

Blessings that Jesus Christ has Restored to His Church in the Latter-Days:

The Priesthood and the Book of Mormon

Materials/Preparation Needed: (Note: GAB stands for "Gospel Art Book")

- If needed, visuals for song: "The Priesthood is Restored" (I used http://www.sugardoodle.net/joomla/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7689)
- Invite 2 guest speakers (Aaronic & Melchizedek Priesthood holders) to speak about how the Priesthood was restored and blessings from these Priesthoods
- Picture of "The Restoration of the Aaronic Priesthood" (pg 93 GAB)
- Picture of "The Restoration of the Melchizedek Priesthood" (pg 94 GAB)
- Keys with Priesthood blessings on them (keys found at perglersprimaryplace.blogspot.com) (hide keys under chairs before lesson)
- Hebrew sign that says: "Joseph Smith translated the Book of Mormon by the power of God." (see attachment)
- Picture of "Moroni Abridging the Plates" (pg 73 GAB)
- Picture of "Moroni Burying the Plates" (pg 86 GAB)
- English Book of Mormon and Book of Mormon in another language
- Picture of "Joseph Smith Translating the Book of Mormon" (pg 92 GAB)

Rest Song (before lesson): "The Priesthood is Restored" (Children's Songbook, pg 89)

I. PRIESTHOOD

Today we are going to talk about 2 blessings that Jesus Christ has restored to His Church in these Latter-Days. The first blessing we are going to talk about is the Priesthood.

?What is the Priesthood? (it is the power of God to act in His name).

We have 2 Priesthoods and they both do different things. What are the 2 Priesthoods called? (Aaronic & Melchizedek)

When Jesus Christ was on the earth, so was the Priesthood. But after a time, the Priesthood was taken from the earth. So how did we get the Priesthood back?

Guest Speakers: I have invited 2 people that know a lot about the Priesthood to come and speak with us today. Brayden holds the Aaronic Priesthood and his dad holds the Melchizedek Priesthood. They are going to share with us how both the Aaronic Priesthood and the Melchizedek Priesthood were restored to the earth in our day and blessings that we receive from these Priesthoods. (Have them show pg 93 and 94 of GAB while sharing: "The Restoration of the Aaronic Priesthood" and "The Restoration of the Melchizedek Priesthood")

Activity: (Before lesson, hide keys of the Priesthood under chairs). Have the children look under their chairs to find a blessing that comes from having the Priesthood in our lives. Have the children come up and read the keys to the group. (For the Senior Primary, have the 2 Priesthood holders stand apart and have the child stand next to the Priesthood holder that their blessing matches (e.g. Aaronic or Melchizedek Priesthood)).

II. THE BOOK OF MORMON

Another blessing we have received from Jesus Christ through the Restoration of His church in these latter-days is the Book of Mormon.

*Show a sign that says in Hebrew—"Joseph Smith translated the Book of Mormon by the power of God." (Hebrew is read backwards as compared to English; see document for translation)

?Can someone read this for us?

(Show pg 73 GAB: "Moroni Abridging the Plates") The Prophets in the Book of Mormon, like Nephi, Mormon, and Moroni, wrote their words in Reformed Egyptian.

(Show pg 86 GAB: "Moroni Burying the Plates") Moroni buried the words that were written on these golden plates a long time ago. Then he appeared to Joseph Smith to tell him where they were buried. Joseph Smith then had the job of translating them from Reformed Egyptian to English. And Reformed Egyptian was not a language he knew, nor did anyone else.

*Show a Book of Mormon in English and a Book of Mormon in another language—Did you know that it takes many people and computers and lots of other resources 4 years to translate the Book of Mormon into another language? We had a hard time translating this sign with one sentence on it. How would you like to translate a whole book like that with over 500 pages? It would be pretty hard.

But guess what? How long do you think it took Joseph Smith to translate the Book of Mormon? (around 65 working days (2 months) and he didn't have all the schooling or technology we have today. He probably only had 3 years of school...around a 2nd grade level of education. Many of you are past the 2nd grade...do you think you could have written a book like the Book of Mormon?)

So how did Joseph Smith translate the Book of Mormon?

(Show pg 92 GAB: "Joseph Smith Translating the Book of Mormon") Oliver Cowdery wrote for Joseph Smith as he translated the Book of Mormon and do you know what he said about how Joseph Smith translated the Book of Mormon? He said, "the Prophet Joseph Smith ... translated [the Book of Mormon] by the gift and power of God."

Did you know that Joseph Smith learned about the Priesthood by translating the Book of Mormon? As Joseph Smith translated the Book of Mormon, he learned about how Jesus Christ came to the American

continent and learned about baptism. He and Oliver Cowdery wanted to know how they too could be baptized. That's when they prayed and John the Baptist appeared to them and restored the Aaronic Priesthood (May 15th, 1829). It was the first time in centuries that the Priesthood had been on the earth. On another day, the Melchizedek Priesthood was restored by Peter, James, & John.

Testimony: I know that Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ love us so much. One way I know that they love us is because they gave us the Priesthood and Book of Mormon to bless our lives. I know this is the only true and living church upon the face of the whole earth. The Priesthood and the Book of Mormon set us apart from any other church. These gifts, the Priesthood and the Book of Mormon, could only have been given to us by the power of God. Heavenly Father and the Savior chose Joseph Smith to be the prophet of the Restoration and to bring the Priesthood back and the Book of Mormon into our lives. These are both such precious gifts that our Father in Heaven and Brother, Jesus Christ, have given us to be happy and to help us find our way back to Them, to one day enjoy Eternal Life with Them.