



LESSON 7: Joseph Smith Translates the Gold Plates

PURPOSE

To help the children understand and recognize the influence of the Holy Ghost and desire to be worthy of his companionship.

Search, Ponder, and Pray

- 1. I love to read the holy scriptures,
And, ev'ry time I do,
I feel the Spirit start to grow within my
heart—
A testimony that they're true.
- 2. So, prayerfully I'll read the scriptures
Each day my whole life through.
I'll come to understand.
I'll heed the Lord's command
And live as he would have me do.
- *Chorus*
Search, ponder, and pray
Are the things that I must do.
The Spirit will guide, and, deep inside,
I'll know the scriptures are true.

**OUR OPENING PRAYER
WILL BE GIVEN BY**



(Enter Name Here)



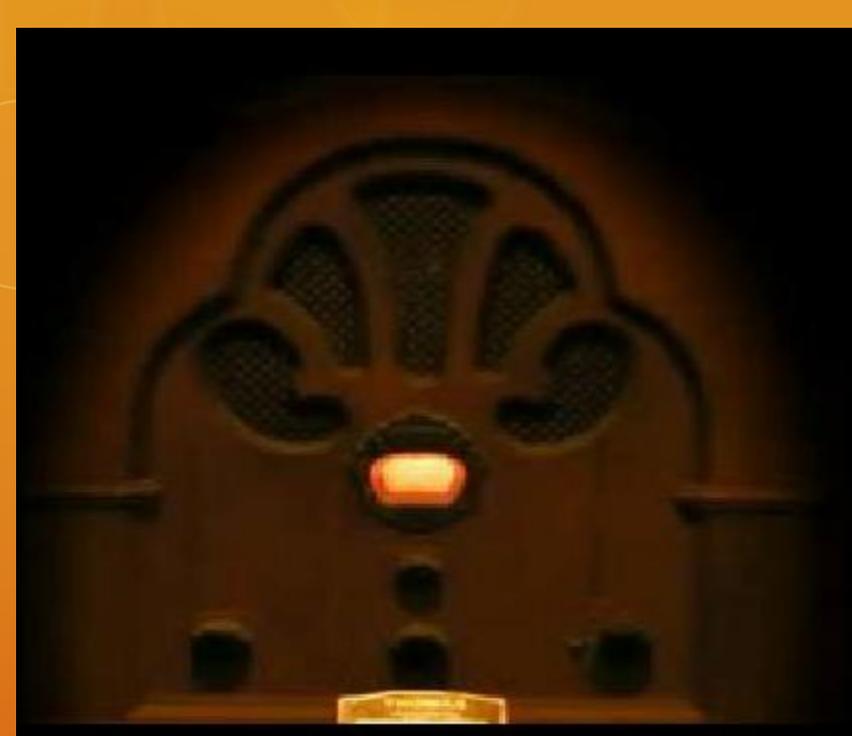
- **Can you hear what is being broadcast?**
- **This is only a picture and it's not turned on.**



- **You should now be able to hear the radio.**
- **Can you understand what is being said**
- **What do we need to do to make it so you can understand what is being said better?**



- **If we were to tune into a radio station we would be able to understand what is being said better.**
- **When we listen to the Holy Ghost, it's like listening to a radio.**



- **Before we can hear what Heavenly Father wants us to know, we must be tuned in to the Holy Ghost.**



- Other names for the Holy Ghost are the Holy Spirit and the Spirit of Truth (see [D&C 6:15](#)).
- Today's lesson is about how the Holy Ghost helped Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery.



