

the Friend

APRIL • 2006



Friends by Mail



Rescued



It was a hot summer day, and I was six years old. My mom took my three sisters and me on a wonderful holiday to Hornby Island, British Columbia. The island has wonderful beaches. We collected crabs and created habitats for them to play in before we let them go at the end of the day. We built sandcastles and took bike rides.

One day I was in an inflatable tube. I wasn't wearing a life jacket. I lay down on my tube and closed my eyes. The water gently rocked me back and forth, lulling me to sleep. I didn't realize how quickly the wind was moving me away from the shore. When I opened my eyes, I found myself moving swiftly past a large sailboat out into the open waves. I became frightened and wondered what to do. I began to pray for help and safety. I also screamed for help. A man heard my cries and came to my rescue. He swam out and pulled me to shore. Soon I was safe in my mom's arms. I know that Heavenly Father answered my prayers that day.

Martha B., age 6
Alberta, Canada



I Love You



When I was younger, my dad was bishop for six years. Almost every Sunday I would sit with him just because I loved him. Three years ago my dad died. I am still sad, but it isn't as hard as it used to be. I believe that my family can live together in heaven. Thank you, everybody who has helped me. I love you. I love the *Friend* magazine too. It is my favorite thing to read.

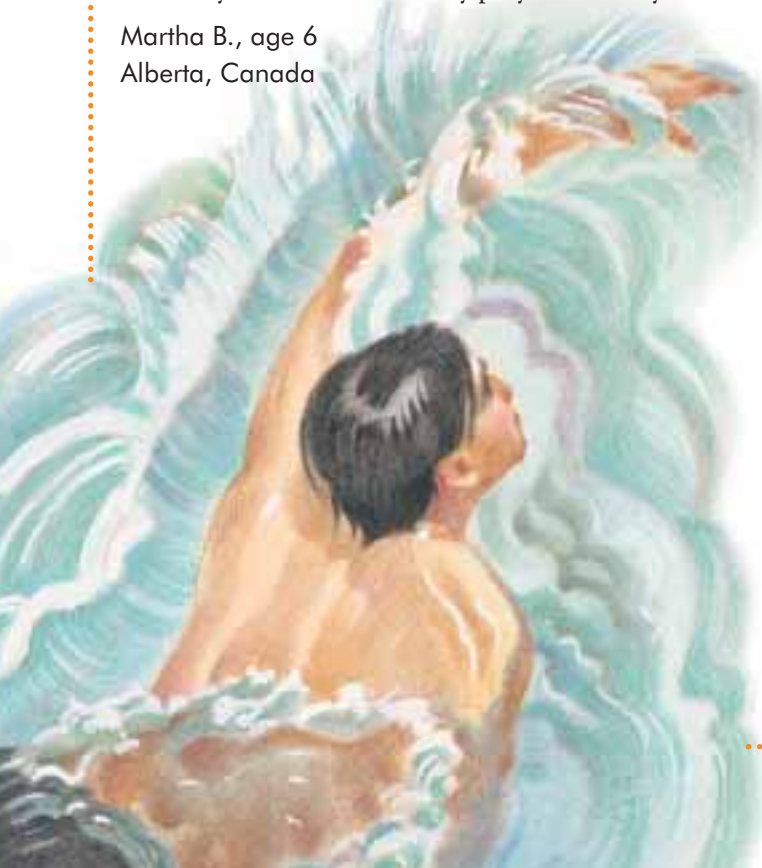
Rebecca Rose H., age 11
Arizona

I Felt the Spirit



One time I went to see my cousin and uncle participate in a fireside about the Book of Mormon. Almost through the whole thing I felt the Spirit. Especially at the very end I felt the Spirit really, really strongly. It was telling me that the Book of Mormon is true.

Zachary G., age 9
Utah



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Cover by Del Parson

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

As you look for the
CTR ring hidden in
this issue, remember
how grateful you are
for the Savior.





He Lives

BY PRESIDENT GORDON B. HINCKLEY

Easter morning is the Lord's day, when we celebrate the greatest victory of all time, the victory over death.

Those who hated Jesus thought they had put an end to Him forever when the cruel spikes pierced His quivering flesh and the cross was raised on Calvary. But this was the Son of God, with whose power they did not reckon. Through His death came the Resurrection and the assurance of eternal life.

With sorrow unspeakable those who loved Him placed His wounded, lifeless body in the new tomb of Joseph of Arimathea. He had taught them of His eventual death and Resurrection, but they had not understood.

The Jewish Sabbath passed. Then came a new day, a day that ever after was to be the Lord's day. In their sorrow Mary Magdalene and the other women came to the tomb. The stone was no longer in place. Curiously they looked inside. To their astonishment the tomb was empty.

Distraught and fearful, Mary ran to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved. She cried, "They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him" (John 20:2).

She who had loved Him so much, she who had been



President Gordon B. Hinckley teaches us that remembering the Savior's Resurrection can bring us peace.

healed by Him, was the first to whom He appeared. There followed others, even, as Paul declares, up to 500 brethren at one time (see 1 Corinthians 15:6).

Now the Apostles understood what He had tried to teach them. Thomas, on feeling of His wounds, declared, "My Lord and my God" (John 20:28).

Can anyone doubt the veracity [truth] of that account? No event of history has been more certainly confirmed. There is the testimony of all who saw and felt and spoke with the risen Lord. Two sacred volumes speak of this most glorious of all events in all of human history. Beyond these is the witness and the testimony, borne by the power of the Holy Ghost, of the truth and validity of this most

remarkable event.

In the hour of deepest sorrow we draw hope and peace and certitude [certainty] from the words of the angel that Easter morning: "He is not here: for he is risen, as he said" (Matthew 28:6).

He is our King, our Lord, our Master, the living Christ, who stands on the right hand of His Father. He lives! He lives, resplendent [magnificent] and wonderful, the living Son of the living God. ●

From an April 1996 general conference address.



Message in the STORM



BY SHEILA KINDRED

(Based on a true story)

For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts (2 Corinthians 4:6).

It's starting to cloud up," Mom said. "We got back to the car just in time."

Meg looked back at the canyon road growing smaller in the distance. From the freeway the beautiful red-rock cliffs were completely hidden by the mountains. People could drive by and not even know they were there. But Meg knew they were there. They had taken a detour up that way so her dad and her uncle could go for a walk in the peaceful valley.

"They need some alone time," Mom had explained.

Meg understood. They had just come from Grandpa



Ted's funeral service. Meg loved her grandpa and missed him, and she knew her dad and her uncle missed him even more.

Their time in the pleasant canyon was short. Now they were driving on the freeway again, with Uncle Evan in his van a few miles ahead. Clouds blocked the sun and Meg's heart grew heavy as she thought about Grandpa.

Meg remembered someone at the funeral saying that Grandpa had gone ahead to a beautiful spirit world and was waiting for them there. But that place seemed too far away, especially since Grandma Iris needed Grandpa here to take care of her. Grandma was sick and frail. How was Grandma going to make it on her own?

Meg blinked back her tears just as raindrops poured

down the car window. "The sky is crying too," Meg thought.

"What is that?" Mom sounded worried.

"A very concentrated storm," Dad answered, slowing the car slightly.

Meg looked up and saw a thick wall of dark clouds that completely hid the road ahead.

"I've never seen anything like it," Mom said. "I wonder what it's like inside."

"We'll soon find out," Dad said.

As soon as the car entered the cloud, it got so dark that Dad turned on the car headlights. The rain turned to hail that angrily pelted the car and danced on the road. It was much colder now.

Suddenly, the cell phone rang. Mom answered it, and



Meg could hear Uncle Evan's voice on the other end.

"Where are you?" he asked.

"We just entered the storm," Mom said.

"Slow down," Uncle Evan warned. "It's snowing where I am, and the road is very slippery. If you don't slow down you might slide off the road."

Dad immediately slowed the car just as snowflakes filled the air. They drove past several cars that had slid off the road, but Dad managed to keep the car moving safely. After several more minutes the phone rang again.

"We're out," Uncle Evan said, relief in his voice. "The end of the storm is just ahead. Keep going and you'll make it."

Sure enough, it wasn't long before the snow stopped, the clouds thinned, and darkness turned into light.

"Amazing!" Mom said as she and Meg turned to look at the solid black clouds behind them.

"Look at that," Dad said, pointing to the right. "Let me pull over so you can see."

Dad drove onto a side road and stopped. Meg and her parents got out of the car and looked up into the sky. Overhead they saw not one, not two, but *three* rainbows.



"There is a way out of the 'mists of darkness' (1 Nephi 12:17) and onto the path that leads to happiness in this life and eternal life in the world to come."

Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "Out of Darkness into His Marvelous Light," *Ensign*, May 2002, 71.

"A triple rainbow!" Meg gasped. "It's beautiful."

"Wow," Mom breathed. "This must be our reward for making it through the storm."

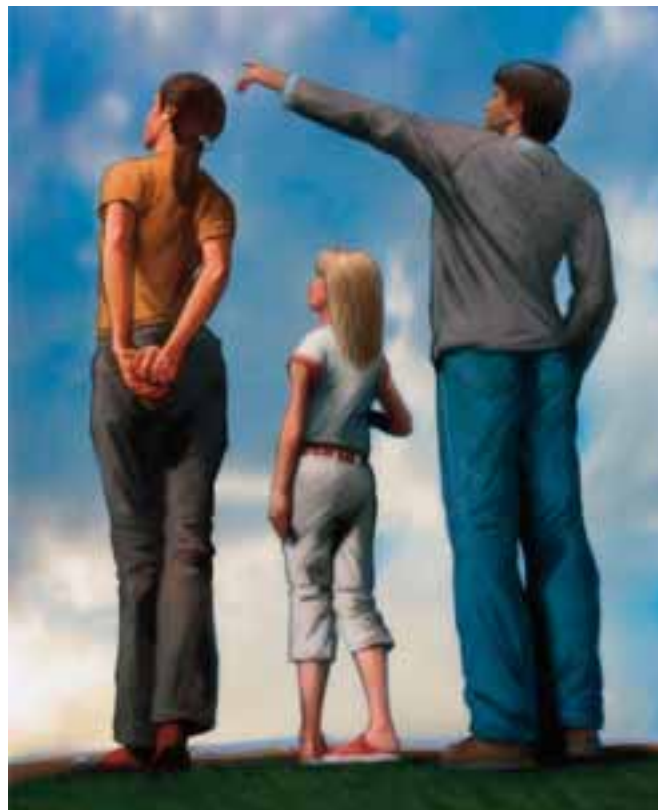
"Yes," Dad said, smiling. "It's proof that at the end of life, with all its difficulties, there really is a heaven."

"As long as we do the things that keep us safely on the right road," Mom added.

"But, Mom, if Uncle Evan hadn't called to warn us, we might not have been safe," Meg pointed out. "We might still be back there, stuck in the storm."

"That's very true," Dad agreed. "So you see, it pays to listen to an older brother who has traveled the road ahead. Especially when he warns you of danger. No matter how dark the storm, he'll help you get through it."

Meg smiled. Her heart felt as light as the sunshine now filling the sky. She realized Grandma was not alone. Grandma had the Savior, Jesus Christ, to guide her. And when Grandma left the storms of life behind, she would see Grandpa waiting for her in a place even more beautiful than triple rainbows. ●



GUESS WHO



1 His family emblem is a yoked ox. This symbolizes the faith and dedication his family members share with their ancestors, and the team of oxen represents the pulling together of the family.

2 He has a deep love for the scriptures and often uses their teachings in discussions.

3 His birthday is September 10. He grew up in Brigham City, Utah.

4 Throughout his life he has enjoyed the outdoors, and likes to paint and make wood carvings of birds.

5 In addition to teaching seminary, he also served as a city councilman for four years. He was later appointed an assistant administrator in the Church Educational System.

6 He is Acting President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.

7 When he was a boy, he won a prize at the Utah State Fair for a drawing of a bird.

8 During World War II he was trained as a pilot. When the war ended, he was stationed in Japan for a year. While he was there, he and other LDS men in the military preached the gospel among the Japanese.

9 He described his wife, Donna, as “a great and powerful motivating influence.” They were married in the Logan Utah Temple and have 10 children.

Read the clues about this member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. Then find the answer on page 48.

The members of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles are prophets, seers, and revelators and stand as special witnesses of Jesus Christ. They have the responsibility to testify of Him to the whole world.

Words of Wisdom

“Remember that you are a child of our Heavenly Father. You lived with Him before you came to this earth. . . . Our Heavenly Father loves us, and we have a Lord and Savior. We can return and live with Him again” (“An Apostle Speaks to Children,” Friend, July 1973, 32).

A FIRM DECISION



From an interview with Elder E. Israel Pérez, who served as an Area Seventy from 1997 to 2005; by Melvin Leavitt, Church Magazines

Choose ye this day, to serve the Lord God who made you (Moses 6:33).

My parents and my three older brothers were baptized in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala, when I was just six years old. I am grateful that they had the wisdom and courage to accept the truth. My parents and marvelous Primary teachers taught me the eternal principles of the gospel. I came to love our Father in Heaven and His Son, Jesus Christ, and to know that Heavenly Father always blesses us if we are obedient.

The first time I was assigned to give a short talk, I was worried because I couldn't pronounce the letter *R* correctly. I wondered, "How can I do this?" My mother told me, "God will bless you, and all will turn out well." That's exactly what happened, and I never again had

any problem with the letter *R*.

