

DECEMBER 2024

the Friend

Following Jesus Together



Peace in
CHRIST

— — —
See pages 2-3



Dear Friends,

Do you love Christmas? Is it fun? Is it peaceful?

On page 2 President Oaks tells us the Savior promises peace. Find peace in the story of His birth on page 12. You can also find peace in our new Christmas song on page 14. And you can share peace with others by being an angel to someone like Bjorn was on page 30!

Merry Christmas!

The *Friend*



Look for this icon to find articles that go with this month's *Come, Follow Me* readings.

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The Friend Magazine



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Friends by Mail

Where I Read the *Friend*

Jayden B., age 8, reads the *Friend* in English in West Midlands, England.



Baking Fun

We made New Zealand pavlova for Christmas (Dec. 2023). Our grandparents are serving as mission leaders there!

Elise, Clara, and Kaye A., ages 5, 6, and 8, Virginia, USA



We Love to See the Temple

Dariel and Sharixabel S., ages 9 and 6, visited the San Juan Puerto Rico Temple.



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Find 3 Hidden German CTR Rings



Hard: A soft sheep

Harder: Tie it tight!

Hardest: Have a seat.

Front cover by Alette Straathof

Share your stories and photos with the *Friend*! See the back cover to learn how to send us your mail.

WE LOVE HEARING FROM OUR FRIENDS!



**By President
Dallin H. Oaks**
First Counselor in the
First Presidency

The Prince of Peace

At this Christmas season, the world celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, the “Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6). We think about His birth, His life, and His mission. In His final instructions to His Apostles, Jesus Christ said, “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid” (John 14:27).

Peace is our Savior’s promise, and peace is our goal. As we keep the commandments of God, we can feel that peace.

As we celebrate this Christmas, it is my hope that you will be blessed with peace in your heart and love for those around you. ●

Adapted from Facebook, Dec. 8, 2019, and Dec. 13, 2023, facebook.com/dallin.h.oaks.



Do a secret act of service.

Call a friend or family member who lives far away.

Share a favorite snack or treat.

Share the *Friend* with a friend.

Draw a picture to give to someone.

Sing a Christmas song together.

Read a scripture about Jesus.

Visit someone who is lonely.

Send a Christmas card to a missionary.

Read a Christmas story together.

(Write your own)

(Write your own)

Sharing the Savior's Peace

You can share the love and peace of Jesus Christ! For 12 days leading up to Christmas, choose an activity to do with your family. Then color in an ornament.



Christmas Eve CANDLES

By Mariah Welch and Lucy Stevenson Ewell
(Based on a true story)

This story happened in Finland.

Joska and his family walked quietly through the snow. It was Christmas Eve, and they were doing one of their favorite traditions. Every year, people in Finland visited the cemetery to light candles on the graves of their loved ones.

Lots of bright candles glittered in the dark. Even though it was cold, they made the cemetery feel cozy and peaceful.

Joska's parents led them to a grave. "Who's this?" his little sister, Aasa, asked.


"This is my great-uncle," said Mum.

Turo, Joska's older brother, pointed at the dates on the stone. "He was born over a hundred years ago!"

"Yes. But he's still part of our family." Mum pulled out a candle. "Do you want to light it, Joska?"

Joska nodded and lit the candle. Then he carefully put a metal lid with holes in it on top. It would keep the wind from blowing out the flame. He placed the candle on the ground in front of the grave. The soft, glowing light looked beautiful.

They went to the next family grave. Joska held Aasa's hand as they walked.



*The whole cemetery
twinkled like it was
full of stars.*

"Why do we light candles on the graves?" she asked.

"Because it's important to remember our family members," he said.

"Even if they lived a hundred years ago?" Aasa asked.

"Yes," Dad said. "All our aunts, uncles, cousins, and grandparents are part of our family. We're all one big family because of Jesus Christ."

Mum got out another candle. Turo helped Aasa light it.

"But why do we light the candles at Christmas?" Aasa asked.

Joska thought about that for a minute. They could light candles at the cemetery any other day. Why Christmas Eve?


"Maybe because Jesus is the Light of the World," Joska said.

Mum smiled. "That's a great answer. I think you're right." She helped Aasa put her candle in the snow next to the grave. "It's because of Jesus Christ

that we can be with our family forever. And because He lived again, all of us will live again too."

They all stepped back to look at the lights. The whole cemetery twinkled like it was full of stars.

Joska's heart felt warm as they walked back to the car. When they got home, they would open presents and play games. But right now, Joska was glad he could have this quiet time with his family. He would always be grateful for Jesus's light. ●



**Why did Joska and his
family light candles on
Christmas Eve?**



**MEET
UICHEON**

**AND
JI-IN!**

Following Jesus in **South Korea**

안녕



How Uicheon and Ji-in Follow Jesus

Uicheon follows the Savior by praying when he needs help. When he was younger, he lost part of his toy car. He was sad. Then he and his father prayed together. Right after they said “amen,” they found the missing part! “It was such a quick answer to our prayer,” says Uicheon.

Ji-in followed Jesus Christ by being baptized. She wanted to follow His example. “When I stood up from the water, I had a great feeling and thought about Jesus,” she says. “I felt refreshed, and I thought I became a better person.” ●



About Uicheon and Ji-in

AGES: 10 and 8

FROM: Gyeonggi-do, South Korea

LANGUAGE: Korean

GOALS: Uicheon wants to be an architect. Ji-in wants to be a kindergarten teacher.

HOBBIES: Uicheon likes drawing, painting, and origami. Ji-in likes playing with miniature sets and watching videos.

FAMILY: Uicheon, Ji-in, Mom, Dad, younger brother

Their Favorites

BOOK OF MORMON STORY: Uicheon’s favorite story is Lehi’s dream of the iron rod (see 1 Nephi 8). Ji-in’s favorite story is Nephi getting the brass plates (see 1 Nephi 4).

FAMILY TRADITION: Uicheon likes playing games with his family. Ji-in likes having family movie nights.

FRUITS: Uicheon likes watermelon and mango. Ji-in likes strawberries and grapes.

COLORS: Uicheon’s favorite color is blue. Ji-in’s favorite color is pink.



You Can Follow Jesus Too!

What’s something you’ve done to follow Jesus?
Write and tell us! Turn to the back cover to see how.



Hello from **SOUTH KOREA!**

South Korea is in East Asia.
More than 50 million people live there.

THE GIFT OF THE GOSPEL

The Book of Mormon was published in Korean in 1967. Since then, a temple was built in Seoul, the capital city. Another temple will be built in Busan.

CELEBRATING FAMILY

The Chuseok harvest festival is one of the most important holidays in South Korea. Families gather to share food, tell stories, give thanks, and learn about their ancestors.

Joeunachimieyo!

That means
"good
morning" in
Korean!





COLOR CODED

Taxis in South Korea are different colors. Regular taxis are white or silver. More expensive taxis are black. International taxis are orange, and the driver speaks multiple languages.



LANGUAGES

The official language is Korean. Many people there also speak Japanese, Mandarin, and English.



ACTIVITY

Jegichagi

Lay a paper napkin flat. Stack two coins at the bottom, then roll up the napkin. Tie a rubber band above the coins. Cut the two flaps into strips. Now, toss the jegi and try to kick it upward with your foot. Take turns and see how many times in a row you can kick it!



RECIPE

Fresh Kimchi

This is a traditional dish unique to South Korea. Here's a version you can try!

