

Lesson 5: The First Vision



PURPOSE

To help each child know that Joseph Smith saw Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ.

OUR OPENING PRAYER WILL BE GIVEN BY



(Enter Name Here)

- Who is this?
 - Joseph Smith
- What is he doing?
- Why do you think he is reading the Bible?



When Joseph Smith was fourteen years old, he lived with his family on a farm.

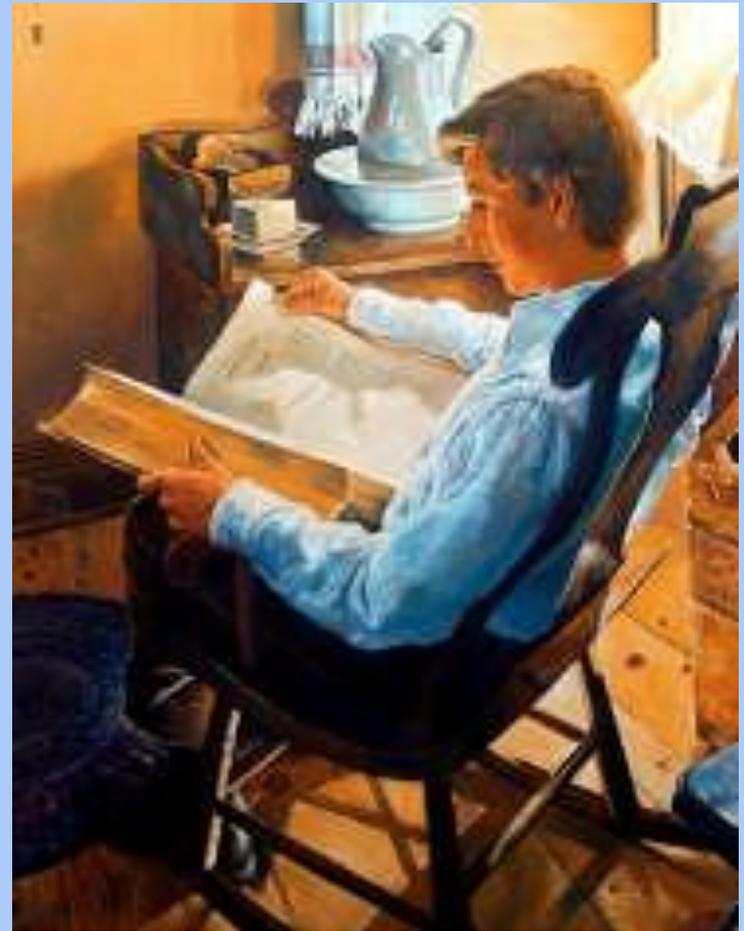
- At that time the people living nearby were interested in religion.

- The ministers of the different churches held many meetings to explain their beliefs.

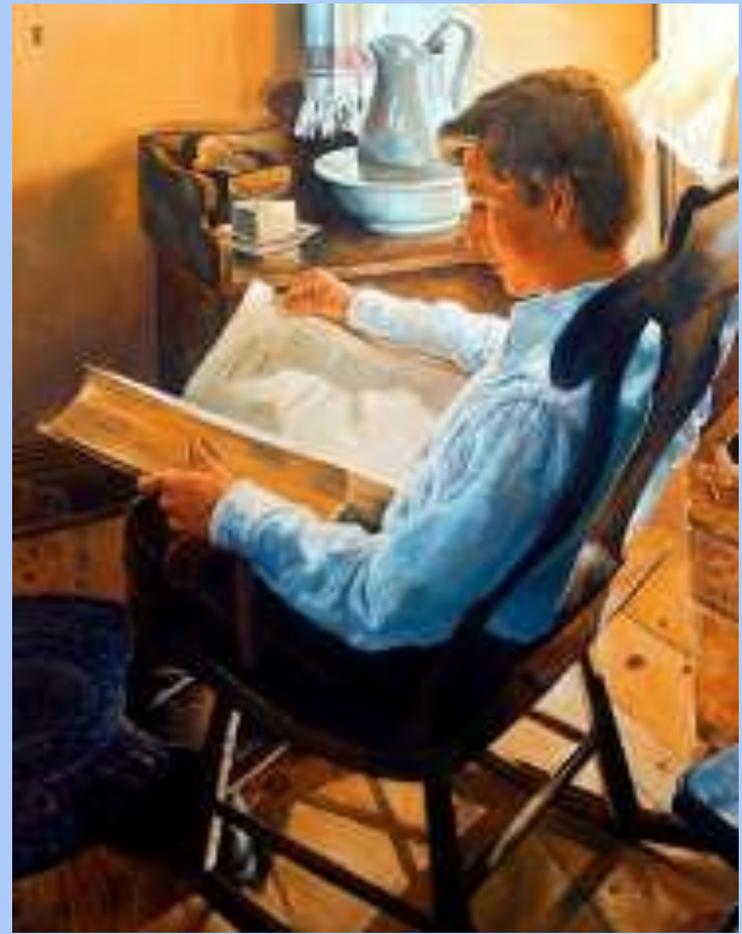
- Each minister said that his church was the right one and tried to get people to join



