

# the Friend

JULY • 2004





## The Tornado

We were living in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on 3 May 1999 when we learned that a tornado was headed toward us. It was a mile and a half wide and had 250-mile-an-hour winds. We didn't have time to evacuate. Golfball-sized hail began to fall. We looked out the window, and it was black as far as we could see.

We got into the closet in Mom and Dad's bedroom. I went into the crawl space with Mom, but the tornado hit before Dad could get everyone else in. Dad lay over Dallin and Brooke and held onto Mom's hands. The wind was so strong that it nearly pulled us apart. We were crying and praying harder than we ever had. We sang all three verses of "I Am a Child of God." We heard glass breaking, and then the wind started to die down. Everything was calm.

We came out of the closet and saw glass and debris all over the carpet. Outside, poles were knocked down, and electrical wires were wrapped around everything. Roofs were gone from homes. Someone's roof was on our front lawn. Some homes had only a slab of cement left. Our home looked a lot better than the homes

around us, but we still had a lot of repairing to do. We had to replace the roof, carpet, windows, doors, and siding. All my clothes and toys had glass in them. Some boards had fallen through the roof and broken a toilet. We found someone's Raggedy Ann doll, a stop sign, pictures, videos, old checks, and lots of other things in our backyard. Ten homes on our street were completely destroyed and had to be bulldozed. Many more had been destroyed on the streets around us. Our whole neighborhood was smashed.

It was not an easy time for us, yet everyone seemed to be cheerful and helpful. The Relief Society president climbed up on roofs and replaced shingles. Our bishop fixed our hot water tank. Church members came from all over to help. They stayed for weeks, sleeping at the church. A member from New Mexico stayed in our home and roofed many houses.

We realized that it really doesn't matter what you own—it can be taken away in an instant. We can't take our possessions to heaven anyway. Being happy and together as a family is the important thing.

Krystal Richey, age 11  
Boise, Idaho



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Cover by Steve Kropp / Boston Massachusetts Temple

the **Friend**

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



**See the Guide to  
the Friend (inside back  
cover) for family home  
evening ideas.**

**HIDDEN CTR RING**

*Choisis le bien* is  
French for "choose the  
right." As you look for  
the French CTR ring  
hidden in this issue,  
think of how you can  
serve someone.





Come Listen to  
a Prophet's Voice

# Knowing Who You Are

BY PRESIDENT JAMES E. FAUST

Second Counselor in the First Presidency



**President Faust reminds us that, above all, we are children of God.**

I salute you young people as chosen, special spirits who have been reserved to come forth in this generation. You have great challenges. I hope you are beginning to achieve in some special way. Perhaps it is your smile, your personality, or your ability to lift others. Perhaps you are discovering your talent as an athlete, scholar, musician, artist, or in a hundred different areas. These accomplishments may cause you to think about who you really are.

Many [people] measure their self-worth solely in terms of their talent and accomplishments instead of who they really are inside. It is not always true that the more you achieve, the happier you will be.

God knows you and what you can become because He has known you from the beginning when you were His spirit sons and daughters. What you become will depend in large measure upon how you follow righteous principles and do good works.

If we really want to feel better about ourselves, we should do deeds of kindness. Kindness shapes our character and makes us more like our Father in Heaven. Great satisfaction can come in helping the poor, the sick, the elderly, or others who have special needs. Look around you; there are all kinds of opportunities.

Being friendly to our neighbors [and] to people at school [and] at church is a great way to show the Lord that we want to keep the covenant we made at baptism “to bear one another’s burdens, that they may be light” (Mosiah 18:8). So many people are shy or lonely and need a kind word or smile. Lifting others is the way of the Master.

So who do you think you are? Knowing who you are—who you *really* are—is closely tied to knowing God, for you are His children. ●

Adapted from “Who Do You Think You Are?”  
*Ensign*, Mar. 2001, 2–7.







Preserving  
**JAM**  
(and Families)






BY BRAD WILCOX

(Based on a true story)

*The great work to be done in the temples of the Lord . . .  
for . . . the sealing of the children to their parents*  
(D&C 138:48).

he raspberries were red, ripe, and juicy. Whitney had never seen quite so many. Mom had bought several large containers when they were on sale, and now she wanted Whitney to help her make jam. Whitney loved jam on toast in the mornings or on hot rolls when they came out of the oven. Her mouth watered at the thought of the treat.

Mom lifted a sack of sugar out of the storage bucket. "Start putting the raspberries in the strainer," she instructed. "Then run them under the water in the sink until they're clean. Be sure to pick out any bits of leaves you find."

Whitney filled the strainer, cleaned the berries, and dumped them into a big bowl. She refilled the strainer and went through the process again and again. It hardly felt like work to her.

After Mom finished measuring the sugar, she took lots of clean jars out of the dishwasher and stacked them on the countertop. Once the dishwasher was empty, she pulled several more jars out of a cardboard box and placed them in the dishwasher.

"Why are you doing that?" Whitney asked. "They don't look dirty to me."

"Some of the jars have been sitting on the shelf downstairs for a while. I just want to make sure that they are all clean before we fill them with jam."

Mom and Whitney worked together for several hours before Dad and Wendee, Whitney's sister, came home. "Put on some aprons and come give us a hand," Mom called to them. Dad started mashing up the last of the berries while Wendee began labeling the finished jars.

"Honey, before you put away those jars, make sure all the lids are sealed," Mom said to Wendee.

Whitney stopped stirring and laughed. "Sealed?" she asked.

"Are they getting married or something?"

Now Dad, Mom, and Wendee laughed.

"Well," Whitney said defensively, "Mom told you to make sure the lids are sealed. So what are you going to do? Take them to the temple?"

Wendee picked up a jar and showed her younger



sister the lid. "See, the lid has to seal to the jar so the jam won't spoil. If the lid doesn't seal, the jam won't last. We're not talking about the temple."

"Well," Dad said, "maybe we are. Think about it— isn't it the same with families? The ones sealed in the temple by priesthood authority can last forever. Those that aren't sealed aren't going to last."

"Keep mashing the rest of those berries while you preach your sermon,"

Mom said as she started spooning finished jam into the jars. Whitney reached out to steady the jars while Mom worked.

"I thought getting sealed just meant getting married," Whitney said.

"Not exactly," Mom explained. "A man and a woman can get married anywhere, but when they marry outside of the temple, it's only for this life. Couples married, or sealed, in the temple can be married forever."

"Now who's preaching?" Dad asked with a smile.

"Sealed means linked together or hard to break apart," Mom explained. "When you get married in the temple, you are linked eternally to your spouse and your children. We seal the lids to preserve the jam. Being sealed in the temple preserves families."

"These berries are all mashed. What's next?"



Dad asked.

"Just take those last few jars out of the dishwasher."

"I feel another lesson coming on," Dad said. "See, Mom cleaned the jars before she filled them with jam. Sealing jam in a dirty jar would not work. It's the same way with the temple. We have to be clean and worthy to enter the temple. That's the only way the sealing counts."

"I'm impressed," Wendee said. "Dad, you're pretty good."

"So is this jam," Mom said. "Now, who wants some before we put it all away?"

Over the next few weeks, everyone in the family enjoyed the jam. Whitney liked it best of all.

One Sunday Sister Garcia assigned Whitney to give a talk in Primary the following week. Whitney didn't usually like giving talks because she never knew what to say. But this time was different. Whitney could hardly wait to get home and begin writing.

"What are you supposed to talk about?" Wendee asked on the way home from church.

"Well," Whitney said, "Sister Garcia said the theme should be 'families are forever.' The way I look at it, forever families are a lot like making raspberry jam!" ●

*Brad Wilcox is a member of the Grandview Ninth Ward, Provo Utah Grandview Stake, and is currently serving as president of the Chile Santiago East Mission.*



"With the Lord, families are essential. . . . He provides temples so that families can be together forever."

**Elder Russell M. Nelson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "Set in Order Thy House," *Ensign*, Nov. 2001, 69.**



A painting of a family in white robes standing in front of a temple with spires under a cloudy sky. The family consists of a man, a woman, a baby, and a young girl. The temple has multiple spires, with the tallest one on the left topped with a golden statue. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds.

# Eternal Families

BY ELIZABETH GILES

Forever and ever  
our family can be.  
We're sealed in God's temple  
for eternity.

Sealed in the temple,  
my family is mine.  
We can be together,  
a blessing divine.

# Follow Your



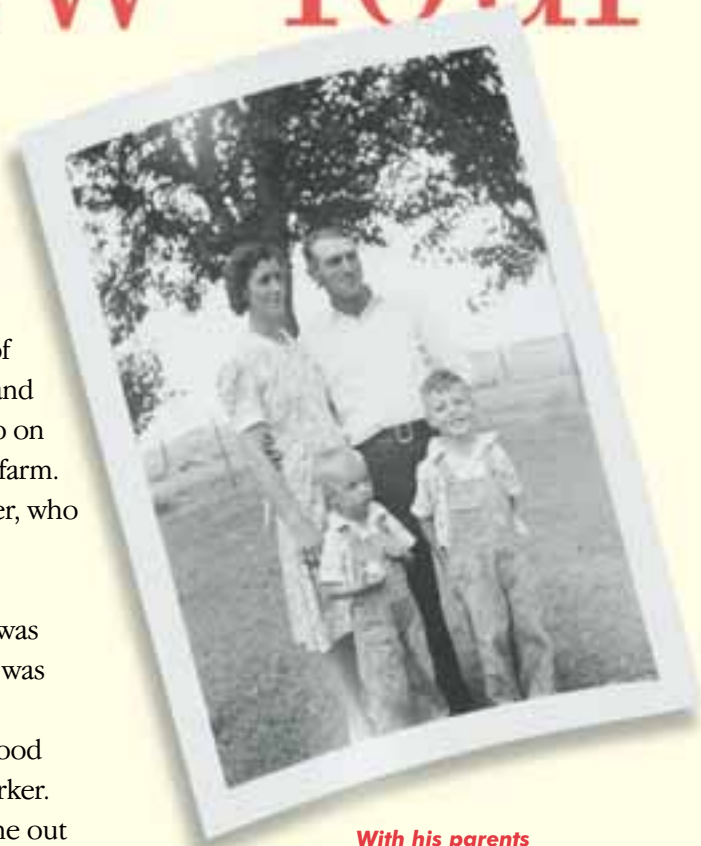
From an interview  
with Elder D. Rex  
Gerratt of the Seventy,  
currently serving in  
the Philippines Area  
Presidency; by  
Callie Buys

*Our leaders were mighty men in the faith of the Lord; and they taught the people the ways of the Lord (Jarom 1:7).*

When I was a little boy my father was not a member of the Church. He was born and raised in Iowa, then traveled to Idaho on a freight train to work on his uncle's farm. There he met and married my mother, who was a member of the Church.

Later, my father decided that the Church was good for our family. He was baptized the same day I was, when I was eight years old.

My father was a good man and a hard worker. He always took me out to work with him on our farm, but he never asked me to do anything that he didn't do right alongside me. My younger brother and I thinned and hoed beets and cut seed spuds (potatoes) in the summer. In



*With his parents  
and younger brother*

the fall, we picked spuds. When we were teenagers, we had a little herd of cows. That's where our dairy started. It was hard to leave our friends to go home and take care of those cows, but those chores taught us how to work.

My father loved the leaders of the Church and was very faithful in doing what anybody asked him to do, but he battled a problem with the Word of Wisdom

*At age 10*



# Leaders



*Riding his  
horse Tony*

throughout his life. As a young boy, my father's problem embarrassed me. Later I realized that if I could be as good a man as my father, then things would be all right. However, I knew that I couldn't have my father forever unless he could qualify for the ordinances of the temple.

My father didn't always attend Church meetings because of his Word of Wisdom problem. It was hard for Mother to take my brother and me to church alone, but she was always faithful and she always held callings in the Church. She was a wonderful example. We were taught well in our home.

Many other leaders helped me throughout my life. One of my Primary teachers gave me extra help to finish my requirements to graduate from Primary. She also taught my class the Articles of Faith, and she taught us about the lives of the members of the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. Little did my teacher know that one day she would be my mother-in-law—I married her youngest daughter!

I grew up with a wonderful group of friends. No matter where we were, we had the support of our friends. I also had wonderful bishops. I remember one bishop who decided that we should go to general conference, so he invited my father, my brother, and me to go to the general priesthood meeting. After the conference the bishop positioned us where we could shake hands

with most of the General Authorities. I have always remembered that experience. I have also always remembered the warm love of that bishop. He was a great friend to me, my brother, and my father for the rest of his life.

About 10 years before my father passed away, he overcame his challenge with the Word of Wisdom. How happy I was when my father became worthy to go to the temple! He went to the temple regularly before he died. When he went to the temple, I realized that if I lived right, I could be with my father and mother in the life hereafter.

Children, learn to love and be obedient to your parents. Also learn to respect authority in the Church and to respect your leaders. When we follow our leaders, we're not going to go wrong. ●



*Elder Gerratt with his wife and family*







# COURAGE

## and a Kind Word

BY PATRICIA REECE ROPER

(A story from the life of Evan Stephens)

*For my soul delighteth in the song of the heart; yea, the song of the righteous is a prayer unto me, and it shall be answered with a blessing upon their heads* (D&C 25:12).

**E**van looked down at the dusty road and dragged his feet as he walked home from choir practice. Everyone else in the Willard town choir had cheered at the invitation to sing for President Brigham Young. The men clapped each other on the back, while the women whispered excitedly from behind their books and fans. No one noticed the glum look on 12-year-old Evan's face as he slumped down in his chair. The "Boy Alto," as he was known, quietly slipped through the church doors and left practice by himself.