At the age of eight I was baptized in borrowed white trousers. They were too long, but my mother tucked the legs up and fastened them with a few stitches. This worked fine until they got wet.

As I stepped out of the water the weight of the wet cloth broke the stitches. I tripped over my borrowed pants and fell to my knees. The thought immediately came to me that this was a reminder to always kneel and pray for the help of our Heavenly Father in everything.

When I became a deacon I had a feeling that I should make some important decisions about my life. I decided that I would never drink liquor, that I would never smoke a

cigarette, and that I would be obedient.

Once when I was 16 years old, I was in a restaurant with some friends from church. A man who knew one of us came in. He said, "I want to invite all of you to drink some liquor right here and now."

I remember standing up and saying, “None of us drink liquor. And if you want to drink, go find somewhere else to do it.”

This man was in his early 20s and much larger than I was—a very strong man—and he became mad. He brought a glass of liquor to me and said, “I’m going to make you drink this!”

I said, “Don’t try it. There could be unfortunate consequences.” He tried to grab me and force me to drink the liquor. The next thing I knew, the man was lying on the floor. I really didn’t have the strength to

It doesn’t matter where we are or whom we are with, we can always stand by our principles. If we make a firm decision once and for all, when temptations arise we don’t have to think, “What am I going to do?” or “What am I *not* going to do?” The decision is already made.

We are never alone. Even though His creation is so immense, our Father in Heaven knows that you live and that I live. He knows our hearts. He knows our thoughts. He has given us His perfect plan of happiness because He loves us. He is always searching for ways to bless us. ●



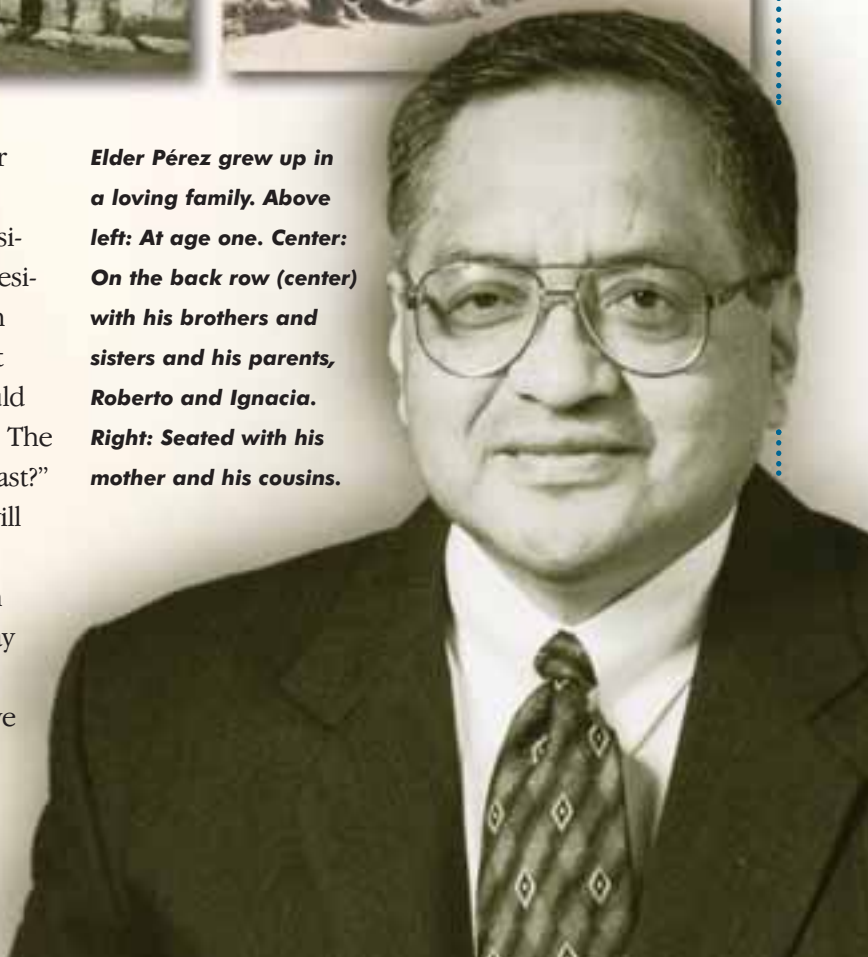
defend myself against that man, but Heavenly Father provided what I lacked.

Much later, when I was a husband, father, and businessman, I was invited to attend a lunch with the president of the Republic of Guatemala. I found myself in a room with many other guests. When the president entered, waiters poured liquor so that everyone could join in a toast. But I covered my glass with my hand. The president said, “Mr. Pérez, won’t you join me in a toast?”

I replied, “Mr. President, if you’re asking me if I will wish you success in your government, I will. But if you’re asking me if I will drink liquor, I will not. I am a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. If that is a problem, I can leave right now.”

He said, “No, no.” They drank their liquor, and we sat down. A little later the president said, “Tell me something of your church,” and I did.

Elder Pérez grew up in a loving family. Above left: At age one. Center: On the back row (center) with his brothers and sisters and his parents, Roberto and Ignacia. Right: Seated with his mother and his cousins.



Temples of the World

BY BRITNEY SCHETSELAAR

There are a lot of temples on the earth today in lots of different places. Can you recognize or guess some of them? See if you can fill in the blanks correctly by choosing from the list below. Then find them in the word search. (See page 48 for answers.)



A) _____
Temple



B) _____
China Temple



C) _____
Mexico Temple



D) _____
South Africa Temple



E) _____
California Temple

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



F) _____
Argentina Temple



G) _____
Sweden Temple

- Buenos Aires**
- Los Angeles**
- Papeete**
- Hong Kong**
- Louisville**
- Salt Lake**
- Idaho Falls**
- Madrid**
- Stockholm**
- Johannesburg**
- Mexico City**
- Washington**



H) _____
Kentucky Temple



I) _____
Tahiti Temple



J) _____
D.C. Temple



K) _____
Idaho Temple



L) _____
Spain Temple

Don't Ever Forget to

Pray

Brightly ♩ = 72-88

Words by Gordon B. Hinckley
Music by Elizabeth Ricks

Don't ev - er for - get to pray. Don't ev - er for - get to

pray. Kneel down ev - 'ry night and morn - ing. Don't ev - er for - get, don't

ev - er for - get, don't ev - er for - get to pray.

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Topic:

President Thomas S. Monson
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Topic:

President James E. Faust
Topic:



President Boyd K. Packer
Topic:

President Boyd K. Packer
Topic:



Elder L. Tom Perry
Topic:

Elder L. Tom Perry
Topic:

CONFERENCE



BY BRITNEY SCHETSELAAR

This April, we can hear the Lord's apostles and prophets speak during general conference. While you listen to their special messages, you can make this matching game for you and your family to play at family home evening.

Instructions

Remove these two pages from the magazine. Mount the pages on heavy paper, and cut out the cards. As you listen to each speaker, decide what topic he is speaking about. Write the topic on the card with his picture. Also, on the blank card with the



MATCHING



speaker's name on it, draw a picture of the topic. For instance, if he speaks about faith, you could draw a seed or something else that represents faith to you. Ask your father or a priesthood leader to help you with topics from the Apostles who speak at the priesthood session.

When you have finished making your game, you and your family can play it at family home evening. Turn all the cards facedown on a flat surface. Take turns flipping over two of the cards. If you match the speaker to his topic, keep the match and take another turn. The person who has the most matches when all the cards are gone is the winner. ●

G A M E



Elder Russell M. Nelson

Topic:



Elder Dallin H. Oaks

Topic:



Elder M. Russell Ballard

Topic:



Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin

Topic:



Elder Richard G. Scott

Topic:



Elder Robert D. Hales

Topic:



Elder Jeffrey R. Holland

Topic:



Elder Henry B. Eyring

Topic:



Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf

Topic:



Elder David A. Bednar

Topic:

Elder Russell M. Nelson

Topic:

Elder M. Russell Ballard

Topic:

Elder Richard G. Scott

Topic:

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland

Topic:

Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf

Topic:

Elder Dallin H. Oaks

Topic:

Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin

Topic:

Elder Robert D. Hales

Topic:

Elder Henry B. Eyring

Topic:

Elder David A. Bednar

Topic:

I Can Repent and Be Happy

BY LINDA MAGLEBY

Behold I say unto you that ye shall have hope through the atonement of Christ . . . to be raised unto life eternal, and this because of your faith in him according to the promise (Moroni 7:41).



There was a girl who got a splinter in her finger. Her dad took his pocketknife, cleaned it, and gently scraped it across her finger to catch the end of the splinter and pull it out. Even though her dad was gentle, it hurt to have the splinter removed! The next time the girl got a splinter, she didn't tell anyone. After a few days, her finger became infected. It hurt so much that she wanted the splinter removed no matter what. Her dad gently removed it. After the splinter was gone, her finger began to heal.

When we do something wrong, it always hurts us and it often hurts others. We may think the hurt will go away if we ignore it. But left alone, the wrong will continue to hurt us and make us sad.

Heavenly Father loves us. He wants us to be happy. He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to make it possible for us to repent. Through His Atonement, Jesus paid the price for our sins so that we can repent and be forgiven.

Repentance is a way of removing and healing from a sin that hurts us spiritually. The first thing we need to do is to realize that we have done something wrong and to feel sorry that we did it. This feeling comes from the Holy Ghost. We must ask Heavenly Father and any people we have wronged to forgive us. We need to do the best we can to correct any problems caused because of our wrong choices. We must also decide not to do the wrong thing again. After we have done all that we can to repent, because of Christ's Atonement, Heavenly Father will forgive us. Repentance makes us happier now and makes it possible for us to live with Heavenly Father and Jesus forever.

Activity

You can play this game by yourself or with your family. Cut out the shape on page 15 on the heavy black lines. Fold it on the dotted lines to make a pyramid. Glue or tape the tabs so they are on the inside of the pyramid. Choose a case study from the list, toss the pyramid, and tell how to apply the part of repentance that is facing you to the situation described by the case study.

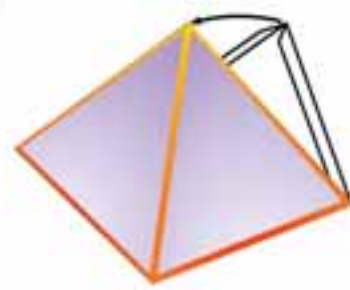
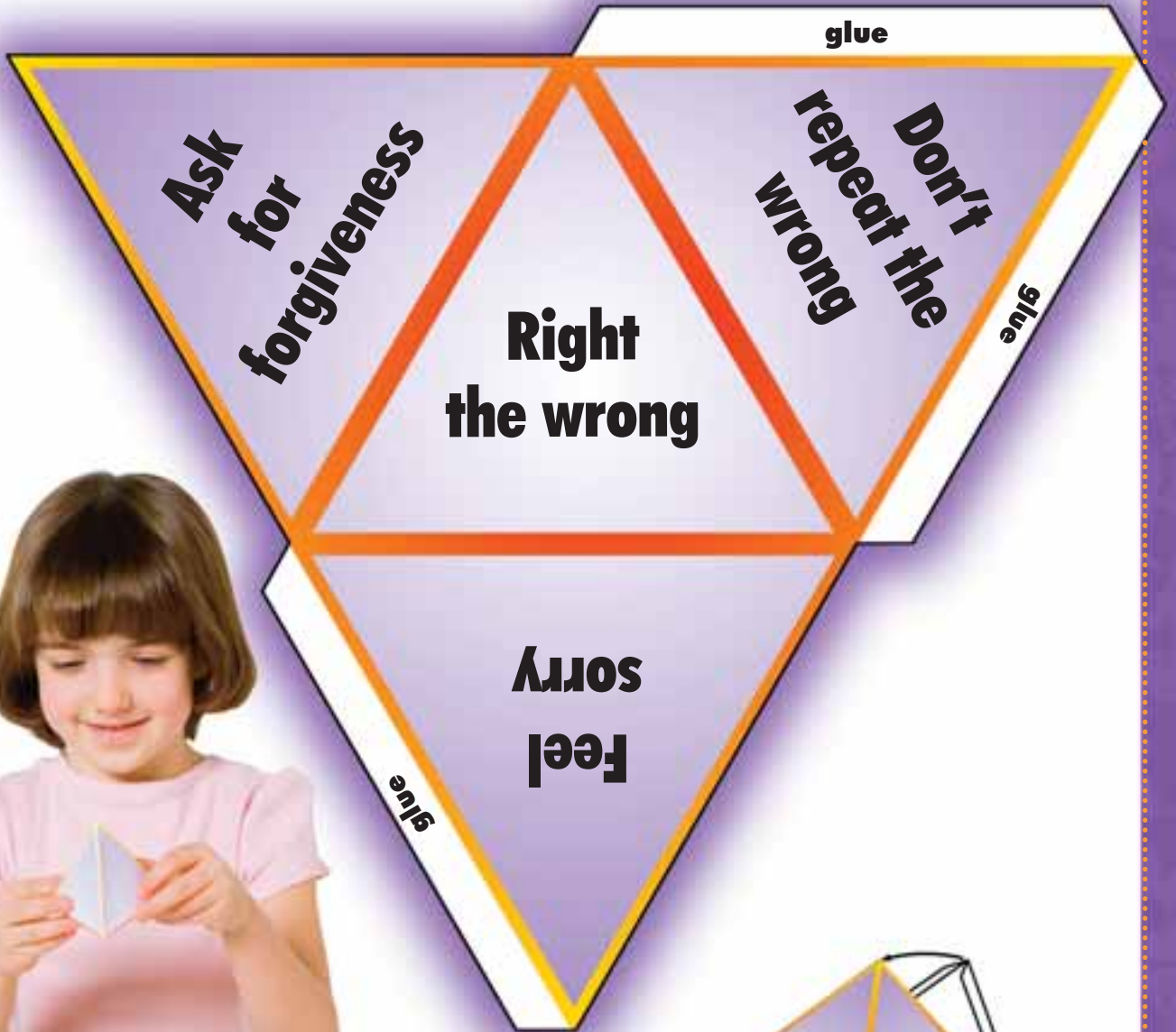
Case Studies

Josh says something unkind about someone. What should Josh do?

