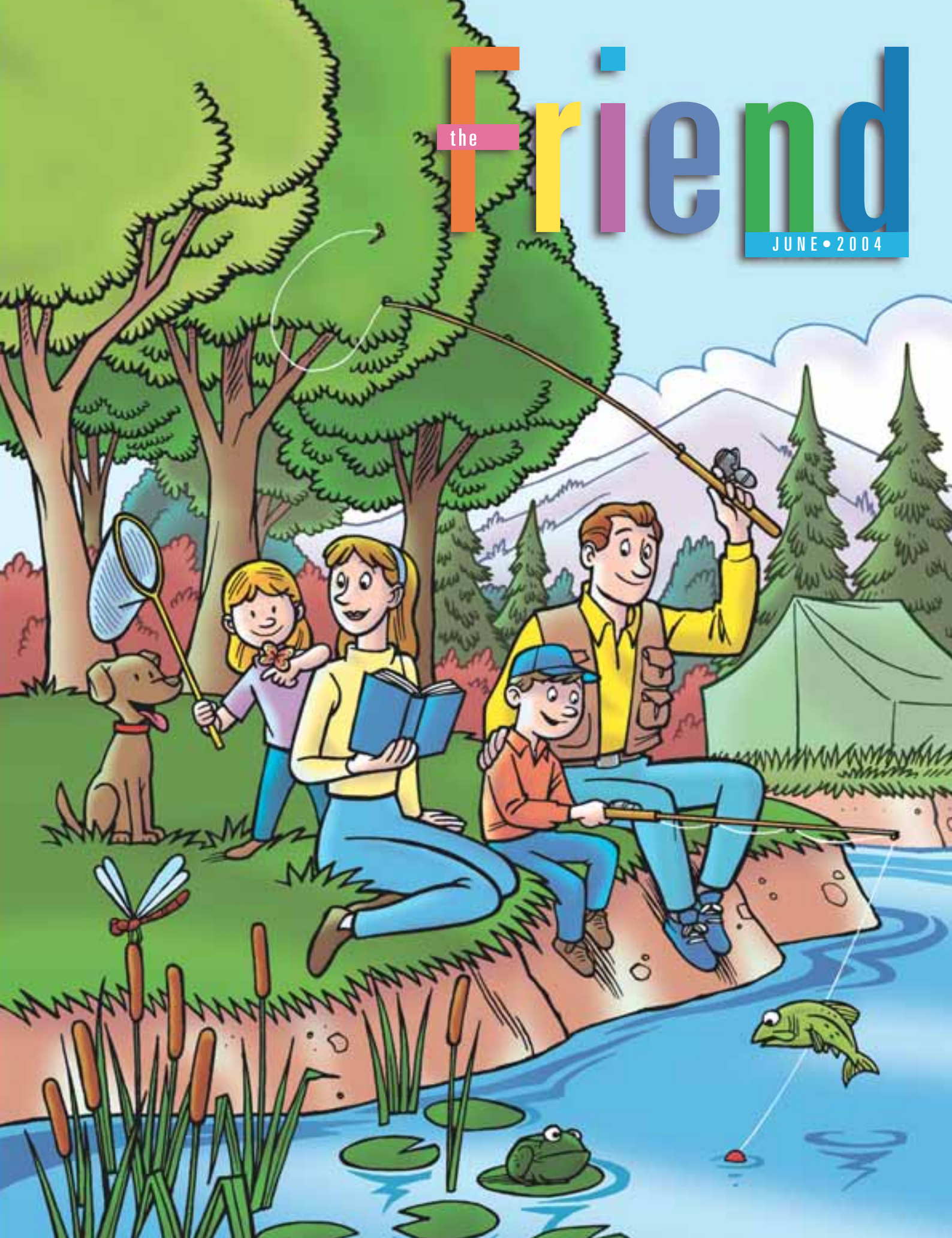


the friend

JUNE • 2004



Friends by Mail



Answered Prayers

We went to Utah on vacation to visit our cousins. On the way back home to California, our pickup truck broke down in the middle of Nevada. There weren't any towns close by, and we didn't have a cell phone. We pulled over, and my dad tried to figure out what was wrong with the truck. But everything looked fine. We said a prayer. We asked that someone we could trust would stop and help us and that we would be able to get the truck fixed. Within five minutes, a woman named Lori stopped and asked if we needed help. She had a cell phone, so she called the highway patrol and a

tow truck. Then she took Mom and us children to the next town, where we waited at a restaurant. After four hours, Dad drove up in the pickup. It was fixed! We immediately said a prayer of thanks for answered prayers and all the help we received. We continued our journey and arrived home safely. We still remember the Spirit we felt in our hearts. We know we have a Heavenly Father who loves us and watches over us.

Lashele and Sabrina Davis, ages 11 and 6
Suisun, California

What Is Important to My Family

In school I had an assignment to create a family coat of arms. First I thought about what is important to my family. Then I started with a sheet of blue paper because I remembered the words from "Our Primary Colors" (*Children's Songbook*, 258): "Blue is for truth in our thought and our deed." Next I put on a green shield to remind me to choose the right, just like my CTR ring. I added a red heart on the shield because "red is for courage to do what is right," and the heart is for the love that keeps our family together. I added a yellow Utah shape because I was born in Utah and because yellow is for "service from morning till night." I added a picture of the world because my ancestors came from

14 different countries. I added a picture of the Book of

Mormon because it is so important to my family. I

added a picture of a baptism because we have to be baptized to return to live with Jesus. I added pictures of temples because they make it possible for our family to be together forever. And I added a white cat because I like cats and have two as pets. My teacher gave me a certificate for being the most creative, and she hung my shield on the wall for a long time. It also helped me to share the gospel with my friends.

Rachel Mathews, age 8
Valparaiso, Indiana



Please send us a letter sharing your feelings about the *Friend* magazine, a spiritual experience, your testimony, or whatever else is on your mind. If an adult helps with a child's submission, credit should also be given to him or her. Send it to Friends by Mail, *Friend*, 24th Floor, 50 East North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah 84150-3220. Please include a photo of yourself and your name, age, and address. Submissions may be edited for length and clarity.

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Cover by Adam Koford

the **Friend**

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



See the Guide to
the *Friend* (inside back
cover) for family home
evening ideas.

HIDDEN CTR RING

In Japanese,
"choose the right" is
written like this:

せいぎをえらぶ

As you look for the
Japanese CTR ring hidden
in this issue, commit to
always dress neatly and
modestly.





Come Listen to
a Prophet's Voice

The Race

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

In [everyone's] conscience lies that spirit, that determination to measure up to the stature of true potential. But the way is rugged, and the course is [challenging]. So discovered John Helander from Göteborg, Sweden. John is handicapped, in that it is difficult for him to coordinate his motions.

At a youth conference in Kungsbacka, Sweden, John took part in a running race. He had no chance to win. Rather, his was the opportunity to be humiliated.

What a race it was! Struggling, surging, pressing, the runners bolted far beyond John. There was wonderment among the spectators. Who was this runner who lagged so far behind? The participants on their second lap of this two-lap race passed John while he was but halfway through the first lap. Tension mounted as the runners pressed toward the tape. Who would win? Who would place second? Then came the final burst of speed; the tape was broken. The crowd cheered; the winner was proclaimed.

The race was over—or was it? Who is this contestant who continues to run when the race is ended? He crosses the finish line on but his first lap. Doesn't the foolish lad know he has lost? Ever onward he struggles, the only participant now on the track. Every eye is on this valiant runner. He makes the final turn and moves



Each of us must face difficult tasks. President Monson teaches that we have help along the way.

toward the finish line. There is awe; there is admiration. As John approaches the finish line, the audience, as one, rises to its feet. Stumbling, falling, exhausted but victorious, John Helander breaks the newly tightened tape. The cheering echoes for miles.

Each of us is a runner in the race of life. But you and I do not run alone. That vast audience of family, friends, and leaders will cheer our courage, will applaud our determination as we rise from our stumblings and pursue our goal. The race of life is not for sprinters running on a level track. The course is marked by pitfalls and checkered with obstacles. We take confidence from the hymn:

*Fear not, I am with thee; oh, be not dismayed,
For I am thy God and will still give thee aid.
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by my righteous, . . . omnipotent hand.*
(“How Firm a Foundation,” *Hymns*, no. 85)

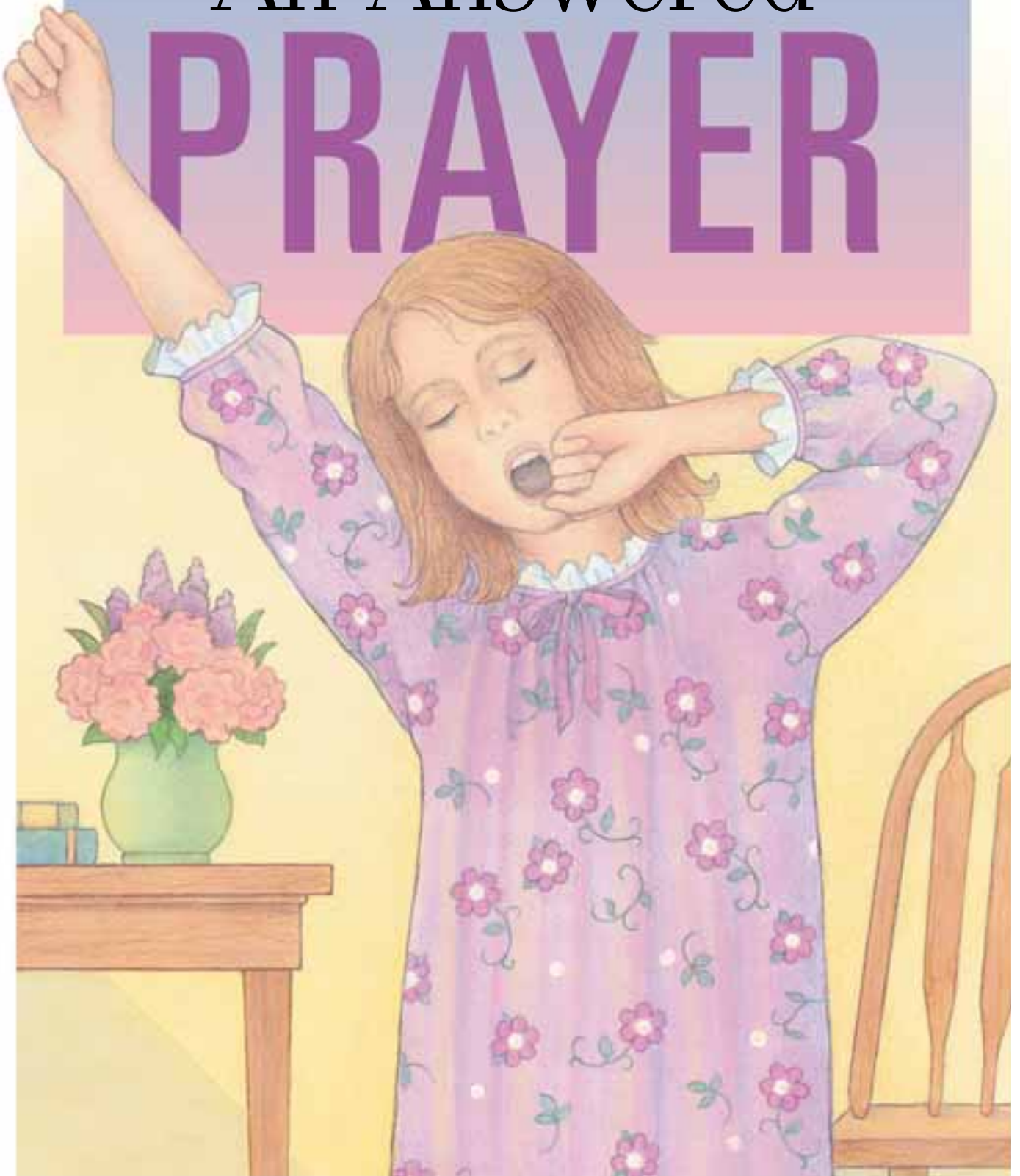
Let us shed any thought of failure. Let us discard any habit that may hinder. Let us seek; let us obtain the prize prepared for all, even exaltation in the celestial kingdom of God. ●

From an April 1987 general conference address.



An Answered

PRAYER





BY JENNIFER WHITE

(Based on a true story)

Pray in your families unto the Father (3 Nephi 18:21).

Grace,” Mom whispered. “Wake up. It’s time for family prayer.”

Grace groaned and pulled the covers over her head. She was so warm and cozy in her bed. She heard her sister Charlotte get up and go into the living room. Grace stayed in bed, hoping her family would forget about her and just say the prayer. Dad had to leave for work early every morning, so everyone got up then to say good-bye and have a prayer.

“Grace, time to get up,” Mom called. Grace sighed and dragged herself out of bed. Rubbing the sleep from her eyes, she mumbled to herself, “What’s the point? We pray for the same things every day.”

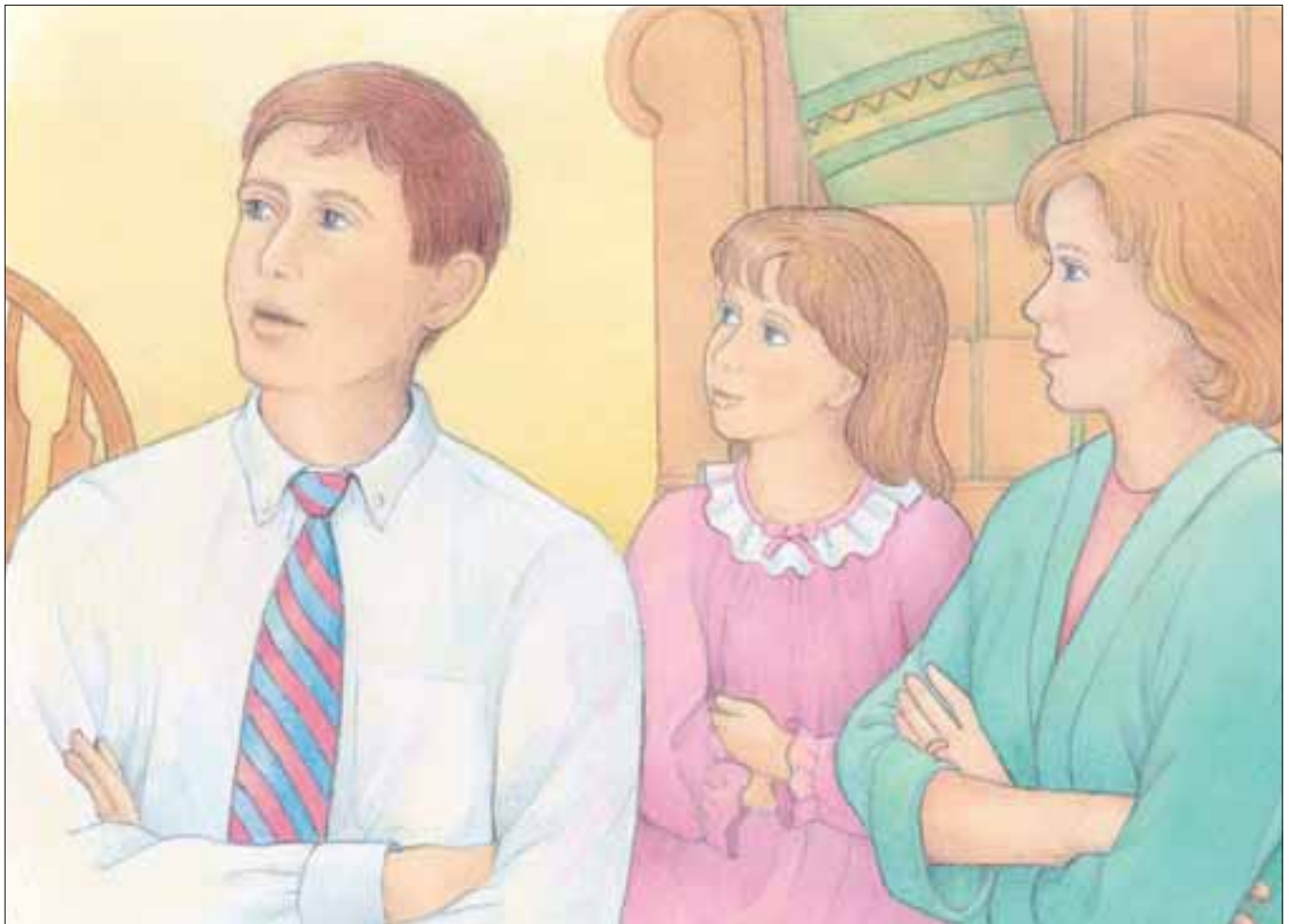
“Hello, sleepyhead,” Dad said with a smile. Grace

