

# the Friend

FEBRUARY • 2008



# Friends by Mail

## Mission Prayer

Once, when my mom was tucking me into bed, I told her I wasn't sure that I wanted to go on a mission. I said that I would miss her, Daddy, and my sisters too much. My mom said that we should pray about it and see what Heavenly Father wanted me to do. We knelt by the side of my bed, and I asked

Heavenly Father if He wanted me to serve a mission. As soon as I asked the question, a

really warm feeling filled my whole heart, and a really big smile came to my face. After the prayer, Mom asked me how I felt. I told her I knew that Heavenly Father wanted me to serve a mission and that I was excited to go and serve. I know that Heavenly Father hears our prayers and answers them. I am excited to share this with everybody when I go on my mission.

Connor M., age 8,  
Ontario, Canada



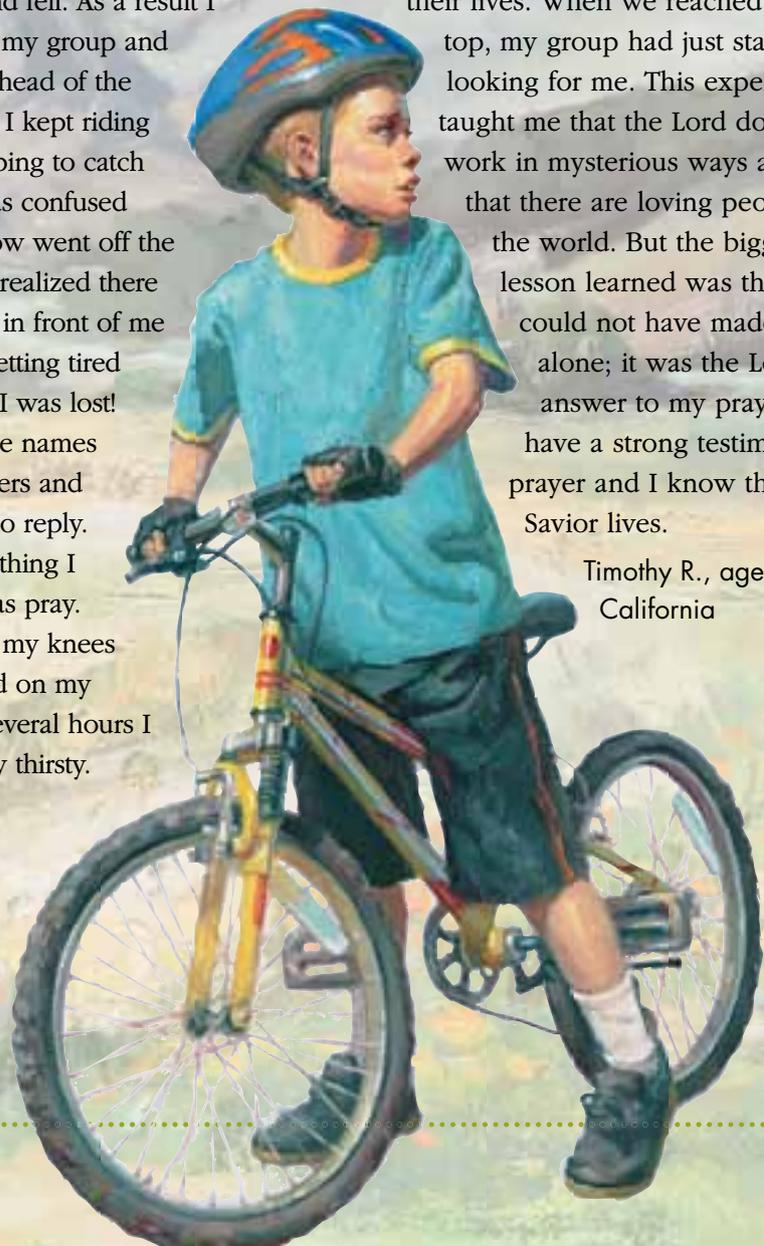
## Unforgotten Experience

When I was nine years old, I went on a fathers and sons' campout. Fifteen men and boys went on a mountain bike ride. We were divided into groups of fast, medium, and slow riders. I was in the medium speed and my dad was behind with the slow riders. As I rode ahead I got my foot stuck in the chain and fell. As a result I was behind my group and I was way ahead of the slow group. I kept riding my bike hoping to catch up, but I was confused and somehow went off the main trail. I realized there was no one in front of me and I was getting tired and scared. I was lost! I shouted the names of my brothers and father, but no reply. So the only thing I could do was pray. I prayed on my knees and I prayed on my feet. After several hours I became very thirsty.



Suddenly I felt a warm feeling and two people came walking on the trail. They saw me and asked me if I was lost. And I said yes! They gave me one of their bottles of water to drink. I knew the Lord had sent these people. As we walked back up the mountain, they told me stories about their lives. When we reached the top, my group had just started looking for me. This experience taught me that the Lord does work in mysterious ways and that there are loving people in the world. But the biggest lesson learned was that I could not have made it out alone; it was the Lord's answer to my prayer. I have a strong testimony of prayer and I know that the Savior lives.

Timothy R., age 12,  
California



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# the friend

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



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

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## For Little Friends

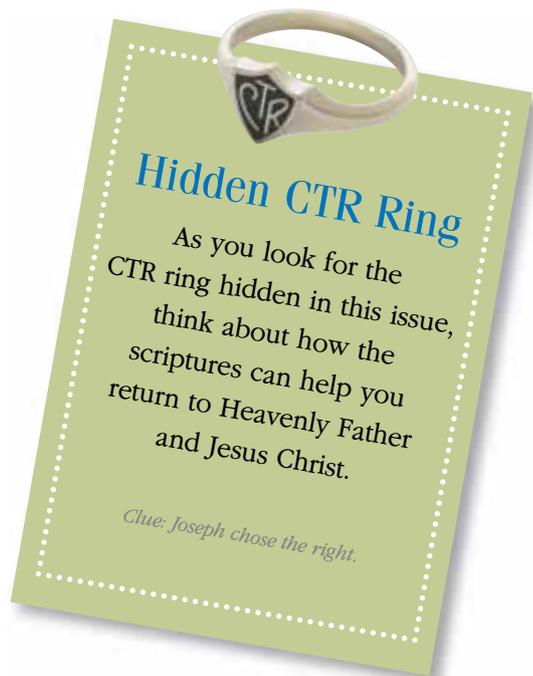
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Cover by Jim Madsen



# Do Your Duty

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

**F**ifty-one years ago I heard William J. Critchlow Jr., then president of the South Ogden Stake, retell a story concerning trust, honor, and duty.

“[Young] Rupert stood by the side of the road watching an unusual number of people hurry past. At length he recognized a friend. ‘Where are all of you going in such a hurry?’ he asked.

“The friend paused. . . . ‘The King has lost his royal emerald! . . . Everyone is searching, for the King has offered a reward . . . to the one who finds it. Come, we must hurry.’

“‘But I cannot go without asking Grandmother,’ faltered Rupert.

“‘Then I cannot wait. I want to find the emerald,’ replied his friend.

“Rupert hurried back to the cabin at the edge of the woods to seek his grandmother’s permission. . . .

“But his grandmother shook her head. ‘What would the sheep do?’ she asked. ‘Already they are restless in the pen, waiting to be taken to the pasture, and please do not forget to take them to water when the sun shines high in the heavens.’

“Sorrowfully, Rupert took the sheep to the pasture, and at noon he led them to the brook in the woods. There he sat on a large stone by the stream. ‘If I could only have had a chance to look for the King’s emerald!’ he thought. Turning his head to gaze down at the sandy bottom of the brook, suddenly he stared into the water. What was it? It could not be! He leaped into the water. . . . ‘The King’s emerald!’ he shouted.



**President Monson reminds us to follow the Lord by doing our duty.**

“With shining eyes Rupert ran to his grandmother’s hut to tell her of his great find. ‘Bless you, my boy,’ she said, ‘but you never would have found it if you had not been doing your duty, herding the sheep.’ And Rupert knew that this was the truth.”<sup>1</sup>

The lesson to be learned from this story is found in the familiar couplet: “Do [your] duty; that is best; Leave unto [the] Lord the rest!”<sup>2</sup>

Let us learn our duties. Let us ever be worthy to perform those duties and, in so doing, follow in the footsteps of the Master. When to Him came the call of duty, He answered, “Father, thy will be done, and the glory be thine forever” (Moses 4:2). May we do likewise. ●

*From an October 2006 general conference address.*

## NOTES

1. In Conference Report, Oct. 1955, 86; paragraphing, capitalization, and punctuation standardized.
2. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, “The Legend Beautiful,” in *The Complete Poetical Works of Longfellow* (1893), 258.

## THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

**1. Why do you think Rupert’s grandmother asked him to stay home and take care of the sheep? What would have happened if he hadn’t obeyed?**

**2. What if Rupert had not found the emerald? Why do we do our duty even if we don’t expect a reward?**

**3. What are some of our duties as members of the Church? What kinds of rewards will we receive for doing those duties?**





*Counsel with the Lord in all thy doings, and he will direct thee for good (Alma 37:37).*

# Like Nephi

BY SHERALEE B. HARDY

(Based on a true story)

I stared out my bedroom window and saw a creepy spiderweb outside. Well, that was one thing I wouldn't miss about this house: the spiders. Maybe our new house wouldn't have spiders. Maybe I wouldn't miss this run-down place after all.

"Yeah, right," I grumbled to myself, lying down and pulling the covers over my head. Not miss this house, this neighborhood, my school class, my best friend? I'd face a whole house full of spiders before I'd willingly move.

"Tanya?" called Aunt Carrie from outside my bedroom door. She was tending my brothers and me.

I poked my head out of the covers. "What?"

"Can I come in and say good night?" she asked.

"I guess so," I mumbled. If it had been anybody else, I might have said no. But Aunt Carrie was my favorite aunt. She let me try on her eye shadow, she gave us hot chocolate before bed, and she read me stories from the journal she wrote when she was 11, like me.

She came in the room and sat at the foot of my bed. "You've sure been quiet tonight, Tanya. Are you worried about the move?"

I groaned. "All my friends live here. Who am I going to walk to school with? Who will I sit by at lunch? I was going to start Young Women here and go to camp next summer—and now I won't know anybody. I'll have to start all over again."

My voice trailed off as big tears filled my eyes. Aunt Carrie gave me a tissue. "It can't be easy, leaving everyone you love and starting over someplace where you don't know anybody," she said.

I shook my head. It wasn't easy at all.

Aunt Carrie continued. "You know, Tanya, when I think about moving, I think about Nephi."

"Why Nephi?" I asked.

"Well, he probably wasn't much older than you when his dad announced that his family was moving."

I'd always pictured Nephi as an adult. "When was Nephi my age?" I asked.

Aunt Carrie picked up my Book of Mormon from my bedside table. She opened to 1 Nephi and started to explain. "You remember the story about Lehi, don't you?"

I nodded. I knew how Lehi's family obeyed the Lord and left their home.

Aunt Carrie read from the open book on her lap. "This is 1 Nephi 2:4: 'And it came to pass that [Lehi] departed into the wilderness. And he left his house, and the land of his inheritance, and his gold, and his silver, and his precious things, and took nothing with him, save it were his family, and provisions, and tents, and departed into the wilderness.'"

"Did you say Nephi was my age?" I interrupted.

Aunt Carrie smiled. "I don't know what his age was exactly, but he tells us in verse 16 that he was 'exceedingly young.' Even if he was older than you, I don't think it was easy for him to leave his home. I bet he didn't know a soul in the wilderness. There probably wasn't a soul *to* know!"

I grinned. At least when we moved we would have neighbors. "So what did Nephi do?" I asked. "He never complained. Laman and Lemuel said, 'Why do we have to leave Jerusalem? Why do we have to leave our riches



and our house and our friends?’ But Nephi never complained. Why not?”

Aunt Carrie’s eyes twinkled, as though she had been hoping I would ask. “I don’t know all the answers, but Nephi gives us a clue in verse 16: ‘I did cry unto the Lord; and behold he did visit me, and did soften my heart that I did believe all the words which had been spoken by my father; wherefore, I did not rebel against him like unto my brothers.’ ”

She looked at me, searching my eyes to see if I understood.

“So, he prayed,” I said.

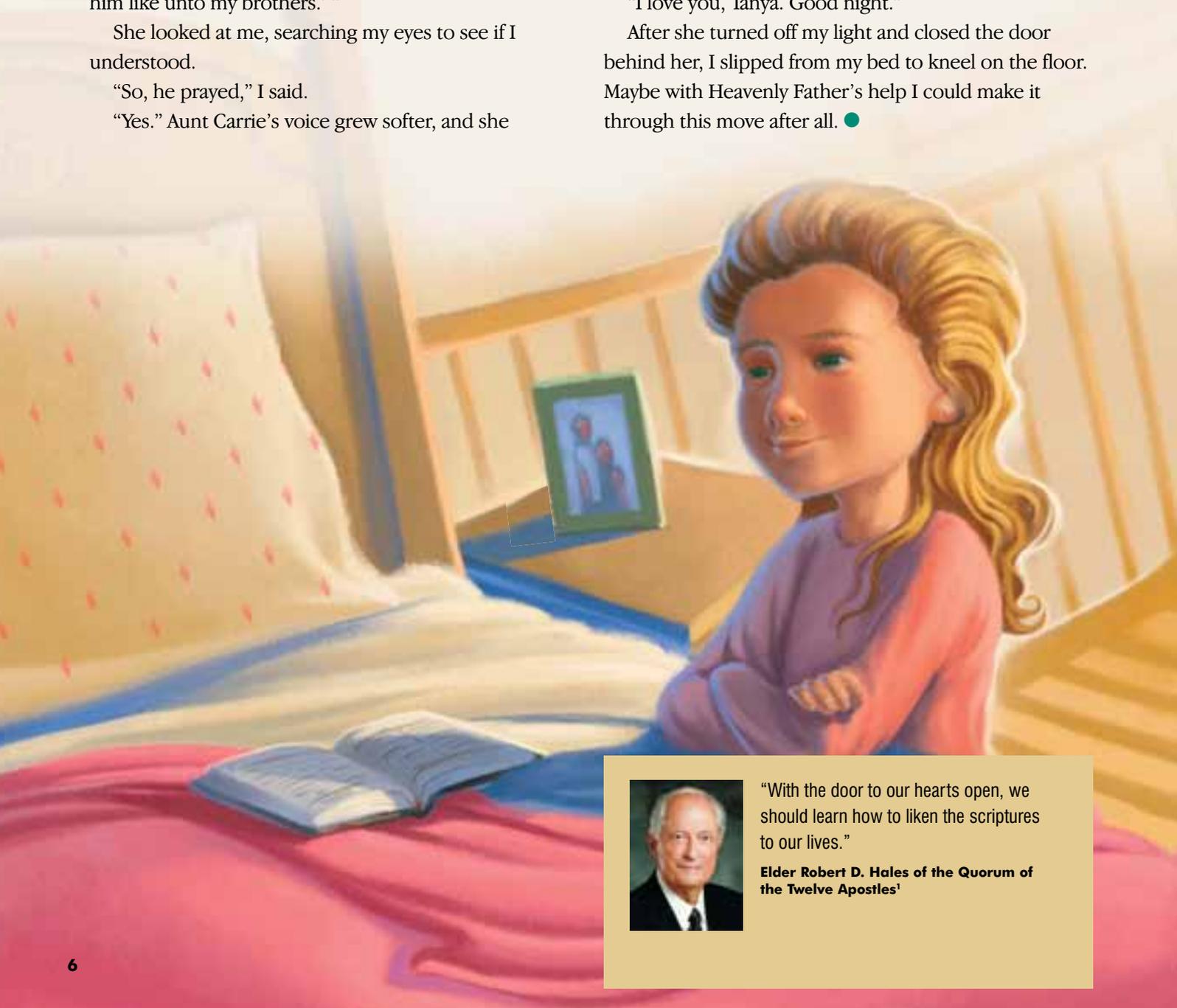
“Yes.” Aunt Carrie’s voice grew softer, and she

squeezed my hand. “Tanya,” she said, “you have a choice. You can complain about your move, like Laman and Lemuel, or you can take your difficulties to Heavenly Father in prayer. If you ask Him to, He will strengthen you as He strengthened Nephi.”

I looked at Aunt Carrie and felt warm all over. I sat up and gave her a big hug. “Thanks, Aunt Carrie,” I whispered.

