

Teacher's Supplement - A Sure Foundation – Restoring Knowledge to the Gospel of Christ

PROCEDURE

SECTION 1

Motivation/Introduction (3-5 minutes)

Prior to class: Write the following list on the board:

- The Brass plates
- Book of the Lamb of God
- Nephite and Jaredite records
- Moveable type printing press
- Christopher Columbus
- Gentile freedom-seekers
- The Americas, land of the free
- Joseph Smith, Jr.
- Power of the Holy Ghost

Lesson Development (20-30 minutes)

Activity (15-20 minutes)

See Teacher's Resources on following pages.

Suggestions/Scriptures for Further Study/Exploration/Extension of Topic

History of Restoring The Church of Jesus Christ

Resources -

Cadman, W.H. A History of The Church of Jesus Christ. The Church of Jesus Christ, 1945, Chapter 1, "The True Succession of the Restored Gospel" page 2, paragraph 3

Watson, Robert A. A History of The Church of Jesus Christ, Volume 2, The Church of Jesus Christ, 2002, Chapter 1, "The Restoration of the Priesthood" page 26

Member's Guide, The Church of Jesus Christ, 1/31/2017, Chapter 2, "History of The Church of Jesus Christ", Section 2.4

Other Tasks Pertaining to God's Plan of Restoration

The House of Israel – Restoring Knowledge:

- Identity with Israel
- Acceptance of Jesus Christ
- Obeying the gospel
- Knowing of their ancestors in the Americas
- Restoring their promised lands

(2 Nephi 9:1-2; 25:14-18; 30:3-8; 3 Nephi 16: 1-5; 21:1-7, Mormon chapter 7)

Restoring body and spirit (Alma 11:43-44; 41:2)

Church Education Online Lessons

America the Promised Land

Teacher's Resource - Restoring Knowledge to the Gospel- Brass Plates

BRASS PLATES

Synopsis: Around 600 B.C. the brass plates were obtained by Nephi to take to the promised land. They contain valuable information including: 5 books of Moses, a record of the Jews from the beginning to the reign of Zedekiah, and many prophecies, including Jeremiah's. The brass plates contain knowledge of the plan of redemption through Christ. They identify Lehi's lineage to Joseph of Egypt. These records are preserved to go to all of Lehi's descendants. The knowledge contained on the brass plates is to benefit future generations. Because of this knowledge, we know the identity of descendants of Joseph and others of the House of Israel who live in the Americas.

1 Nephi 5

[10] And after they had given thanks unto the God of Israel, my father, Lehi, took the records which were engraven upon the plates of brass, and he did search them from the beginning.

[11] And he beheld that they did contain the five books of Moses, which gave an account of the creation of the world, and also of Adam and Eve, who were our first parents;

[12] And also a record of the Jews from the beginning, even down to the commencement of the reign of Zedekiah, king of Judah;

[13] And also the prophecies of the holy prophets, from the beginning, even down to the commencement of the reign of Zedekiah; and also many prophecies which have been spoken by the mouth of Jeremiah.

[14] And it came to pass that my father, Lehi, also found upon the plates of brass a genealogy of his fathers; wherefore he knew that he was a descendant of Joseph; yea, even that Joseph who was the son of Jacob, who was sold into Egypt, and who was preserved by the hand of the Lord, that he might preserve his father, Jacob, and all his household from perishing with famine.

[15] And they were also led out of captivity and out of the land of Egypt, by that same God who had preserved them.

[16] And thus my father, Lehi, did discover the genealogy of his fathers. And Laban also was a descendant of Joseph, wherefore he and his fathers had kept the records.

[17] And now when my father saw all these things, he was filled with the Spirit, and began to prophesy concerning his seed --

[18] That these plates of brass should go forth unto all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people who were of his seed.

[19] Wherefore, he said that these plates of brass should never perish; neither should they be dimmed any more by time. And he prophesied many things concerning his seed.

[21] And we had obtained the records which the Lord had commanded us, and searched them and found that they were desirable; yea, even of great worth unto us, insomuch that we could preserve the commandments of the Lord unto our children.

