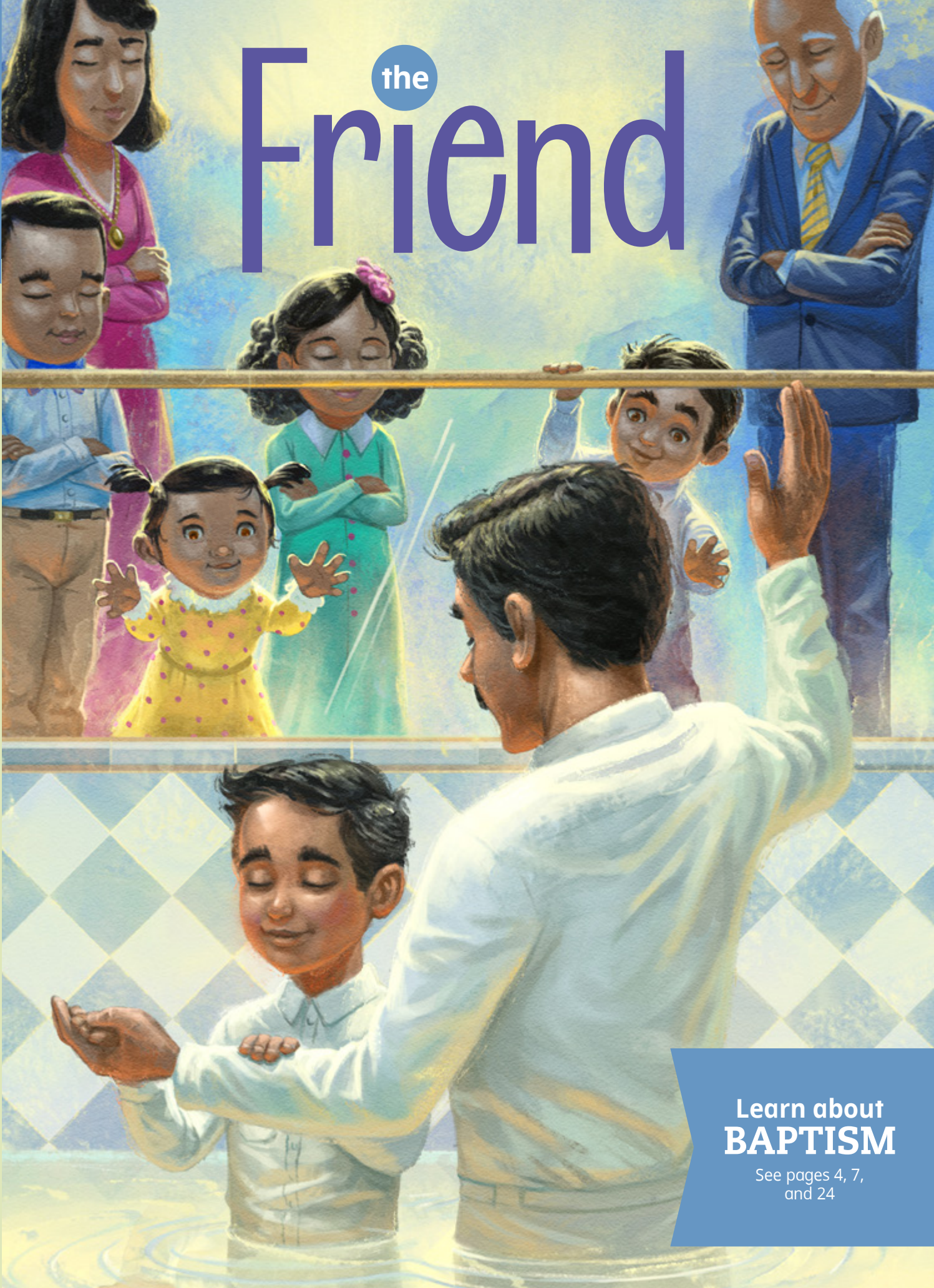


the Friend



Learn about
BAPTISM

See pages 4, 7,
and 24

FRIENDS BY MAIL



Service Blanket

I read in the *Friend* how to serve by making a tie blanket (Jan. 2017). I decided to donate my quilt to a family in our small town that was affected by flooding.

**Evalette M., age 6,
California, USA**



DEAR FRIENDS,

Being baptized and receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost is like walking through a gate on the path back to Heavenly Father. Maybe you've already been baptized, or you might still be looking forward to that special day. This month's magazine has lots of stories and activities for you about baptism and the Holy Ghost. What is special to you about being baptized?

Love,

The *Friend*

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

Abuelo's Shoe Shop



Thank you for the story "Abuelo's Shoe Shop" and activity (March 2018). We made our own shoes and wrote ways that we could follow Jesus, while we watched the "Come, Follow Me" sing-along video on children.lds.org. It was a super-fun family home evening!

**Chandel, Cindy, and
Cyrus N., ages 3, 5, and 8,
Utah, USA**

**Dallin D., age 9,
Washington, USA**

WHEN I SEE
THE FRIEND... I
LITERALLY SMILE
FROM EAR TO EAR



the Friend

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

COME FOLLOW ME

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

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Back cover by **Elise Black**

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Hidden GTR Rings

Hint: Keep it *hand-y*.

Hint: This cub's not lyin'!

Hint: Lemonade in the shade.



**By President
Dallin H. Oaks**
First Counselor in the
First Presidency

Getting to Know Your Family

Family history starts when you learn about your ancestors. They are real people who lived before you and were part of a family. We need to be sealed to our ancestors so that we can live with them in the next life.

When you learn about your ancestors, you will:

- Feel more happy and confident.
- Not feel so alone.
- Know that each person is precious in Heavenly Father's eyes.

Here are three ways you can have these blessings:

1. Discover who your ancestors are.
2. Gather stories about them and share them again and again!
3. Connect them to your family by sending their names to the temple. They can be baptized and have other ordinances done for them, like being sealed to your family forever.

My mother, Stella Oaks, died before any of our grandchildren were born. So Sister Oaks and I had a “Stella party” to help them learn about her. I also wrote a book about her and about my father. You can learn more about your ancestors too. This will give you strength and direction for your life. ●

*Adapted from a talk given at
RootsTech 2018 Family Discovery
Day.*



Have a Getting-to-Know-You Party!

President and Sister Oaks had a “Stella party” to help their grandchildren get to know their great-grandmother Stella Oaks. Here are some things they did.

- They decorated with Great-Grandmother Stella’s favorite color—yellow!
- Everyone wore a hat, like she always did.
- They looked at pictures and heard stories about her.

What other fun things could you do at your party?

- Make a food your ancestor ate.
- Play a game people played back then.
- Look at a map of where they lived.



▶ You're Invited ◀

to a Getting-to-Know-You Party

When: _____

Where: _____

Who we'll be getting to know: _____



Get to Know an Ancestor!

