We Believe in the Prophet

We read the story “Picturing the Prophet” from the March 2011 Friend to help us get ready for general conference. We were excited to find out the children in the story are our cousins! We wanted to draw our own pictures of President Monson. We know he is a prophet of God too.

Jacob and David I., ages 6 and 5, Utah

A Lesson in Saving

I loved the story “The Sticker Book” in the March 2011 issue. I learned that you don’t need to let your parents pay for all the stuff you want. I work hard too so I can pay my tithing and save money for things I want. I love reading the Friend.

Kayla M., age 6, Idaho

Following the Prophet’s Example

We are twins who like to read the Friend together. We read a story in the October 2010 Friend about President Monson’s Sunday School class giving their party fund to a classmate whose mother had died. Shortly after, we found out that the child of one of our relatives passed away. Our mom was sending a sympathy card. We remembered President Monson’s story, so we both put some of our birthday money in the card. It felt good to follow the prophet’s example and help someone who was sad.

Aidan and Allie B., age 8, South Dakota

How We Read the Friend

This family reads the Friend while exploring new parks.

Colton, MaKayla, Alexis, and Isaac S., ages 7, 5, 4, and 1, Nevada

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.
One of the great tributes the Savior can give is to call us “friends.” You remember His words from the 84th section of the Doctrine and Covenants: “And again I say unto you, my friends, . . . I give unto you this commandment, that ye become even as my friends in days when I was with them, traveling to preach the gospel in my power” (D&C 84:77).

We become His friends as we serve others for Him. He is the perfect example of the kind of friend we are to become.

Each of us who has made the baptismal covenant has promised to follow His example to bear one another’s burdens as He would.

You have many opportunities to be a friend for Him. It may be as you walk on a dusty road. It may be as you look for a place to sit at church. If you are watching,
you will see someone carrying a heavy burden. It may be a burden of sorrow or loneliness.

Living prophets of God have asked us to be faithful friends to those who come into the Church as converts and to go to the rescue of those who have drifted away.

President Eyring said that Jesus is our perfect friend. Look at the ways Jesus shows His perfect friendship for us.

He wants what is best for us.

He is happy when we are happy.

He feels sorrow when we are sad or hurt.

He suffered for our sins so we can return to Heavenly Father.

Find the ways President Eyring said we can become Jesus’s friend by being a friend to others for Him. Write the letter of the picture next to the sentence that describes the picture.

_____ Help someone who is sad.
_____ Be a friend to someone who is lonely.
_____ Invite someone to come back to church.
_____ Always remember Him.

We can do it, and we will do it if we always remember the Savior.

And, in time and in eternity, we will feel the joy of being welcomed to the company of His faithful friends. I pray for that blessing for all of us and for those we will serve.

Father, I will rev’rent be and in thy house walk quietly (Children’s Songbook, 29).

Every Sunday Jonah wanted to be reverent in church, but sometimes it was hard to remember.

One Sunday, Sister Milner was leading sharing time. “Jonah, you can choose one picture to put on the board,” she said.

Jonah ran to the front before he remembered that he should walk in the church building.

Could do to remember?”

Jonah shrugged. “I don’t know. It’s hard to remember.”

“I know it can be hard,” Mom said. “Why don’t you think about it?”

That week Mom brought home a new church shirt for Jonah. “You’re growing up so fast,” she said. “Your old shirt is already too small.”

Jonah tried on the new shirt and buttoned all the buttons. He looked in the mirror. “Dad wears shirts like this,” he said.

Another Sunday, Stella had trouble remembering her scripture. “As I have loved you . . . ,” she said.

“Love one another!” Jonah called out before she could finish.

Sometimes Sam and Miguel would start acting silly with Jonah. Sister Fox would take Jonah to sit with Mom in Relief Society.

Jonah wanted to be in Primary. He liked his friends, the stories, and his teachers. But sometimes he still forgot to be reverent.

One day after church Mom said, “Jonah, it’s important for you to be reverent at church. What do you think you could do to remember?”
thought. "And Dad is always reverent in church." Jonah smiled. "Maybe this can help me remember to be reverent," he thought.

On Sunday, Jonah put on his new shirt. He buttoned the buttons and tucked the tails in neatly.

"You look like a missionary," Dad said.

"The missionaries are reverent in church," Jonah thought.

While he waited for Primary to start, Jonah sat quietly. He looked down at the buttoned cuffs of his new reverent shirt.


Jonah sang the opening song in a strong, good way. He listened while Kim tried to give her first talk, even when she didn't say anything for a long time. Sister Fox smiled at Jonah, and Jonah smiled back.

During sharing time, Miguel said something silly. Jonah stayed reverent. Then Sam poked Jonah. Jonah poked Sam and Sam poked back, but then Jonah felt his reverent shirt and remembered to sit quietly.

Pretty soon Jonah's friends stayed reverent too. Jonah felt good, and Sister Fox let them go to class first.

"How was Primary today?" Mom asked after class.

"Can you please wash and iron my new reverent shirt for next Sunday?" Jonah asked. "I had a great time in Primary, and everyone else did too." ◆
“The song of the righteous is a prayer unto me, and it shall be answered with a blessing upon their heads.”

–DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS 25:12
It would take you about a month to count to one million. And that’s about how many Primary children there are in the world today! They live in many different places and speak many different languages. Here’s how you can meet some of them:

Go to lds.org/friend.
Click on “You Are One in a Million.”
Click on a star.
You can meet 30 children from all over the world.
Each one is a special child of God—just like you!

Honoka from Japan
Sair from Ecuador
Giordayne from Jamaica
Grace from Canada
Bode from Switzerland
Mina from Minnesota
Danil from Ukraine
Brynn from Connecticut
Martins from Nigeria
Honesty should start with me in all I say, in all I do (Children’s Songbook, 149).

Molly held five tickets in her hand as she walked to school. Every Monday, Mom gave her tickets to buy milk at lunch. But lately Molly had lost her tickets before lunchtime. Today Molly was determined to not lose her tickets. When she got to school, she carefully put the tickets in her pocket before playing on the slide.

