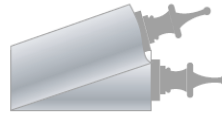




CHURCH EDUCATION

The Holy Bible  
The Book of Mormon



*'...and they shall become one in thine hand.'* Ezekiel 37.17

## LESSON TITLE

Lehi Receives a Blessing of the Promised Land

- Part 1: The Brass Plates

## UNIT 6 – Evidence of Authority and Establishing the Church

### GRADES 1-3

### THE HOLY BIBLE

Philippians 4: 13 “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”

### THE BOOK OF MORMON

1 Nephi 3: 7 “And it came to pass that I, Nephi, said unto my father: I will go and do that which the Lord hath commanded, for I know that the Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men, save he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them. “

### OBJECTIVES

The student will be able to:

- Recognize God’s preservation of Lehi’s family in obtaining the brass plates, 1 Nephi chapters 1-5, 2 Kings chapters 24,25. 2 Chronicles 36.
- Recognize that Christ helps us to accomplish all things.

### ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- Why does God tell Lehi to leave his home?
- Which of Lehi’s sons are obedient? Which of Lehi’s sons are disobedient?
- What does Lehi send his sons back to Jerusalem to get?

### MATERIALS

*Holy Bible and The Book of Mormon*

Map of the Middle East

**Task:** Copies of play, 1- copy per actor, Pages 3-8.

**Task:** Word Puzzle, page 9. 1- copy per student.

## TEACHER NOTES

40-minute lesson

To prepare for this lesson, study the scriptural references listed in **OBJECTIVES**.

Q = Teacher asks question

## PROCEDURE

### Motivation/Introduction (3 minutes)

1. Engage students in a conversation about moving to a new location.

**Q:** Who has moved to a new home?

**Q:** How far did you move?

**Q:** What did you like about moving? What did you not like about moving?

**Goals:** Recognize God's preservation of Lehi's family in obtaining the brass plates. Recognize that Christ helps us to accomplish all things.

### Lesson Development (30-35 minutes)

1. Display a map of the Middle East on the wall.
  - a. Locate Jerusalem on the map and inform students that the story takes place there.
  - b. Provide background information about Lehi's family moving from Jerusalem:

*Today we will listen to and act out the story of a family who lived in Jerusalem during dangerous times. The Lord has a plan to help this family.*

2. Task: Students role play Lehi's family leaving Jerusalem and obtaining the brass plates (Script pages 3-8). Select students to play the characters.
  - a. Teacher may elect to read through the play as students follow along, and/or
  - b. Tell students to read their parts and role play. (If there are more students than parts, tell students without parts to be the audience.)

3. Discuss Essential Questions.

4. Scripture Cheer: Lead students in cheer

- "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Philippians 4:13

5. Task: Word Puzzle.

Key words: evidence, authority, establish, church, Lehi, brass plates

## Teacher's Supplement

### Play - Obtaining the Brass Plates

**Characters:** Narrator, Lemuel, Zoram, Lehi, Sam, Angel, Sariah, Nephi, Laman, Laban

**Narrator:** A long time ago, in the city of Jerusalem, the people were very wicked. God sent many prophets to tell the people to repent or that the city would be destroyed. A righteous man named Lehi prayed to the Lord for his people. The Lord visited Lehi in a pillar of fire and gave him a vision. In the vision, Lehi discovered that the Babylonians would conquer Jerusalem, capture many people, and take them to Babylon. Lehi among the people preaching that they must repent or that they would be conquered, but the people grew angry, and tried to take his life.

**Lehi:** Everybody, come quickly! Last night, God spoke to me in a dream. The people are angry with me and want to kill me. They will not listen to my warning and so Jerusalem will be destroyed. We must pack up everything we own and travel into the wilderness.

**Sariah:** Lehi, are you sure? What about our house? Are we just going to leave it?

**Sam:** What about our gold and our silver and our fine clothes? We can't carry all that through the desert.

**Lehi:** We must leave everything that we will not need. We leave tomorrow!

**Narrator:** So, the family packed their belongings and marched out into the desert where they pitched their tents near the Red Sea. Soon, Laman and Lemuel began to complain.

