

THE *Friend*



Let's put
on a
PAGEANT!

See pages 16-17

Heavenly Father Has a Plan for Us



I have been thinking of Lilli R. from Pennsylvania. I read her letter in the May 2012 *Friend*. Reading about her losing her mom brought tears to my eyes. I have been asking God in my prayers to comfort her and her family. I also wanted to fast

for her, so for the first time I fasted with my family. We read in Alma 38:5 that God has a plan for us and if we trust in Him, He will make everything right for us.

Javier V., age 6, Utah, USA

Praying for Help



I really like “Elevator Prayers” (Aug. 2012). This last year I had to take a standardized test in science. It was the first time I had taken this test because only fifth graders take it. I said a prayer in my mind while I was in the hallway. I wanted to be

able to remember the things I had been taught. After the test I got a really good score. Heavenly Father helped me feel calm and sure of myself. I know that Heavenly Father hears and answers my prayers no matter where I am.

Ryan B., age 11, Idaho, USA

I Love Learning about Jesus



The *Friend* is my favorite. I love the stories. Every month my mother reads the stories to me. I love learning about Jesus Christ.

Malika M., age 7, Jamaica



How We Read the *Friend*

These siblings like to read the *Friend* together.

Megan, Jackson, and Mia D., ages 7, 3, and 5, Kenya

Dear friends,

Every summer thousands of people come to watch the Hill Cumorah Pageant near Palmyra, New York. It's an inspiring play about the Book of Mormon and how it came to be.

On pages 14 and 15, you can find out about children who play parts in the pageant. Then turn the page to find a script to help you put on a pageant for your family and friends!

Send us a photo to show us your pageant!

Happy June,

The *Friend*

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.

Volume 43 Number 6
June 2013

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THE *Friend*

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Cover by Matt Smith



Learn to play the Primary song "When I Am Baptized" on page 23.



It's fun to make new friends!



By President Dieter F. Uchtdorf

Second Counselor in the First Presidency



When we feel hurt, angry, or envious, it is quite easy to judge people. This topic could actually be taught in a two-word sermon. When it comes to hating, gossiping, ignoring, ridiculing, holding grudges, or wanting to cause harm, please apply the following:

Stop it!

We have to stop judging others and replace judgmental thoughts and feelings with a heart full of love for God and His children. God is our Father. We are His children. We are all brothers and sisters.

Is this difficult to do? Yes. How is it done? Through the love of God.

- **Let us be kind.**
- **Let us forgive.**
- **Let us talk peacefully with each other.**
- **Let the love of God fill our hearts.**
- **“Let us do good unto all men” (Galatians 6:10).**

Jesus said it is easy to love those who love us. But Jesus Christ taught a higher law. His words are meant for us today. They are meant for you and me: “Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them

that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you” (Matthew 5:44).

CUT IT OUT! Make your own Stop It reminder. Trace and cut out the stop sign and write “STOP IT!” on it. Put it somewhere where you can see it often. When you are tempted to say something unkind, gossipy, or jealous about someone else, look at your sign. Then say something nice about that person instead.



When our hearts are filled with the love of God, we become “kind one to another” (Ephesians 4:32). The merciful obtain mercy. Of this I testify. ♦

From an April 2012 general conference address.

WHERE DO YOU STAND?

Take this quiz to see how you could become more loving to others.



1. Your little sister got into your room and spilled some paint from your new art set. She apologized, but you're still angry. You:

- Genuinely accept the apology and ask her to talk to you next time she wants to use your art set.
- Say it's OK, but tell her to never come in your room again.
- Decide to break something of hers to make things fair.



2. Someone said something mean about the new boy at school. You:

- Don't tell anyone what you heard and try to make the new boy feel welcome.
- Say nothing, but don't welcome him.
- Find out if it's true. If it is, you can tell everyone!

3. Someone new is visiting Primary. You:

- Invite her to sit with you and your friends.
- Do nothing.
- Whisper to your friend that her hair looks weird.


4. Your brother got a great model airplane for his birthday—the one you wanted. He asks if you like it. You:

- Are happy for him. He's lucky to have such a great toy.
- Don't say anything. It's not your job to compliment him.
- Think about the plane all the time. He doesn't deserve it!



5. Your classmate got a part in the school play, and you're the understudy for the same part. You:

- Help her learn her lines. You want the play to be great!
- Sulk, but don't say anything.
- Hope that she gets sick so you can be the star of the show.



If you chose mostly a's: You're doing a good job of loving others. Keep welcoming others and being happy for their success.

If you chose mostly b's: You could improve in showing love for others. Remember, it's not enough to not be mean—you want to be kind! Try complimenting others and helping them be happy.

If you chose mostly c's: Stop it! Pray for help to have kind thoughts, and do extra things to bless those around you. Remember that we're all children of God.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY MARK ROBISON

By Jane McBride Choate

(Based on a true story)

*My daddy is my fav'rite pal, and I help him ev'ry day.
It's plain to see I want to be like him in ev'ry way
(Children's Songbook, 211).*

Dustin heard the phone ring. Then he heard his father talking. He glanced at the clock. It was two o'clock in the morning!

He knocked on his parents' bedroom door.

"Is something wrong?" Dustin asked.

"A man and his wife were in a car accident and are stranded a few hours away," Dad said, buttoning his shirt. "I'm going to pick them up and bring them here."

Dustin's dad was a bishop in the small desert town where they lived. Over the years, he had brought home many stranded travelers.

"Are they all right?" Mom asked.

"Shaken up, but otherwise OK," Dad said.

"I'll make sandwiches," Mom said. "They're probably hungry."

Dustin helped Mom make sandwiches and fill a thermos with hot chocolate.

"Can I go with you, Dad?" Dustin asked.

"Sure—I'd enjoy your company, it's Saturday, and you're old enough to come," Dad said.

Dustin smiled and headed for the car. His dad's words made him feel important.

Hours later, they found the couple on the side of the freeway.

"We're the Whitneys," the young man said as he and his wife climbed into the back seat of the station wagon. Dustin smiled and handed them the bag of food.

"Thank you. We haven't eaten since noon," Brother Whitney said.

Dustin fell asleep on the way home. When Dad gently shook him awake, the sky was just turning pink.

Mom fixed breakfast for everyone, then sent the couple to Dustin's brother's bedroom for a nap. "I've put clean

*How will
Dad and
Dustin help
the stranded
strangers?*

Early-Morning RESCUE



“Watch your dad. . . Watch how he performs his Church callings. Watch how he interacts with other people. You will be surprised what you learn about him just by watching him and listening to him.”¹

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

sheets on the bed. There are fresh towels in the bathroom.”

Sister Whitney hugged Dustin’s mother. “Thank you so much. All of you.”

A few hours later, Brother Whitney wandered out of the bedroom. “My wife is still sleeping. I guess I need to call a tow truck.”

“It’s already taken care of,” Dustin’s father said. “I have a friend who works in a garage. He towed your car to his shop and is working on it now.”

“I don’t know how to thank you,” Brother Whitney said.

Dustin’s father smiled. “You just did.”

That afternoon, Dustin went with Dad to take the Whitneys to pick up their car.

“We’ll never forget what you did,” Brother Whitney said. He pulled some money out of his pocket.

Dad shook his head. “We don’t take money for helping someone in need.”

“At least let us pay you for the gas,” Brother Whitney said.

Again, Dustin’s father shook his head. “You may need it for the rest of your trip.”

Brother Whitney looked uncomfortable. “I don’t feel right not giving you anything in return for all you’ve done for us.”

“Help someone else when you can,” Dad said. “That’s the only thing I want in return.”

On the way home, Dustin looked at his father. He knew Dad hadn’t had any sleep. “You must be tired.”

His father smiled around a yawn. “A little.”

Dustin knew that was as much as his father would say about helping the couple. He never said much about helping others. He just did it. ♦



A Sticky

Surprise for Dad

This Father's Day, you could surprise your father or someone else you love with a photo puzzle and some yummy snack mix. Remember to have an adult help you with this craft and recipe.

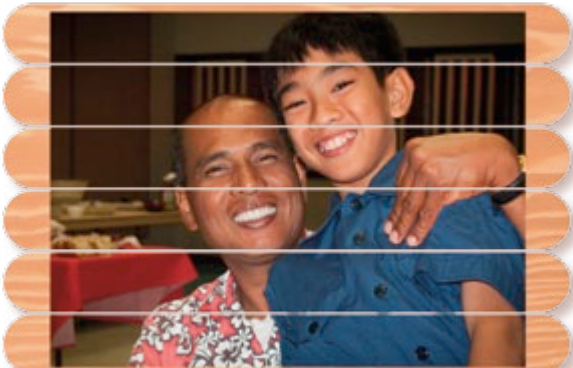
Picture-Stick Puzzle

What you need:

- a copy of a favorite photograph
- 8 to 10 large craft sticks
- glue
- clear tape
- a craft knife

What to do:

1. Line up the craft sticks side by side and place tape across the top and bottom of the sticks.
2. Turn the sticks over. Glue a photo onto the sticks.
3. Once the glue is dry, have an adult use the craft knife to cut the sticks apart.
4. Stack the sticks, tie them with a ribbon, and add a card that says something like, "I love it when we stick together."



Pretzel Sticks Snack Mix

- 6 cups (840 g) checkerboard-shaped cereal
- 1 1/4 cups (190 g) mixed nuts
- 1 1/4 cups (190 g) pretzel sticks
- 3/4 cup (180 g) melted butter
- 3/4 cup (135 g) brown sugar



1. Combine cereal, nuts, and pretzels in a large bowl.
2. Melt butter in a small saucepan. Stir in brown sugar until it dissolves.
3. Pour melted butter and sugar over cereal mixture, and stir to coat.
4. Pour 1/3 of the mixture onto a baking pan. Bake at 325°F (160°C) for 7 minutes. Stir and bake for 7 more minutes.
5. Spread mixture on waxed paper to cool. Repeat with rest of mixture.



**By Elder
Quentin L. Cook**
Of the Quorum of
the Twelve Apostles

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



Does
Heavenly Father
love members
of the Church
more than He
loves other
people?

God loves all
His children.
He wants all
of them to
return to Him.

We should also
love and respect
all people.

We can help
those who do
not yet know
that God loves
them.
Then they can
have great joy!

Adapted from "In Tune with the Music of Faith," Ensign, May 2012, 41–44.



Conversion in Kirtland

By Hilary Watkins Lemon

(Based on the life of Mary Elizabeth Rollins Lightner)

*Part 1: This story begins in 1830,
the year the Church was organized.*

Crunch, crunch, crunch. Mary Elizabeth Rollins loved the noise of the crisp, dry leaves under her shoes. Fall had arrived in Kirtland, Ohio. Mary Elizabeth bounded up the steps of the big white mercantile store where her uncle Sidney Gilbert worked. She loved the store with its kegs of molasses, bundles of herbs, and other interesting things for sale.

Mary Elizabeth entered the store just in time to hear a man telling Uncle Sidney of a new religion somewhere in New York.

"I've heard that a man claims to be a prophet and that he translated a book written in an ancient language from golden plates. It is called the Book of Mormon," said the man.

Soon the whole town was buzzing with news of the Book of Mormon and its translator, the Prophet Joseph Smith.

It wasn't long before Mary Elizabeth and her family were taught the gospel. She and her mother were among the first Kirtland residents to be baptized. Soon a branch was organized, with Brother Isaac Morley presiding over it.

