

# THE *Friend*



**A  
GIFT**  
for you!  
See pages 37–40

# FRIENDS by Mail

## How I Read the *Friend*



I read the *Friend* to my stuffed animals and dolls and pretend that I'm a Primary teacher. When I grow up, I want to be a Primary teacher and share the gospel with others.

**Paris H., age 9, Utah, USA**

## Making Good Choices



I liked the article called "Choosing Not to Cheat" (Jan. 2014). I know our Heavenly Father wants us to be honest in all that we do and say.

**Corinne S., age 7, Washington, USA**

## Celebrating Jesus's Birth

We loved the manger activity in the December issue of the *Friend*! We learned that Jesus came to earth just like us—as a baby! Our manger was so cute, easy, and fun to make! Thank you!

**Kali and Lexie S., ages 5 and 3, Colorado, USA**



## Merry Christmas from Hawaii



Mahalo (thank you) for sharing the wonderful "Make Your Own Manger" activity (Dec. 2013). We loved learning about Christ's birth and the true meaning of Christmas as we built our manger. Mele Kalikimaka!

**Ephraim and Ethan H., ages 3 and 2, Hawaii, USA**

## Dear Friends,

We hope you've had fun filling out your Friends around the World passport this year. On page 24 you can discover how children in different countries celebrate Christmas. No matter where you live, we're thinking about you and hoping that you are feeling the Savior's love!

Merry Christmas!

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.

# THE Friend

See the back cover for family home evening ideas.



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

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Cover by Val Chadwick Bagley



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**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 84150-0024, 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 [store.llds.org](http://store.llds.org).

**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 84150-0024, 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. Email: [friend@ldschurch.org](mailto:friend@ldschurch.org).

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**POSTMASTER:** Send all UAA to CFS (see DMM 707.4.12.5). **NONPOSTAL AND MILITARY FACILITIES:** Send address changes to Distribution Services, P.O. Box 26368, Salt Lake City, UT 84126-0368, USA.

**Canada Post Information:** Publication Agreement #40017431.



FOLLOW THE PROPHET

# The Christmas Pony

By Heidi S. Swinton

**Y**oung Tommy Monson had always wanted a pony. He often admired his friend Henry's Shetland pony. Wouldn't he love to have one too!

One December, right before Christmas, Tommy's mother took him to the toy department of a store in Salt Lake City. The store was going to give away a Shetland pony! To enter the contest, children had to write a note telling why they wanted the pony for Christmas. Tommy carefully wrote his note and placed it in the large box right next to the live pony in the toy department.

Finally the day came when the winner of the pony was going to be announced. Tommy and his mother waited in the excited crowd. Tommy was sure he would win the pony. He had already made a home for it in his sister's playhouse in the backyard and stacked a pile of hay nearby. But when the name was chosen out of the

box, it wasn't Tommy's name. Another child took the pony home, and Tommy was heartbroken.

As they left the store, Tommy and his mother walked past a man ringing a bell beside a small kettle to collect money for the poor. Tommy's mother stopped and dropped in a big silver coin. Then she asked, "Tommy, do you have any money you would like to give to the poor for Christmas?" Tommy reached in his pocket, pulled out two nickels, and dropped them into the kettle, one after the other. It was all the money he had.

President Monson still remembers that day. "I didn't win the pony," he recalls. "But I received a far greater gift, even 'the smile of God's approval.'" It was a good Christmas after all. ♦

The author lives in Utah, USA.

Adapted from "Let Us Keep Christmas," 2002 Christmas Devotional.



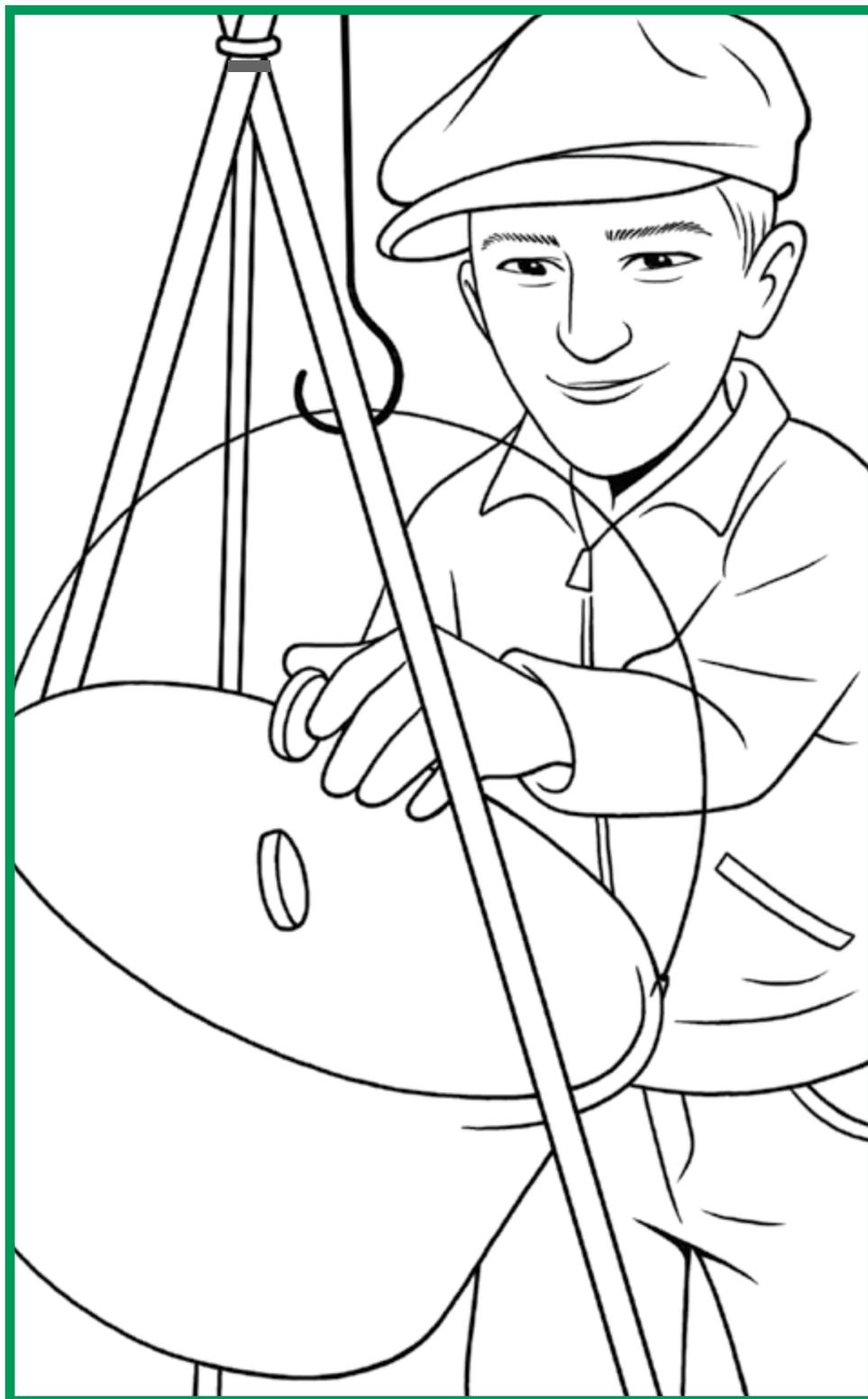
## A GOOD CHRISTMAS AFTER ALL

President Monson learned that the secret to having a good Christmas is not in getting a certain present but in doing kind things for others. Here are some things you can do!

- Help clean up after dinner.
- Take cookies to a friend or neighbor.
- Write a letter to a missionary.
- Make someone else's bed.
- Cheer up a friend who's sad.
- Play with a brother or sister, and let them choose the game.

## COLLECTING COINS

This Christmas season, you can follow President Monson's example by giving to someone in need. All month, collect coins in a jar or envelope. Then have a parent help you put them in a tithing envelope and write the amount you are donating in the "Humanitarian aid" or "Fast offering" box on the tithing slip.



## WORDS FROM PRESIDENT MONSON

"What will you and I give for Christmas this year? Let us in our lives give to our Lord and Savior the gift of gratitude by living His teachings and following in His footsteps. It was said of Him that He 'went about doing good' (Acts 10:38). As we do likewise, the Christmas spirit will be ours."

From "What Is Christmas?" *Ensign*, Dec. 1998, 5.

# *The Cup-for-a-Can* COCOA STAND



Let's start our own  
cup-for-a-can stand.



**By Meagan Becker**

(Based on a true story)

*“Be anxiously engaged in a good cause” (D&C 58:27).*

**I**t just doesn't seem like Christmas this year,” Porter said. He dropped his backpack on a kitchen chair.

“There's no snow. And I don't have any friends here.”

“Well, we can't change the weather,” Mom said. She gave him a hug. “And I know moving has been hard for you.”

“I just wish I had some friends,” Porter said. He pulled a piece of paper from his pocket.

“What's that?” Mom asked.

“It's about a food drive at school.”

“Let me see,” she said, handing him a cup of hot chocolate. “Maybe if you help with the food drive, you can meet some new people and make friends.”

“Maybe.”

Porter grabbed a handful of marshmallows and started dropping them into his cup one by one.

“Really,” Mom said. “I bet there's a way to make friends *and* help people feel the Christmas spirit.”

Porter wasn't paying attention. He was thinking about his friends in his old neighborhood.

“Remember when we did the lemonade stand with Anne?” he said. “I wish we could do that again.”

*Plop. Plop. Plop.* He added three more marshmallows. “But nobody wants to drink lemonade in December, even if there isn't any snow.”

“Maybe they'd like to drink something warm instead.”

“Like hot chocolate . . .” Porter glanced at his cup. “I know! We could have a hot chocolate stand!”

Mom smiled. “Let's do it.”

Porter looked at the food drive flyer.

“What if we asked people for a can of food instead of money?” Porter said. “Then we could donate the food to the food drive.”

“A cup of cocoa for a can of food,” Mom said. “I like it.”

They went right to work. Mom made sure they had plenty of hot chocolate, disposable cups, and marshmallows. Together they made flyers and gave them to all of their neighbors. On Saturday morning the Cup-for-a-Can Cocoa Stand was open. And it was busy.

“That man just handed me 10 cans of food for one cup of hot chocolate!”

Porter said to Mom. “I've met lots of people, and they're all really friendly.”

Soon he had stacked more than a hundred cans of food on a table next to the cocoa!

“I can't wait to tell Anne about this,” Porter said. “This is even better than the lemonade stand. Maybe she'll do hot chocolate too.”

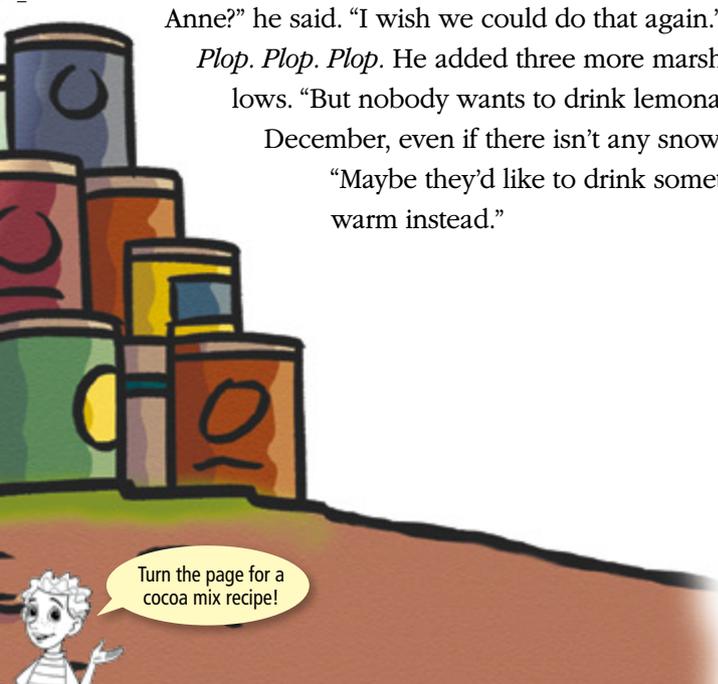
“I'm proud of you,” Mom said. “You found a way to meet people and help others too.”

“It feels more like Christmas now,” Porter said. “Even without the snow.” ♦

The author lives in Ukraine.

*A lemonade stand at Christmas? Porter and his mother had a better idea.*

ILLUSTRATION BY BRAD TEARE



**“Those who lose themselves in service to others grow and flourish.”**

President Thomas S. Monson,

“Serve the Lord with Love,” *Ensign*, Feb. 2014, 4.

