Alma 1:23–25).



3 Helaman’s stripling warriors

C God sent him to tell wicked King Noah and his people to repent, or they would be delivered into the hands of their enemies. He was “put to death because he would not deny the[se] commandments” (see Mosiah 12:1; 17:13–20).



4 Lehi

D Despite their youth and inexperience, they fought for their country fearlessly and with miraculous strength. They were protected from death because “they had been taught to keep the commandments of God and to walk uprightly before him. . . . Yea, and they did obey and observe to perform every word of command with exactness” (see Alma 53:16–21; 56:45–48; 57:21).



5 Members of the Nephite church

E After he was rejected by the wicked people in Ammonihah, an angel commanded him to “return to the city . . . and preach again unto the people,” and “he returned speedily” (see Alma 8:13–18).

(1) C, (2) E, (3) D, (4) A, (5) B.



Heavenly Father Loves Me

BY SHIRLEY ADWENA HARVEY

It doesn't matter if my eyes
Are blue or green or brown,
Or if I'm from the city
Or a little country town.
It doesn't matter if my skin
Is yellow, brown, or white,
Or if I'm short and chubby
Or grow to reach great height.
It doesn't matter if I'm smart
And get good marks in school,
Or if I find it hard to learn
Or follow all the rules.
I know that I am special—
As precious as a lamb—
And Heavenly Father loves me
Just the way I am.



For Little
Friends

We believe in God, the Eternal Father
(Articles of Faith 1:1).

I Love

BY PAT GRAHAM



I love Heavenly Father



Like rain loves to pour,



Like bees love to buzz,



Like birds love to sing,



Like monkeys love to climb,



Heavenly Father



Like bears love to sleep,



Like fish love to swim,



Like stars love to shine.



And Heavenly Father loves me.

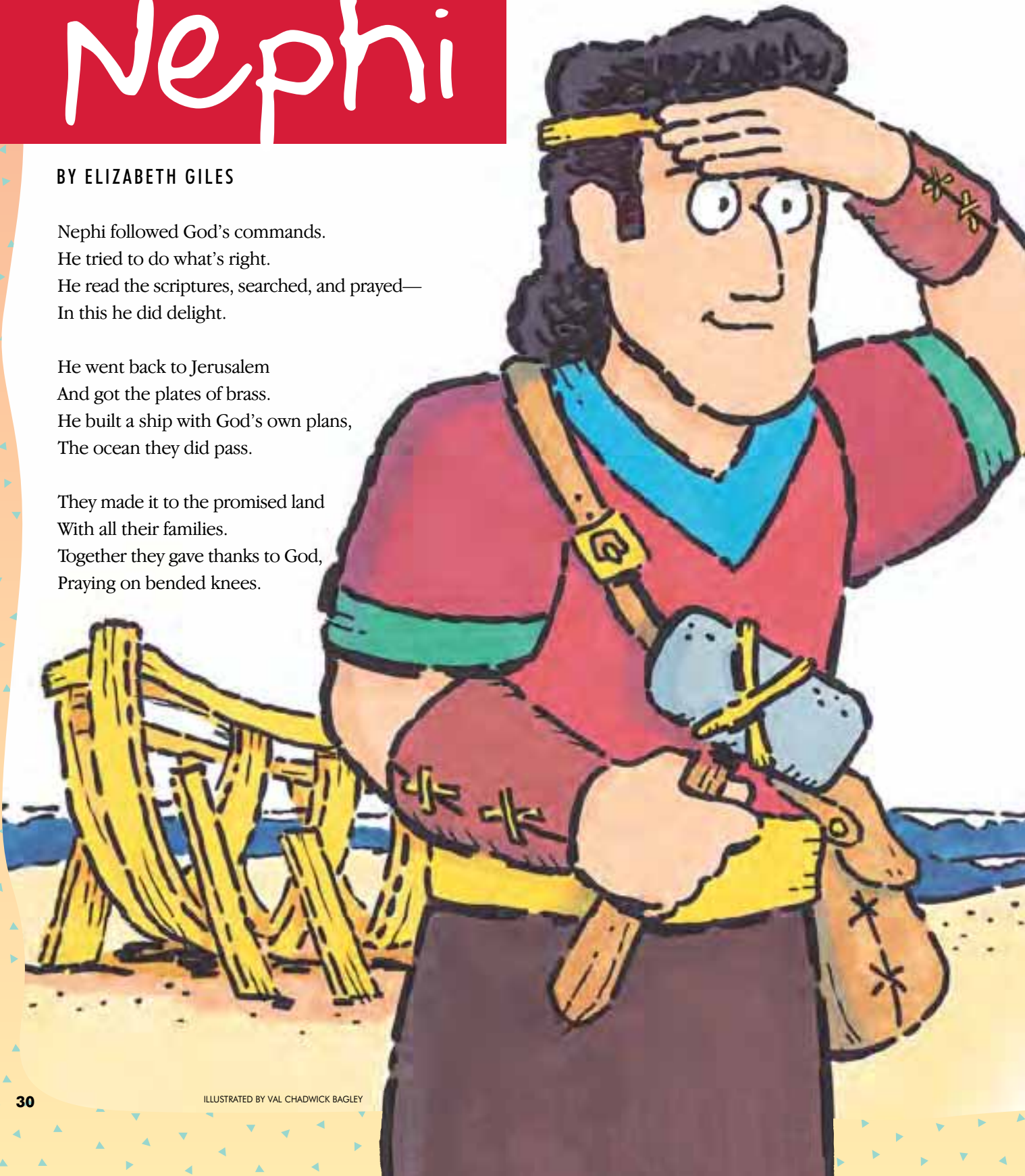
Nephi

BY ELIZABETH GILES

Nephi followed God's commands.
He tried to do what's right.
He read the scriptures, searched, and prayed—
In this he did delight.

He went back to Jerusalem
And got the plates of brass.
He built a ship with God's own plans,
The ocean they did pass.

They made it to the promised land
With all their families.
Together they gave thanks to God,
Praying on bended knees.



Happy New Year

BY ROBERTA L. FAIRALL

To find out who is holding the banner,
connect dots 1 to 49. Then color the picture.