Even though Mary Elizabeth had a testimony of the gospel, she had never read the Book of Mormon.

It had only been printed

a few months before. So when Brother Morley finally received a copy, Mary Elizabeth was excited to see the book.

One night, before a few members of the Church met at Brother Morley's home, Mary Elizabeth gathered her courage and knocked on his door.

"Yes, Mary Elizabeth?" Brother Morley asked as he opened the door.

"Brother Morley, may I please see the Book of Mormon?"

He let her in and carefully handed her the small brown book. Mary Elizabeth felt a great desire to read it.

"May I please borrow the book?" she asked.

"My child," Brother Morley said, "I have not read one chapter in it myself, and the brethren will want to see the book tonight at the meeting."

Then, seeing Mary Elizabeth's disappointment, Brother Morley said, "Well, if you bring the book back before breakfast tomorrow, you may take it. Do not let any harm come to it."

That night Mary Elizabeth and her family took turns reading in the Book of Mormon until very late. Early the next day, Mary Elizabeth memorized 1 Nephi 1:1 before bringing the book back to Brother Morley.

"Well, you are here early. I guess you did not

read much," Brother Morley said.

Mary Elizabeth showed him how much she had read.

Brother Morley smiled, but said, "I do not believe you could even tell me a word of it."

Mary Elizabeth recited the verse she had memorized and explained the story of Nephi and his family.

Brother Morley opened his mouth in surprise. "Child, you take this book back and finish it," he said. "I can wait."

Early in the year 1831, the Prophet Joseph Smith and his family moved to Kirtland. The first person Joseph visited was Brother Whitney, Uncle Sidney's business partner, at their store. When Brother Whitney promptly introduced Joseph to Uncle Sidney's family, Joseph was surprised to see the Book of Mormon.

"How did you get this book?" Joseph asked. "I sent it to Brother Morley several weeks ago."


"My niece was bold enough to ask him to lend it to her," Uncle Sidney explained.

"Where is your niece?" the Prophet asked.

Mary Elizabeth was called into the room. The Prophet looked at her closely, then walked up to her, laid his hands on her head, and gave her a blessing. It was the first blessing Mary Elizabeth ever received.

When he finished, Joseph said, "You may keep this book, Mary Elizabeth. I will get another for Brother Morley." ♦

(To be continued.)

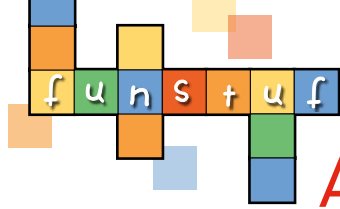


Years later, Mary Elizabeth's Book of Mormon was stolen from her house when she and her husband fled from a mob. Joseph Smith gave her another copy, which he signed, along with a lock of his hair.

“They that
gladly received
his word were
baptized.”

—Acts 2:41





At the Pageant

By Arie Van De Graaff

The sister missionaries at the Hill Cumorah Pageant are looking for three people who want to learn more about the Church. Can you help the missionaries find them? While you are looking, see if you can find five actors from the pageant who are sitting in the audience.



Bulletin Board



I Love to See the Temple

THE HOUSE OF THE LORD

Did you know the words “The House of the Lord” are inscribed on the outside of every temple? There are more than 140 temples around the world, and each one is a sacred place.

TRY TO MATCH THESE PHRASES WITH THE LANGUAGES THEY REPRESENT.

Answers on page 48.

1. The House of the Lord
2. Das Haus des Herrn
3. La casa del Señor
4. Дом Господа
5. La maison du Seigneur

German
French
English
Spanish
Russian

Following Jesus: **Be Merciful**

Jesus said, “Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy” (Matthew 5:7).

To be **merciful** is to treat someone with patience and love, instead of being judgmental or harsh. Through His example, Jesus Christ taught us how to be merciful. Some men once brought a woman to Jesus and said they wanted to punish her for



Strawberry BLAST



On page 26, you can read about how Enkhjin likes picking strawberries with her family. Here's a recipe for a strawberry smoothie you could share with someone you love. Be sure to ask an adult for help.

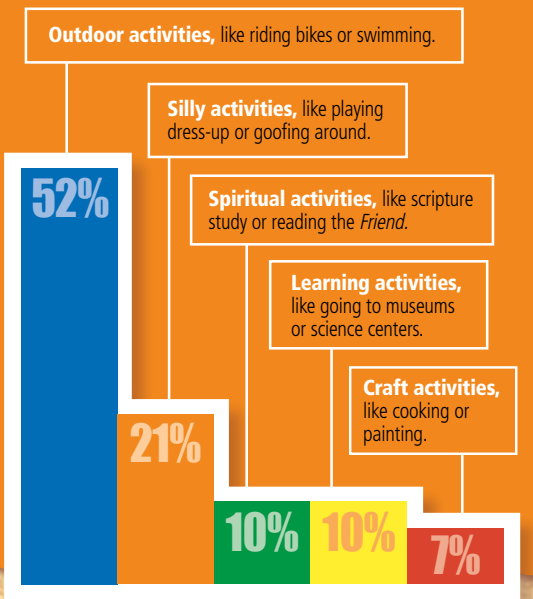
- 1/2 banana**
- 1/2 cup fresh or frozen strawberries**
- 1 cup low-fat milk**
- 1/2 cup cold water**
- honey to taste**

Peel the banana and rinse the strawberries. Cut the fruit into small pieces. Place all the ingredients in a blender. Blend, add enough honey to make it sweet, and serve.

STRAWBERRIES AND CANNON PHOTOS © ISTOCKPHOTO

Online Survey Results

What favorite activities do you do as a family?



WOMAN TAKEN IN ADULTERY BY HARRY ANDERSON, © PACIFIC PRESS PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION

something bad she had done. Even though the woman had sinned and needed to repent, Jesus did not let the men hurt her. Instead, He showed the woman mercy by saying, "Go, and sin no more" (John 8:11).



What have I learned from the scriptures today?

This month's challenges:

- CHALLENGE 1:** Smile at someone in school or in Primary who needs a friend.
- CHALLENGE 2:** Offer to do something fun with a friend or sibling and let them choose the activity.
- CHALLENGE 3:** At school or in Primary, sit by someone who is sitting alone. Talk, be friendly, and get to know him or her better.



THE HILL CUMORA

Miranda, Carlyn, Camarie, Rebecca, and Conner made new friends at the pageant.



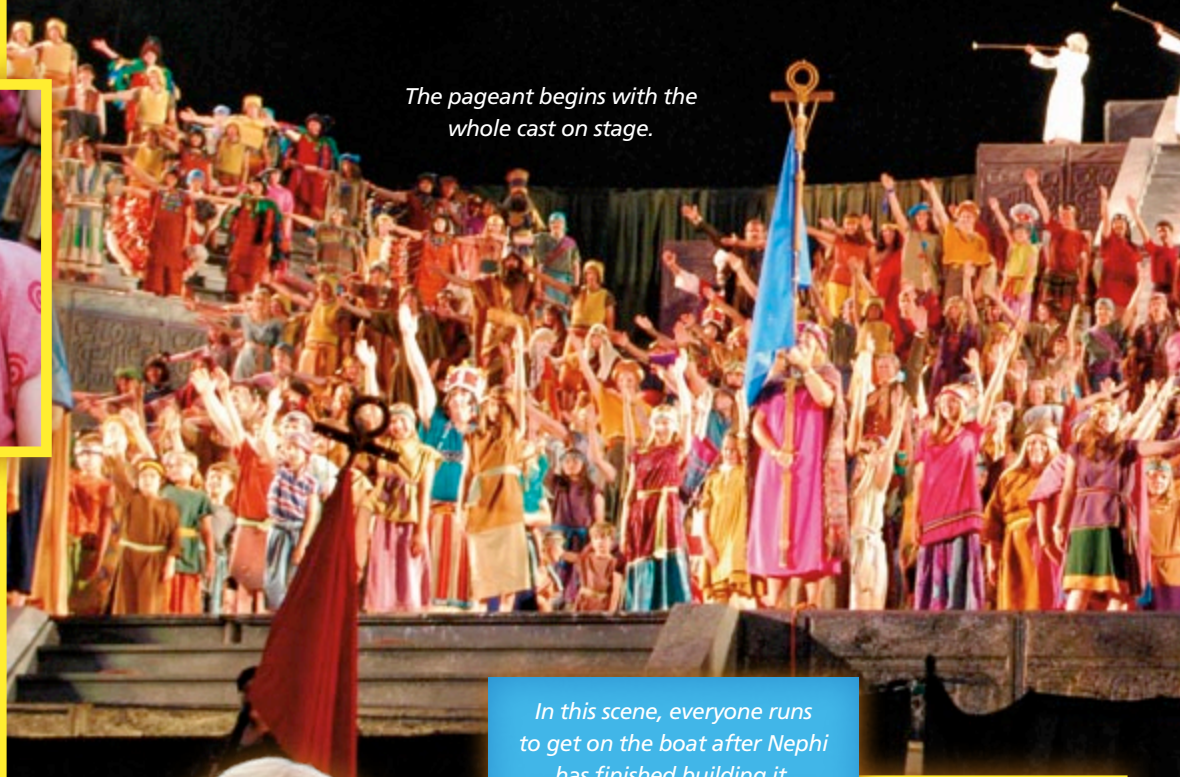
By Susan Denney

Every summer, many children from all over the world come to the Hill Cumorah Pageant, an outdoor show about how the Book of Mormon came to be. But not all of these children come to *watch* the pageant. Some of them come with their families to *be in* it! They come from all over the United States—and from other countries too.

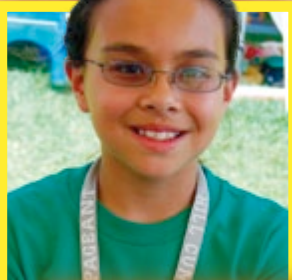
For 17 days, these children rehearse their parts. All the younger children are in the scene where Jesus Christ blesses the Nephite children. Older children can be in many other scenes.



Allison waits for the performance to start.



The pageant begins with the whole cast on stage.



Jenny says, "Being here makes me feel calmer than being other places."

In this scene, everyone runs to get on the boat after Nephi has finished building it.



Taryn has fun helping a leader do a trick in the Primary tent.



H PAGEANT

When they're not rehearsing, the children spend time in the "Primary tent." They do crafts, sing, and do activities that help them learn about the Book of Mormon.

On the nights of the performance, the children put on their costumes. Then they and their families talk to pageant visitors about Jesus Christ. Whatever their parts in the pageant are, all the children share what they learn about the Savior, the Book of Mormon, and the Restoration of the gospel. ♦



Cut out and paste to the "On the Trail" map in the January Friend.



Sariah says the special effects are so real in her scene that she feels like she's living in Book of Mormon times.



In his scene, Isaia gets to touch the face of the actor who portrays Jesus Christ.



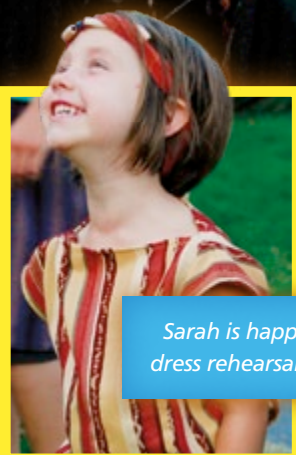
Bethany makes a manger scene in the Primary tent.



