

Wholesome Activities Will Strengthen My Family



By Jennifer Maddy

Lucas was bored. He wandered around the house to find someone to play with him. His brother, Ben, was playing on the computer. His sister, Sophie, was texting her friend. Mom was looking through the mail, and Dad was reading.

"It's boring around here," Lucas said.

Dad looked up from his book. "What do you mean?"

"We don't do anything together," Lucas said. "We're all doing our own thing."

Dad closed his book. "You're right," he said. "I'll gather the family together, and we'll do something fun."

Lucas grinned. "Great!"

A few minutes later Lucas's family sat together, wondering what to do. Sophie wanted to text her friend. Ben wanted to keep playing his computer game.

"My friend Paul likes to go on walks

with his family," Lucas said. "And Alexander's family likes to play sports."

But Sophie didn't want to go outside in the hot weather, and Ben couldn't play sports because he had hurt his ankle.

"Those are fun things for your friends to do, Lucas," Mom said, "but what does *our* family like to do?"

Ben said he liked to play board games. Sophie said she liked to read. Lucas said he liked racing cars.

"Let's pick one of those things to do right now," Dad said. "Why don't we play a board game first?"

Soon they had all gathered around a game and started to play. After a while Sophie put away her phone. Ben stopped looking toward the computer. By the end of the game, everyone was smiling, but Lucas's smile was the biggest. ◆

The author lives in Utah, USA.

SONG

- "The Family" (*Children's Songbook*, 194)

IDEAS FOR FAMILY TALK

The prophet and apostles tell us it's important to spend time together as a family. Doing things with your family will help you learn about each other and have fun together. What does your family like to do? Talk about how those activities help you grow closer together. You could make a goal to do one new activity as a family this month.