

Articles of Faith



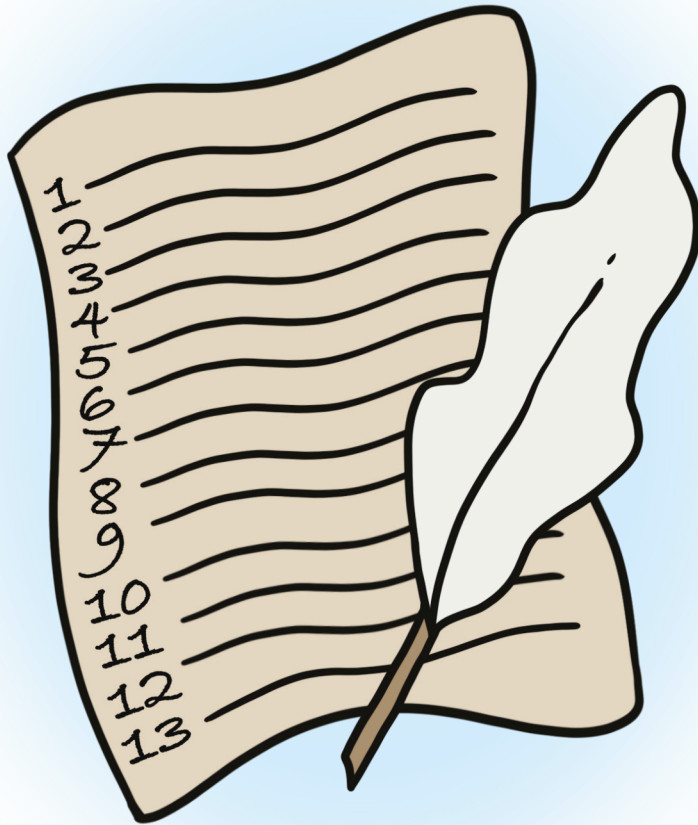
Joseph Smith didn't want to answer this letter at first, he knew that Heavenly Father would keep giving us more and more revelation as time went by. He wanted members of the church to be ready to believe and accept future truths from Heavenly Father.



Joseph Smith prayed and decided to write back to John Wentworth. He received inspiration from Heavenly Father on what to write. He wrote a letter with 13 basic beliefs in our church and sent them in his letter to John Wentworth.



After Joseph Smith started the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, there were a lot of rumors and lies about what we believed. A newspaper editor named John Wentworth wrote a letter to the prophet Joseph. He asked him to explain what members of the church believed. (The Wentworth Letters)



These 13 things include our belief in Heavenly Father, Jesus Christ and his atonement, the Holy Ghost, baptism, scriptures, revelation, religious freedom for us and others, gifts of the spirit, and more. (Articles of Faith 1:1-13)



This letter is special to our church and the 13 articles were later added to our scriptures in the book called the Pearl of Great Price so members all over the world could read and learn from them.

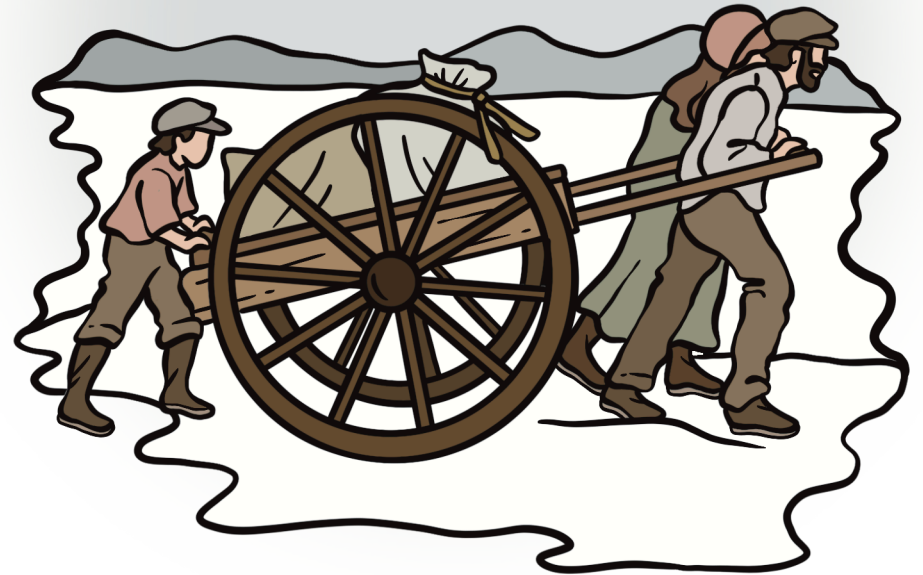


Today members of the church, especially primary children, memorize these 13 articles of faith. They help us with missionary work to teach people what we believe.



The newspaper editor did not publish the letter from Joseph Smith, but it was published in a newspaper for Latter Day Saints called 'Times and Seasons'.

Handcart Pioneers



Janetta McBride and her family traveled by handcarts. Each handcart had room for baggage, flour, cooking utensils, and other food. Grownups and sometimes kids pushed the carts themselves.



Janetta and her family were part of the Martin Handcart Company. These pioneers had a hard time crossing the plains, lots of handcarts broke at the beginning of their journey and they had to travel during a harsh winter.



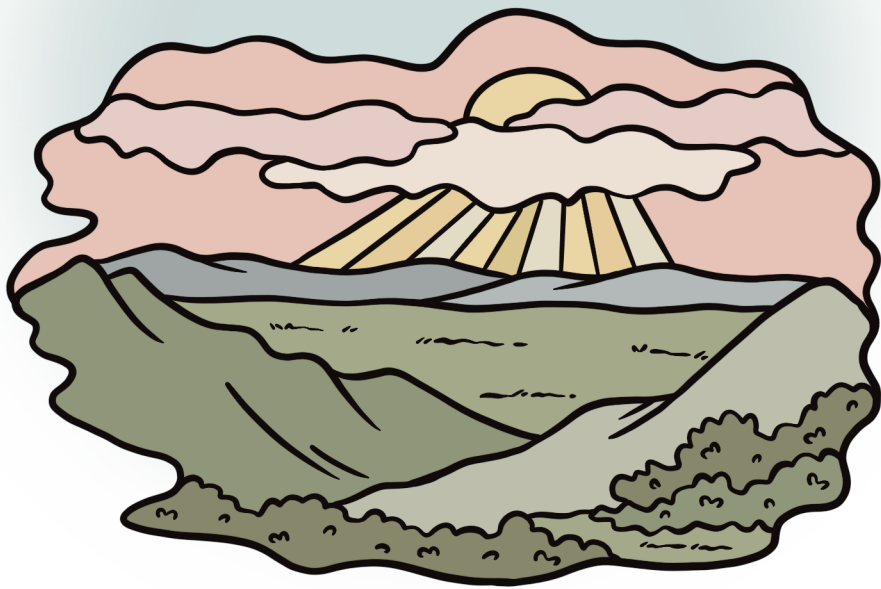
The Prophet Brigham Young led members of the church across the plains to the Salt Lake Valley. Some traveled in wagons, others came later with handcarts. Handcarts were a safe and quick way to travel if the weather was sunny and warm.
(Saints vol. 2, pg 5)



