

the friend

OCTOBER • 2008



Friends by Mail



Recess Bully

I was very excited to start kindergarten. I liked going to school, and I made some new friends. After a couple of months, though, I became frightened of a boy in the other class. He was big and chased children at recess. I didn't want to go to school or play at recess anymore. I would stand next to a teacher the whole time.

My mom asked my family to fast and pray to help me be brave at school. My teacher arranged for me to have recess buddies so I wouldn't be afraid. I was still afraid, though.

My mom told me that maybe I needed to get to know the boy who frightened me. I told my teacher and she took me to meet the boy. I found out that we both have a big brother and liked the color blue. I also found out that the boy was nice and needed a friend.

I am happy that Heavenly Father blessed me with courage to face my fears. I am no longer afraid to go to school or play at recess, and I have a new friend!

Mitchell G., age 5, Oregon, with help from his mom



Stuck!



Just before my family was ready to leave for sacrament meeting, I got my finger stuck inside the end of a baseball bat. I pulled and pulled, but it would not come out. When my mom tried to get it out, it began to hurt and swell. I did not want to pull anymore. We decided to say a prayer and ask for Heavenly Father's help. Right after we prayed, my mom had an idea. She poured some cooking oil on my finger. Finally, after some effort it popped out, and we were able to make it to church on time. I know that Heavenly Father answers our prayers.

Drew C., age 7, Arizona, with help from his mom

Helping People



When I was filling out my tithing slip, I noticed the words "Perpetual education." I asked my mom what that meant. She said that you could donate money to help people in different countries get a good education. I decided to donate some money to help them. I am glad I can serve people in need!

McKenna B., age 9, Utah

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the friend

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



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

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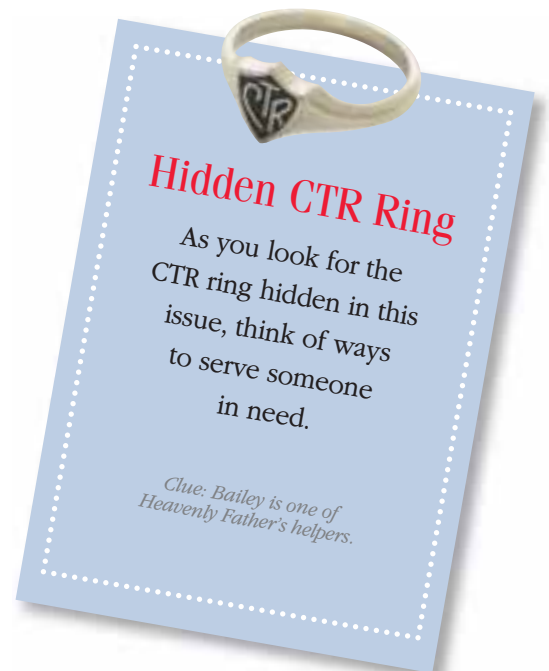
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Cover photograph by David Stoker





How to Give

BY PRESIDENT HENRY B. EYRING
First Counselor in the First Presidency

It was a summer day. My mother died in the early afternoon. My father, my brother, and I had gone from the hospital to our family home, just the three of us. We fixed ourselves a snack; then we talked with visitors. It grew late, dusk fell, and I remember we still had not turned on the lights.

Dad answered the doorbell. It was Aunt Catherine and Uncle Bill. I could see that Uncle Bill was holding a bottle of cherries. I can still see the deep red, almost purple, cherries and the shiny gold cap on the jar. He said, "You might enjoy these. You probably haven't had dessert."

We hadn't. The three of us sat around the kitchen table, put some cherries in bowls, and ate them as Uncle Bill and Aunt Catherine cleared some dishes.

As nearly as I can tell, the giving and receiving of a great gift always has three parts. Here they are, illustrated by that gift of cherries.

First, I knew that Uncle Bill and Aunt Catherine had felt what I was feeling. They must have felt we'd be too tired to fix much food. They must have felt that a bowl of home-canned cherries would make us feel, for a moment, like a family again. I can't remember the taste of the cherries, but I remember that someone knew my heart and cared.

Second, I felt that the gift was free. I knew that Uncle Bill and Aunt Catherine had chosen freely to bring a gift.



President Eyring teaches us how to give the most meaningful gifts.

The gift seemed to provide them joy in the giving.

And third, there was sacrifice. I knew that Aunt Catherine had canned those cherries for her family. They must have liked cherries. But she took that possible pleasure from them and gave it to me. That's sacrifice. But I have realized since then this marvelous fact: it must have seemed to Uncle Bill and Aunt Catherine that they would have more pleasure if I had the cherries than if they did.

Great gift giving involves three things: you feel what the other feels, you give

freely, and you count the sacrifice a bargain.

God the Father gave His Son, and Jesus Christ gave us the Atonement—gifts of unfathomable depth and value for us. Jesus gave His gift freely, willingly to us all. One of the sure signs of a person who has accepted the gift of the Savior's Atonement is a willingness to give. ●

From "Giving with Joy," Ensign, Dec. 1982, 9–11.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

1. President Eyring liked the gift of cherries because it comforted him. What are some ways you can comfort others?

2. Have you ever received a special gift? What made it special?

3. You may not always know by your own experience how someone else feels. Can you still give good gifts to others? How?



HELP AND BE HAPPY



Thou shalt devote all thy service in Zion (D&C 24:7).

BY JEANNIE LANCASTER

(Based on a true story)

Jonathon grumbled as he climbed into the car next to his brother, Mike. He wanted to stay home and play the new game he had been given for his birthday last week. But his mother insisted they all go to the meetinghouse and help with the ward's cleanup day.

"Why do we have to go?" Jonathon had asked his mother as he helped her load their vacuum into the car.

"It will be fun," she said, smiling. "Besides, all of us use the meetinghouse. It's only right that we help clean it from time to time."

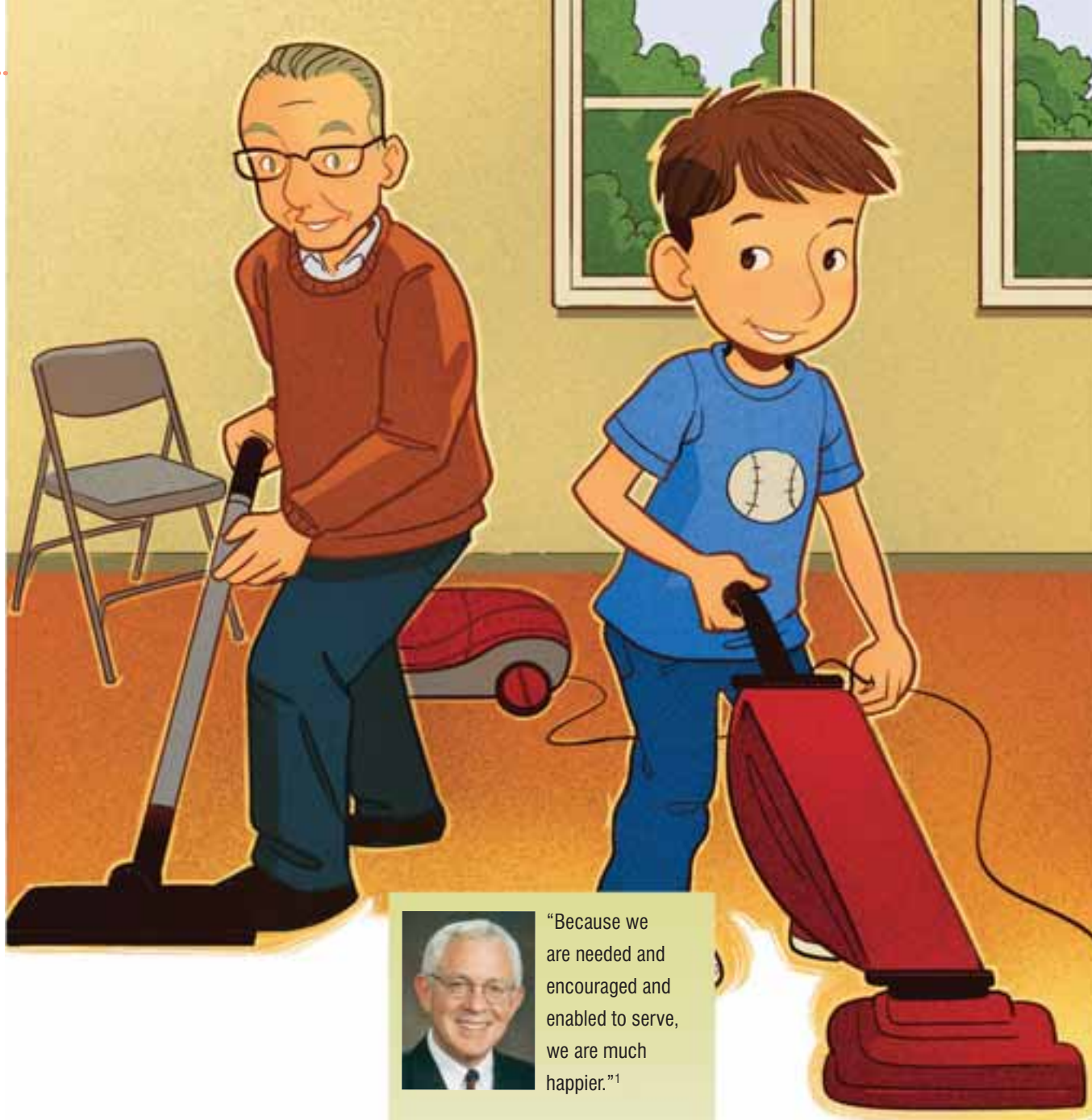
Jonathon stared out the window and watched the houses and trees pass by as they drove to the church. As his mother pulled the car into the church's

parking lot, Jonathon was surprised to see Brother Lawson park his car next to theirs.

"What is Brother Lawson doing here?" Jonathon wondered.

Brother Lawson had been very sick lately with a type of cancer called leukemia. He had been in the hospital for a long time. Jonathon remembered his parents encouraging Mike and him to pray for Brother Lawson during their personal and family prayers. Brother Lawson hadn't been home from the hospital for very long.

Jonathon had always liked Brother Lawson. He was older than Jonathon's grandfathers, but he went out of his way to talk to Jonathon and ask him about school and his sports team. One time he even came to one of Jonathon's games.



Elder Marlin K. Jensen of the Seventy

“Because we are needed and encouraged and enabled to serve, we are much happier.”¹

As Jonathon climbed out of the car, Brother Lawson waved and said, “Hi, Jonathon.” Brother Lawson walked around to the back of his car and took a vacuum out of the trunk. Walking slowly, he pushed the vacuum into the church.

“Jonathon,” his mother called, “can you give me a hand with this?” She was struggling to pull their vacuum from the back of the car.

“Sure, Mom,” Jonathon said. He helped her pull the vacuum out and quickly pushed it across the parking lot.

All that evening Jonathon and Mike worked beside Brother Lawson. Several times Jonathon became tired

and stopped to rest, but he noticed that Brother Lawson continued to work. And he was smiling! “It’s nice to be able to help, isn’t it?” Brother Lawson asked.

Jonathon felt something change inside him. “If Brother Lawson can be happy while he’s helping, so can I,” he thought. He started working even harder.

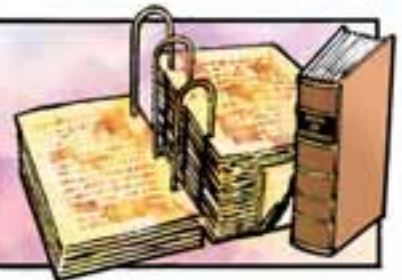
“Thank you for coming with me,” his mother said later as they were heading home.

“You’re welcome,” Jonathon said. “I’m sorry I complained about coming. I didn’t know you could learn so much from vacuuming.” ●



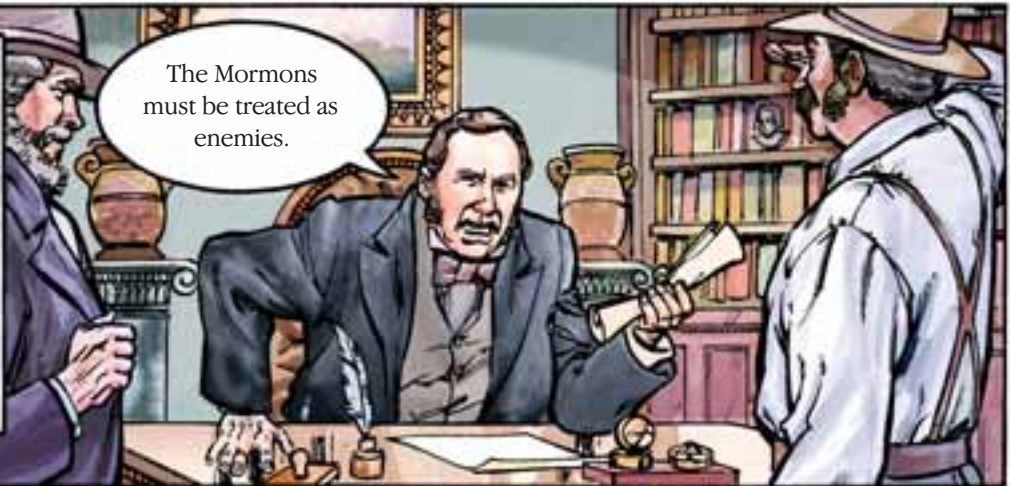
FROM THE LIFE OF THE PROPHET JOSEPH SMITH

Joseph's Experiences in Jail



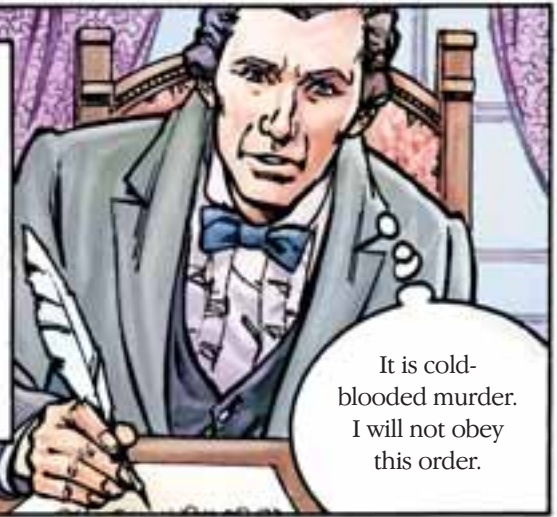
The Latter-day Saints had many problems in Missouri. In the autumn of 1838, Governor Boggs told leaders of the state militia (army) to force the Saints to leave the state.

The Mormons must be treated as enemies.



