riend

BUILD your testimony!

See pages 24-2!



### How Our Family Uses the Friend



surprised when we cracked the eggs and confetti fell on him! We loved learning about new countries and doing games, crafts, and recipes from them.

Zach, Madie, and Andy M., ages 1, 4, and 6, Illinois, USA

### Dear Friends,

How do you find someone you can serve? Meet Tyler on page 14. He and his family found someone to serve right next door!

Read how others served on page 27.

Keep sending us your "helping hands"!

Keep serving!

Was there a
letter or a story in
this month's issue that
helped you? Tell us about
it. Turn to page 48
to find out how.

The Friend

#### Feeling the Spirit



henever I read the *Friend*, I really feel the Spirit. My most favorite story is "I Felt the Holy Ghost," from June 2014. The *Friend* is wonderful!

Ashton B., age 9, Missouri, USA

#### **Choosing Modesty**



really liked the story "The Orange Shirt" (May 2013) because it teaches us how it's important to be modest at all times and at all ages.

Elena B., age 12, Utah, USA

#### Happy and Peaceful

fton likes reading the stories in the *Friend* because they make her feel happy and peaceful. Her favorite story is "The Coat" (March 2012). Meara likes learning about the Holy Ghost in the *Friend*. Her favorite story is "What Was I Thinking?" (May 2014).

Afton, Rowan, and Meara D., ages 8, 3, and 5, Virginia, USA







Primary Connection Find stories and activities to go with this month's sharing time theme and lessons.

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#### **Hidden CTR Rings**

Level 1: Ready, set, go! Level 2: A sinking feeling

Level 3: No hint!

#### Cover by Mark Jarman

#### Volume 45 Number 4 April 2015

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FROM THE FIRST PRESIDENCY



# Back to Your Heavenly Home

#### By President Dieter F. Uchtdorf

Second Counselor in the First Presidency

This story begins a very long time ago, when you lived in a faraway, beautiful place.

In that premortal place, you knew that God existed because you saw and heard Him. You knew Jesus Christ. You had faith in Him. And you knew that your destiny was not to stay in the security of your premortal home. You knew you wanted and needed to **embark** on a journey. You would depart from the arms of your Father, pass through a veil of forgetfulness, receive a mortal body, and learn and experience things that hopefully would help you grow to become more like Father in Heaven and return to His presence. It wouldn't

be easy, but you knew it was worth every effort.

In the end, you knew God would triumph. You knew that your Savior and Redeemer, Jesus Christ, would provide a way for you to be cleansed from sin and rescued from physical death. You had faith that, in the end, you would rejoice.

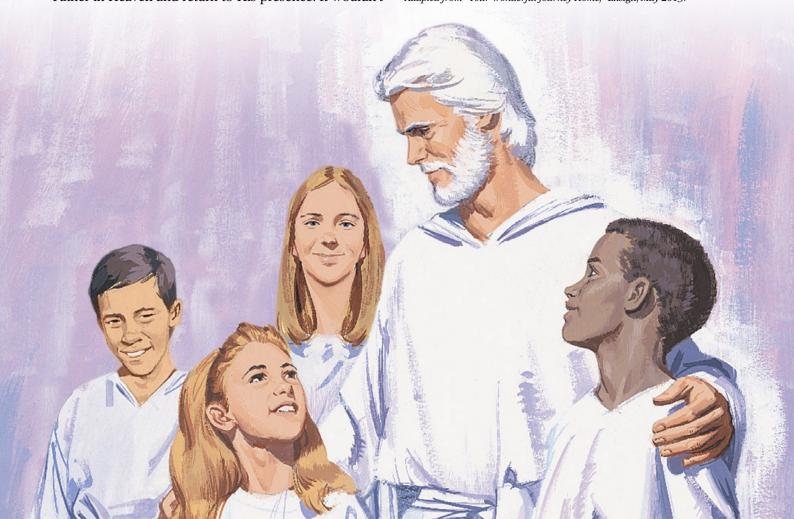
And so, you took a deep breath . . .

And a great step forward . . .

And here you are!

You have, each one of you, embarked on your own wonderful journey back to your heavenly home!

Adapted from "Your Wonderful Journey Home," Ensign, May 2013.



# LEFT: ILLUSTRATION BY PAUL MANN; RIGHT: ILLUSTRATIONS BY STEVE KROPP

### YOUR GUIDEBOOK

The Book of Mormon is a guidebook that tells us what we need to do to get back to our heavenly home. Match each picture with the correct verse. You will need to use one verse twice.



Repent and be baptized.



Have bright hope.



Love God and all people.



Follow Jesus.

2 Nephi 31:10 2 Nephi 31:11 2 Nephi 31:20

#### YOUR MAP

Heavenly Father has given us a map to return home to Him! We find this map

- in the scriptures
- in the words of prophets and apostles
- and through personal revelation from the Holy Ghost



Three Degrees of Glory (D&C 76:50-53, 77-79, 98-102)



Premortal Life (D&C 138:55-56)

# PLAN OF HAPPINESS SCRAMBLE

Our Heavenly Father wants us to return to live with Him, so He created a plan! Put these pictures in the right order, and talk about the plan of salvation at your next family home evening. Check your answers on page 48.



III. II

Spirit World (D&C 138:5-15)

Earth Life (D&C 59:23)



Resurrection (D&C 88:14-17)



Final Judgment (Alma 11:44)

# APRIL'S NEW WHEELCHAIR

#### By David Dickson

Church Magazines (Based on a true story)

"I have a family here on earth. They are so good to me" (Children's Songbook, 188).

ey, April!" April's big brother Brad walked into her bedroom with a huge smile on his face. "Ready to get your new racing wheels?" Brad was going to drive April to pick up her wheelchair today.

"Yeah, I guess," April said. She was glad to be leaving her house at last. She couldn't believe it had been over two months since her bicycle accident! And the whole time she'd been stuck in a hospital bed in her room.

But she was also nervous about figuring out wheelchairs. She wasn't allowed to even stand up yet, so she'd need to use one for at least a month. Yuck.

"Mavbe we can find one with flames painted on the side," Brad said. He was still smiling. April tried smiling back, but she still felt sad and a little scared. April prayed silently to feel happier.

The next few hours passed by in a slow, cloudy blur. The people at the medical supply store gave her a boring, plain old black wheelchair. Then they taught her a few things about how to use it. But it was all so complicated. It was so much easier when she could just walk!

Soon they were heading back home. April looked out the car window. It was nice to see big trees and puffy clouds again. But somehow it didn't make her feel happy like she used to feel before she got hurt.

"Oh, I forgot to mention that I need to buy something at the mall," Brad said as he turned the car into the mall parking lot. "It shouldn't take long."

That seemed strange to April. Why wouldn't he just go to the mall later on his own?

In the mall parking lot, Brad got the wheelchair out of the car. He pushed April in it for a short way. Then he stopped.

"Ready to give it a go yourself?" Brad asked.

"Um, okay . . ." April pushed down on the wheels and

rolled forward slowly. It was hard!

"This way," Brad said. "You can do it." He walked toward the entrance to the mall.

April gripped the wheels uncertainly. She would have to turn the wheelchair. She tried doing what the people at the medical store had taught her, but it took forever.

How was she supposed to get around if she could barely even turn this dumb wheelchair once? Would she ever be her old self again?

Brad held the door open with a mischievous smile. April knew that smile well. What was he planning?

"See that elevator?" Brad said after they got through the doors.



April was nervous about her new wheelchair. But her big brother had a plan.

April peered down the long empty hallway in the mall. The elevator was clear at the end.

"Race ya!" Brad said. Then he took off running. April blinked. Race? How could *she* race?

But Brad's laughter sparked something inside her. April started pushing down on her wheels as hard as she could. Soon she was catching up! She couldn't believe it!

Before she realized it, April started laughing along with Brad. The storefronts passed in a blur as April chased her brother. The whole way they both laughed so hard they could barely breathe.



My brother went to the hospital, and I had just gotten a coupon for ice cream, so I decided to secretly get him ice cream. When we got home, I felt happy because I thought I did what Jesus would do.

Amzie B., age 8, Virginia, USA

and made it to the elevator first. "I win!" she yelled with a laugh. Brad had probably let her win, but she didn't mind. She felt great.

"I knew you could do it!" Brad said.

April looked at her big brother's kind smile. This time she had a smile of her own to match. Brad was right. She *could* do this. It might not be easy, but she could make this work until she got all the way better.

*Thank you, Heavenly Father,* she prayed silently. *Thank you for giving me such a great family.* 

"Next time I'll give you an even bigger head start," April said. "You're gonna need it!" 🔷



### Family Fun



Read "April's New Wheelchair" (page 4). Brad showed his sister love through his simple act of kindness. We can also show our love for Jesus Christ every day by doing random acts of kindness for those around us.