1. Soak **4 cups (350 g) of chopped cabbage** in salt water for 2 hours. Then rinse it well with fresh water.
2. Chop up **1 cup (115 g) of radishes** and **1 bunch of green onions**. Mix in **3 teaspoons (15 g) of garlic salt**, **½ teaspoon (1 g) of ground ginger**, and **½ cup (120 ml) of water**.
3. Mix the cabbage and seasoning. Add **red pepper flakes** to taste.

Be sure to get an adult's help!



Tying Hallacas

"Why can't I have an important job like you or Mom?" Ivette asked.

By Ashley Stark

(Based on a true story)

This story happened in Venezuela.

Ivette ran up the front steps to her *abuela's* (grandma's) house. Her parents came in behind her. It was Christmas, and they were going to celebrate with the whole family.

The house was crowded and noisy. All around her, Ivette's family members laughed and joked with one another. They loved gathering together to make *hallacas*, a Venezuelan holiday food. This year, Abuela had promised Ivette that she could help make them. Ivette weaved through the maze of uncles, aunts, and cousins, looking for Abuela.

"Ivette?" Abuela called. "Ivette, where are you?"



"I'm right here!" Ivette ran to Abuela and hugged her. Then she looked up, bouncing on her toes with excitement. "What's my special job this year?"

"We'll get to that!" Abuela chuckled. "First, let me show you everyone else's jobs so you can see how hallacas are made."

Ivette followed Abuela to the table. The delicious smell of onions, meat, and spices filled the air. She couldn't wait to get started!

"First," Abuela said, "Aunt Carmen will prepare the *masa*."

Aunt Carmen put a ball of soft corn dough on a banana leaf. Then she squished it into a flat circle.

"Next, Ana will add the stuffing," Abuela said.

Ivette's older cousin, Ana, tipped a scoop of meat stew onto the dough. She added olives, peppers, raisins, and shredded chicken on top.

"Now your mom will fold the leaves."





Mom's fingers gently wrapped the leaves into a perfect rectangle.

"Our job is next, Ivette." Abuela passed the folded hallaca to Ivette. "We're going to tie it closed."

Abuela picked up a piece of cotton string. With careful hands, she crisscrossed the string around the hallaca. "Put your finger on top to keep it in place while I finish the knot."

Ivette's shoulders dropped. *They're making this job up, she thought. They don't actually need me.*

"Why can't I have an important job like you or Mom?" she asked, feeling frustrated.

"Your job is very important, Ivette." Abuela gently placed Ivette's finger on the string. "Without you here to keep the string in place, we couldn't tie the hallacas closed. Then they would fall apart while they cook. Everyone's hard work would be wasted. We all play a special part in making hallacas—just like we all play a special part in Heavenly Father's family."

A special part just for her? Ivette thought about that as Abuela tied the knot over her finger. She slipped her finger out of the knot so Abuela could pull it tight.

"We are all needed in this family," Mom added. "It's how we stay strong."

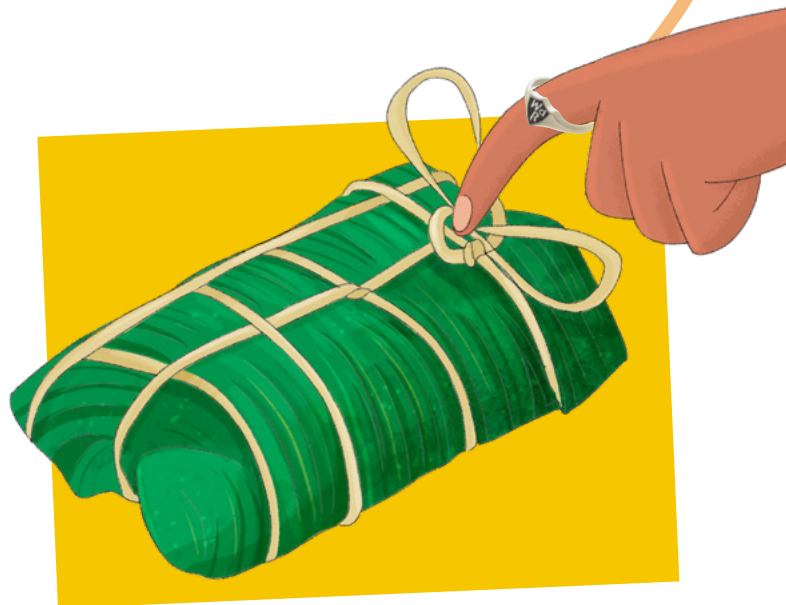
Ivette looked at her family gathered around the table. Everyone was different. Her aunt told the best jokes. Her mom gave amazing hugs. And Abuela

always knew what to say to make things better. Heavenly Father had given them all different gifts, but that was what made them special.

Abuela placed the hallaca in a basket with the rest. They were all perfectly stuffed, folded, and tied by Ivette's family members, each helping in different ways.

Ivette smiled. Each of her family members had a special place in Heavenly Father's family, just like they had a special part in making Christmas hallacas. Even Ivette!

She placed her finger on the next hallaca as Abuela tied the knot. ●



The Story of **CHRISTMAS**

By Abby Larkins



Long ago, an angel appeared to a young woman named Mary.



The angel told her that she would have a baby named Jesus and that He would be the Savior of the world.



Before Mary gave birth, she and her husband, Joseph, traveled to Bethlehem.



When they arrived, there was no room for them in the inn.



A new star appeared in the sky that night.



When Jesus was born, Mary laid Him in a manger.



She wrapped Him in cloth to keep Him warm and safe.



An angel visited shepherds and told them the joyful news. The Savior had come!



The shepherds hurried to the stable and found baby Jesus lying in a manger.



The shepherds were so happy! They went and told others that Jesus Christ had been born.



We can share the good news of Jesus's birth too—at Christmastime and always!



MUSIC

Gloria

Words and music by Heather Enke

Thoughtfully ♩ = 44-52

F B \flat Am Dm Gm C

F B \flat C7 F Dm Gm7 C

1. Long a - go, far a - way, There was a ba - by who lay on the hay.
 2. Lo, a star shone so bright. Wise men who saw it were filled with de - light.

F B \flat C7 Dm Dm B \flat C7 F

All was calm, — all was bright, For Je - sus was born on this ho - ly night.
 Shep - herds heard the an - gel say, — “Good news I bring to you on this day.”

Gm C7 F B \flat Gm7 C F Dm

Glo - ri - a, glo - ry to God, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

B \flat C F B \flat Gm C7 F

Sing and re - joice like the an - gels a - bove. Sing glo - ry, glo - ri - a.





By Elder Ulisses Soares
Of the Quorum of the
Twelve Apostles

How Does the Sacrament Help Us Remember Jesus?

Taking the sacrament is so important that God wants you to take it every Sunday.

When you take the sacrament, you promise to always remember Jesus Christ.

Remembering your Savior every day helps you know how to treat others.

The more you remember Jesus Christ, the more power you will have to stay on the covenant path.



Adapted from "Always Remember Him" (Brigham Young University devotional, Feb. 5, 2019), speeches.byu.edu.

Did You Know?

Elder Ulisses Soares speaks Portuguese, English, Spanish, and French.

MY REVERENCE BOOK

Make this booklet to help you think about Jesus Christ and be reverent during the sacrament.

1. Cut out each strip on the solid lines.
2. Tape the strips together to make one long strip. Make sure the numbers on the squares are in order.
3. With the cover on top, fold the strip back and forth along the dotted lines to make your book.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY DAN BURR

My Reverence Book

Jesus Christ is my Savior.