Joseph and other Church leaders were arrested for crimes they did not commit. The militiamen mocked the prisoners and kept them out in the rain without any shelter.

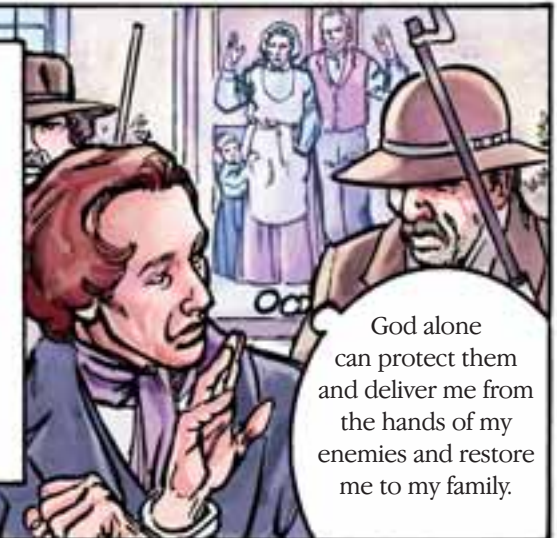
The commander of the militia told General Alexander W. Doniphan to shoot Joseph and the other prisoners. The prisoners prayed that they would not be killed. Their prayers were answered.



It is cold-blooded murder. I will not obey this order.



The next day the guards watched closely as the prisoners said good-bye to their families in Far West. Joseph's wife and children were grateful to see him alive but very sad to see him go away. Joseph worried about them.



God alone can protect them and deliver me from the hands of my enemies and restore me to my family.

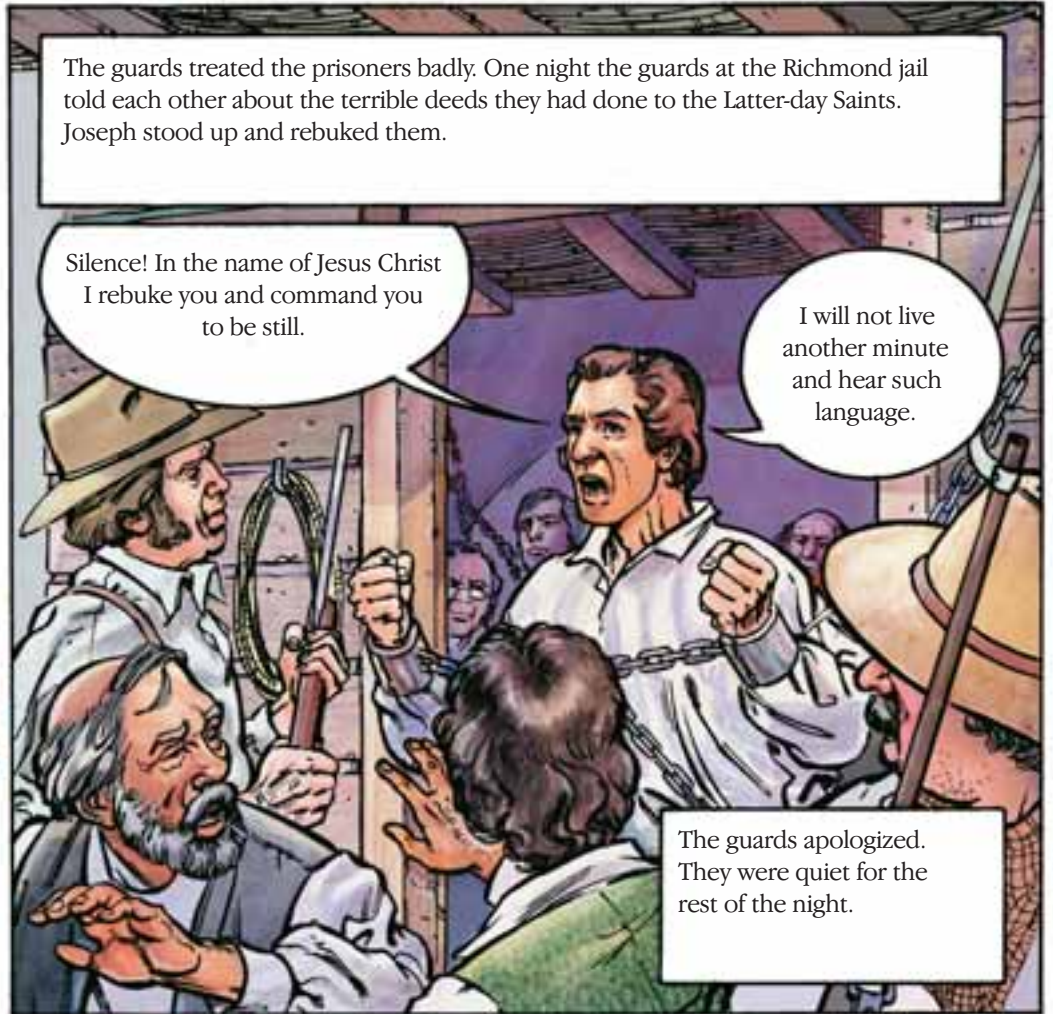
The militia took many Latter-day Saint prisoners to Independence, then to a jail in Richmond. Later, Joseph and a few other men were moved to a jail in Liberty.

The guards treated the prisoners badly. One night the guards at the Richmond jail told each other about the terrible deeds they had done to the Latter-day Saints. Joseph stood up and rebuked them.

Silence! In the name of Jesus Christ I rebuke you and command you to be still.

I will not live another minute and hear such language.

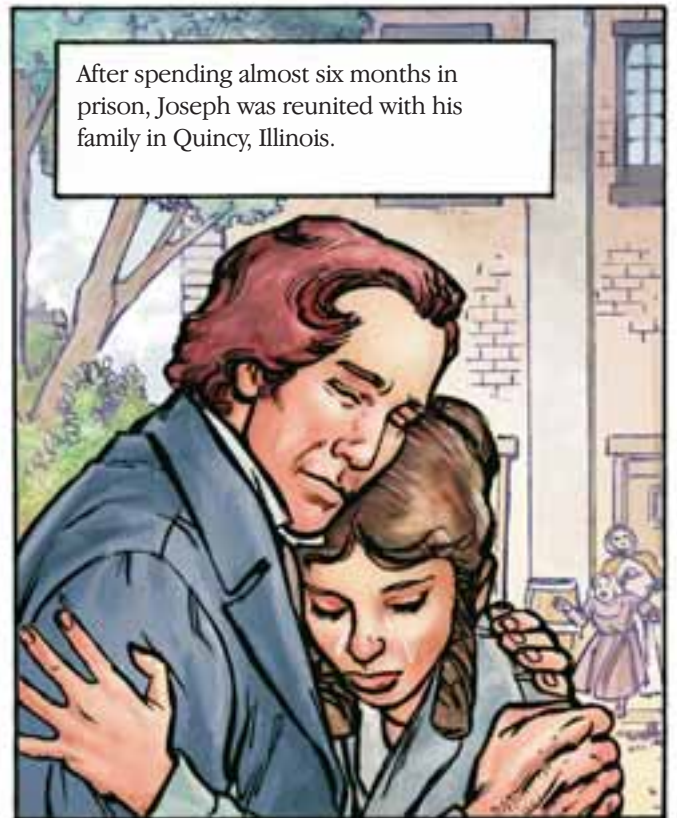
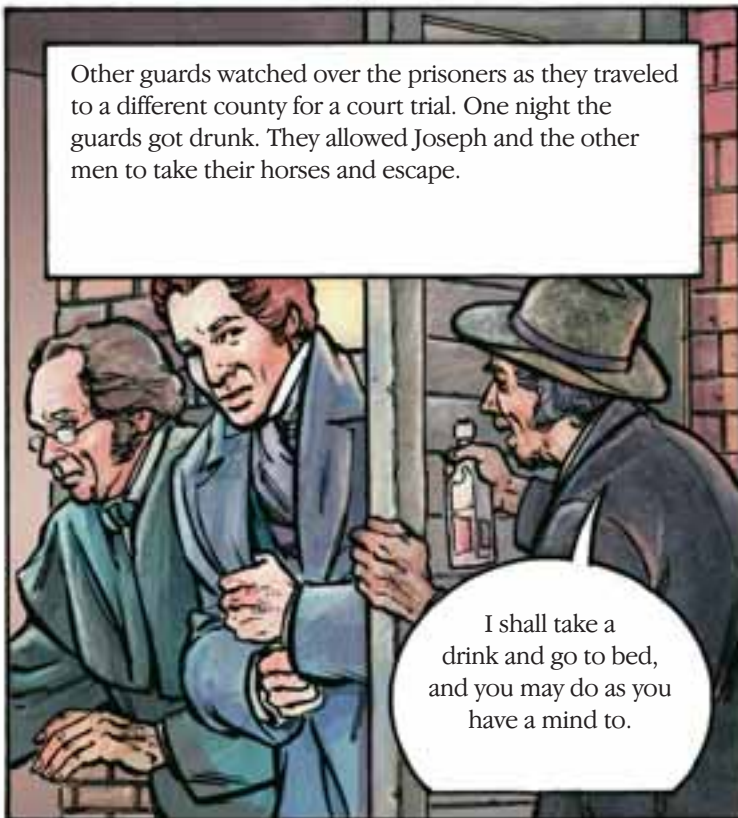
The guards apologized. They were quiet for the rest of the night.



Other guards watched over the prisoners as they traveled to a different county for a court trial. One night the guards got drunk. They allowed Joseph and the other men to take their horses and escape.

After spending almost six months in prison, Joseph was reunited with his family in Quincy, Illinois.

I shall take a drink and go to bed, and you may do as you have a mind to.



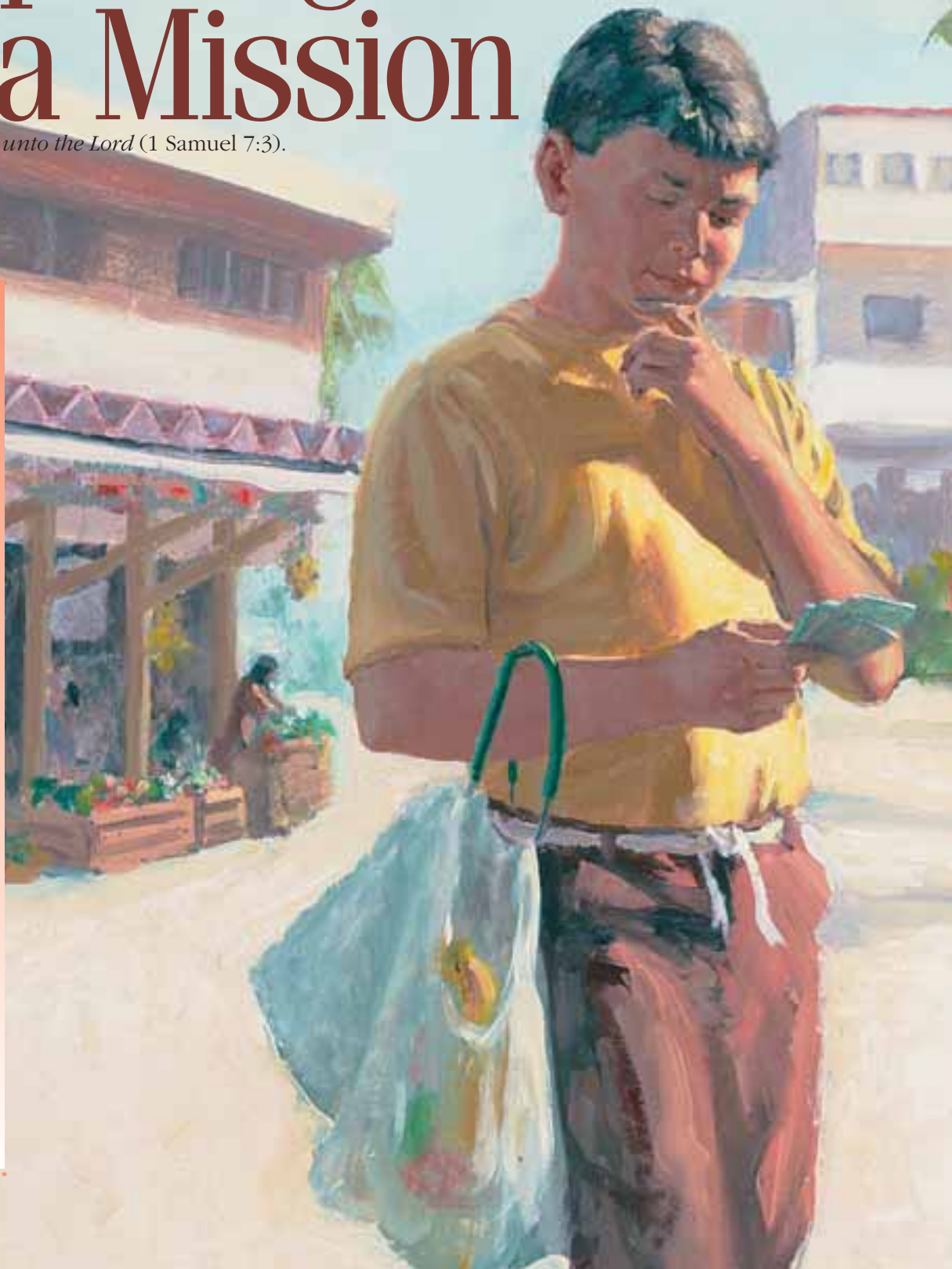



Preparing for a Mission

Prepare your hearts unto the Lord (1 Samuel 7:3).



From an interview with Elder Ulisses Soares of the Seventy, currently serving as First Counselor in the Brazil Area Presidency; by Jennifer Maddy, Church Magazines





For several years after my family was baptized, the missionaries had lunch in our home every day. I learned to love the missionaries, and I wanted to be like them.

When I was 11 years old, my bishop called me in for an interview in his office. He said, “Ulisses, it’s time to start your preparation to go on a mission.” I was astonished because I was only 11 years old! But he said, “We have to start that process now.”

My bishop said, “I’ll interview you once in a while to see how your progress is.” Then he gave me some direction. He taught me about the commandments, the priesthood, worthiness, and honesty. I was so impressed because he looked in my eyes and said, “You will serve a mission if you follow the directions I am giving you.”

I always remembered his words, especially when I faced a challenge. For example, one time my mother gave me money to go to a store to buy some fruit. For some reason the cashier gave me back more money than I gave her to pay for the fruit. I started walking home, and when I opened my hand, I saw that I had more money than I had started with.

Satan tried to convince me that I could keep the money for myself. I thought, “I have some money to do whatever I want, and then I will give back the correct change to my mother.” But then I thought, “No, that’s not what the bishop told me. To be a missionary, I have to be honest.” I felt the Spirit at that time and went back to the store to give back the money. I felt good in my heart. I thought, “I was honest, I obeyed the commandments, and I am preparing for my mission. I will be a missionary, and I need to be honest.”