#### THE RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS WALL

Choose a place where your family can tape notes—a wall, mirror, or door. On the notes, write about the nice things other people have done for you. See how many kind things your family can do for each other this month! Random acts of kindness don't have to be big or cost money. Here are some things you can do at home or school!

Write a note to someone you love

Give away toys and books you don't use

Make someone smile

Give up your spot in line

Smile at someone

Clean up a mess you didn't

Sit by someone new at lunch

Give someone a hug

Hold

open the door for

someone

Give a nice compliment

CHOCOLATE CARAMEL CRACKERS

Share this tasty treat with someone as a random act of kindness! Be sure to get an adult's help with this recipe.

50 saltines or soda crackers

1 cup butter

1 cup brown sugar

1 1/2 cups semisweet chocolate chips

1/2 cup chopped nuts (optional)





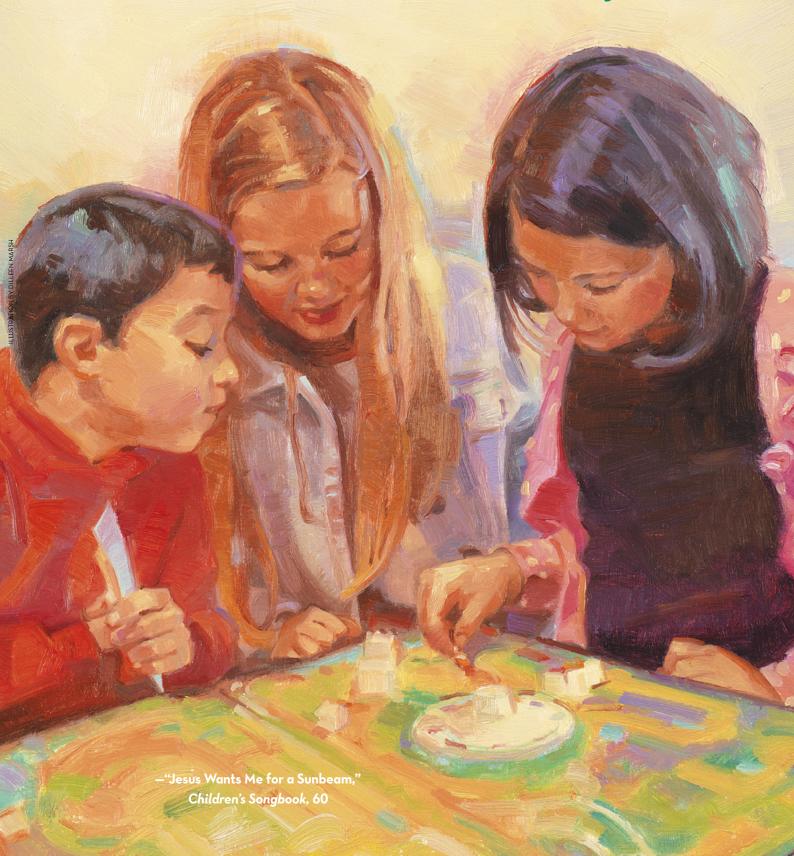
- 1. Line an 11x17-inch (28x43-cm) baking sheet with aluminum foil. Put the crackers in a single layer across the bottom of
- 2. Stir the sugar and butter in a saucepan on medium heat until it starts to bubble. Boil for 3 minutes stirring constantly. Pour it over the crackers right away and spread it out quickly.
- 3. Bake at 350°F (180°C) for 12-14 minutes, until the caramel is bubbly but not burned. Pull out the pan and sprinkle the chocolate chips on top. Let it sit for 5 minutes, and then spread out the melted chocolate. Sprinkle with nuts.
- 4. Refrigerate the crackers for an hour, and then break into pieces and store in an airtight container.



Play with your siblings



"Jesus wants me for a sunbeam, to shine for Him each day."



# Cheering Up

By John Starley Allen

(Based on a true story)

"Have I cheered up the sad and made someone feel glad?" (Hymns, no. 223).

o you want to help me in the garden today?" Mike's grandpa asked.

"Sure!" Mike said.

Mike loved gardening with Grandpa. The garden had all sorts of flowers, but their favorites were the roses. Mike helped Grandpa water and trim the rose bushes all summer. It didn't feel like work—it was too fun!

When fall came, Mike and Grandpa

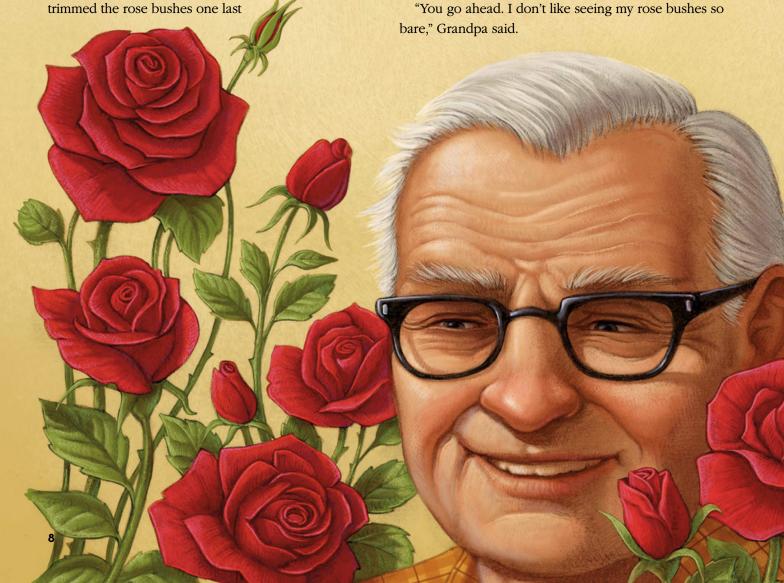
time for the year. When they were done, Grandpa said, "These bushes look so healthy! I think next year's garden will be our best yet."

That winter Mike's grandma passed away. At her funeral Mike put his arm around Grandpa when he saw him crying. "I'm sorry, Grandpa. I love you," he said.

"I love you too," Grandpa said with tears in his eyes.

Day after day, it was hard for Mike to see Grandpa look so sad. One day Mike thought Grandpa might enjoy walking through the garden. But as soon as Grandpa saw the frozen rose bushes, he turned around.

"You go ahead. I don't like seeing my rose bushes so



# Grandpa

Mike helped Grandpa walk back to his recliner.

Maybe he'll be happier when spring comes, Mike thought.

Then we can work in the garden again.

When spring came, Mike came to help Grandpa trim the rose bushes. They worked in the garden just like before, but Grandpa hardly ever smiled.

Mike prayed to know how to help Grandpa feel happy again. One morning an idea popped into his head: *Look in the newspaper*.

That's strange, Mike thought. How would that help Grandpa feel better? Then the thought came again. So he looked through the newspaper.

This is a waste of time, Mike thought. Then something caught his eye: "Now taking nominations for Gardener of the Year." Mike didn't understand the word nominations. But it said that readers could send in a letter about a gardener they knew. The newspaper editor would read the letters and choose a Gardener of the Year.

Mike asked Mom to write a letter about Grandpa. "Well, it's your idea," she said. "So maybe you should write it. But I'll help you."

Mike wrote about how Grandpa was a great gardener. He wrote about how much fun they had working together in the garden. And he told about how happy his grandpa would be if he won the award.



"We are surrounded by those in need of our attention, our encouragement, our support, our comfort, our kindness."

President Thomas S. Monson
"What Have I Done for Someone Today?" Ensign, Nov. 2009, 86.

surprise visit while he and Mike were working in the garden. A newspaper reporter said that she was writing a story about him.

"Why?" he asked.

"Because you've been chosen as Gardener of the Year!" she said.

Grandpa smiled big and said, "What? I can't believe it!" Mike had missed seeing Grandpa smile like that.

Later that week Mike, Mom, and Grandpa went to a special dinner to honor Grandpa. The people from the newspaper gave Grandpa an award and asked him to give a speech. Grandpa talked about how he enjoyed gardening with Mike and how much he loved flowers. Just before he sat down, Grandpa smiled right at Mike and said, "This year, we're going to have one of the best rose gardens ever!"

The author lives in Utah, USA.

