

Book of Mormon

Class Member Study Guide



Comments and Suggestions

Your comments and suggestions about this study guide would be appreciated. Please submit them to:

Curriculum Planning
50 East North Temple Street, Floor 24
Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3200
USA
E-mail: cur-development@ldschurch.org

Please list your name, address, ward, and stake. Be sure to give the title of the study guide. Then offer your comments and suggestions about the study guide's strengths and areas of potential improvement.

Published by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Salt Lake City, Utah

© 1999 by Intellectual Reserve, Inc.
All rights reserved
Printed in the United States of America

English approval: 8/96

Introduction

In a meeting with the Twelve Apostles, the Prophet Joseph Smith “told the brethren that the Book of Mormon was the most correct of any book on earth, and the keystone of our religion, and a man would get nearer to God by abiding by its precepts, than by any other book” (*History of the Church*, 4:461; see also the introduction to the Book of Mormon).

This study guide is designed as a companion to your study of the Book of Mormon. It is divided into numbered sections that correspond with the lessons in the Book of Mormon Gospel Doctrine course. Each section provides the week’s reading assignment and questions to enhance your study. You may use these questions to improve personal application of the scriptures and to prepare to make meaningful contributions to class discussions.

You share with your Gospel Doctrine teacher the responsibility to help the class be successful. The Lord has said that teachers need to “preach . . . by

the Spirit of truth” and that those who receive “the word of truth” should “receive it by the Spirit of truth” (D&C 50:17, 19). Come to class prepared to contribute insights, ask questions, share appropriate experiences, bear testimony, and listen attentively to the teacher and the other class members. When you have studied the reading assignments and pondered the questions in this study guide, you will be better prepared to experience the fulfillment of the Lord’s words when He said, “He that preacheth and he that receiveth, understand one another, and both are edified and rejoice together” (D&C 50:22).

This study guide is a valuable resource for families. You may use the study questions to prompt gospel-centered discussions among family members. Also, each section contains a suggestion for family discussion. Family members may want to refer to these suggestions as they prepare lessons for family home evenings.

“The Keystone of Our Religion”

1

Prayerfully study the following scriptures: 1 Nephi 13:38–41; 19:23; 2 Nephi 25:21–22; 27:22; 29:6–9; Mormon 8:26–41; Ether 5:2–4; Moroni 1:4; 10:3–5; Doctrine and Covenants 10:45–46; 20:8–12; 84:54–58. Also study the introductory material to the Book of Mormon.

- According to the second paragraph of the title page of the Book of Mormon, what are three purposes of the Book of Mormon?

- What have you learned from the Book of Mormon about Jesus Christ? How has the Book of Mormon strengthened your testimony of Jesus Christ?
- What passages in the Book of Mormon are particularly inspiring to you?

Suggestion for Family Discussion

As a family, read the following statement by President Marion G. Romney:

“I feel certain that if, in our homes, parents will read from the Book of Mormon prayerfully and regularly, both by themselves and with their children, the spirit of that great book will come to permeate our homes and all who dwell therein. The spirit of reverence will increase; mutual respect and consideration for each other will grow. The spirit of contention will depart. Parents will counsel their children in greater love and wisdom. Children will be more responsive and submissive to the counsel of their parents. Righteousness will increase.

Faith, hope, and charity—the pure love of Christ—will abound in our homes and lives, bringing in their wake peace, joy, and happiness” (in Conference Report, Apr. 1980, 90; or *Ensign*, May 1980, 67).

Talk about the blessings that will come to your family as you follow this counsel. Make a plan to meet as a family daily to study the Book of Mormon. Encourage each family member to take responsibility to follow the plan.

“All Things According to His Will”

2

1 Nephi 1–7

- One of the first events described in the Book of Mormon is the departure from Jerusalem of Lehi and his family. What circumstances led to this departure? (See 1 Nephi 1:4–15, 18–20; 2:1–3.)
- Why did the people of Jerusalem reject the message of Lehi and other prophets? (See 1 Nephi 1:19–20; 2:12–13; 16:1–2.) Why do some people today rebel against the Lord and His servants? What can you learn from Nephi about how to make your heart more receptive to the teachings of the prophets? (See 1 Nephi 2:16, 19.)
- Why did Lehi’s family need to obtain the brass plates? (See 1 Nephi 3:3, 19–20; 4:15–16; see also 1 Nephi 5:21–22; Mosiah 1:3–7.)

As you study 1 Nephi 2–4, compare the characteristics of Nephi with the characteristics of Laman and Lemuel. You may want to give particular attention to the following passages: 1 Nephi 1:1; 2:11–13, 16, 19; 3:5, 7, 14–15, 31; 4:1, 3.

Suggestion for Family Discussion

Discuss why Lehi’s family needed to obtain the brass plates. Talk about why you are thankful to have the scriptures. Then ask family members to make a list of friends who do not have copies of the Book of Mormon. Prayerfully consider ways to give copies of the Book of Mormon to some or all of these people. You may want to provide each family member with a copy of the Book of Mormon to give away.

The Vision of the Tree of Life

3

1 Nephi 8–11; 12:16–18; 15

As you study the account of the vision of the tree of life, watch for the following symbols and their meanings:

Tree of life (1 Nephi 8:10; 11:8–25)

Fruit of the tree of life (1 Nephi 8:10–18, 30; 15:36; see also D&C 14:7)

Rod of iron (1 Nephi 8:19–24, 30; 11:25; 15:23–24)

Mist of darkness (1 Nephi 8:23–24; 12:17)

River of filthy water (1 Nephi 8:13, 26, 32; 15:26–29)

Great and spacious building (1 Nephi 8:26–28, 31, 33; 12:18)

- When Nephi was shown the tree of life, he asked to know its interpretation (1 Nephi 11:8–11). What did he learn that the tree represents? (See 1 Nephi 11:21–25.) What did Nephi see that helped him better understand God's love? (See 1 Nephi 11:13–21, 24, 26–33; see also John 3:16.)
- How did Lehi and Nephi describe the tree of life and its fruit? (See 1 Nephi 8:10–12; 11:8–9, 23; 15:36.)
- In the vision, Lehi saw "numberless concourses of people" (1 Nephi 8:21).

These people can be divided into four categories based on their attitudes toward the tree and the fruit. Read 1 Nephi 8:21–33, and look for these four categories. How are these categories manifest in the world today? In which category do you feel you are?

Suggestion for Family Discussion

Conduct the following activity to help family members better understand the vision of the tree of life:

Blindfold a member of the family and spin him or her in circles. Explain that the blindfold represents the mist of darkness. Then place a picture of the Savior somewhere in the room. Challenge the blindfolded family member to walk to the picture without help from anyone. When it becomes apparent that he or she will not be able to walk directly to the picture, have one family member stand by the picture, holding one end of a piece of string (representing the iron rod). Have another family member hold the other end. Then have the blindfolded family member catch hold of the string and walk to the picture.

"The Things Which I Saw While I Was Carried Away in the Spirit"

4

1 Nephi 12–14

- In 1 Nephi 12, Nephi describes his vision of the future of his seed (his descendants) and the seed of his brothers. In what ways did the symbols in the vision of the tree of life (the mist of darkness, the great and

spacious building, and the river of filthy water) foreshadow the downfall of Nephi's seed?

- What did Nephi see formed "among the nations of the Gentiles"? (See 1 Nephi 13:4–5.) Who is the founder

of the great and abominable church? (See 1 Nephi 13:6.)

- What did the great and abominable church do to the Bible? (See 1 Nephi 13:20–26.) Why? (See 1 Nephi 13:27.) What are some doctrines that are difficult to understand in the Bible but plain and precious in the Book of Mormon? How has the Book of Mormon helped make the Bible more understandable to you or increased your testimony of the Bible?
- Nephi saw that even though the members of the Lord’s Church in the last days would be comparatively few, they would be able to overcome

the persecution of the great and abominable church. What did Nephi see the Saints of God armed with? (See 1 Nephi 14:14.) How can you be “armed with righteousness and with the power of God”?

