the PICS PICS Together

You Are LOVED! See pages 24-25

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

Dear Friends.

ook around you. People's eyes, hair, and skin are all different colors. Their brains and bodies work differently, and they are different sizes and shapes. And, as President Nelson teaches, "We are all brothers and sisters, each one a child of a loving Father in Heaven." Read the prophet's message on page 2. Then look for how the children in this issue are different and special!

With love, The *Friend*

P.S. Write and tell us how you respect and include others!



I LOVE TO SEE THE TEMPLE Milana B., age 5, visited the Seoul Korea Temple!



WHERE WE READ THE FRIEND

We like to read the magazine before going to sleep. The true stories are inspiring, and the games are fun! We like to read about other children and want them to see that we read the *Friend* in Dutch.

Yali and Mayra N., ages 8 and 10, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean



MY GROWING FAITH We had fun making our books on faith (July 2020)!

Alexander and Emilio C., ages 2 and 4, Puebla, Mexico

Friend

COME, FOLLOW ME

These stories and activities support this month's *Come, Follow Me* lessons at home and in Primary. Find more resources at **lessonhelps.ChurchofJesusChrist.org.**

Stories and Features

- 2 From the First Presidency: Jesus Said Love Everyone / President Russell M. Nelson
 - 4 A New Friend for Wellington
- 6 Scripture Time Fun
 - 8 The CTR Reminder
 - 10 Apostles around the World: Elder Bednar Visits Central America
 - 12 Helping Hands around the World: Meet Shiloh from the Philippines
 - 14 Helping Like Jesus: Jesus Included Others
- 15 Helping Hands Team: Adventures in the Philippines with Margo and Paolo
- 16 The Sister Solo
- 20 Bright Idea
- 21 I Will See My Brother Again

- 22 Trouble at the Creek
- 26 **Friend to Friend:** The Big Bowling Question / Elder Brook P. Hales
- 28 Show and Tell
- 30 Matt and Mandy

For Older Kids

- 31 For Older Kids
- 32 **Pioneers in Every Land:** Julia Mavimbela
- 34 I Played a Hymn!
- 35 **My Story:** Growing Tall and Strong
- 36 Braden Leads the Way
 - 38 Funstuff: All Kinds of Homes

For Little Friends

- 39 For Little Friends
- 40 A Card for Grandma
- 42 Scripture Stories: Missionaries Shared the Gospel
- 45 Coloring Page

- 46 I Know a Song about That!
 - 48 Hi, Friends!
- 49 Scripture Time Fun for Little Ones

Things to Make and Do

- 11 Funstuff: Find It!
- 18 Church History Cards
- 19 Funstuff: Jump the Stick!
- 24 Things to Remember
- 27 Funstuff: Activity Time!

Find 3 Hidden CTR Rings

Hard: Let's build something! Harder: On the shelf. Hardest: Smells oh so good.

Here is the CTR ring in Cebuano!



Front cover by Rayanne Vieira

The *Friend* Volume 51 Number 4 April 2021

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FROM THE FIRST PRESIDENCY

Jesus Said LOVE Everyone



By President Russell M. Nelson

When Jesus was on the earth, He constantly helped those who were left out, overlooked, or mistreated. As His followers, we must do the same! We believe in freedom, kindness, and fairness for all of God's children.

We are all brothers and sisters, each one a child of a loving Father in Heaven. His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, invites all to come to Him, "black and white, bond and free, male and female" (2 Nephi 26:33). Every son and daughter of God deserves respect, no matter what their color or beliefs are. Let us show love for all of God's children.

Adapted from Facebook post, June 1, 2020.





2 Friend 🥖

See Come, Follow Me for Doctrine and Covenants 37–40.



A New Friend for Wellington

By Amber Healey Church Magazines (Based on a true story)

"All are alike unto God" (2 Nephi 26:33).

Wellington held a box in his lap as his dad drove through Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. They passed bright blue, green, and yellow houses. Dad parked the car outside of a big brown building. Wellington got out and grabbed some more boxes. They were full of soap, tissues, and other supplies.

He and his dad were visiting a care home to give supplies to the elderly people who lived there. At first, Wellington had been excited. But now he felt a little nervous. What would the people there be like? Would they

be grouchy? What would he say to them?

Wellington walked into the building behind his dad. There were lots of people in the rest home. Some were moving around with walkers. Some sat in wheelchairs, playing chess. Others just sat alone.

Wellington tugged on Dad's arm. "Dad, I don't know what to do," he whispered. "Everyone here is so much older than I am! How do I talk to them?" Dad smiled and knelt down next to Wellington. "I know the people here are older, and they might look a little different. But everyone here is a child of God, just like you! They probably have some interesting stories to tell."

Wellington thought about that. He liked making new friends with other kids at school and at Primary. Maybe he could make friends here too!

While Dad handed out boxes, Wellington went around and talked to the people sitting in the room. He sang some of his favorite Primary songs to them. Soon lots of people were laughing and singing together. This was so much fun!

Wellington looked around. He noticed a lady sitting alone on a couch. She had gray hair and lots of wrinkles. He walked over to her and sat down on the couch. "Hi!" he said. "My name's Wellington. What's yours?" She looked at him and smiled. "I'm Mariana," she said. Wellington was nervous, so he asked the first question he could think of. "What's your favorite food?" She thought for a second. "I've always loved *pão de* Everyone here is so much older than I am! How do I talk to them?

queijo," she said.

"That's my favorite too!" said Wellington. He loved the small cheesy rolls.

They started to talk about their favorite songs, sports, and memories. Mariana told him about the fun things she used to do when she was a kid.

"Thank you for coming here today," she said. "I don't have any family who can come and visit me, and it can be hard to make new friends." Mariana's eyes got sad. "Sometimes I feel all alone."

Wellington wasn't sure what to say. He thought about how sad he would be if he didn't have friends or family to talk to. Then he thought about what his dad said about everyone here being a child of God.

When I'm lonely, I like to pray to Heavenly Father. He helps me feel better. I know that I'm never alone because I can always talk to Him. Maybe you could try praying too."

Mariana smiled and hugged Wellington. "Thank you. I think that's a great idea." Soon Dad came up to Wellington and tapped him on the arm. "Time to go," he said.

"Already?" said Wellington.

Dad laughed. "Don't worry. We can come back next week."

That made Wellington happy. He hopped off the couch. "See you next time!" he told Mariana.

He smiled as he waved goodbye to his new friend. He couldn't wait to come back! \hlowline

This story took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The author lives in Utah, USA.





SCRIPTURE

TIME FUN These ideas go along with Come, Follow Me-for Individuals and

Families each week.

COME, FOLLOW ME

Celebrate Jesus Christ FOR EASTER

Sing "Jesus Has Risen" (Children's Songbook, 70).

Share your favorite scriptures or stories about Jesus. Then flip through old Church magazines and cut out pictures of Him. Glue or tape the pictures together on a paper or poster to make a collage.

You can find more Easter stories and activities in the March 2021 Friend.

