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Our Heavenly Father Listens

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Abstract: Children's flannelboard story about the Jaredites.

Our Heavenly Father Listens

A Flannelboard Story by Marie F. Felt

HAVE you often wondered what happened to the people after their language had been confounded at the tower of Babel? The Bible does not tell us. But we Latter-day Saints are very fortunate; we have the Book of Mormon which tells us about some of them. It tells us the story of Jared and his brother. They were at the tower when this confusion occurred.

Jared and his brother were good people. They loved the Lord and always tried to obey Him. They understood why the Lord had done this. They also knew that all the people who spoke the same language would go away together to some part of the earth to make their home. God wanted that. [End of Scene I.]

The brother of Jared was “. . . a large and mighty man, . . . highly favored of the Lord, . . .” Knowing this, Jared was sure that God would listen to his brother and grant him the blessings that he most desired. He, therefore, said to his brother, “. . . Cry [pray] unto the Lord, that he will not confound us that we may not understand our words.” The brother of Jared did as he was requested to do. “. . . Therefore he [the Lord] did not confound the language of Jared; and Jared and his brother were not confounded.”

Jared also knew that it would not be a happy world for them if he and his brother were the only ones who could speak the same language and all the other people spoke some other. He spoke to his brother again: “. . . Cry again unto the Lord, and it may be that he will turn away his anger from them who are our friends, that he confound not their language.”

So “. . . the brother of Jared did cry unto the Lord, and the Lord had compassion [pity] upon their friends and their families also, that they were not confounded.”

Jared and his brother, with their families and friends, wanted to be together—to work and to live together—but they wanted to do it in God’s way. Jared, therefore, spoke to his brother again. He said, “. . . Go and inquire of the Lord whether he will drive us out of the land, and if he will drive us out of the land, cry unto him whither we shall go.

And who knoweth but the Lord will carry us forth into a land which is choice above all the earth? And if it so be, let us be faithful unto the Lord, that we may receive it for our inheritance.” (*Ether* 1:34-38.)

The brother of Jared prayed again unto the Lord. He said that they would like to go wherever the Lord wanted them to go. He asked the Lord to tell them what they should do and where they should go.

The Lord heard the prayers of Jared’s brother, just as He hears the prayers of all of us. In answer He said, “. . . Gather together thy flocks, both male and female, of every kind; and also of the seed of the earth of every kind; and thy families; and also Jared thy brother and his family; and also thy friends and their families, and the friends of Jared and their families.”

When this was done, the Lord told Jared’s brother to lead all of these people “. . . down into the valley which is northward. . .”

Then he said something that made their hearts very happy. He said, “. . . there will I meet thee, and I will go before thee into a land which is choice above all the lands of the earth.” (*Ether* 1:41, 42.)

When they arrived in the valley of Nimrod, the Lord came down and talked with the brother of Jared.

Then the Lord commanded them to go into the wilderness, in a part of the world where no man had ever before been. “. . . The Lord did go before them, and did talk with them as he stood in a cloud, and gave directions whither they should travel.” [End of Scene II.]

One day the Lord said to Jared’s brother, “. . . Go to work and build, after the manner of barges [boats] which ye have hitherto built. . .” So “. . . the brother of Jared did go to work, and also his brethren, and built barges after the manner which they had built, according to the instructions of the Lord. . .” (*Ether* 2:5, 16.)

The Book of Mormon tells us the barges were watertight and were as light upon the water as a duck. They were as long as a tree. [End of Scene III.]

When the barges were built, the brother of Jared talked again to the Lord. He said that there was no light in the barges, so they would be unable to see; also there was no way to get fresh air in them, and he wondered what they should do.

The Lord told the brother of Jared to make a hole in the top and also one in the bottom and, when they needed fresh air, to open the hole.

When asked about the light, the Lord said, “. . . What will ye that I should do that ye may have light in your vessels? . . .” (*Ether* 2:23.)

(For Course 1, lesson of August 26, “We Talk to Heavenly Father”; for Course 2, lesson of July 22, “There Are Many Times when We Pray,” and lesson of July 29, “Our Heavenly Father Answers Our Prayers”; and for home use.)

