

# Hatch Patch Creations

*From Our Home To Yours*

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## Sacred Plates Family Home Evening Packet

### Contents:

Story,  
Picture Sheets,  
Activity,  
Scripture,  
Treat Recipe



\$5.00

# Sacred Plates Family Home Evening Packet

## Home Evening Outline

Opening Prayer  
Opening Song  
Scripture  
Story  
Game

Closing Song  
Closing Prayer  
Refreshments

*Suggested Songs:* "Book Of Mormon Stories", pg. 118 (Childrens)  
"The Golden Plates", pg. 86 (Childrens)  
"The Iron Rod", pg. 274 (Hymn)

*Scriptures:* Alma 37:4, D&C 3:19-20, 1 Nephi 13:40, Mormon 5:12

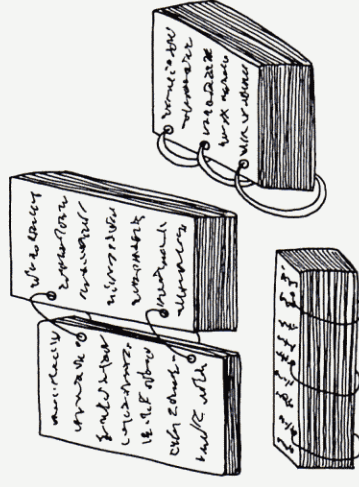
*Story:* Color graphics with markers, colored pencils, chalks, etc. Use flannel, or laminate and cut out and place magnets on back of graphics. etc.

*Sacred Plate Activity:* Preparation - Give each family member a set of plates, cardboard, scissors, metal rings or yarn and a glue stick. Have each family member carefully cut out each yellow plate along the dashed line. One piece of cardboard should be cut for every two yellow plates. It should be cut to be the same size as the yellow plates. Once all of the cardboard and yellow plates have been cut, begin by adhering the yellow plate sheets to each side of the cardboard (sandwiching the cardboard between the yellow sheets.) in this order: "Sacred Plates" sheet opposite "Alma 37:4" scripture. The "Plates of Ether" sheet opposite "The Brass Plates" sheet. The "Large Plates of Nephi" sheet opposite "The Small Plates of Nephi" sheet. "The Plates of Mormon" sheet opposite the back cover sheet. Punch holes where designated on each plate. Put the plates together with the "Sacred Plates" sheet as the cover, the "Plates of Ether" as the second sheet, "The Large Plates of Nephi" as the third sheet, and "The Plates of Mormon" as the fourth sheet. Bind the sheets together with metal ring fasteners or with yarn or twine. Have each family member keep the set of plates where they can be seen often to remind them of how important each one is and the countless men that gave of all their resources to protect them.

# Edible Brass Plates

## Ingredients:

- 2 cups of fruit
- 2 tbsp. sugar
- 1 tsp. lemon juice
- red whip licorice



## Directions:

Choose a fruit that would have a yellow tint to it, such as pears, apples, etc. unless these two kinds of fruit are not acceptable, then choose whatever fruit your family would like. Make sure the fruit is fully ripe. Wash the fruit thoroughly, removing the skin, pits, seeds, etc. Chop the fruit finely. Combine fruit with sugar and lemon juice. Place mixture into a sauce pan and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat and simmer until the fruit is softened. Puree in a blender or food processor. Line a cookie sheet with aluminum foil and grease the foil. Pour the puree 1/4 inch thick onto the aluminum foil. Bake in a 140 degree oven for about 1 1/2 to 2 hours (with oven door cracked open slightly) or until leathery and not sticky. Store fruit leather in the refrigerator. Once the fruit leather has cooled, cut the leather into rectangles to simulate a brass plate. Punch holes in one side. Give each child several plates with some whip licorice. Allow the children to bind their edible plates together with the whip licorice by threading the licorice through the punched holes and tying together. FUN & YUMMY!!!!!!!

