

the friend

SEPTEMBER • 2008



Friends by Mail



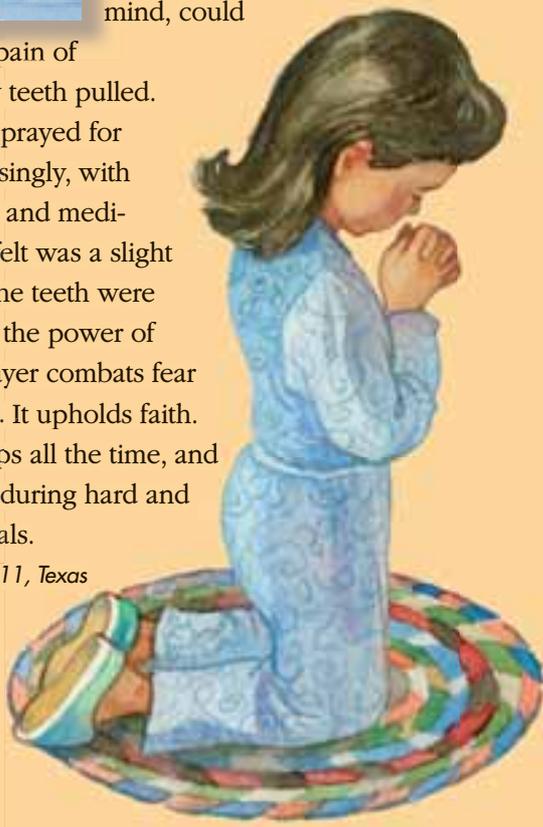
The Power of Prayer



When I was eight, my orthodontist informed me that I needed to get six teeth pulled to continue the process of getting braces. I was scared. No medication, in my mind, could

cover the pain of getting my teeth pulled. My family prayed for me. Surprisingly, with anesthesia and medicine, all I felt was a slight jerk, and the teeth were out. I love the power of prayer. Prayer combats fear and doubt. It upholds faith. Prayer helps all the time, and especially during hard and difficult trials.

Vicki T., age 11, Texas



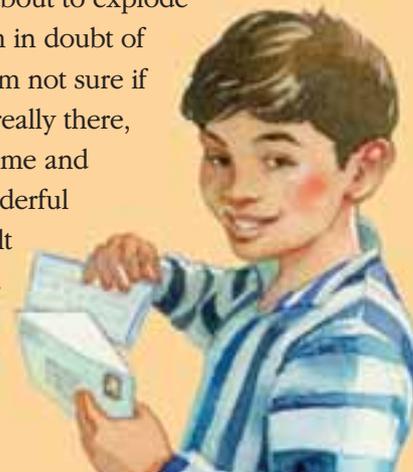
Nighttime Pondering



I didn't know yet if the gospel was true when I was about seven and a half years old. I thought that if it was good enough for my parents, then it was good enough for me. One night, as I was pondering my life, my mind focused on thoughts

of religion. I wondered if I was in the right one. I remembered Joseph Smith and that he had had the same thoughts. Thinking about this, I decided to follow his example. I got out of bed and began to pray. At first, I had a hard time concentrating on praying because it was pretty cold that night and I wanted to get back into my warm bed. After I finished my prayer, I listened for the Holy Ghost to tell me what to do. Finally, just as I was about to give up, I felt an amazing feeling. It was as if my heart was about to explode with joy! When I am in doubt of the scriptures and am not sure if Heavenly Father is really there, I look back at this time and remember that wonderful night when I first felt the Spirit for myself.

Marisa R., age 11, Utah



Missionary Now



I was so excited when my brother came home from his mission. I had a hard time waiting, but I had fun. I can't wait to be a missionary. I know I can still be a missionary at school, home, or play. I hope that you go on a mission too.

Jacob L., age 8, New York

Please send us a letter sharing your feelings about the *Friend* magazine, a spiritual experience, your testimony, or whatever else is on your mind. Please include a photo of yourself and your name, age, and address. A written statement signed by a parent or legal guardian granting permission to publish your photo and submission must be included. If an adult helps with your submission, credit should also be given to him or her. Submissions may be edited for length and clarity. For scheduling reasons, submissions selected may not appear in the magazine for at least a year. Ages shown are those at the time of submission. Children whose writings are submitted should be at least three years old. Due to the number of submissions received, they cannot all be published, nor can they be returned. Send your submission to Friends by Mail, *Friend* Magazine, Rm. 2430, 50 East North Temple Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84150-3220, United States of America.

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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

Stories and Features

- IFC Friends by Mail
2 Come Listen to a Prophet's Voice: A Message for Misti / President Thomas S. Monson
4 Pirates!
8 Friend to Friend: My Brother and the Puppy / Elder Keith R. Edwards
10 Sharing Time: Heavenly Father, Are You Really There?
14 The Winner
17 Special Witness: Elder Quentin L. Cook
18 Making Friends: Omar Salgado of Valle de Angeles, Honduras
27 Matt & Mandy
32 Our Creative Friends
34 Mikey's Gift
36 From the Life of the Prophet Joseph Smith: Trials for Joseph and Emma
38 Trying to Be Like Jesus
40 Girlfriends and Gossip
44 Friends in the News
46 President Grant's Example
IBC Guide to the *Friend*

For Little Friends

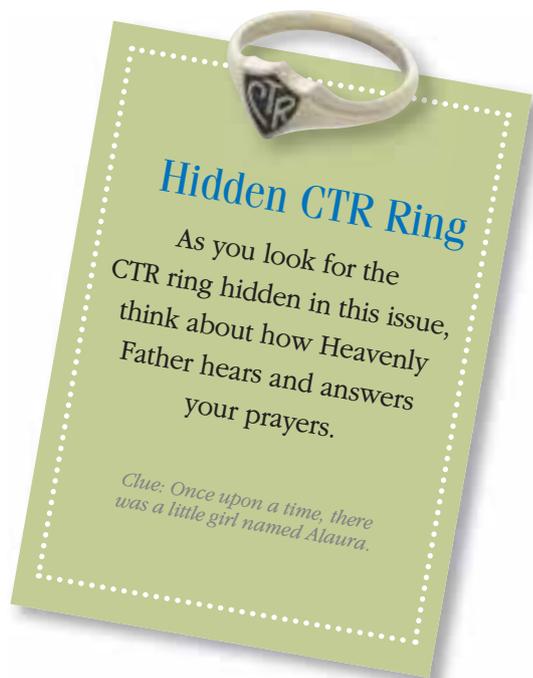
- 28 Something Is Outside My Window
30 We Bow Our Heads
31 Time for Family Prayer

Verse

- 7 My Special Time

Things to Make and Do

- 13 Funstuf
21 Kitchen Crafts
22 Funstuf
24 Did You Think to Pray?
26 Funstuf
43 Joseph's and Emma's Trials
48 Coloring Page



Cover by Jim Madsen

A Message for *Misti*

BY PRESIDENT THOMAS S. MONSON

During the message I delivered at general conference in October 1975, I felt prompted to direct my remarks to a little girl with long, blonde hair who was seated in the balcony of the Tabernacle. I called the attention of the audience to her and felt this small girl needed the message I had in mind.

At the conclusion of the session, I returned to my office and found waiting for me a young child by the name of Misti White, together with her grandparents and an aunt. As I greeted them, I recognized Misti as the one in the balcony to whom I had directed my remarks.

I learned that as her eighth birthday approached, she was in a quandary concerning whether or not to be baptized. She felt she would like to be baptized, and her grandparents, with whom she lived, wanted her to be baptized, but her less-active mother suggested she wait until she was 18 years of age to make the decision. Misti had told her grandparents, "If we go to conference, maybe Heavenly Father will let me know what I should do."

As we continued our visit after the session, Misti's



**President Monson
teaches us about
inspired messages.**

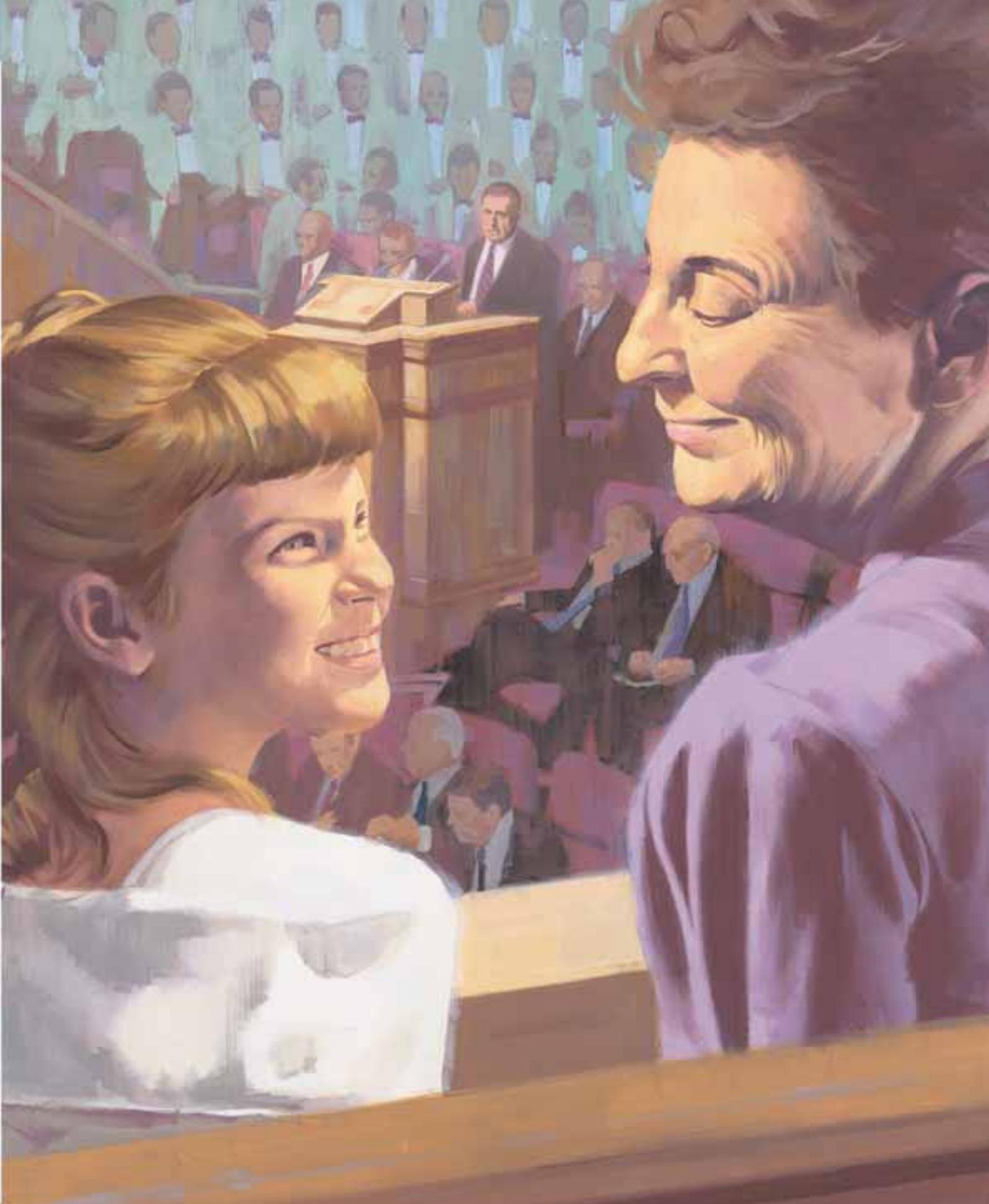
grandmother said to me, "I think Misti has something she would like to tell you." This sweet young girl said, "Brother Monson, while you were speaking in conference, you answered my question. I want to be baptized!"

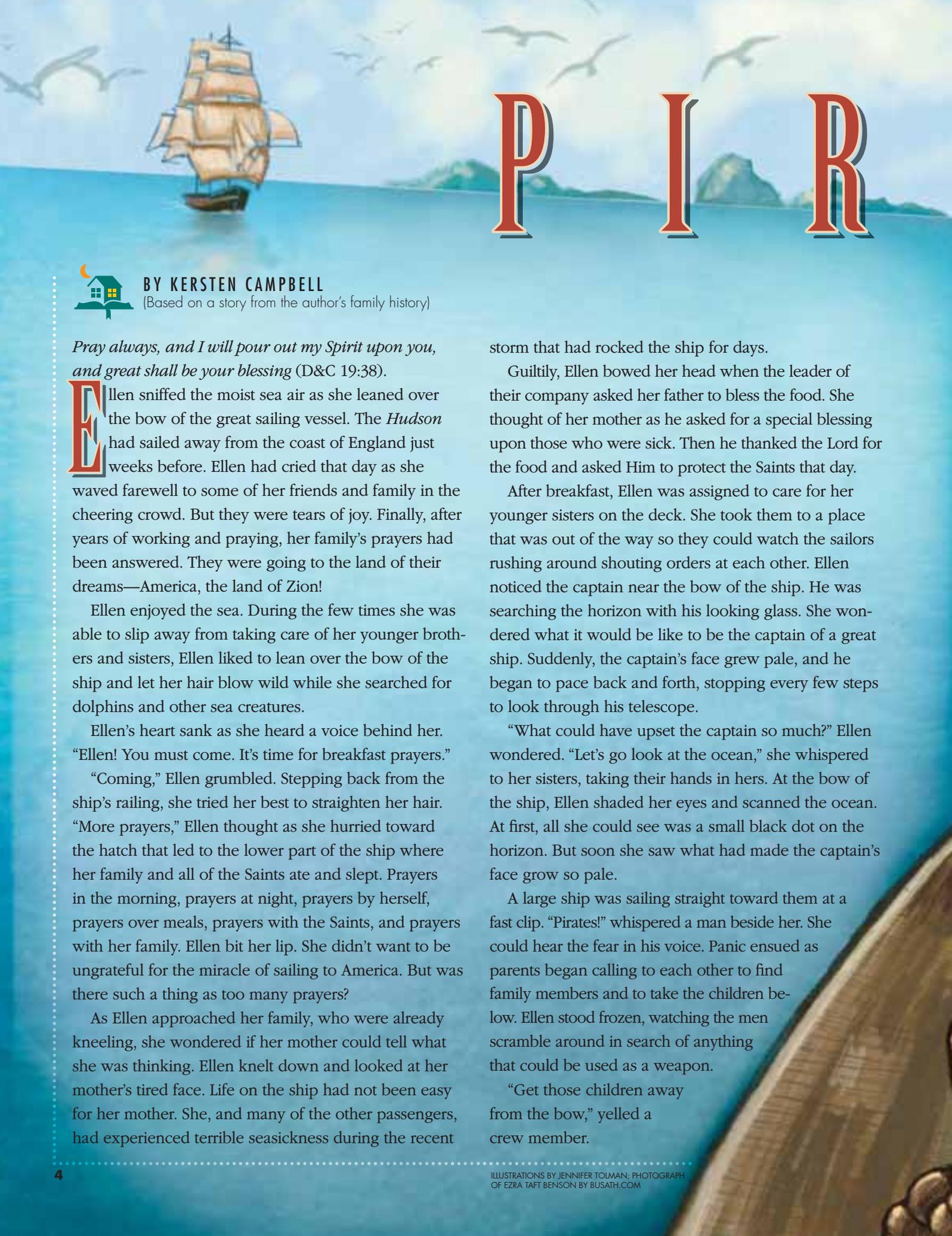
The family returned to California, and Misti was baptized and confirmed a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. ●

From an April 2007 general conference address.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- 1. How do you think President Monson knew he should tell Misti his talk was for her, even though he had never seen her before? How can listening to the Holy Ghost help you show other people that Heavenly Father loves them?**
- 2. Why do you think Misti believed that if she listened to general conference Heavenly Father would help her know what to do? How can listening to Church leaders help you choose the right? Are they speaking to you, even if they don't mention your name?**
- 3. How do you think Misti's choice to get baptized right away helped her life? How can following the prophet help your life?**





P I R



BY KERSTEN CAMPBELL

(Based on a story from the author's family history)

Pray always, and I will pour out my Spirit upon you, and great shall be your blessing (D&C 19:38).

Ellen sniffed the moist sea air as she leaned over the bow of the great sailing vessel. The *Hudson* had sailed away from the coast of England just weeks before. Ellen had cried that day as she waved farewell to some of her friends and family in the cheering crowd. But they were tears of joy. Finally, after years of working and praying, her family's prayers had been answered. They were going to the land of their dreams—America, the land of Zion!

