

## Lesson 4: Mosiah 3-4

### First Reading: Mosiah 3:1-12

1. A. Look at the entry for the word "gospel" on page 682 in the LDS Bible dictionary. What is the literal meaning of the word gospel?

B. The angel makes an announcement to King Benjamin. What phrase means the same thing as "gospel" in verse 3?

C. Skim the entire 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter. The angel's "glad tidings start with the word "Awake!" in verse 2 and end at what verse?

2. Although we often use the word gospel to mean all the doctrine of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, it actually refers in scripture specifically to the good news that the angel announced to King Benjamin. In that light, it only has meaning against a background of "the bad news." If you don't understand the "bad news" of man's condition in this life, you will not appreciate the "good news." What do we call the singular event that resulted in so much "bad news" for mankind? What verse in this reading section refers to that event?

3. Although we know that mankind will not be punished for Adam and Eve's transgression in eating the fruit in the garden, still their actions caused a cascade of events that affect us down to this day. From the verses in this reading, list some of the things that mankind has to deal with from living in a fallen world. For example, "sickness, v. 5."

4. Look up the following scriptures and list from them, additional effects of the fall.  
Ether 3:2 (Book of Mormon, page 492)

Moses 6: 48-49 (Pearl of Great Price, page 18)

Helaman 12:5-8 (Book of Mormon, page 396)

### Second Reading: Mosiah 3:13-19

5. A. Please re-read verses 7, 11, 15, 16, and 18. What exactly is it that "atones" or reconciles man with God given his fallen state and the avalanche of bad consequences that have come as the result of the fall?

B. Why is it important to remember the personal cost involved in providing that atonement for us?

6. THOUGHT QUESTION: Verse 16 says of children, "as in Adam, or by nature, they fall..." Name some characteristics of children that show that what they do "naturally" reflects the fall. (Hint: not everything children do is good.)

7. A. Where does mankind get an idea of what is right and what is wrong—in other words, where does our notion of “sin” come from? What verse refers to this?

B. Let us imagine that the very first law a child ever learns is the “law of Mother.” What is an example of this law that came from your home growing up or from your own parenting?

C. How had King Benjamin's people been taught the Law of Moses? See Jarom v.11. (Bk of M., page 139)

D. THOUGHT QUESTION: Read Romans 7:7. (Bible, page 1424) Can there be sin without any law? Why?

8. There is no law, no matter how good the law, that can save men from the fall (i.e., from their own fallen nature). What is the only way salvation can come to men and women? Cite verse.

9. A. Verse 19 is “famous.” We have all heard it often. However, the idea that adults must “become as a child” can cause confusion. As we have seen in question 5, not all characteristics of little children can be held up as models for our own behavior. What particular childlike qualities does this verse say we need?

B. Take one of these qualities, and tell more fully what you think it means to develop this trait?

10. CHALLENGE QUESTION: Can any law, by trying hard to live it by discipline and hard work alone, change a person's nature? Why.

11. What is the way God has provided for our natures to be changed? Cite verse.

12. The prophet Ezra Taft Benson gave a powerful conference address in April 1989, called “Beware of Pride.” He says, “Pride affects all of us at various times and in various degrees. Pride is the universal sin, the great vice. Yes, pride is the universal sin, the great vice. . . . The antidote for pride is humility, meekness, submissiveness. It is the broken heart and contrite spirit. . . God will have a humble people. Either we can choose to be humble or we can be compelled to be humble. Alma said, “Blessed are they who humble themselves without being compelled to be humble” (Alma 32:16).” The sin of the adult world is pride. The word pride is not used in Mosiah 3, but what phrases do you find in this reading section that show the presence of pride in people? Cite verses.

### **Third Reading: Mosiah 3:20-27**

13. Once a person has heard the gospel message, i.e., once they understand what sin is and they know that salvation from sin comes through the Savior Jesus Christ, what are they held accountable for?

14. Go back and look at verse 10 of chapter 3. How does the Atonement of Christ insure a "righteous judgment" for mankind?

15. How are your personal choices eternally important?

**Fourth Reading: Mosiah 4:1-12**

16. What was the physical reaction of the multitude to the angel's message?

17. The people "viewed themselves in their own carnal state, even less than the dust of the earth." Helaman 12:5-8 (Book of Mormon, page 396) explains what this means. What does dust do that men and women don't do? What is the natural man's reaction to God?

18. A. Why must we first "view ourselves in our own carnal state" before we can have the atoning blood of Jesus Christ applied to us?

B. What happened to the people as a result of this "view" of themselves?

They asked for \_\_\_\_\_

They received \_\_\_\_\_

They felt \_\_\_\_\_

19. A. The world might object to the language of Mosiah that says such things as "less than the dust of the earth," (v2) "a sense of your nothingness, and your worthless and fallen state." (v5&11) Why?

B. What exactly is called worthless?

C. Read John 15:5-6 (Bible page 1354) What does this teach you about your "nothingness"?

20. How would you defend this language as being the doorway to glorious blessings, considering verse 11 in your answer?

21. In contrast to man's state, what does King Benjamin want the people to know about God from this reading section? (v 5,6, 9 )

22. Given the vast difference between man's condition and state and God's character and power, what things does King Benjamin say the people should now do? (Look for all the actions we can take in verses 6 through 11.)

23. What personal changes can the people look forward to inside themselves after having the experience they have just had? Cite verse.

24. Do you think we can "grow in the knowledge of the glory of the knowledge of [God]", if we fail to "call upon his name daily"? Why or why not?

25. The parable of the branches (us) and the true vine (Christ) from the gospel of John, chapter 15, is the best visual image in scripture of what our relationship to Jesus Christ should be. When we stay connected to Him, the life-giving sap (Holy Ghost) flows into our lives and we bear fruit. If that connection is broken we begin to die. What are some other ways besides "calling on the name of the Lord daily" that we can stay connected to Him?

### **Fifth Reading: Mosiah 4:13-30**

26. What will be the effects in our families of "keeping the connection"?

27. What will be our response to those in need in the community around us from this type of relationship with God?

28. King Benjamin makes particular mention of beggars, of which there were probably many in that type of culture. A real beggar is someone who has exhausted their own resources and it thus not able to supply their own needs.

A. In what way are all of us beggars?

B. Why is it important to always remember this?

C. According to verse 22, who owns your house and all the stuff in it?

D. What happens to men and women when they lose this perspective?

29. How does "imparting of our substance to the poor" help us to retain a remission of our sins from day to day?

30. What are some opportunities LDS women in your community have to live in this consecrated way?

31. How does "imparting to others"—especially those who got themselves into a mess by their own choices—teach us about our relationship to Christ?