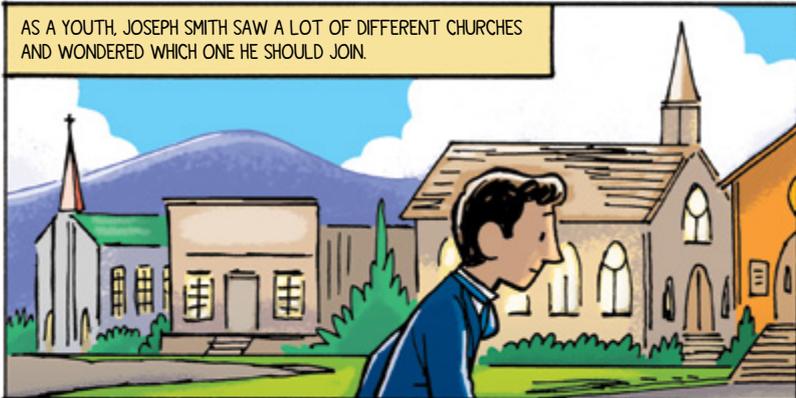


Joseph's

SEARCH FOR TRUTH

Written by
Eric Murdock
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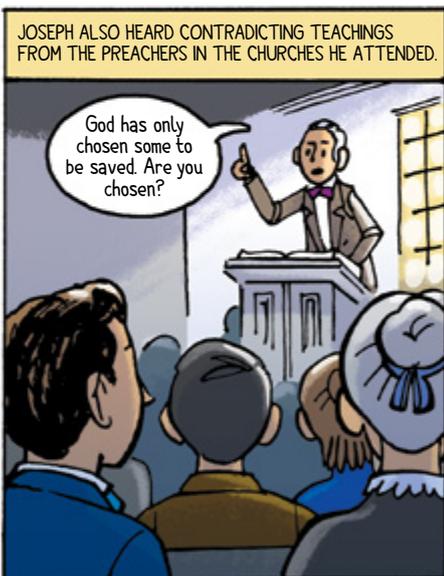
AS A YOUTH, JOSEPH SMITH SAW A LOT OF DIFFERENT CHURCHES AND WONDERED WHICH ONE HE SHOULD JOIN.



JOSEPH HEARD MANY PEOPLE ARGUE OVER RELIGION.

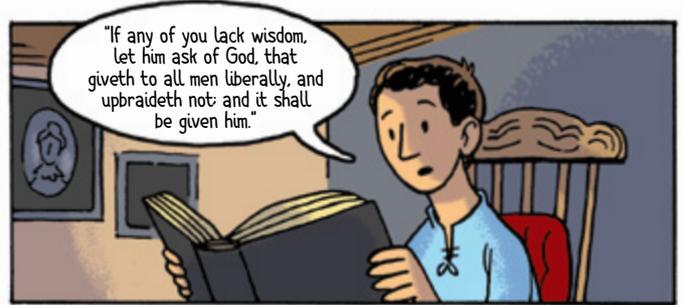
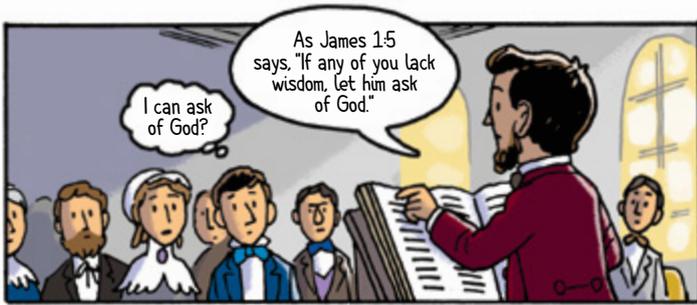


JOSEPH ALSO HEARD CONTRADICTING TEACHINGS FROM THE PREACHERS IN THE CHURCHES HE ATTENDED.



JOSEPH WORRIED ABOUT THE SALVATION OF HIS SOUL BUT WAS CONFUSED BY ALL THE DIFFERING RELIGIOUS OPINIONS.





EARLY ONE MORNING IN THE SPRING OF 1820, JOSEPH SET OUT FOR THE WOODS NEAR HIS HOME TO PRAY.



SUDDENLY, JOSEPH WAS SURROUNDED BY DARKNESS. HE WAS AFRAID HE WOULD BE DESTROYED, BUT HE CALLED OUT TO GOD.



AT THAT MOMENT, A PILLAR OF LIGHT APPEARED OVER HIS HEAD AND THE DARKNESS VANISHED.



IN THE LIGHT, JOSEPH SAW TWO BEINGS BRIGHTER AND MORE GLORIOUS THAN ANYTHING HE HAD EVER SEEN. ONE SPOKE TO HIM.



JOSEPH SAW HEAVENLY FATHER AND JESUS CHRIST. THEY TOLD HIM HE SHOULDN'T JOIN ANY CHURCH. THE SAVIOR PROMISED JOSEPH THAT THE FULNESS OF HIS GOSPEL WOULD BE REVEALED IN THE FUTURE AND TOLD HIM HE WAS FORGIVEN OF HIS SINS.



"If Joseph Smith's transcendent experience in the Sacred Grove teaches us anything, it is that the heavens are open and that God speaks to His children."

President Russell M. Nelson, "Revelation for the Church, Revelation for Our Lives," Apr. 2018 general conference (*Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2018, 95).