

THE Friend



"Watching
for Jesus"
**Advent
Activity**

See pages 23-26

FRIENDS by Mail

Primary children from the **Lubbock Texas North Stake, USA**, collected 887 handprints with their acts of service written on them. Then two artists from the stake made this beautiful nativity. Look closely to see the hands! The stake invited people to come see it, and more than 4,500 people attended. The children learned that by helping others, they felt closer to our Savior. Here's what some of the children had to say:



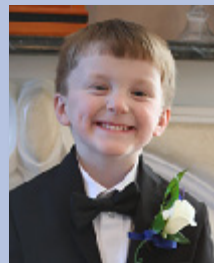
Service to me means to do jobs for people who are in need of help. It reminds me of Jesus when He did all His miracles to help people.

Logan S., age 9



Giving service helps me feel closer to the Lord.

Avery B., age 10



When I do something good, it makes my heart feel warm. That's when I feel my Savior.

Aidan K., age 7

Dear Friends,

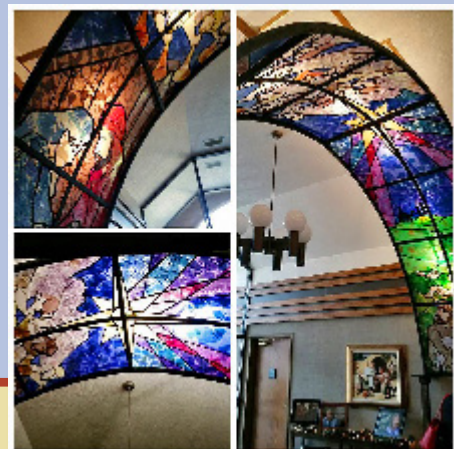
This year, we invited you to tell us how you are standing tall by following the Savior. And you did! Thousands of footprints and stories came to our mailbox from all over the world! We read and loved each one. As a Christmas gift to you, we've made a video to show some of your footprints and stories. You can watch it at friend.lds.org. Go to page 17 to see some of the footprints!

Merry Christmas!

The Friend

P.S. Watch for a new invitation from the Friend next month!

Was there a story or activity this month that helped you? Tell us about it! Turn to page 39 to find out how.



◆ Primary Connection Find stories and activities to go with this month's sharing time theme and lessons. Find more at lessonhelps.lds.org.

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Front cover by Ben Simonsen
Back cover by Jannie Ho

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Dieter F. Uchtdorf

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Managing Art Director: J. Scott Knudsen

Art Director: Mark W. Robison

Design: Thomas S. Child, Brad Teare

Intellectual Property Coordinator:
Collette Nebeker Aune

Production: Marlene Roscheck

Prepress: Joshua Dennis

Printing Director: Steven T. Lewis

Distribution Director: Troy K. Vellinga

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Hidden CTR Rings

Level 1: Wrap it up

Level 2: Icy cold

Level 3: Take a step



FROM THE FIRST PRESIDENCY

By President Thomas S. Monson

There are opportunities all around us to shine every day! Each of us came to earth with the Light of Christ. As we follow the example of the Savior and live as He lived and as He taught, that light will burn within us and will light the way for others. We can be a light in the lives of our family members, friends, classmates, people we just met, or even total strangers.

There are around us those who are lonely, those who are sick, and those who

A Shining Light

feel discouraged. We can help them and lift their spirits. The Savior brought hope to the hopeless and strength to the weak. He healed the sick. He caused the lame to walk, the blind to see, the deaf to hear. He even raised the dead to life. Throughout His ministry He reached out in charity to any in need. As we **emulate** His example, we will bless lives, including our own.

follow

How comforting are the Savior's words: "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" (John 8:12). I testify that He is our Savior and Redeemer, our **Exemplar** and our

someone who is
a good example



strength. He is "the light which shineth in darkness" (D&C 6:21). I pray that each of us may **pledge** to follow Him and become a shining light to the world. ♦

promise

Adapted from "Be an Example and a Light," October 2015 general conference.

Watch Christmas videos all month long at Mormon.org!

SHINE LIKE JESUS

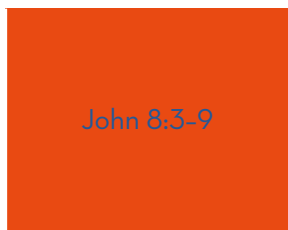
Jesus asked us to love and serve others. Match the picture of Him with the scripture that describes the story. Then match those to the picture of how you can follow Jesus's example!



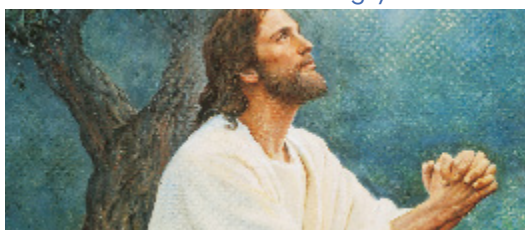
The Christmas star led the Wise Men to Jesus. How can you follow His light this month? Visit Mormon.org for some ideas!



Jesus Fed the Hungry



John 8:3-9



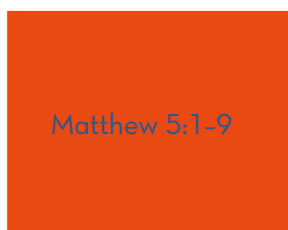
Jesus Prayed



Mark 1:40-42



Jesus Was Kind to the Sick



Matthew 5:1-9



Jesus Taught Others



John 17



Jesus Was a Peacemaker



Matthew 14:15-21



A Tree for Travis



*Jacqueline had a great idea—
but could she pull it off?*

By Charlotte Mae Sheppard

(Based on a true story)

“Tis love we get when love we bring”

(*Children’s Songbook*, 138).

Jacqueline’s family talked and laughed as they walked through the snow-dusted woods. But behind them, Jacqueline quietly trudged with the speed of a melting snowman.

She had waited all year for her family’s Christmas-tree hunt. She had dreamed about crunching through the frosty forest, sipping hot cocoa, and decorating the perfect tree until every branch sparkled with lights.

But now the frost she had waited for was freezing her toes, and the hot cocoa in her thermos didn’t taste as sweet as usual. She kept thinking about Travis.

Travis was Jacqueline’s best friend. He used to have a house near hers, but this winter his family had to move into a small trailer. The move had been really hard for Travis. There wasn’t even enough room for a Christmas tree in their new place. And Travis loved Christmas trees!

Suddenly Jacqueline stopped. Popping up from the snow in front of her was a tiny pine sapling. Maybe it would fit in Travis’s new home! Jacqueline’s eyes lit up as she reached for it—

“Whoa!” Dad said, putting a mittened hand on her shoulder. “We can’t cut down the little trees. They need to grow for next year.”

As Dad continued through the forest, Jacqueline looked back at the sapling and smiled. She had an idea.

Hours later Jacqueline was walking through the snow again—but this time in her own backyard. From where she stood, she could just glimpse her family’s Christmas tree twinkling through the windows of their house. *Their* tree hunt was over, but hers wasn’t quite finished.

She walked next to the towering trees that marked the edge of her yard until she saw a pine branch growing

low enough to reach. It was just the right size for Travis’s trailer. Dad had told her that taking one small branch wouldn’t hurt the tree too much.

With a grunt Jacqueline broke off the branch. But it didn’t look at all like the Christmas tree twinkling inside. Making Travis’s tree was going to be harder than she thought!

The next day Jacqueline sat in the car and watched the forest rush by in a blur of brown and green.

“Aren’t you excited to give Travis his tree?” Mom asked.

Jacqueline shrugged. She had spent all day trying to make the little tree look just right, but it didn’t end up nearly as nice as she wanted.

They parked in front of Travis’s trailer, and Jacqueline opened the trunk. When she saw the tree, her heart sank. It was lopsided, with needles drooping from its branches. Even the ribbons Jacqueline had tied around it were crumpled. Hot tears stung at the corner of Jacqueline’s eyes. It looked nothing like a real Christmas tree. It would probably just make Travis’s Christmas worse!

The door to the trailer swung open, and Travis bounded down the steps. With a deep breath, Jacqueline held out the tree. “Merry Christmas!” she said shakily.

When Travis saw the tree, a grin spread across his face. “Wow! It’s perfect!” he cried out. “Thank you!”

Jacqueline felt a warm feeling grow inside her, melting away the sad and worried feelings she’d had before. She realized that her gift wasn’t really the tree or the ribbons—so it didn’t matter if those were perfect or not. What she had *really* given Travis was love. Like Jesus would have done.

And she couldn’t wait to give it again. ♦

The author lives in California, USA.



"If we do the best we can, the Lord will bless us."

President Russell M. Nelson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

"Perfection Pending," Ensign, Nov. 1995, 86.

Family Night FUN

Here are some fun FHE ideas from this month's magazine. What other ideas can you come up with?

TERRIFIC TREES

Read "A Tree for Travis" on page 4. Make these trees to give away as Christmas gifts. What other ways can you be like Jesus and show love to your friends? Go to Mormon.org this month for some ideas!