Snowball Snack



BY RONDA GIBB HINRICHSEN

2 packages (8 ounces/227 g each) cream cheese, softened

1/4 cup strawberry jam

1 whole graham cracker, crushed

1/2 cup powdered sugar, divided

3 apples, sliced

vanilla cookies

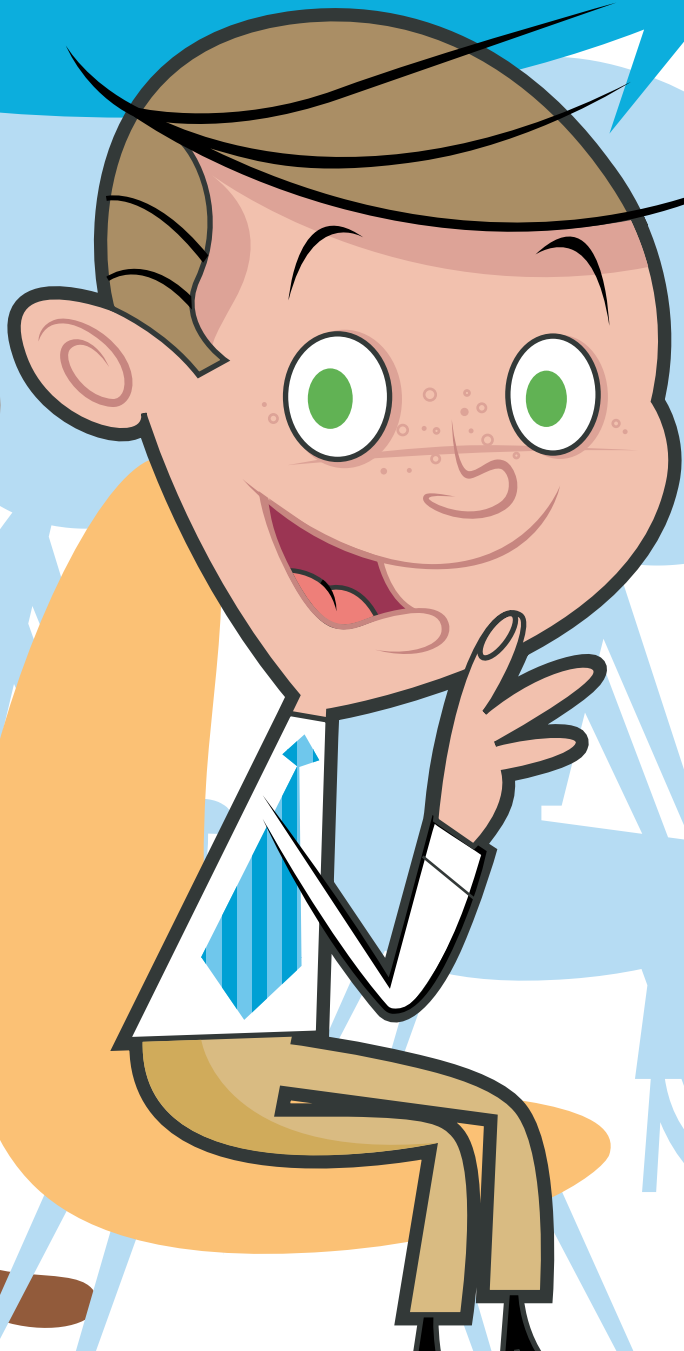
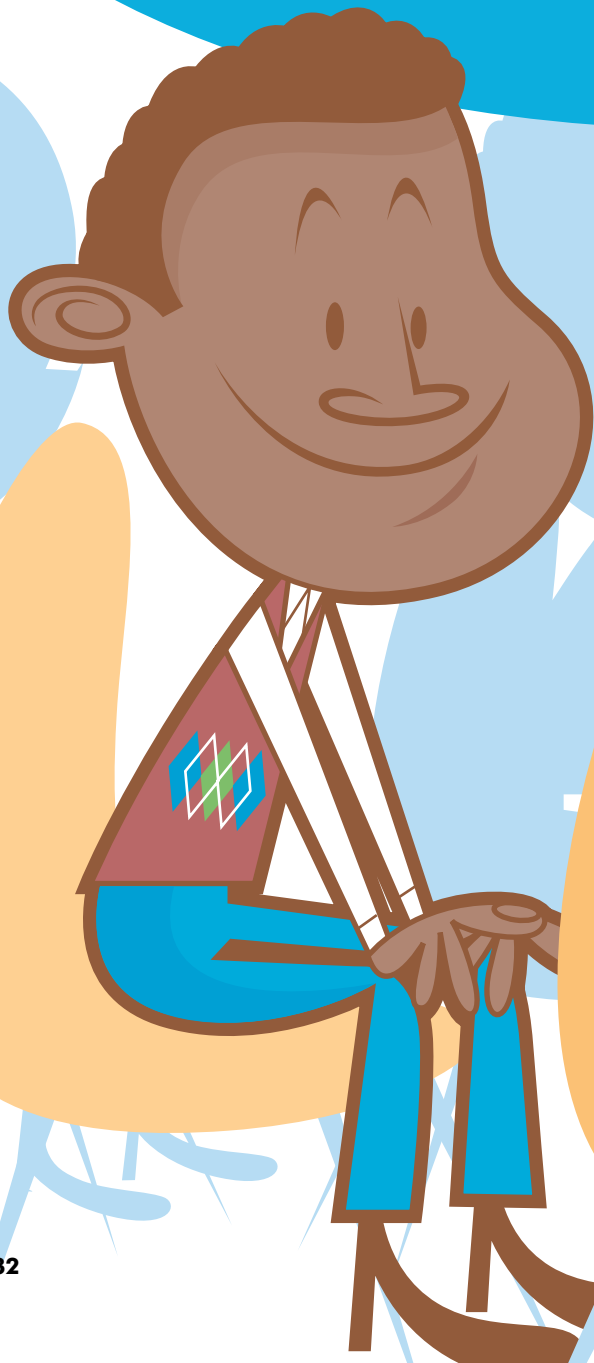
1. In a medium bowl, mix the cream cheese, jam, crushed graham cracker, and 2 tablespoons powdered sugar together until blended. With clean hands, form the mixture into a ball.

2. Place the remaining powdered sugar onto a dinner plate. Roll the ball in the powdered sugar until it is completely covered.

3. Serve the “snowball” with apple slices and vanilla cookies.



Petey didn't want to
be a Sunbeam!





All men should have charity, which charity is love (2 Nephi 26:30).

