

Episode 1

Scripture Stories

CHAPTERS 1-3

How We Got the Book of Mormon, Lehi Warns the People, Lehi Leaves Jerusalem

[BEGIN MUSIC: SCRIPTURE POWER]

Because I want to be, like the Savior and I can,
I'm reading his instructions, I'm following his plan.
Because I want the power his word will give to me-
I'm changing how I live, I'm changing what I'll be.

Scripture power—keeps me safe from sin.
Scripture power is the power to win.
Scripture power, every day I need,
The power that I get each time I read.

CHILD: Welcome to Scripture Stories!

I'll find the sword of truth from each scripture that I learn.
I'll take the shield of faith from these pages that I turn.
I'll wear each vital part of the armor of the Lord.
I'll fight my daily battles and win a great reward.

Scripture power—keeps me safe from sin.
Scripture power is the power to win.
Scripture power, every day I need,
The power that I get each time I read.

[END MUSIC]

HOST: Scripture Stories is a program for you—the children. As you listen, remember that these stories are about real people, who lived long ago. Read along with us. You'll find these stories in the Scripture Stories books, published by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Have your mother, or father, a teacher or a friend help you find the story and then invite them to read along with you too.

[BEGIN MUSIC: BOOKS IN THE BOOK OF MORMON]

First and Second Books of Nephi, Jacob, Enos, Jarom, Omni,
Words of Mormon and Mosiah, In the Book of Mormon.
Alma, Helaman, third-fourth Nephi, Mormon, Ether and Moroni.

Learn the teachings of the Prophets, In the Book of Mormon.

[END MUSIC]

HOST: This week we will be learning about the Book of Mormon. Now the book of Mormon is one of my favorite books of scriptures because, along with the Bible, it helps me to learn to know more about Jesus Christ. It helps me to come closer to him and really know who he was and what he wants me to do today. Lets read the story of how we got the Book of Mormon.

HOST: Children in the audience at home, please read along with us.

CHILD: When Joseph Smith was 14 years old, many churches were claiming to be true, and he did not know which one to join. One day, Joseph read James 1:5 in the Bible: “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God.” Joseph needed to know which church was right, so he decided to ask God.

CHILD: On a spring morning Joseph went into the woods near his home to pray. As he knelt down and started to pray, Satan tried to stop him. Joseph prayed harder, asking Heavenly Father for help. Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ came to Joseph in a pillar of light. Heavenly Father pointed to Jesus and said: “This is My Beloved son. Hear Him!” Joseph asked which church he should join. Jesus told him not to join any of them because they were all wrong.

HOST: Alright. So Joseph needed to know which church was right. So, what did he decide to do?

CHILD: Pray

HOST: He decided to pray. Why would that help him to decide which church was right?

CHILD: His scriptures told him to do that.

HOST: OK. So the scriptures—he listened to what the scriptures said, and he decided to pray. Why would he pray? What does praying do?

CHILD: It helps build your faith and get you back to Heavenly Father.

HOST: Excellent—yes, thank you.

CHILD: It lets you talk to Heavenly Father.

HOST: Excellent--So it lets you talk to Heavenly Father. And so who appeared to Joseph after he prayed?

CHILD: Moroni

HOST: Ok-- Moroni appeared to him later on. Who else appeared to Joseph Smith after he prayed?

CHILD: Yes-

CHILD: Jesus Christ and Heavenly Father.

HOST: OK—so they appeared to Joseph Smith. Wonderful—what did they say?

CHILD: None of the churches were true.

HOST: Ok—alright, so was that an answer to his prayers?

Child: Yes

HOST: I think so.

HOST: Why do you think it is important to pray?

CHILD: Because Heavenly Father and Jesus want us to.

HOST: Yes, that's a really good reason why it is important to pray. Excellent. Why else?

Child: We can thank Heavenly Father for all he gives us and ask him for what we need.

HOST: And if we ask Heavenly Father for things that we need or for an answer to anything—how are some of the ways he might answer?

HOST: What are some other ways Heavenly Father can help us?

CHILD: He can help you.

HOST: Ok, so he can help us. How does he answer you?

CHILD: Usually, yes or maybe.

HOST: OK, yes or maybe

HOST: So does he appear to you?

CHILD: No

HOST: So what is another way he can answer your prayers?

CHILD: In your mind.

CHILD: If it is a yes, you can feel the spirit and comfort in your heart. If it is a no, you don't feel anything—you just have a stupor of thought in your mind.

HOST: Alright! Well let's get back to that story then.

