

ENGAGING GOSPEL DOCTRINE (EPISODE 178)

LESSON 05

“Hearken to the Truth, and Give Heed unto It”

Hook	You know when one child says to their parent “she hit me!” and the parent responds, “What did you do to provoke her?” Seems like our hero Nephi did some provoking of his own.
Manual Goal	To inspire class members to follow Nephi’s example of faith and willing obedience.
EGD Goal	To encourage class members to consider the truths learned in difficult trials, and to prioritize truths that nurture loving relationships

Correction to consider: Angela: I would love to see an acknowledgment or discussion of the subtler forms of racism extant in the continued Lamanite-Native American debate. It remains something that predominantly white people discuss and debate about a group of people of color who are largely absent from the conversation. Attempting to assign a history to another group to bolster one’s own sense of identity or truth claims is a subtle form of theft -- of their actual traditions, history, identity, and inherent dignity as distinct cultures.

I. Sunday School

- a. Framing (What do we learn in our hardest moments? There is a great deal to learn about the examples of Lehi and his family during the most difficult portion of their journey)
- b. Two minute take home:
 - i. Which truths are most important? (Nephi rips into his brothers, but is he neglecting more vital truths? The value of his family relationships? Knowledge of what would actually be effective?)
 - ii. Internal vs. external motivation
 - iii. Learning and responding in our difficult times
- c. Scripture commentary
- d. Lesson
 - i. What is truth? (Truth is an accurate description of reality. What accurately describes external truths? Internal truths? Are feelings true?)

Myth as reality one step removed. Beware of feeling something is true when it is really just familiar.

- ii. Truth and Love (Ahimsa over Satya). We should always be truthful, but we can express that truth in a way where love tempers and shapes that truth (both delivery and timing) (and for us, when does the truth hurt? What should we do about it?)
- iii. What motivates us? Are we moved internally externally? Do we “humble ourselves”?
- iv. What does the Liahona symbolize in our lives?
- v. Family dynamics (How does Nephi contribute to his trials? What does he do right, and how could he improve. Also, a theological musing: I think God acted in behalf of Nephi the way Nephi expected, not the way God would have preferred)

e. Conclusion

f. Reading in full

II. Scripture Study

III. Study Notes

- a. When scripture and plausibility collide (Nephi building the ship)
- b. Steel, horses, and other details
- c. Scripture and truth (not likely that scripture is going to be true in the way that we expect it to be, based on how we were taught when we were younger, or even as adults)
 - i. It happened just as it says in the scriptures. It was a miracle after all (doesn't take into account the complicated nature of scripture, sets our limited, historically situated understanding as the standard)
 - ii. It happened, but not in the way it was described (I think this is a very healthy interpretive starting point)
 - iii. It didn't happen, but something else did (were gold plates, might as well not be)
 - iv. Didn't happen, doesn't matter (how historicity does and doesn't matter)