

THE *Friend*



Moving on
from
PRIMARY?

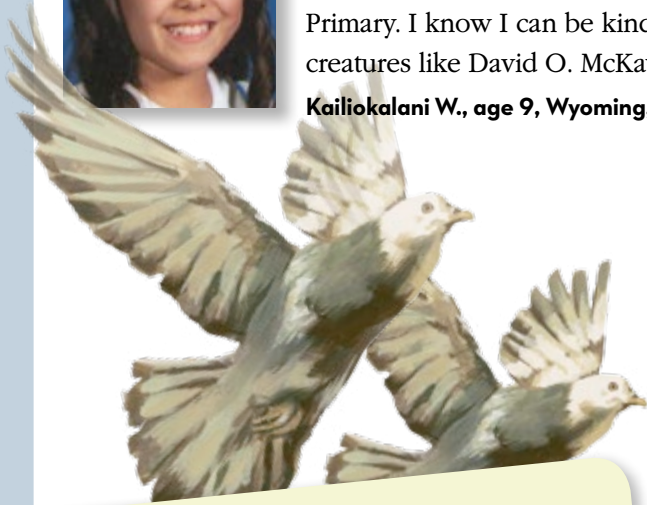
See pages 43–47

Kindness to All Creatures



In the March 2011 issue, I read and loved the story “Kindness to All Creatures.” I loved it so much that I wrote a talk about it for Primary. I know I can be kind to all creatures like David O. McKay was.

Kailiokalani W., age 9, Wyoming, USA



Dear Friends,

If you're in the oldest class in Primary, you might be wondering about moving on to Young Women or the Aaronic Priesthood. What will it be like? What do you have to look forward to? Turn to pages 44 and 46 to find out! Also, learn a new song on page 43 about growing up to become a righteous young woman or young man.

Shine on!

The *Friend*

P.S. Write to tell us how you're getting ready to move on when you turn 12!

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.

Favorite Pictures from the *Friend*



When my family lived in Switzerland, I hung my favorite pictures from the *Friend* on our fridge so I could see them every day. I can't wait to get the *Friend* in the mail and read it with my family and my dog, Geneve!

Kenneth C., age 8, Texas, USA

Family Night with the *Friend*



The thing I like about the *Friend* magazine is the stories. We read them for family home evening, and I learn new things that help me in my life.

Spencer G., age 11, Utah, USA

How We Read the *Friend*

We like to read the *Friend* together!

Gideon, Annie, and Autumn W., ages 3, 1, and 5, Indiana, USA



THE Friend

See the 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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Cover by Jennifer Tolman



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FROM THE FIRST PRESIDENCY

SEEING Our Blessings

By President Thomas S. Monson



A boy named Gordon grew up on a farm in Canada. On Thanksgiving morning, his father would take Gordon and his siblings to count their blessings. They went to the cellar with its barrels of apples, bins of beets, and mountains of sacked potatoes as well as peas, corn, string beans, jellies, and strawberries. The children counted everything carefully. Then they went to the barn and counted the hay and bushels of grain. They counted the cows, pigs, chickens, turkeys, and geese. Their father wanted them to realize how richly God had blessed them. Finally, they sat down to a feast.

But one year it seemed they had nothing to be grateful for. Storms had beaten their crops down and left their potatoes rotting in the mud. All they had harvested was a patch of turnips that had somehow weathered the storms. The only good thing that happened that year

was that electricity came to their town. There would be no more lamps to fill with oil, no more wicks to cut.

On Thanksgiving morning, Gordon's father brought a jackrabbit for Gordon's mother to cook. When it was finally on the table with some of the turnips, the children refused to eat. Gordon's mother cried, and then his father went up to the attic. He got an oil lamp and lit it. Then he told the children to turn off the electric lights. They could hardly believe it had been that dark before. How had they seen anything without the bright lights made possible by electricity?

The food was blessed, and in the humble dimness of the old lamp, Gordon's family felt grateful. Their home, for all its want, felt rich to them. In addition to all else for which we are grateful, may we ever reflect our gratitude for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. ♦

Adapted from "The Divine Gift of Gratitude," Ensign, Nov. 2010, 87-90.

BLESSINGS WE SEE

Here are some blessings our readers saw. You could go on a blessing hunt and then draw or take pictures of some of your blessings!



Cailin O.,
age 9,
Nebraska,
USA



Grace R.,
age 6,
Colorado,
USA



Hannah S.,
age 11,
Alberta,
Canada



Jamie E.,
age 8,
Utah, USA



Connor M.,
age 11,
Tennessee,
USA



Nathan W.,
age 9,
Arizona, USA

LIGHTING OUR WAY EVERY DAY


Gordon's family was grateful for electric lights. Use the scriptures below, and fill in the blanks to find out one source of light everyone can be grateful for. Find answers on page 48.

1. The third word in John 8:12
2. The eighth word in Isaiah 60:19
3. The fourth word in Alma 34:32
4. The eighth word in D&C 93:9

_____ is the _____ and the _____ of the _____.

1 2 3 4





By Ray Goldrup
(Based on a true story)

"Your work shall be rewarded" (2 Chronicles 15:7).

September 8

My name is Garrett. Something weird happened to me today. I got a lot of bumps on my arms, but I wasn't even cold. In fact it was a really warm day. Mom said I got the bumps because I liked the violin music we were listening to so much. I think she's right. Otherwise, why would I have a poster of a famous violin player hanging in my room?

Violin VICTORY

October 10

Guess what! Mom and Dad said I could take violin lessons! I'm so excited for my first lesson. My teacher's name is Mrs. Redman. I'll meet her tomorrow. I can hardly believe I'm going to learn to play the violin!

November 20

I still want to play the violin, but why does it have to be so hard? I wish I could play as well as the violinist on my wall. Mom says I should just be my own best self and not compare myself with anybody else. Besides, I haven't been taking lessons that long.

December 15

I'm getting a little better at the violin, but I still get pretty frustrated sometimes. Dad says it takes time to develop a talent. He says Heavenly Father gives us all different gifts. That's another word for talents. Some people are good at singing or listening or other stuff. Dad says God wants us to work on our talents so we can help other people.



February 23

Today at my lesson, Mrs. Redman said the biggest part of getting better is to practice, practice, practice. She said we have to take care of our talents the same way a farmer takes care of the crops in his fields. That way, they will grow. She said, "If a farmer didn't tend his crops every day, they wouldn't grow well at all." I think she's probably right.

April 23

Mom and Dad said I'm sounding pretty good on the violin. I wonder if they said that just to make me feel better so I won't give up. Because it's funny how when I practice, they find a reason to go somewhere else—like outside or down the street.

June 16

Tonight I played the violin in front of the whole ward. It was for our talent show. I was so nervous. When I played "I Am a Child of God," I saw Sister Palmer crying. Then I saw Mom wiping her eyes too. I thought maybe it was because I was playing so badly.

Afterward Sister Palmer came up to me. She said I played the song so beautifully it made her cry. Mom said her tears were happy tears. Dad hugged me so hard I thought I was going to burst.

August 10

I'm still working on the violin. I practice almost every day. I know I can get better at it. I want to make my talent grow so I can be my own best self. Maybe someday I can even play in a real concert hall. ♦

The author lives in Utah, USA.



Family Fun



Time

Read “Violin Victory” (page 4). Garrett loves playing the violin and practices so he can improve his musical talent. Heavenly Father has given each of us many gifts and talents. It’s our job to figure out what they are and then use them to help other people!

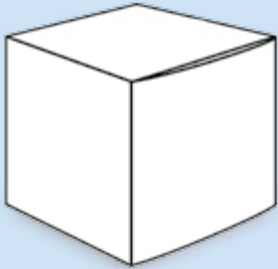
Have each family member make his or her own “gift box” using the pattern below. Be sure to get an adult’s help.

Your Gifts from Heavenly Father

YOU WILL NEED:

- paper or cardstock for each person**
- pencil**
- scissors**
- stickers and stamps (optional)**
- glue**

1. Trace the pattern onto a piece of paper and cut it out. Or print copies at friend.lds.org.
2. Use the examples on the pattern to fill in talents you have or want to work on. Decorate the squares with drawings, stickers, and stamps.
3. Fold the pattern along the lines and glue the tabs in place to make a cube.
4. Take turns rolling your cubes and talking about how you could use each talent to help someone.