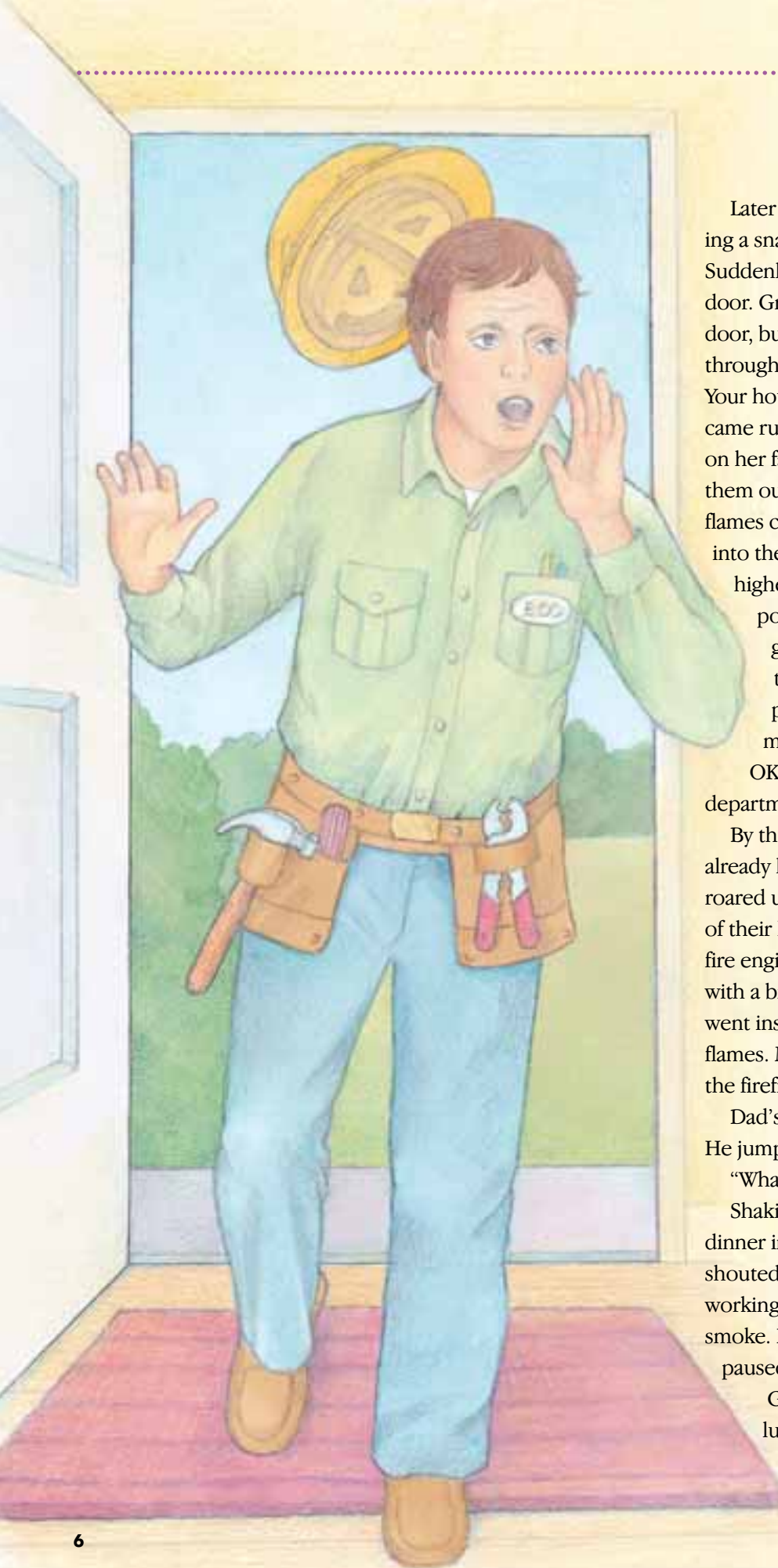
scowled at him. She knelt on the floor next to Charlotte and bowed her head.

“Help us to be like Jesus and to love one another. Please help us have a good day and bless us with health and safety. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen,” Charlotte said. “Amen,” chorused the family.

“Good-bye, everyone,” Dad said, “I love you.” Dad spied Grace, who was still scowling, and asked, “Where’s my good-bye smile?” Grace couldn’t help but smile as Dad reached out to tickle her, but she still felt grumpy.

Grace felt tired all morning at school. She was sure it was because she had to get up so early for family prayer. “If only I could sleep half an hour longer, I’m sure I wouldn’t feel so sleepy,” she thought.





Later that afternoon at home, Grace was eating a snack while Charlotte watched cartoons. Suddenly they heard pounding on the front door. Grace stood up and walked toward the door, but before she could open it, a man burst through it, yelling, "Fire! Fire! Hurry and get out! Your house is on fire!" Hearing the noise, Mom came rushing from the kitchen, a frightened look on her face. She grabbed the girls and rushed them out the front door. The man pointed to the flames coming from their roof. Smoke billowed into the sky as the flames climbed higher and higher. Mom led the girls to the neighbors' porch across the street. "Stay here while I go call 911," she said before running into the neighbors' house. After Mom disappeared, Charlotte began to cry. "I want my mommy." Grace hugged her, saying, "It's OK, Mommy just went inside to call the fire department."

By the time Mom came back, they could already hear sirens blaring. A big red fire truck roared up the street, screeching to a halt in front of their house. The firefighters leaped from the fire engine and began spraying Grace's house with a big hose. Once the blaze died down, they went inside to check the house for any lingering flames. Mom hugged the girls as they watched the firefighters work.

Dad's car pulled into the neighbors' driveway. He jumped out.

"What happened?" Dad cried.

Shaking her head, Mom said, "I was starting dinner in the kitchen when a man came in and shouted that our house was on fire. He was working on the electrical lines and saw the smoke. I had no idea what was going on. . . ." She paused. "He saved our lives."

Grace said in a trembling voice, "It was lucky that he was working up on the power poles and saw the smoke, or we might have been inside when the fire

got worse.” Grace didn’t want to think of what might have happened.

Dad hugged everyone and said with tears in his eyes, “Let’s kneel right now and thank Heavenly Father for His protection.”

“What about the house, Dad?” Grace cried.

Dad said quietly, “I don’t care about the house. I’m just grateful you are all safe.”

Grace had never felt so much love and happiness as she knelt with her family. Then she remembered their family prayer that morning for health and safety. Shame washed over her as she recalled how she had acted.

“I’m sorry, Heavenly Father,” she prayed silently. The warm feeling returned to her heart. She knew that Heavenly Father had protected her and her family, and she was grateful that He had heard and answered her family’s prayer. ●

Jennifer White is a member of the Thousand Oaks Second Ward, Thousand Oaks California Stake.



LET’S TALK ABOUT IT

During family home evening, talk about how to prevent fires and what to do if there is a fire in your home.

1. Talk about fire prevention:

- Never play with matches.
- Stay away from lit candles.
- Always have adult supervision in

the kitchen.

• Don’t plug too many things into an electrical outlet.

2. Talk about what to do if there is a fire. Do you have an escape plan? Smoke can make it difficult to see, so plan several escape routes.

3. If you live in an apartment building, learn where there is a fire escape or a stairwell.

4. Windows should be easy to open and screens easy to remove.

5. Talk about safe ways to leave your home, such as crawling on your hands and knees to escape the smoke. Do not run if your clothes are on fire. Stop, drop, and roll.

6. Make sure your fire alarm works. Check the batteries regularly.

7. If there is a fire, do not stop for a favorite toy or to call 911. Once you are out, stay out and do not go back in for any reason.

8. Never hide under a bed or in a closet, which makes it very difficult for a rescuer to find you. If you cannot get out on your own,

stand in front of an open window and wait for help.

9. Decide on a meeting place a safe distance from the house, like a fence or a mailbox, so your family will know that everyone got out safely.

10. Practice a fire drill at home just as you do at school. You should practice every few months and time yourselves to see if you can get out faster than you did before. Try to have everyone out of the house and at the meeting place in three minutes or less.

If you would like more information about fire safety, visit the United States Fire Administration Web site at www.usfa.fema.gov/kids.



Working for Jesus



From an interview
with Sister Bonnie D.
Parkin, Relief Society
general president; by
Monica Weeks, Church
Magazines

Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me (Matthew 25:40).

I grew up in Herriman, Utah, a small community with only one ward. Every time we came into the chapel, we saw large pictures of the latter-day prophets of God. We memorized who they were, just like we memorized the Articles of Faith. Little things like that made a difference in who we became and what we felt as we grew up.

When I was about 10, my mother had an infection around the lining of her heart. There were five of us children in the family. We knew that Mother was very sick. We lived a long distance from the hospital, and in those days children weren't allowed to

go into hospitals to visit patients. When we visited my mother, we stood outside so she could look out the window and see us.

When we returned home, Father gathered us together in my parents' bedroom. We all knelt around the bed and prayed for Mother. After being in the hospital for a month, Mother got well. I have a testimony that our Father in Heaven hears and answers our prayers.

The summer after Mother came home was wonderful. Primary was grand! We had Primary on weekday mornings. One week we made little dolls out of stockings. Then we made them little leather dresses. We cut fringe into the bottom of the

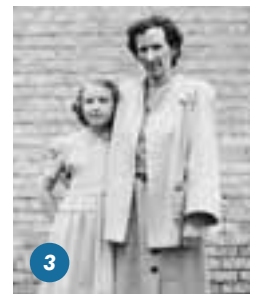


1. Clockwise from left: Jesse Dansie (father), Joyce, Rodney, Ruth (mother), Boyd, Bonnie, and Richard

2. About 9 months



3. With her mother



dresses and added beading. Then we braided their hair. We also embroidered faces for them. We made them little beds out of cardboard and yarn.

Primary was the beginning of my testimony. I learned the gospel there and felt the Spirit through good music. I remember the leaders who taught us the songs with so much energy. Singing was fun! I don't remember anybody telling me what I was feeling, but it was the Spirit. That's the kind of power that good music has.

When I was in my last year of Primary, a wonderful older lady named Marth Christensen was our teacher. She helped us learn the Articles of Faith. To this day I still know the Articles of Faith because of what I learned in Primary. We visited Sister Christensen's home often. It was always a wonderful experience to be there. She taught us cooking skills, and we made cookies and candy. Sometimes we took the treats we had made to somebody who was homebound. The examples of wonderful teachers taught me to serve.

Our testimonies begin small, but they grow bigger as we progress. I believe that I was born with a believing heart, and I'm grateful for that. But many of the things that strengthened my beliefs were things that happened in Primary. It was a joyous time.

I also learned to serve in my family. I grew up watching my parents and grandparents serve and care for others with love. It is important for children to serve alongside their parents. When a parent does something for someone else, you can deliver items or help in other ways. When you help your parents, you learn to serve as a family. Serving increases our testimonies of the Savior.

My husband, Jim, and I served a mission in England. One day when we called home and talked to our family, our three-year-old grandson James asked me, "Grandmother, do you work for Jesus?" It was wonderful to say to him, "Yes, we work for Jesus." When we serve in the Church, we're working for the Savior. I love Him, and I'm happy to serve Him wherever I am. ●



4

4. Doll she made in Primary



5

5. Around age 3 (second from left) with

siblings Rodney, Richard, and Joyce



6

6. Sister Parkin's grandchildren

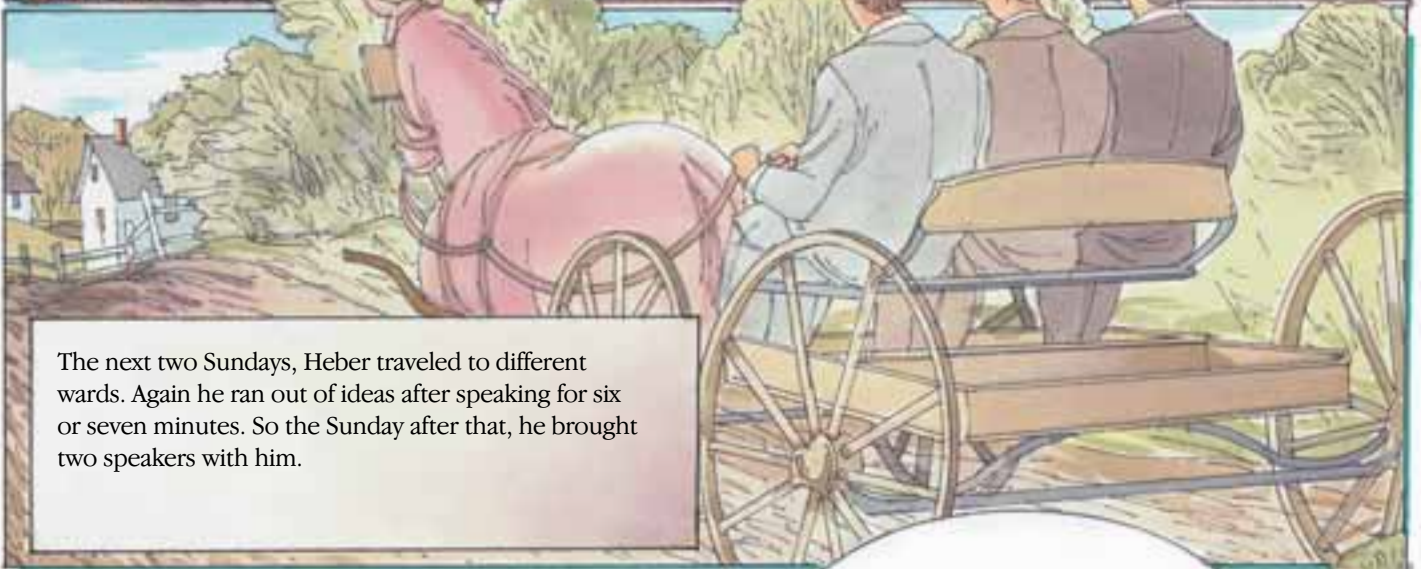
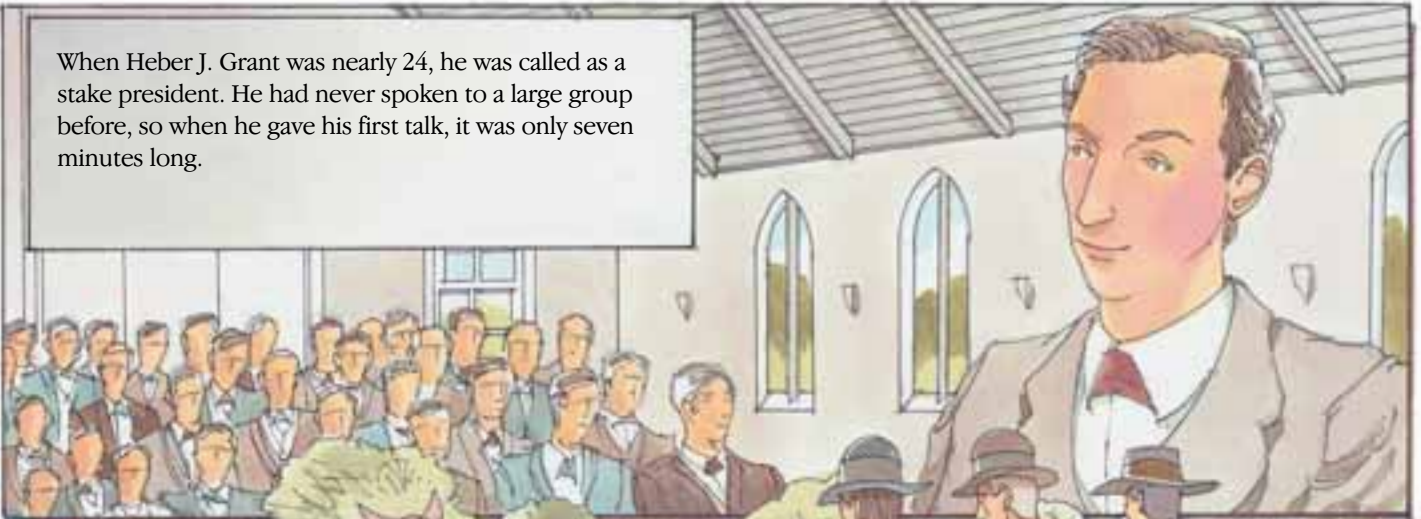


FROM THE LIFE OF PRESIDENT HEBER J. GRANT

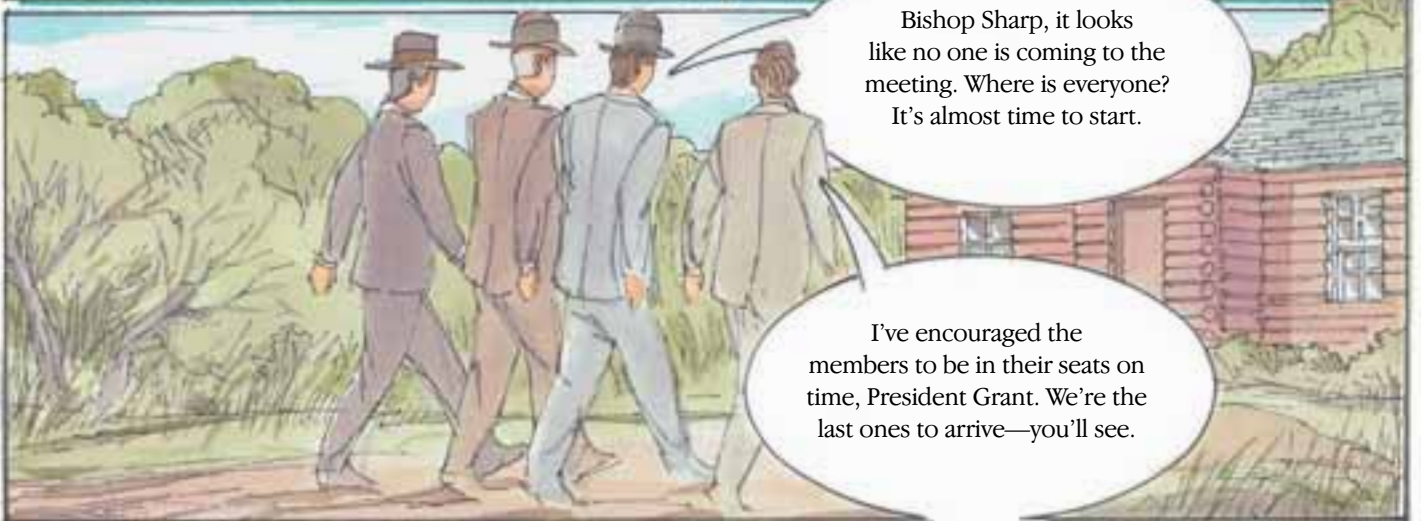
Speaking in Church



When Heber J. Grant was nearly 24, he was called as a stake president. He had never spoken to a large group before, so when he gave his first talk, it was only seven minutes long.



