

The Celestial Guide to Family Devotionals

By Celestia Shumway

**Songs, Scriptures, Poems, and Stories to Warm Your Family's Hearts
Daily, Month by Month, and Season by Season
Based on principles of
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints***



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Introduction: The Why and How of Family Devotionals

Welcome to *The Celestial Guide to Family Devotionals*! If you want to get motivated to use this ebook, please read the section below called “Why to Have Family Devotionals.” If you already know why you want to hold family devotionals, then skip to the “How” part. If your motivation ever wanes, then come back and read the “Why” part. It will always be here for you. :-) Consider me your tour guide for having powerful family devotionals. I’m so excited to have you along!

Why to Have Family Devotionals

Forty years ago, President Spencer W. Kimball gave a clarion call to prepare for the future with the following statement:

“There are in our lives reservoirs of many kinds. Some reservoirs are to store water. Some are to store food, as we do in our family welfare program and as Joseph did in the land of Egypt during the seven years of plenty. There should also be reservoirs of knowledge to meet the future needs; reservoirs of courage to overcome the floods of fear that put uncertainty in lives; reservoirs of physical strength to help us meet the frequent burdens of work and illness; reservoirs of goodness; reservoirs of stamina; reservoirs of faith. Yes, especially reservoirs of faith so that when the world presses in upon us, we stand firm and strong; when the temptations of a decaying world about us draw on our energies, sap our spiritual vitality, and seek to pull us down, we need a storage of faith that can carry youth and later adults over the dull, the difficult, the terrifying moments, disappointments, disillusionments, and years of adversity, want, confusion, and frustration....

“I am grateful to my parents, for they made reservoirs for my brothers, my sisters, and me. The reservoirs were filled with prayer habits, study, activities, positive services, and truth and righteousness. Every morning and every night we knelt at our chairs by the table and prayed, taking turns. When I was married, the habit persisted, and our new family continued the practice.” (“As Father, Prophet Made Time Count,” *Church News*, June 11, 1977, 5)

I just love those words! Such was the amazing faith-filled environment that nurtured the spiritual giant of a man, the beloved President Spencer W. Kimball. I too hope you will be like President Kimball’s visionary parents and fill spiritual reservoirs for your children. As President Kimball said, these spiritual reservoirs will be drawn on when they experience the “dull, the difficult, the terrifying moments, disappointments, disillusionments, and years of adversity, want, confusion, and frustration.” Along with you, I am in the trenches daily filling spiritual reservoirs in my home.

Here in these pages I have linked to hymns, scriptures and songs to fill these spiritual reservoirs. I have also linked to amazing, mostly true stories to expand your and your family’s vision of what God has done and can do for His children in the latter-days. (A few of the stories are fiction, and when they are, they say so at the top of the page. I have included a few fictional stories because of the valuable points the stories demonstrate.) Here are some examples of some of the true stories:

- You will learn of a woman who found a sister she didn’t know she had, by so-called chance, amongst the millions of people who live in New York City. She was visiting the Big Apple from Arizona to see her daughters. One of them had car trouble. The woman found a phone book so she could call the local stake president and ask for help. His wife answered the phone and said she would send someone to help. The person who came turned out to be the sister of the woman who made the phone call, out of all the millions of people in NYC! I won’t tell the rest of the story, it’s so Providentially beautiful! Look for “A Child Without a Name” in the *Ensign* stories listed for August in this ebook.
- A man serving a mission wished for some of his wife’s homemade bread. Then he and his companion prayed, expressing thanks and concern for their families. Then moments later they discovered a loaf of bread on the side of their trail. This is nearly identical to a story that happened to my husband’s grandfather. Elder Ted Brewerton told this story

about his grandfather in the “Miracles” article listed as one of the *New Era* stories in the April section.

- A little girl deeply longed to fulfill her sickly mother’s wish. After eating the same thing day after day, her bedridden mother wanted something delightful to eat, specifically peaches. So, the little girl prayed fervently that God would send them some. God heard her prayer, in a barren desert valley, and led the little girl to a can labeled as “Tomatoes” stored in the family cellar. Despite the label, the can turned out to be delicious, beautiful peaches, to the wonder and gratitude of the girl and mother! To read the whole story go to “Maggie’s Peaches” in the “Stories from the *Friend*” section in the April lists.
- Did you know that President Dallin H. Oaks once fended off an armed robber in downtown Chicago with the guidance of the Holy Ghost? You can read that story by finding the link for it in the January list of resources. Look for “Personal Protection” in the *Friend* stories listed or “Bible Stories and Personal Protection” under the “Stories from the *Ensign*” subheading.
- Elder Clayton Christensen, bestselling author, hugely successful consultant and professor of business at Harvard, tells the story of being a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford. He felt overwhelmed by the pressures of time needed for devoted scholarship and LDS Church membership. He decided he sincerely wanted to know if the Book of Mormon is true so that he would know if living as a Latter-day Saint was worth his time. So he committed to read an hour a day from the Book of Mormon and then pray about it every night, asking if it’s true. He got an answer. This story can be found in the September section of “Stories from the *Ensign*”, under the title, “The Most Useful Piece of Knowledge.”

These are among the dozens of stories I have combed through in the LDS Church magazines to present to you in this document, all linked to where they appear in lds.org. Please share them with your family. They will warm your hearts and kindle the fire of your faith.

You will also find poetry to celebrate the holidays and ordinary days as well. The poems that are listed under the heading *LaDawn Jacob’s Favorite Family Devotional Poems* are in the public

domain. LaDawn collected them into the aforementioned booklet. You can request access to download it [here](#) on my website.

As far as songs go, I have listed hymns from the LDS *Hymns* and songs for children from the LDS *Children's Songbook* to correspond with the monthly themes. I have also scoured the LDS Church magazines and the Internet to share beautiful songs from famous LDS songwriters like Janice Kapp Perry, Roger and Melanie Hoffman, as well as little-known LDS artists, such as Elder David A. Bednar. (He's well-known as an apostle, just not as an artist.) These songs feel so good to sing. They bring happiness to me!

The words in these stories, hymns, songs, and scriptures I have shared here will bring the Holy Spirit into your home and heart. The Spirit will then burn brightly as a torch of light to give a "perfect brightness of hope" to light the way in the dark spiritual times we face. Our world isn't perfect, our families aren't perfect, and we certainly aren't perfect, but our Savior is perfect. His restored gospel is perfect. With these personal and family worship habits, we can tune into the perfect energy of this perfect being. We can connect with Him to give us a perfect brightness of hope, rooted in His Atoning sacrifice, just as we can turn on a light switch every night and have perfect light to illuminate the darkness of evening.

Inspired music, prayer, scriptures, stories, and poetry will bless each member of your family and help start off the day with the Spirit. Let's examine the inspiring reasons behind each of these simple acts I have suggested that you use for your family devotional:

Singing

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

Colossians 3:16

Here are ten blessings that come from singing:

1. Singing praises to God and other spiritual songs brings the Holy Spirit into our homes and hearts because they are like prayers. The Lord tells us in Doctrine and Covenants 25:12 that "the song of the righteous is a prayer unto me," and because it is a prayer, "it shall be answered with a blessing upon their heads." Some of these blessings are

outlined in this list. Many others happen, some that we aren't aware of, but which flow quietly into our lives, such as the tender mercies of the Lord.

2. Increased self-confidence
3. Decreased stress
4. Feelings of connection with others if we sing in a group
5. Improved mental alertness
6. Increased joy. Singing releases endorphins which act as antidepressants.
7. Improved posture
8. Better sleep
9. Stronger immune system
10. Opportunities to make more friends

Like many children, I was given the blessing of piano lessons. I also had violin lessons. After I went away to college, I didn't do much with music other than play in church off and on as Primary or Relief Society pianist. I didn't fully appreciate the ability to read and play music until after I was a homeschooling mom with many children running around. Most mornings I felt very stressed out and overwhelmed by a set of burdens my husband and I were going through. It was hard to face another homeschooling day when I felt my life was less than ideal. "Life isn't supposed to be like this!" I would moan and groan inwardly. The one thing that helped me move forward on schoolwork after breakfast dishes were done was being able to play piano music and sing songs with my children gathered around me. The pure vibrational energy of cheerful songs, some educational, some silly from a Dr. Seuss songbook, and many sacred songs (the ones listed in this ebook) cleared out the sadness and fogginess in my brain and set me on an even keel. Eventually, with the power of family prayer, family history research, temple work, and the power of fasting, the burdens dissolved and I no longer feel that sadness and heaviness anymore. That's another story for another book, but even now, a homeschooling day doesn't feel right to me unless we do some singing around the piano.

Singing sacred music of praises to God and doctrines of Christ softens the heart. These songs softened my heart, allowing me to move forward in my circumstances. In the book, *Raising Up a Family to the Lord*, ("Raising Up") Elder Gene R. Cook tells a beautiful story relating this principle. At a priesthood leadership meeting, some brethren holding the priesthood were challenged to leave the meeting and go out to visit members of the flock who were currently not

coming to church. One of the brothers felt a prompting to take a hymnbook with him. Grudgingly, he did so, but he told himself he would not be singing. He and his assigned partner visited a brother in his home. The brother seemed resistant to their invitation to come back to church. Then the two priesthood-bearing brethren followed a prompting to sing. They sang “Love One Another,” (*Hymns*, #308) as their final words before they left. This sweet song invited the Spirit into the room. The man they were visiting was touched by the Spirit and the sight of these big tough men singing a heartfelt song. Tears started rolling off his cheeks. Feeling the Spirit this way motivated him to start paying his tithing and attending church. Your kids may balk at your invitations and insistence to sing but keep inviting and enforce that certain privileges (such as free play time) will not happen until all school work is done, including devotional. As the music seeps into their souls over the years and drenches their brains and hearts with the words, they will thank you for this reservoir of faith they have to draw on for the dull and difficult days that inevitably come to everyone.

Prayer

“Yea, I know that God will give liberally to him that asketh. Yea, my God will give me, if I ask not amiss; therefore I will lift up my voice unto thee; yea, I will cry unto thee, my God, the rock of my righteousness. Behold, my voice shall forever ascend up unto thee, my rock and mine everlasting God. Amen.” 2 Nephi 4:35

Here are ten reasons to pray:

1. It is a commandment, as these scriptures point out:

D&C 19:38 “Pray always, and I will pour out my Spirit upon you, and great shall be your blessing-- yea, even more than if you should obtain treasures of earth.”

2 Nephi 32:9 “But behold, I say unto you that ye must pray always, and not faint, that ye must not perform anything unto the Lord save in the first place ye shall pray unto the Father in the name of Christ, that he will consecrate thy performance unto thee, that thy performance may be for the welfare of thy soul.”

D&C 68:28 “And they shall also teach their children to pray, and to walk uprightly before the Lord.”

3 Nephi 18:21 “Pray in your families unto the Father, always in my name, that your wives and your children may be blessed.”

2. **Prayer allows us to harmonize our will with God’s will.** If we are sincere and pray with the purpose to humbly act on the answers we receive, we will be given the Spirit to know if what we are praying for is right. We will be able to change our wills to what God desires. The word “desire” can be seen as a yearning that comes from God. If you analyze the word after breaking it into two parts, “de” and “sire,” you will see this. “De” means “of” in French, and “sire” means “father.” So a true desire is a wish or yearning that comes from our Father in Heaven. When we sincerely pray and ponder our answers, we will be able to discern between our natural man wishes and true godly desires and then act accordingly. We will be able to know when we are praying amiss and what we need to change in our prayers so that Christ’s words abide in us. This is beautifully captured by the words of prophecy from John 15:7, “If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.”
3. **It allows us to get blessings that are conditional on our asking for them.** The LDS Bible Dictionary says, “The object of prayer is not to change the will of God but to secure for ourselves and for others blessings that God is already willing to grant but that are made conditional on our asking for them.” Prayer has different levels to it. I highly suggest reading *Raising Up* to get stories showing those levels. As we pray to know the will of God, we can learn it and then ask for the strength and power to follow through on it. Our family prayers could then be tied to what we learn to ask for in our personal prayers.
4. **Prayer can give us comfort.** Countless times I have received comfort that I know came from prayer when I specifically asked for comfort. When all else fails you, the Holy Spirit, invited by prayer in the sacred name of Jesus Christ, will never fail.
5. **Prayer can give us answers to our questions.** James 1:5 says, “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it

shall be given him.” God does expect us to do our homework first of course. He wants us to “study it out,” make a decision, and then ask Him if “it be right.” See D&C 9:7-9. He also expects us to ask with a sincere heart and real intent, which is the willingness to act on the answer given. Specifically, we know from Moroni 10:4 that the scriptures were given to us precisely so that we will ask God to know if they are true: “And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost.”

- 6. Family prayer unites a family.** As a family experiences times when prayers are answered, the family grows in unity and faith in Jesus Christ. The family sees that a force bigger than the family, specifically, God, is out there, listening to us, watching over us, guiding us, and providing for us. I have many stories to support this, but I will share just a few. Here are four stories to illustrate the power of family prayer.

The first story comes from when my older children who are now out of the nest lived at home. One summer day they played baseball with the neighbor kids, and, you guessed it, the predictable thing happened. My son broke the neighbor’s window with the baseball. With our son we approached the neighbor, the dad of the family of the home, to let him know who did it and to apologize. We asked him to let us know how much the replacement window would cost so we could pay for it. Blessedly, he was quick to propose another solution. He said, “How about we all pray for me to make extra money on my job this month to pay for it?” He was paid by commission on a job with a big company, making telephone sales. We willingly agreed. So that month, every day and night we prayed that Brother Jensen would make more money on his job to pay to replace the window. We also fasted for this blessing on the next Fast Sunday. A few weeks later he called us. Gleefully, he announced that he had made three times the amount of money he usually made, more than enough to pay for the broken window. We are grateful that Brother Jensen had the inspiration, patience and willingness to let our family have this experience with seeing a prayer answered. He could have simply got the window fixed right away with us/my son paying for it but instead followed through on a prompting. Both families were thus blessed with an experience to increase our belief in the power of family prayer.

We've had many experiences with prayer and money. This next story also happened when we lived in the same home as the baseball story. After a period of over a year of unemployment or underemployment, my husband got a contract using his law degree, working as an attorney in a new office that required a ninety minute commute each way. Of course, because of this long commute, we wanted to move. On top of that, we were living in his parents' basement apartment, with 4 ½ kids. The kitchen was windowless and so small that my pregnant body could hardly squeeze between the countertop and the table. It also lacked an automatic dishwasher. So after every meal, I got one of the little kids to help me, by standing on a chair at the sink, and we would hand wash all the dishes. Let's just say that I would have moved in a heartbeat if possible, I was so weary of the situation. It was during this time that bleak stories of the handcart pioneers helped me keep my life in perspective. We could not afford to move until he had a stable income and we had enough money saved up to buy a home. He had started better employment, true, but he was paid a base salary that wasn't enough to support living in our own home along with our other expenses. He had to build up some private clientele work as an attorney.

So, we went looking at homes to expand our dream of living in our own home. We looked at prices, studied the math, and figured out what a monthly mortgage payment would be. Then we did more math to figure out how much money he needed to earn every month so we could move and pay that monthly mortgage payment. We started praying every day for that target amount of extra income. We fasted for this target income every Fast Sunday. Within about a year of starting to do this, we hit the goal and were able to move into a home that we bought. We ended up living in that home for 11 years. We were so grateful for that prayer being answered! The home was a tremendous blessing for our family. We were within walking distance of his office, as well a gorgeous, tree-filled city park with a duck pond, the public library, the public swimming pool, public transportation stops, seminary for our teens, our church building, and our daughter's ballet studio. We were definitely blessed! The home served us well until we outgrew it with the addition of two more children. Even then I had to wait several years before I was able to move into a larger home. Prayer led me to that home, and that's another story for another book.

The next story comes from when our family was vacationing in Colorado. We were driving through the mountains, again, with my older children, who were then all under 8. A summer rainstorm showered down. It was so heavy that the windshield wipers were on full-speed. Then

suddenly, they stopped working. My husband, the driver, struggled to see the road. Then, we heard a loud pop, and the engine stopped running. My husband carefully guided the car off the road to the shoulder with the momentum left in the wheels. My little three-year-old son, who is now serving a mission in Argentina, suggested we say a prayer. My husband asked him to say it. His prayer was so full of childlike faith as he asked God to make the car work, that my husband remembers that strong faith filling up the whole cavernous station wagon. Then my husband turned the key and the engine started up right away! We were able to finish our travels with no problem. I am so grateful that we were blessed to have this experience.

The final story about family prayer comes from Elder Cook, in *Raising Up*. He served a mission in Uruguay as a young single man. He loved the missionary work but felt stymied by health issues. First, he had digestive problems, to the point that his mission president was considering sending him home. On top of this challenging situation, his foot started hurting. It hurt so bad he couldn't walk anymore so he had to be in bed for weeks. The doctor said that the bones in the foot had fractured and then grown back together incorrectly. The doctor prescribed electrical treatment. So Elder Cook started getting that done twice a day, but it didn't help. He had been bedridden for three months at this point.

One morning, he stepped out of bed and to his surprise he felt no pain in his foot. He stomped the floor and still no pain. He walked around and no pain. Then he and his companion went running for one mile and no pain! He joyfully went back to the work! Two weeks later he got a letter from his family. The letter chastised him for not telling them about his problem. The family had found out from a fellow missionary who wrote to them and told them. Then the letter said that the family had begun praying and fasting for Elder Cook and they put his name on the temple prayer roll. The letter was dated the very day that Elder Cook was healed! Elder Cook testified that the power of God that came from his family praying for him is what healed his foot. I highly encourage you to read all of Elder Cook's book because he has more amazing stories about prayer. Like I mentioned earlier, and will repeat because it is so important, in that book, in the chapter on family prayer, he explains how God answers our prayers on different levels according to our prayers. His book, *Receiving Answers to Prayers*, has more wonderful stories.

7. **It invites the Spirit into our hearts and home.** As it says in James 4:8, “Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.” D&C 88:63 repeats that truth by saying, “Draw near unto me and I will draw near unto you.”
8. **It decreases stress.** In times of extreme stress which turns into anxiety, using as many powers of the body that you can as you pray will increase the stress-relieving benefits of prayer. This means finding a private place, so you can kneel (which uses the power of bending the knees), and pray out loud (which uses another part of your body, your voice box). Writing out your prayer in your journal is another way to use the power of your body because you are using your hand. As you use as many of your body parts as you can to pray, you will be showing the Enemy the power you have over him, since he doesn’t have a body. This leads me to my next point.
9. **Prayer decreases the power of the Enemy in our life and increases the power of godliness so that we can become as free as God is.** “Pray always, that you may come off conqueror; yea, that you may conquer Satan, and that you may escape the hands of the servants of Satan that do uphold his work.” (D&C 10:5) A scripture from the Book of Mormon tells us just how powerful prayer can be. When our prayer is a complete “pouring out” of our souls to God, specifically expressing our fears, failures, sins, anxieties and worries, dreams, wishes, desires, and pleadings to be strengthened and delivered, we are blessed with *assurances* and *a fixed determination* not to just fight the Enemy, but to *conquer all* of our enemies, whether they be lies, distractions, or addictions.

Alma 58:10-12 enriches us with these golden nuggets of truth: “Therefore we did pour out our souls in prayer to God, that he would strengthen us and deliver us out of the hands of our enemies, yea, and also give us strength that we might retain our cities, and our lands, and our possessions, for the support of our people. Yea, and it came to pass that the Lord our God did visit us with assurances that he would deliver us; yea, insomuch that he did speak peace to our souls, and did grant unto us great faith, and did cause us that we should hope for our deliverance in him. And we did take courage with our small force which we had received, and were fixed with a determination to conquer

our enemies, and to maintain our lands, and our possessions, and our wives, and our children, and the cause of our liberty.”

10. It is a privilege. We live in a time and place where we can pray whenever we want. Do we fully appreciate this? Daniel of the Bible was not so blessed and was thrown into the lion’s den for praying. Esther’s people were not so blessed either. Even today, some Christians live in places where they are not so blessed to pray openly. When we pray, we show our gratitude that we have this ability. When we pray for righteous desires, we will be blessed with more abilities and privileges.

Scripture Study

“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.” Romans 15:4

Here are twenty-one reasons for studying the scriptures:

- 1. It is a commandment.** John 5:39 says, “Search the scriptures, for in them ye think ye have eternal life, and they are they which testify of me.”
- 2. To give us delight.** In 2 Nephi 4:15-16 we find these words, “And upon these I write the things of my soul, and many of the scriptures which are engraven upon the plates of brass. For my soul delighteth in the scriptures, and my heart pondereth them, and writeth them for the learning and the profit of my children. Behold, my soul delighteth in the things of the Lord; and my heart pondereth continually upon the things which I have seen and heard.”
- 3. To give us joy in our knowledge about Adam and Eve and the Great Plan of Happiness.** Jacob 4:3 tells us that Jacob wrote the scriptures so that his others may receive them with “thankful hearts” and “learn with joy and not with sorrow, neither with contempt, concerning their first parents.” Truly it is in the scriptures revealed in the latter-day that we get an even bigger picture than what is shown in our present day Bible. We learn that the Fall was not a tragedy, but a good thing. We learn that Adam and Eve fell so that we might exist and have joy (2 Nephi 2:25). As we study all the

scriptures, we learn how the Fall, the Atonement, trials, and death, are all part of God's plan to bring us joy. This earth life is not an "oops," a mistake, or a curse brought about because of a tragedy. For centuries, many people have perceived Eve's act of partaking of the fruit as a sad, tragic, costly mistake. Actually, the Fall is part of God's plan for us to obtain eternal joy. We learn in the scriptures that because of the Fall, we are able to be born on earth, receiving two huge blessings which are keys to eternal joy: a body and a family. The scriptures expand our view or vision, so that we think like God and view earth life with the grand perspective of the Great Plan of Happiness.

4. **To allow us to obtain a perfect brightness of hope.** Reading the scriptures allows us to know that no matter what our current circumstances are, because of Christ's atoning and redemptive power, no sorrow is ever permanent, and no loss or goodbye is forever. We have hope for a tomorrow where all bad things are swallowed up in Christ. Reading the scriptures is like turning on an infinite watt light bulb in the darkness of the blackest and stormiest of nights. With this spiritual light of our Perfect Redeemer, we are able to see all things correctly, as God sees them, because of a personal Savior who is infinitely more powerful than any problems we have.
5. **To give us an unshakable faith in Jesus Christ that in turn gives us power to do God's will and conquer our Goliaths.** "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10:17) We can either hear the word of God read aloud, or "hear" it in our minds by reading it silently. We then nurture the word by being doers of the word and not just hearers only (James 1:22). The faith then grows into a mighty force. This is the type of faith that David had when he fought Goliath. The words David spoke to Goliath as they squared off describe perfectly the faith I am talking about, "Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. This day will the Lord deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcases of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. And all this assembly shall know that the Lord saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hands." (1 Samuel 17:45-47) Wow! Goliath had not fallen yet when David spoke these words. He had not

even exchanged any blows or hits with David. Yet David had a faith in the God of Israel so that he spoke of knowing that he would conquer Goliath. Such is the faith that comes from knowing the scriptures.

Jacob 4:6 describes this kind of faith this way, “our faith becometh unshaken, insomuch that we truly can command in the name of Jesus and the very trees obey us, or the mountains, or the waves of the sea.” When we read the scriptures, we see stories of faith in action of heroes like Moses, Nephi, and Moroni. We see them overcome obstacles and deathly adversaries because of their faith in God. This expands our faith and opens our eyes to what is possible. We start to believe in tremendous possibilities!

6. **To allow us to know our Creator and the natural laws of His creations.** In the book of Omni in the Book of Mormon we learn of a people who were discovered by Mosiah and his people, the people of Zarahemla. Leaving at the time of King Zedekiah, these people had come across the ocean from Jerusalem. They had experienced trials of wars, serious contentions, and not knowing anything about their Creator. This is because they had not brought with them any “records” or scriptures. Perhaps their troubles came because they did not know their Creator, because they had no scriptures to learn about the Creator. This is not to say that all problems come from not knowing God. We know Job had his trials, even though he was “perfect and upright” and definitely knew God (See Job 1:1), but perhaps many problems come to us because we are unknowingly disobeying the natural laws of God, our Creator. D&C 130:20-21 inspires us with these words, “There is a law, irrevocably decreed in heaven before the foundations of this world, upon which all blessings are predicated—And when we obtain any blessing from God, it is by obedience to that law upon which it is predicated.” As we study the scriptures and see people interact with each other and with God, we can see patterns that help us see these eternal, natural laws of God. We can find these laws that all apply to all areas of life, including worship, marriage, parent/child interactions, diet, health, finances, neighbor relations, and more. More on this in point #12.
7. **To correct us and call us to repentance.** As it says in 2 Timothy 3:16-17, “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished

unto all good works.” The scriptures carry the power of God’s thoughts into our heart, through the power of His Holy Spirit, to convince us of truth and what we need to do to change.

8. **To increase our ability to teach and testify of Jesus Christ. Then we can bring others to the joy and hope of Christ’s gospel.** 1 Peter 3:15 declares, “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.” As we read the scriptures, ponder them, and treasure them in our hearts through memorization, we are able to have that ready answer, with “meekness and fear.” Because we have studied the scriptures, we can testify to others that we have heard God’s voice. D&C 18:34-36 instructs us, “These words are not of men nor of man, but of me; wherefore, you shall testify they are of me and not of man; For it is my voice which speaketh them unto you; for they are given by my Spirit unto you, and by my power you can read them one to another; and save it were by my power you could not have them; Wherefore, you can testify that you have heard my voice, and know my words.”
9. **To gain a testimony of Jesus Christ as God’s Only Begotten Son, and then strengthen it so we are converted. Converted means to be born again to be new creatures with new hearts through His atoning power. This allows us to become all that He wants us to be, as His creations.** We first hear the word of God as we listen to or read the scriptures. Then if we believe the word and plant the seed, or the word of God, in our hearts by pondering and prayer, and do the Lord’s will by applying the word, the seed grows into a beautiful “testimony tree” as Alma describes in Alma 32. This testimony is more than knowledge, for even the devil has knowledge that Jesus Christ is the Savior. It is a testimony that involves repentance so that we are changed, or fully converted, to become like Christ. A testimony rooted in the word of God, continually nurtured, allows us to become new creatures through Christ’s atoning power. As it says in Helaman 15:7-8, “And behold, ye do know of yourselves, for ye have witnessed it, that as many of them as are brought to the knowledge of the truth, and to know of the wicked and abominable traditions of their fathers, and are led to believe the holy scriptures, yea, the prophecies of the holy prophets, which are written, which leadeth them to faith on the Lord, and unto repentance, which faith and repentance bringeth a change of heart unto

them—Therefore, as many as have come to this, ye know of yourselves are firm and steadfast in the faith, and in the thing wherewith they have been made free.” That is our goal as God’s creations, to be as free as He is, free from sin, death, addiction. We will be as free as He is to create and govern and live as joyously in eternal family life as He does.

10. To know the truth and get answers. This is especially for when we go through trials or feel lost. This knowledge is given to us by God so that we can become wise and eventually know the truth of all things, including the mysteries of God.

We learn in Psalm 119:105 that, “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” The word lights our path through sunny and dark days. The word of God is also like a compass to guide our journey. The word of God is like the best GPS ever. It never runs out of battery life. It never malfunctions or leads us astray. It is never out of date or based on faulty data. It always gives the right directions and answers. These answers from the word are to make us wise. “And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.” (2 Timothy 3:15)

We know that God’s ways and thoughts are higher than man’s ways (Isaiah 55:8-9), but we can approach His ways and thoughts. Moroni 10:3-5 tells us that we are given the Book of Mormon so that we will read it and then pray to know if it is true. Then we are promised that we can know it’s true by the power of the Spirit, and furthermore, that we can know the “truth of all things.” Wow! This is so amazing! This includes knowing God’s mysteries. Knowledge of these mysteries comes according to how soft our hearts are to accepting His word. “And therefore, he that will harden his heart, the same receiveth the lesser portion of the word; and he that will not harden his heart, to him is given the greater portion of the word, until it is given unto him to know the mysteries of God until he know them in full. And they that will harden their hearts, to them is given the lesser portion of the word until they know nothing concerning his mysteries; and then they are taken captive by the devil, and led by his will down to destruction. Now this is what is meant by the chains of hell.” (Alma 12:10-11)

We are even promised that when the Lord comes again, He will reveal the truth of all things. “Yea, verily I say unto you, in that day when the Lord shall come, he shall reveal all things—Things which have passed, and hidden things which no man knew, things of the earth, by which it was made, and the purpose and the end thereof” ([D&C 101:32–33](#))

11. To give us strength to fight and conquer the Enemy. The word of God, when it becomes a part of our knowing and being, becomes like a powerful sword, capable of taking out the toughest foe, even the Great Archenemy, the wily and sneaky Old Scratch. “Yea, we see that whosoever will may lay hold upon the word of God, which is quick and powerful, which shall divide asunder all the cunning and the snares and the wiles of the devil, and lead the man of Christ in a strait and narrow course across that everlasting gulf of misery which is prepared to engulf the wicked—And land their souls, yea, their immortal souls, at the right hand of God in the kingdom of heaven, to sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and with Jacob, and with all our holy fathers, to go no more out.” (Helaman 3:29)

12. To know God's standards compared to the world's philosophies. In the scriptures, we learn God's rules of truth regarding sexuality, money, diet, use of the earth's resources, use of our time, the importance of education, the books we are to read, the things we are to study, and more. Whenever we hear of trends in the world we can measure those things against God's word and discard or incorporate according to how that idea compares to the truth in God's word. Here are some examples of God's standards that go beyond the Ten Commandments. We learn the following from the scriptures:

- Avoid debt (D&C 104:78).
- Spend our money and labor on that which is of worth (2 Nephi 9:51).
- The earth is full and there is enough to spare (D&C 104:17).
- Marriage is ordained of God (Hebrews 13:4, Ephesians 5:31, D&C 49:15).
- Marriage is essential to attaining godhood (, D&C 131:1-3).
- Children are an heritage of the Lord (Psalm 127:3).
- Great health comes from avoiding tobacco and alcohol (D&C 89:7-8).

