



FREE TRIAL STUDY PAGES FOR ALMA 5

Welcome to The Red Headed Hostess

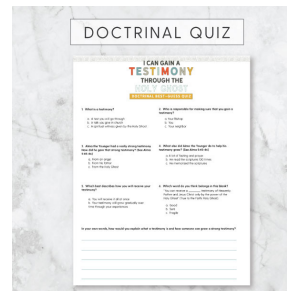
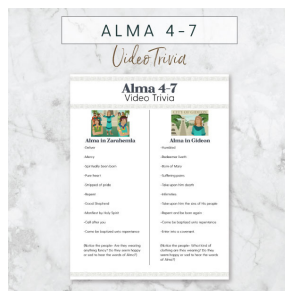
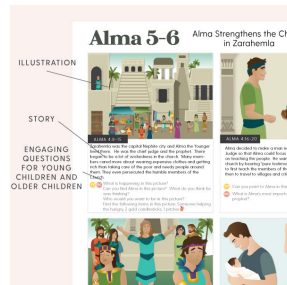
Here is a free sample of our Study Pages for Alma 5. Our Study Pages have become our most popular item in our weekly kits and they are the main thing in each kit. The chapters covered each week align with the schedule from the Come, Follow Me curriculum from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Our Study Pages are for Adults and teens and will give you in-depth commentary, insights, tips and more into the chapters being covered. They are meant to be used with your personal study and will help you gain confidence in teaching your family. These pages are created by retired and current full time seminary and institute teachers and the commentary provided is relatable and applicable to today.

Our Study Pages are just one portion of our weekly kits. After we create the Study Pages, we then create various activities for all ages that align with the Study Pages. These activities cover ages groups from young children, older children, and teens. Even adults will find some of the activities beneficial. The free sample is only for the Alma 5 Study Pages.

Each kit has an average of 150 hours put into creating it between the study pages and all of the activities. There are always many options for you to choose from with each kit averaging 40-60 pages in size. Simply look through the instructions in each kit and print the items you want to use. You will likely not have time to use every item in every kit so printing only what you have time to use will save you on ink and paper. Below are some images of some of the activities that go with the Alma 5-7 weekly kit.

Our weekly kits are very easy to get with two options to choose from. All kits are PDF downloads and can be purchased individually as needed or subscribed to. If purchased individually, the price is \$4.00 each. With 40-60 pages of content to choose from, all created with professional teachers and artists, it's an incredible value. The other option is to subscribe for \$10.00 per month. That gets the average price per kit down to \$2.50 each, adding even greater value. We hope you enjoy this free sample and become one of our loyal subscribers.

Other Activities found in our Alma 5-7 kit.



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Alma 5



SCRIPTURE MARKING IDEAS

The words which Alma, the High Priest according to the holy order of God, delivered to the people in their cities and villages throughout the land.

THE MELCHIZEDEK
PRIESTHOOD

Beginning with chapter 5.

(ALMA 5-16 ARE ALMA'S TRAVELS AND TEACHINGS)

1 Now it came to pass that Alma began to deliver the word of God unto the people, first in the land of Zarahemla, and from thence throughout all the land.

2 And these are the words which he spake to the people in the church which was established in the city of Zarahemla, according to his own record, saying:

3 I, Alma, having been consecrated by my father, Alma, to be a high priest over the church of God, he having power and authority from God to do these things, behold, I say unto you that he began to establish a church in the land which was in the borders of Nephi; yea, the land which was called the land of Mormon; yea, and he did baptize his brethren in the waters of Mormon.

4 And behold, I say unto you, they were delivered out of the hands of the people of king Noah, by the mercy and power of God.

5 And behold, after that, they were brought into bondage by the hands of the Lamanites in the wilderness; yea, I say unto you, they were in captivity, and again the Lord did deliver them out of bondage by the power of his word; and we were brought into this land, and here we began to establish the church of God throughout this land also.

6 And now behold, I say unto you, my brethren, you that belong to this church, have you sufficiently retained in remembrance the captivity of your fathers? Yea, and have you sufficiently retained in remembrance his mercy and long-suffering towards them? And moreover, have ye sufficiently retained in remembrance that he has delivered their souls from hell?

7 Behold, he changed their hearts; yea, he awakened them out of a deep sleep, and they awoke unto God. Behold, they were in the midst of darkness; nevertheless, their souls were illuminated by the light of the everlasting word; yea, they were encircled about by the bands of death, and the chains of hell, and an everlasting destruction did await them.

