



CHAPTER 6

Joseph and Oliver Are Given the Priesthood

May 1829



Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery were translating the Book of Mormon. They read about baptism and wanted to know more about it.

Joseph Smith—History 1:68



Joseph and Oliver decided to ask God. They had faith that He would help them learn the truth. On 15 May 1829, they went into the woods and prayed.

Joseph Smith—History 1:68



A heavenly messenger came to Joseph and Oliver. It was John the Baptist, who had baptized Jesus long ago. A bright light was all around him.

Joseph Smith—History 1:68, 72



John the Baptist had come to give Joseph and Oliver the Aaronic Priesthood. The priesthood is the power of God.

The Aaronic Priesthood includes the authority to baptize people.

Doctrine and Covenants 13; Joseph Smith—History 1:68–69



John the Baptist told Joseph and Oliver to baptize each other. Joseph baptized Oliver, and then Oliver baptized Joseph. They went down under the water when they were baptized.

Joseph Smith—History 1:70–71



Long ago, John the Baptist had baptized Jesus the same way. Jesus had gone down under the water when He was baptized.

Matthew 3:16



Joseph and Oliver were filled with the Holy Ghost after they were baptized. The Holy Ghost told them the true Church of Jesus Christ would soon be on the earth again.

Joseph Smith—History 1:73



Joseph and Oliver told their good friends they had been baptized. They also told them about the priesthood. But Joseph and Oliver did not tell other people right away. They knew that some people would not believe them and would make trouble for them.

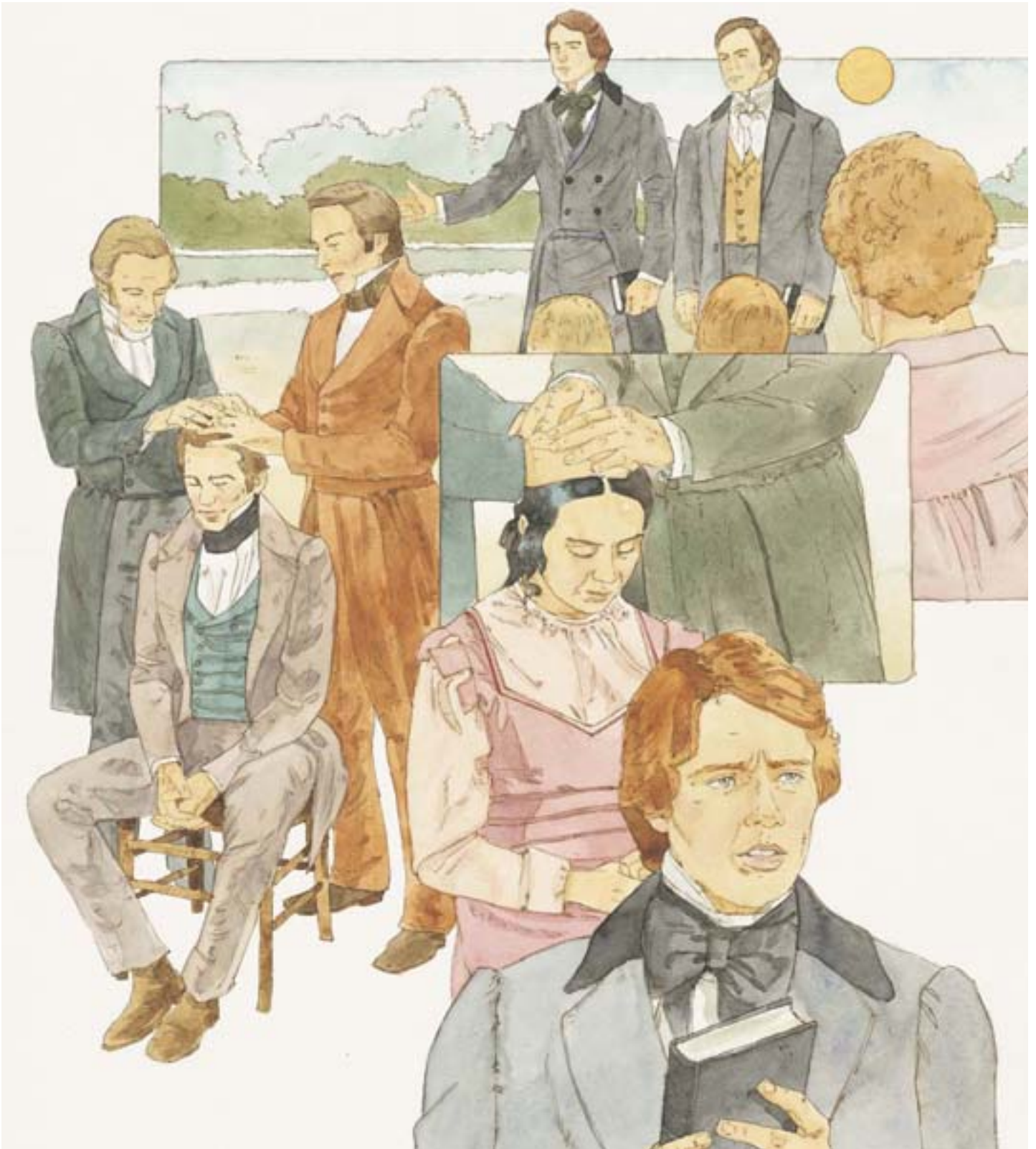
Joseph Smith—History 1:74–75



Later, three other heavenly messengers came. They were Peter, James, and John, who were three of Jesus' original Apostles. Peter, James, and John gave Joseph Smith and

Oliver Cowdery the Melchizedek Priesthood. This is also called the "greater" priesthood.

Doctrine and Covenants 27:12; 84:19



Once the priesthood was restored, righteous men could be given authority to help do God's work on earth. Men who have the Melchizedek Priesthood can be

Church leaders. They can give blessings to people. They can also give people the gift of the Holy Ghost. The restoration of the priesthood is a great blessing.