LESSON 7: Joseph Smith Translates the Gold Plates

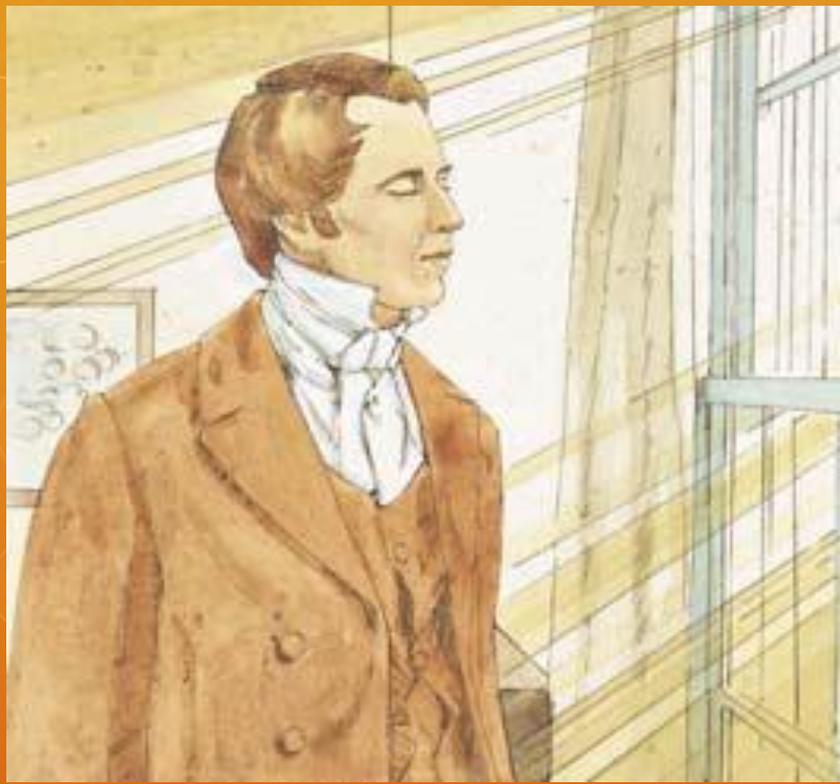
GO TO THE VIDEO
GO TO THE SLIDES
DISCUSSION TIME

▣ Joseph and Emma Smith lived on a little farm near Harmony, Pennsylvania.

▣ Joseph's father came to visit them.

▣ They were happy to see him. Joseph's father was a good man.





▣ Jesus gave Joseph a revelation for his father.

▣ The revelation told how people could help Jesus.

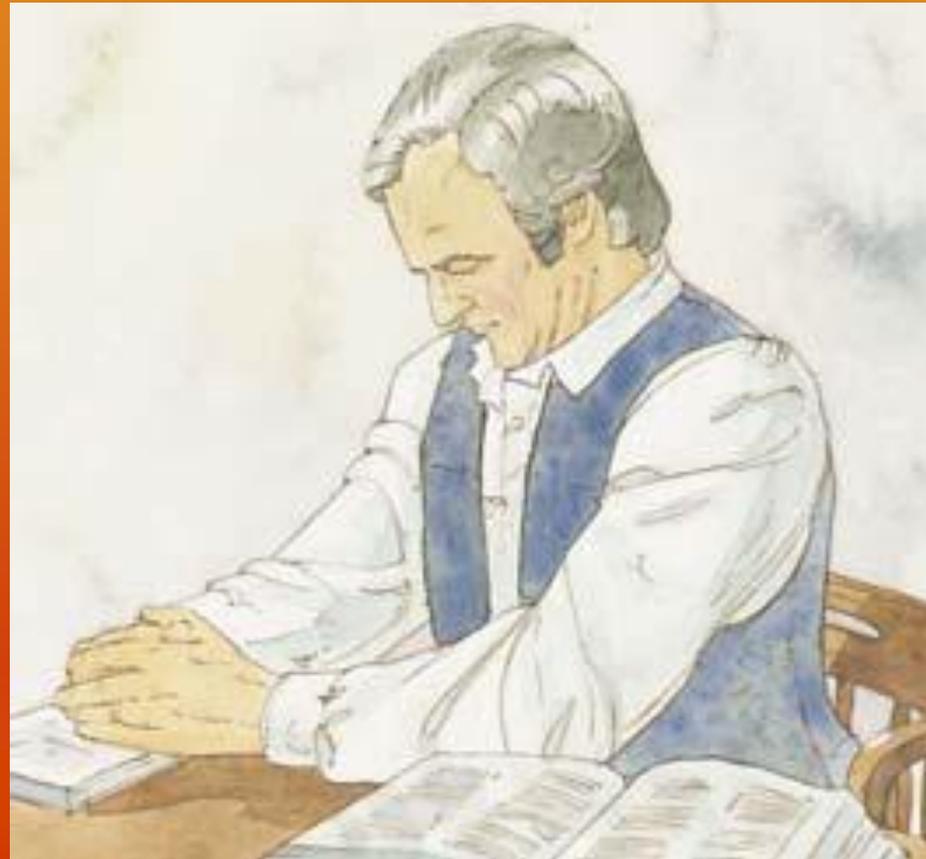
▣ They should love Jesus.

▣ They should work hard to teach the gospel.

▣ They should love and help other people.

▣ People who want to help Jesus should also pray and have faith.

▣ Jesus said people who help Him will be blessed.