Ellen enjoyed the sea. During the few times she was able to slip away from taking care of her younger brothers and sisters, Ellen liked to lean over the bow of the ship and let her hair blow wild while she searched for dolphins and other sea creatures.

Ellen's heart sank as she heard a voice behind her. "Ellen! You must come. It's time for breakfast prayers."

"Coming," Ellen grumbled. Stepping back from the ship's railing, she tried her best to straighten her hair. "More prayers," Ellen thought as she hurried toward the hatch that led to the lower part of the ship where her family and all of the Saints ate and slept. Prayers in the morning, prayers at night, prayers by herself, prayers over meals, prayers with the Saints, and prayers with her family. Ellen bit her lip. She didn't want to be ungrateful for the miracle of sailing to America. But was there such a thing as too many prayers?

As Ellen approached her family, who were already kneeling, she wondered if her mother could tell what she was thinking. Ellen knelt down and looked at her mother's tired face. Life on the ship had not been easy for her mother. She, and many of the other passengers, had experienced terrible seasickness during the recent

storm that had rocked the ship for days.

Guiltily, Ellen bowed her head when the leader of their company asked her father to bless the food. She thought of her mother as he asked for a special blessing upon those who were sick. Then he thanked the Lord for the food and asked Him to protect the Saints that day.

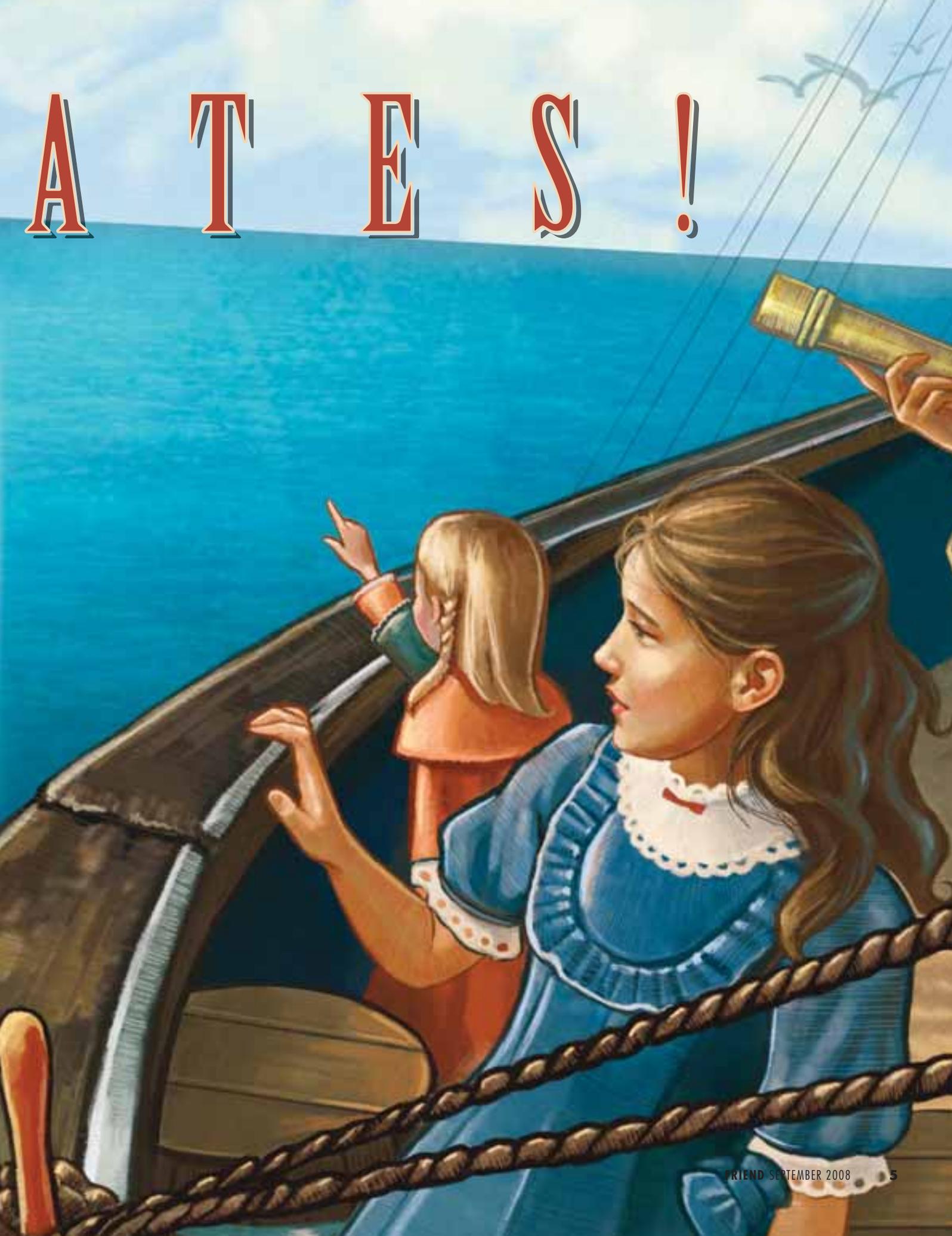
After breakfast, Ellen was assigned to care for her younger sisters on the deck. She took them to a place that was out of the way so they could watch the sailors rushing around shouting orders at each other. Ellen noticed the captain near the bow of the ship. He was searching the horizon with his looking glass. She wondered what it would be like to be the captain of a great ship. Suddenly, the captain's face grew pale, and he began to pace back and forth, stopping every few steps to look through his telescope.

"What could have upset the captain so much?" Ellen wondered. "Let's go look at the ocean," she whispered to her sisters, taking their hands in hers. At the bow of the ship, Ellen shaded her eyes and scanned the ocean. At first, all she could see was a small black dot on the horizon. But soon she saw what had made the captain's face grow so pale.

A large ship was sailing straight toward them at a fast clip. "Pirates!" whispered a man beside her. She could hear the fear in his voice. Panic ensued as parents began calling to each other to find family members and to take the children below. Ellen stood frozen, watching the men scramble around in search of anything that could be used as a weapon.

"Get those children away from the bow," yelled a crew member.

A T E S !



Ellen shook herself out of her frozen state and led her sisters down the hatch, but as soon as the children were with her mother, she rushed back up to the deck. She was worried about her father. He'd never fought anyone in his life, let alone pirates. She wondered what she could do to help.

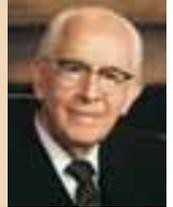
The passengers on the *Hudson* grew silent as the pirate ship sailed closer. Ellen stood next to her father and gasped as the ship came so close she could see the color of the pirates' hair! She looked up at her father and saw his lips moving in a silent prayer. Feeling frightened, she began her own silent prayer, asking Heavenly Father to forgive her for her bad attitude that morning.

The two ships sailed side by side for what seemed like an hour. The pirates and the passengers on the *Hudson* gazed at each other in silence.

"What are they doing?" Ellen whispered to her father. "They're probably wondering if our ship is worth

"There is no place for fear among men and women who place their trust in the Almighty, who do not hesitate to humble themselves in seeking divine guidance through prayer."¹

President Ezra Taft Benson (1899–1994)



robbing," her father whispered.

They waited in silence until suddenly there was a shout from the pirate ship. Ellen could feel her father's body tense. Then, to Ellen's surprise, the pirate ship slowly turned around and began sailing away from the *Hudson*.

Ellen let out the breath she had been holding. Silently, she offered up a prayer of thanks, remembering her father's prayer for safety that morning.

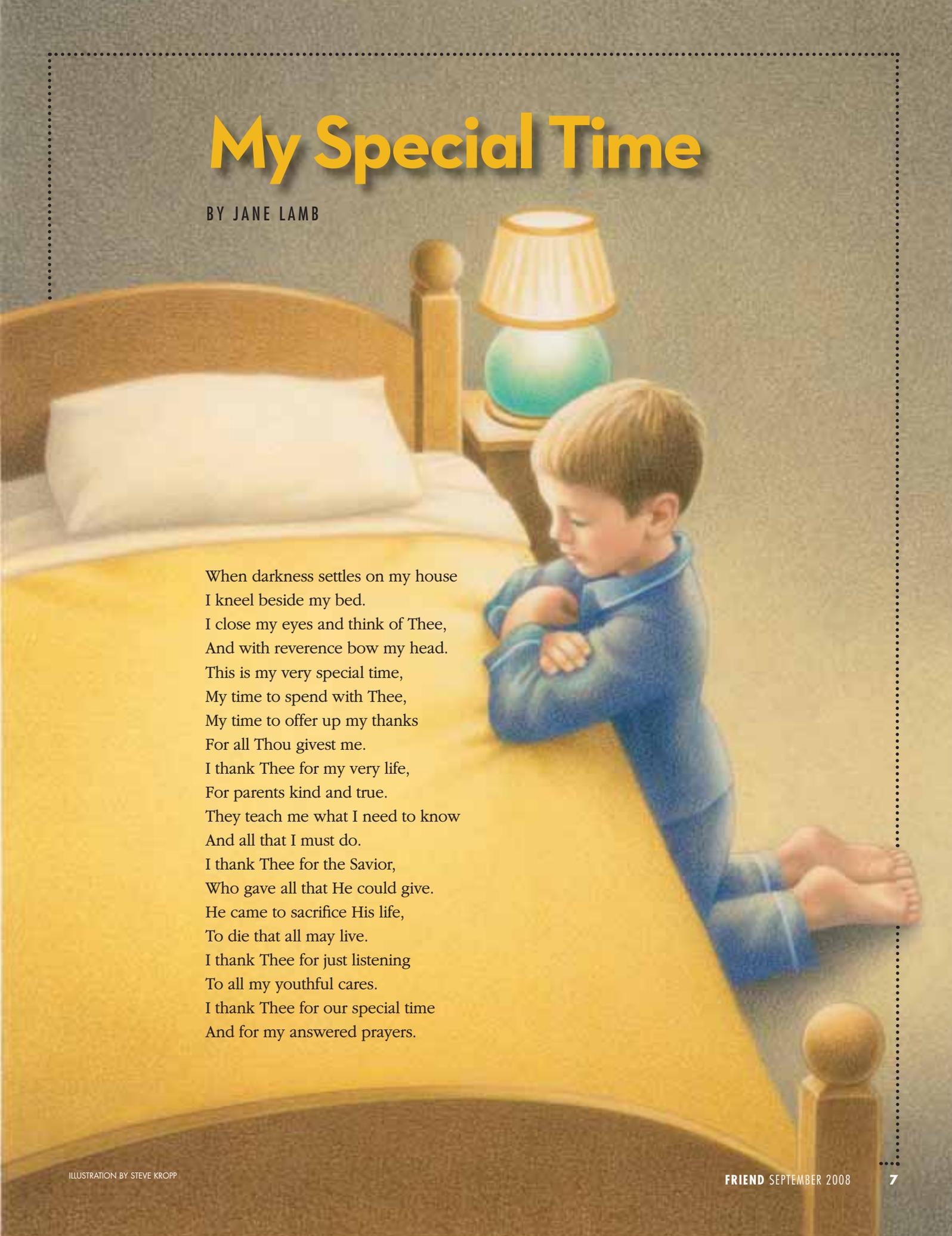
"The Lord was surely watching over us this day," her father said, laying a hand on Ellen's shoulder and watching the pirate ship sail away.

"He surely was," Ellen thought, and then she smiled, realizing she now knew that there was no such thing as too many prayers. ●



My Special Time

BY JANE LAMB



When darkness settles on my house
I kneel beside my bed.
I close my eyes and think of Thee,
And with reverence bow my head.
This is my very special time,
My time to spend with Thee,
My time to offer up my thanks
For all Thou givest me.
I thank Thee for my very life,
For parents kind and true.
They teach me what I need to know
And all that I must do.
I thank Thee for the Savior,
Who gave all that He could give.
He came to sacrifice His life,
To die that all may live.
I thank Thee for just listening
To all my youthful cares.
I thank Thee for our special time
And for my answered prayers.

My Brother and the Puppy



From an interview with Elder Keith R. Edwards of the Seventy, currently serving as President of the Philippines Area; by Callie Buys

Shew mercy and compassions every man to his brother (Zechariah 7:9).

I was blessed to grow up with people who loved me and influenced me for good. The greatest influences in my life were the members of my family. My parents chose the right, and they trusted me to do the same. And my older brothers set good examples for me to follow.

One older brother taught me an important lesson when I was five years old. That was when my twin, Karl, and I received a puppy. We did not understand the responsibilities that come with having a pet—we thought it was just another toy that didn't require any particular care. We didn't worry too much about giving the dog food or water or taking care of it. But we had an older brother who felt just the opposite. He had a great love for animals. He saw the need and took care of our puppy.

That dog grew up thinking that it belonged to our brother, and we used to argue about whose dog it was. Karl and

I insisted that it was our dog, and we had contests with our older brother to see whom the dog would go to

if we called to it. The dog always went to our brother.

The dog understood loyalty and the love our brother showed it. This experience taught me a powerful lesson about the law of the harvest, which tells us that as you sow, so shall you reap. My brother planted love when he took care of our dog, and he reaped the rewards of trust and loyalty.

My mother knew this lesson too. She had great faith. When she was young, her parents seldom attended church, so she often went to church by herself. Her loving example helped bring her parents into activity and involvement in the Church.

When I was growing up, my mother would get up regularly in fast and testimony meeting and bear her testimony. Then she would say how much she appreciated her sons and what good boys we were. Her faith in us provided great benefits. Even if we did not always live up to her words, she showed us what we could become.

Just as my mother had faith in me and my brothers, I have great faith in the rising generation of children today. You have been saved for these times. I am amazed to see so many wonderful, beautiful young children who have such great faith. You

children are the future of the Church, and you are being prepared for a great work. As you serve in faith, you will sow seeds of righteousness and harvest the blessings the Lord has prepared for you. ●



Heavenly Father, Are You Really There?

Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them (Mark 11:24).

BY LINDA CHRISTENSEN



When Jesus lived on the earth, many people came to listen to His words. They brought their children so Jesus could bless them, but the disciples told them to go away. Jesus said, “Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God” (Mark 10:14). Jesus loved the children and blessed them.

The Primary song “A Child’s Prayer” reminds us of that scripture story and teaches us about prayer.

*Heavenly Father, are you really there?
And do you hear and answer ev’ry child’s
prayer?*

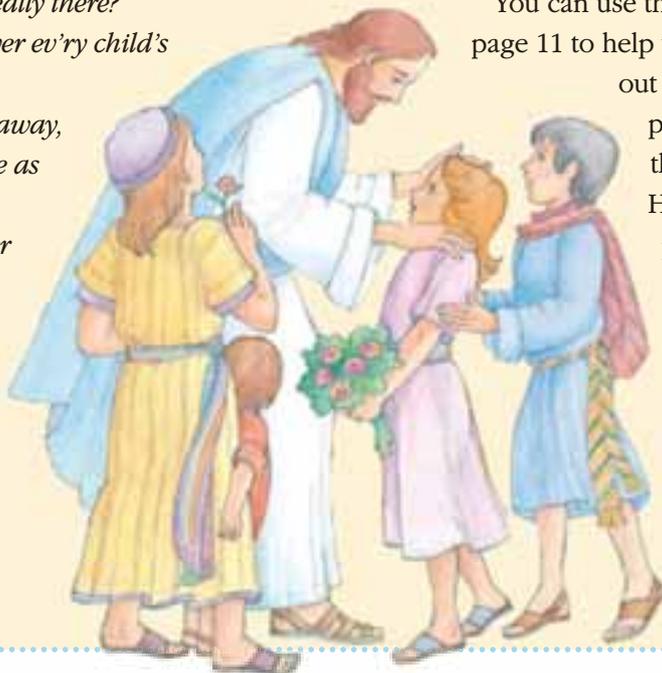
*Some say that heaven is far away,
But I feel it close around me as
I pray.*

*Heavenly Father, I remember
now*

*Something that Jesus told
disciples long ago:*

*“Suffer the children to
come to me.”*

*Father, in prayer I’m
coming now to thee.*



Heavenly Father loves you. You are His child. He wants you to pray to Him often—anytime, anywhere. The next verse of this song reminds you to pray.

*Pray, he is there;
Speak, he is list’ning.
You are his child;
His love now surrounds you.
He hears your prayer;
He loves the children.
Of such is the kingdom,
The kingdom of heav’n.
(Children’s Songbook, 12–13)* ●

Activity

You can use the prayer reminders on page 11 to help you remember to pray. Cut out the two reminders, color the pictures, and write down the things you would like to thank Heavenly Father for when you pray. He loves you and hears every prayer. He blesses you with what you need.