Addison says his favorite part of the pageant is being in a cast team with boys his own age.



Sarah is happy for the dress rehearsal to begin.



Stacey (with her parents and brother) got to share her testimony with visitors before the performance.

Let's Put on a Pageant!



By Jessica Larsen

Ammon and the Lamanite King

A pageant is an elaborate, colorful production. It usually has a narrator. If you have a big audience, use large arm movements and dramatic facial expressions to tell the story!

Read Alma 17–19 before you start planning your pageant.

PARTS: Narrator, Ammon, King Lamoni, the queen, Abish, servant 1, servant 2

If you have only five actors, you can have one person play servant 1 and the queen. Another person can play servant 2 and Abish.

If you don't have enough people, you can use puppets.

COSTUMES: Make a simple costume for each part, such as crowns for King Lamoni and the queen.

PROPS:

A chair decorated like a throne

Arms (You could use socks stuffed into old pairs of nylons, or towels rolled up and kept in place with rubber bands.)

A blanket

SETTING: King Lamoni's court

NARRATOR:

Long ago, in the ancient Americas, there lived a man named Ammon. [*Ammon enters.*] Ammon could have been a king, but he chose to be a missionary to his enemies, the Lamanites. As Ammon was traveling, he was captured by the Lamanites. [*Servant 1 and servant 2 enter and each take hold of one of Ammon's arms.*] They took him to their king, Lamoni. [*King Lamoni enters and sits on the throne.*]

KING LAMONI:

Ammon, do you wish to live here?

AMMON:

I do, King Lamoni. I wish to be your servant.

KING LAMONI:

Then you shall watch my flocks.

[*Ammon and servants exit.*]

NARRATOR:


Ammon watched over the king's flocks. After three days, the servants returned to report to King Lamoni. [*Servants enter, carrying the "arms" in a blanket.*]

SERVANT 1:

My king, my king! We have news for you!

SERVANT 2:

We watched the sheep with Ammon, as you commanded. For three days, all was well.

 **IDEA**
As the servants tell the story, have Ammon act out the scene.

SERVANT 1:

On the third day, men came to scatter your sheep. We gathered the sheep back together.

SERVANT 2:

The men came back, and Ammon told us to guard the sheep while he cast stones at the men.

SERVANT 1:

When the evil men tried to kill Ammon, he cut off their arms! The men scattered, and the sheep were saved! We brought their arms to show you the truth of our tale. [*They show King Lamoni the arms.*]

KING LAMONI:

Surely Ammon is more than a man. Could he be the Great Spirit our ancestors talked of?

SERVANT 2:

We know not, but we know that he is a friend to the king. Even now he is feeding your horses. [*The servants exit. King Lamoni sits, deep in thought.*]

NARRATOR:

When Ammon finished caring for the king's horses, he went to the king. [*Ammon enters.*]

AMMON:

What shall I do for you, O King?

NARRATOR:

The king was so astonished that he did not speak. After an hour, Ammon was inspired to know the king's thoughts. He knew King Lamoni had many questions about the gospel.

AMMON:

Will you hear the words I speak?

NARRATOR:

The king listened as Ammon taught about the plan of salvation, the scriptures, and the coming of Jesus Christ. The king believed him and was overcome with the Spirit. He fell to the earth. [*King Lamoni falls down as if he is dead. Ammon exits. The servants enter, cover King Lamoni with a blanket, and exit.*] King Lamoni lay as if he were dead for two days and two nights, and his wife mourned. [*The queen enters and kneels, weeping, by the king. Ammon enters.*]

QUEEN:

Ammon, I have heard that you are a prophet. I want you to see my husband. Some people think we should bury him, but I do not think he is dead! [*Ammon walks over to King Lamoni.*]

NARRATOR:

Now, Ammon knew that the king was not dead. King Lamoni was under the power of God.

AMMON:

He is not dead. Tomorrow he shall rise again. Do you believe me?

QUEEN:

I believe what you have said.

NARRATOR:

All night, the queen watched over the king. The next morning, he arose, just as Ammon had prophesied.

KING LAMONI:

I have seen my Redeemer, and He shall redeem all who believe on His name!

NARRATOR:

The king, the queen, and Ammon were so overcome with joy that they fell to the ground. [*The king, queen, and Ammon fall down. Abish enters.*] A Lamanite woman

named Abish, who had believed in the Lord for many years, saw them. She ran from house to house, telling all the people what had happened.

ABISH: [*facing the audience*]

Come, everyone! See what has happened!

NARRATOR:

But the people saw the king and thought Ammon had brought evil upon the king's house. Some said the king had brought evil upon himself. The people began to fight with each other.

ABISH: [*talking to the audience*]

Why are you all fighting? I thought this would help you believe!

NARRATOR:

Abish took the queen's hand, and the queen arose. [*The queen stands.*] The queen took King Lamoni's hand, and he and Ammon arose as well. [*King Lamoni and Ammon stand.*] The people were astonished. King Lamoni began to teach the people about the gospel. He testified of Jesus Christ, and many Lamanites were baptized. And so the work of the Lord began among the Lamanites, with the help of Ammon, King Lamoni, the queen, and Abish.

IDEA

The audience can play the part of the Lamanite people. Abish can run and tell them her news. That way, the audience can be part of the pageant!

Let's put on a pageant for family home evening!



I want to be Ammon!

EXTRA! EXTRA!

Conference News



Read all about the April 2013 general conference



OUR PROPHET SPEAKS

Be good citizens of the nations in which you live and good neighbors in your communities, reaching out to those of other faiths as well as to our own. . . . May we ever be ready to extend . . . a helping hand and a loving heart.

—President Thomas S. Monson

MISSIONARY MATH

This year many more missionaries are serving than last year!

65,634
missionaries are now serving

+ 20,000
more have received their calls

+ 6,000
more will soon receive calls

Total

58 new missions
1 new MTC in Mexico City

NEW TEMPLES

Cedar City, Utah
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Happy Thoughts from Conference

"The gospel... is the key to our happiness"

(President Thomas S. Monson).

"I love everything about you"

(Sister Rosemary M. Wixom).

"A child who sings is a happy child"

(Elder Enrique R. Falabella).

CONFERENCE QUIZ

Look for answers to these questions in the May 2013 *Ensign*:

What hymn did President Eyring sing as a boy that helped him feel close to the Savior? (page 22)



How did President Monson learn the importance of obeying his parents? (page 89)

What kind of plant did the girl in Elder Ballard's story grow, and what can her experience teach us? (page 19)



How long would it take to read the Book of Mormon if it takes three minutes to read one page? (page 103)





By Elder José L. Alonso
Of the Seventy

A Patient Prayer

I grew up in Mexico with my siblings, my mother, and my grandmother. Every day after doing homework and chores, I played soccer. I loved soccer! I would pretend that my right leg was one team and my left leg was the other team.

One day when I was playing soccer, I suddenly couldn't breathe very well. I rested for a few minutes, but I still had trouble breathing. I became so sick that I had to go to the hospital.

The hospital room had many other children in it, but I missed my family and felt very alone. Although I was not a member of the Church yet, I believed in God. Every day I prayed to be healed, but instead I got worse and worse. The doctors thought I might not live.

The doctors finally sent me home from the hospital, but I had to spend the next year in bed. I took many pills and had two shots every day. And I still had a prayer in my mind and heart. I told Heavenly Father that if I got well, I would serve Him all the rest of my life.

Then one day when I was reading in bed, I accidentally dropped my book on the floor. When I leaned down to pick it up, I realized that I was breathing normally. I dropped the book again. Again I could pick it up without any problem!



I got out of bed. At first I was dizzy because I had not walked by myself in such a long time. I looked in the mirror and saw that I was smiling. I knew that I had received an answer from Heavenly Father.

Every day since then, I have tried to do something to express my gratitude to Heavenly Father. When I grew up, I became a doctor to help answer the prayers of other children. And now I am trying to serve Heavenly Father with my calling in the Church.

The answers to prayers do not always come easily, and they do not always come right away. But I know Heavenly Father answers our prayers. He knows our needs, and He knows what is best. ♦



A Baptism Blessing



Going underwater always made Trevor feel nervous. How could he be baptized?

By Kasey Eyre

(Based on a true story)

Trevor sat down on the couch and put his chin in his hands. His brothers were playing with Grandpa. He wished he could have fun too, but he couldn't stop worrying about his baptism.

Mom sat down next to him and ruffled his hair. "What's wrong?" she asked. "Don't you want to play?"

Trevor shook his head, frowning.

Mom looked at him a moment, then put her arm around him. "Are you still afraid to go under the water?"

Trevor nodded.

The thought of being underwater always scared Trevor. When he was three, he had fallen into a swimming pool. He could never forget how scared he had felt as he sank deeper

and deeper into the water until someone pulled him out. He had been nervous around water ever since.

“Why isn’t anything working?” Trevor asked. “We prayed, and we even visited the font. Nothing worked!” Springing up from the couch, Trevor ran into his room.

Shutting the bedroom door behind him, Trevor fell onto his bed. Soon he heard a soft knock on the door.

Trevor looked over as Dad sat down beside him. “Mom told me you’re still nervous about getting baptized,” Dad said.

Trevor nodded. “I keep praying, but the scared feeling won’t go away.”

Dad thought a minute. “Sometimes when we pray for something, it doesn’t happen right away. You might feel scared now, but maybe by tomorrow you’ll feel better.”

Trevor shook his head, but then he remembered when he was nervous about starting school last year. Dad had given him a blessing. Maybe a blessing could help him get baptized too. He looked up at Dad. “Do you think you and Grandpa can give me a blessing?”

Dad nodded. “I think that’s a great idea.”

A little while later, Trevor sat down in a chair in the family room. Dad and Grandpa placed their hands on his head. Dad blessed him, saying that if he had faith, Heavenly Father could help him to feel calm and peaceful.

The next day as he sat at his baptism in his white clothes, Trevor still felt nervous. He was glad he had



received a blessing, but what if he stayed scared? How would he get baptized?

After hearing a talk about baptism, Dad leaned over. “It’s time to go to the font,” he said. Trevor nodded and followed Dad to the font. Dad went in first.

It was Trevor’s turn. He hesitated, but then he remembered

his blessing. “Heavenly Father, please help me to have faith,” he prayed silently to himself.

Slowly, Trevor put one foot in the water. It was nice and warm. Trevor took another step.

With each step, he could feel his worry and fear melting away. Dad took him by the arm and smiled. “Ready?”

Trevor felt calm and peaceful. This was the feeling Heavenly Father had promised to give him. He nodded. “Ready.”

Dad raised his right arm and said the baptismal prayer. As Dad lowered him under the water, Trevor wasn’t afraid. All he could feel was that calm, peaceful feeling growing stronger.

Trevor came out of the water smiling. He knew that his faith had helped him overcome his fear so he could be baptized. He knew Heavenly Father would always help him when he was trying to choose the right. ♦



“When we choose to follow Christ in faith rather than choosing another path out of fear, we are blessed.”²

Elder Quentin L. Cook of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles





The Day I Really Felt **LOVED**



**By Breanne C., age 8,
Nevada, USA**

I was waking up from a spectacular sleep when I realized something. I sat up in my bed and yelled, “Oh, my goodness! Today is my baptism!” I was excited and nervous at the same time. I had to get ready!

First, my sister curled my hair. I loved it. Then I put my beautiful dress on. It had light pink flowers on it. I was getting more excited as every second passed. My family took pictures outside in front of our tree.