(Mosiah 3:17)



He healed the sick and shared the gospel.

(Matthew 9:35)

1

2

3

4

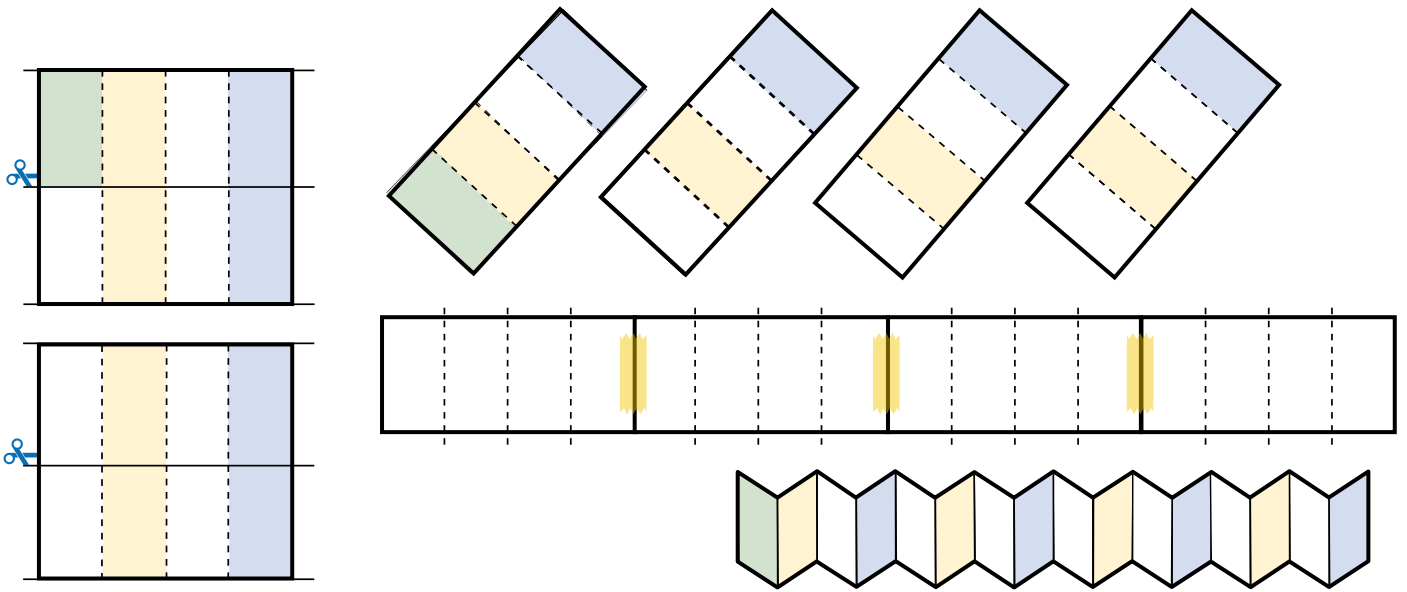
He suffered for all people.

(Alma 7:11)



He died on the cross.

(Mosiah 15:7)



**He taught
about the
sacrament.**

(Luke 22:19-20)

5



**Everything
He did was
to bless
and serve
others.**

(John 13:12-15)

6

7



8



**But three days
later, He was
resurrected!**

(1 Corinthians 15:4)

13



**Jesus loved
everyone.**

(John 13:34)

14

15

16

Remembering Jesus

By Rebekah Jakeman
(Based on a true story)

"This is a special book. It can help you remember Jesus Christ."



remember all the good things He did. And we promise to try to do good things too."

Victoria smiled. "So we can be like Jesus!"

"That's right!" Mom helped Victoria put on her shoes. "Trying to be like Jesus makes us happy."

At church Victoria sat quietly with Mom and Dad. Soon it was time for the

This story took place in the USA.

Victoria watched in the mirror as Mom brushed her hair. It was almost time for church.

"Why do we go to church?" Victoria asked.

Mom set down the hairbrush. "We go to church to take the sacrament and learn about Jesus Christ."

"But why?" Victoria asked.

"The bread and water help us remember how Jesus suffered and died for us," Mom said. "When we take the sacrament, we





sacrament. She bowed her head and listened to the prayer.

Then Mom pulled a book out of her bag. "This is a special book about the Savior," she whispered. "It can help you remember Him during the sacrament."

Victoria opened the book. Each page showed a picture of Jesus Christ. One picture showed Him as a baby in a manger. Another showed Him getting baptized. Victoria remembered that story from Primary. She would get to be baptized one day too!

Mom held out the tray of bread. Victoria reverently took a piece. Then she looked back at her book. On the next page there was a picture of Jesus praying in a garden. Victoria knew that He was feeling everyone's pain and sadness. *He must love us a lot*, she thought.

Victoria kept turning the pages. Many pictures

showed Jesus helping others. In one picture, He was teaching people. In another one, He healed a blind man.

There was even one of Him with children.

Next it was time for the water. Victoria bowed her head during the prayer. Then Mom passed her the tray.

Victoria took a little cup of water to drink. She thought about how Jesus loved others. A warm feeling filled her heart. She wanted to be kind and loving too.

"Mom, I want to be like Jesus," Victoria whispered.

Mom smiled. "That makes me happy. And I know it makes Him happy too."

Victoria smiled too. She loved Jesus Christ. She wanted to always remember Him. ●



You can use the previous page to make a picture book to help you think of Jesus Christ during the sacrament. How else can you remember Him?



Following Jesus Together



Celine S., age 10, Nevada, USA



Heath G., age 9, North Carolina, USA



"Star of Zarahemla," Emily D., age 11, Missouri, USA



Taylor F., age 10, Idaho, USA



I saw an idea from #LighttheWorld to write a letter to a friend and tell them why I was thankful for them. I wrote it to my friend who goes

to another church. When I gave him the letter, he smiled and I felt happy.

Luis R., age 10, San Juan, Puerto Rico



Veal W., age 11, Maryland, USA



We make presents for our family out of wood, paper, and glue for Christmas. We read a story every night for our Advent calendar and go sand sledding on the big sand dunes near where we live!

Washington, Liberty, Maren, and William R., ages 6, 9, 10, and 3, Eastern Province, Saudi Arabia



Clairana E., age 11, Indiana, USA



I feel Heavenly Father and Jesus's love for me when I pray.

Caston N., age 9, Mashonaland East, Zimbabwe



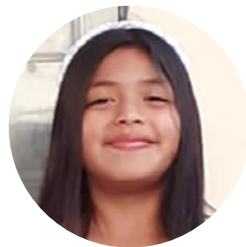
My grandfather has been sick. I visited him when he was in the hospital so he wouldn't feel sad and alone.

Keanu M., age 8, Tahiti, French Polynesia



I received a toy grill one year for Christmas. The next Christmas I heard about a boy who didn't have any toys. It was hard for me, but I gave him my toy grill.

Jackson B., age 7, Florida, USA



Christmas is a special time for my family. We eat *asado* (Argentinian barbeque) together. We feel more united because we spend time with our grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Sofia N., age 8, Río Negro Province, Argentina

Send in your art and stories!

Turn to the back cover to see how.

Why Do We Wear White in the Temple?

In the temple, we wear white clothing to show that we are pure and clean. It also shows that we are all equal in God's eyes. Prophets have promised that as we do temple work, our lives will be filled with peace and purpose.