My PRAYER reminder



I want to thank
Heavenly Father for:

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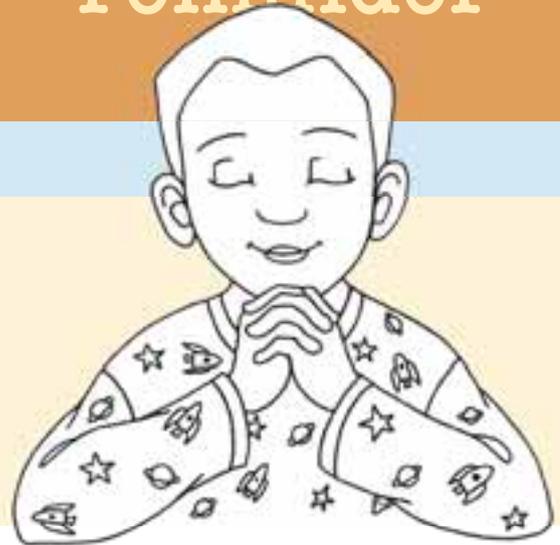
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My PRAYER reminder



I want to thank
Heavenly Father for:

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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, make three simple signs for children to hold. Use these key words about prayer, writing one word on each sign: *Ask, Seek, Knock*.

Begin sharing time by helping the children find Matthew 7:7, and read it together. Hold up the signs, and review the words with the children. Memorize the scripture together (see "Memorization," TNGC, 171–72). Bear testimony that we learn about prayer from the scriptures.

Sing the second verse of "I Pray in Faith" (p. 14), and review the steps of prayer that are mentioned. Display GAK 305 (Enos Praying) and GAK 403 (The First Vision). Share those scripture accounts about prayer (see Enos 1:1–18; Joseph Smith—History 1:14–20). Allow time for the children to share experiences they have had with prayer. Conclude by singing "A Child's Prayer" (pp. 12–13), and bear testimony of the power of prayer.

2. Sing the first verse of "I Pray in Faith" (p. 14). Show 3-53 from the *Primary 3* picture packet, and share the story about Karolina's prayer (*Primary 3*, lesson 26, pp. 123–24). Repeat the weekly gospel principle, "Heavenly Father wants me to pray to Him often—anytime, anywhere." Sing the first verse again to reinforce the principle.

Involve the children in a scripture experience about prayer by preparing a scrambled-word activity (see "Scrambles," TNGC, 184). Scramble the words in these two phrases: "call upon his holy name" and "cry unto him." Write the scrambles on the chalkboard, and ask the children to work together as classes to unscramble the phrases. Invite them to look in Alma 34:17–18 to help them find the answer. Explain that these two phrases are ways of describing prayer. Continue the activity by choosing key words ("crops," "fields," "houses," "household," and so on) from Alma 34:17–27 that name some things to pray about. Scramble the letters in the words, and write them on the chalkboard. Invite the children to unscramble the words, find them in the scriptures, and discuss how this passage of scripture applies to their lives. Sing both verses of "I Pray in Faith," and bear testimony of the power of prayer.

3. Prior to sharing time, make wordstrips of the different words that children use to say thank you that are found in "Children All over the World" (pp. 16–17). Be familiar with the song, and be prepared to use it throughout sharing time to teach about prayer.

Show GAK 600 (The World). Sing this phrase to the children, and let them guess the last word: "All over the world at the end of day, Heav'nly Father's children kneel down and _____." Write the word *pray* on the chalkboard.

Show wordstrips of the different ways children say thank you all over the world. Repeat the words a few times. Sing that section of the song several times so the children are familiar with the words. Write the phrase *We thank Thee* on the chalkboard.

Sing the song beginning with the phrase "Our Heavenly Father hears them." Ask the children to listen for what Heavenly Father does (hears, understands, knows, loves). Write the four words on the chalkboard.

Place these pictures on the chalkboard with the scripture references written under each picture: GAK 107 (Moses and the Burning Bush)—Exodus 3:4; GAK 120 (Enoch and His People Are Taken Up to God)—Moses 6:27; GAK 111 (Boy Samuel Called by the Lord)—1 Samuel 3:10; GAK 303 (Nephi Subdues His Rebellious Brothers)—1 Nephi 2:19; GAK 403 (The First Vision)—Joseph Smith—History 1:17; *Primary 5* picture packet, 5-38—D&C 11:23. Ask for volunteers to read each scripture. Teach the children that Heavenly Father knows each of His children by name.

For each child, provide a copy of the prayer reminders found on page 11. Allow time for the children to color the picture. Then talk about things that we can thank Heavenly Father for.

From "Children All over the World," sing the phrase "Saying thank you, thank you in his own special way." Talk about saying thank you for all the blessings we receive. Sing the entire song, and bear testimony that Heavenly Father answers prayers with blessings that we need.

4. Write on the chalkboard President Boyd K. Packer's quote from *Primary 7*, lesson 11, enrichment activity 4, p. 39. Explain to the children that if they listen carefully during sharing time, they will be able to fill in the missing words.

Prepare three learning stations where the children are taught that prayers are answered through the Holy Ghost, the scriptures, and other inspired ways (see "Stations," TNGC, 179). Use music to signal when it is time to move to a new station. Some suggested songs are "Listen, Listen" (p. 107), "Search, Ponder, and Pray" (p. 109), "Love Is Spoken Here" (pp. 190–91), "Follow the Prophet" (pp. 110–11), and "Scripture Power" (*Friend*, Oct. 1987, 10–11; or *2006 Outline for Sharing Time and the Children's Sacrament Meeting Presentation*).

At the conclusion of the learning stations, gather the children and complete the missing-word activity on the chalkboard. Bear testimony that prayers are answered through the Holy Ghost, the scriptures, and other inspired ways.

5. *Friend* references: "The Power of Prayer," June 2002, 8–9; "Pictures and Prayers," July 2006, 34–35; "Heavenly Father Hears Me," Sept. 2005, 18–19; "How I Knew," May 2006, 4–5; "Standing for Righteousness," Oct. 2006, 8–9; "Melanie's Prayer," Nov. 2002, 42–43.

Record Keepers in the Book of Mormon

BY SHARON KISER

Can you find the names of some of the people who helped write and take care of the records that became the Book of Mormon? If you don't know who some of these men are, look them up in the Book of Mormon index and read scriptures about them. Some of the record keepers had the same name.

- ABINADOM
- ALMA
- AMALEKI
- AMARON
- AMMARON
- AMOS
- AMOS
- BENJAMIN
- CHEMISH
- ENOS
- ETHER
- HELAMAN
- HELAMAN
- JACOB
- JAROM
- MORMON
- MORONI
- MOSIAH
- MOSIAH
- NEPHI
- NEPHI
- NEPHI
- NEPHI
- OMNI
- SHIBLON
- ZENIFF

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

THE WINNER





BY SHEILA KINDRED

(Based on a true story)

Let every man esteem his brother as himself (D&C 38:24).

On the way home from school, Ben ran to catch up with his older brother, Rick. Rick didn't seem to be in a good mood, but Ben had something important to ask him that just couldn't wait.

"Hey, Rick," Ben panted, "are you going to enter the school spirit contest this year?"

"I have no choice," Rick said without slowing down. "Everyone has to enter."

Ben was surprised. "But you probably can't win it again." Ben swallowed hard and then spoke quickly. "Maybe you'd like to help somebody else win."

"Like who?" Rick asked.

"Like me." Ben smiled weakly.

"You? Bashful Benny?"

"After I win, nobody will call me Bashful Benny anymore. They'll know I'm somebody special, a real winner, like—well, like you."

Rick's expression softened. "Think so, huh? I'm sorry I can't help you. It's against the rules."

"I didn't mean for you to *do* anything. I just need to borrow your camera for a few days. Please?" Ben pleaded.

"You can use my camera for one week *if* I can cut up all your old magazines for my poster," Rick said.

"Deal!" Ben sprinted home before Rick could change his mind.

Ben worked hard on his project. For the contest, students had to get involved in school activities and make posters to promote school spirit. Ben decided to take photographs of different school activities and mount

them on poster board. He had just finished writing carefully under the last picture when Rick came into his room and looked over his shoulder.

"You spelled a word wrong," Rick said.

"I did not! Mom checked all my spelling. You're just jealous of my poster."

"I'm not jealous," Rick said. "I won last year. You're the one who should be worried."

"What do you mean?" Ben asked.

"What are you going to do when you have to get up in front of all those people and accept your award?" Rick asked.

Ben thought about that. "I won't have to give a speech, will I?"

"You never know." Rick shrugged and turned to leave.

"Rick," Ben said, "were you ever scared to win?"

"Of course not," Rick said quickly. "Well, maybe a little." He sat down on Ben's bed. "Do you know what helped me last year?"

"What?" Ben scrambled up next to him.

"My friend, Pete—remember him?"

Ben nodded. "The one who moved away?"

"Yeah. Pete started clapping and yelling so loud when they announced my name that it made me laugh.

And I forgot my fear."

Rick smiled, remembering it. "Tell you

what, Ben. When you win the contest I'll clap really loud, and maybe even whistle."

Finally the day came when the whole school assembled to find out who would win



"Be loyal in your family relationships."²

President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–2008)



the school spirit contest. The room was so crowded that Ben had to look for a long time before he saw his brother. Rick grinned and gave him a thumbs-up sign. Ben tried to smile back, but he was too nervous.

The room fell silent as the principal stood up to speak. "I am so proud of each of you for the hard work you've put into your projects this year." Her words echoed throughout the gymnasium. "Normally we would not award the prize to the same person two years in a row," she explained, "but we have an exceptionally talented student at our school." Ben's mouth dropped open as the principal announced that Rick had won. Again. At first Ben wasn't sure he'd heard right. Then he thought it must be a mistake. The principal had probably confused him with his brother.

Ben looked up hopefully at the principal, but she wasn't looking at him. She was looking across the room to where a group of boys was shoving Rick forward. But Rick wouldn't move. He shook his head, looking disappointed and a little frightened.

When Ben saw this, he realized his brother really

loved him. Rick had wanted Ben to win. Ben could also see that Rick was scared. He couldn't face the crowd alone. Ben wished that Rick's friend, Pete, was still there to help him.

Then Ben had a rather frightening idea. He wasn't sure he could do it, but he knew he had to try, for Rick's sake. Ben closed his eyes. Then, finding his courage, he leaped to his feet and started to clap.

"Way to go, Rick!" he yelled as loud as he could. Some of Ben's classmates tugged on his shirt and whispered, "What are you doing? Sit down."

"That's my brother!" Ben whispered back.

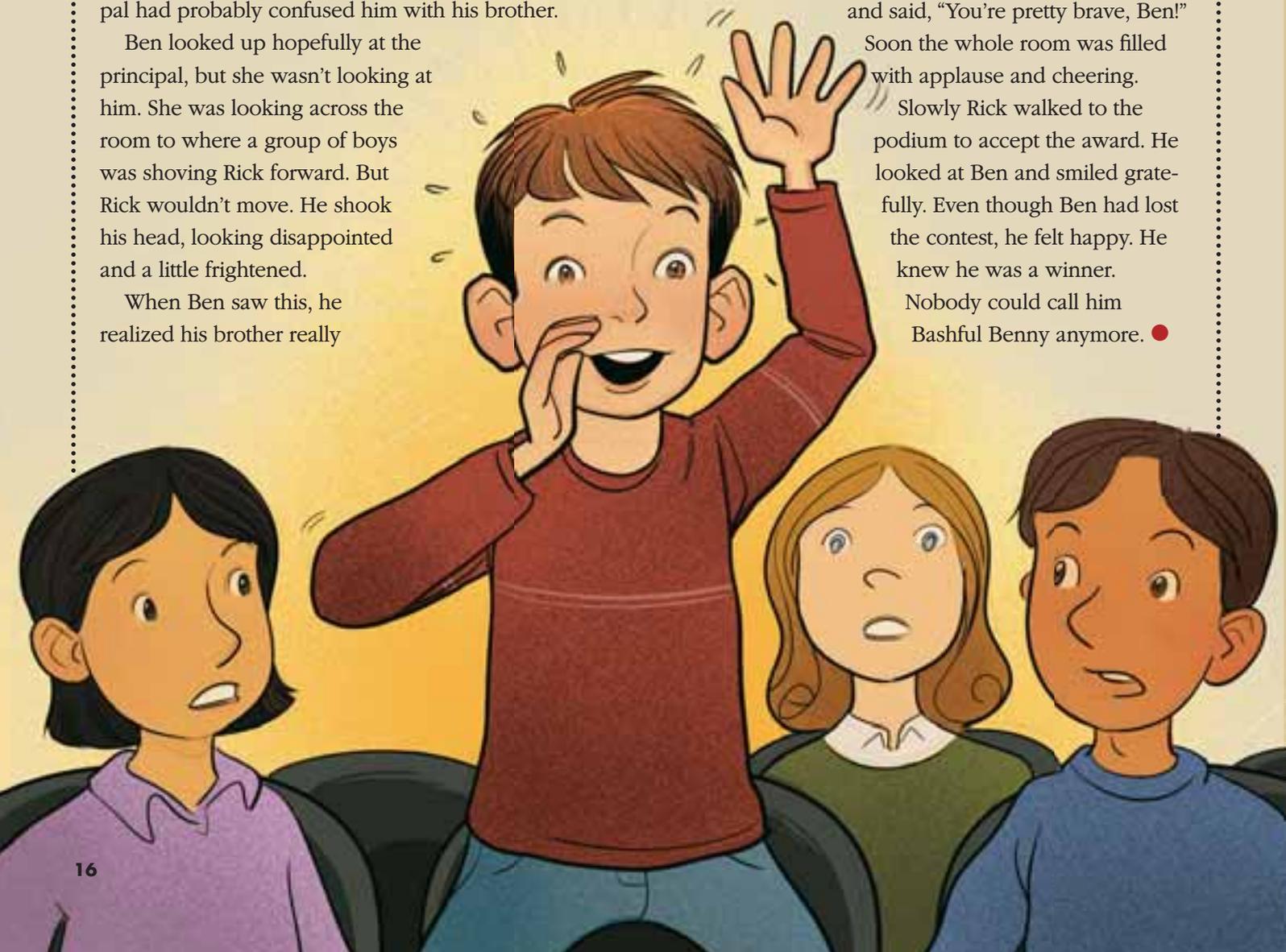
Many students stood up and clapped with him. Others patted Ben on the back and said, "You're pretty brave, Ben!"

Soon the whole room was filled with applause and cheering.

Slowly Rick walked to the podium to accept the award. He looked at Ben and smiled gratefully. Even though Ben had lost the contest, he felt happy. He knew he was a winner.

Nobody could call him

Bashful Benny anymore. ●



What is a Saint? How can I be one?

Elder Quentin L. Cook of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles shares some of his thoughts on this subject.



A Saint tries to do what the Savior did, keeps His commandments, is baptized and confirmed, and makes the temple a goal.

A Saint stays away from evil conduct and harmful pathways.