The next two Sundays, Heber traveled to different wards. Again he ran out of ideas after speaking for six or seven minutes. So the Sunday after that, he brought two speakers with him.



Bishop Sharp, it looks like no one is coming to the meeting. Where is everyone? It's almost time to start.

I've encouraged the members to be in their seats on time, President Grant. We're the last ones to arrive—you'll see.

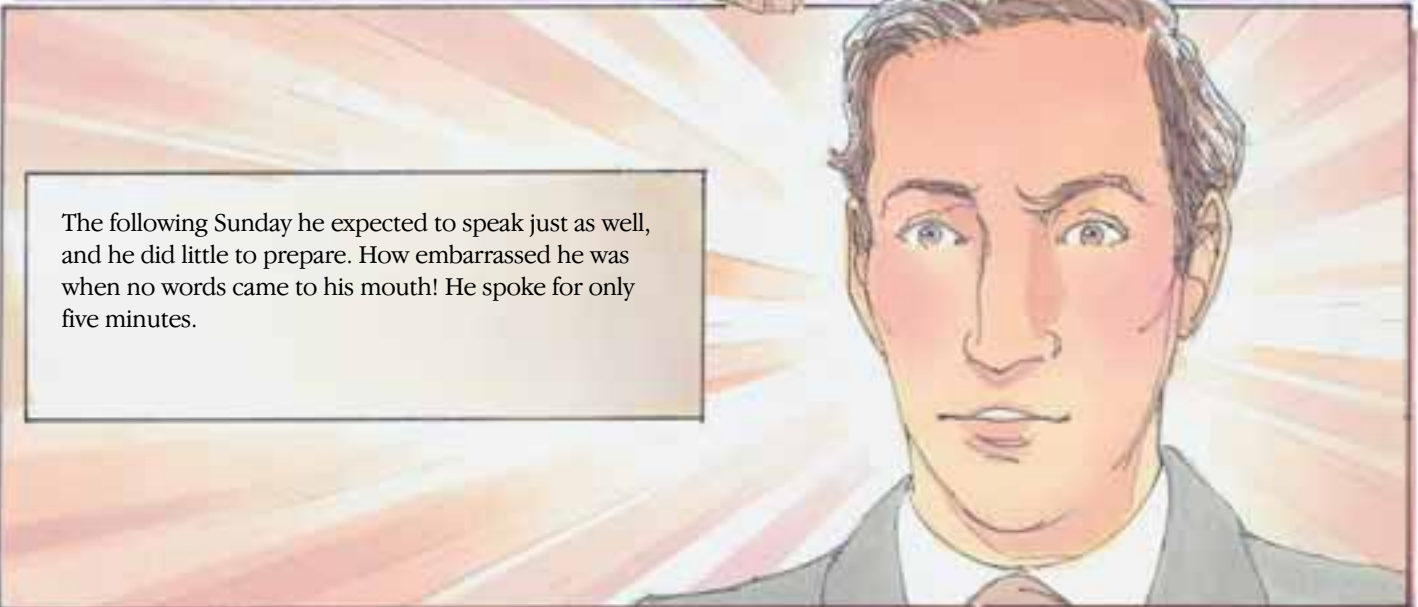


Inside the log meetinghouse, every seat was full! Heber thought he would speak for a few minutes, as usual. Instead, he spoke easily for nearly an hour. He felt the Spirit guiding him.

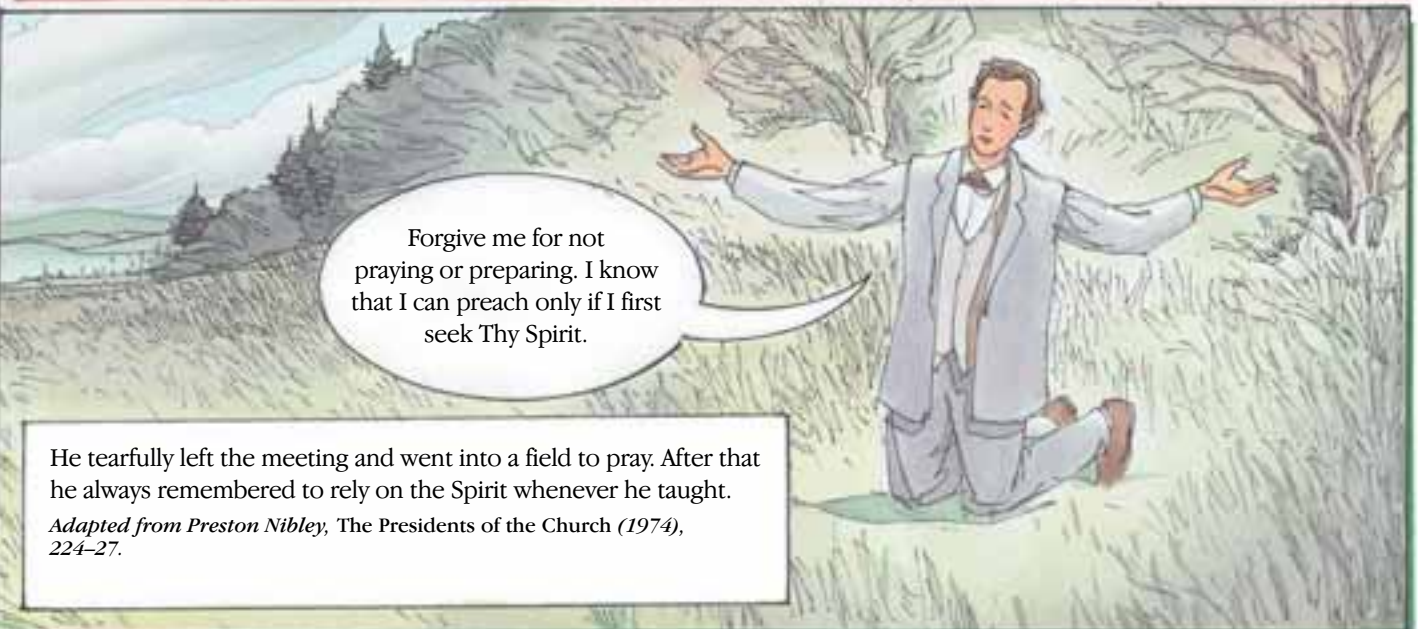
That night Heber prayed with gratitude.



I thank Thee, Heavenly Father, for blessing me with the Spirit as I spoke today.



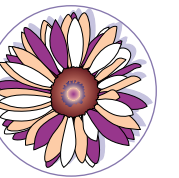
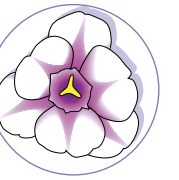
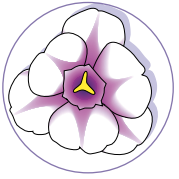
The following Sunday he expected to speak just as well, and he did little to prepare. How embarrassed he was when no words came to his mouth! He spoke for only five minutes.



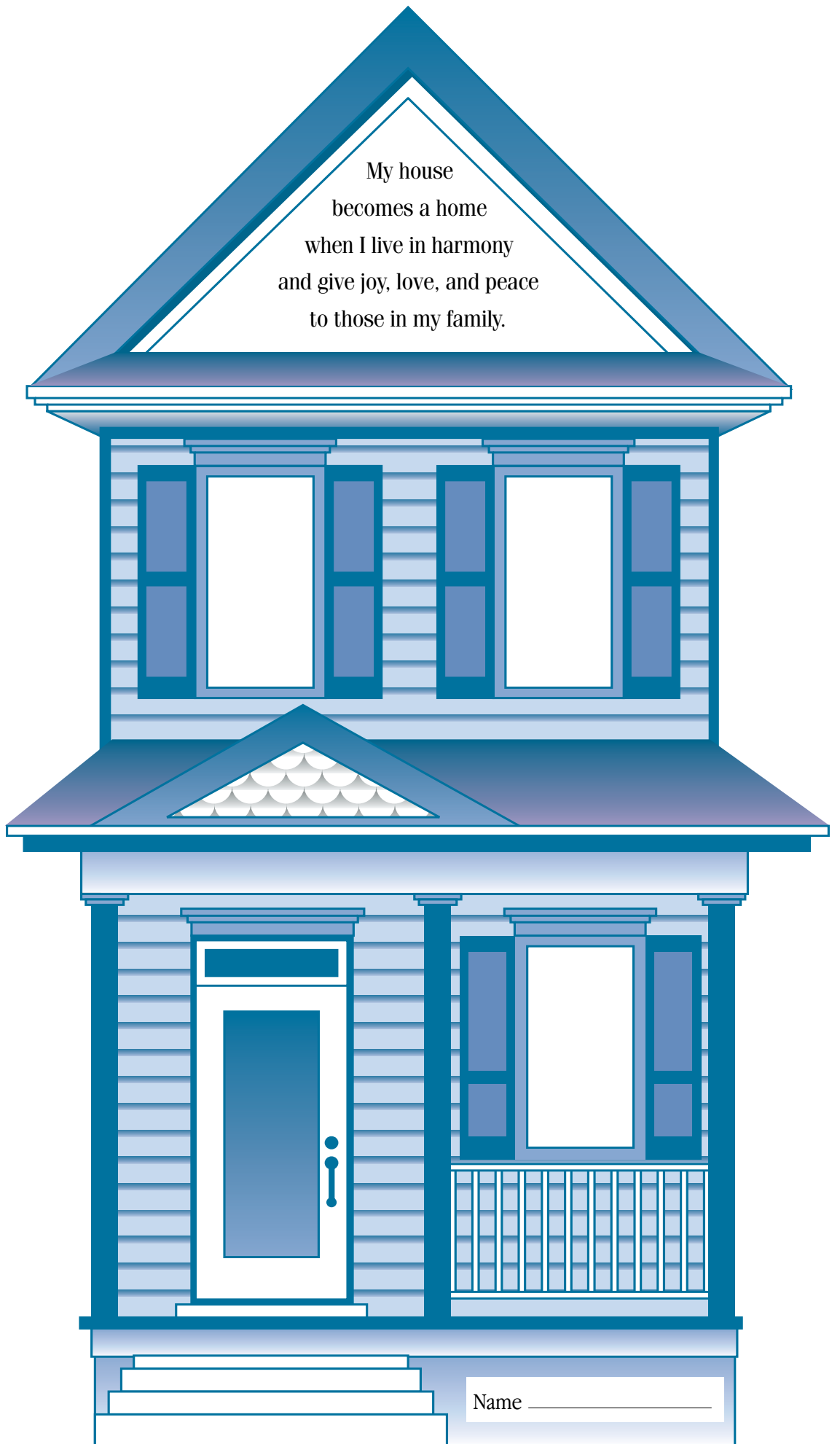
Forgive me for not praying or preparing. I know that I can preach only if I first seek Thy Spirit.

He tearfully left the meeting and went into a field to pray. After that he always remembered to rely on the Spirit whenever he taught.

Adapted from Preston Nibley, The Presidents of the Church (1974), 224-27.



My house
becomes a home
when I live in harmony
and give joy, love, and peace
to those in my family.



Name _____

A House or a Home?



BY SHEILA E. WILSON

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



Picture a house. Are you imagining a building with windows and a door? A house is where families eat, sleep, and live. A house becomes a home when family members learn together, help each other, and do fun things.

Many years ago a fire destroyed a family's house. A neighbor tried to comfort the family's seven-year-old boy by saying, "Johnny, it's too bad your home burned down." Johnny thought for a moment and said, "Oh, that was not our home; that was just our house. We still have our home; we just don't have any place to put it right now." Johnny knew that the fire had not destroyed his family and their kind feelings for one another.

What are you doing to make your house a home? You invite the Spirit into your home when you show

love and care for family members. You can make a difference in your family and in your home as you live the teachings of the gospel.

When Weldon was five years old, his mother asked how he would act if Jesus came to their home. Would he change the way he treated family members? His mom gave him a picture of a house and some paper flowers. Each time he shared with his brothers or did not quarrel, he could paste a flower on the house. The picture reminded him to make his house a home.

Making Your House a Home

Remove page 12 from the magazine, then cut out the flowers. Write your family's name on the nameplate on the house. When you serve your family or live gospel teachings, glue a flower on the house. As you add flowers, your house will become a home. Place it where it will remind you to make your own house a home! ●

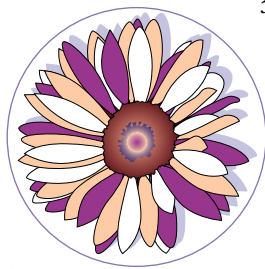
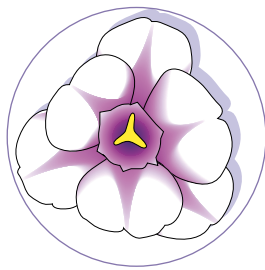
Sharing Time Ideas

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

1. Show a picture of Jesus Christ visiting the Nephites and commanding them to pray. Read the story together (see 3 Nephi 18:17–21). On the chalkboard write *Family prayer strengthens my family*. Write scripture references about prayer (see below) on pieces of paper, and tie each paper to a stick or twig. Have each class read a scripture and discuss the blessings of prayer (for example, Alma 37:37; 3 Nephi 18:15; 3 Nephi 18:20; 3 Nephi 18:21; Moroni 10:4–5; D&C 68:28; D&C 88:63; D&C 112:10). To report, have each class read the scripture, tell the blessing from the scripture, and add the stick to the others. Once all of the sticks have been collected, tie them together in a bundle. Ask a child to try to bend the bundle of sticks. When the sticks are bundled together, they become stronger. Similarly, the blessings of prayer can strengthen our families. Share an experience of a time when your family was strengthened through family prayer. Sing a song or hymn about prayer, and have children stand in a circle and hold a string or rope with large buttons or small spools threaded on it to pass along as they sing. When the music stops, those holding buttons or spools could share a blessing of family prayer. To conclude, have the children color a picture illustrating 3 Nephi 18:21 to display in their homes.

2. Draw a large outline of a house on the board. Draw a table and chairs inside the house. Give five or six children pieces of chalk, and whisper to them to draw a family member at the table reading the scriptures. Have the pianist play a song or hymn about the scriptures, and have the Primary guess what the family in the picture is doing. Point out that just as the children were told what to draw, the Lord speaks to His children through the scriptures. The scriptures can help us and bless our lives if we read them regularly, pray about them, and follow their teachings. Help the children memorize D&C 19:23 (see TNGC, 171–72). Have each class learn and act out a verse from “Book of Mormon Stories” (pp. 118–19) (excluding verse 8) with simple props and then sing it to the Primary. Challenge the children to be prepared to recite D&C 19:23 next Sunday, and follow up on this challenge.

