

THE Friend

JUNIOR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



For Parents of Little Ones



January means big changes, especially for new Sunbeams! Whether your child dives into the new class, hangs back, or totally melts down at first, trust that Heavenly Father is happy you've brought them to Primary. It's a good place for growing young faith!



Here are some ideas to help your child adjust to a new year in Primary:

■ Visit the Primary rooms when they're not in use. Say, "See how the chairs are your size? This place is just right for you! See the piano? You'll get to sing some great songs."

■ Find out if there's a friend or neighbor who will be in the Sunbeam class too. Encourage your child to look forward to being with the friend in Sunbeams.

■ Role-play beforehand. A sibling or parent could pretend to be the Primary teacher. The "teacher" will greet your little one at the door, show them where to sit, sing a Primary song with them, and teach a short lesson.

■ Explain that everyone has a job at church. Tell about what you do in your Church calling. Then tell about what a Primary teacher does. Ask your child to guess what their new job at church is—to be a Sunbeam! Explain what Sunbeams do, like sing, listen to the teacher, and show kindness to others.

■ If possible, arrange for your little one to meet the new teachers during the week. Or look at their pictures from the online ward directory.

You can read past letters at FriendFPLO.lds.org.



Hi, Friends!



Lexi likes to look at the Book of Mormon. Her family reads it together before bedtime.

Lexi, age 3, Utah, USA



When Spencer's baby sister cries, he gets her special blanket to help her feel better.

Spencer, age 4, Utah, USA



Hannah helps her mom collect diapers to give to families who need them for their babies. She loves to learn about Jesus.

Hannah, age 5, Virginia, USA



Preston prayed and asked Heavenly Father to help him stop sucking his thumb. After that, he felt courageous, and he stopped!

Preston, age 5, Nevada, USA

Kylie's Parents

By Jennifer Maddy



Kylie has a mommy and daddy. She loves them very much.



Mommy likes to help. So does Kylie.



Daddy likes to build. Kylie does too.



Kylie has Heavenly Parents. She loves Them very much too.



Our Heavenly Parents are very kind. So is Kylie.



Our Heavenly Parents show love to everyone. Kylie does too!

Your Parents and You

It's fun to do things with Mommy and Daddy! Find something to help these children have fun with their parents.

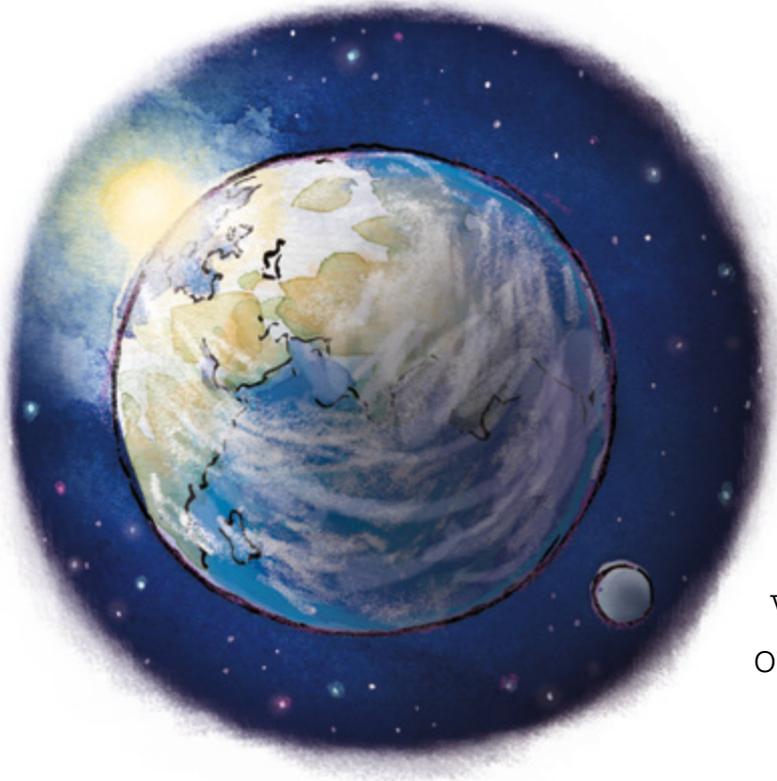


How are you like your mommy or daddy?
How do you think you are like your Heavenly Parents?

