

the Friend

the

APRIL • 2003





Legacy of Faith

One night when I was afraid, my mom told me stories about when she was a little girl. She said that sometimes she got scared, and her mom, my Grandma Smith, would sing to her. Grandma Smith said that her mom, my Great-grandma Hill, used to get scared at night, too. And Great-grandma Hill remembered how her mother, my Great-great-grandma Wirthlin, used to sing “Dearest Children, God Is Near You” (*Hymns*, no. 96) to her and her brothers and sisters. Great-grandma Hill said that this hymn gave her a special feeling of peace. She sang it to her children, Grandma Smith sang it to Mom, and Mom sang it to me. It helps me know that Heavenly Father watches over me and cares for me, just as He did for Mom and all of my grandmas. One night, after Mom sang this hymn to me, I lay in bed and made up a fourth verse:

*Dearest children, God is near you,
Standing with you day and night.
Through the scriptures, He will teach you
How you can always choose the right.
We love the Lord.
He loves us, too.
If we have faith, we'll return home.*

Great-great-grandma Wirthlin died when Grandma Hill was only 22 years old. I wonder if she knew that the little boy she sang to, Joseph Leopold Wirthlin, would one day become the Presiding Bishop of the Church and that his son, Joseph B. Wirthlin, would become an Apostle. I wonder if she knew that a song that she sang to her children so long ago would bring peace to me, her great-great-granddaughter, so many years later. Someday I will sing this song to my children. Great-great-grandma Wirthlin left a great legacy of faith for me and for all of her posterity.

Tiffany Starr, age 7
Mesa, Arizona



Tea Parties

Last year in my kindergarten class, we had a “Teddy Bear Tea Party,” and we got to bring our teddy bears to school. When the party began, I saw that my teacher was serving real tea. I knew that I should choose the right, so I asked for water. I felt happy that I did.

This year, in first grade, we had a “Tarts-and-Tea Party.” Again, my teacher served real tea and I chose to not drink it. I realized that it was easier to choose to not drink it this time because of the good feeling I had when I chose to not drink it the first time.

Ryan Wilcken, age 6
Ringgold, Georgia

My Lost Ring

One Friday in fourth grade, I was eating lunch in the cafeteria. After I threw my trash away, I couldn't find my CTR ring. It was really special to me. I thought I



had put it on my lunch box, but it was not there. It wasn't under the table or in the trash can, either. I prayed, and later I asked my teacher to tell the custodians about my ring. I worried the whole weekend and prayed and prayed to get my ring back. On Monday morning, Mom and I went to the office, and the secretary held up a ring and asked if it was mine. It was! I know that Heavenly Father answered my prayer, and I still have my ring.

Emily Rawlins, age 10
Morrisville, Pennsylvania

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Cover by Nancy Seamons Crookston

the friend

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

HIDDEN CTR RING

Because of the Savior,
Jesus Christ, we can
have faith in Him,
repent, be baptized, receive
the Holy Ghost, make good
choices, and return to live
with Heavenly Father one
day. Remember your
baptismal covenants, or
promises, as you look for
the CTR ring hidden in this
issue of the *Friend*.





Come Listen to
a Prophet's Voice

A Growing Testimony

BY PRESIDENT JAMES E. FAUST
Second Counselor in the First Presidency



President James E. Faust shares one of his greatest sources of strength.

As I look back over my life, I recognize one source of singular strength and blessing. It is my testimony and knowledge that Jesus is the Christ, the Savior and Redeemer of all mankind. I am profoundly grateful that all of my life I have had a simple faith that Jesus is the Christ. That witness has been confirmed to me hundreds of times. It is the crowning knowledge of my soul. It is the spiritual light of my being. It is the cornerstone of my life.

The first cornerstone of my testimony was laid a long time ago. One of my early recollections was having a frightening nightmare as a small child. I still remember it vividly. I must have screamed in fright during the night. My grandmother woke me up. I was crying, and she took me in her arms, hugged me, and comforted me. She got a bowl of some of my favorite rice pudding that was left over from dinner, and I sat on her lap as she spoon-fed me. She told me that we were safe in our house because Jesus was watching over us. I felt it was true then, and I believe it now. I was comforted in both body and soul and went peacefully back to bed, assured of the divine reality that Jesus does watch over us.

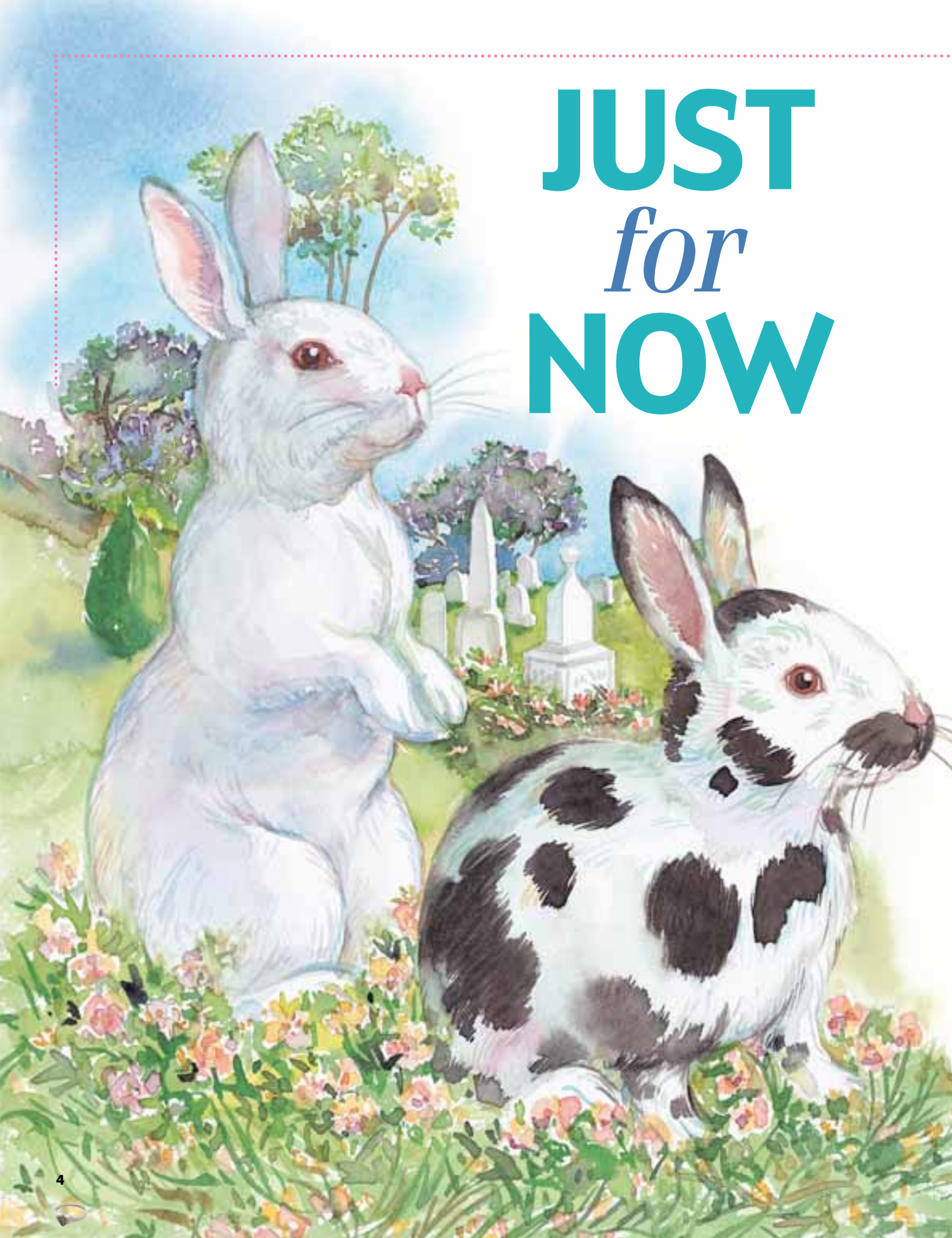
That first memorable experience led to other strong confirmations that God lives and that Jesus is our Lord and Savior. Many of these came in response to earnest prayer. As a child, when I lost things such as my precious pocketknife, I learned that if I prayed hard enough, I could usually find it. I was always able to find the lost cows I was entrusted with. Sometimes I had to pray more than once, but my prayers always seemed to be answered. Sometimes the answer was no, but most often it was positive and confirming. Even when it was no, I came to know that, in the Lord's great wisdom, the answer I received was for my best good. My faith continued to grow as building blocks were added to the cornerstone, line upon line and precept upon precept.

I humbly acknowledge that these many experiences have nurtured a sure knowledge that Jesus is our Savior and Redeemer. I have heard His voice and felt His influence and presence. They have been as a warm, spiritual cloak. The wonder of it is that all who . . . strive to keep the commandments and sustain their leaders can receive this same knowledge in some measure. ●

Adapted from an October 2000 general conference address.



JUST *for* NOW





BY RACHELLE P. CASTOR
(Based on a true story)

*Blessed are they that mourn:
for they shall be comforted* (Matthew 5:4).

Cami felt her mother's arm around her shoulders. As she wiped away more tears, she couldn't help but notice how beautiful the cemetery was. The warmth of the sun felt good on her swollen eyes and calmed her as people came across the grass to hug her and her family once more.

"Give yourself time, Cami," Sister Bowen, her Primary teacher, said. "These things take time."

Cami nodded without really listening. She was thinking about how strangely peaceful it was here. It was like those pictures of Easter morning she had seen in Primary—the beautiful flowers, the smell of the lilac bushes, the breeze in her hair. It was very different from the hospital room where she had watched her father take his last breath. There, it had been like another planet with a room crowded with people who loved him and didn't want to let him go, everyone softly crying and hanging on to whomever stood nearby.

"It isn't supposed to happen this way," she thought. "Dad was much too young to die. Dads aren't supposed to die when you're only ten years old." But he *had* died.

She saw movement from the corner of her eye and looked just in time to see a white bunny and then a speckled one hop and stop, hop and stop from behind a gravestone, their noses twitching in the air. Then they scurried safely under some bushes.

"Are you ready to go, Cami?" Mom's voice was tired. "We'll visit here anytime you want to, sweetheart."

Cami nodded. But as she rode in the car with her brothers and sister, she wanted right then to turn around and go back to the cemetery. Home reminded her of Dad when he was alive. Home made the sadness seem too huge to hold. She thought of Sister Bowen's words, "These things take time."

"How much time? How can I survive till then, whenever then is?" She forced herself to think good thoughts. Thinking about Jesus, about His Resurrection, and about the promise of her dad's resurrection helped.

At home, she just sat all afternoon, not sure of what to do or how to feel or of how long before the next tears would fall. "Will I ever stop crying? What will it be like to have birthdays and Christmas and go on vacation without Dad? To have dinner, to go to church, to have

family prayer without Dad?"

As evening came, the sadness seemed even bigger. She didn't feel like praying, but she went ahead anyway, in her heart.

"Please, Heavenly Father, help me. I feel so sad and lonely. I know that I'll see Dad again. I know that Jesus was resurrected after He died, and I know that someday Dad will be resurrected, too. But that's someday. What about now? How do I get through today? Please help me know what to do to stop hurting so much."

As Cami ended her prayer, she heard Mom calling everyone together for family prayer. Without even thinking, she went to Dad's bedroom closet, pulled down his Sunday jacket, and put it on. It was gigantic on her ten-year-old body, but it was Dad's. It felt like him, it looked like him, it even smelled like him. She pulled the collar up around her face and took in a deep breath. She felt safe. Now she could feel like he was near during family prayer.

When she went into the living room, the rest of the family was already kneeling. They looked up and stared at her. She didn't care. She just went to the couch, knelt, and bowed her head.

No one started to pray, so she peeked to see what was happening. Her family was gone—but just for a minute. One by one, they came back. Her big brother had on Dad's slippers. Mom had



on his robe. Little Jimmy clomped in wearing Dad's big shoes, and her older sister had on Dad's favorite sweater.

Everyone knelt as Mom began

to pray. She

thanked Heavenly Father for

the beautiful funeral services and for all the love that friends and neighbors had shown them. She thanked him for the good memories with Dad. And she thanked Heavenly Father that they could feel Dad close by.

It wouldn't be easy with Dad living in heaven instead of at home with them, but for now—for tonight—with something *he* had worn close to each of them, waiting to see Dad again would be a little bit easier. For Cami, it was like being wrapped in his arms—just for now. ●



"The knowledge . . . that God lives and Jesus is the Christ and that we have an opportunity to be resurrected and live in the presence of God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, makes it possible to endure otherwise tragic events. This . . . brings a brightness of hope into an otherwise dark and dreary world. It answers the simple questions of where we came from, why we are here, and where we are going."

Elder Robert D. Hales
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles
From an October 1996 general conference address.

Our Lord and Savior

BY ELDER JOSEPH B. WIRTHLIN
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Jesus is the head of His Church, the Creator of the universe, the Savior and Redeemer of all mankind, and the Judge of the souls of men.

I am grateful to know that our Lord and Savior stands at the head of this Church and directs it through His servants. This is the Lord's Church; it is not a church of men. The Brethren of its presiding councils are called of God; their only motive is to serve according to His will in humility "with all [their] heart, might, mind and strength" (D&C 4:2).

The immortality and eternal life of man is brought to pass by the Atonement of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Redeemer. It is an act of love for which we should be more grateful than for any other blessing or gift of God. The Atonement provides immortality to every person; immortality is infinite and universal [never-ending and for all people]. It provides the opportunity for eternal life, the kind of life that God lives, to those who have faith in Christ, repent of their sins, and obey the laws of the gospel. In a miraculous way, the Atonement saves and redeems us from the effects of the Fall of Adam, both temporal death at the end of mortality and spiritual death, the separation from our Father.

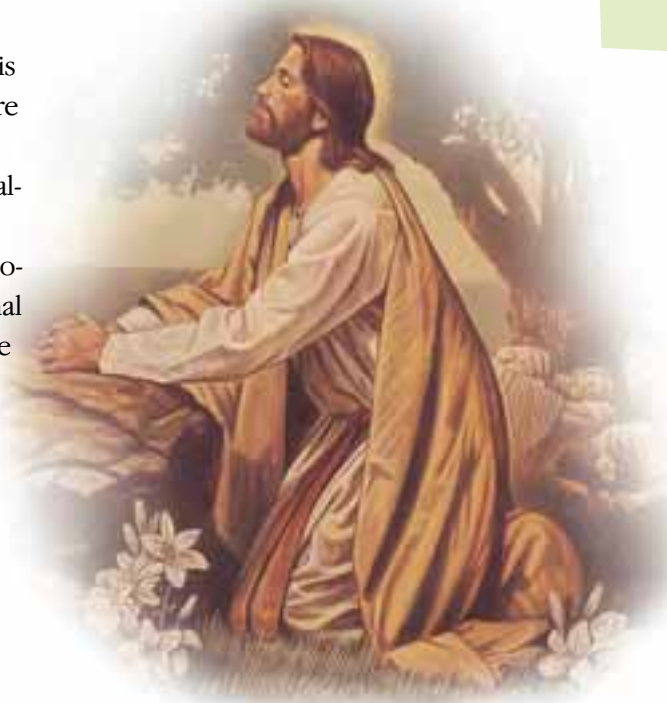
Considering all that Jesus is and all He does for us, what should we be doing to

show our appreciation? We should come to "know . . . the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent" (John 17:3). "Those who know God become like him, and have his kind of life, which is eternal life" (Bruce R. McConkie, *Doctrinal New Testament Commentary*, 3 vols., [1966–73], 1:762).