- How do you think Joseph Smith felt about all these different beliefs?
- Confused



- Because Joseph Smith wanted to know which church really was true, he went to several meetings of different religions.



- He found that each minister had different ideas about God and the scriptures.

- **Let's learn about Joseph Smith and his First Vision that lead to the start of the Church of Jesus Christ of Later Day Saints.**



GO TO THE VIDEO

GO TO THE SLIDES

DISCUSSION TIME

- Joseph Smith and his family believed in God.
- They read the Bible together.
- Joseph's parents taught their children to be good.



- There were many churches where Joseph lived.
- All the people disagreed on which church was right.
- Joseph didn't know which church to join.
- He wanted to know which was the true Church of Jesus Christ.



- One day when Joseph was 14 years old, he read in the Bible that we should ask God when we want to know something.
- Joseph decided to pray and ask God which church to join.





- On a beautiful spring day, Joseph went to the woods near his home.
- He knelt down and prayed out loud.
- He had faith that Heavenly Father would answer his prayer.

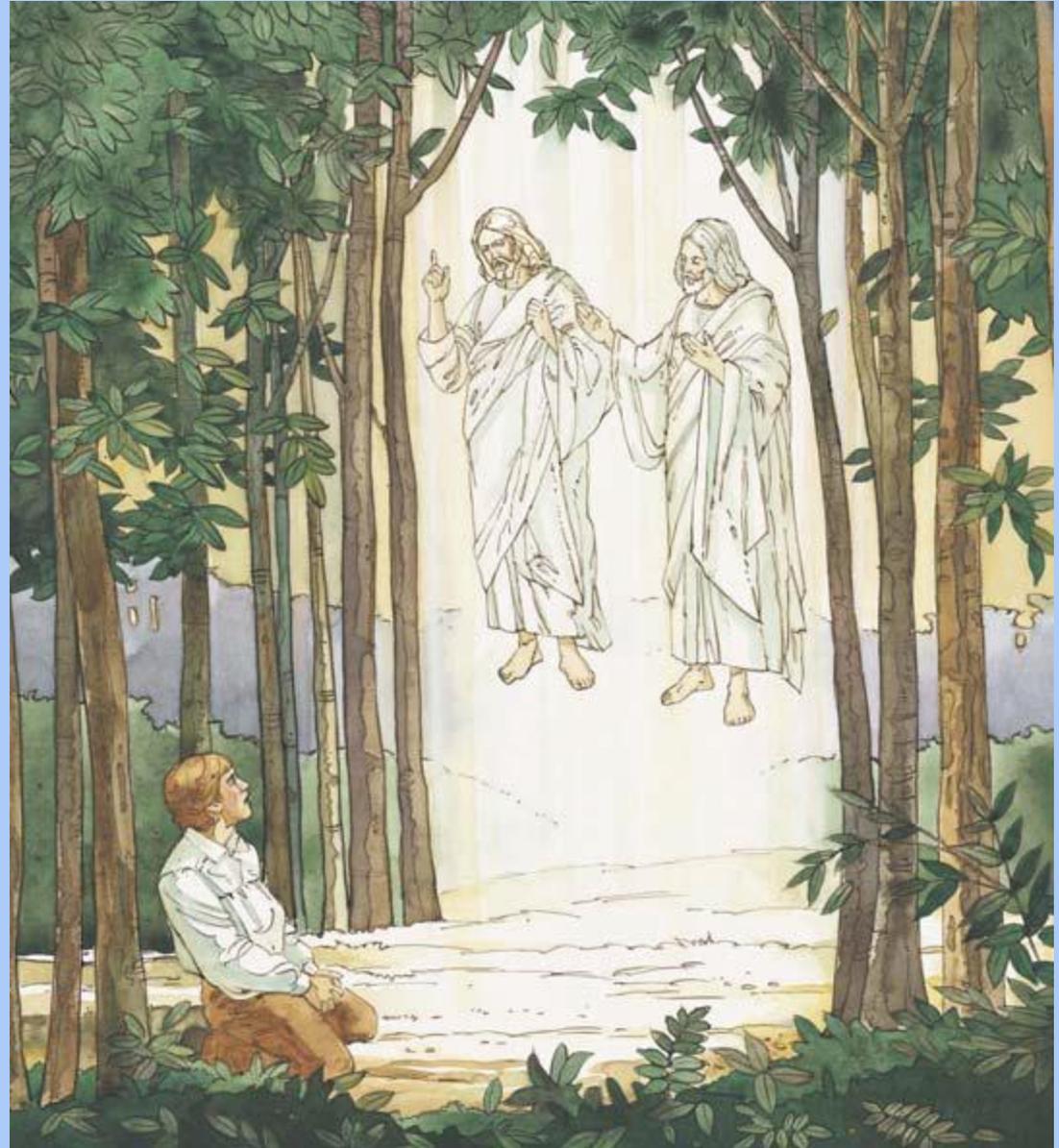
- Satan did not want Joseph to pray.
- He tried to stop Joseph and made it dark all around him.
- Joseph was afraid and could not talk.