- The outside walls are made of granite from the mountains.
- This temple has six spires. The tallest is 112 feet (34 m) high.
- This was the first temple in Korea. It was dedicated in 1985 in Seoul, the capital city.



Seoul Korea Temple

- The groundbreaking was on Ecuador's independence day.
- It has been called "the most beautiful building in Ecuador."
- Church members worked hard to clean the temple late at night for the open house.



Guayaquil Ecuador Temple

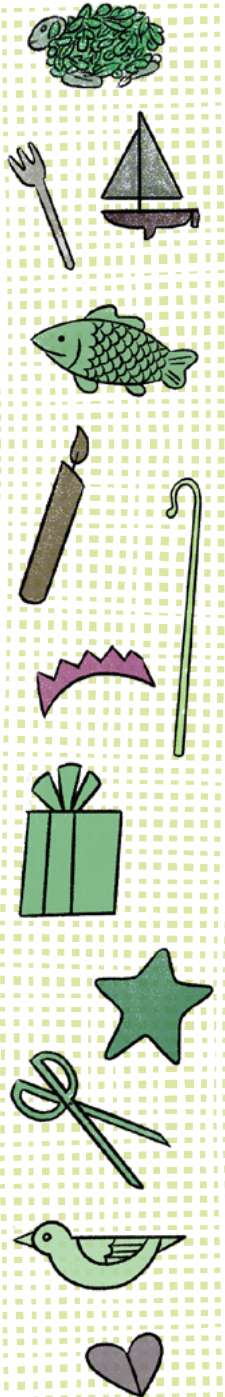


Cut out the cards, fold on the dotted line, and tape them closed.
Find more temple cards at friend.ChurchofJesusChrist.org.



Moroni Buries the Plates

The prophet Moroni buried the gold plates to keep the scriptures safe. Many years later, Joseph Smith translated the plates into the Book of Mormon. Can you find the hidden items?

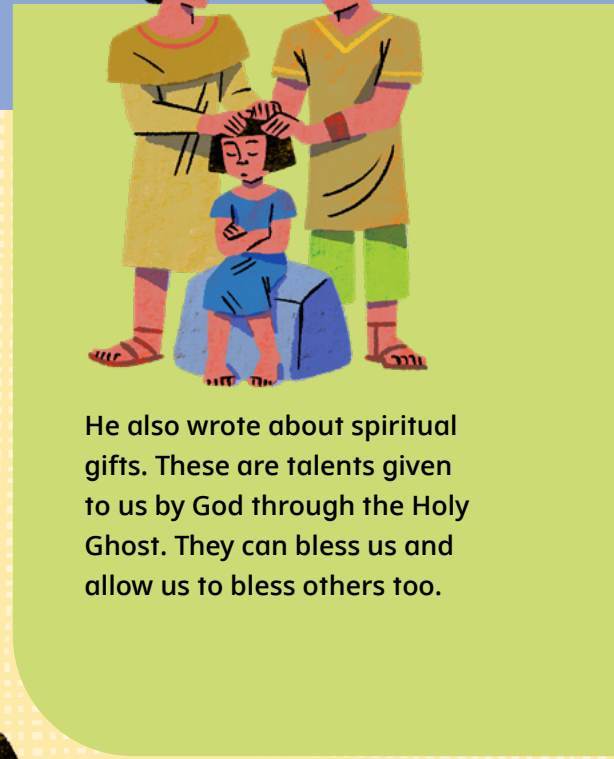


Spiritual Gifts



Moroni was a prophet. He wrote in the Book of Mormon about Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ.

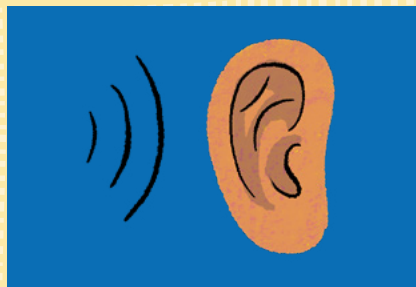
Moroni taught that there are many kinds of spiritual gifts. Some of the gifts he named are knowledge, great faith, and working mighty miracles (see Moroni 10:8–19).



He also wrote about spiritual gifts. These are talents given to us by God through the Holy Ghost. They can bless us and allow us to bless others too.



Every person has spiritual gifts—including you! You can ask Heavenly Father and your loved ones what your spiritual gifts are.



Other spiritual gifts are kindness, listening, and being a peacemaker. ●



Scripture Challenge



Faith is things which are hoped for and not what? (Ether 12:6)



Charity is the pure love of who? (Moroni 7:47)



What should you ask God when you read the Book of Mormon? (Moroni 10:4)

I Can Read the Book of Mormon!

After you read, color part of the picture. You can read these scriptures that go along with each week's reading from *Come, Follow Me*.

