

THE CHURCH OF Jesus[®] Christ

CHURCH EDUCATION

The Holy Bible
The Book of Mormon



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

LESSON TITLE

Lehi and the Gift of Vision

UNIT 1 – Heavenly Authority

GRADES 1-3

HOLY BIBLE

Acts 2, 17, "And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:"

THE BOOK OF MORMON

1 Nephi 5:4, "And it had come to pass that my father spake unto her, saying: I know that I am a visionary man; for it I had not seen the things of God in a vision I should not have known the goodness of God, but had tarried at Jerusalem, and had perished with my brethren."

OBJECTIVES

The student will be able to:

- Through guided discussion, recognize that God reveals His thoughts and uses His power through the Holy Ghost, 1 Nephi 10:17-19.
- Through guided discussion, recognize how God reveals His thoughts to Lehi, 1 Nephi 8:2-12.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- By what means does God communicate to people? How is the Holy Spirit like a light?
- How does God communicate to Lehi?
- What does God reveal to Lehi in a dream or vision?

MATERIALS

Holy Bible and The Book of Mormon

Object Lesson 1: Gift wrapped boxes of various sizes and wrappings

Map: of Jerusalem, posted on a wall.

Illustration: Diagram of the Tree of Life in Lehi's dream. Option: draw the tree of life on the board prior to class)

Object Lesson 2: Flashlight or a blindfold(s)

Craft: [Lantern](#) (Open link to view supplies needed)

TEACHER NOTES

1- 45 minute lesson

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

Q = Teacher asks question

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.

Definitions:

Dream *n.* images or thoughts in a person's mind while sleeping.

Vision *n.* an experience of seeing someone or something in a dream or trance.

PROCEDURE

Motivation/Introduction (5 minutes)

1. Engage students in a discussion about natural gifts and relate to spiritual gifts.
 - a. Place several gift-wrapped boxes on the table in view of students.

Q: Do you like to receive gifts? On what occasions do you receive gifts?

Q: How is a gift like a surprise? Can you think of someone who gave you a gift?

Explain: God gives gifts to people. Not gifts like toys, but heavenly gifts. God uses the Holy Spirit to reveal His thoughts and power. When the Holy Spirit reveals God's knowledge or gives God's power, that person is receiving a gift from heaven.

Goals: Through guided discussion, recognize that God reveals His thoughts and uses His power through the Holy Ghost. Through guided discussion, recognize how God reveals His thoughts to Lehi.

Lesson Development (35-40 minutes)

1. Introduce Lehi as a man who/to whom:
 - a. Believes God.
 - b. Prays to God to gain knowledge and understanding.
 - c. God reveals His thoughts.
2. Share a retelling of a portion of Lehi's dream of the tree of Life (See **Story Map: Lehi's Dream of the Tree of Life**)
3. Object Lesson: **Revealing Things Not Seen**
 - a. Turn off the lights in the room to make it dark. Option: blindfold one or more students if lights cannot be dimmed.

Q: What do you see? How far can you see? Can you see your hand?

- b. Shine a flashlight toward an object in the room. Option: remove the blindfold(s).

Q: What do you see? How clearly can you see it? What does turning on the flashlight (removing the blindfold) do for your vision?

Explain: When God uses the Holy Spirit to reveal something we normally cannot see, it is like turning on the flashlight in a dark room (or removing a blindfold). With the aid of a light,

we can see what cannot be seen in the dark. That is how the Holy Spirit operates – it reveals things that normally cannot be seen.

4. Discuss Essential Questions (Page 1).
5. Craft: Students make a lantern (Link page 1) and relate to God's heavenly gifts that reveal (shine a light on) things that are normally hidden from sight.

Key Words: heavenly authority, Holy Ghost, dreams, visions, gifts, Lehi, tree of life

Story Map: Lehi's Dream of the Tree of Life

Locate Jerusalem on a map for students.

Lehi lived in Jerusalem about 600 years before Jesus was born. Lehi is a man that loves God. One day, God warns Lehi to leave Jerusalem because it is going to be destroyed. Lehi obeys God and takes his family into the wilderness to escape destruction.

Define dream and vision, as needed.

Lehi describes himself as "a visionary man" which means the Holy Spirit reveals things to Lehi. God uses dreams and visions to warn and/or inform Lehi of things he should know.

Display a diagram of the tree of life for students.

Lehi tells his family of a dream or vision that he saw while in the wilderness. Lehi said he saw a beautiful tree that was full of brilliant white fruit. He tasted the fruit and it made him extremely happy. The fruit was sweeter than anything he had ever eaten. It was so delicious; he wanted his family to taste it.

From this dream or vision, Lehi learns that the beautiful tree with the most delicious and sweet white fruit is called the tree of life. The tree of life represents God's love. God's love is so sweet, delicious, and wonderful it makes one extremely happy.