• For a quicker version, simply purchase your fruit leather at the store and cut them into plates. DO NOT COPY

# Sacred Plates

*"Behold, it has been prophesied by our fathers, that they should be kept and handed down from one generation to another, and be kept and preserved by the hand of the Lord until they should go forth unto every nation, kindred, tongue, and people, that they shall know of the mysteries contained thereon."*

*Alma 37:4*



In ancient times, the Nephites kept large numbers of records. Some on metal plates of gold or brass. These records were not kept for the benefit of the writers of the plates but for you and I and all future generations. The Book of Mormon was translated from plates of gold which consisted of the records of two groups of people. These two groups of people were instructed by the Lord to migrate from their biblical lands to the American continents, the promised land. There were five different sets of plates used in the abridgement of the Book of Mormon: the brass plates, the small plates of Nephi, the large plates of Nephi, the plates of Ether and the plates of Mormon.

Lets learn about each of these different sets of plates, how they came about and how they fit into the Book of Mormon.

## **THE PLATES OF ETHER**

The first group to leave their homeland, were the Jaredites. The plates of Ether contained the Jaredite history and this record can be found in the book of Ether in the Book of Mormon. This book was named for the last great Jaredite prophet, Ether, who was a witness of the destruction of his people and who was the author of this book. The history of the Jaredite people began about 2200 B.C.

The Jaredites had a spiritual leader who was known as the brother of Jared, or Mahonri Moriancumer (whose name we know through modern revelation from Joseph Smith). The brother of Jared had received many revelations from the Lord and actually saw the Lord and talked with him face to face. The Jaredites left their homeland when the people's languages were confounded at the Tower of Babel.

The Lord commanded the brother of Jared to keep a record of his experiences and feelings but that he was not to share his writings with anyone. In Ether 3:22-24 we read: "And behold, when ye shall come unto me, ye shall write them and shall seal them up, that no one can interpret them; for ye shall write them in a language that they cannot be read. And behold, these two stones (Urim and Thummim) will I give unto thee, and ye shall seal them up also with the things which ye shall write. For behold, the language which ye shall write I have confounded; wherefore I will cause in my own due time that these stones shall magnify to the eyes of men these things which ye shall write."

The Lord promised in his own due time that he would bring the record forth, "And the Lord said unto him: Write these things and seal them up; and I will show them in mine own due time unto the children of men." (Ether 3:27) The brother of Jared upon finishing his record sealed it up with the interpreters. These plates were later discovered by the people of Limhi in the days of King Mosiah. (Mosiah 8:7-9)

## **DISCUSSION**

•What do you think the Lord's purpose was in having the brother of Jared seal up the record with the interpreters?

## **THE BRASS PLATES**

The second group to migrate to the American continents was led by the prophet Lehi. In about 600 B.C., the Lord commanded Lehi to take his family and flee into the wilderness because the city of Jerusalem was going to be destroyed.

Lehi, after leaving Jerusalem, was commanded by the Lord to send Nephi and his brothers to retrieve the brass plates from Laban. In 1 Nephi 3:3-4 we read: "For behold, Laban hath the record of the Jews and also a genealogy of my forefathers, and they are engraven upon plates of brass. Wherefore, the Lord hath commanded me that thou and thy brothers should go unto the house of Laban, and seek the records, and bring them down hither into the wilderness."

## **DISCUSSION**

•Why was it so important that Lehi obtain the brass plates? (*The plates of brass contained the writings of Moses, Isaiah, other early prophets, a record of the Jews and a genealogy of Lehi's forefathers.*)

Nephi and his brothers were eventually successful in retrieving the plates from Laban and returned to the tent of their father. After giving thanks unto God, Lehi took the plates and studied them from beginning to end. He discovered that the plates contained the five books of Moses, an account of the creation of the world and also Adam and Eve, a record of the Jews, prophecies of the holy prophets and ". . . a genealogy of his fathers; wherefore he knew that he was a descendant of Joseph; yea, even that Joseph who was the son of Jacob, who was sold into Egypt." (1 Nephi 5:14)

Many people think that the Book of Mormon was translated from the brass plates, but that is not so. Only some of the information in the Book of Mormon comes from the brass plates.