▣ Joseph's father went home and tried to do the things Jesus had told him to do.

▣ He shared the gospel with many of his family members.

▣ Joseph had to work on his farm.

▣ He also needed to translate the gold plates

▣ It was too much work for him to do alone, so he prayed and asked Heavenly Father for help.





▣ Heavenly Father answered Joseph's prayer.

▣ He sent a man named Oliver Cowdery to Joseph

▣ Oliver wanted to know about the gold plates.

▣ Joseph told him about the angel Moroni, the plates, and the Book of Mormon.

▣ Oliver believed Joseph and said he would help translate the gold plates.

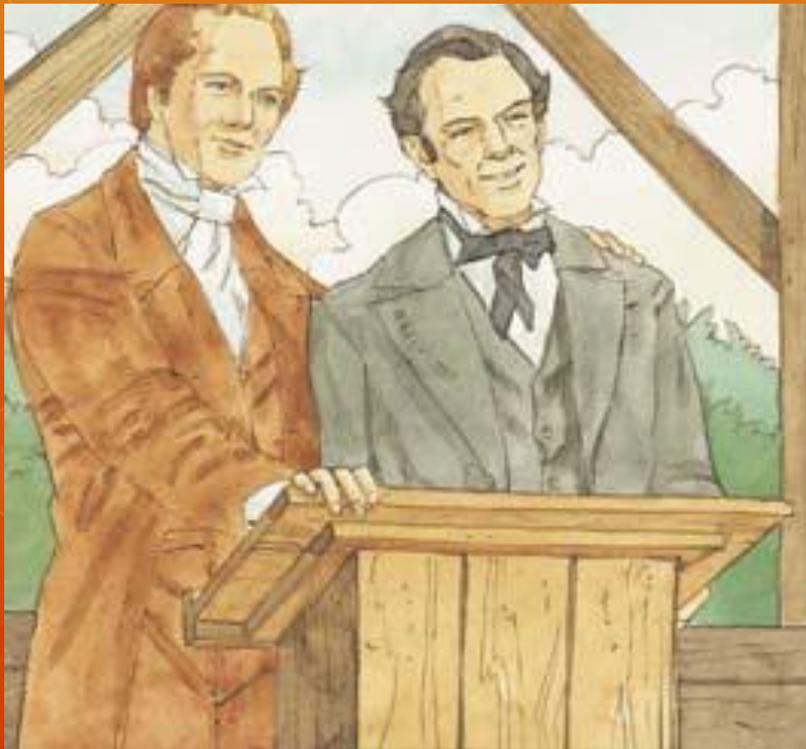
▣ As Joseph read the words out loud, Oliver wrote them on paper.

▣ Joseph and Oliver worked hard.



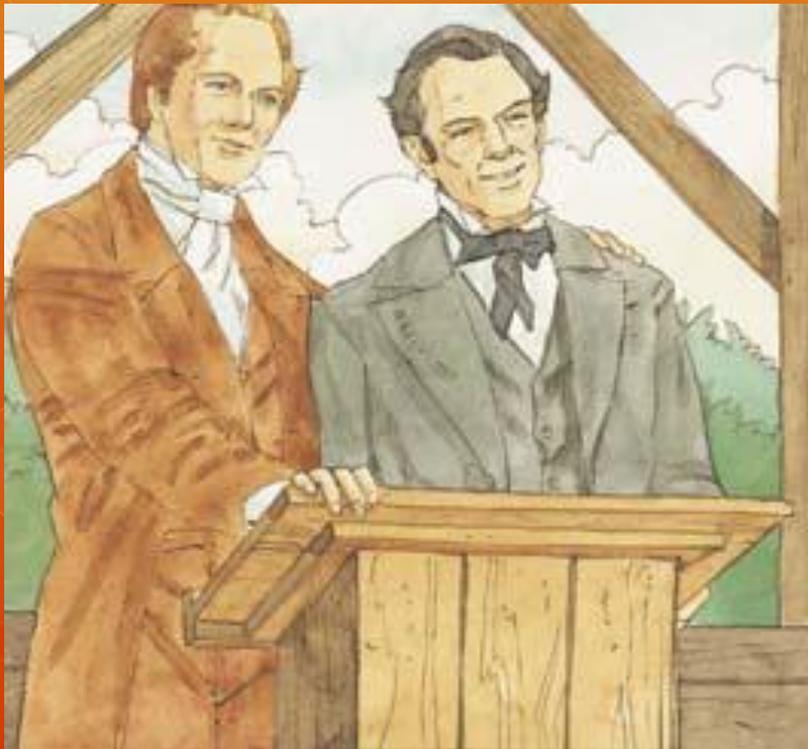
▣ Jesus taught Joseph and Oliver many things.

