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Lindsay's Family Puzzle

By Jill Hacking

Church Magazines
(Based on a true story)

"And we as the children can seek out our loved ones, preserving their names and their memory" (Children's Songbook, 90).

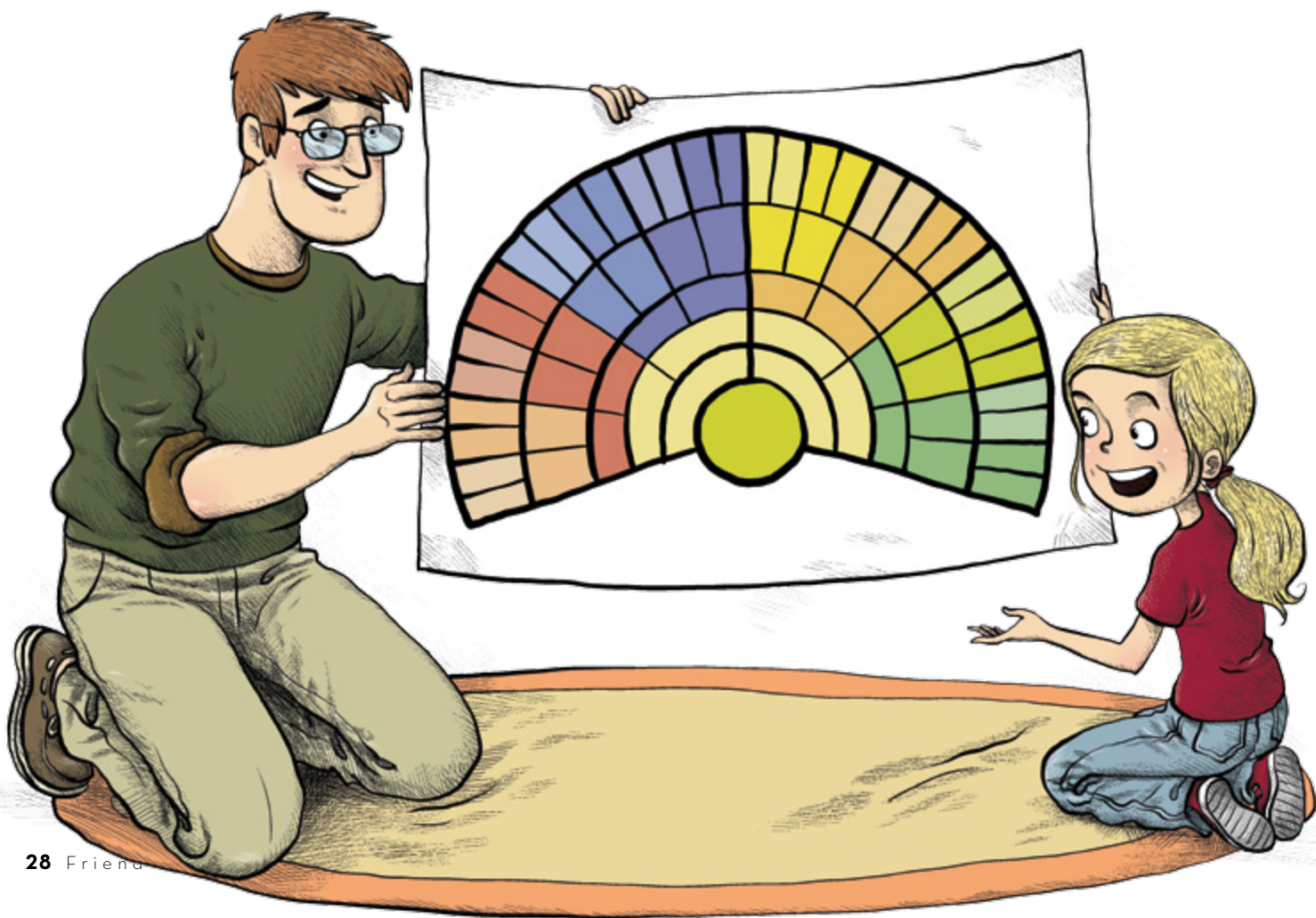
Lindsay raced downstairs when she heard Dad call her name.

Lately they had been doing a lot of family history

work together. Dad would help her log on to the FamilySearch website, and together they'd look for family pictures and stories. Just the other day she'd found a really old document about Grandpa on his mission!

Lindsay reached the bottom of the stairs where Dad was waiting. "Are we doing family history tonight?" she asked.

"Yup, and I have a surprise for you," Dad said with a smile. He handed her a long, rolled-up paper he'd held





behind his back. Lindsay carefully unrolled it. She stared at the large fan shape on the page. There was her name at the bottom! Lots and lots of other names spread out in neat rows around hers.

“That’s you and Mom,” Lindsay said, pointing to the names closest to hers. “And there’s Grandma and Grandpa!”

“That’s right,” Dad said. “This fan chart shows the names of your ancestors for *nine* generations.”

There were so many names. But some of the spots were empty. Lindsay wondered about the missing names. “It looks like the puzzles I used to do with Grandpa,” she said. Grandpa had died a few years ago, and Lindsay really missed him.

Dad nodded. “It *is* like a puzzle. A very important puzzle. And every family member is like a puzzle piece.”

Lindsay almost laughed when she imagined Grandma shaped like a puzzle piece.

“When we find a person’s name and do their temple work, we link them to the rest of the family—like joining puzzle pieces together. *You’re* helping build this puzzle.”

“Wow.” Lindsay brushed her fingers over the names. She knew family history was important, but now she was even more excited to help. *All* of her family could be linked together forever!

Lindsay taped her new chart to the ceiling right above her bunk bed. She loved to stare at the chart and study all the names. She imagined everyone holding each other’s hands, linked together like puzzle pieces.

She felt happy. This was the biggest puzzle she had ever seen!

One night Lindsay couldn’t sleep. Her bedroom was really dark. The tiny night-light made scary-looking shadows on the walls. She pulled her blanket up over her head and squeezed her eyes shut.

After a little while she peeked out above the blanket and saw the chart. She read her name. Then she read Mom and Dad’s names. When she got to Grandpa’s name, she felt warm and peaceful.

She remembered how Grandpa smiled at her when they did puzzles together. *When I help Dad do family history, I’m linking our family together!* she thought. She imagined Grandpa smiling even bigger about that. She didn’t feel scared at all anymore. She smiled and snuggled into her blanket and fell asleep dreaming of people and puzzles and connecting her family together. ◆

LINDSAY’S LIST

Here are some family history projects Lindsay works on. Which can you do?

Make my own family tree on FamilySearch.org.

Search for stories and pictures of my family.

Solve family history mysteries! Once when a record was missing, Dad and I went to a family history library. We searched in the files and found a copy. Plus we found names of more family members too!

Find names for temple work. I’m super excited to go to the temple and do baptisms when I turn 12.



Lindsay N., age 10, Utah, USA