

LESSON 4: Joseph Smith Prepares to Receive the Gold Plates



PURPOSE

To help the children want to choose good over evil so they may be blessed with charity, the pure love of Christ.

Keep the Commandments

1. Keep the commandments; keep the
commandments!

In this there is safety; in this there is peace.

He will send blessings;

He will send blessings.

Words of a prophet:

Keep the commandments.

In this there is safety and peace.

2. We are His children; we are His children,
and we must be tested to show we are true.

Hold to His promises;

Hold to His promises,

Heeding the prophets:

Keep the commandments.

In this there is safety and peace.

OUR OPENING PRAYER
WILL BE GIVEN BY



(Enter Name Here)

- Before coming here today, I had to prepare for this class.
- Sometimes to prepare for class, I might need to have slides that say something like . . .

Joseph Smith

Prayer

Light

Moroni

Message

Four Times

- Why do you think it's important to prepare to teach this class?
- Why is it important that we prepare for certain events, such as taking a test in school or giving a talk in Primary?
- What happens when we do not prepare?

- Last week we learned about Moroni's visits to Joseph Smith.
- When you see the following slides, describe what the words remind you about last weeks lesson.

Joseph Smith

Joseph was not allowed to take the plates the first time he saw them.

Prayer

Explain that Joseph had a great work to do, but he needed to be better prepared in order to do it.

Moroni

Moroni appeared to Joseph Smith to tell him about
the Gold Plates

Message

Joseph received the message from Moroni about the importance of what he was about to do with the gold plates.

Four Times

- Joseph had to return to the hill Cummorah 4 times before he was allowed to take the gold plates.
- Each of the 4 times he returned, he received information to prepare him to receive the plates.

This weeks lesson discusses some of his preparation for this great work.

LESSON 4: Joseph Smith Prepares to Receive the Gold Plates



The video and / or slides you are about to see are edited from last weeks lesson.

GO TO THE VIDEO

GO TO THE SLIDES

DISCUSSION TIME

- Three years went by after Joseph's first vision.
- When he was 17 years old, Joseph wondered what God wanted him to do.
- One night Joseph prayed about this.
- He had faith that God would tell him what to do.





- Joseph saw a bright light in his room.
- An angel was standing in the light.
- The angel's face was very bright.
- He wore a beautiful white robe.

- The angel said his name was Moroni.
- God had sent him to talk to Joseph.
- Moroni said God had a work for Joseph to do.



- Moroni said the book was written on gold pages called plates.
- It was written in a language that is unknown to us today.
- God wanted Joseph to translate the book into English.



- Joseph went to the hill where the gold plates were buried.
- He found the plates in a stone box that was underneath a big rock.
- The Urim and Thummim were also in the box.





- While Joseph was at the hill, the angel Moroni came to him.
- Moroni would not let Joseph take the gold plates yet.
- He told Joseph to come to the hill on the same day each year for four years.

- Joseph obeyed Moroni and went to the Hill Cumorah each year.
- There Moroni taught Joseph about the Lord's kingdom on earth.