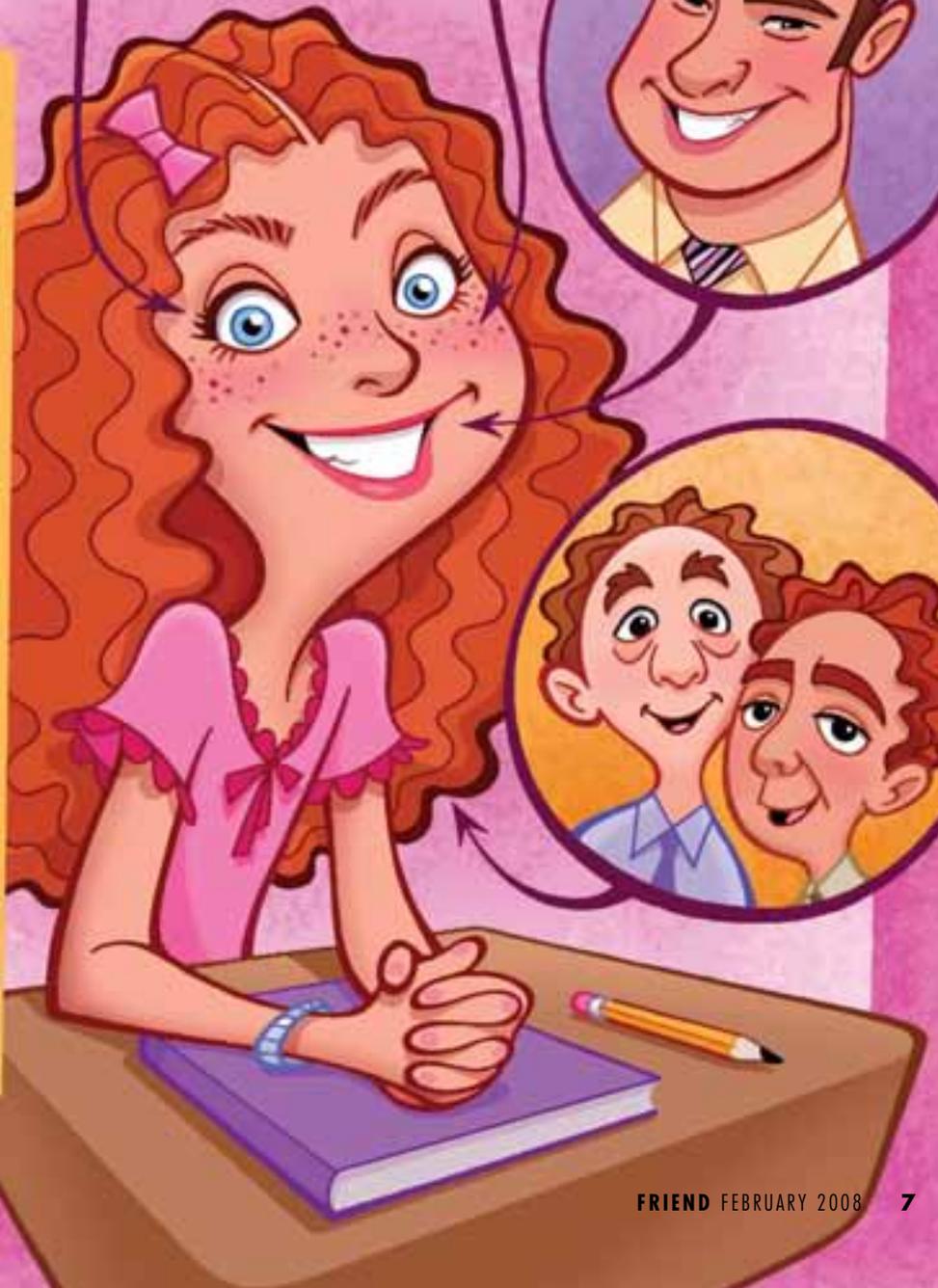
“I love you, Tanya. Good night.”

After she turned off my light and closed the door behind her, I slipped from my bed to kneel on the floor. Maybe with Heavenly Father’s help I could make it through this move after all. ●



“With the door to our hearts open, we should learn how to liken the scriptures to our lives.”

**Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles<sup>1</sup>**



# Who I Really Am

BY CINDY MAYBON

Some say I have my mother's eyes.  
My smile comes from my dad.  
My freckles come from Grandpa,  
And all this makes me glad.

I share the curls in my hair  
With uncles whom I love.  
But the truth of who I really am  
Comes from up above.

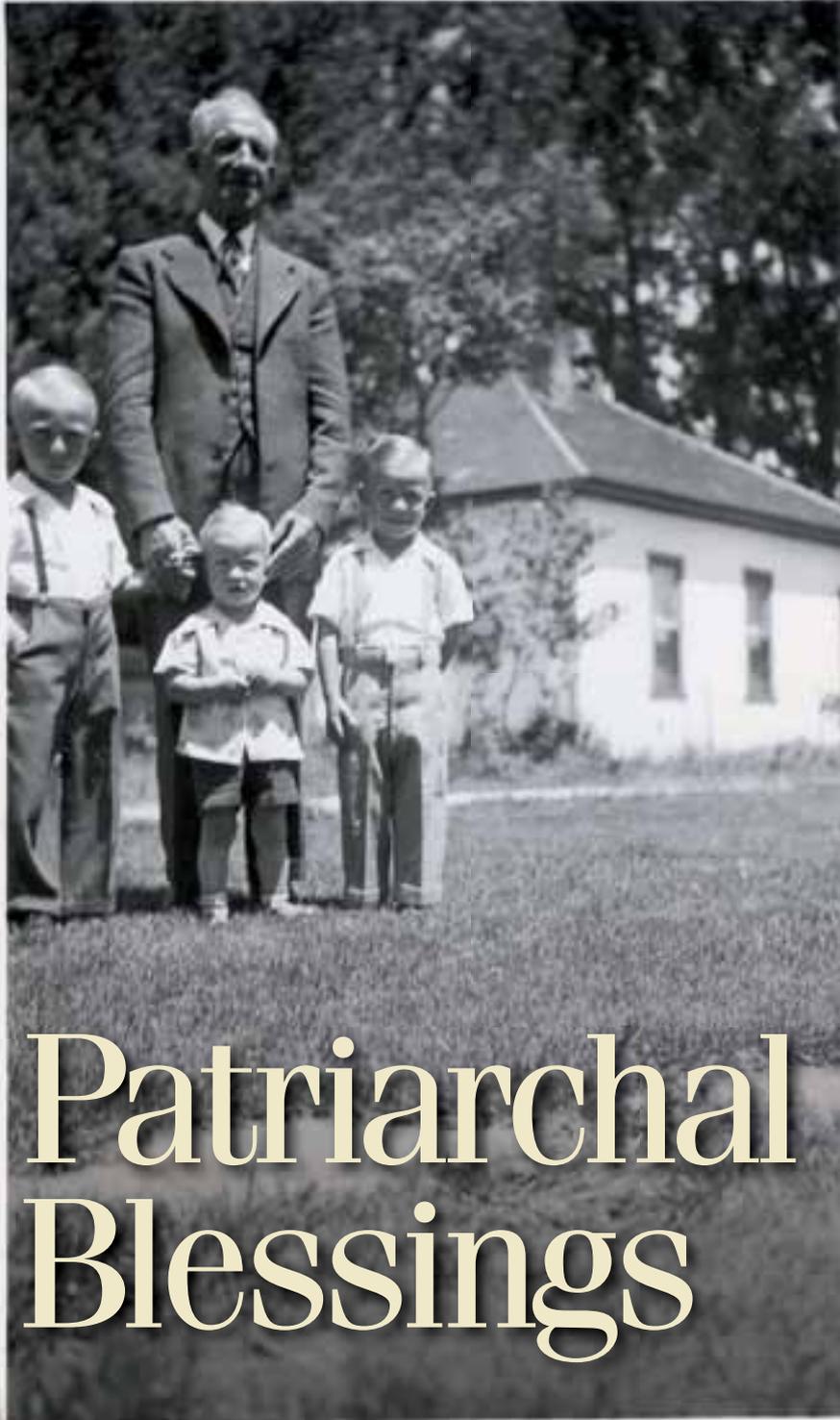
A child of God is who I am,  
A child of royal birth.  
My Father up in heaven  
Sent me here to earth.

As I take this journey  
And try valiantly each day,  
I know He watches over me  
And listens when I pray.

So if the path gets thorny  
And the way feels not so clear,  
I remember who I really am  
And that takes away each fear.



**From an interview  
with Elder Don R.  
Clarke of the Seventy;  
by Kimberly Reid,  
Church Magazines**



# Patriarchal Blessings

**Elder Clarke, about 5,  
with his brothers,  
Dale and Val, and his  
grandfather, Alma  
Benjamin Larsen**

*He shall hold the keys of the patriarchal blessings upon the heads of all my people (D&C 124:92).*

**W**hen I was growing up, my grandfather lived with my family. He was blind, and one of my greatest blessings was that I helped serve as his eyes. As we walked to church, I would help guide him, and he guided me too. He taught me how much Heavenly Father loves me and all of His children, and that it is important to help other people.

My grandfather lost his eyesight, but he had lots of spiritual insight. He served as a patriarch for more than 30 years. Students from nearby Ricks College (now BYU-Idaho) and others would come to see my grandpa. He would take them into the little room my family had built for him to give blessings in. Often he fasted before giving patriarchal blessings. My grandpa blessed many people throughout his life, and helped them learn to live closer to our Heavenly Father.

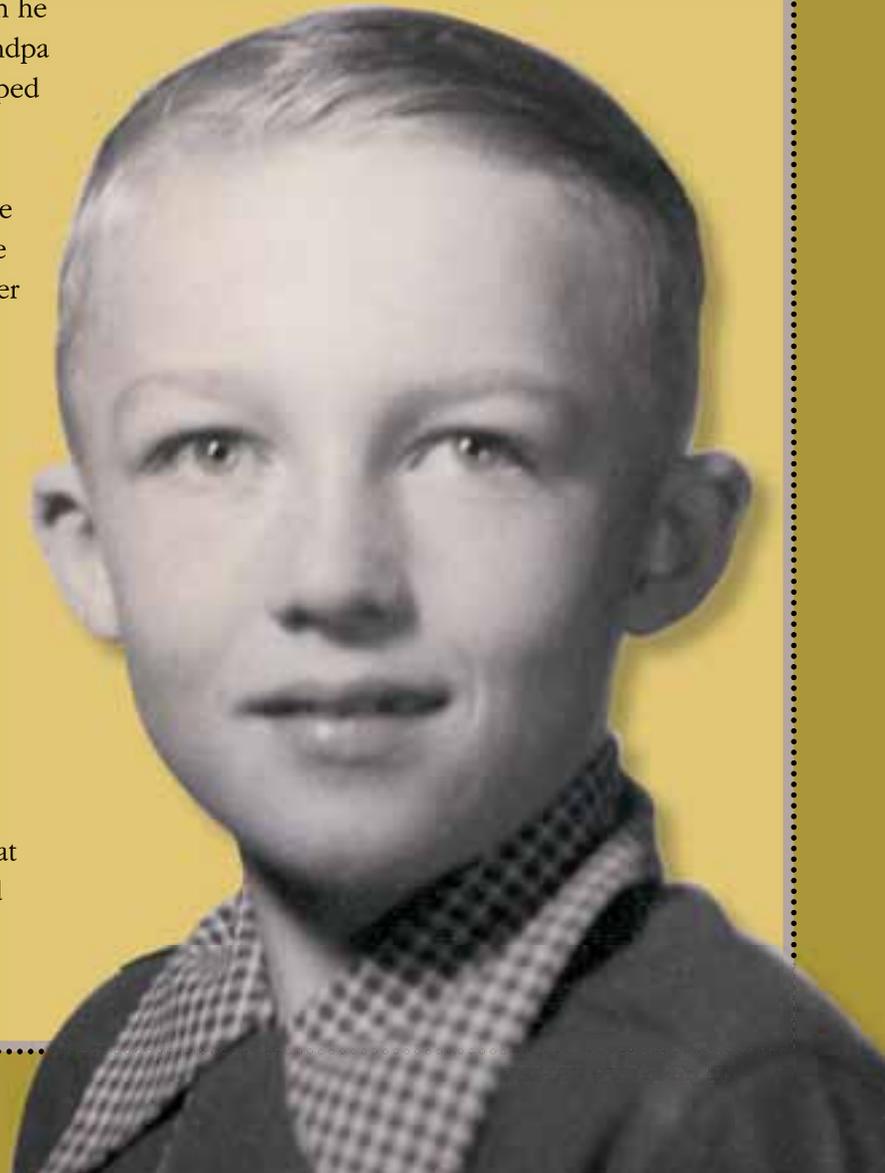
My grandpa's example strengthened my testimony. As you associate with people who are close to Heavenly Father, you can feel and know by the Spirit that our loving Heavenly Father watches over us. He gave us the plan of salvation to bring us back to Him. He taught us how to be worthy to live with Him again.

We can learn more about Heavenly Father and His plan for us when we receive a patriarchal blessing. It was my privilege to receive my patriarchal blessing from my grandpa. Just recently I reread it with my family. Even though I had read it many times, it took on new meaning. It was interesting to read about things I once thought had been fulfilled, but now can see that they continue to be fulfilled. My patriarchal blessing has served as a great guide in my life. Sometimes when I want to know more about what Heavenly Father wants me to do in my life, I read my patriarchal blessing and it helps me.

The Church counsels members to receive their

patriarchal blessing when it's right for them. You will know by the Spirit, and your leaders and parents will help you to know when the time is appropriate.

Wonderful prophets had the opportunity to bless their children before they departed this life. As you read Lehi's and Alma's blessings to their children, remember that such blessings must be of great importance if the Lord saw fit to preserve them in the scriptures. Your patriarchal blessing will be written down so you can read it over and over again. Let your blessing serve and guide you. The Lord has the opportunity to talk to you as you think about your blessing often. Through prayer and your patriarchal blessing, you can know God's plan for you. ●







# Lightning Strikes

BY DORA D. FLACK  
(Based on a true story)

*In the night his song shall be with me*  
(Psalm 42:8).

**B**lack clouds piled up in the west as I fastened my seat belt and Mom started the car. My mood was as dark as those clouds. Why did Mom always tell people I would play a musical number on the piano whenever anyone asked me? I was only 12, but I was often asked to play for church programs and in other wards. Bishop Bowen had asked me to play a musical number in his ward's sacrament meeting this evening. We used to live in his ward.

"Why do I have to play?" I asked Mom. "I like to practice at home, but I don't like to play in public. Some of my friends will be there and they'll make fun of me. They all know I play the piano and they tease me about it."

"You have a special gift for music, Kent,"

Mom said. "You need to share your talent."

I dug my hands deeper into my pockets and didn't say anything else.

When we got to the church, Mom parked the car. The wind was blowing hard as we hurried into the building.

Sitting in the chapel, I flattened my hands over my shaky knees to quiet them. Mom patted my shoulder and smiled at me. I pulled away and swallowed hard.

After the sacrament, Bishop Bowen announced the rest of the meeting. He said who would be the first speaker, and then he said, "We're so happy to have Kent back with us this evening. He will play a musical number for us."

A lady sitting behind us leaned forward and patted my shoulder and smiled. "Why do my friends tease me so much, but the adults always like to hear me play?" I wondered.

I heard the wind howling outside. My throat was dry. Too bad I couldn't get a drink of water. My fingers were stiff so I rubbed them.

The first speaker finished his talk. Ready or not, it was my turn. My stomach churned as I stared at the keys. I felt like striking them with all my strength. Too bad I wasn't playing my favorite song, "The Storm." A storm raged inside me as well as outside.

A minute passed as I sat there trying to compose myself, but it felt like an eternity. Finally, I raised my hands and let them fall gently on the keys. The soft chords dropped from my fingertips and quieted the storm inside me. I pictured a bright moon in the sky making a stream of light on ripples across a lake. My fingers rippled over the keys like the moonlight over the water. I felt like I was playing at home. I loved every minute of it.

When I finished, I slipped into the pew beside Mom. She put her arm around my shoulders, and I heard rain spattering against the windows. A sudden flash of lightning jarred the quiet congregation.

The second speaker stood up to give his talk, but I could only hear the rumbling thunder and the pounding rain outside. A sudden blinding flash seemed to almost come right into the building, followed by a loud crash. All the lights went out in the chapel! The speaker continued his talk even though it was hard to hear him without the microphone. Babies cried. Kids wiggled. Everybody was whispering.