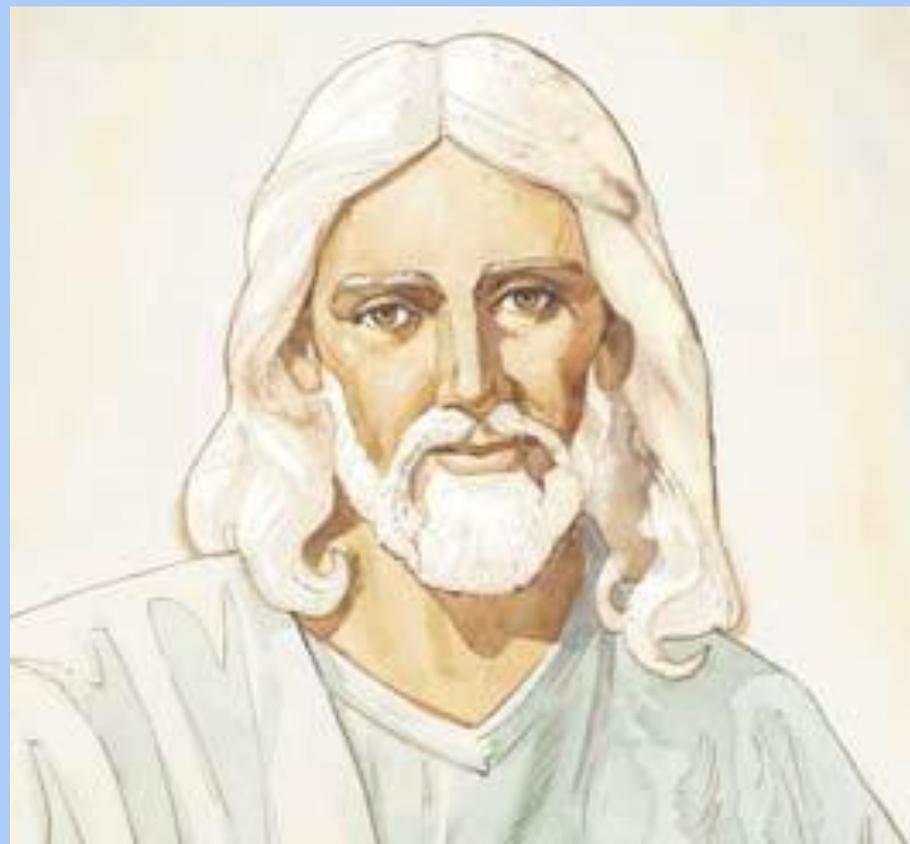
- But Joseph did not stop praying.
- Satan could not make him stop.



