

Sami's Scriptures

By Carolina Maldonado
(Based on a true story)

This story happened in Bolivia.

Papi clapped his hands at the end of family home evening. "I have an idea for a family goal," he said. "Let's read the Book of Mormon together every day."

Sami's older brothers, Andrés and Juan, nodded with big smiles at the idea.

"OK!" said Andrés.

Sami was excited too. But then he remembered something. He raised his hand. "I

don't know how to read. How will I help?"

Juan shrugged. "You can just listen."

Sami's brothers already knew how to read. But Sami was only five. He hadn't learned to read yet.

"But I want to help too!" Sami said with a frown.

Mamá gave Sami a hug. "And you will," she said. "There is always a way to do what God has commanded us."



The next night, Sami's family gathered to read the Book of Mormon. They all brought their own scriptures, except Sami. Mamá gave him a picture book of Book of Mormon stories.

"You can't read words yet. But you can read pictures," she said with a smile.

Sami held the book close. Now he could read with his family too!

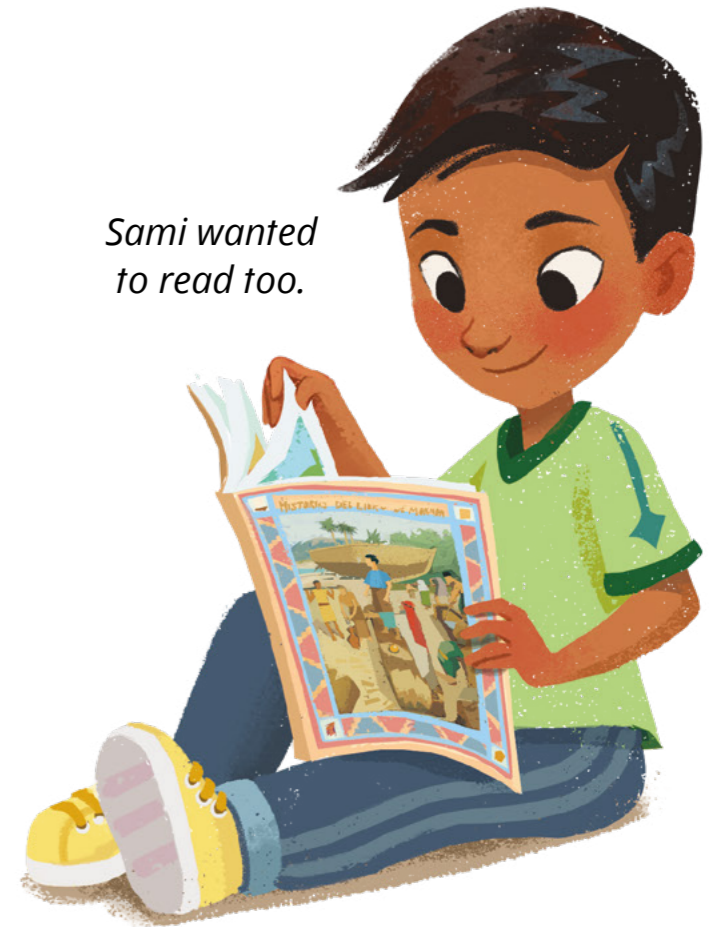
They all took turns reading. Sami looked at the pictures that showed the story. When it was his turn, he told the others what he saw in the pictures. He told as many details as he could.

As the days passed, Sami wanted to read more and more. Mamá taught him what sound each letter made. Then she showed him how to sound out words. Months later, Sami didn't need the picture book as much. Instead, he read the last word of every verse his family read. Mamá read the word first, and Sami said it back.

At first, they read slowly. Getting to the end of each chapter took a long time. Andrés and Juan groaned when it was Sami's turn. But they still read as a family.

Little by little, Sami read more. He read one word of a verse, then two words, then three. Then he started reading a whole verse!

Sami wanted to read too.



Near the end of their goal, Sami could read a few verses by himself. His reading had gotten much better. His love for the Book of Mormon had grown too.

At last, Sami's family finished the Book of Mormon. It had taken two years! Now Sami was seven years old, and he had learned to read very well.

"Congratulations!" Papi said. "We did it!"

Sami cheered with his family. He had helped them finish the Book of Mormon!

Juan gave Sami a big hug. "What will be your goal for the next two years?"

Sami smiled. He stood tall and said, "I will read the Book of Mormon again!" ●

What helped Sami read the scriptures?