When the bell rang, Miss Martin came outside. The children began to give her their milk tickets for the week.

Molly put her hand in her pocket, but the tickets were gone! Molly’s heart sank. She knew Mom would be disappointed.

Molly panicked as she moved closer to Miss Martin. She decided to make up a story so she wouldn’t get in trouble. She said to her teacher, “A boy took my tickets.”
Miss Martin looked surprised. “Which boy, Molly?” she asked.
Molly’s eyes searched the playground and found an older boy kicking a ball. She pointed at him. “That boy! He took my milk tickets.”

Miss Martin told Molly to go to the classroom while she talked to the boy. Molly felt awful. She hadn’t meant to get the boy in trouble.

All Molly could do all morning was worry. But she knew if she told the truth, she would be in trouble for lying.

“Molly, this is a very bad thing you’ve done. Do you understand that?” Mom said.
“Yes,” Molly really did understand.
“What do you think you should do?” Mom asked.
Molly knew she had to tell the truth. But what if the principal got angry? What if Miss Martin didn’t like her anymore? Molly didn’t know if she had enough courage. But then she thought about the boy she had gotten in trouble, and she knew she had to be brave.

“I want to go back to school,” she told Mom.
Mom held Molly’s hand as they walked back to school. The principal listened carefully.

“Molly, I am disappointed in you,” he said. “But I am glad you decided to tell me the truth. I know it wasn’t easy.”

While they were walking home together, Mom said, “Molly, I am proud of you for telling the truth. But what else do you think you need to do to make this right?”

“I need to apologize to that boy,” Molly said.

“Right,” Mom said. “I can drive you over to his house tonight.”

Molly’s heart got a little lighter.

“Mom, do you think we should make him some cookies too?”

Mom hugged her. “I think that’s a wonderful idea.”

As Molly was going to recess, the principal stopped her and asked her to come to his office.

“Oh no!” she thought. “He knows I lied, and I’m going to be in trouble!”

But the principal talked to her nicely and asked her to tell him what happened that morning. Molly said the boy had taken her milk tickets.

“Are you sure that is what happened, Molly?” the principal asked.

She nodded. The principal told her she could go to recess.

As Molly left the office, she saw the boy sitting in the hall. He looked like he had been crying. Molly knew how much trouble she was causing, but she was too scared to tell the truth.

After school Molly walked home slowly, feeling worse with every step. When she got home, Mom said, “Molly, the principal called.”

Molly couldn’t stand it anymore. She started to cry, and she told Mom the whole story.

“You and I bear the responsibility to become people of integrity and honesty—people who are true and trustworthy when no one is watching and when no one else is around.”

Elder David A. Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles
Picture Books

*An Old-Fashioned Thanksgiving,* by Louisa May Alcott. When their parents have to leave to care for a sick grandmother, the Bassett children decide to make Thanksgiving dinner in time for their parents' return.

*A Gift,* by Yong Chen. Amy’s mother misses her siblings during Chinese New Year. They live in China while Amy and her mother live on the other side of the world. But Amy’s uncles and aunt send a special present to help the family feel closer during the holiday.

Fiction for children ages 5–9

*Snowshoe Thompson,* by Nancy Smiler Levinson, pictures by Joan Sandin. Danny is worried that his father won’t be able to get home for Christmas because of the snow—that is, until John Thompson comes up with a clever way to cross the treacherous mountains.

*T-Rex Is Missing!* by Tomie dePaola. Sometimes Billy doesn’t like that he never gets to play with Morgie’s T-Rex. When the dinosaur goes missing, Morgie suspects Billy. Find out what happens when two friends learn about forgiveness and sharing.

Fiction for children ages 10–12

*All-Star Fever,* by Matt Christopher, illustrated by Anna Dewdney. Bus is working hard to get picked for the all-star baseball team, and things look even better when his parents give him a new bike. But when Bus breaks his parents’ rules, he can’t concentrate on the baseball field. Will Bus be the best player—and person—he can be?

*The Hundred Dresses,* by Eleanor Estes, illustrated by Louis Slobodkin. Wanda Petronski is shy, and her family doesn’t have a lot of money. When she announces that she has a hundred dresses at home, her classmates begin to tease her every day. When Wanda stops coming to school, two girls search to find out the truth behind the mysterious dresses.

Nonfiction

*Once There Was a Raindrop,* by Judith Anderson, illustrated by Mike Gordon. Have you ever wondered where rain comes from? Whether you cover up with an umbrella or stomp in big puddles, learning about the earth’s water cycle is sure to be a splash!

*The Day-Glo Brothers,* by Chris Barton, illustrated by Tony Persiani. Have you ever seen bright colors that almost seemed to glow, even in daylight? These Day-Glo colors were created by two brothers with very different dreams. Working together with a lot of experimentation, they made the glowing colors that are now used all over the world.

*These reviews do not constitute official Church endorsement of these books, but the books have been carefully reviewed to ensure that Church standards are observed.*
I checked out seven books today.
I really wanted more.
But Grandma said, “Why take all those?
You can’t read more than four.”

I laughed and said, “Why, Grandma,
It’s a banquet, don’t you see?
A taste of this and some of that—
And best of all—it’s free!

“I’ll polish off a mystery
And sample some suspense.
I’ll gobble down some history—
All at no expense.

“I’ll gorge myself on poetry.
The nature books are great!
I like to nibble here and there;
No need to clean my plate.”

My grandma understands now
That my appetite’s increased.
“We’ll go back anytime,” she said,
“For another reading feast!”
Journal Junction
This month, write about your favorite holiday. When is it? Why do you like it? Do you or your family have any traditions for this holiday? Write about a new tradition you might like to start.

GRATITUDE SNACK MIX

2 cups rice or corn squares cereal
2 cups mini pretzels
1 cup sunflower seeds
1 cup dried cranberries, sweetened
1 cup raisins

Put all ingredients in a bowl and stir them together with a large spoon. With each stir, say out loud something you are grateful for. Make sure the snack is mixed well! You can put the mix in small bags or bowls to share with family or friends.