- Then Joseph had a vision.
- He saw a beautiful, bright light all around him.
- He saw Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ standing above him in the air.
- Heavenly Father pointed to Jesus and said, “This is My Beloved Son. Hear Him!”



- Joseph asked Jesus which church he should join.
- Jesus told Joseph not to join any of the churches because they were all wrong.
- None of them was His Church.
- He told Joseph many other things.
- Then the vision ended.



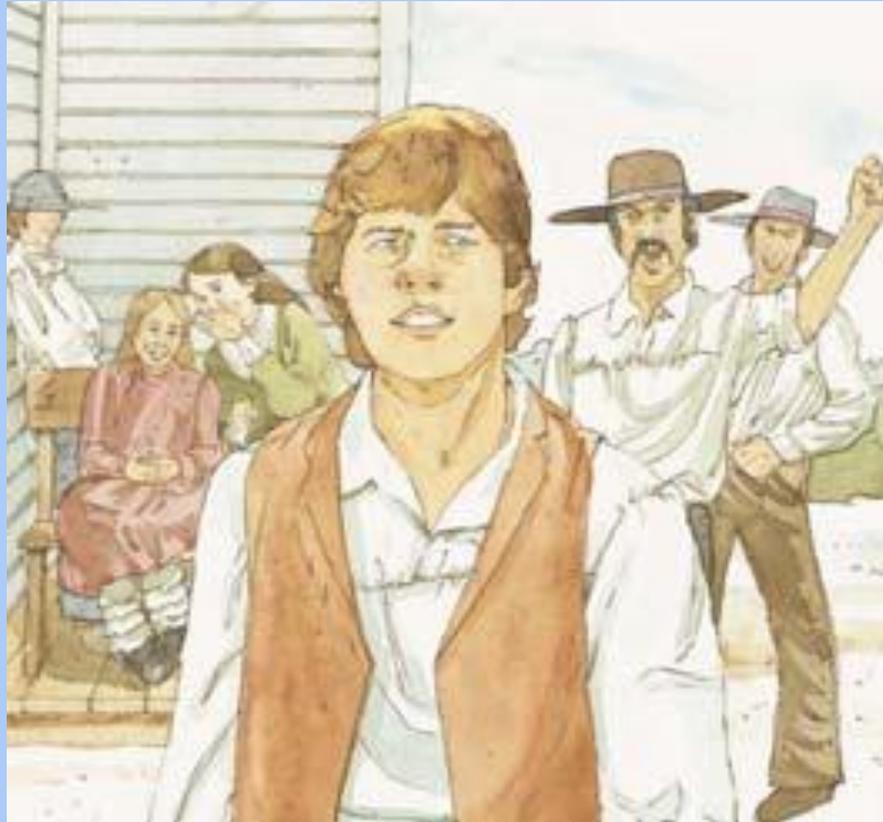
- When Joseph went home, his mother asked if he was all right.
- Joseph said he was.
- Then he told his mother he had seen a vision.
- He told her what he learned in his vision.





- Joseph also told some people in the town about his vision.
- The people did not believe him.
- They said he was telling a lie, and they became angry and were mean to him.

- Joseph always told the truth about his vision.
- He knew he had seen Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ.



- He knew that none of the churches on earth was true.