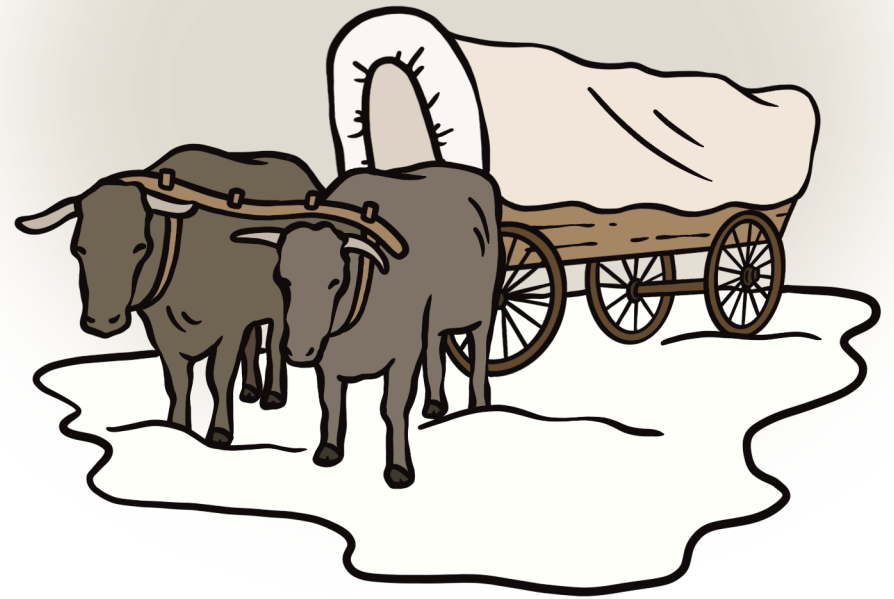
The weather was harsh and cold, sometimes Janetta's hair would freeze to the ground while she slept. Janetta's father died and had to be buried in the frozen ground, many pioneers suffered.



Janetta and the other pioneers were so happy to have more help, but she still had to walk in the snow with no shoes because the wagons were for people with frozen feet. Finally, Janetta and her family made it to the Salt Lake Valley with the handcart pioneers. (Saints, vol 2, ch 15)



Janetta bore her testimony that she was thankful she made the hard journey to the Salt Lake Valley. It was worth it, on matter the cost.



The Prophet Brigham Young heard that these handcart pioneers were traveling through the mountains in the harsh winter and quickly sent people with wagons of blankets, clothing, and food.

Lessons from Liberty Jail



In the 1830's, Satan was working hard to stop the gospel from spreading. Some people that didn't understand what Joseph Smith was doing put him and some other leaders of the church in jail for things they never did.



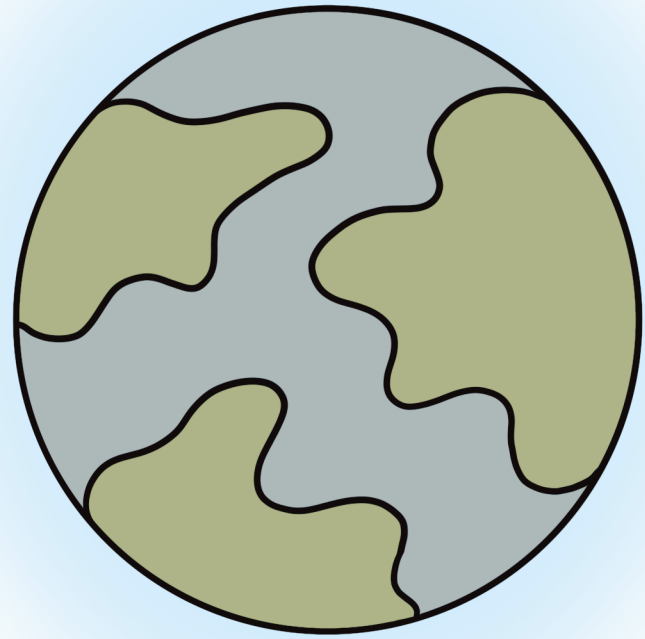
The jail was called Liberty Jail. While there Joseph Smith and the others had a really hard time. It was dark, cold, and wet, and they didn't have good food to eat or blankets to keep them warm. Joseph was also really sad because people were not being kind to the Saints.



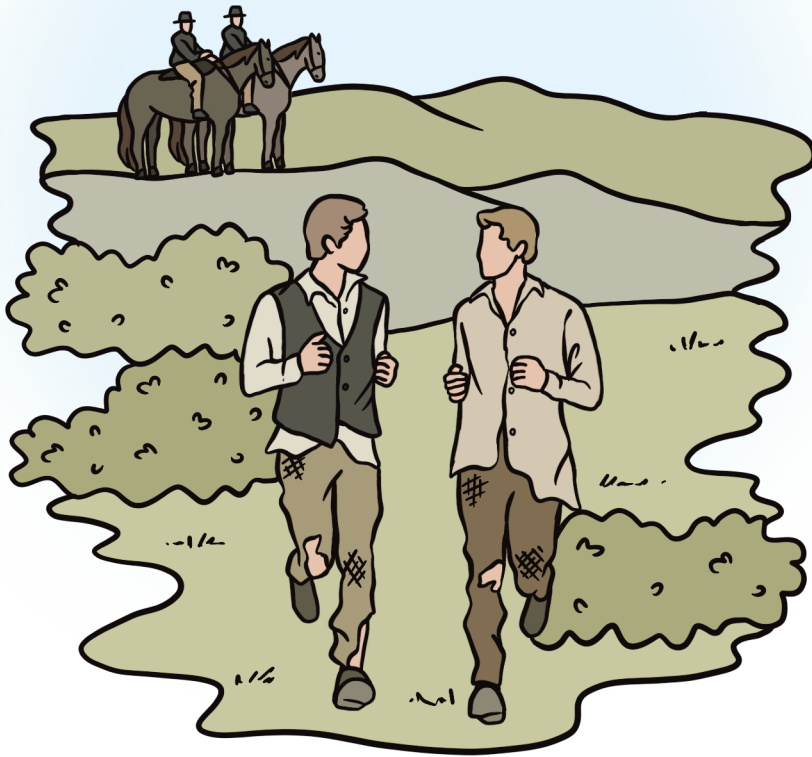
We belong to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, God's true church with His true gospel. Living the gospel can make us happy and find peace when things are hard! In the scriptures, we learn that Satan does not want us to be happy and He doesn't want people to know about the gospel.



Joseph had a testimony that Heavenly Father hears and answers our prayers, so he prayed for the suffering Saints and to understand why they had to go through such hard things.



Joseph received revelation that there were people all over the world that would receive the happiness of the gospel, which gave Joseph and the other Saints hope to keep going.(D&C 123) Joseph knew that nothing was stronger than the power of God.



Joseph and the other prisoners experienced a miracle that set them free. On their way to a trial in a different part of Missouri, the guards allowed Joseph Smith and the other prisoners to escape and join the rest of the Saints in Nauvoo-further proof that nothing can stop the power of God!



Heavenly Father spoke peace to Joseph Smith's heart. (D&C 121:7) He reminded Joseph Smith that Jesus Christ can help us through our trials because of the atonement, and that our hard times can make us better. (D&C 122)

The Lost Pages of the Book of Mormon



One day Martin asked Joseph if he could borrow pages from the golden plates that had been translated. Martin wanted to show these pages to his wife who didn't believe in what Joseph was doing. Joseph wasn't sure if he should let Martin take the translated pages so he prayed and asked if it was right. Heavenly Father answered and said no, Martin could not borrow the 116 pages.