Petey didn't want to be a Sunbeam. I knew because I sat on the row behind the little chairs. At first they were empty. Then, one by one, the new Sunbeam class walked in.

I nudged my friend Ryan. "Hey, there's your little sister Maggie!"

He shrugged, but I could tell by his smile that he was proud to be a big brother in Primary now.

I knew some other Sunbeams, too. There was Ralph's little brother Jakey and Caitlyn's little sister Ashley. The only one I didn't know very well was the boy with the wild brown hair—Petey. His hair stuck out all over the place like a bird's nest.

The bishop had introduced Petey's family to the ward during sacrament meeting just last week. I'd turned around to see if they had a boy I could play with, but the only names he announced were the parents' names and "Peter Alexander." Petey didn't have any brothers or sisters. Maybe if he'd had a brother or sister, he wouldn't have been so scared.

As soon as the Sunbeams walked to their chairs in front of the whole Primary, Petey started to cry—loud. Sister Evans tried to make him feel better by holding him on her lap and showing him her happy/sad-face puppets, but it didn't do any good. He sucked in big gulps of air and cried even louder. Finally, Sister Evans carried him out.

Some of the children giggled when they could still hear him bawling in the hallway, but I felt sorry for him. I remembered going to a friend's birthday party once. There must have been 20 children there who I'd never seen before. It was scary being around a bunch of people I didn't know, but at least I knew my friend and his parents.

Petey probably didn't know anybody at Primary. That's when I got an idea—what if I wrote him a letter? I could draw him some pictures and tell him that I'd be his Primary buddy if he wanted. I was so happy with my idea that I didn't even mind





What if...?

when Janice kept kicking the back of my chair or when my brother took my favorite spot on the bench during sacrament meeting.

With Mom's help, I wrote my letter that night. It was fun! I told Petey he'd learn a bunch of neat songs in Primary. And I told him about the Primary talent show that was coming up. Maybe he'd get to hear me sing with my brothers and sisters. Then I drew a picture of Nephi shooting an arrow and my remote-control monster car racing another car. I figured if I liked those things, then maybe he did, too. I signed my name and asked Mom to help me find his address. Then, at the last minute, I cut out one of my school pictures and dropped it in the envelope so he'd recognize me at church. Mom mailed it for me the next day.

I got so busy at school that week I forgot I'd even sent the letter—until Sunday! After we arrived at church, I hurried to the Primary room and waited for him to come in. That's when my stomach started doing flip-flops. The longer I waited, the more I wondered. Had he gotten my letter? What if sending it had been a really bad idea? What if he didn't like it? What if he didn't want a Primary buddy? What if he didn't want to come back to Primary at all?

Then I saw him! He trudged in behind Sister Evans and slid onto the little chair right in front of me.

"Hi, Petey!" I said, but he must not have heard me because he didn't turn around or say "hi."

I could tell he still didn't want to be a Sunbeam because he sat really close to his teacher and stared down at his lap. "At least he's not crying," I thought hopefully.

Then disaster struck!



“If we look for specific things we can do, the Holy Ghost will direct us, showing unto us . . . opportunities for helping others.”

Elder Neal A. Maxwell of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “Hope Through the Atonement of Jesus Christ,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1998, 63.

“Peter, would you please come up front so we can sing you a welcome song?” Sister Peterson asked. She hadn’t been at church last week, so she didn’t know that Petey was shy.

I held my breath.

“Come on up, Peter,” she said with a smile. “Don’t you want to hear our welcome song?”

Petey shook his head, clutching his teacher’s arm even tighter.

All the other children were waiting for Petey to burst out crying. And maybe he would have. His chin was already trembling, and his eyes were wide like a frightened rabbit’s.

That’s when I surprised myself. “I’ll go up with you, Petey,” I heard myself say.

Petey switched from looking at all the children to looking at just me. Did he recognize me from my picture? I guess he did, because a tiny smile crept across his face.

“OK,” he said quietly.

He held my hand really tight as we stood in front of the whole Primary. They sang the welcome song nice and loud like they did every time they welcomed someone new.

“Way to go!” I whispered when I took him back to his seat.

He grinned and waved at me.

And that’s when I knew—Petey was going to like being a Sunbeam after all. ●

Lori Mortensen is a member of the Cameron Park Ward, El Dorado California Stake.

Way to go!





FROM THE LIFE OF PRESIDENT HEBER J. GRANT

Becoming Brigham Young's Friend



One winter day six-year-old Heber J. Grant sneaked onto the back runner of President Brigham Young's sleigh. He wanted to ride for only one block. But he didn't dare leap off until the sleigh slowed down. When it did, he had ridden quite a way. He tried to run without President Young seeing him.



Stop! That little boy is almost frozen! Put him under the buffalo robe.



What's your name?

You must be Jedediah's son. I loved your father very much. He was my Second Counselor.

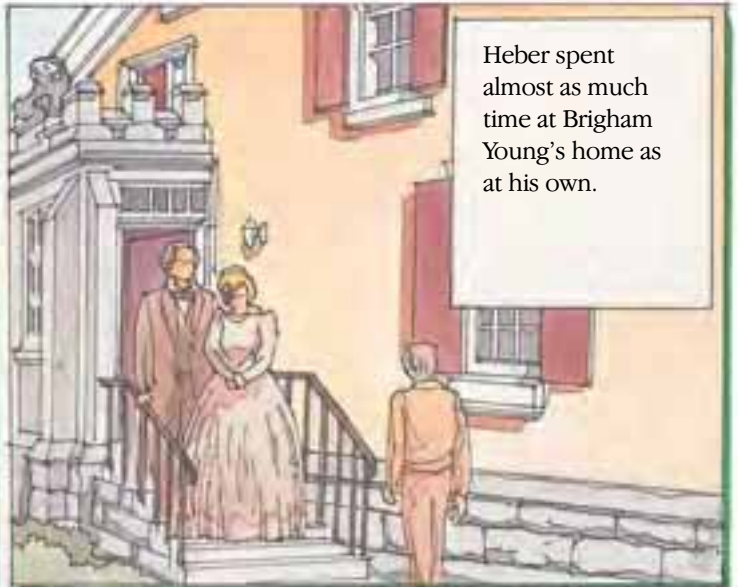
Heber Grant, sir.