Things I Can Do With My Spirit

*I can practice listening to the Holy Ghost.
I can share my testimony.*

Things I Can Do With My Body

*I can run really fast.
I can learn how to whistle.*

Things I Can Do With My Brain

*I can figure out puzzles.
I can practice drawing.*

Things I Can Do With Others

*I can learn to listen to others.
I'm good at making people smile.*

Ask someone else to write down a talent they've noticed in you!

Things Others See In Me

*I want to learn how to sing.
I want to help people when they're sick.*

Things I'd Like to Work On

Roasted Pumpkin Seeds

- 2 cups raw pumpkin seeds**
- 1/2 teaspoon each chili powder and garlic salt**
- 1 teaspoon salt**
- 2 teaspoons melted butter or olive oil**

1. Clean off most of the pumpkin goop. Rinse off and pat the seeds dry. Stir the seeds in a bowl with the seasonings and the butter or oil.
2. Spread the seeds in a single layer on a baking sheet. Bake for about 40 minutes at 300°F (150°C), stirring occasionally, until the seeds are golden brown. Cool before eating.

“Sons of God need daughters of God, and daughters of God need sons of God.”

—Sister Carole M. Stephens
First Counselor in the
Relief Society General Presidency



From “Do We Know What We Have?” Ensign, Nov. 2013, 14.

PECAN MYSTERY

By Virginia Ryan
(Based on a true story)

"It's always fun when grandpa comes, when grandpa comes hooray!" (Children's Songbook, 201).

Katie wiped tears from her cheeks and waved goodbye as Mom drove away.

"I remember the first time I stayed at my grandparents' house," Grandpa said as they walked back to his porch. "I was seven, just like you."

Katie swallowed a lump in her throat. She loved Grandma and Grandpa, but she'd never stayed here without Mom before. "What was it like?"

"Well, my grandpa gave me special jobs to do." They sat down together on Grandpa's porch swing. A soft breeze stirred leaves in the trees.

"What kind of jobs?" Katie asked.

"Oh, I fed cackly old hens and found their eggs. I pulled weeds and carried firewood. I had a great time."

Katie smiled a little. It sounded fun to gather eggs. "Do you have any special jobs I can do?"

Grandpa grinned. "Oh yes! Last night's windstorm left a lot of sticks and pecans to pick up."

Katie looked around. Grandpa's yard was like a big park with giant pecan trees growing around the edges.

"I'll help!" Katie said.

Grandpa pushed his wheelbarrow around the yard while Katie picked up sticks and pecans. Something

caught her eye. Under a large tree was a pile of pecans stacked up as neat as could be.

"Grandpa! Look over here!" Katie shouted.

Grandpa hurried over. "Well, look at that! How many are there?"

Katie knelt down to look closer. ". . . 10, 11, 12," she counted. "Is an animal saving the nuts for winter?"

"Hmm," Grandpa said. "Let's leave them here and check again tomorrow to see if there are any more."

Katie's eyes grew large. She'd watch every day!

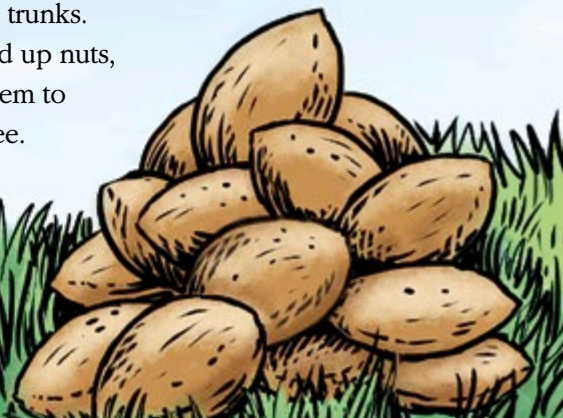
The next morning Katie ran to the big tree and got down on her hands and knees—11, 12, 13. There *was* one more! She checked around the yard. What animal would save up pecans one at a time?


As soon as Katie woke the next day, she ran to the tree—14! She couldn't believe it. "Grandpa, is it a bird?"

"Let's watch and find out," Grandpa said.

They sat on the porch swing and kept quiet. Robins hopped around the yard, tugging earthworms from the ground. Warblers jumped from branch to branch. Woodpeckers hammered on tree trunks.

Squirrels picked up nuts, but they carried them to a hole high in a tree.



A large, detailed illustration of a tree with a thick brown trunk and green foliage. A young girl with brown hair, wearing a purple shirt with a teddy bear on it and blue pants, is peeking from behind the tree trunk. A brown squirrel is in the foreground, looking towards the girl. In the background, a man with glasses and a yellow sweater is walking.

Could Katie solve this nutty mystery before Mom came back?

No birds or squirrels came close to the pecan pile.

The next morning Katie helped Grandma and Grandpa bake puffy sugar cookies. Katie smelled the sweet vanilla as she put a pecan half in the center of each one. Once the cookies were ready, Katie grabbed some to nibble on while she hid by some bushes in the corner of the yard and watched the pecan pile.

Suddenly she saw Grandpa walking to the pile. Was he going to count the pecans? Then Katie's eyes opened wide. Grandpa took something from his pocket and put it carefully on top of the pile.

"Grandpa! It's *you!*" Katie shouted. She jumped out and rushed to hug his knees.

Grandpa raised his arms in the air. "I've been caught!" he laughed. "You solved the mystery!"

Katie jumped up and down. "It was you, Grandpa, saving up for winter!"

He nodded. "Yes, indeed. But we don't have to wait for winter. Let's surprise your mother tomorrow with a pecan pie."

"Is she coming back already?" Katie asked in surprise. Grandpa's mystery had made the time zoom by. "I can't wait to come back and visit again!"

Next time, maybe *she* would be the one to come up with a mystery. ♦

The author lives in Michigan, USA.

Puzzle Page



Pioneer Puzzler

Life was different for the pioneers in big ways and small ones. What do you think this object from pioneer times was used for? Answer on page 48.

- A. a musical instrument filled with dry beans
- B. a type of rolling pin used for kneading bread dough
- C. a coal-fueled heating pad
- D. a tool used to put ink on a printing press

Lifelong Learning

The scriptures teach us that studying is not the only way to learn. The solution to this puzzle will reveal a second way we should learn.

Solve the math problems below. Find the answer in each row that doesn't match and write the letters that go with those problems in the spaces below. Unscramble the letters to solve the puzzle. Answer on page 48.

$\begin{array}{r} 8 \\ \times 2 \\ \hline \end{array}$ D	$\begin{array}{r} 35 \\ -19 \\ \hline \end{array}$ R	$\begin{array}{r} 4 \\ +14 \\ \hline \end{array}$ F	$\begin{array}{r} 4 \\ \times 4 \\ \hline \end{array}$ I
$\begin{array}{r} 36 \\ \div 4 \\ \hline \end{array}$ Q	$\begin{array}{r} 13 \\ - 3 \\ \hline \end{array}$ H	$\begin{array}{r} 11 \\ - 2 \\ \hline \end{array}$ L	$\begin{array}{r} 3 \\ \times 3 \\ \hline \end{array}$ M
$\begin{array}{r} 12 \\ +12 \\ \hline \end{array}$ T	$\begin{array}{r} 5 \\ \times 5 \\ \hline \end{array}$ Y	$\begin{array}{r} 100 \\ -75 \\ \hline \end{array}$ Z	$\begin{array}{r} 50 \\ \div 2 \\ \hline \end{array}$ N
$\begin{array}{r} 5 \\ \times 2 \\ \hline \end{array}$ I	$\begin{array}{r} 2 \\ \times 6 \\ \hline \end{array}$ C	$\begin{array}{r} 4 \\ \times 3 \\ \hline \end{array}$ G	$\begin{array}{r} 18 \\ - 6 \\ \hline \end{array}$ E
$\begin{array}{r} 4 \\ \times 5 \\ \hline \end{array}$ B	$\begin{array}{r} 30 \\ -10 \\ \hline \end{array}$ J	$\begin{array}{r} 2 \\ \times 10 \\ \hline \end{array}$ O	$\begin{array}{r} 25 \\ -15 \\ \hline \end{array}$ A



COOKING with DAD



Bryce W., age 11, Texas, USA

Dad and I were going to have some time together when we got home from the sports center. I scurried to my room and quickly grabbed a small container. I filled it with toys that I loved! Once I got to the dining room, I called my dad over. My heart sank when he replied, “I’m sorry. I’m making dinner. Maybe we can play later.”

I was disappointed and sad that I could no longer play with Dad. Then a few minutes later, Dad set a timer for the oven for 10 minutes and came and sat down with me. I grinned at him as we started to play with my toys. The time passed so quickly, and then Dad was dragged back to making dinner. I felt disappointed again, and I started to go back to my room.

