

## **The Comforter**

Now I know what that warm, peaceful feeling was all that time.

Some families in the church look different. My family was one of those. When I was in primary, my family only went to church sometimes. Sometimes my mom and dad would take me and my siblings, sometimes it was just my mom, and sometimes they wouldn't take us at all. That made me a little confused. It seemed like my parents were confused too. When I did go, I loved church. I loved the people there and the songs we would sing. I loved the stories about Jesus, and I missed them when we wouldn't go. I felt something special there that I didn't feel at home.

When I was nine, some missionary Elders visited us. They had bright smiles on their faces, and they came in to share a short message about Jesus. I don't remember the message they shared, but I remember how I felt. When they came into our house, it was as if someone had turned the light on. I felt warm and peaceful inside. Those Elders started visiting us more often, and I felt that same warm feeling every time they came. I felt that they had something different about them.

They would read scripture stories with us and invite us to read the Book of Mormon every day. I loved the missionaries, and because I loved them, I wanted to accept their invitation. My sister and I weren't baptized yet, so they taught a lot about baptism and how important it was. I knew that I wanted to be baptized. But my parents still weren't sure and eventually told the missionaries to stop coming.

Just like when we stopped coming to church, I started to miss that warm feeling I felt when they made their visits. I thought about their invitation to read and pray again. My sister and I started reading the Book of Mormon and praying every day after school. When we read, I felt that same feeling again. Even though this time was hard, that feeling gave me strength.

Two years later, my sister and I were finally able to be baptized. When I was baptized, I got the gift of the Holy Ghost. At first, I didn't feel anything different, but over time, I learned to recognize the Holy Ghost and how it speaks to me. Now I know what that warm, peaceful feeling was all that time. The thing that the people at church, the lessons about Jesus, the missionaries, and the Book of Mormon all had in common were the comforting feeling of the Holy Ghost.

In the Book of Mormon, the prophet Moroni called the Holy Ghost the Comforter. He said that this "Comforter filleth with hope and perfect love" (Moroni 8:26).

The Holy Ghost made me feel hope and love when things were hard. And he still does! I am so grateful for the gift of the Holy Ghost and that I get to have it with me

all the time. When I need help feeling it a little more in my life, I try to remember to do those same things I did then. I read the scriptures, come to church, and learn about and try to be like Jesus. I know that as you do these things, your Heavenly Father will send the Comforter to be with you, too.