



# the friend

APRIL • 2008

# Friends by Mail

## Tornado Scare



**W**hen I got home from school there was a tornado watch, and I cried because I was scared. I felt that I should pray for the people near the tornadoes, and for the tornadoes to stop coming our way. I still didn't feel better. Then my mom told me to pray, so I prayed in my mind that I would feel better. A little bit later my tears went away. When my dad came home, we watched the news and there were no tornadoes coming our way.

Hannah J., age 6, Georgia, with help from her mom

## Priesthood Healing



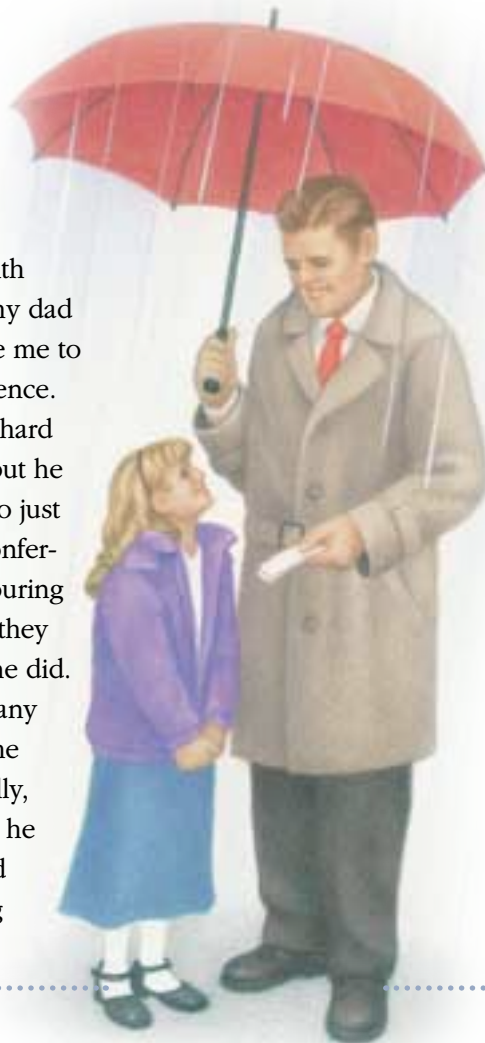
**W**hen I was three years old, my mom was cooking and set a cup of boiling water on the counter. I grabbed the cup and accidentally spilled it on my tummy. The hot water hurt my skin and I cried. Dad gave me a priesthood blessing, and prayed that I would be healed. The next morning, I woke up and there was only a small red spot where I had been burned so badly. I have a testimony that the power of the priesthood heals.

Peyton B., age 7, Virginia

## General Conference Charity



**F**or my eighth birthday, my dad decided to take me to general conference. He tried really hard to get tickets, but he couldn't find any. We decided to just try and get tickets the day of conference before it started. It was pouring rain. We were asking people if they had any extra tickets, but no one did. My dad asked a man if he had any extras. He said he didn't, then he turned around and said, "Actually, I *do* have one extra ticket," and he gave it to us. Then another kind woman gave us a ticket. During



conference, I felt a good feeling inside. Afterward, my dad and I said a prayer thanking Heavenly Father for all the special things He did for us that day.

Sarah W., age 8, Idaho

Please send us a letter sharing your feelings about the *Friend* magazine, a spiritual experience, your testimony, or whatever else is on your mind. Please include a photo of yourself and your name, age, and address. A written statement signed by a parent or legal guardian granting permission to publish your photo and submission must be included. If an adult helps with your submission, credit should also be given to him or her. Submissions may be edited for length and clarity. For scheduling reasons, submissions selected may not appear in the magazine for at least a year. Ages shown are those at the time of submission. Children whose writings are submitted should be at least three years old. Due to the number of submissions received, they cannot all be published, nor can they be returned. Send it to Friends by Mail, *Friend Magazine*, Rm. 2430, 50 East North Temple Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84150-3220, United States of America.

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# the friend

See the  
**Guide to the Friend**  
(inside back cover)  
for family home  
evening ideas.



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

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Cover by Dilleen Marsh





1910-2008

# President Gordon Bitner



*Gordon B. Hinckley, 15th President of the Church, passed away on January 27, 2008. He was 97 years old, the oldest man ever to serve as President. And yet he never forgot what it was like to be a child.*

**P**resident Hinckley was born on June 23, 1910, in Salt Lake City, Utah. As a boy, he prayed next to his bed each night. He later recalled “jumping into my bed after I had said

amen, pulling the covers up around my neck, and thinking of what I had just done in speaking to my Father in Heaven in the name of His Son. I did not have a great knowledge of the gospel. But there was some kind of lingering peace and security in communing with the heavens in and through the Lord Jesus.”<sup>1</sup>

Young Gordon was a good boy, but he wasn’t perfect. Once his mother washed his mouth with soap for using a bad word—a word he never used again.

Gordon suffered from asthma, so his father bought a small farm in the countryside where he could breathe clean air during summer vacation from school. He and his brother Sherm worked hard weeding the garden, picking fruit, and doing other chores. The future prophet learned that hard work must come before the harvest.

# Hinckley

Each afternoon the boys played, jumping off haystacks and playing hide-and-seek. Each night they slept in a wagon box under the stars. Gordon noted that while the other stars appeared to move, the North Star held its position. “The polar star came to mean something to me,” he later reported. “I recognized it as a constant in the midst of change. It was something that could always be counted on.”<sup>2</sup> He determined that he, too, would be trustworthy.

President Hinckley served as an Assistant to the Quorum of the Twelve, a member of the Quorum of the Twelve, and a counselor in the First Presidency. He was ordained and set apart as President of the Church on March 12, 1995.

President Hinckley was a happy, optimistic man who believed there was a spark of divinity within all of us. He called on us to be grateful, smart, clean, true, humble, and prayerful. He counseled us to stand a little taller, to be strong, decent, courteous, and above all, more Christlike.

In the midst of his many duties, President Hinckley never forgot the children. He proved that he cared about you through his actions. He traveled almost a million miles to visit your countries. He spoke to you and shook your hands. He invited you to join him as honored guests to help lay temple cornerstones.

We know that you loved President Hinckley, and this good, kind man loved you. His life will always be a shining example for you to follow. ●

1. “My Testimony,” *Ensign*, May 2000, 70.
2. Quoted in Jeffrey R. Holland, “President Gordon B. Hinckley: Stalwart and Brave He Stands,” *Ensign*, June 1995, 5.



Julia L.

## Children’s Thoughts about President Hinckley

I love President Hinckley. My favorite Primary song is “Follow the Prophet.” I know the prophet shows the way. If I follow the prophet, I will be able to choose the right.

Elizabeth J.



Carson P.



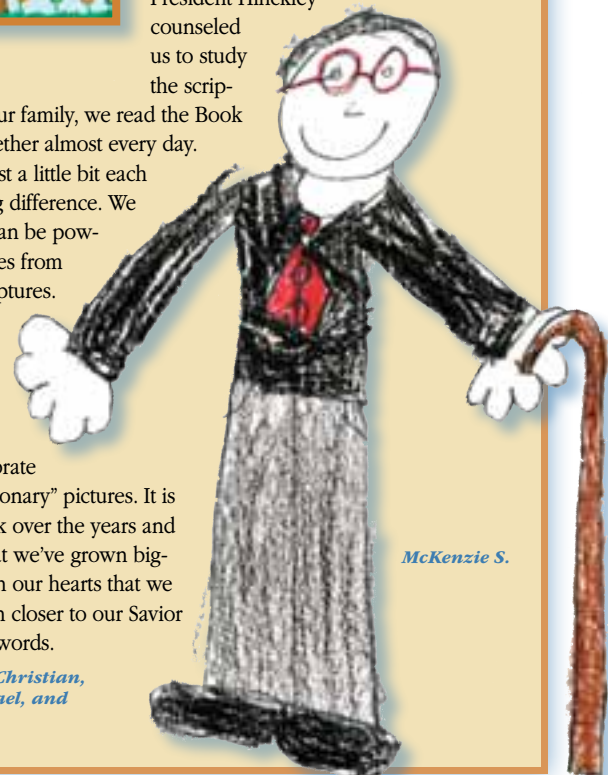
Alyssa D.

Gordon B. Hinckley is our prophet now. He taught us the six “B’s”; now we know how  
To be clean, smart and grateful, humble, prayerful, true.  
We should try to live just like he tells us to.

Mikayla B.

President Hinckley counseled us to study the scriptures daily. In our family, we read the Book of Mormon together almost every day. Even reading just a little bit each day makes a big difference. We know that we can be powerful missionaries from reading the scriptures. Every time we finish reading the Book of Mormon together as a family, we celebrate by taking “missionary” pictures. It is fun to look back over the years and not only see that we’ve grown bigger, but know in our hearts that we have also grown closer to our Savior by reading His words.

Kamberlynn, Christian, Jonah, Nathanael, and Rebekah W.



McKenzie S.



# Ricky Makes a CHOICE

BY ANGIE FENIMORE

(Based on a true story)

*Look up the following scriptures:*

*Alma 46:15; Moroni 10:5;*

*D&C 10:55. Circle the one you think fits the story best.*

**M**y mom says that I can't be friends with Mormons because they believe in Joseph Smith," Cody said as they spilled out of their classroom onto the playground for recess.

Ricky's face burned with confusion. Cody had been Ricky's very best friend since Ricky had moved in at the beginning of the year. They had played soccer every recess, sat together every lunch, and promised they'd always be best friends. Ricky had even asked Cody to come to his baptism.

"My mom thinks Mormons are bad and I'm not supposed to play with you anymore. I'm sorry," Cody said as he nervously looked at the ground. Ricky pushed his hands into his pockets and forced the tears back as he watched his best friend run across the black-top out to the soccer field.

Since as far back as Ricky could remember, he had imagined his own baptism with pure excitement.

But now, with the special day less than a week away, he couldn't stop thinking about what Cody had said.

At dinner Sunday evening, Ricky sat quietly picking at his plate.

"Hey, Ricky, what's up?" Mom asked. "You've been moping around all weekend."

