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Next Weeks Lesson: Lesson 3 "The Vision of the Tree of Life ([1 Nephi 8-11](#); [1 Nephi 12:16-18](#); [1 Nephi 15](#))

Today's Lesson: Lesson 2 "All Things According to His Will" ([1 Nephi 1-7](#))

[1 Nephi 19:23](#) And I did read many things unto them which were written in the ^abooks of Moses; but that I might more fully persuade them to believe in the Lord their Redeemer I did read unto them that which was written by the prophet ^bIsaiah; for I did ^cliken all scriptures unto us, that it might be for our ^dprofit and learning.

If it is true that the Book of Mormon was written for our time so that we could learn valuable lessons for our generation, then today we must "liken" [1 Nephi Chapters 1-7](#) to Timpanogos 6th Ward today. These chapters present many possible lessons for us:

- A. The benefits of "being born of goodly parents" ([1:1](#))
- B. The importance of record keeping ([1:2-3](#))
- C. The struggles of righteous vs. non righteous children. ([3:28](#))
- D. Faith that God will prepare a way for the fulfillment of any commandment. ([3:7](#))
- E. Leaving our "worldly goods" behind to follow God. ([3:16](#))
- F. Obeying commandments when we really don't understand them. ([4:6-18](#))
- G. Importance of husband/wife support for each other. ([5:1-8](#))

1. Lehi leaves Jerusalem and takes his family into the wilderness. ([1 Nephi 1-2](#))

- A. One of the first events described in the Book of Mormon is the departure from Jerusalem of Lehi and his family. What circumstances led to this departure? (See [1 Nephi 1:4-15](#), [1 Nephi 1:18-20](#); [1 Nephi 2:1-3](#).)



- B. Why did the people of Jerusalem reject the message of Lehi and other prophets? (See [1 Nephi 1:19-20](#); [1 Nephi 2:12-13](#); [1 Nephi 16:1-2](#).) Why do some people today rebel against the Lord and His servants? How did Nephi respond to his father's message? (See [1 Nephi 2:16](#), [1 Nephi 2:19](#).) What can we learn from Nephi about how to make our hearts more receptive to the teachings of the prophets?

- C. What did the Lord promise Nephi if he would obey the commandments? (See [1 Nephi 2:19-20](#), [1 Nephi 2:22](#).) What did the Lord promise would happen to Laman and Lemuel if they rebelled? (See [1 Nephi 2:21](#), [1 Nephi 2:23-24](#).) How does each of these promises apply to us?

- D. Into what kind of country did Lehi take his family when they left Jerusalem? (See [1 Nephi 2:2](#).) What did they leave behind as they departed? (See [1 Nephi 2:4](#).) How do you think Lehi's family felt having to leave their home, possessions, and friends? What sacrifices have you made to be obedient to the Lord? How have you been blessed as you have made such sacrifices?
- E. After three days in the wilderness, Lehi built an altar and gave thanks to the Lord ([1 Nephi 2:6-7](#); see also [1 Nephi 5:9](#); [1 Nephi 7:22](#)). How can we develop feelings of gratitude even in difficult circumstances?
- F. What important blessings resulted from Lehi's obeying the Lord and leaving Jerusalem? (Lehi's and Ishmael's families were saved from destruction; a branch of Israel was guided to the promised land; and the Book of Mormon, another witness of Jesus Christ, was provided.)

2. Nephi and his brothers return to Jerusalem to obtain the plates of brass. ([1 Nephi 3:1-4](#))

- A. Why did Lehi send his sons back to Jerusalem? (See [1 Nephi 3:1-4](#).) How did Laman and Lemuel respond to being sent back? (See [1 Nephi 3:5](#).) How did Nephi respond? (See [1 Nephi 3:7](#).) If you had been asked to make this trip, how do you think you might have responded? What difference would it have made to know that the Lord had asked it of you?
- B. Why did Lehi's family need to obtain the brass plates? (See [1 Nephi 3:3](#), [1 Nephi 3:19-20](#); [1 Nephi 4:15-16](#); see also [1 Nephi 5:21-22](#); [Mosiah 1:3-7](#).)

Summarize the efforts of Nephi and his brothers to obtain the plates ([1 Nephi 3:9-4:38](#)).

- C. What are some situations in which we might need to be "led by the Spirit, not knowing beforehand the things which [we] should do"? ([1 Nephi 4:6](#)). What can we learn from Nephi's words: "Nevertheless I went forth"? ([1 Nephi 4:7](#)).
- D. Why was Nephi reluctant to kill Laban? (See [1 Nephi 4:10](#).) How did Nephi become convinced that he should kill Laban? (See [1 Nephi 4:11-18](#).)
- E. Have a class member read [1 Nephi 3:7](#) aloud. How did the Lord "prepare a way" for Nephi to do what he had been commanded to do? How has the Lord prepared ways for you to keep His commandments?
- F. Why did Nephi and his brothers want Zoram to return to the wilderness with them? (See [1 Nephi 4:35-36](#).) What persuaded Zoram to accompany Nephi and his brothers? (See [1 Nephi 4:31-34](#). Among the people in Lehi's time, an oath was sacred. Zoram knew that Nephi would never break his oath.) Why is it important that we be known as people who keep our word?

