

Alma and the Church of God

Lesson intended for ages 5-7

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“...pray without ceasing, and to give thanks in all things.” Mosiah 11:149

Memory Verse:

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” Proverbs 3:5-6

Review:

Who was Alma?

Where would we find this story, in the Bible or the Book of Mormon?

Did Alma always believe in God?

What changed his life?

Vocabulary:

Condemnation-the act of being found guilty

Persecution- to injure, tease, or irritate others because of their religious belief.

Introduction

Use picture of church with memory verse to introduce lesson.

What church do we go to? What is the name of our church? Is it (Student's name) church? Why do we call it the Church of Christ? Today we will learn about some of the first churches in the Book of Mormon lands? Do you think that this is what they looked like back then?

Alma and the Church of God

Alma and his people make it safely to the Land of Zarahemla. King Mosiah received the people gladly and gathers all his people together that they may hear him read all the events that took place from the time Zeniff and his people leave the Land of Zarahemla to the time they return.

Review the events with the students using a map or timeline.

- *Zeniff-led group to the Land of Nephi*
- *King Noah and the wicked priests*
- *Abinadi teaches and Alma, priest of King Noah, converted*
- *Alma baptizes those who believe, leaves land with a group of people to Land of Helam .*

- *King Limhi-his people become subjects to Lamanites and pay 1/2 as tribute.*
- *Ammon, a descendant of Zeniff desires to look for his people, he finds them and helps King Limhi and his people escape to the Land of Zarahemla.*
- *Lamanites looking for daughters find wicked priests in process they find Alma and his people in the Land of Helam.*
- *Alma's people become subjects with heavy burdens to bear. God makes them light. Alma's people are delivered by God to the Land of Zarahemla.*
- *Many baptized by Alma after returning to the Land of Zarahemla.*

Read Mosiah 11:97-98 *King Mosiah has Alma set up churches throughout the land. Alma ordains priests and teachers. There were too many people to hear the word of God in one assembly.*

Although there were seven churches, they all taught repentance and faith in God.

Read Mosiah 11:103-104 *They took upon them the name of Christ, or of God. The people were blessed.*

Later in the Book of Mormon it says in III Nephi 12:19 ...whatsoever ye shall do, ye shall do it in my name; and ye shall call upon the Father in my name, that he will bless the church for my sake; and how be it my church, save it be called in my name?

After the churches were established in the Land of Zarahemla, there began to be problems. Some in the church started to commit sins and Alma didn't know what to do with them. King Mosiah didn't want to judge the matters of the church. Alma was troubled and he prayed. He poured out his soul before God and asked God what he should do. He didn't want to do something wrong before God.

Let's read some of the things that God told Alma.

Mosiah 11:125 *Yea, blessed is this people, which are willing to bear my name; for in my name shall they be called; and they are mine.*

Mosiah 11:128 *And he that will hear my voice, shall be my sheep...*

God shared with Mosiah many more things about the church and how to handle sin within the church.

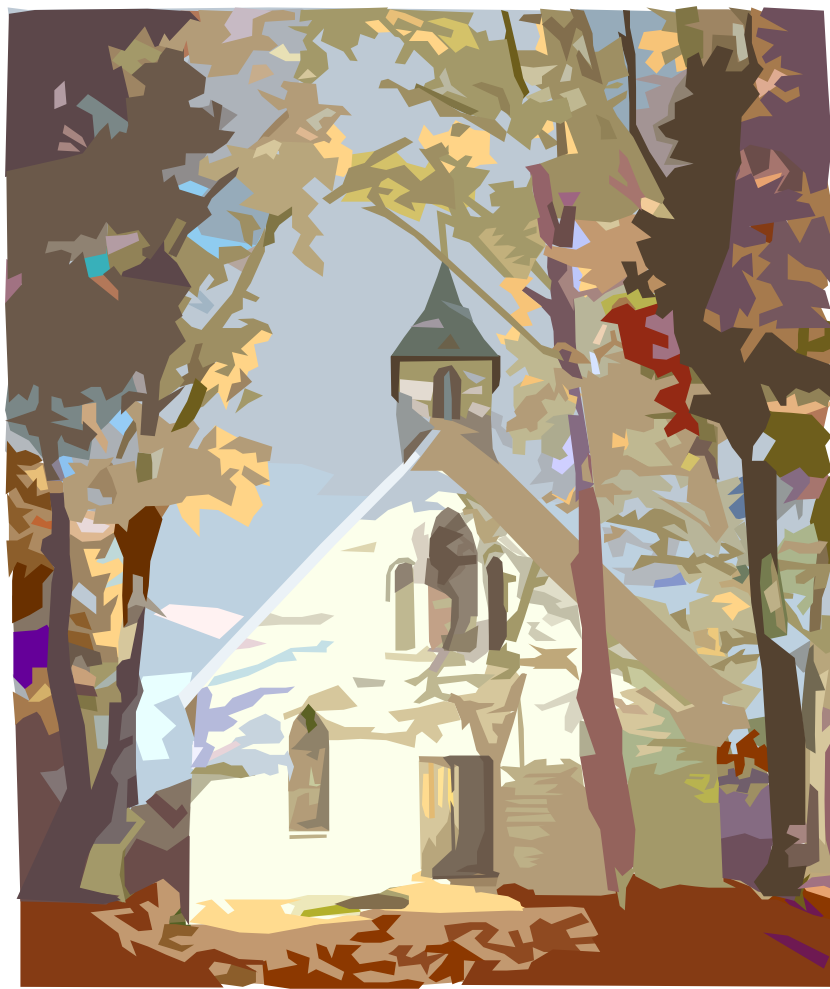
A great promise God gives us is written there. *...As often as my people repent, will I forgive them their trespasses against me. Mosiah 11:139*

It is important to forgive others just as Christ forgives us. In that same chapter it says that if we do not forgive others, when they say they have repented, we are under condemnation. In other words, we are guilty and are sinning when we don't forgive others.

Another one of the teachings that the church taught the people was to pray without ceasing and to give thanks in all things.

After having peace in the church there were some, unbelievers outside of the church, they started persecuting the people that belonged to the Church of God. King Mosiah sent a strict command throughout the land that there should be no persecutions among them.

The people began to have peace in the land once more.
Read Mosiah 11:158 *And the Lord did visit them, and prosper them, and they became a large and wealthy people.*



...whatsoever ye shall do,
ye shall do it in my name;
therefore ye shall call the
church in my name...

III Nephi 12:19

