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## Characters and Teachings of the Book of Mormon: Preview of Lessons for 1953-54

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**Abstract:** The series of lessons to be studied this year start with Jacob, brother of Nephi, who with great energy and ability, gave a full measure of devotion to God. It closes with a study of Alma, son of Alma, perhaps the greatest missionary in the one-thousand-year period of Nephite history.

Between the time of the life missions of these two heroic figures lived many individuals, some good, some bad, but all interesting and educative. Class leaders should strive to help Relief Society members become spiritually stronger from the study of these characters.

As we begin a new set of lessons, we ought also to bear in mind that the dominant purpose of The Book of Mormon is to reaffirm and re-establish in the minds of men the fact that Jesus Christ is divine, that he was born of a mortal mother and an immortal father, that he is the Only Begotten Son of God in the flesh. A deep and abiding testimony of this truth is all important to us, for it provides an urgency of application of the principles of the gospel to daily life.

Class leaders should ever be on the alert to utilize The Book of Mormon as a means of strengthening the faith of all Relief Society members in the divinity of Jesus Christ.

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## *Theology*—Characters and Teachings of The Book of Mormon

Preview of Lessons for 1953-54

Elder Leland H. Monson

THE last lesson of the 1952-53 course of study, lesson sixteen, presented the words of Jacob as recorded by Nephi. Lesson seventeen continues the study of Jacob and of his teachings to his people. In order to give a well-rounded picture of Jacob, class leaders should review with the class, lesson sixteen and co-ordinate it with lesson seventeen.

The series of lessons to be studied this year start with Jacob, brother of Nephi, who with great energy and ability, gave a full measure of devotion to God. It closes with a study of Alma, son of Alma, perhaps the greatest missionary in the one-thousand-year period of Nephite history.

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The titles and objectives of the eight lessons for 1953-54 and the text references in The Book of Mormon follow:

### Lesson 17. *Jacob and His Teachings* (The Book of Jacob)

Objective: To gain an appreciation for the teaching of Jacob.

### Lesson 18. *The Completion of the Small Plates of Nephi* (Enos, Jarom, Omni, Mosiah, chapter 1)

Objective: to appreciate the value of the characters and teachings of seven prophets, and a king.

### Lesson 19. *Teachings of King Ben-*

jamin (Words of Mormon: 12-18; Mosiah, chapters 2-6)

Objective: To learn and apply to ourselves a correct understanding of the teachings of King Benjamin.

Lesson 20. *Ammon and the People of Limhi* (Mosiah, chapters 7-26)

Objective: To give a singular example of how this land of promise was a land of opportunity only so long as the people had faith in Jesus Christ.

Lesson 21. *The Record of Zeniff* (Mosiah, chapters 9-22)

Objective: To show the wisdom of following the admonitions of true prophets.

Lesson 22. *Alma the Elder* (Mosiah, chapters 18, 23-26)

Objective: To show how Alma established The Church of Jesus Christ and the influence and power for good which were exercised by Alma following his repentance.

Lesson 23. *Righteousness and Good Government* (Mosiah, chapters 27-29)

Objective: To explain how spirituality undergirds good government.

Lesson 24. *Alma, Son of Alma* (Alma, chapters 1-8)

Objective: To point out the influence which righteous men can exert in a democracy.

## *Visiting Teacher Messages*

### Book of Mormon Gems of Truth

#### Preview of Lessons for 1953-54

Leone O. Jacobs

THE Visiting Teacher Messages for 1953-54 are a continuation of the series "Book of Mormon Gems of Truth," and are selected from the same portion of The Book of Mormon which will be covered by the theology lessons (Jacob—Alma, chapter 8 of The Book of Mormon). This additional study of The Book of Mormon will encourage all the sisters of the Church to become more familiar with this volume of scripture.

As Latter-day Saints, we have in common the most precious possession in the world—the gospel of Jesus Christ. Visiting teachers have the opportunity of discussing the gospel with their sisters in the privacy and intimacy of their own

homes. This opportunity is a rare and challenging experience. Every visiting teacher throughout the Church should recognize this fact and carefully prepare to carry out this sacred calling to the best of her ability. These "Book of Mormon Gems of Truth" are significant passages worthy of personal preservation. The general board recommends that every Relief Society visiting teacher commit these passages to memory. They will find that such knowledge is a source of strength and power in building testimonies of the truth.

The selected messages and their objectives for the eight months, October through May, are as follows: