

THE Friend



...do even unto Bethlehem, and see
which is come to pass, which
is known unto us.

And they came with haste, and found
Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying
in a manger.

FRIENDS

by

MAIL

A Priesthood Blessing



I thought I would have a great time during my first day at a new school, but I didn't. Things were really different. I went home and told my mom and dad about it. My dad asked me if I would like to have a priest-

hood blessing. I said I would, and he gave me a blessing. The next day, I had a great day at school.

Isaac S., age 7, Arkansas

The *Friend* Helps Me Too

I read a letter in Friends by Mail in the March 2010 *Friend* called "The *Friend* Helped Me." It reminded me that when I am mad or upset, I can go to my room and read the *Friend*. The *Friend* reminds me that I am a child of God and that He loves me.

Danay B., age 13, Oregon



The *Friend* Is My Favorite



I love to read the *Friend*. It's my favorite thing to do.

Fisher P., age 3, Nevada

Keeping It Up

I play the piano, and sometimes I struggle with the notes. When I thought about quitting, we read the story "Keep It Up, Jenna!" in the November 2009 *Friend*. My name is Jenna! I feel better now about playing the piano.

Jenna M., age 7, Utah



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.

Dear Friend,

Volume 40 Number 12
December 2010

The First Presidency:

Thomas S. Monson, Henry B. Eyring,
Dieter F. Uchtdorf

The Quorum of the Twelve Apostles:

Boyd K. Packer, L. Tom Perry, Russell M. Nelson,
Dallin H. Oaks, M. Russell Ballard, Richard G. Scott,
Robert D. Hales, Jeffrey R. Holland, David A. Bednar,
Quentin L. Cook, D. Todd Christofferson,
Neil L. Andersen

Editor: Paul B. Pieper

Advisers: Stanley G. Ellis, Christoffel Golden Jr.,
Yoshihiko Kikuchi

Managing Director: David L. Frischknecht

Evaluation, Planning, and Editorial Director:
Vincent A. Vaughn

Graphics Director: Allan R. Loyborg

Managing Editor: Julie Wardell

Assistant Managing Editor: Jan Pinborough

Assistant Editors: Jennifer Maddy, Chad E. Phares

Editorial Intern: Annie Beer

Editorial Staff: Susan Barrett, Ryan Carr,
Jennifer L. Greenwood, R. Val Johnson, Adam C. Olson,
Laurel Teuscher

Administrative Assistant: Carrie Kasten

Art Director: Mark W. Robison

Senior Designer: Brad Teare

Production: Kerry Lynn C. Herrin

Design and Production Staff:
Collette Nebeker Aune, Thomas Child, Eric Johnsen,
Scott M. Mooy, Jane Ann Peters, Scott Van Kampen

Prepress: Byron Warner

Printing Director: Craig K. Sedgwick

Distribution Director: Evan Larsen

© 2010 by Intellectual Reserve, Inc.

All rights reserved. The *Friend* (ISSN 0009-4102) is
published monthly by The Church of Jesus Christ of
Latter-day Saints, 50 E. North Temple St., Salt Lake
City, Utah 84150-3220, United States of America.
Periodicals Postage Paid at Salt Lake City, Utah.

To subscribe: By phone: Call 1-800-537-5971 to
order using Visa, MasterCard, Discover Card, or
American Express.

Online: Go to ldscatalog.com.

By mail: Send \$8 U.S. check or money order to
Distribution Services, P.O. Box 26368, Salt Lake City,
UT 84126-0368.

To change address: Send old and new address
information to Distribution Services at the above
address, or change the address by phone at the
number listed above. Please allow 60 days for
changes to take effect.

Submit manuscripts or art to:

Friend Editorial, 50 E. North Temple St. Rm. 2432,
Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3220, United States of
America. Unsolicited material is welcome, but
no responsibility is assumed. For return, include
self-addressed, stamped envelope. Children's
submissions will not be returned. E-mail:
friend@ldschurch.org.

The *Friend* can be found on the Internet at
friend.lds.org.

Text and visual material in the *Friend* may be
copied for incidental, noncommercial Church or
home use. Visual material may not be copied if
restrictions are indicated in the credit line with the
artwork. Copyright questions should be addressed to
Intellectual Property Office, 50 E. North Temple St.,
Salt Lake City, UT 84150, United States of America;
e-mail: cor-intellectualproperty@ldschurch.org.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
Distribution Services, P.O. Box 26368, Salt Lake City,
UT 84126-0368, USA.

Canada Post Information: Publication Agreement
#40017431.

THE *Friend*

See the
Guide to the *Friend*
on page 48 for
family home
evening ideas.



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

Stories and Features

IFC Friends by Mail

- 2 Come Listen to a Prophet's Voice: The Christmas Cane / President Thomas S. Monson
- 3 A Christmas Gift for Jesus
- 4 Christmas Eve Drop-Off
- 6 A Year on Temple Square: The Church History Library
- 8 A Special Guest
- 10 Bright Idea
- 11 Special Witness: Elder Robert D. Hales
- 12 Bulletin Board
- 14 Jesus Is Born
- 18 Bethlehem Canadian Style
- 20 The Open House
- 22 Friend to Friend: The Temple Is for Everyone / Elder W. Craig Zwick
- 28 The Christmas Thaw
- 30 Trying to Be Like Jesus
- 36 Straw for the Manger
- 38 Our Creative Friends
- 40 December Sharing Time Theme: I Know That My Redeemer Lives
- 42 Matt and Mandy
- 44 Friends in the News
- 46 Good Neighbors
- 48 Guide to the *Friend*
- 49 Our Savior, Jesus Christ

For Little Friends

- 32 The First Christmas Gift
- 34 Christmas Service

Music

- 16 Our Christmas Story Tree

Things to Make and Do

- 23 Funstuf
- 24 Scripture Ornaments
- 26 Christmas Workshop
- 43 Scripture Ornament Cutouts
- 45 Coloring Page



Look for the *Friend*
mouse to see which
features are online
at friend.lds.org.



Hidden CTR Ring

Clue:

Christmastime is
gift-giving time.

Cover by Sam Nielson



The CHRISTMAS Cane

By President Thomas S. Monson



At home in a hidden-away corner, I have a small black walking stick with an imitation silver handle. It once belonged to a distant relative. Why do I keep it for a period now spanning more than 70 years? There is a special reason.

You see, as a very small boy I participated in a Christmas pageant in our ward. I was privileged to be one of the three Wise Men. With a bandana around my head, Mother's piano bench cover draped over my shoulder, and the black cane in my hand, I spoke my assigned lines:

"Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him" (Matthew 2:2).

I don't recall all of the words in that pageant, but I vividly remember the feelings of my heart as the three of us "Wise Men" looked upward and saw the star, journeyed across the stage, found Mary with the young child Jesus, then fell down and worshipped him and opened our treasures and presented gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

I especially liked the fact that we did not return to the evil Herod to betray the baby Jesus, but obeyed God and departed another way.

The years have flown by, the events of a busy life take their proper places in the hallowed halls of memory, but the Christmas cane continues to occupy its special place in my home; and in my heart is a commitment to Christ. ♦

From "Feelings of Heart Recalled," Church News, Dec. 12, 2009, 7.

ILLUSTRATION BY BRAD TEARE

A CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR JESUS



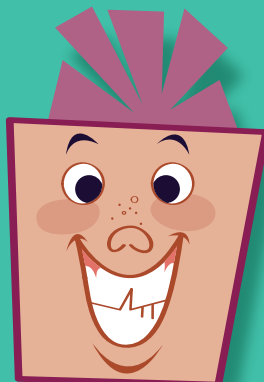
A HELLO TO
INCLUDE



AN INVITATION
TO COME



A HAND TO HELP



A SMILE TO CHEER



The Wise Men brought valuable gifts to Jesus. They gave Him gold, a costly perfume called frankincense, and an ointment called myrrh. What gift could you give Him as we celebrate His birth this month?



Christmas Eve DROP-OFF

By Lisa Harvey

(Based on a true story)

*Freely ye have received,
freely give* (Matthew 10:8).

Melissa ran her fingernails over the frosted bus window, making designs. It was so cold outside that the window soon frosted over again.

Camille poked Melissa. "Look what Kathy is wearing today," she whispered, giggling.



Melissa's eyes followed Camille's pointing finger. Kathy sat by herself, her tangled hair sticking out of an old wool hat. Her coat was too short in the sleeves. Her canvas shoes had holes in the toes, and she wasn't wearing socks. Kathy's eyes were downcast.

"We shouldn't be mean," Melissa said. "I think her family must be really poor."

"You don't have to be rich to brush your hair," Camille said.

"Shh!" Melissa warned.

When the bus stopped, Melissa watched Kathy get off the bus and walk with her little brother toward a small house. No Christmas decorations were visible. No lights. No tree. When Melissa got home, Kathy's sad face wouldn't leave her mind. It didn't seem fair that some people had so much and others so little.

After dinner, Melissa went to their Christmas tree and

picked up each of her presents—one from Grandma, one from her best friend, and one from her little brother.

Melissa took her presents over to the table where her parents were talking. "I want to give these away," she blurted out, before she could change her mind.

Mom and Dad looked surprised. "Why?" Dad asked.

Melissa told them about Kathy.

"I know her family," Dad said. "Their father died a few years ago, and there are four children in the family."

"May I give her my presents?" Melissa asked.

"We can do even better than that," Dad said.

Mom smiled and nodded. "We certainly can."

Melissa's family spent the next two days in a frenzy. They cut and decorated another tree, baked more Christmas goodies, and bought food for another Christmas dinner. They gathered clothes for the children—socks, shoes, hats, coats, gloves, shirts, pants, and dresses.

Then Melissa and her brothers opened their presents and rewrapped the ones they wanted to give away. Melissa's present from her brother was a doll she had been wanting since September. She thought about giving Kathy one of her other presents instead. Then, thinking how happy it would make Kathy, she wrapped the doll in the prettiest paper she could find and put a big red bow on top.

On Christmas Eve, the family loaded all of the presents into the van. Dad drove slowly past Kathy's house and stopped the van behind a big bush.

Melissa and her older brother, Trent, loaded their arms with presents



ILLUSTRATIONS BY PAUL MANN

and followed Dad up the walk. Melissa heard the snow crunching loudly under her boots.

"Please don't hear us," she thought.

When they reached the front step, Dad set down the tree in its stand and a big box filled with food. Melissa and Trent hurried to set down their armloads too.

Dad rang the bell and whispered, "Run!"

Everyone ran to hide behind the bush. Melissa tried to quiet her loud breathing as she watched to see what would happen.

When Kathy's little brother opened the door, he looked around, his eyes huge. Then he yelled, "Mom, Kathy, look! It's Christmas! It's Christmas!"

Then Kathy came to the door, looking astonished and happy. Melissa had never seen her smile like that before.

On the way home, Melissa felt like she was going to explode with joy.

"This is the best Christmas ever!"
she said. ♦



"There are those throughout the world who are hungry; there are those who are destitute. Working together, we can alleviate suffering and provide for those in need."

President Thomas S. Monson





The Church History Library

By Jan Pinborough
Church Magazines

Come with us this month for a look at an important place on Temple Square.

On a cold December afternoon, Tia C. walked through the doors of the Church History Library. History is one of Tia's favorite subjects, so she was excited to help show *Friend* readers some of the library's fascinating historical treasures.

Tia met Elder Marlin K. Jensen, who is the Church Historian. He showed her some very special journals

and photographs. He told Tia it is important for every boy and girl in the Church to keep a journal. "Two or three times a week, sit down and think about how Heavenly Father has blessed you, protected you, and kept you from temptation," he said. "Mainly, it is important to write about your feelings."