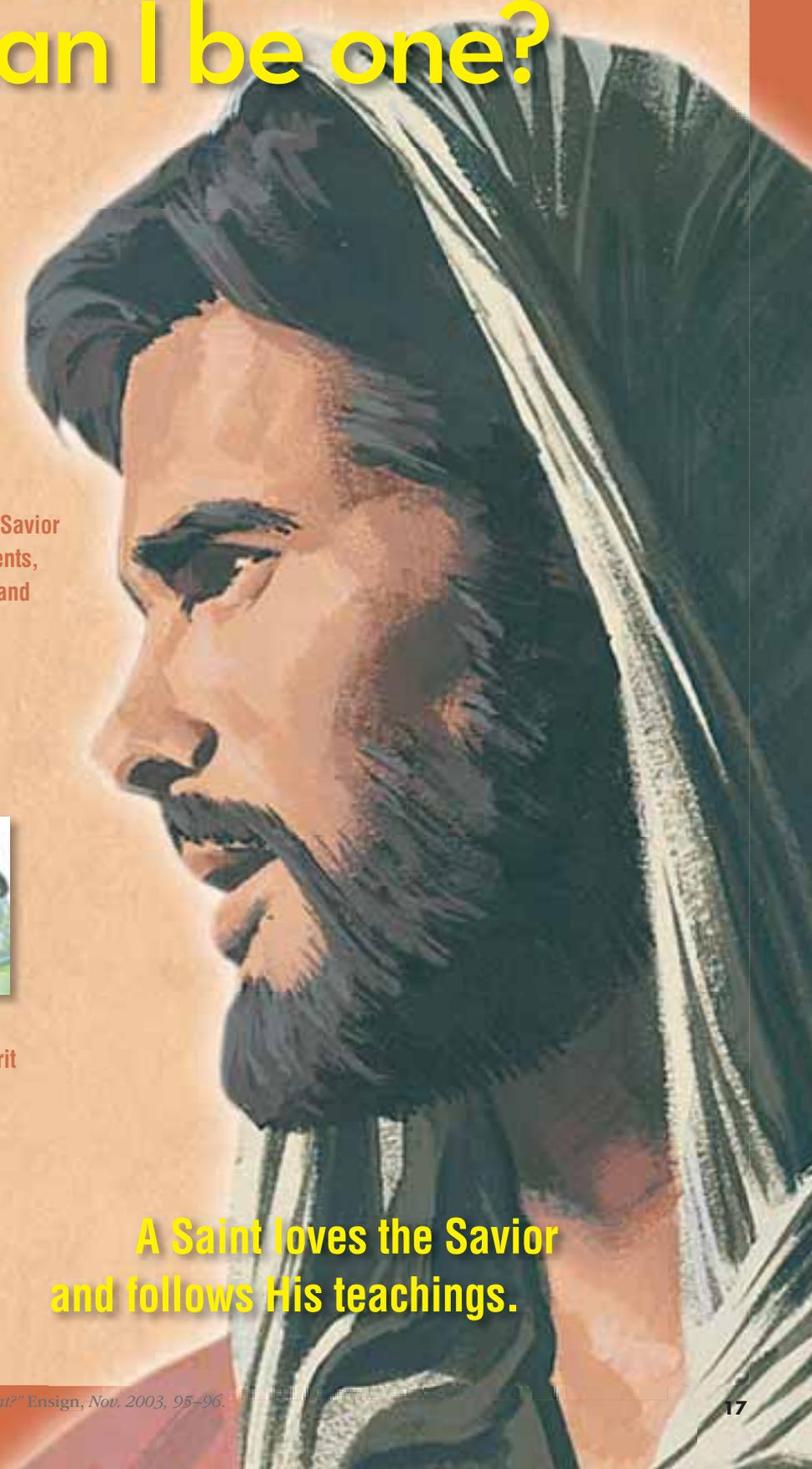
A Saint is kind to others and helps them.

If we follow the Savior, we will have the Spirit in our lives and feel the joy of being worthy Latter-day Saints.



A Saint loves God and his or her neighbors.

**A Saint loves the Savior
and follows His teachings.**



BY ADAM C. OLSON
Church Magazines

CHILDREN ALL OVER THE WORLD
PRAY, SING PRIMARY SONGS,
AND LEARN ABOUT THE GOSPEL
—JUST LIKE YOU! THIS MONTH
LET'S MEET OMAR SALGADO OF
VALLE DE ANGELES, HONDURAS.

Birds and cats and dogs don't always get along very well. Usually one of them is chasing another.

But at nine-year-old Omar Salgado's house in Honduras, it's not unusual to see him with the family's bright green parakeet on his arm while the cat looks down from the roof or for the dog to pad quietly around the outdoor kitchen while the dog rests near the door. Everyone seems to get along.

Omar smiles as he puts the parakeet back in its cage so he can go feed the chickens. He's happy to help take care of his family's animals. Helping out doesn't just make his parents happy—it's one of Omar's secrets to getting along with others.



Omar's Key to

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS VALLE DE ANGELES, HONDURAS?

Taking Care of Each Other

Everyone in the Salgado family gets a chance to help out. But being the oldest, Omar knows his parents expect him to help his younger brother and sister when they need it.

Honoring his parents and strengthening his family are important to Omar. The Salgados have to rely on each other because they don't have many neighbors. The closest house is at least a 10-minute walk away.

So even though he gets to see friends at school and at church on Sundays, Omar spends a lot of time with his six-year-old brother, Arnold, and four-year-old sister, Nathaly. Just like their animals, they get along pretty well.

"We try not to fight," Omar says, because it's more fun to be friends.

Spending Time Together

When Omar, Arnold, and Nathaly are together, they can find plenty to do. The family likes to sing hymns together. Omar's favorite hymn is "Teach Me to Walk in the Light" (*Children's Songbook*, 177).

The trio play games a lot. One of their favorites is hide-and-seek, hiding from each other in and around their house and in the surrounding woods. Another favorite is tag. They chase each other all over the clearing around their house.

"I like to play with him," Arnold says of his older brother.



Getting Along



Living in the Valley of Angels

While Arnold likes to play with Omar, Nathaly likes to draw with him.

Omar enjoys drawing and coloring with his colored pencils. Usually he will draw landscapes, mountains, and houses. It's no wonder. There are plenty of beautiful things to draw where he lives in the mountains near Valle de Angeles, a town known for its skilled artists. Even the name, which means "Valley of Angels," is beautiful.

The valleys and mountains that surround Omar's house are filled with beautiful trees and plants. In fact, Omar's family lives on a flower farm, where his dad takes care of flowers that will be sold because they're pretty.

Omar fills entire notebooks with his colorful drawings. And often Nathaly can be found coloring right beside him.

Learning to Be Good

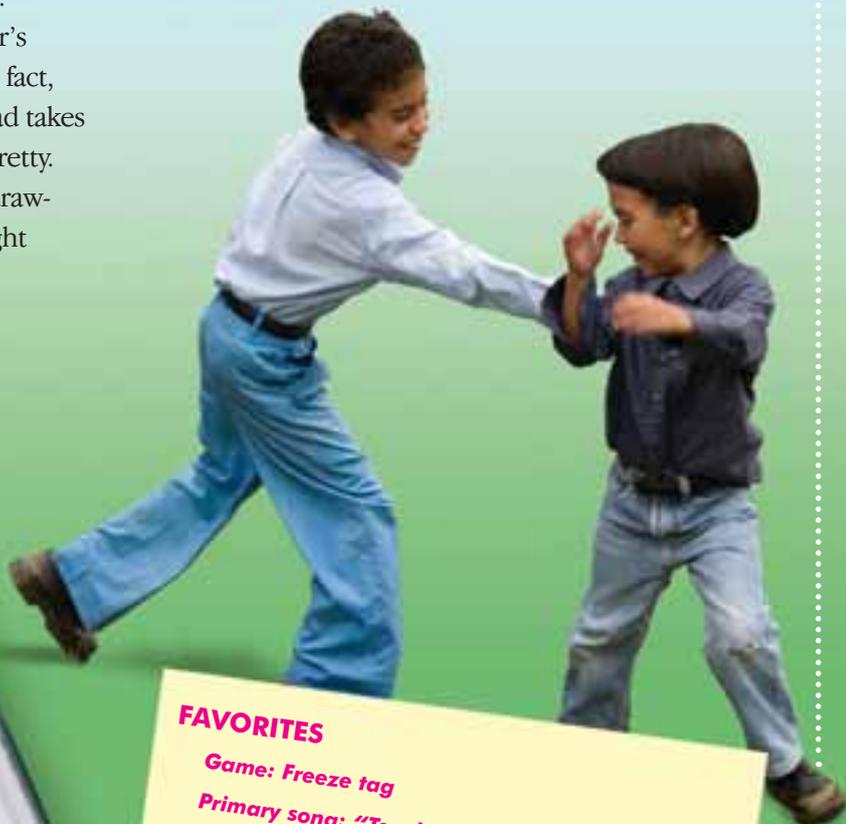
Getting along and doing things together help strengthen Omar's family. So do going to church and reading scriptures together.

"I learn a lot at Primary," Omar says. "My teachers are good."

At Primary, Omar learns about Jesus, and he says learning about Jesus helps him know how to help his parents and be a good son.

Omar especially likes to read stories from the Book of Mormon. "I like Nephi," he says. His favorite stories are about the iron rod and Nephi building the ship. Nephi was a good son, who always tried to strengthen his family.

"Nephi was obedient," Omar says as he finishes feeding the chickens. He puts the feed away and waits for a minute to see if there is anything else he can do before running off to play tag. "I try to be obedient too." ●



FAVORITES

Game: Freeze tag

Primary song: "Teach Me to Walk in the Light"

School subject: Art

Scripture character: Nephi

Cornbread Cups

BY SHANNA BUTLER

- 1 cup yellow cornmeal**
- 3/4 cup wheat flour**
- 3 tablespoons sugar**
- 1/2 teaspoon salt**
- 1 teaspoon baking powder**
- 1 egg**
- 2 tablespoons oil**
- 1 1/4 cups milk**
- 2 cans chili**

1. Mix all the ingredients except the chili in a medium mixing bowl. Spoon the mixture into 12 6-ounce (170-g) ramekins or custard cups.* Fill each dish one-quarter full.

2. Bake the cornbread at 350°F (177°C) for 12 to 15 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted comes out clean. Remove from oven and let cool for at least 10 minutes.

3. Heat the chili according to package directions, and spoon it evenly onto the baked cornbread.

Enjoy your yummy warm snack!

*If you don't have ramekins or custard cups, a lined muffin pan could also be used. Baking times may vary according to the type of baking dish, so watch carefully.

What is it?

BY JEAN POWIS

1. Food



Peanut butter

4. Animal



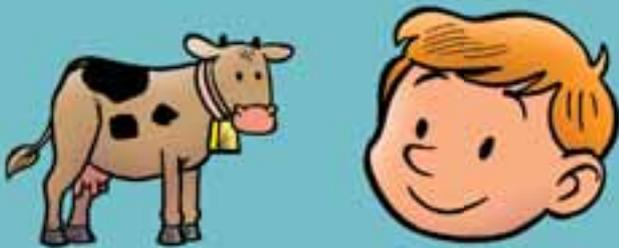
2. Sport



5. Drink



3. Person



6. Color



Solve the puzzles below by looking at the clues in each box. The word at the top of each box will help you figure out the answer. Write the answer in the white rectangle at the bottom of each box. The first one is done for you. See answers on page 26.

7. Flowers
.....



10. Clothing
.....



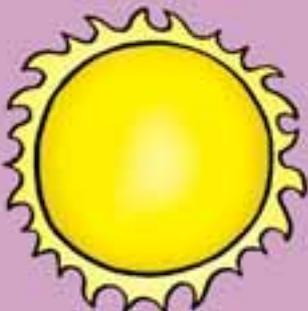
8. Sky
.....



11. Game
.....



9. Accessory
.....



12. Body part
.....





Did You Think to Pray?

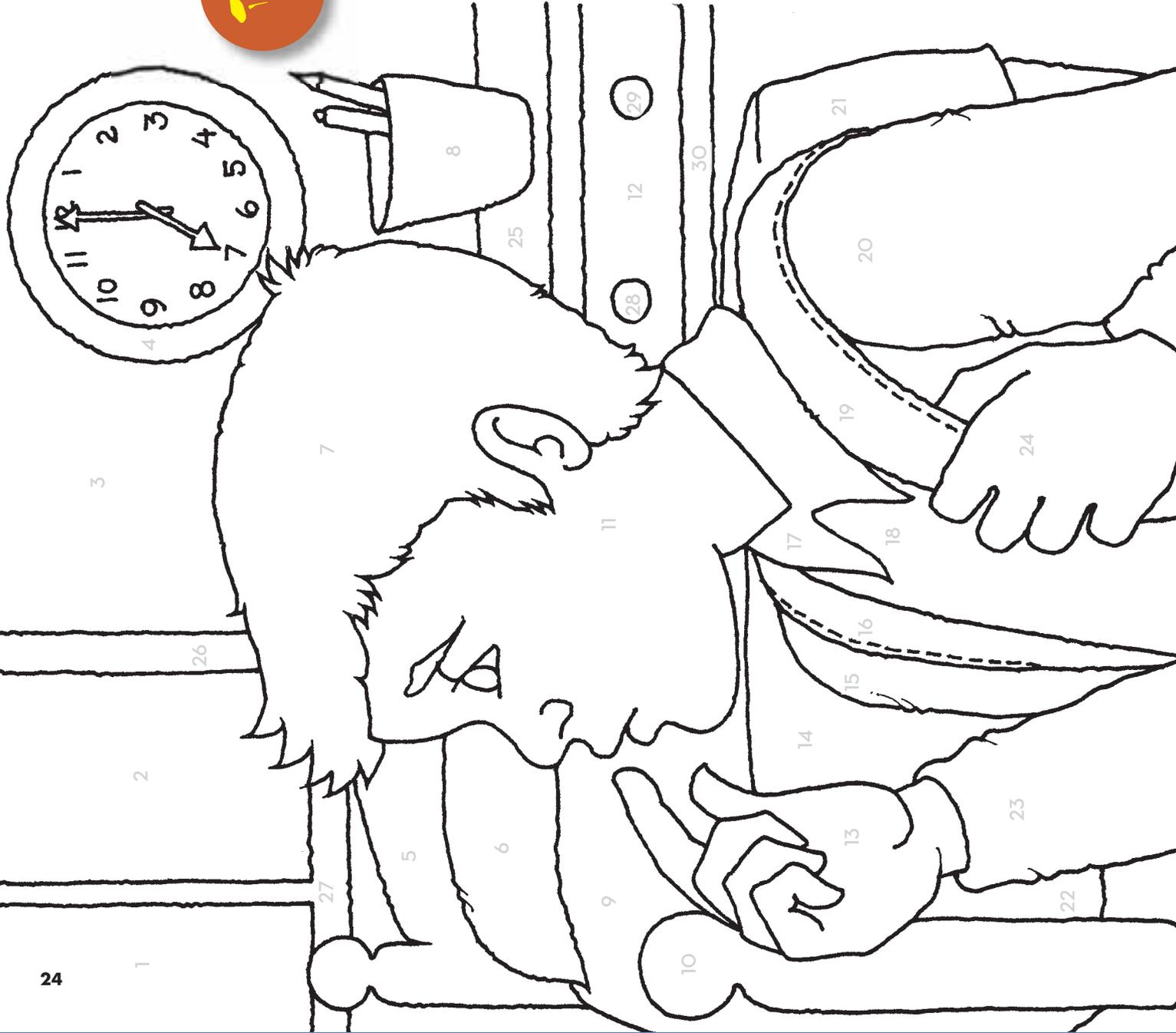


Counsel with the Lord in all thy doings, and he will direct thee for good; yea, when thou liest down at night lie down unto the Lord, that he may watch over you in your sleep; and when thou risest in the morning let thy heart be full of thanks unto God; and if ye do these things, ye shall be lifted up at the last day (Alma 37:37).

Did You Think to Pray?

Ere you left your room this morning,
Did you think to pray?
In the name of Christ, our Savior,
Did you sue for loving favor
As a shield today?

When your heart was filled with anger,
Did you think to pray?
Did you plead for grace, my brother,



That you might forgive another
Who had crossed your way?

When sore trials came upon you,
Did you think to pray?
When your soul was full of sorrow,
Balm of Gilead did you borrow
At the gates of day?

