Lots of FAMILY FUN!
See pages 21–28
Sweet Service

Our family loved reading about President Monson in “Learning to Serve Others” (Aug. 2012). We decided to start a new family tradition. For President Monson’s birthday on August 21st, we made the three-layered cake and shared it with someone. We gave half of it to another family in the ward. We then came home and ate our half. We feel happy when we serve others.

Christopher, Kimberly, Zachary, and Jonathan L., ages 7, 10, 13, and 1, Missouri, USA

In a Good Mood

I love reading the Friend magazine. It really puts me in a good mood. I especially liked January 2014 because the song “He Sent His Son” was our main song in Primary. Hopefully I will play this in the prelude for Primary.

I also really enjoy reading all the stories.

Madison W., age 10, England

A Prayer and a Friend

One time I could not go to sleep, so I read the Friend and prayed. Then I went right to sleep. I love the Friend.

Lydia W., age 9, Nevada, USA

How We Read the Friend

We think the Friend is super!

Sami, Alex, and Zach E., ages 10, 8, and 5, Utah, USA

Dear Friends,

Magic shows, puppet theaters, indoor campouts, and blanket forts—this month’s Friend has a special section full of games and activities for you to do with your family and friends! After you read the story on page 22, unscramble the words below to make one word. Clue: It’s something you can always use to make sure you’re never bored. (Answer on page 48.)

Giant Aim I On

Have fun!

The Friend

Was there a letter or a story in this month’s issue that helped you? Tell us about it. Turn to page 48 to find out how.
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Cover by Bryan Beach

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Hidden Tongan CTR Ring
Find the perfect hiding spot.

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Family Fun Section
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28  Family Camp-In
The Savior loves us, and He invites us to be close to Him. He said, “Be faithful and diligent in keeping the commandments of God, and I will encircle thee in the arms of my love” (D&C 6:20). I often feel the joy of coming closer to the Savior through simple acts of obedience to the commandments.

When I was young, sacrament meeting was a separate meeting held in the evening. I remember one Sabbath day when I kept the commandment to gather with my family and the Saints for sacrament meeting. It was dark and cold outside. I remember feeling light and warmth in the chapel that evening. We took the sacrament, promising to always remember the Savior and keep His commandments.

At the end of the meeting we sang the hymn “Abide with Me; ’Tis Eventide” (Hymns, no. 165). Part of that hymn says, “O Savior, stay this night with me.”

I felt the Savior’s love and closeness that evening. And I felt the comfort of the Holy Ghost.

A BEAUTIFUL SONG

Beautiful music can help you feel close to the Savior. You can watch and listen to the Mormon Tabernacle Choir sing “Abide with Me; 'Tis Eventide” at friend.lds.org.

TEN COMMANDMENTS

The sentences below tell ways we can obey Heavenly Father. Which ones are part of the Ten Commandments? Find the answers in Exodus 20. Then find the bold words in the word search.

Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.
Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.
Show kindness and serve others.
Attend church each week so you can take the sacrament.
Be honest; always tell the truth.
Always try to choose the right.
Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
Say your prayers every morning and night.
Be baptized and confirmed a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.
Honor thy father and thy mother.

CLOSER TO THE SAVIOR

President Eyring said he feels closer to the Savior when he obeys the commandments. Draw a circle around the children below who are doing things that will help them feel closer to the Savior.
By Shane Boehmer
(Based on a true story)

“I’m happy as can be when I am helping others” (Children’s Songbook, 197). Mikel signed his name at the bottom of a clipboard titled “Junior Runners.” A man handed him a bright red number, and Mikel ran back to where his mom, dad, sister, and baby brother sat in the bleachers.

“Ready?” Dad asked.

Mikel pinned the number on his shirt. “I think so.” He had signed up to run in his town’s mile-long race. His family had trained together for weeks, but he still couldn’t believe how far a mile really was!

“I’m ready too!” his sister, Isabella, said. She had a bright yellow number on her shirt. Since she was only in kindergarten, she would run in the half-mile race.

“Junior runners to the track!” the announcer called over the speakers. Mikel felt his stomach do a flip-flop. Dad patted him on the shoulder and smiled.

Mikel smiled back, then turned and headed toward the track. It was time to run.

When the buzzer sounded, Mikel ran just like he had practiced. The mile was long, but Mikel knew he could do it. Even when his shoe fell off during the second lap, he put it back on and finished the race as fast as he could.

As Mikel crossed the finish line, Dad gave him a big hug. “Great job! I bet you’re ready to rest!”

Mikel only nodded, too busy gulping down air to answer. He had a cramp in his side, and he was hot and sweaty.

“Pee-wee runners to the track!” the announcer called.

Isabella bounced up and down in excitement. “My turn!” She jogged to her place at the starting line and waved at Mikel. “I’m going to run just like you!”

Mikel gave a tired wave back. He walked back to the bleachers with Dad.

The race started, and Isabella began her first lap around the track. Mikel settled down on the bleachers. It was nice to sit. His legs felt like rubbery spaghetti noodles.

Isabella was on the opposite end of the track now. They couldn’t see her very well in the crowd of other runners.

As she finished the first loop, Mikel squinted to see her. “Is she okay?”

Isabella was stumbling slowly down the track. It looked like something was wrong.

Dad stood up from his seat. “What happened?” He called to Isabella as she got closer.

The rest of the runners were far ahead. Isabella stopped running. “I fell down on the other side of the track, and I got scared!” she said as she started to sob.

Dad ran out on the track. “Come on, Isabella! We can do it!” Taking her hand, he started running down the track with her.

As Mikel watched them, he felt his noodley legs get stronger. Hopping off his seat, he ran onto the track and took Isabella by the other hand. “Yeah! We can do it together!”

Isabella looked up at Mikel. She wiped the tears away from her cheeks and smiled. Dad let go of Isabella’s hand, and Mikel continued running down the track with her. They were already catching up with the other runners.