1 pinecone for each tree
green paint
paintbrushes
craft glue
small square of cardboard
plastic beads or old plastic jewelry

1. Paint each pinecone green.
2. After the paint has dried, glue the pinecone stem-side-down onto the cardboard square. Let it dry.
3. Decorate the trees by gluing beads or pieces of plastic jewelry onto the "branches."

Is there a topic you'd like to learn about with your family? Go to lessonhelps.lds.org to find stories, activities, and media.

Winter Lemonade

"When life gives you lemons, make lemonade!"

Try making this winter lemonade recipe! Be sure to get an adult's help.

5 cups hot water
1 cup sugar
1 1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
1 orange, cut into 4 pieces
5 whole cloves
1 cup fresh lemon juice (about 4 lemons)

1. Boil half of the water and stir in the sugar until dissolved. Remove from heat.
2. Stir in the cinnamon, ginger, orange slices, and cloves. Cover and let sit for 30 minutes.
3. Strain the liquid from the pan into a large pitcher. Stir in the lemon juice and the rest of the hot water. Serve warm.



We have some ideas for gifts anyone can give.

And they're free! Look on page 38.



DEALING WITH DISAPPOINTMENT

What can you do when something doesn't go the way you planned?

- Look for things to be grateful for. The more you look, the more you'll find!
- Remember that Heavenly Father and Jesus always love you.
- Don't be afraid to try again.
- Some situations are out of your control, but you can always pray to Heavenly Father for help and comfort.

TASTY TREATS

Try these for FHE this month!

- Top snack crackers with cottage cheese and sprinkle with paprika.
- Drizzle plain popcorn with melted white chocolate and top with sprinkles.
- Wrap cheese sticks in slices of ham or salami.



MORE FHE IDEAS

Look for these pictures in the magazine to find the stories and articles they go with! (Find the page numbers below.)



IDEA 1: Get ready for Christmas with the Christmas advent calendar! Read about how people in the Book of Mormon and Bible learned about Jesus Christ's birth. Take turns reading the scriptures together each night.



IDEA 2: Does your family have any special traditions on Sunday? Read "Sharing Traditions" and "Happy Sabbath" and talk about how you can share your Sunday traditions. Write and tell us about it!



IDEA 3: Have a journal challenge! Read "My Not-So-Great-Sixth-Grade Year" and use the prompts at the end to write or draw in your journal. Help each other write 10 "about you" facts for each person.

Idea 1: 23; Idea 2: 30, 22; Idea 3: 34

A young boy with blonde hair, wearing a white shirt and a red tie, is looking up with a hopeful expression. He is holding a white rectangular gift tag in his right hand, which is raised towards a Christmas tree. The tree is green with red and gold ornaments and a red ribbon. The background is a light blue sky.

The Getting Tree

By Hannah Holt

(Based on a true story)

"We a gift before thee lay" (Children's Songbook, 39).

Tyler held the church door open, and Mom hurried inside. They were late for the ward Christmas party, so Tyler could only glance at the new Christmas tree in the foyer. But there was something different about the tree. It didn't have any lights. Or lots of ornaments. Instead there were little papers hanging from the branches.

If the tree in the foyer had gifts, Tyler wanted first pick.

"Welcome," said the bishop from the front of the room. "Before we start our program, I have a special announcement . . ."

Tyler's little sister, Rose, started fussing, so Tyler leaned down to help her. Over the noise, Tyler thought he heard the bishop say something like "the Getting Tree" and "take a tag." If the tree in the foyer had gifts, Tyler wanted first pick. While everyone else watched the program, Tyler slipped away before the end.

Carefully Tyler lifted a paper off a branch. The first tag read, *Girl: Winter coat—Size 5*. He put it back. The next read, *Grocery Gift Card*. Tyler worried they might all be boring gifts. But then he found just the right one. *Boy: Big Whirl Helicopter*. He stuffed the tag in his pocket and raced to find Mom.

"There you are," Mom said. "It's almost time to leave."

"OK," said Tyler. "But first, I picked this from the Getting Tree. How do I get my helicopter?"

"Oh, honey," said Mom. "It's not the Getting Tree. It's the *Giving* Tree. The tags are gifts for families in need."

Tyler's cheeks burned. He wanted to put the tag back, but other people had gathered around the tree. After church tomorrow, when no one was looking, he would put it back.

The next day Tyler's Primary teacher told about the Wise Men who brought gifts to Jesus. "What could you give Jesus for Christmas?" she asked.

Tyler closed his fingers around the gift tag in his pocket. He didn't feel embarrassed anymore. He felt like he wanted to give. The only problem was he didn't have gold, frankincense, or myrrh. But maybe he could earn some money for a Big Whirl Helicopter.

As soon as Tyler got home, he dumped the money from his piggy bank on the bed. He had \$2.47—not enough. He asked Mom if he could do chores for money, but she said, "Not on Sunday." The gift had to



be turned in by next week. Could he earn the money in time?

While he thought, Rose brought him the *Friend* magazine. As Tyler read to her, he saw the answer to his problem. The *Friend* had a story about kids running a hot-chocolate stand to earn money to donate.

"Mom?" Tyler asked. "Could I set up a cocoa stand tomorrow?"

"Maybe. Why?" Mom asked.

"To earn money for the Giving Tree present."

Mom gave him a hug. "Sure. I'll help you."

The next day Tyler put a table and chairs outside. Mom boiled water, and Tyler mixed in the cocoa. Rose even helped by holding a sign. By the end of the afternoon, Tyler's nose was cold and his fingers felt stiff, but he had enough money for the Big Whirl Helicopter.

Tyler felt happy all the way to the store. He smiled as he wrapped the gift and dropped it off to the bishop. He knew now it was called the Giving Tree, but the feeling he had inside was like a special gift too. At least in that way, it really was the Getting Tree. ♦

The author lives in Oregon, USA.



My friends and I got together for an art camp. We had lots of fun creating art together! Then we had an art sale to raise money for a children's charity we picked. Everyone loved seeing what we made.

Tess H., age 7, Virginia, USA



Puzzle Page



Hink Pink Think

A *hink pink* is a pair of rhyming words that match a definition. See if you can solve these. The first one's been done for you. Check your answers on page 39.

A place to buy the stuff you walk on in your home
floor store

A cart for carrying winged, fire-breathing
creatures

Something that likes to eat flies and
hop down the street

A light red place for washing dishes

Sweets that you accidentally drop onto the beach

A primary-colored liquid for sticking
things together

A place to get a drink of water at the
top of a huge hill

More than 25%, but less than 75%, of a chuckle

MIXED-UP STOCKINGS

There are 25 Christmas stockings on this page. Can you find the 12 pairs? Can you find the one without a match?

What's the Question?

Pretend somebody said this to you: "The answer is 10. What's a question that would match that answer?" You could come up with all kinds of questions that work: $7+3$, $5+5$, or $12-2$ are only a few of them.

Now try this one. The answer is, "a school desk that's also a spaceship."

What's the question for *that* answer? Send your favorite question to the *Friend* if you want to share.

Cookies, Cans, and Christmas

I want to show love to others like Grandma did.



By MacCrae M., age 11,
Idaho, USA

During this holiday season, I'm reminded of a story about my grandma that my mom has shared with us many times.

It was Christmas Eve, and my mom was about 12 years old. She and her mom and sisters were traveling across town to visit family, and it was raining hard outside. Grandma had a tradition of making plates upon plates of Christmas goodies for family friends and loved ones. The car was full, traffic was crazy, and everyone was trying to rush home for the holidays or get their last-minute shopping done.

In the middle of it all was a homeless man with a shopping cart full of cans. He started to cross the street at a red light, and all of a sudden the whole cart fell over. Cans were everywhere! It seemed as though the

chaos of Christmas went silent. My mom wondered why no one was helping. An outburst of horns began to honk, as if to tell the man to get out of the way.

To my mom's surprise, her mom got out of the car and quickly began helping the man pick up his cans. Then other people followed. It was pouring rain, and my grandma was wet when she returned to the car. As they sat in the backed-up traffic, my aunts, mom, and grandma all had a wonderful idea to rush out of the car and give the man a plate of Christmas goodies. In that moment, as my grandma gave the man the Christmas gift, my mom's heart was touched with the reminder of the true meaning of Christmas.

