How the **Friend** Helped Me

I read the story “Buddies for Ben” (June 2010), and it reminded me of an experience I had. I was in charge of calling all the boys that didn’t come to the Cub Scout meetings. I called one boy who had never been before. The next time we had a meeting, he was there. I was glad he came, and I was glad I called him.

*Klark L.*, age 8, Idaho

---

**Sharing Bread**

When my siblings and I were traveling with my grandparents, we stopped on Sunday to go to church. When we got there, we saw that the ward did not have any sacrament bread. Luckily, we had some bread in our car for making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. We got to eat our own bread for sacrament, and we even had enough for sandwiches later!

*Aspen E.*, age 9, Tennessee

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**The Blue Beads**

I liked the story “The Blue Beads” in the February 2010 **Friend** because it reminded me to be honest and kind to others. One time I found a blue bracelet at school and I decided to take it to the lost and found. Another time I was kind when a new girl moved to my school from Africa. She didn't have any friends, so I decided to be her friend. I love the **Friend**!

*Charity M.*, age 8, Utah

---

**I Love the **Friend****

One of my favorite stories from the March 2010 **Friend** was “The Love of a Father.” It showed that John Taylor loved his son very much. He risked his life to go back and get Joseph’s wooden rocking horse. I love the **Friend**! I can feel the Spirit when I read it.

*Christopher E.*, age 13, Utah

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

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**Dear Friend,**

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ILLUSTRATION BY MATT SMITH
The Friend

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Cover by Greg Newbold
As you reach out to your Heavenly Father, as you pray to Him in the name of Christ, He will answer you. He speaks to us everywhere.

As you read God’s word recorded in the scriptures, listen for His voice.

During general conference and later as you study the words spoken there, listen for His voice.

As you visit the temple and attend Church meetings, listen for His voice.

Listen for the voice of the Father in the bounties and beauties of nature, in the gentle whisperings of the Spirit.

In your daily interactions with others, in the words of a hymn, in the laughter of a child, listen for His voice.

If you listen for the voice of the Father, He will lead you on a course that will allow you to experience the pure love of Christ.

*From an October 2009 general conference address.*
President Uchtdorf says we can hear Heavenly Father’s voice in His beautiful world. At left are some of the things President Uchtdorf enjoys in nature.

His Words

Connect the dots to see a picture of another way we can listen for Heavenly Father’s voice.
The Cookie Solution
By Jane McBride Choate
(Based on a true story)

By small and simple things are great things brought to pass (Alma 37:6).

Jim tried his best to wipe away the tears before he got home. He didn’t want Mom to see that he had been crying.

Randy, a boy in his class, stopped Jim every day after school and called him names. Jim tried not to let it bother him, but when Randy started saying mean things about Jim being a Mormon, Jim couldn’t hold back the tears.

As Jim opened the front door, Mom looked up from the sofa. She could see that something was wrong.

“What happened?” she asked.

“Nothing,” Jim mumbled.

Mom patted the cushion by her. “Tell me, please.”

Jim sat on the sofa next to her. “There’s this boy at school named Randy who keeps calling me names,” Jim said. “Today he said Mormons are weird.”

“That must have hurt,” Mom said.

Jim nodded. “What can I do?”

Mom gave him a quick hug. “I think you can figure out something. Just remember that Heavenly Father loves Randy—just like He loves you.”

Jim thought about his problem. “Maybe I could invite Randy home and make cookies,” he said.

“I think that’s a great idea,” Mom said.

The next day, Jim worked up the courage to talk to Randy. “Hey, Randy,” Jim said. “We’re going to make cookies at my house tomorrow. Do you want to come?”

Randy squinted at Jim and raised an eyebrow.

“What kind of cookies?” Randy asked.

“Chocolate chip.”

“Sure. They’re my favorite!” Randy said.

The following day, Randy and Jim walked home together. Mom was waiting for them.

“Hi, Randy. It’s nice to meet you,” she said.

“Nice to meet you too,” Randy said.

“Come into the kitchen and we’ll get started,” Mom said.

In the kitchen, she pointed to the sink. “Wash first.”

After the boys washed their hands, Jim showed Randy how to measure the ingredients and mix them together.

By the time they spooned the cookie dough onto the baking pan, Randy was smiling. “Can I put them in the oven?” he asked.

“Sure. They need to bake for 12 minutes,” Jim said as he set the timer.

When 12 minutes had passed, Jim carefully removed the pan from the oven. Randy started to reach for a cookie, then stopped. “Can I have one?”

Jim smiled. “Yes. But they need to cool first.”

When the cookies had cooled, Jim and Randy each took two. Mom poured glasses of milk for them.

“These are great!” Randy said after he’d finished both cookies and his glass of milk. “Thanks for inviting me, Jim. Thank you, Mrs. Sheridan.”

Mom placed some cookies on a plate and covered them with foil. “These are for you to take home and share with your family.”

After that, Randy no longer teased Jim. The boys played together after school and on the weekends. Jim was glad a simple act could help him make a new friend. ◆

“I will seek good friends and treat others kindly.”

My Gospel Standards

Illustration by Maren Scott
Mary held the baby Jesus as she walked into the busy temple at Jerusalem. She and Joseph had come from Bethlehem to offer a sacrifice of two doves at the temple. Jesus was almost six weeks old.

In the temple was an elderly man named Simeon. He had been promised that he would see the Savior someday. “It was revealed unto Him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord’s Christ” (Luke 2:26). When he saw the baby Jesus, Simeon rejoiced because he knew the promise had been fulfilled. Then a woman named Anna who served in the temple joyfully testified that Jesus was the Savior.

But not everyone was happy about the Savior’s birth. King Herod heard that a child had been born who would be the king of the Jews. Herod did not want any other kings in his land. He ordered that all the babies born near Bethlehem in the past two years be killed!