Mikel’s legs were burning, and he was out of breath. But he was running—running more than he had ever run before!

Mikel looked over at Isabella as he continued to run. She was grinning from ear to ear.

He smiled and tightened his grip on his sister’s hand. The race was getting easier with every step. ◆

The author lives in Hawaii, USA.
You're on! Wanna race?
Family Fun Time

Working Together

Read “The Extra Half-Mile” (page 4). In this story, Mikel helps his sister do a hard thing. When you work together, you can do more than you can on your own!

Here’s a fun meal you can make and eat together. It would be hard to make on your own, but with everyone helping, it can be fun and easy. Make this meal for breakfast, or have breakfast for dinner! Be sure that everyone who can help has a task to do.

If you’re making both recipes, preheat the oven to 350°F (180°C) and make the French toast. Once that’s in the oven, make the muffins and put those in the oven too. Be sure to get an adult’s help.

**Baked French Toast**

- 8 cups of torn whole wheat bread (about half a loaf)
- 6 large eggs
- 2 cups milk
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F (180°C).
2. Put the torn bread in a lightly greased 9x13-inch (23x33-cm) pan.
3. Beat the eggs, and mix in the milk, sugar, vanilla, cinnamon, and salt. Pour the mixture over the bread. Stir the bread to get it all coated.
4. Sprinkle the brown sugar evenly on top of the bread.
5. Bake on the middle rack of the oven for 45–50 minutes or until a knife comes out clean when you stick it in the middle. Serve plain or with fresh fruit—it doesn’t need extra syrup.

**Scrambled Egg Muffins**

- 1/4 cup flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 5 large eggs
- 1/4 cup butter, melted
- 1 cup low-fat cottage cheese
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 cup diced ham or crumbled sausage
- 1/4 cup finely chopped onions or sweet peppers

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F (180°C).
2. Stir together the flour, baking powder, salt, and pepper in a large bowl.
3. Crack the eggs into the bowl and beat them well. Stir in the rest of the ingredients.
4. Spoon the batter into 12 greased muffin cups.
5. Bake on the middle rack of the oven for 20–25 minutes, or until the muffins are slightly golden on top.
“Increase your faith. Proclaim your faith! Let your faith show!”

—Elder Russell M. Nelson
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Piper’s dress on her bed.

“Which church?” Piper asked. She had been to different churches a few times with friends, but she had never been to church with Mom.


“Oh.” Mom had been baptized in that church before Piper was born, but she hadn’t gone since Piper could remember.

“You’ll like it,” Mom said. “They have a class especially for kids. It’s called Primary. You don’t need to be nervous.”

But Piper was nervous. She wouldn’t know anyone at church. Who would she sit by? Would she get lost all on her own? Piper stared at the dress on the bed, her stomach twisting up into knots.

Her stomach was still in knots the next day when she and Mom walked to the Primary room after sacrament meeting. The room was decorated with bright pictures, and children and adults sat in rows while a lady played music quietly on the piano. Piper stood uncertainly in the doorway.

“Piper?” Piper turned. A freckled girl coming down the hallway waved at her. “I’m Amy,” the girl said. “I remember you from school. Do you want to sit with me?”

“OK,” Piper said. She followed Amy to a row near the back of the room.

“Sister Davis, this is Piper,” Amy said to the woman sitting at the end of the row. “Sister Davis is our Primary teacher.”

“Welcome, Piper!” Sister Davis smiled. “If you girls will take your seats, I think singing time is about to start.”
Piper sat down and folded her arms just like Amy. She didn’t know the words to the songs, but Amy didn’t make fun of her or even look at her weird. Later, the woman teaching held up a picture of a man in an old-fashioned suit, and everyone nodded like they knew who he was. Piper didn’t know who he was, but Amy leaned over and whispered, “That’s Joseph Smith, the first prophet of our church.”

“A prophet like Moses?” Piper asked.

“Yes,” Amy said. “But Joseph Smith is a modern prophet. He lived in the 1800s.”

Piper smiled. She could understand the lesson thanks to Amy’s help.

“Follow me!” Amy said when they split into smaller classes. Piper followed her to a classroom with four other children, all Piper’s age.

“Who brought their scriptures today?” Sister Davis asked. Piper looked around. All the other children had heavy books on their laps, but she didn’t have any.

“You can share with me,” Amy whispered. She opened her scriptures and pointed so Piper could follow along as the class took turns reading. Piper even got a turn to read aloud. When she came to a name she didn’t know, Piper stopped. Then Amy prompted her softly, “Nephi.” When Piper finished reading the verse, Amy gave her a thumbs up.

When class ended and Piper’s mom came to pick her up, Amy gave her a hug. “See you next week!” she said.

“I’ll save a spot for you!”

Piper couldn’t stop smiling as she and Mom walked out to the parking lot. “How was it?” Mom asked.

“Great!” Piper said. “I think I really like this church.”

“Me too,” Mom said. “Want to come back next week?”

“Definitely,” Piper said. She might not know the words to the songs or have her own scriptures, but she knew that everything would be OK because of Amy, her Primary friend.

◆

I was so excited to visit my relatives in Colorado, but I was so nervous to go to a different Primary without my friends. Then I decided to say a prayer that I wouldn’t be scared and that I would meet a friend. My mom dropped me off at Primary, and I found a seat next to a boy my age. I am so thankful Heavenly Father answered my prayers, and next time there is a visitor in Primary, I’m going to be their friend too.

Davis D., age 7, Utah, USA
Thanks to the temple, this family has something even better to look forward to than a pan of brownies. To find out what it is, start with person F. Notice that person O is wearing the same skirt.

_F_ and _O_ have been filled in for you. Find out what person _O_ has in common with somebody else at the family reunion. Continue until you have used all the letters. See the answer on page 48.
Is it enough for now if I only believe the Church is true?

By Elder Jeffrey R. Holland
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles
The members of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles are special witnesses of Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ Himself said, “Be not afraid, only believe” (see Mark 5:36).

