

Lesson 81

Suggested Hymn:  
#249 Called To  
Serve

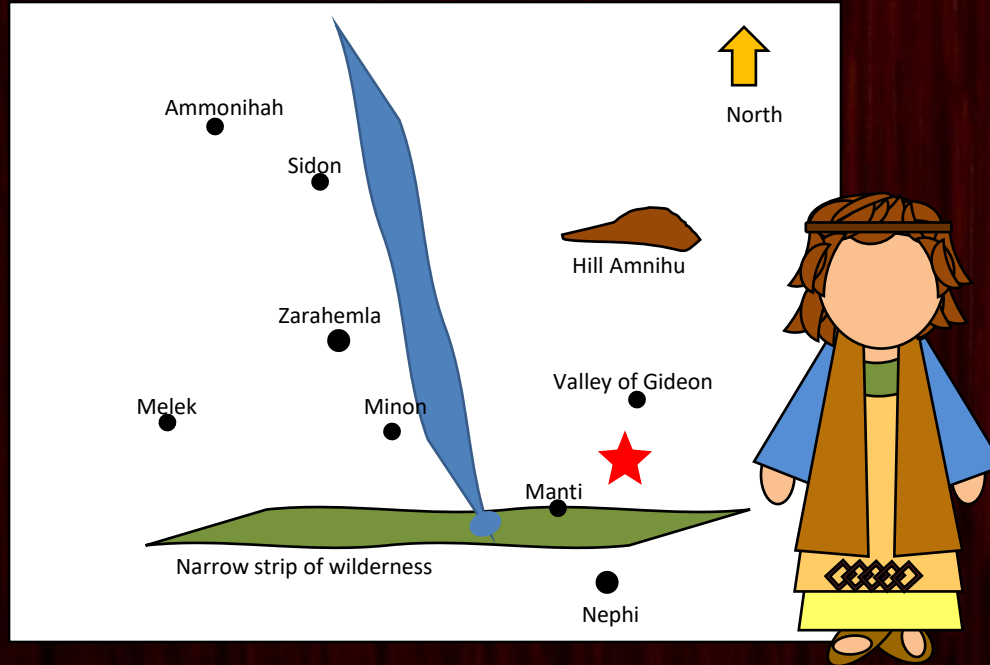
# Ammon, a Servant of King Lamoni



Alma 17



# The Meeting—14 years later



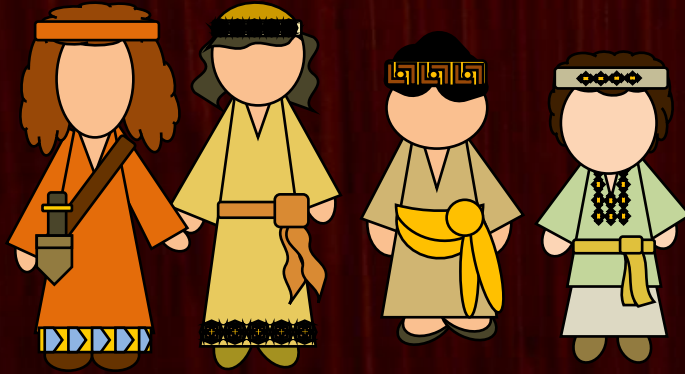
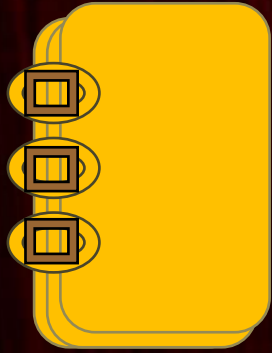
While Alma was on his way to Manti from the land of Gideon he met up with the sons of Mosiah



Ammon, Aaron, Himni, Omner,

“...sons of Mosiah were with Alma at the time the angel first appeared unto him...”

# Wax Strong in the Knowledge of Truth



They were men of sound understanding by searching the scriptures

*“But this is not all; they had given themselves to much prayer, and fasting; therefore they had the spirit of prophecy, and the spirit of revelation, and when they taught, they taught with power and authority of God.”*



**If we search the scriptures diligently, we will wax strong in the knowledge of the truth and know the word of God**



# To Prepare for a Mission



“You can increase in your desire to serve God (see D&C 4:3), and you can begin to think as missionaries think, to read what missionaries read, to pray as missionaries pray, and to feel what missionaries feel.