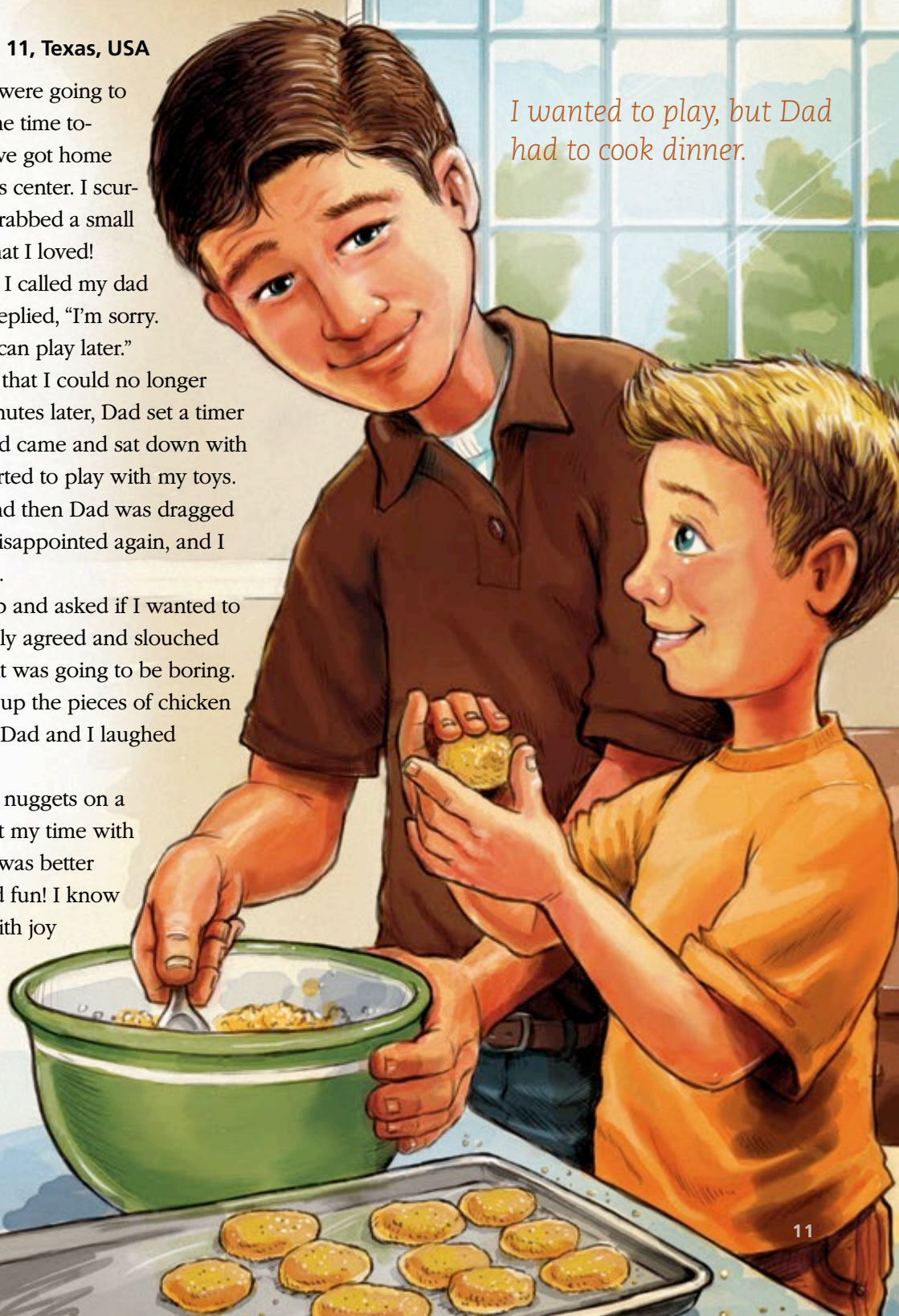
My dad tried to cheer me up and asked if I wanted to help with dinner. I halfheartedly agreed and slouched over to the kitchen. I thought it was going to be boring. But I actually enjoyed picking up the pieces of chicken and setting them in the batter. Dad and I laughed when we made mistakes.

After we put all the chicken nuggets on a tray, I realized something. I got my time with Dad! Making dinner with him was better than playing with toys. We had fun! I know that the Spirit helped fill me with joy that day. I love my dad. ♦

QUESTION FOR YOU

How can you show your parents you appreciate them?

I wanted to play, but Dad had to cook dinner.



A Distant S



By **Jessica Larsen** (Based on a true story)

This story begins the summer of 1883 on a ship in the Pacific Ocean.

Allie peered over the ship's bow out across the endless blue ocean.

"Are we there yet?" her brother, Morris, asked. He was only five, and he seemed to think their three-week journey would never end.

"Not quite!" Allie said. She was seven, and she thought this was a great adventure. "Father told me it's over 3,000 miles from Utah to the Sandwich Islands." The Sandwich Islands was another name for Hawaii, the island kingdom that would soon be Allie's new home.

Morris went back to sit with their mother, who was watching them from the deck. Allie looked

shore



back at the sea. Only a few weeks ago, she and her family had been living in Utah, just waiting for winter to end. But everything had changed when Father was called to serve a mission.

Allie turned from the sea and sat with Mother and Morris. “Tell me a story,” she said.

“Hmm, a story,” Mother said. “Once upon a time, there was a young girl named Alice Armeda Snow Young, but her family called her Allie.”

Allie grinned. She loved hearing stories about herself and her family!

“Her grandfather on her father’s side was Brigham Young. He helped lead the Saints to the West after the Prophet Joseph Smith was killed.” Allie nodded. Grandpa Young was a brave man with a powerful testimony.

“Her grandfather on her mother’s side was Lorenzo Snow, an Apostle. After Grandpa Snow joined the Church, he served several missions in the United States before crossing the ocean to preach the gospel in England.”

“Where he even gave a Book of Mormon to Queen

Victoria!” Allie added. She loved hearing Grandpa Snow’s stories.

Allie leaned her head against Mother. Both of her grandfathers were special to her.

“And now you get to carry on their legacy of faith,” Mother said. “Many families have to stay behind while husbands and fathers go on missions—”

“But we get to go with Father on his mission to Hawaii!” Allie said.

Father had served a mission in Hawaii as a young man. Allie loved hearing his stories about the faraway land ruled by a king. Now they would all live near the mission house on the island of Oahu while Father traveled the islands to preach and strengthen the Saints.

As the ship moved through the dark sea, Allie kept her eyes fixed on the horizon. She imagined her new home with its white beaches, emerald trees, and crystal skies. She couldn’t wait to see what adventures this mission would hold! ♦

To be continued . . .

The author lives in Arizona, USA.





I'm Bárbara from Chile

From an interview by
Amie Jane Leavitt

Bárbara lives in Chile, a country on the western coast of South America. It is long and skinny and shaped like a ribbon. Some areas are hot and dry (like the Atacama Desert), and some are tropical and wet (like Easter Island). She lives in Chile's capital, Santiago.



I am the only member of the Church in my school class. This gives me chances to tell my friends about Jesus Christ and the Book of Mormon. One time my best friend asked me to teach her how to pray. So I did. Then we both said a prayer over lunch at school.



I am nine years old and have two younger brothers. I try to be a good older sister and help take care of them and play games with them. I like taking care of children. I want to be a teacher when I grow up.

In 2013 I turned eight and was baptized and confirmed by my dad. I was so excited! It was a special experience that I'll always remember.

¡Hola,
amigos!*

* "Hello, friends!" in Spanish

We celebrate fun holidays in Chile. September 18th is Independence Day, and the 19th is Armed Forces Day. During these two days, we dance our national dance called "La Cueca" and eat yummy meat turnovers called empanadas.



On the weekends, my family loves to hike and drive four-wheelers in the mountains near our home. We also like to go to the beach.



We have a special Christmas meal—tomatoes stuffed with tuna. In Chile, Santa Claus comes at exactly midnight on Christmas Eve. We even get to stay awake until he comes!

Find a recipe for stuffed tomatoes on page 17.



Cut out the stamp and add it to your passport from the January issue.



I LOVE TO SEE THE TEMPLE

The Santiago Chile Temple was the first temple built in a Spanish-speaking country. It was dedicated September 15, 1983. It was the second temple built in South America.