Ancestor's name: _____

Where they lived: _____

When they lived: _____

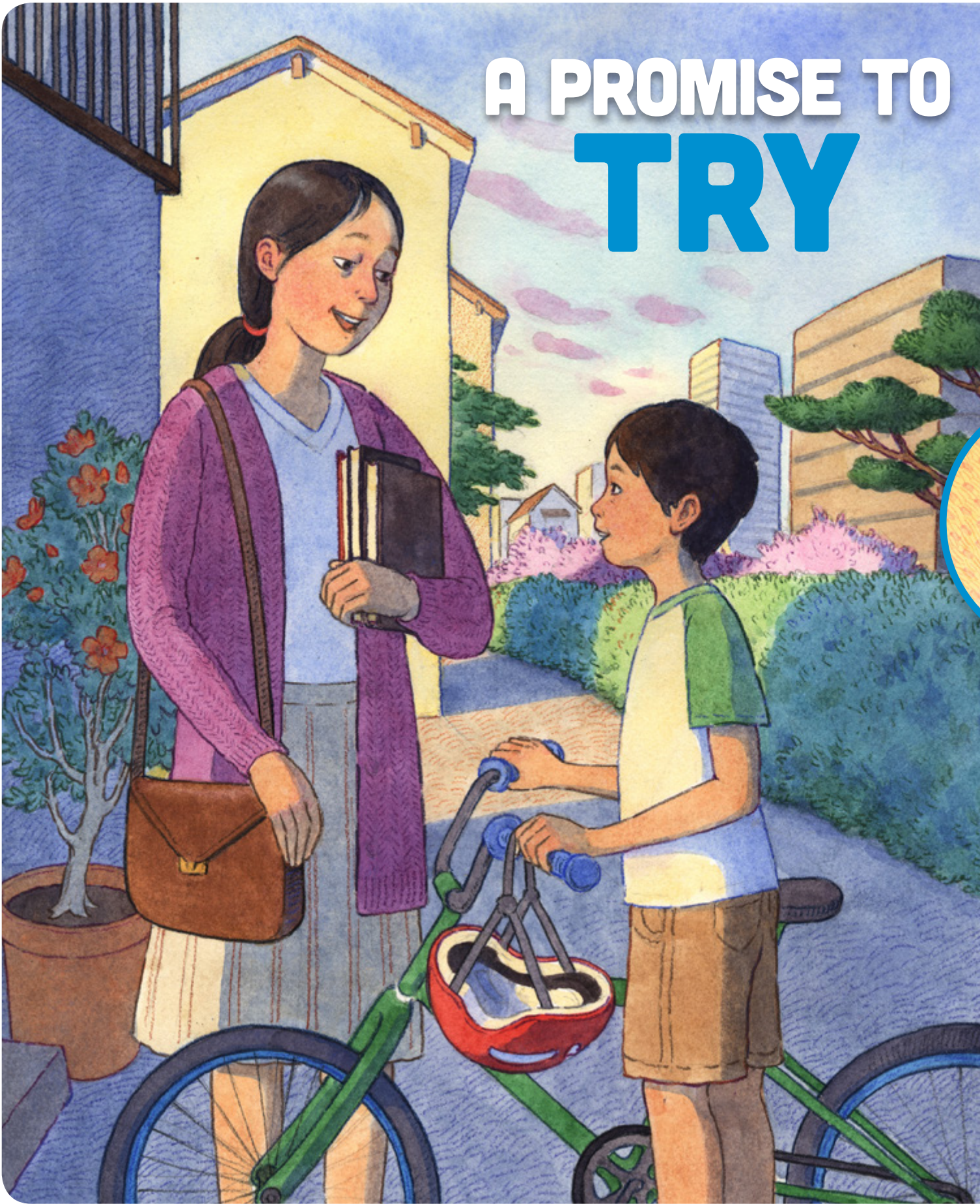
Something interesting about them: _____

Were they baptized? _____

Do they need temple ordinances? _____



A PROMISE TO **TRY**



By Tami Greene

(Based on a true story)

“To be baptized as Jesus was . . . is just the thing I want to do” (Children’s Songbook, 104).

The sun was going down as Tatsuki rode his bike home. He loved zooming down the small hill by his home, but he needed to be back before it was dark.

When Tatsuki rolled his bike to a stop, he saw his Primary teacher, Sister Yamada, walking up to his apartment building.

“Hi, Tatsuki,” Sister Yamada said with a smile. “I’m here to talk to you about your baptism.”

Tatsuki’s family had just started going to church again. He liked being with his friends in Primary, and he was especially excited to be baptized! Sister Yamada and Tatsuki rode the elevator together and joined Mom in the apartment.

“Tatsuki, I’m so glad you’ve chosen to follow Jesus Christ by being baptized,” Sister Yamada said.

“When we are baptized, we make covenants with Heavenly Father. Do you know what a covenant is?”

Tatsuki didn’t know Sister Yamada was going to ask him questions. He started to feel a little nervous. But Mom smiled encouragingly.

“Promises?” he asked shyly.

“That’s right!” Sister Yamada said. “Heavenly Father promises us we can always have the Holy Ghost with us. Do you know what we promise Heavenly Father?”

Tatsuki shook his head. “I don’t know.”

“I’ll give you a hint—the promises are in the prayers we hear before we take the sacrament,” Sister Yamada said. “We promise Heavenly Father that we are willing to take upon us the name of Jesus Christ, to always remember Him, and to keep His commandments. Do you know what it means to take Jesus’s name upon us?”

Tatsuki shook his head again. Mom helped him. “It means we are happy to say that we’re members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints,” she said. “It

means we will do what Jesus would do if He were here.”

“What kinds of things would Jesus do?” Tatsuki asked.

“Well, He would be kind to people. He would help people who are sad or sick,” Sister Yamada said. “And He would teach people how to follow the commandments.”

Tatsuki had a sinking feeling in his stomach. “I don’t think I can be baptized,” he said.

“Why do you think that?” Mom asked.

“There are so many promises! I don’t think I can be like Jesus every day!”

Mom gave Tatsuki a hug. “Remember when you helped Yuna when she was crying yesterday?”

Tatsuki nodded. His little sister had been sad, so he had made funny faces and played with her until she was happy again.

“And remember how you helped your cousins share and be nice to each other last week? You were following Jesus when you did both of those things.”

Tatsuki didn’t know *that’s* what it meant to follow Jesus. He started to feel a little bit better. He could do things like that!

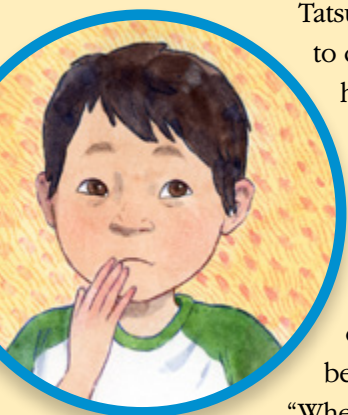
Sister Yamada said, “And whenever we make a mistake, we can always repent. That just means we can say we’re sorry and try to do better. Then Heavenly Father forgives us, and we can always keep trying!”

Tatsuki didn’t feel so worried anymore. He felt happy.

“I want to be baptized!” he said.

Mom and Sister Yamada smiled. Sister Yamada gave Tatsuki a Book of Mormon with his name written on it. Tatsuki felt happy that he could try each day to be like Jesus. Now he couldn’t wait to be baptized! ●

The author lives in Utah, USA.



Family Night FUN

Here are some ideas you could use for home evening!

SONG:

"When I Am Baptized" (*Children's Songbook*, 103)

SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 3:13–17

ACTIVITY

1. Read about Jesus being baptized, in Matthew 3 or on page FJ4. Talk about how Jesus set an example for us by being baptized.
2. Play the matching game on page 7.
 3. When someone gets a match, talk about that part of the baptism covenant. How does the sacrament go along with baptism? (See *CFM, pages 19–21, 27.)



"BANANUT" ICE CREAM

The baptism covenant is a promise between two individuals: you and Heavenly Father. Here's a recipe that needs just two ingredients! (This makes about 3 servings.)

Slice and freeze 4 large ripe bananas

Blend them until creamy

Add 2 tablespoons peanut butter

Blend until smooth

Enjoy your banana-peanut-butter ice cream!



MORE IDEAS



- Read "A Promise to Try" (page 4). Talk about how Heavenly Father doesn't expect us to be perfect—just to try, then repent when we mess up. Hang up page 9 as a reminder to keep trying! (See *CFM, page 19.)

- Read "The Yo-Yo Decision" (page 22) and talk about what it means to "resist temptation." (See *CFM, page 23.)



- Is someone in your family getting ready for baptism? Pages 24–25 may help! (See *CFM, pages 19–21, 27.)

**Come, Follow Me—For Individuals and Families*

The Baptism Covenant

Cut out and mix up these cards. Then take turns matching cards that go together.
With each match, talk about that part of the baptism covenant.

“Take upon them the name of thy Son”

(Doctrine and Covenants 20:77).

“Bear one another’s burdens”

(Mosiah 18:8).

“Always remember him and keep his commandments”

(Doctrine and Covenants 20:77).

“Always have his Spirit to be with them”

(Doctrine and Covenants 20:77).



I will follow Jesus Christ.



I will help others.



Each day, I will try to keep the commandments.



Heavenly Father can bless me with the Holy Ghost.

A Little Better Every Day

Heavenly Father can help us make better choices every day. That's part of what it means to repent!
Match the wrong choices with the better choices these kids made the next day.

Wrong Choices



1. I teased my little sister, even after she said to stop.

2. I got mad and yelled when we lost our football match.



3. I decided to sleep in instead of saying my morning prayers.



4. I said something mean to a kid when he laughed at me.



5. I lied to Mamá about spilling a pot of water when she asked who did it.



Better Choices

A. I told Mamá the truth and told her I was sorry.

B. On the way to school, I thought about ways to not get so upset at other people.

C. I apologized to my coach for getting so mad.

D. I said sorry to my sister and drew her a funny cat picture.

E. I went to bed early and woke up with plenty of time to pray.

Hmm ... the better choices are missing pictures.

Let's draw some!



Everyone makes mistakes.

**Heavenly Father will
help me learn and
grow and try again.**



He Calmed the Waters



By Daniel M., age 8, Vanuatu



I live in Vanuatu, a group of islands in the South Pacific Ocean. I was excited to turn eight and be baptized and confirmed.

But I was worried about getting baptized in the ocean. The waves are fun to play in, but I wasn't sure about being baptized in them. My mom and I went in the ocean by our house to see what it would be like, and I knew it would be OK.

We chose the day when I was to be baptized, and I was so excited. But then a cyclone came close to our island. We had to call the branch president and cancel my baptism.