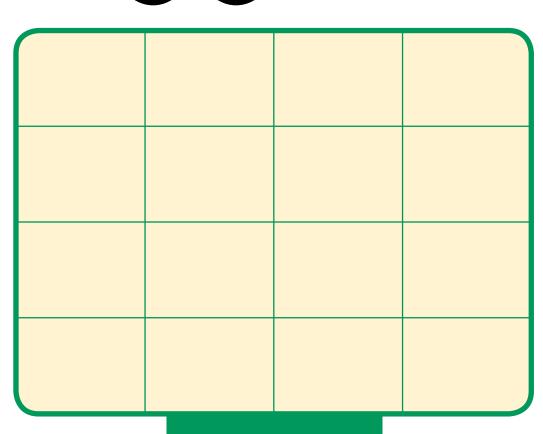




# While You're Watching Conference

#### Conference Bingo

Before conference starts, fill in the empty squares with the words below. When you hear a speaker say one of the words, put a button, piece of candy, or other small marker on that square. The first person to connect four squares (across, down, or diagonal) is the winner! Then clear the board and play again. Print more copies at friend.lds.org.





Articles of Faith baptism blessing Book of Mormon

service faith family Joseph Smith love missionary Nephi pioneer

prayer priesthood **Primary** temple

#### Tie Time

Chloe S., age 7, from Montana, USA, drew the ties and necklaces she saw during general conference. How many can you draw this conference?



Go to gc.lds.org for more conference activities!

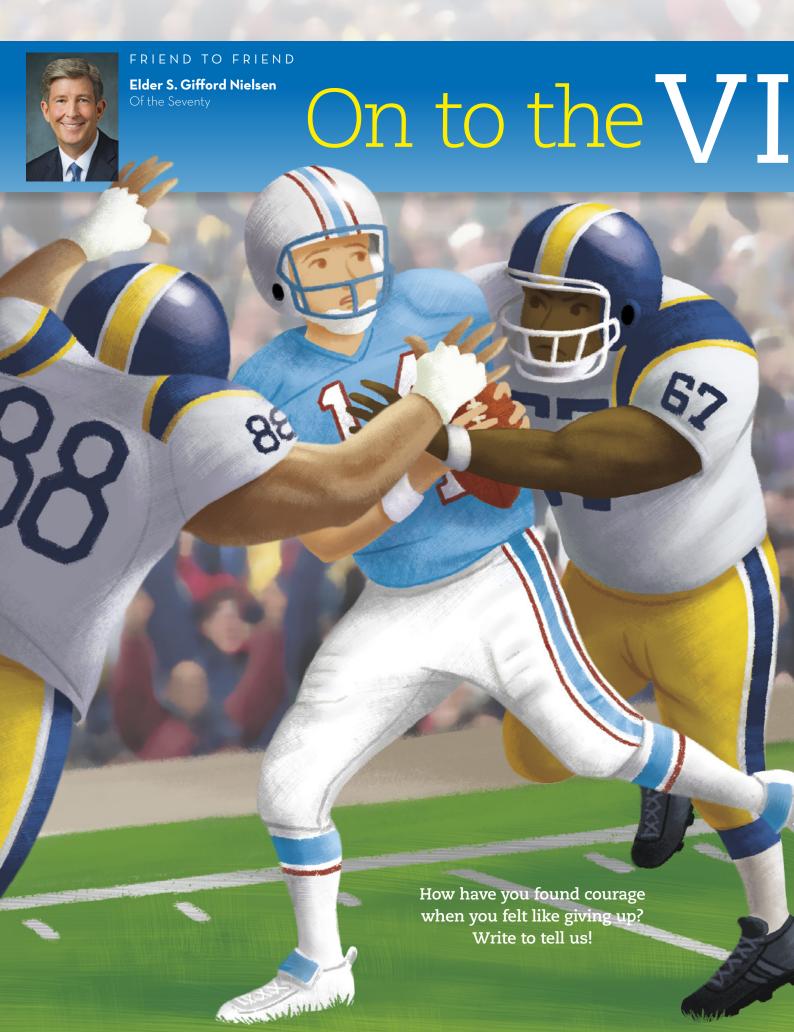


### Courage and Clubs





love Jesus, and I want to be like Him.



# CTORY!

"Be strong and of a good courage" (Joshua 1:9).

hat do you love to do? I've always enjoyed playing sports. After trying different sports, I settled on American football. Through hard work and great coaching, I became an All-American quarterback in college. When I graduated, I joined the Houston Oilers professional football team.

I'll never forget that first game. The other team's defensive linemen were bigger than any I'd ever gone against. I was nervous! In my first big play, two huge players tackled me at the same time—harder than I'd ever been tackled before. My leg throbbed, my shoulder ached, and I wanted to quit right then. I had a decision to make. Would I give in to my fears, or would I have the courage to keep trying?

I couldn't just give up, so I got up and played with all my might! Through courage and lots of teamwork, we won the game. I learned a lesson I've never forgotten: never quit when things get tough.

The Prophet Joseph Smith showed courage when he faced challenges that were much harder than playing a football game. In 1842 he was accused of a crime that he didn't commit. He had to go into hiding in a cramped attic. He was worried about what might happen to his family, the Church, and himself. The only thing he could do in that crowded space was write.

What would you write if you were hiding in an attic, worried and afraid? I think I'd write a letter asking for help. But that's not what the Prophet did. He wrote letters that became Doctrine and Covenants 127–128, teaching about baptisms for the dead! He also encouraged the Saints with these words: "Courage, brethren; and on, on to the victory!" (D&C 128:22).

We can be brave in the face of hard challenges, just like Joseph Smith. We need courage to stay true to our standards, especially as the world becomes more confused about what's right and wrong. It takes courage to stand for our beliefs or to keep trying when life seems hard. With the Lord's help, we can do all things!

We were not put on earth to be average. We came here to be noble and great! I'm not part of a football team anymore, but I can always be on the Lord's team. And so can you! It's the greatest team anyone can join. On His team we can learn to have the courage to go on, on to the ultimate victory!

From an interview by Katherine Nelson



### Hi, I'm Tyler!

Ever since I was little, my family has always helped our elderly neighbors. I think of them as my good friends. It makes me feel good to help them because I know it's what the Savior would do if He were here.

# FRENDS

From an interview by Amie Jane Leavitt

Years ago my family made friends with an elderly lady named Yvonne. One day, she got really sick and my family called 911. It saved her life!

#### Service Makes Me Happy

I think everyone should serve. Service helps others and makes us feel grateful for our blessings.





#### **Sharing Dinner**

For the past five years, my family has helped our friend Wanda, who lives next door. She is 93 years old! Every Sunday, my family takes dinner to her. When she fell down and got hurt last year, we took dinner to her every night.



# CLL ACES)

#### GIVE US A HAND!

How do you follow Jesus by helping others? Trace your hand, and send us your story and photo. Find out how on page 48.



#### HOW YOU

- Think about the elderly people you know. What can you do to help them?
- Make a card and go with an adult to take it to an elderly person in your ward or neighborhood.
- See if your family or Primary class can go sing at a care center.

#### 12 Days of Christmas

One year we did the 12 Days of Christmas for Wanda. Every night for 12 days, we dropped off a gift on Wanda's porch. It was fun to sneak up, ring the doorbell, and then run away before she could catch us!

#### Sing a Song of Gladness

When it got closer to Christmas Day, we went over as a family and sang carols with Wanda. Afterward we drank hot chocolate and ate cookies. It was a fun night!



I Want to Be a **PEDIATRIC TRANSPORT NURSE** 

#### What is a pediatric transport nurse?

Pediatric transport nurses travel in helicopters, airplanes, or ambulances to bring children to hospitals when they need medical attention quickly. We can land our helicopter right where a child is to help and comfort them until we can bring them to the hospital. We can land near their homes, on roads and highways, or even on mountainsides!

Many times children must go to a special hospital that has doctors trained especially to make them better. When that happens we can take children right to the doctor and hospital that can give them the best care.

#### What do you enjoy most about your job?

I love taking care of children and seeing them happy and healthy. When children get sick or hurt far away from a hospital, I can do something to help them get better.

#### What did you have to learn to do this job?

I wanted to be the best nurse I could be. I studied at a university and got a special degree in nursing. I spent many years learning important skills to care for children. As I studied nursing, I realized that

Heavenly Father created our bodies. And He gave doc-

tors and nurses the talents to help patients get better.

#### How does your job help you serve others?

When I work with children, I feel close to my Heavenly Father. I know that when I share my talents and skills, I'm following Heavenly Father's plan for me.

Sometimes doctors and nurses see sad things in their work. I know when we come to earth, we sometimes must go through difficult times. But I am happy because I know Heavenly Father loves each of us very much. Being a nurse helps me share comfort, love, healing, and hope with my patients and their families.

Spread cucumber slices with cream cheese. Add ham, turkey, or other toppings in between!



#### Give Us a Hand

So far, you've sent us 2562 stories about caring and helping!

Go to page 48 to find out how to send us your "helping handprint"!

Leo L., age 8, Utah, USA

#### Stand Tall

"I will use the names of Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ reverently. I will not swear or use crude words."

-My Gospel Standards

How do you keep your words clean and kind?