3. *Song Presentation*: “Home Can Be a Heaven on Earth” (Hymns, no. 298). Before Primary, place the following four clues and seven wordstrips under the children’s chairs. (Clues: 1. When people think of me, they think of love. 2. I am a place where you find kindness and charity. 3. I am a place where you feel safety, security, happiness, and joy. 4. I am a place where we want to be. Wordstrips: LOVE, KINDNESS, CHARITY, SAFETY, SECURITY, HAPPINESS, and JOY.) Prepare one wordstrip with the words HOME and HEAVEN to use later.



Invite the children to look under their chairs for clues to the message of the song. As they read their clues, place the keywords in random order on the board. Sing the first line of the song; then have a child place the keyword(s) for that line in the order you sang them. Sing the line together, and listen to see if the order is correct. Repeat with the other three lines of the first verse until you have all the keywords in the correct order.

Hold the HOME and HEAVEN wordstrip so it does not face the children and give them the last clue: “I start with the letter ‘H.’ How many think the answer to this clue is HEAVEN? How many think it is HOME? [Show wordstrip.] It is both HOME and HEAVEN!”

Sing the song, and ask the children to sing the answers HOME and HEAVEN more loudly than the other words of the song. Repeat until the children have learned the song. Bear testimony that when we show kindness, charity, and love to our family, we make our home like heaven here on earth.

4. A Primary presidency member and the music leader can work together to help the children review ways we can strengthen our families. Using pictures from the Primary manuals and GAK, select two matching pictures of six different subjects relating to family (for example, family prayer, family scripture reading, family home evening, caring for others, family togetherness, and family kindness). Number the backs of the pictures 1 through 12. Post the pictures on the board or the floor with the numbered sides showing.

Use the Topics section of the *Children's Songbook* (pp. 306–12) to choose songs to go along with the picture topics.

Have a child turn over two of the pictures to try to find a match. If they don’t match, another child takes a turn. If the pictures match, sing a song that goes with the picture’s theme. Children could be given the opportunity to lead the song or to think of hand actions to go with it.

Show GAK 616 and tell the children of President Hinkley’s “Four Simple Things to Help Our Families and Our Nations” (see back of picture or *Ensign*, Sept. 1996, 7). Encourage the children to share these four things with their families.

5. *Friend* references: “Strengthen the Family,” May 2000, 45; “Friend to Friend,” Nov. 2000, 6; “Kimchi, Brownies, and Family Home Evening,” Aug. 1996, 8; “Ezra Taft Benson,” May 2001, inside front cover; “Our Family,” Sept. 1995, 46; “The Scriptures Can Lead Me to Jesus,” May 1999, 14–15; “Read the Scriptures Daily,” Mar. 1991, 12. Other references: “The Extra Blessings of Family Prayer,” *Ensign*, Jan. 1976, 37; “Teaching Children about Prayer,” *Ensign*, Jan. 1989, 60; “The Blessings of Family Prayer,” *Ensign*, Feb. 1991, 2; “Unity through Family Prayer,” *Family Home Evening Resource Book*, 80–83. ●

Friends in the News



John Albert Bennett, 5, Benson, Minnesota, tries to follow Jesus. He likes to sing in Primary and to pray. He wants to be a missionary, and he enjoys looking at Friends in the News.



Kayla Michelle Morgan, 9, Loveland, Colorado, has a tender heart. She collected money to buy school supplies for children in Mexico. She plays the piano and likes to read.



Trevor Miller, 6, Olathe, Kansas, enjoys attending Primary. He likes to draw pictures for his teachers, and looks forward to going back to school. He plays soccer.



Mckell Craft, 4, Hamilton, Montana, enjoys ballet dancing, playing with dolls, singing Primary songs, and drawing pictures of her family. She loves her baby brother, Carson.



Blake Ensign, 10, Fenton, Michigan, often shares his testimony with others. He enjoys playing the piano, video games, and baseball. He likes to go on family vacations.



Karlyn Teodosie Peterson, 6, Fort St. John, British Columbia, Canada, likes her Primary teacher. She helps Mom and Dad with her two little brothers. Her favorite Primary song is "Stand Up."



Christopher Smittenaar, 8, Rockville, Maryland, enjoys playing soccer and video games. He loves his brother and two sisters. He likes being a member of the Cub Scouts.



Rachel Haymore, 3, Tucson, Arizona, likes to ride her bike and play with her sisters. She enjoys going to her Sunbeam class, and she loves her Primary teachers.



Brock Lindsay, 9, Blackfoot, Idaho, likes playing basketball and riding snowmobiles and four-wheelers. He loves Heavenly Father and looks forward to receiving the priesthood.



Maycen Kindred, 6, Havelock, North Carolina, always gives hugs to her family. She enjoys going to church, having family home evening, singing Primary songs, playing the piano, and reading.



Matthew Archibald, 8, Kemmerer, Wyoming, is a good chess player. He likes basketball, soccer, and football. He enjoys reading the Book of Mormon with his family and going to school and Cub Scouts.



Katie Coffey, 11, St. Charles, Missouri, has six brothers and two sisters. She likes to jump rope and go on family vacations. Her favorite Primary song is "A Child's Prayer."



Dakota Aplanalp, 7, Spring, Texas, likes soccer and taekwon do. His name means "friend," and he lives up to it by always caring for his friends. He reminds his family to read the scriptures and pray together.



Savannah Peterson, 5, Elk Grove, California, likes to draw, swim, and jump rope. She also enjoys singing and going to Primary, and she is memorizing the Articles of Faith. Her grandma is her best friend.



William A. Root, 11, Springville, Utah, enjoys completing his Scout requirements. He likes sports, especially baseball, and can cook his own meals. His favorite school subject is English.



Rachel Erickson, 9, Hamburg, New York, has memorized all of the Articles of Faith. She likes playing soccer, swimming, and playing the piano and saxophone. She enjoys Primary and family home evening.



Joshua Jones, 5, Las Vegas, Nevada, has fun building with blocks, playing games with his family, and telling jokes. He helps his younger brother and likes to lead family home evening activities.



Stephanie Porter, 8, Richmond, Utah, likes camping, riding her bike, playing the piano, and dancing. She also likes to play with her four nieces, Kesly, Britney, Jenny, and Hannah. Apples are her favorite food.



Eric Carter, 4, Arkadelphia, Arkansas, is good at singing Primary songs and memorizing the Articles of Faith. He likes to read, and he is a good brother to his sister Michelle and his brother Alex.



Hayley Shauklas, 11, Tualatin, Oregon, likes to write letters to her family and friends. She plays the violin and has even taught violin lessons to an adult. She enjoys baking, reading, and baby-sitting.



Caz Ashjian, 8, Fresno, California, is a two-time state jiu-jitsu champion. He likes to wakeboard, play roller hockey, and work with his dad. He enjoys being a Cub Scout.



Karen Russell, 4, Scottsbluff, Nebraska, likes making up plays and playing games with her five brothers and sisters. She also likes to read scriptures with her family, play outside, and swim.

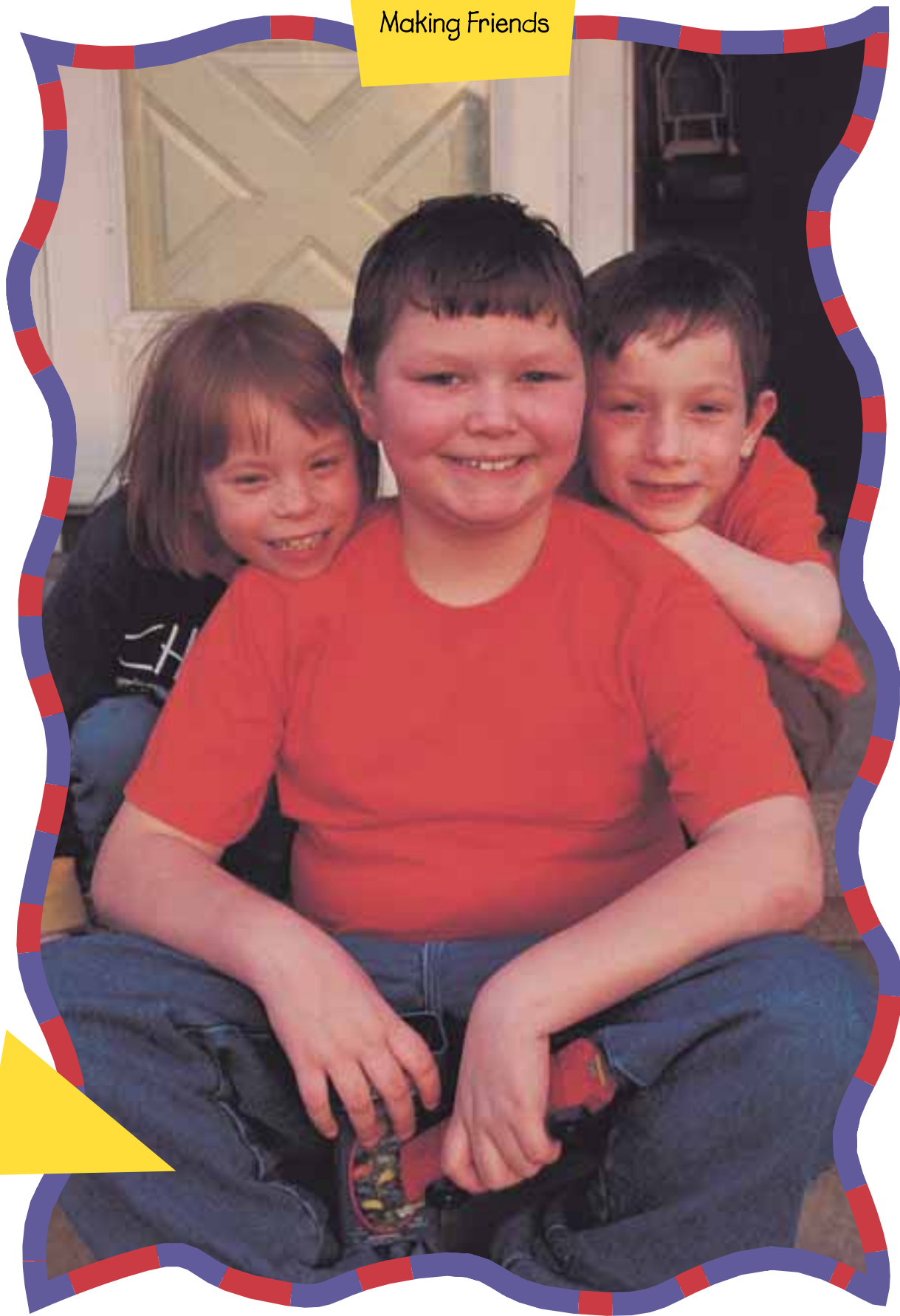


Ryan Comins, 6, Orpington, Kent, England, is very polite. He is a good reader and enjoys reading his scriptures. He likes to receive letters and sweets from his Primary teacher.



Maryanne Lerina Marsh, 8, Melaka, West Malaysia, has four brothers and one sister. She likes Primary and was recently baptized. She tries very hard to be good.

Making Friends



Rachel, David, and Sasha on the porch

David McClellan

of Rock Island, Illinois

BY SHANNA BUTLER
Church Magazines

David McClellan hardly ever loses his marbles. At the age of nine, he's a marble-playing champion. Last year he placed second out of 350 boys in a marble-playing competition sponsored by the Cub Scouts. He practices a lot and even teaches his skills to the other boys in his pack.

At his Blue and Gold Banquet for Cub Scouts, David, a Bear Scout, learned a valuable lesson. He was happy when he won a table centerpiece from the banquet, complete with a gold star that had a number one written on it. But another boy at the banquet took David's star when he lost his own. The other boy's father made him give it back. "I was really mad at first," David says. But then he realized, "It wasn't worth fighting over." David set an example by giving the other Cub Scout the star

since he wanted it so badly.

David also set an example for another friend at school. "I helped him to stop swearing. I told him it was a bad thing," he says. Now he brings his friend to church sometimes. David tries to be a good example because he wants to be worthy to go to the temple someday.

Living in the Davenport Iowa Stake means that David is in the Nauvoo Illinois Temple district. He went to the temple when it was dedicated in June 2002. He says, "When I went inside, I felt the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost makes me feel safe. I listened carefully to President Hinckley when he spoke."

David has also been to the temple on other important days, such as when he was sealed to his parents at age seven months, and when his younger brother and sister were sealed to his family when he was four. David, his sister



David likes to garden and is good at it.



David playing marbles

Rachel, 7, and his brother Sasha, 6, are adopted.

David tries to keep the Spirit with him and be worthy to go to the temple again someday by going to church, praying every day, and reading the scriptures. He reads by himself and with his family.

His favorite story is about David and Goliath. “My name’s in it, and David’s a hero. I want to be brave and honest as David in the Bible was when he did the things the Lord asked him to do,” he says.

Sasha and Rachel also enjoy reading the scriptures with their family. Rachel likes the stories about Jesus, and Sasha is excited whenever David reads to him. All three like to spend time

together, especially if it’s with their dog, Happy. David loves to play with his brother and sister and with his friends. His mom says that he’s really social and he plays and talks with anyone he knows.

Besides playing, David likes to garden and be outside. He also enjoys learning tae kwon do and has earned a yellow belt. He especially enjoys singing. He recently sang a duet at a friend’s baptism.

Even though David says he wants to be like David in the Bible, he’s like Goliath in one way—he’s really tall! His mom calls him “the gentle giant,” because he’s always nice to everyone. And with all the work he’s doing to be temple worthy, he’s on his way to becoming a spiritual giant, too. ●



The McClellan family



Out of the Best Books

How marvelous a thing is a good book!

President Gordon B. Hinckley

FICTION

You and Me, Little Bear Little Bear wants to play, but Big Bear needs to finish tidying up. So Little Bear patiently plays by himself for a while. But what will Little Bear do when he finds Big Bear asleep?

Martin Waddell, illustrated by Barbara Firth 3–6 years

One Guinea Pig Is Not Enough A guinea pig is lonely until, one by one, others arrive to add some fun! Children will learn simple adding skills while reading along in this lively tale.

Kate Duke 3–6 years

Ordinary Mary's Extraordinary Deed Can one good deed by an ordinary girl change the world? It can when she's Ordinary Mary. A story of how one little girl's good deed not only comes back to her but spreads to the whole world.

Emily Pearson, illustrated by Fumi Kosaka 4–8 years

Hip, Hip, Hooray for Annie McRae! Eight-year-old Annie spends most of her days surrounded by cheers of "Hip, hip, hooray for Annie McRae!" from her family and friends. But what happens when others are too busy to cheer?

Brad Wilcox, illustrated by Julie Olson 4–8 years

Show and Tell Woody doesn't like surprises, so he's not very happy when his class gets a new student teacher. Then he gets in trouble during show-and-tell. Find out how Woody copes with change and makes new friends along the way.

Stephanie Greene, illustrated by Elaine Clayton 6–8 years

Gabriella's Song In the "city of music" (Venice, Italy), a girl hears the sounds of the water, the birds, and her loving mother calling her. She turns the sounds into a song, which travels throughout the city as it is hummed by others. Finally, a composer hears it and—with thanks to the girl—turns her song into a magnificent symphony.

Candace Fleming, illustrated by Giselle Potter 6–9 years

Read for Me, Mama Joseph loves to have stories read to him, especially by his librarian and his neighbor. Mama tells wonderful stories but always seems to be too busy to read to him. One day, Joseph learns why Mama never reads to him, and Mama needs his help.

Vashanti Rabaman, illustrated by Lori McElrath-Eslick 6–9 years

Louise Goes Wild Louise is tired of being predictable, so she decides to make some changes. She experiments with her hair, clothes, and even the food she eats—but the results range from weird to disastrous. Will performing in the talent show help matters, or just make things worse?

Stephen Krensky 7–9 years

A Glass Slipper for Rosie Rosie the ballet dancer has a surprise planned for her grandpa's birthday, but then she finds out that he will be leaving town. Find out how Rosie copes with her disappointment and manages to surprise her grandpa anyway.

Patricia Reilly Giff 7–10 years

The Kid Coach The Tigers are in trouble—the first game of the season is coming up and their coach has just quit. When no adults can coach the team, Scott, one of the team members, volunteers to do it. He discovers that he will need help from unexpected sources—such as Benny the Brain—for the Tigers to have a winning season.

Fred Bowen 8–12 years

The Wanderer Thirteen-year-old Sophie journeys across the Atlantic Ocean with her uncles and cousins and befriends her cousin Cody. But Cody has some questions about Sophie—why does she seem to remember spending time with Bompie, their grandfather, when she has actually never met him? What other mysterious secrets are in her past?

