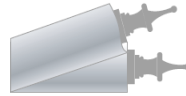




CHURCH EDUCATION

The Holy Bible
The Book of Mormon



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

LESSON TITLE

The Significance of the Plates for Lehi's Descendants

TEACHER NOTES

- Part 1: Light and Knowledge

45-minute lesson. Divide into multiple sessions for in depth discussions.

UNIT 4 - Hope and Restoration

GRADES Adult

To prepare for this lesson, study the scriptural references listed in **OBJECTIVES and TEACHER'S SUPPLEMENT.**

HOLY BIBLE

Psalm 119:105, "NUN. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

THE BOOK OF MORMON

1 Nephi 3:19, 20, "And behold, it is wisdom in God that we should obtain these records, that we may preserve unto our children the language of our fathers; and also that we may preserve unto them the words which have been spoken by the mouth of all the holy prophets, which have been delivered unto them by the spirit and power of God, since the world began, even down unto this present time."

Q = Teacher asks question

OBJECTIVES

Participants will be able to:

Note: The Church of Jesus Christ uses the Authorized King James Version of The Holy Bible and The Book of Mormon published by The Church

- Interpret the significance of God's written word for Lehi's descendants, 1 Nephi 5:11-22, Mosiah 1:4-7, Alma 37:45, 4 Nephi 1:2, Ether 1:3; 3:8-16

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- Can you recall examples of knowledge gained by the Nephites from the plates of brass? From the 24 gold plates (Jaredite record)
- Can you recall examples where the 24 gold plates validate content on the brass plates? Can you think of prophecy on the 24 gold plates that directly pertains to Lehi's descendants?
- How would you rate the significance of the knowledge for Lehi's descendants on the brass and gold plates? Of what significance is this knowledge for them?

MATERIALS

- Holy Bible and Book of Mormon
- **Google Slides 1-38:** [The Significance of the Plates for Lehi's Descendants](#)
- **Hymn:** *The Songs of Zion #3* "Send Hunters and Fishers"

PROCEDURE

Motivation/Introduction (3 minutes)

Slide 2: Engage participants in a discussion about the benefits of light and relate to the light of God's Word.

Q: How important is light in everyday life? (warmth, photosynthesis, life, color, sight...)

Q: Can you imagine how different life would be to not be able to see clearly? Not be able to see at all? (Groping, stumbling, depending on others to guide)

The word light is used to describe knowledge and understanding, and is linked to truth, e.g. "Now I see the light. The light bulb went on in my head."

Q: How often do you rely on knowledge and truth to make decisions? How do you feel when you hear news reports that conflict/contradict each other? How do you determine which is true?

Q: How is God's word a light for your life?

Goal: Interpret the significance of God's written word for Lehi's descendants.

Lesson Development (40 minutes presented as an overview. Divide into multiple sessions to discuss in depth.)

(See Teacher's Supplement for guidance, steps 1-3.)

1. **Slides 7-10:** Share background information on Lehi, 600 B.C., 1 Nephi chapter 1 (e.g., Two visions, warned to flee Jerusalem), and relate this knowledge to light.
2. **Slides 8-30:** Identify and discuss the spiritual knowledge/light gained by the descendants of Lehi from the brass and 24 gold plates. Interject Essential Questions into discussions.
 - a. Create an outline of key points of knowledge/light inscribed on the brass and gold plates.
 - i. Identify instances when the 24 gold and brass plates are a witness to the truth of the writings.

- ii. Identify prophecies in the 24 gold plates that pertain to Lehi's descendants past and present.

3. **Slides 31-38:** Discuss the third bullet point in Essential Questions.

Key words: Hope, restoration, God's word

Teacher's Supplement

Lesson Development

BACKGROUND ON LEHI, 600 B.C.

Slide 7: Time of spiritual darkness in Jerusalem, 600 B.C. Lehi has 2 visions, 1 Nephi 1:6- 19 (**Note imagery of light**)

Slide 8: Vision 1 - Pillar of fire upon a rock.

Slide 9: Vision 2 - Is overcome by the Spirit, returns home, and has another vision.

- a. Sees the heavens open and God sitting on his throne surrounded with numberless concourses of angels, singing praises to God.
- b. He saw **one descending out of heaven**, whose luster was above the noon day sun.
- c. Saw **12 others following him** - their brightness exceeded the stars in the firmament.
- d. They came down and went forth upon the face of the earth.
- e. The first gave Lehi a book - "as he read, he was filled with the Spirit of the Lord." (Note that light is associated with the Spirit of the Lord.)

Slide 10: Knowledge Lehi Gains from the book:

- Jerusalem will be destroyed.
- Many will be carried away into Babylon.
- Lehi exclaims "O Lord God Almighty! Thy throne is high in the heavens, and thy power, and goodness, and mercy are over all the inhabitants of the earth; and, because thou art merciful, thou wilt not suffer those who come unto thee that they shall perish!"

Lehi shares this knowledge. (**Note the imagery of darkness**)

- Is mocked by the Jews.
- His life is threatened.

Lehi flees into the wilderness. Obtains the plates of brass.

Slide 11: Q: What knowledge will Lehi gain from the brass plates?

