

# Church History: Lesson 2

## Why do we have the Bible and the Book of Mormon?

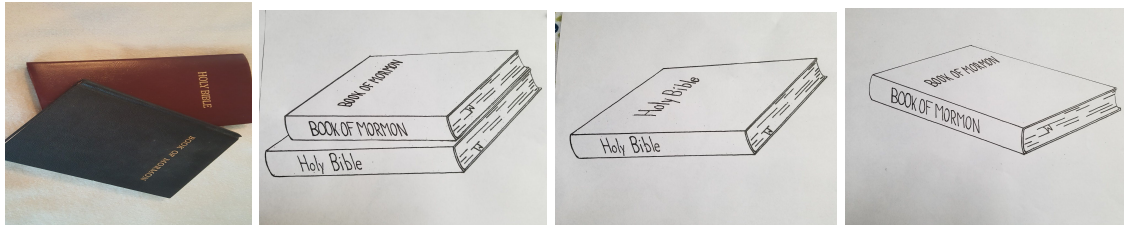
**LESSON OBJECTIVE:** To understand the necessity of the Bible and the Book of Mormon.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Isaiah 29:11-19 and/or 1 Nephi 3:196 and/or John 10:16.

(adjust the amount of the memory verse to the child's ability. A simple version from Isaiah: "Read this, I pray thee.")

**Additional Scripture references that you may want to use:** 1 Nephi 3:16-196, 1 Nephi 3:245, 1 Nephi 5:223, 2 Nephi 11:28-31, 2 Nephi 11:28-31, 2 Nephi 12:45-74, John 10:16, 3 Nephi 7:16-35. You may also want to read, or summarize, the Preface to the Book of Mormon.

**MATERIALS:** A map of Mesoamerica and a picture of Joseph Smith praying (church library or google.) Coloring pages of the Bible and Book of Mormon (go to "Lessons for Children" on the church website for printable copies; listed as **Coloring Pages: Bible and Book of Mormon.**)



**Step 1:** Tell the children that today we will try to understand why the Lord gave us the Book of Mormon when the world already had the Holy Bible. We will look at why our church uses the Book of Mormon and the Bible. Start off by saying a prayer, thanking God for all he does for us, forgive us for our sins, and help us learn about the Book of Mormon in our class today. After the prayer, ask if anyone has a testimony to share with the class.

**Step 2:** Read the poem, *A Book Brought Forth*, by Janeen Addie (pg 3 of this doc)

**Step 3:** Read Isaiah 29:11-19. Choose a portion of this that is appropriate for your class to use as a memory verse. Write it down where everyone can see it.

**Step 4: Discussion**

The Church of Christ believes that the “sealed book” that Isaiah is talking about is the Book of Mormon. The Lord told a young man, whose name is Joseph Smith, Jr., that he had something for him to find. The Lord told Joseph this because he was asking him about what church he should join. The Lord said, none of them. For many years, people had the Holy Bible, but over time, some of the gospel of Jesus Christ was taken out of it. About 600 BC, God told a man named Lehi to take his family away from Jerusalem where people were not behaving the way that God wanted them to. Lehi and his family ended up building a ship and the Lord directed them to a promised blessed Land, which we believe is Mesoamerica. In school, we learn about Christopher Columbus coming to America from Spain in 1492 AD. When he got here, there were people that they called Indians. Where did these Indians come from? We believe that they are descendants of Lehi from almost 2000 years before Christopher Columbus got to America.

**Step 5: Summarize Lesson**

Give each student a copy of coloring pages. Before coloring, ask them to write down the portion of the memory verse that you used and either write or draw something they learned. You may also want them to write down a question that they have; which will help you with a follow up lesson.

***A Book Brought Forth*** by Janeen Addie

Let me tell you a story of Joseph Smith,  
Some may consider him a myth,  
But I know he was once a child like you and me;  
He had an important part in our church history.  
Many churches as a boy he knew,  
So he sought the Lord on what he should do.  
Joseph went to the grove to pray,  
Seeking from the Lord wisdom that day.  
In a vision he saw God and His son.  
He was told, don't join any of them, no not one.  
Their teachings are not pleasing to me,  
Their hearts are from me you see.  
A few years later when Joseph went to bed to pray,  
Upon falling asleep he was woken to a vision like unto one from an earlier day.  
An angel appeared to him that night,  
Surrounded by a most brilliant light.  
The angel told him he had a task to do,  
And it required him to be steadfast and true.  
He was to uncover some plates of gold,  
And translate them he was told.  
For four years he was to go to the place where they lay,  
But not to remove them until the chosen day.  
He was told the plates had the fullness of the gospel of God,  
As delivered to the people who once walked upon this sod.  
His job was to translate the plates, so the work could go abroad,  
To all those humbly seeking to follow God.  
That work is the book you now hold in your hand,  
The Book of Mormon given by God to man.