Jenny does not share her toys. What should Jenny do?

Some boys do not include someone in their game. What should they do?

Lisa takes something that does not belong to her. What should Lisa do?



Sharing Time Ideas

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

1. Teach the children that in the premortal life Heavenly Father chose Jesus Christ to be our Savior. Before we came to earth, we lived with Heavenly Father. Show Primary picture 3-3 (The Pre-Earth Life). This is one artist's idea of what heaven is like. Explain that Heavenly Father presented a plan for all of us to get a physical body and to learn to choose the right. Read Moses 4:1-4, and have the children tell the story in their own words. Ask, "Who is the 'Beloved Son' Heavenly Father spoke of?" Show GAK 240 (Jesus the Christ). On the chalkboard list the following statements: "An earth would be created where we could live and show we would obey Heavenly Father's commandments"; "We shouted for joy when we heard Heavenly Father's plan"; "Jesus was prepared to redeem us"; "There was a war in heaven." Write another list of the following scriptures in random order: Abraham 3:24-25; Job 38:7; Ether 3:14; Revelation 12:7-9. Have the children read the scriptures and match each scripture to a statement. Testify of Jesus Christ.

2. Read and discuss with the children 2 Nephi 2:27. Point out that the most important choices we make will be between good and evil. Divide the children into three groups and give each group one of the following pictures: GAK 309 (Alma Baptizes in the Waters of Mormon), GAK 310 (Ammon Defends the Flocks of King Lamoni), GAK 311 (The Anti-Nephi-Lehies Burying Their Swords). Each of these stories tells of people who lived lives of rebellion, repented, and turned to serve the Lord. With the help of teachers and using the scriptures and stories on the back of each picture, have each group prepare and present their story in a simple role play. Ask how each person or group of people showed they had repented. (They taught the gospel, went on a mission, refused to fight.) Ask how we can know when we have repented. (We want to keep the commandments and serve the Lord.) Bear testimony of the principle of repentance and of turning our hearts to the Lord. Sing "Choose the Right Way" (pp. 160-61).

3. Use the song "He Sent His Son" (pp. 34-35) to help the children understand how Heavenly Father sent the Savior to bless us. Using questions and GAK pictures that relate to lines of the song, have the children review the life of the Savior. For example, review the birth of the Savior by holding up GAK 200 (The Birth of Jesus). Ask the children who is in the picture, what they know about this story, and what the people in the picture make them think of. Use similar questions with the following pictures: GAK 209 (Calling of the Fishermen), GAK 230 (The Crucifixion), and GAK 239 (The Resurrected Jesus Christ). Give each child a piece of paper and a pencil. Divide the children into four groups. Assign each group a section of the song to illustrate. For example, the first group would draw pictures for the first lines: "How could the Father tell the world of love and tenderness? He sent his Son, a newborn babe, with peace and holiness." Have the pianist play the song quietly in the background as the children draw. Invite each group to show their pictures and describe them. Have the group with the final

lines ("What does he ask? Live like his Son.") stand in front of the room and share their pictures of things we can do to live like His Son. Invite the children to hold up their pictures for their lines as they sing the song. Express gratitude for the Savior and for the blessing of having Him come to earth.

4. Using a glove, teach the children about resurrection. Show your hand without the glove and tell the children that before we came to earth we were spirits. We could move, think, choose, and learn. When we came to earth we each received a body (put hand in glove). We can still move, think, choose, and learn, but now we have wonderful bodies to take care of. When we die, the body and the spirit separate (take off the glove). The body can no longer move, but our spirit still lives. When we are resurrected, our body and our spirit are together again (put on glove), and the body and the spirit will never be separated again. Jesus was the first one to be resurrected. Because He was resurrected, all people who have ever lived will be resurrected. There are many witnesses who saw Jesus after He was resurrected. Sing a story about some of those witnesses (see *TNGC*, pp. 174-75). Use GAK pictures and ask the children to read or tell in their own words the summary on the back of each picture. Choose a song to sing after each picture. Some suggested pictures and songs are: GAK 233 (Mary and the Resurrected Lord) and "Did Jesus Really Live Again?" (p. 64); GAK 315 (Christ Appears to the Nephites) and "Easter Hosanna" (pp. 68-69); GAK 403 (The First Vision) and "On a Golden Springtime" (p. 88). Have the children read D&C 76:22-23. Testify, as these many witnesses have, that Jesus Christ lives.

5. *Song Presentation*: "Did Jesus Really Live Again?" (p. 64). Verse one asks a question, answers it, and tells what Jesus did. Ask the children to listen and raise one finger when they hear the question, two fingers when they hear the answer, and three fingers when they hear what Jesus did. Sing the first verse of the song for the children. What is the question? What is the answer? Sing that much together. Show GAK 233 (Mary and the Resurrected Lord). Say, "The song tells us three things Jesus did when the third day came. As I sing, count them on your fingers as you hear them." (1—"wakened," 2—"left the tomb," 3—"called Mary's name.") Review the three things, and sing and count together. Use the same technique for verse two. The third verse tells how the people knew it was Jesus. Sing the first half, and ask how the people recognized Him. Sing that much together. Now the song asks a question and gives a wonderful promise. Have the children listen for the question, hold up one finger when they hear it, and fold their arms when they hear the promise. Sing the rest of the verse for them; then sing it together. Testify of the Resurrection.

6. *Friend* references: "Look to the Savior," Oct. 2003, 33; "Repentance and the Atonement," Mar. 2004, 36; "No Candy for Easter," Apr. 2004, 4-6; "Jesus Is Risen," June 2003, 10-15; "Missing Jarom," Mar. 2004, 4-5; "Jesus Suffers in the Garden of Gethsemane," Mar. 2003, 10-13; "The Savior's Atonement," Mar. 2002, 2-3; "Heavenly Father's Plan," June 2003, 46-47.

MATT & Mandy



1 Mom, my throat hurts really bad!

I know, dear. I'm sorry. It will get better.

2 You don't know! Nobody knows how bad it hurts!

Well, that's not quite true. Jesus knows because when He suffered for our sins, He also suffered our pain and sorrow.



3 Every bit of it?

Every bit.

4 For everybody?

For every single person who ever lived or ever will live in the whole world.



5 How?

I don't know all the hows. But I know that He did it because He loves us, and that His love is stronger than pain or even death.

6 I can't love that big, but I love Him too.

So do I.

Why I Believe in Jesus Christ

BY LINDSEY M. (age 9)

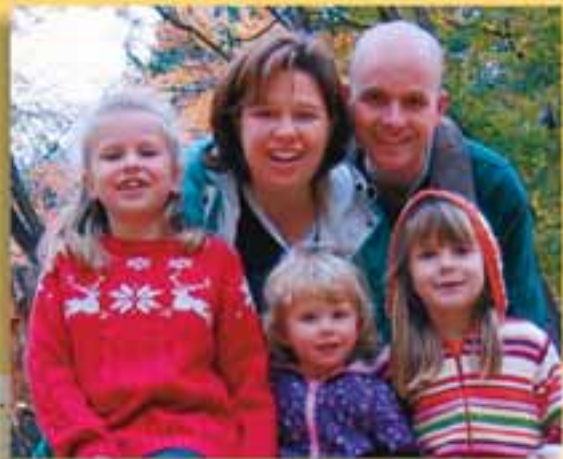
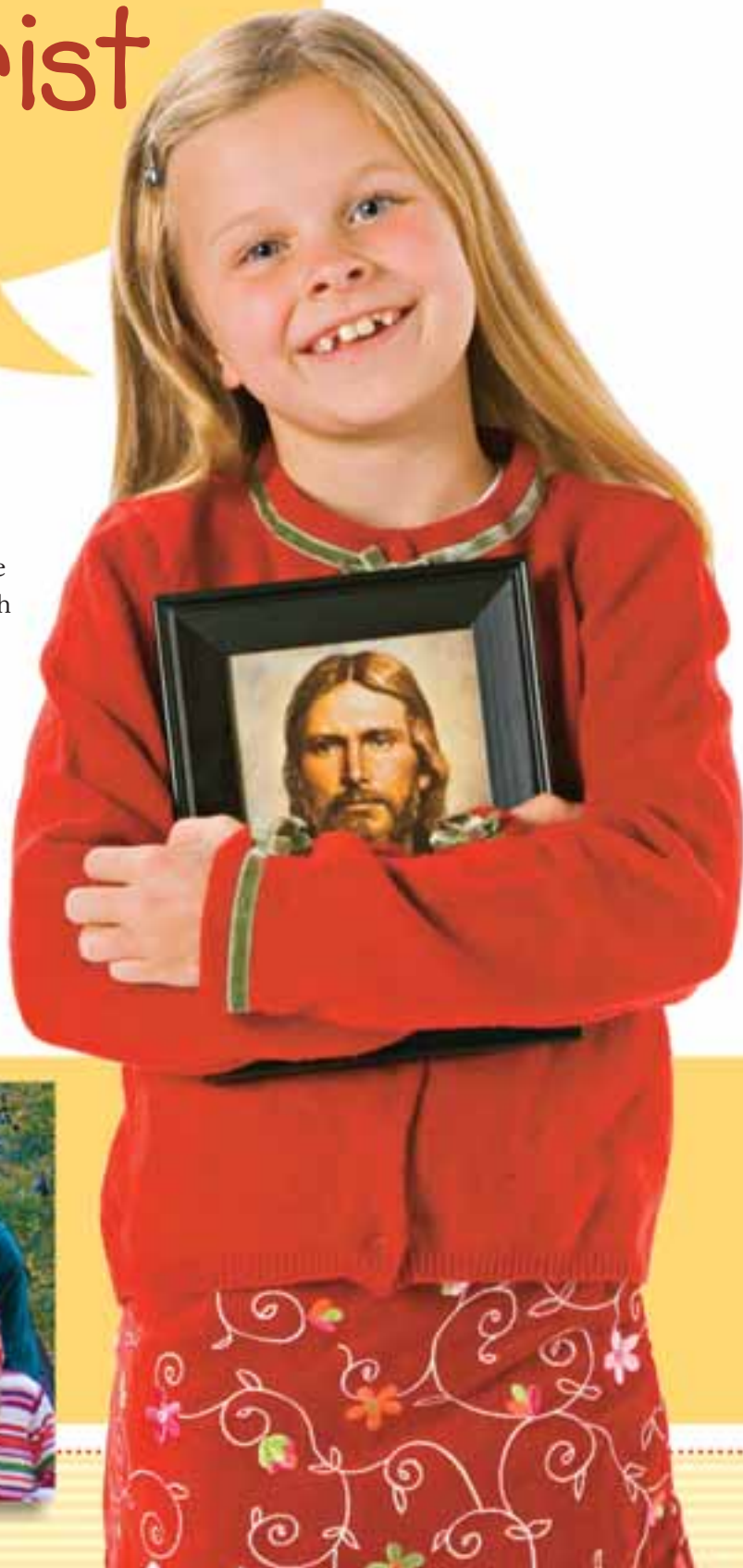
(A talk given on February 6, 2005, at stake conference)

This is the testimony which is in me (Alma 7:13).

I want to tell you why I believe in Jesus Christ. **Scriptures** help my testimony of Jesus Christ grow. They tell us about Him—that He created the world and that He died for us so that we could live with Him again. The scriptures teach us that Jesus loves us and wants to bless us. I especially like the story in the scriptures of Jesus blessing the Nephite children.

My family helps my testimony of Jesus Christ to grow by teaching me the gospel and loving and caring for me. When we have family home evening, we share stories and our feelings about the Savior.

Prayers help my testimony to grow. When my baby sister Rachel was born, she had a hard time breathing and had to have an oxygen hood. I couldn't hold her, and she had to stay in the hospital. I prayed



that she would get better and be able to come home with us. My prayer was answered. She got better and came home with us soon after that. Prayers help me to feel close to Jesus Christ.

Teachers and leaders help my testimony to grow. When I go to church, I learn and hear the testimonies of others. Also my home teachers, Brother Hackett and Brother Pahnke, bear their testimonies to my family.

Prophets help my testimony to grow. I love to read about the prophets and learn about their lives and how they were committed to following Jesus Christ. One story I love is about Joseph F. Smith (1830–1918). He was returning to Salt Lake City with several missionaries when a mob approached them. They shot their guns and cursed and yelled. The leader jumped off his horse and shouted, “We will kill anyone who is a Mormon!” All the other missionaries ran into the woods, but Joseph F. Smith stood strong. The man held a gun and asked, “Are you a Mormon?” Joseph F. Smith stood up even straighter and said, “Yes, siree; dyed in the wool; true blue, through and through!” The man was surprised. Putting the gun away, he shook Joseph’s hand, and said, “Well, you are the pleasantest man I ever met! I’m glad to see a man that stands up for his convictions.” Then he rode off and didn’t bother them again.¹

The Friend magazine helps my faith to grow. I like to read the stories and see the pictures that children draw of Jesus Christ. I like to hear

about other

people who are living the gospel and have testimonies.