After that, it was time. All of my family gathered at the front of our church. I wore a white jumpsuit. It was actually pretty comfy.

I was with my dad, and the water I was baptized in was really warm. I got two sparkling necklaces and a CTR bracelet from my friend and my grandma. CTR stands for “Choose the Right.”

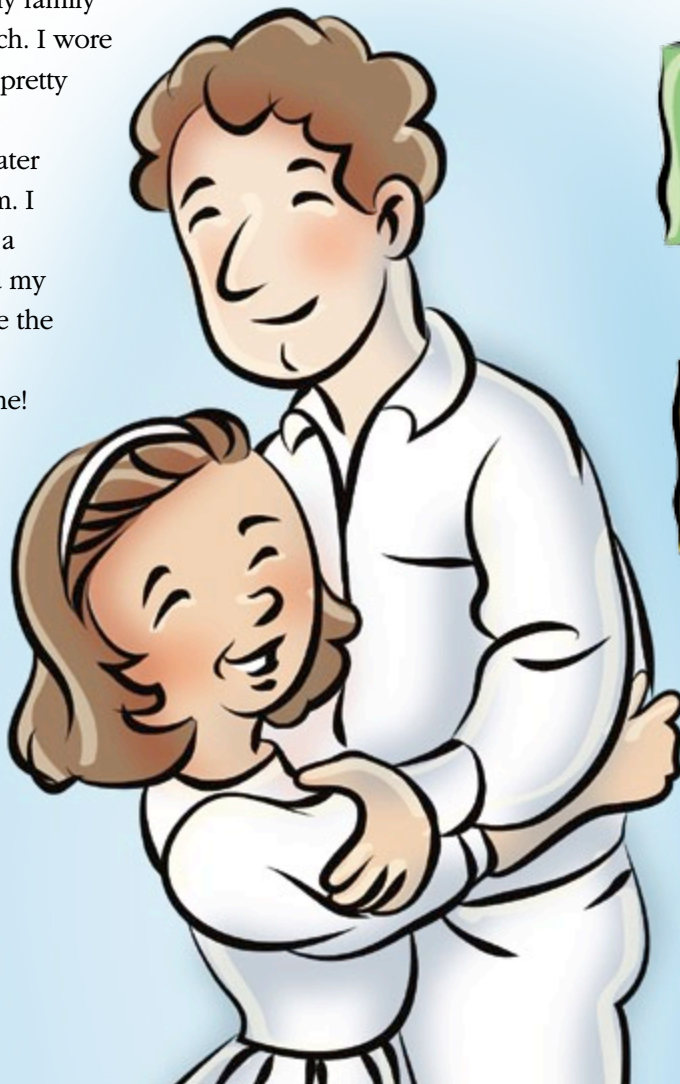
I tried not to cry the whole time! My mom almost cried too. I hugged my handsome dad as hard as a snake squeezing its prey. *S-s-sss!*

“I love you,” I said to my mom and dad. I knew my fabulous family loved me a *lot*.

Then I realized something else. I had been smiling all day because the whole time I really, really felt loved! ◆

• **GIFTS OF
LOVE FROM
HEAVENLY
FATHER**

• **On the day
you are
baptized,
you receive
these special
gifts of
love from
Heavenly
Father:**



When I Am Baptized

(Simplified)

Thoughtfully ♩ = 60-72

Words and music by Nita Dale Milner

1. I like to look for rain-bows when - ev - er there is rain And
2. I know when I am bap - tized my wrongs are washed a - way, And

Chorus
pon - der on the beau - ty of an earth made clean a - gain. I
I can be for - giv - en and im - prove my - self each day.

want my life to be as clean as earth right af - ter rain. I

want to be the best I can and live with God a - gain.

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Practice tip: Look for two fermatas on the last line and practice holding those notes longer than usual.

You can print out or listen to this song at lds.org/friend.

Understanding Baptism



WHO WILL BAPTIZE ME?

Whoever baptizes you needs to hold the priesthood—the power to act in the name of God. When Jesus wanted to be baptized, He went to John the Baptist, who had the priesthood (see Matthew 3:13).

The person who baptizes you will get permission from your bishop or branch president.

By **Marissa Widdison**
Church Magazines

WHAT PROMISES DO I MAKE WHEN I AM BAPTIZED?

When you are baptized, you make a covenant, or two-way promise, with Heavenly Father. You promise Him that you will do certain things, and He promises to bless you. This covenant is described in the sacrament prayers that are said each Sunday (see D&C 20:77–79). You promise:

- To remember Jesus Christ.
- To keep His commandments.
- To take upon yourself the name of Christ, which means to put His work first in your life and do what He wants instead of what the world wants.



As you keep these promises, Heavenly Father promises that the Holy Ghost will be with you and that your sins will be forgiven.

DO I HAVE TO GO
UNDERWATER

TO BE BAPTIZED?

Jesus was baptized by immersion, which means He went completely under the water and quickly came back up again (see Matthew 3:16). This is how you will be baptized. Being baptized this way reminds us that we are leaving behind our old life and starting a new life dedicated to serving God and His children.

Right before you go under the water, you'll pinch your nose to keep the



water out. It only takes about 1½ seconds to go under and come back up.

and that your sins will be forgiven.



WHY DO I HAVE TO BE AT LEAST EIGHT YEARS OLD TO BE BAPTIZED?

The Lord teaches that children shouldn't be baptized until they are old enough to understand the difference between right and wrong. The scriptures say this is age eight (see Moroni 8:11–12; D&C 29:46–47; 68:27).



WHAT IS THE HOLY GHOST?

The gift of the Holy Ghost is one of Heavenly Father's most precious gifts. Your baptism by water isn't complete until men holding the Melchizedek Priesthood give you a blessing to receive the Holy Ghost (see John 3:5).

The Holy Ghost is a member of the Godhead. He testifies of Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ, comforts us, and helps us know what is true. He helps us be spiritually strong. He warns us of danger. He helps us learn. The Holy Ghost can help us feel God's love.

When you are confirmed a member of the Church, the Holy Ghost can be with you always if you choose the right.

Hi! I'm Enkhjin from Mongolia



I do not have any pets, although I really want a puppy. Sometimes we visit the countryside, where I get to see cows, sheep, camels, horses, and goats. In the wintertime, I like to build snowmen there. Here I am with my brother and friend at Turtle Rock in Terelj National Park.

What is your favorite thing to do with your family? Enkhjin A., age 8, from Mongolia, loves visiting the country with her family and picking wild berries and strawberries.

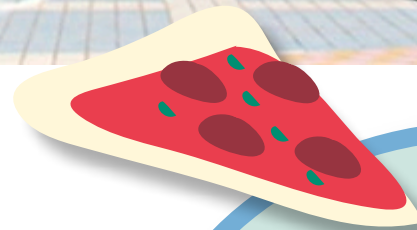
I feel happy when my family spends time together. We enjoy having family home evening and going to church every week. We also read the Book of Mormon and pray together every day. These things help keep my family strong.



Meet more kids like Enkhjin by clicking "One in a Million" at lds.org/friend.



I live with my mom, dad, and two brothers in Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia. One million people live in our city! We live on the 12th floor of an apartment building.



In this picture, I'm reading a story to my brother. I like reading a lot! I am in the third grade. I also like mathematics and drawing. One of my classmates is not a member of the Church, but I taught her about the Word of Wisdom and told her to drink milk instead of coffee or tea. I also taught her how to pray to Heavenly Father, since she didn't know. I also invited her to family home evening at my house.

ENKHJIN'S FAVORITES:

Foods—pizza and mashed potatoes
Scripture—1 Nephi 3:7
Songs—"Away in a Manger," "Book of Mormon Stories"



A traditional Mongolian house is called a "ger." It's made of heavy felt and big wooden poles!



Stirling's



By Ilima Todd

(Based on a true story)

But behold, I say unto you that ye must pray always, and not faint (2 Nephi 32:9).

Stirling raced his big brother, Parker, up and down the narrow trail, thrilled to be hiking to an actual waterfall.

The bushes and grass grew so close to the trail that they sometimes scratched his legs when he walked past. He didn't mind. This hike was going to be great!

"Can I swim in it, Dad?" he asked.

"Probably not," Dad said.

"It will be too cold," Mom explained. "And you don't want to be wet for the hike back."

Stirling shrugged his shoulders. It would still be fun to splash his older sister, Emma. He'd wait until she wasn't watching, then *wham!*

As the morning went on, though, it started getting hot. His legs got tired, and he could feel blisters on his feet.

Stirling frowned. This was longer than he'd ever hiked before. And they still had the whole hike back. Was he going to make it?

But his worries disappeared when he finally heard the waterfall around the corner. He and Parker raced the rest of the way.

When the waterfall came into sight, Stirling skidded

to a stop. It was *awesome*. He couldn't believe how tall the waterfall was and how much water came crashing down. He forgot all about his tired legs.

After eating lunch, Stirling kicked off his shoes and splashed around the edge of the pool. The water was cold, but it felt great. Emma poured some water on his head, but he got her back with a giant splash of his own.

Before Stirling knew it, it was time to head back. The fun and excitement from the waterfall quickly faded as they started the long hike home. Every step hurt.

"How much longer is it?" Stirling asked. "I'm *sooo* tired."

"You can do it," Mom said. "Just keep moving. You'll be okay."

Stirling wasn't so sure. If his feet hurt this much already, how would he ever make it to the end of the trail?

Soon even Parker and Emma started to complain, until Dad made a suggestion.

"Why don't we say a prayer?" he asked.

Stirling was happy for any excuse to stop hiking. He folded his arms and bowed his head while Dad prayed. Dad asked Heavenly Father to keep them safe and to help them find the strength to finish their hike.

Great Idea



After the prayer, Stirling had an idea of his own. “Why don’t we sing some Primary songs?” He loved singing. Maybe that would help.

“Great idea,” said Mom.

They sang song after song. Stirling soon forgot about his aching feet and tired legs. He smiled. They just might make it after all.

Suddenly he bumped into Dad, who had stopped right in front of him. Stirling peeked around Dad. His eyes widened. A giant moose was walking across the trail only a few feet away.

Stirling froze. He knew how important it was not to startle wild animals. They could be dangerous.

But the moose only disappeared into the bushes. Stirling sighed in relief. That was a close one.

Down the trail a little way, his family stopped for a



When I say my prayers, I feel a warm feeling, and I know it is the Holy Ghost. When the Spirit is there, it can be in your heart.

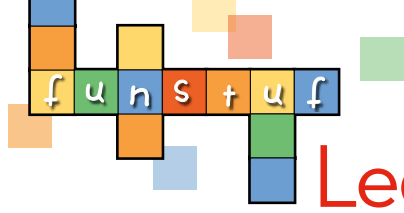
Camille H., age 7, New Mexico, USA

drink. “I think that moose knew we were coming because we were singing,” Parker said. “And so we didn’t surprise it.”

“That could have been bad,” added Emma. “Great idea to have us sing, Stirling.”

Stirling paused for a second. Had their singing actually helped them stay safe? After thinking about it for a bit, he realized Heavenly Father had answered their prayer. Not only did singing give them strength to finish the hike, but it kept them safe from danger.

He smiled again. Singing Primary songs was always a good idea. ◆



Learning about Baptism

By Arie Van De Graaff

This family is learning that baptism is an important step in following Jesus Christ's example. In addition to *baptism*, how many other things can you find in this picture that start with the letter "B"?