Missionaru Mail FOR DOCTRINE AND **COVENANTS 30-36**

JL

Sing "I Want to Be a Missionary Now" (Children's Songbook, 168).

After Jesus Christ's Church was restored, God called missionaries to go and teach more people about it. You can read about some of the first missionaries on page 42.

Write letters or draw pictures to send to the missionaries! You could give them to the missionaries serving in your area or send them to a missionary serving somewhere else. Talk about ways you can share the gospel too.

6 Friend

Working Together for doctrine and covenants 37-40

JJ Sing "Put Your Shoulder to the Wheel" (*Hymns,* no. 252).

Jesus taught us to "be one" (Doctrine and Covenants 38:27). That means working together with the people around us to accomplish the same goal.

Choose a partner and stand next to each other, shoulder to shoulder. Use a scarf or rope to gently tie your ankle to your partner's. Work together to practice walking. How fast can you get safely from one place to another?

Secret Service Challenge FOR DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS 41-44

Sing "Jesus Said Love Everyone" (*Children's Songbook,* 61).

Jesus taught that we should "live together in love" (Doctrine and Covenants 42:45).

Write the names of each person in your family on pieces of paper. Then have each person pick a name. Make sure it's not your own name, and don't let anyone else see who you picked! Throughout the week, try extra hard to serve and show love to that person.

7

April 2021

By Alelie Camitan

(Based on a true story)

"Do that which is right and good in the sight of the Lord" (Deuteronomy 6:18).

Raish smiled as she walked out of the chapel. She heard piano music coming from down the hall. It was time for Primary!

"Choose the right way and be happy," Raish sang with the other children. "I must always choose the right."

After singing time, Sister Aquino stood at the front of

the room. "Does anyone still have their CTR ring?" she asked.

Raish raised her hand. "I do!" she said. "I keep mine in my drawer at home."

"That's great, Raish," Sister Aquino said. "I remember when I was young, my mom always told me, 'Remember who you are and what you stand for.' I hope all of you will do your best to choose the right."

The

CTR Reminder When Raish got home from church, she ran to her drawer and pulled out her CTR ring. She wanted to wear it more often to remind her to choose the right.

The next day at school, Raish carried her lunch to the table where her friends always sat. She always loved talking with Nadine and Bituin!

Raish and her friends were laughing about their favorite show when a new girl walked over. She sat down next to Nadine. "Hi," she said quietly. "I'm Imelda."

"Um, excuse me!" Nadine said. "This is our table."

Imelda stood up. "Oh," she said quickly. "Sorry." She looked down at the ground and walked away.

Raish scrunched her forehead. "Why did you say that?" she asked Nadine. "We should be nice to her. She's new, and she probably needs friends."

"But it's *our* table," Nadine said.

"Yeah," said Bituin.

Raish looked down at her food. She felt bad for Imelda. But she was afraid to say anything more. What if Nadine and Bituin got mad at her?

That night, Raish kept thinking about Imelda. She decided to say a prayer. "Heavenly Father, please help me know what to do about my friends. Help me to choose the right."

As the week went on, Raish looked for Imelda every day during lunch. And every day, she saw Imelda sitting alone. Raish felt sad for her. She wanted to invite Imelda to sit at their table, but could she stand up to Nadine and Bituin? Raish just didn't know what to do.

One day Raish saw Imelda walk by their table. "Look at the new girl," Nadine said loudly. "Her lunch is wrapped in a banana leaf. Gross!"

Bituin laughed. "Her family doesn't even have money to buy a lunchbox."

Imelda bit her lip. She started

walking faster.

Raish looked at the CTR ring on her finger. She *did* want to choose the right. Then something else popped into her mind. It was what Sister Aquino had said in Primary. *Remember who you are and what you stand for.* She wanted to always be kind and stand for the right.

Raish turned to her friends. "Please stop," she said. "Imelda's not doing anything to you. Just leave her alone."

Nadine gave Raish a mean look.

Raish stood up. "I'm going to sit with Imelda," she said. She carried her food to the empty table where Imelda sat. Imelda looked surprised.

"Hi," Raish said. "I'm sorry we haven't been very nice to you. I want to be your friend."

Imelda smiled. "Thanks," she said softly.

Raish smiled back. She was glad she could be Imelda's friend. And she was glad that she chose the right. ${\ensuremath{\bullet}}$

This story took place in Bulacan, Philippines. The author lives in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.



APOSTLES AROUND THE WORLD



ELDER BEDNAR Visits Central America

The Apostles minister to people around the world and teach them about Jesus Christ.

In November 2019, Elder David A. Bednar visited Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Honduras. He shared his testimony of Jesus Christ with the children and their families.



A girl in Guatemala asked him a question. He answered and gave her a hug. He told her to do her best to follow Jesus.



Sister Bednar traveled with her husband and spoke to members and

missionaries.





In Nicaragua, this boy and his father were excited to hear Elder Bednar speak.

Thousands of other people came to hear him too!



10 Friend

I hope children will understand the covenants and ordinances they will receive in the temple, so they can always remember and honor them.*

* Adapted from Church News, Dec. 19, 2019.

Find It!

On the island of Barbados, many people have a tradition of flying kites around Easter to remind them that Christ rose from the tomb. Find the kites and other items listed below.

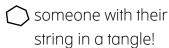


Find:

 $\bigcirc 14 \text{ star kites} \\ \bigcirc 1 \text{ bird kite}$

3 real birds2 butterfly kites

3 real butterflies 1 caterpillar kite





MEET SHILOH from the Philippines

HELPING HANDS AROUND THE WORLD

Meet Primary children helping others, like Jesus did.

All about Shiloh

> LANGUAGES: Filipino, English

GOALS AND DREAMS:

- 1) Always serve others. 2) Be a dancer.
- 3) Become a successful chef.



FAMILY: Mom, Dad, and three older siblings

AGE: 7

12 Friend

FROM: the Philippines

Shiloh's Helping Hands

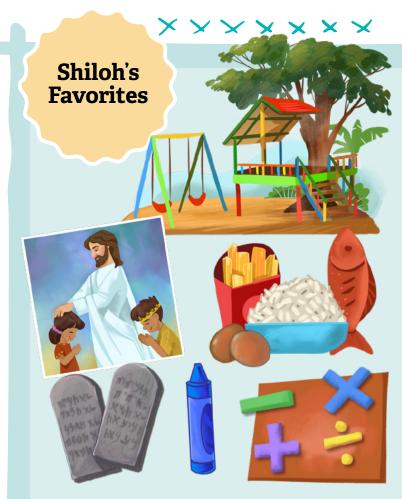
Shiloh loves to help people everywhere he goes. He is very friendly with his classmates at school. It doesn't matter how different they are. He knows everyone is a child of God! Shiloh has a condition called Down syndrome, and his closest friend, Kharl, can't walk. Shiloh always helps Kharl with his wheelchair.

Shiloh is always willing to play with everyone, even children he doesn't know yet. He loves to make new friends. One time when his family went to visit the Manila Philippines Temple, he noticed a girl in the waiting room who had no one to play with. He went over and began to play with her. He even shared his tablet with her.