I am grateful for the courage and love my grandma had to go help that man so long ago. I hope that I can show that same love to my family and to those I meet. ♦

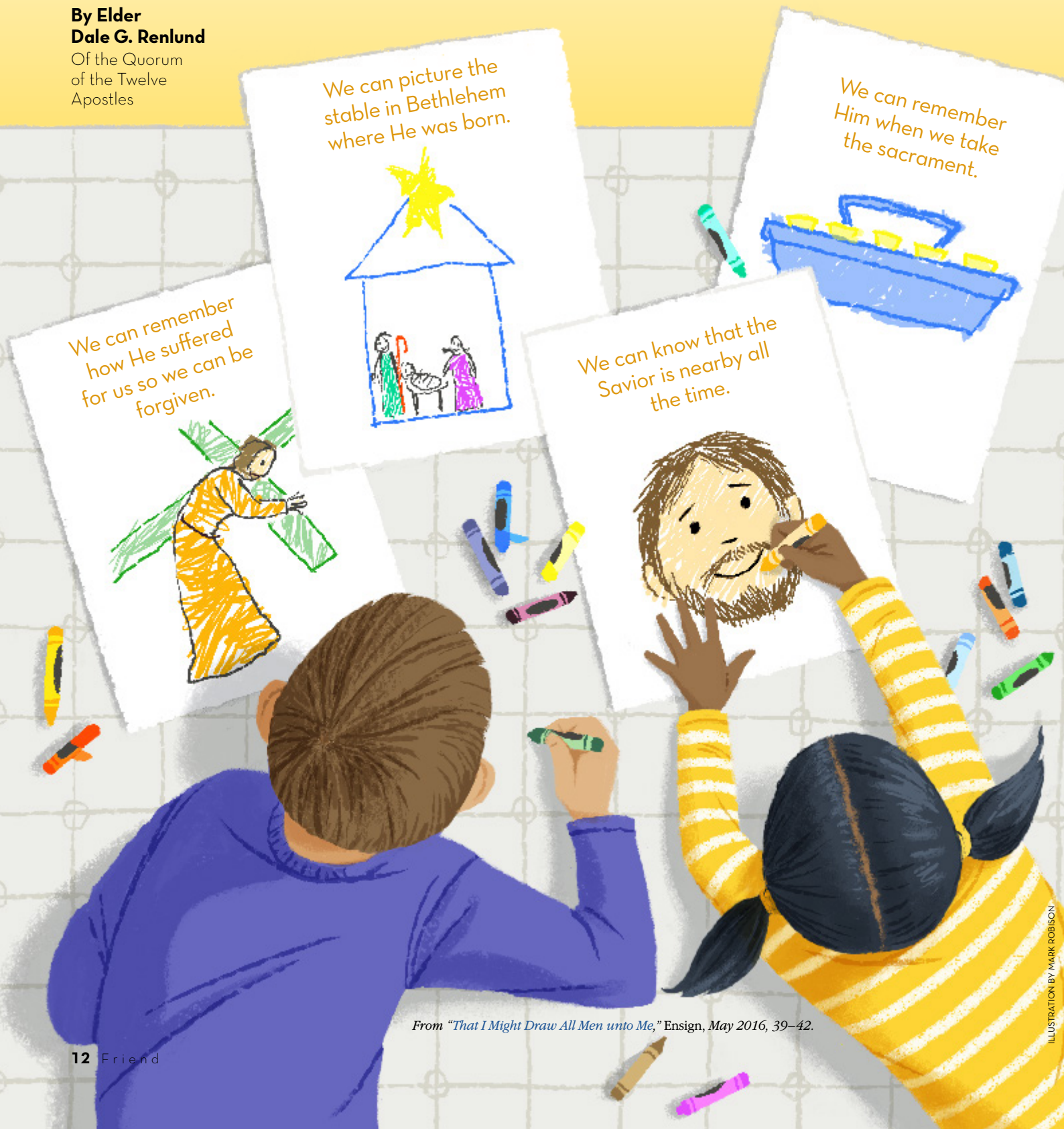


ANSWERS FROM AN APOSTLE

How can I feel closer to the Savior?

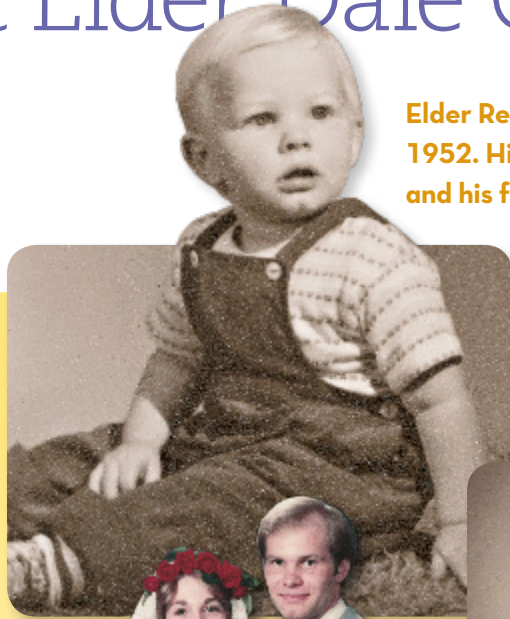
**By Elder
Dale G. Renlund**

Of the Quorum
of the Twelve
Apostles



From "That I Might Draw All Men unto Me," Ensign, May 2016, 39–42.

Meet Elder Dale G. Renlund



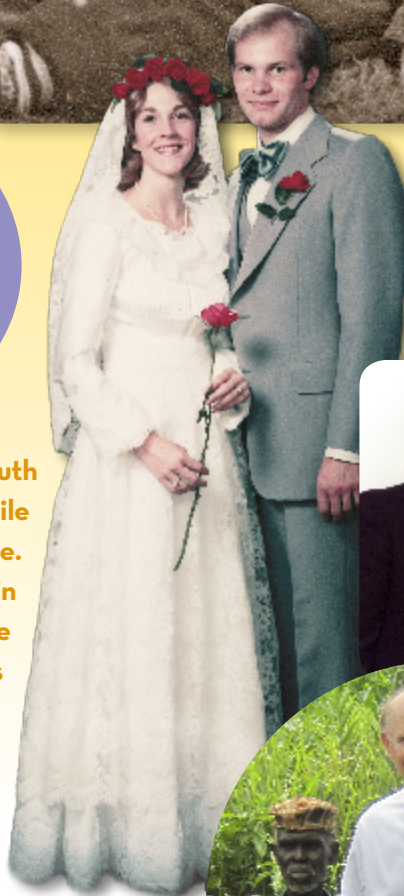
Elder Renlund was born in November 1952. His mother was from Sweden, and his father was from Finland.

When Dale was almost 11, his family moved from Utah, USA, to Finland and Sweden for three years.

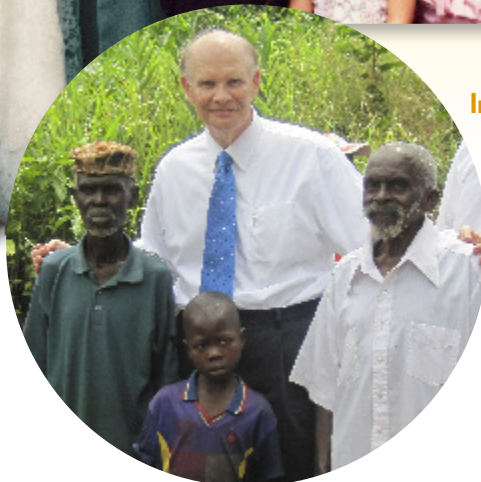


After high school, Dale was called to serve a mission in Sweden.

Dale met Ruth Lybbert while attending college. They were married in the Salt Lake Temple in 1977 while he was studying to become a heart doctor.



The Renlunds have a daughter, Ashley.



In 2009 he was called to serve in an Area Presidency in Africa for five years.

He has been an Apostle since October 2015.

WHAT IS AN APOSTLE?

When Jesus was on the earth, He called 12 men to be His special helpers and witnesses. They were called Apostles. He has called Apostles to be His special helpers and witnesses today. They testify of Jesus Christ to the whole world. Elder Renlund is an Apostle.

BLESSINGS for BLESSY

I live in India with my family.
I got to plan a special Christmas activity
for my school and share the gospel
with my friends!

1

Young Missionaries

My Primary leaders teach that we should be missionaries. Sometimes I invite my friends to church. Most of the time, they say no. I thought that maybe I was too young to be a missionary.



HI!
My name is
Blessy!

2

A Family Challenge

Then, at family home evening, Dad challenged our family to invite one person to church every month. I wanted to do it, but it was tough! I asked Dad for help. He said I could pray. So I did.



3

The Idea

The next day at school, the principal asked for ideas for a school Christmas activity. I had a great idea! I told her that all the Primary-age kids could come visit my church. She called my parents, and they talked to the bishop to plan the activity. Our Primary leaders and the missionaries helped too.

4

An Exciting Day

Soon the day arrived. I felt nervous and excited at the same time. When Dad took me to school, I saw everyone was there and ready to go. Almost 500 students and teachers came!

5

Together at Church

At the church we watched a video about Jesus Christ's birth. The young adults and missionaries sang Christmas songs. The bishop and my dad gave talks about how Jesus loves children and about loving one another. I gave a talk about Christmas. Everyone had a great time! My principal and my teacher even asked the missionaries questions.

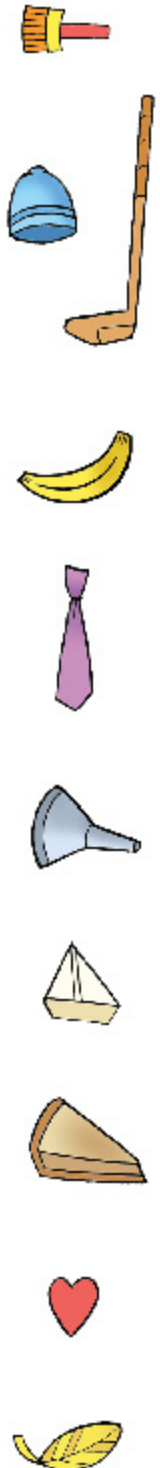


BLESSY'S TIPS FOR STANDING TALL

- Pray for help.
- Invite people to come to church, even if you think they'll say no.
- Remember that Heavenly Father will help you.