Pioneers help my testimony of Jesus Christ to grow because of their sacrifices to follow Him. I have an ancestor named Lars Larson who listened to the missionaries and chose to follow Jesus Christ even though his parents were angry about it. They told him that if he was baptized, they would not let him live there and they would not help him at all. His testimony was so strong that he left his family to follow the Savior and be baptized. He was later called as a missionary to where his family lived. He went to their house, and when his mother answered the door, she quickly closed it on him. But he caught the door before it closed all the way and simply said, “Mother, I just want you to know that I have found the truth.” This testimony wasn’t easy to have—it meant that he lost a lot—but following the Savior was so important to him that it was worth the sacrifice.

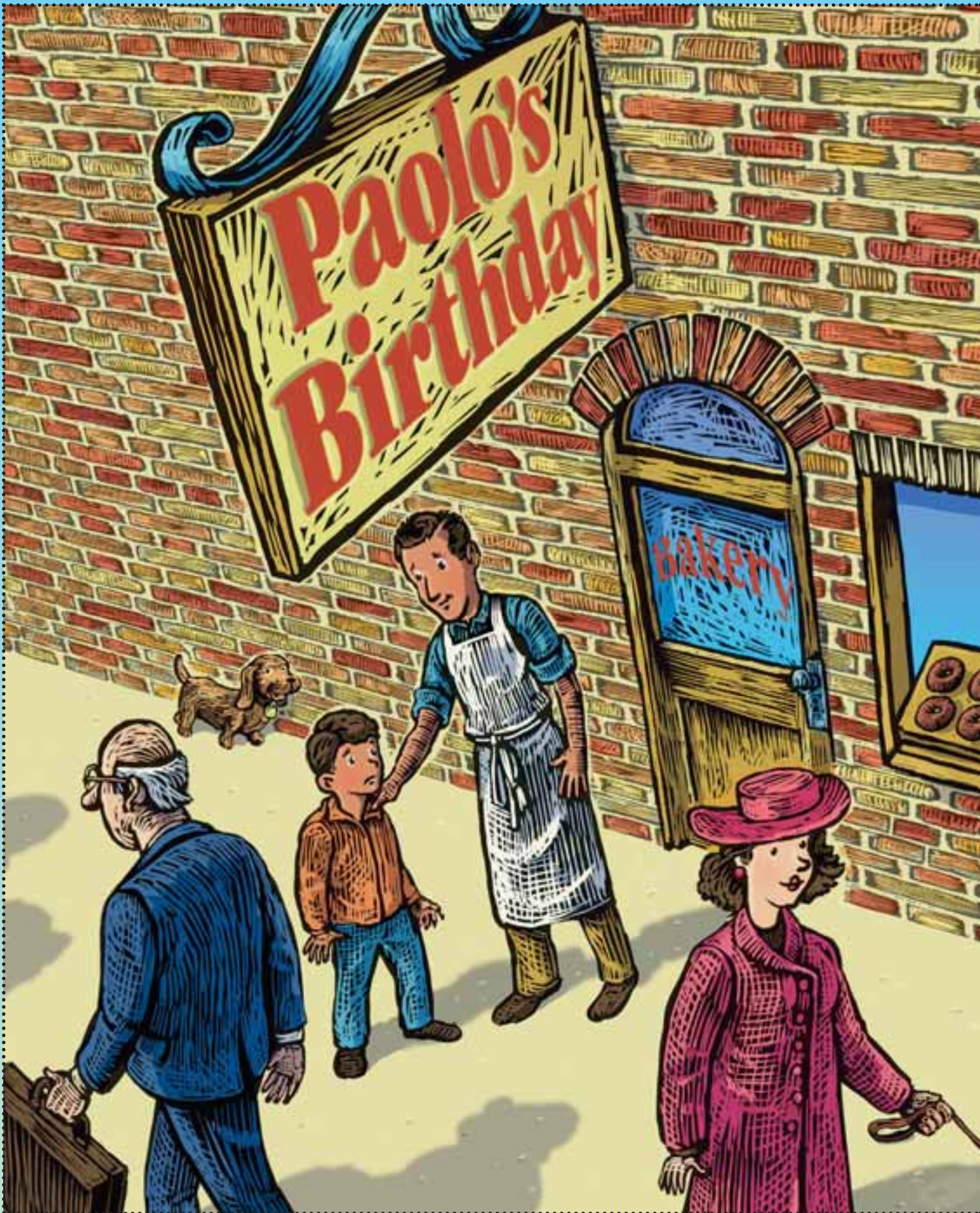
My baptism helps my testimony of Jesus Christ to grow. I chose to be baptized last year. I made a covenant with Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ because I want to follow Them and feel Their love and the influence of the Holy Ghost in my life.

I do believe in Jesus Christ. I have a testimony that He died for us, that He was resurrected, that He lives and loves us, and that He wants to bless and help us. ●

NOTE

1. See *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph F. Smith* (1998), 104.





BY JANE MCBRIDE CHOATE

(Based on a true story)

Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also
(Matthew 6:21).

Paolo trudged home from school. Saturday was his tenth birthday. Back home in Mexico, his family had celebrated birthdays with a big party, inviting many of their friends and relatives. His mother would prepare a large meal of wonderful foods, and his father would give special presents.

Ever since his family had moved to a small town in Colorado last fall, money had been scarce.

It was not the big party he would miss or even the presents. It was the way of life—the traditions and customs—that tugged at the empty place in his heart. His family still practiced some of the old ways, but it was not the same.

He stopped at the bakery where his father worked. Though his father had been a professor at the university in Mexico City, he had not been able to find a teaching job in the United States. He'd taken a job as a doughnut and bread maker at the local bakery.

"No work is to be ashamed of if it is honest and helps people," his father had said when Paolo asked him about it. He'd pointed to the loaves of freshly baked bread. A rich, yeasty smell filled the small shop. "I bake good bread. It helps the people who buy it, and Mr. Patterson, who owns the store. Someday, I might be able to teach in the United States, but until then, I am content."

Paolo had nodded, but he wasn't convinced.

He thought about that as he stepped into the small bakery. He inhaled deeply, savoring the aroma of cinnamon and sugar.

His father smiled. "Paolo, I am glad you came."

Paolo climbed on top of a tall stool and watched as his father wiped down the counters and polished the glass display cases until they gleamed.

"There." His father hung up the towel. "Would you

like to try my new creation?"

Paolo bit into the savory pastry his father handed him. "It is good."

Paolo and his father walked home together. Someday, maybe, there'd be enough money to buy a car. For now they walked or took the bus.

Paolo waited until they were almost home when he said, "We do not live like we did in our country."

"You will have a birthday party this year," his father said, guessing Paolo's thoughts.

"It won't be the same," Paolo muttered.

"Because we do not live in a big house?"

Paolo started to deny it and then hung his head. "I wish we had never left Mexico. That was our home."

His father stopped and gestured to their modest one-story house. "This is our home now. It is a good place."



Paolo looked at the rented house where his family lived. It was small and run-down. He had not invited any of his friends to visit because he was ashamed of it. In Mexico, their home had been much nicer, a place he could be proud of.

He hadn't told his parents of his feelings. He knew they would be hurt.

"Paolo, you have not invited anyone to your birthday party," his mother said as he set his books on the kitchen table.

He pretended to be very busy in making himself a snack, avoiding meeting his father's gaze.

"What is it, Paolo?" his mother asked. "You do not laugh or smile as you once did. Are you so unhappy here?"

The worry in his mother's voice caused him to flush with guilt. "I am happy. I just haven't made friends yet."

That was not true and his conscience nagged him. David, a boy at school, had invited Paolo to his home several times. David lived in a fine house. Paolo could

not invite his friend to the shabby house where his family now lived.

His mother's eyes were shadowed with pain. "You are ashamed of your papá and me. Of where we live."

"No, Mamá. I could never be ashamed of you."

"But you are embarrassed by our home, aren't you?"

He wanted to deny it. A look at Mamá's face convinced him she would not believe him. "I will invite someone," he said.

The pain in her eyes eased. "Good. I will prepare a special meal."

"Ten is an important age," his father said, his dark eyes serious. "Two years ago you were baptized. In two more years, you will receive the priesthood and be ordained a deacon."

The words of the blessing his father had given him at the time of his baptism sounded clearly in Paolo's mind: "I bless you with the knowledge to choose your friends wisely. Remember that the friends you make can



influence your choices. Be an example to them and let your light shine.”

At the time Paolo had thought the blessing was to warn him of those who might try to tempt him to forget his principles. Last year a boy in his class had dared Paolo to steal something from a store. Paolo had walked away and avoided the boy after that.

For the rest of the afternoon and evening, Paolo worked hard to help around the house. He polished the furniture, swept the kitchen floor, and washed the dinner dishes while his sisters dried.

“Thank you, Paolo,” his mother said, looking up from where she was rolling out pastry. “We will have a good party on Saturday. You will see.”

The following day at school Paolo asked David, “Would you like to come to my birthday party on Saturday?”

A smile creased David’s face. “Sure.” He punched his friend lightly on the arm. “I was wondering when you were going to ask me over to your house.”

When David arrived on Saturday afternoon, Paolo tried to see his home through the eyes of his friend. Richly woven rugs brightened the floor. Pillows, embroidered by his mother, covered the furniture. The house smelled of frijoles and spices and simmering meat. The old house no longer appeared so shabby as laughter and the aroma of good food filled it.

He introduced David to his parents and little sisters and was pleased when David joined in the fun of knocking down the piñata.

Once again Paolo recalled the blessing at the time of his baptism. Now he realized that, in addition to the warning, the blessing also encouraged him to make and appreciate good friends like David.

“Your family’s great,” David said between bites of frijoles.

“Yeah,” Paolo agreed. “You’re right.” The things he had worried over no longer seemed important. He had what really mattered. ●



“The greatest treasure in this world is not fame or wealth, but rather, a sense of well-being and the inner peace that living the teachings of the gospel can give to us.”

Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “Behold, He That Hath Eternal Life Is Rich,” *New Era*, Dec. 1977, 5.

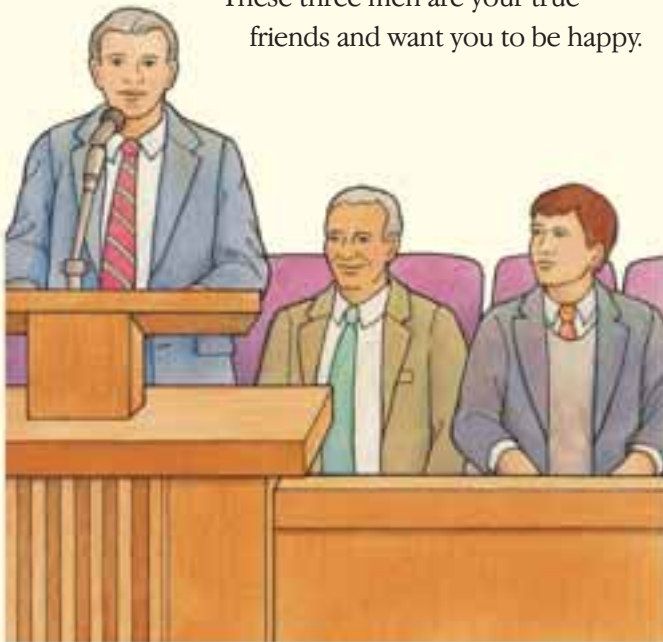
People Who Love



Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ love you more than you can imagine. Jesus suffered and died for you. Heavenly Father hears your prayers and speaks to you through the **Holy Ghost**. They have given us the Church and the priesthood.

The **bishop or branch president** presides over the ward or branch with the help of his two **counselors**.

These three men are your true friends and want you to be happy.



Your family was given to you by Heavenly Father, and your parents love you very much. Always return that love.



There are many people who love you and want to help you. Here are a few.

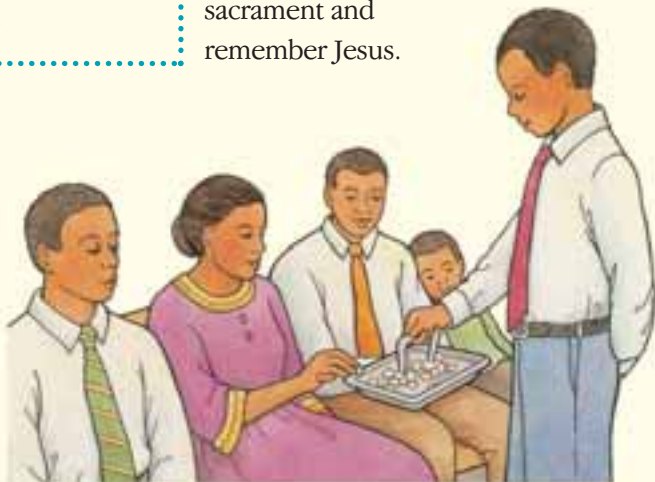


You and Serve You

at home and at church
to help you feel at home.
few of them.

