

# The Book of Mormon

Study Guide compiled by Kimberly Nield with help from lots of other people! Especially for younger children to be used with the Scripture People!

# Introduction

The first seven lessons will be introducing your child to The Book of Mormon. You will talk about how and why we have The Book of Mormon. And get your child excited about reading The Book of Mormon together as a family!

## Lesson 1

This lesson is all about getting excited to read and learn about The Book of Mormon!

Give your child their own copy of The Book of Mormon, a reading Chart, and a bookmark to keep track!

Take time to sit down and look at the book with your child. Look at the cover and show them where it says “The Book of Mormon”. Look through any pictures that are in book. And tell them your favorite story from The Book of Mormon! Explain how it is part of the scriptures!

Talk about how you are excited to read The Book of Mormon with them! Show them the scripture people, and talk about how you get play with them to learn about the scriptures!

## Lesson 2

This Lesson answers the question: How did we get The Book of Mormon?

Watch the 3 minute video found on lds.org entitled “How We Got The Book of Mormon”

Turn to the beginning of The Book of Mormon to Joseph Smith’s Testimony, and talk about what it is.

Repeat the story you saw on the movie in your own words.

Emphasize the point that The Book of Mormon is a gift from Heavenly Father to help us learn!

## Lesson 3

In this lesson you will teach your child about translating.

Quickly re-tell the story you talked about in Lesson 2, explain how tonight you will talk about Joseph Smith translating The Book of Mormon.

Explain in simplest terms that translating is taken things written in one way and writing it in another way. Talk about how Joseph Smith took what was written on the gold plates, translated it, and wrote the words on another sheet of paper. Make sure to add that the Urim and Thummim helped Joseph translate what was written on the plates.

Do a translating activity! Look at the “Translation Key” and create a page for your child to translate. At first only give your child the page they need to translate, explain how this is like the gold plates (you can even write it out on yellow for a little extra fun). You can make it say something simple like “hi” or spell your child’s name, but in code. Ask them to tell them what the page says. They obviously will not be able to. Then give them the Translation Key and explain how this is like the Holy Ghost that helped Joseph Smith translate the plates. Now ask your child to translate the writing.

Make sure to give them lots of praise if they do it. And tell them they translated just like Joseph Smith did!

Lastly explain how the code on the gold plates were not numbers like this activity, but were different letters that we don’t know from another language. But it worked the same way.

## Lesson 4

This lesson talks about what a keystone is, and how The Book of Mormon is “keystone” of our religion.

Show your child the picture of the arch. Point to the keystone - the one right in the middle of the top, explain how the keystone of an arch is what holds it all together. Without it the whole thing will fall apart

Teach your child how The Book of Mormon is the keystone of our religion because it teaches us things we need to know to return to Heavenly Father someday. It can also be a keystone in the sense that if we have a testimony of The Book of Mormon we will also know that Joseph Smith was a true prophet and the church was restored on the earth again.

Emphasize how important The Book of Mormon is for many reasons, and how much we can learn from reading it together!

## Lesson 5

This lesson is about the Gold Plates.

Remind your child about the story of Joseph Smith and translating the gold plates. Explain that Heavenly Father only wanted a few people to see the gold plates. He was afraid that someone would try to steal them.

Turn to the page in The Book of Mormon where you can find “The Testimony of the Three Witnesses” and the “The Testimony of the Eight Witnesses”. Point to the names of the people, and explain that all of those people saw the plates. Even though we have never seen the gold plates ourselves, we believe they are real.

Now you get to make your own “Gold” Plates! Cut a couple of pieces of cardboard into small rectangles with a couple of holes punched on one side. Have some aluminum foil handy and a couple of rings to hold them together, and don’t forget a sharpie to write on them!

Help your child cover the cardboard with the foil. Put the rings in the holes to hold all the pieces together, and then draw some different letters on the plates. Remind your child from lesson 3, about translating, how there were different letters that we know. You can also get gold contact paper, but we just used what we had on hand!

## Lesson 6

This Lesson is about “Scripture Power”!

Listen to the song “Scripture Power” a couple times. Get to the point where you can sing the chorus with the song. Encourage your child to sing along.

Explain to your child how we need to try and read the scriptures often so we can have scripture power! Remind them that The Book of Mormon is scripture. When we read it and learn about it, we are getting Scripture Power!

## Lesson 7

This lesson just talks about how there are different books in The Book of Mormon.

Take out your reading chart and show your child how there are different books in The Book of Mormon. It is like a whole bunch of little books put together!

Turn to the page that shows all the names of the books and read them. Sing the song a couple times too!

Turn to different spots in The Book of Mormon and show how the names change at the top depending on what book we are reading. Talk about how each book has important things for us to learn and stories for us to read!

Lastly Turn to The First Book of Nephi and show them where you will start reading The Book of Mormon together next time!

# Translation Key

1 = A

2 = B

3 = C

4 = D

5 = E

6 = F

7 = G

8 = H

9 = I

10 = J

11 = K

12 = L

13 = M

14 = N

15 = O

16 = P

17 = Q

18 = R

19 = S

20 = T

21 = U

22 = V

23 = W

24 = X

25 = Y

26 = Z

3 15 18 20 14 5 25