▣ He said they should seek wisdom and eternal life, not riches



▣ He also said they should learn about God and help people learn the gospel

▣ They should be faithful and do good things.



▣ If they did, they could live with Heavenly Father forever.



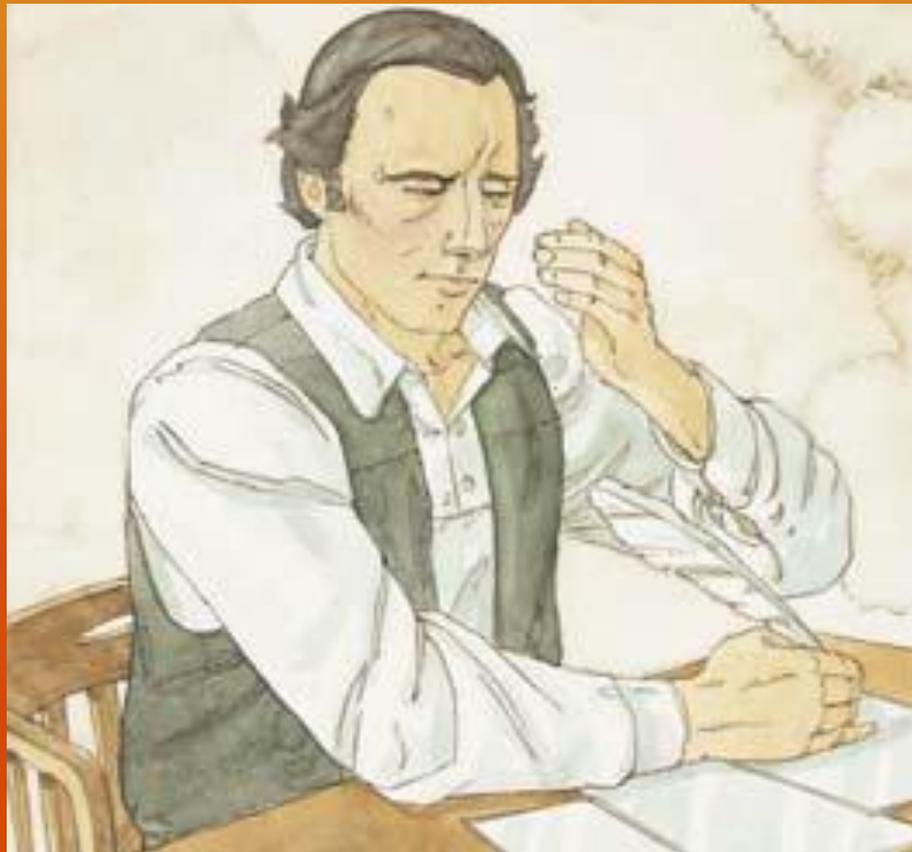
▣ Jesus said Oliver should always be Joseph's friend and help him in difficult times

▣ Jesus also said Oliver could learn to translate like Joseph.

▣ The Holy Ghost would help Oliver translate if Oliver had enough faith.

▣ Oliver tried to translate.

▣ He thought it would be easy, but he could not do it.





▣ Jesus said Oliver had not asked for God's help in the right way.

▣ Jesus told Joseph Smith how Oliver and all people can get help from God.

■ When people need help, they should think carefully about what to do.