An angel came to Joseph in a dream to warn him about Herod’s plan. Joseph and Mary fled in the night. They took Jesus to live in the land of Egypt, where He would be safe.

After King Herod died, Jesus’s family moved to the town of Nazareth. Joseph worked as a carpenter. Mary took care of the household.

Jesus learned to work beside Joseph. Like all Jewish boys, He studied the scriptures and Jewish laws. Joseph and Mary obeyed the commandments, and Jesus learned from His earthly parents. Jesus “grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him” (Luke 2:40).

When Jesus was 12, Mary and Joseph took Him to

This account comes from Matthew 2; Mark 6:3; Luke 2:21–52.

Temple at Jerusalem—This temple was different from temples today. It was very large, with courtyards and porches filled with people. People brought animals to the temple for priests to sacrifice.

Sacrifice—When priests sacrificed animals on an altar, it taught people that someday Heavenly Father would sacrifice His Son, Jesus Christ, who would die for our sins.
Jerusalem to celebrate **Passover**. They traveled with many people. Women and men walked in different groups, and families met up each evening for dinner as they camped along the way.

After the celebration Joseph and Mary started back home. That night they realized that Jesus was not with any of the groups they were traveling with. They hurried back to Jerusalem to find Him. After three days they found Jesus in the temple. He was talking to the teachers and answering their questions. The men in the temple were astonished.

Mary told Jesus that she and Joseph had been very worried. Jesus reminded her that He needed to be doing His Heavenly Father’s business. Even though He was young, Jesus knew He had important work to do as part of His Heavenly Father’s plan.◆

**Passover**—This important holiday celebrated the time when Jehovah helped the Jews escape from slavery in Egypt, about 1,400 years before Jesus was born.
Isabelle was so excited that she almost skipped as she and her dad walked down the hallway. Her mom had just brushed her dark hair and zipped up the long white skirt Isabelle would wear for her baptism. She stopped outside the room where everyone was waiting.

“Can anyone have one of those?” she asked her dad, pointing to copies of the Book of Mormon on a small table.

“Yes. They’re for people who want to know more about our church,” Dad said.

Isabelle peeked into the room. It was full of people she loved. Her grandmother, aunts, uncles, and cousins sat near the front. Her best friend, Grace, sat with her family at the back. But Isabelle didn’t see Miss Perkins, her schoolteacher.

“Let’s go in,” Dad said. “It’s time for the meeting to start.”

“Can we wait one more minute for Miss Perkins?”

Miss Perkins was Isabelle’s favorite teacher. She loved books, and Isabelle did too.

“It was nice of you to invite her, Isabelle, but she might not come,” Dad said gently.

Isabelle sighed and nodded. She and Dad walked into the room and sat in the front row. Right before the opening hymn, Isabelle turned around to look for her teacher one last time. There she was with Grace’s family! Isabelle smiled. Miss Perkins smiled back.

After Isabelle’s baptism the bishop asked everyone to squeeze together for a photo.

“Where is Isabelle?” he asked.

Everyone looked around. No Isabelle!

Grace went to find her friend. First she looked down the hallway, but Isabelle wasn’t there. Then she looked in the foyer, but she wasn’t there either. Finally, Grace looked outside and saw Isabelle standing on the steps of the meetinghouse talking to Miss Perkins.

“Thank you for coming to my baptism,” Isabelle said.

“You’re welcome,” said Miss Perkins. “I’m sorry I had to leave so quickly. I have another appointment today.”

“That’s OK. But I wanted to give you something.”

Isabelle handed her teacher a Book of Mormon that she had picked up off the table in the hallway. “I know you love to read, and this is a really good book.”

“Thank you,” Miss Perkins said.

“Will you read it?” Isabelle asked.

“Yes, I will,” Miss Perkins said. “I promise.”

Isabelle felt so happy. She smiled as she turned and saw Grace waiting for her.

“What were you doing out there?” Grace asked. “Your mom wants a group picture.”

“I went to give Miss Perkins a Book of Mormon,” Isabelle said.
Grace’s eyes widened. “Were you scared?”
“A little. But I was more afraid that she would just put it away on a shelf somewhere. So I asked her if she would read it.”
“What did she say?” Grace asked.
“She promised that she would!”
“That’s great!” Grace said.
The two girls joined the group of friends and relatives.
“I’m glad Grace found you, Isabelle!” the bishop said.

Then he asked everyone to squeeze together again for the picture. Isabelle stood right in the middle of the front row.

Afterward, Isabelle’s mom leaned over to hug her.
“Now you can remember your baptism day forever!” she said.

Isabelle smiled. She knew that with or without a picture, she would never forget her baptism day and how good it felt to be a missionary.

---

“It should be ‘with great earnestness’ (D&C 123:14) that we bring the light of the gospel to those who are searching for answers the plan of salvation has to offer.”
Elder L. Tom Perry of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Illustrations by Craig Stapley

Who can you share the Book of Mormon with?
“Be of good cheer, and do not fear, for I the Lord am with you, and will stand by you.”

–Doctrine and Covenants 68:6
How do I build a spiritual foundation?

1. **We must study the scriptures.** The Lord has given us these magnificent books to cement our foundation.

2. **We must pray.** Don’t climb into bed at night without first kneeling before your Father, expressing your thankfulness for what you have, and appealing to Him to strengthen your spiritual pillars.

3. **We must worship.** There is power in the ordinances of the gospel, in taking the sacrament every week. There is power in meeting together in our Church meetings and, most important, worshipping in our homes.

4. **We must be willing to follow Jesus Christ by serving one another.** We must be unselfish and incorporate into our lives the qualities that Christ has taught us.

