

# Teacher's Supplement - Our Children

## PROCEDURE

### Section 1

#### **Motivation/Introduction (15-20 minutes)**

“Who’s-Who Trivia – Assignment” located below.

#### **Lesson Development (20 minutes)**

“Dream for the Youth - Experience” located below.

### Section 2 (20-30 minutes)

#### The 2000 Stripling Soldiers

##### **Summary Alma 53:1-15:**

In the book of Alma, there was a time when a wicked leader of the Lamanites brought his armies upon the Nephite nation to bring them into slavery. City by city, the Lamanites began overtaking the land. The Nephite army rose in defense, but their numbers were much smaller and they were in desperate need of reinforcements. There was a righteous group of Lamanites living among the Nephites, called the Anti-Nephi-Lehies. In times past they had been a bloodthirsty people, but they repented and vowed to God that they would never shed the blood of man again. They were troubled, however, when they saw the desperate need in the Nephite armies, and considered breaking their oath to help the Nephite army.

Helaman, a mighty commander of the Nephite army, and a righteous servant of God, persuaded them not to come to battle, for he feared for their souls. However, in this desperate hour of need, the youth who had never made such an oath, the sons of the Anti-Nephi-Lehies, decided that it was their time to act.

##### **Values of 2000 Young Men:**

- Valiant
- Courageous
- Active/not passive
- Took initiative/volunteer
- Trustworthy/true to their word
- Sober/serious-minded
- Righteous/walking upright
- Admiration for leader/loyalty

**Summary Alma 56:1-40:** Helaman joined his army with a portion of the Nephite army. Together, they devised a plan to draw the Lamanite army out of one of the cities which had been conquered. Helaman and his 2000 young men marched close by the city, and the Lamanites came out to

pursue them. The plan was for the larger, more-seasoned Nephite army to fall upon the Lamanites from the rear once they had all been drawn out. However, when the Lamanites saw that they were being pursued from behind, instead of turning around to fight, they re-doubled their speed to overtake the smaller army of 2000 in front of them. This led to a full-speed chase. The larger Nephite army saw the danger that the 2000 young men were in, and sped up even faster to try and catch the Lamanites from the rear. The chase led until nightfall.

### Section 3 (20-30 minutes)

#### Scriptural Examples of Serving the Lord in Youth

##### **Activity: Serving the Lord in Youth**

1. Write heading on the board: Serving the Lord In Youth
2. Students brainstorm scriptural examples for category. If students are not aware of scriptural examples, consider making these future lesson topics.
3. Students select an individual and...
  - a. Identify and explain how faith was tested.
  - b. Identify demonstrations of faithfulness/loyalty.
  - c. Explain how faithfulness was rewarded.
  - d. How are you like \_\_\_\_\_? How are you different?

##### Serving the Lord in Youth

- Daniel, Shadrack, Mishak, and Abednego
- Mary, mother of Jesus
- Joseph of Egypt
- Nephi
- Captain Moroni
- Ruth
- Esther
- Samuel, the Prophet

**Q:** In the examples cited, how did faith develop in these young men or women? What did they have in common? Upon what is their belief founded? Can you imagine outcomes if they had decided to abandon the Lord? What ultimate consequence comes from abandoning the Lord? What ultimate reward comes from faithfulness? From the examples in the scriptures, how do we know the Lord loves children/youth?

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

**Church Education Lesson Plans**

- Abinadi Teaches God's Commandments
- Obedience Is Better Than Sacrifice
- The Plan of Redemption
- The Life Span of Man
- Lehi's Dream-Nephi's Vision

## Who's-Who Trivia - Assignment

**Objective:** To gain perspective on who we choose to honor and why.

**Instructions:** Hand all students a piece of paper (or a half-sheet of paper) and a pencil. Tell them to number 1-9 on the paper. Tell them to answer the following list of questions to the best of their ability. If they don't know an answer they should leave it blank.

**Note:** Modify questions to make them relevant for your audience.

Write the following list of questions on the board. (Write students' responses after everyone is finished.)

### List #1

1. Of all the people that you know, who is the wealthiest?  
Who is your favorite:
2. sports celebrity ?
3. actor?
4. actress?
5. director ?
6. musician?
7. historical figure?
8. reality TV star?
9. comedian?

Write the following list of questions on the board below List #1. After all have completed the first quiz instruct students to number from 1-7. Give second quiz. Tell students they may not use an answer more than once.

### List #2

1. When you were in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, who was your favorite teacher?  
Name one person who:
2. you would trust with your deepest problem. (Outside of immediate family members.)
3. has been there for you when you needed it.
4. was kind to you when you didn't deserve it.
5. you want to be like when you grow up. (Outside of immediate family members)
6. has given you good advice that you didn't want to hear.
7. has sacrificed to make you happy.

### Follow-up Questions:

**Q:** How easy or difficult was it to think of the answers to questions for List #1? Why? How easy or difficult was it to think of answers to questions for List #2? Why?

**Q:** Of the two lists, in your opinion, which group is more successful? Why? Of the two lists, in your opinion, which group genuinely cares about you? Why?

**Q:** Of the two lists, which group receives more recognition? Why? Of the two lists, which would you want to be on when you grow up? Why?

### Self-reflection:

**Q:** How often do you show respect or gratitude to people who genuinely care about you? Why or why not?

**Q:** On List #2, did you include anyone who holds an ordained office in the Church? Why or why not?

**Q:** What value do you place on advice from people on List #1? Why? From people on List #2? Why?

**Q:** In your life who do you try to emulate the most, people (a) from List #1,(b) from List #2, or (c) from both lists? Why? What influences you on who you choose to honor?

## Dream for the Youth - Experience

The following dream was submitted to the Quorum of Twelve Apostles by the Southeast Region. It was presented to the General Church Conference on October 8, 2011 and was accepted as a revelation of God to the Church. The dream is this:

*Another Brother Elder, a brother Deacon, and I were standing at the bottom of a hill talking. We must have been attending some kind of church gathering because the youth were all playing together. After awhile we noticed that the youth were missing. We heard their voices coming from the other side of the hill. We started to walk up the hill at an angle to intercept them. The sky was getting dark as evening was approaching. We hurried our pace for concern of their welfare was intensifying as darkness approached. We broke the crest of the hill laboring from the steep incline. We saw the youth slightly below the crest of the hill to our right. Then I noticed something else: dogs—nothing but dark outlines of big dogs. They looked at us with yellow glowing eyes, but their attention was on the youth. We screamed at the kids to run down the hill, we ran at an angle to intercept them before the dogs did. We realized that we weren't going to make it so we screamed at the dogs trying to get their attention on us to no avail. The dogs overtook our youth and started to carry them away. One of the Brother Elders said, "Kneel." Doing so, he started to pray. "Dear Father, please Lord spare the youth from such a horrible death." There was a loud noise and a bright flash of light and the dogs were gone but so were some of the youth.*

### Q12 Apostles' Comments:

The Apostle's readily agreed that this is a warning to the Church on behalf of our youth. We are precisely at the point of the conditions and attack described in the dream.

It is noteworthy that the children were within earshot – but “missing” – not within reach – when the critical attack came. The sky was getting dark just before the attack started – indicating development of conditions which should have prompted attention to the whereabouts of the children.

### Discussion of the Dream:

During discussion of this dream at Conference, the gift of Tongues was spoken with the following interpretation given:

**“Blow the Trumpet, Sound the Alarm, Smooth not your tongue, the time is at hand, Saith the Lord.”**

Apostle Isaac Smith also spoke in the Spirit, saying:

**“Thus saith the Lord; only the Power of God and the prayer of faith will rescue us.”**