

MAGNOLIA'S AMAZING DAD

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(Based on a true story)



"Some kids said we aren't a good family because Dad isn't a member of our church."

This story took place in the USA.

"Magnolia! Lily!" Dad called. "Time for scriptures and prayer!"

Magnolia flopped on the floor next to their dog, Raindrop. Lily snuggled in her favorite blanket.

Family scripture time was

fun. Sometimes they acted out the scripture stories together. It helped Magnolia picture the stories. Plus, Raindrop always helped when there were animals in the stories!

Dad opened his scriptures and

read a verse. Then he passed the big, heavy Bible to Magnolia. They each took turns reading.

"And be ye kind one to another," Magnolia read.*

She frowned. People weren't always kind to her at church.

"Mom, Dad, can I talk to you about something?" she asked.

"Of course," said Mom. "What is it?"

"At Primary yesterday, some kids told me we aren't a good family because Dad isn't a member of our church."

Magnolia's dad belonged to a different church. He went to sacrament meeting with their family on Sundays. He gave talks about the Holy Ghost at Lily's and Magnolia's baptisms. Everyone said he did a great job. He was an amazing dad.

"What they said made me want to cry." Magnolia sniffed. "Why do people have to be so mean?"

Mom and Dad looked at each other.

"I'm glad you told us what happened," Dad said. "Mom and I love each other very much. And our family is very important to us."

Mom nodded. "And our family is important to Heavenly Father too. He loves all His children."

Raindrop snuggled up to Magnolia. She scratched his ears.

"Heavenly Father knows us, and He knows we love each other," Dad said. "No family is perfect, but we can keep trying our best."

"But it still hurts when people say mean things about our family," Magnolia said. "Jesus taught us to be kind to everyone. Saying mean things doesn't seem like following Jesus."

"You're right," said Dad. "Maybe when you feel like saying something mean, you can remember how you felt when others were unkind to you. Then you can say something kind instead."

Magnolia took a big breath. "OK." She was glad she could talk to Mom and Dad.

"Time for a family sandwich!" Dad pulled Lily

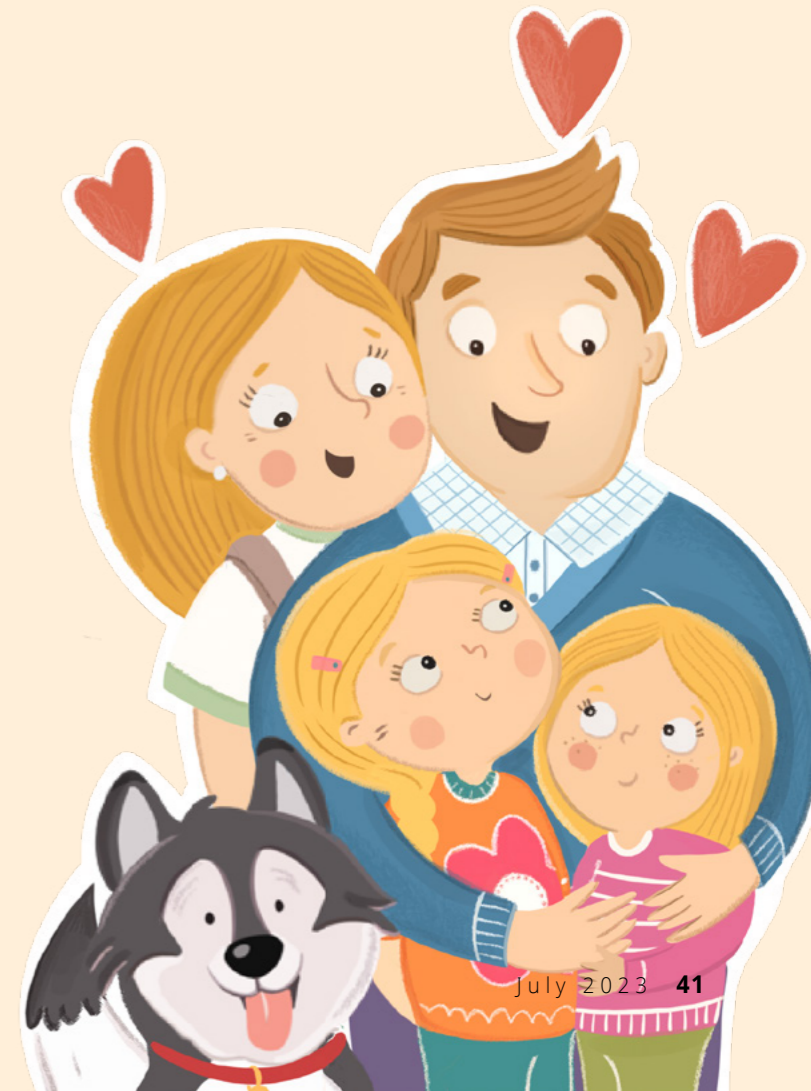
and Magnolia into a big hug and squeezed them tight. Mom wrapped her arms around all three of them. Raindrop ran circles around everyone.

"I can't breathe!" joked Lily. Magnolia laughed.

"Now remind me—whose turn is it to read?" Dad asked. He let go of the girls and picked up his scriptures.

"My turn!" said Lily. "And it's Dad's turn for prayer."

When they finished reading, everyone knelt to pray. Magnolia felt peaceful as she listened to Dad say the prayer. She knew Heavenly Father loved her family. ●



ILLUSTRATIONS BY CONSTANZA BASALIZZO

* Ephesians 4:32