President Young told Heber he would like to interview him in six months. Heber obeyed. He and President Young were friends from then on.



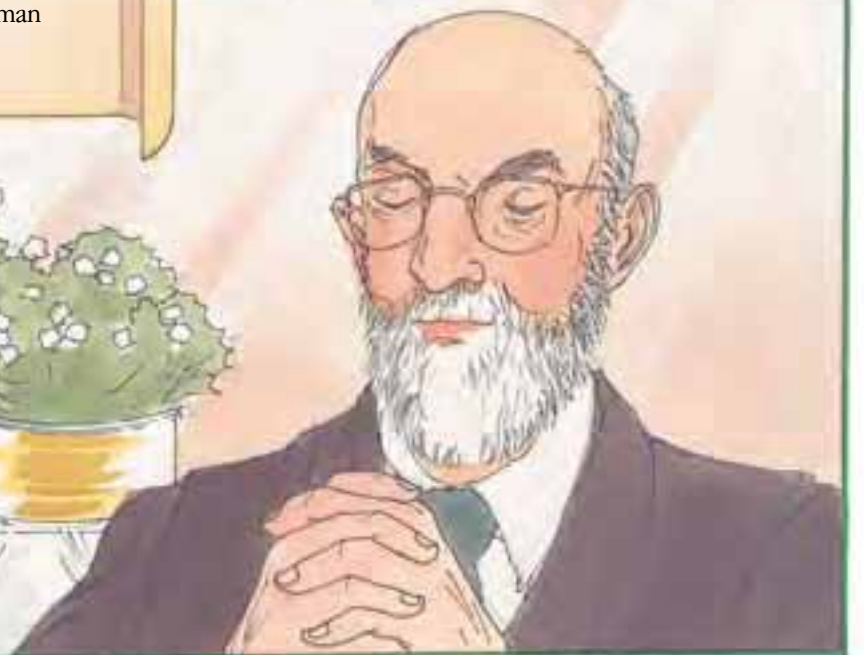
Heber spent almost as much time at Brigham Young's home as at his own.



Sometimes Heber stayed for family prayer, and he was startled by the way President Young prayed. Heber later said, "I . . . lifted my head, turned and looked at the place where Brigham Young was praying, to see if the Lord was not there. It seemed to me that he talked to the Lord as one man would talk to another."

As prophet, Heber J. Grant learned to speak to Heavenly Father the same way.

Adapted from Conference Report, Apr. 1917, 23; Conference Report, June 1919, 7.





I Know Heavenly Father Loves Me

I am a child of God. I know Heavenly Father loves me, and I love Him. I can pray to Heavenly Father anytime, anywhere. I am trying to remember and follow Jesus Christ (Faith in God guidebook, inside front cover).

Even though we cannot remember living with Heavenly Father, *He* remembers. He knows and loves each of us because we are His children.

One day we'll remember how well we know Him, too. President Ezra Taft Benson (1899–1994) once said, “Nothing is going to startle us more when we pass through the veil to the other side than to realize how well we know our Father and how familiar his face is to us” (quoted in *Ensign*, May 1991, 66). Can you imagine how exciting it will be to return home to Him someday?

Remembering that we are His children will help us live worthily so that we can return to live with Him forever. President Gordon B. Hinckley has said, “Let us never forget that we are children of God at all times. . . . There is never a time or a season or a circumstance when we can let down on our standards” (*Ensign*, Jan. 1998, 73).

Knowing that we are children of God helps us understand that we are never alone. When we pray, He answers. As we obey the commandments, pray for help, and rely on the Atonement of Jesus Christ, we can become more like Him.

***Emphasizes the Primary monthly theme. (See “My Family Can Be Forever,” poster, *Friend*, Jan. 2004, insert.)**



Activities and Ideas

1. Color the sign on page 39, attach or draw a picture of yourself in the empty box, and display it where you'll often be reminded that you are a child of God.
2. For a family home evening activity, copy or trace page 39 for each family member and have them color it and attach or draw a picture of themselves. Using President Hinckley's statement, discuss why it is important to remember that we are children of Heavenly Father.
3. In a family home evening lesson or when you give a talk in Primary, discuss happy memories from when you were younger—something fun that you and your family did together, something you enjoyed learning, etc. Read President Benson's statement. How does it make you feel to know that someday we'll remember many other happy experiences from before this life? How does knowing that we once lived with Heavenly Father change how we live here?



I am a child of God

Faith is like a little seed: if planted, it will grow. ✨ Faith is like a little seed: if planted, it will grow. ✨

Our Creative Friends

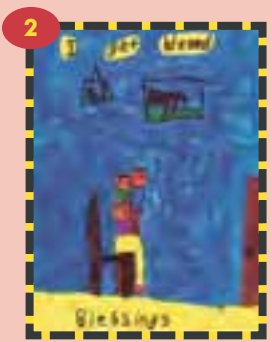


1

Faith

Faith is like a little flower seed; when it is planted, it will grow. If you water it and give it light every day, it will turn into a beautiful flower. Once it is a flower, you must continue to take care of it to keep it beautiful. If you don't, it will die, and you will no longer have a beautiful flower.

*Morgan Laughter, age 8
Las Vegas, Nevada*

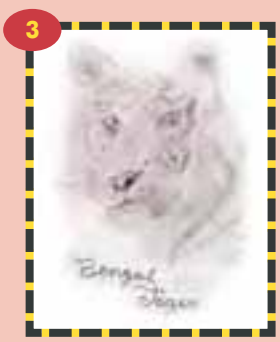


2

Sunset, Sunset

Sunset, sunset, so pretty and so bright—
You are my light.
Sunset, sunset, with so many colors
Like blue, red, purple, green, and white.
Sunset, sunset, in the evening when you're here
I just look out the window and see you.
Sunset, sunset, you turn into night
With stars so pretty and so bright.
Sunset, sunset, you are so pretty when I look at you.
Sunset, sunset, so pretty and so bright—
You are my light.

*Annie Lynn Ellis, age 9
West Lafayette, Indiana*



4

Faith

Faith is knowing our Father loves us
Any day or night.
Faith is knowing you're not alone,
Even if there is no light.
I love Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ
Because they are so good.
I'll get to live with them again
If I do what I should.