Books!
Music!

I'm thankful for good friends like you!
And I'm thankful for my family.
Even though you won’t serve a full-time mission until you are older, there are things you can do now to be a missionary. Here are some things children like you have done to share the gospel.

In my middle school I’m one of the only members of the Church. One day in class the girl sitting next to me said a man who was Mormon wasn’t treated fairly because of his religion. I spoke up and said I was a Mormon too. A lot of people had questions about the Church, and I was able to answer them. It has come up again in class, and I’ve been able to share what I know is true. I know that by sharing my testimony I can be a good missionary to those around me.

Jemma P., age 11, North Carolina

I took my Friend to school to read during free time. My teacher asked me about it, and I told her it was a children’s magazine published by my church. I asked her if she would like to take it home and read it, and she said yes. She brought it back after the weekend and said she liked the magazine very much. She said it was full of good things. I told her that my parents get a magazine for adults full of good things for them. She said she would like one of those. I took her the special Ensign about Jesus Christ. It made me feel warm and sparkly inside to share something that I like so much with someone so special to me.

Emma G., age 9, Pennsylvania

“Do we remember to give thanks for the blessings we receive? Sincerely giving thanks not only helps us recognize our blessings, but it also unlocks the doors of heaven and helps us feel God’s love.”*  
–President Thomas S. Monson

“Blessings Race”  
Divide your family or a group of friends into teams. Give each team a paper with BLESSINGS written down the left side. Each team’s goal is to write down a blessing that starts with each letter of the word. (For example, the first blessing could be brother or Book of Mormon.) See which team can complete its list the fastest!
Jesus and His twelve Apostles climbed the steps to an upstairs room at a home in Jerusalem. Inside they found a table ready for their Passover supper, and they sat down to eat.

Passover was usually a joyful celebration. It was a time to remember past blessings from God. But this was a solemn supper. Jesus knew that His mission on earth would soon be over, and He wanted to teach His Apostles how to remember Him when He was no longer with them.

Jesus blessed some bread, broke it into pieces, and gave it to His Apostles. He told them to eat it to remind them of His body, which He would soon sacrifice for them.

The Savior then took a cup of wine and blessed it. He asked His Apostles to each drink some as they thought

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Solemn means serious.

Water
At the Lord’s direction, we now use water for the sacrament.
about His blood, which would soon be **shed** so they could repent and be forgiven of their sins. They were to remember the covenant they had made to follow Him.

The Apostles ate the bread and drank the wine and pondered the words of Jesus. This was the first time that members of Jesus’s Church received the sacrament.

As the Apostles ate their Passover meal, Jesus talked to them. He said, “A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you.” He also told them about the Holy Ghost, which would comfort them when He was gone.

Afterwards, the Apostles walked with Jesus to a garden where olive trees grew. The garden was called Gethsemane. Eight Apostles stayed by the entrance, but Peter, James, and John followed Jesus farther into the garden. Jesus asked them to sit and keep watch while He went alone to pray.

With a very heavy heart Jesus knelt to pray to His Father in Heaven. He knew the time had come for Him to fulfill the plan of our Heavenly Father, taking on Himself the sins of each one of us.

Jesus knew that He would soon die and be resurrected so we could all be resurrected as well.

Even though it was extremely hard, Jesus said He would do what Heavenly Father wanted Him to do. Lovingly, Jesus suffered so each child of God could be saved. His pain was so great that He sweat drops of blood.

In those hours at Gethsemane and later on the cross, Jesus became our Redeemer. Only Jesus Christ, who was perfect and the Son of God, could save us from our sins. When we take the sacrament, we can remember His sacrifice for us and remember our baptismal covenant to follow Him, just as the Apostles did long ago.

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**Shed** means to flow or drop from a wound.

**Meals**

It was common in Jesus’s time for people to eat a meal sitting or reclining on a long cushion next to a low table. People ate with their fingers from the same serving dishes.

**Passover**

Each spring, Jewish people celebrate Passover to remember when the children of Israel were released from slavery in Egypt. Part of celebrating Passover is eating a special meal with family and friends.
Inasmuch as they are faithful, I will multiply blessings upon them (D&C 104:33).

Daniel and his brother Joseph were perched on a bluff, looking down at an old abandoned fort. It was September 1846, and the wind blew in their faces. If they had been home in Nauvoo, Illinois, they would be able to go inside the thick, warm walls of their red-brick home. They would have something good to eat for supper. But they were not at home.

With the rest of the Saints, Daniel and Joseph’s family had been forced to leave Nauvoo by the mobs that had killed the Prophet Joseph Smith. Now they were living in a sod hut in Winter Quarters, Nebraska. It was cold, and they had very little food to eat.

“Come on, Joseph, let’s go look around,” Daniel said. Inside the old fort, the boys saw pieces of wood on the ground and bits of iron gleaming in the dirt.

“Maybe some of these things can be useful,” Daniel said. “Let’s find something to carry them in.”

Daniel poked around in corners and looked behind old doors. He didn’t want to go back to the sod house. Their mother was pale, and she coughed more every day. It made him scared to watch her. Other people were getting sick as well.

“Over here!” Joseph called. He pulled at the end of a flat log jutting out of the ground. “We can use this to carry things on.”

“Good idea!” Daniel said, hurrying over to help pull.

With a great heave the log flew out of the ground, throwing both boys to the ground and spraying dirt everywhere. The boys laughed as they got up and brushed themselves off. Then they looked down into the hole where the log had been.

“Potatoes!” Daniel cried. “Let’s take some back to Father. He will know if they’re good to eat.”

After the boys had picked all the potatoes from the first plant, they moved on to the next one.

“How do you know if they’re good to eat?”

“Let’s try to just pull this plant out,” Daniel said.

They grabbed the base of the stalk but the plant did not budge. Joseph pulled hard but his hands slipped. He stumbled back, crushing some tall plants behind him.

