

# Vacation Church School

## Heroes Unit 1

Lesson: Nephi

*"...shall we not be diligent in keeping  
the commandments of the Lord?"*

*1 Nephi 1:138*

Goals: By the end of class the child should be able to:

1. Know the story is from the Book of Mormon.
2. Know the origin of the Book of Mormon is a record of the people in the America's.
3. Know who Nephi, the son of Lehi is.
4. Remember that Nephi sought God's will in his life.
5. Understand that they should seek God's will in their own lives.

Vocabulary:

- |              |                    |
|--------------|--------------------|
| 1. Nephi     | 4. record          |
| 2. Jerusalem | 5. oath            |
| 3. diligent  | 6. plates of brass |

Materials Needed:

- Bible
- Book of Mormon
- green, brown, white and black construction paper (one per child)
- scissors
- glue, individual bottles
- poster board
- marker
- A true record of your family tree (if you have one)
- white crayon

### Preparation:

1. *Before class:*
    - a. Write the memory verse, scripture reference, and this sentence, "When I keep God's commandments, he blesses me with \_\_\_\_\_!" on the board.
  2. *Family Tree:* (complete one family tree as an example)
    - a. Cut one tree trunk for each child
    - b. Cut one tree top for each child
    - c. Cut 7 rectangles for each child
  3. *Scripture Verse Activity:*
    - a. Cut a large pattern from black construction paper (one per child)
    - b. Cut a smaller pattern from white paper (one per child)
    - c. Cut out scripture verse and sentences (one per child)
  4. *Outside Activity:*
    - a. Cut poster board into strips.
    - b. Write the following sections of the scripture verse
      - i. "...shall we
      - ii. not be
      - iii. diligent in
      - iv. keeping the
      - v. commandments of
      - vi. the Lord?"
      - vii. 1 Nephi 1:138
- \* The verse can be divided any way to accommodate class size\*
5. *Vocabulary Words:*
    - a. Cut out vocabulary words and back them on poster board.
    - b. Put Vocabulary Words up on wall for children to see and remember the words (for younger children - finding a picture to go with the word helps them remember it better)

### Introduction Activity:

Do you know what a family tree is? A family tree is not a real tree, but a record of all your family, far, far back into the past. Sometimes a family tree tells about where your family came from

*Show your actual family tree (if you have one)*

Did you know that the Book of Mormon started out as a family tree as well as a record of God's Laws? Today's story is about Nephi, the man who began keeping the records that we know today as the Book of Mormon

*Hold up the Book of Mormon.*

He wrote about how God worked with his family and when it was time, he passed the records down to the next person to continue writing. Writing a book would be pretty hard, but Nephi knew that it was God's will to keep a record for us today. The story is about Nephi, a Book of Mormon Hero, who sought God's will in his life. This is a story filled with many adventures.

### Story:

The family of Lehi left their lovely home and their gold and silver and traveled in the wilderness for many days. They carried with them their tents, seeds, some clothes, and food. Lehi was a righteous man who always listened to God. He heard the prophets tell that Jerusalem was to be destroyed and so he left as God commanded.

Lehi had four sons, Laman, Lemuel, Sam, and Nephi. Nephi was the youngest. He saw that God talked to his father and he knew God was very powerful. Was there something God wanted him to do? Nephi prayed to God and asked what he wanted Nephi to do. The Lord visited Nephi and told him many wonderful things as he and his family camped beside a river in the wilderness. It was easy to believe what his father told Nephi about leaving Jerusalem now.

God spoke often to Lehi and Nephi. One day, God told Lehi to send his sons to get the records of their forefathers, their family tree, from the man Laban in Jerusalem.

The trip was hard. Getting the plates was even harder. First, Laman went to get the plates, but the servants of Laban chased him away. The brothers decided that they would try to buy the plates from Laban. They took gold and silver from their old home to Laban, but when he saw their money, he chased them away again! The brothers got away, but Laban got their gold!

Laman and Lemuel were so mad they beat Sam and Nephi! Suddenly, an angel appeared, stood between the brothers and said, "Why are you hitting our

brothers? Don't you know that because of you actions, God chose Nephi to be a king over you? You will go back to Jerusalem and this time Laban will be given to you."

That night the brothers hid just beyond the walls of the city while Nephi went into Jerusalem. Quietly, Nephi crept toward Laban's house. He was almost there when he saw a man lying on the ground. He was dressed in fancy clothes and carried a sword made of gold and precious gems. It was Laban lying there! A voice spoke to Nephi and said, 'Kill Laban."

"But I can't kill anyone!" Nephi cried. The voice spoke again, reminding Nephi that God promised to deliver Laban to him and how important it was that Nephi get the records. "It is better that one man who has committed many sins die, than a whole nation should die because they don't have God's word." Nephi knew what the voice said was true. It was hard to do, but he picked up Laban's head and cut it off with Laban's sword. Then Nephi took Laban's clothes and went to Laban's house. A servant name Zoram approached Nephi.