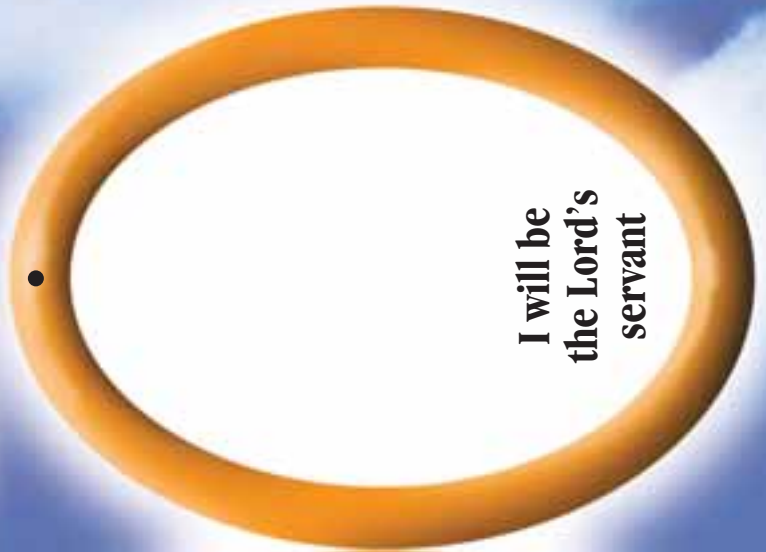
When I was going to high school, I worked to save money for my mission. My parents were poor and couldn’t afford to pay for everything. I didn’t earn a lot of money, but after paying tithing, I decided to buy one piece of clothing per month for my mission. One month I bought a shirt, another month a tie, another month another shirt. During those three years, I saved enough to buy everything I needed. I saved enough to pay for my mission. I learned the principle of saving. I learned the principle of being obedient to the law of tithing and how many blessings we receive when we pay tithing.

My mission was a great experience because it helped me understand the principles of life and how to apply the gospel in my daily activities.

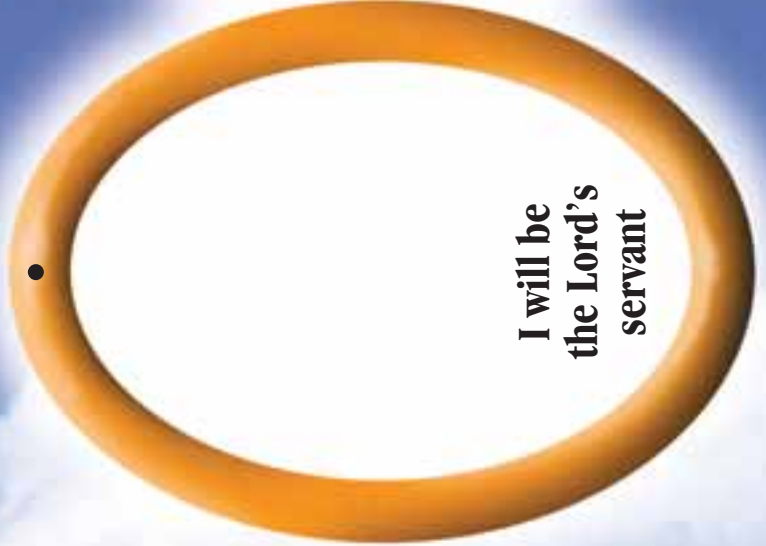
Boys and girls, prepare for a good mission and a good life. The Lord is waiting to give us all the blessings we need. ●



Note: This activity may be copied or printed from the Internet at www.friend.lds.org.



I will be
the Lord's
servant



I will be
the Lord's
servant

Heart	Might	Mind	Strength
Strength	Mind	Might	Heart

I Will Be His Servant

Therefore, O ye that embark in the service of God, see that ye serve him with all your heart, might, mind and strength, that ye may stand blameless before God at the last day (D&C 4:2).

BY LINDA CHRISTENSEN



Ammon, a great Nephite missionary, went to the land of the Lamanites to “declare unto them the word of God” (Alma 17:12). When Ammon entered the land, the Lamanites bound him and took him to the king. The king asked Ammon if he wanted to dwell in the land. Ammon asked the king if he could be his servant.

Ammon served the king with all his heart, might, mind, and strength. He showed love to the people. He used his power to protect the king’s sheep and servants. He used his mind to learn the gospel and share it with the king. He used his strength to be firm and steadfast in living the gospel. (See Alma 17–18.)

The words of the Primary song “I Will Be Valiant” (*Children’s Songbook*, 162) remind us to be like Ammon.

*The Lord needs valiant servants,
To do his work in the latter day,
Who follow the teachings of Jesus
And serve his people in a loving way.*

We can learn to serve others as Ammon did. We can show love to those around us, especially our family and friends. We can use our energy to do good things, such as being kind or helping. We can use our minds to learn the gospel by reading the scriptures and listening to our parents and teachers. We can choose to be firm and steadfast in doing what is right.

I will be his servant

And keep my cov’nants valiantly.

I’ll stand for truth. I’ll stand for right.

The Lord can depend on me. ●

Activity

Cut out the ovals on page 10, and glue them together back-to-back. Cut out the four rectangles, fold them in half, and glue the backs together to make squares. Cut out the circular picture of Ammon for the top of the mobile, and punch holes where indicated. Attach a photo or draw a picture of yourself in the oval frames. Punch a hole at the top of the picture frames and in each of the four squares. Use string or yarn to complete the mobile. Hang the mobile where it will remind you to serve the Lord and others.

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. Prior to sharing time, prepare a list of Sabbath-day activities for children to role-play (see *Primary 6*, lesson 20, enrichment activity 3, p. 87). Begin sharing time by writing these letters on the chalkboard: R T S D T K I H (see "Memorization," TNGC, 172). Explain to the children that these letters will help them learn and remember an important message. Show picture 6-24 (Moses and the Ten Commandments), and briefly share the story of Moses receiving the Ten Commandments. Sing the first line of "Saturday" (p. 196), and have the children listen for a clue to one of the Ten Commandments. Remind the children that another name for Sunday is the Sabbath.

Invite the children to look up Exodus 20:8. Read it together. Show the children how the letters on the chalkboard are the first letter of each word in the scripture. Ask them to close their scriptures and use the letters on the chalkboard to help them memorize the scripture. Ask several children to repeat the scripture by memory.

Read D&C 4:2, and remind the children that we serve with our heart, might, mind, and strength. One way we can serve is by keeping the Sabbath day holy. From the list of Sabbath-day activities, give each class an activity to role-play for the other children. Following each role play, ask the children to identify how the activity helps them serve with their heart, might, mind, and strength. Repeat as time allows.

Give each child a piece of paper and a pencil or crayon. Ask the children to draw a way they can serve God by doing things on the Sabbath that will help them feel close to Heavenly Father. Bear testimony of how keeping the Sabbath day holy is a way to serve Heavenly Father.

2. Sing "I Will Be Valiant" (p. 162), and ask the children to listen for how many times they sing the word *serve* or *servant*. Show GAK 307 (King Benjamin Addresses His People), and share the story of King Benjamin, a valiant servant to his people and to Heavenly Father. Invite the children to look up Mosiah 2:17. Remind the children that this scripture is one that King Benjamin taught his people. Read the scripture together. Discuss how we serve Heavenly Father when we serve others. Refer to D&C 4:2, and remind the children that we should serve with our heart, might, mind, and strength.

Have the pianist play "I Will Be Valiant," and ask the children to hum along. Give each class a small ball or soft object to hand to one another as the music plays. When the music stops, ask the children with the objects to share a way they could serve

someone. Continue to allow all children a chance to share ideas.

Conclude by singing "I Will Be Valiant." Bear testimony that when we serve others we are serving Heavenly Father.

3. Prior to sharing time, obtain pictures of the current First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. Place them on the chalkboard or white board. Make wordstrips of their names, and place them along the side of the chalkboard.

Begin by asking the children to match the names of the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve with their pictures. Help the children put the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve Apostles in the correct order by calling and seniority.

From the most recent general conference, choose addresses from the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve Apostles that focus on service. Share these messages, and discuss ways that the children can apply what they learn to help them as they serve others. Refer to D&C 4:2 to remind the children that we serve with our heart, might, mind, and strength. Sing "Follow the Prophet" (pp. 110–11), verse 9. Bear testimony of the blessing of having prophets, seers, and revelators, who teach us by their words and their examples how to serve one another.

4. Write the weekly gospel principle across the top of the chalkboard: "Because others serve me, I too want to serve." Invite the children to sing songs to discover who serves them: "I'm Trying to Be like Jesus" (pp. 78–79)—Jesus Christ; "Follow the Prophet" (pp. 110–11)—prophet; "Teach Me to Walk in the Light" (p. 177)—teachers; "Families Can Be Together Forever" (p. 188)—families; "Love Is Spoken Here" (pp. 190–91)—parents; "Hello Song" (p. 260)—friends. Write their answers under the words *Because others serve me*.

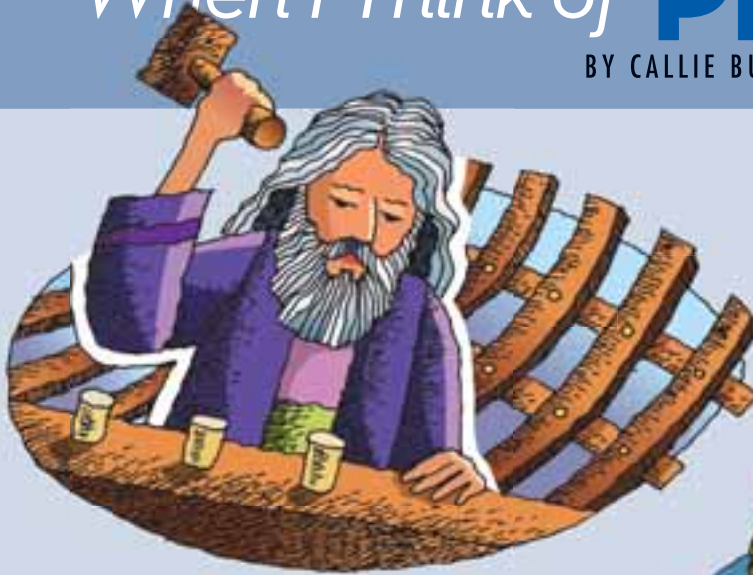
Compare D&C 4:2 and 59:5. Help the children find the words *heart*, *might*, *mind*, and *strength* in both scriptures. Point out that we should love and serve Heavenly Father and others with our heart, might, mind, and strength. Prepare the necessary materials for the children to complete the mobile on page 10.

When the mobiles are completed, invite the children to sing songs to discover ways they can serve: "Love One Another" (p. 136), "I'll Walk with You" (pp. 140–41), "Kindness Begins with Me" (p. 145), "I Want to Live the Gospel" (p. 148), "I Hope They Call Me on a Mission" (p. 169), "Quickly I'll Obey" (p. 197). Write their answers under the phrase *I too want to serve*. Bear testimony of the blessings that come from serving others and from others serving you.

5. *Friend* references: "Ben's Busy Day," Jan. 2005, 40–42; "Doing Good on the Sabbath Day," Sept. 2007, 24–25; "Sharing the Gospel through Service," May 2007, 36; "Love at Home," Sept. 2004, 42–43; "Mysterious Visitors," Oct. 2004, 4–6; "Sammy's Sabbath Dilemma," Apr. 2006, 34–35.

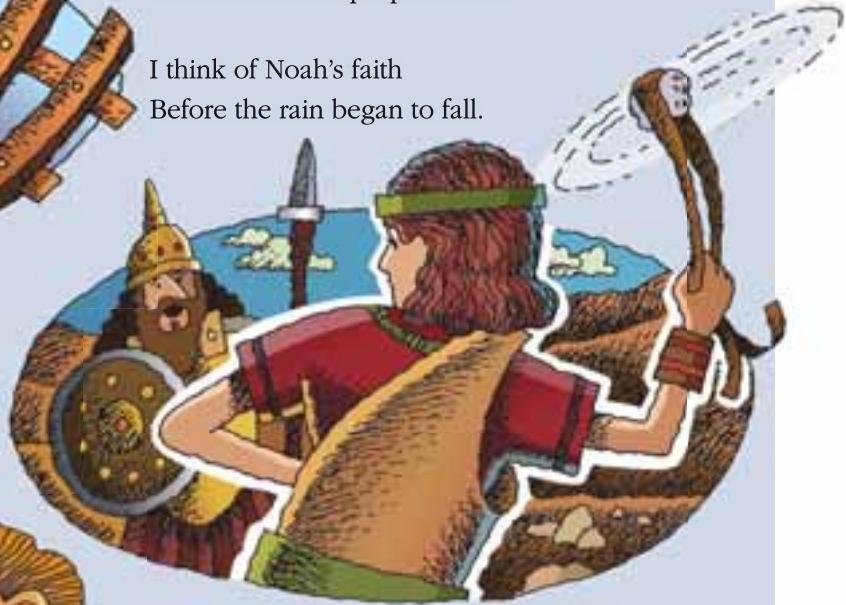
When I Think of **PROPHETS**

BY CALLIE BUYS



When I read the Bible
I think of righteous men of old.
I love to learn the stories
In the words the prophets told.

I think of Noah's faith
Before the rain began to fall.



I think of David's courage
Before a giant, strong and tall.