Hidden Picture

Happy Christmas! These children invited some friends to help act out a nativity scene.
Can you find the hidden objects?



I will stand tall by not participating in bad social media.



Katie C., age 12,
Iowa, USA

I stand tall by talking to chickens with out complaining



Hezekiah V., age 8,
Colorado, USA

Be friends with everyone. Make sure to always include all children no matter how different they are.



Leila P., age 5,
Louisiana, USA



Annie W., age 10,
Ohio, USA

I will stand tall by...
Inviting people to church



In a pledge to stand tall I will read the Scriptures daily even though I might find it hard I will stand tall and do it because I know that the right thing to do.



Alexis T., age 11,
Victoria, Australia

Thanks for Standing Tall!

This year thousands of you told us how you are standing tall for the Savior. Here are just a few of your footprints. Watch a "Standing Tall!" video at friend.lds.org to see more! And look for a new challenge for 2017 in next month's *Friend*.

In a pledge to stand tall I am going to stand up for myself and help those who are dealing with hard times! ♥



Aleisha I., age 11,
Victoria, Australia

I can stand tall by telling the truth.



Jake W., age 3,
Ohio, USA

I will stand tall by...
being p i n t e o u s



Sonny S., age 5,
Washington, USA

I will stand tall by being kind to my little brothers even though they are a little annoying.



Ariel S., age 8,
Washington, USA

I will Read the book of mormon and get ready for my mission
Kelly



Kelly S., age 8,
Victoria, Australia

A Different Christmas

It would be hard not seeing Mom, but Christmas could still be good.

"In serving I am blessed. In giving I receive"
(Children's Songbook, 74).

It was almost Christmas, but Diego wasn't feeling very excited. This was the first Christmas since his parents got divorced. And nothing felt the same. He and his brother, Samuel, wouldn't even get to see Mom this Christmas.

"Everything's different," Diego said to Dad.

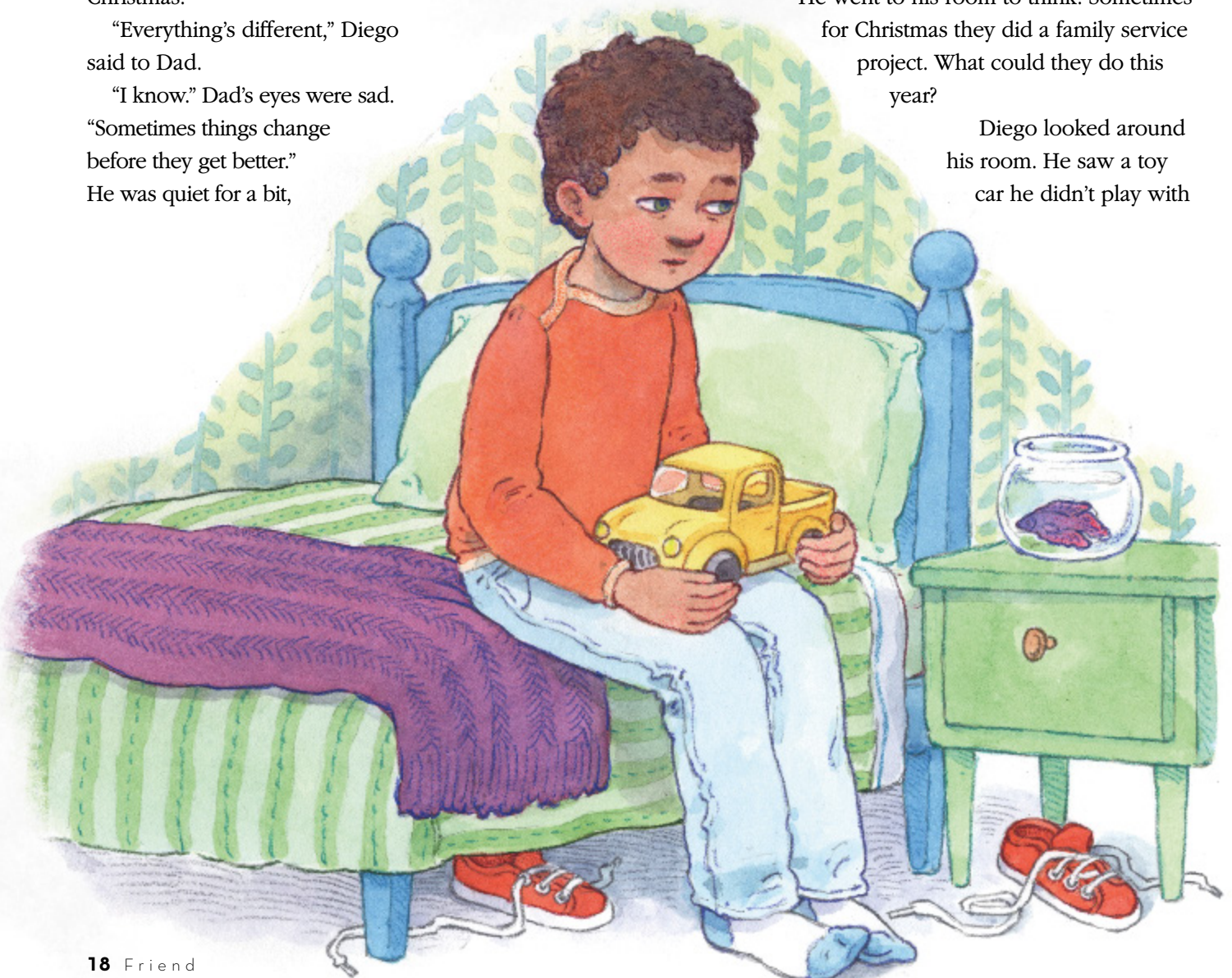
"I know." Dad's eyes were sad.
"Sometimes things change before they get better."
He was quiet for a bit,

then smiled. "Christmas *will* be different this year, but that doesn't mean we won't have some good times. We'll still be celebrating the birth of the Savior."

Diego nodded. It would be hard not seeing Mom, but maybe Christmas *could* still be good, just like Dad said. Diego wanted to help make this Christmas a happy one.

He went to his room to think. Sometimes for Christmas they did a family service project. What could they do this year?

Diego looked around his room. He saw a toy car he didn't play with



By Jane McBride
(Based on a true story)

anymore. He picked it up and spun the wheels. It was still really good. Maybe he and Dad and Samuel could give some toys to kids who didn't have any! He found a few other toys and put them in a bag with the car.

When Diego finished, he took the bag to Samuel's room. "Can I help you clean your room?" he asked. "It's a surprise for Dad."

Samuel looked up from the picture he was drawing. "Sure."

The boys worked together to clean Samuel's room. Diego told him about the plan. They found a few toys that Samuel didn't play with anymore and added them to the bag.

When they were done, they carried the bag downstairs. "Dad," Diego said, "we found some toys we don't play with anymore. Can we give them to kids who don't have any toys?"

Dad looked surprised and happy. "That's a great idea! Let's take them to the homeless shelter this afternoon."

Visiting the shelter was fun. Diego and Samuel got to play with some of the kids while Dad talked to the grown-ups.

On the way home, Dad asked what else they could do to make this Christmas special.

"Last Christmas we made treats for our neighbors," Diego said.

"We could do that," said Dad. "Let's go buy stuff to make cookies."



Samuel thought cookies were a *great* idea.

The boys helped Dad shop for the ingredients at the store. At home they made the dough and cut out star and tree shapes. Diego and Samuel frosted the cookies yellow and green. Then they took little bags of cookies to their neighbors.

At the end of the day, Diego was tired but happy. He and Samuel and Dad had done things together as a family and had helped others. Dad was right. Christmas was different, but it was still good. ◆

The author lives in Colorado, USA.



One day I went to the store to do a "sub for Santa" for a six-year-old girl. We bought a doll and two outfits. When we were done, I felt the Spirit. I said that next year, we should do a boy *and* a girl. I hope we do!

Sydney S., age 9, Utah, USA

Moroni's Challenge

Moroni wrote on the golden plates about the priesthood, the sacrament, and baptism. He challenged us to read the Book of Mormon and ask Heavenly Father if it's true. If we pray and listen for the answer, the Holy Ghost can tell us it's true. When Moroni finished writing, he buried the plates in the ground to keep them safe.



I have been reading my scriptures with my dad every day. It is helping me get a testimony. I will not give up.

**Spencer P., age 10,
Wisconsin, USA**



Jacob D., age 11, Nova Scotia, Canada



Cut, fold, and keep this challenge card!



