



By Elder
Randy D. Funk
Of the Seventy



Being Where We Should Be

When I was 11 years old, I lived in Manti, Utah, USA. At the beginning of the year, my Primary teacher brought to our class a small, beautiful hatchet.

“Whoever comes to Primary the most this year gets to keep the hatchet,” she said. Right then I decided to come every week. And I did. At the end of the year, I got the hatchet!

Soon my 12th birthday came. I was ordained a deacon. Around this

time, my family moved to Madison, Wisconsin, USA. I missed my friends but wanted to make new ones. Madison was much bigger than Manti. My new school was large. There weren’t many members of the Church. One day some popular kids invited me to a party. But the party was on the same night as a Church activity. I had learned from my experience in Primary that good things happen when I am faithful in attending my Church

meetings. So I thanked them for inviting me and explained why I couldn’t come.

I am glad I went to the Church activity. The next day, everyone at school was talking about the party. Some kids had been drinking alcohol, they had damaged some furniture, and everyone who went got in a lot of trouble! I was so grateful that I had been where I needed to be.

I am thankful that I went to Primary and youth activities and

DRAW NEAR UNTO JESUS

At church, we learn how to make good choices and become better followers of Jesus. Fill in the blanks to help the children in the pictures know what to do.

1. "Be ye _____ one to another." (Ephesians 4:32)
2. "Blessed are the _____." (Matthew 5:9)
3. "When ye are in the _____ of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God." (Mosiah 2:17)
4. "If there is anything _____, lovely, or of good report or _____, we seek after these things." (Articles of Faith 1:13)

other Church meetings as I was growing up. I learned important lessons about the gospel there. I was protected from temptation and sin. And I had fun at the activities.

Heavenly Father strengthens our faith and blesses us when we try to be where we should be and do what we should do.

In Doctrine and Covenants 88:63, Jesus said, "Draw near unto me and I will draw near unto you."

As we attend our Church meetings, including sacrament meeting, we draw closer to Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ. We learn important truths to guide our decisions throughout the week, even when we are not at church or surrounded by others who share our beliefs. When you live righteously, the Holy Ghost will help you know where you need to be and what you need to do. ■



*Why would
Grandpa give Gage
an empty bottle?*

The Little Bottle of Silence

By Ray Goldrup

Based on a true story

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you” (John 14:27).

Gage stared at the empty old bottle and turned it over in his hands. It was small and misty green, with a cork stopper in the top. Grandpa Russell had given it to him after his baptism.

“What *is* it?” Gage asked. “I know it’s a bottle—but there’s nothing in it.”

“Oh, it’s full,” Grandpa said.

Gage shook the bottle. “Well, it looks empty to me.”

Grandpa laughed. He pulled out the cork and held the little bottle near Gage’s ear. “Can you hear it?” he whispered.

“Hear what?” Gage whispered back.

Grandpa smiled. “Silence,” he said. Then he put the cork back in the bottle. “In today’s world, silence is pretty hard to find. It’s like medicine, and each drop is as precious as gold.”

Gage said thank you and took Grandpa’s strange gift home. But he didn’t think about it much.

A few weeks later, Gage’s uncle Vince passed away. After the funeral, lots of relatives crowded into the front room at Gage’s house to visit. Gage escaped to his bedroom and closed the door. He could hear the muffled voices of his parents and relatives down the hall.

Gage saw the old green bottle sitting on his desk and picked it up. He turned it over in his hands. Grandpa had said silence was like medicine. Gage needed to find



some peace and comfort after Uncle Vince's funeral.

Gage pulled the cork loose from the bottle and tipped it over his head, pretending to let a little silence pour out. He knew the bottle wasn't *really* full of silence. But he knew he needed some quiet time to feel close to God.

He felt tears build up in his eyes. Uncle Vince wouldn't be there anymore—no more silly jokes, no more wrestling with

him. Gage's heart hurt from missing him.

Then in the silence, Gage felt something warm grow in his heart and soften the pain. He remembered that Uncle Vince wasn't gone forever; he had just moved on to the next world. Because of Jesus Christ and the plan of salvation, everyone would live forever. Gage knew that someday he could see his Uncle Vince again.

As he held the bottle in his

hands, Gage felt peaceful inside. He knew it was because of the Holy Ghost and not the bottle. The bottle had just reminded him to be quiet so he could feel the Holy Ghost. He corked the bottle and set it down.

