A Book of Mormon Course of Study for Indian Students in Released-Time Seminaries

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A BOOK OF MORMON COURSE OF STUDY FOR INDIAN STUDENTS
IN RELEASED-TIME SEMINARIES

A Thesis
Presented to the
Department of Religious Instruction
Brigham Young University

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Religious Education

by
Robert Lee Hales
August 1963
The course of study included herein was first used during the school year 1962-63 in the Blanding L.D.S. Seminary in Blanding, Utah. It is a product of continual evolution as new and better ideas were discovered and used. The final product incorporates the best of these ideas. The class in which it was used was composed entirely of Ute and Navaho Indians who met daily on a released-time basis. None of the class members had taken seminary before. During the year the class size fluctuated from seven to thirteen. Students were often moving in or out of the area. During the school year the entire course of study was completed and through this the class was introduced to a major part of the Book of Mormon.

The written evaluation of the class indicated that they had enjoyed the course very much. A second evaluation came from the teachers and branch leaders in the L.D.S. Indian Branch in Blanding. They felt that the course of study had been a definite aid to the students in learning and applying the gospel. They had worked with these students both before and after they took the course and they noticed a marked change in the understanding of the gospel which they had.

The general make-up of the course together with suggestions for its use are indicated under the captions which follow:

**The General Objectives of the Course**

There are five general objectives of this course of study. The first is to present the history and doctrine of the Book of Mormon to American Indian students in a released-time seminary class. To fulfill this objective the course had to be different from the standard seminary course of study
for Book of Mormon students. This was necessary since most Indian students have neither the vocabulary nor the reading skills necessary to read and understand the Book of Mormon. Therefore, the text had to be rewritten in a simplified vocabulary which could be read and understood by Indian students.

The second general objective is to build the student's vocabulary. It is impossible to understand the gospel without knowing the meaning of such words as "priesthood," "testimony," "revelation," etc. These words are generally not understood by the L.D.S. Indian youth. To remedy this situation words are introduced in the rewritten text which build both the student's gospel vocabulary as well as his general vocabulary. These words are underlined when they first appear. The teacher goes through all the new words at the beginning of each lesson to give the students an understanding of their meaning. This objective was shown to be justified by the increased ability it gave the student to express himself, to understand gospel concepts, and to feel at ease in an English-speaking society.

The third general objective of the course is to convince the students that Jesus is the Christ. This involves building a testimony of the divinity of Jesus Christ and the reality of His mission.

The fourth general objective is to build within the students a testimony that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is in reality the Saviour's church and as such it offers the only means of salvation to mankind. To achieve this objective evidence must be presented throughout the course for the truthfulness of the Book of Mormon and the reality of the restoration of the gospel. This evidence may be drawn from many sources. Some of these sources are: Archaeological evidence, Bible prophecies, individual testimonies, reason, and consistency with Bible doctrine.

The last course objective is to help each student see the value of righteous living in order that he will want to conform with the teachings
of the Saviour. The accomplishment of this objective involves the following:
First, the students must gain an understanding of the gospel principles.
Second, they must be shown examples of how these principles enrich the
lives of those who apply them. Then they must be invited to apply the prin-
ciples of the gospel in their own lives. If they do this they can experience
the satisfaction and happiness that a righteous life brings. This experience
should provide them with a motivation to continue to apply the gospel principles
in their life.

Organization of the Course

A study of the Book of Mormon is not complete without learning how
the book was found and translated. An introduction to this course of study
is necessary to provide this information. It is centered around the Joseph
Smith story. Each student is given a copy of the pamphlet, Joseph Smith Tells
His Own Story. This provides an excellent visual aid to accompany the story.
The story itself may be presented by storytelling using the flannel board,
or playing the record, "The Joseph Smith Story." The record is available
from Columbia Research Company of Salt Lake City, Utah. In any case it is
important to relate the pictures in the pamphlet to the story as it is pre-
sented. This gives the student an understanding of how we obtained the Book
of Mormon as well as acquainting him with the important facts of the restora-
tion of the gospel. It takes approximately five class periods to do a good
job in presenting the introduction.

A second thing to be considered in the course organization is the text
material. The lesson references from the 1961 seminary Course of Study for
Book of Mormon Students were used to determine which chapters from the Book
of Mormon should be studied. Most of the course follows these references.
A few chapters on doctrine have been added.
There are two items which should be pointed out about the course. The first is that it does not include all of the material of the Book of Mormon. Some of the chapters in the text do not have the entire content of corresponding chapters in the Book of Mormon. The second is that short gaps in the text appear occasionally. Lesson material has not been prepared for these areas because it is felt that they can be presented most effectively by storytelling. The first such omission is the story of Zeezrom and his discussion with Amulek. The second is the story of the sons of Mosiah from the time the prisoners at Middoni were freed to the completion of their mission among the Lamanites. The third is the story of Helaman and his two thousand stripling warriors.

Visual aids provide another category of course organization. They add a lot to the course. Though few new visual aids have been made for this course there are many good ones available. The pictures which have proved to be useful include Arnold Friberg's paintings of Book of Mormon scenes and the Book of Mormon pictures painted by M. R. Crankston. The former are available from the Deseret Book Store in Salt Lake City and the latter can be obtained from the L.D.S. Department of Education. There are also some excellent flannel board stories made by Marie Felt which appear in the following issues of the Instructor: November and December 1959, March and August 1961, and April and June 1963. The Instructor and the Improvement Era offer excellent sources for pictures useful to this course. Other useful learning aids will be suggested in the "Motivational Items" found in the Appendix of this work. Pictures of Indians generally add a lot to the classroom "atmosphere." Two good sets are available. One is a series of six paintings by an Indian artist. It is available for one dollar by writing to M. A. Donohue and Company, 711 South Dearborn Street, Chicago 5, Illinois and asking for the series of pictures entitled "Indians
The second set can be obtained free for teachers by writing to General Motors Corporation, Pontiac Motor Division, Public Relations Department, Pontiac, Michigan.

In the way of charts, several good ones are available from the Brigham Young University. The two which are most valuable for this course are entitled "The Bible and the Book of Mormon" and 'The Eleven Witnesses.' For prices on these and other teaching aids consult the Brigham Young University bulletin entitled Book of Mormon Materials. It is available without cost from the B.Y.U. Audio-Visual Department.

The next area to be considered is that of films and filmstrips. The ones which have proven most valuable are listed below:

**FILMSTRIPS**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Filmstrips</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Color</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Stick of Joseph</td>
<td>$4.50</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>B.Y.U.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient Empires of America</td>
<td>4.50</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>B.Y.U.</td>
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</table>

**FILMS**

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<tbody>
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<td>Oliver Cowdery</td>
<td>$11.00</td>
<td>yes</td>
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<td>45 min.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Indian Bible</td>
<td>1.75</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>B.Y.U.</td>
<td>10 min.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Chosen People</td>
<td>6.00</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>B.Y.U.</td>
<td>24 min.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upon Their Shoulders</td>
<td>8.00</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>B.Y.U.</td>
<td>30 min.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decision</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>B.Y.U.</td>
<td>13 min.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With All Your Heart</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>B.Y.U.</td>
<td>30 min.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Choice Land</td>
<td>7.00</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>B.Y.U.</td>
<td>30 min.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Prices listed are for the second set.
The last area of course organization is that of adding variety to
the course. The following suggestions have proven useful in providing variety:

1. Vary the approach by having study periods, oral discussions,
   reading aloud etc., on different days or by using a combination
   of these methods.

2. Schedule films at regular intervals throughout the year.

3. Allow the students to use the text material to make their
   own lessons. They often gain more from making up questions
   than they do from answering them. It is better not to make
   them answer the questions which they prepare. Instead, they
   can be graded on the questions which they have made.

4. Make a game out of learning. By acquainting the students with
   the game "Zion" they can be prepared to use it as a learning
   device. The game board and spinner are used but the questions
   are taken from the lesson. They may be made up by the students
   or by the teacher. Then after studying the lesson these
   questions are substituted for the printed questions in
   playing the game. The students like to learn this way.
   Later as the majority of the course has been covered, the
   teacher may want to use the regular questions to play the game
   also.

5. Conduct class discussions on problems of daily life for the
   Indian as they are brought to public attention through happen-
   ings in the community. Examples of such problems include
   drinking, fighting, moral problems, lack of thrift, personal
   cleanliness, desertion, and employment.

6. Clip articles which show achievement by Indian people and
   bring them to class while they are current. Discuss them
with the students. Also ask them to bring any articles of
this type to class which they find.

7. Let students have class time to plan parties occasionally.
Though the parties must not be held during school hours,
they do a lot to build class spirit and increase the students'
enthusiasm for seminary.

8. Assign the students who have artistic ability the task of
drawing illustrations of the stories which they study.

9. Have lessons handed in occasionally when the students have
done particularly well on a lesson. When such lessons are
graded and handed back they do a lot to boost enthusiasm.

10. Invite community members who can provide information important
to the students' lives to come and speak to the class. For
example, a local employer might be invited to talk to the
class about the standards he has for hiring people and what
the class members can do to aid themselves in obtaining a good
job. He could also impress them with the importance of continuing
their education beyond high school.

The Organization of the Lessons

The lessons for this course of study are made to conform with the
standard seminary format. A short discussion of each of the lesson headings
follows.

The Unit and Lesson Titles

The unit title is a statement giving an indication of what the
material in the unit is about. It is followed by the lesson title. The
lesson title states the lesson objective in the form of a question. Each
of the sixty-nine lessons fit into one or more of the thirty-five directional
objectives used by the seminary.

Reference

The reference states the sections of the written text where the student will find the answers to the questions under "Background and Journal Work." The Book of Mormon reference is also given for the use of students who are advanced enough to use it partially or entirely for their text.

Devotional

The devotional is left blank on the lesson sheets. This was done purposely since the devotional is a responsibility of both the teacher and the students. The standard seminary devotional includes a song or record, a thought, and a prayer. It is sometimes difficult to have a thought given daily by Indian students but they can all participate in prayer. They are often shy but they will pray if they are taught how. The teacher can help them by explaining the details of prayer. Then it is helpful if the students write a prayer according to the instructions which they have been given. By reading the prayer the teacher can know if the student understands how to pray. He can also locate any problem which the student has. Then he can go over the prayer with the student and make the necessary corrections to make it meet the basic essentials of a prayer. When this is done the student will have a sample prayer which he can review before praying in class. It helps him to remember the form and the essential parts of a prayer. Another way of helping the students is to put an outline of the basic parts of a prayer on the board. Then the student who is going to pray will be able to get the form in his mind and have an idea of what to say. After all the students have a good understanding of how to pray they should be expected to take their turn praying in the devotional. This may require some time to accomplish, but if the teacher is patient and kind he
will be able to do it.

The musical part of the devotional helps set the stage for a spiritual class. Indian students like to sing. If someone is available who can play the piano there is no problem in having a song every day. Students may be taught to lead the music and all can have a turn doing so. But when a piano is not available or no one in the class can play the piano it is still possible to have the song by playing a recording of L.D.S. hymns while the students sing. These records are available at Deseret Book Store, or the teacher may want to tape some hymns and use a tape recorder to play them in class.

**Background and Journal Work**

The questions under this section of the lesson are factual questions. The answers to them can be found in the student's text. They do not involve the making of value judgments. Their purpose is to bring out the important historical and doctrinal points of the lesson. They are generally written out by the students and are kept in their journals.

**Understanding and Conviction**

The purpose of the questions is to relate what the student has learned in the lesson to his present situation. They often require judgments to be made. They require some individual thought since they are not answered in the text. Often the students have difficulty doing these questions by themselves. It is better to conduct a class discussion to answer them. Then the teacher can find out what the students know and can add whatever else is necessary to give them a complete understanding of the answers. Often the teacher will have to give the complete answer to the class. When this is done it is good to question the students to make sure that they understand what they were told. If the teacher find that they did not, a further discussion of the question is warranted.
**Application**

This part of the lesson serves a dual purpose. First, it shows the teacher how well the student has mastered the main concepts of the lesson. Second, it helps the student discover how he can apply what he has learned to better his life. Sometimes the application asks the student to apply a gospel principle in his life and report on his success. In some instances this type of application is difficult to check on and doesn't achieve the desired goal. The purpose of the application is to offer the student ideas on how to apply what he had learned in the lesson. This, together with the motivation furnished by the lesson itself, helps him to make the application in his life. Most of the course applications seek to do this by bringing the main concepts of the lesson to the student's mind and suggesting possibilities for their use in his life.

**Motivational Items**

The purpose of the motivational item is to focus the attention of the students on the lesson to follow and to increase their desire to study it. Many possibilities exist for motivational items for each lesson. A suggested motivational item which has been successful is given for each lesson.

**Modifications Possible With The Course**

This course of study can be modified in several ways for different purposes. It can be used with questions interspersed between the sections. This is advantageous for short class periods. It also allows discussion on a short segment of the lesson while the information is still fresh in the students' minds.

A second modification involves breaking up the sections of the text into smaller parts and making the course into a programmed system of learning. This was tried with part of the course material and it seemed to work
well. If the course was made to follow the programmed learning pattern it could be used on an individual basis for slower students in the regular ninth grade Book of Mormon classes or for those who had reading problems.

A final modification of the course is obtained by leaving out the lesson sheets. This leaves the text alone; this could be useful in making a Sunday School manual for Indian students. The same text may also prove valuable in providing a simplified version of the Book of Mormon for young people.

These modifications could prove even more valuable than the course of study itself. Examples of most of the lesson modifications indicated above may be found in the Appendix to this study.
A BOOK OF MORMON COURSE OF STUDY FOR INDIAN STUDENTS

IN RELEASED-TIME SEMINARIES
I NEPHI 1

1. The writer of First Nephi was a man named Nephi. He explained in the first part of his book that he had good parents and a good education. He said that he had gone through many trials and hardships in his life but God had been with him and he had been greatly blessed. As he grew older he made a set of gold plates upon which he wrote the story of his life and people. This is the story: About 600 B.C. in the city of Jerusalem there lived a man named Lehi with his wife, Sariah, and his four sons, Laman, Lemuel, Sam, and Nephi. Things were bad in Jerusalem at that time. The people had become wicked and there were many prophets who had come into the city to warn them to repent or the great city of Jerusalem would be destroyed. About this time Lehi went out to pray to the Lord for his people. He prayed that they might repent and not be destroyed. As he prayed a fire appeared on a rock beside him. He saw and heard many things from the Lord.

2. When Lehi returned home he was very tired and he laid upon his bed. As he lay there he beheld a vision. He saw God sitting upon His throne among many angels who were singing and praising Him. Then he saw a man surrounded by a beautiful bright light which was brighter than the sun coming down out of heaven. The man was followed by twelve other men who also were surrounded by a light. The man came down and stood before Lehi. He gave him a book and asked him to read it. As Lehi read he was filled with the Spirit of the Lord. The writing said: Sorrow is coming to Jerusalem because of her wickedness. The city is going to be destroyed and many of its people will be killed while others will be captured and taken away as slaves. During this
vision Lehi read and saw many things which caused him to thank God and praise Him for His goodness in showing all these things to him.

3. After Lehi had seen the vision he went out among the people of Jerusalem and began to tell them what he had seen and heard. But the Jews only laughed at what he told them. They did not believe him and when he told them of their wickedness, it made them angry and they began making plans to kill him.

I NEPHI 2

4. The Lord spoke again to Lehi in a dream and told him that He was pleased with him for his faithfulness in trying to teach the people. Then He warned him that the people were going to kill him and that he must take his family and go into the wilderness to escape them. Lehi did as he was commanded. He left behind his gold, his silver, his land, and his home, and took only the things he would need for himself and his family in the wilderness. Their travel took them near the Red Sea where the country wasn't as dry as in the desert. After traveling for three days they finally stopped and made camp in a valley near a river.

5. When they had made camp Lehi spoke to his oldest two sons. They had been giving their father trouble from the first of the trip. They were angry with him for leaving their home and bringing them out into the wilderness. They did not believe that God had spoken to him, nor did they believe that Jerusalem was going to be destroyed. They were always complaining and they made life very hard for their father. As Lehi spoke to them he was filled with the Holy Ghost and so great were his words that the two wicked sons became afraid and they stopped speaking against their father.

Nephi and Sam were following the instructions of their father. Nephi had prayed to find out if his father was right in what he was doing. The Lord answered his prayer and told him that He had talked to his father and
that what he was doing was right. He went on to say that He was leading them to a promised land and if they would remain worthy it would be given to them. Then the Lord said that He was pleased with Nephi and that He was going to make him a ruler over his brothers. He said that if they became wicked and turned against Him they would be punished. So, even as a very young man Nephi spoke with God. After praying he returned to tell Sam what had happened and the two boys remained faithful to their father and did as he told them.
UNIT I

THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE REBELLIOUS

Lesson 1

WHY DOES THE WORLD NEED PROPHETS

I. Reference:

Section numbers 1-5
I Nephi chapters 1 and 2

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. Who wrote First Nephi? Tell what you can about the man.
2. When and where does the Book of Mormon story begin?
3. Give the names of Nephi's family.
4. What was happening in Jerusalem at the time Nephi lived there?
5. What was Lehi praying about at the time he saw the fire on the rock?
6. What did Lehi read in the book that was given to him in his vision?
7. What did Lehi do after seeing the vision? How did the people treat him?
8. Why did the Jews want to kill Lehi? How was he saved?
9. What problem did Lehi have with his two oldest sons? Did he have this problem with his younger sons? Explain.

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. Why do you think the Lord chose Lehi and his family to come to the Promised Land?
2. Who do you think it was that came down out of heaven in Lehi's vision and gave him the book to read? Who were the other twelve men who followed him?
3. Why does the world need prophets?
4. Who are our prophets today?

V. Application:

Tell why our living prophets today are a great evidence that we have the true church.
I NEPHI 3

6. After returning from the wilderness where he had been praying, Nephi was called to his father's tent. Lehi told Nephi of a dream in which the Lord told him to send his four sons back to Jerusalem for some brass plates. These plates contained the words of the Bible prophets. Nephi said that he would go for he knew that God would help them get the plates. His father was happy to hear this since the other brothers had complained when they were told. Finally, however, Lehi got all of his sons to go back to Jerusalem after the brass plates.

7. When the four brothers got to Jerusalem they drew sticks to see who would go to see Laban. He was the man who had the plates. Laman got the short stick. He went to Laban's house while his brothers remained behind. When Laman asked Laban for the plates, Laban became very angry for he was a wicked man. He even sent his servant to kill Laman, but Laman ran away and escaped.

8. Laman returned to his brothers and told them of his failure to get the plates. Then he and Lemuel wanted to go back to their father. But Nephi did not want to go back without the plates. He felt sure that the Lord would help them if they would keep trying. He told his brothers of a plan which he had. They could go to their home and get their money. Then they could buy the plates. They all agreed to try this plan.

9. Nephi's plan didn't work. When they took their money to Laban he decided to take it from them and keep the plates. He sent his servants to kill them. They had to run for their lives. They hid in a cave outside of
town. Here Laman and Lemuel began to beat Nephi and Sam because Nephi's plan didn't work and they had lost all of their money. An angel appeared and told them not to beat their younger brothers. He said that God had chosen Nephi to lead them because he was a righteous man and they were not. He told them that if they would go back to the city, God would help them to get the plates. Then he left. In spite of this great experience the brothers still complained and wanted to go home.

I NEPHI 4

10. Nephi talked to his older brothers and tried to tell them that the coming of the angel was proof that they were doing the right thing and that God would help them. They still complained and were angry but they went with him back to Jerusalem. Then Nephi left his brothers outside of the city walls while he went into the city alone. It was dark. As he went through the empty streets he trusted in God to help him know what he should do. Then he saw a man lying in the street ahead of him. He bent over to see who it was. There was enough light for him to tell that this man was Laban. He had been out to a late meeting where he had become drunk. On the way home he had passed out and had fallen in the street.

11. The first thing that Nephi did was to take Laban's sword. While he stood there in the darkness holding the sword the Holy Ghost spoke to him. He told him that he must kill Laban. This made Nephi feel bad because he had never killed anyone before and he didn't want to do so now. Again the Spirit told him to kill Laban. He was told that unless he did he could not get the plates. He knew that Laban was a wicked man and also that he must get the plates so he finally decided to obey the Lord. He took hold of Laban's hair and cut his head off with the sword. Then he quickly took off Laban's clothing and armor and put them on himself and started for Laban's
house. When he got to Laban's house he met Laban's servant, Zoram, who had been waiting up for his master to return. When he saw Nephi coming in the darkness and dressed in Laban's clothing and armor he thought it was Laban. Nephi told Zoram to go and get the brass plates. Then he told Zoram to follow him. He led Zoram outside the gates of the city where his brothers were waiting.

12. When Nephi's brothers saw Nephi dressed in Laban's clothing they were frightened. They thought that it was Laban and that he had killed Nephi and now was coming to kill them. They started to run away. Nephi called to them and told them who he was. When the servant, Zoram, heard this he became frightened and turned to run back into the city. Nephi caught him and held him. He didn't want him to go back and tell what had happened. He told Zoram that if he would go back with them into the wilderness that they would make him a free man and would not harm him. After Zoram gave his promise that he would do this he let him go. Then they all went back to join Lehi in the wilderness. Nephi had trusted in God and God had not failed him.
UNIT I
THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE REBELLIOUS
Lesson 2
CAN WE DEPEND ON GOD

I. Reference:

Section numbers 6-12
I Nephi chapters 3 and 4

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. For what reason did Lehi ask his sons to return to Jerusalem? How did they feel about going?

2. Who was the first one of the brothers to try to get the brass plates? What happened when he tried?

3. After the first plan to get the plates failed, what did the brothers do?

4. Tell of Nephi's plan to get the plates and what happened when they tried it?

5. Why did Laman and Lemuel beat their younger brothers? What happened to stop them?

6. How did Nephi finally get the brass plates?

7. Why did Nephi kill Laban?

8. Who went back into the wilderness with the brothers when they returned to their father? Why?

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. What important thing does this lesson teach us about God?

2. Why don't even wonderful experiences like seeing an angel cause people to become righteous?

3. Why is there no excuse for a person who has the gospel not to get to heaven?

V. Application:

Suppose you were asked to go on a mission for the church but your family couldn't support you. What answer would you give the church leaders? Why?
I NEPHI 5

13. When the sons of Lehi returned to their parents, both Lehi and Sariah were very happy to see them. Sariah had been so worried about them that she had complained to Lehi. She told him that she didn't believe in his visions and that now he had sent her sons to be killed. Lehi tried to make her feel better by telling her that he was sure that God would protect their sons. When the boys came back safely Sariah told Lehi that she was sorry for what she had said. Now she knew that God was helping them and that Lehi was truly a prophet of God.

14. When Lehi looked at the plates he found that they told of the creation of the world and of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. He also found that they contained the writings of many prophets. By reading what was written on the plates Lehi learned that he was a descendant of the great prophet, Joseph, who had been sold into Egypt. When Lehi read of this, the Holy Ghost came upon him and he began to tell many things which would happen to his children. He said that these plates would be very important in teaching them the things of God.

I NEPHI 6

15. Later in his life Nephi made another set of plates on which he could write his life's story and explain the teachings of God to his people. He said that the most important things he could write were the things of God. His reason for writing was to show us that if a person will believe in Jesus Christ and keep His commandments then God will help him in this life and he
will be allowed to be with God after he dies. Nephi wrote to those who would keep the records after him and told them to write only the things of God upon these plates.
I. Reference:

Section numbers 13-15
I Nephi chapters 5 and 6

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. What had Sarah done that made her feel sorry after her sons returned safely?

2. What was written on the brass plates?

3. Whom did Lehi find that he was a descendent of?

4. Why did Nephi make another set of plates?

5. What was Nephi's reason for writing on the plates?

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. Why did God want Lehi to have the brass plates?

2. In what way are the writings and history of people who have lived long ago useful to us?

3. What is scripture? Why is it important to us?


V. Application:

Why is it a great honor and blessing for you to be a member of the House of Israel?
16. After Lehi had finished telling what would happen to his children the Lord spoke to him again. He was told that his sons must have wives. He was to send them back again to Jerusalem to get a man named Ishmael and his family. Ishmael had some married sons and five unmarried daughters. So again the sons returned to Jerusalem. When they got to Ishmael's home and told him what the Lord had told their father, Ishmael believed them. He took his family and started with them back to join Lehi in the wilderness. On the way back Laman and Lemuel together with some of Ishmael's children turned against Ishmael and Nephi. They decided that they would return to Jerusalem.

17. Nephi warned his brothers that if they went back to Jerusalem they would be killed. He knew that what his father had said about the city was true and that it was going to be destroyed. The older brothers became angry with Nephi. They caught him and tied him up. They were going to leave him tied up in the wilderness to be killed by wild animals. But Nephi knew that God would help him. He prayed for strength to break the ropes that held him. God heard his prayer and the ropes fell from his hands and feet. Then he returned to his brothers who were very surprised to see him free. They were going to catch him and tie him up again. But Ishmael's wife and two of her children began to talk to Laman and Lemuel. They asked them to leave Nephi alone. They said that he had done nothing wrong and that if they hurt him God would be angry with them. They were finally convinced that they should not hurt Nephi. They became sorry for what they had done and
they asked Nephi to forgive them. He did forgive them. Then he told them that they must pray and ask God to forgive them. When they had done this, the group went on to meet Lehi.
UNIT I

THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE REBELLIOUS

Lesson 4

SHOULD WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO WRONG US

I. Reference:

Section numbers 16-17
I Nephi chapter 7

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. What was the Lord's reason for having Lehi's sons go back to Jerusalem a second time?

2. How did Ishmael feel about joining Lehi in the wilderness?

3. What caused the trouble between Lehi's sons in the wilderness?

4. How did God help Nephi when his brothers had tied him up?

5. What caused Laman and Lemuel to decide not to leave Nephi to be killed?

6. After Laman and Lemuel had asked Nephi to forgive them who else did they have to ask to forgive them? Why?

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. Why is it important that we ask God to forgive us when we have wronged someone?

2. Who should we be willing to forgive? Explain.

3. Why is it necessary that we forgive others in order to have God forgive us?

V. Application:

Is there anyone who has wronged you that you have not forgiven? Explain why it is important that you forgive everyone who wrongs you.
I NEPHI 8

18. While Lehi's sons were gone after Ishmael's family Lehi had another dream. When the sons returned he told them about it. He had seen a man dressed in a white robe who told Lehi to follow him. They traveled for many hours in the darkness. Lehi began to be worried. He prayed that God would help him. After praying he came to a large field where there was a tree whose fruit would make a person very happy. He ate some of the fruit and it tasted very good. It also made him feel very happy. He wanted to give some of this fruit to his family so that they could be happy too. He looked all around to see if he could see them.

19. When Lehi looked around he saw a river of dirty water running by the tree. As he looked to see where the river came from he saw his wife and four sons a little way up the river from him. He called them to come and eat some of the fruit. Sariah, Sam, and Nephi came but Laman and Lemuel would not come. Then he noticed that there was an iron rod leading along the river bank to the tree. He also saw many people coming through the field toward the tree. As they drew near a heavy fog or darkness came upon them so that they couldn't see where they were going. This made them lose their way and get off on different paths. Some fell into the river and were drowned. Others grabbed onto the iron rod and were able to get to the tree and eat the fruit. After they ate the fruit they looked around like they were ashamed. Then Lehi saw others across the river who were laughing at them. This made those who were eating the fruit leave the tree and they were soon lost.

20. Lehi saw that the people who were across the river were in a large
building. It was standing in the air above the earth. The people who were in the building were wearing very fine clothing. They were pointing at the people who ate the fruit and were laughing at them. Many people were going along the trails which led to this building. Some got onto different paths which led them away to be lost. Some had fallen into the river and were drowning. Only a few were able to endure the scorn of the people in the spacious building.

21. After having the dream Lehi called Laman and Lemuel to him. He told them that he was worried about them because in his dream they had not eaten the fruit. He said that they must try hard to do right and obey God's commandments for he loved them very much and didn't want them to be cut off from God.
UNIT I
THE RIGHTOUS AND THE REBELLIOUS
Lesson 5
WHAT IS REVELATION

I. Reference:
Section numbers 18-22
I Nephi chapters 8 and 9

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:
1. In Lehi's dream when he began to be worried what did he do?
2. Use a full sheet of paper to draw a picture of Lehi's dream.
3. Why was Lehi worried about his sons Laman and Lemuel?
4. How did Lehi know that he had left Jerusalem in the year 600 B.C.?
5. Tell some of the things that the Lord told Lehi about Jesus.

IV. Understanding and Conviction:
1. Quote the seventh article of faith. What does it mean?
2. What do you think could be the meaning of the following things in Lehi's dream: The fruit, the iron rod, the large field, the river of dirty water, the large building, the fog or darkness.
3. Do you think it is a good idea to pray in times of sickness or trouble? Should you pray only in times of sickness or trouble? Explain.
4. What is revelation? Tell the different ways in which revelation can come.

V. Application:

Why is it important that revelation from God exist in the true church? Could you receive a revelation? Explain. (Note: The information to answer this question will be given by the teacher.)
I NEPHI 10

22. After Lehi had told his sons about what he had seen in his dream he began to tell them some of the other things which the Lord had shown him. He said that six hundred years from the time they left Jerusalem the Son of God would be born. He told them that He would be born among the Jews and that another prophet would be sent to tell the people about Him and prepare His way. Lehi said this other man would baptize Jesus. He also told them that most of the Jews would not listen to Jesus. They would have Him killed. Then He would rise from the dead and return to His Father in Heaven. Jesus was going to suffer and die for us so that we could be forgiven of our sins by accepting Him.

I NEPHI 11

23. When Nephi heard his father tell of all these wonderful things he wanted to know more about them. As he sat thinking about what he had heard, the Holy Ghost came and took him away to a high mountain. Then the Spirit asked him what he wanted to know. He said that he wanted to see the things that his father had seen.

24. The Holy Ghost asked Nephi if he believed what his father had said. When he answered, yes, the Spirit told him that the Lord loved him because of his faithfulness. He said that he would show him what his father had seen. He was told to look. As he looked he saw the tree Lehi had seen. He asked the Spirit what this meant. He could talk to the Spirit, for even though he was a spirit person, he was in the form of a man.
25. As Nephi's vision continued he saw a beautiful young woman in Jerusalem. He was told that this would be the mother of Jesus. He saw the Holy Ghost take her away. When she returned she was carrying a baby. The Spirit told Nephi that this child was God's son. The woman he saw was his mother, and God in Heaven was His father. Then Nephi was told that the tree in the dream represented the love which caused God to send His Son to earth to die for us.

26. Then Nephi saw Jesus as a grown man. He saw Him go to John the Baptist and be baptized. He saw that many people believed what Jesus said and worshiped Him. Others, however, wouldn't listen to His teachings and they cast Him out. These teachings of Jesus made up the gospel which was to lead men back to God. This was the meaning of the iron rod that led to the tree. It was the gospel.

27. Nephi also saw Jesus heal the sick and cast out devils. He saw that there were twelve other men whom Jesus selected to be with Him. Then the vision changed and Nephi saw the people take Jesus and condemn Him to death because of what He taught. He was nailed to a cross and left to die. After Jesus died His twelve apostles continued to teach His gospel until wicked men killed them. This put an end to His church. These wicked people who would not accept the gospel were shown in Lehi's dream by the people in the large building who were laughing at those who ate the fruit.

I NEPHI 12

28. After seeing the vision of Jesus, Nephi saw the land that the Lord was going to lead them to. He saw many people scattered all over the land. He saw great battles fought among these people in which many were killed. Then he saw a great darkness come over the land and there were earthquakes, fires, and volcanoes erupting. Many cities were destroyed. Some were burned. Others sank into the sea. Still others were shaken to pieces. After the
darkness cleared, Nephi saw that a great many people had been killed. Only the righteous were left.

29. Then Nephi saw Jesus coming down out of heaven. He came down among the people who were still left in America. He chose twelve of them to be His apostles here in America. Then He gave them the priesthood. He also organized His church here in America. After Jesus left, the people were so righteous that they lived in peace and happiness for nearly two hundred years. Then they began to grow wicked again.

30. When the people became wicked great wars began among them. Because of their great wickedness all of Nephi's people were killed in battle. The Spirit told Nephi that the mist of darkness and the large building represented the temptations of the devil which lead people into wickedness and cause them to be destroyed. The dirty river represented the depths of hell. After Nephi's people were killed he saw the remaining people called Lamanites fighting with each other. They also became wicked and turned away from God. When they did this they began to lose the great civilization which they had.

31. Then Nephi was shown the many other nations of the world. He saw that there was a great church among them which made it hard for the people. He saw that the devil was the one who started that church. Then Nephi saw that a man who lived across the sea was inspired by God to take a ship and sail to America. After he discovered America many other people came here to escape from the wicked church. Nephi noticed that these people were white people. When they came to America they drove back the Indians and took their land.

32. Next Nephi saw these white people begin to start a nation of their own. They wanted to be free from the country which they had come from. This started a war. He saw that God helped the people of America and they won their freedom. Then Nephi saw a book which the people who came to America
brought with them. He was told that this book was God's word written by prophets who lived across the sea. It was called the Bible. Nephi was told that when this book was written by the prophets and apostles of Jesus it was complete and true. But later wicked men made many changes in the book so that people would not know the truth. By doing this those wicked men got people to follow their man-made churches.

33. Nephi was shown the Lamanites who were a part of his people. They were driven and killed. He was promised that they would not all be killed. Someday the true gospel would be taken back to them. Then they would have another chance to turn to God and be a blessed people again. He saw that other books of scripture would be brought to them to help teach them the truth.
UNIT I

THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE REBELLIOUS

Lesson 6

HOW DID THE LORD GUIDE THE HISTORY OF AMERICA

I. Reference:

Section numbers 23-33
I Nephi chapters 11 - 13

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. How did Nephi's revelation come?

2. What is the Holy Ghost like?

3. In what way was Jesus different from all other persons born on the earth?

4. Give the meaning of the following things in Lehi's dream:
   (a) the tree (b) the iron rod (c) the river of dirty water
   (d) the mist of darkness

5. What happened to the church which Jesus organized while He was upon the earth? Why?

6. What did Nephi see happening in America just before Jesus visited the people here?

7. Nephi's vision showed him a man who crossed the ocean to America and named the people he found here "Indians." Who was this man?

8. What book did the people who came to America bring with them? What had happened to many of the teachings in this book?

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. Why did Nephi have to believe in what his father had told him before the Lord would show him more?

2. What important things did Nephi see happening in America from the time Columbus came until now?

3. How has the Lord helped to make America a great nation?

V. Application:

What things make America a great place to live? How can we help to preserve these things?
34. After Nephi had seen the vision of what was going to happen in America he returned to his father's tent. When he got there his brothers were talking about the things which their father had told them. They couldn't understand what they meant. Nephi asked them if they had prayed and asked God to help them understand as he had done. They said they hadn't. Then Nephi explained that the House of Israel included not only the Jews but also the people of Joseph of whom they were members. In the years to come the people of Joseph in America would be called Lamanites. He said that the time would come when both the Jews and the Lamanites would turn away from God. Then the gospel would be taken from them.

35. After both the Jews and the Lamanites had gone for many years without the true gospel God was going to restore it to the white men in America. This happened when the gospel was restored to Joseph Smith by heavenly beings. Then these white men would take the gospel to the Lamanites and later to the Jews. If the Lamanites accepted this gospel and started to live good lives, then they would once again become a great and a blessed people.

36. Nephi tried very hard to get his brothers to repent and live righteous lives. He explained to them that if a person has the true gospel while on the earth such as they did, and still lives a wicked life, then when he dies he will find himself filthy with sin. Since God is pure and holy, no sinful being can live with Him. So, a person who knows the truth and doesn't live it cannot be with God. They will be cast out of God's kingdom into another place prepared for the wicked. Nephi didn't want this to happen to his
brothers so he tried hard to get them to change.

I NEPHI 16

37. Nephi's brothers didn't like what he said to them but they knew that it was true. They had been wicked. They decided to repent and try to do better. Then Zoram and each of the four brothers chose a wife from Ishmael's daughters and they were married. Now that Lehi had done all that the Lord had told him to do he was instructed to go on into the wilderness.

38. The next day when Lehi got up he found a ball made of brass in front of his tent. It had a needle in it which worked like a compass and pointed the way that they should go in the wilderness. They called it the Liahona. The Lord gave them this to show them the way to the promised land. So, with the ball to guide them Lehi's people again started on their trip. They traveled for four days and then stopped to rest and get food. After making camp Nephi and his brothers took their bows and arrows and went out to kill some wild animals for food. They were successful and the group went on. Finally the food ran out and Nephi and his brothers were sent out again to kill game. While on this trip Nephi broke his bow which was made of steel. The other bows weren't very good, so the brothers weren't able to kill anything. They had to return to camp without food.

