

1. Watch chapter 12 from the Animated Complete Learning System, *The Joseph Smith Story* DVD.
(Also available for viewing online.)

2. Can you gain a testimony of the truthfulness of the gospel of Jesus Christ without having a testimony of the prophet Joseph Smith?

President Gordon B. Hinckley said: “An acquaintance said to me one day: ‘I admire your church very much. I think I could accept everything about it—except Joseph Smith.’ To which I responded: ‘That statement is a contradiction. If you accept the revelation, you must accept the revelator.’” Liahona, June 1995, © 2006 Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.

3. Gaining a testimony of the prophet Joseph Smith takes desire, work, faith and prayer.

When Joseph Smith was a boy, he had a desire to know which church was true. After studying the various religions, reading the scriptures, and praying with faith he received an answer. What a blessing it is that Joseph Smith prayed to Heavenly Father. Through study and prayer we can gain a testimony from Heavenly Father that Joseph Smith was a prophet.

4. Lucy Mack Smith, Joseph’s mother, knew the truth through revelation from the Holy Ghost:

“When I heard this experience from my son’s trembling lips, knowing he wasn’t one for wild imaginations, and also knowing him to be true of character, I searched his face, his eyes, and studied his countenance. There was no doubt that this incredible tale was the truth... My boy was the instrument through whom the Lord had chosen to bring His message... We now knew without doubt that God lived and He was personally involved in our lives and He was going to see that the truth was brought back to the earth!” History of Joseph Smith, by His Mother, Lucy Mack Smith, ed. Preston Nibley, Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1979.

5. How can you know, as Lucy Mack Smith did, that Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, appeared to Joseph Smith?

This is the blessing that is given to all of us. “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” (Moroni 10:4). Moroni was talking about the Book of Mormon, but receiving revelation from the Holy Ghost works for all truth.

6. What are some of the things we can do and learn to gain our own testimony of the prophet Joseph Smith?

(See activity for ideas)

7. End with your testimony of the prophet Joseph Smith.