#### Chalk Creations!

Ask an adult if you can draw on your sidewalk, or draw on pieces of paper taped together.

Masterpieces: Draw a big copy of a picture from the Friend. It's a great way to be a missionary!

Shadow Match: Find five objects and trace their shadows. Then have a friend match the objects and shapes.

Big Board Game: Draw a huge game board and move around it as your own game piece!



For Easter, Landon H., age 10, Utah, **USA**, drew a chalk picture of the cover of the April 2013 Ensign. What Easter picture could you draw?

ABOVE: ILLUSTRATION BY THOMAS S. CHILD; RIGHT: BY VAL CHADWICK BAGLEY

# By Juliann Tenney Doman

(Based on a true story)

"He hears and answers me when I pray in faith" (Children's Songbook, 14).

Tenny came home from school, dropped her backpack off in her room, and slumped down on the couch.

"What's wrong?" Mom asked.

Jenny sighed. "Today

Mrs. Patterson gave

All sorts of problems were coming up at school. What could Jenny do?

each of us three paper flowers. If anyone talks during quiet time, we have to give someone one of our flowers." Mom nodded.

"Emily keeps saying I need to give her a flower. But I'm not even talking!"

"Have you talked to your teacher? Maybe she can help," Mom said. "But sometimes when people act like that, they really just want a friend."

Jenny scrunched up her forehead. "It seems like a strange way to show you want a friend."

"I know. But if you pray, Heavenly Father will show you how to be a friend to Emily."

That night Jenny prayed for help. She asked Heavenly Father to help her know what to say when Emily asked for her flowers.

At school the next day, her teacher announced that she would retire soon. A lump grew in Jenny's throat. She loved Mrs. Patterson! Jenny wanted to cry as she

thought about how empty her school would feel

next year. Later she went home and told her mom about Mrs. Patterson leaving.

"I'm sorry," Mom said. "I bet Mrs. Patterson is sad too."

Jenny nodded. "Maybe our class could buy her a new wind chime. She loves those."

"Great idea! Let's go to the store tomorrow. You could invite some friends to come too," Mom said.

Jenny smiled. She was excited to give Mrs. Patterson a present.

"Speaking of other kids, did you talk to Emily today?" Mom asked.

Jenny shrugged. "She kept asking for flowers again. I didn't know what to do, so I just gave them to her. I prayed for help last night, but it's not getting any better."

"Don't give up," Mom said. "Heavenly Father hears your prayers. Just keep praying, and you'll know what to do."

and the girls smiled at each other. *Mom was right*, Jenny thought. *Maybe she just wanted a friend!* 

As Jenny turned to her desk, she felt happy inside. Heavenly Father had heard her prayers! She was sad to lose her favorite teacher, but she was happy to gain a new friend. •

The author lives in Colorado, USA.

That night Jenny prayed again for help with Emily. When she got to class the next morning, she quietly sat down at her desk next to Emily.

Almost immediately Emily told Jenny to give her a paper flower.

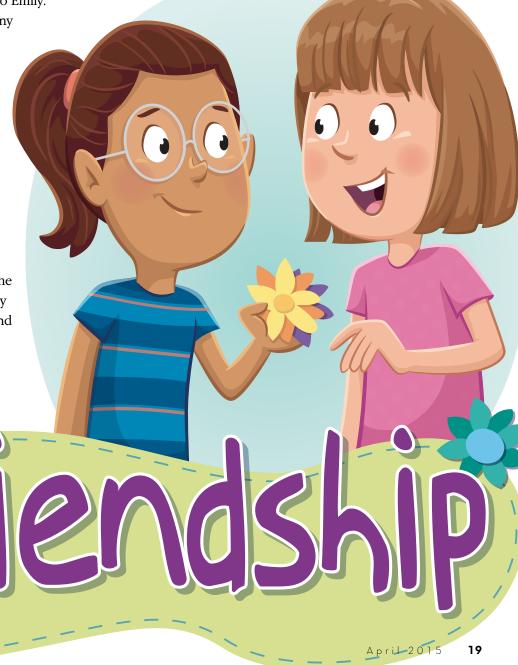
Jenny hesitated. Suddenly she

Jenny hesitated. Suddenly she knew what to say. "Emily, I have a question for you." She paused and took a deep breath. "I want to buy Mrs. Patterson a new wind chime, and I need help picking one out. Do you want to come shopping with my mom and me?"

Emily's face lit up. "Really?

I guess I could help you." She looked down at her hands. Then she reached into her desk. She carefully pulled out several paper flowers and handed them to Jenny.

"I'm sorry I took your flowers."
Jenny reached for the flowers,



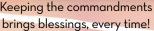


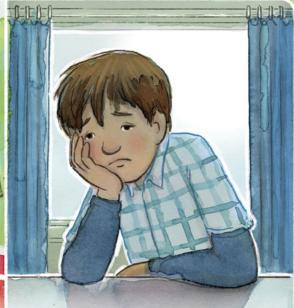
By Elder Russell M. Nelson Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

The members of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles are special witnesses of Jesus Christ.

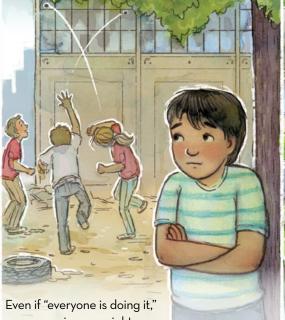
# Why is being so important

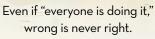






Breaking the commandments brings a loss of blessings, every time!







When you are obedient to God, you are letting your faith show.

# OBEYING Mom and Dad

hen Elder Russell M. Nelson was a boy, he learned to obey his parents. Sometimes Russell didn't want to get out of bed in the morning. His dad had a special way of helping him. He would come into Russell's room and sing loudly, "Up, up, the sun is up, the dew is on the grass!"

Russell knew his dad was trying to help him. He obeyed his dad and got out of bed, even though he was tired. When Russell became a dad, he followed his dad's example. He sang to his children in the morning to help them wake up too.

For Christmas one year, Russell's parents gave him a shiny black bike. When Russell was 10, his dad asked him to come work as his errand boy. He would send Russell on his bike to deliver and pick up things all over town. Russell met lots of new and interesting people. He was excited to help!

Later Russell used the money he earned from his job as an errand boy to buy his mom a present on *his* birthday! He wrote her a note that said, "Thanks for having me!"

Russell's parents didn't go to church very often. But they taught him how to pray and sent him to church every Sunday. When he was a teenager, he gained his own testimony. He knew Heavenly Father loved him, and he decided to always obey Him. When he got older,

his parents started going to church too.

#### 5 FACTS ABOUT ELDER NELSON

Born in Salt Lake City on September 9, 1924

The M in his name stands for Marion

Helped to develop openheart surgery

Has nine daughters and one son

Became an Apostle in April 1984



Print more tags for your "sleuth kit" at friend.lds.org.



#### Hidden Picture

#### By Valerio Fabbretti

This family watches general conference on their home computer. Can you find the objects below? Find more hidden pictures at **children.lds.org.** 



telephone
Book of Mormon
clock
apple

cat
umbrella
the Friend magazine
fish bowl

tennis racket basketball



ur Father in Heaven has given us tools to build a strong testimony. Cut out the tools and toolbox. Glue the toolbox to an envelope. As a family, talk about how you can make each tool part of your daily life. Then put the tools in the toolbox. Keep it where it will remind your family how to build a strong testimony.



#### **SCRIPTURE STUDY**

The scriptures are one way that Heavenly Father speaks to us. We should read the scriptures, think about them, and then do what the Spirit teaches us. Making time to read the scriptures is very important! It's more important than television shows, video games, or social media.

**Promised blessings:** You will have peace in your heart and strength to overcome temptations. Your personal peace will make the world a better place. Your faith in Jesus Christ will grow stronger.



#### **GOING TO THE TEMPLE**

The temple is the most peaceful place on earth. We can all either get a temple recommend or set a goal to get one someday. Make time to be in and around the temple.

**Promised blessings:** You will feel peace and learn about the Savior. You will learn about your family's history as you prepare names to take to the temple.

#### **PRAYER**

Heavenly Father wants us to talk to Him often.
He wants us to share our thoughts and feelings with Him. He wants to hear about everything—the good, the bad, the boring, the challenging, and the exciting. We need to pray morning and night.

#### **Promised blessings:**

Your heart will be filled with peace. You will be more able to overcome challenges. You will be protected from worldly influences.

#### FAMILY HOME EVENING

We should set aside a night each week for our family to be at home together. We shouldn't let sports, homework, or anything else become more important than this time together. Family home evening should be a safe, happy time when we can talk with each other, share testimonies, and have fun!

#### **Promised blessings:**

You can have less stress in your life. Your family will be guided and protected.