Suggestion for Family Discussion

Read selected verses from 1 Nephi 12–14 as a family. As you study these chapters, give close attention to Nephi’s prophecies. Suggest that family members mark the prophecies in their scriptures. Make a list of the prophecies that have been fulfilled.

“Hearken to the Truth, and Give Heed unto It”

5

1 Nephi 16–22

As you study 1 Nephi 16–18, look for ways in which Nephi demonstrated obedience, faith, and courage. Think of ways you can follow Nephi’s example.

- How did the way in which Nephi responded to trials differ from the way in which many of his family members responded? (Contrast 1 Nephi 18:16 with 1 Nephi 16:18–20, 34–36; 17:21.) How can we overcome the tendency to murmur when we face trials?

Study the following scriptures about obeying God’s commandments. You may want to mark these passages.

1 Nephi 3:7	D&C 130:20–21
1 Nephi 17:3	Abraham 3:25
D&C 82:10	

Suggestion for Family Discussion

Obtain two pieces of rope—one in good condition and one that is frayed. Display the rope that is in good condition, and explain that it is made of many threads. Explain that just as it is important for the threads of the rope to remain tightly woven together, it is important for families to be united. Then display the rope that is frayed. Explain that just as rope is weakened when the threads separate, families are weakened when they are not united.

Review the account in 1 Nephi 16–18. Consider how the actions of individual members of Lehi’s family affected the family’s unity. Talk about what you can do as a family to be more united.

“Free to Choose Liberty and Eternal Life”

6

2 Nephi 1–2

2 Nephi 1 contains counsel that Lehi gave to his sons shortly before he died. As you study this chapter, look for specific things that Lehi counseled his sons to do and for the blessings that he promised they would receive if they obeyed his counsel.

As you study 2 Nephi 2, look for the words *free*, *act*, and *choose*. You may want to mark these words when you find them. Take time to ponder the importance of these words.

- Read 2 Nephi 2:6–8. How can you “make these things known”? How does your making these things known show gratitude to the Savior for His Atonement?
- Read 2 Nephi 2:15–25 and look for (1) conditions that existed for Adam and Eve before they partook of the forbidden fruit and (2) the opposition they experienced after they partook of the fruit. What blessings can you receive because the Fall of

Adam and Eve brought opposition into the world? (See 2 Nephi 2:23–27; Moses 5:10–12.)

Suggestion for Family Discussion

Explain that missionaries are often asked questions that are answered clearly in the Book of Mormon. Invite family members to play the role of missionaries who are asked the questions below. Have them answer the questions using the accompanying scriptures from 2 Nephi 2.

1. What do you mean when you say that Jesus is the Savior? (See 2 Nephi 2:5–10.)
2. Why does God allow both good and evil in the world? (See 2 Nephi 2:11–13.)
3. I don’t want a lot of commandments. Won’t my freedom be limited if I follow Jesus’ teachings? (See 2 Nephi 2:26–29.)

“I Know in Whom I Have Trusted”

7

2 Nephi 3–5

- As you study 2 Nephi 3, look for teachings about the Prophet Joseph Smith. How have you been blessed through the contributions of Joseph Smith?
- How did Nephi find hope despite feeling “encompassed about” by temptation and sin? (See 2 Nephi 4:18–25.) How can remembering blessings you have received in the past help you through difficult times?

Suggestion for Family Discussion

As a family, read some or all of 2 Nephi 4:15–35. Explain that this passage is sometimes called “the Psalm of Nephi.” It expresses some of Nephi’s deepest feelings. Discuss why it is important to sometimes “write the things of [our] soul[s],” as Nephi did (2 Nephi 4:15). Encourage family members to frequently write about their feelings. They may occasionally want to record their feelings in the form of a poem or song of praise.

"O How Great the Goodness of Our God"

8

2 Nephi 6–10

2 Nephi 9 contains a discourse by Jacob, one of Nephi's younger brothers, about the Atonement of Jesus Christ, which is the central event in the plan of salvation. To understand the teachings in this chapter, it is helpful to understand the terms *temporal death* and *spiritual death*. For an explanation of these terms, see Bible Dictionary, "Death," 655.

- What did the Savior do to overcome temporal death and spiritual death? (See 2 Nephi 9:5–7, 12, 21–22; see also Luke 22:44; Mosiah 3:7; D&C 19:16–19.)
- According to Jacob, what are some of the things we must do to be "saved in the kingdom of God," or permitted to dwell in God's presence forever? (See 2 Nephi 9:18, 21, 23–24, 39, 41, 50–52.)
- What are some attitudes and actions that prevent us from receiving all the blessings of the Atonement? (See 2 Nephi 9:27–38.)

- Jacob prophesied that the Nephites' descendants would "perish in the flesh because of unbelief" and that the Jews in Jerusalem would crucify the Savior and be scattered because of their sins (2 Nephi 10:2–6). What will the Lord do for these people when they believe in Him and repent of their sins? (See 2 Nephi 10:2, 7–8, 21–22; see also 1 Nephi 21:15–16; 2 Nephi 9:1–3, 53; 30:2.) How does this apply to us individually?

Consider how individual words and phrases in the following verses enhance the meaning of Jacob's discourse:

2 Nephi 9:10	2 Nephi 9:28
2 Nephi 9:14	2 Nephi 9:39
2 Nephi 9:18	2 Nephi 9:51

Suggestion for Family Discussion

Invite family members to discuss what the Savior has done for them individually and for the family.

"My Soul Delighteth in the Words of Isaiah"

9

2 Nephi 11–25

Before you begin studying the teachings of Isaiah in 2 Nephi 11–25, read this statement by Elder Boyd K. Packer:

"The Book of Mormon is a book of scripture. It is another testament of Jesus Christ. It is written in biblical language, the language of the prophets.

"For the most part, it is in easy-flowing New Testament language, with such words as *spake* for *spoke*, *unto* for *to*,

with *and it came to pass*, with *thus* and *thou* and *thine*.

"You will not read many pages into it until you catch the cadence of that language and the narrative will be easy to understand. As a matter of fact, most teenagers readily understand the narrative of the Book of Mormon.

"Then, just as you settle in to move comfortably along, you will meet a

barrier. The style of the language changes to Old Testament prophecy style. For, interspersed in the narrative, are chapters reciting the prophecies of the Old Testament prophet Isaiah. They loom as a barrier, like a roadblock or a checkpoint beyond which the casual reader, one with idle curiosity, generally will not go.

"You, too, may be tempted to stop there, but do not do it! Do not stop reading! Move forward through those difficult-to-understand chapters of Old Testament prophecy, even if you understand very little of it. Move on,

if all you do is skim and merely glean an impression here and there. Move on, if all you do is look at the words. . . .

" . . . The Lord had a purpose in preserving the prophecies of Isaiah in the Book of Mormon, notwithstanding they become a barrier to the casual reader.

"Those who never move beyond the Isaiah chapters miss the personal treasures to be gathered along the way" (in Conference Report, Apr. 1986, 76–77; or *Ensign*, May 1986, 61).

"He Inviteth All to Come unto Him"

10

2 Nephi 26–30

2 Nephi 26–30 contains powerful prophecies concerning the last days. Nephi prophesied about people who would be deceived by Satan and fall away from the truth. However, he also foresaw the Restoration of the gospel and the blessings that would be given to the righteous.

- What are some examples in 2 Nephi 28 of Satan's tactics to deceive us? How can you avoid being overcome by these tactics? (See, for example, 1 Nephi 15:24; 2 Nephi 28:30; Alma 17:2–3; Moroni 7:15–19; D&C 21:1–6; 46:7.)
- Why should we study the Book of Mormon in addition to the Bible? (See 2 Nephi 29:4–14; see also 2 Nephi 28:30.)