You have more faith than you think you do.

Belief is always the first step toward knowing something.

Hold fast to what you already know and stand strong until more knowledge comes.

SODA POP!
“Kindness begins with me” (Children’s Songbook, 145).

Have a soda, Marco,” Mike said.

I looked up, surprised. I was pretty sure he said my name funny on purpose, but it was nice of him to give me a soda. My family had just moved to the United States from Italy, and it was my first day at my new school. It had been OK, but I was glad to be on the bus going home.

“Shake it first,” Mike said. “It makes it taste better.” The boys sitting next to him giggled.

I wasn’t sure what was so funny about opening a can of soda. In Italy I had always drunk soda from a bottle. But things were different here. So I shook the can.

“Harder!” the boys yelled. I shook the can harder.

Then I lifted the tab. Pffssssst!

Orange soda squirted all over! Everyone screamed as the soda shot into the air, hit the ceiling, and rained down on the seats around me. The bus driver slammed on the brakes. I couldn’t understand what he said as he marched toward me, but his face said I was in trouble. All I could do was hold up my dripping can of soda and point to the boys laughing at me. The driver yelled at them instead. Mike glared at me, and I sunk even lower in my seat.

Finally the driver sat back down and started driving. At last we reached my stop. I hurried off the bus, embarrassed and sticky. Soda trickled down my forehead as I ran up to our apartment. This had been a rotten first day.

“Why do kids have to be so mean?” I asked my mom as I wiped sticky orange soda off my bag. Mamma helped me dry off my wet books on the balcony.

“Usually it’s because they’ve been hurt.”

“But I didn’t do anything to them,” I said.

“When someone is mean to you, it’s easy to feel like being mean to others,” Mamma said. “It’s called a vicious cycle.”

“But I wasn’t the one being mean.”

“Maybe other people have been mean to those boys, and they decided to be mean too. But you can choose the right even if someone does something mean to you. You can start a good cycle.”

A few weeks later, my brother Tony had a birthday party with cake, ice cream, and soda. When my brother reached for his can of soda, I knew just the funny trick to play on him. “Shake it!” I said.

Tony shook his soda. “Now what?” he asked.

I was just about to tell him to open it. But then I pictured Tony and his birthday cake both covered in sticky soda. The trick didn’t seem so funny anymore. It hadn’t even been funny the first time.

“Don’t open it!” I said. “It will spray all over you.” I handed him a new can. I didn’t want to ruin his day.

Tony smiled as he opened the new can of soda. Then he cut a piece of cake and handed it to me.

This is a better cycle to start, I thought as I ate my cake. 

The author lives in Utah, USA.

“Being meek does not mean weakness, but it does mean behaving with goodness and kindness.”

Elder Ulisses Soares of the Quorum of the Seventy

I’m Kaloni from Tonga

Mālō e lelei!*

I like to dance, play sports, and paint. I helped make a mural about the plan of salvation for the seminary building.

I enjoy going to the beach with my family and playing in the sand and in the sea.

On weekdays I get dressed in my school uniform. Then my family walks to school together. My dad works at the high school, and my mom is a seminary teacher. I have an older sister named Dorothy and an older brother named Nelson.
Meet Kaloni from the Kingdom of Tonga. Her islands are known as the Friendly Islands.

Have you ever had a family picnic outside on Christmas Day? Kaloni’s family likes to picnic on the beach at Christmastime. Since it’s summertime in December in the southern hemisphere, picnics at Christmas are no problem! Ten-year-old Kaloni likes to spend many fun holidays with her aunts, uncles, and cousins.

* “Hello, friends!” in Tongan.

I want to go to college and become a seminary teacher like my mom. I also want to go on a mission and marry in the temple. But in the meantime, I’ll just enjoy living in a beautiful island paradise.

On our walk to school, my family passes the temple. I feel peace when I see the temple. I can’t wait until I can go inside someday.

The Nuku’alofa Tonga Temple was dedicated in 1983. It was renovated and rededicated in 2007.

My mom and auntie decided to start a family project to earn money for all of us cousins to go on our missions someday. We make chicken kabobs and ‘otai and sell them at the farmers’ market every Saturday.

Turn to page 16 to make your own ‘otai.

I LOVE TO SEE THE TEMPLE

Photographs courtesy of Kaloni’s family; illustrations by Ashley Teare and Mark Robison

Ready to Go!
Kaloni’s suitcase is packed with some of her favorite things. Which of these things would you pack in your suitcase?
‘Otai is a fruit drink that Kaloni’s family sells at the farmers’ market every Saturday to earn money for her mission fund.

- 1 cup watermelon, cut into cubes, with black seeds removed
- 1 cup mango, cut into cubes
- 1 cup crushed pineapple
- 1 cup shredded coconut
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 cup milk or coconut milk

Blend all of the ingredients until smooth. Chill the drink in the refrigerator. When you’re ready to share your treat, add ice cubes and enjoy! Be sure to get an adult’s help.

Fun Facts about Tonga

On pages 14–15, Kaloni tells about life in Tonga. Check out these fun facts about the friendly island kingdom!

- Tonga is ruled by a king.
- Rugby is the national sport.
- Dressing modestly is important in Tongan culture.
- Tonga has two seasons—a wet season from December to April and a dry season from May to November.
“These are **YOUR** days—to stand strong as **DISCIPLES** of the Lord **JESUS CHRIST**.”

Sione from Tonga

Sione is dressed in his school clothes, but you can dress him in his Sunday clothes or traditional Tongan clothing. Glue this page onto heavy paper before you color and cut out the pieces.

Print more copies at FriendsaroundtheWorld.ldsls.org.
Hidden Picture

By David Helton

This family is spending time together by camping in their own backyard. Can you find these hidden objects?
What Jesus Taught

Jesus said that we should have an “honest and good heart” in keeping God’s commandments (see Luke 8:15). When we have an honest heart, we will tell the truth, even when it is hard. We will also keep the promises we make to God and to other people.