Even though there was a little flooding from the cyclone, we were able to go to church that Sunday. The branch president announced that I would be baptized

the next Saturday.

On Saturday morning, the waves were really big, so I was kind of scared. We had a meeting at my house, and then we all walked down to the beach. I had asked my cousin Josh to baptize me.

Josh lifted me over the waves as we walked in, but as I was getting baptized, the waves were calm. I think that while Josh said the baptism prayer, Jesus calmed the water for me.

As we walked out of the ocean, the waters got rough again, but I didn't mind because I was already soaked completely. I'm so glad that I could follow Jesus's example by being baptized. I know that Heavenly Father hears my prayers. ●

Watch a video about another child's baptism story at friend.lds.org in February.

The **LIVING** Christ



The prophets and apostles wrote “The Living Christ” to tell the world about Jesus Christ. Read part of it each month and memorize the line in yellow.

“He was the Great Jehovah of the Old Testament, the Messiah of the New [Testament]. **Under the direction of His Father, He was the creator of the earth.** ‘All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made’ (John 1:3). Though **sinless**, He was baptized **to fulfill all righteousness.**”

sinless: without any sins at all

to fulfill all righteousness: to do everything Heavenly Father asks us to do

Many Names of Jesus

Match the clues with these names of Jesus.
Check your answers on page 39.

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| 1. He made the world. | a. Lamb of God |
| 2. This name means “the chosen one.” | b. Creator |
| 3. He was called this in the Old Testament. | c. Good Shepherd |
| 4. He watches over us. | d. Bread of Life |
| 5. We need Him every day. | e. Messiah |
| 6. He is gentle like this animal, and He gave His life for us. | f. Jehovah |

Take a walk with your family to look at Jesus’s beautiful creations. Then draw a picture of your favorite one!



CREATOR



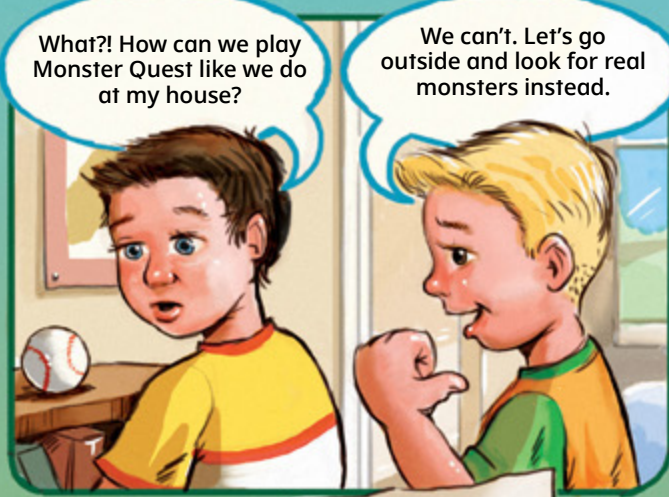


By Jane Nickerson
(Based on a true story)



So where are your video games?

Don't have any.



What?! How can we play Monster Quest like we do at my house?

We can't. Let's go outside and look for real monsters instead.



Is this an arrowhead?

Maybe it's a monster tooth!





HELLO from Mexico!



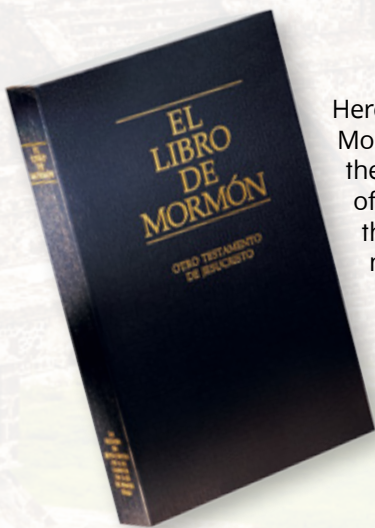
I'm
Margo.



And I'm
Paolo.

We're traveling
around the world to learn
about children of God. Join
us as we visit Mexico!

Mexico is
in North
America. It has
more than 120
million people.
About 1.5
million of them
belong to the
Church.



Here's a Book of
Mormon in Spanish,
the main language
of Mexico. In Spanish,
the prophet Alma's
name means "soul."



Chocolate may have been invented in Mexico. It's used in a sauce called *mole*. The sauce also includes chilies, nuts, fruits, and spices.



Mexico has 13 temples. These beautiful temples are in Mexico City (left) and Tijuana (right).

Meet some of our friends from Mexico! Watch a video about another child from Mexico at friend.ids.org in February.

In Mexico families often gather for holidays and to enjoy being together. Children have fun hitting *piñatas* filled with fruits and candy!



One day I had a big problem, and I felt really sad. I went to church and listened to the testimonies about Jesus. I felt the Holy Ghost, and it made me happy. I know Heavenly Father helped me feel happy.

**Abby D., age 7,
Puebla, Mexico**



I know that in these days Heavenly Father speaks to the prophet just like He did in the past. If I listen to and follow the prophet, I will be blessed, and it will help me to be more like Jesus Christ.

**Benjamin D., age 9,
Puebla, Mexico**

Do you like *fútbol*? It's the most popular sport in Mexico!



Thanks for exploring Mexico with us. See you next time!



Ingrid's Birthday

SURPRISE

By Maryssa Dennis
Church Magazines
(Based on a true story)

“Estas son las mañanitas . . .”

The sound of Mamá's singing woke Ingrid up. She opened her eyes and saw Mamá coming into her room. Mamá always sang her a special birthday song on her birthday.

“Feliz cumpleaños!” Mamá said. “Let's get ready for your party.”

Ingrid could smell a chocolate cake baking in the oven. *I wonder what presents I'll get!* she thought. She climbed out of bed and looked out the window. The jacaranda tree outside was full of purple flowers.

Ingrid helped push the sofa into Mamá's room so there was lots of space in the living room. She helped frost the cake and stuck seven candles on top. Soon it was time for the party!

Ingrid's friends from school and Primary came. They played games and



ate cake. Then came Ingrid's favorite part—presents! She got a new book, a stuffed tiger, and a charm bracelet.

After everyone left, Ingrid gave Mamá a hug. “Thank you, Mamá. That was the best birthday ever!”

“It's not over yet,” Mamá said. “I have a special surprise for you.” She handed Ingrid a slip of paper. It said,

“Time for bed!”

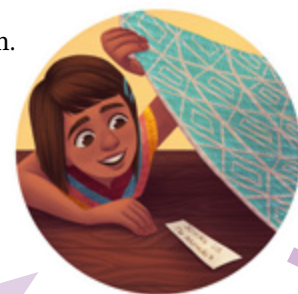
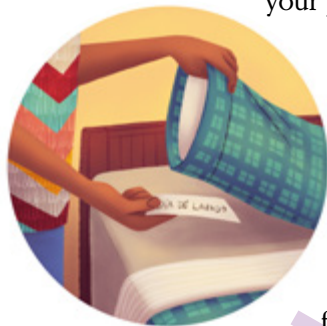
“It's a clue,” Mamá explained. “You have to find the next one.”

Ingrid hurried to her bedroom. She found another slip of paper under her pillow. It said, “Laundry day.”

Ingrid ran to the kitchen and opened the washing machine. Another clue!

Ingrid found more clues behind the TV, inside her favorite book, and under the bathroom rug. The last clue led to her closet. Up on the shelf was a wrapped box. Ingrid wasn't tall enough, so Mamá got it down for her.

Ingrid tore off the paper and lifted the lid. Inside the box was some folded white fabric and a big copy of the Book





of Mormon.

“Next year, you can be baptized,” Mamá said. “This is a special gift to help you get ready.” Mamá touched the white fabric. “This is what I’ll use to make your baptism dress. And this”—she picked up the Book of Mormon—“is for you to read.”

Ingrid looked up at Mamá. “I’ve never read the whole Book of Mormon.”

“I know you can do it.” Mamá flipped the book open. “Look. The letters are extra big. I thought that might make it easier.”

Mamá closed the book again and handed it to Ingrid. Ingrid ran her fingers over the smooth cover.

“It’s important that you find out for yourself if the Book of Mormon is true,” Mamá said. “I promise that if you read and pray with all your heart, Heavenly Father will help you know.”

That night Ingrid read the first chapter of the Book of Mormon.

It wasn’t as hard as she

thought it would be. She liked reading the scriptures.

She read her Book of Mormon again the next day. And the next. She read it every day. After a few weeks, she decided she didn’t want to wait till the end of the book to pray about it.

Ingrid knelt by her bed. She prayed with all her heart and asked Heavenly Father to help her know that the Book of Mormon was true. Then she waited. She thought she might hear a voice, but she didn’t. Instead, a happy feeling grew in her heart. She knew Heavenly Father was answering her prayer.

