Remember When?

Although our children are grown and have families of their own, my wife and I still look for ways to have meaningful family home evenings with them. One way we have found to do this is by holding a special family home evening once a year in which we invite all of the family members to share their memories.

Before they come to this special family home evening, we ask them to write down three stories from their lives. We call these "I remember when" stories. During family home evening, each family member takes a turn telling or reading their stories.

We laugh and cry for hours about the experiences. When we are done, we collect the written stories and compile them in our family history book. It is a good way for us to continue building our relationship as a family while creating a family history at the same time.

Douglas Andrew, Utah, USA

ILLUSTRATION BY BETH WHITTAKER

HELPS FOR HOME EVENING

"Taking His Name upon Me," page 8: Read the story by Brother Frandsen and discuss the three ways he took the Savior's name upon him. Consider asking family members how they can take the Savior's name upon them in their everyday lives. Set a goal to implement one of these suggestions, and share your experiences with each other in an upcoming family home evening.

"One Stalwart Pioneer, Many Generations Blessed," page 12: As you share this article with your family, consider discussing how Sara's example influenced her father. Discuss how your example can influence those around you, for good or for bad. Set a goal to be a "stalwart pioneer" every day.

"Did He Really Ask Me That?" page 24: While reviewing the article, identify and compare the concerns felt by the Church members regarding their callings. Read President Monson's quote and then discuss ways to invite Heavenly Father's help in fulfilling your stewardships. Consider reviewing the resources listed under "Receiving Help from Other Sources."

Did He Really Ask Me *That?*

By Joelyn Hansen

I sat and stared in disbelief as Brother Jarman, a member of the branch presidency, waited for my answer.

Maybe he had meant to say *teacher* or *counselor*. But he hadn't. What I heard was correct; he had called me as the Relief Society president in our small branch.

I sat still for some time reflecting on my situation. I was just 27 years old and had never been married. I had recently moved to the area and was beginning a new job as a journalist. My leadership experience was limited. I had served in several callings over the years but never one like this.

Silently I asked myself if I was old enough or experienced enough or if I even had the ability to serve. What could I possibly offer the women of the branch?

I went home that night, knelt in prayer, and asked Heavenly Father for direction. After I finished my prayer, I was instantly drawn to look at my patriarchal blessing. I read this sentence: "You are to be about that work which you were assigned to do now, even while you are young."

As I read those words, I realized that this was not about my marital status, my age, or what I could do. It was about what the Lord *needed me* to do. I accepted the calling.

Through my calling I was able to help people despite our different backgrounds. One woman in particular whom God led me to serve was a woman in her late 20s, a single mother of two children. It didn't take me long to realize that she and I had different lifestyles. I wasn't sure how to be her friend, but in time we did develop a friendship.

On another occasion I met with a less-active woman. I recall entering her home for the first time along with the missionaries and knowing that she had a testimony; she just needed a little bit of "kindling" to help it burn brighter. As we sat in her living room and listened to her, the Spirit was strong and prompted us to bear testimony of the Atonement of Jesus Christ.

In the following months she came to church sporadically. But I was continually led by the Spirit and bore my testimony to her. Today she is active and serving in the branch.

Those were some of the highlights of the calling, but the challenges were numerous. It was a struggle to feel like I was doing enough, to find balance between church and work, and to overcome feelings of inadequacy.

In the end I realized that much of what I was able to do was through the Spirit. I have since been released from the calling and have moved away from that city. But I have often reflected how that calling influenced the sisters—and me. Through it I came to the knowledge that I, as a young single sister, had something to offer others as we grew together in the gospel. Though I felt unqualified for the position, I worked hard to fulfill my calling. And as I did, I felt God's hand guiding me and qualifying me for His work. ■

While we may question our ability to serve in Church calling, the Lord knows us. If we are willing to serve, He can qualify us for His work.

ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE KIMBALL

26 Design

Sustained by His Love

When I received the calling to serve as the student activities leader, I felt completely overwhelmed. I was shy and knew it would be difficult for me to plan activities. Feelings of inadequacy, nervousness, and depression consumed me.

In desperation I turned to Heavenly Father. "How can I do this?" I prayed. "I am small and weak."

Right then, a peaceful, small whisper entered my heart: "Go, my daughter. I love you."

That response from a loving Father strengthened me. Empowered by that prompting, I felt I could do anything. Knowing that He is aware of me, that He loves me, and that He will sustain me was all I needed to fulfill my calling effectively.

I know that whatever our struggles, Heavenly Father loves us and hears our prayers. As we go to Him, we can receive direction and encouragement as we strive to fulfill our callings.

Ye Kyung Koo, Korea

Fulfillment through My Calling

As a single adult, I have found I am able to contribute to my ward and find fulfillment as I serve in different Church callings.

I currently serve as the second counselor in the Young Men presidency.

SEEKING HELP FROM HEAVENLY FATHER

"I would urge all of us to pray concerning our assignments and to seek divine help, that we might be successful in accomplishing that which we are called to do. Someone has said that 'the recognition of power higher than man himself does not in any sense debase him.' He must seek, believe in, pray, and hope that he will find. No such sincere, prayerful effort will go unanswered: that is the very constitution of the philosophy of faith. Divine favor will attend those who humbly seek it."

President Thomas S. Monson, "To Serve, to Do, to Be," Liahona, August Ensign, Nov. 2008, 67.

August 2011 25