These tools help repair old books and documents.

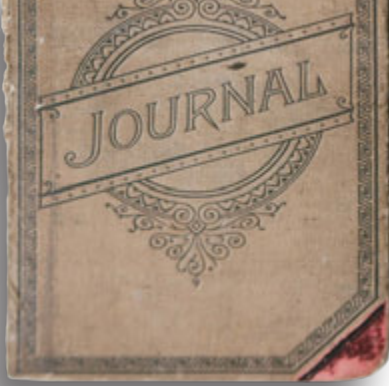


"I was surprised at how big the library is inside," Tia said. The library has millions of items—books, journals, photographs, magazines, newspapers, letters, patriarchal blessings, videos, and DVDs. Most are kept in storage rooms, some at a temperature of four degrees below zero!



President Spencer W. Kimball wrote in this small journal when he was 10 years old—the same age as Tia. Who do you think chewed the eraser off the little pencil?





What's the special story inside Mary Jane Millett's journal? To find out, go to friend.lids.org, click on "Videos," and watch The Story Lives Here.

Taking Care of History

Tia watched a video about a pioneer girl named Mary Jane Millett. Mary Jane's father had a special experience that he wrote about in his journal. Mary Jane copied it into her own journal. Mary Jane's journal is in the Church History Library, and Tia visited the conservation lab to see how it is being preserved.

Write It Down!

Tia loves writing stories. Now she knows how important it is to write down her own special experiences. "Visiting the Church History Library was the best experience ever!" Tia said. "I will never forget it."

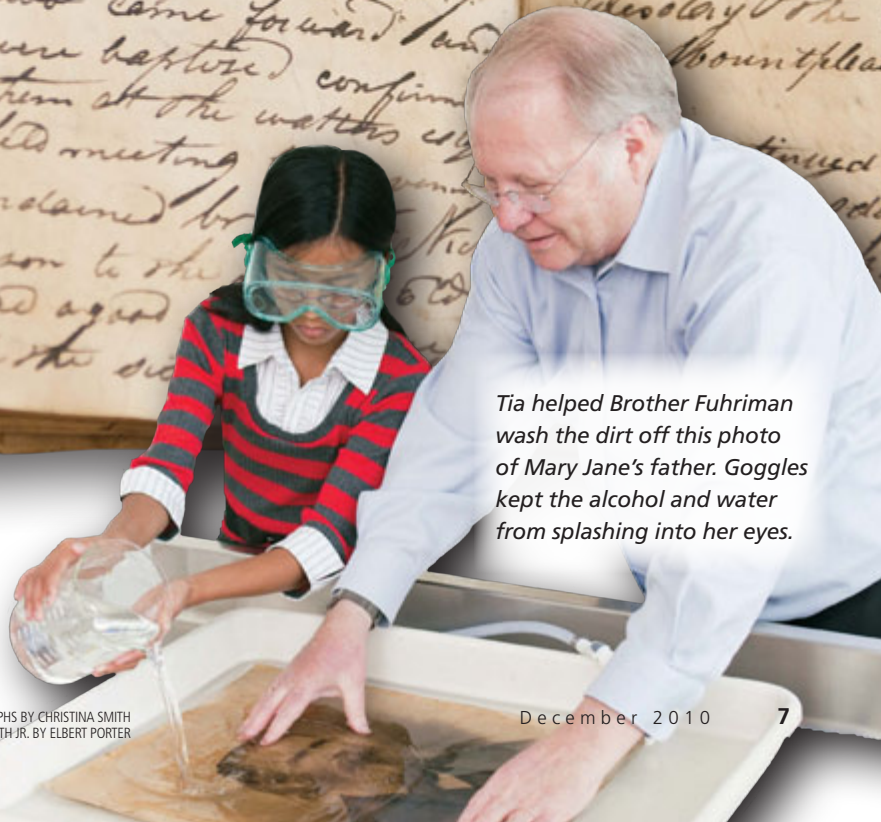
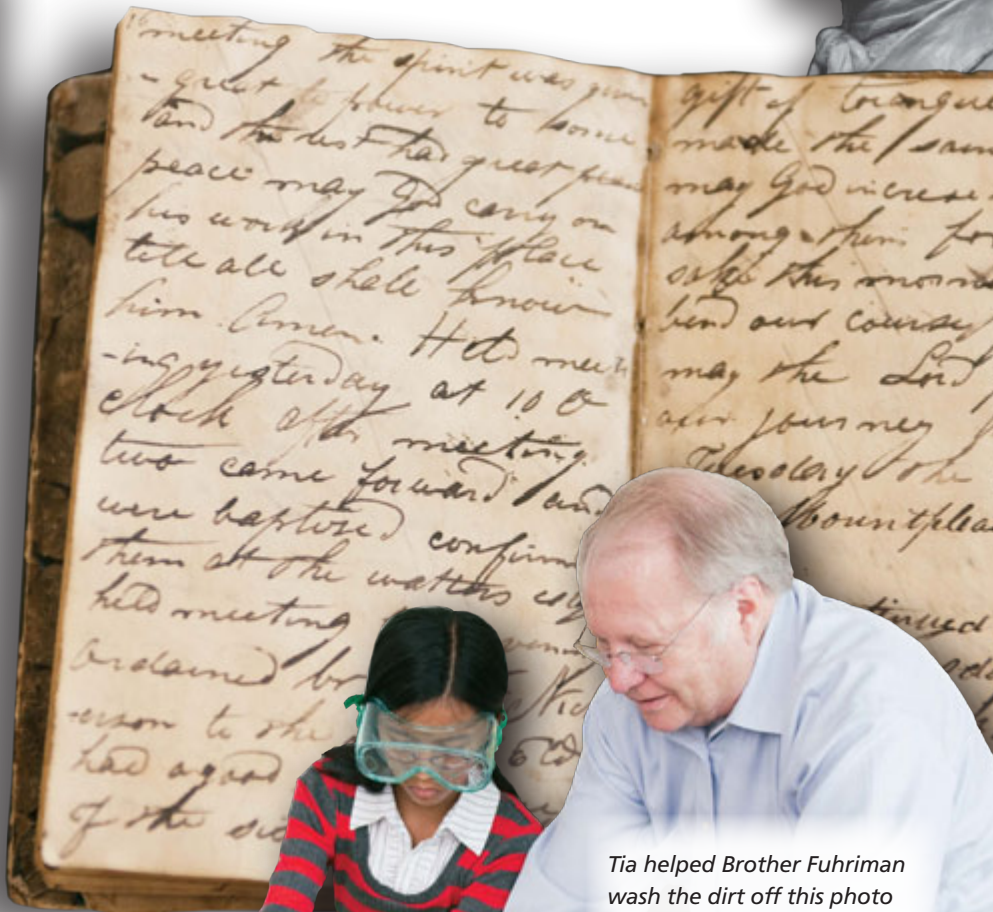
But just in case, she went home and wrote about it.

Mary Jane's father



In the conservation lab, Tia sewed a few stitches to help repair Mary Jane Millett's journal.

Tia saw Joseph Smith's first journal. The Prophet bought it in 1832 to write down what he did and what he saw.



Tia helped Brother Fuhrman wash the dirt off this photo of Mary Jane's father. Goggles kept the alcohol and water from splashing into her eyes.



See More Online!

You can watch a video about Tia's visit to the Church History Library at friend.lids.org.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHRISTINA SMITH
JOSEPH SMITH JR. BY ELBERT PORTER

December 2010

7

A Special Guest

Joseph Smith . . . has done more, save Jesus only, for the salvation of men in this world, than any other man that ever lived in it (D&C 135:3).

By Lorraine Richardson

(Based on a true story)

We'll be having a special guest tonight at family home evening," Dad announced at breakfast.

Daniel looked up in surprise. "Who's coming over?" he asked.

"Someone you know a lot about," Mom said. "A person you'll be excited to meet!"

All day Daniel wondered who was coming to family home evening. Christmas was only a few days away. Maybe the special guest had something to do with Christmas.

Finally, the family gathered in the evening. Dad said, "Tonight Joseph Smith is going to be our special guest. His birthday is on December 23. As a family we're going to role-play the story of Joseph Smith's First Vision."

Everyone collected props and costumes for their assigned roles. Daniel rehearsed his part with Dad while the others practiced with Mom. Soon they were ready.

Little Matthew was excited to play the role of Joseph Smith. Daniel and Elizabeth played Joseph's family. Mom and Dad pretended to be

preachers from different churches.

"Join our church and be saved!"

"No, come with us! We're right!"

"The Bible says this!"

"But that's not what it *means*!"

"Now, how do you think Joseph Smith felt?" Dad asked. "Do you think he might have wondered why the preachers all said different things and who was right?"

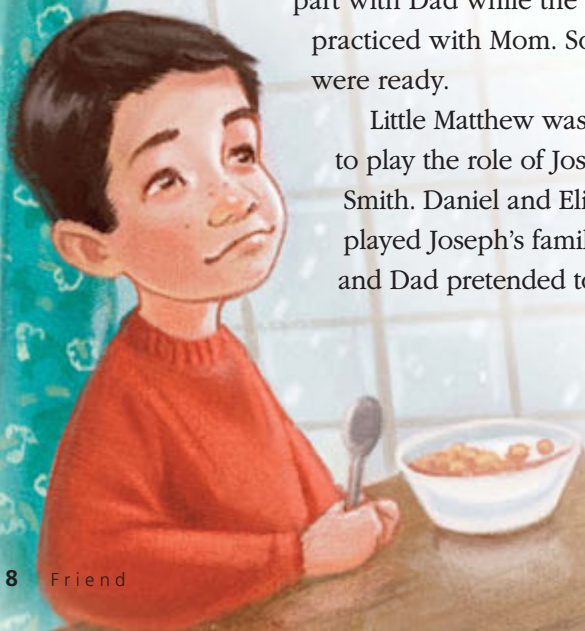
Daniel, Matthew, and Elizabeth all agreed that Joseph must have wondered about that.

Then Dad lit a candle. Daniel felt as if he were right there with Joseph Smith as Dad read from James 1:5 by candlelight, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God." Then Dad started reading the story of the First Vision.

Matthew knelt down as if he were praying. Suddenly the light of a flashlight shone brightly on him, and Daniel reverently recited the lines Dad had helped him to memorize: "This is My Beloved Son. Hear Him!" (Joseph Smith—History 1:17).

Dad explained how Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ appeared to Joseph Smith and told him that he should not join any of the churches then on the earth.

"The Lord chose Joseph Smith to be His prophet to restore the true Church of Jesus Christ to the earth," Dad said. "Joseph faithfully carried out that mission."





"We come to believe in Jesus Christ through the testimony of the Prophet Joseph Smith."²

President Dieter F. Uchtdorf,
Second Counselor in the First Presidency



A few days later Daniel's neighbor Andy came over to play. Daniel was still thinking about family home evening with Joseph Smith.

He turned to Andy and said, "I know a prophet who lived a long time ago—Joseph Smith. Do you know who he is?" ♦

**“God loveth
a cheerful
giver.”**

—2 Corinthians 9:7



How do I **RECEIVE** personal **REVELATION?**



Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles shares some of his thoughts on this subject.



Personal revelation is the way Heavenly Father helps us know Him and His Son, learn and live the gospel, endure to the end in righteousness, and qualify for eternal life—to return back into Their presence.



We prepare to receive personal revelation as the prophets do, by studying the scriptures, fasting, praying, and building faith.



Revelation comes on the Lord's timetable, which often means we must move forward in faith, even though we haven't received all the answers we desire.



We may receive personal revelation more frequently than we realize. The more we receive and acknowledge personal revelation, the more our testimonies grow.

From "Personal Revelation: The Teachings and Examples of the Prophets," *Ensign*, Nov. 2007, 87–88.