Here is Shiloh with some of his friends.

Shiloh follows Jesus by reaching out to others. Turn the page to read a story about how Jesus included others.



PLACE: The playground

STORY ABOUT JESUS: When He blessed the little children

PRIMARY SONG: "Keep the Commandments" (*Children's Songbook*, 146–47)

FOOD: French fries, fish, eggs, and rice

COLOR: Blue

SUBJECT IN SCHOOL: Math

"Let us put our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ into action!" President Russell M. Nelson, "Opening the Heavens for Help," Ensign or Liahona, May 2020, 73.

Jesus Included Others

O ne day a group of children came to see Jesus Christ. His followers told them to go away. But Jesus said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me" (Mark 10:14). He didn't want to leave them out. He wanted to spend time with them because He loved them.

The Savior held the children in His arms. He blessed them. He helped them feel important. ●

You can read the whole story in Luke 18:15–17 and Mark 10:13–16.

I CAN MAKE A NEW FRIEND

Look for someone new you can meet.

Make a plan to be a friend to them.

Do your plan!

Cut out this card to remind you to keep helping like Jesus.

I was feeling lonely at recess, so I asked someone if they would play with me. We started playing with chalk, and more people came, and it was so much fun! If you feel lonely, you can ask someone to play with you!

Kanyin P., age 8, Colorado, USA

How are you trying to be like Jesus by helping others? Write and tell us! Go to the back cover to see how.



The Sister Solo

By Heather Merkley

(Based on a true story)

"And Jesus listening can hear the songs I cannot sing" (Hymns, no. 227).

Sophie loved to sing. She sang at school, at her friends' houses, and at home. Her favorite place to sing was at church.

"Mom," Sophie asked one day, "I want to learn to sing better. Do you think I could take lessons?"

"That sounds like a fun idea," Mom said. "Let me see what I can find."

Singing wasn't always easy for Sophie. She was deaf and couldn't hear most sounds on her own. She had a special little device behind her ears to help her hear. Things sounded a little different to her than they did to other people. But Sophie still loved to sing.

"Good news, Sophie!" Mom said a few days later. "I found a class you can join. It's a choir with other children who are learning to sing together. The teacher said you could start tomorrow!"

Sophie did a little dance. She was so excited! But that night, she started to get nervous.

"Are you excited for your class tomorrow?" her big sister Kayla asked.

Sophie nodded. "Yes. But I'm also a little scared. I wish I didn't have to go by myself."

"You can do it!" Kayla said. "But would it help if I came

with you? We can learn to sing together."

Sophie hugged Kayla. "That would be awesome."

The next morning, Sophie and Kayla got up early to go to their singing class. Nervous thoughts ran through Sophie's head as she climbed into the car. What if she couldn't understand the teacher? What if she didn't make friends? What if people stared at her?

Mom pulled the car into the parking lot and turned around to look at Sophie. Sophie slid down low in her seat.

"I'm not sure I want to go anymore," she said. "What happened?" Mom asked. "You were so excited before."

Sophie didn't say anything. She just looked down at the ground and kicked her feet back and forth.

Mom smiled. "You don't have to go if you don't want to. But if you get nervous, you can pray to Heavenly

Father, and He will help you! Plus Kayla will be there too."

Kayla held Sophie's hand. "We've got this!"

she said.

Sophie gulped. Her stomach felt like it was full of butterflies, but she It was hard to hear all the notes. Could Sophie be brave enough to sing?

climbed out of the car anyway. She held tight onto Kayla's hand as they walked into the classroom.

For the first few days of class, Sophie always sat by Kayla. Then one day Sophie noticed a girl who always sat by herself. Maybe she was scared too. Sophie went and sat next to her.

"Hi!" Sophie said. "Can I sit here?" The girl nodded. Soon they were laughing and singing together. Sophie was glad she had been brave enough to make a new friend.

Singing with the group was so much fun! Sophie loved learning the notes and tapping her foot to the beat of the music. She was even able to teach some of the other kids how to say the words in sign language.

One day the teacher had an exciting announcement.

Everyone in the class would get to sing three solo parts in a special program. At home, Kayla and Sophie worked hard to practice their solos. Soon Sophie could sing her first two solo parts. But the last one was really hard! She couldn't hear all the notes. How would she be able to sing it by herself in front of so many people?

Sophie remembered what Mom said about praying to Heavenly Father for help. She got down on her knees. "Heavenly Father, this last song is very hard for me. Could you help me find a way to sing it and not be so nervous?"

At her next singing class, Sophie's teacher came up to her. "I know you're nervous about your third solo. Would you like to sing that one with Kayla? It could be a sister solo!"

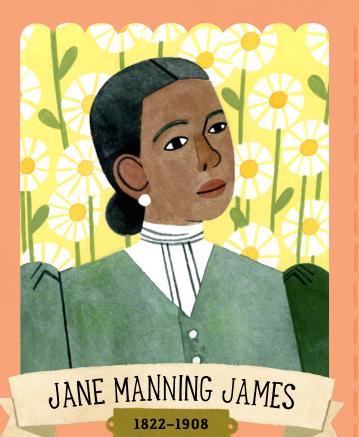
Sophie smiled. She felt warm and happy. She knew Heavenly Father was answering her prayer.

At the performance, Sophie sang her first two solos with confidence. When it was time for her third solo, she jumped up and grabbed Kayla's hand. They walked up to the stage and sang the sister solo loud and proud. Sophie didn't feel nervous or scared at all! Heavenly Father had answered her prayer in a way she didn't expect, but she was so thankful that He always heard her.

The author lives in Utah, USA.

CHURCH HISTORY CARDS

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"We went . . . rejoicing, singing hymns, and thanking God."

- She joined the Church in Connecticut, USA.
- Her family walked more than 800 miles (1287 km) to join the Saints in Nauvoo.
 When their feet bled, they prayed to be healed, and God answered their prayers.
- Joseph Smith said she had great faith.
- Even though she faced many challenges, she was faithful to the gospel all her life.

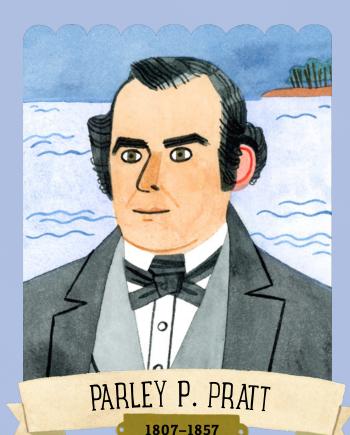
From James Goldberg, "The Autobiography of Jane Manning James," Church History, Dec. 11, 2013, history.ChurchofJesusChrist.org.

"The Spirit of the Lord was upon me, and I knew . . . the Book [of Mormon] was true."

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- When he first read the Book of Mormon, he couldn't stop. He read it all day and all night.
- He served missions in Canada, England, Chile, and islands in the South Pacific.
- He wrote hymns we still sing today, like "Jesus, Once of Humble Birth" (*Hymns,* no. 196).
- He was one of the first Apostles called in the restored Church.