Suggestion for Family Discussion

Have a family member stand in the center of the room. Explain that in this demonstration, the area to the right of that person represents all the good things that can be done in life. The

area to the farthest right represents the very best things that can be done. The area to the left of the person represents all the wrong things that can be done in life. The area to the farthest left represents the very worst things that can be done.

Explain that Elder Richard G. Scott presented a similar object lesson. Then he observed: "In the middle, it is difficult to discern what is right and what is wrong. This middle area is where Satan works with righteous people. . . . It is easy to become confused here. Live well within the wonderful area of good the Lord has defined, and you won't have any problems with temptation. If you are not sure whether something is appropriate to look at, to listen to, to think about, or to do, then avoid it. You could be headed for one of Satan's traps" ("Do What Is Right," *Ensign*, June 1997, 53–54).

Discuss how this demonstration applies to the decisions and temptations family members face each day.

“Press Forward with a Steadfastness in Christ”

11

2 Nephi 31–33

- Nephi began his final writings by saying that he would “speak concerning the doctrine of Christ” (2 Nephi 31:2). Based on Nephi’s teachings in 2 Nephi 31, how would you define “the doctrine of Christ”?

Suggestion for Family Discussion

Prepare the dinner table for a meal together, and tell family members that you will bring them their food. When family members sit at the table, give them portions of food that are much

smaller than the portions they usually eat. Then conduct the following discussion:

- How might our scripture study sometimes be compared to eating a very small amount of food?
- As a family, read 2 Nephi 32:3. What do you think it means to “feast upon the words of Christ”? (2 Nephi 32:3) What can we do to make our personal and family scripture study a feast?

“Seek Ye for the Kingdom of God”

12

Jacob 1–4

To learn more about the prophet Jacob, read the following passages: 1 Nephi 18:7; 2 Nephi 2:1–4; 6:2–4; Jacob 1:1–2, 18–19.

- The prophet Jacob warned against love of riches, pride, unchastity, and racial prejudice (Jacob 2:12–16, 22–23; 3:5, 9). After calling his people to repentance, he ended his sermon by testifying of the hope of forgiveness through the Atonement. How can we obtain the hope in Christ that Jacob spoke of? (See Jacob 4:4–12.)

Jacob rebuked the Nephite men for their mistreatment of their wives and children (Jacob 2:9, 31–32, 35). Latter-day Church leaders have also given strong warnings against abuse of

any kind. The First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve have warned that “individuals who violate covenants of chastity, who abuse spouse or offspring, or who fail to fulfill family responsibilities will one day stand accountable before God” (“The Family: A Proclamation to the World,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1995, 102).

Suggestion for Family Discussion

Have family members read Jacob 2:35. Then ask the following questions:

- What are some things we might do or say that could break the hearts of others? What can we do to bring greater unity and love into our home?

Jacob 5–7

Jacob 5 contains an allegory from Zenos, a Hebrew prophet mentioned several times in the Book of Mormon. An allegory is a literary device in which one object or event is used to describe or represent another. The following chart may increase your understanding of the allegory:

Symbol	Meaning
Vineyard	The world
Master of the vineyard	Jesus Christ
Tame olive tree	The house of Israel, the Lord’s covenant people
Wild olive tree	Gentiles (people not born into the house of Israel)

Symbol	Meaning
Branches	Groups of people
Servants	Prophets and others called to serve
Fruit	Lives or works of people

Suggestion for Family Discussion

Explain that the servants mentioned in Jacob 5:61–72 are Latter-day Saints who share the gospel (D&C 133:8). Discuss ways family members can prepare to share the gospel, both as full-time missionaries and in everyday activities. Set a goal that will help family members become better prepared to do missionary work.

Enos, Jarom, Omni, Words of Mormon

- How did Enos describe his prayer to the Lord? (See Enos 1:2.) What does his account of seeking forgiveness teach you about repenting? What does the account teach you about prayer?
- How can we “offer [our] whole souls as an offering” to the Savior? (Omni 1:26).
- What did Mormon say was the purpose of the entire sacred record he was abridging? (See Words of Mormon 1:2, 8; see also the title page of the Book of Mormon.) Why is it

important to read the Book of Mormon with this purpose in mind?

Suggestion for Family Discussion

Explain that the writers of the books of Enos, Jarom, and Omni were commanded to preserve and add to the record of their people. Latter-day Saints have also been counseled to keep personal and family histories. If you have access to the journal of an ancestor, read some of the entries as a family. Discuss the importance of keeping personal journals and family histories.

“Eternally Indebted to Your Heavenly Father”

15

Mosiah 1–3

- During King Benjamin’s reign, what was the difference between the Nephites, who studied the scriptures, and the Lamanites, who did not? (See Mosiah 1:5.) How do you see this difference reflected in modern society?
- Read Mosiah 2:20–21, 34. What does it mean to be “unprofitable servants” who are “eternally indebted to . . . heavenly Father”? Why are we unprofitable servants to God even if we praise and serve Him with all our souls? (See Mosiah 2:22–25; see also the illustration on this page.) What does this teach about Heavenly Father’s love for you?
- What do you learn about the Atonement of Jesus Christ from Mosiah 2–3?

Suggestion for Family Discussion

Draw a scale on a piece of paper, as shown above.



Ask family members why this scale is unbalanced. Then have them read Mosiah 2:20–25 aloud. As they read, invite them to look for offerings we can give to the Lord and for blessings He gives us. List our offerings on the side of the scale labeled *Our Offerings*. List God’s blessings on the side of the scale labeled *God’s Blessings*. Help family members see that we will always be indebted to Him. Express your gratitude for God’s blessings.

“Ye Shall Be Called the Children of Christ”

16

Mosiah 4–6

- Why do you think King Benjamin emphasized his people’s “nothingness” and unworthiness? (See Mosiah 4:5–8, 11–12.) Why is it essential for us to recognize our dependence on the Lord?
- According to King Benjamin, what obligations do parents have to their children? (See Mosiah 4:14–15.)
- King Benjamin instructed his people to care for the needy (Mosiah 4:16–17, 22). Why do we have “great cause to repent” if we refuse to help the needy? (See Mosiah 4:18–23.) In what sense are we all beggars? (See Mosiah 4:19–20.)
- What counsel did King Benjamin give to the poor who could not impart of their substance? (See Mosiah 4:24–25.) How can you develop a generous heart regardless of your financial situation?

- King Benjamin taught his people that to avoid sin and maintain their commitment to God, they must watch their thoughts, words, and deeds (Mosiah 4:29–30). How are thoughts, words, and deeds related?
- What effect did the Spirit of the Lord have on the people as King Benjamin spoke to them? (See Mosiah 5:2–5.) How might our lives and relationships be affected if we “had no more disposition to do evil”?
- What does it mean to become children of Christ? (See Mosiah 5:2,

5–7.) What does it mean to “take upon [ourselves] the name of Christ”? (See Mosiah 5:8–11.) What can you do each day to help you keep Christ’s name written in your heart? (See Mosiah 5:11–15.)

Suggestion for Family Discussion

Read Mosiah 4:16–27 as a family. Discuss things you can do together to help people in need. You may want to plan a service project. You may also want to talk about fast offerings and how they are used.

“A Seer . . . Becometh a Great Benefit to His Fellow Beings”

17

Mosiah 7–11

As you study Mosiah 7–11, look for passages that teach the importance of following the guidance of those whom the Lord has called as prophets, seers, and revelators.

- How did Ammon describe the role of a seer? (See Mosiah 8:16–18.) How did Abinadi fulfill the role of a seer? (Look for specific examples in Mosiah 11.)