Be Honest

Don’t cheat on schoolwork, even if other people are.

Do your chores without being reminded.

Keep your promise to help or play with a brother, sister, or friend.

I challenge myself to . . .

Following Jesus Today

I usually get 100 percent on my spelling tests. One day our spelling words included the days of the week. When I took the test, I saw the calendar on the wall. I chose not to look at it because that is cheating. I was happy that I was honest, even though I didn’t get 100 percent that day.

Victoria F., age 7, Arizona, USA

When I was nine, my friends and I threw rocks at a wasp nest at school. My rock hit a window, and it broke! We all started running away, but I heard the Spirit tell me to go back and tell someone. I was really scared, but I went back to tell the people in the office what I had done. I felt good that I told the truth even when it was really hard.

Josh B., age 13, Utah, USA
Bring on the Fun!

This is awesome! I wish the power would go out every night!

Read on for seven more pages of puzzles, games, and family fun!
“Try to show kindness in all that you do” (Children’s Songbook, 79).

Can we come in?” Lori asked.

Emily looked over the top of the fort she had built with Lisa. Their little sister Lori and brother Greg were back, and they wanted to come in. Again.

“No,” Emily said.

“Please?” Greg asked.

“No,” Lisa repeated.

Emily and Lisa had spent an hour building their fort out of cushions and sheets and cardboard boxes. It was perfect. They had built it next to the Ping-Pong table, and to get in you had to crawl through a tunnel under the table. It was tall enough to stand up in, but there wasn’t enough room for little brothers and sisters.

“You already have your own fort,” Emily said.

“OK,” Lori sighed. “Let’s go.” Greg followed her back to their fort. It was just a blanket draped over a chair. It didn’t have a tunnel or anything.

“They’re gone!” Lisa said. “Now we can play.” She opened their box of paper dolls. Emily cut out a dress she had drawn. They set up the rest of their game—the castle, the servants’ quarters, the wicked prince.

They played for a while, but it wasn’t as fun as usual.

“I’m bored,” Lisa said, setting down her paper doll.

“And I don’t want to be the prince anymore,” Emily said. “Maybe we need more people to play. Maybe Lori and Greg could help.”

“No,” Lisa said. “They’ll just ruin the clothes, and they won’t play the games we want them to.”

“Yeah. I guess I’m done playing this game. Let’s do something else.”
August 2014

23

The PERFECT Fort

Do you know how I try to be like Jesus? I play balloon and ball with everybody! I like to share with my family and friends.

Clapton M., age 4, Florida, USA

“Let’s build a tree fort!” Lisa said.
Outside, Emily and Lisa dragged boards over to the giant cherry tree. They made a platform they could sit on in the middle of the tree. It was perfect. They could reach ripe cherries right where they sat!
Soon they heard the back door open. Here came Lori and Greg. Their eyes got big when they saw the fort.
“Can we come up?” Lori asked.
“Can we have some cherries?” Greg asked.
“No,” Emily said. “Get your own cherries.”
Lisa looked at Emily, then nodded. “Go play in your own fort.”
“But our fort’s no fun!” Lori wailed. “It’s no fun without you!” Lori ran back to the house, and Greg followed.
Lisa was quiet after they left. She ate another cherry. “Maybe we should have let them come up,” she said.
Emily nodded. “We weren’t very nice,” she said quietly.
“What do you think we should do?”
“I have an idea . . .” Emily said.

Soon Lisa and Emily sneaked back to their old fort, where Lori and Greg were playing. They left a note outside the tunnel door, knocked, then ran outside. Lori read the note out loud: “We’re sorry we were so mean. We want to play with you too. Love, Lisa and Emily.”

“They want to play with us!” Greg shouted. He pushed open the tunnel door and raced outside. Lori followed. This time Lisa and Emily let them climb up. They all crowded onto the small platform and ate cherries.
“We were thinking we should build a town,” Emily said. “I’ll run the store and be the seamstress.”
“I’ll write the newspaper,” Lisa said, “and Greg can be the postman. And the mayor.”
“What will I be?” Lori asked.
“You can run the store with me,” Emily said.
They all climbed down and ran back to the playroom. Lisa and Lori cut out cardboard coins while Emily and Greg took down the giant fort. They would need the cushions and boxes to build the post office and the grocery store and their houses. And later, maybe even a zoo. ♦
Boredom Busters!

Think you can do all 34 things?

12 Things to Do with a Cardboard Box

- Build Lehi’s ship.
- Flatten a box into a sled for dry, grassy hills.
- Create a castle.
- Make a home for a pet. If it’s for a cat, try hanging streamers from the ceiling!
- Use it to store photos and journals.
- Design a robot. Cover it in tinfoil and cut holes for your head and arms.
- Set up a lemonade stand.
- Decorate it as a dollhouse.
- Make it into a time machine for time-travel adventures.
- Tape big boxes together to form a crawl-through maze.
- Build a box city. Each box is a building.
- Tape flattened boxes to the floor and skate around in your socks.

5 Places to Visit

- Build Lehi’s ship.
- Flatten a box into a sled for dry, grassy hills.
- Create a castle.
- Make a home for a pet. If it’s for a cat, try hanging streamers from the ceiling!
- Tape big boxes together to form a crawl-through maze.
- Build a box city. Each box is a building.
- Tape flattened boxes to the floor and skate around in your socks.
5 PLACES TO VISIT

- a city park
- a museum
- a family history center
- a fire station
- the library

7 ITEMS TO PUT IN A CARE PACKAGE

- Homemade goodies
- Photos and drawings
- Small holiday decorations
- A copy of the Book of Mormon or a Church magazine
- A leaf from your backyard
- A package of gum
- A small toy, like a card game or a yo-yo