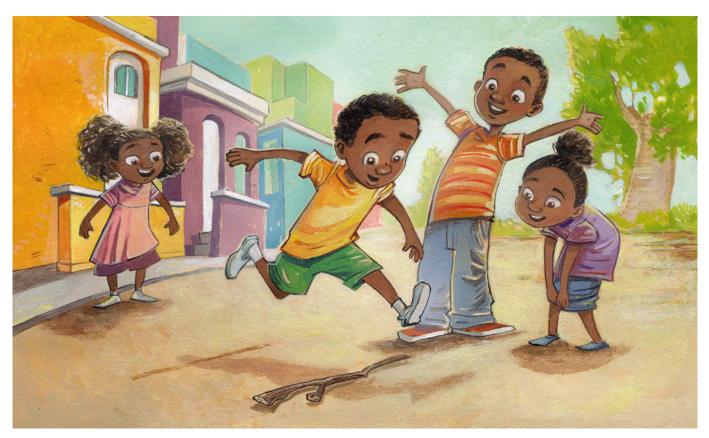


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Jump the Stick!

FUNSTUFF

Here's a great game that kids like to play in South Africa. All you need is a stick and two or more players.



- 1. A player picks a starting point and sets the stick on the ground away from that point.
- 2. The player jumps over the stick and then places it where they landed.
- 3. The next player now has to jump from the same starting point and try to land past the stick. Then they move the stick to the new landing spot.
- 4. Anybody who doesn't jump over the stick is out. Keep going until you have a winner!

What's your favorite outside game?

Send us a description of your game (go to the back cover to see how). We'll publish some of your favorite games so that other kids around the world can try them too! BRIGHT IDEA

Jesus rose again . . . so we will too!

L . L.



By Isabella S., age 11, Utah, USA

The other week was my little brother Gabriel's birthday. He would have been seven, but he

had cerebral palsy and passed away two years ago. In Primary we sang "Gethsemane." * The words were clear and meaningful. It filled the room with the Spirit.

After the song, Sister Webster bore her testimony of the Atonement of Jesus Christ. It filled the room even more with the Spirit. Then she talked about how her

I **Will** See My Brother Again

brother had died several years ago. It made me think of Gabriel, and I almost started crying. I thought about when I held Gabe for the last time. I was sad, but I also felt peace.

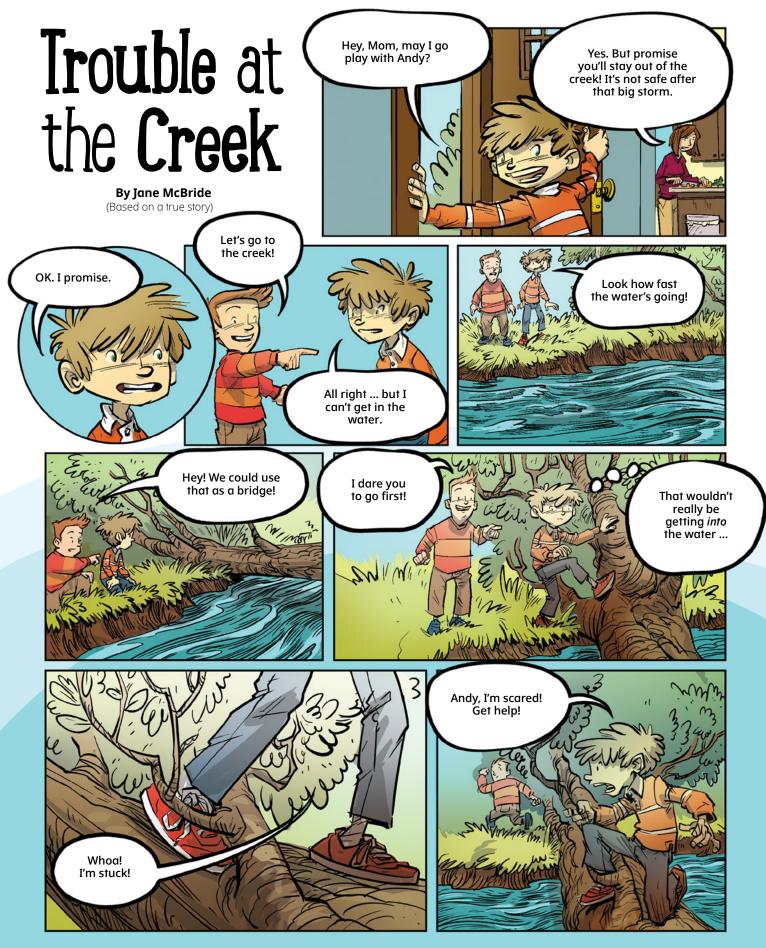
Sister Webster talked about how she was so glad to know that she would see her brother again. She said she knew all of us would see our loved ones who had passed on.

After Primary I gave Sister Webster a hug. We cried together for a few minutes. The Spirit was so strong. She told me that I would see my little brother again. She said the Atonement of Jesus Christ was not only for the wicked but also for the hurt. She asked what I missed the most about Gabe, and I said that I really missed his laugh.

I told Sister Webster that I had been sad because it was Gabriel's birthday that week and I really needed to know that I would see my brother again. She told me that the tears that we were crying were tears of joy. I could feel the Spirit, and I knew what she said was true. I am sure that I will see Gabriel again, and that makes me so happy. I love him. I know that because Jesus Christ loves me, He gave His life so that I can see Gabriel again.

You can find the song "Gethsemane" in the March 2018 *Friend* or *Liahona*.

See Come, Follow Me for Easter.





Things to R



Carefully remove this page from the magazine

emember



You can help others.

"By love serve one another" (Galatians 5:13).

You are a beloved child of heavenly parents.

"All of you are children of the most High" (Psalm 82:6).

You can grow to be like Jesus.

"Behold I am the light; I have set an example for you" (3 Nephi 18:16).

TE; PAINTING BY JEN TOLMAN

and hang it up where you can see it every day!



By Elder Brook P. Hales Of the Seventy When I was in sixth grade, my family moved. One of my new friends was not a member of the Church. One Sunday, my friend called me. He wanted me to come bowling with him and his parents that afternoon. I had only been bowling once before, and I had really liked it. Bowling again would be really fun, especially with my new friend. I immediately went to ask my mom.

"Well," she said, "it's Sunday, so *I* don't think you should go. But you can make your own decision."

I was shocked! I thought that she would say no. Instead the choice was all mine. So I chose to go bowling with my friend.

Pretty soon my friend, his parents, and I were at the bowling alley. I did really well! My friend and I had fun. But the whole time, there was a sinking feeling in my stomach. I knew in my heart that my mom was right. I had learned at church and at home that making Sunday a holy day was important. Going bowling with my friend wasn't the best Sunday activity.

That day, I learned an important lesson. It is good to have fun and be with friends! But choosing to make Sunday special is more important.

