

Lesson 9

Abraham 3; Facsimiles 2–3

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 following assignments:

1. Abraham 3:1–17. The Lord Showed Abraham the Stars

- a. Study Abraham 3:1, the institute student manual commentary “Abraham 3:1: What Is the Urim and Thummim?” (page 36), and the Bible Dictionary entry “Urim and Thummim”

Scriptures about Kolob	Comparison Between Kolob and Jesus Christ	Scriptures about Jesus Christ
Abraham 3:3, 16		Abraham 3:24; D&C 29:1; Hebrews 12:1
Abraham 3:3		Isaiah 9:6; D&C 41:4
Facsimile 2, figure 5		D&C 88:1–7, 13

- d. Review Abraham 3:11–17 and the student manual commentary “Abraham 3:14: ‘I Will Multiply Thee, and Thy Seed after Thee’” (page 37). Then respond in writing to the following:

- How did the Lord help Abraham to understand the nature of God?

(pages 786–87). Write answers to the following questions as you study.

- What does *Urim and Thummim* mean in Hebrew?
 - For what purposes did the Lord prepare the instruments called Urim and Thummim?
 - Considering the purposes and functions of the Urim and Thummim, in what ways does the Hebrew meaning seem appropriate?
- b. Read Abraham 3:2–17 and the student manual commentaries “Abraham 3:2–16: The Name of the Great One Is Kolob”; “Abraham 3:2–10, 16–17: Other Governing Stars”; and “Abraham 3:16–17: Stars Differ in Greatness” (pages 36–37). Then describe in writing what these verses teach about Kolob, its place, its time of reckoning, and its prominence.
- c. Complete the following chart by comparing Kolob and Jesus Christ. Record your thoughts in writing.

- In verses 11–14, how did the Lord help Abraham understand his divine potential?
- Write a paragraph discussing how understanding our divine potential can influence the decisions we make in life.

2. Abraham 3:18–28. The Lord Taught Abraham about the Premortal Existence and the Purpose of Mortality

- a. Read Abraham 3:18–21 and the following student manual commentaries: “Abraham 3:18–23: The Premortal Existence”; “Abraham 3:18–19: What Does It Mean to Be ‘More Intelligent?’”; “Abraham 3:18–19: Our Spirits Are Eternal”; and “Abraham 3:19–21: The Lord Is ‘More Intelligent than They All’” (pages 37–38). As you study, write answers to the following questions:

- Based on the Prophet Joseph Smith’s statement about the premortal existence, how has the Lord provided ways for you to advance in knowledge? (see also D&C 88:34–35).
- What does it mean to be “more intelligent” than another?
- How did President Brigham Young describe the purpose for the creation of our spirits? How does this affect your understanding of your divine potential?
- What do these readings along with 2 Nephi 9:20 teach about what the Lord knows?

- b. Read and ponder Abraham 3:22–23 and Doctrine and Covenants 138:53–56. Describe in writing what the “noble and great ones” were “reserved to come forth” and do.

- c. Study Abraham 3:22–26; Doctrine and Covenants 98:12–14; and student manual commentaries “Abraham 3:25: ‘We Will Prove Them’” and “Abraham 3:26: What Does It Mean to ‘Keep’ an Estate?” (pages 38–39). Then write an essay about how the tests we face in life are a major part of the purpose of mortality. In your essay, be sure to do the following:

- Discuss Abraham and Sarah’s lives of faithfulness (see chapter headings for Genesis 12–24; Abraham 1–3). Describe the tests they faced and how they responded to the Lord’s commands.
- Briefly describe one of the tests of mortality you have faced and what you did to overcome the test or trial.
- Discuss how knowing what the Lord shared with Abraham concerning our first estate helps you face life’s challenges.

- d. Read Abraham 3:27–28. Write answers to the following:

- Who was “the first” to say “Here am I”?
- Who was “the second”?
- How do the scriptures clarify the motives of both Jesus Christ and Satan? (see Moses 4:1–2; Isaiah 14:12–16; 2 Nephi 26:24; D&C 29:36–37; 76:28, 41–42).

3. Facsimiles 2–3. Abraham Taught the Egyptians

Study facsimiles 2 and 3 and the explanations given, and read all of the student manual commentaries under “Facsimiles 2–3: Abraham Taught the Egyptians” (pages 39–40). Make a list of at least five gospel principles and doctrines that can be derived from the two facsimiles. Conclude by responding to the following in writing:

- Give a few examples from the explanation of facsimile 2 that show the Lord governs over all His creations.
- From the explanation of facsimile 3, what evidences are there that the Egyptians responded with great respect to the teachings of Abraham?