CHILD: When Joseph told some people what he had seen and heard, they laughed at him. The leaders of many local churches persecuted him. Three years went by. One night Joseph was praying to be forgiven of his sins and to know what he should do. An angel named Moroni appeared and told Joseph about a book that

was written on gold plates. Joseph was to translate these plates into English. After Moroni left, Joseph thought about what Moroni had told him. Moroni came back two more times that night.

HOST: Why do you think Moroni came back two more times that night?

CHILD: Probably to make sure he didn't forget.

HOST: OK—so to teach him and make sure he didn't forget. Excellent! Why else do you think he came back two more times that night? Does anybody know? Why do you think he came back two times and just didn't tell him everything the first time?

CHILD: Because he would forget everything.

HOST: Ok—it was a way to teach him. What else?

CHILD: He had more to say than just what he said the first time.

HOST: So maybe it sunk in more, hearing it two or three times. Excellent! OK, let's continue on.

CHILD: The next day Joseph went to the top of the Hill Cumorah, which he had seen in a vision. There he found a big rock.

CHILD: He pried the rock up with a stick. Beneath the rock was a stone box. As Joseph looked into the box, he saw the gold plates. Moroni appeared and told Joseph not to take the plates but to come back on the same day each year for four years. Each time Joseph went, Moroni taught him. After four years Joseph was finally allowed to take the gold plates.

CHILD: He used the Urim and Thummim to translate some of them. Scribes helped Joseph by writing the words as he translated them from the gold plates. Joseph took the translated words to a printer and had them made into a book.

CHILD: The book is called the Book of Mormon. It tells about people who lived in America many years ago. It also tells about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

HOST: Alright—so the Book of Mormon tells us about the people who lived in America many years ago. What else does it tell us about?

CHILD: Jesus Christ

HOST: OK—why is it important to know about Jesus Christ?

CHILD: So you will believe in him.

HOST: OK—so you will believe in him.

CHILD: Because Heavenly Father knows the right.

HOST: OK—He does know the right. Heavenly Father is perfect. Alright. What did Joseph find when he looked under the big rock?

CHILD: The words of the prophets on gold plates in a whole different language.

HOST: So why would it need to be translated into English for us?

CHILD: So we could read it.

HOST: So we could read it. Definitely. I don't read reformed Egyptian and I would need it in English so I could understand it. So why is it important for us to understand the scriptures?

CHILD: So we can learn the teachings of Heavenly Father and the Prophets.

HOST: Very Nice.

CHILD: And also he can still teach us and so that his plan can go on.

HOST: Who can tell me how they translated the golden plates? How did that happen?

CHILD: He used the Urim and Thummim.

HOST: What is that? What is the Urim and Thummim?

CHILD: It is like two little stones that helped them change the Egyptian words into English?

HOST: OK—alright. Who helped Joseph do that?

CHILD: Oliver Cowdery.

HOST: OK—who else helped scribe?

CHILD: Other scribes.

HOST: How many times did Moroni come back?

CHILD: Two more.

HOST: Ok, so he came back two more times after that first night. Yes, and how many times did Joseph have to come back until he actually got to take the plates?

CHILD: Four times.

HOST: OK—why do you think that was important? Why did he have to keep coming back?

CHILD: Moroni still had to teach him stuff before he could have them.

HOST: OK—do any of you have an experience when you weren't able to have something quite at the time when you wanted it? You still had to learn some more things? Anybody have an experience they would like to share?

CHILD: I had to learn how to take care of dogs. I still have to.

HOST: Ok, so you had to learn how to take care of dogs.

HOST: You had to learn how to take care of them before you were allowed to have one.

HOST: Anyone else?

CHILD: I had to wait until my birthday to get a dog.

HOST: You had to wait until you were old enough?

HOST: Do you think that is one of the reasons Joseph had to wait? So he could be a little older and a little wiser?

CHILD: I had to keep my room clean until I could get a hamster.

HOST: Ok—you got the hamster?

CHILD: Not yet.

HOST: But if you keep your room clean you will get one—right? OK

HOST: It seems like Joseph was really obedient to everything Moroni had told him and everything that Heavenly Father had told them.

HOST: How can you be obedient to Heavenly Father?

CHILD: By following his commandments.

HOST: How do we know about Heavenly Father's commandments and what they are?

CHILD: Because he told us.

HOST: OK—how does he tell us?

CHILD: By the scriptures.

HOST: Ok-- from the scriptures. Wonderful

CHILD: The Holy Ghost.

HOST: Ok— through the Holy Ghost-- that's a wonderful answer.