# Family Fun Time



**R**ead “The Cup-for-a-Can Cocoa Stand” (page 4). Service doesn’t have to cost anything. One of the best ways to help someone is with your time. You can help a neighbor shovel a walk or weed a yard, make a fun treat for someone, or send a picture or letter to a friend. What are things your family can do to serve others?

Be sure to get an adult’s help with this craft and recipe.

## Scripture Service Chain

You can make this chain and read a new scripture about service each day in December.

**You will need:**

**colored paper**

**scissors**

**glue**

1. Cut out 31 strips of colored paper.
2. Write the scripture references below on your strips of paper.
3. Glue the papers in links to make a chain.
4. Each day in December, break off a link and read that scripture.

**Tip:** Use a different color for each child in your family. Alternate the colors in your chain, and each time you get to a child’s color, have that child pull off the link and read the scripture.

## Hot Cocoa Mix

Make this treat for your family or to give as a gift.

**2 1/2 cups instant dry milk powder**

**3 cups powdered sugar**

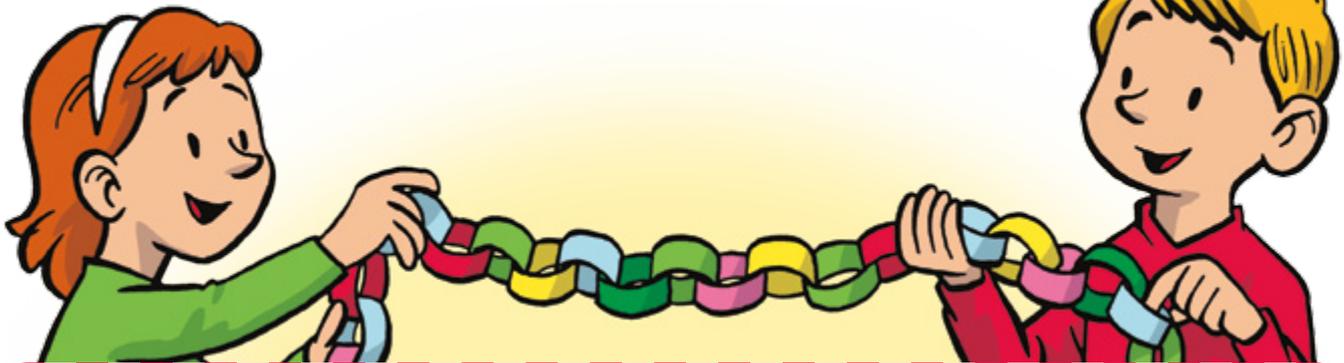
**1 cup cocoa powder**

**1/2 teaspoon salt**

**1 teaspoon cinnamon**

**1/2 cup mini chocolate chips or 1 cup mini marshmallows (optional)**

1. Mix the ingredients in a large bowl. Stir in the chocolate chips or marshmallows last. Store in an airtight container for up to 3 months.
2. To give this as a gift, pour the mix into jars. Copy step 3 onto nice paper and tape it to each jar. You can decorate the jars with ribbons or stickers.
3. To make hot cocoa, add 1/3 cup of the cocoa mix to 1 cup of hot water or milk. Mix well with a fork.



Ephesians 6:8	Mosiah 4:16	Titus 3:8	John 13:34-35	Ether 12:33–34	Matthew 23:11
Revelation 2:19	Mosiah 18:8–9	James 1:27	Joshua 24:15	John 13:4–16	Mosiah 18:21
2 Nephi 2:3	D&C 81:5	Mosiah 5:15	1 Corinthians 13:4–7	3 Nephi 27:21	Mark 9:35
Mosiah 2:17	Matthew 5:16	Alma 5:41	1 Corinthians 13:13	Matthew 5:43–44	
D&C 4:2	Matthew 7:12	Article of Faith 13		Moses 7:18	
D&C 24:7	Matthew 25:35–40	Mosiah 4:15		Matthew 14:13–21	



“GLORY  
to GOD  
in the HIGHEST,  
and on EARTH  
PEACE,  
GOOD WILL  
to Men.”

Luke  
2:14

ILLUSTRATION BY SIMINI BLOCKER

# A Visit from the Savior

*In parts one and two, Allie, the granddaughter of both President Brigham Young and President Lorenzo Snow, lived with her family in Hawaii while her father served a mission there. Now she's all grown up.*

**By Jessica Larsen**

(Based on a true story)

1899—The Salt Lake Temple

Allie looked around Grandfather Snow's office in the Salt Lake Temple. "It's late! We're the only ones here."

"Sorry, my dear," her grandpa said with a smile. "I've been telling you too many stories."

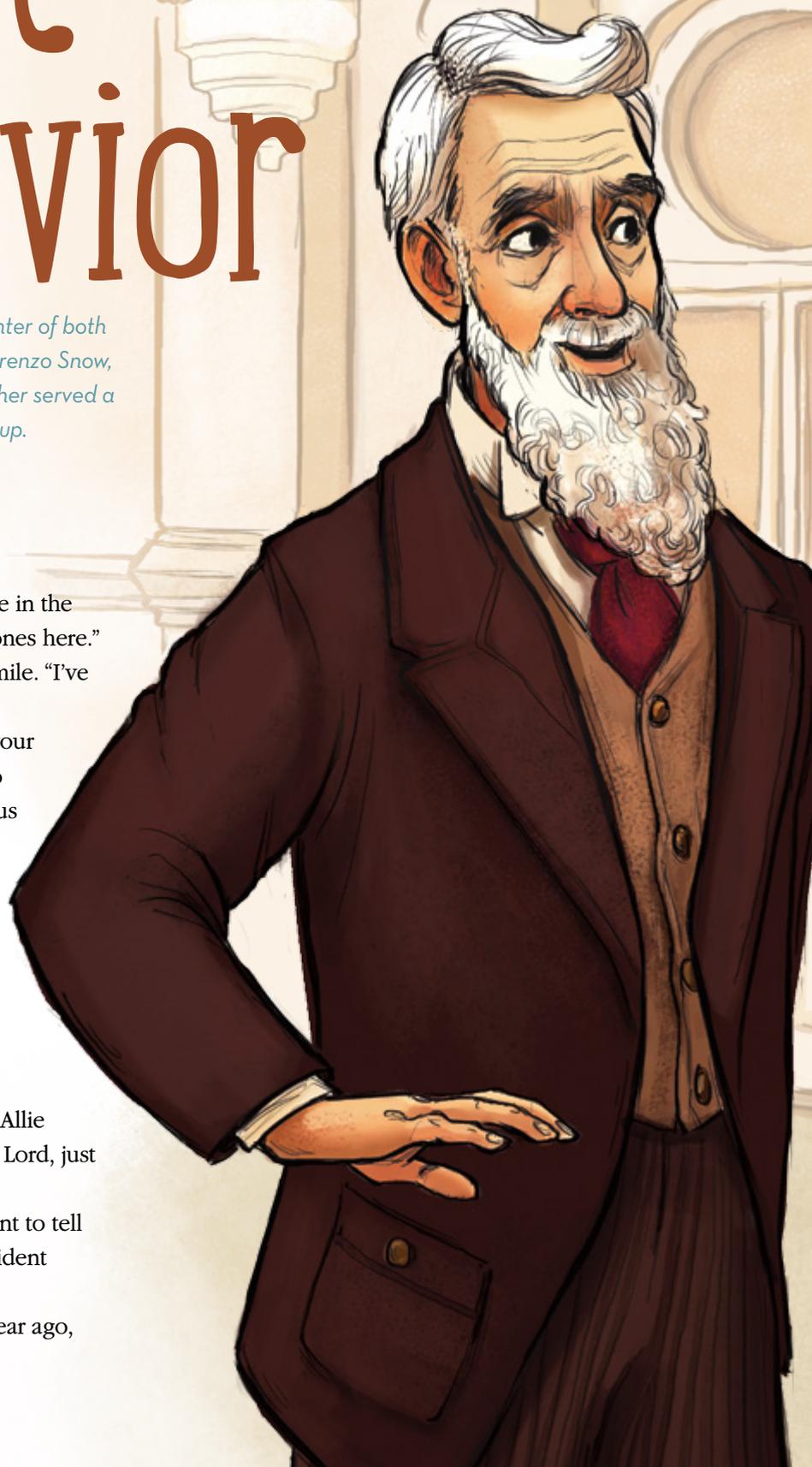
"Please don't apologize. I've always loved your stories." Allie hugged her grandfather, Lorenzo Snow, the fifth President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

"I'll walk you to the front entrance and let you out," he said. "The night watchmen haven't arrived yet, and the doors are all locked." They walked out of his office into the hall.

Allie had married Noah Pond in a nearby room in the temple just three years ago. Now Noah was away in Sweden serving a mission. Allie missed him. But she knew he was serving the Lord, just as she and her family had done in Hawaii.

"Wait a moment, Allie," Grandpa said. "I want to tell you something. Do you remember when President Wilford Woodruff died?"

Allie remembered well. It had only been a year ago,





and Grandpa Snow had been worried about the responsibility of being the next President of the Church. He had prayed that President Woodruff would not die. When President Woodruff passed away, Grandpa had come to the Salt Lake Temple as soon as he heard the news.

“It was right here that the Lord Jesus Christ appeared to me. He told me to go right ahead and reorganize the First Presidency at once and not wait as had been done after the death of the previous presidents, and that I was to **succeed** President Woodruff,” Grandpa said.

Grandpa held out his hand. “He stood right here, about three feet above the floor. It looked as though He stood on a plate of solid gold.”



Allie stood very still as she felt the Spirit confirm the truth of these words. The Savior had appeared in this very spot in the temple and told her grandpa about his calling as President of the Church!

Grandpa continued to describe the Savior’s hands, feet, face, and beautiful white robes. He said they were so white and bright that he could hardly look at the Savior.

Then Grandpa put his hand on her head. “Now, Granddaughter, I want you to remember that this is the testimony of your grandfather, that he told you with his own lips that he actually saw the Savior, here in the temple, and talked with Him face to face.”

Allie hugged Grandpa at the door and quietly made her way home. Her heart felt warm, and she knew that Jesus Christ really had appeared to Grandpa. The Savior lived, and He was the head of His Church. This was truly a night to remember. ◆

The author lives in Arizona, USA.

To **succeed** means to be the next in line to fill a position. Ever since the deaths of the Prophet Joseph Smith and Brigham Young, the Lord has chosen the man who has been an Apostle for the longest time to become the next President of the Church.



# My Christmas List

By Jon Clark

Unscramble the words to learn what you can do to remember the Savior this season. Check your answers on page 48.

vrsee torhes \_\_\_\_\_

howprsi imH \_\_\_\_\_

iegv fgist \_\_\_\_\_

og anrcogli \_\_\_\_\_

lyfima trdtionasi \_\_\_\_\_

inlste ot odgo simcu \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



What will *you* do to remember the Savior this Christmas?



# Look Inside!



By Sophia C., age 9, Brazil

**B**efore Christmas my parents bought a box full of copies of the Book of Mormon to give to people. That was when I had the idea to take some to school and give them as presents to three of my teachers.

When I got to the music classroom, I saw my music teacher and thought, *Go ahead, Sophia. Give one to her!* I walked slowly up to my teacher. But I didn't have the courage to give her the book.

I went to a corner of the room and prayed very quietly. "Heavenly Father, I ask Thee to help me give this book to my teacher." When I finished my prayer, I felt very strongly that I should give the book to her. Suddenly I had courage.

I went up to her. She looked at me, and I gave her the Book of Mormon and said, "Teacher, I love you from the bottom of my heart, and I want to give you this Book of Mormon!"

She took it and looked at the cover. "Look inside!" I said. She saw that I had written a few words.

She hugged me and said, "Oh, Sophia, thank you for giving this to me!"

After I sat down, she said to the class, "Look what Sophia gave me. I am going to read it during the holidays!"

When I got home, I ran to my mother and said, "Guess what! I gave my teacher a Book of Mormon."

She smiled and said, "That's wonderful! You're a great example to me, Sophia."

We decided to pray to thank Heavenly Father for giving me the courage to give my teacher the Book of Mormon. ♦

**By Craig Harmon and Marissa Widdison**

(Based on a true story)

*“Look unto me in every thought; doubt not, fear not”*  
(D&C 6:36).

**K**ent?” I whispered into the dark, but my brother was already asleep. Just minutes ago we had raced downstairs, said our prayers, and hopped into bed. How could he fall asleep so fast?