- Great health comes from eating flesh sparingly, only in times of winter or famine (D&C 89:12-13).
- God wants us to eat grain, for it is ordained for the use of man (D&C 89:14). (Perhaps there are seasons in our life when going off all refined grain and even whole grain is wise, but God has given grain for long-term, sustainable health, as long as the grain is properly prepared and not refined.)
- Love one another (John 13:34-35).
- Know who our neighbor is and care for him (Luke 10:29-37).
- Pure religion is to care for the widow and the orphan (James 1:27).
- Pray for our enemies (Matthew 5:44).
- God exists (Mosiah 4:9), He is our spiritual father (Psalm 82:6), and He loves us (1 Nephi 11:17).
- God asks us to forgive everyone (D&C 64:9-14).
- Talk privately to someone when we have a grievance with that person instead of gossiping and broadcasting the problem to everyone (D&C 42:88-89).
- Work and not be idle (D&C 42:42).
- Seek learning by study and by faith “out of the best books” (D&C 109:7, 14) for the glory of God is intelligence (D&C 93:36).
- Good comes from Christ, and evil comes from the devil. God gives unto us to know the difference as plain as the difference between day and night. (Moroni 7:12-15).
- Truth does exist, and we know what it is (D&C 93:36).

13. To invite the Spirit, which gives us peace and comfort. “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law,” so says Galatians 5:22-23.

14. To increase our joy by enlarging our memories of the great things the Lord has done for us. “Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing: then said they among the heathen, The Lord hath done great things for them.” (Psalm 126:2-3) Sometimes at the end of day I feel stressed out because I don’t get done as much as I plan. Or I feel worn out by the evil and cares of the world and the constant grind of mundane needs. Then when I ponder the miracles, the deliverance of God’s people in the scriptures, such as the Israelites and the Nephites, I feel lifted above the

cares of the world. I feel a warm reminder of God's love as demonstrated by His doing "great things." I think about God delivering his covenant people in the modern day with the Pilgrims from England crossing the great deep ocean and the Mormon Pioneers crossing the plains. I start to feel joy.

Every night, I like to apply the same principle to my own life. I started doing this after I read Pres. Henry B. Eyring's talk, "O Remember, O Remember." (See <https://www.lds.org/general-conference/2007/10/o-remember-remember?lang=eng>).

Before I go to sleep, I ponder my day. I write down the question, "How did I see the hand of God in my life today?" I think about that question and realize little glimmers of new goodness sprouting forth in my life. I write these down. As I write one thing, I remember another thing, and another thing, until I have a long list of amazing blessings. My heart swells and my gratitude overflows. These are simple things like my husband remembering something I like, a friend sending me an email or text message to say hi, my son doing his math without being reminded, finding an extra ten dollars in a pocket of a bag I had forgotten about, or one of my children giving me a compliment, a gift, or an act of service. Such memories bring the love of God into my heart, which can be strengthened by studying the word of God. That leads me to my next point, about love.

15. To feel loved. As we read the scriptures, we can feel God's love immersing us in His eternal warmth and comfort. His scriptures are like letters from our heavenly home to guide us back. They testify of a God who loves us so much that he gave us His Perfect Son so that we can be joint heirs with that Perfect Son of eternal glory. In Lehi's vision of the Tree of Life, he saw a tree whose fruit was "desirable to make one happy." His son Nephi was given to know through the power of the Spirit in 1 Nephi 11 that the tree symbolizes the pure love of God, which is the "most desirable of all things" (vs. 22) and "the most joyous to the soul" (vs. 23). Then in Alma we see this tree metaphor again, starting with a seed. Alma describes the process of planting a "seed" in our hearts. The seed represents the word of God. He tells us that when we plant the seed in our hearts, and nurture it, then it will grow into a beautiful tree with beautiful fruit. What does this beautiful tree symbolize, in addition to the love of God? It symbolizes a testimony of the word of God. What does the fruit represent? The same as the fruit in Lehi's vision--love. Alma 32:42 says the fruit "is most precious, which is sweet above all that is sweet, and

which is white above all that is white, yea, and pure above all that is pure; and ye shall feast upon this fruit even until ye are filled, that ye hunger not, neither shall ye thirst.” That is the ultimate love we can feel, and it comes from a constantly nourished testimony tree, which starts with believing the word of God. The love is always there for us, but we put ourselves in a place to feel it when we feast on the word of God.

I have pondered the mystery as to why some people in Lehi’s vision who ate the fruit fell away. If this love of God is so wonderful and the most desirable of all things, why did they reject it? 1 Nephi 8: 24-28 tells us that some people felt ashamed *after* they tasted the fruit. Why is it that? They “fell away into forbidden paths and were lost.” (1 Nephi 8:28) It is because they paid attention to those “who were scoffing at them” (vs. 28). Why was this scoffing more powerful than the love of God, represented by the tree/fruit? As I have pondered this, I have concluded that the love of God is always there for each of us, but ultimately, unless we have a testimony of it growing in our heart, the scoffing and mocking of the world can overpower it or blind us to it. This is what happened to the group of people in Lehi’s vision. In other words, our inner world, our hearts, must match our outer world, the love that God is offering us, in order for us to feel it and allow it to overpower negative forces. We must have a tree “inside” us to match the “tree” outside us offered by God. We must have the love of God borne as a fruit of the testimony of the word of God inside us so that we aren’t swayed by the flattery and praise of the world, or the lack of praise of the world turned into mocking.

This love isn’t just a “nice thing to have.” It’s a requirement to enter heaven. It’s charity, the pure love of God. No matter our academic credentials, our amount of secular, scriptural and religious knowledge, our worldly possessions or attainments, if we don’t have this love, we are ultimately nothing. Regardless of the worldly prizes, awards, praises, likes, retweets, or accolades of men given to us, without charity, the pure love of Christ, we are nothing. As it says in 1 Corinthians 13:1-3:

“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my

goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.”

Ether 12:34 tells us, “...except men shall have charity they cannot inherit that place which thou hast prepared in the mansions of thy Father.”

As we feel this love that is always there for us, we can’t help but love God in return and feel motivated to find out His will. “He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me,” as John 14:21 tells us. Ultimately this reciprocal love we feel flowing between us and God is just a hint of grand and glorious things to come. As it says in 1 Corinthians 2:9, “Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.” We also do it to be reminded of the great things yet to come from God. That brings me to my next point about reading the scriptures.

16. We read the scriptures to increase our joy as we come to know the promises of the Lord, which we can look forward to being fulfilled with great anticipation. Think back to a time, maybe Christmas or a birthday, when you looked forward to getting a present that you were fairly confident in getting. Isn’t that so exciting and fun?! God has sooo many gifts ready to give us that are infinitely more wondrous, fun, dazzlingly lovely, and immensely, richly satisfying, according to His promises. One of the most wonderful promises is that God will give things we can’t even imagine to those who love Him.

2 Peter 1:2-4 promises the following, “Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”

16. To increase our ability to be like God, know God, do what He does, and receive all that God is waiting to give us. Knowing and living the truths of the scriptures allows us to grow to become like God. Dr. Chauncey Riddle, former BYU professor of philosophy, explained that we are not always in the right form or position to receive good things. He

gives the example of your being in a canoe on a lake. If a big boat approached you and the captain offered you a boatload of pure gold, would that be a blessing to you? No, for the gold would sink your canoe! (This comes from notes taken from a seminar speech given by Lauri Updike at American Heritage School, June 1997.) Sometimes in life we are not in a position to receive blessings. Regardless of how wondrous and lovely they are, they could hurt us if we aren't in a position to enjoy them. D&C 111:11 declares, "Therefore, be ye as wise as serpents and yet without sin; and I will order all things for your good, as fast as ye are able to receive them. Amen." Applying the scriptures helps us to repent, and to put the correct forms and patterns in our life, so we can receive all the blessings that God wants to give us.

17. To show gratitude for those who have sacrificed to bring forth the scriptures.

Nephi had to trek back to Jerusalem and was commanded to kill Laban to get what was the scriptures in his day. Joseph Smith was constantly in danger of his life while he had possession of the golden plates, the forerunner of the Book of Mormon. He gave up safety, sleep, comfort, peace, and social acceptance to defend and translate the plates into the Book of Mormon. His wife Emma carried the only manuscript of the Joseph Smith Translation (JST) of the Bible in a bag under her skirt as she crossed the frozen Mississippi River into Illinois, being forced to leave with the other saints because of the mobs in Missouri. (See <https://www.lds.org/ensign/1979/09/the-elect-lady-emma-hale-smith?lang=eng>) She gave up the companionship and help of her husband, including his working to make a living, so that he could devote himself to the work of translating the Book of Mormon and the JST. Then we have the sacrifice of all the Reformers, one of which I will mention below.

18. It is a privilege. It is important that we not forget how many people, such as the Reformers and Separatists, desired and sacrificed to read the Bible in their own language. In their day, it was a crime punishable by time in jail to do so. The Bible was translated from the original languages of Hebrew and Aramaic into Latin. Only people who knew Latin, typically scholars, Catholic monks and priests, were able to read it. Do we appreciate the ability to be able to pick up a Bible anytime we want and read it in English? William Tyndale, one of those Reformers who gave his life to translating the

book into English famously said to a priest, “If God spare my life, ere many years I will cause a boy who drives a plough to know more of the scriptures than you do.” (Daniell, David, Introduction to *Tyndale’s New Testament* (1989), viii) It was illegal to translate the Bible into English in England, so he fled to Germany to do the work. There he found a printer to print his translation of the New Testament. He was able to smuggle around 6,000 copies of this translation back into England. Eventually he was caught by someone who pretended to be his friend but betrayed him into the hands of the King of England’s authorities. He was then put in prison for over a year. Sadly, his life ended when he was burned at the stake for heresy. Fortunately, his work left a beautiful legacy. Ninety percent of the King James Version of the Bible comes from his translation. It was the King James Version that Joseph Smith read from as a boy. When Joseph read James 1:5 and acted on that truth by prayer, his visitation of Heavenly Father and the Son caused a cascade of events in the following years that proved the fulfillment of Tyndale’s prophecy that a “boy who drives a plough” would know more of the scriptures than the priest Tyndale was talking to. How much do we appreciate this work? Enough to hold and read from it every day?

How much are you willing to sacrifice for the word of God? Here’s another example of someone who sacrificed. Mary Jones, a Welsh girl, lived in the early 1600s. She saved her money for six years, and then walked 26 miles, barefoot, over mountains, to buy her own copy of the Bible.

Then we have a story from the Book of Mormon. Consider the following example. It shows how much one man valued the word of God. He gave everything for it: his gold, his silver, his family and friends.

“Amulek having forsaken all his gold, and silver, and his precious things, which were in the land of Ammonihah, for the word of God, he being rejected by those who were once his friends and also by his father and his kindred.” (Alma 15:16)

This man was persecuted for his belief in the word of God. People told him he was under the power of the devil for the truths he taught (Alma 15:15). He and the man, Alma, who taught him the word, were imprisoned for the word, and much more, including having to

witness the killing of the people they taught (see Alma 14). The people they taught who believed the word of God were burned at the stake, along with the scriptures. Alma and Amulek were forced to watch this horrific scene and constrained by the Spirit from intervening. Yet Amulek stayed faithful to the word of God, and he was hugely, tremendously blessed for it.

How was he blessed? Alma 15:17-18 shows the blessings:

“Therefore, after Alma having established the church at Sidom, seeing a great check, yea, seeing that the people were checked as to the pride of their hearts, and began to humble themselves before God, and began to assemble themselves together at their sanctuaries to worship God before the altar, watching and praying continually, that they might be delivered from Satan, and from death, and from destruction—Now as I said, Alma having seen all these things, therefore he took Amulek and came over to the land of Zarahemla, and took him to his own house, and did administer unto him in his tribulations, and strengthened him in the Lord.”

Could it be that the reason these blessings came was because of Amulek’s loyalty to the word of God? These verses don’t say so, but perhaps the people in Sidom saw that Amulek remained loyal to the word of God. Perhaps they noticed his great sacrifices of gold, silver, precious things, kindred and friends. Perhaps this is what caused the people of Sidom to have a “great check” so that they humbled themselves and started going to church. They also started to watch and pray continually, to be delivered from Satan, death, and destruction. Then Alma took Amulek to his own home and did “administer unto him in his tribulations” and “strengthened him in the Lord.” (Alma 15:18)

So you may not have gold and silver to give up, but you do have “precious things” that could be akin to gold and silver. Are you willing to give up your figurative “gold and silver,” your precious time on social media, playing Words with Friends, or other apps, your crafts, your Internet surfing, or reading of novels or watching of shows, in order to have the time to gather your family together to study the word of God? What shiny distractions keep you from doing family scripture study?

20. Scripture study prepares us to be in a place to receive continuous revelation from God. Doctrine and Covenants 84:85 tells us that, “Neither take ye thought beforehand what ye shall say; but treasure up in your minds continually the words of life, and it shall be given you in the very hour that portion that shall be meted unto every man.”

21. Scripture study unites and strengthens families. As our children see us sacrifice to study the word of God and live by the word of God, I propose that we will have the Amulek effect as described above in point #19 our homes. We will see the following unifying effects:

- A check on the pride of our hearts
- Our people (family and neighbors) coming to church and sanctuaries to worship God
- Our people saying prayers and watching continually to be delivered from Satan, death, and destruction
- Good friends who will take us, including our children, into their homes, to administer to us in our tribulations and strengthen us in the Lord, as Alma did for Amulek.

I testify I have seen this happen in my home with my children. In the summer of 2014, I started getting consistent about waking up the family in the morning between 6-7 AM on weekdays, (later on weekends depending on if we had a party the previous night, commitments, meetings, etc.) to have a Family PoWeR Hour or Family Devotional. We call this “PoWeR Hour” because we follow the Eternal Warriors model of Pray, Write, Read. Those are the P, W, R in the word “power.” We have done this most mornings since that summer. This is a huge thing for me, because I tend to have night owl tendencies, staying up late after getting a second wind after 9 PM, and then wanting to sleep in the next day. It used to be that the first thing I did in the morning was check my email. I have reformed, however, and changed my habits to get to bed earlier and have morning devotionals. Because of this dedicated devotional time, I am convinced I have received blessings from it. I’ve seen more humility in our home. I’ve seen more friends come into my life and my children’s lives who have strengthened us in the Lord.

In addition to these fabulous unifying blessings, Pres. Monson listed four blessings in the April 2017 General Conference that come specifically when we “prayerfully study and ponder the Book of Mormon each day.” Here are the promised blessings:

We will be able to:

1. Hear the voice of the Spirit.
2. Resist temptation.
3. Overcome doubt and fear.
4. Receive heaven's help in our lives.

(See Pres. Monson's talk, "The Power of the Book of Mormon," from the [April 2017 General Conference](#))

Each one of these blessings helps to unify and strengthen families. A few decades earlier, President Marion G. Romney gave the following promised blessings that come from daily family study of the Book of Mormon:

- The spirit of that great book will come to permeate our homes and all who dwell therein.
- The spirit of reverence will increase; mutual respect and consideration for each other will grow.
- The spirit of contention will depart.
- Parents will counsel their children in greater love and wisdom.
- Children will be more responsive and submissive to the counsel of their parents.
- Righteousness will increase.
- Faith, hope, and charity—the pure love of Christ—will abound in our homes and lives, bringing in their wake peace, joy, and happiness

(in Conference Report, Apr. 1980, 90; or *Ensign*, May 1980, 67)

Who doesn't want these blessings?

I can hear you saying, "But...I can't do it, we've tried it, we don't have time, we're never all home at the same time, the kids argue, everyone's grumpy, it doesn't work," etc. I totally hear you and acknowledge your frustration. The Enemy works hard on all of us, whispering lies into our ears as to why we can't do family prayer and scripture study. To combat these lies and assist you in figuring out the nitty-gritty "how-tos" of doing family prayer and family scripture study, I heartily recommend again that you read *Raising Up*. Elder Cook tells you stories to motivate you to do these family worship habits and to take away all your excuses. Chapter 3 is on family prayer, and Chapter 4 is on family scripture study.

Storytelling of God Moving Through People's Lives

"Return to thine own house, and shew how great things God hath done unto thee. And he went his way, and published throughout the whole city how great things Jesus had done unto him."

Luke 8:39

Here are five reasons to share stories with your family:

1. **Stories teach us in ways that are easy to learn.** That's why Jesus taught in story form using parables. He was obviously onto something. He knew that stories reach our hearts in a way that simple facts can't. The arts, including storytelling, are the way to the heart, and the heart is the pathway for connection. This leads me to the next reason.
2. **Stories allow us to make emotional connections, which then increase our empathy for others so that we are more Christlike.**
3. **Stories give us a vision of the possible.**
4. **Stories are just plain fun!**
5. **Stories teach us things that we are most likely to remember.** When we have an emotional connection, which comes about in story form, we are much less likely to forget the fact or lesson involved in the story.

It's important to also tell your own family stories, in addition to the ones I have listed in this ebook. If you haven't already, start recording your family's stories of prayers answered and frequently share them with your children, both during devotionals, dinnertime, and in random conversations. Bruce Feiler, New York Times bestselling author, set out on a quest to find out what is the "secret sauce" that holds families together. He talked to a wide variety of people including families, scholars, online game designers, Warren Buffet's bankers, and peace negotiators. He realized the following, "After a while, a surprising theme emerged. The single most important thing you can do for your family may be the simplest of all: Develop a strong family narrative."

(<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/17/fashion/the-family-stories-that-bind-us-this-life.html>)

A scholar that Mr. Feiler interviewed, Dr. Marshall Duke, said that when children know their family's stories, they are more emotionally resilient. They can handle stress better and are more self-confident when they know they are part of a multi-generational family which has stories of overcoming obstacles. (See the above link to learn more.) This multi-generational family includes the "family of God" which is all of us. The stories of the family of God are in the scriptures and the stories I have linked to in this ebook. If you feel like you don't yet have any stories of your own immediate and extended family to tell, rely on these stories listed here. Share the stories, and as you do so, your memory will be awakened as to similar stories you can share from your closer family members.

How to Have Family Devotionals

Along with these songs, scriptures, poems, prayers, and stories, we can also fill spiritual reservoirs by bearing our testimonies during mealtime and one-on-one parent child conversations. You will be amazed at how much light these simple acts will bring into your home! The beautiful images, stories, and memories of feeling the Holy Spirit will give you and your children spiritual reservoirs to draw upon during times of trouble, doubt, and fear.

I have grouped the lists of music, scriptures, poetry, and stories in this ebook according to monthly themes. This is for those of you who like themes. If you don't care about singing or reading according to a monthly theme, then just have at it. Click on any of the links in any month, read, enjoy, and share! For those of you who like to be less random, feel free to use the resources according to what month you are in. The themes correspond to holidays, seasons, and events that are most appropriately celebrated in that month according to LDS American culture. So, yes, I'm sorry, I don't have Cinco de Mayo, Kwanza, Holi, or St. Lucia's Day listed. Please feel free to find stories and songs related to those events if they interest you. Some of the holidays and events are obvious and commonly observed, like Christmas, Valentine's Day, Easter and Independence Day.

Some of the holidays, themes, and events are not obvious. For instance, I have listed the topic of ancestry as a theme for March. This is because Irish ancestry is commonly celebrated by

those with Irish roots who celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Not all of us have Irish roots, so I have broadened this typical monthly theme of Irishness to ancestral roots in general. Also, for the past few years, the LDS Church has had a huge annual event to celebrate family history and the use of technology in discovering and telling the stories of our ancestral roots called RootsTech. It has been held in either February or March in Salt Lake City every year since it started in 2011. Attendance grows every year, so it appears to be an event that is here to stay for the Church. We can capitalize on this and make it a family tradition to participate in RootsTech in some way every year, thanks to the magic of the Internet. Even if you can't attend in person, you can watch some of the classes and events live streamed or when they are archived at rootstech.org. Because of the excitement about ancestry generated by this event, I have included for March lots of stories about research into ancestral roots. Since February has the theme of Valentine's Day, I decided to put the theme of ancestry in March so that the roots theme is not overshadowed by the huge theme of love and Valentine's Day.

I also have as a theme for March *The Book of Mormon*, since this book of latter-day scripture was first available for purchase on March 26, 1830, its "birthday." For July I commemorate the themes of Independence Day and Pioneer Day, since those holidays are in July, but I also include the theme of missionary work. That is because every year on July 1 a new batch of mission presidents begins their term. For August I suggest the theme of home, family togetherness and temple work because August doesn't have a holiday. I do celebrate my own wedding anniversary in August, many families vacation that month for one last "hurrah" before school starts, and the stake I previously lived in had an annual family picnic every August to celebrate families. Because of these events, the theme of families for August was appropriate to me. Sing these songs and read the stories whenever you want for what is most appropriate for you. I don't mind reading Christmas stories in July, and if you don't either, read them in July. If you wake up feeling like your family needs a story about courage, which is one of the themes for January, then go to the January list and start perusing the stories linked there, even if it's November. I have the topics listed for each month at the beginning of each monthly section. Feel free to peruse those monthly topics frequently, so you have a general idea of what the monthly topics are. Then tell a story from one of those topics even if you aren't in that month of the calendar year.

If you want to be methodical about it, however, I suggest that whatever month you are in, turn to that page and start tomorrow with using the corresponding themed content. I suggest each week you sing one hymn, one children's song, and memorize one scripture and one poem for every devotional you do during that week. Then move on to another song, scripture, and poem for the next week. You may want to go slower, and do a song, scripture, and poem for two weeks or even an entire month. **Please use the time frame that fits your family. I have more than enough content for each month. I do not intend for you to use all the material listed in each month. It's my intention that over the course of 4 years or so, you will read and sing all the material and find favorites that you definitely want to repeat each year and some that you just want to go over every few years, or some that you use once. Use the resources that you enjoy! I don't personally like all the music listed here, true confession. It's so wonderful that a bountiful number of writers and composers have created so many choices for us to enjoy. These are just suggested resources; you may pick and choose as you like.**

To memorize the poetry from LaDawn Jacob's [*Favorite Family Devotional Poems*](#) (click on the link to download), print out a hard copy or use it digitally on your tablet or phone. When it's time to memorize, I suggest displaying the text to your children, either with your tablet or the hard copy as you say out loud one sentence or line. Then repeat three times. After that add another sentence and repeat three times, and then combine that with the first sentence. Repeat this process, adding a line or sentence each day for a week or so until you have learned the whole poem. Another method I use after we've read aloud three times in unison the section I am displaying, is to say each line and leave off the last word, allowing the children to fill in the blank. After that, I leave off the last two words, then the last three words, and so forth, until I just say one word for each line, to prompt them. To top off the instruction, we say it as a group three times without looking at any words. I then ask each child to say the whole thing individually on his or her own and give a small reward.

During this whole process, the children are not sitting still. I let them play with Legos, clay, kinetic sand, puzzles, or other quiet toys, while I am saying the lines and asking them to repeat. Occasionally I will buy small treats like chocolate chips, yogurt covered pretzels, or chocolate or yogurt-covered nuts to give for each sentence or stanza memorized. For a big poem, I will sometimes reward the memorization of it with a big candy bar or some out-of-the-ordinary

privilege. Or you could pay a dime for each line or a quarter for each stanza. For a big poem consider paying out \$5 or even \$10. LaDawn says that her father, Elder H. Verlan Andersen, paid her money to memorize poetry.

Every once in a while, over dinner or in the car on a road trip, review all the poems you have memorized so far with your children. You might even consider holding a poetry recital time, either in person or via video chat, and invite relatives and friends so the children can show off their memorized pieces. In this world of fast, cheap, mass-produced entertainment, it is important to show your children that joy can come from higher forms of art that they put personal effort into in order to enjoy. The page on my website [where you get](#) LaDawn's collection of poetry also has two YouTube videos embedded of LaDawn, where she expounds on the value of memorizing poetry and scriptures. The page also has a link to her collections of scriptures to memorize and other resources by and about her philosophy of mothering.

Having an audience at the dinner table to repeat the memorized piece for Dad and older siblings not present at devotional may be additional incentive to memorizing. Then each month you could host a showcase of their memorization during a special FHE or family gathering when relatives and close friends can be an engaged, admiring audience. Refreshments served afterwards can help motivate attendance and participation. Of course, you are free to adapt the use of the material to what fits your family's ages and stages best. Some families who live far away from extended family could have their children share what they memorize by online video chat with grandparents or cousins or invite adopted grandparents and close friends over. Such an event could be a special monthly Family Home Evening or Sunday evening family fireside.

To crown off the daily sharing of songs, scripture, and poetry, I suggest you share at least one Providential story a day from the links to stories and articles I have listed in this ebook from the LDS church magazines. I have listed in this ebook stories of God working in His children's lives to inspire each of us with a bigger, broader vision of what God has done and is doing for us in modern times. Many times we are familiar with the miracles in the scriptures from days gone by, and believe them, but we have a hard time knowing and believing that similar stories are happening today all around us. That is why I have combed the stories published in the LDS church magazines to share some of these remarkable stories with you. I have listed at least 30 stories for each month, so you have more than one for each weekday of the month, if you

choose to have a family devotional each weekday. If you have only young children at home, focus on the stories from the *Friend*. If you have teens in your home, share the New Era stories with them. The stories from the *Ensign* are most appropriate for adults, although they can be shared with children according to your judgment.

Occasionally I have listed an article along with the stories because it contains a powerful story. If you are dealing with children under 12, you may want to skip the preaching part of the article and get to the story. If it's all preaching, then save it for young adults and older. You may want to read these ahead of time and then tell them in your own words to your children, you may read them aloud, or you may play them using the headphones icon that appears on whatever page you are reading in the LDS Gospel Library app. Note that the audio streaming only works for issues dated from 1997 and on, as of this writing. I have included enough material that as you revisit each month over ensuing years, you can use new material and return to old favorites as well. If you have young children in the family, those under age 12, you might find it better to just use the stories from the *Friend*. You could use the *New Era* and *Ensign* stories too, but it would probably be better to read those ahead of time and then tell them in your own words. Please use what works best for your family.

It's okay to break up the elements of the family devotional to what fits your family's daily rhythms, schedule, and the season of your family life. In our family, we gather early in the morning before Dad goes to work for our PoWeR Hour. I call the family by playing a hymn or other religious song on the piano. That is a signal for everyone to grab their journal and scriptures and come to the living room. Then we each kneel and silently ask for the Holy Ghost to guide our scripture study. Dad then sets a timer on his phone to run for 5 minutes for our individual scripture study. We then each silently read for five minutes. Any pre-reading or emergent reading children listen to audio versions of the scripture stories on an iPad or other mobile device using earbuds, or with the volume set super low. After the timer rings, Dad sets the timer again for five minutes, and we write about what we just learned from our reading in our journals. Children unable to write on their own continue to read/listen for five more minutes. Then we go around the room and share what we learned. We then spend five minutes reading from the Book of Mormon, reading aloud as a family. We take turns clockwise around the room reading a verse or two. Then we kneel in family prayer, discussing beforehand who needs our

prayers. This helps our prayers become personal, meaningful, and from the heart, instead of being rote. Dad then asks one of us to be the voice for the prayer.

I know some families hold hands while they pray in a circle. Some families let each person in the circle add to the prayer in turn. Please do what God inspires you to do that will work best for your family. It's important to remember that it's best not to put anyone in an emotional corner with only one choice out or shame them if that person does not want to pray or be voice for the family prayer. This is supposed to be a positive event. Do what you can to make it positive. Sometimes we end with a big family hug. I'm working on getting us to do a family cheer at this point as well, along the lines of what Stephen Covey suggests in *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Families*. These personal worship habits comprise our PoWeR Actions for our PoWeR Hour, which I learned from training to be an [Eternal Warriors mentor](#). P stands for Prayer, W for Write, and R for read.

