

From the Ensign

Content in this issue was created before the COVID-19 pandemic. Some details may not be currently applicable. Please adapt suggestions as needed according to current Church and government guidelines.



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The Baptism Decision

Recently, my husband and I were trying to decide if our seven-year-old son was ready to be baptized. He has autism, so we weren't sure if he understood enough to be accountable for this decision. On page 50, you can read about the many things we considered as we tried to make the right decision.

As a Church disabilities specialist, I know that many wonderful people with disabilities desire to feel included at church. To all our brothers and sisters who have disabilities of one kind or another and to their families, we say: We love you, we need you, and we want to learn how to better minister to you.

Several articles in this issue help us understand disabilities and how we can better foster inclusion in our wards and communities:

- Page 46: Elder Paul B. Pieper of the Seventy and his wife, Melissa, who

have a child with disabilities, give hope and encouragement to parents.

- Page 53: At the end of my article, you can find ideas on how to better accommodate members with disabilities in Church lessons and callings.
- Page 58: Use these conversation starters to have a meaningful discussion about disabilities with your children.

As you read this issue, remember that "the worth of souls is great in the sight of God" (Doctrine and Covenants 18:10). We can help foster loving, inclusive home and Church environments so that all who want to come and be like Jesus have that opportunity.

With love,
Katie Edna Steed
Disabilities Specialist, Priesthood and Family Department