

Friends by Mail



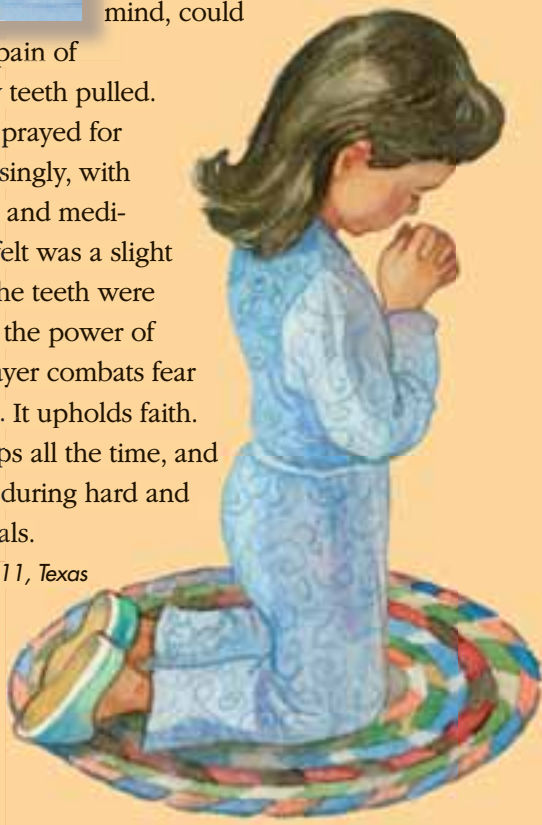
The Power of Prayer



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



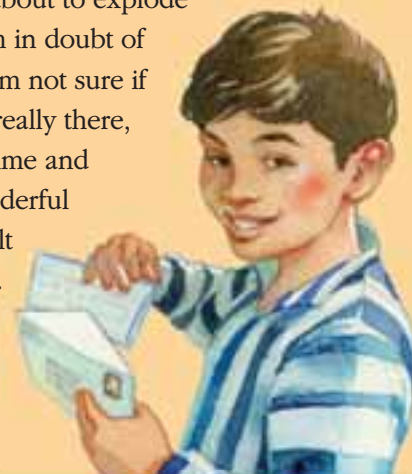
Nighttime Pondering



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.