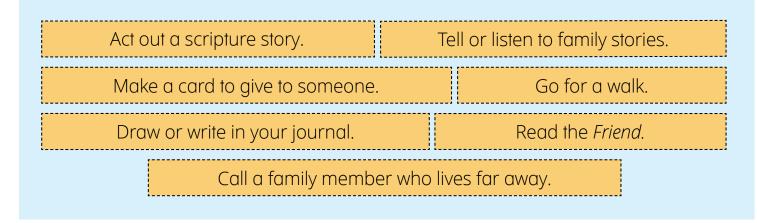
From an interview with Sydney Squires.



Activity Time!

Sunday Jar

Cut out the strips and put them in a can or jar. When you're looking for something good to do on Sunday, choose a strip and do the activity! Add some of your own ideas.



Bottle Bowling

Here's an idea for a fun game! Set up some empty cans or plastic bottles. Then roll a ball toward them. How many can you knock over?



"Jesus loves everyone," Jewel J., age 8, Tennessee, USA



y favorite scripture story is about Nephi. It reminds me to obey Heavenly Father's com-

mandments because no matter what problem I may have, I know He will always help me. It also teaches me that when I make a mistake, I can be forgiven.

Noëlly S., age 8, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, France

SHOW and TELL



After I was baptized by my dad, I felt like a brandnew person. Haylee T., age 8,

Queensland, Australia



follow Jesus Christ by helping my family. Seth A., age 10, Rizal, Philippines



know when I listen to the Holy Ghost, it helps me stay safe. Wesley S., age 11, Virginia, USA



The coronavirus made me feel sad. I drew a picture of everyone fasting and praying around the world, and it made me happy.

Scotty J., age 7, South Carolina, USA



"I hope they call me on a mission," Samantha F., age 10, New South Wales, Australia



y parents got divorced. I prayed for comfort and was filled with warm thoughts. Aika C., age 7, Idaho, USA



Dalma E., age 6, Santa Fe, Argentina



I love to learn from the prophets. I know that President Russell M. Nelson is the prophet chosen by God.

Eduardo V., age 8, Managua, Nicaragua



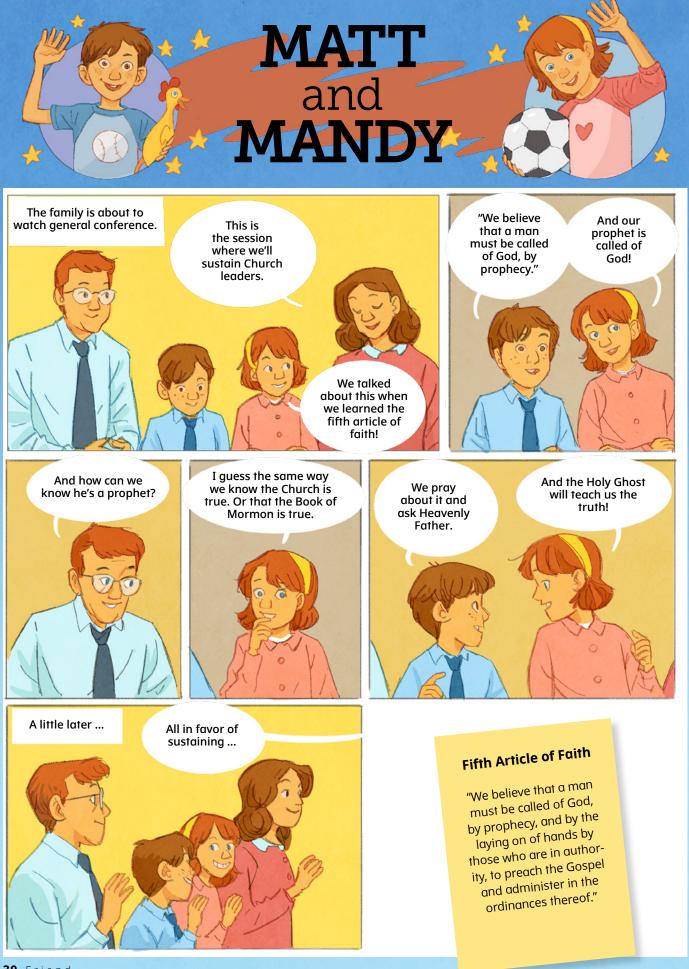
Noah O., age 11, Colorado, USA



Joseph, Elijah, Noah, and Daniel T., ages 9, 5, 3, and 7, Cheshire, England



Send in your own art and stories! Go to the back cover to see how.



30 Friend

For Older Kids

Secret Service

- Make a treat to share with others.
- Teach someone how to do something you are good at.
- Share a favorite scripture with a friend.



Playing with Others I play basketball. I try to pass the ball to kids who haven't played before. I can tell it makes them feel better.

62

Maxwell M., age 10, Utah, USA



Children and Youth Tip

Draw a picture of yourself accomplishing your goal. Then hang it up where you can see it every day!

ILLUSTRATIONS BY JULIA CASTAÑO

JULIA MAVIMBELA

Thirteen years after Julia's baptism, the laws separating Black people and White people in South Africa ended.

70,000

There are almost 70,000 members of the Church in South Africa today.



South Africa has 11 official languages.

COMMUNITY LEADER IN SOUTH AFRICA

By Lucy Stevenson Ewell Church Magazines (Based on a true story)



Julia helped start Women for Peace, a group to promote unity and peace in South Africa.

She was one of the first temple workers in the Johannesburg South Africa Temple.

Julia was a teacher. She taught children to read when they worked in her garden.

Julia wiped her brow. Then she picked up her shovel and started digging. Right now, the ground around her was a patch of dirt. But soon it would become a beautiful garden.

Times were hard for Black people in South Africa. Laws there kept Blacks and Whites separate. Many Black people had been forced to leave their homes and live in certain areas away from White people, and they couldn't vote. There had been violence in the township where Julia lived, and the schools were closed because of it. Sometimes it was dangerous to be outside.

But that didn't stop Julia. She wanted to do something to bring goodness to her community. That's why she was starting a garden.

Some children saw Julia working. "Can we help?" they asked. "Of course," said Julia. She handed them each a shovel. She showed them how to loosen the soil and dig up weeds.

"Let us dig the soil of bitterness, throw in a seed of love, and see what fruits it can give us," she said. "Love comes only by forgiving others."