Almost a year later, Ingrid finished reading the Book of Mormon. She knew that no matter what she got for her eighth birthday, the Book of Mormon would always be one of her favorite gifts! ●

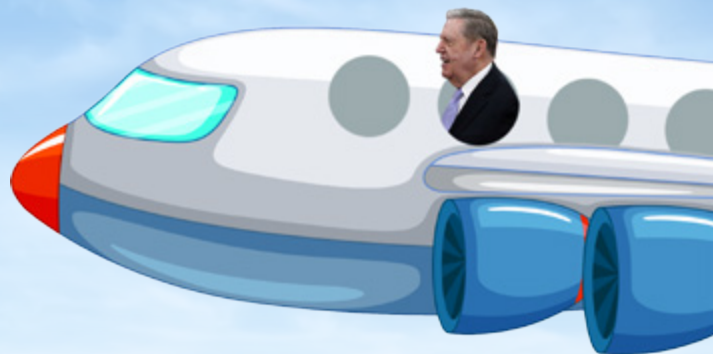
This story took place in Mexico. Go to page 14 to learn more about that country!



Elder Holland's Trip with the Pro

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland and Sister Patricia Holland went with President and Sister Nelson on a trip to visit Church members around the world. They visited eight countries. At each stop they met thousands of people who were so happy to see a prophet and an apostle!

Almost all the places they stopped in either already have a temple or will have one soon! ●



1



Their first stop was Jerusalem, **Israel**. They saw the Mount of Olives, a place where Jesus taught His disciples, and the Old City of Jerusalem, where Jesus walked.

2



Next they visited **Kenya**, a country in Africa where a temple is going to be built. Elder Holland encouraged people to gather their family history and come to the temple when it is finished. "Nothing will bless you more," he said.

3



President Nelson and Elder Holland were excited to visit Church members in **India**. They looked for a place to build a temple there. It will be the first temple in that country, which has more than a billion people!

Watch videos about the Apostles at children.lds.org.

phet



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

Elder Holland visited all of these places. Match the country or state with its flag. Answers on page 39.

Israel



Kenya



Zimbabwe



India



Thailand



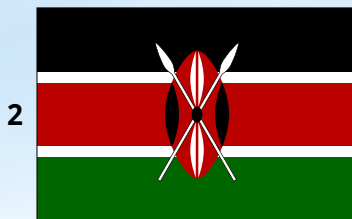
China



United Kingdom



Hawaii



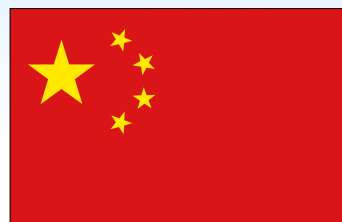
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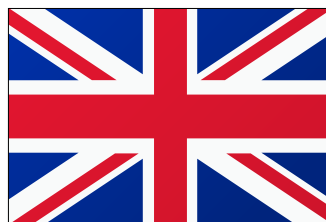
4



3



6



5



8



7



I have a testimony that God will always be with us. He has given us a prophet to guide us. He will never abandon us. We will never, ever be left alone.

I Lived in Heaven

(Simplified)

Simply ♩. = 48-58

Words and music by Janeen Jacobs Brady

F B \flat F B \flat F

1
I lived in heav - en a long time a - go, it is true;

1 2 1 2 5 3 2 3

B \flat F B \flat F

Lived there and loved there with peo - ple I know. So did you.

1 2 1 2 5 3

Gm Cm Gm Cm Gm B \flat m

1 2 4 3 2 1 1
Then Heav'n - ly Fa - ther pre - sent - ed a beau - ti - ful plan,

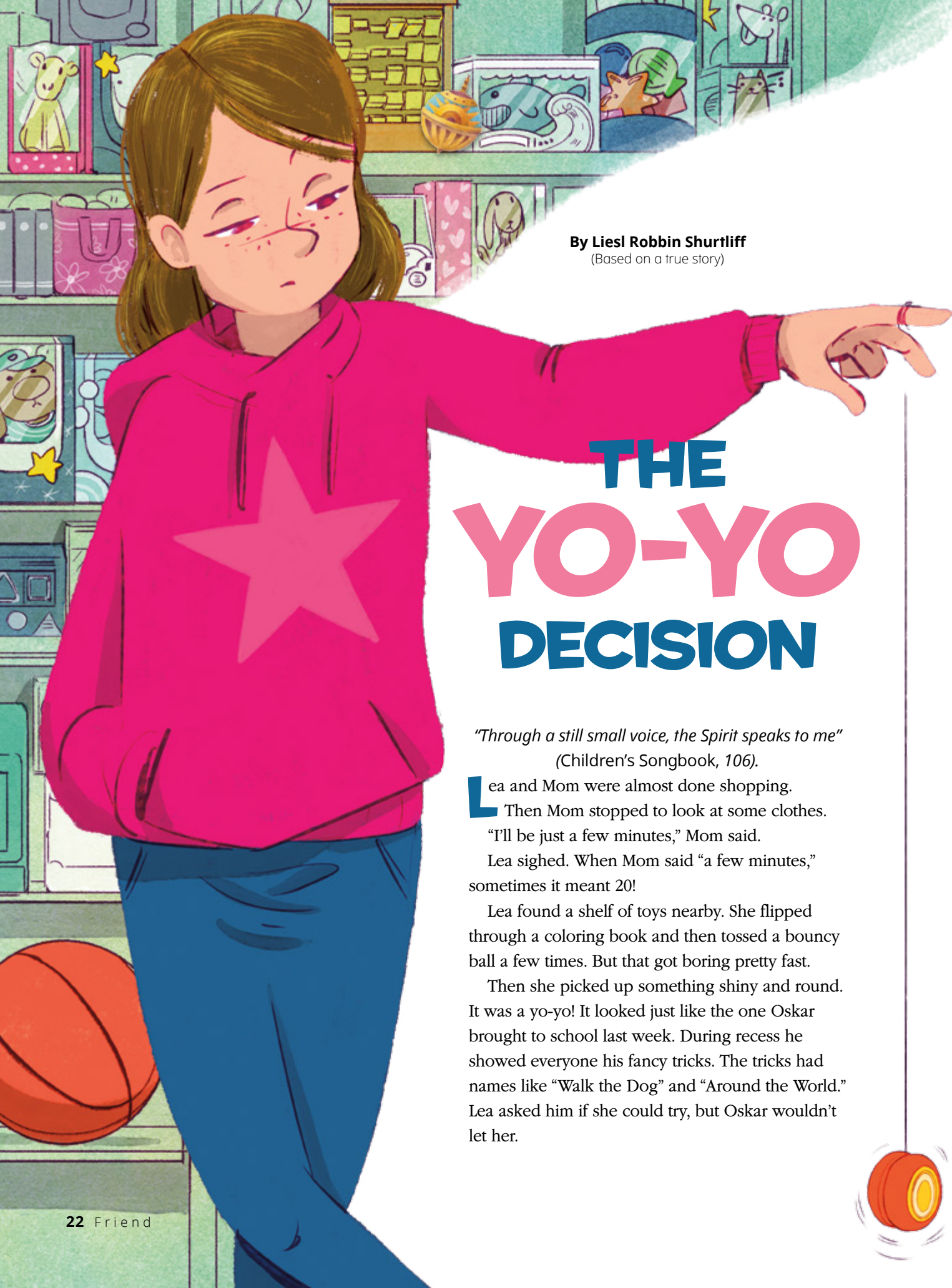
2 1 2 1 1 4

F Dm Gm C7 B \flat B \flat m F

3 3 3 3 4 2 1
All a - bout earth and e - ter - nal sal - va - tion for man.

5 1 2 5 3 2 1

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By Liesl Robbin Shurtliff

(Based on a true story)

THE YO-YO DECISION

"Through a still small voice, the Spirit speaks to me"
(Children's Songbook, 106).

Lea and Mom were almost done shopping.
Then Mom stopped to look at some clothes.

"I'll be just a few minutes," Mom said.

Lea sighed. When Mom said "a few minutes,"
sometimes it meant 20!

Lea found a shelf of toys nearby. She flipped
through a coloring book and then tossed a bouncy
ball a few times. But that got boring pretty fast.

Then she picked up something shiny and round.
It was a yo-yo! It looked just like the one Oskar
brought to school last week. During recess he
showed everyone his fancy tricks. The tricks had
names like "Walk the Dog" and "Around the World."
Lea asked him if she could try, but Oskar wouldn't
let her.



Lea slipped the loop of the string over her finger. She let the yo-yo drop and tugged on the string like she had seen Oskar do. The yo-yo hit the floor with a *clunk*. She tried again. After a few tries, she got the yo-yo to come back up to her hand! If she could figure that out so quickly, she could probably learn to do all the tricks Oskar had done!