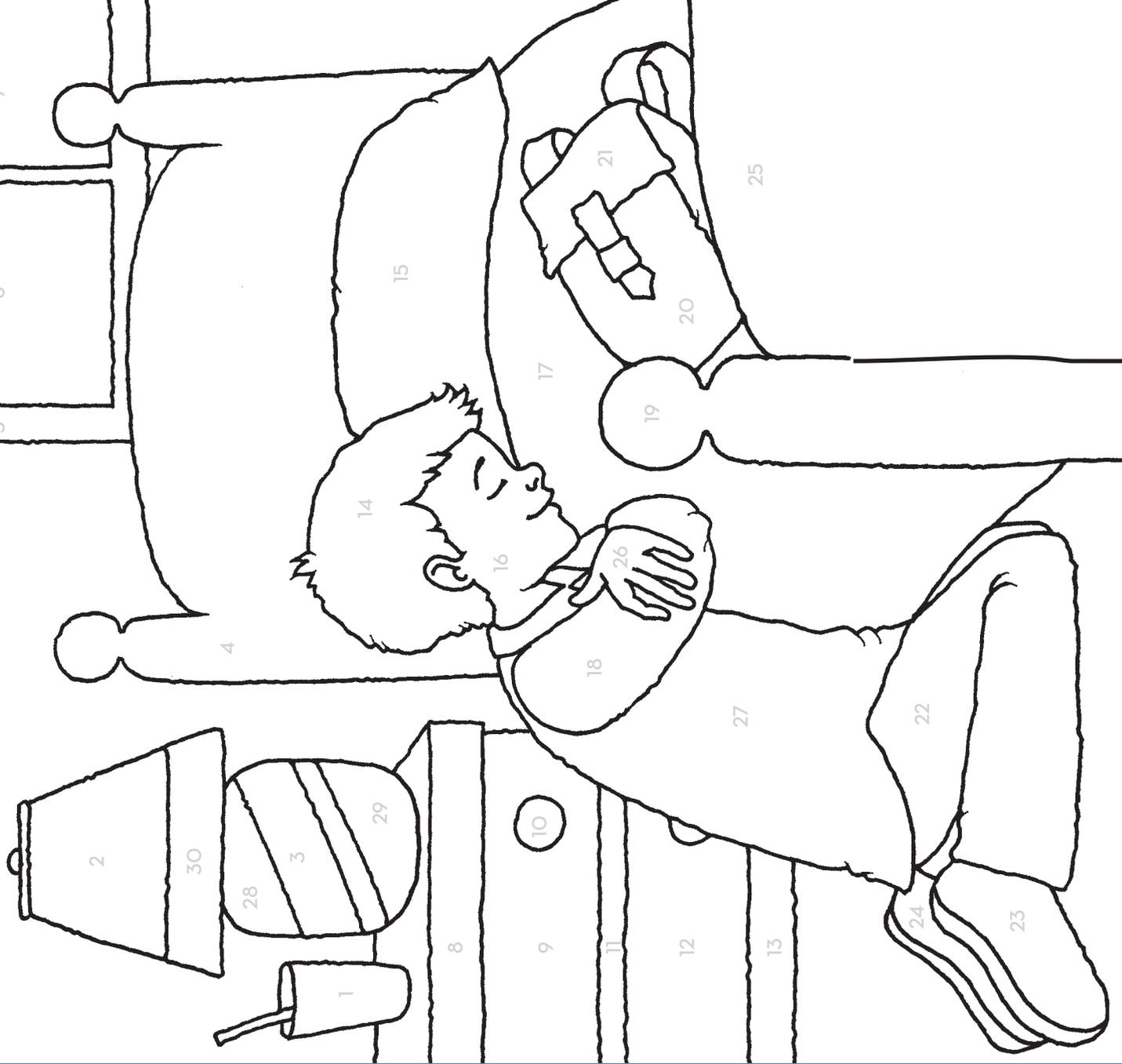
Oh, how praying rests the weary!
Prayer will change the night to day.
So, when life gets dark and dreary,
Don't forget to pray.

(Hymns, no. 140)



The leaders of the Church have counseled us to pray at least twice a day. This month, use these pictures to keep track of your morning and nightly prayers. There are 30 days this month. Color in one number each day that you pray. You will find two of each number in these pictures, so color in one number for each morning prayer and one for each night prayer. See if you can completely color in both pictures by the end of the month.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY SHAUNA MOONEY KAWASAKI



Prayers and Ordinances

BY AMIE JANE LEAVITT

In D&C 19:38, the Lord tells us that we should “pray always.” Use the code to find out eight kinds of prayers said in the Church. Some of these prayers are part of sacred ordinances. When you’re finished, make a list of other times that you communicate with Heavenly Father through prayer. See answers on page 23.

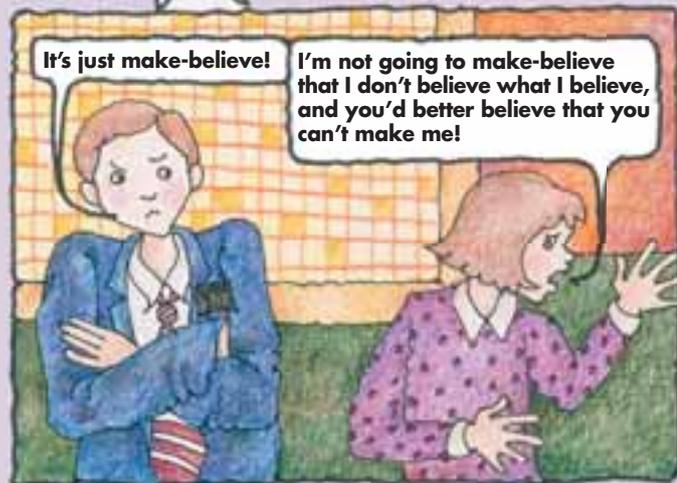
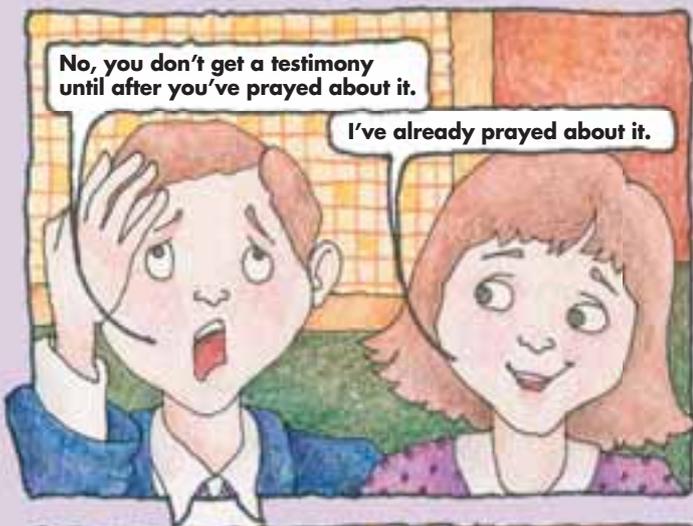
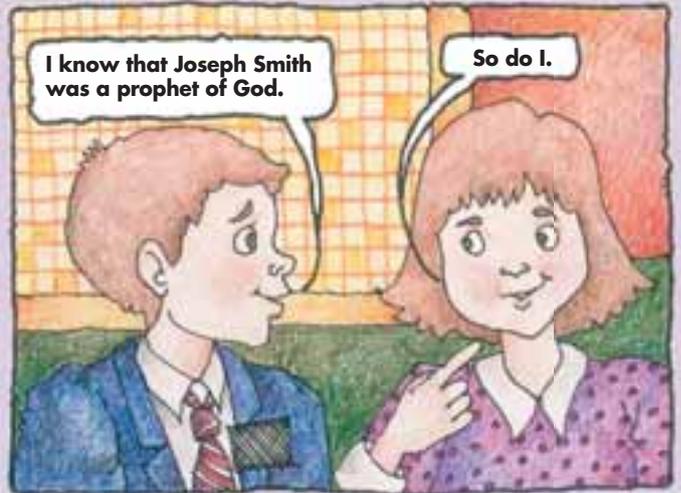
A B C D E F G H I J K L M



N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z



- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

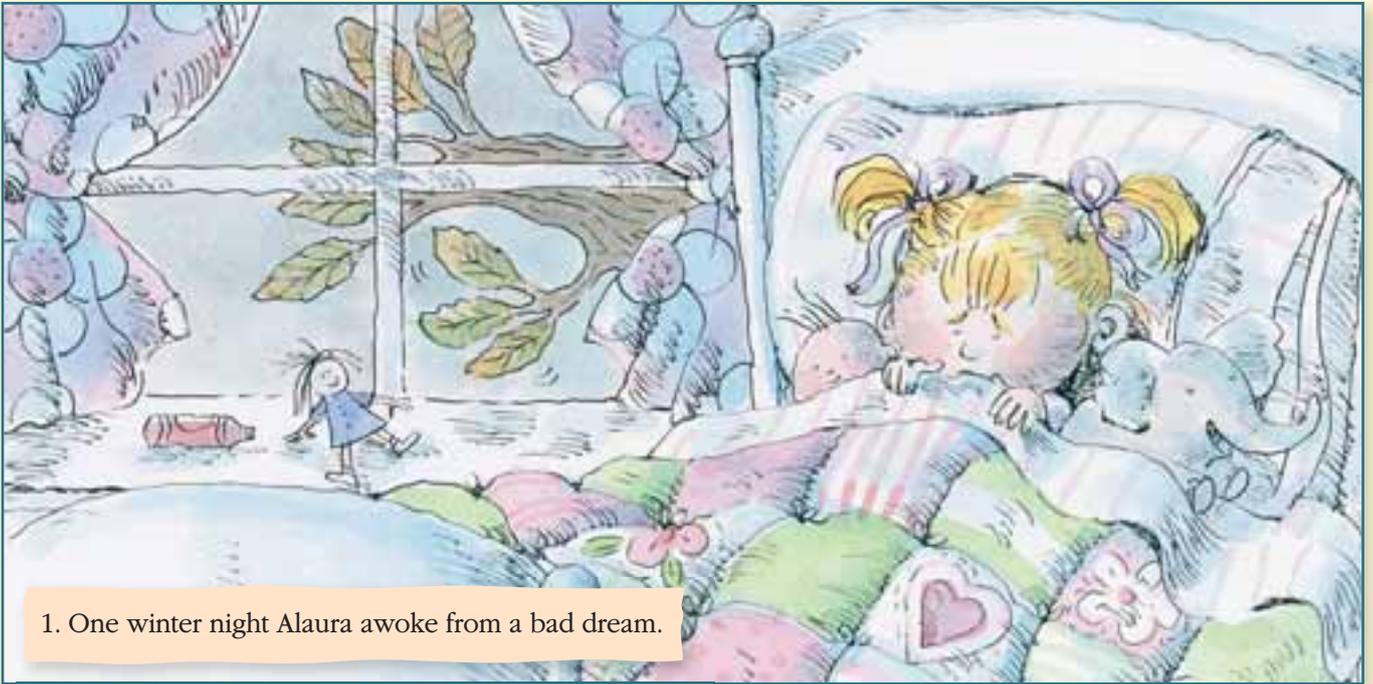


Something Is Outside My Window

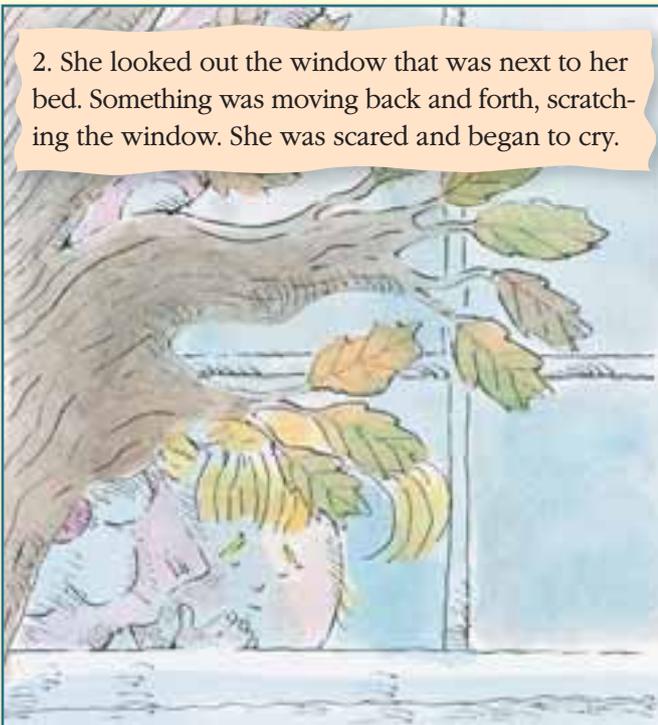
BY ALAURA RAMSEY

(Based on a true story)

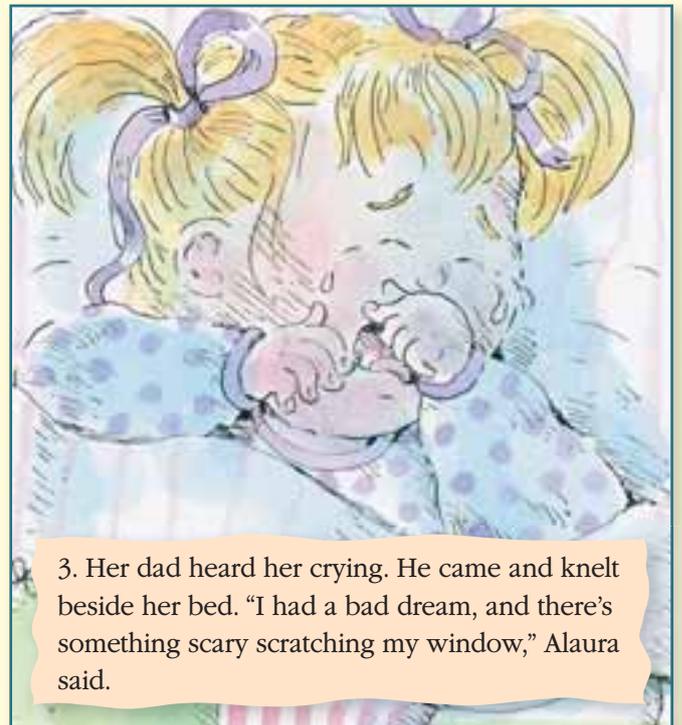
And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive (Matthew 21:22).



1. One winter night Alaura awoke from a bad dream.

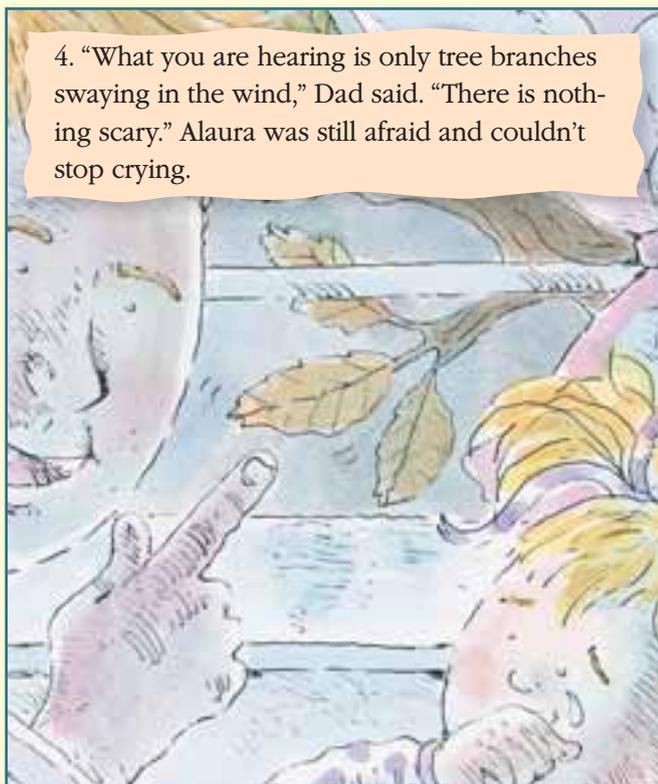


2. She looked out the window that was next to her bed. Something was moving back and forth, scratching the window. She was scared and began to cry.

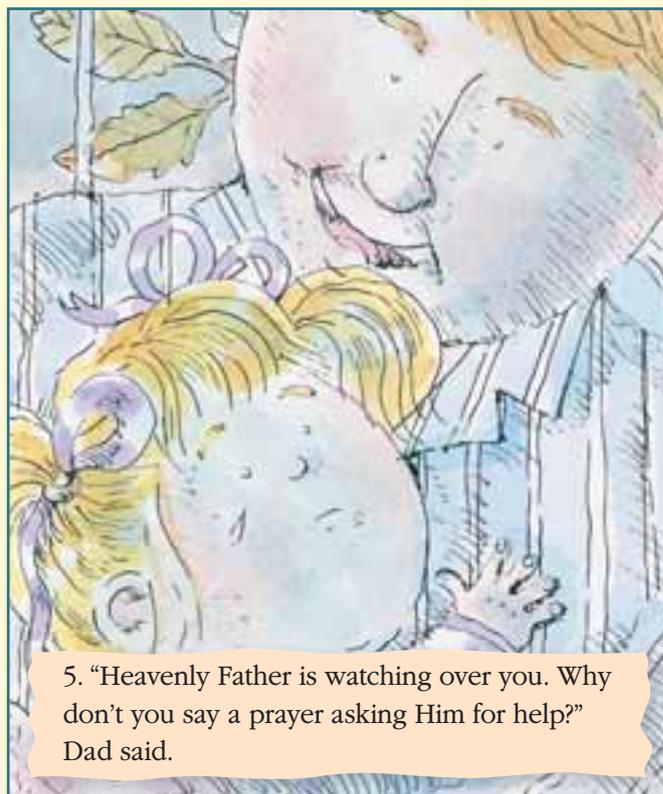


3. Her dad heard her crying. He came and knelt beside her bed. "I had a bad dream, and there's something scary scratching my window," Alaura said.

