

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

## PROCEDURE

### Motivation/Introduction (10 minutes)

**Prior to class:** Write terms and definitions on the board and list of patterns.

### Terms and Definitions

**Apostasy** → changing the faith

**Gospel** → 1. The teaching or revelation of Christ  
2. The record of Jesus's life and teachings in the first four books of the New Testament

**Pattern** → a model for making things, an example

**Restore** → to bring back; put back into the former state

### Patterns

**Jesus's Pattern:** XXOO = Jesus's Rock

**Apostasies:**

- Small changes: XXOZ
- Moderate changes: XXZZ
- Extreme changes: XZZZ
- Completely different: ZZZZ

### Lesson Development (15-20 minutes)

#### Summary of Joseph Smith, Jr., and the Nephite Records

Joseph Smith, Jr. lived in America in the early 1800s, during a time when many churches claimed to be the church of Christ, but they did not teach the true gospel of Christ. Joseph lived during a time of the world-wide apostasy.

Joseph Smith, Jr., and members of his family sought for a church in which to serve God. His family did not agree on which church to attend. Joseph, who was a teenager at the time, read in his Bible, James 1:5, "If any of you lack wisdom let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally..." Joseph went to God in prayer asking what church to join. God answered Joseph's prayer in a very amazing way! Joseph saw a vision of the Lord and a voice from heaven spoke and said, "This is my beloved Son, Hear ye Him."

Sometime later, Joseph was visited by a heavenly messenger who showed him where ancient records were buried - the same records that Moroni buried over one thousand years prior! God told Joseph Smith, Jr. to uncover the records, and that He would give him the ability to translate them from Moroni's language into the English language.

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

Introduce students to the everlasting promises that God made to Abraham and his sons, and to the knowledge gained from the Nephite records of Lehi being the descendant of Joseph of Egypt, one of Abraham's great-grandsons.

### Church Education Online Lessons:

- Abinadi Teaches God's Commandments
- Following God... or Not?
- God Empowers Alma to Restore the Church to Righteousness
- The Ordinances of God
- The Importance of the Written Word of God