

July 25, 2004

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Next Weeks Lesson: Lesson 29 "Give Ear to My Words" ([Alma 36-39](#))

Today's Lesson: Lesson 28 "The Word Is in Christ unto Salvation" ([Alma 32-35](#))

Imagine that someone has given you a seed and told you that it will grow into a tree that will bear delicious fruit.

- What would you do to find out if the seed will really produce delicious fruit?

We'll begin with a discussion of [Alma 32](#). This chapter contains a discourse in which Alma compares the word of God to a seed. He exhorts a group of humble Zoramites to "give place, that [this] seed may be planted" in their hearts ([Alma 32:28](#)). He promises that if they nourish this seed, it will grow until it becomes the tree of life, whose fruit is "most precious" and "sweet above all that is sweet" ([Alma 32:40-42](#)).

1. Alma teaches the humble Zoramites to exercise faith and give place in their hearts for the word of God. ([Alma 32:1-27](#))

Alma, Amulek, and their brethren had entered one of the Zoramites' synagogues. There they heard the Zoramites declare that "there [would] be no Christ" ([Alma 31:16-17](#)). After hearing this false teaching, Alma, Amulek, and their brethren separated to preach the word of God and testify of Christ ([Alma 31:36-37](#); [Alma 32:1](#)).

- A. As Alma was preaching, a great multitude of Zoramites approached him. Why did Alma have great joy when these Zoramites came to him? (See [Alma 32:6-8](#).) What had happened to prepare these people to hear the word of God? (See [Alma 32:2-5](#).)
- B. Why was it a blessing to these Zoramites that they had been compelled to be humble? (See [Alma 32:12-13](#).) Why is it better to humble ourselves than to be compelled to be humble? (See [Alma 32:14-16](#).) How can the word of God lead us to humble ourselves?
- C. What did Alma teach the Zoramites about what it means to have faith? (See [Alma 32:17-18](#), [Alma 32:21](#).) What did Alma say is the first thing we need to do to develop faith in God? (See [Alma 32:22](#).) In what ways may we receive God's word? (See [Alma 17:2](#); [Alma 32:23](#); [D&C 1:38](#); [D&C 18:33-36](#).)
- D. What did Alma encourage his listeners to do so they could know that his words were true? (See [Alma 32:26-27](#).) What does it mean to "awake and arouse [our] faculties"? How can we "experiment" on the word of God? (See [John 7:17](#).) What experiences have you had as you have experimented on the word?

2. Alma teaches the people to nourish the word of God in their hearts. ([Alma 32:28–43](#))

- A. Comparing the word of God to a seed, Alma counseled the Zoramites to “give place, that a seed may be planted” in their hearts ([Alma 32:28](#)). What must we do to “give place” in our hearts for the word of God?
- B. According to Alma, what do people begin to experience when the word of God has been planted in their hearts? (See [Alma 32:28–31](#), [Alma 32:33–35](#).) What do you think it means to feel the word “swell within [our] breasts”? How do the scriptures enlarge our souls, enlighten our understanding, and expand our minds? (See [Alma 37:8–9](#).) In what ways has the word of God been delicious to you?
- C. What must we continue to do as the word of God begins to grow in our hearts? (See [Alma 32:37](#).) How can we “nourish [the word] with great care”? (See [Alma 32:41](#).) What do you think it means for the word to “get root” in our hearts and grow? ([Alma 32:37](#)).
- D. What will happen if we neglect the word and do not nourish it after it has begun to grow in our hearts? (See [Alma 32:38–40](#).) What might we do that would cause our ground, or our hearts, to be barren?
- E. Toward the end of his discourse, Alma compared the word to a tree that has grown from a seed ([Alma 32:37](#)). What tree did he refer to? (See [Alma 32:40–42](#).)

Remember the vision of the tree of life seen by Lehi and Nephi. The tree of life is a symbol of Jesus Christ. The word of God, represented by the rod of iron in that vision and by the seed in Alma’s discourse, leads to the Savior, represented by the tree of life.

Referring to [Alma 32](#), Elder Jeffrey R. Holland taught, “In this brilliant discourse, Alma moves the reader from a general commentary on faith in the seedlike word of God to a focused discourse on faith in Christ as the Word of God” (*Christ and the New Covenant* [1997], 169).



- F. What is the fruit of the tree of life? (Everlasting life. See [Alma 32:41](#); [Alma 33:23](#); see also [1 Nephi 15:36](#); [D&C 14:7](#).)