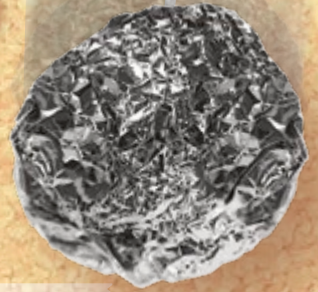
READY TO GO!

Bárbara's bag is packed with some of her favorite things. Which of these things would you pack in your bag?



Bulletin Board

FUN FACTS ABOUT CHILE



Barbara

On page 14 Bárbara tells us about her life in Chile. Here are some fun facts about this country.

- ★ Penguins live in the most southern part of Chile, near Antarctica.
- ★ Most of Chile is covered in mountains.
- ★ Easter Island, off the western coast of Chile, has famous statues that were carved almost a thousand years ago or more.
- ★ The Atacama Desert in northern Chile is the driest place on earth. In some places, no rainfall has ever been recorded!

El Emboque

The name for this Chilean toy comes from the Spanish word *boca*, or “mouth.” The idea of the game is to try to fling the ball into the cup. Here’s one way to make your own emboque toy. Be sure to get an adult’s help.

You will need:

a plastic cup
16-inch (40-cm) string
aluminum foil
scissors

1. Poke a small hole in the bottom of the cup.
2. Thread the string through the hole and tie a knot at the end that is inside the cup.
3. Cut a large square of aluminum foil and poke a small hole in the middle of the sheet.
4. Thread the string through the hole in the foil and tie a knot. Scrunch the foil into a ball around the knot.
5. See how many times you can get the ball into the cup in one minute! You could make two emboque toys and share one with a friend.





"I am a child of God"
 in Spanish:
Soy un hijo de Dios
 Pronunciation: soy oon
 ee-ho deh dee-os

Stuffed Tomatoes

Bárbara's family eats tomatoes stuffed with tuna salad every Christmas. Maybe this recipe can become a tradition for your family too! Be sure to get an adult's help. (Serves 4.)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 2 tablespoons finely chopped onions | 1 teaspoon salt |
| 2 cans of tuna, drained | 1/8 teaspoon pepper |
| 2 tablespoons chopped cilantro | 4 tomatoes |
| 2 tablespoons lemon juice | |

1. Soak the chopped onions in a bowl of water for 10 minutes to soften the taste. Drain off the water.
2. Mix all of the ingredients except the tomatoes together.
3. Cut a circle in the tops of the tomatoes and scoop out some of the inside.
4. Fill the tomatoes with the tuna salad. Enjoy!

What If...

What if you saw a
 classmate being mean to
 another kid at school?
 What could you do?



Conference Time!

General conference is on October 4th and 5th. What is your favorite thing about conference? Tell us about your conference traditions by emailing your quote and picture to **friend@ldschurch.org**. Don't forget to include a statement of permission from a parent.

Family History: I Am Doing It!



Ask your mom, dad, grandma, or grandpa to pull out their old photos of family members. Look at the pictures together and ask them to tell you about the people in the photos. Are there any people you can't name? Who might know the names of those people? Help scan these photos at home or at a family history center. Then you can upload the pictures to **FamilySearch.org/tree** and share them with others.

Diego from Chile

Diego is dressed in his everyday clothes, but you can also dress him up for church or in his traditional Chilean *chamanto* and *chupalla* hat. Glue this page to heavy paper before you color and cut out the pieces.

Print more copies at FriendsaroundtheWorld.Lds.org.





FRIEND TO FRIEND

By Elder Adrián Ochoa
Of the Seventy

Look Up



“Watch ye therefore, and pray always” (Luke 21:36).

When I was eight, my two cousins and I were sent on horseback to a nearby town to get groceries. Looking back, I am amazed how much confidence my grandmother and my aunt and uncle had in us. The morning skies were bright and clear as we left on our three horses.

In the middle of the prairie, we decided to get off our horses and play marbles. We were so interested in our game that we did not look up to see the dark clouds covering the sky. By the time we realized that a storm was coming, we didn't even have time to get on our horses. Heavy rain and hail hit us so hard that all we could do was unsaddle the horses and take cover under the saddle blankets. Then our horses ran away.

Horseless, wet, and cold, we started walking as fast

as we could toward a nearby town. It was late when we found a home and knocked on the door. The family there dried us off, fed us delicious bean burritos, and then put us to bed in a room with a dirt floor.

My cousins and I woke up in the morning to a bright sun and beautiful sky. A man knocked on the door looking for three lost boys. I will never forget what we saw on our way home—a crowd of people who had been looking for us all night. In front of them all were my loving grandmother and my uncle and aunt. They hugged us and cried, happy they had found their lost children.

Our loving Heavenly Father is mindful of us. He is anxiously awaiting our return home. There are signs of spiritual storms all around us. Let us look up and prepare ourselves by strengthening our testimonies every day. ♦

From “Look Up,” Ensign, Nov. 2013, 102.

A Family Team



It's easier to win when everyone works together.

By Sheralee Hardy

(Based on a true story)

"When we're helping, we're happy" (Children's Songbook, 198).

Ammon sighed as he and Dad left the soccer game. "I don't get it," he said. "We have so many good players. Why can't we score?"

Dad was a good soccer player. Maybe he could help.

"I think you need to learn to work as a team," Dad said. "You all want to score goals, right?"

"Yes," Ammon said. "But we can't all be the one to score. Is that what you mean?"

Dad nodded. "You can't score a

goal on your own. First the defenders need to take the ball from the other team, right?"

Ammon laughed. "It's pretty hard to score if you don't have the ball."

"Right," Dad said. "Then the defenders give it to someone who can score. No one can do it alone."

"I guess," Ammon said.

When they got home, Mom was holding the baby while she made dinner. "How was the game?" she asked.

"We lost again," Ammon said. "But we'll do better next time."

"That's a good attitude," Mom said.



“I’m starving!” Lorrin shouted as he, Seth, and Spencer ran in.

“Boys, can you help set the table and put the toys away?” Mom asked.

All four boys groaned.

“But I didn’t play with the toys,” Seth said.

“It will take forever!” Lorrin wailed.

Dad laughed. “I think our family has the same problem as Ammon’s team.”

“What’s that?” Seth asked.

“We aren’t working together,” Ammon said. “We all want to score a goal by eating dinner.

But we’re leaving it all to Mom.”

“Right!” Dad said. “How can we work as a team?”

Ammon had an idea. “What if Seth and I set the table? The other boys can pick up the toys.”

“Great idea!” Dad said.

Soon dinner was ready. Ammon folded his arms for prayer. He was glad his family had worked as a team. He hoped his soccer team could do the same thing. ♦

The author lives in Alberta, Canada.

MATT & MANDY

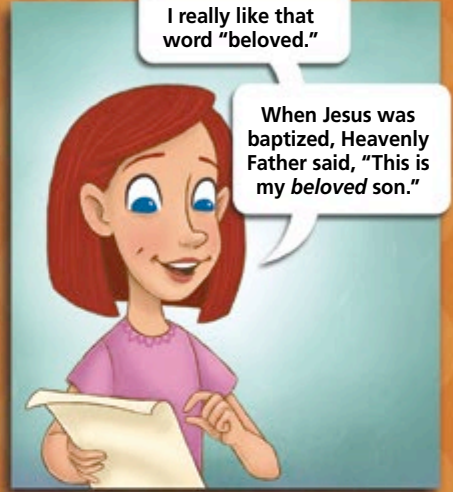


Audrey and her mom have come to the Cooper's family home evening.



The proclamation on the family says that each of us is "a beloved spirit son or daughter of heavenly parents."

I really like that word "beloved."



When Jesus was baptized, Heavenly Father said, "This is my beloved son."

I'm so glad to know I have a Heavenly Father. I'm His beloved child.



When I'm having a hard time, I can pray and talk to Him. And He comforts me.

Now we'll sing "I Am a Child of God," and Dad will say the prayer.



And then dessert! Right?



Thanks for inviting us. I liked what you said. And it's nice to see Mom smile.





STAND AS A WITNESS

When we are baptized, we covenant to “stand as witnesses of God at all times and in all things, and in all places” (Mosiah 18:9).

TO YOUR FAMILY

When Emma Smith's father wanted to know how Emma could believe in the Book of Mormon without seeing the golden plates, Emma bore her testimony.

TO YOUR FRIENDS

Alma and the sons of Mosiah worked together against the Church. After an angel appeared to them, they repented. They served missions together and told everyone who would listen about the scriptures (see Mosiah 27:35).





