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## An Easter to Remember

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(Based on a true story)

This story happened in Finland.

Tonas laughed as he raced his brothers to the living room for home evening. He could still smell the yummy roasted lamb from Easter dinner. And he could still taste the sweet pasha, their traditional Easter dessert.

After the family was sitting quietly, Jonas's older brother Tristan stood up.

"Happy Easter!" Tristan said. He started their home evening with a song and prayer. Then it was time for their special music program. Each of them had prepared a song about Jesus Christ to share.

Tristan played the guitar, strumming each string carefully. Then his brother Einar played the piano. His fingers moved across the keys. Mom, Dad, and Jonas's other brothers also played songs. Jonas loved hearing his family's music.

At last it was Jonas's turn. He took a deep breath and started to sing.

"At times I am tempted to make a wrong choice, but I try to listen as the still small voice whispers, 'Love one another as Jesus loves you."\*

As Jonas sang, his heart filled with love. His eyes filled with happy tears. It felt like the Holy Ghost was telling Jonas that Heavenly Father and Jesus loved him.

"Thank you all for sharing your talents," Dad said. He held up a picture. It showed Jesus Christ kneeling and praying next to a tree. "Who knows what's happening in this picture?"

Jonas raised his hand. "That's Jesus praying in Gethsemane."

Dad nodded. "Yes. That's where He felt all our hurt and sadness."

Pasha is a sweet custard dessert. Do you have an Easter treat you eat each year?

"He went to the Garden of Gethsemane before He died," Mom said. "After He died, He lived again. This is all part of His Atonement. Jesus did all of this because He loves us."

Mom turned on a video about the first Easter. When the video ended, they were all guiet for a minute. Jonas felt Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ's love again.

"Now is it time for our activity?" Jonas asked. Mom stood from the couch and went to the cabinet. "Yes! Jonas, will you help me?"

Jonas and Mom got out glue, scissors, and a pile of Church magazines. They spread them out on the floor. Then Mom gave each of them their special Easter journals. "Let's make picture art of Jesus Christ in our journals for Easter."

Jonas sat on the floor and opened his notebook. Dad picked up a pen to write in his journal. "Next to your pictures, you can write down what you will do to follow Heavenly Father and Jesus so you can become more like Them."

Jonas turned the pages of one of the magazines. He found a picture of Jesus Christ smiling.

Jonas cut out the picture and glued it in the center of his journal page. He thought about all the love he had felt from the Savior that day. Then he wrote, "I will follow Heavenly Father and Jesus by listening to Dad and Mom and helping with chores. I will love my brothers more." He held it up to show Mom. She read what he had written and smiled.

Jonas would remember this Easter for a long time. He felt Jesus Christ's love when he sang and learned about Him. And he felt Jesus's love when he tried to be like Him.

Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ really did love Jonas. And Jonas loved Them too.