Sharon Creech 8–12 years

Badger's Parting Gifts Badger's friends are sad when he dies. But when they take turns sharing memories of the gifts he left them, they feel love and hope. An uplifting message for children who have lost a family member or friend.

Susan Varley all ages

NONFICTION

Buddy, the First Seeing Eye Dog This book follows the life of Buddy, who became the first Seeing Eye dog in America and a friend to Morris Frank, the blind man who adopted her.

Eva Moore, illustrated by Don Bolognese 7–9 years

Paper Clip Science All you need is a box of paper clips and a few other household items to create your own science lab! You'll find more than 60 fun and easy experiments here, such as copper-plating a paper clip, lifting an ice cube with a paper clip, and building a paper-clip scale.

Steven W. Moje 8–12 years

All books listed here have been reviewed by the Friend editorial staff and are generally available in libraries and/or bookstores.

FOXTAILS



BY RAY GOLDRUP

(Based on a true story)

Deal justly, judge righteously, and do good continually
(Alma 41:14).

Aaron traipsed along the hot, dusty road, pulling his wagon. The only sounds were the rattle of wheels over the lumpy ground and the clinking of coins in his pocket.

“Two dollars and 75 cents,” he thought. “Mrs. Murphy gave me much more than it costs to buy her a bag of flour and a sack of potatoes.”

Needing a rest, he sat in the shade of a wild olive tree on a stack of old fence posts in an empty field. He reached for his small canteen, emptied the last few drops of water into his mouth, and tossed the empty container back into the wagon.

A lizard crawled onto the end of one of the fence posts and stared at him. “It’s hot enough to turn even

you belly up in the sun, you know that?” he told the reptile. “I guess that’s why you’re under this tree, like me.”

He pulled the coins from his pocket and eyed them. “Mrs. Murphy said this would be enough to buy what she needs,” he said, “which probably means she doesn’t expect anything back. Of course, she can hardly see enough to know a penny from a dime.”

Aaron squinted at the huge field of tall, dead weeds and twisted olive trees, their leaves almost glowing in the heat. “I’m sure Mrs. Murphy wouldn’t mind if I bought a tall glass of lemonade at the soda fountain. There will be enough money left over. Besides,” he reasoned, “I’ve earned it. It’s a half-mile between her place and town. She’s our neighbor, and I’m helping see to her needs, like Mom and Dad asked. But I have needs, too, like lemonade on a hot summer day. Since my canteen is empty, what choice do I have?”



He stood, and the lizard stiffened. “Even you lizards get thirsty. But all you have to do is find a fat, juicy spider. It doesn’t cost you a penny. But we humans have to pay for a drink when our canteens are empty. It’s just the way of things.”

Aaron stepped back onto the road but stopped short. Through the waves of heat, he saw something that looked like a bad dream—a large dog in the road, barking at him! He hurried off through the field. The dog didn’t chase him, but Aaron soon found himself up against another problem: his socks and pants were covered with foxtails.

When he reached the store, he sat on the curb and pulled the spiky weeds from his clothes. His father had once told him how foxtails are similar to bad habits: “Foxtails dig in and stick to whatever touches them, just as bad choices do. Once they become embedded, they are twice as hard to remove. It’s best to avoid them in the first place by staying on the better path.”

After Aaron cleaned off his clothes, he bought Mrs. Murphy’s food, loaded the flour and potatoes in his wagon, and headed down the street toward the soda fountain for a tall glass of cold lemonade. But his



father’s words about wrong choices kept whispering to him.

Aaron stopped in front of the soda fountain and looked at the change in his hand. Then he looked again at the soda fountain. Then back at the leftover money. Then at the dirt road baked by the summer sun.

A half-hour later, Aaron pulled his wagon to a stop in front of Mrs. Murphy’s place. He was even more thirsty than before, having decided not to spend any of Mrs. Murphy’s change. He knew

she would never have known the difference, nor perhaps even cared. But *he* would have known, and Heavenly Father would have known, too. Foxtails were enough of a problem in his socks. He didn’t like the idea of having to remove bad habits as well. That would be much more difficult. If he stayed away from making bad choices, he wouldn’t have to worry about creating bad habits.

He climbed Mrs. Murphy’s steps, carrying the sacks of flour and potatoes. Not only did he feel good as he handed her the change, but Mrs. Murphy gave him something else as well: the biggest and best glass of cold lemonade he had ever tasted. ●

Ray Goldrup is a member of the Bennion 15th Ward, Bennion Utah Stake.



“I think the Lord expects of His people that they will be absolutely honest in all of their dealings. In all that they do, they will be honest with others and honest with themselves.”

President Gordon B. Hinckley, “Latter-day Counsel: Excerpts from Recent Addresses of President Gordon B. Hinckley,” *Ensign*, Apr. 1999, 71.



Scripture Fathers

BY LORI MORTENSEN

Don't get "tied" up figuring out these scripture fathers! Read the clue, then write the name on the tie. (You can look up the scripture if you get stuck or to check your answer.)

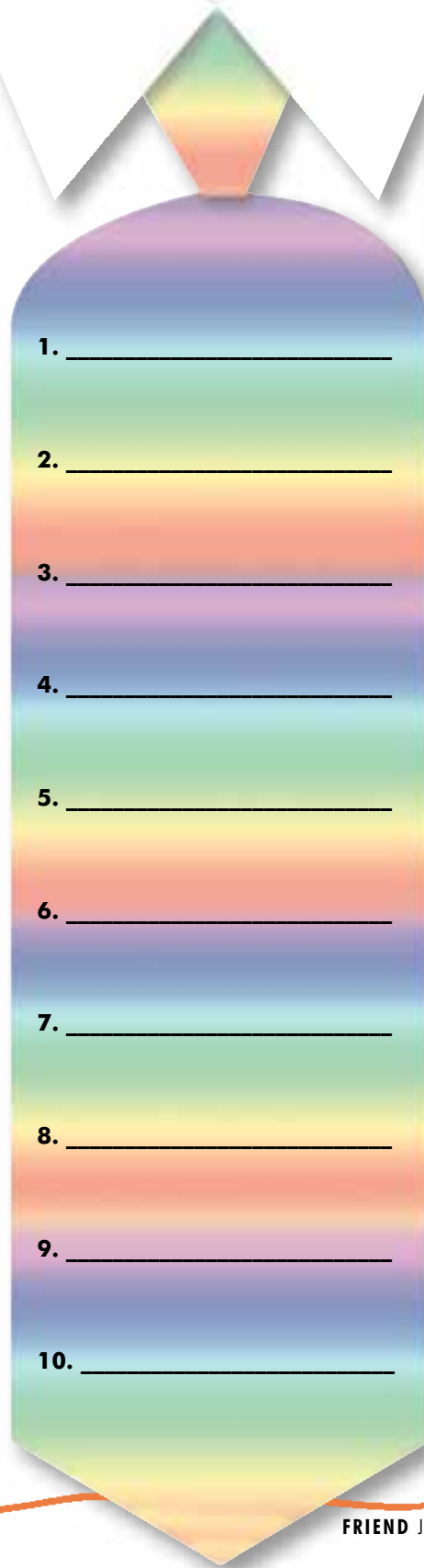
1. He was the first father on the earth (see 1 Nephi 5:11).
2. This father was a priest of wicked King Noah, but believed Abinadi's words and went on to join the Church and become a missionary (see Mosiah 17:2).
3. This visionary father prayed for his people when the prophets foretold that Jerusalem would be destroyed if the city did not repent (see 1 Nephi 1:5).
4. Jesus' father here on earth (see Matthew 1:16).
5. After many years of waiting, this man became a father in his old age and named his son John (see Luke 1:13).
6. He feeds the fowl of the air and is the father of our spirits (see Matthew 6:26).
7. This righteous father of Enos confronted Sherem, a wicked man who sought to turn the people away from Christ (see Jacob 7:3).
8. Father of the twelve tribes, this man favored his next-to-youngest son and made him a coat of many colors (see Genesis 37:3).
9. Orihah was the only son of this prophet who would agree to become king of the Jaredites (see Ether 6:27).
10. This father of Methuselah walked and talked with God and was eventually taken up into heaven to live with his righteous city (see Moses 6:25–26, 7:69).

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Funstuf Answers

Priesthood Hidden Scripture: "I give unto you power, that whatsoever ye shall seal on earth shall be sealed in heaven; and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" (Helaman 10:7).

In Other Words: (1) double take, (2) never on time, (3) high school, (4) small talk, (5) top hat, (6) Big Dipper, (7) sideways, (8) shaky voice, (9) just around the corner.



I Love My Family

BY CAROL COLES



During our activities, my family has a ball!

Hard to say which one's the best. I guess I love them all!
Sometimes Chris plays the piano. Paul strums his old guitar.

Once we drove to get some treats, and we sang in the car.
We hiked to a waterfall and swam in the cold stream.

That was quite a shower, cool and clear and clean.
Sometimes we ride snowmobiles or inner tubes or sleds.

Once my dad brought chicken soup. "Delicious!" Kimmy said.
Sometimes we take our friends a treat. We help them clean or weed.

I feel very warm inside when I help those in need.
We can bike around the town or go play basketball.

Sometimes we all paint pictures, then hang them on the wall.
We like bowling at the lane and skating on a rink.

We like going to the zoo. Board games are fun, I think.
One night we sat upon the lawn and looked at brilliant stars.

We examined constellations. We saw Jupiter and Mars.
John likes going to the beach. We look into tide pools.

We make castles on the shore and watch fish swim in schools.
We like pie with lots of ice cream. Mom likes making treats.

Cobbler, cheesecake, caramel apples—all are really neat.
We like having puppet shows. Natalie makes popcorn balls.

We like turning out the lights, making shadows on the walls.
When my brother served a mission, we wrote letters in Chinese.

We put on some extra stamps, then mailed them overseas.
But Mondays are the best of all when we have family night.

I like learning of the Savior. I like doing what is right.
I love being with my family, learning how to love and share.

I remember lessons taught. I can feel the Spirit there.





They Spoke to Us

As you make the April 2004 general conference a part of your own and your family's life, you might consider using the following ideas for family home evening and personal study. Or you may wish to create your own questions, activities, and discussion ideas. (Page numbers refer to the beginning of the talks in the May 2004 Ensign.)

Search the Words Activity

1. Who are President Gordon B. Hinckley's counselors in the First Presidency? How many years have they served as his counselors? (Clue: See President James E. Faust's talk, p. 61.)

2. How long ago was President Thomas S. Monson called to be a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles? Who extended the calling to him? (Clue: Check President Monson's talk, p. 20.)

3. What are the names of the members of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles? How many Brethren serve in the Presidency of the Seventy? How many serve in the First and Second Quorums of the Seventy? (Clue: Look at the General Authority chart, pp. 64–65.)

4. About how many members belong to the Church? What percentage of Church members can see and hear conference? (Clue: Search President Hinckley's talk, p. 4.)

5. How many converts were baptized last year? (Clue: See the Statistical Report, p. 26.)

6. Who wrote the poem that begins, "I beheld round the throne holy angels and hosts"? (Clue: Find the answer in Bishop Keith B. McMullin's talk, p. 33.)

Quotes and Activities

President Gordon B. Hinckley: "It is wonderfully refreshing to see the faith and faithfulness of our young people. They live at a time when a great tide of evil is washing over the earth. It seems to be everywhere. Old standards are

discarded. Principles of virtue and integrity are cast aside. But we find literally hundreds of thousands of our young people holding to the high standards of the gospel" (p. 4).

Find your copy of My Gospel Standards and read through them. Put them where you will see them every day. Be one of the faithful.

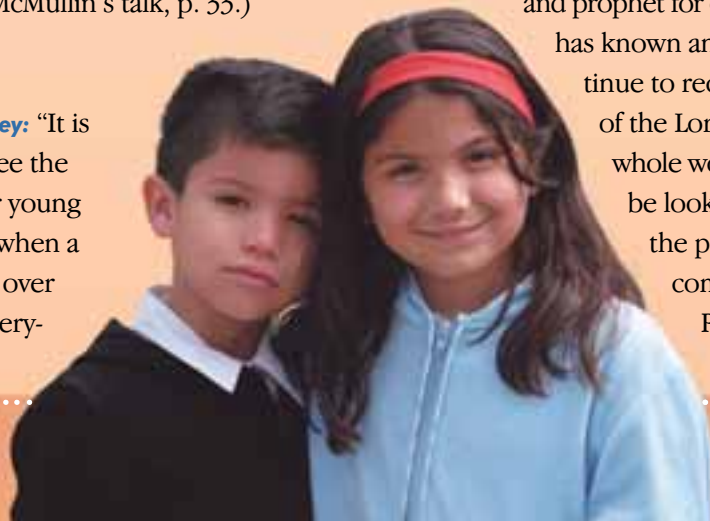
President Thomas S. Monson, First

Counselor in the First Presidency: "One Sunday morning, a lovely young lady accompanied the superintendent into the classroom and was presented to us as a teacher who requested the opportunity to teach us. . . . Her name was Lucy Gertsch. . . . When Lucy taught, she made the scriptures actually live. We became personally acquainted with Samuel, David, Jacob, Nephi, Joseph Smith, and the Lord Jesus Christ. Our gospel scholarship grew. . . . Our love for Lucy Gertsch knew no bounds. . . .

"We undertook a project to save nickels and dimes for what was to be a gigantic Christmas party" (p. 20).

What happened to those nickels and dimes? What kind of a party did the class have? Turn to page 20 and find out.

President James E. Faust, Second Counselor in the First Presidency: "President Hinckley is the inspired President and prophet for our time. I testify that he has known and received and will continue to receive the mind and will of the Lord for this people and the whole world. We should always be looking for and heeding the prophetic messages that come from the current President of the Church" (p. 61).





Stories to Read and Share

Are you preparing a talk or lesson? In the conference talks beginning on the pages listed below, you'll find stories you can tell and insights you can share.

Boy finishes his story years after starting it, p. 14

Pioneer walks to Utah, p. 14

Sunday School teacher influences youth, p. 20

Spencer W. Kimball shows concern for people, p. 20

Brazilian young man becomes active in the Church, p. 46

African official accepts *For the Strength of Youth*, p. 49

Young Gordon B. Hinckley looks at North Star, p. 49

Boys dare young man to dive off cliff, p. 51

Military officer refuses to drink alcohol, p. 51

Man with multiple sclerosis carries Olympic torch, p. 54

Thomas S. Monson plays basketball, p. 54

Widow waits for son to visit, p. 54

Lost Battalion regains contact, p. 61

Missionaries walk through mud slides, p. 92

Blind hurdler is taught by father, p. 94

Secret friends serve one another in a family, p. 94

Ballplayer drops the ball, p. 112



Sister Gayle M. Clegg,
Second Counselor in the
Primary General

Presidency: "I heard a Primary child from Ghana answer the question 'What does it mean to choose the

right every day?' with, 'It means to follow the Lord and Savior every day and do your best even when it is hard' " (p. 14).

As part of a family home evening, share with one another times when you have made the right choice even when it was hard. How did you feel?

Elder Russell M. Nelson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles: "The fruits of the gospel are delicious to those who obey the Lord. . . . The blessing of tithing comes by paying tithing (see Malachi 3:10; 3 Nephi 24:10). Rewards are reaped from the Word of Wisdom by obedience to it (see D&C 89:18–21)" (p. 27).

Pretend you are a missionary and teach your family what it means to pay tithing. Then explain what the Word of Wisdom is and what one must do to obey this commandment.

Elder Neal A. Maxwell of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles: "I testify that God has known you individually . . . for a long, long time (see D&C 93:23). He has loved you for a long, long time. He not only knows the names of all the stars (see Psalm 147:4; Isaiah 40:26); He knows your names and all your heartaches and your joys!" (p. 44).

Think of this statement as you pray to your Father in Heaven today. Remember how much He loves you. Talk to Him.

Elder Dennis E. Simmons of the Seventy: "Faith is believing that although we do not understand all things, He does. Faith is knowing that although our power is limited, His is not.

Faith in Jesus Christ consists of complete reliance on Him" (p. 73).

Find in this talk "But If Not . . ." the story of Shadrach, Mesbach, and Abed-nego and read about their faith and a big fire.

Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles: "In the spring of 1820, a pillar of light illuminated a grove of trees in upstate New York. Our Heavenly Father and His Beloved Son appeared to the Prophet Joseph Smith. This experience began the restoration of powerful doctrinal truths that had been lost for centuries" (p. 84).

In the front of the Book of Mormon is a brief history of the Church. Read it and talk about some of the great truths that we have learned through the Prophet Joseph Smith.