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Illustration by Scott Jarrard

Elder Neil L. Andersen of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles shares some thoughts on this subject.
Give your future self something to remember what your life was like in 2011 by making a time capsule. Keep the time capsule in your closet or another safe place, then open it in 2021 on January 1, your birthday, or another special day. Decorate a shoe box or other small box. Collect small items to put in your time capsule, such as a current photo, something you made, an outline of your hand, or a string as long as you are tall. Write down information about yourself. Then write down things you think might be happening in your life in 2021. Here are some ideas:

**2011**
- Full name
- Family members
- Friends
- Pets
- School grade and teacher
- Primary teacher
- Favorites: scripture, food, book, game, sport, school subject, song, place you’ve been
- Your testimony

**2021**
- Something that might be different about you
- Something that will be the same about you
- Places you might have traveled
- What you could be studying in school
- Where you might have served a mission
- What you want to tell your future self

---

**Journal Junction**

Do you sometimes have trouble thinking of something to write about in your journal? Many people do! Start out small. This month, write about your family. Do you have any brothers or sisters? How many? Are you the oldest, youngest, or middle child? Are any of your siblings away at school or on a mission? Make a list of your family members and write one nice thing about each of them.
Musical Dress Up

1. Get a music player, or have someone play a musical instrument.
2. Fill a bag with large-sized clothing, including hats and shoes.
3. Have one person play the music and everyone else stand in a circle.
4. When the music starts, pass the bag around. When the music stops, the person holding the bag puts on a piece of clothing out of the bag.
5. See who ends up wearing the most clothing or the funniest outfit.
You can cut out these cards and use them to remind you of what you learned in general conference.

“Each of you is a unique child of God. God knows you individually. He sends messages of encouragement, correction, and direction fitted to you and your needs.”
—President Henry B. Eyring, First Counselor in the First Presidency

“No child needs to walk the path alone. Through the Savior’s help, we all can return to our Heavenly Father’s presence.”
—Rosemary M. Wixom, Primary General President

“Walk in nature, watch a sunrise, enjoy God’s creations, ponder the truths of the restored gospel, and find out what they mean for you personally. Learn to see yourself as Heavenly Father sees you—as His precious daughter or son with divine potential.”
—President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Second Counselor in the First Presidency

“We become what we want to be by consistently being what we want to become each day.”
—Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

“[Prayer] is the source of our testimony of truth, of our knowledge, and of our personal guidance from a loving Heavenly Father.”
—Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

“Receiving the Holy Ghost starts with our sincere and constant desire for His companionship in our lives.”
—Elder David A. Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

“You can start today by being an example of the believers in faith and in purity. Strengthen your faith and testimony daily through scripture study and prayer. Keep your baptismal covenant, that will keep you pure and worthy for the guidance of the Holy Ghost.”
—Sister Mary N. Cook, First Counselor in the Young Women General Presidency

“Young men, I admonish you to prepare for service as a missionary. . . . Young sisters: . . . you also make a valuable contribution as missionaries.”
—President Thomas S. Monson

“[Prayer] is the source of our testimony of truth, of our knowledge, and of our personal guidance from a loving Heavenly Father.”
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—Sister Mary N. Cook, First Counselor in the Young Women General Presidency
Be led by the Holy Spirit (Alma 13:28).

As a young boy, I visited Colonia Dublán, Mexico, with my family. We stayed with my aunt and uncle in the house where my mom lived as a little girl. It was a great adventure for a little boy from Arizona. We caught fireflies at night and bought watermelon frozen treats from the “paleta man,” who sold them from his cart.

One night while playing hide-and-seek with my cousins, I hid in an old shed. No one found me, and when I finally came out, it was dark. I couldn’t find my way back home. I couldn’t speak Spanish to ask for help, and I was very frightened.

My parents had taught me to pray. I knelt down by a tree and asked Heavenly Father to help me somehow find my family. Then I decided to knock on a door in hopes of finding someone who could help. After passing several houses that seemed uninviting, I finally found the courage to knock on a door.

The elderly woman who opened the door seemed surprised to see a little light-haired boy all alone on her front porch. She said something to me that I couldn’t understand. Then I felt an impression to simply tell her my name. I looked up at her and said, “Wilford.”

Her response surprised me. She knelt down, threw her arms around me, kissed my head, and said, “Weelfo, Weelfo!” That’s how Spanish speakers say Wilford. Many years before, she had known my grandfather, whom she loved and respected. His name was also Wilford. She knew right where to take me. She took my hand and walked with me back to my aunt and uncle’s house, where my parents were waiting.

I am grateful to my grandfather for leaving a good name for me to live up to. It is important to live a worthy life so that our children and grandchildren after us will be blessed by how we honor our name. I know that Heavenly Father hears and answers our prayers. He especially loves little children. When you pray, He always listens and blesses. ◆
Elder Norman Seibold leaned forward in his seat. He was anxious to hear what his mission president would say at the emergency meeting in Frankfurt, Germany.

In 1939, German soldiers were marching in the streets and it looked like war would break out at any moment. Elder Seibold knew that the First Presidency had ordered all missionaries to evacuate from Germany and Czechoslovakia. His mission president, President Wood, had told the missionaries to go to the Netherlands.

But now President Wood said there was a big problem. The Netherlands had just closed its border to people leaving Germany, and the missionaries needed to evacuate to Denmark instead. But since the telephone lines were clogged with emergency calls, President Wood couldn’t contact the missionaries throughout Germany to tell them about the change in plans.

Even if the mission president could contact the missionaries, there was another problem. The military would not allow anyone fleeing Germany to travel with more than 10 marks.
(about $2). The missionaries had already bought train tickets for the Netherlands and had spent most of their money to be obedient to the law. Now they wouldn’t have enough money to buy new train tickets for Denmark. They were stranded!

“Thirty-one missionaries are stranded between here and the border of the Netherlands with no way of contacting me,” President Wood said. “Someone needs to find them and bring them safely to Denmark.”

Elder Seibold volunteered.