39. The camp had gone without food for a long time. When the brothers returned without any food most of the people began to complain against God. Nephi tried to talk to them but they wouldn't listen. So he went out alone to find wood that he could use to make another bow and arrows. After completing the bow and making some arrows he went to his father to ask where he should go to find game. When his father prayed about it the Lord told him that he was angry with him as well as with all the others who had complained.
Lord used strong words to tell Lehi that he had done wrong. Lehi felt very bad. He repented and then the Lord told him to look at the Liahona.

40. When Lehi and his family looked at the ball they discovered something which frightened them. The needle was just going around and around. Then they realized that this compass only worked when they were righteous. They realized that they must be righteous or they would never find their way to the promised land. They also noticed that writing appeared on the ball from time to time giving them instructions on what they should do.

40. As they were looking at the ball instructions appeared telling Nephi where to go to get food. He did as he was told and he found animals which he was able to kill. When he returned with the food everyone was happy. They all felt sorry that they had complained against God. They prayed and thanked Him for the food. Then they went on for several more days in the wilderness and again made camp.

41. It was at this time that Ishmael died and was buried. His daughters felt very bad about it. Some of them began to complain against Lehi for bringing them out into the wilderness. They also complained against Nephi. They wanted to go back to Jerusalem. Laman and Lemuel joined the girls and decided to kill Nephi and Lehi and return to Jerusalem. But before they could do anything the voice of the Lord spoke to them and very strongly told them of their wickedness. This caused them to change their plans and repent. So, the Lord again saved Nephi and Lehi from death.
UNIT I

THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE REBELLIOUS

Lesson 7

DOES THE LORD HELP THOSE WHO WON'T HELP THEMSELVES

I. Reference:

Section numbers 34-41
I Nephi chapters 15 and 16

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. Why couldn't Nephi's brothers understand their father's dream?

2. What did Nephi say was going to happen to the people of the House of Israel?

3. What happens to the person who has the true gospel and doesn't live its teachings?

4. What happened in Lehi's camp after Nephi broke his bow?

5. How did Nephi show that he knew that in order to get God's help he must do all that he could himself?

6. Why was the Lord angry with Lehi and his people? What did Lehi do about it?

7. What was the Liahona? How did it work?

8. What caused the older brothers to make plans to kill Lehi and Nephi? What stopped them?

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. What would have happened to Lehi's people if they would have all given up and complained as Lehi did?

2. Why can't we get the Lord to help us do something until we have done all that we can ourselves?

3. Who will be better off on the judgment day, the man who had the gospel and didn't live it, or the man who never had it on earth? Explain.

V. Application:

If you were going to take an important test to get a job what must you do before you could honestly ask God to help you pass the test? Explain.
I NEPHI 17

42. Lehi and his people continued on through the wilderness. They were guided by the Liahona. They had many hard times. Children were born in the wilderness. The Lord blessed them and the women and children were strong enough to keep up with the men. Finally, after eight years they reached the ocean and made their camp in a beautiful place which they called Bountiful. It was a place where there was a lot of food.

43. After coming to Bountiful, Nephi was told by the Lord to go up onto a mountain. There the Lord told him to build a ship. Nephi didn't say, "I can't," but he asked the Lord where to go to find ore which he could use to make tools. The Lord told him where to find the ore and he went to work making the tools. When the tools were done, Nephi started to build the ship. His brothers laughed at him and said that he was foolish to try to build a ship. They wouldn't help him. This made him feel bad because he knew that with God's help he could do anything he was asked to do.

44. Nephi tried to make his brothers understand. They said that they were tired of the wilderness and they wished that they would have turned back before. They didn't believe Jerusalem was a wicked city or that it was going to be destroyed. He told them that the city was wicked and if they had gone back they would have been destroyed. He told them that God always leads the righteous out away from the wicked and that he was going to lead them to a great new land. He said that God loves and helps those who love and serve Him, but He was angry with those who would not do right. Then Nephi reminded his brothers that they had seen an angel and also heard the voice of God. They should know by now that God was leading them. He also
said that he felt bad because his brothers were wicked and would be cut off from God's kingdom unless they repented.

45. Laman and Lemuel became angry at Nephi for what he said. They decided to throw him off a cliff into the ocean. As they came near him he told them that the power of God was with him. If they touched him they would die. He also told them to stop complaining. God had told him to build a ship and he was going to do it. When he had said this his brothers were afraid to touch him.

46. After several days the Lord told Nephi to touch his brothers and they would not die but the Lord would show them His power. Nephi did this. As he touched them they received a shock that knocked them down. Then they believed Nephi. They fell down before him and were going to worship him, but he told them they should only worship God. All he asked them to do was to honor their parents and live good lives.
UNIT I

THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE REBELLIOUS

Lesson 8

IS IT EASY TO SERVE GOD

I. Reference:

Section numbers 42-46
I Nephi chapter 17

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. How long did Lehi and his people travel in the wilderness before they reached the ocean?

2. What instructions did the Lord give Nephi after he got to Bountiful?

3. Why wouldn't Nephi's brothers help him build the ship?

4. How did the Lord protect Nephi from being killed by his brothers while they were at Bountiful?

5. What did the Lord have Nephi do to show his brothers that what he was doing was directed by God?

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. Why didn't Nephi want his brothers to worship him?

2. What happened in this lesson which shows us that Nephi didn't expect the Lord to do everything for him?

3. Why didn't seeing an angel and hearing the voice of God cause the older brothers to repent and become righteous?

4. Was it easy for Nephi to serve God? What difficult things did he have to do?

V. Application:

Are any of the Lord's commandments hard for you to keep? Is it good to stop trying when we find some that are hard for us to keep? What should we do about them?
I Neph 18

47. Nephi and his brothers began to build the ship. When they had a problem about how to do something, Nephi would go to the mountains and pray. Each time God would tell him what to do. When they finally finished the ship they were very happy with it. They had done a good job. The new boat had been built under God's direction and it was very different from other boats of the time.

48. When the boat was finished the Lord told Lehi to load it and prepare to cross the sea. He and his people loaded all the seeds they had for planting, the food they had prepared for the trip, the brass plates, and the Liahona. Then they began their journey to the promised land. A wind came up and kept the boat moving steadily toward their new home.

49. After traveling on the water for many days, Laman, Lemuel, the sons of Ishmael, and their wives began to have a big party. They sang and danced and said very unkind things to the other people on the ship. Nephi knew that they were forgetting God again. He tried to talk to them about it but they became angry with him. They said that they weren't going to have him tell them what to do. They took ropes, tied Nephi up, and began to treat him very badly. When they had done this the brass ball stopped working and they didn't know which way to guide the ship. Then a great storm arose and began to drive the ship back toward where they had come from. After three days the storm became so bad that they thought the ship was going to sink. Then Laman and Lemuel realized that it was God that was causing the storm. They knew that unless they repented and let Nephi go they would be drowned.

-41-
This fear finally caused them to let him go. He had been tied up for four days. His wrists and ankles were very sore. Still he was grateful that God had heard his prayers and helped him.

50. During the time that Nephi was tied up, his father, Lehi, tried to talk to Nephi's brothers. He told them to let Nephi go. They would not listen to him. They told him that they would kill Lehi if he tried to free Nephi. This caused Lehi and Sariah to feel so bad that they became sick and nearly died. Nephi's wife and children also tried to talk to Laman and Lemuel. But even though they begged them with many tears to let Nephi go they would not do it. The only thing that could make them do it was the power of God. It was not until they knew that they would die if they didn't that they let him go.

51. After Nephi was untied he took the compass and it began to work again. He prayed to the Lord and the storm ceased and the water was quiet. Then he took over the helm and guided the ship. They began to sail toward the promised land again. When they had sailed for many days they finally landed on the American continent. Here they found a good land full of all kinds of animals. They also discovered that the land was rich with gold, silver, and copper. When they planted their seeds they grew well in the fertile soil. Truly God had led them to a choice land.
UNIT I

THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE REBELLIOUS

Lesson 9

DOES IT PAY TO PRAY

I. Reference:

Section numbers 47-51
I Nephi 18

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. Where did Nephi get help when he ran into a problem in the building of the ship?

2. What did Lehi and his people bring with them in the ship when they came to America?

3. What happened during the trip which made the Lord angry? How did the Lord help Nephi at this time?

4. How did the older brothers treat their parents?

5. What stopped the great storm? What does this show us about the power of prayer?

6. Upon what continent did Lehi and his people land? What was the country like?

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. Do you think that prayer was an important part of Nephi's life? Explain.

2. Why is prayer so wonderful?

3. How do you think our Heavenly Father feels when some of His children never bother to thank Him for what He has given them or even talk to Him at all?

4. Do you think there is anyone who doesn't need to pray? Explain.

V. Application:

Could your life be improved if you were to pray regularly night and morning? Would you like to make this improvement? Explain.
II NEPHI 1

52. After being in the promised land for some time, Lehi called his family together to teach them. He reminded Laman and Lemuel of their wickedness and told them that if they had gone back to Jerusalem they would now be dead. The Lord had shown him that the city of Jerusalem had been destroyed. Then Lehi said that God had given them this new land for their people. It would be theirs as long as they were righteous. But if they became wicked God would lead another people here and give the land to them. No wicked nation would be allowed to exist here for very long.

53. Lehi was old and he knew that he would soon die. He wanted to give his older sons one last word of warning. He told them that they must stop their wickedness and turn away from their evil ways. If they didn't they would be cut off from God forever. He spoke of the devil and the devil's great power. They were told that unless they would act like men of God and be determined to do right he would overcome them. Lehi also reminded them of Nephi's righteousness and how he had obtained food and saved their lives. He asked them to love and be good to Nephi. They should not go against him or trouble him any more. If they would do this then Lehi would leave his greatest blessing with them. If they did not then it would be given to Nephi. Then Lehi spoke to Zoram. He said that Zoarm had been a good man and a friend to Nephi. Because of this he would be blessed and his people would receive the land along with Nephi's people.
54. Then Lehi talked to his youngest sons, Jacob and Joseph, who had been born in the wilderness. He told them that they had been righteous and that the Lord was pleased with them. Jacob had been so righteous that he had been permitted to see and talk to Jesus. Lehi told Jacob that if he would continue to be righteous and follow the teachings and commandments of God that someday he could return to God and be with Him forever. This would be a great blessing which could only come through the great sacrifice which Jesus was going to make for all men. Jacob was told that Jesus was going to pay for the sins of all the people who lived on the earth so that by accepting Him and being baptized their sins could be forgiven. Everyone was going to have a chance to hear and accept. He said that those who would not accept Jesus could not be forgiven. After death they will return in their wickedness to be judged. The only thing that Jesus will do for them is give them a resurrection. If Jesus had not died for us there would be no resurrection. When our body died it would be gone forever. And since we have sinned, our spirit could not return to God. We would be left here on earth forever in the power of the devil. We would become angels to the devil. We could never see God or know happiness again. Jesus had to pay a great price to keep this from happening to us and we should be very grateful to Him.

55. Lehi went on to tell Jacob that the devil is here on earth so that men can have a choice. Without him there would be no evil and men would not have a choice between good or evil. Unless we had this choice we could not progress. Therefore, God allowed evil to be on the earth. He gave man his freedom to choose the way he would go. This is called free agency. Because we are given free agency we can choose to follow the devil's way or to follow the Lord. Lehi said that a person might get away with doing evil
while he was on the earth but when he returned to God he will have to pay in full for his wickedness. Because we are given our free agency we are held responsible for our actions.
UNIT I

THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE REBELLIOUS

Lesson 10

WHAT DO WE OWE JESUS

I. Reference:

Section numbers 52-55
II Nephi chapters 1 and 2

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. According to Lehi what had happened to Jerusalem? How did he know?

2. What did Lehi say would happen to the people of America if they became wicked?

3. What warning did Lehi give to Laman and Lemuel?

4. What great thing had happened to Jacob while he was still a young man?

5. What will Jesus do for those who do not accept Him?

6. What does Jesus do for those who do accept Him?

7. What would have happened to us if the Saviour had not come to suffer and die for us?

8. What is free agency?

9. Some people do wicked things while on earth and are not caught. Will these people ever have to pay for their wickedness? Explain.

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. What things do you think the Lord tells our prophet today about?

2. Is the counsel Lehi gave to his sons good for us also? Explain

3. Why should we be grateful for the great sacrifice of Jesus?

4. If we are grateful for what Jesus has done for us how can we show it?

V. Application:

Do you think that you owe Jesus something for what he did for you? How are you going to try to repay Him?
II NEPHI 5

56. After Lehi died Nephi's older brothers again decided to kill him. But before they could do it the Lord warned Nephi. He told him to take those who would go with him and leave. Nephi did this and Zoram, Sam, Jacob, Joseph, and Nephi's sisters, together with their families went with him. After traveling many days they stopped in a land which they called Nephi. Here they planted their seeds and began to build a city. The crops grew well and the people had animals of many kinds. They began to prosper.

57. Nephi took the sword he had taken from Laban and used it for a pattern to make other swords. He did this so his people could be protected from Laman's people who called themselves Lamanites. He also taught his family how to build buildings and work with wood, copper, brass, steel, and gold. There was a lot of gold and silver near them. Nephi and his people also began to build a temple. Everyone worked hard. Nephi taught his people that it was not right to be lazy. If they wanted to be successful in life they must learn how to be good workers.

58. Nephi's people wanted him to be their king but Nephi didn't think it was good for them to have a king. He said he would be their leader and do all that he could to help them but it wasn't good to have a king. As Nephi grew older he remembered how God had blessed him and kept his promises to him. He and his people were much more prosperous than Laman's people. His people had plenty of food, nice houses, a beautiful temple, and much gold and silver. They got these things because they knew how to work. Laman and his people were lazy and would not work. They didn't have any of these
good things. Instead, the Lord was angry with them for their wickedness and placed a mark upon them to separate them from the Nephites. The mark was a darker colored skin. God told Nephi that this mark would stay with them until they repented of their sins and became a righteous people again.

59. The Lord told Nephi that if his people ever turned away from God, He would allow the Lamanites to come to war against them. He said that if they became completely wicked He would allow the Lamanites to kill all the Nephites. After Nephi became old he called his brother Jacob and gave him the gold plates he had made. Jacob became the new prophet for his people. Nephi finished his writing by saying forty years had passed away since they left Jerusalem and already his people had been in wars with the Lamanites.
UNIT I

THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE REBELLIOUS

Lesson 11

WHAT IS THE VALUE OF WORK

I. **Reference:**

Section numbers 56-59
II Nephi 5

II. **Devotional:**

III. **Background and Journal Work:**

1. Why did Nephi leave his older brothers? Who went with him?
2. Why did Nephi make swords for his people?
3. What did Nephi say we must do if we want success and happiness in life?
4. Compare Nephi's people with Laman's people. Which group would you rather have belonged to?
5. Why didn't Laman and his people prosper?
6. Why did God place a mark upon the Lamanites? What was the mark?
7. What was going to happen to the Nephites if they became wicked?
8. Who became the next prophet after Nephi?

IV. **Understanding and Conviction:**

1. What is the value of work?
2. Why does the church want us to get a good education or good vocational training?
3. If a person lives a righteous life does that mean he will become rich? Explain.

V. **Application:**

Would you like to have all the good things that the Nephites had? How is the best way to get them?
II NEPHI 31

60. Jacob wrote some of Nephi's teachings about baptism. Nephi said that in his vision he saw that Jesus would be baptized. If Jesus, who was perfect, needed baptism to set an example for us, then baptism must be very important to us. Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist to show His Father that He would keep all the commandments. Then He received the Holy Ghost to guide and help Him. We must follow His example if we are to return to God. This means that after we have faith in the mission of Jesus Christ, we repent of our sins. Then we are baptized by someone who holds the priesthood and has the right to perform this ordinance. This is followed by the laying on of hands by the priesthood holders to give us the right to have the Holy Ghost. If we seek to have His companionship we receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. When we receive this gift we receive a remission of our sins.

61. The gospel teaches us that by being baptized we accept Jesus and we make the following promises: First, we promise to always remember Jesus and what He has done for us. Second, we promise to take upon us the name of Jesus. This means we will represent Him by learning and following His commandments and teaching them to others. The last promise we make is to keep all the commandments which He has given us. Nephi warns us that after we have been baptized and make these promises we must not break them. If we do it will be worse for us in the judgment than if we had never accepted the gospel. Those who make promises with God and then break them will surely not be worthy to live with Him. But if these promises are kept and we try hard to do right we shall be greatly blessed. God will guide and protect us and answer our
prayers. Our life will be one of service to others which brings the greatest success and happiness that we can have while on this earth.
UNIT I
THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE REBELLIOUS
Lesson 12

WHY IS BAPTISM NECESSARY

I. Reference:
Section numbers 60-61
II Nephi 31

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:
1. Why are we baptized?
2. Who baptized Jesus?
3. Why was Jesus baptized?
4. Can anyone baptize us and have God accept the baptism? Explain.
5. What promises do we make when we are baptized?
6. Why is it important that we keep the promises which we made when we were baptized?

IV. Understanding and Conviction:
1. Who needs to be baptized?
2. What does the word "baptism" mean?
3. What is the priesthood?
4. Does our being baptized mean that we will go to heaven?

V. Application:
Write down the three promises which you made when you were baptized. Explain what each one of them means.
Several years after Nephi died a man named Sherem came among the Nephites. He taught that there was no such thing as Christ. He said that it was wrong to think that Jesus would ever come. Sherem worked very hard. He could speak with great power and he was able to lead many of the Nephites away from the true church. One day Sherem came to see the prophet Jacob who was Nephi's brother. He planned to show that Jacob was wrong and that there was no Christ. Jacob was ready to meet Sherem. Jacob knew that the teachings of the church were true and that Christ would come for he had seen angels and had even talked to the Saviour himself.

When Sherem came in he said that he was happy to talk to Jacob. Sherem said that he would show Jacob that he was wrong and that his teachings were false. He said that it was foolish to think that Jesus would come to earth and pay for our sins, for no one could know of things to come. After he had finished talking, the Holy Ghost came upon Jacob and he was able to show Sherem that he was wrong. Still, Sherem would not believe him and he asked Jacob to show him a miracle to convince him. Jacob answered by saying that only God could do miracles, but if it was God's will Sherem would see a miracle. God would curse him and he would die. As soon as Jacob had said this Sherem fell to the ground. He was taken to his home and cared for but he knew that he was going to die. He asked to have the people meet together the next morning to hear his last words.

The next morning Sherem was taken to the meeting. He told the people that he had been wrong. He said he had lied to them when he told them that
Jesus wouldn't come. The devil had fooled him and caused him to teach things which were not true. Now he was afraid to die because he knew he must face God. He was afraid that he would be punished for his wickedness. He wanted to do all he could to repent and undo all the wrong he had done before he died. After he told the people these things he could say no more and he died. When the people who had believed Sherem's teachings and had left the true church heard him say these things they were very surprised. It wasn't long until they all repented and came back to the church. This brought Jacob's people back to the truth which made him very happy.
UNIT I
THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE REBELLIOUS
Lesson 13
WHAT IS A TESTIMONY

I. Reference:
Section numbers 62-64
Jacob 7

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:
1. What did Sherem teach?
2. Why couldn't Sherem change Jacob's belief in Christ?
3. What was it that made it possible for Jacob to show that Sherem's teachings were false?
4. What did Sherem want to see? Did he get what he asked for? Explain.
5. What did Sherem tell the people before he died? Why did he do this?
6. What happened to the people who had believed what Sherem taught?

IV. Understanding and Conviction:
1. What is a testimony? Do you think that Jacob had one? Explain.
2. Is it important for us to have a testimony? Explain.
3. How does a person gain a testimony?

V. Application:
Do you think that you could convince someone that our church is right? Explain.
MOSIAH 1

65. Mosiah was a prophet of God who lived among the Nephites. During his early life the Nephite people had become very wicked. Conditions got worse and worse. Finally the Lord told Mosiah to take the righteous people who would follow him and go into the wilderness. Mosiah and his people did as they were told. They left their homes in the land of Nephi and journeyed into the wilderness. After they had left, the Lamanites made an attack and all the other Nephites who had remained behind were killed. Mosiah's people traveled for many days in the wilderness. Then they discovered a city. This city was the city of Zarahemla. The people who lived there were descendents of a group of Jewish people who had left Jerusalem at the time it was destroyed. They were called Mulekites because their leader was a man named Mulek. They came to America a short time after Lehi did. Now the Mulekites and the Nephites met. The Mulekites allowed the Nephites to join them and they all became one people. Mosiah was selected to be the king and the people lived in peace during the rest of his lifetime. When Mosiah died his son Benjamin took over as king. He was a good man and he taught his three sons the things of God. When he grew old he called his son Mosiah to him. He asked Mosiah to call all the people together that he might give them one last message. Then he gave Mosiah the gold plates of Nephi, the sword of Laban, the brass plates, and the Liahona. He told him that he had been chosen to be the new king.
66. Mosiah gathered all the people together around the temple as his father had asked him to do. When they came, they pitched their tents with the doors facing the temple. After Benjamin saw how many people had come he had a tower built so that he could stand up where all could see him and he could talk to all of his people. Then Benjamin went up on the tower and began to speak. He told his people that he had called them together one more time to tell them of the things of God. He reminded them that even though he was their king, he knew that he was no better than they were. He had not made them support him. But he had done all he could to serve them righteously and keep wickedness from starting up among them.

67. Then Benjamin told his people that serving others was very important because when we serve others, we are also serving God. This is very important since God has given us so much, and this is our way to show Him that we are thankful for all He has given us. We should always remember that it is God who gives us each day of our life, and all the good things that we have come from Him. When we realize this, we should want to try even harder to serve God with all of our heart. If we do this, we will feel happy, and God will be happy with us and will bless us. Only through doing this can a people keep their freedom and happiness.

68. Then Benjamin told his people how much they owed Jesus, who had promised to come and pay for their sins. He said that the only way they could show Him their love was by keeping His commandments. If they would do this, He would bless them. So they could never completely repay Him.

Then Benjamin told the people that he was too old to continue as their king. He told them that they must follow Mosiah's teachings as they had done his. By doing this, they would be doing as God wanted them to do. Then God would
protect them from their enemies and cause that they should be a happy people. If they would not do this and they decided to do evil instead, they would become followers of Satan. When they died they would be afraid to face God because they would be able to remember their wicked lives. These people would be punished for their wickedness and they would never be with God. Benjamin wanted his people to think *seriously* about these things. He said that this life was their chance to show God that they loved Him and wanted to do right. They could do this by living righteously. If they could just do this for this short time that they would be on earth, they would have an *eternity* of happiness waiting for them. But if they chose to waste their life here in wickedness and sin then they would spend forever in sorrow remembering their evil ways. Any person would be very foolish indeed to do this. They would be passing up all that God has prepared for them in heaven. Instead they would bring sorrow to themselves forever.
UNIT II

LESSONS LEARNED THE HARD WAY

Lesson 14

HOW CAN WE SERVE GOD

I. Reference:

Section numbers 65-68
Mosiah 1 and 2

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. Who became king after Mosiah died?

2. What are the scriptures? Why are they important?

3. King Benjamin thought that even though he was the king he was still no better than his people. Was he right? Explain.

4. How can we serve God?

5. Why should we try to live good lives?

6. What did Jesus do for us? Why can't we repay Him?

7. What will happen to those who waste their life in doing evil?

8. Why is it so important that we live a righteous life during the short time that we are upon the earth?

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. Is any one race of people better than any other race? Explain.

2. Is eternal life with God worth all we have to go through on earth to get it? Explain

3. Do you believe that it is better to give than to receive? Explain.

V. Application:

What is the best thing you can do to increase your joy and happiness in life? Explain.
MOSIAH 3

69. King Benjamin continued teaching his people. He told them that an angel had come to him in the night and had awakened him. The angel told him that because of his righteousness and his prayers he was going to receive a wonderful message. Then the angel went on to tell him that it would not be long until Jesus would come to live as a man on earth. He said that Jesus would perform many great miracles such as healing the sick, raising the dead to life, causing the crippled to walk, making the deaf hear, and curing all kinds of diseases. He would also have power to cast out evil spirits.

70. He said that during Jesus's life He would suffer many things including temptations, hunger, thirst, fatigue, and paid of body. At the time He pays for the sins of the world His pain is going to be so great that He will bleed at every pore and suffer greater than any man has ever suffered or could ever stand to suffer. He will do this in order that He may pay for the sins of those who accept Him by being baptized.

71. Then Benjamin was told that the people would take Jesus, beat Him, and crucify Him. On the third day He would arise from the dead as a resurrected being. By doing this He would make it possible for all men to rise from the dead. His suffering and His death will pay for the sins of three groups of people. The first group is those who accept His teachings. These are the ones who have faith in Him and are willing to repent and be baptized into the church. Then they must continue in righteousness. The second group is those who die without ever having a chance to hear about Jesus and His teachings. They have sinned without knowing they were doing wrong. The last
group is the little children who die before they are old enough to know right from wrong. Jesus has paid for the sins of all these people. But those who are baptized and do not keep the promises they have made, those who will not repent, and those who understand the truth and will not accept it, will not have their sins paid for by Jesus. These people must suffer for their own sins and their suffering will be great. Then after they have paid for their sins they can be in the Telestial Kingdom which is the lowest degree of glory.

72. The angel also explained that the ordinary man desires worldly things and is not spiritual. In order to come to God we must follow the guidance of the Holy Ghost and become a spiritual person. Then we receive a forgiveness of our sins and become a new person. This is called being born again. By doing these things we become meek, humble, patient, full of love, and are willing to do anything which the Lord asks us to do. This will qualify us to return and be with God.

73. Note: From this lesson we see how foolish it is for us to turn away from God and do wrong in this life. If we do we will go through a terrible suffering to pay for our own sins. Any wise person can see that it is much better to repent of our sins and try hard to overcome them so that the Saviour can pay for them. Then we will have joy and happiness. Repentance is much easier than the suffering we will go through if we do not repent.
UNIT II

LESSONS LEARNED THE HARD WAY

Lesson 15

WHY SHOULD WE REPENT

I. Reference:

Section numbers 69-73
Mosiah 3

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. How did King Benjamin learn about Jesus and His life?
2. What did the angel say Jesus would do while on earth?
3. What did the suffering of Jesus do for you?
4. What did the resurrection of Jesus do for you?
5. What three groups of people have their sins forgiven them? What happens to the others?
6. How does a person become "born again"?
7. What is a person who is "born again" like?
8. Why should we repent of our sins?
9. List the steps to repentance.

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. Why do you think Jesus was willing to suffer so much for you?
2. Why is it foolish not to repent?
3. Do you think Jesus had an easy life while He was on earth? Explain.

V. Application:

Choose a sin which you would like to repent of. Follow the steps of repentance we have learned. Then tell in your journal how well you did in overcoming the sin and repenting. You do not need to tell what the sin was.
While Benjamin was king some of his people decided to go back to the land of Nephi. That was where their fathers had come from. They left and after many years Benjamin's people still had not heard from them. After Benjamin died, the people asked Mosiah if he would try to find out what had happened to them. Mosiah sent sixteen strong men up to the land of Nephi to find out if the people were still alive. The leader of this group of men was Ammon. He led his men near the city of Nephi and had them pitch their tents. Then he took three of his men and went down to the city. As he and his men approached the city they saw the king outside the walls with some of his guards. When the king saw them he had his guards take them. They were taken into the city and put in prison.

After Ammon and his men had been in prison for two days they were brought before the king for questioning. They explained that they had come from the city of Zarahemla to find the people who had gone back to the land of Nephi. When the king heard this he was very happy. He said that he had wondered if the people in Zarahemla were still alive. Then he told Ammon and his friends that he and his people were surrounded by the Lamanites. Each year the Lamanites made his people pay one-half of all they owned for taxes. He also told Ammon that if he and his people would help them escape from the Lamanites they would be their servants.

After talking to Ammon the king sent messengers to get the rest of Ammon's men and bring them to the city. He gathered all of his people together and told them of the coming of Ammon and his men. Then he told
of how their people had come to the land of Nephi. Their leader had talked
to the king of the Lamanites. He told them that they could have the land of
Nephi and that they could live in peace. Then after the people had rebuilt
the city and had begun to prosper, the Lamanite army came down and started
a war with them. The Nephites lost and were put in captivity. They were
told that they would be allowed to live if they would give half of all they
owned each year to the Lamanites for taxes. Thus the wicked king of the
Lamanites broke his promise and the people in the land of Nephi became in
bondage to the Lamanites. The king went on to tell Ammon that this had
happened to his people because they had become wicked. When the Lord had
sent a prophet to warn them, they killed him. Now the people had turned
away from their sins and had repented. They prayed every day for help to
deliver them from the Lamanites. The coming of Ammon gave them new hope.
Their king told them that if they would turn to God with all of their hearts
and do their very best to keep the commandments that the Lord would help
them escape from their enemies.
UNIT II
LESSONS LEARNED THE HARD WAY
Lesson 16
SHOULD WE DEAL WITH THE WICKED

I. Reference:
Section numbers 74-76
Mosiah 7

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:
1. Why did Mosiah send some men back to the land of Nephi?
2. What happened when Ammon and his men went to the city of Nephi?
3. Why was the king happy when he found out that Ammon and his men were from Zarahemla?
4. How did the king and his people lose their freedom?
5. Why isn't it a good idea to deal with the wicked?
6. Why did the Lord allow the Nephites to be taken captive?

IV. Understanding and Conviction:
1. In what way are the Communists of today like the Lamanites of Ammon's day?
2. Why is the church against Communism?
3. Do you think we ought to associate with wicked people? Explain.

V. Application:
What danger is there in going with friends who do not care about the church and who do not live its standards?
MOSIAH 11

77. Zeniff was the man who led his people out of Zarahemla to go back to the land of Nephi. After he had talked to the king of the Lamanites and was promised he could have the land, he and his people moved back. They lived there for twelve years and built up the land. Then the Lamanites attacked them. Zeniff and his people turned to God and prayed hard for help. The Lord did help them and they drove out the Lamanites and killed 3,043 of them while they only lost 279 of their own men. Later, the Lamanites attacked again and again they were beaten. As long as Zeniff and his people were righteous and prayed for help they were protected from their enemies.

78. When Zeniff grew old he chose his son, Noah, to be king over his people. Noah was not a righteous man like his father. He did not seek to please God. He was only interested in pleasing himself. He had many wives and he put heavy taxes upon his people to support his wives and friends. He also got rid of all the church leaders that his father had chosen and replaced them with some of his wicked friends. Noah began to lead his people into wickedness. He built a great palace for himself and lived richly while his people worked hard to support him. He also planted grapes and made wine. He and his people began to be drunkards.

79. About the time of this great wickedness the Lamanites attacked Noah's city. He sent out his armies and they were able to drive the Lamanites back. After this Noah's people began to boast about their great strength. They said that they were great warriors and could easily beat the Lamanites in battle. They forgot that it was God who had helped them win. It was at
this time that a prophet named Abinadi came among the people. Abinadi told them that the Lord was displeased with their wickedness and unless they quickly repented He would stop helping them. Then they would be captured by their enemies. If they decided not to listen to God and follow His teachings, then He would be slow to hear their prayers when they were in trouble.

The people did not like to have Abinadi tell them of their sins. They tried to kill him but the Lord protected him. When king Noah heard what Abinadi had said he was very angry. He decided that he would have him killed. Noah and his people had become very wicked and they would not listen to the words of the prophet Abinadi. Abinadi had to flee for his life.
UNIT II

LESSONS LEARNED THE HARD WAY

Lesson 17

WHY SHOULD WE CHOOSE GOOD MEN TO LEAD US

I. Reference:

Section numbers 77-80
Mosiah 11

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. How long did the Lamanites wait before attacking the Nephites in the land of Nephi?

2. How were the Nephites able to beat an army much larger than theirs?

3. How was Noah different from his father?

4. How did Noah lead his people into wickedness?

5. What had the Nephites forgotten when they began to boast of their great strength?

6. Who was the prophet that God sent to warn the Nephites? What was his message?

7. Why were the people angry with Abinadi? What were they going to do with him?

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. What is the reason why more Lamanites were killed in the war than Nephites?

2. Why is it important that we choose good men to lead us?

3. Why does God have prophets?

4. What will happen if we reject the teachings of our prophet today?

V. Application:

What type of people should we choose to be our leaders?
Two years after being forced to leave the people of Noah, Abinadi returned to the city in disguise. He told the people what God had sent him to say. His message was that God was angry with them for their wickedness. They were going to be brought into bondage. They would be beaten by their enemies, forced to carry heavy loads, and would suffer much. He also said that insects would come and destroy their crops. The hail and the wind would ruin their fields of grain. And then, if the people would not repent, they would all be destroyed. He also said that the wicked king Noah was going to be like a cloth thrown into a fire. All this was going to come upon this people because they had rejected God's prophet and had continued in their wickedness.

After Abinadi said these things to the people, they were angry with him. They caught him, tied him, and took him to their king. They told the king what Abinadi had said about how the king's life was going to be like a piece of cloth in a fire. They had not believed what Abinadi said. They told the king that all that he said about them was a lie. Then Noah had Abinadi put in prison. Later he called together his wicked friends to decide what to do with him. They wanted to see Abinadi so the king had him brought from prison for them to question. When the wicked priests of Noah began to question Abinadi they were very surprised to find that he could answer all their questions. He could also prove that they were wrong. When the king heard all this he told his guards to take Abinadi away and kill him. But when they tried to take hold of Abinadi they could not for the Lord was with
him. He told them that God was going to protect him until he had finished
giving his message to Noah. After that he was not afraid to die. He knew
that he was doing right and that he would be with God.

83. Then Abinadi began to tell them of the commandments that the Lord
had given and how they had been guilty of breaking them. He started with
the Ten Commandments and quoted them all to them. Then he went on to tell
of the prophecies of the coming of Jesus. He explained the Saviour's mission.
He told them how He would pay for the sins of the world and make possible
the resurrection. He also told them that those who would not accept Jesus and
repent of their sins would have to suffer for their own sins.

84. When Abinadi had finished telling them these things the king again
commanded that he should be killed. But one of his priests had been convinced
that Abinadi's words were true. His name was Alma and he begged the king not
to kill the prophet. This made the king angry with Alma and he made him leave.
Then he sent men to kill him. But Alma was able to get away and while he
was hiding from the king's guards he wrote down the things he had heard Abinadi
say. In the meantime Noah had told his guards to put Abinadi back in prison.
He left him there for three days and then had him brought to him again. This
time he told Abinadi that unless he would admit that his words were false he
would be killed. Abinadi was not afraid. He loved God even more than his own
life. He would not deny his words. He told Noah that if he killed him that
God would hold him responsible at the judgment day for he had done nothing
wrong. This frightened Noah and he was going to let him go. But the other
wicked priests said that the king ought to have him killed for speaking such
things to him. This gave Noah new courage and he ordered his guards to take
him out and burn him to death. As the flames began to burn Abinadi he called
out and told Noah that he would die in this same way and that his people would
be punished severely for their wickedness. Then he died. He was a great man of God who was willing to die rather than disobey God. Surely God will love such a man and give him a great reward in heaven for his faithfulness on earth.
UNIT II

LESSONS LEARNED THE HARD WAY

Lesson 18

WHY DON'T THE RIGHTEOUS FEAR DEATH

I. Reference:

Section numbers 81-84
Mosiah 12-17

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. What was Abinadi's message to the people after returning to the land of Nephi?
2. What did the people do to Abinadi?
3. How did Abinadi surprise the wicked priests of Noah?
4. Why couldn't the guards kill Abinadi?
5. Why didn't Abinadi fear death?
6. What did Abinadi tell Noah about Jesus?
7. Who was Alma and what did he do?

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. In your opinion why wouldn't Abinadi save his life by denying what he had said?
2. What will be the reward of faithful men like Abinadi?
3. Which can hurt a person most, death or sin? Explain.

V. Application:

Is death something that we should fear? If you knew you had just one more month to live would you begin to live differently than you now do? Explain. How long are you going to live?
85. Alma had been one of the wicked priests of king Noah but when he heard Abinadi's testimony, he believed him. Alma tried to stop the king from killing Abinadi but the king would not listen. Instead he sent his men to kill Alma. Alma escaped from the king's guards and while he was in hiding he wrote down the things he had heard Abinadi teach. Then he went out and started to teach these things to those people who would listen to him. They held their meetings in secret so that the king wouldn't find out. After a time there were many people who believed in Alma's teachings. There were so many that finally they had to hold their meetings out in the wilderness. Alma lived outside the city and the people would come out to hear him teach. One day Alma was teaching near a pool of water. He told the people that if they had faith in Jesus who was going to come and if they would repent of their sins they could be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ and be forgiven of their sins. The people were very happy to hear this. They desired to be baptized. Then Alma took them one by one and baptized them by the power of the priesthood which he held. On that day there were 204 people baptized. After the baptisms Alma chose priests and ordained them to help him lead and teach the people. Alma and the other members of the church called themselves the Church of Christ.

86. After the church was organized, Alma called the priests to him and told them that they were to teach the people from the scriptures. He said that they should love and help their people. He also told them that they must try hard to keep the Sabath day holy and that they must work to support
themselves. They were not to have the people support them. Then Alma talked to all of the church members. He told them that they would meet together at least once a week in the wilderness. He also said that now that they belonged to the true church they were to share their possessions with one another so that no one would have to go without food or other necessary things.