“What did you step on?” A strong smell was coming from the broken plant under Joseph’s foot.

“What is this plant?” Joseph asked.

“I don’t know, but it stinks!” Daniel said. “Let’s get away from it.”

“But onions have a strong smell, and they are good to eat.”

“Yes, I guess so. But you take it home.”

“All right,” Joseph said. He dug up the root and took the whole plant.

The boys headed home with the potatoes and the mysterious plant. When they showed the plants to their father, he was very happy. He held up the smelly plant.

“This is horseradish,” Father said. “It can be used as medicine. You’ve brought us not only food to fill our stomachs but medicine to help your mother get well.”

Then the boys and their father walked back to the old fort to harvest all the potatoes and horseradish they could find.

The potatoes made nourishing soup that night, more than Joseph and Daniel had eaten in a while. The horseradish was ground down and mixed with vinegar and fed to the sick. The boys’ mother made a face when she took the medicine, but she got better.

When winter was over, the pioneers were glad to be on their way to the Salt Lake Valley and their new home.
Studying Hard

It’s Friday afternoon at Esther G.’s school. Esther and some of her classmates eagerly await some free time, called “golden time.” They have been good throughout the week, and now they get to choose what they’d like to do during their golden time. In Esther’s class, some students listen to music. Others read books. Some of the girls like to do each other’s hair. And sometimes these “golden” students even get a treat.

Esther, age 10, who lives in Essex, England, enjoys golden time, but she would be a good student even if she didn’t get rewarded. Esther works hard at school, and she especially enjoys math and English.

Esther also works hard on her Faith in God goals. She has learned almost all of the Articles of Faith. Every time she memorizes one, she gets a small number charm to put on a bracelet. Esther and her younger sister Erica, who is also working to memorize the Articles of Faith, like wearing their bracelets and seeing that they are accomplishing their goals.

A Brave Example

Esther has met some other big challenges. When she was two years old, she was diagnosed with cancer. After a lot of treatment, she got better. But then the cancer came back when she was five. Even though she was young, Esther was very brave. She and her family prayed before her treatments, and their prayers comforted Esther and helped her be calm. She would hold her mother’s hand and tell the doctors and nurses that she was ready for her treatments.

Esther was a good example to other young patients in the hospital. Sometimes the nurses asked Esther to talk with children who were having trouble with their treatments or taking their medicine. “They would watch Esther do it without any fuss,” her mom says. Esther’s kindness helped comfort the children and even some of their parents.

Esther wears this bracelet to keep track of the articles of faith she has memorized.
Being a Missionary

Now healthy, Esther only goes to the hospital for checkups. But that doesn’t mean she has stopped being a good example for others. Esther likes inviting school and neighbor friends to church. She even invited some to her baptism.

One time, Esther and Erica prepared a special family home evening when another family came to share it with them. First, the girls read a story about baptism from the Friend. Next, they acted out the story of Jesus Christ’s baptism with paper puppets they had made. Esther read the story from the scriptures while Erica moved the puppets. Then the girls showed the dresses they wore after their baptisms. They explained why they wore white and how they felt when they were baptized. Esther and Erica like to teach, and they are good examples for their younger sister, Lydia.

Whether at school, at home, or in a challenging situation like the hospital, Esther works hard to accomplish her goals and is a great example to others along the way.

Esther’s Favorites

Foods: toad-in-the-hole, lasagna, spaghetti, macaroni and cheese
Hobbies: riding her bike, ballet, climbing trees
Primary songs: “When I Am Baptized,” “If the Savior Stood beside Me”
Zoey sat with her CTR 7 class in the Primary room. Sister Saxton, the Primary president, said, “Today we’re going to play a game for sharing time.” Zoey leaned forward in her seat. She liked sharing time, especially when Sister Saxton gave the lesson. Sister Saxton always had a smile, and she knew the name of every child.

“We’re going to find good things to say about each other,” Sister Saxton said. She held up a blue beanbag. “When someone tosses you the beanbag, he or she will say something nice about you. Then you think of someone you’d like to give a compliment to and toss the beanbag to him or her.”

Zoey raised her hand. “What does giving a compliment mean?” she asked.

“It means saying something nice about someone.” Sister Saxton tossed the beanbag to Gavin. “I like the way Gavin folds his arms.”

Gavin’s grin stretched from ear to ear. He held the beanbag for a few moments before tossing it to Janine. “Janine is always smiling,” he said. “It makes me feel happy inside when I see her.”

Zoey’s teacher was the next to get the beanbag. She tossed it to Zoey. “Zoey helps new children feel welcome,” she said.
A sweet warmth spread through Zoey. She tossed the beanbag to Sister Ross, the Primary chorister. Sister Ross knew sign language and often taught the children how to sign the words of the songs. “Sister Ross makes learning the songs fun,” Zoey said.

Soon all the children and teachers had a turn.

“We can either build each other up or tear each other down with our words,” Sister Saxton said. “If we remember to use beanbag words, then we will build others up.”

Zoey thought about how she and her three brothers had argued the night before. She had wanted to watch a TV show about twin sisters. Her brothers had wanted to watch a football game. Finally, their mother came into the room and turned off the television. Zoey and her brothers had gone to bed angry with each other.

A sad feeling crept into Zoey’s heart as she remembered the unkind words she had said to her brothers. Even though they were older than she was, they often took her with them to get ice cream or go to a movie. She needed to tell them how much she loved them, even when she argued with them.

After Primary, Mom was waiting for Zoey. “How was Primary?” Mom asked.

“It was great,” Zoey said. “I’ll tell you about it on the way home. I want to find Rob, Steve, and Hyrum. I have some things I need to tell them.”
We believe in being subject to kings, presidents, rulers, and magistrates, in obeying, honoring, and sustaining the law.

We believe it is right to follow the leaders and obey the laws of the country and city where we live. It is important to Heavenly Father that we are good citizens.

Circle what the leader of your country is called.

- President
- King or Queen
- Prime Minister

Draw an “X” where you live.

The name of my street is ____________.

The name of my city is ____________.