That's when Lea looked at the price tag. She frowned. She didn't have nearly that much in her money jar at home.

"I'm almost done, Lea," Mom called.

Lea sighed. She was about to put the yo-yo back when an idea popped into her head. The yo-yo wasn't very big. She could just slip it into her pocket! The store owner wasn't looking. No one would ever know. She could keep it and learn to do new tricks. The kids at school would think she was so cool.

As Lea looked down at the yo-yo, she felt prickly and nervous. Her hands felt sweaty. She gripped the yo-yo tighter. What was this bad feeling? She wanted it to go away.

Then she remembered something Dad told her before she got baptized.

"After you're baptized, you'll receive the gift of the Holy Ghost," Dad had said. "The Holy Ghost helps us make good choices. He speaks to us in a still, small voice."

"He'll talk to me?" Lea asked.

"Not always," Dad said. "It may be like a thought



coming into your mind. Or a feeling coming into your heart."

"What kind of feeling?"

"It's different for each person," Dad said. "But usually, when you do something good, the Holy Ghost will help you feel calm and peaceful.

When there's something dangerous, He will warn you. And when you want to do something wrong, the Holy Ghost will leave, and you'll feel confused or unhappy."

Lea looked down at the yo-yo. She *really* wanted it. But she knew the Holy Ghost was telling her that stealing was wrong.

Lea put the yo-yo back on the shelf. As soon as she did, she felt peaceful and warm. She went to find Mom.

"I'm done," Mom said. "Are you ready to go?"

Lea smiled. "Yes."

As they left the store, Lea felt as light as sunshine. The yo-yo might have been fun for a while. But following the Holy Ghost was something she wanted to do *always*. ●

The author lives in Illinois, USA.



One day at school I was taking a spelling test, and my teacher called out a word I had no idea how to spell. I was panicking! And I looked at someone's paper. After the test my stomach wasn't feeling good. I told my mom about how I looked at someone else's paper. I knew that the feeling I got was from the Holy Ghost. I know I should always listen to the Holy Ghost.

Jonah J., age 8, Idaho, USA

LEARNING about BAPTISM

By Eliza Broadbent

I'm getting baptized! But there are a few things I need to learn first. Help me learn about the steps of baptism by reading and coloring in the boxes below.

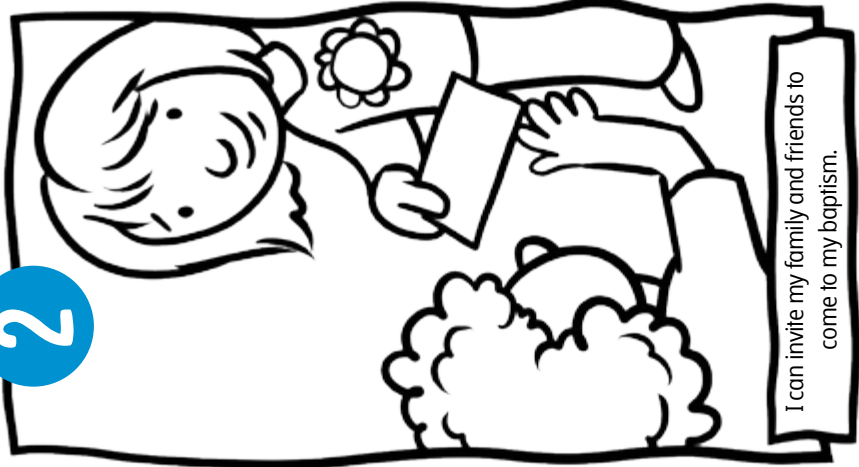


1



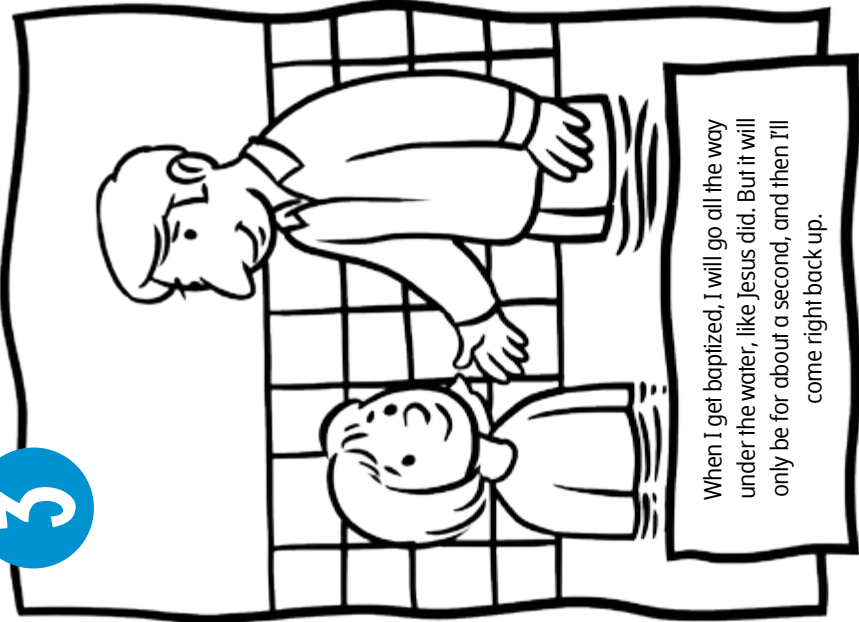
To get ready, I'll have an interview with the bishop. He'll ask me if I have faith in Jesus Christ and follow the commandments. I'll also ask someone who holds the priesthood to baptize me.

2



I can invite my family and friends to come to my baptism.

3



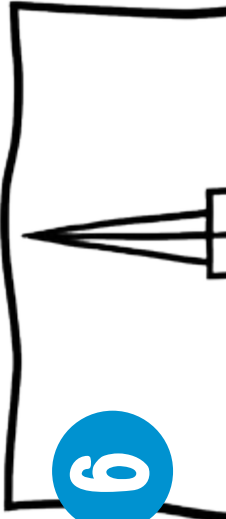
When I get baptized, I will go all the way under the water, like Jesus did. But it will only be for about a second, and then I'll come right back up.



4



5



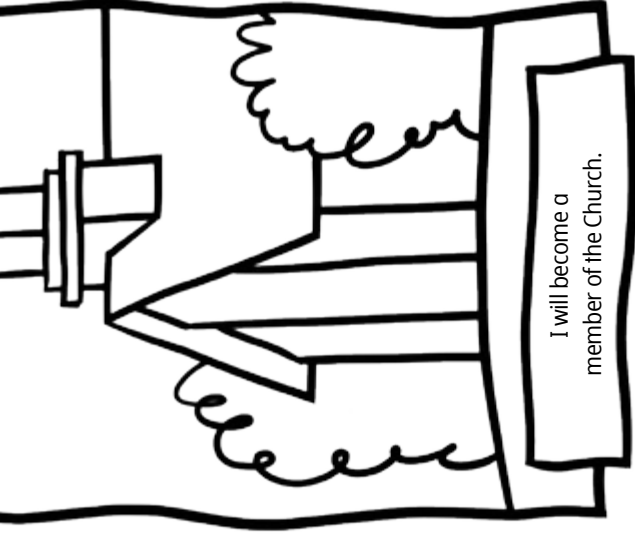
6



I will take the name of Christ upon me. This means I will be a Christian, or someone who follows Jesus. I'll also promise to always remember Him and obey His commandments.

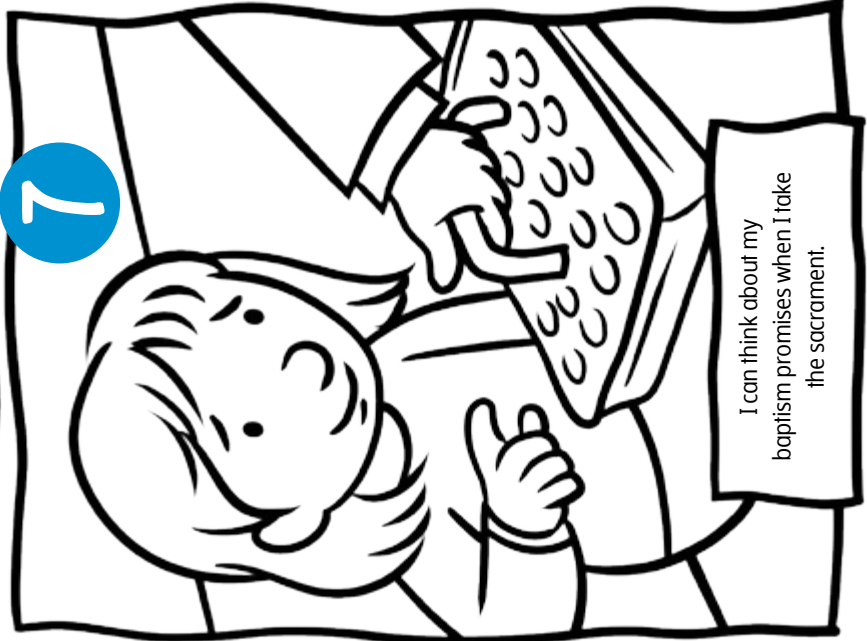


I will be confirmed. That means I will be invited to receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost can help me make good choices and warn me about danger.