TO OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH

Mary Magdalene was the first person to see Jesus Christ after His Resurrection. When she told the Apostles, at first they didn't believe her, but she knew what she'd seen was true (see Mark 16:9-11).

The Four Bs of Standing as a Witness

1. **Be Brave**—Be brave even when it's scary to stand up for what you believe.
2. **Be Kind**—Always respect people who don't believe what you do.
3. **Be Yourself**—Live your life the best way you know how. Don't hide who you are or what you believe in.
4. **Be Believing**—Trust the Lord. Even when it seems like what you do isn't making a difference, believe everything will work out for the best.

TO YOUR NEIGHBORS

Abish lived among Lamanites who did not believe in God. When the king and his court were converted by the power of God, Abish told her neighbors about the miracle so that they could believe in God too (see Alma 19:1-17).

EVEN WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY

Enoch told the Lord he couldn't speak well and that no one would listen to him because he was too young (see Moses 6:31). But with the Lord's help, Enoch was able to teach the people of Zion.

FRECKLES & PEBBLES



When Addison looked in the mirror, she saw only one thing.

By Kelly J. Hunsaker

(Based on a true story)

“For the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7).

Mom, I have a problem,” Addison said. She took Mom’s hand and led her to the bathroom mirror. She pointed at her frowning reflection. “See?”

Mom bent closer, squinting at the mirror. “I only see my beautiful daughter. She could use a smile, though. Is that the problem?”

“It’s the freckles!” Addison said. She leaned over the bathroom counter. Her nose almost touched the mirror. “Whenever I look in the mirror, all I can see are freckles.” She pointed at all the soft brown dots on her cheeks and her nose. “Bailey’s freckles look cute. But mine just look funny.”

Mom put her hands on Addison’s shoulders. “I think your freckles are beautiful.”

Addison nodded, but it didn’t change the way she felt. “You’re my mom. You’re supposed to think that.” She sighed.

“Let me show you something I learned once,” Mom said. She led Addison outside to the garden. Mom picked up a small pebble and gave it to Addison. “Hold this up close to your eye. What do you see?”

Addison studied the pebble in her hand. She turned it over to see if she was missing something. “Nothing. All I can see is a rock.”

Mom smiled. “Now put it down.”

Addison tossed the rock back into the garden.

“Now what do you see?” Mom asked.

Addison looked around. “Lots of things. I see the little rock, but I also see the ground, the flowers, and the grass.”

“Exactly,” Mom said. “It’s all in how you look at it. Just like with the pebble, try not to focus only on your freckles—otherwise you miss seeing all the other great things about you, like how smart you are and how patient you are with your brothers and sisters.”

Mom picked up the pebble and pressed it into Addison’s hand. “Think of yourself as a whole garden, not just one pebble. Then you’ll be able to see yourself the way the Savior sees you, as a precious daughter of God.”

Audrey went back to the mirror. The first thing she saw was the same old freckles. She felt the pebble in her hand and took a step back. Now she could see more of her reflection. She saw a girl named Addison who liked reading, singing songs in Primary, and playing with her family. *I like me*, Addison thought—and that meant liking her freckles too because they were a part of her.

She felt happier as she thought of herself as a precious daughter of God. That made her smile, and when she did, she saw something by her mouth she’d never noticed before. Dimples! ♦

The author lives in Colorado, USA.



“Please be more accepting of yourselves, including your body shape and style, with a little less longing to look like someone else.”

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

“To Young Women,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2005, 29.

I Want to be a DAD

From an interview with Linda Davies



What does a dad do?

Every day I try to show my wife and children how much I love them. Before I walk through the door each night after work, I remember they are more important than anything in my life. I show my love when I treat them with kindness, understanding, and wisdom. I work hard so I can take care of my children and help them grow up to be happy, loving adults.

What do you like about being a dad?

I like to help my seven children learn and laugh. We like to go on vacations and spend lots of time with each other. My children participate in all kinds of activities, so my job is to be their cheerleader. One of my favorite times is at dinnertime, when we talk about everyone's day. I also like to share my love of our beautiful earth and how grateful I am for the Savior's creations.

How did you learn to be a dad?

My parents were great examples for me. I also learned a lot about life when I played college and professional football, and as I work for the BYU sports programs. Reading the Book of Mormon has

also taught me valuable lessons. One of my favorite stories is about Captain Moroni and his courage, faith, and obedience. This reminds me how a dad should be.

How does being a dad help you live the gospel?

Every night our family reads the scriptures together. Some of my best experiences are giving priesthood blessings to my children. These are great opportunities to let them know how much Heavenly Father loves them. Being a father also reminds me that I need to follow the Savior so that He will always guide me. ♦

*My name is Chad Lewis,
and I'm a dad.*





COLOR SWIRLS

God created many beautiful colors for us to enjoy. Here's a fun science project you can try at home to watch colors burst and swirl in water. Be sure to get an adult's help.

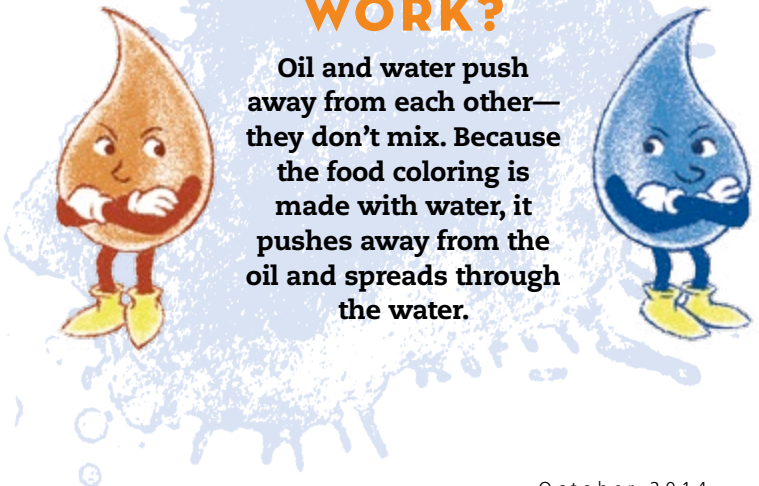
YOU WILL NEED:

- 2 tablespoons of oil
- 3 drops each of red, blue, and yellow food coloring
- a measuring cup with a spout
- a spoon
- a clear quart-sized jar or vase of water

1. Stir the oil and drops of food coloring in the measuring cup. (Don't add more food coloring or it will just turn brown.)
2. Pour the oil and color into your jar of water. Watch what happens!

HOW DOES THIS WORK?

Oil and water push away from each other—they don't mix. Because the food coloring is made with water, it pushes away from the oil and spreads through the water.





Be a Missionary

What Jesus Taught

Just before Jesus went to heaven, He told His Apostles to teach everyone the gospel so they could be baptized. He said, “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15).



This Month's CHALLENGES

- Invite a friend to go with you to a Primary activity.
- Share a copy of the *Friend* with a friend.
- Write your testimony in a copy of the Book of Mormon and give it to a friend or to the full-time missionaries to share.
- I challenge myself to . . . _____

Following Jesus Today



One day I invited my friend Vivian to activity day. We had so much fun! Her mom said Vivian really liked it and asked if she can go every time. My mom said yes! Not only did I feel happy, I also felt good inside.

Keagan W., age 9, Oregon, USA



We are friends with a family who goes to another church. I asked my mom if we could give them a Book of Mormon. I gave it to their mom and asked if she would read it. She said yes. A few weeks later, she had read half of it! A few months later, I fasted that they would come to church with us.

They did come to church! I know Heavenly Father answers our prayers, and I love being a missionary!

Logan A., age 6, Iowa, USA

While You're Watching Conference

At general conference we get to hear from many different Church leaders, including our prophet. Try drawing some of the speakers behind the podiums. You can also write or draw what they're talking about.



Print more copies at friend.lds.org.

Find more conference activities at gc.lds.org.



Kayson Goes “Vrrroom!”

By McKelle George
(Based on a true story)

Kayson goes, “*Vroom!*”
Look at me! I’m a truck.
Quack, quack,” he says.
“And now I’m a duck!”
He zooms down the hall.
He spreads his arms wide.



“*Whoosh,*” Kayson says.
“Look at me! I’m a plane.
Chugga-chugga choo choo!
And now I’m a train!”
He jumps in the air.
He crawls on the ground.