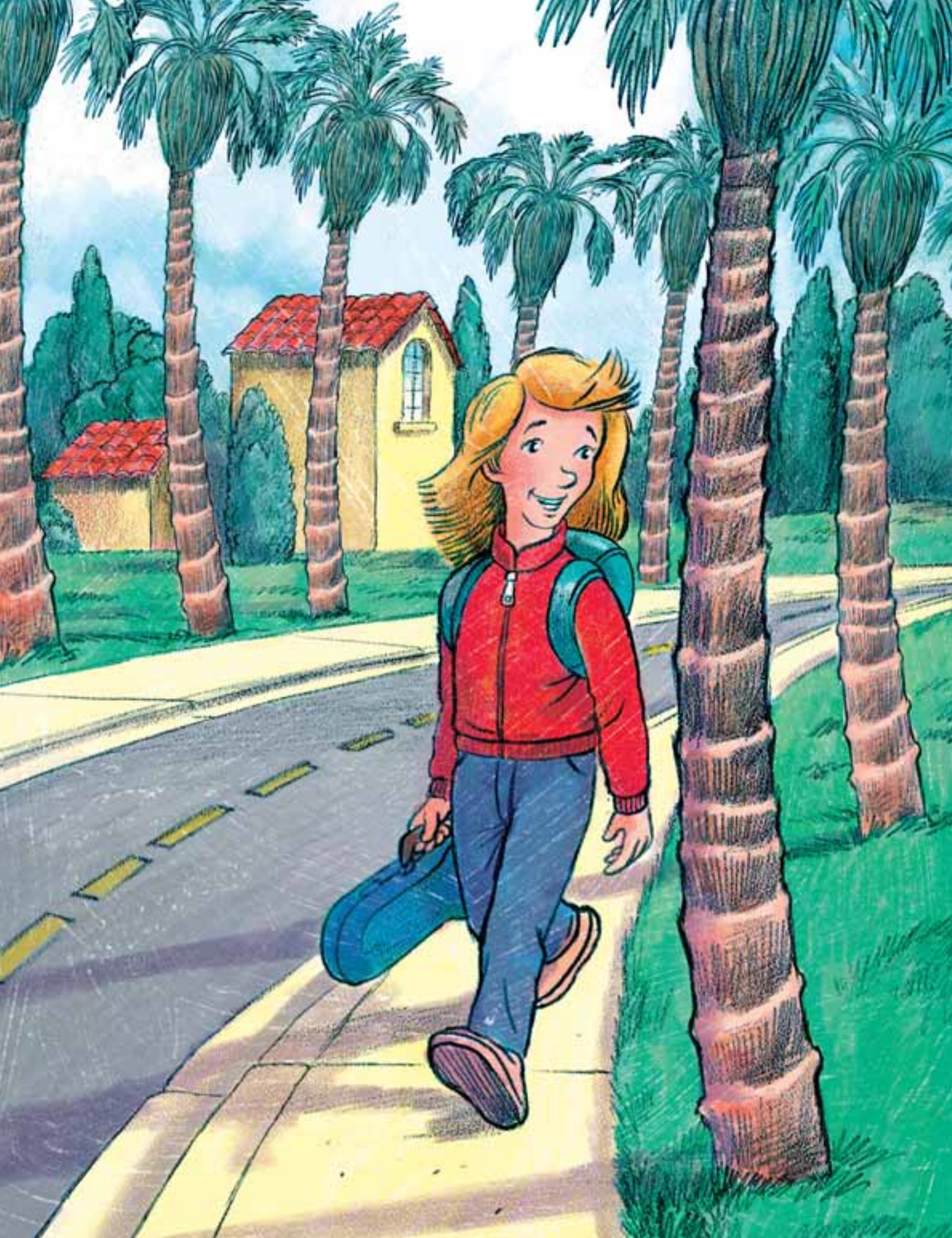
I think of Daniel's trust
In a daunting lions' den.

I think of Joseph's hope
In a prison with no friend.



And when I think of prophets,
I want to follow and obey
The examples they have shown me—
I will live like them today.







Teaching Mrs. Greene

BY MARISSA WIDDISON

(Based on a true story)

God has spoken to the earth, His pow'r is here again
(*Children's Songbook*, 89).

Cindy walked along six blocks of palm-tree-lined streets to get to Madison Elementary School. There were lots of good things about being in the fourth grade, she thought as she walked. The upper-grade classrooms were all on the second floor of the white stucco building, which meant she would get to walk up the stairs with the older students. Fourth-graders also got to start taking music lessons, and Cindy had already signed up to play the violin.

As Cindy slipped into her desk, she thought about another new adventure—this was the year students could participate in a special religion class. Every Wednesday, those who had parent permission slips would get to leave their regular classroom and learn about different religious beliefs.

“Attention, class!
We’re going to

divide for religion class now,” Mrs. Greene said. “If you are Catholic, go with Mrs. Leigh. If you are Protestant, please go with Mrs. Jossen. Otherwise, please stay here with me.”

Cindy tucked her blonde hair behind her ears and watched her classmates push back their chairs and gather their notebooks. One by one they walked out until just a few children were left in the classroom.

Mrs. Greene turned to the small remaining group and asked them to introduce themselves and talk about their religious beliefs.

One of Cindy’s classmates was Jewish. Another was Buddhist. Then it was Cindy’s turn.

“I belong to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints,” Cindy said. She tried to make her voice sound brave, but she didn’t like talking in front of other people. Mrs. Greene scrunched her eyebrows together for a moment.

“Well, Cindy, then you should have gone with the Protestants,” she said.

Cindy’s heart began to beat fast as everyone in the room turned to look at her.



She paused for a moment, thinking back to the lessons she had learned in Primary. As she remembered stories about Joseph Smith and the Restoration, she knew what she had to say.

“No, Mrs. Greene. Latter-day Saints aren’t Protestant. And we’re not Catholic either. We believe that the gospel has been *restored* to the earth by a prophet named Joseph Smith. It’s the same religion that was on the earth when Jesus was here with His disciples. We believe that the gospel is on the earth once again, Mrs. Greene.”

Mrs. Greene looked at Cindy skeptically before continuing on with the lesson.

“She doesn’t think I know what I’m talking about,” Cindy thought.

As Cindy walked home later that day, she thought about what had happened. She didn’t bother to stop at the candy store, and she didn’t pause to pick the flowers that she sometimes used for doll bouquets. She was too busy thinking about Joseph Smith and what she had learned in Primary.

“Joseph Smith received the priesthood and the scriptures and the keys that allowed him to

“Our message is unique. We declare to the world that the fulness of the gospel of Jesus Christ has been restored to the earth.”²

Elder L. Tom Perry of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles



establish the Church on the earth again,” Cindy thought. “That’s what the sixth article of faith talks about.”

When Cindy sat down in class the next day, she was a little nervous to see Mrs.

Greene again. But to her surprise, Mrs. Greene had a big smile on her face.

“Cindy, I want you to know that I spoke to the history teacher about Mormonism,” Mrs. Greene said in front of the entire class. “And she told me that you were absolutely right, that your religion *was* restored. I am sorry I doubted you, Cindy. Thank you for speaking up. You really seem to know what your church stands for!”

The rest of the day seemed especially bright for Cindy. She smiled as she jumped rope. She smiled as she bounced a ball and picked up jacks.

“I can’t wait to tell Mom what I taught the teacher!” Cindy said to herself as she started to skip home. ●



Special Witnesses

BY AMIE JANE LEAVITT

The First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles lead the Church and serve as special witnesses of Jesus Christ. Part of the names of six of these men are written below. The top letters are in their first names while the bottom letters are in their last names. Fill in the missing letters to spell the names of six special witnesses. Find the answers on page 26.



President Thomas S. Monson
 President Henry B. Eyring
 President Dieter F. Uchtdorf
 President Boyd K. Packer
 Elder L. Tom Perry

Elder Russell M. Nelson
 Elder Dallin H. Oaks
 Elder M. Russell Ballard
 Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin
 Elder Richard G. Scott

Elder Robert D. Hales
 Elder Jeffrey R. Holland
 Elder David A. Bednar
 Elder Quentin L. Cook
 Elder D. Todd Christofferson

OYD
 ACK

1. _____

SEP
 RTH

2. _____

LLI
 AKS

3. _____

HOM
 NSO

4. _____

SSE
 LSO

5. _____

AVI
 EDN

6. _____

Children all over the world pray, sing Primary songs, and learn about the gospel—just like you! This month let's meet Michael Green of Apex, North Carolina.

Michael Green loves to learn. You might expect that from an eight-year-old in North Carolina, because the state is known for excellence in education. There are five universities near Michael's home. And on the grounds of the state capitol in Raleigh (just a short distance from Apex, where Michael lives) stand statues of teachers, politicians, and presidents, with plaques and reminders about the importance of study.

But Michael's favorite statement about education doesn't come from those people. It comes from President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910-2008), who said simply,

“Be smart!”



BE

“President Hinckley said we belong to a Church that teaches us that education is important,” Michael explains. “He said we should educate our minds and our hands.”*

What does that mean? For Michael, it means learning involves both studying and doing. Here are some of the ways Michael learns.

AT SCHOOL

Michael attends the Washington School in downtown Raleigh. It's a school with students from different backgrounds, and he enjoys having classmates who help him know about different races, cultures, and customs. “I especially like to read,” Michael says, “because if you can read you can learn about anything.”



WASHINGTON
SCHOOL

SMART!

BY RICHARD M. ROMNEY
Church Magazines



IN THE FAMILY

Michael learns a lot at home. His parents encourage their children to practice manners as they eat together. The children also help with housework. The family

talks about how to earn and save money and what it means to have a budget.

Michael likes to study family history. “You learn about grandparents and parents and cousins and ancestors. Those are impor-

tant people in our family,” he says. He also knows that in a family “you learn how to get along with each other and how to control your temper.”

Michael’s favorite night of the week is Monday, when the family gathers for home evening. “We have lessons, read scriptures, sing hymns together, and just have fun,” he says. “And we do it all together, so we’re all learning at the same time.”

STUDYING SCRIPTURES

“In the Book of Mormon, I’ve read Alma, the first

chapter of Mormon, and the first chapter of Ether,” Michael says. “By reading the scriptures you can learn more about Jesus Christ and how to follow Him.”

AT CHURCH

As he was preparing for his baptism and confirmation, Michael reviewed the things he has studied in Primary.



Where in the World Is
Apex, North Carolina?

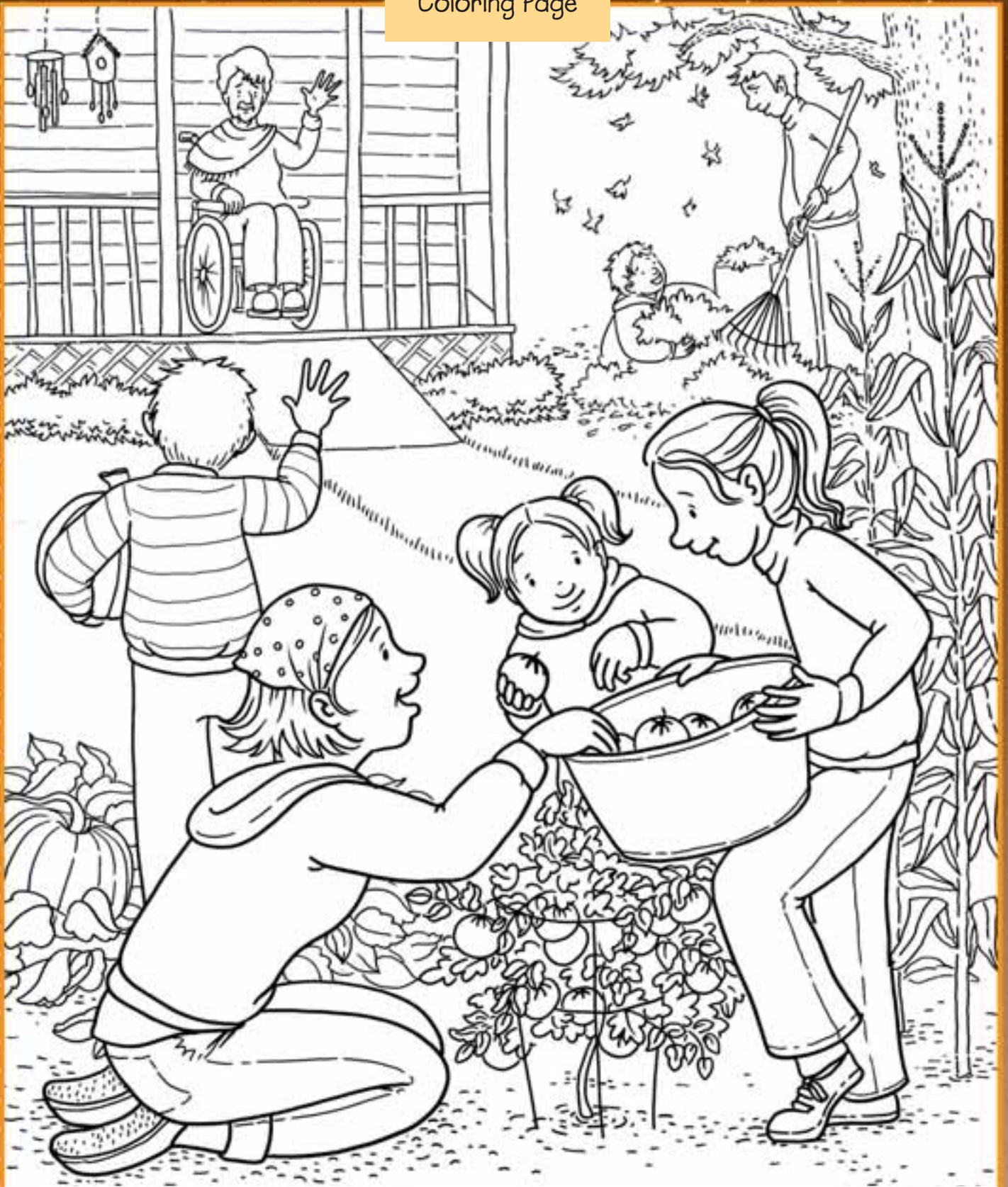


“I learned to obey and keep the commandments,” he says. “I learned that if I did something wrong I could repent. I learned that prayer is how we can talk to our Heavenly Father. And I learned that the gift of the Holy Ghost will help me to tell what is right from what is wrong.”

SMARTER AND SMARTER

“The reason for school is to help us learn more and more,” Michael says. “That’s one of the reasons we have the gospel.” He knows that as we keep learning and growing, we can become more and more like Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ. “That way, we can become smarter and smarter forever,” he says. ●





BECAUSE I AM HIS CHILD, I WILL SERVE GOD WITH ALL MY HEART, MIGHT, MIND, AND STRENGTH.

“Therefore, O ye that embark in the service of God, see that ye serve him with all your heart, might, mind and strength, that ye may stand blameless before God at the last day” (D&C 4:2).

Our Creative Friends



Josie Ellen S., age 6, Maryland

People

You are black,
I am white,
We are people!
You live here,
I live there,
We are people!
You believe this,
I believe that,
We are people!
You give hugs,
I give hugs,
We are people!
You love me,
I love you,
We are people!

Sierra C., age 8,
Idaho

Sunset

Sun
Up in the clouds
North of the world
Settle
End of the day
Tilting down.

Cara C., age 8,
Pennsylvania



Kolbe S., age 6, Texas

God's Love

A dream in your pocket,
A wish in your shoe,
A rainbow to wear,
And a moonbeam or two.
A smile on your face,
And a star in your hair,
Hope today helps you know
That God's love is there.

Angela Z., age 11, New York

My Brother

My brother is an elder.
He's down in Ecuador.
He loves to preach the gospel
To people rich and poor.

The food is really different.
The country's super hot.
The people all speak Spanish,
So he's learning quite a lot.