I will become a member of the Church.

8



I can think about my baptism promises when I take the sacrament.



My baptism will bless me my whole life! When I make mistakes, I can repent and be forgiven. Then I can feel as clean as on the day I was baptized.

Thanks for helping me get ready for the big day!





By Elder
Hugo E. Martinez
Of the Seventy

He Wants the Best for Me



"I know Heav'nly Father loves me"
(Children's Songbook, 228).

When I was a child, I liked doing things my dad did. He worked as a doctor. I often went with him to the hospital, where I saw him help patients. Watching my dad made me want to be a doctor too.

One day I was walking into the hospital with my dad. Another doctor walked out. He saw me and asked my dad, "Is this your son?" My dad said yes. The doctor knelt to look at me. He asked, "What will you be when you grow up?"

I said, "I want to be a doctor, like my dad." Then he replied, "Well, I hope you're as good a doctor as he is." But my dad said, "No, I want him to be better than me."

That helped me realize that my dad really loved me. He wanted the best for me.

Years later I thought of that moment again. My wife and I were being taught by the missionaries. The missionaries asked me, "Do you believe that you can become like God?" I had never thought about it. But I thought, *If Heavenly Father is actually my Father, He would want the best for me, like my dad did. He would want me to be able to become like Him.* So I said to the missionaries, "Yes, I believe I can be like my Heavenly Father."

The moment I answered, I knew what I said was true.

I want you to know that your Heavenly Parents love you very much. They want the best for you. You can become like Them. ●

All Grown Up

We are children of Heavenly Parents. We can grow up to be like Them. Baby animals grow up to be like their parents too. Follow the path from the baby animals to their parents.



Show and tell

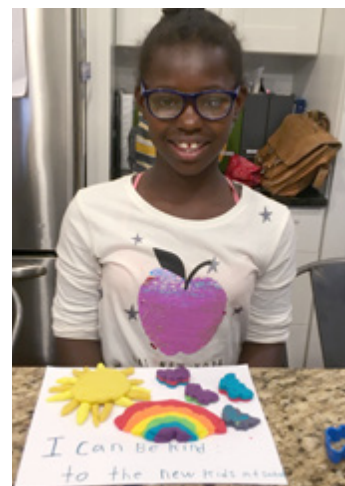


Our family decided to collect food in our neighborhood for the homeless shelter. My brother and I decorated notes to tell our neighbors about it. A few days later we collected the food. It made me feel happy to help lots of people.

Asher W., age 6, Ontario, Canada



Annaliesa D., age 11, England, United Kingdom



Sophie W., age 10, Utah, USA



President Nelson

My family is reading President Russell M. Nelson's biography. I found a picture of him when he was a little boy and drew my own version. I am grateful for our prophet.

Fischer L., age 8, Utah, USA



One day when I was in the playground at lunchtime, I saw another girl crying, as she didn't have anyone to play with. I went over to her and asked her to come and play with me and my friends. She stopped crying and came to play with us.

Mia B., age 6, Northern Ireland, United Kingdom



Before my baptism, I asked my friends from school who don't go to our church if they

would come, and they said yes! I was happy to see them at my baptism and know they supported me!

Alison H., age 8, California, USA





Josef Š., age 10, Olomouc Region, Czech Republic



Isaiah W., age 8, Utah, USA

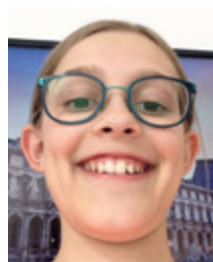
Scriptures Are Special

The scriptures are special.
The scriptures are true.
I read the scriptures,
And so should you.
Read them in the morning,
And read them at night.
Once you read them,
They will show you the light.
The scriptures are special.
The scriptures are true.
When you read the scriptures,
Jesus will grow closer to you.

Matthew W., age 10, Alabama, USA

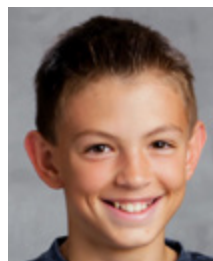


Olivia P., age 9, Texas, USA



One of my friends asked me to swear. I didn't. Instead, I asked her not to swear around me. She said she would try, and then she asked the rest of the girls to do the same. Almost all of them agreed! I'm glad I could be a good example.

Elora W., age 12, Vienna, Austria



One day at football practice, a teammate asked if I went to church. I told him yes and that I was LDS. He didn't know what that meant, so I explained that "LDS" stands for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He said he had never gone to church before. I am glad I could tell him about our church, and I hope I can tell him more!

Bentley P., age 11, Utah, USA



We were on vacation at a lake, and we fell off our motorized watercraft. It rolled over and wouldn't start again. My sister Ash said a prayer, and then I said a prayer, and it started to work! I know the Lord answers our prayers.

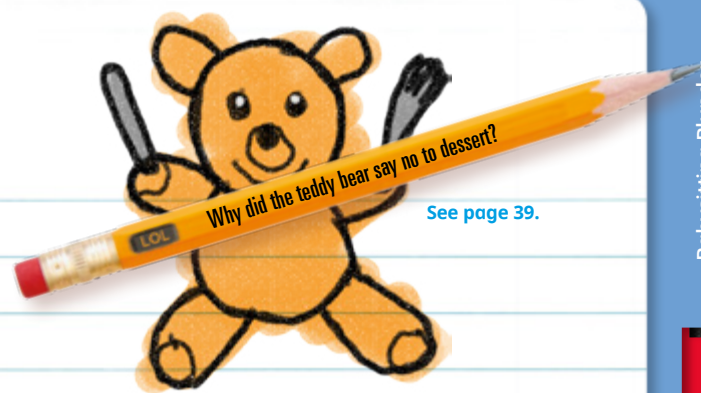
Sophia C., age 9, Hesse, Germany



MATT AND MANDY



for older KIDS



See page 39.

GOD'S AMAZING WORLD

Did you know?

- Mandarin Chinese is spoken by more people than any other language.
- The Bible has been translated into more languages than any other book. Parts of it are available in more than 3,000 languages!
- Hawaiians have more than 100 words to describe types of rain.



FAMILY HISTORY HUNT

What's your favorite family photo? Add it to FamilySearch.org and write why it's special to you.



BRAIN BREAK

Have a five-minute dance party to your favorite song!



ART CHALLENGE

Use different shapes to fill each box with a fun pattern.

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SCRIPTURE POWER



Isaac L., age 11, California, USA

Draw a picture of your scripture hero and send it to us! See how on page 39.

Babysitting Blunder



By Jane McBride

(Based on a true story)

*“Let us cheerfully do all things that lie in our power”
(Doctrine and Covenants 123:17).*

Are you sure you’ll be OK taking care of Reynna?” Ashley asked. She gave Emma a worried look.

Emma nodded. “I’m 12. I can handle it!”

Emma’s grownup sister, Ashley, was going with Mom to visit Grandma in the hospital. That meant Emma got to babysit! Emma loved playing with her little niece. It was the best part of being an aunt!

“Thanks for looking after Reynna,” Ashley said.

“We’ll have lots of fun,” Emma said. “Everything will be fine.”

Reynna clapped her hands and giggled.

Ashley smiled. “Sounds good! We’ll be back soon.” She kissed Reynna on the forehead, and then she and Mom left for the hospital.

Emma started playing hide-and-seek with Reynna.

Actually, Reynna wasn’t very good at hiding. But Emma pretended to look for her anyway and acted surprised when she “found” her. Reynna squealed with laughter every time.

After playing for a while, Emma got thirsty. She left Reynna in the hallway for just a minute to grab a juice box from the kitchen. When she came back, Reynna wasn’t there!

Then she heard splashing and laughing coming from the bathroom. She peeked her head around the doorway and saw Reynna. “There you are!”

“Dere are!” Reynna said back.

Emma noticed Reynna’s clothes were wet and her little feet were dancing in puddles of water on the bathroom tile.

Then Emma saw where the water was coming from.

Oh no. Reynna had tried to flush a whole roll of toilet paper down the toilet!

Reynna looked up at Emma with a sweet smile. Emma



tried to smile back, but she flinched as more water gushed from the toilet. "Reynna, you and I are in so much trouble."

Reynna just giggled.

Emma took her out of the bathroom and dried her off. Then she did her best to clean up the water. But it kept pouring out of the toilet like a waterfall. Some of it even spilled out into the hallway. Emma used towels to soak up the puddles as much as she could. Finally the water stopped running. But the bathroom was a *mess*.