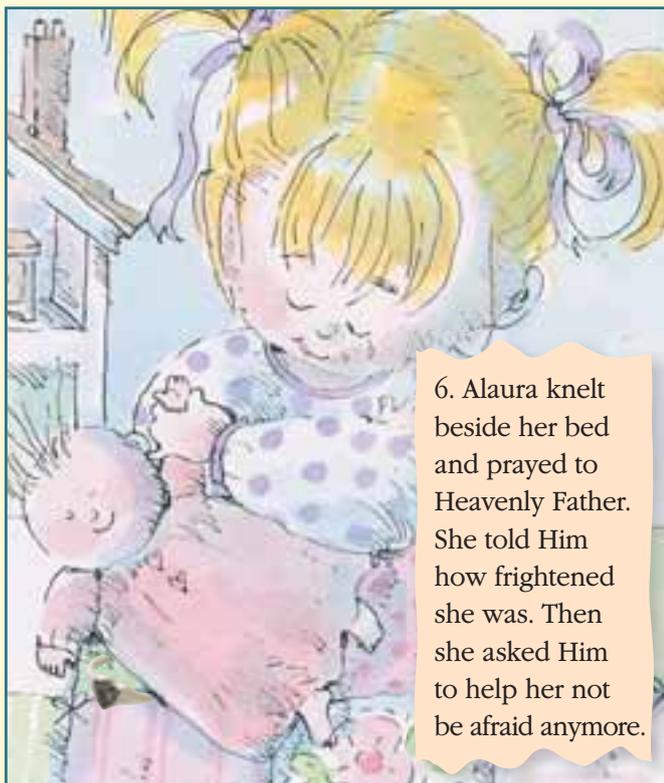
4. "What you are hearing is only tree branches swaying in the wind," Dad said. "There is nothing scary." Alaura was still afraid and couldn't stop crying.



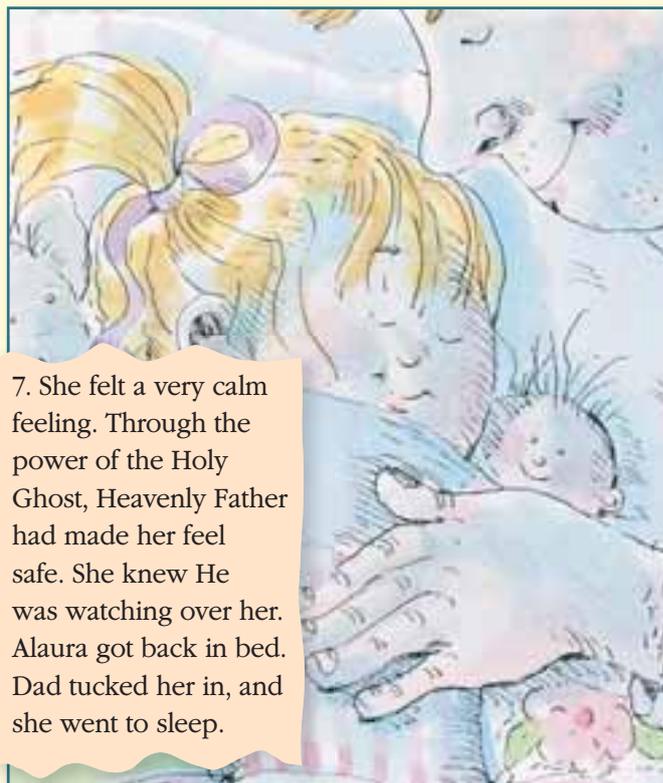
5. "Heavenly Father is watching over you. Why don't you say a prayer asking Him for help?" Dad said.



6. Alaura knelt beside her bed and prayed to Heavenly Father. She told Him how frightened she was. Then she asked Him to help her not be afraid anymore.



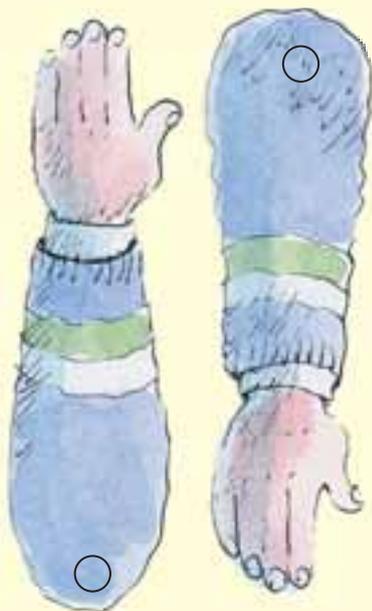
7. She felt a very calm feeling. Through the power of the Holy Ghost, Heavenly Father had made her feel safe. She knew He was watching over her. Alaura got back in bed. Dad tucked her in, and she went to sleep.



We Bow Our Heads

BY ELISE BLACK

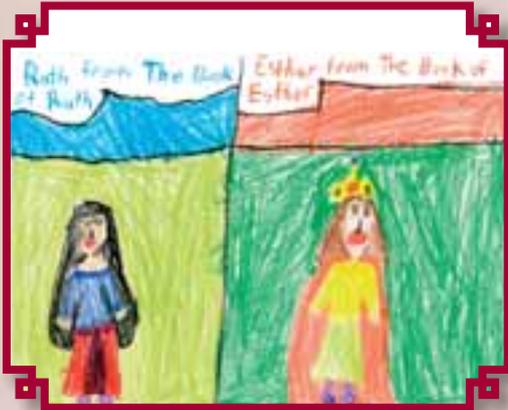
Instructions: Glue this page to heavy paper. Cut out the verse and set it aside. Cut out the paper doll parts. Poke small holes in the arms where indicated, and then join the body parts together with brass fasteners or thread. Get the paper doll ready for prayer by folding her arms and bowing her head. Hold the paper doll in front of you as you recite the verse.



We bow our heads and close our eyes
And say a little prayer.
We thank our Father graciously
For blessings we all share.

(Children's Songbook, 25)

Our Creative Friends



Hannah E., age 9, Russia

Creations

The skies are blue,
The mountains are tall,
Trees are green,
And they are all Heavenly Father's creations.

Babies are small,
Children are active,
Parents are loving,
And they are all a part of Heavenly Father's plan of salvation.

Caleb K., age 9, Arizona

Primary Power

Primary power is number one,
Primary power helps us follow the Son,
Primary power teaches our souls,
Like a mama horse teaches her foals.
We all sit down and learn today,
Learning to find and follow His way.
We can kneel down and learn to pray,
Saying what we need to say.
We need to follow His commandments each day,
We need to listen to what the prophets say.
Primary power is number one,
Primary power helps us follow the Son.

Cami B., age 8, Virginia



Clara R., age 8, Washington

The Heir

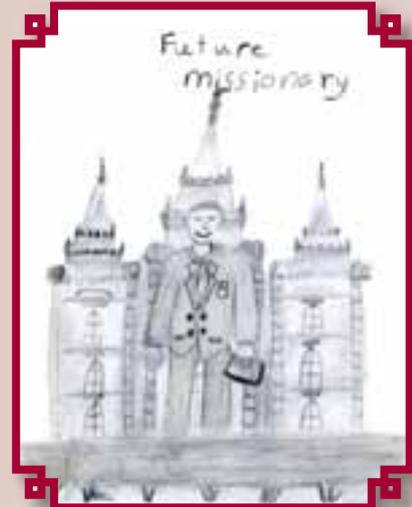
The Heir is in heaven,
He is the King of the world.
He has powers beyond believing,
Those powers He has unfurled.

He is our precious Savior,
He is very nice and kind.
He wants us to come back to Him,
The true Church He wants us to find.

Seth L., age 9, Texas



Joseph J., age 7, South Carolina



Austin R., age 10, Utah



Lindsey S., age 8, California



Dallie J., age 7, Oregon



Joshua B., age 5, Illinois

My Mom

My mom is having cancer, which makes me very sad.
She doesn't get to play as much, which sometimes makes me mad.
I said a prayer, and I think it's going to be all right.
I hope she'll make it through with all her mighty might.

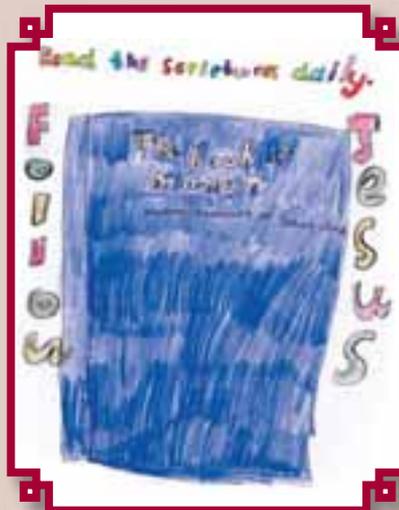
Heavenly Father loves her very much.
She is still home sometimes for breakfast, dinner, and lunch.
She still can give me hugs, just be careful with her heart.
With all of us very busy, I need to do my part.

XOXOXO down here there's lots of love.
XOXOXO there's lots of love above.
Her favorite color is yellow, just like the shining sun.
She sure has love down here; look, she has a ton.

I love her, we love her,
Heavenly Father, Jesus Christ, and also the Holy Ghost love her.
She is still my friend even when she has no hair.
When I'm really sad I know she is always there.

And now I finish my poem today.
And, Mom, if you read this, don't worry, you'll be OK.

Sienna S., age 8, Illinois



Lauren A., age 7, North Carolina



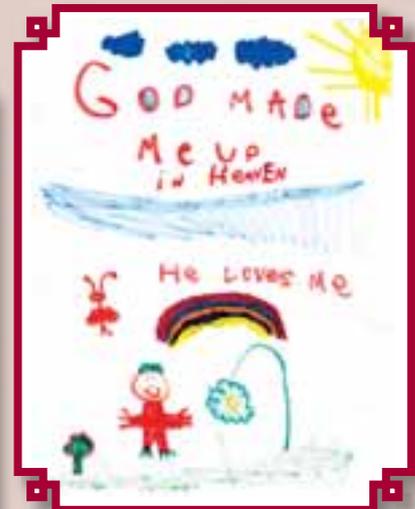
Abby A., age 9, Minnesota



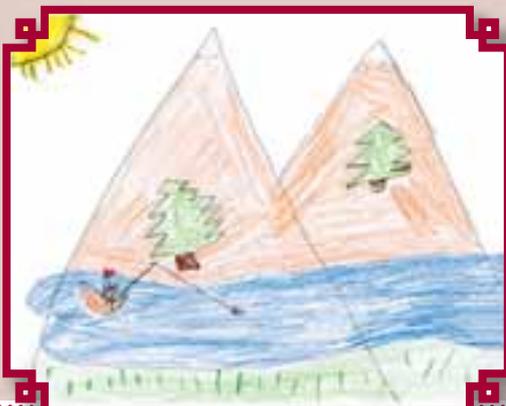
Adrienne G., age 8, Arkansas



Isaac S., age 8, Missouri



Carter B., age 6, Arizona



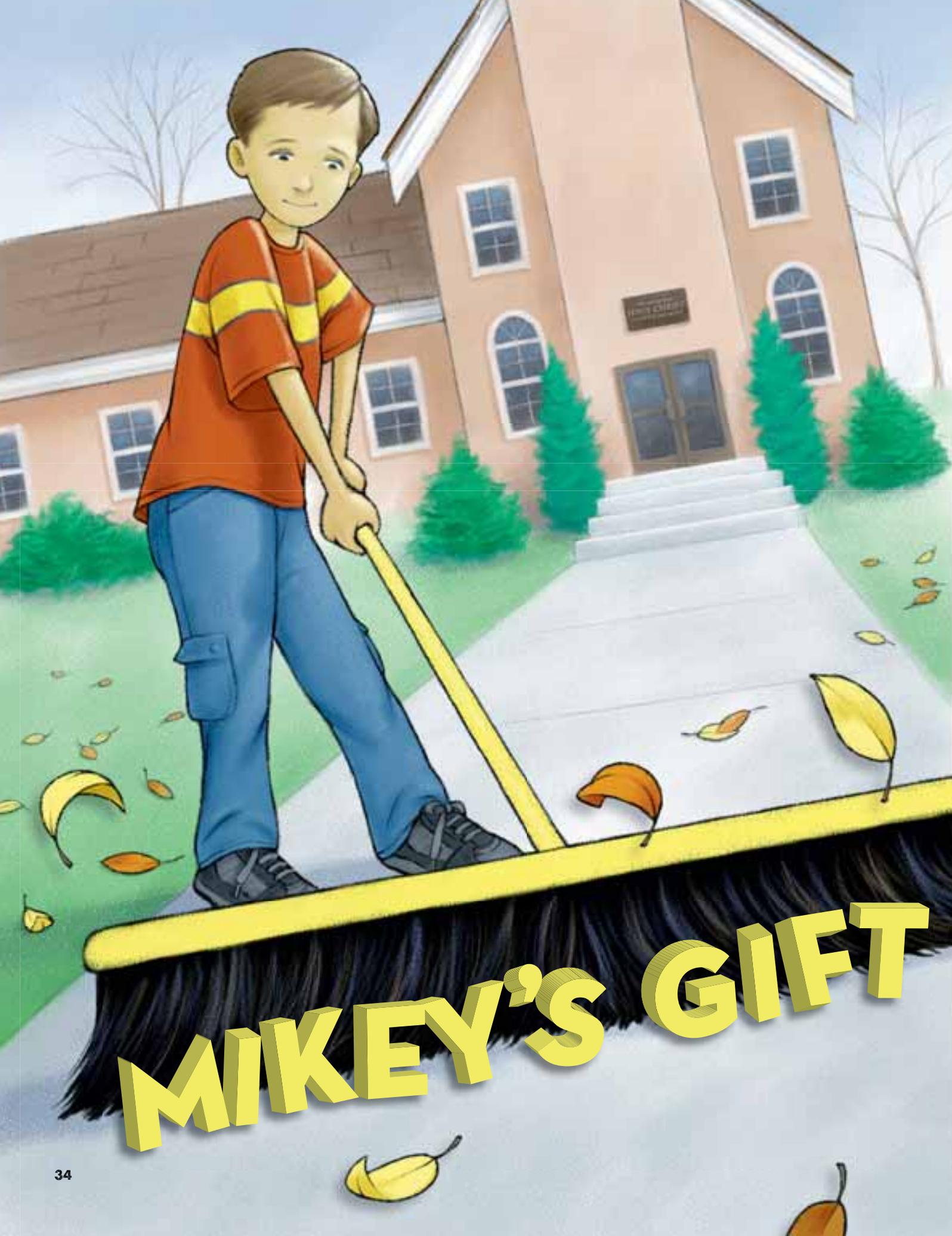
Ty H., age 7, Idaho



Justin A., age 6, Victoria, Australia



Nick F., age 5, California



MIKEY'S GIFT



BY DENNIS A. BARLOW

(Based on a true story)

Look up the following scriptures: Proverbs 20:11; 1 Corinthians 13:13; Moroni 7:13. Circle the one you think fits the story best.

Brother Bradshaw was old. At least that's what the other kids said. But he didn't seem old to Mikey. He remembered that for many years Brother Bradshaw had gone over to the church early each Sunday to sweep away the leaves from the walkways so that people wouldn't slip. Now, since Brother Bradshaw had been in a wheelchair, Mikey had gone to his home each Sunday morning to push him to church. They became friends as they spent time together.

One morning, Mikey's mom told him that Brother Bradshaw had passed away. Tears came to his eyes. "How could he?" he thought. "We were just talking last Sunday!"

The next few days were difficult for Mikey. He knew Brother Bradshaw was 91 years old, but he had never thought about him dying. He missed him so much. But as he saw Brother Bradshaw's family arriving from out of town for the funeral, he knew that they missed him too. He knew how much Brother Bradshaw had loved his family, and he wanted to let them know that Brother Bradshaw was special to him too.

Mikey sat down and wrote them a note. He told them about how much he enjoyed knowing Brother Bradshaw and that he was his best friend. Then he delivered it to the Bradshaw house. But Mikey still felt like he should do something more. He thought and thought. What could he do that would be special for Brother Bradshaw?

