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A Father's Love Rewarded

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Abstract: Children's flannelboard story of Alma and the people he baptized at the waters of Mormon, and Alma the Younger's conversion.



Those who obeyed Alma's teachings were baptized in the waters near Mormon.

FLANNELBOARD STORY

A Father's Love Rewarded

by Marie F. Felt

ALMA was the man whom the Prophet Abinadi taught to love and believe in God. Quietly, Alma went among the people urging them to repent of their wickedness and to ask our Heavenly Father's forgiveness for their wrongdoing. One by one, some of the people listened to his wise words and obeyed them. One day Alma took these followers to a place called Mormon near the edge of a forest. Here there was a fountain of pure water in which Alma baptized his converts, as people today are baptized when they are old enough.

The wicked king over that part of the land became very angry when he learned that Alma and his band of followers were succeeding in their good work. He, therefore, sent some of his soldiers to spy upon Alma. But Alma hid in a thicket near the place called Mormon.

One day, however, when the people were all assembled at the fountain, the king's spies suddenly came upon them. While the spies were hurrying back to their king to tell where they had found

Alma, the Lord told Alma to take his people deeper into the forests with their tents, animals and food. When the soldiers returned, Alma and his friends were not there.

For eight days Alma led his people farther into the wilds of the forest. At the end of this time, they came to a beautiful part of the land where they decided to live. They dug into the soil, planted seeds, and began to build a city.

The people who loved their splendid leader, Alma, wished to make him their king. Alma, however, was so unselfish that he did not want anyone to think himself greater than another, so he would not be a king. But he did remain the group leader.

For some time these good people of Alma lived in peace and happiness; then they were forced to move again. This time they returned to Zarahemla, from which their fathers had come. Other groups of good people had gathered there, too, and together they built up a great city.

Alma had been such a fine leader that the king of the Nephites gave him authority over all the church. This meant that Alma would be the Lord's chief messenger to all the people there. Today, the President of our Church is His chief messenger to us.

Alma had a son who was given his father's name. He also was called Alma. Would you not think that through his father's good teaching, the son would have been good, too? We are sorry to say that he was not. He did not believe in God, so he did not love Him. He would not do His will, and he said very unkind, untrue things about Him. He made his father very unhappy. His father, Alma, prayed earnestly to God day after day that

(For Course 3, lesson of March 19, "Alma Was a Prophet"; for Course 5, lesson of April 9, "Great Men in Our Church Repent"; for Course 9, lesson of July 16, "Alma, the Courageous Missionary," and lesson of July 30, "Alma, the Younger"; and for Course 13, lesson of April 23, "Repentance.")

his son would repent and that love and goodness would grow in his heart in place of the disbelief and doubt that was there. Father Alma's prayer was answered; and a very strange, wonderful thing happened.

One day our Father in heaven sent one of His angels to talk with Alma the Younger, who was walking with some of his friends. The angel stood before them and spoke in a voice which made the ground shake. The young men were so frightened that they fell down on the ground. The angel told them that he had been sent from heaven in answer to Father Alma's prayer, to tell him that God was not pleased because they would not do His will nor the wishes of their fathers.

When the angel left them, Alma was so ill and weak that he could not stand upon his feet. His friends had to carry him to his home. Then they told his father all that had happened. The father was sorry to see his son ill, of course; but he could not help but feel glad that his son had learned a wonderful lesson. He had learned the truth about our Heavenly Father.

Young Alma was not only unable to walk, but for three days he could not talk. His father knew that it was the great power of our Heavenly Father that had caused him to be so helpless. He then called in others of God's servants to fast and pray for his son. He wanted Alma to know the kindness as well as the power of God. He felt sure that his son would be forgiven and be made well again; also that he would do right from then on.

Soon Alma became strong again. The fasting and praying on his behalf had made him well. How sorry he was that he had done wrong! He knew that he should have listened to his father and followed his good advice. He made up his mind to obey our Heavenly Father and to serve Him all the rest of his life.

You know what a missionary is, don't you? Perhaps your father or grandfather, or even one of your older brothers has been one of God's mis-

sionaries who left his home and loved ones for a time to help people in other parts of the world to learn more about our Heavenly Father and live nearer to Him. Alma the Younger became a missionary, too, journeying from city to city, showing the people the way to gain our Heavenly Father's love and blessings. In this way, he showed his gratitude to our Heavenly Father and to his father, Alma, for their love and concern for him.

References:

Mosiah 18-27.
Alma 5-16.

How to Present the Flannelboard Story

Characters and Props Needed for this Presentation Are:

- Alma the Older in standing position. (BM21.)
- Alma's followers. (BM22.)
- Alma the Younger in standing position. (BM23.)
- Alma the Younger's friends in standing position. (BM24.)
- An angel. (BM25.)
- Alma the Younger and his friends in kneeling position. (BM26.)
- The king's soldiers. (BM27.)

Order of Episodes:

Scene I:

Scenery: An outdoor scene.
Action: Alma (BM21) is seen preaching to his followers. (BM22.) The King's soldiers (BM27) enter to seek these people.

Scene II:

Scenery: An outdoor scene, with buildings from the city of Zarahemla in the background.
Action: Alma the Younger (BM23) and his friends (BM24) are seen walking along the road. An angel appears. (BM25.) The young men are so frightened that they fall down (BM26) before the angel. (BM25.)

Scene III:

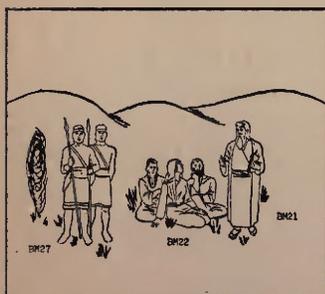
Scenery: Alma's home—interior scene.
Action: His friends (BM24) bring Alma the Younger (BM23) home. He is too weak to walk by himself. His father (BM21) receives him and understands God's purpose and is grateful.

Scene IV:

Scenery: Same as Scene II.
Action: Alma the Younger (BM23) preaches to a group of people (BM22) on one of his missionary journeys.

¹Book of Mormon flannelboard figures. Previous flannelboard stories with Book of Mormon figures appeared in *The Instructor* for November, 1959; December, 1959; and July, 1960.

Suggested Scene Staging



SCENE I



SCENE II



SCENE III



SCENE IV



BM23





BM26

BM21



BM25

BM22

An illustration depicting ancient Egyptian figures. In the upper left, the lower legs and feet of two individuals are shown, wearing fringed skirts and crisscrossed sandals. In the lower left, a woman in a purple dress sits on the ground, looking towards a man in a green robe who is also seated and resting his chin on his hand. On the right, two standing male figures are shown in full, wearing red kilts with fringed hems, black belts, and crisscrossed sandals. They have yellow headbands and are holding long spears. The background is plain white.

BM24

BM27