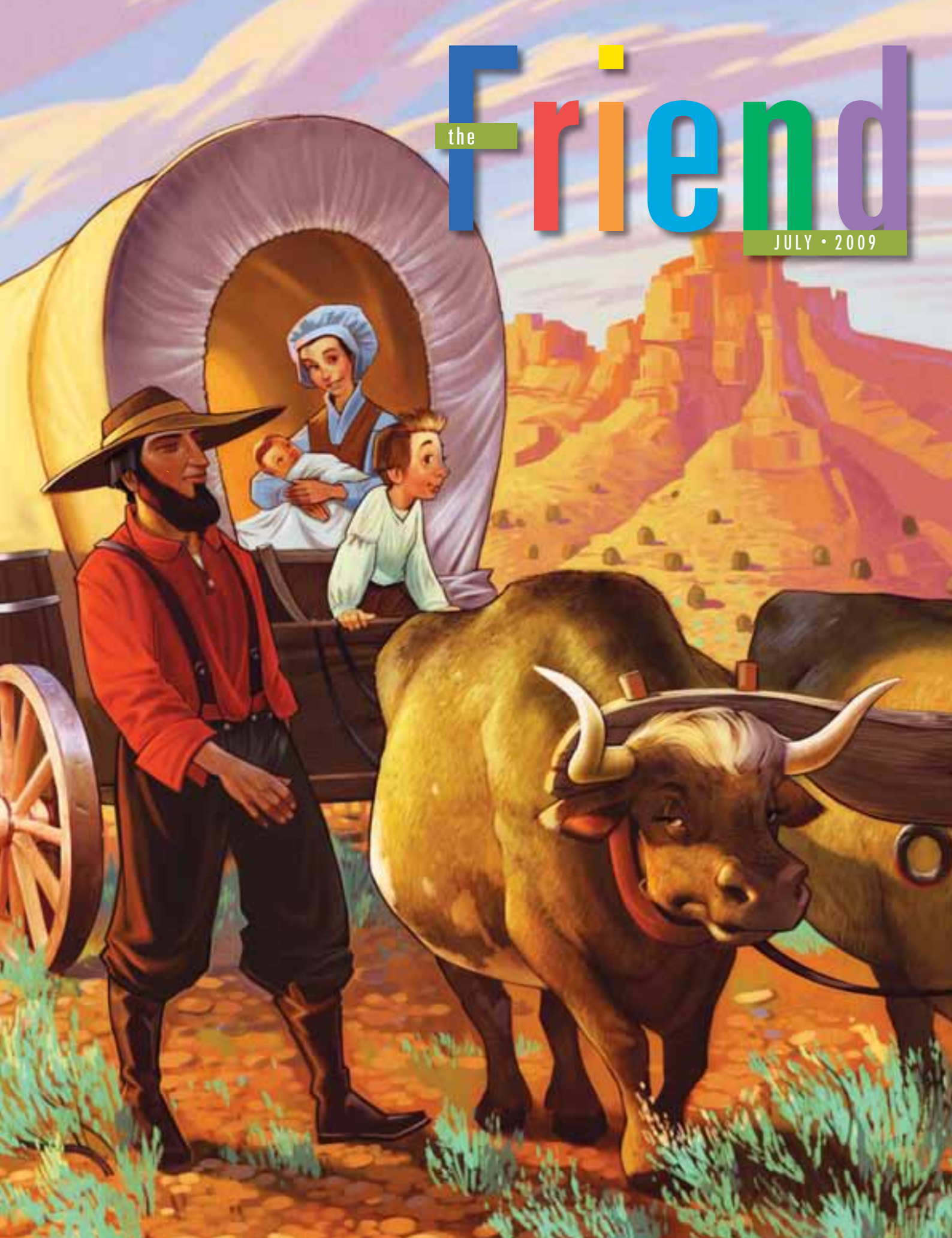


the Friend

JULY • 2009



Friends by Mail



Speaking Skills

Even though I had been attending a pre-school for three years to help me with my speech problems, when I started kindergarten, my family, friends, and school-teachers still had a hard time understanding what I was saying. My parents were concerned. My family fasted for me, and my dad gave me a priesthood blessing. My speech didn't improve overnight, but by the middle of the school year my teacher, my family, and my friends could understand me better. Heavenly Father blessed me and the people who worked with me. I could finally bear my testimony. I still have to take speech classes and work hard, but I know Heavenly Father hears and answers our prayers.



Cameron J., age 9, Arizona

An Answered Prayer



Once my dad tried to turn our car on, but it would not start. He tried three times, but nothing happened. After my dad checked the motor, he asked me to pray. After I said a prayer, the car started. Heavenly Father answered my prayer.

Joe Z., age 11, Georgia

Family History Help



One day I was helping my mom do family history work. We were looking at some old documents that were hard to read. When we came to one name that we could not completely read, we decided to take a break. My

mom asked me to keep thinking about what the name might be. Later, I was sitting with my little sister when the name came to me—Reba! When I told my mom, we checked the records and found out I was right. My mom told me that the Holy Ghost helped me identify the name. I am glad that I can listen to the promptings of the Holy Ghost.

Jillian N., age 11, Oregon

Learning about Baptism



I am going to be baptized soon. I was nervous, but I have been praying about it and I feel better now. I am reading about being baptized and confirmed and learning more about baptismal covenants every day. I am glad I

will be a member of the Church, and I know it is true.

Sara M., age 7, Ohio

Would you like to write us a letter?
Turn to page 49 to find out how.

VOLUME 39 NUMBER 7
JULY 2009

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the friend

See the
Guide to the Friend
(inside back cover)
for family home
evening ideas.



A children's magazine published by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Stories and Features

- IFC Friends by Mail
- 2 Come Listen to a Prophet's Voice: Blessed Are the Peacemakers /
President Henry B. Eyring
- 4 The Invisible Visitor
- 8 Friend to Friend: Praying and Singing to Heavenly Father /
Elder Michael John U. Teh
- 10 Sharing Grandma
- 12 Making Friends: Jared Simpson of Meredith, New Hampshire
- 16 Sharing Time: Our Family Will Be Strong
- 19 Matt and Mandy
- 20 Best Friends?
- 22 Oscar: Trail Leader
- 23 Going West
- 28 Trying to Be Like Jesus
- 34 Our Creative Friends
- 36 The Sugar Bowl
- 38 The Cave Bandit
- 41 Special Witness: Elder Quentin L. Cook
- 42 Friends in the News
- 44 Bread, Birthdays, and the Browns
- 46 From the Life of the Prophet Joseph Smith:
The Prophet's Voice
- 49 Guide to the *Friend*

For Little Friends

- 30 A Sweet Melodee
- 32 Jesus Christ Is Baptized
- 33 Daddy Is Home

Music

- 7 Life Is O'erflowing with Beautiful Things

Things to Make and Do

- 15 Funstuf
- 24 The Power of Prayer
- 26 Funstuf
- 27 Kitchen Krafts
- 48 Coloring Page

Cover by Jim Madsen



Look for the *Friend* mouse throughout this issue to find out which features are online at www.friend.lds.org. See if you can count how many times the mouse appears.



Hidden CTR Ring

Clue: Drawing pictures
for the *Friend* magazine
is a creative thing to do!

Come Listen to
a Prophet's Voice

BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS

BY PRESIDENT HENRY B. EYRING
First Counselor in the First Presidency



When you look at your newspaper and your television, you don't see much about peace. Every day the news is filled with violence across the world.

The Savior said, "And blessed are all the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God" (3 Nephi 12:9).

When I read that as a boy, I wondered about the promise. It didn't sound like anything very glorious. But I see now that the promise is both glorious and sure.



Those who will have eternal life are the children of God.

I testify that God knows you. He cares about those around you, and He loves you. You are His disciple, and that makes you a light to people. When you act with faith to offer the gospel and peace to those around you, they will feel the light of the Savior. You will have pointed the way.

I testify to you that God lives; Jesus is the Christ. I feel His love for you. I know the Savior spoke the truth when He said, "Blessed are the peacemakers." ●

From an address given at Brigham Young University on February 6, 1994.

PEACEMAKER WANTED!

Here's a situation when a peacemaker is needed.

Put the pictures in order from first to last to see how a child's desire to be a peacemaker affected her family.





HOW WE GOT THE BEATITUDES

Blessed are the peacemakers” is one of the teachings of Jesus called “the Beatitudes” (see Matthew 5:1–11). The Beatitudes are ways to live a happy life. Each one tells a certain blessing we receive when we follow a certain teaching. This is how we got the Beatitudes:

- 1.** One day a crowd of people was following Jesus. They had heard He could heal people and do other miracles. They wanted to hear Him teach.
- 2.** Jesus was near a hill, or mount. He walked a little way up the hillside and gave a talk, or sermon.
- 3.** In His sermon, Jesus taught the people how they should live so God could bless them. The word *beatitude* means “to be happy” or “to be blessed.”
- 4.** The talk Jesus gave that day is called the Sermon on the Mount. After He was resurrected, Jesus gave a similar sermon to the people in the Americas when He visited them (see 3 Nephi 12:3–11).

The Invisible Visitor

BY HEIDI PYPER

(Based on a true story)

All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them (Matthew 7:12).

Julia's heart pounded as she peeked into the empty room. The Primary classroom, with its half circle of folding chairs and dusty chalkboard, looked exactly like hers at home. But Julia's stomach flip-flopped as she walked through the door. Things might look the same, but Julia knew they weren't. Today she was a visitor.

Julia sank into the chair farthest from the door. She loved everything about her family's summer visits to see cousins and grandparents, except for being a visitor in a different ward. Singing Primary songs and learning about the Savior was nice, but she didn't like sitting by herself and not knowing anyone.

Julia also didn't like listening to the other kids talk and laugh together while no one even looked at her. To her, it felt like no one cared if she came or not. It was like being invisible—Julia, the amazing invisible visitor!

Julia twirled her long blonde braids and wished she were back home with her own Primary teacher, Sister Johansson, and her best friend, Hanna. "Maybe this time will be different," she told herself as she adjusted her glasses and smoothed her skirt one more time. "Maybe if I try really hard, I can make it different."

Julia jumped as the door opened. Three girls stepped into the room, talking excitedly. Two boys followed. Julia took a quick breath and forced her mouth into a smile.

"Hi!" she burst out. Suddenly everyone's eyes were on her. Julia's face got hot.

"Uh, hi," mumbled one of the girls.

"Are you new?" another girl asked.

Julia cleared her throat. "No, I'm just visiting my grandma."

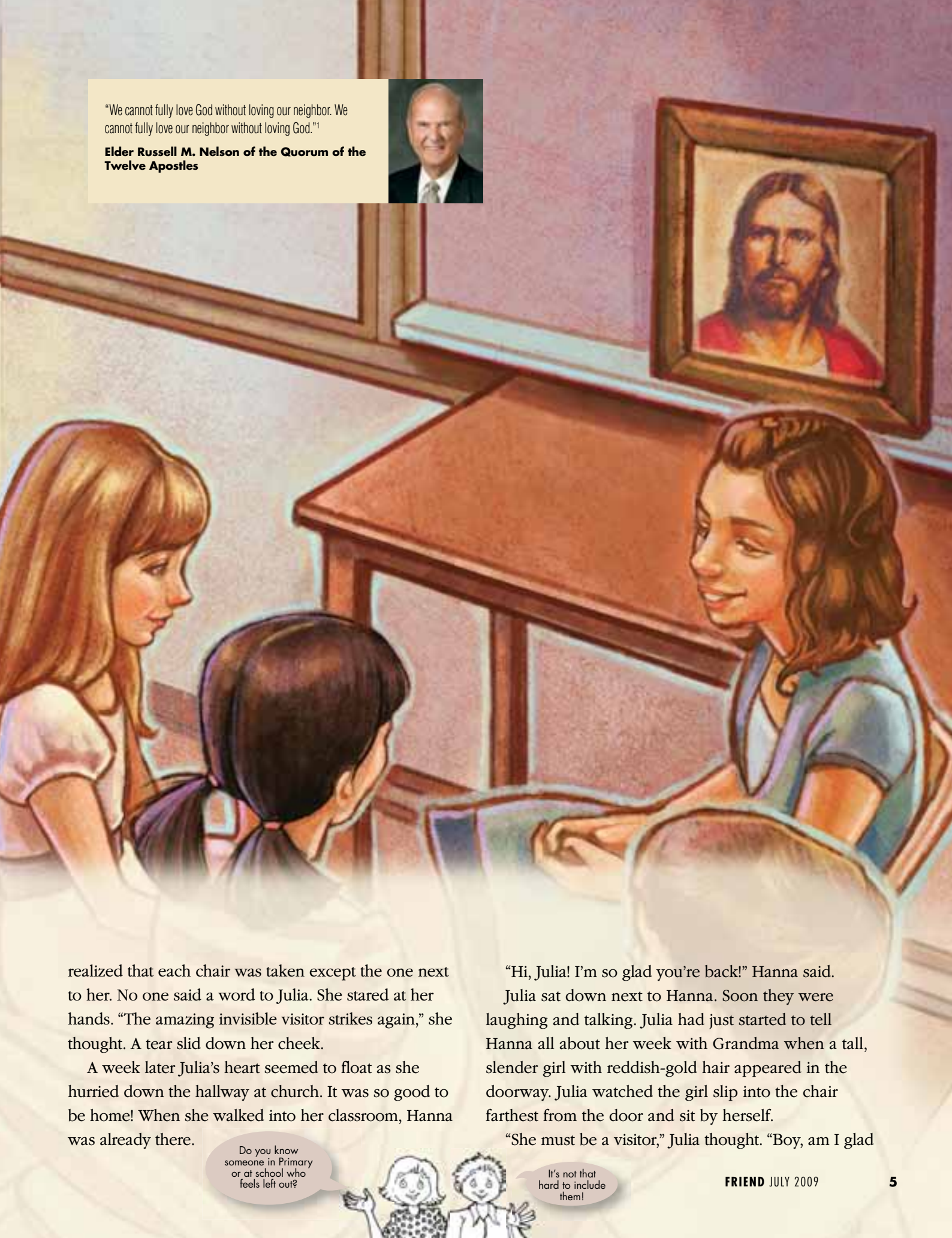
"Oh."

Everyone chose a seat. Julia's smile faded when she



"We cannot fully love God without loving our neighbor. We cannot fully love our neighbor without loving God."¹

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



realized that each chair was taken except the one next to her. No one said a word to Julia. She stared at her hands. "The amazing invisible visitor strikes again," she thought. A tear slid down her cheek.

A week later Julia's heart seemed to float as she hurried down the hallway at church. It was so good to be home! When she walked into her classroom, Hanna was already there.

"Hi, Julia! I'm so glad you're back!" Hanna said. Julia sat down next to Hanna. Soon they were laughing and talking. Julia had just started to tell Hanna all about her week with Grandma when a tall, slender girl with reddish-gold hair appeared in the doorway. Julia watched the girl slip into the chair farthest from the door and sit by herself.

"She must be a visitor," Julia thought. "Boy, am I glad

Do you know someone in Primary or at school who feels left out?



It's not that hard to include them!



it's not me this time!" The girl raised her eyes to look around and then stared down at her hands. Julia's heart twisted as no one said a word to the visitor. "I wish being the visitor didn't have to be so hard," she thought. "It should be different!" Last Sunday flashed through her mind for a moment as she remembered being the sad, invisible visitor. She blinked. Wait a minute—she could make it different this time!

Julia stood up. "Hi," she said with a smile. She crossed the room and sat down in the chair next to the girl. "Are you visiting today?"

The girl looked up with wide eyes, and then her face lit up. "Yes, I'm visiting my aunt. Are you visiting too?"

Julia shook her head. "No, but I know how it is,"

she explained. "I'm Julia. What's your name?"

"Ella."

"Want to come over and sit with Hanna and me?"

Ella grinned and nodded. As the two girls moved back across the room, Julia felt warm inside. "No invisible visitors allowed!" she thought. "Not if I can help it!" ●

FAMILY HOME EVENING IDEA

Role-play this story by having family members take turns coming into the room pretending they are visitors to a Primary class. Practice different ways of welcoming the person into the class. Conclude by reading and discussing Matthew 7:12.





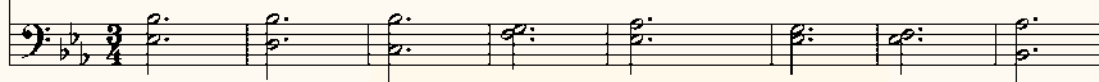
Life Is O'erflowing with *Beautiful Things*

Gently ♩ = 88-100

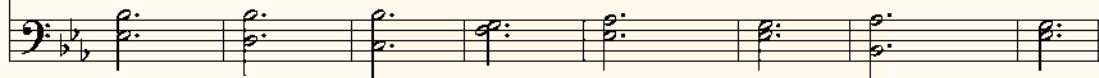
Words and music by Thomas M. Croft



1. Blue skies, moun-tains, rain-bows, foun-tains: These are some things I love to see.
2. Mu - sic, laugh - ter, peace there - af - ter: These are some things I love to hear.
3. Silk - y flow - ers, cool rain show - ers: These are some things I love to feel.



Riv - ers, can - yons, pine trees, o - ceans: Heav - en - ly Fa - ther made them for me.
Plea - se's, thank-you's, may I's, can do's: Hear - ing them fills my heart with good cheer.
Prompt-ings, guid - ance, warm as - sur - ance: That's how I know the Spir - it is real.



Life is o'er - flow - ing with beau - ti - ful things made by our lov - ing and glo - ri - ous King.



If I but strive to be grate - ful and true, I can be hap - py in all that I do.



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Praying and Singing to Heavenly Father

The song of the righteous is a prayer unto me, and it shall be answered with a blessing upon their heads (D&C 25:12).

When I was a little boy, I used to lose things. I would look all around, but I couldn't find them. After going through the house two or three times without finding anything, I would pray to Heavenly Father to help me. When I started looking

again, I would find what I was missing. That happened to me several times as a child.

Those times helped me learn to trust that Heavenly Father hears and answers my prayers.

When I was older, my testimony was strengthened as Heavenly Father answered my prayers. Heavenly Father never fails you.



From an interview with Elder Michael John U. Teh of the Seventy, currently serving as Second Counselor in the Philippines Area Presidency; by Sarah Cutler

The scriptures say, “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you” (Matthew 7:7). I know that if you ask with a sincere heart and with real intent, Heavenly Father will give you the answers you seek.

When I was young, I loved Primary songs. I loved to sing them, even though I didn’t always understand all the words. As I grew older, I remembered the songs, and they helped me do the right things. I still love to sing the songs. I remember “Our Primary colors are one, two, three—red, yellow, and blue. Each one has a message for you and me. Each is a symbol true!”¹ I also remember “If you chance to meet a frown, do not let it stay. Quickly turn it upside down and smile that frown away.”² The song about the

wise man and the foolish man is another one of my favorites.³

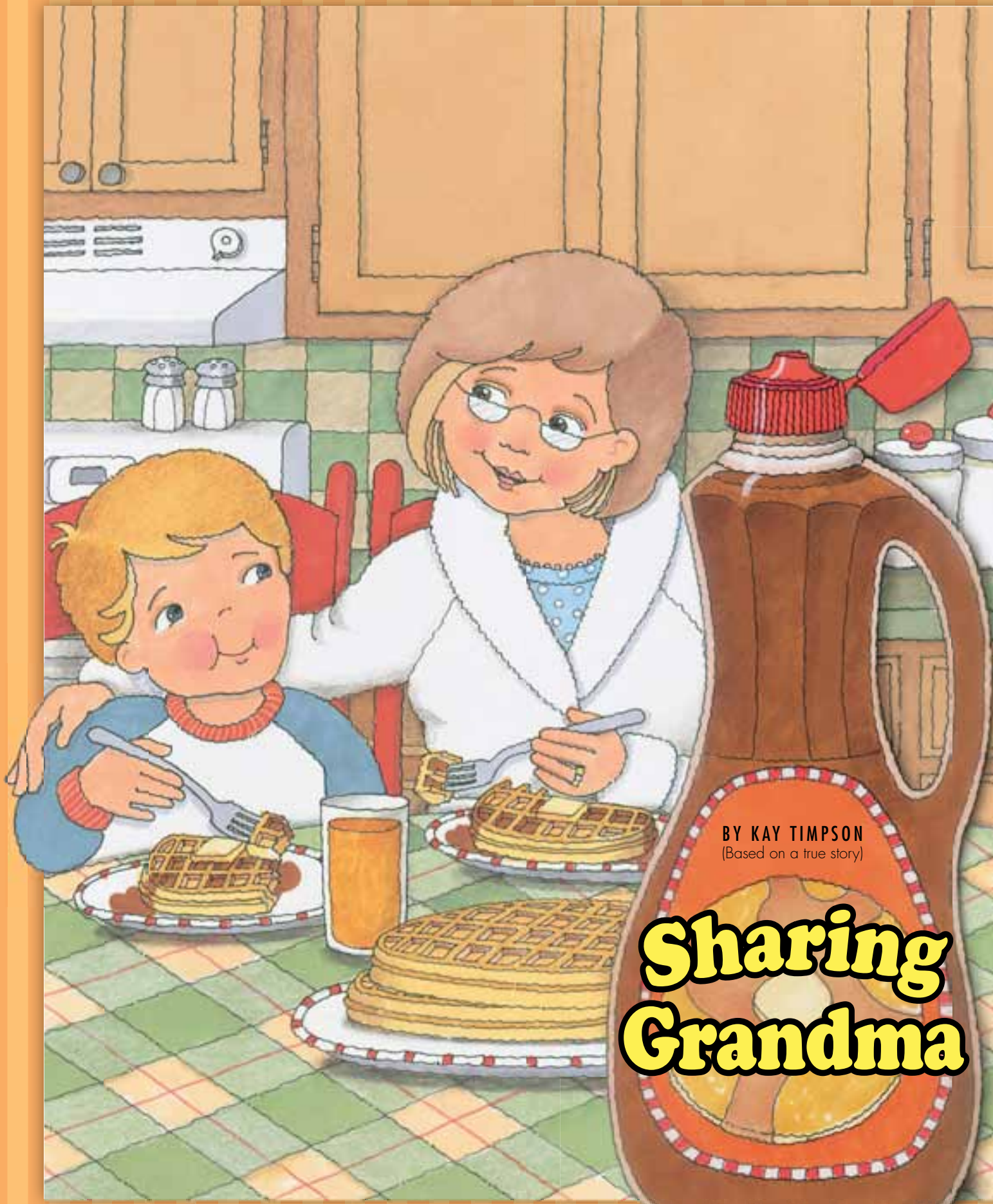
I know Primary songs have been a source of strength for me. Now it makes me happy to see children learning Primary songs. I know the songs will help you the way they helped me.

Praying and singing Primary songs when I was a little boy helped me to get to know Heavenly Father. I know I’m a child of God. I’ve always known it. Even when I make mistakes, He is loving and generous to me. I have learned that when you do even one simple, small right thing, He pours out blessings upon you. There’s no doubt about it. He knows me. He loves me. I am His son.

Like me, you are a child of our Father in Heaven. No matter what happens, even if others turn their backs to you, our Father in Heaven will not. He’s always there. He loves you. ●

NOTES

- 1. “Our Primary Colors,” *Children’s Songbook*, 258.
- 2. “Smiles,” *Children’s Songbook*, 267.
- 3. See “The Wise Man and the Foolish Man,” *Children’s Songbook*, 281.



BY KAY TIMPSON
(Based on a true story)

Sharing Grandma

Go ye into all the world; . . . that the testimony may go from you into all the world unto every creature (D&C 84:62).

Seth squirmed in his chair. He could hardly wait to hear what Grandma and Grandpa had to say. When everyone was quiet, Grandpa began. “For a long time, Grandma and I have prayed about serving a mission. We want to do what the prophet has asked, so we turned in our mission papers. The Lord has called us to serve a mission in Puerto Rico.”

Everyone was happy and excited for Grandma and Grandpa. Everyone except Seth. He felt sad and lonely. “It’s almost like everyone *wants* them to go away,” Seth thought. He went to his room, curled up on his bed, and cried.

Mom found him there. “Seth, what’s wrong?”

“I can’t believe that Grandma and Grandpa are leaving us. What about when my new baby sister is born? She won’t know who they are. And what about *me*? Don’t they care about me?”

“Seth, Grandma and Grandpa love you very much,” Mom said. “That’s one of the reasons they’re going to serve—to set a good example for you and for all of us.”

Seth didn’t understand. He had never felt more miserable.

The next morning, Grandma’s soft voice woke Seth up. “I thought maybe you and I

could have breakfast together,” she said.

Seth sprang out of bed. Maybe Grandma and Grandpa had changed their minds!

After Grandma and Seth finished their waffles, she told him a story. “When Grandpa and I started thinking about going on a mission, I was concerned about you. I prayed that Heavenly Father would help you to understand our feelings. Then at general conference, Elder Robert D. Hales said if we serve a mission, our families will be blessed.

“Grandpa and I want those blessings for you, Seth. We also want to show you that it’s important to follow the prophet. We want you to share this special time with us and be happy.”

Seth knew that Grandma was right. “I am happy for you, Grandma. I just didn’t know that following the prophet meant I’d lose you.”

“You will never lose me, Seth,” Grandma said. “We are an eternal family. But we are asking you to share us with people in Puerto Rico who need us. The time will pass quickly. We’ll write letters and send you stamps for your collection. And when we get back, I’ll be an even better grandma!”

On Sunday, Seth’s Primary sang “Follow the Prophet.” It seemed like a whole new song to Seth. Now he knew that sharing Grandma and Grandpa was one way he could follow the prophet too. ●

“Families are greatly strengthened as they pray for their parents and grandparents and read letters sent home which share their testimonies and the contribution they are making in the mission field.”²

Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles



Helping And Building

BY JULIE WARDELL AND ANNA CULP

Children all over the world love helping their family—just like you! This month, let's meet Jared Simpson of Meredith, New Hampshire.

Jared the Builder

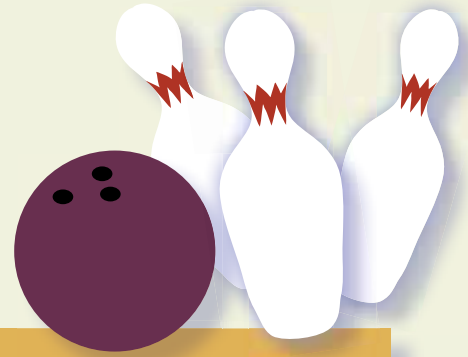
Nine-year-old Jared Simpson lives with his family in a house surrounded by a beautiful forest outside Meredith, New Hampshire. He might be found riding his bike, practicing trombone, exploring the forest, or quietly watching two deer that visit his yard every day. No matter what Jared is doing, he works hard, is kind to others, and knows how to have fun.

What Jared Builds

Jared helps his family build a skating rink in their backyard during the winter. They shovel snow to make a flat, hard space and then use the water hose to make a smooth ice layer for everyone to skate on. Jared also builds with small blocks, and makes paper airplanes to fly off his back porch. He built a fort in the woods, and he would like to build wooden boats for the backyard pond. For a Faith in God project, Jared and his dad made a chair. When he is older, he hopes to build

houses like his dad. By being a hard worker, Jared is building something really special—good character.





Jared also enjoys . . .

reading the Book of Mormon
bowling with his family
telling jokes
eating pepperoni pizza



A Strong Foundation

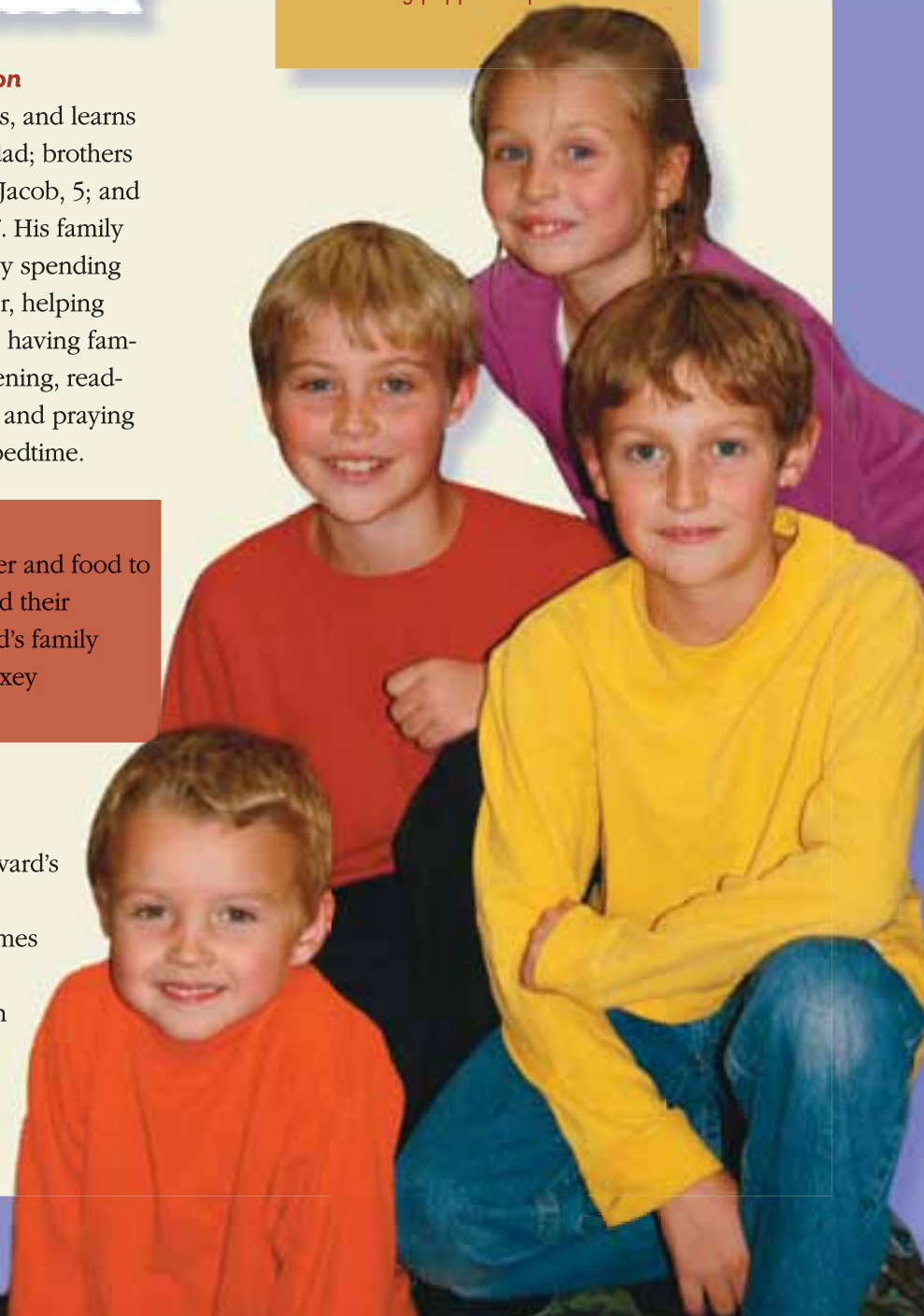
Jared works, plays, and learns with his mom and dad; brothers Joshua, 11, and Jacob, 5; and sister Gracie, 7. His family stays strong by spending time together, helping with chores, having family home evening, reading scriptures, and praying together before bedtime.

Fluffy Friends

Jared and Joshua take turns giving water and food to their bunnies, Fluffernutter and Velvet, and their cat, Foxy. Foxy was a stray cat that Jared's family decided to take care of. They joke that Foxy "adopted" their family.

A Hike to Remember

Every May, Jared and his brothers look forward to going with their dad on their ward's father-and-son camping trip. They build a campfire, catch salamanders, and play games in Sharon, Vermont. The Prophet Joseph Smith was born in Sharon, and they go on a hike to see the Joseph Smith Birthplace Memorial. Jared has a testimony of the Book of Mormon and that Joseph Smith was a true prophet of God.



People Skills

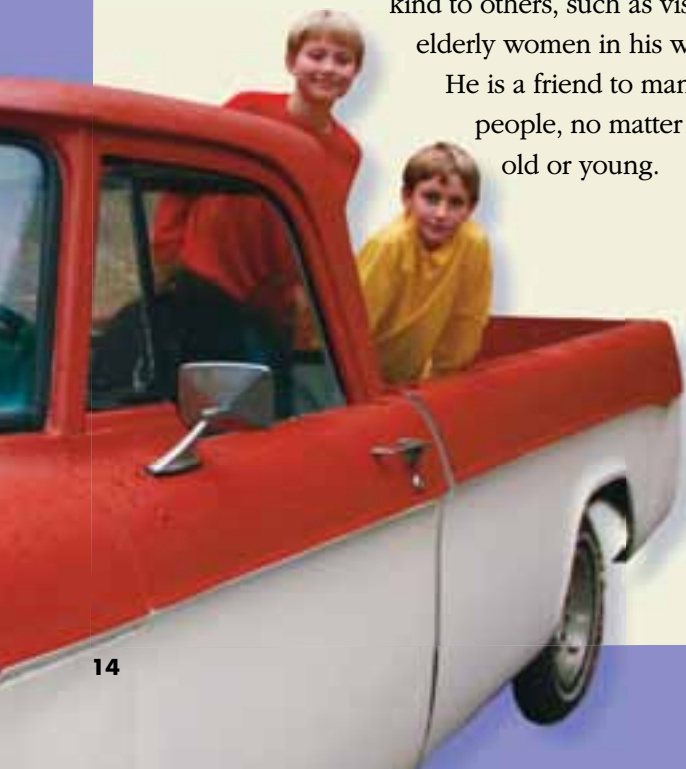
Jared is a good example at school by trying to be nice to everyone, helping other children to be nice, and saying “I’m sorry” when he needs to. He also sets an example by not saying bad words. Jared has lots of friends at Primary too. When Jared was younger, he had a speech disability. Interacting with his friends at Primary and speech therapy helped him overcome his speech challenges.

Muddy Feet

There are lots of fun things to do outside where Jared lives. He likes to ride his bike to the end of the road and back. Jared likes to catch frogs, turtles, and salamanders in the backyard pond. When camping, he plays capture the flag and football with his family and friends. In the winter, a hill in his backyard is great for sledding. Jared also plays halfback on a soccer team. With all that outdoor fun, his shoes must get muddy!

Helping Hands

Jared works hard to help his family and neighbors. One day, he and his brother helped their dad sand and restore an old truck all day. And he takes time to be kind to others, such as visiting elderly women in his ward. He is a friend to many people, no matter how old or young.



Where in the World Is Meredith, New Hampshire?



Study Fun

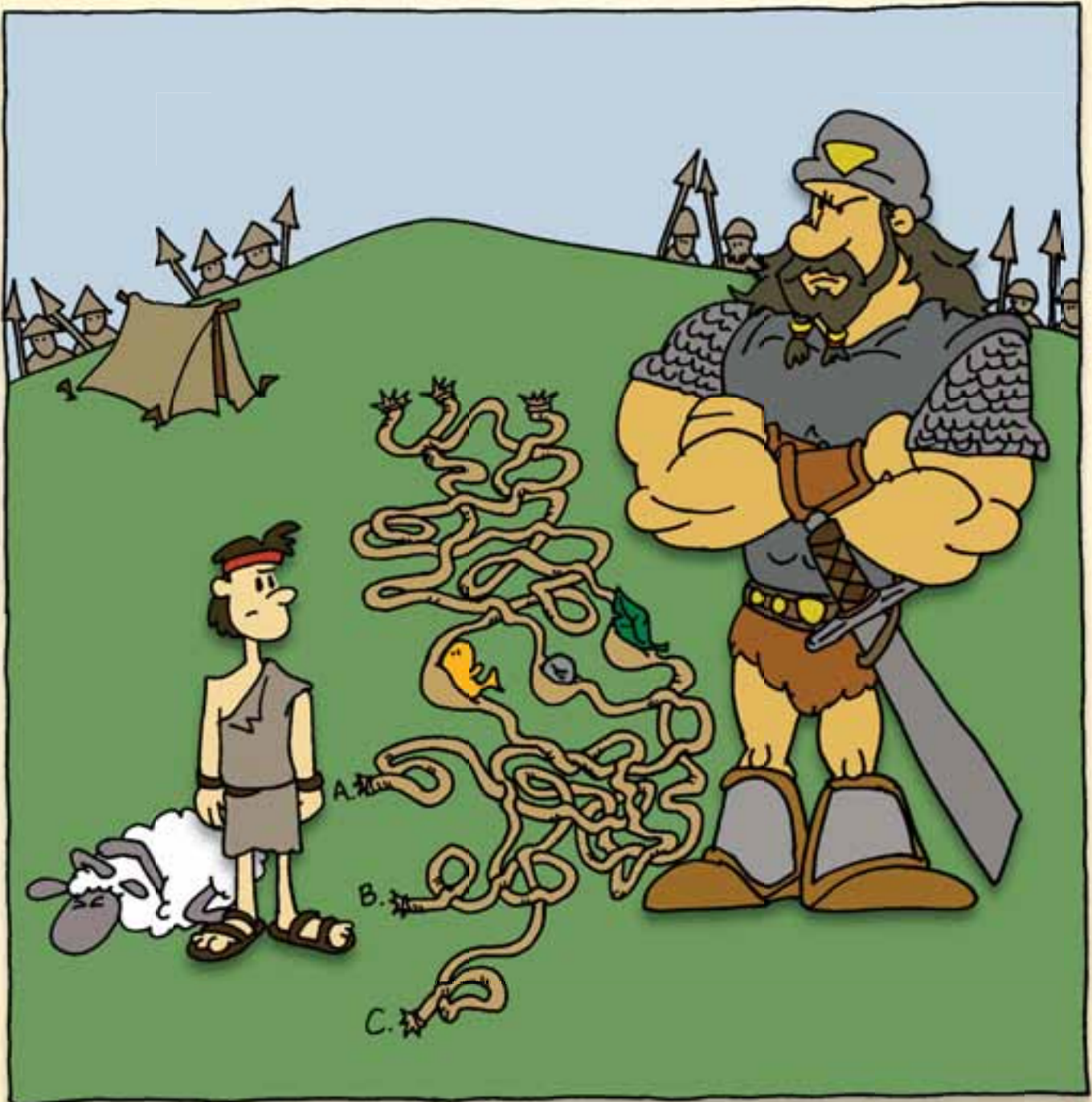
In music class, Jared is learning to play trombone. He also enjoys geography, art, and math, especially subtraction. During recess at school, he plays “wall ball.” He kicks the ball against a wall and it quickly bounces back for him to kick again. ●



David and Goliath

BY ARIE VAN DE GRAAFF

David needs help fighting Goliath. At his feet are three slings. One holds a fish, one holds a feather, and one holds a rock. Which sling holds the rock David needs to defeat Goliath?



Our Family Will Be Strong



And ye will not have a mind to injure one another, but to live peaceably (Mosiah 4:13).

BY CHERYL ESPLIN



A rope is made up of many strands that are tightly woven together. If one strand is broken or cut, it weakens the rope. Your family can be compared to a rope. Each member can represent a strand. When you work together for good, the whole family becomes stronger. Every family member has a responsibility to help strengthen one another.

Think about Nephi and how he helped strengthen his family. While they were traveling in the wilderness, Nephi's bow broke. They couldn't get any food, and they were all tired and hungry. Many family members were angry with Nephi, and they murmured against the Lord.

Nephi didn't murmur or get angry. He made another bow out of wood and an arrow out of a straight stick. He asked his father, Lehi, where he should go to hunt

for food. Nephi was then able to get food for his family. They were happy, and they humbled themselves and gave thanks unto the Lord. (See 1 Nephi 16:18–32.)

You and your family members can help each other be strong by praying together, helping each other, showing kindness and love, reading scriptures together, enjoying activities together, and having family home evening. ●

Activity

Remove page 17 from the magazine, and mount it on heavy paper. In family home evening, talk about things that can strengthen your family. Write these ideas on the chart. Two ideas have already been suggested. Hang the chart where your family can see it and refer to it often.



Our Family Will Be Strong

1. Our family can pray together.

2. Our family can spend time together.

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

SHARING TIME IDEAS

July Theme: *I will strengthen my family.*

(Note: Weekly gospel principles are listed in bold. All songs are from *Children's Songbook* unless otherwise noted; GAK = Gospel Art Picture Kit, TNGC = Teaching, No Greater Call.)

1. ***Family prayer strengthens my family.*** While the oldest class reads 3 Nephi 18:21 out loud, ask the other children to listen for what Jesus Christ commands us to do (pray in our families). Get responses. Ask six children to come to the front of the room. Tape one of the following wordstrips on each child in random order: *family, prayer, will, strengthen, my, family*. Ask the other children to help unscramble the children so the words are in the right order. Recite the sentence together. Show GAK 606 (Family Prayer), and explain that we are encouraged to have family prayer every night and every morning. Let the children suggest things they can do to help with their family prayers. Write their suggestions on the board. (Examples: remind their family to have family prayer, come quickly when called, take turns saying the prayer, pray for members of the family, be reverent during the prayer.) Have the children close their eyes and picture their families kneeling in prayer while you sing the first verse of "Family Prayer" (p. 189). Then invite them to sing that verse with you. Hand out pencils and pieces of paper that say "Family prayer will strengthen my family." Ask the children to draw their families kneeling in prayer. Encourage them to take the picture home and hang it in a place where it will remind their families to have family prayer every morning and every night. Sing all the verses of "Family Prayer."

2. ***Reading the scriptures strengthens my family.*** Display the Bible, Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, and Pearl of Great Price. Explain that these books of scripture are called the standard works. To help the children become familiar with each book of scripture, play a guessing game by giving clues to help them guess which of the four books you are referring to (see "Guessing Game," TNGC, 169). For example: "This book tells about Joseph Smith's history and has the Articles of Faith" (Pearl of Great Price). As each book of scripture is identified, have all the children repeat its name together. Teach that the scriptures are the word of God. They teach about Jesus Christ and His gospel. The scriptures can strengthen our families if we will read them regularly. Sing "Search, Ponder, and Pray" (p. 109). Pass out one of the following scripture references to each class: Exodus 20:12 (honor our parents); John 13:34 (love one another); Ephesians 4:32 (be kind and forgiving); 1 Nephi 3:7 (obey commandments); 3 Nephi 18:21 (pray in our families); Doctrine and Covenants 59:7 (gratitude). Give each child a blank wordstrip and a pencil. Tell the children to follow along while their teacher reads the scripture. Then each child should find one thing the scripture says to do that would help his or her family be strong and happy. Have the children write it down on a wordstrip and then share with class members. Invite each class to read their wordstrips to the rest of the Primary. Tell an experience when the scriptures have strengthened your family. Encourage the children to read the scriptures individually and as a family.

3. ***Family home evening strengthens my family.*** Hold a bundle of sticks in your hand. Break one of the sticks in half. Tie all the sticks together with string. Show how difficult it is to break the sticks when they are tied together. Tell the children that the sticks represent members of a family. Emphasize that when we are alone we are not as strong as when we are with our family. Explain that family home evening can be like the string that unites and strengthens the family. Teach the children that they can help their family home evenings be successful by helping plan them and willingly participating. Tell the children you are going to help them prepare a story about Joseph Smith's First Vision that they could share during a family home evening. Help them make a simple visual aid they could use to tell the story of the First Vision. (For example: drawings, cutouts, or finger puppets. See resources below.) Using the same visual aid the children have prepared, briefly tell the story of the First Vision (see Joseph Smith—History 1:5–20). Then invite one or two children to tell the story using their visual aids. Explain that music is an important part of family home evening and that you are going to teach a song they can use during their home evenings. Teach the third verse of "On a Golden Springtime" (p. 88). Bear testimony of the importance of family home evening in strengthening our families. Encourage the children to tell the story and teach the song in an upcoming family home evening (with their parents' permission).

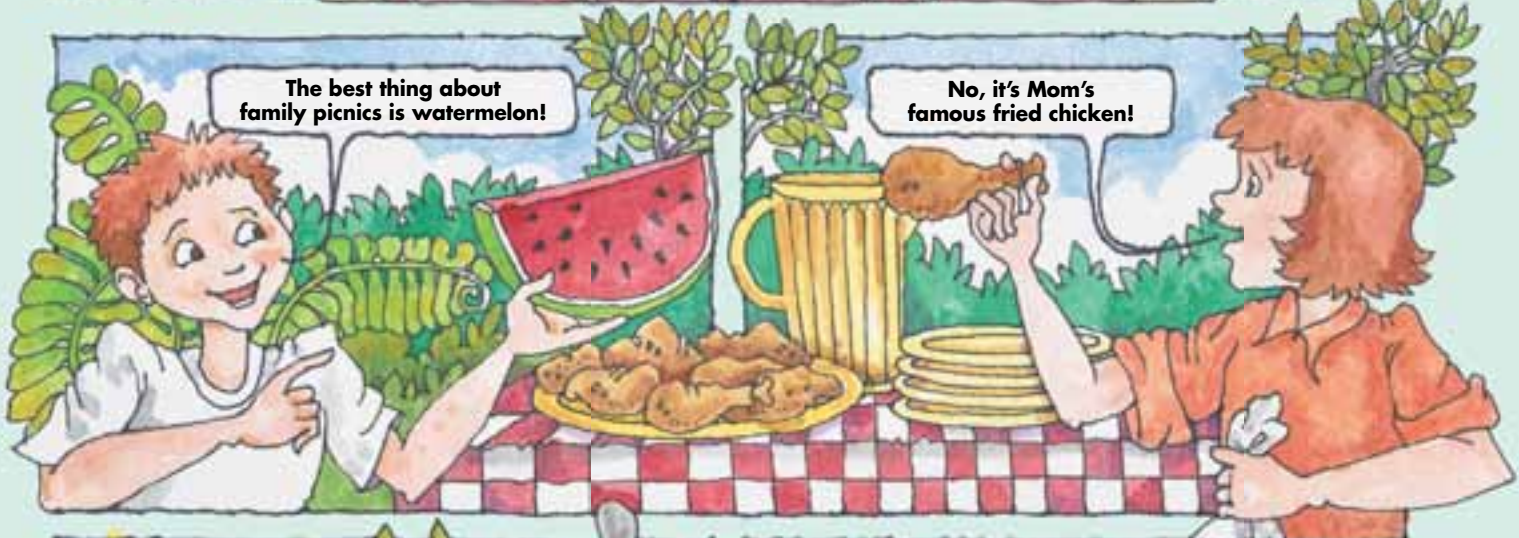
For older children: See the second activity under "Learning and Living the Gospel" in the *Faith in God* booklet, page 6.

Resources for visuals of Joseph Smith's First Vision: *Behold Your Little Ones* (nursery manual), lesson 21; "Joseph Smith's First Vision," *Friend*, Mar. 2008, 48; "Joseph Smith's First Vision," *Friend*, Oct. 1991, 16–17.

4. ***Reverence and keeping the Sabbath day holy strengthen my family.*** Beforehand, write on small pieces of paper different activities we could do to keep the Sabbath day holy. Put the papers in a container. Cut out paper circles to represent "spots" and attach them to the board. To begin sharing time, have the children read out loud Exodus 20:8. Explain that the Lord has promised great blessings when we keep the Sabbath day holy. Have the children listen for one of those blessings while you read Doctrine and Covenants 59:9. Ask: "What does the Lord promise if we keep the Sabbath day holy?" (We will be able to keep ourselves "unspotted from the world.") Emphasize that if we keep the Sabbath day holy, we are promised the strength to keep ourselves clean and unspotted from the world. Show the container with the pieces of paper, and explain that on each paper is an activity we could do on the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Have the children count off by saying the days of the week. When a child says, "Sunday," have him or her choose a paper from the container and act out the activity for the others to guess. When the correct answer is given, have that child remove a spot from the board. Continue as time allows. Sing a Primary song about the Sabbath day. Bear testimony that by keeping the Sabbath day holy, we will draw closer to the Lord and to our family.

5. *Friend* references: "The Lifeline of Prayer," July 2003, 2–3; "Nets Full of Fish," Feb. 2006, 18–21; "Press Forward, Saints," Jan. 2000, 28–30; "Kirsten's Assignment," Apr. 2005, 46–48; "Ready to Go!" July 2007, 8–11; "Family Home Evening with a Friend," Oct. 2006, 42–44; "Cannon's Commitment," Mar. 2007, 10–12; "Remember the Sabbath Day," Nov. 2004, 38–39; "Doing Good on the Sabbath Day," Sept. 2007, 24–25.

Matt AND Mandy



BY CHAD E. PHARES

Church Magazines
(Based on a true story)

Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles (Proverbs 21:23).

Can Christopher come out and play?" Christopher heard his friend's cheerful voice at the front door. He sprinted to the living room. Before his mother could say a word, Christopher had already reached the front door to greet his friend Ben.

Ben and Christopher weren't only good friends—they were best friends. Nearly every day the boys enjoyed playing basketball, digging holes in the backyard, catching fireflies, or doing some other fun activity. Christopher was a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and Ben wasn't. But the two boys still had a lot of fun together.

"What do you want to do today?" Christopher asked. He bent over to tie his shoes, still caked with mud from his



at Christopher. His eyebrows were scrunched down. He looked confused.

"What do you mean you don't say that word at your house?" Ben asked.

"It's just not a nice word, so we don't say it," Christopher replied.

"I don't believe you," Ben said. "Everybody says it. You *have* to say it."

Christopher didn't want to argue. He liked playing with Ben, but he knew that he needed to stand up for what he believed in.

"I've never said it, and I never will," Christopher said. "You don't *have* to say those kinds of words."

"Whatever," Ben said as he grabbed his bike and turned toward his house. "I'm going home," he muttered as he trudged down the road.

Christopher felt bad that Ben was mad. He didn't want to hurt Ben's feelings. As he turned around to walk back into his



BEST FRIENDS?

puddle-jumping competition with Ben the day before.

"Let's go ride bikes," Ben said.

The boys raced down the creaky porch steps and grabbed their bikes. When Ben discovered that the chain on his bike had come loose, he yelled out a bad word that sent a chill up Christopher's neck.

Christopher had a bad feeling inside. He knew Heavenly Father didn't want people to say words like the word Ben just said.

"I don't really like that word," Christopher told Ben. "We don't say it at my house."

Ben slowly lifted his head to look

house, he was surprised to see his mother standing in the doorway with a half-smile on her face.

As Christopher walked up the porch steps, Mom knelt down on one knee so she could look him in the eyes. "I'm very proud of you, Christopher," she said. "It took a lot of courage for you to say what you said."

"I believe I made Heavenly Father happy," Christopher said. "But I think Ben is angry."

"Everything will be fine," Mom said. "Heavenly Father blesses us when we are obedient. You'll see."

The next morning, Christopher heard a knock on his



front door. He hoped it was Ben. Several questions ran through Christopher's head as he turned the doorknob. Would Ben still be mad? Would he call him names? Could they still be friends?

Christopher opened the door and prepared for the worst.

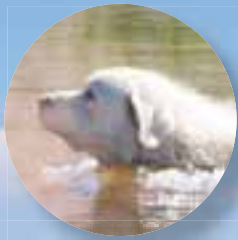
"Hi, Chris," Ben said. "Do you want to play?" Ben's eyebrows weren't scrunched down like they

were the day before. He had a smile on his face. He wasn't mad anymore. Christopher was happy.

"Sure, let's go," Christopher answered as he jumped outside.

Christopher never heard Ben use another bad word again. He knew his mother was right—Heavenly Father *does* bless us when we have the courage to stand up for the right. ●





Oscar

Trail Leader

BY PAIGE TURNER



Have you ever been to Martin's Cove, Wyoming? More than 160 years ago, handcart pioneers took refuge in the cove during the winter. They were rescued by Church members from Salt Lake City, Utah.

Today, many families and groups visit Martin's Cove during the summer to trek along the trail. Sometimes they push handcarts so they can learn more about what the pioneers went through. The groups are often greeted by an unexpected visitor—a four-legged visitor. It's Oscar, a Pyrenees dog that lives about 10 miles away from the cove.

Oscar carefully picks the groups he leads along the trail. Sometimes when he's sleeping, he perks up his head a bit if adults walk by and then goes back to sleep. But if a group of children walks by, Oscar often jumps up to go on the trek with them. Oscar leads the children along the trail, walking more than five miles to the cove and back. At lunchtime, Oscar usually eats peanut butter sandwiches along with everyone else.

Oscar protects children at their campsites too. One day, Oscar followed a group of boys back to their tent and began to bark. Oscar had discovered a rattlesnake inside! The boys got a leader to take the snake away so they would be safe.

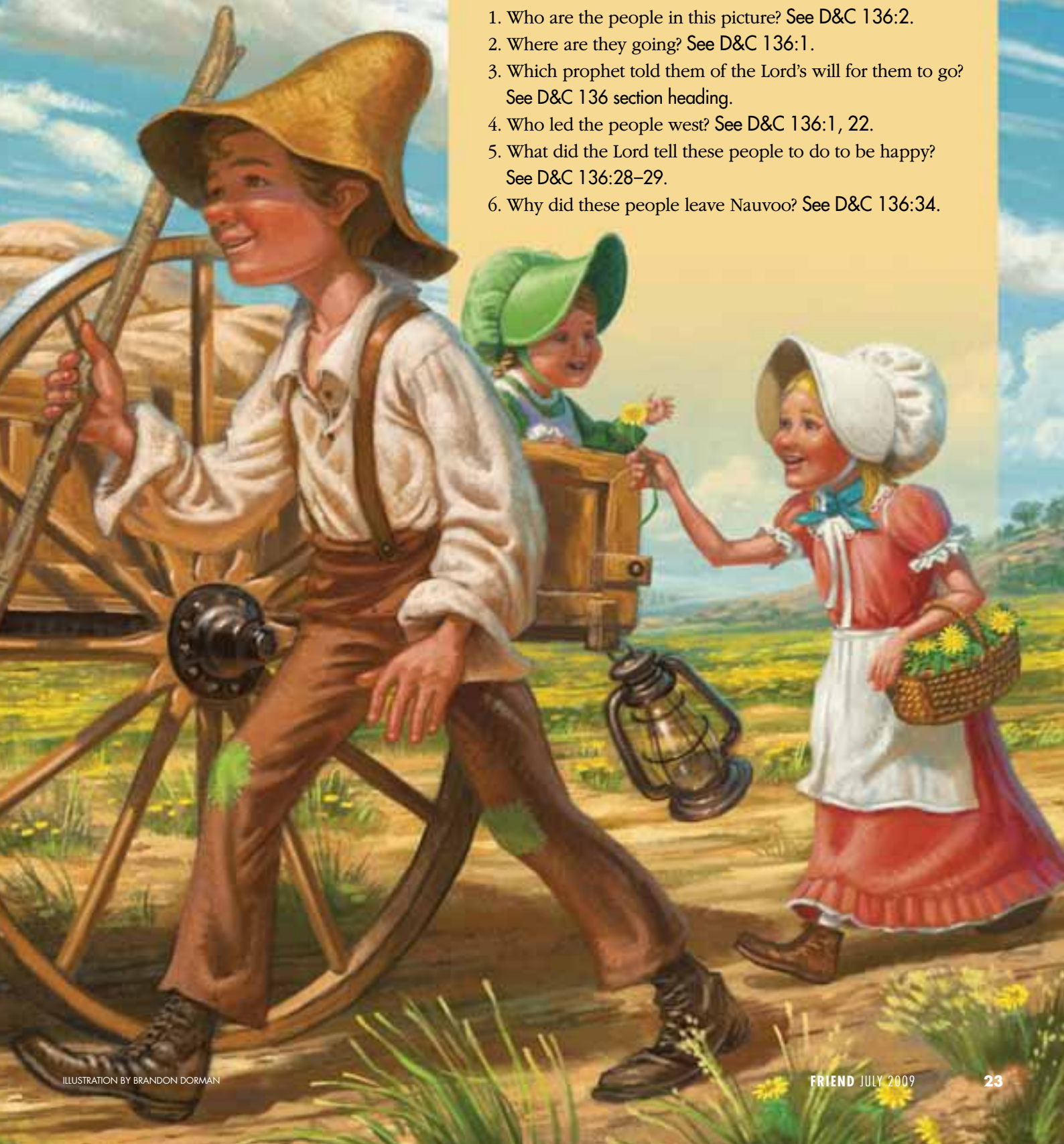
At the end of each summer, Oscar returns home. He gets tired from walking all those miles with the children.

But after Oscar has spent the fall and winter resting at his owner's home, he always returns to Martin's Cove to lead new groups of children along the trail. ●



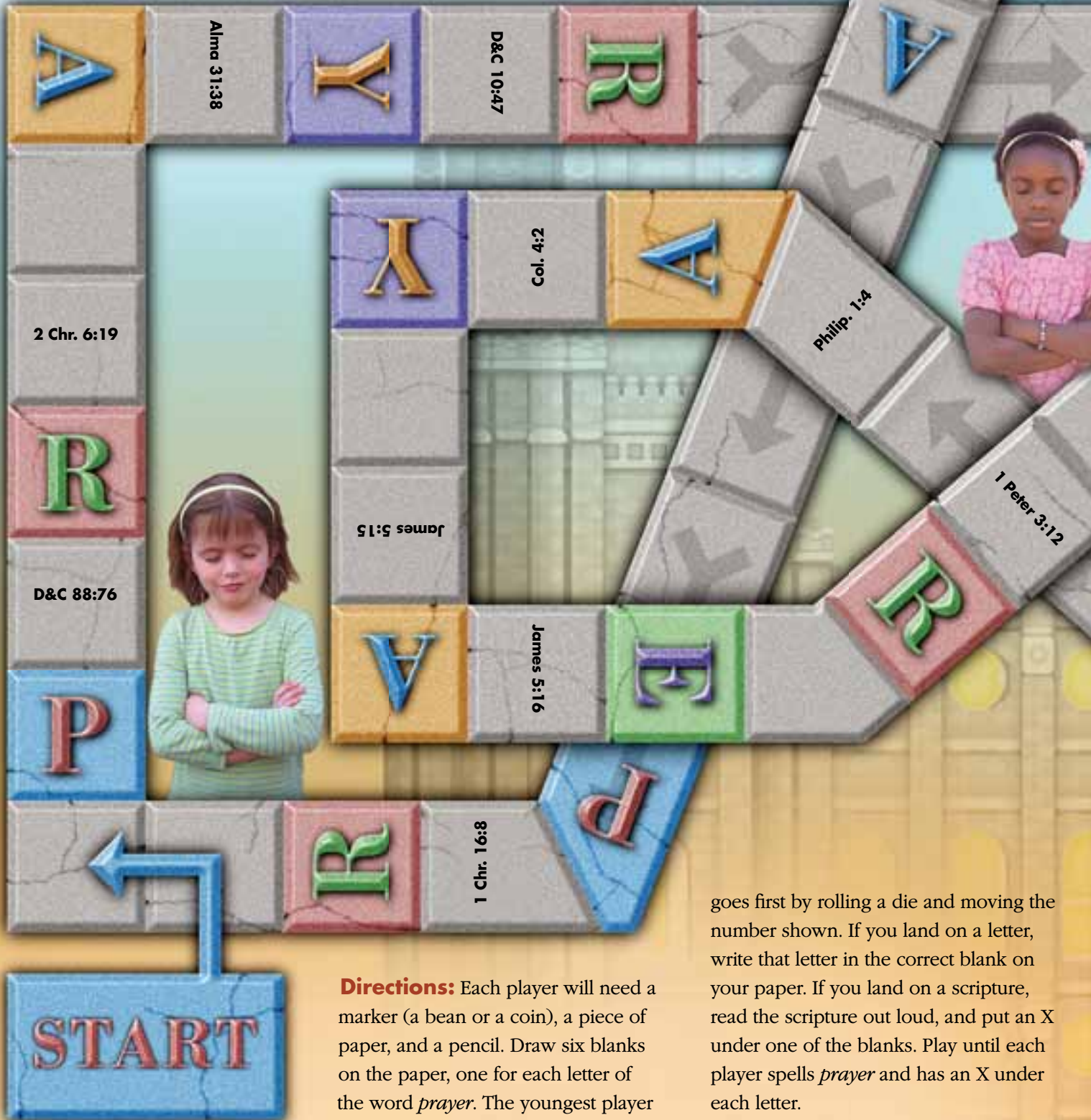
Going West

1. Who are the people in this picture? See D&C 136:2.
2. Where are they going? See D&C 136:1.
3. Which prophet told them of the Lord's will for them to go? See D&C 136 section heading.
4. Who led the people west? See D&C 136:1, 22.
5. What did the Lord tell these people to do to be happy? See D&C 136:28–29.
6. Why did these people leave Nauvoo? See D&C 136:34.



The POWER of PRAYER

As children of our Heavenly Father one of our greatest privileges is to communicate with Him in prayer. As you play this game with your family and friends and read the scriptures on the squares, you will learn more about prayer and how you can improve your communication with Heavenly Father.



Directions: Each player will need a marker (a bean or a coin), a piece of paper, and a pencil. Draw six blanks on the paper, one for each letter of the word *prayer*. The youngest player

goes first by rolling a die and moving the number shown. If you land on a letter, write that letter in the correct blank on your paper. If you land on a scripture, read the scripture out loud, and put an X under one of the blanks. Play until each player spells *prayer* and has an X under each letter.



P

Alma 33:7

Enos 1:12

Nephi 8:1

Mormon 5:21

Alma 58:10

D&C 10:52

E

Mosiah 27:14

Y

Alma 33: 3-6

A

Enos 1:4

Alma 34:19

R

A

Mormon 9:37

Y

Y

Alma 34:27

Jacob 7:22

R

Matth. 21:22

Y

D&C 12:1

Alma 34:39

P

2 Nephi 33:4

Mark 9:29

Luke 6:12

Philip. 4:6

E

2 Nephi 4:24

Smile that Frown Away

WHAT BELONGS TO YOU BUT IS USED MORE BY EVERYBODY ELSE?

Your name.

DID YOU HEAR THE JOKE ABOUT THE BED?

Sorry, it hasn't been made yet.



WHY DID THE GOLFER BRING AN EXTRA PAIR OF PANTS?

In case he got a hole in one.



KNOCK KNOCK.

Who's there?

BOO.

Boo who?

WELL, YOU DON'T HAVE TO CRY ABOUT IT.

WHERE CAN YOU ORDER COWS?

In a catalog.

WHY DID THE COOKIE GO TO THE DOCTOR?

She was feeling crummy.

WHAT DID THE TIE SAY TO THE HAT?

You go ahead and I'll hang around.



ILLUSTRATIONS BY MARK ROBISON

Sand-Dollar Cookies

Have you ever spent a day at the beach? Maybe you found a sand dollar lying in the sand. These yummy cookies might remind you of the fun time you had.



- 1 cup margarine or butter, softened**
- 2 cups sugar**
- 2 eggs**
- 1 teaspoon vanilla**
- 1/4 cup milk**
- 3 3/4 cups flour**
- 1/4 teaspoon salt**
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda**
- 1/2 teaspoon cream of tartar**
- slivered almonds**
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon, mixed with 3 tablespoons sugar**

1. Mix the margarine and sugar together in a mixing bowl until creamy. Add the eggs, vanilla,

and milk, and mix until smooth.

2. In another bowl, mix the flour, salt, baking soda, and cream of tartar. Add the flour mixture to the margarine mixture. Mix well.

3. Roll dough into small balls and place them on a cookie sheet. Dip the bottom of a drinking glass in flour, and use it to press the balls of dough into circles about 1/4 inch thick. Press five slivered almonds on each cookie so they look like sand dollars. Sprinkle with cinnamon and sugar.

4. Bake the cookies at 375°F (190°C) for 7–10 minutes.

Living sand dollars are covered with velvety brown skin.



They burrow in sand on the ocean floor and eat with the hole on their underside.



Trying to Be Like Jesus

He that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life (John 8:12).



Teaching a Friend



I went on a two-day school field trip with other fifth and sixth graders to study paleontology. I shared a motel room with three of my friends. One of my friends found a Bible in the nightstand drawer. He flipped through

some of the pages and then asked me if I would help him read it. I was surprised that he didn't know any of the Bible stories I thought everyone knew. I taught him about the Creation, Adam and Eve, and the Resurrection. I also told him about Joseph Smith. I told him some of the stories I learned in Primary.

Afterward, I felt like we should have a prayer. I let my friend say the prayer. I led him through it by saying one phrase at a time and having him repeat it. I had a warm feeling, and my friend said he felt good inside.

I never expected that to happen on a school field trip. I was glad that when I had an opportunity to be a missionary, I was prepared and I wasn't afraid to share my beliefs.

Christian S., age 10, Arizona

The Secret to Success

When I was little and learning to read, it was really hard. But with my mom's and Heavenly Father's help, I learned to read. My best friend, Renzo, was also having a hard time learning to read.

One day I told him that I would give him a secret to help him learn to read because it worked for me. We went into the schoolyard. I

taught Renzo how to pray, and he said a prayer to Heavenly Father, asking for help.

At the end of the school year, both Renzo and I received a medal of honor in reading because of Heavenly Father's help. I know Heavenly Father answers our prayers.

Edis Hazel T., age 11, El Salvador

Sunday Soccer



My soccer team went to a tournament on a Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. My mom asked me what I was going to do about Sunday's game. I said I didn't know what to do. My dad encouraged me to pray, so I prayed about it. That night, the song "Nephi's Courage" got stuck in my head.

I knew Heavenly Father answered my prayers through that song so I would remember to have courage to obey His commandments. On Sunday after church, I knew my team was playing. I was a little sad that I couldn't help my team, but I knew I was doing the right thing. I am glad that Heavenly Father helped me make the right choice, even though it was hard to make.

DJ W., age 9, South Dakota

The Immodest Costume



For the year-end program at my school, we were putting on a musical. I was so excited, especially when I got a part.

I went to all the rehearsals even though no one could drive me there. But when my teacher showed us the costume we were to wear, I was disappointed. It was immodest.

I told my teacher that I would not wear the costume, and she was upset with me. She told me that none of the other girls had a problem with the costume and if I didn't want to wear it, I couldn't perform. She even tried to get my mom to pressure me to wear it. But I knew I had to keep the commandments, so I said I wouldn't perform.

Then, just a few days before the program, the teacher got new costumes that were modest. I'm happy that I didn't think that "just this one time" it would be OK to be immodest.

Estera C., age 12, with help from Cecilia Squarcia, Italy

MODESTY

Love one another as Jesus loves you (Children's Songbook, 78-79).

A Sweet Melodee

BY SARAH CUTLER (Based on a true story)

Jordan is two.
Melodee is four.

One day little Jordan
Ran into the door.

Ouch!



It is OK, Jordan.
You don't need to cry.

Sit here in my lap,
And I will wipe your eyes.

Sob.



You should now go rest,
After that big smack.
You're too upset to walk?
Then, climb onto my back.

Wow, you are heavy.
But I don't even mind.



I'll sing "I'm Trying to Be like Jesus,"
And so I will be kind.



Jesus Christ Is Baptized



John the Baptist

lived in the



desert

for many years. He wore

clothing made of the



hair

of a



camel

, and he ate



honey

and

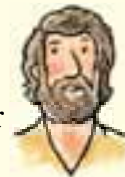


locusts



People

came from the city of Jerusalem to hear



teach about Jesus.

One day when



was baptizing



in the



Jordan River

, Jesus came to him. Jesus asked



to baptize Him.



knew that Jesus already obeyed all of the



commandments

. He thought

Jesus didn't need to be baptized. But Heavenly Father had commanded everyone to be baptized, so

Jesus told



to baptize Him. When Jesus came up out of the



water

, the Holy Ghost

came upon Him like a



dove

. Heavenly Father spoke from heaven. He said, "This is my beloved

Son, in whom I am well pleased."

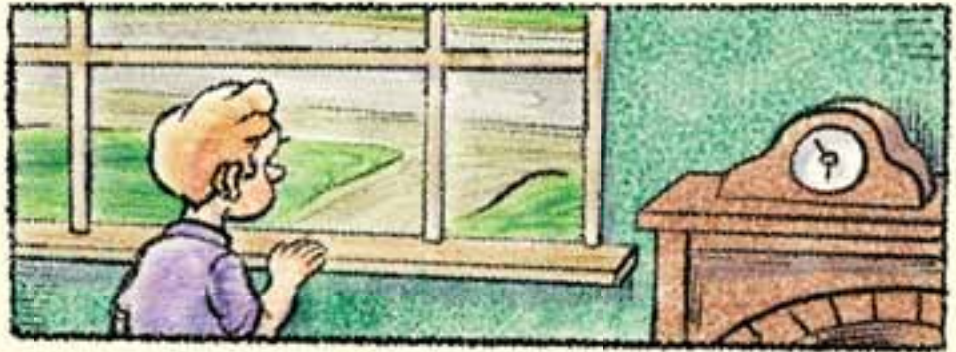


also testified that Jesus was the Son of God.

Daddy Is Home

BY LINDSAY LAW

I look outside the window,
And then look at the clock.
"It's nearly time," Mom says,
So I put away my blocks.



I clean up all the toys
That are scattered on the floor.
I comb my hair and wash my face
And stand behind the door.

I listen very carefully,
'Til footsteps I can hear.
The door opens a little bit,
And shiny shoes appear.



The footsteps stop. I hear a voice.
It's deep and happy too.
"I'm home, my son!" my daddy says,
"And glad to be with you."



Our Creative Friends



Waterfall

Wonderful
Awesome
Tall
Excellent
Radiant
Fantastic
Amusing
Like it
Liquid

Jessie R., age 9,
Pennsylvania

Temples

The temple is a wonderful sight.
It is so bright, it shines all night.
The wonderful feeling inside my heart
I love to feel, especially at night
In my bed snug and tight.
I love the temple so dear.
I leave this poem for you to hear.

Sunnie M., age 9, Utah

I Can Make a Difference by "CTR"

These three letters mean a lot to me.
They have been part of my family.
"CTR" can give you a special feeling.
Choose the right is its meaning.
Since three years old, I was taught this way.
Choose the right helps me have a good day.
Sometimes it's hard to choose the right.
But I know it's worth it, so keep that in sight.
I can make a difference
By doing what's right.
So let's try our best to
Choose the right
Throughout our day and our night.

Kalani G., age 10, California

Creation

Heavenly Father created the moon
and the sun,
Created the earth, made all the fun,
Helps all the children to choose
the right,
Let the birds fly up high,
Made the animals and the people
and the fields.

Hayden Elias R., age 8,
California



Cameron B., age 5, Arizona



Olivia B., age 7, California



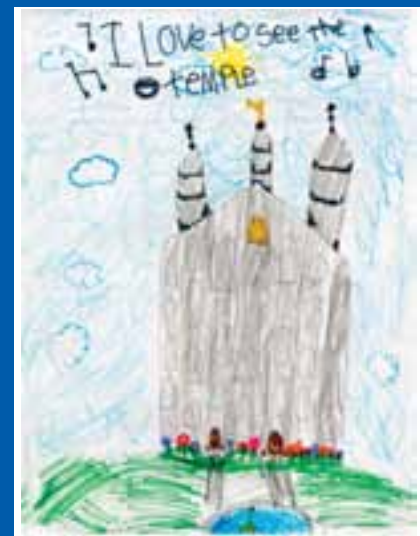
Alanna W., age 8, Texas



Tate B., age 8, Idaho



Jimmy M., age 6, Washington



Mikelyn B., age 9, Utah





Would you like to send us a poem or drawing?
Turn to page 49 to find out how.



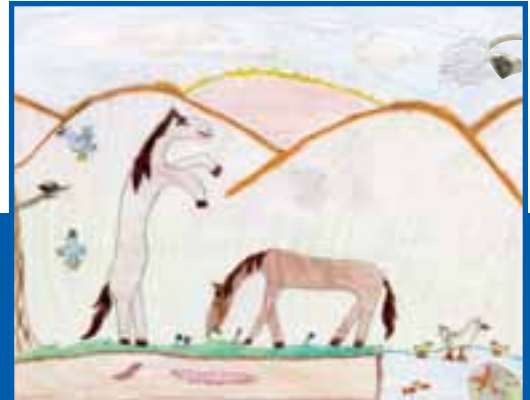
Rebecca B., age 10, Virginia



Shannon W., age 10, Montana



Gracie S., age 7, New Hampshire



Carlyn P., age 9, Colorado



Svyetlana P., age 9, Alaska



Eli B., age 7, Nebraska



Jacob P., age 8, Guyana



Isabella L., age 3, Ohio



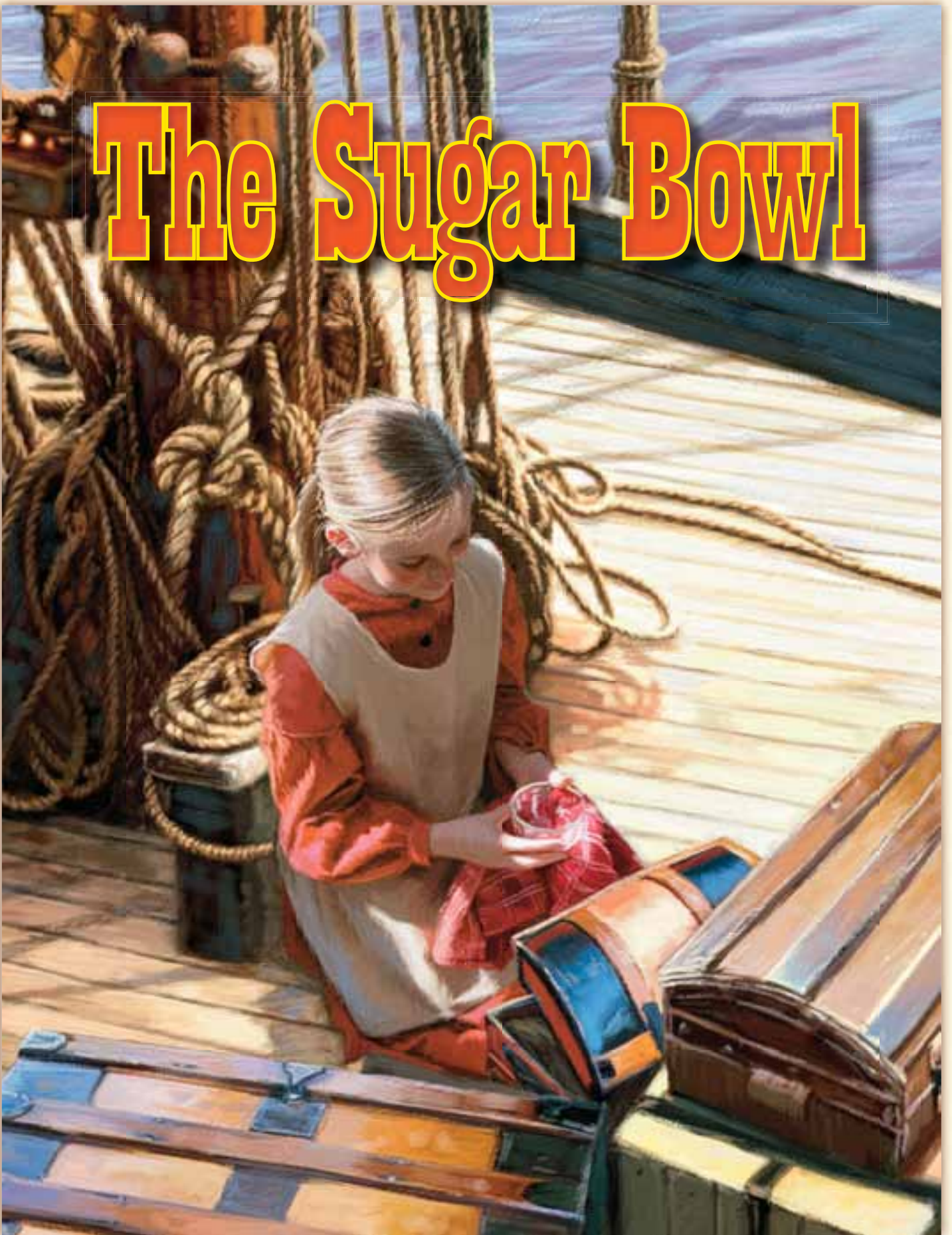
Jeremy S., age 5, Oklahoma



Tyler N., age 5, Connecticut



The Sugar Bowl



BY HAZEL LAMOREAUX

(Based on a true story)

Zion shall rejoice upon the hills and flourish

(D&C 35:24).

Rachel couldn't decide. Should she take the music box? Or maybe her doll? Or . . . ? Her eyes full of tears, she fled from the bedroom to the kitchen.

Mother was stirring a pot of stew.

Rachel slid into a kitchen chair and rested her elbows on the table. "Father says I can take something to America, but it must be very small so as not to take up space in the covered wagon."

A ray of sunshine reached through the window and played on the sugar bowl on the table. Rachel gazed at the sparkle of sun on crystal.

"I'll take the sugar bowl!" she exclaimed. "Every time I look at it, I'll remember the sweetness of England."

"But, dear, it's glass. It's sure to break," Mother said.

"Please, Mother!"

They wrapped the bowl in a soft piece of cloth, put it in a small box, and tied a string around it. All the way to Liverpool on the train, Rachel hugged it to her.

At the boat dock, Rachel looked at the rusty old ship. "Oh, Father, it's so rickety!"

"God travels with us," Father said. "There's nothing to fear."

Storms followed them across the ocean. The ship creaked and shuddered. Rachel clutched the box to her chest. Whenever a wave sent the box flying from her arms, she dove after it. Then she tore at the string to check the precious sugar bowl.

"You're wearing the string out," Mother said as Rachel opened the box time after time.

When the ship finally reached New York, Rachel's family boarded a train. Mother offered to carry the sugar bowl, but Rachel shook her head.

At last the train pulled into Omaha, Nebraska. Father filled a covered wagon with boxes of clothes and necessities. Bedding was piled on top of the boxes. A tent and Father's tools were crammed inside. Pans and kettles jangled at the sides of the wagon. Father tucked Rachel's box into a small space in the wagon. Before

dawn, a bugle sounded, and the wagon train moved out.

Problems on the journey were never ending. People got sick. Oxen were often lame. Once from a wagon up ahead came the cry, "Axle down!" The wagons suddenly stopped, confused oxen knocking wagons helter-skelter in clouds of heavy dust.

"My sugar bowl!" Rachel cried. Trying to reach the wagon, Rachel stepped into a bed of cactus. Dozens of little barbs pierced her feet.

Mother used a needle to pick the cactus spines out of Rachel's throbbing feet. Finally, Rachel found her little box and untied the string. The sugar bowl was safe.

Days turned into weeks and then months. The wagons rolled on. Some days Rachel parched in a dry, hot wind. Other days, great black clouds opened up, and sheets of rain whipped against her as she slogged through heavy, sticky mud.

Rachel held her breath at every river crossing. Sometimes the big wagons overturned, spilling their contents into the water. Crossing the rugged Rocky Mountains, wagons sometimes got too near the cliff and tumbled over. Rachel began to carry her box.

Finally, she looked down upon the Salt Lake Valley. Zion spread before her. She joined the others in shouts of joy mixed with tears.

In the valley, Father used his tools to build a small house. He made chairs, then a table.

Mother covered the table with a tablecloth brought from England. In the center Rachel placed her precious sugar bowl. She slid into a chair and rested her elbows on the table.

A sunbeam found its way through a window. Rachel gazed into the sparkle of sun on crystal. It wasn't England Rachel thought about now. It was Zion. Rachel was home. ●

"I love and honor the faith and courage of those early pioneers of the Church."³

President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Second Counselor in the First Presidency



The Cave



Did you drink the last of the milk?



Now don't jump to conclusions!

Bandit

BY RAY GOLDRUP

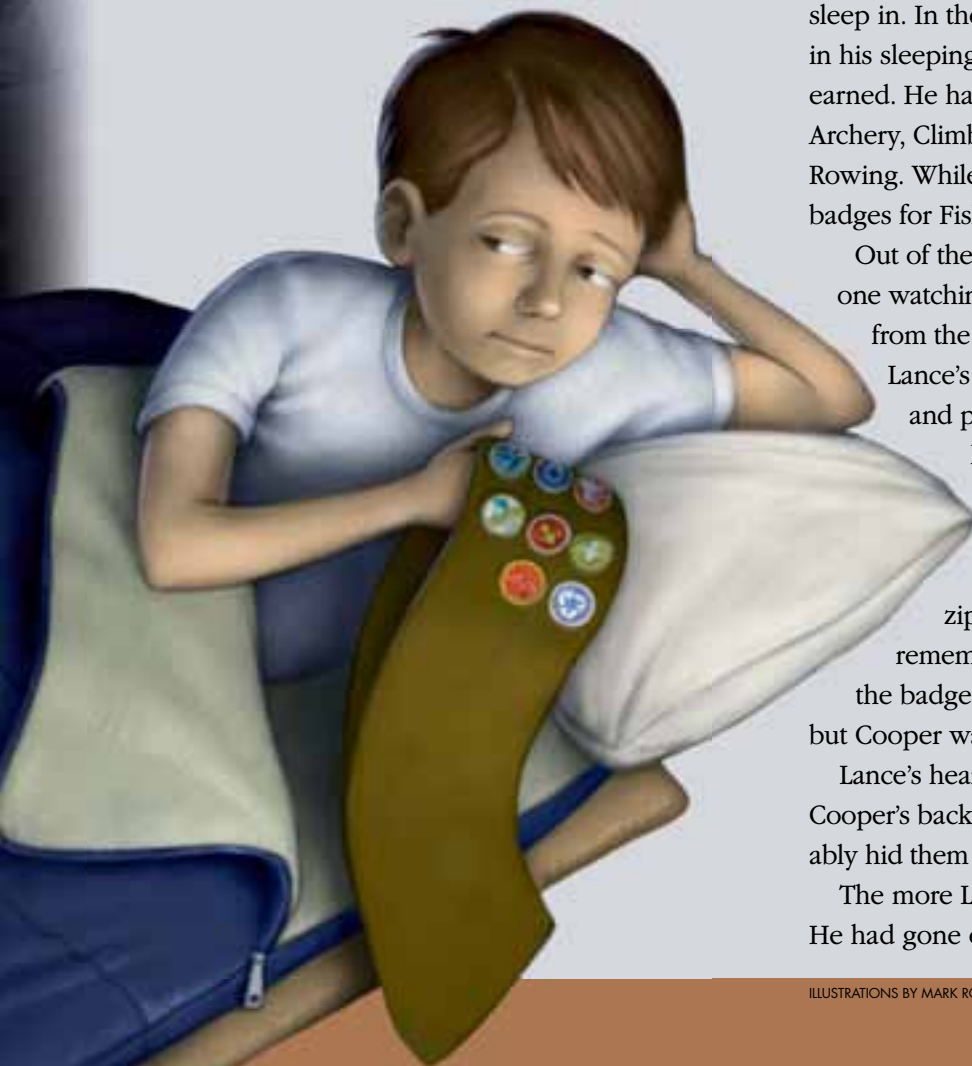
(Based on a true story)

Look up the following scriptures:

Exodus 23:1; Luke 6:37; D&C 11:12.

Circle the one you think fits the story best.

Lance looked around the Scout camp at the beautiful scenery—jagged mountains, green forest, and the still surface of the lake. His view was interrupted as Cooper, a new member of his Scout troop, walked by lugging his gear. Cooper hadn't said a word during the drive up to the camp. Lance thought Cooper seemed secretive. Did he have something to hide?



“Maybe it’s just because he’s new to the troop and doesn’t really know anyone yet,” Lance thought.

But he couldn’t help wondering if Cooper could be trusted. Earlier, Cooper had taken another Scout’s pocketknife. The knife’s owner, Cameron, stopped him. “Hey, that’s my knife,” he said.

Cooper looked down. “I have one just like it,” he said. “I thought it fell out of my bag.”

“Why don’t you check your bag?” Cameron suggested.

Lance thought Cooper pretended to look surprised when he found his own knife in his bag. “Oh, sorry,” Cooper said. He handed Cameron’s knife back to him and walked off.

Even though Lance could hardly wait until the next morning to start earning more merit badges, he was also excited about the large cave they were going to sleep in. In the light of the flickering campfire, Lance lay in his sleeping bag admiring the badges he had already earned. He had badges for Environmental Science, Archery, Climbing, Leatherworks, Swimming, and Rowing. While at Scout camp, he planned on earning badges for Fishing, Canoeing, and—

Out of the corner of his eye, Lance noticed someone watching him. It was Cooper. He was lying apart from the others in the dimness of the cave, eyeing Lance’s badges. Lance folded his merit badge sash and put it next to his backpack. Then he turned his back on Cooper and went to sleep.

The next morning, Lance’s Environmental Science and Archery badges were missing! He wished he had zipped his sash inside his bag. Then he remembered how Cooper had been looking at the badges the night before. Lance looked around, but Cooper was nowhere to be seen.

Lance’s heart beat quickly as he searched through Cooper’s backpack. The badges weren’t there. “He probably hid them in a less-obvious place,” Lance thought.

The more Lance thought about it, the angrier he got. He had gone on Scouting activities with the other boys,



and nothing like this had happened before. Lance knew Cooper had taken his hard-earned badges.

Outside the cave, Lance saw the Scout leader, Brother Maxwell. Lance approached him and asked him where Cooper was.

“He just went through those trees to take pictures of the sunrise,” Brother Maxwell said. “Can I help you with something?”

Lance explained what had happened. “Cooper has been acting suspicious ever since we got here. First he took Cameron’s pocketknife, but Cameron got it back. Now he’s taken two of my badges. I know it was him because of the way he was staring at them last night. He’s so quiet, like someone who has something to hide.”

Brother Maxwell laid a hand on Lance’s shoulder. “We can’t accuse anyone without proof, Lance. Maybe he’s shy because he’s new to the group. And maybe he was staring at your badges because he’s looking forward to earning some of his own. Let’s go take a look in the cave and see what we can find.”

“I already did, Brother Maxwell,” Lance said. “I looked everywhere, including in Cooper’s stuff. He’s probably taking that walk so he can hide the badges

until we’re ready to leave.” Lance suddenly saw Cooper step out of the trees, carrying a camera. “There he is,” he said. “Let’s go ask him.”

“Not yet, Lance,” Brother Maxwell said. “First we’re going to have a look in that cave.”

Inside the cave, Brother Maxwell examined Lance’s sash and studied the area around Lance’s backpack and sleeping bag. “Well,” he finally said, “you’re right about there having been a cave bandit here last night, Lance. But I think you’re wrong about who it was.”

“What do you mean?” Lance asked.

“Judging from the tiny paw prints in the dirt, those merit badges were probably chewed off your sash by a pack rat.”

Lance’s mouth dropped open. “A pack rat?”

Brother Maxwell nodded. “They like to collect objects such as watches, buttons, or, in this case, merit badges.”

“But I’ve got to find those badges!”

The Scout leader smiled. “If we can find the rat’s nest, we’ll most likely find your missing badges.”

After breakfast, everyone searched the area. Before long the bandit’s nest and Lance’s badges were found.

Lance apologized to Brother Maxwell. “I was wrong to accuse Cooper, and to judge him. It must be hard to be the new kid in the group.”

When Lance went back to the cave, Cooper was inside. Once again, he eyed the badges as Lance tucked them inside his bag.

Lance straightened up and turned to Cooper. “I’m going to try to earn my Canoeing badge today. Want to come?”

Cooper looked at the ground, but there was a shy smile on his face. “Sure. I’d like to try too,” he said.

Lance grinned as he and Cooper ran out of the cave into the bright summer afternoon. ●

“Don’t judge. Leave judgment to the Lord, the perfect judge.”⁴

Elder Lynn A. Mickelsen of the Seventy



How can I be a good example?

Let people know you are a committed Latter-day Saint.

If our lives are pure,
the Spirit will guide us.

BE CONFIDENT ABOUT

AND LIVE YOUR BELIEFS.

IF WE KNOW THE DOCTRINES
AND PRINCIPLES OF THE GOSPEL,
WE CAN MAKE WISE DECISIONS.

From "Lessons from the Old Testament: In the World but Not of the World," Ensign, Feb. 2006, 54–55.



Elder Quentin L. Cook of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles shares some of his thoughts on this subject.



Friends in the News



Brentwood Third Ward

Primary children in the Brentwood Third Ward, Antioch California Stake, learned about President Monson at an activity day. They learned where he served as a mission president, where he went to college, his favorite foods, and his favorite games.



Rexburg Idaho North Stake

Primary children in the Rexburg Idaho North Stake (above) learned how to prepare to enter the temple. They built a model of a temple and were excited for the Rexburg Idaho Temple to be built. The children learned that living gospel standards will help them be worthy to receive temple blessings.



Monique Anelu M., 8, Utah, spreads her smile and laughter wherever she goes. She and her sisters like to play "Primary" and help teach family home evening lessons. Her middle name means "angel" in Samoan.



Matthew A., 7, Virginia, likes to draw and be outside with his family. He helps take care of the chickens and the dog. He is excited to be baptized.





Would you like to be a friend in the news?
Turn to page 49 to find out how.



Jeremy O., 10, Trinidad, enjoys sunshine, soccer, macaroni pie (macaroni, eggs, and cheese in a casserole), and family prayer. He admires missionaries and President Thomas S. Monson. He likes to read stories from the *Friend* and search for the hidden CTR ring.



Emily L., 5, California, brings sunshine into the lives of her family. She helps her mom and dad with her baby sister, plays with her younger brother, and likes to make sure her older brother is comfortable in his wheelchair.



Mountain View Ward

In the Mountain View Ward, Longmont Colorado Stake, Primary children made three-cornered hats, necklaces, and other activities from the *Friend* magazine.



Roseville California Stake

Girls in the Roseville California Stake learned about Joseph Smith, President Monson, and the pioneers during an activity. They painted and wrapped wooden blocks with ribbon, then put a picture of President Monson in the center. They know they can trust in the Savior, pray to Heavenly Father for help, and always follow the prophet.



Luke F., 6, Missouri, is a good baseball player and likes the St. Louis Cardinals. He enjoys having family prayer each night and is a wonderful example to his younger siblings, Ty and Kate. Luke likes school and is a good reader and writer. He likes riding his bike and playing the guitar.



Spencer N., 8, New Jersey, likes to draw, play video games, and think of great new ideas. He entered a drawing contest by an Internet company, and was one of the national finalists.



BREAD,

BIRTHDAYS,

and the

BROWNS

BY LINDSAY LAW
(Based on a true story)

Every man should love his neighbor (Mosiah 23:15).

The smell of warm bread greeted Aiden as she walked through the door after school. She sat down, eager for a slice of bread with butter.

“Before you eat, will you please take this over to Brother and Sister Brown?” Mom asked, pointing to a small loaf she had just wrapped.