My brother is my hero.
I hope to be like that.
To serve my Heavenly Father,
Like my big brother Matt.

Ben A., age 10, Washington,
with help from his mom



Ethan A., age 9, Vermont



Isabelle C., age 7, Ontario, Canada



Covany G., age 9, Idaho



Cyndi K., age 9, South Africa



Sarah E., age 6, Tennessee



Caden R., age 3, Arizona



Lane S., age 7, Washington



Elisabeth P., age 10, California



Chloe C., age 7, South Carolina



Garrick O., age 7, California



Jonah N., age 6, Utah



Sydney W., age 5, Alberta, Canada



Kelden K., age 7, Utah

Testimony Glove

Have you ever worn gloves? Some gloves protect your hands when you work. Other gloves keep your hands warm. Another kind is worn when playing a sport. In this activity you can make your own “testimony glove” to help you remember five parts of your testimony.

A testimony is a spiritual witness of the gospel’s truthfulness given to us by the Holy Ghost. There are essential parts to a testimony. If you have a desire to believe those things, your belief can grow into a knowledge that they are true.



THE ESSENTIAL PARTS OF A TESTIMONY



MY TESTIMONY

1. I know that God is our Heavenly Father and He loves us.
2. I know that His Son, Jesus Christ, is our Savior and Redeemer.
3. I know that Joseph Smith is a prophet of God. He restored the gospel of Jesus Christ to the earth and translated the Book of Mormon by the power of God.
4. I know that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the Lord's Church on the earth today.
5. I know that this Church is led by a living prophet who receives revelation.

Instructions: Find a white glove.* Cut out the pictures on this page, and mount them on heavy paper. Put the glove on. As you say the five parts of a testimony, one by one, attach a picture to a glove finger, starting with the thumb. You can attach the pictures to the glove using Velcro, tape, glue, safety pins, snaps, or string.

As you develop your testimony, don't be afraid to share it! As you bear your testimony, you can use phrases like "I testify that . . ." or "I know that . . ." Your testimony will grow stronger when you share it with others. ●

**This activity can be adapted to your circumstances. The glove does not have to be white. If gloves are not available, you could make paper gloves or even attach the pictures to your fingers with tape.*

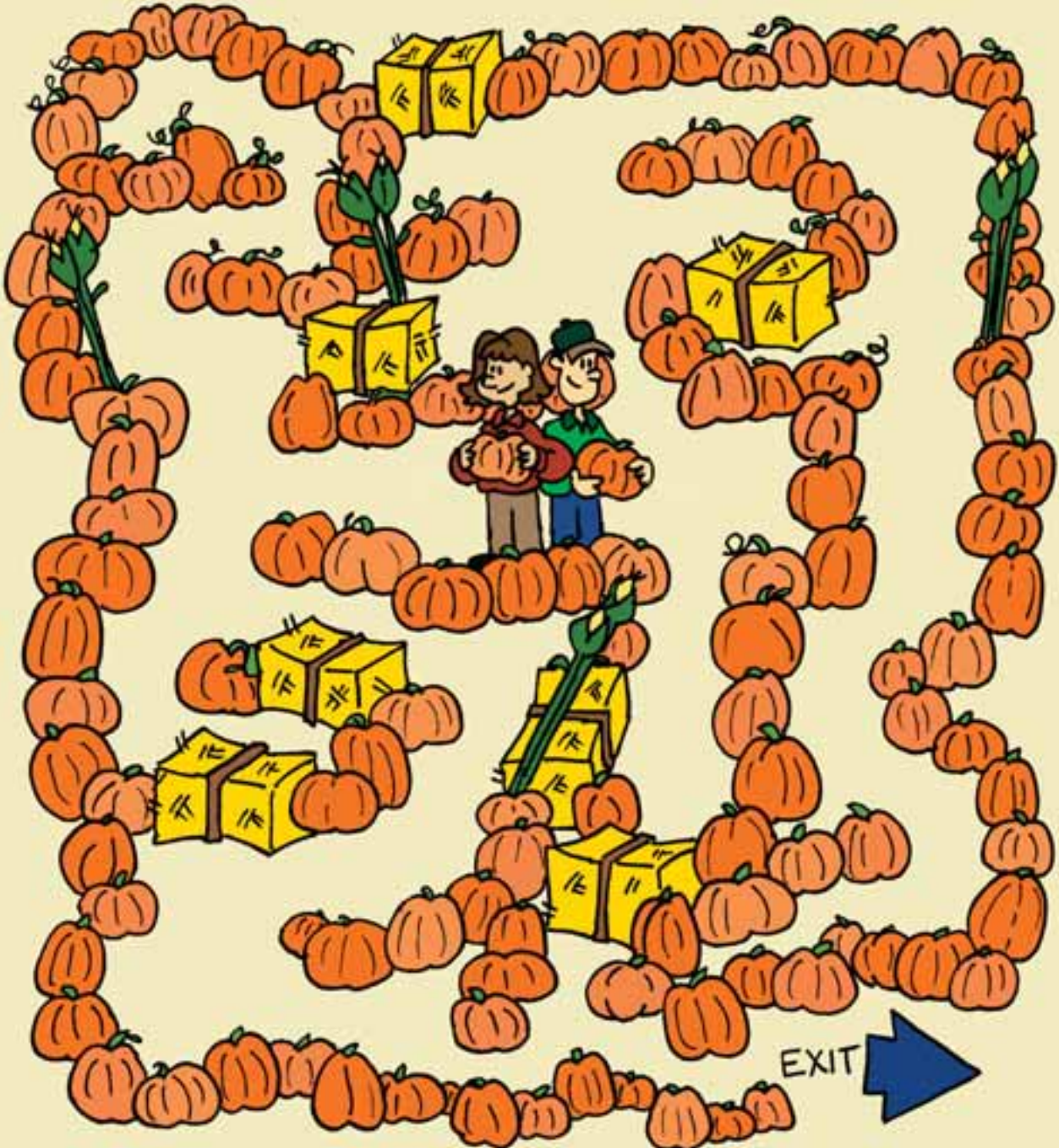
Note: If you do not wish to remove pages from the magazine, this activity may be copied or printed from the Internet at www.friend.lds.org.

LEFT: PHOTO ILLUSTRATIONS BY SARA GRAHAM, KYUNGYEOL PARK, AND MARY KAY STOUT; ABOVE: THE FIRST VISION AND JESUS THE CHRIST, BY DEL PARSON; DETAIL FROM JOSEPH SMITH, BY ALVIN GITTINS; PHOTOGRAPH BY ELDON LINSCHOTEN; PHOTOGRAPH BY BUSATH PHOTOGRAPHY; BACKGROUND © PHOTOSPIN

Pumpkin Patch

BY ARIE VAN DE GRAAFF

After picking pumpkins, these children need to find their way out of the pumpkin patch.
Help them figure out which way to go.





PANCAKE PARADE

Your family can try one of these unique pancakes for breakfast or dessert.

German Pancake

- 1/4 cup butter
- 1 1/4 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1 cup milk
- 6 eggs, beaten
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup flour
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- Maple syrup or powdered sugar for topping

1. Preheat oven to 350°F (177°C). Melt butter in a medium baking dish. Mix all the ingredients in a bowl and pour the mixture into the baking dish with the butter.

2. Bake for 30 to 40 minutes, until the pancake is puffy and golden brown. Cut it into squares and serve with maple syrup or powdered sugar.

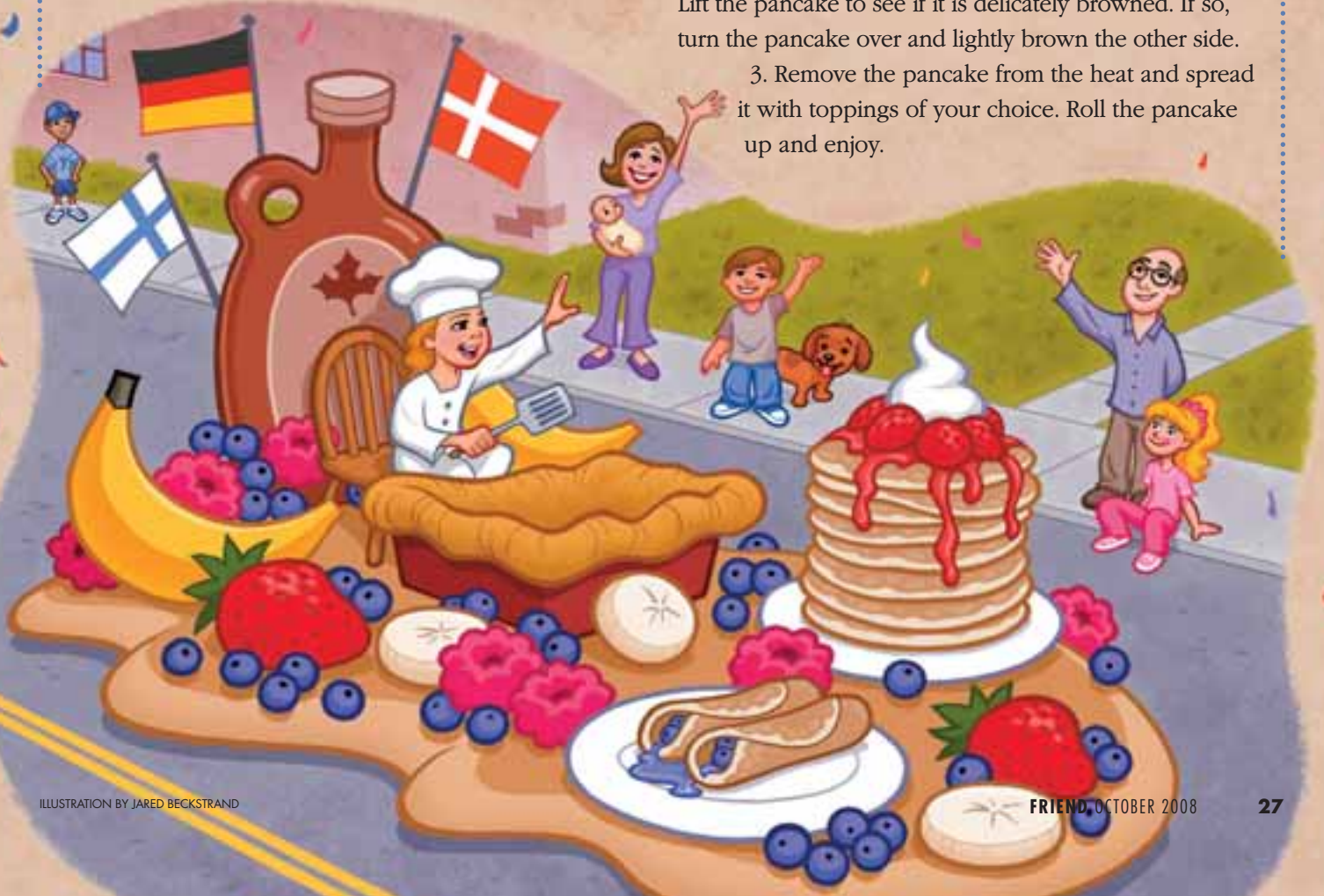
Scandinavian Pancakes

- 4 eggs, beaten
- 2 cups milk
- 3/4 cup flour, sifted
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/2 tablespoons sugar
- 2 tablespoons melted butter or oil
- Fruit jam, hazelnut spread, or powdered sugar to taste

1. Preheat a nonstick frying pan over medium heat. Beat the eggs and milk together until smooth. Add the dry ingredients, and stir in the butter or oil.

2. Pour 2 tablespoons of batter into the pan and turn the pan to coat the bottom evenly in a very thin layer of batter. (The pancake should be about 6 inches [15 cm] in diameter.) Cook the pancake until slight bubbles form. Lift the pancake to see if it is delicately browned. If so, turn the pancake over and lightly brown the other side.

3. Remove the pancake from the heat and spread it with toppings of your choice. Roll the pancake up and enjoy.





The Family Is of God

With joy ♩ = 76-88

Words and music:
Matthew Neeley

F B[♭] F B[♭] F C⁷

F C⁷ F Dm B[♭] F

1. Our Fa - ther has a fam - i - ly. It's me! It's you, all oth - ers too: we are His
2. A fa - ther's place is to pre - side, pro - vide, To love and teach the gos - pel to his
3. A moth - er's pur - pose is to care, pre - pare, To nur - ture and to streng - then all her
4. I'll love and serve my fam - i - ly and be A good ex - am - ple to each fam - 'ly

C⁷ F C Dm F

chil - dren. He sent each one of us to earth, through birth, To
 chil - dren. A fa - ther leads in fam - 'ly prayer to share Their
 chil - dren. She teach - es chil - dren to o - bey, to pray, To
 mem - ber. And when I am a mom or dad, so glad, I'll

B[♭] F C⁷ F B[♭]

live and learn here in fam - 'lies.
 love for Fa - ther in Heav - en. God gave us
 love and serve in the fam - 'ly.
 help my fam - 'ly re - mem - ber:

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 This notice must be included on each copy made.



C⁷ F B^b F G⁷ C⁷

fam - i - lies to help us be-come what He wants us to be—

F B^b C⁷ Dm B^b Gm

This is how He shares His love, for the fam - 'ly

F C⁷ F 1, 2, 3. B^b F C⁷

is of God.

4. F B^b F B^b F

God.



Saved

BY LINDA GLAUSER

As told to Kimberly Reid
(Based on a true story)

Look up the following scriptures:

Matthew 7:7; Alma 34:27; D&C 29:6.

Circle the one you think fits the story best.

It was a muggy summer morning. Josh and his friend Calvin stood on the tennis court, waiting for their neighbor to come outside and give them their weekly tennis lesson. Five, then ten minutes went by. “Maybe our lesson is canceled,” Josh finally said.

The sun went behind a cloud. The air grew chilly.

“Yeah,” Calvin said. “Let’s go home. It looks like it’s going to rain.” He looked up at the billowing black cloud gathering above them. Suddenly a fierce wind kicked up. Without warning, hail and rain started pelting down.

“Quick!” Josh called above the shrieking wind. He

pointed to a large pine tree. The boys ran across the lawn, the wind pulling so hard that Josh feared he’d be carried away. He and Calvin scrambled under the tree branches, listening to the storm roar around them. Josh knew that Brother and Sister Snow’s house was nearby, but he couldn’t see it through the heavy downpour.

“Let’s pray,” Calvin said. The boys knelt in the dirt and prayed that the rain would let up long enough for them to see the Snows’ house and run there for safety. As soon as they said “amen,” the rain slowed. “I see the house!” Josh cried.