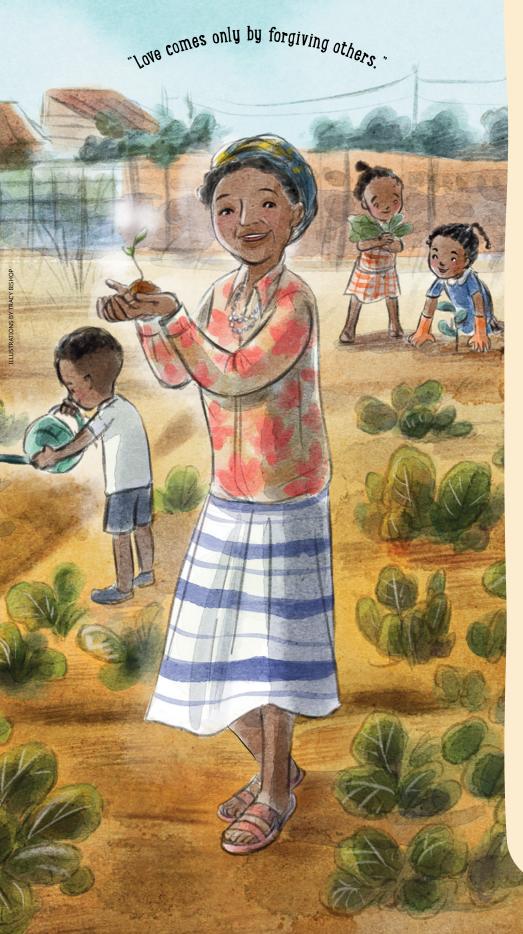
Weeks passed, and more plants grew. Other people came to work in the garden. They pulled tall weeds. They planted more seeds. They watered the plants. It made Julia happy to see so many people helping.

One day Julia met two young men. Julia was surprised because White people rarely came to her neighborhood. They said they were missionaries. She invited them to share a message in her home.

When Julia's son heard they were coming, he was shocked. "Why did you invite them?" he said. "They are White. It's not safe."

But Julia trusted the missionaries. "These men are different," Julia said. "They are preaching peace."





When the missionaries came, Julia welcomed them in. One of them noticed a photo on the mantle. It was from Julia's wedding. "Who is that?" the missionary

asked, pointing to the photo.

"My husband, John." Julia looked down. "He died in a car crash."

The missionary nodded. "We believe families can be together forever, even after they die."

A feeling of peace washed over Julia. She felt happy to learn about God's plan and kept meeting with the missionaries. Love for the gospel grew in Julia's heart, just like the plants in her garden. Soon she decided to be baptized.

At church, Julia met lots of new people. Some were Black. Some were White. But they all served and learned together.

Julia showed the children at church how to help in her garden. "We must be soft in our hearts, like this soil," she said. "We must make a place for the gospel within us. We must make a place for love."

oril 202

WRITTEN BY YOU

Played a Hymn!



By Raihau T., age 11, Tahiti, French Polynesia

The first time I heard my big brother Allan play the piano in sacrament meeting, I wanted to do the same thing. It became one of my Children and Youth goals to

play a hymn in sacrament meeting.

Since then, I've been studying piano with my uncle Ken. Each day I try to practice for at least 30 minutes. After 10 months, I was able to play the hymn "Joseph Smith's First Prayer" (*Hymns,* no. 26).

Then came COVID-19. Church leaders canceled Sunday meetings. They said we should have church at home. Mom and Dad gave us each an assignment. They asked me to play the opening song, and I played "Joseph Smith's First Prayer." I was able to accomplish my goal of playing a hymn in sacrament meeting! I could feel the Spirit in our home. MY STORY

Growing Tall and Strong

You are like a tree, growing taller and stronger every day! On the roots, draw or write the names of people, places, and things that help you feel loved. On the branches and trunk, draw pictures or write words that describe the kind of person you want to become.

April 2021 35

Braden Leads the Way

By Haley Yancey (Based on a true story)

"Be thou an example of the believers" (1 Timothy 4:12).

Braden and Dad carried heavy buckets of alligator pellets toward the feeding dock. The tops of the alligators' heads came to the surface and glided toward them. When Braden and Dad reached the feeding spot, some of the alligators had their mouths open.

But Braden wasn't scared. Working with Dad on the alligator farm was the *best.*

"Feeding time!" Braden said. He picked up a scoop of pellets and tossed them into the water.

Life on the alligator farm was great. But one thing was missing.

Chomp. Chomp. Splash.

Some of the alligators caught the pellets in the air. Others snapped at them when they hit the water. Braden and Dad kept tossing the food until their buckets were empty.

"Thanks for helping me," Dad said. "Let's go. The missionaries will be coming soon."

Braden and his family had started talking with the missionaries a few months ago. He liked the missionaries! And he liked learning about the Church. Dad was a member of the Church, but he hadn't been going to church very much. Mom and Braden had never been baptized.

"Last week you set a goal to read Mosiah 18," Sister Cox said that evening. "How did that go?"

Mom and Dad looked at each other and were quiet for a moment. "We were busy this week," Mom said. "I read it!" Braden said.

"Great job!" Sister Blood said, reaching over for a high five. "How did you feel after you read it?" Braden gave a big smile. "Really good. And I prayed about being baptized. I really want to."

"That's great! I know that makes Heavenly Father very happy," Sister Cox said. She turned to Braden's mom. "How are you feeling about it?"

"I'm still not sure. I think I need a little more time," Mom said.

Braden felt a little sad during the rest of the lesson. He wished both his parents were members of the

ILLUSTRATIONS BY C.B. CANGA

Church. And he wanted to be a member of the Church too!

When the missionaries left, he told his parents that he meant what he said earlier. "I really want to be baptized. And . . ." Braden took a deep breath. "I really want Dad to baptize me."

After a moment, Dad spoke up. "I really want that too." Mom was quiet. "Let's pray about it."

Braden knelt down with his family and asked Heavenly Father if he and Mom should be baptized. He felt warm and loved.

For the next few weeks, Braden read the scriptures and prayed every day. At first, he was always the one asking his parents if they would pray and read with him.



But soon, they started asking him. When he and Dad fed the alligators, they would talk about the scriptures or what they learned at church. He and Mom would talk about the missionary lessons. Every day, Mom and Dad seemed a little happier.

One day during a lesson with the missionaries, Mom said the words Braden had been waiting for: "I want to be baptized."

For the next few weeks, Braden

felt like he was floating on clouds.

Finally, it was the day of Mom and Braden's baptism. When Braden came up out of the water, he felt Heavenly Father's love for him and his family. He gave Dad a big hug.

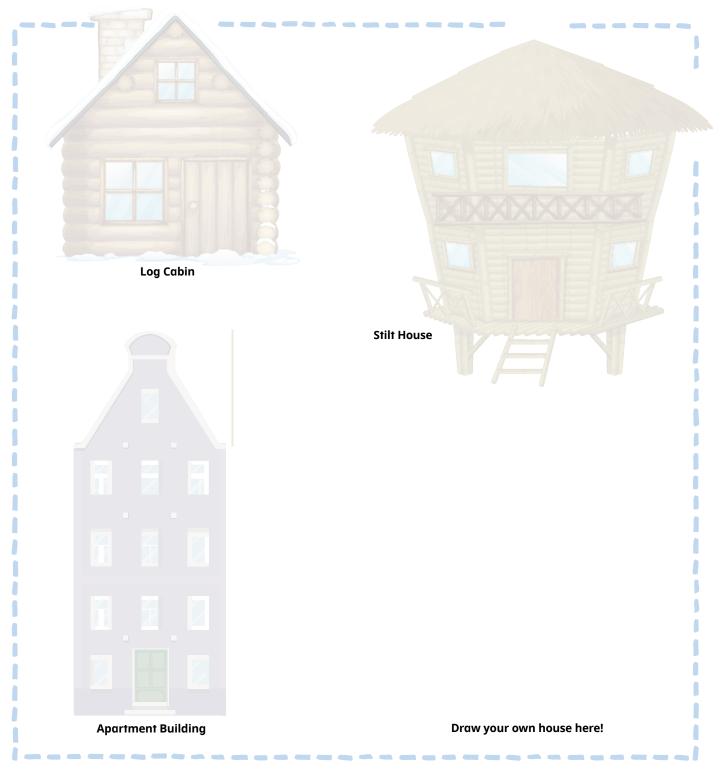
Dad held Braden close and whispered, "Thank you for being a good example and helping us. I love you." • This story took place in Louisiana, USA. The author lives in California, USA.