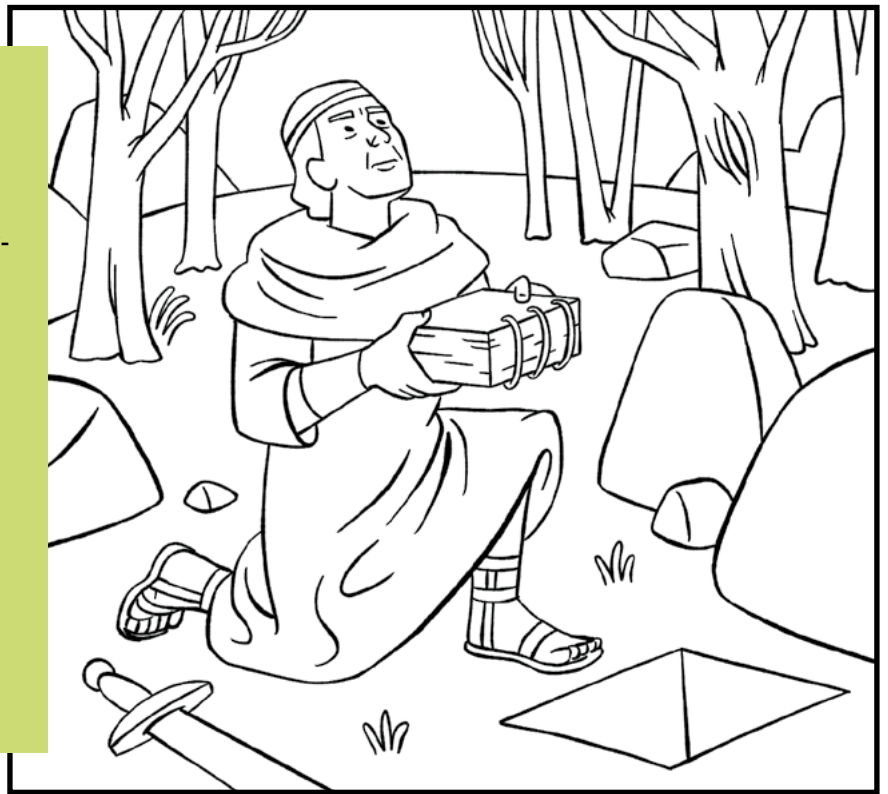
Week 1: Ether 12:27

Week 2: Moroni 4-5

Week 3: Moroni 7:41

Week 4: Moroni 10:32

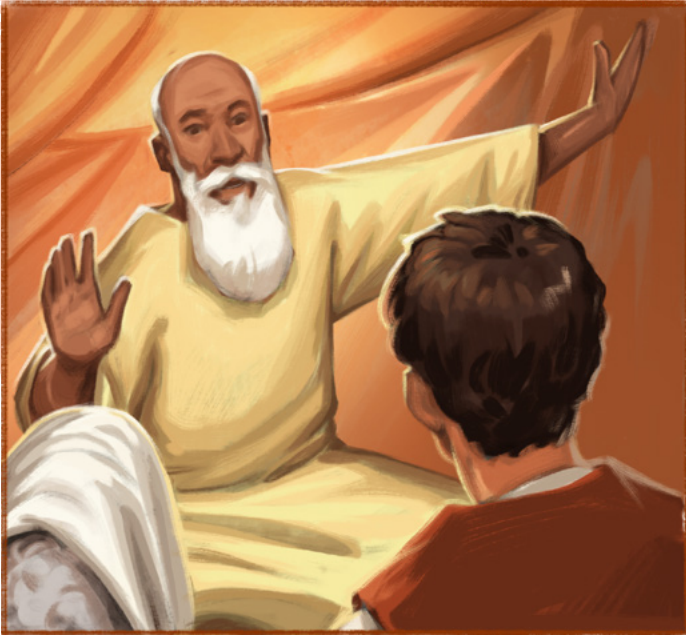
Week 5: Mosiah 3:5-10



Write down what spiritual gifts you think you have. Then draw a picture of how you can use them to help others.

Nephi Sees Baby Jesus

You can read this story in 1 Nephi 11.



Nephi's father, Lehi, saw a vision of Jesus Christ. Nephi wanted to see this vision too. He prayed and asked to see what his father saw.



The Holy Ghost showed Nephi the same vision. Nephi saw a young woman named Mary. The Holy Ghost said she would be the mother of the Savior, Jesus Christ.



Nephi saw the baby Jesus with Mary. The Holy Ghost said that Jesus would come to the earth to help Heavenly Father's children.



Nephi saw Jesus Christ's life. He saw Him serving and teaching people. Nephi learned many things about the Savior. You can learn about Him too by reading the scriptures. ●

Come, Follow Me Activities

For home evening or scripture study—or just for fun!



November 25–December 1

Goal Posters

FOR ETHER 12–15

Moroni was worried that he wasn't good at writing, but Heavenly Father helped him get better at it (see Ether 12:23–29). What's something you want to get better at? On a poster or piece of paper, draw or glue pictures of things you want to improve at. Hang your poster somewhere to remind you of your goals. Pray for Heavenly Father's help to reach them.

For younger children: Read Ether 12:13–15 aloud to your little ones. Invite them to jump every time they hear the word "faith"!

December 2–8

Reverence Book

FOR MORONI 1–6

The sacrament is a sacred ordinance that helps us remember Jesus Christ (see Moroni 4–5). Turn to page 18 to read about a girl who looked at a special book to help her be reverent and remember Jesus during the sacrament. Then turn to page 16 and make your own reverence book.

For younger children: Turn to page 44 with your little ones and read about how we can follow Jesus by remembering Him.





December 16–22

Act It Out!

FOR MORONI 10

The Book of Mormon is full of stories that teach us about Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ and the people who follow Them (see Moroni 10:3–4). Take turns acting out your favorite Book of Mormon stories! See if your family can guess what the story is.

For younger children:

Sing your little ones' favorite song about Jesus Christ. Talk about ways they can feel closer to Him.



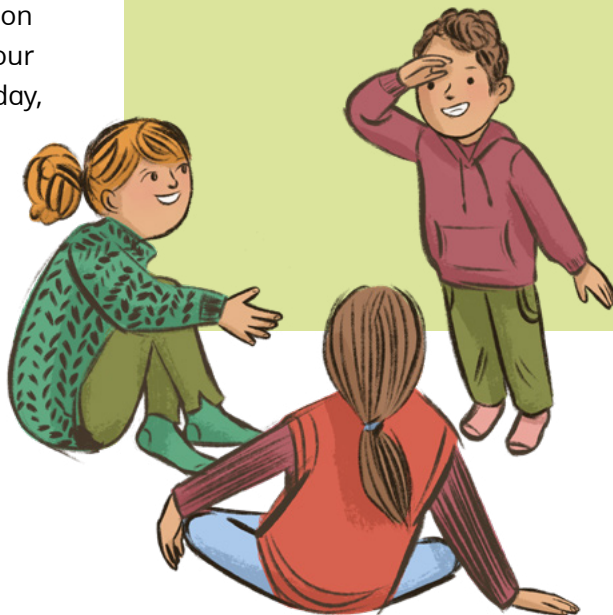
December 9–15

Secret Service

FOR MORONI 7–9

Jesus wants us to love each other (see Moroni 7:45–48). Have each family member write their name on a piece of paper and put it in a bowl. Then pick a name and secretly serve that person the next day to show your love. At the end of the day, guess who served you!

For younger children: Ask your child to draw a picture for someone they love.



December 23–29

A Special Ornament

FOR CHRISTMAS

Because Jesus Christ was born and became our Savior, we can all live with Heavenly Father again someday (see Helaman 5:9). Cut out a picture of Jesus from the *Friend*. Then make a frame for the picture using paper, craft sticks, or whatever you want. Glue a string in a loop on the back and hang it up on your Christmas tree or wall!

For younger children: Have your little ones point to pictures of the Savior in the *Friend*. Talk about why it's so important that He was born.



BJORN Wants to Be an ANGEL

By Carolina Marín
(Based on a true story)

This story happened in the USA.

Bjorn looked around at all the big cardboard boxes in his new home. His family had just moved from Argentina to the United States.

It was scary to move so far away. Everything was unfamiliar. But he knew that if he was with his family, everything would be OK.

As Bjorn helped his family unpack, Mami picked up a big box and smiled.

"This one has our Christmas ornaments in it!" she said.

Bjorn smiled. He loved Christmas and was excited to celebrate it with his family. He was still nervous about living in a

new place, but knowing that it was almost Christmas cheered him up.

A few days later, Bjorn's family sat down together for a home evening lesson about Christmas. Papi explained that it is a season for giving gifts.

"Yay! Presents!" Bjorn said.
"Yes, getting presents is

fun," Mami said. "But it's even more important to give gifts to the Savior."

"How do we give presents to Jesus?" asked Bjorn.

"When we serve others like Jesus did, it makes Him happy," said Mami.

The next morning Bjorn heard a knock at the front door. He jumped out of bed and ran to see who it was. But when Papi and Mami opened the door, nobody was there. Instead, Mami picked up a small, shiny gift from the doorstep.

"Where did it come from?" Bjorn asked.

"I'm not sure," Mami said. "Maybe an angel!"

