The Lookout Tower

By David Dickson
Church Magazines
(Based on a true story)

“I’m glad that I live in this beautiful world Heavenly Father created for me” (Children’s Songbook, 229).

The Lookout Tower

Building a tree fort was a lot harder than David and his friends expected.

David nodded. Pulling those boards up the dirt trail wasn’t easy. Every so often the wagon wheels caught on a big rock or fell into a crack.

“But it’s gonna be awesome,” Sam said as he yanked the wagon out of a deep crack.

David pushed from behind. “Yup. Our very own tree fort.”

“With a rope swing,” Ty added. “And a lookout tower!”

Talking about their plans got them excited again. Before long they finished the steep climb to the tree they’d already chosen. It had the perfect tangle of big limbs and smaller branches.

“First we need to build the ladder,” Ty said. David and Sam nodded. They had already drawn plans. They would nail some short two-by-four pieces of wood sideways onto the tree for the ladder.

The only problem was, building a ladder was harder than they’d thought. The nails kept bending. One board split in half. Their arms got tired.

After they had nailed only three steps in place, David checked his watch. They’d been there over two hours! It was already time to go home and help pull weeds in the garden.

They looked at the big pile of boards remaining.

“This is going to take a long time,” Ty said.

David thought about how long it might take. But he wasn’t worried. And then he realized he hadn’t thought about his video game at all while they’d worked. He hadn’t even missed it! This fort might be a lot of work, but those ladder steps were going to last forever.

“Yeah,” David agreed. “But I’ll bet we’ll be able to see all the way to the river once we finish the lookout tower.”

The three friends headed home. They talked about how great their fort would be and decided to get an earlier start next Saturday.

The video games could wait.