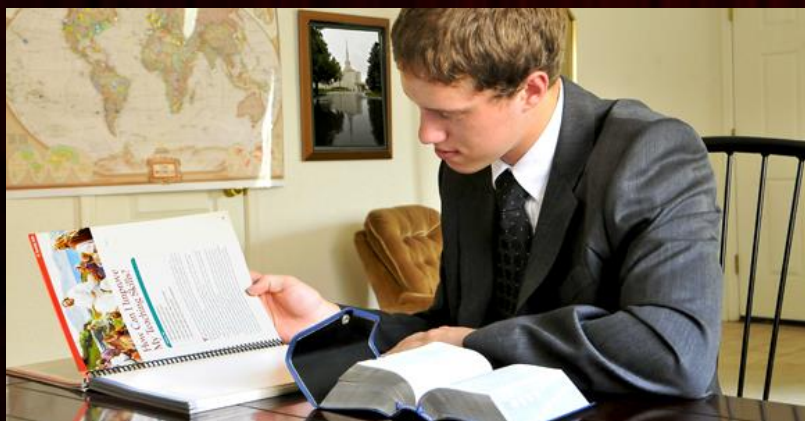
You can avoid the worldly influences that cause the Holy Ghost to withdraw, and you can grow in confidence in recognizing and responding to spiritual promptings.



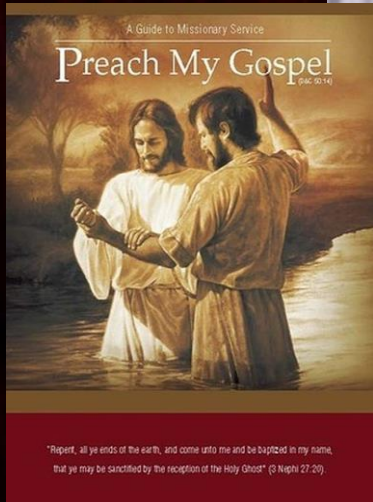
Line upon line and precept upon precept, here a little and there a little, you can gradually become the missionary you hope to be and the missionary the Savior expects. ...

“The preparation I am describing is not oriented only toward your missionary service as a (18) 19- or 20- or 21-year-old. ... You are preparing for a lifetime of missionary work. ... We are missionaries always”

Elder David A. Bednar



As we pray and fast, we can receive the spirit of prophecy and revelation and teach with power.



“To young men of the Aaronic Priesthood and to you young men who are becoming elders: I repeat what prophets have long taught—that every worthy, able young man should prepare to serve a mission. Missionary service is a priesthood duty—an obligation the Lord expects of us who have been given so very much.

Young men, I admonish you to prepare for service as a missionary. Keep yourselves clean and pure and worthy to represent the Lord.

Maintain your health and strength. Study the scriptures. Where such is available, participate in seminary or institute. Familiarize yourself with the missionary handbook *Preach My Gospel*.

“A word to you young sisters: while you do not have the same priesthood responsibility as do the young men to serve as full-time missionaries, you also make a valuable contribution as missionaries, and we welcome your service.”

President Thomas S. Monson



# Instrument in the Hands of God

## Setting a Good Example



**“The soul that has borne  
no burden knows no  
strength”**

JFM and RLM

The Sons of Mosiah:

Men of sound understanding

They had given themselves to much prayer and fasting

They had the spirit of prophecy and revelation

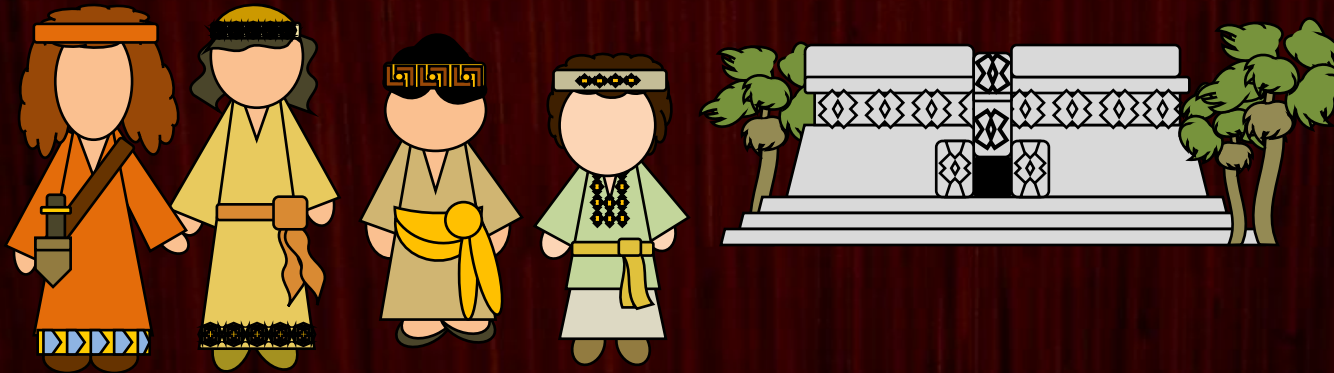
They taught with power and authority

Many were brought before the altar of God—  
including the Anti-Lehi-Nephites

Labored in the spirit—suffered much

When we are patient in our afflictions, we can serve as good examples to those around us and become instruments in the Lord’s hands

# Their Story—1<sup>st</sup> year of the Reign of Judges



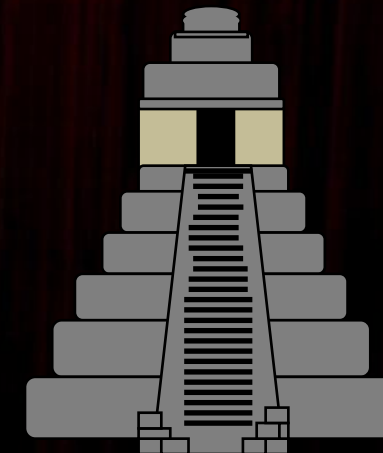
They left their father for a mission to the land of Nephi  
A place where the people hated the Nephites

“Often our sincere love  
for people and our  
good example can do  
more to interest them  
in the gospel than what  
we might say.”

Student Manual



They knew they would face afflictions and persecution.  
The Lord visited them and comforted them



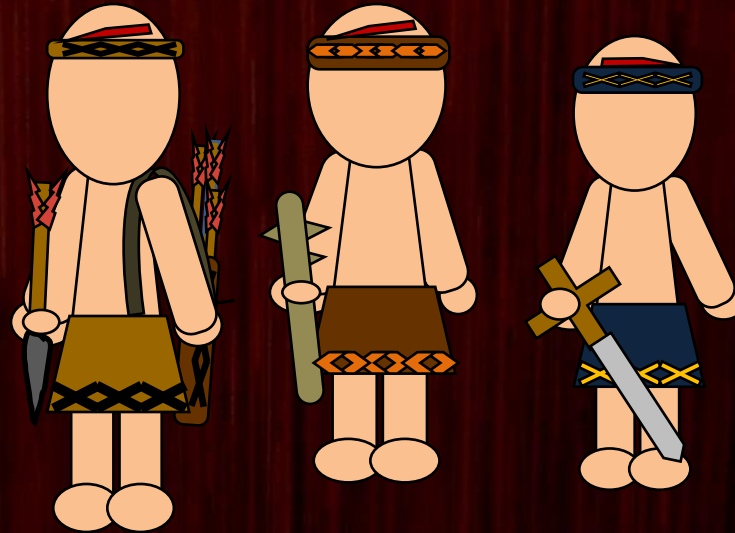
# The Lamanites

From the time Nephi and his people separated themselves and their families from Laman and Lemuel, the Lamanites fell deeper and deeper into darkness

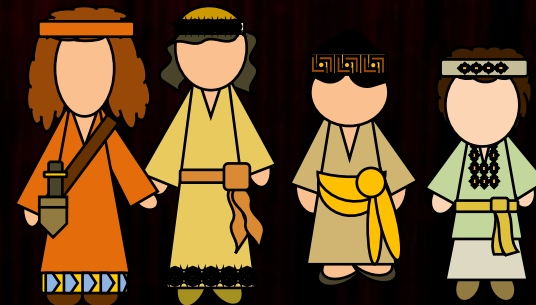
Nephi reports:  
“an idle people, full of mischief and subtlety” (2 Nephi 5:24)

Enos reports:  
“they became wild, and ferocious, and a bloodthirsty people, full of idolatry and filthiness”  
(Enos 1:20)

“loved murder and would drink the blood of beasts”  
(Jarom 6)