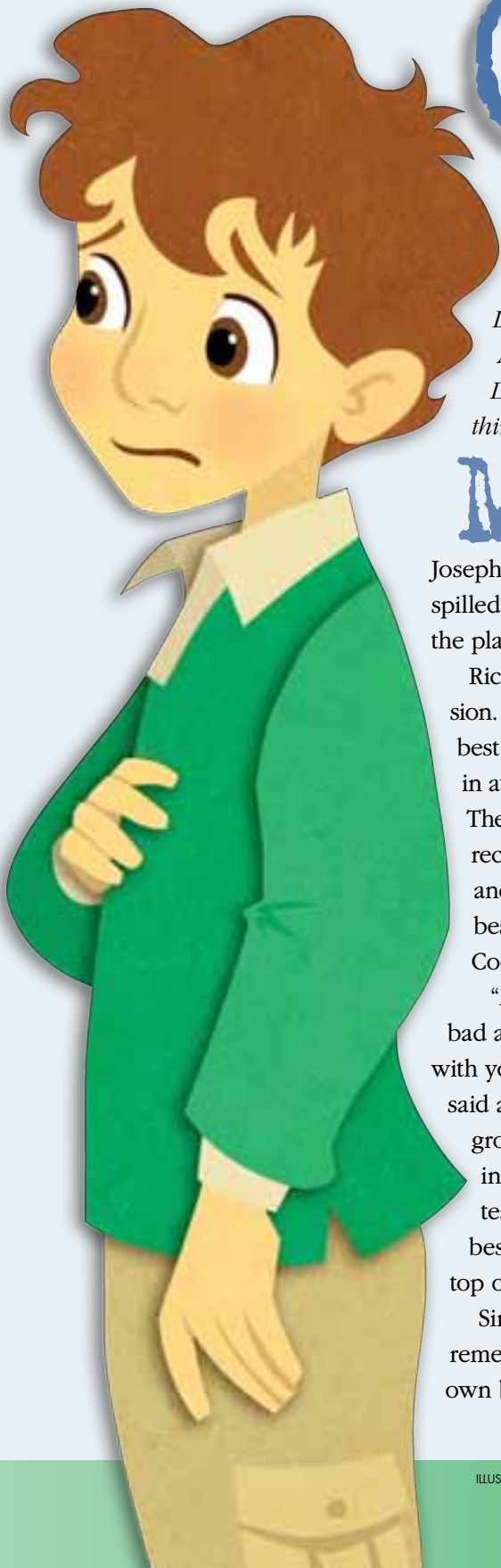
"Why do we have to get baptized?" Ricky asked.

"You know all the reasons, Ricky: to become members of Christ's Church, to receive the gift of the Holy Ghost, to follow Jesus's example," Mom said. "But most important, we get baptized because we *want* to, not because we *have* to. What's bothering you, honey?"

"If I get baptized, Cody won't be my friend anymore," Ricky finally said.

"It's a very important decision and it needs to be yours," Mom said. "I have an idea. Get your pajamas on and brush your teeth and then meet me on the top of the bunk bed." It was Ricky's favorite quiet place where he often went to escape his busy little brothers.

As Ricky clambered up the ladder, he thought Mom looked awfully silly with her head bent to the side



“Today all who want to know whether they should be baptized are invited to follow Joseph and Oliver’s example and pray.”

**Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles<sup>1</sup>**



to keep from bumping the ceiling. She was holding a worn copy of *Book of Mormon Stories*.

“Ricky, before we begin, will you say a prayer and ask the Spirit to be here?” Mom asked.

Ricky folded his arms. “Dear Heavenly Father, please let Thy Spirit be here while we read. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.” A still quiet fell upon the room. Tears filled Mom’s eyes as she opened the book to the first page and began.

“‘One day Joseph read James 1:5 in the Bible,’” Mom read. “‘If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God.’” Ricky had heard this story a thousand times, but this time, it all felt very different to him. Mom continued. “‘When Joseph told some people what he had seen and heard, they laughed at him.’”\*

Ricky listened carefully as Mom read about how Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ came to Joseph Smith in a pillar of light. She read about how the angel Moroni had told Joseph about the gold plates, and how Joseph translated them. The words became the Book of Mormon.

“How can you know if Joseph Smith really saw Heavenly Father and Jesus?” Mom asked.

Ricky thought about how he had prayed about important things and answers had come. He knew he needed to pray for an answer. On the cozy little

bunk bed, Ricky and his mom scooted up on their knees and folded their arms.

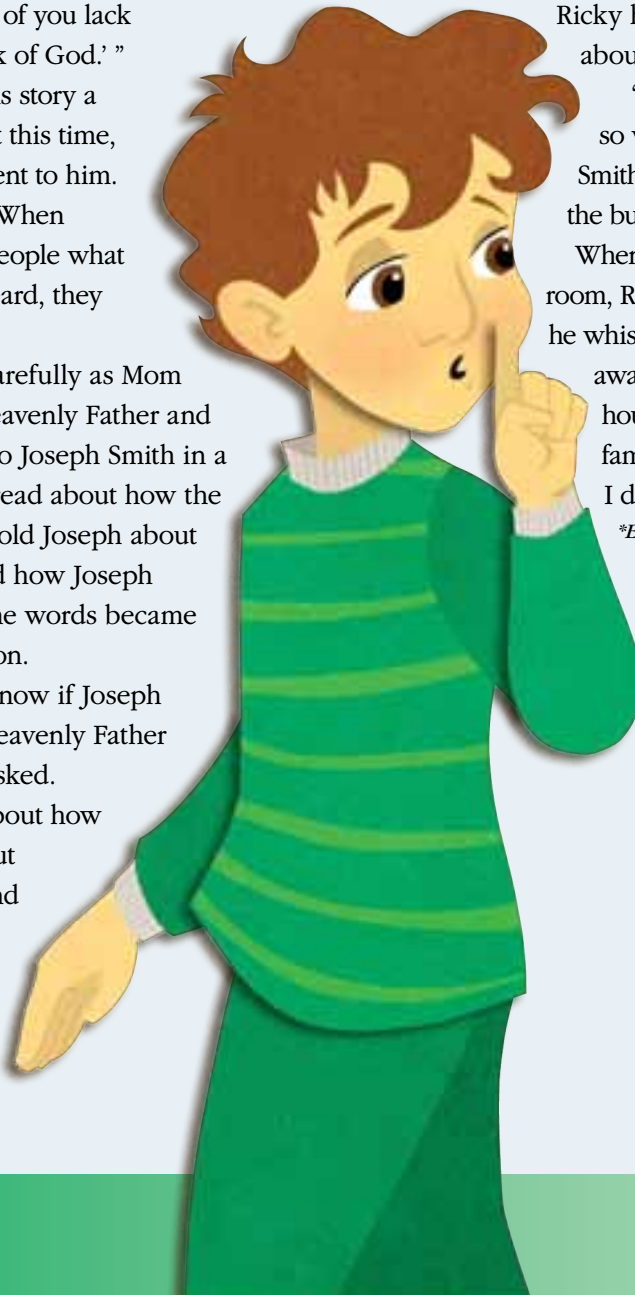
“Dear Heavenly Father,” Ricky began, “I need to know if Joseph Smith really saw a vision, and if the Book of Mormon is really true because I’m supposed to get baptized this week.” A quiet peace filled Ricky’s heart as he spoke the words. “In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.” Then his heart seemed to fill with joy. As Ricky put his arms around Mom’s neck and she squeezed him back, he knew that Mom felt it too.

Ricky had never felt so happy and so sure about anything before.

“Sometimes we have to make hard choices so we can do the right thing, just like Joseph Smith,” Ricky thought as he climbed down from the bunk bed.

When his little brothers scampered into the room, Ricky pressed his fingers to his lips. “Shh,” he whispered. “I don’t want this feeling to go away.” Wonderful peace warmed the whole house as Ricky continued to remind his family through the rest of the evening: “Shh, I don’t want this feeling to go away.” ●

*\*Book of Mormon Stories, 2–3.*







# I Will Follow the Prophet

BY LOUISE WELLINGTON

When my dad says,  
"Let's go and play,"  
We run down to the park.



When my mom says,  
"It's time for bed,"  
I lie down in the dark.



When music says,  
"You need to dance,"  
I move my hands and feet.



When tummy says,  
"I need a snack,"  
I get something to eat.



When the prophet says,  
"We all must pray,"  
I humbly bow my head.



His voice is one  
That speaks for God,  
So I'll do as he's said.



# Being Content

*I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content* (Philippians 4:11).



**From an interview with Elder Alexander A. Odume, Area Seventy in the Africa West Area; by F. Onyebueze Nmeribe**

I grew up in a village in southern Nigeria. My father made a living as a farmer, growing yams, maize, cassava, plantain, and other crops to sell. My parents taught me by their example to work hard. We all worked on the farm, and we had enough food to eat. My father believed that if a man worked hard and lived a decent life, he would succeed.

My parents were not members of the Church, but they believed in God. They taught me that God lives and that Jesus Christ is the Savior.

My father also taught me the principle of respect for my elders—being obedient to those in authority. It is a tradition in my community to give honor to one's elders.

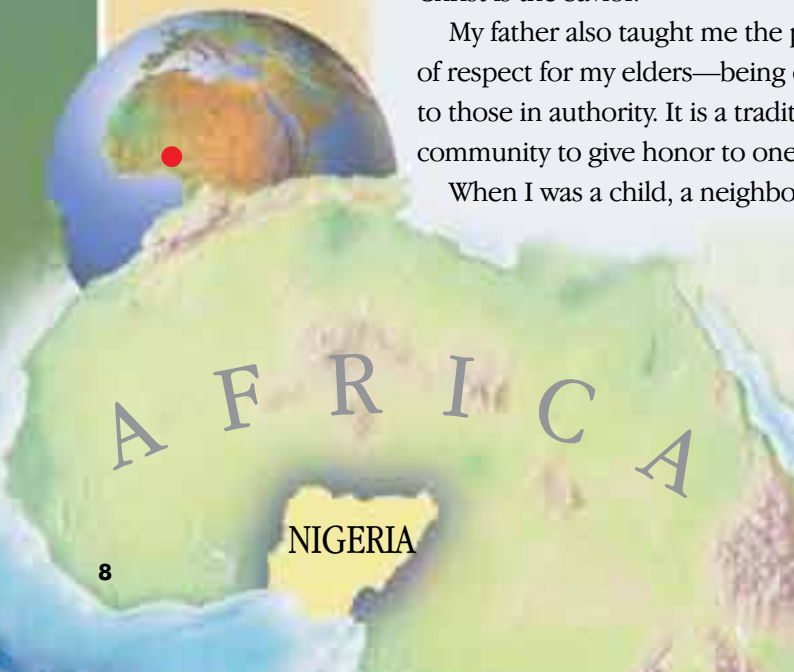
When I was a child, a neighbor brought

us food during a celebration. When our family receives such a gift, it is customary in my home for my father to decide when the family eats the food. This time, my father was not home. I desired so much to eat the food that I cried and begged my mother to give me some. My mother didn't want to disrespect my father's traditional role, but she also didn't want me to be unhappy. She cut some of the food and gave me a little to eat.

Later, when my father came home, he was unhappy about what I had done. He invited me into his room and told me he was disappointed that I had not shown contentment for what I already had. He taught me that peace of mind and a good life are only for those who are content with what they have.

Years later I started visiting many churches, but I never felt at home. One day I returned home from work, and my landlady told me that my wife and I must move out by the next day. I could not think of any wrongdoing or problems that would cause her to ask us to leave.

I went to a friend's house to ask for help in quickly finding a new apartment, and there I met the missionaries. They



introduced themselves and said they could answer my questions at the end of the lesson. As they taught about the Prophet Joseph Smith and the Restoration of the gospel, I thought about how I had moved from one church to another without finding the truth. I made an appointment with the missionaries, and they taught my wife and me. Soon we were baptized and confirmed.

Since that time I have held several callings in the Church. I found out that my parents had laid a very solid foundation for me to believe in God, to be content with what I have, and to know that through the Atonement of Jesus Christ, we can be saved.