After Joseph told Martin no, Martin begged him to pray and ask again. Joseph prayed again and the answer was still no. Martin promised he would guard the pages and only show them to a few family members, he asked Joseph to pray again. Joseph prayed again and got an answer that Martin could take the pages with him.



When Joseph Smith began translating the Book of Mormon he sometimes had help from a friend named Martin Harris. Martin was a really good friend to Joseph. (D&C 3)



When it was time for Martin to return the pages of the Book of Mormon, he walked in the door and didn't say anything. Then he started to cry. Joseph asked Martin if he lost the pages, and Martin said yes. Joseph said, "All is lost!" (D&C 3:7)



Joseph began translating the Book of Nephi. After a while, he realized that Nephi had written a short part of what was on the pages he had lost. Joseph was so happy that even though he had made a mistake, the Lord had known how to include all truths we need to learn in the Book of Mormon. (D&C 10:38-40)



Later, Joseph Smith prayed to ask if he should translate those lost pages again. Heavenly Father warned that the lost pages had been changed by wicked people and they would use them to stop the Book of Mormon from being printed. He also told him that the book of Nephi had all the truths that were needed from these lost pages. This experience taught Joseph to always trust in the Lord.
(D&C 10:42-43)



Joseph felt like a failure because he kept asking Heavenly Father for what he wanted even after he was told no. He didn't translate anything from the Book of Mormon for a long time. Joseph worried that he wouldn't be able to translate ever again, but Heavenly Father told him he could repent and try again. (D&C 3:9-10)

Come Follow Me FHE
**DOCTRINE & COVENANTS
BASKET BOOK**

Moroni Visits Joseph Smith



In September 1823, three years after his experience in the grove, Joseph knelt to pray before bed and was blinded by a bright light in his room. Joseph was afraid, for the light was so bright, but as he looked upon the man, he felt peace. (JSH 1:29-30)



The man who came to visit was an angel named Moroni, who was one of God's prophets many years prior. He taught Joseph that there was still much work for him to do, and that God was proud of him for staying true and faithful to what he learned in the sacred grove. (JSH 1:33)



After Joseph Smith's experience in the sacred grove, he had many people who told him his vision was incorrect. Joseph continued to live a righteous life and study The Bible, so he would be ready for his next assignment from The Lord. (JSH 1:27-28)



Moroni explained to Joseph that there is a special book, written upon golden plates, buried and hidden near there, that is a story of people who lived on the North American continent, which is the fullness of the gospel. These golden plates are known as The Book of Mormon. Moroni explained to Joseph that he would not get the plates today, but another time when commanded by God. (JSH 1:34)



After the visit from Moroni, Joseph Smith was working in the fields with his father, and his father noticed Joseph seemed very tired and sent him home. On his way home, Joseph was overcome with a vision to return and tell his father about his visit from Moroni. Joseph did so, and his father believed him and told him the messenger was from God, and to do what the messenger said. (JSH 1:48-49)



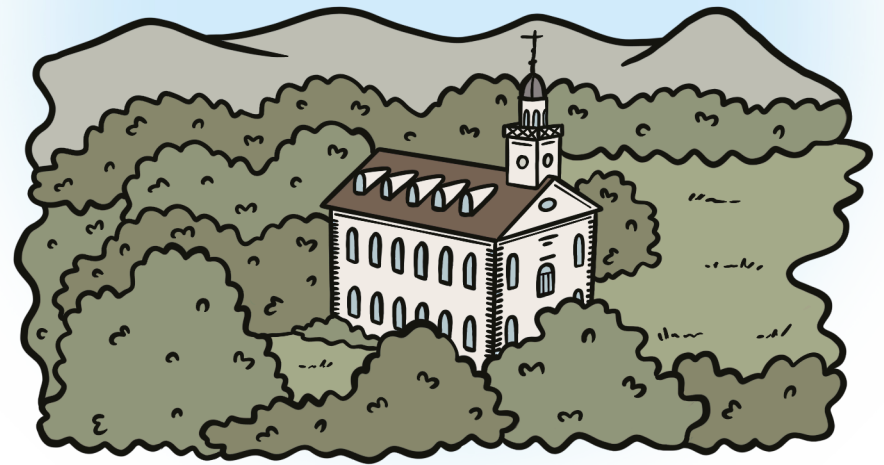
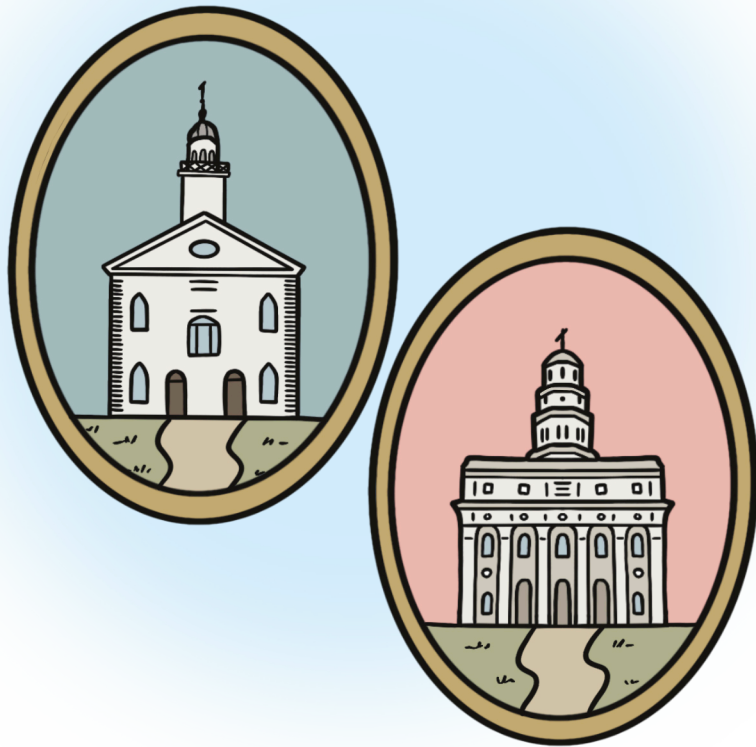
Joseph listened to his father, followed God, and went to the place where Moroni had told him the gold plates were buried. Today, we call the location of the golden plates, or The Book of Mormon, the Hill Cumorah. (JSH 1:50)



Moroni also taught Joseph that one day the Priesthood would be restored to the earth, through the prophet Elijah. Through the restoration of the Priesthood to Joseph Smith, we now have the Priesthood power on earth today to perform ordinances and covenants with The Lord. (JSH 1:38)

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**CHURCH HISTORY
BASKET BOOK**