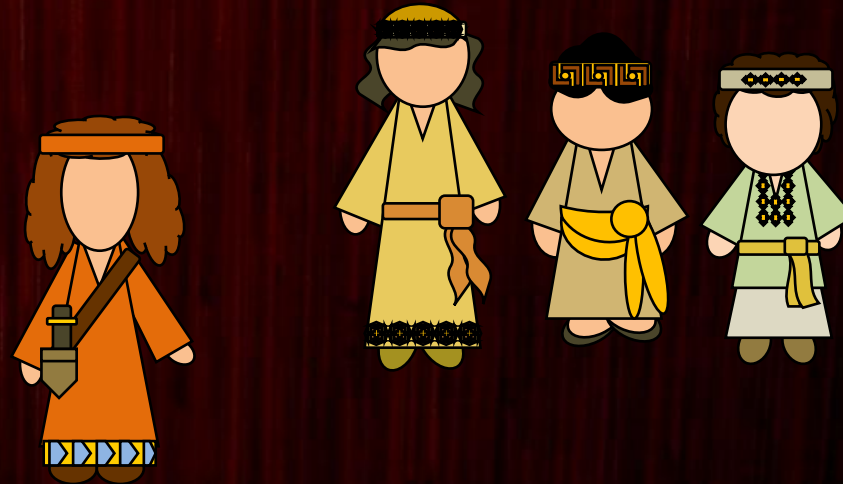
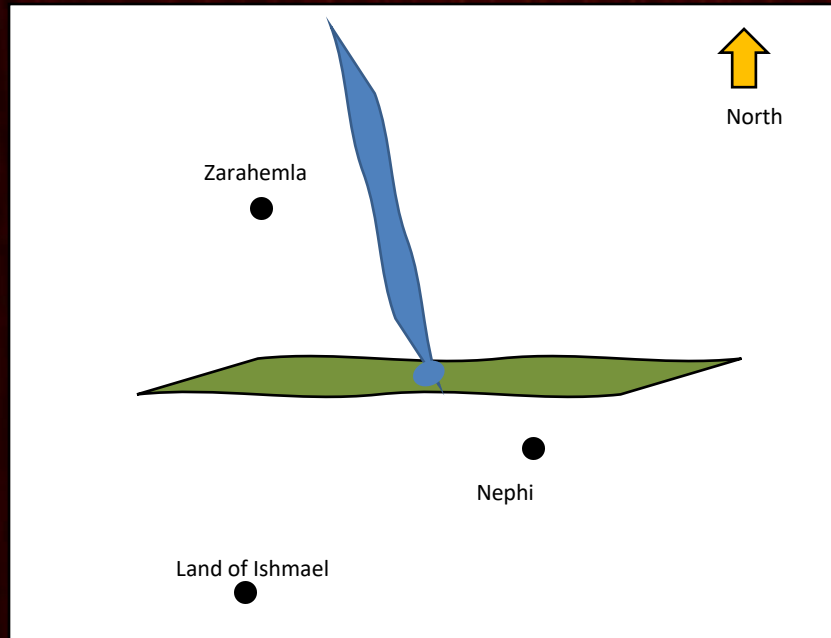


Mormon’s Statement about the Sons of Mosiah:  
“... for they had undertaken to preach the word of God to a wild and a hardened and ferocious people.”  
(Alma 17:14)





# Separated themselves



Ammon went to the Land of Ishmael

Customs of the Lamanites:

To bind strangers

To carry before the king

If the king so wished he would have them  
killed or taken into captivity and put in prison

# King Lamoni

He was a descent of Ishmael—the one who journeyed with Lehi and his family

He was the King of the Land of Ishmael

He is introduced in the Book of Mormon around 91 BC

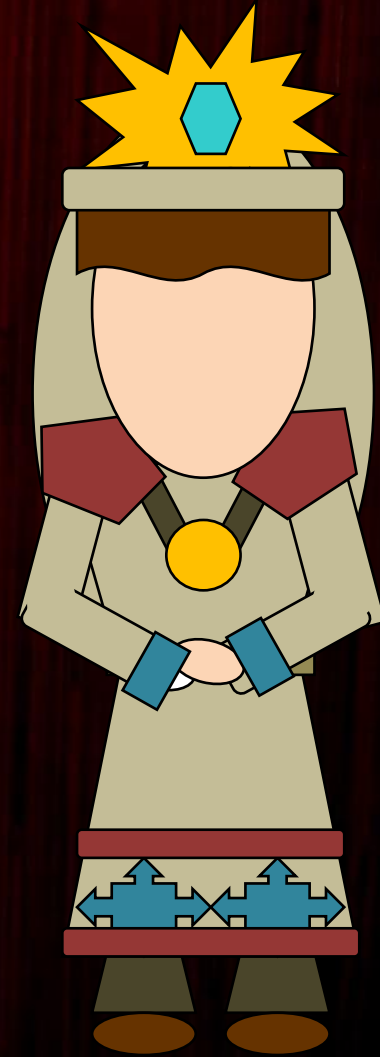
Ammon having been bound and taken captive was brought before Lamoni and he was pleased with Ammon and released him from the bands