## Show and tell



After I earned my black belt in tae kwan do, I went to a special ceremony for all the new black belts. Before it started, my instructor told us what we would do during the ceremony, which included drinking tea. I knew Heavenly Father said not to drink tea. I explained to my instructor why I could not drink tea. He let me drink water instead. My mother said she was proud of

me for honoring my baptismal covenants and sharing my beliefs. I know following Heavenly Father's commandments will always make me happy.

Joseph R., age 10, Texas, USA



Emma and Sophie C., both age 5, Idaho, USA, might look the same, but they are very different. Emma likes princesses and rainbows. Sophie likes superheroes and dinosaurs. One way they are the same is that they both love going to Primary every Sunday.



Ella B., age 8, London, England



have anxiety, which is when you get very nervous. It is not fun to have! On the other hand, I am kind of glad to have it because it helps me grow stronger in faith, prayer, and testimony. Heavenly Father helps

me through hard times to overcome my anxiety.

Annalise D., age 10, Texas, USA



### HELPING HANDS



I babysat my little brothers.

Matthew W., age 9, Utah, USA



I help pass out the sacrament program.

Jayden S., age 5, Hawaii, USA



I helped mow the lawn. **Luke H., age 4, Utah, USA** 



I did the laundry for my mom.

Jared Y., age 11, Hawaii, USA



I helped my mom with dishes. Shad J., age 5, Arizona, USA



I watched my brother when my mom was doing a project. Emma B., age 8, Iowa, USA



I helped my sister, Lili, clean up her puzzle.

Seva M., age 5, Georgia USA



I helped my mom make coconut cookies.

Naomi H., age 6, Utah, USA



I earned money for the missionaries.

Nicole F., age 10, Utah, USA



I was extra nice to a new girl in school, and we became best friends.

Georgia K., age 9, Connecticut, USA

TELL US HOW YOU'VE SERVED! See page 48 to send us your "helping hand."



Sophie M., age 8, New York, USA



n Mother's Day my neighbor Shirley was really sad because her son died a while back. She didn't go to her church that day. I had an idea. I gave Shirley a Book of Mormon and wrote her a note. My mom gave her chocolate-covered almonds. When I gave it to her, my heart felt warm.

Lucia D., age 8, California, USA



hen I was six years old, my family moved to California for my dad's new job. I had not made any new friends in my new city. After a few weeks, my family went out and delivered some of my dad's special homemade bread to our new neighbors. It made me feel good inside. I knew that special

feeling was the Holy Ghost. It made me feel like the Holy Ghost was saying, "Hailey, you were very brave to move to California, and you will make friends!"

Hailey B., age 7, California, USA

# BOOK OF MORM

#### By Kelly J. Hunsaker

(Based on a true story)

"I know the Lord provides a way; he wants me to obey" (Children's Songbook, 121).

lake closed the Book of Mormon. *I did it*, he said to himself. He jumped up and ran to the kitchen, slipping a little in his church socks.

"I did it!" Blake announced. "I finished reading the whole Book of Mormon."

"You finally finished!" Dad said.

Mom pulled him in for a hug. "That's amazing! Well done."

"Wow," Blake's brother, Austin, said through a mouthful of pancake. "Was it hard?"

Blake thought about that. It had taken him a year and eight months to read the Book of Mormon. "Yeah, it was pretty hard," he said. "But I'm glad I read it. Sometimes it seemed like I'd never finish, but I kept reading."

"What was your favorite part?" Mom asked.

"I really liked when Jesus visited the Nephites," he said. "The best thing is that now I know it's true. I felt good when I prayed about it."

Mom smiled, and Dad gave him a hug. They finished eating and got ready for church.

Today was stake conference. Many of the speakers talked about how important it is to read the Book of Mormon every day. Blake was glad he'd already done that.

At the end of the meeting, the stake president gave his talk. "I want to give you a challenge today. I ask everyone to read the Book of Mormon by the end of the year," he said.

Does he mean me too? Blake wondered.

"Whether you have never read the Book of Mormon or you have read it many times, you will always find blessings from studying it daily," President Miller said.

On the drive home, Blake was very quiet. His family was talking about the challenge. But Blake wasn't excited at all. The happiness he'd felt this morning

was gone. He didn't want to start all over.

He'd just finished! When they got home, Blake shuffled to his room and flopped onto his bed. He closed his eyes.

When Blake woke up from his nap, the first thing he saw was his Book of Mormon. It was on his nightstand right where he'd left it this morning.

He picked it up and opened to the title

page. "The Book of Mormon, an account written by the hand of Mormon . . . ," Blake read aloud. He felt a warm, peaceful feeling. He finished reading the page. Then he knelt down and prayed. "Heavenly Father, please help me read the Book of Mormon again." He started to feel excited about reading it.

Blake walked to the living room. "I'm going to read the Book of Mormon again," he told his family.

"Good for you," Dad said. "Mom and I are going to take the challenge too."

"Will you help me read it?" Austin asked.

"Sure." Blake said. "We can do it together!"

The author lives in Colorado, USA.

Blake didn't want to start over. He'd just finished!



It's OK, you can start reading now. I'll help!





#### TAKE THE CHALLENGE!

You can accept a challenge just like Blake did! Elder Neil L. Andersen challenged us to gain a personal testimony of the Prophet Joseph Smith and to say good things about the Prophet. He gave two tips to help us:

- Find scriptures in the Book of Mormon that you know are true. Then share them with family and friends. Explain that Joseph Smith translated them with Heavenly Father's help.
- Read the Prophet's testimony in the Pearl of Great Price or in the pamphlet called *The Testimony of Joseph Smith*. You can find it at LDS.org. Read it often. Try recording it in your own voice, listening to it regularly, and sharing it with friends.

#### QUESTION CORNER

Some of my friends have stopped doing their homework or studying for tests. They just want to goof off. Sometimes I want to join them. Is school really worth the effort?

Yes. School is for learning. It's important to study how other people solved problems so that you can use it in life and learn how to solve your problems. Christ is our example. He studied and was a hard worker.

Lucy H., age 5, Wisconsin, USA



Even though it might not seem like it now, anything you stick to honestly and diligently will pay off in the end. Try leading by example. For the Strength of Youth says, "As you strive to live the gospel, you will encourage your friends to do likewise."

Emma W., age 11, Texas, USA



Don't goof off with them! School is worth it! First, you can get a better job by doing well in school. And second, you'll be able to teach what you learn to your kids.

Molly T., age 9, Nebraska, USA



When we die, our knowledge from earth comes with us. Going to school lets us get our knowledge. Also, higher education will most likely help you get a good job so you can provide for a family. School goes a long way in heaven and on earth.

Chloe C., age 13, Kentucky, USA



School is definitely worth the effort! Education is super important, and it is one of the only things that we can take to heaven. So we need to take advantage of that and listen and study hard in school. Don't join your friends!

Talmage B., age 11, Utah, USA

#### **NEXT QUESTION**

"I want to be a good influence on my friends. How can I help them make good choices?"

Do you have any advice on this? Send us your answer and photo by April 30. Find our address on page 48 or email us at friend@ldschurch .org. (Put "Question Corner" in the subject line.) Remember to include a parent's permission! Use the permission statement on page 48.



School is important because it will help prepare you for work one day and even everyday life as an

Robinson and Tanner W., ages 9 and 7, Texas, USA

I Can PLAY It!

## Tell Me the Stories of Jesus



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# The TRIKE Race

#### By Cynthia Carlson Clary

(Based on a true story)

Brandon stretched his legs. He could feel how strong they were.

"Vroom, vroom!" Brandon said. He leaned forward on his tricycle. He just knew he could win the preschool tricycle race.

Brandon's teacher waved a flag. "Ready! Set! Go!" she shouted.

Brandon took off. He felt the wind rushing through his hair. *Whoosh!* He felt his legs pedaling

so fast. He was ahead of everyone.

Brandon sped across the finish line. He won!
Brandon's teacher pinned a blue ribbon to his

shirt. Brandon smiled. It felt good to win.

Brandon climbed onto his tricycle for the next race. He stretched his legs. He leaned forward. He was excited to race again.

"Go!" Brandon's teacher shouted, waving her flag.

Brandon took off. He was in the lead again! Then Brandon looked behind him. His friends



were racing as fast as they could. But they couldn't catch up to him.

Brandon was almost at the finish line. He could see his teacher holding another blue ribbon. He could win two blue ribbons today!

But then Brandon started pedaling slower. He watched Spencer and Luis race past him and cross the finish line.

The crowd cheered. Brandon watched his teacher pin a blue ribbon to Spencer's shirt. He was smiling.

"Why did you slow down?" Brandon's teacher asked.

Brandon smiled up at his teacher. "Because I wanted someone else to know how great it feels to win."

The author lives in California, USA.