After family prayer, I also like to squeeze in a story from this ebook to go with the monthly theme. Some days, I also share stories during family meals. Many times, just simply telling the story is enough to touch family members' hearts. Sometimes, however, more meaning comes as the story is discussed. You will have to be the judge on whether you feel the story warrants discussion with some thought-provoking questions. This means asking questions where you don't know the answer, because they are personal to the listener and require thought on the listener's part. Some questions you can ask after telling a story are:

1. Has something similar like this ever happened to you or someone you know?
2. What would you do if this happened to you?
3. Would you make the same choice? Why or why not?
4. Is there anything in the scriptures that this story reminds you of?

Of course, you don't have to use these questions. Feel free to come up with your own questions or ask your family if they have questions and comments.

We do these to "power up" just as a cell phone needs frequent recharging. It's our way of putting on the "armor of God" every day. I like to do it first thing in the morning because it shows God that I am putting Him First in my life, offering up to Him the "firstfruits of the field" (Leviticus

23:9-20, Rev. 14:4) and “firstlings of my flock” (Deut. 12:6) which is the first use of my time and attention. I don’t have literal fields and animals to tend to each day, but I do have time and energy that can be represented as my fields and flocks. So I offer up to Him my first time and energy. I do this before I turn to my email, podcasts, or reading blogs, which is what I used to do before my children woke up as my first energy, before I became convicted of the truth and power of this habit.

I also like to do this whole set of worship habits all as a family, because most children don’t naturally do this on their own. In forming habits in children, setting the atmosphere and culture which includes them in a group going through the habit is the most powerful way to make the habit stick. That means doing the habit with them by setting up the time and place to do it. The eminent British educator Charlotte Mason likened habits to railroad tracks. As parents, we get the privilege and responsibility of being the ones to lay down these railroad tracks for our children early on, instead of letting inertia and human nature take over, which results inevitably in sloppy habits. As she wrote so profoundly:

“This relation of habit to human life—as the rails on which it runs to a locomotive—is perhaps the most suggestive and helpful to the educator; for just as it is on the whole easier for the locomotive to pursue its way on the rails than to take a disastrous run off them, so it is easier for the child to follow lines of habit carefully laid down than to run off these lines at his peril. It follows that this business of laying down lines towards the unexplored country of the child’s future is a very serious and responsible one for the parent. It rests with him to consider well the tracks over which the child should travel with profit and pleasure; and, along these tracks, to lay down lines so invitingly smooth and easy that the little traveller is going upon them at full speed without stopping to consider whether or no he chooses to go that way.” (*Home Education*, vol. 1, 109)

We wouldn’t think of expecting our cell phone to go more than a day, if we are using it heavily, without recharging it, so neither should we expect our spirits to go more than a day without recharging. The Enemy constantly attacks us with negative thoughts which stir up negative emotions of anxiety, overwhelm and stress, draining our spirits hourly. The great news is that we can perform rituals, our daily worship habits, to daily anchor us to the Savior so we feel peace and joy. This allows us to recharge by connecting to our Only True, Ultimate Source of Power,

our Heavenly Father, by praying to Him, pondering His inspired words, and writing the thoughts He inspires to our minds and hearts through the power of the Holy Ghost. These simple acts put us daily in a place of peace, allow us to put on the armor of God, and invite the Holy Ghost into our hearts to guide our actions that day.

An academic study refreshingly confirms the life-changing power of daily personal worship habits. In 2010, three professors at BYU, Brent Top, Bruce Chadwick, and Richard McClendon published a study about the power of personal worship habits in LDS youth. They found that personal worship habits are the most important force in determining the strength of the testimony of LDS youth. These personal worship habits are more important than geography, the strength of the Mutual program where the youth resides, seminary attendance, parental wealth, parental testimony, parental belief, parental occupation, parental status in the community, number of generations the family has been members of the church, parental marital status, or anything else. This is fabulous news! Let's capitalize on this news by helping our youth create these habits by creating time and space for them to do it in our homes with the power of the family doing it along with them.

Why do we want them to have these personal worship habits? Because as the researchers showed, when youth are solid in these personal worship habits, they are less likely to fall prey to the following ills:

- Delinquency
- Substance abuse
- Promiscuity

In addition, youth with these personal worship habits are more likely to have:

- High academic achievement
- High self-esteem
- Low rates of depression

By fostering these personal worship habits, we forge a shield of faith, as Pres. Boyd K. Packer spoke of in the April 1995 General Conference:

"In the Church we can teach about the materials from which a shield of faith is made: reverence, courage, chastity, repentance, forgiveness, compassion. In church we can learn how to

assemble and fit them together. But the actual making of and fitting on of the shield of faith belongs in the family circle.” (“The Shield of Faith,” *Ensign*, May 1995, 8).

You can read all about this study in Dr. Bruce A. Chadwick’s book [*Shield of Faith: The Power of Religion in the Lives of LDS Youth and Young Adults*](#). You can also read a summary of the research in the *Ensign* article called “Helping Teens Stay Strong” in the [March 1999](#) issue.

So that is why and how I do a family worship hour with my family each morning, seven days a week. Yes, we do the same routine on weekends, we just don’t always start as early, because sometimes we sleep in :-). We also do this devotional routine on vacation when we are away from home. When we are visiting relatives, such as when we are staying at cousins or Grandma and Grandpa’s house, we invite them to do it with us. It anchors us wonderfully to the gospel of Jesus Christ wherever we go. Otherwise, when we are in our regular routine at home, on the weekdays, we do PoWeR actions first thing. Then we have breakfast and see Dad off to work. During breakfast, I play stories on audio from the *Friend* and *New Era* using the Gospel Library app on my phone or iPad. Then the kids do dishes while I exercise, groom, and do other chores. Then we gather again for a homeschool devotional.

During our homeschool devotional, I gather the younger children while the older ones dive into their homeschool studies. We sing the hymn we are learning for the week and then a song from the *New Era* and *Friend* for the week. We then recite the scripture for the week three times together, and then we get our scriptures and look up a scripture from this ebook that falls under the monthly theme. I talk with the kids about what it means, defining any words they don’t know, and then ask them to pick a crayon or colored pencil and highlight it. Then we talk about what to draw as a picture on the page by the highlighted scripture to help us remember what the scripture means, using stick figures and simple drawings and words. Then we work on memorizing a poem. That lays the foundation for the day, and in turn I am setting a foundation for my children’s lives. This is a foundation involving Jesus Christ, who is the most rock-solid foundation possible, so that “when the devil shall send forth his mighty winds, yea, his shafts in the whirlwind, yea, when all his hail and his mighty storm shall beat upon you, it shall have no power over you to drag you down to the gulf of misery and endless wo, because of the rock upon which ye are built, which is a sure foundation, a foundation whereon if men build they

cannot fall.” (Helaman 5:12) This foundation also involves exposing them to the sophisticated language patterns of scripture and poetry and Judeo-Christian cultural literacy.

Do you see how I split up the elements of a family devotional according to our family’s schedule? Feel free to do the same.

Perhaps you are in a different season of family life than I am. If you are an empty nester family, or a single adult, with no children in the home, you may want to reach out to your extended family via technology to sing, pray, and share scripture reading and stories. This could be done via phone, with just an audio connection, or using audio/video connection via FaceTime or video chat room. The stories from [lds.org](https://www.lds.org) can be shared by way of texting, and then you could make comments on them via text or by meeting in these virtual ways. If you have lots of little children who don’t read, then you might use flannel board stories and simpler songs.

I hope to create more singing time with all of the family in the near future, perhaps on Sunday afternoons when the whole family is home. I know, I know, you may be saying, “This won’t work for my family.” You may be saying, “Oh my family isn’t the singing type,” or “the reading of scriptures type” or “the praying type.” I used to think my family wasn’t the singing type. Surprisingly, an event showed up in my family’s life to prove me wrong. My older boys and husband attended an evening with some of their teenage friends on a Sunday night. They came home raving about how much fun they had had with a group of friends gathered around a piano at someone’s home, singing hymns. That totally astounded me! For years I had been wanting to gather them all around to sing as I played the piano, but I kept putting it off, thinking they wouldn’t like it, unless it was Christmas Eve when we do it with Christmas songs. Of course, maybe the big draw for doing it that one night was because some cute teen girls were there :-), but the point is, you might be surprised at what your family is capable of and will actually enjoy if you give it more than one chance and don’t give up. Invite them to do it and keep inviting.

What If I’m Not Very Musical? I Can’t Sing or Play the Piano!

If you are like me, you may have lived in the shadow of super musical people who lived in your ward or neighborhood. You might think, “Oh I can’t be musical...that’s for the so-and-so family (insert the name of the visibly musical people from your childhood, the people who always sang

musical numbers in sacrament meeting or played the organ every week). Singing and playing the piano is for them, not me or my family.” Noooo! You don’t have to be the Osmonds to enjoy singing. Please don’t let the fear of your piano teacher or super musical people looking over your shoulder ready to criticize wrong notes keep you from creating music. Please don’t let the imagined, fault-finding specters of these people keep you from enjoying music that you produce with your voice or an instrument. If you hit a wrong note, just keep playing! That’s what I do! If you don’t know anything about music, you can learn to create music on a keyboard with the [LDS Church’s Music Keyboard Course](#). In the meantime, you can use the recorded music using the music player embedded on the pages I’ve linked to for each song in this ebook. Just click on the arrow in the upper uleft-hand corner above the printed sheet music to play the music and sing along! Music is a gift from God for all of us to enjoy!

We as a society are hungering to create our own music by being singers and instrumental music creators instead of constantly being on the consumer end by listening to recorded music and not opening our mouths. We are also hungering to do something personally worshipful that is part of everyday life instead of only on Sunday. We are hungering for personal artistic production. We are hungering for the sacred. You don’t have to wait to find out if your family likes praying, scripture reading, singing, listening to stories, by being invited to do it at someone else’s home--you can be the one to lead out and start it in your home! The order of how you do these worship-based habits is not important, it’s the consistency that is important.

But What If We All Leave at Different Times in the Morning?

If morning does not work for you, please share this content at the dinner table, for a Sunday evening fireside, or bedtime. Of course, you don’t have to homeschool to use the content of this ebook. You can also use the material for Family Home Evening or during any meal when you are all together. You also don’t have to have a family to enjoy this material. Read the material by yourself and write about it. I do, however, encourage you to find a group to discuss the material with if you don’t have a “ready-made” family. You can gather a group of other people, if not in person, then through the Internet in a video chat room, like Skype, Google Hangouts, or Zoom. The most important thing is to find a consistent time when most if not all of your family or group of friends can be together and then be consistent. If you do use the material for a homeschool devotional when dad is gone to work, I suggest you encourage your children to listen carefully

and offer a reward for whoever can retell the story to dad over the dinner table. This makes for delightful dinner conversation.

“President James E. Faust, Second Counselor in the First Presidency, once told of an interview President Kimball held with a bishop. President Kimball asked the bishop how often he held family prayer. The bishop responded that he tried to hold family prayer twice a day, but that his family probably averaged only once a day. The prophet answered: ‘In the past, having family prayer once a day may have been all right. But in the future it will not be enough if we are going to save our families.’” (“The Greatest Challenge in the World—Good Parenting,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1990, 33)

In today’s world of postmodern nihilism, atheism, moral relativism, and apathy, some may ask why bother with all of this? They may say that all of these worship habits are too “churchy,” “quaint,” “conformist,” “old-fashioned,” or in more sophisticated terms, “too orthodox.” In response, I quote a wise man, Elder Neal A. Maxwell, a deceased apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ. Elder Maxwell prophesied, “True orthodoxy thus brings safety and felicity! It is not only correctness but happiness. Strange, isn’t it, even the very word *orthodoxy* has fallen into disfavor with some? As society gets more and more flaky, a few rush forward to warn shrilly against orthodoxy! Remember how, with Pharaoh’s angry army in hot pursuit, ancient Israel aligned themselves with the Lord’s instructions? Moses stretched forth his hand and the Red Sea parted. With towering walls of water on each side, Israel walked through the narrow passage obediently, and no doubt quickly! There were no warnings about conforming on that day! There are passages ahead which will require similar obedience, as prophets lead the ‘men [and women] of Christ’ in a straight and narrow course.”

(<https://www.lds.org/general-conference/1992/10/settle-this-in-your-hearts?lang=eng>)

This dearly beloved apostle of the Lord also said in a General Priesthood meeting, “I do not know what lies ahead of you young men, but my advice would be to fasten your seat belts and hold on firmly to your principles!”

(<https://www.lds.org/general-conference/2004/04/remember-how-merciful-the-lord-hath-been?lang=eng>)

What better way to help our young men and young women hold onto principles than to create warm family memories? Let's create warm memories of being together as a family, daily immersing ourselves in the warm sunshine of gospel principles as we sing, read, study, and share stories together!

Could it be that daily family devotional meetings are the key to fill our reservoirs and save our families for the dark times that are ahead? I think so. I believe it's going to take more than holding daily family prayer and having weekly Family Home Evenings to protect and guide us through the hard times. Even so, we may be faithful with these daily devotionals, along with other aspects of righteous child rearing, and still some of our children may stray in these dark times. That's okay! We will know that we trained them and did all in our part to teach them, love them, and hold onto them. We can have peace in our hearts knowing we reared them in light and truth. I have hope that the brightness of our hope and happy family memories of devotionals and other fun, cheerful times together will draw them back to us, in fulfillment of the promise given in Proverbs 22:6 that a child will return to the way he was trained. This may be fulfilled in this life or the next.

Long ago before the invention of electrical wiring for homes which allows us to use electric ovens and stovetops, families had to use a fire in the kitchen fireplace to cook the day's meals. This fire doubled as a heat source in the winter to stay warm. If the family didn't want to light a new fire each morning (most likely no one did so after letting it happen once, which required walking to the nearest neighbor to get coals or a burning torch) they would bank the coals the night before so that they could more easily get a roaring fire going the next morning. The word "curfew" comes from the French phrase "couvre feu" which literally means "cover fire" or "fire cover." It signals the end of all daytime activity, including sunlight and any other light, when people should be in bed with all light out. Even the low light emanating from the coals was covered up with the lid. The original curfew/couvre feu was a metal lid used to cover the fire in the fireplace to keep the coals going without spreading the fire. If a guest came to visit and the host was generous, the host would send the guest off with coals upon his or her head, carried in a container called a brazier. The brazier was like a mini-barbecue grill used in homes to keep warm if they didn't have a fireplace. This gift allowed the guest to be able to start a fire when he or she got home, if his or her own fire had gone out while being untended. The Bible even tells

us to do this not just for our guests but even for our enemies, both in Proverbs 25:22 and Romans 12:20.

Who is more of a guest in our home than our children? They are born to us, or adopted by us, but in most cases they eventually leave the home to create their own homes. In most cases they are in our homes for around 18-22 years, which is such a short time, relatively speaking, compared to the decades of life most of them are expected to live. Who out of all the people we know are we most wanting to return to our homes as honored guests than our children? Who do we want most of all to be with us at Christmastime and other holidays more than our children? Most of us would probably agree that our children and our grandchildren are our most wanted guests. Frankly, I am the first to admit that sometimes our children feel like our enemies, however, because of differences of opinions and personalities. We are faced with the challenge of making our homes a place where they want to be over all other places that attract them. We somehow must make the daily kindling of the homefires, the daily devotional, an enjoyable activity that they look forward to. We want to make it such an integral part of their daily life that they will notice something is wrong if it is skipped, just as noticeable as if they missed a meal. We may not realize in this age of ease just how important it is to kindle this homefire. We may not realize how vital it is to bind our families together around figurative hearths with the figurative fire of a testimony burning in the parents' hearts. We may not realize yet how important it is every day to "heap coals" upon our children's heads. It's imperative because dark times that need a figurative fire burning are beginning to be here and will continue to get darker. We have two main witnesses that dark times are coming that will require this spiritual homefire to warm our families and keep them close and together. First we have the prophets, some of whom I have quoted above. Then we have the witness of the cycle of history, as described by two historians.

In the book, *The Fourth Turning*, historians Neil Strauss and William Howe explain that Western Civilization has gone through cycles. Each cycle of history lasts about 100 years and each cycle has four generations and four turnings. Each generation has an archetype: Prophet, Nomad, Hero, Artist. The generations have always followed this order. Each turning lasts about 20-25 years and follows an order that corresponds to the four seasons. The First Turning is the spring. It is called The Awakening. The Second Turning is like summer. It is the High. The Third Turning is the Fall, or the Crisis. The Fourth Turning is the Unraveling. It is represented by winter, when

everything is dark and gray. If there's any time a fire is needed and most appreciated, it's during the winter, isn't it?

Each generation always comes of age in its corresponding turning. For example, the Hero Generation comes of age during a crisis, or Fourth Turning. Some "Hero Generations" you may instantly relate to are the Hero Generations that arose during the Revolutionary War and World War II. Tom Brokaw illustrated many courageous tales of the WWII heroes in his book *The Greatest Generation*. The most recent generation of heroes is not the generation he described in that book, but the generation born between approximately 1980 to 2004 roughly, otherwise known as Millennials. We are currently in a Fourth Turning or facing a Fourth Turning as these Millennials become adults. So, knowing this, some questions naturally arise, such as the following:

"What is the great crisis that these Millennials are going to face as they come of age?"

"Did the Crisis start with 9/11? Or was it with the economic bust that started in 2008? Or is it the COVID-19 pandemic?"

"If it was the pandemic, are we still in the Crisis right now? When will it end?"

"Do these young adults have the academic and moral knowledge, as well as strength of character, to rise to the occasion and lead our society through the Crisis just like Thomas Jefferson and John Adams and the other Founding Fathers did, or the heroes of the Greatest Generation?"

"Do we as adults have the leadership ability like the elder statesman Benjamin Franklin to mentor these young statesmen through the Crisis?"

"Do they and we have a testimony in addition to knowledge of leadership?"

People born after a Hero Generation comprise the Artist Generation. That would be the current generation of children, dubbed by Strauss and Howe as the Homeland generation. These are those young people born around approximately 2005 and after. They have never known a

society without tight airport security and increasing regulations from a nanny government that strives to “keep us safe.” Are they growing up attaining a knowledge of liberty, love, and justice, and a rock-solid testimony of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ? This is the knowledge they need to rebuild society after the Crisis hits the breaking point to lay the foundation for the Savior to come again to receive Zion (See D&C 105:5). I hope that my suggestions in this ebook of songs, scriptures, and stories will build their fire of testimony in order to do so.

Two Examples of Families Who Kept the Home Fires Burning

Corrie Ten Boom’s life shows the power of keeping the home fires burning. She grew up in a home of a reverential father and mother who were diligent in having daily devotions to God with prayer and Bible reading. This ignited a fire of faith in her heart for a belief in the Judeo-Christian God and a love for the Jewish people. These two loves carried her through the dark times of imprisonment for hiding Jews from Nazi capture in World War II. She kept the fire of faith burning by daily reading from a Bible that she and her sister Betsie smuggled into the prison camp. This allowed her to endure the atrocities of the camp without becoming bitter and depressed. It was the fire of faith in God that also allowed Corrie to forgive a man who she recognized as one of her prison guards after she was released when she encountered him. Corrie is an amazing example of the effects that can come from daily devotionals in a Christian home. These effects ripple on for generations to come. If you read another of her books, *In My Father’s House*, you will learn that her father’s father or grandfather started holding regular meetings where he gathered his Christian family and friends for prayer meeting. They would study the Bible and pray for the Jewish cause to have a homeland once again in which to gather, a Zion. Her paternal ancestors created a multi-generational vision and far-reaching legacy with daily devotionals that has inspired millions of people who have heard Corrie’s story.

Here’s an example of the power that comes from family gatherings in a non-Christian home. This story is my second example of the importance of keeping home fires burning. When I read the book, *The Red Scarf Girl* by Jing-ling Liang, I felt called to repentance to appreciate the joy of simply being at home together in a family, doing every day, ordinary things, without threat of arrest or government intrusion. I was laboring under the illusion that ordinary life is boring and the only exciting thing about family is sharing holidays like Thanksgiving and Christmas together. After reading this book, I realized that just talking and reading together are privileged

liberties to rejoice in everyday! In this remarkably amazing story, Ji-ling Jiang and her family lived in China during the time of the Cultural Revolution of Mao of the 1960s. At the top of her school class, Ji-ling had brains, talent, and popularity. Because her family refused to give in and accept Mao's obliteration of the "Four Olds" (adherence to ancient Chinese ideas, culture, customs, and habits), their home was raided by government officials. Many of their belongings were taken away by the officials. Then Ji-ling was taken away to work at a labor camp. Her father was arrested and jailed. Ji-ling was released and forced to decide to renounce her father and have a future with the Communist Party, or stay loyal to him and lose her leadership potential in the Communist Party. She did choose loyalty to her father. Fortunately, he was released anyway, and they were eventually reunited. The whole family rejoiced in what should be the everyday, ordinary blessing of being together. Thankfully, they escaped Chinese Communism for good by emigrating to America.

I am so grateful that I was led to read this story. My son was asked to read it for a homeschool group history class, so I decided to read it too. Because of the scenes created in my mind from reading this book, I want to capitalize on the free time I have at home and keep spiritual home fires burning with daily devotionals. That lays a foundation that I build upon with other times together like family dinner, homeschooling, reading aloud, Family Home Evening, family excursions, weekly date night with my husband, and parent/child one-on-one interactions.

What was it that caused Ji-ling to have such unbreakable loyalty to her father, rather than the Communist party? She was not Christian, so it wasn't out of a Christian belief to obey and honor her parents. It was the home fires of family and traditional culture burning in her heart, home fires tended by her parents. Her family was Muslim, so they believed in Allah. As Muslims in China, they were in the minority. What did Ji-ling's parents do to bind the family so that they could hold on together with their political and religious minority status during Mao's alarming Communist regime? Early in the book, Ji-ling tells us that her parents had a family gathering frequently on Saturday nights with the nuclear family as well as extended family and other guests who were actors at her father's theater. They shared stories and conversation that were so fascinating that Ji-ling and her siblings never wanted to go to bed, no matter how late the party went. I surmise that these conversations were rooted in intellectual and artistic ideas from the Muslim culture. I imagine that these parties created a feeling perfectly described by the character Akeelah from the movie *Akeelah and the Bee*, in the closing scene of the movie. .

In this movie, based on a fictional story, Akeelah, a 12-year-old girl who attends an underprivileged school in South Los Angeles, wins the national spelling bee. At the beginning of the movie she says, "You know that feeling where no matter what you do or where you go you just don't fit in? I don't know the word for that. Alienation, estrangement...incompatibility? Naw, those ain't right. But there's gotta be a word for it, because that's how I feel all the time." As the movie progresses you see this feeling leave her, to be replaced by an opposite feeling of inclusion and belonging at the end. She starts engaging her brain, getting a mentor, studying for long chunks of time every day, and learning to submit to both her mentor and her mother. She gradually improves her confidence and her spelling skills and rises to the national competition. As you see her surrounded by family and friends, rejoicing in her national victory, you hear the voice of Akeelah say the following at the end of the movie, "You know that feeling where everything feels right? Where you don't have to worry about tomorrow or yesterday, but you feel safe and know you're doing the best you can? There's a word for that feeling. It's called love. L-O-V-E." Wow, what a contrast to the feeling she had at the beginning of the movie. This is the feeling that I believe Ji-ling's parents created in their home as well.

This is the feeling I work to create in my home and what I hope you strive to create in your home. A feeling of connection and community, rooted in the rich heritage of Judeo-Christian culture. Let's also remember the richness of other religious cultures around the globe too, for they too create connection which leads back to connection to God. Connection, nobility, and community are rooted in all the ancient religious cultures. They are all inspired by God, including the Muslim culture. As it says in Alma 29:8: "For behold, the Lord doth grant unto all nations, of their own nation and tongue, to teach his word, yea, in wisdom, all that he seeth fit that they should have; therefore we see that the Lord doth counsel in wisdom, according to that which is just and true."

Wisdom, justice, and truth have been sent to all nations, according to what God knows His children are ready to receive in each nation over the whole earth. Elder B. H. Roberts who was a member of the Quorum of the Seventy, said the following, "While the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is established for the instruction of men; and it is one of God's instrumentalities for making known the truth yet he is not limited to that institution for such purposes, neither in time nor place. God raises up wise men and prophets here and there

among all the children of men, of their own tongue and nationality, speaking to them through means that they can comprehend . . . All the great teachers are servants of God; among all nations and in all ages. They are inspired men, appointed to instruct God's children according to the conditions in the midst of which he finds them." (*Defense of the Faith and the Saints*, 2 vols. (1907), 1:512–13)

Elder Orson F. Whitney stated that God "is using not only his covenant people, but other peoples as well, to consummate a work, stupendous, magnificent, and altogether too arduous for this little handful of Saints to accomplish by and of themselves." (Conference Report, Apr. 1921, 32–33)

So, let us search out what is noble and true in our own culture and other cultures from wise men, great teachers, and servants. Let's share what we find in our family devotionals. This ebook gives you just the tip of an iceberg of the vast number of stories we can share, thanks to the Internet. I encourage you to share stories you find outside of this ebook as well. I have listed LDS stories because that is what I am familiar with and are the easiest for me to find, but in the section for September, I have listed some articles to help adults learn about Buddhism, Catholicism, and other religions. I hope these articles will fan a spark in you to find stories from those cultures. For a start, you can go to librariesofhope.com. Click on the "Great Lives" and "World History" tabs to find stories from other cultures. When we connect with the wisdom, justice and truth in the religious cultures of all nations, that allows connection and community to grow between us and all of Heavenly Father's children.

Connection is so important! The first feeling that Akeelah had of alienation involves disconnection and depression. The latter feeling, love, is born of connection, and breeds more hope and more love. The parties of Ji-ling's family and the celebration of Akeelah's tribe after she won the bee shared connection, culture, and love. This is what we can create with family devotionals using the resources I list in this ebook. May we instill a bright, cheery feeling of belonging, delight in seeing the hand of God in our lives, and loyalty to family and the restored gospel of Jesus Christ by sharing song, scriptures, stories and testimony.

I have hope for the future because of the fire of my testimony! As the scripture in 2 Nephi 31:20 alludes to, we can press forward in steadfastness of Christ, because having that steadfastness,

which comes from a testimony of Jesus Christ, gives a perfect brightness of hope. This perfect brightness of hope shines as a huge lighthouse, chasing away the darkness. This is a time to prepare for and not fear.

To quote Strauss and Howe from their website:

“As America moves into a Fourth Turning, this will be a time of great national trial and upheaval. Yet seeing this on the horizon is not a prophesy of some horrible tragedy. A Fourth Turning also could be a time of triumph. Just as the risk of war is great in a Fourth Turning, so too is the possibility of accomplishing things that in other eras would be impossible—particularly in the areas of government, institutions, and infrastructure...In business and investment as in government, marketing, HR, strategic planning, education, and many other areas, the people who succeed in a Fourth Turning mood will be those who understand how history creates generations, and generations create history.”

<http://www.lifecourse.com/about/method/where-we-are-today.html>

Did you catch that last phrase? Who did they say will succeed in a Fourth Turning mood? Those who “understand how history creates generations and generations create history.” What better way to know how “history creates generations and generations create history” in our Western history, than to share these songs, poetry, and stories that are all rooted in the Judeo-Christian values that have shaped the Western Civilization for centuries? These values have created the freest nation that has brought forth the greatest governmental form, the greatest ideas, and the greatest technology in all the world’s history.

I love this quote from Pres. Monson, “Your future is as bright as your faith.” How do we keep our faith bright? By keeping the spiritual home fires burning with the daily habits of prayer, both individual and family, reading the Book of Mormon daily along with other scriptures, memorizing scriptures, and showing the power of God’s hand all around us. Then our children will know “what great things the Lord has done for us.” (Psalms 126:3) They will know that these great things transcend the everyday trials and trivialities they might see in their school, work, and play. They will know that God has given many promises, and His work will go forward until all His promises be fulfilled. “For the eternal purposes of the Lord shall roll on, until all his promises shall be fulfilled.” (Mormon 8:22) As faithful members of His Kingdom, we can glory in seeing all

of these promises fulfilled. What fascinating times we live in, to know what promises have been fulfilled and then to be able to see more promises fulfilled!

What if your children don't want to come to your devotional?

We don't force our children to come to our family scripture study and family prayer in the mornings. We do administer a consequence if a child doesn't come, which is an extra job added to his or her regular daily chore load. Some families have a treat for those who do come, such as an extra special breakfast, like donuts. Frankly, that is not something that I can sustain day in and day out. So, I simply have a negative consequence for not coming. I remind the person about it without any shaming or scolding. Then I enforce it!