Children, listen to your parents' counsel, and follow the teachings of your Primary teachers and leaders. I know that if you will be obedient, if you will read the Book of Mormon, if you will honor your baptismal covenants, the Lord will bless you. ●



# Her Mother's Song

BY SHEILA KINDRED

(Based on a true story)

*Praise the Lord with singing (D&C 136:28).*

Susan woke with a start. What was that noise? She listened carefully. The wind howled through the eucalyptus trees and knocked seedpods onto the roof above her bedroom. The noise of their falling sounded like heavy rain, and it had awakened her.

Susan sighed. Her family had just moved into this house, and she wasn't used to all the new sounds. It didn't help that Susan now slept alone. In their old house she had shared a bedroom with her older sister.

She pulled her blankets up under her chin as another shower of pods hit the roof. She was scared, lonely, and, she realized, missing her dad. Susan's dad was an officer in the military. He was away on training. Although he wasn't in danger, Susan suddenly grew frightened. What if someday her dad was sent to war and got killed? She didn't want to grow up without her father. She needed him.

Tears pricked her eyes, and Susan knew she needed help to calm her growing fears. Her sister wasn't nearby, but she knew that Jesus and Heavenly Father were always close.

Gathering her courage, Susan slipped out from under her blankets and knelt by the side of her bed. She prayed to Heavenly Father to help her, to take away her fear.

And then Susan heard something. It was softer than the clatter on the roof. It was her mother's voice, and she was singing. As her mother walked through the house, finishing up her chores and getting ready for bed, she sang.

Susan's mother had a beautiful voice and sang often, but this was the most wonderful song Susan had ever heard her sing. Though Susan didn't recognize the tune, the words were about Jesus. The song filled her with peace.

Susan thanked Heavenly Father, then climbed back into bed, and listened to her mother's song. Tears came to her eyes again, this time tears of gratitude and relief. She felt that all was well. She knew she had a loving family. She knew that Heavenly Father cared about her. She believed that no matter what happened, there would always be a reason to hope. Susan knew that whenever fears threatened to overcome her, she could find peace by remembering the night her mother's song was stronger than fear. ●





I CAN FOLLOW THE PROPHET

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

# Heed the Prophets—Follow What They Say

*Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets* (Amos 3:7).

BY LINDA CHRISTENSEN



*Now we have a world where people are confused.*

*If you don't believe it, go and watch the news.*

*We can get direction all along our way,*

*If we heed the prophets—follow what they say.*

These words from “Follow the Prophet” (*Children’s Songbook*, 110–11) teach you to heed and follow the prophet. The words *heed* and *follow* mean to listen and obey. Can you think of a time when you listened to the prophet? Can you think of a time when you or your family chose to obey and do what the prophet asked you to do? How did you feel when you obeyed?

Listen to some Primary children share what it means

to follow the prophet: Austin said, “When I do what he says, it makes me happy.” Lindsay said, “The prophet has asked me to wear modest clothes, attend church, read my scriptures, and pray. He wants me to be baptized, choose the right, and follow the examples of my mom and dad.”

Doctrine and Covenants 21:5 states, “For his word ye shall receive, as if from mine own mouth.” This scripture teaches you that the prophet will always say what Heavenly Father wants you to know. The prophet will always show you the way to live so that you can return to Heavenly Father someday. ●

## Activity

Remove page 12, and mount it on heavy paper. Listen to the prophet speak at general conference, and choose three things he asks you to do. Write them on the poster. Hang the poster where you can see it to remind you to follow the prophet.

## Sharing Time Ideas

(Note: All songs are from *Children's Songbook* unless otherwise noted; GAK = Gospel Art Picture Kit; TNGC = Teaching, No Greater Call.)

1. Show GAK 407 (John the Baptist Conferring the Aaronic Priesthood) and 408 (Melchizedek Priesthood Restoration). Briefly share how John the Baptist came to Joseph Smith to restore the Aaronic Priesthood and how Peter, James, and John restored the Melchizedek Priesthood. Explain how Heavenly Father can bless Church members through the priesthood. Invite a priesthood leader approved by the bishop or branch president to talk to the Primary about how the priesthood blesses us.

Display GAK pictures that show some of the blessings members receive because of the priesthood: 601 (Baptism), 602 (The Gift of the Holy Ghost), 603 (Blessing the Sacrament), 609 (Young Couple Going to the Temple), and 613 (Administering to the Sick). Provide paper and pencils, crayons, or markers. Invite the children to draw examples of how the priesthood has blessed their lives.

Invite a child to read D&C 107:64–67. Ask: “Who is the ‘Presiding High Priest over the High Priesthood of the Church?’” Teach the children that our prophet holds all priesthood keys; that is, he has the authority to preside over the whole Church. Sing “We Thank Thee, O God, for a Prophet” (*Hymns*, no. 19). Share your testimony of the prophet and of the priesthood.

2. Show GAK 520 (Gordon B. Hinckley), and share the story told by President Hinckley (1910–2008) of a woman who forgave a teenager for making a wrong choice that changed her life forever (see “Be More Forgiving,” *Friend*, Mar. 2007, 2–3). Explain that prophets have taught us to be forgiving.

Hum or play “Help Me, Dear Father” (p. 99), and ask the children if they recognize the song. If they do, sing it together. If not, help the children learn and sing the phrase “Help me, dear Father, to freely forgive.”

Use dramatizations to involve the children in learning scripture stories about forgiveness (see “Dramatizations,” *TNGC*, 165–66). For example: Genesis 42–45—Joseph forgives his brothers; 1 Nephi 7—Nephi forgives his brothers. Sing the phrase “Help me, dear Father, to freely forgive” after each dramatization.

Show GAK 240 (Jesus the Christ), and share your testimony of the Savior’s Atonement. Help the children understand how He made it possible for us to repent and be forgiven of our mistakes and sins so that we can return to live with Heavenly Father again. Conclude by singing the phrase “Help me, dear Father, to freely forgive.”

3. Show GAK 102 (Building the Ark) and GAK 520 (Gordon B. Hinckley). Compare and contrast the prophet Noah and President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–2008). Help the children recognize that although only Noah’s family listened to his words, many Church members listened to President Hinckley’s counsel to read the Book of Mormon. With approval from the bishop or branch president, invite a family to share their experience of following the prophet by reading the Book of Mormon.

Help the children look up 2 Nephi 32:9. Memorize the phrase “I say unto you that ye must pray always.” Learn the song “Don’t Ever

Forget to Pray” (*Friend*, Apr. 2006, 11), or sing “A Child’s Prayer” (pp. 12–13). Bear testimony of the Book of Mormon and the power of prayer.

4. Create a “Follow the Prophet” maze by using *Primary 3*, lesson 8, p. 39. Enlarge each picture of the maze on a separate piece of paper. Place the figure of the child at the top left of the chalkboard and the picture representing the Savior at the bottom right of the chalkboard. Place the other pictures around the room. On separate pieces of paper, write the phrases that go with each picture. These will be used as clues.

Sing verse 9 of “Follow the Prophet” (pp. 110–11), and ask the children to listen for what we can get if we follow the prophet. Teach them that our prophet gives us direction all along our way. If we follow him, we can return to live with Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ.

Invite a child to choose a clue. Ask his or her class and teacher to act out the clue for the other children to guess. When a child answers correctly, have him or her find the matching picture in the room. Place the picture on the chalkboard next to the figure of the child. Sing the chorus of “Follow the Prophet” after you put up each picture. Continue to act out clues and post the pictures on the chalkboard until the maze is completed. Bear testimony of the blessings that come from following the prophet.

*For older children:* Choose scriptures that go with the clues, and write the scripture reference on the clue. Ask the children to look up the reference and read the scripture before acting out the clue.

5. *Song presentation:* “We Thank Thee, O God, for a Prophet” (*Hymns*, no. 19). Hum or play the first line. Ask the children to raise their hands if they have heard this hymn before. Share the first five words: “We thank thee, O God,” and explain that this hymn describes blessings we have received from Heavenly Father, and when we sing this hymn, it is an opportunity to give thanks for His blessings. Invite the children to share what they know and feel about this hymn.

Hold up a hymnbook, and show where the hymn is found. Point out that the word *brightly* is used to describe how it should be sung. Help the children feel the rhythm by clapping the steady beat of 4/4 time as the pianist plays the first line. Then have the children clap the rhythm of the first line. Divide the room in half. Have one side clap the steady beat and the other side clap the rhythm of the melody line. Change sides and repeat.

As you teach the words of the hymn, invite the children to listen for blessings that Heavenly Father has given to them and how these blessings help us (for example: the gospel, a prophet to guide us, and so on). Help the children recognize the phrases that describe things they should do because they have been blessed (for example: “feel it a pleasure to serve” and “love to obey thy command”).

Share Mosiah 2:41. Testify that we are blessed and happy when we do what the prophet asks of us.

6. *Friend* references: Fiction: “Forgiving Laurie,” Nov. 2000, 38–40; “Holding a Grudge,” Nov. 2006, 13; “Pebble of Forgiveness,” Feb. 2003, 42–44; “Read the Book of Mormon,” Mar. 2004, 11; “Forgive,” Oct. 2005, 2–3.







# Trying to Be Like Jesus

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

## Serving Others

I went with my family to an orphanage in Mexico to help with some work projects. I helped by working in the garden, painting the bunk beds, and laying cement with my dad and brothers.

There are lots of helpers at the orphanage. Every day they make 400 meals and do 70 loads of laundry. They are just like our family only they have 124 kids. They are very happy and I had lots of fun playing with the kids.

When Jesus was on the earth He gave us the commandment to love others as He loves us. When I was at the orphanage I learned that when we follow this commandment we're happy. I am thankful that I could go to Mexico and see that by following Heavenly Father's commandments I will be happy.

*Hamilton P., age 7, Utah*

## Tithing Choice



A few days ago I was looking through my money when I noticed a hole in my tithing envelope. I

opened it to make sure all of what I owed was still there, and I found that I was missing a quarter. I had two choices: I could put another quarter in, or I could pretend there never was one in it. I chose to put another quarter in. I knew I had made the right choice because I had a happy feeling the rest of the day.

*Natalie B., age 10, Minnesota*

## Recital Resolution

My spring piano recital was on a Sunday. I told my mom I would not play on that day



because it was the Sabbath. My mother agreed. We told my piano teacher that Sunday was a special day and that we would not be able to attend. My teacher scheduled another recital for Saturday, and I was able to play after all. Other students and their families were happy about the Saturday recital as well.

*Joshua R., age 8, Montana*



## Missionary Project

I was given an assignment to prepare an entry for my school's social studies fair. The title of my project was "How Does The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Teach Its Youth to Live Their Religion?" I interviewed 40 members of my ward. Then I charted their answers and wrote my research paper. I also narrated a slide show that showed many of our church activities.

My project won "Best in Fair" at the school, county, and regional levels. I did not win at the state level, but that was OK



because my project taught people how the Church works. I even got to teach the judges about the

Church. I think it was a good missionary project.