## **THE LARGE PLATES OF NEPHI**

Shortly after leaving Jerusalem Nephi began writing on the large plates of Nephi. On the large plates of Nephi, Nephi basically kept a journal of the records of his father Lehi and his family. Nephi gave a detailed history of the Nephite people, an account of their wars, contentions and destructions on the large plates. As Nephi continued writing on the plates, he included items of spiritual importance too.

The large plates of Nephi are often referred to as "the other plates" which we read about in 1 Nephi 19:4: "Wherefore, I, Nephi, did make a record upon the **other plates**, which gives an account, or which gives a greater account of the wars and contentions and destructions of my people. And this have I done, and commanded my people what they should do after I was gone; and that these plates should be handed down from one generation to another, or from one prophet to another, until further commandments of the Lord."

The large plates of Nephi were passed down in a line of succession by the kings to King Benjamin, son of Mosiah I.

We obtained the books of Mosiah, Alma, Helaman, 3 Nephi, 4 Nephi and Mormon chapters 1-7 in the Book of Mormon from the Large Plates of Nephi.

## **THE SMALL PLATES OF NEPHI**

The small plates of Nephi contained the religious record of the Nephite people. The men who wrote on the small plates of Nephi referred to them as "these plates." In 1 Nephi 19:1-3, 5-6 we read: "And it came to pass that the Lord commanded me, wherefore I did make plates of ore that I might engraven upon them the record of my people. And upon the plates which I made I did engraven the record of my

father, and also our journeyings in the wilderness, and the prophecies of my father; and also many of mine own prophecies have I engraven upon them. And I knew not at the time when I made them that I should be commanded of the Lord to make **these plates**; wherefore, the record of my father, and the genealogy of his fathers, and the more part of all our proceedings in the wilderness are engraven upon those first plates (large plates of Nephi) of which I have spoken; wherefore, the things which transpired before I made **these plates** are, of a truth, more particularly made mention upon the first plates. And after I had made these plates by way of commandment, I, Nephi, received a commandment that the ministry and the prophecies, the more plain and precious parts of them, should be written upon **these plates**; and that the things which were written should be kept for the instruction of my people, who should possess the land, and also for other wise purposes, which purposes are known unto the Lord. . . And an account of my making **these plates** shall be given hereafter; and then, behold, I proceed according to that which I have spoken; and this I do that the more sacred things may be kept for the knowledge of my people. Nevertheless, I do not write anything upon plates save it be that I think it be sacred. And now, if I do err, even did they err of old; not that I would excuse myself because of other men, but because of the weakness which is in me, according to the flesh, I would excuse myself."

We obtained the books of 1 Nephi, 2 Nephi, Jacob, Enos, Jarom and Omni from the small plates of Nephi. The Words of Mormon book following Omni is Mormon's explanation for including the small plates in the Book of Mormon.

Here is the line of transmission of the small plates: Nephi passed them to his brother Jacob, Jacob to his son Enos, Enos to his son Jarom, Jarom to his son Omni, Omni to his son Ammaron, Ammaron to his brother Chemish, Chemish to his son Abinadom and Abinadom to his son Amaleki the last writer of the small plates. It is interesting to note that there were five different writers in the small book of Omni - Omni, Amaron, Chemish, Abinadom and Amaleki.

When Amaleki finished writing on the plates, they were almost full so he turned the plates over to King Benjamin (Omni 1:25), who then added them to the "other plates" or the large plates of Nephi. King Benjamin now possessed the brass plates and both the large and small plates of Nephi. King Benjamin passed all of these plates on to his son, Mosiah II. King Mosiah II also obtained the twenty-four gold plates that contained the Jaredite history (the plates of Ether) from Limhi. King Mosiah II gave all of the plates to Alma the younger.

Alma the younger then passed the plates to his son Helaman I (Alma 37: 1-5, 21), Helaman I to his brother Shiblon (Alma 63:1), Shiblon to Helaman I son, Helaman II (Alma 63:11-13), Helaman II to his son Nephi II (Helaman 16:25), Nephi II to his son Nephi III (3 Nephi 1:2-3), Nephi III to Nephi IV (4 Nephi 1:19), Nephi IV to his son Amos I (4 Nephi 1:19-20), Amos I to his son Amos II (4 Nephi 1:21) and from Amos II to his brother Ammaron (4 Nephi 1:47).