In other words, to possess a knowledge of Christ, we must become as He is. ●
From an October 1993 general conference address.



Did you know that Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin was on his college football team? He loves our Savior Jesus Christ and bears testimony of Him.



Growing Up in the Church



**From an interview
with Elder Stephen
B. Oveson of the
Seventy, currently
serving in the North
America Southwest
Area Presidency;
by Janet Peterson**

Bring [your children] up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4).

I grew up in the dryland wheat-farming country of northeastern Oregon, where my father managed an agricultural experiment station. I spent my boyhood in the little town of Moro, Oregon, which had about 300 people. There were no other members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Moro. We were the only members in the whole county.

We attended a small branch in The Dalles. But when I was about five years old, World War II started and we could not get tires or extra gasoline and could not drive the 80-mile round-trip each Sunday. So a home branch was organized in our home.

Each Sunday we held sacrament meeting and Sunday School. My father

taught my older brother, Richard, and my older sister, Joan. My mother taught my younger sister, Mary, and me. My mother was an excellent teacher and a wonderful storyteller. She made the scriptures come alive. We sang hymns and Primary songs.

My parents taught us exactly who we were and where we came from. I grew up with the sure knowledge of Father in Heaven, of

Riding a tricycle at age 6 or 7



Jesus Christ, and of the teachings of the gospel. My testimony developed steadily because of the teachings I received in my home.

When I was 12, we moved near Pendleton, Oregon, a city of 7,000 people. For the first time I lived in a ward. A couple of years later, my father was called to the high council of the Union Stake. He served in the stake presidency for more than 12 years.

During my teenage years, I

traveled with him to high council or stake presidency assignments. We'd get up early on Sunday morning and drive some distance to his assignment. As we drove, he taught me the gospel. He had great gospel knowledge. I have found that I usually know the right answer to gospel doctrine questions because I was raised in a home where the gospel was understood and taught correctly.

Next to the gospel, the most helpful thing I learned in my youth was the value of work. When I was eight, I joined 4-H Club and started raising lambs and calves. As a nine-year-old, I had the grand champion lamb at The Dalles Livestock Show. I learned to keep my own books, and I made a profit. I also mowed lawns. When I was 10, I started shining shoes in the only barbershop in town.

We had a cow, and I took care of it, milked it, and delivered milk to a couple of customers. Then I delivered the local newspaper, the *Dalles Chronicle*. I earned my own money and was able to buy the bicycle I wanted.

You children need to know that work is a good thing. It is



With "Butch"

enjoyable. Earning your own money is good. It gives you freedom to buy what you need. I always paid my tithing first, and I always had enough money because I did and because I had learned to work. Children, what you earn will make you a lot happier than things that are given to you for free.

Children, begin writing down your goals at a very early age. They should include fulfilling your requirements in the Church and doing well in school. The promise "the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32) applies to each of you. The "truth" includes doing the best

With his bride, Dixie Randall, at the Mesa Arizona Temple

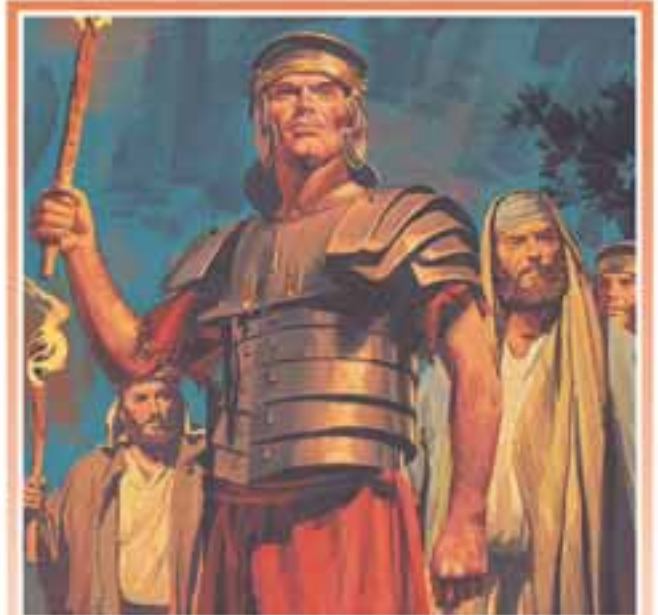


you can and making right choices. If you keep the commandments, you will be free to accept callings in the Church. You will be free to go to the temple. If you don't keep the commandments, you will not be free to do either. Anytime you break the commandments of the Lord, you bind yourself in chains.

We don't have any commandments from the Lord that aren't for our own good. If we keep them, we'll be happy. If we don't, we'll be unhappy. It's that simple. ●

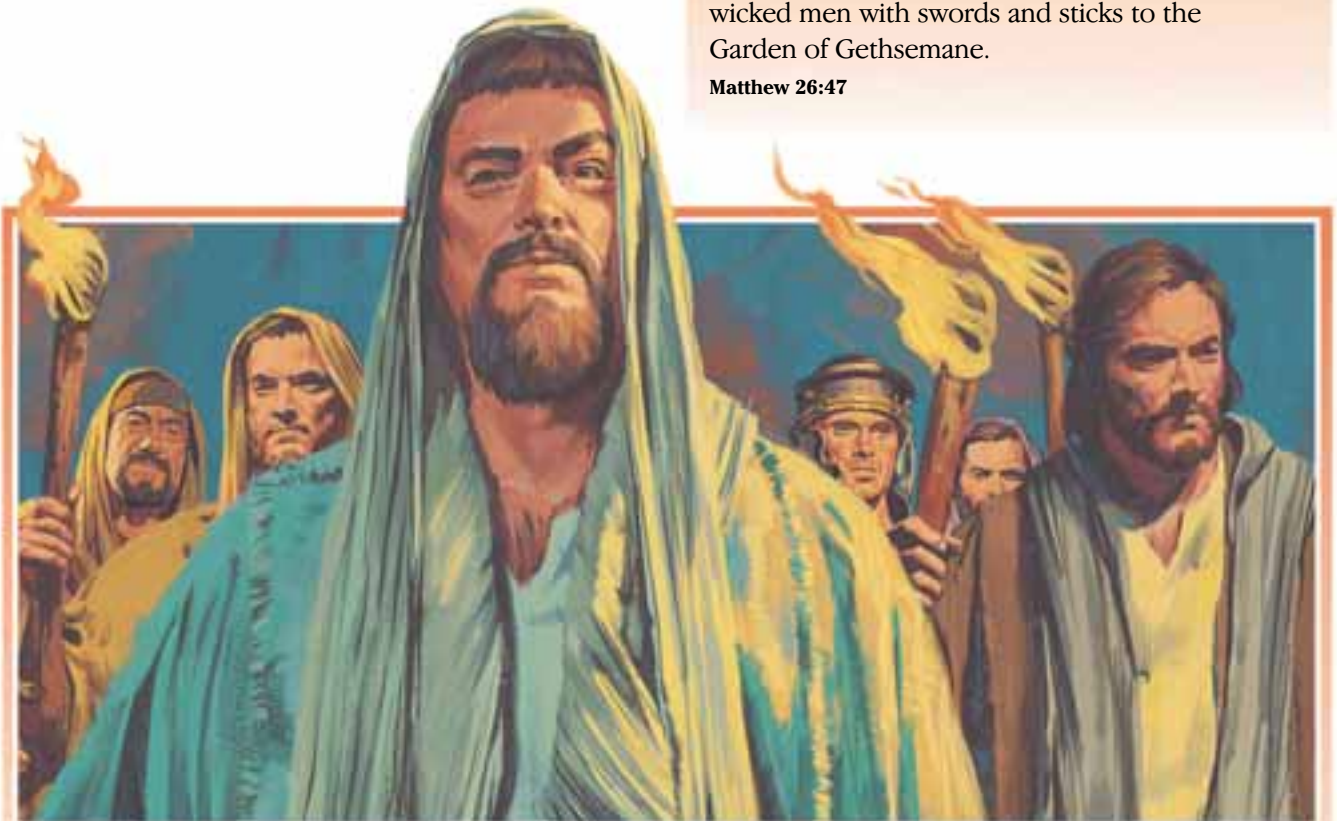
TRIALS OF JESUS

Chapter 52



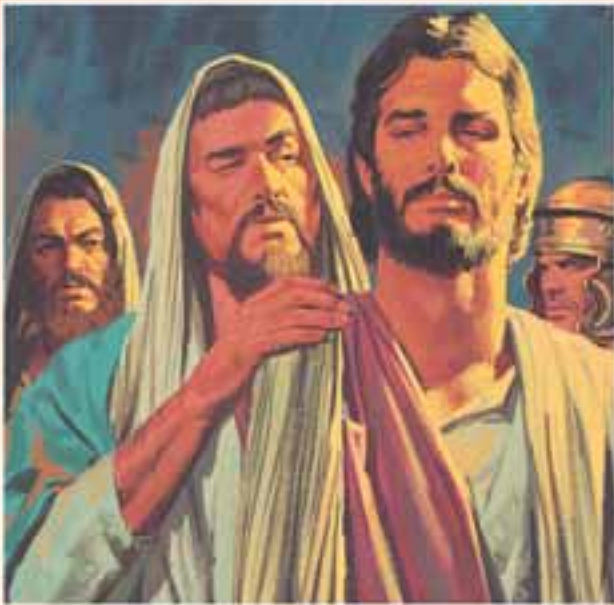
The chief priests and elders of the people sent wicked men with swords and sticks to the Garden of Gethsemane.

Matthew 26:47



The Apostle Judas Iscariot was with them. The men had paid Judas to point out the Savior.

Matthew 26:14–16, 47



Judas had told the men that he would kiss Jesus. When he did, they arrested Him. The men mocked and hit Jesus, then took Him to the high priest, Caiaphas.

Matthew 26:48–49, 57; Luke 22:63–65



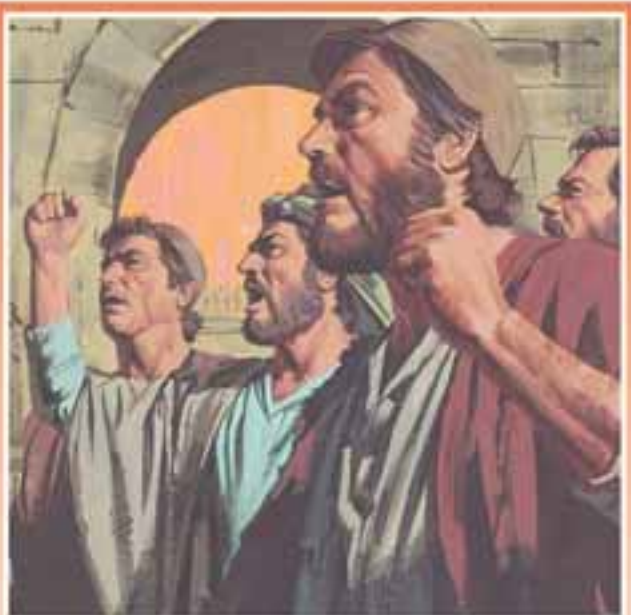
The Jewish leaders held a trial. They said that Jesus had broken the law by claiming to be the Christ, the Son of God. Because Jesus *is* the Son of God and the Christ, He did not deny it. They found Him guilty.

Luke 22:66–71



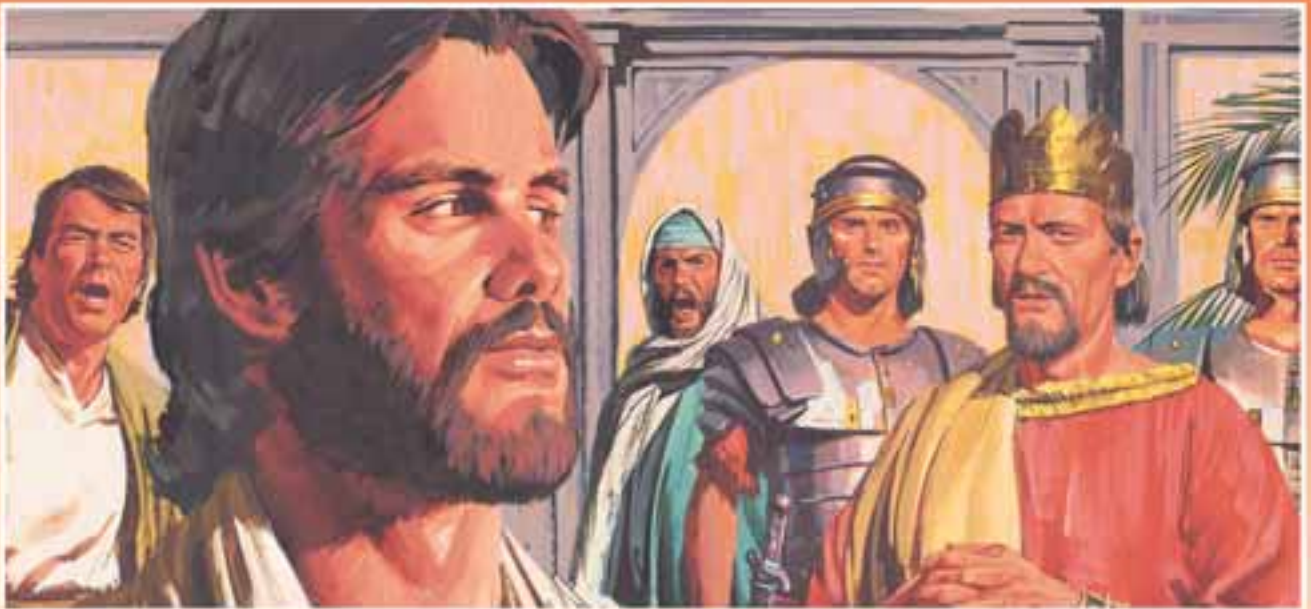
The Jewish leaders did not have the power to sentence Jesus to death. They took Him to Pontius Pilate, who did have this power. They told Pilate that Jesus had told people not to pay taxes to Caesar.

Luke 23:1–3



Pilate did not think Jesus had done anything wrong. It was a feast day in Jerusalem. It was a custom to release a prisoner during the feast. Pilate wanted to release Jesus. The crowd wanted Barabbas, a murderer, released instead. They shouted for Jesus to be crucified.

Luke 23:14–21



Pilate still could find no reason to kill Jesus. He still wanted to release Jesus. But the priests and the people cried loudly that they wanted Him crucified.

Luke 23:22-23

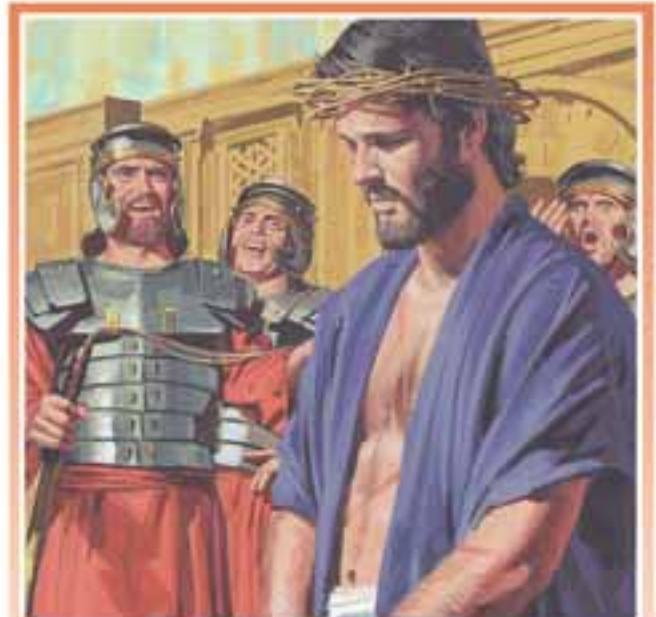


Pilate washed his hands, saying that he was not responsible for Jesus' death. But he gave the crowd permission to crucify Jesus.