*“Kent!”*

Still nothing.

I squirmed down under my covers until my eyes barely peeped out above my cowboy blanket.

I glanced to the left. There was my favorite stuffed animal. It should have made me feel better. But my stomach flip-flopped inside of me. What if a tiger crept

out of the laundry room next door?

I glanced to the right. There was the hat I got at an amusement park this summer. But my heart was thump-thumping. What if spiders attacked from under the porch?

I glanced up. Hanging from the ceiling were the model airplanes Dad and I had pieced together and painted so carefully. I squeezed my eyes shut and imagined them flying above me at night, warning me of danger.

My eyes popped open. I had an idea! On the dresser by my bed was a picture of Jesus that I had gotten in Primary. Slowly I reached out and propped up the picture. The light from our nightlight seemed to make the words at the bottom of the picture glow.

# Jesus at My Bed



*I am the way. Come and follow me.*

I rolled onto my side so that I could see the picture and read those words again and again. I looked at Jesus's hands and thought about how He blessed little children. My stomach stopped flip-flopping. I looked at Jesus's feet and thought about how He went to find people who needed help. My heart stopped thump-thumping. I looked at Jesus's face and thought about how He knew my name.

Tigers and spiders faded from my mind as I snuggled into my blankets. Heavenly Father and Jesus loved me! I felt warm and peaceful and safe.

And very, very sleepy. ♦

The authors live in Utah, USA.

side



## Near to Jesus

By Barbara Wren Tuttle

How can I feel near  
To Jesus each day?  
By reading the scriptures  
And kneeling to pray.

How can I serve Him?  
That's easy to see—  
By doing kind things for  
My dear family.

How does it feel when  
His Spirit is near?  
I feel peaceful and calm,  
With faith and not fear.

How can I show Him  
That I love Him too?  
I try to be like Him  
In all that I do.



Cut out and color this bookmark as a reminder that Jesus Christ loves you. Print more copies at [friend.lds.org](http://friend.lds.org).



# I'm Minna from Sweden

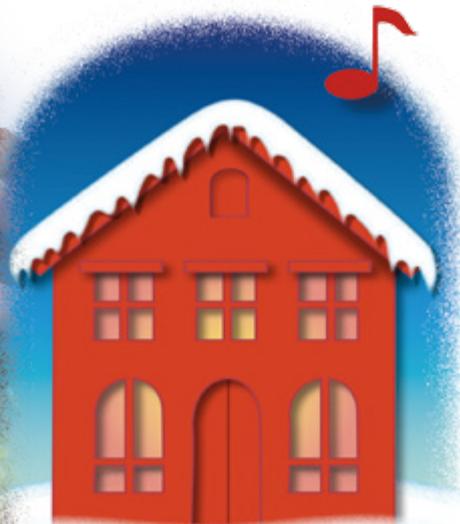
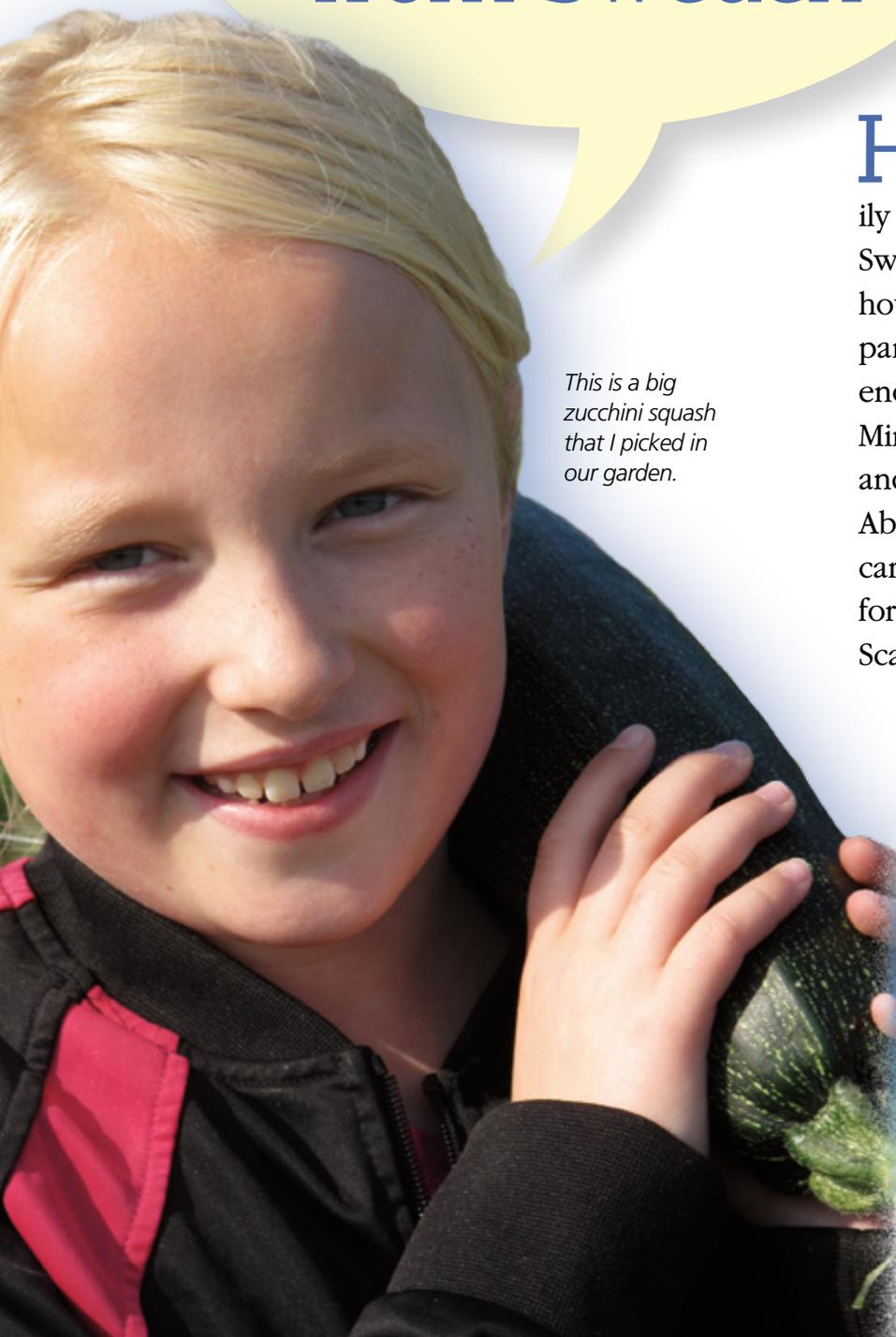
Hallå, Vänner!\*

\* "Hello, friends!" in Swedish

From an interview by Amie Jane Leavitt

How would you like to live in a schoolhouse? Minna and her family live in the countryside of southern Sweden. Their home used to be a schoolhouse many years ago. She says the best part is that the house has a room big enough for lots of people. In December, Minna's family invites neighbors, friends, and family over for a special "sing-in." About 80 people come to sing Christmas carols together! Then they enjoy treats before everyone goes back out into the cold Scandinavian winter weather.

*This is a big zucchini squash that I picked in our garden.*



Watch the "One in a Million" video for Jonaton from Sweden at [friend.lds.org](http://friend.lds.org).



*At my school I try to share the gospel with my friends. I often bring some of my friends from school to my Primary activity days. That means I am being a missionary right now, just like my sisters.*

*I love to jump on the trampoline. I also enjoy playing the piano and the flute.*

*I am 10 years old and the youngest of nine children in my family. Two of my sisters are serving missions—one in France and the other at Temple Square in Utah.*

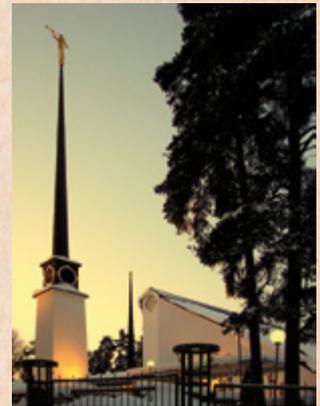


*One of my favorite things to do with my family is drive north to Sweden's capital, Stockholm. I love visiting my grandparents and other relatives who live there.*

*My family loves swimming together. In the summer we go to a lake near our house. In the winter we go to a place that has many pools and waterslides inside.*



*Cut out the stamp and add it to your passport from the January issue.*



### **I LOVE TO SEE THE TEMPLE**

*The Stockholm Sweden Temple is near my grandparents' home. This temple has a special place in my heart. One time my dad and I walked around the grounds. We talked about the temple and how I would get to go inside one day.*



### **READY TO GO!**

*Minna's bag is packed with some of her favorite things. Which of these things would you pack in your bag?*

# Bulletin Board

Fun Facts about

## SWEDEN

You can meet Minna from Sweden on page 14. Here are some fun facts about this Scandinavian country.

- Sweden has lots of forests and lakes and 29 national parks.
- For every 10 books published there, one is a children's book.
- In some parts of northern Sweden, the sun never sets during the summer or rises during the winter!



In Scandinavia many people celebrate Saint Lucia's Day. For this festival of lights, girls wear wreaths with candles.

### Chokladbollar

This no-bake chocolate ball is popular with children in Sweden. Remember to get an adult's help. (Makes about 25 cookies.)

- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 1 1/4 cups sugar
- 2 tablespoons milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 1/2 cups rolled oats
- 2 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa
- 1 cup coconut flakes

"I am a child of God"  
in Swedish:

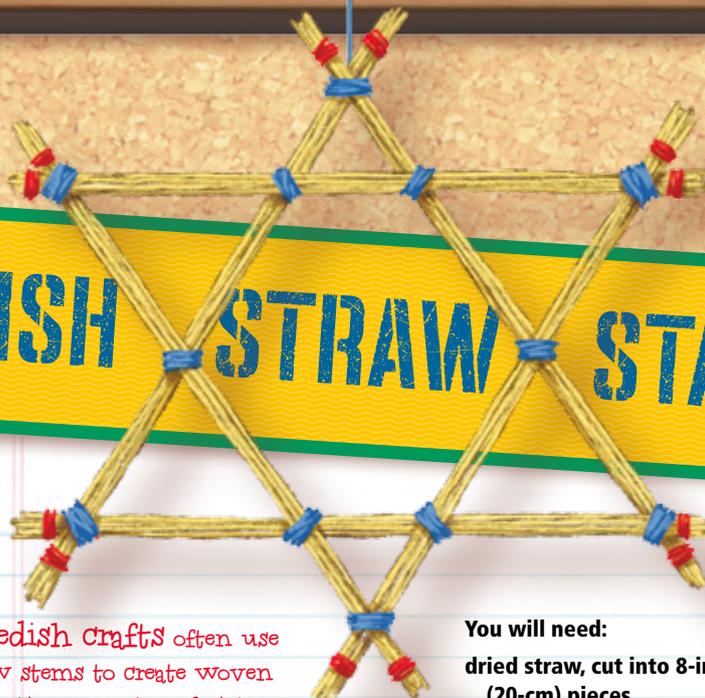
Jag är ett  
Guds barn

Pronunciation: yag er ett  
goods bahn

God Jul!

That's Swedish for  
"Merry Christmas."

# - SWEDISH STRAW STAR -

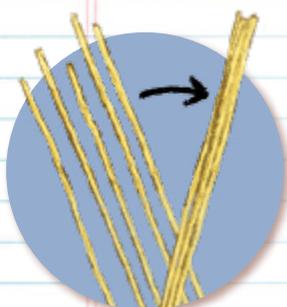


Swedish crafts often use straw stems to create woven decorations. Here's a Christmas ornament that you can make! Be sure to get an adult's help.

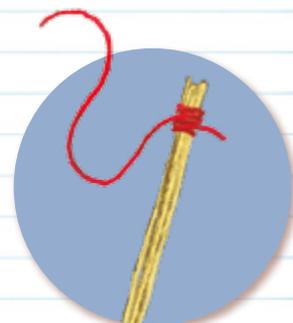
**You will need:**  
 dried straw, cut into 8-inch (20-cm) pieces  
 scissors  
 colorful embroidery thread

what if...

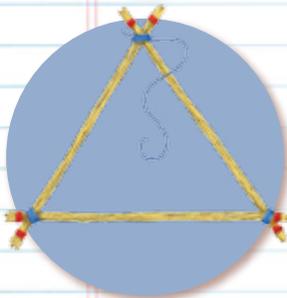
What if you could have anyone in the world over for a Christmas party? Who would you invite, and why?



