

Selections from
October 2013
General Conference
about the
Book of Mormon



SEMINARIES AND
INSTITUTES OF RELIGION

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Introduction

Religious educators in Seminaries and Institutes of Religion have been charged to teach students the doctrines and principles of the gospel as found in the scriptures and the words of the prophets. The teachings of living prophets can fortify our students against temptation and deepen their personal conversion.

As teachers teach the scriptures using the approved curriculum and carefully consider including the words of the prophets, proper emphasis will be given to their words in a consistent and regular manner rather than heavy emphasis twice a year.

This document has been provided to show how some addresses given at the October 2013 general conference of the Church connect directly to the Book of Mormon seminary and institute curriculum (see *Book of Mormon Seminary Teacher Manual* [2012] and *Book of Mormon Teacher Manual* [Religion 121–122, 2009]). The following selections do not represent an exhaustive list but provide statements that can be integrated into the curriculum to enhance understanding of doctrines and principles found in the Book of Mormon.

“The Key to Spiritual Protection”

Studying the Scriptures. Seminary Lesson 2

By President Boyd K. Packer, Saturday Afternoon Session

President Packer explained that scripture reading brings inspiration, feelings of peace, and solutions to problems. He also promised that if you “make scripture reading a part of your regular routine, . . . the blessings will follow.” He related an experience with Elder S. Dilworth Young, who told him that to help a stake that was struggling with several issues, he should instruct the members to read the scriptures. It didn’t really matter where in the scriptures they read; they just needed to read scriptures every day.

<https://www.lds.org/general-conference/2013/10/the-key-to-spiritual-protection?lang=eng>

“No Other Gods”

The Plan of Salvation. Seminary Lesson 3

By Elder Dallin H. Oaks, Sunday Morning Session

Elder Oaks explained: “Our understanding of God’s plan and His doctrine gives us an eternal perspective that does not allow us to condone [unrighteous] behaviors or to find justification in the laws that permit them. And, unlike other organizations that can change their policies and even their doctrines, our policies are determined by the truths God has identified as unchangeable.”

<https://www.lds.org/general-conference/2013/10/no-other-gods?lang=eng>

“Come, Join with Us”**1 Nephi 15. Seminary Lesson 16, Institute Chapter 4****By President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Saturday Morning Session**

President Uchtdorf’s discussion of “unanswered questions” could be used when discussing 1 Nephi 15:6–11, which explains how Laman and Lemuel were allowing their doubts and lack of faith to prevent them from moving forward spiritually.

<https://www.lds.org/general-conference/2013/10/come-join-with-us?lang=eng>

“Wilt Thou Be Made Whole?”**2 Nephi 2:11–14. Seminary Lesson 24, Institute Chapter 7****By Elder Timothy J. Dyches, Saturday Afternoon Session**

Elder Dyches taught: “‘Opposition in all things’ (2 Nephi 2:11) is not a flaw in the plan of salvation. Opposition, rather, is the indispensable element of mortality and strengthens our will and refines our choices.”

<https://www.lds.org/general-conference/2013/10/wilt-thou-be-made-whole?lang=eng>

“We Never Walk Alone”**Mosiah 1:2–7. Seminary Lesson 51, Institute Chapter 18****By President Thomas S. Monson, General Relief Society Meeting**

President Monson discussed several blessings the Lord has given us so that we do not need to walk alone through life. One of these blessings is the scriptures. President Monson explained several ways in which the scriptures bless us.

<https://www.lds.org/broadcasts/article/general-relief-society-meeting/2013/09/we-never-walk-alone?lang=eng>

“No Other Gods”**Mosiah 12–13. Seminary Lesson 59, Institute Chapter 20****By Elder Dallin H. Oaks, Sunday Morning Session**

Elder Oaks explained that in our day, “other priorities are being ‘served’ ahead of God.” Some of those priorities are cultural and family traditions; political correctness; career aspirations; material possessions; recreational pursuits; and power, prominence, and prestige. “The principle is not whether we have other priorities. The question posed by the second commandment is ‘What is our *ultimate* priority?’ Are we serving priorities or gods ahead of the God we profess to worship?”