*Sierra Nattress, age 7
Fruitland, Idaho*

Heavenly Father's Love

Heavenly Father loves us;
He loves me and you.
Heavenly Father cares for us
No matter what we do.
Sometimes we are tempted
To make a wrong choice,
But Heavenly Father helps us
With the gift of the still, small voice.

*Austin Heriman, age 10
Reedley, California*

The Nauvoo Temple

This building is the Lord's home;
Carefully handled was each stone.
Each time you step inside,
You feel a Spirit you cannot hide.
A shining star and moonstone,
The celestial represented by a sunstone.
It is a good place to see—
Really, it did amaze me!

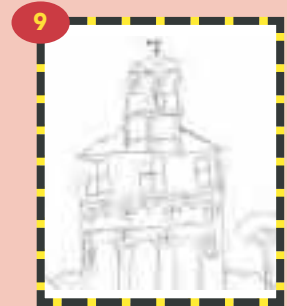
*Kameron Peterson, age 10
Ham Lake, Minnesota*

When I Am Baptized

When I'm baptized, I must hear
The Holy Ghost coming near.
When I need help, I'll say a prayer
to clear my mind and ask for care.
I'll read the scriptures every week
and not a crude word will come when I speak.
I will try not to ever boast;
I will listen to the Holy Ghost.

*Katie Peterson, age 9
Kifissia, Greece*





Keep the Commandments

Prayer is important, to talk to my Father above—
I thank Him for His blessings, and for His endless love.
Scripture reading daily will help me on my journey.
If I gain knowledge, I'll stay in the Church firmly.
Choosing the right is on the list of things I need to do
To make it back; holding to the rod, showing I am true.
So if I spend my earthly days in things I know are right,
Then I'll walk and talk with Him someday in His heavenly light.

Carrisa Rasmussen, age 10
Honeyville, Utah

Life Is a Test

Life is a test,
Not science, not math.
To prove that we're clean—
But not with a bath.

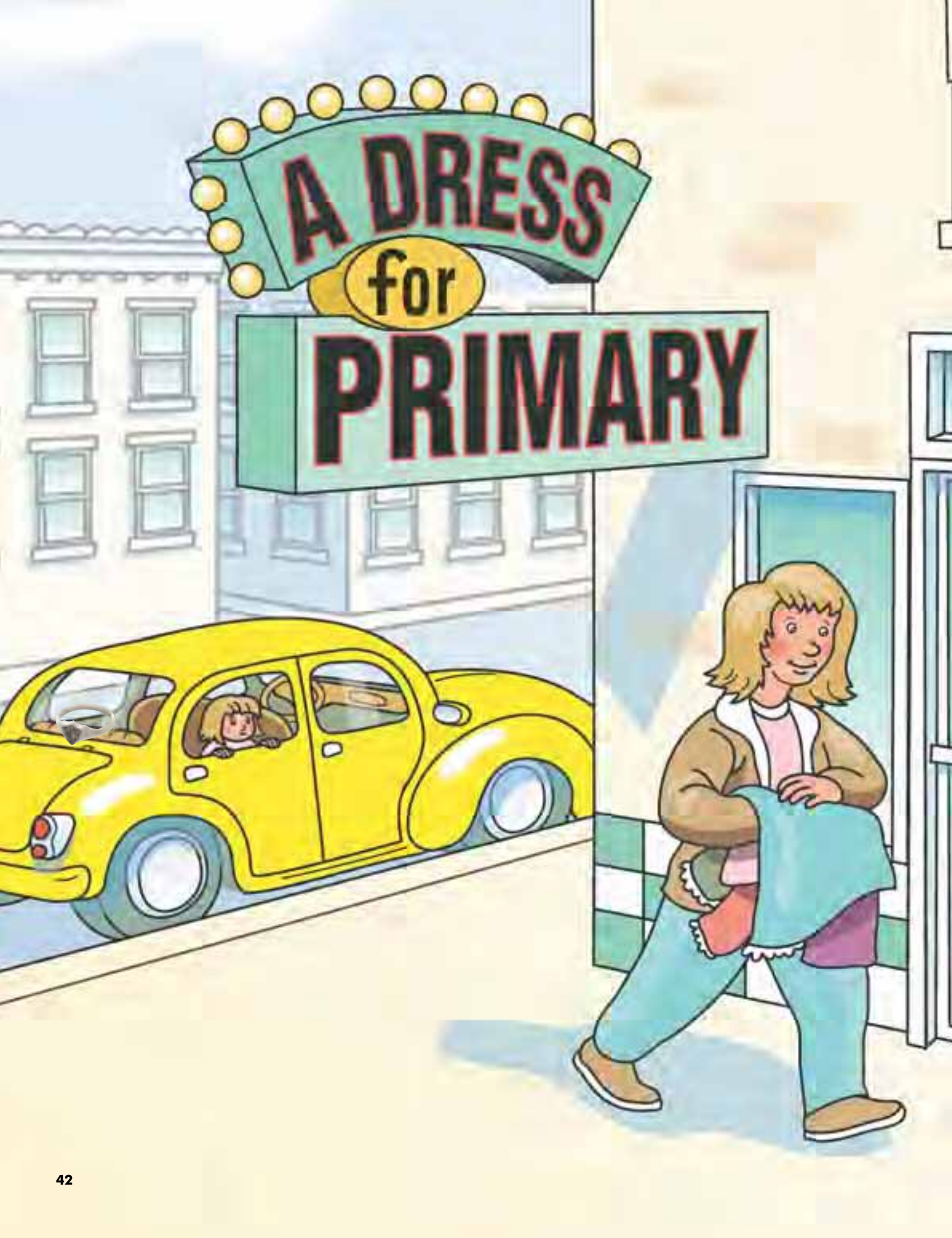
Life's full of troubles,
Life has its pains.
Life has its hard times
Like regular rains.

Some times are filled with glory;
While others are dark with the devil's defiance.
But with Heavenly Father we can pass life's test
In an earthly alliance.