Sometimes we can receive additional insight from the scriptures by contrasting two people in similar situations. Use the following chart to contrast King Noah with King Benjamin:

King Noah	King Benjamin
Mosiah 11:2	Mosiah 2:13
Mosiah 11:3–4, 6	Mosiah 2:12, 14
Mosiah 11:5, 7	Words of Mormon 1:17–18

Suggestion for Family Discussion

Explain that the members of the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles are prophets, seers, and revelators. Discuss how latter-day prophets, seers, and revelators are a “great benefit” to us (Mosiah 8:16–18). Then review a recent conference address given by the President of the Church.

“God Himself . . . Shall Redeem His People”

18

Mosiah 12–17

As you study Mosiah 12–17, look for Abinadi’s principal message to King Noah and his priests. Ask yourself why Abinadi was willing to die in order to deliver this message.

- After Abinadi withstood the priests’ attempts to “cross him,” one of the priests asked him a question about a scripture passage (Mosiah 12:19–24; see also Isaiah 52:7–10). Why were the priests unable to understand this scripture passage? (See Mosiah 12:25–27.) What does it mean to apply our hearts to understanding?
- What does it mean to have the commandments “written in [our] hearts”? (Mosiah 13:11). How might having the commandments written in your heart affect your efforts to obey them?
- What are some things you learn about the Savior from the prophecy quoted in Mosiah 14?

- At the end of his discourse, what did Abinadi exhort Noah and the priests to do? (See Mosiah 16:13–15.) How can you apply this counsel in your life?

- Although you will likely not need to die for your faith, in what ways can you follow Abinadi’s example?

Suggestion for Family Discussion

As a family, make a list of people who, like Abinadi, have delivered the message of Jesus Christ’s Atonement despite being in great danger (see, for example, Acts 4:1–12; 1 Nephi 1:18–20; Mosiah 18:1–2; Helaman 13:1–7). If you know of family members who have done missionary work under difficult circumstances, talk about their experiences. Encourage family members to record these experiences in their journals.

“None Could Deliver Them but the Lord”

19

Mosiah 18–24

Mosiah 18 contains an explanation of the baptismal covenant. Before you study this chapter, read the following statement by President Joseph Fielding Smith:

“A covenant is a contract and an agreement between at least two parties. In the case of gospel covenants, the parties are the Lord in heaven and men on earth. Men agree to keep the commandments and the Lord promises to reward them accordingly” (in Conference Report, Oct. 1970, 91; or *Improvement Era*, Dec. 1970, 26).

- What do we covenant to do when we are baptized? (See Mosiah 18:8–13; Moroni 6:2–3; D&C 20:37.) What does the Lord promise to do when we are baptized and keep our baptismal covenant? (See Mosiah 18:10, 12–13; see also 2 Nephi 31:17.)
- Why did the Lord bless Alma’s people while they were in bondage more quickly and abundantly than He blessed Limhi’s people? (Compare Mosiah 21:5–15 with Mosiah 23:26–27; 24:10–16.) How does this apply in our lives?

- Why are our burdens easier to bear when we “submit cheerfully and with patience to all the will of the Lord”? (Mosiah 24:15). In what ways has the Lord strengthened you to help you “bear up [your] burdens with ease”?
- What can we learn from Limhi’s people and Alma’s people about receiving deliverance from the

bondage of sin? (See Mosiah 7:33; 21:14; 23:23; 29:18–20; see also D&C 84:49–51.)

Suggestion for Family Discussion

Discuss the questions on the previous page about the baptismal covenant. Invite family members who have been baptized to share memories of when they were baptized.

“My Soul Is Pained No More”

20

Mosiah 25–28; Alma 36

Mosiah 25–28 and Alma 36 include accounts of the miraculous conversions of Alma and the sons of Mosiah. As you study these chapters, take time to ponder your own conversion.

- Why is it important to “forgive one another”? (Mosiah 26:31). How have you been blessed by forgiving someone or by having someone forgive you?
- Why did the Lord send an angel to speak to Alma the Younger and his companions? (See Mosiah 27:14.) How can prayer help us when a loved one strays from the gospel?

Note words and phrases in Mosiah 27 and Alma 36 that contrast Alma’s feelings before and after he was forgiven. (For example, see Mosiah 27:29. Before Alma was forgiven, his “soul was racked with eternal torment.” After he was

forgiven, his “soul [was] pained no more.”)

Suggestion for Family Discussion

Ask family members the following question:

- What are the most important considerations when preparing to serve a mission? (Help family members see that *where* we serve is not as important as *why* we serve and *how* we serve.)

Have family members turn to Mosiah 28. Explain that this chapter contains an account of the sons of Mosiah, who wanted to serve as missionaries among the Lamanites.

- Why did the sons of Mosiah want to preach to the Lamanites? (See Mosiah 28:2–3.) How can we increase our commitment to share the gospel?

“Alma . . . Did Judge Righteous Judgments”

21

Mosiah 29; Alma 1–4

When all of King Mosiah’s sons refused to succeed him as king, Mosiah sent a written proclamation among the people, recommending a

system of judges to replace the rule of kings after his death. As you study Mosiah 29, consider what King Mosiah’s words teach about the kind of leaders

who will help “make for the peace of the people” (Mosiah 29:10).

- In the first year of the reign of the judges, a man named Nehor was brought before Alma to be judged (Alma 1:1–2, 15). What had Nehor been teaching the people? (See Alma 1:3–4.) What was the effect of his teaching? (See Alma 1:5–6.) Why do you think Nehor’s teachings were appealing to so many people? Which of these same teachings have you heard in our day?
- What did Alma do in response to the increasing pride and iniquity of the people? (See Alma 4:15–19.)

How can preaching the word of God “stir [people] up in remembrance of their duty”? How can preaching the word of God “pull down” pride, craftiness, and contention?

Suggestion for Family Discussion

Read Alma 4:15–20 as a family. Then ask the following questions:

- Why do you think there was no way for Alma to help the people other than by “bearing down in pure testimony against them”? What problems in the world today could be solved by preaching and living the gospel?

“Have Ye Received His Image in Your Countenances?”

22

Alma 5–7

Alma 5 contains over 40 questions. Look for those questions and ponder how you would answer them.

- Throughout his address to the people in Zarahemla, Alma spoke of experiencing a “mighty change” of heart and being “born of God” (Alma 5:14). We often use the word *conversion* when we speak of this experience. What does it mean to be converted? (See Mosiah 5:2; 27:24–26.)

Suggestion for Family Discussion

Read Alma 5:14, 19 as a family. Explain that the word *countenance* refers to a person’s behavior or to the way a person’s face expresses his or her character.

- What do you think it means to “have the image of God engraven upon [our] countenances”? What have you seen in other people to show that they have “received his image in [their] countenances”?

“More Than One Witness”

23

Alma 8–12

- After he established the order of the Church among the people in Gideon and Melek, Alma went to preach in the land of Ammonihah. What challenge did he face in Ammonihah? (See Alma 8:8–9.)
- Which words in Alma 8:10 describe the intensity of Alma’s efforts in Ammonihah? How did the people of Ammonihah respond to Alma’s preaching? (See Alma 8:11–13.)

As you study Alma 8:18–32 and Alma 10–11, look for ways Amulek changed as he obeyed the angel’s message and served as Alma’s companion.

- How does the condition of our hearts affect our understanding of God’s word? (See Alma 12:9–11.) How can we develop hearts that recognize, understand, and accept the word of God? (See 1 Nephi 2:16; 15:11.)