Matthew 27:24-26

JESUS IS CRUCIFIED

Chapter 53



The soldiers who took Jesus beat Him with whips and made fun of Him. They put a purple robe on Him. Then they made a crown of thorns and put it on His head, making it bleed. And they laughed at Him and spit on Him. They called Him “King of the Jews.”

Mark 15:15–19



Many Jews followed when the soldiers took Jesus to a hill near Jerusalem to crucify Him. They made Him carry His own cross, then they laid Him on it, nailed His hands and His feet to the cross, and lifted it up. They also crucified two other men that day. The two other men were thieves.

Luke 23:27, 33; John 19:17



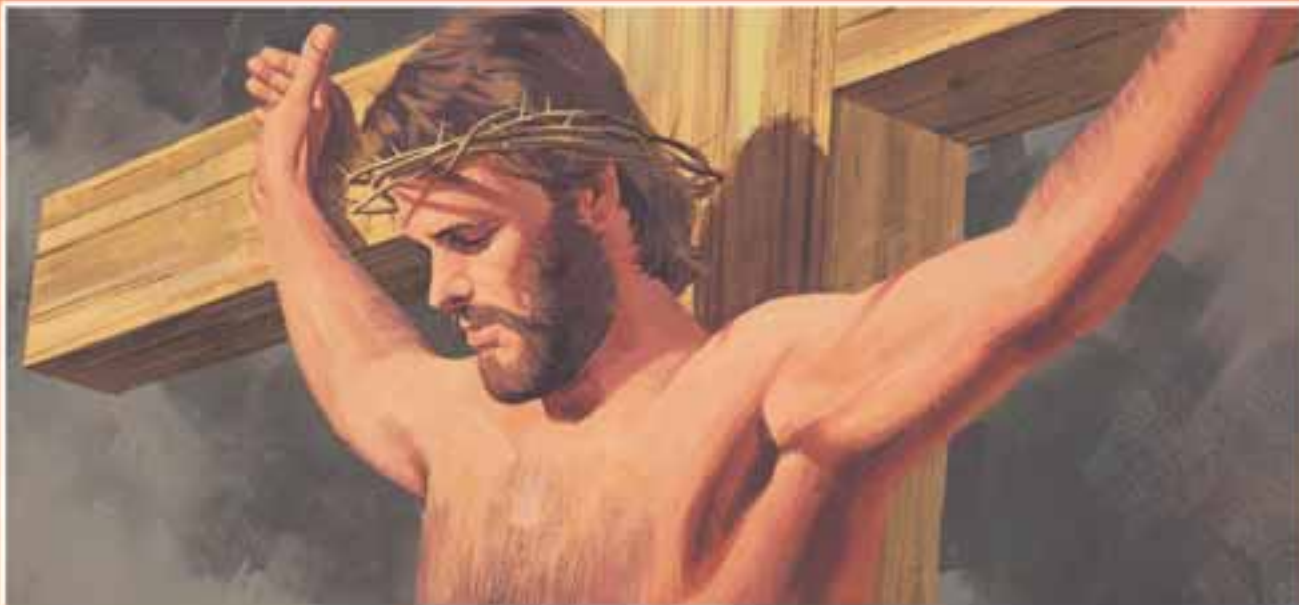
Jesus prayed. He asked Heavenly Father to forgive the soldiers who crucified Him. They did not know that He was the Savior.

Luke 23:34



Mary, the mother of Jesus, was standing by the cross. The Apostle John was standing there, too. Jesus told John to take care of His mother. John took Jesus' mother to his home.

John 19:25-27



The disciples were very sad, because they loved the Savior very much. He suffered on the cross for many hours. Then He gave up His life. His spirit left His body.

Matthew 27:46, 50



The sky became dark, and a big earthquake broke huge rocks into pieces. The curtain in the temple, called the veil, was torn into two pieces. The Roman soldiers were afraid.

Matthew 27:45, 51, 54



One of the disciples took the Savior's body off the cross, wrapped it in a cloth, and placed it in a tomb, a place where people are buried. A big rock was rolled in front of the tomb.

Matthew 27:57-60



Believing in Jesus Christ

Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God
(Matthew 16:16).

There are many spiritual gifts, and we have each been given at least one (see *Friend*, March 2003, pp. 36–37). Everyone can have one particular spiritual gift, though—faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Who is Jesus Christ? Why should we believe in Him?

Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world. He is kind, honest, helpful, intelligent, caring, loving—everything good. He created this world for us, He died for our sins so that we can be forgiven when we repent, and He overcame death for us so that we can be resurrected and can return to live with Heavenly Father and Him.

How can we know all this is true and have faith in Him? Jesus Himself told us one important way. He said to “search the scriptures; for . . . they . . . testify of me” (John 5:39).

The scriptures tell us of all the things He did for people in the Old Testament, such as telling Joshua how to win the city of Jericho (see Joshua 6:1–20).

In the New Testament, in the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, we learn of His ministry to the people in the area where He lived. He healed sick people, and He even brought back to life a few people who had died. He taught the gospel to the people, often with parables, or stories, to help them understand how Heavenly Father wanted them—and us—to live. And He organized His church to help them.

After Jesus Christ was resurrected, He visited the Nephites in America. He healed the sick there, blessed the children, taught the people, prayed for and with them, and organized His church. You can read about these marvelous happenings in 3 Nephi, chapters 8–28, in the Book of Mormon.

Although His church was taken away in both the Holy Land and in America, He restored it in our day through the Prophet Joseph Smith. The Savior is still teaching us through the prophets and the scriptures—and through answers to our personal prayers. He loves us. He wants us to believe in Him and follow Him.

Picture-strip Bookmarks By Caroline Benzley

Remove page 17 from the magazine and mount it on heavy paper. Cut out the four strips. On the two blue strips, cut the slits on the dotted lines. With a blue strip facing you, push the bottom end of a picture strip from the back through the top slit and back out through the next slit; continue to the next slit and repeat the process. Do the same procedure with the other two strips. As you pull the picture strips down, the pictures will help you remember some of the important events in Jesus Christ’s life.

A

*I believe
that
Jesus Christ
is the Son
of God.*

(Acts 8:37).

cut on the
dotted lines

cut on the
dotted lines

A



Healing the sick



**Blessing
the children**



**Teaching the Sermon
on the Mount**

**Calling the
Twelve Apostles**

B



**Visiting the
Nephites in America**



Ascending to heaven



On the cross

**Suffering for our
sins in Gethsemane**

B

*Thou art
the Christ,
the Son
of the
living God*

(Matthew 16:16).

cut on the
dotted lines

cut on the
dotted lines

CHRIST WITH CHILDREN BY DEL PARSON, CHRIST HEALING A BLIND MAN BY DEL PARSON, CHRIST AND THE BOOK OF MORMON CHILDREN BY DEL PARSON, THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT BY HARRY ANDERSON, CHRIST CALLING PETER AND ANDREW BY JAMES TAYLOR HARWOOD, THE THREE NEPHITES BY GARY KAPP, THE TRANSFIGURATION BY CARL BLOCH, THE CRUCIFIXION BY HARRY ANDERSON, CHRIST IN GETHSEMANE BY HEINRICH HOFMANN

Friends in the News



Scott Holmes, 10, Littleton, Colorado, believes that one person can make a difference. With the help of his brothers, **Lee** (6), **Andrew** (12), **Nick** (8), and Christian (1; not pictured), Scott (third from left) raised \$6,000 for the victims of September 11 by selling T-shirts and collecting donations. Impressed with his efforts, the local newspaper added \$3,000, bringing the total contribution raised for the relief fund to \$9,000!



Rootstown and Alliance Wards

The Primaries from the Rootstown and Alliance Wards, Tallmadge Ohio Stake, enjoyed an activity in which they learned about the pioneers' trek West. They dressed as pioneers, organized into "companies of 10" like pioneers, and hauled wagons like pioneers. They stopped at places representing Winter Quarters, Fort Kearney, Independence Rock, and Fort Bridger, where they made crafts and listened to stories from pioneers' journals. They finished at a place representing the Great Salt Lake—the Kandell family's swimming pool!



Cassidee, Codey, and Jessie Jacobs, ages 2, 5, and 7, Grandview, Washington, are thankful that a temple has been built near their home. They loved watching the Columbia River Temple as it was built and attending its open house. Jessie says she can't wait to be married there someday. Codey says that the temple makes him feel happy, and that his favorite room is the one with the "big, big pretty light." Cassidee had no trouble learning to say the word "temple."



Gina England, 10, Arimo, Idaho, reads the *Friend* cover to cover. She likes to sing, ride her bike and her scooter, and play basketball. She loves her friends and family, especially her nieces and nephews.

Sinton Branch

Children of the Sinton Branch, Corpus Christi Texas Stake, are learning to follow the prophet. They were excited to give their sacrament meeting presentation, wearing special T-shirts over their Sunday clothes. These shirts show President Hinckley and read, "I Can Follow the Prophet."





Kaysville Second Ward

The eight-year-old Primary children in the Kaysville Second Ward, Kaysville Utah Central Stake, dressed in white for their sacrament meeting program. They wanted to show that they had followed the commandment to be baptized and that they are looking forward to the day they will wear white again—in the temple.



A very caring girl, **Chelsea Ramsey, 5**, Monongahela, Pennsylvania, started her own club to “spread love all over the world.” She makes “You Are Loved” hearts and gives them to nursing home residents. She also enjoys helping care for her brother and sister.



Congratulations to **Hunter Williams, 10**, and his football team, the Buchanan Yellow Jackets, for winning their championship football bowl game! He and cheerleaders **Kimberly Hardin (8)**, **Karen Acker (10)**, and **Whitney Willams (11)** all received trophies. They are members of the Buchanan Branch, Powder Springs Georgia Stake.



Caleb Hornbeck, 5, Troutdale, Oregon, tries to keep the Sabbath day holy. He enjoys playing with plastic building blocks, so to remind him to be reverent, he and his parents, his sister, **Kyra (3)**, and his brother, **Izek (2)**, built a large CTR emblem.



Fayetteville Second Ward

Fourteen children in the Fayetteville Second Ward, Rogers Arkansas Stake, worked together to learn the Articles of Faith. They earned their Gospel in Action Awards at the same time and received them in the same sacrament meeting.



Joshua Steven Clark, 3, Warwick, Queensland, Australia, enjoys reading books, swimming, and family home evening. His favorite Primary song is “Follow the Prophet.”

Silver Creek Ward

The Primary children of the Silver Creek Ward, Gilbert Arizona Stake, participated in their hometown Gilbert Days parade. The parade’s theme was “Community with Character,” so the Primary used President Hinckley’s six *B*s for their float’s theme: “Busy as Bees” in living the character traits taught by the prophet. They dressed as bees and rode next to a huge beehive.





← Choosing Sides →

BY KIMBERLY WEBB
(Based on a true story)

Choose you this day whom ye will serve; . . . but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord (Joshua 24:15).

Sarah sat on her bed, waiting to hear Mom's tap on the door. She tried to gulp away the sobs, but tears kept trickling down her face.

Earlier that day, she and her friend Megan were pretending that they had discovered a buried treasure. They placed Sarah's allowance, some foreign coins from Dad's mission, and Megan's plastic jewelry in a shoe box. When Megan saw the old,



worn poetry book on the living room shelf, it seemed like the perfect antique to finish off their treasure. “Grab that old book,” she said. “Let’s pretend it’s a diary.”

Sarah knew that she wasn’t supposed to play with it—it had belonged to her great-great-grandmother, and its yellowing pages almost crumbled when touched. Mom cherished it as one of her family heirlooms. But Sarah was sure that nothing bad would happen to it if she borrowed it for only a little while.

She and Megan sneaked out the back door to “bury” the shoe box under some bushes.

A sick feeling welled up in her stomach even before her brother Spencer told Mom.

Mom knocked on the bedroom door and slipped in. “Have you been thinking?” she asked. Sarah nodded. “And how do you feel?”

“Awful.” Sarah sniffled. “I took your book when I knew I wasn’t supposed to.”

Mom smoothed Sarah’s hair and kissed her forehead. “Heavenly Father doesn’t want you to feel awful. He wants you to feel sorry.”

“No problem!” Sarah thought. It seemed that she had been feeling sorry a lot lately.

“I forgive you,” Mom said, “but you need to pray for forgiveness, too. Since you were baptized last month, you are now accountable for your sins.”

“That’s just it!”

“What do you mean?” Mom looked surprised.

Sarah blinked at the floor, hating how puffy her eyes felt. “When I got confirmed, I was given the gift of the Holy Ghost, right?”

“That’s right. As long as you’re worthy, the Spirit will be with you.”

“Then why is it still hard?” Sarah wiped her eyes, angry that the tears wouldn’t stop falling. “I thought that the Holy Ghost would make it easy to be good. But it seems that ever since I’ve been baptized, I’ve made as many mistakes as I did before.”

Mom hugged her. “That’s why there’s repentance.

Even when the Holy Ghost helps you *know* what the right thing is, what you *do* is still your choice.

Sometimes it’s hard to do what you know is right.”

Sarah nodded. She was confused, though. Even before her baptism, she’d had enough sense to know that taking Mom’s book would be wrong, but she’d never been tempted to do it. What had happened today?

Sarah sighed. She’d just have to try harder. When Mom left the room, she got down on her knees to pray.

In school on Monday, Marcus slid his math assignment next to hers.

“Let me check my paper,” he said. “I want to make sure I have the same answers you do.”

Sarah handed him her paper, as she always did, but this time she saw Marcus scribbling out his answers and writing hers down. He wasn’t checking—he was cheating! Sarah knew it was wrong to let Marcus cheat, but she didn’t want to make him feel bad. Wasn’t being nice more important than being honest about one little math assignment? After all, she wasn’t cheating—*he* was.

A familiar, uneasy feeling crept into the pit of her stomach. Remembering how bad she had felt a few days ago, she yanked her paper away.

“What are you doing?” Marcus cried.

“I can’t let you cheat,” Sarah said. Even though Marcus gave her a dirty look, she didn’t give in to the temptation to let him copy her answers. She realized that she had made a right choice because she felt calm and happy inside. “That’s what the Holy Ghost feels like,” Sarah thought. Her quick decision hadn’t been easy, but she had done what was right.

After school, Mom drove Sarah to Megan’s soccer game. On the way there, Sarah told her about the experience she’d had.

“I’m proud of you, Sarah!” Mom said. “See? You’re learning from your mistakes.”

“I guess so,” Sarah agreed. “Now I know what the Holy Ghost feels like, but I’m still confused about

something else.”

“What’s that?”

“I wonder why I think about disobeying lately. I never wanted to touch your book until Megan told me to, and I never wanted to let anyone cheat until today. I almost let Marcus copy my paper, even though I knew I shouldn’t.” Mom was quiet, so Sarah continued. “That isn’t all. Sometimes I’m mean to Spencer. Sometimes swear words pop into my head, and I want to say them. I want to be good, but I keep being tempted!”

“That’s what happens when you join a team,” Mom said. “The opposing team gets mad.”

“What?”