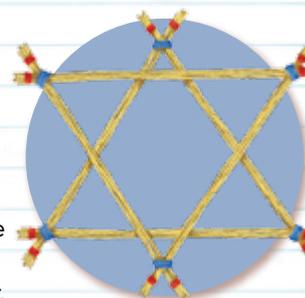
1. Gather the straw into six bundles about as thick as pencils.



2. Wrap the end of each bundle with thread. Use a tight knot so the bundles don't come loose.



3. Arrange the bundles into two triangles. Wrap the corners with thread and tie a knot to keep the triangles together.



4. Place one triangle upside down on top of the other to form a six-pointed star.

5. Tie the two triangles together where they cross (see finished star above).  
 6. Tie a loop of thread to hang your star, or just display it as is.

1. In a medium bowl, mix the butter, sugar, milk, and vanilla together.
2. Stir in the oats and cocoa. The dough should be easy to roll and not too sticky. If it's too dry, add a little more milk. If it's too sticky, add a little more oatmeal.
3. Scoop a small amount into your hands with a spoon. Roll it into a ball. Then roll the ball in the coconut flakes. Refrigerate the cookie balls for about 2 hours.

## Family History: I Am Doing It!

Christmas is a great time for family traditions. How did your traditions start? If you don't have any, you can begin new ones this year. For example, you could start acting out the nativity scene each Christmas Eve, or make ornaments using photos of family members. It's never too late to start a fun tradition!

# Erik from Sweden

Erik is dressed in his everyday clothes, but you can also dress him up for church or in his traditional Swedish outfit. Glue this page onto heavy paper before you color and cut out the pieces.



# The Nativity

New  
SONG!

*Tenderly* ♩ = 72-76

Words by Toni Thomas  
Music by Brett Stewart

mp rit.

*mp*

1. One lit-tle shep-herd, two ba-by lambs, — Three no-ble Wise Men with gifts in their hands; A  
2. Quick to the sta-ble, shep-herds make haste; A star through the des-ert the Wise Men have chased; And

*a tempo*

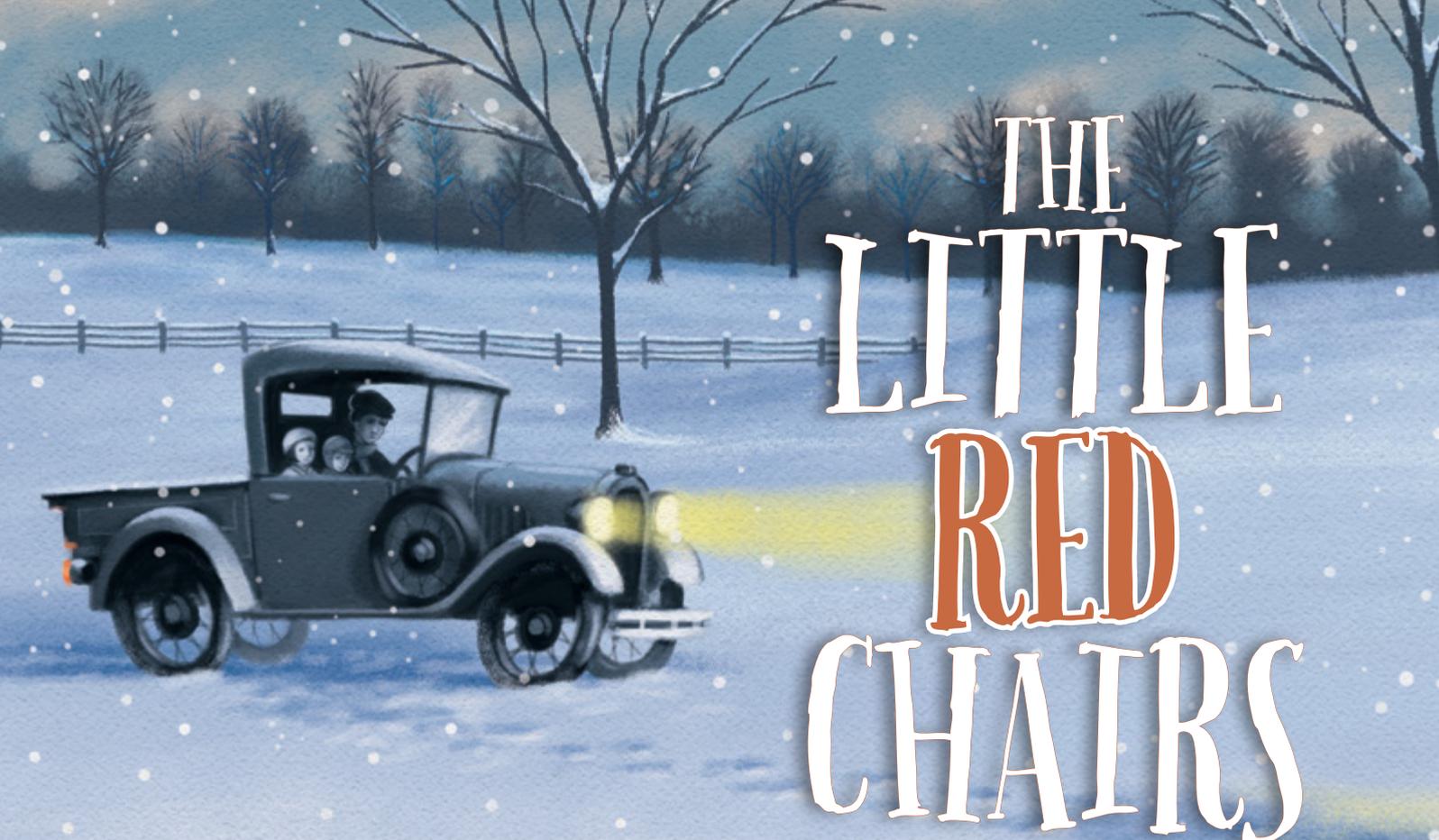
shin-ing an-gel watch-es a-bove; I wish I'd been there to give Je-sus my love.  
down from heav'n came an-gels to call; So I too will seek Him, the Sav-ior of all.

1. 2.

I too will seek Him, the Sav-ior of all.

*rit.* *rit.*

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This notice must be included on each copy made.



# THE LITTLE RED CHAIRS

**By Jewelene Carter**

(Based on a true story)

*“Have faith, have hope, live like his Son, help others on their way” (Children’s Songbook, 34–35).*

Helen gazed through the window as the snow swirled outside, and shivered. “*Brrr*, Mama, it’s cold!” she said. She thought about Daddy, who was out working at whatever job he could find on this cold, windy day. “I hope Daddy is all right.”

“I’m sure he will be fine,” Mama said. “Come help me finish kneading this bread before your sister wakes from her nap.”

Helen climbed on a chair and watched Mama push, pound, and roll the ball of dough. She looked over at the beans that had been boiling on the stove all morning, and frowned.

Mama saw her frown and said, “Helen, we are lucky Daddy has work so we have food. And I have a secret,” she whispered. Helen moved closer.

“I have raisins, walnuts, and a little honey for our leftover dough. Let’s make cinnamon rolls!”

“A Christmas gift for Daddy!” Helen said, clapping her

hands. Together they rolled the dough and spread the honey. Helen carefully placed each raisin and walnut as Mama sprinkled cinnamon.

Then Mama said, “Let’s go to the barn while we’re waiting for the rolls to rise and see if the chickens laid any eggs.”

The wind whistled around them as they ran to the barn. When Mama finished placing the last egg into a basket, Helen counted each one. “*Nine* eggs, Mama!”

When they got inside, Helen checked the cinnamon rolls. “Look! They’re perfect,” she said as Mama placed them in the oven. Then they heard a knock at the door.

“Who could that be?” Mama asked.

Helen followed Mama and hid behind her skirt as Mama opened the door. Behind it stood a tired-looking woman holding a couple of red wooden chairs. Helen peeked out from behind Mama.

The woman stepped forward. “I’m selling these little red chairs for one dollar each,” she said.

*Helen’s family had something to give—even when times were tough.*



Helen let go of Mama's skirt and touched one of the chairs. She thought how she and her sister would love those chairs. Something behind the woman caught Helen's eye. A daddy and little children were waiting in an old truck.

Mama wiped her hands on her apron and invited the woman inside. "With these hard times, I don't have any money to give you," Mama said. "But I will make you a Christmas trade."

Mama picked up the basket of eggs and added potatoes to it. Then she took out a clean bucket and filled it with the cooked beans. Helen's heart felt warm as Mama took out a hot loaf of bread and put it in the basket.

"Thank you," the woman said softly.

Helen smiled at the woman. The woman put down the red chairs as Mama put a finger over her lips, "This is our Christmas secret, Helen."

Tears rolled down the woman's face as she walked with Mama to the door and they wished each other "Merry Christmas."

On Christmas morning Helen and her sister each unwrapped a little red chair. One leg on Helen's was a little shorter than the other three. "Look, my very own rocking chair!" This had been the very best Christmas. ◆

The author lives in Alaska, USA.

### FAMILY CHRISTMAS STORIES

This story was told to the author by her grandmother Helen Sleight Gurr about a Christmas experience Helen had during the Great Depression.

Ask your parents or grandparents about one of their favorite Christmas memories.



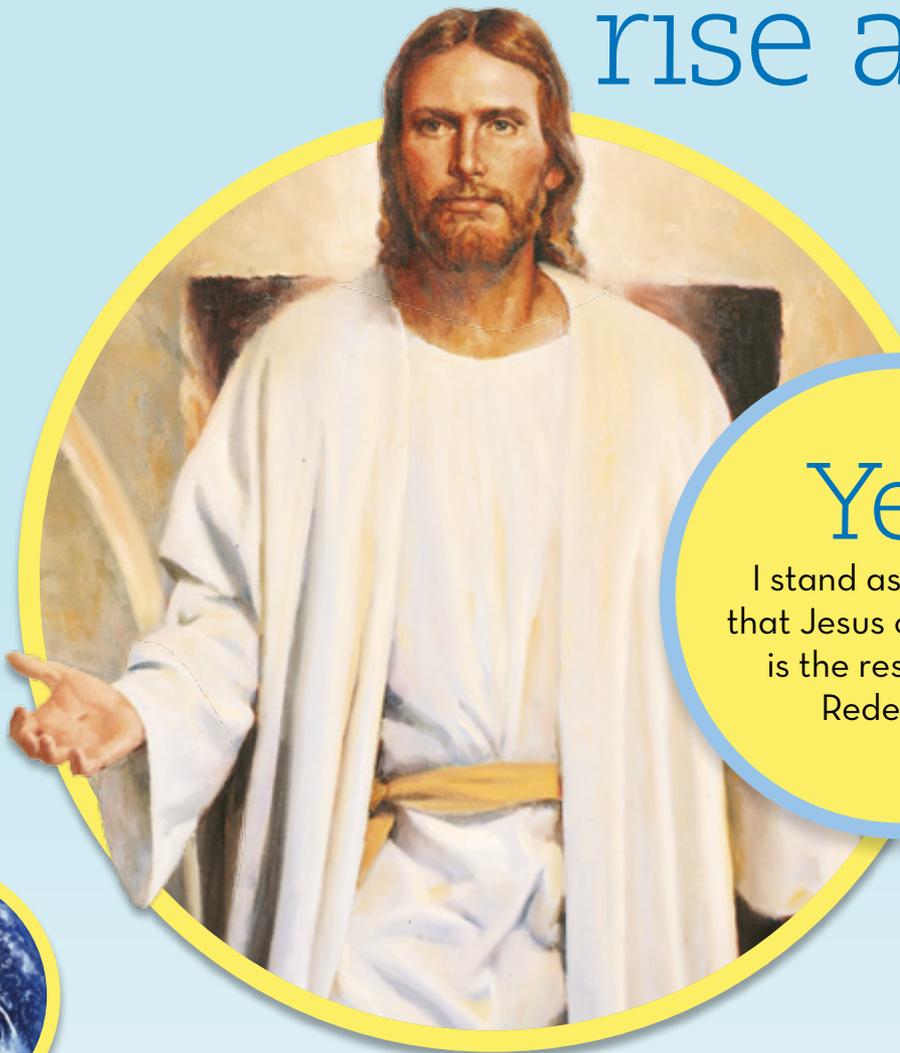
SPECIAL WITNESS

# Did Jesus really rise again?

**By Elder D. Todd Christofferson**

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

*The members of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles are special witnesses of Jesus Christ.*

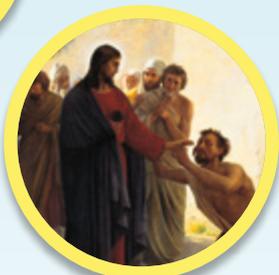


## Yes.

I stand as a witness that Jesus of Nazareth is the resurrected Redeemer.