Finally it came to him. Just before the funeral he went over to the Bradshaw home again and delivered another note. This one read:

"I swept off the church sidewalks this morning. It's the last thing I can do for Brother Bradshaw, my good friend, here on earth. I can't wait to see him again when I go to heaven. I am so thankful to Brother Bradshaw for sweeping off the sidewalks for me every Sunday. It was hard for me, and I know

it was hard for him, and I never said thank you to him. My mom said he knows I am thankful, but that's the first thing I am going to tell him when I see him in heaven.

Love,
Mikey"

As Brother Bradshaw's daughter-in-law read the note her eyes began to glisten. "Oh, Mikey!" was all she could say, and she gave him a big hug. Mikey knew that Brother Bradshaw would like his gift. ●



"Much of the service needed in the world today relates to our day-to-day associations with each other. Often we find these opportunities within the confines of our own home, neighborhood, and ward."³

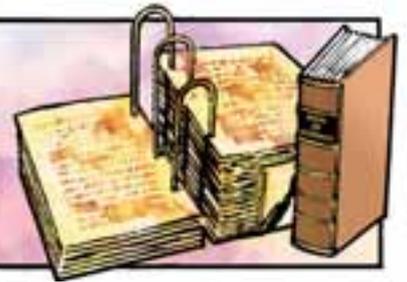
Elder Michael John U. Teh of the Seventy



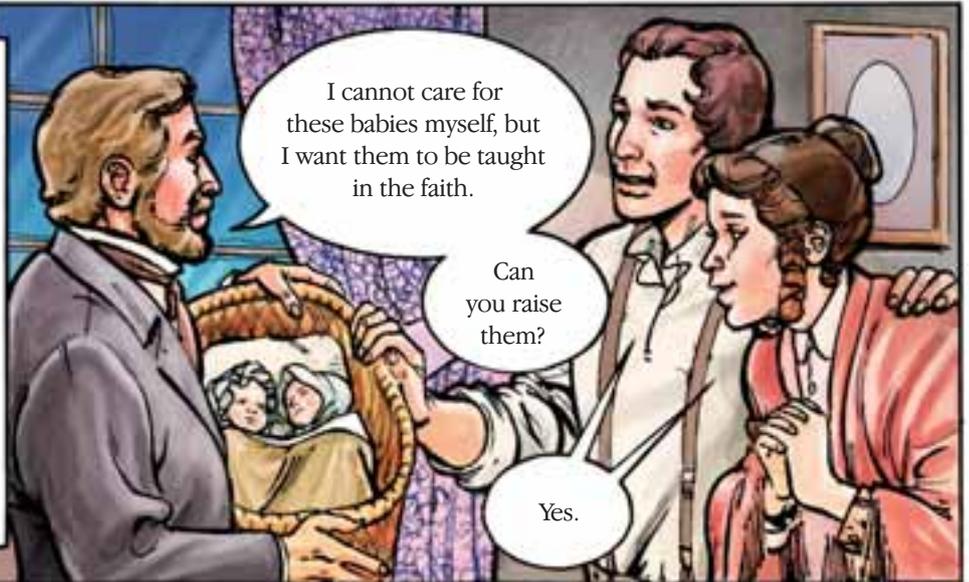


FROM THE LIFE OF THE PROPHET JOSEPH SMITH

Trials for Joseph and Emma



In Ohio, Emma Smith gave birth to twins—a girl and a boy. The babies lived for only three hours. Another Latter-day Saint woman had twins on the same day. She became very weak and died. Her husband, John Murdock, needed help raising the twins.



I cannot care for these babies myself, but I want them to be taught in the faith.

Can you raise them?

Yes.

One night Joseph and Emma stayed up late to take care of the babies, who were both sick. A mob of angry men came into the home. The men grabbed Joseph and carried him away from the house.



The wicked men hurt Joseph and poured hot tar on him.



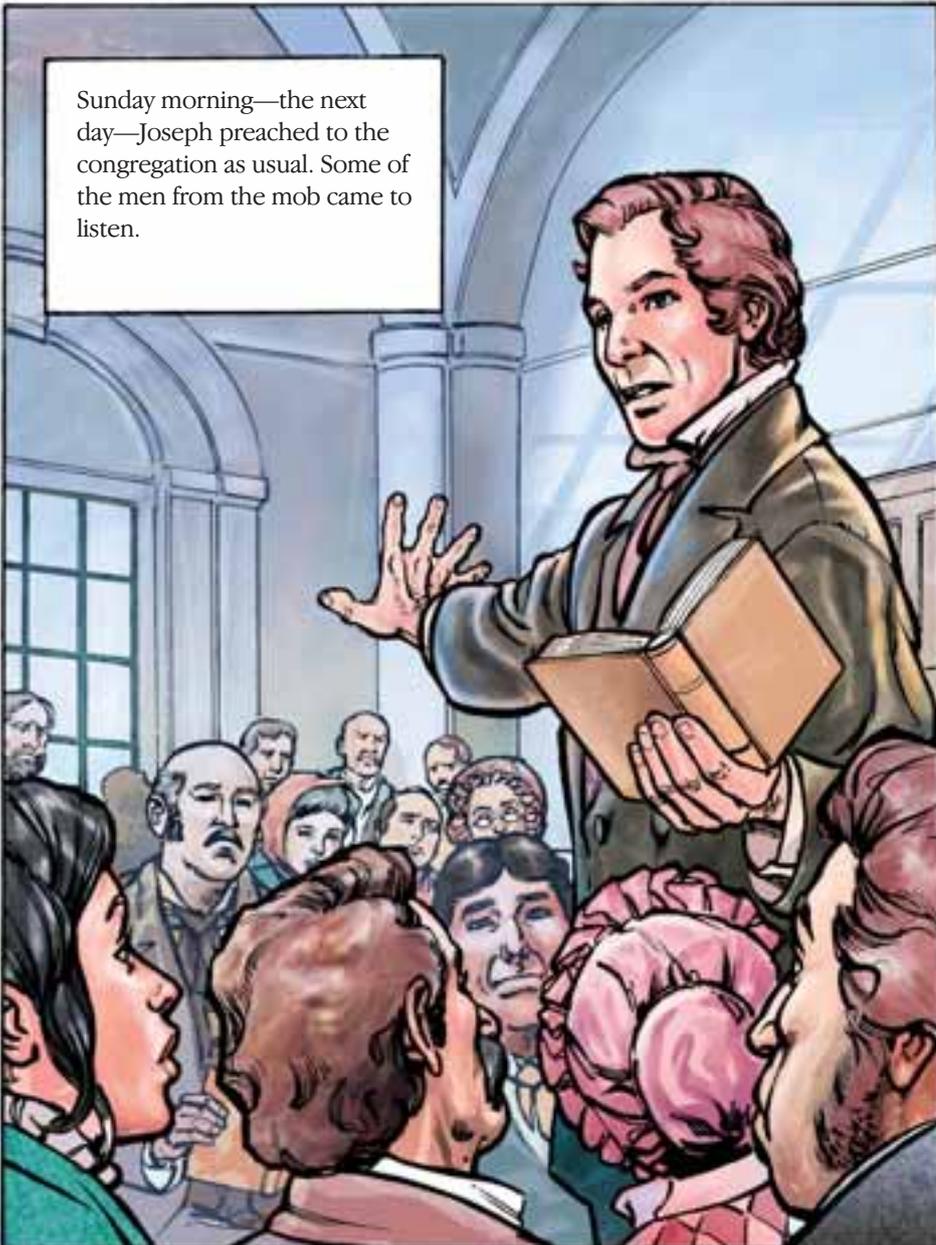
When the mob left, Joseph was very weak. He crawled back to the house. When Emma saw Joseph hurt, she fainted.



Joseph's friends carefully washed him.



Sunday morning—the next day—Joseph preached to the congregation as usual. Some of the men from the mob came to listen.



Joseph and Emma's baby son caught a bad cold the night the mob attacked Joseph. A few days later, the baby died. But Joseph and Emma continued to have faith in Heavenly Father's plan of salvation.





Trying to Be Like Jesus

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



Becoming Friends Again

At recess, I noticed that some of my friends were making fun of another girl named Chelsea. My friends were kicking her lunch box and smashing it.

They called her names.

I couldn't believe that my friends were doing that.

Later, I saw them doing it again, so

I told them to stop it. Then I smiled

at Chelsea, and we

walked over to



a bench and sat down. We talked and became good friends.

The other girls came back and started again. One girl said, "Let's not be friends with Tambre

anymore!" It made me so sad I started to cry. We all got called to the principal's office to talk about the situation. The girls knew what they had done was wrong. After we got out of the office, the girls apologized to Chelsea and me. They all wrote us sorry notes. After that we all became friends!

Tambre Lyn H., age 10, Colorado

Honest about Singing



One day in school during singing time, my friend and I were laughing. My teacher asked, “Who’s not singing?” and I raised my hand. My teacher said, “Thank you for being honest.” I knew I was being a good example by being honest about my mistake. I felt happy.

Dallin H., age 7, Utah

Not Being Mean



One day I was walking with my friend Alexis. Out of nowhere an older schoolmate said to me, “Move, nerd!” I asked myself, “What would Jesus do in this situation?” I told her that I liked the way she does her hair and the way she picks out her clothing. I felt a good feeling inside telling me I did a good job. My friend Alexis asked, “Why didn’t you say anything mean to her?”

Later after class, the girl came up to me and told me she was sorry. I accepted her apology.

Ashley S., age 9, Wisconsin

Answering a Question



One night my friend saw my scriptures and asked, “What book is that?” I said, “It is the

Book of Mormon, the Bible, the Doctrine and Covenants, and the Pearl of Great Price.” I read to him from the Book of Mormon. I showed him all the pictures, and we talked about them. I said, “Come with me.” I took him to our basket with copies of the Book of Mormon and gave him one. It felt good inside to share the gospel with my friend.

Jared C., age 7, Arizona



I Will Keep My Body Sacred and Pure*

My name is Josephine and my brother is Hyrum. Our names mean something special to us. Our mother named me after our grandfather and the Prophet Joseph, and named my brother after Hyrum Smith. Our names help us remember to choose the right. At track-and-field day, many kids got fake tattoos while we played games



outside. We were the only ones who did not. Our mother taught us that the prophet and the Lord want us to respect our bodies and keep them clean. When we stay clean, the Holy

Ghost can dwell in us and help us back to Heavenly Father, and we want to live with Him someday.

Josephine and Hyrum S., ages 7 and 6, Arkansas, with help from their mom

Let us oft speak kind words to each other (Hymns, no. 232).

BY HEATHER KIRBY

(Based on a true story)

Hurry, Heather, or you'll miss the bus." Mom handed me a granola bar. "I guess that's breakfast."

"My bus driver won't let us eat on the bus, but he eats all the time," I grumbled. "And he doesn't need to—he's a big guy!"

Mom frowned. "Heather . . ."

"Oh." I blinked. "That wasn't very nice, was it?"

Mom shook her head. "Sometimes you say unkind things without thinking. You need to be careful."

On the bus, I looked for my best friend, Amber, at her stop, but only her little sister Rachel got on.

"Where's Amber?" I asked.

"She's sick," Rachel said, lisping. "Can I sit here?"

"I guess," I said, sliding over. Rachel was always hanging around Amber and me. She was all right, but Amber was my best friend, not her. Rachel was a little different, with her thick glasses and funny way of talking.

At recess, I played dodgeball with my friends, but I missed Amber. Then I noticed the new girl, Megan. She stood at the edge of the playground. I walked up to her. "Do you want to play dodgeball with us?"

After school, when Megan and I got on the same bus, we sat together. I told her about the other kids.

"That's Carlos. He's the smartest kid in our grade—but I beat him in reading! Over there are Caitlin and Jessica. They live on my street. And that's Matt. He plays soccer."

"Who's that with the glasses?" Megan asked.

"That's Rachel. She's my best friend's little sister." I paused. "She has a speech impediment."

"What?"

"She talks funny. But she's going to a class to help her."

"Nice glasses." Megan snickered. "I've never seen them so thick."

I had a sinking feeling in my stomach. Sure, Rachel sometimes annoyed me when Amber and I were playing, but she was a nice girl. And now Megan was making fun of her.

I changed the subject. We talked about other things, and soon I forgot about Rachel and the sinking feeling I'd had.

The next day, I was happy to see Amber back at school.

"I know how to make dodgeball even better," she said at recess. "When you get out, you have to sing a





silly song and do a dance.” She demonstrated for us.

“I can see that weirdness runs in your family,” Megan said, laughing as she turned to me. She seemed to expect me to laugh too.

“What are you talking about?” Amber asked. “You don’t even know my family.”

Megan smiled, but it wasn’t a nice smile. “Heather said your sister is retarded!”

My mouth fell open.

“Heather is my best friend,” Amber cried. “She wouldn’t say that!”

“Well, she did. Ask her!” Megan smirked.

Everyone looked at me. “I didn’t say that,” I whispered, “but I did say that she talked funny.”

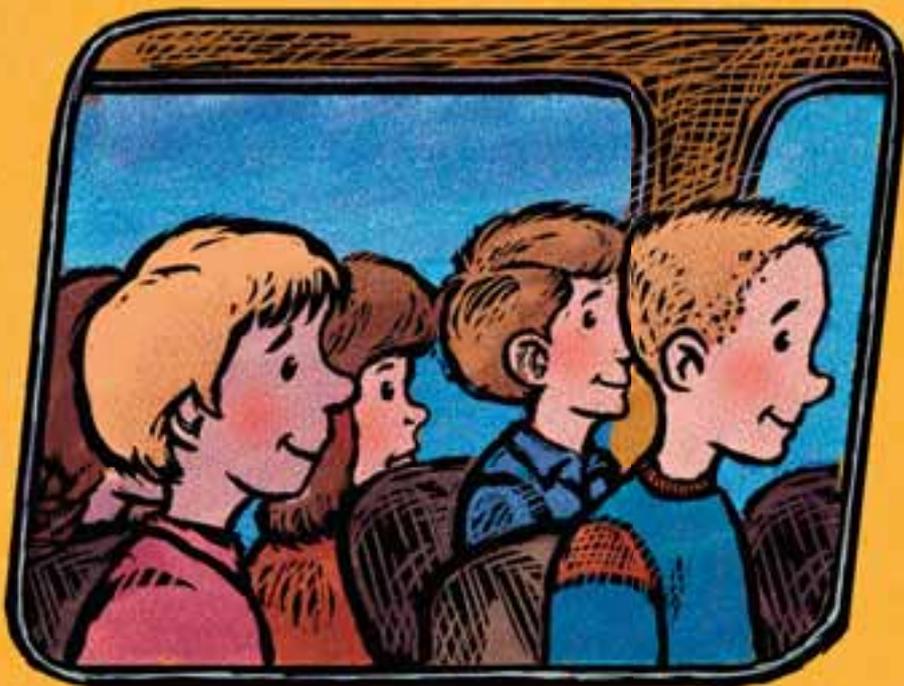
Amber’s face fell. I glanced down, not wanting to see her hurt expression. “I shouldn’t have, though,” I added quickly. “It doesn’t matter. Rachel’s great!”

“My sister’s not retarded,” Amber said to Megan. “But even if she were, it wouldn’t be nice to make fun of her.”

Megan folded her arms. “Fine. Let’s just play.”

As everyone lined up, I turned to Amber. “I’m sorry.”

“It’s OK,” she said. But her smile didn’t quite reach her eyes.



Girlfriends and Gossip

After school, Mom asked, “Why so glum, Heather?”
“I think I did something wrong. I was telling a new girl about people, and I said Rachel talked funny. Amber found out, and it made her sad. I don’t know why I said it, Mom. But it wasn’t like I was lying!”

“Oh, Heather.” Mom sat across from me. “Yes, Rachel has a speech impediment. But that doesn’t have to be the first thing you say about her.”

“It’s not even an important thing about Rachel,” I agreed.

“Do you know what gossip is?” Mom asked.

“Not exactly.”

“It’s when you talk about people when they’re not around,” she explained. “It doesn’t matter if the things you say are true or not. They don’t need to be said.”

I thought about that as I went to my room to do homework. When I got there, a hymn popped into my head. I ran and grabbed a hymnbook, opening it to “Let Us Oft Speak Kind Words” (*Hymns*, no. 232).

I’d always liked the song because in the first verse it has the word *heather*—like my name. But I realized I should have paid more attention to the part about speaking kind words to—and about—each other. Rachel was a good person, and my friend, and it didn’t matter if she had a speech impediment. I decided that when I talked about a person, I would focus on her good qualities.