*Rollins W., age 11, Georgia*

The *Friend* would like to hear from you about an experience you have had in trying to be like Jesus. Please include a photo of yourself and your name, age, and address. A written statement signed by a parent or legal guardian granting permission to publish your photo and submission must be included. If an adult helps with your submission, credit should also be given to him or her. Submissions may be edited for length and clarity. For scheduling reasons, submissions selected may not appear in the magazine for at least a year. Ages shown are those at the time of submission. Children whose writings are submitted should be at least three years old. Due to the number of submissions received, they cannot all be published, nor can they be returned. Send it to: **Trying to Be Like Jesus, *Friend* Magazine, Rm. 2430, 50 East North Temple Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84150-3220, United States of America.**

## A Lesson in Prayer



A few years ago we visited my mom's friend in Texas. While visiting their family, their youngest child became sick. That night, I knelt down with her sister and explained how to pray. We prayed that her little sister would feel



better. The next day she was feeling much better. I'm so glad

we prayed for her to get better. My mom said she was proud of me for teaching my friend how I pray to Heavenly Father.

*Kate Noel M., age 8, Missouri*



# A Necklace for Mama



**BY HAZEL LAMOREAUX**

(Based on a true story)

*For it is by faith that miracles are wrought*  
(Moroni 7:37).

In the still darkness a bugle sounded, signaling for the pioneers to wake up. Will groped around the floor of the covered wagon for his shirt.

“Time to get up,” he said to his little brother, Tommy. “The sooner the wagon train starts, the sooner we get to Zion.”

Tommy sat up. “And the sooner we can find Mama a new necklace.”

Mama’s necklace had been a special gift from her mother before their family left for the Salt Lake Valley. But by the time they reached Omaha, Mama had smallpox, and it had been necessary to pull out of the wagon train for a time. While very ill, Mama had whispered: “Have faith. Good things can come from bad. You must sell the necklace to buy medicine and necessities to continue our journey.” So they sold Mama’s special necklace.

Now they had joined the wagon train again. Papa entered the wagon with a lantern. In the dim light, Mama’s face was pale, still scabbed with smallpox.

“Mama, stay in the wagon and rest,” Papa said. “We’ll make the bread.”

“The wagon jolts a body so,” Mama said. “It rests me to feel solid ground under my feet.”

Papa hesitated. “You are still weak. But a little while outside may do you good.”

The family knelt for morning prayer. Papa thanked Heavenly Father for their blessings, prayed for Mama’s continued recovery, then asked for wisdom in dealing with the Indians sighted yesterday by wagon scouts.

After the prayer, Papa jumped from the wagon and helped Mama down. Will scrambled out with Tommy. The boys started a cooking fire while Mama whipped up a batch of pan bread. It was almost daylight when everyone settled around the fire to eat.

Will bit into a biscuit and licked his lips so as not to waste a speck of good bread. “Butter and jam like we had in Nauvoo would be good.”

“We must be thankful for bread,” Mama said. “Only by careful rationing will we have enough to eat before we reach the Salt Lake Valley.”

After breakfast, Papa hitched the horses to the wagon. Mama made herself a bed in the wagon.

Will and Tommy took care of the dishes. Then the bugle signaled that it was time to move out.

Heavy clouds of dust hovered over the wagon train as it crawled across the baked prairie land. Sweat streaked Will's face as he and Tommy plodded bare-foot alongside the wagon. Their shoes had to be saved for the coming cold weather.

Papa called, "You boys had best walk outside the dust. But remember we're in Indian country, so keep a sharp eye out. And mind that you don't get into cactus."

Will and Tommy scuttled through the dust cloud,

careful to avoid the prickly pear cactus. Outside the dirty air, Will stared at mounds of gravel. "Anthills!" he said.

Tommy picked up a shiny red object. "What's this?"  
"A bead. Indians who camped here must have spilled them. The ants think they are just gravel for building."

"They'd make a pretty necklace," Tommy said. "Have you noticed that Mama doesn't smile much anymore? I think she's sad about her necklace."

Will nodded. "She used to smile all the time. Let's make her another necklace." He pulled a coarse thread from his ragged shirt and handed it to Tommy.



"I'll grab the beads. You string them on this thread."

Ants swarmed over Will's bare feet as he snatched up a handful of gravel from a mound. Jumping away, he sifted the gravel through his fingers to find beads. He handed them to Tommy.

With his tongue, Tommy moistened the thread. Twisting it to a point, he poked it through the beads.

Will waded back into the ants. He hopped up and down, wiggling his toes against painful bites as he grabbed more beads.

Finally, the thread, filled with bright beads, flashed in the sun. Will tied the ends of the string together. "We'd better run to catch up to the wagon train," he said, and shoved the string into his pocket.

"The wagons aren't moving," Tommy said when the train came into view.

Peering ahead, Will forgot to watch for prickly pear. A hundred tiny barbs pierced his already aching feet. As he staggered out of the cactus bed, he heard a great commotion.

Indians! On ponies, they circled the wagons, shouting and waving guns. Will forgot the throbbing in his feet and raced for their wagon.

Unnoticed in the confusion and noise, the boys clambered into the wagon. They crouched with Mama, watching the Indians. "The wagon master said that it isn't a war party," she told them. "They want food. If we give it to them, they'll leave."

"We can't give our food away!" Will protested. "You said we'd have to ration our food to make it last to the Salt Lake Valley."

Reaching for Will, Mama's hand brushed his swollen feet. "You've stepped in cactus!" she said. "Those spines must come out. I'll fetch water to wash your feet."

Clutching a pan, she stood at the front of the wagon, ready to jump down. She had to dip water from the barrel strapped to the wagon's side.

Looking up, the Indian chief saw Mama's scabbed

face and pointed toward her. Mama jumped from the wagon. Other Indians, seeing her smallpox scabs, turned their ponies. Whooping and shouting, they galloped across the prairie and disappeared over a rise.

Mama returned with the pan of water. When she bent to wash his feet, Will slipped the necklace over her head. "Tommy and I made this for you. So you'd be happy," he said.

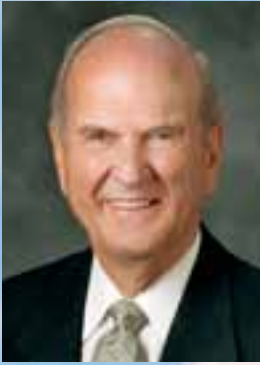
Mama smiled. "It makes me very happy. I've always believed good things could come from bad. This beautiful necklace will always remind me of the day smallpox saved a wagon train." ●



"There is one thing the Lord expects of us no matter our difficulties and sorrows: He expects us to press on."

**Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles<sup>2</sup>**





*Elder Russell M. Nelson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles shares some of his thoughts on this subject.*

# I'm not old enough to go to the temple. What can I learn about it?

A temple is literally the house of the Lord, reserved for ordinances of eternal significance. Those ordinances include baptisms, marriages, endowments, and sealings.

The temple is closed on the Sabbath so that people can attend church and be with their families on that hallowed day.

In the temple, all are dressed in spotless white.

We must qualify for admission to the temple. We prepare physically, intellectually, and spiritually.

Obedience to the sacred covenants made in temples qualifies us for eternal life—the greatest gift of God to man.



<b>A</b>		<b>E</b>
<b>M</b>		<b>S</b>
<b>L</b>		<b>T</b>
<b>S</b>		<b>Y</b>
<b>T</b>		<b>E</b>
<b>S</b>		<b>E</b>
<b>C</b>		<b>R</b>



## Who Am I?

BY AMIE JANE LEAVITT

The name of a special leader is found in the shaded boxes of the puzzle above. To find out what it is, place a letter in each space to make a three-letter word. To help you figure out each three-letter word, here are some clues. (See answers on page 39.)

1. You can see an \_\_\_ when you go to the zoo.
2. A married woman's title.
3. In the Old Testament, his wife turned into a pillar of salt.
4. A \_\_\_ secretly watches other countries or people.
5. \_\_\_ Book of Mormon
6. We \_\_\_ with our eyes.
7. These three initials stand for "Choose the Right."

# JOURNEY INTO EGYPT

BY BRITNEY RULE

**Instructions:** Each player should select a place marker. Place them on Start and read the description and scriptures. Take turns rolling a die to see how many spaces to move. When you land on a space, read the description and then look up the scripture and read it. If the space has directions on it, move your marker that many spaces. The first player to reach the promised land wins. **Note:** All scriptures are from the book of Exodus unless otherwise noted.

Egypt is plagued with frogs, lice, and flies. Go back 2 spaces. (8:6, 17, 24)

The cattle of the Egyptians die, but the Israelites' cattle don't. Move forward 1 space. (9:6)

The Egyptians get painful sores all over their bodies. (9:9-10)

The Lord sends a storm of hail. (9:23)

The firstborn Egyptians die. (12:29)

The Israelites celebrate for the Passover for the first time. Move forward 2 spaces. (12:21-24)

Pharaoh lets the Israelites go. Move forward 3 spaces. (12:31-32)

The Lord leads the Israelites with a pillar of fire by night and a cloud by day. (13:21)

The Israelites arrive at the Red Sea and are afraid when they see the Egyptians following them. Go back 1 space. (14:10-12)

Moses parts the Red Sea with the Lord's help. The Israelites walk across on dry ground. Move forward 2 spaces. (14:21-22)

The Israelites have only bad water to drink. The Lord cleanses the water. (15:23-25)



The Nile River is turned to blood. The Egyptians have no water to drink. Go back 1 space. (7:20-21)

Aaron and Moses go to Pharaoh. He tells them he will not let the Israelites leave Egypt. (5:1-2)

The Lord speaks to Moses from a burning bush on Mount Sinai. He tells Moses to lead the Israelites out of the land of Egypt. (3:2-4)

Moses dies. Joshua becomes the prophet. (Deuteronomy 34:5-9)

Because the Israelites have lost faith in the Lord, they will wander in the wilderness for 40 years. Miss a turn. (Numbers 14:34)

Joshua and Caleb are excited about Canaan. They say the Lord has blessed them with a land of promise. (Numbers 14:6-8)

Moses sends spies to Canaan. Many of them are scared. They do not believe the Lord can help defeat the people of the land. Go back 1 space. (Numbers 13:1-2, 31)

Some of the Israelites make a golden calf and worship it. The Lord is angry with them. Go back 2 spaces. (32:8)

The Lord commands the Israelites to build a tabernacle. Move forward 2 spaces. (25:8-9)

# FINISH

The Lord leads the Israelites into Canaan, the promised land. Joshua leads them through the Jordan River on dry ground. (Joshua 3:17)

The Israelites need more water. The Lord gives Moses power to make water come out of a rock. (17:6)

The Israelites need food. The Lord sends manna every day for them to eat. (16:4)

The Israelites arrive at Mount Sinai. Moses receives the Ten Commandments on the mountain. (19:20; 20:1-17)

# START





## Heavenly Father's World

BY MICHELLE BENJAMIN

**H**eavenly Father and Jesus Christ created this earth for us. How should we take care of it? Shade in all the shapes in the globe that have a number divisible by 3 to find the hidden message. Then write five ways you can do what the secret message says. (See answer on page 39.)

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## CONFERENCE

# BEAN DIP

**B**efore listening to general conference, prepare this layered bean dip. With each layer, name a General Authority or auxiliary leader you might hear from or discuss a topic you might hear about. Enjoy your snack after general conference while you talk about what you've learned.

