

Many Mormon adults actually believe their church. Why? Because their church taught them doctrines when they were youngsters.

Take a look at the Mormon church's *Old Testament Stories* for children.

Old Testament Stories - - color pictures, minimal text - - is a softcover book for children young enough to need a glossary to define words such as young, daughter, jar, obey, sword, basket.

The book says it will help children understand the Old Testament from a "sacred" book, the Bible. Parents and teachers are told to "share your testimony of the Bible."

So, let's look at Chapter 1: "Before the Old Testament": 3 pages, 8 color illustrations, with text and references to the Bible and other sacred books in the church's scripture canon: *Doctrine and Covenants* and *Pearl of Great Price*. Everyone, including God, wears full-length white robes. Trees and mountains are in the background.

1. God is literally our Father in Heaven, where we "lived with him a long time. He taught us ('all his children') many things." In the picture, someone, apparently God, teaches the assembled children, all adults: men, some with beards and gray hair, and women with long hair of various hues. All appear to be "white."

2. A few lounging adults are shown. We "did not have flesh-and-blood bodies," but only "spirit bodies" that

"looked like the...bodies we have now. We were the spirit children of God."

3. God, speaking to an assembly of adult spirits, tells them "he would make an earth" and "we could go" there "to get flesh and blood bodies." We "would be tested on earth." If we chose to obey his commandments, we "would come back to heaven and live with God."

4. God chose some male spirits to be "prophets and leaders" on earth. "He knew they would obey his commandments."

5. From among the men, God wanted to choose one to "save the people on the earth." He would "die for all of us." Jesus Christ volunteered.

6. Jesus's brother, Lucifer, also volunteered, but was angered when God chose Jesus.

7. Lucifer told God's children that "he would make us be good. ...He would bring us all back to heaven."

8. Many followed Lucifer (now "Satan or the devil"). "God was very sad" and sent them away, never to enjoy mortality or return to heaven.

Now you know. Groomed as children, Mormon adults sing, "I am a child of God and he has sent me here," and "Father, Mother, may I...come and dwell with you..."