How To Present the Flannelboard Story

Characters and Props Needed for this Presentation Are:

- Jared, standing. (BM 50.)
- Jared's brother, standing. (BM 51.)
- Jared's brother, kneeling in prayer. (BM 52.)
- Many people at the tower of Babel. (BM 53.)
- People building barges. (BM 54.)
- Barges built according to the Lord's instructions. (BM 55.)
- Sixteen small stones. (BM 56.)
- People loading the barges. (BM 57.)

Order of Episodes:

Scene I:

Scenery: Outdoors at the tower of Babel. The tower is a little to the right of the center of the flannelboard.

Action: Jared and his brother talk together on the left side of the flannelboard. People are around the tower of Babel. The Lord is confusing their language, and Jared is concerned.

Scene II:

Scenery: An outdoor scene similar to Scene I, with the tower removed.

Action: Jared asks his brother to pray, requesting special consideration of the Lord, (1) that Jared and his brother will be allowed to speak the same language, and (2) that their families and friends may speak the same language also.

Jared's brother prays for the first request; then, upon the urging of Jared, prays again for the second. Again he prays, this time to ask the Lord to guide them to whatever place He would have them go. The Lord tells Jared's brother to lead the people to "the valley which is northward." There the Lord promised to meet them and give them further instructions.

Scene III:

Scenery: In the wilderness.

Action: The Lord instructs Jared's brother that the people should build barges under the direction of the Lord in preparation for their journey to a choice land, chosen by the Lord for them.

Scene IV:

Scenery: An outdoor mountainous scene.

Action: Jared's brother sees need for something to light the inside of the barges. The Lord gives him instructions and asks him a question. Then Jared's brother goes unto the mountain where he gets 16 stones. He returns with the stones blessed by the Lord to supply light.

Scene V:

Scenery: The finished barges are in the foreground on the right side of the flannelboard on blue flannel to represent the ocean.

Action: The people are loading the barges with their flocks, herds, fowls, and honey bees. The winds begin to blow for 344 days.

Scene VI:

Scenery: The ocean is on one side of the flannelboard and the promised land on the other.

Action: The winds have ceased. The barges approach the land then come to rest on the shores of the promised land. The people with their flocks, etc., come out onto the land. They "shed tears of joy before the Lord" because He has been so good to them, and they kneel in thankfulness.

In answer, the brother of Jared "... went forth unto the mount, which they called the mount Shelem, ..." There he "... did molten out of a rock sixteen small stones; and they were white and clear, even as transparent glass; and he did carry them in his hands upon the top of the mount, ..." (*Ether* 3:1.)

Then he spoke again to the Lord, saying, "... I know, O Lord, that thou hast all power, and can do whatsoever thou wilt for the benefit of man; therefore touch these stones, ... and prepare them that ... they shall shine forth unto us in the vessels which we have prepared, that we may have light while we shall cross the sea." (*Ether* 3:4.)

When the brother of Jared finished speaking, "... the Lord stretched forth his hand and touched the stones one by one with his finger. ..." (*Ether* 3:6.) and "... it came to pass after the Lord had prepared the stones ... the brother of Jared came down out of the mount, and he did put forth the stones into the vessels ... , one in each end thereof; and behold, they did give light unto the vessels." (*Ether* 6:2.) [End of Scene IV.]

"And it came to pass that when they had prepared all manner of food, that thereby they might subsist upon the water [have all they might need to eat], and also food for their flocks and herds, and whatsoever beast or animal or fowl that they should carry with them— ... they got aboard of their vessels or barges, and set forth into the sea, commending themselves unto the Lord their God."

After they were safely in, "... the Lord God caused that there should be a furious wind blow upon the face of the waters, towards the promised land; and thus they were tossed upon the waves of the sea before the wind." (*Ether* 6:4, 5.)

"And thus they were driven forth, three hundred and forty and four days upon the water." [End of Scene V.]

"And they did land upon the shore of the promised land. And when they had set their feet upon the shores of the promised land they bowed themselves down upon the face of the land, and did humble themselves before the Lord, and did shed tears of joy before the Lord, because of the multitude of his tender mercies over them." (*Ether* 6: 11, 12.) [End of Scene VI.]

Suggested Scene Staging

Scene I



Scene II



Scene III



Scene IV



Scene V



Scene VI





BM 56

BM 53

BM 54

BM 55

BM 57



BM 51

BM 55

BM 52



BM 55

BM 50