[22] Wherefore, it was wisdom in the Lord that we should carry them with us, as we journeyed in the wilderness towards the land of promise.

Teacher's Resource- Restoring Knowledge to the Gospel- Records

NEPHITE and JAREDITE RECORDS

Synopsis: In the Americas, Nephite scribes recorded the gospel of Christ. They used the information on the brass plates, revelations they received from the Holy Spirit, and the words of Christ when He visited the Americas. These records were preserved for hundreds of years with the intent to be shared with the Gentiles at a future time. The revelation of these records restored knowledge of Christ's gospel that had been removed from the book of the Lamb of God. These records are another witness to the truth of Jesus being the Christ and that salvation comes only through belief on Him.

1 Nephi 13

[35] For, behold, saith the Lamb: I will manifest myself unto thy seed, that they shall write many things which I shall minister unto them, which shall be plain and precious; and after thy seed shall be destroyed, and dwindle in unbelief, and also the seed of thy brethren, behold, these things shall be hid up, to come forth unto the Gentiles, by the gift and power of the Lamb.

[40] And the angel spake unto me, saying: These last records, which thou hast seen among the Gentiles, shall establish the truth of the first, which are of the twelve apostles of the Lamb, and shall make known the plain and precious things which have been taken away from them; and shall make known to all kindreds, tongues, and people, that the Lamb of God is the Son of the Eternal Father, and the Savior of the world; and that all men must come unto him, or they cannot be saved.

[41] And they must come according to the words which shall be established by the mouth of the Lamb; and the words of the Lamb shall be made known in the records of thy seed, as well as in the records of the twelve apostles of the Lamb; wherefore they both shall be established in one; for there is one God and one Shepherd over all the earth.

Title page from THE BOOK OF MORMON

An Account Written by THE HAND OF MORMON UPON PLATES TAKEN FROM THE PLATES OF NEPHI

Wherefore, it is an abridgment of the record of the people of Nephi, and also of the Lamanites -- Written to the Lamanites, who are a remnant of the house of Israel; and also to Jew and Gentile -- Written by way of commandment, and also by the spirit of prophecy and of revelation -- Written and sealed up, and hid up unto the Lord, that they might not be destroyed -- To come forth by the gift and power of God unto the interpretation thereof -- Sealed by the hand of Moroni, and hid up unto the Lord, to come forth in due time by way of the Gentile -- The interpretation thereof by the gift of God.

An abridgment taken from the Book of Ether also, which is a record of the people of Jared, who were scattered at the time the Lord confounded the language of the people, when they were building a tower to get to heaven -- Which is to show unto the remnant of the House of Israel what great things the Lord hath done for their fathers; and that they may know the covenants of the Lord, that they are not cast off forever -- And also to the convincing of the Jew and Gentile that Jesus is the Christ, the Eternal God, manifesting himself unto all nations -- And now, if there are faults they are the mistakes of men; wherefore, condemn not the things of God, that ye may be found spotless at the judgment-seat of Christ.

-- MORONI

Teacher's Resource - Restoring Knowledge to the Gospel – Book of the Lamb of God

BOOK OF THE LAMB OF GOD

Synopsis: The Book of the Lamb of God is the record of Christ's apostles in Jerusalem. It contains the truth of God's word – a record of the Jews, covenants of the Lord to the house of Israel, many prophecies, and the genuine gospel of Christ. Many plain and precious parts of the gospel and many of God's covenants to Israel were removed or changed by the Gentiles under the influence of the great and abominable church.

The altered book of the Lamb of God became known as the Bible. There are many versions created of the Bible throughout history. The Gentiles learned about God, Jesus the Redeemer, and His commission to His apostles - to teach, to baptize, to observe the commandments of Christ – by reading the Bible. Historically, the Bible was used by Gentiles to introduce salvation through Christ to people in the Americas.

1 Nephi 13

[21] And the angel said unto me: Knowest thou the meaning of the book?

[22] And I said unto him: I know not.