Michael Hill, age 8
Leesburg, Virginia



- 1 Weston Barnes, age 7
Idaho Springs, Colorado
- 2 Rebekah Wisniewski, age 8
Gaitthersburg, Maryland
- 3 Kyle Richins, age 12
Sand Springs, Oklahoma
- 4 Sarah Chase, age 11
Hunter, Utah
- 5 Stanford Reynolds, age 8
Piopio, New Zealand
- 6 Kenlee Coleman, age 5
East Wenatchee, Washington
- 7 Joseph Brown, age 7
Reedley, California
- 8 Julia Anne Bashford, age 6
Hamden, Connecticut
- 9 Jared R. Hubbard, age 10
Richmond, Ohio
- 10 Natasha Gazely, age 6
Surrey, British Columbia, Canada
- 11 Alec Kablil Tapia, age 4
Florence, Kentucky
- 12 Abby Tucker, age 6
Idaho Falls, Idaho
- 13 Brandon Wolvington, age 6
Lovell, Wyoming
- 14 Katie Rinker, age 7
Guatemala City, Guatemala
- 15 Sarah Sorensen, age 10
Laguna Niguel, California
- 16 David Robert Johnson, age 8
West Bountiful, Utah
- 17 Nathan Wagstaff, age 7
Kamas, Utah
- 18 Sunshine LaToy, age 8
Phoenix, Arizona
- 19 Jasmine Lynch, age 8
Dunwoody, Georgia
- 20 Bryaen Carter, age 7
Santaquin, Utah





BY PATRICIA REECE ROPER

(Based on a true story)



For [God] knoweth all things (2 Nephi 9:20).

Desiree's lower lip quivered as she watched her mother carry her dresses into the dry cleaner. She knew they wouldn't be clean in time for church on Sunday. Mom had explained that to her, and Desiree had said that she understood, but now she wasn't sure. When Mom came back, Desiree bit her lip to make it stop quivering. She didn't want Mom to know she was upset.

"I want a new dress," Desiree said when Mom got into the car. "It will be my first day in Sunbeams."

"Sweetheart," Mom answered, "you don't need a new dress. Your dresses will be just fine when the smoky smell is gone."

"But what will I wear on Sunday?" Desiree frowned.

"I don't know yet," Mom replied. "We'll find something." When Desiree sighed unhappily, Mom added, "Just be glad that no one was hurt in the fire."

Desiree tried to be glad as she remembered Mom waking her up in the middle of the night and carrying her outside while Dad had called the fire department. They had quickly crossed the street to safety.

Later, Desiree learned how they had been awakened when the fire started—Dad had heard someone calling him. He woke up to see the house filling with smoke. Because they woke up and quickly got help, their home hadn't burned down, but there was still a lot of smoke damage and a big mess to clean up.

"What if I pray for a new dress?" Desiree asked.

Mom sighed. "I think it would be better to pray that some other little girl could get a new dress."

"Why?"

"Well, it might be a good idea to focus on being thankful that we didn't lose very much in the fire instead of worrying so much about things we want," Mom explained. "We should pray for others to have the things they need."

“We don’t have everything *we* need,” Desiree said.
“Yes, we do,” Mom said. “We might just have to wait a little while to get it all back.”

Desiree drew pictures in the frost-covered car window with her finger the rest of the way home. As she thought about what Mom had said about praying for others, she decided it would be a good idea. She knew of children her age who needed shoes, clothes, and even enough food to eat. The more she thought about them, the more sorry she felt for acting selfish. Her mother was right; she did have everything she needed.

“Hey, there are your cousins,” Mom said as they pulled into the driveway. Desiree’s cousins were standing on the front doorstep with a big plastic bag on the ground beside them.

After Mom parked the car, she let Desiree’s two cousins inside. They were both older than Desiree.

“Look what we have!” the girls exclaimed.

“What is it?” Desiree asked.

“When we heard about the fire, our mom helped us go through some of our things,” Angela, the oldest cousin, explained. “Here, you can have these.”

Desiree took the big plastic bag and eagerly opened it. Inside she found some toys, stuffed animals, and clothes. At the very bottom was a pretty Sunday dress. Desiree squealed with delight as she pulled the dress from the bag. “Look!”

Mom clapped her hands in surprise. “Oh my goodness! How did you girls know she needed a dress for her first Sunbeam class?”

Angela shook her head. “We didn’t.”

“Thank you!” Desiree cried happily.

“Remember to thank Heavenly Father, too,” Mom said. “He’s the one who inspired your aunt to send us the dress.”

“But how did He know? I didn’t pray for one—honest!” Desiree said.

Mom hugged Desiree and smiled through happy tears. “He knows what we need even before we ask Him, just like He knew we needed to get out of the

house before we started smelling smoke. Remember?”

“Wow!” Desiree smiled. “He really does know everything.”

Carrying her new dress up the stairs, Desiree went into her room to pray in thanks. ●

Patricia Reece Roper is a member of the Leamington Ward, Delta Utah Stake.



“There is nothing about us [Heavenly Father] does not know. He is conscious of our every need.”

Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “Learning to Recognize Answers to Prayer,” Ensign, Nov. 1989, 31.



We May Be Like Him

BY PRESIDENT BOYD K. PACKER

Acting President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Some years ago I returned home to find our little children had discovered some newly hatched chicks under the manger in the barn. As our little girl held one of them, I said in a teasing way, “That will make a nice watchdog when it grows up, won’t it?” She looked at me quizzically, as if I didn’t know much.

So I changed my approach: “It won’t be a watchdog, will it?” She shook her head, “No, Daddy.” Then I added, “It will be a nice riding horse.”

She wrinkled up her nose and gave me that “Oh, Dad!” look. Even though she was only four years old, she knew that the little

chick would grow up to be either a hen or a rooster—much like its mother or father.

All animal life produces after its own kind, and little ones grow up to look and to be like their parents. That is true of people too. Small boys and girls grow up to be big boys and girls, then men and women.

I testify that God is indeed our Father. When we reach our full growth and destiny, we have the promise that we may be like Him. Just as all life follows the pattern of its parents, so can we grow toward the image of our Heavenly Father if we will live righteously and be obedient to His commandments. ●

From an October 1984 general conference address and Friend, June 1972, 10–11.



Did you know that President Boyd K. Packer enjoyed raising chickens and horses? He bears testimony that we can become like our Heavenly Father.