When the speaker finished, Bishop Bowen stood up and spoke loudly. "Our meeting is finished except for the closing prayer. But we surely can't go out into this storm. Kent, will you please play your musical number again?"

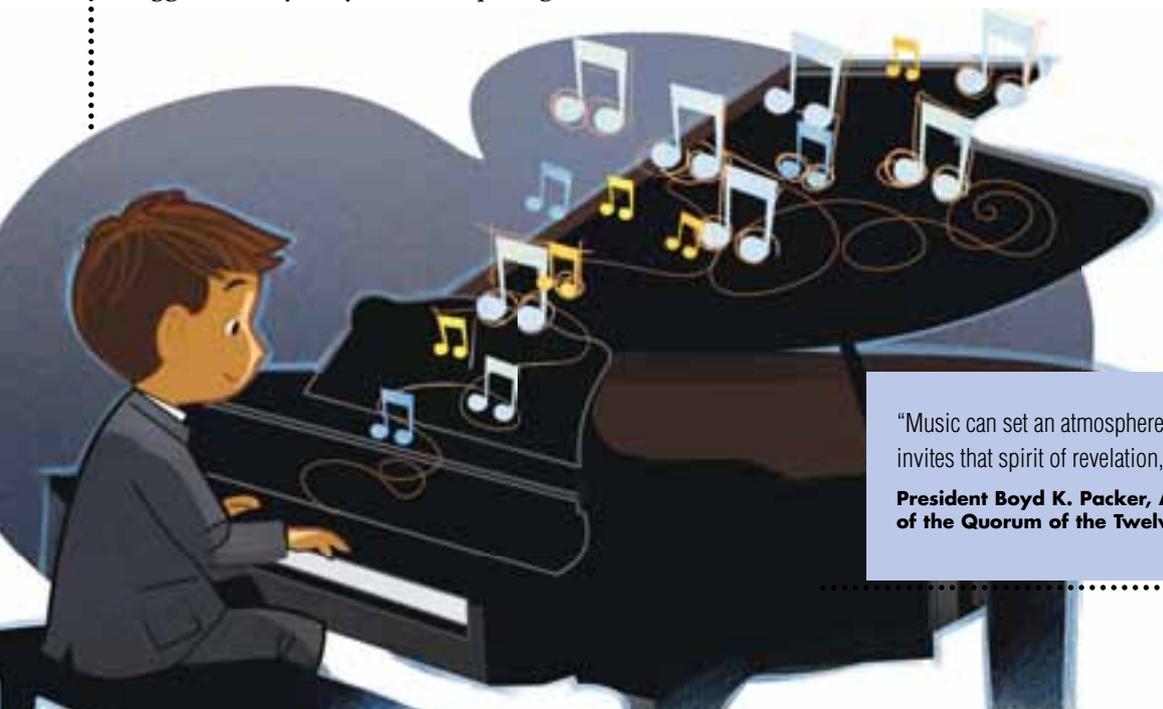
I was shocked. How could I quiet all that confusion and fear? I felt my way to the piano bench in the darkness and found middle C. Then I knew I would be all right. I had never felt such peace as the memorized notes blended into each other. The nervous confusion in the chapel stopped and everyone seemed to be concentrating on the music.

The congregation was silent as the last tones died away. The storm outside had calmed down. Someone offered the closing prayer, and then everyone began to leave, finding their way carefully in the dark. Some of my friends were waiting for me in the foyer.

"Hey, Kent, how did you do that? Your music took away the scare," one said.

"I wish I could play like that," said another.

No one made fun of me. What a relief! A woman touched my elbow and said, "Tonight you used music for a great purpose. You gave us calmness over panic. I've never felt more uplifted and I couldn't hold back the tears. Please don't ever stop playing." ●



"Music can set an atmosphere of worship which invites that spirit of revelation, of testimony."

**President Boyd K. Packer, Acting President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles?**



# KitchenKrafts

If **red** is your favorite color, get ready to make these pretty **red** recipes. Enjoy eating them with your family. Don't forget to tell your family that you **love** them!

## Easy Cherry Pie

- 1 graham-cracker piecrust (10 inches/25 cm)
- 1 pint (.5 L) vanilla ice cream or frozen yogurt
- 4 ounces (113 g) cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1 package whipped topping (8 ounces/227 g), thawed
- 1 can (21 ounces/595 g) cherry pie filling

1. Fill the piecrust with ice cream or yogurt. Cover and freeze for 30 minutes.

2. In a mixing bowl, mix cream cheese and powdered sugar until smooth. Stir in whipped topping.

3. Spread the cream cheese mixture over the ice cream. Cover and freeze for 4 hours.

4. Before serving, spoon pie filling onto the pie. Cut into 8 slices and enjoy.

## Salsa Snack

- 6 two-inch-square (5-cm) cheese slices
- 6 two-inch-round (5-cm) crackers
- 3 teaspoons chunky salsa

Place a cheese slice on each cracker. With permission, microwave the crackers for 15 seconds or until the cheese starts to melt. Place 1/2 teaspoon of salsa on top of each cracker and enjoy.

## Peppers and Dip

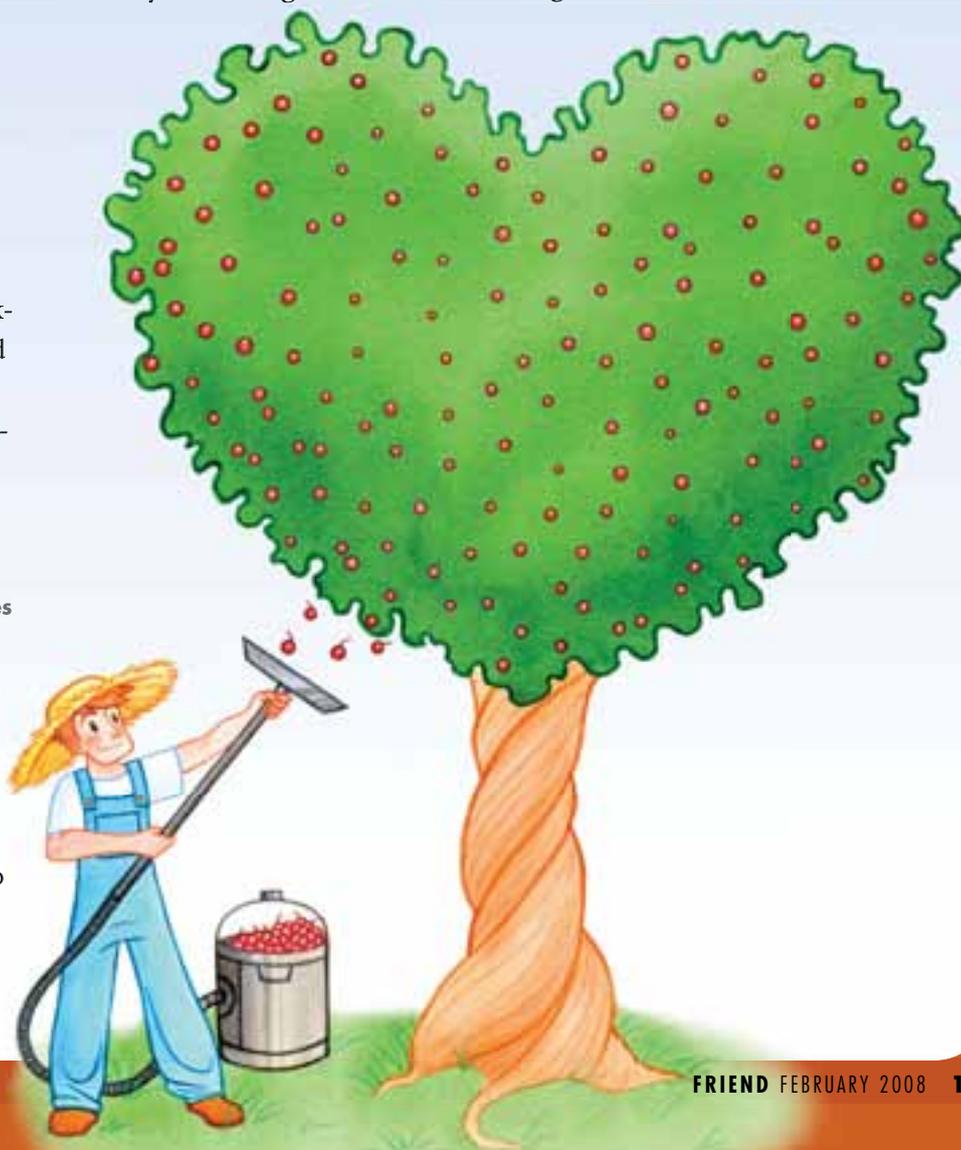
- 1 large red pepper
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1 1/2 teaspoons dill weed
- 1/2 teaspoon parsley
- 1/2 teaspoon seasoned salt
- 1/2 teaspoon dried minced onion
- dash of garlic powder
- vegetables of your choice: baby carrots, sliced celery stalks, radishes, or cucumber slices

1. With help from an adult, cut a 2-inch (5-cm) slice off the bottom of the red pepper. Set aside. This will be your serving dish for the

dip. Slice the remaining red pepper into strips.

2. Mix the sour cream, mayonnaise, dill weed, parsley, seasoned salt, onion, and garlic powder in a small bowl.

3. Pour 2–4 tablespoons of the mixture into the bottom half of the red pepper until it's full. Reserve the rest of the dip to refill your pepper serving dish. Serve with red pepper strips and other vegetables. Serves 4.

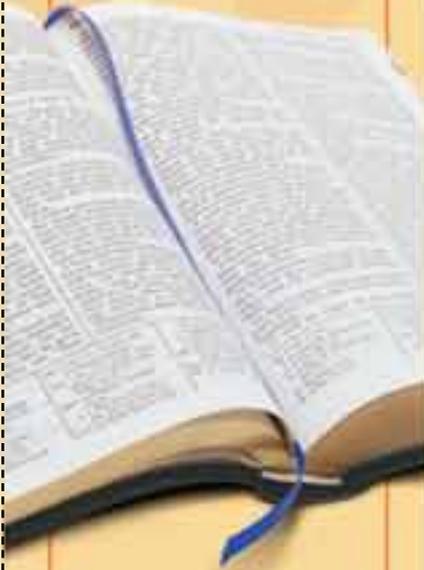


# SCRIPTURE POWER

## FEBRUARY



## SCRIPTURE POWER



*Scripture power  
keeps me safe from sin.  
Scripture power  
is the power to win.  
Scripture power!  
Ev'ry day I need  
The power that I get  
each time I read.*

*Note: If you do not wish to remove pages from the magazine, this activity may be copied or printed from the Internet at [www.friend.lds.org](http://www.friend.lds.org).*

# The Power that I Get Each Time I Read

*For my soul delighteth in the scriptures, and my heart pondereth them, and writeth them for the learning and the profit of my children (2 Nephi 4:15).*

BY LINDA CHRISTENSEN



Nephi, a Book of Mormon prophet, loved the scriptures. He spent time reading them, thinking about them, and teaching them.

Nephi knew that the scriptures would bring happiness.

Alma, another Book of Mormon prophet, learned that the Zoramites were not keeping the commandments. This made Alma sad. He wanted to help. He went on a mission and taught them the gospel. Because of the power of the word of God, many Zoramites repented and began to live the commandments.

Just like Nephi and Alma, you can have the power of the word of God each day by reading the scriptures.

*Scripture power keeps me safe from sin.*

*Scripture power is the power to win.*

*Scripture power! Ev'ry day I need  
The power that I get each time I read.*

*("Scripture Power," 2006 Outline for Sharing Time and the Children's Sacrament Meeting Presentation, 10–11)*

You are blessed to have the scriptures. As you read them, you will learn what the commandments are and how to keep them. You will be reminded that you are a child of God and He loves you.

He wants you to work, pray, and always walk in His way. If you follow His plan, you will be happy on earth and return to live with Him someday. ●

## Activity

Remove page 14 and mount it on heavy paper. Cut out the bookmark on the solid black lines. Fold on the dotted line, and glue the back sides of the bookmark together. Use the bookmark to help you keep your place as you read the scriptures. Mark the chart each day when you read the scriptures.

## 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. Show a journal, and help the children understand that a journal is a record of the thoughts, feelings, and events we want to remember. Show GAK 122 (Jacob Blessing His Sons), and briefly tell the story of Jacob, including the names of his 12 sons. Ask the children to listen for two of those names as you read Ezekiel 37:16. Explain to the children that Judah and Joseph and their descendants were told to keep records of important events that occurred. Help the children find Ezekiel 37:15–17, and read the scripture together. Explain the meaning of the word *stick* as found in the footnote. Show GAK 326 (The Bible and Book of Mormon: Two Witnesses), and explain that the Bible is the stick of Judah and the Book of Mormon is the stick of Joseph.

Help the children memorize Ezekiel 37:17. Ask them to think of ways to become more familiar with the scriptures (marking the scriptures, memorizing scriptures, having personal and family scripture study, and so on). Choose one or two scripture study helps to share with the children (see *TNGC*, 56–57). Provide enough time for the children to practice using these study helps.

Repeat Ezekiel 37:17, and then sing the fourth verse of “This Is My Beloved Son” (p. 76). Testify of the blessing of having the Bible and the Book of Mormon testify of Christ.

*For younger children:* Prepare examples of scripture study helps on separate pieces of paper. (For example: make an enlarged copy of a map; make an enlarged copy of a page from the scriptures, and highlight the footnotes or chapter heading.) Teach the children about scripture study helps. Then, with their teachers’ help, have them search the scriptures to find examples of the study helps.

2. Sing “I Want to Live the Gospel” (p. 148). Write *Live the Gospel* at the top of the chalkboard. Sing the chorus again, and ask the children to listen for two ways we live the gospel (*do* and *say*). Make two columns under *Live the Gospel*. Label one *Do*, and the other *Say*.

Share several scripture stories from the Bible (Daniel, Moses, Noah, John the Baptist, and so on). Ask the children to listen for how the people in the scriptures live the gospel by what they do and say. Write responses on the chalkboard.

Review the children’s responses. Create several case studies so the children can apply how they can live the gospel (see *TNGC*, 161–62). Divide the Primary into groups, and give each group a case study. Provide enough time for each group to discuss it and determine what they would do and say. Then share their ideas with the Primary. Write their ideas on the chalkboard. Reinforce the concept that we live the gospel by what we do and say. Sing “I Want to Live the Gospel.” Bear testimony that Bible stories teach us how to live the gospel.

3. Using the optional verses of “Book of Mormon Stories” (pp. 118–19), create a guessing game with clues to help the children identify the scripture characters and the gospel principles they lived and taught (see *TNGC*, 169). (For younger children, you may want to provide pictures to help identify the scripture character. See GAK 308, 310, 313, 314, 322.)

Sing the first two verses of “Book of Mormon Stories.” Explain

that the stories in the Book of Mormon teach us how to live the gospel. Play the guessing game. As the children discover the identity of the scripture characters, briefly tell the story, and discuss a gospel principle that each character lived (for instance: Alma the Younger—humility, repentance). Sing the third verse of “Book of Mormon Stories,” and talk about ways to live that principle in our lives. Continue until the scripture characters have all been identified and the corresponding verse has been sung. Testify that Book of Mormon stories teach us how to live the gospel.

4. Prepare a matching activity using My Gospel Standards and scriptures from the Doctrine and Covenants. (Examples: “I will honor my parents and do my part to strengthen my family” and D&C 88:123; “I will keep my mind and body sacred and pure, and I will not partake of things that are harmful to me” and D&C 89; “I will seek good friends and treat others kindly” and D&C 4:6.) Become familiar with the information found in the Explanatory Introduction of the Doctrine and Covenants.

Write the words *Doctrine* and *Covenant* on the chalkboard, and discuss their meanings. Invite the children to turn to the Explanatory Introduction, and read the first sentence together. Talk about the unique characteristics of the Doctrine and Covenants (for example, it is divided into sections, not chapters, and it consists of revelations given in this dispensation).

Write the activity’s scripture references on the chalkboard, and display My Gospel Standards. Assign children to look up the scriptures and match them to one of the standards. When the matching game is finished, invite several children to read a scripture and standard of their choice and share an example of how they can live that standard.

Bear testimony of the Prophet Joseph Smith and the blessing of having the Doctrine and Covenants teach us how to live the gospel.