Ammon became his servant and watched over his flocks

Ammon teaches him about the plan of salvation and he is overcome by the spirit and fell into a stupor for 2 days and 2 nights

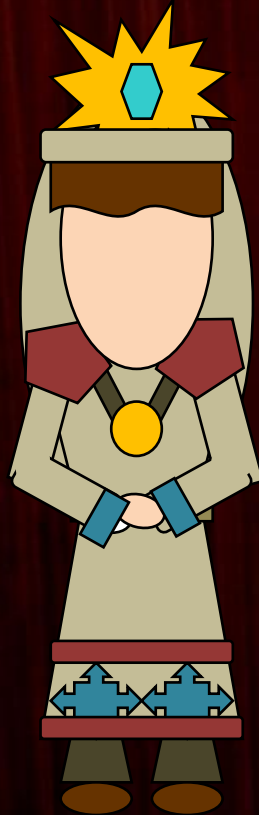
After he arose he testified to his wife of the coming Messiah (Alma 19:13)

The royal household and others were converted along with him, and the church was established in that part of the land



# Brought Before the King

Ammon was bound and carried before King Lamoni



Ammon said he wanted to dwell with them for awhile or all his days

The King wanted Ammon to marry one of his daughters

Ammon wanted to be the King's servant

Custom: Ammon went with the other servants to watch over the King's flocks



# Service Before Preaching

“It appears that Ammon wanted to win the King’s confidence through first serving him.

What do you suppose might have happened if Ammon had immediately called the king to repentance?

Ammon had faith that an opportunity would arise for him to demonstrate the power of God that was within him.”