Calvin dashed across the slippery, hail-covered grass to the Snows’ porch as the rain picked up again. Josh followed, but stopped next to the detached garage because it was closer than the house. He stood beside it for a moment, wondering what to do. *Follow Calvin,* a voice spoke to his mind. He ran toward the porch, where Calvin stood waiting. As he ran, he felt a rumble

An illustration of a young boy with glasses, wearing a red and white striped t-shirt and blue shorts, running quickly across a green lawn. He has a worried expression. In the background, there is a yellow house with a white garage door and a window. Two large green pine trees are leaning over the house, and leaves are falling from them, suggesting a storm. The title 'from the Storm' is written in a large, white, sans-serif font across the top of the scene.

from the Storm

and heard a terrible *CRASH!*

Josh turned around and froze. Two huge pine trees had blown over onto the garage, demolishing it. Wooden beams, broken glass, and twisted metal littered the ground. A tree trunk lay where Josh had been standing.

“Come on,” Calvin called. Josh ran to the porch as Calvin rang the doorbell. No one answered. Calvin turned the doorknob and opened the door.

“Phew,” Josh said. “Now we can call our parents to come get us.” As he waited inside the Snows’ house and watched the rain pour down outside, he silently thanked Heavenly Father for protecting him from the storm.

Later that night, Josh’s mom asked, “Did you and Calvin lock the Snows’ door behind you when you left?”

Josh shook his head.

Mom’s eyes twinkled. “I just spoke with the Snows.

When you and Calvin went into their house, you set off the security alarm. The house was locked.”

Josh’s mouth dropped open. “But we just opened the door and walked in!”

“When the security agent arrived, the front door was *still* locked. He has no idea how you boys got into the house.”

Josh thought quietly for a moment. “I know how we got in. Heavenly Father helped us.”

Josh was grateful to know that the Lord would open doors for him and help keep him safe. ●

Teach them to love one another, and to serve one another (Mosiah 4:15).

Heavenly Father's

1. Bailey and Caroline were eating their breakfast. Bailey asked:

Mommy, what are we going to do today?

Today is Saturday.

Hooray! That means Daddy will be home.

2. Just then Dad came in and gave everyone a kiss.

Good-bye, I'll be back for lunch.

Then he rushed out the door.

3. Bailey was sad. She looked out the window to see him drive away.

Mommy, where is Daddy going? I wanted to be his helper today.

4.

A new family is moving into our ward. Heavenly Father loves this family, and they need help. Today, Daddy is Heavenly Father's helper.

I want to be Heavenly Father's helper too.

5. After Bailey finished breakfast, she went to her bedroom. She put on her red shirt and blue overalls. She also put on her socks and shoes.

Helpers

BY MELISSA M. JORGENSEN

(Based on a true story)



6. When Mom called her to the kitchen, she went quickly.

See, Mommy, I got dressed and came when you called me. I'm helping.

Thank you.



7. Later, Bailey helped Mom sort the clean socks and put them in the right drawers.



8. She also helped Caroline build a block tower.



10. Just as they sat down to eat, Bailey heard Dad open the door. She ran and jumped into his arms.

Daddy! You were Heavenly Father's helper today, and I was too.

Is that right?

Can we be Heavenly Father's helpers together after lunch?

I'd like that.

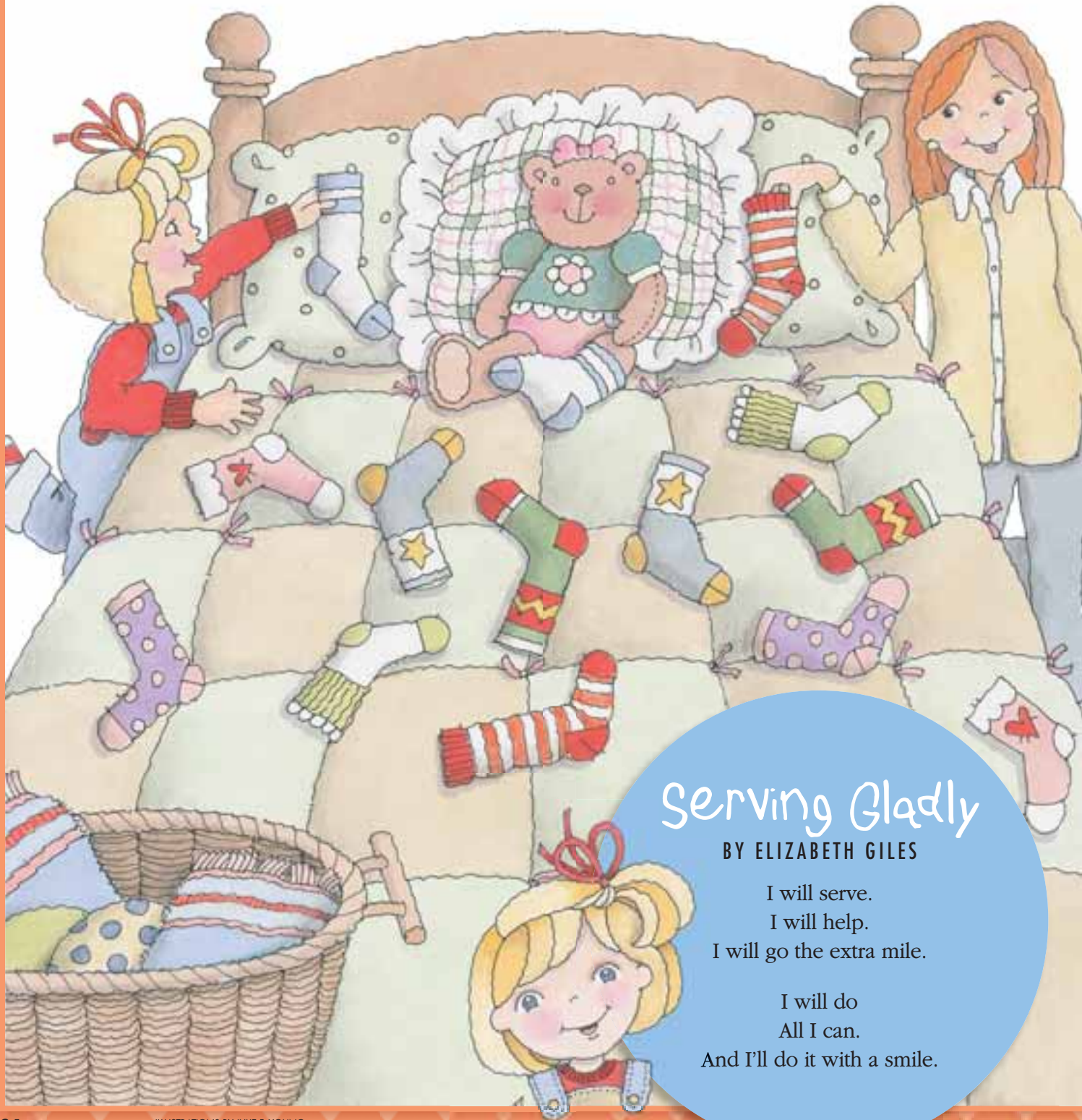


9. When it was lunchtime, Bailey set the table.

Match the Socks

BY CYNTHIA RAKES BOWDEN

Bailey is helping her mom sort the clean socks. Draw a line between the matching socks.

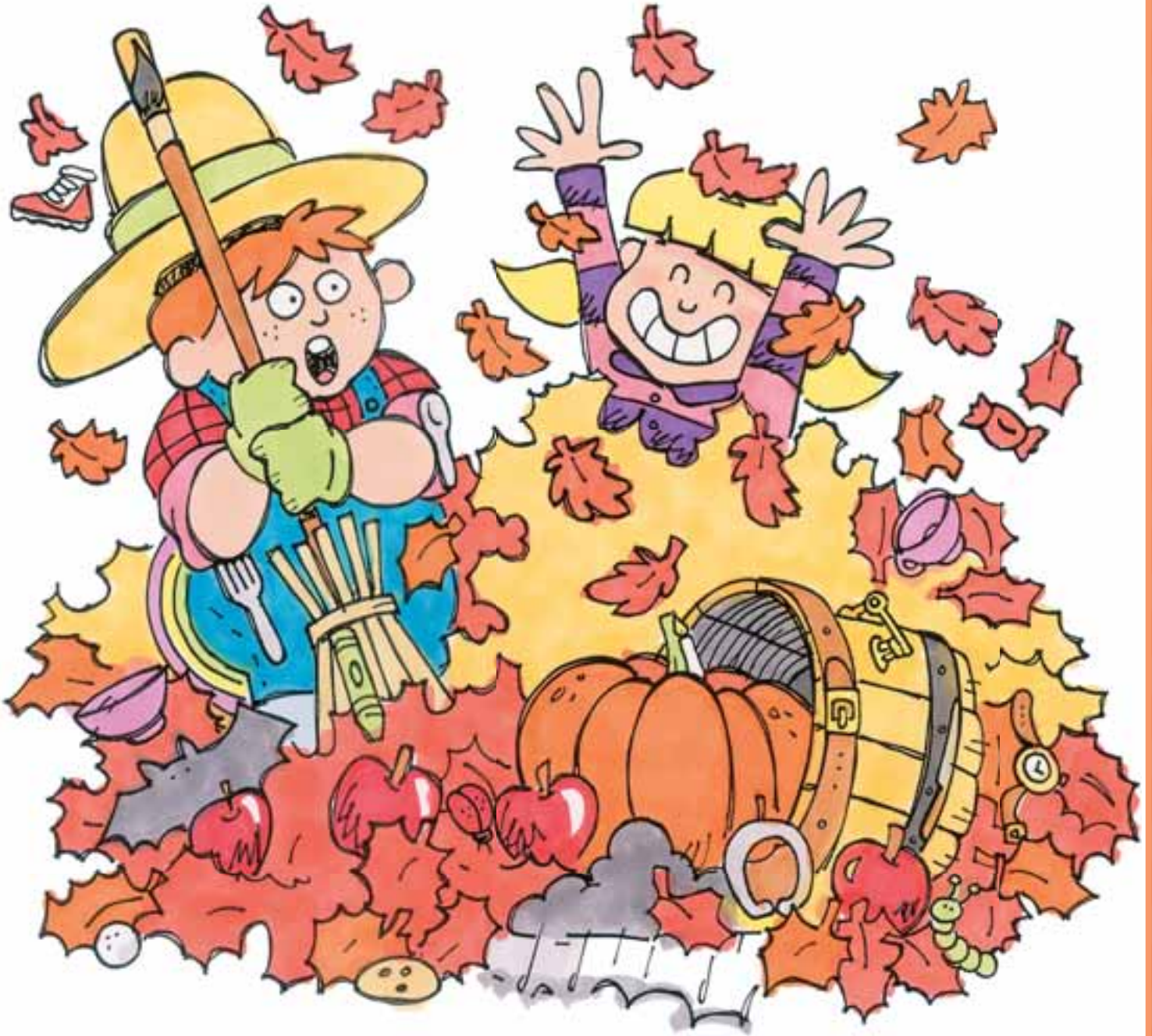


Serving Gladly

BY ELIZABETH GILES

I will serve.
I will help.
I will go the extra mile.

I will do
All I can.
And I'll do it with a smile.



Hooray for Helpers

BY VAL CHADWICK BAGLEY

These children are having fun raking and playing in the leaves. See if you can find and circle a bat, belt, boot, bowl, candle, caterpillar, cloud, cookie, crayon, cup, fork, golf ball, horseshoe, key, knife, ladybug, paintbrush, piece of wrapped candy, rainbow, spoon, and wristwatch.



Conference



BY LINDA OLSEN

(Based on a true story)

Hearken unto me, and open your ears that ye may hear, and your hearts that ye may understand (Mosiah 2:9).

We left off last night at the beginning of Mosiah, remember?” Dad said.

During family scripture study, everyone usually had a turn to read. Nine-year-old Elise read from the Book of Mormon very well. Braydon was six and needed just a little help. Josh sat on Dad’s lap, and Dad whispered a few words for Josh to repeat.

It was Mom’s turn first tonight. After Mom read, Elise began reading with Mosiah 2:6:

“‘And they pitched their tents round about the temple, every man having his tent with the door thereof towards the temple, that thereby they might remain in their tents and hear the words which King Benjamin should speak unto them.’”



Elise stopped reading. She didn’t turn the page even though everyone else did. Dad looked at her as if to say, “Go on, honey.” A big smile came over Elise’s face.

“Dad, was King Benjamin kind of like a prophet?” she asked.

“Yes. We read the other night that he was a holy man who reigned over his people in righteousness.”

“Mom and Dad, do you think since tomorrow is general conference, we could pretend to be King Benjamin’s people and make a tent to listen to the prophets on TV?” Before her parents could answer, Elise was excitedly dancing around the room.

“Yeah!” Braydon said, brightening.

“Learn to listen, and listen to learn from Church leaders. . . . Words of the Lord are taught by His disciples. Wise members listen to learn from Church leaders.”³

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



Josh crawled off Dad’s lap to skip with Elise. Mom and Dad looked at each other. “Do you mean a tent made of tables and blankets and chairs?” Mom asked.

“Yes, a really big tent,” Elise said. “But there has to be a door to watch conference on TV.”

“Hmm,” Mom said. “We need to be listening to conference, not playing and making noise.”

Elise sat down.

“We could pretend it was hard to hear and we’d have to be really quiet to listen,” Braydon said.

“Just like the people trying to hear King Benjamin from the tower,” Elise added. “We promise we’ll be quiet and listen.”

“We could even call it a ‘reverence tent,’ ” Braydon said.

“Our conference reverence tent!” Elise beamed.

“That’s starting to sound like a fun idea,” Dad said.

“Hurray!” Josh cheered.

“Let’s get some things ready tonight,” Mom said.

After scripture study, Dad, Elise, Braydon, and Josh got busy setting up the “reverence tent.” They started with the long table that was used for big family dinners. They added the card table, some chairs, and lots of blankets, and connected it all to the couch. There was plenty of room inside for snacks and supplies for taking notes.

Most importantly, there was a big wide-open door facing the TV so the children could hear and watch general conference.

Elise, Braydon, and Josh helped color a sign that read “Reverence Tent.” “It’s to remind us to be quiet and listen, Dad,” Braydon said as they pinned it onto the blankets.

“Let’s bring in our scriptures,” Elise suggested.

“Great idea,” Braydon said.

They crawled in to look around. “Mom,” Braydon called, “come and see!”

“Wow!” Mom said as she came into the room. Mom had been busy gathering last year’s conference *Ensigns*, notebooks, scissors, glue sticks, pens, and crayons. She took out the General Authority charts from the old *Ensigns* and said that during conference Elise and Braydon could cut out and glue onto their notes the picture of the person who was speaking.

“I’ll help Braydon take notes,” Elise volunteered.

