

My Book of Mormon Homeschool Curriculum Testimony by Sara Hartshorn

A couple years ago, my oldest child was getting ready to start kindergarten and I was going to begin homeschooling him along with my preschool-aged son. I started by brainstorming which subjects to cover throughout their education and determined that, for religion, I wanted to create a four-year cycle. I started looking for a one-year study on the Book of Mormon. I wanted something that would bring the stories to life and pull out lessons that my boys could apply to their lives.

It didn't take long until my mind was drawn by the Spirit to a concept for weekly lessons that would introduce the story one day, reinforce another day, and then review it by having the boys create a three-block comic book page to retell the story. I followed the Spirit's direction and began working on a list of stories that I felt my children needed to learn in elementary grades. I began pouring through all the children's Book of Mormon storybooks that my mother and I owned—none of them had everything I was looking for, so I started piecing my curriculum together with a variety of books. It was coming together, but I couldn't shake the feeling that if I shared it with anyone else it would be hard for them to gather all of these books. My sister-in-law, Megan, had told me about a new storybook that she was reading with her children that they were all really enjoying. That caught my interest and one evening while visiting, I found exactly what I was looking for when I thumbed through her book. All this planning had taken about a year. Last summer, I had the chance to visit with the author at the CMRB reunion and asked for her blessing to use her book as the spine for my Book of Mormon curriculum. She gave her consent and I went to work finalizing the lessons. What started as a labor of love for my sons has grown into a desire to share with others. It is my prayer that through my lessons and with the help of *The Second Witness of Jesus Christ: Stories from the Book of Mormon*, many children will write the truths and lessons in their hearts.