If a child repeatedly doesn't want to come and continues to earn the negative consequence, that is usually a sign of relationship trouble between parent and child. That's a big red flag waving that it's time to work on building the relationship with positive deposits in the child's "emotional bank account," as Stephen Covey calls it. The book, *The Anatomy of Peace*, describes this as working to "help things go right," instead of just responding to urgent, immediate needs, where we put out symbolic fires. Please read that book for further exploration of this idea, as well as *Hold On to Your Kids* by Gordon Neufeld, and *Becoming a Present Parent* by Mary Ann Johnson. I came to the same conclusion that Elder Cook arrived at regarding family scripture study/devotional in his book, *Raising Up*. That conclusion is that we want to work on making the family scripture study a time that all family members want to be a part of. If someone doesn't want to come, then I seek to find the underlying cause and prayerfully work on it. It helps to make the environment as welcoming and loving as possible. If it's a cold winter morning, having cuddly blankets to snuggle in, along with space heaters warming the room helps make the time much more physically inviting. Being kind, inviting the Spirit through prayer, accepting family member's comments, and building the relationship outside of this time make family scripture study spiritually inviting as well.

In the spirit of keeping it real, I will say that sometimes my kids complain that Power Hour or Devotional is boring. Sometimes they sleep through scripture reading and journal writing. Occasionally, one of them decides not to come. Sometimes the younger boys are wrestling or playing bowling with tennis balls and a plastic teacup set during poetry memorization time. I'm

always wondering just how much they are actually learning or how much of this that they will have positive memories about. Will they think all this time with mom was a drag? Will any of it stick? I am counting on two forces to deal with this.

First, I have faith in the power of Jesus to multiply my efforts, just as He multiplied the loaves and the fishes to feed a multitude. I learned about this principle of faith in Jesus multiplying my efforts from Catholic homeschooling mom Sarah Mackenzie in her book, *Teaching from Rest*. I sacrifice to teach the gospel to my children, daily, despite their negativity, such as grumbling and stony hearts. My sacrifice is small, just like the small offering of the loaves and fishes from the boy in the Bible story. Jesus multiplied the loaves and fishes to feed thousands. I am totally confident that He will multiply my teaching efforts, continuously, through the decades, in their hearts and minds, for thousands of ripple effects. It is up to them as to how they respond to those promptings and memories that come as a result.

Second, I am counting on the tendency we as humans have to forget the nitty-gritty annoyances of days gone by. Things like a sibling touching another, a sibling breathing the other sibling's air, or a sibling taking the best seat for singing, which is on the piano bench next to mom. Those memories most likely will fade away in a blur. If I am consistent in the daily effort of the good habits of family Power Hour and Devotional, then that's what the kids will remember. They will remember my sincere and heartfelt consistency. See Elder David A. Bednar's General Conference talk, "More Diligent and Concerned at Home," from [October 2009](#). I have already seen my sacrifices to teach my children the gospel daily bear fruit in my older children who have left the nest. Each of these three children have written home to thank me for my efforts. So, I press on with faith for the younger ones to experience these same effects.

I conclude this section with two more scenes that describe the power of home fires. The first is from the classic book and subsequent animated Christmas TV special, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* by Dr. Seuss. The villainous Grinch thought he could steal Christmas delight from the Whos in Whoville. How astonished he was to see that after he deviously worked so hard to steal every last bit of their presents, food, and trimmings for their Christmas festivities, the Whos were celebrating anyway! Why is this? Because they each had a home fire of Christmas spirit burning in their hearts. This allowed them to gather in a circle, despite being bereft of holiday trappings, join hands, and sing joyously, rejoicing in the real meaning of Christmas, the birth of a Savior,

Jesus Christ. Because of the Savior, with His gifts of life and love and health, they could create all over again anything the Grinch stole. The Grinch could steal what was outside of them, but he couldn't steal their hopeful spirits, their knowledge, their ability to work, and their relationships with others, which all lived inside of them. We can be the same way! No matter what crisis comes from worldly, political, and governmental forces threatening to steal our happiness, our testimonies and our family relationships, we can keep our internal fires burning. We can daily stoke our home fires by carving time in hectic lives to reflect on the sacred. This means taking time to read, ponder, write, and talk about sacred beliefs and happenings. These home fires can then keep us joyously bright and full of hope and love despite the darkness.

The second scene is from one of Elder Cook's General Conference talks. He said, "Some years ago a fire erupted in the middle of the night and completely destroyed a family's home. A neighbor came by to console a seven-year-old, not knowing that he was about to be taught a great principle. 'Johnny, it's sure too bad your home burned down.' Johnny thought a moment and then said, 'Oh, that's where you're mistaken, Mr. Brown. That was not our home; that was just our house. We still have our home, we just don't have any place to put it right now.'"

(<https://www.lds.org/general-conference/1984/04/home-and-family-a-divine-eternal-pattern?lang=eng>)

Elder Cook explained that this boy knew an important truth, which is that home is more than a building where we sleep and eat. As he said, home is "where family is, where my heart is, a sacred place, a peaceful place, an escape from a wicked world." Home is in our hearts. It's where we have the burning home fires of belief in God and family. These homefires kept hope and loyalty burning in Corrie Ten Boom, in Ji-ling, in the Whos, and the little boy whose house burned down. They will keep hope and loyalty burning in your hearts as well if you feed the fires daily with the fuel of personal and family behaviors of religious devotion.

Explanatory Notes for the Resources Listed in This Ebook

You may look up the articles referenced to LDS Church magazines by using the Gospel Library app on your phone, using the month and year listed. You can also go directly to [lds.org](https://www.lds.org) to find the magazines. Go to [lds.org](https://www.lds.org), then "Scriptures and Study," then click on "Helpful Resources,"

then “Magazines.” For example, if the title of a story listed in this ebook, under the subheading of “Stories from the *Friend*” has “4/91” after it, that means to go to the April 1991 issue of the *Friend*, under the subheading of “Magazines” in the LDS Gospel Library app or at lds.org. The *New Era* and *Ensign* magazines are also found in the category of magazines. As a shortcut, you can double click on the link in this ebook to take you there if you have Internet connection. A few stories are repeated because they go with more than one theme.

The hymns mentioned in this book are from the LDS [Hymns](#), published in 1985.

The poetry collection called *LaDawn Jacob’s Favorite Family Devotional Poems* may be found [here](#) on my website.

A note on abbreviations:

CS: [Children’s Songbook](#) published by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1989.

F2F: Friend to Friend section in the *Friend*, the children’s magazine of the LDS Church. These articles involve interviews with General Authorities, Apostles, and leaders of the general auxiliary organizations of the LDS Church.

CLPV: Come Listen to a Prophet’s Voice section of the *Friend*.

Other Resources for Music

Janeen Brady’s Brite Music [britekids.com](#)

Music by Roger and Melanie Hoffman [hoffmanhouse.com](#)

Music by Sally Deford [defordmusic.com](#)

Music by Rachel Mohlman and Anna Molgard [faithsongpublications.com](#)

Music by Janice Kapp Perry and relatives [janicekapperry.com](#)

Other Resources for Poetry

Julie Andrews’ Treasury for All Seasons: Poems and Songs to Celebrate the Year has beautiful classic poems for each month, some even written by Julie herself. Reciting this poetry brings on that spoonful of sugar magic anytime you want!

Katharine Pyle, an author and illustrator from the late 1800s, wrote a lovely collection of poetry with a poem for each month, accompanied by her wonderful illustrations. See her *Prose and Verse for Children* [here](#).

What to do with toddlers during Family Devotional Time:

As any mom knows it is unrealistic to expect small children to sit still while the rest of the family reads, writes, or shares stories. Here are some ideas to keep these little ones quietly engaged:

1. Let them eat breakfast while the rest of the family reads and writes, if they can feed themselves.
2. If it's not breakfast time, feed them finger food snacks, such as raisins, dry cereal, pretzels, crackers, or apple slices
3. Bring out a box of quiet toys that only comes out during family devotional time. Change the contents regularly, such as weekly, to keep interest and engagement high. Here are some ideas of what to use:
 - Chunky wooden puzzles or crepe rubber puzzles
 - Chunky crayons and sketch pads
 - Magnetic play sets
 - Duplo building blocks
 - Scripture and church history story figures, found [here](#) on lds.org, backed with flannel, to put on a flannel board
 - Lift the flap board books
 - Small dolls (made out of paper, plastic, felt, cloth, or wood) with changeable clothing, easy for small fingers to manipulate
 - Lacing cards
 - Stacking pegs
 - Magnetic building tiles
4. As a last resort, since they probably already get enough screen time, let them watch the scripture story videos or other videos on lds.org or from the videos sections in the Gospel Library app. They could watch in another room or use earbuds or have the volume down low if in the same room.

January

Themes: new beginnings, new goals, commitment to consistent daily habits of prayer, scripture study, journal writing, work, choices, commitment to pay tithing, commitment to Word of Wisdom, commitment to keep Sabbath Day holy, dreams, vision, mission in life, determination, obedience to commandments and promptings of the Holy Ghost, personal revelation, protection, wintertime

Hymns:

[Ring Out Wild Bells #215](#)

[Choose the Right #239](#)

[Did You Think to Pray? #140](#)

[O God Our Help in Ages Past #31](#)

[Guide Us O Thou Great Jehovah #83](#)

[Great King of Heaven #63](#)

[Improve the Shining Moments #226](#)

[I Have Work Enough to Do #224](#)

[The Lord is My Light #89](#)

[The Wintery Day, Descending to Its Close #37](#)

Music from the *Ensign*

[Prayer 1/76](#)

[As the Shadows Fall 7/77](#)

[Turn to Us Thine Loving Eyes 3/80](#)

[Hymn of Peace 7/80](#)

[Sabbath Day 3/83](#)

[Be Still and Know That I Am God 9/94](#)

[Let Us Awake 9/00](#)

[Our Prayer to Thee 5/03](#)

[The Voice of the Spirit 3/13](#)

[Supplication 10/14](#)

[Angels Round About 8/17](#)

Music from the *New Era*

[What God Hath Given 7/81](#)

[If Your Eye Be Single 8/84](#)

[Draw Near 8/86](#)

[The Lord Is My Strength 6/82](#)

[I Will Lead You 10/89](#)

[To Kneel in Family Prayer 6/91](#)

[I Feel at Peace 2/93](#)

[The Armor of God 10/94](#)

[Hear and Harken 6/95](#)

[Father, We Worship Thee 2/95](#)

[Walk in the Light 3/96](#)

[Only a Prayer Away 8/96](#)
[A Light That's Pure 1/98](#)
[Morning Prayer 8/98](#)
[This is Thy Day 2/99](#)
[Just a Moment In Eternity 9/99](#)
[He is There 9/00](#)
[When The Holy Spirit Speaks 4/06](#)
[On Bended Knee 4/04](#)
[Tender Mercies 4/07](#)
[Tender Mercies of the Lord 3/09](#)
[I Will Go and Do 1/20](#)

Children's Songs

[Falling Snow p. 248 CS](#)
[Once There Was a Snowman p. 249 CS](#)
God is Watching Over All p. 225 CS (copyright restrictions prevent the lyrics being published on lds.org so please refer to a hard copy of the *Children's Songbook*)
[The First Article of Faith p. 122](#)
[The Thirteenth Article of Faith p. 132 CS](#)
[Choose the Right Way p. 160 CS](#)
[Dare to Do Right p.158 CS](#)
[Nephi's Courage p. 120 CS](#)
[Saturday p. 196 CS](#)
[Remember The Sabbath Day p. 155 CS](#)
[A Child's Prayer, Friend 12/74](#)
[My Evening Prayer, Friend 6/79](#)
[Scripture Power, Friend 10/87](#)
[I'll Say No, Friend 10/89](#)
[Study the Scriptures, Friend 7/90](#)
[Father in Heaven Hears me Pray, Friend 5/92](#)
[Eternal Things, Friend 1/93](#)
[I Will Always Obey, Friend 3/96](#)
[The Windows of Heaven, Friend 11/96](#)
[When I Hear the Scriptures, Friend 1/98](#)
[As Though I Had Been There, Friend 5/98](#)
[The Scriptures Say, Friend 2/99](#)
[One in a Million, Friend 2/03](#)
[Jesus Is My True Light, Friend 12/09](#)
[As a Child of God, Friend 1/12](#)
[Because I Am a Child of God, Friend 10/15](#)
[The Lord Will Watch Over Me, Friend 1/94](#)
[Peace is a Feeling 10/94](#)
[Reverence Is a Feeling, Friend 9/96](#)
[Don't Ever Forget to Pray, Friend 4/06](#)
[Ask And Ye Shall Receive, Friend 10/91](#)
[The Sabbath Day, Friend 11/04](#)
[The Sabbath Day Friend 8/17](#)
[Close as a Quiet Prayer 3/19](#)

[My Power to Choose 5/21](#)

Scriptures to Memorize

[Deut. 31:6](#)
[Joshua 24:15](#)
[2 Chron. 15:7](#)
[Psalm 5:3,12](#)
[Psalm 37:4](#)
[Psalm 37:21](#)
[Psalm 90:1-2](#)
[Psalm 119:60](#)
[Proverbs 16:3](#)
[Proverbs 29:18](#)
[Joel 2:28](#)
[Joel 2:32](#)
[Matt. 21:22](#)
[Mark 11:24-25](#)
[John 13:17](#)
[James 5:16](#)
[2 Nephi 2:16](#)
[2 Nephi 2:27-28](#)
[2 Nephi 32:5](#)
[Alma 29:8](#)
[Alma 34:32-33](#)
[Doctrine and Covenants 50:23–25](#)
[Doctrine and Covenants 60:13](#)
[Doctrine and Covenants 72:4](#)
[Doctrine and Covenants 84:88](#)
[Doctrine and Covenants 123:17](#)
[Moses 1:35, 37](#)
[Moses 6:33](#)

Poetry from the *Friend*

Snow at Night [1/95](#)
[Wintertime Joy 2/02](#)
Traffic Signs [1/89](#)
[Here Come Snowflakes 1/85](#)

Poetry From LaDawn Jacob's *Favorite Family Devotional Poems*

Snow p. 144
My Kingdom by Louisa May Alcott p. 47
Improvement by Anonymous p. 24
Somebody Said It Couldn't Be Done by Edgar A. Guest p. 61
I Am An Eagle p. 27
God Answers Prayers p. 26
Talking to God p. 147

The Road Not Taken by Robert Frost p. 87

Other Traditional Poetry

[The Months](#) by Sara Coleridge

[The Snowflake](#) by Walter de la Mare

[A Child's Evening Prayer](#) by Samuel Taylor Coleridge

[Just a Minute](#) by Dr. Benjamin E. Mays

[The Whole Duty of Children](#) by Robert Louis Stevenson

[A Blessing in Prayer](#) by Charles F. Richardson

[My Creed: I Would Be True](#) by Howard Arnold Walter

[The Chiming Bells](#) by John Clare

Stories from the *Friend*

[The Lookout Tower](#) 6/15

Crash and Tell [6/11](#)

[Above the Line](#) 5/13

In the Zone [1/11](#)

[A Prayer in the Attic](#) 2/15

Fully-Charged Flashlight [8/02](#)

[Madeline's Dream](#) 11/71

Treehouse [8/03](#)

[Fire on the Mountain](#) 11/95

Stuck in the Mud [7/12](#)

[Where Are They?](#) 7/03

CLPV: The Lifeline of Prayer [7/03](#)

[CLPV: Guiding You Home](#) 7/11

Who Needs My Prayer? [8/96](#)

[FTF: Elder Holland](#) 8/96

Prayer for Overalls [2/01](#)

[Anna and the Blue Belt](#) 9/02

Out of the Fog [9/02](#)

[It's Really Simple](#) 9/01

CLPV: Decide Right Now! [3/12](#)

[Abu Learns Honesty](#) 3/12

Sunday Eggs [9/01](#)

[Next Time I'll Listen](#) 8/08

F2F: Elder David F. Evans, Now is the Time to Obey [8/08](#)

[The Two Secrets](#) 3/12

Lessons From Dandy [8/05](#)

[Elevator Prayers](#) 8/12

A Boy's Prayer [11/05](#)

[Press Forward Saints](#) 1/00

Thomas' Prayer for Peace [11/98](#)

[Stop the Boat!](#) 8/05

Faithful Examples [9/13](#)

[Tithing Shoes](#) 11/07

The Butter Dish [6/06](#)

[An Answered Prayer 6/04](#)
Home Teachers and Balloons [1/00](#)
[F2F: Elder Lionel Kendrick 1/00](#)
Amy's Goal [1/10](#)
[Personal Protection 7/97](#)
Flipping Channels [9/15](#)
[So Much to Talk About 8/13](#)
Alpacas on the Loose [8/13](#)
[Our Answer 8/13](#)
Fasting for Shem [7/13](#)
[He Gives the Best Answers 7/13](#)
One Scoop at a Time [7/13](#)
[A Patient Prayer 6/13](#)
A Crop of Blessings [5/13](#)
A Sister's Example 2/05

Stories from the *New Era*

[Beware the Wolves 7/12](#)
Wrong Roads and Revelation [7/05](#)
[What God Wanted for Me 2/17](#) (a collection of six short stories about revelation)
I'd Never Prayed Before In That Way [8/14](#)
[I Didn't Feel Worthy to Pray 1/17](#)
A Wing and a Prayer [1/88](#)
[More Than a Scripture Journal 5/12](#)
A Notebook by Any Other Name... [6/80](#)
[Would You Sell? 5/85](#)
He Isn't Worth the Feed [5/78](#)
[Last Minute Miracle 3/17](#)
Goals, Growth, and Family Time [11/12](#)
[Before the Movie Started 6/15](#)
Putting Off the Natural Young Woman [11/08](#)
[Blind Curve 2/12](#)
It Started With Standards [2/12](#)
[Setting an Example in Shakespeare's School 2/12](#)
Hear the Voice of God [1/13](#)
[Please Don't Let Us Freeze! 10/17](#)
Up a Creek Without a Paddle [7/10](#)
[Brett's Quest 10/16](#)
Go See Rebecca [9/16](#)
[The Miracle of Tithing 2/17](#)
Strength to Choose [12/16](#)
[Searching for God 8/16](#)
Just 200 More Feet [8/16](#)
[Stronger Than Fear 7/16](#)
Waiting on the Bus [6/16](#)
[A Knock from a Prompting 4/16](#) (scroll down to the 2nd story)
Mom! Wake Up! [3/16](#)
[Peer Pressure and Pisto 7/16](#)

Prom Disaster Averted [12/15](#)
[Lost on the Ledge 4/07](#)
Cliff Hanger [11/92](#)
[Something Had to Give 8/07](#)
Driven to Prayer [9/05](#)
[Susume! 9/14](#)
"This is Ace" [5/07](#)
[The Cover Up 6/09](#) (scroll to the third story on page)
Using Brad Language [11/99](#)
[The Worst Cake Ever 5/11](#)
Getting Real [5/11](#)
[Put Your Helmet On 6/11](#)
Addicted to Video Games [2/13](#)
[Up in Smoke 11/07](#)
The Ultimate Road Trip [6/99](#)
[Cry in the Night 11/98](#)

Stories from the *Ensign*

Sister Spafford Was Speaking to Me [10/15](#)
[Living With Real Intent 10/15](#) (a few stories from Elder Randall L. Ridd. The first one starts at the beginning of the article, and finishes with the first subheading. The next subheading starts the next story. I would spend a few days on this talk, reading one story every morning. I would add more stories which were left out of the article, but can be found [here](#), concluding with "The Parable of the Oranges.")
Hailstorm [3/07](#)
[My Journal. My Testimony 4/08](#)
Forty-four Friends in the Temple [2/96](#) (scroll down to the third story)
[Why Did I Wait? 2/96](#) (scroll down to the second story)
I Was an Atheist [10/04](#)
[Never Give Up 7/12](#)
Two Hours from the Chapel [8/75](#)
[The Sweet of Work 10/84](#) (this is an article, skip to "Some months ago our 17 year old daughter" for the story)
Stone or Bread? [1/76](#) (this is a lengthy article that begins with a story and has a few stories interspersed)
All of 1/76 issue on prayer, especially the stories about revelations in the [Mormon Journal section](#)
[Mormon Journal of 10/87](#) (has three stories about prayers being answered)
We Needed More Than Muscle [1/87](#)
[Second Hand Piano 1/75](#) (scroll down to the second story)
A Different Answer to Prayer [8/00](#) (scroll down to the second story)
[Turn Here! 2/01](#)
Go Check on Wendi! [2/01](#)
[Flying Blind at 100 mph 1/98](#)
A Unique Combination [09/06](#)
[In My Heart I Knelt 02/99](#)
The Gate [2/96](#) (scroll to the last story)
[My Car Was on Fire! 2/97](#) (scroll to the second story)
Save My Life, Comfort My Children [9/87](#)
[The Lost Watch 10/88](#)
Fifteen: My Year of Blessings [10/84 Liahona](#)

[Potato Crop-Prayer 10/89](#)

The Lost Scriptures [8/16](#)

[Lock the Back Door! 8/03](#)

Please Help It Stop Bleeding! [1/01](#)

[Grabbing the Strong Roots 10/09](#)

The Voice Spoke Spanish [1/77](#)

[You Must Pray! 3/15](#)

I Remember Susan [6/77](#) (scroll to the second story)

[Don't Go Through the Alley! 8/02](#)

Lesson from a Lost Wallet [6/96](#) (scroll to the last story)

[The Dream Seemed Meaningless 9/89](#)

"You'll Be Needed in 30 Minutes!" [2/99](#)

["The Winds and the Waves Shall Obey!" 2/99](#)

Stepping Stones to Truth [10/97](#)

[Bible Stories and Personal Protection 11/92](#) (Elder Oaks recounts a few Bible stories. He also tells a story at the beginning about his childhood and a story at the end about a robbery attempt on him in Chicago.)

[Living By The Spirit 8/84](#) (This article has many stories about teaching children to live by the Spirit.)

Sundays Are for Something More [6/17](#)

[Not Open on Sunday! 6/84](#)

Separated by a Flood, United by Prayer [3/11](#)

February

Themes: family love, romantic love, the heart, Valentine's Day, neighborly love, service, kindness, friendship, loyalty, teamwork, community, love of God, charity

Hymns

[God Is Love #87](#)
[Let Us Oft Speak Kind Words #232](#)
[Love At Home #294](#)
[Love One Another #308](#)
[God Of Power, God of Right #20](#)
[Our Savior's Love #113](#)
[Come We That Love the Lord #119](#)
[Scatter Sunshine #230](#)
[You Can Make the Pathway Bright #228](#)

Music from the *Ensign*

[Turn to Us Thy Loving Eyes 3/80](#)
May I Serve Thee [3/04](#)

Music from the *New Era*

[A Love Unfeigned 8/79](#)
[If Thou Lovest Me 8/81](#)
[Song for the River 1/83](#)
[Love Casts Out Fear 6/83](#)
[You're Not Alone 1/84](#)
[Come All Who Love the Lord 8/84](#)
[I Shall Love the Lord With All My Heart 3/85](#)
[Thou Shalt Love the Lord Thy God 3/87](#)
[Look Inside 1/92](#)
[Counsel From King Benjamin/More Than I Can Give 11/93](#)
[The Power of His Love 8/97](#)
[I'll Be Your Friend 6/98](#)
[Somewhere There's Somebody Waiting For Me 9/98](#)
[A Change of Heart 7/14](#)
[If We Love Him 1/19](#)

Children's Songs

[Jesus Said Love Everyone p. 61 CS](#)
[I Feel My Savior's Love p. 74 CS](#)
[The Second Article of Faith p. 122](#)
[A Special Gift is Kindness p. 145 CS](#)
[I'll Walk With You p. 140 CS](#)

[Where Love Is p. 138 CS](#)
[Kindness Begins With Me p. 145 CS](#)
[Friends Are Fun p. 262 CS](#)
[Sing Me a Song, Friend 8/81](#)
[A Wonderful Feeling of Love, Friend 1/96](#)
[I'm Learning the Ways of Jesus, Friend 11/10](#)
[I Know That My Savior Loves Me, Friend 3/15](#)
[Light the World With Love, Friend 1/18](#)
[God Loves All His Children 10/18](#)

Scriptures to Memorize

[Psalm 100:2](#)
[Proverbs 17:17](#)
[Luke 6:31](#)
[John 13:34-35](#)
[John 15:13](#)
[1 Peter 3:8-12](#)
[1 John 4:7-11](#)
[James 1:27](#)
[Ephesians 2:19](#)
[Ephesians 5:2](#)
[2 Chronicles 16:9](#)
[Mosiah 2:17](#)
[Mosiah 4:19](#)
[4 Nephi 1:15-16](#)
[Doctrine and Covenants 95:1](#)
[D&C 88:123-125](#)

Poetry From LaDawn Jacob's *Favorite Family Devotional Poems*

Lips and Slips p. 21
Hugs p. 38
Kindness p. 40
Let Me Be p. 77
Three Gates p. 113
Eternal Kindness p. 122
A Friend p. 130
A Giant of Man p. 8 (about George Washington)

Poetry from the *Friend*

[My Friends 9/09](#)
What Does It Take to Make a February? [2/82](#)
[I Know that Jesus Loves Me 12/12](#)

Other Traditional Poetry

[Winter's Blessings](#)
[Outwitted](#) by Edwin Markham (third item on page)
[Keep Sweet](#) by Strickland Gillilan
[Watch Yourself Go By](#) by Strickland Gillilan

[When You Send a Valentine](#) (scroll down to the far right column of the page, around the middle)
[Immortal Love, Forever Full](#) by John Greenleaf Whittier

Stories/Articles from the *Friend*

An Extra Dose of Love [6/17](#)
[The Valentine](#) 2/04
Sister Stratton's Miracle [6/97](#)
[Be Generous](#) 11/14
The Most Surprising Gift [4/14](#)
[Going on an Errand for the Lord](#) 1/12
One Grumpy Neighbor [4/14](#)
[The Best Soccer Player](#) 3/12
Abba's Gifts [9/02](#)
[CLPV: Love](#) 2/02
The Ducks' New Clothes [7/16](#)
[Toys for Tim](#) 11/10
The Pumpkin Experiment [10/09](#)
[The Red Marble](#) 1/08
The Love Drawer [2/08](#)
[Gift from Alice](#) 3/03
The Tornado [9/14](#)
[Helper Queen](#) 1/89
Tons of Coal [11/97](#)
[Mikey's Gift](#) 9/08
Come to the Rescue [4/10](#)
[The Lord's Wind](#) 9/05
Best Friend's Good Samaritan Mom [4/02](#) (scroll to the second story)
[Mission Impossible](#) 3/02
Kindness to All Creatures [3/11](#)
[Happy Valentine's Day](#) 2/82
Lydia's Thirsty Raspberries [8/13](#)
[I'll Walk With You](#) 4/05
Making Mrs. Martin's Day [3/05](#)
[Looking on the Heart](#) 2/05

Stories from the *New Era*

[All in a Day's Work](#) 08/00
Sisters in the Gospel [6/15](#)
[A Friend in the Hallway](#) 11/12
100 Dollars 100 Acts of Service [2/12](#)
[Ye Are My Friends](#) 11/79
Serving More than Soup [11/16](#)
[A Reason for the Repetition](#) 10/16
Take it From Me, "Love" Can Wait [3/16](#)
[Walking the Lonely Road to Church](#) 1/16
Facing a Friend's Fists [1/16](#)
[The New Guy](#) 12/15

Service With a Sparkle [12/15](#)
[A Different Kind of Charity 12/15](#)
We've Got Your Back [11/15](#)
[Walking the Extra Mile 4/09](#)
The Worth of Weeds [5/07](#)
[Knock Again 5/07](#)
One Word At a Time [10/07](#)
[Come Back, Heather 1/91](#)

Stories from the *Ensign*

We Were Foreigners [2/81](#)
[Charity and the Cyclops Cake 1/01](#)
Service That Came Full Circle [1/15](#)
[The Lord Changed My Heart 3/84](#)
Love, Dad [3/84](#)
[Rain, a Bedspread, and a Birthday 4/75](#)
Lose Tafuna [9/84](#)
[As I Have Loved You 2/17](#)
Snow, Cookies, and Valentines [2/86](#)
[Charlie 9/86](#) (scroll down to the third story)
What I Learned At Carthage [10/01](#)
[The Case of the Flat Tires 7/02](#)
Fresh Crab and French Bread [6/85](#)
[The Man in the Yellow Slicker 7/92](#)
Ageless Evening [3/87](#)
[Second Chance 3/87](#)
And the Greatest of these is Love [3/84](#)
[My Miracle Friend 9/89](#)
Had She Been Forgotten? [10/88](#)
[A Hug for Frederick 10/92](#)
The Earrings [1/07](#)
[When My Friend Died 7/17](#)
Be Someone's Angel [2/01](#)
[A Heartfelt Note 8/00](#)
On a Snow-packed German Road [6/00](#)
[Elva We Did It! 6/00](#)
Stripped of Spiritual Blinders [6/00](#)
[No Missionaries Please! 2/97](#)
For the Love of Buffalo Wings [2/97](#)
[A Gift of Eggs and Love 8/02](#) (scroll to the fourth story)
Five Small Experiences [2/04](#)
[Candle in the Window 2/81](#)
The Fruits of Peace [6/84](#) (valuable counsel from Sister Patricia Holland sprinkled with stories, from her own life and the life of Corrie Ten Boom, and three challenges)
[Seeking Refuge--Finding Peace 9/17](#)
Saved After My Daughter's Suicide [9/17](#) (to be shared with older teens and adults)
[How Survivors Heal 9/17](#) (not a story, but valuable counsel in companion article to go with story above)
Finding a Friend in My "Enemy" [8/84](#)

[Old Wood 8/84](#)

A Continuing Expressions of Love [6/84](#)

[A Branch of Orange Blossoms 6/84](#)

Shyness and Introversion Looking In, Turning Out [7/17](#)

[Learning to Listen: The First Racially Integrated Branches in South Africa 7/17](#)

Kindness [7/17](#)

[A Hard Look at Myself](#) by Lyn Austin 2/90

In A Class by Herself [2/90](#)

[All I Had to Give 7/98](#)

I Was the Needy One [3/14](#)

[Now I Know There is a God 3/14](#)

Serving a Stranger [3/14](#)

[Project Seraph 10/93](#)

A Continuing Expression of Love [6/84](#)

[I Knew She'd Be Here Today 2/93](#)

March

Themes: springtime, The First Vision, ancestry, family history research, the Book of Mormon coming forth to bring about the Restoration (its anniversary of being for sale is March 26, 1830), the power of the Book of Mormon

Note: Check the calendar to find this year's date for Easter. If it falls in March or early April this year, you may want to use the Easter-themed resources listed in the April section for March. Then you could use the March-themed resources for April.

