

# HANDOUT 20

## USE “LOOK FOR” SKILLS

Things to “Look for” in the Scriptures	How to Recognize These Things	Examples from the Scriptures
Gospel principles illustrated by the lives of people	Look for clues to an enduring truth, law, or rule that we can learn from a person’s obedience or disobedience to counsel from the Lord. Complete the sentence “From this person we learn that ____.”	<p>From Esther we learn that the courageous efforts of just one righteous person can greatly affect the lives of many others (see Esther 1–7).</p> <p>From Nephi we learn that the Lord prepares a way for us to obey His commandments (see 1 Nephi 3:4–7; 4:17).</p> <p>From King Noah’s son Limhi we learn that we can be righteous despite the wickedness of our fathers (see Mosiah 11:1–15; 19:1–17).</p> <p>From James Covill we learn that when we make covenants with the Lord, Satan may “straightway” tempt us with “fear of persecution and the cares of the world” (D&amp;C 39:7–8; 40).</p>
Questions asked in the scriptures	Look for question marks.	<p>“How long halt ye between two opinions?” (1 Kings 18:21).</p> <p>“Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these?” (John 21:15).</p> <p>“Have ye inquired of the Lord?” (1 Nephi 15:8).</p> <p>“What meaneth the rod of iron which our father saw, that led to the tree?” (1 Nephi 15:23).</p>
Scriptural lists	Look for commas, enumerations, or repeated words that introduce items in a list (for example, “thou shalt” in the list known as the Ten Commandments).	<p>“Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image” (Exodus 20:3–4).</p> <p>“These six things doth the Lord hate” (Proverbs 6:16; see vv. 17–19).</p> <p>“In the last days . . . men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents” (2 Timothy 3:1–2).</p> <p>“And faith, hope, charity and love” (D&amp;C 4:5).</p>
Definitions of words or concepts	Look for phrases such as “in other words” and “being interpreted” or for “be” verbs ( <i>is, are, was, were, etc.</i> ).	<p>“A Messiah, or, in other words, a Savior of the world” (1 Nephi 10:4).</p> <p>“Rabbanah, which is, being interpreted, powerful or great king” (Alma 18:13).</p> <p>“Charity is the pure love of Christ” (Moroni 7:47).</p> <p>“And truth is knowledge of things as they are, and as they were, and as they are to come” (D&amp;C 93:24).</p>
Difficult words or phrases students might have trouble understanding	Look for uncommon or archaic words, words that communicate complex ideas, and unfamiliar expressions. Note the OR, IE, GR, and HEB explanations in the footnotes of the LDS edition of the King James Bible.	<p>“An help meet” (Genesis 2:18; see footnote <i>b</i>).</p> <p>“Make away” (Daniel 11:44; see footnote <i>a</i>).</p> <p>“Privily” (Acts 16:37; see footnote <i>a</i>).</p> <p>“Fetched a compass” (Acts 28:13; see footnote <i>a</i>).</p>
Imagery and symbols	<p>To find metaphors, look for “be” verbs (<i>is, are, was, were</i>) that link one subject, event, person, or idea with another subject, event, person, or idea.</p> <p>To find similes, look for instances of two dissimilar things being compared, using words such as <i>like</i> or <i>as</i>.</p>	<p>“Ye are the salt of the earth” (Matthew 5:13).</p> <p>“I am the bread of life” (John 6:35).</p> <p>“For behold, they had hardened their hearts against him, that they had become like unto a flint” (2 Nephi 5:21).</p> <p>“The people had turned from their righteousness, like the dog to his vomit, or like the sow to her wallowing in the mire” (3 Nephi 7:8).</p>

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Prophetic commentary on a principle or event	Look for the inspired writer’s reflections, conclusions, or clarifications about an event or principle. Look for words or phrases such as <i>thus we see</i> , <i>therefore</i> , <i>wherefore</i> , <i>notwithstanding</i> , and <i>thus</i> .	<p>“Therefore the Lord was very angry with Israel, and removed them out of his sight: there was none left but the tribe of Judah only” (2 Kings 17:18).</p> <p>“And thus we see that by small means the Lord can bring about great things” (1 Nephi 16:29).</p> <p>“Wherefore, thy soul shall be blessed” (2 Nephi 2:3).</p> <p>“Thus we see how quick the children of men do forget the Lord their God” (Alma 46:8).</p>
If–then relationships	Look for the word <i>if</i> (or <i>inasmuch as</i> , <i>when</i> , <i>that</i> , <i>however</i> , <i>for</i> ), and the word <i>then</i> (or <i>so shall</i> , <i>therefore</i> , <i>because</i> ). Often the if–then relationship is merely implied.	<p>“If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them; Then I will give you rain” (Leviticus 26:3–4).</p> <p>“But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy” (1 Peter 4:13).</p> <p>“Inasmuch as those whom the Lord God shall bring out of the land of Jerusalem shall keep his commandments, they shall prosper upon the face of this land” (2 Nephi 1:9).</p> <p>“Whosoever believeth on my words, them will I visit with the manifestation of my Spirit” (D&amp;C 5:16).</p>
Qualities or characteristics that please or displease God	Look for words that describe whether the Lord is pleased or displeased with a quality or characteristic ( <i>hate</i> , <i>not well pleased</i> , <i>well pleased</i> , etc.).	<p>“These six things doth the Lord hate” (Proverbs 6:16; see also vv. 17–19).</p> <p>“But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased” (Hebrews 13:16).</p> <p>“But with some I am not well pleased, for they will not open their mouths” (D&amp;C 60:2).</p> <p>“I am well pleased with your offering and acknowledgments” (D&amp;C 124:1).</p>
Patterns—series of events, characteristics, or behaviors that teach a gospel principle	Look for the repetition of key words or ideas in a scripture block.	<p>“And God said. . . And God saw. . . And God called” (Genesis 1:3–5; see Genesis 1).</p> <p>“Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted” (Matthew 5:3–4; see vv. 5–11).</p> <p>“Could not understand . . . did not believe . . . did not believe . . . could not understand . . . would not be baptized . . . would not call upon the Lord” (Mosiah 26:1–4; see vv. 28–36; the word <i>not</i> is used fourteen times in these verses).</p> <p>“Having been such a highly favored people of the Lord; yea, after having been favored . . . Having been visited by the Spirit of God” (Alma 9:20–21; see vv. 22).</p>