Aaronic Priesthood holders

prepare, bless, and pass the sacrament. This sacred ordinance allows baptized members to renew their baptismal covenants. Younger children can also partake of the sacrament and remember Jesus.



During the month your **home teachers** will visit your home and make sure that you are all doing well. They will also teach your family more about the gospel.



Primary is an organization for the children of the ward or branch. The **Primary president** and her two **counselors** conduct the meetings and help you to learn and live the gospel.

The **Primary pianist and music leader** play and lead the music in Primary. Gospel hymns are a special kind of prayer. Sing with all your heart, and you will feel the Spirit.



Your **Primary teacher** teaches gospel lessons to your Primary class. He or she prays to Heavenly Father for help in teaching you the truth and is eager to answer your questions.





Jesus Is My Savior

BY BLYTHE RACKHAM

Jesus is my Savior, for
He rescues me from me.
I'll try to explain just how to you.
It's very clear to see.

Heavenly Father sent me here
To learn to choose the right.
I can't get back to live with Him
Unless I win the fight.

Each day I have to make a choice.
Some days I seem to choose
The path that leads away from Christ,
And that's the way I lose.

But God knew that I'd need some help,
So Jesus said He'd come
And be my Savior so I can try
To be the best I can become.

And when I try to change my ways—
A better person be—
I can succeed because of Christ
Who gave His life for me.



Scripture Figure



As you retell scripture stories, this figure can represent any young woman in the scriptures, such as Esther, one of the ten virgins, or a hand-maiden. The figure can be mounted on heavy paper, colored, cut out, then made into a stick puppet, flannel board figure, or paper sack puppet, as illustrated. Make several and color the hair and clothing differently for each one. ●

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



Stick Puppet



Flannel Board Figure



Paper Sack Puppet

Our Creative Friends

Church

Joyous songs will fill the air
Where everyone will meet.
Children go to learn what's true,
And teachers start to teach.
Everyone will fold their arms
And join in on a prayer.
This is where I go each week
To feel the spirit there.

*Jillian M., age 10
Alberta, Canada*

Easter

Easter is full of joy,
And every year kids say, "Oh boy, oh boy!"
For Easter baskets arrive today.
But on Easter we don't play.
We rest today, for it's the Lord's day.
On Easter morning we say to ourselves,
"Let us be kind, and remember Jesus."
We know to be kind to the birds and flowers,
As there is fun and April showers.
On Sunday we know to be reverent,
To stay away from temptations and always repent.
And so you see, it applies to you and me,
We do not play today—
It's the Lord's day.

*Savanna J., age 10
Utah*

Springtime in Illinois

The green shining in the sunlight,
The sun shining down beautifully,
As the wind gently blows across my face.
The white clouds blow silently by in the blue sky.
This day could get no better.
This is springtime in Illinois.

*Tyler S., age 10
Illinois*

I'm a Friend

Best friends are nice to each other.
Best friends protect each other.
A best friend is just a friend!
They spend time together.
Best friends play together and have fun.
A best friend is nice to you and will not fight.

*Makayla M., age 7
Georgia*

Jesus's Birth

It was a wonderful day
When Jesus came to earth.
Angels and shepherds came
To celebrate His birth.
This special little babe
Was most precious of all things.
He was more precious than gold;
He was more precious than a ring.
He died for our own sins.
He's the Savior for everyone.
And He went back to heaven
When His mission on earth was done.

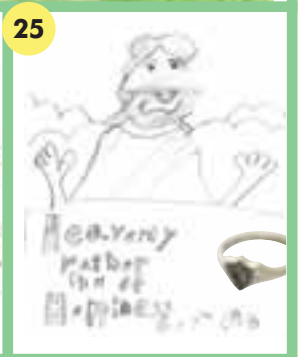
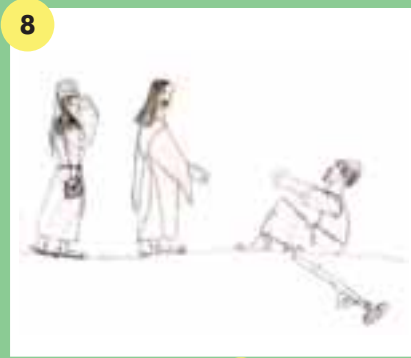
*Benjamin N., age 9
Arizona*

Drawings

1. *Amberst Ward Primary, Massachusetts*
2. *Andrew P., age 9, Wisconsin*
3. *Anna J., age 9, Arkansas*
4. *Erik J., age 10, Alberta, Canada*
5. *Sam P., age 8, California*
6. *Naomi M., age 6, Alberta, Canada*
7. *Nate S., age 7, Maryland*
8. *Caleb B., age 8, Washington*
9. *Eden K., age 6, England*
10. *Sébastien L., age 4, New Zealand*
11. *Alberto G., age 12, Illinois*
12. *Brock H., age 5, Iowa*
13. *Shaleen R., age 11, Idaho*
14. *Austin B. G., age 8, Utah*
15. *Genevieve H., age 5, Nevada*
16. *Kathryn R., age 8, Florida*
17. *Rylee H., age 4, Wyoming*
18. *Kurtis S., age 11, Arizona*
19. *Katherine C., age 7, New Jersey*
20. *Julia M., age 6, Utah*
21. *Sheralyn S., age 11, Oregon*
22. *Allison B., age 9, Minnesota*
23. *Aidan G., age 6, North Carolina*
24. *Katherine M. J., age 7, United Arab Emirates*
25. *Aaron H., age 10, Idaho*

Please send submissions to Our Creative Friends, Friend Magazine, Rm. 2430, 50 East North Temple Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84150-3220, United States of America. **A written statement signed by a parent or legal guardian granting permission to publish the child's submission must be included.** If an adult helps with a child's submission, credit should also be given to him or her. For scheduling reasons, submissions selected may not appear in the magazine for at least a year. Ages shown are those at the time of submission. Children whose writings and drawings are submitted should be at least three years old. Due to the number of submissions received, they cannot all be published, nor can they be returned.







Miracles

BY LINDA SHERWOOD




*Thou art the God
that doest wonders
(Psalm 77:14).*




Miracles are a  from God. They **R** done in the name of  **&** by His power.


Faith comes  fore a miracle.  fore  was born on the , He did many

miracles.  made the  **&** everything on it. He made the , , **&**




 too. He saved , his family, **&** the  from the great .

 made the  of the Red Sea part so the children of Israel could follow 





out of Egypt **&**  free. A miracle from  saved  from the hungry

, helped  live in the stomach of a big  for **3** days, **&**

helped  move a .

When  lived on the , He did many miracles too. **1** day  fed 5,000

people with **5** loaves of  **&** **2** . After the people ate there were

12 s of food left. When  was on a  there was a big . The










men on the  were afraid.  told the  **&** the  to stop.

Come

BY RONDA GIBB HINRICHSEN

Come, let's read a story
of Jesus in Galilee.

Come, let's open treasures together—
Just you and me.

The  & the 
stopped.  healed the  s of the
blind so they could see and the  s of the
deaf so they could hear. He healed the legs
of the lame so they could walk. After His
friend  had been dead for **4** days,
Lazarus
 brought him back to life. But the
greatest miracles  did were in the
Garden of Gethsemane when He suffered for
our sins, & when He died on the 
and was later resurrected. ●



Dot-to-Dot

BY SHERRY TIMBERMAN

Large flocks of these animals lived in Palestine in biblical times.

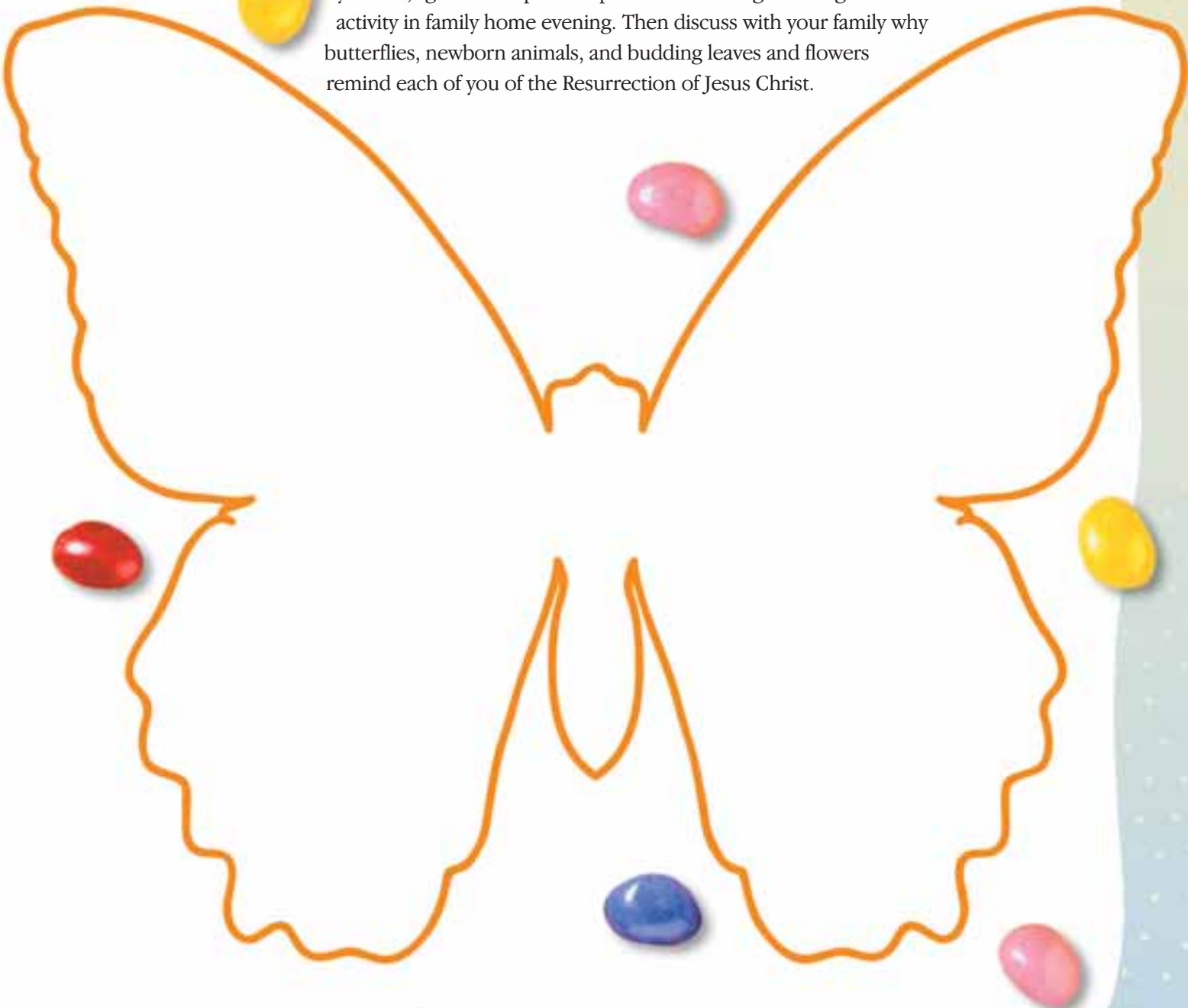


Spring Jelly Bean Mosaic

BY KERSTEN CAMPBELL

To make a butterfly, you will need: 8 1/2" x 11" (22 x 28 cm) white cardstock; pen; black shoe-string licorice, jelly beans, and other small candies; a container of frosting.

Instructions: Trace, copy, or print from the Internet (www.lds.org) the butterfly pattern on this page onto white cardstock. Arrange pieces of candy on the butterfly. When you have created a butterfly you like, "glue" each piece in place with frosting. You might want to do this activity in family home evening. Then discuss with your family why butterflies, newborn animals, and budding leaves and flowers remind each of you of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.





BY STACIE A. HEAPS

(Based on a true story)

Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy

(Exodus 20:8).

You be good and mind your aunt and uncle,”
Dad said.

Sammy gave his dad a big hug and then gave his mom an even bigger one. “I will,” he promised, waving good-bye as his parents left for a weekend out of town. Sammy was happy to be spending Saturday and Sunday at his cousin Joey’s house. There were so many fun

things to do. There were board games and video games.