Hymns

[Joseph Smith's First Prayer #26](#)

[The Voice of God Again is Heard #18](#)

[What Was Witnessed In the Heavens? #11](#)

[An Angel From On High #13](#)

[Now We'll Sing With One Accord #25](#)

[The Iron Rod #274](#)

[Turn Your Hearts #291](#)

Music from the *Ensign*

[On One Spring Day 4/74](#)

Music from the *New Era*

[The Book of Mormon Has Come Forth 9/09](#)

[Glad Tidings From Cumorah 8/94](#)

[A Voice Whispers From the Earth 8/91](#)

[To Those With Pure Intent 6/94](#)

[Plain and Precious Truth 5/98](#)

[Pillar of Light 4/20](#)

Children's Songs

Springtime is Coming CS p. 238, copyright restrictions prevent lyrics being on lds.org, so please see a hard copy of the CS

[Because It's Spring CS p. 239](#)

[In the Leafy Treetops CS p. 240](#)

[Birds in the Tree CS p. 241a](#)

[Rain is Falling All Around CS p. 241b](#)

[Popcorn Popping CS p. 242](#)

[The Sacred Grove CS p. 87](#)

[On a Golden Springtime CS p. 88](#)

[Book of Mormon Stories CS p. 118](#)

[The Books in the Book of Mormon CS p. 119](#)

[The Third Article of Faith p. 123 CS](#)

[The Golden Plates CS p. 86](#)
[An Angel Came to Joseph Smith CS p. 86](#)
[The Book of Mormon Teaches Me, Friend 1/88](#)
[Family History I Am Doing It CS p. 94 CS](#)
[The Hearts of the Children CS p. 92 CS](#)
[Truth From Elijah CS p. 90](#)
[A Young Boy Named Joseph, Friend 5/95](#)
[Hand in Hand Together, Friend 5/01](#)
[Truth Restored, Friend 12/05](#)
[There is Love In My Family Tree, Friend 10/16](#)
[The Book of Mormon Tells of Christ 1/20](#)
[The First Vision 4/20](#)

Other Music

[Find Our Cousins](#)

Scriptures

[Isaiah 29:4](#)
[Isaiah 29:11-14](#)
[Ezekiel 37:15-17](#)
[James 1:5](#)
[1 Nephi 15:23-25](#)
[2 Nephi 29:10-11](#)
[Mosiah 9:17](#)
[Moroni 10:3-5](#)
[D&C 2:2](#)
[D&C 20:5-11](#)
[D&C 27:5](#)
[D&C 35:12, 17](#)
[D&C 42:12](#)
[D&C 45:28](#)
[D&C 128:19](#)
[D&C 128:20](#)
[D&C 133:36-38](#)
[D&C 135:3](#)
[Joseph Smith History 1:14-20](#)
[Joseph Smith History 1:30-34](#)
[Moses 6:5-8](#)
[Moses 7:62](#)
[Abraham 1:31](#)
[Articles of Faith 1:8](#)

Poetry from the *Friend*

Welcome to Spring! [3/87](#)
[Read the Book of Mormon 3/04](#)
A Boy Seeking Answers [4/10](#)
[Trading 3/15](#)
My Family Tree [10/09](#)

Poetry From LaDawn Jacob's *Favorite Family Devotional Poems*

Good Timber p. 74

Other Traditional Poetry

[The Heritage](#) by James Russell Lowell

[Your Name](#) by Edgar A. Guest

[The Bluebird's Song](#) by Emily Huntington Miller

Stories from the Friend About the Book of Mormon

Book of Mormon Power [5/17](#) (not a story, but short not-to-be-missed counsel from Pres. Monson)

[F2F: Walter Gonzalez, The Book on the Shelf 1/17](#)

The Story of the Book of Mormon [5/12](#)

[F2F: Silvia Allred, Racing to Read 5/11](#)

F2F: Kevin R. Duncan, The Book Was True! [3/13](#)

[The Best Chapter Book 4/02](#)

Protecting the Gold Plates [6/08](#)

[Scriptures in a Suitcase 6/04](#)

F2F: Hans Verlan Andersen [6/89](#)

[F2F: Walter Gonzalez 3/03](#)

F2F: Elder Robert S. Wood [8/02](#)

[How We Got the Book of Mormon 4/80](#)

Joseph Smith Receives the Gold Plates [5/08](#)

[F2F: Elder Merrill C. Oaks 11/99](#)

The Book of Mormon Club [6/17](#)

[Fiction or Nonfiction 1/12](#)

F2F: Elder Gerald Causse, How I Gained a Testimony [10/11](#)

[I Finished the Book of Mormon 4/16](#)

F2F: Elder Michael T. Ringwood, Being Like Shiblón [6/17](#)

[Nephi: Journey to the Promised Land 1/16](#)

Nephi's Family Crosses the Ocean [2/16](#)

[King Benjamin Teaches His People 3/16](#)

Alma Baptizes Many People [4/16](#)

[Ammon's Good Example 5/16](#)

Alma Teaches How to Pray [6/16](#)

[Captain Moroni's Flag 7/16](#)

Samuel Teaches About Jesus Christ [8/16](#)

[Jesus Visits the Nephites 9/16](#)

Traveling to the Promised Land [10/16](#)

[Mormon Writes on the Golden Plates 11/16](#)

Moroni's Special Promise [12/16](#)

[F2F: Elder Monte J. Brough, the Dawning of a Testimony 9/05](#)

F2F: Elder D. Todd Christofferson, How Can I Feel Close to Jesus Christ? [12/15](#)

[Book of Mormon Buddies 4/18](#)

Stories from the *Friend* About Ancestry and Research

[Finding Grandpa Oskar 8/02](#)

Gobo Fango [3/03](#)

[The Memory Box 4/10](#)

[Treasure Box 3/17](#)

[Grandma's Doll 8/02](#)

[My Family Tree 10/16](#)

[Family Gift Tree 11/98](#)

[It'll Make Your Arms Strong 11/98](#)

[CLPV: Your Fascinating History 6/05](#)

[F2F: Douglas Shumway, Family Ties 4/05](#)

[Loving Those 2/15](#)

[To Save Our Ancestors 8/02](#)

[Family History Help 7/09](#)

[My Family History Miracle 2/08](#)

[I Can Do Family History! 9/17](#)

[Family History 1-2-3 9/10](#)

[A Century of Genealogy 3/94](#)

[Family History Fun 2/18](#)

Stories from the *New Era* About the Book of Mormon

[How Seminary Changed Me and My Family Forever 8/13](#)

[Why the Book of Mormon? by Elvin Jerome Laceda 9/16](#)

[I Know that My Redeemer Lives 3/16](#)

[Pocket Sized Strength 10/09](#)

[Why the Book of Mormon? By Pres. Henry B. Eyring 5/08](#)

[What He Says, Goes 6/08](#) (scroll down to the second story)

[I Couldn't Put It Down 1/09](#)

[A Guide for Your Life 6/95](#) (a collection of three stories)

[Your Testimony and the Book of Mormon 9/17](#)

[One Man's Trash is Another Man's Treasure 7/11](#)

[I Knew Nephi 6/95](#)

[The Most Useful Piece of Knowledge 1/09](#)

[The Experiment 6/95](#)

[Searching for the Right Church 3/10](#)

[Learning to Hope 11/06](#)

[God's Guiding Hand 7/08](#)

[A Captain for the Cause 6/11](#)

[An Exceptional Book, an Exceptional Answer 10/07](#)

[I Felt the Power 10/07](#)

[Making Friends with Moroni 6/99](#)

[Five Laps 7/99](#)

[Cham Nap 5/86](#)

[Growing Toward the Good 5/86](#)

[Our Book of Mormon Project 10/12](#)

[5 Lesser-Known Heroes in the Book of Mormon 10/17](#)

[The Book of Mormon: Read All About It! 9/03](#)

Stories from the *New Era* About Ancestry

[Putting the Puzzle Together 11/06](#)

[Three Ways to Be Involved in Family History 2/17](#)

[We'll All Be Together Again 7/16](#)

The Family Secret [11/04](#)

[Injured and Alone 5/07](#)

Finding Mary Redhead [6/10](#)

[Leading Out on Family History 10/14](#)

My Jeep is History Too [10/82](#)

[Saving the Stories 9/03](#)

Where in History is Josh Taylor? [4/98](#)

[Family History I Am Doing It! 10/14](#) (a collection of short stories of youth doing the work)

These Are Your Days [2/15](#) (not a story, but such valuable counsel and promise from Elder Neil L. Andersen, not to be missed!)

[Personal Progress On My Family Tree 2/17](#)

Firm Foundations [3/18](#) (scroll to the story titled "Is My Family History Really Done?"

[Accepting the #TempleChallenge 1/17](#)

Better than a Loaf of Bread [4/15](#)

[Ask Papa 8/15](#)

Kevin Made it Happen [10/15](#)

[Family History Unites Families 1/14](#)

Real to Me [10/14](#)

[Branching Out to Strengthen Home and Family 1/13](#)

Gratitude for Family--Past and Present [6/13](#)

[Unexpected Calling 8/13](#)

Family History Leads You to the Temple [7/13](#)

Stories from the *Ensign* About the Book of Mormon

[A Book You Can Respect 9/77](#)

Stepping Stones to Truth [10/97](#)

[How The Book of Mormon Found Me 1/01](#)

Promise Me You Will Read [1/03](#)

[The Coming Forth of the Book of Mormon 1/88](#)

The Book of Mormon Was My Answer [10/88](#)

[Gold Plates and Printer's Ink 9/76](#)

Hold to the Rod [6/71](#)

[It Took Thirteen Years to Cross the Street 8/86](#)

"There Are Prophets Today!" She Told Me [8/80](#)

[Let Me See That Book 1/96](#)

I Had Read This Book Before! [1/96](#)

[The Book that Would Not Burn 10/86](#)

1000 Copies of the Book of Mormon [9/89](#)

[There is Room in My Chart Bag 9/89](#)

"It's True! This is the Word of God!" [7/85](#)

[Underneath the Bookshelf 7/02](#)

I Couldn't Get Rid of the Book [1/92](#)

[The Blue Book 1/92](#)

From a Book Coming Forth [7/88](#)

[Fighting Fire With Faith 1/96](#)

For Each Season of My Life [9/02](#)

[Why We Ask People to Read the Book of Mormon 8/84](#)

A Dream Come True [8/84](#)

[Living By The Spirit 8/84](#) (This article has many stories about teaching children to live by the Spirit. The paragraph that begins, "We're on our third time through the Book of Mormon..." which includes a simulation done in a family setting is my favorite.)

[Rummage-Sale Book of Mormon 2/90](#)

Stories from the *Ensign* About Ancestry and Research

[In Search of My Dad--Online 10/09](#)

Grandpa Father [3/15](#)

["I Am Not a Son" 4/15](#)

You Removed My Sadness [6/13](#)

[The Parents You Have Not Known 2/88](#)

Unexplained Birth Certificate [1/87](#)

[The Chance to Say I Love You 1/87](#)

More than Names [1/87](#)

[They Waited 2000 Years 9/07](#)

Faceless Man [1/98](#)

[I Didn't Give Up 9/08](#)

Family History Reflections [9/08](#)

[Searching in Finland 9/08](#)

An Adopted Son's Family History Journey [7/17](#)

[Who Turned My Head? 10/07](#)

Uncle Gilberto's Memory [10/07](#)

[Net Results 2/04](#)

Thanks for Finding Me! [1/06](#)

[Treasure from China 7/95](#)

Go Back to the Beginning [4/99](#)

[Please Do My Work 8/83](#)

I Found Them! [10/01](#)

[Briefcase from the Dump 2/93](#)

Cornmans' Request [7/88](#)

[Finding Grandpa Pablo 9/03](#)

I Found It! [8/05](#)

[Discovering My Icelanders 8/81](#)

A Bag of Food and 20 Marks [12/05](#)

[Searching for Ancestors and Finding the Truth 3/18](#)

My Note on the Gravestone [6/14](#)

[Our Family Heritage Month 3/03](#)

Grandpa Wrote a Book [2/95](#)

["Michelle, Is That You?" 6/99](#)

Christian Karlsson [3/18](#)

[They Walk With Me 1/17](#)

A Visit from Milton [4/14](#)

[Daddy, Do Not Leave Me Here! 7/09](#)

Family History Treasure Hunt [7/13](#)

[Can I Have a Blessing? 1/13](#)

Young Adults: I Find Joy in Family History When [6/14](#)

[Protecting Our Youth Through Family History 10/15](#)

April

Themes: Easter, the Atonement and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Restoration of the gospel, organization of the latter-day Church of Jesus Christ, General Conference, first principles and ordinances of the gospel, conversion, being born again, the sacrament, forgiveness, healing, miracles, rescue stories, testimony

Hymns

['Twas Witnessed in the Morning Sky #12](#)

[I Stand All Amazed #193](#)

[That Easter Morn #198](#)

[He Is Risen #199](#)

[Christ the Lord is Risen Today #200](#)

[I Saw A Mighty Angel Fly #15](#)

[The Happy Day At Last Has Come #32](#)

Music from the *Ensign*

[In An Upper Room 4/74](#)

[The Risen Jesus in America 4/74](#)

[O Lord Who Gave Thy Life For Me 10/02](#)

[This is the Christ 12/06](#)

[Behold the Wounds in Jesus' Hands 4/09](#)

[What is This Thing Man Calls Death 2/10](#)

[Rise Up Ye Saints Rejoice 4/12](#)

[My Shepherd Will Supply My Need 9/15](#)

[A Sinless Man 3/16](#)

[Bread of Life, Living Water 7/15](#)

[Come Unto Him 4/17](#)

[In a Sacred Garden Place 4/19](#)

Music from the *Liahona*

[He Sent His Son \(new arrangement by Sally DeFord\) 3/21](#)

Music from the *New Era*

[The Lost Lamb 4/80](#)

[For Bread and Breath and Life 8/80](#)

[To My Savior 12/80](#)

[Christ is the Savior 12/82](#)

[I Remember the Savior 4/83](#)

[Jesus My Savior 8/83](#)

[Behold, My Joy Is Full 10/83](#)
[He Is Not Here, for He is Risen 8/85](#)
[I Walk by Faith 11/85](#)
[No Ordinary Man 4/86](#)
[It Is With Christ 8/87](#)
[Just One Little Light 1/88](#)
[Not My Will 4/88](#)
[I'll Follow Christ 8/88](#)
[With Heart and Voice 4/89](#)
[This Is Jesus 4/90](#)
[He Is Our Guide 4/91](#)
[I Will Come Unto Christ 4/92](#)
[O Savior Thou Who Healed the Sick 8/92](#)
[The Savior's Touch 4/93](#)
[O Master Let Me Walk with Thee 8/93](#)
[Power of His Grace 8/93](#)
[Light of the World 4/94](#)
[The Carpenter 8/94](#)
[Forsake Me Not 8/95](#)
[Plant a Seed in Your Heart 9/95](#)
[He Will Heal Us 4/96](#)
[Maybe I Will Be There 9/01](#)
[My Testimony 6/02](#)
[The Gift of the Holy Ghost 8/05](#)
[I Marvel at the Miracle 4/14](#)
[Gentle Jesus, Pure and Fair 4/15](#)
[One by One 7/16](#)
[Peace in Christ 1/18](#)
[I Feel My Savior's Love \(new arrangement\) 4/18](#)
[Pillar of Light 4/20](#)
[A Light to the World 6/20](#)

Children's Songs

[I'm Trying to Be Like Jesus p. 78 CS](#)
[On a Golden Springtime p. 88 CS](#)
[Faith p. 96 CS](#)
[Repentance p. 98 CS](#)
[Help Me Dear Father p. 99 CS](#)
[When Jesus Christ Was Baptized p. 102 CS](#)
[Baptism p. 100 CS](#)
[The Holy Ghost p. 105 CS](#)
[The Fourth Article of Faith p. 124 CS](#)
[Did Jesus Really Live Again? p. 64](#)
[He Died That We Might Live Again p. 65 CS](#)
[Easter Hosanna p. 68 CS](#)
[When He Comes Again p. 82 CS](#)
[Easter Day, Friend 3/78](#)

[Other Sheep I Have, Friend 1/77](#)
[Repentance, Friend 6/77](#)
[Spring of the Year, Friend 4/81](#)
[Jesus Is Coming Soon, Friend 4/85](#)
[The Church of Jesus Christ p. 77 CS](#)
[Faith, Friend 4/90](#)
[My Testimony Grows, Friend 4/91](#)
[Jesus Is My Friend, Friend 10/92](#)
[My Testimony is Growing, Friend 3/94](#)
[If Christ Should Speak to Me, Friend 7/1 95](#)
[In His Holy Name, Friend 2/96](#)
[Isaiah Says, Friend 3/98](#)
[Covenants Are Promises, Friend 8/99](#)
[I Come to the Water, Friend 3/00](#)
[The Bread Reminds Me, Friend 7/00](#)
[I'll Follow Him in Faith, Friend 1/03](#)
[I Feel the Spirit, Friend 2/04](#)
[I Want to Be Baptized, Friend 7/05](#)
[I Have Faith in the Lord, Jesus Christ, Friend 10/07](#)
[He Came For Us, Friend 4/11](#)
[If the Savior Stood Beside Me, Friend 3/13](#)
[My Covenant Path, Friend 9/14](#)
[Many Names of Jesus, Friend 4/17](#)
[Jesus Is My Shepherd, Friend 9/13](#)
[Our Savior's Atonement, Friend 4/97](#)
[At Conference Time, Friend 10/97](#)
[Love Enough, Friend 7/14](#)
[If I Listen With My Heart, Friend 2/16](#)
[Jesus' Church Has Been Restored, Friend 5/17](#)
[Gethsemane, Friend 3/18](#) (simplified, the full arrangement is found [here](#) for purchase)
[The Miracle, Friend 6/18](#)
[When I Return to Him, Friend 4/19](#)
[I Will Walk With Jesus, Friend 2/20](#)
[The First Vision, Friend 4/20](#)
[My Baptism Promise, Friend 2/21](#)

Scriptures

[Psalm 38:18](#)
[Mosiah 3:5-8](#)
[Matthew 28:5-6](#)
[Mark 16:6-7](#)
[John 5:29](#)
[John 15:13](#)
[Acts 3:19-21](#)
[Revelation 1:17-18](#)
[1 Cor. 15:20,53-57](#)
[Hebrews 11:1](#)
[Rev. 14:6-7](#)

[Mosiah 13:33-24](#)
[2 Nephi 11:4](#)
[Enos 1:26-27](#)
[Alma 7:11-14](#)
[Alma 32:28](#)
[3 Nephi 10:10](#)
[3 Nephi 11:8-17](#)
[Mormon 9:19](#)
[Ether 12:12](#)
[Ether 12:18](#)
[D&C 88:7](#)
[D&C 110:2-4](#)
[D&C 19:23-24](#)
[Moses 6:52](#)

Poetry from the *Friend*

Easter Morning [4/14](#)
[Easter Time 4/96](#)
The Garden [4/09](#)
[The Holy Ghost 11/74](#)
I Find the Savior [8/13](#)
[When the Prophet Speaks 4/05](#)

Poetry from the *New Era*

Washed Clean [4/98](#) (scroll to the end of the talk)
[He Who Would Be Chief Among You 4/75](#)

More to Memorize

[The Living Christ: The Testimony of the Apostles](#)

Other Traditional Poetry

[An Easter Carol](#) by Christina Rossetti
[On Easter Day](#) by Celia Loughton Thaxter
[Crossing the Bar](#) by Alfred Tennyson
[Paul Revere's Ride](#) by Longfellow (I included this here because it happened April 18-19, 1775, but you might prefer to study this poem with other patriotic poetry in June or July.)
[An Apple Orchard](#) in the Spring by William Martin
[An April Day](#) by Longfellow
[Gone From My Sight](#) by Henry Van Dyke
[Still, Still With Thee](#) by Harriet Beecher Stowe
[The Boat](#) by George Macdonald
[Serving Jesus](#)
[How Lost Was My Condition](#) by John Newton

Stories from the *Friend*

[F2F: Elder Wayne S. Peterson, Live Worthy to Come Home 12/03](#)
From the Life of Heber J. Grant, Comforted by the Holy Ghost [11/04](#)
[Fishing Buddies 3/16](#)

[Comforting Lucy 9/09](#)
[A Blessing of Strength 3/08](#)
What Do People Do When They Die? [11/17](#)
[I Know the Prophet's Voice 10/12](#)
Rescue [3/05](#)
[Broken Taillight 8/03](#)
Porter's Promise [4/14](#)
[CLPV: Sold! 4/14](#)
CLPV: Following the Savior's Path [4/12](#)
[The Rose Garden 4/05](#)
The Cactus, the Cross, and Easter [3/81](#)
[Rescue 3/05](#)
My Brother and the Resurrection [4/09](#)
[Manna for Mother 7/07](#)
Maggie's Peaches [7/05](#)
[William's Faith 4/98](#)
Washed Clean [4/99](#)
[My Old Friend Shepherd 4/99](#)
CLPV: The Savior's Atonement [3/02](#)
[Sacred Ground 9/07](#)
He Hath Opened My Eyes [6/95](#)
[Where the Church Was Organized 4/13](#)
The Church Is Organized [3/17](#) (has figures to tell the story referenced above)
[Testimonies 6/92](#)
Promised Blessings [10/01](#)
[Snapshots of Heaven 6/05](#)
No Candy for Easter [4/04](#)
[F2F: Marcus B. Nash, Growing a Testimony 12/08](#)
True Stories from Central Europe, Pres. Smith Took Him by the Hand [8/73](#) (first story)
[Elder Perry, Chickens, and Me 10/17](#)
Trust in the Lord [6/11](#)
[Cheering Up Grandpa 4/15](#)
He Broke the Bands of Death [4/12](#)
[Talofa Lava 5/72](#)
Save Her! [7/13](#)
[Stirling's Great Idea 6/13](#)
Shepherds of Israel [5/13](#)
[F2F: President Howard W. Hunter 4/90](#)
One Day in the Water [3/90](#)
[Joseph's Baptism 4/05](#)
Sacrament in the Attic [2/03](#)
[Sunrise Surprise 4/05](#)
The Lipstick Lie [3/05](#)
[F2F: Susan W. Tanner, The Light Divine 3/05](#)

Stories from the *New Era*

I Needed to Understand [10/12](#)
[Your Conference Action Plan 5/16](#)

Do We Know How Much He Went Through? [12/09](#)
[When a Friend Dies 4/87](#)
Living With Dying [9/82](#)
[Under the Waves 4/12](#)
My Brother [1/96](#)
[They Saw Him 4/17](#)
Rappelling through Fear [10/16](#)
[When the Plan Became Real 1/17](#)
"I'm Sorry" Didn't Feel Like Enough [8/16](#)
[Saving My Sabbath 7/16](#)
Be of Good Cheer [5/16](#)
[Perilous Rescue 7/82](#)
The Power of Partaking Worthily of the Sacrament [11/15](#)
[Where Was the Water? 11/15](#) (second story)
Catching Conference [10/09](#)
[The Currant Bush 1/73](#)
What Cathy Knew [4/07](#)
[Miracles 11/90](#)
Lost in the Canyon [3/14](#)
[Lost on the Lake 5/96](#)
20 Feet Down [11/13](#)
[Permanent Marker 7/13](#)
Because of the Restoration [12/06](#)
[Articles of Faith: The Price I Couldn't Pay 9/05](#)
Falling Into a Miracle [9/06](#)
[Lead Thou Me On 2/06](#)
Proud of Who I Am [6/09](#)
[Bearing Testimony to the Bishop 6/09](#)
A Testimony of My Own [6/11](#)
[Do You Need a Miracle? 2/03](#)
Columbine: Ten Years Later [9/09](#)
[Hard Lessons Learned As a Second-Rate Easter Bunny 4/14](#)
Return Trip Ticket Home [4/74](#)
[Three Gardens 4/72](#)
Soaring [4/91](#)

Stories from the *Ensign*

Believing Christ (The Parable of the Bicycle) [4/92](#)
[Broken Hearts. Broken Windows 4/04](#)
Miracles Today [1/78](#)
[Challenges. Miracles. and Testimonies 4/15](#)
A Long Road Back [6/97](#)
[The Shepherd's Crook 4/17](#)
I Stole His Knife [2/97](#)
[He Is Risen 4/13](#)
Your Personal Interview With God [4/13](#)
[Pioneer Perspectives on Resurrection 4/13](#)
Behold the Lamb of God [4/13](#)

[Guided Through My Grief 1/96](#)

Working Through my Grief [1/03](#)

[Lost in a Thunderstorm 8/98](#)

Trapped! [8/98](#)

[My Miracle Friend 9/89](#)

Finding Peace Through Forgiveness [9/03](#)

[Rescued from the Darkness 10/01](#)

Capsized in a Storm [10/95](#)

[Rescued by the Gospel 9/13](#) (for older people as it talks about suicide)

Capsized! [3/01](#)

[My Shattered Dreams 3/05](#)

Seven Tender Miracles Along the Way [6/16](#)

["His Plan Is Perfect--I Am Not Afraid" 8/84](#)

Joy in the Face of Death [9/17](#)

[My Moment in the Garden Tomb 3/18](#)

The Real Miracle [7/17](#)

[The True Miracle of Healing 2/17](#)

The Only Thing That Saved Me [7/17](#)

[Called to Rescue 4/15](#)

The Minefield Rescue [3/13](#)

[Seeking Rescue 6/15](#)

May

Themes: May Day, Mother's Day, mothers, motherhood, grandmothers, grandmotherhood, gardening, seeds, restoration of the priesthood, priesthood blessings, Memorial Day, remembering loved ones who have passed away, war veterans

Hymns

[O My Father #292 verse 3](#)

[Love at Home #294](#)

[Each Life That Touches Ours for Good #293](#)

[Teach Me To Walk #304](#)

[Come Sing to the Lord #10](#)

['Twas Witnessed in the Morning Sky #12](#)

[God of Power, God of Right #20](#)

[The Happy Day At Last Has Come #32](#)

Music from the *New Era*

[The Priesthood Reigns on Earth 5/80](#)

[Seeds of Truth 8/91](#)

[Plant a Seed in Your Heart 9/95](#)

[My Mother, My Daughter 3/98](#)

[Mom You're Awesome \(2nd verse of Dad You're Awesome\)](#)

[The Mighty Priesthood of God 4/05](#)

[Today I Must Prepare 5/93](#)

[Young Men of Zion 5/04](#)

Children's Songs

[The Fifth Article of Faith p. 125 CS](#)

[Love Is Spoken Here p. 190 CS](#)

[Quickly I'll Obey p. 197 CS](#) 1st verse

[Grandmother p. 200 CS](#)

[I Often Go Walking p. 202 CS](#)

[My Mother Dear p. 203 CS](#)

[Mother, Tell Me the Story p. 204 CS](#)

[Dearest Mother, I Love You p.206 CS](#)

[Mother Dear p. 206 CS](#)

[Mother I Love You p. 207 CS](#)