- 1 can (16 ounces/454 g) refried beans**
- 2 large avocados, peeled and mashed**
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice**
- 1 cup sour cream**
- 1 package (2 ounces/57 g) powdered taco mix**
- 1/4 cup chopped green onions**
- 2 small tomatoes, chopped and drained**
- 1 cup black olives, chopped**
- 1 package (8 ounces/227 g) shredded cheddar cheese**

1. Spread the beans on a large plate or serving dish and mash with a fork.

2. In a separate dish, stir the avocados with the lemon juice. Spread the avocados over the beans.

3. In another bowl, mix the sour cream with the taco mix and spread it over the avocados. Top with the remaining ingredients and serve with tortilla chips.



# Standing Tall

BY JENNIFER MADDY  
Church Magazines

CHILDREN ALL OVER THE WORLD PRAY,  
SING PRIMARY SONGS, AND LEARN ABOUT THE GOSPEL—  
JUST LIKE YOU! THIS MONTH LET'S MEET  
JUDY AND CHRISTOPHER SERENI OF CALCI, ITALY.

In Italy there is a tower that leans. People used to think that the 12th-century architect meant for the bell tower to lean, but scientists have discovered that it was designed to stand straight up. The ground underneath the Leaning Tower of Pisa moves unpredictably, and water collects beneath the foundation, rising and falling depending on the season. For 200 years builders tried to stop the tower's tilt, but one fact made it impossible: the tower's foundation shifted with the movement of the unstable ground.

In Calci, a town just outside of Pisa, Judy and Christopher Sereni of the Pisa Branch don't stand on shaky ground. They have built a strong foundation based on the gospel, their love for each other, and their love for their family.



**Favorite Things**

**Judy, age 11**

Food: strawberries

School subject: history

Family activity: playing games together

Sport: volleyball

Would like to visit: the temple

**Christopher, age 8**

Food: gelato (Italian ice cream)

School subject: literature

Family activity: playing video games with Dad

Sport: soccer

Place to visit: the ocean



### When They Grow Up

Judy wants to be an actress or a singer.  
Christopher wants to ride a motorcycle and play soccer.

### The Strength of Service

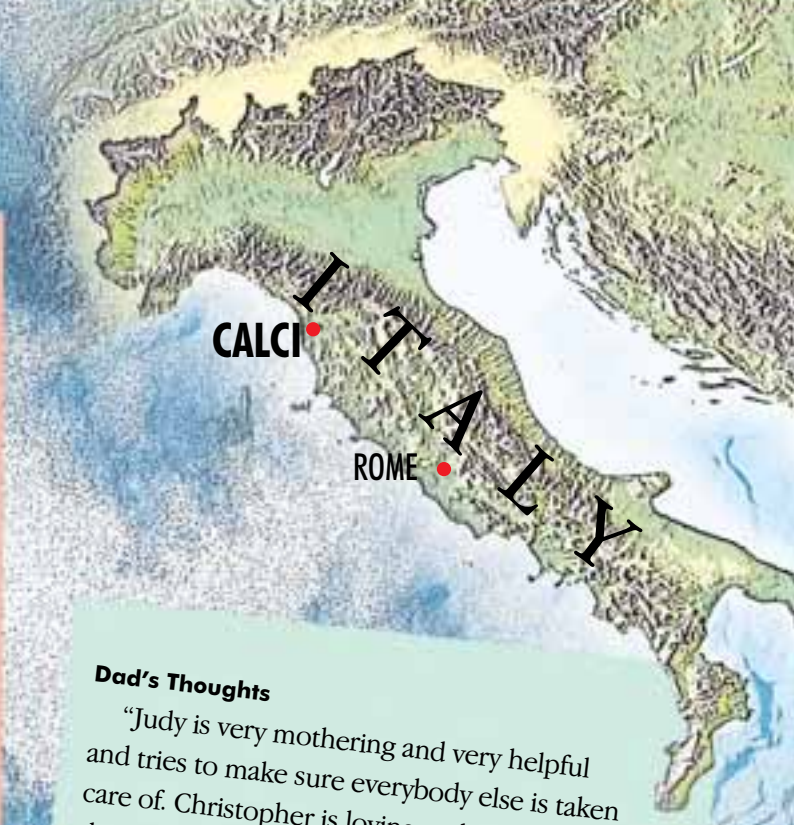
One thing that keeps the Sereni family standing strong in the gospel is their baptismal covenants. Christopher was recently baptized and confirmed, and something that made it extra special was “when my dad and a friend sang together,” he says.

Now Christopher and Judy work on keeping their baptismal covenants all the time and doing what Jesus Christ would like them to do. “When I have friends who get hurt, I try to help out,” Christopher says. Judy also likes to serve: “I help out at home. I help Christopher with his studies, and I serve my friends.”

Dad adds, “When they’re asked to set the table or wash the dishes after a meal, they’re willing. Just of their own free will, they help out.”

### A Solid Example

There aren’t many members of the Church in Calci, but Judy doesn’t see that as a problem. Her gospel foundation remains unshaken. “A couple of friends have asked me about the Church,” she says. “I brought a friend with me to church, and she came and she liked it. Sometimes friends have made fun of me, or somebody in class heard that I attend a different church. But for the most part my friends are understanding, and they ask questions.”



### Dad’s Thoughts

“Judy is very mothering and very helpful and tries to make sure everybody else is taken care of. Christopher is loving and kind. Together they are very happy. Of course there are the little family arguments that happen between brother and sister, but they’re happy, and that’s important.”

### Spiritual Foundation

The children’s spiritual foundation is strengthened by attending Primary. Judy likes to read a scripture while at the pulpit, and they both enjoy singing the songs. Christopher’s favorite song is “I Am a Child of God.”<sup>1</sup> The good feelings they have at church continue in their home. “During family prayer I feel the Spirit,” Christopher says, and Judy agrees.

Today scientists are working to make the Leaning Tower more stable. They say it will be good for another 300 years or so. Luckily, Judy and Christopher have built their lives on a solid foundation, one that will support them for eternity. ●

### NOTE

1. *Children’s Songbook*, 2–3.





**I WILL FOLLOW THE PROPHET.**

“Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets” (Amos 3:7).

*We shall make music to brighten the day  
(Children's Songbook, 252).*

# Lexi's BAD Day

BY LANA KRUMWIEDE  
(Based on a true story)



1. Lexi wanted to wear her pink skirt, but it was dirty.

2. She asked for strawberry jam on her toast, but it was all gone.



3. Lexi wanted to play on the swings, but it was raining.

4. "I'm having a bad day," Lexi said.





5. "What can we do to help you feel better?" Mom asked.



7. Lexi and Mom sang together. They sang " 'Give,' Said the Little Stream."

Then they sang "Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam."

And they ended with "Follow the Prophet."

6. "Let's sing Primary songs," Lexi said. "Good idea," Mom said.



8. "I think I can have a good day now," Lexi said. "I'm glad," Mom said.

# Animal Riddles

BY COLLEEN FAHY

1. I live within a group  
That's referred to as a pride.  
I call out with a mighty roar  
That travels far and wide.

I am a \_\_\_\_\_ .

2. I'm large and gray and wrinkled—  
Not a beauty, I suppose.  
I have something called a trunk—  
It's actually my nose.

I am an \_\_\_\_\_ .

3. I'm dressed up very nicely  
In stripes of white and black.  
They cover my whole body  
From the front end to the back.

I am a \_\_\_\_\_ .

4. I have a neck that's very long.  
It reaches up quite high.  
I can snack on treetop leaves  
And watch the clouds roll by.

I am a \_\_\_\_\_ .

(See answers on page 35.)

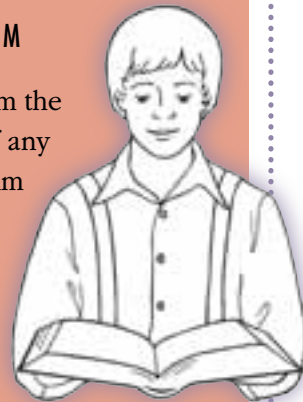
## Follow the Prophet

BY PAT GRAHAM

Joseph Smith read from the Bible in James 1:5, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God."

Joseph wondered which church he should join. He prayed to know what to do. Joseph saw Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ. Joseph obeyed the instructions They gave to him and became a leader and a prophet.

We can follow Joseph's example. We can talk to Heavenly Father about our questions, and we can follow the answers that come to us. Remember these things as you read the poem and color the picture of the Prophet Joseph Smith on the next page.





### Prophet Joseph Smith

Joseph Smith, a young boy, asked which church was right.  
God the Father and His Son appeared in heavenly light.  
He received the gold plates, restoring gospel truth.  
Joseph organized the Church again upon the earth.

# Bullies

and

BY HEATHER KIRBY  
(Based on a true story)



# Brothers

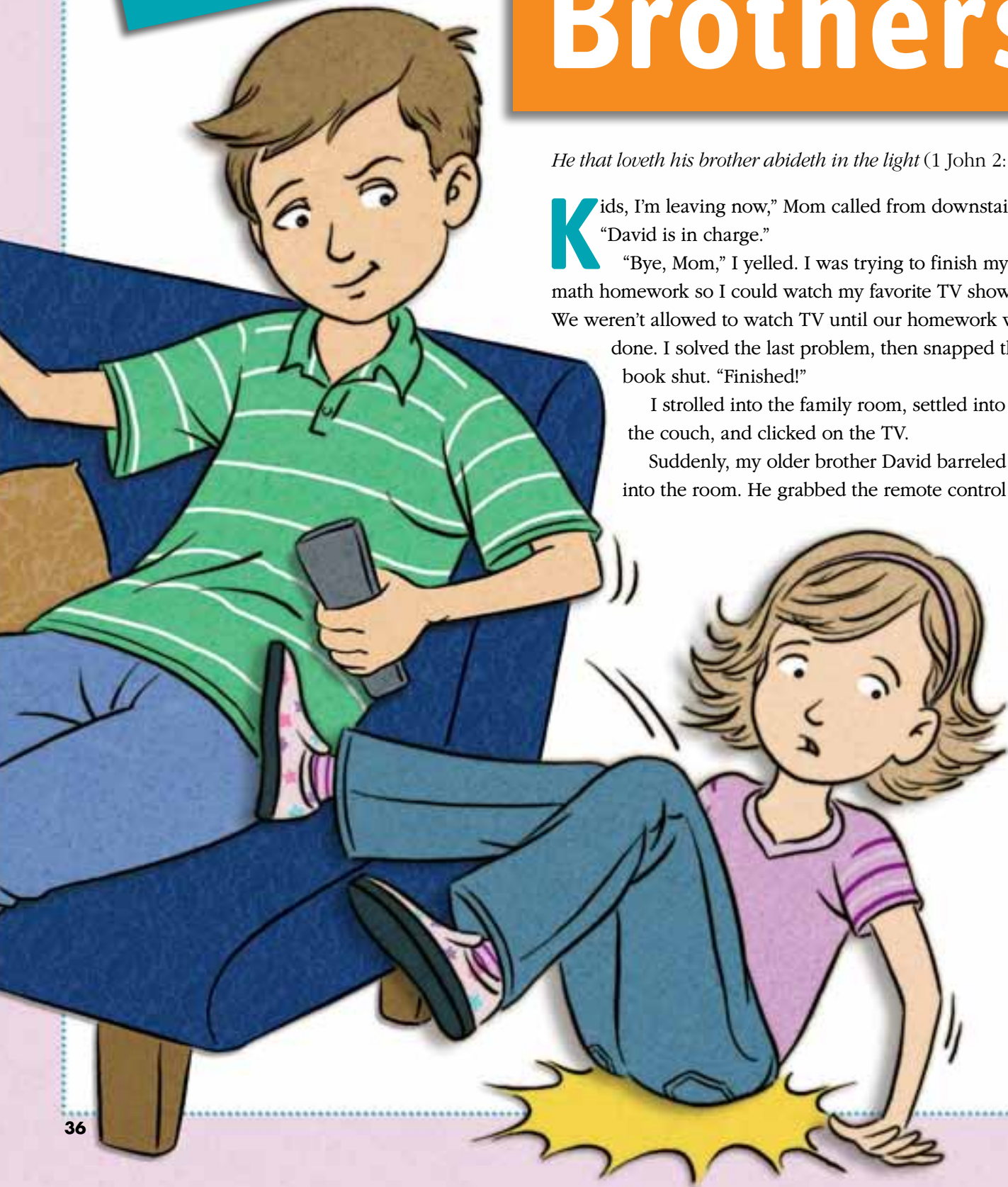
*He that loveth his brother abideth in the light* (1 John 2:10).

