

God blesses those who are obedient and faithful.

Ponder your level of obedience in keeping God's commandments. What is one way you can be more obedient? Follow through on the impressions you receive from the Spirit.



6. Write the following at the bottom of today's assignments in your scripture study journal:

I have studied 1 Nephi 2 and completed this lesson on (date).

Additional questions, thoughts, and insights I would like to share with my teacher:

UNIT 2: DAY 3

1 Nephi 3–4

Introduction

The Lord commanded Lehi to send his sons back to Jerusalem to obtain the plates of brass from Laban. While Laman and Lemuel did not see how they would fulfill this command, Nephi had faith that the Lord would provide a way to accomplish what He required. Despite repeated difficulties, Nephi faithfully persisted in doing what the Lord had asked. As a result, he was led by the Holy Spirit and successfully obtained the plates. Nephi's experience shows that persistent obedience qualifies us for the Lord's help in difficult situations.

1 Nephi 3:1–9, 19–20

Lehi's sons return to Jerusalem

Have you ever faced a difficult situation and wondered how it would be resolved? Today's lesson can help strengthen your faith and determination to be obedient as you face difficult situations. Begin by reading 1 Nephi 3:1–6, and highlight in your scriptures the command the Lord gave Lehi for his sons to fulfill. Also notice the difference in how Laman and Lemuel responded to the Lord's command as opposed to Nephi's response.

To understand the difficulty of what the Lord commanded, it is helpful to know that the distance from Jerusalem to the Red Sea (the Gulf of Aqaba) is about 180 miles through hot, barren country infested by many thieves. Lehi and his family had traveled three days' journey beyond this point (see 1 Nephi 2:5–6), and now the Lord was saying his sons were to go back to Jerusalem. Read 1 Nephi 3:7–8, and identify

the reason Nephi gave for his willingness to obey the Lord's command.

Nephi testified of the principle that **if we will do what the Lord commands, then He will prepare a way for us to accomplish it**. As you continue to study 1 Nephi 3, think about how Nephi's example of courage and determination can inspire you to be more obedient and show greater faith in the Lord. Pay particular attention to how Nephi responded to difficulties. Even though Nephi would face adversity as he and his brothers tried to obtain the plates of brass, he chose not to murmur (see 1 Nephi 3:6).

The plates of brass contained "the record of the Jews" (1 Nephi 3:3), which were their scriptures. They contained some of the writings and information currently found in the Old Testament as well as other prophetic writings. Read 1 Nephi 3:19–20, and underline what the plates of brass contained that made them so important to Lehi's family and descendants.

Scripture Mastery—1 Nephi 3:7

Read 1 Nephi 3:7 three times (you may wish to vary how you read it: out loud or silently). Close your scriptures, and try to write answers to the following questions without looking at the verse:

- Who was Nephi speaking to? _____
- What did Nephi commit to do? _____
- What did Nephi know the Lord would do? _____

Open your scriptures, and review 1 Nephi 3:7 and your answers.

The Prophet Joseph Smith said: "I made this my rule: *When the Lord commands, do it*" (in *History of the Church*, 2:170). Consider writing this statement in your scriptures next to 1 Nephi 3:7.

1 Nephi 3:10–31

Laban steals Lehi's property and tries to kill Nephi and his brothers

God blesses us in different ways as we obey His commandments. Nephi's experience in obtaining the brass plates supports his testimony that God does provide a way for His children to fulfill His commandments (see 1 Nephi 3:7). Use the following chart to study the first two attempts of Lehi's sons to obtain the brass plates. Write the answer to the questions in the column for each attempt, or you may complete this assignment in your scripture study journal.