After Alma had been holding church services in the wilderness for some time, the king heard about it. He sent some of his servants to find out where they were meeting. After he found out he was angry. He sent his army to kill Alma and his people. But the Lord warned Alma that the king's army was coming. He took his people and all their belongings and left before the army got there. By this time there were 450 church members. All of them followed Alma into the wilderness.
UNIT II
LESSONS LEARNED THE HARD WAY
Lesson 19
CAN THE WICKED BE FORGIVEN

I. Reference:

Section numbers 85-87
Mosiah 18

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. What was Alma's position before he was converted? What did he do afterward?

2. What was required of the people who wanted to be baptized?

3. What is the priesthood?

4. What did Alma and his people call the church which they belonged to?

5. What instructions did Alma give to the priests of the church?

6. What instructions did Alma give to the church members?

7. What did Noah do when he found out about Alma and his followers?

8. How did Alma know that the king's army was coming?

9. How many people went with Alma into the wilderness?

10. Is it possible for a wicked person to repent and have God completely forgive him? Explain.

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. What does it mean to have faith in Jesus Christ? Why must it come before baptism?

2. What is repentance? Why is it required before baptism? Is it any good without baptism? Explain.

3. Can a person be forgiven if they sin after baptism? How?

V. Application:

Do you think God would forgive us of our sins? Explain.
88. Noah's army looked for Alma and his people in the wilderness. When they could not find them they returned to the city. Back in the city some of the people began to get tired of Noah's wicked rule. They didn't like the high taxes they had to pay. They began to rebel against Noah. One man named Gideon decided to kill the king. He found him and began to fight him with his sword. When Noah could see that he was going to lose the fight he ran for his tower and climbed up into it. Gideon followed him but just as he was about to kill king Noah they saw the Lamanite army coming to attack the city. Noah pleaded that Gideon would spare his life so he could help his people escape. Gideon decided to do this even though he knew that Noah didn't care as much for his people as he did for his own life. Noah caused that his people should flee into the wilderness. They did this but with their wives and children they could not travel fast enough to escape the Lamanites. They were soon overtaken. When this happened Noah commanded his men to leave their wives and children and flee from the Lamanites. Many did this and went with Noah but some refused to go and stayed behind with their wives and children.

89. The men who remained behind with their wives knew that there were too many Lamanites for them to fight. They decided to send some of their beautiful daughters out to talk to the Lamanites. The Lamanites were pleased with these beautiful girls and they told them that they would spare them and their people if they would agree to two things. First, they must give the Lamanites half of all they owned each year as taxes. Second, they
must give up king Noah to the Lamanites if he came back. The people agreed to do this. They chose Noah's son, Limhi, as their new leader. Limhi did not want to see his father killed even though he knew that he was a wicked man. He wanted to warn him not to come back. Gideon knew this so he sent some of his men to find the king and bring him back.

90. Then Gideon's men went into the wilderness to look for the king. They found that he had already been killed. The men who had been with him told them this story: After the king and those who went with him got away from the Lamanites they stopped to rest. Then the men began to realize what a terrible thing they had done by leaving their families behind to be killed by the Lamanites. They began to be very angry with Noah. They decided to go back and see if their families were still alive. They told Noah that if anything had happened to their families they were going to kill him. He commanded them that they must not go back. This made the men so angry that they took the king and burned him to death. This fulfilled the prophecy made by the prophet Abinadi that Noah would be like a piece of cloth thrown into the fire.

91. When Noah's wicked priests saw what happened to their leader they ran for their lives. As the men were about to return to find out what had happened to their families they were met by Gideon's men. They told them that their wives and families were safe. They were very happy to hear this. They returned to their families in the land of Nephi. While they were gone king Limhi had been talking with the king of the Lamanites. He promised that his people would pay half of all that they owned to the Lamanites. In return the Lamanites were to spare their lives. The Lamanite king said that if they would keep their promise then he would command his people not to kill them. Then the Lamanite army departed leaving only a few men to guard the
Nephites and stop them from escaping out of the land. This condition went on for about two years and as long as the Nephites paid their taxes the Lamanites didn't bother them. There was peace in the land.
UNIT II

LESSONS LEARNED THE HARD WAY

Lesson 20

ARE THE PROPHETS' WORDS FULFILLED

I. Reference:

Section numbers 88-91
Mosiah 19

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. Why did the people rebell against Noah?
2. How did Noah escape from Gideon?
3. What did Noah command his men to do when the Lamanites caught up with them?
4. Why weren't the people who remained behind killed by the Lamanites?
5. What two promises did the Nephites have to make to the Lamanites?
6. Who was chosen as the new leader of the Nephites?
7. What happened to king Noah? Why?
8. How was Abinadi's prophecy fulfilled?
9. What happened to the wicked priests of Noah?

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. Do you think Noah was a good leader? Explain.
2. Should we obey a leader if he tells us to do something which we know is wrong? Explain.
3. How did Abinadi know what was going to happen to Noah?

V. Application:

The prophets of God have said that a great new day was coming in which the Indian people who would accept Jesus would become a great and chosen people again. Do you believe this to be true? What can you do to hasten this day?
92. The wicked priests of Noah had escaped into the wilderness. They were afraid to return to the city of Nephi. They knew that the people would kill them. So they had to stay out in the wilderness. One day as they were traveling in the wilderness they came to a place where there were a number of Lamanite women gathered together to dance and sing. They hid nearby and watched until most of the women had gone. Then they ran up and caught the rest of the women. They took them with them into the wilderness to be their wives. They took twenty-four in all. When the king of the Lamanites heard that some of their women had been captured he thought that it was the Nephites who had done it. He gathered his people together and prepared for war. While all of this was happening king Limhi's men were watching the Lamanites from the tower in the city. They reported that the Lamanites were preparing for war. Limhi gathered together his army and took them out into the forests and the fields to hide and wait for the Lamanites. Soon the Lamanites came. The Nephites ambushed them. Though they only had half as many men as the Lamanites they fought with all their might to protect their families. They were able to drive the Lamanite army back. Then they found the Lamanite king who had been wounded. He had been left behind among the dead. They took him, bandaged his wounds, and brought him to their king.

93. Limhi asked the Lamanite king why he had attacked them after he had promised not to. The king told him of the capture of some of his people and how he thought the Nephites had done it. Then Limhi commanded that a search be made among his people. Whoever had stolen the Lamanite women must be
killed. Just then Gideon spoke up and said that it must have been the wicked priests of Noah that took the women. He asked Limhi to explain about them to the Lamanite king and tell him that it was not their people that had stolen the women. Limhi did this and the king was satisfied that it was true. He told them that they must lay down all of their weapons and go with him to meet the Lamanite army. If they would do this he would promise them that none of them would be killed. The people agreed to this. The Lamanite army saw that they didn't have any weapons. Then they heard their king explain everything to them. They decided to allow the Nephites to return in peace. The war was over.
UNIT II

LESSONS LEARNED THE HARD WAY

Lesson 21

HOW CAN WE MAKE GOOD DECISIONS

I. Reference:

Section numbers 92-93
Mosiah 20

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. Why did the Lamanites attack the Nephites after promising they wouldn't?

2. What did Limhi do when he found out that the Lamanites were preparing for war?

3. What important man was found among the dead after the battle? Was he dead?

4. Who was it that told the king what had happened to the Lamanite women?

5. What kept the Lamanite army from killing all of the Nephites?

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. What poor decision did the king of the Lamanites make? Why was it a poor decision?

2. Why do people make poor decisions?

3. How can we avoid making poor decisions?

V. Application:

Choosing a marriage partner will be a very important decision for you. How can you best make this decision?
94. After Limhi and his people returned to their city some of the Lamanites were still angry with them. They came in near the city and began to make life hard for the Nephites. They didn't dare disobey their king by killing anyone, but they would beat the Nephites. They made them work hard for them and carry heavy loads. So the words of Abinadi began to be fulfilled. The people were in bondage and the Lamanites made their life very hard. After a little while the Nephites decided to try to fight for their freedom. They were beaten. Later they tried a second time and then a third time but they were beaten each time. Many of their men were killed. The Lord would not help them. This fulfilled Abinadi's prophecy.

95. The people saw that God was not with them. They knew that they could not beat their enemies alone so they realized that they must submit to them and do as they were told. They began to remember their wickedness and how Abinadi had told them that all of this was going to happen. They hoped that by repenting and praying to God for help they still might gain forgiveness. The people began to repent of their sins and call upon God for help. While they were wicked they had been slow to listen to the words of the prophets which the Lord sent. Now the Lord was slow to listen to their prayers and answer them. He allowed them to suffer for their wickedness. They had to learn a lesson from what they had done.

96. The Nephites had lost many of their men in battle. Many women were widows and had no way to support themselves. King Limhi commanded the men who were left to help support these women and their families so that they
would not starve. The king also commanded his people to live near each other for protection. He put guards around the city to try to catch the wicked priests of Noah who came to the city to steal food. It was while Limhi and his guards were outside the walls of the city that Ammon and his three men came to see them. Limhi thought these men were some of Noah's wicked priests. That is why he had them taken and thrown in prison.

97. While Limhi and his people were in bondage they decided to send back to Zarahemla for help. This was before Ammon came. Limhi's men lost their way and couldn't find Zarahemla. While they were searching they found a destroyed civilization where there were ruins of buildings. Human bones covered the ground. While looking through these ruins they found twenty-one gold plates with a strange writing on them. They brought these, along with pieces of armor and rusty swords back to show king Limhi.

98. Limhi's people were very sorry that Alma had taken those who believed and accepted baptism away into the wilderness. They wanted to be baptized and there was no one in the land of Nephi who had the priesthood except Ammon. He felt he was not a worthy man and so he would not baptize anyone. All the people could do was to repent of their sins and make a covenant with God to keep His commandments. They hoped that they would soon be able to escape and return to Zarahemla where they could be baptized.

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99. King Limhi told Ammon of all the things that had happened to them since their fathers left Zarahemla. Then they decided to hold a meeting with the people and try to decide how to gain their freedom. The meeting was held. They decided that the only way open to them was to try to escape into the wilderness and go back to Zarahemla. They knew that there were too many
Lamanites for them to fight. Gideon came forward and told the king that he had a plan for the escape of the people. He said that in the pass behind the city the guards often got drunk. They might be able to get through that way in the night. The king liked Gideon's plan. He had his people gather together their possessions and get ready to go. When this was done king Limhi sent a present of wine up to the guards at the pass. They got drunk. While they were sleeping Limhi and his people escaped and returned to the city of Zarahemla. Here they were welcomed by king Mosiah. They had been punished long enough. They had finally been able to repent and get the Lord to help them. Now He was with them again. Limhi and his people would not soon forget the sorrow and hardship that came when they became wicked and turned away from God.
UNIT II

LESSONS LEARNED THE HARD WAY

Lesson 22

IS IT EASY TO BE FORGIVEN

I. Reference:

Section numbers 94-99
Mosiah 21 and 22

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. Abinadi said that the Nephites would be driven, beaten, and forced to carry heavy loads. How did this happen?

2. What happened when the Nephites tried to regain their freedom? What did they finally decide to do?

3. After becoming slaves to the Lamanites the people began to remember something. What was it?

4. Why was the Lord slow to hear and answer the prayers of the Nephites?

5. How did the Nephites care for the widows whose husbands were killed in the war?

6. Why did Limhi put guards around the city?

7. Why did Limhi put Ammon and his men in prison?

8. Why had Limhi sent men back to Zarahemla? Did they make it? What happened?

9. What did Limhi's men bring back as proof of what they had found?

10. Why were Limhi's people sorry that Alma had left?

11. Who gave the plan for the Nephites to escape? What was the plan?

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. Why didn't God just forgive the Nephites and help them escape without allowing them to suffer first?

2. Why isn't it a good idea to only pray when you are in trouble?

3. What will happen to the person who sins because he thinks he can easily be forgiven later on?
4. Limhi's men found a destroyed civilization. What could have caused this destruction?

V. Application:

What is the best way for us to avoid suffering like the people of Limhi suffered?
100. Now we return to the story of Alma and his people. Alma had been
baptizing people into the church and holding meetings with these people in
the wilderness. When the king found out about this he sent his army to kill
them. But the Lord warned Alma that the army was coming. He and his people
fled into the wilderness. After traveling eight days they came to a beautiful
land with plenty of water. They decided to stop and make it their home. The
people wanted Alma to be their king. He refused. He said that it was not
right to make one man better than the rest. If the man was righteous it
usually worked out, but if a wicked man became king he would lead his people
into wickedness. This is what King Noah had done. Then Alma told his people
that they should not allow any unrighteous man to be their teacher or church
leader. They also should love one another and live in peace together. The
people did this and began to prosper in the land.

101. Alma and his people worked hard and built a city which they called
Helam. Then one day as some of the people were out working in the fields,
they saw an army of Lamanites approaching. This was the same army that had
been out looking for Limhi and his people who had escaped from them. They
couldn't find Limhi and they had become lost in the wilderness. While they
were wandering they found Alma's city. The people ran back to the city and
told the others. They were all very frightened. When Alma found out what
was wrong he reminded his people that God was with them. If they would trust
in Him and pray for help He would surely help them and preserve their lives.
The people began to pray mightily to the Lord. He heard their prayers and
softened the hearts of the Lamanites so that they did not kill them. Instead they came into the city and made them prisoners.

102. The Lamanites who came in and took over Alma's city had the wicked priests of Noah with them. After these wicked priests had stolen the Lamanite girls they took them into the wilderness and married them. They were in the wilderness for several years. Finally they were discovered by the Lamanite army. When this happened they sent out their wives who were Lamanites to ask their people to spare their husbands. Because of their Lamanite wives the priests were spared and they and their families joined with the Lamanites. That is why they were with them when they found Alma's city. The Lamanites had lost their way and didn't know the way home. They told Alma that if he would show them the way they would free him and his people. Alma showed them but the Lamanites did not keep their promise. They still kept Alma and his people in captivity. They chose Amulon who had been one of the wicked priests of Noah to stay behind with part of the army to control the city while the rest of the army returned home.

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103. Amulon knew Alma. They had been priests of the wicked king Noah together. Amulon hated Alma because he had become righteous. He had turned away from the kind of life Amulon liked. Because of his hatred for Alma, he caused that the Nephites should be persecuted and treated very badly. When the people of Alma met together to pray for help, Amulon commanded them not to pray. He said that if any of them was found praying he would be killed. After this the people couldn't pray out loud any more but they continued to pray silently in their hearts. Because of their righteousness the Lord heard their prayers and told them to be brave. He said that He would help
them to escape. But until that time came He said that He would strengthen them so that their work and their persecution would seem easy to them. This would be a sign to them that the Lord had heard their prayers and that He was with them even while they were prisoners. The people were very grateful for the Lord's help. They did the work they were told to do willingly.

Alma's people had great faith and remained true to the Lord even under difficulties. The Lord was pleased with them. Finally He told Alma to tell his people to gather their belongings together. He was going to help them escape from their enemies the next morning. The Nephites spent most of the night getting their things together. By morning they were ready to go.

104. The next morning they were surprised to find that all of the Lamanite guards were asleep. The Lord had caused this sleep to come upon them so Alma and his people could escape safely. They walked by the guards and departed into the wilderness. After they felt that they were safe they stopped and pitched their tents. Here all the people went out to pray and thank the Lord again for His mercy in delivering them from their enemies. Soon after this the Lord spoke to Alma. He told him that the Lamanites were now awake and were following them into the wilderness. He told Alma to take his people and hurry on. If he would do this He would stop their enemies. They would not make it beyond the valley where the people were now camped. After Alma told this to his people they packed up and hurried away. After twelve days they reached Zarahemla where they were greeted by Mosiah II and his people who received them with great joy. Their journey was over. By remaining faithful even in difficulties they had the Lord with them and they were delivered from their enemies.
UNIT II

LESSONS LEARNED THE HARD WAY

Lesson 23

DO THE RIGHTEOUS HAVE DIFFICULTIES

I. Reference:

Section numbers 100-104
Mosiah 23 and 24

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. How did the Lord protect Alma and his people from being killed by the Nephites? How did He protect them from the Lamanites?

2. Why isn't it good to have a king?

3. What kind of men should we choose to be our teachers and leaders?

4. Who came with the Lamanite army into the land of Helam? How did they come to be with the Lamanites?

5. What promise did the Lamanites make to Alma's people? Did they keep it?

6. Who did the Lamanites put in as king over Alma and his people? Tell what you can about this man.

7. What did the Lord do to help Alma and his people while they were in bondage to the Lamanites?

8. How did Alma and his people escape from the Lamanites?

9. What important thing did Alma and his people do after they escaped from their enemies?

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. Should the members of the true church ever fear their enemies? Explain.

2. Do you think that wicked people will hate and persecute you if you are righteous? Explain.

3. Why did Amulon try to stop Alma and his people from praying? Could he stop them? Explain.

4. Why did the Lord allow Alma and his people to be in bondage for some time before helping them escape?
5. Do righteous people have difficulties? Explain.

V. Application:

The Lord helped Alma's people with their problems. What problems could He help you with? How can you gain His help?
105. After arriving in Zarahemla Alma was appointed leader of the church. He had many problems. There were many of the people who were beginning to turn away from the teachings of the church. These people were causing all kinds of trouble for the faithful members of the church. When this became so bad that the people wanted something done about it, they went to Alma and asked him what they should do. Alma wasn't sure what could be done. He went to the king. The king met with his advisors and they decided that a law should be made that the members of the church were not to be mistreated. Mosiah did this and he had copies of the law sent throughout his kingdom. The people were told that no unbeliever was to persecute any member of the church. Alma also sent out word to the churches that they were not to mistreat one another or any other person. Instead they were to live together in love. They should treat others as they would like to be treated themselves. He also reminded the church leaders that they were to work and support themselves. They were not to be supported by the members unless they were sick or in some other condition where they needed help very badly.

106. Then there was peace in the land of Zarahemla. The people multiplied and spread out all over the land. They built cities and villages in all parts of the land. They were blessed by the Lord and they became a great and a wealthy people. It was during this time of prosperity that one of Alma's sons named Alma II and four of the sons of King Mosiah II started causing trouble. They went about teaching that the church that their fathers belonged to was not true. They were good speakers and they caused many of
the church members to turn away from the truth. Their wickedness was causing many of Mosiah's people to become wicked also. One day while they were traveling an angel of the Lord appeared to them. As he spoke the ground shook under their feet. They were so frightened that they fell down. Then the angel told Alma to stand and listen to what he had to tell him. Alma II was asked why he went around trying to destroy the true church. He was told that he could not destroy the church. The Lord had said that nothing could overcome it unless the people left it and turned away from the truth. The angel went on to say that it was because of the prayers of Alma II's father that he had been sent from God to set Alma straight. He said that unless Alma stopped trying to overcome the church which God had set up through His prophets that he would be destroyed. When the angel said this Alma became so frightened that he fell to the ground again. He was so weak that he couldn't move or talk.

107. Alma was carried into his father's house in his weakened condition. This caused his father to rejoice. He knew that the Lord had answered his prayers and had caused his son to know the truth. Now he hurried out to find those people who had been deceived by his son and led away from the truth. He wanted them to see what had happened to Alma II. Then they might realize the truth and come back into the church. After this he called in some of the faithful church leaders. Together they prayed and fasted for two days for Alma II. They prayed that he would again receive his strength and be able to talk. After two days Alma II did regain his strength. He was able to get up. He told the people that he had been through much suffering. He had been thinking of all the wrong which he had done. He had led many people astray. But he had repented of his sins. Through his faith in Christ who was to come he had been forgiven. Now he had lost all desire to do wrong.
All he wanted to do was try to make right all the wrong he had done. It was his desire to spend the rest of his life serving the Lord in every way he could. This change that came over Alma is known as being "born again."

After being converted Alma II tried very hard to make right all the wrong he had done. He first talked to his friends and explained to them all that had happened during those two days he was down. Then he took them with him and went throughout the land confessing his many sins to the people. He tried to teach the truth to all those whom he had led astray. He found things very different now. Instead of persecuting others as he used to do he found that many people now persecuted him and struck him. In spite of all this, Alma continued to teach whenever he had the chance. He was able to strengthen the church members and do much good. Thus a wicked man saw the truth before it was too late and through great repentance was able to change his life and be "born again."
UNIT II

LESSONS LEARNED THE HARD WAY

Lesson 24

WHO CAN REPENT

I. Reference:

Section numbers 105-108
Mosiah 27

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. Who was appointed leader of the true church? What problems did he have?

2. How were the church members protected from persecution by the non-members?

3. What instructions did Alma give to the church members?

4. Name the young men who were traveling around trying to destroy the church.

5. What stopped Alma and his friends from continuing in their evil ways?

6. What happened to Alma after the angel left?

7. Why was Alma's father happy to see him in his weakened condition? What did he do to help him?

8. What happened to Alma II during the two days when he couldn't speak?

9. What did Alma try to do after he was converted? Was he successful? Why?

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. Why would an angel of God appear to Alma and his friends when they were wicked men?

2. Why is it best to repent of a sin quickly before it becomes a habit?

3. Who can repent?

4. Who cannot repent? Is it because they cannot be helped or because they will not allow themselves to be helped?

V. Application:

Tell what you would have to do before you could no longer repent. Can you repent of all the sins you have now committed? Then what are you going to do?
109. When the four sons of Mosiah were converted to the truth after their
great experience with the angel of the Lord, they spent their time preaching
and trying to correct all the wrong they had done. Then they took some of
their friends with them and went to see their father who was the king. They
asked for his permission to go back to the land of Nephi and preach the gospel
to the Lamanites who lived there. They wanted to do this so that the Lamanites
would have a chance to see their mistakes and change from their wicked ways.
Now that they were converted they knew how wonderful it was to make this change.
They wanted to help others have this happiness too. They also knew that by
convincing the Lamanites of the truthfulness of the gospel there would be peace
in the land and the hatred between the Lamanites and the Nephites would cease.
When Mosiah's sons told him these things he didn't think it was a good idea.
He knew how wild and unrighteous the Lamanites were and he was afraid that
his sons would be killed. The boys continued pleading with him and after many
days he decided to take the problem to the Lord. When he had prayed the Lord
told him that he should let his sons go on this mission. He said that He
would protect them and through their faithfulness they would be able to bring
many of the Lamanites to a knowledge of the truth. So the sons of Mosiah
went on their mission to the Lamanites.
UNIT III

SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH OTHERS

Lesson 25

WHAT IS THE MOST VALUABLE THING IN LIFE

I. Reference:

Section number 109
Mosiah 28

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. What does it mean to be converted?
2. How did the sons of Mosiah show that they really had been converted?
3. Why did the sons of Mosiah want to take the gospel to the Lamanites?
4. Why was Mosiah afraid to let his sons go to the Lamanites?
5. What caused Mosiah to let his sons go on their mission?

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. What did the sons of Mosiah consider to be the most valuable thing in their lives? Is this the most valuable thing in your life also? Explain.
2. What can we do to make the gospel more important in our lives?
3. How does a person become converted?

V. Application:

President McKay has told us that every member in our church should be a missionary. What can you do to become a good missionary?
110. After the sons of Mosiah had left for their mission their father had no one to give the kingdom to. He decided that it would be better if the people had no more kings. So he sent out instructions to his people that they should vote and choose a man to be chief judge over all the land. They were to also choose other men to be lesser judges in the various cities and villages. Then when a problem arose the people could take it to the judge in their city. If he couldn't solve it then they could go to the chief judge. The people thought this was a good idea. They elected Alma II to be their first chief judge. Soon after this both Mosiah and Alma I died.

111. After the king's death Alma took over as chief judge and began to carry out the laws that Mosiah II had set up for his people. He was responsible to judge all of the serious crimes committed and to decide upon the punishment that should be given. Soon after he was put in office a man was brought before him by the name of Nehor. This man was guilty of murder. He was the leader of a church which taught that everyone would be saved and that it wasn't necessary to live a good life. It also taught that the church leaders ought to be paid by the people so that they could wear fine clothes and be wealthy. One day as Nehor was on his way to his church to preach he met a man who belonged to the true church. This man was named Gideon. He was the same man who had given Limhi's people the plan to escape from the Lamanites. Gideon was a teacher in the true church. As Nehor met Gideon he began an argument with him. Gideon had the Lord with him and, like Abinadi had done with the wicked priests of Noah, he was able to show that Nehor and
his church were wrong. This made Nehor very angry and he drew his sword and began fighting with Gideon. Gideon was an old man. Nehor soon killed him. Then Nehor was taken by the officers and brought to Alma for judgment.

112. When Nehor came before Alma he defended himself saying that what he had done was not wrong. Alma answered him by saying: This is the first time that false teachings and a false church has gotten started among our people. Now you are even trying to force these teachings upon the righteous, killing them if they resist. Such a thing is not only against the Nephite laws, but if it were allowed to continue it would cause the whole Nephite nation to be overthrown and destroyed. Therefore, because you have killed a righteous man who had done no wrong I condemn you to die. Nehor was taken up onto the hill called Manti and there they had him confess before the people that his teachings were false. Then he was put to death. This put an end to Nehor but his false teachings and his false church continued among the people. Soon the people who were not members of the church began again to persecute the church members. They began to laugh at them and say many evil things against them. When this happened many of the members of the true church couldn't stand it and they became wicked and left the church. Only the very faithful members of the church remained righteous. No matter how many insults were spoken against them they still remained true to their church. Their leaders remained humble and they did not ask the people to support them. They worked together to help one another and they took care of all the poor and sick in the church.

113. Even though the church members were being persecuted, they remained faithful and did not try to get even with their enemies. Because of this God blessed them and they began to be rich in flocks, herds, grain, precious metals, and in all types of cloth and clothing. As they became rich they
remembered that God had given them these things and they were thankful. They continued to help the poor and needy. They knew that their church was more important to them than wealth of any kind. So the members of the true church remained righteous and began to prosper. But the nonmembers engaged in all types of wickedness and sin which they could get away with without being caught by the law. God was not with them and they did not prosper. During this time Alma continued to judge the people and bring all the lawbreakers that were found to judgment.
UNIT III

SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH OTHERS.

Lesson 26

WHY DO WE HAVE LAWS

I. Reference:
Section numbers 110-113
Alma 1

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:
1. Why did Mosiah start a new form of government?
2. Who was the first chief judge of the Nephite nation?
3. Who made the laws which the Nephites followed?
4. What was Alma's job as chief judge?
5. What did Nehor teach?
6. What laws did Nehor break?
7. What did Alma say would happen to the Nephites if men like Nehor were allowed to go free?
8. What happened to Nehor?
9. What happened to Nehor's church after he died?
10. What is the value of having laws to live by?

IV. Understanding and Conviction:
1. Why has the Lord given us laws or commandments to follow?
2. According to the church what is our responsibility in regard to the laws of our nation, state, town, and school?
3. Can a person be a poor American and a good Mormon? Explain.
4. What does the twelfth Article of Faith say? Does this have anything to do with laws? Explain.

V. Application:
What laws are most often broken by young people? How can we avoid breaking these laws? How can we help other young people keep them?
114. About four years after Nehor was put to death, one of his followers named Amlici began to stir up trouble in the land. Many people began to believe in his teachings and he became very powerful. His goal was to be king over all the Nephites. This caused the members of the church much fear, for they knew that if Amlici became king he would do away with their church, and take away all their rights. After much argument throughout the land about Amlici's intentions, the people decided to vote on the matter. When all the votes were counted it was found that the majority of the people were against having Amlici for their king. This made Amlici very angry and he gathered his followers together and had them make him king anyway. Then he commanded his men to get their weapons of war and help him conquer the rest of the Nephites.

115. The Nephites who had voted against Amlici were determined not to let him take them over. They got their army together and went out to meet the Amlicite army. A battle began. There was a great slaughter on both sides but the Lord strengthened the church members and they were able to beat the Amlicites and drive them back. They continued to follow them and attack them while they were still running. That evening the righteous Nephites made camp after killing 12,532 of the enemy and losing 6,562 of their own men. All these people died as a result of one wicked man who wanted power and glory.

116. After the battle was over Alma sent spies to watch the Amlicites and see what they were going to do next. It wasn't long until these spies hurried back to tell him that the Amlicite army had met a Lamanite army in
the wilderness and had joined with them. Now this army was heading back for
the city of Zarahemla to take it while Alma and his army were gone. This
caused great concern to the Nephites. They all prayed for God's help to
enable them to overcome their enemies. Then they hurried back to Zarahemla.
They arrived home just in time to meet their enemies and a great battle began.
The Nephites were heavily outnumbered but they received strength from the
Lord and they fought with all their might. During the battle Alma found
Amlici and began fighting with him. It was a great struggle and during the
fight Alma called out to God for help in defeating this wicked man. With
the additional strength given to him by God he was able to kill Amlici.
Next Alma turned to fight the king of the Lamanites. When he saw what Alma
had done to Amlici he turned and ran. By this time the Lamanite army was
losing so many men that they began to break and flee. The Nephites followed
them and killed all who were slow in escaping. They drove them into the
wilderness where many became lost and were killed by wild animals. Others
died from their wounds. Thus, with the help of the Lord the Nephites were
able to defeat an army much larger than their own. In peace or in war, having
God on your side makes a big difference. We can also see how much sorrow,
pain, and death can be caused by one wicked man without gaining anything.
No one can win a war.
UNIT III

SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH OTHERS

Lesson 27

WHAT CAUSES WAR

I. Reference:

Section numbers 114-116
Alma 2

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. Who was Amlici? What was his goal?

2. Why were the members of the church against having Amlici for their king?

3. What did Amlici do when the people voted against having him for their king?

4. Who won the battle between the Amlicites and the Nephites? Why?

5. Who was responsible for the death of all the men who were killed in the war?

6. How did Alma know that the Amlicites had joined the Nephites?

7. What important thing did Alma do during the battle with the Amlicite-Lamanite army? How was he able to do this?

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. What should we do when we belong to a group which chooses to do things differently than we think they should be done?

2. Can anyone win a war? Explain.


V. Application:

Do you think that freedom is worth risking your life for? Explain.
117. The great war with the Lamanites and Amlicites brought much sorrow to the Nephites. Many of their friends and relatives were killed. Their crops had been destroyed, and many of their animals were dead. This caused the Nephite people to mourn. They felt that all these things had come upon them because they had not been living righteous lives. Because of this they wanted to repent and turn back to the Lord. So many people returned to the church and other new members were baptized. The church began to grow. By the end of the seventh year of Alma's reign 3,500 new members had joined. But as war ceased and the people began to grow rich once again, they began to turn away from God. They started to seek after gold, silver, fine clothing, large herds, and other worldly things. Because everything was going well they didn't think they needed God anymore. This caused Alma and the other church leaders much sorrow. Even some of the members of the church were beginning to set their hearts upon riches and forget God. They began to argue with one another and the love they once had for their fellow men turned to hate. These wicked conditions within the church caused many people who might have joined to reject it as false because of some of the members they knew. Thus the church began to fail in its progress.

118. When Alma saw his people going deeper and deeper into sin he became very worried. He remembered what had happened to Noah's people. He knew that unless his people were righteous that God would no longer help them and they would be brought to destruction. Some of the church members were continuing in righteousness and doing all in their power to do good and help
the poor and needy, but most of them were not. Alma decided that the best thing he could do was to try to bring them to repentance. He chose a righteous man to take his place in the government so that he would be free to go among his people and teach the gospel. Then he set out on his mission to bring his people to repentance.
UNIT III

SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH OTHERS

Lesson 28

WHAT CAUSES RIGHTEOUS MEN TO FAIL LIFE'S TEST

I. Reference:

Section numbers 117-118
Alma 4

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. Why did the Nephite people mourn?

2. What did the Nephites think was the reason for their difficulties? What did they do about it?

3. What led the people away from God again?

4. How did unrighteous members in the church stop its progress?

5. How did Alma show love and concern for his people?

6. What did Alma do about his job as chief judge?

7. What was the purpose of Alma's mission?

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. If we set bad examples can we hurt the church today? Explain.

2. What are some of the temptations of our day which would cause us to fail in our spiritual development if we did them?

3. Do you think God needs you and me in his church? Explain.

V. Application:

Do you think it helps us to examine ourselves and look for our weaknesses? Explain.
119. Alma began his mission in his own city of Zarahemla. Here the people had done many wicked things. It was very difficult for him to get them to repent and turn back to the church. He realized that the job he was trying to do was a big one. But he knew that with God's help he could accomplish it. Finally, after much work and preaching Alma was able to get the church in Zarahemla back in order. He talked to the church members who had been unfaithful. Those of them who were willing to repent and come back into the church were allowed to do so. The others were excommunicated. This means that they had their names taken off the records of the church. Alma also talked to the nonmembers and he baptized as many as would accept his teachings. After setting the church in order in Zarahemla, Alma went on to the next Nephite city which was Gideon.

120. In Gideon Alma again began to teach the people. He told them how important it was to keep themselves worthy members of the church. They must not waste their lives seeking for riches and other worldly things. It would not be long until God was going to send His Son to the earth. He was going to be born to a woman named Mary in Jerusalem and God would be His father. Alma also said that He would go through great pain and suffering as well as many temptations. He would pay for the sins of those who accept Him and would make possible the resurrection for all mankind.
12. The people in Gideon accepted Alma's words much better than the people had done in Zarahemla. He knew that they believed his words and he was happy. He told them that if they would really try they could overcome their sins. Then they could have God near them once again. They weren't in nearly as wicked a condition as the people in Zarahemla had been. When the people began to change their ways and return to righteousness Alma returned to his home in Zarahemla. He wanted to rest for a little while before continuing his mission. He had spent nearly a year preaching the gospel and trying to strengthen the church members.

ALMA 8

122. After resting for a time, Alma once again set out to preach the gospel. This time he went into the land of Melek. Here he worked very hard teaching the gospel and showing the people the importance of belonging to the true church. Before long people began coming to him to be baptized. With the help of God he was able to baptize all the people in the land of Melek who were not already members. When he had finished his work there he left Melek and traveled northward for three days to the city of Ammonihah.

123. Alma entered the city of Ammonihah and began to preach to the people there. They were very wicked. He could not make them listen to what he had to say. He tried very hard and spent much time in prayer. But they told him that they did not believe in his church and its foolish traditions. They spit upon Alma and threw him out of their city. Alma was filled with sorrow as he left the city. But before he had gone very far an angel of the Lord appeared to him. The angel said: The Lord is pleased with you for your great faithfulness. You have done very well since you changed and repented of your evil ways. I am the one who appeared to you before when you were
a young man. Do not feel bad any more. Return to the city and give the people
one last warning. Tell them that if they do not repent the Lord God will
destroy them.

124. After Alma had received his message from the Lord he hurried back
to Ammonihah. He entered the city from a different gate so he would not
be cast out again. As he entered the city he was very hungry. He had been
fasting and praying for the people of Ammonihah for a long time. He walked
up to a man standing nearby and asked him if he would give a servant of God
some food. The man was named Amulek. He said: I know you are a prophet of
God. An angel has appeared to me and told me to take you to my home and
feed you. So the Lord had prepared a way for Alma to do his work. Alma
grew th with Amulek to his home.

125. After eating, Alma told Amulek who he was and why he had come to
Ammonihah. He stayed with Amulek for several days. Then the Lord told
him to take Amulek with him and go out and warn the people as he had been
told. Alma did this and the two missionaries began to preach and prophecy
to the people of Ammonihah.

Note: At this point it is well for the teacher to tell the
story of Zeezrom and fill in some of the material between Alma
8 and 13.
UNIT III

SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH OTHERS

Lesson 29

SHOULD I PREPARE FOR A MISSION

I. Reference:

Section numbers 119-125
Alma 6-8

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. Why was it hard for Alma to bring the people of Zarahemla to repentance?

2. What did Alma do with the church members who had been wicked but wanted to repent?

3. What did Alma do with the members who would not repent?

4. Why is it more important to seek righteousness than to seek riches?

5. Who did Alma say was coming to the earth soon? What was he going to do for mankind?

6. Compare Alma's reception at Gideon with the way he was received at Ammonihah.

7. Why did Alma go back to Ammonihah after being cast out?

8. How does Alma's life show that the wicked can repent and be forgiven?

9. How did the Lord prepare the way for Alma to finish his mission in Ammonihah?

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. In what ways had Alma prepared himself to be a missionary? How can you prepare?

2. What responsibility do we have to our brothers and sisters on the earth who do not have the gospel?

3. Do you think that the Lord needs you to be a missionary for him? Explain.

4. Why are returned missionaries always thankful that they were able to go on a mission?

V. Application:

What are you going to do to prepare to serve the Lord as a missionary?
ALMA 13

126. Alma was first to talk to the people. He preached a great sermon but the people rejected his warning. Next Amulek spoke. The people were surprised to hear a member of their city support Alma's teachings. A few of them became interested. Alma spoke again. When he finished he asked the people if they could remember how the Lord had chosen priests and given them power to teach the people His commandments. These men were selected even before they were born on earth for this great privilege because of their great faith and good lives. Other men also had a chance to prove themselves worthy and be chosen. But those other men would not follow the words of God; they closed their minds to the truth so they were not chosen. This means that those who have the priesthood of God on earth have earned this great blessing in the pre-earth life. If they continue to be righteous and honor the priesthood while here on earth by doing all they can to do right and serve their fellow men then they will be allowed to hold this priesthood even after death. They will be one of God's chosen servants forever. But if a man fails to honor the priesthood in this life then after death he will never have it again.

