

## Increasing Comprehension and Retention

The first step to successful scripture study is making the *time*. Once the time has been scheduled and the habit established, it is important to make sure learning and understanding are happening in our families. This can be achieved through many different means.

For younger children (and older children as well) storytelling is helpful. Allow them to retell or add to the story. It will help them remember the story better and understand what they just read. Pictures relating to the story or videos from the LDS video library can also help them understand the scriptures better.

Younger children enjoy acting out the stories. It may take several days to make it all the way through a scripture story, on the last day plan to let them dress up and act out what they have read over the previous days.

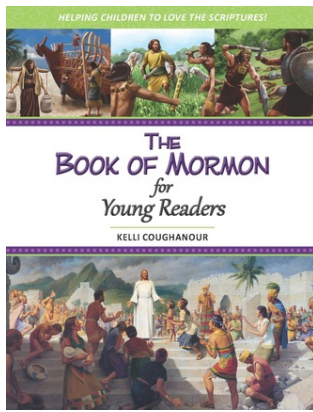
Ask your children, and especially teens, questions about what they just read. What did they like, what did they learn, what struck them? Establish the habit that everyone shares something they liked or learned from the verses read that day. Here are some questions you could regularly ask: Why did Heavenly Father include that scripture or story in the Book of Mormon? What would you do in that situation? How did it make you feel? How can we be more like...? If they know they will be answering a question or responding to the scriptures read they will pay closer attention and internalize the reading more than if they are just reading to read.

As children get older give them a colored pencil to mark their scriptures or if they use electronic devices make sure they know how to use the marking and note taking functions on the app. Encourage them to mark or write at least one comment during the family scripture study. To really have meaningful scripture time you have to really focus and think deeply about what you are reading. In these moments Heavenly Father has the opportunity to teach and direct us. The Holy Ghost will begin to guide them and they will feel the Spirit.

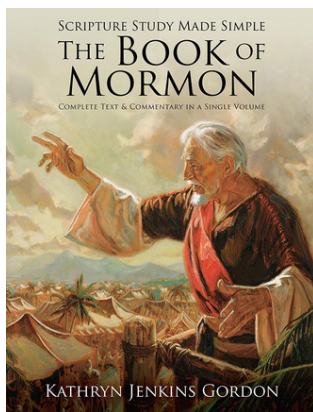
Reinforce and help them remember the stories they are studying by playing “Who AM I”. This can be done in the car, during bath time, or getting ready for church on Sunday mornings. Describe a person or quote something they said from the scriptures and let them figure out who it is. The person to guess correctly gets to describe the next person.

If you think of a personal experience during the scripture reading stop and share it. They will learn to start applying the scriptures to their life. Don't be so focused on getting a certain number of verses or chapters read during your time that you miss feeling the spirit and real teaching opportunities.

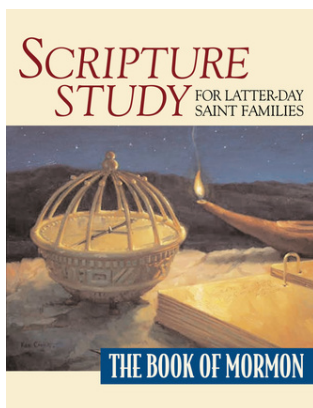
There are dozens of other ideas. Talk with friends and family and find out what they are doing that works. In addition to these ideas there are many great books that can help with understanding the scriptures. Below are some that you may want to check out. There are many options so research and find one that you like and will work for your family.



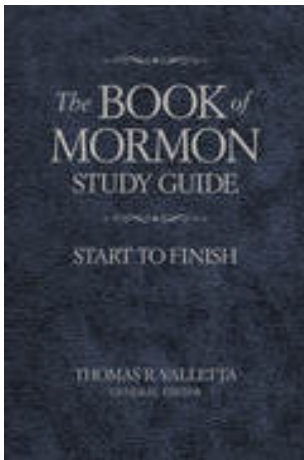
This book is for young readers between the ages of 7-12. It has many but not all of the verses from the Book of Mormon and contains 52 chapters, one for each week of the year. It uses key stories from the Book of Mormon as well as timelines, maps, and explanation of difficult words.



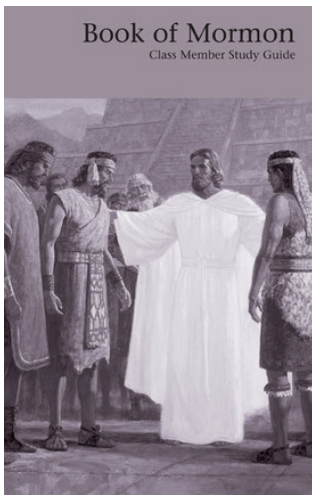
This book uses a similar format, but it geared to older readers. It includes the full Book of Mormon text with additional commentary to help deepen understanding.



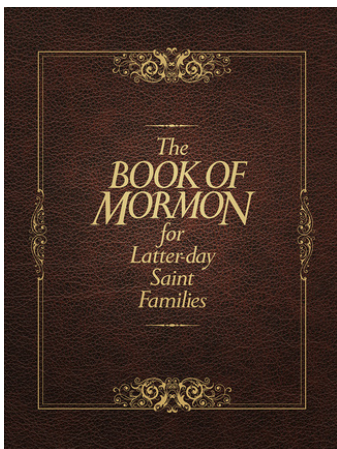
This family scripture study guide helps parents prepare lessons to go along with their scripture reading. It uses activities, stories, object lessons, and questions to help with understanding and learning.



This Book of Mormon study guide is a question-and-answer study guide. It uses quotes from the General Authorities, church magazines and manuals, scripture references and LDS scholars to answer the in-depth questions.



This study guide was produced by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and corresponds with the Gospel Doctrine lessons.



This is a beautiful hardbound copy of the entire Book of Mormon with footnotes including hard to understand words, questions, and pictures. There are also New and Old Testament versions.