

By Small & Simple Things

What are the tiniest things you can think of? Here are a few to get you started:

- Ants
- Atoms
- Bacteria
- Band Aids
- Bugs
- Candy
- Cells
- Dust Mites
- Genes
- Germes
- Hair
- Keys
- Legos
- Lice
- Pebbles
- Pennies
- Pills
- Rice
- Safety Pins
- Salt
- Thread



Alma 37:6-7

6 Now ye may suppose that this is foolishness in me; but behold I say unto you, that by small and simple things are great things brought to pass; and small means in many instances doth confound the wise.

7 And the Lord God doth work by means to bring about his great and eternal purposes; and by very small means the Lord doth confound the wise and bringeth about the salvation of many souls.

Tell about a time when something small or seemingly insignificant had a big impact on **your life**.

Think of some **examples from the scriptures** that demonstrate the big impact of small and simple things.

Examples from the Scriptures

Person	Reference	Small Thing	Big Impact
Alma & Abinadi	Mosiah 17:2-4; 18:1, 3, 35		
Ammon, King Lamoni, & Mosiah	Alma 17:25; Alma 19:23		
Daniel Refuses the Kings Meat	Daniel 1:8; Daniel 3:12-14, 18-29		
David & Goliath	1 Samuel 17: 32-33, 37, 49-51		
Joseph Smith	Joseph Smith History 1:5, 11-19		
Moses & the Brass Serpent	Numbers 21:7-9		
Naaman, the Leper	2 Kings 5:10-11, 13-14		
Nephi & the Liahona	1 Nephi 16:10, 16, 28-29; Alma 37:38, 40-45		
Rebekah at the Well	Genesis 24:4, 7, 12-15, 67		
The 2,000 Stripling Warriors	Alma 53:10-18, 21, 56:47-48, 55-56		

What are some of YOUR favorite scripture stories of small and simple things that had a big impact?

“The Lord’s **pattern for spiritual development** is “line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little” ([2 Nephi 28:30](#)). Small, steady, incremental spiritual improvements are the steps the Lord would have us take” ([Elder David A. Bednar, October 2007, Clean Hands & A Pure Heart, Ensign](#)).

“President Spencer W. Kimball taught about the importance of small and simple things in our spiritual development and progress.... ‘The foolish [virgins] asked the others to share their oil, but **spiritual preparedness cannot be shared in an instant**....How can one share obedience to the principle of tithing; a mind at peace from righteous living; an accumulation of knowledge? How can one share faith or testimony? How can one share attitudes or chastity, or the experience of a mission? How can one share temple privileges? Each must obtain that kind of oil for himself....The foolish virgins...knew they should have oil. They merely procrastinated....In the parable, oil can be purchased at the market. In our lives **the oil of preparedness is accumulated drop by drop in righteous living**...—each act of dedication and obedience is a drop added to our store” (Faith Precedes the Miracle [1972], 255–56).
(Quoted by [Elder David A. Bednar](#)).

“I believe many, if not all, of **the most satisfying and memorable accomplishments** in our homes, in the Church, in our jobs and professions, and in our communities **will be the product of this important spiritual pattern—of simple and small things**. We should find great comfort in the fact that **ordinary people who faithfully, diligently, and consistently do simple things that are right before God will bring forth extraordinary results**” ([Elder David A. Bednar, April 2011, By Small & Simple Things Are Great Things Brought To Pass, BYU Women’s Conference](#)).

“We must ever be aware of the power that the small and simple things can have in building spirituality. At the same time, we must be aware that **Satan will use small and simple things to lead us into despair and misery**” ([Elder M. Russell Ballard, April 1990, Ensign](#)).

“As members of the Church, **we are able, through our own small and simple things, to ‘[convince] many of the error of their ways’** and help bring ‘them to the knowledge of their God unto the salvation of their souls’ ([Alma 37:8](#))” ([Elder Arnulfo Valenzuela of the Seventy, October 2013, Ensign](#)).

“Wherefore, be not weary in well-doing, for **ye are laying the foundation of a great work. And out of small things proceedeth that which is great.**” ([D&C 64:33](#)).

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“We observe vast, sweeping world events; however, we must remember that **the purposes of the Lord in our personal lives generally are fulfilled through the small and simple things**, and not the momentous and spectacular”

([Elder M. Russell Ballard, April 1990, Ensign](#))

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“The Lord has graciously provided the means for conversion even in the most simple and humble of circumstances.

Unfortunately, some of us look beyond the mark and depend too much on buildings, budgets, programs, and activities for conversion rather than on the small and simple things that are central to the gospel. **We need not look beyond our own hearts to experience the sweet spiritual feelings promised to those who obey God.**

That is why a new member in the most humble conditions can experience the gospel as deeply as a lifetime member who was raised in the shadow of Church headquarters.”

([Elder M. Russell Ballard, April 1990, Ensign](#))

“To those who sometimes are concerned whether the Lord will actually hear their prayers, the Savior reminds us: ‘if a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? ... ‘If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give good gifts, through the Holy Spirit, to them that ask him?’” ([Luke 11:11-13](#)) ([Cristoffel Golden Jr., October 2007, Ensign](#)).

### Promises

The Lord has made many promises to those who are obedient in small and simple things:

*“But learn that he who doeth the works of righteousness shall receive his reward, even peace in this world, and eternal life in the world to come”* ([D&C 59:23](#)).

Church Attendance & Partaking of the Sacrament – [3 Nephi 18:6-7, 10-12](#); [D&C 59:9](#)

Fasting – [Isaiah 58:6-12](#)

Keeping the Sabbath Day Holy – [D&C 59:9-19](#); [Isaiah 58:13-14](#)

Paying Tithing – [Malachi 3:10](#)

Prayer – [James 5:16](#); [3 Nephi 18:19-21](#); [Alma 37:37](#); [Matthew 6:6](#); [D&C 42:14](#)

Scripture Study – [2 Timothy 3:15](#); [Romans 15:4](#); [2 Nephi 31:20](#); [2 Nephi 32:3](#); [D&C 1:37](#); [D&C 33:16](#); [Joseph Smith Matthew 1:37](#)

Temple Attendance – [D&C 109:22-28](#); [D&C 110:7-8](#)

“When we partake worthily, thoughtfully, and reverently of the holy sacrament, we are enabled to become **‘partakers of the divine nature’** ([2 Peter 1:4](#)) because of the Atonement of Christ and the power of the Holy Ghost.” ([Cristoffel Golden Jr., October 2007, Ensign](#)).

“11 And also it is an imperative duty that we owe to all the rising generation, and to all the pure in heart—  
12 For there are many yet on the earth among all sects, parties, and denominations, who are blinded by the subtle craftiness of men, whereby they lie in wait to deceive, and who are only kept from the truth because they know not where to find it—

13 Therefore, that we should waste and wear out our lives in bringing to light all the hidden things of darkness, wherein we know them; and they are truly manifest from heaven—

14 These should then be attended to with great earnestness.

15 Let no man count them as small things; for there is much which lieth in futurity, pertaining to the saints, which depends upon these things.

16 You know, brethren, that a very large ship is benefited very much by a very small helm in the time of a storm, by being kept workways with the wind and the waves.

17 Therefore, dearly beloved brethren, let us cheerfully do all things that lie in our power; and then may we stand still, with the utmost assurance, to see the salvation of God, and for his arm to be revealed”

([D&C 123:11-17](#))