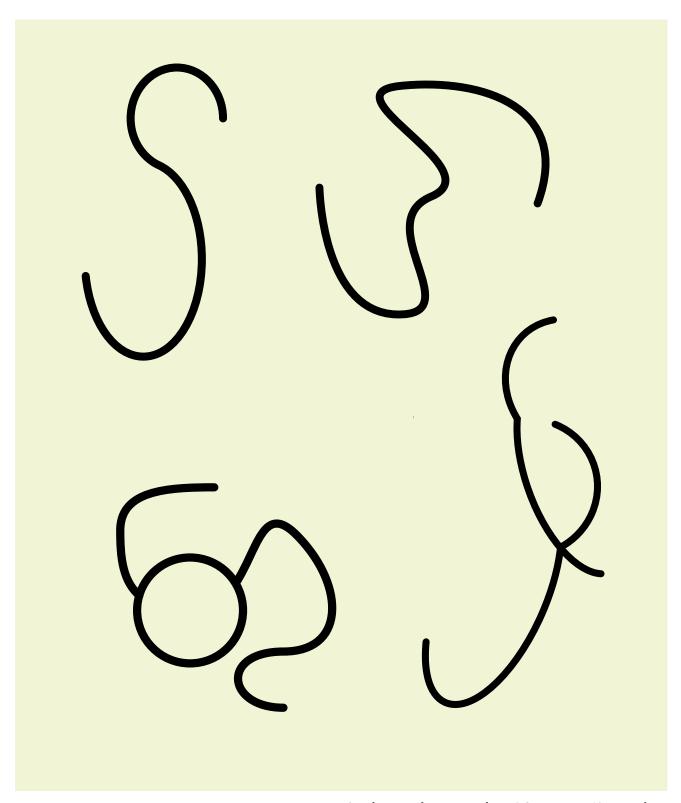


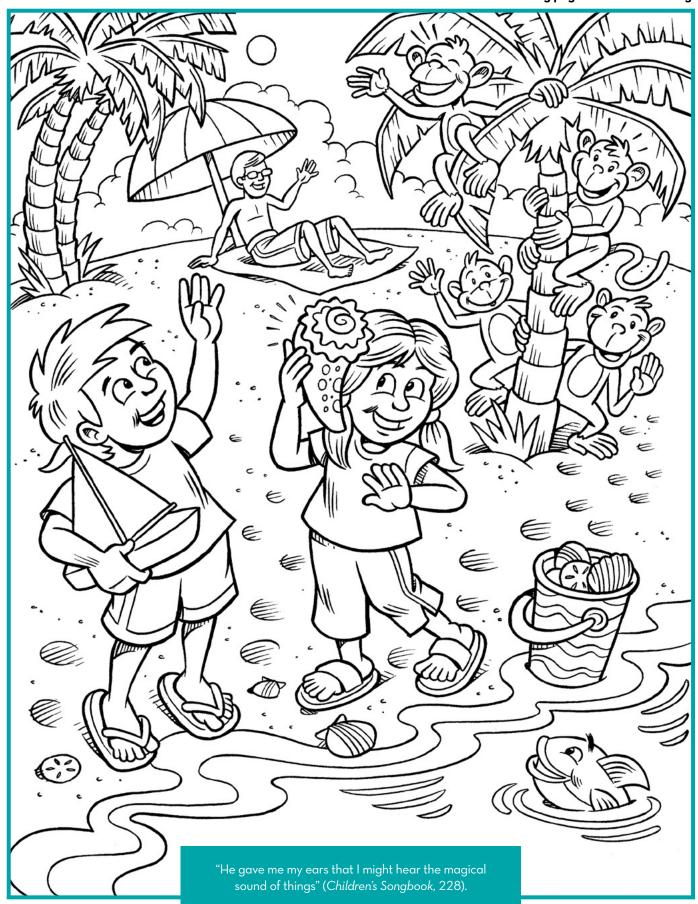




### Squiggle Art

Heavenly Father has given us wonderful brains for creativity. What shapes do you see in these squiggly lines? Animals? Your favorite treats? Once you decide what a squiggle reminds you of, draw the rest of the picture!





## I Know That Jesus Loves Me

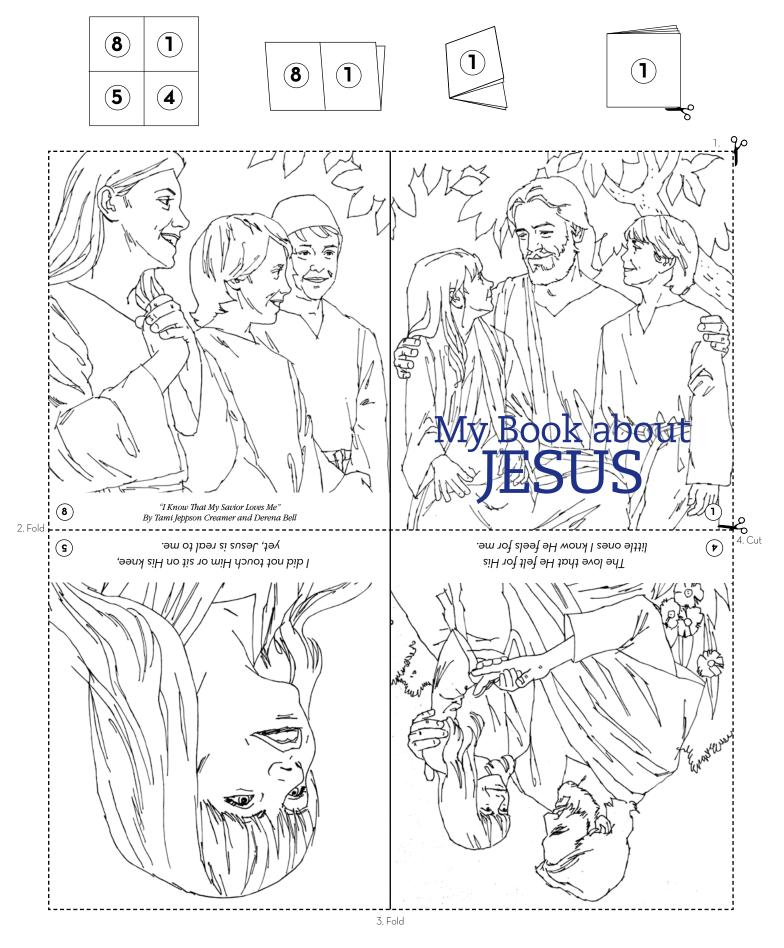
By Jane McBride Choate

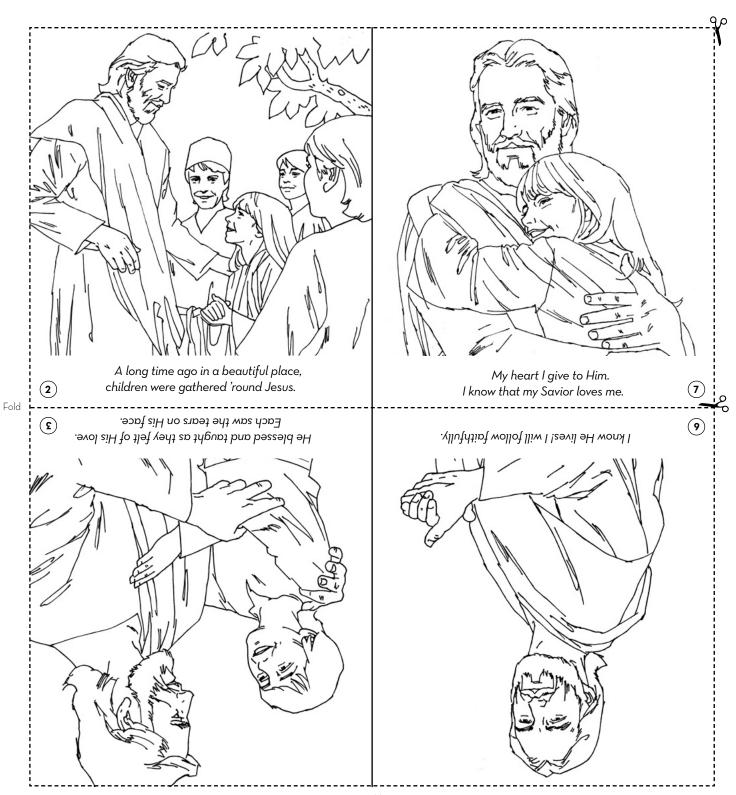
Laney was trying very hard to be reverent in church. But she was tired, and her legs felt wiggly.

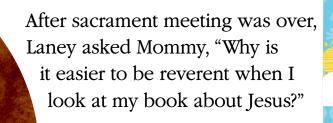


After the sacrament was over, Laney opened her book about Jesus. She found the picture of Jesus with the little children. It made her feel peaceful and happy inside.