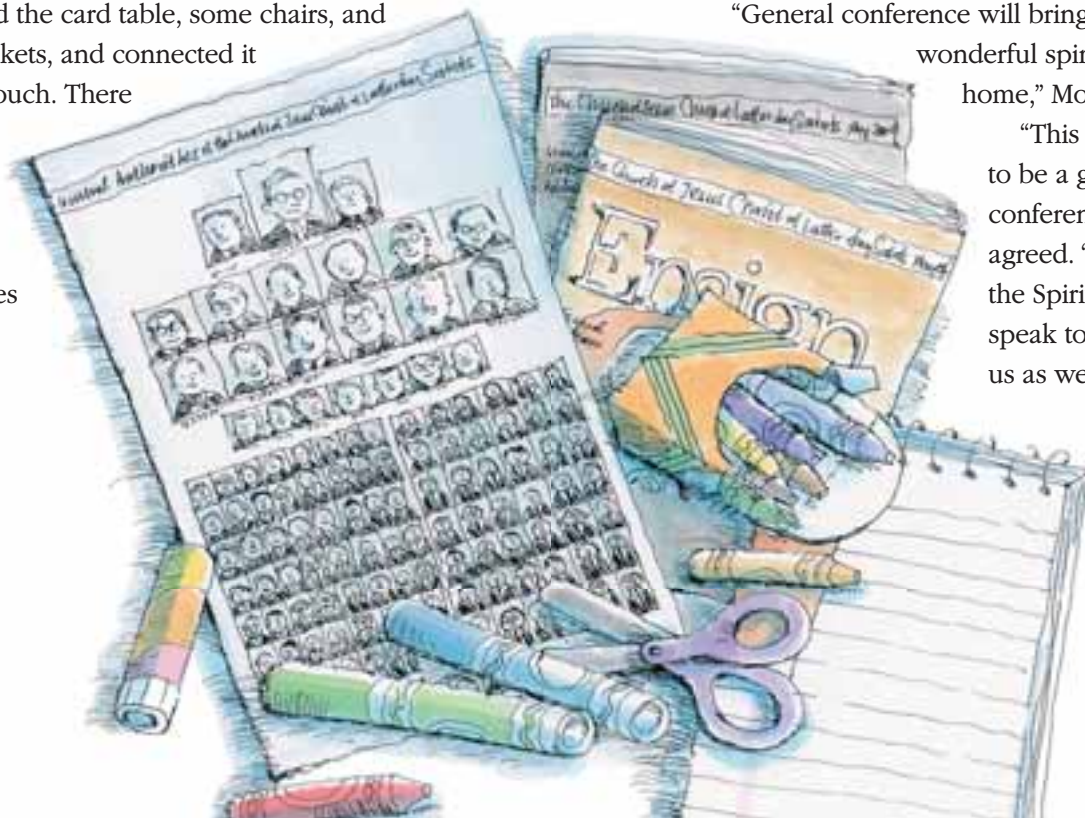
“And I’ll help Josh color a picture of the prophet,” Braydon said, smiling at Josh.

“I’m really excited about the talks,” Elise said.

“And the music,” Braydon added.

“General conference will bring a wonderful spirit into our home,” Mom said.

“This is going to be a great conference,” Dad agreed. “I know the Spirit will speak to each of us as we listen.” ●

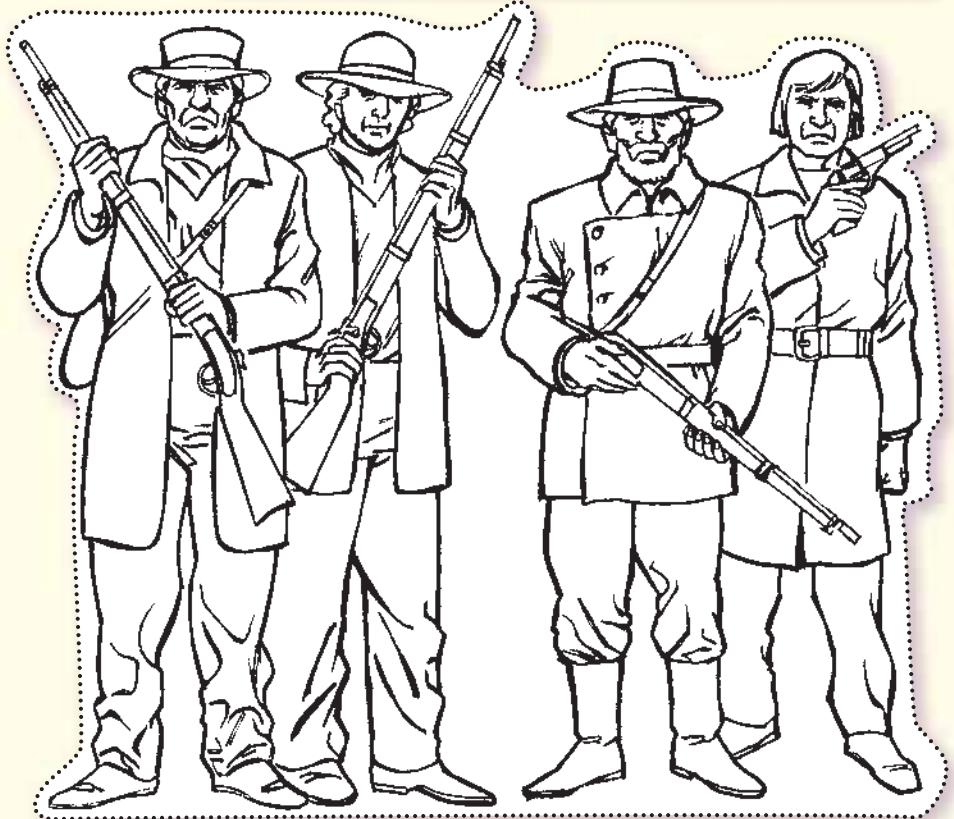
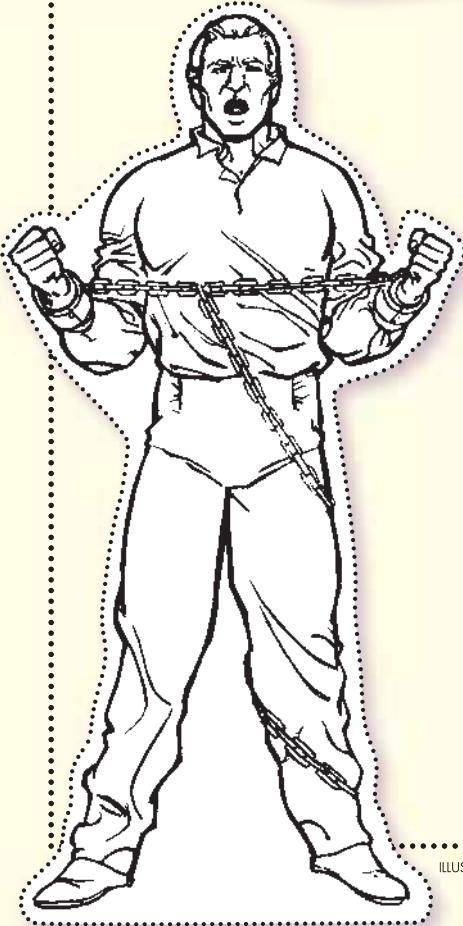
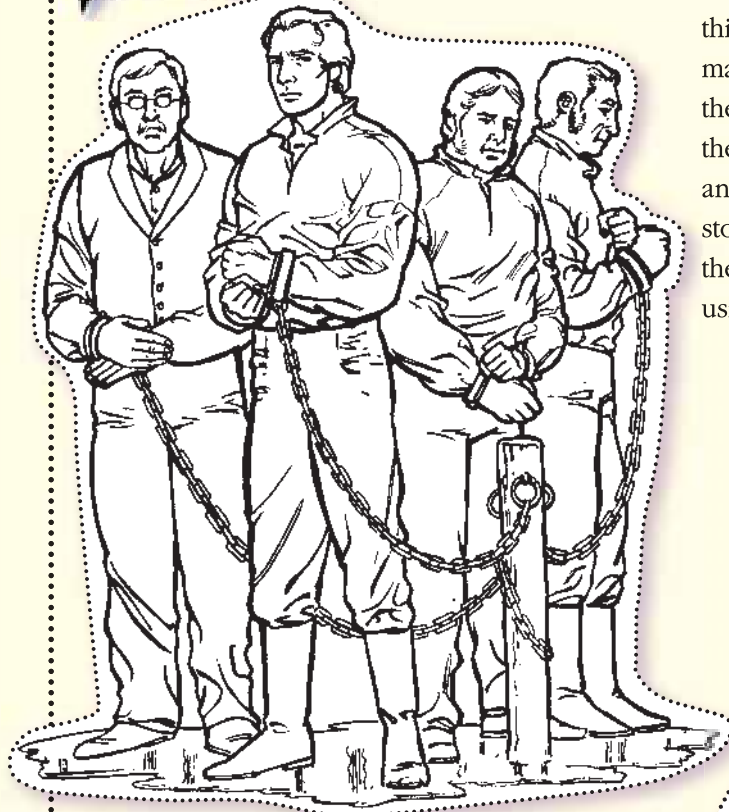
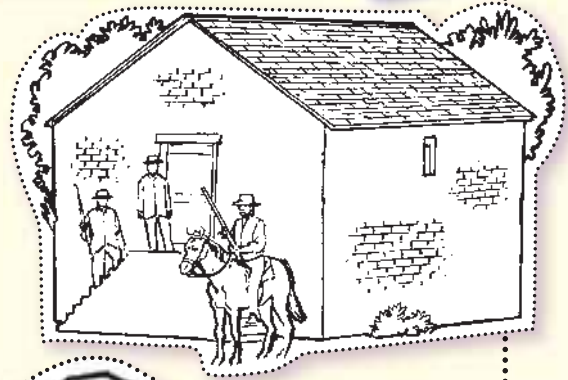


Find coloring pages at www.friendlds.org.



JOSEPH SMITH IN LIBERTY JAIL

Instructions: Remove this page from the magazine and color the figures. Mount them on heavy paper and cut out. Read the story on pages 6–7, then retell the story using the figures.



ILLUSTRATIONS BY SAL VELLUTO

Note: If you do not wish to remove pages from the magazine, this activity may be copied or printed from the Internet at www.friend.lds.org.



Trying to Be Like Jesus

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



I Will Only Watch Things that Are Pleasing to Heavenly Father*



I was watching a movie in class at school, and the people in it started to swear. I asked my teacher if I

could leave the room and read. I got permission, so I grabbed my book and left. I think it was the still, small voice telling me to leave.

Zackary T., age 10, British Columbia, Canada

**See My Gospel Standards, Faith in God guidebook, back cover.*

An Honest Snack



Once when I was at a store, I looked inside the vending machine where the candy falls down and

found a bag of fruit snacks. I didn't want to steal it, and I didn't want someone else to steal it. I decided to give it to a worker. When I explained what happened, she said I could keep it and take it home to share with my family. While we ate the fruit snacks, I felt good inside for choosing the right.

Matthew D., age 6, Minnesota

Helping Hands



One day I was shopping with my mom at a store. A lady who worked there was pushing a shopping cart stacked high with boxes. After she passed us, some of the boxes started falling off the cart. I stopped to help her pick up the boxes even though no one asked me to. She said, "Thank you," and she had a big smile on her face. I know that helping others is what Jesus wants us to do.

Ryan V., age 6, Utah

A Job Well Done



One morning my parents went somewhere, and my little brother's friend and his mom came

over to babysit. My little sister and brother went outside to play with them. I decided to stay inside and do chores. First, I set the table for lunch. Then I made two peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and put them in the refrigerator. Then I mopped the floor with wet paper towels. Then I went upstairs to

clean my room. When I was half-way done, I heard the front door open. My mom and dad were home! When I told them what I had done, they were very proud of me. I felt good inside that I was helping my parents.

Mary Jane M., age 8, Virginia



Listening to Conference

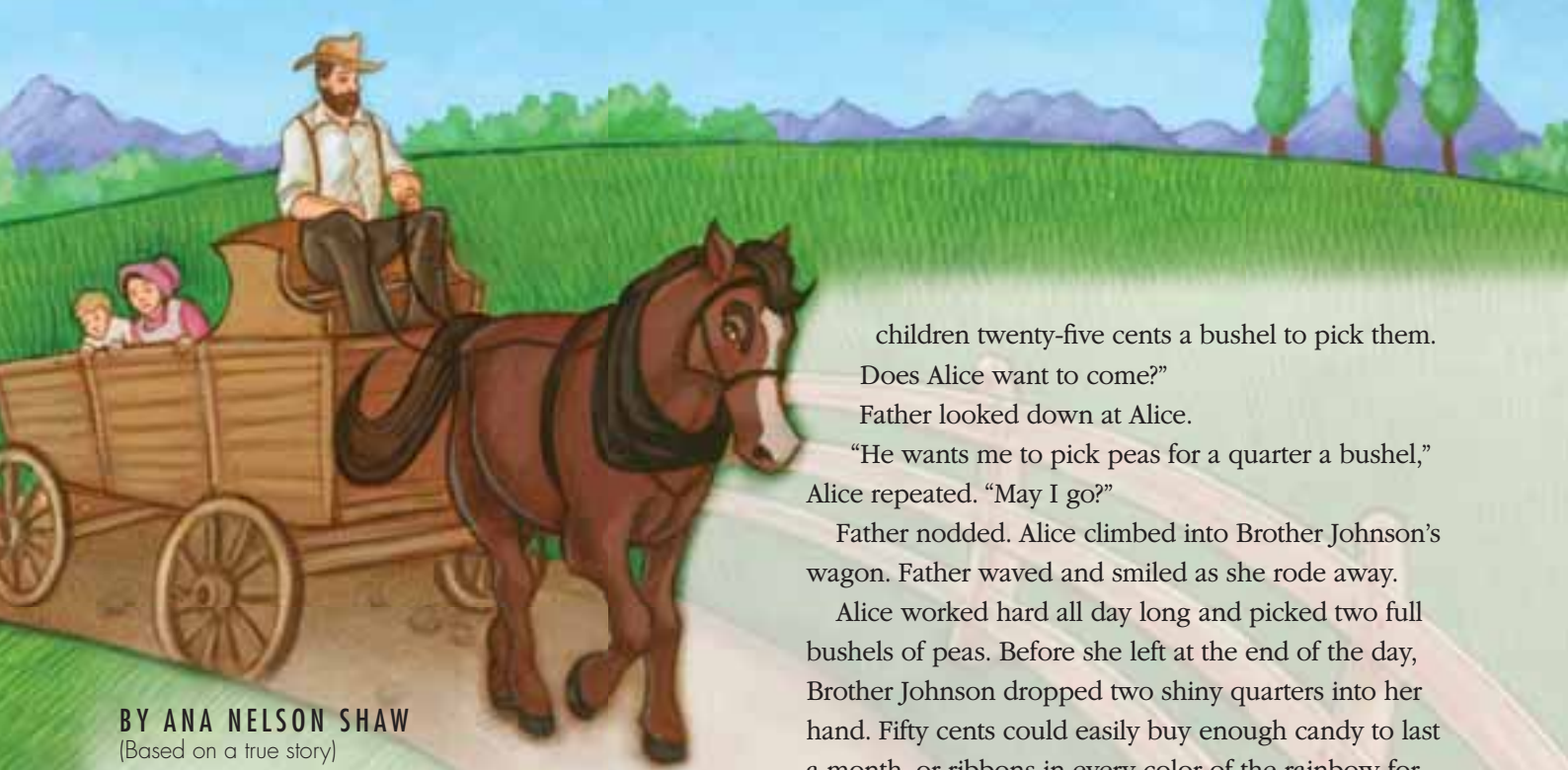


One day I was playing with my friend who is a member of a different church. We began talk-

ing about the ways my church and her church are the same. I remembered hearing a talk in general conference by Elder Gary J. Coleman about how we are Christians. Because I had listened well to his talk, I was able to explain to my friend what it means to be Christians, and that members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are Christians.