127. Alma went on to say that the people must humble themselves and be like the great prophet Melchizedek of old. He was a king who held the Holy Priesthood. He had shown great faith and after receiving the priesthood he taught repentance to his people. Because he was such a great teacher and prophet his people repented and he was able to establish peace and happiness among them. The great faith and righteousness of this man was such an
example that the high priesthood was named the Melchizedek Priesthood after him.

128. After saying these things Alma told the people that they had better repent now before it was too late. It would not be long until the Saviour would come. His coming would be made known to righteous people in all nations by the angels of God. This would be done so that all those who sought to know the truth might know and accept Him. Alma said that he hoped he would live to see the day when the Saviour would come. Then he told the people that he hoped that they would repent of their sins and break away from the "chains of hell" which bound them. By doing so they could once again be prayerful, humble, patient, full of love, and ready to accept Christ. Then they could be raised up to be with Him at the judgment day. The power of God was with Alma and he gave a great sermon to the people. It touched the hearts of the honest among them.
UNIT III

SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH OTHERS

Lesson 30

WHY IS IT A GREAT HONOR TO HOLD THE PRIESTHOOD

I. Reference:

Section numbers 126-128
Alma 13

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. Why are some men given the priesthood while others do not have this chance?

2. What must a priesthood holder do if he wishes to keep the priesthood after he dies?

3. Who was Melchizedek? Why was the high priesthood named after him?

4. How was the coming of the Lord going to be made known to people of other nations?

5. What are "the chains of hell"?

6. What qualities must we have in order to be ready to meet the Saviour?

7. How was Alma able to convince the people that what he said was true?

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. What is the priesthood?

2. What power does the Melchizedek Priesthood give to those who hold it?

3. Why is it a great honor to hold the priesthood?

4. What are the qualifications necessary to hold the priesthood?

V. Application:

Explain how you can honor the priesthood. (This question is for both boys and girls.)
129. Alma finished speaking to the people. Some of them believed what he said and began to repent and read the scriptures. Most of the people, however, would not accept these teachings. They were very angry with Alma and Amulek for speaking against their lawyers and telling them of the great wickedness of the people. Some of them wanted to take these missionaries and kill them secretly. But they finally decided to tie them up and take them to their chief judge for a trial. While these things were happening one of the wicked lawyers remained silent. His name was Zeezrom. At first he had tried to trap the missionaries by getting them to say something for which they could be punished. But they had spoken with such great power that he had been frightened. Now he realized that what he had done was wrong. He had been leading a sinful life just as Amulek had said. When he saw that the people were going to take the missionaries to trial he began to cry out saying: "Behold, I am guilty and these men are spotless before God." He tried very hard to get the people to release them. But the people only became angry with him. They spit on him and cast him out of the city.

130. After casting Zeezrom out of the city the people gathered together all the men who believed in the teachings of Alma and Amulek and cast them out of the city also. Then they got the wives and children of these men and took them together with all of their copies of the Nephite scriptures to be burned. These wicked men forced Alma and Amulek to watch while they threw the women and children into the great fires which they had made. When Amulek
saw this terrible thing and heard the screams of the women and children he turned to Alma and said: We have the power of God, why can't we use it and stop this from happening? Alma said: The Lord has told me that we must not. He is going to use this terrible deed for a witness against these wicked people so that they can be made to pay at the judgment day. Then Amulek said: Perhaps they will burn us also. Alma replied that they might try but he didn't think they would succeed for their mission was not yet completed.

131. When the women and children had been burned the chief judge of the people came and stood before Alma and Amulek. He slapped them each in the face and said: Now you see what happens to people if they accept your teachings. Are you still going to preach to this people? You have seen that you could not save the people that we burned. Neither could their faith in God. Now what have you to say about the religion you preach? Alma and Amulek refused to answer. After slapping them again the chief judge had them cast into prison. They were in prison for three days. Then the chief judge along with many other judges and lawyers came to see them. They asked the missionaries why they would not speak. They said that they could burn them like they had the others if they wanted to. Still Alma and Amulek said nothing. The judges left. The next day they returned again. Each one of them slapped the missionaries in the face and asked why they did not deliver themselves if they had the power of God with them. This went on day after day and the missionaries suffered much. They were tied up and left without food, water, or clothing. Whenever the chief judge came they were slapped and spit upon.

132. After being in prison for days and suffering many things, Alma and Amulek were once again visited by the chief judge and his wicked friends.
They came into the prison and mocked them saying: "If ye have the power of God deliver yourselves from these bands and then we will believe that the Lord will destroy this people according to your words." As they said these things they each went up and slapped the face of the missionaries. When this happened the power of God came upon Alma and Amulek. Alma stood up and cried out to God in prayer for help in delivering them from their enemies. When the wicked men heard this they were afraid. They turned and ran. But before they could reach the outer door of the prison the earth shook. They became so frightened that they fell to the floor. Then the walls of the prison crashed down upon them. Like Sherem, they had asked for a sign and they got it.

When the walls fell all of the people who were inside the prison were killed except Alma and Amulek. These two men walked out of the prison free from the ropes that had bound them. Many people of the city gathered to see what had happened. When they saw their rulers dead and Alma and Amulek free, they fled in terror before them. The missionaries were able to leave the city in peace. They had suffered much but they kept their faith in God and He did not let them down. They had done as He had commanded them and He had delivered them from their enemies.
UNIT III

SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH OTHERS

Lesson 31

WHY DO THE RIGHTEOUS SUFFER

I. Reference:

Section numbers 129-133
Alma 14

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. Were Alma and Amulek able to do any good in Ammonihah? Explain.

2. How did Zeezrom show his desire to repent for what he had done? What did the people do with him?

3. What did the people do to the men who accepted Alma's teachings? What happened to their families?

4. Why did the Lord allow the righteous women and children to be burned?

5. What happened in the prison that made it possible for the missionaries to escape?

6. Why was everyone in the prison killed except Alma and Amulek?

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. Is it better to go against the ideas of the crowd when they are wrong and be persecuted than to join with them and be their friend? Explain.

2. Why did the missionaries have to suffer for so long? Did their suffering cause them to turn against God? Explain.

3. What could be the reason why Alma and Amulek wouldn't talk to the men who had put them in prison?

4. Give all the reasons you can why righteous people suffer while on earth.

V. Application:

Do you think that you may be persecuted or talked about if you live your religion? What are you going to do about it?
134. After leaving Ammonihah Alma and Amulek went to the land of Sidom. Here they found all the people who had been forced out of Ammonihah for believing their words. They told them the bad news about their families being killed. Then they heard that Zeezrom was there and that he was sick. He had a high fever which had been caused by his great sorrow and worry. He thought Alma and Amulek had been killed and that it was his fault. When he found out that they were in the city Zeezrom sent for the two missionaries. They came and found him in bed. He was very sick. He asked them to heal him. Alma took hold of his hand and asked him if he believed what they had told him about Christ and His mission. He answered, "yes." When Alma heard this he said: If you believe in Christ and have faith in Him you can be healed. Then he called out in prayer to God to heal this man according to his faith. Zeezrom was immediately healed. He jumped up from his bed and began to walk. This great miracle was told throughout the whole land of Sidom.

135. After being healed Zeezrom was baptized by Alma. Then he also became a missionary for the true church and began to preach to the people. He had repented and through baptism he was forgiven of his sins. Alma and Amulek taught in Sidom and baptized many other people into the church. They ordained priests and teachers and organized a church there. The work grew and grew and soon hundreds of people came into Sidom from all the cities nearby to be baptized. It was a great time of rejoicing. Back at Ammonihah the people heard of all these things but they still did not believe. They said these
men got their great power from the devil. Thus they refused to change their ways as they had been warned to do.

136. Alma got the church going good in the land of Sidom. Then he wished to return home. Since his companion, Amulek, had lost his family, his gold, his land, and all of his possessions in Ammonihah, Alma took him to his home. He helped to comfort him and take care of him. Amulek had given up everything he had for the gospel. He loved the Lord very much. He had shown his love by giving up everything to be a missionary for Him. We see from this story that if a person really loves God and wants to serve Him he must be willing to make any sacrifice.
UNIT III

SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH OTHERS

Lesson 32

MUST WE MAKE SACRIFICES

I. Reference:

Section numbers 134-136
Alma 15

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. Who did Alma meet in Sidom?

2. Why was Zeezrom sick?

3. How was Zeezrom healed?

4. What did Alma have to know before he would pray for Zeezrom to be healed?

5. What did Alma do for Zeezrom after he was healed?

6. How did Zeezrom show his great love for the gospel?

7. What did the people of Ammonihah think about what was going on in Sidom?

8. What sacrifice did Amulek have to make for the gospel?

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. Why was Amulek willing to give up so much for the gospel?

2. What probably happened to Amulek's wife and children?

3. Would you be willing to give up some of your personal desires to go on a mission? Explain.

4. Is it possible to suffer a "hell on earth"? Explain.

V. Application:

Besides going on a mission, what other sacrifices can you make for the Lord?
ALMA 17

137. When Alma had finished his work in Sidom, he left to go to the land of Manti. On his way there he met with his old friends, the sons of Mosiah. They were very happy to see each other again. They rejoiced in the knowledge that each of them had changed his ways. Now they were working for the Lord and His church rather than against it as they had once done. As Alma talked to his friends he found that they had spent a lot of time in prayer and fasting. Because of this they were very close to God. They held His Priesthood and were guided by revelation from Him. When they met Alma they were returning from their mission to the Lamanites. It had lasted for fourteen years. They had brought many Lamanites to a knowledge of the truth.

138. The sons of Mosiah told Alma of their missionary experiences. After giving up the chance to be king over the Nephite empire they took their swords, spears, bows, arrows, and slings and went into the wilderness to take the gospel to the Lamanites. While they were traveling in the wilderness they fasted and prayed that the Lord would help them accomplish their mission. They wanted to be able to teach the Lamanites about the true gospel. One day the Lord spoke to them and answered their prayers. He told them that if they would be faithful and endure all the hardships that came upon them that they would be able to bring many of the Lamanites into the true church. This message caused the missionaries to take courage. Soon afterward they separated and each went into a different part of the land to teach.

139. The missionaries needed great courage for the Lamanites were a people who delighted in robbing and killing the Nephites. They had turned away
from God and their hearts were set upon getting gold, silver, and other precious things. They hated the Nephites and would rather steal from them than do any work to get things for themselves. They were lazy and many of them had turned to worshiping idols. In spite of all these things the missionaries knew that the Lamanites were God's children as much as they were. If they could get them to repent and accept the gospel, God would forgive them and bless them. With this in mind they went into the Lamanite land to teach their brothers.

140. At the time the missionaries broke up and went their separate ways, Ammon, their leader, went into a part of the land called Ishmael. It was where the sons of Ishmael settled when they came to America with Lehi. Soon after entering this land he was captured and taken before the Lamanite king whose name was Laman. The king asked him if he had come to live with the Lamanites. He answered, "yes." This pleased the king. He ordered his men to free Ammon. Then he said that he could have one of his own daughters for his wife. Ammon said that he would rather just be a servant to the king. So he was sent out with the other servants to tend the sheep.

141. Three days after beginning his job Ammon was with the king's other servants on his way to water the sheep. As they approached the water hole they met another bunch of Lamanites. These men began to scatter their sheep. They made their living by scattering the sheep that were brought to this water hole. After the sheep were scattered they would get as many as they could into their own bands. These they would claim for their own. They had done this once before with the king's sheep. When the king found out that many of his sheep had been lost he became so angry that he had the herders put to death. When the men who were with Ammon saw these wicked men scatter the sheep they became afraid. They thought that they would be killed also.
Because of their fear they began to weep.

142. When Ammon saw the sorrow of the king's servants he realized that this would be a good chance for him to help them. If he could win their friendship and be able to teach them the gospel, he called out to the men telling them that if they hurried they could still get the flock back together. The men followed his advice and soon they had the sheep all gathered together once more. They had just done this when the wicked herdsmen came to scatter the sheep again. Ammon told his fellow herdsmen to stay with the sheep. He would go to meet their enemies. When they saw Ammon coming they were not afraid. They had many men. They thought they could kill Ammon easily. They did not know that Ammon's father had been promised by the Lord that his sons would not be killed while on their mission.

143. As soon as Ammon was close enough he picked up some stones and began to use his sling to throw them at these men. He threw with great power and his aim was so good that in a few moments he had killed several of his enemies. They were amazed when all of the stones that they threw back at him missed. They couldn't hit him. After several of their men had been killed they grew angry. They decided to attack Ammon with their clubs and kill him. As they came forward Ammon drew his sword and began fighting with their leader. He killed him. Then as each of his enemies came forward to hit him he would swing his sword and cut off their arm. Soon there was a stack of arms lying at Ammon's feet. When the men who came to kill him saw his great strength and realized that they could not kill him, they ran. He followed after them and chased them away from the well. Then he signaled his friends to bring the sheep down to water. After watering the sheep they left for home, but not before one of the herdsmen had gathered up the arms that had been cut off. He wanted to take them home and show the king.
UNIT III

SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH OTHERS

Lesson 33

WHAT MAKES A GOOD MISSIONARY

I. Reference:

Section numbers 137-143
Alma 17

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. Who did Alma meet on his way to Manti? Where had they been?

2. How did Alma's friends become close to God?

3. What did the Lord tell the missionaries as they were traveling in the wilderness?

4. What kind of people were the Lamanites at the time these missionaries went to teach them?

5. Why did the missionaries want to take the gospel to such a wicked people?

6. How did Ammon please the Lamanite king?

7. Explain what happened on the third day after Ammon began working for the king.

8. Why did Ammon want to help the king's servants?

9. Why couldn't the wicked herders kill Ammon?

10. How did Ammon show great courage and great faith in God?

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. How did the sons of Mosiah prepare themselves for their mission? Is this necessary for a good missionary? Explain.

2. What qualities made Ammon a great man?

3. Why didn't Ammon want to marry the king's daughter? What does this teach us about marrying outside of the church?

V. Application:

How can you prepare yourself to serve the Lord as a missionary?
The king's servants returned with the sheep. Then they took the arms that Ammon had cut off in to the king. They told him of Ammon's great courage and power. They said he could not be killed by his enemies. This caused the king to be very surprised. He thought that Ammon must be the Great Spirit who had come to punish his people because of their murders. The servants replied that they didn't know if Ammon was the Great Spirit or not. But they did know that he could not be killed by his enemies. He had great ability and great strength. Also, he was a friend to the king. They didn't think any ordinary man could have so much power. This made king Lamoni think that Ammon must be the Great Spirit. He thought that he had come to save the king's servants from being killed as the others had been.

King Lamoni was very worried. His father had taught him that there was a Great Spirit. Yet he and his people thought it was all right for them to do as they pleased. They thought that the kind of life they lived made no difference to the Great Spirit. Now Lamoni began to wonder. He was afraid that he was going to be punished for killing all of his first herdsmen. The king asked the servants where Ammon was. They told him that he was out in the stable getting the horses and chariots ready for a trip which Lamoni was going to take the next day. This amazed Lamoni even more. In spite of Ammon's great power he continued to be a very faithful servant. He remembered to do all that he was told. Lamoni said: Now I know that this is the Great Spirit. I would like him to come here to me but I am afraid to call him.

Soon after the king said he would like to see this man, Ammon finished
his work and came in to tell the king. He noticed that the king looked very
different, as though he were sick or something, so he turned to leave. Then
one of the king's servants spoke to him saying: Great King, the king desires
thee to stay. When Ammon heard this he turned to the king and said: What
would you like me to do? But the king said nothing for a whole hour. He
was frightened and didn't know what to say.

147. Ammon waited for some time then the Spirit of the Lord came upon him
and he understood what the king was thinking. He spoke to the king and said:
Are you wondering about what happened this afternoon when I killed seven
of the men who were trying to scatter the sheep and drove the others away.
If you are, don't be afraid. I am only a man and I will do whatever you ask
me to do if it is not wrong. When Ammon said this it caused the king to
wonder even more. He saw that Ammon knew his thoughts. Finally he spoke
and said: Who are you? Are you the Great Spirit that knows all things?
Ammon said: No, I am not. Then the king said: How do you know what I'm
thinking then, and how were you able to stand up against so many men when
they attacked you? If you will tell me these things I will give you anything
you want. I will even use my army to protect you if you want. But I know
that you have more power than my whole army.

148. This was Ammon's chance to tell the king about the true gospel. He
asked the king if he would listen to what he had to say. The king answered:
"Yes." Then he asked the king if he believed that there was a God. The king
said that he didn't know what he meant. Ammon asked if he believed in the
Great Spirit then. The king said, "Yes." Then Ammon explained to him that
the Great Spirit was God. Next he asked the king if he believed that God
made heaven and earth and all things that are in them. The king replied
that he believed that God made the earth but he knew nothing about heaven.
Ammon explained that heaven is where God and His holy angels live. Lamoni asked: Is it above the earth? Ammon answered, "Yes." God looks down upon all the people of the earth. He knows all their thoughts and their actions. Then Lamoni said that he believed all that Ammon had told him. He went on to ask if Ammon was sent from God. Ammon answered, saying: I am a man and when God made man he made them to be like Him. I have been sent by God to teach His ways to this people so that they can know the way of truth and happiness. The Lord has given me His Holy Spirit to guide me. This is the thing which gives me the power which I have. I receive this power through my faith and my desire to serve God.

149. Then Ammon began at the creation of the world. He told Lamoni about the fall of man in the Garden of Eden and about all of the important parts of the gospel which the Lord had given clear down to the time when Lehi left Jerusalem. Then he explained how their forefathers came to America. He told how Laman, Lemuel, and the sons of Ishmael turned away from God. He also explained how God was going to send His Son to earth to make it possible for man to live after death and to return back to God. The king had great faith. He believed all that Ammon said. When he had heard it all he called out in prayer to God. He asked that he and his people could be forgiven for all their evil deeds. When he had done this he fell to the ground as though he were dead. The servants picked him up and took him in to his wife. She put him to bed. He remained this way for two days and they mourned over him, thinking he was dead.
UNIT III

SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH OTHERS

Lesson 34

WHAT IS FAITH

I. Reference:

Section numbers 144-149
Alma 18

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. What did the king think when his servants had told him what Ammon had done at the well?

2. What made the servants think that Ammon was no ordinary man? How did this worry the king?

3. What did the Lamanites believe about the Great Spirit?

4. Why didn't the king call Ammon in when he wanted to talk to him?

5. When Ammon saw that the king looked sick what kept him from leaving?

6. Why didn't the king speak to Ammon?

7. How did Ammon know the king's thoughts?

8. What did the king want to know? What promise did he make to Ammon?

9. What did Ammon teach the king about heaven? About God?

10. What was it that gave Ammon his power? What did he have to do to receive it?

11. How did the king show great faith in Ammon's teachings? What happened to him?

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. How does our setting a good example help others to become interested in our church?

2. Why was it necessary for Ammon to ask the king so many questions?

3. What is faith? How do we gain faith?

4. Why is faith an important principle of the gospel?

5. Who should our faith be in?
V. Application:

How can you show faith in the teachings of the gospel?
150. The king had laid upon his bed as though he was dead for two days and two nights. Some of the people urged the queen to bury him. She wasn't sure that Lamoni was dead. She sent for Ammon to ask him what she should do. Ammon knew that the king was not dead. It was the Holy Ghost who had come upon him so strongly that it had overcome his body. This caused him to fall to the ground. His spirit had been carried away by the Holy Ghost. He was being taught the things of God and having all his false and evil ideas cleared away. Ammon told the queen that her husband was not dead but that he was under the power of God. He would wake up the next morning so he should not be buried. When he asked her if she believed what he said she answered, "Yes." Ammon told her that God was pleased with her great faith. Then he left and the queen remained with her husband all through the night.

151. The next morning Ammon and all of the king's servants came into the king's room. As Ammon said, the king awoke. He held out his hand to his wife and said: I am grateful to God and to you for I have seen my Saviour. He is going to be born on earth and pay for the sins of all people who believe in Him. When the king said this he was filled with joy and thankfulness and again he was overcome by the Spirit and fell down. His wife felt the same power and she fell down beside him. When this happened Ammon was so happy that he began to thank God for helping him bring the gospel to his brothers. So great was his joy that he was overcome also and sank to the floor. Now when the servants saw all of this happen they too began to feel the Spirit of the Lord. They knelt and began to pray with great power to God. Soon all
of them had been overcome by the Spirit except one woman.

152. When the woman saw the servants fall to the ground beside Ammon, Lamoni, and his wife, she knew what was happening. Her father had received a great vision years before. Because of it she had joined the true church. She thought that this would be a good time to call in all the people. They could see what had happened and perhaps they would join the church. She went from house to house telling them. Soon many people had gathered at the king's house. They saw the king, his wife, and his servants lying on the floor near Ammon who was a Nephite. Some of them said that all of these people had been killed because they had allowed a Nephite to live with them. Others said that they thought it had happened because the king had killed the herders who had lost his sheep. Among the crowd were some of the men who had tried to steal the king's sheep and had been stopped by Ammon. The brother of one of the men who had been killed by Ammon drew his sword and went over to kill Ammon while he was lying on the floor. As he raised his sword to strike Ammon he collapsed and fell dead on the floor. God had kept his promise to protect the missionaries.

153. When the people saw this man fall dead they wondered what all of this meant. There began to be a great argument among them. Some of them believed that Ammon had been sent by the Great Spirit. Others said that he was an evil man who had come to harm them. This argument caused the Lamanite woman who had called the people together to feel bad. She was afraid that the people would soon be fighting with one another. She went forward and took the queen by the hand. The queen stood up and spoke out with a loud voice saying, "Oh blessed Jesus, who has saved me from an awful hell! Oh blessed God, have mercy on this people." She went on to speak many words which the people could not understand. Then she took her husband's hand and he arose
also and began to teach his people the ways of the Lord. When he had finished Ammon and the servants also arose and taught the people. The servants told of how they had seen and talked to angels. Many people believed their words and were baptized. Ammon organized a church among them. The others who would not believe left and went back to their homes. So we see how the work of God began among the Lamanites. He loved and helped them when they changed their ways and turned to Him.
UNIT III

SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH OTHERS

Lesson 35

DOES GOD LOVE THE LAMANITES

I. Reference:

Section numbers 150-153
Alma 19

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. Why did the queen send for Ammon?
2. What was happening to the king while his body lay upon the bed?
3. Why did Ammon say the Lord was pleased with the queen?
4. What caused Ammon to be overcome by the Spirit? Who else had this happen to them?
5. Why did the Lamanite woman call the people into the king's home? Did things happen as she had planned? Explain.
6. What happened when the man tried to kill Ammon? What did the people think about it?
7. What happened as a result of the wonderful experiences which the king and some of his people had?
8. Does this story show that God loves the Lamanites? Explain.

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. Do you think God loves one people more than another? Explain.
2. Can God bless people who will not obey His commandments? Explain.
3. How was the king converted? How were the people who listened to his experience converted?
4. What must happen before the Indians can be a great and blessed people again?

V. Application:

Do you think God loves you? How does he show you His love? Do you love Him? How do you show your love?
154. Some time after the conversion of Lamoni, the king invited Ammon to go with him to visit his father. But the Lord told Ammon that he must not go for Lamoni's father would try to kill him. Instead he was to go down to the land of Midдони and try to free his brother and two other missionaries who were in prison there. As soon as Ammon learned this he told the king that he must go down to Midдони and try to free his brother and friends who were in jail. The king was curious. He asked Ammon how he knew that these men were in jail. Ammon said: No man has told me, but it was God who said that I must go and free my brethren.

155. Lamoni told Ammon that he knew that with God's help he could do all things. Still he wanted to go along with him. The king of the land of Midдони was a friend of his and he thought that he could get him to release the missionaries. So the king took Ammon in his chariot and they left for the land of Midдони. On the way they saw another chariot coming. It was Lamoni's father who was king over all of the Lamanites. When they met him he asked his son what he was doing with this Nephite whom he called one of the children of a liar. Lamoni didn't want to anger his father so he told him what had happened to him and where they were going. This made his father very angry and he said: Why do you want to help these Nephites. They have robbed our fathers and now they are coming into our land to try to use their lies and cunning to steal our property. Then he said: I want you to forget about freeing the Nephites. Now draw your sword and kill this man.
156. Lamoni said to his father: I will not kill Ammon, neither will I go home. I am going on to Middoni to free the Nephite prisoners. I know that they are righteous men of God. This made his father so angry that he drew his sword to kill Lamoni. Just then Ammon stepped between them saying: No, you will not kill your son. It would be better for him to die in his righteousness than for you to die in your great wickedness. But if you were to kill him, God would hold you responsible and you could never be saved. The king answered saying: I know that if I killed my son that I would be doing wrong. You are the one who has caused all this trouble and it is you who must die. When he had said this he tried to kill Ammon, but Ammon protected himself and during the fight he cut the king's arm so that he could not use his sword. Then the old king begged Ammon for his life. He said that he would give him anything he wanted, even half of his kingdom, if he would not kill him.

157. The old king had promised Ammon that he would give him what he asked. So Ammon asked the king to free his brethren, to let his son have his freedom to worship as he pleased, and to let him keep his kingdom. Ammon said: Unless you will promise this I will strike you to the ground. When the king heard this his fear left him. He was happy to make these promises to Ammon. He was surprised that Ammon had not asked anything for himself. Instead he had asked that Lamoni could keep his kingdom. This together with the way Ammon had protected Lamoni made the old king realize that Ammon had not come to do harm to them. He was a true friend of his son Lamoni. When he realized this, he told Ammon that when he had finished his journey he wanted him to come and tell him about the gospel. Then the old king turned around and went back home.

158. Ammon and Lamoni went on their way to the land of Middoni. When they got there they were able to get Ammon's friends out of prison. When Ammon
saw them he felt very bad because they had been in prison for a long time without food and water. Their skin was worn and sore from being tied by ropes. After they were free they told Ammon their story. They had gone into a part of the land where the people were very wicked. They would not accept the gospel. The people had driven them out. They had gone from place to place and from house to house until they came to Middoni where they were put in prison. They had not accomplished very much so far but they were still willing to keep on trying to teach the gospel to the Lamanites.

Note: At this point the teacher should tell the story of Ammon and his friends from where the lesson ends to the end of their story (Chapters 21-30). It can be presented most effectively by story telling.
UNIT III

SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH OTHERS

Lesson 36

CAN WE LOVE OUR BROTHER AS OURSELF

I. Reference:

Section numbers 154-158
Alma chapter 20

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. Why was Ammon told not to go with the king to visit his father? What was he told to do instead?

2. Why did Lamoni want to go with Ammon?

3. Who did they meet on the way to Middoni? How did he feel about Ammon?

4. What did Lamoni's father command Lamoni to do? What happened when he wouldn't do it?

5. How did Ammon show his love for Lamoni (two ways)?

6. What changed the old king's feelings about Ammon?

7. Why hadn't Ammon's friends been able to do as well in their missionary work as he had done?


IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. Why was it important for Ammon to remain close to God spiritually?

2. What did Jesus say was the greatest commandment? What is the second greatest?

3. Did Lamoni break the commandment which says we should honor our father and our mother when he refused to kill Ammon? Explain.

V. Application:

Do you love anyone as much as you do yourself? How would you treat others if you did?
159. Soon after the death of Korihor who had tried to turn the people away from the church, Alma heard of a new problem among his people. There was a group of people who had left the Nephite lands and had followed their leader, Zoram, into a part of the land very near where the Lamanites lived. These Zoramites had turned away from God and were idol worshipers. The Nephites feared that they would join the Lamanites and cause another great war. Alma wanted to teach these people the true gospel and bring them back into the church. He knew that this would be better than sending the Nephite army against them. So Alma took two of his sons, his friend, Amulek, and the sons of Mosiah and left on his mission to the Zoramites.

160. The Zoramites were a wicked people. They had heard the gospel and had rejected it. They would not keep the Law of Moses nor would they attend the true church or pray. They went against all of the ways God had given them to follow. They had become followers of the devil without knowing it. When Alma and the other missionaries came to their land they were amazed to see that these people had built a church. In the middle of it was a high stand where a person could climb up and speak. Each Sunday the Zoramites would meet together in their church. Whoever wanted to worship would climb up on the stand, raise his hands up in the air, and say: "Holy, holy God; we believe that thou art God and we believe that thou art holy, and that thou wast a spirit, and that thou art a spirit, and that thou wilt be a spirit forever. Holy God we believe that thou has separated us from our brethren; and we do not believe in the tradition of our brethren which was handed
down to them by the childishness of their fathers; but we believe that thou hast elected us to be thy holy children; and thou hast made it known to us that there will be no Christ. But thou art the same yesterday, today, and forever; and thou hast elected us that we shall be saved, whilst all around us are elected to be cast by thy wrath down to hell; for which holiness, oh God we thank thee that thou hast elected us, that we may not be led away after the foolish traditions of our brethren, which doth bind them down to a belief of Christ, which doth lead their hearts to wander far from thee our God. And again we thank thee, O God, that we are a chosen and holy people. Amen."

161. Alma and his brethren were very surprised to see the Zoramites take turns climbing up on to their stand. Each person would say this same prayer over again. It made them feel bad to see that these people were in such a wicked condition. Their hearts were set upon gold, silver, and the things of this world. They had let the devil fool them into thinking that they were right and that they would be saved while all the righteous Nephites would go to hell. Alma felt so bad that he prayed to the Lord saying: Why is it, Lord, that we must have such wickedness among our people? These people are full of pride. They pretend to follow thee but underneath they are really living wicked lives. They wear beautiful clothing and gold jewelry which they set their hearts upon, and still they think they will be saved while all others are lost. Lord, how long wilt thou allow such wickedness among thy people? Then Alma prayed for strength that he could suffer whatever was necessary to bring this people back to the truth. He also prayed for his brethren and asked the Lord to give them strength and courage for their mission. Then he prayed that they would be able to have the Lord's help to bring many of these Zoramites to a knowledge of the truth. After his
prayer he felt better. He laid his hands upon each of the missionaries and blessed them. Each of them was filled with the Holy Ghost. He would be a blessing and a guide to them. Then they departed into different parts of the land to teach the gospel.
UNIT III

SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH OTHERS

Lesson 37

HOW SHOULD WE WORSHIP GOD

I. Reference:

Section numbers 159-161
Alma 31

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. How were the Zoramites a problem to the Nephites?
2. How did Alma decide to handle the Zoramite problem?
3. Tell what you can about the Zoramite religion.
4. List the things which the Zoramites said in their prayer which were not true.
5. Why did Alma feel bad when he saw the way the Zoramites worshiped?
6. What did Alma pray for before beginning his mission with the Zoramites?

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. Why do we worship God?
2. How do we worship God?
3. Is it acceptable to God if we organize our own church? Explain.
4. Were the Zoramites following the devil without even knowing it? Explain.
5. Why wouldn't God be pleased with the Zoramites' form of worship?

V. Application:

We go to our sacrament meetings to worship God. Next Sunday try hard to honor and worship God in your church meeting. Then write in your journal what you did and tell if it helped you to become closer to God.
162. The missionaries went out preaching the gospel. They preached in the churches, in people's homes and even in the streets. After a great deal of work they finally began to interest the poor among the Zoramites. These people were looked down upon and hated by the richer-classed people. They were not allowed in their churches to worship. One day a large group of these people came to Alma as he was preaching on the hillside. They asked him what they should do since they were not allowed to even enter the churches which they had worked hard to help build. Alma was happy to hear this. He knew that these poor people had suffered many hardships and that these hardships had made them humble enough to accept the gospel. He began to explain to them that a person doesn't need a church to worship God. He also said that it wasn't right to worship just on Sunday and forget God all the rest of the week. He said: Because you are humble you will be blessed. When a person is humble he seeks to repent and those who truly repent and are baptized will be forgiven. Those who want to see a sign before they believe are not humble. They want the gospel proved to them. They have no faith. If they were to see a sign and then they turned away from the gospel anyway they would be greatly punished. It is much better to believe in the gospel without having it proven to you. Then as you live the way you believe, the time will come when you will have a sign, or spiritual experience so that you will then know the gospel is true. After this you won't have to just believe any longer.

163. Alma went on to answer the poor people who had asked him what they were to do now that they had been cast out of their churches. He told them
that he had an answer to their problem. It was really an experiment. He said: If you will listen to my words with a desire to believe them I can help you. I will compare the gospel to a seed which has been found. At first you don't know whether it is a good seed or not. But if you will plant the seed it will begin to grow. If you water it and take good care of it so it doesn't die, the time will come when the seed will become a plant. Then when this plant develops fruit you can taste the fruit and know for sure whether it was a good seed or not. The gospel is like this. When a person hears it he must not reject it or cast it away through unbelief. If he will think about it and try to live as it teaches it will begin to make a great change in his life. If he continues to try hard to live the gospel and does not begin to forget it and go back to his old ways, it will increase his joy and happiness. Then he will realize that it must be true because of the way it has filled his life with goodness and happiness. Thus trying the experiment by accepting and trying to live the gospel will bring an answer that it is true. The answer comes through realizing the good that the gospel brings into your life. Therefore, you know it is true. Then you have gained a testimony of the gospel. Still, you must not stop here. A plant would die without water and care. So also a testimony can die or be lost if the person fails to continue to live up to the teachings which he now knows to be true. Wouldn't it be foolish to let the good plant or the testimony die after all the time it took to develop it? Alma said that the first step towards eternal life was to seek with all our hearts to gain a testimony. The second step was to live worthy to keep it. By doing this we can prepare ourselves to return to God.
UNIT III

SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH OTHERS

Lesson 38

HOW CAN I GAIN A TESTIMONY

I. References:

Section numbers 162-163
Alma 32

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. Why did Alma have better success with the Zoramites who were poor?
2. Which is best, to have faith because of a great sign which you have seen or to have faith without seeing a sign? Explain.
3. What did Alma compare the gospel to?
4. How could a person tell if he had found a good seed?
5. How can a person tell when he has found the true gospel of Jesus Christ?
6. What are two of the most important steps to gaining eternal life?

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. What is a testimony? Why is it important?
2. Who gives us a testimony? How does it come?
3. Why is gaining a testimony one of the first steps to eternal life?
4. Why do we have testimony meetings in our church?
5. How does a person bear his testimony?

V. Application:

Write down how you feel about the church and its teachings. Write it like a testimony which you would give in a testimony meeting at church.

Note: These testimonies could be read in class if the students are willing.
ALMA 34:32-41

164. Alma taught great things to the Zoramites. These things are very important for us today. He said: This life is the time for us to prepare to meet God. Now is the time to straighten out our lives and make the changes we need to make. If we waste our time now while we have the prophets, the scriptures, and our fellow men to help us, then when we die we will find ourselves unprepared. We cannot wait until we die and then say, "I will repent," because we will be the same person in the spirit world as we were here. If we have lived wicked lives and put off repenting while on earth we will continue to be the same in the spirit world. Then we will be the devil's children and he will have a hold on us to keep us doing evil. Because of this these people can never be cleansed from sin and be with God. But the people who have made use of their lives and tried to learn and follow God's commandments will be His children when they die. Their sins will be forgiven through the atonement of Jesus Christ.

165. To prepare to meet God we must take upon ourselves the name of Christ and be His followers. We must realize that we need the help of the Lord each day and remember to thank Him every day for His mercy and the many blessings He gives us. We must also be very watchful for the temptations of the devil. We must pray continually for God's help that he may not overcome us. If we will do all these things and if we will be willing to do all things which the Lord asks of us, even if they are difficult, then we will be prepared to meet God.
UNIT III

SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH OTHERS

Lesson 39

HOW DO WE PREPARE TO MEET GOD

I. Reference:

Section numbers 164-165
Alma 34

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. When should we prepare to meet God? Why?

2. What happens to those who know the truth but put off repenting and being baptized until their opportunity is ended by their death?

3. Who will be the devil's children in the next life?

4. Who will be God's children in the next life?

5. List the things that we must do if we want to be prepared to meet God?

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. Will each of us meet God? Explain.