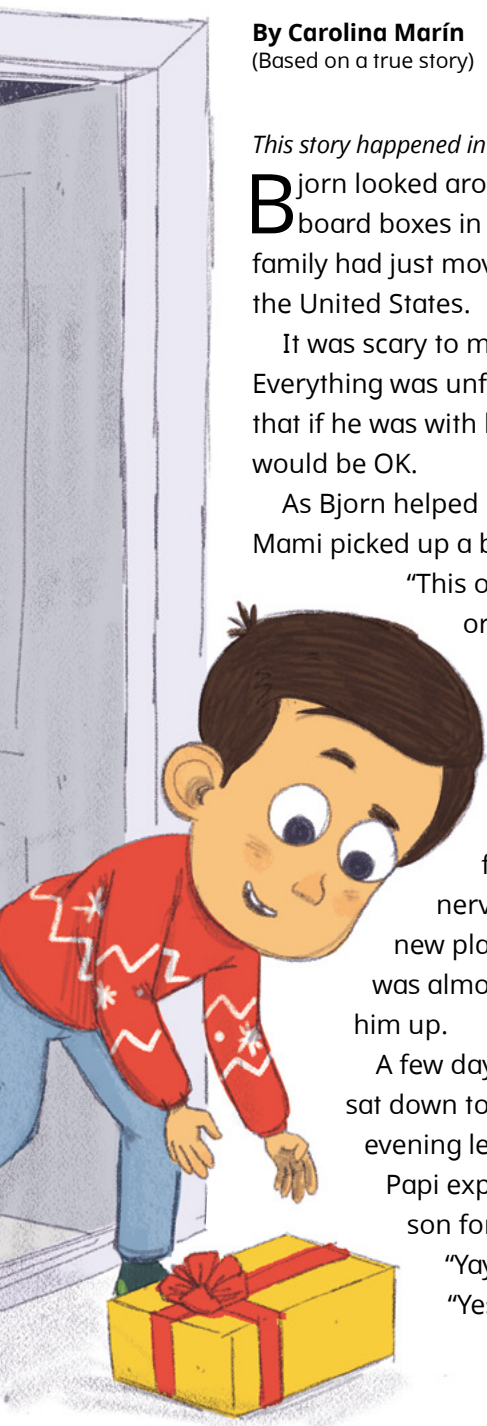
Bjorn's eyes got wide. "Like an angel from heaven?" Papi smiled. "No. Sometimes we call people angels when they do kind things for us. It's like they are Heavenly Father's helpers here on earth."

Bjorn jumped in the air. "I want to be an angel too! I want to do kind things for others. That will be my Christmas gift to Jesus."

"Great idea!" Papi said. "Jesus will love your gift."

For the rest of the week, Bjorn woke up every morning to find a new gift on the doorstep. He felt so loved when the angels left gifts for his family. He wanted to show his family that he loved them too.

So Bjorn got to work. He secretly prepared gifts for his parents and siblings. He shined Papi's shoes while he was at work and drew a heart for Mami. Then he wrapped one of his favorite toy cars for his brother. He got bubble gum for his sister.





“Sometimes we call people angels when they do kind things for us,” Papi said.

Carefully, Bjorn wrote the names on each present and placed them under the Christmas tree. He couldn’t wait to see their happy faces! He felt warm inside just thinking about it.

On Christmas Day, Bjorn gave each family member their gift. He was so excited he could hardly sit still.

When Papi saw his shiny shoes, he said, “Wow, thank you, Bjorn! These look wonderful.”

Bjorn’s brother and sister opened their presents, then jumped up to give Bjorn hugs. “Thanks!” they said.

Mami smiled when she unwrapped the picture Bjorn had drawn for her. “You’ve helped make this Christmas so special, Bjorn. Thank you for being our little angel,” she said.

Bjorn felt happy inside. He knew that showing love to his family was the perfect present to give Jesus! ●



“The Lord is always looking for willing volunteers to be angels in others’ lives.”

Elder Carlos A. Godoy of the Presidency of the Seventy, “I Believe in Angels,” *Liahona*, Nov. 2020, 87.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY DANIEL DUNCAN



By Elder James W.
McConkie III
Of the Seventy

PRIMARY POWER

My wife and I served as mission leaders in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. I wanted to go to every Primary in the area. I loved these visits. While I was there, I learned three things about Primary children.

First, I learned that you can feel and recognize the Holy Ghost.

Second, I learned that you want to learn about spiritual things.

Third, I learned that Heavenly Father is aware of you. He wants you to have spiritual experiences.

During my visits, I talked with the children about many things. We talked about the Holy Ghost, baptism, and repentance. I

also shared my testimony of the Book of Mormon with them. I told them that they could gain a testimony of the Book of Mormon too.

You children are the future leaders of the Church! You are the ones who are going to make a difference in the future. And Primary is a special place where you can learn about the gospel and feel the Holy Ghost.

You can receive a testimony of the Book of Mormon, no matter how old you are. You can study the scriptures and learn how to understand the gospel. I believe in you. Your Heavenly Father believes in you. You can do amazing things! ●



*From an interview with Abby Larkins and
Bradley Salmond III.*

Worldwide Nativities

One of these Nativity scenes is from the Czech Republic, where Elder McConkie visited Primary children as a mission leader. Follow the paths to find out where the other scenes are from.



Turkey



Ghana



Peru



Japan



Mongolia



Haiti



Czech Republic



MARGO and PAOLO



Holy Night



"For unto us a child is born . . . The Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

Older Kids' Section

What's Inside:

The Best Gift of All.....	36
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Quick Quiz

Who was the last person to add their words to the Book of Mormon?

- A. Nephi
- B. Mormon
- C. Moroni
- D. Ether



Answer: C

Healthy Tip

When you are eating, listen to your body. Notice how your body and your stomach feel when you're hungry, when you're satisfied, and when you are a bit too full.



The BEST Gift of All

By Justina McCandless
(Based on a true story)

This story happened in the USA.

Jessica fidgeted nervously in the car on the way to her aunt and uncle's ward. Christmas was only a few days away, but she didn't feel like celebrating.

Earlier that week there had been a fire at her house. Everyone was safe, but their home was damaged. Many of their things were ruined. Jessica and her mom, brother, and two sisters had moved in with her uncle and aunt until their house could be fixed.

Jessica's aunt smiled at her. "I know you'll have a great time in our Primary," she said.

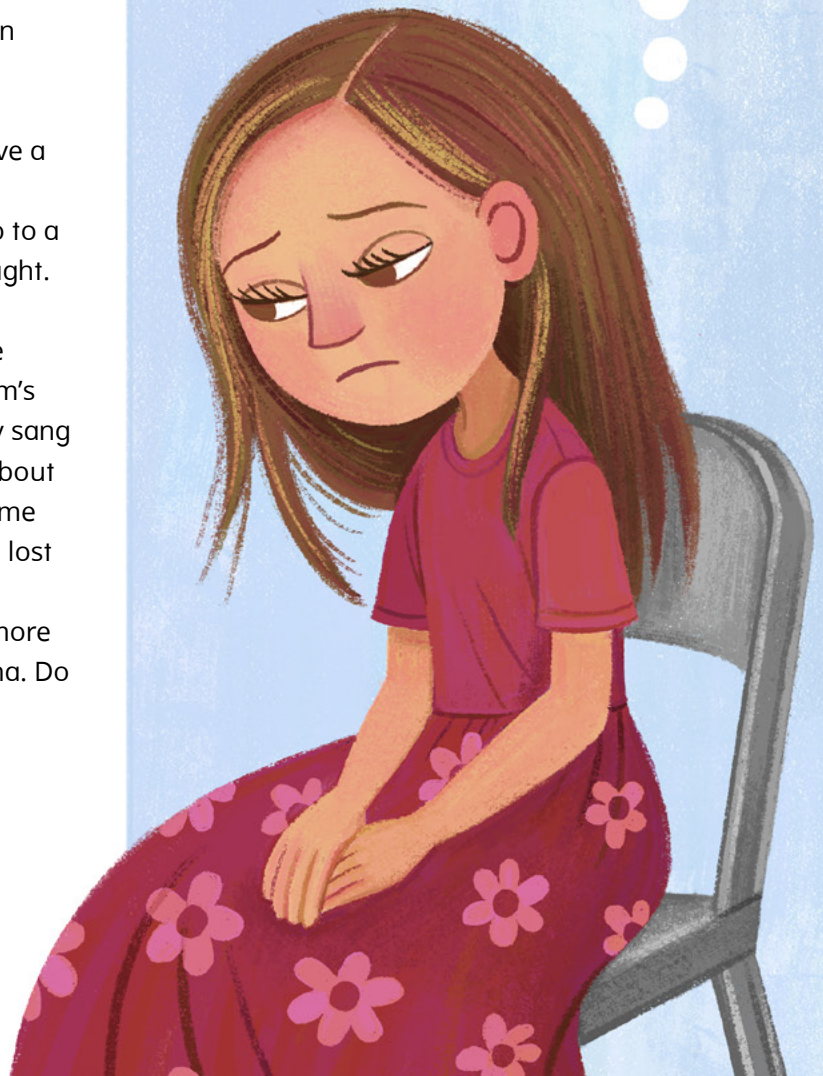
Jessica wasn't so sure. She was nervous to go to a different Primary. *I won't know anyone*, she thought. *Will they be nice to me?*