"Mommy and Grandma are not going to be very happy about this," Emma told Reynna.

Reynna frowned. "Uh-oh."

Emma sighed. Babysitting was a little tougher than she thought!

When Mom and Ashley got home, Emma burst into tears. She explained what had happened and showed them the bathroom.

"It's only water," Mom said with a smile. "We'll clean

it up in a jiffy."

"You're not mad?" Emma asked.

"No," Mom said. "Reynna was curious about what would happen if she stuffed a roll of toilet paper down the toilet. Now she knows."

Ashley smiled. "And now *we* know how fast she can make a giant mess!"

"And I know I can't leave Reynna by herself," Emma said. "Ever!"

They all laughed.

Ashley put her arm around Emma's shoulders. "You're a good aunt, Emma. Thanks for helping with Reynna."

Mom nodded. "You did your best. That's what Heavenly Father asks of us. Just that we do our best."

Just then Reynna tugged on Emma's leg. "Hide see?" she asked.

Emma grinned and took Reynna's hand. "Let's go play one more round of hide-and-seek!" ●

The author lives in Colorado, USA.

My Eternal Family



**By Addie J., age 10,
Washington, USA**

Hii! I'm Addie. I was born in Seoul, Korea, but now I live with my family in Washington, in the United States. I love to jump rope, swim, and make slime. On Sunday mornings, I like to make puff pancakes for breakfast.

Before I was born, my family had four boys. My mom and dad thought their family was complete. Then my mom felt the Spirit tell her they needed to adopt a daughter.

My family had to wait almost two years before they could adopt a baby! So my grandparents, parents, and brothers were all very excited to meet me at the airport. Six months after I arrived, my family took me to the Spokane Washington Temple, where I was sealed to them forever. The gospel teaches me that I am a child of God. He knows me and loves me. Because of the temple, I can receive every blessing that my brothers, who were born to my parents, can receive. I can be part of an eternal family!

For many years, my dad and I have taken Korean culture and language classes so I can learn about my birth country. I am so grateful for my special and unique story. Almost every night in my prayers, I tell Heavenly Father that I am thankful for temples and missionaries. I want others to learn about the gospel so they can be sealed to their families forever too. ●

Look on the next page for some of Addie's favorites!



By Tiffany M. Leary

Puff Pancakes



Here is a breakfast favorite Addie J. (page 34) likes to make with her family. You can try this recipe too! Makes 4–6 servings. Be sure to get an adult's help.

3 tablespoons butter

3 eggs

1/2 cup flour

1/2 cup milk

dash of salt

1. Preheat the oven to 400°F (205°C). Melt the butter in a 9x9-inch (23x23-cm) pan in the oven.
2. Mix the eggs, flour, milk, and salt with a blender and pour the batter into the pan.
3. Bake for 20–25 minutes or until golden brown.
4. Top your puff pancakes with fresh berries, powdered sugar, or syrup.

Silly Slime

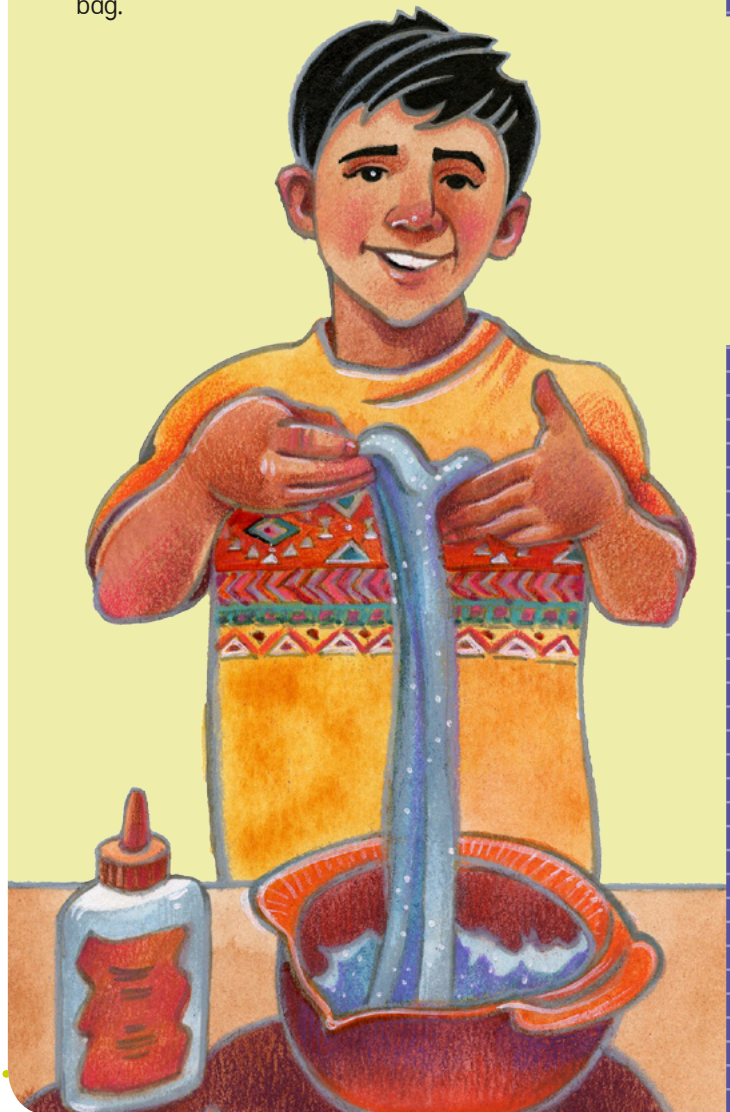
Addie likes to play with slime—a putty you can twist, stretch, and mold. Try making your own. Be sure to get an adult's help.

1 1/2 tablespoons dish soap

food coloring (optional)

2 tablespoons cornstarch

1. Pour the dish soap into a bowl. Stir in a few drops of food coloring. (Note: colored dish soap may affect the color of your slime.)
2. Add the cornstarch to the soap and stir.
3. Knead the mixture with your hands until everything is mixed in. If the slime is too runny or sticky, knead in more cornstarch.
4. Store your slime in an airtight container or resealable bag.





Gary and **GOLIATH**

By Charlotte Larcabal

Church Magazines
(Based on a true story)

"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers"
(1 Timothy 4:12).

I glanced out the car window. The sign was still there. Right outside our neighborhood, there was a store with a giant picture of someone without many clothes on. I didn't want to see it.

Mom looked at me in the rearview mirror. "Just don't look at it, Gary."

I turned my head. "I try not to, but it's hard when we have to drive by it almost every day."

"I know," Mom said. "We can't choose what pictures other people put up, but we can choose not to look at them."

"I wish it wasn't there at all."

"Me too."

I didn't like seeing bad pictures in my town. To make things worse, there was another bad picture in a store window right by our church building! I hated seeing that right before going into church. I didn't like the way it made me feel. I also didn't like thinking about my three younger brothers seeing things like that.

Maybe there was something I could do about it.

"Hey, Mom, do you think if I wrote them a letter they would take it down?"

"I don't know," Mom said. "But I think it's a great idea to try."

I nodded. "Will you help me look up that store's address when we get home?"

"Of course."

That night, I sat down at the kitchen table with a notebook. My plan was to write two letters, one to each of the stores that had the bad pictures in their windows.

I stared at the blank paper. What could I say? For a minute, I thought about one of my favorite scripture stories, David and Goliath. I felt like David. I was just a kid. Would they even listen to me?

But David had something going for him that Goliath didn't. He had help from Heavenly Father! That's what I needed. I bowed my head and said a prayer to know what to write.

Then I started writing.

I tried to be polite and respectful. I wanted to make sure they knew how I felt every time I saw those pictures. I told them how much I didn't want my little brothers to see them either. I said that I wished they could find something else to put in their window. When I finished writing the letters, I had a good feeling inside.

"What do you think, Dad?" I asked. Dad read through my letters and nodded.

"These are great! I wouldn't change a thing."

So I put them in envelopes and dropped them in the mailbox.

"I guess now we wait," I said. My family and I prayed that Heavenly Father would take things from there. We trusted that if it was His will, something would happen.