STORIES OF JESUS

Jesus Loves Me

By Kim Webb Reid

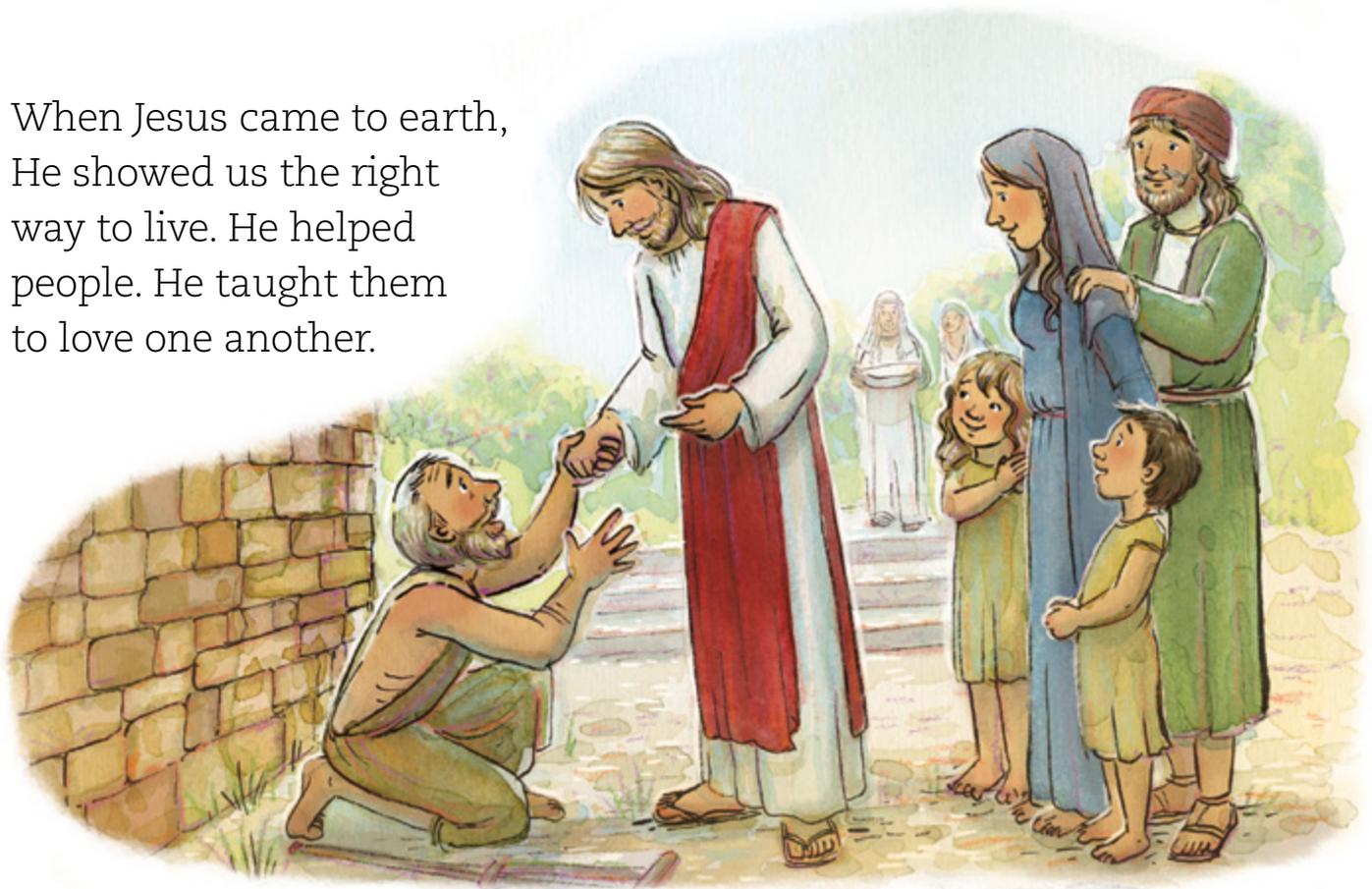


Before the earth was made, we all lived in heaven with our Heavenly Parents and our older Brother, Jesus. We were happy, and we loved each other very much.

One day Heavenly Father told us He would make an earth for us to live on. He knew we would sometimes not keep His commandments while we were on earth. We would need a Savior to help us return home to Him. Heavenly Father chose Jesus to be our Savior.



When Jesus came to earth,
He showed us the right
way to live. He helped
people. He taught them
to love one another.



Jesus suffered
in the Garden of
Gethsemane and on the
cross. He did this so we
could repent and so we could
live again after we die.



When I learn about Jesus, I feel His love for me. ◆

COLORING PAGE

I Am a Child of Heavenly Parents



ILLUSTRATIONS BY APRYL STOTT

The Favorite Ball

By Jane McBride

(Based on a true story)

It's my turn to play with the ball!" Seth said.

"Your turn is up."

"No, it's not!" Adam hugged the ball. Tears filled his eyes. "You always get to play with it longer than I do!"

