

CHURCH EDUCATION

The Holy Bible The Book of Mormon



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

LESSON TITLE

Alma, the Son of Alma, and the Gifts of Prophecy and Revelation

UNIT 6 - Evidence of Authority and Establishing the Church

GRADES 1-3

THE HOLY BIBLE (KJV)

1 Corinthians 12:4-7, "Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal."

THE BOOK OF MORMON

Alma 5:46-47, "Behold, I say unto you they are made known unto me by the Holy Spirit of God. Behold, I have fasted and prayed many days that I might know these things of myself. And now I do know of myself that they are true; for the Lord God hath made them manifest unto me by his Holy Spirit; and this is the spirit of revelation which is in me. And moreover, I say unto you that it has thus been revealed unto me, that the words which have been spoken by our fathers are true, even so according to the spirit of prophecy which is in me, which is also by the manifestation of the Spirit of God."

OBJECTIVES

After participating in this lesson the participants will be able to:

- Recognize with guidance the role of the Holy Spirit when preaching the gospel, Alma 5:43-52.
- Recognize with guidance how the ministry of our church relies on the Holy Spirit when preaching
- Recognize with guidance how the Holy Spirit reveals truth

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- What was Alma's responsibility in the church in his day?
- What made Alma confident that he was speaking the truth? To what source did Alma look for truth? How is God's word like a light?
- Why would we want our church leaders to be guided by the Holy Spirit?
- When have you witnessed a brother preaching under the influence of the Holy Spirit? How did you know?

MATERIALS

Holy Bible and The Book of Mormon

TEACHER NOTES

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.

PROCEDURE

Motivation/Introduction (5 minutes)

Object Lesson 1: Relate natural gifts to spiritual

- 1. Show class several wrapped packages of different sizes and types of paper.
- Explain that gifts come in various shapes and sizes. God uses the Holy Spirit to reveal His thoughts. This can be compared to God giving a heavenly gift to someone.

Paraphrase 1 Corinthians 12:8-10

"For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another *divers* kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will. For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also *is* Christ."

Goals: Recognize with guidance the role of the Holy Spirit when preaching the gospel, how the ministry of our church relies on the Holy Spirit when preaching; and how the Holy Spirit reveals truth.

Lesson Development (30-35 minutes)

- 1. Using Alma as an example, describe how the Holy Spirit works through him to deliver God's word to the people in his day (See Story Map).
- 2. Object Lesson 2: Compare blueprint to spiritual gifts
 - a. Display pages 1-3 of Mind Map Blueprint resource and explain the value of plans in construction (e.g., communicates a concept or design of what the finished project will be before it is built) and relate spiritually.

Explain: A builder builds a house by using plans to show him how it should look. The plans provide a picture/image of the house. The Holy Spirit reveals God's plan to Alma of how to go to heaven. (Read the statements on the Mansion in Glory blueprint and relate to what Alma the Holy Spirit reveals to Alma.)

- b. Hand students blueprint page 4. Tell students to copy the statements from the Mansion in Glory blueprint onto their papers. Remind them that they can be confident that these statements are true because the Holy Spirit gave them.
- 3. Relate the Holy Spirit working with Alma to working with the ministry in The Church of Jesus Christ.
 - God gives the priesthood in this church spiritual gifts.
 - Spiritual gifts tell or show of future events and reveal God's thoughts.
 - The Elders teach and preach what the Holy Spirit reveals to them.

Share a current priesthood approved revelation.

4. Discuss Essential Questions

Key words: evidence, authority, establish, church, Holy Spirit, Alma, prophecy, revelation

Story Map: <u>Alma and the Gifts of Prophecy and</u> <u>Revelation</u>

Alma, the son of Alma, lived in America about 90 years before Jesus was born. Alma was a priest in the church of God. He was responsible to teach and preach God's word and to ensure that the members of the church know how to be saved. Saved means to go to heaven when life on earth is finished.

Alma wants to ensure that he speaks the truth on how to be saved. He fasts (does not eat or drink) and prays many days, asking God to reveal His truth. God gives Alma the spirit of prophecy and revelation. The spirit of prophecy and revelation are gifts that reveal God's thoughts.

The Holy Spirit reveals to Alma that:

- God's Son, Jesus will come to earth and be born as a baby many years before this happens.
- Jesus will save people from sin and its consequences.
- People must believe in Jesus, repent of their sins, and obey God's commandments to be saved.

Alma knows that God only speaks the truth, so he is confident that what the Holy Spirit tells him will come true. Alma teaches the people what the Holy Spirit tells him.