10 THINGS TO DO AT THE PARK

1. Have a picnic.
2. Set up a silly race, like an obstacle course or egg-carrying race.
3. Plan a scavenger hunt.
4. Play Team Tag. The person who is “it” joins hands with each person he or she tags. Before long you’ll have a chain of people trying to tag the rest. The game ends when the team catches the last runner.
5. Play Hide-and-Seek.
6. Play Beanbag Horseshoes. Place a Hula-Hoop on the ground and take turns trying to toss beanbags or tennis balls into the Hula-Hoop. You get three points if your bag or ball lands inside the hoop and one point if it touches the outside of the hoop.
7. Play catch with a beach ball and towels. Two people hold one towel together and use it to throw and catch the beach ball with another team.
8. Cool off on a hot day with a game of Duck Duck Splash! This game is like Duck Duck Goose, except with a wet sponge. Walk in a circle around the other players and tap each head lightly with the sponge. Then, to pick the “goose,” squeeze the sponge over the goose’s head! Keep a bucket of water handy.
9. Make some huge bubbles. Have an adult bend a wire coat hanger into a circle. Then dip it in bubble soap (6 cups water + 1 cup dish soap + 1/4 cup corn syrup) and wave your wand to let the fun fly.
10. Hold a paper airplane-flying contest. You can compete by throwing for distance or accuracy. Or just fly them for fun!

Yeah! I’ll ask Mom if we can use some boxes from the garage.
Scripture Figures

Puppet Show

Here’s how to make a theater for your scripture figures from the inside back covers of the *Friend*. Be sure to get an adult’s help.

Print out more scripture figures at lessonhelps.lds.org.

**YOU WILL NEED:**
- a large shoebox
- scissors
- tape
- glue
- stapler
- crayons or markers
- craft sticks
- paper
- fabric scraps

1. Cut a slit in one side of the box.

2. Color the inside of the box with scenery, or draw scenes on pieces of paper that you can switch out.

3. Glue or tape your scripture figures to a craft stick. Then poke them through the slit in the box. Make theater curtains out of folded paper or fabric stapled to your shoebox.

4. Tape the box to the edge of a table so you can get underneath. Cover the front of the table so your audience won’t see you.

Send us a picture of your theater and tell us what scripture stories you liked sharing the most! Turn to page 48 to find out how.
Books can be a lot of fun. Here are some ideas for how to make reading even more fun, on your own or with your family. The story doesn’t have to end with the last chapter!

**Write your own story.** Pick a favorite character and write a story about him or her in a new situation. Or if you didn’t like how a book ends, try rewriting the ending. Share your new ending with your family.

**Act it out.** Put together some simple costumes and props. Then act out scenes from the book or make up your own. You could even film it and make a movie!

**Keep track.** Write the name of each book you read on a strip of paper. Make the strips into a paper chain or tape them on the wall. Can you make a book chain as tall as you?

**Cook the book.** Have an adult help you make a meal like what the characters eat in your favorite book!

**Dress up.** Plan an appropriate outfit based on what your favorite character wears.

**Listen up.** Check out an audiobook from your library. Or record yourself reading some of your favorite stories. You can put these recordings on a CD and give it to a friend or listen to it yourself.

**Learn about the author.** Have an adult help you find information online about your favorite authors. Where are they from? What inspired them to write? You can even write a letter to tell an author how much you enjoyed the book.

### Bookmark Clips

**Make your own bookmark!**

Be sure to get an adult’s help.

**You will need:**
- a large paper clip
- ribbon or yarn
- scissors

1. Cut 6 pieces of ribbon or yarn, each 8 inches (20 cm) long.
2. Tie the pieces of ribbon or yarn around one end of the paper clip.
Camping inside your home has a lot of perks. You can camp any time of year, and there are no bugs. You don’t even need to own a tent! Here are a few tips to help you plan a fun camp-in.

Getting Ready
• Set up a real tent, or make a tent by draping blankets or sheets over chairs or a table.
• Create an outdoorsy feel with plants or pictures of beautiful scenery.
• Gather pillows and blankets or sleeping bags.

Camp Food
• With a parent’s help, cook foil dinners in the oven. You might also pack trail mix or fruit roll-ups.
• For dessert you can make s’mores (graham crackers + marshmallows + chocolate) in the oven or microwave. Look for other fun recipes at lessonhelps.lds.org.

Fun Time
• Play board games or guessing games by flashlight.
• Tell stories or read a book—by flashlight, of course.
• Sing Primary songs for the perfect final activity before praying together and going to sleep for the night.

EASY FOIL DINNERS
Mix chicken or ground beef with sliced potatoes, carrots, and other veggies. Divide into individual servings and place each on a piece of foil. Add a few spoonsful of cream of chicken soup to keep the meat tender. Wrap everything in foil and bake at 350°F (180°C) for about 50 minutes, or until the carrots are soft.
Manners Matter

Good manners are about treating others well. We treat others as Jesus would if He were here. We should have good manners all the time!

Here are some ways you can practice good manners now:

• **At meals.** Different cultures have different rules during meals. Try to learn what is best by watching how others eat and doing what they do. Never say bad things about the food that is shared with you, and try new foods even if they look strange. The most important part of any meal is the people you share the meal with, not the food itself.

• **While talking.** When you meet someone new, make sure to introduce yourself (see “Meet and Greet with Confidence” in the May 2012 *Friend*). If you are in a group, take time to introduce everyone to each other. Don’t interrupt others, and listen to what they say instead of just thinking about what you will say next. Don’t talk about things that make others feel left out. Use “please” and “thank you.”

• **Wherever you go.** Look for ways to be kind to those around you. For example, when you walk through a door, hold it open for those walking behind you. If you are riding a bus and there aren’t enough seats, offer your seat to someone and stand instead. Even just smiling at people as you walk by can help them feel happy!

Hello Readers,

It’s especially important for missionaries to have good manners, because we represent Jesus Christ and the Church all the time—even while eating or talking to a stranger! I like what President Wilford Woodruff once said: “Kind words and good manners will cost you nothing and will add greatly to the happiness of those around you.”