Suggestion for Family Discussion

Explain that when Alma went alone to the city of Ammonihah, the people said, “Who is God, that sendeth no more authority than one man among this people?” (Alma 9:6). The people were later astonished when Amulek preached to them, “seeing there was more than one witness” (Alma 10:12). As a family, read the scriptures in the following chart. Note how Alma and

Amulek continued to support each other’s efforts by preaching similar doctrines:

Doctrine	Amulek’s Witness	Alma’s Witness
The Atonement	Alma 11:40	Alma 12:33–34
Repentance	Alma 11:40	Alma 12:24
Judgment	Alma 11:41	Alma 12:14
Resurrection	Alma 11:41–42	Alma 12:24–25

- What are the benefits of having more than one witness when sharing the gospel? How can we sustain each other in these endeavors?

“Give Us Strength According to Our Faith . . . in Christ”

Alma 13–16

After Alma taught Zeezrom and others in Ammonihah about the plan of redemption, he testified of the priesthood and the doctrine of foreordination. Read the following quotations in connection with your study of Alma 13:1–7:

The Prophet Joseph Smith said, “Every man who has a calling to minister to the inhabitants of the world was ordained to that very purpose in the Grand Council of heaven before this world was” (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, sel. Joseph Fielding Smith [1976], 365).

President Spencer W. Kimball taught: “Before we came here, faithful women were given certain assignments while

faithful men were foreordained to certain priesthood tasks. While we do not now remember the particulars, this does not alter the glorious reality of what we once agreed to. You are accountable for those things which long ago were expected of you just as are those we sustain as prophets and apostles!” (*“The Role of Righteous Women,” Ensign*, Nov. 1979, 102).

- After being persecuted in prison for many days, how were Alma and Amulek finally delivered? (See Alma 14:26–29; Ether 12:12–13.) What are some things from which we need to be delivered? Why must our faith be centered in Christ to lead us to deliverance? (See Mosiah 3:17; Moroni 7:33.)

- What does Alma 15:3–5 reveal about Zeezrom’s trust in Alma and Amulek? In whom did Zeezrom need to place his trust in order to be healed? (See Alma 15:6–10.) What do you learn from Zeezrom’s actions after he was healed? (See Alma 15:11–12.)

Suggestion for Family Discussion

After reviewing all or part of Alma 13–16, ask each family member to share something that he or she has learned from the account.

“They Taught with Power and Authority of God”

25

Alma 17–22

- What led to the success of Ammon and his brethren in their efforts to bring the Lamanites to a knowledge of the truth? What do you learn from Ammon and Aaron’s approach to missionary work?
- What doctrines did Ammon and Aaron teach to King Lamoni and his father? (See Alma 18:34–39; Alma 22:7–14.)
- What sacrifices was Lamoni’s father willing to make to know God? (See Alma 22:15, 17–18.) What can you learn from his example?

As you study Alma 17–22, look for accounts of people who received

blessings after they endured trials. Ponder the blessings that you have received as you have endured trials faithfully.

Suggestion for Family Discussion

Display a few different instruments or tools. Ask family members to explain how each instrument (or tool) is used. Then read Alma 17:1–9 and point out that we, like the sons of Mosiah, can be “instrument[s] in the hands of God” as we share the gospel with others. Emphasize that the Lord will help us as we strive to be instruments in His hands.

“Converted unto the Lord”

26

Alma 23–29

Alma 23–27 discusses the Anti-Nephi-Lehies, a group of people who became so deeply converted that they “never did fall away” (Alma 23:6). As you study this account, look for evidences of the truth and sincerity of the Anti-Nephi-Lehies’ conversion.

- The Anti-Nephi-Lehies “were converted unto the Lord” (Alma 23:6). Why is it essential that Jesus Christ be at the center of our conversion?
- The converted Lamanites chose to distinguish themselves from their brethren who remained wicked (Alma 23:16–18; 27:27–30.) In what ways are we distinguished from the world when we are converted?
- Despite their afflictions, what were the Anti-Nephi-Lehies grateful for? (See Alma 24:7–10.) How can gratitude to God help us face trials and afflictions?

- The Anti-Nephi-Lehies “took their swords . . . and they did bury them up deep in the earth” (Alma 24:15–17). Why was it significant that they buried their weapons rather than simply promising not to use them? What can we do to bury our “weapons of rebellion”?

As you study Alma 26–27, look for examples of blessings that come to missionaries as a result of their efforts.

Suggestion for Family Discussion

Relate the account of the Anti-Nephi-Lehies’ conversion. Consider using some of the questions in this section to prompt discussion. Then have family members read some or all of the following passages about conversion:

Luke 22:32	Alma 5:7–14
Mosiah 5:2	3 Nephi 6:14
Mosiah 5:7	3 Nephi 9:13–14

“All Things Denote There Is a God”

27

Alma 30–31

Keep in mind the following statement by President Ezra Taft Benson as you study Alma 30–31:

“The Book of Mormon exposes the enemies of Christ. . . . The type of apostates in the Book of Mormon are similar to the type we have today. God, with his infinite foreknowledge, so molded the Book of Mormon that we might see the error and know how to combat false educational, political, religious, and philosophical concepts of our time” (“The Book of Mormon Is the Word of God,” *Ensign*, Jan. 1988, 3).

- When Korihor asked for a sign of God’s existence, what signs did Alma put forth as evidence that God lives? (See Alma 30:44.) How have

these evidences helped strengthen your faith?

As you study Alma 31, contrast the Zoramites’ prayer with Alma’s prayer. You may want to note the differences you find.

Suggestion for Family Discussion

Explain that ideas similar to Korihor’s teachings are sometimes presented by people today. Then discuss the following questions:

- What can we do to withstand the influence of people who try to destroy our faith? (Answers may include that we can study the scriptures; pray; avoid contention; and talk with parents, the bishop, or other trusted friends.)

“The Word Is in Christ unto Salvation”

28

Alma 32–35

- Alma compared the word of God to a seed (Alma 32:28). What can you do to “give place” in your heart for the word of God? (Alma 32:28).
- Read Alma 32:28–35. What do you think it means to feel the word “swell within your breasts”? How do the scriptures enlarge your soul, enlighten your understanding, and

expand your mind? In what ways has the word of God been delicious to you?

- After hearing Alma's discourse, the people desired to know "in what manner they should begin to exercise their faith" (Alma 33:1). Alma responded by citing teachings of the prophets Zenos, Zenock, and Moses. What was the central message of these teachings? (See Alma 33:3–22.)

After you study Alma 33:19–22, read Numbers 21:4–9, John 3:1–16, 1 Nephi 17:41, Alma 37:46, and Helaman

8:13–15. Look for ways that the combination of these passages gives you more insight than any of the passages could give on its own.

Suggestion for Family Discussion

To help family members visualize Alma's message about nourishing the word of God in our hearts (Alma 32:28–43), give each family member a seed and a small container of soil. Invite family members to plant their seeds and nourish them adequately with water and sunshine. Over the next few weeks, observe how the seeds grow.

"Give Ear to My Words"

Alma 36–39

- Alma 36–39 contains Alma's testimony as expressed to his sons Helaman, Shiblon, and Corianton. Why is it important for children to hear their parents bear their testimonies? In what ways have your parents' testimonies influenced you?

Review the following scripture passages, which show the importance of parents' counsel to their children:

Alma 36–39	Alma 57:21, 26–27
2 Nephi 1–3	Helaman 5:5–14
Enos 1:1–3	D&C 68:25–28
Mosiah 1:1–8	D&C 93:39–50
Alma 56:47–48	

- How has your life been affected as you have endeavored to follow the counsel in Alma 37:36–37?
- How did Corianton's sinfulness influence others? (See Alma 39:11, 13.) Why is it important for Church

members to set good examples? How might your actions influence others' opinions of the Church?

Suggestion for Family Discussion

Ask a family member to read Alma 37:6–7. Then display a nail, a bolt, or another small object that holds things together.

