



Type: Magazine Article

Book of Mormon Sunday School Lessons, July 1932

Author(s): Alfred C. Rees, James L. Barker, and Horace H. Cummings

Source: *The Instructor*, Vol. 104, No. 5 (May 1932), pp. 281-282

Published by: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

BOOK OF MORMON

General Board Committee: Alfred C. Rees, Chairman; James L. Barker, Vice Chairman; and Horace H. Cummings

LESSONS FOR JULY, 1932

Course B—Ages 15, 16 and 17.

Concert Recitation for the Month

(Alma 37:37)

Counsel with the Lord in all thy doings, and He will direct thee for good, yea, when thou liest down at night, lie down unto the Lord, that He may watch over you in your sleep; and when thou risest in the morning let thy heart be full of thanks to God.

First Sunday, July 3, 1932

Lesson 19. Alma on the Origin of Priesthood.

Texts: Mosiah 13:1-19; Alma 30:6-11; Sunday School Lessons, No. 19.

Objective: To teach that the Lord works through His Priesthood.

To Teachers: In this lesson, Alma has drawn back the curtains and permitted us to witness some of the events which transpired before the creation of this earth. It is the great program of preparation which makes clear to us why certain things are done now; why certain men are chosen; why certain responsibilities are placed upon certain men. Try to have your class see, feel and understand how we all were put to the test while we were in the spirit; how we passed our examinations, how some succeeded, others failed. When this pre-existent program is understood, your class can readily see why the marked differences in faith and ways of living among the people of the world. Point out how even the Savior had to show his worthiness to be named the Redeemer of all of us. What about Joseph Smith and the other leaders of the church? See what your class thinks of their appointments, in view of what Alma explains. Then what about all the rest of us? Does the Lord stand ready to recognize us on account of our faithfulness in the spirit? Suppose we are called to fill an office in the Church? What if we accept? What if we refuse? What if Joseph Smith had refused to establish the Church?

Get your class to recognize the fact that our leaders are chosen by the Lord on account of their proved worthiness. It is our duty to recognize them, to support them, to obey them. We are now undergoing our second test. If we honor and obey this priesthood now, what kind of reward awaits us?

Leave this thought with your class: that we must make our own decision on that point. We have perfect freedom of selection, but our salvation depends upon how we take advantage of that personal freedom. In conclusion, let the class enumerate some of the commands, rulings and requests that have come to us about our ways of living. Are we obeying them?

Second Sunday, July 10, 1932

Lesson 20. Faith and Knowledge.

Texts: Alma, Chapter 32; Sunday School Lessons, No. 20.

Objective: To teach that faith comes before knowledge.

To Teachers: Let the class draw a word picture of today's lesson. Picture the multitude on the hill. Along came another large group, poor, humble. Their spokesmen tell of their distress and their humility. Alma is the one whom he is addressing. Now note how Alma handles the subject. Evidently these people have been rich and haughty and would not listen to the gospel. Now see the change of heart. Why? As teacher, turn attention of the class to the circumstances that surround us today. Many of our own people are coming to church and attending to their other duties—things that they have previously failed to do. Why? Let the class explain this: "Sweet are the fruits of adversity."

Alma explains the value of humility, (1) when we are humble voluntarily, (2) when we are forced. The class should discuss these two classes. To which class should Latter-day Saints belong?

Enumerate some of the things that the gospel requires at our hand, viz., tithing, fasting, morality, attendance at meetings, charity, temple marriage work for the dead, etc. How can we show our faith in these things?

The big point in the lesson is to get the class to understand the value of a willing faith, while we are prosperous and happy; also to show that faith in keeping all the commandments lead finally to real knowledge.

In these days when we are developing so much free thinking and so-called liberal views among young and old—put the question squarely up to your class today: If the prophet of God today speaks to the Church, and asks them to do certain things and to abstain from doing certain other

things, how can the people show their faith? Shall we put our judgment, or our wishes against His word? What will happen to the individual or to the church that obeys the word of the Lord? What if we refuse to obey?

