

## Understanding the Vision For Older Kids

“Hey Mom,” Auggie called out from the kitchen table. “You know how we acted out The Tree of Life vision? What does the vision even mean?”

“Wow, Auggie,” Mom came around the corner. “I think it’s really great that you’re trying to understand the meaning! Nephi wanted to know the same thing as well! The Spirit of the Lord showed him Lehi’s vision and helped him to understand. Each thing from the vision represents something different.”

“What does the tree represent?” Auggie wondered.

“The scriptures say the tree should remind us of the Lamb of God. Who is the Lamb of God?” Mom asked.

“Is it Jesus?” Auggie guessed.

“Yes! And just like the people in the vision who held tight to the iron rod, we want to come unto Him! Now the people at fruit at the tree. It was very good and made people happy. That fruit is like eternal life. Eternal life is the greatest gift from God.”

“What about the iron rod?” Auggie thought. “Does that mean something?”

“The iron rod led to the Tree of Life. The scriptures say the it is like the word of God. What do we have that contains words of God?”

“Oh! Scriptures!” Auggie knew that one.

“Right!” Mom smiled. “The scriptures tell us the commandments we need to follow. They tell us things we need to do often like praying or going to church. So if we make good choices like reading the scriptures, that’s like holding to the iron rod.”

“Okay,” Auggie collected his thoughts. “So holding on to the iron rod to get to the tree of life is like making good choices to return to God?”

“You’ve got it!” Mom cheered. “But it won’t be easy. There was darkness in the vision too. The darkness is like temptations. Things we shouldn’t be doing. If we start making bad choices, we’ll get lost in the dark.”

“I don’t want to be lost. I think making good choices would be better.” Auggie decided.

“There is also a big building full of lots of laughing people in the vision. They laugh at the people who try to hold on to the iron rod,” Mom reminded Auggie. “What do you think that is like?”

“Well,” Auggie sat for a moment. “I have some teammates who make fun of me when I choose to not play sports on Sunday. I’m trying to make good choices and keep the commandments, and they just laugh.”

“That’s just the same as the people in the building!” Mom agreed. “In the end, the building fell and the people inside were lost.”

“Well I definitely don’t want to be caught in a falling building! I guess the vision of the Tree of Life is like us going through life. I think it would be much easier to go through life knowing where to go than to be lost the whole time!”

“I completely agree with you!” Mom hugged Auggie.