

Episode 30

Scripture Stories

CHAPTERS 49

Mormon and His Teachings, Book of Mormon Stories

[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! Ev'ry day I need
The power that I get each time I read.

[END MUSIC]

CHILDREN: Welcome to Scripture Stories!

[BEGIN MUSIC: Scripture Power]

I'll find the sword of truth in 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,
And 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! Ev'ry 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, father, teacher or a friend help you find the story and invite them to read along with you, too.

[BEGIN MUSIC: Love One Another]

As I have loved you,
Love one another.
This new commandment:

Love one another.
By this shall men know
Ye are my disciples,
If ye have love
One to another.

As I have loved you,
Love one another.
This new commandment:
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Ye are my disciples,
If ye have love
One to another.

[END MUSIC]

HOST:

If you remember last week, we read the story Jesus Christ Blesses His Disciples and Peace in America. One day when the disciples were together fasting and praying, Jesus Christ came to them. The disciples asked Him what they should name the Church. Jesus said it should be named after Him because it was His Church. Jesus explained to His disciples that Heavenly Father had sent Him to earth to give His life for all people. He said everyone who repents, is baptized in His name, and obeys His commandments will be held guiltless before Heavenly Father. The Savior told His disciples to do the things they had seen Him do. He had set the example for them. Jesus asked His disciples what they would like from Him. Nine of them wanted to be with Him after their lives on earth had ended. Jesus promised them that when they were 72 years old, they would go to Him in heaven. The other three disciples did not dare ask for what they wanted, but Jesus knew. They wanted to stay on the earth and teach the gospel until Jesus came again. The Savior promised them that they would not suffer pain or sorrow and would not die. They would teach people the gospel until He returned. Jesus touched each disciple except the three who would stay on the earth. Then He left. The three disciples were taken to heaven, where they saw and heard many wonderful things. They were better able to understand the things of God. Their bodies were changed so they would not die. The three disciples returned to earth and began preaching and baptizing. Wicked Nephites threw the three disciples into prison and into deep pits, but God's power helped them escape. When they were pushed into furnaces and into dens with wild animals, they were also protected by the power of God. The three disciples continued to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to the Nephites. They are still preaching His gospel. After Jesus returned to heaven, His disciples set up His Church throughout the land. The people who repented of their sins were baptized and received the Holy Ghost. Soon all the Nephites and Lamanites were converted. They did not argue and everyone was honest. No one was rich or poor. The people shared everything, and they all had what they needed. The disciples performed many miracles in the name of Jesus Christ. They healed the sick and brought the dead back to life. The people built new cities where others had been destroyed. They obeyed God's commandments. They fasted and prayed and met together often to hear the word of God. The people were happy. There were no robbers, no liars, no murderers. The

people were no longer divided into Nephites and Lamanites but were all one, the children of Christ. The Lord blessed the people in everything they did. They lived in peace for 200 years. The people became very rich.

Children at home, please get ready to read along with us the story of Mormon and His Teachings in Chapter 49.

[BEGIN MUSIC: I Will Follow God's Plan]

My life is a gift; my life has a plan.
My life has a purpose; in heav'n it began.
My choice was to come to this lovely home on earth
And seek for God's light to direct me from birth.

I will follow God's plan for me,
Holding fast to His word and His love.
I will work, and I will pray;
I will always walk in His way.
Then I will be happy on earth
And in my home above.

[END MUSIC]

HOST: You are listening to Scripture Stories.

CHILD: Many years after Jesus Christ visited the Nephites, a small group of people left the Church and called themselves Lamanites.

CHILD: Eventually almost all the people became wicked, both Nephites and Lamanites.

CHILD: A righteous man, Ammaron, had the sacred records. The Holy Ghost told him to hide them so they would be safe.

CHILD: Ammaron told Mormon, a 10-year-old boy, where the records were hidden. Ammaron knew he could trust Mormon.