The problem wasn't that Evan didn't want to sing. He loved music. When his family settled in Willard, a town about 50 miles (80 km) north of Salt Lake City, he had been delighted to learn about the unusually good town choir. As the 10th child in the Stephens family, Evan had found little time between farm chores to learn much about music. In the Willard choir, he could finally learn more about it. He found himself moving in rhythm as he worked and dancing as he herded the cows. He felt music everywhere now.

No, the idea of singing for the prophet didn't upset Evan. But choir members would need to dress in their best Sunday clothes for the performance, and he did not have any good clothes. His family didn't have much money. He had never owned a

**Evan Stephens was born in Wales in 1854. By the time he was 12 years old, his family had moved to Willard, Utah, where he sang in the town choir. But when Evan learned that President Brigham Young was coming to hear the choir, he had a problem.**



***Evan Stephens later wrote a hymn about courage, including the words, "Courage, for the Lord is on our side" ("Let Us All Press On," Hymns, no. 243).***

nice coat or a pair of black Sunday shoes. He was ashamed to sing in front of the prophet while looking so shabby.

Evan looked down at his dusty feet. They were covered with dirt from the trail. He would have to scrub them hard before going to church Sunday morning. Otherwise, his feet would look black. Evan's heart jumped at this thought. He could get black feet—really black feet—by using polish. Everyone would be looking at

the faces of the singers, so no one would notice that Evan had black feet instead of black shoes.

On the day the choir was to sing to the prophet, Evan felt sweat on his forehead and the palms of his hands as he looked down at his black feet. He knew he must go—the choir needed him—but he wanted to hide so the prophet would not see him. With tears racing down his cheeks, he ran toward the bowery where the choir was going to sing.

At the bowery, Evan stopped. What if the prophet *did* see him? What would he think





of a poor farm boy with painted black feet and no coat? Evan couldn't let the prophet see him. Turning around, he bolted like a frightened colt. He ran right into the very man he had hoped not to see.

President Brigham Young grabbed the frightened boy by the shoulders. "Now, now, what's this?" he asked. "What's the matter? Why are you running away?"

Tears filled Evan's eyes as he bowed his head and whispered, "I have no coat for the program and no shoes." Swallowing the lump in his throat, he continued, "I painted my feet black with polish."

The grip on Evan's shoulders relaxed, and he felt the prophet pat him on the head. Looking up, he was surprised to see a kind look on President Young's face and tears in his eyes, too. "Never mind that," he told Evan. "Don't you hesitate a moment. Go right on in."

Relief wrapped around Evan like a soft, warm blanket. He blinked away the tears and returned the prophet's smile with one of his own. He hurried to take his place with the choir. Happy to be accepted by the prophet, Evan sang his part perfectly.

President Young gave Evan an encouraging word and courage to do his part. This kindness influenced Evan long after the choir performance. He continued to study music and taught himself new skills.

When Evan grew up, he became director of the Tabernacle Choir. He served in that position from 1889 to 1916. Evan also wrote many sacred hymns and patriotic songs. He remained humble and always remembered the lesson he had learned from the prophet. Evan treated people like he did his music—with love. And like President Young, he listened with his heart. ●

*Patricia Reece Roper is a member of the Leamington Ward, Delta Utah Stake.*



## SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF *MUSIC AND THE SPOKEN WORD*

BY CALLIE BUYS

This month the Tabernacle Choir will finish a special yearlong celebration of its famous program *Music and the Spoken Word*. This program has been broadcast on the radio every week for 75 years—longer than any other network program in the world. Your grandparents and great-grandparents could have listened to it when they were your age!

On 15 July 1929 a radio station in Salt Lake City placed a microphone on a stand atop the pulpit of the Tabernacle on Temple Square to broadcast the first *Music and the Spoken Word*. A young man stood on a tall ladder near the microphone throughout the program so he could announce each song the choir sang. He couldn't climb down between the songs because he would make too much noise!

Every week since then, first on Tuesday and now on Sunday morning, people around the world have listened to the beautiful music and peaceful words of the 30-minute program. While the choir usually performs and records *Music and the Spoken Word* at the Salt Lake Tabernacle, it has also recorded the program in Asia, Australia, Europe, and South America.

Today millions of people in 19 countries hear or see *Music and the Spoken Word* on radio, network television, cable, or satellite. Have you ever watched or listened to this record-setting program?

*To learn other interesting facts about the Tabernacle Choir, go to [www.tabernaclechoir.org](http://www.tabernaclechoir.org).*

# ACTING LIKE PIONEERS

BY SHANNA BUTLER  
Church Magazines

**Y**ou already know that pioneer children walked and walked and walked. But did you know that they also sang and danced and planted crops? Some of them even saved lives.

The Primary children in the Willow Creek First Ward, Sandy Utah Willow Creek Stake, learned about the pioneers when they performed in a play for their ward. They acted out scenes from the building of the Kirtland,

Nauvoo, and Salt Lake Temples, and some things that happened in between. It took them all summer to plan and to learn their parts, but on the night of the big pageant, they were ready.

## **Sacrificing for Kirtland**

Before the curtain opened, two children dressed as Joseph Smith and Brigham Young stood onstage and talked about building the Kirtland Temple. “The Lord has made it perfectly clear,” Joseph said to the audience. “He







has commanded us to build a temple here in Kirtland.”

These early Church members donated their time, talents, and money to follow the Lord’s commandments. “I think they had to sacrifice a lot to build the temple,” says Kyle Esplin, 9, one of the narrators. “I’m paying my tithing now to help build up the Church.” When Kyle pays his tithing, he tries to remember the sacrifices the pioneers made.

#### Nauvoo Pennies

The Latter-day Saints lived in Kirtland, Ohio, for

eight years before they were forced to leave. They moved soon after they completed and dedicated the Kirtland Temple. When they arrived in Nauvoo, Illinois, they started to build another house of the Lord. Nauvoo became a large, prosperous city, and the people were happy there for some time. But soon they began to be persecuted, so the Nauvoo leaders formed a band of young men called the “whistling and whittling brigade.” The young men in the brigade looked for any suspicious-looking strangers and followed them, whittling sticks and whistling.

Jesse Fackrell, 10, one of the narrators, enjoyed watching the brigade on stage. “I thought it was neat that the boys went around and watched for troublemakers and protected the people,” he says.

Another sacrifice the early Church members in Nauvoo made was donating pennies to the temple fund. “I think they really felt good about giving something up for something else really important. It might have only been a little, but they felt thankful to

be able to give their money,” says Mary





Garbett, 10. One of Mary's parts was being a harvester in the fields. In her role, she sold the vegetables she gathered so she could have money to donate to the temple.

Mary and other children in the ward also went to their stake center for the dedication of the new Nauvoo Temple in June 2002. Seeing the dedication helped the children better understand the sacrifices made by the pioneers for the original Nauvoo Temple.



### Dancing Westward

After working hard to build the Nauvoo Temple, the people had to leave it behind after the Prophet Joseph was killed. Mobs forced many of them out of Nauvoo in the dead of winter. Brigham Young led them to a new home in the West.

Though life was very hard for the pioneers, and they really did walk and walk, they also managed to dance and sing during their trek west. The children in the play performed a quilt dance and had a hoe-down with real fiddlers to show the audience that the journey was joyful at times. Many of the pioneer children had great adventures on their way to the Salt



Lake Valley. They saw buffalo and mountains, and they preferred to walk a lot of the time because riding in the wagon was so bumpy.

Jeffrey Yee, 11, and his younger brother Ryan, 6, performed the parts of James and Joseph Kirkwood. James was one of the young heroes of the pioneer trek. He, his mother, and his three brothers had come







from Scotland, and they set out together to cross the plains with their handcart. James took care of his four-year-old brother, Joseph. When Joseph was too tired to walk any farther on Rocky Ridge, James carried him. When they finally got to the camp, James set his little brother down safely by the campfire. James died beside the fire from the cold and exhaustion.

"I think that he was very responsible and brave. His little brother must have been grateful for a brother to look up to," Jeff says about his character. "Because he was kind to his little brother, he helps me know it's not nice to make fun of my little brother. He usually needs help because he is so young, so I try to help him."

### Finally, the Salt Lake Temple!

Though getting there was difficult, the Saints finally made it to the Salt Lake Valley, where Brigham Young dug his cane into the soil and said, "Here we will build the temple of our God."

Davis Esplin, 11, learned a lot from performing the part of Brother Brigham. "I have a new respect for Brigham Young because I didn't know how hard it was to build the temple."

After dedicating the cornerstone, it took 40 years to complete the Salt Lake Temple. By that time, Wilford Woodruff had become President of the Church. He

dedicated the temple on 6 April 1893. There was even a special dedication session for children under eight so that more Primary children could attend.

### Touching the Temple

The Saints spent years building each of the three temples, suffering setbacks along the way. But they never gave up. Why did they do it? Zach Fackrell, 12, says it was because "they had faith and they knew it was important to get it done so they could do what the Lord wanted them to do." Zach's brother Jed, 10, says the temple is really important to him because "that's where you can do baptisms for the dead, and that's where you can get married so you can live with Heavenly Father again."

Some children long ago had the right idea. After the Salt Lake Temple was completed, two boys brought their younger brothers to the temple so they could touch the walls. "We want them to know how great the temple is," one of the older brothers says in the play.

"Yes," the other boy says, "so they'll want to go inside when they get big!"

Those children knew the importance of building temples, even though it required so much. They knew that just as they could touch the temple, the Spirit inside the temple could touch them, too. That was why they walked, and walked, and walked. . . . ●



# Temples Bless Families

*Let this house be built unto my name, that I may reveal mine ordinances therein unto my people* (D&C 124:40).

**A**t baptism, we make covenants with Heavenly Father to obey His commandments. If we keep these covenants, someday we can go to the temple to make more covenants, participate in sacred ordinances (special ceremonies with spiritual meaning), and receive blessings.

Temple ordinances create eternal families. Through temple sealings, entire families—brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers, grandparents, great-grandparents, and other ancestors—can be together forever.

You can prepare now by living righteously and learning about family history. At age 12 you can go to the temple and be baptized for your ancestors, helping to connect them to your eternal family.

You can also prepare to be an eternal family by treating one another with love and kindness. Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles explained, “To receive the blessings of the sealing that our Heavenly Father has given to us, we have to keep the commandments and conduct ourselves in such a way that our families will want to live with us in the eternities” (*Ensign*, Nov. 1996, 65).

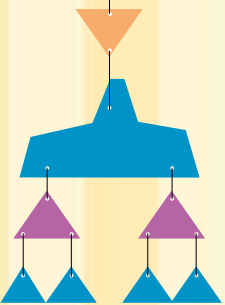


## Activities and Ideas

1. Remove page 19 and glue it to heavy paper. Cut out the picture of the temple and the seven triangle frames. Punch a hole at each circle. In each frame, glue or draw a picture of the person listed. Then write his or her full name on the line. Use string to tie the top hole on the temple picture to the bottom hole on your picture (leave a short piece of string between the temple and frame; see illustration). Then tie your parents' pictures to the holes at the bottom of the temple picture. Tie the pictures of your grandparents to the bottom of your parents' pictures. (Remember to tie your mother's parents to her picture and your father's parents to his picture.) On the back of the temple picture, write a goal that will help you stay worthy to enter the temple someday. Tie a string to the top of the mobile, and hang it where you can see it often.

