

Teacher's Supplement – Enos' Wrestle with Prayer

PROCEDURE

PARALLELS IN TIME

Holy Bible: 433 B.C. – Nehemiah returns to Jerusalem from the King of Persia's court.
396 B.C. –Rebuilding of Jerusalem is completed.

The Book of Mormon: Enos, son of Jacob, was taught of his father and likely grew up seeing his father's spiritual labors among the Nephite people, as well as the hardness of the Lamanites' hearts. (Ref. Book of Jacob)

Lesson Development (20-30 minute sessions)

PART 1 Enos Receives Salvation (vv. 1-8)

1. Read verse 1 aloud: **Enos' Background**

Q: Who was Enos' father? Can you name one of his uncles who was a faithful man of God? Does anyone remember who his grandfather was? Did Enos' "heritage" automatically make him a saint of God?

2. Read aloud verses 2-4: **Enos' Wrestle**

Q: What would be the reason for hunting beasts?

Q: The words of his father's spiritual teachings sunk into his heart, and his soul hungered. For what did Enos hunger?

Q: Did he wrestle with God? (No, the text says that he wrestled "before" God, i.e., in the presence of, God.) Who or what was Enos wrestling with in the presence of God? How did this wrestle take place? For how long? How did Enos describe his prayer?

3. Read James 5:16 "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

Q: How would you define effectual? (able to produce a desired effect) Enos cried out / wrestled for his soul; raised his voice high. Should we pray this way? When should we pray this way? Why?

4. Read verses 5-8: **Forgiveness and Promise of Blessing Granted to Enos**

Q: In verse 5, What caused his monologue to become a dialogue? Was it his ancestry? Was it simply God's favor?

5. Read Verse 6:
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Q: Because Enos *believed* God (text says he knew God could not lie), his guilt was swept away (Refer to Romans 4:3). How would you define guilt? Can there be repentance if there is no feeling of guilt? (No. There must be an awareness of and a godly sorrow for past thoughts, words, and deeds.)

7. Read Verse 7: **"How is it done?"**

Q: Was the promise of his soul's salvation enough for Enos? (No. He wanted to understand it at a deeper level.)

Q: What made Enos think the Lord would answer his question?

8. Read Verse 8: **God's response**

Q: What was revealed to Enos about how his sins were forgiven? (Refer to Hebrews 11:1 and Ether 12:6)

Q: Enos was told his faith had made him whole. What part of Enos was not whole?

Q: How about *our* salvation? Are we made whole through our faith in Christ? (Like Enos, through faith alone.) What additional steps are we instructed to take to demonstrate our faith in Christ? (Baptism, receive the Holy Ghost, keep God's commandments are demonstrations of the salvation we obtain through faith in Christ.)

PART 2 Enos' Intercessory Prayers (vv. 9-18)

1. Read Verses 9-10: The Dialogue Continues

Q: Enos considers the welfare of his Nephite brethren and pours out his whole soul for them. Why is Enos concerned about his brethren? (Concern is the fruit of salvation and righteousness. (Refer to Philippians 2:4, "Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.")

2. Read Verses 11-12: Enos Grows Mighty in Faith

Q: With unshaken faith, Enos prays for the Lamanites "with many long strugglings." After laboring and praying "with all diligence," the Lord grants his desires. Is Enos still wrestling with himself? (His wrestle is with his own unbelief. When he successfully overcomes the limitations of his own understanding, he prays for great and marvelous things as prompted by the Spirit of God.)

Q: What solidified Enos' faith? (Refer to Romans 10:17, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"). How can our faith become unshaken?

3. Read Verse 13: Praying in the Will of God

Q: Enos describes in detail the specific desire/request he made of the Lord - If the Nephites should transgress and be destroyed, and if the Lamanites are not, that the Lord would preserve the records, even by His power, to be brought forth in the future, for the sake of the Lamanites' salvation. How would you characterize this request? (Complex, specific, detailed. It is also selfless, focused on salvation and God's kingdom, and having nothing to do with temporal things.) From where do you think Enos' desires originate?

4. Read Verses 14-18 A Promise—A Covenant

Q: Enos recognizes the Lamanites' threat to destroy the Nephites and their records. How does Enos pray?

Q: Enos doesn't ask the Lord to stop the Lamanites. He doesn't ask for them to immediately be converted. He doesn't ask for deliverance from their striving. Can you consider why he doesn't? What may drive these kinds of requests?

Q: Enos remembers that if he asked in faith, he would receive. His faith begins to be unshaken. Can you remember a time when you had this kind of faith? What did you pray for with unshaken faith?

Q: Can we pray with unshaken faith for a temporal desire? (Not usually—what we want is not always God's perfect will for us.)

Q: What does the Lord give Enos that brings rest to his soul? (a covenant)

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

Objective: Students recognize the surety of God's promises to Enos.

Q: Why can we hope in the future fulfillment of God's promises to the descendants of the Lamanites as stated in verses 13 and 14?

Q: When will God fulfill His promise to bring the records to the Lamanites and by whom, verse 15? (Refer to 2 Nephi 3:18-20)

Q: Can you recall when a portion of the records were translated and published into the English language? (When Joseph Smith, Jr. received and translated the plates; The Book of Mormon)

Q: Can you think of an example of what our church has done or is doing to bring the message of salvation to the Lamanites?

Read and Discuss Philippians 4:6-7, "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Church Education On-Line Lessons

- The Prayer of Faith and Fasting and Prayer Unleash the Power of God
- The Divine Commission for The Church of Jesus Christ

Assignment - Enos Receives Salvation, Part 1

Read Enos 1:1-8 and answer the following questions.

1. How would you define the joy of the saints? What have you witnessed of the joy of the saints?
2. For what did Enos hunger?
3. How does Enos begin his wrestle with prayer? Who or what was Enos wrestling with in the presence of God?
4. How does repentance demonstrate our love for God? Can there be repentance if there is no feeling of guilt?
5. Can you describe and identify how God tells Enos of His love for Him? What part of Enos was not whole?
6. Was the promise of his soul's salvation enough for Enos? What made Enos think the Lord would answer his question about how he received salvation?

Assignment - Enos' Intercessory Prayers, Part 2

Read Enos 1:9-18 and answer the following questions.

1. Why is Enos concerned for his family?
2. How does praying for others glorify God? How do you feel when you pray for other people?
3. How does witnessing demonstrate our love for God and others?
4. How would you characterize Enos' request in verse 13? From where do Enos' desires originate?
5. How does Enos pray? For what does he ask? How do his prayers demonstrate a genuine concern for salvation of souls?
6. What allows Enos' soul to be comforted? Can you think of a time when God made a covenant with you? What comfort did it bring to you?