Then he went back to the front room to be with his family. He could carry the peace and comfort of the Holy Ghost inside of him even outside his quiet room. ■

The author lives in Utah, USA.



By Laura Goodrich
Based on a true story

Lydia
L watched
Mommy
get ready
for work.
Mommy put
on pretty pink
lipstick. She
looked beautiful.

Lydia looked in
the mirror. She felt
sad. "I don't have
any lipstick,"
Lydia said.
"So I'm not
beautiful."

Hands, Heart, and a Smile

Mommy
hugged her
tight. "Wearing
lipstick isn't
what makes
people beau-
tiful. Being
strong and kind
makes people
beautiful.

"You are strong and
kind when your hands
help others.

"You are strong
and kind when
your heart loves
everyone.



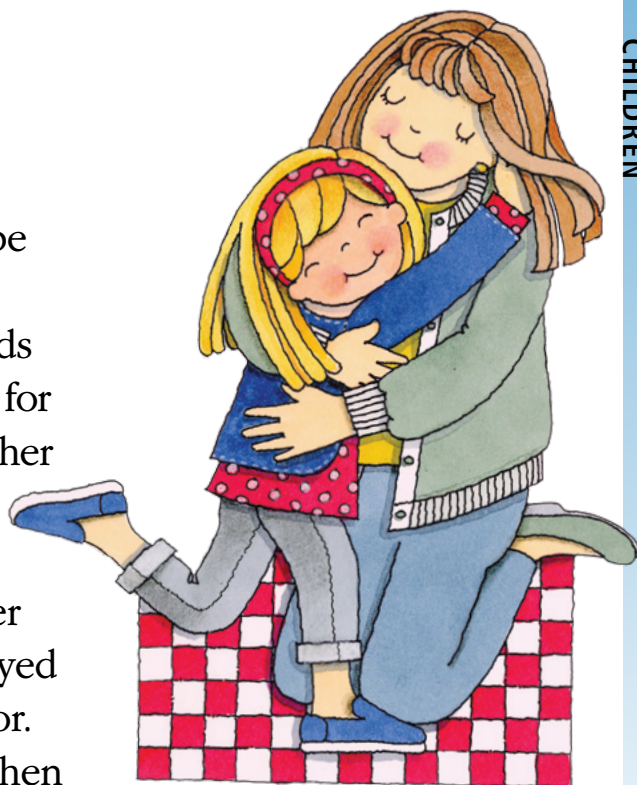
“And you are strong and kind when you smile. That makes everyone happy too.”

“Being strong and kind makes you beautiful inside, not just outside.”

Lydia wanted to be strong and kind!

She used her hands to carry the mail in for Grandpa. She gave her last cookie to her cousin.

She felt love in her heart when she played with a new neighbor. And she felt love when she gave coins to a girl collecting money for people who didn't have homes.