Bulletin Board

STARLIGHT GARLAND

Cut **24 stars** out of colored paper. Each day leading up to Christmas, do something for your family members that shows you love them. You could give your dad a hug, help your sister pick up her toys, or sing your grandpa a song. Make a garland out of the paper stars by adding a star each day with glue or tape. Hang the garland in your room. As your garland grows, you will see how your light shines!

JOURNAL JUNCTION


Take some time this month to read 3 Nephi 1:10-21. Then write in your journal about what our Savior, Jesus Christ, means to you.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Below are ways to say "Merry Christmas" in different languages. See if you can match each language to the place where it is spoken. (Find the answers at the bottom of the page.)

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| 1. Frohliche Weihnachten | A. Italy |
| 2. Mele Kalikimaka | B. Wales |
| 3. Buon Natale | C. Vietnam |
| 4. Nadolig Llawen | D. Germany |
| 5. Chuc Mung Giang Sinh | E. Hawaii |

Answers: 1) D, 2) E, 3) A, 4) B, 5) C.



ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS

On a Friend Web site survey we asked you **where you would rather spend Christmas: at home or on vacation.** There were 1,130 people who responded! Wherever you spend Christmas this year, remember to think about Jesus Christ and the wonderful miracle of His birth.



79%

At Home

21%

On Vacation



Apple Wreaths

With an adult's help, core an apple. Then turn the apple on its side and cut slices so you have wreath shapes with a hole in the middle. Spread peanut butter or cream cheese on each slice, then sprinkle on toppings. They could be raisins, chocolate chips, or even your favorite cereal. Then enjoy your tasty holiday snack!



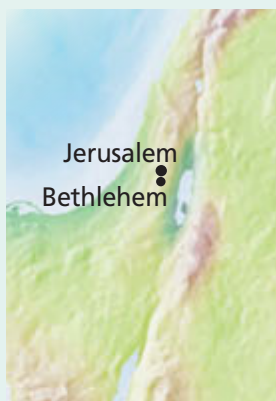
HOLLY LEAVES © GETTY IMAGES;
ORNAMENT AND RECIPE PHOTOS
BY CODY BELL



Jesus Is Born



City of David: David, the young man who fought Goliath and later became king, was born in Bethlehem. City of David is another name for Bethlehem.



By Diane L. Mangum

Darkness crept softly over the green hillsides near Bethlehem. It was spring, the season when many new lambs were born. Busy shepherds checked on one lamb and then another before settling down for the night.

Bethlehem was busy as well. Many travelers had come to the village because the Roman emperor had decreed that all people must go to the city of their ancestors to be taxed. Two of the travelers—Joseph and his wife, Mary—had to find a place to stay for the night.

At last Joseph and Mary found shelter in a stable, where animals were kept. In that humble stable Mary's baby was born. The baby was the Son of God, the Savior of the world. Before His birth, He was called Jehovah.

Mary wrapped her baby in clean swaddling clothes and made a little bed for Him in the soft, clean hay of the **manger**. Joseph knew that this baby was the Son of Heavenly Father. He named the baby Jesus, just as an angel had told him earlier.

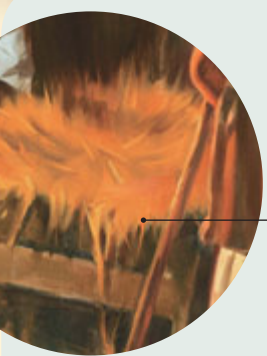
The angels of heaven rejoiced! The prophets' promises were fulfilled. Jehovah, now called Jesus, had been born on earth. A new **star** shone in the heavens to announce the good news.

On a hillside an angel appeared to shepherds, and a bright light shone all around. The shepherds had never seen such a thing, and they were very afraid.

"Fear not," said the angel, "for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you



Star: The Wise Men, who lived in the east, far from Bethlehem, saw a new star. They knew it meant the Savior had been born. They traveled to visit young Jesus, who would be King of the Jews. They brought Him precious gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.



Manger: A box or trough made of wood or stone to hold food for animals.

is born this day in the **city of David** a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.”

Suddenly, there were angels saying to the shepherds, “Glory to God in the highest,

and on earth peace, good will toward men.”

When the angels left, the amazed shepherds hurried to Bethlehem, where they found the baby Jesus lying in the manger. As the shepherds returned to their sheep, they praised God and told others of all they had seen. ♦

*From
Matthew
1:20–25;
2:1–11; and
Luke 2:1–20.*

Our Christmas

Liltingly ♩ = 84-92

Words by Jan Pinborough
Music by Michael F. Moody

mf *Obbligato for flute or violin, for verse 3 only*

1. It's time to peek in - side our box of or - na - ments to see Which
mf an - gel on the high - est branch still sings the joy - ful song Of
 there be - neath the tree we'll place a pack - age wrapped in red, Re -

ones we'll choose to de - cor - ate our Christ - mas sto - ry tree. Let's
 peace on earth, good will to men, of par - don for our wrongs. We'll
 mind - ing of our Lord's great gifts— His love, the blood He shed. Our

hang a cane of pep - per - mint up - on the near - est bough To
 set a star of sil - ver here a - mong the twink - ling lights, Like
 Christ - mas tree is ev - er green; its need - les nev - er fall. Our

Copyright © 2009 by Jan Pinborough and Michael F. Moody. All rights reserved.
 This song may be copied for incidental, noncommercial church or home use.
 This notice must be included on each copy made.

Story Tree



rit.

1. 2.

tell of shep - herds watch - ing lambs, as Je - sus watch - es now.
 one that shone on Beth - le - hem, that sa - cred, star - ry night.
 Sav - ior dear was born to bring e - ter - nal life to

rit.

3.

slower

2. The all. Our Sav - ior dear was
 3. And

slower

molto rit.

born to bring e - ter - nal life to all.

molto rit.

Bethlehem

By Jane Nickerson

There's a hush in the air as you walk down the path. It feels as though something wonderful is about to happen. Your breath puffs out white. It's hard to walk in the deep snow, so you step in other people's footprints.

Now you see the village of Bethlehem down in the hollow. You climb up on the bleachers to watch the scene unfold.

A Nativity Scene

Down in the hollow, robed villagers shuffle about. A boy leads a llama (pretending to be a camel) down the street. A man steps into the crowd, leading a donkey carrying a lady. An innkeeper leads them to a shed holding a manger. The lights go out.

When a spotlight shines on the manger, a baby lies within.

Suddenly a bright light glows on the hill above the shepherds. A host of angels bursts into song. The music swells, "Hallelujah, Hallelujah!"

A Christmas Tradition

This is the annual Newmarket Ward nativity pageant in Ontario, Canada. For 23 years it has been held nightly from December 20 through Christmas Eve.

Primary children play angels, shepherds, and villagers. All agree that it's always cold, cold, cold. They wear so many clothes under their costumes they feel like they have to waddle when they walk! Brooke S. says that it's a challenge being an angel because they must keep their white costumes spotless and jump up instantly after the angel Gabriel speaks, even though they're stiff from huddling in the snow.



Erika W. plays Mary riding a donkey.

Members of all ages play the villagers who come to worship the baby Jesus.

Canadian Style

Jordan K. says he enjoys being a villager because you don't have to learn lines. You get to walk around in costume and pretend you really were a child in Bethlehem.

The pageant uses live animals, and they are always unpredictable! The audience and cast members all enjoy it when the animals make funny noises. Celeste S. says her favorite part of the pageant is feeding the animals carrots. Once, a baby lamb was born just before the pageant began.

A Missionary Opportunity

The pageant gives the Primary children an opportunity to be missionaries. Rachel M. and Natalie C. of the Newmarket Primary both invited nonmember friends to participate in the pageant with them.

Rachel says, "I feel good doing it. It's serving others,

preaching the gospel, and being in a play at the same time."

Her nonmember friend, Danielle G., says, "I loved kneeling by the baby Jesus."

The mayor of Newmarket and members of the town council take part in the pageant every year. The pageant committee gave the mayor a picture of the Savior to hang in his office.

Worth the Effort

It's a tremendous effort to produce the pageant, but Sister JoAnne Anderson, who directs the pageant, says, "For many in our ward, being in the nativity pageant each year is *the* family Christmas tradition." What a wonderful way for a whole community to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas! ♦



Jason W. likes working with the animals in the pageant.

Spotlights shine on Mary and Joseph and the Wise Men as they present their gifts to the baby Jesus.

The Open House

All those who were true believers in Christ took upon them, gladly, the name of Christ, or Christians (Alma 46:15).

Alison listened eagerly as the bishop announced that their ward would be having a Christmas open house this year. “We want it to be a special evening,” he said. “It will be a wonderful opportunity to invite friends and neighbors.”

Alison loved the Christmas holidays. She liked shopping for presents for her family and friends and singing Christmas carols. And she loved reading the story of Jesus’s birth and thinking of Him as a small baby.

The bishop’s next words caught her attention. “Because of the open house, we won’t be having our traditional ward Christmas party this year.”

Alison frowned. “No party?” she whispered to her mother. The ward Christmas party was one of her favorite parts of the season.

Mom put a finger to her lips.

“Some of our friends and neighbors do not understand that we are Christians,” the bishop continued. “We want them to know that we believe in Jesus Christ.”

Alison thought about that. She remembered when her best friend, Erica, had said that Mormons weren’t Christians. She didn’t understand what Erica meant, so she had asked her parents about it.

“A lot of people focus on the name ‘Mormon’ or ‘Latter-day Saints,’” Mom had explained. “They forget that our Church is named for Jesus Christ.”

The next day at school, Alison had told Erica the first article of faith: “We believe in God, the Eternal Father, and in His Son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost.”

But Erica had just shrugged. “Then why don’t people call you Christians instead of Mormons?” she asked.

Alison turned her attention back to the bishop.

“The open house will focus on Jesus Christ,” he said. “We’re asking families to bring nativity sets, and we will have a live reenactment of the Nativity scene.”

As the time drew near for the open house, Alison started getting

excited. Mom and Dad invited an elderly neighbor to go to the open house. Alison invited Erica.

The night of the open house, Alison helped Mom wrap both of the family’s nativity sets in newspaper. Then Mom and Dad drove her to pick up Erica.

When they got to the church, Alison and Erica looked at nativity sets from Japan, Austria, the Philippines, and many other countries.

Then the girls went outside where the young men and young women were acting out the Nativity. There were live cows, sheep, and even a nanny goat. “Everything but a camel,” Alison said.



"As a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, you are a Christian."³

Elder Gary J. Coleman of the Seventy



The bishop asked everyone to gather in the chapel. Alison and Erica sat with the Primary children. The children sang "Picture a Christmas" and "The Nativity Song," and the ward choir performed parts of *Messiah*.

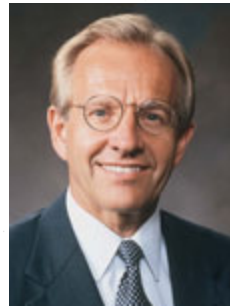
"That was really great," Erica said on the ride home. "I wish my parents could have come."

"Maybe next year," Alison said, smiling. She thought about the open house and realized she hadn't missed the Christmas party after all. ♦



The Temple Is for **EVERYONE**

By Elder W. Craig Zwick
Of the Seventy



I will manifest myself to my people in mercy in this house (D&C 110:7).

One Christmas, our 13-year-old granddaughter, Allie, received a special gift from one of her friends. It was a

temple recommend cover. Allie was thrilled. She had just had her interview with her bishop for her temple recommend to do baptisms for the dead. She discovered how preparing for the temple and attending regularly can positively and spiritually change your life.