2. Why will some people be afraid to meet God?

3. Some people believe that because God loves us He will not punish us for our sins. Is this true? Explain.

V. Application:

How must you live if you want to be unafraid to die and to meet God? Would you be afraid if you died today? If so, what are you going to do about it?
During their mission to the Zoramites one of Alma's sons had done wrong. After they returned Alma was trying to explain some of the important points of the gospel to this boy. He said: I know you are a little confused about the resurrection of the dead. I am going to explain this to you. I did much praying to learn what happens to our spirits when we die. An angel of the Lord has appeared to me and told me these things. I was told that all men as soon as they die are taken by God into the spirit world. Here the righteous are given a place of happiness and rest which is called paradise. They have no more trouble, sorrow, or worries. The wicked are not allowed to be with them. Instead they are placed in outer darkness where with great fear they await the judgment day. Theirs is a place of misery and fear. Here they stay while the righteous remain in paradise until the resurrection day. The resurrection takes place at different times for different people. No person will be resurrected until the resurrection of Jesus. He will be the first one resurrected. Then He will make the resurrection possible for us all. After He is resurrected all of the righteous people who died before His resurrection will be resurrected. This means that their bodies will be made perfect and their spirits will return and be joined to the body never to die again. Then at the end of the world the wicked will be resurrected. So before the judgment day everyone who has ever lived on this earth will be resurrected. Then the righteous will be allowed into the presence of God. The wicked will be punished for their sins and will never be allowed to be with God. This is called the "second death" because they can never be with God again.

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167. Unless they accept the gospel and live a righteous life, all men are in a condition of wickedness. When the resurrection comes they will have given to them what they wanted in life. Those who repented and looked for righteousness and happiness during their lifetime will be righteous and will be given happiness forever. Those who spent their lives doing evil will have evil given back to them for their reward. If a man is righteous here he will be resurrected a righteous man. If he seeks to think and do evil here he will be the same after his resurrection. If he is a kind and good person now he will be a kind and good person then. We will be just the kind of person we make ourselves during this life. Through repentance we can be forgiven and make ourselves into a happy, good person. Or, we can forget the teachings of Jesus and waste our lives. Then we will be resurrected with the unrighteous and have a soul unfit to be with God. From Alma we learn how very important it is to make the best we can of ourselves and seek to keep the commandments of God.
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UNIT III

SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH OTHERS

Lesson 40

WHAT IS THE RESURRECTION

I. Reference:

Section numbers 166-167
Alma 40-41

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. How did Alma learn about the resurrection?
2. What does resurrection mean?
3. Who was the first one resurrected?
4. What happens to the righteous after death?
5. What happens to the wicked after death? When will they be resurrected?
6. Will the resurrection make all men righteous?
7. During what period of time do we make ourselves the type of person which we will be forever?
8. What will happen to those who live wicked lives while upon the earth and don't repent?
9. Why is it very important that we live the very best life that we can and use repentance to keep our life free from sin?

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. What is a resurrected body like?
2. Who made the resurrection possible?
3. Who will be resurrected?

V. Application:

The teacher will put an outline of what we have studied about the resurrection on the board. Use this outline to write a short talk which you can use for a 2½ minute talk in Sunday School.
The great war with the Lamanites was over and the Nephites rejoiced in their freedom which had been preserved. By this time Alma was an old man. He sent for his oldest son, Helaman. When he came Alma asked him if he believed that it was very important that they should keep a record of their people. Helaman said, "Yes." Then Alma asked if he believed in the coming of Christ who would make it possible for men to return to God. Again Helaman answered "Yes." Finally Alma asked him if he would do what he told him and again the answer was yes. This pleased Alma. He said: May you be blessed and may the Lord prosper you in the land. He told Helaman that he was about to tell him the things that would happen among his people 500 years from that time. He told him that he should not make them known until the prophecy was fulfilled.

This is what Alma said: After Jesus is killed and resurrected He will visit America. Then 400 years after this the people will begin to forget God. When this happens they will have wars, disease, famine, and bloodshed. This will all come to them because of their wicked lives. Even though they know what is right and understand the gospel they will reject it. In that day there will be only a few who are true followers of Christ. These people will be killed by the Lamanites. The rest of the Nephites will either join with the Lamanites or will be killed in battle. The only ones who remain will be Lamanites who do not follow the true gospel. This was the prophecy of Alma. After telling Helaman of his prophecy Alma blessed him. He also blessed his other sons and told them that they would prosper in this land as long as
they kept the commandments of God. But to those who do wickedly, the land will be cursed for God said that any people who live in America, regardless of nationality or language must honor Him and keep His commandments or be destroyed from off this land. God will not justify sin. He will not allow a wicked people to have this choice land.

170. Then Alma blessed all the faithful members of the church and departed out of the land heading for the land of Melek. When he didn't arrive at Melek the people looked for him but they couldn't find him. The saying went abroad in the church that he was taken up into heaven by the Lord. After this Helaman took over the leadership of the church. He continued to work with the people trying to bring them back to God. With some of the people he was successful. He appointed teachers and priests to keep them in the way of righteousness. With others, however, he was not able to do much. They were people who were rich and didn't think they needed the Lord. They wouldn't listen to Helaman or the brethren of the church.
UNIT III

SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH OTHERS

Lesson 41

HOW CAN WE PROSPER IN AMERICA

I. Reference:

Section numbers 168-170
Alma 45

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. Why did Alma want to talk to Helaman?

2. What did Alma say would happen to the Nephites? Why would it happen?

3. What must the people of America do if they want to prosper?

4. What will happen if the American people turn away from God?

5. What happened to Alma? Who took his place?

6. What was it that made the people think that they didn't need the Lord?

7. During Alma's lifetime how did he help his people? Was his life a happy and prosperous one? Explain.

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. Has America ever had all her people destroyed? Explain.

2. Is it a great blessing to live in America? Explain.

3. Why did the Lord allow the white men to take America away from the Indians?

4. Why do we put "In God we trust" upon our American coins?

V. Application:

What can we do to keep America from being destroyed?
171. The people who had become rich and turned away from God would not listen to the warning of Helaman and his brethren. Instead they became full of hate toward the church and its members. Their leader was a man named Amalickiah who stirred up his people to fight against the church members. He wanted to be king over all the Nephites. In spite of the teaching of Helaman many of the church members who were weak in the faith left the church and joined him. Their desire was to destroy the church and take away the freedom of the church members. During this time Moroni was general of the Nephite army. When he heard of the wicked plans of Amalickiah and his followers he took off his coat and tore it open. [This was the custom among his people to show great anger or sorrow.] Then he took a piece of the coat and wrote the following words upon it: "In memory of Our God, our religion, our freedom, and our peace, our wives and our children." When he had done this he put it upon a pole. Then he put on his armor and knelt in prayer to God. He prayed for the freedom of his people. When he was through praying he took up his flag which he called the "Title of Liberty" and went out to gather his people.

172. Moroni went forth among the members of the church. He held up the "Title of Liberty" so all could see what he had written. Then he said: All of you who will fight for the freedoms which I have written upon this banner come and join with me against our enemies who want to destroy our church and our freedom. Moroni went from city to city. In each city where he spoke the men would get on their armor and hurry to join his army. Each of them tore
his coat as a promise to God that they would remember Him and keep His commandments. If they failed Him they wanted God to destroy them as they had destroyed their coats. As the men threw their torn coats at Moroni's feet they said: If we forget God or fail to keep His commandments we will expect Him to cast us at the feet of our enemies just as we have cast this clothing at your feet. Thus we see that Moroni and the faithful church members were determined to live right. They sought God's help in overcoming their enemies and keeping their freedom.

173. More and more men joined Moroni's army and Amalickiah became frightened. He could see that Moroni had more men than he did. He knew he couldn't beat him. He decided to leave the land with his army and go join the Lamanites. When Moroni heard that Amalickiah had left he gathered his armies together to stop him. Moroni knew that Amalickiah would cause the Lamanites to start another war. He wanted to prevent this from happening. His men gathered together and made a promise that they would do all they could to stop this wicked man and keep the peace. Then they marched into the wilderness to head off Amalickiah. Moroni was able to catch up with Amalickiah before he reached the Lamanites. He captured most of his army and took them back. But Amalickiah and a few of his men got away. Moroni was given permission by the chief judge to do whatever was necessary to keep their freedom. Therefore, he gave the followers of Amalickiah which he had captured two choices. Either they would make a promise to support the Nephite government and preserve the freedom of the people or they would be put to death. Most of these men repented and were happy to have another chance to do right. The few who would not make the promise were executed. Then Moroni had titles of liberty raised upon the towers of every Nephite city so that the people would remember to keep God's commandments. There was peace in the land for four years.
During this time the only deaths came from sickness or old age. Since the people knew how to make medicines to cure the diseases, not too many died. Those who did die were righteous and were prepared to meet God.
UNIT IV

WICKEDNESS AND WARS

Lesson 42

WHAT DESTROYS FREEDOM

I. Reference:

Section numbers 171-173
Alma 46

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. Why was Moroni angry when he heard about Amalickiah and his followers?
2. Write the message that Moroni put upon his flag. Why did he write this?
3. What did Moroni do before he went to gather his people?
4. What did Moroni call his flag?
5. What did the church members do when Moroni visited their cities and showed them the "Title of Liberty"?
6. How did those who followed Moroni show that they were determined to live good lives?
7. What happened to most of Amalickiah's army?
8. After reading this story in Alma explain what it is that destroys freedom.

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. Can we be sure that America will always be free?
2. Would you like to live under Communist rule? Explain.
3. Do you think Moroni loved freedom? What did he do to keep it?
4. Do you love freedom? What must you do to keep it?
5. Can you lose your freedom by breaking the law? Explain.

V. Application:

Someone once said: "Freedom is not free." What did he mean by this? (If you need help on this ask the teacher.)
174. Now we return to Amalickiah and those of his men that escaped with him from Moroni. They went into the land of the Lamanites and began to stir up the Lamanite leaders in anger against the Nephites. Finally the king of the Lamanites sent out a letter to his people commanding them to prepare for war. This caused great fear among the Lamanites. They were afraid to disobey their king but they were even more afraid to go fight the Nephites. So many of their men had been killed during the last war that they didn't want to fight again. Most of the people would not obey the king's commandment. This made him very angry. He sent Amalickiah with the part of his army that still followed him to force his people to go to war with the Nephites. Amalickiah was happy about this. He had a plan to become king over all the Lamanites. Then he would use the Lamanites to destroy all of the Nephites who had driven him out.

175. When the Lamanites who would not obey the king saw Amalickiah coming they left their cities and gathered together on top of a hill to defend themselves. They had chosen a king over them. They were determined not to go to war with the Nephites. Amalickiah had a plan. He didn't want to fight these Lamanites. Instead he wanted to gain their friendship so that they would follow him and not the king. So he had his army camp at the bottom of the hill. Then during the night he sent a messenger to the other Lamanite camp to ask their king to come down and talk to him. He tried three times but the king would not come. Finally he went up the hill to meet him. He told the king whose name was Lehonti that if he would make him second leader
over the army that he would help him to capture his army. Lehonti agreed and by morning all of Amalickiah's army was surrounded. They begged him to let them surrender. Since this is what he wanted anyway, he allowed them to do so. Therefore, Amalickiah united both of the Lamanite armies and became their second leader under Lehonti. This was all part of his plan. The next thing he wanted to do was to get rid of Lehonti so that he could be the leader of all the Lamanite army. He did this by having one of his servants give poison, a little bit at a time, to Lehonti died. After his death Amalickiah was put in leader of the whole Lamanite army. Then he took his army back to meet the Lamanite king who had sent him.

176. The king saw Amalickiah returning with the army. He and a few of his guards went out to meet him. The king didn't know that Amalickiah had tricked him. Amalickiah sent some of his men to meet the king. They bowed before the king, but as he commanded them to rise one of them stabbed him in the heart and killed him. When the king's servants saw this they turned and ran. Then the killers called out and said: The king's servants have killed him and now they are trying to escape. When the army got there and saw the king dead Amalickiah pretended that he was angry. He told the men who loved the king to go and try to find the servants who had killed him. When the fleeing servants saw the soldiers after them they went over into the Nephite land and joined the people of Ammon in order to be protected. Amalickiah had fooled all the Lamanites. He made them think that he was their friend when really he had betrayed them and killed two of their leaders.

177. The day after the king's death Amalickiah brought his army into the city. Soon afterward the queen sent servants to Amalickiah to ask him what had happened. He told her that the king's servants had killed him and then fled. She then asked him if he would spare the city and also if he would
bring someone to prove what he had said about the king. Amalickiah went to see her and took with him the men who had killed the king. They finally convinced her that their story was true. Amalickiah began to seek the queen's friendship. Finally he married her. This made him king over all the Lamanites. Now he had finished carrying out his plan. He felt that he was in a position to destroy the Nephite church members who had driven him out.

Note: The teacher can most effectively present the story of Helaman and his 2,000 sons through storytelling, using the picture by Arnold Friberg. This should be done and the rest of the book of Alma should be summarized so that the students will be ready to begin the book of Helaman. There is a picture of Hagoth on the cover of the September 1950 Improvement Era which is helpful in making this summary.
UNIT IV

WICKEDNESS AND WARS

Lesson 43

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A GOOD LEADER AND A BAD ONE

I. Reference:

Section numbers 174-177
Alma 47

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. What did the Lamanite king want his men to do? Why didn't some of the people want to do it?
2. How did Amalickiah get control over the whole Lamanite army?
3. How did Amalickiah have the king killed without being caught?
4. What happened to the king's servants who knew what Amalickiah had done?
5. How did Amalickiah become king of the Lamanites?
7. After Amalickiah became king what did he plan to do?
8. Compare Amalickiah to Moroni. Explain what made Moroni a good leader and why Amalickiah was a bad leader.

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. What good points should we look for when we are choosing men to lead us?
2. Does a selfish person make a good leader? Explain.
3. Do you think the Lord needs leaders in His church?
4. Do the Indian people need good leaders? Explain.

V. Application:

How can you develop leadership ability so that you can help both the Lord and your people?
HELAMAN 1

178. Moroni settled the wars in the land. Then both he and the chief judge died. With the chief judge dead a problem arose about who should be the new chief judge. Often the people had chosen a son of the chief judge to be the next chief judge. This time, however, three of the sons of the chief judge wanted to take their father's place. This divided the people and began to cause trouble in the land. Finally an election was held. Pahoran won. After his election the second brother could see that he had won fairly. He decided to support him. But the third brother was angry and tried to get his followers to make war upon his brother. But before he could do this his plan was discovered and he was taken by the officers to trial. He was found guilty and sentenced to be killed.

179. Some of the followers of the man who had been taken by the officers made a plan to murder the chief judge. Their leader was a man named Kishkumen. He got all of his followers together and made them promise not to tell anyone what he was going to tell them. Then he told them of his plans to murder the chief judge. They all promised to support him. They said that if anyone asked about him they would say that he had been with them at the time of the murder. When this was done, Kishkumen disguised himself so that he would not be known. Then he made his way to the palace of the chief judge. After killing the judge, Kishkumen ran so fast that no one could catch him. He got away and joined his friends. They lied to protect him and the killer was never found. The second brother was put in as chief judge and began to rule over the people.

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180. While all this trouble was taking place among the Nephites the Lamanite king who was the nephew of the wicked Amalickiah was stirring up his people to war. He chose a strong man to lead his army and sent them down against the Nephites. When the Lamanite army attacked, the Nephites were not ready. The Lamanites avoided the forts on the borders of the Nephite lands. They marched right into the heart of the land to Zarahemla. They easily killed the guards near the city gate and marched into the city. Everyone who tried to stop them was killed. The chief judge tried to escape but he was caught by the Lamanites and killed. Thus the Lamanites succeeded in capturing the capital city of the Nephites.

181. Conquering Zarahemla gave the Lamanites great courage. They thought that this was the strong point of the Nephite defenses. From there they headed toward the next important city named Bountiful. They moved so fast that the Nephites didn't have time to get their armies together. Because of this the Lamanites easily overcame all of the small forces that they met on their way. The people living in the center of the Nephite land began to see what war was like. They began to pay for their wickedness. The small armies who had bravely tried to stop the Lamanites had slowed them down. This gave the Nephite general time to begin gathering his armies in from the strongholds on the edge of the Nephite lands. By the time the Lamanites reached Bountiful the Nephite army was ready to meet them. They stopped them. The Lamanites began to return to Zarahemla. They found that it had been a foolish thing for them to go into the center of the Nephite land. Now they were completely surrounded with no hope of getting supplies or help. They had one more great battle in which their general and many of their men were killed. Then the Lamanites surrendered and were allowed to leave the land in peace.
182. When peace was once again restored the Nephites looked for a new chief judge. They chose Helaman, the grandson of Alma, for this office. He had just taken his office when another plan was made to kill the chief judge. This time it was planned by a man named Gadianton. Gadianton became the leader of Kishkumen's band. He wanted to be put in as chief judge. He promised his followers important positions in the government for helping him. He knew of Kishkumen's success in killing the other chief judge so he chose him to kill Helaman. Kishkumen disguised himself and went to kill the judge. This time he was not so successful. One of Helaman's servants had become a member of Gadianton's group. He knew of Kishkumen's plan. This man met Kishkumen on his way to kill the judge. He showed him the secret sign so that he would know that he was a member of his group. Then he offered to take him to Helaman. This made Kishkumen happy. He thought that this man was going to help him murder the judge. As they went on their way Helaman's servant saw his chance and killed Kishkumen. This put an end to this wicked killer.

183. After killing Kishkumen, Helaman's servant told him what had happened. Helaman sent his men to capture the rest of Gadianton's band. They couldn't find them. When Kishkumen didn't return as soon as they thought he should they became worried and escaped by a secret way into the wilderness. Thus the wicked followers of Gadianton escaped punishment. But they were not successful in their plan to kill Helaman.
UNIT IV

WICKEDNESS AND WARS

Lesson 44

IS IT A PRIVILEGE TO VOTE

I. Reference:

Section numbers 178-183
Helaman 1 and 2

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. What was the problem that began among the people when the chief judge died?

2. Who was Kishkumen? What did he do?

3. Why weren't the Nephites ready for battle when the Lamanites attacked them? What happened?


5. Why was it foolish of the Lamanites to attack Zarahemla?

6. What finally brought an end to the war?

7. How was Kishkumen prevented from killing Helaman?

8. What happened when the followers of Gadianton failed in their plan to kill the chief judge?

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. Is having an election the best way to choose a leader? Explain.

2. If we have poor leaders whose fault is it? Explain.

3. Is it a privilege to vote? Explain.

4. What should we do if a man we did not vote for is elected?

5. Why does the church counsel us against joining secret societies?

V. Application:

Write a paragraph on the subject: "Why I think it is important to vote."
184. After the great war in which the Lamanite army was captured and disarmed, the Nephites had a period of peace. Their only trouble came through a few of the people who got rich and became full of pride and wickedness. Helaman grew old and died. His oldest son, Nephi, took his place as chief judge. During Nephi's reign great problems developed. Many people turned wicked, left the church, and rebelled against the government. There were great wars and many people were killed. The wicked people who escaped went over to the Lamanite land and tried to make them angry with the Nephites. This time, however, the Lamanites would not listen to them. They remembered that they had lost the last war and they feared the Nephites. But during the next year many more of the wicked Nephites came over into the Lamanite land. They finally convinced the Lamanites that they should go to war. The rest of the year was spent preparing for war.

185. While the Lamanites were preparing for war the Nephites were becoming more and more wicked. Though many of them had become rich they would do nothing to help the poor members of the church. Instead they would strike them in the face and insult them. They laughed at the sacred prophecies and revelation which the church had received. Instead of seeking God they spent their time murdering, lying, robbing, causing arguments, and even committing adultery. They didn't think they needed God any more. They bragged that they were great and strong men and could beat any of their enemies. Because of their great wickedness God withdrew His protection from the Nephites. At the end of that year their enemies came down upon them. So great was the Lamanite
attack that the Nephites lost the land of Zarahemla and all of their cities clear to the city of Bountiful. Many of them were killed. Then they began to realize that without God's help they would surely be destroyed. Many great men, including their general, Moronihah and also Nephi and Lehi who were the sons of Helaman, reminded them of their sins. They told them that unless they would repent and seek God that they would be destroyed.

186. Finally the people began to realize that they weren't as strong as they thought. They realized that they needed the Lord's help very badly. They began to listen to the prophets who were sent to warn them and they started to repent. The great numbers of their enemies made them realize that they would surely be destroyed unless they could get the Lord to help them. As they began to repent the Lord began to help them once more. Gradually they were able to take back some of their lands and cities. This continued until they had recovered one-half of all the land they had lost. They were unable to get any more, so they used their army to protect what they already had.
UNIT IV

WICKEDNESS AND WARS

Lesson 45

WHO NEEDS THE LORD

I. Reference:

Section numbers 184-186
Helaman 4

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. What problems did Nephi have while he was chief judge?
2. Why did the Lamanites start a war with the Nephites?
3. What are some of the wicked things which the Nephites were doing?
4. Why did the Lord withdraw His protection from the Nephites?
5. What finally made the people realize their wickedness and start to repent?
6. After the Nephites began to repent how much of their land were they able to get back?

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. Who needs the Lord? Explain your answer.
2. Why is it a poor idea to brag about what the Lord has helped us to do?
3. Do you think the Nephites would have had so many wars if they had remained righteous? Explain.
4. Why is it a good idea to pray for help every morning and thank the Lord for the help you have received each night?

V. Application:

If God took back all the things He has given you what would you have left? Do you need the Lord? Explain.
187. The Nephites were very quick to forget what had happened. As soon as they repented and began to grow rich again they very quickly forgot what God had done for them. They turned away into wickedness again. This time it was even worse than before. More than half of the people chose to do evil. They changed the laws of God which they had been following up to this time. Nephi had replaced his father as chief judge. He could see that the great wickedness of his people would soon lead to their destruction unless they could be brought to repentance. He gave up his job of chief judge and went with his brother, Lehi, to teach the gospel to his people.

188. Before Helaman's death he had called his sons, Lehi and Nephi, to him. He told them many things. He reminded them that he had given them the names of two great prophets who had led their people to America. He wanted them to remember this and to be faithful as these men had been. He also said that they should not spend their time trying to get rich. Instead they should spend their lives in the service of God, doing good to their fellow men and seeking to be righteous. Helaman explained that it is only through the sacrifice of Jesus that men can return to God. But even though He makes this sacrifice it will still not pay for the sins of those who do not accept Him and repent. Therefore, no man can be saved in his sins. He must break away from them and repent in order to be forgiven. Finally, he told his sons that if they would put their trust in Jesus Christ who was going to come that they would be built upon a strong foundation. Then they would not fail. Lehi and Nephi remembered the things that their father had
taught them as they went forth to preach.

189. Nephi and Lehi began their mission at the city of Bountiful. From there they went to Gid, then to Mulek. They continued traveling until they had preached in all the land of the Nephites. Then they left there and went into the land of the Lamanites. Here they preached with such great power that they were able to convince many of the Nephites who were among the Lamanites that they were wrong. Those who were convinced repented and were baptized. Then these new converts went back to join their own people. They wanted to undo all the wrong they had done. Nephi and Lehi continued working in the land of the Lamanites preaching the gospel to them. The Lord was with them. Soon they had baptized 8,000 of the Lamanites into the church. Then they left the area where they were preaching and went to the city of Nephi, which was the capital city of the Lamanites.

190. As they approached the city they were taken prisoner and cast into prison. For several days they were given no food or water. Then their enemies came to kill them. When they came into the prison they saw something which filled them with fear. They saw Nephi and Lehi standing in the middle of a great fire which did not burn them. As they watched this strange sight these two prophets began to speak to them. They said: Don't be afraid. This thing which you see is a sign from God to show you that He will not allow you to kill us. Then the earth shook and the walls of the prison moved as if they were about to fall. A cloud of darkness filled the prison. Great fear came upon all the people who had entered there. A moment later a voice was heard coming from above the darkness. The voice said: You must repent and not try to kill My servants which I have sent to teach you the gospel. Then the earth shook again. This was followed by a second message and another earthquake. Finally the voice spoke a third time and told them great things. Then the earth shook with great force. The men wanted to run but the darkness
was so thick that they could not see. They were too frightened to move.

191. As these frightening things were happening one of the Nephites in the group who had once belonged to the true church looked toward Nephi and Lehi. He could see their faces shining through the darkness. It looked like they were talking to someone. He showed his friends. They said: What does this mean and who are they talking to? The man said: They are talking to angels. Then they asked him how they could get out of the awful darkness that surrounded them. He told them that they must believe in Christ and ask for forgiveness and help. When they did this the cloud started to leave. They could see Nephi and Lehi once again, still surrounded by fire.

192. Now that these men had turned to God a great change came over them. They felt the Holy Ghost come upon them. It felt as though they were being filled with fire. Then the beautiful voice spoke again and said: Peace be yours because of your faith in the Saviour who will come. They looked up to see who was speaking. They saw the heavens open. Angels came down and taught them. There were about 300 people present who saw these wonderful things. They were all converted to the true church and sent out to teach the other people of the land. They went throughout the land. When the people heard their story and saw all the witnesses who said that it was true they began to accept the gospel. They put away their weapons of war. Before long more than half of the Lamanite nation had joined the church. They made peace with the Nephites and returned all the Nephite lands which they had captured. So two great missionaries with the help of God were able to accomplish more than the whole Nephite army could do by gaining back the Nephite lands and turning their enemies into friends.
UNIT IV

WICKEDNESS AND WARS

Lesson 46

IS THE GOSPEL MORE POWERFUL THAN AN ARMY

I. Reference:
Section numbers 187-192
Helaman 5

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:
1. Were the Nephites quick to forget what had happened to them a short
time before? Explain.
2. List some of the instructions which Helaman gave to his sons before
he died.
3. Why were many Nephites living with the Lamanites? What did they
do after they repented and were baptized?
4. Explain how the wicked men who came into the prison were converted
to the gospel.
5. Explain what happened when Lehi and Nephi went to the capital city
of the Lamanites to preach.
6. How many men were converted in the prison? How did they help Nephi
and Lehi spread the gospel?
7. What was the gospel able to accomplish which the whole Nephite army
could not do?
8. Have you ever felt or seen the power of the gospel working in your
life? Explain.

IV. Understanding and Conviction:
1. Are we often slow to remember what God has done for us? Explain.
2. Which of the instructions that Helaman gave to his sons would apply
to us?
3. How does the gospel change people's lives?

V. Application:
Do you think our missionaries today can accomplish more than our army?
Explain.
193. The great work done by Nephi and Lehi brought the majority of the Lamanite nation into the church. The Lamanites became righteous. Soon they were living better lives than most of the Nephites who had rejected the missionaries and had become full of wickedness. Because of this many of the Lamanites left their homes and came down among the Nephites to preach the gospel. Their great testimonies and the power of the Holy Ghost which they had brought many of the Nephites back into the way of righteousness. While this was happening Lehi and Nephi went to teach the people who had gone into the land northward.

194. These were years of peace among the people. The Nephites could go into the Lamanite lands and the Lamanites could mingle with the Nephites. It was a time of peace between these people who had once been enemies. Because of the peace both Lamanites and Nephites began to get very rich. They had gold, large herds of animals, beautiful clothing, and plenty of food. Things seemed to be going just fine. Then the Gadianton robbers began to stir up trouble again. They killed the chief judge. When another was appointed to take his place they killed him also. This caused great problems in the government.

195. Then the old problem of pride began to come back among the people. Their riches and fine clothing made them think that they were better than their friends. Because of the period of peace that they had been having they could see no reason why they needed God's protection. They began to forget their religion and to do as they pleased. At first they did only little
things wrong. But as they did more and more evil the devil gained greater power over them and soon he had them robbing and murdering their fellow men. Many began to join the Gadianton robbers. The righteous people were faced with a very great problem. The Lamanites solved the problem in their land by hunting down all the followers of Gadianton among their people and teaching them the gospel. By doing this they remained a righteous and faithful people.

196. The Nephites weren't as wise as the Lamanites had been. Rather than destroy the Gadianton robbers they began to join them. They made the secret promises that they would protect each other from getting caught when they did wrong. These ideas came from Gadianton who had received them from the devil who wanted to destroy the Nephites. Things became so bad that in a short time most of the Nephites had become very wicked. They started to make idols of gold and silver which they worshiped as their gods. This caused great sorrow among the Nephites who had remained righteous. They were receiving great persecution from the wicked.
UNIT IV

WICKEDNESS AND WARS

Lesson 47

DOES GOD LOVE ONE PEOPLE MORE THAN ANOTHER

I. Reference:

Section numbers 193-196
Helaman 6

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. What great change came over the Lamanites after they accepted the gospel?

2. How does peace help bring prosperity?

3. How did riches and pride lead the Nephites away from God?

4. How did the Gadianton robbers ruin the peace and happiness of the Nephites?

5. How did the Lamanites solve the problem of having the Gadianton robbers in their land?

6. How does this lesson show that God does not love one people more than another?

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. Is it good to be rich? Explain.

2. How does the devil go about getting a person into sin?

3. What causes a people to receive great blessings from God?


V. Application:

Why is it important that we don't consider ourselves better than any other person? What should we do about other people who think they are better than we are?
197. Nephi did not have much success in the land northward, for the Nephites there had become very wicked. He returned with sorrow to his own home in Zarahemla. As he thought about the great wickedness among his people he felt so bad that he went out to the tower which he had built in his garden to pray. As he prayed some of the people on the road nearby heard him and stopped to listen. They sent for others to come and soon there was a large crowd outside Nephi's garden. They listened to Nephi talk to God about the great wickedness of his people. When he had finished he stood up and saw all the people who had gathered. He asked them if they had stopped to hear about their great wickedness. Then he began to preach to them. He said: Why do you allow the devil to have such great power over you? You must repent and turn back to God. Why do you think He has left you? It is because you have turned against His commandments and have made Him angry with you. Unless you repent you shall be scattered. Your city will be destroyed and all of your possessions will be taken from you. You will be killed and become meat for the wild animals. God has turned away from you. He will no longer help you in time of trouble unless you listen to what I say and change your ways. Nephi went on to tell the people what was going to happen to them if they continued in their wicked ways. Finally he bore his testimony that what he had said was true. He said that God had told them to him and he knew they would come to pass.
198. When Nephi had finished telling the people of their wickedness two of the men who were judges and who secretly belonged to the Gadianton robbers began to speak against him. They said: Let's take this man and have him put in prison. He has spoken against our government and our people. He said our cities will be destroyed. We know this is impossible. They are strong and cannot be destroyed. They went on to stir the people up in anger against Nephi. But some of the people began to stand up for Nephi. They said: Leave this man alone. We know that he is a good man who has done no wrong. What he has told us is true. If he wasn't a prophet he wouldn't know all these things. The people who believed caused the others to be afraid to take Nephi. 199. When Nephi saw that some of the people were on his side he began to speak once again to the people. He reminded them how God gave Moses power to open the waters of the Red Sea so that the people could go through on dry ground. He said: If God could give this power to Moses why is it hard to believe that He has told me the things that are going to happen to this people? He told the people of the many prophets who had spoken about the coming of the Son of God to earth and how God had shown them all these things before they happened. He reminded them that when God told Lehi to teach the people of Jerusalem and tell them that their city would be destroyed they did not believe him. But the city was destroyed just as Lehi had said. Nephi said: Even though you have the gospel and the Lord has given you great evidence that these things are true you still deny Him and turn your backs on the truth. Instead of doing good so that you will receive a reward in heaven you are doing evil and preparing yourself for hell. Unless you repent destruction will come upon you. Already this destruction is near. Your chief judge has been murdered and lies dead at the judgment seat. His own brother has killed him in order
that he might take over the kingdom. He did this even though both he and his brother belonged to your secret band which follows Gadianton.

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200. When Nephi told the people that their chief judge was dead, five of them left to see if he was telling the truth. On the way they talked together. They said that they didn't believe what Nephi had said about the chief judge. But if they found out that it was true they would believe the other things he said. Soon they reached the judgment seat. They found the chief judge dead just as Nephi had said. They were so surprised to see this and so afraid when they realized that what Nephi said about them was true that they fell to the ground near the body of the chief judge. While this was happening the servants were out telling the people that the judge had been murdered. When they returned they found these five men lying near the judge. They decided that they were the murderers. They thought that God had caused them to fall to the ground so that they would be caught and punished for murdering the judge. They took the five men and put them in prison.

201. The next day the funeral was held for the chief judge. The judges who had spoken against Nephi were there. They asked around to find out what had happened to the five men they had sent to find out if Nephi's story was true. They were told: We don't know anything about the five men you sent. All we know is that five men who murdered the king were captured and thrown into prison. This made the judges wonder who these men were. They sent for them to be brought to them. When they were brought in they saw that they were the same five men that they had sent to see the chief judge. They asked the men what had happened. This was their story: We hurried to the judgment seat to see if what Nephi said was true. When we got there and
saw what had happened we were so surprised and afraid that we passed out and fell to the ground. When we came to we found that we had been taken and we were in prison. We don't know who killed the judge. All we know is that we found him dead just like Nephi said.

202. When the judges heard this story they began to suspect Nephi. They said: Nephi planned this. Then he hired someone to kill the chief judge so that we would think he was a prophet. We will find him and make him tell us what he has done. The five men said that they believed that Nephi had nothing to do with the murder. But the judges sent the officers to get him and bring him to them. Soon Nephi was brought in. They began to question him in order to pin this crime on him. They even offered to give him money if he would say that he planned the murder. This made Nephi angry. He said: You are fools to continue on in your wicked ways. You ought to fear because of the great destruction that awaits you unless you repent. I gave you proof that what I said was true. Now you are trying to use it as an excuse to kill me. If I give you more proof will you still try to kill me?

203. Then Nephi told them how to find the real murderer. He said: Go to the house of the murdered man's brother. Ask him if he knows me or if I have worked with him in a plan to kill his brother. He will say no. Then ask him if he killed his brother. He will be nervous and afraid but he will pretend that he knows nothing about it. Then look at his clothing. You will find some spots of blood near the bottom of his robe. Ask him where it came from if it is not his brother's blood. He will turn pale. Then you will say: Because of your fear we know you did it. He will admit that he did and will tell you that I, Nephi, had nothing to do with it. Then you shall know that I am telling you the truth about this people and that I have not done wrong. The men went to the chief judge's brother. Everything happened just as Nephi
said it would. Then they let Nephi and the other five men go. Many realized that he truly was a prophet. Some even thought he was a god because of his great powers in knowing things that were going to happen. In spite of this great happening many people would not believe what Nephi said about them.
UNIT IV

WICKEDNESS AND WARS

Lesson 48

DO PROPHETS HAVE PROBLEMS

I. Reference:

Section numbers 197-203
Helaman 7-9

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. What made Nephi feel bad?
2. Why did the people gather outside Nephi's garden?
3. What was Nephi's message to the people who stopped to listen?
4. What did the judges who were in the group want to do? What stopped them?
5. What example did Nephi give the people to show them that God gives great power to His prophets?
6. What did the people do to check on what Nephi told them about the chief judge?
7. What happened to the five men who went to see the chief judge?
8. How did Nephi prove that he had nothing to do with the murder of the chief judge?

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. Do you think being a prophet would be an easy job? Explain.
2. Do you think we should pray for our prophets? Explain.
3. Who are the prophets on earth today? What kind of problems do they have?

V. Application:

How can we avoid causing more problems for our prophets?
204. Even when Nephi and Lehi were doing their best to tell the people of their wickedness and the destruction it would bring upon them, the Nephites continued to become more and more wicked. The Lamanites, however, had listened to the gospel and nearly all of them had been converted to the church. One day a Lamanite prophet named Samuel came down to the Nephites' capital city. He made a great effort to teach the people there but they would not listen. Instead they cast him out of their city. In sorrow he was about to return to his own people. Then the Lord spoke to him. He told him to return to the city and tell the people all of the things that He would put into his heart. Samuel returned to the city but the people would not let him in the gate. He climbed up on the wall which surrounded the city and began to say the things which the Lord inspired him to say.

205. This was Samuel's message: The Lord is angry with this people. Nothing but faith in His son, Jesus Christ, and complete repentance will turn His anger away. An angel of the Lord was sent to tell me of the coming of the Son of God to earth. This caused me great joy. I came to bring this wonderful message to you, but you would not listen to me. Because of your great wickedness you rejected my message. The Lord has sent me back again to tell you that unless you change and repent, His gospel will be taken away from you. He will stop protecting you. Your enemies will come against you and completely destroy all your people. All this will happen in the next 400 years unless you make some big changes in your lives. Even this great city of Zarahemla will be destroyed. Only the righteous among you will be saved. If it were...
not for the righteous who are now in this city the Lord would have sent fire
down to destroy it before now. When the time comes that you cast them out
you will be ready for destruction. Great is the wickedness of this city and
also all of the other cities of the Nephites. To help this people see their
great mistake the Lord will curse the land. Those who have riches and hide
them in the ground will not be able to find them. Your treasures shall be
cursed because you have forgotten who gave them to you. You don't remember
that it is through the goodness of God that all these things have come to
you. Instead you have been full of pride. You have sought to glorify your-
selves and get more riches. This has brought hate, fighting, murders, and
all kinds of sin among your people. Because of this God will curse your
land and your riches.