- How is this object a "small and simple" thing? How can this object be used to accomplish great things? What might happen if we didn't have this object?
- What are some "small and simple things" that hold our family together? What are some "small and simple things" we can do as a family to show our love for Heavenly Father, Jesus Christ, and each other?

“The Great Plan of Happiness”

30

Alma 40–42

- What happens to our spirits between death and resurrection? (See Alma 40:11–15, 21; see also D&C 138.)
 - What would happen to us if we were subjected only to justice? (See Alma 42:14.) What is required to satisfy the demands of justice so we can return to dwell in Heavenly Father’s presence? (See Alma 42:15.) How did the Atonement of Jesus Christ “appease the demands of justice”? (See Mosiah 15:7–9.) What must we do to be able to receive the fulness of God’s mercy? (See Alma 42:13, 23, 27, 29–30; see also Alma 41:14; D&C 19:15–18.)
- Suggestion for Family Discussion**
- To help family members understand Alma 42, read Elder Boyd K. Packer’s parable of the Mediator, which is found in chapter 12 of *Gospel Principles* (31110). You may want to have different family members read the narration and the parts of the debtor, the creditor, and the debtor’s friend.

“Firm in the Faith of Christ”

31

Alma 43–52

Alma 43–52 contains several accounts of war. These accounts can teach us about how to handle earthly conflicts and how to defend ourselves and our families in the battle against Satan.

- Consider the following principles that governed the attitudes and actions of the righteous Nephites in times of war. How might understanding and applying these principles today help bring about greater peace in the world? How can you apply these principles in dealing with conflict in your personal life?
 - a. Fight only for righteous reasons, such as self-defense (Alma 43:8–10, 29–30, 45–47; 48:14).
 - b. Have no hate toward your enemies; seek their best interests as well as your own (Alma 43:53–54; 44:1–2, 6).
 - c. Live righteously and trust in God (Alma 44:3–4; 48:15, 19–20).
 - d. Follow righteous and wise leaders (Alma 43:16–19; 48:11–13, 17–19; see also D&C 98:10).
- Suggestion for Family Discussion**
- Read the account of Captain Moroni raising the title of liberty (Alma 46:12–20). Then work as a family to create your own title of liberty. Ask family members to list a few important principles that would remind and inspire them to take the name of Christ upon themselves. Then write those principles on a large piece of paper. Encourage family members to live according to the principles you have written on your family’s title of liberty.

"They Did Obey . . . Every Word of Command with Exactness"

32

Alma 53–63

As you study Alma 53 and 56–58, look for principles the 2,060 young warriors followed and for characteristics they developed in their youth. Give particular attention to how these principles and qualities helped the young warriors receive strength from the Lord. Determine how you can apply these principles in your life.

- From whom did the young Ammonite warriors learn to have such great faith and courage? (See Alma 56:47–48; see also Alma 53:21; 57:21.) Why is it important for children to know the strength and certainty of their parents' testimonies?

Study the following scriptures about motherhood:

Alma 56:47–48	1 Samuel 1:27–28
Genesis 24:60	Proverbs 1:8
Exodus 20:12	Moses 4:26

- The young Ammonites asked the prophet Helaman to be their leader (Alma 53:19; 56:1, 5). How did they respond to the commands they received? (See Alma 57:21.) What are some specific things you must do to follow the prophet "with exactness"?

Suggestion for Family Discussion

Tell the story of Helaman's 2,060 young warriors (Alma 53; 56–58). Then have family members read some or all of the passages listed below. Talk about how family members can apply the principles taught in these passages.

Alma 53:20–21	Alma 57:25–27
Alma 56:45–48	Alma 58:6–11
Alma 57:21	Alma 58:39–40

As part of this discussion, you may want to sing together "We'll Bring the World His Truth" (*Children's Songbook*, 172).

"A Sure Foundation"

33

Helaman 1–5

Helaman 1–4 describes periods of peace and periods of contention among the Nephites and Lamanites. Helaman 5 contains an account of miraculous missionary work among the Lamanites and the Nephite dissenters. Look for parallels to our day as you study these accounts.

- How did the humble followers of Christ respond to persecution? (See Helaman 3:33–35.) How can their example help you?

- Read Helaman 5:12. What does it mean to build on the rock of Christ? (See also 3 Nephi 14:24–27.)

In the Book of Mormon there are over 240 instances of the word *remember* or forms of the word (such as *remembered*, *remembrance*, or *forget not*). Find the 15 instances that appear in Helaman 5. As you do so, think about why the word *remember* is important to the Lord's covenant people.

You may want to use the Topical Guide to find other passages with the word *remember* or forms of the word.

Suggestion for Family Discussion

Read Helaman 5:12 aloud. Then discuss

ways in which your family can build a foundation on the rock of Jesus Christ.

As part of this discussion, you may want to sing together “How Firm a Foundation” (*Hymns*, no. 85).

“How Could You Have Forgotten Your God?”

34

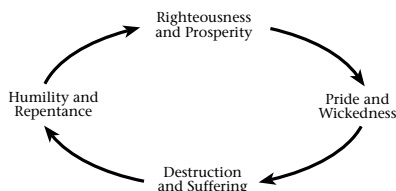
Helaman 6–12

The account in Helaman 6–12 shows how the sin of pride affects people. As you study this account, look for the cycle described below in the suggestion for family discussion.

- Read Helaman 12:7. On what basis did Mormon make this statement? (See Helaman 12:1–6, 8.)

Suggestion for Family Discussion

Draw the following illustration on a piece of paper:



Explain that the Book of Mormon contains several examples of people who went through this cycle.

- How can people break from this cycle? (Have family members read Alma 62:48–51; Helaman 12:23–24.)

On the piece of paper, draw lines through *Pride and Wickedness* and *Destruction and Suffering*. Point out that we can learn from the Nephites’ mistakes. We can always remember the Lord in humility and gratitude, even when we are prosperous.

“Repent and Return unto the Lord”

35

Helaman 13–16

President Ezra Taft Benson said: “The record of the Nephite history just prior to the Savior’s visit reveals many parallels to our own day as we anticipate the Savior’s second coming” (in Conference Report, Apr. 1987, 3; or *Ensign*, May 1987, 4).

The following chart shows that Helaman 13–16 contains accounts of prophecies and events that parallel signs and events that will precede the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

Prophecies and Events Recorded in Helaman 13–16	Prophecy or Event	Signs and Events that Will Precede the Second Coming
Helaman 16:1, 3, 6, 10	Strong righteous minority	1 Nephi 14:12; Jacob 5:70
Helaman 16:13–14	Spiritual outpourings and miracles	Joel 2:28–30; D&C 45:39–42
Helaman 13:22; 16:12, 22–23	Great wickedness	2 Timothy 3:1–5; D&C 45:27
Helaman 13:2, 6, 8, 10–11; 14:9, 11; 15:1–3, 17; 16:2	Rejection of the Lord’s prophets and their call to repentance	D&C 1:14–16
Helaman 14:3–4	Prophecy of a night with no darkness	Zechariah 14:7; see also <i>Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith</i> , sel. Joseph Fielding Smith [1976], 287
Helaman 14:5–6, 20	Prophecies of signs and wonders in the heavens	Joel 2:30–31; D&C 45:40
Helaman 16:13–18	Denial of signs, wonders, and Christ’s coming	2 Peter 3:3–4; D&C 45:26

Suggestion for Family Discussion

Study some or all of this chart as a family. Ask each family member to

share one way in which the information in the chart can help people prepare for the Second Coming.