**The Kirtland & Nauvoo Temple:
A Story of Sacrifice**



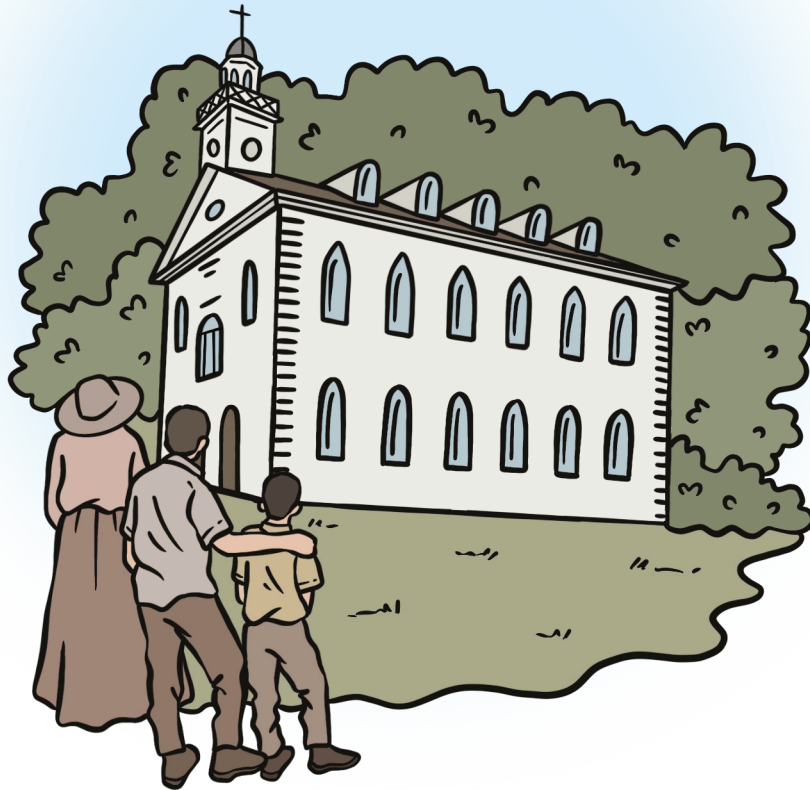
The Saints planned to build the Kirtland Temple at the center of the city, so that they could make the temple the center and the focus of their lives.



Many sacrifices were made to build the temple: men and women worked hard to build the walls and rooms, the Relief Society sewed and made many important things, and children worked hard to collect broken dishes and glass to make the walls of the temple sparkle!



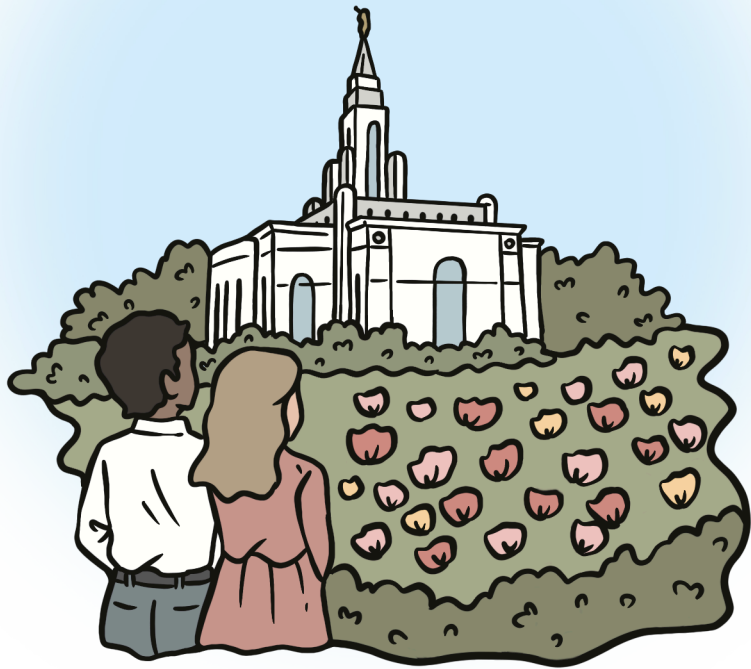
The Lord commanded the Saints to build “a house of prayer, a house of fasting a house of faith, a house of learning, a house of glory, a house of order, a house of God” (D&C 109:8), in other words, the Saints needed to build a temple!



The Saints were willing to make sacrifices because they knew, and the Lord promised, that the temple would be a great blessing in their lives.



Heavenly Father revealed to Joseph Smith more covenants that could be made in the temple, and taught that the temple could be a place to do work for the dead. As the Saints were leaving Nauvoo to head West, many of them lined up outside of the temple so that they could have the power of their covenants as they made the long journey.

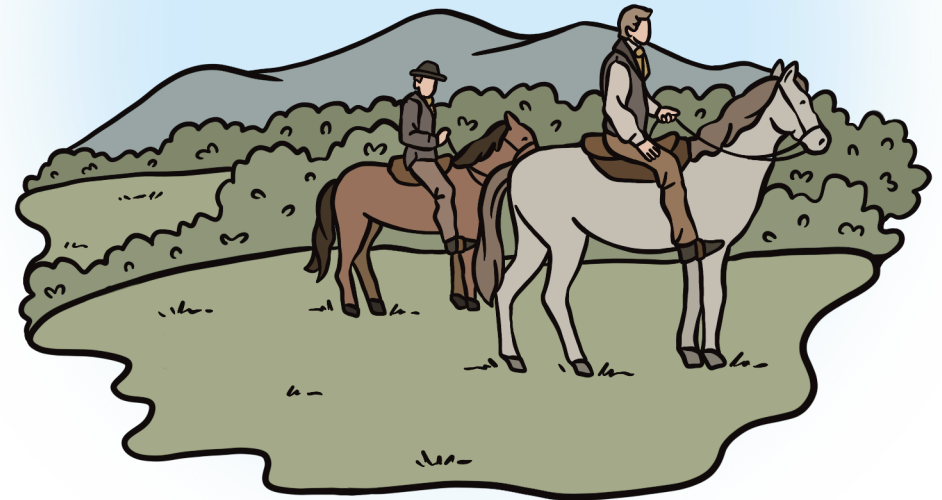


Today, you can also make sacrifices for the temple— you won't be asked to collect broken glass or dishes, but you can pay your tithing and make time to visit the temple, or temple grounds, and do things that can prepare you to go someday!



After the Saints left Kirtland and made it to Nauvoo, they again began building a temple in the center of their city. They faithfully paid their tithing and made many other sacrifices to help build the temple because they had experienced the blessings that came from the temple and from following God.

Praise to the Man: Joseph Smith's Martyrdom



Satan caused these mean people to have these bad thoughts about Joseph because he didn't want the work of God to go forward. Satan didn't want people to know about the happiness that comes from following Jesus. Because of the bad people, Joseph and his brother Hyrum left Nauvoo to keep their families safe, and to find safety themselves. (D&C 135:4)



