



Celebrating Each Other's Accomplishments

When I was young we had a special family home evening at the end of each school year. Our parents selected a small but meaningful gift for each of us and wrapped it. We then gathered in the living room, and my parents took out one of the gifts. They read clues they had prepared that corresponded to a member of our family. These clues usually described accomplishments of that family member.

The clues started out

general and grew more specific. At the end of the list, everyone called out the name of the person, which was obvious by this point, and the person stepped forward to open his or her present. This continued until everyone had been recognized and had received a gift.

These family home evenings helped each family member feel accepted and appreciated. They also

brought us closer together as a family as we celebrated the accomplishments of the year. We always took the time afterward to pray

together and thank the Lord for the blessings we received that year. ■

Michael Young, Utah, USA



ILLUSTRATION BY BETH WHITTAKER

HELPS FOR HOME EVENING

“Temple Service and Unexpected Blessings,” on page 24: Summarize the article for your family, emphasizing the blessings the temple workers received as they served in the temple. Ask family members to share how they have been blessed by the Lord’s temples. Encourage children who have not had the opportunity to enter the temple to prepare now to enter.

“Everybody Knows Bleck,” on page 64: Consider singing “Do What Is Right” (*Hymns*, no. 237) as an opening song. Read or summarize the story about Bleck. Ask family members if they have an experience they would like to share about a time when they had to make a tough decision about whether to pursue one path over another and what consequences came from the decision they made. You may want to conclude with the quote by President Thomas S. Monson.

“Thy Will Be Done,” on page 48: Read and discuss the story with your family. Invite family members to see their trials as a way to better align their will with Heavenly Father’s. If appropriate, you may wish to provide an opportunity for family members to bear testimony of the power of the Atonement.



Thy Will Be Done

By Kevin Wells

In September of 2002, I was diagnosed with advanced prostate cancer. The doctor told me that I had a 50 percent chance of surviving the next five years. I had never lived long enough to see my two children get married. I was only 40 years old and had just finished college. I was the youngest child in my family. I was the only one in my family who had never been married. I was the only one in my family who had never had children. I was the only one in my family who had never been a father. I was the only one in my family who had never been a grandfather. I was the only one in my family who had never been a great-grandfather. I was the only one in my family who had never been a great-great-grandfather. I was the only one in my family who had never been a great-great-great-grandfather. I was the only one in my family who had never been a great-great-great-great-grandfather. I was the only one in my family who had never been a great-great-great-great-great-grandfather.

“I have given them the power of my hands.”

“I have given them the power of my hands.”