[The Dearest Names p. 208 CS](#)

[The Priesthood is Restored p. 89 CS](#)

[The Prophet Said to Plant a Garden p. 237 CS](#)

[Little Seeds Lie Fast Asleep CS p. 243](#)

[Little Purple Pansies CS p. 244](#)

[Word of Wisdom Promises, Friend 5/75](#)

[When Mother Bakes. Friend 5/78](#)

[Plant a Garden, Friend 3/97](#) (called If I Planted a Garden [here](#))

[With Priesthood Power 4/18](#)

Scriptures

[Eccl. 9:9](#)

[Proverbs 1:8](#)

[Proverbs 31:10-11](#) (or go all the way to vs. 31 if you want to memorize more)

[Jeremiah 29:5](#)

[Alma 53:20-21](#)

[Alma 56:47-48](#)

[Mosiah 4:14-15](#)

[Colossians 3:20](#)

[Deut. 11:19](#)

[D&C 27:8](#)

[D&C 27:12-14](#)

[D&C 42:45-46](#)

[D&C 84:33-39](#)

[D&C 107:1-4](#)

[D&C 121:34-46](#)

[D&C 128:20-21](#)

[Moses 5:10-11](#)

[JSH 1:68-70](#)

Poetry from the *New Era*

[My Angel 5/79](#)

[Grandma With Love 2/00](#)

Poetry from the *Friend*

[Mother is a Gardener 5/85](#)

My Mother's Hands [5/10](#)

[Our Family Garden 6/02](#)

My Garden [5/03](#)

Poetry From LaDawn Jacob's *Favorite Family Devotional Poems*

I Love You Mother p.54

Educated Woman quote p. 69

My Granny p. 114

My Grandmother p.115

A Mother's Prayer p. 4

Other Traditional Poetry

[The Reading Mother](#) by Strickland Gillilan

[I Wandered Lonely As a Cloud/Daffodils](#) by Wordsworth

[My Mother](#)

[Somebody's Mother](#) by Mary Dow Brine

Stories About Mothers and Grandmothers from the *Friend*

[The First of May 5/91](#)

When Grandma Got Sick [2/02](#)

[A Walk With Grandma 5/09](#)

The May Queen [5/09](#)

[The Primary Quilt 10/04](#)

Fasting for Mom [7/03](#)

[Next to the Angels 5/00](#)

I Didn't Pray for Pecans [3/86](#)

[Dancing in the Snow 1/02](#)

F2F: Marcos Aidukaitis [12/11](#)

[A Wildflower and a Prayer 3/04](#)

His Mother Saves His Live [4/02](#)

[A Buggy for Mom 5/16](#)

Her Mother's Song [4/08](#)

[The Best Bargain 5/08](#)

F2F: Aldridge H. Gillespie [6/03](#)

[The Most Important Job 5/11](#)

Caught! [6/09](#)

[Smiles and Sego Lilies 5/15](#)

Stories of the Prophets: Remembering Our Mothers [5/13](#)

F2F: [Malcolm S. Jeppsen 5/91](#)

Idle Hands [6/92](#)

[Mom's Mystery Box 5/91](#)

Sarita [11/90](#)

[Sweet Rolls 11/90](#)

F2F: Ben B. Banks [11/90](#)

[Changing Chores 5/05](#)

Stories About Priesthood Offices, Power, and Blessings from the *Friend*

[The Priesthood and Me 4/18](#)

The Letter [6/72](#)

[Healing a Soldier 10/02](#)

Promises to Elizabeth, part 1: The Blessing [11/06](#)

[Promises to Elizabeth, part 2: Elizabeth's Decision 12/06](#)

Promises to Elizabeth, part 3: Elizabeth Alone [1/07](#)

[Bad Day in the Badlands 5/16](#)

F2F: Elder Mervyn B. Arnold, A Beautiful World [12/04](#)

[F2F: Elder Anthony D. Perkins, Blessed and Healed 1/09](#)

F2F: Elder Douglas L. Callister, Blessed by the Priesthood [7/06](#)

[F2F: Elder Gene R. Cook, A Brother's Example 12/05](#)

Danger at the Ice Pond [2/17](#)

[CLPV: Pres. Thomas S. Monson, Going On an Errand for the Lord 1/12](#)

Help to Heal [2/09](#)

[Jun-Jun's Faith 3/08](#)

Miracles Along Joseph's Journey [8/08](#)

[Miracle on the Plains 8/12](#)

Please Bless Him Father [5/90](#)

[Herbert Barney and the Priesthood 4/90](#)

Stories About Gardening/Farming from the *Friend*

[The Blessing Cantaloupe 7/11](#)

Our Family Garden 6/02

[Growing in the Garden 6/12](#)

A Garden Full of Blessings [3/14](#)

[Garden Plots 5/98](#)

F2F: Elder Kevin S. Hamilton, Picking Blackberries [7/16](#)

[From the Life of Pres. Kimball, Working on a Farm 1/07](#)

The Zucchini Bandit [7/04](#)

From the Life of Pres. Woodruff, A Hard Worker [12/06](#)

The Vegetable Thief [11/17](#)

Stories About Mothers and Grandmothers from the *New Era*

[I Love You Mother 6/98](#)

A Ring for Mom [12/10](#)

[A Mother's Love in Reflection 3/85](#)

Mama's Refrigerator [2/07](#)

[Sacrifice Comes As a Blessing 4/15](#)

At a Crossroads [2/17](#)

[Moroni, My Mom, and a Lesson for Life 1/16](#)

The Crystal Catastrophe [11/15](#)

[Because of Mom 5/13](#)

When Ducks Don't Float [5/10](#)

[Just What She Always Wanted 5/86](#)

Dust On a Rose [5/80](#)

[My Family: My "Real Parents" 11/85](#)

My Mother Lost Her Shoes in the Susquehanna River [7/11](#)

[Grandfather's Car 7/15](#)

No Small Change [3/99](#)

[Yours Are Your Parents to Honor 5/77](#)

Watch Out For Mom! [5/82](#)

[Back On the Road 1/09](#)

Someone's Mother [2/78](#)

[Simple as a Sunset 2/97](#)

Racing the Tornado [2/97](#)

[Because I Was There 5/09](#)

Why Being a Mom Rocks [8/14](#)

[More than Just a Mom 1/14](#)

Power to Persevere [10/16](#)

[My Mother's Example 8/12](#)

Mom's Many Jobs [5/16](#) (not a story, but cute, short article about Mom's many roles)

[Remembering Mothers: Stories from Our Prophets 5/13](#)

Stories from the *New Era* About Priesthood Offices, Holders, Blessings and Power

[Deacon Power 5/75](#)

[A Priesthood of Preparation 5/79](#)
[“I Don't Have to Go Home, Do I?” 11/85](#)
[A Blessing for My Big Brother 6/14](#)
[A Blessing Away From Home 12/06](#) (fourth story)
[Living Proof 11/05](#)
[Articles of Faith: Called of God 11/05](#)
[Hunting Accident 11/84](#)
[In the Very Place 6/16](#)
[Sage's Story 2/00](#)
[The Unseen Power 5/07](#)

Stories from the *New Era* for Memorial Day

[My Memory Trees 7/99](#)
[Vietnam Diary 5/71](#)
[Baur Dee's Girls 4/96](#)
[Summer Bonfires 7/83](#)

Stories About Mothers/Grandmothers from the *Ensign*

[Washing, Weeding, and Worshipping 3/03](#)
[A Mother's Dream 3/86](#)
[We Fasted So He Could Eat 1/84](#)
[Mary Wright: Why We Need Grandmothers 6/78](#)
[So How Many Children Do You Have? 2/89](#)
[Forgiving My Mother 8/90](#)
[I Longed to Be a Mother 8/00](#)
[A Moment to Mother 6/96](#)
[The Lord Has Provided 6/09](#)
[America's Young Mother of the Year 10/72](#)
[Mother Rescued Us 8/11](#)
[Who Will Mother Mom? 10/90](#)
[A Letter That Made the Difference 9/81](#)
[Eliza's Song Our Song 6/99](#)
[Lost Glasses in the High Sierras 7/83](#)
[Mother Called Them Whisperings 6/99](#)
[Prayer: a Mother's Gift 9/15](#)
[Reflections on a Mother's Gift 9/87](#)
[The Lord Knew What Was Ahead 1/04](#)
[Call Home Now! 1/04](#)
[Lost and Found: Me 2/11](#)
[She Was the Mother I'd Never Known 1/77](#)
[Their Calling Helped 6/94](#)
[Through My Mother's Eyes 8/84](#)
[Raising Our Son In Partnership With God 7/17](#)
[My Grandmother's Locket 8/99](#)

Articles From the *Ensign* Full of Short Stories By and About Mothers, to be Read and Discussed Among Older Youth and Adults, Especially Females

[The Educated Woman Within Us 3/83](#)

Powerful Nurturing [12/05](#) (article by Julie B. Beck)
[With Love, Mother 5/73](#) (by Emma Lou Thayne)
Speaking as a Mother [2/82](#)
[The Bonds of Sisterhood 3/83](#)
Blessing Your Home With Music [3/83](#) (story of a young woman choosing about being a professional musician in New York City or returning home)
[The Bread and Milk of Living 3/83](#)
Are We Not All Mothers? [11/01](#)
[But Mother Was a Queen 4/74](#)
Wife and Mother: Valid Career Options [10/79](#) (BYU Forum address by Sydney S. Reynolds)
[Grace for Mother Duck and Me 8/13](#)
Mom--at Home [10/89](#)
[I Rejoice in Being a Mother 3/83](#)
Women in Community Service [3/83](#)
[The Myth of Invisible Motherhood 4/18](#)

Stories About Gardening from the *Ensign*

[Sowing Before Sunday 4/98](#)
A Place for Beauty [4/13](#)
[Was I Raising Children or Flowers? 9/14](#)
Year of the Green Beans [7/83](#)
[My Garden 3/86](#)
Growing Green Beans and Families [9/10](#)
[God's Harvest 8/14](#)
Three Green Beans and Me [7/05](#)
[Healing the Beloved Country: The Faith of Julia Mavimbela 7/17](#)
Sunday Sowing [9/15](#)

Stories About Priesthood Blessings from the *Ensign*

He Restoreth My Soul [1/04](#)
[They Expected Last Rites 2/87](#)
A Sacred Trust [4/16](#)
[Lydia Knight, God Rules 8/77](#)
Monday Was a Beautiful Day [1/81](#)

Stories for Memorial Day from the *Ensign*

Loving Those Who Have Gone Before [2/15](#)
[Blessing on the Battlefield 7/76](#)
The Chaplain Changed His Mind [7/88](#)
[Stalag Luft III Branch 7/82](#)
A Valiant Little Band [1/81](#)
[Two Pieces of Paper Saved Me 2/91](#)
My Father's Medal of Courage [9/03](#)
[Books Keep Loved Ones Alive 8/78](#)
Uniquely Blessed by Indexing [2/16](#)
[The Old Family Album: the Power of Family Stories 4/17](#)

June

Themes: summertime, patriotism, Flag Day and upcoming Independence Day; fatherhood, fathers, Father's Day

Hymns

[The Star Spangled Banner #340](#)
[God of Our Fathers We Come Unto Thee #76](#)
[God of Our Fathers, Whose Almighty Hand #78](#)
[Father, Thy Children to Thee Now Raise #91](#)
[Dearest Children God Is Near You #96](#)
[O My Father #292](#)
[O Love That Glorifies the Son #295](#)
[I Know My Father Lives #302](#)

Music from the *Ensign*

[When I Hear My Father Pray 3/83](#)

Music from the *New Era*

[I'm Glad that God Chose Me to Be Your Son 6/85](#)
[We Are Your Daughters 8/89](#)
[Father We Worship Thee 2/95](#)
[Our Father and Our God 11/97](#)
[I Am a Daughter of God 3/92](#)
[My Father's Care 8/92](#)
[Walking in His Father's Footsteps 9/95](#)
[Walk Tall, You're a Daughter of God 1/96](#)

Children's Songs

[The Sixth Article of Faith p. 126a CS](#)
[Quickly I'll Obey p. 197 CS](#)
[Oh What Do You Do in the Summertime? CS p. 245](#)
[My Country p. 224 CS](#)
[My Flag, My Flag p. 225 CS](#)
[Fathers p. 209 CS](#)
[Our Bishop p. 135 CS](#)

[My Dad p. 211 CS](#)

[Daddy's Homecoming p. 210 CS](#)

When Grandpa Comes p. 201 CS (copyright restrictions prevent the lyrics from being printed on lds.org, so please refer to a hard copy of the songbook for the lyrics and music)

[He Sent His Son p. 34 CS](#)

[The Wise Man and the Foolish Man p. 281](#)

[I Am My Heavenly Father's Child, Friend 2/74](#)

[My Father Taught Me, Friend 6/76](#)

[I Will Always Obey, Friend 3/96](#)

Scriptures

[Psalm 82:6](#)
[Proverbs 4:1](#)
[John 14:23](#)
[Acts 17:28-29](#)
[Romans 8:16-17](#)
[Col. 3:20-21](#)
[Hebrews:1:1,3,6](#)
[Hebrews 12:9](#)
[Enos 1:1-5](#)
[Moses 1:33](#)
[2 Nephi 10:11-19](#)
[Alma 46:12-13](#)
[Mosiah 2:12-16](#)
[Ether 2:12](#)
[D&C 75:28](#)
[D&C 76:24](#)
[D&C 83:2,4](#)

Poetry from the *Friend*

[I Walk With Dad 6/99](#)
Mr. Everything [6/97](#)
[The Best Place 6/10](#)
My Father [6/95](#)
[When the Thunder Rumbles 6/94](#)

Poetry From LaDawn Jacob's *Favorite Family Devotional Poems*

America for Me p. 116
The Flag Goes By p.149
My Daddy's Hands p. 97
Grandpa p. 96
I Like to See p. 94

Other Traditional Poetry

[What Is So Rare As a Day in June?](#) by James Russell Lowell

Stories from the *Friend* About Fathers and Grandfathers

Isa's Blessing [8/14](#)
[F2F:Elder Kazuhiko Yamashita. A Sheepish Lion 8/14](#)
F2F: Elder George I. Cannon [6/87](#)
[F2F: Dallin H. Oaks 6/97](#)
Shoes [6/97](#)
[Father's Day 6/96](#)
Ben's Gift [7/03](#)
[Grandfather's Prayer 6/97](#)
Fear in the Night [5/00](#)

[F2F: Elder Rex D. Gerratt 7/04](#)
F2F: Elder Erich Kopischke [3/09](#)
[Steven's First Future Father's Day 6/15](#)
The Big Run [6/05](#)
[Our Father's Voice 4/00](#)
Blackberry Summer [8/05](#)
[My Dad the Bishop 3/17](#)
The Love of a Father [3/10](#)
[The Candy Ball 1/10](#)
Stay Calm [7/97](#)
[Fire on the Prairie 2/97](#)
F2F: Merrill J. Bateman [6/95](#)
[F2F: Elder Dallas V. Merrell 6/94](#)
Your Were Doing Fine! [6/92](#)
[Listen to Learn 7/92](#)
Rosie [7/92](#)
[Soccer Dad 10/05](#)
F2F: Carlos E. Asay [6/81](#)
[Every Day a Father's Day 6/81](#)
Home Safe [9/75](#)
[Natalie's Father's Day Card 6/13](#)

Stories from the *New Era* About Fathers and Grandfathers

[Tell Dad! 11/12](#)
Love, Dad [2/09](#)
[Sons Become Fathers 11/84](#)
Ask Dad [7/10](#)
[Losing My Father 8/10](#)
My Dad, My Example [11/10](#)
[Anguish for My Father 2/17](#)
Losing My Father [8/10](#)
[A Tent on a Rock 6/10](#)
A Letter From My Father [5/09](#)
[The What-If Question 11/03](#)
Measuring Up [11/95](#)
[Girl's Best Friend 11/94](#)
All That Glitter [10/00](#)
[In His Father's Steps 9/94](#)
Two Shovels and a Payback Plan [6/15](#)
[Sons Become Fathers 11/84](#)
The Luckiest Girl Around [11/81](#)
[Bridges 11/82](#)
The Strength to Carry On [6/11](#)
[Teach a Man to Fish 6/11](#)
Dad's Keys and a Dangerous Snake [10/11](#)
[The Envy I Never Thought I Had 5/13](#)
Duty to God With Dad [9/11](#)

[Receiving all the Father Has 7/15](#)

Time Out for Dinner [5/14](#)

[Knock Again 5/07](#)

All Star Dad [7/05](#)

[Figure Eights 11/91](#)

My Family: I Was My Dad [3/89](#)

[Make It a Good Day 10/89](#)

A Birthday Wish for My Dad [3/17](#)

[The Fruits of My Labors 6/99](#)

What Grandpa Left Me [4/99](#)

[Forces in Life: a Daddy Daughter Dialogue 5/86](#)

Shape Up! [10/93](#)

[Why Being a Dad Rocks! 8/14](#)

Dad's Many Jobs [6/16](#) (not a story, but cute, short article about Dad's roles)

Stories from the *Ensign* About Fathers and Grandfathers

When I Lost My Father [6/17](#)

[Personal Progress One on One 6/17](#)

I Just Don't Have That Kind of Dad [6/88](#)

[And Now He Needed Me? 10/01](#)

The Cave [7/71](#)

[Love, Dad 3/84](#)

On Being a Father [2/00](#)

[Dad Left Room for the Cello 10/88](#)

At My Father's Feet [7/02](#)

[Dad's Lessons 8/97](#)

Football and Fences [8/98](#)

[Calmed by His Caring 8/98](#)

Papa Do You Know Who I Am? [8/98](#)

[I Want a Dad Too! 2/87](#)

Daddy's Shoes [1/12](#)

[My Father Rescued Me 1/12](#)

Joining Hands With God [10/13](#)

[My Father, My Hero 9/08](#)

A Gift for My Father [1/06](#)

[Why Was I Awake at 3:00 AM? 1/08](#)

Go Save Your Father! [10/95](#)

[A Bowlful of Peanuts 10/95](#)

A Father's Love [6/16](#)

[Grandpa's Picture Album 6/84](#)

Watched Over By Our Heavenly Father [6/17](#)

[Discovering Dad 7/98](#)

July

Themes: patriotism, Independence Day, pioneer heritage, missionary work, reactivation

Hymns

[America the Beautiful #338](#)
[The Star Spangled Banner #340](#)
[What Glorious Scenes Mine Eyes Behold #16](#)
[Come, Come Ye Saints #30](#)
[For the Strength of the Hills #35](#)
[They the Builders of the Nation #36](#)
[Go Ye Messengers of Glory #262](#)

Music from the *Ensign*

[Pioneer Lullaby 6/](#)
[Faith in Every Footstep 1/97](#)
[A Heritage of Faith 7/16](#)
[A Pioneering Heart 7/17](#)

Music from the *New Era*

[The New Pioneers 7/82](#)
[Come Forth O Children 10/86](#)
[Go Ye Into All the World 8/87](#)
[My Mission 8/90](#)
[Seeds of Truth 8/91](#)
[Zion Must Go Forth 2/94](#)
[Brother Brigham Says 7/97](#)
[Faith in Every Footstep 4/97](#) (in a different key from the one in the Ensign above)
[Behold the Field Is White 8/97](#)
[Behold My Joy Is Full 10/83](#)
[An Instrument in Thy Hands 8/82](#)
[A Missionary's Prayer/ I Will Go and Do 3/84](#)

Children's Songs

[The Seventh Article of Faith p. 126b CS](#)
[Blessed America Friend 7/76](#)
[My Flag, My Flag p. 225 CS](#)
[My Country p. 224 CS](#)
[I Want to Be a Missionary Now p. 168 CS](#)
[I Hope They Call Me on a Mission p. 169 CS](#)
[The Things I Do p. 170 CS](#)
[We'll Bring the World His Truth p. 172 CS](#)
[Called to Serve p. 174 CS](#)
[Go On a Mission 8/86](#)

[Pioneer Children Sang As They Walked p. 214 CS](#)
[Pioneer Children Were Quick to Obey p. 215 CS](#)
[Little Pioneer Children p. 216 CS](#)
[Westward Ho! p. 217 CS](#)
[To Be a Pioneer p. 218 CS](#)
[The Oxcart p. 219 CS](#)
[The Handcart Song p. 220 CS](#)
[Covered Wagons p. 221](#)
[Whenever I Think About Pioneers p. 222 CS](#)
[Pioneer Children, Friend 7/78](#)
[I Can Be a Modern Day Pioneer, Friend 7/93](#)
[The Strength of a Pioneer, Friend 1/97](#)
[Pioneers Courageous, Friend 7/97](#)
[When I Hear of Pioneer Children, Friend 7/16](#)
[I'm a Pioneer Too, Friend 7/20](#)

Scriptures

[Psalm 33:12](#)
[Proverbs 20:11](#)
[1Timothy 4:12](#)
[1 Nephi 13:17-19](#)
[2 Nephi 1:5-7](#)
[D&C 1:30](#)
[D&C 115:4-6](#)
[1 Tim 4:12](#)
[D&C 65:1-2](#)
[D&C 4:2-4](#)
[D&C 136:5-7](#)
[D&C 20:17-19](#)
[D&C 18:15-17](#)
[D&C 64:33-34](#)
[D&C 133:7-8](#)
[Alma 16:13-19](#)
[Alma 5:50](#)
[Alma 46:12-15](#)

Poetry from the *Friend*

[The Land and the People 7/76](#)
[The Seagulls 7/11](#)
[Missionaries to Dinner 11/01](#)
[July Jubilee 7/07](#)
[Missionary 11/05](#)

Poetry from the *Ensign*

[Camp of Israel, All is Well: Tribute 7/97](#)

Poetry From LaDawn Jacob's *Favorite Family Devotional Poems*

America for Me p. 116
Love of Country p. 2

Other Traditional Poetry

[Fireworks](#) by John Morris (James) Reeve
[Bed in Summer](#) by Robert Louis Stevenson
[The Swing](#) by Robert Louis Stevenson

Patriotic Stories from the *Friend*

[The Day the Soldiers Came](#) 7/76
The Revolutionary Rose [7/76](#)
[The Old Fox](#) 7/76
F2F: Elder Mark E. Petersen [7/76](#)
[Grandpa Max's Flag](#) 7/88

Missionary Stories from the *Friend*

[CLPV: Because a Child Knew the Articles of Faith](#) 6/11
Clarissa and the Pass-along Card [11/05](#)
[Andrew's Missionary](#) 11/05
A 10 Year Old Teacher [8/10](#)
[Desert Secret](#) 3/05
Teaching Mrs. Greene [10/08](#)
[F2F: Elder Ulisses S. Soares, Preparing for a Mission](#) 10/08
Prayers and Cathedrals [11/14](#)
[A Brave Little Mormon Girl](#) 3/12
Baptism Miracles [9/01](#)
[And a Little Child Shall Lead Them](#) 9/02
The Key [3/05](#)
[Shoes](#) 6/97
Member Missionaries [8/02](#)
[I Can Be a Missionary Now](#) 2/09
Joseph's Journey, part 1 [1/09](#)
[Joseph's Journey, part 2](#) 2/09
Joseph's Journey, part 3 [3/09](#)
[A Jar Full of Love](#) 11/04
F2F: Elder Keith B. McMullin [11/98](#)
[The Prophet's Mission to Canada](#) 11/97
Homesick Missionary [3/98](#)
[The Skipper's Son](#) 7/05
Where Is Isabelle? [1/11](#)
[What It Means to Be a Member Missionary](#) 5/15

Pioneer Stories from the *Friend*

Journey by Handcart About Janetta McBride, part 1 [7/00](#)
[Journey by Handcart About Janetta McBride, part 2](#) 8/00
The Sugar Bowl [7/09](#)
[CLPV: Priceless Heritage](#) 9/02

Ebenezer's Miracle [7/99](#)
[In Every Footstep, part 1](#) [7/12](#)
In Every Footstep, part 2 [8/12](#)
[Growing Up at Cove Fort](#) [6/98](#)
Through the Hole in the Rock [11/02](#)
[About the Hole](#) [11/02](#)
No Ordinary Name [1/89](#)
[F2F: Elder Alexander B. Morrison](#) [11/97](#)
It Really Happened [11/77](#)
[A Song Amid the Storm](#) [7/05](#)
Higher Ground [7/05](#)
[Healing Among the Zunis](#) [6/11](#)
Saving the Wheat [7/12](#)
[Faith In Every Footstep, Part One: the Flame of Faith](#) [7/12](#)
Faith in Every Footstep, Part Two: Miracle on the Plains [8/12](#)
[The Way to Zion, Part One: Mary's Promise](#) [6/17](#)
The Way to Zion, Part Two: Journey of Miracles [7/17](#)

Stories from the *New Era* About Patriotism

[Friends in Philadelphia](#) [11/76](#)
On the Freedom Trail [5/85](#)
[God's Hand in the Founding of America](#) [7/76](#)
,

Missionary Stories from the *New Era*

Time Out for a Mission [6/80](#)
[Brigham Young as a Missionary](#) [11/77](#)
An Empty Font [2/12](#)
[Mormons Do Believe in God](#) [7/14](#)
Are Mormons Christian? [11/16](#)
[Someone Who Wouldn't Laugh](#) [5/80](#)
Christian's Conversion [11/77](#)
[Be a Missionary](#) [5/80](#)
The Missionary Service I Needed [12/16](#)
[A Soul Crying Out](#) [6/16](#)
Unknown influence [5/16](#)
[Learning to Have No Fear](#) [3/16](#)
Prompted to Share [3/16](#)
[Get Over Yourself](#) [1/16](#)
Enough! [10/09](#)
[The Golden Question](#) [11/96](#)
The Chocolate Bar [10/90](#)
[Up From Down Under](#) [11/85](#)
Transitions [11/85](#)
[Oh They Have Never Been Active](#) [5/87](#)
Praying Like Alma for My Friend [9/14](#)
[Elders in My English Class](#) [9/05](#)
Sailing Safely Home [6/11](#)
[Do the Math](#) [5/11](#)

Missionary Trio [10/07](#)
[Who is Ready? 9/09](#)
They Also Serve [3/01](#)
[Deep in the Heart 8/00](#)
A Missionary's Two Months In Jail [11/82](#)
[A Prayer from the Ghetto 1/91](#)
Missionary Focus: The Last House [11/86](#)

Pioneer Stories from the *New Era*

Emily's Pride [6/80](#)
[LDS Girls in the Pioneer West 7/82](#)
Until We Reach the Valley-O [7/10](#)
[Our Honored Pioneer Heritage 7/11](#)
Teenage Pioneer [5/74](#)
[I'm the Only One 7/97](#)
A Snowy Day in February [5/05](#)
[Walking With Our Ancestors 8/12](#)
Stuck in the Storm [5/17](#)
[Power to Persevere 10/16](#)
After the Fire [6/11](#)
[Walking in Remembrance 7/02](#)
Blazing Trails of Faith [7/10](#)
[Your Pioneer Journey--For Real Not Pretend 7/17](#)
Russian Pioneers [7/98](#)
[The Search 7/94](#)
New Frontiers, New Pioneers [11/92](#) (message to teens in UK by Elder Holland, but applies to all Saints)

Missionary Stories from the *Ensign*

[Sharing the Gospel Online 6/14](#)
Give Us a Blessing [10/01](#)
[Miracle Mile 3/80](#)
Only Survivor [10/04](#)
[More than A Machine 8/80](#)
Little Missionary [8/00](#)
[I Just Knew We Were Not Alone 2/01](#)
Taxi Talk [1/98](#)
[Yukio and Junko Fujitake 8/90](#)
Lady on Train [1/85](#)
[Two Precious Books 7/97](#)
Where Can I Get A Magazine Like This? [4/13](#)
[Every Member a Convert 4/80](#)
Guillermo [4/86](#)
[The Spirit Guided Me to Her 1/86](#)
Where Are the Prophets? [9/89](#)
[Deep in the Mountains 2/04](#)
Grandma's Blessing [4/87](#)
[What If This Is Really True? 9/90](#)

The Brothers of Jesus: Loving the Unbelieving Relative [3/87](#)

[A Mormon in Moscow 3/87](#)

Church in New Zealand: Roots of Faith [9/89](#)

[One of a City, Two of a Family 6/00](#)

Murilo Vicente Leite Ribeiro [7/17](#)

[Soldiers Were My Missionaries 2/90](#)

Growing into the Church [6/84](#)

Pioneer Stories from the *Ensign*

Albin Lotric: Pioneer in Slovenia [2/02](#)

[Never Alone in Sierra Leone 9/15](#)

Johan and Alma Lindlof: Early Saints in Russia [7/81](#)

[Living Singly 12/97](#) (parallels between living singly and being a pioneer)

Kim Ho Jik: Korean Pioneer [7/88](#)

[My Adopted Pioneer Ancestors 7/16](#)