President Wood gave the brave elder 500 marks and train tickets to Copenhagen, Denmark. His special assignment was to ride the railway lines between Frankfurt and the border of the Netherlands, searching for the stranded missionaries. The direction of the Spirit would be his only guide.

After four hours on the train, Elder Seibold reached Cologne, Germany. He felt impressed to get off the train there. The busy station was filled with thousands of people anxious to flee Germany. How could he find any missionaries in such an enormous crowd?

Elder Seibold climbed onto a baggage cart and whistled the hymn “Do What Is Right,” which was a well-known signal to gather missionaries. Eight missionaries in the station heard that whistle, and Elder Seibold sent them safely to Denmark.

At some stops, Elder Seibold stayed on the train. At others, he was prompted by the Spirit to get off and whistle for stranded elders. At every station, Elder Seibold risked that the military would find him and put him in jail for travelling with so much money.

At a station in one small village, Elder Seibold didn’t think he would find any missionaries. But the Spirit told him to get off the train and walk into town. He went inside a restaurant and found two elders who had just spent their last pennies on lemonade. Elder Seibold knew he had been guided there, just as surely as if someone had taken him by the hand.

Eventually Elder Seibold rescued 17 missionaries. The other 14 had reached the Netherlands before the border was closed, but Elder Seibold continued searching until he received a spiritual confirmation that his assignment was complete. Because Elder Seibold obeyed the promptings of the Spirit, all 31 missionaries were safe.

“Every Latter-day Saint may merit personal revelation. The invitation to ask, seek, and knock for divine direction exists because God lives and Jesus is the living Christ.”

Elder Russell M. Nelson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles
Louisa wrote *Little Women* at the little round white desk by the window in her room. Her sister May painted Louisa’s favorite bird over the fireplace (see close-up on page 19).
The activity day girls from Marlborough and Framingham, Massachusetts, were learning about keeping journals. So when they visited Orchard House, just a few minutes away in Concord, they were really inspired.

Orchard House is where Louisa May Alcott, the author of Little Women, lived with her parents and three sisters. All of the Alcott girls kept journals. They even brought them to the dinner table so they could read their latest entries out loud to their family.

Before going inside the house, the Primary girls sat under the big trees to talk about what they write about in their own journals. Like Nephi, they like to write "the things of [their] soul" (2 Nephi 4:15).

Inside the house, the girls saw the wedding dress the Alcott girls made for their sister Anna and a picture of an owl that May painted over the fireplace in Louisa's room. They also learned about the sisters' different talents and interests. Louisa was a writer, and Anna liked acting. Elizabeth loved music, and May was an artist.

The activity day group is made up of girls with different personalities and interests too. They even have girls from two different wards, and several are not members of the Church. But they all like doing fun and inspiring things together for activity day.

After this activity, these "little women" will have even more to write about in their journals!
Going the Extra Mile

By Vicki H. Budge

Kim was excited about family home evening. Grandma and Grandpa were coming to stay for a visit, and they were going to share a special lesson.

Grandma and Grandpa arrived at Kim’s house on Monday afternoon. Kim, Cody, Kate, and even baby Connor could hardly wait for family home evening.

Grandma started the lesson with a question: “What does it mean to go the extra mile?”

Kim, Cody, and Kate thought and thought. They didn’t know.

Mom spoke up. “If someone asks you to go one mile with them, you would go two miles.”

“If the bishop asks us to help someone, we can do what he asks us to do and then see if there is something more that needs to be done,” Dad said.

“I get it!” Cody said. “If Mama asked me to clean my room, I could clean up the living room too. And go the extra mile!”

“Great examples,” Grandma said. “Do you have any more ideas?”

Kim said, “If Mama asks me to watch Connor while she fixes dinner, I could play with him instead of just watching him.”

“If Mama asks me to water the plants, I could put water in Toby’s dog dish too,” Kate said.

“If Daddy asks me to carry a bag of groceries, I could go back and carry another bag,” Cody said.

“I love your ideas!” Grandma said.

“Grandpa hasn’t said anything,” Kim said. “What could you do to go the extra mile, Grandpa?”

Grandpa thought for a few seconds. “If Grandma asks...
me to eat one cookie, I could eat two cookies," he said. Kim laughed. "Oh, Grandpa, you are so silly," she said.

“What do you mean?” Grandpa asked. “Don’t you think it would be going the extra mile to eat two cookies instead of just one?” Kim, Cody, and Kate laughed.

Grandma laughed too. Then she asked everyone to remember the lesson and go the extra mile whenever they could.

After Grandma and Grandpa’s visit was over, they went back to their own home. Grandma called Kim, Cody, and Kate every once in a while to see what they were doing to go the extra mile.

A few weeks later, President Gordon B. Hinckley asked everyone in the Church to read the Book of Mormon before the end of the year. Kim’s family started right away and read every night before saying their prayers and going to bed.

Grandma and Grandpa started to read the Book of Mormon at their house too. Grandpa got up early each morning, sat at the kitchen table, and read for a long time. He got so excited reading about the people in the Book of Mormon that he could hardly put the book down. He loved seeing how their lives were blessed when they followed the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Grandpa read so much each day that he finished the book far before the end of the year. So he decided to read the Book of Mormon again.

When Grandpa finished the second time, he asked Grandma to call Kim, Cody, and Kate. “Tell them I did more than eat two cookies to go the extra mile. I loved the Book of Mormon so much that I read it two times before the end of the year!”

“I pray that each of us will be a little more kind, a little more thoughtful, a little more courteous. . . . I pray that we may have the strength and the will . . . to walk the extra mile."3

President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–2008)
We believe in God, the Eternal Father, and in His Son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost.

**WHO IS HEAVENLY FATHER?**

Write the correct word in the blanks.

- Heavenly Father has all k__________.
- He has all p__________.
- He is the F________ of your s__________.
- He hopes you will talk to Him in p__________ every day.

Father  Prayer  Spirit
Knowledge  Power

**WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?**

There are many names for Jesus Christ in the scriptures. See if you can find 10 of them.

D I Z Z K Q J Z J E T F R T
R R K S V R G Z D A V O W S
E K E W O B T C K B E S P I
D P P H N N B W Z A G V C R
E C A E P F O E C N I R P H
E C D H D E D F I A E O V C
M L S E B O H K G A D I Z S
E M E Z O V F S T O Z V E U
R K A K D O B O D V D A E S
O Y C U G R R T D O K S Z E
V J U N F I R S T B O R N J
T T I H A I S S E M E G X F
M K B E S K D M I Y P I P C
R Y M L V B R L C P F U T V

Creator
Son of God
Savior
Redeemer
Jesus Christ
Good Shepherd
Prince of Peace
King of Kings
Firstborn
Messiah

**WHO IS THE HOLY GHOST?**

Write the correct word in the blanks.

- The Holy Ghost is the ______ member of the Godhead.
- He can give you promptings to help you ______ the right.
- You can ______ the promptings of the Holy Ghost.
- Listen for the Holy Ghost “in your ______ and in your heart” (D&C 8:2).
- After you are baptized and confirmed, the Holy Ghost can be your “constant ______” (D&C 121:46).

Mind  Companion  Choose
Feel  Third
Remember to ask an adult for help when you make a *Kitchen Crafts* recipe!

1. Cook the ground meat and onion in a skillet until completely cooked.
2. Put the ground meat mixture into a large pot. Stir in the taco and dressing seasonings. Add all the remaining ingredients and mix well.
3. Bring the soup to a boil. Put the lid on the pot and cook on low temperature for a half hour.
4. Serve with taco chips and grated cheese on top.

**Ingredients:**
- 1 pound (454 g) ground beef, turkey, or chicken
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 2 tablespoons taco seasoning
- 2 tablespoons ranch-style powder dressing mix
- 1 15-ounce (425-g) can chicken broth
- 1 15-ounce (425-g) can water (use the empty chicken-broth can)
- 2 15-ounce (425-g) cans red kidney beans, including juice
- 1 15-ounce (425-g) can diced tomatoes, drained
- 1 15-ounce (425-g) can corn, drained
- 1 15-ounce (425-g) can green beans, drained
- taco chips
- grated cheese
If I Listen with My Heart

Wouldn’t it have been wonderful to actually hear the Savior’s words as He spoke them? We can still hear His voice today. The scriptures tell us how: “Yea, behold, I will tell you in your mind and in your heart, by the Holy Ghost, which shall come upon you and which shall dwell in your heart” (D&C 8:2; emphasis added).

Jesus will tell us in our minds and in our hearts! To better understand His words, you can listen with your heart. See if you discover in the song three ways we can hear the Savior’s voice.

If I had been a little child when Jesus lived on earth,
I would have liked to walk with Him and listen to His words,
But as I search the scriptures I can hear His words of peace,
And if I listen with my heart I hear the Savior’s voice.

But as I search the scriptures
I can hear His words of peace.

I hear a living prophet speak the things that Christ would say
If He were here upon the earth to talk with me today.
The prophet teaches how to live in righteousness and peace,
And if I listen with my heart I hear the Savior’s voice.

I hear a living prophet speak
the things that Christ would say.

I feel the Holy Spirit as He teaches truth and right.
He comforts me in times of need; He testifies of Christ.
He speaks to me in quiet ways that fill my soul with peace,
And if I listen with my heart I hear the Savior’s voice.

I feel the Holy Spirit as
He teaches truth and right.
If I listen to His words, you can listen with your heart. See if you can feel the Holy Spirit as He teaches truth and right. He comforts me in walk with Him and on the earth to listen to His words. But as I search the scriptures I can times of need; He testifies of Christ. He speaks to me in quiet ways that hear His words of peace, righteous-ness and peace, And if I listen with my heart I hear the Savior’s voice.

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Noah warned the people that a flood was coming, but they did not listen. Because Noah and his family listened to the Lord, they were safe in the ark that Noah built.

1. Which of these puzzle pieces belong in the numbered spaces? Find the answers on page 48.

2. In this picture, find and circle a bracelet, an armband, three people pointing fingers, a necklace, and a person holding a long piece of wood.
1900: The Children's Friend is created. In the beginning, it was mainly used by Primary leaders and parents.

1902: The Children's Friend is created. In the beginning, it was mainly used by Primary leaders and parents.

1971: The Friend, a new, more colorful magazine under the direction of the General Authorities, is created to replace the Children's Friend. Subscriptions in 1971: 168,000

1975: Friend to Friend: General Authorities share personal stories that teach gospel principles.

1979: Kitchen Krafts: Fun recipes for you to create with your family.


1981: Sharing Time activities.

1986: For Little Friends: Pages created especially for children ages three to six.


1990: Trying to Be Like Jesus: Your stories tell how you are trying to be like Jesus.

1994: Matt and Mandy: We introduce everyone's favorite brother and sister.

1994: Friends by Mail: Your letters tell how the Friend has helped you live the gospel.

2000: Special Witness: Apostles share important points about gospel topics.

2001: Come Listen to a Prophet's Voice: A member of the First Presidency shares a message with children.

2002: Friends by Mail: Your letters tell how the Friend has helped you live the gospel.

2004: Friends by Mail: Your letters tell how the Friend has helped you live the gospel.

2009: We added games and activities to our website in January 2009. Check it out at friend.lds.org!

Current subscriptions: 304,000

Happy 40th Birthday to the Friend!

The Friend turns 40 this month!

The Friend has been delivered to children's homes since 1971. Here we will show you how the Friend came to be the way it is today.
By Karen A. Kimball
(Based on a true story)

Brigham Young [was] reserved to come forth in the fulness of times to take part in laying the foundations of the great latter-day work (D&C 138:53).