Student Manual



## Preparation

Preparing Spiritually to testify of Christ

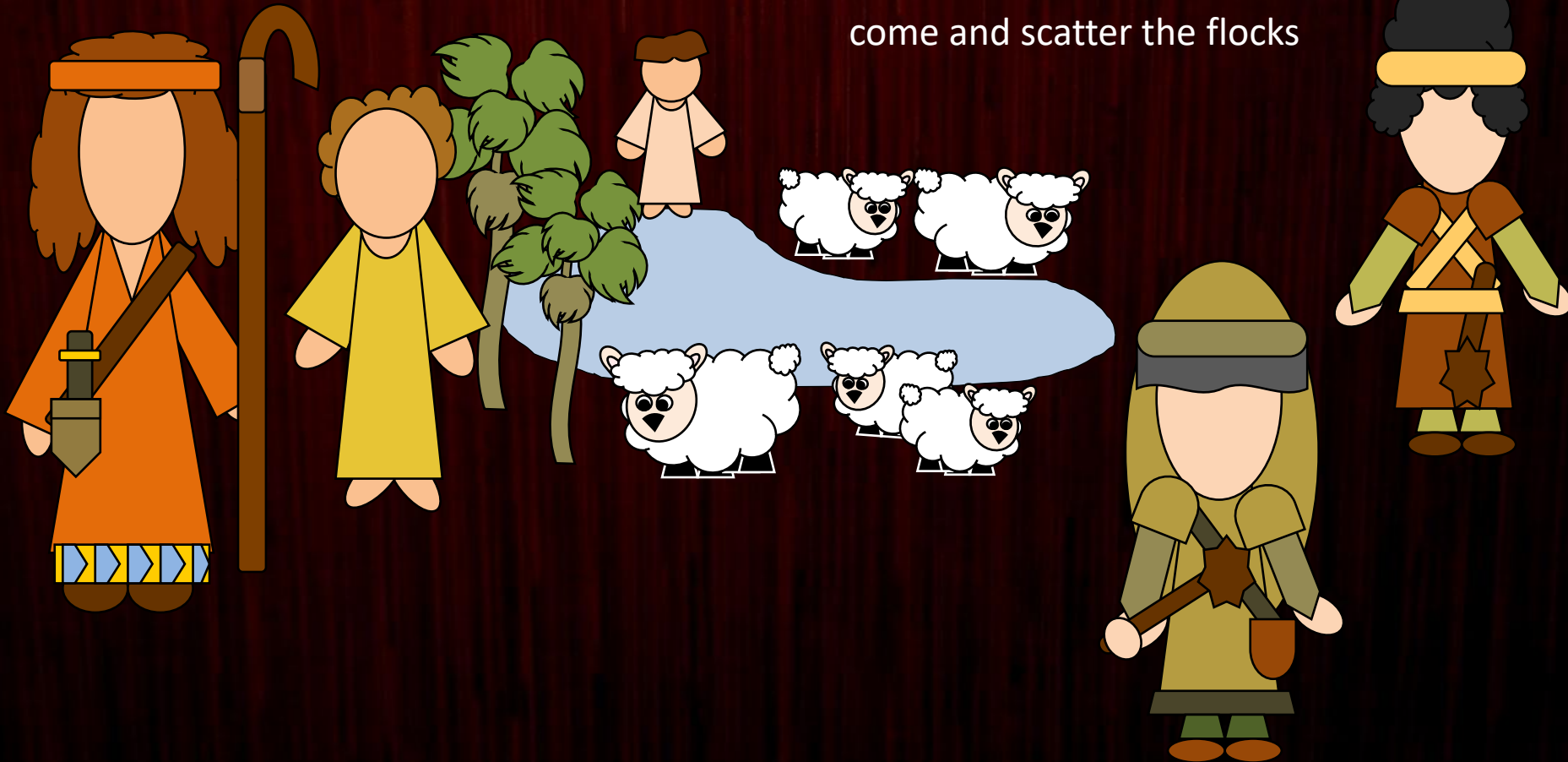
Gaining a love for those whom you teach

Being patient with your approach of the gospel and all it has to offer—some people can jump right in and grasp the gospel, others need a slower approach—step by step

# Watching the Flocks

Ammon and other servants drove the flocks to the water—Waters of Sebus

Some Lamanites would come and scatter the flocks



# Fearful Servants

The servants were afraid that the king would slay them for losing the flocks



They went and searched for the flocks, then gathered them back to the water



# Rescue

They gathered them back to the water



Ammon told the servants to encircle the flocks and he would take care of the Lamanites who came to scatter the flocks

# Stone Throwing

The Lamanites did not fear Ammon

They also had stones but could not hit Ammon



Ammon threw stones at them

# Taking Arms



But Ammon smote  
off their arms



They lifted their  
clubs to smite  
Ammon



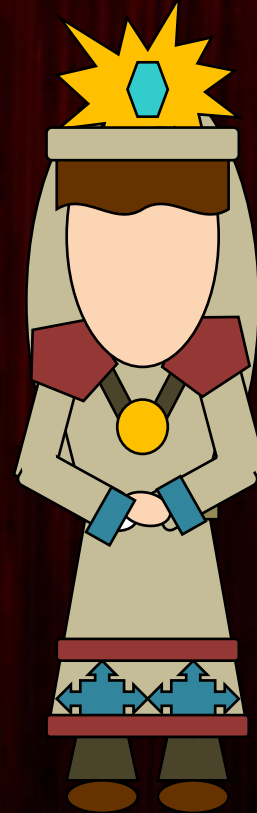
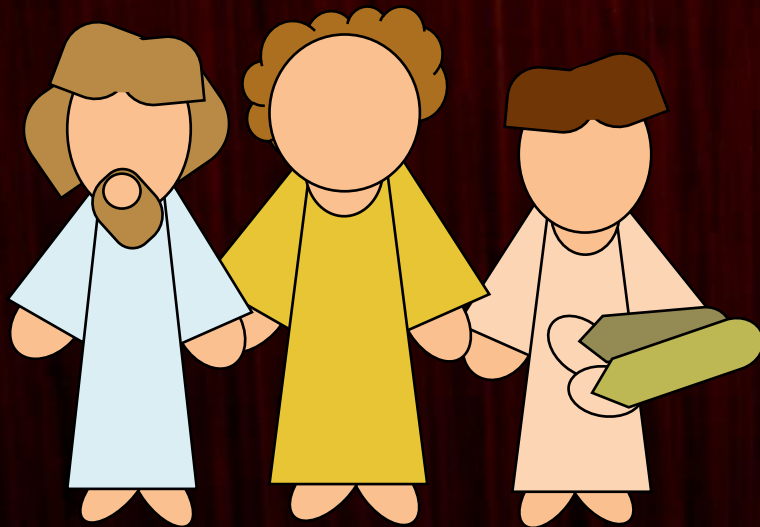
After Ammon had taken  
many arms they fled