“Think of watching soccer,” Mom said. “It’s obvious that you’re loyal to Megan’s team, because you cheer for them. The other team might not like it, but you’re on the sidelines. You can’t help them to win or lose as much as if you jogged onto the field and started playing.”

“What do you mean, Mom?”

“When you were baptized, you chose sides,” Mom said. “You know that baptism shows Heavenly Father your love and commitment to obey. Don’t forget that it proves to Satan whose side you’re on, too. He’ll tempt you to change your mind.”

“I went to church every week before I was baptized,” Sarah protested. “Didn’t my going to Primary upset Satan just as much then?”

Mom pulled into the parking lot and turned off the engine. “You were on the Lord’s side, but you were cheering from the sidelines. Now you’re in the game.

Being righteous will take more effort than it has before. And it



will take more courage, and it will definitely take more repentance.”

Sarah thought about that. “I guess watching a game *is* much easier than playing it.” No wonder the gift of the Holy Ghost hadn’t taken away all of her problems. The Spirit could help her see when Satan was tempting her, but the temptations wouldn’t just disappear. “Is that what ‘opposition in all things’ (2 Nephi 2:11) means?” she wondered. She had read in the Book of Mormon that without agency to choose between good and evil, no one could become more like Heavenly Father.

“Even if it’s harder, it’s more worth it to play than to just watch,” Sarah decided aloud.

“Especially when you win,” Mom added with a smile.

Sarah got out of the car and walked toward the field. She silently promised herself that she would really, really try to follow the Holy Ghost, no matter how much she was tempted. She had chosen the Lord’s side. As long as she did her best to be worthy, the Spirit would bless her with the courage to keep choosing the right. ●



Elder Jeffrey R. Holland
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles
(“‘Cast Not Away Therefore Your Confidence,’” *Ensign*, Mar. 2000, 8.)

“We cannot sign on for a battle of such eternal significance and everlasting consequence without knowing it will be a fight—a good fight and a winning fight, but a fight nevertheless. . . .

“Sure it is tough—before you join the Church, while you are trying to join, and after you have joined. That is the way it has always been, . . . but don’t draw back. Don’t panic and retreat. Don’t lose your confidence.”

Funstuf

New Commandment



BY NGOZI F. OKORO

Use the code below to discover a new commandment Jesus Christ gave His disciples after Judas Iscariot left to betray Him. To check your answer, look up the scripture.

A= 😊	B= ✉	C= ☎	D= 🌸	E= 🖐	F= ⚙	G= 🕒
H= ⏳	I= 💧	J= ☒	K= 📁	L= 🕶	M= ☆	N= 🕯
O= ⚙	P= #	Q= 👍	R= 🔔	S= 📄	T= ❖	U= 🖋
V= 🌊	W= 🌺	X= 🖐	Y= 🏳	Z= ☀		

“
 😊 🕯 🖐 🌺 ☎ ⚙ ☆ ☆ 😊 🕯 🌸 ☆ 🖐 🕯 ❖ 💧 🕒 💧 🌊 🖐
 🖋 🕯 ❖ ⚙ 🏳 ⚙ 🖋', ❖ ⏳ 😊 ❖ 🏳 🖐 🕶 ⚙ 🌊 🖐 ⚙ 🕯 🖐
 😊 🕯 ⚙ ❖ ⏳ 🖐 🔔 😊 📄 💧 ⏳ 😊 🌊 🖐 🕶 ⚙ 🌊 🖐 🌸
 🏳 ⚙ 🖋” (John 13:34).



New Testament Riddle

BY DONNA LUGG PAPE

When Jesus Christ rose from the dead,
 I did not loudly shout.
 Although others saw Him,
 My mind was filled with doubt.

Who am I?

To check your answer and to learn more about this incident,
 read John 20:19, 24–29.

Conference Messages



BY HILARY HENDRICKS

During the sessions of the April 2003 General Conference of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, President Hinckley and other General Authorities and leaders will tell us what the Lord wants us to know and do.

Instructions

1. Carefully remove pages 24–25 from the magazine. Cut out the Conference Messages work sheets for the sessions of general conference; make additional copies if needed.

2. In each session of conference, listen to the talk given by a member of the First Presidency. In the left area of the work sheet, fill in the blanks with his name and what you have learned from him, then draw a picture of it. In the right area, fill in the blank with what you will do to follow his counsel, and draw a picture of that.

3. Ask your parents if you may show your pictures in family home evening and tell everyone what you have learned from listening to conference and what you will do to follow the prophet and his counselors. ●



Conference Messages

SATURDAY MORNING

Speaker: _____

What I have learned: _____

What I will do _____

Conference Messages

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

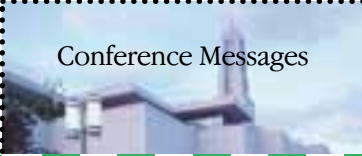
Speaker: _____

What I have learned: _____

What I will do _____

MORNING SESSION

Conference Messages



SUNDAY MORNING SESSION

to follow his counsel:

Speaker: _____

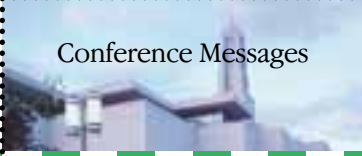
What I have learned: _____

What I will do to follow his counsel:



AFTERNOON SESSION

Conference Messages



SUNDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

to follow his counsel:

Speaker: _____

What I have learned: _____

What I will do to follow his counsel:

New Testament 1-2-3

BY MARIANNE BATES



Use the scripture references to help you fill in the blanks with the correct words.

1. Jesus Christ taught that if a man had 100 _____ and one was lost, he should “leave the ninety and nine” to look for the lost one. (See Matthew 18:12.)
2. Lazarus, whom Jesus Christ raised from the dead, had two sisters, _____ and _____. (See John 11:1–45.)
3. The Wise Men from the east brought young Jesus three gifts: _____, _____, and _____. (See Matthew 2:1, 11.)
4. In the parable of the _____, the _____ fall on four kinds of soil: by the wayside, on stony places, among thorns, and on good ground. (See Matthew 13:heading, 3–8.)
5. With five _____ and two _____, Jesus Christ miraculously fed 5,000 people. (See Matthew 14:15–21.)
6. The Savior died about the sixth hour of the day; the _____ was darkened and the veil of the _____ was rent (torn). (See Luke 23:44–45.)
7. After the Savior’s death, the Apostles appointed seven men of _____, _____, who were full of the _____ and _____, to help them. (See Acts 6:3.)
8. On the eighth day after his birth, Zacharias and Elisabeth named their son _____. (See Luke 1:59–63.)
9. Jesus Christ healed 10 _____, but only one returned to express his gratitude. (See Luke 17:12–19.)
10. In the parable of the 10 virgins, the five foolish virgins were unprepared and had no _____ in their _____. (See Matthew 25:1–13.)

In Other Words

BY CLARE MISHICA

Can you tell what word(s) each drawing illustrates? Check your answers below.



2. d a n c e
a c
n n
c a
e c n a d

3. *somewhere*



5. kittens
kittens
kittens

6.

7. chin
chin

(1) hole in one, (2) square dance, (3) somewhere over the rainbow, (4) handshakes, (5) three little kittens, (6) standing in line, (7) double chin.

Elyssa Araceli Portillo

OF TUCSON, ARIZONA



Elyssa is grateful for the beautiful desert scenery that surrounds her home.

WRITTEN AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY MELVIN LEAVITT

Elyssa Portillo (9) of Tucson, Arizona, has many talents. She dances, sings, draws, crochets, cooks, and acts out plays she makes up herself. But her greatest talent may be the talent of gratitude. She is grateful for good friends, good food, and the beautiful desert scenery that surrounds her home. “And I’m thankful for the Prophet Joseph Smith, President Gordon B. Hinckley, the Church, and the Book of Mormon,” she declares.

“Most of all, I’m thankful for my family. I’m thankful for my mom. Whenever I need her, she’s there. I’m thankful for Nana (her grandmother). She’s a teacher, and whenever I need help with my homework, she

helps me. I’m very thankful for my dad. I like to take walks with him. I’m thankful for my *tío* (uncle). I like to sing with him while he plays the piano. I’m thankful for my dog, Pixie. I love them all.”

Elyssa lives in her grandmother’s home with all these loved ones, who love her right back. “When Elyssa’s around, we’re always laughing,” Uncle Eric says. “She makes us laugh when we least expect it. She’s very creative, and you never know what she’s going to do next.”

Nana recalls, “When Elyssa was young, instead of watching TV we just sat around watching Elyssa and her puppy. She liked the attention and started creating games and plays. She would dress up as Cinderella or

Dorothy from *The Wizard of Oz* and act out the part. She filled the whole house with her personality. When she went out, the house was empty and too quiet.

“She’s sensitive to others and sees people’s needs. If I’m walking, she makes sure that I don’t trip: ‘Nana, wait. There’s something in your way.’ She often reminds her mom to put on her seat belt and to not lock her keys in her car. She likes to open doors for the elderly, and at church, she’s always helping mothers with their young children. I feel very safe with Elyssa around.”

“I love her dearly,” her mom says. “She’s my little companion, my little shadow. Everywhere I go, she’s right behind me. She’s a happy child.”

Elyssa also loves her *tata* (grandpa). When Elyssa was a baby, Tata would play the guitar for her. Later they



Elyssa has many talents, including a gift for music.

sang together. Tata was with her a lot because he developed a serious disease and couldn’t go to work. Each day, he picked her up after school and took her to eat at a place of her choice.

When Pixie was missing one stormy night, Tata comforted Elyssa, prayed with her, and kept searching until her beloved pet was found safe several days later.

Since Tata couldn’t go to work, he did much of the cooking at home and became a really good cook. Elyssa helped him and became a good cook herself. Their specialty was empanadas, a sort of meat pie that is held in one’s hands. Nana remembers her working beside Tata, flour all over her little face.

When her dog, Pixie, was missing, Elyssa prayed for her pet’s safe return.





Elyssa enjoys the beauty of a nearby park with Nana, Mom, and Uncle Eric.

“They grew very close,” Nana recalls. “She was his life.”

When Elyssa was eight years old, Tata died suddenly of a heart attack. Elyssa took it very hard. “I felt lonely inside and was crying in my heart. I had a hard time at school. But the teachings of Jesus Christ have helped me to know that someday I will see my tata again. I know that if I keep the commandments, I can be with my family forever.”

In spite of having felt grief—or perhaps because of it—Elyssa has developed a talent for feeling joy. She remembers her baptism as an especially joyful experience. “I’m thankful that I get to have the Holy Ghost with me all the time. Every child in the world deserves to be blessed with the Spirit.” She was grateful that her dad and his parents came to the service to show

their love and support, though they are not members of the Church.

Elyssa likes to use her talents to help others feel happy. She studies the violin and guitar and sings in the Little Mariachis at school. (Mariachi bands play traditional Mexican music with brass and string instruments.) Like her dad, she draws well, and she uses this gift to create greeting cards for her friends and family. She uses another talent to crochet purses for people.

She also helps her friends by setting a good example and sometimes by reminding them to choose the right. One day, she came home and reported, “My friend said a bad word. I told her that she shouldn’t say those things.”

A good student, Elyssa isn’t sure yet what she will do when she grows up. Three possibilities are “a police officer to protect the community, a firefighter so I can help others, or a teacher like Nana because I like to help people learn things.” She plans to follow the example of Uncle Eric by serving a mission. “And I plan to get married in the temple and raise a righteous family.”

In the meantime, in the words of a proud Nana, “Elyssa brings us all a lot of joy. We love her, and she knows it.” ●

Elyssa’s parents love her dearly, and she loves them right back.



For Little
Friends

A Great

BY JUDY MURPHY

(Based on a true story)

This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it (Psalm 118:24).

The warm sun came through Aaron's bedroom window. "Today is going to be a good day," Aaron thought. "I'm going to see Grandma and Grandpa."

Grandma and Grandpa lived just down the road, and he usually visited them after breakfast. It was the best way to start the day. Aaron jumped out of bed.

After breakfast and chores, Mom smiled and said that he



Day

could go to Grandma and Grandpa's house. As he went, the late morning sun felt good on his back. The sand squished under his shoes. It made him laugh. "This is going to be a good day," he said out loud.

He saw a shiny black rock with a stripe down the middle. "I bet Grandpa would like to see this." Aaron slipped the rock into his pocket.

He checked the pine tree just outside Grandma's back door. The robin was sitting on her nest. "I think she has eggs." Aaron climbed the fence. Standing on tiptoes and stretching his neck as far as he could, he thought he saw something blue in the nest. "I'm going to tell Grandpa!" He slid down and ran to the kitchen door.

Grandpa thought he was right about the eggs. "Pretty soon there will be little birds," he said. Grandma had made applesauce cookies. They were really good! Grandma and Grandpa both liked his rock.

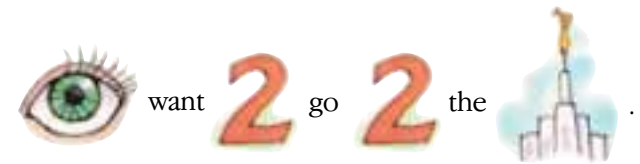
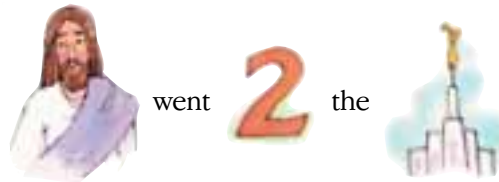
On the way home, Aaron noticed that the lilac bush was covered with purple flowers. This was such a great day!

That night as Aaron got ready for bed, he thought about everything that had happened. He said his prayers, thanking Heavenly Father. "Thank Thee for the beautiful flowers, the warm sun, the sand, and the robin's eggs. Thank Thee for Grandma and Grandpa. Thank Thee for this whole great day! Oh, and Heavenly Father, I love Thee."

As Aaron climbed into bed, he remembered something his Primary teacher had said. When we feel love for Heavenly Father, that feeling is called reverence. Aaron fell asleep feeling very reverent.

Primary Talk

(This talk was given by Skylar Peacock when he was six years old. He used pictures as visual aids.)



