



## Ideas to Teach “Love is Spoken Here”

**“Everyone likes good stories. When stories are used well, they engage learners’ values and emotions. They show in vivid and inspiring ways how gospel principles can be applied in our lives.”**

(Teaching, No Greater Call, p. 179)

NOTE: Share a different story or personal experience each week about prayer, families working together, or the power of the priesthood. Help the children apply the song’s message to their lives.

*Thanks to Trina Taylor, music leader in the Ogden Utah East Stake, for many of these song ideas.*

### Materials you will need:

Bag of “Priesthood Power” items: thermometer, white shirt, small wrapped gift, sacrament cup or small piece of bread in a plastic baggie

Gospel Art Kit: Family Prayer #606, Lehi & Family #304

Signs that say LEADING and TEACHING, TRUST, OBEY

A simple, clear bowl or glass, filled with red hearts

Picture of the Savior

### Ask the children:

“How many of you have ever heard your mother or father praying for you? What kinds of things do they ask for?”

### Take responses and tell the children:

“Your parents pray for you because they love you and they want your Heavenly Father to watch over, guide and protect you.

Our prophet, (who, by the way, just turned 97 years old in June 2007!) President Gordon B. Hinckley has counseled parents to do four important things:

- LOVE their children
- TEACH their children
- RESPECT their children
- PRAY with and for their children.

Listen and imagine this in your mind as I sing these words”:

*I see my mother kneeling with our family each day.  
I hear the words she whispers as she bows her head to pray.*

“Raise your hand if you can tell me what these lines teach us about how we should pray.”

### Take responses and tell the children:

“YES! We should kneel and reverently bow our heads.

#### Why do we do that?”

(It shows humility and respect for our Heavenly Father. It can also help us to stay focused on our prayer and concentrate on really talking to Heavenly Father.)

### TELL A STORY to show how the principle of prayer can really work in our lives:

(If possible, read the entire story in the June 2007 Ensign, “The Robbery” p.28–29 and relate it in your **own words**.)

The author says “Mother always had us kneel at our chairs around the table before we could eat. I remember squirming on my knees with my head resting on my folded arms, waiting for Mother to finish the prayer. It seemed as if she prayed for every person she had ever known, including all her children. Even though we were sometimes impatient, we all seemed to take comfort in knowing she prayed for us.”

The author continues to say that she often walked by her mother’s open door and saw her kneeling in prayer. As the years went by, even though the children continued to grow up and move away, the mother still continued to pray daily for their safety. One brother, John, married, moved to California and began a night job at a gas station convenience store.

One night the family got a phone call from John in California. A man had come into the convenience store and threatened him. John remained calm and began to gently talk to the man as he handed him the money from the cash register. The man began to calm down a bit, and even invited John to meet him around the back to store and split the cash. John declined and the robber disappeared.

When the police arrived, they were amazed that John had been able to think and act so clearly.

That day, John’s mother had prayed for his protection, as she had for many years. She truly believed that her prayers would be answered...and they were!

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### Sing the first two lines of the song again and ask the children:

“As we sing the next two lines, raise your hand if you hear an action word that means to ask in a sincere and heartfelt way.”

*Her PLEA to the Father quiets all my fears,  
And I am thankful love is spoken here.*

### **Take responses and ask the children:**

What does it mean to plea? (to ask with a sincere heart)  
How is love spoken in our homes? (Love is spoken when kind words are exchanged.)

How does it sound? (it sounds happy and cheerful)

How does it feel? (it feels warm and safe. When there is happiness we can feel the Holy Ghost in our homes.)

### **Ask a girl to come and act out each part of the song and another younger girl to stand next to her as you sing:**

*I see my mother kneeling with our family each day.*

(girl kneels in prayer.)

*I hear the words she whispers as she bows her head to pray.*

(girl quietly whispers with her head bowed.)

*Her PLEA to the Father quiets all my fears,*

(girl stands and puts her index finger to her mouth to show “quiets” all my fears.)

*And I am thankful love is spoken here.*

(girl hugs the younger girl, who has been standing next to her.)

**NOTE:** Help the children to understand that some children may not see this image of their mother in their home. Sister Matsumori, second counselor in the Primary general presidency says: “Because I grew up in a non-member home, I did not see my mother kneel in prayer or experience my father exercising the priesthood. The song represents the example I hoped my own children would have in our home and the standard I hope will continue through the generations of our family.”