Kathy listened as Mr. Sodeberg explained how people migrated in the United States. She was excited about her new history class. Flipping through the pages of her new history book, Kathy stopped at a picture of Brigham Young. She had never realized Brigham Young’s significance in United States history before.

Mr. Sodeberg finished his lecture. “There will be homework every day,” he said. “Your first assignment is due tomorrow.”

At home Kathy sighed as she looked at all the questions Mr. Sodeberg had assigned.

“Tough day at school?” Mom asked.

“Homework every day,” Kathy said. She remembered the picture in her history book. “Mom, Brigham Young is in my textbook. What makes him so important in U.S. history?”

“He directed the migration of thousands of Latter-day Saints to the Salt Lake Valley. Then he organized them into settlements,” Mom

The Best
Brigham Young
said. “That took a lot of planning. It was a significant part of the country’s westward migration.”

The next day Mr. Sodeberg announced, “Next week we will perform a readers’ theater. Each of you will dramatize a character of the westward migration. Your parents and other students will be invited to attend the performance.”

Mr. Sodeberg began assigning characters and handing out scripts. When he asked who wanted the part of Brigham Young, Kathy quickly raised her hand.

“Tonight’s homework is to begin memorizing your part,” Mr. Sodeberg said. “You must recite it perfectly. Your grade depends on it.”

Kathy read over her part as she and her friend Laura left class. A terrible feeling came over her. “This is all wrong,” she said to Laura. “It makes Brigham Young sound dishonest.”

“You just see things differently because of your church,” Laura said.

“I can’t say these things,” Kathy said.

“You have to recite them perfectly,” Laura reminded her.

Tears rolled down Kathy’s cheeks as she ran home and burst through the front door.

“More homework?” Mom asked.

“Worse,” Kathy said, handing her the script. “Read this.”

Mom read the script and shook her head. “This writer didn’t know a lot about Brigham Young.”

“What should I do?” Kathy asked.

“First let’s find a Brigham Young costume,” Mom said. Kathy tried on Grandpa’s long black coat and rolled up the sleeves on her brother’s white shirt. Mr. Grandi next door showed Kathy how to walk with his extra wooden cane.

Mom found a tall black hat in a closet and put it on Kathy’s head. “You’d make Brigham Young proud,” Mom said. “Now you need a new script.”

Kathy looked for information about Brigham Young in Church history books and on the Church website. Soon the script was rewritten.

“The true story of Brigham Young,” Kathy said.

On the day of the performance, Kathy’s class gathered in the auditorium. Parents and other students waited in their seats. Mr. Sodeberg introduced the program; then he stood offstage as the students recited their parts.

Alex recited his script perfectly, but Randall mixed up his words. Mr. Sodeberg made him begin again. Kathy squeezed her cane. When it was her turn, Kathy recited the true story of Brigham Young.

“Did you change your script?” Laura asked after the performance.

“Yes. I told the truth,” Kathy said.

“Here comes Mr. Sodeberg,” Laura said.

“Well done, ladies,” Mr. Sodeberg said. “Kathy,” he continued, “you were the best Brigham Young I have ever seen.”

“Brigham Young . . . acted in accordance with correct principles, and he became a mighty instrument in the hands of the Lord.”

Elder David A. Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles
One day when I was walking home from school, my friend accidentally hit me in the face with an ice ball. At first, I got really angry because it hurt. I went home, and later my friend called me and apologized. I was glad that he called and I forgave him. We are still best friends.

Dalton Y., age 9, Utah

I was sitting in my grandma’s sacrament meeting, and the man next to me was crying. I gave him a warm fuzzy. It made me feel good inside. A few weeks later, we went to my grandma’s ward New Year’s celebration. The man’s wife told my mom that I had made him feel good when I gave him the warm fuzzy. He thanked me for brightening his day.

Emma S., age 4, British Columbia, Canada

Tell us how you’re trying to be like Jesus. Turn to page 48 to find out how to send us a letter.
What Is This?

The pictures on this page are close-up photos of things you might see when it's cold outside. What are they? Write your answers under the pictures. Find the answers on page 48.
Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another (Ephesians 4:32).

1. Margaret was nervous because she did not know anyone at her new school.

2. Some girls teased her. One girl even pulled the ribbons in Margaret’s hair. Margaret didn’t think she would be happy at her new school.

3. After school Margaret called her grandmother and told her about the mean girls.

4. Margaret, you need to pray and ask Heavenly Father what to do. He will help you.
5. That night Margaret prayed to Heavenly Father. She told Him about her problem. Then she had an idea.

6. The next day at school the girls pulled her ribbons.

7. And the next day the girls teased her.

Can’t we be friends?

8. One week later Margaret was happy to tell her grandmother what had happened.

Heavenly Father gave me the idea to be nice to the girls. They don’t tease me anymore, and now they are my friends.
No matter where we live, we can make friends by being kind to others. Look at the pictures of Margaret and Antoine. They live in different countries. Circle things that are similar in the two pictures.
Manuel spent his day doing good things. Put his day in order by writing a number in the boxes to show what he did first, second, third, and fourth.

What good things can you do today?

Manuel helps his mom make breakfast.

Manuel studies at school.

Manuel listens as his father reads the scriptures to the family.

Manuel prays before going to bed.
**Sammy’s Scriptures**

*By Jill Jensen*  
(Based on a true story)

*My soul delighteth in the scriptures, and my heart pondereth them* (2 Nephi 4:15).

Sammy liked to memorize scriptures. He couldn’t read yet, but he already knew six articles of faith and many verses from the Book of Mormon and Bible. Mom wrote a scripture on a card and drew a picture on the back to help Sammy remember. Sammy knew scriptures about the Savior, gratitude, service, the stripling soldiers, and Nephi. He felt good inside because he was learning the scriptures.