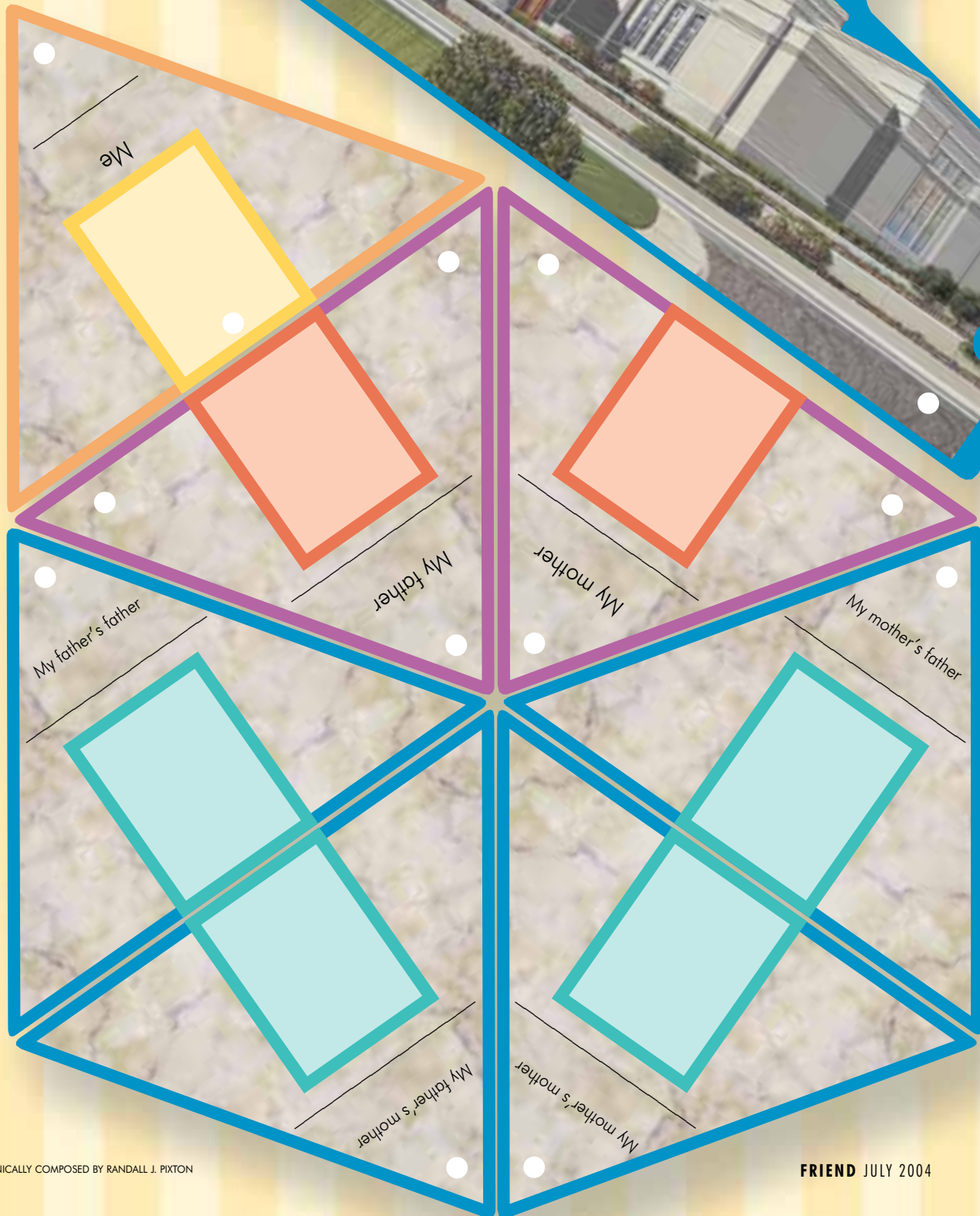
2. For a family home evening lesson or Primary talk, discuss the statement by Elder Robert D. Hales. Display your mobile, and explain that the strings represent sealing powers. What would happen to your mobile if you cut the string between the temple and your picture? Cutting the string—or making wrong decisions—separates you from the blessings of the temple and your eternal family. ●





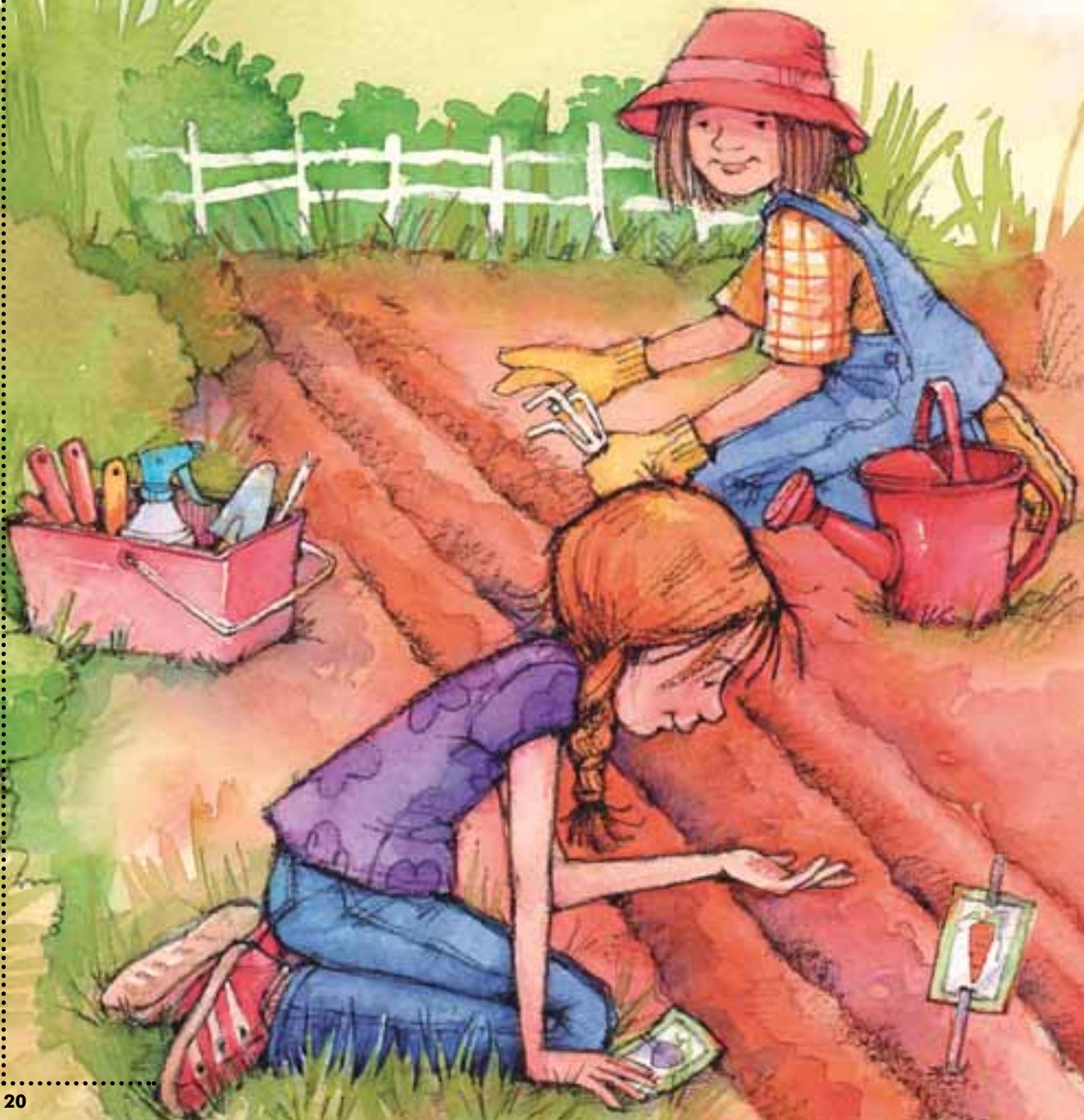
Illustration

Note: If you do not wish to remove pages from the magazine, this activity may be copied, traced, or printed out from the Internet at [www.lds.org](http://www.lds.org). Click on Gospel Library.





# The **BAPTISM** Difference





BY JANE McBRIDE CHOATE

(Based on a true story)

*He changed their hearts* (Alma 5:7).

Time to get up, Kristina,” Mother called. Kristina rubbed her eyes and started to grumble about the early hour until she remembered. Today was Sunday.

Ever since they were baptized and confirmed members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, things had been different in her family. Kristina liked the difference.

Mother’s face had a new softness to it, as though happiness came from inside and she couldn’t keep it to herself. She had started humming around the house. Kristina found herself humming, too. Father spent more time at home, and sometimes he took long walks with Kristina and her mother. Often they sat on the front porch and talked. Kristina liked those times best.

Now her parents paid tithing and encouraged Kristina to pay it, too. She enjoyed slipping the tithing from her allowance into an envelope and handing it to one of the members of the bishopric. It was one way to show Heavenly Father and Jesus how much she loved Them.

But the biggest difference Kristina noticed was inside herself. Knowing that Heavenly Father and Jesus loved her filled her with such happiness that she sometimes felt as if she would burst.

Kristina still remembered the look on her father’s face when he answered the door three months ago and found two missionaries on the porch. He had invited the young men inside. After introducing themselves, the elders had talked about families. “Would you like to know how your family can be

together forever?” Elder Stark asked.

Kristina’s parents exchanged glances, their eyes filled with longing.

“More than anything,” Kristina’s mother said.

Father had asked the missionaries to come back. On each visit, they presented a lesson. When they challenged the family to be baptized, Kristina’s parents immediately said yes.

“You’re nine years old, Kristina,” Elder Sanderson said. “You’re old enough to be baptized, too.”

The day of her family’s baptisms was the most





important day of her life. Kristina remembered every detail, especially the clean, warm feeling she had after the baptism.

Since that day, Kristina and her parents hadn't missed a single church meeting.

Glancing at the clock, Kristina hurried to get dressed. She didn't want to be late. She liked everything about church, especially her Primary class.

Kristina's family arrived a few minutes early. They listened to the soft organ music. Today was fast and testimony meeting. Kristina liked listening to the testimonies. Someday, she promised herself, she would share her testimony.

At family home evening the following night, Kristina's family took turns reading from the Book of Mormon. Kristina stumbled over some of the words, but she enjoyed reading about Nephi and his family building a boat to take them across the ocean.

When Kristina came home after school on Tuesday, she found her mother in the backyard digging neat rows of shallow ditches. "What are you doing, Mom?"

Mother looked up and smiled. "Getting ready to plant a garden."

"A garden?" Kristina echoed. "We've never had a garden."

Mother put down the spade and wiped her forehead. "We want to become as self-sufficient as we can, like the prophet told us to."

Kristina understood now. It was part of the *difference*. She smiled as a warm feeling grew inside her.

Kristina's mother handed her a packet of seeds. "You can drop these in, and I'll cover them with dirt."

An hour later, Kristina rocked back on her heels. Corn, beans, peas, radishes, onions—they'd planted them all. Her arms and back hurt, but it was a good kind of ache, the kind that comes from working hard to accomplish a goal.

That evening during dinner, she watched her parents smile at each other. They smiled a lot lately, another difference. It made Kristina smile, too.

"How long will we have to wait before we can go to the temple?" she asked her father later as they sat on the porch. Her last Primary lesson had been about temples.

"We have to wait a year after our baptism," he said. "Then we can be sealed together as a family for time and all eternity."

Tears pricked Kristina's eyes that night as she said her prayers. A peaceful feeling settled over her like a warm blanket. The baptism difference was the best thing that had ever happened to her family. ●

*Jane McBride Choate is a member of the Big Thompson Ward, Loveland Colorado Stake.*



"When we have undergone this mighty change, which is brought about only through faith in Jesus Christ and through the operation of the Spirit upon us, it is as though we have become a new person."

**President Ezra Taft Benson (1899–1994), 13th President of the Church, "A Mighty Change of Heart," *Ensign*, Oct. 1989, 4.**



# Book of Mormon Scripture Pictures

BY CYNTHIA RAKES BOWDEN



Look up the scriptures below to find the missing word and write it in the blank. Then find and circle the picture of the missing word.

1. "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the \_\_\_\_\_ shall lie down with the kid, and the calf and the young lion and fatling together; and a little child shall lead them" (2 Nephi 21:6).

2. "O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments—then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the \_\_\_\_\_ of the sea" (1 Nephi 20:18).

3. "And it came to pass that he rent his \_\_\_\_\_; and he took a piece thereof, and wrote upon it—In memory of our God, our religion, and freedom, and our peace,

our wives, and our children—and he fastened it upon the end of a pole" (Alma 46:12).

4. "Awake, my sons; put on the \_\_\_\_\_ of righteousness. Shake off the chains with which ye are bound" (2 Nephi 1:23).

5. "Behold, the way for man is narrow, but it lieth in a straight course before him, and the keeper of the \_\_\_\_\_ is the Holy One of Israel" (2 Nephi 9:41).

6. "Come unto me all ye ends of the earth, buy \_\_\_\_\_ and honey, without money and without price" (2 Nephi 26:25).

7. "And they did also carry with them deseret, which, by interpretation, is a honey \_\_\_\_\_" (Ether 2:3).

# Pioneer Puzzle Game

To play the game, you will need: a die and a game piece such as a bean or a button for each player.

**Instructions:** Remove pages 24–25 from the magazine. Cut out the puzzle pieces in the center of the game board, glue them to heavy paper, trim, and set them aside. Then mount the game board on heavy paper. Take turns rolling the die to move forward from the square marked “start.” When you land on a square with words, follow the instructions or answer the question written on the square. If you can follow the instructions or answer the question, put a puzzle piece in place. If not, it’s the next player’s turn. If a player lands on the same square more than once, he or she can choose another player to follow the instructions on the square. Continue moving around the circle until the puzzle is completed.

ILLUSTRATED BY BRAD TEARE



Some pioneers traveled by handcart. If you traveled that way, what are three important things you would take with you?

Pioneers loved their families. Tell what you love about each of your family members.

Pioneers were brave. Tell about a time when you had to be brave.

Pioneers were grateful. Name three things you're grateful for.

Pioneers worked hard. Name two ways you can work hard and fulfill your responsibilities.

Pioneers were cheerful despite their challenges. How can you show a cheerful attitude?

Pioneers followed the prophet. Name our current prophet. How can you follow him?

Some pioneers were born in other countries. Name where you were born and the places you have lived.

When pioneers reached the Salt Lake Valley, they started to build a temple. Name the temple closest to your home.

Where are you at home?





Pioneers' testimonies helped them sacrifice for the gospel. Name one thing you can do to strengthen your testimony.

We know about the pioneers because many kept journals. Name something you'd like to remember to write about in your journal.

Pioneers were strong. What can you do to keep your body strong and healthy?

Before crossing the plains, pioneers accepted the gospel. What is one way you can prepare for baptism or keep your baptismal covenants?

Pioneers rested and worshipped on the Sabbath. Name one thing you can do to keep the Sabbath day holy.

**Start**

Pioneers enjoyed singing. Sing or recite the words to one verse of your favorite hymn or primary song.

Pioneers sometimes left their families for a time to serve missions. How can you prepare to be a missionary?

Pioneers helped each other. What is one thing you can do to be helpful?