### ***THE PLATES OF MORMON***

Ammaron completed his record and ". . .being constrained by the Holy Ghost, did hide up the records which were sacred - yea, even all the sacred records which had been handed down from generation to generation, which were sacred - even until the three hundred and twentieth year from the coming of Christ. And he did hide them up unto the Lord, that they might come again unto the remnant of the house of Jacob, according to the prophecies and the promises of the Lord. And thus is the end of the record of Ammaron." (4 Nephi 1:48-49)

Ammaron hid the plates in the hill Shim. Ammaron then chose young Mormon who was only about ten years of age to be his successor. "And about the time that Ammaron hid up the records unto the Lord, he came unto me, (I being about ten years of age, and I began to be learned somewhat after the manner of

the learning of my people) and Ammaron said unto me: I perceive that thou art a sober child, and art quick to observe; Therefore, when ye are about twenty and four years old I would that ye should remember the things that ye have observed concerning this people; and when ye are of that age go to the land Antum, unto a hill which shall be called Shim; and there have I deposited unto the Lord all the sacred engravings concerning this people. And behold, ye shall take the plates of Nephi unto yourself, and the remainder shall ye leave in the place where they are; and ye shall engrave on the plates of Nephi all the things that ye have observed concerning this people." (Mormon 1:2-4)

As instructed, Mormon in his twenty-fourth year removed the plates from the hill Shim. Mormon updated the history on the large plates of Nephi and then began an abridgement of the plates on a separate set of plates.

Mormon then went to the hill Shim, "And now I, Mormon, seeing that the Lamanites were about to overthrow the land, therefore I did go to the hill Shim, and did take up all the records which Ammaron had hid up unto the Lord." (Mormon 4:23) Mormon completed his arduous task of abridging the large plates. He then hid the majority of the Nephite records in the Hill Cumorah with the exception of his own abridgement and the small plates of Nephi. He gave these plates to his son Moroni. "And it came to pass that when we had gathered in all our people in one to the land of Cumorah, behold I, Mormon, began to be old; and knowing it to be the last struggle of my people, and having been commanded of the Lord that I should not suffer the records which had been handed down by our fathers, which were sacred, to fall into the hands of the Lamanites, (for the Lamanites would destroy them) therefore I made this record out of the plates of Nephi, and hid up in the hill Cumorah all the records which had been entrusted to me by the hand of the Lord, save it were these few plates which I gave unto my son Moroni." (Mormon 6:6)

Mormon and Moroni witnessed the tremendous battles and destruction of their people. Mormon died and Moroni was left alone. Moroni finished his father's record in Mormon, chapters eight and nine. He wrote the first and second paragraphs of the present-day preface to the Book of Mormon and later found time to add an abridgement of the twenty-four gold plates now known as the book of Ether in our Book of Mormon.

