

# No Matter Who You Are

By Linda Davies

Based on a true story

*“Oh no,” thought Andi. “What’s going to happen since I’m not sealed to my family?”*



*“I am a child of God, and he has sent me here”* (Children’s Songbook, 2).

“Just right,” Andi thought as she quickly looked in the mirror. She was wearing her favorite red dress. She always wanted to look her best on Sundays. She ran down to breakfast.

Andi was just finishing her last piece of toast when the Reeder’s car horn honked from the driveway. “Bye, Mom! Bye, Dad!” Andi said, kissing them as she ran out the door.

Even though Mom and Dad were not members of the Church, they encouraged Andi to go to church each week. The Reeder family had given her a ride almost every Sunday since she had been baptized and confirmed. Andi liked how they always made her feel so welcome and loved.

After sacrament meeting it was time for Primary. Andi loved being in Brother and Sister Long’s Valiant class. They were kind, and their lessons were always the best.

“Today we’re going to talk about temples,” Sister Long said. “What are some things we know about temples?”

Andi knew one answer: “We can do temple baptisms.” She was excited about that because every year the young women in her ward made a trip to the temple to do baptisms. Soon Andi could go too!

“Great, Andi. What else do we know?”

“You can be married in the temple,” said Andi’s friend Allison.

“Very good,” said Sister Long. “Anything else?”

“Families can be together forever when they’re sealed in the temple,” Allison added.

“But not my family,” thought Andi. “Mom and Dad haven’t been sealed in the temple!” Suddenly her face felt hot, and her eyes began to sting with tears.

“Are you OK, Andi?” asked Sister Long.

“Yes,” Andi sniffed, trying to hold back the tears. But she could feel her heart pounding all through the rest of the lesson.

When class was over, Sister Long sat by Andi and put an arm around her. “What’s the matter?” she asked.

“I won’t be with my mom and dad forever,” Andi said. “They haven’t been married in the temple. Who will I belong to after I die? Does Heavenly Father still love me even if my parents aren’t members?”

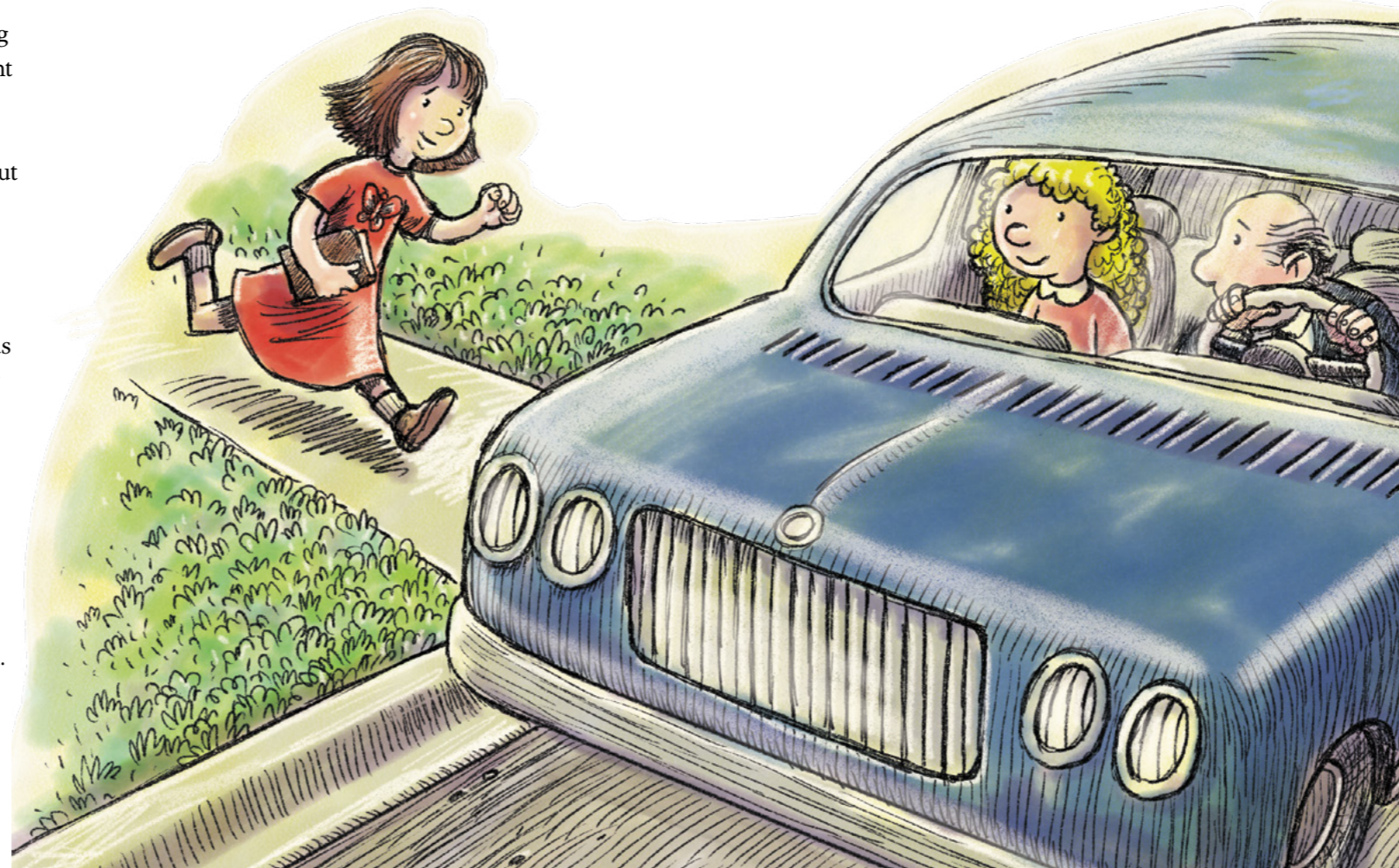
Sister Long looked directly into Andi’s eyes. “No matter who you are and no matter if your family has

been to the temple or not, you are still part of Heavenly Father’s family. You can stay close to Him and be an example to others. He will always love, guide, and protect you, no matter what. He wants to bless you and your family. You are a child of God, Andi.”

Just then Andi’s heart seemed to skip a beat, and the pounding stopped. Now a warm feeling filled her heart instead. She knew what her teacher had said was true. ■

*The author lives in Utah, USA.*

ILLUSTRATIONS BY BRAD TEARE



## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

What can you do if a parent or someone in your family does not want to be a part of the Church?

- Remember that they are free to choose and that Heavenly Father loves them.
- Let them know that you love them.
- Be a good example to them by living the gospel.
- Remember all the good things about them.
- Pray that Heavenly Father will help them feel His love and lead them to the Church.