5. *Song presentation:* “Tell Me the Stories of Jesus” (p. 57). Bring a picture of a young child, and ask the children to share what they think a child might ask a parent to do for him or her. Sing the last line of the first verse for the children, and ask, “What is this child asking for?” Take responses from the children. Invite the children to sing that line with you. Say the title of the song, and explain that it is a request to hear the stories of Jesus.

Display the words of the song on a large chart. Sing the first line of the first verse to the children, and ask them to listen for the last four words (“I love to hear”). Discuss why it is important to hear with our ears *and* our hearts.

Sing the second line to the children, and then sing the line together. Invite the children to share ideas of what they would ask Jesus “if he were here.”

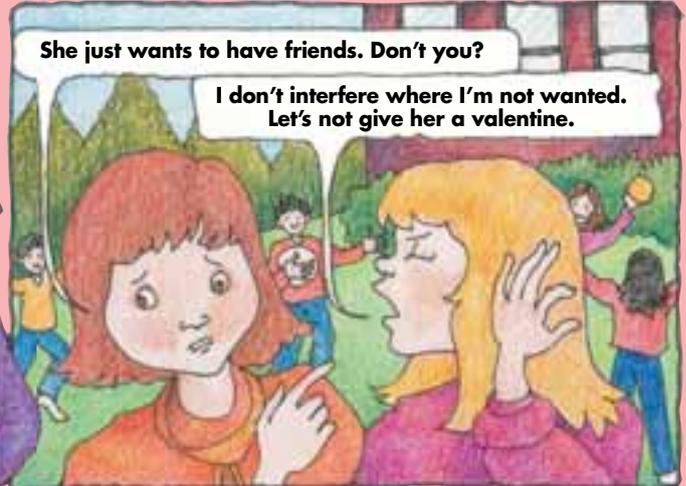
Sing the third line to the children. Show GAK 212 (Sermon on the Mount) and 214 (Stilling the Storm) for the phrases “scenes by the wayside” and “tales of the sea.” Sing the third line together. Help the children understand the meaning of the words.

Sing the first verse together. Remind the children that the stories of Jesus are found in the scriptures. Testify how the stories of Jesus have blessed your life.

6. *Friend* references: “We Believe in You!” May 2004, 2; “Randy’s Turn,” Nov. 2004, 32–33; “Hold On,” Sept. 2006, 11; “When I Read the Scriptures,” Aug. 2005, 7; “Samuel’s Scriptures,” Jan. 1998, 3; “Doctrine and Covenants Scripture-Story Grab Bag,” Mar. 2001, 24–25.

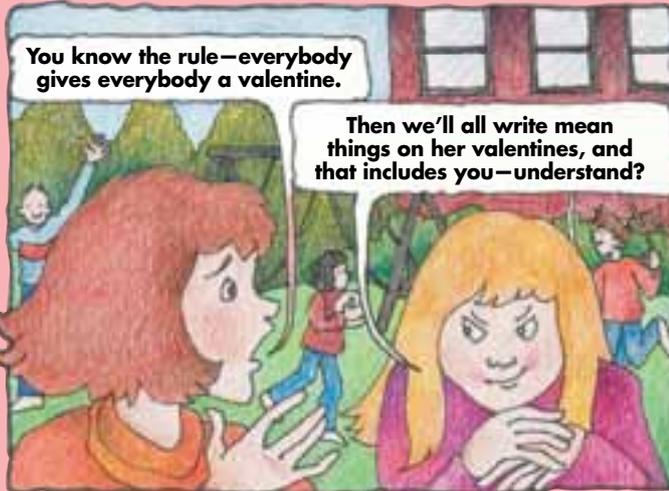


I don't like Tiffany, that new girl. Let's ignore her.



She just wants to have friends. Don't you?

I don't interfere where I'm not wanted. Let's not give her a valentine.



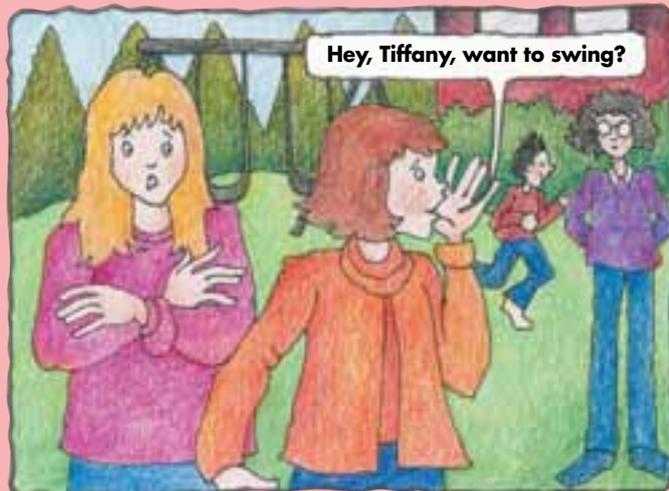
You know the rule—everybody gives everybody a valentine.

Then we'll all write mean things on her valentines, and that includes you—understand?

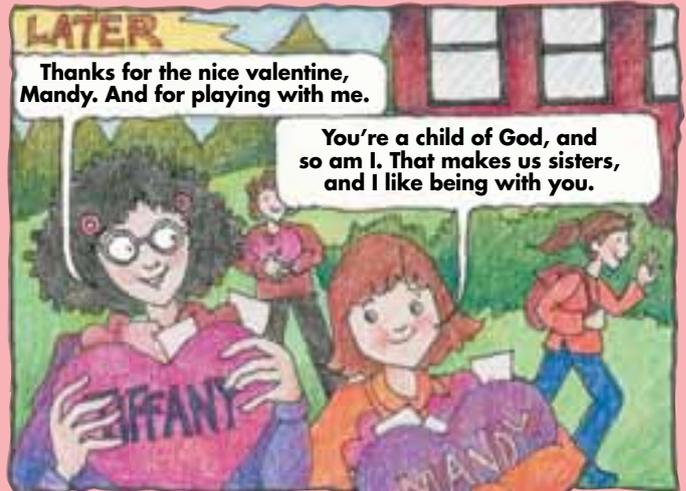


I understand that she has feelings too, and I'm not going to do it.

Then you might just get the same treatment as she does.



Hey, Tiffany, want to swing?



Thanks for the nice valentine, Mandy. And for playing with me.

You're a child of God, and so am I. That makes us sisters, and I like being with you.



# Trying to Be Like Jesus

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

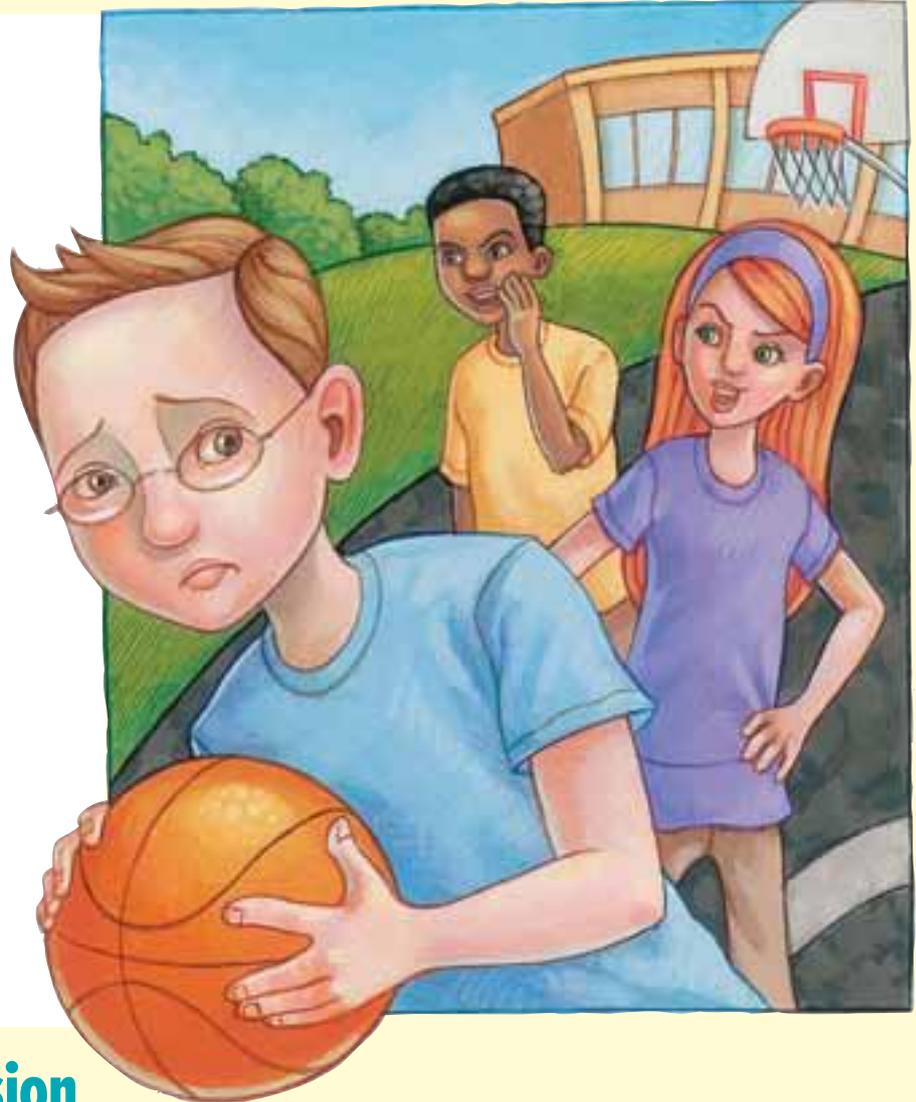
## Getting Teased



**O**ne day in my P.E. class, a boy and a girl began saying the Lord's name in vain.

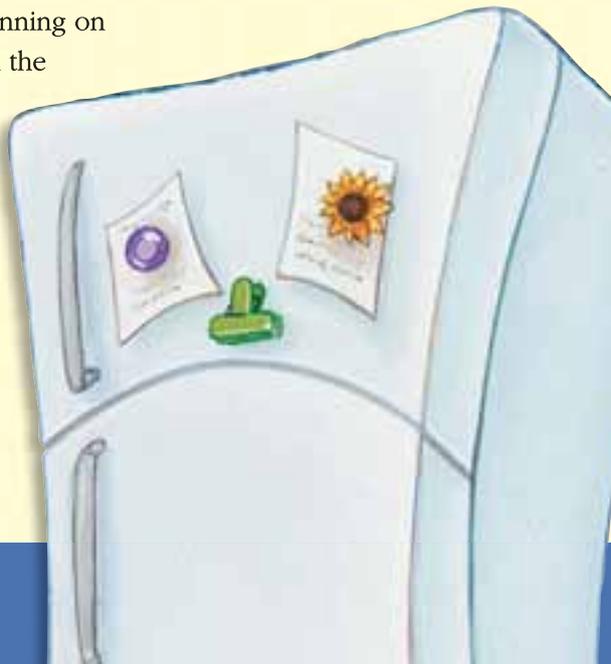
I told them I didn't like them saying it, and that our church teaches us not to. For the rest of the day, they teased me about it and said it even more. When I got home, I prayed and asked Heavenly Father that they would not continue to say it and tease me. They haven't teased me about it again! I'm thankful Heavenly Father answered my prayer. I'm thankful I can be a good example even though the other students were making fun of me.

*Jakob T., age 10, Nevada*



## Cookie Dough Decision

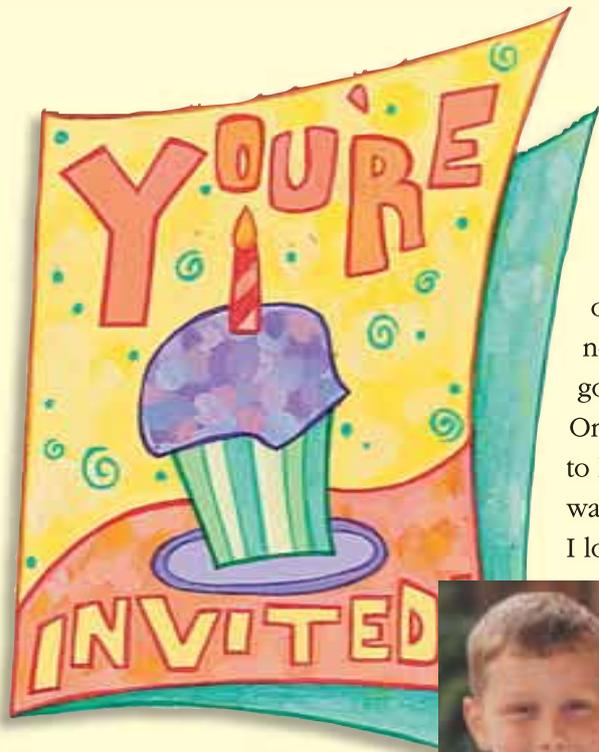
**O**ne night, I was planning on waking up early in the morning so I could eat the rest of the cookie dough left in the fridge. The next day, I woke up before 6:00 in the morning, but then I stopped and thought about what Jesus would do. I decided I shouldn't



eat the rest of the cookie dough. At breakfast I told my mom what I had wanted to do. She wasn't angry and

understood. I repented about the cookie dough, and I was happy to know that Heavenly Father understood too.

*Sarah P., age 8, Oregon*



## arty Invitation

I got an invitation to one of my friend's birthday parties, and I couldn't go because it was on Sunday. I made a choice to not go to the party, and instead of going to the party to go to church. One of the Ten Commandments is to keep the Sabbath day holy. I want to show Heavenly Father I love Him by obeying His commandments. It was hard to miss the party, but I feel good because I know I made the right choice.

*Christopher S., age 6, Washington*

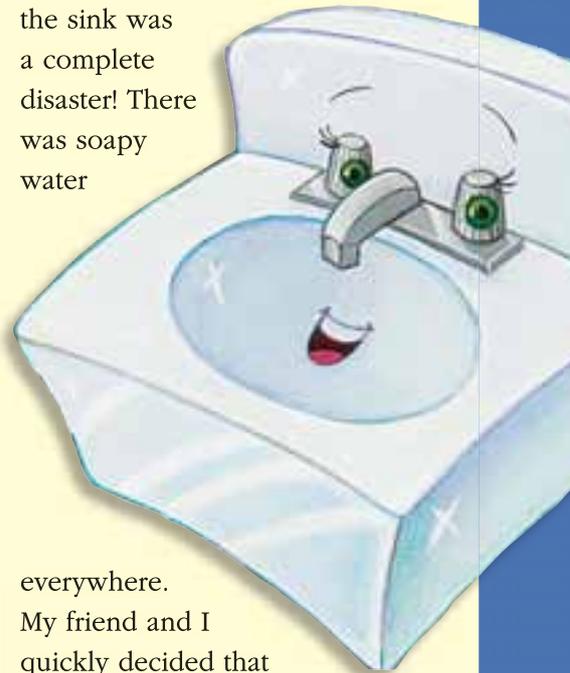


## Cleaning Companions



A little while back, my friend and I were going to the girls' wash-room at school to wash our

hands. We had just been doing an art project and had paste on our fingers. But when we got to the bathroom the sink was a complete disaster! There was soapy water



everywhere. My friend and I quickly decided that we should clean it up before washing our hands. When we finished I felt good inside. I have just been baptized and I knew it was the Holy Ghost giving me that warm feeling. I am trying to act more Christlike every day.

*Breanna K., age 8, Alberta, Canada*

## CTR Trade

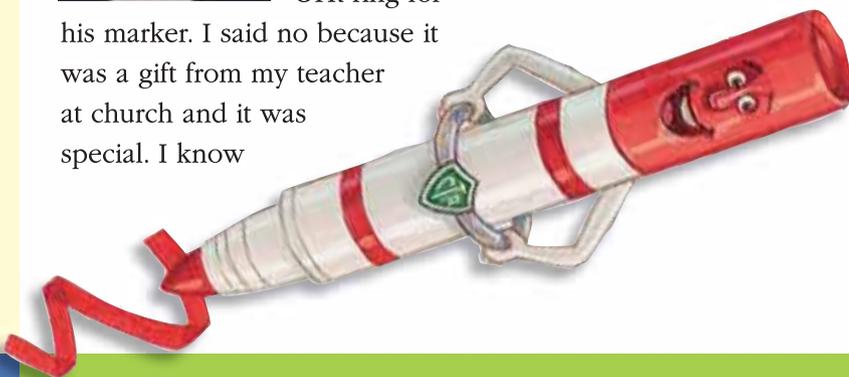


My friend at school asked me if I wanted to trade my CTR ring for

his marker. I said no because it was a gift from my teacher at church and it was special. I know

that choosing the right helps you, and when I have the CTR ring it helps me remember to choose the right. I asked my Primary teacher for another CTR ring to give to my friend.