Cloud Watching with Grandpa

By Betty Jan Murphy

Side by side,
While we lay on the grass,
Grandpa and I
Watched the animals pass.

First came a dog
With a lop-sided ear,
Being chased by a tiger,
Or maybe a deer.

They then got all jumbled,
Twisted cloud-shapes galore;
Grandpa said he saw Bigfoot.
I wasn't quite sure.

We both saw a hawk
Fluff his wings in the sky.
It's nice when we cloud watch,
Just Grandpa and I.



By Ann Argyle Fox
(Based on a true story)

*Pray, He is there;
speak, He is list'ning*
(*Children's Songbook*, 12).

Please take out your
crayons," Mrs. Webb said.
"We're going to do an art
activity."

*Natalie
quietly put
the card in
her desk.*

Natalie was excited. She loved art projects. Natalie listened carefully because she knew her teacher always wanted things done just right.

Mrs. Webb gave everyone a piece of brightly colored paper. "Last week we made Mother's Day cards," she said. "Today I'd like you to make a card for your dad. You can save it for Father's Day in a few weeks."

Natalie carefully folded her piece of colored paper. She picked out her favorite crayons and drew a big flower on the front of her card. Then she opened

her card and used her best handwriting to copy the words her teacher had written on the board.

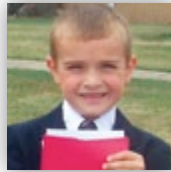
As Natalie wrote, she started to feel sad. Everyone in her class seemed to have a dad. But Natalie lived with just her mom.

When school ended that day, Mrs. Webb said, "Be sure to take your card home and put it in a safe place. And remember to give it to your dad on Father's Day."

Natalie picked up her card. She thought it looked very pretty. But what could she do with it if she took it home? Quietly she put the card in her desk and left it there.

When she got home, Natalie kept thinking about her card. And the more she thought about it, the worse she felt. After dinner





When it was Father's Day, during sacrament meeting I made as many Father's Day cards as I could. After church I walked around and passed them out to all the fathers in my ward. I felt like the Spirit was in my heart because I did something nice for someone else.

Jacob F., age 6, Ohio, USA

she helped Mom wash the dishes. This was usually her favorite time with Mom. But tonight Natalie felt unhappy and strange inside.

"Mommy, why am I different from the other kids?" she asked. "I wish I had a dad to talk to, like they do." She explained about the Father's Day card.

Mom stopped washing dishes and dried her hands on a towel. She put her arms around Natalie.

"I know how much you miss having a dad to talk to," Mom said. "But you *do* have a Heavenly Father who loves you, and you can talk to Him whenever you want."

Natalie thought for a moment. "Is that when I pray?"

"That's right," Mom said. "When you pray you can tell Heavenly Father anything you would want a father to know." Mom started humming the tune to "I Am a Child of God."

Natalie started singing, and Mom joined in. As Natalie sang, she began to feel better.

When they finished singing, Natalie asked, "But what about the card? I can't send that to Heavenly Father."

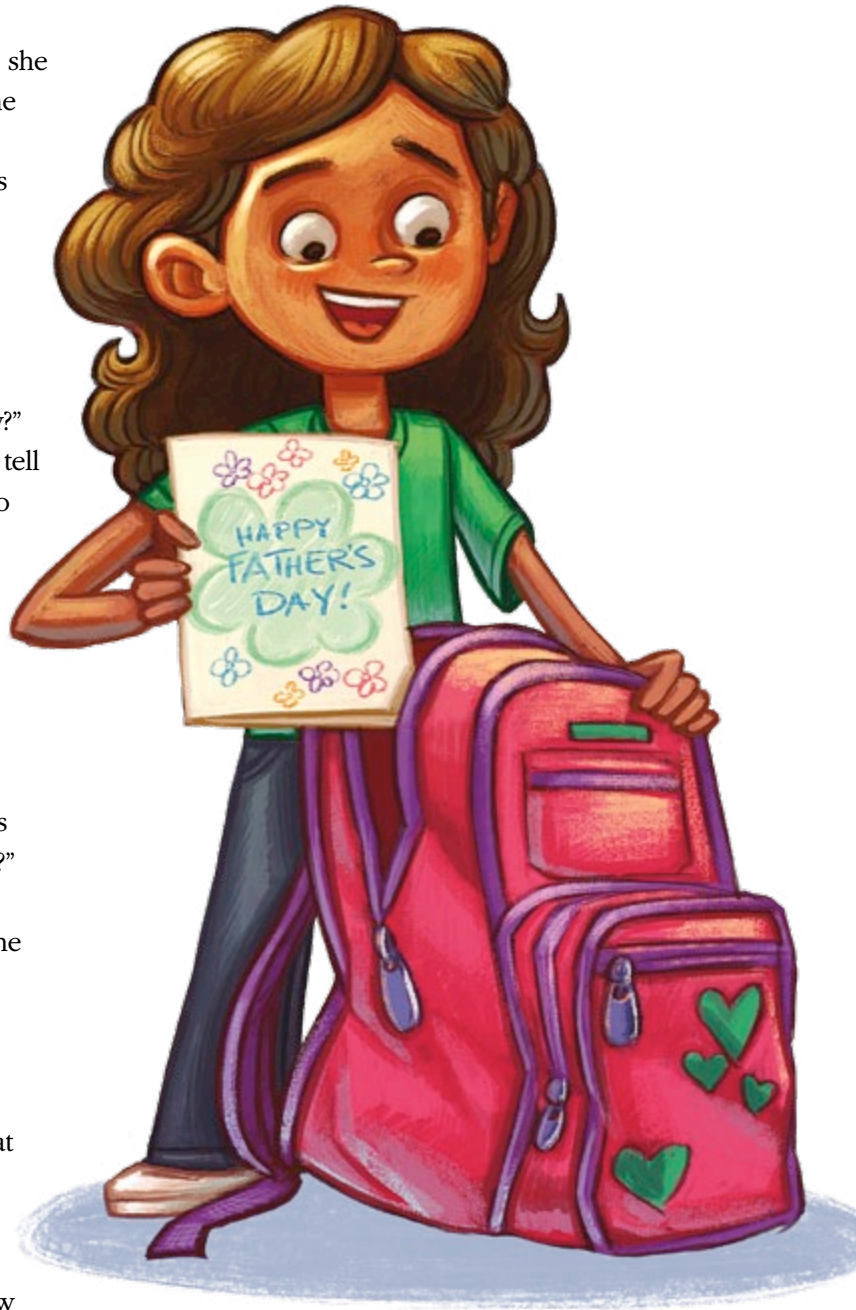
"No, but can you think of someone else who loves you, someone who comes to visit and play with you?" Mom asked.

"I could give it to Grandpa!" Natalie said. "Would he like that?"

"I think he would like it a lot," Mom said.

That night when Natalie knelt by her bed to say her prayers, she remembered what Mom had said. It gave her a warm, peaceful feeling inside to know that Heavenly Father was listening.

The next day when school ended, Natalie put her Father's Day card carefully into her backpack. She couldn't wait to give Grandpa his card. And she knew she had a Heavenly Father who would always be there to love her and hear her prayers. ◆

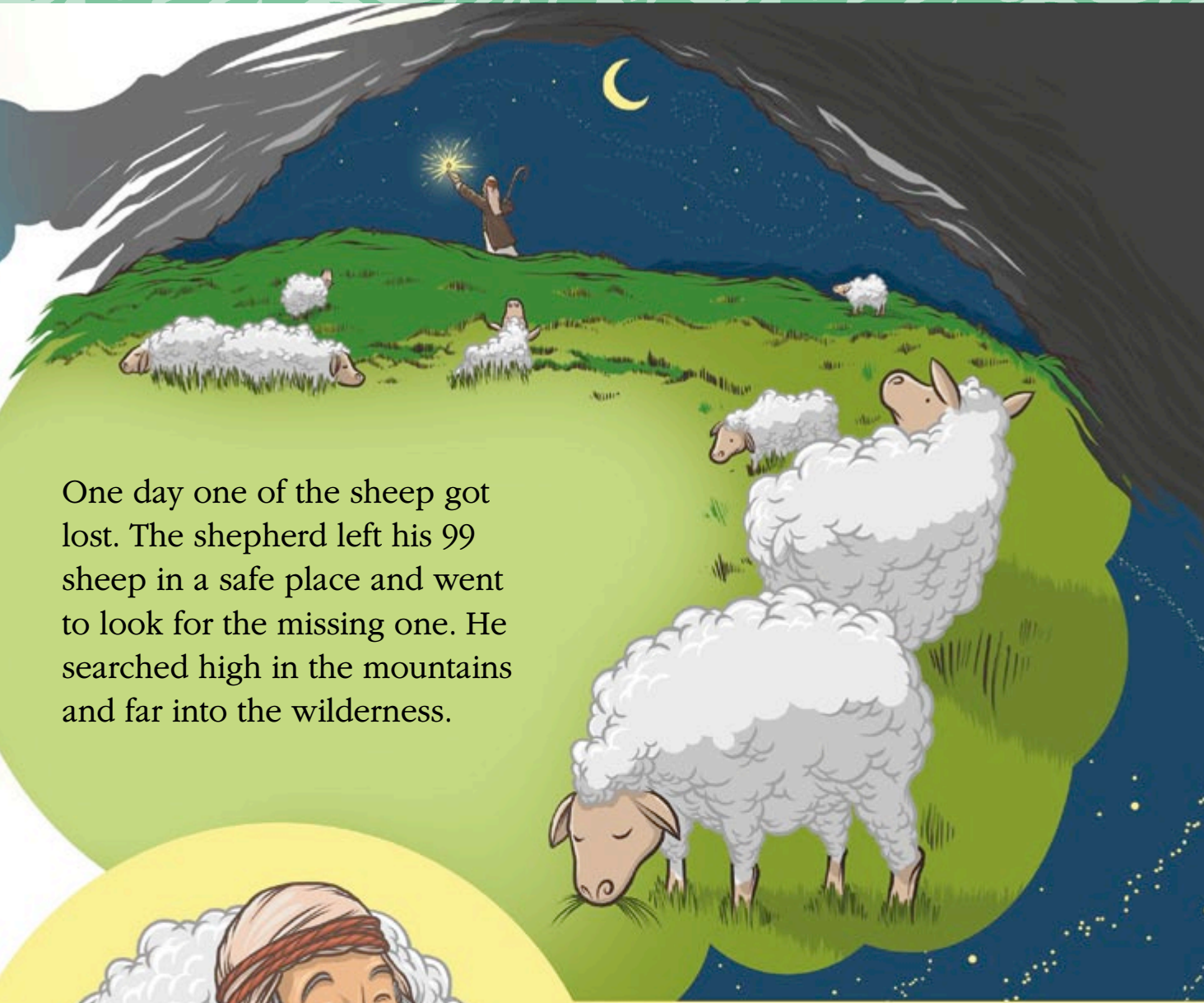


The Shepherd and the Lost Sheep


By Margo Mae



Jesus taught people by telling them stories. One day He told a story about a shepherd who had 100 sheep. The shepherd was very good and kind. He kept his sheep safe from wild animals. He watched over them at night.

A circular illustration showing a shepherd on a green hill at night. The shepherd is holding a glowing staff. In the foreground, several sheep are grazing. The background features a dark blue night sky with a crescent moon and stars. The scene is framed by a dark, rocky cave entrance.