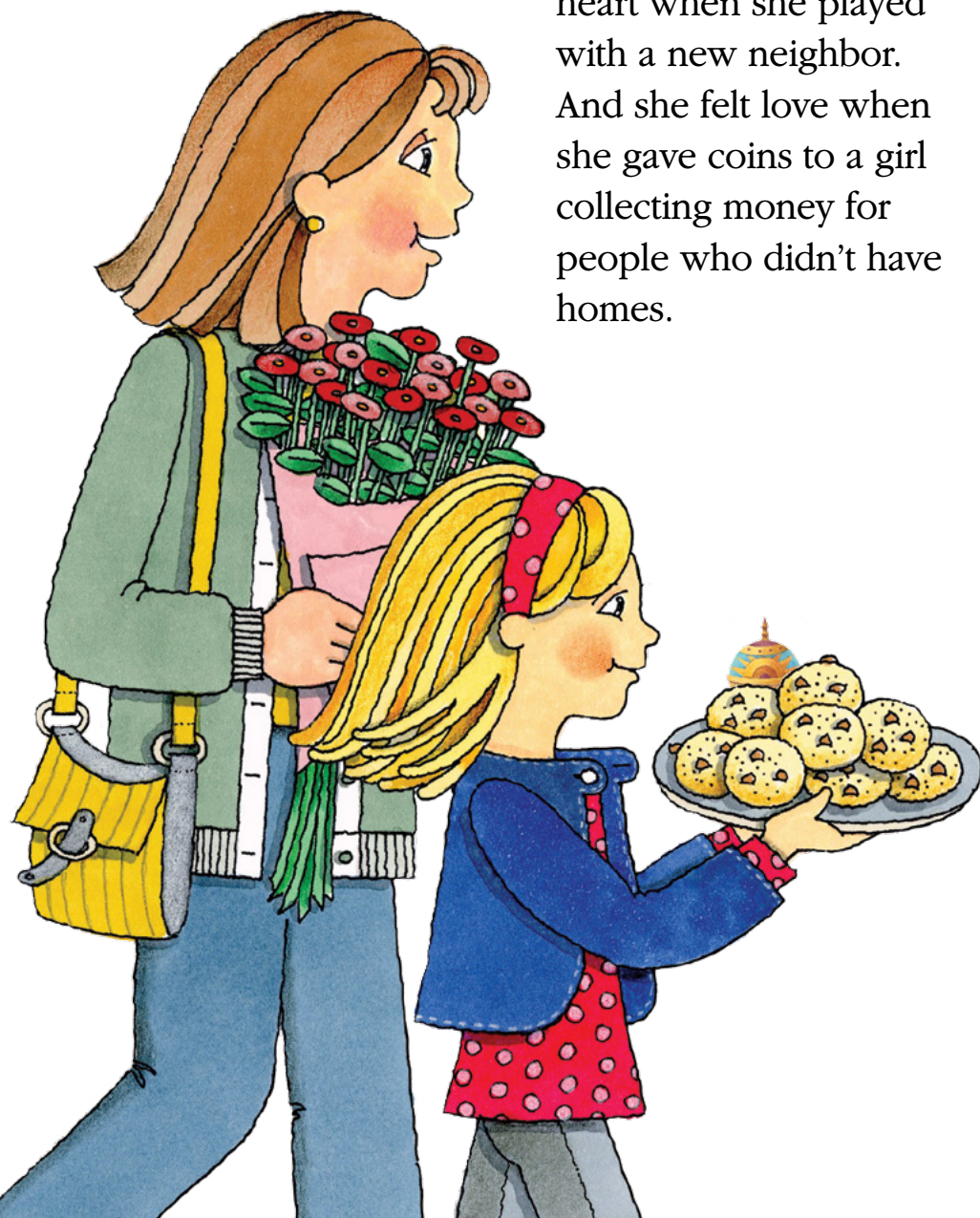


She smiled at people she saw. They all smiled back.

That night Lydia told Mommy, “You are right! I feel strong and kind. I used my hands and my heart and my smile today.”

Mommy smiled. “You are strong and kind, just like Jesus wants you to be!” ■

The author lives in Utah, USA.