*Blake R., age 7, South Carolina*



# At Home in the Woods

Children all over the world pray, sing Primary songs, and learn about the gospel—just like you! This month let's meet Rachel Wilkinson of Alton, New Hampshire.

BY MELVIN LEAVITT  
Church Magazines

**R**achel Wilkinson (11) lives in the New Hampshire woods near Lake Winnepesaukee. Some of her neighbors are deer, moose, bears, and porcupines. The White Mountains rise up less than an hour away. Rachel loves the woods, the lake, and the mountains, but most of all she loves her family.

#### Reaching Out

Rachel tries to make sure that people feel included. Once, a new girl at school was sitting all by herself. Rachel sat by her and called out to her friends, "Hey, come on over." They all sat around the new girl.

The school teaches



snowboarding and skiing each winter. Last year, Rachel helped a disabled boy ski down the hill.

### Not Afraid to Be Different

The Wilkinsons attend Church in Wolfeboro, about 10 miles (16 km) away. Though there are a few other Latter-day Saint families in Alton, they don't have children Rachel's age, so her many friends are of other faiths. Friends often ask her to go out on the lake or join them for a barbecue on Sunday, but she always says no and explains why. None of them has taken offense. "It was hard saying no at first, because sometimes you really want to go," Rachel admits. "But it's getting easier every time."

## What Rachel Likes to Do

- Swim in the lake
- Play flashlight tag in the woods
- Hike
- Fish
- Ice fish and ice-skate on the lake
- Dance
- Sing
- Cook
- Draw
- Keep a journal
- Write poems and stories

Where in the world is Alton, New Hampshire?



### Brother and Sister

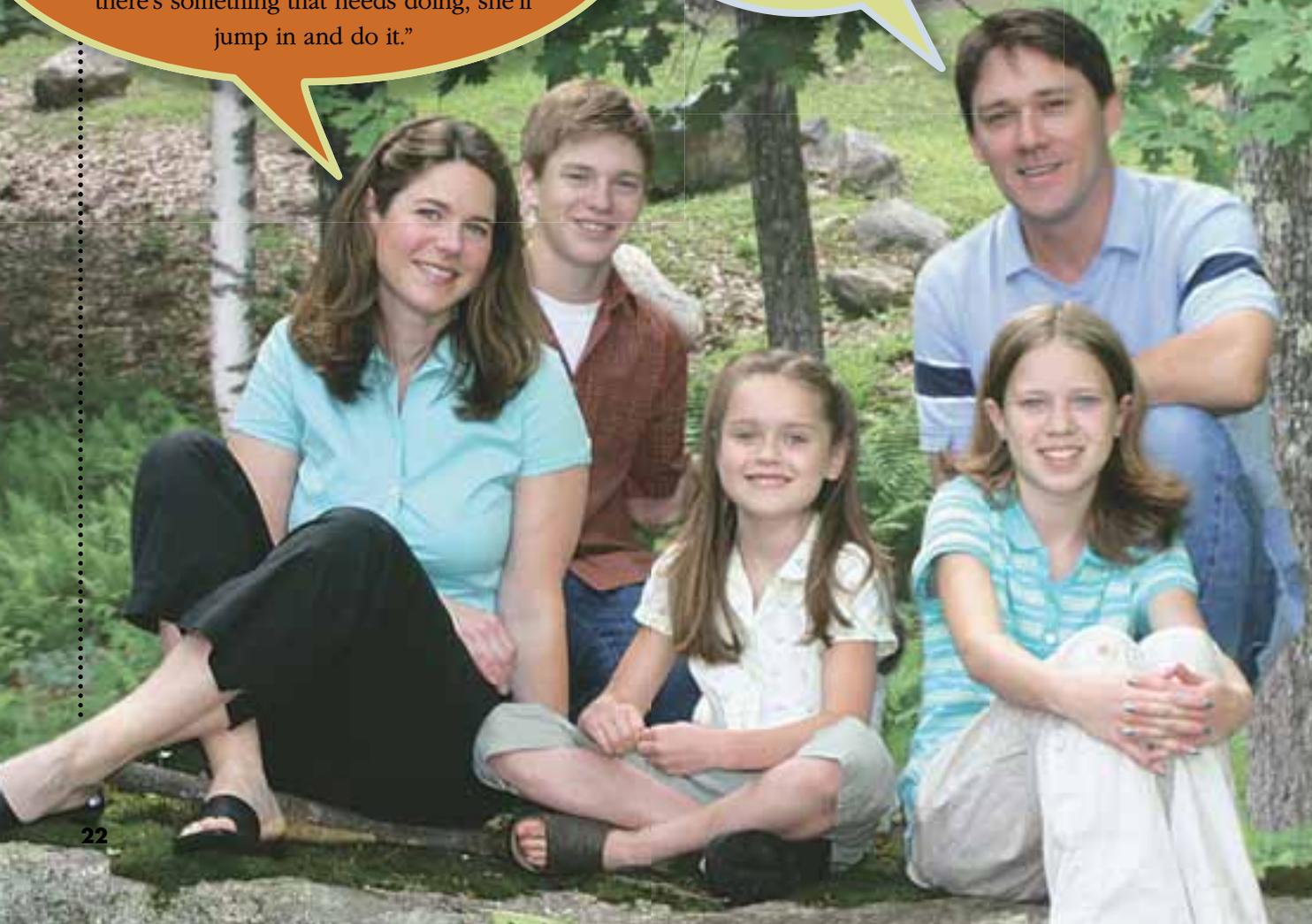
A good student, Aaron (14) is a great example to his younger sisters. He protects them and watches out for them. He excels at skateboarding and snowboarding. Hannah (6) is a “ball of energy” who likes soccer and basketball, nature and animals. She expresses her opinion confidently.

### Around the Fire

Rachel's favorite kind of family home evening is held around a campfire. After the lesson, the family sits talking and eating s'mores in the light of the glowing coals and the quiet of the woods. The s'mores taste good, but the sweetest part of the experience is being together as a family. ●

“Rachel is sweet and caring and humble. She's always looking out to make sure that others are OK. At church all the younger children gather around her. She makes sure they get to class or have a drink of water if they need it. At home if there's something that needs doing, she'll jump in and do it.”

“Rachel is like sunshine. She's bright and uplifting. She has the Spirit with her and makes good choices. She's diligent, and she doesn't give up. She knows when people need to laugh and does something silly to brighten their day.”



## PRIMARY MAZE BY APRYL STOTT

Lemma is thirsty! Can you help her find her way through this maze to the drinking fountain and then to Primary?





# You Love

**R**emove these pages from the book on heavier paper. Cut out the outer edge. Glue the A pieces to the B pieces together back to back on both sides. Then cut half the heart by the heavy black line. Slide the two halves to match up. When put together, the picture decoration will show four blessings that Christ have given you because They

*Note: If you do not wish to remove pages from the book, you may copy or print from the Internet.*

# A



# A

# Adored

the magazine and mount them  
at the four heart shapes along the  
pieces together back to back and  
back to back so pictures show on  
away through each shape as shown  
two cutouts together so the pictures  
pictures on each side of the heart  
that Heavenly Father and Jesus  
y love you.

*the magazine, this activity may be  
ternet at [www.friend.lds.org](http://www.friend.lds.org).*



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## GOSPEL LIGHT

BY CALLIE BUYS

The scriptures teach about the light of the gospel. Fill in the missing words in these scriptures about light. The picture next to each scripture stands for the circled letter. When you know what letter each picture stands for, fill in the secret code at the bottom of the page to discover the greatest light of all.

1. "And God          , Let there be light" (Genesis 1:3).



2. "The          is my light" (Psalm 27:1).



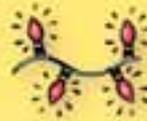
3. "Thy word is a lamp unto my          , and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105).



4. "         ye and let us walk in the light of the Lord" (2 Nephi 12:5).



5. "I will be a light          them forever" (2 Nephi 10:14).



6. "He is the light and the          of the world" (Mosiah 16:9).



7. "Let your light so          before this people" (3 Nephi 12:16).

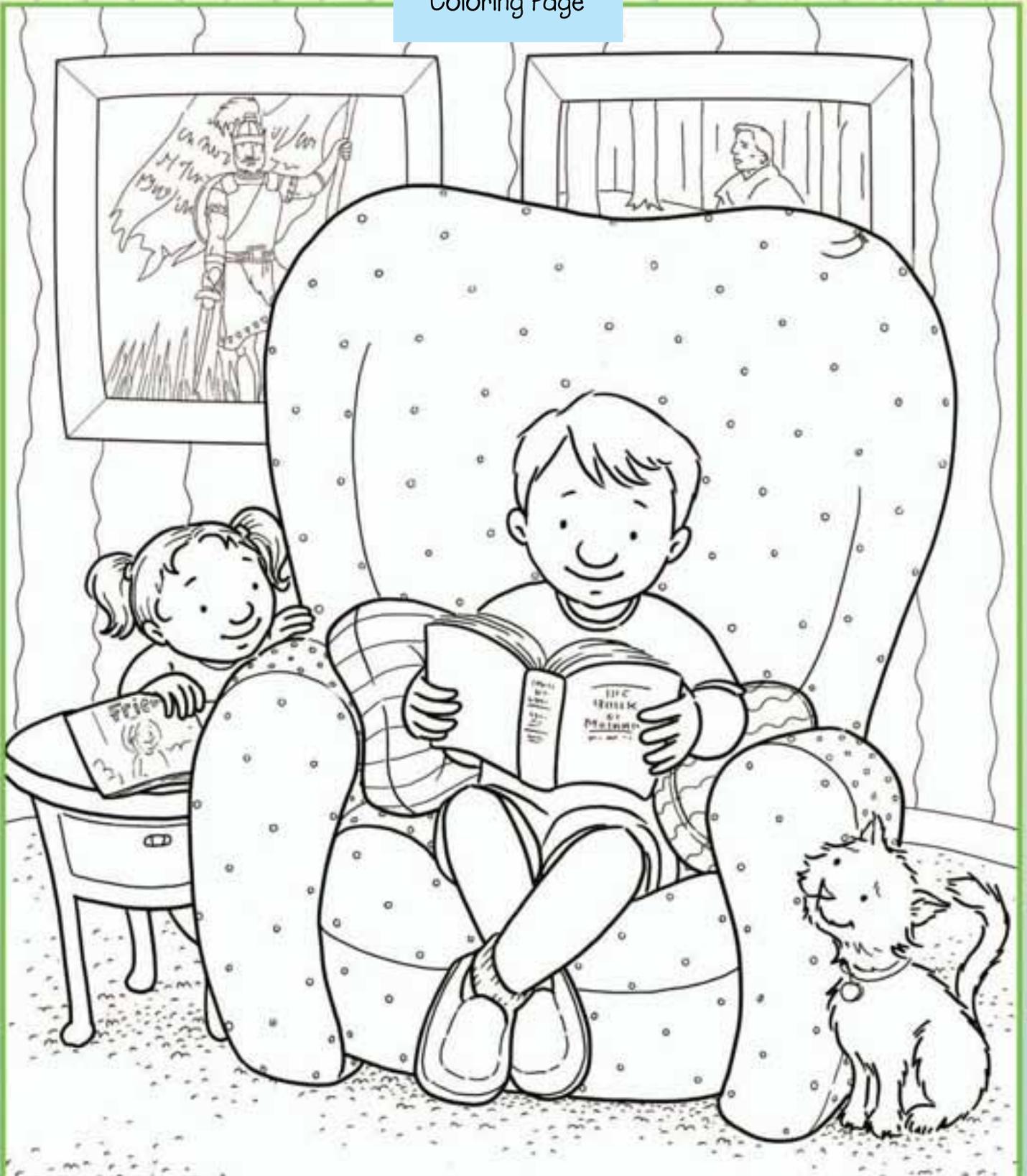


8. "Behold I am the light; I have set an                               for you" (3 Nephi 18:16).



9. "And the Lord said unto the brother of          : What will ye that I should do that ye may have light in your vessels?" (Ether 2:23).





**THE SCRIPTURES TEACH ME ABOUT HEAVENLY FATHER AND JESUS CHRIST AND HOW TO RETURN TO THEM.**  
“And upon these I write the things of my soul, and many of the scriptures which are engraven upon the plates of brass. For my soul delighteth in the scriptures, and my heart pondereth them, and writeth them for the learning and the profit of my children” (2 Nephi 4:15).



# The Love Drawer



## BY MARNIE SPENCER

(Based on a true story)

Look up the following scriptures: *John 13:34, Alma 7:24, Moroni 7:13*. Circle the one you think fits the story best.

**E**lisabeth!" Mom called from her room. "Someone rang the doorbell a little while ago. Can you see if there's anything on the porch?"

A few moments later Elisabeth carried a plate of cookies into Mom's room, where she was in bed with a lingering illness.

"Someone brought us cookies!" Elisabeth said.

"Who are they from?" Mom asked.

"I don't know, but here's a note."

Mom took the note. " 'Hope you're having a great day,' " she read. " 'From someone who cares.' " She smiled at Elisabeth. "It's really nice of someone to surprise us with cookies."

"Can I have one?" Elisabeth asked.

"Yes, you can. And will you please put the note in my love drawer?"

Elisabeth took the note. "What's your love drawer?" she asked.

"It's the little drawer in that table by my bed. Open it and I'll show you."

Elisabeth opened the drawer and found a pile of letters, notes, and cards.

"I've been saving all the good wishes people have given me since I've been sick," Mom explained, pulling a few papers from the drawer. "Grandma sent this letter. And this is the card the Garcias gave me when they brought us dinner. Here is the note I discovered in the kitchen when I came home from the doctor and found the whole house cleaned. And the Primary children made this card for me."

Mom handed the cards, notes, and letters back to Elisabeth. "All these remind me how nice people have been to us. Each one is from someone who is trying to be like Jesus. When I feel sad I can look at them and remember that lots of people care about me. And that helps me remember that Heavenly Father and Jesus care about me too."

Elisabeth put everything back in the drawer and closed it carefully.

"Now will you take these cookies into the kitchen?" Mom said. "The other kids will want to have one when they get home from school."

Elisabeth carried the plate of cookies into the kitchen, and then sat down at the table with her crayons. After a while she went back into Mom's room. "Mom, I brought you something." She held out the picture she had made.

"Elisabeth, this is beautiful! I love the rainbow and the smiling people. You worked very hard on this."

"You can put it in the love drawer," Elisabeth said. "It will help you remember that I love you and that I want to be like Jesus."

Mom smiled and hugged Elisabeth. "You make me very happy," she said. "I *will* put this in the love drawer—later. Right now I want to keep it out where I can see it!" ●

"Jesus commanded us to love one another, and we show that love by the way we serve one another."

**Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles<sup>3</sup>**



### The First Vision

When Joseph read James 1:5,  
He decided to pray to God above.  
He didn't know which church to join,  
But didn't want to flip a coin.  
He went into a grove of trees,  
And then knelt down upon his knees.  
Then on that peaceful spring day  
He opened his mouth in faith to pray.

Suddenly, there was a brilliant light  
Above his head. It was very bright!  
Two beings came down from heaven  
On that day when Joseph was 2 x 7.  
The personages were God the Father  
and His Son,  
Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten one.  
Two members of the Godhead  
descended from above.  
And Joseph, in his heart, felt heavenly  
love.

*Joseph C., age 10, Maryland*

### Faith

Faith is to believe  
What you can't see.  
To have courage in God.  
Faith can move mountains.  
It's up to you  
To put faith in you.

*Cade C., age 8, Utah*

### God's Creations

Every day  
Or every night  
Jesus made earth  
For our delight—  
The animals  
That crawl or hop,  
The water and waves that never stop,  
The grass that waves along the wind,  
Or the life that never ends,  
Our friends or families,  
The sun or sky,  
The clouds we stare at as they fly by,  
The flowers or bugs,  
The birds that are blue,  
Our souls or spirits,  
Our heart that's true.  
Everything that's on the earth  
Is made by Jesus  
For our birth.

*Laura B., age 11, Illinois*

### Our Living Prophet

President Hinckley is very dear.  
We listen to him every year.  
He and Heavenly Father are very near.  
They tell us what we need to hear.