He was the Creator of the earth.



His miracles were real.



He will come again.



His grace is real, allowing all people to repent and become clean.



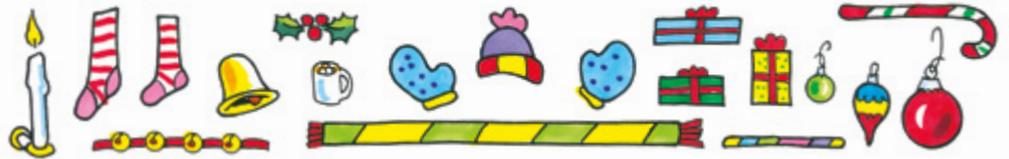
There is a resurrection for all.

*From "The Resurrection of Jesus Christ," Ensign, May 2014, 111-14.*

# Hidden Picture

By Val Chadwick Bagley

This Primary class is spreading Christmas cheer by caroling to their friends and neighbors. Can you find these hidden things?



Go caroling with your family! Find some great Christmas music in the *Children's Songbook*.

**DECEMBER 24:** In Romania, children walk from house to house carrying a colored star on a long pole while singing carols and sometimes dancing.

24

**DECEMBER 17:** In China, apples are a common Christmas gift because the Chinese word for apple, *ping guo*, sounds similar to the word for Christmas Eve, *ping'an ye*.

17

**DECEMBER 18:** In Denmark on Christmas Eve, they eat *risalamande*, a rice pudding with an almond hidden inside. Whoever finds the almond in their bowl gets a gift!

18

**DECEMBER 14:** At Christmastime in Canada and the United States, many people honor the Savior by giving food and clothing to those in need.

14

**DECEMBER 23:** In the Czech Republic, families set an extra place for the Christ Child at their Christmas feast.

23

**DECEMBER 20:** In Ukraine they decorate Christmas trees with fake spider webs because of an old folk tale about a spider that spun a beautiful web so a poor widow and her children would have decorations on Christmas.

20

**DECEMBER 13:** In Poland, families decorate booths in the town square with scenes from the Christmas story and give small gifts to people passing by.

13

**DECEMBER 19:** In Mexico, children celebrate Three King's Day (January 6th) by leaving their shoes outside along with hay and water for the Magi's animals to eat. When they wake up, there's a gift in the shoe!

19

**DECEMBER 15:** In India, families decorate their homes with mango leaves, strings of lights,

15

orange leaves, strings of lights, and an ornament to represent the Star of Bethlehem.

15

19

16

21

22

**DECEMBER 16:**

In Italy they build big nativities (called presepi) early in December with a crib for baby Jesus. On Christmas Eve they add the baby Jesus.

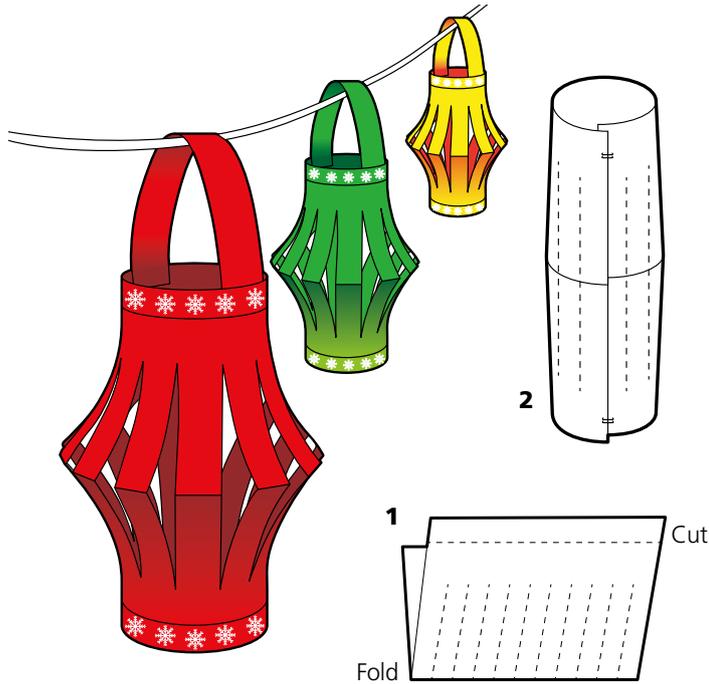
**DECEMBER 21:**

In New Zealand, people often have barbecues and celebrate Christmas on the beach in the warm summer weather.

# CHRISTMAS *around the World* .....

# Christmas Workshop

Be sure to get an adult's help with this craft and recipe.



## Paper Lanterns

In some Asian countries, people hang lanterns to celebrate special occasions. You can make this lantern and remember that Jesus Christ is the light of the world. He is the greatest reason to celebrate.

**1 piece of colored construction paper**      **markers, stickers, or glitter**  
**scissors**      **stapler**

1. Cut a 1-inch (2.5-cm) strip from the short end of the paper. This will be the handle.
2. Fold the paper in half lengthwise.
3. Cut evenly spaced slits from the folded side almost to the edge. Stop about 1 inch (2.5 cm) from the edge.
4. Unfold your paper and decorate the top and bottom edges with markers, stickers, or glitter.
5. Put the ends together to make a cylinder, and staple the top and bottom. Then staple the handle to the top of your lantern and hang it up!

## Malva Pudding

In many countries, *pudding* is another name for a sweet dessert. This South African pudding is like a very soft cake, traditionally served at Christmas.

**1 egg**      **1 teaspoon baking soda**  
**3/4 cup sugar**      **1/8 teaspoon salt**  
**2 tablespoons apricot jam**      **1 cup milk**  
**1 cup all-purpose flour**

1. Beat together the egg, sugar, and jam with a hand mixer.
2. Stir the flour, baking soda, and salt together in a separate bowl. Slowly add it to the egg mix, alternating with the milk.
3. Pour the batter into a greased 9x9-inch (23x23-cm) baking dish, cover with foil, and bake at 350°F (180°C) for 40–45 minutes.
4. When the pudding is almost ready, make the sauce (see below). Pour the sauce over the pudding as soon as it comes out of the oven. Let it sit for 5 minutes and serve with whipped cream.

## SAUCE

**3/4 cup sugar**  
**1/2 cup hot water**  
**1 cup milk**  
**1/2 cup butter**  
**1 teaspoon vanilla**

Stir all the ingredients in a saucepan on medium heat until the butter melts. Pour over the cooked pudding.

# ADVENT *Cutouts*

Cut out the piece for each day and paste it in its spot on pages 24-25.

DECEMBER 13



DECEMBER 16



DECEMBER 17



DECEMBER 20



DECEMBER 18



DECEMBER 19



DECEMBER 15



DECEMBER 24



DECEMBER 23



DECEMBER 22



DECEMBER 14



DECEMBER 21



# Show and tell

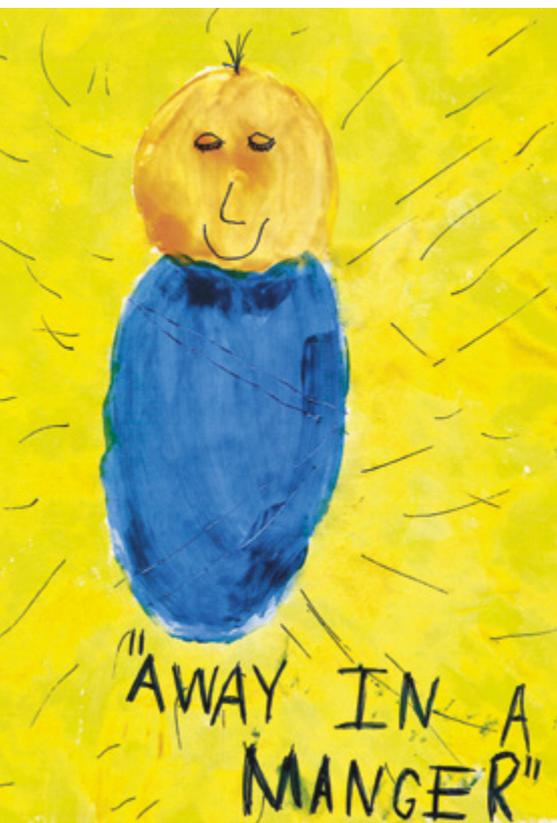


While my family and I were saying family prayer, I felt something I had never felt before. I felt this feeling when my mom was praying for a visitor of ours to be guided and protected. The feeling was warm and good. I felt that Heavenly Father would help me in my life and that He loves me. Lately I've been tempted with bad thoughts about the Church, but after feeling this good feeling, I feel good. I feel I have my own testimony now. I know the Church is true. I know Joseph Smith translated the golden plates and that they are the words of Heavenly Father. I felt the Holy Ghost tell me that, and I know it's true.

**Alex M., age 7, Utah, USA**



Primary children from the **Franklin Stake, Tennessee, USA**, participated in the Franklin City Parade. They practiced Christmas Primary songs for weeks. When the big day arrived, the children bundled up and paraded through the cold to spread their message of the Savior through song.



**Anna L., age 10, North Dakota, USA**



## Baby Jesus

The Christmas air was clean and bright,  
The manger filled with gleaming light.  
The shepherds came from afar,  
To worship Jesus under the star.

He is our King from day to day,  
He helps us in every way.  
He died for us to save mankind,  
The doors of death will now unbind.

Kind, gentle, and loving,  
Jesus Christ was always giving.  
Jesus Christ the Son of God,  
Humbly lying in the sod.

**Truman P., age 9, Utah, USA**



**James G., age 5, Wisconsin, USA**



**Isyabelle C., age 10, Virginia, USA**



The children of the **Crowsnest Pass Branch, Alberta, Canada**, put the principles they learned in sharing time into their lives by competing in their own gospel Olympics! They got a medal for each "sport" they did.

**A** boy at school threw rocks at two girls in my class, and he also kicked rocks at one of the boys. The next day I made friends with him. I found out he just needed a friend. I think Jesus wants us to forgive others when they do wrong things. We should give them another chance.

**Georgia I., age 7, Virginia, USA**



**C**hristmas is all about love and remembering Jesus's birth. Jesus loves everyone, and my family

loves me very much, and all my friends care about me. They follow Jesus's example. Christmas is joyful. Christmas isn't about getting presents and singing carols. It is about remembering when Jesus was born.

**Mille B., age 7, England**



**Brooke S., age 9, Nevada, USA**

# A Bit of Christmas

*All of the presents were wrapped and under the tree. Or were they?*

**By Kate Strongin**

(Based on a true story)

*"We a gift before Thee lay. Praise we sing on Christmas Day!"* (Children's Songbook, 39).

Christmas was almost here. Amalie was excited. Soon she could unwrap the presents under the tree!

At family home evening it was Mom's turn to give the lesson.

"Why do we give presents at Christmas?" Mom asked.

"Because it's Jesus's birthday!" Amalie said.

"Then shouldn't we give a present to Him?" Mom said.

Dad helped Amalie's brother Noah read a

scripture. It said that when we serve other people, we are serving God (see Mosiah 2:17).

"Is serving others giving a gift to Jesus?" Mom said.

Noah nodded.

"What else is a gift for Jesus?"

"Keeping the commandments," Amalie said.

"Being nice," Noah said.

"Great ideas!" Mom said. "Now let's play a game. I'll say a gift someone gave to Jesus. Tell me if you know who it was. Here we go. This person gave out Christmas cards at the care center."

Noah raised his hand. "Amalie did that!"



# as Every Day

“This person went home teaching.”

“That’s Daddy,” Amalie said.

Soon they had named lots of gifts they had already given to the Savior.

“We can give gifts every day,” Mom said.

The next morning it was time to clean the house. “Oh no,” Amalie groaned. But then she remembered. Serving others is a gift! If she helped Mom, it was the same as helping Jesus. She found a cloth and wiped the counters until they sparkled.

The next day Amalie earned some money.

“Your tithing is eight cents,” Mom said.

Amalie remembered again. Tithing is a commandment, so paying it is a gift. She put eight cents in her tithing jar.

Later that week Amalie helped pick up pillows. Her baby brother had thrown them off the couch. “Another present for Jesus,” she said.

On Christmas Eve, Mom and Dad told Amalie they were proud of her. “You’ve been giving gifts to Jesus all week long,” Dad said. “That’s like having a little bit of Christmas every day.” ♦

The author lives in Utah, USA.