DISCUSSION TIME





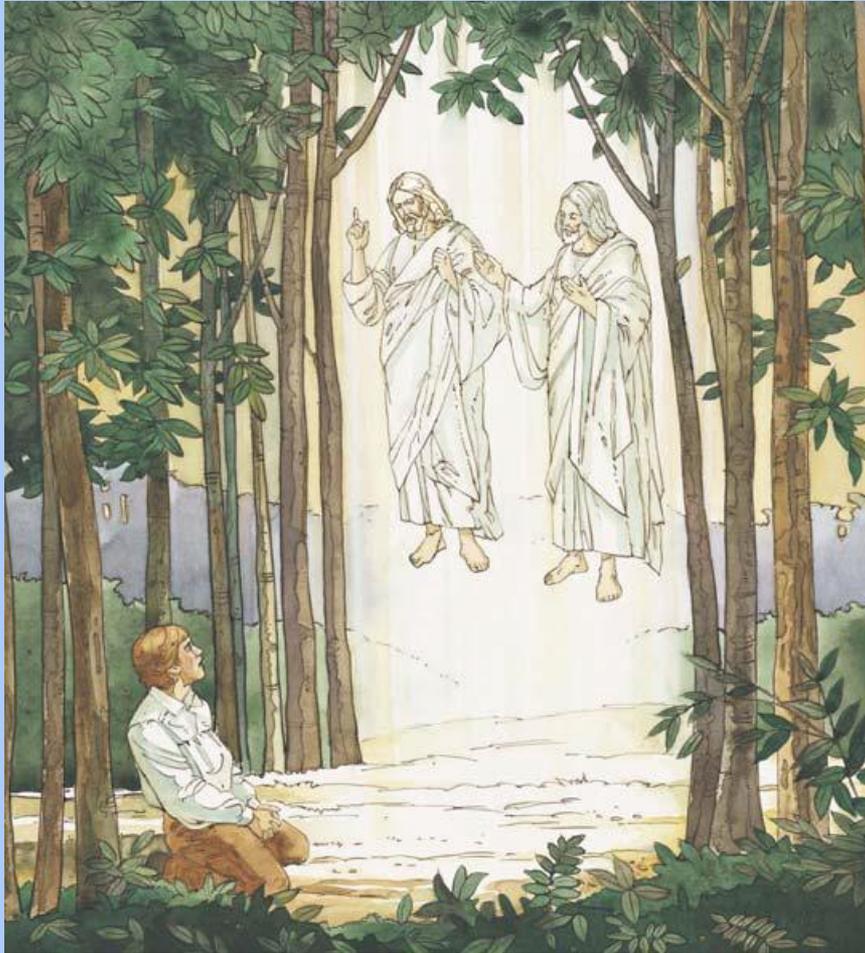
- What do you think it means to lack wisdom?
 - Not know or understand something.
- What does it mean to ask of God?
 - Pray to Heavenly Father

- Joseph knew that he lacked wisdom.
- He was confused.
- He didn't know which church was true, so he decided to do what the Bible says—pray to Heavenly Father.





- One of the personages called Joseph by name and, pointing to the other, said, *“This is My Beloved Son. Hear Him!”* (Joseph Smith—History 1:17).
- Who were these two personages?
 - Heavenly Father and Jesus



- Joseph asked Heavenly Father and Jesus which church was right and which he should join.
- He was told that he should not join any of the churches because they were all wrong.
- Joseph learned that Jesus' true Church was no longer on the earth.
- The place where Joseph Smith saw Heavenly Father and Jesus is now called the Sacred Grove.



- How do you think Joseph Smith felt after having seen Heavenly Father and Jesus?

- What do you think Joseph Smith learned from his vision?
- Joseph saw Heavenly Father and Jesus.
- He learned that they have bodies of flesh and bone.
- He learned that Jesus' true Church was no longer on earth.



- He learned that he was not to join any of the churches because none of the churches were true.
- Next week we will learn more about how Joseph Smith helped bring Jesus' true church back to the earth.



- He learned that Heavenly Father and Jesus care about us and answer prayers.



- Let's sing the song that talks about Joseph Smith's First Prayer



Joseph Smith's First Prayer

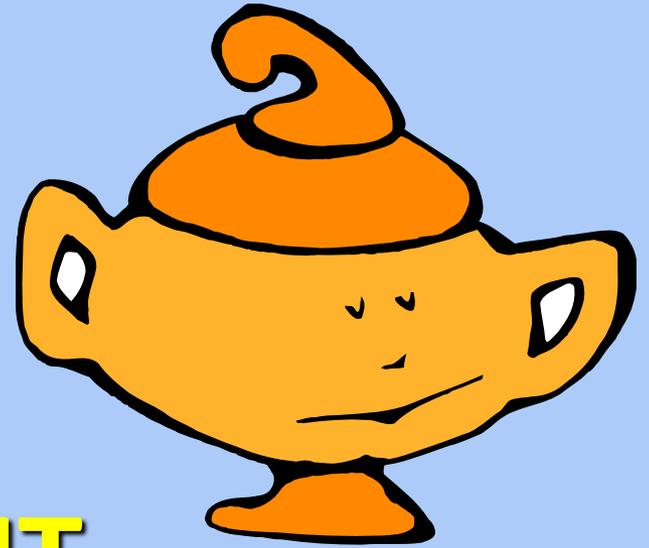
- 1. Oh, how lovely was the morning!
Radiant beamed the sun above.
Bees were humming, sweet birds singing,
Music ringing thru the grove,
When within the shady woodland
Joseph sought the God of love,
When within the shady woodland
Joseph sought the God of love.
- 2. Humbly kneeling, sweet appealing—
'Twas the boy's first uttered prayer—
When the pow'rs of sin assailing
Filled his soul with deep despair;
But undaunted, still he trusted
In his Heav'nly Father's care;
But undaunted, still he trusted
In his Heav'nly Father's care.