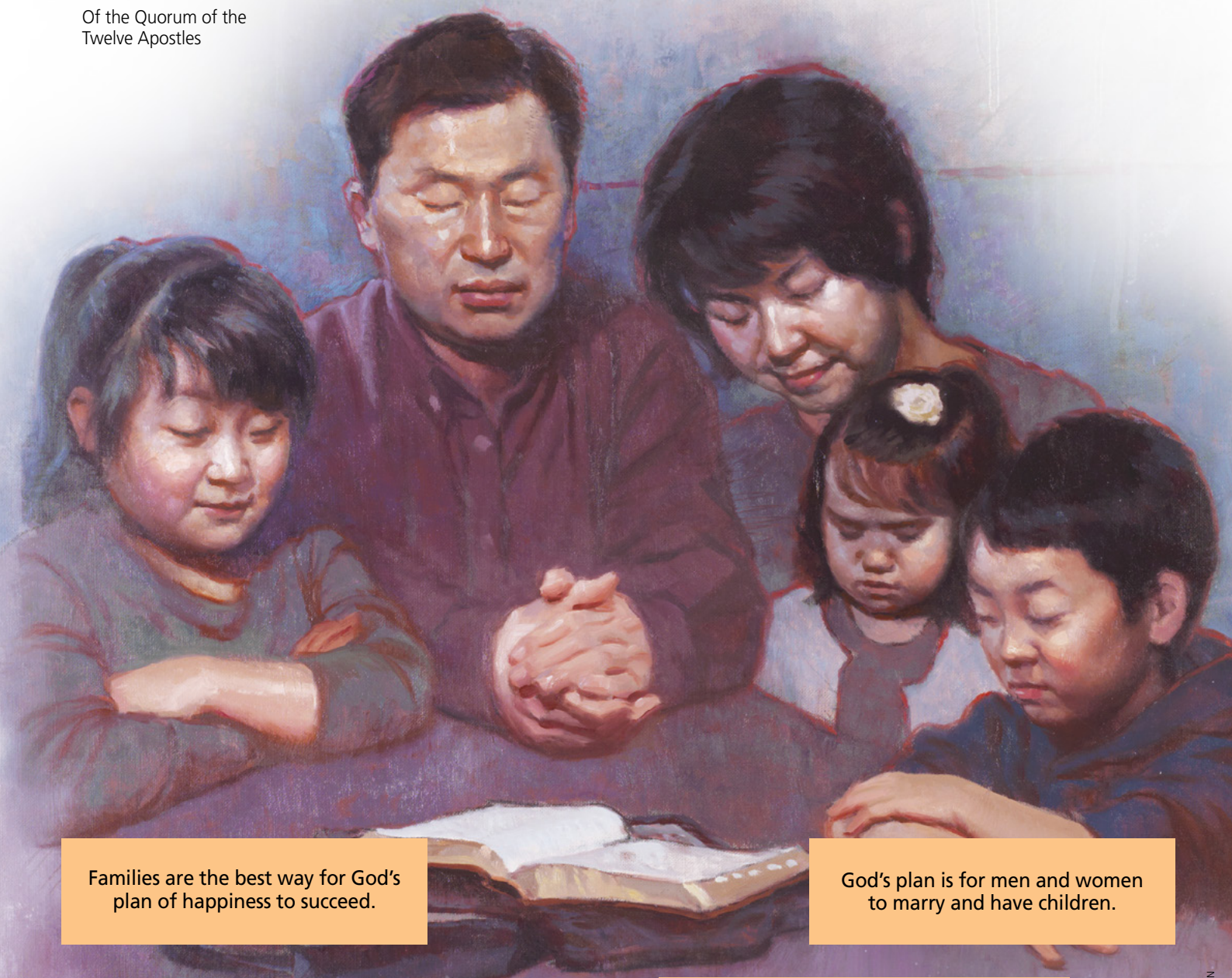




By Elder D. Todd Christofferson

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Why are families so important?



Families are the best way for God's plan of happiness to succeed.

God's plan is for men and women to marry and have children.

God also told us that parents should teach their families to follow Jesus Christ.

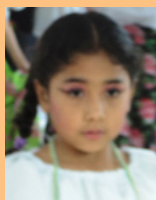
Faithful families help communities and nations be strong and healthy.

OUR PAGE



Jesus is like a good shepherd, and we are His sheep. He wants to take care of us.

Victoria P., age 10, Federal District, Brazil



I had a good experience when I was seven years old. I wanted to know if the Church was true. So I said a prayer and asked our Heavenly Father. I finished praying, and I lay down to sleep. I had a dream where Jesus Christ told me, "This is the true Church." When I woke up, I remembered my dream, and I knew that I was in the true Church.

Miranda R., age 9, Querétaro, Mexico



I am happy to be a member of the Church. Jesus Christ is my friend and protects me and my family. I like to visit the temple. I like family home evening and Primary.

Angel M., age 11, Colón, Panama



For a goal in our Faith in God booklet, we decided to make a model of the Montevideo Uruguay Temple. It took a year to do, but it was worth it. When we turn 12, our goal is to be able to go to the temple.

Samuel O., age 10, and Enzo S., age 11, Rivera Department, Uruguay



IT'S YOUR TURN!

You can share your experience, testimony, and photo with Our Page.

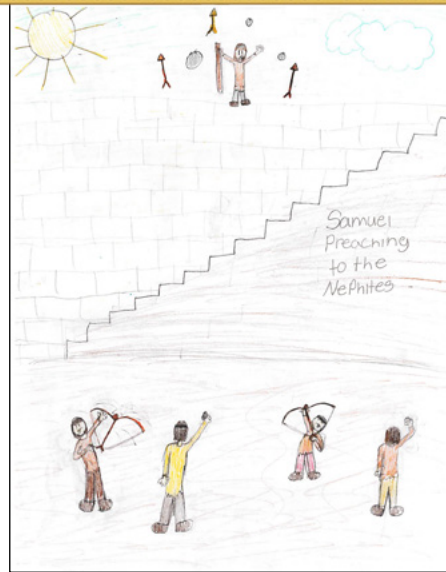
Email liahona@ldschurch.org and include a parent's permission, or visit liahona.lds.org and click "Submit an Article."