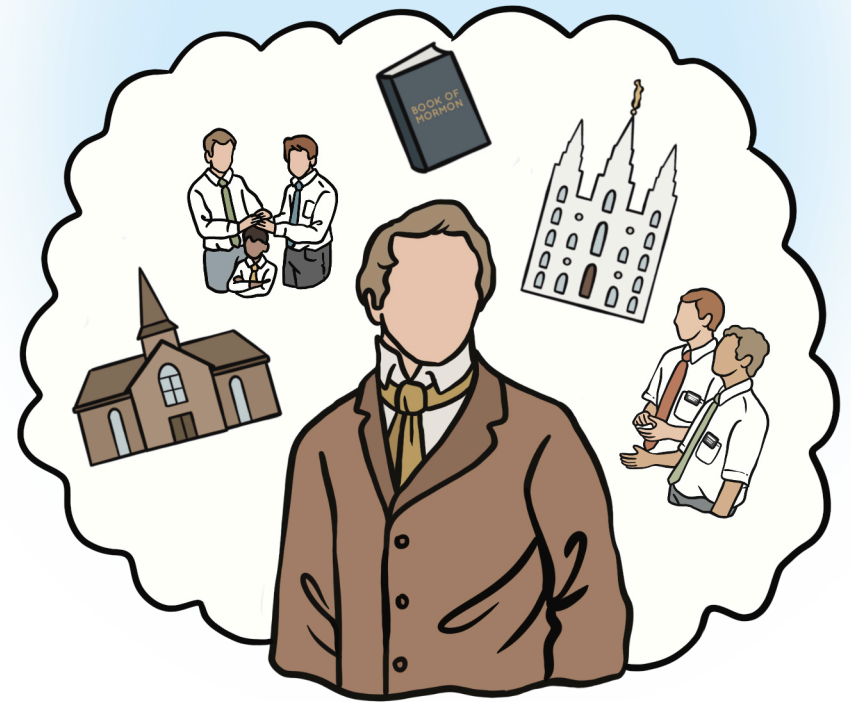
People came to Nauvoo to arrest Joseph and Hyrum. When Joseph and Hyrum heard about this, they went to a place called Carthage Jail even though they were innocent, and had done nothing wrong. Although he was in a scary place and knew he would die, Joseph felt peace because he knew that he had spent his life following God.



Even after escaping to Nauvoo and building a beautiful city and temple, Joseph Smith wasn't safe- there were still people that wanted to hurt him, and even kill him.



On June 27th, 1844 a mob full of angry people came to Carthage Jail. The people in the mob fired their guns and some of the bullets hit Joseph and Hyrum. They died because they stood up for what they believed in. (D&C 135:6)



Although it is sad that Joseph and Hyrum were killed, we can be happy and thankful to Joseph for all that he did. He restored Jesus' true church and gospel, translated the Book of Mormon, taught us about the priesthood and the blessings of the temple and missionary work.



Without Joseph, we would not have the great blessings that the gospel can bring to our lives. So, when we think of Joseph Smith we can gratefully sing "Praise To The Man".



Joseph's final words were "O Lord My God". Even in his final moments, Joseph turned to God. We can learn from Joseph that we can always find comfort in Heavenly Father.

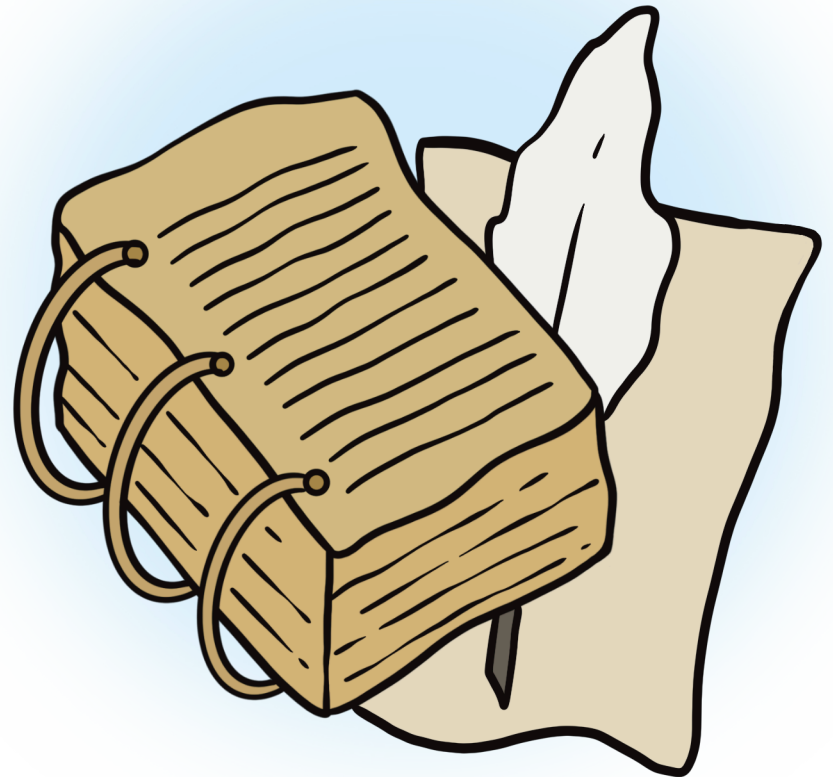
Printing of the Book of Mormon



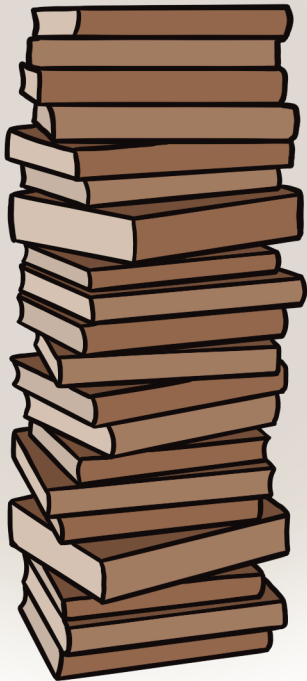
Oliver Cowdery was Joseph's scribe, he wrote down what Joseph said as he was translating the golden plates. Joseph's wife, Emma, and Martin Harris also worked as Joseph's scribe sometimes.



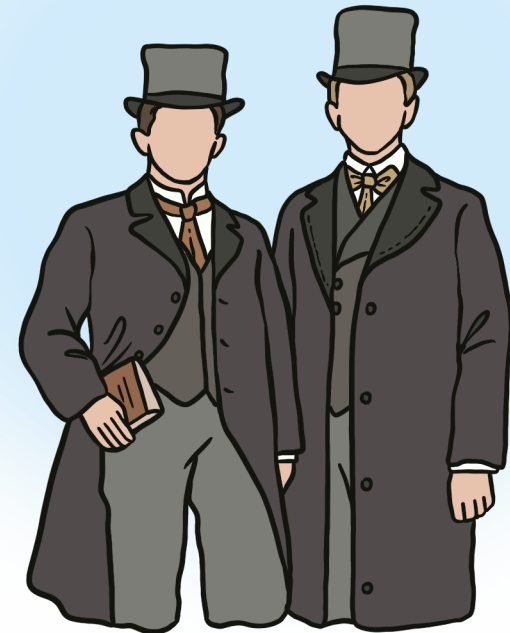
When the plates were done being translated, Joseph and Oliver looked for a printer to print the Book for Mormon for them. Printers were people who used a machine called a printing press to make books. 3 different printers said no to Joseph and Oliver, but a man named Egbert B. Grandin said he would do the job. (D&C 19:35)



Joseph Smith got the golden plates and started translating them. They were written on thin sheets of metal in an ancient language. He used the power of the Holy Ghost to translate them into English. (JSH 1:62)