- 3. Suddenly a light descended,
Brighter far than noonday sun,
And a shining, glorious pillar
O'er him fell, around him shone,
While appeared two heav'nly beings,
God the Father and the Son,
While appeared two heav'nly beings,
God the Father and the Son.

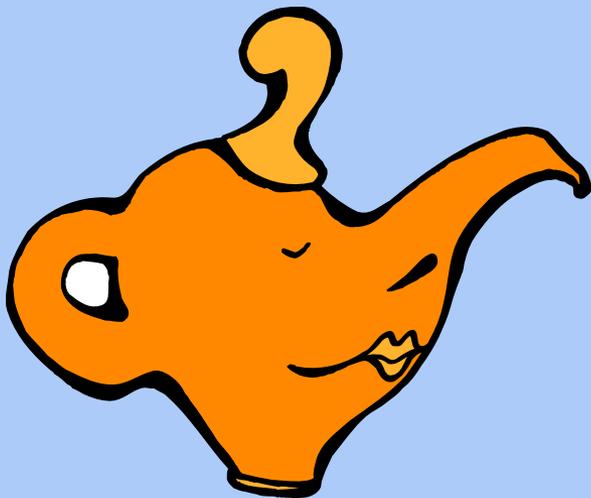
- 4. “Joseph, this is my Beloved;
Hear him!” Oh, how sweet the word!
Joseph's humble prayer was answered,
And he listened to the Lord.
Oh, what rapture filled his bosom,
For he saw the living God;
Oh, what rapture filled his bosom,
For he saw the living God.

- Joseph Smith once wrote a letter to a man and explained what the Church taught.
- Part of that letter became known as the Articles of Faith.
- Let's repeat the first article of faith, which states that we believe in Heavenly Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost.

- 1 We ^abelieve in ^bGod, the Eternal Father, and in His ^cSon, Jesus Christ, and in the ^dHoly Ghost.



ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES



- I want you to close your eyes and listen to the words of this song called “The Sacred Grove”
- Think Carefully about Joseph’s experience so they you draw a picture of it



- The Sacred Grove was green and fresh,
The morning sun shone bright around,
As Joseph knelt in fervent prayer,
As Joseph knelt in fervent prayer
Upon that sacred ground.
- The Father and the Son appeared.
They spoke to him as with one voice.
Their message answered all his fears,
Their message answered all his fears
And made his heart rejoice.



- Draw a picture of Joseph Smith in the Sacred Grove, and label it “Joseph Smith in the Sacred Grove.”



Try to memorize James 1:5.

Show where it can be found in the New Testament (If necessary).



5 ^aIf any of you lack ^bwisdom, let him ask of God, that ^cgiveth to all men liberally, and ^dupbraideth not; and it shall be given him.



- **This scripture explains how to find answers to our problems.**
- **Here are some situations in which you might “lack wisdom” and need to “ask of God.”**



1. **You are sad because you and your best friend have been fighting lately.**
 - **You don't know how to make things better.**
2. **You feel lonely and scared in your bed at night.**
3. **Your mother is sick and she seems sad.**
 - **You would like to help her feel happy again.** _T



- **Heavenly Father and Jesus usually answer prayers by giving us a peaceful feeling, which the children will learn more about in another lesson.**
- **You should not expect Heavenly Father and Jesus to appear to them to answer their prayers.**

Testimony

I want to bear you my testimony that Joseph Smith saw the Father and the Son.

I am thankful to Joseph Smith for all he did to restore the true church back on Earth.

I want to testify that what Joseph learned is true for all of us, that if we lack wisdom, we can ask Heavenly Father and receive an answer. Heavenly Father and Jesus Love us and will help us to find answers to our questions. Angels might not appear to us; but if we ask sincerely, Heavenly Father will answer our prayers in the way that is best for us.

OUR CLOSING PRAYER WILL BE GIVEN BY



•(Enter Name Here)

THE END

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