He gave us the family proclamation,  
A statement to the world and nation,  
A plan that began at the time of creation,  
To teach families of their obligations.

In the Conference Center you will see  
A beautiful pulpit that used to be  
An old black walnut tree,  
Planted by President Hinckley.

He wrote a book called *Way to Be!*  
To teach us about his B's.  
The things he wrote help you and me  
To live with our family eternally.

He teaches us the right way  
And reminds us to always pray.  
I love to listen to what he'll say.  
I love the prophet in every way.

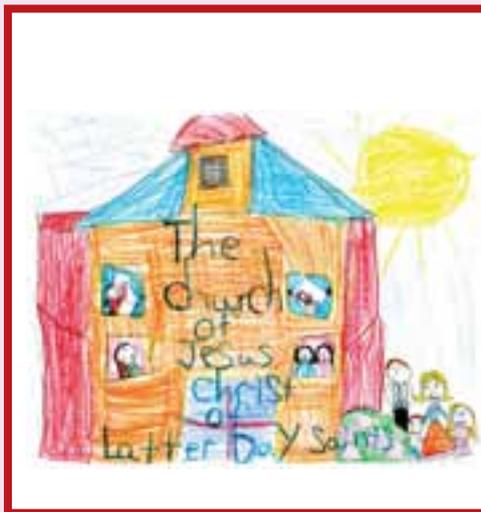
*Emily P., age 8, Idaho,  
with help from her mom*



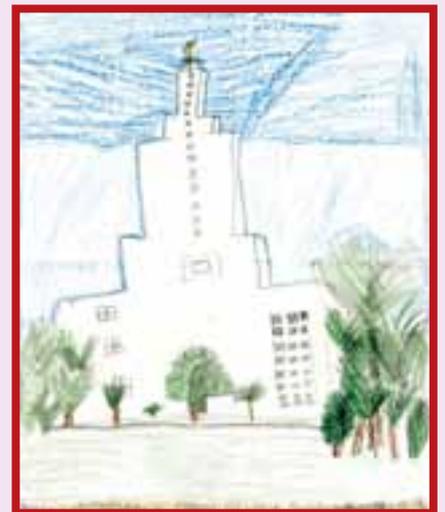
*Kenna F., age 7, California*



*Connor W., age 6, Washington*



*Annie J., age 7, Maryland*



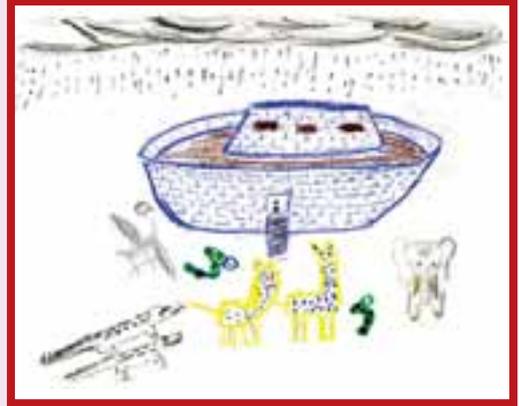
*Morgan B., age 10, Idaho*



Ethan S., age 7, Minnesota



Rachel C., age 9, Alberta, Canada



Logan V., age 8, Texas



Benjamin D., age 8, Utah



Ashley B., age 8, Virginia



Samuel A., age 6, Pennsylvania



Lauren A., age 7, Michigan



Blake J., age 3, Nevada



Jackson K., age 7, Arizona



Makenzi Morgan B., age 11, Utah



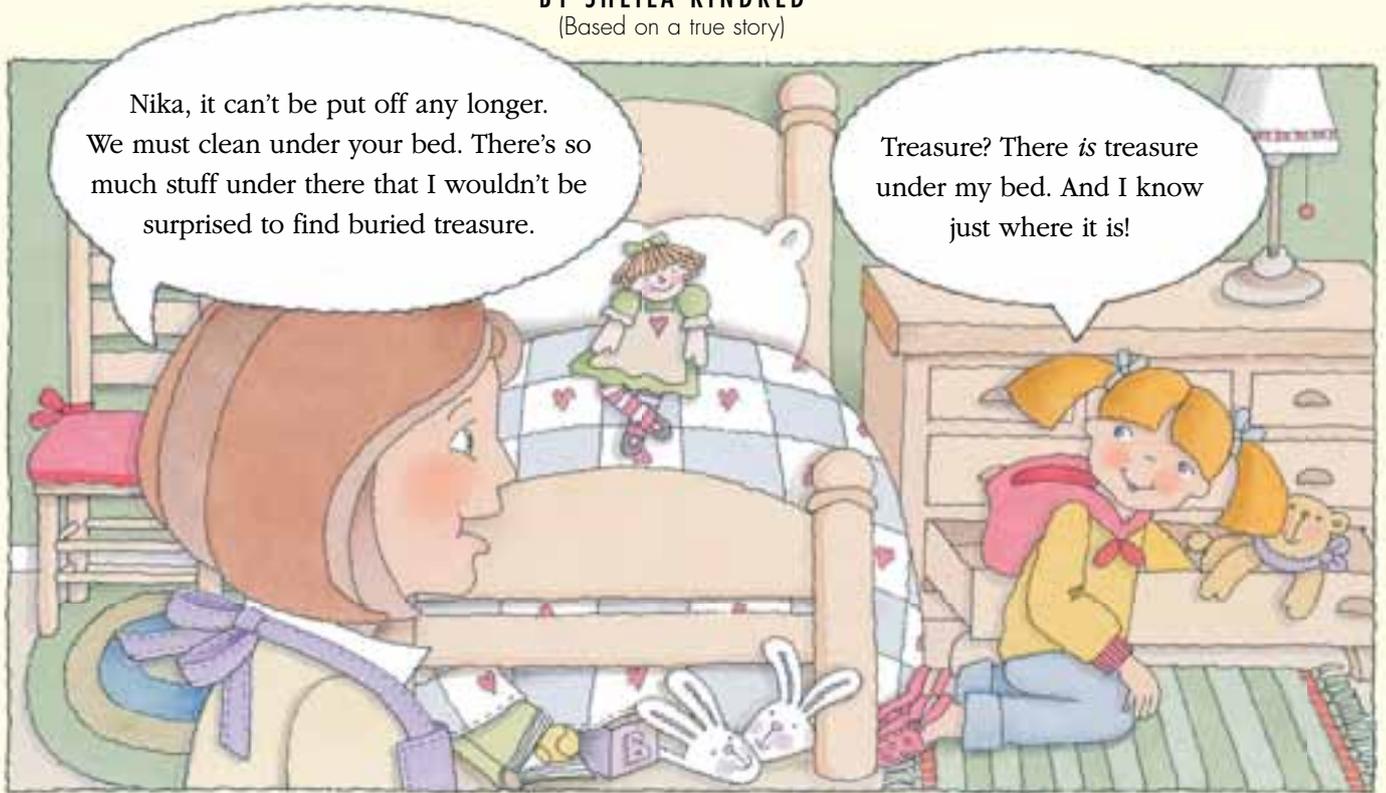
Sofia S., age 5, California

*Ye ought to search the scriptures (Alma 33:2).*

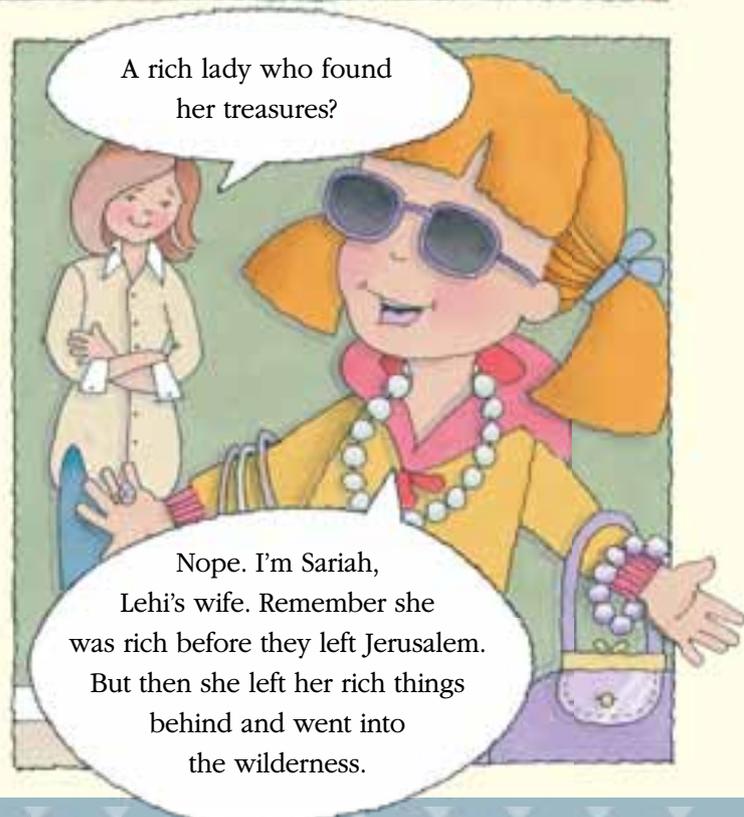
# Buried Treasure

BY SHEILA KINDRED

(Based on a true story)



Nika burrowed under her bed and started pushing things out behind her like a mole in a hole. After a few minutes she crawled out wearing beads and sunglasses.



Then Nika dropped the necklace and sunglasses into the dress-up box before going back under her bed. A moment later she came out with a glittering crown.

Aha! The queen has found the family's lost treasure.

I'm not a queen. I'm King Benjamin standing high on his tower telling his people to love one another. Being a king didn't make him better than others.

Nika set the crown in the box and wiggled back under her bed. She came out and wrapped a white blanket around her.

Are you an angel?

I'm the angel who shook the earth and told Alma the Younger to stop doing bad things.

But where's the treasure?

I think I saw it back in the corner.

Nika disappeared under her bed again.

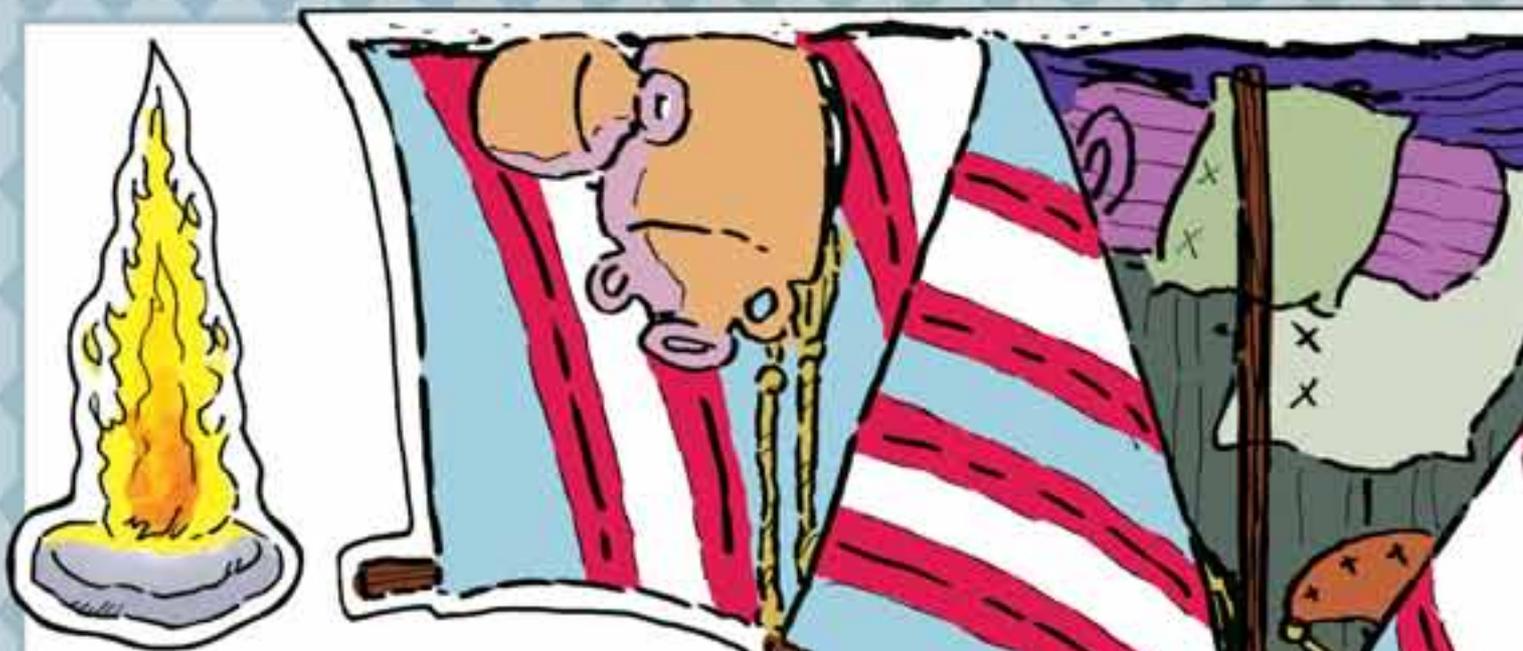
I found it! Please help me out.

Mother gently pulled Nika's feet.

Nika held up her copy of *Book of Mormon Stories*.

Here's the treasure! It fell behind the bed after we read last night.

That really *is* a treasure!



# Lehi and Nephi Obey God

BY VAL CHADWICK BAGLEY

**Instructions:** The figures can be mounted on heavy paper, cut out, and then made into stick puppets, flannel board figures, or a shadow box (add tabs to the bottom of each figure), as illustrated. Use them to tell the story of Lehi obeying God (see 1 Nephi 1:4–6, 18–20; 2:1–7). You can also use some of the figures to tell how Nephi obeyed God by obtaining the brass plates (see 1 Nephi 3; 4:1–13, 20, 24, 26).

**Note:** If you do not wish to remove pages from the magazine, this activity may be copied or printed from the Internet at [www.friend.lds.org](http://www.friend.lds.org).



Stick puppets



Shadow box

ILLUSTRATIONS BY VAL CHADWICK BAGLEY



# DECISION

## ANGELLO'S



BY KIM HOFHIENS  
(Based on a true story)

*Observe the sabbath day, and keep it holy (Mosiah 18:23).*

**A**ngelo kicked Lonnie in the chest and earned

the point he needed to win.

“Match!” Mr. Haight, the coach, pointed to Angelo. Lonnie and Angelo sat down on the gym floor to watch two other green belts spar.

“Lucky kick.” Lonnie smiled at Angelo.

“I had to even things up.” Angelo grinned.

“You beat me in the races at school today.” Lonnie was Angelo’s best friend, and they did everything together.



On the other side of the gym, the red belts were working on the demonstration they would give for the black belt ceremony.

“Soon we’ll be blue belts,” Lonnie said, but he was watching the red belts across the room.

“Yeah. We have the hours, the moves, and the test down for the blue belt,” Angelo said, “but I can’t wait till we’re red belts.”

“Oh, that’ll be easy,” Lonnie laughed. “We only have to earn the blue belt and purple belt first!”

Mr. Haight raised his hands in the air. “OK, enough sparring for tonight.” He waved everyone toward him and held up a piece of paper. “The tournament is two weeks away. This paper gives all the information you will need to have a successful tournament. Make sure your parents read it and sign it. Bring it back here next week.”

Angelo grabbed the paper and headed for the door. The tournament was the last thing he had to complete before becoming a blue belt! As he rode his bike home, he only wished his grandma could see him compete. Abuela Ana was serving a mission in faraway Romania.

Mom was stirring a big pot of chicken *mole* when Angelo sailed in and handed her the paper. “This is important. It’s about the tournament.”

“How was karate?” Mom smiled and took the paper.

“It was great! I lost one sparring match and won two.”

“Wow!”

“Yep. Now all Lonnie and I have to do is

“There is a proper time and place for all worthwhile things—a time for work, a time for play, a time for worship. . . . The Sabbath is a holy day in which to do worthy and holy things.”

**President Spencer W. Kimball (1895–1985)<sup>4</sup>**



the tournament and we'll get our blue belts." Angelo opened the refrigerator.

"Did you know the tournament is on a Sunday, Angelo?" Mom said.

Angelo closed the fridge. "Sunday?" He frowned. His baptism wasn't too long ago, and he had determined to keep the Sabbath holy.

"I know how much this means to you, Angelo, but Sunday . . . ?" Mom trailed off.