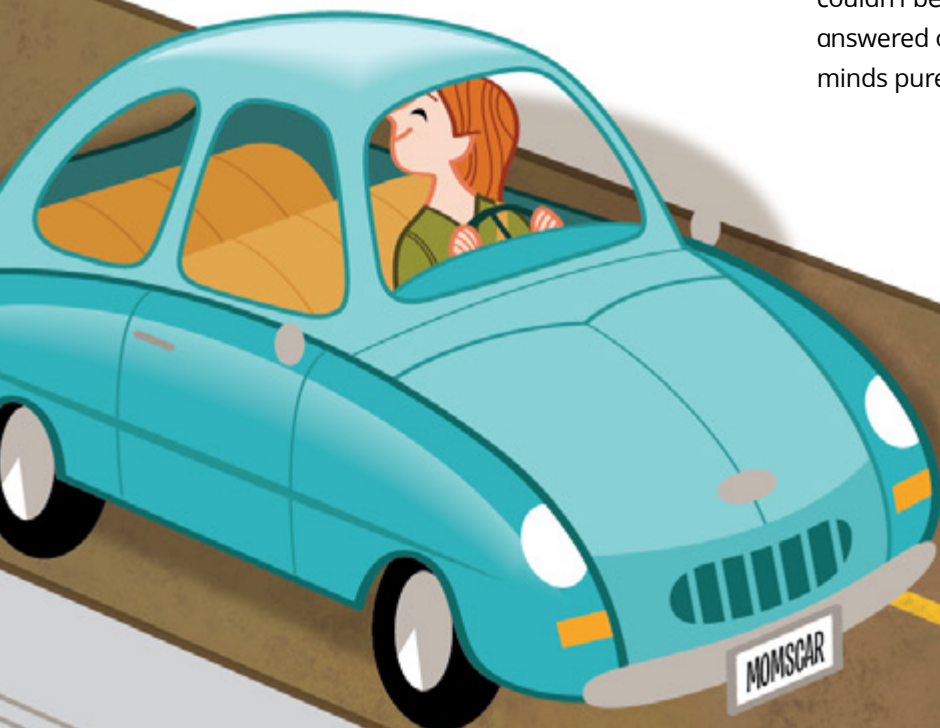
For a while, nothing happened. Then one day, Mom and Dad said they had something to show us. We all piled into the car and drove to the first store. The picture was gone!

"You were so brave to write those letters, and look what happened!" Mom said.

"They took it down!" I shouted.

I said another prayer right then in the car, thanking Heavenly Father for His help. And then we got even more good news.

When we drove to church that Sunday, we saw that the other store had taken their bad picture down too. I couldn't believe it. I was so grateful Heavenly Father had answered our prayers. When we do our best to keep our minds pure, God will help us. ●



I don't like some of the things going on around me, but I don't know how to change them. What can I do?

-Helpless in Honolulu



Dear Helpless,

As a child of God, you *aren't* helpless! You may not be able to fix everything, but you *can* make a difference. Even small actions can have a big impact (see Alma 37:6-7). And a good attitude goes a long way!

The Friend

Unscramble these words to see how you can help. Then put them in the correct sentence. (Hint: They all start with s.) Check your answers on page 39.

kapse _____

eresv _____

tsrat _____

dtsan _____

sreha _____



☀ _____ up when something is wrong. Use your voice to set a good example.

☀ _____ up for what you believe in. The scriptures promise that "all things work together for good to them that love God" (Romans 8:28).

☀ _____ your ideas. Don't be afraid to try new things or encourage others to do the same.

☀ _____ with your hands and your heart. Changing takes doing—so start doing!

☀ _____ today with something small. You can do a little more tomorrow. Before long, you'll be unstoppable!

Kindness Garden



Look what we made for the Kindness Garden!

George, Millicent, and Edward D., ages 6, 4, and 8, Isles of Scilly, England

FUNSTUFF ANSWERS

Page 11: 1-b, 2-e, 3-f, 4-c, 5-d, 6-a

Page 19: Israel-6, Kenya-2, Zimbabwe-7, India-4, Thailand-1, China-3, United Kingdom-5, Hawaii-8

Page 31: Because he was stuffed!

Page 38: speak, stand, share, serve, start



HIDDEN CTR RINGS

Did you find the rings?
Look on pages FJ8, 27, and 13.

How to Write to the Friend

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

1. Fill out the form below and send it in with your story or artwork, and include a school picture or other high-resolution photo.
2. We might edit your submission, and we can't return it to you.

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 _____ Date _____

Email of parent or legal guardian _____

The Last Laugh

A homemade turtleneck sweater! So that's why you bought 100 balls of yarn last month!



the Friend junior



THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

For Parents of Little Ones

Prophets have promised that consistently having home evening will bring powerful blessings. For example, President Thomas S. Monson said that it “can bring spiritual growth to each member of the family, helping him or her to withstand the temptations which are everywhere.”* But home evening can be tricky with young children. How can we help them have a good experience? Here are ideas that have worked for other parents.

*“Constant Truths for Changing Times,” *Ensign*, May 2005, 19.

“Give them a job! Help them lead the opening song, read a scripture, or hold a picture.”

—Katrina A.

“It’s all about the storytelling. Act it out, make characters with dough, draw, etc. Throwing cotton-ball ‘stones’ at Goliath never gets old! Also, don’t be afraid to repeat. You don’t need to do a brand-new lesson every week. Kids learn by repetition anyway, so you don’t have to reinvent the wheel each time.”

—Marcia V.

“We have a tradition of having a dance party and playing hide-and-seek after home evening each week. This helps our children engage in the lesson because they know they will get to have fun afterward.”

—Shannon T.

“The biggest tip I have is ‘Don’t worry that it isn’t perfect.’ Seriously. It’s better to have a five-minute scripture story while trying to keep your kids from jumping on the sofa than to not have family night at all.”

—Pippa W.

Have a tip for teaching the gospel in your home?
Send it in! Email us at friend@ldschurch.org.

ACTION RHYME

Ways to Show I Care

By Jordan Monson Wright

I can give
you a
hug . . .



An
umbrella
in bad
weather . . .



A quiet,
kind word . . .



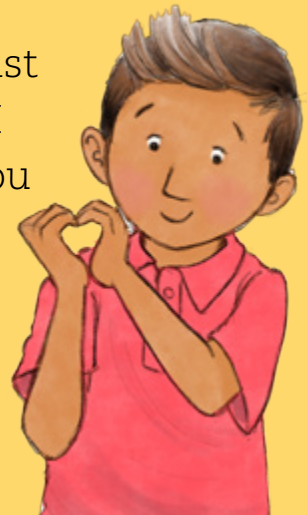
Or a long day spent together.



When I have
a special
treat, I can
choose to
share.



These are just
a few ways I
can show you
that I care!



A Helper Like You

By Jennifer Maddy



Where is my brother taking that bread?
Jaylen wonders.



"This is for you, Mr. Bergman."
"Thank you, Anthony!"



Where is he going now? Jaylen wonders.



He's shoveling the Potters' driveway!



"Here, let me help you!" Anthony says.



"I want to be a helper like you!" Jaylen says.

Lots of Ways to Help

Jesus wants us to help other people. Helping makes us happy!
How would you help out in the pictures below?



Jesus Was Baptized



Have you ever seen someone get baptized? When we get baptized, we're following Jesus's example.



Jesus asked His cousin John to baptize Him. John had the priesthood authority to baptize people.



John asked Jesus why He wanted to get baptized. Jesus said He wanted to obey Heavenly Father's commandments.

John baptized Jesus. The Holy Ghost came. John and Jesus heard Heavenly Father's voice say, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."





One day I can choose to be baptized, like Jesus was. I can get ready for baptism by trying to be like Jesus every day. ●

Read about Jesus being baptized in Matthew 3:13–17.

COLORING PAGE

Jesus Chose to Be Baptized



ILLUSTRATION BY APRYL STOTT

What's in the Box?



By Lori Fuller Sosa

Church Magazines (Based on a true story)

Ava squirmed in her seat. She bounced. She wiggled. She heard her Primary teacher talking. But Ava could not pay attention. All she could think about was the box under Sister Obi's chair.

It was wrapped in shiny blue paper. It had a gold bow on top. What could it be? Ava leaned her head way down. She stared at the box. She wished she could see through the shiny paper. She could hardly wait to find out what was inside.



Finally Sister Obi pulled out the box. She set it on her lap. Ava leaned forward. But Sister Obi didn't open it.

Sister Obi held out the box. "Inside this box is one of Heavenly Father's greatest creations. Look inside.

Then pass it on without saying anything." She passed the box to Noah.

Noah slowly lifted the lid. He stared inside the box. He smiled. Then he passed the box to June.

Ava stood on her tiptoes to try to see. But it wasn't her turn yet. What could be so important to Heavenly Father? And how could something so special fit in such a little box?

She watched everyone take a turn. One by one, each of her friends opened the box. They looked inside. They smiled.

Finally it was Ava's turn! She lifted the shiny lid and looked inside. It was a mirror! Ava looked at the mirror in the box. She saw her own face looking back.

Ava saw her eyes get big. Was she one of Heavenly Father's greatest creations? Did Heavenly Father love her *that* much?

Ava smiled. She felt warm and happy inside. It was like a big hug. A big hug from Heavenly Father. He *did* love her! She was one of His greatest creations. ●