Sincerely,

Elder Etiquette

*Quoted in “Good Manners Still Make Sense,” New Era, Aug. 2011, 32.*
Finding Lady and Boo

By Cason D., age 5, Utah, USA

We have two dogs, Lady and Boo. We were going to go and fly our kites for family home evening when the dogs got out of the backyard and ran away.

We went to look for them. Our dad took the truck, and we took the van with my mom. We drove around and looked for a long time, but we couldn’t find them. Then my mom suggested that we say a prayer and ask for help. I said the prayer. I asked Heavenly Father to help guide me to find the dogs and prayed that they would be OK.

Right after I said the prayer, I thought about the dogs, and then I had a feeling about where we should go. I told my mom that we needed to go straight for a long time. When we got to the right street, I told my mom to turn right. We turned toward a church, and I told my mom to keep going. Then I told my mom that I had a feeling that next time we needed to turn left, but that it was not for a little while.

My mom was afraid that we were getting too far away, but I had a feeling that it was the right way. When we got to the church, I told my mom to turn left. The dogs were right in front of us! I had followed the Spirit, and with the Lord’s help I was able to lead my mom right to the dogs.

Lady had gone for a swim in the canal, so she was all muddy, but they were just fine. My dad came and picked them up in the truck, and we brought them home.

We said a thank-you prayer, and then we were able to go and fly our kites. I am so thankful that Heavenly Father answered my prayer. I learned that following the Spirit is the best. I’m glad that my dogs, Lady and Boo, are OK.
Seek the Lord Early

Words and music by Joanne Bushman Doxey
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You can print out or listen to this song at friend.lds.org.
Eli tried to be a good friend. But Will wouldn’t play with him. “If you play with Eli, you can’t play with me,” Will told Jake and Danny.

Eli asked Will nicely, but Will said, “No. Go away.”
Eli tried to join in when the other boys played chase. But no one would chase Eli.

One day Eli brought some toys to school. A new girl named Emma watched him playing.

“Do you want to play with me?” Eli asked.

“Yes,” Emma said. “That looks like fun.”
Jake and Danny asked, “Can we play too?”
“Yes,” Eli said.

Will looked lonely.
“Come on, Will,” Eli said. “You can play too.”
Sharing Toys

Find the toys at the playground. Then count how many children are sharing each toy.
Laura was excited to start kindergarten. She couldn’t wait to go to school with her big brother, Sam. Sam was going to be in third grade.

A few weeks before school started, Mom and Dad talked to Sam and Laura. “Laura,” Dad said, “the schools have made a change. Kindergarteners will go to their own school now.”

Laura chewed on her lip. “Can I still ride the bus with Sam?”

Mom shook her head. “I’m sorry, Laura, but your school is on the other side of town. You’ll ride a different bus.”

Laura tried to be brave, but her lower lip trembled. How could she go to school without her big brother? She and Sam were best friends.
Sam put his arm around Laura's shoulder. "It'll be all right," he said.

That night Sam came into Laura's room. "Let's say a special prayer," he said.

Sam and Laura knelt down.

“Heavenly Father,” Sam prayed, “please bless Laura that she will feel happy about starting school. Help her learn things and make new friends.” Sam closed the prayer in the name of Jesus Christ.

Laura threw her arms around Sam’s neck. She felt better already.

When it came time to start school, Laura was still a little nervous, but she thought about Sam’s prayer. That morning, Dad gave Laura a blessing.

Laura waved goodbye to Mom, Dad, and Sam. She climbed onto the school bus. She knew Heavenly Father would help her.

The author lives in Colorado, USA.
For my birthday this year, I decided to have a lemonade stand and a bake sale and give the money to a children’s hospital. My sister, cousins, and I made flyers and took them around our neighborhood. Then we made treats and lemonade. We were so excited to see so many friends and neighbors come to our sale. I am happy I could help the sick children and their families. I think that’s what Jesus would do.

Avery J., age 7, Utah, USA

Last year, my Primary teacher asked us to pray for a girl in our class who hadn’t come to church. I decided to remember her in my personal prayers too. I prayed for her all year, even though I didn’t know her. I reminded my family to include her during family prayer too. I was so happy because that friend came to Primary on Christmas Sunday! She is now my friend and comes to church sometimes. I know Heavenly Father heard those prayers.

Campbell D., age 5, California, USA

When we noticed that many of the hymnbooks at church were tattered, we set up a family Hymnal Hospital. In the church library, we use a hymnal repair kit with rubber cement and tape to carefully mend each hymnal “patient.” We then return the hymnals to the chapel. We love helping put the hymnals back together!

Caleb, Calvin, Sadie, and Liberty H., ages 8, 10, 11, and 2, Georgia, USA

When I went with my father to the Buenos Aires Argentina Temple, I got to see many beautiful places inside and many sacred rooms. It was an open house, so for a few days many people could see the temple. Soon I will be old enough to enter the temple and do baptisms for the dead. I love Jesus Christ and my family.

Guido R., age 10, Argentina

For my birthday this year, I decided to have a lemonade stand and a bake sale and give the money to a children’s hospital. My sister, cousins, and I made flyers and took them around our neighborhood. Then we made treats and lemonade. We were so excited to see so many friends and neighbors come to our sale. I am happy I could help the sick children and their families. I think that’s what Jesus would do.

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Guido R., age 10, Argentina
Sienna D., age 6, Wyoming, USA, likes to draw pictures for her family and play with her dog Max. Her favorite part of Primary is singing time. Each month, she looks through the *Friend* for hidden pictures. She likes spending time with her cousins and helping her grandmother bake.

Brandon D., age 8, Oregon, USA

Each month, Maelea, Parker, and Caleb V., ages 4, 2, and 6, Wisconsin, USA, make the three-hour drive so their parents can attend the temple. The week before the trip, the kids love to change the words to a favorite Primary song and sing, "I love to see the temple, we’re going on Saturday!" They know Jesus loves when they visit the temple.