# Medgine Atus of Miramar, Florida

BY TIFFANY E. LEWIS

**M**edgine Atus doesn't remember the first time she was "baptized," but her family does. When Medgine was three years old, a friend of the Atus family was getting ready to enter the font for his baptism. Medgine followed him and fell right into the water!

"I had to jump in with all my clothes on and rescue her!" says her father. She wasn't hurt, and now the family jokes that Medgine was so active in the gospel that she was "baptized" twice—once when she was three and once when she was eight. Medgine, now 11, is a member of the Haitian-speaking Morningside



Branch, Hialeah Gardens Florida Stake.

The gospel is important to the Atus family and to Medgine. She says it has helped her become more obedient and has taught her the importance of praying often for help.

Her favorite Book of Mormon story is about Nephi going to get the brass plates from Laban. Even though his brothers were scared and didn't want to go, Nephi was brave and obeyed Heavenly Father. "It's important to be obedient to Heavenly Father," Medgine says.

Medgine takes obedience seriously. Brother Atus says Medgine likes to laugh, but she can also be very strict, especially when she sets up "school" for her younger sisters, Christie, 6, and Ann, 5. Medgine likes order. And it has paid off! She has taught both her sisters to read and write. She has also taught singing and dancing classes.

Medgine is close to her father, Oriol; her mother, Mireille; and her four siblings. Her younger sister Christie likes to read. She speaks French and Haitian and is learning English quickly. Her family says she always asks questions. When her youngest sister, Ann, makes a decision, it's final! She won't change her mind. Ann is also creative and likes to pretend to be an actress. Her father says she makes regular tasks seem fun. Both Christie and Ann like to draw pictures for their father.

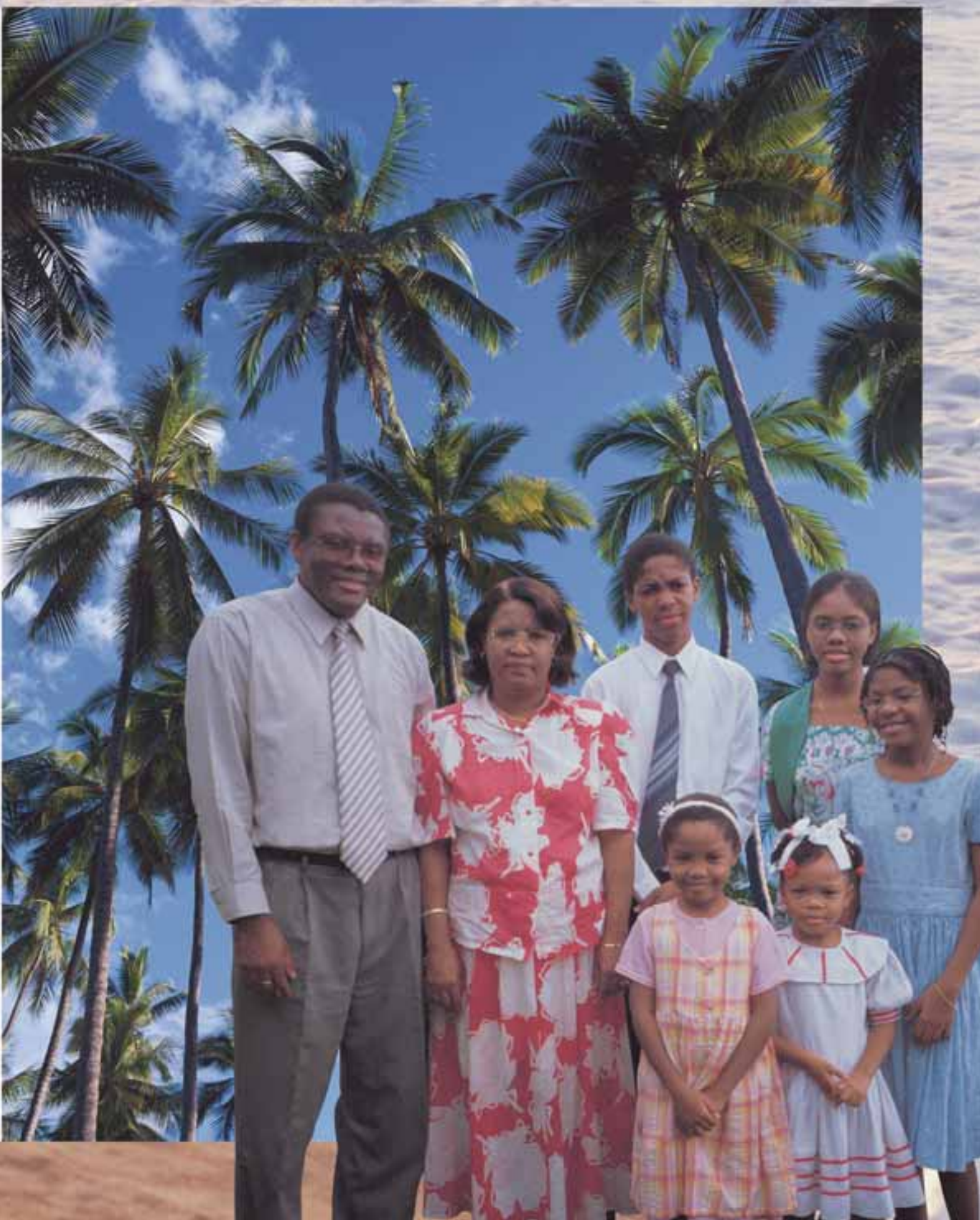
Medgine's older brother, Joseph, 17, likes to play basketball. Her sister Christelle, 15, has a beautiful

**Below: Medgine (right) with her sisters Ann and Christie.**

**Right: The Atus family—Oriol, Mireille, Joseph, Christie, Ann, Christelle, and Medgine.**











**Above: The Church meetinghouse Medgine and her family attend. Right: Medgine, Christie, and Christelle dance gracefully in unison.**

singing voice and won first place in a singing competition.

The family enjoys playing sports at a park near their home. They also hold regular family councils to talk about the importance of following the Lord, serving a mission, and getting an education. One of their favorite family games is called “cric-crac.” They sit in a circle and quiz each other about dates, names, and events from Church history and the scriptures.

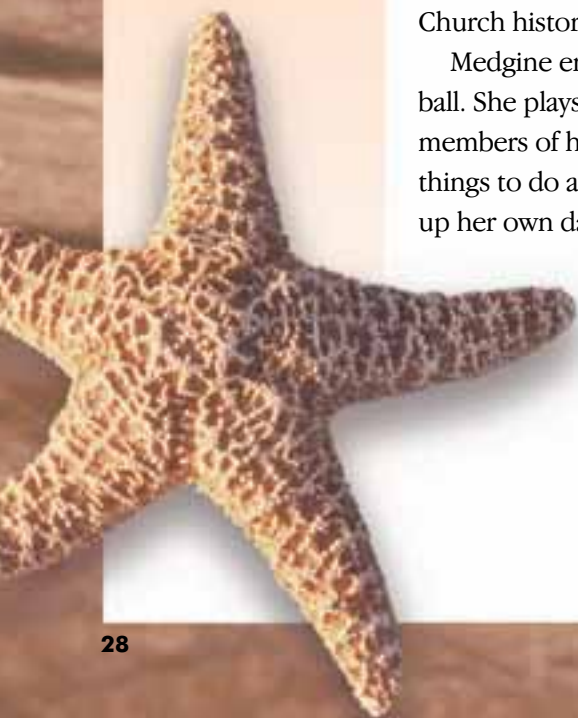
Medgine enjoys sports, especially basketball. She plays basketball every Friday with members of her branch. But her favorite things to do are sing and dance. She makes up her own dances, and she also taught

herself to play the piano. She even wrote her own song, “God of Love,” in French. Singing is something the



whole Atus family likes to do. When someone turns on the stereo and music begins to float through the room, their toes begin to tap. Soon they’re up and dancing, moving their arms gracefully in unison. Medgine smiles, and her eyes light up. When she begins to sing, she bears her testimony through song. ●

*Tiffany E. Lewis is a member of the Miami Shores Ward, Hialeah Gardens Florida Stake.*







## Family History ABCs



BY HILARY HENDRICKS

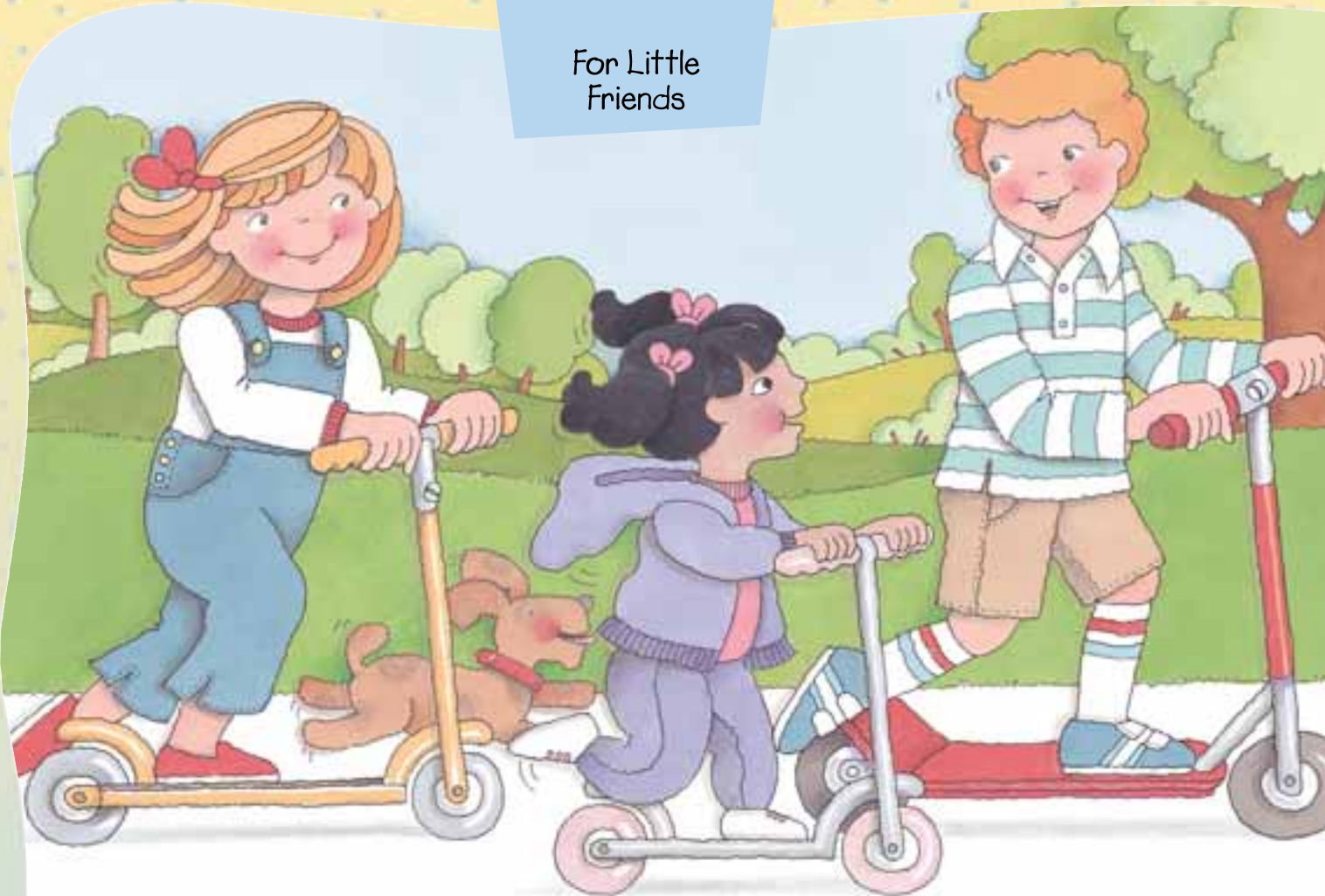
Using the clues, fill in the blanks with words about family history—one word for each letter of the alphabet. (See answers below.)

- A \_\_\_\_\_ are people in your family who lived before you.
- B The first ordinance of the gospel, performed for dead or for living people, is \_\_\_\_\_.
- C If your family belongs to the Church, either you or some of your ancestors must have been \_\_\_\_\_.
- D Temple work for someone who didn't know the gospel can be done as soon as a year after his or her \_\_\_\_\_.
- E Because no one can be baptized in the spirit world, we do temple work on \_\_\_\_\_ for those who have passed away.
- F All of the people who are related to you are in your \_\_\_\_\_.
- G The parents of your parents are your \_\_\_\_\_.
- H When we do family history, our \_\_\_\_\_ turn to our ancestors, and we remember them gratefully.
- I People who leave their home to live in a different country, as some of your ancestors probably did, are \_\_\_\_\_.
- J By writing about your life in a \_\_\_\_\_, you leave a valuable record.
- K Another name for your family and relatives is \_\_\_\_\_.
- L When you learn about your ancestors, you feel more \_\_\_\_\_ for them.
- M A longer name for mom is \_\_\_\_\_.
- N The Church has computer programs to help you find the \_\_\_\_\_ of your ancestors.
- O One of the best reasons for doing family history work is to help people who have died receive \_\_\_\_\_ in the temple.
- P \_\_\_\_\_ are color or black-and-white treasures kept by many families.
- Q Some families have old \_\_\_\_\_ made by people long ago to keep warm.
- R You are doing family history when you save \_\_\_\_\_ from your own life, such as certificates and letters you receive.
- S The temple \_\_\_\_\_ ordinance allows families who keep the commandments to be together forever.
- T The \_\_\_\_\_ is a sacred building where ordinances for ancestors are performed.
- U People who do temple work help to \_\_\_\_\_ families together forever.
- V The records you keep of your life will be very \_\_\_\_\_ someday.
- W Clothing worn in the temple is \_\_\_\_\_ in color.
- eX Members feel \_\_\_\_\_ when they find out more about their ancestors.
- Y To submit the name of an ancestor to the temple, you need to know the \_\_\_\_\_ of that person's birth, marriage, or death.
- Z Many members have ancestors who left their homes and traveled far to build \_\_\_\_\_. Instead of moving from their homelands, Latter-day Saints today build the Church wherever they are.