Samuel Testified

Samuel was a prophet who was a Lamanite. Heavenly Father told Samuel to tell the wicked Nephites to repent. The Nephites wouldn't let Samuel into their city, so he stood on the city wall. They threw stones and shot arrows at him. But Heavenly Father protected him. Samuel told the people what Heavenly Father wanted them to hear.



One time I was scared because I had to bear my testimony. When I bore my testimony, I wasn't scared.
Chase C., age 6, Arizona, USA



Lauren P., age 11, Utah, USA

ILLUSTRATION BY JARED BECKSTRAND



Cut, fold, and keep this challenge card!



I Can Testify!

- Memorize Helaman 14:8.
- Help others choose the right by being a good example this week.
- Watch chapter 40 of the Book of Mormon stories at scripturestories.lds.org.
- I challenge myself to . . .

This Month's Scriptures

After you read a scripture passage, color the matching numbered areas on the picture!

- 1 Helaman 10:1–7, 14–18
- 2 Helaman 13:1–7
- 3 Helaman 14:2–8
- 4 Helaman 16:1–5
- 5 3 Nephi 1:10–17, 21–24
- 6 3 Nephi 2:1–2
- 7 3 Nephi 8:2–7, 22–23
- 8 3 Nephi 11:3–11, 13–17, 37–39