CHILD: When he was 24, Mormon was to get the plates of Nephi and write on them about his people.

CHILD: When Mormon was 11, a war started between the Nephites and Lamanites. The Nephites won, and there was peace again.

CHILD: But the Nephites were so wicked that the Lord took away the three disciples, which ended the miracles and healings.

CHILD: The Holy Ghost no longer guided the people.

CHILD: When Mormon was 15, Jesus Christ visited him. Mormon learned more about the Savior and His goodness.

CHILD: Mormon wanted to preach to the people, but Jesus told him not to because the people were too wicked. Their hearts were set against God.

CHILD: Soon another war began. Mormon was large and strong, and the Nephites chose him to lead their army.

CHILD: The Nephites fought the Lamanites for many years. Mormon tried to encourage his people to fight for their families and homes.

CHILD: The Nephites had become so wicked, though, that the Lord would not help them.

CHILD: Mormon told the Nephites they would be spared only if they repented and were baptized. But the people refused.

CHILD: They bragged about their strength, saying they would kill all the Lamanites.

CHILD: Because of the Nephites' wickedness, Mormon refused to lead them any longer.

CHILD: The Lamanites began defeating the Nephites in every battle. Mormon decided to lead the Nephite armies again.

CHILD: He knew the wicked Nephites would not win the war. They did not repent or pray for the help they needed.

HOST: Okay. So let's stop a moment and discuss what we've read so far. How was Mormon chosen to keep the records? Yes, Kaitlin.

KAITLIN: Mormon was chosen to get it by Ammaron who showed him where it was because he knew he could trust Mormon and showed him where the plates were.

HOST: Okay. Good. So why do you think he could trust Mormon? Yes, Tiana.

TIANA: Ammaron probably felt the Spirit of the Lord saying, "Oh, okay, Mormon is a good guy, he is one you should trust" and so then he decided, "Oh, okay, I'll trust him."

HOST: I think you're right. So he knew that Mormon was a good guy through the Spirit, right? How old was Mormon when Ammaron told him where the records were hidden? Yeah, TJ.

TJ: He was ten years old.

HOST: He was ten years old. How many of you are ten years old? Okay, so just you, TJ. Okay. So he was your age when Ammaron told him where the records were hidden. Could you imagine what a responsibility that would have been to think you are being entrusted with these records? How do you think you would feel if in a few years—the rest of you, when you're ten or TJ, like you are now—how would you feel if you were given the same responsibilities as Mormon? What do you think, TJ?

TJ: Well, I would feel kind of important that I was given that of all people.

HOST: Yeah, definitely, right? Kaitlin, what were you gonna say?

KAITLIN: I would feel really special that Ammaron trusted me and Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ trusted me to know where the plates were.

HOST: Okay, so you would feel the trust from Heavenly Father, right?

KAITLIN: Yeah.

HOST: That's excellent. Andrus, what do you think?

ANDRUS: I'd feel kind of nervous but also really special because I know where the plates were in that Ammaron trusted me.

HOST: Okay. Definitely. Thank you. Tiana.

TIANA: I would feel kind of surprised because, I mean, I would be thinking, "Why are you trusting me? I'm ten years old. Why? You know, I'm kind of immature, and you know, I'm still growing up," but then I would also feel like happy that someone could trust me at such a young age.

HOST: Exactly. I'm kind of with Andrus actually, the same thing. I would feel nervous and I would be like, "Why are you choosing me?" So let me ask all of you. How would you prepare yourself for that sort of a responsibility? Daisy.

DAISY: Well, just by like following Heavenly Father's commandments, it would make your testimony stronger and it would probably help you a lot.

HOST: Excellent. That's a great way to prepare yourself. Yes, Kaitlin.

KAITLIN: Well, maybe you could prepare yourself by writing down your testimony and then every year write it down again and see how much it improves and how much you've learned and how much more there is for you to learn still on the way, but how much you have learned and more things that you're going to learn about Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ.