**K**ids, I'm leaving now," Mom called from downstairs. "David is in charge."

"Bye, Mom," I yelled. I was trying to finish my math homework so I could watch my favorite TV show. We weren't allowed to watch TV until our homework was done. I solved the last problem, then snapped the book shut. "Finished!"

I strolled into the family room, settled into the couch, and clicked on the TV.

Suddenly, my older brother David barreled into the room. He grabbed the remote control



and pushed me off the couch.

“Ow!” I cried as I hit the floor with a thud. “Hey, I was here first!”

“Yeah, but Mom left me in charge. And I say we’re going to watch my favorite show.”

“Fine,” I said. “I have a new book I want to read, anyway.” I walked back to my room. Pulling the book off a shelf, I sat in my special reading chair.

“Heather, go get me something to eat,” David called.

“I’m busy,” I called back, turning a page.

“So am I. This is the best part of the show. Go get me something to eat.”

“Why should I?” I asked. “You can do it yourself.”

“If you don’t I’ll take your book and hide it.”

I sighed. If I got him a snack, maybe he’d stop bothering me. “David is such a bully,” I thought as I grabbed some chips. “Why can’t I have a nice older brother?”

At dinner, I noticed the red plate by my seat at the table, which meant I had done something special.

“Why do I have the red plate?” I asked.

“Your teacher called me today,” Mom said. “Your reading and writing skills are very good, and your teacher wants to challenge you more. So, during your class’s English section, you will go to the fourth-grade class.”

I couldn’t believe it! They were moving me up two whole grades!

“That’s my girl. So smart,” Dad said.

David didn’t say anything. He was quiet during dinner. Was he mad at me?

The next day, I was nervous as I made my way to the fourth-grade class. My teacher had given me directions and a note, then sent me off. As I made my way to the upper elementary classrooms, I felt like I was entering enemy territory. Our playgrounds didn’t even mix—first through third grade were on one side, and



fourth through sixth on the other. I was sure that at any moment someone was going to shout: “Stop! You don’t belong here!”

But the fourth-grade teacher, Mrs. Randall, helped me feel better with her smiling face. She introduced me to the class and pointed me to an empty desk.

I listened carefully to the lesson, and tried not to stand out. When Mrs. Randall dismissed me, I hurried back to the safety of the second grade.

After school, I waited for the bus with the other kids.

“Hey. Hey, you!” someone yelled. I turned around and saw two girls coming toward me. I recognized them from Mrs. Randall’s class.

“Hi, little second grader,” the taller girl said. “My name is Janna, and this is Kylie. So how’d you like class today?” she asked sweetly.

“Oh, it was . . . fine,” I stammered.

Janna made a face. “You must think you’re so smart being in our class. Smarter than us, even.”



I looked down at my feet. "I don't think that."

"Good! Because you're not smart. You're a freak!"

"Yeah." Kylie laughed. "And a geek."

Janna stepped closer. "I don't like you," she said, "and I don't like you in our class."

"What's the problem?"

I turned to find my brother David standing beside me.

Janna stepped back. "This little nerd thinks she's smarter than me."

"She's not a nerd. She's my sister." David put his hand on my shoulder. "And she hasn't done anything to you. If you keep being mean to her, I'm going to hear about it."

Janna looked at my brother. He was taller and wider than she was. "What grade are you in?" she asked.

"Sixth."

"Oh," she said. She and Kylie took a few more steps back. "Well, OK. We'll leave her alone."

David turned me around and guided me to the bus. Then he went to join his friends.

I got on the bus and sat down, feeling a little dazed. I couldn't believe it. David had stood up for me! I

knew then that even though we didn't always get along, David was my brother and he loved me. I suddenly felt very grateful for him.

At dinner that night, David seemed surprised when he noticed the red plate at his seat. "What's this for?" he asked.

"I put it there," I said. "It's for being a great older brother."

David laughed as I told our parents what had happened. I made David sound like a superhero.

"We're proud of you for helping your sister," Dad said.

David smiled. "It's good to be a hero," he said.

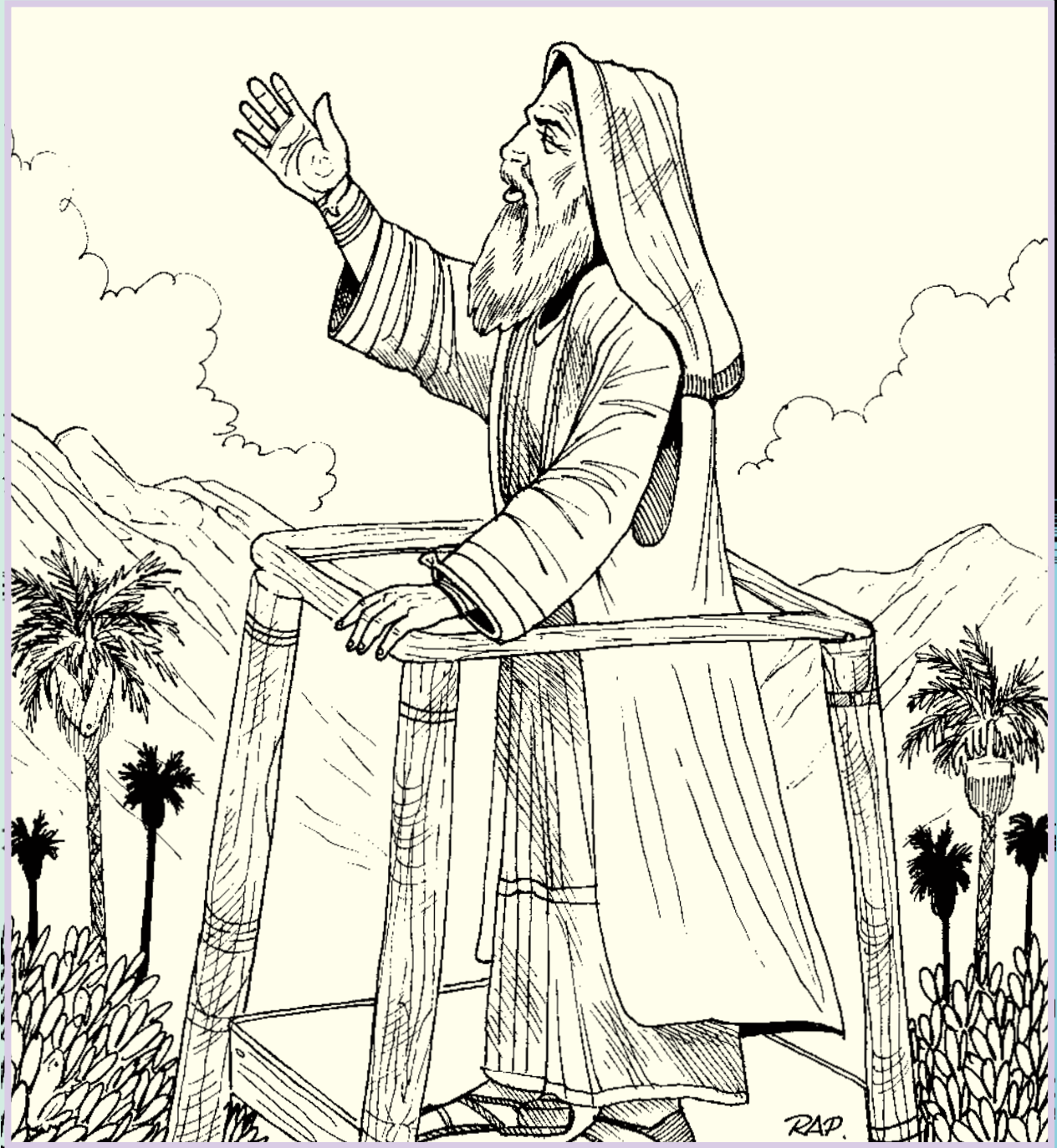
I grinned at him. "It's even better to have one as an older brother." ●

"We often take our families . . . for granted. But in times of danger and need and change, there is no question that what we care about most is our families!"

**Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles<sup>3</sup>**







## King Benjamin on the Tower

BY ROBERT PETERSON

**T**his month you can listen to modern-day prophets during general conference. During Book of Mormon times, King Benjamin talked to his people from a tower. See if you can find a bell, a clothespin, a comb, a cooking pot, a crayon, a frog, a hammer, a paintbrush, a pocketknife, a ring, a snail, and a sock. Then color the picture.

## Our Creative Friends

### Joseph Smith

Joseph knelt with trembling knees  
In the midst of all the trees.  
He wished to know what church was true,  
And prayed to learn what he should do.  
Then he bowed his humble head,  
To ask the Lord, like he had read.  
Appeared God the Father and the Son,  
Joseph wondered what he had done.  
He learned about the golden plates,  
And only he could unlock the true gates.  
Also he learned that no church was right,  
And he was called to restore the light.

*Kylee M., age 10, Nevada*

### Prophet

**P**repare to go to church  
**R**ead the scriptures  
**O**n the Sabbath day, keep it holy  
**P**reach the gospel  
**H**elp people when they need help  
**E**at the bread of Christ  
**T**each about the gospel

*Matthew R., age 7, Arizona*

### Start!

There's something very important called prayer.  
You can do it anytime, anywhere.  
You can do it before you eat a pear,  
Or even in your secret lair.

Prayer strengthens the relationship between  
Heavenly Father and you.

You can do it if you lose your shoe.  
You can do it if you get lost at a zoo.  
But prayer is very important too.

You fold your arms and bow your head.  
When you're listening, pay attention to each word  
that's said.

You should always do it when you go to bed,  
And it should have the proper beginning, middle,  
and end.

It doesn't have to be long or short,  
It can even be the casual sort.  
It can even be a prayer in your heart.

What are you waiting for?

Start!

*Jace Arthur M., age 10, Texas*

### Love Is . . .

Love is an adventure to explore.  
Love is a house with an open door.  
Love is eyes to see new things.  
Love is mystery with what it brings.  
Love is the music instruments play.  
Love is power to turn night into day.  
Love is beauty we're meant to see.  
Love is belief in what we can't see.  
Love is the kindness you see in a friend.  
Love is glory that will never end.