See Come, Follow Me for Doctrine and Covenants 30-36.

All Kinds of Homes

FUNSTUFF

Homes come in many shapes and sizes. No matter what a house is made of, it's the people inside who are important! Trace the drawings of these homes from around the world. Then draw your own house.



for little friends

When we're helping, we're happy!

ILLUSTRATION BY CHRIS JONES

Can you find these things on the next pages?

6







A Card for Grandma



Ethan's grandma is sick.



He says a prayer to help her feel better.



Then he has an idea!



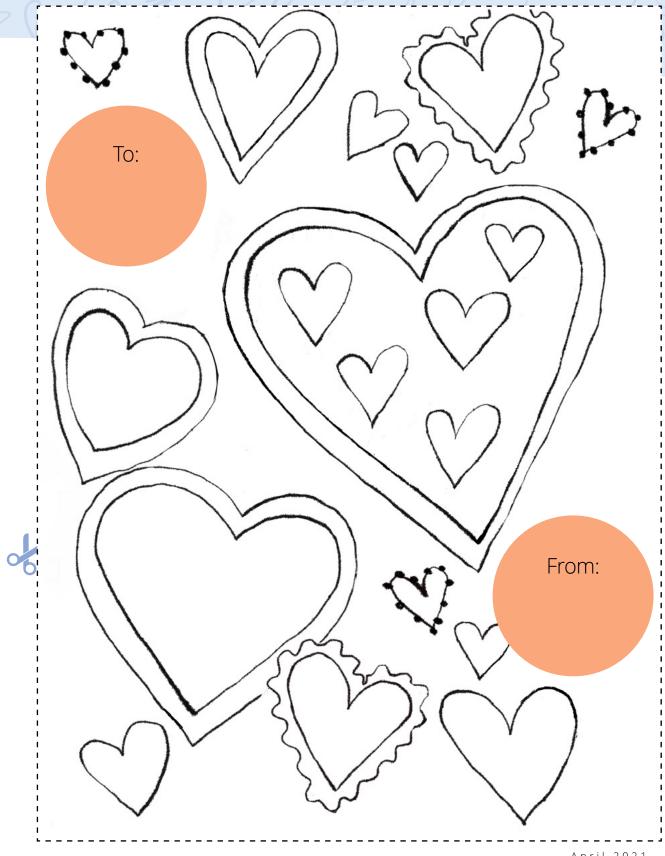
He gets crayons and paper and makes a fun card for her.

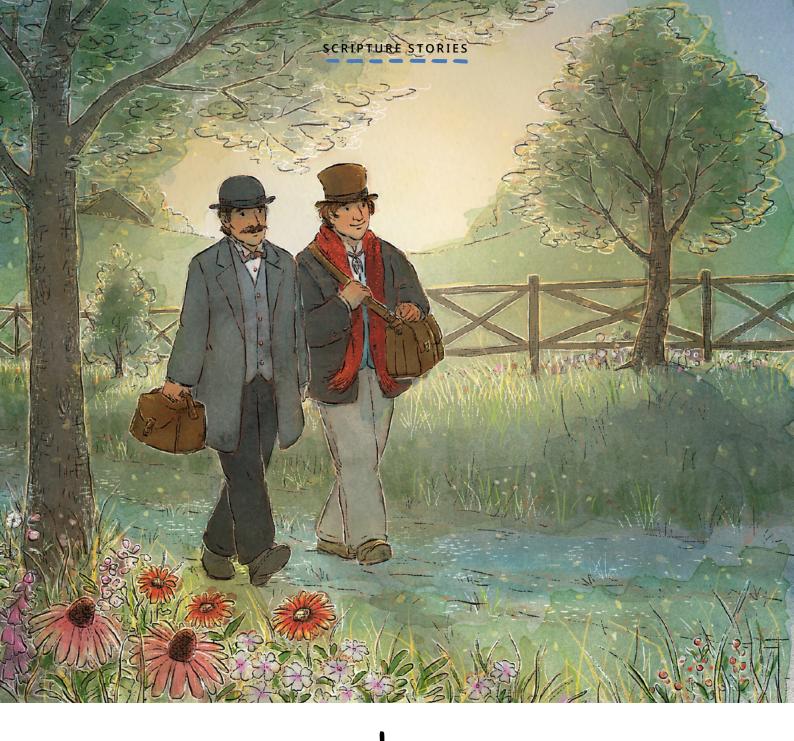


Ethan's grandma loves her card!

Love Note

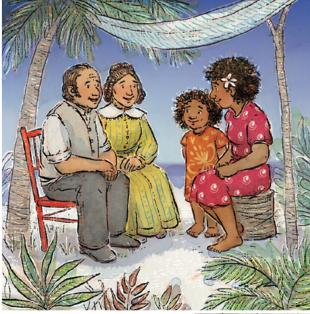
Color in the hearts on this note! Who can you send it to?





Missionaries Shared the Gospel

After the Book of Mormon was printed, God called missionaries to go and teach more people about it. Joseph Smith's brother Samuel carried a bag full of copies of the Book of Mormon to share. People gathered to hear him teach.