[23] And he said: Behold it proceedeth out of the mouth of a Jew. And I, Nephi, beheld it; and he said unto me: The book that thou beholdest is a record of the Jews, which contains the covenants of the Lord, which he hath made unto the house of Israel; and it also containeth many of the prophecies of the holy prophets; and it is a record like unto the engravings which are upon the plates of brass, save there are not so many; nevertheless, they contain the covenants of the Lord, which he hath made unto the house of Israel; wherefore, they are of great worth unto the Gentiles.

[24] And the angel of the Lord said unto me: Thou hast beheld that the book proceeded forth from the mouth of a Jew; and when it proceeded forth from the mouth of a Jew it contained the plainness of the gospel of the Lord, of whom the twelve apostles bear record; and they bear record according to the truth which is in the Lamb of God.

[25] Wherefore, these things go forth from the Jews in purity unto the Gentiles, according to the truth which is in God.

[26] And after they go forth by the hand of the twelve apostles of the Lamb, from the Jews unto the Gentiles, thou seest the foundation of a great and abominable church, which is most abominable above all other churches; for behold, they have taken away from the gospel of the Lamb many parts which are plain and most precious; and also many covenants of the Lord have they taken away.

[38] And it came to pass that I beheld the remnant of the seed of my brethren, and also the book of the Lamb of God, which had proceeded forth from the mouth of the Jew, that it came forth from the Gentiles unto the remnant of the seed of my brethren.

Teacher's Resource - Restoring Knowledge to the Gospel – Printing Press

MOVEABLE TYPE PRINTING PRESS

Synopsis: The moveable type printing press was invented in Germany by Johannes Gutenberg. Legend has it that he was inspired with the concept of a moveable type printing press in 1439 A.D. By 1440, he was working on several prototypes of a moveable type printing press. In 1452 he began his most famous project of printing what became known as the Gutenberg Bible. The first edition was printed in 1455 and 180 copies were made in the Latin language.

Gutenberg's invention made a measurable impact on society. Prior to the invention of the moveable type printing press, people handwrote every word of a book which made it time-consuming to produce and too expensive for common people to own. The moveable type printing press allowed information to be published and distributed faster, and to be sold at an affordable price for most people. By the early 16th century, the Bible was printed in the languages of the common people.

<https://owlcation.com/humanities/Johannes-Gutenberg-and-the-Printing-Press-Revolution>

<https://www.hrc.utexas.edu/exhibitions/permanent/gutenbergbible/history/#top>

1 Nephi 13

[20] And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld that they did prosper in the land; and I beheld a book, and it was carried forth among them.

[29] And after these plain and precious things were taken away it goeth forth unto all the nations of the Gentiles; and after it goeth forth unto all the nations of the Gentiles, yea, even across the many waters which thou hast seen with the Gentiles which have gone forth out of captivity, thou seest—because of the many plain and precious things which have been taken out of the book, which were plain unto the understanding of the children of men, according to the plainness which is in the Lamb of God—because of these things which are taken away out of the gospel of the Lamb, an exceeding great many do stumble, yea, insomuch that Satan hath great power over them.

Teacher's Resource - Restoring Knowledge to the Gospel - Gentiles

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

Synopsis: Christopher Columbus studied the Bible and was led by the Holy Spirit to discover the promised land (the Americas).

[Select letters of Christopher Columbus: with other original documents](#)

1 Nephi 13

[12] And I looked and beheld a man among the Gentiles, who was separated from the seed of my brethren by the many waters; and I beheld the Spirit of God, that it came down and wrought upon the man; and he went forth upon the many waters, even unto the seed of my brethren, who were in the promised land.

GENTILE FREEDOM-SEEKERS

Synopsis: Gentile believers were inspired to seek freedom and traveled to the Americas to worship without oppression. They brought their Bibles with them. They shared God's word with people in the Americas who had lived without it for many generations.

1 Nephi 13

[13] And it came to pass that I beheld the Spirit of God, that it wrought upon other Gentiles; and they went forth out of captivity, upon the many waters.