In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

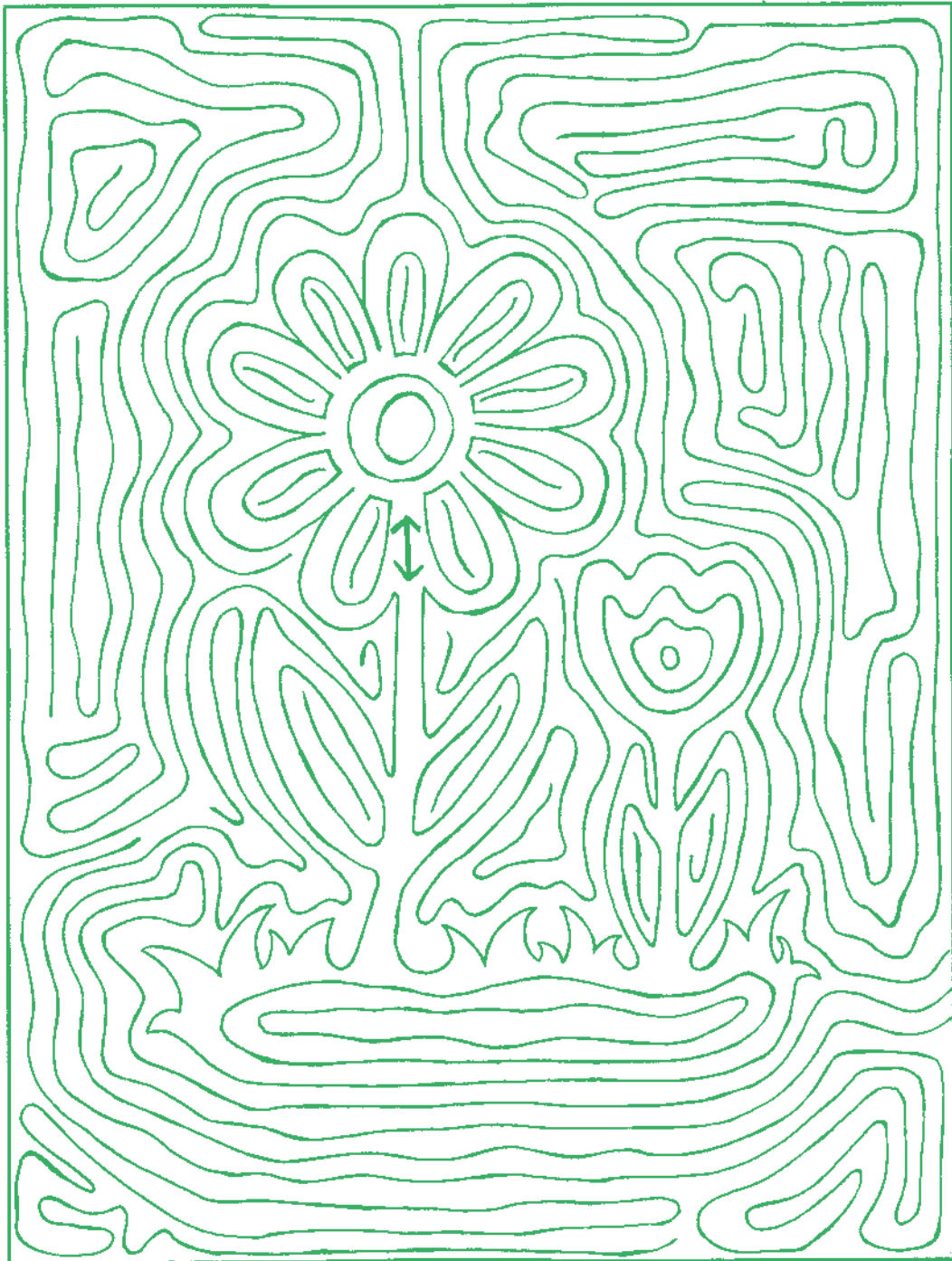


For Little
Friends

Hidden Spring

BY COLLEEN FAHY

Spring is hiding in this picture. To find which of God's creations you'll see, start at the arrow and fill in all the space between the lines. Do not cross any lines.



A World Turned Upside-Down

BY BONNIE COMPTON HANSON

Sidewalks are wet all over our town.
Can you guess what I see when I look straight down?
Right under my feet is our mulberry tree,
As upside-down as a tree can be!
Our house is down there! And so is the sky!
And so is our fence! And look—so am I!
First I step on my nose. Now I step on my ears.
Then I splash! And my upside-down world disappears!



Disappearing-Marshmallow Rolls



You will need: eight large marshmallows, 1 tube (8 ounces/226g) refrigerator crescent-roll dough, a cube of butter/margarine, and 1/2 cup sugar mixed with 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon.

Ask a grown-up to melt the butter. Coat the marshmallows with the melted butter, then roll them in the cinnamon-sugar mixture. Enclose each marshmallow in a section of dough, pinching the dough to completely seal the marshmallow in.

Ask a grown-up to bake the rolls as directed on the tube.

Serve the rolls as a family home evening treat. As you eat the rolls, you will find that the marshmallows have disappeared but that each roll has a delicious marshmallow lining.

THOU ART THE CHRIST

BY VICKI F. MATSUMORI

Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God
(Matthew 16:16).

Who is Jesus Christ? People of many faiths know that He lived over 2,000 years ago. Many believe only that He was a great teacher who preached about loving and serving one another. But there is more.

Who is Jesus Christ? Christians, including the members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, know that He performed many miracles. He fed the multitude with five loaves of bread and two fishes, healed the sick, caused the blind to see, and raised the dead. But there is more.

Who is Jesus Christ? He asked the Apostles, “Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?”

“And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.

“He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?”

“And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.” (Matthew 16:13–16.)

Who is Jesus Christ? He is the Son of God. Heavenly Father sent Him to organize His church, teach the gospel, suffer and die for our sins, and be resurrected.

Where is He now? While translating a portion of the Bible, the Prophet Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon had a vision. They proclaimed: “He lives! For we saw him, even on the right hand of God; and we heard the voice bearing record that he is the Only Begotten of the Father.” (D&C 76:22–23.)

Who is Jesus Christ? He is our Savior and our Redeemer. He lives today and guides His Church through a living prophet. If we choose the right and ask Heavenly Father in prayer, we can know for ourselves, through the witness of the Holy Ghost, that He is



Heavenly Father’s Son and that He died to save us from our sins. That is why we call Him our Savior.

Diorama of Jesus Christ Talking with Children

1. Mount page 35 on heavy paper.
2. Cut out the figures, the stones, and the diorama; then cut along the long heavy line on the diorama.
3. Fold along the broken line, and glue the blank section underneath the bottom of the diorama (see illustration).
4. Cut slits on the short heavy lines; insert the tabs for the figures into the slits, and fold them so the figures will stand.
5. Locate and read the scriptures on the stones, and add the stones to the diorama.

Sharing Time Ideas

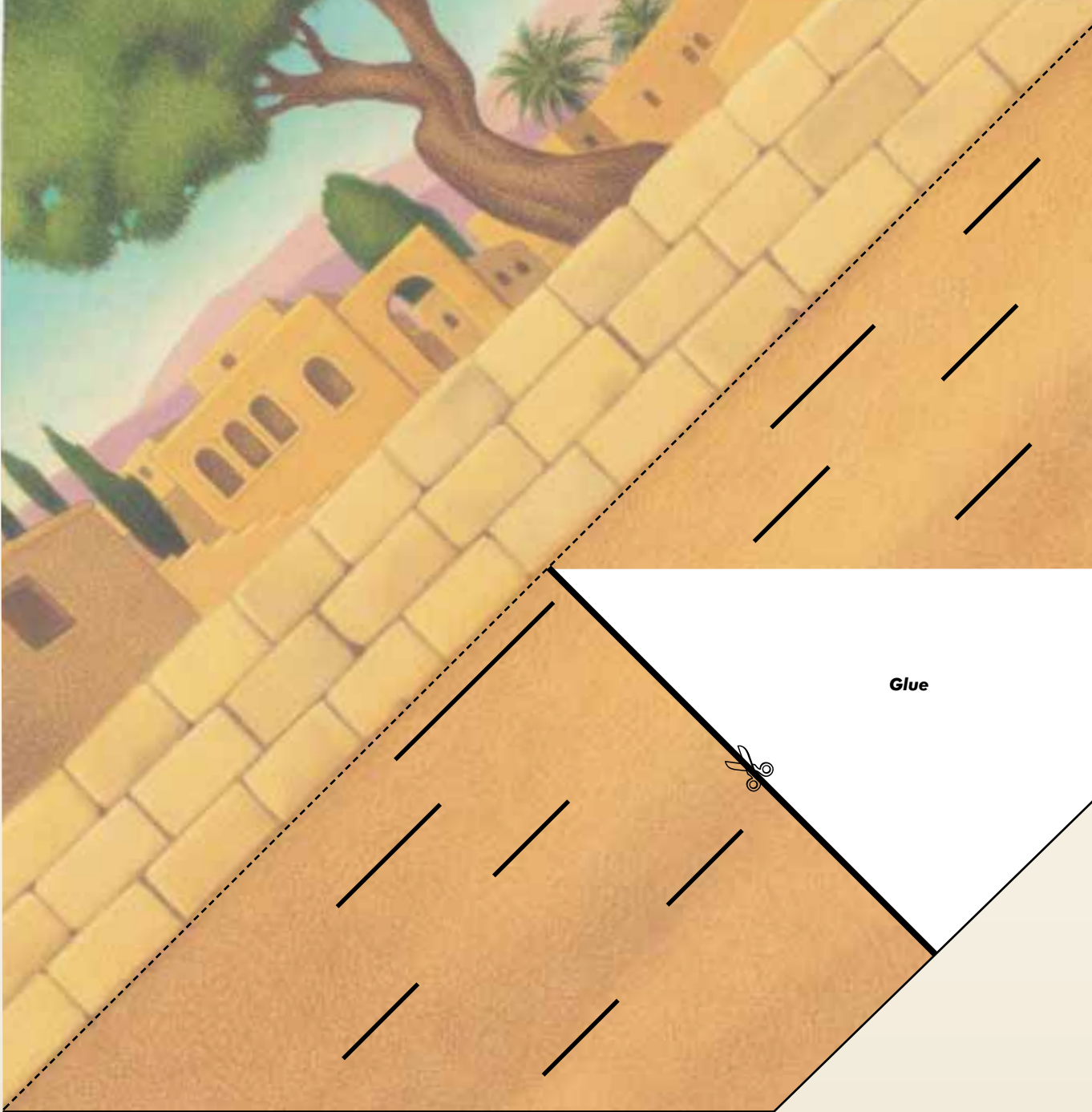
(Note: All songs are from *Children’s Songbook (CS)* unless otherwise indicated; GAK = Gospel Art Kit; TNGC = Teaching, No Greater Call)

1. On separate pieces of paper, write the following scripture references but not the subject matter shown in parentheses: Moses 6:64–66 (Adam is baptized); Matthew 3:13–17 (Jesus Christ is baptized); Acts 2:1, 38, 41 (Day of Pentecost—3,000 people are baptized); Mosiah 18:14–17 (Alma baptizes in the waters of Mormon); Joseph Smith—History 1:68–72 (Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery are baptized).

Divide the Primary into five groups, give each group a reference slip, and have them read it and form a discussion panel. Have the rest of the Primary ask each panel questions about the scripture, such as “Who was baptized?” “Where did this take place?” “How did the people feel when they heard the teachings?” “How would baptism help the people?” “How were those baptisms like your own baptism?” (With proper authority, by immersion, with the names being added to Church records, with Heavenly Father being pleased at the action, etc.)

Sing songs from the *CS* about baptism, and testify of the blessings you received because of your baptism.

2. Help the children strengthen their testimonies of Jesus Christ by having them imagine that they lived during the Savior’s time and witnessed some of the events in His life. Before Primary, locate and hide in the room, or place with the backs facing the children, pictures such as the following from GAK: •213 / Jesus Healing the Blind •214 / Stilling the Storm •215 / Jesus Blessing Jairus’s Daughter •216 / Christ and the Children •222 / Jesus Raising Lazarus from the Dead •223 / Triumphal Entry •225 / The Last Supper •227 / Jesus Praying in Gethsemane •230 / The Crucifixion



Matthew 1:21

John 11:25

**1 Corinthians
15:20**

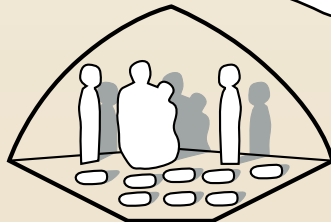
Mosiah 3:17

3 Nephi 11:8-10

**Joseph Smith—
History 1:11,
15-17**

D&C 101:32

D&C 110:1-4



Illustration

- 233 / Mary and the Resurrected Lord •236 / The Ascension of Jesus
- 243 / Christ Walking on the Water.

Also write the titles of appropriate songs on slips of paper and hide them in the room. Songs might include “He Sent His Son” (pp. 34–35); “Beautiful Savior” (pp. 62–63); “Easter Hosanna” (pp. 68–69); “Jesus Has Risen” (p. 70); “I Feel My Savior’s Love” (pp. 74–75); “This Is My Beloved Son” (p. 76); “The Sacred Grove” (p. 87).

Invite a child to locate or choose a picture or a song title. If it is a song, have the child help the music leader direct it. If it is a picture, have the child post it and imagine he/she was one of the people in the picture with the Savior or someone who was witnessing the event from “out of camera range.” Using a simple prop as a microphone, interview the child-witness. Ask questions like “Can you describe what you saw?” “How was it possible for Jesus to do this?” “How did you feel when you saw Him do this?” “What difference does this make in your life?”

Share the testimony borne by Peter in Matthew 16:16, and add your testimony about the divinity of Jesus Christ.

For younger children: Post on the chalkboard some of the pictures listed above. Have the children help retell the stories depicted. Sing Easter songs, Christmas carols, or other songs the children know about the Savior. Give them each a piece of paper and crayons or pencils. Have them imagine that they were at one of the events they reviewed and then draw themselves as if they were there. What would they see? What expression would they have on their faces? Encourage them to share their pictures and the story of Jesus Christ with their families.

3. Help the children learn Article of Faith 1:4. Before Primary, write a part of it on each of the six sides of a small, sturdy box with all sides the same size. Make a box for each group (see below). On side 1, you might write “The Fourth Article of Faith”; on side 2, “We believe that the first principles and ordinances of the Gospel are:” on side 3, “first, Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ;” on side 4, “second, Repentance;” on side 5, “third, Baptism by immersion for the remission of sins;” on side 6, “fourth, Laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost.” NOTE: To use the boxes for other Articles of Faith, cover each side with a clear plastic sleeve and slip the written parts of the article into the sleeve.

Review the gospel principles and ordinances throughout the month by having the children sing songs such as “Faith” (pp. 96–97), “Nephi’s Courage” (pp. 120–121), “Repentance” (p. 98), “Help Me, Dear Father” (p. 99), “I Like My Birthdays” (p. 104), “Baptism” (pp. 100–101), “The Holy Ghost” (p. 105), “The Fourth Article of Faith” (p. 124).

Divide the Primary into groups. Give each group a prepared box and a piece of paper and a pencil. Have the children in each group take turns lightly tossing the box and reading aloud what is written on the top side. They should try to roll each side in order. As soon as they have rolled the box so that side 1 is on top, a child writes “The Fourth Article of Faith” at the top of the paper. Repeat the process until all the sides, in order, have landed on top of the box and the article has been written completely and correctly. As soon as the group has finished, they raise their hands and declare, “We believe.” They then try to memorize the article before the last group finishes. When all groups have finished, have the Primary stand and repeat Article of Faith 1:4 together.

Encourage the children to repeat the article to a family member or Primary leader at a later time.

4. Divide the Primary into groups and have each group locate and read one of the following stories: •Matthew 25:1–13 (parable of the 10 Virgins)

- Luke 15:11–32 (parable of the Prodigal Son) •Luke 17:11–19 (the 10 Lepers)
- Luke 10:25–37 (parable of the Good Samaritan) •Matthew 7:24–27 (parable of the Wise Man and the Foolish Man).

Using simple props or name tags, have each group dramatize its story. Remember that “the Savior should not be portrayed by children in dramatization except in a nativity scene” (*Church Handbook of Instructions, Book 2: Priesthood and Auxiliary Leaders*, 279). At the conclusion of the story, have the group introduce the characters. Ask the rest of the Primary children to indicate whether or not the character made a good choice by having each child smile or frown or hold up a card with a smile on one side and a frown on the other, or use other culturally appropriate actions. Discuss what the character could have done to make better choices. Have the group tell how the story applies to the children’s lives and how they can make correct choices daily.

