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Stories from the Book of Mormon: Preview of Lessons for 1943-44

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Abstract: This is the first year of a probable two-year course of lessons entitled, “Stories from the Book of Mormon.”

The objectives of the course are threefold: First, to stimulate interest in the Book of Mormon; Second, to teach the Gospel as taught in the Book of Mormon; Third, to familiarize members with characters and events of the Book of Mormon.

Republic owes more." Born in the West Indies, his father was a Scotchman and his mother a beautiful French Huguenot. He came to New York in 1772, which was ever after his home. He was a great reader of Plutarch and Pope and many other great authors. A graduate of King's College, now Columbia University, he fought in the American Revolution, and took part in drafting the Constitution of the United States. His most important work was in the country's finances, and he was instrumental in the establishment of the Bank of the United States. He was the leader of the Federal Party, which stood for a strong central government over and above the states. More than any other statesman, Hamilton's plans for the money matters of the country restored the public credit, and trade and prosperity grew fast. He stood for a high protective tariff and encouraged home manufacture. He withdrew from the service of his country when only thirty years of age, and was killed in a duel with Aaron Burr on July 12, 1804.

IN thinking of the great men who founded this Republic and gave

it the Constitution of the United States, we sense deeply the words of Sir Francis Drake, when he said:

Men pass away, but people abide. See that ye hold fast the heritage we leave you. Yea and teach your children its value, that never in the coming centuries their hearts may fail them or their hands grow weak. Hitherto, we have been too much afraid. Henceforth, we will fear only God.

Any one-volume history of the United States will be helpful as a reference.

Questions and Study Suggestions

1. Why did the American colonists go to war with England in 1775?
2. Who were some of the men who took part in that struggle?
3. What was the Declaration of Independence? Who were some of the men who took part in drafting it?
4. Who were some of the great statesmen of that period? By referring to any good American history, prepare something about the lives of: Washington, Hamilton, Jefferson, Samuel Adams, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin.
5. Give more extensive study to one character, and enumerate characteristics he possessed which you would desire to emulate.

Stories from the Book of Mormon

For optional use of Relief Societies in stakes and missions in countries other than the United States, in lieu of social science lessons.

Preview of Lessons for 1943-44

THIS is the first year of a probable two-year course of lessons entitled, "Stories from the Book of Mormon."

The objectives of the course are threefold:

First, to stimulate interest in the Book of Mormon;

Second, to teach the Gospel as taught in the Book of Mormon;

Third, to familiarize members with characters and events of the Book of Mormon.

There are only seven lessons for this first year of the course as no lesson is prepared for the month of December as the General Board does not require that a meeting be held on Tuesday, December 21, 1943. The lesson titles and objectives are as follows:

Lesson 1—What is the Book of Mormon?

Objective: To become acquainted with the historical background of the Book of Mormon.

Lesson 2—Lehi's Travels to the New World

Objective: To show that belief in God is best evidenced by a willingness to serve and obey him.

Lesson 3—Nephi, a Leader in the Land of Promise

Objective: To show the rewards of righteousness.

Lesson 4—Rebellion of the Lamanites

Objective: To show that wrongdoing and disobedience to God's will bring evil results.

Lesson 5—Deliverance of Alma and Amulek from Prison

Objective: To show that "the Lord gives us strength according to our faith which is in Christ, even unto deliverance."

Lesson 6—Conversion of Lamanites by Ammon and his Brethren

Objective: To show that the arm of the Lord is extended to all people who will repent and believe on His name.

Lesson 7—Christ's Visit to the Nephites

Objective: To develop an added appreciation for the meaning and purpose of baptism.

The references to be used in this course are limited to the four standard works of the Church plus the *Articles of Faith* by James E. Talmage, inasmuch as these are the only references many foreign-speaking missions have translated into their own languages.

The following excerpts from a letter of the author of these lessons indicating the factors that guided him in writing the lessons, will be helpful to the teacher in preparing the lessons for the coming year:

First, I believe that the greatest thing about the Book of Mormon is the Book of Mormon. I have felt at times in the lessons I have seen planned for the study of this book, that too much "writer" and not enough "Book" is present. It seems to me that the most important thing in planning a lesson for a book is to find ways of letting the author speak. In this case the author is the Lord and for this reason there is a great need to get people to reading His word, both in groups and alone.

Second, most of the lessons I see taught in the mission field start from scratch with the lesson outline—often the teacher is the only one with a copy of this—and a possible volume of the standard works of the Church. I have kept this thought in mind in planning the lessons.

Third, the questions given are simple. They will get a rather thin discussion I feel, but after a reading of the Book of Mormon text the discussion should pick up. Both the questions and the reading activity provide immediate and simple tasks for the class to do. There ought not to be so many "dead spots" following a teacher's request for answers to difficult questions. Get a class into the actual scripture and the desire for discussion grows.