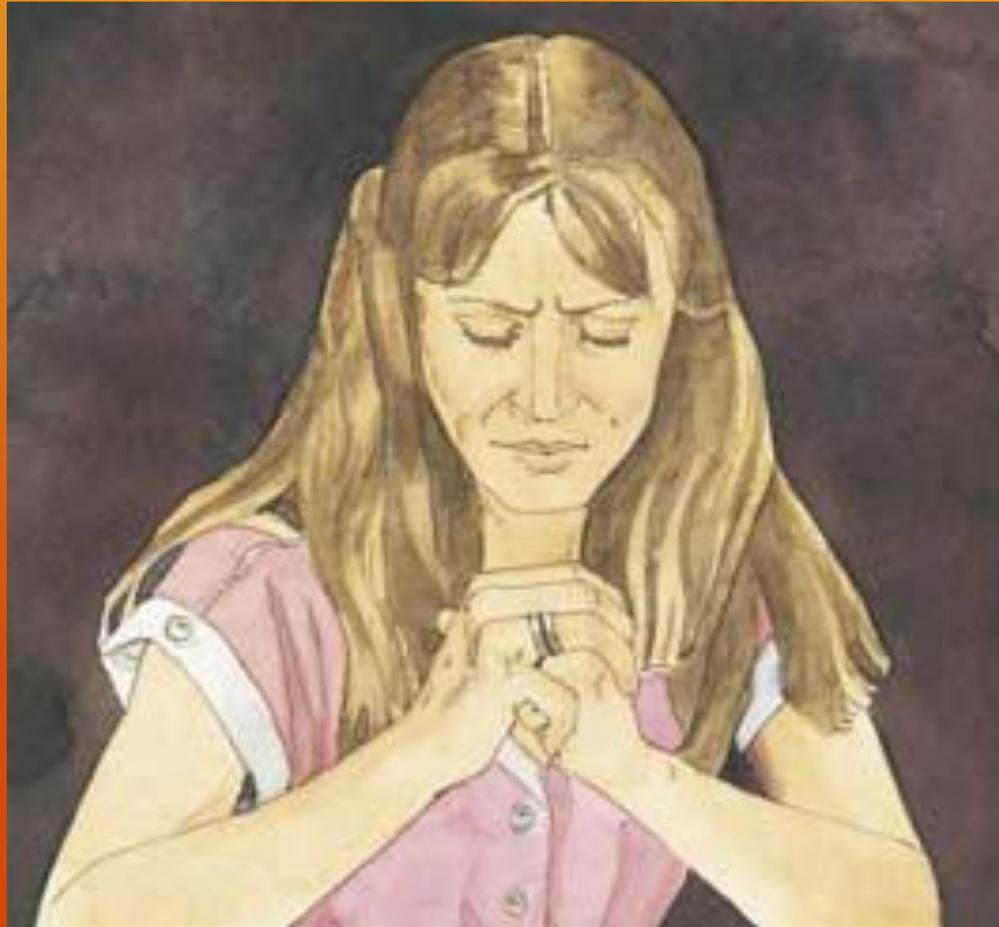
■ They should decide what they think is the right thing to do.





- Then they should ask God if it is right. If it is right, they
- will feel good in their hearts. They will know it is right.

▣ If it is wrong, they will not feel good in their hearts.



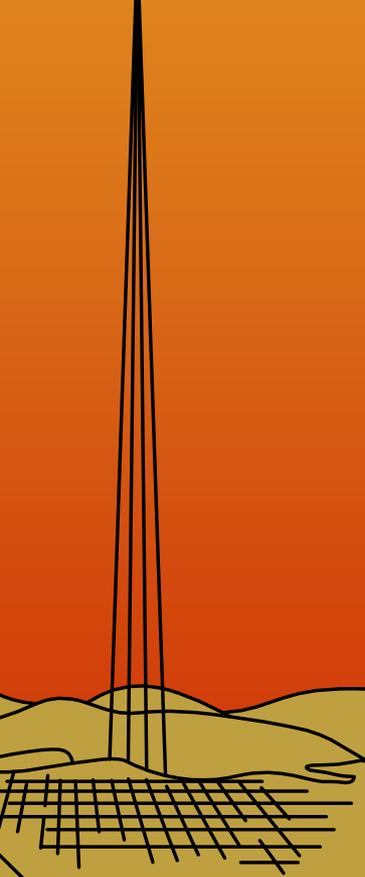
▣ Oliver did not try to translate the Book of Mormon again.

▣ Instead, he wrote down the words as Joseph translated them.

▣ Jesus said Oliver would be blessed for helping Joseph.



DISCUSSION TIME





- Why did Joseph need help with the translation of the gold plates?
- What did Joseph do about this problem?
- How were Joseph's prayers answered?
- What can we do when we have a problem?