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### **Tell the children:**

“Now the next part of this song has a very different melody, because now we’re talking about fathers. When we put both verses together later, we’ll see how beautiful they sound.”

**NOTE:** Be sensitive to the fact that not every home has both parents living together. Help the children understand that our home can also be blessed by the strength of priesthood power through our home teachers, bishop and other priesthood leaders.

“The first line of the song says”

*Mine is a home where every hour,  
is blessed by the strength of priesthood power.*

### **Ask a boy to come to the front and flex his muscles and ask the children:**

“What types of things do fathers (or men) do through the power of the priesthood? Do they lift weights or carry something heavy?”

Priesthood is the power to act in God’s name here on earth.

### **Take out the “priesthood power” bag and have the children take out each item. Give short examples of when you have experienced specific powers of the priesthood:**

**thermometer:** the power to bless and heal the sick

**white shirt:** the power to baptize

**small wrapped gift:** power to give the gift of the Holy Ghost

**sacrament cup or small piece of bread:** power to bless the sacrament

### **As you sing these lines again, tell the children how wonderful it is that priesthood power can help us any time of the night or day:**

(You may want to have the same boy flex his muscles again, this time holding items from the bag.)

*Mine is a home where every hour,  
is blessed by the strength of priesthood power.*

### **Tell the children:**

“The next few lines have some important action words. Listen for one word in each line that help us to understand what role our parents have in our lives. These two words end in ‘ing.’”

*With father and mother, LEADING the way,  
TEACHING me how to trust and obey.*

### **Have a boy and girl to come to the front and represent the mother and father and ask:**

What are the action words?

LEADING, TEACHING (Have children hold words)

### **Ask the children:**

How do your parents lead and teach? (Your parents love you. They lead you and teach you through example. They have family home evening, scripture study and family prayer.)

Show picture #304, Lehi & his Family

(Talk about Father Lehi in the Book of Mormon led and guided his family. His children and especially Nephi were blessed because he listened to and followed the counsel of his father.)

### **Have another boy and girl come to the front and tell the children:**

“There are two more action words that tell us what WE as children should do when our parents lead and guide us. Listen while we sing”:

*With father and mother, leading the way,  
Teaching me how to TRUST and OBEY.*

“What do we as children need to do? (Have the children hold the words TRUST & OBEY as you sing.)

*With father and mother, leading the way,  
Teaching me how to TRUST and OBEY.*

### **Hold up the clear bowl or glass with the hearts and sing:**

*And the things they teach are crystal clear,  
For love is spoken here.*

### **Sing the entire second verse with the children and show the picture of the Savior:**

“When there is love in our home, we can feel close to our Savior, Jesus Christ.”

*Mine is a home where every hour,  
is blessed by the strength of priesthood power.  
With father and mother, LEADING the way,  
TEACHING me how to trust and obey.*

*I can often feel the Savior near,  
when love is spoken here.*

### **Testify to the children:**

(When the Holy Ghost testifies that the things our parents teach us are true we will feel the love of our Savior. Give a personal example of a time when your parents taught something you knew was true.)

(Also, help the children understand that love cannot be spoken and felt in our homes without them. Challenge them to work hard this week to be a little more kind to their family members, and more obedient and respectful to their parents.)

After you sing each verse separately, practice singing the first and second verses simultaneously, using the third ending.

### **Reinforce the principles taught here with other songs, perhaps sung together as a medley:**

“Grandmother” (p. 200), “When Grandpa Comes” (p. 201), “Mother Dear” (p. 206), and “Fathers” (p. 209).

The Family (p.194)

The following stories can be used throughout the month to reinforce the power of prayer, etc., as you continue to work on this song. Some stories may work well for younger children, and other stories may appeal to the older children. Be prepared to share your own experiences or let the children relate similar experiences.

Sister Matsumori of the General Primary Presidency said that her parents were farmers and worked very hard. One day when she was 6 years old she came home to a locked house. She was all alone! As she sat on the swing-set waiting she became very frightened

She says: “I started to cry and knew that I had to pray, so I prayed to Heavenly Father and told Him I was scared. After my prayer I received great comfort, a peaceful feeling, and the fear left. I knew that I could sit on the swing and my parents would come home. They didn’t come home immediately after I prayed, but I knew from that feeling of peace and calm that everything would be OK.”

Later, when Sister Matsumori was 10, her family travelled to Idaho to visit relatives. Their family dog, Margie, was with them, and Sister Matsumori’s grandpa accidentally hit the dog with his car.