Jessica tried not to think about the fire as she walked to Primary. She held her little cousin Sam's hand and helped him find his seat. The Primary sang Christmas songs about Jesus. Jessica thought about how Joseph and Mary were away from their home when Jesus was born. She wondered if they felt lost and alone, like she felt right now.

When it was time for class, Jessica felt even more nervous. Another girl smiled at her. "Hi, I'm Anna. Do you want to sit by me in class?"

Jessica smiled back. "Sure."

Jessica wondered if Joseph and Mary felt lost and alone, like she felt right now.



In class they read in the scriptures about when Jesus Christ was born. The teacher, Sister Rios, said that the Savior was Heavenly Father's greatest gift to the world. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son,"* she read to the class.

Jessica had never thought about Jesus as a gift before. She thought about their Christmas presents that had been ruined in the fire. She loved getting presents and was sad hers were gone. But she loved Jesus even more and knew He would never go away.

At the end of class, Sister Rios took out a few small boxes from her bag. Each one held a tiny carving of baby Jesus.

"I have a gift for each of you." Sister Rios started passing out the boxes. "It can help you remember that God loves you so much that He sent His Son for you." Then she looked at Jessica. "Jessica, I'm so sorry. I don't have one for you. I didn't know you were going to be here."

Jessica looked down at her hands and tried not to cry. She didn't know she was going to be here either.



She wished she could be in her own home, in her own Primary class for Christmas.

Just then, someone placed a box in her lap. She looked up and saw Anna smiling at her. "Merry Christmas! You can have mine."

Jessica gently touched the tiny baby Jesus figure. "Thank you! Merry Christmas to you too!"

After church, Mom gave her a hug. "How was Primary?" she asked.

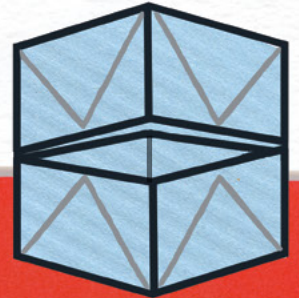
"Good! I got this as a present." Jessica smiled. "And I learned that Jesus is the best gift of all." ●



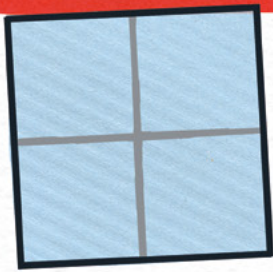
"The birth, life, teachings, Atonement, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ are the greatest of all Christmas gifts."

Elder Dale G. Renlund of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles,
"Sharing the Christmas Gift," *For the Strength of Youth*, Dec. 2021, 8.

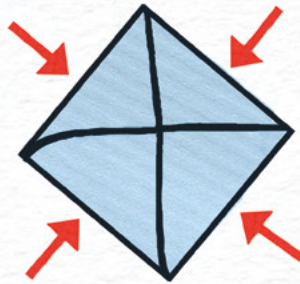
CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP



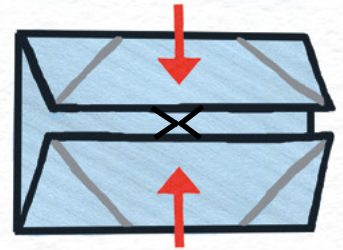
ORIGAMI CHRISTMAS BOXES



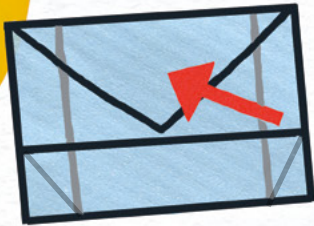
1. Fold a square sheet of paper in half vertically and horizontally. Then unfold.



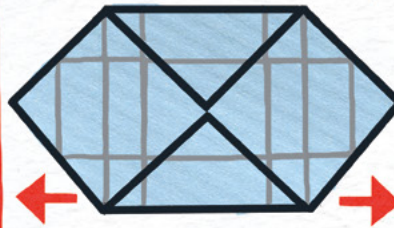
2. Flip the paper over and fold the corners to the center.



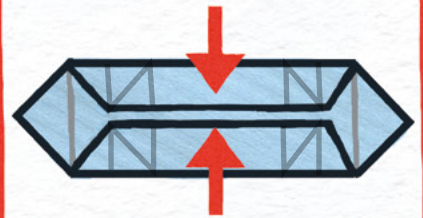
3. Fold the top and bottom sides to the middle.



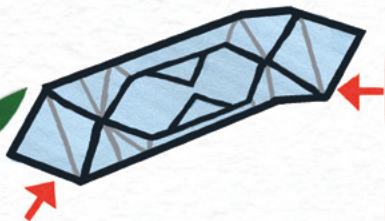
4. Unfold, turn the square, and fold the top and bottom to the center again.



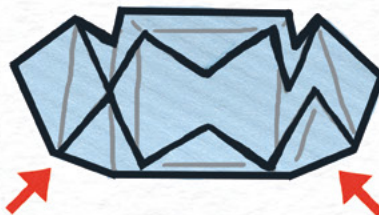
5. Unfold. Then open the flaps on the left and right.



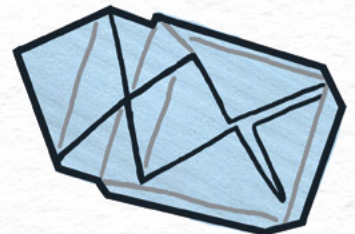
6. Fold the top and bottom to the center.



7. Push the points toward the middle until the folds form a box.



8. Fold the points over the edges and tuck them into the bottom.



9. Repeat the steps to make a lid.

TIP: Make sure your folds are crisp and clear. This will make the last steps easier.



SALT-DOUGH ORNAMENTS

1. Mix **4 cups (515 g) of flour** and **1 cup (300 g) of salt**. Stir in **1½ cups (355 mL) warm of warm water** a little at a time.
2. Preheat the oven to 350°F (177°C). Then knead the dough for five minutes.
3. Put the dough between sheets of waxed paper and flatten it out with a rolling pin.
4. Cut or draw shapes in the dough. Make a little hole at the top of each one for string.
5. Bake the shapes on a baking sheet for one hour or until the ornaments are hard.
6. When the ornaments are cool, decorate them however you want!

Be sure to ask an adult for help.