**Laman:** Dad, this is crazy! What are we doing out in the middle of nowhere? Why did we have to leave all our riches behind? We're going to die out here and someone else is going to take everything that we left back home.

**Lemuel:** Dad, no offense, but you're crazy having all these visions and dreams and leading us out to the middle of nowhere. There's no way that Jerusalem could be destroyed.

**Nephi:** (talking to Sam) I don't think our father is crazy. I will pray to God to see if what Dad says is true.

**Sam:** I believe you, Nephi.

**Narrator:** So, Nephi prayed to the Lord and God spoke to him and explained everything that he needed to know. Meanwhile, Lehi scolded Laman and Lemuel for ignoring the things of God until they shook before him and followed his directions. A little while later, however, Lehi had another dream.

**Lehi:** My sons, come here, I have something to tell you. I had another dream.

**Lemuel:** Oh great, here we go again.

**Lehi:** I need you four to go back to Jerusalem.

**Laman and Lemuel:** Hooray!

**Lehi:** I need you to get something and then bring it back here.

**Laman and Lemuel:** (disappointed) Awww!

**Narrator:** Lehi explained that God had told him that he must get some brass plates from a man named Laban. These plates contained a history of Lehi's family and a record of the history from the time of Adam and Eve all the way up to their days. God was going to lead Lehi's family to a new land and they would need this record to teach their children about their history and about following God's commandments. These records also explained that Lehi and his family were descendants of Joseph who was sold into Egypt many years before.

**Lehi:** Go, my sons, and get the brass plates from Laban.

**Sam:** That should not be too hard, should it?

**Laman:** Oh yes it will! Laban is a very dangerous man!

**Lemuel:** This is crazy! First you want us to leave and now you want us to go back!

**Lehi:** I am not telling you to do this. God is. This task is a commandment of the Lord!

**Nephi:** Father, I will go and do what the Lord has commanded, for I know that He never gives a commandment unless He creates a way to accomplish it.

**Lehi:** Nephi, because of your faith, you will be blessed.

**Sam:** Let's pack our things and go!

**Narrator:** So, the four brothers packed their things and traveled through the desert all the way back to Jerusalem to get the brass plates (about a three days' journey). When they got to the edge of the city, they cast lots to see who would go get the plates. The lot fell on Laman, the oldest brother, so he went to the house of Laban.

**Laman:** Wow! This place is huge! Laban must be rich.

**Zoram:** Who are you? What are you doing here?

**Laman:** I have come to talk to Laban.

**Zoram:** Okay, come this way. But I warn you, he's in a bad mood.  
(Zoram leads Laman into the house.)

**Laban:** Who has come to bother me and what does he want!

**Laman:** My name is Laman and I have come to ask if you will give my father, Lehi, the brass plates that contain a history of our people.

**Laban:** What? No way! You are a robber who has come to steal my riches! I won't give you the plates! I will kill you!

**Laman:** Ahhhhh! (Runs away)

(Back outside the city)

**Sam:** I see Laman running back this way.

**Lemuel:** Maybe he has the plates.

**Laman:** Brothers! Let us get out of here! Laban tried to kill me.

**Lemuel:** That is it, I am out of here!

**Sam:** Me too.

**Nephi:** Wait a minute! God commanded us to get those plates, so we're going to get them. Remember all the gold and silver that we left back at home? Let us go get them and try to buy the plates from Laban.

**Lemuel:** Now you are thinking! Why did we not think of that the first time?

**Narrator:** So the brothers collected all their parent's riches and brought them to Laban's house.

**Zoram:** Master, four men are here to see you.

**Laban:** What do you want?

**Lemuel:** We want to buy the brass plates from you. We will give you these gold and silver and precious things for them.

**Laban:** Wow that is a lot of gold!

**Sam:** So will you trade?

**Laban:** No! I am just going to take it from you! Guards, kill them!

**Laman, Lemuel, Sam, Nephi:** AAAAAHH! (Run away)

**Narrator:** The four brothers escaped and hid themselves in a small cave outside the city.

**Sam:** That was close!

**Laman:** Nephi, you almost got us killed! I'm sick of hearing you tell us what to do!

**Nephi:** We must go back and get the plates.

**Lemuel:** We are your older brothers; we will take charge! Laman is right, we are not going back!

**Sam:** Guys, stop yelling at Nephi. He's only reminding you of what God said we must do.

**Laman:** That is it; you both are going to get it!

**Narrator:** Laman was so angry that he grabbed a rod from the traveling supplies and began beating Sam and Nephi. Suddenly, an angel of God appeared and stopped him.