Later, at Amber’s house, after we had decided to dress up as movie stars, I noticed Rachel peeking around the door.

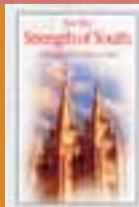
“Let’s not forget Rachel,” I said, opening the door and throwing my arm around her. “It’s always more fun with you!”

Rachel beamed at me, and when Amber smiled it lit up her whole face. ●



“Use language that uplifts, encourages, and compliments others.”⁴

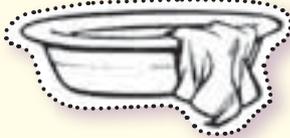
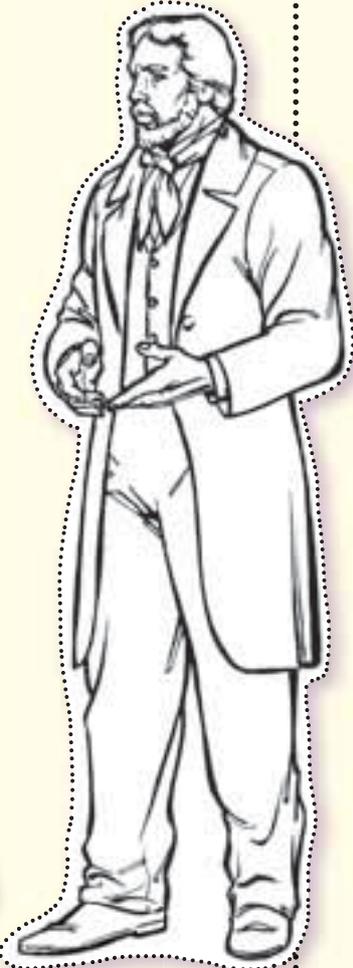
For the Strength of Youth





JOSEPH'S AND EMMA'S TRIALS

Instructions: Remove this page from the magazine and color the figures. Mount them on heavy paper and cut out. Read the story on pages 36–37, then retell the story using the figures.



Friends in the News



Kathlyn C., 10, Philippines, likes to sing, play the piano, and attend Primary. Her favorite song is "Love Is Spoken Here." She sang in the choir at her last ward conference.



Liam S., 7, Manitoba, Canada, enjoys basketball, football, family home evening, praying, and singing. He wants to be a basketball or football player when he grows up. He has fun with his family. When his mom lost her ring, the family prayed, and she found it.



Kirby Rhianne D., 4, Louisiana, enjoys being a Sunbeam. She loves Jesus and has worked hard to learn about Him. She has a younger brother and sister, and is kind to them daily. Kirby likes to sing and dance, and has memorized a scripture.



John A., 8, Utah, has a strong testimony. He says, "I believe in Heavenly Father and know the scriptures are true. I know that Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ created the world." John loves his family and his twin brother, Jordan. He likes to ski and play soccer.



Emilee S., 6, Utah, likes animals, dancing, reading, and playing with her friends and brother. She is looking forward to seeing a new temple built near her home. She is thankful that her family can be forever.



Samuel E., 10, Maine, likes to read; play with his miniature schnauzer, Gretchen; ride his bike; and go swimming. He wants to be an inventor when he grows up.



Gillette First Ward

The Primary children of the Gillette First Ward, Gillette Wyoming Stake, participated in a talent show. Some children performed on the stage, and others showed their talents on table displays. At the end of the show, the Primary sang "Scripture Power."



Drew and Trace T., 7 and 3, Utah, love their family. Drew likes to play baseball. He can't wait until he is baptized, and he is learning what it means to be a child of God. His favorite Primary song is "Follow the Prophet." Trace likes to play dinosaurs and lasso his toy horse. He enjoys going to Idaho to visit his grandparents.



Rebecca N., 6, California, likes to read and dress up like a princess. She enjoys her Primary class. Since she was two, she has taken her family's tithing envelope to the bishop. She likes having that responsibility.



Justin V., 5, Manitoba, Canada, likes to work with his dad, especially shoveling snow. He also likes to make igloos in the winter. His favorite food is Chinese food.



Alexis R., 10, Arizona, is a sweet girl who likes to sing; spend time with her family; and take care of her guinea pig, Squeakers. She bears her testimony often and is a good example to those around her.



Joel, Landon, and **Allison H.**, 5, 8, and 1, North Carolina, are thankful to be Latter-day Saints. They enjoy going to church and learning about the scriptures. They like playing outside with each other and their friends. Landon likes to read and has won awards for it. Joel and Allison like having stories read to them. They all enjoy camping and swimming when they visit their relatives in Utah.



Swainsboro Branch

The residents of an assisted-living home enjoyed a visit from the children of the Swainsboro Branch, Augusta Georgia Stake. **Rhys L.**, 3; **Kristin S.**, 5; **Jake S.**, 12; and **Trent S.**, 8, made bookmarks for the residents. After giving out the bookmarks, the children sang "I Am a Child of God."



Vista Fifth Ward

Children of the Vista Fifth Ward Primary, Vista California Stake, gathered for a "Get to Know You" activity. The ward had recently changed boundaries, and the activity focused on helping the children make new friends and learn more about each other. As part of the 2007 Primary theme, "I'll Follow Him in Faith," the children traced their footprints in their favorite color.

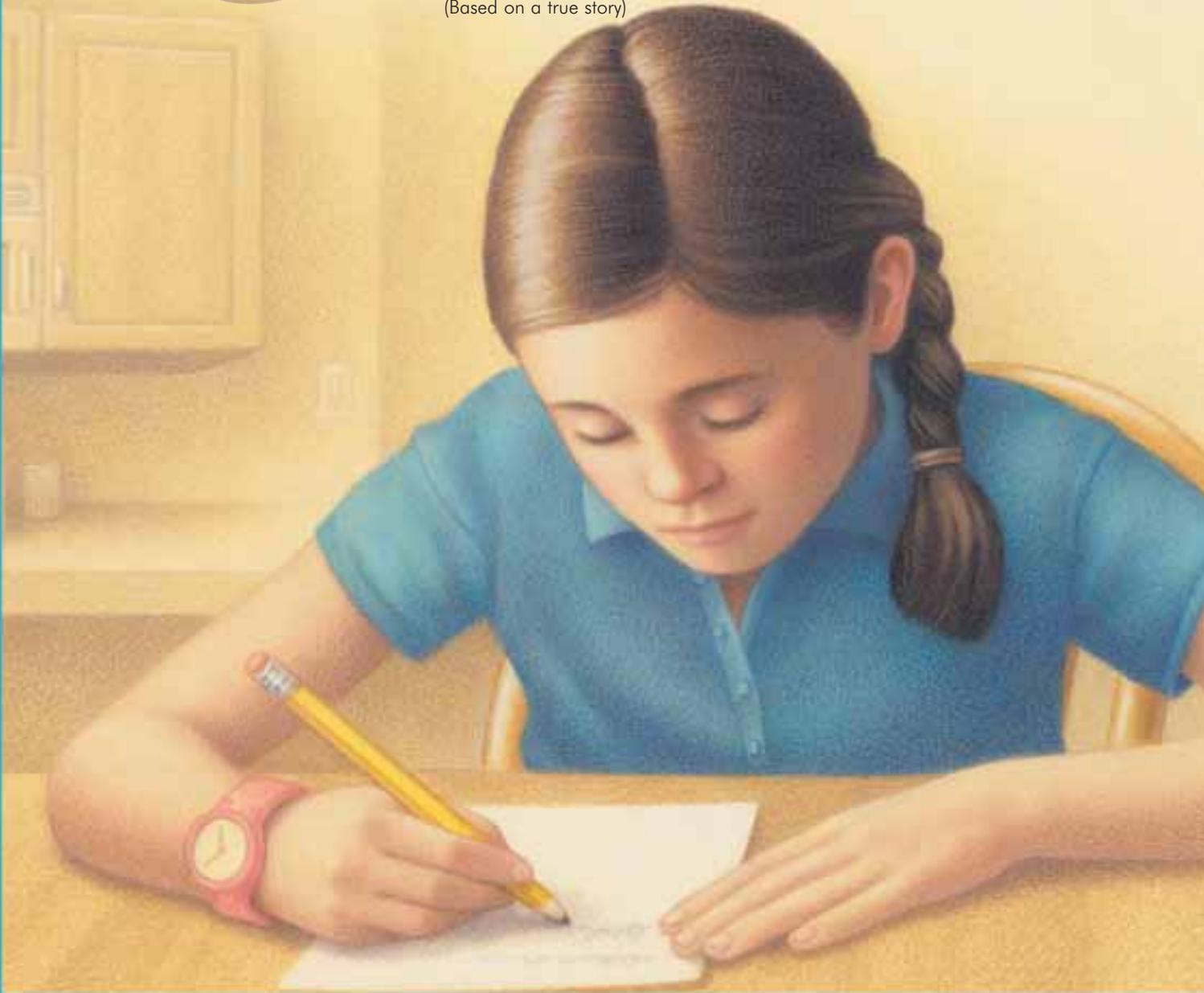


Learn to do well (Isaiah 1:17).



PRESIDENT GRANT'S EXAMPLE

BY HEIDI ROSE
(Based on a true story)



Class, please pass your papers to the front.” Heidi reached behind her to pick up Molly’s paper. She loved to look at Molly’s beautiful writing before she passed it forward. Her letters seemed to flow together perfectly. Heidi looked at her own paper and was embarrassed for anyone to see the poor handwriting. She slid her paper under Molly’s and passed it forward.

“Mom, will you write my homework for me?” Heidi asked as she walked in the door. Her mother had beautiful handwriting too. Maybe if her mother wrote her homework, she wouldn’t feel so embarrassed.

“Why do you want me to write your homework? Are your arms broken?” her mom teased.

Heidi told her mother about Molly’s beautiful writing. “I wish I had practiced my handwriting more last year.” Heidi sat down at the table and plopped her face in her hands.

“You know, Heidi,” her mom said, “if you work hard enough at it, your handwriting can be as good as anyone’s. You just have to put your mind to it.”

Heidi wasn’t so sure. She pictured Molly’s writing and thought there was no way hers would ever look like Molly’s.

“Do you remember the prophet Heber J. Grant?” Mom asked.

Heidi looked up. “Yes. We learned about him in Primary.”

“He had bad handwriting when he was young. He really wanted to improve, so he practiced and practiced until his handwriting was so good that he received an award for his penmanship.”

Heidi was amazed! She looked up to the prophets, but she had never realized they had problems just like hers when they were young. She decided that if Heber J. Grant could work to improve his handwriting, so could she.

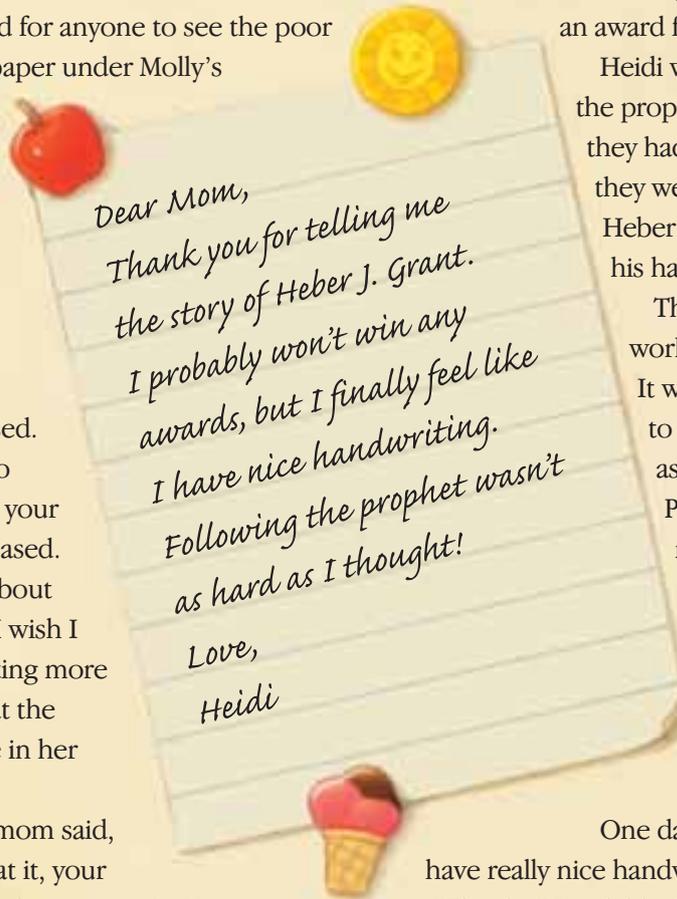
The next day at school Heidi worked hard on her handwriting. It was difficult at first. She had to stay late to finish writing her assignments, but the story of President Heber J. Grant motivated her to continue.

It was weeks before Heidi began to notice any improvement. It still took her a long time to do her assignments, but her writing was getting better.

One day Molly noticed. “Heidi, you have really nice handwriting,” she said.

“Thanks.” Heidi blushed. She couldn’t help but let a smile creep across her face.

That night Heidi left a note on the refrigerator for her mother. It was in beautiful handwriting. ●



“The holy scriptures, the guidance of your parents, and the diligent teaching you receive in Primary . . . will fortify you in your determination to be your best self. Study with purpose, both in church and in school.”⁵

President Thomas S. Monson



I CAN PRAY TO HEAVENLY FATHER, AND HE WILL HEAR AND ANSWER MY PRAYERS.

“Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them” (Mark 11:24).



Topical Index to this Issue of the *Friend*

(FLF) = For Little Friends
(f) = Funstuff
(IFC) = inside front cover
(v) = verse

Baptism and Confirmation 2

Book of Mormon 13 (f), 18

Choose the Right 2, 17, 38

Courage 4, 36

Faith 8, 48

Family 8, 14, 18, 21, 31 (FLF)

Family History 4

Friendship 38, 40

Heavenly Father IFC, 7 (v), 10,
24, 28 (FLF), 38, 48

Holy Ghost IFC, 2, 28 (FLF), 38

Jesus Christ 7 (v), 10, 17, 18,
24, 38

Joseph Smith IFC, 36, 43

Love and Kindness 8, 17, 34,
38, 40

Missionary Work IFC, 27, 38

My Gospel Standards IFC, 2, 4,
7 (v), 8, 10, 14, 17, 18,
26 (f), 34, 38, 46

Prayer IFC, 4, 7 (v), 10, 24,
26 (f), 28 (FLF), 30 (FLF),
31 (FLF), 48

Prophets 2, 6, 16, 36, 43, 46,
47

Quorum of the Seventy 8, 35

Quorum of the Twelve Apostles
17

Scriptures 13 (f), 26 (f), 48

Service 34

Work 46

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 September is "I can pray to Heavenly Father, and He will hear and answer my prayers."



Family Home Evening Ideas

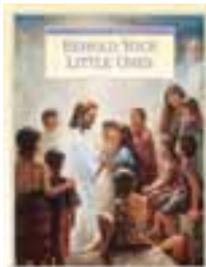
Look for the FHE symbol on the pages mentioned below.

1. Tell the story "Girlfriends and Gossip" (pp. 40–42). Why is it harmful to gossip about other people? Make a list of nice things you can say or do for people at school, in your ward, or in your neighborhood.
2. Sing "Did You Think to Pray?" (*Hymns*, no. 140), and begin the activity on pages 24–25. Then read "Pirates!" (pp. 4–6) and read Doctrine and Covenants 90:24. How can you remember to pray always? What are some of your prayers that have been answered?
3. Read "The Winner" (pp. 14–16). Talk about why it is sometimes hard when someone else wins, even in your own family. Invite each family member to tell one thing he or she appreciates about the other family members.

4. Read "Mikey's Gift" (pp. 34–35), and talk about other kinds of gifts you can give. Talk about how it feels when you do something nice for someone else.
5. Read "President Grant's Example" (pp. 46–47). Then read Ether 12:27 and talk about how you and your family members can improve a talent or strengthen a weakness.

Sidebar references

1. "Prayer," *Ensign*, May 1977, 34.
2. "Loyalty," *Ensign*, May 2003, 59.
3. "Out of Small Things," *Ensign*, Nov. 2007, 35.
4. *For the Strength of Youth* (2001), 22.
5. "Your Celestial Journey," *Ensign*, May 1999, 97.



A bright new lesson manual will soon be making its way to nursery classrooms throughout the Church. *Behold Your Little Ones* contains lessons focused on gospel doctrine and is specifically designed for nursery classes. It can also be used at home for young children. Look for it at ldscatalog.com.

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