Taylor P., age 10, Utah, USA

You-en, age 6, Taiwan

Wayne B., age 11, Utah, USA
One of my favorite stories is the story of Lambert the Sheepish Lion. It became famous in a cartoon some years ago.

Lambert was a lion cub that had lived with a flock of sheep from the time he was born. Because of that, he thought he was a sheep. One spring night Lambert and the flock were sleeping peacefully. Suddenly Lambert heard the scary howl of a wolf in the distance. Because Lambert thought he was a sheep, he began to tremble.

The howl grew louder, and the wolf came closer and began dragging one of the sheep away. Suddenly Lambert felt a strong feeling inside that he had never felt before. Like lightning, he ran toward the wolf to save the sheep!

Just then Lambert realized something. I am not a sheep. I am not the son of a sheep. I am the son of a lion! Lambert thought. When he chased off the wolf and protected the sheep, he knew his true nature.

You are a child of God, and He loves you. Before we were born on earth, each one of us was a beloved spirit son or daughter in our Heavenly Father’s family. But many of us don’t realize this. If we know who we are, we can be like the lion and fight off bad things so that we can protect others and not lose our way.

I am thankful for the wonderful gifts of the gospel and the plan of salvation. I am thankful that we know who we are so we can be strong—just like Lambert.
OK, in this family meeting let's talk about fun things we want to do as a family.

Remember how it rained every day last time we were there?

And how much fun we had anyway, playing games and talking in the tent? And pretending to catch fish in that big puddle?

You mean that puddle in the tent?

Hey, remember when we had “backward day” and we had hamburgers for breakfast and pancakes for dinner?

And we wore our clothes backward?

And we played checkers where you try to lose your own pieces first?

You know what? We're even having fun remembering the fun!
Wholesome Activities Will Strengthen My Family

By Jennifer Maddy

Lucas was bored. He wandered around the house to find someone to play with him. His brother, Ben, was playing on the computer. His sister, Sophie, was texting her friend. Mom was looking through the mail, and Dad was reading.

“It’s boring around here,” Lucas said.

Dad looked up from his book. “What do you mean?”

“We don’t do anything together,” Lucas said. “We’re all doing our own thing.”

Dad closed his book. “You’re right,” he said. “I’ll gather the family together, and we’ll do something fun.”

Lucas grinned. “Great!”

A few minutes later Lucas’s family sat together, wondering what to do. Sophie wanted to text her friend. Ben wanted to keep playing his computer game.

“My friend Paul likes to go on walks with his family,” Lucas said. “And Alexander’s family likes to play sports.”

But Sophie didn’t want to go outside in the hot weather, and Ben couldn’t play sports because he had hurt his ankle.

“Those are fun things for your friends to do, Lucas,” Mom said, “but what does our family like to do?”

Ben said he liked to play board games.

Sophie said she liked to read.

Lucas said he liked racing cars.

“Let’s pick one of those things to do right now,” Dad said. “Why don’t we play a board game first?”

Soon they had all gathered around a game and started to play. After a while Sophie put away her phone. Ben stopped looking toward the computer. By the end of the game, everyone was smiling, but Lucas’s smile was the biggest.

The author lives in Utah, USA.

Learn more about this month’s Primary theme!

SONG

• “The Family” (Children’s Songbook, 194)

IDEAS FOR FAMILY TALK

The prophet and apostles tell us it’s important to spend time together as a family. Doing things with your family will help you learn about each other and have fun together. What does your family like to do? Talk about how those activities help you grow closer together. You could make a goal to do one new activity as a family this month.
A MONTH OF FUN

Plan with your family what activities you would like to do during the month. As you do an activity that's shown below, cut out the picture and tape or glue it on the day you do it. Make your own squares to add other activities!
“Mine is a home where ev’ry hour is blessed by the strength of priesthood power” (Children’s Songbook, 190). Is something bothering you?” Mom asked Isa as they rode the tram home from church.

Isa stared out at the canals that crisscrossed Amsterdam’s streets. “My Primary teacher said that having the priesthood in your home is a blessing,” Isa said. “But Dad doesn’t have the priesthood.”

“We can still have the priesthood in our home, even if your dad isn’t a member of the Church,” Mom said. “There are lots of worthy priesthood holders in the ward who can help you. What about Brother Van Leeuwen, our home teacher?”

Isa liked Brother Van Leeuwen. He always brought stroopwafels, Isa’s favorite cookie, and talked with her about science, her best subject. But at church, other children told about their dads giving them priesthood blessings when they were sick or upset. Isa couldn’t ask her dad for a blessing.

“I love Dad,” Isa said. “I just wish he had the priesthood.” When they got home, Dad was in the kitchen cooking dinner. “How was church?” he called to them.

Isa didn’t reply. Instead she went into her bedroom and flopped down on the bed. She wished things were a little different.

The next week Isa had to take a big test at school. Every child in the Netherlands has to take a test when they are 12 years old to determine where they go to school next year. Even though Isa had been studying hard and was prepared, she was very nervous. The night before, her stomach felt like it was tied in knots. She couldn’t sleep. As she tossed and turned in bed, she remembered the lesson from Primary about asking for a priesthood blessing if you were afraid. Even though her dad couldn’t give her a blessing, she knew Heavenly Father would help her if she asked.

Isa got out of bed and walked into the living room. Mom was at work, but Dad was on the couch watching TV. “Is everything OK?” Dad asked.

“I’m really nervous about the test tomorrow,” Isa said. “Do you think we could call Brother Van Leeuwen and ask him to give me a blessing?”

“I think that’s a good idea,” Dad said. “Let me give him a call.”

Soon Brother Van Leeuwen and his son Jaan came over and gave Isa a blessing. Brother Van Leeuwen asked Heavenly Father to help Isa not be nervous for the test and to help her do well. While Brother Van Leeuwen gave Isa the blessing, Dad sat on the couch and folded his arms and closed his eyes.