## Funstuff Answers

*Book of Mormon Scripture Pictures:* (1) leopard, (2) waves, (3) coat, (4) armor, (5) gate, (6) milk, (7) bee.  
*Pioneer Children Sang as They Walked:* (1) a, (2) f, (3) d, (4) b, (5) e, (6) c, (7) h, (8) g.  
*Family History ABCs:* (A) ancestors, (B) baptism, (C) converts, (D) death, (E) earth, (F) family, (G) grandparents, (H) hearts, (I) immigrants, (J) journal, (K) kin, (L) love, (M) mother, (N) names, (O) ordinances, (P) photographs, (Q) quilts, (R) records, (S) sealing, (T) temple, (U) unite, (V) valuable, (W) white, (eX) excited, (Y) year, (Z) Zion.

For Little  
Friends



# My Sister Speaks Russian

BY JANICE PORTER HAYES

(Based on a true story)

**M**y sister speaks Russian. Since she came to live with us, I have learned the Russian words for ice cream (*morozhennoye*), cat (*koshka*), and thank you (*spasibo*).

My sister's name is Sophie, and she is four years old. When she lived in Kazakhstan, her name was Nasipzhan. Mama and Papa changed her name after we adopted her and she came to America to live with us.

Sophie doesn't look like me or my brother. We have red hair, freckles, and a gap between our front teeth. Papa says we look like peaches with nutmeg and cream.

Sophie has black hair, no freckles, olive-colored skin, and eyes shaped like almonds. Papa says Sophie looks like a porcelain doll. When she smiles, there's a dimple in her cheek.

We look different, but Sophie is still our sister. We play soccer together. We ride scooters together. We eat popcorn and drink chocolate milk together. We even wear chocolate milk mustaches together.

My brother and I want Sophie to be part of our forever family. So do Mama and Papa. Soon we will go to the temple. We will wear white and meet together in a beautiful room. We will become a forever family.

Until then, Sophie will come to my soccer games. We will go on long walks. We will eat popcorn and chase the cats and make lots of chocolate milk mustaches together.

And I will tell Sophie how much I *lubit* her. Because *lubit* is the Russian word for love. ●

*Janice Porter Hayes is a member of the Highland 16th Ward, Highland Utah West Stake.*



# See the Covered Wagon

BY BARBARA WREN TUTTLE



See the covered wagon  
(Point to eye.)



With its big white top.  
(Hold hands over head,  
forming an arch.)



See the oxen pulling it—  
(Use pointing fingers to show  
horns on head.)



Clop, clop, clop.  
(Slap thighs three times with  
alternate hands.)



See the wagon wheels  
(Hold hands over head,  
forming a circle.)



As they roll, roll, roll.  
(Roll hands in a  
circular motion.)



Sometimes they go fast  
(Roll hands faster.)



And sometimes they go slow.  
(Roll hands slower.)



See the father walking,  
(Walk in place, swinging arms.)



So big, strong, and tall.  
(Stand tall.)



See the mother walking,  
(Walk in place.)



In her arms a baby small.  
(Keep walking and  
pretend to hold a baby.)



Pioneers who crossed the plains  
(Hold hand above eyes and  
look out.)



So many years ago,  
(Walk in place.)



Walked beside their wagons  
(Hold hands over head,  
forming an arch.)

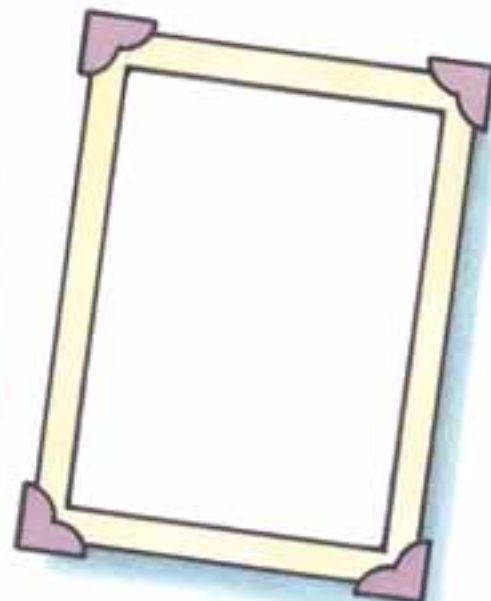
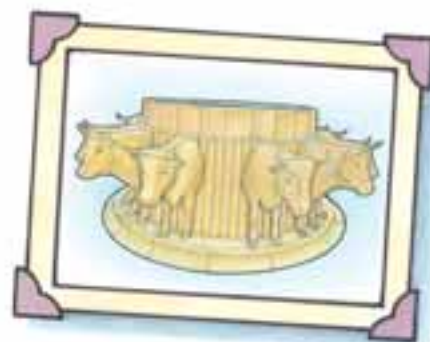
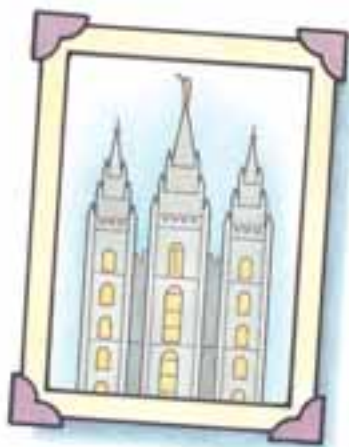


Sometimes fast, and  
sometimes slow.  
(Roll hands fast, then slow.)

# Temple Blessings Make Us Happy

BY JULIE WARDELL

Heavenly Father has commanded us to build temples for Him. In the holy temple we can hear His word and receive important blessings. Look at each picture below and tell what temple blessing is shown and how it can make you happy. Then in the blank space draw a picture of the temple nearest to your home and tell how it has blessed you and your family.







# Frozen Fun Suns

BY RONDA GIBB HINRICHSSEN

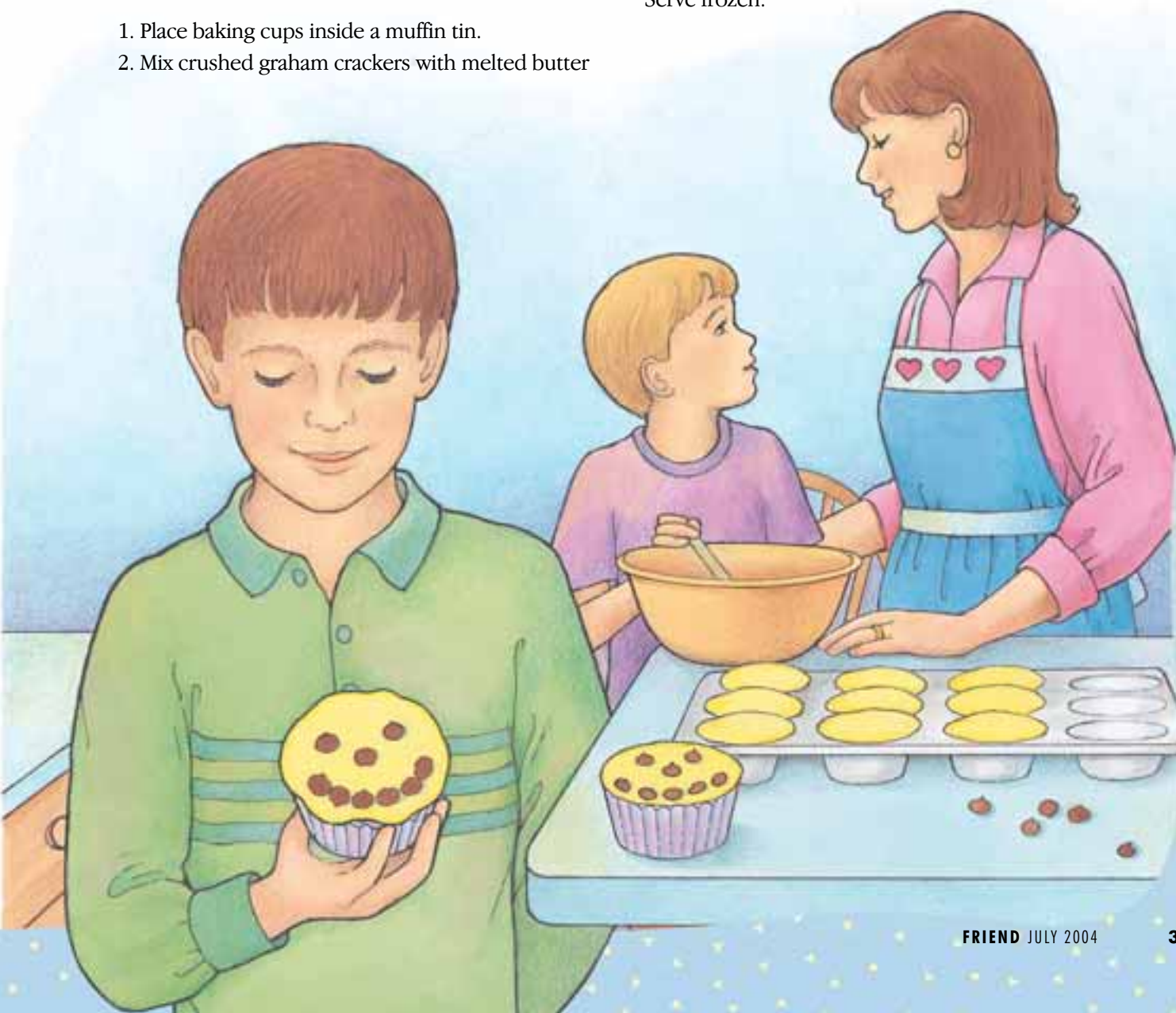
- 12 paper baking cups
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup crushed graham crackers
- 3 tablespoons butter or margarine, melted
- 1 package (8 ounces/227 g) cream cheese, softened
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup commercial sour cream
- 1 package (3 ounces/85 g) lemon gelatin
- 2 tablespoons hot water
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup chocolate chips

1. Place baking cups inside a muffin tin.
2. Mix crushed graham crackers with melted butter



or margarine. Drop approximately one tablespoon of crumb mixture into each baking cup and press it firmly against the bottom to form a crust.

3. In a bowl, combine cream cheese, sour cream, gelatin, and water; mix well.
4. Spoon one heaping spoonful of cream cheese mixture onto each crust and spread evenly.
5. Form smiley faces with chocolate chips on top of each "sun."
6. Freeze suns until firm (approximately one hour). Serve frozen.



## Our Creative Friends

### Space Is Fun!

Space is fun!  
 If you don't have a trampoline,  
 Go to the moon.  
 Without gravity, you'll jump really high.  
 If you want to scream and yell,  
 Go to Mercury.  
 Even if you are near people, they will not hear it.  
 If you want to make a sand castle,  
 Go to Venus.  
 It's like a desert.  
 If you want to make slushies or a snowman,  
 Go to Mars.  
 It has ice at its poles.  
 If you want to spin round and round,  
 Go to Jupiter.  
 It spins a lot.  
 If you want to bake cookies,  
 Go to Saturn.  
 It is as hot as an oven.  
 If you want to get a big, bumpy rock,  
 Go to Uranus and dig a big, big hole.

If you want to fly a kite or run around  
 really fast,  
 Go to Neptune.  
 It has a strong wind.  
 If you want to ice skate with penguins,  
 Go to Pluto.  
 It's as cold as an ice cube!  
 But if you want to breathe or run,  
 Live on Earth.  
 On Earth you have fun!

**Spencer Franco, age 7**  
*Clarksville, Maryland*

### A Special Day

Sunday is a special day.  
 I love it more than I can say.  
 Reading our scriptures and praying, too,  
 There is so much that you can do.  
 You can go to Primary, which is so much fun,  
 And learn about scriptures with everyone.  
 "CTR" means "choose the right."  
 And Jesus is our guiding light.  
 The Holy Ghost helps us every day,  
 And can help and teach us to choose the right way.  
 Sunday is the best day of the week,  
 For it is Heavenly Father's guidance we seek.

**Brianna Bracey, age 8**  
*Midlothian, Virginia*



**Patrick Adair, age 5**  
*Heber City, Utah*



**Jill Gossling, age 9**  
*Magnolia, Texas*



**Brendan Gilman, age 5**  
*Nyssa, Oregon*



**Christine Oswald, age 10**  
*Fullerton, California*



**Michelle Spears, age 9**  
*Fairfield, Iowa*



**Daniel Eadie, age 5**  
*Chapeau, Quebec, Canada*



**Ian Blake, age 10**  
*Falls Church, Virginia*



**Tatelyn Ferguson, age 5**  
*Gresbam, Wisconsin*



**Madeline Lounzdury, age 7**  
*Turner, Oregon*



**Taylor Bush, age 8**  
*Wheatland, Wyoming*



### Our Savior's Love

Christ is our Savior, yes, He is our Lord,  
And He will love us forever more.  
Even through poor choices, and all the words we  
say,  
He is our Redeemer, and loves us in every way.  
Every sin we make, we can be forgiven.  
Every step we take, our Savior's love is given.  
When we turn His way, He feels so happy and  
joyful.  
Now our love is given to Him, and our hearts  
become full.