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

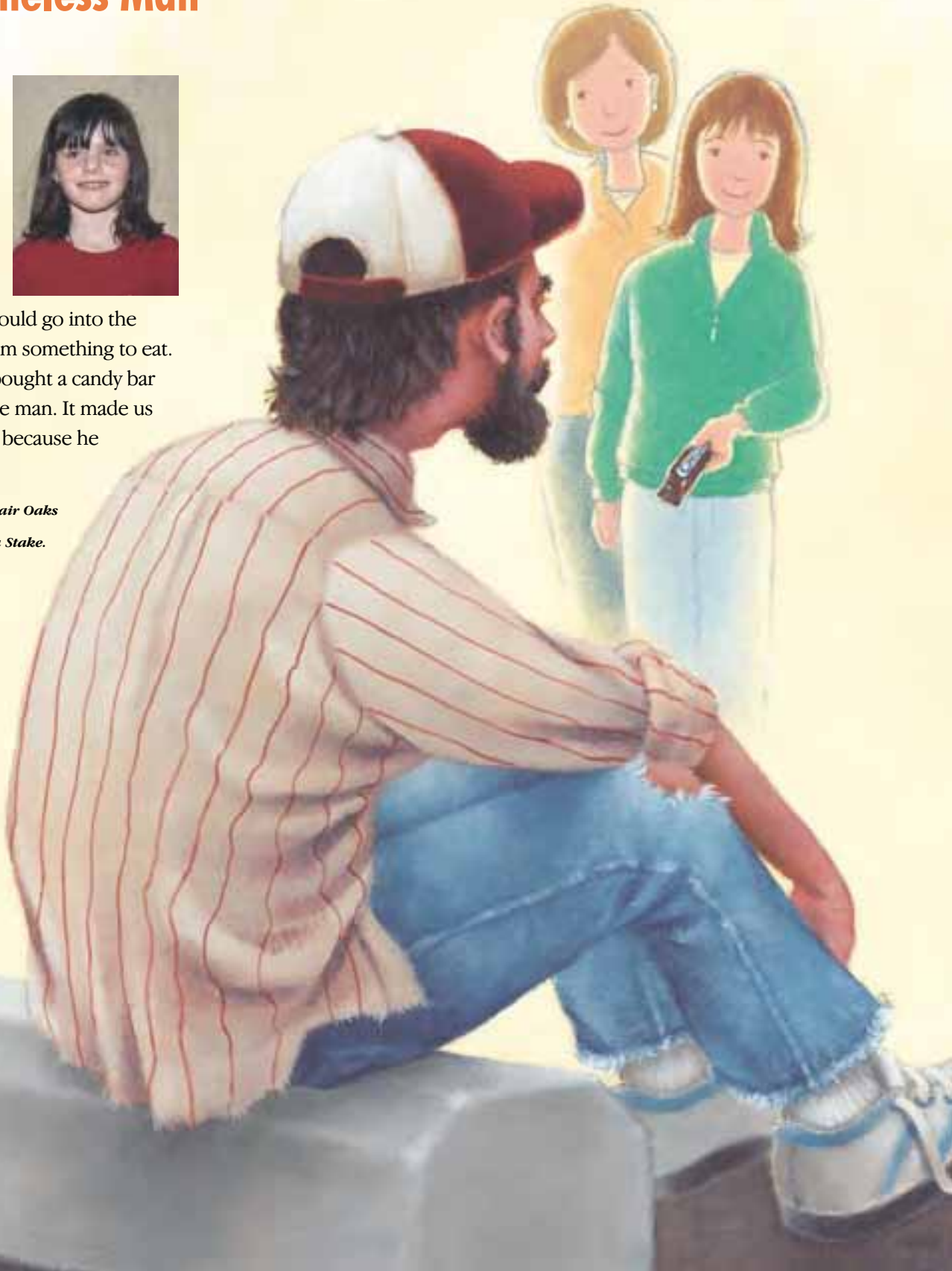
The Homeless Man

By Hannah Hill

I was walking through a parking lot with my mom and two sisters when we saw a homeless man. I asked my mom if we could go into the store and buy him something to eat. My sister and I bought a candy bar and gave it to the man. It made us feel really good, because he was hungry.



*Hannah Hill, age 9,
is a member of the Fair Oaks
Third Ward,
Fair Oaks California Stake.*



Wrong Choice/ Right Choice

By Steve Flynn



I was invited to a friend's house. I was excited because he had moved to the other side of town, and I didn't get to see him very often. On the way there, Mom and I reviewed what is expected of me at a friend's house.

I was having a good time with my friend when he started playing a movie that was rated PG-13. I told him that I'm not allowed to watch PG-13 movies, and that I would not watch it. Then he put in an R-rated movie. I told him I would not watch that either. My friend would not listen to me. This made me sad.

I called my parents, and my mom came and got me. When she found out what had happened, she was very proud of me and took me out to eat. I am sad that my friend chose what was wrong. But I felt the Holy Ghost when I left my friend's house, because I chose what was right.

*Steve Flynn, age 11,
is a member of the Maple Hill Ward,
Boise Idaho Central Stake.*

Christmas Dance Decision

By Joshi Kirkham

Last summer I took a ballet class. I enjoyed seeing my friends there. We practiced for months for a Christmas dance. When December finally came, I was so excited to perform our dance. But two weeks before the performance, our teacher told my mom that it would be on a Sunday. When Mom told me, I said I would not go. I was sad



*Joshi Kirkham, age 5,
is a member of the Vinton Ward,
Roanoke Virginia Stake.*

that I would not be able to perform in our Christmas dance, but I was happy that I chose the right.

"What Is Prayer?"

By Eric Hillman

One day on the bus on the way home from school, I was telling my friend James how much I enjoy going to church. When I mentioned prayer, James asked me, "What is prayer?"

"It's a way of talking to God," I said. He asked me how to pray, and I told him, "First you bow your head, fold your arms, and close your eyes. Then you start with 'Dear Heavenly

Father,' thank Him for your blessings, tell Him about your day, ask for anything you need, and then end in the name of Jesus Christ."

James said his own prayer while we were on the bus. I felt happy inside that I had taught my friend how to pray.

I have invited many of my friends to come to Cub Scouts with me at the church. James and three other friends from school joined our pack. We have a great time together. I am glad I can be a good example.

*Eric Hillman, age 10,
is a member of the Stoney Creek Ward,
Hamilton Ontario Stake.*

A Friend

By Jessica Fuller



On the first day of school I went to recess and saw a girl sitting on the swings all alone. I went

over to her and asked her if she had any friends. She said she didn't, so I played with her until it was time for me to go in.