Between stories, sing songs such as “Choose the Right Way” (pp. 160–161), “I Will Follow God’s Plan” (pp. 164–165), “Nephi’s Courage” (pp. 120–121), “I’m Trying to Be like Jesus” (pp. 78–79), “Dare to Do Right” (p. 158). Challenge the children to choose the right during the week.

5. *Song presentation:* Several weeks before you teach “Easter Hosanna” (pp. 68–69), help an older child or adult leader learn the verses and invite them to Primary the week you teach the song.

Teach the Primary children the chorus first. Use GAK 223, *Triumphal Entry*, to tell when the people cried “Hosanna” as the Savior entered the city. Use GAK 316, *Jesus Teaching in the Western Hemisphere*, to help the children understand that people in the Western world also rejoiced when the Savior came to them. Have the children read 3 Ne. 11:15–17 aloud. As you sing the chorus of “Easter Hosanna,” have the children touch their ears when they hear “Hosanna.” Ask what they noticed about the words (they are repeated). Ask them to listen again and touch their ears when they hear what is different in the repeated line (the melody and rhythm are different for “of the Most High God”).

Have the children listen as the older child or adult sings the verses that tell the story of Jesus Christ’s appearance to the Nephites. Have the entire Primary join in singing the chorus.

To help the entire Primary learn the melody, on the chalkboard, draw horizontal dashes to represent note placement (see *TNGC*, 174). For example, “The prophecies of long” looks like ascending steps, and “ago were now at” looks like descending steps. Draw dashes for the first two lines of the melody.

Invite the soloist to sing the first line, and have the children move their hands held horizontally to follow the direction of the dashes on the chalkboard. This is called pitch-level conducting. Invite all of the children to sing that line. Repeat this process with the second line. Point out that the melody is exactly the same for the two lines. Have the children sing the second line, then the first two lines. Repeat this entire process for the complete verse.

To provide a challenge for older children, invite an older class to sing the chorus at the same time the rest of the Primary sings the verses. They will need to pause before repeating the second “Hosanna” in order to come in with the second line at the right time.

6. Additional *Friend* resources: “Why I Believe in Jesus Christ,” Mar. 2002, 4–6; “The Living Christ,” Jan. 2002, 28; “The Faith of a Sparrow,” July 2000, IFC; “Fear in the Night,” May 2000, 2–4; “One of God’s Greatest Gifts,” June 2000, 43–45; “A Sacred Promise,” Mar. 2000, 12–14; “Savior and Redeemer,” Apr. 1999, 12–13, 26; “The Holy Ghost Can Help Me,” July 1997, 36–38; “Baptism: My First Covenant,” May 1997, 12–13.

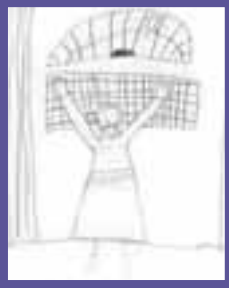
A young girl with long brown hair, wearing a red shirt, is shown from the side, looking up and holding a green handle with a white string spool. The string is attached to a large, colorful butterfly-shaped kite flying in a bright blue sky filled with soft white clouds. The kite has yellow and orange wings with blue and red spots. The title 'I Like Spring' is written in large, yellow, serif font on the right side of the page.

I Like Spring

BY O.J. ROBERTSON

I like spring!
I like spring!
I like a kite
On a long, long string.
I like the blue
Of a bright spring sky,
Pink pussy willows,
A butterfly.
I like fluffy clouds,
The golden sun,
White woolly lambs
That jump and run.
I like the robins
And the songs they sing.
I like spring!
I like spring!

Our Creative Friends



*Jeffrey Lyman, age 7
Chaska, Minnesota*



*William Johnson, age 6
Frisco, Texas*



*Joe Fattor, age 8
Edgewood, New Mexico*



*Jarom McDonald, age 9
Mesa, Arizona*



*Savanna Norton, age 7
Highland, Utah*

The Six Bs

One fireside, President Gordon B. Hinckley had said,
He gave us the six Bs; they had entered his head.
He knew people needed guidelines to grow.
So now people have them, just so you know.

Now, I will say them, numbered one to six.
You'll get them in your brain; I just hope that they stick.

Be grateful; you have all you really need to have fun.
So there you are. That's B number one.

Be clean, be prayerful, oh yes, and be smart;
It means take control of yourself, a true art.

Be clean, and I don't mean just take a bath.
Be clean in the Lord's eyes, and walk in His path.

Be true. Be honest. You know what is right.
You can tell the truth by day and by night.

Be humble. Be teachable. Be willing to learn.
God shall lead you by the hand, and your testimony will burn.

Be prayerful. Pray each night and each day.
This surely will help you find your way.

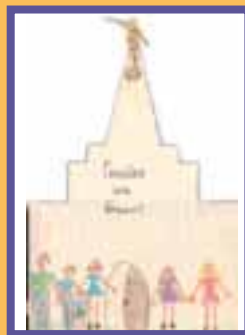
Now you know the six Bs, and I hope they stick good
So you'll know what to do and do what you should.

*Emily Colleen Brown, age 10
Rancho Mirage, California*

Family Night

My favorite night is family night.
It always is so fun.
No one is ever angry,
And we learn things by the ton.
We are always glad,
And no one is ever sad.
The lesson is never a bore,
And we always learn more and more.

*Courtney McAferty, age 11
Mesa, Arizona*



*Lynelle Thompson, age 6
Long Beach, California*

Justin

Justin is as sweet as a rose
When the sunlight shows his toes.
He opens his mouth and starts to sing
Like a bird in the spring.
He likes to snuggle in my arms;
He knows I'll keep him from all harm.
He is safe at home with me,
In my arms, sound asleep.

*Jessica Lynn White, age 9
Ionia, Michigan*



*Rayna Tia, age 8
Honolulu, Hawaii*

Jesus

Jesus is the kindest person you will ever meet.
He is our Savior who died for us.
He is like a harp playing the most wonderful
music you will ever hear.
I love Jesus.

*Parker Norris, age 10
North Ogden, Utah*



*Alicia Little, age 9
Mt. Lake Terrace, Washington*

I Know There Is a Christ

I know there is a Christ.
He knows there is a child.
And like that Christ I want to be.
That Christ is my friend.
And I am Christ's friend.

*Jordan Batchelor, age 6
Aurora, Colorado*



*Kristen Sampson, age 10
Hamlet, North Carolina*

Spring Poem

Spring makes you happy when you're blue
And when all the lights are low.
And when you get hurt, the sun comes out.
Sing, sing, sing in the spring when the sun is up.
And when the sun is setting, there are lots of
Different colors, like pink and purple.



*Heather Markovic, age 7
Mesa, Arizona*



*Weston W. Hunter, age 5
Colorado Springs, Colorado*



*Kenny Carmack, age 7
Hyrum, Utah*



*Esau Jesús Pérez Rodríguez, age 7
Oaxaca, Mexico*

Spring is the best season in the world.
Flowers bloom in the spring after their very long nap in the snow.
Spring comes every year, and when it's summer,
Don't worry, spring will come back next year.

*Paige Whitney, age 8
Lake Stevens, Washington*

My Family

My family are
Very special people.
But not just these people—
There are a lot more that
I don't know.
I think one way to find out
About them is family history.

*Vicki Amalinda Keboe, age 8
New Zealand*

April Fools' Day

I got up this morning, and I had a surprise—
Twenty little chicks pecking at my eyes!
Two big alligators under my bed
And a mother hen on my head!
A hippopotamus in my tub
And a mouse in my toy sub.
In my mother's rocking chair
There sat a big black bear.
On the couch there was a horse,
And on the floor the colt, of course.
A monkey was on the piano bench,
Playing piano with a wrench!
I don't know what my mom will say
Because April Fools' Day is today!

*Melissa Anderson, age 11
Vernal, Utah*



*Ashley Sapp, age 10
Dublin, Ohio*



*Lauren Bowman, age 7
Allen, Texas*



*Sam Casb, age 3
Eugene, Oregon*

The Prophet

The Prophet goes here and there.
The Prophet goes everywhere!
I love the Prophet.
So wherever you go,
Believe in Jesus, and tell others so.

*Jordan Crowley, age 6
Reno, Nevada*



*Heather Shepherd, age 11
Idaho Falls, Idaho*

Flowers

Flowers are a beautiful sight.
When they are glowing, they're really bright.
At night if you pick some and put them in a bouquet,
Your mom will love them and think they're OK.
Some like flowers and some do not,
But I do, even if they're hot.

*Crystal McConeghy, age 8
Fair Oaks, California*

Temples

A temple is a holy place.
It makes a smile on my face.
I'll go inside someday.
And I'll be happy in every way.

*Elizabeth Hoggard, age 7
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*



*Isaac Hunt, age 10
Hamilton, New Zealand*



*Joanna Evanson, age 7
Taber, Alberta, Canada*



*Jacob Curtis, age 7
Temecula, California*

JUST ONE

BY DOROTHY BAUGHMAN

(Based on a true story)

Let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Johnny slowed his bike before turning into Mrs. Jones's driveway. It was the day before Easter, and it was time for the neighborhood Easter egg hunt.

"I knew it," he thought. "There's Randy Mills. He'll get the prize. He always does. I'll have to listen to him brag for another year."

"Hey, come on, slowpoke!" Randy yelled.

"I'm coming."

Randy laughed. "Why are you frowning? Afraid you'll get beat again?"

"Come line up, children," Mrs. Jones called. "When I say, 'Go,' the smaller children will run to the backyard. When I say it again, the older children will follow."

A few minutes into the hunt, Randy ran up to Johnny. "How many eggs have you found?"

"Nine."

"Me too. Maybe we'll tie for the prize." He ran off to find more.

Johnny poked about here and there. He sure hoped to find another egg and beat Randy. He was looking under an already-searched bush when he heard a small sniff. A little girl was standing behind the bush crying. It was Laurie, Johnny's neighbor.

"Hi, Laurie. Why are you crying?"

"I don't have any eggs!" Laurie sobbed. "If I could find just one egg . . ." Laurie was much younger than most of the children, and she was crying as if her heart would break.

"Children, I believe all the eggs have been found. Let's count up," Mrs. Jones said.

"Now I'll never find one." Tears ran down Laurie's face.

Johnny felt very bad for the little girl. As he looked at his full basket, an idea hit him. He quickly slipped his prettiest egg under the bush. "Laurie, did you look really well under here?"

"I think so." She came around to his side of the bush, her eyes searching everywhere. Suddenly her face lit up. "Ooooh! Look at the pretty egg!"

Randy walked up and pounded Johnny on the back. "Well, we tied for first prize with nine eggs apiece."

"I only have eight," Johnny said quietly.

"I thought you said you had nine."

"I made a mistake."

"Wow! The prize is mine. Say, you'd better learn to count better, Johnny." He laughed over his shoulder.

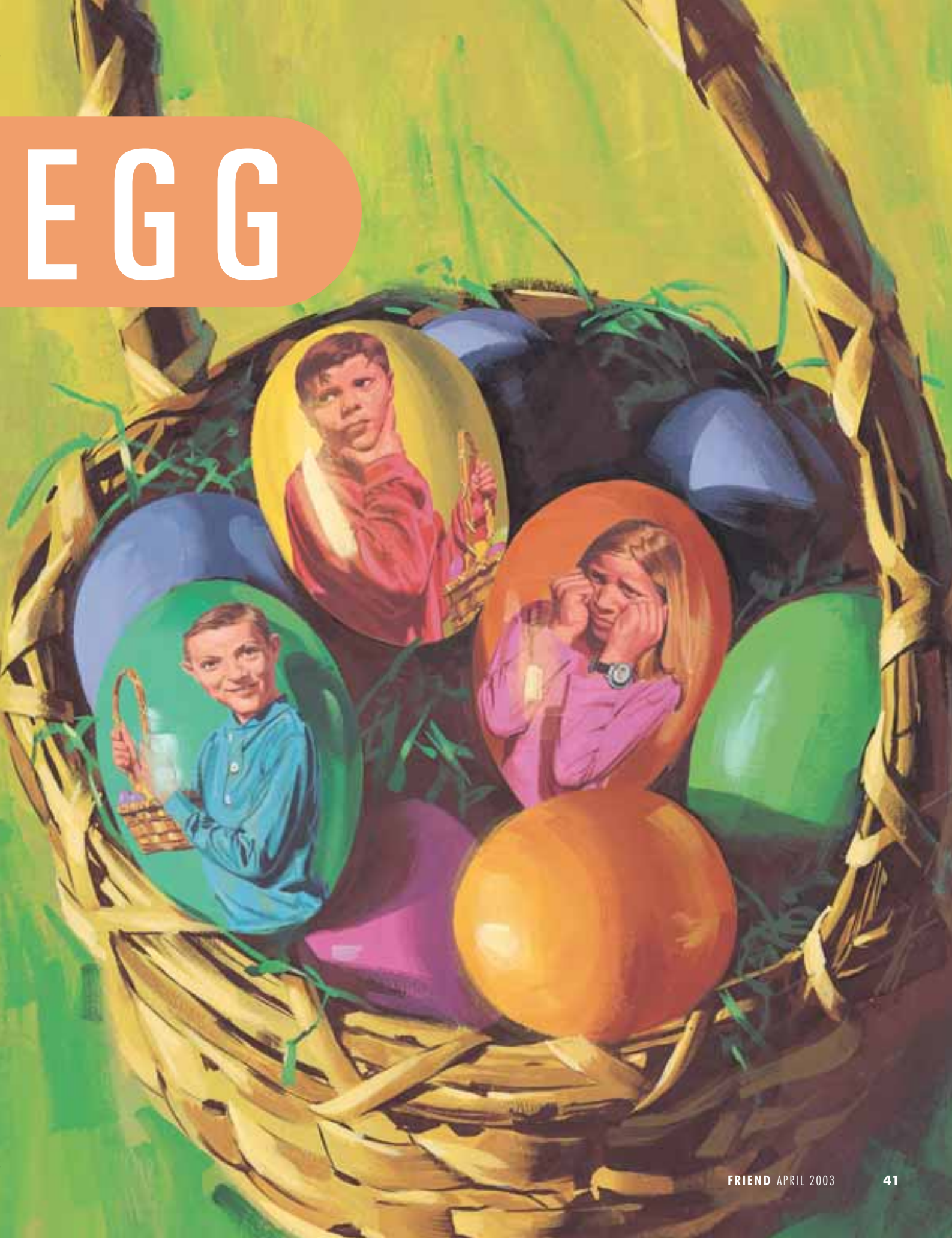
Johnny watched Randy claim the prize. He would have to listen to Randy brag for another year, but somehow it didn't matter anymore. He smiled, remembering Laurie's face as she found just one egg. ●



"An unselfish spirit is essential to happiness."

President Boyd K. Packer
Acting President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles
From a November 1997 general conference address.

