

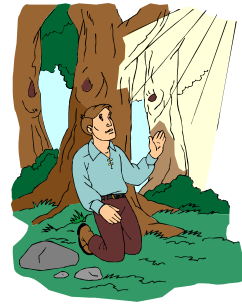
## Joseph Smith – Boy Prophet

### PURPOSE

To illustrate why the Lord called Joseph Smith as a young boy to be a prophet

### MATERIALS

- A picture of Joseph Smith or clip art below
- A solid branch
- A willow



### LESSON IDEAS

1. Hold up the heavy stick and ask someone to try and bend it. (It should be too thick to bend)
2. Hold up the willow and ask someone to bend it. (It should be flexible and easy to bend)
3. Make the comparison to Joseph Smith and the willow. Point out that the Lord wanted to restore His church through someone who was teachable and flexible. Joseph Smith was young and was not already set his ways and beliefs.
4. Explain that Joseph was taught and trained as a young man by the angel Moroni and other great prophets. You may want to share several other examples from the scriptures of people who were called to serve God in their youth:
  - a. Samuel (1 Samuel 3:1-18)
  - b. Mormon (Mormon 1:1-4 and Mormon 2:1-2)
  - c. Nephi (1 Nephi 2:16)
5. Testify that Joseph Smith was called as a young man to be a prophet of God.