"I know, I know." Angelo stomped off to his bedroom. Why did the tournament have to be on a Sunday? None of the other tournaments were. And if he didn't go, Lonnie would be a blue belt and he would still be green.

Dad peeked into the bedroom. "Hey, Angelo. I heard about the tournament. Have you called Mr. Haight?"

Angelo brightened. "No. I'll call right away." He ran for the phone. Surely Mr. Haight would see

his problem—maybe he'd even give him the belt without the tournament.

A few minutes later, Angelo shuffled back to his room.

"What did he say?" Dad asked.

"He said to get the belt, I have to meet all the requirements. I even told him Sunday was a holy day, but he just said the gym was booked on Saturday."

Dad ruffled Angelo's hair. "There will be other tournaments."

Angelo looked up at Dad. "I know. But it might be months away. Lonnie will be a blue belt way before me. I might as well quit!"

"It's your decision, Angelo." Dad left, and Angelo lay down on his bed. He knew Mom and Dad didn't want him to go to the Sunday tournament, but maybe he would go just this one time.

Angelo looked at the Dallas Texas Temple picture on his wall. Abuela Ana had given it to him on his birthday last September. Tucked into the corner of the picture was a photograph of his tiny abuela with a huge Romanian castle in the background. Angelo wouldn't see her again until his next birthday.

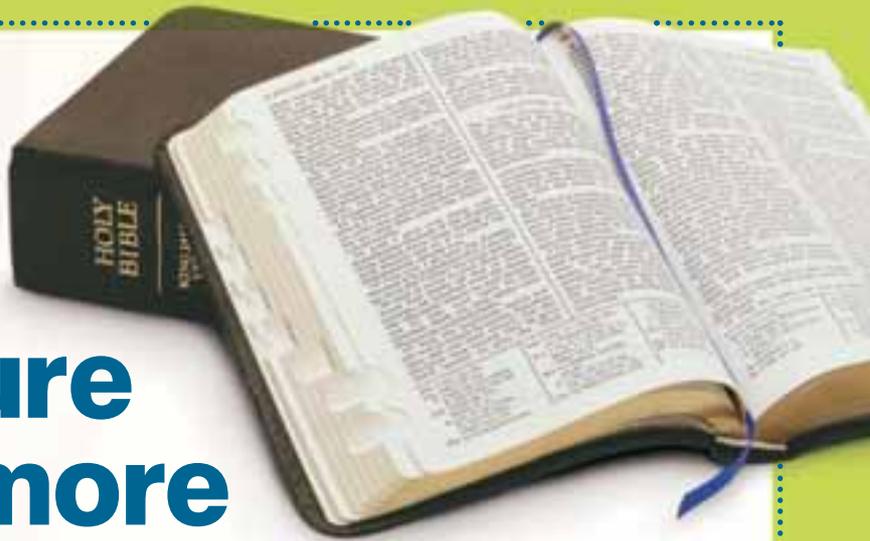
He reached for the photograph and read the words she had written on the back.

"The work is hard here. We give lots of discussions, but no baptisms yet. Last week we went to the orphanages and arranged for children to have needed medical care. They were so grateful. I knew that whatever sacrifice I had made to come here was nothing. I'm following the Savior, so everything will be all right! *Te amo*, Angelo. I love you."

Angelo turned the picture over and looked into his abuela's smiling face. He knew he would not be going to the Sunday tournament. He smiled. "I am following my Savior too, Abuela Ana." ●



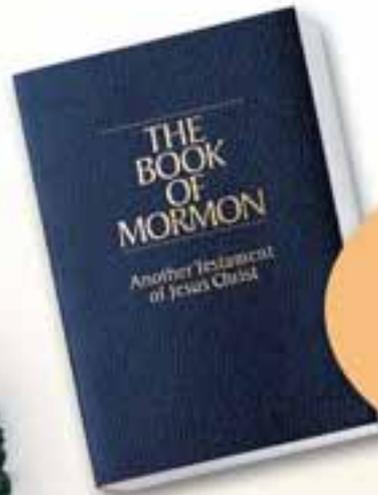
# How can my scripture study be more meaningful?



**When we come to a crisis in our life, we should go looking in the scriptures for specific help. We will find answers in the scriptures.**



*President Henry B. Eyring, Second Counselor in the First Presidency, shares some of his thoughts on this subject.*

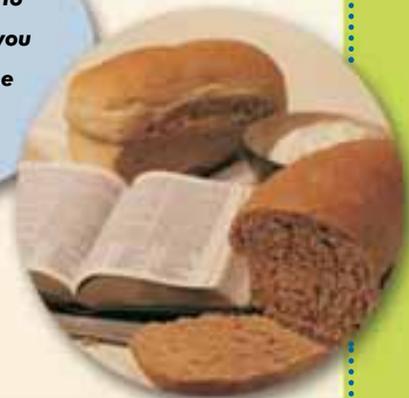


**If you read the Book of Mormon with an open heart, you will know that it is the word of God and that it is true.**

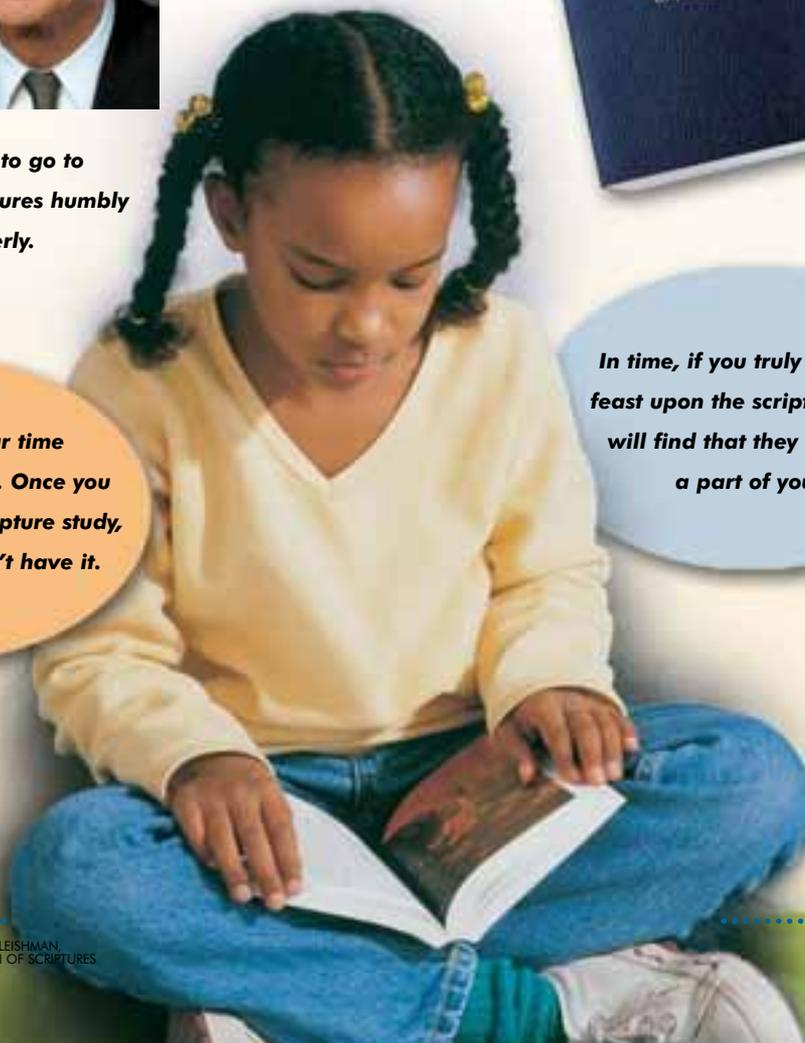
**We need to go to the scriptures humbly and eagerly.**

**Establish a regular time to study the scriptures. Once you get used to regular scripture study, you miss it if you don't have it.**

**In time, if you truly begin to feast upon the scriptures, you will find that they become a part of you.**



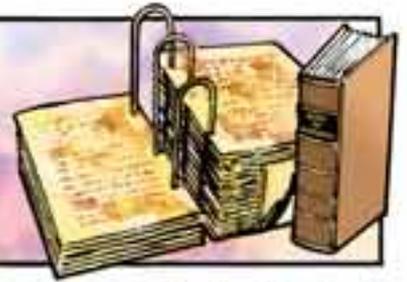
*From "A Discussion on Scripture Study," Ensign, July 2005, 22–26.*





FROM THE LIFE OF THE PROPHET JOSEPH SMITH

# An Operation on Joseph's Leg



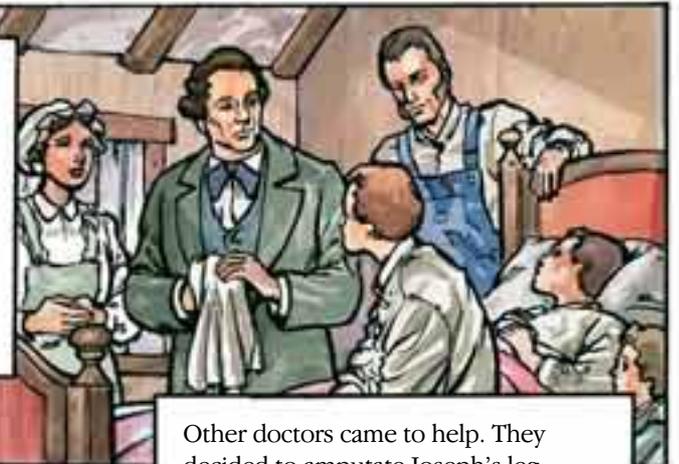
When Joseph Smith was seven years old, he became very sick. He had a fever, and a sore formed on his shoulder. Then he felt a terrible pain in his leg. Soon his leg began to swell.

Oh, Father!  
My leg hurts. How can I bear it!



Joseph's mother, Lucy, and brother Hyrum cared for Joseph. They carried him around the house, sat beside his bed, and held his sore leg to lessen the pain.

A doctor came to help Joseph. The doctor cut into Joseph's leg. Joseph felt better for a while, but then the pain became worse than before.

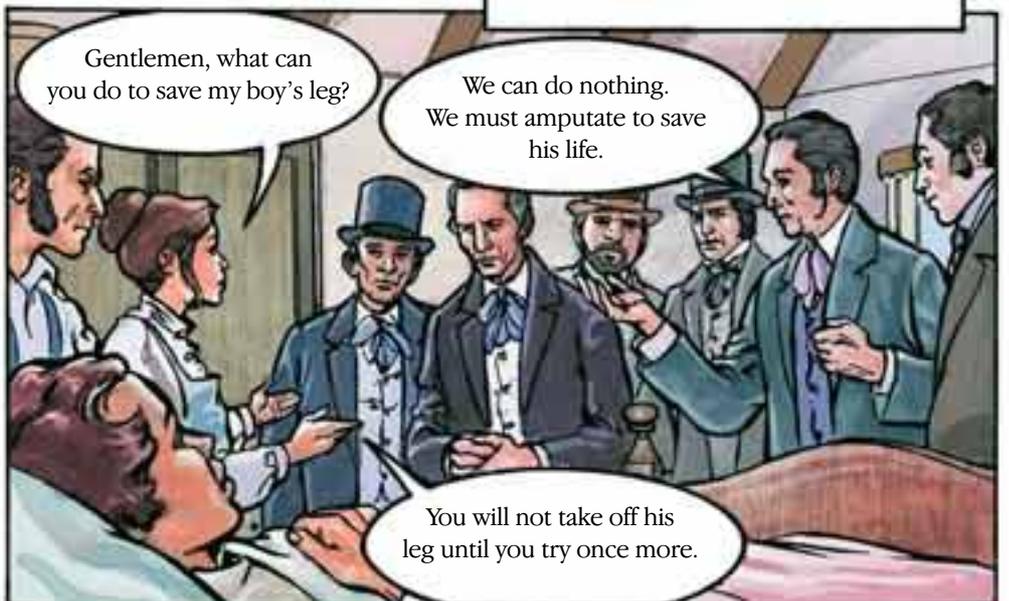


Other doctors came to help. They decided to amputate Joseph's leg.

Gentlemen, what can you do to save my boy's leg?

We can do nothing. We must amputate to save his life.

You will not take off his leg until you try once more.





The doctors decided to do a different operation. They wanted to tie Joseph to his bed and give him strong drinks to lessen the pain.

No, Doctor, I will not be bound.

Then will you drink some wine?

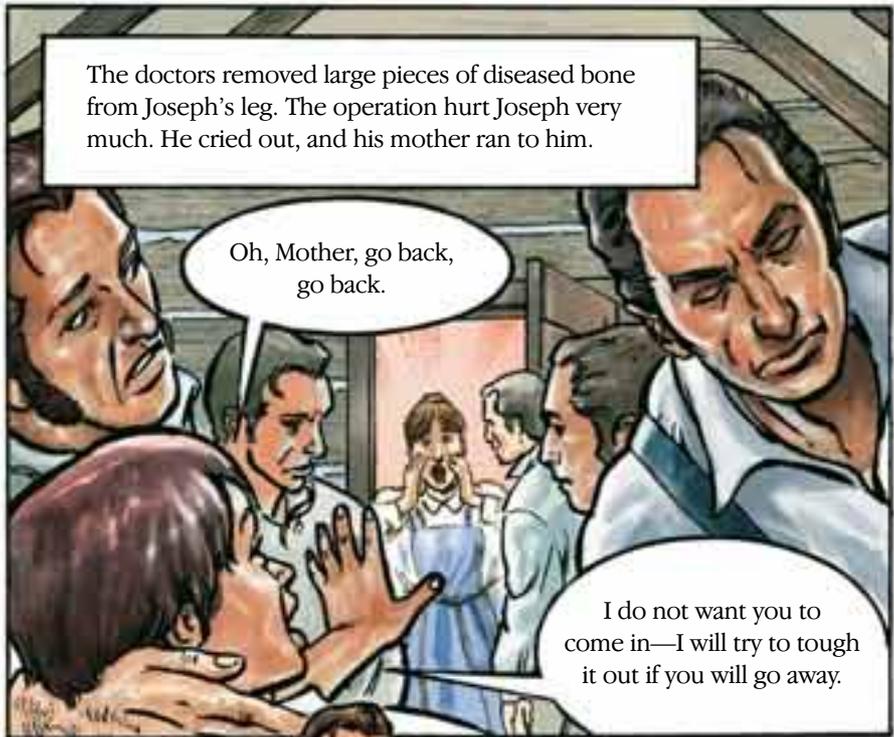
You must take something, or you can never endure the pain.

No. I will not touch one drop of liquor.



Joseph asked his father to sit on the bed and hold him in his arms. He asked his mother to leave the room so she wouldn't see him suffer.

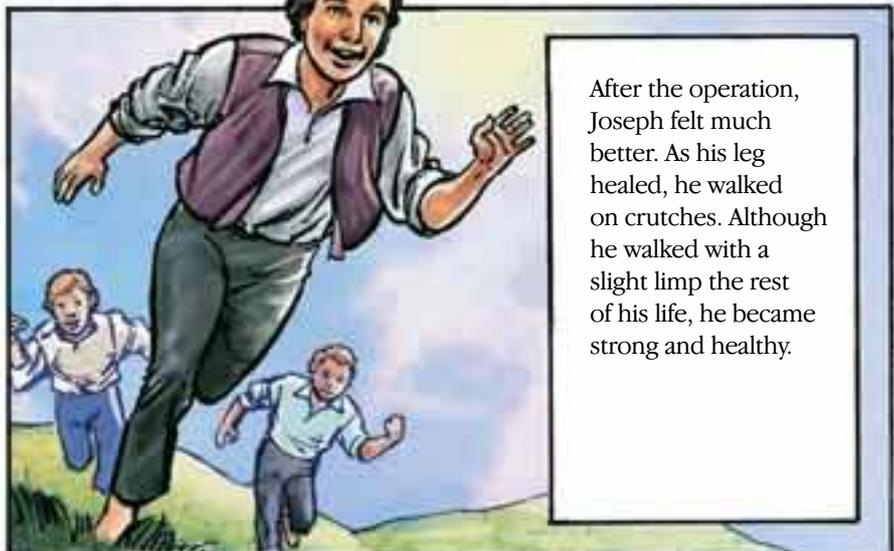
The Lord will help me, and I'll get through it.



The doctors removed large pieces of diseased bone from Joseph's leg. The operation hurt Joseph very much. He cried out, and his mother ran to him.

Oh, Mother, go back, go back.