The name of my state, province, or county is ____________________________.

The name of my country is ___________ ____________________________.

Draw and color your country’s flag.
Show you’re thankful for a special friend or neighbor by sharing a plate of these delicious filled cookies.

1. Wash your hands with soap and water.
2. Heat the oven to 375ºF (191ºC).
3. Beat egg and water together in a small bowl.
4. Sprinkle a little flour on work surface. Spread out piecrust, and use a rolling pin to flatten it until it is about ¼ inch thick.
5. Use any large cookie cutter to cut as many shapes as possible.
6. Spread 3–4 tablespoons of chips or pie filling on half of the cut shapes. Leave ½ inch around the edges uncovered.
7. Brush the edges of the shapes with egg mixture. Place a second shape on top, and press the edges together to seal.
8. Brush the tops of each filled cookie with egg mixture. Sprinkle the cookies with sugar.
9. Use a spatula to move the cookies to a baking sheet. Bake for about 12 minutes. Let cookies cool for several minutes before moving them.

Remember to ask an adult for help when you make a Kitchen Crafts recipe!

Cookies

1 egg, 1 teaspoon water, flour, 1 package uncooked piecrust, sugar
Choose any of the following filling ingredients:
- chocolate chips, butterscotch chips, peanut-butter chips, mini marshmallows, canned raspberry or cherry pie filling
When I went into Young Women I was a little nervous, but then I got a visit from the Beehive presidency and the Beehive leaders and it calmed my nerves. They told me what we would be doing in Young Women and explained the Personal Progress program. They also told me what room we met in at church. I enjoyed getting to know some of the girls who would be in Young Women with me. Now I am the Beehive president in my ward. When a girl turns 12, my presidency, my Beehive leaders, and I go to her house and talk to her about Young Women and Personal Progress. So, if you are nervous, don’t be. Young Women is really fun and we learn a lot about the gospel. I hope you have fun in Young Women.

Victoria O., age 13, Utah

I was worried about going into Young Women. I was scared for a long time. I thought I wouldn’t have any friends. About a month before my birthday, I started praying about it. I even fasted. I asked Heavenly Father to help me get to know people better and to find good things about Young Women. My last Sunday in Primary, a couple of my Primary leaders were called to be Young Women leaders! I would like to say to all the boys and girls turning 12 to not judge by appearances! Get to know people. I have found that the youth are nice. You might not find a friend right away, but you probably will soon. Pray. I know it works.

Alexandra W., age 12, Maryland

Responses are intended for help and perspective, not as official pronouncements of Church doctrine.
Complete your Faith in God Award. If you don’t treat it like a list of requirements to be marked off, it will greatly bless your life. You will also be more receptive to the Holy Ghost. For you 11-year-old boys—you should make a goal now to earn your Eagle in Scouting. The Boy Scouts is a wonderful program. There are more than 100 merit badges for almost every subject, so you will certainly improve your talents, whatever your talents are! I also recommend continuing to read the *Friend*. It has good stories and values within it.

*Dallin F., age 12, California*

My birthday is coming up, and I have finished my Faith in God requirements. I have had my interview with the bishop, and I’m very excited to go to Young Women. I am even more excited to go to the temple to do baptisms for the dead. The Faith in God program has helped me to prepare for future years to come.

*Morgan C., age 11, Utah*

I recently turned 12 and became a deacon and an Aaronic Priesthood holder. I noticed that having a friend who has already gone through the change from Primary to Young Men or Young Women helps with the shift from Primary. Also, when the group is kind to you, it makes a world of difference.

*Austin H., age 12, Montana*

My transition to Young Women was made easier because my mom was in the presidency and my sister was a Mia Maid. I also had a friend that transitioned with me from Primary, and we had friends in the Beehive class. Enjoy the fun, but don’t ruin it for everyone by being grouchy or mean. Young Women has blessed my life in many ways, and the leaders are called of God.

*Summer R., age 13, Washington*

If you are feeling afraid, find a friend—someone you know who turned 12 before you. You can go to your meeting with them and sit by them. Remember, the young women and young men don’t bite. In fact, they are most assuredly excited to have you with them. You have no need to be afraid or shy.

*Rachel T., age 12, Utah*

The *Friend* Needs You!

This is a sneak peek of a new section in the *Friend* called Question Corner. You can help us answer questions about getting along with friends, being a missionary, and more. Here’s a question you can answer to help us get started.

I’m not sure if I have felt the Spirit like people talk about at church. How can I know when I am feeling the Holy Ghost?

Do you have some advice about this? Send us your answer and photo by December 15, 2011. Find our address on page 48 or e-mail us at friend@ldschurch.org. Remember to include a parent’s permission!
Lily is getting ready for church, but she can’t find her socks. She wants to wear the socks that are mostly blue and have stripes and dots. Can you find and circle both of her socks?

Now Lily needs to pack her church bag. Help her find her beaded bracelet, Book of Mormon, bookmark, crayon, CTR ring, hair bow, handkerchief, marker, pen, pencil, and spiral notebook.
The Spirit shall be given unto you by the prayer of faith (D&C 42:14).

Some years ago, I was traveling in the Democratic Republic of the Congo with other Church leaders. We had been driving in complete wilderness when we suddenly hit a big bump in the road. Our driver struggled to steady the truck, but it landed on its side.

After we pulled ourselves from the wrecked truck, we said a prayer of gratefulness that no one was seriously injured. Then we set out on foot to find help. We came to a small village and explained our predicament. The villagers told us that sometimes it was possible to make a call on a cell phone by climbing one of the tall anthills nearby.

We climbed one of the anthills, but there was no signal. We tried again with the same result. Finally, on the eighth or ninth anthill, we were able to detect a small signal by raising the cell phone high in the air. We were able to get help.

The Savior promised, “Whatsoever things ye shall ask the Father in my name shall be given unto you.” (3 Nephi 27:28–29).