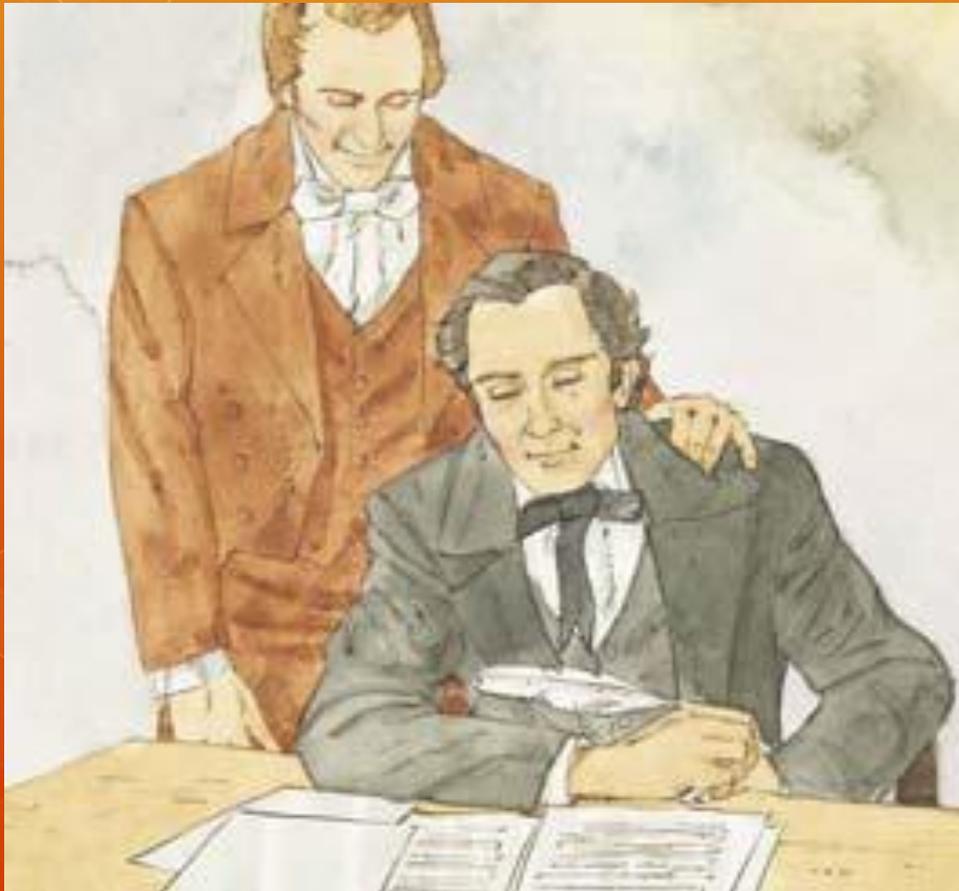
- **Would anyone like to tell us about how Heavenly Father has answered their prayers?**

- **What did Oliver Cowdery do to gain a testimony that Joseph Smith was a prophet? (D&C 6:14.)**



- **How can we gain a testimony that Joseph Smith is a prophet?**

- **How can we gain a testimony of the truthfulness of the Book of Mormon?**



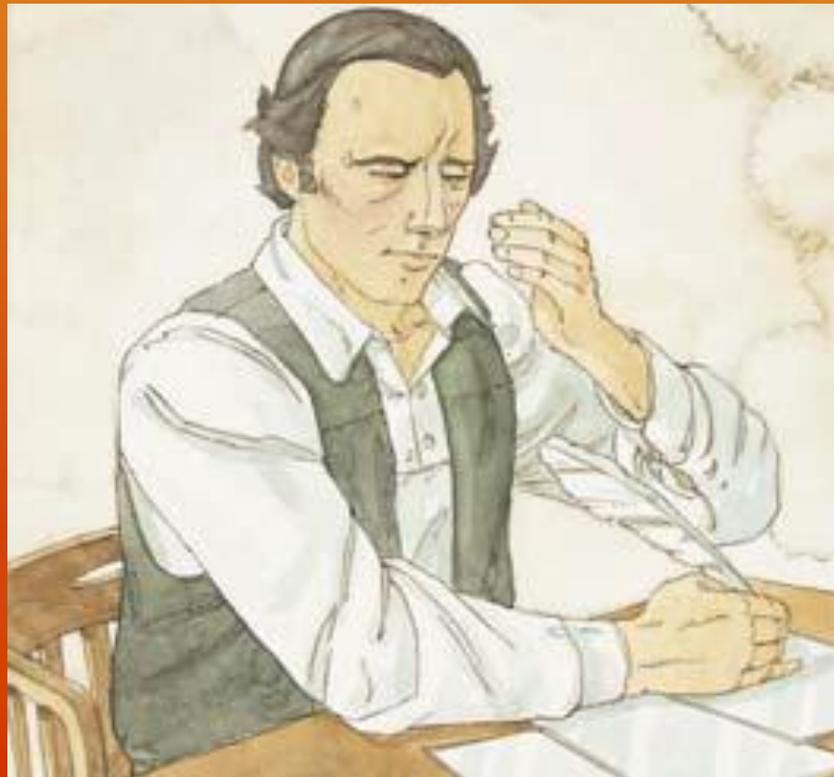
- **How were Oliver Cowdery's prayers answered when he prayed to know if Joseph Smith was a prophet of God? (D&C 6:15, 23.)**



