

Just Like the Scriptures!



"Let us commit to reading the scriptures . . . with more purpose and more focus."¹
President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Second Counselor in the First Presidency



We thought the hike was going great—until we saw the trail marker.

But one time I found out that the scriptures really can be a lot like my life! It all happened when we went on a backpack trip for a family reunion.

I carried my own backpack and sleeping bag, and I didn't complain. After all, it was only supposed to be four miles (6.5 km) to the lake. I could make it, no problem.

The hike wasn't too hard, but I was glad to stop for a rest after two miles (3 km). Then we saw the first trail-head sign. It said that the lake was still six miles (9.5 km) away. My dad didn't have to tell me that the trail was really twice as long as we first thought. I already figured that out. He *did* need to remind us to make our water last longer.

My dad's advice was important but hard to follow. The afternoon sun was hot, and we hardly had any shade on the trail. It seemed like we were never going to reach the lake.

The grown-ups stayed in the back with the youngest kids, and the older cousins went on ahead. I stayed with three cousins my age, and we ended up somewhere in between.

When we couldn't see anyone ahead or behind us anymore, we started to get nervous. Our backpacks felt heavy, and our water bottles were empty. How much farther did we have to go?

Finally we got so worried and tired that we decided to stop and pray.

After the prayer we picked up our backpacks and trudged on.

Just a little while later, we heard hoofbeats coming up the trail. We waited and saw a man on a horse riding toward us.

He stopped and gave us some water. He explained that our older cousins had hurried to the lake with a water filter to start pumping water to bring back to us. The man heard about how we needed water and had agreed to help. "Do any of you need help with your backpacks?" he asked.

I looked at my cousins, and they smiled back at me. We actually felt pretty good!

"You better go on and help the others," we said to the man. "We're fine."

And it was true! The rest of the way to the lake it felt like angels were lifting our packs and pushing us along.

A week later my family was reading the Book of Mormon. My eyes opened wide when we read these words: "And I will also ease the burdens which are put upon your shoulders, that even you cannot feel them upon your backs" (Mosiah 24:14).

"That's what happened on the trail!" I blurted out. I didn't have to think about how to use this scripture in my life. It described something that had already *happened* in my life! It was amazing! I could hardly wait to find other scriptures that were like my life.

And that's how I learned I could liken the scriptures to me, and I could also liken *me* to the scriptures! ♦

By Renae Weight Mackley
(Based on a true story)

"I will also ease the burdens which are put upon your shoulders" (Mosiah 24:14).

Ten-year-olds are pretty smart. We like to figure things out on our own.

My dad always tells me to liken the scriptures to myself. *Liken* means that you try to use what you learn from the scriptures in your life. So, when we're reading together as a family, I sometimes blurt out

something before Dad can explain it to us. Like, "I know, Dad. We're supposed to fast and pray, like it says in the scriptures."

He smiles because I always get the right message.

ILLUSTRATION BY SCOTT PECK

When I read a scripture I can "liken" to my life, I write it down.



Good idea!