The Holy Ghost is available to us all the time, but we must work to feel His guidance. Often as we seek the Spirit, the Lord allows us to develop our faith by not giving us an answer until we have shown our real intent. Just as I had to go to a higher place to get a cell-phone signal, we must place ourselves in the right environment to feel the promptings of the Holy Ghost. When we do what the Lord asks of us, we can gain His help through the Holy Ghost. ◆
How can I be a missionary now?

The light of the Lord can beam from your eyes.

Whether full-time missionaries or members, we should all be good examples of the believers in Jesus Christ.

You can have “a pure heart and clean hands” (Alma 5:19).

Many of our friends do not know they are welcome in our Church buildings. An invitation to attend a Sunday meeting with you or to participate in a Church activity will help to make visitors feel more comfortable.

You can invite a friend to read the Book of Mormon. Explain that it is not a novel or a history book. It is another testament of Jesus Christ.

Strive to enlarge your own circle of friendship.

Inviting friends to church can sometimes be scary. But not to Russell! This nine-year-old from New Zealand loves sharing the gospel with his friends and showing them how great the Church is.

Russell W. has a mild form of autism, which can make it hard for him to communicate. But that doesn’t stop him from making friends. When a new family moved into his neighborhood, Russell quickly befriended their son, a boy his age named Connor. Connor has a condition that makes it hard for him to sit still and focus on one thing.

Russell’s family welcomed Connor into their home, and Connor liked being there. Russell often invited Connor to go to church with him. As he went to church, Connor found that he was able to focus more and it was easier for him to sit still and be reverent. Connor’s parents saw the positive effect that the Church had on their son. They invited the missionaries to their home to learn more about the gospel. One day, Connor’s family decided they were ready to be baptized!

Russell’s and Connor’s birthdays are close together, and they were baptized on the same day. Russell was excited that he could share that special day with his friend.

Russell continues to be a missionary. He has invited several friends to church since he and Connor were baptized. One of these friends is considering being baptized too! As Russell’s dad says, “The Church is part of Russell’s life. He enjoys it, so why not invite a friend to make it even more fun?”

Connor and Russell

Russell and his family
Helping My School

One time my friends were saying words that I didn’t feel comfortable with. I asked them to stop. I didn’t expect them to stop, but they did. After that, my friends didn’t use the Lord’s name in vain or the other words that I don’t use. It made me feel good that I could help make my school a little more Christlike.

Erin W., age 11, Tennessee

Helping Others

I wanted to make my eighth birthday extra special. So I asked my friends to bring toys and clothes instead of presents to my party. I donated the toys and clothes to a local charity that helps children. I felt really good because I was trying to be like Jesus.

Hannah S., age 8, Alberta, Canada

Courage to Choose

One day I was with my friend in a school science lab. My friend dared me to push the fire alarm. I didn’t want to do it, but he said that I couldn’t be his friend if I didn’t push it. I wouldn’t do it. I felt sad that he said I wasn’t his friend, but I was glad that I had the strength to make the right choice.

James N., age 6, Utah

A Clean Church

Emma, Riley, and Logan enjoyed doing service as a family at their church parking lot. They worked with their parents to clean up the gutter and sidewalk, which were littered with dirt, rocks, garbage, and pine needles. The children helped sweep, shovel, and empty the trash. They liked seeing how clean it looked when they were done.

Emma, Riley, and Logan N., ages 8, 5, and 2, Idaho
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Key 040204
Trenton's Coins

By Casey Winfield
(Based on a true story)

For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink (Matthew 25:35).

1. Trenton and his family were watching TV together. Trenton saw a boy on a commercial who did not look happy.

That boy looks very sad. Why is he so sad?

He's sad because he doesn't have food and clean water or other things he needs.

We should help him.

That's a good idea. What do you think we should do?
2. We should make sure he has some food and clean water so he can be happy.

   Good thinking. We could give some money to the bishop so he can use it to help somebody in need. What do you think?

3. Trenton was excited to help. He raced to his room and looked in his piggy bank. He poured out the coins and ran back to Dad.

   Dad, I want to give this to the bishop so we can help somebody. I want to help too.

   Boys, that is a very kind thing to do. I think we all can share some of our money with those in need.

4. On Sunday, Trenton, Eric, and their parents each gave the bishop a donation envelope with some money in it. The bishop shook their hands. Trenton was happy to know that he was serving Jesus Christ and that he was helping someone in need.
Find the Differences

The Church helps people by building wells for those who do not have clean water. See if you can find the five differences between these two photos of children using one of these wells.
A woman had been very sick for 12 years. Doctors could not help the woman. One day she saw Jesus surrounded by many people. The woman believed she would be healed if she touched Jesus’s clothes. The woman walked through the crowd and touched Jesus’s clothes. The woman was healed. There were many people near Jesus, but He knew that somebody had touched Him. “Who touched my clothes?” asked Jesus. The woman was afraid. She knelt in front of Jesus. The woman told Jesus that she had touched Him. Jesus was not angry with the woman. He told the woman her faith had healed her.

Watch this story online at scripturestories.lds.org.
Emily told Mama,

Emily got her blanket when she was a baby. Now she was old enough to know her colors, and she had given her blanket a name. Pinkie was fuzzy in some places and silky in others. Emily took Pinkie with her everywhere, except to church. That was because Mama said,

In Sunbeams you need your hands for other things.

Pinkie had gone with Emily to Grandpa’s house for Thanksgiving. Now Emily’s family sat in the car heading home. At first Emily colored. Then she played I Spy. But now it was dark and the only sound was the hum of the engine.

A special gift is kindness. Such happiness it brings (Children’s Songbook, 145).
Emily rubbed Pinkie’s silky edge against her nose. Rubbing her nose with Pinkie helped Emily think beautiful thoughts.

Daddy slowed down and pulled the car over to the side of the road.

“What’s going on?” Mama asked.

“There was a crash,” Daddy said. “We need to see if we can help.”

In the light from the headlights Emily saw a smashed car. She also saw a family huddling outside of it. There was a little girl. She wasn’t wearing a coat.

Emily knew that if she were that little girl she would be scared. She would be cold.