206. Bad times are coming to this people. You have cast out the prophets
which God has sent to teach you. You have laughed at their sacred teachings
and have thrown rocks at them. You say that if you had lived long ago you
would have accepted and listened to the prophets instead of turning away
from them as the people of that day did. But you are even worse than those
people were. The Lord has sent His prophets to you and you have called them
false prophets. You say they are from the devil and you try to kill them.
When a man comes to you and tells you that you may do exactly as you please
you accept him as a prophet. You give him gold, silver, and fine clothing.
You make him an important man among you because he tells you that you are
doing fine. How long do you think the Lord will allow you to continue in such
wickedness? Already He is angry with you. Your riches have been cursed.
Soon you will lose them and will become poor. Then you will cry to God for
help but He will not hear you. In that day you will cry and howl and mourn
saying: Oh, if we had only listened to the prophets and not driven them
out and killed them. If we would have turned to the Lord before it was too late; then we would still have our riches. Now everything that we lay down is lost and we cannot find it again. We are bound by the devil and his angels because we chose to follow them into wickedness. Lord, please hear our prayers and forgive us. These will be your words when the punishment of the Lord comes upon you. But at that time it will be too late and you will find that your wickedness has led to your destruction.
UNIT V

A PROPHET'S WORDS IGNORED

Lesson 49

DOES GOD WARN THE WICKED

I. Reference:

Section numbers 204-206
Helaman 13

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. Who was Samuel? How was he treated by the Nephites?
2. How did Samuel know what to teach the people?
3. What was the warning which Samuel was sent to give the Nephites?
4. Why was God angry with the Nephites?
5. The people would not accept the teachings of the prophets who were sent to warn them. Whose teachings did they accept and follow?
6. How did Samuel say the people would feel after what he warned them about happened?

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. Is it ever too late to repent? Explain.
2. Does the Lord ever destroy a people without warning them first? Can they be saved if they listen to the warning and repent?
3. Have our prophets ever warned the people of America? Explain.
4. Should we be angry if our faults are pointed out to us? Explain.

V. Application:

Do we still have time to repent? When should we begin? Explain.
207. Samuel stood on the city wall and continued his prophecy. He said:
In five more years the Son of God will be born on the earth to begin His
mission. The Nephites will know about this great event, for when He comes
there will be a great light in the heavens. This light will be so great
that when the sun goes down at night it will remain light. The next day the
sun will come up again. There will be two days and a night of light as a
sign to the people that Jesus has been born across the sea. Besides this
great sign there will be other signs. A new star will appear in the heavens
and many other signs and wonders will be shown in the sky. This will cause
great wonder among the people. Those of you who believe and follow the
Saviour's teachings will have everlasting life. I was told these things by
an angel of God. He has sent me to tell you so that you may repent and prepare
yourself for the coming of the Son of God.

208. Samuel the Lamanite went on. He said: Now that I have told you these
things you are angry with me and want to kill me. But I will finish my message.
I have climbed up onto this city wall so that you may hear of the things that
will come upon this people unless you change from your wicked ways. I will
also tell you what you must do to repent. I have told you of the coming of
Jesus Christ and the signs of His birth. Now if you will believe on His name
and will repent of all your sins you may be forgiven of them through the great
sacrifice which He will make for you. And now I want to tell you of the other
sign. It will be the sign of the death of the Saviour. It is necessary for
Him to die and give His perfect life to pay for our sins. Then He will rise
from the dead and make a resurrection available for us all. This will make it possible for us to return to God. I said I would tell you of the sign that would be given at His death. On the day He dies the sun will be darkened. It will give no light to the earth. Neither will the moon or the stars give any light. There shall be complete darkness over all of this land for three days until Jesus rises from the dead.

209. Then Samuel told of the things that would happen while this great darkness was upon the land. He said: When Jesus dies there shall be thunderings and lightenings for many hours. The earth will shake. It will be broken up. Places where mountains once stood will become valleys. Other places where valleys were shall be pushed up into high mountains. Highways will be broken up and many cities will be destroyed. The wicked who will not accept the Saviour will be killed. Only those who believe will be saved. This will be a fair judgment upon the people. You must remember that every man that is destroyed destroys himself. We are free to do as we please. Since we are free and have received knowledge from God about what is right and wrong, we have no excuse to do wrong. If we do wrong it causes God to leave us and the devil to make us his. Therefore, if any person chooses to do evil the destruction which comes upon him is his own fault. Then Samuel said: After this great destruction in America Jesus will be resurrected. Then other righteous people here in America will be resurrected. They will rise up from their graves and be seen by many of the people who are left upon this land.
UNIT V

A PROPHET'S WORDS IGNORED

Lesson 50

WHY ARE MEN DESTROYED

I. Reference:

Section numbers 207-209
Helaman 14

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. How soon did Samuel say Jesus would come?

2. What signs would be given to the people in America to let them know that Jesus had been born?

3. How did Samuel know these things he told the people?

4. Why did Samuel teach from up on the city wall?

5. What did Samuel say the people must do to repent?

6. What two things was Jesus going to do for the people of the earth?

7. What would be the sign of the Saviour's death? How long would it last?

8. What was going to happen in America during the time that the Saviour's body was in the grave?

9. Why is it right that God should punish His wicked children by destroying them?

10. Whose fault is it when a person does wrong? Explain.

11. After the darkness left, what else was going to happen in America?

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. Do you think God likes to destroy His children? Why does He do it? (This question can be answered from the story of Enoch's vision.)

2. What does God always do before He destroys a people?


V. Application:

Explain what "free agency" is and why it is important in your life.
210. Samuel went on to finish his prophecy. Once more he warned the Nephites that only repentance could save them from being destroyed. He said: The Nephites have been the chosen people of the Lord. He has loved you. Because of His love He has let difficulties come to you from time to time. This was to remind you that you need Him so that you would remain righteous. The Lamanites have not been a blessed people. Their fathers taught them wrong. They didn't know the way to find God. Now it is different. The Nephites have brought the gospel to my people. Most of them have accepted the gospel and are living righteous lives. You know that those of my people who have heard and accepted it are very strong in the church. They try with all their hearts to do right. They have buried all of their weapons and they have promised never to fight or kill again. They would rather die than break this promise. They have done this because of their faith in Christ.

211. Samuel said: Because of the great faithfulness of the Lamanites once they have had a chance to hear the truth, the Lord will bless them and preserve them as a people. If the time ever comes when they stop being faithful they will lose the true gospel. But if this happens, the Lord has promised that someday it will be brought back to them. It is true that they will face hard times and be driven from their homes. They will have no place to call their own but even in their difficulties the Lord will be kind to them. When the time comes He will send His true gospel to them once again. When they learn the truth and show faith in Christ they will become His righteous children and a chosen people again. It will not be the same for the Nephites.
After they have known the truth and had so many blessings, if they turn away from the truth, they will be destroyed. They will be turning away from the gospel which they know is true.

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212. Many people heard Samuel's great talk and some of them felt the truthfulness of his words. They went to Nephi and asked to be baptized. But most of the people were deep in sin. They would not believe his words. They were angry with Samuel for saying these things. They got their bows and their slings and began to shoot arrows and throw rocks at him. Samuel was not afraid. The Lord was with him. He protected Samuel so that none of the rocks or arrows could hit him. This caused the people to be very surprised because even their finest archers could not hit him. After seeing this, more people realized that God was with Samuel and that his words were true. They also went to Nephi and were baptized. Samuel stayed until he had finished his message. Then he saw men hurrying up the wall to get him. He jumped down from the wall on the outside of the city and quickly left the Nephite land. He returned to teach his own people. He was never heard of again among the Nephites. So ends the story of one of the truly great prophets in the Book of Mormon—Samuel; and he was a Lamanite.
UNIT V

A PROPHET'S WORDS IGNORED

Lesson 51

WHO ARE THE CHOSEN PEOPLE

I. Reference:

Section numbers 210-212
Helaman 15-16

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. Why does the Lord let difficulties come upon His children whom He loves?

2. How did the Lamanites become a chosen people?

3. How did the Lamanites show great faith in Christ?

4. Why was the Lord going to preserve the Lamanites even if they became wicked again?

5. What was going to happen to the Nephites if they became wicked?

6. What difficulties did Samuel say might come to the Lamanites? Did this happen in America when the white men came? Explain.

7. What was the Lord going to do to help the Lamanites during their difficulties?

8. What did the people try to do to Samuel? What happened?

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. Why do you think some people believed Samuel while others did not?

2. How do we know that God loves the Lamanites and wants them to come back and live with Him?

3. How can we know what is true? What can we do to help other Lamanites find God?

V. Application:

When Samuel taught the people from the city wall many felt in their heart that what he said was true. Now that you have studied the Book of Mormon for some time, tell how you feel about its truthfulness.
III NEPHI 1

213. After Samuel left, Nephi continued teaching his people until he grew old. Then he gave the sacred gold plates which told the story of his people to his son whose name was also Nephi. After doing this he left the Nephite land and was never seen or heard of again. Perhaps he was taken up into heaven by God as the people said Alma was. The time grew near when Samuel said the Saviour would be born. Some of the people who had left the church began to say that the time had already passed when Samuel said the sign would be given. They began to laugh at the church members and make fun of them for believing that Christ would come. This made the church members feel very bad but they did not give up hope that the sign would still be given. They looked for it each evening as the sun went down. Finally the wicked people who did not belong to the church said: The time has passed when Samuel said the sign would be given. This proves that you are wrong. In a few days we are going to gather together all the members of the church and kill them unless the sign comes before then.

214. The church members were very sorry to think that their own people would put them to death for believing in the coming of Jesus. Nephi went out and spent much of the day in prayer. He told the Lord what the nonmembers were going to do. As he prayed the Lord spoke to him saying: Do not feel bad. Be happy for this night the sign Samuel spoke of will be given. Tomorrow I will be born into the world to fulfill all the things which the prophets have said concerning me. Nephi went home happy with what the Lord had told him. That night the sign was given. When the sun went down there was no darkness. It remained as light as day. This sign caused great fear to come
upon the wicked. They had not believed Samuel's words. They were going to kill the church members. Now they saw everything happen just as Samuel had said. The next morning the sun came up as usual and the next evening as it grew dark a new star was seen in the sky.

215. As soon as the sign came the devil began working very hard among the people to get them not to accept it. He started all kinds of lies among them to fool them and make them reject the sign. But Nephi and the righteous people worked hard too. Before long they had baptized more than half of the Nephites into the church. They began to have peace in the land again. The only troubles that came in the next few years were those caused by the Gadianton robbers. They lived in the hills and would attack the small towns, killing the people and stealing their belongings. They were so strong that the Nephites couldn't destroy them. Many of the wicked Nephites joined them. The righteous Lamanites also began to have some problems. Many of their children who had been born in the church turned away from it. They would not honor or respect their parents. Many of these boys also joined the robbers. The great righteousness of the Lamanites began to dwindle away as the faithful old people died and their children would not follow in their ways.
UNIT V

A PROPHET'S WORDS IGNORED

Lesson 52

HOW CAN WE HONOR OUR FATHER AND MOTHER

I. Reference:

Section numbers 213-215
III Neph 1

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. What was written on the gold plates which the prophets kept?

2. What did the people think had happened to Alma? Could this have also happened to Nephi?

3. What two things made the church members feel bad?

4. What problem did Nephi go out and pray to God about? What was his answer?

5. How did the wicked people feel when the sign came?

6. What did the devil do to keep the people in their wickedness and make them not accept the sign?

7. What did the prophet Nephi and the church members do after the sign was given?

8. What made life hard for the Nephites?

9. What caused the great period of righteousness to end among the Lamanites?

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. One of the Ten Commandments says "Honor Thy Father and thy Mother." What things can we do to keep this commandment?

2. Is it better to have a great sign given to you which makes you believe in the church or is it better to believe without a sign? Explain.

3. Which is most important—our earth life or our heavenly life? Why?

4. Do you think Nephi and the church members would rather die than turn away from the church? Explain.

V. Application:

Think for a minute about how you could better honor your parents. What would you like to do to show them that you love and honor them?
III NEPHI 2

216. A few years after the great sign was given the people began to forget about it. They began to return to their old ways of wickedness. They believed that the sign was some trick that was done by the power of the devil. By making them believe this the devil began to gain great power over them again. When thirteen years had passed from the time of the sign, many people had become wicked and joined the Gadianton robbers. They became so bad that all the people who did not belong to the robbers were in danger of being destroyed. This caused the righteous Lamanites and Nephites to join together for protection. The Lamanites had become so faithful that the Lord removed the mark which He had placed upon them. Now they too were a white people like the Nephites. These two people fought together as brothers against the Gadianton robbers. After a great battle the robbers were driven back into their hiding places in the mountains. They stayed there and waited while many other wicked Nephites joined them. It wasn't long before they had a great army again. It seemed that the righteous people who fought against them would surely be destroyed.

III NEPHI 3

217. In the sixteenth year after the sign was given the leader of the robbers sent a letter to the leader of the Nephites saying: We know that you believe in Christ and that you think you are doing right in fighting us. We also know that you are brave in the field of battle. But I don't want to see all your people destroyed and so I am giving you this chance to turn over all
your lands and belongings to us. If you don't I will send my army to destroy you. But if you will do this and give up the fight we will share with you and you can join our secret band. Otherwise we will surely destroy you.

The Nephite leader was amazed that the robbers would send such a letter. He was a brave man and he was not afraid of the robbers. Still, he knew that he would need the Lord's help if his people were going to win. Because of this he sent letters to all the cities where his people lived. He told them that they must gather together so that his army could protect them. They must also pray to God for help. Unless He helped them they wouldn't have a chance against so many robbers. When the people had gathered he organized all their strong men into one large army. He appointed captains over the men and a chief captain named Gidgiddoni over the whole army. This man was chosen because he was a great prophet among the people. They felt he would have God's help in his job.

218. Gidgiddoni called all his captains together to help him decide what to do. They thought it would be best to go into the mountains and attack the robbers. The chief captain said this would be a big mistake. If they did that they would all be killed. Instead he had a plan to save his people. He said: We will gather all our people, our food, and our animals into one place. We will take everything with us and leave no food for the robbers. Then we shall wait for them to attack us. If we do this the Lord will be with us and we will win the war. The captains agreed and all the people gathered. They remembered what their leaders had said and they turned to God in prayer for help against their enemies. They also began making weapons so they would be ready when the enemy came.
219. The robbers began to come down out of the hills into the lands the Nephites had left. They were surprised to see that all the Nephites had gone and had taken all their food and belongings with them. They didn't know just what they were going to do. They lived on what food they could steal. Now all the people had gone and taken all their food with them. The only food left was the wild animals which lived in the wilderness. The Nephite leader knew this. That is why he gathered all his people together. He knew that they had saved enough food to last them for seven years. He hoped to starve the robbers until he could beat them. The robbers knew that they would have no food unless they could take it from the Nephites. They took their army up to attack the Nephites in the land where they had gathered. The Nephites could see them coming a long way off. They saw that they wore a lamb skin around their waist which had been dipped in blood. They also had shaved all the hair off from their heads. This great army dressed in armor was a terrible sight to see.

220. As the robbers' army came nearer, the Nephites fell to the earth. They cried out in prayer to God for help in winning the war which was about to begin. When the robbers saw this happen they thought that the Nephites had fallen to the ground because they were afraid of them. They shouted out for joy and began the attack. A great battle was fought. More people were killed in this one battle than had been killed at any time since Lehi first came to America. But the Lord answered the prayers of the righteous and they beat the robbers and began to drive them back into the wilderness. While doing this they caught the leader of the robbers who had said he was going to kill all the Nephites. Instead of killing the Nephites he was killed himself. After that the robbers didn't bother the Nephites again.
for two years. During this time they chose a new leader. When he thought
his army was ready he led them back down to where the Nephites were. He had
his men surround them. He hoped to keep them from getting out to their
lands to grow food. He thought that by doing this he could *starve* the Nephites
and make them give up. This was a very foolish idea. The Nephites had food
enough to last them for five more years while the robbers had very little
food. The only food they could get was the animals they could kill in the
wilderness. Before long the animals were nearly all killed. It was very
hard for the robbers to get food. As they got weaker and weaker from lack
of food the Nephites began to send out some of their army to kill them. Some-
times they would attack them at night when they were sleeping. Other times
they would make a quick attack during the day. Many of the robbers were
killed and the rest became so weak that they could hardly fight.

221. When the leader of the Gadianton robbers saw what was happening to
his men he realized that he had done a foolish thing. Instead of starving
the Nephites, his men were being starved by them. He decided to take his
men and march far away out of the Nephite land. Then he and his men would
be safe and could get food again. He started to do this but the Nephites
knew his plan. They sent their armies out at night and blocked the way so
that the robbers couldn't escape. Then they had part of their army get
behind them. The next morning they had the robber army *surrounded*. A fight
began. All the robbers who wouldn't give up were killed. The rest were taken
prisoner. Their leader was taken and hanged upon a high tree. Then the tree
was cut down and the people *rejoiced* over their great *victory*. They thanked
God for His help in winning the war. This was a time of great joy and happiness
The people knew that it was because they had repented and turned to God that
He had answered their prayers and saved them. When they remembered Him, He
remembered them.
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UNIT V

A PROPHET'S WORDS, IGNORED

Lesson 53

DOES GOD ANSWER PRAYERS

I. Reference:

Section numbers 216-221
III Nephi 2-4

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. What did the wicked Nephites think had caused the sign?
2. Why did the Nephites and Lamanites join together?
3. What special blessing did the Lord give to the righteous Lamanites?
4. What did the leader of the robbers want the righteous people to do? What did he say would happen if they didn't?
5. What did the Nephite leader tell his people to do? Why?
6. Why was Gidgiddoni chosen to lead the Nephite army?
7. What was the plan that Gidgiddoni gave to his people? What did he promise them if they would follow the plan?
8. Why did the robbers have to attack the Nephites?
9. Why did the Nephites fall to the ground? What did the robbers think this meant?
10. What happened to the first leader of the robbers?
11. What foolish plan did the second robber chief have? Why was it foolish?
12. How did the Nephites beat the robbers?

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. Where do you think the Nephite chief got his plan to save the Nephites?
2. What saved the Nephites from destruction?
3. Have you ever had one of your prayers answered? Explain.
4. Why should we pray?
V. Application:

How can prayer help you in your life? What are you going to do to get this help?
After winning the war with the Gadianton robbers, the Nephites returned to their homes taking their animals and wealth with them. They gave a part of their land to the robbers who had surrendered and promised to turn away from their wickedness. They also made new laws which would be fair to all. There was peace in order in the land again. Now the only thing which could keep them from prospering continually was wickedness. During this time many cities were rebuilt and some new ones were made. There were also many new roads and highways made between the cities. Things went well for the people for about three years. Then the old sins of pride and boasting began again among some of the rich people. They began to think that they were better than their brothers because they had riches and learning. Many church members had become rich. These riches soon led them into sin and away from the church. As this happened the church began to be broken up. Only a few Nephites and some of the Lamanites who had been truly converted continued keeping the commandments of God. The Lord had saved all these people from destruction. Now that they were no longer in danger they quickly forgot Him and followed Satan.

The people began to go deeper and deeper into sin. Just four years after the great war, nearly all the people had completely turned away from God. They had not done wrong without knowing better. They had all been members of the true church and they knew that what they were doing was against the will of God. Still they went ahead and sinned with a knowledge of the truth. God was patient with them and He sent his prophets to teach them of
Christ and warn them of what would happen if they continued in sin. This made the wicked leaders of the people very angry. When a person is in the hands of the devil, he is made to hate the truth and want to kill the prophets. It was against the law to put a man to death without both a trial and the approval of the governor of the land. These wicked leaders did not want to take the prophets to trial. Instead they killed them secretly. When the governor heard of this he sent for the men who had done this terrible thing. He was going to have them judged for their crime. But their friends and relatives made plans to get them free. They started up the secret Gadianton society again and made promises to destroy the people of God and to overthrow the government.

III NEPHI 7

224. The men who had killed the prophets escaped. Their friends killed the chief judge and upset the government so badly that it was broken up. The people joined with their own relatives and friends and became separate tribes. This happened because the people chose to follow Satan. He led them into this situation. Now there were very few righteous men and women left among the whole nation. The wicked people who had taken the secret promises of Gadianton chose a man named Jacob to be their king. Jacob knew that he didn't have enough followers to beat the other tribes in battle so he took his followers and went into the land northward. Here he was joined by others who left their tribes. His army grew stronger. During this time the other tribes were separated but they did not fight each other. They continued living wicked lives. They rejected the prophets whom God sent to warn them and they killed many of them.
Nephi was in charge of the sacred records at this time. He was a very righteous man who had been visited by angels. Even the Lord had spoken to him. He felt very sorry that his people had left God and gone into sin. He went among the people teaching them faith in Jesus Christ and repentance.

He spoke with great power and authority. The Holy Ghost which was with him caused the people to know that he spoke the truth. He used his priesthood to cast out evil spirits and to heal the sick. He even raised his brother from the dead after he had been stoned to death for what he taught. He did many miracles and was so close to God that angels appeared to him every day. Still, only a few people accepted his teachings and were baptized. The ones who did, however, felt a great change in their lives. They told the others what a difference the gospel made in bringing them happiness. They helped Nephi teach the people. Some of them performed signs and miracles through the power of God. The few who would listen to these missionaries repented of their sins, were baptized, and received a remission of their sins.
UNIT V

A PROPHET'S WORDS IGNORED

Lesson 54

WILL I FAIL GOD

I. Reference:

Section number 222-225
III Nephi 5-7

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. Tell what the following words mean: surrendered, prospering, continually, boasting, patient, priesthood.

2. What things caused some of the church members to think they were better than their brothers?

3. Why weren't the people afraid to do wrong and have God leave them?

4. How long was it after the war before most of the people became very wicked?

5. Why don't wicked people listen to the truth?

6. What happened to the Nephite government? Do you think the Indian tribes might have begun this way?

7. Which prophet was keeping the sacred records at this time? Name three great things he did?

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. Why didn't the people accept Nephi's words after feeling they were true and seeing great miracles as evidence of their truthfulness?

2. Did the Nephites fail God? Explain.

3. Do you think our government could be destroyed just as the Nephite government was? How can we help prevent this?

V. Application:

Do you think it would be possible for you to turn away and fail God as the Nephites did? What are you going to do to prevent this from happening?
III NEPHI 8

226. The wickedness of the people continued in spite of Nephis teaching and the great miracles he did. Thirty-three years had passed since the sign of the Saviours birth had been given. The righteous people began to watch for the sign of Jesus's death which Samuel the Lamanite said would be given. During the first month of the year it came. A great storm began which was the worst one ever to come to America. There was lightening, thunder, earthquakes, whirlwinds, and tidal waves. They caused a great destruction in America. During this time some cities were burned; others were buried under lava from the erupting volcanoes. Still others were covered by water from the sea and their people were drowned. Highways were broken up, buildings were shaken down, people were carried away in whirlwinds. The earth was broken up so badly that where mountains once stood there were valleys. In the places where valleys had been great mountains were pushed up. The whole face of the land was changed. There was great destruction among the people. This storm and destruction lasted about three hours. Then a thick darkness came upon the land. It was a strange darkness. It could even be felt by the people who lived through the storm. They tried to light fires but no light could be made even with very dry wood because of the mists of darkness. Not a bit of light was seen by anyone for three whole days, not even from the sun. During this time the people who were left cried and mourned over what had happened. Some cried out and said: If only we had listened to the prophets' warnings and repented instead of killing them. Then none of this would have happened. All our loved ones who were killed would still be alive.
The people had been given many warnings. They had time to repent. But they waited until it was too late. Then they felt bad. We can learn from this lesson that when we have sinned we should not put off repenting.

III NEPHI 9

227. While the people mourned and the darkness was upon the land a voice was heard speaking from heaven. The voice said: Great sorrow is coming to this people unless they repent. The devil is laughing and his angels are happy because of the great destruction they have caused to come upon you. It has all happened because of your wickedness. Now your great city of Zarahemla and all its people have been burned with fire. I have caused the city of Moroni to be sunk into the sea and its people were drowned. Moronihah has been covered over with dirt. And the city of Jacob has been burned. Then the voice, which was the voice of Jesus Christ, went on to tell the people what had happened to their great cities. Each of them had been full of wicked people who had rejected and killed the prophets that were sent to warn them. Each of these cities along with all of their people had been destroyed.

228. Then Jesus told the people that their lives had been spared because they were more righteous than the other people had been. Still they needed to repent and accept Him by being baptized into His church. He said: If you will come to Me and follow My commandments I will give you eternal life, for I am Jesus Christ, the Son of God. I made the heavens and the earth and everything in them. I was with God in heaven from the beginning and we have worked together. I have carried out My Father's plan. I have paid for the sins of all who will accept me. I have done as the prophets said I would do and have completed all the things which the Law of Moses taught you that I would do. Now this law is finished. You are not to offer animal sacrifices
any more. Instead you are to come to me in righteousness and humility. I will give you the gift of the Holy Ghost to guide you. I came to save the world from sin. If you will repent and come to me, you shall be forgiven of your sins and raised up to be with Me. I have given My life for you and have risen from the dead. Therefore, all who will repent and come to Me with faith and humility like that of a little child shall be saved.

229. After the voice had spoken there was quiet for many hours. During this time the surprise of the people at hearing the voice stopped them from crying and mourning over their dead. Then the voice spoke again. This time it said: You people are of the house of Israel. How happy I would have been if I could have gathered you in and protected you as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings. But you would not let me. I am still willing to do this. I will help you if you will repent and return to righteousness with all of your hearts. Otherwise you will be left alone without my help until some later time when your children will have the gospel preached to them. When the people heard this they again began to cry and mourn over their dead friends and relatives. The third day had passed since the terrible destruction began. Now the darkness was over and the destruction had ended. The people who were still alive stopped their mourning and turned to Jesus in prayer. They thanked Him for protecting them and for giving His life for them. The great prophecies of Samuel the Lamanite and all the other great prophets who spoke of Jesus were all fulfilled. The foolish people who had laughed at these men and had driven and killed them were made to pay for their wickedness.
UNIT V
A PROPHET'S WORDS IGNORED
Lesson 55
WHAT MAKES THE DEVIL HAPPY

I. Reference:
Section numbers 226-229
III Nephi 8-10

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:
1. How old was Jesus when He was killed?
2. What happened in America when Jesus died?
3. How did the people feel about what had happened to them?
4. What was it that made the devil and his angels happy?
5. Why were the great Nephite cities destroyed?
6. Why had some of the people lived through the destruction?
7. What did Jesus say that He had done for all people?
8. What did Jesus say about the people who were of the house of Israel?
9. What did the people do after Jesus spoke to them?

IV. Understanding and Conviction:
1. Why should we repent quickly when we have done wrong?
2. Do people have to pay when they reject or kill the prophets of God? Explain.
3. How should we feel about what our prophet tells us today?

V. Application:
Do you think that the devil is happy with the way you are living? Explain how you can make him unhappy.
III NEPHI 11

230. After the darkness left many of the people who had not been killed were together near the temple in the land of Bountiful. They were talking about all the things which had happened and how great of a change had come upon the land. They were also wondering about Jesus of whom the sign had been given. As they were talking they heard a voice from heaven. They looked up but they could not understand what it said. Again they heard the voice but again they did not understand. Then the voice spoke a third time and the people listened carefully. This time they did understand. The voice was soft and beautiful. It thrilled them throughout their whole body. It was the voice of God. He said: Behold My Beloved Son with whom I am well pleased and who has glorified My name. Hear Him. As the voice spoke they saw a man coming down from heaven. He was dressed in a beautiful white robe and all of the people watched as He came down among them. All were afraid to speak because they thought it was an angel. Then the man spoke to them. He said: I am Jesus Christ whom the prophets said would come into the world to pay for the sins of all people. Now I have suffered and died for you as My Father asked Me to. I have done all that My Father sent Me to do.

231. Then the people remembered that the prophets had told them that Jesus would visit them in America after His death and resurrection. The whole group of people fell on their knees before Him. Jesus spoke to them saying: Stand up and come forward. I want you to feel the nail holes in My hands and feet and to feel the hole in My side. Then you can know that I am the Son of God who has paid for the sins of the whole world. When He had said this the people
stood up. One by one they had the opportunity to see and touch the Saviour's resurrected body. When they had all done this they were full of joy. They fell down on their knees to worship Jesus and thank God. After this Jesus called to Nephi to come to Him. Nephi went to the Saviour, knelt before Him and kissed His feet. Jesus told him to arise and he stood up. Then Jesus gave him power to baptize his people. Jesus also called up others and gave them this power. He said: This is the way to baptize: When a person accepts your teachings, repents of his sins, and wants to be baptized, you will take him down into the water with you. After saying his name you will say: "Having authority given me of Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen." Then you will put the person down completely under the water and bring him up again. This is the proper way to baptize. From now on you must do it this way and not argue over how it should be done as you have done in the past. Remember, anger and arguments are not the way of God. They are the way of the devil. When you argue you are following him.

232. Then Jesus told the people how He, His Father, and the Holy Ghost were one. They work together as one in all things and are one in the things which they want to do. We might say they are one in purpose and unity. He said that their doctrine is to believe in Jesus Christ, repent and accept baptism. Those who would do this would receive the Gift of the Holy Ghost to guide and help them. Unless a person would do this and become humble and believing like a little child, he could not enter the Kingdom of God. By following these teachings they would not be overcome by the devil or be lost. Jesus said: This is the only way back to God. If anyone teaches any other way, that person is teaching falsely and is evil. Then Jesus told those whom He had chosen to go among all the Nephites and teach these things which He had told them.
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UNIT VI

THE SON OF GOD IN AMERICA

Lesson 56

WHY ARE WE BAPTIZED

I. Reference:

Section numbers 230-232
III Nephi 11

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. Whose voice spoke from heaven to the people who were gathered near the temple? What did He tell them?

2. Who did the people see coming down out of heaven? What did He tell them?

3. How did the people know that this was the Saviour and that He had been killed and was then a resurrected person?

4. What power did Jesus give to Nephi?

5. What must a person do before he can be baptized?

6. Who can baptize?

7. Tell how a person should be baptized?

8. What did Jesus say about those who got angry and argued about church doctrine?

9. In what ways are God, Jesus, and the Holy Ghost one?

10. How many different ways are there to get back into the Kingdom of God? What about the churches who teach different ways?

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. Why are we baptized?

2. Who has the authority to baptize?

3. What church teaches baptism exactly as Jesus taught? What do you think Jesus thinks about the churches who teach other ways today?

V. Application:

How will baptism by the priesthood help you to get back to heaven? Does a person have to do anything else after being baptized?
III NEPHI 12

233. After Jesus had chosen His twelve Disciples in America and ordained them, He spoke to all the people saying: You will be blessed if you will listen to the teachings of these twelve men and do as they say for I have given them power to be your leaders and to baptize you. He went on to say that they should tell others what they had seen and heard and if they believed they could also be baptized and would be blessed. Then Jesus gave the people some of the wonderful teachings which He had given to the Jews when He lived among them during His earthly life. These teachings make up what is called the "Great Sermon." In the following verses we will see what Jesus said and then try to explain the meaning.

234. "Blessed are the poor in spirit who come unto me, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." By this Jesus meant that if we will be humble and realize our need for His help strongly enough to accept the gospel and come close to Him through righteousness that we will be worthy to be with Him in the kingdom of heaven.

235. "And again, blessed are all they that mourn, for they shall be comforted." Here Jesus was saying that those who recognize their sins and have a desire to overcome them can receive great comfort from the gospel. It offers them a way to gain forgiveness and receive the happiness that comes when a person is free from sin.

236. "And blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth." By the word "meek" Jesus is speaking of the person who is humble before God. This means that he realizes his great need for God's help and is willing to
do anything which the Lord asks him to do.

237. "And blessed are all they who do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled with the Holy Ghost." Have you ever been hungry—really hungry? Can you remember how much you wanted food? If you can, then you can understand what Jesus said. He meant that when you want to be righteous as badly as you wanted food when you were very hungry then you will try hard and will become righteous. Then you will be worthy to have the Holy Ghost be your helper, friend, and guide through life.

238. "And blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy." By being merciful we show kindness to others. When they wrong us we are willing to forgive them. When they fall into sin we realize that they are God's children the same as we are; so instead of hating them and speaking against them we try to help them up again to a righteous life. We do not judge them but we look for the good in all; and even if it is very small, we try to help them make it grow. When we do this for others then God will be willing to do the same for us. If we are not merciful to others then God will not be merciful to us.

239. "And blessed are all the pure in heart, for they shall see God." This is one of the greatest of Jesus's promises. He tells us that if we will be clean in our thoughts and actions we will please God so much that some day we will see Him. To be clean in thought we must avoid telling or listening to evil or dirty stories. We must avoid reading or looking at wicked books which lead our minds away from God and into evil. We must look at others as God's children and our brothers and sisters and never think evil thoughts about them or be lustful in our heart. This is very hard but God will help us if we try. Some who have succeeded in this have been able to see God even before they died. Wouldn't this wonderful privilege be worth working hard for?
240. "And blessed are all the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God." The peacemakers are those who try to create love between their fellow men. They speak good of others and do not listen to or spread bad stories about them. They are kind to others and would rather see them have the good things in life than to have them themselves. They work hard to keep peace and love in their families by speaking kindly to their family members and never arguing or fighting with them. They do not think they are better than any other race of people but they accept all men as their brothers. They set an example for good and try to teach others the plan of peace on earth good will towards men which Jesus gave for us to follow.

241. "And blessed are all they who are persecuted for my names’s sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." This refers to the person who is not ashamed of Jesus or His teachings. He is not afraid to do right even if it means that others will turn against him. He will have a place in heaven. Many times it is hard to say "no" when our friends try to get us to smoke, take a drink, steal, or do some other evil thing. We must learn to love God so much that we would rather have our friends turn against us than to make Him feel bad. Truly He does feel bad when we do wrong and He is very proud of us when we stand up for right and truth no matter how hard it is to do so. We will find much greater joy trying to please our Father in Heaven than we can ever find just trying to please ourselves or others. In doing so we earn the right to be with God forever.

242. The statements we have been reading are part of the "Great Sermon" and are called the "Beattitudes." "Beattitudes" means blessings. The blessings are those which come from feeling, desiring, and doing as Jesus taught. We must work hard and learn to live each one for it takes all of them together to make us like Jesus and He has told us, "Follow me."
243. After finishing the "Beattitudes," Jesus continued His sermon. He taught how important it is for us to be a good example to others. He explained how people can gain forgiveness through accepting His sacrifice for them. This is done by repenting and being "born again." He said that His followers must be willing to admit their mistakes when they are wrong and try to make them right again. He also taught that it is wrong to swear. These are just a few of the wonderful teachings which Jesus gave to the people of ancient America.
THE TRUE FOLLOWER
OF CHRIST

III Nephi
Chapter 12-14

Lives by the Holy Ghost
14:15-16
Gives service to God
13:33

Is The Salt Of The Earth
12:13-16

Asks and receives
14:7-12
Lives the complete law
12:17-20

Seeks and finds
14:7-12
Does not become angry
12:21-24

Knocks and opens
14:7-12
Does not argue
12:25-26

Follows narrow way
14:13-14
Has pure thoughts
12:27-32

Speaks only the truth
12:33-37

Returns good for evil
12:38-42
Obeys the fast
13:16-18

Loves his enemies
12:43-45
Lives for Heavenly Treasures
13:19-23

Shows daily progress
12:48
Serves God and not Mammon
13:24

Donates to the Church
13:1-4
Judges not
14:1-5

Prays always
13:5-15
Honors Sacred trusts
14:6

FOUNDATION OF ROCK -
III Nephi 14:24-27
UNIT VI

THE SON OF GOD IN AMERICA

Lesson 57

WHAT IS A REAL CHRISTIAN LIKE

I. Reference:

Section numbers 233-243
III Nephi 12

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. What special authority did Jesus give to the twelve men He chose in America?

2. What is the name given to the great talk which Jesus gave in this lesson?

3. Choose three of the statements of Jesus and tell in your own words what they mean.

4. Why can't we be saved by just living one of these teachings of Jesus?

5. What should we think of when we think of the "Beattitudes"?

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. For what purpose did Jesus give the "Great Sermon"?

2. Which of the teachings of Jesus do you think is most important? Why?

3. Why do you think it's hard to live all the teachings of Jesus? Why should we try hard anyway?

V. Application:

Describe the kind of person that you like for your friend. How can you be like this person you have described?
III NEPHI 13

244. Jesus continued the "Great Sermon." He said that when you give money or help to the poor you should not do it to show people how good you are. If you do these things to make other people think you are good, then you get no blessing from God. Instead you should give your gift or your help quietly, without making a big show of it. Then God will be pleased and will bless you. It is also the same for prayer. If we pray to show others how great a prayer we can give our prayer never reaches God. When we pray we should pray sincerely to God and not to show off for others. We must not repeat things over and over but should just pray for what we need. God knows all the things we need even before we ask Him. However, we must ask before we receive.

245. Then Jesus gave the people what is known as "The Lord's Prayer" as an example of how to pray. In it He taught that God is our Father and that we should ask Him to forgive us of our sins and to keep us from evil. Afterward Jesus said: If you forgive others when they wrong you, then God will forgive you for your sins against Him. If you do not forgive others then you will not be forgiven yourself. He also said: When you fast do not try to look like you are suffering in order to show others that you are fasting. Instead be cheerful and happy so that only God will know you are fasting. Then you will be greatly blessed.