## **DISCUSSION**

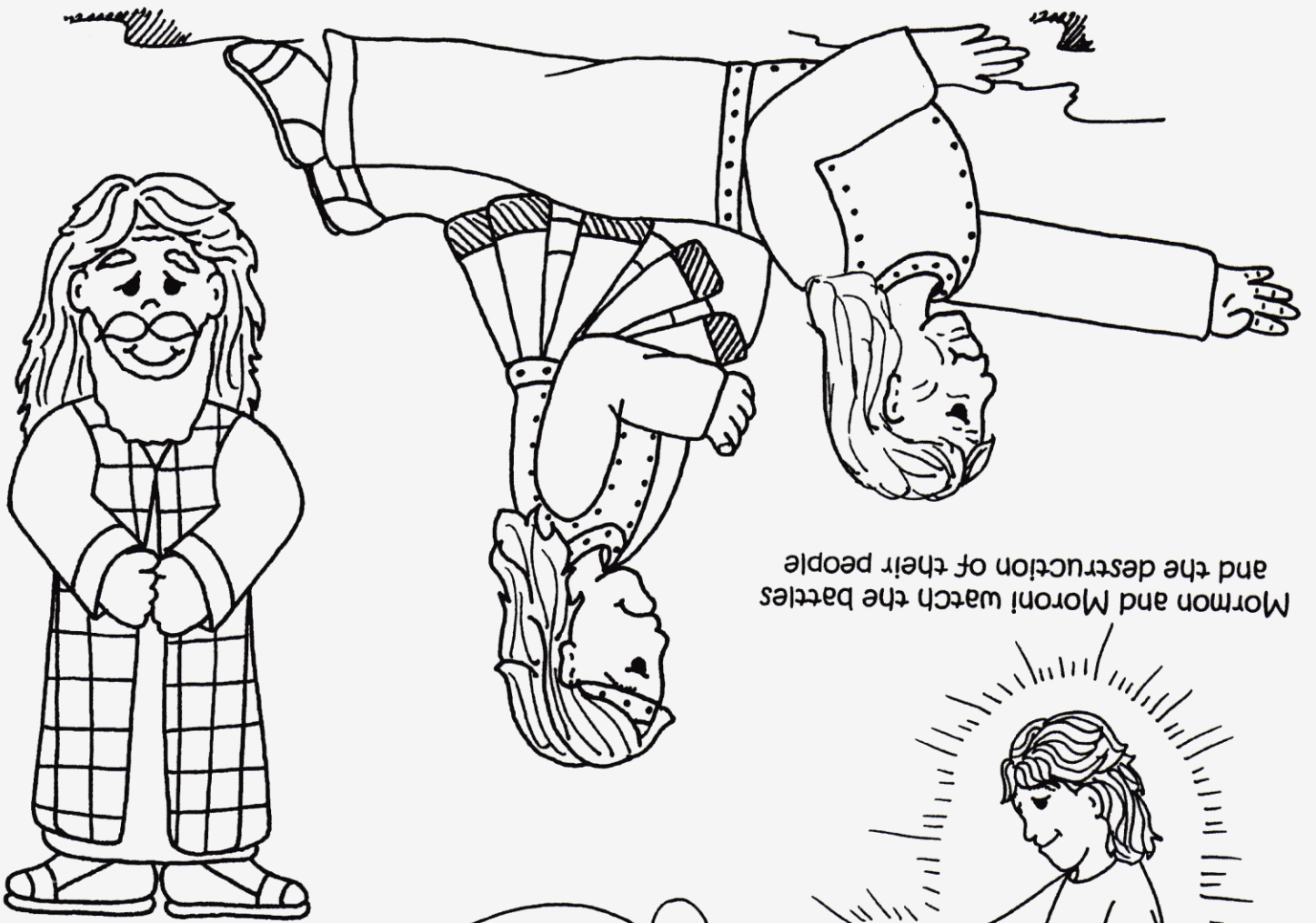
- Read together as a family, Mormon 8:1-13
- How do you think Moroni must have felt watching the wickedness, wars and the utter destruction of his people along with the death of his father?
- How would you feel to be all alone, trying to protect the sacred plates and being hunted by the wicked Lamanites?

The book of Moroni includes the writings of Moroni, the last Nephite prophet to write in the book. He includes in this book, personal writings, letters from his father and his final testimony and farewell.