"Come with me," Nephi said to Zoram. It took a while, but finally Zoram realized that Nephi wasn't Laban. Nephi told Zoram that if he would listen to him, Nephi wouldn't kill him. In fact, Zoram would be free to go into the wilderness and travel to the land of promise with them if he took an oath - - a promise - - to always travel with them. Nephi and his brothers were very relieved when Zoram took the oath and traveled with them. They returned to their father with the plates of brass, just as God had commanded them.

Scripture Verse Activity:

Do you think that some metal plates with writing on them would be worth all the risk that Nephi and his brothers went through?

*Allow response.*

For this record it would be!

*Hold up the Book of Mormon.*

God protected them so that we could know the story of Nephi and the many other Heroes of God here on this continent. Read the memory verse with me.

*Read verse together.*

Nephi was blessed by God because he wanted to keep God's commandments. When you keep God's commandments, he blesses you, too.

(child's name), if you keep God's commandments, how will He bless you?

Go around to each child and allow them to respond and write their response on their sentence strip. When finished have each child assemble their "Book of Mormon"

1. Fold black paper in half - as a book
2. Glue in white paper
3. Glue in sentence strips and scripture verse
4. Write "Book of Mormon" on the cover with a white crayon

Craft:

1. Glue tree trunk to tree top.
2. On one box, the child should write his name, on another the name of his mother, on another the name of his father, etc. through his parent's parents.

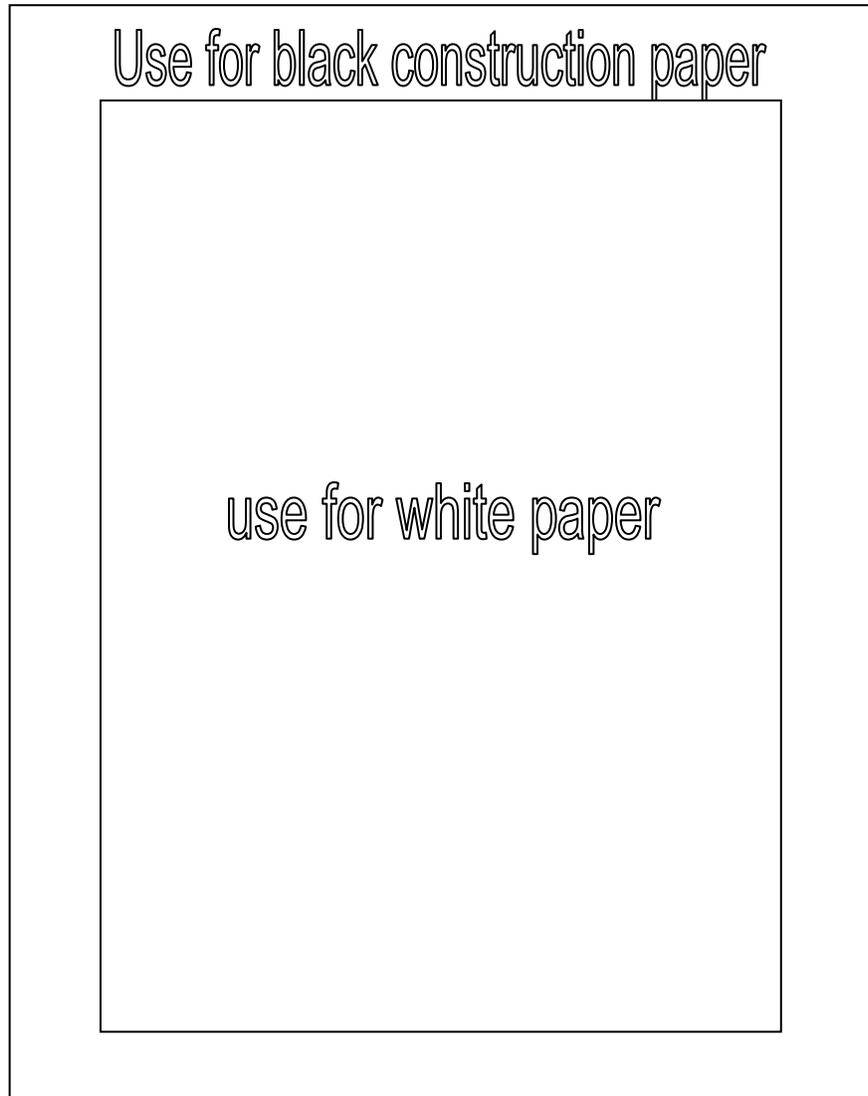
Outside Activity:

1. Distribute the signs to the children (one per child)
2. Repeat the verse once or twice more with them.
3. Give them one minute to line up in the correct order.
4. Read the verse together.
5. Mix up the signs and do it again. As many times as you like.

Vocabulary Words:

Nephi	Jerusalem	diligent
records	oath	Plates of brass

*Book of Mormon Pattern*



"When I keep God's commandments,  
He blesses me with \_\_\_\_\_!"

*"...shall we not be diligent in keeping  
the commandments of the Lord?"*

*1 Nephi 1:138*  
*Family Tree Pattern*