

Teacher's Supplement – Lehi Receives a Blessing of a Land of Promise – Part 3

Play - Lehi's Family Crosses the Many Waters

Characters: Narrator, Nephi, Lehi, Ishmael's son, Lemuel, Sam, Laman's wife, Nephi's wife, Laman, Sariah, Lemuel's wife

Narrator: God commanded Lehi and his family to escape from Jerusalem and travel toward a place called the Promised Land, where they could live in safety and serve Him. He gave them a compass, called the Liahona, which showed them the path to take, but it only worked if they had faith and followed His directions. Lehi's family traveled through the wilderness for eight years, enduring many hardships along the way. They finally reached the sea shore where they could rest. This land had plenty of fruit and wild honey, so the people called it "Bountiful." They called the water "Irreantum" which means "many waters."

Let's see what happened to Lehi and his family after they had rested on the seashore for many days.

Lemuel: (Relaxing in a hammock by the shore) Ahhh! This is the life! I can just relax and drink coconut milk all day. I say no more traveling for me.

Laman: Me too. Hey, look over there. It looks like Nephi is sawing logs! Is he crazy?

Lemuel: Let's go see what our nutty little brother is doing now.

Nephi: Oh, hey guys. You're just in time to help me build a ship.

Lemuel: Where did you get that saw? And look at all these other tools!

Nephi: Well, God spoke to me and told me to go to the top of that mountain, over there, so I went. Then, He commanded me that I must build a ship and that we must cross this great sea and He said He would show me how to build it. Then He told me where to find metal to make these tools.

Laman: Our crazy little brother thinks that he can build a ship! Well, good luck, Nephi.

Lemuel: Yeah, don't expect us to help you.

Nephi: God said that if we keep His commandments, He will lead us to the Promised Land. We must be obedient!

Laman: Liar! It was dad's crazy idea to leave Jerusalem and you have supported it the whole time.

Lemuel: I'm sick of hearing, "God told me this and God told me that." Let's throw Nephi into the sea!

Nephi: In the name of God, don't touch me!

Narrator: Before Laman and Lemuel could grab their younger brother, Nephi told them that he was filled with the power of God and that whoever touched him would wither like a dead plant. He told them that if God commanded him to, he could say to the water, "Be dry land," and it would dry up. So, if God could do that, then He could tell him how to build a ship.

Laman and Lemuel were so scared that they would not touch Nephi for many days. Then, God spoke to Nephi and told him to stretch forth his hand to his brothers so that they could touch him. When Nephi did this, God shocked Laman and Lemuel so hard that they knelt before Nephi and began to worship him, but Nephi told them to stop.

Nephi: Don't worship me! Worship God! Now, help me build that ship.

Laman and Lemuel: Okay!

Narrator: So, God showed Nephi how to build the ship, which was different than any ship a man had built before, and he and his brothers worked together, per God's directions.

(Many days later, admiring the ship)

Lehi: Wow. That sure is a fine-looking boat. It sure looks sturdy. Let's pack up and go.

Sam: God really helped us. Without Him, we never could have done it!

Narrator: Lehi and all his family packed up their belongings. While traveling in the wilderness, Lehi and Sariah had two more sons born to them – Jacob and Joseph. These young boys would have been eight years or younger when their family boarded the ship, and set sail. The wind blew the ship on top of the water for many days.

Sam: (Like a pirate) Arrrr Matey! This be the life for me!

Nephi: You are silly, Sam.

Sariah: Are we still on course?

Lehi: Yes, dear. The needles on the Liahona are still pointing straight ahead.

Sam: Shiver me timbers! Me thinks I hear something at the back of the boat!

Lehi: Hey, what's all that ruckus!

Lemuel: Wahoo! We're having a party!

Laman's wife: Have some wine!

Sariah: Put that away! We should be following God's instructions. Stop this wild dancing and drunkenness!

Lemuel's wife: Oh, be quiet old woman! Learn to have some fun once in awhile.