Elder W. Douglas
Shumway of the Seventy:

"I shall never forget the family home evening, years ago, in which the name of each member of our family was placed in a hat. The name you picked from the hat would be your 'secret friend' for the week. You can imagine the love that filled my heart when I came home that Tuesday after work to sweep out the garage, as I had earlier promised, and found it cleanly swept. There was a note attached to the

garage door which read, 'Hope you had a good day —your secret friend' " (p. 94).

Read the rest of this fun family experience. Think of a secret service you can give to each family member during the next two weeks.





Scriptures *in a* SUITCASE

BY JENNIFER JENSEN
(Based on a true story)

The Book of Mormon and the holy scriptures are given of me for your instruction (D&C 33:16).

Keryn stuffed an extra pair of jeans into her suitcase, then squeezed it shut.
“There!” she said to herself.

She had been looking forward to the school trip for months. Her class would be at camp for two days, living like pioneers—making candles, cooking over fires, even helping to build a log cabin.

Keryn glanced around the room, trying to spot anything she had missed. Her toothbrush was packed. She had clean clothes and an extra pair of shoes—oh, she’d better grab her old sweatshirt.

As she picked up her sweatshirt off the floor, her eyes fell on her scriptures on the table by the bed, and she froze.

Each member of her family had agreed to read the Book of Mormon daily, and so far Keryn hadn’t missed a night. But how was she supposed to read it in a cabin full of girls from school? With a sigh, she unlatched her suitcase, stuffed her scriptures between T-shirts and jeans, and sat on the suitcase to close it.

Maybe she could find some quiet time to go off by herself and read.

“C’mon, Keryn. Race you to the campfire!” Sarah took off, and Keryn ran to catch up.

The day had been fun and very busy. Keryn had chopped at a log to help build the cabin, dunked candle-wicks into wax over and over, carved a whale out of soap, and swam in the lake.

The fun carried on through the campfire time of singing songs and listening to a storyteller. Finally, Keryn, Sarah, and two of their cabinmates marched through the darkness to the cabin arm in arm, singing loudly.

The girls flopped onto their bunk beds, told stories, and laughed about the day. Then one by one they began to get ready for bed.

Keryn brushed her teeth, then climbed onto her top bunk and listened to the others. She had decided to leave her scriptures in the suitcase, but she just didn’t feel right. Then these words came into her mind: “Read them. You know you need to read them.”





Reluctantly, Keryn climbed out of bed and pulled her scriptures out of her suitcase. Then she climbed back up and tried to open the Book of Mormon without being noticed.

No such luck. She had just found her place in Mosiah when Sarah poked her head over the edge of the bunk. “What are you reading?” she asked.

“OK,” Keryn told herself, “it’s time to be a missionary.”

“It’s a book like the Bible, and it’s called the Book of Mormon,” she said aloud.



“My love for the Book of Mormon is ever-increasing. It seems that every time I read from it, new light flows to me from its pages. I love this sacred and choice book.”

Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “We Add Our Witness,” *Ensign*, Mar. 1989, 5.

Sarah climbed up on the bunk with her. “What’s it about?”

Carol and Tasha gathered around, too.

Keryn sat up. “Well, right now I’m in a part called Mosiah, and a prophet named Abinadi is preaching the gospel to the wicked king and his priests. He’s telling them about the Ten Commandments and all the things they should already know. But they’re doing evil things instead.” She scooted over so Tasha could climb up.

“What happens to them?” Tasha asked.

“Well, later Abinadi won’t deny God, so the king has him killed.”

“What?” exclaimed Sarah. “That’s awful.”

“Yeah, it’s really sad,” Keryn agreed. “But Alma, one of the king’s priests, really listens to Abinadi. He ends up teaching the gospel to lots of people.”

“That’s awesome,” Tasha said. “I read my Bible most days, but I didn’t bring it here.” Then she flipped onto her stomach and reached down to the bottom bunk.

“Hey, Carol, did you see me jump in the lake?”

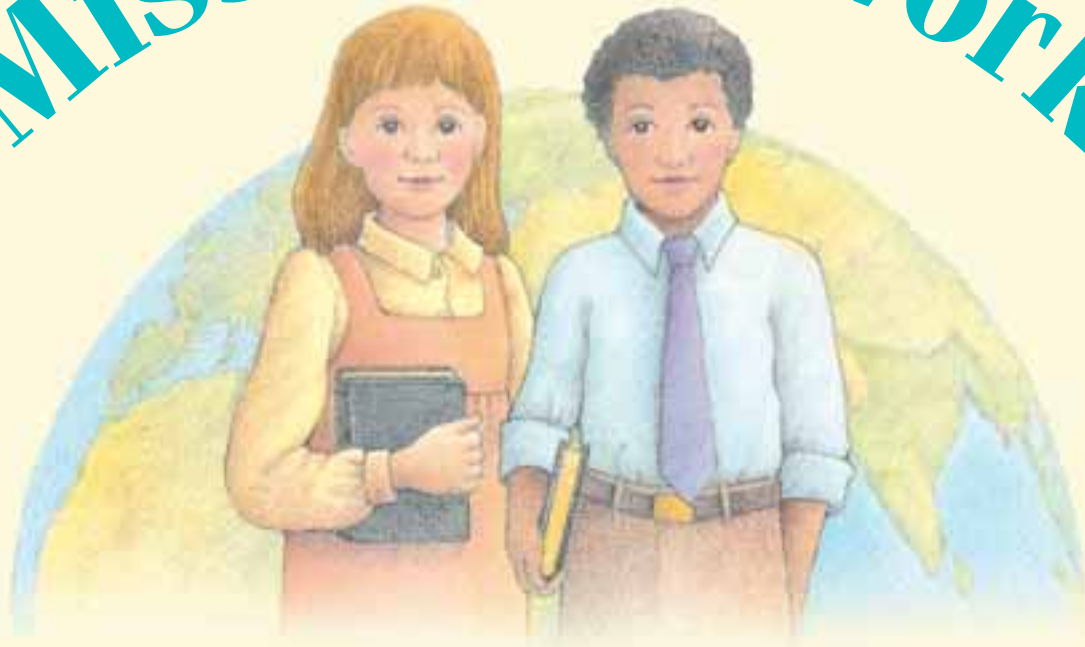
Keryn smiled as the conversation turned back to the day’s events. She was glad she hadn’t left her scriptures in her suitcase, glad her friends didn’t make fun of her, and glad she had a chance to tell them about the Book of Mormon.

She looked at Sarah, Carol, and Tasha, now talking about their craft projects, then turned back to her book and continued reading about Abinadi and King Noah. ●

Jennifer Jensen is a member of the Zionsville Ward, Indianapolis Indiana North Stake.



Missionary Work



You can prepare for a mission and help the full-time missionaries at the same time! For family home evening, choose some of these activities.

1. Sing a hymn or Primary song about serving a mission or sharing the gospel.
2. Look like a missionary.
 - ◆ Ask your family members to come to home evening dressed like missionaries if possible: boys in white shirts and ties and girls in dresses or skirts.
 - ◆ Cut out small squares of heavy paper to make missionary badges. Instead of writing your names, write one quality you would like to develop that would help you be a better missionary (for example, Elder Cheerful or Sister Humble). After family home evening, put the tags where they can remind you of your goals.
3. Give support to a missionary serving from your ward or branch by writing a letter thanking him or her for the important work he or she is doing.
4. Practice being a missionary now.
 - ◆ Think of questions people may have about the

gospel. Practice answering these questions.

- ◆ Invite the full-time missionaries or the ward or branch missionaries over to give a short message.
 - ◆ Pray for opportunities to share the gospel.
 - ◆ Gather one copy of the Book of Mormon for each family member (or one copy for the family to share). Write your testimony inside the front cover. Make a bookmark by cutting out a strip of heavy paper. On the bookmark, draw a picture and list some of your favorite scriptures. Give the books and bookmarks to people who may be interested in the gospel.
5. Learn to share the scriptures. Have each family member write on small pieces of paper the references for three favorite scriptures. Fold the papers, and put them in a bowl. Take turns choosing scriptures from the bowl. The person to choose the scripture calls out the reference. Then everyone races to see who can find it first. That person reads the scripture out loud, then chooses the next scripture reference from the bowl. ●

And a little child shall lead them
(2 Nephi 30:12).

For Little
Friends

A Prayer Is Answered

BY CHERRY G. WOLF

(Based on a true story)

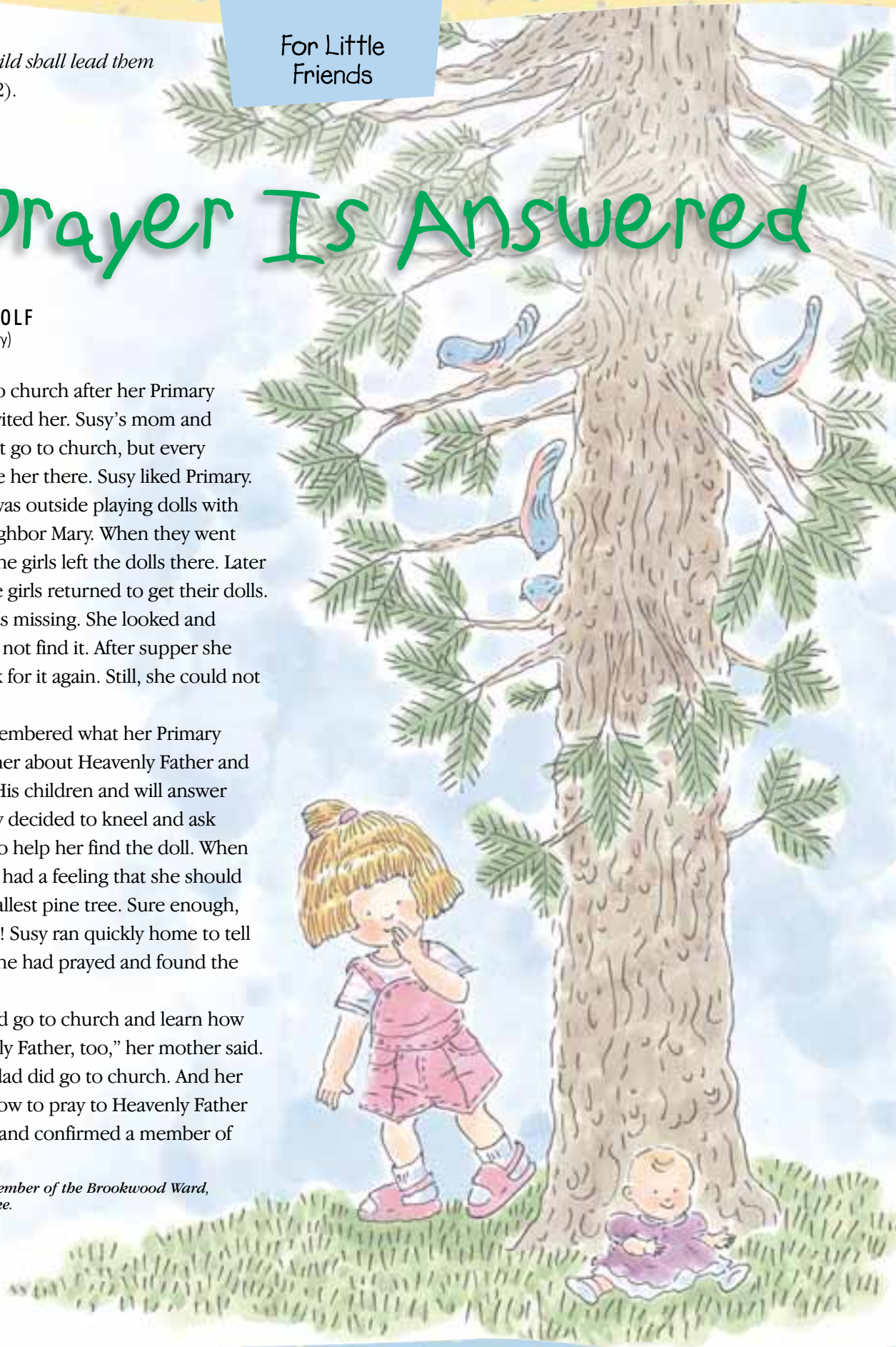
Susy went to church after her Primary teacher invited her. Susy's mom and dad did not go to church, but every Sunday they drove her there. Susy liked Primary.

One day Susy was outside playing dolls with her next-door neighbor Mary. When they went home for lunch, the girls left the dolls there. Later that afternoon the girls returned to get their dolls. But Susy's doll was missing. She looked and looked, but could not find it. After supper she came back to look for it again. Still, she could not find it.

Then Susy remembered what her Primary teacher had told her about Heavenly Father and how He loves all His children and will answer their prayers. Susy decided to kneel and ask Heavenly Father to help her find the doll. When she stood up, she had a feeling that she should look behind the tallest pine tree. Sure enough, the doll was there! Susy ran quickly home to tell her mother that she had prayed and found the missing doll.

"Maybe I should go to church and learn how to pray to Heavenly Father, too," her mother said. Susy's mom and dad did go to church. And her mother learned how to pray to Heavenly Father and was baptized and confirmed a member of the Church. ●

Cherry G. Wolf is a member of the Brookwood Ward, Hillsboro Oregon Stake.



On the Go

BY JULIANA LEWIS



Kittens pounce—and so do I.



Crickets bounce—and so do I.



Snails creep—and so do I.



Goats leap—and so do I.



Boas slide—and so do I.



Eagles glide—and so do I.



Donkeys clop—and so do I.

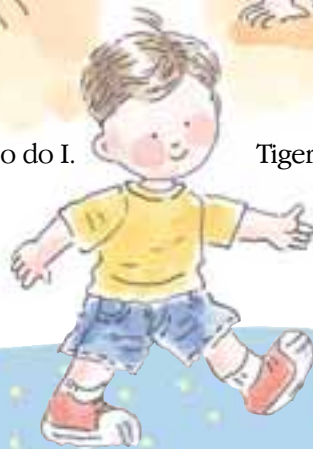


Kangaroos hop—and so do I.



Tigers stalk—and so do I.

And every now and then
I walk!





Bagel Dad

BY RENEE ROY HARDING

Face: half of a bagel spread with cream cheese

Ears: pieces of bagel

Hair: raisins or coconut

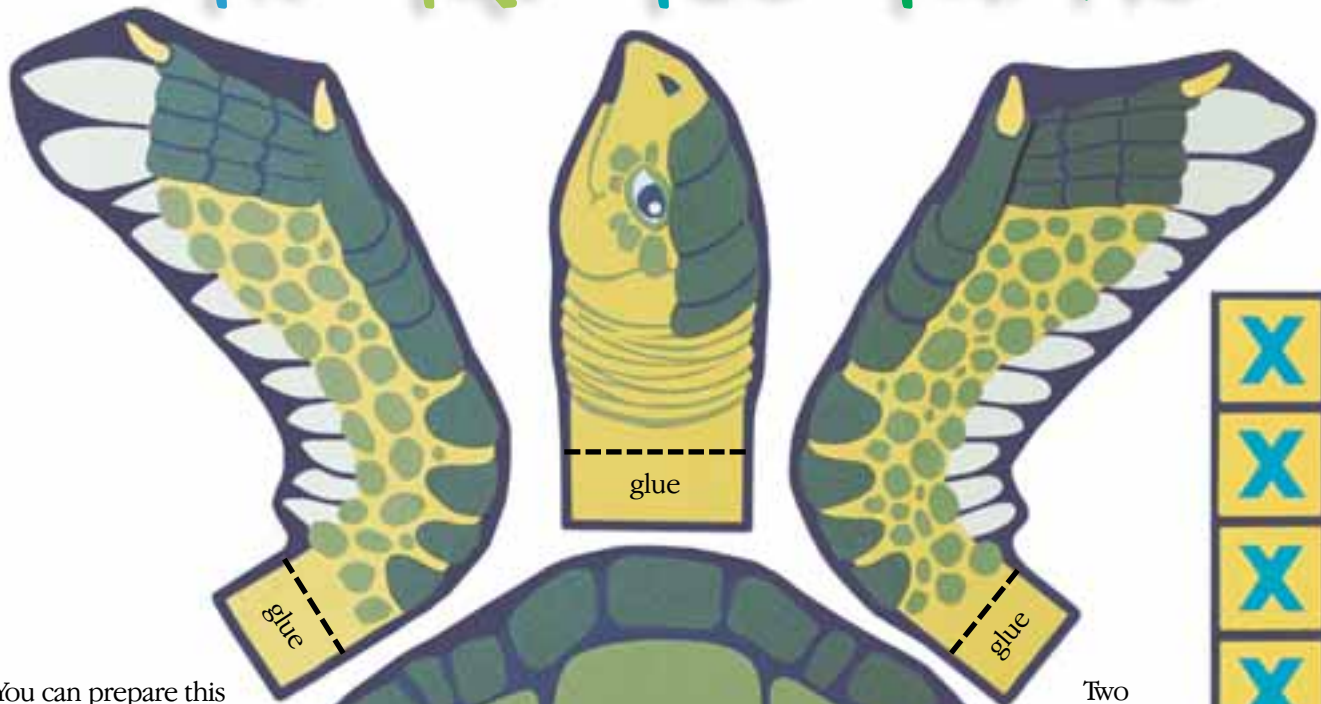
Eyes: cereal pieces, blueberries, or raisins