# Returning to the King

Ammon returned to the watering hole

The servants  
returned to the  
king to testify of all  
that happened





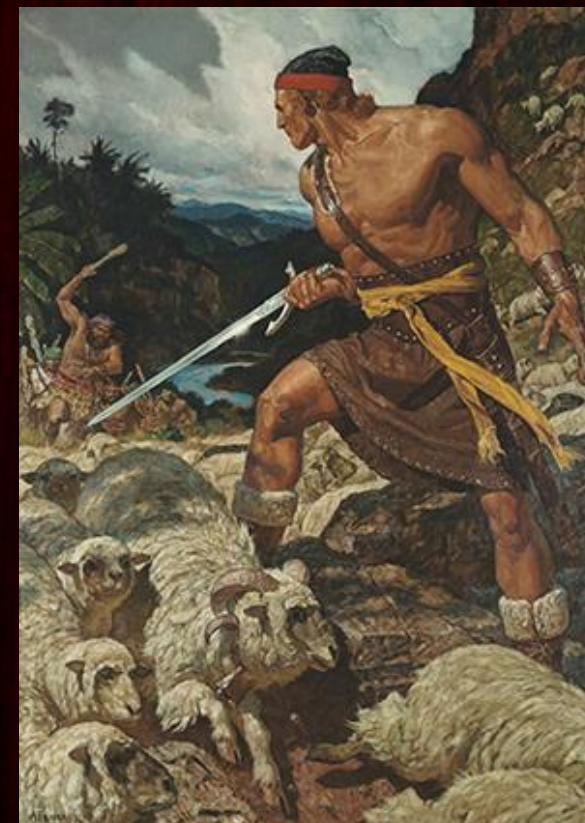
“Now, we may read this as a story about some shepherds trying to round up some missing sheep, but the message is much more powerful and significant than that.

Ammon was a missionary with noble intentions to bring the king and his kingdom back to the fold of righteousness, to the well of living water. The challenge looked daunting to those who could see only, in everyday terms, sheep strung out on hillsides and not enough manpower to round them up. They were discouraged and fearful that the king would discover their loss.

Ammon not only led the force to recapture the sheep, he drove away the evil men who caused the problems; and his heroic efforts persuaded the king to follow him and to follow the Savior.

Ammon teaches us that no matter our circumstances, we can be an example to others, we can lift them, we can inspire them to seek righteousness, and we can bear testimony to all of the power of Jesus Christ.”

Elder Robert D. Hales



**Through service, we can help others  
prepare to accept the gospel.**





Through service, we can help others  
prepare to accept the gospel.

“As a pure expression of our love and concern, we can reach out to those who have need of our help. ... There are countless ways to serve.

“Through our heartfelt kindness and service, we can make friends with those whom we serve. From these friendships come better understanding of our devotion to the gospel and a desire to learn more about us. ...

“When we do this, brothers and sisters, the honest in heart will feel our sincerity and our love. Many will want to know more about us. ...

“In all of our service, we need to be sensitive to the promptings of the Holy Ghost. The still, small voice will let us know who needs our help and what we can do to help them.”

M. Russell Ballard





# A Rescue

What are some dangers we have around us that we would need rescuing from?

Illegal drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, etc.

Pornography

Immorality

Immodest dress

Inappropriate language



Who Are Our Ammon's of Today?

Our Parents  
Bishops and Leaders  
Teachers and Neighbors  
Prophets

What can we do to be rescued?

Obedience to our parents

Studying scriptures and applying them in our daily lives

Listening to the Prophets and their council

Also By Using the Atonement

Sources:

Video:

Search the Scriptures



Elder David A. Bednar (“Becoming a Missionary,” 46).

Joseph Fielding McConkie and Robert L. Millet *Doctrinal Commentary on the Book of Mormon* Vol. 3 pg. 125

Student Manual Book of Mormon Religion 121-122 pg. 245-246

President Thomas S. Monson (“As We Meet Together Again,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2010, 5–6).

*Who’s Who in the Book of Mormon* Ed J. Pinegar and Richard J. Allen pg 104-105

Elder Robert D. Hales *When Thou Art Converted, Strengthen Thy Brethren* May 1997 *Ensign*

M. Russell Ballard, “Finding Joy through Loving Service,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2011, 48

# 7 tips for sister missionaries

The time between when a young woman decides to go on a mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to the day she enters the Missionary Training Center is filled with much to do. It can be difficult to determine what is necessary versus what can slide. Here are some things prospective sister missionaries should consider doing (as many wish they'd done) before entering the MTC.