Pioneering in Russia [6/97](#)

[Pioneers in Every Land/That Vast Empire: Russia 2/14](#)

Los Primeros: Mexico's Pioneer Saints [7/97](#)

[Pioneering the Gospel in Australia 10/86](#)

Voice from Nigeria [12/80](#)

[Church in Argentina 2/75](#)

Church in Brazil [2/75](#)

[Pioneering in the Andes 1/97](#)

Church in Uruguay and Paraguay [2/75](#)

[Church in Chile 2/75](#)

Pioneers in the Philippines [8/97](#)

[Eastern Ends of Trails West 1/80](#)

Pioneers in Ivory Coast [9/97](#)

[Hole in the Rock 10/95](#)

Pioneering in South Korea [10/97](#)

[Heeding the Prophet's Call 10/95](#)

Putting Down Roots in Uruguay [12/97](#)

[Faith in Every Footstep \(skip the first few paragraphs down to the story\) 1/97](#)

No Toil Nor Labor Fear [2/97](#)

[Voice from Nigeria 12/80](#)

Forsaking All [4/97](#)

[Pioneers in Ghana 7/09](#)

The Strength of Sacrifice [4/97](#)

Pioneers in a Land of Explorers [4/97](#)

Paper Drapes that Looked Like Silk [6/97](#)

Muskrat Shoes and Grasshopper Bait [6/97](#)

The Pioneer Trek: Nauvoo to Winter Quarters [6/97](#)

On the Trail in January [1/97](#)

On the Trail in February [2/97](#)

On the Trail in March [3/97](#)

On the Trail in April and May [4/97](#)

On the Trail in June [6/97](#)

On the Trail in July [7/97](#)

On the Trail in August [8/97](#)

On the Trail in September [9/97](#)

On the Trail in October [10/97](#)

On the Trail in November and December [12/97](#)

[A Place to Grow 8/98](#)

How Shall I Gather? [10/97](#)

[How Did the Pioneer Odometer Work? 8/81](#)

The July 1997 Ensign has more pioneer stories [7/97](#)

[They of the Last Wagon 7/17](#)

Healing the Beloved Country: the Faith of Julia Mavimbela [7/17](#)

[Faith to Leave the Harbor 6/15](#) (a series of short stories by Elder Claudio M. Costa)

August

Themes: temples, marriage, family love and togetherness, home and family life, blessings of children, marriage and family sealings in the temple, vicarious temple work, family work, family reunions, family vacations, family projects, family traditions

Hymns

[High on the Mountain Top #5](#)
[Behold the Mountain of the Lord #54](#)
[How Beautiful Thy Temples Lord #288](#)
[God Is In His Holy Temple #132](#)
[Holy Temples on Mount Zion #289](#)

Music from the *Ensign*

[Our Heaven Is Our Home 7/77](#)
What Makes a Family? [3/78](#)
[What Builds Temples? 3/80](#)
Come Home [8/10](#)
[Come All Unto the Temple 6/16](#)
Come to the Temple [1/18](#)

Music from the *New Era*

[Children 8/77](#)
[If You Love 'Em Tell 'Em 10/87](#)
[O Zion Blest 8/90](#)
[To Kneel in Family Prayer 6/91](#)
[Marriage for Eternity 9/93](#)
[We Thank Thee Lord for Temples 8/96](#)
[Within These Walls 3/97](#)
[Home is a Place of Peace 10/99](#)
[In That Holy Place 3/02](#)

Children's Songs

[The Eighth Article of Faith p. 127 CS](#)
[I Lived In Heaven p. 4 CS](#)
[Quickly I'll Obey p. 197 CS](#)
[Families Can Be Together Forever p. 188 CS](#)
[A Happy Family p. 198 CS](#)
[I Have a Family Tree. p. 94 CS](#)
[I Love to See the Temple p. 95 CS](#)
[Lullaby. Friend 8/76](#)
[Building a Temple. Friend 5/79](#)
[Behold Your Little Ones. Friend 8/94](#)
[Worthy to Enter. Friend 9/95](#)

[Our House Becomes a Home, Friend 7/96](#)
[The Holy Temple, Friend 1/02](#)
[Our Family Place, Friend 6/02](#)
[The Family is of God, Friend 10/08](#)
[There is Love in My Family Tree, Friend 10/16](#)
[Teach Me About the Temple, Friend 10/17](#)
[Family History is the Story of Me 7/18](#)

Scriptures

[Genesis 2:22-24](#)
[Psalm 127:3-5](#)
[Proverbs 13:22](#)
[Proverbs 13:24](#)
[Isaiah 2:2-3](#)
[Isaiah 5:26](#)
[Mark 10:6-9](#)
[1 Cor. 11:11](#)
[1 Cor. 3:16-17](#)
[Enos 1:1](#)
[D&C 49:15](#)
[D&C 97:15-17](#)
[D&C 109:12-14](#)
[D&C 128:22-24](#)
[D&C 138:28-34](#)
[D&C 138:46-48](#)
[Moses 6:5-8](#)
[Moses 6:46](#)
[Moses 6:57-59](#)

Poetry from the *Friend*

[Eternal Families 7/04](#)
A Picture of the Temple [4/13](#)
[Family Traditions 9/15](#)
A Simple Recipe [3/09](#)

Poetry from the *Ensign*

[Family Unity 8/84](#)

Poetry From LaDawn Jacob's *Favorite Family Devotional Poems*

We Believe in Children p. 28
What Is a Family? p. 34
Special Child p. 36
Stick-Together Families p. 82
A Prayer p. 95
The Grumble Family p. 105
Oh the Comfort p. 145
I Am a Child of Royal Birth p. 124

Christopher Daniels p. 131

Other Poetry

[Home Sweet Home](#) by John Howard Payne

[A Home Song](#) by Henry Van Dyke

[Home](#) by Edgar A. Guest

Stories from the *Friend*

Thankful for a Stepdad [11/14](#)

[Best Family Forever](#) [2/14](#)

A Real Family for Patty Lou [11/02](#)

[The Commandment to Build Temples](#) [6/09](#)

The Field of Two Brothers [11/86](#)

[Julianna's First Temple Visit](#) [10/12](#)

Grandma's Gift [12/09](#)

[Why Are Mom and Dad Going to the Temple?](#) [8/09](#)

Josh and the Dragon [7/11](#)

[It Is Enough](#) [7/07](#)

F2F: Blessings of the Temple, Elder Paul Koelliker [7/07](#)

[F2F: Keeping Promises](#), Elder Kenneth Johnson [9/01](#)

F2F: Cecil O. Samuelson [6/96](#)

[Mandy's Therapy](#) [6/96](#)

F2F: Ben B. Banks [3/01](#)

[Abraham Abraham and Me](#) [7/16](#)

Making a Family [2/09](#)

[Preserving Jam and Families](#) [7/04](#)

Reunion Twins [8/05](#)

[A Wedding Dress and a Plan](#) [4/10](#)

To Touch an Angel [6/02](#)

[CLPV: Set Upon a Hill](#) [7/05](#)

David and Emma Ray [3/05](#)

[The North Star](#) [6/06](#)

F2F: Elder Jose Teixeira, Learning to Listen [2/10](#)

[The Extra Half Mile](#) [8/14](#)

James H. from Utah [5/13](#)

[Shining Walls](#) [5/13](#)

Pie Dough to Play Dough [11/06](#)

Stories from the *New Era*

My Double Life [10/10](#)

[Spiritual Superheroes](#) [7/13](#)

Apple Blossoms, Orchestras, and Stars [6/83](#)

[Blessings From Hard Times](#) [2/09](#)

So Long, Saturday Nights [8/16](#)

[My Recovery Room](#) [2/16](#)

Unexpectedly Awesome [12/15](#)

[Worth the Wait](#) [2/03](#)

Worth the Wait [10/09](#)

[Rescued By My Brother 8/16](#)
Small Miracle [2/08](#)
[Harriet's Firm Foundation 11/06](#)
Finding Mary Redhead [6/10](#)
[Family History I am Doing It 10/14](#) (five stories)
Me? Teach Family History? [3/15](#)
[Loving Your Siblings 12/12](#)
Finding Hope in a Troubled Family [8/15](#)
[My Family: My Means of Survival 6/83](#)
Celestial Moments [1/17](#)
[Four Days at the Hamilton NZ Temple 5/14](#)
Mornings With Promise [2/13](#)
[Love for Temple Work 4/12](#)
Baptism for My Grandparents [7/12](#)
[A Family Tie 2/98](#)

Stories from the *Ensign*

[Twelfth-Birthday Tradition 3/17](#)
Drawn to the Temple [1/09](#)
[How the Temple Helps 10/10](#) (for parents to read and discuss together)
Our Temple Marriage Was Worth Any Price [10/10](#)
[The Temple Effect 2/05](#)
We Are Still Your Brothers [6/14](#)
[From Beyond the Veil 2/78](#)
Reunion in Leningrad [10/92](#)
[When 1 Family + 1 Family = 1 Family 3/18](#)
Rebuilding My Life After Divorce [6/00](#)
[Getting the Whole Family on One Tree 2/81](#)
Tutored by the Lord: Single Parenthood [2/17](#)
[Remarriage: an Adventure in Patience and Love 2/16](#)
Uniting Blended Families [8/97](#) (a combination of short stories and advice)
[Choose the Temple 7/10](#)
A Voice of Gladness [2/04](#)
[How the Hong Kong Temple Came to Be 12/06](#)
The Gospel and the Single Parent [1/04](#) (a collection of real-life scenarios of single parents with discussion questions at the end)
[Single Threads in the Gospel Tapestry 12/92](#) (a collection of short stories about singles)
A Child Without a Name [8/05](#)
[The Warning Dream 7/80](#)
After Four Hundred Names [8/86](#)
[The Packard Family 2/84](#)
Raising My Children Alone [7/80](#)
[The Meeting that Saved Our Home 2/85](#)
Just Spencer and Me [9/01](#)
[The Love of an Older Brother 10/81](#)
Part of a Family: Strong Relationships [10/02](#)
[Part of a Family: Bridging the Distance 10/02](#)
Single in a Family-oriented Church [6/11](#) (not a story, but worth sharing with your family)

[Islands of Faith: a Story of Diligence 7/11](#)

His Hands on My Head [4/80](#)

[Waking From My Nightmare 7/80](#)

At Home With the Hinckleys [10/03](#)

[We Were a Family Once More 6/94](#)

The Red Knit Scarf [10/03](#)

[Seven Tender Miracles Along the Way 6/16](#)

Open the Heavens through Temple and Family History Work [10/17](#)

[Inviting Extended Family 4/03](#)

The Trip to Crawfordsville [12/90](#)

[A Promised Blessing for Attending the Temple 1/18](#)

Gather to the Temple [12/08](#)

[The Sao Temple 10/78](#)

Our Journey to the Temple [4/06](#)

[How Family History Changes Our Hearts and Minds 2/15](#)

Blessing for My Ancestors Blessings for Me [8/06](#)

[Portraits 8/84](#)

“Can You Take Another Child?” [8/84](#)

[Putting Love Into Words 8/84](#)

The Temple and the Natural Order of Marriage [9/15](#) (a superb speech by Elder Bruce C. Hafen about temple marriage, includes a short story at the end, for older teens and adults)

[Temple Service and Unexpected Blessings 4/12](#)

Blessings of the Temple [10/10](#) (Pres. Monson shares a few stories about temples, go to each subheading and you will find a story under each one)

[Heavenly Help for Our Mortal Journey 7/14](#) (the story of the Philadelphia Pennsylvania Temple starts under the subheading “A Change of Heart”)

Worthy to Enter [10/07](#)

[I Set Out to Find a Temple 2/17](#)

Saints in Hilo, Hawaii Focus on Temple Work [5/87](#)

[Hawaiian Saints on the Big Island 7/99](#)

A Temple for Kona [4/10](#)

[Denver Saints Claim Spiritual Blessings 11/86](#)

Portland Temple--A Landmark for Northwest Saints [8/89](#)

[Do We Have To? Another Look at Family Home Evening 4/84](#) (not a story, for parents to read and discuss together)

Our Sunday Evening Tradition [2/84](#)

[Antidote for Loneliness 6/84](#)

The Work Bank [6/84](#)

[Family Reunion Story time 7/07](#)

Extending Family Relationships [10/86](#)

[Washington D.C. Temple--Missionary Tool 12/74](#)

Unendowed But Not Unimportant [3/18](#)

[Capturing a Vision in the Temple 3/18](#)

From Coast to Coast: Our Journey to the Temple [3/18](#)

[From Family History to the Temple 2/15](#)

Dreams, Covenants, and Second-hand Buses [9/11](#)

[Sponsored by Mother 6/83](#) (for parents to read and discuss on how to inspire children)

The Power of When [6/14](#)

[Family History and Temple Blessings 2/17](#) (This is from a RootsTech presentation by Elder Renlund and his family. You may want to just tell the first story told by Elder Renlund before the commentary by his daughter and wife, unless your family members have longer attention spans.)

Family Stories Turned My Heart [2/17](#)

[An Unexpected Life 9/17](#)

Adoption and Answers to Prayer [2/18](#)

[I Finally Had an Eternal Family 6/13](#)

Eternally Linked to My Family [6/15](#)

September

Themes: autumntime, back to school, academics, loving learning, school stories, education, honesty, judgment, athletics, talents, gifts, hobbies, passion projects, U.S. Constitution Day, exploring nature, the Creation

Hymns

[Sweet is the Peace #14](#)

[In Our Lovely Deseret #307](#)

[Truth Eternal #4](#)

[Our Mountain Home So Dear #33](#)

[All Creatures of Our God and King #62](#)

[If You Could Hie to Kolob #284](#)

[Teach Me to Walk #304](#)

[The Light Divine #305](#)

[Oh Say What is Truth? #272](#)

[Truth Reflects Upon Our Senses #273](#)

Song for Parents

[Teach My Child](#)

Music from the *New Era*

[Let Me Soar 8/76](#)

[Child of Light 6/79](#)

[Learn Wisdom in Thy Youth 12/85](#)

[Simple Pleasures 11/95](#)

[Ask of God 1/17](#)

Children's Songs

[The Ninth Article of Faith p. 128a CS](#)

[It's Autumntime p. 246 CS](#)

[Autumn Day p. 247 CS](#)

[Seek the Lord Early While in My Youth p. 108 CS](#)

[My Heavenly Father Loves Me p. 228 CS](#)

[I Think the World is Glorious p. 230 CS](#)

[All Things Bright and Beautiful p. 231 CS](#)

[Beauty Everywhere p. 232 CS](#)

[The World is So Lovely p. 233 CS](#)

[Because God Loves Me p. 234 CS](#)

[The World Is So Big p. 236 CS](#)

[Use the Old 10/76](#)

[Hear the Raindrops 4/78](#)

[Don't Kill the Birds 8/79](#)

[Nature's Brightest Dress, Friend 10/85](#)

[Line Upon Line, Friend 6/89](#)

[Study the Scriptures, Friend 7/90](#)

[All Thy Children Shall be Taught of the Lord. Friend 6/94](#)
[Read Me a Memory](#)

Scriptures

[Psalm 43:3](#)
[Psalm 148](#)
[Proverbs 1:5](#)
[Proverbs 22:6](#)
[Dan. 12:6](#)
[Matt. 7:1-5](#)
[Matt. 11:29](#)
[John 8:32](#)
[John 18:37-38](#)
[James 1:5-6](#)
[1 Cor. 2:12-16](#)
[2 Cor. 4:6](#)
[2 Cor. 5:7](#)
[Phil. 4:8](#)
[1 Nephi 1:1](#)
[1 Nephi 17:36](#)
[2 Nephi 2:14](#)
[2 Nephi 9:28-29](#)
[Alma 30:44](#)
[Alma 37:35](#)
[Alma 41:14-15](#)
[D&C 6:7](#)
[D&C 9:7-9](#)
[D&C 19:23](#)
[D&C 24:5](#)
[D&C 50:23-25](#)
[D&C 59:16-20](#)
[D&C 88:76-80](#)
[D&C 88:118](#)
[D&C 93:23-28](#)
[D&C 93:36-37](#)
[D&C 128:23](#)
[Moses 1:3-4](#)
[Moses 6:63](#)

Poetry from the *New Era*

Flight of Poetry [11/04](#)

Poetry From the *Friend*

[Reading Feast at the Library 11/11](#)
[Moving Me 2/13](#)
[My Climbing Tree 8/09](#)
[What is a Bubble? 3/98](#)
[Orchards of the Sky 2/82](#)

Poetry From LaDawn Jacob's *Favorite Family Devotional Poems*

Reading Books p. 12

Travels by Books p. 78 (the next-to-the-last line has a typo, it should say "bus" instead of "but")

No Sense In Pretense p. 44

You Never Know p. 45

Other Traditional Poetry

[September](#) by Helen Hunt Jackson

[Lord of All Being Throned Afar](#) by Oliver Wendell Holmes

[Today](#) by Thomas Carlyle

[The Blind Men and the Elephant](#) by John Godfrey Saxe

[The Creation](#) by Cecil Francis Humphreys Alexander

[Four Things a Man Must Learn to Do](#) by Henry Van Dyke

[There is No Frigate Like a Book](#) by Emily Dickinson

Stories from the *Friend*

[Reading: a Sacred Privilege](#) 11/78

Excited to Learn [4/09](#)

[Watermelon Test](#) 9/00

Playing Games and the Guitar [11/14](#)

[Schools Around the World](#) 11/14

The Alice of Wonderland [11/77](#)

[Alfred Nobel- Man of Peace](#) 2/79

It's Been a Long Day [4/78](#)

[When I Grow Up I Want to Be Architect](#) 4/16

When I Grow Up I Want to Be a Graphic Designer [6/15](#)

[When I Grow Up I Want to Be an Author](#) 11/14

The Walking Bible [8/05](#)

[From the Life of Pres. David O. McKay: Beloved Teacher](#) 5/05

Reading for Wheelchairs [3/17](#)

[Painting Love](#) 3/17

What is the Truth? [3/17](#)

[I Want to Play the Flute](#) 3/17

The Spelling Bee [10/11](#)

[Three Classrooms](#) 8/17

Doing Something Good With My Time [1/15](#)

[Pop Quiz Champion](#) 3/14

Writing it Right [9/13](#)

[The Greatest Prize](#) 3/10

The Secret Weapon [1/15](#)

[The Best](#) 2/10

The Reading Race [1/10](#)

[She Painted Her Faith](#) 1/10

The Bad Mood Bus [5/15](#)

[F2F: Elder Lance B. Wickman](#) 1/97

F2F: Elder Robert D. Hales [11/96](#)

[Dolphins- Amazing Mammals of the Sea](#) 6/92

First Prize [11/91](#)
[Robots in Your Blood](#) 6/91
Hearing the Beat of Life [11/91](#)
[Naheed and the Precious Secret](#) 2/82
The Sweet Spirit of Music [4/05](#)
[A Well-Educated Man](#) 2/05

Stories from the *New Era*

A Mazing Idea [6/80](#)
[Where the Red Fern Grows](#) 4/74
People on Other Worlds [4/71](#)
[Seek Ye Out of the Best Books](#) 8/74
The Most Useful Piece of Knowledge [1/09](#)
[The Biggest Test of Her Life](#) 8/08
Making the Grade [4/09](#)
[Certain Standards](#) 4/09
Serving Up Satisfaction [4/09](#)
[Choosing The Outdoor Life](#) 4/09
Service in the Service [4/09](#)
[The Seeker](#) 10/90
Pop Quiz [6/06](#)
[Getting Reel](#) 11/16
The Pointe of Achieving Balance [2/17](#)
[Only With the Help of God](#) 8/16
Getting a Jump on Her Future [8/16](#)
[Stuck With Ben](#) 6/16
My Reading Buddies [6/16](#)
[Committed to Quit](#) 4/16
Skating With the Spirit [11/13](#)
[Tossing Away Your Time](#) 2/16
Fame, Fortune, and Funny Videos [1/16](#)
[Conquering the Mountain](#) 4/13
Rolling Without Rock [11/04](#)
[Trick Question](#) 6/95
Cool Running [11/94](#)
[Face Trials With Smiles](#) 2/08
Thinking Several Moves Ahead [11/13](#)
[Mile Mondays](#) 11/13
Extra Help in School [11/13](#)
[Setting a President](#) 5/87
Just Keep Swimming [7/11](#)
[Knowledge: a Challenging But Meaningful Read](#) 9/11
Where Music Leads [9/11](#)
[An Open Letter to Students: On Having Faith and Thinking for Yourself](#) 11/71 (not a story, but highly worthwhile instruction from C. Terry Warner)
Play It Again, Sam [5/07](#)
[Right On Key](#) 5/07
Symphony of One [8/07](#)

[The Perfect Pattern 9/05](#)

Will You Choose to Increase in Learning? [9/14](#)

[Seminary Starts at Seven 9/14](#)

I Knew What I Had to Do [9/14](#)

[The College Decision 9/14](#)

Hearing Heaven [6/09](#)

[Playing a Familiar Tune 10/07](#)

Testing the Truth [10/07](#)

[Your Average 5'14" Girl Next Door 5/86](#)

Chiasmus in the Book of Mormon [2/72](#) (This is an article about chiasmus in the Book of Mormon. The story of its discovery is found in the 9/77 *Ensign* issue, "A Book You Can Respect," linked below)

[40 Years of Funny 3/18](#)

The Ultimate Road Trip [6/99](#)

[Friendly Persuasion 4/00](#)

I Wanted Proof [2/98](#)

Stories/Articles from the *Ensign*

[Words to Change Our World 10/15](#)

Experimenting On the Music [9/17](#)

[A Book You Can Respect 9/77](#)

Stepping Stones to Truth [10/97](#)

[The Education of a Lifetime 6/16](#)

Work Enough to Do [8/81](#) (not a story, but important article about the value of leisure time)

[Steinway in the Stairway 8/81](#)

Professor Solomon's Challenge [6/95](#)

[Holy Land Issue of the Ensign 5/72](#)

Roman Catholicism [4/72](#)

[We Can All Learn 6/09](#) (short article of one woman's experience with dyslexia)

Lutheranism [10/71](#)

[Buddhism 6/72](#)

A Latter-day Saint Perspective on Muhammad [8/00](#)

[Allen Bergin 9/83](#)

True Education True Religion [1/80](#)

[Avard T. Fairbanks Art to Edify 9/87](#)

Cultivating Faith [7/84](#)

[Recovering and Discovering Truth 4/81](#)

Wildflower Summer [9/92](#)

[Gospel and the Scientific View 9/90](#)

I Threw Away Our TV [2/73](#)

[Try, Try Again 9/98](#)

Four Accounts of the Creation [1/86](#)

[Put the Savior First 7/17](#) (stories appear in this BYU-I commencement speech in the first paragraph and the last section under the heading "Give Your Life.")

No Watch, No Medal, No Plaque [6/89](#)

[Seeing the Constitution as Covenant 9/89](#)

[The Constitution a Glorious Standard 9/87](#)

[A Standard of Freedom for This Dispensation 9/87](#)

October

Themes: General Conference, prophets, apostles, autumn, harvest, Christopher Columbus, heroes, saints, courage, divine nature, All Hallow's Eve (forerunner to Halloween), All Saints' Day

Hymns

[For All the Saints #82](#)

[Faith of our Fathers Hymns #84](#)

[A Mighty Fortress is Our God #68](#)

[From Homes of Saints #297](#)

[Who's on the Lord's Side? #260](#)

[Come Listen to a Prophet's Voice #21](#)

[God Bless Our Prophet Dear #24](#)

[We Thank Thee O God for a Prophet #19](#)

[Each Life That Touches Ours for Good #293](#)

Music from the *Ensign*

[We Follow the Prophet 3/82](#)

[Two Thousand Stripling Warriors 10/11](#)

Music from the *New Era*

[The Dawn Is Near 8/78](#)

[Morning of Your Life 10/80](#)

[I Face the World 5/81](#)

[Today's Disciple 8/81](#)

[Awakening 3/82](#)

[A Mighty Wave 10/86](#)

[The Clarion Call 6/87](#)

[Warriors for the Lord 8/89](#)

[Saints 9/99](#)

[Let Us Awake 9/00](#)

[We the Youth in Zion's Army 9/01](#)

[Steadfast and Immovable 10/08](#)

[Be Strong 2/10](#)

[I Will Go and Do 1/20](#)

Music from *For the Strength of Youth*

[A Great Work 1/21](#)

Children's Songs

[The Tenth Article of Faith p. 128b](#)

[I Am a Child of God p. 2 CS](#)

[Follow the Prophet p. 110 CS](#)

[Nephi's Courage p. 120 CS](#)
[Dare to Do Right p. 158 CS](#)
[Latter-day Prophets p. 134 CS](#)
[Latter-day Prophets, Friend 5/18](#) (includes Pres. Russell M. Nelson)
[Thank You, Nephi, Friend 3/92](#)
[At Conference Time, Friend 10/97](#)
[I Heard the Prophet Speak, Friend 10/01](#)
[The Way to Be, Friend 3/02](#) (a song of President Hinckley's "Six B's")
[Prophets Then and Now, Friend 10/98](#)
[I Am a Mormon Boy, Friend 10/86](#)
[Samuel the Lamanite, Friend 12/88](#)
[I Will Look Unto the Lord In Every Thought, Friend 1/89](#)
[I Stand Prepared, Friend 1/95](#)
[Gordon B. Hinckley--Constant as the North Star, Friend 6/96](#)
[Heroes of the Scriptures, Friend 6/98](#)
[A Prophet Lives Today, Friend 10/03](#)
[When I Hear the Prophet's Voice 0/09](#)
[Build An Ark, Friend 9/10](#)
[Love Enough, Friend 7/14](#)
[Our Time to Shine, Friend 10/14](#)
[Holding Hands Around the World, Friend 1/15](#)
[Because I Am a Child of God, Friend 10/15](#)
[I'll Stand Tall, Friend 1/16](#)

Scriptures

[2 Samuel 22:2-3](#)
[Psalm 18:1-2](#)
[Psalm 27:1](#)
[Psalm 145:10](#)
[Proverbs 4:18](#)
[John 15:13](#)
[2 Timothy 4:7-8](#)
[Rev. 14:12-13](#)
[Jacob 2:17-19](#)
[Mosiah 18:27-29](#)
[D&C 6:36](#)
[D&C 104:33](#)
[D&C 21:1-5](#)
[D&C 21:4-7](#)

Poetry from the *Friend*

[Columbus 10/84](#)
Farm Visit [10/12](#)
[Why I Love the Prophet 3/10](#)
I Want to Follow the Prophet [10/06](#)

Poetry From LaDawn Jacob's *Favorite Family Devotional Poems*

Be the Best of What You Are p. 49
Every Man Gives His Life p. 9
Be Strong p. 92

Stories from the *Friend*

[Meet Our New Prophet President Nelson 3/18](#)

Robert Louis Stevenson [1/75](#)

[The Mormon Yankees Part 1: A Long Shot 4/18](#)

The Mormon Yankees Part 2: One Shot at a Time [5/18](#)

[“There Is the Light” 11/86](#)

Sharing the Harvest [8/02](#)

[Christopher Columbus Inspired Seaman 10/92](#)

Young Gordon B. Hinckley [3/01](#)

[The Blind Postman 6/96](#)

Madeline’s Dream [11/71](#)

[John Taylor, Printing the Voice of the Church 7/03](#)

Singing With Grandpa [3/01](#)

[Don’t Be Afraid to Be Different \(about Joan of Arc\) 5/07](#)

Pledging Allegiance [11/04](#)

[LDP: Wilford W. Woodruff 3/01](#)

John Taylor Goes to America [3/01](#)

[F2F: Elder H. Bryan Richards, “Follow the Prophet” 11/01](#)

Howard W. Hunter Learns to Work [11/01](#)

[Harold B. Lee, First Day of School 2/02](#)

F2F: Elder Joseph W. Sitati, “The Parable of the Anthill and the Cell Phone” [11/11](#)

[Following the Prophet’s Example 11/11](#)

Horseradish Heroes [11/11](#)

[CLPV: Pres. Henry B. Eyring, Fearless in Sharing the Gospel 11/09](#)

F2F: Elder Neil L. Andersen, Prayer and Work [11/07](#)

[CLPV: Pres. James E. Faust, Courage in a Cornfield 7/07](#)

F2F: Elder William W. Parmley, “Service and the Sabbath” [11/04](#)

[CLPV: Pres. Gordon B. Hinckley, “Take Not the Name of God in Vain” 11/04](#)

LDP: Heber J. Grant [11/04](#)

[Jane E. Manning James 9/97](#)

Jane’s Journey [10/17](#)

[Don Carlos McBride 8/86](#)

Dan Jones Welsh Missionary [10/87](#)

[Wilford Woodruff A Future Prophet is Baptized 11/97](#)

Zina Diantha Huntington Young Angel of Mercy [2/89](#)

