



Type: Magazine Article

Some Testimonies Regarding the Book of Mormon

Author(s): Juvenile Instructor Staff

Source: *Juvenile Instructor*, Vol. 52, No. 9 (September 1917), pp. 484–486

Published by: Deseret Sunday School Union

Abstract: Students of Calvin S. Smith's theology class at the Latter-day Saints University bear testimony of the Book of Mormon.



Some Testimonies Regarding the Book of Mormon

The purpose of Book of Mormon study in the Church schools is to create in the minds of the students an appreciation for the Gospel and a desire for right living. At the close of this school year Calvin S. Smith, one of the seven teachers of this subject, in the Latter-day Saints University, asked the students of his theology class to state on paper whether or not the study of theology had had and would have for them a definite, positive, practical value. In each reply they were to give their reasons. Discussion in class had been very free and the opinion of the teacher had been frequently called in question and discussed. The teacher of the class feels that each reply was a true statement of the sentiments of the student.

All are not printed for lack of space, but the following will indicate the general feeling of the students:

I am certainly pleased to have the opportunity to tell how much I appreciate this Theology class.

First of all, I must say that I never knew what a wonderful school the L. D. S. was until I, myself, became a pupil.

Very often I tell my friends, and think about it, too, myself, that I might never have read the beautiful Book of Mormon if it had not been prescribed as a special part of my daily work. I have become more enthusiastic in Sunday School and want to keep learning about the wonderful

God that many people forget about until Sunday.

Even though I have not made my efforts realized, as yet, I really do want to live up to the Book of Mormon and the Bible, which I will study next year.

By studying, every day, things that are practical, things really concerning our duty in the world, I have honestly learned that these things are truly the most important after all.

Algebra, English, French, or any other valuable study is not nearly so important as Theology; and it seems a shame that so few know it. I am very sorry for my conduct and had attention, and the little interest I have taken in it, and hope to learn much more next year.

I have started to read the Bible, which I keep near my bed, and nothing makes me happier than to read it in the early mornings and evenings.

I am sure I would not have thought of it if it were not for the Theology taught in our dear school.

I think a certain amount of religion should be taught in every school in the world.

—LaFawn Bailey.

The work in this class this year has been a great pleasure to me. I have learned something. I have read the Book of Mormon through, and think it has been of great benefit to me. I know more about the Church and about the resurrection. I think with a little reviewing I could tell the whole story of the Book of Mormon.

—Arvilla Thackeray.

I have learned a great deal from the Book of Mormon this year.

1. I have learned of the ancient inhabitants of this continent and that the Indians of today are among the first inhabitants of this continent.

2. I have learned how the Lord deals with His people. If they are righteous and obey His commands, they will prosper and the Lord will bless them; but if they are unrighteous they will have to suffer.

3. I have a better understanding of the Church.

4. I have learned of the things that have been prophesied that will come to pass in the latter days and that the things prophesied in the first part of the Book of Mormon all came to pass.

5. I have learned what the plates contained when they were delivered to Joseph Smith and what the Book of Mormon now contains.

6. I have learned how the Lord told the Nephites that the Law of Moses was fulfilled and they should no longer offer sacrifices but should have the Sacrament instead to show they remembered Him. He gave the prayers for the bread and the water.

—Lillian Maxfield.

The first thing I have learned in my Theology class is, "*Not to put off until tomorrow what you can do today*" in my lessons.

I have a more thorough knowledge of the Book of Mormon, and have learned much from the discussions and topics had outside of the lesson.

I have learned to "concentrate on a thing and do it." It has helped me to speak in the whole school and prepare my lessons, whether there was anything to take my mind off the subject or not.

I have learned to be more prompt in my religious duties.

—LeRoy Sanders.

I think I have become a better student and have been improved in re-

gard to deep thinking, and also in my behavior.

I have become far enough advanced in this class to become a second class teacher in our small Sunday School when I am home, and I have learned to like Sunday School, which I never attended, to speak of, before.

This class has broadened my view of Mormonism and increased my belief a good deal.

—Lester Nielson.

I think that this theology has been and will be a great benefit to me. Although I have not studied as much as I could have done. It has helped me with my Sunday School lessons and also to talk more fully about our religion. I also think that it will be of great benefit to me in after life. If I ever go on a mission I am sure that it will be of much use to me, and I am sure that I will never forget having studied it.

—Milton Cannon.

I have learned a great many things that are useful to me. The theme on lying and its effect was discussed in a way that I shall never forget; also on cards. I understand more fully the laws and the punishments discussed in class; what happiness really is.

I have read the Book of Mormon and I do not now consider myself ignorant of the history of the Nephites and Lamanites. I think I could tell pretty well their history.

I understand the principles of the Gospel better and will be interested in Sunday School and other meetings.

—Myrtle Reid.

I think I have learned many things that will be useful to me now and in after life. As for the things that would be useful to me now, I think the study of the Book of Mormon itself is of use to any one.

We learn the records of the people hundreds of years ago, the history of the Lamanites, the Nephites, etc. We learn many prophecies that were given to them.

The Book of Mormon also teaches us to know good from evil and we are taught how to gain true happiness,—by keeping the Sabbath day holy, returning good for evil, and honoring our fathers and our mothers.

—Ethel Corbett.

I think that this course has done me a great deal of good and will do me still more good. Often questions come up which need a great deal of discussing and if you don't know anything about the Book of Mormon you have to keep silent and cannot take part in the discussion. It has helped me in this way. Then there are many people who are not Mormons who like to talk about it. If we happen to hear them, and don't know anything about our religion we just have to let them go on talking about us. But if we *know* about our religion we can tell them where they are wrong.

This course has made me think about our religion and try to live up to it, much more than I did before.

—Mae Soper.

I am glad that we have had the opportunity in High School of reading the Book of Mormon all the way through. It will spur me on to read it again. When an Elder in the ward or any meeting speaks about some part of the Book of Mormon, I can just about tell the condition of affairs at that time. At one meeting a brother spoke about the Prophet Abinadi and I was glad that I knew something of what he was talking about. It has given me a stronger testimony of the Gospel and a regret that sometimes I did not pay attention as I should have done.

—Alex Schreiner.

The question is "Have I learned anything that will be of value to me while in the Theology class this year?" Yes, I think I have. When I first came into this Theology class this year, I am ashamed to say, I knew scarcely anything of the Book of Mormon. Now, after a year's study of it I feel better prepared concerning this study than before. I have learned many things concerning the history of the peoples of which this book tells and of how the records were made which contain the doctrines of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

I have also learned that "man is that he might have joy." I think I know the true way in which we may have joy; that we should try to follow the commandments of the Lord, by being truthful, obedient, keeping the Sabbath holy, honoring our parents, doing unto others as we would have others do unto us, and always trying to do those things which will be pleasing to Him.

I have enjoyed my Theology work a great deal *this* year and hope I will be able to like it as well next year.

—Arlene Poulton.

The Buttermilk Slide

By Jean Brown Fennesbeck

The four little Brown children had been left alone for the afternoon. There were Lon, Joan, Clippy and the Baby. When they stood lined up, oldest by oldest, they resembled nothing so much as a small stairway with carefully graded steps ascending from the smooth, bald pate of the Baby, to the friz-covered top of Clippy who was next to the 'baby, and so on up to Lon, the big brother. Just how big he was, you may guess, for he was only nine; Joan was seven; Clippy, five; and the Baby, three. That is how they happened to be like steps, you see. That is how it hap-