At the beginning of the summer, Allie and a close friend decided to visit each of the temples in and around Salt Lake City, Utah, to participate in baptisms and confirmations for the dead. This experience has increased their faith and brought them joy and spiritual enrichment.

Allie told me that the feeling in the temple is totally different from the feeling in her junior high school. She said, "It's a feeling that you want with you always. It feels peaceful and happy. There is no pressure. I feel the Spirit trying to teach me there, and it makes me want to be better. I love being able to serve others. When I go home, I feel even greater love for my brothers and sisters and for my mom and dad."

Temples strengthen and unite families.

The temple is for everyone. President Thomas S. Monson said, "Come to the temple. . . . [The Lord will] hold you and cradle you and lead you step by step along that pathway to the celestial kingdom of God."* ♦

* "San Diego Temple: 45th House of the Lord Dedicated in 'Season for Temple Building,'" *Church News*, May 8, 1993.



The Life of Joseph Smith

By Chad E. Phares

The Prophet Joseph Smith was born on December 23, 1805. During his life he restored the gospel of Jesus Christ to the earth. Draw a line from each of the drawings of Joseph Smith to the place where an important event in his life occurred at that age. Then draw a line from the locations to the scriptures that refer to the events that happened. See answers on page 48.

1.



A.

Joseph Smith—
History 1:59

2.



B.

Joseph Smith—
History 1:14–17

3.



C.

Doctrine and
Covenants 110:1–7

4.



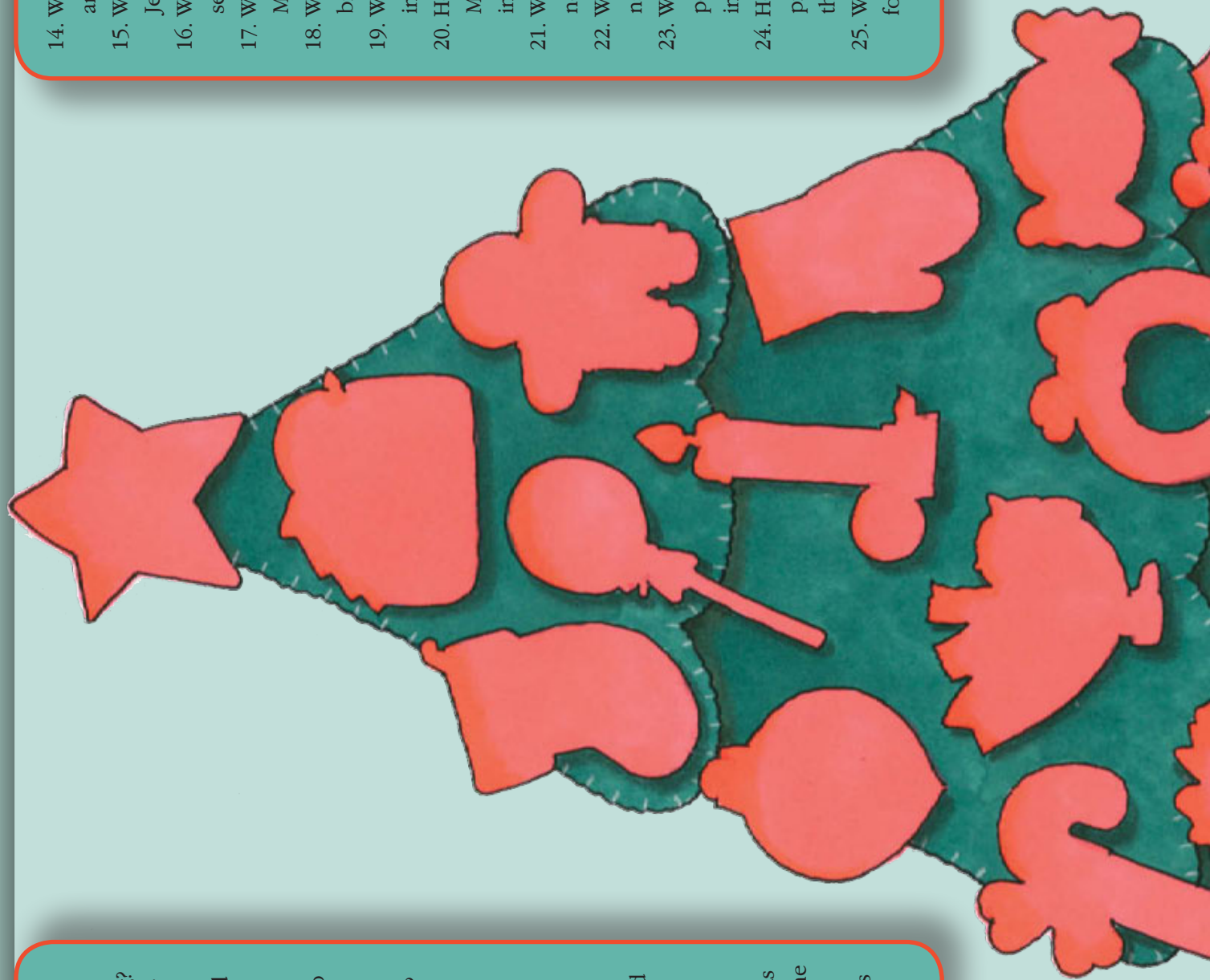
D.

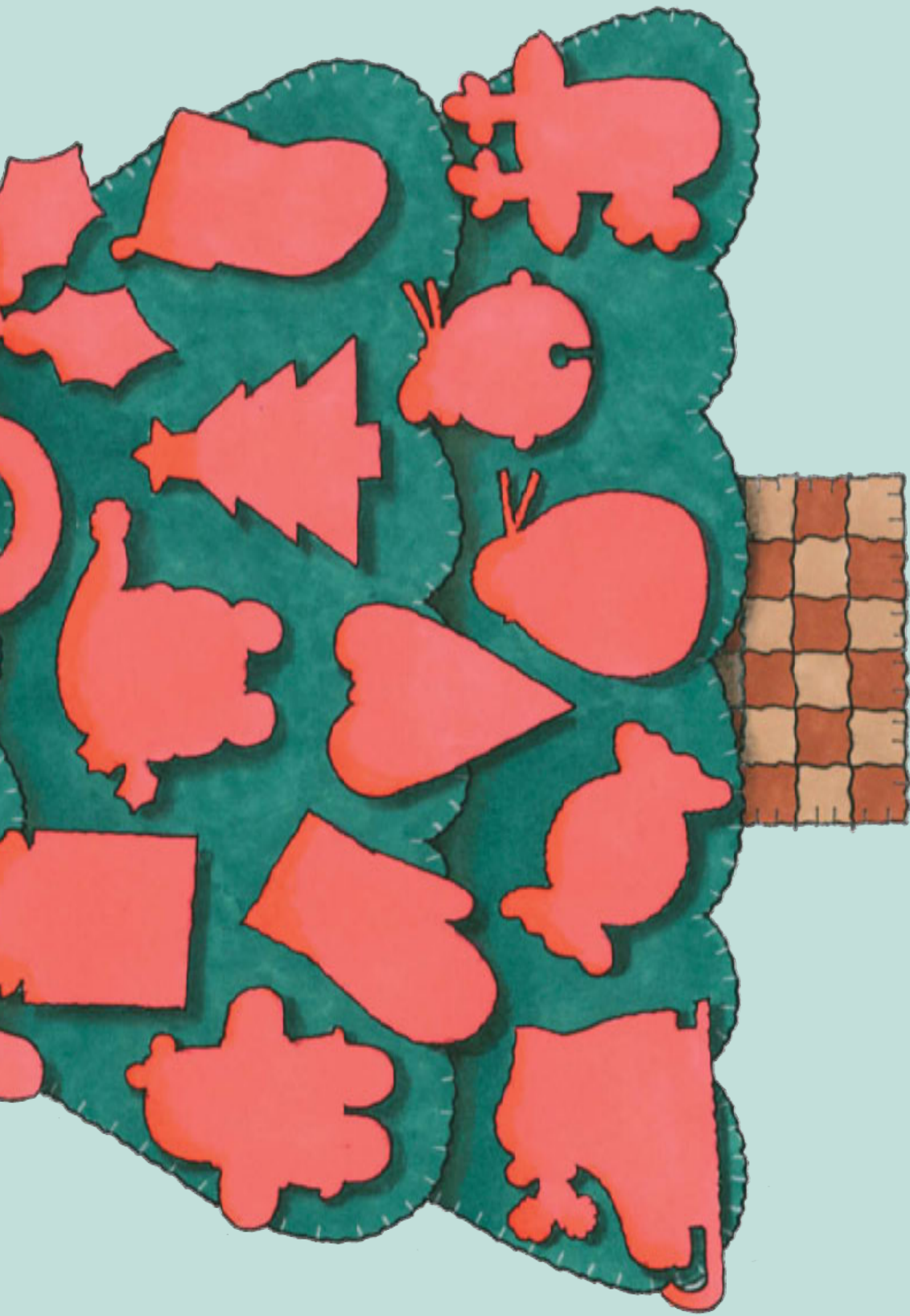
Doctrine and
Covenants 135:1



1. Who told Mary she would have a baby?
2. Where was Mary living?
3. Where did Mary go for a visit?
4. What did Elisabeth and Zacharias name their son?
5. Where did Mary and Joseph go on their journey?
6. Why did they go there?
7. Who gave the decree?
8. What is another name for Bethlehem?
9. Why didn't Mary and Joseph stay at the inn?
10. Where were the shepherds when they heard of Jesus's birth?
11. What did the angel tell the shepherds?
12. What did the shepherds do when they heard the good news?
13. Who did the shepherds see at the stable?

14. What did Mary wrap around the baby Jesus?
15. Who ruled Judea when Jesus was born?
16. Whom did the king send to find Jesus?
17. What guided the Wise Men to Jesus?
18. What gifts did they bring?
19. Who spoke to Joseph in a dream?
20. How long did Joseph, Mary, and Jesus stay in Egypt?
21. Where did they move next?
22. What are some other names for Jesus?
23. What is given to every person who comes into the world?
24. How should we prepare the way for the Lord?
25. What is another name for Jesus?





Scripture ORNAMENTS

Read a question every day in December until Christmas. Find the ornament on page 43 that has the same number as the day. Use your scriptures to read the verse on the ornament to find the answer to the day's question. Then cut out and paste, tape, or glue the ornament to the tree on this page. By Christmas your tree will be full and you will have learned more about the birth of Jesus Christ. If you would like, have a parent open the staples and remove these pages.

Christmas



KOURABIETHES (GREEK CHRISTMAS COOKIES)

- 1 cup butter**
- 1 cup powdered sugar, plus more for rolling**
- 1 egg**
- 1 teaspoon vanilla**
- 1/4 teaspoon almond extract**
- 3 cups flour**
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon**
- 1 teaspoon baking powder**

1. Wash your hands with soap and water.
2. Put the butter and powdered sugar in a bowl and beat them together until fluffy.
3. Add the egg, vanilla, and almond extract and beat to combine.
4. Put the dry ingredients in a bowl and mix them together.
5. Add the dry ingredients to the butter mixture and mix.
6. Roll dough into small balls. Then form them into crescent shapes.
7. Place cookies on a cookie sheet and bake at 350°F (177°C) for 15–20 minutes.
8. Remove cookies from oven. Cool cookies slightly and roll them in powdered sugar.

CHRISTMAS CANDLE JAR

clean, empty jar
colored paper
pen
scissors
beads
glue
ribbon
tape
candle



1. Cut a rectangle of colored paper to wrap around your jar.
2. Cut or poke designs into your paper with scissors or the point of a pen.
3. Tape the paper around the jar. You may also decorate your jar by gluing beads around the opening or tying ribbons around it.
4. Have an adult light a candle inside the jar. Then see your designs glow!



