

Jacob's

Baptism

By Angela Westover Hunter

(Based on a true story)

"He that is baptized in my name, to him will the Father give the Holy Ghost" (2 Nephi 31:12).

"OK, Mom, I'm ready to go to my interview," Jacob said, walking out of his room. He wore his church shirt, nice pants, and his tie knotted backward.

"Did you do your tie by yourself?" Mom asked.

"Yeah, I found the instructions in the back of my Cub Scout book. But it doesn't look quite right."

Mom knelt down and helped Jacob turn his tie around, then gave him a hug.

"Mom, why do I need an interview before I get baptized?" Jacob asked as they drove to the church.

"Well, part of the bishop's job is to make sure you're getting baptized for the right reasons, not just because you turn eight or your friends are getting baptized."

When they got to the church, Jacob jumped out of the car, ran inside, and sat down to wait in the foyer. In a few minutes Bishop Simmons came out of his office.

"Hey, Jacob. Looks like it's your turn." Bishop Simmons shook Jacob's hand and led him into the office. "Nice tie."

Jacob smiled and sat down across from the bishop.

"So, Jacob, you're getting ready to be baptized."

"Yup! I can't wait."

Bishop Simmons grinned. "Glad to hear it. It's an important step to get back to Heavenly Father. So let's talk about why you want to become a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints."

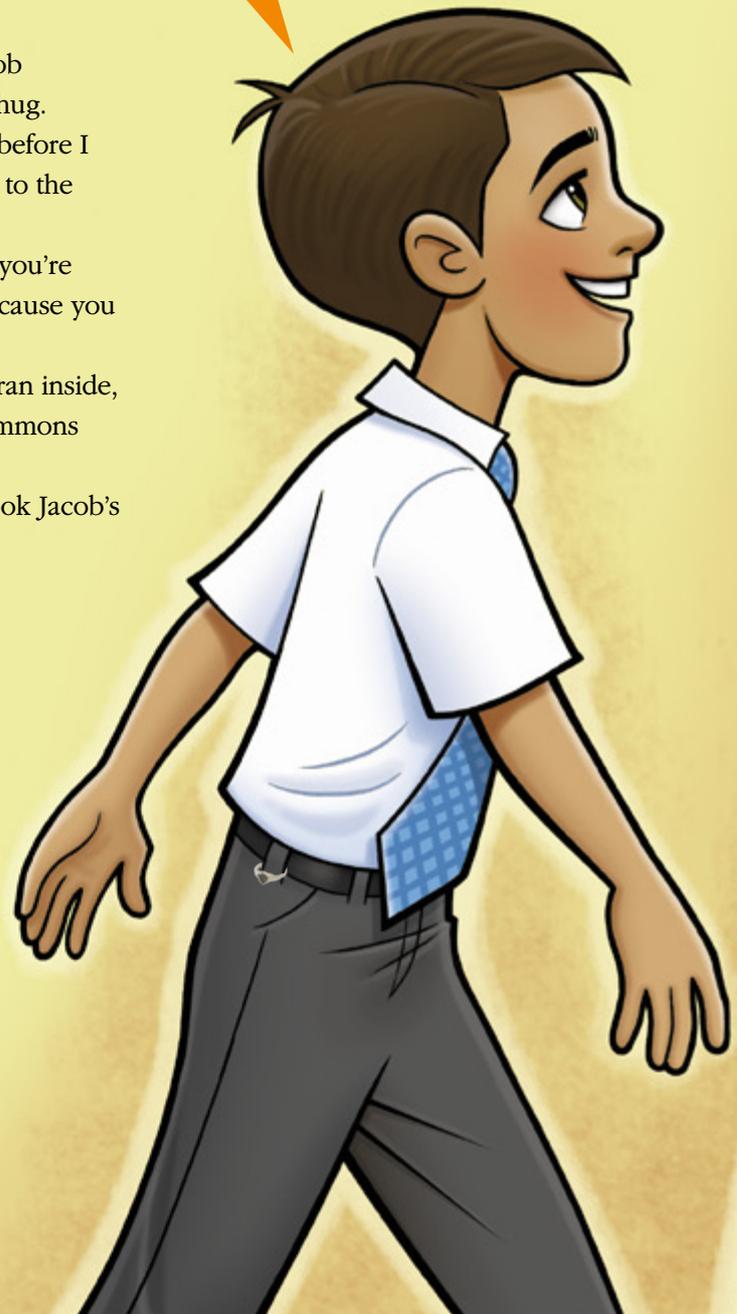
"Well, I like that we have a living prophet and the Book of Mormon," Jacob answered. "We talked about it at home, and I prayed about it too."