[Ellis Reynolds Shipp 4/84](#)

Gilbert Stuart: Portrait Painter of the Presidents [2/84](#)

[Pres. Spencer W. Kimball 3/84](#)

Orrin Porter Rockwell [5/84](#)

[Amelia Earhart 6/84](#)

Babe Didrikson Zaharias [8/84](#)

[Called to Serve 11/84](#)

David O. McKay, A Visit With the Queen [2/97](#)

[LDP: David O. McKay Visiting With a Queen 11/05](#)

Emmeline B. Wells [2/85](#)
[Martin Luther: Defender of Justice and Seeker of Truth 10/84](#)
Louisa May Alcott [11/86](#)
[A Hero of Two Worlds 11/71](#)
A Girl of Great Faith Part 1 [6/13](#)
[A Girl of Great Faith Part 2 7/13](#)
A Girl of Great Faith Part 3 [8/13](#)
[F2F: Standing for Righteousness 10/06](#)
Mother Teresa and the Rescue [10/20](#)

Stories from the *New Era*

[Susume! 9/14](#)
Operation Happiness [8/13](#)
[Every Way Heroes 5/94](#)
Recovering My Spiritual Confidence [1/16](#)
[The Pilgrims 8/81](#)
Kuhao's Gift [11/13](#)
[Breaking Expectations 6/15](#)
Anna's Afghans [11/08](#)
[The Days of Domingos Liao 5/95](#)
The King's Son [11/75](#)
[Perennial Radiance: Jean Sabin Groberg 11/81](#)
Keep Your Chin Strap Fastened [11/81](#)
[Your Example Matters 6/11](#)
What One Person Can Do [6/09](#)
[Tappi-Eiska 4/81](#)
A Testimony of Prophets [10/07](#)
[Freely Given: Walter Stover--A Legend of Generosity 5/87](#)
The Candy Bomber [12/77](#)
[Follow the Prophet 3/18](#)
The Sound of Giving [5/06](#)
[Friend Power 10/01](#)
Taking the Next Step [7/01](#)
[Submerged in Service 5/01](#)
A Carnival of Caring [2/01](#)
[.net/results 5/00](#)
Moving Mountains With Toothbrushes [3/00](#)
[Charlie's Miracle 5/99](#)
Give the World a Hug [3/99](#)
[A Different Drummer 9/98](#)
Noble Effort [10/98](#)

Stories and Articles from the *Ensign*

[The Faithful High Councilor 6/17](#)
Messages from the Doctrine and Covenants: He Speaks through Prophets [9/05](#)
[General Conference Ideas 10/13](#)
Ah Mu: Generous Samoan Saint [9/99](#)
[All Can Learn from a Prophet 6/16](#)

[Istanbul and Rexburg: Jacob Spori's Mission Field 6/80](#)
[Columbus and the Hand of God 10/92](#)
[Be Not Afraid 10/02](#)
[Remembering Aunt Carrie 10/82](#)
[Remembering the McKays 8/84](#)
[In Search of God's Truth \(about Hugh Bourne\) 6/99](#)
[A New Home A New Life 8/73](#)
[Hero at the Grocery Store 12/06](#)
[Lucy Mack Smith Woman of Great Faith 11/72](#)
[Preparing for the Restoration \(about the Reformers\) 6/99](#)
[Lucy Legg 6/87](#)
[Train Wreck 1/81](#)
[Paul's Pumpkins 1/82](#)
[Dallin H. Oaks 4/81](#)
[Thomas L. Kane: Outrider for Zion 9/03](#)
[The Story of the Great Pumpkin and Other Harvest-time Fun 10/78](#)
[Heber J. Grant: a Prophet for Hard Times 1/04](#)
[President Thomas S. Monson 7/95](#)
[Jacob Hamblin 10/84](#)
["It is The Truth, I Can Feel It!" \(about Levi W. Hancock\) 7/99](#)
[Herbert B. Maw 10/84](#)
[Learning to Be a Latter-day Saint 7/99](#)
[Rigmor Heisto, Power of One 02/00](#)
[Close to Home Heroes 3/91](#)
[Julie Jacobs: Her Light is Shining in Holland 8/86](#)
[Johann Wondra: Setting the Stage in Vienna 8/85](#)
[B.H. Roberts: Seeker After Truth 3/86](#)
[Flora A. Benson 3/87](#)
[We Can't All Play the Organ 3/87](#)
[Mark E. Peterson 3/84](#)
[My Great-Great-Grandmother Emma Hale Smith 8/92](#)
[A Mormon in Nepal 10/72](#)
[Old Testament Prophets: Adam 1/14](#)
[Old Testament Prophets: Noah 2/14](#)
[Old Testament Prophets: Abraham 3/14](#)
[Old Testament Prophets: Moses 4/14](#)
[Old Testament Prophets: Samuel 6/14](#)
[Old Testament Prophets: Elijah 7/14](#)
[Old Testament Prophets: Job 8/14](#)
[Old Testament Prophets: Isaiah 9/14](#)
[Old Testament Prophets: Jeremiah 10/14](#)
[Old Testament Prophets: Malachi 12/14](#)
[Josephine Scere 12/17](#)
[Rakotomalala Alphonse: Sarodroa, Madagascar 4/18](#)
[Feinga Fanguna 2/18](#)

[Amanda Jiria 1/18](#)

[Iir Dodaj 11/17](#)

[Cayo and Anthony 9/17](#)

[Niki Covington 8/17](#)

[Mikael Rinne 6/17](#)

[Skaidrite Bokuma 4/17](#)

[Markus Tilgner 3/17](#)

[Adriana Gonzalez 2/17](#)

[The Elect Lady 9/79](#)

[The Way to Safety 10/1](#)

[Bernard Lefrandt: Dutch-Indonesian Pioneer 2/90](#)

[Out of the Tiger's Den 6/89](#)

[He Walks by Faith 10/93](#)

November

Themes: war veterans, praise, harvest, Pilgrims, Thanksgiving, gratitude, blessings

Hymns

[Raise Your Voices to the Lord #61](#)

[Father, Thy Children to Thee Now Raise #91](#)

[For the Beauty of the Earth #92](#)

[Prayer of Thanksgiving #93](#)

[Come Ye Thankful People #94](#)

[Now Thank Thee All Our God #95](#)

Music from the *Ensign*

[Let Not Our Souls Forget 3/81](#)

[To Christ Give We Praise 3/82](#)

Music from the *New Era*

[Praise Triumphant 10/79](#)

[Praise to Zion's King 8/85](#)

[Praise to the Lamb 8/88](#)

[Praise the Lord With Heart and Voice 4/89](#)

[Make a Joyful Noise 11/94](#)

[Good to Be Alive 6/15](#)

Children's Songs

[The Eleventh Article of Faith p. 130 CS](#)

[Children All Over the World p. 16 CS](#)

[Thanks to Our Father p. 20 CS](#)

[Can a Little Child Like Me? p. 9 CS](#)

[Thanks to Thee p. 6 CS](#)

[I Thank Thee Dear Father p. 7 CS](#)

[I'm Thankful to Be Me p. 11 CS](#)

[Thanks to Our Father p. 20 CS](#)

[A Song of Thanks p. 20 CS](#)

[We Thank Thee, Friend 11/76](#)

[Hymn of Thanks, Friend 11/78](#)

[Thanksgiving Song, Friend 11/79](#)

[Giving Thanks, Friend 11/80](#)

[My Blessings, Friend 11/83](#)

[My Thanks Today, Friend 11/90](#)

[Life Is O'erflowing With Beautiful Things, Friend 7/09](#)

[Thankful Friend 11/20](#)

Scriptures

[1 Chr. 16:8-14](#)

[Psalms 13:](#)

[Isaiah 51:3](#)

[Psalms 69:30](#)

[Psalms 92:1](#)

[Psalms 95:1-6](#)

[Psalms 100](#)

[Psalms 103:1-22](#), the whole thing, or as much as you want

[Psalms 150](#)

[Isaiah 12:1-6](#)

[Mark 4:26-28](#)

[Colossians 3:15](#)

[1 Thessalonians 5:18](#)

[Ephesians 5:20](#)

[D&C 59:7](#)

[D&C 59:15-21](#)

[D&C 136:28](#)

[Mosiah 18:27-29](#)

[Alma 26:8](#)

[Alma 34:19](#)

[Alma 37:37](#)

Poetry from the *Friend*

[Thanksgiving 11/71](#)

[Thanksgiving 11/73](#)

November [11/78](#)
[Worldwide Love 11/96](#)
Pilgrim Mother Speaks [11/77](#)
[I'm So Blessed 11/91](#)
Thanksgiving [11/99](#)
[For Little Friends: Harvest Home Evening 11/86](#)
My Thank You Song [11/86](#)
[Warning 11/78](#)
Thank You, Heavenly Father [11/79](#)

Poetry From LaDawn Jacob's *Favorite Family Devotional Poems*

Mr. Turkey p. 93
Thanks p. 134
Give Thanks p. 135
Thanksgiving p. 136
The Missing Turkey p. 137

Other Traditional Poetry

[Landing of the Pilgrim Fathers](#)
[Five Kernels of Corn](#)
[Thanksgiving](#) by Edgar A. Guest
[The Old-Fashioned Thanksgiving](#) by Edgar A. Guest
[Summer Days Are Over](#) by Louisa May Alcott
[The Harvest Moon: a Poem of Thanksgiving](#) by Longfellow

Poetry from the *Ensign*

Harvest Song by Parley P. Pratt [10/82](#)
[How Different 11/89](#) quoted by Henry B. Eyring

Stories from the *Friend*

The Not-So-Pitiful Thanksgiving [11/79](#)
[Strangers at the Door 11/76](#)
Five Kernels of Corn [11/80](#)
[Writing Thank You Notes 11/86](#) (not a story, but great instruction on how to write thank you notes, could use for a simple FHE or Sunday activity during the month of November, really any month!)
The Thanksgiving Balloon [11/86](#)
[Rescuing Thanksgiving 11/95](#)
Happy Thanksgiving [11/84](#)
[Gratitude 11/91](#)
Guess Who's Coming To Thanksgiving Dinner? [11/99](#)
[Blessings Everywhere 11/01](#)
F2F: Elder Carl B. Pratt, "The Important Blessings" [7/01](#)
[Pie Crust Cabins 11/16](#)
Sweeter Than Pie [11/15](#)
[The Blessing Fish 11/17](#)
My Gratitude List [11/09](#)
[Bread and Gratitude 10/17](#)
Something of Value [11/85](#)

[Fruit for Hernando 3/87](#)

Rock Soup [11/07](#)

[Nine Lepers and a Thank You Note 11/07](#)

Pumpkin Pie Surprise [11/02](#)

[CLPV: Pres. Hinckley, Gratitude 11/02](#)

The First Thanksgiving in Utah [11/04](#)

[A Helping of Gratitude 11/13](#)

Dishing Up Blessings [11/04](#)

[CLPV: Pres. Henry B. Eyring, Count Your Blessings 3/11](#)

CLPV: Pres. Thomas S. Monson, Give Thanks for Everything [1/10](#)

[Thanksgiving Surprise 11/06](#)

In His Hands [6/04](#)

[Zack's Thanksgiving Traditions 11/91](#)

Thankful for a Stepdad [11/14](#)

[Thanksgiving Plans 11/85](#)

Thanksgiving Turkey Drive [11/85](#)

Stories from the *New Era*

[Thanksgiving Prayer 11/85](#)

Legend of the Snow Turkey [11/87](#)

[A Spoonful of Gratitude 10/15](#)

The Gratitude Commitment [10/16](#)

[An Attitude of Gratitude 11/93](#) (scroll down to the paragraph that starts "The story of the Good Samaritan...")

A Grateful Heart [9/99](#)

[Receive All Things With Thankfulness 11/76](#) (if you just want the story, scroll down to the paragraph that starts "I am reminded of...")

Why Me? [12/09](#)

[Speaking from the Heart in Russia 11/76](#)

Gratitude in Africa [11/11](#)

[For a Greater Purpose 11/76](#)

Braided Together [3/93](#)

[Please Bring Us Home 2/99](#)

New Pilgrims and Old [11/75](#)

Stories from the *Ensign* about Harvest, Gratitude, and Thanksgiving

The Harvest Will Come [9/12](#)

[The Football Game that Changed My Life 10/07](#)

Grandma Chris' Rye Bread [1/96](#)

[Utah's First Thanksgiving Day 10/82](#)

A Catalog of Events [6/94](#)

[Sowing Before Sunday 4/98](#)

One Link Still Holds [10/99](#) (to get to the stories, skip to the paragraph that begins, "When I was a boy...", then the next story is right after that, it starts with "Another time--it was the Sunday before Thanksgiving...")

[My House is On Fire! 4/00](#)

Lifting Others and Myself [10/09](#)

[An Attitude of Gratitude 2/00](#)

Live in Thanksgiving Daily [9/01](#) (BYU Devotional Speech by Elder Joseph B, Wirthlin, includes several stories. The beginning sentences of some of the stories are:

- “A long time ago in a faraway village..”
- “Rulon Gardner grew up in the small town...”
- “Not long ago a mother and father from the republic of Georgia...”)

[After the Fire 9/05](#)

Stories from the *Ensign* About War Veterans and War

My Father’s Medal of Courage [9/03](#)

[Happy Birthday Sarge! \(this is actually from the New Era, 11/96\)](#)

The Branch that Wouldn’t Die [4/71](#)

[In a Vietnam Helicopter 8/79](#)

War and Peace and Dutch Potatoes [7/78](#)

[The Lord Was Always There 8/11](#)

A Band of Brothers [2/08](#) (skip to the heading, “A Lesson from WWII”)

[Behind the Wall: The Church in Eastern Germany, part 1 4/91](#)

The Wall Comes Down: The Church in Eastern Germany, [part 2 6/91](#)

[You’re Not Here to Go to Church 2/13](#)

What’s in the Cart? [2/07](#)

[Forgiveness at Wakayama 12/11](#)

December

Themes: Hanukkah, lights, Christmas, the birth of Jesus Christ, the light and example of Jesus Christ, gifts, service, the birth of Joseph Smith, family Christmas traditions

Hymns

[Joy to the World #201](#)

[Oh Come All Ye Faithful #202](#)

[Angels We Have Heard on High #203](#)

[Silent Night #204](#)

[Once In Royal David's city #205](#)

[Away In A Manger #206](#)

[It Came Upon A Midnight Clear #207](#)

[O Little Town of Bethlehem #208](#)

[Hark the Herald Angels Sing #209](#)

[With Wondering Awe #210](#)

[While Shepherds Watched their Flocks by Night #211](#)

[Far Far Away on Judea's Plains #212](#)

[The First Noel #213](#)

[I Heard the Bells On Christmas Day #214](#)

[Praise to the Man #27](#)

Music from the *Ensign*

[The Miracle 12/73](#)

[One Night in Bethlehem 12/73](#)

[An Old-Fashioned Christmas 12/73](#)

[Infant Jesus, Holy Babe 12/73](#)

[Sing We Now Most Joyful Lays 12/74](#)

[Lullaby for Jesus 12/74](#)

[Long, Long Ago: A Family Carol 12/75](#)

[Gentle Jesus 12/82](#)

[Come, Lord Jesus 12/03](#)

[Guard Him Joseph 12/07](#)

[The Lamb of God 12/11](#)

[Lights and Marvels 12/12](#)

[Does He Remember? 12/14](#)

[Safe in a Stable 12/15](#)

[Visions of Christmas 12/16](#)

[Once in Royal David's City 12/17 \(different from the traditional arrangement\)](#)

[Seek this Jesus 12/18](#)

[What Child is This? 12/19 \(duet\)](#)

Music from the *New Era*

[Thank Goodness for Christmas 12/77](#)

[In Bethlehem 12/78](#)
[Jesus Lay Sleeping 8/79](#)
[Shining Star 12/79](#)
[The Sign 8/80](#)
[What Does Christmas Mean? 12/81](#)
[Calm Is the Night 8/82](#)
[Carol to a King 12/83](#)
[Carol for Christmas Morning 12/84](#)
[Little One 12/86](#)
[When Love Came Down 12/87](#)
[A New Star Shines Tonight 12/88](#)
[Room in the Inn 12/89](#)
[A Gift Of Love 12/90](#)
[The First Christmas 12/91](#)
[Be It Unto Me 11/92](#)
[In a Stable 12/92](#)
[And Mary Pondered 12/93](#)
[Hope Was Born 12/94](#)
[This is Christmas 12/95](#)
[In Days of Old 10/96](#)
[As With Gladness 12/96](#)
[Christmas Time is Here 12/97](#)
[Little Child 12/98](#)
[Christmas Bells Are Ringing 12/99](#)
[Let It Come Quietly 12/00](#)
[Arise and Sing This Christmas Morn 12/02](#)
[Would I Know My Savior? 12/05](#)
[Soft and Pure 12/06](#)
[From Father's Arms to Mother's Arms 12/07](#)
[Little Baby 12/08](#)
[Mary, Sweet and Tender Maiden 12/09](#)
[Christmas Comes Again 12/10](#)
[Softly Falls the Evening Light 12/11](#)
[In the Silence 12/13](#)
[God Hath Sent His Son This Day 12/14](#)
[Jesus Holy 12/15](#)
[A Savior is Born 12/16](#)
[Silent Night 12/17](#)
[The First Noel 12/18](#)

Children's Songs

[The Twelfth Article of Faith p. 131 CS](#)
[Christmas Songs in CS pp. 34-54](#)
[Lullaby, Friend 12/75](#)
[The First Christmas in America 12/78](#)
[Mary's Lullaby, Friend 12/82](#)
[The Spirit of Christmas, Friend 12/86](#)
[Christmas Day, Friend 12/87](#)

[If I Had Been in Bethlehem, Friend 12/89](#)
[The Baby Jesus, Friend 12/90](#)
[To Bethlehem, Friend 12/91](#)
[Follow His Light, Friend 12/92](#)
[Christmas Lullaby, Friend 12/94](#)
[That Night In the Stable, Friend 12/97](#)
[Lullaby, Little One, Friend 12/99](#)
[Sing of Christmas, Friend 12/03](#)
[Come to Bethlehem, Friend 12/07](#)
[Our Christmas Story Tree, Friend 12/10](#)
[All Things Testify of Jesus, Friend 12/11](#)
[Come, Lord Jesus 10/12](#)
[God's Christmas Gift, Friend 12/13](#)
[The Nativity, Friend 12/14](#)
[The Way to Bethlehem, Friend 12/15](#)
[Make Room for Him 12/17](#)
[My Christmas Testimony 12/19](#)
[I'll Make the World Brighter 12/20](#)

Scriptures

[Psalms 95:6](#)
[Psalms 97:1](#)
[Psalms 98:4-9](#)
[Micah 5:2](#)
[Matthew 2:1-11](#)
[Luke 2:7-14](#)
[2 Cor. 9:7](#)
[2 Nephi 3:5-7](#)
[Mosiah 3:5-8](#)
[Alma 5:50](#)
[Alma 7:10-12](#)
[3 Nephi 25:2](#)
[3 Nephi 27:21](#)
[Deuteronomy 16:17](#)
[John 3:16](#)
[John 13:15](#)
[D&C 3:1-3](#)
[D&C 6:7](#)

Poetry from the *Friend*

[Gifts From a Child 12/78](#)
[I Wonder 4/80](#)
[Thank You Brother Joseph 5/05](#)
[The Blessed Christ Child 12/06](#)
[Catching Christmas 12/11](#)
[Near to Jesus 12/14](#)
[I Know that Jesus Loves Me 12/12](#)
[I Wasn't There 12/09](#)

Poetry From LaDawn Jacob's *Favorite Family Devotional Poems*

Long, Long Ago p.138

What Can I Give Him? p. 140

I Wonder p.141

If I Had Been a Shepherd Boy p.145

Other Traditional Poetry

[Light the Festive Candles](#) by Aileen Fisher

[Kid Stuff](#) by Frank Horne

Christmas Stories from the *Friend*

[The Day There Was No Night 12/78](#) (a play with parts to act out or do as a readers' theater)

Christmas in Cairo [12/78](#)

[Waiting for Jesus 12/13](#)

The Christmas Surprise [12/13](#)

[Getting Ready for Christmas 12/12](#)

Christmas in the Hospital [12/12](#)

[A Christmas Prayer Answered 12/12](#)

A Tree for Travis [12/16](#)

[Mistletoe Hunt 12/14](#)

The Cup-for-a-Can Cocoa Stand [12/14](#)

[The Prophet's Granddaughter, a Visit from the Savior 12/14](#)

The Little Red Chairs [12/14](#)

[The Christmas Basket 12/09](#)

The Missing Egg [12/09](#)

[The Secret Giver 12/08](#)

A Bit of Christmas Every Day [12/14](#)

[Sing a Song of Christmas 12/08](#)

The Christmas Pony [12/14](#)

[The Christmas Cane 12/10](#)

Following Christ at Christmas [12/12](#) (five short stories of prophets at Christmastime)

[The Christmas Tree 12/11](#)

The Gift [12/11](#)

[Christmas Eve Drop-off 12/10](#)

Making Room for Christmas [12/15](#)

[Singing With Angels 12/15](#)

Christmas Around the World [12/71](#)

[Christmas Eve With the Cordobas 12/15](#)

The Special Christmas [12/82](#)

Stories About Joseph Smith from the *Friend*

[An Operation on Joseph's Leg 2/08](#)

Joseph Smith's First Vision [3/08](#)

[A Hero to Follow: Family Time 11/78](#)

A Hero to Follow: a Promise Fulfilled [12/78](#)

[Emma Hale the Prophet's Wife 4/08](#)

[Receiving the Gold Plates 5/08](#)

[Protecting the Gold Plates 6/08](#)

[Joseph Smith Moves to Ohio 7/08](#)

[Miracles Along Joseph's Journey 8/08](#)

[Trials for Joseph and Emma 9/08](#)

[Joseph's Experiences in Jail 10/08](#)

[The City of Joseph 11/08](#)

[Joseph Smith the Prophet 12/84](#)

[It Makes Them Happy 12/06](#)

[Blessed for Following the Prophet 5/03](#)

[From the Life of John Taylor: Bearing Testimony of the Prophet 5/03](#)

[F2F: Barbara Thompson, A Special Feeling of Peace 8/10](#)

[Important Places in the Life Of the Prophet Joseph Smith 12/05](#)

[From the Life of the Prophet Joseph Smith: a Peacemaker 11/09](#)

[The Martyrdom of the Prophet Joseph Smith 12/08](#)

Stories from the *New Era* about Christmas

[Serving Breakfast 12/09](#)

[Postponing Christmas 12/09](#)

[The Unknown Gift 12/09](#)

[Christmas in Paris 12/16](#)

[A Life-changing Gift at the Thrift Store 12/15](#)

[Christmas Memories from Prophets and Apostles 12/15](#)

[My Gift from the Ghetto 12/15](#)

[From Humbug to Happy 12/15](#)

[The Gift Box 12/08](#)

[A Christmas Miracle 12/08](#)

[The Light Before Christmas 12/08](#)

[Finding Christmas in Sendai 12/06](#)

[Mom's Christmas Coat 12/06](#)

[Salt and Snow 12/06](#)

[Christmas Every Sunday 12/93](#)

[The Twelfth Day 12/93](#)

[Why Didn't You Wake Me? 12/93](#)

[The Joy They Shared 12/93](#)

[Merry Christmas Stella 12/93](#)

[The Child, the Boy, the Man Few People Knew 12/01](#)

[Doorstep Nativity 12/01](#)

[531 Pages Til Christmas 12/01](#)

[The Happiest Person on Earth 12/96](#)

[Wood for the Widows 12/05](#)

Stories from the *New Era* About Joseph Smith

[Joseph Smith as a Young Man 1/71](#)

[The Incomparable Joseph Smith 1/72](#)

They Knew Joseph [12/15](#)
[Not the Voice of Man 6/95](#)
I Learned for Myself [5/13](#)
[Joseph Smith Truly a Prophet 6/94](#)
My Testimony of Joseph Smith [9/10](#)
[Because of Joseph Smith 4/15](#)
The Greatness of Joseph Smith and His Remarkable Visions [12/73](#)
[Christmas With Joseph Smith 12/01](#)
A Joseph Smith Birthday Party [12/79](#)
[Two Guests for Christmas 12/17](#) (this is not a story but an article with ideas for honoring Joseph Smith on his birthday, Dec. 23)
Joseph Smith's Family Tree [12/05](#)
[Joseph Smith and the Lighter View 8/76](#)
Joseph Smith-- Five Qualities of Leadership [6/77](#)
[Brigham and Joseph 12/77](#)
Celebrating the Prophet [12/00](#)
Stick-pulling, Newly Revised Game of the 1840s [12/71](#)

Christmas Stories from the *Ensign*

Our Not-Quite Tabernacle Choir [12/96](#)
[Stranded in a Small Town 12/96](#)
I Received the Better Gift [12/96](#)
[Why Was Choka Here? 12/96](#)
Our Pickle Jar Christmas [12/93](#)
[The Unexpected Christmas 12/97](#)
The Crumpled Letter [12/97](#)
[Room in the Inn 12/08](#)
How Could I Help? [12/08](#)
[The Horse That Saved Christmas 12/86](#)
Where Should I Spend Christmas? [12/80](#)
["Who Needs Me at Christmas?" 12/80](#)
In Honor of the Lord [12/80](#)
[The Smell of a Mothball 12/80](#)
A Tiny Fragment of Steel [12/81](#)
[7K by Christmas 12/81](#)
Frozen Feet Warming Heart [12/73](#)
[The Gift That Never Wore Out 12/73](#)
Stay Here All the Time [12/84](#)
[Love and Letters Gift That Last 12/84](#)
Christmas At Our House [12/77](#)
[A Christmas at Home 12/84](#)
Maybe Christmas Doesn't Come from a Store [12/77](#)
[The Orange and the Tramp 12/77](#)
Magnifying the Lord: Mary's Example [12/80](#)
[The Year of the Flexible Flyers 12/84](#)
Gifts for Grandpa and Grandma [12/84](#)
[The Christmas Dad Would Have Wanted 12/84](#)
We Didn't Have a Tree Until [12/74](#)

[Christmas Made at Home 12/84](#)
[Sharing the Season 12/86](#)
[To Give and Give Again 12/86](#)
[The Unexpected Christmas 12/97](#)
[Year-Round Christmas Spirit 12/86](#)
[Two Dimes and a Nickel 12/86](#)
[The Gift of Tradition 12/86](#)
[Merry Thanks and Happy Respect 12/86](#)
[A Stockingful of History 12/86](#)
[Neighborhood Concerts 12/03](#)
[The Truckers' Gift 12/03](#)
[Christmas With a Minister 12/03](#)
[Loading Up the Little Red Wagon 12/03](#)
[Prophets at Christmastime 12/12](#)
[When Christmas Hurts 12/05](#)
[A Gift from the Heart 12/05](#)
[Straw for the Manger 12/05](#)
[Unemployed for the Holidays 12/05](#)
[The Clam Chowder Story 12/05](#)
[A Christmas With No Presents 12/01](#)
[One Last Carol 12/01](#)
[Christmas Bells Through the Fog 12/01](#)
[Tumbleweeds and Christmas Stars 12/16](#)
[Instant Christmas 12/89](#)
[The Voice on the Phone 12/89](#)
[Our New Holiday Tradition 12/99](#)
[Mother's Homemade Christmas 12/89](#)
[Why That Gift? 12/99](#)
[Cookies and Carols 12/08](#)
[A Small Snow-covered Tree 12/08](#)
[Carols of Caring 12/91](#)
[Our Home Evening Manger 12/91](#)
[The Christmas I Remember Least 12/88](#)
[We Heard the Herald Angels Sing 12/91](#)
[Finding the Christmas Spirit 12/93](#)
[Our Best Tradition Yet 12/08](#)
[Father and the Revolutionaries 12/93](#)
[Christmas for the Early Pioneers 12/11](#)
[Vandalized! What to Do? 12/90](#)
[Two Mounties and the Christmas Spirit 12/82](#)

Stories/Articles About Joseph Smith from the *Ensign*

[Joseph Smith's Home Environment 7/71](#)
[Joseph Smith's Boyhood Surgery: Mercy During a "Desperate Siege" 6/13](#)
[Joseph Smith and the Book of Mormon 1/96](#)
[Joseph Smith: Restorer of Truth 12/03](#)
[The Human Qualities of Joseph Smith the Prophet 1/71](#)
[Joseph Smith and Zion's Camp 6/05](#)

My Dear and Beloved Companion [9/08](#)
[Joseph Smith's Brothers 9/79](#)
Joseph Smith and Nauvoo's Youth [9/79](#)
[Christmas with the Prophet 12/78](#)
The Joseph Smith Journals [12/07](#)
[What Did Joseph Smith Really Look Like? 12/12](#)
Two Witnesses, Three Days, and the Aftermath of the Martyrdom [6/13](#)