“It’s Sunday,” Mom says.
“Time to put on nice clothes.”
“But, Mom,” Kayson calls,
And swings his long nose,
“I’m an elephant now.
I’ll stay at the zoo.”



“Moo, I’m a cow!”
Kayson says on the way.
The church isn’t far,
But he still wants to play.
But now they’re inside.
Kayson knows what to do.



“Kayson,” Mom says,
“What are you now?”
He sits still in his seat.
He keeps his head bowed.
“I’m reverent at Church.
That’s the best thing to be.” ◆

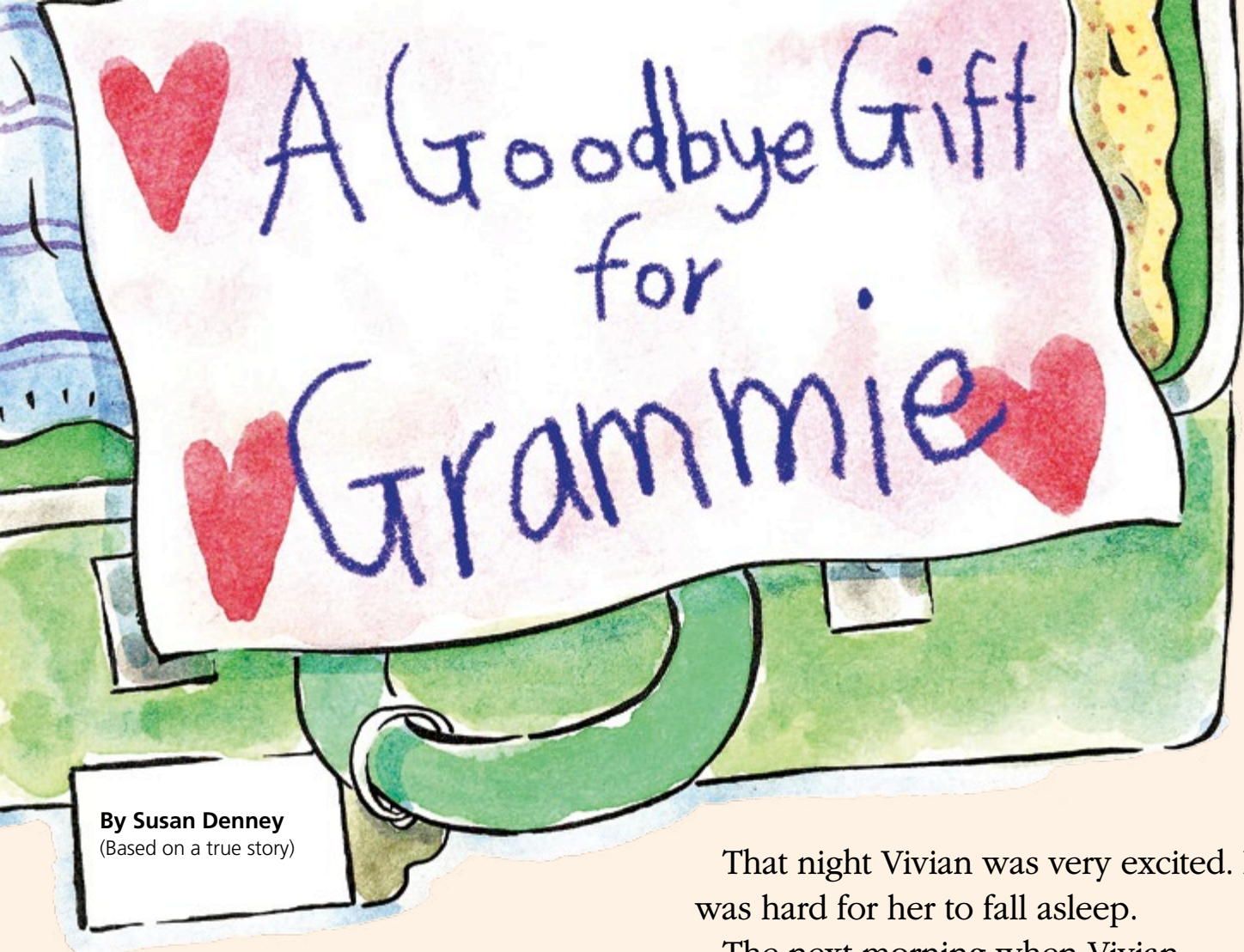
The author lives in Utah, USA.



Getting Ready for Church

Help Kayson and Kara find what they need to get ready for church.





By Susan Denney
(Based on a true story)

"I wish every child in the whole wide world had a grandmother just like you" (Children's Songbook, 200).

Vivian loved to write notes on colored paper. She left them around the house for her family.

One day Mommy had a surprise. "Grammie is coming to visit," she said.

Vivian was very happy. Grammie was her grandma. She lived far away. She couldn't visit very often.

"I can't wait!" Vivian said. "When will she come?"

"Tonight after your bedtime," Mommy said. "You will see her tomorrow."

That night Vivian was very excited. It was hard for her to fall asleep.

The next morning when Vivian woke up, Grammie was there. She would be staying for five whole days!

Vivian and Grammie did lots of things together. They made cookies.



They read books. And they played lots of games.

One afternoon Vivian saw Grammie putting her clothes in her suitcase.

“Are you going home?” Vivian asked.

“Yes,” Grammie said. “I am going home tomorrow. Your grandpa misses me.”

Vivian didn’t want Grammie to go.



The next day, the phone rang. Mommy answered it. Then she handed it to Vivian. “It’s Grammie,” Mommy said.

“Hi, Vivian,” Grammie said. “When I got home, I found a surprise in my suitcase. Can you guess what it was?”

“A note!” Vivian said. “I put it there when you weren’t looking.”

“Your surprise made me feel so happy,” Grammie said. “It said that you love me. And I love you too.” ♦

The author lives in Pennsylvania, USA.

Who could you surprise with a love note?



Then she had an idea. She went to find her paper and her markers.

The next morning Grammie said, “I’ll be gone when you get home from kindergarten.”

“I’ll miss you!” Vivian said. She gave Grammie a big hug.

“I’ll miss you too,” Grammie said. She looked sad.

Vivian was sad too, but she had a happy secret.





I just started middle school, and it is so much fun. I found so many friends that rock, but lately

I've been having trouble with a girl. Sometimes I come home crying because of her. But one day I said a prayer and had my dad give me a blessing. Now it's the second semester of school, and I've had no problem with her. I'm so happy I have a Heavenly Father who loves me and a father who can give me a blessing to help me feel better.

September S., age 12, Florida, USA



My favorite part of conference is the priesthood session. When my dad and grandpa go to priesthood session, I get to stay home and make doughnuts with my mom and little brothers, to eat when they get back. I can't wait until I'm 12 and can go to priesthood session too.

Spencer S., age 6, Utah, USA



Brooklyn T., age 9, Oregon, USA



Zaniah B., age 10, Philippines

For a Primary activity, these children from **South Africa** wrote poems about why they are special. They wrote about their physical and spiritual talents. Here are some of their poems!



I am special because . . .

- I am special because I have a lovely smile.
- I am special because I am kind.
- I am special because I have green eyes.
- I am special because I am fun.
- I am special because I am fast.
- I am special because I am sweet.
- I am special because I have the Holy Ghost.

Rachel W., age 11, South Africa

I am special because . . .

- I am special because I am good looking.
- I am special because I am always laughing.
- I am special because I have soft hair.
- I am special because I choose to go to church.
- I am special because I am a good sport.
- I am special because I am Heavenly Father's son.
- I am special because I read the scriptures.

Ezra M., age 9, South Africa



I'm working on my Faith in God booklet. It can help you find new talents or get better at the ones you have. It takes a lot of practice to develop your talents. At school, my art teacher is helping my class find our art skills by teaching us art.

Grace H., age 9, Alberta, Canada



Families can be
Together Forever
Here's my Family



One time when I was four-wheeling in the mountains with my family, a big storm came in very quickly.

There was lightning all around us, and I was very scared. I told my mom and dad we should say a prayer. We said a prayer, and Heavenly Father protected us as we drove home. When we got home, I thanked Heavenly Father for keeping us safe.

Carson B., age 4, Puerto Rico



Madelyn C., age 10, Iowa, USA



Jake M. from Arizona, USA, started building model temples when he was 11 and has finished four of them—Las Vegas, Provo, Denmark, and Salt Lake City. Jake loves to go to the temple. His next visit will be with his cousins to be baptized for people in his father's family who were not members of the Church.