Nose: strawberry or prune

Mouth: piece of pretzel or cereal

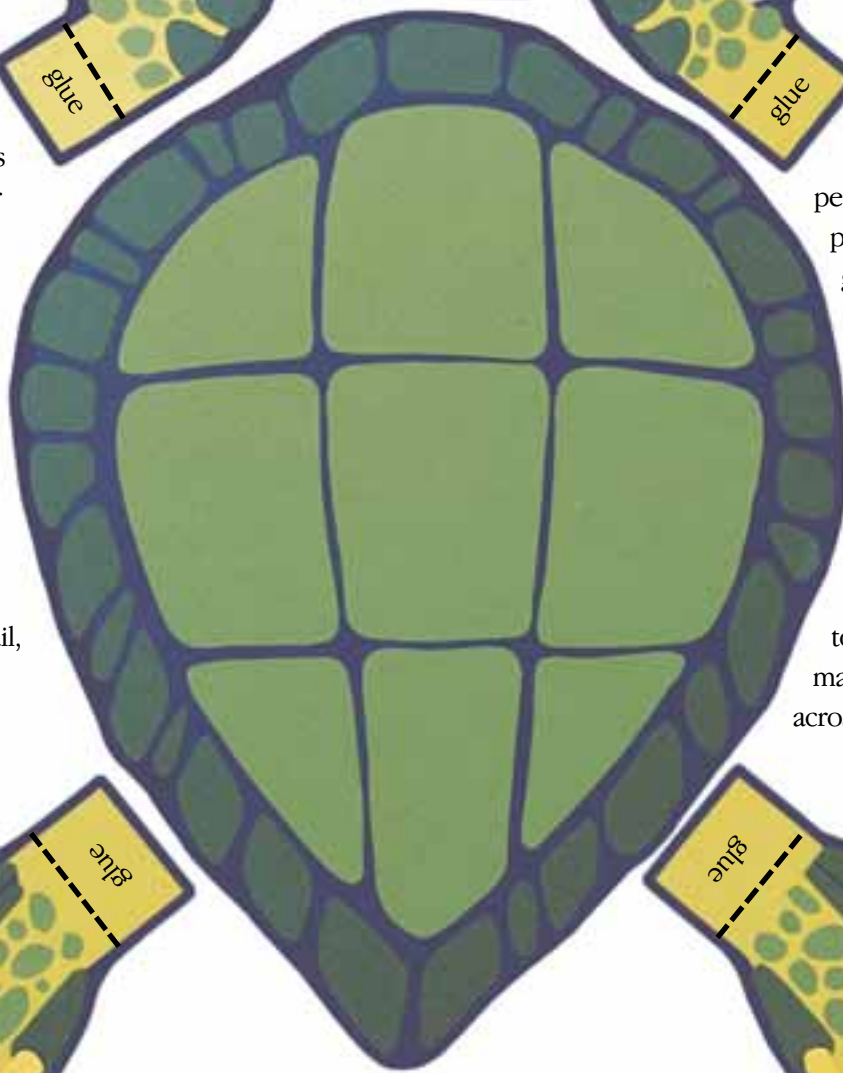


Tic-Tac-Toe Turtle



You can prepare this game to play with your family. You will need: glue, lightweight cardboard, and scissors.

1. Remove this page from the magazine and glue it to lightweight cardboard.
2. Cut out all the pieces.
3. Glue the head, tail, and legs in place.



Two people can play the game. One person uses the X markers, and the other person uses the O markers. Each person in turn places one of their markers on the board. The object of the game is to place three of the same markers in a row going down, across, or diagonally.



Note: If you do not wish to remove pages from the magazine, this activity may be copied, traced, or printed out from the Internet at www.lds.org. Click on Gospel Library.

Strengthening My Family

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

Even children can help strengthen a family—do you know how? Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles explained, “The key to strengthening our families is having the Spirit of the Lord come into our homes” (*Ensign*, May 1999, 33). When you pray, study the scriptures, speak kindly, and remember to give thanks, you are strengthening your family! Doing these things invites the Holy Ghost.

The opposite of having the Spirit in our homes is having contention, or anger. When Jesus visited the Nephites, He taught, “He that hath the spirit of contention is not of me, but is of the devil, who is the father of contention, and he stirreth up the hearts of men to contend with anger, one with another” (3 Nephi 11:29).

Disobedience and arguing drive the Spirit away. Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles said, “It is the duty of children to obey their parents, to learn, and to help with household chores. They carry the




scriptural charge not to contend and quarrel with one another” (*Ensign*, Nov. 1980, 70).

As you follow Church leaders’ counsel to be obedient and kind, the Spirit will be with you,

helping you strengthen your family. ●



 **ACTIVITIES AND IDEAS**

1. Cut out the 12 pictures on this page; then cut 12 strips of paper to match the width of the pictures. Think about what principle or action each picture might represent and how it could strengthen your family. Glue or tape each picture to a strip of paper, and form a paper chain from the strips.
2. For a family home evening activity, discuss the 12 pictures on this page and cooperate to form the paper chain described in idea 1 (above). Have family members cut out extra strips and draw pictures of additional ideas on strengthening your family. Display the chain where you will be reminded that each link is important for the chain—or for your family—to be strong.
3. For a family home evening lesson or Primary talk, discuss Elder Robert D. Hales’s statement. Tell of a time when the Holy Ghost helped your family feel closer or prompted you to help a family member in need. Discuss ways you have been blessed for obeying your parents, and list ways to feel the Spirit in your home.



Our Creative Friends



*Linda Hogenson, age 10
Calgary, Alberta, Canada*



*Anthony Bryner, age 8
Hyrum, Utah*



*Annamarie Brown, age 5
Sterling, Virginia*



*Braiden Shaw, age 8
Eagle, Idaho*



*Grant Klein, age 4
Kansas City, Missouri*



*Rebecca Hutchins, age 3
St. George, Utah*



*Jeremy Bryce Beech, age 6
Shelby Township, Michigan*



*Connor Skelton, age 5
Lake Havasu City, Arizona*



*Mabriah Eaton, age 9
Idaho Falls, Idaho*

Leaves

Leaves—always changing, never staying,
Always looking different than before.
In autumn the leaves are red, gold, and brown;
In winter they are nowhere to be found.
When spring arrives, the leaves are just little buds
on the trees,
But in summer they are magnificent greens of
royalty.
Then autumn arrives, the leaves die, and the
whole process begins again.

*Christian Walter, age 11
Centerville, Utah*

I Will Follow God's Plan

Through my young years, I'll grow up strong.
No one can tell me to do things wrong.
I'll follow God and Jesus Christ.
I'll always try to do what's right.
I know my life is special, it's true.
I'll always follow God's plan—will you?

*Kyla Oldroyd, age 11
Antioch, Illinois*

My Favorite Place

Where is my favorite place?
I really can't decide.
Maybe it's San Diego
With its sunny seaside.

Or maybe L.A.
At the Los Angeles Zoo,
Or maybe St. George—
I like it there, too.

I also like Washington,
Or New York or Georgia.
Or even Nevada, Alaska,
California.

And there's always Illinois,
Texas, maybe Maine.
But then there's Canada,
Brazil, or even Spain.

I've been all over the world
From Chicago to Rome,
But my favorite place
In the world is home.

*Marsba Wonnacott, age 10
West Lafayette, Indiana*

Mom and Dad

Mom and Dad's nicknames are cotton and candy,
Offering kisses whenever I'm handy.
Mom and Dad love me so dear and so much,
And I love them tight as a polar bear's clutch.
Never have Mom and Dad let me down,
Developing kindness when I am a clown.
Darling trucks and cars they'll buy,
And they'll do anything for me—or at least try.
Delightfully loving, my mom and my dad.

*Tanner and Samantha Yorgason, ages 8 and 6
Eagle, Idaho*

When I See the Temple

When I see the temple
I think of Jesus Christ.
I think of what He's done for me,
And how He gave His life.
I think of Heavenly Father,
And I know who I am.
I know that I'm a child of God—
I love His gospel plan.



*Emily Atwood, age 6
Anchorage, Alaska*



*Andrew Stevens, age 7
Beavercreek, Ohio*



*Alissa Manning, age 4
Henderson, Nevada*



*Joseph K. Moffitt, age 10
Appleton, Wisconsin*



*Charlotte Osborne, age 8
Whitley Bay, England*



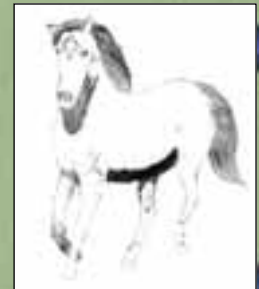
*Daegan Lente, age 5
Fort Meade, Maryland*



*Bryce Larsen, age 11
Pleasant Grove, Utah*



*Jenny Harrington, age 8
Larissa, Greece*



*David Standring, age 11
Crescent City, California*

When I see the temple
I want to enter in.
If this is Heavenly Father's house,
I will be reverent.
I'll always keep His commandments,
And I promise to keep clean,
So I can enter into His house—
That is where I want to be.

*Charly M. Bollwinkel, age 8
Mesa, Arizona*

Follow the Lord

Through winter cold and summer heat
The Lord knows no defeat.
Sin may be tempting,
But the Lord's soul is never emptying.
For love and care,
If you're sad,
Just say a prayer.
Father in Heaven loves you,
And you love Him.
I will walk in Jesus' steps,
I will be right and good,

I will do what I should.
I am God's child, I know I am,
And I can
Do what is right.
I'll follow His light,
For I'm a servant of the Lord.

*Samuel Mitchell, age 8
Garland, Utah*

Yellow!

Yellow is a daisy, yellow is the sun,
Yellow is the best sort of fun.
Yellow is hair on many a head,
Yellow is the day when you get out of bed.
Yellow is cheese, yellow is a rose,
Summer squash, and a picture pose.
Yellow is always number one,
Yellow is always the best crayon.

*Rachel Dutton, age 8
Edmond, Oklahoma*



*Sydney Shuman, age 8
Summer, Washington*



*Alycia Garrett, age 11
Salem, Oregon*

BY HAZEL LAMOREAUX

(Based on an experience of the author's grandson)

We believe in being honest (Articles of Faith 1:13).

The school bell rang as I finished copying the last spelling word from the board. I stuffed my books into my backpack. Kim, who sits between Eddie and me, left as Eddie rummaged around in his desk. Crumpled papers and books flew all over the floor.

"What are you looking for?" I asked.

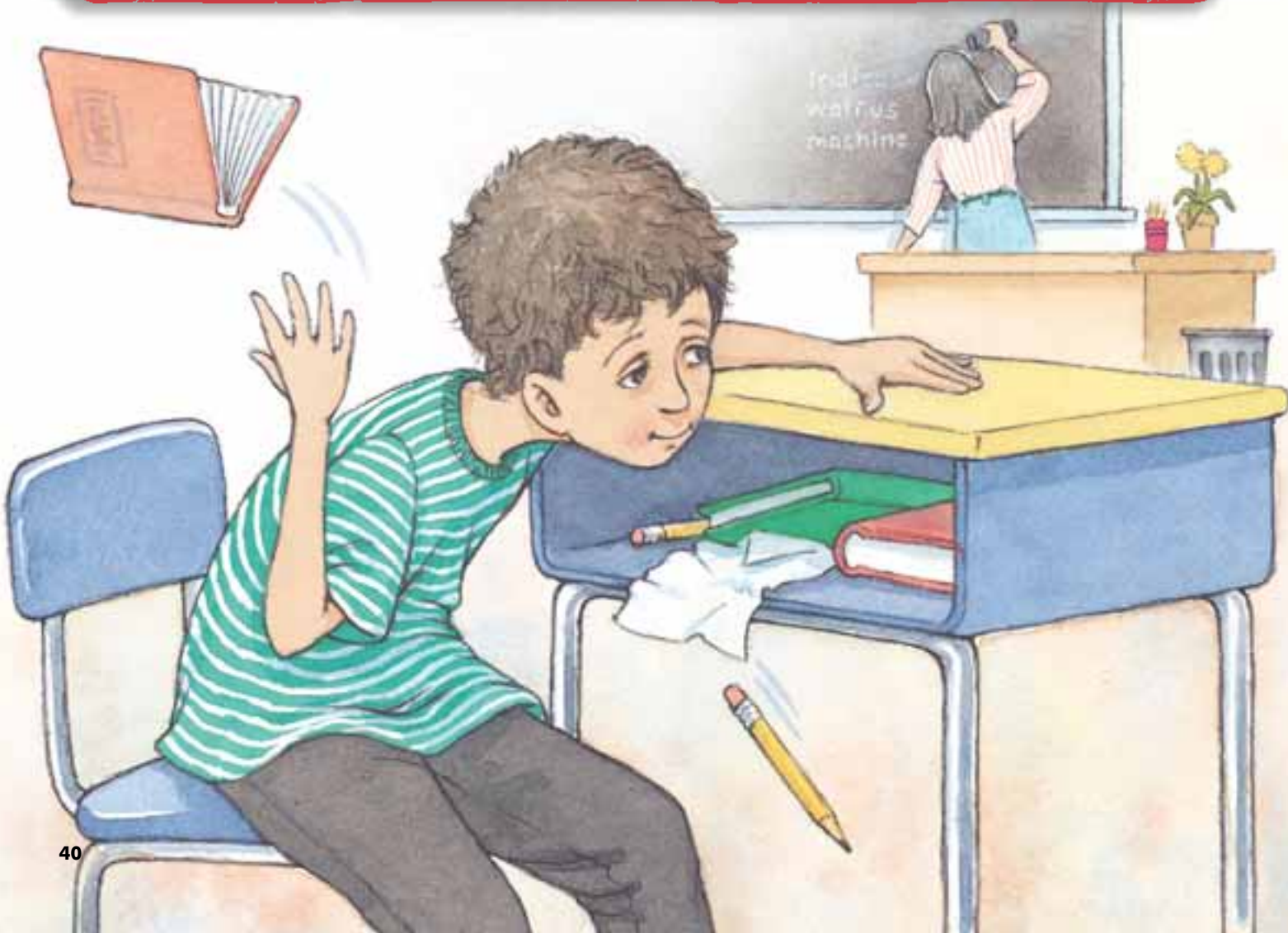
"My spelling list for tomorrow's test. My mom gets mad if I don't bring it home. She says it's the only way

to keep making As, but it isn't!"

I wish I always made As. I'm not very good at spelling. Dad helps me study every night, and I'd sure like to give him a 100 percent correct, A+ spelling test for Father's Day, along with the shaving lotion I got him. He'd like that.

I laid my paper by my backpack and picked up a dirty, torn paper Eddie had stomped on. "Is this what you're looking for?"

100% CORRECT, A+!





“Yeah. Thanks.” He shoved it into his pocket. Erasing the board, Miss Clark said, “You boys had better get going.”

I helped Eddie stuff books and papers back into his desk, and we left. He lives next door to me, so we usually walk home together.



“Want to play a video game?” he asked. “Mom bought me a new one.”

“I’d like to,” I said, “but I have to study for the spelling test tomorrow. I don’t make As like you do, no matter how hard I study.”

Eddie looked at me funny. “You sit next to Kim. She always gets 100 percent.”

I wondered what that had to do with anything. “You sit next to her, too.”

He smirked. “Yeah, that’s the point.” He marched in the house and slammed the door.

When I got home I headed into the kitchen and tossed my backpack on the table. “I have some heavy studying to do to get that 100 percent on my spelling test tomorrow,” I said.

“Have a snack first,” Mom said. She placed a peanut butter sandwich and a glass of milk on the table.

“Thanks, Mom.” I gobbled up the sandwich and washed it down with milk, then dug around in my backpack for the spelling list. I couldn’t find it.

I dumped everything in my backpack out on the table. “Mom!” I said. “I can’t find my spelling list.”

Mom searched through the books and leafed through my notebooks. The list wasn’t there. She knew how much I wanted to give Dad a 100 percent correct spelling paper for Father’s Day, so she looked again. No list.

“Where do you remember seeing it last?” she asked.

“I laid it on my desk by my backpack while I helped Eddie find his list. Then Miss Clark said we’d better hurry.”

“Then it’s probably still on your desk. But you can call Eddie and ask him to give you the words.”