### ***MORONI TURNS THE PLATES OVER TO JOSEPH SMITH JR.***

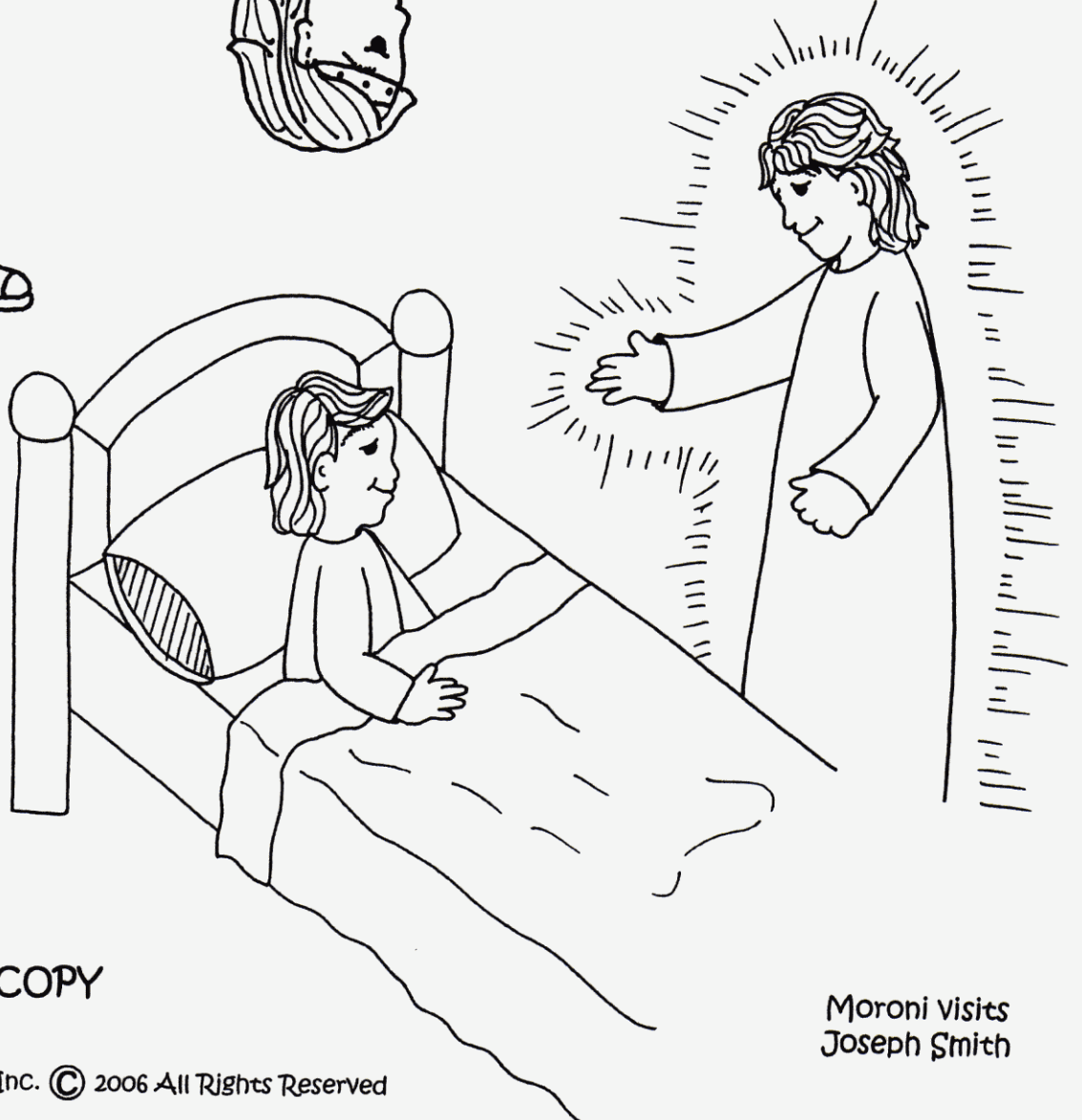
Moroni hid up the plates in the hill Cumorah and a little over fourteen-hundred years later, Moroni gave the abridged Nephite record to Joseph Smith to translate. Joseph was permitted to see all of the plates including the brass plates which Nephi took from Laban, the original twenty-four gold plates which contained the brother of Jared's record of the Jaredites and also the large plates of Nephi, but only translated the plates that Moroni gave him with the exception of the sealed portion of the plates. Joseph Smith's translation is now known as the Book of Mormon.

What a tremendous blessing it is to have this wonderful book today! The Book of Mormon is a confirmation to the world that Joseph Smith is truly a prophet of God and by no other means could he have translated these ancient records that were meant for our time! Because Joseph Smith is a true prophet, there can be no question that the church he was commanded to organize, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, is the only true church upon the face of the earth.