Natalie T., age 9, Arizona

You can find Elder Coleman's talk on page 92 of the May 2007 Ensign, and at www.lds.org.



BY ANA NELSON SHAW
(Based on a true story)

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse (Malachi 3:10).

Even though Father was deaf, he understood his daughter Alice. She pronounced her words carefully and looked right at him so he could read her lips easily. So Father kept her with him whenever he could. When he was doing business, she helped him understand what other people said. When he was working on the farm, Alice was good company.

Alice and Father tended grapevines and peach orchards, harvested honey from beehives, and cut ice from the pond. Alice gathered eggs from their chickens. Whatever they cut or gathered or harvested, Father and Alice took one-tenth to the tithing office.

They didn't pay their tithing with money, most of the time. If they harvested thirty bushels of peaches, three bushels went to the Church. If ten jars of honey came from the beehives, one jar went for tithing. It was the same with grapes and eggs and whatever else they had. Even chickens and cows sometimes went along to the tithing office in the farm wagon!

One Monday morning early in the summer, Alice and Father were mending a fence where the farm bordered the roadside. Alice heard the thudding sound of horses' hooves on the dirt road and the rumbling of a farm wagon. She looked up and saw Brother Johnson driving with children in the back. Father looked up too.

"Good morning, Brother Ashdown!" Brother Johnson called. "My peas are ready for harvest. I'm paying the

children twenty-five cents a bushel to pick them.

Does Alice want to come?"

Father looked down at Alice.

"He wants me to pick peas for a quarter a bushel," Alice repeated. "May I go?"

Father nodded. Alice climbed into Brother Johnson's wagon. Father waved and smiled as she rode away.

Alice worked hard all day long and picked two full bushels of peas. Before she left at the end of the day, Brother Johnson dropped two shiny quarters into her hand. Fifty cents could easily buy enough candy to last a month, or ribbons in every color of the rainbow for Alice's hair, or maybe even a toy! She ran all the way home and bounded into the kitchen where the family was just sitting down around the table for supper.

"Look!" she said. "Fifty cents of my very own!"

"Those are good earnings for a day, Alice, for a girl your size," Mother said. "Now please wash up before you sit down and eat." Alice obeyed, then settled in for a plate of stew, new potatoes, and sweet green peas from the family's garden.

"I'm pleased you're a hard worker, Alice," Father said from across the table. "Do you want to pay your tithing on that money?"

Alice nodded yes.

"You'll owe five cents tithing then. Should I give you change?"

Alice looked at the two coins next to her plate. Five cents less and she wouldn't have two quarters anymore—only one quarter and two dimes. Five cents suddenly seemed like a lot of money.

"Maybe you'll make some more money in a day or two," Father said. "I believe Doctor Stringham has a field of peas that needs picking."

"Think about it overnight, Alice," Mother suggested. "You need to decide if you want to pay tithing."

Lying in bed that night, Alice tossed and turned. She wanted to do the right thing. But it seemed so hard to let go of five whole cents. She thought about her last trip to the tithing office with Father. On their way

home, Alice and Father had met a man Father knew, Mr. Singer, who wasn't a member of the Church.

"Alice, ask your father for me where he's been today," Mr. Singer instructed. Alice did.

"We've been down to the tithing office," Father said.

"Well, William," Mr. Singer said, "you're surely devoted to that Church. I'm always amazed to see you going by my place on your way to meeting every Sunday. Especially when you can't even hear what's being said."

Alice gulped and repeated Mr. Singer's words slowly to Father. She worried that his feelings would be hurt, but she

It PAYS to LISTEN





knew it was important to let him know exactly what was being said.

Father straightened his back and looked hard at Mr. Singer. “Well, I do sometimes understand what’s said, but even if I don’t, I get the spirit of the meeting by being there. And I teach my children that we’re a Latter-day Saint family that goes to our meetings every Sunday. Same with taking Alice down to the tithing office. You have to teach children by example.”

Mr. Singer nodded. “You’re a good man, William Ashdown,” he said. “You take care now!”

As Alice lay in bed and remembered what Father had told Mr. Singer, she thought about all the other

times she’d gone to the tithing office with Father. She always felt warm inside when she heard him say, “That’s a full tithe.” She knew it was one way he showed how much he believed in the gospel. She remembered Mother telling her that if they paid tithing, the Lord would open the windows of heaven and send down more blessings than they had room to receive. She thought about how the grapes and peaches and eggs all went to help people who needed food. And she knew her own five cents would help someone too.

Alice crept out of bed quietly and made her way downstairs where Father and Mother were sitting.

“Father, I want to pay my tithing. Will you figure the change for me?” Alice asked.

“I certainly will, Alice,” Father said.

Alice traded Father one quarter for two dimes and a nickel. She put the nickel in the pocket of her pinafore that she would wear on Sunday so she could give it to the bishop. But before then, she picked peas for Doctor Stringham. Alice earned forty-five more cents to keep—and another nickel for her tithing! ●



“I plead with youth to establish this habit [of paying tithing] while you are still young and to resolve to continue with it all the days of your lives.”⁴

President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–2008)

How should I speak so I can be like Jesus Christ?



Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles shares some of his thoughts on this subject.

Speak kindly.

Speak positively, including about yourself.

Our words, like our actions, should be filled with faith and hope and charity.

Never tell [others], even as a joke, that they are fat or dumb or lazy or ugly.

Try not to complain.

When we say kind, encouraging things to the smallest child or the least popular person we know, we are saying these things to our Father in Heaven.

Friends in the News



Cannon H., 3, North Carolina, enjoys being a Sunbeam. Each month he looks forward to the day when "his" magazine, the *Friend*, arrives in the mailbox. He likes playing with his friends, singing songs, and making his little brother, Henry, laugh.



Emily M., 4, Utah, likes animals, dancing, and babies. With her older brother she set up a stand at a neighborhood farmers' market and sold vegetables she had helped tend in her family's garden.



Gavin W., 5, Alabama, is a dearly loved member of his family. He likes to share and help others. He is a good big brother to his baby sister, Ashlyn. He enjoys tae kwon do and soccer. He is especially thankful for Heavenly Father's beautiful creations.



Kathryn U., 4, Arizona, has three older sisters and two older brothers who love her very much. She likes going to Primary, preschool, and ballet. Her favorite assignment in family home evening is to lead the family in fun Primary songs.



Mikayla and Jake M., 11 and 7, Arizona, are not only brother and sister, but also good friends who take care of and look after each other. Mikayla obeys her parents and lives the gospel. She is a cheerful girl who likes to read, draw, and swim. Jake is a lively boy with a big smile who likes to tell jokes to make people laugh. He also likes to read and is reading the Old Testament.



Caldwell Idaho North Stake

In an activity they called the "African Service Project," 175 eight- to eleven-year-old Primary children of the Caldwell Idaho North Stake met to learn about and help the Primary children of South Africa. Besides learning about African culture, they made gifts and wrote letters for the children in South Africa. They also made a recording of eight Primary songs to send them. They shared their time and their talents with their new African brothers and sisters.



Jerusha and Syrus M., 7 and 6, California, are each almost done reading the Book of Mormon. Jerusha likes in-line skating. She has memorized the Articles of Faith and is very excited to be baptized. She wants to be a ballet teacher and a mommy when she grows up. Syrus likes to ride his bike, swim, and play ball. He has almost memorized the Articles of Faith. He wants to be a missionary and a construction engineer when he grows up so he can build his mommy a new house. Both Syrus and Jerusha like playing with their brothers and sisters.



Kendall B., 6, Arizona, likes to read and do arts and crafts. She also enjoys Primary. Her favorite song is "Popcorn Popping." She has an older brother.



Spencer T., 7, Washington, enjoys baking with his mother, riding his bicycle, and playing with his two brothers. His favorite Book of Mormon prophet is Ammon because he was a good missionary.





Madilyn and Alyssa S., 7 and 6, Utah, both like going to Primary and dancing. Madilyn likes to read the *Friend*. She also likes to ride her bike. Alyssa likes learning about Jesus, swimming, and doing crafts. They are both good sisters.



Luke W., 4, New Mexico, loves his big sister, Kate. He is a Sunbeam who loves his Primary teachers. He also likes trucks, ice hockey, alligators, and crocodiles. He wants to be a missionary when he grows up.



Katelyn E., 6, Arkansas, likes to go to tae kwon do, gymnastics, Primary, and school. She loves her brother, Luke, and her sister, Bryn. She also enjoys riding her bike and reading.



Sam M., 6, Washington, has four sisters and six brothers. He likes to watch movies, eat popcorn, and play with his toy soldiers. He pretends they are his armies of righteousness. He is a good and faithful boy.



Andrea F., 6, Illinois, likes to play the piano, read the Book of Mormon, and draw pictures for her friends in Primary. She has almost reached her goal of playing with her family at every park in her city.



Gunnison Branch

As a humanitarian aid project, the Primary children of the Gunnison Branch, Montrose Colorado Stake, made 30 wall hangings, 1 picture book, 3 sets of blocks, and 20 stuffed balls.



Brayton, Ethan, Orion, America, and **Jessica T.**, 8, 7, 5, 4, and 2, California, like visiting temple grounds together. They have been to the temples in Boston, Massachusetts; Portland, Oregon; Newport Beach, California; Mesa, Arizona; and Salt Lake City, Utah. They are all looking forward to going inside the temple someday. They enjoy playing together and reading their scriptures together each night. In their prayers they thank Heavenly Father for giving them brothers and sisters to play with every day.



Sixth Ward

Children in the Sixth Ward of the Hurricane Utah Stake earned "scripture pennies" whenever they brought their scriptures to church. Together, they brought their scriptures to church more than 2,000 times, and so they earned more than 2,000 pennies. They used the pennies to buy nine copies of the Book of Mormon to give to missionaries in their area.



Great news, guys. Your cousin Anthony is home from his mission, and we've been invited to a family dinner this Saturday.



AT THE DINNER

Was your mission fun, Anthony—I mean . . . er . . . Elder Edwards?

Yes, it was! Fun and rewarding and inspiring and wonderful!



And was it ever . . . hard?

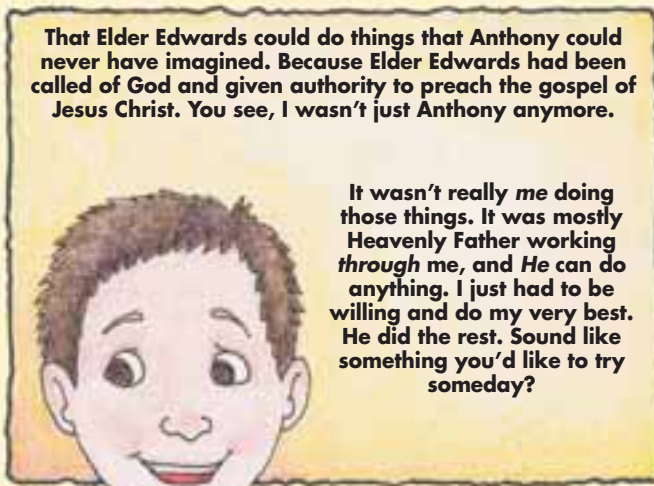
Absolutely! Hard and sometimes scary and discouraging and just about impossible. It was the hardest thing I've ever done.



That bad?

Bad? Not at all! Great things are never easy. Why should they be? Almost every day I faced challenges that I didn't feel up to. And sometimes I wasn't—at first. But do you know what I learned?

What?



That Elder Edwards could do things that Anthony could never have imagined. Because Elder Edwards had been called of God and given authority to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. You see, I wasn't just Anthony anymore.

It wasn't really me doing those things. It was mostly Heavenly Father working through me, and He can do anything. I just had to be willing and do my very best. He did the rest. Sound like something you'd like to try someday?



Yes! But I think I've got a lot to learn first.

I'll get you your very own copy of *Preach My Gospel*, and we can look at it together.



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(IFC) = inside front cover
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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 October is “Because I am His child, I will serve God with all my heart, might, mind, and strength.”



Family Home Evening Ideas

Look for the FHE symbol on the pages mentioned below.

1. Read “Preparing for a Mission” (pp. 8–9). Make a list of things you can do to prepare for a mission. Role-play a few missionary situations. Then read “Teaching Mrs. Greene” (pp. 14–16) and talk about how you can share the gospel with your friends, classmates, and teachers.
2. Learn and sing “The Family Is of God” (pp. 28–29). Talk about ways you can serve each other and help each person in the family be happy. Have each family member set a goal to do something in the coming week that will help strengthen the family. Then make German or Scandinavian pancakes (p. 27) with your family for a treat.
3. Talk about times when a family member or friend has served you and made you feel happy. Then read “How to Give” (pp. 2–3) and talk about how to give someone a special gift. Choose a person or family you know who needs help and

decide how you can serve them. Find a way each family member can help.

4. Do the “Testimony Glove” activity on pages 24–25. Invite each family member to share his or her testimony. Then talk about ways you can strengthen your testimony and share it with others. Write down your testimony in your journal, or draw pictures of the things you believe.

Sidebar references

1. “How to Be Happy,” *New Era*, Aug. 1999, 6.
2. “The Message of the Restoration,” *Ensign*, May 2007, 88.
3. “Listen to Learn,” *Ensign*, May 1991, 23–24.
4. “The Sacred Law of Tithing,” *Ensign*, Dec. 1989, 4.

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