As usual, I’ve not written questions on every chapter or for every verse in the chapters I’ve covered in this lesson.

1 Nephi 16

Verses 1–2: Nephi’s brothers tell him that the things he has said are too hard to bear (verse 1). What have they heard that has caused that response?

In verse 2, Nephi explains why they find the truth to be hard. Which meaning of hard is relevant, “difficult to understand” or “difficult to bear”?

What does the fact that the wicked are cut to their center by the truth tell us about wickedness and truth?

Verses 9–10: Why does the Lord wait until only the night before to tell Lehi when they will leave (verse 9)?

Why does he deliver the Liahona in such an unusual way (verse 10)?

Verse 11: Why might Laman and Lemuel not complain at this departure, especially given its suddenness? What could anyone with the party have assumed from the fact that they were taking “seed of every kind” with them?

Verses 14–18: Verses 14 and 15 tell us that there was more than one bow among them. Why, then, when Nephi broke
his bow the result was that they had no food (verse 18)? (See also verse 21—why does Nephi wait to answer that question for us?)

Verse 15 says they had been killing animals with their slings; how does the breaking of Nephi’s bow change that?

**Verse 20:** Laman, Lemuel, and the sons of Ishmael didn’t murmur when they departed quickly (verses 10–11), but they do murmur now. What does that difference tell us? What does Lehi’s murmuring suggest?

**Verse 23:** Why does Nephi make only one arrow? Why didn’t anyone else in the group think to make a new bow and arrow?

For what kinds of reasons might Nephi have asked his father where he should go to hunt?

**Verse 28:** It is relatively simple to see the Liahona as a metaphor for other things in our spiritual lives that “work according to the faith and diligence and heed which we . . . give unto them.” What are some of those things? Why are our spiritual lives like that?

**Verse 29:** Nephi himself draws a lesson from the Liahona: “by small means the Lord can bring about great things.” Why might the Lord choose to work by small means? What are some of the small means in your own life that have brought about great ends?

**Verses 34–37:** Notice the strangeness of these events: Ishmael dies and his daughters mourn exceedingly (verse 34). Presumably that includes Nephi’s wife. In response, the husband of one of those wives, Laman, urges the husband
of another, Lemuel, that they should kill Lehi, their own father. What motivates Laman’s plan?

Do you think that when Nephi tells us that the daughters mourned exceedingly he means that they mourned excessively? What might excessive rather than “normal” mourning be? Are there any indicators in these verses that they mourned excessively?

**Verses 37–38:** Of what do Laman and Lemuel accuse Nephi? What evidence do they have for their accusation?

1 Nephi 17

**Verses 2 and 20–21:** Compare and contrast these two perspectives on the same event, asking yourself which things each includes that are the same and which things are different and what those similarities and differences suggest.

**Verses 7–10:** In chapter 16, Nephi fashioned a bow and asked his father where he should go to hunt. Here, in 17:9, he asks the Lord where he should go to find materials for the boat he is to build. Is that parallel instructive? What does this show us about Nephi? Does it suggest something for us?

**Verse 14:** What does the Lord mean when he says, “After ye have arrived in the promised land, ye shall know that I, the Lord, am God”? Doesn’t Nephi already know that?

**Verse 15:** Nephi begins this verse with “Wherefore . . .” In other words, what follows is a consequence of what preceded: Because the Lord promised that after arriving in the promised land Nephi would know that the Lord is
God, that the Lord delivered them, and that he brought them out of Jerusalem, Nephi strove to keep the commandments. How does that promise motivate Nephi’s striving for obedience?

**Verses 22–23:** In verse 22, Nephi’s brothers say that they know that the people of Jerusalem were righteous because they kept the law of Moses. Were they wrong about that, or is their standard of righteousness the problem?

In verse 23, Nephi responds to their complaints by asking them to remember the Lord’s dealing with Moses and Israel. (Remembrance is, I believe, one of the major themes of the Book of Mormon.) How will that remembrance answer their complaints?

**Verse 31:** What does this verse mean by “there was not any thing done save it were by his word”? What things is Nephi talking about—what the children of Israel did or what happened to them? What does “by his word” mean in this context?