HOST: That's a great thing to do. That's the wonderful thing about journals, right? It helps us to see how far we've come. You can go back and read and see how your testimony was then and how it's grown so much now. So what spiritual blessings did the Nephites give up when they became wicked? Yeah, Joseph.

JOSEPH: No gifts from the Lord whatsoever.

HOST: No gifts whatsoever. Wow, could you imagine that? That's pretty harsh. Yes, Kaitlin.

KAITLIN: Heavenly Father took away all of the apostles so there was no healing and nothing to do and the Spirit just left the city.

HOST: The Spirit just left the city. Now why do you think it's so important to live so that we can have the Spirit with us, that we can have the Holy Ghost with us? Yes, Daisy.

DAISY: Because the Holy Ghost gives us promptings to do what's right and when we're gonna do something bad to not do it.

HOST: Definitely. Thank you. Yes, Tiana.

TIANA: The Holy Ghost is also a comforter so sometimes I feel really sad and I don't, you know, I feel like no one really cares about me. But then I pray to Heavenly Father and the Holy Ghost tells me that they do care about me and so He helps me feel like I'm wanted and why I'm here on this earth.

HOST: Excellent. I'm the same way. I love feeling the Spirit to know that Heavenly Father knows who I am and that He does care about me. Yes, Andrus.

ANDRUS: It can also warn you like if something's gonna happen, it can tell you "Get out of the way" or "Move."

HOST: Excellent. Okay. So it can warn you of danger. Excellent. Yes, Kaitlin.

KAITLIN: The Holy Ghost is a Comforter that Heavenly Father gave us so He can be our companion and I think that if I got a companion from Heavenly Father, I should keep Him next to me instead of making Him leave because I'm being so wicked.

HOST: Wonderful. I think that's a good choice. Yeah. If you get the companion from Heavenly Father, you wanna keep it close to you, right? Wonderful. With so much wickedness all around him, how did Mormon learn about the Savior and His goodness? If he was surrounded by wickedness, how did he learn about the Savior? Yeah, Joseph.

JOSEPH: He was visited by Jesus Christ.

HOST: Excellent. Yes. TJ.

TJ: Ammaron probably taught him some things.

HOST: So Ammaron taught him some things. Excellent. Alright. Do we have people today that teach us things about the Savior? Yeah, Kaitlin.

KAITLIN: We have our living prophet and we have our apostles and our bishop.

HOST: Okay. Wonderful. So they're surrounding us all the time, yeah. Tiana.

TIANA: Our family can also teach us about like the gospel and everything because, you know, you see them 24/7 and so you know you're gonna learn something from them and why don't you like learn something good?

HOST: (laughing) Definitely. It's good to learn something good from your family, because you're right, you are surrounded with them all the time. And it's good to be a good influence as well on your family. Excellent. Yes, Joseph.

JOSEPH: Primary teachers, class teachers.

HOST: Excellent. That's a wonderful way for us to learn to be close to the Savior. Yeah, TJ.

TJ: Missionaries.

HOST: Missionaries. Excellent. Anybody else? There are so many people that can help us to learn about the Savior and help us to be close to Him. So after Mormon learned about the goodness of the Savior, what did he desire to do? What did he want to do? Yeah, Kaitlin.

KAITLIN: He wanted to preach to the people and teach them about Jesus Christ.

HOST: Okay. And why was he not allowed to do that? Yeah, Daisy.

DAISY: Because the people were so wicked that Heavenly Father knew they weren't gonna listen anyway.

HOST: Okay. Thank you. Yes. Joseph.

JOSEPH: Their hearts were turned against God.

HOST: Oh, their hearts were turned against God. What does that mean? Andrus.

ANDRUS: They didn't believe in God or Jesus Christ; they just were wicked all the time.

HOST: Uh-huh. Okay, so that—I think that's a pretty good definition of being turned against God, being wicked all the time. So why weren't the Nephites as successful in battle as they could have been? Yeah, Tiana.