One day one of the sheep got lost. The shepherd left his 99 sheep in a safe place and went to look for the missing one. He searched high in the mountains and far into the wilderness.

A circular illustration of a shepherd with a long grey beard and a brown robe, carrying a sheep on his shoulders. The shepherd is smiling and looking down at the sheep. The background is a bright yellow sun or moon in a blue sky.

When he finally found his sheep, the shepherd rejoiced. He put the sheep on his shoulders and carried it home.



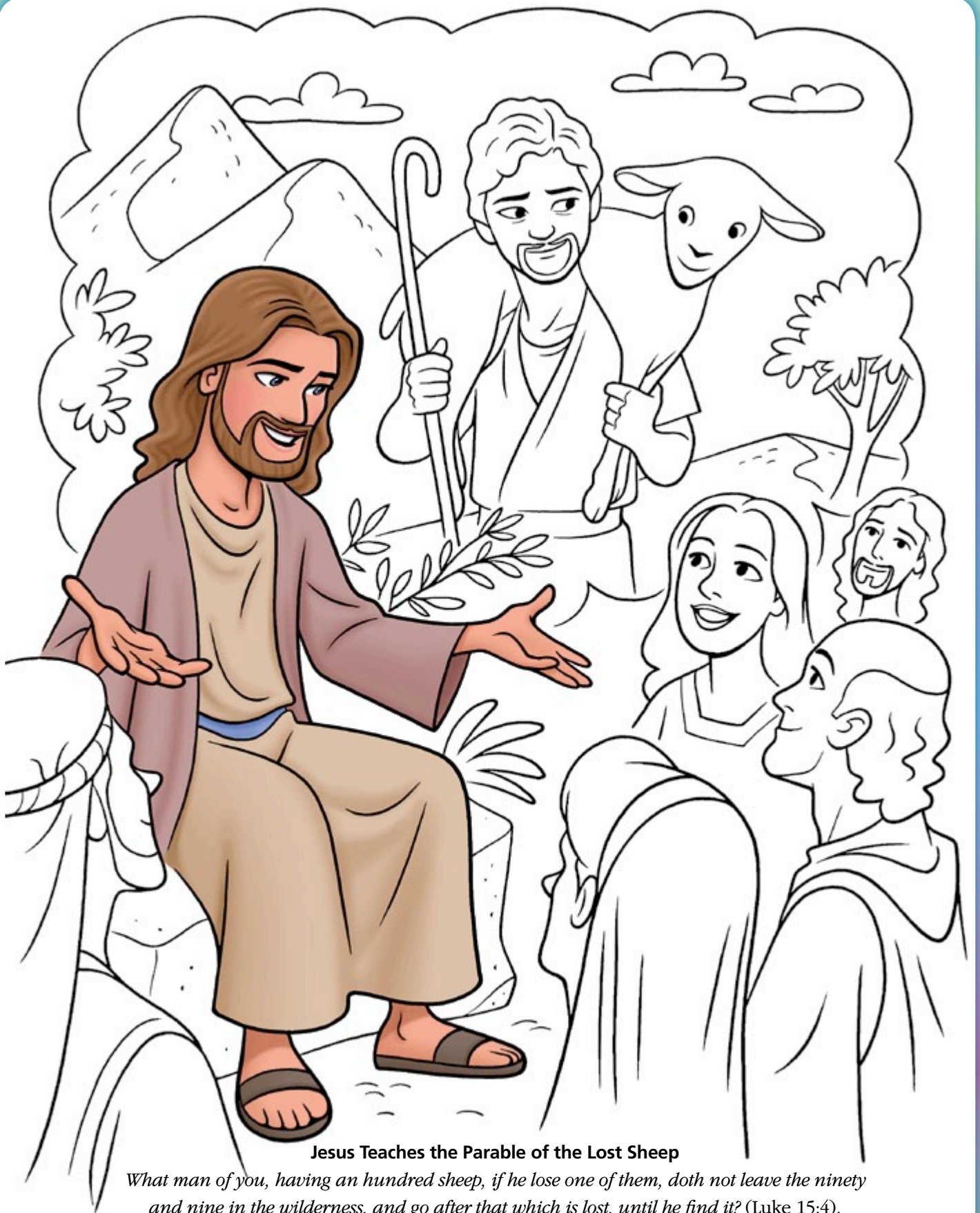
The shepherd called his friends together and told them how he had found his sheep. They celebrated together.



Jesus Christ is like the shepherd in the story, and we are like the sheep. Jesus watches over us and helps protect us from danger. He doesn't give up on us when we make mistakes. And He rejoices when we repent and return to His gospel. That is why the scriptures call Him the Good Shepherd. ◆

From Matthew 18:12-14 and Luke 15:3-7.





Jesus Teaches the Parable of the Lost Sheep

What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? (Luke 15:4).

Show and Tell

Would you like to send something to Show and Tell? Turn to page 48 to find out how.



My Father

My father helps me every day,
And I want to follow in his ways.

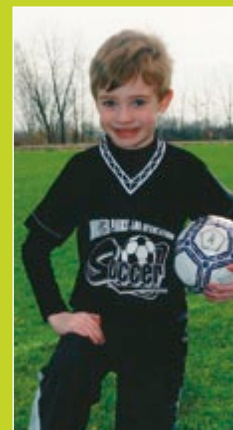
He teaches me to be honest in everything I do.
I love him, and I know he loves me too.

We love each other like no other can.
I'm very glad he's my dad.

Sophie D., age 9, Colorado, USA



Kelbee A., age 6, Colorado, USA, loves The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She hopes to someday get married in the temple, and she loves her mom and dad and brother very much.



Nathan A., age 6, Indiana, USA, is the youngest in his family. He likes to write and illustrate his own stories with his favorite pen. His favorite part of the *Friend* is the stories of children who are trying to follow Jesus.



Brixton W., age 11, Utah, USA, is the oldest of five children. She likes herding the cows on her family's ranch, and she has a horse named Blaze. She helps by taking care of younger children during church activities.



When the **Nowra Senior Primary** in New South Wales, Australia, had their very first Faith in God night, they wanted to do something special to celebrate! They all created CTR-themed artwork and mailed it in to the *Friend*!



Tyson B., age 8, Georgia, USA



Luke R., age 6, Puerto Rico



Have you been baptized? Write to us and tell us about your baptism day. Turn to page 48 to find out how.



Rachel J., age 11, Arizona, USA



Kohler L., age 10, West Virginia, USA



Faith A., age 10, California, USA



Once when I was watching TV with my brother and sister, my mom

needed help in the kitchen. I really wanted to watch TV, but I knew it was the right choice to help clean. So I wiped off the table and swept the floor. I'm glad I chose the right. It felt good to be a Christlike example.

Tessa T., age 6, Idaho, USA

When I was six years old, I participated in a soccer shootout. Soccer players that placed first and second would go to the state competition. I got first place and could go to state, but we found out that it was on Sunday. My dad tried to reschedule it, but they said they could only have it done on Sunday. My parents said I could choose what I wanted to do. I chose not to go. I am glad I chose the right.

Preston G., age 9, Arizona, USA



During lunchtime at school, I was talking to my friend, and he told me that he

had never been to church or read the scriptures. I told him that I could give him the scriptures. So I went home and asked my mom if I could use the Book of Mormon that the missionaries had left us to give away. I wrote my testimony in the front and took it to school the next day. I gave it to my friend, and he said thank you. I felt good because I was being a missionary.

Brendan J., age 7, Nevada, USA



My mom had surgery, and I felt encouraged to help. I was so motivated to do the dishes

that I cleaned the whole kitchen for her. She was so grateful, and I felt really good inside because I knew that she truly appreciated it.

Emma W., age 11, Hawaii, USA



I Will Follow Heavenly Father's Plan by Being Baptized and Confirmed

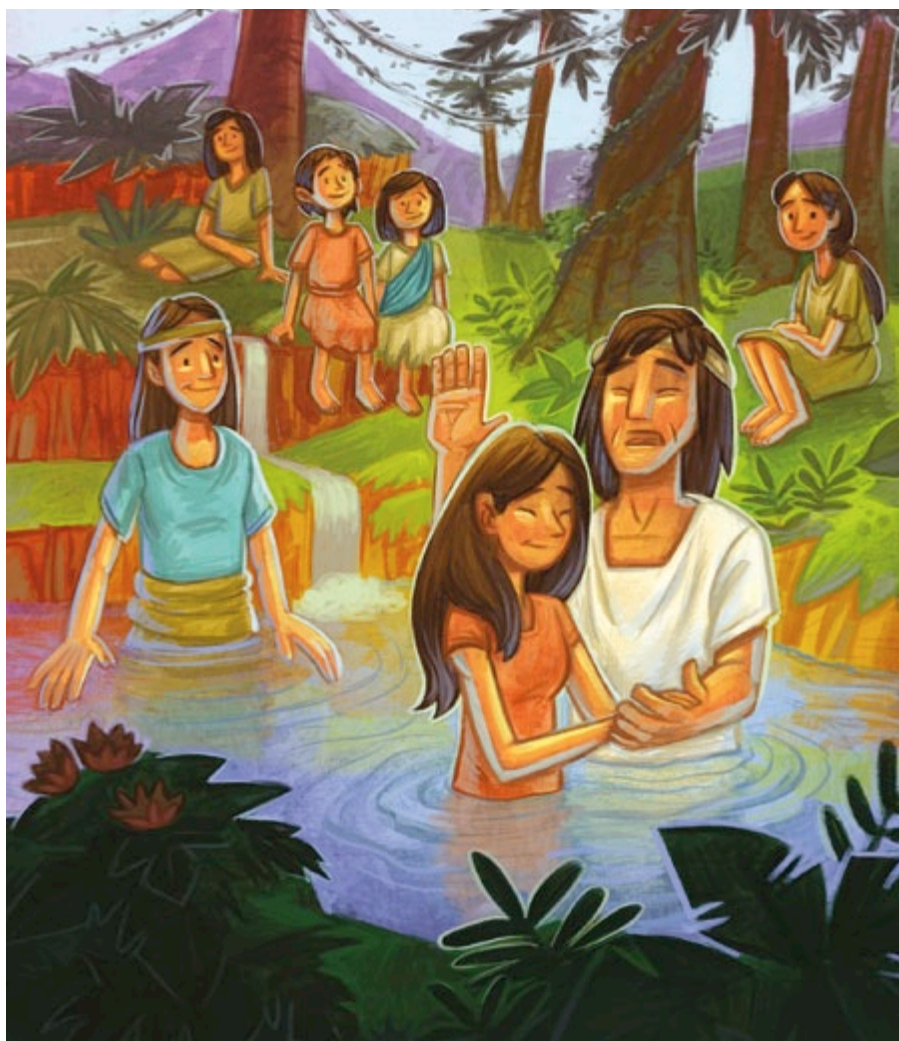
You can use this lesson and activity to learn more about this month's Primary theme.

The Book of Mormon tells about a group of people who gathered together in a forest called Mormon. They wanted to hear Alma teach about the gospel of Jesus Christ. After Alma taught them for many days, he asked them if they wanted to make a covenant to serve God and keep His commandments. He told them that if they would be baptized, the Holy Ghost would always be with them (see Mosiah 18:7–10).