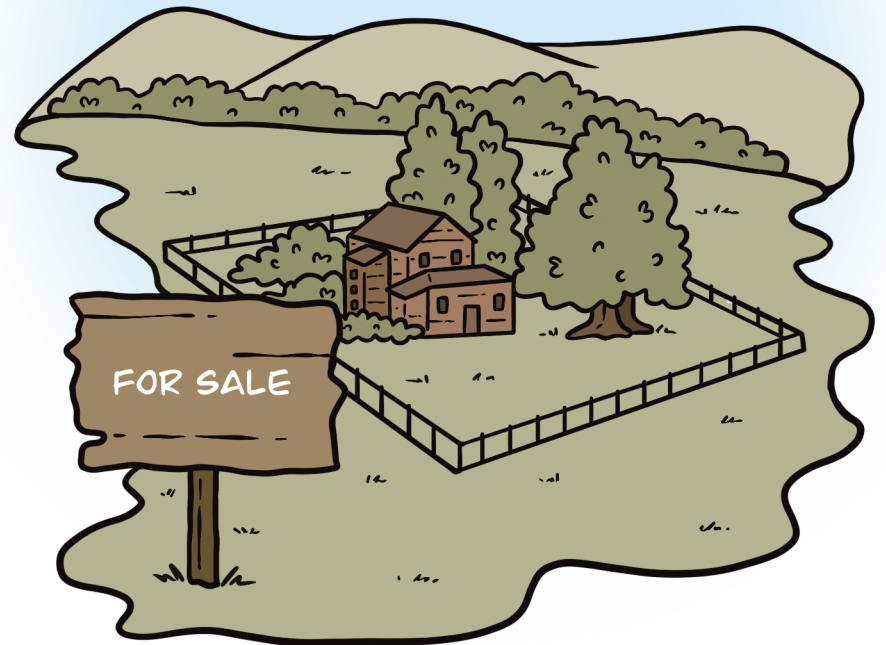
Joseph asked Mr. Grandin to print 5,000 copies of the Book of Mormon. This was a big job, it would take one year to print all of the books. This would cost a lot of money, about \$3,000.



The 5,000 copies of the Book of Mormon were published after only 7 months instead of a year, much faster than Mr. Grandin thought it would take. These copies were sold and given to missionaries to spread the gospel. (D&C 19:27)



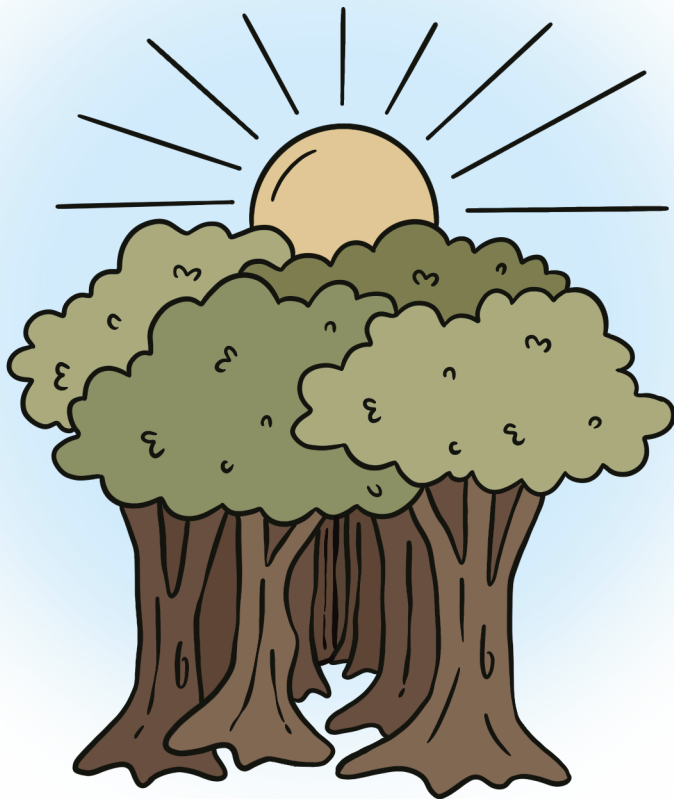
After the Book of Mormon was published, the Lord commanded Joseph Smith to organize the church. The first meeting happened on April 6, 1830, Joseph Smith said that even though not many people were there for that first meeting this church would one day “fill the world”.



Mr. Grandin got worried that Joseph couldn't pay him the money to print the Books of Mormon. He stopped printing until he got more money. Martin Harris mortgaged his farm and later sold 151 acres of his land to pay for the printing of the Books of Mormon.

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**CHURCH HISTORY
BASKET BOOK**

The First Vision



As Joseph read the scriptures, he began to wonder what church of the many in the area were true and which could answer questions he had. Joseph and his family visited many churches and he began to wonder which one was the true church. (JSH 1:5-9)



Joseph felt many different feelings at each church, and was unsure which were feelings of the Spirit, or confusion. He knew he needed to find out which of the churches were true, but he was unsure how. He began doing his own study and came across James 1:5. (JSH 1:10-11)



Joseph Smith was a young man living in upstate New York in the 1800's. His family owned a farm and were hard workers. They also believed in God and studied the scriptures together and attended church. (JSH 1:1-5)



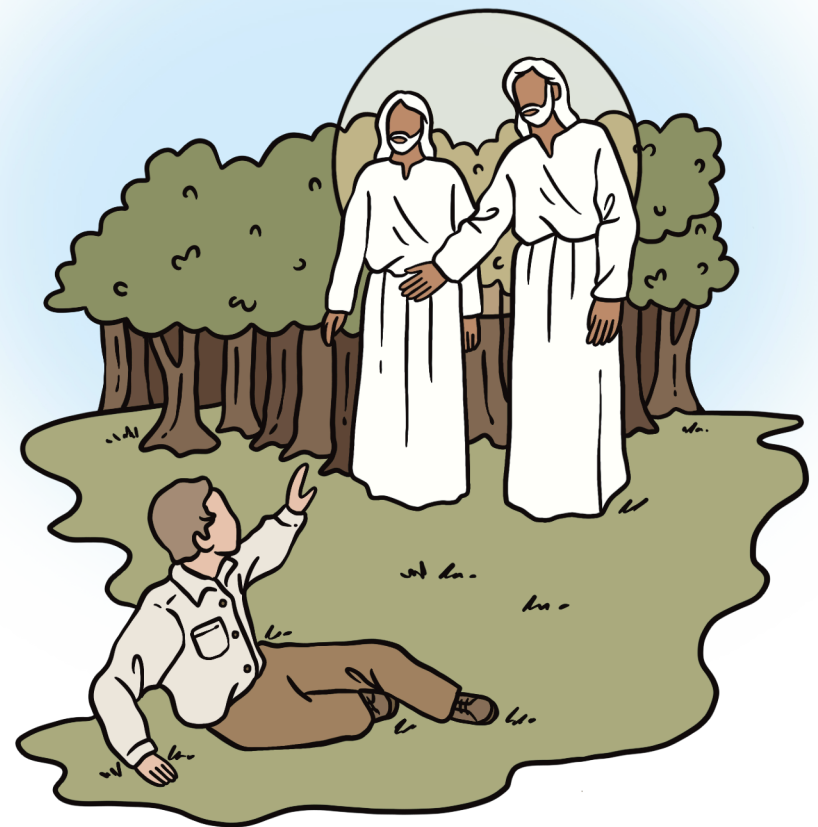
On a warm Spring day in 1820, at the age of 14, Joseph walked into the woods near his home. He knelt down and began to offer a prayer to God. During his prayer, he began to feel pain and anguish come over him, but he kept praying. He knew that if he kept praying, he would receive an answer to his prayer. (JSH 1:14-16)