**1. It's time to go shopping.** If you're leaving for a mission in the summer or spring, you might have a difficult time finding proper clothing for the full 18 months. A salesperson laughed at one sister when she asked the clerk where the long skirts were in June. You need to purchase a basic year-round wardrobe since you might not have access to clothing stores once out on the mission.

Pay attention to materials sent from the LDS Church's Missionary Department or mission president and his wife (or contact your mission president's wife, if possible) about what to wear, as some standards can change from mission to mission. For instance, in one mission the sisters wore skirts just below the knee, but in another most of the sisters were on bikes and ankle-length skirts were easier to wrap around a bike bar.

Weather can also factor into what you need. Those nice business jackets and fitted skirts don't come out often if you're in the jungles of South America, but will be necessary if you're at a visitor's center. For wherever you go, make sure you get a decent pair of comfortable dress walking shoes.

**2. Buy church-approved music you like.** Those two Especially for Youth CDs you got for your 14th birthday are going to grind on you after 18 months of nothing but. Do pay attention to music that has been approved for missionaries in your mission.

**3. Research your mission.** Talk to those who have gone there, read the information sent to you about your mission, contact your mission president (if possible) and learn about the local customs. A mission experience varies drastically from one mission to another and even from mission president to president.

**4. Start an exercise routine.** A Mormon mission is physically taxing and the more fit you are now, the easier the transition will be. Many sisters (and elders) spend the first few months of their mission in pain because they're sore from going from Internet surfer to constant biker or walker.

**5. Step up studying of your scriptures and other doctrine.** A mission can be very spiritually fulfilling, but there needs to be a very strong foundation for it. Every day people are going to be challenging your beliefs. You need to be strengthening your testimony because in the mission field it's going to get torn down. Many skip this important step because they think that in a few months they will be studying nonstop so it doesn't matter. But your testimony will come under fire, and if you're not prepared it will be much like not exercising, you will be spiritually sore for a while.

**6. Develop an after-your-mission plan so you don't wallow when you come home.** If you're in school, talk to your professors and administrators to determine what you'll need to do to get re-enrolled. (While on their missions, some sisters received special permission to go online and register for the semester after they came home.) Talk to your employer about your work options. Will you have a job when you get home?

If you're going to be seeking employment or enrollment in a different place, get the necessary recommendations and references in order before you leave, since a year and a half can make it more difficult for people to remember you.

**7. Before you leave, do some of the things you love that you won't be able to for the next 18 months.** Maybe you love to travel, so take a weekend getaway before your mission. Or maybe you'd rather spend an evening reading your favorite book one last time before you leave. I went white-water rafting the weekend before I went into the MTC. My only warning is to keep it within reason, so it's not too difficult to walk away from and not something that will bring about unnecessary injuries.

*Melissa Dymock is the author of "Sisters: A Modern Girl's Guide to Serving a Mission" published by Covenant Communications.*

*April 12, 2012 Desert News*



# How did Ammon Prepare for a Mission?

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| Alma 17:25 | Ammon Meets the king and asks to be his servant                            |
| Alma 17:29 | Ammon wants to win the hearts of his fellow-servants                       |
| Alma 18:3  | Ammon's actions show he is a friend to the king                            |
| Alma 18:9  | Ammon feeds the King's horses  |
| Alma 18:9  | Ammon Prepares the chariots  |
| Alma 18:14 | Ammon asks the king what he would have him do, and what he desires to know |
| Alma 18:24 | Ammon is now prepared to teach   |

“Don't Miss This in the Book of Mormon” by Emily Belle Freeman and David Butler

**“They Taught and Did Minister One to Another”**

**James M. Paramore**

**April 1986 Gen. Conf**

## **Ammon Prepared for a Mission**

- 1.The desire of his heart was to bring people to God.
- 2.He was always a servant, a minister. He was out among the people.
- 3.He prepared himself by fasting, studying the scriptures, and prayer.
- 4.He went forth believing he could make a difference with the help of God.
- 5.He anxiously looked for every possible opportunity to serve.
- 6.He kept all of the commandments.
- 7.As a result of doing all of these things, he taught with power and authority and established the Church of God.