Workshop



CHRISTMAS CARROTS

- 1 cup apricot nectar**
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice**
- 1 1/2 teaspoons cornstarch**
- 1 pound baby carrots**
- 1 tablespoon honey**
- 1 tablespoon butter or margarine**
- 1/4 teaspoon salt**
- dried parsley**

1. Wash your hands with soap and water.
2. Put nectar, lemon juice, and cornstarch in a small bowl. Mix them together until smooth.
3. Cook carrots in boiling water for 10 minutes.
4. Drain the water from the carrots and put them back in the pan.
5. Add the honey, butter, salt, and the nectar mixture.
6. Cook over low heat for 5 minutes or until the glaze is thickened.
7. Pour into a serving dish and sprinkle with dried parsley.



MANGER CARD

By Elise Black

You can make this Christmas card to give to a friend or family member to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

white cardstock

heavy fabric, such as twill, linen, or cotton

crayons, markers, or paints

scissors

glue

1. Cut a 10 x 4-inch piece of cardstock. Fold it in half so you have a card that opens.
2. On the front of the card, draw a manger so it looks like you are looking down on it.
3. On another piece of cardstock, draw a baby Jesus that is about 2 inches long. Cut out the figure.
4. Cut a 3-inch square of fabric. Glue the baby near the top of one corner. Fold up the bottom point so you can see the baby's face, and then fold in the two sides across the baby. Glue the fabric in place.
5. Glue the wrapped baby onto the manger.



The Christmas Thaw



By Kathy Coats

(Based on a true story)

Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me (Matthew 25:40).

Doyle pushed the runny eggs across his plate with a fork. They were so different from the eggs his mother cooked.

“Better eat up,” his aunt called from the bedroom. “It’s a long time until lunch.”

Doyle eyed his breakfast again and decided he could wait. Pulling on his worn coat, he plopped a hat on his head and slipped out the back door.

The snow squeaked beneath his feet as he walked up the path to his uncle’s store and service station. Doyle shivered. He couldn’t remember the air ever being this cold back home in Kansas. How he wished he were there now.

Christmas bells jingled as Doyle opened the service

ILLUSTRATION BY MARK ROBISON



station door. "Morning, Uncle Claude," he said quietly.

"Morning back to you," his uncle replied cheerily. "Probably won't be many customers today. Too cold for anyone to be out and about." Behind his uncle's desk hung the last page of a 1935 calendar.

Doyle grabbed a broom and started sweeping the floor. He thought about the huge dust storms that had swept across his family's farm in Kansas, and he remembered his mother's constant sweeping. Mom and Dad had sent him to live with his aunt and uncle so there would be enough food for his brothers and sisters.

"How about making a deal?" Uncle Claude said.

"What kind of deal?" Doyle asked.

"If you sweep the entire station, I'll pay you a small sack of candy."

"OK," Doyle agreed. His uncle had recently received an order of Christmas candy—boxes filled with colorful hard candy, chocolates, and peanut clusters.

After the sweeping was done, Doyle slid open the

glass door of the candy case and inhaled the rich, chocolaty smell. He filled a small sack with candy and popped a raspberry-filled piece into his mouth.

Out the front window, two cars laden with people and belongings slowed to a stop in front of the station. One car had a mattress strapped on top. Doyle watched as a small hand made circular motions on the car window until a peephole in the frost framed a boy's face.

The drivers climbed out and walked toward the store. Then Christmas bells jingled and Uncle Claude stood up from his desk. "Hello, folks. What can we do for you?"

One of the men rubbed his forehead and stared down at his rough hands. "Sir, we're on our way from Oklahoma to Oregon," he said.

They were Dust Bowlers too! Doyle and his uncle had watched many cars drive past the station last summer and fall, abandoning the dry prairie lands.

"If you could spare some gas, we'd be much obliged," the man continued.

"It's awfully late in the season to be moving west with a family," Uncle Claude said. "Wyoming winters are plenty mean."

Sliding closer to his uncle, Doyle gripped his uncle's arm and gave him a pleading look.

Uncle Claude paused. "Well, it's nearly Christmas," he said. Then he took two big paper bags from under the counter and began handing Doyle groceries from around the store. Together they filled the sacks with cans of pork and beans, loaves of sliced bread, and a generous slab of bologna cut at the meat counter.

Then his uncle said, "If you men will pull your cars up to the hose, we'll pump you a little gas."

Clearing his throat several times, one of the men coughed, then choked out, "This is the best Christmas I ever had."

While the men shook hands, Doyle reached into his pocket, pulled out the sack of candy, and ran out the door toward the boy inside the car.

As the two cars pulled away, Doyle and his uncle watched from the frozen driveway. Somehow, the icy temperatures didn't seem quite so icy. ♦



Trying to Be Like Jesus

Buying Bubbles



When my mom and I were shopping, she said I could buy something with my own money. I had 10 dimes. I found a bottle of bubbles and was excited to buy it. When we got to the checkout my mom paid for everything, even the bubbles. I didn't give the dimes to my mom,

and she didn't ask for them. Later that week my mom asked me to do some extra chores. I did them, and my mom gave me two quarters for doing a good job. When I went to put away my new quarters, I saw the 10 dimes. I took them out of my bank and gave them to my mom. I told her they were for my bubbles she bought at the store. I felt good inside for choosing the right by being honest, and doing what Jesus would want me to do.

Arden L., age 7, Arizona

Christmas Cheer



My family went caroling to families in our ward to give them some holiday cheer.

I know the families enjoyed our caroling. I could really tell that one of the sisters loved our visit because tears came to her eyes. I know in my heart that the people enjoyed having us there as we helped them remember the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Kyley C., age 11, Indiana

Sharing a Snack



One day my little sister and I were watching a movie. I was eating a snack, and my sister wanted some. Even though I share with my sister a lot and would have liked to finish my snack by myself, I decided to share with her. It gave me a good feeling. I have shared a lot with my family and have learned that it is nice to share.

Hannah R., age 7, Virginia





Not Fun



When I was at school a boy asked me if I had ever said a bad word in my life. When I said no, he

laughed at me. He told me to say a bad word because it was fun. I didn't say it because I knew it was bad. I knew I had done the right thing.

Jerrod L., age 10, Nevada

The Right Thing

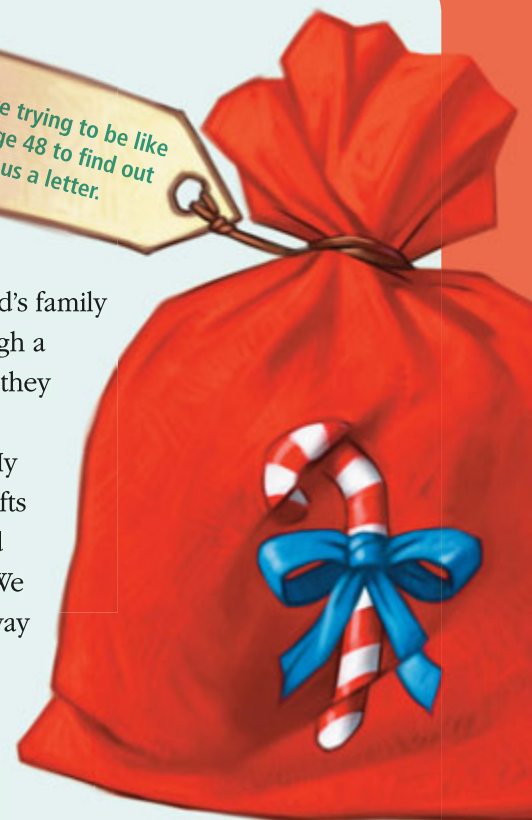


One year my friend's family was going through a hard time and I knew they weren't going to have much for Christmas. My family and I bought gifts for them. We wrapped

the presents and put them in a big bag. We put the bag on their doorstep and ran away before anyone answered the door. I felt really good inside for doing that.

I knew it was the right thing to do.

Landon S., age 11, Indiana



A Generous Gift



Three days before Christmas, my sister lost her CTR ring. Then my friend gave

me a ring before Christmas. I thought about my sister's lost ring. Then an idea popped into my head. I talked to my mom about giving my sister my new ring. She said it was my decision, and that it would probably make my sister happy. So on Christmas I gave my sister the ring. She was happy, and so was I.

Alexis G., age 10, Montana

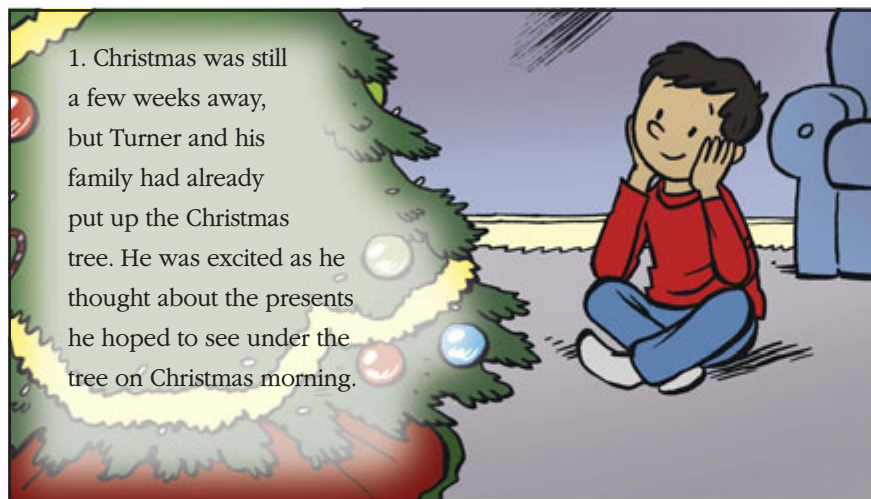


THE FIRST CHRISTMAS GIFT

By Chad E. Phares

Church Magazines
(Based on a true story)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son
(John 3:16).



3. Turner was confused.

Well, then who sent it?

You'll have to wait and see. All we can say is that it is a very special gift.

4. As days passed, more presents appeared under the tree, but Turner kept wondering about that first red present with the green bow. Where did it come from?



HELPS FOR PARENTS

You could find a box and place items inside that will help you and your family remember Jesus Christ's birth. Consider including items such as poems, pictures, paper stars, a toy sheep, an angel ornament, or any other item you think will help remind your children of the Lord's birth. Wrap the gift and open it on Christmas.

5. On Christmas morning, Turner raced to wake up his brothers and parents.



6. After arriving at the tree, Turner was excited to see the presents underneath it.



7. Turner removed the lid and found a few small items. He pulled them out one at a time—a picture of Jesus Christ, a poem about Jesus's birth, and a star. Turner showed everyone the picture, and Dad read the poem.

