

Aaron and the Anti-Nephi-Lehis

Lesson intended for ages 5-7

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Memory Verse:

For they were men of sound understanding, and they had searched the scriptures diligently, that they might know the word of God.

Alma 12:4

Review:

Sons of Mosiah desired to go to the land of the Lamanites to teach them about God. Ammon went to be a servant of King Lamoni. Many of his people are converted. The other Sons of Mosiah separated into different groups to share the gospel with the Lamanites.

Introduction:

Have you ever felt so bad about something that you wished you could hide it from your mom or dad? Your parents love you so much that instead of hiding it from them, they want you to come and tell them right away. When we ask our mom and dad to forgive us, they love us and don't remember those bad things that we have done. They are ready to give us another chance. That is the same way we go to God and repent of our sins. He loves us and wants us to go to Him when we have done something wrong. He will forgive us and remember those things no more.

Our story today is about a group of people that had been very bad. They had asked God to forgive them but they wanted to do something that would show God that they had changed for good. Let's read and find out about this people.

Story to read or tell:

Alma chapter 13-14

After the Sons of Mosiah arrived in the land of the Lamanites, they each went their separate ways. Ammon went into the land that King Lamoni was king. He ended up teaching and converting the king, queen, the servants and many of the people. Ammon even helped to set up churches in the land.

After a while he began to wonder about his fellow laborers. He was given knowledge from God that they were in prison. He told King Lamoni he needed to go to his brethren. The king wondered, "Who told you this?" God told him, so Ammon and the King head to the Land of Middoni, where his brothers were in prison.

On the way they met King Lamoni's father, King over all of the Lamanites. He didn't want Ammon's brothers released. In fact, he told King Lamoni to kill Ammon. King Lamoni wouldn't so his father pulled his sword on Ammon. They fight until the king realizes that Ammon could kill him. He offers him anything he desires, even half of the kingdom. Ammon instead asks for the release of his brothers and for the freedom for King Lamoni to govern his people as he desires. The King of all the Lamanites granted

Ammon's request and wonders at his great love for King Lamoni and his people and the words that Ammon spoke unto him.

Ammon and King Lamoni find his brothers have suffered much at the hands of the Lamanites. They have been mocked, suffered hunger, fatigue and now they were in prison. It was their lot to have fallen among the hardest of all the Lamanites. The brothers go their separate ways once again.

After they were released, they started to be blessed in the work with the Lamanites. God led them to where they should speak and teach. Aaron was led back to the King of all the Lamanites. Aaron asks the king right away to be his servants but the king refuses. He wants to hear more of what Ammon told him about the Lord. Aaron and his brothers began with Creation and the plan for salvation.

The king asked Aaron, "What must I do to have eternal life? That I will have this wicked spirit taken out of my heart and may have joy? I will give all of my kingdom, all that I possess that I may receive this joy."

Aaron told him to bow down before God and repent of all thy sins and call on his name in faith, believing you shall receive, then shall you receive the hope you desire.

The king immediately bowed himself down and began to pray. Once he said the words it was as if he was struck as if he were dead. The servants ran to tell the queen, she believed Aaron had caused the king to be dead and ordered the servants to kill him. The servants knew the reason the king fell and were afraid to do anything to Aaron. The queen was about to cause a great commotion by calling more servants to slay him. Aaron saw all these things, he put his hand out and raised the king from the earth and told him to stand.

The queen saw what Aaron had done and she began to fear. The king stood and began to minister to his household. He taught them the things he had learned and his whole household was converted.

The king caused Aaron and his brothers to stand before the multitude that had gathered and preach the word unto the people. He sent out a proclamation to all the people to not lay any hand on the Nephite missionaries. These men were to be allowed to go forth and preach as they desired.

Aaron and his brothers began preaching, establishing churches, and consecrating priests and teachers in all the land.

The king of the Lamanites wanted a name to distinguish themselves from the Lamanites that didn't believe. They were now called Anti-Nephi-Lehis. This people no longer desired to fight. They desired to hide their weapons of war as a testimony unto God that they would never use these weapons to shed man's blood. They would rather give up their own lives, rather than take the life of another man.

Many of the Lamanites were stirred up to battle. They came against the Anti-Nephi-Lehis. Many were slain. When the Lamanites saw that they wouldn't even fight, they began to feel guilty. These Lamanites threw down their weapons and would never take them up again. In fact, there were more people that joined the people of the Lord that day than were killed.

The Sons of Mosiah rejoiced in the number of people changed among the Lamanites. They praised God that he was able to use them as instruments in His hand. They thanked God that the Lamanites had become a people that were friendly with the Nephites.

Ammon said to his brothers, “Now my brethren, we see that God is mindful of every people, in whatsoever land they might be in; yea, he numbereth his people, and his bowels of mercy are over all the earth.”

Activity:

1. Bury sword with wrong doing written on them.

When we repent and ask God to forgive us, God takes our sins and they are buried from his view. He remembers them no more. Sometimes we remember the wrong that we have done, but that is so that we can remember not to do it anymore. If he can change the Sons of Mosiah, who went around persecuting the church, he can change each one of us. If he can forgive the Lamanites of their wrong doing, he can forgive our sins as well.

2. Coloring page of the Lamanites burying their weapons. (Verse reference is incorrect.)



Because the Anti-Nephi-Lehies learned that it was wrong to fight, they buried their weapons of war in the ground and made a covenant with Heavenly Father that they "never would use weapons again"