When they heard this, the people were so happy that they “clapped their hands for joy” (Mosiah 18:11). Alma baptized about 200 people in the Waters of Mormon. These people thought of the forest of Mormon as a beautiful place because that is where they learned about the Savior and were baptized (see Mosiah 18:30).

Like Alma's people, we feel joyful as we look forward to or remember being baptized. Like those people, when we are baptized, we make a covenant with God. We promise to keep His commandments and serve Him. We take upon us the name of Jesus Christ and become members

of His Church. When we are confirmed, we receive the same wonderful promise that Alma's people received: that the Holy Ghost can be with us always, if we keep God's commandments. ♦



LISTEN TO THE STILL, SMALL VOICE

Ask one of your parents or another adult to help you cut out the pictures on this page and put them in a bag. Take turns choosing pictures out of the bag. Find the words that match each picture and read them aloud.



The Holy Ghost helps us feel Heavenly Father's love and other good feelings like joy, gentleness, and kindness. He often speaks to our hearts and minds through a still, small voice (see Galatians 5:22–23).

LET'S TALK

Ask someone who has been baptized and confirmed to describe his or her feelings about that special day. If you have already been baptized, share with someone else the feelings you had when you were baptized and confirmed.

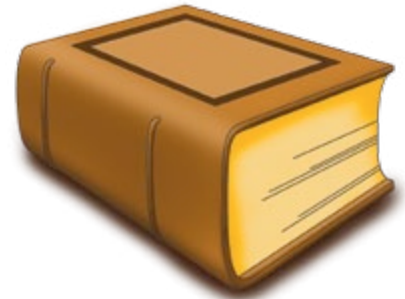
The Holy Ghost warns us of danger and helps us recognize when we need to be careful (see D&C 9:9).



The Holy Ghost is a teacher. He teaches us about Jesus Christ and helps us remember all that we have already learned from our parents, teachers, and the scriptures (see John 14:26).



The Holy Ghost guides us and helps us see clearly to make decisions that will bring us back to Heavenly Father (see 2 Nephi 32:5).



Sometimes the Holy Ghost is called the Comforter. Like a soft blanket, He helps us feel safe and peaceful (see John 14:16, 27).



SCRIPTURE AND SONG

- Mosiah 18:8–11
- "When I Am Baptized"
(*Children's Songbook*, 103)

MATT & MANDY



Dad, my rock collection got put on the truck, didn't it?

It sure did. One of the movers lifted the box and asked if it was full of rocks. He was joking, but I had to tell him yes.



Thanks for letting me bring them. Mom made me throw away my worm collection.

Your worms probably wouldn't have liked the trip anyway. So why do you need your rocks?



Well, I want to show them to Franco. He's a kid in my new class. He's funny and really smart. And he says he'll help me catch up with the math we're doing.

That's great. Sounds like you made a new friend pretty quickly.

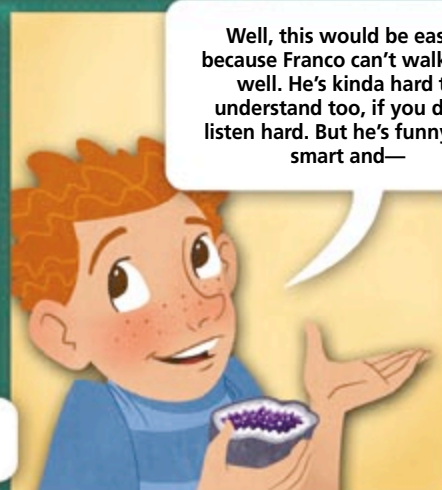


Well, we ate lunch together today 'cause he was eating alone and I didn't have anybody to sit with either.



Oh, here they are! Dad, can I use your wheelbarrow to take these over to Franco's house on Saturday?

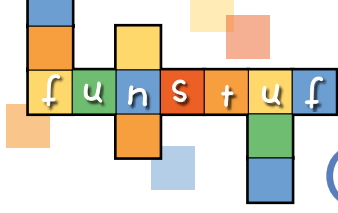
Why don't you invite him to come over here?



Well, this would be easier because Franco can't walk very well. He's kinda hard to understand too, if you don't listen hard. But he's funny and smart and—



Tell you what. Why don't I drive you over there on Saturday? I always like to meet your friends and their parents.



Count on Dad!

Father's Day is June 16! Find out what Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles says about why we should love, trust, and listen to our dads.

Let's solve the first letter together. The first space has an up arrow and a "9." Start on the picture of Dad and count up nine letters. Write in the letter you land on. "Y" is the first letter! Start on Dad each time and solve the rest! Find the answer on page 48.

“

↑9 ↓6 ↑6 ↑4 ↓1 ↑3 ↓1 ↑5 ↑3 ↓10 ↓3 ↓5

↓7 ↓6 ↑4 ↓4 ↓3 ↓9 ↑3 ↓10

↑3 ↓10 ↑9 ↓3 ↓9 ↓8 ↓10 ↑10 ↓2 ↓6 ↑4 ↑9 ↓6 ↑6

↓3 ↓6 ↑1 ↓4 ↓9 ↑3 ↑2 ↑2 ↑9

↑3 ↓10 ↓1 ↓5 ↑6 ↑7 ↑7 ↓4 ↓5 ↓5 ↓2 ↑6 ↑8

”

From the October 2009 general conference.



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The Bad Movie

When Evelyn saw the name of the movie, her heart started to pound.



By Julia Woodbury

Church Magazines
(Based on a true story)

I will only read and watch things that are pleasing to Heavenly Father (My Gospel Standards).

Class, I have a surprise for you," Mrs. Taylor said as she walked to the front of the room.

Evelyn looked up from her test, grinning. There was a big "A+" at the top.

"You all did so well on your tests that tomorrow we'll watch a movie as a reward," Mrs. Taylor said, writing three movie titles on the board. "Here are the options we can vote on," she said over everyone's cheers.

Evelyn bounced in her seat, trying to see what the titles were. The first two movies were some of her favorites. She leaned over to her friend Katy. "Which one are you going to vote for?"

"Definitely number three," Katy said. "My parents wouldn't let us watch it at home, so I never got to see it."

Evelyn looked at the board again and saw the name of the third movie. Her heart started to pound. Evelyn had heard of this movie, and she knew it was one she wouldn't

feel right about watching. What if her class voted for it?

"Who would like to vote for option one?" Mrs. Taylor asked.

Evelyn stretched her hand high and looked around. She bit her lip nervously. Only two other people were voting.

Mrs. Taylor made tally marks on the board. "Option two?"

Evelyn's heart sank. Only three hands went up.

"And option three?"

Fifteen hands shot up. Evelyn slumped down in her seat, a sick feeling settling in her stomach. How could she get out of watching that movie if everyone else wanted to?

When she got home, Evelyn went straight to her room and let her backpack fall to the floor with a heavy *thunk*. The sick feeling had stuck with her the entire day. "I wish I actually could be sick," she thought. "Then I wouldn't have to go to school tomorrow."

Evelyn pulled her test out of her backpack and stared



"In order to help others, we ourselves need the spiritual and moral courage to withstand the evil we see on every side."³

President Thomas S. Monson



at it, clutching it in her hands. "The movie was supposed to be a reward, not a punishment!" she thought, angrily crumpling the test up and stuffing it under her bed. Tears welled up in her eyes. She knelt by her bed and started to cry. Then she started to pray. She choked out a few tangled sentences, asking Heavenly Father to take the problem away, but after a while her prayer changed. "Please help me to make this better. I don't want to see a movie that will make me feel bad, and I hope that my friends and teacher will understand."

Evelyn finished her prayer. The trembling, sick feeling had disappeared. She didn't even feel afraid anymore.

Jumping to her feet, Evelyn raced out of her room to find Mom. She had an idea.

The next day, Evelyn walked into class. In one hand she held a note from Mom explaining how watching the movie would make Evelyn feel uncomfortable. In the other hand she carried three of her favorite movies. Evelyn handed the

note to Mrs. Taylor and watched her read it.

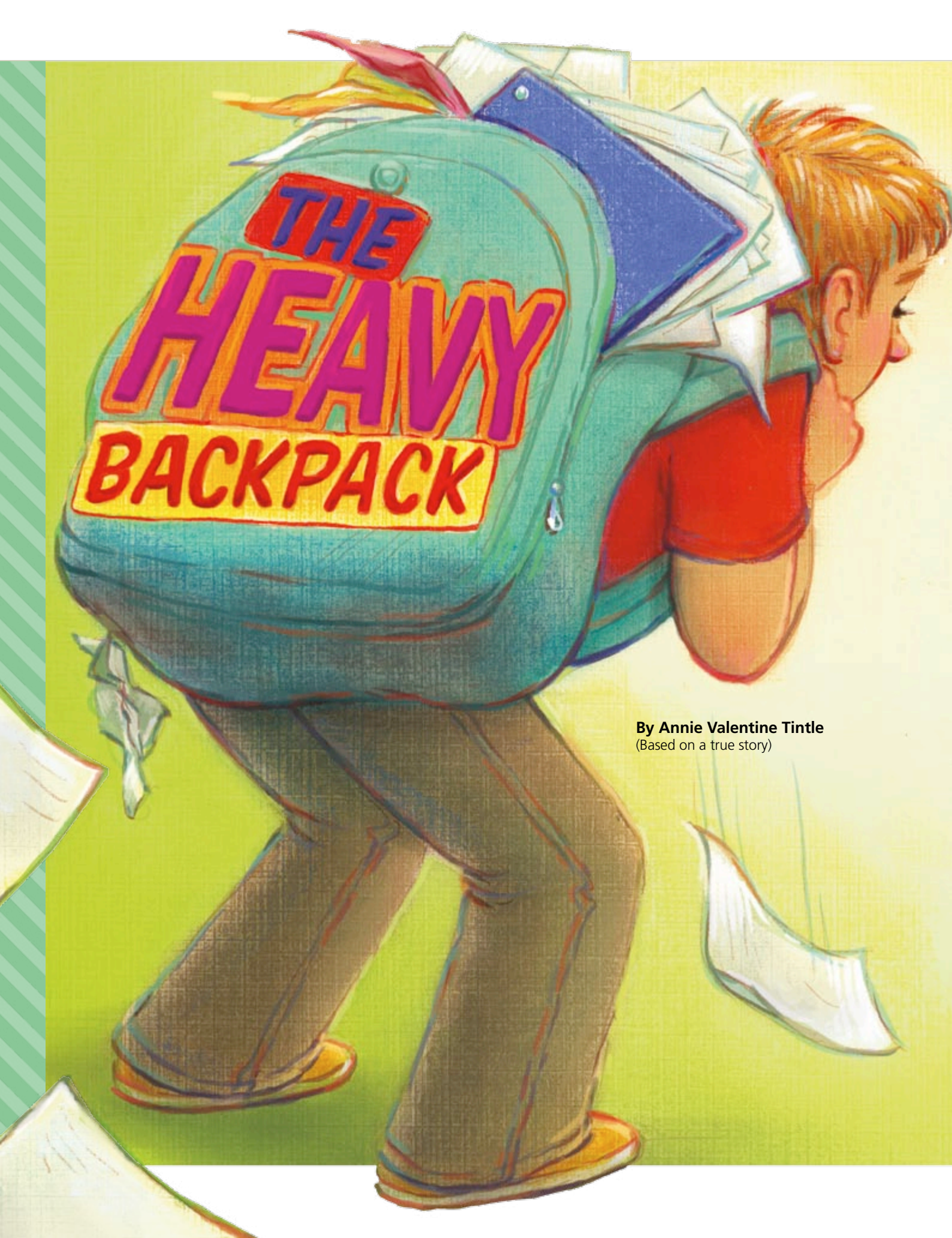
"Thank you for letting me know how you feel," Mrs. Taylor said.