**Tara Alami, age 11**  
**Lexington, Kentucky**

### My Baby Sister

I have a little baby sister.  
Her hair is very black.  
She looks so cute when I hold her.  
When I smile at her, she smiles back.

**Amanda Fisher, age 6**  
**Riverton, Utah**

### Grandparents' Love

Grandparents have lots of love,  
Equal to any turtledove.  
They love and help us every day;  
I hope they never go away.

**Jaren Eckman, age 10**  
**St. Anthony, Idaho**

### My Testimony of Jesus

Although I cannot see Him,  
I feel His Spirit near.  
He lets me know I'm safe from harm  
Because He loves me dear.

Although I cannot see Him—  
He is with me every day.  
I can feel the Spirit in my heart  
If only I'll obey.

Although I cannot see Him,  
I know that He is there.  
I read His words in scriptures,  
And talk to Him in prayer.

Although I cannot see Him,  
I know I feel His love,  
Like sunshine in the summer sky  
That's sent from Him above.

Although I cannot see Him,  
I'll live His gospel true.  
I'll love Him deep with all my heart.  
These are the things I'll do.

**Asbley Ruff, age 10**  
**Orem, Utah**



**Giovanni Brassanini, age 8**  
**Sicklerville, New Jersey**



**Elise Jubeck, age 6**  
**Navarre, Florida**



**Karissa Horning, age 7**  
**Charlotte, North Carolina**



**Brandi Searle, age 11**  
**Sbelley, Idaho**



**Truman Welling, age 6**  
**Mesa, Arizona**



**Philipa Hudson, age 7**  
**Fife, Scotland**



**Zachary Decker, age 7**  
**Pleasant Grove, Utah**



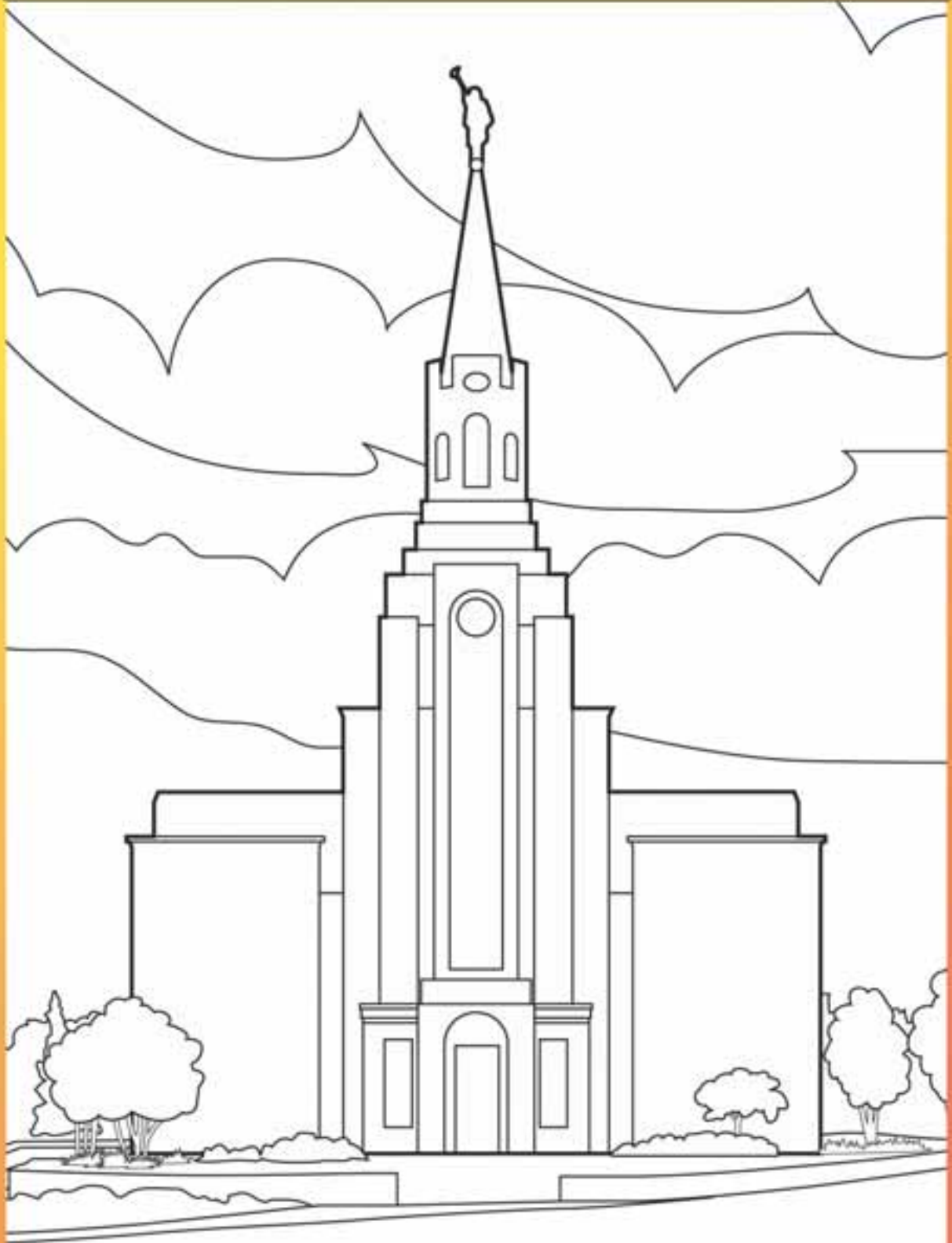
**Samantha Gordon, age 5**  
**Arvada, Colorado**



**Daniel K. Berry, age 7**  
**La Crosse, Wisconsin**



**Daniel Johnston, age 8**  
**Bentonville, Arkansas**



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_





# A Special DAY

BY SHEILA E. WILSON

*Let this house be built unto my name, that I may reveal mine ordinances therein unto my people (D&C 124:40).*



Have you ever been excited for a special day? Maybe it was your birthday or a vacation.

Seven-year-old Adair was excited for a special day. Her family set a date to go to the temple one year from the time of their baptism.

Adair's family held a special family home evening. Her dad and mom explained how important it was for everyone to prepare to go to the temple. They made a list of the things they could do: pray individually and as a family, read the scriptures, pay tithing, keep the commandments, and follow the prophet.

Adair's mother gave her a picture of the temple and wrote Adair's name and the date that her family would be going to the temple underneath. Every day Adair tried her best to prepare for when her family would be sealed in the temple. Adair felt good inside as

she realized that each day she prepared to receive the blessings of the temple was a special day. She felt a surge of excitement as the special day came. Being sealed as a family was a blessing Heavenly Father gave them that brought them closer to Him and to each other.

Families can be together forever through making and keeping temple covenants and ordinances. The prophets have encouraged each of us to prepare to go to the temple. You can prepare to go to the temple with your family. You can also prepare to go at age 12 to

do baptisms for the dead or to go when you are an adult—perhaps when you receive a mission call or before you are married.

Great blessings come from going to the temple. As you prepare now to receive the blessings of the temple, each day will be a special day! ●

## Temple Day Picture Reminder

To make a mosaic, remove page 36 and glue it to heavy paper. Cut or tear small pieces of paper, and sort them according to color. Glue each piece of cut or torn paper on the scene. (You can also use crayons or paints.) Write your name at the bottom, and place the mosaic in your room. When will you go to the temple?

## Sharing Time Ideas

(Note: All songs are from *Children's Songbook* unless otherwise noted; GAK = Gospel Art Picture Kit, TNGC = *Teaching, No Greater Call*.)

1. To help children understand that being baptized and keeping their baptismal covenants helps them prepare to receive the blessings of the temple, make road signs using these words: Stop, Caution, One Way, Yield, Go. For each sign write one of My Gospel Standards on paper and cut into wordstrips. Put each standard in an envelope and paste one to the back of each sign. Post the road signs and a picture of the temple in the front of the room. Make a traffic light with red, yellow, and green circles. Write out 2 Nephi 31:17–18 on a strip of paper and paste on the other side of the traffic light.

Hold up the traffic light and read the scripture. When we are baptized, we open the gate to the path back to Heavenly Father. We must be baptized to go to the temple and to enter the celestial kingdom. After baptism we receive the gift of the Holy Ghost, which will help us choose the right. Turn the sign around. My Gospel Standards are like road signs on our path. In making choices we can (point to red circle) stop and remember Heavenly Father's plan for us, (yellow circle) slow down and remember our baptismal covenants, and (green circle) go and listen to the Holy Ghost.

Divide the Primary into five groups. Have each group choose two helpers. Blindfold one of the helpers from each group and have him or her stand at the back of the room. After they are blindfolded, have the other helpers stand by one of the road signs. In a soft reverent voice, they should direct their blindfolded partner to their road sign. After they reach the sign, have the group put together their My Gospel Standard wordstrip in order, and prepare to act out for the Primary one way they can live their standard. Have each group hold their sign backwards and take a turn acting while the Primary guesses the standard. They then turn their sign around and explain how their standard can help us to be temple worthy.

2. To help children learn about the ordinances and blessings of the temple, cut a picture of a temple into puzzle pieces. Label each piece with the following scripture references and songs: (1) Baptism for the dead—D&C 127:6–7, "When Jesus Christ Was Baptized" (p. 102, second verse), (2) Confirmation—D&C 20:41, "I Like My Birthdays" (p. 104, third verse), (3) Endowment—D&C 105:12, "I Love to See the Temple" (p. 95), (4) Marriage and Sealing—D&C 132:46, "Families Can Be Together Forever" (p. 188).

Using two helpers, have one stand outside the Primary room while another hides the first puzzle piece. Have the first helper come back in and look for the puzzle piece as the Primary gives clues by singing the suggested song more loudly as the helper gets closer to the puzzle piece and more softly as he or she moves farther away. Post the puzzle piece on the board. Read the scripture references and discuss the ordinance. Choose more children to repeat the process. Have the children repeat D&C 124:40. Bear testimony of the importance of temple ordinances.

3. Prepare the room by displaying a picture of the temple and the following statement: "The spirit and blessings of the temple can fill our homes as we live worthy lives. Even before we are old enough to go to the temple, we can prepare our hearts by being obedient and choosing the right" ("Temple Blessings," *Friend*, Aug. 2001). Teach the children about obedience by playing a game called "Being Obedient: Then and Now." Prepare five items that represent challenges to obedience during pioneer times, or "then" (for example, a stick = steep rough hillsides, blue fabric = rivers to cross, rock = rocky trails to walk, picture of a sun = hot days and cold nights, picture of a wagon wheel = wagon wheels to constantly repair). Make up five case studies of "now" challenges (for example: Your best friend invites you to go to a movie on Sunday. What commandment would help you choose the right?) (See *TNGC*, pp. 161–62.) Inside five



numbered sacks, place a "then" item, a "now" case study, and the name of a song about obedience.

Though the pioneers had difficulties, they followed Brigham Young and were obedient in keeping the commandments. Read the statement about the temple above. As the children sing "Keep the Commandments" (pp. 146–47), have them listen for (1) the words of a prophet (keep the commandments) and (2) the blessings of obedience (safety and peace).

Hand out the sacks to the children. Choose a child to stand up front and give two or three instructions for the Primary to pass the sacks (for example, pass it three people to the right, pass it forward once). He or she then calls out a number from 1 to 5. The person holding that sack opens it and guesses what challenge the "then" item might represent for the pioneers. He or she then reads and answers the "now" challenge. Sing the song that goes with the sack and have the children listen for the commandment(s) to follow and the blessing(s) that will be theirs. Choose a new child to be a leader and repeat for each sack. Remind the children that we have challenges in our lives today, but we can become temple worthy as we follow the prophet and keep the commandments.

4. Teach the children the importance of family history and temple work by drawing a pedigree chart on the board with spaces to fill in three generations (child, parents, and grandparents). Prepare signs with different family traits or characteristics (mother's smile, father's musical talent, etc.).

Sing "Families Can Be Together Forever" (p. 188). Read Abraham 1:31. Invite a child to write his name on the "child" line. Give him a sign and comment how his trait is like his "mother" or "father." Sing "I Am a Child of God" (pp. 2–3). Invite two more children to represent a father and mother, and write their first names on the father and mother line. Give them a sign, then comment on how their traits are similar to one or both of their "parents." Sing "A Happy Family" (p. 198). Invite four more children to represent two sets of grandparents and ask them to write their first names on the grandparents' lines. Comment on how their traits are similar to those of one of their family members, and give each a sign. Have all seven family members turn their backs to the Primary. As you sing "Family History—I Am Doing It" (p. 94), tap a family member on the shoulder, which is their cue to turn around. When they are facing the Primary, have those children who have a family characteristic or trait like their sign join in singing. Remind the children that through temple ordinances our families can be together forever. Invite them to ask their parents about their family history.

5. To teach the song "Families Can Be Together Forever" (p. 188), see "Sharing Time: Together Forever," idea 5, *Friend*, Feb. 2002, 31.

To review songs for this year's children's sacrament meeting presentation, make several large keys (at least one for each song to be reviewed). Write the names of the songs to be reviewed on the keys.