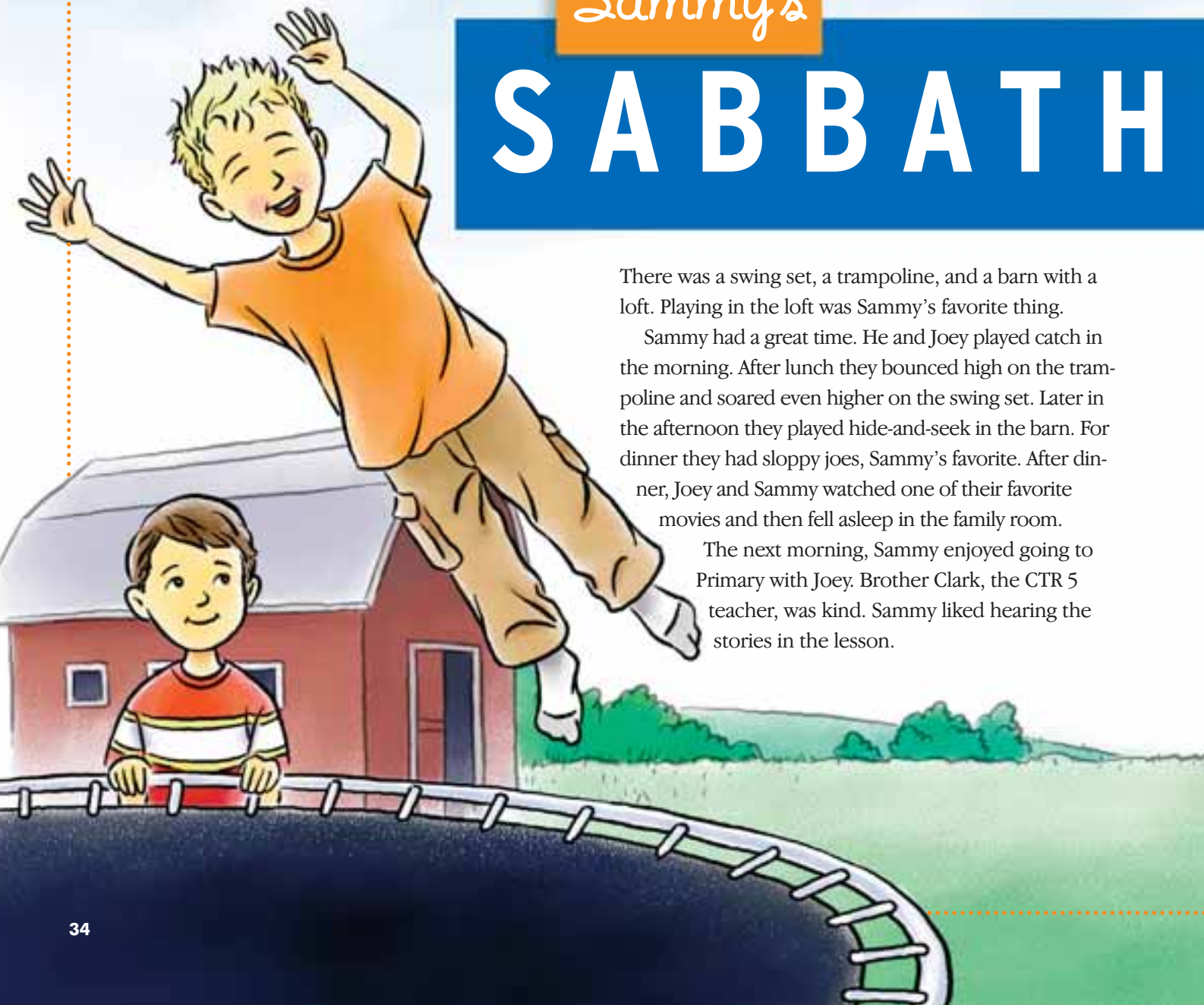
Sammy's

SABBATH

There was a swing set, a trampoline, and a barn with a loft. Playing in the loft was Sammy’s favorite thing.

Sammy had a great time. He and Joey played catch in the morning. After lunch they bounced high on the trampoline and soared even higher on the swing set. Later in the afternoon they played hide-and-seek in the barn. For dinner they had sloppy joes, Sammy’s favorite. After dinner, Joey and Sammy watched one of their favorite movies and then fell asleep in the family room.

The next morning, Sammy enjoyed going to Primary with Joey. Brother Clark, the CTR 5 teacher, was kind. Sammy liked hearing the stories in the lesson.

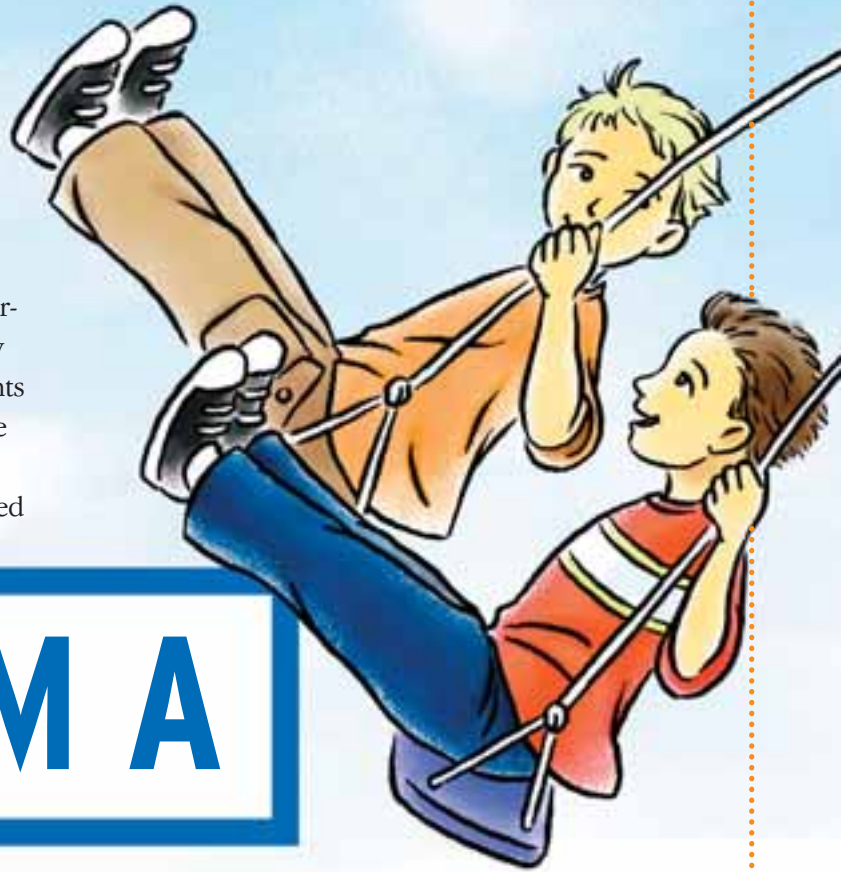


After church the boys changed their clothes. “What should we do now?” Sammy asked.

Joey thought for a minute. “What if we play at the park? Or we could watch a movie or take turns riding my bike. Or we could play video games. What would *you* like to do?”

Sammy wondered what to say. None of those activities seemed like the best ones for Sunday. Sammy’s parents had taught him that the Sabbath was a special day that should be different from other days. But his parents weren’t here, and he didn’t want to offend Joey. Maybe it would be OK. Joey’s mom and dad must think so.

Sammy decided to tell Joey that all the ideas sounded

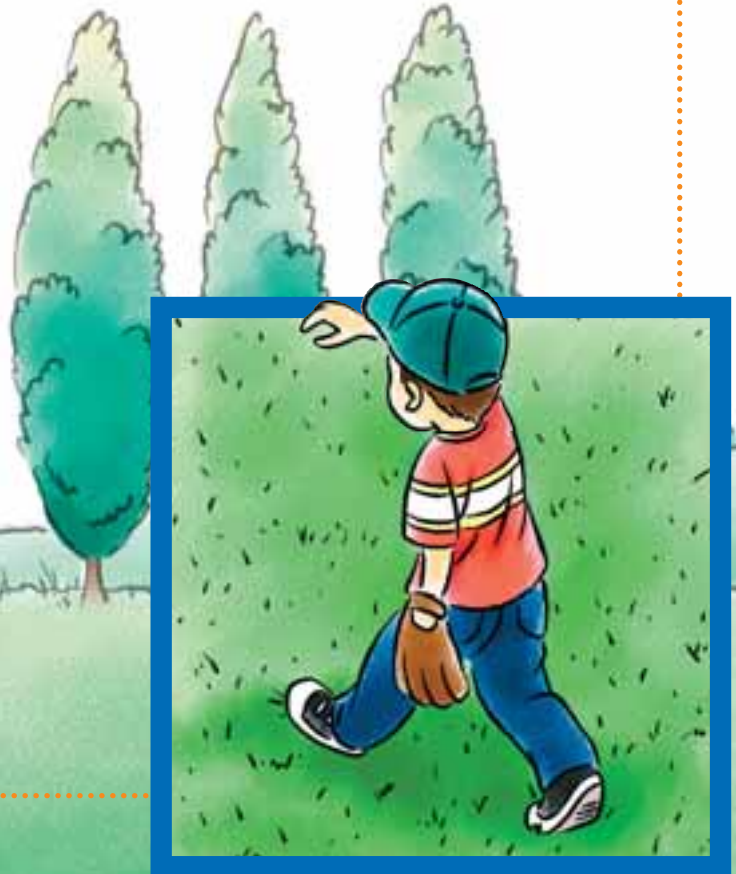


DILEMMA

fun. He started to form the words, but he just couldn’t say them. He knew it wasn’t right. “What if we color the pictures we got in Primary today?” he asked instead. “Then maybe we could draw pictures and send them to Uncle Nick on his mission in Chile.”

“Yeah, I guess that sounds pretty fun,” Joey agreed. “Let’s go get my crayons, and we can color at the kitchen table.”

Sammy gave a silent sigh of relief. He knew that Mom and Dad would be pleased, and he was glad that Joey wasn’t upset. But most important, he knew that Heavenly Father was happy with his choice. That was what really counted. ●





FROM THE LIFE OF PRESIDENT WILFORD WOODRUFF

They Were Speaking the Truth



Ever since he was a boy, Wilford Woodruff wanted to know which church was true. When he was 26 years old, he still had not joined any church. He lived with his brother Azmon on his farm.

Heavenly Father, help me to know how to live my life.

On December 29, 1833, two Mormon missionaries stopped at Azmon's house. He and Wilford were both away working, but Azmon's wife was home.

God has restored His Church upon the earth, and we would like to tell you more about it.

My husband and brother-in-law are not home right now, but we would definitely be interested in hearing more.

The missionaries rented the local schoolhouse that afternoon. They passed out notices inviting anybody who wanted to learn more about the gospel to come to a meeting that evening.



When Wilford got home from working, his sister-in-law told him about the meeting. He immediately turned his horses around and started to the schoolhouse, praying the whole way to know whether or not the missionaries were true followers of Christ.

But, Wilford, what about supper?

These men could be the answer to my prayers! I must go.

Wilford arrived at the schoolhouse, which was packed with people. His brother Azmon was already there. Wilford couldn't find an empty chair, so he sat on one of the writing desks where he could see and hear everything.

After the missionaries were finished speaking, they asked members of the congregation if they would like to stand and say anything. Immediately, Wilford stood up and told everyone that he knew the missionaries were speaking the truth.

I bear strong testimony of the divine authenticity of the Book of Mormon. I also know that Joseph Smith is a prophet who has come to fulfill a great mission here on earth.

The Lord urges me to bear testimony of the truth of this message. Do not oppose these men, for they are true servants of God. They have preached to us the pure gospel of Jesus Christ.

I can feel the Spirit telling me that these are men of God.

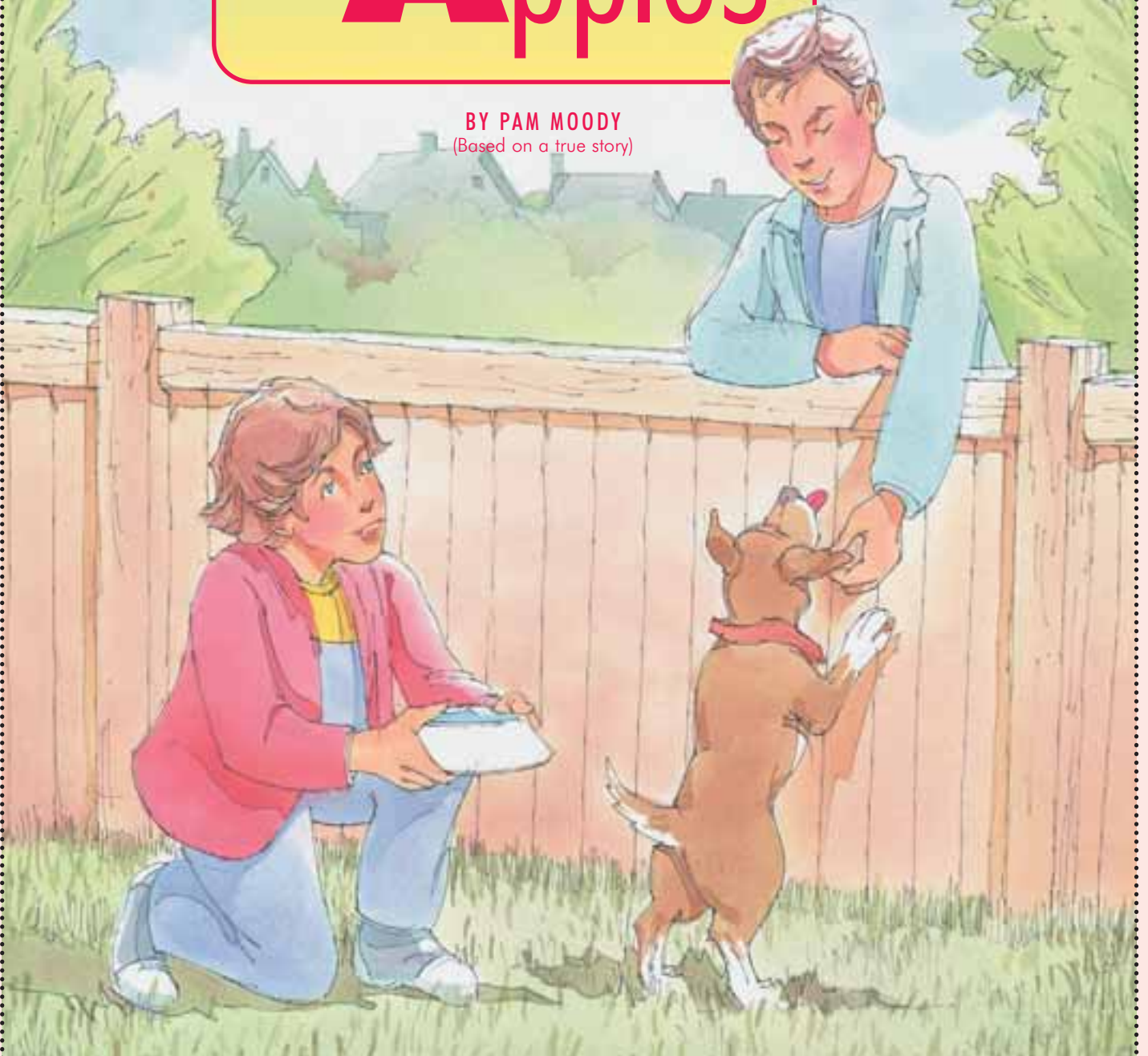
Two days later Wilford and his brother Azmon were baptized.