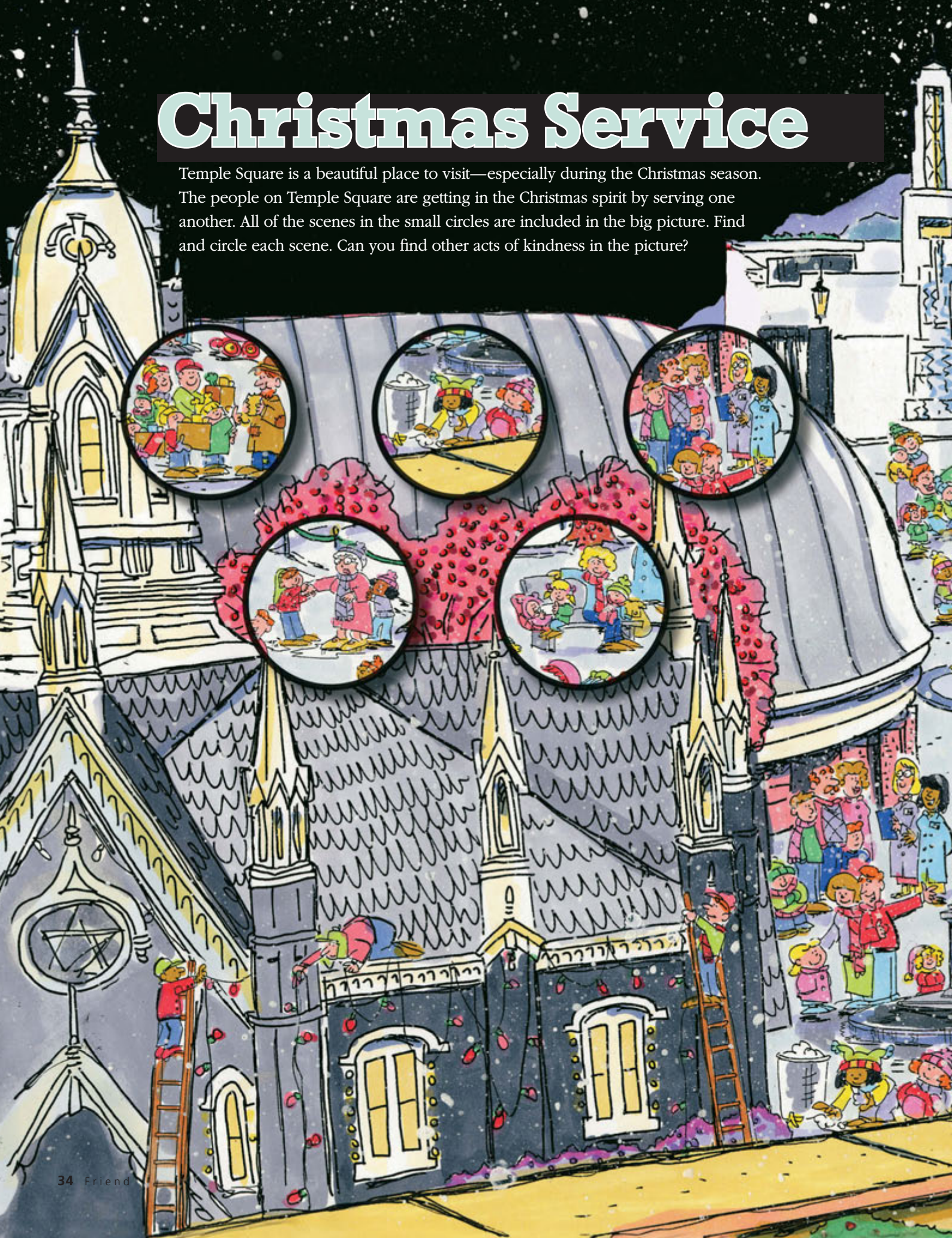


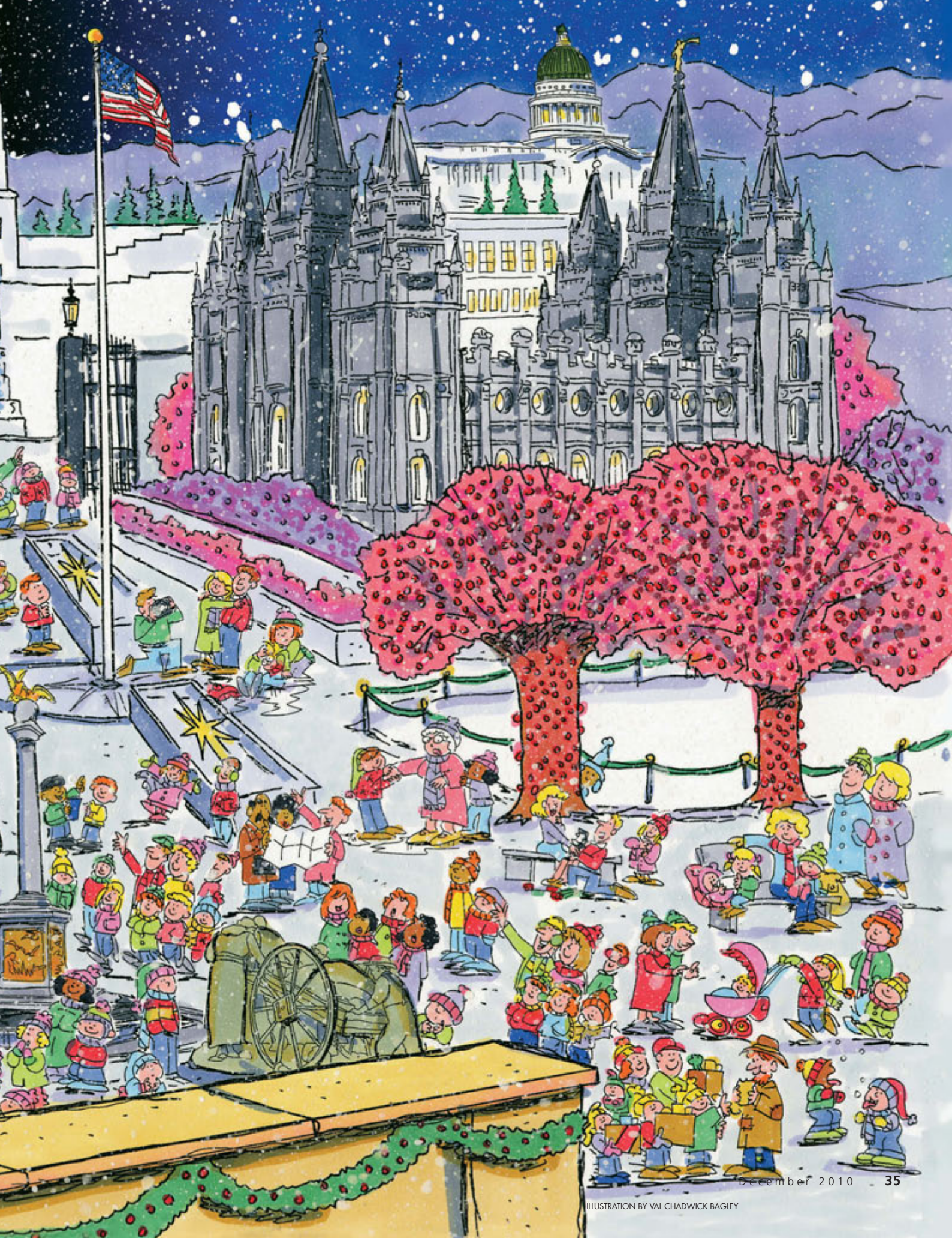
8. Turner was happy to remember Jesus.



Christmas Service

Temple Square is a beautiful place to visit—especially during the Christmas season. The people on Temple Square are getting in the Christmas spirit by serving one another. All of the scenes in the small circles are included in the big picture. Find and circle each scene. Can you find other acts of kindness in the picture?





STRAW FOR THE MANGER

By Jacob F. Frandsen

(Based on a true story)

Every thing which inviteth and enticeth to do good, and to love God, and to serve him, is inspired of God (Moroni 7:13).

Michael gazed at the tiny, soft bed of straw. “I am glad that baby Jesus will have a soft, warm bed for Christmas Eve,” he thought.

For the past week Michael had carefully tucked little pieces of straw into this tiny manger, one piece at a time. Michael thought that it just might be the best Christmas he ever had because now he was old enough to understand what Christmas was all about.

A week ago Mom had given a family home evening lesson about the true meaning of Christmas. She said that Jesus Christ was the greatest gift Heavenly Father gave to

the world. Then she presented each child in the family with a small, empty manger and a tiny figure of the baby Jesus.

“For the next week you will each have a chance to give a present back to Heavenly Father,” Mom said.

“How can we do that?” Michael asked.

“Your gift to Heavenly Father will be to serve others,” she said. “Each time you do a good deed or help another person, you may add a piece of straw to your manger. The more kindness you show to others, the softer the manger will be on Christmas Eve.”

“I hope I can get more straw

in my manger than anybody else!” Michael thought.

The next day Michael started working to collect straw.

“Mom, can I help you sweep the floor?” Michael asked, when he saw her cleaning the kitchen.

“I’ll help you find your teddy bear,” he told his little brother



"Joy . . . springs out of selflessness and service."⁴

President Spencer W. Kimball (1895-1985)



when he cried for his lost toy.

"I want to shovel some snow too," he said when his dad went outside to shovel the driveway.

Within a few days Michael's little manger looked very different. It was stuffed full of straw! But Michael noticed a change in himself too. He started to

enjoy doing kind things for others because he knew it was what Heavenly Father wanted him to do. Sometimes he even forgot to add a piece of straw to the manger when he helped.

Michael decided that doing nice things made him feel good inside. On Christmas Eve, as he stood by the soft lights of the

Christmas tree, Michael gently laid his tiny baby Jesus in the manger, which was now overflowing with straw.

Michael knew he had done the best he could to show his love for Heavenly Father and Jesus. This was the best Christmas ever. ♦

A Christmas Valentine

Noses are red,
Toes are blue,
We're still in winter?
I can't believe we're not through.

Malaya K., age 8, Tennessee

Christmas Touch

I can't touch Christmas, but it can touch me.
The baby Jesus by the sparkling tree,
Lying in the stall in the Nativity—
With Mary fair and Joseph's face,
With the three kings filled with grace,
Bringing to the baby small gifts from lands afar,
Led there by a glorious, wondrous star.

Noah K., age 9, Arizona



Jaden J., age 5, Arizona



Lauren C., age 11, Washington



Tyler S., age 11, Oregon



Ridge P., age 8, Alberta, Canada

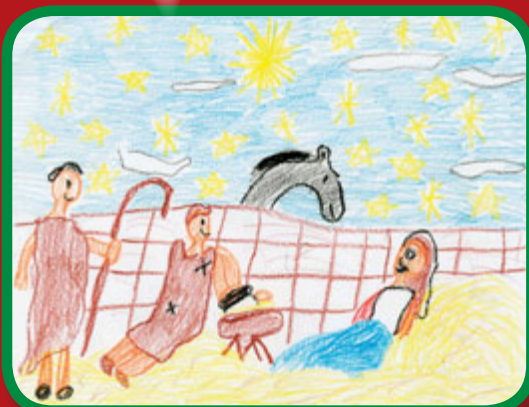


Alyssa C., age 11, Utah



Quinn H., age 7, Georgia

Would you like to send us a poem or drawing?
Turn to page 48 to find out how.



Sierra Y., age 7, California



Nicole H., age 9, Idaho



Wyatt H., age 6, Wyoming



Katelyn S., age 10, Utah



Hannah V., age 9, California



Sam H., age 7, South Dakota



Jacob L., age 6, Pennsylvania



Lydia M., age 7, California

I Know That My Redeemer Lives

By Sandra Tanner and
Cristina Franco

As you read the scriptures, you are becoming like some of the people Lehi saw in his vision of the tree of life (see 1 Nephi 8). Lehi saw people hold onto the iron rod and not let go. The people had a testimony of Jesus Christ, and the iron rod helped them come unto Him. The iron rod is the word of God—the scriptures and the words of our prophets. The people who held onto the iron rod learned that Jesus Christ lives. He is our Savior and Redeemer. He came to earth as the prophets said He would, and He will return to the earth again.