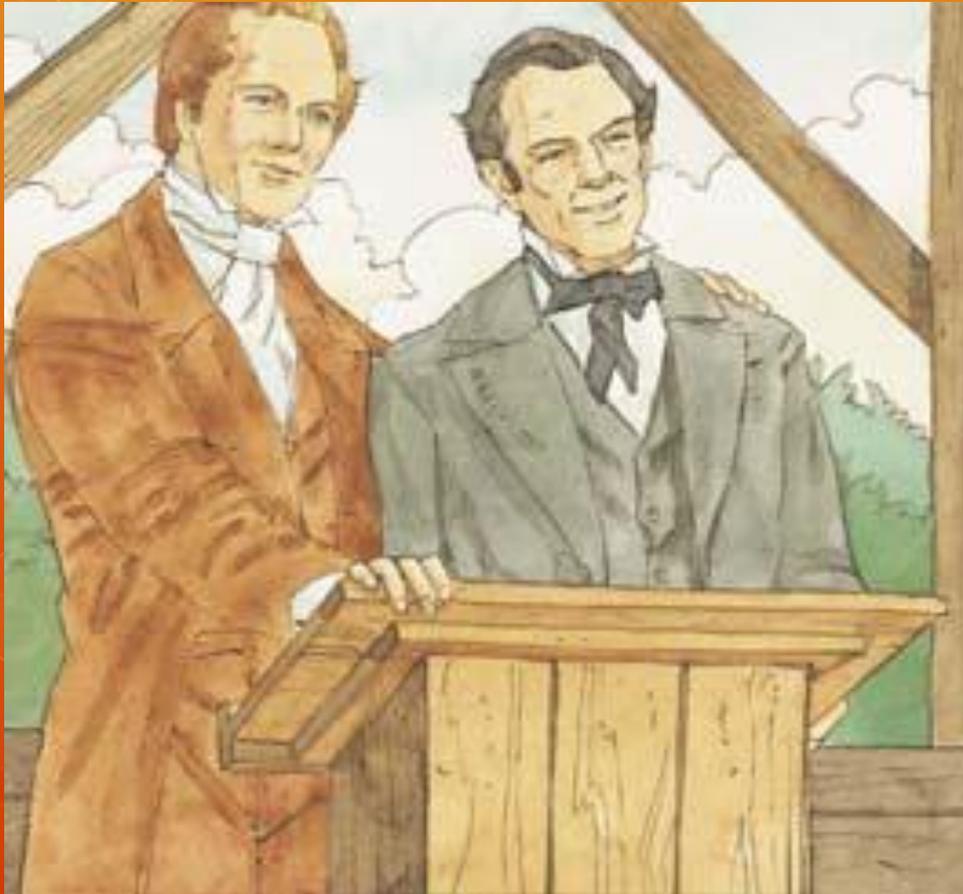
- **In what other ways might Heavenly Father answer our prayers?**
- **Remind the children that answers to our prayers often come as peaceful feelings.**



- What was Oliver Cowdery told that he must do to be able to translate? (D&C 9:8–9.)
- How can we use this counsel in our lives?



- **What must we do to prepare ourselves to receive help from the Holy Ghost?**



- **How do we know when we are feeling the promptings of the Holy Ghost? (D&C 6:23; 8:2–3; and 9:8–9)**

ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Enrichment Activity 1

- When Joseph Smith translated the Book of Mormon, he said the words out loud, and his scribe wrote the words down.
- Sometimes Joseph and the scribe were separated by a divider and could not see each other

Enrichment Activity 1

- Put a divider in the middle of the class or have them sit with their backs towards each other.
- We need one member of the class to read, while other members of the class write down what is said. (while back to back)

Enrichment Activity 1

- Then have one of the writers, read what he or she wrote so the scripture can be checked for accuracy.

Enrichment Activity 2

- Let's make two columns on the board.
- On one side we want to list things that "Invites the Spirit"
- On the other side we want to list things that "Offends the Spirit"
- The Spirit (The Holy Ghost) is very important in our lives.