*Leigh-Ana R., age 10, Connecticut*



*Zachary M., age 8, Washington*



*Andrea B., age 8, Texas*



*Carley Ann P., age 5, Arizona*



*Meredith S., age 10, Virginia*



Breely B., age 6, Utah



Robert S., age 10, New Mexico



Kenna J., age 6, Utah



Colton R., age 6, Alaska



Jemi O., age 11, New York



Mason R., age 5, Arizona



Taylor D., age 9, California



Heidi O., age 9, Maine



Peter C., age 10, Virginia



Justin B., age 9, Wyoming

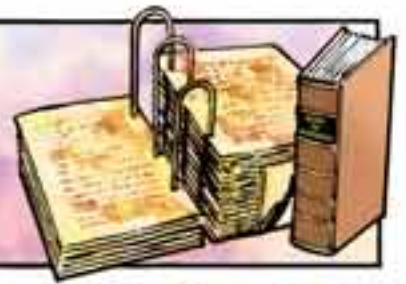


Jason S., age 10, Saskatchewan, Canada



FROM THE LIFE OF THE PROPHET JOSEPH SMITH

# Emma Hale, the Prophet's Wife

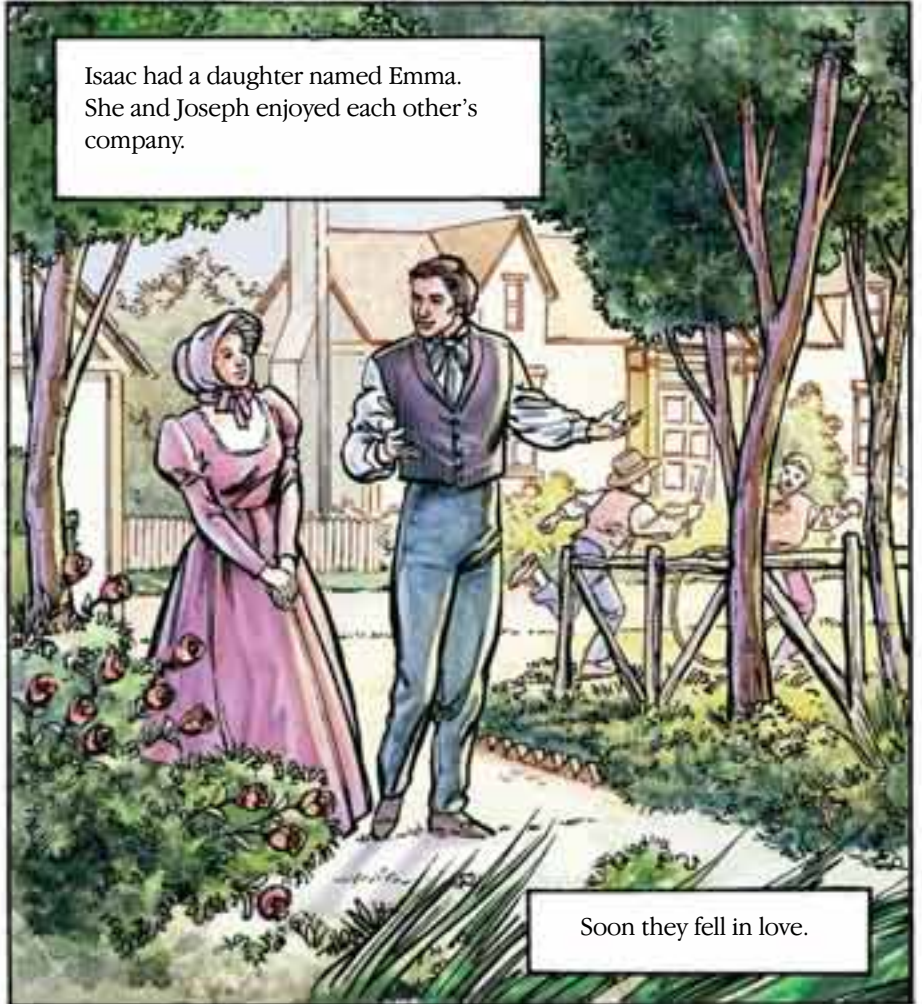


When Joseph Smith was a young man, Josiah Stool offered him a job.

We'll be working in Pennsylvania. I'll pay you, and we'll stay with Isaac Hale's family.



Isaac had a daughter named Emma. She and Joseph enjoyed each other's company.

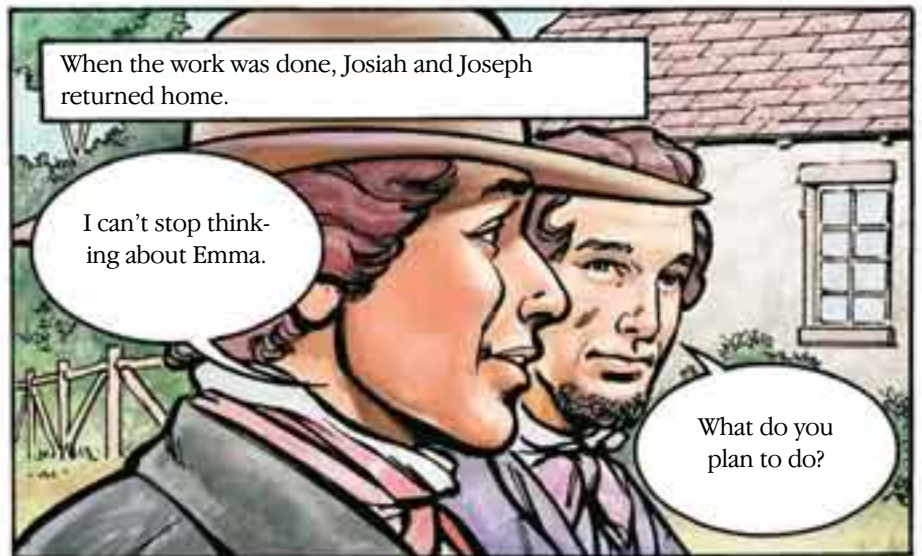


Soon they fell in love.

When the work was done, Josiah and Joseph returned home.

I can't stop thinking about Emma.

What do you plan to do?



After discussing the matter with his parents, Joseph returned to Pennsylvania and proposed.



After Joseph and Emma married, they moved in with Joseph's family.

Welcome to our home, Emma!

Thank you, Mother Smith. I'm so happy to be here.



Emma compiled the first hymnbook and served as the first Relief Society president.



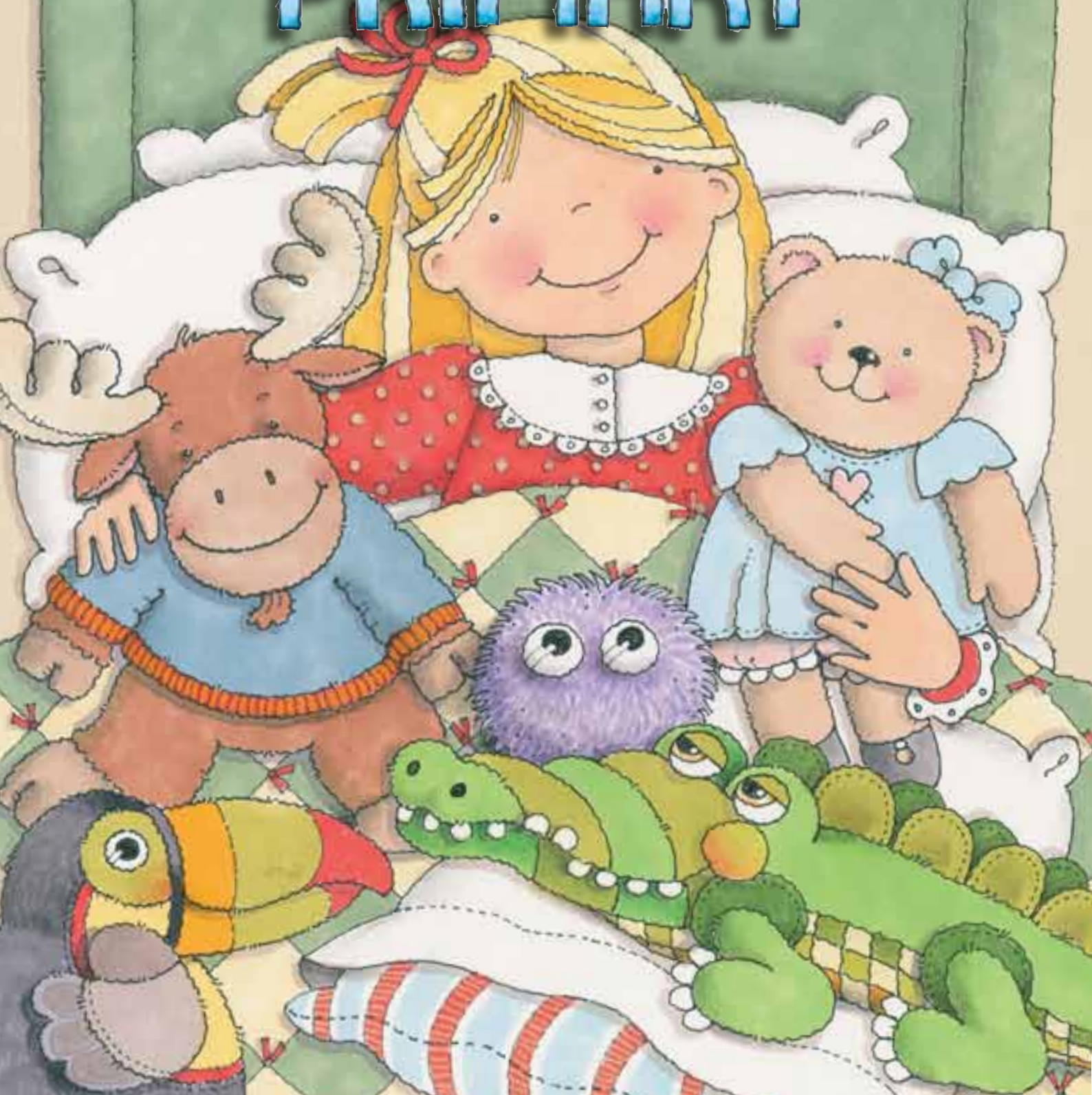
She endured being driven from her home, losing children through death, being separated from Joseph when he was imprisoned, and caring for the sick and afflicted.



Joseph's mother said that Emma was the most courageous and patient woman she had ever known.

# stuffed animal

## PRIMARY



**BY SARAH CUTLER**

(Based on a true story)

*I want to be rev'rent, to show my love for thee (Children's Songbook, 28).*

**M**om, cough, cough, can I please go?"

Haley asked.

"Listen to you. You're even coughing now while you're pretending to be well. I'm sorry, Haley, but you and I will have to stay home from church today," Mom said.

Haley climbed back in bed with her toy stuffed animals. Her family hadn't always gone to church. But when they moved to their new home, her parents decided it was time to go back to church. Now Haley, her little brother Nick, and their parents attended church every Sunday.

Haley loved going to church. She liked singing time. She liked the prayers. She liked the talks the other children gave. She liked the sacrament. She liked her class. Every week, all through church, she felt happy, and she knew going to church was right.