Nephi: Listen, guys, if God grows angry with us, we're in trouble. We could drown in the sea!

Ishmael's son: Be quiet. I'm sick of you telling us what to do.

Laman: Our little brother will never rule over us. Let's tie Nephi up!

Lemuel: Yeah!

Narrator: Laman, Lemuel, and the sons of Ishmael tied Nephi with cords so that he could not move. Sam and the others were outnumbered so they could not do anything to stop them.

Laman: Now I'm captain of this ship! Lemuel, tell me where to steer.

Lemuel: I don't know where to go. This compass has gone haywire. It has stopped working.

Lemuel's wife: Look, dark storm clouds are coming!

Ishmael's son: The waves are getting huge! They are crashing upon the deck. Hold on everyone!

Laman's wife: I'm getting sea-sick! Maybe we celebrated too soon.

Laman: Be quiet! I'm in charge. We'll be fine.

Narrator: A huge storm arose and beat back the ship for three whole days. The waves pounded and crashed upon the vessel. On the fourth day, it got so bad that everyone feared that they would be swallowed up by the sea and drown.

(Huge waves, thunder, and lightning)

Sam: (desperate and yelling as loud as he could) Laman, you've got to let Nephi go! It's the only way that God will spare our lives!

Ishmael's son: Sam's right! If you don't let him go, we will all die!

Nephi's wife: (pleading) Please Laman. Our children have all grown sick from this terrible storm, and your father and mother are so weak that they have not left their beds for days.

Lemuel: Laman, they are right. We must repent for what we have done. God truly is angry with us.

Laman: Fine. Release Nephi. I'm sorry that I ever tied him up and took command.

(They untie Nephi)

Nephi: Ouch! My wrists and ankles are all swollen from those cords.

Narrator: After he was released, Nephi took the Liahona and it began to work once again. Nephi prayed to God and the winds and the storm stopped and everything turned to a great calm. Nephi once again guided the ship and he and his family were led toward the Promised Land.

Many days later, they finally arrived at a new shore where God had guided them. They landed safely and pitched their tents. This was that special place that God had prepared for them and their descendants to live. They were in the Promised Land!

Lehi's family planted the many seeds that they brought from Jerusalem, and they were blessed with plenty of food. As they explored the land, they found beasts in the forest of every kind, including cows, oxen, and goats. They also found plenty of gold and silver and copper. The people gave thanks to God for bringing them to the Promised Land.

Assignment - Who said it?

Below is a list of quotes from the Book of Mormon and the Bible. See if you can match each quote to the person who said it by drawing a line from the quote to the name. **Names can be used more than once.**

1 Nephi 17:17 "...Our brother is a fool, for he thinketh that he can build a ship; yea, and he also thinketh that he can cross these great waters."

God

1 Nephi 17: 50 "...If God had commanded me to do all things, I could do them. If he should command me that I should say unto this water, be thou earth, it should be earth; and if I should say it, it would be done."

1 Nephi 17:53 "...Stretch forth thine hand again unto thy brethren, and they shall not wither before thee, but I will shock them..."

Nephi

1 Nephi 18: 21 "And it came to pass after they had loosed me, behold, I took the compass, and it did work whither I desired it. And it came to pass that I prayed unto the Lord; and after I had prayed the winds did cease, and the storm did cease, and there was a great calm."

1 Nephi 17: 55 "...We know of a surety that the Lord is with thee, for we know that it is the power of the Lord that has shaken us."

Laman and Lemuel

John 15:10 "If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love."

1 Nephi 18: 9 "And after we had been driven forth before the wind, for the space of many days, behold, my brethren and the sons of Ishmael and also their wives began to make themselves merry, insomuch that they began to dance, and to sing, and to speak with much rudeness..."

Jesus

1 Nephi 17:13 "...and I will prepare the way before you, if it so be that ye shall keep my commandments; wherefore, inasmuch as ye shall keep my commandments ye shall be led towards the Promised Land; and ye shall know that it is by me that ye are led."