Invite a child to choose a key and ask him to wait outside the Primary room. Have the Primary help you choose a keyword from the song chosen. This will be the word they will not sing in the song. Write the word on the blank side of the key. Invite the child to come back in. Hold the keyword above the child's head as a reminder to the others of which word not to sing. As the Primary sings, ask the child to listen for the keyword that is missing. Let the child guess which word is missing. Review the gospel principle in the song. Repeat for the other songs to be reviewed.

6. *Friend* references: "Thankful for Temple Blessings," Nov. 2002, 44–45; "Stewart, a Commandment-Keeper, Too," Jan. 2002, 4–6; "Plain Words About Baptism," Jan. 2000, 39; "Worthy of the Temple," Sept. 2002, 42–43; "Guided by the Holy Ghost," Oct. 2001, 8; "A Covenant People," Jan. 2000, IFC; "Family History ABCs," Feb. 2002, 24–25; "The Heart of the Children," Aug. 2002, 36–38; "To Save Our Ancestors," Aug. 2002, 7.



# The Sacrament

BY ELDER L. TOM PERRY

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

It is interesting what memories stay with us year after year. While I was watching a TV documentary on World War II, suddenly into my mind came an old green footlocker.

After the battle was over on the island to which our Marine division was assigned, we were able to obtain a tent for our Church services. We made benches, a pulpit, and a sacrament table out of any piece of lumber we could find. Under the sacrament table we placed [a] special green footlocker. The contents included a wooden plate, a wooden sacrament tray, a card containing the sacrament prayers, and several boxes of small paper cups.

As we gathered each week on the Lord's day, opened our footlocker, and used the

contents to prepare, bless, and pass the sacrament, it was a spiritual and uplifting experience that renewed our faith and gave us hope for the days ahead.

Over the many, many years I have had the privilege of attending sacrament meetings, partaking of the sacrament has been a time of thoughtful reflection on the blessings the Lord has given to me and a time to covenant with him to live closer to his law and his gospel.

The Lord has promised if you will partake of the sacrament worthily, he will bless you with the peace of mind that can only come from knowing that you are participating in his divine plan. ●

*From an April 1996 general conference address.*



Did you know that Elder L. Tom Perry served in the Marines during World War II? He explains the power that comes from taking the sacrament worthily.

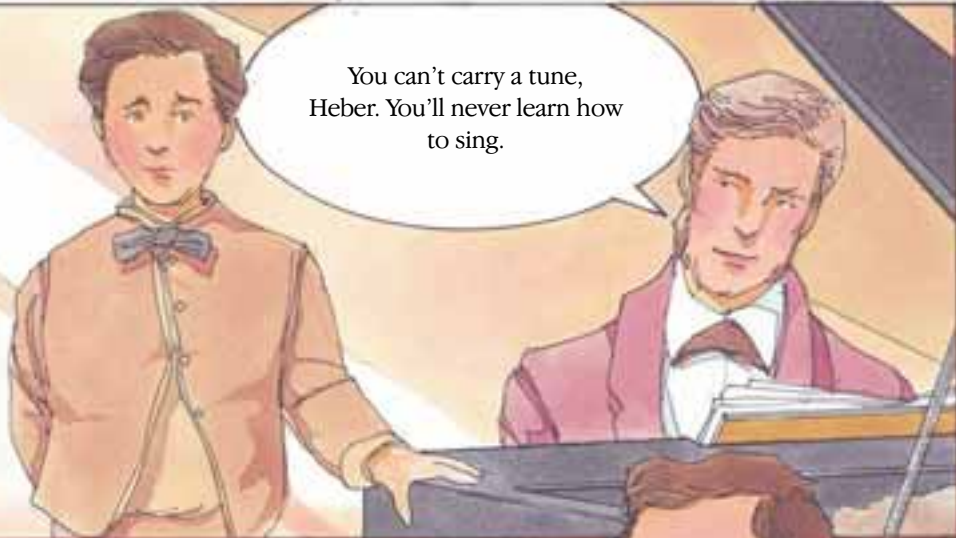


FROM THE LIFE OF PRESIDENT HEBER J. GRANT

# Learning to Sing



When Heber J. Grant was 10 years old, he took a singing class.



You can't carry a tune, Heber. You'll never learn how to sing.

Years later Heber heard Horace S. Ensign sing.

I would give you three months of my spare time if I could learn to sing one or two hymns!

Anyone can learn to sing. Are you willing to practice?

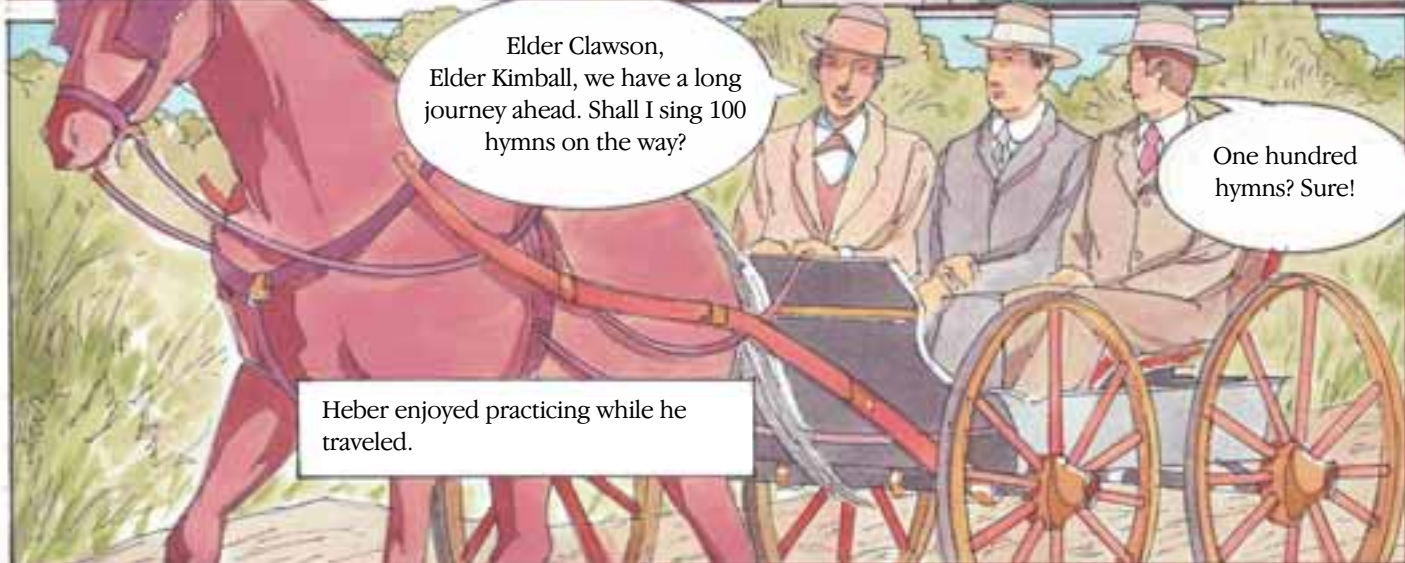
After two weeks, Heber had learned to sing "O My Father." Two months later he could sing four other hymns.



Elder Clawson, Elder Kimball, we have a long journey ahead. Shall I sing 100 hymns on the way?

One hundred hymns? Sure!

Heber enjoyed practicing while he traveled.





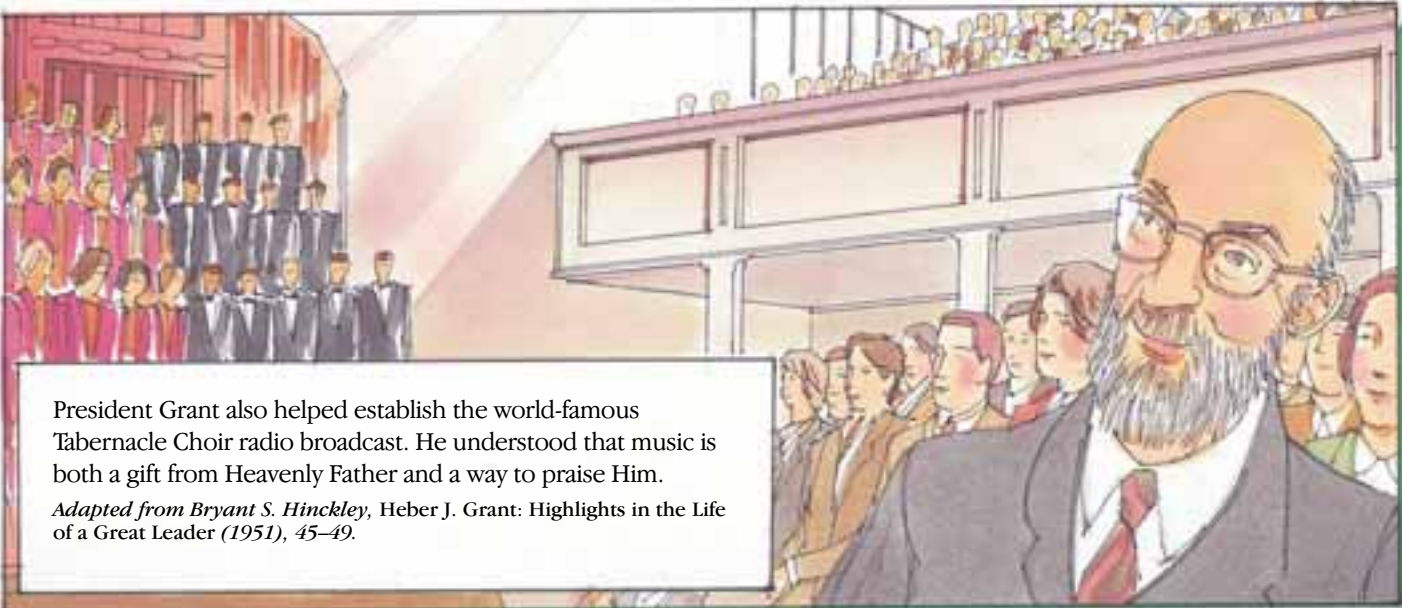


I said I would sing  
100 hymns, and I will. Cheer up,  
Elders—only 60 more!

After 40 hymns, the two General Authorities realized  
Heber wasn't joking, and they begged him to stop.



When Heber became President of the Church, the wealthy  
McCune family offered to let him live in their beautiful  
mansion. He chose to continue living in his humble cottage  
and instead turned the mansion into a music school.



President Grant also helped establish the world-famous  
Tabernacle Choir radio broadcast. He understood that music is  
both a gift from Heavenly Father and a way to praise Him.

*Adapted from Bryant S. Hinckley, Heber J. Grant: Highlights in the Life  
of a Great Leader (1951), 45–49.*



# Trying to Be Like Jesus

*He that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life (John 8:12).*

## The Pizza Example

By Nathan Woolley with help from his mom



**O**ne night our family went out for pizza and games. When I finished eating my pizza slices, I was still hungry. I wanted to take a slice from my sister Eden, but my parents said not to. A minute later she decided to give me her last slice. That made us all smile.

Two nights later, Eden finished eating her dinner first. It was one of her favorite meals, and she wanted another helping. When I heard my mom tell her it was all gone, I decided

## Sunday Recital

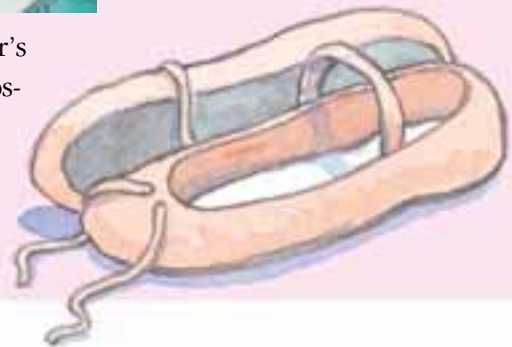
By Kelsie Lauren Phelps

**I** take dance lessons, and every year we have a recital. I have been practicing for three months for this year's recital. Some years the costumes are not very fancy, and some years they are. This year they are very fancy, and I have really



been looking forward to dancing in mine. I just found out that the recital is on Sunday. My mom asked if I wanted to dance in it. I chose not to because it would not be keeping the Sabbath day holy.

*Kelsie Lauren Phelps, age 6, is a member of the Sunset Valley Ward, Austin Texas Oak Hills Stake.*



to share mine. Eden was happy, and I felt good sharing something with her that she really likes. I remembered the good

example Eden was to me when she shared her pizza.

*Nathaniel Woolley, age 4, is a member of the North Dartmouth Ward, Hingham Massachusetts Stake.*







## Sharing the Gospel

By Shevaun Ames

**O**ur neighbor's husband died several months ago, and my family and I have been helping her with yard work and just being friends with her. She is a very nice lady who believes in Jesus but doesn't go to any church.

A few months ago the missionaries came to our Primary class and talked to us about missionary work. They encouraged us to share the gospel with someone. On the way



*Shevaun Ames, age 6, is a member of the Lewiston Second Ward, Lewiston Idaho Stake.*

home I told my parents I wanted to share the gospel with our neighbor.

As soon as we got home, I took a plate of cookies and my scriptures to her house. We read the Articles of Faith together, and then I visited with her and helped her do things in her house. I felt good inside when I shared the gospel of Jesus Christ. I know that we should all share the gospel when we can.

## Standing Up

By Traci Lundquist



**A** couple of years ago I was at my cousin's birthday party. She had invited two of her other friends to the party, and we were having lots of fun when one of her friends said, "Let's watch a movie." We all agreed. Then they said they wanted to watch a PG-13 movie.

I had a sick feeling in my stomach. I wasn't allowed to watch PG-13 movies, and I knew what I had to

do. I'd been baptized and confirmed a member of the Church. I had to stand up for myself. That was really hard because I'm kind of shy.