TIANA: They had so much pride in their hearts, they thought, "Oh, I can do this," but they really couldn't.

HOST: So they, maybe they relied on their own strength.

TIANA: Yeah.

HOST: Yeah. TJ. What were you gonna say?

TJ: That they were too wicked.

HOST: They were too wicked, so that's why they didn't do well in the battle. Good answer. Yeah. Kaitlin.

KAITLIN: They needed the help from Heavenly Father but Heavenly Father didn't wanna give them help because they were being so wicked.

HOST: Okay. I think you are all right. I mean, it's definitely—if you choose to be wicked or if you have pride in your heart and you decide that "I can do it all myself," it's just like anything that we do. If you think that you can do it all yourself and decide not to invite the Lord in, then He'll let you do it all yourself but it won't be as good as if you had the help of our Heavenly Father. So what can we do to have the help of the Lord in our lives? Joseph.

JOSEPH: We can pray.

HOST: You can pray. Wonderful. Andrus.

ANDRUS: Read the scriptures and go to church.

HOST: Read the scriptures and go to church. Excellent. Kaitlin.

KAITLIN: Be baptized.

HOST: You can be baptized. Wonderful. Andrus.

ANDRUS: Take the sacrament.

HOST: You can take the sacrament. What does that do? Taking the sacrament, what does that do for you? TJ.

TJ: It renews your baptismal covenants.

HOST: Okay. Wonderful. Yes, Andrus.

ANDRUS: It's like getting baptized all over again so if you sin, if you accidentally did something wrong during the week, you could have repented and then, if you take the sacrament, it's like getting baptized all over again.

HOST: Wonderful. Isn't that a great opportunity? Every Sunday, we have that chance to do that, to be able to renew our covenants and to be clean again just like we were when we were baptized. What did Mormon tell the people they must do to be spared? Joseph.

JOSEPH: Repent.

HOST: Repent. Excellent. Tiana.

TIANA: They needed to be baptized.

HOST: Okay. So repent and be baptized. Some wonderful things to do, right? How did the people react to Mormon's warning? What did they do? Kaitlin.

KAITLIN: They were like, "Whatever. We don't have to listen. We already know we're gonna defeat them anyways" when they didn't.

HOST: Okay. So they were caught up in the pride of their hearts, right? Andrus, what were you gonna say?

ANDRUS: They were kind of like, "Well, we know what we're doing. We don't need your help."

HOST: Okay. So they didn't need the help of anybody else, mostly Heavenly Father, right? What happened to the Nephites in their battles after Mormon stopped leading them? What happened to them? Daisy.

DAISY: They lost every battle to the Lamanites.

HOST: Oh, they lost every battle to the Lamanites. Oh. Ouch. Yeah. Kaitlin.

KAITLIN: Like what Daisy said, they lost every battle because they didn't have the help. They didn't have what they needed to have. It's like going out and fighting an army without your gun.

HOST: Okay. Wonderful.

KAITLIN: You don't have the right materials.

HOST: And what were the right materials that they needed? TJ.

TJ; They needed the Holy Ghost to aid them.

HOST: Okay. They needed the Holy Ghost. Andrus. What were you gonna say?

ANDRUS: They needed the help of Jesus Christ and they needed the help of Mormon, but Mormon wouldn't lead them, only if they repented, prayed and got baptized.

HOST: Okay. So later Mormon decided to lead the armies once more. Why do you think he decided to lead them again? Yes, TJ.

TJ: They were his people and he lived among them.

HOST: Okay. So he felt connected to them maybe. Tiana.

TIANA: He kind of felt bad for them because, you know, if you see all your friends dying out there, I would wanna help my friends and so maybe he was thinking, "Oh, well, okay, I guess they do need my help. I'll go help them."

HOST: Yeah, and I think he generally cared about them, right? It's just like if you see your family—members of your family—making poor choices, they are still your family. So you'd wanna help them out. Andrus.

