

Joseph Smith is the prophet of the Restoration

Give a gift; take it away; give it back. This is “restored”

Break a puzzle; put it back together. I have “restored” this puzzle to the same way it was before it was broken.

When Jesus was on the Earth, He gave us a great gift: the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

[show posterboard, decorated with the word “GOSPEL”]. This includes all the things you learn from your Primary teachers and parents about Jesus and about how to live a good life so you can return to Him again.

Well, because the people on the earth became too wicked soon after He died, He had to take away the gift of the gospel for a while. He took away things like the Priesthood and the Holy Ghost. Some people decided to make their own gospel and they took Jesus’ gospel and broke it to pieces [cut the posterboard into 5-7 puzzle-shaped pieces, depending on how many stories you will tell].

Jesus didn’t want the people on earth to be without the true gospel anymore, but He needed someone here on earth to help Him bring it back.

[Show picture of Joseph Smith] Who is this?

This was the man Jesus chose to be His helper, or the “prophet of the Restoration” almost two hundred years ago.

We’re going to see how Joseph Smith helped Jesus put the gospel back together for us. I’m going to tell you a few stories. If you can tell which picture matches the story, put up your hand and you can earn a puzzle piece.

1. Joseph as a boy studying the scriptures (402)
2. First Vision (403)
3. Moroni appears to JS in his room (404)
4. JS receives the plates from Moroni (406)
5. Translating the Book of Mormon (416)
6. John the Baptist conferring Aaronic Priesthood (407)
7. Melchizedek Priesthood Restoration (408)

(Summarize the stories, the detail will depend on the time you have available. Put masking tape on the back of each piece of posterboard and have the children stick them up on the board)

Now we see that the “Gospel” has been restored.

Bear testimony of Joseph Smith’s role as the prophet of the Restoration.