EGG



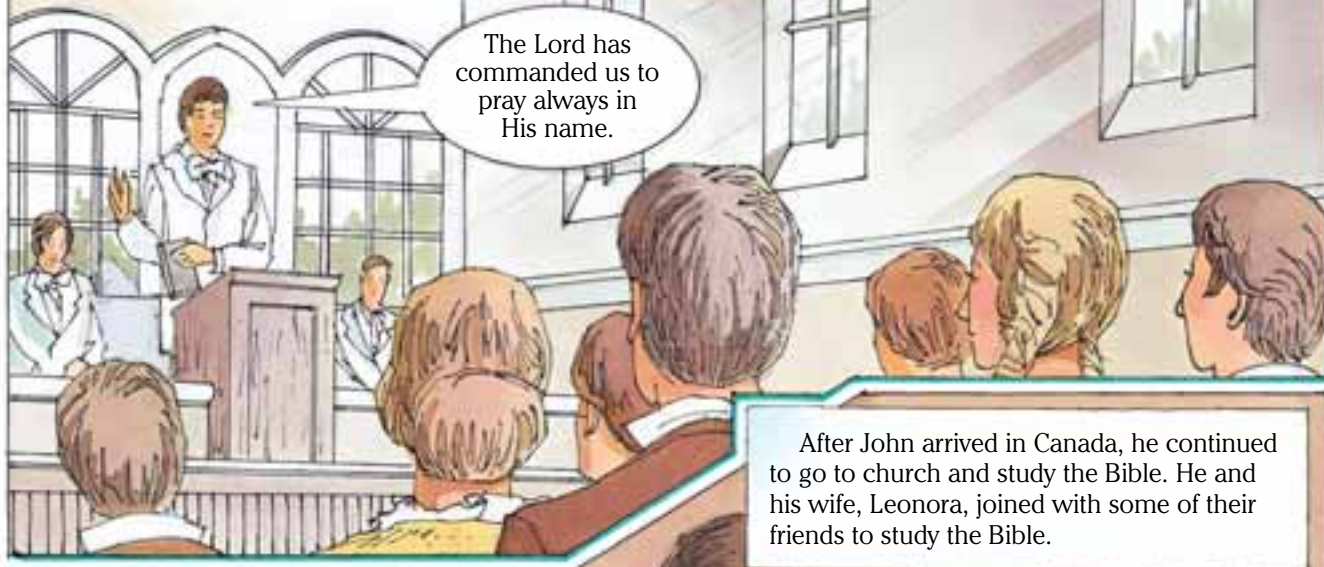


From the Life of President John Taylor



Conversion to the Gospel

In England, when John Taylor was seventeen, he was appointed to be a preacher in his church. He was given assignments to preach in areas outside the city.



The Lord has commanded us to pray always in His name.

After John arrived in Canada, he continued to go to church and study the Bible. He and his wife, Leonora, joined with some of their friends to study the Bible.

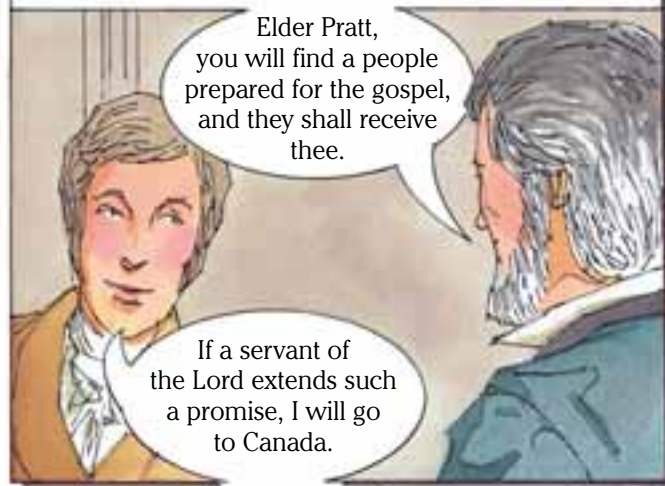


We need to pray that God will send His servant to give us the truth!

Yes, and to pray that we will know it when we hear it!

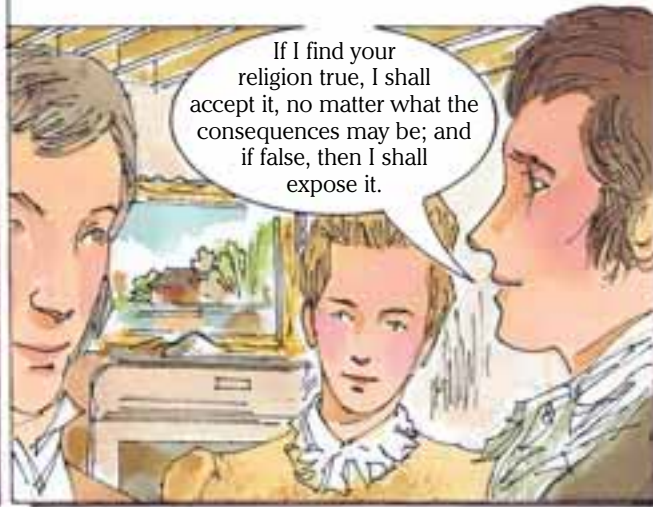
In Kirtland, Ohio, Elder Heber C. Kimball called Elder Parley P. Pratt to serve a mission to Toronto, Canada.

When Elder Pratt first visited with the Taylor family, John Taylor began to study what Elder Pratt preached.



Elder Pratt, you will find a people prepared for the gospel, and they shall receive thee.

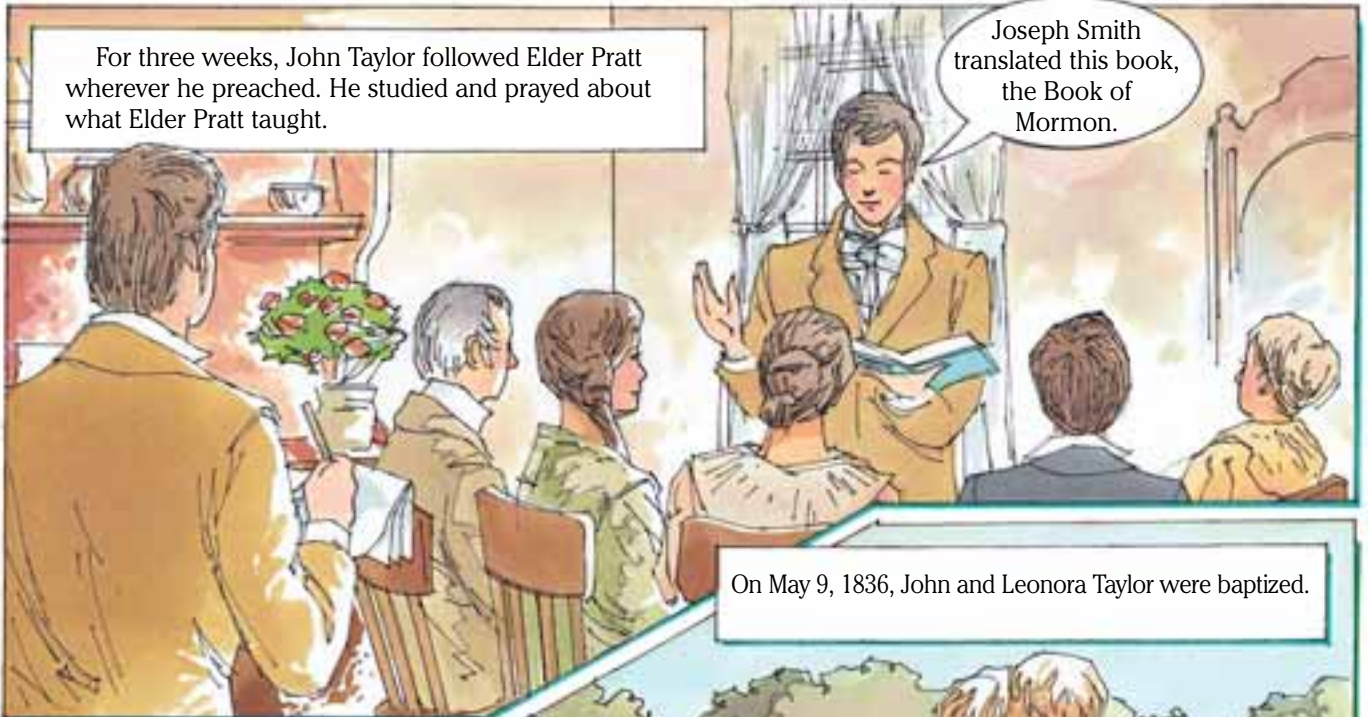
If a servant of the Lord extends such a promise, I will go to Canada.



If I find your religion true, I shall accept it, no matter what the consequences may be; and if false, then I shall expose it.

For three weeks, John Taylor followed Elder Pratt wherever he preached. He studied and prayed about what Elder Pratt taught.

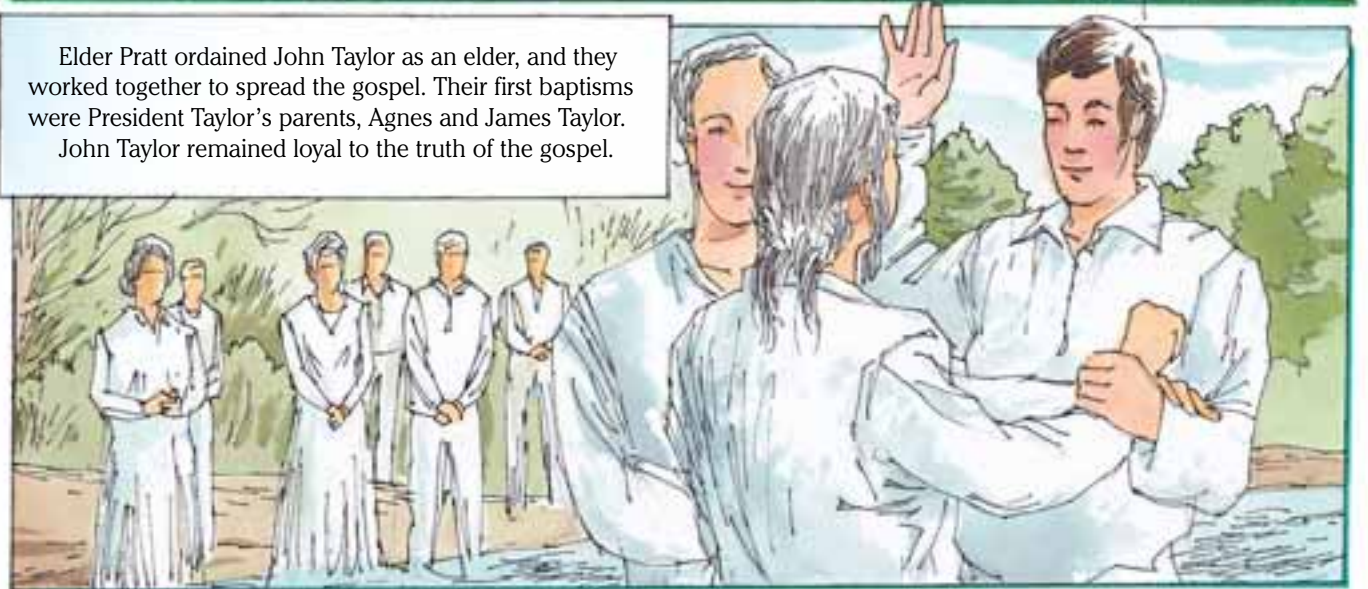
Joseph Smith translated this book, the Book of Mormon.



On May 9, 1836, John and Leonora Taylor were baptized.



Elder Pratt ordained John Taylor as an elder, and they worked together to spread the gospel. Their first baptisms were President Taylor's parents, Agnes and James Taylor. John Taylor remained loyal to the truth of the gospel.



(Ensign, June 1993, 9; November 2000, 22-23; February 1980, 52-53.)



Trying to Be Like Jesus

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

Selling Cookies

By Connie D. Haws



Sadie is my granddaughter. Her dad is studying to be a pediatrician, a doctor who helps children. Her mom told her that there are a lot of children in Afghanistan who need help. In wintertime, many of them don't have warm clothes. After talking about how they could help the children, Sadie and her mom decided to make cookies and sell them, then send the money to United States President George W. Bush for his Afghanistan Children's Fund.

They made cookies one whole afternoon, then set up a booth with a sign and a flag. They made \$70, which they sent to the fund. Sadie said, "I hope the money we earned will help some children in Afghanistan to be able to have warm clothes. I feel happy that I could help them."

Sadie Ann Tullis, age 3, is a member of Centreville Second Ward, Centreville Virginia Stake.

My Baptism

By Sean Howard



My baptism was the best day of my life. I had many friends there, some of them members of other churches.

I like to play sports. I like being a Wolf Scout and being in senior Primary. I always try to be a good friend.

Sean Howard, age 8, is a member of Auburn Third Ward, Auburn Washington Stake.

Thoughts

By Meri Laineenkare



We went on a boat. A money machine there was stuck. A woman said, "Why did the machine give me one euro (about 88¢) when I was supposed to get 20 marks (about \$2.96)?" A man told her to look for the code on the left, but the woman couldn't find it.

I looked for it and found it. The woman didn't tell me thank you. I thought, "What a silly woman!" But then I thought about what I was thinking and was sorry. I prayed and said, "Heavenly Father, I am sorry for what I was thinking, so I am apologizing. I am very, very sorry about it."

Meri Laineenkare, age 8, is a member of Turku First Ward, Tampere Finland Stake.

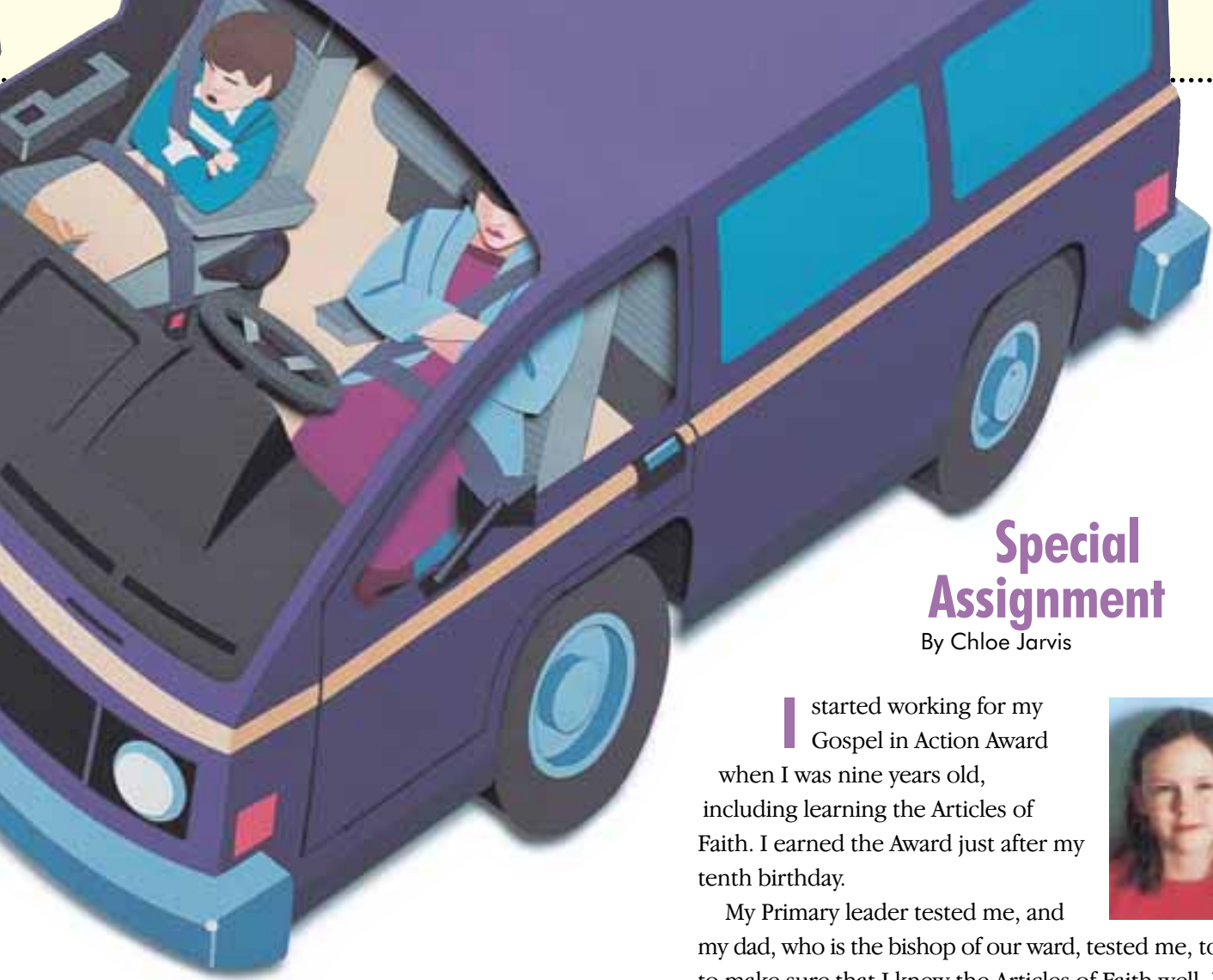
Michael's Faith

By Veronica Walker



One Saturday, all of our family, except Dad, hurried into the car to attend the wedding of a friend who is not a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Because we were in such a hurry, I had forgotten to take the directions to the church where the wedding would be held. By the time I realized this, we were very far from home, and it was almost time for the wedding.