I noticed that I was having a hard time paying attention in school. I was daydreaming a lot, and I wasn't

learning everything that I was being taught. So one night I prayed to Heavenly Father, "Please help me to pay attention in class so that I can raise my grades." The next day I went to school, and it was a good day. I learned a lot and was able to pay attention to the teacher that day. Now I know that if you ask with all your heart, Heavenly Father will answer your prayer.

Brock P., age 11, Utah, USA

“The Family: A Proclamation to the World” Came from God to Help My Family

By Erin Sanderson and Jean Bingham

Children have a lot of power—power to make a difference in families! All families are not the same, but every family is important to Heavenly Father. He wants our families to be strong, so He gave us “The Family: A Proclamation to the World” to help us. Heavenly Father knows that **you** can help your family be strong.

You are part of an eternal family that needs your help.

You can bring happiness, kindness, and love to your family.

You can listen to each other, work and play together, forgive and help each other.

You can read the scriptures with your family.

You can be a good example to your family as you pray and keep the commandments. ♦

THE FAMILY A PROCLAMATION TO THE WORLD

THE FIRST PRESIDENCY AND COUNCIL OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES
OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

WE, THE FIRST PRESIDENCY and the Council of the Twelve Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, solemnly proclaim that marriage between a man and a woman is ordained of God and that the family is central to the Creator's plan for the eternal destiny of His children.

ALL HUMAN BEINGS—male and female—are created in the image of God. Each is a beloved spirit son or daughter of heavenly parents, and, as such, each has a divine nature and heavenly potential, and, as such, each has a divine nature and heavenly potential, and, as such, each has a divine nature and heavenly potential. Gender is an essential characteristic of individual premortal, mortal, and eternal identity and purpose.

IN THE PREMORTAL REALM, spirit sons and daughters knew and worshipped God as their Eternal Father and accepted His plan by which His children could obtain a physical body and gain earthly experience to progress toward perfection and ultimately realize their divine destiny as heirs of eternal life. The divine plan of happiness enables family relationships to be perpetuated beyond the grave. Sacred ordinances and covenants available in holy temples make it possible for individuals to return to the presence of God and for families to be united eternally.

THE FIRST COMMANDMENT that God gave to Adam and Eve pertained to their potential for parenthood as husband and wife. We declare that God's commandment for His children to multiply and replenish the earth remains in force. We further declare that God has commanded that the sacred powers of procreation are to be employed only between man and woman, lawfully wedded as husband and wife.

WE DECLARE the means by which mortal life is created to be divinely appointed. We affirm the sanctity of life and of its importance in God's eternal plan.

HUSBAND AND WIFE have a solemn responsibility to love and care for each other and for their children. “Children are an heritage of the Lord” (Psalm 127:3). Parents have a sacred duty to rear their children in love and righteousness,

to provide for their physical and spiritual needs, and to teach them to love and serve one another, observe the commandments of God, and be law-abiding citizens wherever they live. Husbands and wives—mothers and fathers—will be held accountable before God for the discharge of these obligations.

THE FAMILY is ordained of God. Marriage between man and woman is essential to His eternal plan. Children are entitled to birth within the bonds of matrimony, and to be reared by a father and a mother who honor marital vows with complete fidelity. Happiness in family life is most likely to be achieved when founded upon the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ. Successful marriages and families are established and maintained on principles of faith, prayer, repentance, forgiveness, respect, love, compassion, work, wholesome recreational activities. By divine design, fathers are to preside over their families in love and righteousness and are responsible to provide the necessities of life and protection for their families. Mothers are primarily responsible for the nurture of their children. In these sacred responsibilities, fathers and mothers are obligated to help one another as equal partners. Disability, death, or other circumstances may necessitate individual adaptation. Extended families should lend support when needed.

WE WARN that individuals who violate covenants of chastity, who abuse spouse or offspring, or who fail to fulfill family responsibilities will one day stand accountable before God. Further, we warn that the disintegration of the family will bring upon individuals, communities, and nations the calamities foretold by ancient and modern prophets.

WE CALL UPON responsible citizens and officers of government everywhere to promote those measures designed to maintain and strengthen the family as the fundamental unit of society.

This proclamation was read by President Gordon B. Hinckley as part of his message at the General Relief Society Meeting held September 23, 1995, in Salt Lake City, Utah.



SCRIPTURE

- John 15:11

IDEAS FOR FAMILY TALK

Heavenly Father wants all families to be strong and to return to Him. Talk about what each member of the family can do to help your family be strong.



I can strengthen my family by

I can strengthen my family by

I can strengthen my family by

I can strengthen my family by

I can strengthen my family by

I can strengthen my family by

I can strengthen my family by

I can strengthen my family by

YOU CAN!



Decorate a clean, empty can with this label (at right) and some photos or drawings. Fill in the word strips with ideas about how you can strengthen your family. Cut out the word strips and put them in the can. Each day choose a word strip from the can and do what it says. As you try to live your ideas, you can make a difference in your family!





SPECIAL WITNESS

**By Elder
Quentin L. Cook**
Of the Quorum
of the Twelve
Apostles

*The members
of the Quorum
of the Twelve
Apostles are
special witnesses
of Jesus Christ.*

How can I help with family history work?

Elder Cook suggests
having a Family Tree gathering.
Here's how!

*It's exciting to learn
about the lives of family
members—where they came
from and how they lived.*

*Have everyone in your
family bring family histories,
stories, and photos. Include special
things that belonged to your
grandparents and parents.*

*Help scan and upload
these stories and photos
to Family Tree at
FamilySearch.org.*

*Find out what temple
ordinances still need to be done
and make assignments for the
temple work.*



From "Roots and Branches," *Ensign*, May 2014, 47.

Our Time to Shine

Listen to
new *Friend*
songs at
friend.lds.org.

Boldly ♩ = 58–68

Words by Jan Pinborough
Music by Janice Kapp Perry

F *C* *F* *G m 7* *C 7* *F*

Girls 1. Like Es-ther of old I'll stand, true to the Lord's com-mands, De-
2. Like A-bish I'll serve with might, spread-ing the gos - pel light. I'll

B♭ *C 7* *A 7* *D m* *G 7* *C 7*

Boys
fend-ing with cour-age and serv-ing with faith in Heav-en - ly Fa - ther's plan. Like
tell those I meet of its won-der - ful truths. My faith in the Lord burns bright. Mo -

F *C* *F* *G m 7* *C 7* *F*

Ne - phi of old I'll stand, bless-ing my fel - low man, Pro -
ro - ni, who stood for right, nev - er gave up the fight. Like

B♭ *C 7* *A 7* *D m* *B m 7* *C 7* *F* *Chorus*

Girls & Boys
tect-ing with hon-or and show-ing res-pect for Heav-en - ly Fa - ther's plan.
him I will strive to be no - ble and true. I'm hold-ing my ban - ner high. It's our

B♭ *F* *C* *F* *B♭* *F* *G m 7* *C 7* *F*

time to shine, our time to pre-pare. We have learned God's word. We're read-y to share!

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MATHILDE

Gets Ready for Young Women

By Jenn Wilks

Mathilde was excited about going into Young Women soon, but she wasn't quite sure what to expect. So she talked to her grandma. Her grandma is Sister Bonnie Oscarson, the Young Women general president. She had some great advice to share!

Ask your mom or grandma or one of the women in your ward what they remember about Young Women. You might find out some fun things.

FUN FACT

Mathilde calls her grandma "Mo," which is short for *moder*, the Swedish word for mother.

Then . . .



When Sister Oscarson was in Young Women, she earned badges by completing different achievements. She sewed

them onto a special cloth band, along with a flower that represents faithfulness.





SISTER OSCARSON'S TIPS FOR GETTING READY!

- Develop a relationship with your Heavenly Father by praying and reading the scriptures.
- Find out about the Personal Progress program.
- Read the scriptures, *For the Strength of Youth*, and the *Friend*.
- Start learning the Young Women theme. You'll be repeating it every week along with all the young women.

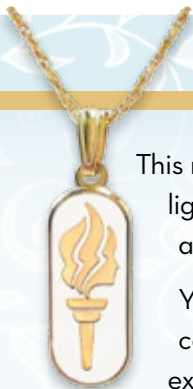
WE ARE DAUGHTERS of our Heavenly Father, who loves us, and we love Him.
 WE WILL "STAND as witnesses of God at all times and in all things, and in all places" (Mosiah 18:9) as we strive to live the Young Women values, which are:

**FAITH DIVINE NATURE
 INDIVIDUAL WORTH KNOWLEDGE
 CHOICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY
 GOOD WORKS INTEGRITY
 AND VIRTUE.**

WE BELIEVE as we come to accept and act upon these values, WE WILL BE PREPARED to strengthen home and family, make and keep sacred covenants, receive the ordinances of the temple, and enjoy the blessings of exaltation.