Story continues on page 39.







"I think it's because it reminds you how much Jesus loves you," Mommy said.

Laney smiled.
"Do you think
Jesus knows that
I love Him too?"
she asked.

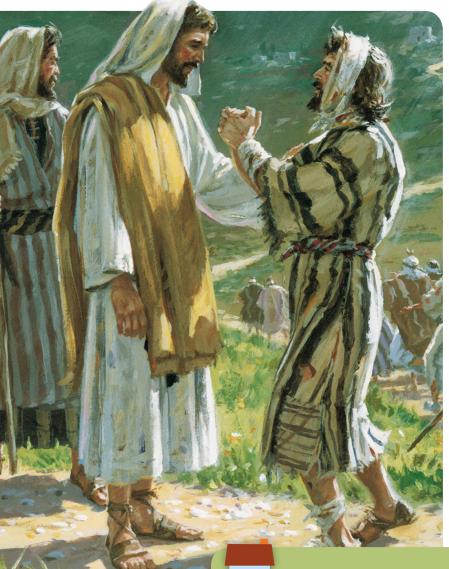
Mommy gave Laney a hug. "Yes, I'm sure He does." ◆

The author lives in Colorado, USA.





# Jesus Heals a Leper



#### By Erin Sanderson

Think about a time when you were sick. Did someone do something kind to help you feel better?

In the New Testament we read about how Jesus showed kindness to people who were sick. One day a man with a painful skin disease called leprosy went to Jesus. He knew that Jesus had the power to heal everyone who was sick. He believed that Jesus could heal him. Jesus touched the leper and said, "Be thou clean" (Mark 1:41). As soon as Jesus had spoken, the man was healed.

We can follow in Jesus's footsteps by being kind and loving to others who are sick or sad.

The author lives in Utah, USA.

FAMILY TALK

You can use the scripture figures on the inside back cover to tell the story from Mark 1:40–42. Then you could read Jude 1:22 and plan how to do something as a family to make a difference in someone's life. Maybe you could serve someone in secret!

**Song:** "Tell Me the Stories of Jesus" (page 31 or *Children's Songbook,* 57)

Scriptures: Mark 1:40-42

**Videos:** Go to **Biblevideos.org** to watch "Jesus Heals a Lame Man on the Sabbath" and "Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind."

Serve someone in secret? That sounds fun!

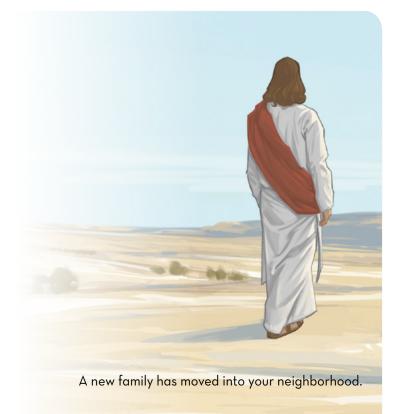


Write about it and send it to the *Friend!* 



### FOLLOWING IN JESUS'S FOOTSTEPS

With your family, role-play how you could show love for others in these situations. Make up some of your own situations!



Some children are being mean to another child at school.

A visitor who doesn't know anyone at church comes to Primary.

Your younger brother or sister has no one to play with.

The baby is crying, and your mother is trying to make dinner.

A person in your ward or branch is sick and can't leave the house.



#### **LEARN MORE**

The New Testament has four special books called the Gospels. They were written by four of Jesus's disciples. The Gospels tell about when Jesus Christ lived on the earth. The story about healing the leper is in three of the Gospels. It is in Mark 1:40–42, Matthew 8:2–4, and Luke 5:12–14.



#### **SCRIPTURE TIP**

In Mark 1:41 the word *compassion* is used. When you find a word in the Bible that you don't know, you can use the Guide to the Scriptures to help you! You can look up "compassion" to find out what it means and to find other scriptures that use it. What other words can you look up in the story about Jesus healing the man with leprosy?





















## **Article of Faith 5**



"We believe that a man must be called of God, by prophecy, and by the laying on of hands by those who are in **authority**, to preach the Gospel and administer in the ordinances thereof."

Not just anyone can decide who should be a Primary teacher or any other calling. The bishop can call people to serve in the ward because he has **authority**. That means he has permission and power to act from Heavenly Father. After people accept a new calling, they are set apart. That means someone with authority blesses them and gives them the priesthood authority to do their calling.



#### **Articles of Faith in Action**



I have a testimony that the things the bishop asks us to do will help us in our lives. The bishop asked the Primary kids this year to memorize the articles of faith. I memorized all of them. Later I was on the bus with my friend, and the conversation popped up about our beliefs. I told her that I read the Book of Mormon, and I didn't really know

what to say after that. And then the eighth article of faith popped in my head, and I recited it.

Allison H., age 9, Illinois, USA

#### **Memorization Tip**

There are **five** fingers on each hand, so Article of Faith **5** is about the laying on of hands.

Print more cards at friend.lds.org.

# This Month's CHALLENGES

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Memorize Article of Faith 5.



Ask your Primary leaders about their callings. Who asked them to accept their callings? Who set them apart?



Read D&C 42:11, D&C 132:8, and John 15:16. Write about why you think the Lord calls us to serve through revelation and by authority.



I challenge myself to...

#### By Jessica Larsen

(Based on a true story)

Liverpool, England, April 13, 1912

Ider Alma Sonne lifted his nose and inhaled the smell of the Liverpool dock—a mixture of wet rope, steam from ships, and bustling crowds. He'd spent hours here as the mission secretary, arranging travel from England to America for both Saints and missionaries. Now it was his turn to travel home to his family and his sweetheart.

"The Mauretania." he announced to the four missionaries who would be traveling with him, gesturing to the ship before them. "She's over 750 feet long and weighs 30,000 tons-"

"I'm sure she's a nice ship, but she's no Titanic." Elder Chambers sighed.

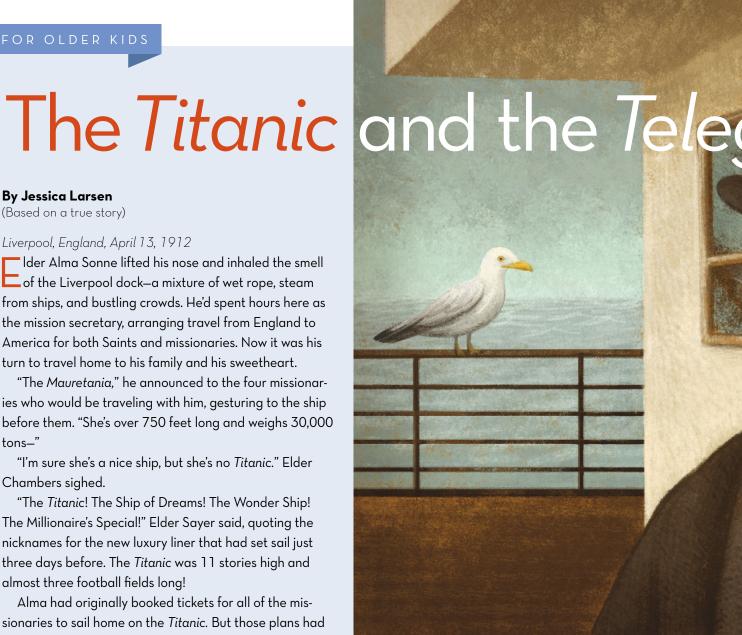
"The Titanic! The Ship of Dreams! The Wonder Ship! The Millionaire's Special!" Elder Sayer said, quoting the nicknames for the new luxury liner that had set sail just three days before. The Titanic was 11 stories high and almost three football fields long!

Alma had originally booked tickets for all of the missionaries to sail home on the Titanic. But those plans had changed when Alma had received a telegram from Elder Fred Dahle, one of the missionaries who was supposed to travel with them. The telegram said that he had been delayed and wouldn't arrive on time to sail on the Titanic. So Alma had canceled everyone's tickets.

"I know you're disappointed, but we couldn't just leave Fred," Alma told the other elders again. They weren't too happy to miss the *Titanic*'s first voyage across the Atlantic.

"Where is Fred, anyway?" Elder Sayer asked.

"Here!" Fred called, coming toward them. He wore a big smile, and Alma grinned back. His friend had changed a lot over the past couple of years. Two years ago Fred hadn't gone to church much. When he and Alma received mission calls to Great Britain at the same time. Alma had convinced Fred to accept the call to serve. Fred had turned out to be an excellent missionary, and



Alma looked forward to spending time with him on the journey home.

The six missionaries all boarded the Mauretania and waved goodbye to the Liverpool Saints as the ship pulled away from the dock.

The journey was uneventful until four days later, when a member of the crew pulled Alma aside.