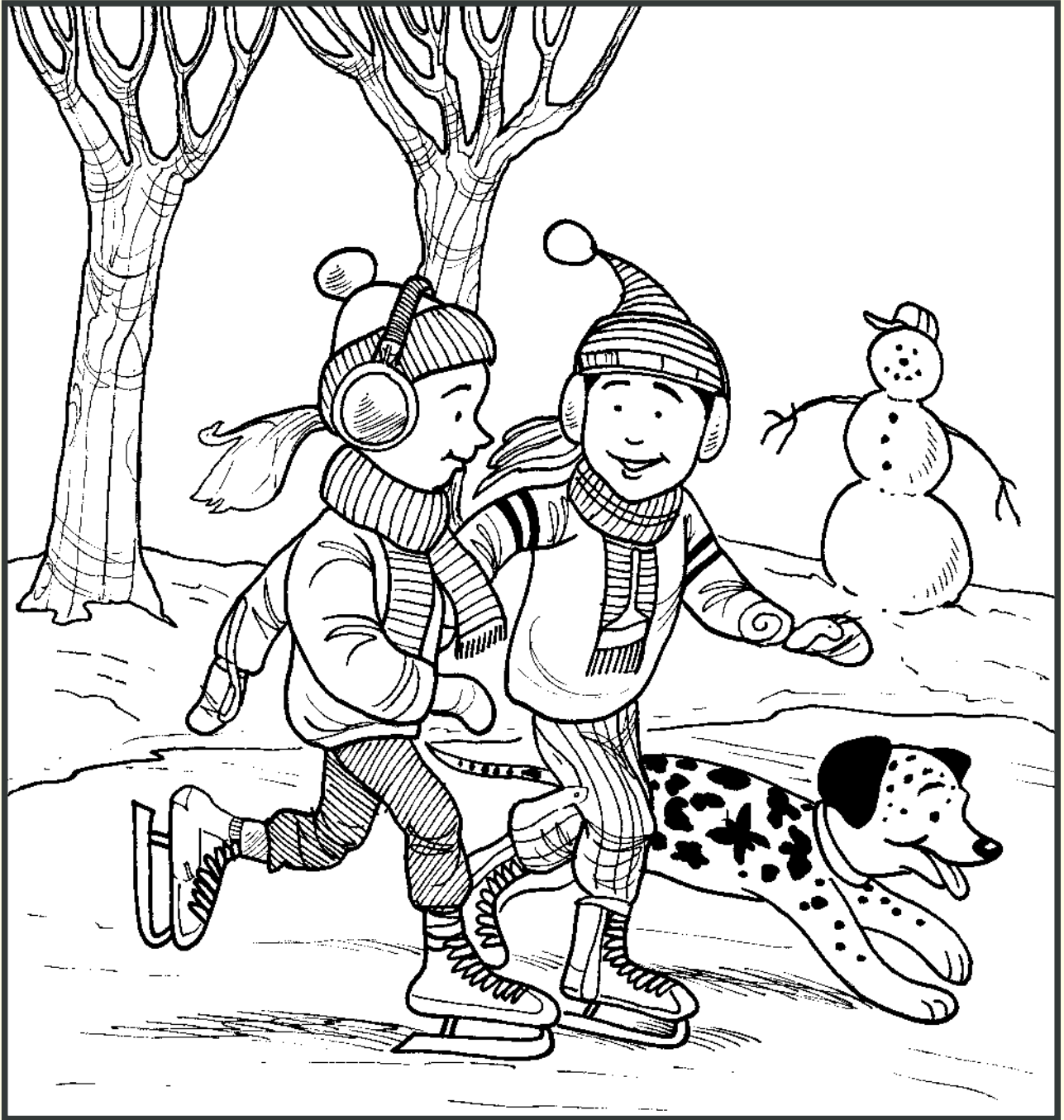
*Jessica Fuller, age 10,
is a member of the Highland 17th Ward,
Highland Utah East Stake.*

funstuf

Winter Fun

BY ROBERT PETERSON

These children are enjoying the beauty of winter while ice skating. See if you can find a butterfly, comb, crayon, diamond ring, hammer, paintbrush, pocketknife, snail, sock, spoon, swan, and toothbrush. Then color the picture.



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 January is "I am a child of God."



Family Home Evening Ideas

1. Remove the poster "My Family Can Be Forever" from the center of the magazine. Follow the instructions to

prepare all the pieces that will be used on the poster. On the first Monday evening of each month, read and/or memorize the scripture or statement on the back of the appropriate piece and decide on one thing you can do in your family to follow the counsel given. Build your poster-home piece by piece, month by month, throughout the year.

2. Tell President Thomas S. Monson's story "More Blessed to Give" (pages 2–3). Talk about how you feel when you do something nice for someone else. Read the story "Petey Didn't Want to Be a Sunbeam!" (pages 32–35). Plan a family-night activity to do some kind service for a neighbor.

3. If possible, make a copy of the activity on page 17 for each family member. As each of you make a box, read "I Am a Child of God" (page 15). Take turns reading the scriptures you have cut out from around the box pattern

and put them in your boxes. When you are done, draw out one scripture from your boxes and try harder to live by it during the week. You could make one box for the entire family if you are not able to make copies.



See pages 2–3.

4. Using your scriptures, do the Funstuf activity "I Will Go and Do" (page 26) together as a family. Then take the poster "I Will Follow the Savior" (pages 24–25) and, using your scriptures again, thoughtfully fill in the boxes and promise to help one another be more like the Savior.

5. Using the pictures, read "I Love Heavenly Father" (pages 28–29). Then have each family member draw his or her own "like" picture. Show and explain your pictures to each other. Then have Mom or Dad teach that no matter how much we love Heavenly Father, He loves us even

more. How wonderful that is! Read together "Heavenly Father Loves Me" (page 27).

6. Make the "Snowball Snack" (page 31) or another favorite treat for refreshments.



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(p) = poster
(v) = verse
(IFC) = inside front cover

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Send children's submissions to *Friend*, 24th Floor, 50 East North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah 84150-3220, in care of the appropriate department—Our Creative Friends, Friends in the News, Friends by Mail, Trying to Be Like Jesus.

The *Friend* can be found on the Internet at www.lds.org. Click on Gospel Library.



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*The family is central to
the Creator's plan for the
eternal destiny of His children*
("The Family: A Proclamation to the
World," *Ensign*, Nov. 1995, 102).