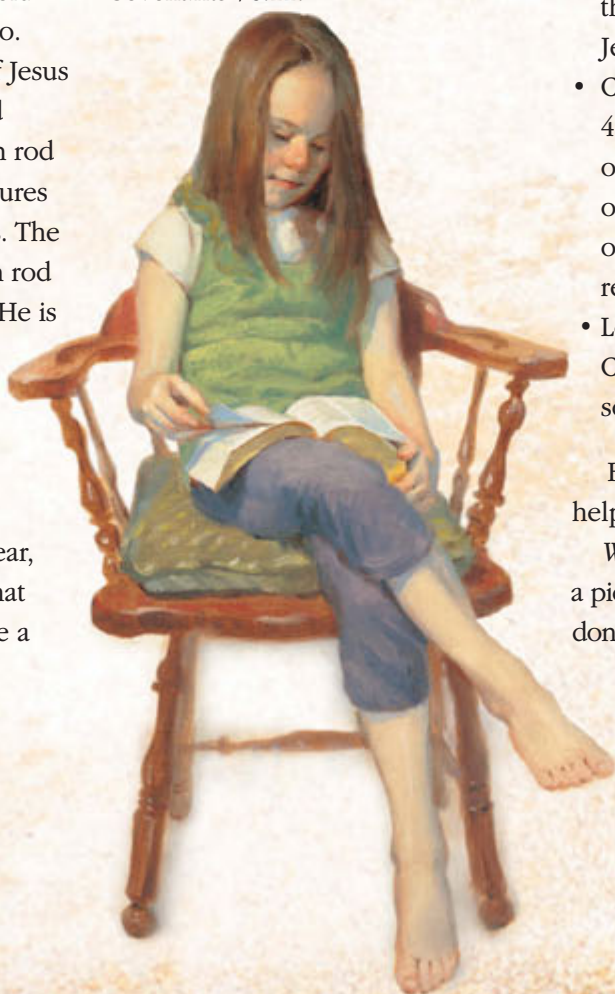
As you continue to do the things you have learned this year, you will be blessed to know that Jesus Christ lives. You will have a testimony of your own.

December 2010 Scripture Journal

Read Doctrine and Covenants 76:22.

Pray to Heavenly Father to help you know that Jesus Christ lives.

Memorize Doctrine and Covenants 76:22.



Choose one of these activities or create your own:

- Help someone else memorize Doctrine and Covenants 76:22.
- Ask your parents or a Primary teacher to show you a scripture they like that teaches about Jesus.
- Cut out the ornaments on page 41 and look up the scriptures on each one. As you place the ornaments on a Christmas tree or around your home, let them remind you of the Savior.
- Learn a new song about Jesus Christ. It could be a Christmas song or hymn.

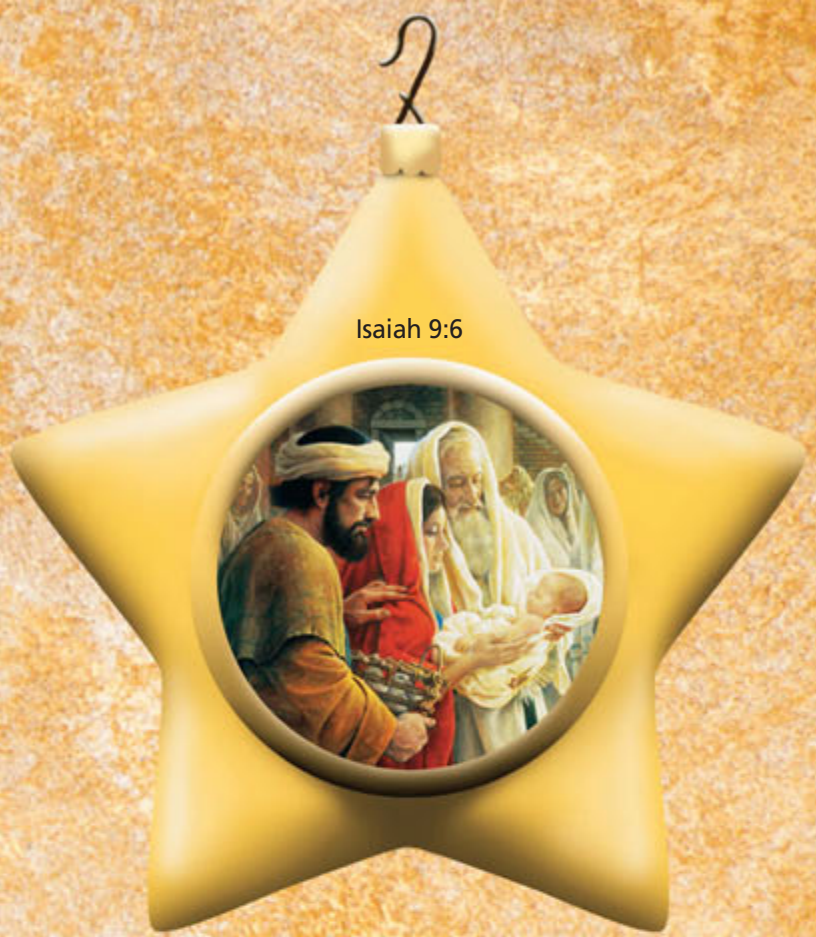
How does what you have done help you understand this scripture?

Write in your journal or draw a picture about what you have done. ♦

Matthew 19:14



Isaiah 9:6

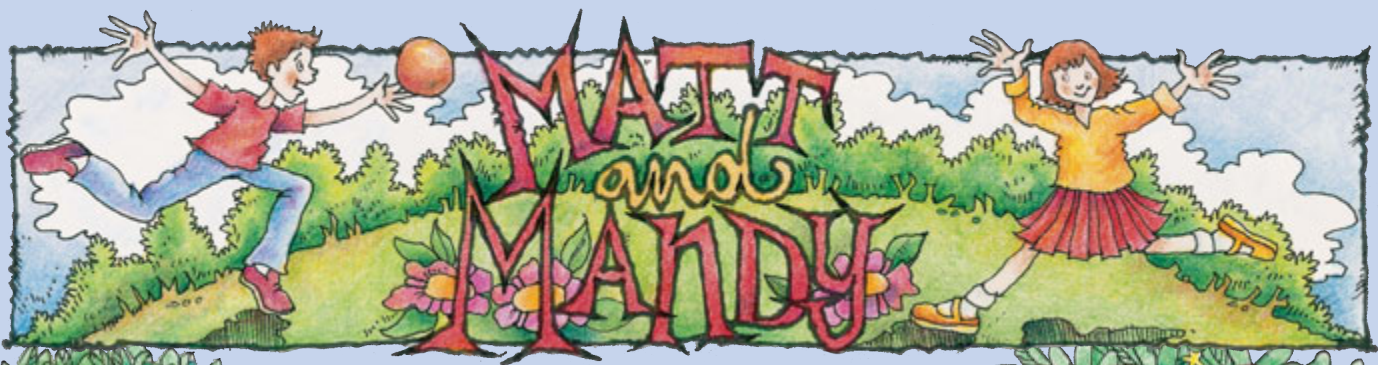


Job 19:25

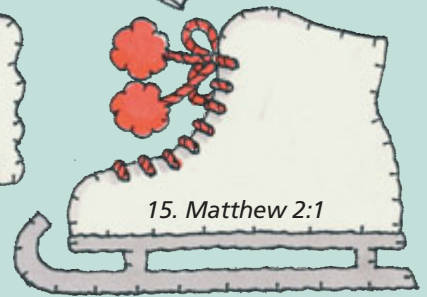
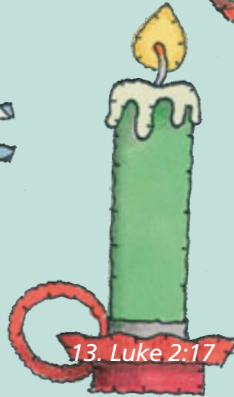
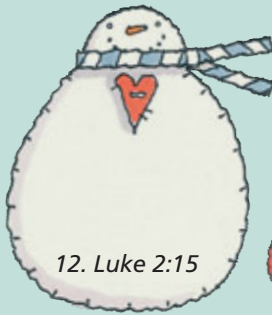
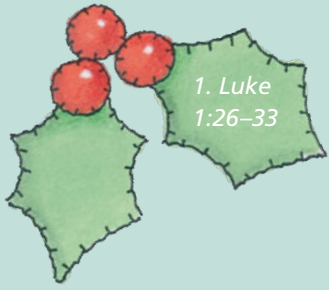


D&C 76:22





See pages 24–25 for instructions.



Friends in the News



Kayli T., 6, Nevada, likes to draw and color. She likes animals, playing at the park, and playing with her dolls. She makes homemade newspapers. Her favorite food is spaghetti. She loves her family and is a very caring sister.



Chad N., 5, Idaho, likes fire engines. He enjoys spending time with his dad, playing in the sandbox, and sharing his testimony. He likes Primary, his family, and the prophet. He is a good example to his family.



Lakeview Fifth Ward

At a Primary activity in the Lakeview Fifth Ward, Orem Utah Lakeview Stake, the children learned about the importance of family history and temple work. Then they all helped build a model of a temple. They painted 150 boxes white and used them for the temple foundation and walls. They made windows and an angel Moroni figure to put on top. The children even made flowers out of pipe cleaners to add to the beauty of their temple.



Canby Second Ward

The Primary children of the Canby Second Ward, Oregon City Oregon Stake, enjoyed a missionary activity. They wrote letters to missionaries serving from their ward and accepted the challenge to give a *Friend* magazine to someone who is not a member of the Church. Returned missionaries shared mission experiences. The children continue to be successful missionaries by being great examples, sharing the gospel, and inviting their friends to Primary.



Nicklas A., 4, Utah, likes wearing his superhero costume. He enjoys family home evening. He practiced giving a talk in his living room just like he saw on the cover of the April 2009 *Friend*.

Would you like to be a friend in the news? Turn to page 48 to find out how.



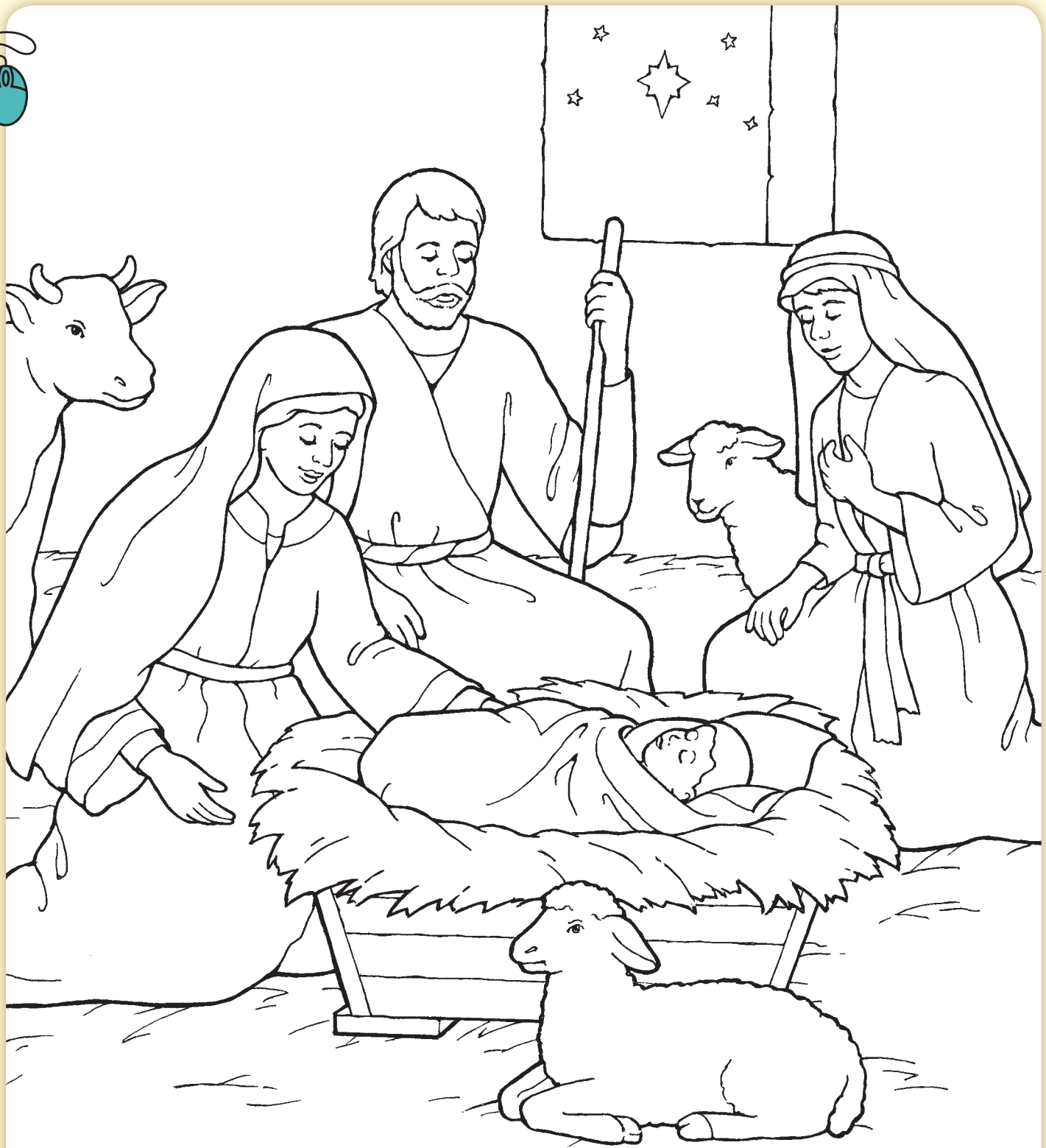
Vanessa P., 5, Arizona, likes playing with her older sister, Veronica; riding bikes; and playing with her dolls. Her favorite Primary song is "Hello Song." She can't wait to get baptized like her sister.