Finally I said, "I can't watch PG-13 movies."

I felt a little better then, but they started making suggestions like, "Just plug your ears." I wouldn't do it. Finally my cousin said, "OK, we

won't watch the movie." I'm glad I listened to the Holy Ghost

and obeyed the rules my mom and dad made for me.

*Traci Lundquist, age 10, is a member of the LaBelle Second Ward, Rigby Idaho East Stake.*



## The Right Decision

By Trevor Free



**W**hen I was 10 years old, I was on a swim team. One day when I was leaving

the pool, I noticed something on the ground. It was a wallet. I picked it up and looked inside. There was about \$250 in it.

I wanted to keep it and almost decided that I should. But I prayed for Heavenly Father's help to guide me to the right decision. The Spirit prompted me to take the wallet inside to the front desk. Even though I really wanted the money, I gave the wallet to the lady at the desk, and she thanked me. I'm glad I made the right decision.

*Trevor Free, age 12, is a member of the Cedar Hills Third Ward, Cedar Hills Utah Stake.*





# ZUCCHINI BANDIT

BY MARY L. GLASSCO

(Based on a true story)

*Think of your brethren like unto yourselves, and be familiar with all and free with your substance*  
(Jacob 2:17).

Look, Dad," Clay called. "Aunt Pat gave me seeds."

Clay held up a small envelope that rattled when he shook it. The word *Zucchini* was printed on it above a picture of a long green vegetable that looked a lot like a cucumber. "Aunt Pat says I

should have a garden."

Dad smiled. "But it will be good old Dad who does the digging."

True to his word, Dad helped Clay dig out a patch of grass next to the fence. Then they loosened up the soil, planted the zucchini seeds, and watered them well.

For several weeks they watched and waited and wondered if anything was happening. It was. After a rainy day followed by three sunny days, tiny plants peeked out of the soil. From then on, the growing didn't stop.





A jungle of vines soon fought for the small space. Big spiky leaves tangled through the fence in one direction and sprawled across the grass in the other. Clay worried that the giant plants would take over the whole backyard.

Soon golden blossoms opened up and jiggled in the summer breeze as if they were laughing at a secret joke. The blossoms turned into little green pickles that seemed to explode overnight into long, pudgy zucchini. The zucchini hid shyly beneath the prickly leaves. Clay learned to scout them out.



Zucchini poured from the garden in a tidal wave. Awash in the big green vegetable, Clay's mother learned many zucchini recipes. She cooked zucchini with onions, tomatoes, and sour cream. She filled zucchini with cheese and stuffed it with ground beef. She baked zucchini bread with raisins and mixed grated zucchini with chocolate to make cookies and brownies.

"I'd better watch out," Clay said the night Mom served bowls of zucchini soup. "Next I'll be eating zucchini cereal for breakfast."

"Actually, I thought we might try zucchini-oatmeal muffins tomorrow morning," Mom said.

"I've created a monster," Clay thought. "I've got to

find a way to get rid of some zucchini."

"Tell Aunt Pat to come get some of this stuff," Dad joked.

That gave Clay an idea. He could give other people a chance to enjoy his zucchini!

Early the next morning, he fought his way through the zucchini jungle, hunting for the elusive vegetables. He filled four brown paper bags and carried them quietly out of the yard.

The Wagners next door surely needed some zucchini. Clay looked around. The front door was closed. The curtains were drawn. He didn't want to be thanked for his gift, so he tiptoed onto the porch, set one of the sacks beside the door, and hurried down the sidewalk.



At the next house, a newspaper still lay on the step. Expecting someone to come out for it at any moment, Clay dropped a sack beside the paper and scurried away.

Scarcely pausing, he made two more deliveries. Soon he was strolling home zucchini-free.

A few days later, Clay picked his crop again, packed four more brown bags, and made quick stops at the same four houses. All went well.

The third time Clay made his secret deliveries, a

surprise waited for him. At the third house, right where he always set the bag, lay a white envelope. Large letters printed on it read, "To the Zucchini Bandit."

Clay set down a bag of zucchini, picked up the note, and ran home, the fourth bag still clutched in his hand.

He dashed into the house. Mom was sitting at the table sipping orange juice and yawning. "Good morning," she said. "You were out in the yard early again. What do you have in the bag?"

"Um, zucchini." Clay plunked the bag down on the table.

"Oh good," Mom said. "We haven't had any for several days now."

"Be back in a minute." Clay hurried into his room, closed the door, and leaned against it. "Oh no," he thought, staring at the envelope crumpled in his sweaty hand. "They've probably seen me and are warning me to stay away or they'll call the police." He straightened out the envelope, unstuck the flap, and pulled out a sheet of paper.

Dear Robin Hood of Vegetables,

Thank you for sharing your wealth with me. I haven't had such fresh zucchini in a long time. It still has morning dew on it when I bring it in.

Sincerely,

Your Grateful Friend

"Robin Hood of Vegetables," Clay read aloud. He smiled. For the first time since they had started growing, he hoped he wouldn't run out of zucchini. ●



"The greatest fulfillment in life comes by rendering service to others."

**President James E. Faust, Second Counselor in the First Presidency, "What's In It for Me?", Ensign, Nov. 2002, 22.**



## Friends in the News



**Joseph Jones, 9**, Yuba City, California, has fun playing with his older brother. He also likes to help his dad build things, and he enjoys going camping.



**Uchay Omo-Bamawo, 3**, London, England, is a very bright girl. She likes going to church with her mom and dad, and she is excited to be an older sister.



**Luke Batten, 7**, Allen, Texas, likes swimming, playing baseball, and riding his bike. He is good at helping with his younger brother and sisters. He is looking forward to being baptized.



**Julia Jones, 6**, Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina, is a friend to everyone she meets. She especially loves elderly people. She enjoys singing, reading, dancing, playing sports, and playing the piano.



**Camron Salisbury, 11**, Boise, Idaho, has a strong testimony of the gospel. He has read the Doctrine and Covenants, Pearl of Great Price, and Book of Mormon with his family. He is a good brother and uncle.



**Madison Elms, 8**, Boston, Massachusetts, likes attending her ward. She plays the fiddle and takes Irish step dancing lessons. She treats her younger brother and sister with love.



**Tucker Nixon, 4**, Snowflake, Arizona, likes learning new Primary songs. He also likes all sports, especially baseball and football. He enjoys jumping on the trampoline and playing with his brother and sisters.



**Marissa Lowe, 6**, Louisville, Kentucky, used to live in England. She is happy to have temples everywhere she lives. She likes to sing and dance, and she wants to choose the right.



**John Weir, 10**, Seymour, Connecticut, likes to play soccer, basketball, and baseball. He has eight nephews and four nieces. He reads the scriptures daily and plans to serve a mission like his brother.



**Mackenzie Stout, 9**, Salt Lake City, Utah, likes riding her horse, playing with her cats, and playing with her friends. She is good at making simple inventions, and she enjoys gym and art classes at school.



**Will Simon, 7**, Rock Hill, South Carolina, has a strong testimony and likes going to church. He also likes to draw and play with his baby sister, Chelsie. He is looking forward to being baptized.



**Julia Mary Ensigen, 8**, Fenton, Michigan, organized an event to donate books and toys to a homeless children's center. She enjoys writing stories, playing softball, and playing the violin.



**Braydon Busskohl, 5**, Worland, Wyoming, enjoys attending Primary and learning about Jesus Christ and Joseph Smith. He is learning to play the piano, and he helps his mom take care of his younger sisters.



**Sierra Chapman, 9**, Sitka, Alaska, was baptized by her brother, Trevor. She enjoys ballet dancing, playing the harp, and writing letters to Trevor as he serves a mission.



**Brandon Motiuk, 5**, Doha, Qatar, enjoys looking at old copies of the *Friend* with his two brothers, because they cannot directly receive the magazine where they live. Brandon is learning Arabic.



**Tori Boucher, 10**, Manito, Illinois, has eight brothers and sisters and 11 nieces and nephews. She likes studying math and science at school. She also enjoys activity days, and she wants to go on a mission.



**McCoy Thomas Nelson, 4**, Providence, Utah, likes playing board games and building dragons with blocks. He is a good brother to his sister Kora, and he likes to help plan family home evening activities.



**Amber Lamb, 11**, Sidney, Montana, likes to read, draw, and sew. She also likes to take care of young children. She is a very loving person.



**Daniel Fitz Maurice, 7**, Burlington, Vermont, plays the violin and likes to listen to music. He enjoys playing soccer and reading stories in the *Friend*.



**Morgan Hill, 3**, Walla Walla, Washington, gathers eggs from her family's six chickens. Her family also has three cows, three cats, two goats, and a fish. Morgan likes to go to Primary, and she is a good singer.



**Clint Weston, 9**, Cardston, Alberta, Canada, enjoys working with his dad and helping him use equipment like the dump truck, backhoe, and excavator. He would like to have his own horse someday.



**Mackenzie Gunderson, 11**, Burns, Oregon, likes horses and the outdoors. She is raising her own steer and wants to become a cattle rancher like her dad. She is a very loving daughter.



**Daniel Christopher Michener, 5**, Chattanooga, Tennessee, likes to have water fights with his friends. He enjoys making treats for family home evening and singing songs to his baby brother, Matthew.

Please send submissions to Friends in the News, *Friend*, 24th Floor, 50 East North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah, U.S.A. 84150-3220. For scheduling reasons, submissions selected may not appear in the magazine for at least 10 months. Ages shown are those at the time of submission. Children whose pictures are submitted must be at least three years old. Due to the number of submissions received, they cannot all be published, nor can they be returned.

## Pioneer Children Sang as They Walked

BY CALLIE BUYS

These pictures show some things pioneer children did and saw as they traveled west. Match each picture to the Primary song that tells about it. (You might have to sing more than one verse to find the answer!) For help, look at pages 214–223 of the *Children's Songbook*.



a.



b.



c.



d.



e.



f.



g.



h.

1. "To Be a Pioneer"

2. "The Handcart Song"

3. "Whenever I Think about Pioneers" (verse 1)

4. "Little Pioneer Children"

5. "The Oxcart"

6. "Pioneer Children Were Quick to Obey" (verse 2)

7. "Pioneer Children Sang As They Walked"

8. "Covered Wagons"

(See answers on page 29.)



## Guide to the Friend



*The Guide to the Friend can help you find stories or articles for preparing lessons or talks for church or for family home evening. The Primary theme for July is "Temples unite families."*



## Family Home Evening Ideas

*Look for the FHE symbol on the pages mentioned below.*

1. Read President James E. Faust's message "Knowing Who You Are" (pp. 2–3). What does he say we need to do to feel good about ourselves? Read some of the examples of children doing things that make them feel good in the Trying to Be Like Jesus section (pp. 42–43). Try harder this week to notice and help someone in need.

2. Cooperate to make "Frozen Fun Suns" (p. 33). Then read about another family working together in "Preserving Jam (and Families)" (pp. 4–6). What can you learn about temple sealings from this story? As a family, complete "Family History ABCs" (p. 29) or make copies for each family member. Then enjoy your dessert!

3. Read "Courage and a Kind Word" (pp. 10–13). Have you ever been nervous about doing something important? Discuss ways you can overcome fear (by remembering what really matters, praying for help, etc.). Remember to follow the example of Brigham Young and give encouragement to friends and family members.

4. The children in "Acting Like Pioneers" (pp. 14–17) put on a play about pioneers



See pages 2–3.

sacrificing to build temples. Do you have ancestors whose sacrifices have made a difference in your life? You may wish to act out skits about their lives. Discuss ways you can act like a modern-day pioneer (by preparing to enter the temple, making sacrifices to help others, etc.). Then play "Pioneer Puzzle Game" (pp. 24–25).

5. President Heber J. Grant understood the importance of good music. Read "Learning to Sing" (pp. 40–41). Then, to learn more about the Mormon Tabernacle Choir radio broadcast he helped establish, read "Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of Music and the Spoken Word" (p. 13). Have each family member choose a favorite hymn to sing and, if possible, take turns practicing leading the music (see *Hymns*, pp. 384–385, to learn the beat patterns).

6. For more ideas, see page 18.



The *Friend* can be found on the Internet at [www.lds.org](http://www.lds.org). Click on Gospel Library.

To subscribe online, go to [www.ldsacatalog.com](http://www.ldsacatalog.com).

### Manuscript Submissions

The *Friend* welcomes unsolicited manuscripts but is not responsible for them. Rejected manuscripts will not be returned unless a stamped, addressed envelope is enclosed. Send manuscripts to *Friend*, 24th Floor, 50 East North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah 84150-3220. Send e-mail to [cur-editorial-friend@ldschurch.org](mailto:cur-editorial-friend@ldschurch.org).

Send children's submissions to *Friend*, 24th Floor, 50 East North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah 84150-3220, in care of the appropriate department—Our Creative Friends, Friends in the News, Friends by Mail, Trying to Be Like Jesus. Submissions will not be returned.



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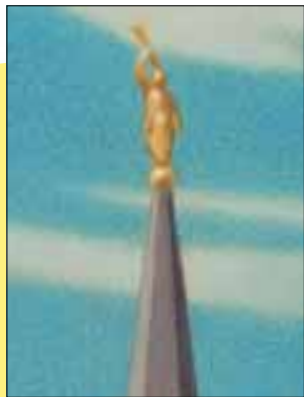
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.....

*The temple is a house of God,  
a place of love and beauty  
(Children's Songbook, 95).*