

Episode 13: The Joseph Smith Story

Joseph Smith—History 1:15–17; Moroni 10:4–5

Name: _____

Principle: God answers sincere questions. Joseph asked, acted, and pressed through opposition; you can ask Him too.

Read Joseph Smith—History 1:15–17; Moroni 10:4–5

Joseph Smith—History 1:15–17 ¹⁵After I had retired to the place where I had previously designed to go, having looked around me, and finding myself alone, I kneeled down and began to offer up the desires of my heart to God. I had scarcely done so, when immediately I was seized upon by some power which entirely overcame me, and had such an astonishing influence over me as to bind my tongue so that I could not speak. Thick darkness gathered around me, and it seemed to me for a time as if I were doomed to sudden destruction. ¹⁶But, exerting all my powers to call upon God to deliver me out of the power of this enemy which had seized upon me, and at the very moment when I was ready to sink into despair and abandon myself to destruction—not to an imaginary ruin, but to the power of some actual being from the unseen world, who had such marvelous power as I had never before felt in any being—just at this moment of great alarm, I saw a pillar of light exactly over my head, above the brightness of the sun, which descended gradually until it fell upon me. ¹⁷It no sooner appeared than I found myself delivered from the enemy which held me bound. When the light rested upon me I saw two Personages, whose brightness and glory defy all description, standing above me in the air. One of them spake unto me, calling me by name and said, pointing to the other—This is My Beloved Son. Hear Him!

Moroni 10:4–5 ⁴And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost. ⁵And by the power of the Holy Ghost ye may know the truth of all things.

Discuss & reflect

1. Joseph faced real opposition right before the vision (JS—H 1:15–16). Why do you think opposition often comes right before light?
2. It was the first time Joseph had tried to pray out loud (JS—H 1:14). What question would you take to God right now?
3. Moroni 10:4 asks for “a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ.” What does praying with real intent mean to you?
4. Heavenly Father introduced His Son and said, “Hear Him!” How do you hear Him in your life right now?

What I learned

One thing I'll do this week:

Cross-reference

James 1:5 “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.”

Doctrine and Covenants 8:2 “Yea, behold, I will tell you in your mind and in your heart, by the Holy Ghost, which shall come upon you and which shall dwell in your heart.”

✍ Mark it

Mark Moroni 10:4–5. Write today's date and one question you will ask Heavenly Father this week.

Sketch notes

 doodle, map, or diagram

Family discussion

Share an experience when you felt Heavenly Father answer a prayer.

✂ cut out • keep in your scriptures as a bookmark

MEMORY VERSE

“And by the power of the Holy Ghost ye may know the truth of all things.”

Moroni 10:5