[BEGIN MUSIC: The Golden Plates]

The golden plates lay hidden, deep in the mountainside.
Until God found one faithful in whom he could confide.

A record made by Nephi, written in days of old.
Now in the Book of Mormon, the story is retold.

[END MUSIC]

HOST: We just had General Conference. What happens in General Conference that helps us know what commandments we need to be following?

CHILD: We listen to the prophets.

HOST: Excellent, so we listen to the prophets, wonderful. That's a wonderful way.

HOST: What is a prophet?

CHILD: A prophet is someone who keeps the Church going and who takes care of all the general conferences and churches.

HOST: OK. Excellent. What else does a prophet do?

CHILD: He tells us what the Lords wants him to tell us.

HOST: Wonderful. So he tells us what we need to know that Heavenly Father wants us to do. Let's read the story.

CHILD: Most of the people living in Jerusalem 600 years before the birth of Christ were wicked. God sent the prophets to tell them to repent, but they would not listen. Lehi was a prophet. He prayed that the people would repent.

CHILD: While he was praying a pillar of fire appeared. God told and showed Lehi many things. Lehi returned home and had a vision. He saw God surrounded by many angels. The angels were singing and praising God. In his vision Lehi was given a book that told what would happen in the future. He read that Jerusalem would be destroyed because the people were wicked. Lehi told the people that Jerusalem would be destroyed. He also told of the coming of Jesus. The people were angry and tried to kill Lehi, but the Lord protected him.

[BEGIN MUSIC: *Keep the Commandments*]

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 the prophet, keep the commandments.
In this there is safety and peace.

[END MUSIC]

HOST: Why do you think Lehi didn't want Jerusalem to be destroyed?

CHILD: Because he liked his house and where he was living and he liked that city.

HOST: So maybe he was comfortable there, he liked it. Why else do you think he didn't want it to be destroyed?

CHILD: He loved all the people that lived there.

HOST: What did he do because he loved the people there? What did he do to let them know what was happening?

CHILD: He prayed so the people would repent.

HOST: So, did the people repent?

CHILD: No

HOST: No, they didn't. So, what did they do? What did Lehi do with his family?

CHILD: He took them into the wilderness.

HOST: Was that his idea? Whose ideas was it to go into the wilderness?

CHILD: Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ.

HOST: True. So because he was the prophet he followed exactly what Heavenly Father wanted him to do.

HOST: Do we have to be prophets to do exactly what Heavenly Father wants us to do? Who thinks that we have to be prophets?

CHILD: Not me.

HOST: How can you do what Heavenly Father wants you to do?

CHILD: We can listen to the prophets and do what they say because they know that they are saying what the Lords want us to do.

HOST: Excellent. So we know that they are getting direct revelation from Heavenly Father and they are telling us what to do.

HOST: Children at home what do you think? Tell a person you're listening with what you think about how you can better listen to what the prophet is teaching us today.

[BEGIN MUSIC: FOLLOW THE PROPHET]

Adams was a prophet, first one that we know.

In a place called Eden, he helped things to grow.
Adam served the Lord by following his ways.
We are his descendents in the latter days.

Follow the prophet, follow the prophet,
Follow the prophet, don't go astray.
Follow the prophet, follow the prophet,
Follow the prophet, he knows the way.

Now we have a world where people are confused.
If you don't believe it, go and watch the news.
We can get direction, all along our way,
If we heed the prophets—follow what they say.

Follow the prophet, follow the prophet,
Follow the prophet, don't go astray.
Follow the prophet, follow the prophet,
Follow the prophet, he knows the way.

[END MUSIC]

HOST: I've always tried to have faith to follow the prophet, no matter what he teaches. Lehi's family had to learn how to follow their father as a prophet as well. We know from the story that some of them listened and some of them didn't. Why do you think that some of them listened while others wouldn't? Let's learn more about this as we read our next story.

CHILD: The Lord was pleased with Lehi and one night spoke to him in a dream. He told Lehi to take his family and leave Jerusalem. Lehi obeyed the Lord. Lehi's family packed food and they left their house and their gold and silver and traveled into the wilderness.

CHILD: Lehi and his wife Sariah had four sons. Their names were Laman, Lemuel, Sam, and Nephi. After traveling for three days, Lehi's family camped in a valley near a river. Lehi built an altar from stones and made an offering to God. He thanked God for saving his family from being destroyed. Lehi named the river Laman and the valley Lemuel. Lehi wanted his sons to be like the river and valley.