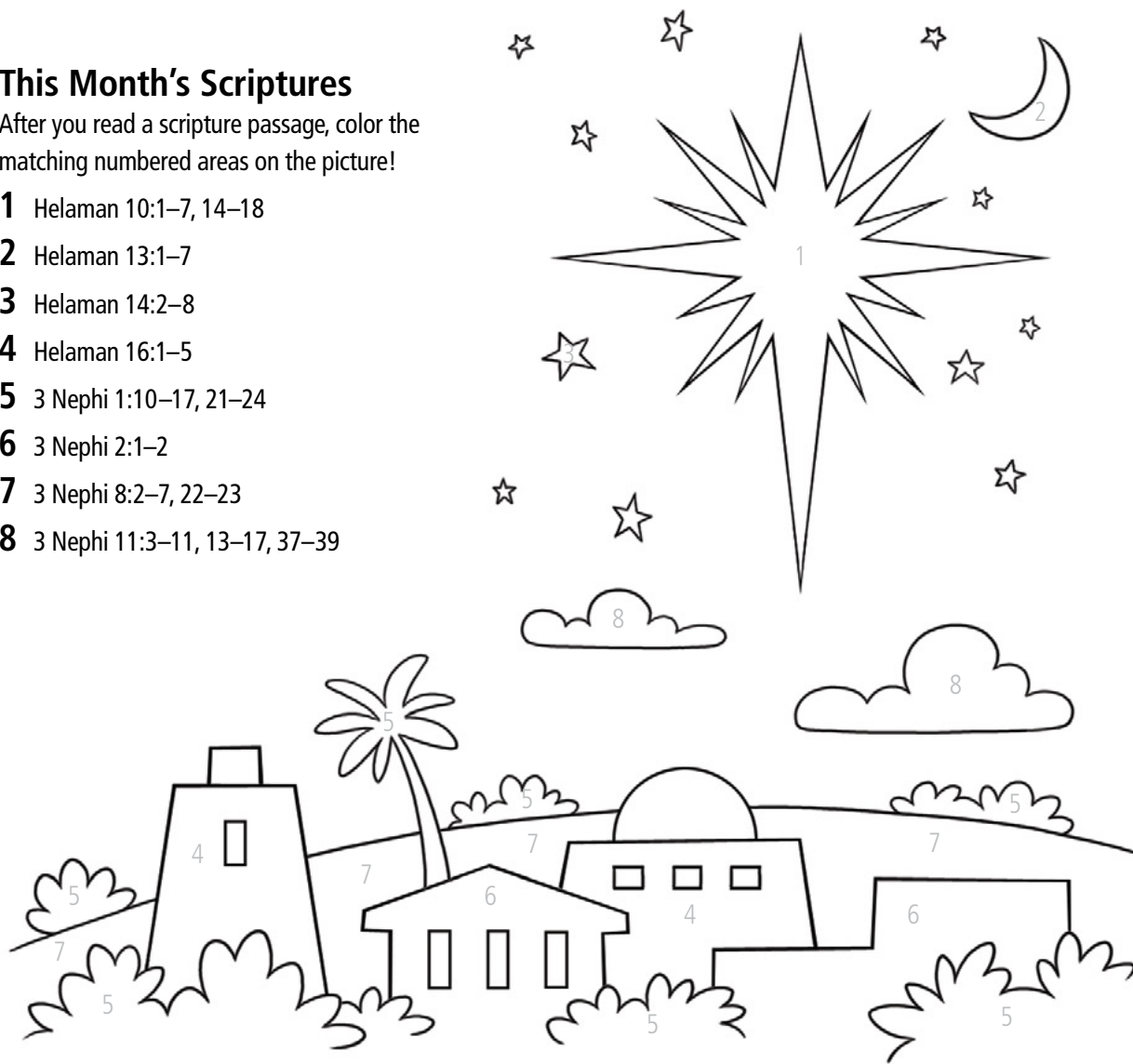



ILLUSTRATION BY JARED BECKSTRAND



The New Star

One thing Samuel told the Nephites was that Jesus Christ would be born soon and would be the Savior. A new star would shine when Jesus was born. Some people were angry and tried to hurt Samuel. Others believed his words and wanted to be baptized. Read about Samuel on pages 76–78. And look for another reading challenge next issue! ■

Samuel Teaches about Jesus



Samuel was a prophet. He climbed onto a city wall to preach. He told the people they needed to repent and have faith in Jesus Christ.

Samuel taught that Jesus would soon be born. A new star would shine. The sky would stay bright the whole night!

He taught that when Jesus died, it would be dark for three days. Many cities would be destroyed.





Some people believed and were baptized. Others did not believe and were angry. They threw rocks and shot arrows at Samuel. But God protected him, and he wasn't hurt.

The people who did not believe tried to capture Samuel. But Samuel got away.





Five years later, Jesus was born. A new star shone in the sky. It was just like Samuel had taught! ■

From Helaman 13–15; 3 Nephi 1:13–15, 21

I Can Pay Tithing



ILLUSTRATION BY APRYL STOTT



By Elder
Matthew Cowley
(1897-1953)

Of the Quorum of the
Twelve Apostles

MIRACLES

"Send for the elders; I don't feel very well."

A little over a year ago a couple came into my office carrying a little boy. The father said to me, "My wife and I have been fasting for two days, and we've brought our little boy up for a blessing. You are the one we've been sent to."

I said, "What's the matter with him?"

They said he was born blind, deaf, and dumb, no coordination of his muscles, couldn't even crawl at the age of five years.

I said to myself, "This is it. 'This kind cometh not out save by fasting and by prayer' [see Matthew 17:21]." I had implicit faith in the fasting and the prayers of those parents. I blessed that child, and a few weeks later I received a letter: "Brother Cowley, we wish you could see our little boy now. He's crawling. When we throw a ball across the floor he races after it on his hands and knees. He can see. When we clap our hands over his head he jumps. He can hear."



Medical science had laid the burden down. God had taken over. . . .

I was called to a home in a little village in New Zealand one day. There the Relief Society sisters were preparing the body of one of our Saints. They had placed his body in front of the big house, as they call it, the house where the people come to wail and weep and mourn over the dead, when in rushed the dead man's brother. He said, "Administer to him."

And the young natives said, "Why, you shouldn't do that. He's dead."

"You do it!"

. . . I had [a faithful old Maori] with me. . . . The younger native got down on his knees and he anointed this man. Then this great old sage got down and blessed him and commanded him to rise.

You should have seen the Relief Society sisters scatter. He sat up and said, "Send for the elders; I don't feel very well." . . . We told him he had just been administered to, and he said, "Oh, that was it." He said, "I was dead. I could feel life coming back into me just like a blanket unrolling." He outlived the brother that came in and told us to administer to him. . . .

God does have control of all of these elements. You and I can reach out, and if it's His will, we can bring those elements under our control for His purposes. ■

From "Miracles," New Era, June 1975, 39-44, an article adapted from a talk given at a Brigham Young University devotional on February 18, 1953. Punctuation, capitalization, and paragraphing standardized.