"Did you hear about the Titanic?"

"No, what about it?" Alma asked.

"She sunk two days ago, on April 15," the man said quietly. "Hit an iceberg on a cold, moonless night."

Alma felt like all of the air was sucked out of his lungs.

"And the passengers?"

"Only 705 survivors, according to the latest reports. The



ship didn't have enough lifeboats. More than 1,500 of the passengers and crew were lost."

More than 1,500 people lost. Alma felt like his head was spinning as he walked to the cabin to share the news

with the other elders. They sat in stunned silence.

"That could have been us," one of the elders finally said. The other missionaries nodded.

"I'm going to the deck to get some fresh air," Alma said. Fred came with him. The two friends stared silently into

### WHAT HAPPENED TO ALMA?

Alma Sonne returned home safely and married his sweetheart, Geneva Ballantyne. He later served as an Assistant to the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. He never forgot about the lessons he learned from the *Titanic*.

the dark, icy waters of the Atlantic.

"You saved my life," Alma said, thinking of Fred's telegram. If it hadn't been for Fred, they all would've been on that ship.

"No," Fred said. "By

getting me on this mission, you saved my life."

Alma put his arm around Fred. Heavenly Father had preserved their lives in more ways than one.

The author lives in Arizona, USA.



#### By Jennifer Maddy

(Based on a true story)

"Man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7).

i! I'm Hilary, and I'm 11. If you've ever been bowling, you know you have to roll a ball down a long lane and try to knock down the pins at the end. You also have to wear funny-looking shoes. When you knock down all the pins at once, you get a strike. But that's not as easy as it sounds.

The first time I went bowling was for my friend Meg's birthday a couple of years ago. Meg invited a bunch of girls from Primary and school. I was excited to go, but I was a



little nervous too. I always worried about trying new things.

We walked into the bowling alley and heard the loud crash of balls hitting the pins. We all jumped and giggled at the sound.

"OK, girls," Meg's mom said. "Go over to the counter and get your bowling shoes."

Bowling shoes? I didn't know I would have to wear different shoes. The girls started telling the worker their shoe size, but I shrunk to the back of the group. I had really long feet, and there was no way I could shout out my shoe size like everyone else. I was afraid they'd laugh and make fun of my big feet. I walked back to our lanes and sat down.

"Don't you want to bowl, Hilary?" Meg's mom asked. "I think I'll just watch for now," I said.

The girls came back and plopped down to put their shoes on. Everyone laughed and talked, and I smiled with them. Maybe I would get some shoes later.

But as I watched my friends bowl, I started worrying about how I would look. I was taller than my friends, and I had long arms and legs. I wasn't very good at sports, either. I thought I looked like an off-balance windmill when I tried to do sporty things—awkward!

"Hey, Hilary," Meg called. "Do you want to try with my ball? You can take off your shoes and bowl in your socks."

I really wanted to, but I was too worried about everything. (I told you I worried a lot!)

"No, thanks," I said. "I'm having fun watching."

It wasn't a lie. I was having fun watching my friends. But I knew I would be having a lot *more* fun if I could just stop worrying and bowl with them. So I sat watching by myself.

After that day, I promised myself that I would be braver about trying new things. A few months later I was back at

the bowling alley again. It was McCall's birthday this time. I blushed when I had to say my shoe size out loud, but then I looked around and saw that no one had even noticed. That made me feel a little better.

When it was my turn, I made myself pick up a bowling ball. Then I shuffled slowly up to the lane. I felt like everyone was watching me as I tried to make my body move as gracefully as possible. The ball rolled down the lane a little crooked and a little slow, but it hit three pins!

"Nice job!" Erin said.

McCall gave me a high five. I grinned so hard I thought my cheeks would break. This wasn't so bad after all! I kept bowling and had a great time for the rest of the party.

Now I try not to worry about what I'll look like or what other people will think when I try new things. Sometimes it's hard not to feel awkward, but take my advice—don't let worrying or being scared stop you from doing something new. There's a good chance you'll love it! I'm still not a very good bowler, but I have fun learning. Maybe someday I'll even get a strike!

The author lives in Utah, USA.



"It matters not the size or the quantity but the effort we put forth to develop the talents and abilities we have received."

Elder L. Iom Perry of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Youth of the Noble Birthright." Ensign. Nov. 1998. 74

### How to Write to the Friend

To send us a letter, drawing, poem, or photograph . . .

1. Fill out the form below and include it with your submission.

Include a school photo or high-quality snapshot.

3. We might edit
your submission for length
or clarity, and we
can't return it to you.

4. You must be at least three years old to send us a submission.





Please send your submission to:

Friend Magazine
50 E. North Temple St., Rm. 2432
Salt Lake City, UT 84150-0024
Or email: friend@ldschurch.org

The following information and permission must be included:

First and last name

Age State/Province, Country

I give my permission to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to use my child's submission and photo on the Church websites and social media platforms as well as for Church reports, print products, video, publications, and training materials.

Signature of parent or legal guardian

Email of parent or legal guardian

### Through Your Eyes



We love the sound of crickets and all the cool things of nature.

McKay and Jared N., ages 6 and 4,

British Columbia, Canada

The Last Laugh

I'm trying to follow my compass, but it doesn't seem to be going anywhere!





online.

#### **Funstuff Answers**

Page 3: Premortal Life, Earth Life, Spirit World, Resurrection, Final Judgment, Three Degrees of Glory

#### **Hidden CTR Rings**

Did you find the rings? Look on pages 33 and 45! The March Level 3 ring was on page 28.

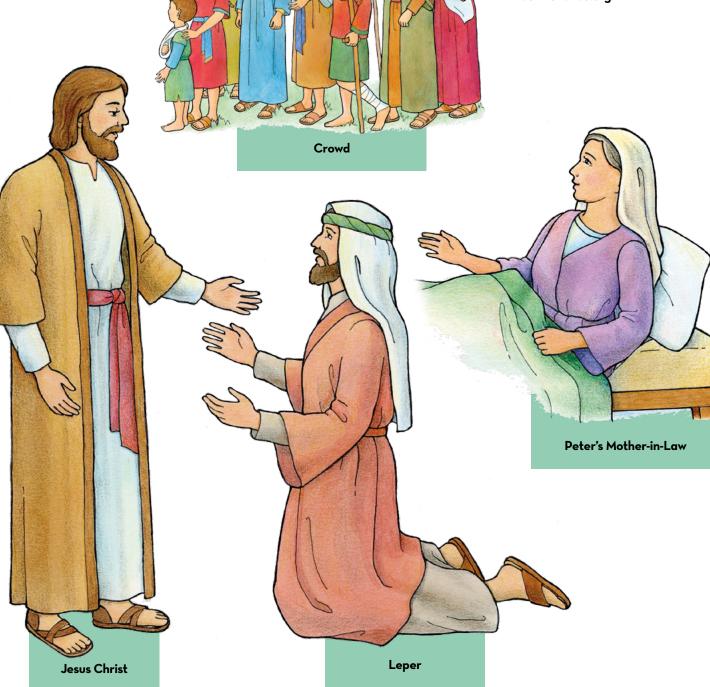


## JESUS HEALS THE SICK

Mark 1:40-42; Luke 4:38-40

Glue this page to heavy paper or cardboard. Then cut out the figures and attach them to craft sticks or paper bags. Use them to help act out stories from the New Testament.

You can print more copies at friend.lds.org.



# Dear Parents

"Kindness begins with me" is a motto we can help children adopt. Read about how wonderful it is to be kind-to our family members (pages 4 and 8), neighbors (page 14), classmates (pages 18 and 32), and even to ourselves (page 46). You could make a kindness wall in your home this month (page 6) and talk about how Jesus set the greatest example of kindness (page 40).

Thanks for your kindness!

The Friend

Order the Friend at store.lds.org!

#### CONNECTION

Look for the colored diamonds on the table of contents to find stories and activities that support Primary this month!

Find more teaching resources at lessonhelps.lds.org.



### Family Home Evening Ideas

PLAN OF SALVATION: Read President Uchtdorf's message and play the "Plan of Happiness Scramble" (page 2). How can the plan act like a map to guide us?

**READY FOR CONFERENCE:** Read Elder Nelson's message and story about being obedient (page 20). Talk about how your family can obey what's taught in general conference. Go to page 10 for an activity to help you listen during conference. Find more activities at gc.lds.org.

FAMILY HISTORY MYSTERY: Discover your family history using ideas on page 22. If you haven't started a "sleuth file" for your family pictures and notes, start now by going to **friend.lds.org** for printouts.

**NEW TESTAMENT:** Learn about Jesus Christ and His example. Role-play the situations on page 41 and make plans to serve someone. Try to keep your service a secret!

#### **Topics in This** ssue