Enrichment Activity 2

- Good things invite the Spirit into our Lives, while bad things offend the Spirit and cause him to leave (see [Moroni 7:12–13](#))

Enrichment Activity 2

- Can you think of actions to list in each column, such as listening to good music and being kind under *Invites the Spirit* and quarreling and being dishonest under *Offends the Spirit*.

Enrichment Activity 2

- Ask the children to think of actions to list in each column, such as listening to good music and being kind under *Invites the Spirit* and quarreling and being dishonest under *Offends the Spirit*.

Enrichment Activity 3

- Let's read Doctrine and Covenants 8:2,
- 2 Yea, behold, I will ^atell you in your mind and in your ^bheart, by the ^cHoly Ghost, which shall come upon you and which shall dwell in your heart.

Enrichment Activity 3

- How can we receive personal revelation by listening to the promptings of the Holy Ghost.
- Does anyone have an experience when the Holy Ghost directed you.

Enrichment Activity 4

- When we have the Spirit with us, we feel differently than we feel when we do not have the Spirit or when Satan is influencing us.
- When I read the following statements, I want you to stand if the statement describes how we feel when we have the Spirit, and sit when the statement describes how we feel when we do not have the Spirit.

Enrichment Activity 4

- You feel happy and calm.
- You feel selfish.
- You feel generous.
- You become easily discouraged.
- You want to make others happy.
- You want to get even.
- You are forgiving and kind.
- You feel happy when others do well.

Testimony

I want to testify to you that the Holy Ghost can have a major influence in your life if you want him too.

When the Holy Ghost is with you, he can give you comfort and guidance.

It is a great blessing to have the Holy Ghost with you.

By letting your life be influence by the Holy Ghost, you will find it easier to stay on that straight and narrow path that we all want to be on.

**OUR CLOSING PRAYER
WILL BE GIVEN BY**



(Enter Name Here)

THE END

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D&C 6:15

15 Behold, thou knowest that thou hast inquired of me and I did enlighten thy ^amind; and now I tell thee these things that thou mayest know that thou hast been ^benlightened by the ^cSpirit of truth;

D&C 6:14

14 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, blessed art thou for what thou hast done; for thou hast ^ainquired of me, and behold, as often as thou hast inquired thou hast received instruction of my Spirit. If it had not been so, thou wouldst not have come to the place where thou art at this time.

D&C 6:15, 23

15 Behold, thou knowest that thou hast inquired of me and I did enlighten thy ^amind; and now I tell thee these things that thou mayest know that thou hast been ^benlightened by the ^cSpirit of truth;

23 Did I not speak ^apeace to your mind concerning the matter? What greater ^bwitness can you have than from God?

D&C 9:8–9

▣ 8 But, behold, I say unto you, that you must ^astudy it out in your ^bmind; then you must ^cask me if it be right, and if it is right I will cause that your ^dbosom shall ^eburn within you; therefore, you shall ^ffeel that it is right.

▣ 9 But if it be not right you shall have no such feelings, but you shall have a ^astupor of thought that shall cause you to forget the thing which is wrong; therefore, you cannot write that which is ^bsacred save it be given you from me.

D&C 6:23; 8:2–3; and 9:8–9

- **23 Did I not speak ^apeace to your mind concerning the matter? What greater ^bwitness can you have than from God?**
- **2 Yea, behold, I will ^atell you in your mind and in your ^bheart, by the ^cHoly Ghost, which shall come upon you and which shall dwell in your heart.**
- **3 Now, behold, this is the spirit of revelation; behold, this is the spirit by which Moses ^abrought the children of Israel through the Red Sea on dry ground.**

D&C 6:23; 8:2–3; and 9:8–9

▣ **8** But, behold, I say unto you, that you must ^astudy it out in your ^bmind; then you must ^cask me if it be right, and if it is right I will cause that your ^dbosom shall ^eburn within you; therefore, you shall ^ffeel that it is right.

▣ **9** But if it be not right you shall have no such feelings, but you shall have a ^astupor of thought that shall cause you to forget the thing which is wrong; therefore, you cannot write that which is ^bsacred save it be given you from me.

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Moroni 7:12–13

▣ 12 Wherefore, all things which are ^agood cometh of God; and that which is ^bevil cometh of the devil; for the devil is an enemy unto God, and fighteth against him continually, and inviteth and enticeth to ^csin, and to do that which is evil continually.

▣ 13 But behold, that which is of God inviteth and enticeth to do ^agood continually; wherefore, every thing which inviteth and ^benticeth to do ^cgood, and to love God, and to serve him, is ^dinspired of God.

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