246. The next advice Jesus gave was about money. He said: Don't spend your life seeking after the things of this world. Rust, moths, and robbers can steal or destroy that kind of treasure. Instead you should seek to be
righteous and make your treasure a heavenly one. Then it cannot be ruined or destroyed. If you seek riches you will have nothing to take with you to heaven when you die. You will be poor forever. If you seek righteousness, you will have peace and happiness on the earth and a great reward in heaven. You will then be rich forever. This is by far the best way.

247. Jesus said that no man can go two opposite ways. He must either follow one way or the other. This is also true in serving God; we cannot serve God and the devil also. We must either follow one or the other. We must choose which it will be.

III NEPHI 14

248. Jesus then began to explain to the people about judging others. He said that God would judge us in the same way that we judge others. If we are fair to others then He will be fair to us. Jesus said that those who tell of others faults are usually people who have many faults themselves which they do not see. He said that before we start to speak against what others do we ought to be sure that our own life is perfect.

249. Jesus taught many different things to His people in America. He told them to be careful not to tell holy and sacred things to people who would not believe them and would laugh at them. Then He spoke about prayer. He said that our Father in Heaven is like a loving father who helps and cares for his children. If a child is hungry his father will feed him. Our Father in Heaven will do much more than our earthly parents can for us if we will remember to ask Him through prayer. Jesus said that if we would ask Him He would hear and answer our prayers. He continued by saying: There is only one way back to God. It is the strait and narrow way of righteousness. Only those who accept Jesus, join His one true church, and live His teachings
are on this good road. These are not many in number. The other roads include
the ways taught by false churches and all the ideas which are different from
those which Jesus taught. They lead away from God to destruction. Many
are following these false ways. There will also be many who say they are
God's chosen leaders or prophets. It will be hard to tell them from the true
prophets. We can tell, however, by what they do and teach. If their teachings
are true and good and make our lives happier by bringing us close to God, then
they are true. If they teach for money or lead us to do wrong and reject
the truth, then they are wrong. We can tell the true servants of God by
watching their lives. If they and the church they represent really bring
good and happiness to those who follow them, then they are on the right road.

250. Jesus continued. He said: Not everyone who prays or says he is living
a good life will get to heaven. We do not get there just by saying we are
good. We must prove to God that we will keep His commandments and do good.
Some people think they are very righteous since they have done great things
like healing the sick or casting out devils. But if they forgot to continue
to do good they will not find themselves in heaven after they are judged.

257. Jesus finished His talk by saying: Those who will do the things which
I have taught will find that their lives will be strong like a house which is
built upon a rock. When trouble comes, like a great storm, the house will
stand strong and not fall. Those who will not follow these teachings will
find that their lives are weak, like a house built upon the sand. When
trouble comes to them it will be like a storm coming upon the house built
upon sand. The sand will wash away and the house will fall. These people
will not be able to stand up under the temptations and difficulties of life.
Only by putting the teachings of Jesus into our lives will we be able to
succeed.
UNIT VI
THE SON OF GOD IN AMERICA
Lesson 58
HOW CAN WE PLEASE JESUS

I. Reference:

Section numbers 244-251
III Nephi 13-14

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. What did Jesus say about helping the poor?

2. Finish this sentence: Before we can expect God to forgive our sins against Him we must forgive ____________________.

3. How should we act when we are fasting?

4. What did Jesus say were the really important things that we should spend our life trying to get?

5. What two choices does every person have of whom he will follow?

6. Should we ever judge others?

7. What did Jesus tell the people about how their Father in Heaven feels about all of His children?

8. How can we tell a true prophet from a false one?

9. Jesus compared the person who _____________________ to a house that was built upon a rock and could stand the strongest storm.

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. What could you and I do that would make Jesus happy?

2. What could your Father in Heaven give you to make you more happy?

3. What is more important than money, new cars, and the material things of this world? Explain why.

V. Application:

Name one thing that you would like to do to please Jesus. Then show Him that you love Him and are grateful for all that He has done for you by doing the thing which you have chosen.
252. When Jesus had finished teaching the people He told them that He must leave. He said that He knew they were not able to understand all that He had taught them. He told them to go home and think and pray about these things so that they could understand them. He said: I will visit you again tomorrow. Now I must go for I must also visit My other people, the Lost Tribes of Israel. Then Jesus prepared to go. But He saw tears in the eyes of many of the people and He knew how much they wanted Him to stay. This caused Him to feel sorry for them. Because of His great love He decided to stay a little longer. He told them to bring all their sick, blind, deaf, and deformed people to Him to be healed. The people brought them to Him and He healed them all. They were so grateful that they knelt down before Him and kissed His feet. As they did this tears streamed down their face upon His feet.

253. Next Jesus told the people to bring their little children to Him. They came and He had them sit down on the ground around Him. Then He told the rest of the people to kneel down with Him while He prayed. As Jesus knelt down and prayed to God for His people those who heard Him said that it was wonderful. No one could describe the great things that Jesus said in His prayer. Neither could anyone explain how great the happiness was which the people felt as they saw the Son of God kneel down upon the ground and pray for them. When Jesus had finished praying He told the people to arise. He said: Blessed are you because of your faith. You have made me very proud of you and very happy. As He said these things the people saw tears.
come to His eyes. Surely the Saviour is happy when we do good. He must also feel bad when we do wrong.

254. Next Jesus told the audience to look at their little children. The people looked and saw angels coming down from heaven. They came and talked to their children. They also saw that fire was all around them and yet they were not burned. This was a great experience for these people. There were about 2,500 present who saw and heard Jesus on this first day that He visited them.

III NEPHI 18

255. Jesus had a few more things to teach His people before He left. He asked His Disciples to bring some bread and wine to Him. He had all the people sit down while He blessed the bread and broke it into pieces. Then He had it passed to all the people. He explained to them that those whom He had chosen should do this often for the people after He had left. He said that they were to eat this bread in honor of Him. They were to always remember how He was hung on the cross and gave His life for us. This would show the Father that we want to remember and follow Jesus, and that we want His Spirit to be with us.

256. After passing the bread around, Jesus had the Disciples take some of the wine and pass it to the people. This was also to help them remember Him. It represented the blood which Jesus shed for the sins of all those who will accept Him. Jesus said that by taking the bread and wine, which is called the sacrament, we promise to remember Him and keep His commandments. We also promise to represent Him. If we do these things we will be given the Holy Ghost to lead us in a life of righteousness.

257. Jesus spoke next about prayer. He said: I have prayed for you to set an example. You must remember to pray every day so that the devil will
not overcome you and lead you away from God. Pray with your families. Pray for your parents, your brothers, and your sisters. And remember to meet together in church often to take the sacrament. When you do this you are to allow all those who want to come to church to come and worship with you. None are to be kept out. But people who are not living good lives should be taught not to take the sacrament until they are willing to repent and keep the promises which they make by taking the sacrament. No one should be allowed to take the sacrament unworthily. If they do, they are making promises to God which they do not plan to keep. This will hurt their chance to be with God.

258. When Jesus had finished these teachings, He laid His hand upon the Disciples one by one. He gave them power to give the Holy Ghost to the people when He had gone. Then a cloud came down around Jesus. The people could not see Him. Only His Disciples watched as He went back up into heaven.
UNIT VI

THE SON OF GOD IN AMERICA

Lesson 59

DOES JESUS LOVE ME

I. Reference:

Section numbers 252-258
III Nephi 17-18

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. What made Jesus decide to stay after He said He was going?

2. What did Jesus do for the sick people?

3. What did Jesus say the people would have to do if they wanted to understand what He had said?

4. When Jesus had the people kneel down with Him what did He do? How did the people feel about it?

5. What made Jesus happy?

6. What happened to the children?

7. What does the bread we take for the sacrament remind us of?

8. What does the water represent?

9. Why is it important to pray every day? What should we pray for?

10. Who should take the sacrament?

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. Do you think Jesus loves us? Explain.

2. What should we be doing while the sacrament is being blessed? While it is being passed?

3. Do you think Jesus loves the Chinese, Negroes, Eskimos, and all other races of people? Explain.

V. Application:

What will you be willing to do today to show Jesus that you love Him and are thankful for what He has done for you?
259. Some time after Jesus visited the Nephites, a problem came up among the church members. They wanted to know what the new church that Jesus had organized should be called. To answer the problem the twelve Disciples met together to pray for guidance. As they were praying Jesus appeared to them and asked them what they wanted. They asked Him what to call His church. He answered by saying: Why is it that you wonder about that? Haven't you read in the scriptures that you represent Me when you become a member of My church? You also read that you must live My commandments in order to be saved. You pray to the Father in My name. Everything in this church is centered around Me. How do you think this could be My church unless it is called by My name. If you call it the Church of Moses, then it is His church. If you call it in the name of a man then it is that man's church. The true church which I have given you should be called by My name.

260. The Saviour went on to teach the Disciples that every man must have faith in Him, repent of his sins, be baptized by the priesthood, receive the Holy Ghost, and then remain faithful to the end of his life if he wants to be in heaven. This is the only way to be forgiven of our sins. And since no unclean person can be in heaven it is the only way back to God. Jesus paid for our sins, but only by following His teachings which we learn in His church can we gain this forgiveness. He said that His church taught the only way back to God. All other ways, no matter who teaches them, are wrong. They will lead their followers to spiritual death and to a loss of their chance to be with God unless they realize that they are wrong and seek the
truth. When Jesus finished saying these things the Disciples all knew that the only name for the true church was the Church of Jesus Christ.
UNIT VI

THE SON OF GOD IN AMERICA

Lesson 60

WHO HAS THE TRUE CHURCH

I. Reference:

Section numbers 259-260
III Neph 27

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. What was the problem the church members had?
2. How was the problem solved?
3. List the things which a person must do to get to heaven.
4. What is the only possible name for the true church?

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. What is there about the names of the following churches that let us know that they are not the Saviour's church?

   Lutheran                     Baptists
   Assembly of God             Catholic
   Methodists                  Seventh-day Adventists

2. Why is everything in the true church centered around Jesus Christ?
3. Why is the Saviour's way the only way back to God?
4. Why is it impossible to have many different churches which are all the true church?

V. Application:

Do you think that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the true church? Explain why.
261. Then Jesus told the Disciples that He wanted to give them each the desire of their heart. He asked them what they would like. Nine of the twelve said that they would like to come quickly and be with Jesus as soon as their work on earth was finished. Jesus said that they would have their wish. When they reached the age of seventy-two they would die and come to Him. Then He asked the other three what it was that they wanted. They felt bad for they were afraid to say what they wanted. Jesus knew what they were thinking. He said: You want to remain on the earth and teach the gospel until I come again at the last day. This is the same thing that my apostle John who was with me across the sea wanted. Because of your unselfishness you shall be blessed. You shall not die, neither will you have pain or sickness. Your only sorrow will be for the sins of the world. You will be allowed to stay and teach My gospel. You may do My work until I come back to the earth again in the last days. Then your bodies shall be quickly changed to resurrected bodies and you will live in My Father's kingdom forever. Jesus then touched all of the Disciples but these three on the head and went back into heaven. Each of the twelve Disciples received his wish. They all had great power and blessings given them on the earth. But only three of them still remain on the earth. We don't know who they are or where they are now but we do know that these three men still remain on the earth. They are working hard to teach their brothers and sisters the true gospel of Jesus Christ. We call them "The Three Nephites." They are doing a great work on the earth. It is interesting to note that some Indian leaders living today claim to have seen and talked to these men. (See the Improvement Era, April 1955, 231-231-
pp. 240-241.) The Three Nephites will have an important part to play in restoring the Indian people to the greatness they once had.
UNIT VI

THE SON OF GOD IN AMERICA

Lesson 61

I. Reference:

Section number 261
III Nephi 28

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. What blessing did nine of the Disciples ask Jesus for?

2. What did the other three ask for? What other man had asked for and received this same promise?

3. In what way are the Three Nephites different from us?

4. What are the Three Nephites doing now?

5. What do you think these three men consider to be the most important thing in this world?

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. If Jesus gave you the same promise that the Nephite Disciples had, what would you ask for?

2. Do you think it would be possible to meet one of the Three Nephites today? Explain.

3. What can we do to help the Three Nephites do their work in our day?

V. Application:

Next time you meet an Indian friend who isn't a Mormon, what can you tell him or her about the church that might make them interested in learning more and perhaps even becoming a member?
IV NEPHI

262. Within three years after Jesus visited America, the church members were able to baptize all the people in America into the church. This was a time of great peace and happiness. The mark was taken off from the Lamanites. All the people were a white people. They didn't call themselves Nephites or Lamanites any more. Instead, they called themselves the children of Christ. During this time of peace many of the old cities that had been destroyed were rebuilt. There were also many new cities built. The people grew strong in the land. Before long they numbered many thousands and had spread out across the land. These people were a nice looking people. They were very careful to follow all of the commandments which the Saviour had given them. Because of their righteousness they had great miracles performed among them in the name of Jesus.

263. The years passed. Soon all of the twelve that Jesus had chosen were dead except for the three who were allowed to stay. As the first Disciples died new ones were chosen to take their place and the church continued to prosper. There were no robbers, murders, Lamanites, or anything to stop the great happiness of the people. This went on for many years. Then about 175 years after Jesus's visit a small group of people broke away from the church and called themselves Lamanites again. Still no wars came and the number of people grew and spread out all over the land. Because of the long peace and the blessings of God the people began to grow very rich. When 200 years had passed since the sign of Jesus's birth many of the people began to be full of pride. They began to think that they were better than other people.
They wore expensive clothing and jewelry. Before this time the people had shared all of their things with one another. There were no poor people among them. Now they stopped sharing. They began to start their own churches for the purpose of getting rich. They said that they had the true church of Christ but their teachings were different. They had left the truth and started man-made churches.

264. By the year 210 A.D. things were very bad. Large numbers of people were leaving the true church and joining the false churches which had been set up. Some of them even joined a church which did not believe in Christ at all. These wicked people began to make life hard for the members of the true church. They had the Disciples of Jesus thrown into prison. But by using the power of God which they had they made the prison fall. They were able to walk out and continue their teachings. They also did many miracles. The people were so wicked that these miracles just made them want to kill the Disciples. They took them and threw them into furnaces of fire, but the Disciples were not hurt. They put them into dens with wild animals, but they played with the animals as though they were lambs and they were not hurt. Even after seeing all these great miracles the people continued to follow the false priests and false prophets of their wicked churches. They would not listen to the truth.

265. When the 231st year began a great division took place among the people. Instead of being one united people they began to call themselves Nephites, Josephites, Jacobites, Zoramites, Lamanites, and Ishmaelites. This happened because the people had rejected the gospel which they knew to be true and had turned against God. The group of people who left the true church taught their children to hate the church members and not to believe in what they taught. By the 244th year there were more wicked people who had left the church than there were righteous church members. The wicked people continued...
to make false churches and to wear gold and silver clothing. Some of the most wicked among them started up the Gadianton robbers again. It was a terrible thing that was happening to the Nephites. The devil worked so hard that he even began to gain power over the church members. They began to be like the other people and they forgot their church. It was at this time that the Three Nephites who were still living learned what Jesus meant when He said that they would sorrow for the sins of their people. By 300 A.D. the whold group of people, both Nephites and Lamanites, had left the teachings of God. They had become a very wicked people. When things got so bad that there were very few righteous men left, the prophet Ammaron who was keeping the records was told by the Holy Ghost to hide them in a hill. He did as he was told and the records were buried.
UNIT VII
THE NEPHITES MEET DESTRUCTION
Lesson 62
CAN WICKEDNESS AND HAPPINESS EXIST TOGETHER

I. Reference:
Section numbers 262-265
IV Nephi

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:
1. What happened within three years of Jesus's visit to America?
2. What happened to the Lamanites at this time?
3. Why do you think the people had such great peace, happiness, and prosperity in the land?
4. List the things that happened to change the people from righteousness to wickedness.
5. What were the Three Nephites doing at this time?
6. What did the wicked people teach their children?
7. By the time 300 years had passed from the first great sign, what had happened to the people in America?
8. What did the prophet Ammon do with the sacred Nephite records which he had?

IV. Understanding and Conviction:
1. Do you think the American people are doing the same things that the wicked Nephites did? Explain.

V. Application:
What could you do to bring more happiness into your life?
266. The Nephite nation was in great wickedness at the time the prophet Mormon was born. Even as a young boy he was one of the few Nephites who was righteous. When he was only ten years old the prophet Ammaron came to talk to him. Ammaron was an old man. He had been keeping the sacred gold plates which told the history of his people. Now that he was about to die he needed to find someone whom he could trust to finish writing on the plates and tell the story of the Nephite destruction which was coming. Ammaron had watched Mormon. Even though he was very young, Ammaron felt that he was righteous and that he could trust him with the sacred plates. So Ammaron told Mormon that when he was about twenty-four years old he should go to the hill which was called Shim where he would find the plates of Nephi. He should take these plates and write upon them the things which he saw happen among his people during his lifetime. After giving these instructions to Mormon, Ammaron left.

267. When Mormon got to be eleven years old, his father moved and took him to Zarahemla. During the trip Mormon saw that the Nephite people were great in number. Their buildings covered the whole face of the land. At this time war again started between the Nephites and the Lamanites. After a great battle, the Lamanites were beaten. There was peace in the land for about four more years. But the wickedness of the people was so great during this time that the Lord took the Three Nephites away from the people. Miracles, healings, and the other gifts from God began to cease. The people were not worthy to have them. Mormon was one of the few who remained close to the
Lord. He was so faithful that when he was only fifteen years old he saw and talked to the Saviour. Mormon tried to preach to his people but they wouldn't listen. Finally the Lord told him to stop trying. The Lord had given these people many chances. They continued to do wrong even though they knew it was wrong. Now they had been warned enough. Mormon watched as the people grew more and more wicked. He saw the power of the Gadianton robbers grow. Then a curse came upon the people. The Lord caused that whenever they buried their treasures to hide them from the robbers, they could not find them again. Still the people did not change. The devil had a great hold upon them. They became extremely evil. In place of the gospel they began to believe in magic and witchcraft. All these things happened just as Samuel the Lamanite and Abinadi had said they would. The Nephites were on their way to destruction.
UNIT VII

THE NEPHITES MEET DESTRUCTION

Lesson 63

CAN A TEEN-AGER FIND GOD

I. Reference:

Section numbers 266-267
Mormon 1

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. How old was Mormon when he was chosen to take care of the gold plates? Why was he chosen?

2. What did Ammon want Mormon to do?

3. What did Mormon see on his trip to Zarahemla?

4. What happened to the Three Nephites when the people became wicked? Why?

5. Why did miracles, healings and other spiritual things stop among the people?

6. What experience did Mormon have when he was only fifteen years old?

7. Tell about the curse that God put on the people's riches.

8. What did the people start to believe in instead of the gospel?

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. Do you think a teen-ager can be close to God? Explain.

2. If miracles and healings stopped in our church today what would you think would be the reason?

3. Do you think it is possible to tell how a young person will turn out in his life just by knowing him and watching him? Explain.

V. Application:

Do you think that you could be closer to God than you are? What are you going to do about it?
When Mormon was sixteen years old he was chosen by the Nephites to lead their army. Though he was young he was large in size. The people knew that he was smart and would make a good leader. He led his army into many battles with the Lamanites. After he had won several battles his men began to fear the Lamanites and would not fight any more. They began to fall back and the Lamanites took their land. Things were very bad. There were robbers all over the land and nothing was safe from them. Wars and bloodshed covered the land. Still the people continued in their evil ways. Then the Lamanite army attacked again. Mormon and his army beat them and drove them back. By this time the Nephites could see how bad things had become. They began to sorrow. They sorrowed over the stealing and murdering that was going on among them. This sorrowing gave Mormon hope that they would see their evil ways and repent. He knew that if they would the Lord would forgive them and help them win the war. But Mormon was disappointed. His people were not sorry that they had done wrong. Instead they were sorry that God would not let them do evil without having to suffer for it. They did not repent. Mormon knew that they had gone too far into sin. He gave up hope of bringing them back to God.

Mormon saw many great battles. He saw thousands of bodies piled up in the battlefields like stacks of hay. These were terrible times. Then the Lamanites began to win again and the Nephites continued to be driven back. When the Lamanite army came close to the place where the plates were buried, Mormon dug them up and took them with him. He wrote the things that
were happening among his people and he told of his great sorrow caused by their wickedness. He also told of many battles. He said he was able to get his men to fight hardest by reminding them of their homes and families. They did fight hard and were able to take back some of their land. But the Lord had left them to fight their battles all alone. By 350 A.D. they were able to get back half of their lands. Then they made peace with their enemies.

MORMON 3

270. Mormon knew that the peace would not last. He had his people spend their time making weapons and preparing to defend themselves. During this time of peace the Lord spoke to Mormon and told him to go and warn his people. He was told to tell them that if they would repent He would help them and they could still win the war. The people would not listen. They did not realize that God had only let them live this long in order to give them a chance to repent. They liked Mormon as an army leader but they would not hear this words when he spoke to them as a prophet of God.

271. Ten years after the peace had been made the Lamanite king sent a letter to Mormon telling him that the Lamanites were preparing for battle again. Mormon got his army together and took them down near the Lamanite lands. There was a narrow pass there and Mormon hoped to keep the Lamanites from getting through into the Nephite lands. He spent all the time he had building a stronghold to protect his men and hold back the enemy. When the Lamanites came he and his men were able to beat them and drive them back to their own lands. The next year the Lamanites came again and again they were beaten. There were many of them killed and the Nephites began to brag about their own strength.

272. Mormon had helped the Nephites defend themselves. Because of their victory they thought that they couldn't be beaten. They decided to go up
and attack the Lamanites and destroy them. When Mormon heard of this he 
resigned as their general. He would no longer lead them. He had loved his 
people and worked hard to protect them. He had spent much time in prayer 
for them. But now when they forgot God and were going to attack the Lamanites 
the voice of the Lord came to Mormon saying: When you are wronged you should 
leave it in God's hands and not try to get even. Because these people have 
forgotten Me after I have protected them they shall be destroyed. From this 
time on Mormon would not fight for his people. He just stood by to watch. 
The things which the Lord told him came to pass. He saw the terrible wicked-
ness and the great sorrow and destruction it brought to his people. Mormon 
wrote a part of his book to us warning us to remember to serve God. He said 
that we must not do as his people had done or this great evil would come upon 
us. Then he reminded us that we will all stand before God to be judged. 
We will be judged for all that we have not been forgiven of. No one can 
escape this. Therefore, he hoped that none of us would forget to repent. 
We must do this and try to overcome our sins so that we will be ready for 
the judgment and not be like his people were.
UNIT VII

THE NEPHITES MEET DESTRUCTION

Lesson 64

WHY WON'T GOD HELP THE WICKED

I. Reference:

Section numbers 268-272
Mormon 2-3

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. How old was Mormon when he was asked to be the leader of the Nephite army?

2. What was life like in Mormon's time?

3. Why didn't the sorrow of the Nephites lead them to repentance?

4. Why did Mormon dig up the gold plates?

5. What did Mormon tell his men to make them fight harder?

6. Did Mormon think the peace between the Nephites and Lamanites would last? Explain.

7. How did the people feel about Mormon as a general? How did they feel about him as a prophet?

8. Why did Mormon quit his job as general of the army?

9. Why was the Lord angry with the Nephites? What did He say was going to happen to them?

10. What is Mormon's message to us?

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. What must a person do for himself before God can help him?

2. Why do you think the people would accept Mormon as their military leader but not as their spiritual leader?

V. Application:

Do you ever need God's help? What must you do to get it?
MORMON 5

273. Mormon watched while thousands of his people were killed in the war with the Lamanites. Finally he felt so sorry for his people that he decided to try to help them. He knew that these terrible things were happening to them because they had turned against God. He also knew that they would be destroyed. Still he wanted to do what he could to help them. He went back to his job as leader of the Nephite army. He had almost finished his work on the gold plates. He knew that there wouldn't be much more to write since his people were moving swiftly towards destruction.

274. Just before the last great battle began, Mormon wrote about what was going to happen to the Lamanites in the last days. He said that they would be driven and killed by the white men and have much suffering. Then God would keep the promises which He had made to help them. These promises were made to some of their righteous forefathers including the prophet Abraham. He would begin once again to bring them back to a knowledge of the true gospel. When this happened, if their enemies continued their wickedness against them, God would give the Lamanites power over them and unless they repented, the Lamanites would destroy them.

MORMON 6

275. As Mormon's army was retreating from the Lamanites he wrote a letter to the Lamanite king. He asked him to allow the Nephites time to get all their people together for one last great battle. The Lamanite king agreed. So Mormon led his people to the land of Cumorah which is now in New York.
state and there he began to gather all their people and prepare for war with the Lamanites. Mormon was an old man now. He knew that this was the end for his people. He took the gold plates which the prophets before him had written on and also the shortened account which he had written on the history of his people and buried them in the Hill Cumorah. He kept only a few plates which he gave to his son Moroni. He hoped that Moroni would live to write of the final destruction of the Nephites.

276. Then the day of the battle came. The Nephites watched with great fear as hundreds of thousands of Lamanites came marching towards them. They knew that they were badly outnumbered. It was with great fear which comes upon all the wicked as they near death that they waited for the battle. The fighting began. The powerful Lamanite army cut down the Nephites like grain in the field. Mormon saw the 10,000 men he was leading all killed. He fell wounded among them. The Lamanites thought he was dead. They passed him by. The next morning only Mormon, Moroni, and twenty-two other Nephites were left of their people. From the top of the Hill Cumorah they looked down upon the terrible bloody sight. Below them were the bodies of 230,000 Nephite men, women, and children. A great number of Lamanites had also been killed, Mormon knew that wickedness had caused all this to happen. No one can ever escape being punished if they continue in sin and fail to repent after they are given the chance.

277. As Mormon looked down upon the bodies of his people his heart was full of sorrow. He cried out saying: Oh you fair ones, how could you have forgotten your God who wanted so badly to help you. If only you would have repented and turned back to Him He would have saved you. Why is it that you wouldn't listen? Now you are dead and my sorrows cannot bring you back. Soon you must stand before God at the judgment day to be judged for what you did in your lifetime. Your bodies will be raised from the dead to die no
more. At that day if you have been righteous you will be blessed with your righteous fathers of old. But if you were wicked a great punishment awaits you. I wish you had repented before this terrible day came, but you would not. Now you are in the hands of God. Whatever your judgment is it will be fair and right.
UNIT VII

THE NEPHITES MEET DESTRUCTION

Lesson 65

CAN THE WICKED ESCAPE PUNISHMENT

I. Reference:

Section numbers 273-277
Mormon 5-6

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. Why did Mormon decide to lead the Nephite army again?

2. What two things did Mormon know about his people?

3. What did Mormon say was going to happen to the Lamanites when the white men came to America?

4. After the Indian people find the true gospel and return to God, what is going to happen to their enemies?

5. What did Mormon ask the Lamanite king to let him do?

6. What did Mormon do with the gold plates which he had been writing upon?

7. How did the Nephites feel when they saw the Lamanite army coming?

8. How many Nephites were killed in the battle? How many were left?

9. How did Mormon feel as he looked down upon the bodies of all of his people?


IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. Do you think Mormon loved his people even though they were wicked? Explain. How should we feel towards people who do wrong?

2. When the Lamanite army came why was it too late for the Nephites to repent? When is the best time to repent?

V. Application:

Do you know of anything you have ever done wrong? How can you escape being punished for it?
278. After the great battle in which nearly all the Nephites were killed, Mormon did some more writing. He wrote a chapter in his book especially for the Lamanites. He knew that they would read it in the last days. He said: Do you know that you are of the house of Israel? Do you know that you must repent of your sins in order to be saved? You must lay down your weapons of war and fight no more unless God commands you to. You must come to understand that your forefathers had the true gospel in America many years ago. You must repent of your sins and believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Because He gave His perfect life for us we can be forgiven of our sins by accepting and living His gospel. You must also realize that because of Him all mankind will be raised from the dead in the resurrection. Repent of your sins, accept the true gospel through baptism, and hold tight to its teachings which are given to you in the Book of Mormon and in the Bible. The Book of Mormon is written to show you that the story of the life of Christ as given in the Bible is true. You cannot believe the Book of Mormon without believing the Bible. You cannot believe the Bible without believing the Book of Mormon. They were both written to teach you about God. You know that you are a chosen people. If you will accept Christ by being baptized, receive the Holy Ghost, and try hard to follow the example which Jesus set for you while He was on earth, all will be well for you at the judgment day. Amen.
279. When Mormon finished writing to the Lamanites he turned over his records to his son, Moroni. Moroni said: After the great battle at the Hill Cummorah the few Nephites who escaped went with my father into the land southward. They were hunted down by the Lamanites and killed. Now I am the only one left of my people. I have no friends or relatives or any place to go. The Lamanites have destroyed my people. It happened because they had turned away from the Lord and would not repent. Now the Lamanites are fighting each other. The whole land is full of murder and bloodshed. The only righteous ones left are the Three Nephites. They have appeared to my father and I but they have gone and no one knows where they went. Then Moroni warned us not to find fault with the record that he and his father had written. He said that they had done the best that they could and they knew that it was acceptable to God. After writing a little more, Moroni buried the gold plates in the Hill Cummorah.
UNIT VII

THE Nephites Meet Destruction

Lesson 66

DID MORMON WRITE TO US

I. Reference:

Section numbers 278-279
Mormon 7-8

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. To whom was the last chapter of Mormon's book written?
2. What did Mormon tell us about the Indian people?
3. What did Mormon tell us we must do if we want to be saved?
4. If a person believes the Book of Mormon, what other book must he also believe?
5. How will the person who accepts Jesus and tries hard to live like He wants us to be judged?
6. What happened to Moroni's father? Who was the only Nephite left?
7. After the Nephites were all killed, what did the Lamanites start to do?
8. What happened to the Three Nephites?
9. When Moroni finished writing, what did he do with the plates?

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. Why do you think Mormon wrote to the Lamanites of today?
2. Why is Mormon's advice good for the Indians of today?
3. If you lived in Mormon's day do you think you would have liked him? Why?
4. Why must one believe the Bible if he believes the Book of Mormon? Why must we believe the Book of Mormon if we believe the Bible?

V. Application:

Write a letter to a person we will call Steven telling him what a person must do to be saved.
MORONI

(Summary of Chapters 1-10)

280. Moroni was not found by the Lamanites. He decided that he would go back to the Hill Cumorah and do some more writing on the plates of gold which he had buried there. When he did this he discovered the twenty-four gold plates of Ether which his people had found among some ruins many years before. He took them out and wrote an account of the story which they told. This book is called Ether. It tells about the Jaredites who came to America about 2200 B.C. They left at the time of the building of the tower of Babel when the languages were changed. The book tells how they were killed in a great war in which they fought each other until everyone was killed except one man. He lived to see the Mulekites come and take over the land that had once belonged to his people. This was about the time Lehi came to America. Moroni thought that this record would be important to those who would read it in the last days.

281. When he finished the Book of Ether, Moroni again thought he would stop writing. But still he had not been killed so he decided to add a little more to his record. He wondered what he could write that would be important to the people who would someday read his writings. After thinking it over carefully he wrote several short chapters to his brethren the Lamanites. He included the two sacrament prayers. He explained how the sacrament should be blessed. He also included teachings on baptism. He told how Jesus taught the people to baptize and what He said concerning who is worthy of baptism. Then he told how priests and teachers were ordained in the church. After completing
these chapters about church ordinances he included some of his father's writings. The first was a speech that his father had given years before to his people. It was about faith, hope, and love. Then he included two letters which his father had written while he was leading the Nephite armies. The first of these letters explains why we do not baptize little children. We will study it in our next lesson. Then Moroni wrote a final message to the Lamanites. He said that through prayer they could know that this book is a true record of their forefathers. When he finished this he buried the gold plates. They lay hidden in the Hill Cumorah for 1406 years. Then God sent Moroni who was then a resurrected person to give the plates to Joseph Smith so that we could have their wonderful teachings in our day.
UNIT VII

THE NEPHITES MEET DESTRUCTION
Lesson 67

IS THE BOOK OF MORMON SCRIPTURE

I. Reference:

Section numbers 280-281
Moroni 1-10

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. What people does the Book of Ether tell about? Tell what you can about them.

2. What happened to the Jaredites?

3. What two groups of people came to America about the time the Jaredites were being destroyed?

4. List some of the things which Moroni thought would be important to us. Are they important?

5. What was Moroni's final message to the Lamanites?

6. What did Moroni do with the gold plates?


IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. If a friend asks you why you believe the Book of Mormon is scripture, what would you tell him?

2. Why do we have statues of the angel Moroni on two of our temples?

3. Why is the Book of Mormon important to the Indian people?

V. Application:

Has your study of the Book of Mormon this year helped to improve your life? Explain.
282. One of the letters which Mormon wrote to his son, Moroni, was about baptism. Moroni felt that the instructions his father gave him were important so he included this letter in his book. This is what it said:

Dear Moroni:

I am very happy that our Saviour has blessed you and called you to do His work as a teacher of the gospel. I remember you always in my prayers and I always ask God to help you to remain righteous to the end of your life.

I want to speak to you about a problem which has come up among the people. It has caused me great sorrow. I have heard that the people where you are have been arguing about whether little children need baptism or not. Now, my son, I want you to teach the people what the Lord has said about this. That is why I have written this letter.

As soon as I heard that you were having this problem I went out to ask God about it. He sent me a message through the Holy Ghost saying:

Listen to the words of Jesus Christ, your Saviour. I didn't come into the world to save the righteous, but I came to pay for the sins of the wicked. Little children cannot sin and, therefore, they have no need of baptism. I have paid for the sin of Adam so that they are not born with sin. Therefore, it is wrong to baptize little children. It must not be done. You are to teach the need for baptism to those who have sinned. But their little children who have no sins do not need it. If little children required baptism it would make God a very cruel person because little children are not able to get themselves baptized. If they needed baptism to get to heaven and they
died without it, they would go to hell forever without even a chance. It is terrible wickedness to believe this and to think that God would save one child because he was baptized and send another one to hell because he had not been baptized.

The people who teach these false teachings will surely have no place in heaven unless they repent. Little children do not know right from wrong. This makes them without sin. People who are without sin cannot repent. Those who say that children have sin do not believe in the goodness of God or in the sacrifice of His Son. Jesus paid for the sins of those who do not know good from evil. This includes children under eight years of age, people who are mentally sick, and those who never heard of Christ or His teachings and, therefore, sin without knowing better. Repentance is for the people who know what is right and do wrong anyway. It is followed by baptism. This shows that the person has faith in Christ and will obey the commandments He has given. This allows them to be forgiven of their sins through the atonement which Jesus made for them. When they realize that they can be forgiven, then they feel thankful and humble. This prepares them to receive the Holy Ghost which gives them a hope of a life to come and a perfect love. After this, if the person continues to pray and to be righteous until the end of his life, he gains a forgiveness of his sins. When death comes he is ready to live with God.

And now, my son, I must close. I will write to you again if I don't have to go to war soon. The pride of our people is going to lead them to destruction unless they stop sinning and start repenting. Pray for them, my son, that they may repent. But I am afraid that it is too late to save them because they are trying to do away with the church and all things that come from God. They are rejecting the Holy Ghost who tells them in their
hearts that what they are doing is wrong. When they do this they must surely perish as the prophets have said.

Goodbye my son until I shall write to you or meet you again.

Your Father,

Mormon
UNIT VII
THE NEPHITES MEET DESTRUCTION
Lesson 68
WHO NEEDS BAPTISM

I. Reference:

Section number 282
Moroni 8

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. What was Mormon's prayer for his son Moroni?
2. What was the problem that Moroni's people had?
3. How did Mormon get his answer to the problem? What was the answer?
4. Why do little children have no sin?
5. Why would God be cruel if he made little children be baptized?
6. What is going to happen to the people who teach that little children need baptism? Why is it wrong to believe this?
7. What three groups of people are forgiven of their sins without baptism?
8. Who needs baptism? What are the steps he must take to be forgiven of his sins?
9. What did Mormon think was going to happen to his people? Why?

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. Who made baptism for the remission of sins possible? How?
2. At what age should children be baptized? How do we know?
3. Why do you think that Mormon told Moroni to pray for the people even though they were wicked?
4. Some churches teach that children are born with Adam's sin. Why don't we believe this?
5. What did Jesus say about little children when He lived on the earth? What did Jesus do with the little children when He visited the Nephites?

V. Application:

Why shouldn't little children under eight years of age be baptized?
MORONI 10

283. Moroni wrote a final chapter to the Lamanites before he buried the gold plates. This is what he said: My brethren: When you read this book remember how kind and merciful our Father in Heaven has been to His children since the creation of Adam. Think about these things and let them sink down deep into your heart. And when you receive this book and have read its teachings, ask God, our Eternal Father, in the name of Jesus Christ if it is true. If you will do this sincerely and have a real desire to know, the Lord will answer your prayer and you will know that the Book of Mormon is true. This knowledge will be given to you by the Holy Ghost.