<https://www.lds.org/general-conference/2013/10/no-other-gods?lang=eng>

“The Power, Joy, and Love of Covenant Keeping”**Mosiah 18:8–13. Seminary Lesson 61, Institute Chapter 21****By Sister Linda K. Burton, General Relief Society Meeting**

Sister Burton taught: “Making and keeping covenants means choosing to bind ourselves to our Father in Heaven and Jesus Christ. It is committing to follow the Savior. It is trusting Him and desiring to show our gratitude for the price He paid to set us free through the infinite gift of the Atonement.”

<https://www.lds.org/broadcasts/article/general-relief-society-meeting/2013/09/the-power-joy-and-love-of-covenant-keeping?lang=eng>

“The Key to Spiritual Protection”**Mosiah 26:15–32. Seminary Lesson 66, Institute Chapter 22****By President Boyd K. Packer, Saturday Afternoon Session**

President Packer explained: “There are certain spiritual illnesses, particularly those dealing with violations of the moral law, which absolutely require the assistance and treatment of a qualified spiritual physician.” In cases of serious sin, bishops and branch presidents can help us repent and receive forgiveness.

<https://www.lds.org/general-conference/2013/10/the-key-to-spiritual-protection?lang=eng>

“Decisions for Eternity”**Alma 12:24–25. Seminary Lesson 77, Institute Chapter 25****By Elder Russell M. Nelson, Sunday Afternoon Session**

Elder Nelson explained: “The aging process is . . . a gift from God, as is death. The eventual death of your mortal body is essential to God’s great plan of happiness. Why? Because death will allow your spirit to return home to Him. From an eternal perspective, death is only premature for those who are not prepared to meet God.”

<https://www.lds.org/general-conference/2013/10/decisions-for-eternity?lang=eng>

“Come, Join with Us”**Alma 22:5–18. Seminary Lesson 84, Institute Chapter 27****By President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Saturday Morning Session**

President Uchtdorf taught: “It’s natural to have questions—the acorn of honest inquiry has often sprouted and matured into a great oak of understanding. . . . Please, first doubt your doubts before you doubt your faith. We must never allow doubt to hold us prisoner and keep us from the divine love, peace, and gifts that come through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.”

<https://www.lds.org/general-conference/2013/10/come-join-with-us?lang=eng>

“Be Ye Converted”**Alma 23:5–6. Seminary Lesson 85, Institute Chapter 28****By Sister Bonnie L. Oscarson, Sunday Morning Session**

The first half of Sister Oscarson’s talk could be used in teaching what it means to be converted. Sister Oscarson defined conversion and provided a family story to show how her great-grandmother’s conversion has affected her life.

<https://www.lds.org/general-conference/2013/10/be-ye-converted?lang=eng>

“No Other Gods”**Alma 39:3–12. Seminary Lesson 96, Institute Chapter 31****By Elder Dallin H. Oaks, Sunday Morning Session**

Elder Oaks taught: “Outside the bonds of marriage between a man and a woman, all uses of our procreative powers are to one degree or another sinful and contrary to God’s plan for the exaltation of His children.”

<https://www.lds.org/general-conference/2013/10/no-other-gods?lang=eng>

“To My Grandchildren”**Alma 42:13. Seminary Lesson 99, Institute Chapter 32****By President Henry B. Eyring, Sunday Morning Session**

President Eyring testified of the relationship between justice and mercy when he taught that “The Savior paid the price of all sins, no matter how heinous. Even though there must be justice, the opportunity for mercy is extended which will not rob justice.”

