

Taking Turns for Church

By Haley Yancey
(Based on a true story)

“When you come home, tell me what songs you sang in Primary,” Jenny said.

“I will!” her sister Miriam said as she put on her shoes.

Not everyone in Jenny’s family could go to church every Sunday. There were six people in Jenny’s family. But Mamá only had



enough money to buy two bus tickets each week. So they had to take turns riding the bus to church.

Jenny wished she could go every week. She liked learning about Jesus Christ. She liked singing in Primary. She wanted to see her friends. Most of all, she wanted to feel the warm, happy feeling she always got at church. But today she had to stay home.

“Time to go.” Mamá hugged Jenny and her brother and sisters goodbye.

Jenny tried to smile as Miriam and Mamá left. But she felt a lump in her throat as she watched them walk away. *I wish it was my turn to go*, Jenny thought. It was always hard to stay home.

“Want to color?” Jenny’s little brother,

Marco, held up some crayons and paper.

Jenny nodded.

For the next few hours, Jenny read stories and colored with Marco and their older sisters. It was fun, but Jenny kept thinking about church. Were they learning new songs in Primary right now? What was the lesson about today?

Finally Jenny heard the front door open. Mamá and Miriam were home!

“Mamá! Miriam!” Jenny raced to the door and hugged them.

Mamá set her purse down. “Let’s talk about what we learned at church.”

Everyone sat down together. Mamá pulled out the little hymnbook she kept in her purse. Jenny’s family sang “Families Can Be Together Forever.” She knew all the words.

Then Jenny asked Miriam about Primary. Miriam opened her Book of Mormon and pulled out a folded piece of paper. She held it up so everyone could see. It was a picture she had colored of Jesus with some children.



“We colored a picture and sang ‘I’m Trying to Be like Jesus.’ Then we talked about how Jesus can help everyone.”

“We talked about that in Relief Society too,” Mamá said. “Jesus Christ can help us when we are scared or lonely.” Mamá pulled out a piece of paper from her purse. “The teacher gave everyone this quote from the prophet. ‘As you choose to live on the Lord’s side, you are never alone.’”*

“Even here at home!” Jenny said.

Mamá smiled. “Even at home. We can always feel the Savior close to us.”

Jenny smiled big. She didn’t get to go to church every week. But she could feel close to Jesus at home. And she was excited for her turn to go to church again soon. ●

This story took place in Mexico.

* President Russell M. Nelson, “Youth of the Noble Birthright: What Will You Choose?” (Church Education System devotional for young adults, Sept. 6, 2013), [broadcasts.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/broadcasts).

ILLUSTRATIONS BY LAURA CATRINELLA