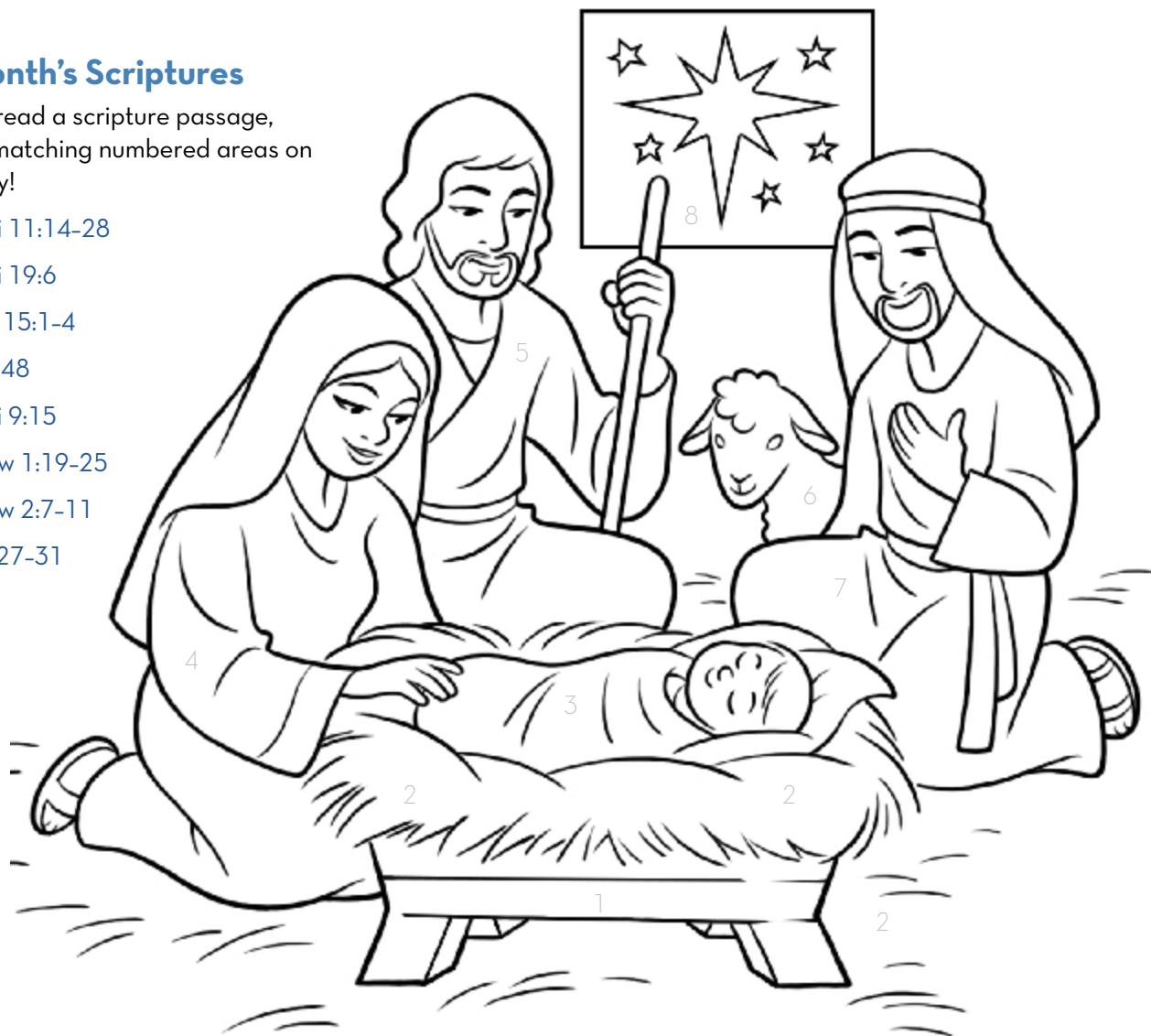
I CAN ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE!

- ☐ Memorize [Moroni 10:4-5](#).
- ☐ Follow Moroni's challenge! Pray for the Holy Ghost to help you know that the Book of Mormon is true.
- ☐ Visit scripturestories.lds.org to watch videos 53-54 of the Book of Mormon stories.
- ☐ I challenge myself to ...

This Month's Scriptures

After you read a scripture passage, color the matching numbered areas on the nativity!

- 1 1 Nephi 11:14-28
- 2 2 Nephi 19:6
- 3 Mosiah 15:1-4
- 4 Alma 5:48
- 5 3 Nephi 9:15
- 6 Matthew 1:19-25
- 7 Matthew 2:7-11
- 8 Luke 1:27-31

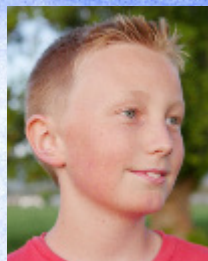


Picture a Stable

When Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem, the only place they could find to stay was a stable, where animals were kept. Jesus Christ was born in the stable and laid in a manger. Shepherds and Wise Men followed a star to find Jesus. The Nephites also saw this star and knew that Jesus had been born. We celebrate Christmas to remember His birth.

Sunday Stories

We hope you've learned a lot this year about making Sunday a special day to focus on and learn about Jesus. Here are some ways children like you keep the Sabbath day holy. Write to us at the *Friend* and tell us how your family makes Sunday special!



One day I was coming back from my dad's house. It was Sunday morning, and he asked me if I wanted to stop and get something for breakfast. I definitely wanted to stop. I was hungry, but after we remembered that it was Sunday, I told him that I didn't want to stop. I wanted to keep the Sabbath day holy. That day I was happy because I did what was right. And I also helped my dad to choose the right. Good choices help me feel the Holy Ghost.

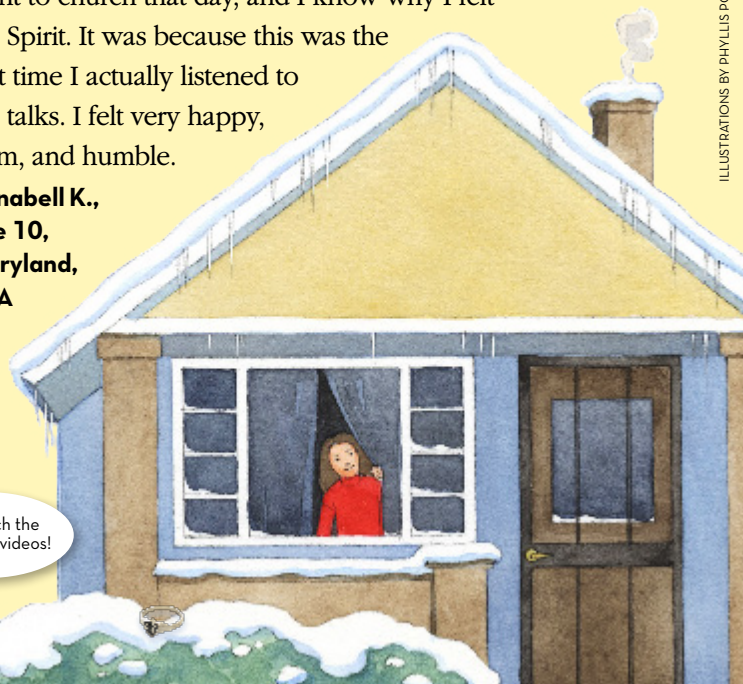
Isaac J., age 8, Idaho, USA



When it is warm enough, **Elizabeth M., age 10, Utah, USA**, likes going on walks with her family after church to visit her grandma.

One winter Sunday morning, it was cold and icy, and it had snowed the night before. We were debating whether or not to go to church. We decided to go. While listening to the talks, I felt the Spirit stronger than ever before. I was very happy that we went to church that day, and I know why I felt the Spirit. It was because this was the first time I actually listened to the talks. I felt very happy, calm, and humble.

Annabell K., age 10, Maryland, USA



This Sunday, let's read President Monson's message on page 2.

And watch the Christmas videos!

Watching for Jesus

For many years Book of Mormon prophets like Nephi and Samuel taught that Jesus would come to save His people. Far away across the ocean, shepherds and Wise Men traveled to Bethlehem to see the baby Jesus.

Carefully lift the staples and take out pages 24–25. Starting on December 1st, read the scriptures for each night. Then cut, fold, and tape the strip of paper down. On Christmas Eve you'll see the sign that people everywhere saw on the night Jesus was born!