“On the Morrow Come I into the World”

36

3 Nephi 1–7

- While waiting for Samuel’s prophecies to be fulfilled, “the people who believed began to be very sorrowful” (3 Nephi 1:7). What were some of the reasons for their sorrow? (See 3 Nephi 1:5–9.) In spite of these challenges to their faith, what did the believers do? (See 3 Nephi 1:8.) What can you do to remain steadfast when your faith is challenged?
- Read 3 Nephi 3:12–26, in which the Nephites prepare for the attack of the Gadianton robbers. What can you learn from the Nephites’ actions in that time of danger that can help protect you in times of temptation and fear?
- What blessings could all the people have enjoyed if they had remained faithful? (See 3 Nephi 10:18–19.)

Suggestion for Family Discussion

Read 3 Nephi 5:13 as a family. Explain that this verse contains words of the prophet Mormon. Then ask the following questions:

- What does it mean to be a “disciple of Jesus Christ”? (To follow Jesus Christ.) What are some things we

can do individually and as a family to follow the Savior?

As part of this discussion, you may want to sing together “Come, Follow Me” (*Hymns*, no. 116), “More Holiness Give Me” (*Hymns*, no. 131), or “I’m Trying to Be like Jesus” (*Children’s Songbook*, 78–79).

“Whosoever Will Come, Him Will I Receive”

37

3 Nephi 8–11

The prophet Samuel had prophesied of the signs of the Crucifixion of the Savior. Read his prophecies in Helaman 14:20–27. Then study 3 Nephi 8–9 to find the fulfillment of these prophecies.

- What invitation did the Lord extend to those who had survived the destruction? (See 3 Nephi 9:13–14. Note that the word *come* appears three times in verse 14.) What can you do to accept this invitation?
- The multitude went forth “one by one” to the Savior (3 Nephi 11:15; see also 3 Nephi 17:25, which says that there were 2,500 people in the multitude). What do you learn from this example of the Savior’s love?

- Jesus taught that there should be “no disputations” among the people (3 Nephi 11:22, 28). Why is contention about gospel doctrines dangerous? (See 3 Nephi 11:29; D&C 10:62–63.) How can we be unified in true doctrine?

Suggestion for Family Discussion

Read 3 Nephi 11:1–17 as a family. Ask family members to think about how they might have felt if they had been among the Nephites when the resurrected Lord appeared. Then sing or read the words to “Easter Hosanna” (*Children’s Songbook*, 68–69).

“Old Things Are Done Away, and All Things Have Become New”

38

3 Nephi 12–15

As you study the Savior’s teachings in 3 Nephi 12–15, look for teachings that you particularly need.

Jesus said to the Nephites, “I give unto you to be the salt of the earth” (3 Nephi 12:13). To gain a greater understanding of this statement, read the following passages. You may want to mark them in your scriptures.

Leviticus 2:13 D&C 101:39–40
Matthew 5:13 D&C 103:9–10

- Read 3 Nephi 12:48. Why do we need the Atonement of Jesus Christ in order to be perfected? (See 2 Nephi 2:7–9; 3 Nephi 19:28–29; Moroni 10:32–33.)

Suggestion for Family Discussion

Give family members portions of a food that usually has salt as part of the recipe. Serve each family member one portion with salt and another portion without salt. They will see how salt enhances the natural flavors of the food.

In a darkened room, shine a flashlight or light a candle.

After these demonstrations, discuss what it means to be “the salt of the earth” and “the light of [the] people” (3 Nephi 12:13–14).

“Behold, My Joy Is Full”

3 Nephi 17–19

As you study 3 Nephi 17–19, look for verses that show Jesus’ love. You may want to record your feelings in your journal.

- Why did Jesus “tarry a little longer” with the people? (See 3 Nephi 17:5–6.) How did this show His love for the people? How have you felt Jesus’ love and concern for you?
- Jesus instituted the sacrament among the Nephites. What do you learn about the ordinance of the sacrament from 3 Nephi 18:1–11? What can you do to prepare yourself to partake of the sacrament each week?
- Jesus taught, “Pray in your families unto the Father” (3 Nephi 18:21). How has family prayer influenced your family? How can families increase their commitment to daily family prayer?

By reading the scriptures aloud, you can gain insights into doctrines and events that you might miss when reading silently. Read 3 Nephi 17 aloud. As you read, be aware of the influence of the Spirit. You may want to mark passages that are especially meaningful to you.

Suggestion for Family Discussion

In each of His first two days among the Nephites, the Savior ministered to the children. As a family, read 3 Nephi 17:11–24 and 26:14–16. Then talk about Jesus’ love for little children.

As part of this discussion, you may want to sing together “Had I Been a Child” (*Children’s Songbook*, 80–81) or “When He Comes Again” (*Children’s Songbook*, 82–83).

39

“Then Will I Gather Them In”

3 Nephi 16; 20–21

3 Nephi 16, 20, and 21 contain part of Jesus Christ’s teachings to the Nephites during the time He spent with them after His Resurrection. In these chapters, the Lord teaches and prophesies of the Restoration of the

gospel and the gathering of the house of Israel in the last days.

- Why was Israel scattered? (See 3 Nephi 16:4.) What is the gathering of Israel? (See 3 Nephi 16:4, 12; 20:10–13.)

40

- What are some roles that the Book of Mormon plays in the gathering of Israel? (For some examples, compare 3 Nephi 16:4, 12 and 20:10–13 with 1 Nephi 6:3–4 and the title page of the Book of Mormon.) As a member of the Church, what are your responsibilities in the gathering of Israel?

Suggestion for Family Discussion

Scatter objects around the room. Then ask family members to gather those

objects. You may want to point out that *gather* means to bring together.

After family members have gathered the objects, read 3 Nephi 20:12–13. Explain that Heavenly Father gathers His people all over the world by bringing them “to the knowledge of the Lord their God, who hath redeemed them.” Discuss what you can do individually and as a family to help Heavenly Father gather His people.

“He Did Expound All Things unto Them”

41

3 Nephi 22–26

- After quoting prophecies of Isaiah, Jesus commanded the people to “search these things diligently” (3 Nephi 23:1). What does it mean to search the scriptures instead of merely read them?
- In his record, Mormon included only “the lesser part” of what Jesus taught the people (3 Nephi 26:8). How can we receive “the greater things”? (See 3 Nephi 26:9.)
- Read 3 Nephi 26:19–21. How can we follow this example in our marriages, families, wards, and stakes?

Suggestion for Family Discussion

Explain that when Jesus was among the Nephites, He shared Malachi’s

prophecy about the mission of Elijah (3 Nephi 25:1–6). This teaching is so important that it is found in all four standard works of the Church.

As a family, read the following scripture passages: Malachi 4:1–6; Luke 1:17; 3 Nephi 25:1–6; Doctrine and Covenants 2:1–3; and Joseph Smith—History 1:37–39. You may want to suggest that family members mark these passages in their scriptures.

Discuss how these passages relate to family history work and temple work. Make plans to work together to identify and submit deceased ancestors’ names for temple ordinances. As circumstances allow, make plans to serve together in the temple.

“This Is My Gospel”

42

3 Nephi 27–30; 4 Nephi

- Jesus’ twelve Nephite disciples asked Him what they should call His Church (See 3 Nephi 27:3). What was His answer to their question? (See 3 Nephi 27:4–9.) The Lord has commanded that His restored

Church, like His Church among the Nephites, be called after His name (D&C 115:4). Why is it important for us to remember that the Church is called after the name of Jesus Christ?

- Study 3 Nephi 27:13–21, looking for different aspects of the gospel of Jesus Christ. What did the Savior promise to those who live according to His gospel? (See 3 Nephi 27:21–22.)
- In response to their request, three Nephite disciples were transfigured, meaning that their bodies were changed temporarily so they “could behold the things of God” (3 Nephi 28:13–15). Then they were translated. What does the account in 3 Nephi 28 teach about translated beings?
- For many years after Jesus’ visit among the Nephites, there was not “any manner of -ites” (4 Nephi 1:17). What does this mean? (See 4 Nephi

1:2–3, 15–17.) What problems exist today because of distinctions between groups of people? In what ways can the gospel help us become united, despite our differences?

