

Book of Mormon, Religion 121  
Independent Study

## Lesson 13

## Alma 8–16

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 assignment 2 and any of the other assignments:**

**1. Alma 8. Alma and Amulek**

- a. Compare in writing Alma’s experiences in the land of Melek (see Alma 8:3–6) with his experiences in Ammonihah (see Alma 8:7–13).
- b. Summarize in a few sentences what the angel said to Alma (see Alma 8:14–17) and to Amulek (see Alma 8:20; 10:7). Explain how the angel’s message could encourage missionaries today.
- c. Read the institute student manual commentary “Alma 8:26: Fasting” (page 185). Write a paragraph describing how fasting has blessed your life.
- d. Explain in writing the connection between the actions described in Alma 8:10, 26 with the results identified in Alma 8:30–32.

**2. Alma 9–14. Alma and Amulek’s Ministry to the People of Ammonihah**

- a. Alma and Amulek had power “given unto them” to minister to a wicked and rebellious people. Alma began by asking the people of Ammonihah several questions, many of which began with “Do ye not remember . . .” and “Have ye forgotten . . .” As you read Alma 9:7–14, record each of his questions under the correct heading:

Do Ye Not Remember . . .	Have Ye Forgotten . . .

After filling in the chart, explain in writing your answers to the following question:

- What are some reasons you can think of to explain why Alma asked questions that began with “Do ye not remember . . .” and “Have ye forgotten . . .”?
- How do prophets remind us of important spiritual truths? After reading Alma 9:14–15, 19–22, 27–31, write what Alma told the people of Ammonihah to remember. Include in your statement what Alma prophesied would happen to the Nephites if they failed to remember to obey the Lord.
- Not only was Amulek another witness of the Lord’s message, he was a resident of Ammonihah. Read Alma 10:1–11 and write a paragraph outlining the elements of Amulek’s testimony, and then read Alma 10:17–25 and write a second paragraph on the points of Amulek’s message to his people.
- Write which verses from Alma 11:34–46 you would use to answer each of the following questions:
  - Is it possible to be saved in my sins?
  - What quality of a body will I have in the Resurrection?
  - How many people who live on the earth will be resurrected?
  - What am I required to do to enter into heaven?
  - Is there death after the Resurrection?

- e. Read the student manual commentary “Alma 11:41–45: Resurrection” (pages 187–88). Write a paragraph explaining how a knowledge of and faith in the Resurrection can increase the quality of our life in mortality. In chapter 12 Alma established “the words of Amulek,” explained “things beyond,” or unfolded the scriptures “beyond that which Amulek had done.” Read Alma 12, imagining your bishop asked you to choose six doctrinal topics for sacrament meeting talks that could be taught from Alma 12. Which ones would you suggest to him?
- f. Read Alma 12:9–14 and the student manual commentary “Alma 12:12–14: Judged According to Our Words, Works, and Thoughts” (pages 188–89). Answer the following questions in writing:
- How do we come to know the mysteries of God?
  - What restrictions are placed on those who know the mysteries?
  - According to these verses and Doctrine and Covenants 137:9, what four things will we be judged by?
  - How could you better prepare for the Judgment?

### 3. Alma 13. Foreordained to the Priesthood

Alma 13 was Alma’s effort to contrast the true order of priesthood with the priestcraft followed by those in Ammonihah. Read Alma 13 and the student manual commentaries “Alma 13:3–5: ‘Called and Prepared’ before the Foundation of the World” and “Alma 13:4: Agency Existed in the Premortal World” (pages 191–92). Then write answers to the following questions:

- On what basis were we called and prepared before the foundations of the world?
- What role did agency play in the premortal world?
- How does a priesthood holder prepare to enter the presence of God?

- What did Alma teach about the criteria for someone to be ordained to the Melchizedek Priesthood?
- What did Alma wish “from the inmost part of [his] heart” for the brethren of Ammonihah?
- What did Alma teach about avoiding sin and temptation?

### 4. Alma 14–16. “The Spirit Constraineth Me”

- a. Even though Alma and Amulek ministered with power and authority, many people in the city of Ammonihah rejected their message and sought to kill them and those who believed. Study Alma 14:6–28 and the student manual commentary “Alma 14:7–11: The Martyrdom of the Righteous” (pages 195–96), then complete the following tasks:
- Study Alma 14:8–11; 60:13 and explain the reason the scriptures gave for why Alma and Amulek did not use priesthood power to save the righteous from being killed.
  - How does the statement from President Spencer W. Kimball in the student manual help explain why Alma and Amulek may have had to wait so long before they were given the power to deliver themselves from prison?
  - Review Alma 14:2–5; 3 Nephi 14:6; Matthew 27:11–14. Explain why you think Alma and Amulek may have refused to answer the questions of the wicked judges.
- b. Both Zeezrom and the people of Ammonihah were vulnerable to destruction because of sin. Write a paragraph contrasting the different results for Zeezrom and the unrepentant inhabitants of Ammonihah as recorded in Alma 15:3–11, 15; 16:1–2, 9–10.
- c. Alma 15:15 states that the people of Ammonihah were of “the profession of Nehor.” Nehor was guilty of priestcraft. What insight did Mormon provide in this verse that helps us understand why priestcraft is so harmful to people?