



*Ye ought to . . . please God (1 Thessalonians 4:1).*

## PARTY REFUSALS

**B**oth Emily and Amanda chose to not attend parties, even though they wanted to go to them. Emily decided to not go to her friend’s house when she learned that her friend’s parents were not going to be there. Amanda decided to not go to a swimming party when she learned that it would be on a Sunday. Neither girl knew that her sister had turned down an invitation, but both were trying to follow the Savior’s commandments. Emily wanted to honor her parents’ rules and choose the right; Amanda was sad to miss the party, but she knew that her decision “would make Jesus happy.” Both felt good about their decisions.

*Emily and Amanda Seidel, ages 7 and 11  
Kokomo Ward  
Lafayette Indiana Stake*

*Therefore, blessed are they who will repent and hearken unto the voice of the Lord their God; for these are they that shall be saved (Helaman 12:23).*

## THE JOY OF REPENTANCE

*By Ben Davis*

**W**hen I noticed a paper snowman at school, I thought that no one wanted it. I picked it up, tore it into small pieces, and made a paper trail out of it. I wasn’t trying to hurt anyone, but I did. The snowman belonged to a second-grader named Phyllis. When she came back to get it and saw what had happened to it, she began to cry.

My heart ached to make Phyllis feel better, but I didn’t know how. I was afraid to tell anyone what I had done, but my little sister had seen what happened and told my mom. I think that this is the only time I’ve been grateful that she loves to tattle on me.

My parents and I talked about the steps of repentance: first, tell the person and Heavenly Father that you’re sorry; second, do your best to fix the wrong; third, promise to never do it again.

I realized that I couldn’t fix Phyllis’s paper snow-



man, but the next day I apologized to her and found out what her favorite candy bar was. Then I vacuumed, washed dishes, and did other chores at home to earn money to buy Phyllis her favorite

candy. Usually I don't like to do chores, but that day it made me feel extra good inside. Mom said that the good feeling was the Holy Ghost telling me that I was doing the right thing.

The next morning, Mom and I went to Phyllis's classroom, and Mom explained to the teacher why I was giving Phyllis the candy bar. I was embarrassed, thinking that the teacher would think that I was mean. But she said that I was wonderful and that the world would be a much better place if more people were like me! It felt nice to have her think

highly of me, but not as nice as the smile Phyllis gave me when I handed her the candy bar. It was a big, beautiful smile that told me, "I forgive you."

As we left the classroom, I felt warm and happy inside. Mom said that it was the Holy Ghost telling me that Heavenly Father was pleased with me. I hope to feel the Holy Ghost in my life many more times as I take advantage of the gift of repentance.

*Ben Davis, age 12  
Seattle 15th Ward  
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*Every new [member] needs . . . a friend in the Church . . . who will walk beside him, who will answer his questions, who will understand his problems (President Gordon B. Hinckley, *Ensign*, May 1999, page 108).*

## MEMBER MISSIONARY

*By Monahra L. de Q. Freitas*

When a sister in our ward started coming to church again after six years, my mother told my brothers and sisters and me that we should be friends with the sister's two children. Their dad had died just a year before, and they were still very sad. One of the children, Evelyn, was a little younger than I am.

Mama asked me, "Monahra, will you be Evelyn's friend? Heavenly Father has asked you to be a member missionary. Be loving and friendly, and be sure that she is not left alone."

I told Mama that I would, and since that day, I have tried to be a member missionary for Evelyn. Because I want to be a full-time missionary when I grow up, I am trying my best to be a missionary now.

Evelyn is a great friend, and she smiles a lot now. We play, go to Primary, and sing hymns together. Sometimes we have family home evening together at her house. I know that Heavenly Father is happy because I have tried to be a member missionary and a friend. I am grateful to have Evelyn as a friend.



*Monahra L. de Q. Freitas, age 6  
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