After the blessing Isa felt much better. Her stomach wasn’t so tight anymore, and she was even a little sleepy. “Good luck tomorrow,” Brother Van Leeuwen said as they went out the door.

One time Dad was gone, so our home teacher gave me a blessing instead.

I’m glad we can ask for a blessing when we need help.
left. “You’ve worked very hard, and I know Heavenly Father will help you do well.”

“I’m proud of you for having faith,” Dad said to Isa as he tucked her back into bed. “Even if I’m not a member of the Church, I’m glad that you believe in God, and I hope you know that I do too.”

“Thank you, Dad,” Isa said, and he kissed her on the cheek.

As she snuggled under her covers, Isa felt happy and peaceful. She was grateful to have a dad who loved her. She was glad her dad believed in Heavenly Father and Jesus. And she knew the priesthood could always bless her and her home.
WHAT OTHER BOYS ARE SAYING

“He gets into fights all the time.”

“We can at least be nice to him.”

“We should pray about it, like Brother Weston said.”

THE BAD-NEWS KID

By Hilary Watkins Lemon
(Based on a true story)
“If people you do not know walk into one of your meetings, greet them warmly and invite them to sit with you.”

Bishop Gérald Caussé, First Counselor in the Presiding Bishopric


Ronny didn’t sound like someone who’d fit into our Sunday School class.

As soon as sacrament meeting ended, I headed straight for my Sunday School class. I couldn’t wait to see the guys.

Matt, Tom, Brendan, and I had been friends since before I could remember. We liked the same sports teams, music, clothes, and food. That was why our Sunday School class was so fun. We stuck together—we always had.

As we settled into our seats, our teachers, Brother and Sister Weston, came in. Before he sat down, Brother Weston asked, “Did you boys know someone is missing from our class?”

“No way,” I said. “We’re all here!”

“It’s great that you four always come to Sunday School,” Sister Weston said. “But there is one boy on our class roll who hasn’t ever come. His dad told me he’s coming next week. We’d like your help welcoming him.”

“Great! What’s his name?” Matt asked.

“Do any of you know a boy named Ronny Saunders?”

“That kid is bad news,” Tom said. “I’ve seen him around my school. He gets into fights all the time.”

The room was quiet. Ronny didn’t sound like someone who’d fit into our Sunday School class.

“Well, even if that’s true,” Sister Weston said, “he still deserves the blessings from coming to Sunday School. I want all of you to think of something you can do to welcome Ronny next week.”

Nobody said anything.

“Just think about it,” Brother Weston said. “Pray about it too.”

After church my friends and I hung around to talk about welcoming Ronny.

“We can at least be nice to him,” I said. It was hard to imagine someone else in our class. We already got along great. But maybe Ronny liked some of the same things we did.

“I don’t know,” Tom said. “I don’t think Ronny will let us be nice to him. He’ll probably just get mad—like I said, he’s bad news.”

“We should pray about it, like Brother Weston said,” Brendan suggested.

I nodded. “Good idea.”

The next week, I went to Sunday School. I’d prayed about Ronny joining our class. I knew no matter how he acted, I should be kind and welcoming. I waved at my friends, who smiled back nervously.

I’d barely sat down when Brother Weston said, “Boys, meet your new classmate.”

Ronny stood frowning in the doorway. His dark hair fell over his face. His gray pants were closed at the waist with a safety pin. The buttons on his shirt pulled apart, and his black plastic jacket was torn at the shoulder.

I braced myself. “Welcome to Sunday School,” I squeaked, hoping he wasn’t going to beat me up for it.

To my surprise, Ronny’s frown disappeared. He gave a small smile. “Thanks,” he muttered.

Tom shocked everyone by walking up to Ronny and giving him a huge bear hug. Ronny was the most surprised of all, but his smile grew even bigger.

“Hey, Ronny,” Matt said. “Sit next to me.” He offered the empty chair next to him.

Ronny didn’t seem like bad news at all. Brendan gave the opening prayer, and Brother Weston started our lesson. Our classroom felt better than ever. Ronny was going to fit right in.

The author lives in Texas, USA.
Through Your Eyes

I love how God created nature. I love to explore it and feel His love while exploring.

Tyler H., age 11, Utah, USA

The Last Laugh

Hey, Dad! Look what I brought to help us catch some catfish!

Funstuff Answers

Dear Friends: imagination

Page 10: forever family

Hidden CTR Ring

Did you find the ring? Look on page 22!
DAVID AND GOLIATH
1 Samuel 17

Glue this page to heavy paper or cardboard. Then cut out the figures and attach them to craft sticks or paper bags. You can use them to help act out your favorite Old Testament stories.
Dear Parents and Teachers,

This magazine has a special section that’s all about having fun! Pages 21-28 include boredom-busting ideas that kids could do on their own or as a family. Whether you make a puppet-show stage, have a family camp-in, or come up with another creative idea, we would love to see pictures of your adventures. Wholesome recreation is so important!

Have fun,
The Friend

Order the Friend at store.lds.org!

Family Home Evening Ideas

WHOLESALE ACTIVITIES: You can learn about this month’s Primary sharing time theme on page 42. You’ll find a short lesson, a scripture, and ideas for talking with your children.

HELPING EACH OTHER: Read “The Extra Half-Mile” (page 4) and have each person in your family share something they can do to help another member of the family. Then help each other make the delicious recipes on page 6.

FAMILY HISTORY FUN: Explore your family history by filling out the fan chart on page 17. Talk about why we do family history work. Then visit FamilySearch.org to see what’s been posted about your family tree.

CLOSER TO THE SAVIOR: Read “Abide with Me” (page 2) and talk about why we need the Savior. Do the activities on page 3, and then make your own list of ways you can feel closer to the Savior.

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• Visit “Resources for Teaching Children” at lessonhelps.lds.org for stories, activities, and media to use at home and in Primary.
• Find videos and games for kids at friend.lds.org.