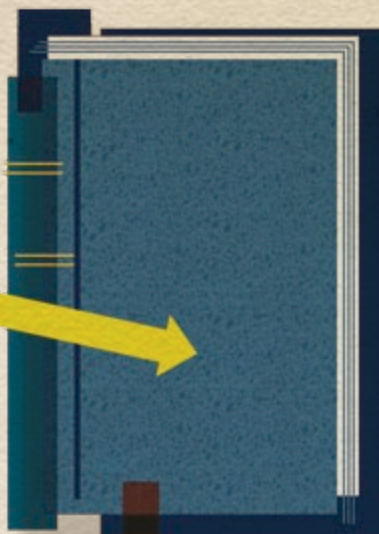




Holy Bible



Book of Mormon



WHY WE NEED THE

BOOK OF MORMON

Some people may ask you why we need the Book of Mormon when we already have the Bible. In fact, Jesus Christ testified that this would happen (see 2 Nephi 29:3). There are many reasons why the Book of Mormon is important in our day (for example, see 2 Nephi 29:7–11). Here are just a few reasons why it's essential.

Another Witness of Jesus Christ

The scriptures show us a pattern of using multiple witnesses to establish truth in Christ's Church. The Book of Mormon adds a second witness to the Bible as a testimony of Christ. Elder Mark E. Petersen (1900–84) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles



TWO WITNESSES

"The Bible is one witness of Jesus Christ; the Book of Mormon is another. Why is this second witness so crucial? The following illustration may help: How many straight lines can you draw through a single point on a piece of paper? The answer is infinite. For a moment, suppose that single point represents the Bible and that hundreds of those straight lines drawn through that point represent different interpretations of the Bible and that each of those interpretations represents a different church.

"What happens, however, if on that piece of paper there is a second point representing the Book of Mormon? How many straight lines could you draw between these two reference points: the Bible and the Book of Mormon? Only one. Only one interpretation of Christ's doctrines survives the testimony of these two witnesses.

"Again and again the Book of Mormon acts as a confirming, clarifying, unifying witness of the doctrines taught in the Bible."

Elder Tad R. Callister of the Presidency of the Seventy, "The Book of Mormon—a Book from God," *Ensign*, Nov. 2011, 75.

once said, “The chief reason we have the Book of Mormon is that in the mouth of two or three witnesses shall all things be established. (See 2 Cor. 13:1.) We have the Bible; we also have the Book of Mormon. They constitute two voices—two volumes of scripture—from two widely separated ancient peoples, both bearing testimony to the divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ.”¹ President Ezra Taft Benson (1899–1994) has added, “We must not forget that the Lord Himself provided the Book of Mormon as His chief witness.”²

The Fulness of the Gospel

We know that “plain and precious things . . . have been taken away from” the Bible throughout time (1 Nephi 13:40). The Book of Mormon clarifies Christ’s doctrine and brings the fulness of the gospel to the earth once again (see 1 Nephi 13:38–41). For example, the Book of Mormon helps us know that baptism must be performed by immersion (see 3 Nephi 11:26) and that little children do not need to be baptized (see Moroni 8:4–26).

Central to the Restored Church

Joseph Smith testified that the Book of Mormon is “the keystone of our religion.”³ Since we know this, it does not seem a coincidence that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was organized on April 6,

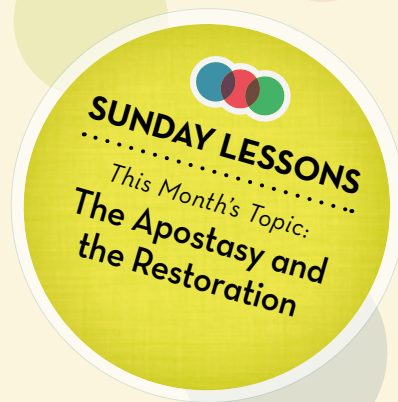
1830, just 11 days after the Book of Mormon was first available for public sale on March 26, 1830. The Church was not organized until its keystone scripture was available for its members.

A Blessing in Our Lives

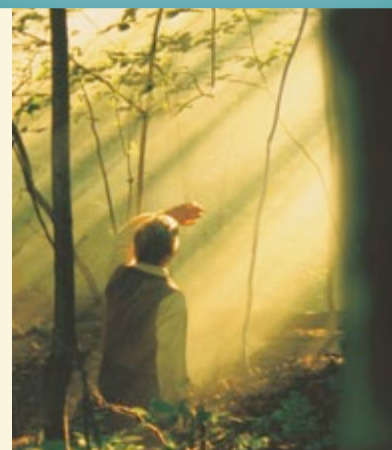
Regarding the Book of Mormon, Joseph Smith taught that “a man would get nearer to God by abiding by its precepts, than by any other book.”⁴ It has the power to change lives—including yours and those you share the Book of Mormon with. President Henry B. Eyring, First Counselor in the First Presidency, has testified, “The effect of the Book of Mormon on your character, power, and courage to be a witness for God is certain. The doctrine and the valiant examples in that book will lift, guide, and embolden you. . . . Prayerful study of the Book of Mormon will build faith in God the Father, in His Beloved Son, and in His gospel. It will build your faith in God’s prophets, ancient and modern. . . . It can draw you closer to God than any other book. It can change a life for the better.”⁵ **NE**

NOTES

1. Mark E. Petersen, “Evidence of Things Not Seen,” *Ensign*, May 1978, 63.
2. *The Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson* (1988), 204.
3. Joseph Smith, in the introduction to the Book of Mormon.
4. Joseph Smith, in the introduction to the Book of Mormon.
5. Henry B. Eyring, “A Witness,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2011, 69–70.



JOIN THE CONVERSATION



Throughout April, you’ll be studying about the Apostasy and the Restoration in your priesthood quorums and Young Women and Sunday School classes. The coming forth of the Book of Mormon was an important part of the Restoration. After reading this article, think about how your life is different because you have the Book of Mormon. You could write down your feelings in your journal. Consider sharing them with others by testifying at home, at church, on social media, or online at lds.org/go/43D.