# The House that Tithing Built

By Janele Williams



This is Jack. These are Jack's coins that jingle and jangle. This is Jack's tithing, 10 percent.

This is the bishop who shook Jack's hand when he paid his tithing, 10 percent.





This is the prophet, cheerful and prayerful, who said, “Let’s build a temple,” with the tithing sent from the bishop who shook Jack’s hand when he paid his tithing, 10 percent.



This is the temple, shiny and white, a House of the Lord filled with light.

This is the house that tithing built because the prophet said, “Let’s build a temple,” with the tithing sent from the bishop who shook Jack’s hand when he paid his tithing, 10 percent.



This is Jack's smile, broad and bright, when he goes to the temple, shiny and white, to be sealed to his family in God's sight. ◆

The author lives in Utah, USA.

# Where Is Jack's Tithing?

Help Jack find all eight of his tithing coins that jingle and jangle!

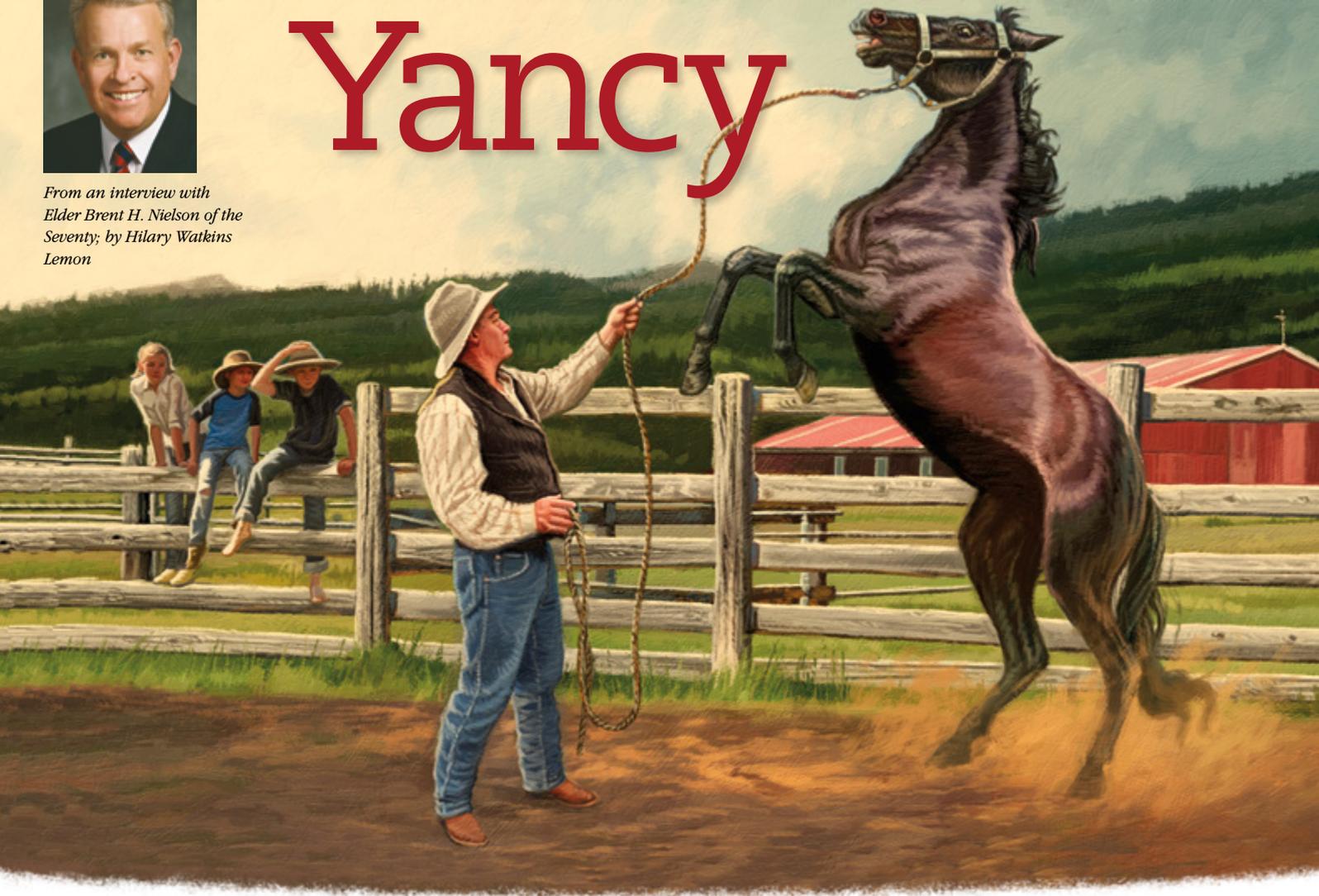




FRIEND TO FRIEND

# Yancy

From an interview with  
Elder Brent H. Nielson of the  
Seventy; by Hilary Watkins  
Lemon



*“And now I would that ye should be humble, and be submissive and gentle” (Alma 7:23).*

**M**y siblings and I always wanted a horse. When I was about 9 or 10 years old, my dad bought a beautiful black mare. We named her Yancy. We were so excited to have this horse, but she hadn’t been trained to be ridden. We were too young to do all the hard work it takes to train a horse, so my dad asked a friend who knew a lot about horses to help train Yancy.

We often went to the pasture to see Yancy. We couldn’t wait for the day we could ride her. But no matter how hard anyone tried, no one could train Yancy. She was too stubborn. We were never able to ride her.

One day my dad’s friend tried to ride her in a parade. As Yancy and her rider were going down the road, Yancy bucked the rider off and started to run through the city. Yancy ran so wildly that she cut her leg on a fire hydrant. I chased after Yancy and found her lying in the street in pain.

I was sad. We loved Yancy. If she had been obedient to the trainer, she could have become a happy horse with a wonderful life. But Yancy wouldn’t listen to and follow her master. Instead she was now injured and lying in the middle of the street.

Yancy’s story taught me of the blessings that come when we follow the Master, our Savior Jesus Christ. When we are kind and gentle and humble, we can be happy as we let the Savior lead us. ♦

# Prophet Cards

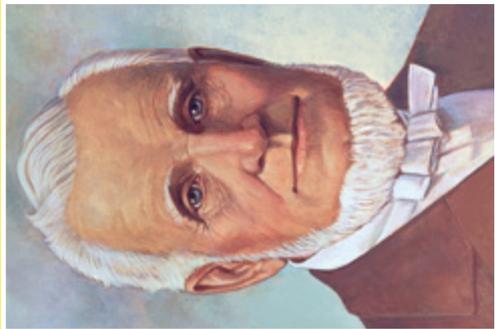
These cards are a Christmas gift to you! You can use them to learn more about our modern-day prophets. You could also copy the cards to make a matching game. Print more copies at [friend.lds.org](http://friend.lds.org).



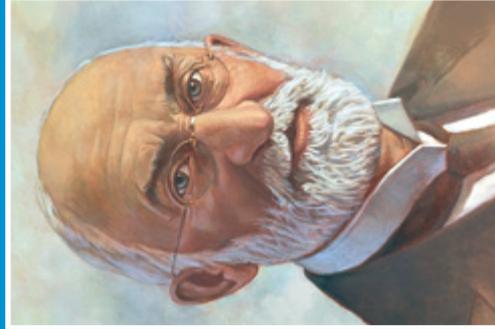
**Wilford Woodruff**  
(1807-1898)  
4th President of the Church



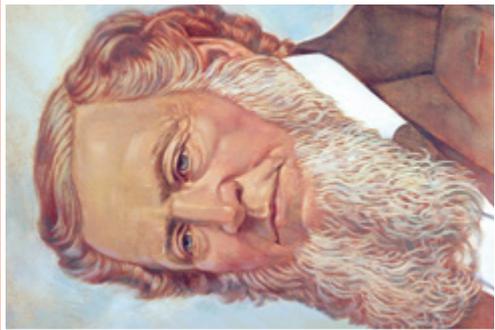
**George Albert Smith**  
(1870-1951)  
8th President of the Church



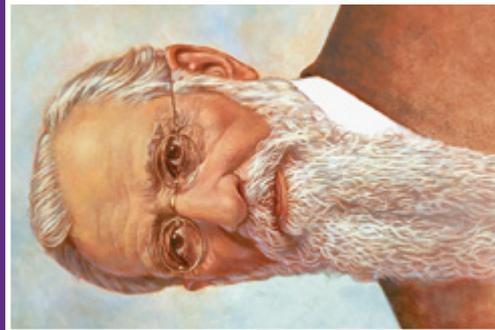
**John Taylor**  
(1808-1887)  
3rd President of the Church



**Heber J. Grant**  
(1856-1945)  
7th President of the Church



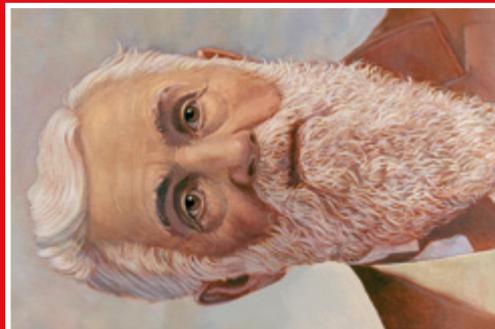
**Brigham Young**  
(1801-1877)  
2nd President of the Church



**Joseph F. Smith**  
(1838-1918)  
6th President of the Church

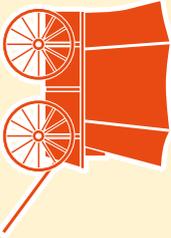


**Joseph Smith**  
(1805-1844)  
1st President of the Church



**Lorenzo Snow**  
(1814-1901)  
5th President of the Church

# Prophet Cards

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He served several missions and baptized thousands of people.</li> <li>• He was Church Historian and wrote in his own journal daily for 63 years.</li> <li>• He dedicated the Salt Lake Temple.</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He grew up in England.</li> <li>• He sang for Joseph and Hyrum Smith in Carthage Jail.</li> <li>• At the Martyrdom he was shot at several times but still survived.</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He became an Apostle just three years after joining the Church.</li> <li>• He led the pioneer Saints to Utah.</li> <li>• He began work building the Salt Lake Temple.</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ appeared to him when he was 14 years old.</li> <li>• He translated the Book of Mormon from the golden plates.</li> <li>• He directed the Saints to build the Kirtland and Nauvoo temples.</li> </ul> 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He had many health challenges, including poor eyesight.</li> <li>• One of his lifelong goals was: "I would be a friend to the friendless and find joy in ministering to the needs of the poor."</li> <li>• As President, he sent humanitarian aid to Europe after World War II.</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He and his widowed mother didn't have much money, but he once gave his coat to a boy who needed it.</li> <li>• He practiced hard to improve his baseball and handwriting skills.</li> <li>• He was President during the Great Depression.</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He was the son of Hyrum Smith, and Joseph Smith was his uncle.</li> <li>• At age nine he drove a team of oxen to Utah with his mother and other pioneers.</li> <li>• He was only 15 years old when he began serving a mission in Hawaii.</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He chose to be baptized after taking a Hebrew class with Joseph Smith.</li> <li>• He almost drowned while going to preach in Hawaii.</li> <li>• He told Church members they would be blessed if they paid their tithing.</li> </ul> 

# Prophet Cards

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**Spencer W. Kimball**  
(1895-1985)  
12th President of the Church



**Harold B. Lee**  
(1899-1973)  
11th President of the Church



**Joseph Fielding Smith**  
(1876-1972)  
10th President of the Church



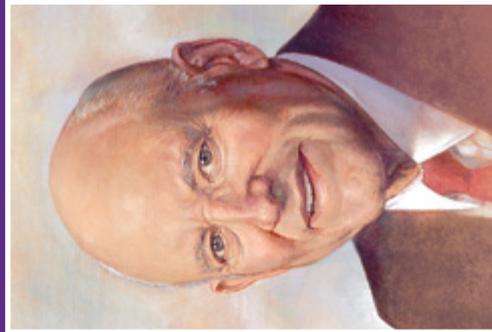
**David O. McKay**  
(1873-1970)  
9th President of the Church