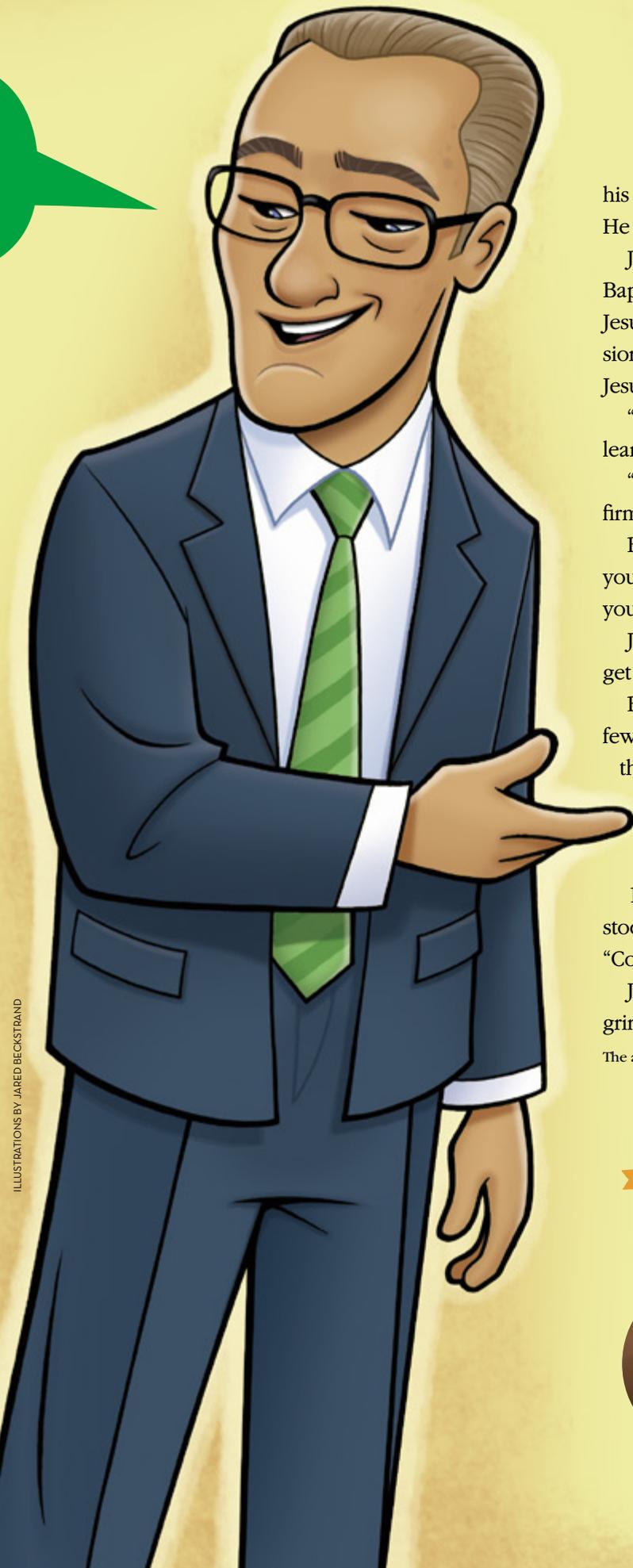
"How did you feel when you prayed about it?"

Jacob twisted his tie around his finger. "It felt right. I want to get baptized like Jesus."

Bishop Simmons pointed at the picture of Jesus on

Interview





his wall. “Jesus is our very best example. Tell me about when He was baptized.”

Jacob’s feet swung as he talked. “Jesus asked John the Baptist to baptize Him. They went to the River Jordan, and Jesus went all the way under the water. That’s called immersion. Jesus made Heavenly Father happy, and I want to be like Jesus.”

“I can tell you’ve been learning a lot about this. Have you learned what happens when you’re baptized?”

“Yup. I’ll be a member of the Church. And when I’m confirmed, I’ll get the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

Bishop Simmons nodded. “The Holy Ghost will help you your whole life. And whenever you do something wrong, you can repent and the Holy Ghost can help you do better.”

Jacob smiled. “Mom says the Holy Ghost is the best gift I’ll get this year.”

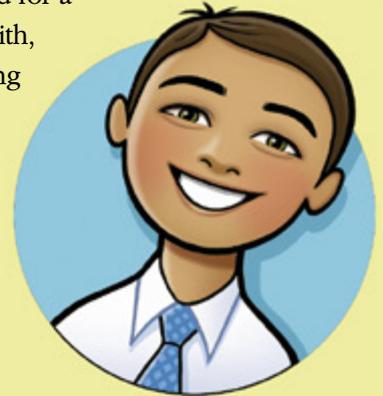
Bishop Simmons and Jacob talked for a few more minutes about Joseph Smith, the Book of Mormon, and choosing the right.

“Jacob, I think you’re ready to be baptized,”

Bishop Simmons said as he stood up and shook Jacob’s hand. “Congratulations.”

Jacob ran out of the office grinning. “Mom, I’m ready!” ♦

The author lives in Utah, USA.



➡ **We can be baptized because the priesthood was restored! Turn to page 44 to learn more.** ⬅



“We covenant to take Christ’s name upon us . . . and serve Him to the end.”

Sister Carole M. Stephens,
First Counselor in the Relief Society
General Presidency

“*Ensign*, Nov. 2013, 12.