DEC 1



1 Nephi 11:14-15

DEC 6

Helaman 14:6-8

DEC 11

Luke 2:10-12

DEC 4

1 Nephi 11:28, 31-33

DEC 9

Luke 2:6-7

DEC 2

1 Nephi 11:20-22

DEC 7

Helaman 14:11-13

DEC 10

Luke 2:8-9

DEC 5

Helaman 14:1-5

DEC 8

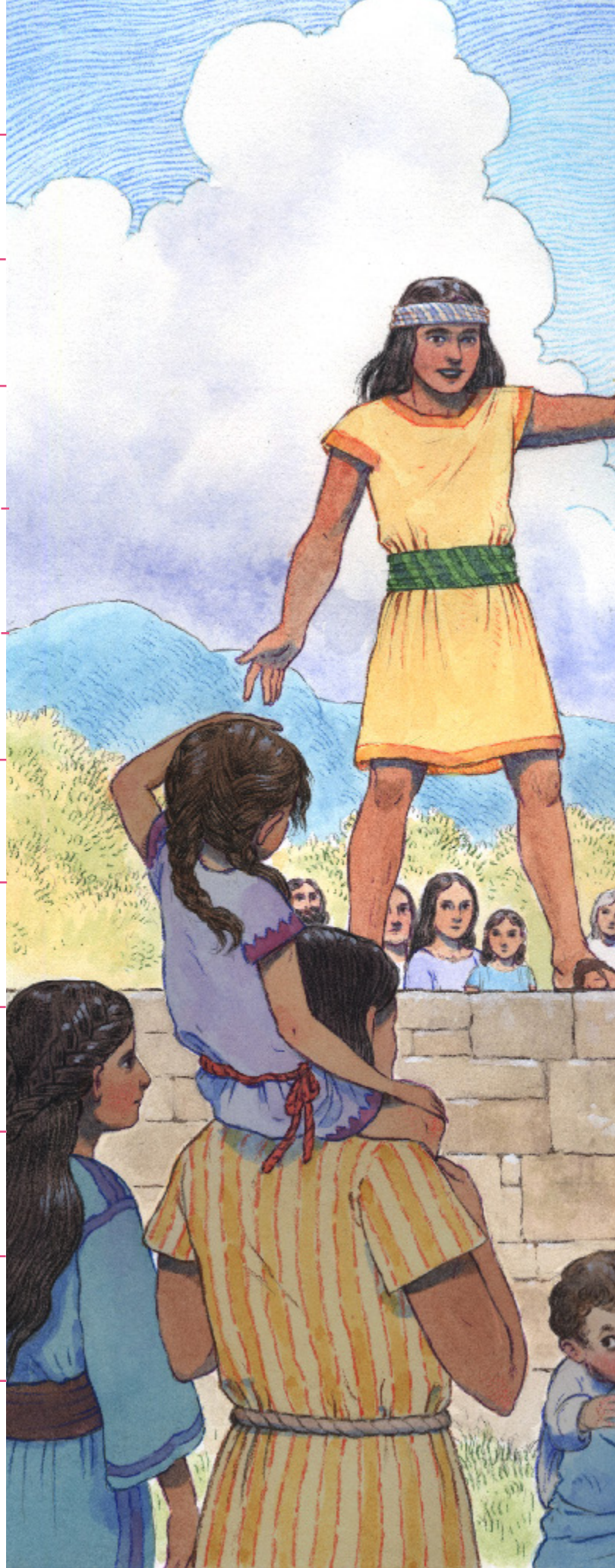
Luke 2:1-5

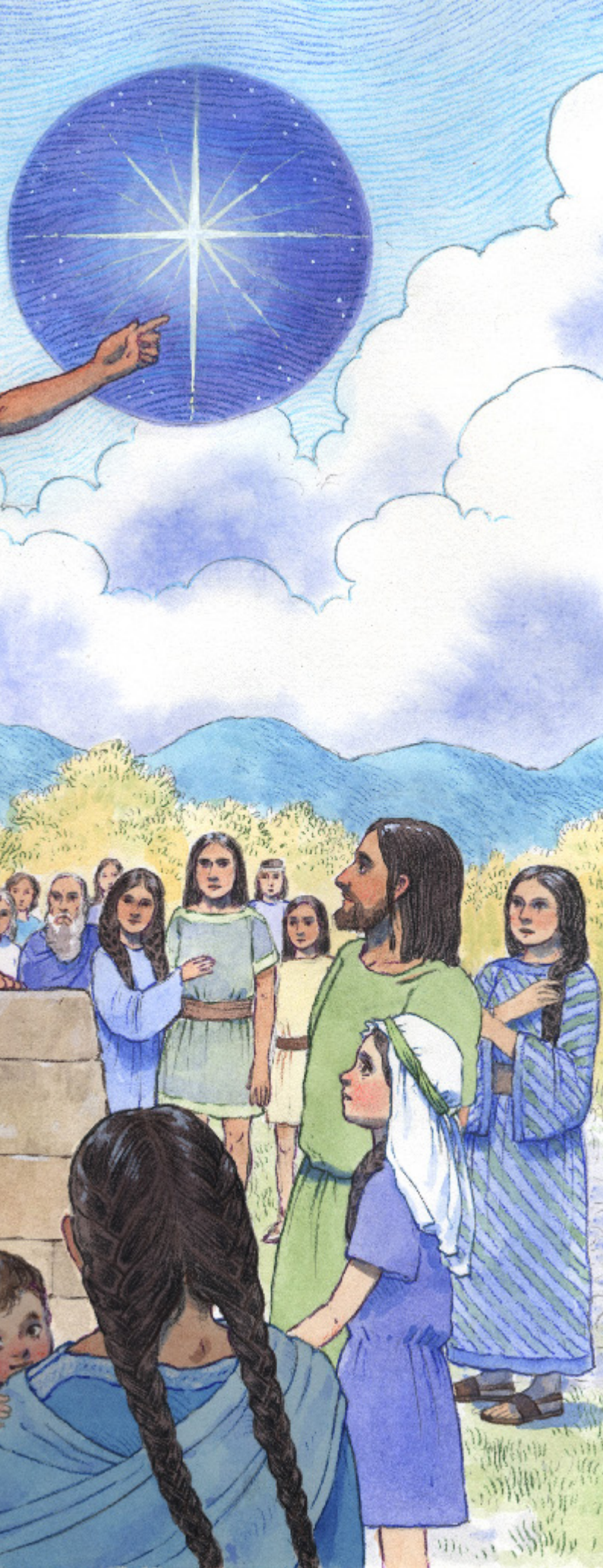
DEC 3

1 Nephi 11:24, 27

DEC 12

Luke 2:13-14





Luke 2:15

DEC 13

3 Nephi 1:19-21, 23, 26

DEC 24

3 Nephi 1:15-18

DEC 23

Matthew 2:11-12

DEC 19

Matthew 2:3-5

DEC 16

Matthew 2:1-2

DEC 15

Matthew 2:9-10

DEC 18

Matthew 2:7-8

DEC 17

3 Nephi 1:11-14

DEC 22

3 Nephi 1:9-10

DEC 21

Luke 2:16-20

DEC 14

3 Nephi 1:4-8

DEC 20



Samuel Tells of the Baby Jesus

(Simplified)

Simply ♩ = 96-104

Words by Mabel Jones Gabbott
Music by Grietje Terburg Rowley

1. Said Sam - u - el, "With - in five years A night will be as day, And
2. A - cross the sea, in Beth - le - hem, Lord Je - sus came to earth As

Ba - by Je - sus will be born In a land far, far a - way."
Sam - u - el had pro - phe - sied, And an - gels sang His birth.

Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na! Oh, let us glad - ly sing. How

bless - ed that our Lord was born; Let earth re - ceive her King!

© 1985 by Mabel Jones Gabbott and Grietje Terburg Rowley.

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By **Julia M. L. Whitehead**

(Based on a true story)

"Honour thy father and thy mother" (Exodus 20:12).

Darla's mittens and boots had barely dried when she sat down on the rug to put them back on. She could hardly wait to go sledding again!

Sledding in the park with her friends was Darla's favorite thing about winter. The round, snowy hills were perfect for sledding.

But now that Darla and her friends were getting older, they wanted to try the bigger hills at the park instead. They were ready for *The Hill*. It was the biggest, slipperiest hill in the whole park. And for Darla, it was also off-limits.

"I've already heard of at least two kids getting hurt on that hill this year," Mom said when Darla asked to go sledding on The Hill. "That's why one of our family rules is that we don't sled on it."

When The Hill got icy, sleds got harder to control. Kids crashed into the fence at the bottom and got hurt.

"But, Mom, by the time you get to the bottom, you're going so slow you can just roll off before you get to the fence," Darla said.

But Mom wasn't changing her mind.

Darla headed outside to meet up with her friends.

"Let's go down The Hill!" Sasha said.

Darla's stomach squirmed. "How about we just stay on the small hills?" she said. "My mom says I can't go down that one."

"Why not? The other hills are too boring," said Emily. She started toward The Hill. "Come on."

Darla looked up at The Hill. It really did look fun. And she'd be careful! But then she looked down at the fence at the bottom. Darla sighed. She knew Mom wanted her to be safe.

Sasha and Emily were already walking to The Hill. "I guess I'd better head home," Darla called after them.

"OK," Sasha called back. "But you're missing out!"

Maybe she *was* missing out, Darla thought as she dragged her sled home.

"What happened?" Mom asked when Darla walked back inside.

"Sasha and Emily wanted to sled down The Hill," she said with a frown. "I told them I couldn't, and I asked them to stay on the smaller hills. But they still went, so I came home."

Mom hugged Darla. "Thanks for being obedient,"

she said. "I bet that was hard."

Darla's shoulders slumped. "Yeah. I was really excited to go sledding."

"I know," Mom said.

"Obeying family rules isn't always easy, but I'm really proud of you for choosing the right. I bet you were listening to the Holy Ghost."

Darla nodded. She *did* feel good about her choice, even though it was hard.

Mom's words helped warm her up inside. And that reminded her.


"How about some hot chocolate? Maybe we can invite Sasha and Emily over for some when they get back!" ♦

The author lives in Utah, USA.



I will stand tall by obeying my parents all the time.

Isaac C., age 5, Nebraska, USA



What was
so dangerous
about
The Hill?



FRIEND TO FRIEND

*By Elder Donald L. Hallstrom of the Presidency of the Seventy;
from an interview with Linda Davies*

Sharing Traditions



I grew up in Hawaii, USA. People from all over the world

lived there. I had friends from lots of countries. I learned a lot from them about their traditions.