**Thomas S. Monson**  
(1927)  
16th President of the Church



**Gordon B. Hinckley**  
(1910-2008)  
15th President of the Church

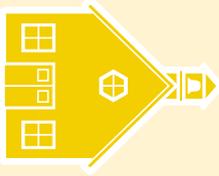


**Howard W. Hunter**  
(1907-1995)  
14th President of the Church



**Ezra Taft Benson**  
(1899-1994)  
13th President of the Church

# Prophet Cards

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As a boy, he memorized scriptures and hymns while milking cows.</li> <li>• While President, the number of temples doubled.</li> <li>• He received revelation that all worthy men could hold the priesthood.</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Spirit helped him avoid dangerous situations as a child, like telling him not to explore a run-down shed.</li> <li>• He was a teacher in a one-room schoolhouse.</li> <li>• He helped create the Church Welfare Program.</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He was the son of President Joseph F. Smith.</li> <li>• As a young man, he drove his mother in a carriage when she needed to take care of women in the neighborhood.</li> <li>• He loved playing sports, especially handball.</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He was raised on a farm and loved animals all his life.</li> <li>• While serving a mission in Scotland, he saw a carving that became his motto: "What-er thou art, act well thy part."</li> <li>• While he was President, the first stakes were organized outside of North America.</li> </ul> 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As a boy, he learned to unselfishly share with those in need.</li> <li>• He was called as a bishop at age 22 and as an Apostle at age 36.</li> <li>• He encouraged Church members to go to the rescue of those who have wandered away from Heavenly Father.</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A walnut tree he planted was used to build the pulpit of the Conference Center.</li> <li>• He presented "The Family: A Proclamation to the World" in 1995.</li> <li>• While he was President, more than 70 temples were dedicated.</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He earned his Eagle Scout Award at age 15.</li> <li>• When he was young, he played in a band that traveled to Asia on a cruise ship.</li> <li>• He traveled to the Middle East as an Apostle and helped choose the site for the BYU Jerusalem Center.</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He grew up on a farm and studied agriculture in school.</li> <li>• Before becoming President of the Church, he served as Secretary of Agriculture for the United States government.</li> <li>• He encouraged people to read the Book of Mormon every day.</li> </ul> 

# MATT & MANDY

Tis the morning of Christmas.  
The house is quite still  
Because all the Coopers—  
Except Matt—are ill.  
Perhaps it was all  
That plum pudding they ate,  
But they just want to sleep—  
The presents can wait.

Dad said I could open a few presents, but it's no fun without the others.

What I really want is to watch Mandy open the gift I made for her.

Heavenly Father, please help my family feel better soon.

And please help me know what I can do for them.

Later that day, everyone's feeling a bit better—

Thank you for fixing this toast and juice, Matt. It's just what we needed.

I love these bookends! Aren't these rocks from your collection?

Yeah, well, my favorite rocks for my favorite sister.

Your only sister.

The real joy of Christmas,  
Matt Cooper has found,  
Is having your loved ones  
All gathered around.  
The best gifts aren't things,  
But the people we love.  
They don't come from a store—  
They're gifts from above.  
And now dearest readers,  
Our story must end.  
Merry Christmas to all  
From the Coopers and Friend.

# We Remember and Worship Our Savior, Jesus Christ

By Erin Sanderson and Jean Bingham

Long ago Heavenly Father told His prophets about a wonderful gift that He was going to send to the whole world. That gift was His own Son, Jesus Christ, who would come to earth to be our Savior. Jesus would show us the way to live so we could return to Heavenly Father. The prophets looked forward with great joy to the time when Jesus would be born.

When angels told the shepherds near Bethlehem that the special baby who was the Son of God had been born, they felt great joy. They hurried to see and worship Him.

In the Americas, the Nephites knew He was born when the sky stayed light all night even though the sun went down. They too felt great joy and thanked Heavenly Father for the gift of His Son.

In our day we remember and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmastime. We show our joy and gratitude for the gift of our Savior by following His example of giving love to others in as many ways as we can. ♦

The authors live in Utah, USA.



## IDEAS FOR FAMILY TALK

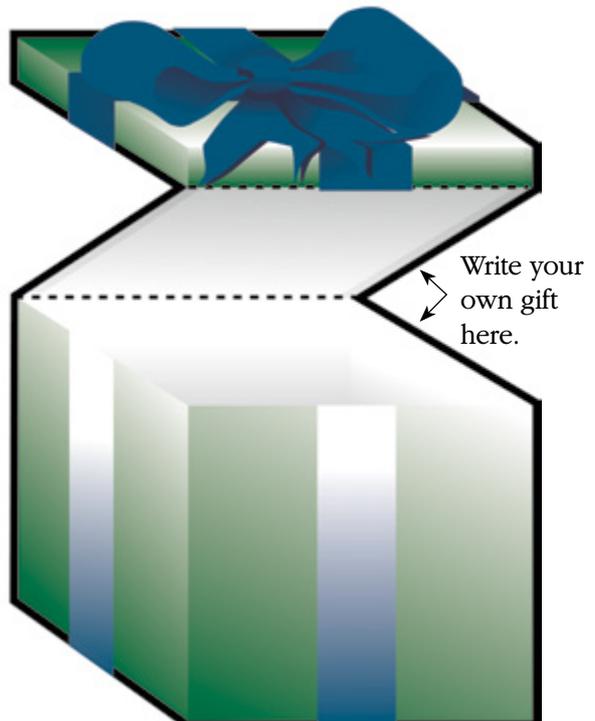
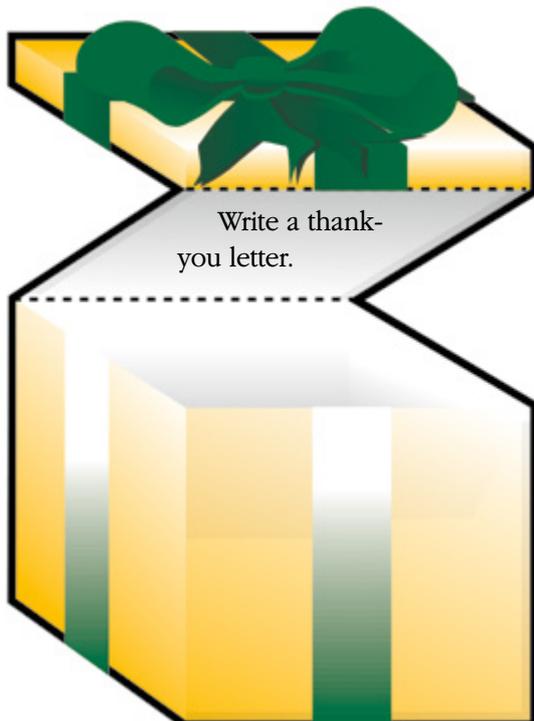
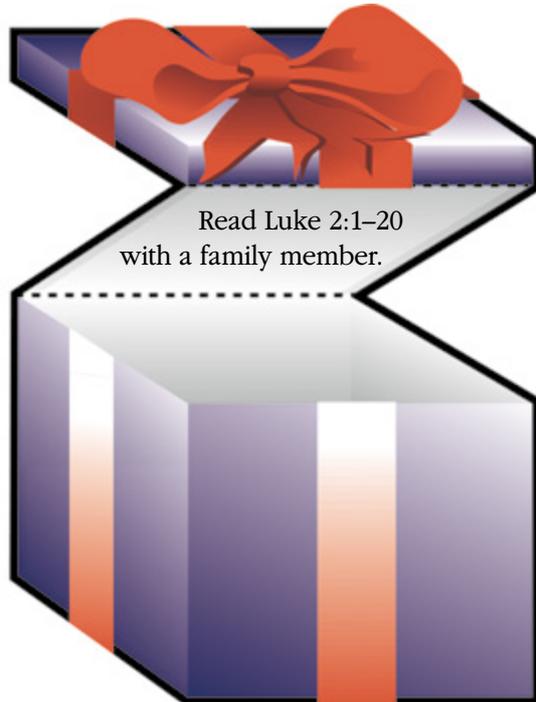
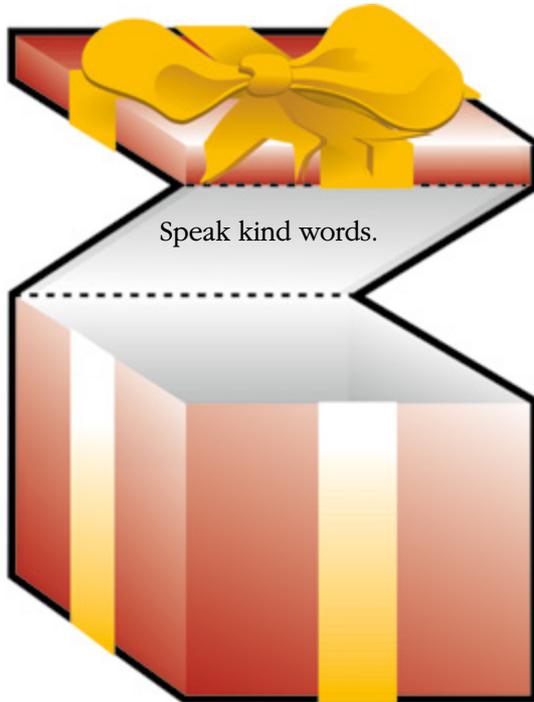
**Talk about the many ways Jesus Christ showed love. As a family choose some ways to show love to others during December as a way to remember and follow Jesus Christ's example.**

## SCRIPTURE

• John 14:6

## GIFTS OF LOVE

Cut out the gift boxes along the solid lines. Write your own gift activity on the blank one. Fold on the broken lines, and then tape the lids down. Punch a hole at the top of each gift and attach string. Hang the gifts where you can see them. Every few days, open a "gift" and do the activity inside. Remember, you can give these gifts throughout the year!



Print more copies of this activity at [friend.lds.org](http://friend.lds.org).

# The First Christmas

By Jenn Adams Wilks

You can put on this play with your family, friends, or Primary class. Read Luke 2:1–16 to help you prepare.

## CHARACTERS:

Mary  
Joseph  
Innkeeper  
Shepherd 1  
Shepherd 2  
Angel

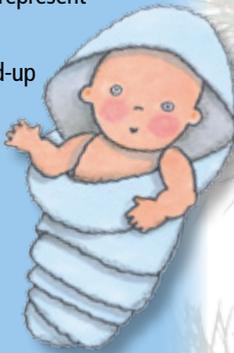
## COSTUMES:

Make the costumes simple: a robe for Joseph, a scarf for Mary, and staves for the shepherds.



## PROP IDEAS:

- a blanket draped across two chairs for the stable
- small pillows to represent sheep
- a doll or bundled-up blanket to represent the baby Jesus





**IDEA:**

Have the audience sing the songs with the characters.

**Song:** “When Joseph Went to Bethlehem,” first verse (*Children’s Songbook*, 38).

**Mary:** I hope we can find a place to stay soon. We have been traveling for so long.

**Joseph:** There’s an inn up ahead. Wait here and rest while I find out if there’s room for us.

*[Joseph helps Mary sit down and then knocks at the “door.” Innkeeper answers.]*

**Innkeeper:** What do you want?

**Joseph:** I’m looking for a place to stay. My wife and I have come a long way, and we need a place to sleep.

**Innkeeper:** I’m sorry, but the inn is full.

**Joseph:** Please, can’t you do something to help us? My wife is going to have a baby soon.

**Innkeeper:** I guess you could sleep in the stable. It’s all I have.

**Joseph:** Thank you. That is very kind.

*[Joseph goes to Mary and helps her up.]*

**Joseph:** There isn’t room in the inn, but the innkeeper said we can sleep in the stable.

**Mary:** Oh, I’m so glad we found a place for the night.

*[They walk to the stable. Mary and Joseph sit down, and the scene ends.]*

**Song:** “When Joseph Went to Bethlehem,” second and third verses (*Children’s Songbook*, 38).

*[Shepherds are watching their sheep. The angel comes, and the shepherds fall to their knees.]*

**Shepherd 1:** Who are you?

**Shepherd 2:** Please don’t hurt us.

**Angel:** Do not be afraid. I bring joyful news! Tonight the Son of God was born in Bethlehem. You will find the baby lying in a manger.

**Shepherd 1:** Let us go now and see this child.

**Angel:** Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

**Song:** “Stars Were Gleaming” (*Children’s Songbook*, 37).

*[Shepherds go to the inn and knock at the “door.” Innkeeper answers.]*

**Shepherd 2:** We’ve come to see the Christ child.

**Shepherd 1:** An angel told us He would be lying in a manger.

**Shepherd 2:** Do you know where He is?

**Innkeeper:** A child was born in my stable tonight. I’ll show you the way.

*[Shepherds follow the innkeeper to the stable, where Joseph and Mary are seated next to a manger with the baby Jesus inside.]*

**Shepherd 1:** It’s true! There really is a baby lying in a manger, just like the angel said there would be.

**Shepherd 2:** This really is the Savior, Christ the Lord.

*[Shepherds and innkeeper kneel around the manger.]*

**Song:** “Silent Night” (*Hymns*, no. 204).

The author lives in Utah, USA.