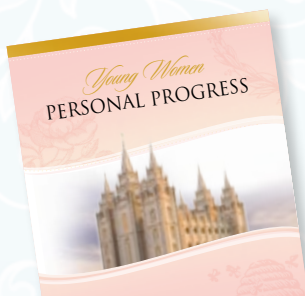
... and Now



This necklace will remind you to be a light for others and to stand for truth and righteousness.

You'll also earn ribbons by completing Personal Progress experiences and projects.

Then you'll receive the Young Women Recognition, which includes a medallion.



NEW BEGINNINGS

Mathilde went to a special activity called New Beginnings. They had a fun lesson and learned about Personal Progress.

Mathilde is also working on her Faith in God Award and memorizing the Articles of Faith.

MATHILDE CAN'T WAIT FOR ...

- Activities every week.
- Getting to know the other girls in Young Women.
- Going to Young Women camp.

A SPECIAL MEMORY

Mathilde and lots of her cousins were in the Conference Center on April 6, 2013. But they didn't know why their grandma had invited them all to come to general conference. They were surprised and excited when she was sustained as the president of the Young Women organization!

Serving **NOW** to Serve **LATER**



By Miche Barbosa and Marissa Widdison

(Based on a true story)

“Serve the Lord with all your heart” (1 Samuel 12:20).

I’ll race you to the church!” Mórmon said, pointing to the church steeple poking out above the palm trees. Then he ran as fast as he could to stay ahead of his younger brother, Morian.

The boys and their parents had already walked about a mile from their home, but Mórmon and Morian were still

racing hard when they reached the metal gate outside their ward meetinghouse. They stopped to catch their breath.

Before they could decide who won, a boy called out to them, “Want to play *futebol*?”

Mórmon loved *futebol*, but he and his family were going to clean the ward building so it would be ready for church the next day.

Mórmon shook his head. “Not now—maybe later!” he called back.

Soon Mórmon and Morian were working hard. Mórmon moved chairs and swept floors with Papa while Morian mopped floors with Mama.

Later the boys were washing mirrors in the bathroom together. “I didn’t think I’d like cleaning the church, but it’s fun,” Morian said. “What about you, Mórmon? Is that why you came instead of playing *futebol*?”

Mórmon thought about Papa. He was the bishop of their ward, but he still took time to help clean the meetinghouse.

“I’m here because I want to be like Papa,” Mórmon said.

Then he thought about the missionaries in his ward. They were busy knocking on doors and sharing the Book of Mormon with others. They would invite people to





come to church at the building the boys were cleaning.

I'm here because someday I want to serve a mission too, Mórmon thought. *I can help the missionaries by getting the church ready.*

Mórmon thought about tomorrow, when he and his brother would get up at 6:00 a.m., walk to church in their white shirts and ties, and prepare the chairs and songbooks in the Primary room.

I'm here because I want to serve in a Church calling, he thought.

Mórmon thought about how he would soon be a deacon. He would pass the sacrament and do many other things to serve.

I'm here because next year I will receive the priesthood, and I want to do everything I can now to get ready.

Mórmon had already done something to prepare for the priesthood: he had earned his Faith in God Award. He was

already learning to live the gospel and serve others.

Finally he looked at his brother's reflection in the mirror and smiled.

"I'm here because I love the Lord," he said, "and because serving now will help me get ready to serve later." ♦

The authors lives in Utah, USA.

PREPARING FOR THE PRIESTHOOD



Tips from David L. Beck, Young Men general president:

- Invite the Spirit into your life and choose friends who help you choose the right. Live the standards in *For the Strength of Youth*.
- Learn about what your duties will be as a deacon. Read about the priesthood in *Fulfilling My Duty to God* and *True to the Faith*. Attend a Priesthood Preview in your ward or branch.
- Prepare to go to the temple to do baptisms for the dead.
- Get excited for fun activities and devotionals with other youth.
- Know that Heavenly Father trusts you and is counting on you. Discover how much you can do with His help!

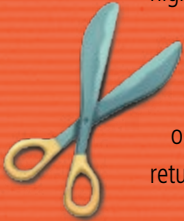
P.S.

We hope you enjoyed this month's magazine. Please write to tell us what you liked!

How to Write to the Friend

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

1. Fill out the form below and include it with your submission.
2. Include a school photo or high-quality snapshot.
3. We might edit your submission for length or clarity, and we can't return it to you.
4. You must be at least three years old to send us a submission.



Please send your submission to: **Friend Magazine**
50 E. North Temple St., Rm. 2432
Salt Lake City, UT 84150-0024
Or email: friend@ldschurch.org

The following information and permission must be included:

First and last name

Age State/Province, Country

I agree to the terms of the Friend Submission Agreement (lds.org/friend/parentalconsent) and grant permission for the Friend to publish my child's submission and photo in print or online.

Signature of parent or legal guardian

Email of parent or legal guardian

Through Your Eyes



Heavenly Father has blessed my life by giving me animals to enjoy and love.
Caleb H., age 10, Utah, USA



The Last Laugh

The best part about living in the desert is that snowman season comes early!



ILLUSTRATIONS BY ANDREW BOSLEY; CARTOON BY VAL CHADWICK BAGLEY



VISIT
[friend.lds.org!](http://friend.lds.org)

- Play games and watch videos.
- Read the *Friend* online.

Funstuff Answers

Page 3: Jesus, light, life, world (see 3 Nephi 11:11)
Page 10: D; faith (see D&C 109:7)

Hidden CTR Ring

Did you find the ring?
Look on page 11!



ESTHER

Esther 2-8

Glue this page to heavy paper or cardboard. Then cut out the figures and attach them to craft sticks or paper bags. You can use them to help act out your favorite Old Testament stories.



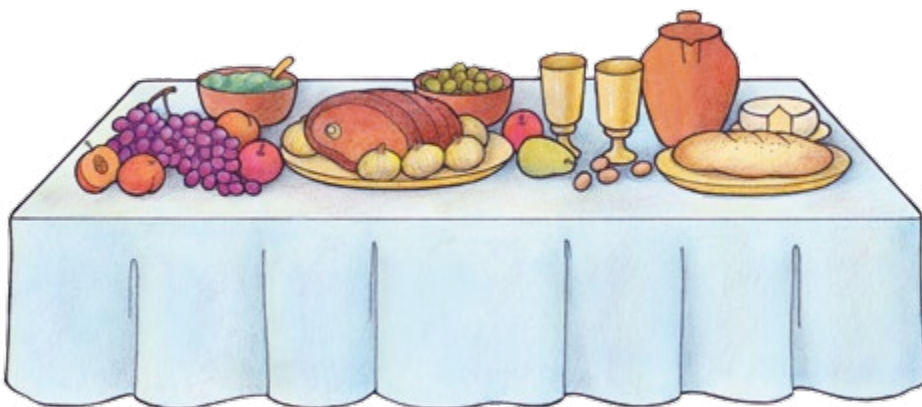
Esther



Mordecai



King



Dear Parents and Teachers,

Have you ever been to a family reunion? On page 42, Elder Cook invites us to hold a Family Tree gathering and bring people together through email, phone, or in person. As you can see from the topic list on this page, there are several stories in this month's issue about family and family history. To get started, visit **FamilySearch.org**.

Happy gathering!
The Friend

Order the Friend at store.lds.org!



The Friend is on Facebook!

Did you know the *Friend* has a Facebook page? It's a place where we can highlight some of our best content and share uplifting links with you. We hope you "like" it!



Family Home Evening Ideas

GENERAL CONFERENCE: Conference is October 4th and 5th! On page 31, there's an activity that children can do while watching.

FAMILY FUN TIME: Read "Violin Victory" (page 4). Why does God ask us to develop our talents? Talk about the talents each family member has. Then help each other make the gift boxes on page 6. There's also a recipe to try!

BRINGING PRIMARY HOME: In sharing time this month, Primary children will be learning about strengthening families. You can find a short lesson, activity, and ideas for talking with your children about this topic on page 40.

STAND AS A WITNESS: As a family, take turns reading from the poster on page 24. Who is your favorite scripture hero? How were they brave, kind, or believing? Learn the new song on page 43 and talk about what you can do to stand as a witness.

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