Emily handed Daddy her blanket. “Please give Pinkie to that girl.”

Daddy asked.

Emily nodded. She loved Pinkie, but that little girl needed beautiful thoughts right now.
Seasons

Fall
Colorful, crunchy
Crunching, falling, raking
Rake, windy, flowers, spring break
Blooming, growing, playing
Sunny, rainy
Spring
Cailey B., age 9, Arkansas

Say Thank You
Say thank you when someone buys you a book or two, even if you already have them.
Say thank you if someone reads you a book, even if you have heard it a million times.
Say thank you if someone buys you an animal, even if you are allergic to it.
Say thank you if someone takes you to a restaurant, even if the food is bad.
Say thank you if someone buys you shoes, even if you don’t like them.
Say thank you if someone gives you money, even if it is a penny.
Say thank you!
Braden H., age 8, Arizona

Storm
Late at night
the wind howls,
the storm roars.
Raindrops pound on the ground
like drumsticks on a drum,
a massive shower
from the massive sky.
Lightning breaks the night.
A bullet with a tail
flashes in the dark;
an electrical whip
slashes the earth.
Thunder booms and crackles,
roars like an angry lion.
The storm moves on and on
through the dark night.
Abigail G., age 10, Singapore

Our Savior, Jesus Christ
Outstanding
Universal
Royal

Supreme
Awesome
Valiant
Invincible
Outstanding
Royal

Judge
Extraordinary
Savior
Universal
Savior

Caring
Heavenly
Royal
Invincible
Savior
Terrific

Parker H., age 10, Michigan

Would you like to send us a poem or drawing? Turn to page 48 to find out how.

Grace E., age 8, California
Sofia O., age 11, Utah
Ainsley P., age 8, Panama
Romney H., age 9, California

Nathan M., age 11, Pennsylvania
Nicole S., age 10, Alberta, Canada

Tanner G., age 10, Idaho

Michael H., age 7, Arkansas

Emma S., age 9, Missouri

Michael H., age 7, Arkansas

Nathan B., age 9, Washington

Michael H., age 6, Colorado

Darby B., age 7, California

Jerica B., age 7, Utah

Jason C., age 7, New York
Moses was a righteous man who lived long ago. One day he was leading a flock of sheep to grazing land when he came to a mountain. On the mountain he saw a bush that was on fire. When he went to look, he saw that the bush was not burning up. Moses heard a voice call to him, saying, "Put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground." It was the voice of the Lord calling to Moses.

The Lord said that He had a great work for Moses to do. He wanted Moses to lead the children of Israel out of captivity and into the promised land. (See Exodus 3:1–10.)

The Lord told Moses to take off his shoes because he was on sacred ground. We don’t take off our shoes to show respect when we go into our church buildings, but we do show reverence and respect for Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ by choosing the right in what we do and say.

At church we can show reverence by dressing nicely and modestly, talking quietly and politely, listening to our teachers, and cleaning up after ourselves. Being reverent during the sacrament helps us think about Jesus Christ. Even if we are at a church building during the week, we should show respect by not yelling and not running in the halls.

We can have reverence for God even when we’re not at church by showing respect for His creations. We can be kind to animals, help keep the earth clean, and thank Heavenly Father for the things we enjoy in nature. Remember that God’s greatest creations are His sons and daughters—us! When we treat others with kindness, we are showing reverence and respect for God.
Clean up after yourself after sacrament meeting and Primary.

Try to remember a story you hear in sacrament meeting or Primary. Share the story with your family after church or in family home evening.

Pick up any litter you might see in the church building.

Sing the hymns and songs at church. If you don’t know the words, hum the music.

Thank Heavenly Father for your blessings.

Think about Jesus Christ during the sacrament.

Take good care of your pet.

Speak quietly at church. Don’t run or yell.

Shake hands with your bishop or branch president.

Be kind to others.

Speak politely to teachers and leaders.

Listen carefully during prayers, and fold your arms, bow your head, and close your eyes.

Use the special words Thee and Thou when you pray.
Boy, math is hard!

Math’s easy. Science is hard.

Science is pretty easy for me.

Hey, I could help you study math and you could help me study science.

You’re a genius! Let’s start tonight!

Great! Then you can look at my paper during math tests and I’ll look at yours on science tests!

No, Taylor. That’s not going to happen. It’s cheating.

No, it’s not. It’s friends helping each other.

Actually, it’s friends hurting each other. Helping me learn math makes me a better person. Helping me pretend I’ve learned math when I really haven’t is helping me be dishonest.

OK, then. Before tests we work together. During tests we’re on our own.

Deal! That’s the best way we can help each other.
How to Draw like a Friend Artist

The art in the *Friend* is an important part of the magazine. Heavenly Father has blessed our artists with a talent to create, but these artists also work hard to improve their talents. *Friend* senior designer Brad Teare shares a few tips about how he creates art in the magazine.

1. With a soft pencil draw an egg shape for the head. Add a tube-like shape for the neck and a rounded line for the shoulders.

2. Lightly draw some lines to indicate where the eyes and nose go. You can measure your own face to see where these lines should go.

3. Add circles for eyes and curved lines for the mouth, nose, and ears. Keep shapes simple.

4. Add details like hair, cheeks, and pupils. You can change details like making the chin larger or any other change you think will make the drawing better.

5. Use an ink pen or a small brush and draw over the top of your drawing with waterproof ink. Let the ink dry, and then softly erase the pencil lines.

6. Using colored pencils or crayons add color over the top of the ink lines. You now have a fun picture of Nephi you can share with friends.

How did your drawing turn out? Turn to page 48 to find out how to send us your *Friend* art!
When Rachel moved to our town, my teacher picked me to help her learn how our class works. I showed her where the library is and how we take attendance. It felt good to help her.

At recess, I introduced her to my friends. As we laughed and played together, I found out that Rachel and I had a lot in common. She fit right into my group of friends.

A friend loveth at all times (Proverbs 17:17).
We were all getting along great until one day at lunch, a few weeks later. My friends and I are all in the same ward, and Sara was talking to Alexis about something that had happened at church the week before.