One Sunday before Primary opening exercises, Sammy waited reverently on the CTR 5 bench beside his teacher, Sister Taylor. He folded his arms and listened to the music. Then he heard Sister Hunter, the Primary president, talking to Sister Taylor.

“I just found out that the boy who was going to give the scripture is sick today,” Sister Hunter said. “I’m going to see if an older child can read a scripture for us on short notice.”

Sammy quickly thought about all the scriptures he knew. “I can give a scripture today,” he told Sister Hunter.

“That would be great, Sammy,” Sister Hunter said. “Can Sister Taylor help you find and read a scripture?”

“I don’t need any help,” Sammy said.

Sister Hunter and Sister
“Become acquainted with the lessons the scriptures teach.”

President Thomas S. Monson

Taylor looked surprised. “Are you sure?” Sister Taylor asked.

“I have lots of scriptures memorized,” Sammy said. “I just learned a scripture about King Benjamin. I could say that one.”

“OK,” Sister Hunter said. “Will you please come sit up front?”

Sammy felt his heart beat faster as he walked to the front of the room and sat down. He was a little nervous, but he was confident he could say the scripture.

After singing “Book of Mormon Stories,” Sister Hunter said that Sammy would give the scripture.

Sammy walked to the pulpit and stood on the step stool. He took a deep breath and then spoke into the microphone: “Mosiah 2:17. When ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God.”

Sammy stepped down and went back to his seat, smiling the whole way. A warm feeling came over him. He was grateful that he had helped Sister Hunter in Primary. And he was grateful that even though he couldn’t read, he could still learn the scriptures.◆
Heavenly Father’s Creations

Heavenly Father created things that I love,
Like lizards and frogs and birds up above.
He made rabbits and cats and dogs and a snake.
He even created the fish in the lake.
I love every creature large and small.
I’m glad Heavenly Father created them all.

Alex S., age 9, Utah

Choose the Right

Choose the right every time,
In the rain or in the sunshine.
Do it when you are young or old.
Do it when you are hot or cold.
Choose the right and you will see,
You’ll be as happy as can be.

Natalie F., age 6, Vermont

Jesus

Jesus is good.
He is king.
Jesus loves me,
And goodness He will bring.
Jesus helps others,
And helping I must do.
I know Jesus loves me,
And I love him too!

Alexis M., age 8, Ohio
Would you like to send us a poem or drawing? Turn to page 48 to find out how.

Starting January 7, 2011, the Museum of Church History and Art in Salt Lake City, Utah, will display a children’s art exhibit featuring art created by Primary children from around the world. The exhibit’s theme is “The Gospel Blesses My Life.” It will run through January 16, 2012. Call 801-240-3310 for more information. If you would like a guided tour, call 801-240-4615. To see art from the exhibit online, visit friend.lds.org.

Robert Y., age 6, California
James G., age 6, Massachusetts
Seth B., age 8, Utah
Katie H., age 3, Oregon
Holly E., age 8, Arizona
Eric P., age 11, Idaho
Amanda S., age 11, North Carolina
Krysten W., age 9, South Dakota
Bringing Primary Home

You can use this lesson and activity to learn more about this month’s Primary theme.

The Scriptures Are the Word of God

By JoAnn Child and Cristina Franco

Feast upon the words of Christ; for behold, the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do (2 Nephi 32:3).

In the Book of Mormon, Lehi tells his family about his dream of the tree of life. In the dream, Lehi wanted his family to eat the fruit of the tree, which was “desirable above all other fruit” (1 Nephi 8:15). He saw many people walking along the path that led to the tree of life, but some got lost in mists of darkness and wandered away from the path. Others held onto the iron rod that led along the path toward the tree. They walked forward, holding tightly to the rod until they reached the tree and ate the fruit, which brought them joy. (See 1 Nephi 8.)

Lehi’s son Nephi prayed to know the meaning of the things his father had seen. Nephi was shown the same dream as his father. The Spirit taught Nephi that the tree of life represents the love of God. Nephi was shown Jesus Christ, the Son of God, teaching and blessing people on the earth. Nephi was also taught that the rod of iron represents the word of God. (See 1 Nephi 11.)

The scriptures are the word of God. Reading the scriptures is like holding onto the iron rod. We will know what Jesus wants us to do and say. We will have power to resist temptation and make our way to the tree of life and to feel the love of God.

ACTIVITY

Look up the scripture references on page 41 to discover the meanings of the things Lehi and Nephi saw in their visions of the tree of life. Cut out and use the drawings to share with others what you learn. You can also ask your parents if you can share the story in family home evening.
Today doesn't feel any different.
Why should it?
Because it's a brand-new year!
If we want today to be different, I guess we'll have to make it different. Any ideas?
Mom, don't bother cleaning up. I'll do it.
And I'll help!
So does this year feel any different?
I think it does, a bit.

Illustrations by Shauna Mooney Kawasaki
Say What?
By Chad E. Phares

These words may not seem to make sense. But if you say them out loud you will hear some familiar phrases about things you should do throughout your life. Write the actual phrases below the nonsense words. The first one is done for you. See answers on page 48.

1. Reed these crib shores
   Read the scriptures

2. Cane attest he mow knee

3. Sir cheese crypt chores

4. Sir fathers

5. Key pithy come and mints

6. Beak lean

7. Chews too beak hind

8. Be a beady ant

9. On or yore pear ants

10. Fall oath he were dove whiz dome
IN THE ZONE
By Megan Withers Roxas
(Based on a true story)

Thou shalt not idle away thy time (D&C 60:13).

Aubrey stared at the television. She had been watching her favorite channel for so long, she had almost stopped blinking. She knew she needed to do her chores, but she couldn’t pry her eyes away.

Whenever she watched TV her dad teased her, saying that she was “in the zone.” When Aubrey was in the zone, she felt stuck. She didn’t like that feeling at all.