<https://www.lds.org/general-conference/2013/10/to-my-grandchildren?lang=eng>

“Personal Strength through the Atonement of Jesus Christ”**Alma 53:14–15. Seminary Lesson 103, Institute Chapter 34****By Elder Richard G. Scott, Sunday Morning Session**

Elder Scott took a very close look at the covenant that Ammon and his brethren (the Anti-Nephi-Lehies) made to never take up their weapons of war again. Elder Scott explained that the fathers of the stripling warriors must have had tender feelings knowing that “the rebellious actions of their past prevented them from protecting their wives and children at that moment of need. . . . Sometimes our poor choices leave us with long-term consequences. One of the vital steps to complete repentance is to bear the short- and long-term consequences of our past sins. . . . Satan will try to use our memory of any previous guilt to lure us back into his influence. We must be ever vigilant to avoid his enticements.”

<https://www.lds.org/general-conference/2013/10/personal-strength-through-the-atonement-of-jesus-christ?lang=eng>

“The Moral Force of Women”**Alma 57:21–22. Seminary Lesson 104, Institute Chapter 34****By Elder D. Todd Christofferson, Saturday Afternoon Session**

Elder Christofferson discussed the influence of the mothers of the 2,000 stripling warriors, and his words could add depth to a class discussion. He taught: “A woman’s moral influence is nowhere more powerfully felt or more beneficially employed than in the home.” He also elaborated on the influence righteous women have in their homes and in society.

<https://www.lds.org/general-conference/2013/10/the-moral-force-of-women?lang=eng>

“The Windows of Heaven”**Alma 58:11–13. Seminary Lesson 104, Institute Chapter 34****By Elder David A. Bednar, Saturday Morning Session**

Elder Bednar discussed Alma 53 and 58. One way to use his comments is in teaching Alma 58:11–13. Elder Bednar reminded us that the stripling warriors “prayed earnestly that God would strengthen and deliver them out of the hands of their enemies. Interestingly, the answers to these prayers did not produce additional weapons or an increased number of troops. Instead, God granted these faithful warriors assurance that He would deliver them, peace to their souls, and great faith and hope for their deliverance in Him.”

<https://www.lds.org/general-conference/2013/10/the-windows-of-heaven?lang=eng>

“Ye Are No More Strangers”**4 Nephi 1:16–18. Seminary Lesson 136****By Bishop Gérald Caussé, Priesthood Session**

Bishop Caussé taught: “Unity is not achieved by ignoring and isolating members who seem to be different or weaker and only associating with people who are like us. On the contrary, unity is gained by welcoming and serving those who are new and who have particular needs.” The characteristic of unity as taught in 4 Nephi can be applied in several ways to achieve greater unity in local wards and branches.

<https://www.lds.org/general-conference/2013/10/ye-are-no-more-strangers?lang=eng>

“Be Ye Converted”**Ether 12:6. Seminary Lesson 149, Institute Chapter 52****By Sister Bonnie L. Oscarson, Sunday Morning Session**

Sister Oscarson explained: “In our world where instant gratification is the expectation, we are often guilty of expecting the reward without having to work for it. I believe Moroni is telling us that we must do the work first and exercise faith by living the gospel, and then we will receive the witness that it is true.”

<https://www.lds.org/general-conference/2013/10/be-ye-converted?lang=eng>

“Drawing Closer to God”

Ether 2:20–24. Seminary Lesson 144, Institute Chapter 50

By Elder Terence M. Vinson, Sunday Afternoon Session

Elder Vinson explained that “Rather than solve the problem Himself, the Lord wants us to develop the faith that will help us rely upon Him in solving our problems and trust Him.”

<https://www.lds.org/general-conference/2013/10/drawing-closer-to-god?lang=eng>

Other Resources

To search all general conference talks since 1942 by the scriptures that they cite, use the LDS Scripture Citation Index. The index can be found at scriptures.byu.edu, on the mobile application in the App Store, and on Google Play (search for “LDS Scripture Citation Index”).

Other resources pertaining to the October 2013 general conference will be released in the future.

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS



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