“Hey, Rachel,” Alexis said. “I haven’t seen you at church.”

“Oh, I don’t go to church,” Rachel said.

We were all silent. Rachel was so much like us. We automatically thought she would go to our church.

Over the next few days, my friends didn’t talk to Rachel as much.

“I don’t think we should play with Rachel anymore,” Sara said to me. “She doesn’t go to church.”

I knew it wasn’t right to leave Rachel out just because she didn’t go to church. But I didn’t say anything because I didn’t want to lose my friends.

One morning at recess, Rachel and I walked over to where Alexis and Sara were playing soccer.

“Can we play with you guys?” I asked.

“You’ll have to choose between Rachel and us,” Alexis said to me.

I didn’t know what to do. “Sorry, Rachel,” I muttered, and left her as I went to play soccer. Looking back, I saw Rachel standing against the wall with her head down.

The rest of the day I had a sick feeling. Over the next week, I tried not to look at Rachel so I wouldn’t feel bad. Each day it got a little easier to ignore her, but I still felt that sick feeling tying knots in my stomach.

One day, Rachel didn’t come to school. I went in the bathroom and cried. That night, I told my parents what happened.

“It’s OK to be friends with people who go to different churches or who don’t go to church at all,” Dad said.

“Could I go to Rachel’s house right now to apologize?” I asked.

“Of course,” Mom said. “We’ll take you.”

When we got to her house, Rachel was surprised to see me.

My eyes filled with tears as I tried to say, “I’m sorry.”

She started to cry too. Then she hugged me. “It’s OK,” she said.

“I want to be friends again,” I said. “It was wrong for us to leave you out. Please come back to school.”

And the next day, Rachel did come back! We played and ate lunch together. Even though Rachel doesn’t go to church, I’m glad we can still be friends.

“We need to reach out and extend our friendship to others regardless of whether they are interested in the gospel or not.”

Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles
I can show reverence for sacred places and things.

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind (Matthew 22:37).
Frisco Texas Stake
Fifty-six children from the Frisco Texas Stake provided prelude and three musical numbers for their stake conference. They sang “A Child’s Prayer,” “Love Is Spoken Here,” “We’ll Bring the World His Truth,” “I’m Trying to Be Like Jesus,” and “I Know that My Savior Loves Me.” They sat on the stand for two hours and were great examples of reverence.

Roxy G., 7, Arizona, likes to swim, draw, and play with her friends. She especially enjoys reading the Friend and is looking forward to getting baptized.

Would you like to be a friend in the news? Turn to page 48 to find out how.

Logan 19th Ward
The activity day girls of the Logan 19th Ward, Logan Utah Central Stake, learned about dressing modestly. Afterward, with the help of their leaders, they made modest skirts.

Logan W., 3, Utah, is a happy boy. He likes to color, tell jokes, and play with cars and blocks. He can recite the whole alphabet. Logan is kind and loving to his family.

Tylin S., 4, Montana, likes to play the piano, sing, dance, and read. She especially likes to read the Book of Mormon. She is a great missionary. She enjoys telling her friends and teachers about the Church and invites them to activities.

Rachel H., 9, Ontario, Canada, is proud of her sister, Emily, 8, who just got baptized. They both enjoy dancing, running, playing soccer, and reading the Book of Mormon every day with their family.

Gabriel C., 7, Indiana, enjoys playing soccer, writing stories, and making music with his family. He and his family wrote new verses to “Book of Mormon Stories” on the road between Indiana and Alberta, Canada, last summer.

Frisco TX Stake Senior Primary Conference Choir
Possible Ideas for Family Home Evening

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

2. Giving compliments is a good way to show love for another person. Read “Beanbag Words” (pages 20–21) and think of someone you can be kind to this week. It could be a family member, a friend, or a classmate. At your next family home evening, talk about how you felt when you gave someone a compliment.

3. Read “Jesus Teaches How to Remember Him” (pages 14–15). Talk about how you feel each week as you take the sacrament. Write your feelings in your journal. What other ways can you remember Jesus during the week?

4. Memorize the twelfth article of faith (page 22). Talk about how your family members can be good citizens in your community.

5. In “The Parable of the Anthill and the Cell Phone” (page 27), Elder Sitati talks about being prepared to feel the Holy Ghost. Read his story and talk about ways you can better listen to promptings you receive.

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.
The soldiers in the Israelite army were afraid to fight the Philistine giant, Goliath. Although David was young, he volunteered to fight the giant. Because David had faith in the Lord, he was able to defeat Goliath. If you are obedient to the Lord’s commandments and you show your trust in Him like David did, the Lord will help you overcome your challenges—even the really big ones.
What’s online this month?

For Children

SCRIPTURE STORIES
Study the scriptures in a new way by visiting scripturestories.lds.org to watch stories from the Book of Mormon, New Testament, Old Testament, and Doctrine and Covenants. Visit mormonchannel.org and click Scripture Stories under programs to listen to an audio show devoted to helping children learn and understand the scriptures.

TEMPLE SQUARE
Have you ever wondered what it’s like to stand behind the pulpit at the Conference Center or play the organ in the Salt Lake Tabernacle? Visit lds.org/friend and click Videos, and then A Year on Temple Square to learn more about the interesting places on Temple Square.

For Parents

MORMON MESSAGES
Share inspiring Mormon Messages videos with your family for family home evening or other family activities. You can watch the videos at lds.org.

YOUTH WEBSITE
Do you have teenagers in your home? Tell them about youth.lds.org, where they can watch videos, download music, and read articles just for them.

For Teachers and Leaders

TEACHING CHILDREN
Need help preparing for a lesson? Find insights from Church leaders for teaching children at lds.org. Click on Prepare a Lesson or Talk, and then click Teaching Children, Youth, and Adults.

WISDOM FROM THE PAST
Find messages from past prophets and apostles. Go to lds.org and click on Prophets and Apostles Speak Today. Then click Gospel Classics.