

LOST ON

By Erin Hill Littlefield

(Based on a true story)

Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long in the land which the Lord thy God shall give thee (1 Nephi 17:55).

The Ozark Mountains! Karl could hardly wait to see them. The whole last week of school, Karl daydreamed about the backpacking adventure he was going to have as soon as school got out.

Finally, fifth grade was over, and Mom was helping Karl pack his backpack.

“Be sure to pack your bug spray,” she reminded. “And make sure to take your flashlight.”

“OK, Mom,” Karl said. But he was busy thinking about all the animals he hoped to see in the mountains.

“You need to take your whistle too,” Mom added, dropping his whistle into his backpack.

When Mom wasn’t looking, Karl pulled the whistle out of his pack. “I won’t need this,” he thought. “Mom doesn’t understand what adventure is about.”

Early the next morning, Karl and his friends rode in vans to the trailhead. When they finally arrived, all the boys cheered.

Karl was assigned to a trail group. Each group would hike and camp together with their leaders.

After hiking for several hours, Karl began to feel impatient. Several other groups had already passed his. “I’m with all the slowpokes,” Karl thought.

After lunch, Karl decided to blaze ahead. He knew he should tell an adult, but he didn’t want to be stuck with his group anymore.

A few hours later, it began to get dark. Karl couldn’t hear his group anymore. He started to retrace his steps, but as it got darker, he worried that he might fall down a steep incline or stumble near an overlook. He remembered Mom’s reminder to pack his flashlight. “I wish I’d listened better,” he thought.

It was nearly nighttime. Karl unrolled his sleeping bag and found a stick of beef jerky in

*Karl was lost!
If only he had
his whistle.*



THE TRAIL



his backpack. He listened to the strange sounds of the woods at night. Karl knew he had broken an important rule by leaving his group, and he wished he had listened to Mom better before he left.

The next thing Karl knew, something bright woke him up. "You found me!" he yelled happily. But it was only a firefly dancing in front of his face. Karl felt his heart start beating fast. What if no one ever found him?

As soon as the sun rose the next morning, Karl rolled up his sleeping bag and looked through his backpack for something else to eat. At the bottom of the pack he saw the whistle his mother had given him.

"Mom must have put it back in my bag," he thought with relief. Karl knew it was best to stay where he was and wait for the others to find him. He started blowing his whistle as hard as he could, and soon he saw a search party coming down the trail.

When Karl got home, he gave Mom a huge hug. "I'll never forget how important it is to listen to you and follow the rules so I can be safe," he said. Then he handed Mom his whistle for safekeeping. ♦

"Look to your mother. . . Listen to her. . . She will be your greatest source of wisdom."²

Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles



Untangling Feelings

By Marissa Widdison

Part of growing up is learning to become more independent. Even when you know that family members love you and want what's best for you, there may be times when you don't agree with what they say or do. When you are stressed, it's important to talk, share, and find solutions together. Below are examples of what scriptures and prophets teach about getting along with family members.

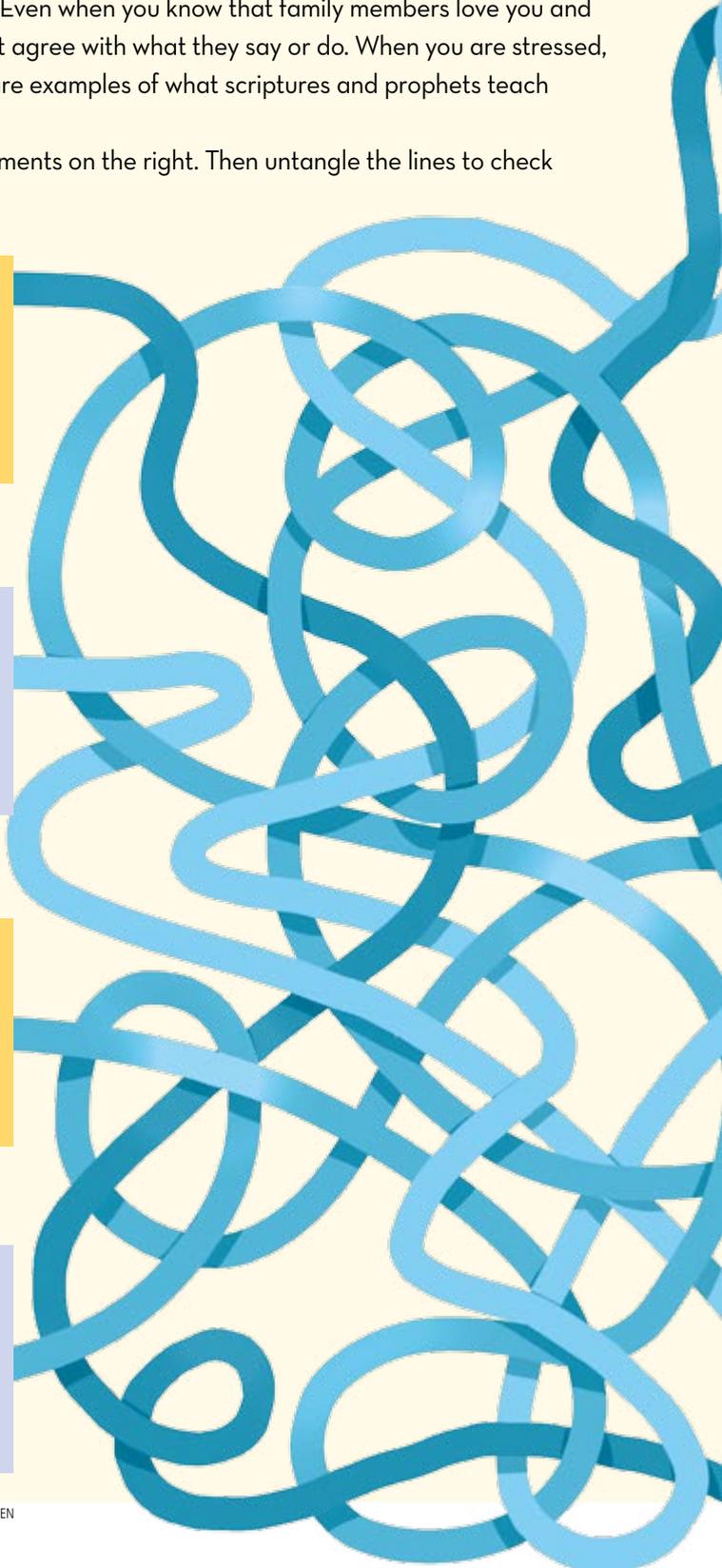
Try to match each story or quote below with one of the statements on the right. Then untangle the lines to check your answers.

1. President Thomas S. Monson taught, "Be honest with your mother and your father. . . . Communicate with them. Avoid the silent treatment" ("Be Thou An Example," *Ensign*, May 2005, 112).

2. When Enos wanted to better understand his father's teachings, he prayed. (See Enos 1:3-4.)

3. Elder L. Tom Perry said he and his wife would take walks around a pond to feel better when they were stressed. (See "Let Him Do It with Simplicity," *Ensign*, Nov. 2008, 7.)

4. When Nephi's father began to murmur about their trials, Nephi still worked with him to find food for their family. (See 1 Nephi 16:20-23.)





I can pray that Heavenly Father will help me and my family members understand one another.



I can talk with my parents when something is bothering me.



I can find safe, healthy ways to let go of upset feelings.



I can treat my family members with respect, even if I don't agree with them.