The first thing we tried to do was phone Dad. But



Special Assignment

By Chloe Jarvis

I started working for my Gospel in Action Award when I was nine years old, including learning the Articles of Faith. I earned the Award just after my tenth birthday.

My Primary leader tested me, and my dad, who is the bishop of our ward, tested me, too, to make sure that I knew the Articles of Faith well. I received my certificate and my pendant in sacrament meeting, and I wear it every Sunday.

The Primary presidency has given me a special assignment—to help teach the younger children in Primary the Articles of Faith. I am grateful for the opportunity to help others achieve their awards. I look forward to helping them each week.

Chloe Jarvis, age 10, is a member of Kettering Ward, North Hampton England Stake.



there was no answer. Next, we drove around the area to try to find the church, but there were so many that it seemed impossible to find the right one in time.

Michael said, “Why don’t we ask Heavenly Father to help us?”

I was a bit embarrassed because I had not thought of praying. I asked him to pray, and he asked Heavenly Father to help us find the church where the wedding was.

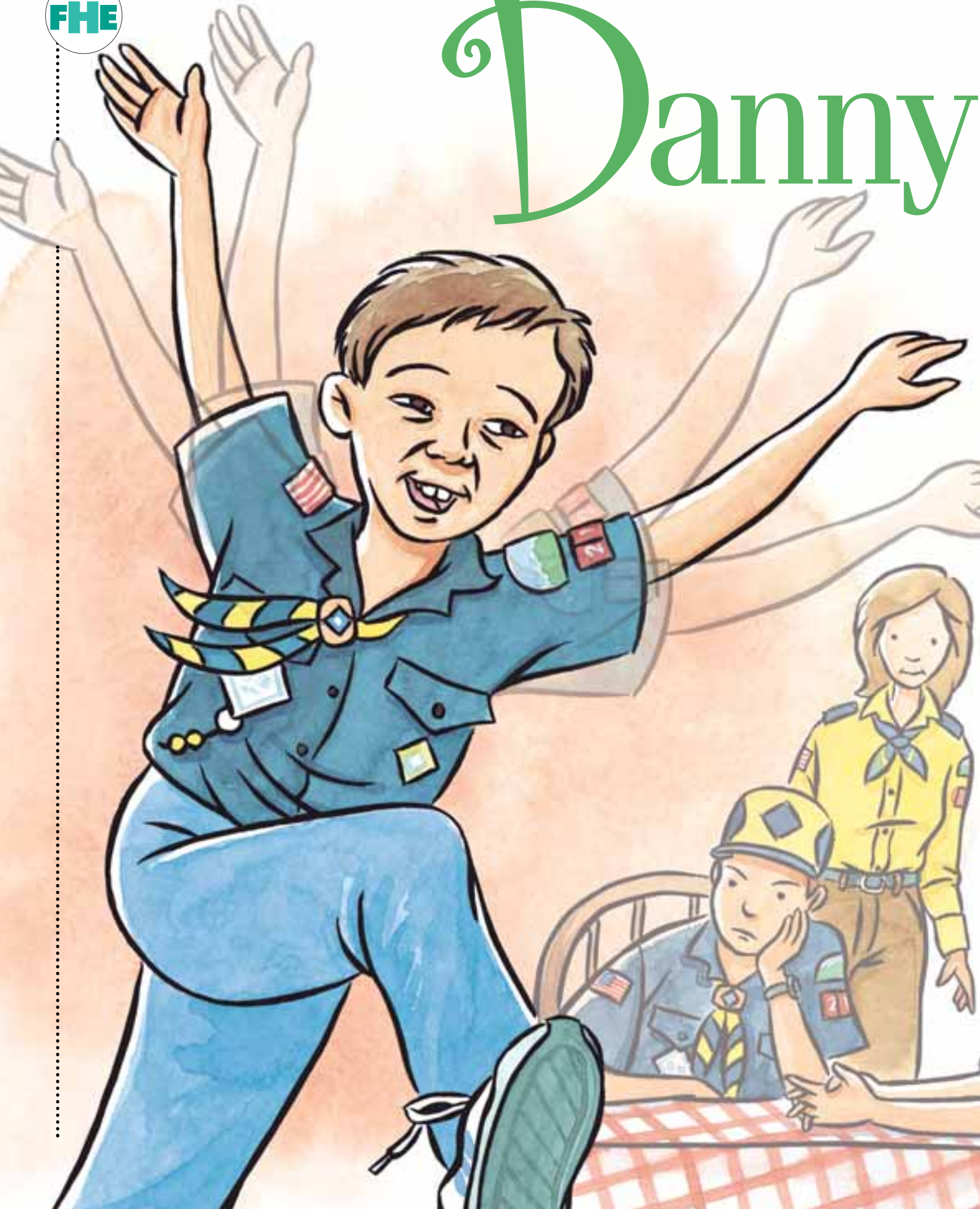
In just a few moments, we found it—in time, too. We were very happy that Michael reminded us that Heavenly Father answers prayers and that no prayer is too small for Him to hear. He showed us his great faith in the power of prayer.

Michael Walker, age 7, is a member of Georgetown Ward, Round Rock Texas Stake.

The *Friend* would like to hear from you about an experience you, or another child you know, have had in Trying to Be Like Jesus. The article should be about two to three paragraphs typed and double spaced; a parent or other adult may help you write it. Please include at least one photograph or slide of whomever the article is about, if possible, and his/her and your own (if different) name, age, ward/branch and stake/district, and telephone number. Send your article to: Trying to Be Like Jesus, *Friend*, 24th Floor, 50 East North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah 84150-3220. Unused submissions will be returned if a stamped, addressed envelope is enclosed.



Danny



BY LAURA F. NIELSEN

(Based on a true story)

And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted (Ephesians 4:32).



's Butterfly

Today we're going to start raising butterflies," our den mother, Sister Sills, said.

"Butterflies!" whooped my brother, Danny. He jumped up and ran in a big circle, waving his arms as if they were wings.

"Danny," I hissed. "Sit."

Danny stopped and looked around. Everybody else was sitting down, so Danny sat down, too. But he kept flapping his arms.

Sometimes it's really embarrassing to have Danny for a brother. He's actually two years older than me, but he was born with Down's syndrome, so he doesn't do everything at the same age as everyone else. Danny just waits until he's ready. That's why he's in my Cub Scout den.

I love him, and I try to help him, but sometimes I get mad because he's so slow at everything. Danny never complains when I do things without him, but he looks sad. I don't like him to be sad, so I try to be patient with him.

Sister Sills explained how we were going to raise our butterflies. Then we made butterfly houses—shoe boxes with plastic windows and air holes. We also filled clear plastic cups with chopped green leaves that Sister Sills called "caterpillar food." We called it "green goo."

The caterpillars were so small that Sister Sills used a

paintbrush to put them into our cups. We put a lid with air holes on the cups.

"That's a butterfly?" Danny asked.

"It will turn into a butterfly, Danny," Sister Sills told him. "Then it will fly."

"Wow!" Danny exclaimed.

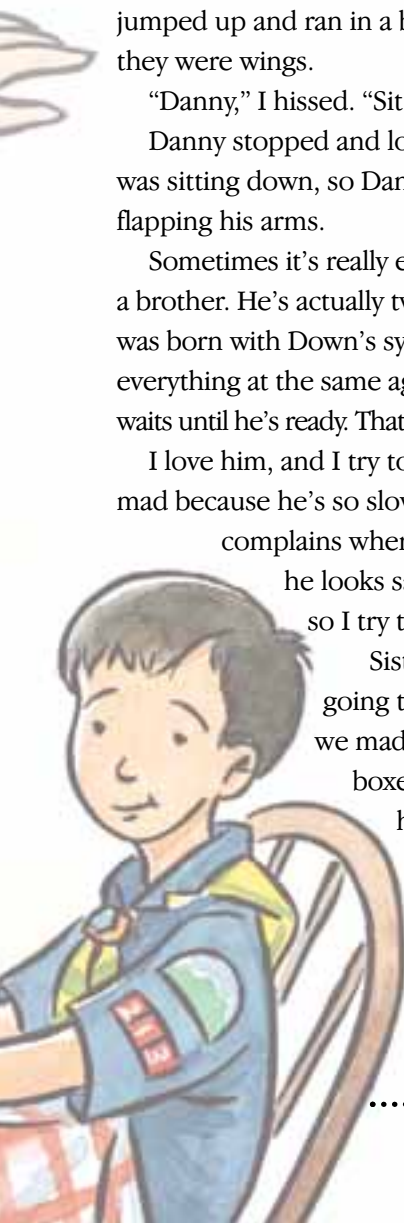
We each took two caterpillars home. Those little things ate and ate. We had to add more chopped leaves. I couldn't believe how fast they grew. Finally they hung upside down from the lids of their cups and shed their fuzzy skins. It was like watching someone wriggle out of a very tight snowsuit. Underneath was a smooth, green chrysalis (a covering that shelters the caterpillar while it turns into a butterfly).

We moved the lids with the chrysalises attached to them to our butterfly houses and waited and waited for nearly two weeks. Danny was the first one to notice when something happened. "I got a butterfly!" he squealed. Then he ran around the room flapping his arms. This time, I just let him.

During the next day, all four butterflies emerged. We watched them exercise their new wings, and we fed them sugar water sprinkled on flowers for three days. Then we took them outside to set them free.

At first, the butterflies didn't know what to think of the sunshine and the wind. Then one took off, and then another and another. We watched them flutter around our yard until they were out of sight.

When we looked back down, there was still one butterfly left. I gently picked him up on my finger.





“One who is kind is . . . gentle with others. He is considerate of others’ feelings and . . . has a helpful nature. . . . Kindness is extended to all—to the aged and the young, to animals. . . .

“We become more Christlike as we are more . . . kind, more patient.”

President Ezra Taft Benson (1899-1994)
From an October 1986 general conference address.

“Fly,” I ordered. But the butterfly stayed perched right where he was.

“I don’t think he *can* fly,” Dad said, looking closely. “He’s missing part of his wing.”

Mom bent down to look. “He has only four legs,” she said. “He’s supposed to have six.”

“So what do we do now?” I asked.

“I think we’d better keep him,” Dad said. “He’ll get eaten by a bird or something if we leave him out here. He probably won’t live very long, anyway.”

“I’ll take care of him,” Danny said.

I wasn’t sure about that. Sometimes Danny breaks things because he has a hard time being careful. I didn’t think he could take care of something as tiny as a

butterfly without squishing it. But Dad said, “Let him try.”

Every day, Danny fed the butterfly. And every day he took it out

for a walk. “Butterflies don’t need walks,” I said.

“My butterfly does,” Danny said. “He needs to learn to fly. Sister Sils said so.”

“That butterfly is never going to learn to fly. He’s missing half a wing,” I pointed out.

“It’s OK,” Danny said. “He’s trying.”

That’s what Danny always said when the poor butterfly waved its wings. I couldn’t believe how patient and gentle he was. Every day he took the butterfly outside on his finger to exercise its wings. Sometimes it stepped out onto a flower to eat.

Then one day, in a puff of wind, the butterfly flew off Danny’s finger and circled the apple tree twice before landing in the grass. There it fluttered helplessly until Danny picked it up. But as soon as he did, it spread its wings and

tried again.

“He flew!” Danny exclaimed. “He flew! He tried and tried, and he flew!” I’d never seen Danny so excited.

Danny took the butterfly outside to fly every day until it got old and its wings lost so many scales that you could see right through them. Finally it died. Dad helped Danny bury it. I was afraid Danny would be really upset, but he wasn’t. He was smiling. “Heavenly Father will give my butterfly new, strong wings,” he said, “because he tried!”

I still get impatient sometimes when Danny is slow or he forgets how to behave or he does something really silly. But when I do, I remember how kind Danny was to that poor butterfly and I say to myself, “It’s OK—he’s trying.” I figure if I work really hard, I can be as patient and kind as Danny. ●





The *Guide to the Friend* can help you find stories or articles for preparing lessons or talks for church or for family home evening. Look for the FHE symbol on the pages mentioned in the *Family Home Evening Ideas*. The Primary theme for April is “I believe in the Savior, Jesus Christ.”



Family Home Evening Ideas

1. Share President James E. Faust’s testimony (“A Growing Testimony,” pages 2–3). Using the story “Believing in Jesus Christ” and the “Picture-strip Bookmarks” (pages 16–17), talk about the many things the Savior did. Share your feelings about Him.

2. Read “Legacy of Faith” in *Childviews* (IFC). Talk about ways that your parents, grandparents, ancestors, or people in Church history strengthened their faith. Discuss ways that you can follow their examples. Learn and sing “Dearest Children, God Is Near You” (*Hymns*, no. 96).

3. Tell the story “Just One Egg” (pages 40–41). How did Johnny follow the Savior? How can you? Then, using the quote by Elder Robert D. Hales (page 6), discuss the true meaning of Easter. End by doing the puzzle “New Commandment” (page 23).

4. After reading “A Great Day” (pages 30–31), write a list or draw pictures of the blessings that made your day great. Weather permitting, go for a short walk outside and point out some of God’s creations. Sing “My Heavenly Father Loves Me” (*Children’s Songbook*, pages 228–29). You could also make copies of “Hidden Spring” (page 32) for family members to color.

5. “Danny’s Butterfly” (pages 46–48) reminds us to be loving and patient with others, because we are

all trying. Think of a time someone was patient with you and share it. Then think of ways you can make someone else happy by being patient. Draw a picture of a butterfly and display it where you will see it throughout the week, reminding you to be kind.



See pages 30–31.

Manuscript Submissions

The *Friend* welcomes unsolicited manuscripts but is not responsible for them. Rejected manuscripts will not be returned unless a stamped, addressed envelope is enclosed. Send manuscripts to *Friend*, 24th Floor, 50 East North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah 84150-3220. Send e-mail to cur-editorial-friend@ldschurch.org.

Send children’s submissions to *Friend*, 24th Floor, 50 East North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah 84150-3220, in care of the appropriate department—Our Creative Friends, Friends in the News, *Childviews*, *Trying to Be Like Jesus*.



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*Jesus is our loving friend.
He is always near.
He will guide us when we pray;
Ev'ry child is dear.
(Children's Songbook, 58.)*