

# Sandpoint Stake Music Newsletter

April 2015

Dear Music Leaders,

In February I saw an excellent example of how to balance teaching the doctrine of the song with capturing the children's interest by Jenni Richards, the new song leader in Westmond.

As the children sang, Jenni blew up a balloon while a helper led the children. If there was less participation, she stopped. At the end of the song, she released the balloon for the children to retrieve.

Talk about motivated singers!



Jenni paused frequently and talked briefly about what the signs meant. Several times, she and the children decided on a different variation. Some signs repeat in other songs. The sign for Jesus Christ: touching the middle of each hand with the middle finger of the other hand. The sign for death: both hands upright and parallel, then fall together to one side.

It's a good idea to choose at least one song to sign. If someone in your ward/branch signs, invite them to teach a song to you and the children. Or you can use the ASL resources now available at lds.org.

Use just the main signs from ASL as it is difficult for the children to sign as fast as the song. It's ok to incorporate the official signs with other hand motions that you and the children make up. Remember the purpose is to use ASL as one of many tools to help the children understand the gospel message of the song. (You are not teaching a class on ASL)

Over the years, several music leaders in our stake have used sign language as a tool to help the Primary children understand and learn the doctrine of songs. I think they would all tell you the same thing about how effective it is. It's amazing how positively the children respond.

Love,

LeeAnn Kopsa, 2<sup>nd</sup> Counselor  
Sandpoint Stake Primary

## PRIMARY SONGS IN SIGN LANGUAGE

Go to [lds.org](http://lds.org) and choose **Resources**, then **Primary**. Click on the **Music** link. Choose **The Children's Songbook**. When you download a song, an ASL video clip is one of the options.

TITLE	PAGE NUMBER	DOWNLOAD
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I Am a Child of God	2	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I Lived in Heaven	4	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I Know My Father Lives	5	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thanks to Thee	6	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I Thank Thee, Dear Father	7	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Father, We Thank Thee for the Night	8	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Can a Little Child like Me?	9	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thank Thee for Everything	10	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I'm Thankful to Be Me	11	

Download

- PDF
- Vocals and Music
- Music
- ASL Video (mp4)
- ASL Video (wmv)

## VIDEOS OF SIGN LANGUAGE

At lds.org, search **sign language** OR go to **Resources**, and choose **Children**. Then click on **Videos and Music**. Select **ASL Primary Songs**.



## VIDEO DICTIONARY OF SIGN LANGUAGE

### Dictionary of Church Terms in American Sign Language

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

A Broken Heart and a Certain Spirit

Autism: Preschool

Blindness

Blindness

Blindness, Deaf, Party, Ministry (1)

At [lds.org](http://lds.org), do a search on **sign language dictionary** or use the following link:

<https://www.lds.org/languages/dictionary-of-church-terms-in-american-sign-language?lang=eng&clang=ase>

## APRIL TEACHING SUGGESTIONS

### **THEME SONG:** *The Church of Jesus Christ* p 77

See p 9 of OST helps for music leader for ideas. Focus on teaching the meaning of the song, whether or not the children already know the words.

### **PRACTICE SONGS:**

#### ***The Golden Plates* p 86 including new verses**

**Verse 1:** Hold two hands like a book, then hide your hands behind your back. Deep, low voice. Point up toward heaven. Faithful could be raising the right hand. Define confide as being trusted with a secret and the responsibility to do as you've been asked. Pretend to whisper.

**Verse 2:** Two hands like a book. Pretend to write. Hold up a B of M. Spread hands wide. Ask who knows a story found in the B of M. Let the children tell a couple of the stories about the Nephites & Lamanites.

Following the suggestion in the 2014 OST, p 10, you could have the children help make up new verses for familiar songs, such as those below contributed by Janet Bouse from the Sunnyside Ward:

**New verse 3:** Moroni buried the golden plates Deep in Cumorah's hill,  
Then God gave them to Joseph Smith And now, we have them still.

#### **New verse 4:**

We love to read the Book of Mormon, Written by each prophets hand.  
I want to be as faithful, And obey Heavenly Father's commands.

#### ***The Priesthood is Restored* p 89 with trumpets**

Sing one line at a time without fanfare. Then sing together with fanfare.

**Sing the first line.** Ask if the children know what restored means. Why would the priesthood need to be restored or brought back? Have everyone stand and sing the first line, rejoicing because the Priesthood in on earth again.

**Sing the second line.** Ask what truth was made known? (permission to baptize was being restored by John the Baptist) Have everyone sing.

**Sing the third line.** Ask when God spoke to the earth? (First Vision) Have everyone stand and sing the third line.

**Sing the last line.** Ask what the song means "His Power is here again"? (Priesthood is restored) Have everyone stand and sing the third & fourth lines.

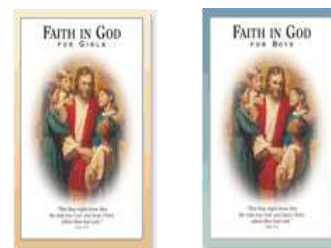
To review, have part of the Primary sing while the rest hold their hands like a trumpet and do fanfare, then switch at each line. Split into boys/girls, teachers/children, or by classes. Or create two paper trumpets. Choose a boy and a girl who are singing well to do the fanfare.

## **FAITH IN GOD**

Have you made time to review the Faith in God booklets yet? On page 6, the second bullet point is:

*Give a FHE lesson on Joseph Smith's First Vision. Discuss how Heavenly Father answers our sincere prayers.*

Since April's theme is about the restoration of the gospel through Joseph Smith, please use this opportunity to be a 2<sup>nd</sup> witness.



At [lds.org](https://www.lds.org), go to **Resources** and choose **Primary**. Click on **Faith in God** on the left sidebar. Choose **Faith in God for girls or for boys**.

Sing a song about the First Vision, like pg 76 below. Let the children tell you what happened. Talk about how our sincere prayers are answered today.

### ***This is My Beloved Son***

**p 76** (verse 3 & 4)

We have record of Heavenly Father's appearances and voice only a few times in the scriptures.

Ask what Heavenly Father wants us to do when He tells us to hear His beloved Son.

Sing a song about prayer, such as those on page 12, 14, or 109. Challenge the senior Primary to give a FHE lesson teaching these principles. Testify.