BRASS PLATES

Slide 12: Outline of Contents on the Brass Plates

5 Books of Moses:

Slide 13: Creation of the world (God's Power & God's Intelligence)

Slide 14: God's Love (Everything that He made was very good. Plan of redemption)

Slide 15: First parents - Adam & Eve

- Man created in God's image, Genesis 1:27
- Fall of Adam and Eve, Alma 12:22
 - Plan of redemption put into effect after the fall.

Slide 16: The Plan of Redemption and New Commandments -

- Conditions for salvation, Mosiah 15:1,7-9. Alma 12:32,34,35

Q: Where does Abinadi obtain his knowledge? Brass plates? (**Reads** the commandments - Mosiah 13:11. **Quotes** Isaiah - Mosiah 14)

Q: Where does Alma obtain his knowledge? Brass plates? (Unfolds **scripture** - Alma 12:1)

Slide 17: Priesthood/ Holy Prophets after the order of the Son of God, Alma 13:1

Laws of Moses & 10 Commandments, Mosiah 12:35,36, 13:12,13

Slide 18: Record of the Jews from the beginning to Zedekiah

- Everlasting Covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob - Genesis 17:4-8

Slide 19: Prophecies of the Holy Prophets from beginning to Zedekiah & Jeremiah

- **Slide 20:** Condescension of God - Christ, the Redeemer, Mosiah 13:33,34 (Abinadi references Moses)
- One God - Father and Son, Mosiah 15:1,3
- **Slide 21:** Resurrection of the dead, Mosiah 15:20
- World-wide salvation, Mosiah 15:28.
- Prophecy of Zenos, Jacob 5:3

Slide 22: Genealogy of his fathers:

- He is a descendant of Joseph
- Learns the history of Joseph:
 - Son of Jacob
 - Joseph preserved by the Lord to preserve his father and household from famine
 - Israelites preserved by the Lord - Israelites led out of captivity in Egypt (God's power, miracles)
- Laban a descendant of Joseph

Slide 23: Prophecies of Joseph (Jacob's son) about his descendants, 2 Nephi 3:5-7,9.

Slide 24: Lehi prophesied: "That these plates of brass should go forth unto all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people who were of his seed. Wherefore, he said that these plates of brass should never perish; neither should they be dimmed any more by time..." 1 Nephi 5:18,19.

24 GOLD PLATES

Slides 25: Brief Introduction, Ether 15:33, Mosiah 8:2-9

Plates were hidden by Ether in a manner that the people of Limhi (Nephite king) did find them, Ether 15:33, Mosiah 8:2-9.

Contents of the Jaredite Record:

Slide 26: A record of days of Adam until the tower of Babel, Ether 1:3

Genesis chapters 1-11. (**Both records witness to the truth**)

Discovery of history of a prior civilization in the promised land who came from Babel.

- a. Their journey to the promised land
- b. Rise and fall of their civilization

Slide 27: Knowledge of God taking upon Himself flesh, Ether 3:8-16

- a. Revealed after Christ appeared in this land - 34 A.D, Ether 3:21, 4:2
- b. Deuteronomy 18:15 - Moses prophesied of condescension of God, Mosiah 13:33-35, References to prophecies of the condescension of God. **(Gold and brass plates - witness the condescension of God.)**

Slide 28: Everlasting Decrees of God for the promised land -

- a. Became a chosen land after the flood waters recede. Ether 2:8,9,23; 13:2
- b. Serve the God of the Land, Jesus Christ, or be swept off. Ether 2:8.

Slides 29-30: Great and marvelous prophecies of Ether (pertaining to the House of Israel). Ether 4:4, Ether 13:3, Ether 13:5, Ether 13:6, Ether 13:3-7, Ether 13:8-12. **(Gold and brass plates - witness of Joseph (Jacob's son)).**

CONCLUSIONS

Slide 31: Q: How would you rate the significance of the knowledge on the brass and gold plates for Lehi's descendants?

Slide 32: How would you rate it on a scale of 1-10.

Slide 33: Q: Why are Lehi's descendants given great knowledge from God? Of what importance is this knowledge for them?

Slide 34: 3 Main Reasons that point to one - > God desires a relationship with Man.

- God's Plan of Salvation
- Everlasting Decrees of God for America
- Everlasting Covenant to Abraham

Slide 35: God's Plan of Salvation -

- Salvation is universal, John 3:16

Side 36: Everlasting Decrees for America -

- This land was foreordained and consecrated for those who would serve Jesus Christ, Ether 13:2

Slide 37: Everlasting Covenant to Abraham -

- To preserve a righteous branch, Jacob 5:8
- To establish the Church of Jesus Christ in America
 - fulfill the Great and Divine Commissions- Jew and Gentile
 - build the New Jerusalem and rebuild the Jerusalem of old

Slide 38: End. King Benjamin's perspective on the value of the plates, Mosiah 1:4,5,7. To possess the plates - to read, study, search, and understand the knowledge on them - **enabled many of Lehi's descendants for generations to have a relationship with God** - to keep His commandments, to know of His promises, to receive His blessings, to grow His kingdom, and to live with the hope of eternal life. Those who knew nothing about the writings on the plates or who refused to believe what was written because of incorrect traditions of their fathers, dwindled in unbelief.