Margie was quickly taken to the veterinarian, but the children began to cry. They were afraid that Margie would die.

Again, Sister Matsumori knew that they needed to pray. She took her cousins to a corner of the garden and prayed that the dog would be all right. Soon Margie returned with a bandaged leg and they learned that she would soon be better.

None of Sister Matsumori’s cousins attended church and prayer was not familiar to them. Most members of the family thought there was nothing they could do as they waited to hear about Margie, but Sister Matsumori knew about the power of prayer.

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Todd was about to begin the adventure of a lifetime. He and his friends had wanted to visit the beautiful wilderness of Alaska for a long time.

Finally they arranged an Alaskan snowmobile trip in mid-April. Todd and his friends met their guide in a town near the Denali National Forest and began exploring the wilderness early the next morning.

The weather was unseasonably warm, and the snow was heavy and wet. The snowmobiles kept getting stuck in the slush.

Todd became separated from the rest of the group and just couldn't seem to catch up. His snowmobile got stuck over and over, finally sinking in four feet of snow. He just could not pull it out. It was as if the snowmobile was stuck in wet cement. All afternoon Todd tried to pull the snowmobile loose. He kept praying that someone would return, but the hours went by and no one came.

Soon it began to get dark and Todd started to worry. He knew that when the sun went down the temperature would drop below freezing. Todd realized that he would be spending the night alone in the Alaskan tundra. He was hungry, cold and afraid.

Todd knew he shouldn't fall asleep. As he sat in the dark, he heard the wolves howling and the sound of avalanches crashing down. Had his friends been caught in a deadly avalanche?

Soon it began to snow and Todd began to panic. If the snow covered his tracks, no one would be about to find him. He must get out right away!

Todd's thoughts turned to the scriptures. "I thought of some of the strong and brave men in the Book of Mormon—Nephi, Helaman, Mormon, and Moroni."

"Father in Heaven," Todd prayed, "please give me the strength of these great men. I haven't the strength to pull my snowmobile out of the sludge on my own. Please, Father, if it be Thy will, give me the strength of 10 men."

After his prayer, Todd walked over to the snowmobile again. Although he was hungry and weak, his faith was strong and he knew that Heavenly Father had heard his prayer.

He gripped the handlebars and pulled the machine out on the very first try. The cold had hardened the snow and he could drive without sinking. He followed the tracks back to camp. Just as the sun began to rise he saw silhouettes. As he drove closer, he saw that they were his friends. They had been lost too.

Each of us will have times when we feel like we are alone or that we have problems we cannot solve on our own. We must remember that a loving Heavenly Father will always be ready and willing to help us if we 'plead' for His help.

*Quoted material from January 2007 Ensign, "Lost on the Tundra".  
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Story of Alma, praying for his son, Alma. (Tell this story in your own words, reading aloud verse 14.)

Alma 27: 8–14

8. Now the sons of Mosiah were numbered among the unbelievers; and also one of the sons of Alma was numbered among them, he being called Alma, after his father; nevertheless, he became a very wicked and an idolatrous man. And he was a man of many words, and did speak much flattery to the people; therefore he led many of the people to do after the manner of his iniquities.

9. And he became a great hinderment to the prosperity of the church of God; stealing away the hearts of the people; causing much dissension among the people; giving a chance for the enemy of God to exercise his power over them.

10. And now it came to pass that while he was going about to destroy the church of God, for he did go about secretly with the sons of Mosiah seeking to destroy the church, and to lead astray the people of the Lord, contrary to the commandments of God, or even the king—

11. And as I said unto you, as they were going about rebelling against God, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto them; and he descended as it were in a cloud; and he spake as it were with a voice of thunder, which caused the earth to shake upon which they stood;

12. And so great was their astonishment, that they fell to the earth, and understood not the words which he spake unto them.

13. Nevertheless he cried again, saying: Alma, arise and stand forth, for why persecutest thou the church of God? For the Lord hath said: This is my church, and I will establish it; and nothing shall overthrow it, save it is the transgression of my people.

**14. And again, the angel said: Behold, the Lord hath heard the prayers of his people, and also the prayers of his servant, Alma, who is thy father; for he has prayed with much faith concerning thee that thou mightest be brought to the knowledge of the truth; therefore, for this purpose have I come to convince thee of the power and authority of God, that the prayers of his servants might be answered according to their faith.**

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**teaching**

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