Although Laman and Lemuel obeyed their father by going into the wilderness and then returning to Jerusalem for the brass plates, they murmured and rebelled repeatedly during the family's journeyings. Nephi and Sam, on the other hand, were faithful and

obedient throughout their experiences. While Sam is not often mentioned, the scriptures indicate that he was faithful and obedient, as Nephi was ([1 Nephi 2:17](#); [1 Nephi 8:3](#)).

NEPHI	LAMAN AND LEMUEL
1 Nephi 1:1 Knew he had “goodly parents”	1 Nephi 2:11 Murmured against their father
1 Nephi 2:16 Believed all the words spoken by his father	1 Nephi 2:13 Did not believe all Lehi’s words
1 Nephi 2:16 , 1 Nephi 2:19 Went to the Lord for understanding	1 Nephi 2:12 “Knew not the dealings of ... God”
1 Nephi 3:7 Was willing to go and do what the Lord commanded	1 Nephi 3:5 Complained that the Lord had asked “a hard thing”
1 Nephi 3:15 Refused to return without records	1 Nephi 3:14 Wanted to give up after one try
1 Nephi 4:1 , 1 Nephi 4:3 Knew that the Lord was “mightier than Laban”	1 Nephi 3:31 Doubted that the Lord could deliver Laban to them

- G. How did Nephi show strong and abiding faith? How can we follow his example?
- H. Why did Laman and Lemuel murmur and rebel? (See [1 Nephi 2:11-12](#).) Why were they unable to know the dealings of God? (See [1 Nephi 2:18](#).)

3. Nephi and his brothers bring the brass plates to their family. ([1 Nephi 5](#))

- A. How did Lehi and Sariah react when their four sons finally returned with the brass plates? (See [1 Nephi 5:1-9](#).) How did their return strengthen Sariah’s testimony? (See [1 Nephi 5:8](#).)
- B. What did the brass plates contain? (See [1 Nephi 5:10-16](#); [1 Nephi 13:23](#). They included the five books of Moses, a record of the Jews down to King Zedekiah [about 600 B.C.], prophecies of the holy prophets, and the genealogy of Lehi’s family.)
- C. What prophecies did Lehi make about the brass plates? (See [1 Nephi 5:17-19](#).) How are these prophecies being fulfilled?

4. Nephi and his brothers return to Jerusalem for Ishmael and his family. ([1 Nephi 7](#))

- A. Why did Nephi and his brothers return again to Jerusalem soon after bringing back the brass plates? (See [1 Nephi 7:1-2](#).) How were Ishmael and his family persuaded to join Lehi’s family? (See [1 Nephi 7:4-5](#).)
- B. Why did Laman and Lemuel and some of the children of Ishmael rebel during their journey in the wilderness? (See [1 Nephi 7:6-7](#).) Why do you think they wanted to return to Jerusalem? What did Nephi say would happen if they continued in the wilderness and were faithful to the Lord? (See [1 Nephi 7:13](#).) What did he say would happen if they

returned to stay in Jerusalem? (See [1 Nephi 7:13-15](#).)

- C. What qualities did Nephi exhibit in his dealings with his brothers? (See [1 Nephi 2:17-18](#) and [1 Nephi 7:21](#) for some examples.) How can we demonstrate these qualities in our relationships with our family members and others?

Because of Lehi's and Nephi's willing obedience, millions of people have been blessed. We should all strive to always "go and do the things which the Lord hath commanded" ([1 Nephi 3:7](#)).

5. "Born of goodly parents" ([1 Nephi 1:1](#))

- A. What are some responsibilities of "goodly parents" for their children? (See [1 Nephi 1:1](#).) What can parents learn from Lehi and Sariah about how to fulfill these responsibilities?

6. Everyone experiences adversity

- A. Which of the words below describe Nephi? Think of brief incidents about Nephi that illustrate the character traits you selected.

spiritual	valiant	worried	strong
joyful	faithful	sad	trusting
disheartened	diligent	patient	charitable

All of the words describe Nephi at various times in his life. Nephi was a faithful person and is remembered for his devotion in obeying the commandments. But even Nephi occasionally became worried, disheartened, and sad. We often think of the prophets and other Church leaders as having only positive experiences and never having struggles. However, like us, they also face adversity and afflictions.

- B. How can it help us to know that prophets and other Church leaders also have trials?
- C. Although Nephi had "seen many afflictions in the course of [his] days," he knew he had "been highly favored of the Lord" ([1 Nephi 1:1](#)). How is it possible to have many afflictions and still be favored of the Lord? How can afflictions help us receive blessings?

7. Contents of Nephi's record

- A. [1 Nephi 6](#) contains Nephi's explanation of what he would write in his record. What did Nephi say was his purpose in keeping a record? (See [1 Nephi 6:3-4](#). Note that the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is Jesus Christ.) How have Nephi's writings helped you come unto Christ?

I challenge each of you to write your testimonies, as well as other spiritual experiences, thoughts, and feelings, in your journals.