Adapted from Leon R. Hartsborn, ed., Classic Stories from the Lives of Our Prophets (1971), 106–8; and Susan Arrington Madsen, The Lord Needed a Prophet (1990), 64.

Candy Apples



BY PAM MOODY
(Based on a true story)





Teach them to love one another, and to serve one another (Mosiah 4:15).

Dewdrops hung on the tips of the long grass blades. Pam smiled as she made her way across the damp lawn. She loved early mornings in the country.

Stillness hung in the air. It was spring magic. She breathed in the sweet scent of lilacs. Everything was perfect.

One long, lonely howl filled the air.

"I'm coming, Lady," Pam called, filling a bucket with water. She stepped inside the dog run and was immediately greeted by a wet tongue and happy barks. Trying to avoid Lady's kisses, she filled the water bowl.

Suddenly, Lady ran to the gate of the dog run and barked.

Pam turned to see her best friend, Chuck, walking across the lawn.

"Hey," he said. "You're up early." He reached over the fence to pet Lady. "My family's going to an amusement park for the day, and Mom said we each could invite a friend. Do you want to go?"

Pam's face lit up, but her smile soon faded. "I can't. I promised Mom I'd watch my little brothers while she and Dad paint Grandma's house."

"Can't someone else watch your brothers?"

She set the bucket down. "No."

Chuck rubbed his chin. "Maybe your mom and dad could take them over to your grandma's. Or maybe your grandma could watch them here."

"It's supposed to be a surprise for Grandma's birthday," Pam explained. "Dad took the day off from work so they could finish painting while Grandma's staying with my sick aunt."

"Oh." Chuck's smile disappeared. "I know it's been a few years since you went to the amusement park. I thought it was a good idea."

A sad smile crossed Pam's face as she thought about the deep-red candy apples she loved, but wouldn't be

eating today. "It *was* a good idea. Thanks for inviting me."

As Chuck said good-bye, Pam felt sad. No one had ever invited her to an amusement park before.

It was hard keeping her brothers happy all day long. They played with the dog. They rode bikes. They drew on the sidewalk with chalk. When her brothers grew tired, she put a blanket on the grass and read them the story of Noah's ark.

Mom came home in time to put the boys to bed. Pam had never been happier to see her mom. Her brothers were a lot of work.

Glad for some quiet, Pam pulled a lawn chair off the porch and dragged it out onto the grass so she could sit under the stars. Fireflies swirled like sparks over the grass, flower beds, and trees.

"Hey there," Chuck called from across the street.

"Hey, yourself," Pam called back. "Did you get sunburned?"

Chuck laughed. "Yes, I did. It was awful. The lines were long, my favorite ride broke down, and the hot dog I ate was burnt. You didn't miss much."

"You're just trying to make me feel better."

"Maybe." Chuck stepped into the dim light from the porch. "I thought you might be hungry." Chuck pulled two deep-red candy apples from behind his back.

Pam's eyes lit up. "Oh my! Those look great."

Chuck grinned. "I'll share, if you tell me why your family is so important."

Pam knew what Chuck wanted to talk about. He wanted to hear more about the gospel and her belief in an eternal family.

He handed her one of the mouth-watering apples and then sat in the grass to listen while he munched on his own apple.

Somehow she had to help him understand that an eternal family was even more important to her than good friends and candy apples. ●



Hidden Hymn Writers

BY CALLIE BUYS

Did you know that some of the hymns we sing in church were written by prophets and apostles? Look at the words from each song below. Colored letters spell the author's name. Write the colored letters on the blank spaces of the same color, and then unscramble the letters to find out who wrote the hymn. If you need help, look in a hymnbook. After you have unscrambled the names match them to the faces above. (See page 48 for answers.)

1. "Truth Eternal" (*Hymns*, no. 4, verse 2)

"**T**ru**th** **a**gan**restored** **t**o **e**ar**th**, **o**pe**n**ed with a **p**ro**ph**et's birth. **P**ri**e**sts of heaven's royal **l**ine bear the **k**ey**s** of **t**ru**th** divine!"

2. "Go, Ye Messengers of Heaven" (*Hymns*, no. 327, verses 1-2)

"Go, **y**e messengers of heaven, chosen by divine command; **g**o and publish free salvation **t**o **a** dark, benighted **l**and.

"Go to island, vale, and mountain; there fulfill the great **c**ommand; **g**ath**e**r out the sons of **J**acob to possess the promised **l**and."

3. "Does the Journey Seem Long?" (*Hymns*, no. 127, verse 1)

"Does the **j**ourney **s**eem **l**ong, the **p**ath **r**ugg**e**d and **s**teep? Are there **b**riars and thorns on the way? Do sharp **s**tones cut your **f**eet as you struggle to **r**ise to the **h**eights **t**hru the **h**eat of the **d**ay?"

4. "My Redeemer Lives" (*Hymns*, no. 135, verse 2)

"**H**e lives, my **o**ne sure **r**ock of faith, the **o**ne bright **h**ope of men on earth, the **b**eacon to a better way, the light beyond the **v**eil of **d**eath."

Friends in the News



Yoshimi W., 5, Japan, loves to say hello to many people. Her favorite children's song is "Nephi's Courage." Recently she began to practice judo and other traditional Japanese sports.



Austin P., 6, Texas, says "My favorite Primary song is 'The First Article of Faith.'" He wants to be a missionary and serve a mission just as his dad did.



Rebecca Dawn I., 11, Idaho, likes to spend time with her friends, play the clarinet, run track, and play softball. She enjoys going to school and is a good student. She also enjoys singing and dancing.



Benjamin M., 5, Iowa, has a big smile for everyone he meets. He tries hard to do what is right. He especially enjoys singing in Primary, reading books, and making up songs.



Jaslyn M., 8, Utah, puts her heart and soul into everything she does. She helps take care of her younger sisters and is an example to them. Jaslyn enjoys reading, soccer, and playing the piano.



Anson Logan M., 3, Saskatchewan, Canada, enjoys playing outside in any kind of weather and being with his family. Anson is patient and kind to his little sister, Brooklyn.



Malee X., 8, California, was born in Thailand. She is looking forward to being baptized very soon. Malee lights up the places she goes with her beautiful smile.



Nate B., 5, Hawaii, has three brothers and one sister. He enjoys playing baseball and is learning about underwater life. His favorite song is "Scripture Power."



Emily V., 9, Michigan, is a great help to her mom and dad. Emily enjoys swimming, dancing, and playing the piano. Her favorite prophet is Nephi, and she likes to read, write, and draw.



Dallin Pete S., 11, Colorado, enjoys reading, playing sports, and playing the drums. Dallin recently earned an award for completing all 20 Webelos activity badges.



Mckenzi L., 7, Idaho, is looking forward to becoming a big sister. She is a good piano player and does well in school. Mckenzi enjoys music, video games, movies, and reading the *Friend*.



Ryan W., 7, Maryland, is a Cub Scout. He enjoys playing soccer and likes to spend time with his friends.



Peyton Greta J., 4, New Hampshire, likes to catch frogs and fish. She also enjoys playing dress-up with her little sister Sophia. Peyton has a testimony that prayer can comfort her.



Jeremiah W., 10, Arizona, likes to play soccer and baseball. He also enjoys playing the guitar. Jeremiah has three sisters and one brother.



Annalise D., 9, Connecticut, is a good listener. She enjoys activity days and liked visiting the Manhattan New York Temple before it was dedicated. Annie enjoys soccer and art.



Dallin D., 5, Utah, enjoys playing basketball, riding his skateboard, and jumping on the trampoline. He likes to read the story of the Amlicites in the Book of Mormon.



Cassidy H., 10, Alberta, Canada, likes playing soccer, the piano, and the violin. She enjoys reading, making crafts, and attending Primary and activity days. She likes to be organized.



Seamus Timothy S., 8, Italy, is originally from Canada. He enjoys swimming, running, cooking, and helping his mom around the house. He likes to conduct family home evening.



Hannah McCall D., 6, Georgia, enjoys swimming, riding her bike, and playing with her cousins and friends. She likes to attend Primary and to draw pictures of Jesus.



Stefan Auvache B., 9, Oregon, has earned many awards and the Religious Square Knot Patch in Cub Scouts. Stefan enjoys comic books and says he is happy that he is a member of the Church.



Charlotte J., 7, North Carolina, likes to ride her bike, do cartwheels, and dance ballet. She also enjoys hanging upside down from her favorite tree! Charlotte helps with family home evening.



RayShawn G., 4, Bahamas, is a second generation Latter-day Saint. He enjoys swimming, singing, and playing with his cousins. His favorite song is "Follow the Prophet."

Please send submissions to **Friends in the News, Friend Magazine, Rm. 2430, 50 East North Temple Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84150-3220, United States of America.** **A written statement signed by a parent or legal guardian granting permission to publish the child's photo must be included.** For scheduling reasons, submissions selected may not appear in the magazine for at least a year. Ages shown are those at the time of submission. Children whose photos are submitted should be at least three years old. Due to the number of submissions received, they cannot all be published, nor can they be returned.

No Ordinary Home Teacher

BY TESS HILMO
(Based on a true story)



Visit the fatherless and the widows in their affliction (James 1:27).

Saturday's activity will be a daddy-daughter cooking class," Sister Marshall announced.

A wave of excited murmurs rolled through our Primary group. I suppose every girl was imagining bubbling desserts, fun games, and two whole hours with her dad. Every girl but me, that is. I didn't have a dad—not even a shared-visitation dad like the ones some girls at school talked about. Instead of excitement, an anxious knot twisted in my stomach. I felt my face flush hot with emotion, and I clenched my teeth, fighting to force back tears.

Sister Marshall must have noticed my reaction. Once the meeting was over, she gently placed her hand on my shoulder. "Feel free to bring your mom, Tess." She meant well, but those simple words were enough to set my tears free. I dropped my head so she wouldn't notice and turned away.

"It's OK," I told myself. "You don't have to go to that silly activity anyway." But I knew it was a lie. I would have given anything to be part of a family that didn't need special instructions from Sister Marshall—a family like the others that I saw dotting the rows of the chapel every Sunday. But my dad had left my mom, sister, and me when I was just a baby. We hadn't heard from him in

years, and I knew there was no way he was going to magically reappear just in time for Saturday's activity.

"Get over it!" I ordered myself for at least the hundredth time since our baptism three years before. Our family was so much stronger now that we had a testimony of Heavenly Father's plan, and I was grateful for all the gospel had given us. Still, it hadn't been easy stepping into a group of

friends who had been together since they were little—sharing baptisms, Primary activities, ward socials. I was the new girl, and although the others really tried to make me feel included, I still felt that I was different. I sometimes felt like a puzzle with one center piece missing.

"How was class?" Mom asked cheerfully as we drove home. She was a different person since our baptism—happier and more confident.

"Great," I fibbed. Probably better not to worry her about the cooking class. After all, there was nothing she could do about it.

The week passed quickly. Schoolwork, chores, and friends kept me busy and allowed me to forget about Saturday's activity. That is, until the phone rang Friday night.

"It's for you," my sister said, holding out the receiver. "Hello?"



“Hi, Tess. This is Brother Erickson.” Brother Erickson was our home teacher. He owned an ice-cream shop in town and sometimes brought containers of mint chip or cherry chocolate to our house. He often made me laugh with his twinkling eyes and quick smile. But I couldn’t imagine why he would be calling me.



whipping cream in our crowded meetinghouse kitchen. He never once made me feel like he was doing me a favor or just fulfilling his calling.

When Mom came to pick me

up, Brother Erickson gave me a big high five. “Thanks for letting me come. I had a great time!” I knew that he really meant it.

Years passed, and Brother Erickson remained our home teacher. In addition to his visits, he invited my family over for many game nights at his house. He joined me at more father-daughter activities and gave me my first real job at his ice-cream store when I turned 16.

After college when I was getting married in the Los Angeles California Temple, I asked Brother Erickson to serve as a witness. When I walked into the sealing room, I saw him sitting in the chair typically reserved for the father of the bride. He smiled his silly smile at me, and I knew that he was exactly where he should be. After all, he was no ordinary home teacher. He had become my very close friend. ●

“I read about it in the bulletin last Sunday,” he continued. “It sounds like fun.”

“Oh yeah, the bulletin.”