I do not want you to come in—I will try to tough it out if you will go away.



After the operation, Joseph felt much better. As his leg healed, he walked on crutches. Although he walked with a slight limp the rest of his life, he became strong and healthy.

# My Family History Miracle

*Now this prophecy Adam spake, as he was moved upon by the Holy Ghost, and a genealogy was kept of the children of God (Moses 6:8).*

**BY MATTHEW MANGUM**

(Based on a true story)

**M**y dad had been doing a lot of family history work. I loved hearing about my ancestors who were pioneers, ancestors who fought in the American Revolutionary War, and ancestors who had been kings and knights in Europe.

“How would you like to come to the Family History Library with me on Saturday?” Dad asked one day.

“Sure!” I couldn’t wait to see for myself the royal names on our pedigree chart.

We arrived in Salt Lake City and enjoyed the summer morning sunshine as we walked to the library. I became more and more excited the closer we got. There inside that big building were the names and stories of my own family—pioneers, soldiers, knights, and all.

Once inside, Dad pulled up a couple of chairs in front of a computer. We sat down, and he began navigating through databases to show me where our family tied into a royal line.

“Hmmm.” His forehead furrowed. “I can’t seem to find it today,” he finally said.

I was very disappointed. We spent the rest of the morning looking through books that held stories of my pioneer ancestors. I enjoyed that too, but I still wanted to learn about my other ancestors.

“Don’t worry,” Dad said. “We’ll come back next weekend.”

The week flew by, and soon Dad and I were sitting in front of a computer in the Family History Library again. This time, Dad said, “Aha! Found it.”

He scrolled through names of kings and queens from all over Europe recorded there in my family history! There were so many names and dates that it would take many days to get them all into our family history software. “We’ll have to come back a lot to get all the information we need,” I said.

A woman working on the computer next to us glanced over and saw what we were doing. “I’m related to that line too,” she said. “I’ve been working here every day to get information about those ancestors.” Within minutes, she copied all of her information onto a disc and handed it to Dad.

As we walked back to the car, I thought hard. “Heavenly Father must really want us to find our ancestors, don’t you think, Dad?”

He smiled. “I think you’re right. If we had found the ancestors we were looking for last week, we may not have met our new friend here today. And had we not met her, we would not have been able to find so many of our ancestors so quickly.”

I knew that Heavenly Father had helped us discover almost 1,000 years’ worth of family history in one morning. He loves our ancestors as much as He loves us. We needed to help them just as He had helped us—by finding their names, learning about their lives, and making sure their temple work was done. Someday I will meet them, and we can be an eternal family. ●



“I admonish all families: search out your heritage.

It is important to know . . . those who came before us. We discover something about ourselves when we learn about our ancestors.”

**President Thomas S. Monson,  
First Counselor in the First  
Presidency<sup>2</sup>**

BY JANE MCBRIDE CHOATE

(Based on a true story)

*We through . . . comfort of the scriptures might have hope* (Romans 15:4).

Carly pretended to study her long division, but her mind was on Sara. What do you do for a friend whose mother had died?

Carly and Sara had been best friends since they were in preschool. They'd learned to ride bikes together, taken tap-dance lessons together, and done almost everything together. Carly felt as welcome in Sara's house as she felt in her own.

But two months ago, Sara's mother had died. Carly knew her friend was still hurting because Sara had a

*Understanding.* Carly understood some things that Sara should know.

The next day, Carly wrote her testimony on the inside cover of a copy of the Book of Mormon. She tucked it inside her backpack.

As usual, Carly and Sara sat next to each other in the cafeteria at lunch. "I have something for you," Carly said. She handed Sara the Book of Mormon.

Sara gave Carly a strange look. "What's this?"

"It's one of the scriptures we have in our church. We use it along with the Bible."

Sara opened the book to the page where Carly had

## Something for Sara

funny kind of look on her face all the time—the kind that made Carly want to cry.

She wanted to buy Sara a special gift, but she didn't have very much money. Maybe she could do some extra chores and earn some money that way.

Carly hurried home after school, eager to ask her mother.

"I know you want to help," Mother said after Carly explained her plan. "But the kind of hurt Sara has won't go away by buying her a present."

"I know," Carly said. "I just wanted to remind her that I love her."

Carly thought more about that. How could she best show Sara that she cared? She recalled the blessing her father had given her when he confirmed her a member of the Church: "I bless you with the power of understanding. Use it to bless the lives of others."

written her testimony. She read it, then looked up at her friend. "You never talked about your church before."

Embarrassed, Carly nodded. "I know."

"Why are you giving this to me now?" Sara asked. "Because of Mom dying?"

Carly nodded again. "Reading the Book of Mormon makes me feel good inside. I want you to have that feeling too."

"What kind of feeling?"

Carly hesitated. She had never tried to explain the feelings she had when she read the scriptures. "The kind that makes you feel good right here." She placed a hand over her heart.

The bell rang, signaling the end of the lunch period.

The next day, Sara asked Carly more questions about the Book of Mormon. A soft happiness enfolded Carly. She knew she had given Sara the right gift. ●



# Friends in the News



**Carlos G.**, 5, Manitoba, Canada, has a pig named Redwalk. Carlos likes to play with his train, and hug his family. He loves Jesus Christ, his grandparents, and animals. His mom's noodles are his favorite food.



**Isabel H.**, 10, Maine, plays the piano and draws comic books. She wants to be a detective when she grows up. Her favorite Primary song is "Latter-day Prophets."



**Tobin Jerry P.**, 4, Idaho, likes seeing his friends in Primary. He is memorizing the first three articles of faith. He likes to sing, and he can make his bed very well—even on the top bunk. He is a good brother to his sister and brother.



**Arwynn M.**, 3, California, likes to play with dolls and her older sister. She wants to be a mommy when she grows up. She has been reading the scriptures with her family, and helps to read one verse each night.



**Austin S.**, 6, Missouri, likes to jump on his trampoline with his friend. He enjoys learning new Primary songs, and he reads from the *Friend* at night.



**Hannah S.**, 6, Texas, enjoys playing with her friends and her three brothers. She likes her dance class and drawing pictures. She enjoys reading the scriptures, and going to school and Primary.



**Alyssa Angelica G.**, 12, Utah, likes to draw, ride horses, and go to church activities. She enjoys babysitting her two nephews. She wants to be a professional horse rider when she grows up.



**Joseph and Brynne U.**, 6 and 3, live in Arizona. Joseph is learning to ride his new bike. He likes to color, and play with his friends and little sisters. He enjoys playing basketball. Brynne likes to play with dolls and watch movies. She is excited to be a Sunbeam in Primary.



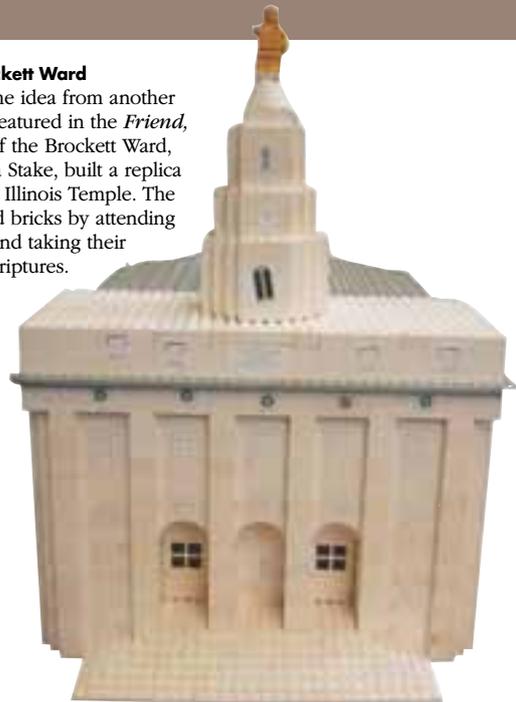
**Sawyer K.**, 9, Utah, is kind and thoughtful. He loves his family, and enjoys playing with his cousins. His favorite food is steak. He is looking forward to serving a mission someday.



**Crystal S.**, 11, California, enjoys writing stories and poems. She likes to garden, sell lemonade, sew, and play sports. She stays close to Heavenly Father by praying.

## Brockett Ward

After getting the idea from another Primary group featured in the *Friend*, the children of the Brockett Ward, Atlanta Georgia Stake, built a replica of the Nauvoo Illinois Temple. The children added bricks by attending church and taking their scriptures.





**Taylor and Brayleigh S.**, 5 and 3, North Carolina, look forward to attending Primary every week. They love the Primary songs and sing all the time. The girls enjoy gymnastics, reading, and trips to the beach. They love Jesus and know He loves them too.

**Branham Ward**

The activity day girls of the Branham Ward, San Jose California South Stake (below), had a "Good Samaritan clean-up day." They cleaned areas around their neighborhood, school, and walking paths. The girls enjoyed the activity.



**Isaac K.**, 5, Alaska, is the youngest of 10 children. He likes to draw and paint, and likes under-the-sea things. He enjoys playing with his new niece.



**Highland Ward**

The Highland Ward, Bloomington Indiana Stake, took a family temple trip to the Louisville Kentucky Temple. The Primary children had lessons and activities about the temple. One of the activities was building a 10-foot-tall model of the temple.



**Benjamin and Brigham P.**, 9 and 6, Arizona, are lovable sons. Benjamin likes animals and has had a dog, guinea pigs, snakes, tarantulas, and lizards as pets. He is imaginative and likes performing. Brigham is good at sports, especially baseball, soccer, and bicycling. He is a good student and friend. He is helpful and kind to others.

**First Ward**

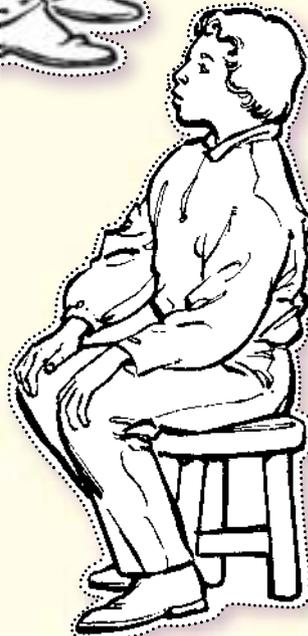
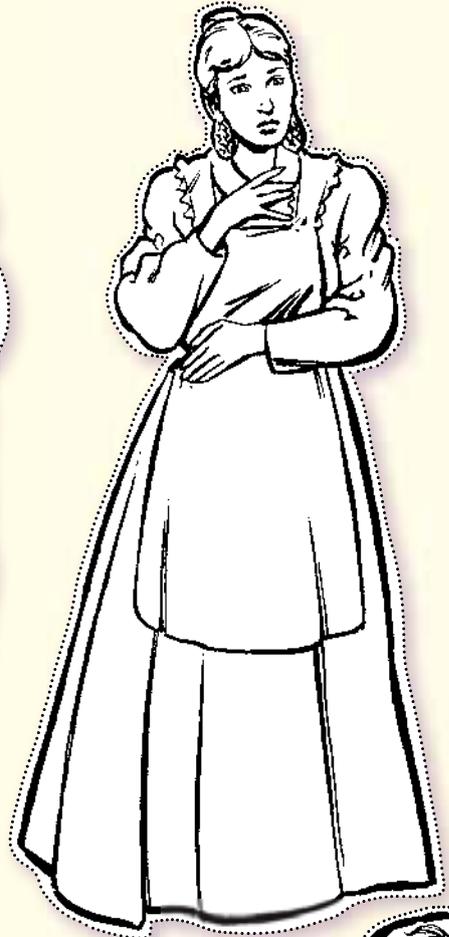
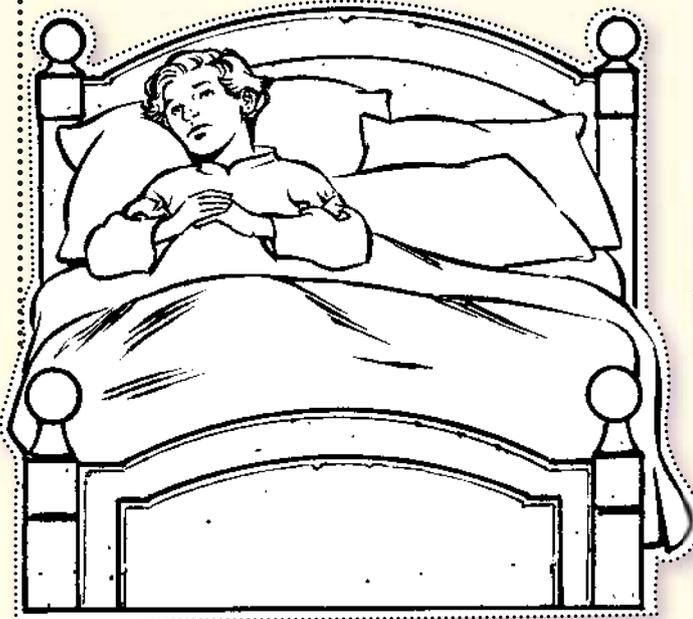
Each child in the First Ward Primary, Ephrata Washington Stake (below), colored pictures on squares of fabric. The squares were sewn into quilts to donate to sick children in the area. This activity was extra special to the children because one of the Primary counselors who helped them with the quilts recently passed away.





## JOSEPH SMITH'S OPERATION

**Instructions:** Color the figures and then remove this page from the magazine. Mount it on heavy paper and cut out the figures. Read the story on pages 40–41. Then retell the story using the figures.





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 February is "The scriptures teach me about Heavenly Father and Jesus and how to return to Them."



## Family Home Evening Ideas

Look for the FHE symbol on the pages mentioned below.

1. Read President Thomas S. Monson's message "Do Your Duty" (pp. 2–3). What kinds of treasures might we find as we do our duties? (A clean conscience; satisfaction; more physical, spiritual, and mental strength.) Choose an object to represent "treasure" and hide it where someone might find it while doing chores this week (the laundry basket, dishwasher, etc.). Reward whomever finds it and let that person hide it for someone else to find.

2. Read "Like Nephi" (pp. 4–6). What stories in the scriptures remind you of something that has happened to you? Fold a piece of paper in half. On one side, draw the scripture story. On the other half, draw the incident from your own life. Talk about each picture. How did the person in the scriptures behave? How did you follow his or her example or how could you in the future?

3. Write down family members' hobbies and talents on pieces of paper. Take turns drawing a paper. Everyone else counts slowly to five while the person tries to name one way the talent could be shared to help someone else. If the person cannot think of an answer, the person to the right has a chance to answer. When all the papers are drawn, read "Lightning Strikes" (pp. 10–12). Discuss how the

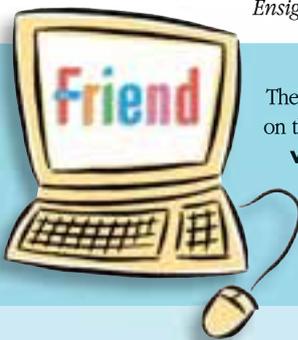
Lord gives us talents not just for us to enjoy but also so we can help others.

4. Complete the activity on pages 24 and 25. How can you show Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ that you love Them? How can you show appreciation for the four blessings shown and other blessings?

5. Read "The Love Drawer" (pp. 28–29). Decorate shoe boxes to be your own love drawers and try to fill each other's boxes throughout the week with kind notes and pictures.

### Sidebar references

1. "With All the Feeling of a Tender Parent: A Message of Hope to Families," *Ensign*, May 2004, 90.
2. "Reverence Invites Revelation," *Ensign*, Nov. 1991, 22.
3. "Repentance and Change," *Ensign*, Nov. 2003, 40.
4. "The Sabbath—A Delight," *Ensign*, Jan. 1978, 4.
5. "Constant Truths for Changing Times," *Ensign*, May 2005, 21.



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(f) = Funstuff  
(IFC) = inside front cover  
(v) = verse

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# What's in the *Friend* this month?



## page 2

What is Rupert's reward for doing his chores?

## page 10

A lightning storm is coming. What does Kent do?



## page 24

Do this activity and discover four ways Heavenly Father has blessed you.

**You Are Loved**

Remove these pages from the magazine and paste them on four heart shapes. Cut out the four heart shapes along the outer edge. Glue the A pieces together back to back and the B pieces together back to back on pieces of paper on the back side. Then cut halfway through each shape on the line by the heavy black line. Slide the two cutouts together so the pictures match up. When you separate the pictures on each side of the heart discussion will show four blessings that Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ have given you because they love you.

Note: If you cannot find a picture, you may draw one. This activity may be used as a group or individual activity.