Mormon and Moroni watch the battles  
and the destruction of their people

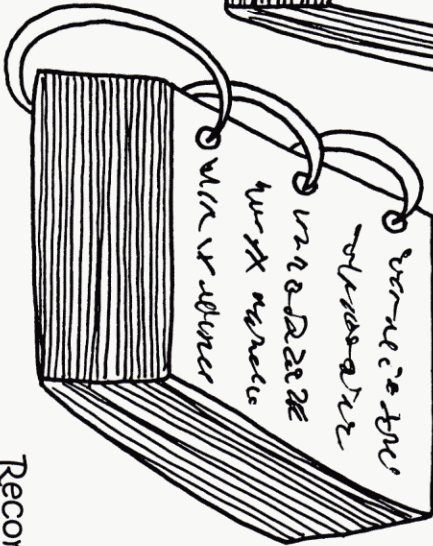
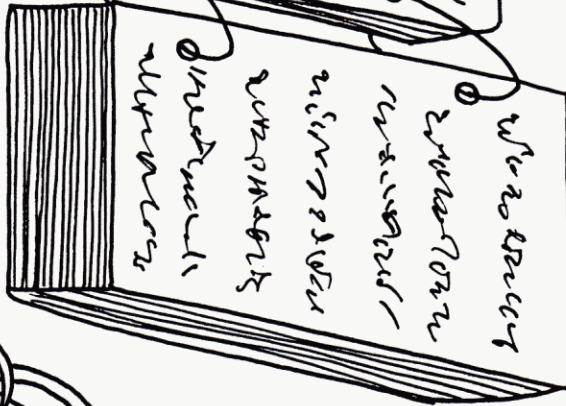
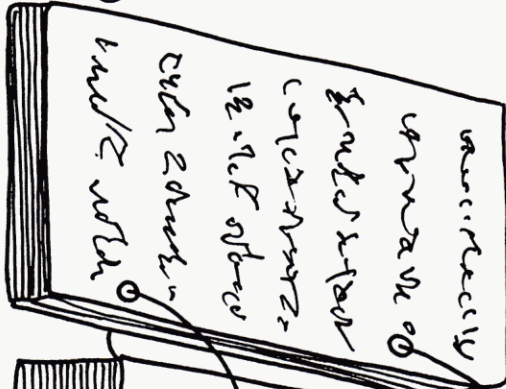
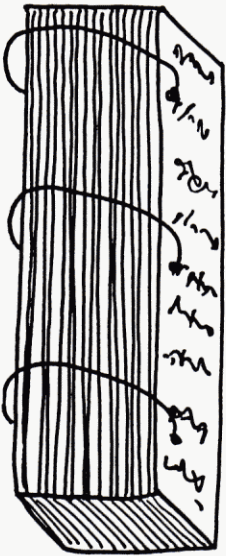
Lehi



Moroni Visits  
Joseph Smith

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Alma the younger with the plates



Records were kept on metal plates of gold or brass

Brother of Jared writing on the record



Nephi with the large and small plates of Nephi



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Alma 37:4

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## The Sacred Plates

## The Brass Plates

Nephi and his brothers were commanded to return to Jerusalem and retrieve the plates from Laban. The plates contained the five books of Moses, an account of the creation of the world and also Adam and Eve, a record of the Jews, prophecies of the holy prophets and a genealogy of Lehi's forefathers.

## The Plates of Ether

The plates of Ether contained the record of the Jaredites. The book was named after Ether, the last great Jaredite prophet. The plates were discovered by the people of Limhi.

## The Plates of Mormon

The plates of Mormon were written by Mormon. They contained his thoughts and comments, an abridgement of the large plates of Nephi and the rest of the history of the people by him and his son Moroni.

## The Small Plates of Nephi

The small plates of Nephi contained the religious record of the Nephite people. The men that wrote on the plates referred to them as "these plates."

## The Large Plates of Nephi

Nephi kept a journal of the records of his father Lehi and his family. The plates contained a detailed history of the Nephite people and their wars, contentions and destructions.

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