Family Talent Night

When our kids were young, we used to invite family friends to share a special family home evening with us. We started by having a dinner that our children helped prepare and serve, and then we had a talent night that featured the children's talents. They could sing a song, recite a poem, tell a joke, share artwork, juggle, perform a duet with mom or an acrobatic trick with dad—whatever they wanted to rehearse to share. Our guests were the judges, and they gave awards for best song, funniest joke, most unique act, and so forth. Each child was awarded a certificate for his or her talent and participation. The goal of those family home evenings was to instill in the children's minds the idea of serving and supporting one another and of sharing their talents with others. Our first talent night began a special tradition that we enjoyed for the next few years, with the preparations beginning weeks in advance. ■

Marcia Biewer, Utah, USA

HELPS FOR HOME EVENING

"Sharing the Gospel by Sharing You," on page 18: As you share stories from the article, consider asking your family to think about friends and family members with whom they could share the gospel. Discuss how to follow the counsel given to be a friend and listen with love so that when opportunities to bear testimony come, you will be prepared.

"The Harvest Will Come," on page 49: Consider reading the article together, especially the section entitled "Reference Points." You might want to play a game with family members where you pick out a reference point in the distance and try walking toward it in a straight line. To conclude, you could discuss how to "stay on course" as you go through life.

"Building Faith in Christ," on page 52: At the end of the article, Elder Christofferson talks about faith as a principle of action and of power. He quotes Mormon saying, "Christ hath said: If ye will have faith in me ye shall have power to do whatsoever thing is expedient in me" (Moroni 7:33). As a family, discuss some challenges you face and goals you can set to overcome them. Consider choosing one goal to work on this week, remembering that with Christ's help, we have the power to do all things. Write down the goal and set a date to report to one another how you are doing.

By Elder D. Todd Christofferson
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

BUILDING FAITH IN
Christ

There is much we can do to influence and expand the endowment of faith we receive through the Holy Spirit.

The Apostle Paul provides perhaps the best-known definition of faith: "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). Alma adds that the things hoped for and not seen "are true" (Alma 32:21).

Faith in Jesus Christ is the conviction and assurance of (1) His status as the Only Begotten Son of God, (2) His infinite Atonement, and (3) His literal Resurrection—and all that these fundamental realities entail for us.

Paul includes faith in his list of spiritual gifts (see 1 Corinthians 12:9). Faith indeed comes by the Spirit, yet as the Bible Dictionary notes, "Although faith is a gift, it must be cultured and sought after until it grows from a tiny seed to a great tree." There is much we can do to influence and expand the endowment of faith we receive through the Holy Spirit.

Faith Comes by Hearing the Word of God

The first intimations of faith in Jesus Christ come by hearing the word of God—the gospel of Jesus Christ. When that teaching is given and received by the Holy Ghost, "the Spirit of truth" (see D&C 50:17–22), the seed of faith in Christ is planted. Paul taught this to the Romans when explaining that all may receive the gift of faith: "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17). In other words, faith cometh by hearing the message that is the word, or gospel, of Christ.

As he describes the ministry of angels, Mormon tells us that it has always been the pattern that faith comes by hearing the gospel:

"And the office of their [the angels'] ministry is to call men unto repentance, and to fulfil and to do the work of the covenants of the Father, which he hath made unto the children of men, to prepare the way among the children of men, by declaring the word of Christ unto the chosen vessels of the Lord, that they may bear testimony of him.

"And by so doing, the Lord God prepareth the way that the residue of men may have faith in Christ, that the Holy Ghost may have place in their hearts, according to the power thereof, and after this manner bringeth to pass the

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