3. Alma cites prophets’ testimonies of Jesus Christ and exhorts the people to plant the word of God in their hearts. ([Alma 33](#))

After hearing Alma’s discourse, the people desired to know “in what manner they

should begin to exercise their faith” ([Alma 33:1](#)). Alma responded by citing teachings of the prophets Zenos, Zenock, and Moses concerning Jesus Christ.

- A. What teaching of Zenos did Alma relate to the Zoramites? (See [Alma 33:3–11](#).) What was Alma’s purpose in citing Zenos’s teaching about prayer? (See [Alma 33:11–14](#). He wanted to teach the Zoramites to exercise faith in the Son of God. Note that it is “because of [His] Son” that Heavenly Father hears our prayers and turns His judgments away from us.)
- B. Alma told the Zoramites that the prophet Zenock had also testified of Christ ([Alma 33:15](#)). What did Zenock teach? (See [Alma 33:16](#).) Why was this an important teaching to relate to the Zoramites? (See [Alma 31:12](#), [Alma 31:16–17](#).)
- C. Alma spoke of a brass serpent that Moses made and raised in the wilderness ([Alma 33:19](#); see also [Numbers 21:9](#)). How was the serpent a type, or symbol, of Jesus Christ? (See [Alma 33:19](#); see also [John 3:14–16](#); [Helaman 8:13–15](#).) What does Alma’s account of the brass serpent teach about exercising faith in Jesus Christ? (See [Alma 33:20–23](#); see also [Alma 37:46](#).)

4. Amulek testifies of the Atonement of Jesus Christ. He commands the people to pray and exercise faith unto repentance. ([Alma 34](#))

After Alma had spoken, Amulek stood and began to teach the people.

- A. Alma and Amulek perceived that the people still questioned whether they should believe in Christ ([Alma 34:2–5](#)). How did Amulek answer this question? (See [Alma 34:6–8](#).) How can we receive such a strong testimony of Christ? How have the scriptures, prophets, and other witnesses of Christ strengthened your testimony of Him?
- B. Why would “all mankind ... perish” without the Atonement of Jesus Christ? (See [Alma 34:8–9](#); see also [Alma 22:14](#).) Why was Jesus the only one who could atone for the sins of the world and save us from the effects of the Fall? (See [Alma 34:10–12](#).) What is the meaning of Amulek’s teaching that the Atonement is an “infinite and eternal sacrifice”? (See [Alma 34:14–16](#).)

Elder Bruce R. McConkie taught: “Man cannot resurrect himself; man cannot save himself; human power cannot save another; human power cannot atone for the sins of another. The work of redemption must be infinite and eternal; it must be done by an infinite being; God himself must atone for the sins of the world” (*A New Witness for the Articles of Faith* [1985], 111–12).



- C. How do you think Amulek’s counsel in [Alma 34:17–29](#) helped the Zoramites, who had believed that they could

worship only in synagogues and only once a week? What can we learn from this counsel?

- D. What did Amulek command the people to do after they had received so many witnesses of the Savior? (See [Alma 34:30–31](#); see also [Alma 34:15–17](#), in which the phrase “faith unto repentance” appears four times.) Why is faith in Christ an essential part of repentance?
- E. Amulek warned against procrastinating, or delaying, the day of our repentance ([Alma 34:31–36](#)). Why do people sometimes procrastinate repentance? How can the counsel in [Alma 34:32](#) affect the way we live each day?

The purpose of planting a fruit tree is to be able to partake of its fruit. When we “give place, that [the word] may be planted” in our hearts, we can “[look] forward to the fruit thereof” ([Alma 32:28](#), [Alma 32:41](#)). Read Alma’s description of this fruit in [Alma 32:41–42](#). The fruit is eternal life and that it is only through the Atonement of Jesus Christ that we can partake of this fruit ([Alma 34:14–16](#)).

5. “I desire that ye should remember these things” ([Alma 34:37](#))

- A. Read aloud Amulek’s closing words to the Zoramites, in [Alma 34:37–41](#).

6. Strengthening new members of the Church

- A. The “more popular part of the Zoramites” cast out the people who believed in the words of Alma and his brethren ([Alma 35:1–6](#)). How did the people of Ammon receive the Zoramites who had been cast out? (See [Alma 35:7–9](#).) What does this example teach about strengthening new converts?