**Verse 35:** What does it mean to esteem—to value—all flesh as one but to favor the righteous? How do esteem and favor differ?

**Verse 40:** How does Nephi explain Israel’s salvation? Is it because Israel was worthy of salvation?

What does it mean to say that the Lord remembers his covenants? What does Nephi’s teaching in this verse suggest about us today? About our children?

**Verse 45:** What does it mean to be “slow to remember the Lord”? Explain why that metaphor is appropriate.
1 Nephi 19

Verse 6: Nephi tells us that he has written only sacred things on the plates. How can that be? How can the material of 16:11–13, where we learn that they took seeds with them and that they went south-southeast and called one of their stopping points “Shazer,” be sacred? What makes a narrative sacred?

Verse 7: At the end of the verse, Nephi says that some people set the Lord “at naught, and hearken not to the voice of his counsels.” Is he using parallelism to explain what he means by “setting the Lord at naught”?

Why do the scriptures so often use verbs of hearing, such as hearken, to talk about obedience?

Verse 15: Here Nephi uses a different metaphor: turning away from God. How is this metaphor related to that of verse 7? Could we paraphrase this verse to say, “When Israel remembers its covenant with the Lord, then he will remember his covenant with them”? If so, of what covenant is Nephi speaking?

How does Israel remember its covenant? How does the Lord remember his?

Verse 18: Compare this verse to 1 Nephi 1:20 and 6:4. Nephi describes his purposes in writing in three different ways. How are those ways related to each other?

Verse 24: Nephi introduces his readings from Isaiah by telling them to hear those words and to “liken them” to themselves. Given what Nephi has just been talking about, how
are Isaiah’s writings relevant to Nephi’s people? How are the particular chapters that Nephi chooses relevant?

1 Nephi 20

Verses 3–4: Do these verses help us understand why Nephi is reading from Isaiah?

Verse 9: When the Lord says “for my name’s sake I will defer mine anger,” what is he saying?

What does he mean by “my name” in this verse? Is it parallel to “my praise”? If so, what is the point here, and how are we to understand that point? Does verse 11 answer those questions?

Verse 10: In verse 4, the Lord described Israel as obstinate. Here he says they have been refined and were chosen in affliction. How do those go together?

Verse 11: The Lord says he will save Israel for his own sake. Does this mean he won’t be doing it for Israel’s sake? Does this contradict Moses 1:39?

1 Nephi 21

Verse 1: How does this verse explain the scattering of Israel, including the scattering of Lehi’s family? Who were the pastors—shepherds—of the Israelites? (Compare Ezekiel 34:1–10.)

Verse 3: How is the Lord glorified in Israel? Does this help us understand better what Isaiah said in 1 Nephi 20:9?
Verse 14: What is promised here? How does this compare to what Nephi said in 1 Nephi 19:15?

Verses 22–23: What is promised here? To whom? What is the role of the Gentiles? How does this promise compare to the prophecy in the last part of chapter 13? Are there other parallels between Nephi’s vision and these parts of Isaiah’s writings? What does the word wait mean in “they shall not be ashamed that wait for me”? Does it mean “to await,” “to be quiet” (as in Psalm 62:1), “to serve,” or something else?

1 Nephi 22

Verses 1–3: In verse 1, the brothers ask Nephi whether what he has read has spiritual meaning rather than temporal meaning. He responds to their question in verse 2, but verse 2 isn’t an answer to their question. Why not? He answers the question in verse 3, but why does he interject the material of verse 2 before he does?

Why is it important for Lehi’s people to know that Jerusalem is shortly to fall?

Verses 10–11: In the scriptures, what does it mean for a man to make his arm bare, that is, to reveal his arm? How does restoring his covenants make his arm bare?

Verse 23: What definition of the devil’s kingdom does Nephi give here? How is it relevant to the vision he had of the abominable church?
Verse 26: What will bind Satan, or prevent him from working, during the millennium? Does that suggest anything about our own relation to him? Is James 1:13–15 relevant?