Third Sunday, July 17, 1932

Lesson 21. Alma Teaches Repentance.

Texts: Alma 34:9-17; 45:5-10; 42:9, 12, 13, 17, 18; 43:23-28; Sunday School Lessons, No. 21.

Objective: To teach that this life is one of preparation for the life to come.

To Teachers: This lesson should impress the class with the value and importance of time. In youth, character is formed, habits acquired. They determine largely what is done in later years. Your class is made up of young people. There may be a disposition to feel that they may safely indulge in easy, careless habits and practices, contrary to the teachings of the Gospel with the thought that they will later correct these habits. Today's lesson points out the danger of such a point of view. It is their day to labor now. It is too late perhaps to begin to form good habits when they grow older. Late repentance is often impossible repentance—a hopeless attempt.

Let the class discuss the value of starting early in selecting wholesome companionship; in paying their tithing, in attending to their prayers, in doing all the things that will build up acceptable habits and practices, which they hope to continue throughout their lives and which do not require any later repentance.

"Sowing wild oats" is dangerous to any Latter-day Saint boy or girl. Call attention to Alma's statement that "sin is never happiness."

Young people are not denying themselves any joy or happiness by living lives in accordance with gospel teachings. You probably will be able to cite cases of tragic, unsuccessful attempts of mature people to repent of things they did in youth.

Whatever causes later remorse of conscience or sorrow is not happiness. That is the lesson which Alma expects you to intensify and glorify today.

Fourth Sunday, July 24, 1932

Lesson 22. State Between Death and The Resurrection.

Texts: Alma 40, 41:1-3; Sunday School Lessons, No. 22.

Objective: To teach that our lives here determine our joy or sorrow in the hereafter.

To Teachers: No prophet has given us a clearer, more definite picture of the resurrection than has Alma. See that your class reads it carefully. Permit them to com-

ment on his explanations.

The impression should be left that Latter-day Saints, with their knowledge of the Gospel, should strive so to live that their time between death and resurrection shall be full of joy. It will not be difficult for you to show how agonizing it will be to await the resurrection, in the knowledge that we wasted away our time, and neglected our duties while in the flesh. On the other hand hold out to the class the beautiful picture of joy that will come to us if we prepare now for that event, which none can accept.

In conclusion let the class name some activities, practices and habits that will assure us joy when we leave this existence. Read the last stanza in "O, My Father." Note the hope that is expressed in that verse. Alma's clear statement should fill your class with a desire and determination to live as Latter-day Saints should live.

Try to teach this lesson in such a manner that will stir them to appreciate their valuable possession, the truth.

Fifth Sunday, July 31, 1932

Lesson 23. Samuel, a Lamanite, Warns The Nephites.

Texts: Helaman 13:1-5, 6-8, 9; 3:17, 19, 21-29; 13:38, 39; 15:3; Sunday School Lessons, No. 23.

Objective: To teach that we shall not be saved merely because we bear the name of Latter-day Saints.

To Teachers: What would our church people think if today someone on the outside came in and warned us? Would we scorn him as the Nephites did Samuel? Get the class to give expression to their real feelings about our hopes for salvation as compared with the hopes for people in other churches? See if they believe that we are depending a great deal upon our name rather than upon our works.

Let them picture Samuel a hated Lamanite coming to the white, self-sufficient Nephites. Note how hard he tried to penetrate their indifference.

How do we accept teachings today? In our little social circles, when we discuss the teachings of our leaders, do we scoff at them, belittle them, or do we speak respectfully of them? Is our attitude any better than that of the Nephites? Suppose the prophet of the Lord advises against certain forms of amusements, do we obey, or do we put up our judgment against the will of the Lord?

Let the class tell their own experiences and express their own feelings toward obedience.

Suppose we cannot see anything wrong or harmful in card playing or Sunday amusements, or smoking, etc., and the leaders of the Church advise against all these things—what is our answer?