“So? Think you can handle toting an old man like me around your party?”

“You don’t have to—” I started.

“I want to!” Then he was silent for a moment. “Please.”

“Well, OK.” To be honest, I wasn’t entirely sure it *would* be OK. I mean, I didn’t know him *that* well. But my new excitement for going to the activity outweighed any doubt.

Saturday came, and when Mom dropped me off at the church, Brother Erickson was waiting for me in a bright red apron. His smile eased my worries as we joined the other fathers and daughters. We had a blast learning how to make cherry cobbler and homemade



“The priesthood can bless all members through the ministrations of home teachers.”

President James E. Faust, Second Counselor in the First Presidency, “Father, Come Home,” *Ensign*, May 1993, 36.



Kitchen Crafts

Do you like to go fishing? Do you like to eat fish? Celebrate spring days ahead by helping an older person prepare these fishy, fruity recipes.

Baked Spring Catch

- 6 fish filets, 3/4" (2 cm) thick**
- 1/3 cup melted butter or margarine**
- 3 tablespoons lemon juice**
- 3/4 teaspoon salt**
- dill weed to taste**

1. If frozen, thaw the fish filets. Wash them well and place in a baking dish.
2. Combine the butter, lemon juice, and salt, and pour the mixture evenly over the filets. Sprinkle with dill weed.
3. Bake uncovered at 350°F (175°C) for 15–20 minutes or until the fish flakes easily with a fork.

Serve with Spicy Mango Sauce (below).

Spicy Mango Sauce

- 1 mango, peeled and diced**
- 1 small peach or nectarine, peeled and diced**
- 1 red pepper, diced**
- 1 small can (4.5 ounces/128 grams) chopped green chiles, drained**
- 1/4 cup chopped green onions**
- 1 tablespoon lime juice**
- 1/8 teaspoon ground ginger**
- 1 tablespoon fresh cilantro**

Combine the ingredients and refrigerate covered for 8 hours. Serve over fish, poultry, or tortilla chips.

Cinnamon Fruit Snack

- 2 medium apples, cored and sliced**
- 2 medium oranges, peeled and separated**
- 1/2 cup pineapple juice**
- 1 cup water**
- cinnamon to taste**

Combine the water and pineapple juice. Dip each fruit slice in the juice mixture before arranging in a circle on a plate. Sprinkle fruit with cinnamon.





Trying to Be Like Jesus

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

My Decision to Be Baptized

By José M.

My parents helped me prepare for my baptism and to understand the reasons why I needed to be baptized. I started reading the Book of Mormon with my mother, and the more we read, the more I liked it.

Later, the missionaries taught me, and I started understanding the things I learned in Primary. When the missionaries asked if I wanted to take upon me the name of Christ, I was a little scared because I knew the responsibilities baptism brought with it. But I said yes—I wanted to be baptized as soon as I turned 8.

On November 14, 2004, I was baptized a member of the Church. Since then, I have faced many situations that have caused me to remember that I need to always live the way Jesus Christ did. For example, my sisters are 7 and 2 years old, and now I know what kind of example I need to be for them. I try to take care of my sister at school and help her behave. I work hard at school, and at home I always try to be quieter so my sisters will do the same. I help my mom fix breakfast every Sunday, and I have started fasting on the

first Sunday of the month like my parents.

As I try to do the things that Jesus taught, I can see blessings. My parents teach me to feel the Savior's

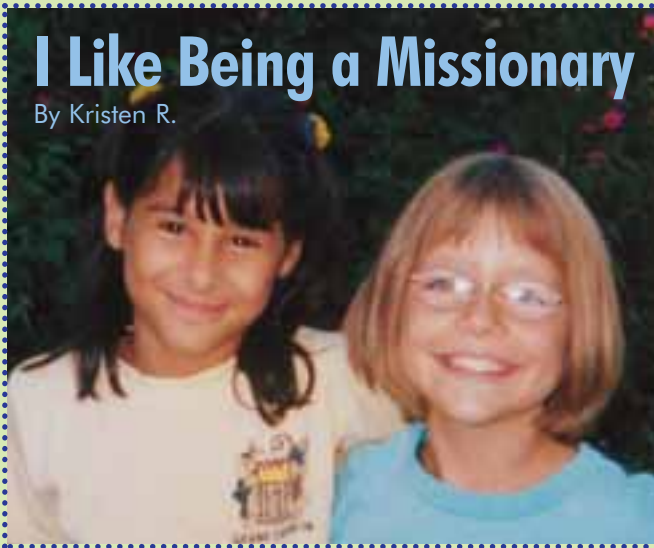
love in all the things I do. I am eagerly waiting for the day when I can serve a mission. ●

José M., age 9, Washington



I Like Being a Missionary

By Kristen R.



I invited a friend to play at my house one day. When her dad came to pick her up, he said that they were from Hermosillo, Mexico. My mom told him, “My brother went on a mission there.” He asked, “Are you Mormon?” When she answered yes, he said, “We are Mormon too.” We invited them to church, but they didn’t come at first. We kept inviting them and visiting them until at last they came. My friend went to class with me. Finally the family became members of our ward, and my friend attends my Primary class. The best part was that I got to see her get baptized a year ago. I felt very happy for her. I like being a missionary and helping my neighbors.

Kristen R., age 10, Arizona

Strengthening a Branch

By Sister Pam Smith

My husband and I are serving a live-at-home mission in a tiny branch in Tuskegee, Alabama. Another wonderful young family has also been called to serve there. They have two Primary-age children—Matthew (9) and his brother Marcus (4). They travel about an hour every Sunday and Wednesday to help strengthen the branch. The father of the family is a counselor in the branch presidency, and each Sunday they all arrive at 8:00 a.m. so he can attend his presidency meeting. They stay until the tithes and offerings have been counted and recorded around 2:00 p.m. It is a very full day for the

children, but they are happy and well-behaved. Before and after meetings they read scriptures with their mom and older sister or talk quietly. Often they are the only two children in Primary, where they say the prayers almost every week. On Wednesday evenings they help clean

and vacuum the building or empty garbage while their mom teaches Mutual. They both plan to serve full-time missions when they are old enough.

*Marcus and Matthew R., ages 4 and 9
Alabama*



Promised Blessings

BY RONDA GIBB HINRICHSEN

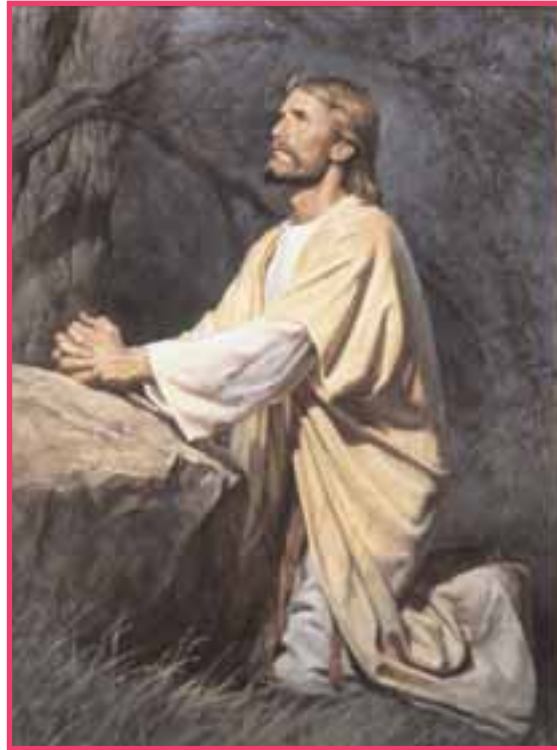
Through the Atonement of Jesus Christ, all people will be resurrected. Everyone will have his or her body and immortal spirit reunited after death. The Atonement also gives other promised blessings to those who repent and obey God's commandments. To discover a few of those promises, look up the missing words in the scriptures. Then fill in the word(s) in the numbered blanks. When you are finished, the shaded squares will reveal a reminder of these promised blessings.

1. Moroni 7:41 "And what is it that ye shall hope for? Behold I say unto you that ye shall have _____ through the atonement of Christ and the power of his resurrection, to be raised unto life eternal, and this because of your faith in him according to the promise."

2. Alma 38:8 "And it came to pass that I was three days and three nights in the most bitter pain and anguish of soul; and never, until I did cry out unto the Lord Jesus Christ for mercy, did I receive a remission of my sins. But behold, I did cry unto him and I did find _____ to my soul."

3. Articles of Faith 1:3 "We believe that through the Atonement of Christ, all mankind may be _____, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel."

4. D&C 45:4-5 "Father, behold the sufferings and death of him who did no sin, in whom thou wast well pleased; behold the blood of thy Son which was shed, the blood of him whom thou gavest that thyself might



be glorified;

"Wherefore, Father, spare these my brethren that believe on my name, that they may come unto me and have _____."

5. Alma 7:14 "Now I say unto you that ye must repent, and be born again; for the Spirit saith if ye are not born again ye cannot inherit the kingdom of heaven; therefore come and be baptized unto repentance, that ye may be washed from your sins, that ye may have faith on the

Lamb of God, who taketh away the sins of the world, who is mighty to save and to _____ from all unrighteousness."

6. D&C 76:69 "These are they who are just men made _____ through Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, who wrought out this perfect atonement through the shedding of his own blood."

1	_____
2	_____
3	_____
4	_____
5	_____
6	_____

Funstuf Answers
 Hidden Hymn Writers: 1) Parley P Pratt (5), 2) John Taylor (7), 3) Joseph Fielding Smith (3), 4) Gordon B. Hinckley (6).
 Promised Blessings: 1) hope, 2) peace, 3) saved, 4) everlasting life, 5) cleanse, 6) perfect. Reminder: Easter.
 Guess Who? Answer: President Boyd K. Packer
 Temples of the World: A) Salt Lake, B) Hong Kong, C) Mexico City, D) Johannesburg, E) Los Angeles, F) Buenos Aires, G) Stockholm, H) Louisville, I) Papete, J) Washington, K) Idaho Falls, L) Madrid.



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 April is “Heavenly Father loves me, so He sent His Son, the Promised Messiah.”



Family Home Evening Ideas

Look for the FHE symbol on the pages mentioned below.

1. What is a miracle? What are some simple miracles you have experienced in your life? Read “Miracles” (pp. 30–31) to find examples from the scriptures. To read more about the greatest miracle ever performed, study President Gordon B. Hinckley’s message “He Lives” (pp. 2–3).

2. Have family members list their favorite things about your home. Which things matter most? Which things matter least? Read “Paolo’s Birthday” (pp. 20–23) to discover what makes a house a home. Read Elder M. Russell Ballard’s statement (p. 23) and discuss how each family member can obtain “the greatest treasure.”

3. During general conference, cooperate to complete the game cards for “Conference Matching Game” (pp. 12–13). Following general conference, play the game together.

4. In the story “Candy Apples” (pp. 38–39), Pam learns that sometimes showing love for our families can influence others. Make

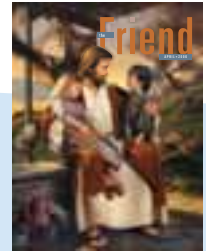
“Cinnamon Fruit Snack” (p. 45). For every apple or orange slice you eat, name one way you can be an example to your friends of how important families are to Heavenly Father.

5. Complete the activity “Hidden Hymn Writers” (p. 40). Which song was written by our current prophet? Learn and sing the hymn together. Using our talents, such as writing lyrics, poems, or music, is one way to share our testimonies. Give each family member the opportunity to bear his or her testimony—through speaking, writing a poem, performing his or her favorite hymn, or drawing a picture.



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To subscribe online, go to **www.ldscatalog.com**.



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(v) = verse

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Manuscript Submissions

The *Friend* welcomes unsolicited manuscripts but is not responsible for them. Rejected manuscripts will not be returned unless a stamped, addressed envelope is enclosed. Send manuscripts to *Friend* Editorial, 50 E. North Temple St. Rm. 2430, Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3220, United States of America. Send e-mail to friend@ldschurch.org.

Send children’s submissions to *Friend* Editorial, 50 E. North Temple St. Rm. 2430, Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3220, United States of America, in care of the appropriate department—Our Creative Friends, Friends in the News, Friends by Mail, Trying to Be Like Jesus. A written statement by a parent or legal guardian granting permission to publish the child’s submission and photo must be included. Children’s submissions will not be returned.

What's in the *Friend* this month?



page 2

The Savior's Resurrection can bring us peace.

page 4

What do Meg and her family learn from a storm?



page 12

As you listen to general conference, make this matching game.

CONFERENCE

BY BETHEE SCHETTLER

This April, we can hear the best speakers and prophets speak during general conference. While you listen to their special messages, you can make the matching game for you and your family to play at family home evening.

Instructions

Remove these two pages from the magazine. Mount the pages on heavy paper, cut out the cards. As you listen to each speaker, decide what topic he is speaking about. Write the topic on the card with his picture. Also, on the blank card with the

MATCHING GAME

Speaker's name (it is on the bottom of the right). For instance, if the speaker about faith, you could draw a card with something like "repentance faith in you." Ask your father or a priesthood leader to help you with topics from the magazine that speak at the priesthood meeting.

When you have finished making your game, you and your family can play it at family home evening. Turn all the cards face down in the middle. Then, when flipping over one of the cards, if you match the speaker to his topic, keep the card and the speaker's name. The person who has the most matches when all the cards are gone is the winner.

GAME