My Japanese friends taught me how to eat with chopsticks. They also taught me to take my shoes off at the front door. We always did this at our school.

Your family may have their own traditions. These are special activities your family shares. Sharing our traditions with others is like sharing the gospel. It makes us feel happy, warm, and loved.

In the gospel, we have commandments. They are kind of like traditions. But they are much more important because they are from Heavenly Father. We live the Word of Wisdom so our bodies can be healthy and

strong. We keep the Sabbath day holy. And we take the sacrament to

remember Jesus and how He died for our sins.

Other gospel traditions are reading the scriptures, praying, and having family home evening. These things bring us closer to our families. They help us choose the right. They teach us that Heavenly Father loves us.

Not everyone has the same traditions we do, but we can still share Heavenly Father's love with them. There is a Primary song about sharing and love. It can help us to remember to share our Heavenly Father's love with others. "As I have loved you, love one another. This new commandment: love one another. By this shall men know ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (*Children's Songbook*, 136). ♦

Heavenly Father's Family

God gives His love and goodness to everyone. We can learn a lot of good from others, and we can share a lot of good too. Everyone belongs in Heavenly Father's family.

How can you learn from and share with others? Use the words below to fill in the blanks.

Ask a friend about their family _____.

Focus on what you have in _____.

Share your favorite _____ with a friend.

Make a friend's favorite _____ together.

Invite a friend to a _____ activity.

Smile or say _____ to someone new.

Write a _____ for a friend about something you learned from them.

Invite a friend's _____ to family _____ evening.

family
scripture
common
hello
food
Primary
note
home
traditions



EXTRA CHALLENGE!
Use the word list to fill in the blanks.
(Hint: count letters and find the spaces that match.)

Christmas Story

Christmas is when we give to others.
We spend time with our siblings,
fathers, and mothers.
It's all about Jesus's birth.
People rejoice all over the earth.
Jesus's life was the right way to live,
And now we honor His birth with
presents to give.
Heavenly Father gave His Only
Begotten Son,
Jesus Christ, the Righteous and
Holy One.

Megan J., age 11, Utah, USA



After we
made
Christmas
crackers and
filled them
with some of
our Halloween

candy, we took them to a nursing
home and gave them to the people
who live there. I felt happy and
warm inside.

Abigail C., age 5, Pennsylvania, USA



One fast
Sunday I
felt something
say, "Go bear
your testimony!"
And right when
that feeling hit

me, I knew it was the Holy Ghost.
And instead of having a nervous
feeling, I felt courage! And so bear-
ing my testimony wasn't so bad!

Saione T., age 9, Utah, USA



Alana W., age 10, Arizona, USA



I live with my
grandparents,
so everybody
comes over
to our house.
When it snows,
my cousins and

I like to make snow forts. We like
to have fun as a family!

Pyppey M., age 9, New Hampshire, USA



I feel the Holy
Ghost when I
sing "Stars Were
Gleaming." It
makes me feel
warm inside.

Andrew T., age 7, California, USA



These Primary children
in Italy made a Christmas
tree out of handprints to
celebrate Christmas!



Jacob T., age 11, Utah, USA



Miles T., age 10, Idaho, USA

STANDING TALL

Go to page 17 to see some great footprints!



where there are very cold winters, and I was able to give my coat to my new friend.

Erik S., age 11, Primorsky Krai, Russia

A new family moved into our branch as refugees from a country where there was a war. We live



Alicia T., age 5, Pennsylvania, USA



To help us remember the true meaning of Christmas, I made a nativity for my family.

Victoria G., age 10, Missouri, USA



I taught my friend who lives across the street about the birth of Jesus.

Megan B., age 10, California, USA



"A Child Is Born," by Sophia M., age 7, Honduras

Sometimes it felt better just to
write about it in my journal.

My Not-So-Great Sixth-Grade Year

By Jessica Larsen
(Based on a true story)

September 9—Today wasn't the best. I didn't have anyone to sit by at lunch. I missed an easy question on the geography quiz. Also our team lost at kickball. Sometimes I wonder if I'll ever have any friends at this school.

I wish we hadn't moved here. I don't have anyone to talk to. That's why I'm starting a journal. People in books always seem to have journals. I've heard stories from pioneers' journals. I don't know if I'll ever do anything amazing, but it's nice to talk to someone. Hope I can keep this up! Gotta go. Mom's calling me for dinner.

P.S. I do feel a little better now.

I closed my journal and went to set the table.

The next day was just as bad. When I came home, I felt like I might explode. Instead I went to my room, opened my journal, and started writing. I dumped all those feelings out. I felt better this time too. After that, I wrote every few days. I wrote about everything. It was like I was writing my own book!

October 21—Guess what? I made a friend! Her name is Claire, and she's new too. We both like board games, and we don't like geography. I think I'm going to invite her over for family game night on Friday.

I love my journal. I like writing when I feel mad or worried because it makes me feel better. I also like writing about the good things that happen because then I can remember them.

Guess what else? I have a book report due next week. Wish me luck!

Little by little things started getting better. I still got picked last for kickball, but I had a few friends, and I joined the math team. I wrote about all of it. Soon I wasn't writing just to complain, I was writing to a good friend—me!

And before I knew it, sixth grade was over. When I came home from the class party, I had quite a few signatures in my yearbook—all from new friends I had made. I pulled out my journal, plopped down on my bed, and wrote my last entry as a sixth grader.

June 15—Today was the last day of sixth grade. Next year I'll be in seventh grade! I'm nervous about that, but I know I can write when I get scared or when I feel like everything is going wrong. I just went back and read my first entry again. It was so sad that I almost laughed! I'm glad I have it.

It shows how much I've grown up this year! I'm glad I'm not so angry or sad anymore.

When we moved here, I felt like I would never be happy again. But now when I read my journal, I can see how much Heavenly Father has blessed me. He helped me make new friends and learn hard things. I wonder what's going to happen next year! ♦

The author lives in Texas, USA.



NOT SURE WHAT TO WRITE? TRY THIS!

- What made you smile today? Write about it!
- Write a letter to your future self.
- Write about your favorite place in the world.
- Write three blessings you are grateful for.
- Write 10 facts about you.

Look for a new prompt each month starting in January!

Was it scary when you started at our new school?

I don't think so. My teacher didn't act scared.



What do you want to be when you grow up? Here are some ideas to get you started. You could even write about these in your journal!



2. Talk to a grown-up.

Talk to a parent or teacher about your talents and interests. They can help you find more information.

3. Get curious. Talk to people who do interesting jobs. Ask about what they do, what education they needed, and why they love their jobs. Find books or information online about different jobs too.

4. Experiment! As you get older, take classes in school to learn more about what you love. Try new subjects too! Maybe you could go to work with someone for a day to watch and learn. This is called job shadowing.

When I Grow Up, I Want to Be ...

By Linda Davies

1. What do you like to do?

Do you like taking care of animals, working on computers, or dancing? The things you like are clues about the talents you have.

5. Learn about lots of things. Lots of kids don't know yet what they'd like to do when they grow up. That's OK. Learn lots of skills and subjects like science, cooking, baby-sitting, or sports.

6. Watch and learn. When you grow up, you can also be a mom or dad. Have you thought about the kind of mom or dad you'd want to be? Watch the parents around you to see what you want to do when you're a parent.

7. Pray for help. When Joseph Smith was only 14, he had lots of questions too. This scripture helped him, and it can help you: "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, ... and it shall be given him" (James 1:5). God cares about the questions that matter to us.



Christmas Party

- Who looks like they're learning how to wrap presents for the first time? Who do you think has already had some practice?
- Which crafts do you think will take the longest to make? If you were there, what would you do to make your own crafts extra special?
- What things in this party remind you of Jesus's birth? How do you keep Jesus in your heart at Christmas?

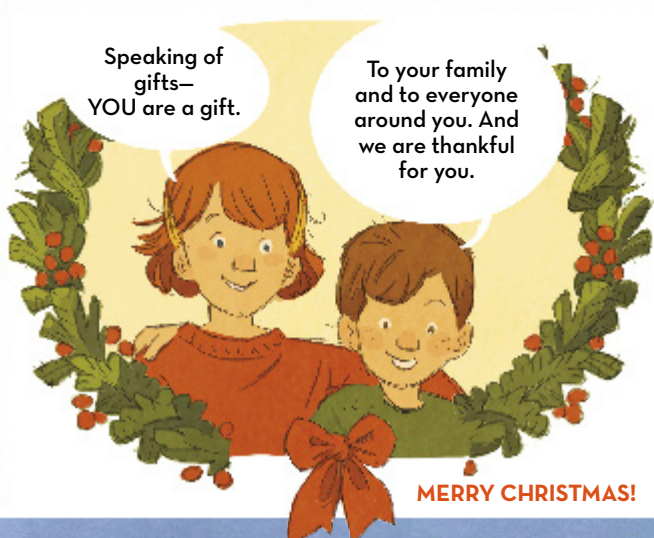
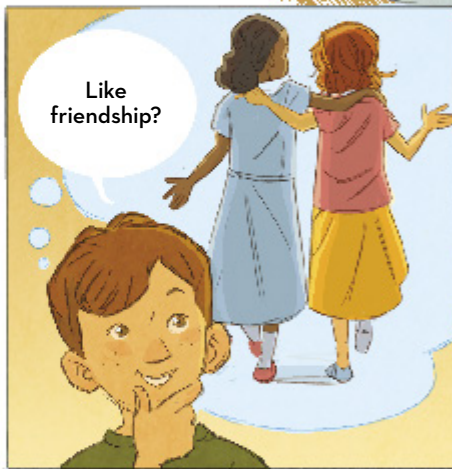
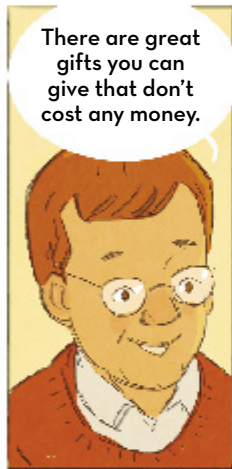


How many bows
can you find?

