

Heavenly Father Has a Plan for His Children

Oliver could smell Granny's brownies baking in the oven, and there was a reverent feeling in Granny and Grandad's house. Oliver had been looking forward to this special family home evening all day.

"Our lesson is about the plan of happiness that Heavenly Father made for all of us," Grandad said. "Tonight the kitchen is going to represent heaven, where we lived with Heavenly Father before we came to live on earth," he said.

"Was I there, Grandad?" asked Archie. Oliver looked around the kitchen at Granny and Grandad, Mum and Dad, and his younger brothers, Archie and Ethan.

"Yes," Grandad said. "We were all there. And when Heavenly Father told us about His plan to create a world and to send a Savior for us, we were so happy that we shouted for joy!"

Archie and Ethan laughed and jumped up and down.

"Who was the first person in our family to leave heaven and come to earth?" Grandad asked.

"You were," Oliver said.

Grandad left the kitchen. Next Granny left. Then one by one everyone in Oliver's family joined them in the bedroom.

"This room is going to represent the earth," Granny said. "What are some of the things we can do on earth to help us return to Heavenly Father?" she asked.

"Be baptized," Oliver said.

"Go to the temple," Mum said.

"Choose the right," Archie said.

Granny nodded and smiled. Then she said it was time to leave the earth and return back to Heavenly Father.

"I'll go first," Grandad said.

"Oh, Grandad, don't leave!" Ethan said.

"Don't worry," Grandad said. "Leaving the earth is part

of Heavenly Father's plan of happiness. Soon we'll be back together again."

One by one, everyone went back to the kitchen. "We're all back in heaven!" Dad said as Archie and Ethan ran into his arms.

Oliver felt as glad to see his family as if he had been away from them for a long time. He ran over to hug his brothers and Mum and Dad. Now he understood why Grandad had called it Heavenly Father's plan of *happiness*. ♦

SONG AND SCRIPTURE

- "I Will Follow God's Plan" (*Children's Songbook*, 164–65)
- Moses 1:39

IDEAS FOR FAMILY TALK

You could take turns naming some of the important things members of your family *have already done* to follow Heavenly Father's plan—such as praying, being baptized, receiving the priesthood, going to the temple, and choosing the right. Give family members a chance to tell how they felt at those special times. Then you could name some important things your family *will do in the future* and talk about the happiness that will come as you continue to follow Heavenly Father's wonderful plan.

3 Nephi 17:20
2 Nephi 32:9
Doctrine and Covenants 124:34
2 Nephi 32:5
Doctrine and Covenants 1:32
Doctrine and Covenants 33:11
Doctrine and Covenants 59:9
John 5:39
Doctrine and Covenants 110:7, 9

I WILL FOLLOW GOD'S PLAN

Write the scriptures on the left on slips of paper and put them in a bag. Take turns drawing a slip and looking up the scripture. Then glue it under the word on the step that helps us return back to Heavenly Father.

RETURNING TO HEAVENLY FATHER

Temple

Priesthood

Sacrament

Holy Ghost

Baptism

Repentance

Faith

Scriptures

Prayer

OUR LIFE BEFORE BIRTH