On the phone, Eddie started telling me the words, but he said the paper had gotten so dirty and torn that he couldn’t read most of it. “I told you, don’t worry about it,” he said. “You sit next to Kim.”

I hung up the phone. I had something to worry about, all right. I had trouble spelling. What difference did it make to me if Kim was a genius?

I told Mom all the words I could remember, and she wrote them down for me. I tried my best, but I couldn’t think of all of them.

“Don’t worry about it,” Mom said. “Remember, in our family we love each other no matter what. We care about making good choices and doing the best we can.”

When Dad got home, he helped me study. When I could spell all the words I had, he said, “Try to sound out the others. The important thing is to do your best.”

The next day, when time came for the spelling test, I sharpened my pencil and put my pink eraser by my paper. I wanted that 100 percent so much my hand shook.

I knew the first five words. The next one I had to sound out. I glanced past Kim to Eddie, wondering if he was having trouble, too. He was craning his neck, staring at Kim’s paper—cheating! So that’s what Eddie meant about sitting next to Kim! I kept my eyes glued to my own paper, afraid the teacher would think I was cheating, too.

Suddenly Miss Clark swooped behind Eddie. Without a word, she picked up his paper, crumpled it up, and threw it in the wastebasket.

Dad wouldn’t want a paper I had cheated on. He’d be disappointed in me, and I’d feel rotten about myself.

My back hurt from sitting stiffly while I sounded out words, erased them, and sounded them out again until they looked right.

I closed my eyes. “Please, Heavenly Father, help me keep my eyes off Kim’s paper and do the best I can,” I prayed silently.

Miss Clark called out another word. I felt more relaxed and could think more clearly. I finished my test and handed it in.

We got our papers back before the end of class. I covered mine for a minute, afraid to look at my score. Then I saw “100% correct, A+!” written in red ink. I couldn’t wait to get home to show it to Mom.

On the test I wrote, “To the best dad in the world, who helps me with spelling, and teaches me to choose the right and to do the best I can.” Then I put it with the shaving lotion.

I could hardly wait for Father’s Day. ●

Hazel Lamoreaux is a member of the Vegas Manor Ward, Las Vegas Nevada East Stake.





Don't Delay

BY ELDER HENRY B. EYRING
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

All of us have faced deadlines. Fear can grip us when we realize that there may not be enough time left to finish what we promised we would do. The thought comes, “Why didn’t I start earlier?”

The Lord knew we would be tempted to procrastinate [put off] the most important preparation we could ever make in this life. In youth we may [think]: “There will be time enough to worry about spiritual things just before my mission or before marriage. Spiritual things are for older people.” But there is so much to do, and time seems to shrink.

Satan wants us to be miserable as he is.

And he knows that we can only have true happiness if we are washed clean through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, by deep and continuing repentance, and the making and keeping of sacred covenants. Any choice to delay repentance gives [Satan] the chance to steal [our] happiness.

Today is always a better day to repent than tomorrow. One of the questions we must ask of our Heavenly Father in private prayer is this: “What have I done today, or not done, which displeases Thee? If I can only know, I will repent with all my heart without delay.” That humble prayer will be answered. And the answers will surely include the assurance that asking today was better than waiting to ask tomorrow. ●

From an October 1999 general conference address.



Did you know that Elder Henry B. Eyring enjoys watercolor painting and cooking with his family? He teaches us about daily repentance.



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

The Primary Lesson

By Jessica Mafra Fradique

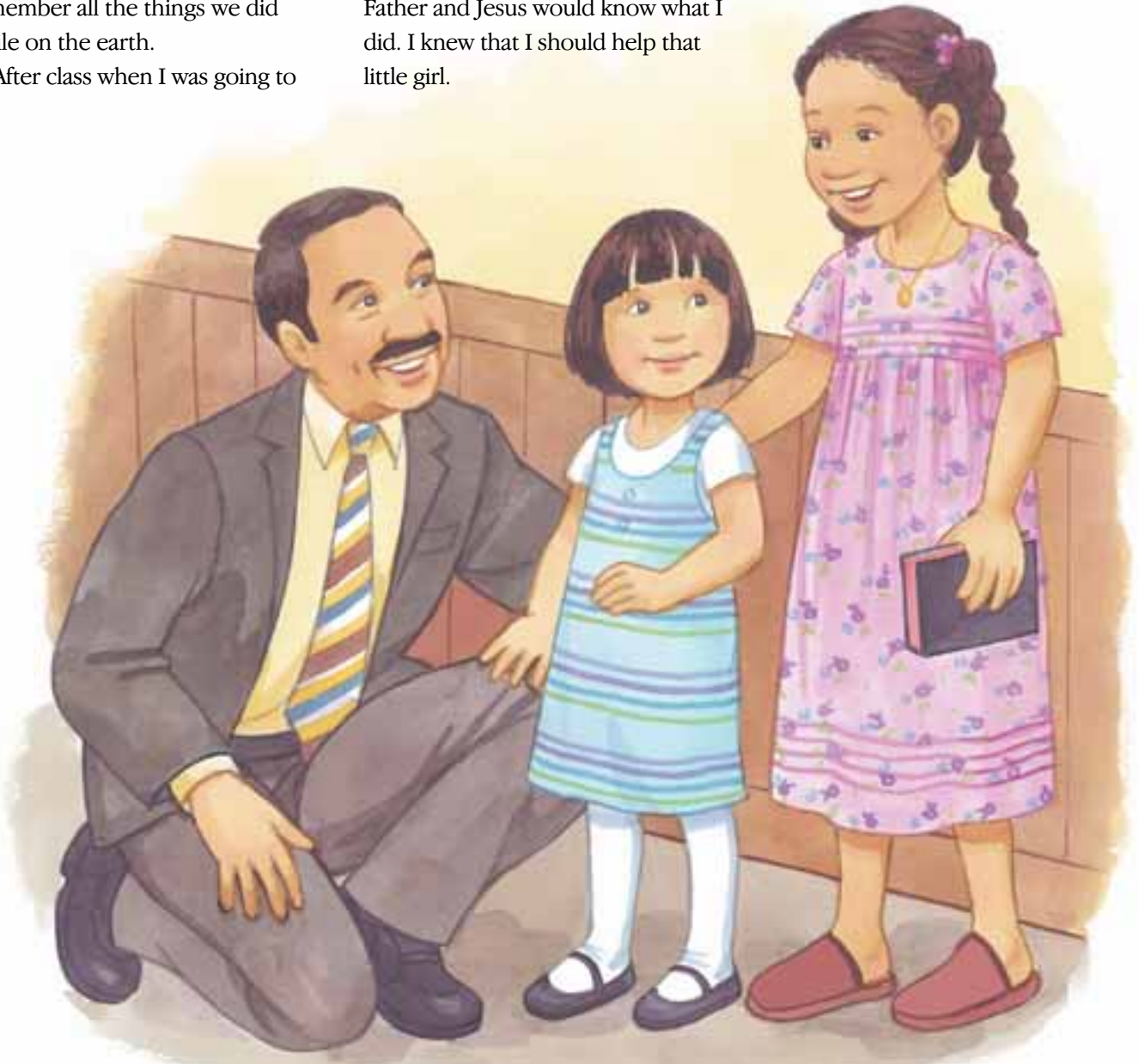
When I was eight years old, my Primary teacher gave a lesson that confused me. She said that after we die, we will be able to remember all the things we did while on the earth.

After class when I was going to

sacrament meeting, I saw a little girl who was sad. Her parents were not around, so I knew she was lost. I played with her for a minute, but sacrament meeting was starting and I knew I should go in. I started to go into the chapel, but then I remembered what my teacher said. Her lesson started to make sense. Heavenly Father and Jesus would know what I did. I knew that I should help that little girl.

I went back to get her. And soon her dad came back and found her. I'm grateful for Jesus' example. And I'm grateful to my teacher for the lesson that helped me so much.

Jessica Mafra Fradique, age 11, is a member of the Educandário Ward, São Paulo Brazil Raposo Tavares Stake.





The Silver Hubcap

By Spencer Ricks

I was new to our neighborhood, so I was excited when a boy named Ken* came over to play. One day we rode our bikes past a silver car that had silver hubcaps on the wheels. Ken said to me, "Hey, Spencer, steal one of those hubcaps."

"I'm not going to do that!" I said. I didn't want to break one of Heavenly Father's commandments. Ken decided to steal it himself.

I didn't feel good about what Ken had done, so I told my mom. After talking with her, I told Ken that he should return the hubcap he stole, and that I didn't want to play with him if he kept it. I was really happy when Ken took the hubcap back.

Spencer Ricks, age 6, is a member of the Schaumburg Second Ward, Schaumburg Illinois Stake.

** Name has been changed.*

Blankets for Babies

By Meghan White

My Aunt Robin was collecting blankets for babies born at a birthing center in northern Argentina. The center is for very poor mothers and babies. The clinic did not have money to buy blankets for the newborn babies, so the



nurses had to wrap them in heavy plastic to keep them warm. When I heard about this, I wanted to help. So for my eighth-birthday party, I asked the children I invited to bring a baby blanket instead of a gift. I invited 15 children and received more than 50 blankets. I feel good knowing that 50 babies will have blankets to keep them warm.

Meghan White, age 8, is a member of the Mapleton Second Ward, Mapleton Utah North Stake.

Modeling Modesty

By Katharine L. Hindbaugh

While coloring in a coloring book, AnnaLaura came across a picture that showed some girls wearing immodest bathing suits. She pointed out this problem to her mother, who drew new lines on the picture. Anna colored them in, delighted that all the girls were modest. Now whenever Anna finds a coloring page that she doesn't think is modest, she calls Mom to fix it.

AnnaLaura L. Goodwin, age 6, is a member of the Coldwater Branch, Kalamazoo Michigan Stake.





In His Hands

BY KIMBERLY WEBB

Church Magazines
(Based on a true story)

Call on the name of . . . God for protection (3 Nephi 4:30).

Jenny was excited to visit her friend Anne, who had moved to New York, but she was also afraid. What if she missed her airplane? What if Anne wasn't there to meet her?

Dad helped Jenny find the right place at the airport and hugged her good-bye. "Have a good time," he said. Jenny felt nervous, but she remembered that in family prayer Mom had prayed for her safety.

On the flight, Jenny read a book and drank juice. After landing, she found Anne's family waiting with big smiles on their faces. "Welcome to New York!" Anne cried.

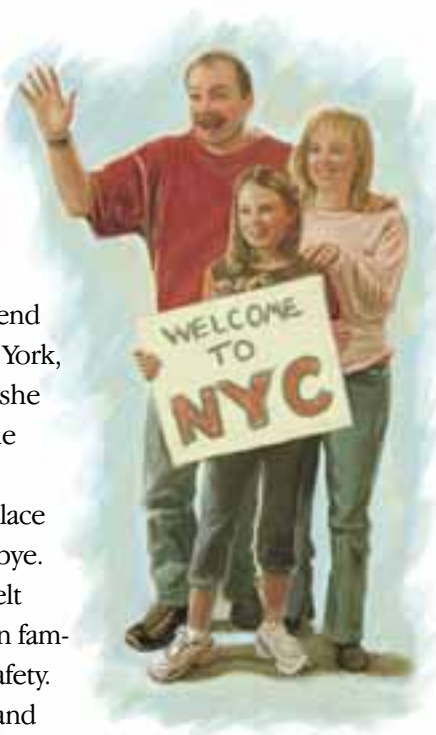
During the week they played, hiked, picnicked, and shopped. They even saw the Palmyra Temple and the Sacred Grove. When it was time to fly home, Jenny felt brave. She found her seat—right next to the window!—and put on her seatbelt.

Just as the plane began speeding up, it slowed again. The engines quieted, then stopped. "Is something wrong?" Jenny worried to herself.

"We can't take off yet because of thunderstorms," the pilot announced.

Three hours later, the airplane was still sitting on the runway. "I should have been home by now," Jenny moaned. The grouchy man next to her muttered some bad words, and she felt even worse.

At last, the plane took off. Everyone cheered, except the grouchy man, who scowled.



Jenny watched the city lights disappear beneath the clouds, then fell asleep.

A sudden flash awoke her. She blinked out into the darkness. There it was again!—sizzling, crackling lightning. Her stomach turned cold. She had never seen lightning so near. Her hair stood on end, charged with static electricity. She wanted to ask someone what would happen if lightning struck the airplane, but everyone else was asleep. Even the flight attendants were out of sight.

Bam! Another blinding ray of light exploded outside.

"Heavenly Father," Jenny silently prayed, "I'm scared. Please help me to feel better and get home safely."

As thunder rumbled and the airplane shook, Jenny remembered her vacation. She had flown to New York without any trouble. She had played, hiked, and ridden in a car. She hadn't scraped her knees, caught a cold, or gotten lost. She hadn't even forgotten her toothbrush. Nothing had gone wrong. Suddenly she realized that all of those things were blessings from Heavenly Father.

"If He protected me on the ground," she thought, "why can't He protect me in the air?" Peace entered her heart. She knew that no matter where she went, as long as she was faithful, she would be in God's hands.

She settled back into her chair and fell asleep. When she awoke, the lights of her hometown twinkled up at her. "Prepare for landing," the pilot said. Jenny offered a prayer of thanks, grateful to be safely home again. ●



"We should express joyful and sincere gratitude for past blessings. . . . We pray for protection in dangerous places. . . . We always have a prayer in our hearts."

President Spencer W. Kimball (1895–1985), 12th President of the Church, "Pray Always," *Ensign*, Oct. 1981, 4–5.

Priesthood Hidden Scripture

BY SHAUNA SWAINSTON

Blacken all the boxes that contain the letters F, J, K, M, Q, X, and Z, and you will be able to read a scripture about the priesthood. See answer on page 23.



| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F | I | J | G | I | V | E | J | U | N | T | O | K | Y | O | U | Z |
| M | J | P | O | W | E | R | J | F | T | H | A | T | M | M | X | Q |
| W | H | A | T | S | O | E | V | E | R | M | F | Z | Y | E | Q | M |
| X | S | H | A | L | L | F | M | S | E | A | L | J | Q | O | N | X |
| Q | X | E | A | R | T | H | Z | S | H | A | L | L | K | K | B | E |
| S | E | A | L | E | D | M | I | N | J | F | H | E | A | V | E | N |
| X | A | N | D | Z | W | H | A | T | S | O | E | V | E | R | M | F |
| Z | F | Y | E | Q | S | H | A | L | L | Z | L | O | O | S | E | J |
| O | N | M | E | A | R | T | H | Z | S | H | A | L | L | Q | B | E |
| X | L | O | O | S | E | D | Q | I | N | K | H | E | A | V | E | N |



In Other Words

BY CLARE MISHICA

Look at the illustrated words below. Can you figure out what phrase they show? (Example: 1. TAKE TAKE = double take.) See answers on page 23.

1. TAKE TAKE
2. Never Time
3. School
4. talk
5. HAT
6. DIPPER
7. ways
8. VOICE
9. just

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. The Primary theme for June is "Heavenly Father teaches me how to strengthen my family."

Family Home Evening Ideas

Look for the FHE symbol on the pages mentioned below.



1. Read President Thomas S. Monson's "The Race" (pages 2–3). What can you learn from John's example? (Determination, endurance, courage, etc.) What are some situations in life that will require you to have courage? To help you remember that God helps us with our challenges, learn and sing "How Firm a Foundation" (*Hymns*, no. 85).

2. Read "An Answered Prayer" (pages 4–7). Why is it important to pray often, even if we sometimes pray for the same things? Discuss times the Lord has answered your prayers to protect you or someone you love. Then review "Let's Talk about It" (page 7) to learn about fire safety.

3. "The Family: A Proclamation to the World" states that establishing a successful family includes participating in "wholesome recreational activities" (*Ensign*, Nov. 1995, 102). Read "I Love My Family" (pages 24–25) to see how one family spends time together. Write a poem or draw pictures of your favorite family activities (or things you'd like to do together in the future). Choose an activity, plan it, and carry

it out sometime during the month.

4. To learn more about being a missionary, read "Missionary Work" (page 31) and use some of the activity ideas listed. Read "Scriptures in a Suitcase" (pages 28–30), and think of ways you can share the gospel this week.

5. Read "100% Correct, A+!" (pages 40–42). How does the boy in the story show love for his father? Examples of good fathers are found in the scriptures. Complete "Scripture Fathers" (page 23) to learn about some of them. To honor your dad or a man you admire (a grandfather, bishop, neighbor, etc.), make him a "Bagel Dad" (page 34).

6. For more ideas, see page 37.



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The Friend

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*In sky and land and river wide,
the work of God I see;
Oh, may my heart be full of thanks
for all he gives to me
(Children's Songbook, 232–33).*