

Sarah Evans
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SpongeBob Gets Religion!
A Parable, of Sorts*

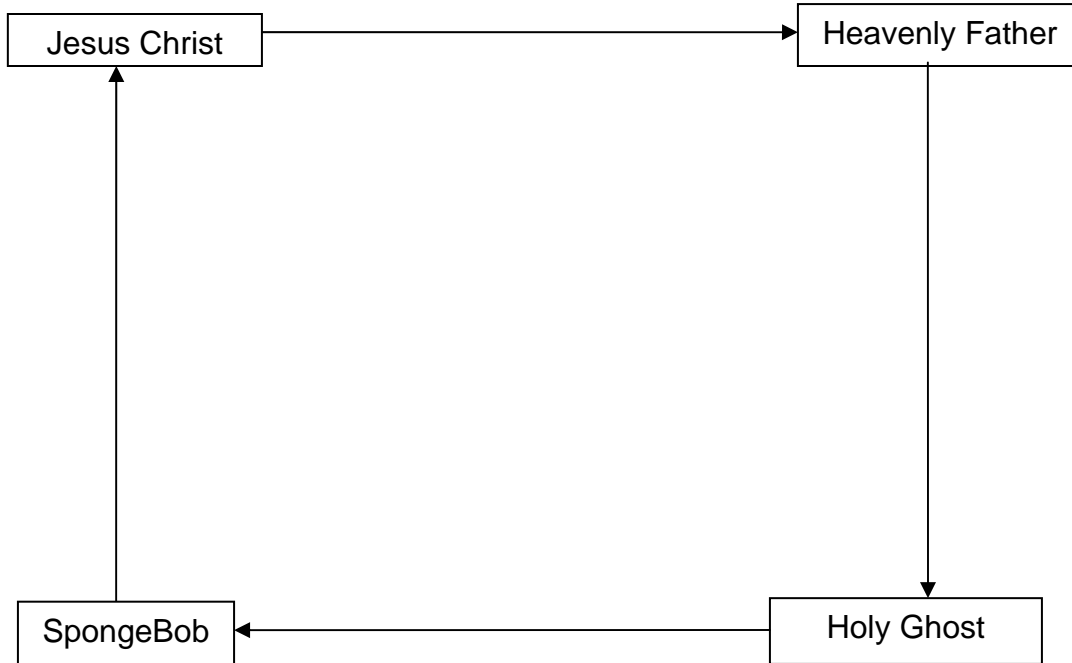
One bright day in Bikini Bottom, two missionaries from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints knocked at the door of a pineapple house. The pineapple owner, SpongeBob SquarePants, was surprised to see two human beings on his doorstep. The missionaries explained that many Mormons are big fans of stories from Bikini Bottom, so their church leaders decided to follow Sandy Cheeks' example. They designed suits especially for underwater living so that missionaries could spread the gospel in this one yet untouched part of the globe. "We have special message for you, Mr. SquarePants," said one elder, "May we come in and share it with you?"

SpongeBob let the missionaries in, but as the conversation turned towards God, he became distressed. "The Evangelicals already came to Bikini Bottom. They tried to explain the Holy Trinity to me, but I just didn't get it. They showed me a triangle shape, then a pretzel shape, but it doesn't fit with how I see the world!" An elder spoke up, "We know Mr. SquarePants, that's why we are here. We realized that our understanding of God matches perfectly with your world view."

The elders went on to explain that members of the LDS church believe that God the Father (or Heavenly Father), Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost are three separate and distinct beings. Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ are immortal beings with bodies of flesh and bone. Because of his sacrifice, Jesus Christ is our intermediary with God the Father. The Holy Ghost is a spirit being whose job it is to communicate the Truth to people on the earth. Mormons believe that every person has the right to a personal relationship with deity. Everything became clear when the missionaries shared a diagram to help explain his relationship with God. The upper corners of the square represent heaven and the bottom corners represent earth.

* With humble apologies to anyone who finds this too irreverent. The author is a member of the LDS church and therefore feels at liberty to poke fun at her religion a bit.

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"A square! Hallelujah!" shouted SpongeBob, "I'm saved!" The missionaries were delighted with his fervor and offered to baptism him that very evening. A special baptismal font was set up at Jellyfish Fields so that Spongebob could be baptized, then receive the Gift of the Holy Ghost and be confirmed a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. (Don't ask how that worked since they were already immersed in water. It just worked, okay?)

In his excitement over his new found religion, SpongeBob was eager to share his beliefs with everyone at Bikini Bottom. He had great hopes that his best friend Patrick would also become Mormon. But Patrick found that worshipping the elements through Paganism best fit his world view. They remained friends and lived happily in their ocean home. The end!