CHILD: Continually flowing to God and steadfastly keeping the commandments. Laman and Lemuel thought their father was foolish for leaving Jerusalem and their riches. They did not believe that Jerusalem would be destroyed. Nephi wanted to understand the things Lehi had seen. He prayed to know if his father had done the right thing by leaving Jerusalem.

CHILD: Jesus Christ visited Nephi and told him that Lehi's words were true. Nephi believed and did not rebel as Laman and Lemuel did. Nephi told his brothers what Jesus had told him. Sam believed Nephi, but Laman and Lemuel would not believe. The Lord promised Nephi that he would be blessed because of his faith. He would become a leader over his brothers.

HOST: Now Jesus Christ visited Nephi and told him that Lehi's words were true—that his father's words were true. Why was it important that Jesus Christ tell Nephi that his father's words were true?

CHILD: It was important for him to know because he wanted to know if his brothers were right or if his father was right. If he would rebel or if he would follow his fathers or his brothers. It was just kind of complicated for him and so he prayed and he got an answer.

HOST: Excellent. Do you think we can all pray and get answers the same way?

CHILD: Yes

HOST: I think so too. So can anyone give me an give me an example of a prayer that was answered. They had a question about something or confused about something and they prayed and it was answered.

CHILD: If we should get baptized.

HOST: OK—so if we should get baptized. So how old are you?

CHILD: Eight and I got baptized a few months ago.

HOST: So did you pray to know if you should get baptized or not?

CHILD: Yes.

HOST: Alright. And I would imagine it was answered as a yes if you're baptized then. Wonderful.

HOST: Who else has an example of a prayer that was answered?

CHILD: Once me and my dad were driving in a car and we got two flat tires. I said a prayer to help us be safe and it was answered.

HOST: Wonderful. Those are wonderful kinds of prayers.

CHILD: Our brother was walking on our piano bench and he slipped and hurt his chin. I said a prayer to help him. He got better really quick.

HOST: Wonderful. That's a wonderful example.

CHILD: When I was little—one night my Mom said a prayer that she would know what to do the next day. The next day, when I was little and I didn't know, I started to climb out the window. She had a prompting that she should go check on me and she barely caught my last foot before I fell.

HOST: Wow—so you protected because of the prayer of your Mom. That is a wonderful example.

HOST: So you are all kind of like Nephi in the way that you prayed and your prayers were answered just like Nephi's was. What can we do to be more like Nephi? How can you be more like Nephi?

CHILD: We can say our prayers and try to keep the commandments.

HOST: Ok.

CHILD: And honor our parents.

HOST: And honor your parents. That was a big one for Nephi wasn't it. Excellent.

HOST: How can you honor your parents?

CHILD: By listening to what they say.

HOST: So, if you listen to your Mom and Dad—then what do you do after that?

CHILD: You do it.

HOST: Excellent. Otherwise, it's no use to listen if you don't do it, right?

CHILD: Yes.

HOST: Ok. How else can we be like Nephi?

CHILD: We can be kind and loving to everyone.

HOST: I would think he was a very kind person and loving to everyone. Do you think being like Nephi will help us follow the prophet?

CHILD: Yes.

HOST: How so?

CHILD: Well, if we are really nice to everyone and we like to obey, it will be easier for us to listen to General Conference and want to do what the prophets want us to do.

HOST: Ok. Wonderful example. How can being like Nephi help us to follow the prophet?

CHILD: He forgave others.

HOST: Forgive others. Wonderful. Those are all great examples of how we can be like Nephi and follow the prophet.

HOST: Children at home—do you want to be more like Nephi? What do you think you can do to be more like him?

[BEGIN MUSIC: BOOK OF MORMON STORIES]

Book of Mormon stories that my teacher tells to me,
Are about the Lamanites in ancient history.
Long ago their fathers came from far across the sea.

Given the land—if they lived righteously.

HOST: I think we've learned a lot today about how we can follow Heavenly Father and keep his commandments. What are some things you've learned about keeping the commandments? How do you think Heavenly Father might help us keep his commandments?

HOST: We've learned so much. Now I hope we will all thank Heavenly Father in our prayers for all he taught us and I also hope we'll keep talking about the things we've learned with our families and other people we love. Next week—we'll read chapters four and five of the "Book of Mormon Stories," "The Brass Plates" and "Traveling in the Wilderness". If you'd like to listen to this program again—a grown-up can help you get a copy to play on your computer, iPod or other music player at radio.lds.org. You can also sign-up to get new episodes as soon as they are ready. If you'd like your own copies of the scripture stories as books or DVD's, you can find them at scripture_stories.lds.org. Or a grown-up can buy them at your local church distribution church center. See you all next week.