Joseph then began to ask God and Jesus Christ which of the churches he should join. Their answer was simple; he should join none, for the truthfulness of the gospel was not on the Earth. This would come at a later time, and Joseph would be key in ushering in the true Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Earth. (JSH 1:18-20)

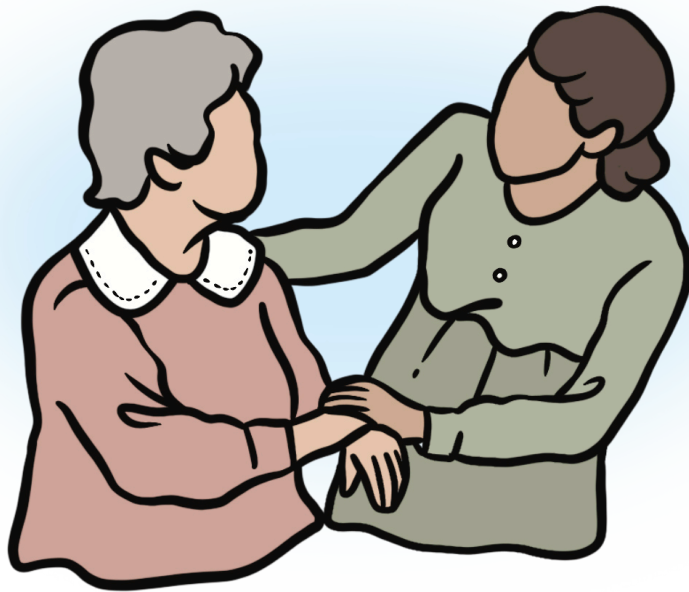


As Joseph left the woods, he felt extremely happy and was filled with the love of God and Jesus Christ. Since Joseph went to the woods and prayed, he was able to receive an answer to his question and gain a testimony of God and Jesus Christ.



Suddenly, the pain stopped and a very bright light came down from the trees. As Joseph looked up, he saw "two personages" standing in front of him, calling him by his name. The person pointed to the other and said, "This is my beloved Son. Hear him."
(JSH 1:16-17)

The Relief Society



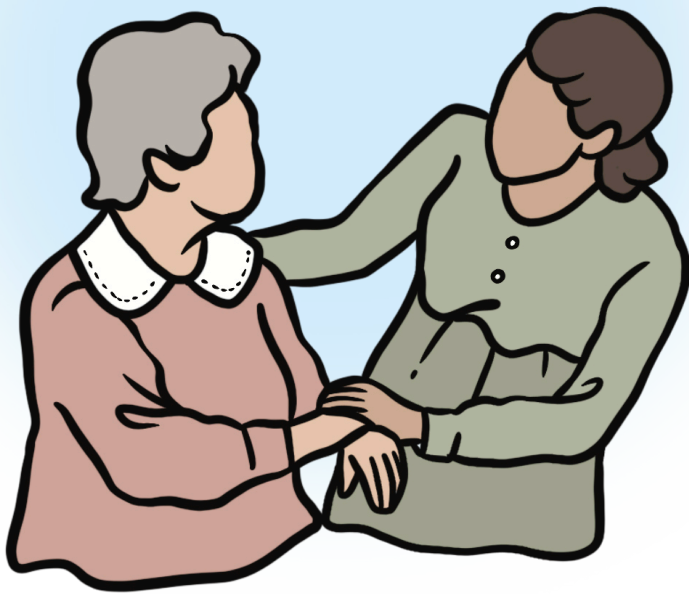
In 1842 Joseph Smith received revelation that in order for the Restoration of the Church and Priesthood to be complete, a women's organization needed to be created- so the Relief Society was formed!



Eliza Snow, who was one of the first General Relief Society Presidents, explained that the purpose of the Relief Society was to go about doing good and to minister to people in the way that Christ would. (Daughters in My Kingdom, pg 17)



On Sundays, kids go to Primary, the men go to Priesthood meetings, and the women go to Relief Society. Have you ever wondered what the Relief Society is?



Heavenly Father knew that women possess special talents and strengths that are different from men. He knew that women would play a very important role in building up His kingdom on the Earth and that they would be essential in strengthening others.



One of the most important tasks that the early Relief Society did was to help build the Nauvoo temple. They sacrificed their beautiful plates and decorations and made a special material that would be used on the temple. The dishes and decorations made the temple shine!



Today, women in the Relief Society still go about doing good! What lessons can you learn from the Relief Society?



In the early days of the Relief Society, the sisters administered to the Saints in Nauvoo who were really sick. They also encouraged people who were feeling sad or alone.

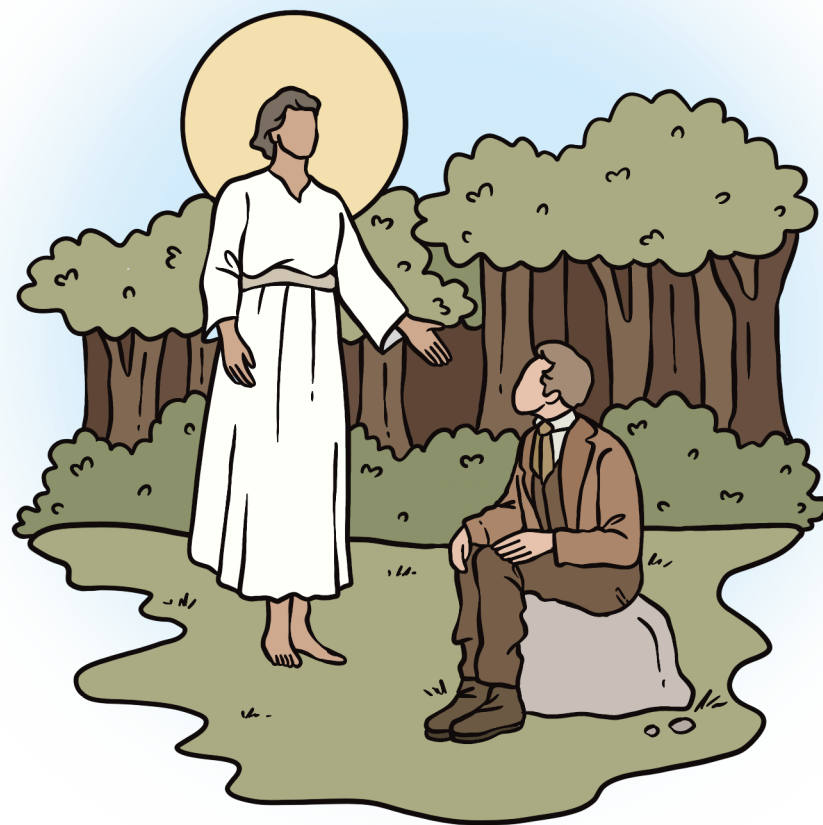
The Translation of The Book of Mormon



In September 1827, four years after the first visit from Moroni, Joseph met Moroni at the Hill Cumorah and received the gold plates. Through revelation and the use of the Urim and Thummim, which were also buried with the plates, the translation of the Book of Mormon was ready to begin. (JSH 1:59)



Only a few people ever saw the plates. Eight men, called The Eight Witnesses, saw and touched the plates. They were able to bear witness to the world and testify of the truth of the plates. The testimony of these men is written and printed in the front of our currently printed Books of Mormon. The Testimony of the Eight Witnesses