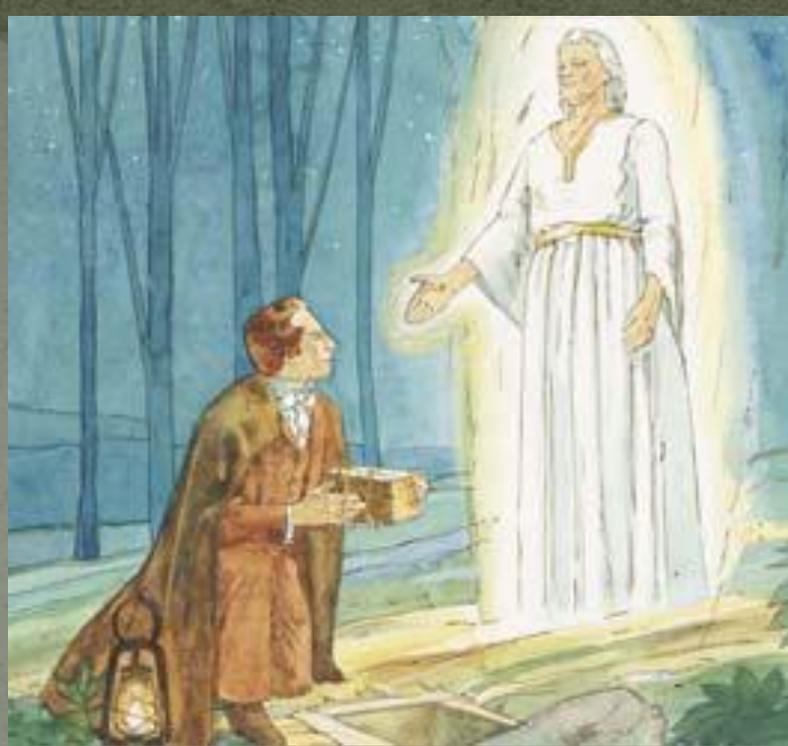




- Joseph Smith's family was poor and needed money.
- Joseph wanted to help his family, so he went to the state of Pennsylvania to work.
- He lived with a man named Mr. Hale.

- Mr. Hale had a daughter named Emma.
- Joseph and Emma loved each other, and after a time they got married.
- Then they went back to live with Joseph's family in New York, where Joseph helped his father on the farm.





- Several months after Joseph and Emma were married, Joseph went again to the Hill Cumorah.
- Four years had passed since Joseph had first seen the gold plates, and this time Moroni let him take them.
- Moroni told Joseph to take good care of the plates.



*DISCUSSION
TIME*



- How many years passed between the time Joseph first saw the gold plates and when he actually received them?
([JS—H 1:53–54.](#))
- What happened each year on 22 September?
- How was the angel Moroni preparing Joseph for the work he had been called to do?



- During these four years, Joseph also met with many other Nephite prophets, such as Nephi, Alma, Mormon, and the twelve disciples chosen by the Savior in America.
- Why did these ancient prophets visit Joseph?

- Why did Joseph Smith's family believe and support him?

- Point out that Joseph had always been honest and dependable, and his family knew they could believe him.

- Why do you think family support was important to Joseph?



- What are some ways you support the members of your family?
- How do they support you?
- How can we help the members of our families follow the teachings of the Savior?
- How do your family members help you follow the Savior?