So she was excited when Mom and Dad announced a few weeks ago at dinner that they would be going to the temple soon to be sealed as a family. They had talked about keeping the commandments and being worthy to go to the temple. After that, when Haley went to church, she thought about how it was helping her family be eternal and she liked it even better.

But now she was sick and would miss church. Haley lay on her bed and looked around her room. If she had to stay home, she wanted to at least do something reverent.

Watch TV? That didn't feel right.

Build with blocks? Probably not.



Color? Maybe.

Listen to songs? If they were Church songs.

Read books? Maybe her illustrated scriptures.

Haley's eyes had gone all the way around her room. Then she looked at her bed. She was surrounded by stuffed animals: Clara the bear, Madeleine the toucan, Bill the alligator, Summer Daylight the moose, and Jane the purple fuzz ball.

And then Haley had an idea. She put her pillow on her bed like a bench and set each of her stuffed animals on it. Then she announced: "Thank you for coming to Primary, everyone. Today we are going to sing 'I Am a Child of God.'"

Haley held Clara's arm and helped her lead the music. Then Bill gave a talk about prayer, Madeleine read a story from Haley's illustrated scriptures, and Summer Daylight had everyone color a picture for sharing time. Jane the purple fuzz ball didn't have a mouth, but she listened carefully the whole time.

When her stuffed animal Primary was over, Haley put each of the animals back to sleep on her bed and she lay down too.

Next week she could go to real church and Primary, but she was glad that today she had tried to be reverent even though she couldn't go. ●

"I am satisfied that the Latter-day Saints have within their hearts a desire to do the right thing, to live after the manner which the Lord has outlined for us."

**President Gordon B. Hinckley<sup>4</sup> (1910-2008)**



# Friends in the News



**Westlake Ward**  
Just before the Westlake Ward, Cleveland Ohio Stake, was split into three other wards, the Primary children gathered together one last time.



**Maxwell F.**, 3, Arizona, is a shining Sunbeam. He counted down the days to go to Primary. He has a big heart and is full of energy. He always has fun. Others love to be around him.



**Cali G.**, 7, Utah, enjoys reading and playing with her cousins. She is looking forward to being baptized. She likes horseback riding, playing with her dog, Kiki, and helping her mom in the kitchen.



**Kyle K.**, 11, California, enjoys reading the *Friend*. He especially likes to read from the lives of the prophets. He likes Scouts, baseball, and playing the saxophone. He is quick to memorize scriptures.



**Amanda N.**, 9, California, does very well in school. Amanda loves to read and to write stories. She enjoys going to activity days and she reads the Book of Mormon. Her favorite Primary song is "Nephi's Courage."



**Ryan M.**, 9, Manitoba, Canada, likes to play kickball, soccer, and foot hockey (like soccer but with a tennis ball) at school. He has a golden retriever named Chewy who chews on things. Ryan wants to own a pet shop someday.



**Natalie Olivia K.**, 3, Oregon, enjoys her family's three cats: O.J., Candy, and Marshmallow. She would like a pug puppy. She loves the *Friend* magazine, Primary songs, gymnastics, swimming, baby dolls, and riding her "big girl" bike.



**Zen, Tyson, Brittny, and Shaylee W.**, 10, 8, 4, and 8 months, moved with their parents to Germany in 2005. They like traveling around Europe as a family. One of their favorite places to visit is the temple.



**Katie and Simon C.**, 4 and 3, Oregon, both like reading the *Friend*. Katie likes jumping on the trampoline with her brother, playing the computer at her grandma's house, helping her mom make dinner, and singing Primary songs to her little sister. Simon likes to snuggle on the bed and read the *Friend* with his mom and sister. He is energetic and likes to play sword fight and soccer with his dad.





**Riley Weston T.**, 3, Utah, likes to play football and basketball and loves his Uncle Porter. He enjoys going to Primary. He asks to read a "Nephi story" every night before bedtime. He likes to help his dad and grandpa on the farm.



**Sadie A.**, 5, Nevada, likes to dance, read stories, swim, play dress up, ride bikes, and make cookies. She is a good example to her younger brother and a big help to her mom and dad. She enjoys singing time in Primary and her favorite song is "Scripture Power."



**Benson J.**, 5, North Carolina, likes to read the scriptures, play basketball, and spend time with his family. His favorite scripture stories are David and Goliath and Captain Moroni.



**Del Norte Ward**

The Primary children of the Del Norte Ward, Poway California Stake (top), were encouraged to do extra chores to earn money to purchase 100 copies of the Book of Mormon. Each child wrote or dictated his or her testimony to be pasted in a Book of Mormon. They also collected placemats and ribbons, which the girls sewed into scripture bags during an activity day. They put each Book of Mormon in a scripture bag, and the Primary president gave them to Primary children in Daveytown and Johannesburg, South Africa.



**Grace S.**, 5, Texas, likes to draw, especially pictures of her family. Grace loves to sing Primary songs. Her favorite song is "When I Am Baptized." She likes to play outside and find leaves and flowers.



**Sam B.**, 5, Utah, enjoys soccer, reading, and riding his scooter with friends. He is a good brother and enjoys playing with his family. He likes to help his mom in the kitchen. He is a good friend to others. His family loves him very much.



**Tucker, Spencer, and Jordan N.**, 8, 6, and 3, Florida, love being together. They like to play ball, go to the beach, and play computer games. They also like going to Primary and learning new songs in sharing time.



**Annika Lynn P.**, 6, Idaho, is very outgoing. She loves life and is very caring with her family. She shares well with her brothers and is a great helper to her mom and dad. She is an artist and likes to draw and color. She reads the Book of Mormon in the morning before school.

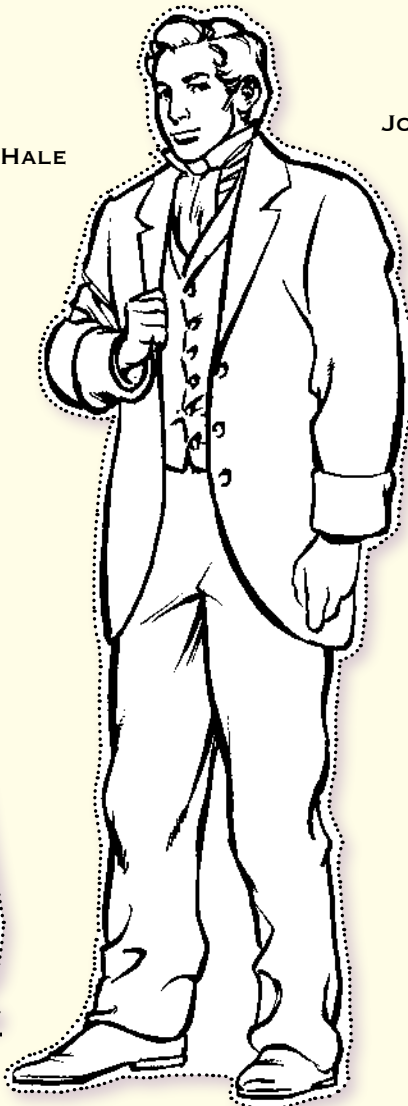


# JOSEPH SMITH MARRIES EMMA HALE

**Instructions:** Remove this page from the magazine and color the figures. Mount them on heavy paper and cut out. Read the story on pages 42–43, then retell the story using the figures.

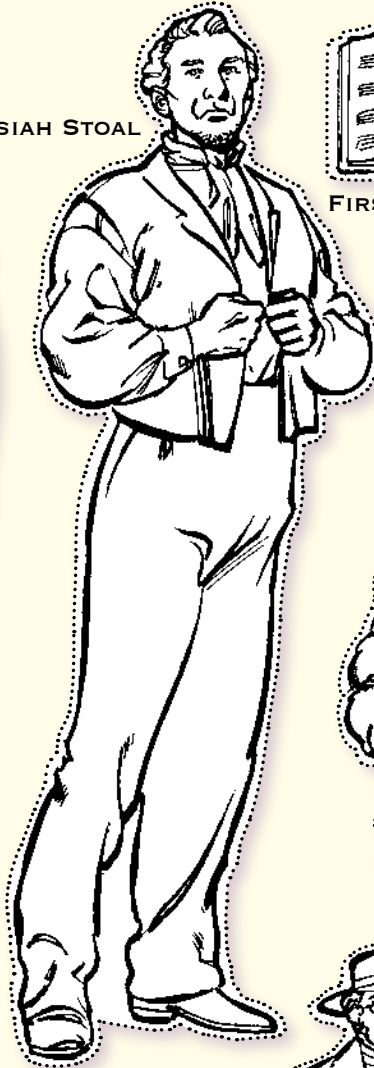


EMMA HALE



JOSEPH SMITH

JOSIAH STOAL



FIRST HYMNBOOK



RINGS



JOSEPH'S PARENTS, LUCY AND JOSEPH SR.

The *Guide to the Friend* can help you find stories or articles for preparing lessons or talks for church or for family home evening. The Primary theme for April is "I will follow the prophet."



## Family Home Evening Ideas

Look for the FHE symbol on the pages mentioned below.

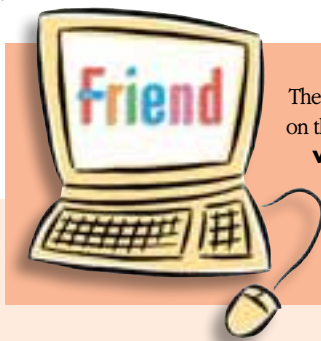
1. First play a game of Mom or Dad's choosing. Next, dance along to music. Then enjoy a snack. Have everyone try to figure out if the three activities have anything in common. To find out, read the poem "I Will Follow the Prophet" (p. 7). When is it important to do the things your parents want you to do? When should you do the things your body wants to do? When should you obey the prophet? Discuss the importance of listening to the prophet and read one of his messages.

2. Make a copy of page 22 and cut out the temple shapes or write the quotes on strips of paper. Use a black marker to delete some key words. For example: "The temple is closed on the \_\_\_\_\_ so that people can attend \_\_\_\_\_ and be with their families on that hallowed day." Write the missing words in a list where everyone can see them. Hand out the quotes and have everyone guess what words go in the blanks. When the missing words are discovered, talk about each quote. Then draw an outline of a temple. Inside it, write down some things you'll do to prepare for the temple.

3. Read "Bullies and Brothers" (pp. 36–38). Have you ever been like a bully to some of your family members? When have you been more like a hero? Decide to be kind to your family. When a family member is kind to you this week, show him or her that you noticed by leaving a red placemat at his or her seat at the dinner table. Cooperate as a family to make a red placemat out of construction paper or regular paper colored with a red crayon that you'll use throughout the week.

### Sidebar references

1. "Receiving a Testimony of the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ," *Ensign*, Nov. 2003, 30.
2. "Press On," *Ensign*, Nov. 2004, 101.
3. "What Matters Most Is What Lasts Longest," *Ensign*, Nov. 2005, 41.
4. "Let Us Live the Gospel More Fully," *Ensign*, Nov. 2003, 102.



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(FLF) = For Little Friends  
(f) = Funstuff  
(IFC) = inside front cover  
(v) = verse

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# What's in the *Friend* this month?



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A tribute to President Gordon B. Hinckley

## page 22

What can you learn about the temple?



## page 24

Play Journey into Egypt.

