

LEGACY Script

The script contains four speaking parts with a contemporary father, his daughter and son-in-law, and his pioneer grandmother who reads from her journal. It also includes an introductory narration, set-focus directions, and music cues.

The storyline opens with the father coming to the home of his daughter and son-in-law who have just lost their baby shortly after birth. His children are traumatized by the death of their first child. The father, using his grandmother's journal, seeks to console and counsel them by recounting the experiences of his pioneer grandparents whose two-year-old child died on their journey.

His grandmother developed Christ-like attributes as a result of their challenges, while his grandfather turned bitter and antagonistic to the Church. The father helps his daughter and son-in-law see that who we become is *our* choice regardless of our circumstances. He lovingly explains that sorrow is an integral part of our mortal journey and is essential to have joy and to know and understand Jesus Christ.

The scenes move between a contemporary home, an early 1900's setting where the aged grandmother reads from her journal, and a pioneer venue where the young grandfather and grandmother act out their heart-rending challenges. The father and his daughter and son-in-law have both dialogue and singing parts. The aged grandmother has a speaking role only, and the pioneer couple portray their experiences in song and action without talking.

Through music and lighting there is an interplay between the present and the past that ties the generations together and is symbolic of our family oneness over time. See below for a script sample, including when the song, "I Know the Gospel's True," is sung. Please view the [LEGACY video](#) for the entire story.

Legacy

Copyright Steve Dunn Hanson and Jackie Frost Halversen

Sample Script

Father: *(Picks up journal.)* My great, great grandfather and grandmother joined the Church in Sweden back in 1862. Grandma kept a journal. She gave it to her son, my great grandfather, just before she died, and it was ultimately passed on to my father. *(He smiles and lifts up the book)* Now I have it. What she had to say about their experiences has affected me deeply, and I think it might help both of you. *(Looks down as if he were reading from the journal.)*

Spotlight on Grandmother as she writes in her journal - Images show on screen

Grandmother *(voice with a little accent):* In the old country things were pretty good for us. Most people had to rent their farms from wealthy landowners, but we had our own little place. Small, but good farm land. We raised some potatoes and wheat and rye. We had some chickens and a cow. When we joined the Church, Dad and I began to save up so we could go with the Saints to Zion. It wasn't easy. It took us nearly three years. But finally we got on the ship with our only son, Lars. He was two years old. I was expecting another baby and was pretty miserable, but Dad and I thought I would be okay. It took us six weeks on the ship. I don't want to do that again! I was sick the whole time. Miserable. I thought I was going to die. Dad was really worried about me and kept saying we shouldn't have left home. Sweet little Lars. He would hardly ever leave my side. He was worried too. But I was happy we were doing what we were supposed to be doing, because... I knew the gospel was true.

Spotlight on Father, Daughter and Son-in-Law.

Daughter: I don't know how she did that! I was so sick when I was pregnant I could hardly get out of bed! Wow. What a testimony she had!

Son-in-Law: *(Shaking his head)* I don't think I'd have done that! I wouldn't risk my wife's life!

Father: That's how Grandpa felt. That's when he started having struggles with

things. He started to question his own inspiration about leaving home. That led him to question his feelings about the Church. What happened next after they arrived in New York didn't help any. (*Looks down at journal as if to read.*)

Spotlight on Grandmother as she writes in her journal - Images show on screen

Grandmother: We landed at Castle Garden, New York and stayed there until we could leave on the train to Omaha, Nebraska. That's as far as the train went. We'd go by wagons from there to Salt Lake. When we got to where the trains were, Brother Anderson, who was the captain of our group, said that the train accommodations weren't very good. (*A sour laugh*) That was an understatement!

We come to find our transportation to Omaha was stock cars that hogs had been hauled in. They were filled with hog lice! We had no other choice but to ride in them. We cleaned them out the best we could. There weren't any seats or beds. We just rode sitting on the floor of the stock car and laying on some straw that the men threw in. And I thought being on that ship was miserable!

Dad really got angry. He kept saying, "We're no better than hogs!" He blamed the Church leaders and started to question his testimony. Of course, it was hard, but I think our leaders were doing the best they could. We were in hog cars because that's all that was available to get us to Omaha. I can put up with some misery...because the gospel's true! I know it!

Spotlight on emigrant wife. Images show on screen

[2-Song: *I Know That the Gospel Is True* (Emigrant Wife, Choir)]

Spotlight on Father, Daughter, Son-in-Law. Music continues in background.

Father: Grandma's taught me to try to remember my testimony when things aren't going so well. Somehow just thinking about the gospel helps put things in perspective. Increases my hope. Helps me get through.

Daughter: (*wipes her eyes*) I know it's true, Father. I know the gospel's true.

Spotlight on Daughter as she sings. Spotlight on both Daughter and Emigrant Wife during duet. Images show on screen

[2-Song: *I Know That the Gospel Is True* (Daughter, Daughter and Emigrant Wife duet, Choir)]

Music continues in the background.

Father: You're like your grandmother, Sweetheart. But Grandpa's faith was not as strong as grandmother's. For a while he seemed to try, and I think he wanted to believe. But...