

Lesson 1

Moses 1

The following assignments include various learning activities, such as questions, lists, essays, charts, comparisons, contrasts, and surveys. To receive credit for this lesson, you must complete the number of assignments indicated below and submit them to your institute instructor or administrator. You may submit your work either electronically or on paper, handwritten or typed.

Each lesson should take approximately 60–90 minutes to complete, the same amount of time you would typically spend in a weekly institute class. Since reading the scripture block listed in the lesson heading is expected of all institute students prior to class, the estimated time for each assignment does not include the time you need to spend reading the scripture block.

Complete all of the assignments:

1. Title Page, Introductory Note, and Contents

- a. Read the title page of the Pearl of Great Price, the introduction in the institute student manual (page 1), and the commentary “Title Page: Why Is It Called the ‘Pearl of Great Price?’” (page 2). Then record your response to the following questions and activities:
 - List at least three reasons that Elder Milton R. Hunter gave of why the Pearl of Great Price is a unique book of scripture.
 - What reason did President Franklin D. Richards give in 1851 as to why he originally compiled and published the Pearl of Great Price? Why is that reason still important today?
 - When and how did the Pearl of Great Price officially become one of the standard works of the Church?
 - What two revelations, initially placed in the Pearl of Great Price in 1976, were added to the Doctrine and Covenants in 1979?
- b. Read the introductory note, contents page, and headings (the italicized introductory paragraphs) of each book in the Pearl of Great Price. Using that information, complete the following matching exercise:

Match the revelation, translation, or narration in the left column with the correct explanation in the right column.

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ____ Selections from the Book of Moses 2. ____ The Book of Abraham 3. ____ Joseph Smith—Matthew 4. ____ Joseph Smith—History 5. ____ The Articles of Faith 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Excerpts from Joseph Smith’s official testimony and history, which he prepared in 1838 and which was originally published in Nauvoo’s <i>Times and Seasons</i>. b. A brief summary of the basic beliefs of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Published in <i>Times and Seasons</i> on March 1, 1842 and originally part of a short history of the Church known as the Wentworth Letter. c. An extract from the book of Genesis in the Joseph Smith Translation of the Bible, which the Prophet began in June 1830. d. An extract from the translation of the Bible as revealed to Joseph Smith in 1831. It comprises Matthew 23:39 and Matthew 24. e. A translation of some Egyptian papyri that came into the hands of Joseph Smith in 1835, containing writings from an early prophet and patriarch.
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2. The Book of Moses

- a. Read the student manual commentary “Title Page: An Extract from the Translation of the Bible” (page 3) and the “Joseph Smith Translation” entry in the Bible Dictionary (page 717). Then write a paragraph describing the benefits of the Joseph Smith Translation.

- b. Read 1 Nephi 13:26, 39–40 and write a paragraph explaining how the book of Moses helps fulfill this prophecy in the Book of Mormon.

3. Moses 1:1–11. God Revealed Himself to Moses

- a. Read Moses 1:1–11 and the student manual commentaries “Moses 1:2, 9–11: Why Could Moses Endure the Presence of God?” and “Moses 1:3–8: Who Spoke to Moses?” (page 4). Then record your response to each of the following questions and activities:

- Why was it necessary for Moses to be transfigured during this experience?
- Which member of the Godhead spoke to Moses? What is divine investiture of authority?
- Make a list that describes what these verses teach about the nature of God.

- b. Review Moses 1:6 and the student manual commentary “Moses 1:6: ‘There Is No God beside Me’” (pages 4–5). Then write your answer to each of the following questions:

- According to the 1912 First Presidency discourse and President Boyd K. Packer’s commentary, who is the sole object of our worship?
- God is our Father and we worship Him. How does 2 Nephi 25:29 also describe the worshipful feelings we should have for Jesus Christ?
- What are some philosophies, objects, or relationships that people sometimes wrongly place ahead of God?

- c. In your scriptures, highlight the words *my son* in Moses 1:4, 6–7. Read the student manual commentary “Moses 1:4–6: Moses Was a Son of God” (page 4). Reread Moses 1:6 and substitute your name for the name of Moses. Record your response for each of the following questions and activities:

- How can Moses 1:6 also be applied to you?
- Explain how knowing that you are a son or daughter of God affects your daily thoughts, choices, and actions.

- d. Review Moses 1:8–11 and the student manual commentary “Moses 1:10: ‘Man Is Nothing’”

(page 5). Write a brief answer to each of the following questions:

- According to the context of Moses’s experience, in what sense is man nothing?
- Although this verse describes man as “nothing,” what do the scripture references at the conclusion of the student manual commentary indicate about man’s divine potential?

4. Moses 1:12–23. Satan Commanded Moses to Worship Him

- a. Moses’s confrontation with and dismissal of Satan is not recorded in Genesis and is unique to the Pearl of Great Price. Read Moses 1:12–23. Then write an answer to each of the following questions:

- What enabled Moses to discern the difference between God and Satan?
- According to Moses 1:12–23; 4:1–4; Isaiah 14:12–20; James 4:7; and 2 Nephi 28:22, what do we know about Satan’s character and personality?
- How can you apply this knowledge about Satan to your day-to-day experiences?
- According to Moses 1:23 and 1 Nephi 13:23, 25–29, why was the account in Moses 1 omitted from the Bible?

- b. Review Moses 1:12–23 and the student manual commentary “Moses 1:12–22: Satan’s Temptations” (pages 5–6). Then respond to the following questions in writing:

- According to President Spencer W. Kimball’s statement in the student manual, how should we respond to temptation?
- In what ways does it help you to know that with the Lord’s assistance you can overcome Satan’s influences?

5. Moses 1:24–42. Moses Learned More about the Work of God

- a. Read Moses 1:24–26 and Exodus 14:15–22, 26–31; 17:1–6. Then write a brief answer to each of the following questions:

- How was the following promise fulfilled: “Thou shalt be made stronger than many waters; for they shall obey thy command as if thou wert God”? (Moses 1:25).
- What is an example of a promise the Lord has fulfilled in your life? (If this answer is

- too personal, you do not need to turn it into your instructor.)
- b. Read Moses 1:30–39 and the student manual commentaries “Moses 1:35–38: There Are Many Worlds” and “Moses 1:35–39: Jesus Christ Redeemed All of God’s Creations” (page 6). Then record your response to the following questions:
 - According to the statement by President Marion G. Romney, what else besides this earth did Jesus Christ create under the direction of the Father?
 - How did President Brigham Young answer the question “How many earths are there?”
 - c. Review Moses 1:30, 36 and read the chapter summaries for Moses 2–3. Record your response to the following activities:
 - Note the “why” and “how” question that Moses asked the Lord in Moses 1:30. Explain how Moses 1:39 answers the “why” question and Moses 1:32–33 answers the “how” question.
 - d. Read Moses 1:39; Isaiah 43:7; and the student manual commentaries “Moses 1:39: Immortality and Eternal Life” and “Moses 1:39: The Unselfishness of God” (page 6). Then respond in writing to the following:
 - Note the question that Moses asked in Moses 1:36 and explain how Moses 2–3 is an answer to that question.
 - Define and describe the difference between immortality and eternal life.
 - How does the information found in Moses 1:39 reveal the unselfishness of God’s purpose?
 - e. Write two paragraphs explaining how Moses was better prepared to accomplish his mission after God answered his questions. Include in your response an explanation of how the knowledge of the Lord’s work and purpose helps you live righteously and fulfill your mission in mortality. Also explain how Alma 12:32 applies to these principles.