Aubrey heard Mom enter the house and walk into the living room.

“Hi,” Mom said. “I didn’t think that anyone would be watching the TV. I’ll just use the DVD player in the other room to watch my class video.”

“Oh no!” she thought. “I need to stop Mom before she puts her DVD in the player.”

But she couldn’t take her eyes away from the screen.

“Get up!” Aubrey tried to urge herself. But she remained motionless.

A few minutes later Aubrey heard Mom yell, “The DVD player scratched the disc!”

Aubrey quickly turned off the TV and ran to the other room. She saw Mom staring at the TV screen. Because the DVD was scratched, it kept skipping. Mom looked like she was going to cry.

“Oh, Mom, I am so sorry!” Aubrey apologized. “I should have told you that this DVD player is broken.”

“I needed to watch this today. I have a test on it tonight,” Mom said.

Aubrey thought for a minute. Then she said, “I can help you study. I’ll quiz you with the flash cards you made.”

“Thank you, Aubrey,” Mom said.

That afternoon, Aubrey spent several hours helping Mom study for her test. When Mom left to go to class, Aubrey said a prayer asking Heavenly Father to help Mom do well. She was waiting at the door when Mom came home.

“How did you do?” Aubrey asked.

“I did OK. I got a B.”

“Way to go, Mom!” Aubrey said. “I am really sorry for not turning off the TV so I could tell you the DVD player was broken.”

Aubrey decided to spend more time outside instead of watching so much TV. She learned that she loved being outdoors and even made new friends in the neighborhood. And best of all—she was no longer stuck in the zone!
The scriptures are the word of God.

Feast upon the words of Christ; for behold, the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do (2 Nephi 32:3).
Friends in the News

Barrigada Branch
The Primary children of the Barrigada Branch, Guam District, learned about the importance of scriptures. Each child was given a Book of Mormon and a scripture bag. The children marked scripture verses and decorated their scripture bags.

Jones Falls Ward
The Primary children in the Jones Falls Ward, Baltimore Maryland Stake, visited the Washington D.C. Temple. Sister missionaries showed them a movie about the temple and gave them a tour of the visitors’ center. The children walked the grounds of the temple and thought it was a beautiful experience.

Kesler B., 11, California, earned his Arrow of Light in Scouts. He is kind to others, honest, and an example to other students. He strives to listen to the Holy Ghost so he can make good decisions every day.

Katherine P., 8, Arizona, has one sister and two brothers. When her siblings are sad, she will tell a joke to make them laugh. She likes to go swimming and horseback riding. She would like to be a veterinarian when she grows up.

Brock G., 7, Maine, is loving and helpful to others. He lives on a farm and enjoys playing with the animals. He likes reading, singing, and eating.

Ella K., 4, Nebraska, enjoys the outdoors and animals, especially horses. She likes sharing with her friends in her Sunbeam class and looks forward to participating in her ward’s Primary sacrament meeting presentation. Her favorite person from the scriptures is Abinadi.

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Would you like to be a friend in the news? Turn to page 48 to find out how.
Possible Ideas for Family Home Evening

1. Read President Monson’s conference spotlight card (page 14). Discuss the importance of being a missionary now. Then read “Where is Isabelle?” (pages 8–9). As a family, decide who you would like to share a copy of the Book of Mormon with. Highlight your favorite scriptures and write your testimony on the inside cover. Make a plan when you can deliver the book.

2. Read “Missionary to the Rescue” (pages 16–17). How was Elder Siebold able to rescue all the missionaries? Sing “The Still Small Voice” (Children’s Songbook, 106–107) and discuss the importance of listening to the Spirit.

3. Why is it important to keep a personal journal? Read “Little Women from Massachusetts” (pages 18–19). Have each member of your family decorate his or her own journal jar and fill it with ideas of things to write about. Try to write about one idea from your journal jar every day for a week.

4. Use the “Bringing Primary Home” lesson and activity to learn more about this month’s Primary theme (pages 40–41).

5. Read “Going the Extra Mile” (pages 20–21). Discuss the different ways the family in the story went the extra mile. What can you do? Challenge each person to find at least one way to go the extra mile during the next week. Talk about what everyone did at your next family home evening.

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

To send us a letter, drawing, or poem, please fill out this form and include it with your submission. Please also include a school photo or high-quality snapshot. Submissions will not be returned and may be edited for length and clarity.
Captain Moroni loved truth, liberty, and faith. He devoted his life to helping others preserve their freedom. You can be like Captain Moroni by choosing to stand up for what is right. You can even make your own title of liberty and write on it the things that are important to you and your family.

Where to Find Out More

*Alma 46*
The title of liberty
*Alma 48:11–13*
Moroni’s qualities
What's online this month? friend.lds.org

For Children

**SCRIPTURE STORIES** Learn about the New Testament by visiting friend.lds.org and clicking on Scripture Stories. You will find weekly audio lessons and enhanced videos that focus on stories from the New Testament.

**CHILDREN’S ART EXHIBIT** The Friend and the Museum of Church History and Art asked children to send their original art based on the theme “The Gospel Blesses My Life.” We received hundreds of submissions. Click “Children's Art Exhibit” on friend.lds.org to see many of these pieces of art.

For Parents

**ARTICLES OF FAITH** Look for the new Articles of Faith series in 2011 and on our website. Learn about the articles and help your children work on Faith in God.

**APPLICATIONS** Find applications for your mobile devices at new.lds.org. Access the scriptures, general conference, music, and more.

For Teachers and Leaders

**FACEBOOK FRIEND** You can get weekly inspiration and updates from the Friend on Facebook. Also, follow the Friend on Twitter:@friendLDS.

**SHARING TIME** The new Sharing Time outline for 2011 is available online at lds.org/pa. Click on Primary.