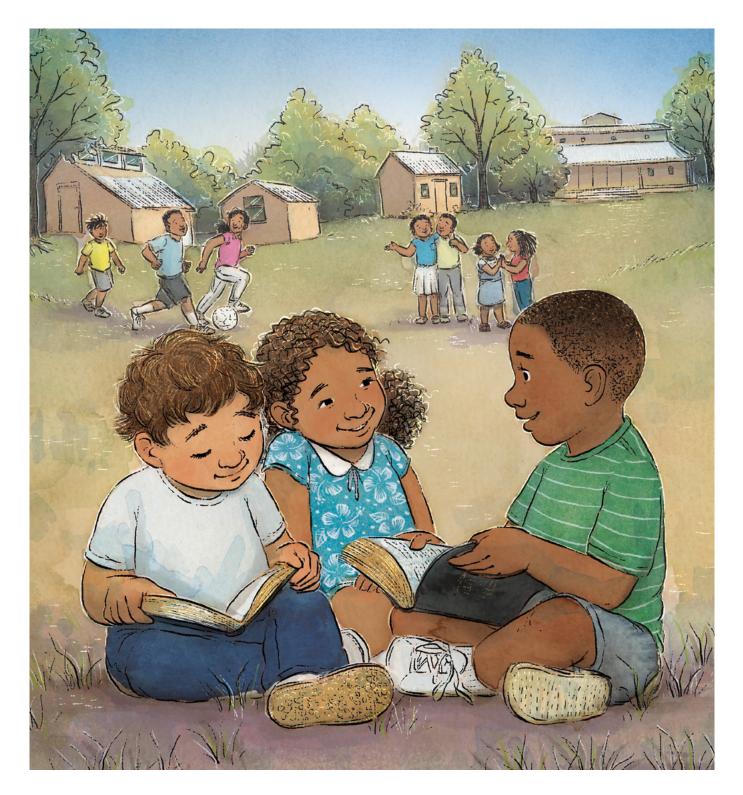




Other missionaries taught people in Europe. Some taught people who lived on islands.

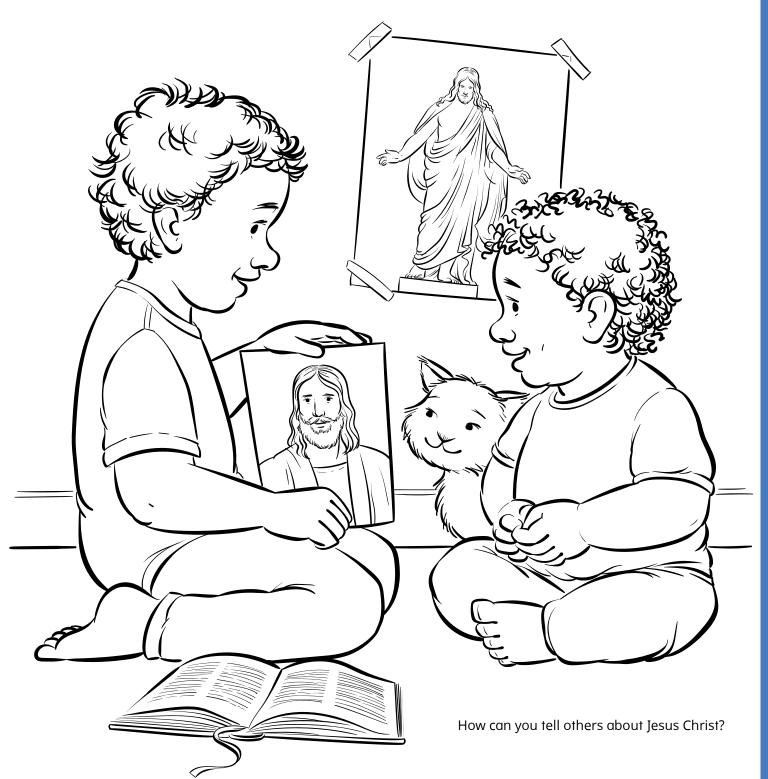
Later, the first official sister missionaries were called to serve in England.





I can be a missionary too. I can share the Book of Mormon with others. ullet

I Can Share the Gospel





By Sinéad Poznanski (Based on a true story)

LLUSTRATIONS BY SINÉAD POZNAN

ike a lot of kids in Ireland, Annie went to a Catholic school. She was the only member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in her class.

Annie had a nice teacher who taught about lots of things. She even taught about Jesus. Annie loved listening to stories about Jesus. They were the same stories she learned about in Primary and at home.

One day Annie's teacher told her class about when Jesus walked on water. Annie smiled. That was her favourite story!

Annie had learned the song "The Miracle" in Primary. That song told about Jesus walking on the water. Annie always felt warm inside when she sang it. She thought about the words in the song. *"Jesus walked upon the water. He stilled the storm and calmed the angry sea."*

Annie wanted her class to know the song too! She raised her hand and said, "I know a song about that!"

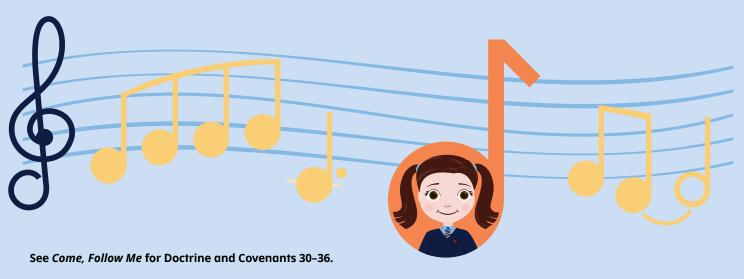
Her teacher smiled. She asked Annie to share it the next day in class.

Annie was excited when she got home. Mummy helped her find the song on the computer so Annie's teacher could play the song for her class.

The next day Annie and her whole class listened to the song. Annie felt the warm feeling she always felt in Primary. She was glad she shared this special song about Jesus.

The author lives in Leinster, Ireland.

You can find "The Miracle" in the June 2018 *Friend* or *Liahona*.



Hi, Friends!



I like to sing Primary songs and help my little brother. Samuel E., age 3, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, France



I drew rainbows of hope for my neighbors during COVID-19. I was happy I helped, like Jesus would! **Willow K., age 5, Cheshire, England**



Beau B., age 5, New York, USA



I like to make food with funny faces. I am happy because I know that my Heavenly Father loves me! **Ánika M., age 5, Corrientes, Argentina**

SCRIPTURE TIME FUN for Little Ones

COME, FOLLOW ME

These ideas go along with Come, Follow Me—for Individuals and Families each week.

> For Easter: Help your little ones say, "Jesus Christ lives!" Then sing a song about Him.

For Doctrine and Covenants 37-40: Play a game or activity that involves taking turns, like stacking blocks to make a tower. Each time it's your child's turn, help them say, "We can work together."

For Doctrine and Covenants 41-44: Show your little ones how to make a heart shape with their hands while saying, "I love my family." Look through picture books or photos and help your child practice saying names of family members.

For Doctrine and Covenants **30–36:** Help your little ones say, "Missionaries teach about Jesus." Read about some of

the first missionaries on page 42 and help them color page 45.



DEAR PARENTS.

We live in a beautiful world with all kinds of people. Teach your children that every person is a child of God who is special and loved. Here are some things you can look for in this issue:

- A message from the prophet about including and respecting others (pages 2–3)
- A feature about a boy who includes others and a challenge to be a friend (pages 12–14)
- A story about a South African woman who led with love in her community (pages 32–33)

Remember, teaching love and respect starts with you!

The Friend

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Or email: friend@ChurchofJesusChrist.org

The following information and permission must be included:

First and last name

| Age |
|-----|
| |

Boy / Girl

State / Province / Region, Country

I give my permission to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to use my child's submission and photo on the Church websites and social media platforms as well as for Church reports, print products, video, publications, and training materials.

Signature of parent or legal guardian



YES

Email of parent or legal guardian

May the Friend contact you with a survey?



NO