

The lesson wasn't prepared, but Thomas knew what to do.

"I've Got This!"

By David Dickson

(Based on a true story)

We love each other more and more with ev'ry family night
(*Children's Songbook*, 195).

The front door closed behind Thomas with a swoosh and a click as he hurried to check the family calendar.

"I was right!" he called loudly. "It is my turn to teach the lesson in family home evening."

Mom's eyes widened. "Honey, I'm so sorry we didn't plan your lesson last night! I thought it was my turn to teach."

Thomas shook his head. "Don't worry, Mom. I know what to do." Normally she helped him prepare the day before. But he was 10 years old now. He could plan a lesson by himself.

Mom smiled and raised an eyebrow. "You're sure? You don't need any help?"

"Yup, I've got this."

Later that night Thomas pulled out his copy of the *Friend*. He opened it to an article he'd read called "The Ten Commandments Teach Me to

Love God and His Children" (Sept. 2012). As Thomas read it out loud to his family, he noticed Mom looking very proud of him.

After the lesson it was time for the activity on the next page. Thomas had already cut out the labels that read, "Honoring God," "Respecting Parents and Family," and "Respecting Others."

As part of the activity, they took turns sharing examples of how they'd kept commandments the past week.

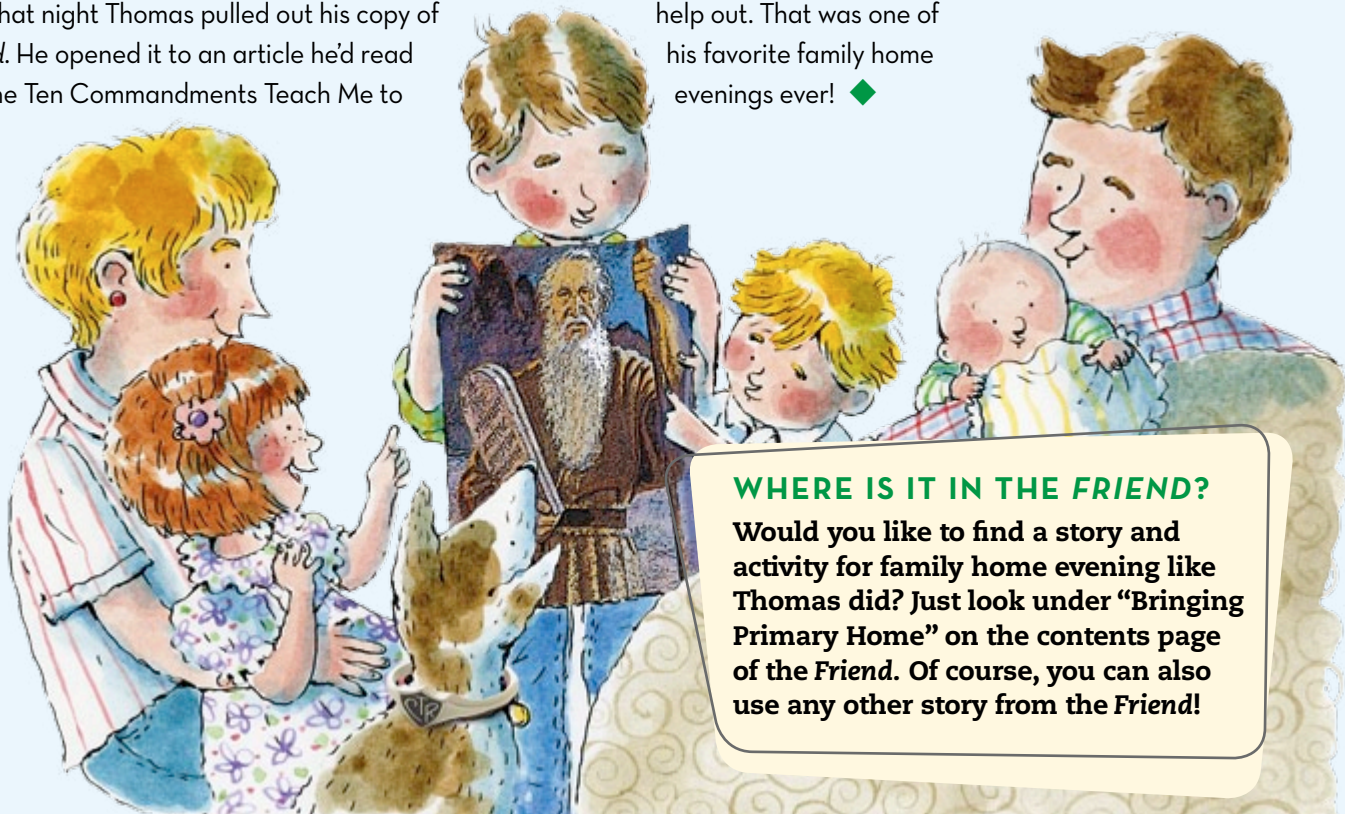
"I said my prayers last night," said his big sister Ella.

"What group do we think that falls in?" asked Thomas. After discussing, they picked "Honoring God."

After the lesson Ella served some tasty cookies she'd baked. Then they delivered some of the extras to friends.

Thomas felt so happy he could

help out. That was one of his favorite family home evenings ever! ◆



WHERE IS IT IN THE FRIEND?

Would you like to find a story and activity for family home evening like Thomas did? Just look under "Bringing Primary Home" on the contents page of the *Friend*. Of course, you can also use any other story from the *Friend*!

Family Home Evening in Seven Easy Steps

Imagine how hard it would be to reach the second story of a building without stairs or an elevator. Would you try to jump? That's 10 feet or higher! Most professional basketball players can't even jump three feet.

Planning a family home evening lesson may seem intimidating at first—sort of like trying to jump 10 feet straight up in the air. But if you take it one step at a time, like Thomas did, it's a cinch.

2 Choose a topic, and find a scripture or two about that topic.



4 Gather any extra materials for your lesson. Maybe you want to share a picture or bring a small object that relates to your topic.



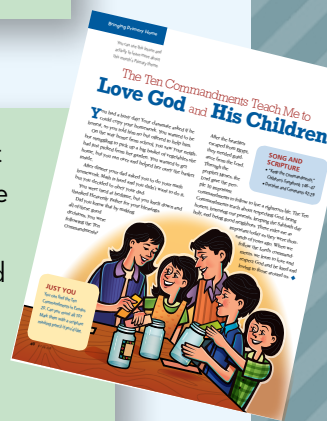
6 Keep it short and simple. Three to five minutes is a good length.

7 At the end of the lesson, bear your testimony about what you've been sharing.

Preparing your lesson

1 Pray to Heavenly Father to help you prepare your lesson.

3 Look for a spiritual story about your topic. Jesus taught people by using stories to help them understand. The scriptures and Church magazines are full of stories. And you can always tell a story from your own life.



Giving your lesson

5 When giving your lesson, ask your family a few questions. Lessons work better when everybody gets a chance to share their thoughts.