**Angel:** Why are hitting your brothers? Don't you know that God has chosen Nephi to be a ruler over you? This is because of your wickedness! Now go back to Jerusalem and God will deliver Laban to you. (Disappears)

**Laman:** Laban is too powerful. We can't do it.

**Nephi:** God delivered Moses from Egypt. He will help us too.

**Narrator:** Laman and Lemuel still grumbled, but they went with Sam and Nephi back to Jerusalem to get the plates. When they got there, Nephi told his brothers to hide outside the city while he went inside to get the plates. The Spirit of God led Nephi, and as he got near the house, he saw a man lying on the ground drunk with wine.

**Nephi:** It is Laban! And he's lying here drunk! Wow, look at his armor. And look at that sword!

**Narrator:** The Spirit of God told Nephi to take the sword and kill Laban, but Nephi did not want to.

**Nephi:** I have never killed a man before!

**Narrator:** The spirit of the Lord spoke to Nephi and told him that Laban was a wicked man who had tried to kill Nephi and his brothers. The Spirit explained that it was better for one wicked man to die than for all their family's children to fall into wickedness because they did not have the plates to teach them the commandments of God.

**Nephi:** I know that if I do not get those plates then all our descendants can never learn how to follow God.

**Narrator:** So, Nephi took Laban's sword, grabbed him by his hair, and chopped off his head. After this, he took Laban's clothes and armor and disguised himself as Laban. Then, he went into Laban's house to his treasury and found the servant who had the keys.

**Nephi:** (Speaking with Laban's voice) Unlock the treasury and get me the brass plates!

**Zoram:** Yes master. (Unlocks the door) Here are the plates. How was your visit with the elders tonight?

**Nephi:** Uh - it was fine. But I must take the plates to my friends outside the city. Follow me.

**Narrator:** So Nephi led Zoram outside the city.

**Laman:** Look! Laban is coming!

**Lemuel:** He killed Nephi!

**Sam:** Run!

**Nephi:** Wait! Brothers, it is me, Nephi!

**Zoram:** You are not Laban!

**Nephi:** You are not going anywhere!

**Narrator:** Zoram tried to escape, but Nephi, who was a large young man, grabbed him before he could run away.

**Nephi:** Look, friend, join us, and we will not harm you. You can be free and live with my family.

**Zoram:** Really?

**Sam:** We promise.

**Zoram:** Then I will join you.

**Narrator:** So, the four brothers journeyed back to their family with Zoram, the servant of Laban, as their new friend. They had been gone so long that their mother had grown very worried.

**Sariah:** My sons are dead! They have died in the wilderness!

**Lehi:** Have faith, my dear wife. God is taking care of them!

**Narrator:** But the brothers soon arrived back at their parent's campsite and everyone thanked God for preserving their lives and for giving them the brass plates which contained important information about their family history and the commandments of God.

The End

(Story continues with Parts 2 and 3)



## Word Puzzle - Philippians 4:13

Solve the word puzzle by placing the corresponding letter above the number coordinates. For example: (1, 6) = A

	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	A	B	C	D	E	F
2	G	H	I	J	K	L
3	M	N	O	P	Q	R
4	S	T	U	V	W	X
5	Y	Z				

(2,8) (1,8) (1,6) (3,7) (1,9) (3,8) (1,6) (2,11) (2,11) (4,7) (2,7) (2,8) (3,7) (2,6) (4,6)

(4,7) (2,7) (3,11) (3,8) (4,8) (2,6) (2,7) (1,8) (2,7) (3,11) (2,8) (4,6) (4,7) (4,10) (2,7) (2,8) (1,8) (2,7)

(4,6) (4,7) (3,11) (1,10) (3,7) (2,6) (4,7) (2,7) (1,10) (3,7) (4,7) (2,7) (3,6) (1,10).