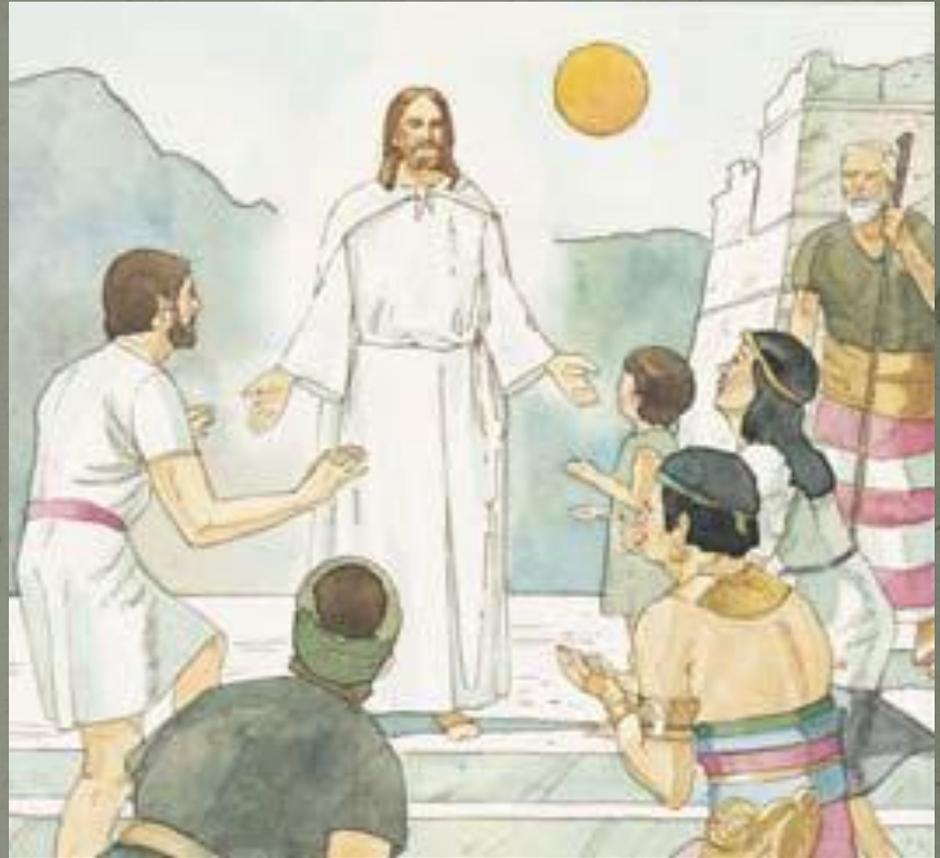


- How did Joseph Smith help his family? ([JS—H 1:55.](#))
- How do you think learning to work hard helped prepare Joseph to serve the Lord?
- What are some ways you work in your family?



- Why should we be willing to work in our homes and yards to help our families?
- How will learning to work and take on responsibilities help us serve the Lord?

- How are you preparing now for work that Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ may want you to do in the future?





- Point out that Joseph Smith was true to his testimony and lived the gospel in spite of the persecution he received from other people.
- How did this help prepare Joseph for the great work he was to do?
- Why should we decide now to always obey the teachings of the gospel?
- How will this help prepare us to serve in the Church?



ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Heavenly Father
Helps me prepare
by:

Scriptures
Parents
Prophets
Teachers
The gift of the
Holy Ghost
Primary

What have Heavenly
Father and Jesus Christ
given us to help us
prepare to serve them?

I can prepare myself by:

Study the Scriptures

Follow counsel of Parents

Attend church classes

What is our responsibility to help prepare ourselves

- What are we preparing to do?
 - Serve Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ
 - Serve in positions such as teacher, missionary, or parent
- How does this preparation help us now?
- How will it help us in the future?
- Help the children realize their responsibility to prepare themselves now to serve.



- One way you can prepare to serve Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ is to decide now that you will always obey the commandments, even when temptations and problems come.
- What can you decide to do no in order to follow the Savior and prepare to serve him?

- Here are some questions for a Tic Tac Toe game. They Select a number and if they get it right, they get to place their X or O on the board (drawn on the blackboard)

- Questions

- 1. How many years passed between Moroni's first visits and Joseph's receiving the plates?

- Four

- 2. In what hill were the gold plates hidden?

- Cumorah

- 3. Whom did Joseph marry?

- Emma Hale

- 4. Name one thing Joseph described to his family about the people in the Book of Mormon.
 - Their dress, mode of travel, animals, cities, warfare, or religious worship
- 5. Which of Joseph's brothers died in 1823?
 - Alvin
- 6. Name two Nephite prophets who visited Joseph Smith while he was preparing to receive the gold plates.
 - Nephi, Alma, Mormon, Moroni

- 7. What kind of work did Joseph do on the Smith farm?
 - Plant crops, harvest crops, cut down trees, make maple syrup
- 8. How did other people in the community treat Joseph after the First Vision?
 - They disbelieved and persecuted him
- 9. Who met Joseph Smith at the Hill Cumorah each year for four years?
 - The angel Moroni

Testimony

I want to testify that the Prophet Joseph Smith was a true prophet of God.

I am grateful to Joseph Smith that he was well prepared to translate the gold plates.

I want to encourage you to do something extra during the coming week to help prepare yourself to serve the Lord.

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OUR CLOSING PRAYER WILL
BE GIVEN BY



(Enter Name Here)

THE END

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JS—H 1:53-54

53 I made an attempt to take them out, but was forbidden by the messenger, and was again informed that the time for bringing them forth had not yet arrived, neither would it, until four years from that time; but he told me that I should come to that place precisely in one year from that time, and that he would there meet with me, and that I should continue to do so until the time should come for obtaining the plates.

54 Accordingly, as I had been commanded, I went at the end of each year, and at each time I found the same messenger there, and received instruction and intelligence from him at each of our interviews, respecting what the Lord was going to do, and how and in what manner his ^akingdom was to be conducted in the last days.

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JS—H 1:55

55 As my father's worldly circumstances were very limited, we were under the necessity of ^alaboring with our hands, hiring out by day's work and otherwise, as we could get opportunity. Sometimes we were at home, and sometimes abroad, and by continuous ^blabor were enabled to get a comfortable maintenance.

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