ANDRUS: Probably because they were probably having battles over cities and they were losing pretty much all the Nephite cities and so Mormon would go in to help and so they could at least have one or two cities left.

HOST: Excellent. Yes, Joseph.

JOSEPH: He couldn't stand to see them suffer.

HOST: Okay. He couldn't stand to see them suffer. Why do you think that is?

JOSEPH: Because they're still children of God.

HOST: Definitely. They are still children of God, even if they're making poor choices. They still are children of God. Thank you for all of your answers. Those are wonderful.

[BEGIN MUSIC: Dare to Do Right]

Dare to do right! Dare to be true!
You have a work that no other can do;
Do it so bravely, so kindly, so well,
Angels will hasten the story to tell.

Dare, dare, dare to do right;
Dare, dare, dare to be true,
Dare to be true, dare to be true.

Dare to do right! Dare to be true!
Other men's failures can never save you.
Stand by your conscience, your honor, your faith;
Stand like a hero and battle till death.

Dare, dare, dare to do right;
Dare, dare, dare to be true,
Dare to be true, dare to be true.

[END MUSIC]

HOST: Let's continue reading the story of Mormon.

CHILD: Mormon took all the records from the hill where Ammaron had hidden them and wrote to the people who would one day read the record.

CHILD: He wanted everyone, including the Jews, to know about Jesus Christ, to repent and be baptized, and to live the gospel and be blessed.

CHILD: The Spirit inspired Mormon to put the small plates of Nephi, which contained the prophecies of Christ's coming, with the plates of Mormon.

CHILD: Mormon led the Nephites to the land of Cumorah, where they got ready to fight the Lamanites again.

CHILD: Mormon was getting old. He knew this would be the last battle. He did not want the Lamanites to find the sacred records and destroy them.

CHILD: So he gave the plates of Mormon to his son, Moroni, and hid the rest of the plates in the Hill Cumorah.

CHILD: The Lamanites attacked and killed all but 24 Nephites. Mormon had been wounded.

CHILD: Mormon was sad that so many Nephites had died, but he knew they had died because they had rejected Jesus.

CHILD: Mormon had tried to teach the Nephites the truth. He had told them how important it was to have faith in Jesus Christ.

CHILD: He had tried to teach them to have hope through Jesus Christ's Atonement and to have charity, which is the pure love of Christ.

CHILD: And Mormon had written letters to his son, Moroni, who had also taught the gospel to the Nephites.

CHILD: Mormon wrote about the terrible wickedness of the Nephites. He told Moroni to stay faithful in Jesus Christ.

HOST: Okay. So the Lamanites killed Mormon and all the Nephites except for who? Yes, Daisy.

DAISY: Moroni.

HOST: Moroni. Okay. And what did Moroni do?

DAISY: He finished writing the records.

HOST: Excellent. Who was Mormon writing to when he wrote on the gold plates? Tiana.

TIANA: Us.

HOST: He was writing to us. How did he know about us, way back then? Yes, Andrus.

ANDRUS: Because Jesus Christ and Heavenly Father and probably the Spirit told him.

HOST: Definitely. I know that to be true as well. Yes, Kaitlin.

KAITLIN: I think the Spirit told him that there's gonna be people living years and hundreds and hundreds of years after him that will read these plates and will know that what's written on here is true so he knew to write it to us and not to like a plant.

HOST: (Laughing) Okay. Wonderful. Yes, it was better suited to us than a plant, right?
(Laughing) Okay. So what did Mormon want for everyone who read the plates? What did he want for them? Yes, Joseph.

JOSEPH: He wanted us to be happy and joyful and have charity.

HOST: Excellent. Yes, Tiana.

TIANA: He wanted us to believe in it, like believe in the scriptures and like the plates where he wrote.

HOST: Excellent. Yes. TJ.

TJ: He wanted us to be baptized and to repent.