284. Moroni went on speaking to the Lamanites. He said: I ask you to remember the things which have been written to you in this book for the time is coming when you will know that they are true. You will see me at the judgment day when you stand before God. Then your Father in Heaven will say: Didn't I give my words unto you which were written by this man Moroni? If you have not accepted and followed these teachings then you will have no excuse when that day comes. But if you will follow the teachings of this book they will lead you to Christ. You will desire to seek good and righteous things and will want nothing to do with evil and unclean things. You must seek to be close to the Saviour. You do this through staying away from all evil and loving God with all of your might, mind, and strength. When you have this great love for God and His Son, Jesus Christ, you will not do anything to make them ashamed of you. They will love you and you will become perfect through the atonement of Christ. When you have reached this point
if you continue in righteousness and do not deny the power of God then you will be forgiven of your sins and will stand holy without any sins at the judgment day.

285. Moroni finished his book by saying: Goodby my brothers. I am going to the paradise of God. There my spirit will wait until I am resurrected and brought forth to meet you at the judgment bar of God. Amen.
UNIT VII

THE NEPHITES MEET DESTRUCTION

Lesson 69

CAN YOU KNOW THE BOOK OF MORMON IS TRUE

I. Reference:

Section numbers 283-285
Moroni 10

II. Devotional:

III. Background and Journal Work:

1. Who was the last chapter of Moroni's book written to?
2. What did Moroni ask us to remember?
3. Can you know that the Book of Mormon is true? Explain.
4. If a person will not take the time to find out that the Book of Mormon is true in this life, when will he find out?
5. What will the teachings of the Book of Mormon do for us if we apply them in our lives?
6. How can we show our love for our Heavenly Father?
7. What will be the reward of those who spend their life in trying to be near the Saviour and live His teachings?

IV. Understanding and Conviction:

1. Did Moroni know that you would be reading his words? Explain.
2. How do you think you would feel at the judgment day if you hadn't accepted the Book of Mormon?
3. Explain how a person can gain a testimony that the Book of Mormon is true.
4. How do we come close to Christ in this life?

V. Application:

Now you have studied the Book of Mormon. You have every right to know that it is true if you will prepare yourselves. Put your life in order so that you will be worthy and then pray for a testimony of the Book of Mormon. When you have done this, put the words "I have done this" for the application in your journal.
MOTIVATIONAL ITEMS

Lesson 1

Review briefly the life and contributions of Joseph Smith. Ask the class members what he did for the people of the world. List the things on the board. Then ask the students why Joseph was able to do so much. The answer is--because he was a prophet of God. After reaching this conclusion, a short discussion can be conducted upon the subjects "Why does the world need prophets" and "Have people in all ages of time had prophets of God?"

Lesson 2

Place the following quote on the board before the students get to class: "I, the Lord, am bound when ye do what I say; but when ye do not what I say, ye have no promise." (Doctrine and Covenants 82:10) After the devotional explain the meaning of the quote. Then ask the students to give examples of what it means. If they have trouble the teacher may furnish an example from the scriptures or from his experience. Have the students record the quote in their journals.

Lesson 3

Use the blackboard or flannel board to teach the lesson "Who are the Indians?" A pictorial outline follows on page 263.

Lesson 4

Tell the parable of the unmerciful servant. (Matthew 19:23-25) Explain its meaning.

Lesson 5

Many years ago if an Indian youth had a problem or needed counsel he
WHO ARE THE INDIANS

Abraham--A great prophet of God

Isaac

Jacob--God changed his name to ISRAEL

Twelve Tribes of Israel

Joseph--the greatest son

Judah--His children wrote the Bible

Manasseh  Ephriam

From Manasseh came the Prophet Lehi

THE INDIANS ARE THE CHILDREN OF JOSEPH

God has great blessings for them

New World

Promised Land

Brothers separated

Nephites  Lamanites

All killed

Records kept on gold plates

Translated into BOOK OF MORMON

Indians MANY TRIBES
would go to his father or to one of the wise men of the tribe. After explaining this ask the students if they think this was a good idea. Ask them if they will want to help their children when they become parents. Then explain that of all people God is the wisest. He loves His children dearly and wants to help them. There are many ways in which God can teach or counsel His children. Whenever He does this it is called revelation because it reveals God's will to His children. Today we will learn some of the many ways in which revelation can come.

Lesson 6

Ask the students what they think caused Columbus to want to cross the sea. Various answers may be given. Then ask them if they think that God had something to do with Columbus's voyage. After getting their response read from page 8 of The Kingdom of God Restored by Carter E. Grant. This tells that Columbus felt that he was inspired of God to come to America. Then tell the students that today's lesson will give us more information about what our Father in Heaven had to do with the history of America.

Lesson 7

Write the following thought on the blackboard: "The Lord helps those who help themselves." Ask the students if they can explain what this thought means. Then tell the following story: Two farmers planted corn on their farms. After the planting one farmer spent his time at home praying that the corn would grow and produce a good crop. The other farmer spent his time out in his cornfield weeding, watering, and fertilizing it. He spent all day working but he also prayed for a good crop at night. Which farmer do you think had the most successful crop? Why?

Lesson 8

Ask the question: "If a person lives a very righteous life, should
he expect that he will have no sickness, sorrow, or difficulties?" Have the students explain their answer. Then ask: "In what way is life more difficult for the person who is righteous? In what way is it more rewarding?" If the students can't answer these questions completely, tell them that the answers will be found in today's lesson.

Lesson 9

Tell the story of Hezekiah's experience with prayer as found in Isaiah 38:1-5. Explain the promises that we have that sincere prayers will be answered. (James 1:5-6, Matthew 7:7) Remind the students that the first vision came as a result of a sincere prayer.

Lesson 10

Tell or read the following experience that happened to Orson F. Whitney while on a mission in the Eastern States:

"Then came a marvelous manifestation, an admonition from a higher source, one impossible to ignore. It was a dream, or a vision in a dream, as I lay upon my bed in the little town of Columbia, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. I seemed to be in the Garden of Gethsemane, a witness to the Savior's agony. I saw Him as plainly as I have seen anyone. Standing behind a tree in the foreground, I beheld Jesus, with Peter, James and John, as they came through a little wicket gate at my right. Leaving the three Apostles there, after telling them to kneel and pray, the Son of God passed over to the other side, where He also knelt and prayed. It was the same prayer with which all Bible readers are familiar: 'Oh my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless not as I will but as Thou wilt.'

"As He prayed the tears streamed down His face, which was toward me. I was so moved at the sight that I also wept, out of pure sympathy. My whole heart went out to Him; I loved Him with all my soul, and longed to be with Him as I longed for nothing else.

"Presently He arose and walked to where those Apostles were kneeling--fast asleep! He shook them gently, awoke them, and in a tone of tender reproach, untintured by the least show of anger or impatience, asked them plaintively if they could not watch with Him one hour. There He was, with the awful weight of the world's sin upon His shoulders, with the pangs of every man, woman and child shooting through His sensitive soul--and they could not watch with Him one poor hour!

"Returning to His place, He offered up the same prayer as before; then went back again and found them sleeping. Again He
awoke them, readmonished them, and once more returned and prayed. Three times this occurred, until I was perfectly familiar with His appearance--face, form and movements. He was of noble stature and majestic mien--not at all the weak, effeminate being that some painters have portrayed; but the very God that He was and is, as meek and humble as a little child.

"All at once the circumstances seemed to change, the scene remaining just the same. Instead of before, it was after the crucifixion, and the Savior, with the three Apostles now stood together in a group at my left. They were about to depart and ascend to Heaven. I could endure it no longer. I ran from behind the tree, fell at His feet, clasped Him around the knees, and begged Him to take me with Him.

"I shall never forget the kind and gentle manner in which He stooped, raised me up, and embraced me. It was so vivid, so real. I felt the very warmth of His body, as He held me in His arms and said in tenderest tones; 'No, my son; these have finished their work; they can go with me; but you must stay and finish yours.' Still I clung to Him. Gazing up into His face--for He was taller than I--I besought Him fervently: 'Well, promise me that I will come to you at the last.' Smiling sweetly, He said: 'That will depend entirely upon yourself.' I awoke with a sob in my throat, and it was morning."


If read the story will have to be explained. Tell the students what Jesus was doing in the garden and explain how He suffered as given in the Doctrine and Covenants 19:15-19. Explain to them that all this He did for them. Then ask: "Do you think you owe this man something for what He did for you?"

Lesson 11

Tell the students about the fall of man as background material for the introduction. Then explain that after Adam and Eve had eaten the forbidden fruit the Lord told them that He was going to put them out of the garden into a world where there would be weeds, and they would have to work hard to make a living. The Lord said that He was doing this for their sake. (See Genesis 3:17) Ask the students why the Lord considered it a blessing to man to make it necessary for him to work. Discuss.
Lesson 12

Tell the story of Jesus and Nicodamus as recorded in John 3:1-5. Then ask the students if they think baptism is necessary for us to get to heaven. See if they know why baptism is necessary. If not, tell them to look for the answer in today's lesson.

Lesson 13

Ask the students how many of them have attended an L.D.S. testimony meeting. Have them tell what goes on in a testimony meeting. See if they know what is meant by "bearing testimony." If not, explain its meaning. Then read some examples of testimonies such as Job's (Job 19:25-27), Peter's (Matthew 16:16), and Joseph Smith's (Doctrine and Covenants 76:22-25). Follow this by bearing testimony of the truthfulness of the gospel and explain the importance of this testimony in your life.

Lesson 14

Most seminary teachers have the two illustrations from the L.D.S. Department of Education entitled "Are your lessons turned in or out?" Get an extra copy of these illustrations and cut off part of the words so that they read "Are you turned in or out?" Then show these illustrations to the class. Explain the difference between the self-centered "turned in" person and the one who is "turned out" and wants to serve others. Explain how true happiness is gained by serving others.

Lesson 15

Tell the story of the sinful woman who was forgiven as recorded in Luke 7:36-50. Explain that Jesus taught that repentant sinners such as this woman would get to heaven before the people who think that they are so righteous that they need no repentance. Discuss the problem: "Why would this be so?"
Lesson 16

Tell the students of some of the promises which Russia has made to the United States and then broken. There are many examples of this available. Then ask them if we can depend upon wicked men such as Khruschev to keep their promises. Draw the conclusion that since we cannot, we must try to avoid associating or dealing with the wicked except in cases where we can help them back to righteousness.

Lesson 17

Tell the following story. A new soldier was assigned to an army company for training. He soon became friendly with several men in the unit. One day he was talking to the supply sergeant who said: "If war comes and we are called up to the front lines I will kill the commanding officer." When asked why he would do this he replied: "The company commander is a poor leader. He would get us all killed unless something was done to get rid of him." Explain that the supply sergeant was wrong in what he planned to do but the story serves to illustrate how important it is to have a good leader. Explain that of the three major types of leaders which we have, government, military, and church, the only ones which we choose are our government leaders. Because we have this right we must use it wisely. In today's lesson we will see what happens when people choose poor men to lead them.

Lesson 18

Sing the song "Come, Come Ye Saints" for the devotional song. Then when it is time to begin the lesson, read the fourth verse of the song to the students and ask them why the pioneers were not afraid to die. Discuss.

Lesson 19

Tell the story of Saul of Tarsus. Tell of his wickedness in persecuting the church members, of his conversion, and then of his great zeal in serving the Lord. Explain that even wicked people can be forgiven of their
sins through sincere repentance, baptism and receiving the Holy Ghost.

Lesson 20

Tell the students that today we are going to discuss prophecy. Tell them what is meant by prophecy and then tell the following story to illustrate.

Among Brother Kimball's prophecies, the one which received the greatest publicity, and the miraculous fulfillment of which soon followed was made in 1848. It was during the time of famine when the half-starved, poorly clad settlers scarcely knew where to look for the next crust of bread or for rags to hide their nakedness, for clothing had become almost as scarce for them as breadstuff. Heber C. Kimball, filled with the spirit of prophecy, at a public meeting declared to the astonished congregation that within a short time, states' goods would be sold in the streets of Great Salt Lake City cheaper than in New York City and the people should be abundantly supplied with food and clothing. When he sat down, Charles C. Rich said: "I don't believe a word of it," and he voiced the sentiments of nine-tenths of those who had heard the astounding declaration. Heber himself was startled with his own words and as soon as the Spirit's voice abated, and the natural man had reasserted himself, he remarked to the brethren that he was afraid he had missed it this time. But the prophetic words were not of his own utterance. And He who had inspired them knew how to fulfill them.

The occasion for the fulfillment of this remarkable prediction was the discovery of gold in California. This had set on fire the civilized world; hundreds of richly laden trains now began pouring across the continent on their way to the new fields. Salt Lake Valley became the resting place or half-way house of the nation and before the Saints had time to recover from their surprise at Heber's temerity in making such a prophecy, the still more wonderful fulfillment was brought to their very doors.

The gold hunters were actuated by only one desire--to reach the Pacific Coast. This desire overshadowed everything else with them. Impatient at their slow progress and in order to lighten their loads, they sold for a song the valuable merchandise with which they had stored their wagons to cross the plains. Their choice blooded stock, they eagerly exchanged for fresh mules or horses of the pioneers and bargained almost at any sacrifice--dry goods, groceries, provisions, tools, clothing, and such, for the most primitive outfits with barely enough provisions to enable them to reach their journey's end. Thus as the Prophet Heber had predicted, states' goods were actually sold in the streets of Great Salt Lake City cheaper than they could be purchased in New York City.

Lesson 21

The film Decision makes a good introduction to this lesson. If the film is not available, review the Joseph Smith story and recall to the students' minds the problem which Joseph Smith had and how he reached a solution in determining which church he should join.

Lesson 22

Tell the story of how Peter denied knowing Jesus and how this caused him to weep bitterly afterward. Ask the students if they think that it was easy for Peter to gain forgiveness for this sin. Explain that when we sin the Holy Ghost leaves us and it is difficult to gain His companionship again. The more serious the sin, the more difficult it is to gain forgiveness.

Lesson 23

Briefly tell the story of the Willie and Martin handcart companies and the extreme hardships they went through. Then ask the class members if they think this happened because these people were more wicked than the other pioneers. Discuss.

Lesson 24

A story of a group of men known as "potholers" makes a good introduction to this lesson. The "potholers" are a group of people in England who enjoy exploring underground caves. On one occasion several of these men discovered a cave which they decided to explore. They followed the cave down deep into the earth. They found that it had many beautiful rooms and many smaller passageways leading off from it. One of the men in the group noticed a large opening at the end of one of these passageways. He attempted to crawl through and explore the room at the other end. The tunnel was small and as he went further in, it grew even narrower. Soon he had gone as far as he could go. When he attempted to crawl back he found that he was stuck. He called for
help. One of the other men crawled into the passageway to help him. He pulled on his legs but he could not free him. Then the other explorers discovered the presence of a poisonous gas in the tunnel. They tried desperately to free their friend and get him out. Finally in desperation they even broke his collar bones hoping that he could then be pulled free. This didn't work. Then after everything had failed, the explorers were forced to leave their friend behind while they hurried out of the tunnel in order to save their own lives. The man who was stuck was left to die. He had gone too far and he couldn't come back. Compare this with men who go so far into sin that they cannot return.

Lesson 25

Use the following reasoning in introducing this lesson: Suppose you were going to build a house. You have bought the brick, the cement, the lumber, the gravel, the doors, and all the other necessary materials. They have been delivered to the place where you plan to build. Then you hire a plumber, an electrician, some carpenters, and the other men who have skills important to building a house. You call them together and explain that the materials are all at the building site. You ask them to go there and build the house. Do you think they will be able to do a good job for you? What have you forgotten? The answer is a plan, or a blueprint. Then explain how the blueprint gives the builders a guide to their building. It can be compared to a testimony. A testimony gives a person a guide to the type of life that will lead him back to God. Discuss the importance of a testimony.

Lesson 26

Ask the following question: "What would happen in America if all the policemen and law enforcement officers were laid off their jobs? What would happen if we kept the officers but let a group of Communists make the laws?"
Discuss. Bring out the point that good laws are a protection and a blessing to righteous people.

Lesson 27

Ask the students who won World War II. After they answer the question ask them if the war helped America. Bring out the point that it enabled us to retain our freedom. Then explain that 22,060,000 men were killed and 34,400,000 men were wounded in this war. Besides this a tremendous amount of materials were used or destroyed. In the light of all this can we say that we won the war? Discuss.

Lesson 28

Tell the story of David. Explain how through faithfulness he pleased the Lord and as a result he was greatly blessed. Then he fell into sin and dishonored his calling as a prophet of God. Explain that all men are tempted and even the best of them may fall if they don’t remain close to the Lord and constantly seek His help in their lives.

Lesson 29

Show the filmstrip Will You Be Ready. All the seminaries should have this, but if not it is available from the L.D.S. Department of Education.

Lesson 30

Ask the students what they think of when they think of power. Show them Arnold Friberg’s picture of the children of Israel crossing the Red Sea. Ask “How was Moses able to have such great power as to cause the Red Sea to part?” Explain that through the power of the priesthood this was accomplished. Discuss the power that goes with the priesthood and give examples from the scriptures. A good one can be found in Moses 7:13.

Lesson 31

Present a short synopsis of the talk entitled “The Problem of Evil In the World” by William E. Berrett. It was given June 21, 1960 and it is
available from the L.D.S. Department of Education.

Lesson 32

Tell about the angel of the Lord appearing to Adam and instructing him about animal sacrifice. Explain why the Lord instituted this practice and why we do not have it today. Then tell the students that the Lord expects a different type of sacrifice from us today. Ask if they know what this could be. If not, explain the sacrifice Amulek made for the gospel and the sacrifices which they, the students, might be called upon to make.

Lesson 33

Tell the students that you are going to read them an experience from the life of a missionary. Tell them that afterward you would like them to tell whether they think this man was a good missionary or not and why. Then read the following experience from the life of Wilford Woodruff:

I will here relate what took place in my own experience. I was in Staffordshire in the year 1840. I was in the town of Stanley and held a meeting in the City Hall. I had a week's appointments out in that town. Before I rose to speak to the people, the Spirit of the Lord said to me, "This is the last meeting you will hold with this people for many days." I told the congregation when I arose what the Spirit of the Lord had manifested to me. They were as much surprised as I was. I did not know what the Lord wanted, but I saw the purpose of God afterwards. The Spirit of the Lord said to me, "Go south." I traveled eighty miles; went into the south of England. As soon as I arrived, I met John Benbow. It was clearly made manifest to me why I had been called thither. I had left a good field, where I was baptizing every night in the week. When I got to this place, I found a people--some 600 of them--who had broken off from the Wesleyan Methodists and formed themselves into a sect called the United Brethren. I found that they were praying for light and truth and that they had gone about as far as they could go. I saw that the Lord had sent me to them. I went to work amongst them and ultimately baptized their superintendent, forty preachers and some 600 members; I baptized every member of that denomination, but one. Altogether some 1800 were baptized in that field of labor. I suppose some of those then baptized may be in this congregation today. I name these things to show how we have to be governed and led by the revelations of God day by day. Without this we can do nothing.


After the reading the students will probably say that he was a good missionary because of the many people he baptized. Ask them to look deeper into the
story and try to find what made him a good missionary and enabled him to baptize so many people. Stress the importance of being close to the Lord, especially when doing the Lord's work.

Lesson 34

Tell the students the following story to illustrate faith:

One day a little girl was sent to take a lunch to her father who was digging a well. When she reached the well she looked in but it was so dark that she could not see her father. She called to him and he answered. He told her to jump into the well and he would catch her. The well looked deep. She could not see her father but she had faith that he was there and that he would catch her. She jumped and her father caught her. Faith is believing in a thing so strongly that you do the thing that you believe in without having a sure knowledge that it is true. In our lesson today we will see a fine example of faith.

Lesson 35

Explain the following to the class: Very soon after the gospel was restored and the Church was organized the Lord told Joseph Smith to send missionaries to the Indians. He wanted them to be among the first to have the gospel taken to them. By this we can see God's great love and concern for the Indians. Joseph Smith also loved the Indians. In the following true story we find that he promised that they will soon be a blessed people again, if they will accept the gospel and live righteous lives.

The Indian orator arose and asked the Prophet if the men who were present were all his friends. Answer--Yes. He then said--We as a people have long been distressed and oppressed. We have been driven from our lands many times. We have been wasted away by wars, until there are but few of us left. The white man has hated us and shed our blood, until it has appeared as though there would soon be no Indians left. We have talked with the Great Spirit, and the Great Spirit has talked with us. We have asked the Great Spirit to save us and let us live; and the Great Spirit has told us that he had raised up a Prophet chief, and friend, who would do us
great good and tell us what to do; and the Great Spirit has told us that you are the man (pointing to the Prophet Joseph). We have now come a great way to see you, and hear your words and to have you tell us what to do. Our horses have become poor traveling, and we are hungry. We will now wait and hear your word.

The Spirit of God rested upon the Lamanites, especially the orator. Joseph was much affected and shed tears. He arose and said unto them: "I have heard your words. They are true. The Great Spirit has told you the truth. I am your friend and brother, and I wish to do you good. Your fathers were once a great people. They worshipped the Great Spirit. The Great Spirit did them good. He was their friend; but they left the Great Spirit and would not hear his words or keep them. The Great Spirit left them, and they began to kill one another, and they have been poor and afflicted until now.

"The Great Spirit has given me a book, and told me that you will soon be blessed again. The Great Spirit will soon begin to talk with you and your children. This is the book which your fathers made. I wrote upon it (showing them the Book of Mormon). This tells what you will have to do. I now want you to begin to pray to the Great Spirit. I want you to make peace with one another, and do not kill any more Indians; it is not good. Do not kill white men it is not good; but ask the Great Spirit for what you want, and it will not be long before the Great Spirit will bless you and you will cultivate the earth and build good houses like the white men. We will give you something to eat and take home with you."


Lesson 36

During the Korean War many acts of bravery were performed by our soldiers. One of these acts shows us a great example of man's love for his fellow men: During a great battle several American soldiers were together in a foxhole on the front lines. The enemy was attacking them. During the fight an enemy hand grenade was thrown into their foxhole. One of the soldiers saw it light. Without hesitating he pulled off his helmet, put it over the grenade and then covered it with his body. The grenade went off and the soldier was killed. But, the rest of the soldiers in the foxhole were unhurt. This man might have escaped by jumping out of the hole before the grenade went off. Instead he chose to give his life in order to
save the lives of his friends. He loved his brothers even more than he loved himself.

Lesson 37

Show the film *With All Your Heart*. This provides an excellent introduction to this lesson.

Lesson 38

Tell the parable of the sower. Explain its meaning. Point out to the students that the seeds that failed to produce represent the people who either fail to gain a testimony or those who fail to live worthy to keep their testimony. Explain that in today's lesson Alma compares the gospel to a seed and explains how we can gain a testimony.

Lesson 39

Read the story "The Long Road of Corianton" found on pages 178-179 in the June 1959 copy of *The Instructor*. Point out to the students that Corianton was not prepared to meet God. The only way he could become prepared was through sincere repentance.

Lesson 40

Briefly explain the meaning of the word "resurrection." Then read the following eyewitness accounts of the resurrection: Ezekiel's account--Ezekiel 37:1-10; John's account--Revelation 20:1-13; and Joseph Smith's account:

So plain was the vision, that I actually saw men, before they had ascended from the tomb as though they were getting up slowly. They took each other by the hand and said to each other, "My father, my son, my mother, my daughter, my brother, my sister." And when the voice calls for the dead to arise, suppose I am laid by the side of my father, what would be the first joy of my heart? To meet my father, my mother, my sister; and when they are by my side, I embrace them and they me.

Lesson 41

Briefly tell the class the story of the Jaredites. Stress the warnings which the Lord gave respecting the importance of remaining righteous if they were to keep America. Explain what happened when they turned away from God.

Lesson 42

Tell the story of the Fishing River incident where a man named "Campbell" said that he would kill Joseph Smith or would die trying. It is found in Carter E. Grant's book, The Kingdom of God Restored, pp. 184-185. Compare this with Amalickiah who boasted that he would drink Moroni's blood.

Lesson 43

Ask the students to furnish some ideas about what the Indian people need most. Put the ideas on the blackboard. Be sure that "good leaders" is on the list. Then explain that we are dealing with the problem of good leaders in this lesson. Impress them with the idea that they can provide some of the leadership which their people need so badly if they will prepare themselves. Explain that in this lesson we will learn some of the qualities of a good leader.

Lesson 44

Ask the students if they would rather live in a country where they can vote for their leaders or in one where a dictator is in control. Have them explain their answers. Ask them if they think that people who can vote have a responsibility to learn about who is running in the election and to make as wise a choice as they can. Discuss.

Lesson 45

Ask each of the students who their best friend is and why he is their best friend. After giving all a chance to answer ask them if any of their friends have done as much for them as the Lord has. Explain how friends
sometimes begin to think that they are better than we are and soon they
don't even speak to us anymore. Ask them how they would feel if this
happened to them. Then compare this example to a similar one where God's
children think they are too good to talk to Him anymore. Ask the students
how they think the Lord feels when His children don't want His love or help
anymore. Discuss.

Lesson 46

Present a story from your own experience demonstrating how the gospel
has made a great change in someone's life. Or the following example may be
used: One day while tracting, two L.D.S. missionaries were invited into a
home where the family had some real problems. The husband and wife had
been divorced. They had four small children whom the father came to visit
regularly. Each time he would come there would be a big argument in the
home. The father was a chain smoker, a heavy drinker, and a gambler. People
who knew him said that he was one of the roughest men that they had ever
known. The mother also was a chain smoker.

When the missionaries called at their home they were allowed to present
the first missionary lesson. The people were interested. They invited the
missionaries back. After several visits the parents began to make an effort
to stop smoking. When they had stopped their bad habits they wanted to be
remarried. The missionaries received permission from the Mission President
to marry them after which they were baptized. Today this family has been
sealed together in the temple. The husband is a branch president of a large
branch of the Church in Montana. He also teaches an early morning seminary
class. The people who knew this family before they joined the church thought
that a miracle had happened to change them so much. It was a miracle--a
miracle performed by the gospel.
Lesson 47

Tell how Hitler tried to teach his people that they were a super race which was better than any other people in the world. Explain that this was not true. Great men from all races have made important contributions to mankind. Our Church teaches us to marry within our own race, but it also teaches us that all men are brothers. We ought to treat all races of men as such.

Lesson 48

Tell the story of President Lorenzo Snow and his problem of finance within the Church. Explain how the problem was solved. If possible show the film *The Windows of Heaven*. For information for the introduction see *Faith of our Pioneer Fathers* by Bryant S. Hinkley, pp. 50-53.

Lesson 49

Tell the story of Jonah and how he warned the wicked people of Ninevah. Point out that in this case the wicked repented and the people were saved. Contrast this with the people of Noah's day. Noah warned them but they rejected him. They were destroyed. Point out that God always warns the wicked and gives them a chance to repent. Then if they will not listen, they are destroyed.

Lesson 50

Explain how the flood was a blessing for the little children and the spirits who might have been born to the wicked people who were killed in the flood. Use Enoch's experience (Moses 7:27-33) to show the great sorrow which God had when He had to destroy His children.

Lesson 51

Show the film *A Chosen People*. If it is not available explain some of the hardships that were inflicted upon the Indians by the white settlers.
A good source for this information is the talk entitled "The Children of The First Covenant" by Spencer W. Kimball. It is available from the L.D.S. Department of Education. Ask the students why the Lord would allow these things to happen to His "chosen people." Explain that the Lamanites were a chosen people only as long as they were righteous. They do, however, have a chance to regain their position through righteous living. Explain that our lesson today will show us what a righteous and happy people the Lamanites once were.

Lesson 52

Read and explain the Fifth Commandment as given in Exodus 20:12. Ask the students for ideas on how we can honor our parents.

Lesson 53

Read or tell the experience which President McKay had with prayer while in his youth and his testimony of prayer. It is found in his book, Gospel Ideals, (Salt Lake City, Utah: The Improvement Era, 1953), pp. 524-25.

Lesson 54

Tell of the lives of David and Sampson both of whom failed God. Then tell of such great men as Daniel H. Wells, Joseph Smith, and Parley P. Pratt who served God. Explain what makes the difference between success and failure.

Lesson 55

Bring a current article to the class from the newspaper telling of some serious crime. If possible get one with a picture of the criminal. Show the class the picture, tell them a little about the article and explain how the hardened criminal usually cares little about other people. He will use them when they can do something for him but he seldom sticks by them when they are in trouble. Often he will even double cross his own partner. Explain how the devil is the greatest of criminals. Tell the story of
Korihor (Alma 30:12-60) as an example of what he does to people and then how he deserts them after they ruin their lives to follow him.

Lesson 56

Ask the students why we have the sacrament in Church. See if they know the promises which we make by taking the sacrament. Explain the sacredness of this covenant and how it is a renewal of our baptismal covenant. Then call to the students' minds the time when they were baptized. Ask them why they were baptized. List the reasons on the blackboard. Then ask the students to see if they can find these reasons in today's lesson.

Lesson 57

Draw a figure of a man on the blackboard. Label him "the Ideal Christian." Ask the students to tell you what this ideal Christian is like. List the qualities or ideas on the board. Then pass out the sheet entitled "A True Follower of Christ" and compare these qualities given by Jesus with the ones which have been listed.

Lesson 58

Tell a story of a teen-age boy who met a girl whom he really liked. How could he please her so that she would like him? Discuss. Then discuss how a person can please Jesus who has done so much for him. See how many of the things which one would do to please another person would also please Jesus. Discuss also the ones which might please others but wouldn't please Jesus, and what we should do when we have to make the choice.

Lesson 59

Ask the students how much they would have to love a person before they would be willing to give them their eyes. Discuss. Show a picture of Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane. Give the students the known details concerning what happened to Jesus when He took upon himself the sins
of the world. Also tell of His death on the cross. Explain the terrible suffering He went through in these two experiences. Then make it plain to each student that Jesus did this just as much for him as for any other person. Then ask if they think Jesus loves them. Discuss His great love for us and His great desire that we accept His gospel and live righteous lives.

Lesson 60

Ask the following question: Suppose we had twenty ministers from different Christian churches visit our class at one time. What would each one say if you asked, "Who has the true church?" Then ask the class how they would know who had the truth. Tell them that today we will discover something which will aid us in finding out who does have the true church.

Lesson 61

Tell the story of Jesus's promise to the Apostle John that he would live to see the Second Coming of Christ. (John 21:20-23, Doctrine and Covenants, Section 7) Then explain that according to tradition John was taken by his enemies who tried to kill him by boiling him in oil. It didn't kill him so they put him out on an island instead. Then explain that Jesus made a promise similar to that which John received to three men in America. Many Indian people living today claim to have seen these men. (See "Indian Traditions," Improvement Era, (Salt Lake City: Deseret News Press, April 1955), pp. 240-241.

Lesson 62

Ask the students if they think the people of America as a whole are happy. Discuss the indicators that they are not such as divorce rates, crime, prisons being full, the number of alcoholics, suicides, etc. Point out that material prosperity does not bring happiness. True happiness only comes through righteousness.
Lesson 63

Tell the story of the child Samuel and how as a young man the Lord spoke to him. Then explain that the greatest vision we have any record of came to a teen-age boy named Joseph Smith. Explain that the Lord is concerned with teen-agers and can be of great help to those who will seek Him. During our youth is the best time to learn to be near the Lord.

Lesson 64

Tell and explain the following story by President McKay. Several boys were swimming together at a swimming hole. None of the boys were very good swimmers. One boy got out too far and went in over his head. He began to drown. As he called for help, one of the other boys on the bank grabbed a long stick and held it out to the drowning boy who caught hold of it and was saved. Explain--the boy on the bank offered the help that would save the drowning boy. Still he could not save him unless the boy in the water would hold on to the stick. In the same way, God offers us the plan of salvation which will grant us a forgiveness of our sins and save us in His kingdom. Still He cannot force us to be saved. All He can do is offer salvation to us. We must choose to accept or reject it ourselves. The wicked can't be helped because they won't allow themselves to be helped.

Lesson 65

Explain what Jesus told the weeping woman while He was on His way to the cross. Tell how this prophecy was fulfilled when Jerusalem was destroyed. Explain to the students that sometimes wicked people escape being caught by the law but they cannot escape paying for their wickedness when they reach the hereafter.

Lesson 66

Ask this question: If you were the last person left in America
and you were given a chance to write to the people who would be here 1500 years later, what would you write? Discuss. Then tell the students that this situation is much similar to Mormon's. He was writing for a people who would live hundreds of years later.

Lesson 67

Show several books to the class. Include several non-scriptural books and a Bible. Ask the students if there is any important difference between the Bible and the other books. Discuss. Then hold up the Bible and the Book of Mormon. Ask the students if there is any important difference between these two books. Discuss. Bring out the point that they contain different histories but both are scripture and are equally important in teaching us the way back to God.

Lesson 68

If possible show pictures of infants being baptized. Some good ones are found in the book *The World's Great Religions* put out by *Life* magazine. /Henry R. Luce (ed.), *The World's Great Religions* (New York: Time Incorporated, 1957),/ Explain to the students that most Christian churches baptize infants. They believe that if they die without being baptized that they go to Hell. Ask the students if they think this is a true teaching. If not, what is wrong with it? Find out what the class knows about the subject and then add to this by using the lesson.

Lesson 69

This can be the high point of the course if the teacher will bear his testimony of the truthfulness of the Book of Mormon to the class and then invite each one of them to explain how he feels about the truthfulness of this book.
APPENDIX
23. After Lehi had told his sons about what he had seen in his dream he began to
tell them some of the other things which the Lord had shown him. He said
that 600 years from the time they left Jerusalem the Son of God would be born.
He told them that He would be born among the Jews and that another prophet
would be sent to tell the people about Him and prepare His way. Lehi said
this other man would baptize Jesus. He also told them that the Jews would
not listen to Jesus and would kill Him. Then He would rise from the dead
and return to His Father in Heaven. He would suffer and die for us so that
we could be forgiven of our sins through accepting Him.

23 A.
Lehi was told that Jesus would be born among the __a___. He said it would
be __b___ years after they left Jerusalem. He told them that Jesus would
pay for their __c___ if they would __d____ Him.

   b. 600        b.
   c. sins       c.
   d. accept     d.

I Nephi 11
24. When Nephi heard his father tell of all these wonderful things he wanted to
know more about them. As he sat thinking about what he had heard, the Holy
Ghost came and took him away to a high mountain. Then the Spirit asked him
what he wanted to know. He said that he wanted to see the things that his
father had seen.

24 A.
While Nephi was thinking about what Lehi had said the __a___ took him
away to a high mountain. When he was asked what he wanted, he said he
wanted to see what __b___. had seen.

   a. Holy Ghost     a.
   b. his father     b.
119. Alma began his mission in his own city of Zarahemla. Here the people had done many wicked things. It was very difficult for him to get them to repent and turn back to the church. He realized that the job he was trying to do was a big one. But he knew that with God's help he could accomplish it. Finally, after much work and preaching Alma was able to get the church in Zarahemla back in order. He talked to the church members who had been unfaithful. Those of them who were willing to repent and come back into the church were allowed to do so. The others were excommunicated. (This means that they had their names taken off the records of the church.) Alma also talked to the nonmembers and he baptized many. After setting the church in order in Zarahemla Alma went on to the next Nephite city which was Gideon.

1. Why did Alma have a hard time getting the people of Zarahemla to repent and come back to the church?

2. What did Alma do with the church members who had been wicked but wished to repent?

3. What did he do with the members who would not repent?

4. Why did Alma talk to the nonmembers?

ALMA 7

120. In Gideon Alma again began to teach the people. He told them how important it was to keep themselves worthy members of the church. They must not waste their lives seeking for riches and other worldly things. It would not be long until God was going to send His Son to the earth. He was going to be born to a woman named Mary in Jerusalem and God would be His father.
ABSTRACT

This course has been written to present a simplified version of the Book of Mormon for use with students whose reading skills are below average. It was specifically designed for released-time Indian seminary students. The Indian students often find it very hard to compete with white students in seminary. Where this problem exists teachers have found it advisable to form all-Indian classes.

Released-time Indian seminary classes are a recent addition to the L.D.S. Seminary system. In the 1962-63 school year two such classes were held. The future holds promise that many more will be instituted. Teaching the Book of Mormon to released-time Indian students requires a course of study quite different from those employed to teach white students. Until the time of this writing such a course of study had not been made. For this reason this course was developed. It was first used in a released-time seminary class composed of Ute and Navaho Indians. The course was taught during the 1962-63 school year at the Blanding Seminary in Blanding, Utah. It covers a major part of the material in the Book of Mormon. In form it continually evolved as new and better ideas were discovered. The final product incorporates the best of these ideas. In make-up it consists of a text and a series of sixty-nine lessons. The text is composed of rewritten and simplified material taken from the Book of Mormon. The lessons are made to follow the directional objectives and the standard format of the L.D.S. Seminary system. Motivational items are included for each lesson. As a special feature the course includes a plan for building the vocabulary of the students who study
it. It also includes suggestions on how the course can be modified in order to meet a variety of uses.