[15] And I beheld the Spirit of the Lord, that it was upon the Gentiles, and they did prosper and obtain the land for their inheritance; and I beheld that they were white, and exceeding fair and beautiful, like unto my people before they were slain.

[16] And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld that the Gentiles who had gone forth out of captivity did humble themselves before the Lord; and the power of the Lord was with them.

[20] And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld that they did prosper in the land; and I beheld a book, and it was carried forth among them.

[38] And it came to pass that I beheld the remnant of the seed of my brethren, and also the book of the Lamb of God, which had proceeded forth from the mouth of the Jew, that it came forth from the Gentiles unto the remnant of the seed of my brethren.

Teacher's Resource - Restoring Knowledge to the Gospel - America

THE AMERICAS, LAND OF THE FREE

Synopsis: The power of God was with Gentile freedom-seekers to gain independence from oppressive rulers in the Old World. The Americas are ordained by God to be lands of liberty where people will serve Jesus Christ. It was God's plan to restore the gospel of Christ and reestablish His Church in a land of liberty.

1 Nephi 13

[17] And I beheld that their mother Gentiles were gathered together upon the waters, and upon the land also, to battle against them.

[18] And I beheld that the power of God was with them, and also that the wrath of God was upon all those that were gathered together against them to battle.

[19] And I, Nephi, beheld that the Gentiles that had gone out of captivity were delivered by the power of God out of the hands of all other nations.

3 Nephi 21

[4] For it is wisdom in the Father that they should be established in this land, and be set up as a free people by the power of the Father, that these things might come forth from them unto a remnant of your seed, that the covenant of the Father may be fulfilled which he hath covenanted with his people, O house of Israel;

[5] Therefore, when these works and the works which shall be wrought among you hereafter shall come forth from the Gentiles, unto your seed which shall dwindle in unbelief because of iniquity;

[6] For thus it behooveth the Father that it should come forth from the Gentiles, that he may show forth his power unto the Gentiles, for this cause that the Gentiles, if they will not harden their hearts, that they may repent and come unto me and be baptized in my name and know of the true points of my doctrine, that they may be numbered among my people, O house of Israel;

Ether 2

[12] Behold, this is a choice land, and whatsoever nation shall possess it shall be free from bondage, and from captivity, and from all other nations under heaven, if they will but serve the God of the land, who is Jesus Christ, who hath been manifested by the things which we have written.

Teacher's Resource - Restoring Knowledge to the Gospel – Joseph Smith, Jr.

JOSEPH SMITH, JR.

Synopsis: Joseph Smith, Jr. believed in God. God answered Joseph Smith, Jr.'s prayer, asking Him to reveal His church. God visited Joseph through a vision and told him to hear the words of Christ and to join none of the churches that existed in his day. God revealed to Joseph on subsequent occasions that he would be used to do a great work for Him.

Through a heavenly messenger, God revealed the existence of ancient sacred records that were buried in the earth. These records contained the words of Christ and revelations concerning the House of Israel – information that had been removed from sacred manuscripts of the Jews called the book of the Lamb of God. God delivered ancient records on Sept. 22, 1827 to Joseph Smith, Jr. and through His power, Joseph translated the writings on the records. The manuscript was published in 1829-1830 as *The Book of Mormon*. God used Joseph Smith, Jr. to restore fullness to the gospel of Christ through the translation of the Nephite records.

3 Nephi 21

[2] And behold, this is the thing which I will give unto you for a sign -- for verily I say unto you that when these things which I declare unto you, and which I shall declare unto you hereafter of myself, and by the power of the Holy Ghost which shall be given unto you of the Father, shall be made known unto the Gentiles that they may know concerning this people who are a remnant of the house of Jacob, and concerning this my people who shall be scattered by them;]

3] Verily, verily, I say unto you, when these things shall be made known unto them of the Father, and shall come forth of the Father, from them unto you;

[4] For it is wisdom in the Father that they should be established in this land, and be set up as a free people by the power of the Father, that these things might come forth from them unto a remnant of your seed, that the covenant of the Father may be fulfilled which he hath covenanted with his people, O house of Israel;

[5] Therefore, when these works and the works which shall be wrought among you hereafter shall come forth from the Gentiles, unto your seed which shall dwindle in unbelief because of iniquity;

Ether 5

[1] And now I, Moroni, have written the words which were commanded me, according to my memory; and I have told you the things which I have sealed up; therefore touch them not in order that ye may translate; for that thing is forbidden you, except by and by it shall be wisdom in God.