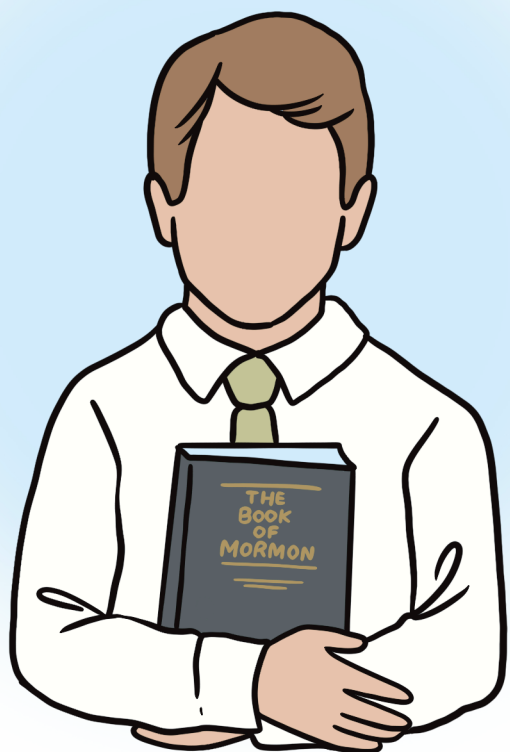
During Moroni's teachings, Joseph received a vision of the location of the golden plates, known today as the Hill Cumorah. Every September for four years after the first visit from Moroni, Joseph visited the hill and was taught by Moroni. Moroni quoted many scriptures from The Bible and instructed Joseph that he would receive the plates soon. (JSH 1:42-54)



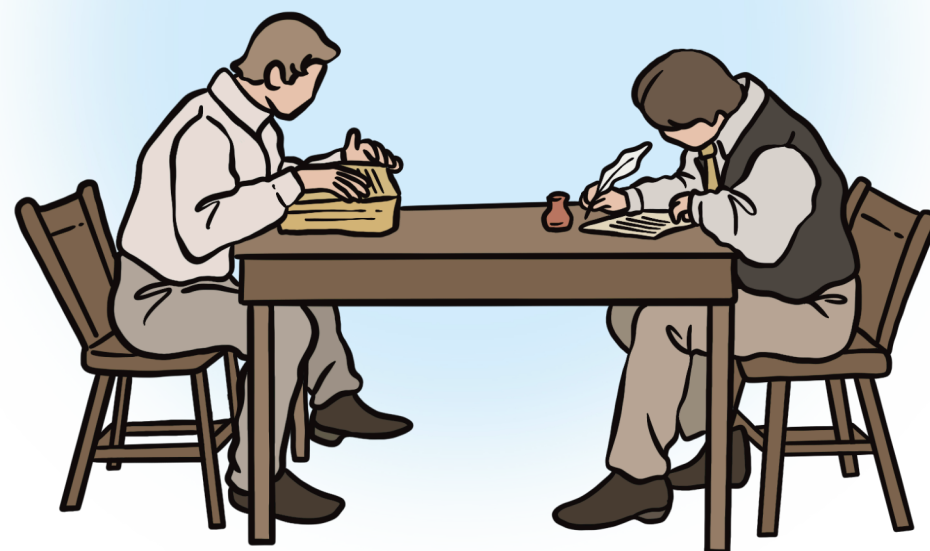
Joseph Smith began to translate the Book of Mormon through the gift and power of Heavenly Father, for Joseph did not have the knowledge of ancient writing or language. In the early days after retrieving the plates, Joseph's wife Emma, acted as a scribe for him while translating early in the process.



Oliver Cowdrey, David Whitmer and Martin Harris were also witnesses to the gold plates. They also saw, touched and heard the voice of Heavenly Father, testifying that the words of The Book of Mormon are true. Heavenly Father also commanded them to bear testimony of the truthfulness of the gospel. The testimony of these men is written and printed in our current Books of Mormon as well. The Testimony of Three Witnesses



Today we are blessed with The Book of Mormon because Joseph Smith prayed to Heavenly Father and followed an answer to his prayer. Members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints are so grateful for The Book of Mormon and the blessing of reading it brings into their lives.



In the Spring of 1829, a local teacher named Oliver Cowdery visited Joseph and offered to assist with the plates. Oliver Cowdery assisted Joseph in the translation by writing down what Joseph read from the gold plates. Both men worked together to translate the 275,000 word text in a short period of 60-90 days. (JSH 1:67)

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**CHURCH HISTORY
BASKET BOOK**

**The Word of Wisdom:
A Guide to Living a
Healthy Life**



One set of scriptures we can learn about specific items we should eat or not eat is in Doctrine and Covenants 89. This section of scripture was given to Joseph Smith concerning the health of members of the church. During that time period, many men used chewing tobacco, a harmful substance that causes life long health issues. (D&C 89:8)

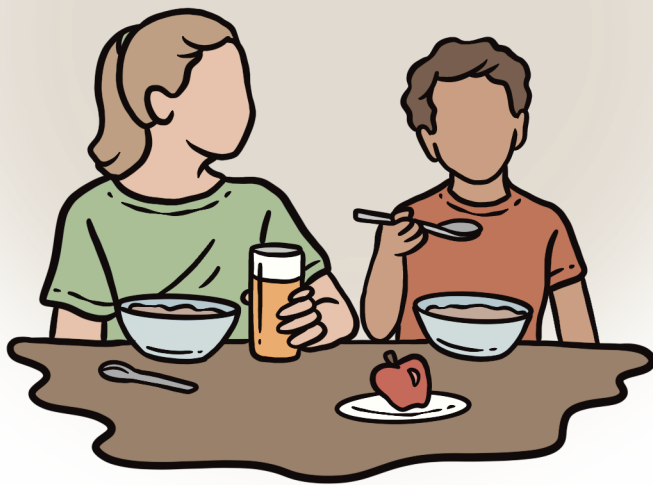


In the 1800's, people did not know the effects of tobacco on the body. The revelation to stop using tobacco was well ahead of the time, and blesses the health of those who follow this commandment.

Today, many people, even those who are not members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints abstain from tobacco and cigarettes because they cause life long illness and disease. (D&C 89:8)



In the scriptures, we read how Heavenly Father gave us our bodies, and we should take care of them. We can take care of our bodies and minds by eating healthy food, exercising, learning new things, and keeping our bodies clean from bad substances that can cause harm.



The revelation given to Joseph Smith teaches how foods like fruits, vegetables and whole grains are good for the body. These foods will give our bodies strength and energy to accomplish what we need to each day. Eating a healthy breakfast provides us fuel for school and to learn new things.
(D&C 89:14 & 16)



The end of Doctrine and Covenants 89 gives a promise to all people who follow and keep The Word of Wisdom. They are promised health, strength, knowledge, wisdom and more.
(D&C 89:18-20)



If we strive to eat healthy foods, exercise our bodies and minds and keep the Word of Wisdom, we will be greatly blessed. When we keep the commandments of God, we are not only blessed with healthy bodies and minds, but we are happy and our testimonies grow! (D&C 89:18-20)



The Word of Wisdom also teaches us that if we drink strong drinks, they will harm our bodies. This is why members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints do not drink alcohol, coffee and tea. We have been counseled that these items are not good for our bodies. (D&C 89:5 & 7)