"My mom says it's OK for me to go sit in with another class while the movie is playing," Evelyn said. "But I also brought some other movies in case everyone would like to watch one of them instead."

Mrs. Taylor smiled and reached for the stack of movies. "A movie is not much of a reward if we can't all enjoy it," she said.

Mrs. Taylor wrote the new titles on the board. "Class, I'd like to vote again on the movie for today. I have some new options for you."

Evelyn went and sat at her desk, happy she wouldn't have to miss out on the class reward. But the best reward of all was knowing that Heavenly Father had taken away her fear and given her courage to do what was right. ♦



By Annie Valentine Tintle
(Based on a true story)

For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light (Matthew 11:30).

Jay stepped off the bus and slung his big backpack over his shoulder. It was a long walk home, and his load was heavy.

He kept remembering the disappointed look on his teacher's face when she realized he'd lied about his homework. He hadn't meant to lie. Not really, anyway.

This whole mess started about two months ago.

"Hi, Jay," Mom had said when he came home from school. "How was your day? Do you have any homework?"

His day had actually been pretty lousy, and he didn't feel like doing homework.

"Uh, I don't have any," he'd said. "I finished it at school." It was only a little lie, he thought. And besides, he told himself, he'd just do his homework on the bus ride the next morning, so maybe it didn't even count.

As he trudged to his room, Jay ignored the queasy feeling in the pit of his stomach.

A few days later it happened again. When Mom asked about his homework, he pulled out his math worksheet but left the rest in his backpack. So easy!

Before long, though, his backpack was growing heavy with unfinished homework.

And then there was the whole school-lunch problem. A friend asked him a couple of weeks ago if he was sitting with the hot-lunch kids or the cold-lunch kids, and Jay ditched his sack lunch on the spot.

Over the next few weeks, Jay shoved several of his home lunches to the bottom of his backpack and tried to ignore them. Mom never went through his bag, so how would she ever find out?

The problem was, as the backpack got heavier, so did his heart. Why did he always feel so rotten inside? He'd even started snapping at his little brother.

Jay dreaded seeing the look on his parents' faces when they found out.

Walking in the door, he dropped his heavy backpack with a thud and slunk into the kitchen. "Hi, Mom," he said.

She hugged him and stood back. "Jay, I got an email from your teacher today. She said you lied about your

homework. We need to talk."

Jay sat down at the table and buried his head in his arms as Mom opened his backpack.

"Honey, when did this thing get so heavy? What do you have in here?"

She pulled out two months of unfinished homework and at least six lunches.

Jay burst into tears. "I didn't mean for it to happen. I just didn't do my homework, and no one noticed. I'm so sorry! Can you and Dad forgive me?"

Mom sighed and pushed the pile of unfinished papers and moldy lunches aside. "Sweetheart," she said, "We will always forgive you, but you've got a lot of work ahead of you here."

"I'll do it!" he said, looking up. Suddenly he felt hopeful for the first time in weeks. "I'll do every page, and I'll pay for the lunches too."

He dashed to his room for his money box. "Here, Mom," he said, pushing the dollars and change toward her. "There's over 20 dollars; just take it all."

Mom carefully counted out the necessary amount and gave him back the rest.

Walking back to return his box, Jay paused in his room. He knew he still had one more apology to make. Kneeling by his bed, he bowed his head and asked Heavenly Father to forgive him. Then he ran back to the kitchen table to start his homework.

The next morning before school, Jay grabbed his backpack with his finished homework in it on his way out the door. "Hey!" he said to his mom, "This thing is so light! It's like there's nothing in it!"

He headed off with a smile. His backpack wasn't the only thing that felt lighter. So did his heart. ♦

How did a simple backpack become so hard to carry?



One night my dad bought a bag of candy that I really liked. A few days later, I ate half of the candy! After scriptures and prayer, my dad took the bag out and saw that there wasn't a lot of candy left. I quickly said, "I'm sorry. I ate the candy." I was so happy that I was able to tell the truth.

Katie L., age 8, Colorado, USA



Possible Ideas for Family Home Evening

1. Read President Uchtdorf's message "Stop It!" (pages 2–3). Take the quiz on page 3 to see how you can become kinder to others. Trace and cut out the stop sign to make your own reminder to "Stop It!"
2. Read the story of Ammon in Alma 17–19. You can use the script "Ammon and the Lamanite King" (pages 16–17) to put on a pageant!
3. Read "Stirling's Great Idea" (pages 28–29) together. Learn and practice your family's favorite



Primary song to sing when you are tired, discouraged, or afraid.

4. Practice being a writer for the *Friend*! Read "The Day I Really Felt Loved" (page 22) and have each member of the family write the story of their baptism day or another important day in their life. Remember to include details about how you felt after the experience.
5. Use the Bringing Primary Home lesson and activity to learn more about this month's Primary theme (pages 40–41).

To send us a letter, photo, drawing, or poem, please fill out this form and include it with your submission. Please also include a school photo or high-quality snapshot. Submissions will not be returned and may be edited for length and clarity. Children whose work is submitted should be at least three years old.

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:

Full name _____

Age _____ State/Province, Country _____

I agree to the terms of the *Friend* Submission Agreement (lds.org/friend/parentalconsent) and grant permission for the *Friend* to print my child's submission and photo in print or online.

Signature of parent or legal guardian _____



Hidden CTR Ring

Did you find the ring?
Look on page 42!

The *Friend* can be found
on the Internet at
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Sidebar References

1. "Fathers and Sons: A Remarkable Relationship," *Ensign*, Nov. 2009, 47.
2. "Live by Faith and Not by Fear," *Ensign*, Nov. 2007, 73.
3. "Three Goals to Guide You," *Ensign*, Nov. 2007, 119.

Funstuff Answers

Page 12: 1) English; 2) German; 3) Spanish; 4) Russian; 5) French. Page 43: "Your dad wants more than anything for you to be happy and successful."

The *Friend* NEW OR RENEWAL SUBSCRIPTION

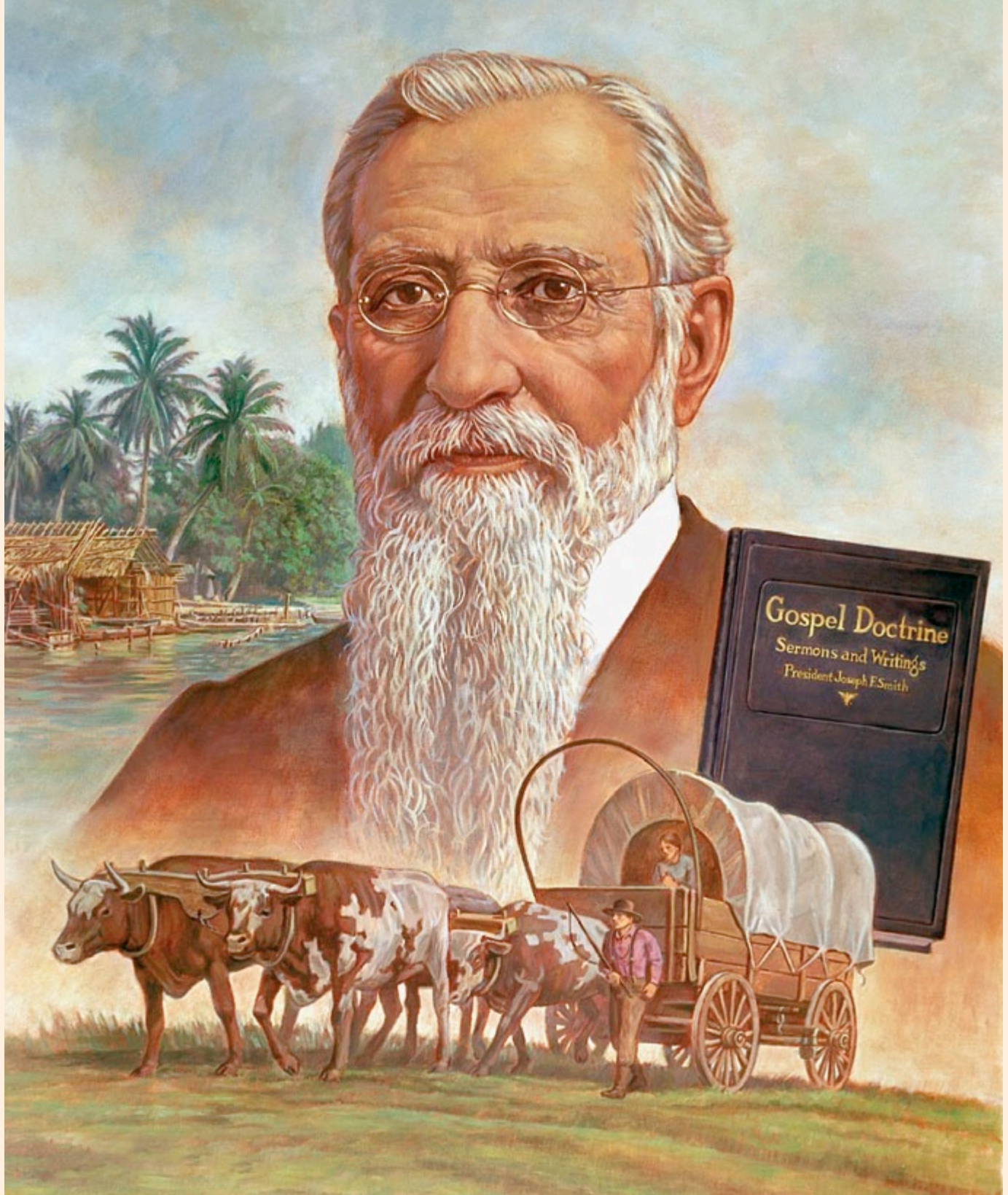
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JOSEPH F. SMITH

Joseph F. Smith was seven years old when he drove his family's **team of oxen** from Nauvoo, Illinois, to Salt Lake City, Utah. When he was 15, he served a mission in **Hawaii**. Later, as President of the Church, he dedicated the place where the Laie Hawaii Temple was built. Joseph believed people would persecute the Church less if they understood the Latter-day Saint faith. Some of his teachings that explained the Church's beliefs were compiled in a book called ***Gospel Doctrine***.

Through **Your** Eyes



I love music and singing. I am glad Heavenly Father gave us music to help us feel happy and to feel His Spirit.

**Alexander S.,
age 3, Idaho,
USA**



Do you like taking photos? We'd like to see your best shots about how Heavenly Father blesses your life. Email them to friend@ldschurch.org and include your name, age, and where you're from. Please also include a sentence explaining how your picture shows Heavenly Father's blessings in your



life. Remember, we can't publish your submission without a parent's permission in the email. If there are people in the photo, we also need to know that they gave their permission to be photographed. We're looking forward to seeing Heavenly Father's blessings through your eyes!



What's online?



Did you read about the Hill Cumorah Pageant in this issue? Go to lds.org/friend to see more photos from the pageant!

Have you watched the Matt and Mandy videos online yet? Go to lds.org/friend and click on "Videos" to watch stories about Matt and Mandy.