[2] And behold, ye may be privileged that ye may show the plates unto those who shall assist to bring forth this work;

[3] And unto three shall they be shown by the power of God; wherefore they shall know of a surety that these things are true.

[4] And in the mouth of three witnesses shall these things be established; and the testimony of three, and this work, in the which shall be shown forth the power of God and also his word, of which the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost bear record -- and all this shall stand as a testimony against the world at the last day.

Isaiah 29:

[10] For the LORD hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and hath closed your eyes: the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered.

[11] And the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed, which *men* deliver to one that is learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I cannot; for it is sealed:

[12] And the book is delivered to him that is not learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I am not learned.

Refer to *Member's Guide of The Church of Jesus Christ*, Chapter 4 "The Book of Mormon", Section 4.4

<http://thechurchofjesuschrist.org/resources/education>

Teacher's Resource - Restoring Knowledge to the Gospel – Holy Ghost

POWER OF THE HOLY GHOST

Synopsis: It is by the power of Christ, who is God, that all things are accomplished. Throughout time God sent the Holy Spirit to reveal Himself and His will to men, inspiring them - to write, to protect, to preserve, to invent, to discover, to seek religious freedom, to establish free governments, to reveal hidden records, to translate, to publish, and in many more ways that are a mystery at present.

Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Ghost, restored His word (His truth) unto people, to the Gentiles first, through the Nephite and Jaredite records which were revealed and translated by the power of the Holy Ghost, and published as *The Book of Mormon*. This added to the Holy Bible, made His gospel complete/full. By the power of His Spirit, Christ will reveal all of His word to all nations.

1 Nephi 13

[34] And it came to pass that the angel of the Lord spake unto me, saying: Behold, saith the Lamb of God, after I have visited the remnant of the house of Israel -- and this remnant of whom I speak is the seed of thy father -- wherefore, after I have visited them in judgment, and smitten them by the hand of the Gentiles, and after the Gentiles do stumble exceedingly, because of the most plain and precious parts of the gospel of the Lamb which have been kept back by that abominable church, which is the mother of harlots, saith the Lamb -- I will be merciful unto the Gentiles in that day, insomuch that I will bring forth unto them, in mine own power, much of my gospel, which shall be plain and precious, saith the Lamb.

[35] For, behold, saith the Lamb: I will manifest myself unto thy seed, that they shall write many things which I shall minister unto them, which shall be plain and precious; and after thy seed shall be destroyed, and dwindle in unbelief, and also the seed of thy brethren, behold, these things shall be hid up, to come forth unto the Gentiles, by the gift and power of the Lamb.

[39] And after it had come forth unto them I beheld other books, which came forth by the power of the Lamb, from the Gentiles unto them, unto the convincing of the Gentiles and the remnant of the seed of my brethren, and also the Jews who were scattered upon all the face of the earth, that the records of the prophets and of the twelve apostles of the Lamb are true.

[41] And they must come according to the words which shall be established by the mouth of the Lamb; and the words of the Lamb shall be made known in the records of thy seed, as well as in the records of the twelve apostles of the Lamb; wherefore they both shall be established in one; for there is one God and one Shepherd over all the earth.

1 Nephi 14

[7] For the time cometh, saith the Lamb of God, that I will work a great and a marvelous work among the children of men; a work which shall be everlasting, either on the one hand or on the other -- either to the convincing of them unto peace and life eternal, or unto the deliverance of them to the hardness of their hearts and the blindness of their minds unto their being brought down into captivity, and also into destruction, both temporally and spiritually, according to the captivity of the devil, of which I have spoken.