And how
many stars?



MATT AND MANDY



FUNSTUFF ANSWERS

Page 10: dragon wagon, road toad, pink sink, sandy candy, blue glue, mountain fountain, half laugh

Page 31: traditions, common, scripture, food, Primary, hello, note, family, home



HIDDEN CTR RINGS

Did you find the rings?
Look on pages FJ8 and 22.
The November level 3 ring was on page 16.

Through Your Eyes



*The grass is green,
the dirt is brown,
no matter what,
the earth is our town.*

**Chase R., age 7,
Utah, USA**



To read more,
close the magazine
and flip it over!

How to Write to the Friend

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

1. Fill out the form below and send it in with your story or artwork.
2. Send a school picture or other high-resolution photo.
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.

Please send your submission to:

Friend Magazine
50 E. North Temple St., Rm. 2393
Salt Lake City, UT 84150-0024
Or email: friend@ldschurch.org

May the Friend contact you
with a survey?

☐ Yes ☐ No

The following information and permission must be included:

First and last name

Age

Boy/Girl

State/Province, Country

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

Signature of parent or legal guardian

Email of parent or legal guardian

The Last Laugh

Lookin' good, Daisy!
Ready for the party?



THE Friend JUNIOR



THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

For Parents of Little Ones



When you say, “Story time!” does your little one come running to hear a good book? Reading is a great way to teach children. So is telling true stories, using your own memories instead of pages.

Telling family stories helps children feel loved and secure. It shows them that you’ve been their age and can empathize. Most of all, family stories show meaning in life, preparing children to navigate their own unfolding stories with confidence.

Here are some more ways you can use stories to engage your little ones:

■ Tell true stories while cleaning up, sitting around a fire, or riding in the car.

■ Tell a bedtime story about your child’s day. This will show your little one you noticed what was important to him or her.

■ This Christmas season, gather around the tree and say, “Once upon a time, when I was little . . .” or, “Once upon a time, when you were a baby . . .”

■ Tell stories by decorating a Christmas memory tree, like Joel and his family did (see page FJ2).

You can read past letters at
FriendFPLO.lds.org.





“Remember Him, as you
picture Christmas this year.”
—*Children’s Songbook*, 50



Joel's Family Christmas Tree

By Jennifer Maddy



"This was Grandma's," Joel said. "She always had a treat for me."



"This was my Aunt Lizzy's," said Mommy. "She always made me laugh!"



"Grandpa taught me how to whistle," Sarah said.



"I made this in Primary last year!" said Joel.



"This was on our first Christmas tree," Daddy said. "It's like the star the Wise Men followed."



"I love our family Christmas tree!" everyone said.

Make Your Own Ornament!

Here's an ornament you can make with your family.

Child: Color the picture of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus.

Mommy or Daddy: Glue this page to heavy paper and cut out the pieces. Then cut the doors open and glue the picture behind the doors. Read [Luke 2:8–16](#) together.



“And
[the shepherds]
came with haste,
and found Mary,
and Joseph, and
the babe lying in a
manger”
([Luke 2:16](#)).



Moroni's Special Promise



Moroni was the son of Mormon. His father gave him the golden plates to write on.

Moroni wrote down the sacrament prayers. He wrote that everything good comes from God.



Moroni wrote that
Jesus loves all children.
He said we can pray to
have love in our hearts.



Moroni made a
special promise. He
wrote that if we read
the Book of Mormon
and ask God, the
Holy Ghost will tell
us it is true. Then
Moroni buried the
plates in the Hill
Cumorah to keep
them safe.



Many years later Moroni came to earth as an angel. He showed Joseph Smith where the golden plates were buried. God blessed Joseph with the power to translate the words on the plates. Today we can read Moroni's words in the Book of Mormon! ◆

COLORING PAGE

I Love My Family

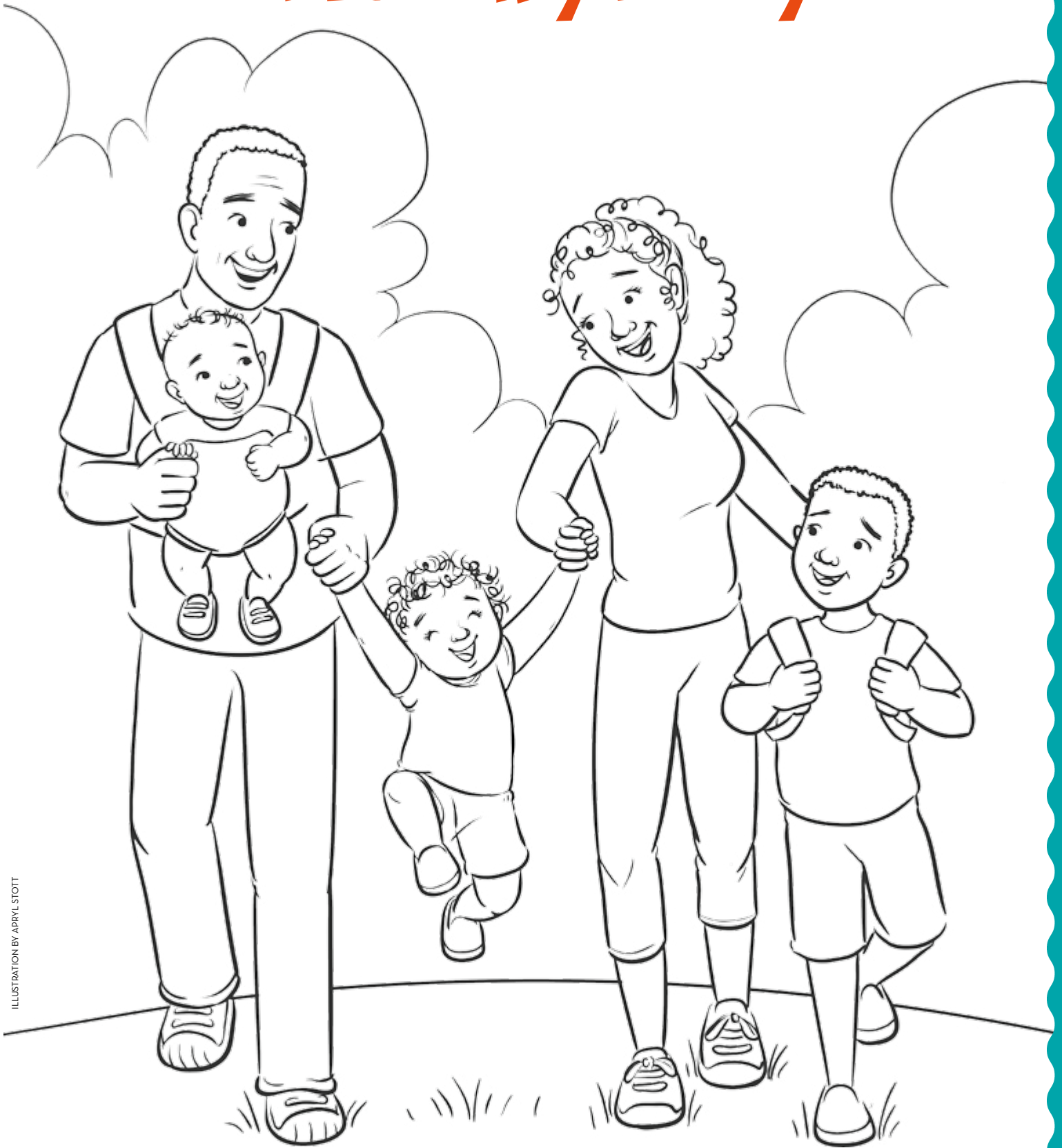



ILLUSTRATION BY APRYL STOTT


You Can't Wrap a Horse!

By Stephanie Johnson Burns
(Based on a true story)






No. Is it still a gift?




I can give Papa a hug when he comes home. I can't wrap that!

Sure! What other gifts could you give?


No, but it's a great gift.



I can invite my friend Eva to Primary. Is that a good gift?



Yes! Can you think of a gift that Heavenly Father gave to all of us?



I don't know. What is it?

Our Savior, Jesus Christ.



That's the best gift of all!

The author lives in Indiana, USA.

QUESTION FOR YOU How is Jesus a gift to us?