Aiden sighed, grabbed the loaf, and headed out the door. Sometimes she wished her mom would only make bread for her family. She trudged through the backyard and around the corner, slowing down when she saw the Browns’ house.

Brother Brown was in his eighties, but he still took great care of his lawn. Aiden and her brother, Patrick, would often see him mowing the lawn or trimming the hedges and bushes. He always waved when he saw them and usually talked with them over his white picket fence.

But Sister Brown was never outside. She had osteoporosis, which meant that her bones were very fragile and could break easily. She couldn’t walk very well, and it was painful for her to leave the house.

Today, Aiden didn’t want to visit with them. But even though she wanted to go back home for some of Mom’s yummy bread, Aiden tried to be happy as she opened the screen door and rang the doorbell.

Brother Brown opened the door, and a big smile lit up his face. “Why, hello! Come on in, Aiden!” he said.

Aiden felt a little better already. The Browns were always so nice and so happy to have company. Brother Brown dug into the candy jar and gave her a piece of butterscotch candy as he asked her questions about school.

Sister Brown looked like she was in a lot of pain. Her small body hunched over in her armchair as she wrote something down. Sister Brown was always writing in her journal, writing poems and letters, or making cards to send to her friends. Today she was writing a birthday card very slowly. Sometimes her hands shook, and it was difficult for her to print the words.

“Why do you write so many cards and letters?” Aiden asked.

“It gives me something to do,” Sister Brown said. “I can’t see my friends very often since I can’t leave the house, so I like to write to them to show I care about them.” She



finished writing the card.

Aiden chatted a bit more with Brother and Sister Brown and then walked home. She thought about Sister Brown and how much pain she was in. She felt ashamed about not wanting to visit the Browns. "If Sister Brown can serve others, I can serve her too," Aiden thought.

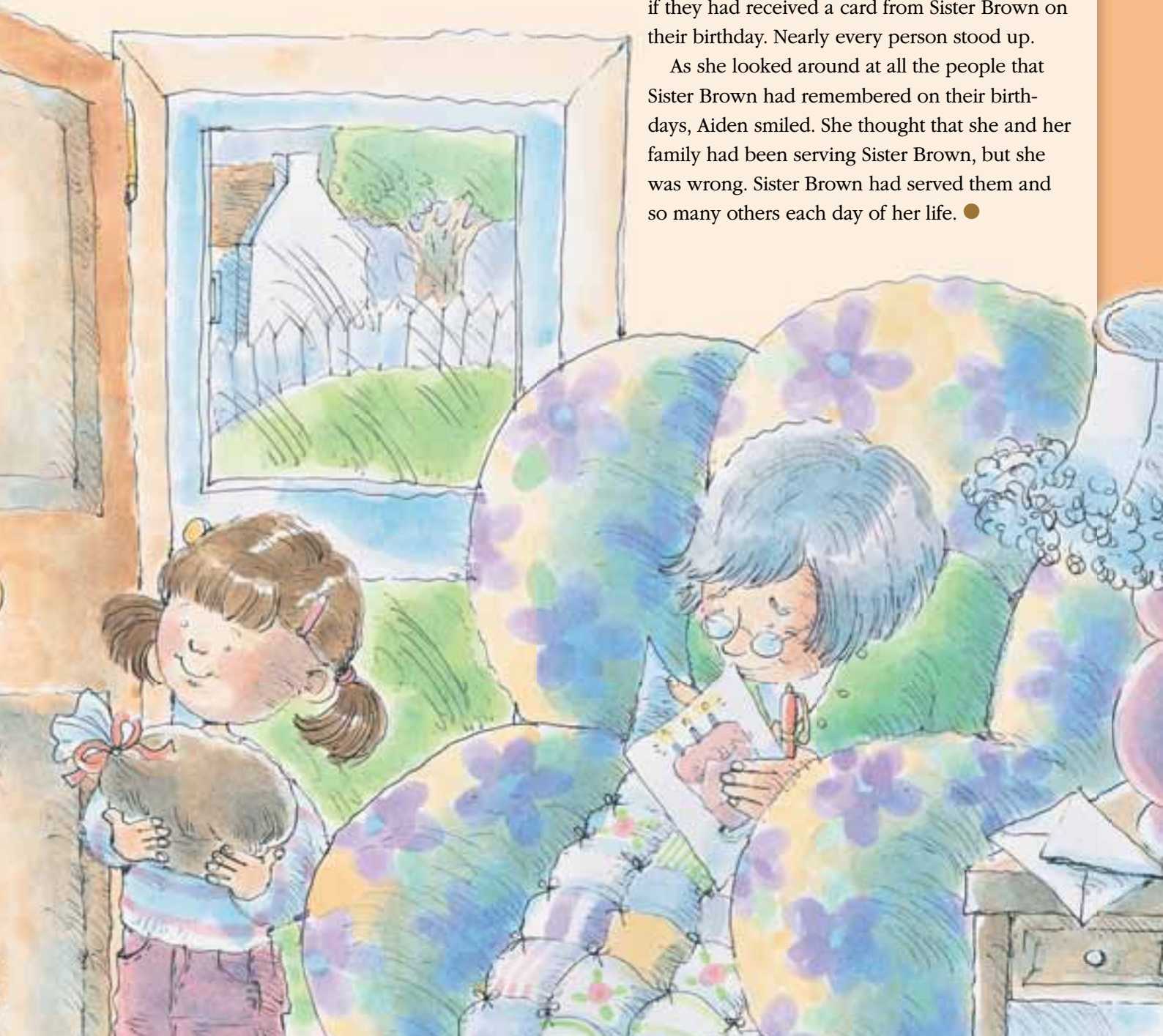
So whenever Mom made bread or cinnamon rolls, Aiden took some over to the Browns, often with

Patrick or her sister, Emma. She and her family sang for the Browns, especially around Christmas. Dad even recorded Aiden, Patrick, and Emma singing so Sister Brown could listen to it.

A few years after Aiden graduated from Primary, Sister Brown passed away. Aiden and her family attended the funeral.

At the end of the service, the bishop surprised Aiden by asking the members of the congregation to stand up if they had received a card from Sister Brown on their birthday. Nearly every person stood up.

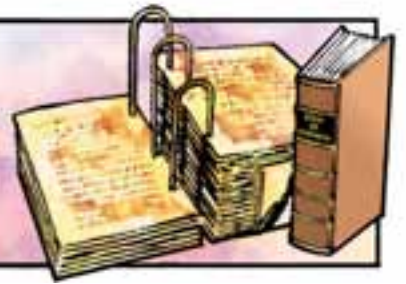
As she looked around at all the people that Sister Brown had remembered on their birthdays, Aiden smiled. She thought that she and her family had been serving Sister Brown, but she was wrong. Sister Brown had served them and so many others each day of her life. ●





FROM THE LIFE OF THE PROPHET JOSEPH SMITH

The Prophet's Voice



When Joseph Smith spoke to a congregation, the people listened. He held their attention for hours at a time, and often the children preferred to listen to the Prophet rather than to play.



Joseph would often speak outside so that more people could hear him. On one such day in Nauvoo, a heavy wind and storm came up in the middle of his preaching.

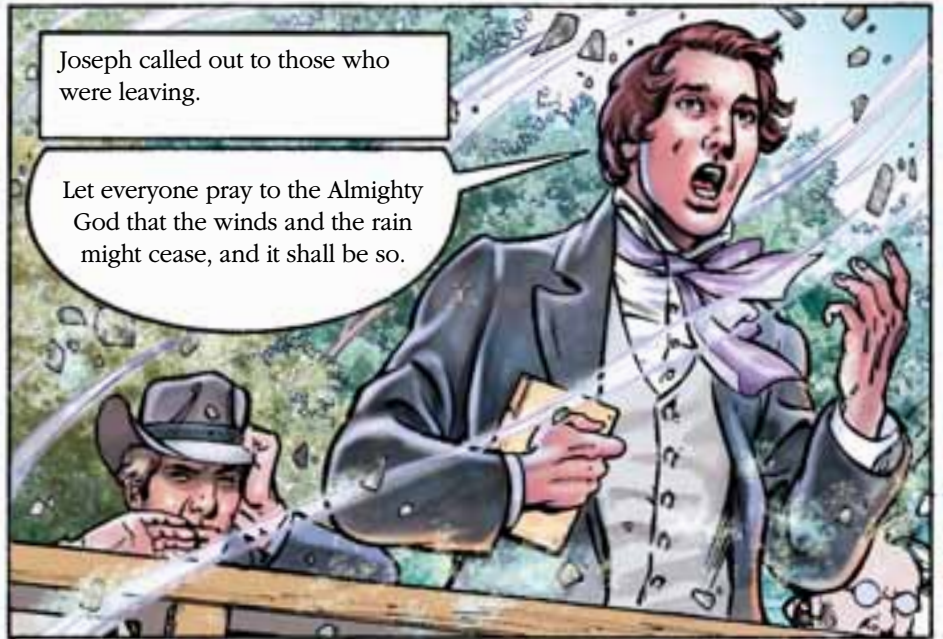
This dust is so thick; I can't see anything.

Let's go home before it gets worse.



Joseph called out to those who were leaving.

Let everyone pray to the Almighty God that the winds and the rain might cease, and it shall be so.



O Father, bless that the wind and the rain will cease.



After several minutes, the storm divided. The bushes and trees on either side of the group were waving in the wind, but there was calm where Joseph spoke.

Now, brothers and sisters, I would like to speak to you about some important truths.

An hour later the Prophet concluded, and the storm returned.

Return quickly to your homes and think about what I have said.

Hurry, children.

Joseph's preaching and way of living were so powerful that many bore strong testimonies of the truth of the gospel and of Joseph's calling as the prophet.

I know him to be what he professed to be—a true prophet of God.

He was a true prophet of the living God; and the more I heard his sayings and saw his doings, the more I was convinced.

Today, the Prophet Joseph Smith is still remembered by millions around the world who know he was called of God to restore the gospel of Jesus Christ to the earth.



I WILL STRENGTHEN MY FAMILY.

“And ye will not have a mind to injure one another, but to live peaceably” (Mosiah 4:13).



Topical Index to this Issue of the Friend

(FLF) = For Little Friends
(f) = Funstuff
(IFC) = inside front cover
(m) = music
(v) = verse

Appropriate Language 20
Baptism IFC, 32 (FLF)
Book of Mormon 15 (f), 16, 48
Choose the Right 20, 28, 38
Church History 22, 23, 36, 46
Courage 20
Family IFC, 2, 10, 12, 16, 27, 30 (FLF),
33 (FLF), 36, 48
Family History IFC, 19, 36
Family Home Evening 6, 49
Friendship 20, 28
Good Example 41
Heavenly Father 7 (m), 8, 24, 28
Holy Ghost IFC, 41
Jesus Christ 2, 28, 30 (FLF), 32 (FLF)
Joseph Smith 46
Love and Kindness 4, 22, 30 (FLF), 41
Missionary Work 10, 28, 41
Modesty 28
Music 7 (m), 8, 28
My Gospel Standards IFC, 2, 4, 8, 12, 16,
20, 24, 28, 30 (FLF), 38, 44
Peacemaker 2
Prayer IFC, 8, 24, 28, 46
Priesthood IFC
Primary 4, 8, 16, 48
Prophets 2, 10, 15 (f), 46
Quorum of the Seventy 8, 40
Quorum of the Twelve Apostles 5, 11,
37, 41
Scouting 38
Scriptures 2, 15 (f), 16, 24, 32 (FLF), 48
Service 44

Sidebar References

1. "Blessed Are the Peacemakers," *Ensign*, Nov. 2002, 40.
2. "Couple Missionaries: A Time to Serve," *Ensign*, May 2001, 26.
3. "Faith of Our Father," *Ensign*, May 2008, 70.
4. "The Atonement, Repentance, and Dirty Linen," *Ensign*, Nov. 2003, 12.



Family Home Evening Ideas

1. Read "The Invisible Visitor" (pp. 4–6) and follow the family home evening idea on page 6.
2. Read "Blessed Are the Peacemakers" (pp. 2–3) and Matthew 5:1–11. Ask family members to find an object to represent each beatitude, such as a bowl for "hunger and thirst after righteousness." Family members could draw a picture if they cannot find an object. Ask family members to think of ways they can follow these beatitudes at home.
3. Read "Praying and Singing to Heavenly Father" (pp. 8–9). Choose a Primary song to learn together. Draw pictures to remember what each line is about. For example, Elder Michael John U. Teh mentions "Smiles" (*Children's Songbook*, 267),

for which you could draw pictures of a smile, a frown, and a globe. Practice the song together, taking turns holding the pictures. Talk about what the words mean and how knowing the song can help you remember to make good choices.

4. Turn to "Going West" (p. 23) and look up the scriptures to answer the questions together. We can be happy as we sing, dance, and pray too. Ask family members to sing and dance to a Primary song such as "Fun to Do" (*Children's Songbook*, 253). Take turns making your own words and actions. Talk about how good music and praying to Heavenly Father show Him we are thankful and help us to be happy.

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What's in the *Friend* this month?



page 2

President Eyring explains how children can be peacemakers.

page 20

Will asking his friend not to use bad language spoil Christopher's friendship?



page 24

Play a fun game and learn more about prayer.