The ball was from Aunt Jill. It bounced very high. It lit up when it hit the floor. It was their favorite

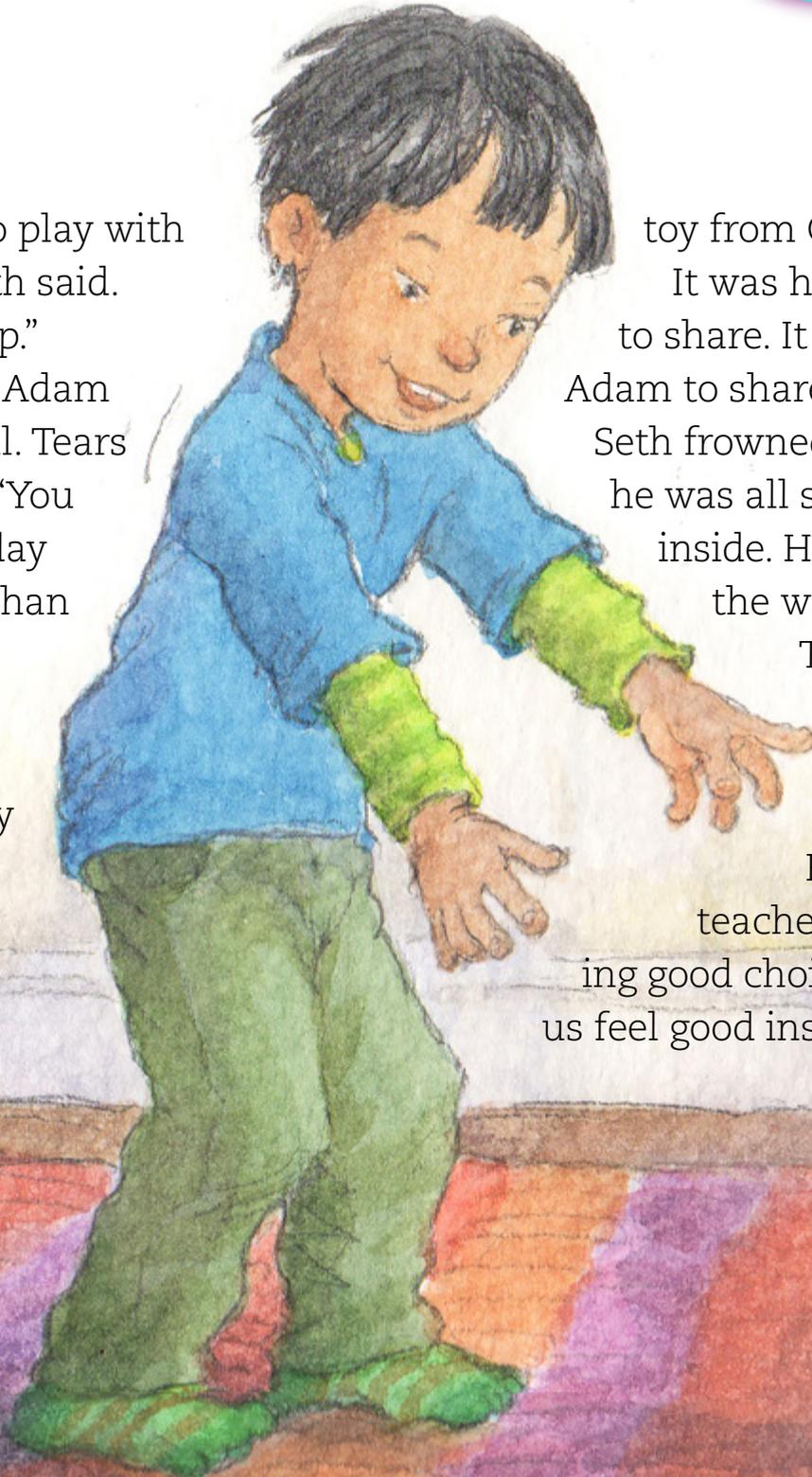
toy from Christmas.

It was hard for Seth to share. It was hard for Adam to share.

Seth frowned. It felt like he was all scrunched up inside. He didn't like the way he felt.

Then Seth thought about something.

His Primary teacher said making good choices can help us feel good inside. She said



making a bad choice can make us feel bad inside.

Am I making a bad choice? Seth wondered.

Maybe fighting with his brother wasn't a good choice.

But how could he be kind to Adam and still get to play with his favorite ball?

Question for You

How can you be kind when you are playing?

Seth had an idea. His angry face turned into a happy face.

“Hey, why don't we play with it together?” Seth asked. “We can bounce it to each other.”

“OK,” Adam said.

“That sounds fun!”

Adam bounced the ball to Seth. Seth laughed and bounced it back.

Lights flashed across the floor. Seth felt lighter inside too. ◆

The author lives in Colorado, USA.