CHRISTMAS CANDLES

1. Use **scissors** or a **pencil** to poke or cut holes all over a piece of **colored paper** in whatever pattern you want.
2. **Tape** the paper around a **glass jar** and put a **small candle or light** inside.
3. Turn out the lights and watch how the patterns glow!



Read a story about Christmas candles on page 4!

Brave Enough

By Noelle Lambert Barru
(Based on a true story)

This story happened in Taiwan.

"Are you ready?" Terry's older sister, Hailey, popped her head into his room. "It's time to go practice for the Christmas play."

Oh yeah! Terry and Hailey were in a special play for their ward Christmas party.

"Almost ready!" Terry pulled on his jacket and walked to the front door. "Who else will be there?"

"Mia and Jake. And some kids from Jake's school," Mom said. "The other kids don't go to our church, but they're excited to help."

Terry froze. He didn't realize there would be kids he didn't know at the practice. There was no way he would be brave enough to say his lines in front of them.

"I don't want to go anymore," Terry said.

"Why not?" Mom asked.

"I don't know the other kids," Terry said. He always got nervous talking to new people.

"But you can make new friends. And I'll be there with you," Hailey said.

Terry shook his head. "Maybe next time. Can we practice my lines at home for now?"

Terry froze. He didn't realize there would be kids he didn't know at play practice.



LIGHT THE WORLD

Has your ward planned a Christmas activity too? Invite a friend to come with you!

Mom nodded. "OK. But if you want to be in the play, you'll need to practice with the other kids soon."

Terry liked practicing at home. It was easy! But he knew he needed to practice with the other kids too.

At family prayer a few nights later, Terry had an idea.

"Can we pray that I'll have courage to join the practice?" Terry said. "Maybe Heavenly Father can help me."

"Of course," Dad said. "Good idea."

They all closed their eyes and folded their arms.

"Dear Heavenly Father," Dad prayed, "please help Terry to have the courage to go to play practice."

On the day of the next practice, Terry walked into the church with Mom and Hailey. His heart was beating fast, but he wanted to try. He felt ready. *Heavenly Father and Jesus must be helping me!* he thought.

"Terry! We're so glad to see you," Sister Tee said.

Terry smiled and nodded. Lots of other kids were already talking and laughing. He saw Jake and Mia. But he didn't know the others.

Sister Tee told the kids where to sit and when to speak while they practiced. Terry was still nervous to sit by kids he didn't know, but he tried to remember Dad's prayer. It helped him feel better.

They practiced the songs and their lines over and over. The kids sitting by Terry were fun. They made him laugh a lot!

A few days later, it was time to for the play. The church was decorated with lots of Christmas trees, lights, and ribbons. Everyone wore red and green.

Terry hardly felt nervous anymore. He liked being with the other kids, even the ones he didn't know before!

During the play, Terry felt good. And when it was his turn to speak, he said his lines loud and clear.

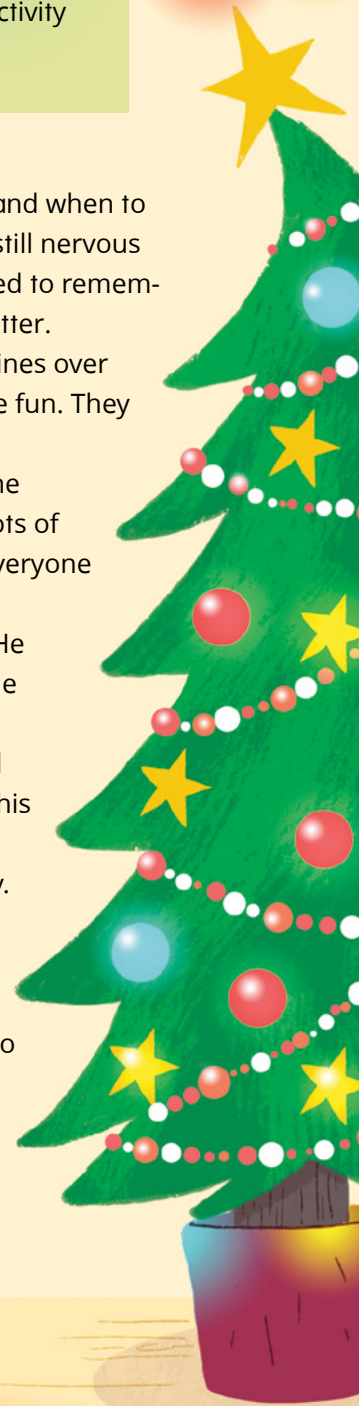
After the play, Terry found his family.

"Great job!" Dad said.

Mom smiled. "You looked like you had a lot of fun."

"I did! I'm glad I was brave enough to do it," Terry said.

Terry couldn't have done it without Mom, Dad, Hailey, and Heavenly Father. Praying for help and being brave was totally worth it! ●





Our Nature Nativity

By Wesley, Mckenna, Audrey, and Evelyn K., ages 13, 9, 6, and 1, Utah, USA

Last Christmas we visited our great-grandparents in Hawaii, USA. We decided to create rock art to remember the story of Jesus Christ's birth. We got the idea from a past Friend to Friend broadcast.

Christmas was on a Sunday. After church our family headed down to the beach. We all looked for items to use in our nature Nativity. After we were done, we enjoyed the sunset together. Then we went back to our grandparents' house to make the art.

It was amazing to see it all come together. This is a Christmas memory we will never forget! ●

Little Friends' Section



I love to sing and pray
when I'm at church.

**Lerato M., age 4,
Harare Province, Zimbabwe**



I pray when I am scared
because I know Heavenly
Father will help me.

**James T., age 4,
North Carolina, USA**

"Jesus once was a little child,
A little child like me."

Children's Songbook, 55

I Can Follow Jesus by Remembering Him



I can learn and sing about Jesus Christ in Primary.



I can celebrate His birth at Christmas.



I can think of Him when I take the sacrament.



I can try to remember Jesus always.



Activity Time

We can remember Jesus by telling the story of His birth. Can you count these things?

1

angel

2

shepherd
hooks

3

shepherds

4

flowers

5

sheep

What Is Christmas?

Christmas is a special time to celebrate Jesus Christ's birth.



Jesus came to earth to be our Savior.

Because of Him,
we can repent and be
forgiven of our sins.



At Christmas, we sing
songs about Jesus and
remember His example.

We can share Jesus's
love at Christmas
and always!



Christmas Is about Jesus



“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given”
(Isaiah 9:6).



HE COMETH UNTO HIS OWN BY CASEY CHILDS



DEAR PARENTS,

Do your children need help focusing on the Savior during the sacrament? On pages 15–19, you'll find a message from an Apostle, an activity, and a story that can help your children remember Him with reverence. Help them make the quiet book so they can read it during the sacrament.

The Friend



HAPPY, HEALTHY KIDS

You can help your kids feel love and belonging. Read the story on page 10. Then tell them what you love about them and how important they are to your family.



PLEASE SEND YOUR SUBMISSION TO:

- Friend Magazine
- 50 E. North Temple St., Rm. 2393
- Salt Lake City, UT, USA 84150-0024
- Or email: friend@ChurchofJesusChrist.org

The following information and permission must be included:

First and last name		
Age	Boy / Girl	State / Province / Region, Country
I give my permission to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to use my child's submission and photo on the Church websites and social media platforms as well as for Church reports, print products, video, publications, and training materials.		
Signature of parent or legal guardian		Date
Email of parent or legal guardian		



May the *Friend* contact you with a survey?