Suggestion for Family Discussion

Read the book of 4 Nephi together. As you read verses 1–19, make a list of attitudes and actions that led to peace and happiness. As you read verses 20–46, list attitudes and actions that led to contention and destruction.

Contrast the lists you have made. Talk about what you can do as a family to be more like the people described in 4 Nephi 1:1–19.

“How Could Ye Have Departed from the Ways of the Lord?”

43

Mormon 1–6; Moroni 9

- When Mormon was 15 years old, he “was visited of the Lord, and tasted and knew of the goodness of Jesus” (Mormon 1:15). How can we come to know of the goodness of Jesus?
- What conditions existed in Nephite society during Mormon’s lifetime? (See Mormon 1:19; 2:1, 8, 10, 18.) Even though we, like Mormon, live in a time of much wickedness, what can we do to maintain our faith and personal righteousness?
- Mormon said that when his people defeated the Lamanites in battle, “they did not realize that it was the Lord that had spared them” (Mormon 3:3). Why is it important that we recognize that the blessings we receive are from the Lord?

- Read Mormon 5:17–18. In what ways are people who do not follow the Savior “as a vessel without sail or anchor”? How is the gospel like a sail and an anchor for you?

Suggestion for Family Discussion

Read Mormon 1:13–14 and 2:18 as a family. Then read Mormon 1:15 and 2:19. Emphasize that even when we are surrounded by wickedness, we can know of the Lord’s goodness. If we, like Mormon, strive to follow the Lord and stay true to our testimonies of the gospel, we can find hope in the knowledge that we “shall be lifted up at the last day” (Mormon 2:19).

“I Speak unto You As If Ye Were Present”

44

Mormon 7–9

As you study Mormon 7–9, keep in mind that all the teachings in these chapters are directed to people living in the last days.

- What did Moroni prophesy about the condition of the world when the Book of Mormon would come forth? (See Mormon 8:26–33.) Why was Moroni able to prophesy so clearly concerning the last days? (See Mormon 8:34–35.)
- What did Moroni say about pride in the last days? (See Mormon 8:35–41.)
- Moroni said that some people in the last days would believe that the Lord “is not a God of miracles” (Mormon 9:10). If someone told you that the Lord was not a God of

miracles, how would you respond? What experiences could you appropriately share to bear witness that the Lord is a God of miracles?

Suggestion for Family Discussion

Read Mormon 8:34–35 as a family. Then ask each person to write a letter to future family members (such as children, grandchildren, nephews, or nieces), writing “as if [those family members] were present.” Suggest that the letters include counsel that could help future family members live the gospel despite the challenges they will face. You may also want to suggest that the letters be kept in safe places, such as in journals, so they can be read at some time in the future.

“Never Has Man Believed in Me As Thou Hast”

45

Ether 1–6

- When the brother of Jared asked the Lord how to light the barges, what was the Lord’s response? (See Ether 2:23–25.) Why is it important to do all we can in addition to asking the Lord for help?
- Before showing Himself to the brother of Jared, what question did the Lord ask? (See Ether 3:11.) How did the brother of Jared’s response demonstrate the depth of his faith? (See Ether 3:12.) What can you do to follow his example?

Suggestion for Family Discussion

Read Ether 6:1–12 together. Use the following questions to help family members see similarities between the

Jaredites’ journey to the promised land and our journey through life:

- The Lord caused the stones in the barges “to shine in darkness” (Ether 6:3). What “lights” has the Lord provided for us?
- What did the Jaredites do after they had prepared all they could for their journey? (See Ether 6:4.) How can you show this same kind of trust in the Lord?
- As the winds blew and the Jaredites were driven forth, what did the Jaredites do throughout the day and night? (See Ether 6:8–9.) What are some ways we can give praise to the Lord?

- What did the Jaredites do when they had arrived in the promised land? (See Ether 6:12.) In what ways

might this be similar to when we return to our Father in Heaven?

“By Faith All Things Are Fulfilled”

46

Ether 7–15

- How did Ether describe those who believe in God? (See Ether 12:4.) How can faith and hope be an anchor for you? What are some examples of how faith leads to good works that glorify God?
- How did Moroni define faith? (See Ether 12:6.) What do you think it means that we “receive no witness until after the trial of [our] faith”? In what ways have trials strengthened and confirmed your faith?
- The Lord taught that if we humble ourselves before Him and have faith in Him, He will “make weak things

become strong unto [us]” (Ether 12:27). How has this promise been fulfilled in the scriptures, in your life, and in the lives of others?

Suggestion for Family Discussion

As Hyrum Smith prepared to go to Carthage Jail, where he and the Prophet Joseph Smith were murdered, he read Ether 12:36–38 and folded down the page (D&C 135:4–5). Have family members read these verses.

- What comfort do these verses offer? What passages of scripture have strengthened or comforted you?

“To Keep Them in the Right Way”

47

Moroni 1–6

- Why are chapters 2–5 of the book of Moroni important for our day? How does it strengthen you to see the same ordinances present in different dispensations of the Lord’s Church?
- What covenants do we make through the sacrament? (See Moroni 4:3; 5:2.) What are we promised in return? How do you feel when you have partaken of the sacrament reverently and worthily?
- After people were baptized and had received the gift of the Holy Ghost, “they were numbered among the people of the church of Christ; and their names were taken” (Moroni 6:4). Why were their names recorded? (See Moroni 6:4.) In what ways can

you contribute to the Church’s efforts to see that both long-time and new members are “remembered and nourished by the good word of God”?

Suggestion for Family Discussion

If family members are new converts, discuss what it was like to join the Church. Allow family members to talk about things they liked about joining the Church and about challenges they faced when they joined the Church. If family members have been members of the Church for a long time, ask them to talk about how they might feel if they came to church for the first time.

Have a family member read the following counsel from President Gordon B. Hinckley:

“With the ever increasing number of converts, we must make an increasingly substantial effort to assist them as they find their way. Every one of them needs

three things: a friend, a responsibility, and nurturing with ‘the good word of God’ (Moroni 6:4)” (in Conference Report, April 1997, 66; or *Ensign*, May 1997, 47).

- What can we do to follow this counsel?

“Come unto Christ”

Moroni 7–8; 10

Moroni 7–8 contains teachings of Moroni’s father, Mormon. Moroni 10 contains Moroni’s final written testimony.

- Mormon referred to the members of the Church as “peaceable followers of Christ” (Moroni 7:3). On what basis did Mormon make this judgment? (See Moroni 7:4–5.) How do we become “peaceable followers of Christ”?

Moroni closed his record with “a few words by way of exhortation” (Moroni 10:2). The word *exhort* means to advise or urge strongly. As you study Moroni 10, you may want to mark the word *exhort* each time it appears. Ponder the meaning and importance of Moroni’s exhortations in this chapter.

- What did Moroni teach about spiritual gifts? (See Moroni 10:8–19.)
- How does Moroni’s exhortation to “come unto Christ” reflect the entire message of the Book of Mormon? (Moroni 10:30, 32). In what specific

ways has this year’s study of the Book of Mormon helped you come unto Christ?

Suggestion for Family Discussion

Bear your testimony of the Book of Mormon, and invite family members to do the same. Then read the following statement by President Ezra Taft Benson:

“The Book of Mormon is studied in our Sunday School and seminary classes every fourth year. This four-year pattern, however, must *not* be followed by Church members in their personal and family study. We need to read daily from the pages of the book that will get a man ‘nearer to God by abiding by its precepts, than by any other book’ (*History of the Church*, 4:461)” (in Conference Report, Oct. 1988, 3; or *Ensign*, Nov. 1988, 4).

Encourage family members to continue studying the Book of Mormon and sharing it with others.

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