HOST: Okay. So just what he wanted for his people as well. Yes, Andrus.

ANDRUS: He wanted us to believe in Jesus Christ and Heavenly Father and the Holy Ghost and the Spirit and all They do for us.

HOST: Wonderful. How does it feel to you to read something that was written so long ago? Yes, Kaitlin.

KAITLIN: It makes me feel special to see that they wrote this and I'm able to read it without like going back in time.

HOST: Okay. Great. So it kinda gives you that history, gives you that background. Yes, TJ.

TJ: Well, it makes me feel like the book, if it was written like 1,000 years ago but brand new from the store. It makes you feel like this brand new book is really old.

HOST: Excellent. Okay. Daisy, let me ask you that. How do you feel when you read something that's written so long ago?

DAISY: Well, it's like I know that since it was preserved for that long that it must be true because Heavenly Father put the effort to make sure that it survived all those years.

HOST: Wonderful. He really did put a lot of effort into that, right? So what did Mormon do with the plates before the last battle in which he would die? What did he do with them to preserve them? Yes, Joseph.

JOSEPH: He gave some to Moroni and buried the rest in the Hill Cumorah.

HOST: Okay. Yes, he did. And why did all the Nephites die? Yes, Kaitlin.

KAITLIN: Because they were wicked.

HOST: Okay. Because they were wicked. Can you be a little more specific? Yes, TJ.

TJ: They died in battle.

HOST: They died in battle. Okay. Yes, Tiana.

TIANA: They didn't believe anything that Moroni or Mormon told them so they just died.

HOST: Okay. Yes, Kaitlin.

KAITLIN: Their hearts were set against God.

HOST: Their hearts were set against God. What are some of the things Mormon taught the Nephites about Christ? Kaitlin.

KAITLIN: Mormon, he taught that He would come and He'd love everyone and He'd be perfect and that He'd suffer for our sins and die for us.

HOST: Yes, so he taught them about Jesus Christ. Yes, Andrus.

ANDRUS: He taught them to have charity and love in Christ.

HOST: Okay. Love in Christ. Is that what charity is? Can somebody describe charity to me? Yes, Tiana.

CHARITY: Charity is the pure love of Christ.

HOST: The pure love of Christ, which is pretty amazing, isn't it? Daisy, what do you think charity is?

DAISY: It's like when you give something of yourself like work or something of yours to help someone out.

HOST: Okay. So you're caring for other people, right? Joseph, what does charity mean to you?

JOSEPH: Happiness.

HOST: Happiness. Excellent. Wonderful. Andrus, what does charity mean to you?

ANDRUS: Love in Christ and knowing that He lives.

HOST: Wonderful. Who was the last and only Nephite to survive? Who knows? Daisy.

DAISY: Was it Moroni, his son?

HOST: That's right. What did he do with the plates after he was done? Yes, Kaitlin.

KAITLIN: Buried them in the Hill Cumorah and Joseph Smith found them.

HOST: Just like you said. It took a lot of effort or a lot of planning, I would have to say, to make sure that we have these scriptures today, that we have these records. It is so important that we always have the Holy Ghost to guide us and that we have these scriptures to read and to guide us as well, and I know that if we do our best to follow Jesus Christ and repent when we do wrong, I know that the Holy Ghost will be with us and that Heavenly Father will bless and strengthen us in all that we do.

We have learned so much today. I hope we'll all thank Heavenly Father in our prayers for all He taught us and I hope we'll keep talking about the things we've learned with our families and other people we love. Next week, join us as we read Chapter 50: The Jaredites Leave Babel, and Chapter 51: The Jaredites Travel to the Promised Land. If you'd like to listen to this program again, a grownup 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're ready. If you'd like your own copies of the scripture stories as books or DVDs, you can find them at scripturestories.lds.org or a grownup can buy them at your local Church distribution center.

[BEGIN MUSIC]

CHILDREN: See you next week.

[END MUSIC]