**IDEA:**

Put a big paper star on a stick and hold it over the stable.



ILLUSTRATIONS BY JULIE F. YOUNG

# Mistletoe Hunt

**By David Dickson**

Church Magazines

(Based on a true story)

*“Have a very merry Christmas! Scatter gladness ev’rywhere”*  
(Children’s Songbook, 51).

**D**ave hurried up the last stretch of the grassy hill. Another gust of cold December wind brushed past him, but he didn’t mind. The oak tree at the top of the steep hill just *had* to have some mistletoe in its branches. He had a big Christmas surprise to pull off! And he needed to collect lots of mistletoe to do it.

But his pillowcase wasn’t even half full yet, and he’d been out hiking the hills with Dad all morning.

“Do you see any?” Dad asked from behind him on the trail.

Dave ran to the oak tree and peered up into its branches. There were no leaves this time of year, which made it easy to see that the branches were completely bare. There was no mistletoe growing in this tree.

“No mistletoe,” Dave said. He slumped down against the tree and sighed. This was taking forever! He thought mistletoe would be easier to find.

“Too bad,” Dad said. But then he smiled. “At least we’re up here in this clean air, enjoying some great exercise.”

“Yeah, I guess so,” Dave said. Then he looked around. Green hills covered with nothing but grass and trees spread out in all directions. “Whoa! This view is awesome. Look! There’s the lake! I can’t believe we can see it this far away.”

Dad faced the direction of the lake. “You’re right! What a beautiful day to be outside.”

Dad eyed Dave’s pillowcase. “How are you holding up? Should we call it a day, or do you want to keep searching? You already have more mistletoe than I’ve ever seen in one place before.”

There was no question in Dave’s mind. He had something special planned for Mom and Dad. He needed to fill his pillowcase to the very top. “I want to keep going.”

Dad laughed and stretched his arms over his head. “This secret project of yours must be pretty special. All right. I love a good hike. Where do you want to try next?”

Dave spun in a slow circle. “How about that group of trees?” he said, pointing to the next big hill over. It would probably take them another hour to reach those trees, but there were a whole bunch of them together. He never would have noticed if they hadn’t climbed this huge hill.

“Sounds great to me,” Dad said. “If we get a move on, I’ll bet we can get there in time to eat lunch.”



I can't wait to give you your Christmas gift!

I'm making yours. You'll love it!



They talked and laughed as they climbed down one hill and up the next. Dave loved going on adventures like this with Dad. Even the hike up the next hill didn't seem so hard.

"You know, I think those trees have some extra shadows in their branches," Dad said as they got closer. "This might be your lucky hill."

Dave ran the last stretch again. Before he even reached the trees, he knew they'd hit the jackpot. "Yes!" he yelled. "We did it!" The limbs were full of mistletoe. He climbed a tree and started clipping mistletoe off the branches. Moving on to the next tree he continued filling his pillowcase while Dad got their lunches out.

"Congratulations," Dad said as he handed Dave a peanut butter sandwich. "I have no clue what you have planned for all that stuff, but you sure have a lot of it!"

Two weeks later, Dave grinned as he wrapped the special Christmas presents he'd picked out for Mom and Dad—presents he'd paid for by selling mistletoe to Christmas shoppers at the mall. He'd planned this for months.

"Mission accomplished," Dave said. Not only had he and Dad enjoyed a super fun adventure, now Dave couldn't wait to see Mom and Dad's faces Christmas morning! He loved making them smile. ♦

*Dave had big plans for Christmas gifts this year.*



P.S.

We hope you enjoyed this month's magazine. Please write to tell us what you liked!

## How to Write to the Friend

To send us a letter, drawing, poem, or photograph . . .

1. Fill out the form below and include it with your submission.
2. Include a school photo or high-quality snapshot.
3. We might edit your submission for length or clarity, and we can't return it to you.
4. You must be at least three years old to send us a submission.



I took this picture by my house on Christmas. I thought it was cool how the ice formed on the grass. I like it that Heavenly Father makes beautiful things.  
**Michael H., age 11, South Dakota, USA**

## The Last Laugh



Please send your submission to: **Friend Magazine**  
50 E. North Temple St., Rm. 2432  
Salt Lake City, UT 84150-0024  
Or email: [friend@ldschurch.org](mailto:friend@ldschurch.org)

The following information and permission must be included:

First and last name

Age State/Province, Country

I agree to the terms of the Friend Submission Agreement ([lds.org/friend/parentalconsent](http://lds.org/friend/parentalconsent)) and grant permission for the Friend to publish my child's submission and photo in print or online.

Signature of parent or legal guardian

Email of parent or legal guardian



**VISIT**  
[friend.lds.org!](http://friend.lds.org)

- Play games and watch videos.
- Read the *Friend* online.

### Funstuff Answers

Page 10: serve others, worship Him, give gifts, go caroling, family traditions, listen to good music

### Hidden CTR Ring

Did you find the ring?  
Look on page 47!



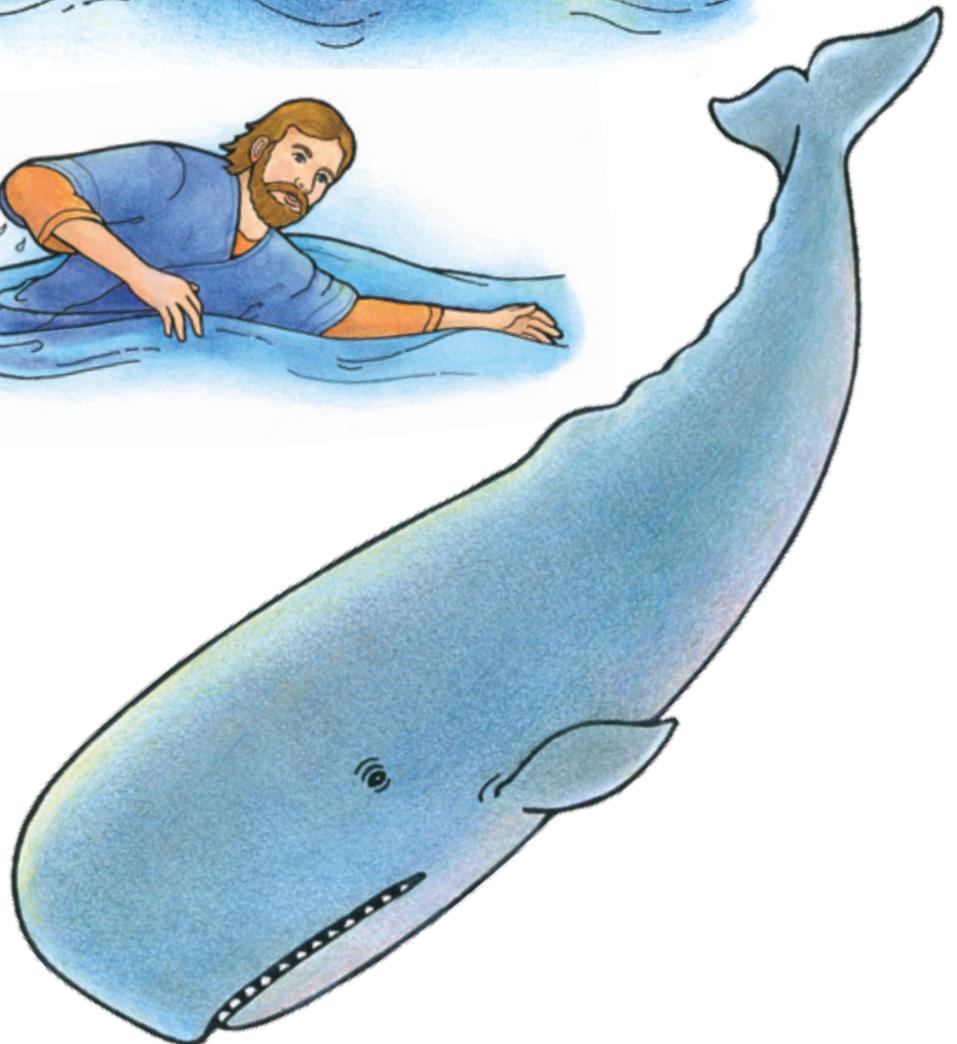
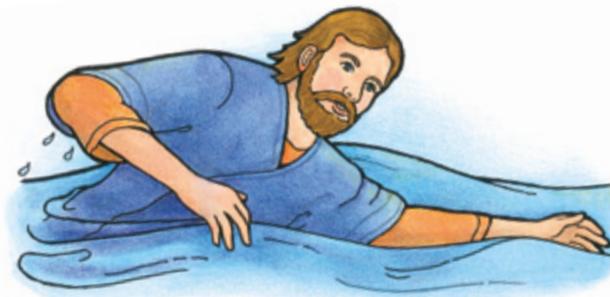
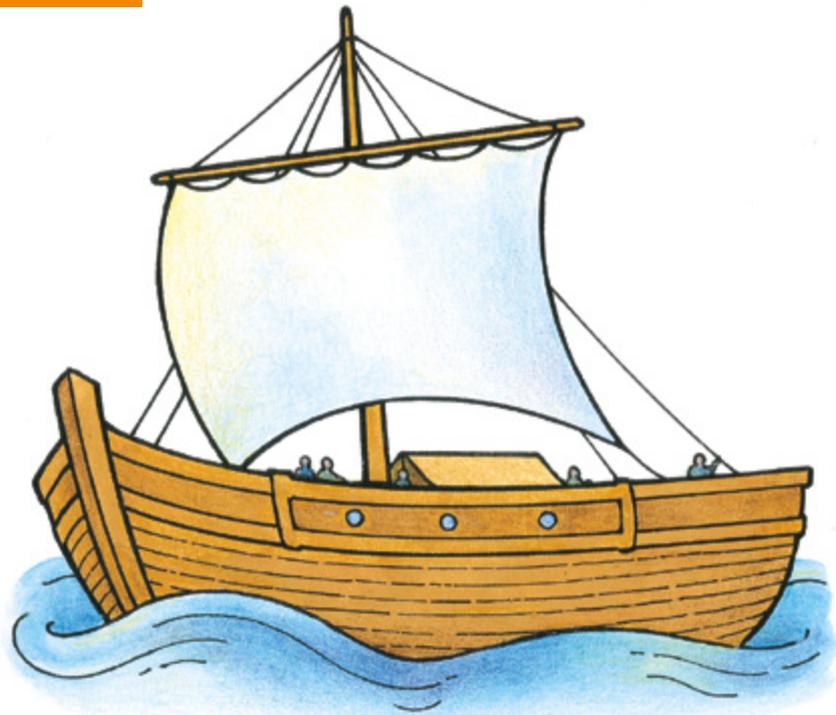
# JONAH

Jonah 1-3

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.



Jonah



# Dear Parents and Teachers,

How can we make Christmas a time of sharing and service in our families? This month's magazine is full of stories and activities that may help. On page 2 you can read about an act of kindness from President Monson's childhood and find an activity idea. Check out page 4 to learn what one boy did to meet his neighbors and help others. And don't forget the recipe and craft on page 6!

Happy serving,

The Friend

Order the Friend at [store.lds.org!](http://store.lds.org)



- The *Life of Jesus Christ Bible Videos* are now on DVD! Find a copy at [store.lds.org](http://store.lds.org) or visit [BibleVideos.org](http://BibleVideos.org) to learn more about the Savior this Christmas season.
- Find videos and games for kids at [friend.lds.org](http://friend.lds.org).



## Family Home Evening Ideas

**BRINGING PRIMARY HOME:** You can learn about this month's Primary sharing time theme on page 42. You'll find a short lesson and ideas for talking with your children, along with a fun activity.

**PROPHETS OF GOD:** Read "A Visit from the Savior" (page 8) to learn about President Lorenzo Snow's remarkable testimony. Then use the cards on page 37 to get to know more about the latter-day prophets.

**COMFORT FROM THE SAVIOR:** Read "Jesus at My Bedside" (page 12). Talk with your family about how the Savior can help us feel peace and comfort. You can print a picture of Jesus Christ for each child at [friend.lds.org](http://friend.lds.org).

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT:** Act out the Christmas story with your family or Primary class! Read Luke 2:1–16 and talk about Jesus Christ's birth. Then put on the nativity play on page 44.

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THE CHURCH OF  
**JESUS CHRIST**  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS



10972 Dec 14