Jacob and Jennifer L., 8 and 6, Florida, help set up chairs in the Primary room on Sundays. They come early with their mother, who is the ward choir director. They like to help out in Primary and are happy helpers.



Peyton H., 11, California, likes playing soccer and singing. She loves her mom, and her older sister, Bailey, is her role model. She is a good speller, and her favorite animal is the sea otter.



Isaiah Prophecies of Jesus Christ's Birth

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: . . . and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6).



Good Neighbors

By Darlene Young

(Based on a true story)

Love one another as Jesus loves you. Try to show kindness in all that you do (Children's Songbook, 78–79).

All summer long, before her family moved into their new house, Sadie had wondered about her new neighbors. She had imagined a girl her age who loved to climb trees. But soon after they moved in, Sadie learned that there was no little girl next door. Just the Ludwigs.

Early that fall a big snowstorm came. Sadie and her sister bundled up and went outside. After playing in the snow for a while, Sadie noticed that no one had walked in the snow in the Ludwigs' yard. Wouldn't it be nice to make a snow angel in that clean snow?

That afternoon, the phone rang. Mom came into Sadie's room. "Sadie, did you play in the Ludwigs' snow this morning?"

"Yes," she said softly.

"Sadie, Mr. Ludwig is from a country where children must never play in someone else's yard without permission. He is very angry at the mess you made."

"I didn't mean to be naughty," Sadie said.

"I know you didn't," Mom said. "But we need to think about how other people might feel about the things we do."

"The girls at school say that everyone hates the Ludwigs because they are so mean," Sadie said. "They say that Mr. Ludwig yells at everyone."

"Well, if that's how people talk about them, it sounds as if the Ludwigs need some kindness," Mom said. "And it seems to me that we could show them some."

Mom and Sadie made cookies and took them next door. Sadie tried to be brave, but Mr. Ludwig was frowning.

"I'm sorry for making a mess of your snow," Sadie said. "I won't do it again."

"Make sure you don't," Mr. Ludwig said. Then he slammed the door.

"At least he took the cookies," Mom said.

As Christmas drew near, the girls got excited about their tradition of leaving a small treat or gift on someone's doorstep the 12 days before Christmas.

"Have you girls thought of someone who might appreciate some kindness?" Dad asked. "Someone who might need some extra cheer?"

Sadie thought of the Ludwigs. Probably no one would give them anything because Mr. Ludwig was so mean.

"What about the Ludwigs?" Sadie asked slowly.

"I think that's a great idea," Dad said.

Every night the girls took turns ringing the doorbell and hiding while Mr. Ludwig opened the door and took the treat inside. He answered the door more quickly each night. Sometimes Sadie was sure she saw him peeking out between the curtains when she was sneaking up his sidewalk.

On Christmas Eve, the doorbell rang. Dad opened the door and there stood Mr. Ludwig holding a large box.

"I am so grateful for your Christmas treats," he said. "My wife is sick and doesn't get out of bed. But I have told her about you. She likes to sew, and she made some things for you. Have a good Christmas." Mr. Ludwig set down the box and left.

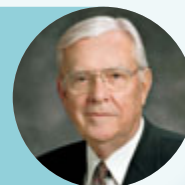
The girls gathered around as Dad opened the box. It was filled with colorful packages. Mom unwrapped towels and napkins with lace around the edges. Then she pulled out a package for each of the girls. They opened them to find beautiful handmade dolls.

"I didn't know Mrs. Ludwig was sick in bed," Sadie said. "I didn't know she was making dolls for us."

"Neither did I," Mom said. "But we knew they needed some kindness." ♦

"If we are truly disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, we will reach out with love and understanding to all of our neighbors at all times, particularly in times of need."

Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles





Possible Ideas for Family Home Evening

1. In "Straw for the Manger" (pages 36–37), straw serves as a reminder of service. What other Christmas symbols are in your home? As a family, talk about other symbols in your home that remind you of Christ.

2. Many stories in the *Friend* this month talk about acting out the Christmas story. Host your own pageant by having a family scavenger hunt to look for costume pieces ("The Christmas Cane" on page 2 gives some examples). Then you'll have them on hand for Christmas Eve so you can perform your own pageant.

3. Celebrate the birth of Joseph Smith like Daniel and his family did in "A Special Guest" (pages 8–9). Talk about the importance of asking for and receiving revelation. Elder Robert D. Hales gives some ideas on page 11.

4. "The Temple Is for Everyone" (page 22) talks about a girl who learns about the importance of temples. These sacred buildings are gifts from our Heavenly Father. Discuss what other gifts Heavenly Father has given your family.

The *Friend* can be found on the Internet at friend.lds.org.
To subscribe online, go to ldscatalog.com.



Please send your submission to: *Friend Magazine*
50 E. North Temple St., Rm. 2432
Salt Lake City, UT 84150-0024
Or e-mail: friend@ldschurch.org

The following information and permission must be included:

Full name _____

Age _____ State/Province, Country _____

I grant permission to print submission and photo in print or online:

Signature of parent or legal guardian _____

Children whose work is submitted should be at least three years old.

To send us a letter, drawing, or poem, please fill out this form and include it with your submission. Please also include a school photo or high-quality snapshot. Submissions will not be returned and may be edited for length and clarity.

The *Friend* NEW OR RENEWAL SUBSCRIPTION

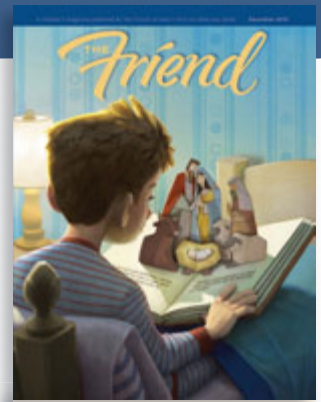
\$8.00 (U.S.) per year

Name _____ Address _____
City _____ State _____ Country _____ Zip _____

To Subscribe: By phone: Call 1-800-537-5971 to order using Visa, MasterCard, Discover Card, or American Express. **Online:** Go to www.ldscatalog.com. **By mail:** Send \$8 U.S. check or money order to Distribution Services, P.O. Box 26368, Salt Lake City, UT 84126-0368.

To change address: Send old and new address information to Distribution Services at the above address, or change the address by phone at the number listed above. Please allow 60 days for changes to take effect.

The *Friend* is available each month in Braille, or as a Talking Book, for the visually impaired. For more information, contact Salt Lake Distribution Services, 1999 West 1700 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84104-4233, United States of America.
Key 040204



Topical Index to this Issue of the *Friend*

(FLF) = For Little Friends

(f) = Funstuff

(IFC) = inside front cover

(m) = music

Baptism 22
Choose the Right 30
Church History 6, 23 (f)
Family 4, 8, 12, 16 (m), 30, 32 (FLF), 36
Family Home Evening 8, 36
Heavenly Father 8, 11, 32 (FLF), 36
Jesus Christ 2, 3, 8, 11, 12, 14, 16 (m),
18, 20, 24, 27, 30, 32 (FLF), 36, 40,
42, 45, 49
Joseph Smith 6, 8, 23 (f)
Journals 6, 12, 40
Love and Kindness 4, 10, 12, 28, 30, 46
Missionary Work 18, 20
Music 16
My Gospel Standards 2, 4, 10, 22, 28, 40
Posters 10, 49
Priesthood IFC
Prophets 2, 6, 8, 9, 23 (f), 37, 45
Quorum of the Seventy 20, 22
Quorum of the Twelve Apostles 11, 47
Recipes 13, 26
Revelation 11
Scriptures 10, 12, 14, 23 (f), 24, 40,
45, 49
Service 3, 4, 10, 12, 28, 30, 34 (FLF),
36, 42, 46
Temple Square 6, 34 (FLF)
Temples 22

Sidebar References

1. "Until We Meet Again," *Ensign*, Nov. 2008, 106.
2. "Precious Fruits of the First Vision," *Ensign*, Feb. 2009, 7.
3. "Mom, Are We Christians?" *Ensign*, May 2007, 94.
4. "President Kimball Speaks Out on Service to Others," *New Era*, Mar. 1981, 47.
5. "Doctrine of Inclusion," *Ensign*, Nov. 2001, 36.

Funstuff Answers

Page 23: 1) Sacred Grove, B; 2) Hill Cumorah, A; 3) Kirtland Temple, C; 4) Carthage Jail, D.



“For I will reveal myself from heaven with power and great glory, with all the hosts thereof, and dwell in righteousness with men on earth a thousand years, and the wicked shall not stand” (D&C 29:11).

What's online this month?



friend.lds.org

For Children



MUSIC VIDEO Get in the Christmas spirit by watching a video of “Our Christmas Story Tree.” Visit friend.lds.org and click **Video** to watch. Click **Download Music from the Friend** to download MP3 files that feature just the music or the music and lyrics together.

FOR LITTLE FRIENDS

Watch the For Little Friends video, “The First Christmas Gift,” to find out about the mysterious gift under Turner’s Christmas tree. Click the **For Little Friends** link on friend.lds.org.



For Parents



SUBSCRIPTIONS Looking for an inspirational Christmas gift? Give a Church magazine gift subscription to brighten someone’s day. Subscribe online at ldscatalog.com

CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Read “Christmas Eve Drop-Off” in this month’s issue. Then visit lds.org/humanitarianservices and click on **How Can I Help?** for ideas on how to serve others.



For Teachers and Leaders



CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR HELPS For ideas about how to teach children to behave appropriately in the classroom, visit lds.org/pa. Click on **Primary**, then on **Teaching All Children, Including Those with Disabilities**, and then on **Teaching and Expecting Appropriate Behavior**.

ACTIVITIES Children love activities. To find activities from past issues of the *Friend*, visit friend.lds.org and click on **Activities Archive** or **Print Activities**.