8 And now I ask of you, my brethren, were they destroyed? Behold, I say unto you, Nay, they were not.

9 And again I ask, were the bands of death broken, and the chains of hell which encircled them about, were they loosed? I say unto you, Yea, they were loosed, and their souls did expand, and they did sing redeeming love. And I say unto you that they are saved.

10 And now I ask of you on what conditions are they saved? Yea, what grounds had they to hope for salvation? What is the cause of their being loosed from the bands of death, yea, and also the chains of hell? = WHAT IS THE DOCTRINE?

11 Behold, I can tell you—did not my father Alma believe in the words which were delivered by the mouth of Abinadi? And was he not a holy prophet? Did he not speak the words of God, and my father Alma believe them?

= ABINADI TAUGHT THE DOCTRINE



IDEAS AND INSIGHTS

Verses 1-2: Alma has given up the position as chief judge, which would have been the most powerful position in Zarahemla - but he gives it up so he can focus on saving souls. In Alma 4, we learned of the state of the Church. There are many who are faithful, but there are also many who are causing a lot of contention and problems (see Alma 4:9-11), even so much that "the church began to fail in its progress" (Alma 4:10).

So Alma doesn't just sit back, but he frees up his time by giving up his political position and goes out with the mission to reform the Church. He is going to try to wake people up, and he is the perfect man for the job.

Let's review what we know about Alma. We know that he was wicked and went about destroying the Church and then an angel came and woke him up. Alma then went through an intense repentance process and ever since has been a valiant disciple and now prophet for the Lord. He was made chief judge - imagine all that he would see and learn about the people through that experience. He was also the head of the army and in the war with the Amlicites and Lamanites. Alma himself went straight into the heart of the battle and fought Amlici and the King of the Lamanites - so he does not back down from intense and risky situations - he goes right into the middle and takes care of things. And that is what he is going to do now. He will teach those in Zarahemla and then he will go around to outer villages and cities and teach there. So he walks away from position, power, and comfort in order to call people back to God. He is the perfect man for this because, as we will find out, this is going to be an incredibly difficult task.

The sons of Mosiah are, at this same time, among the Lamanites introducing them to God and His plan for them. Alma is on the other end of the spectrum trying to call people back to God. These Nephites that Alma was trying to reach are like what Elder Holland said, "To those who were once with us but have retreated, preferring to pick and choose a few cultural hors d'oeuvres from the smorgasbord of the Restoration and leave the rest of the feast" (October 2012 General Conference).

In verse 2, we can see that Mormon is using Alma's actual record here in chapter 5. Alma kept a record and wrote about what he taught the people in Zarahemla, and Mormon is quoting from that record.

Verses 3-12: Alma is speaking to members of the Church in Zarahemla and he begins by reminding them of the previous generation and how the Lord delivered them, blessed them, and changed them. Have they remembered? Have they honored them? Have they learned from them?

Alma is trying to turn the members back to the Lord, and the generation just before them was the perfect example of the kind of change Christ can have on people. They had their hearts changed (verse 7), and in exchange, they were changed, they were different, their souls expanded (verse 9).

In verses 10-12, Alma gave the doctrinal explanation behind it. It was because of what Abinadi had taught about Christ that this change was possible. They learned about Christ, they were baptized, and then they were true to those covenants. This is how souls are expanded.

He Changed Their Hearts

ALMA 5:7

As we yield our hearts to God, the Holy Ghost changes our very natures, we become deeply converted unto the Lord, and we no longer seek the spacious building. If we stop doing those things that bring about deepening conversion, we regress spiritually. Apostasy is the reverse of conversion.

- Elder Kevin W. Pearson, April 2015 General Conference

? What are at least two lessons you can learn from Alma as he gives up the judgment seat to teach the people?

? Why do you think Alma speaks of what the Lord had done for their fathers?

? How has the gospel changed your heart and caused your soul to expand?

A = ALMA SPEAKING

LOOK WHAT THE LORD DOES



SCRIPTURE MARKING IDEAS

- WHAT ABOUT YOU?**
- A 12 And according to his faith there was a mighty change wrought in his heart. Behold I say unto you that this is all true. = **ALMA'S FATHER WAS CONVERTED**
- A 13 And behold, he preached the word unto your fathers, and a mighty change was also wrought in their hearts, and they humbled themselves and put their trust in the true and living God. And behold, they were faithful until the end; therefore they were saved. = **THEIR FATHERS WERE ALSO CONVERTED**
- A 14 And now behold, I ask of you, my brethren of the church, have ye spiritually been born of God? Have ye received his image in your countenances? Have ye experienced this mighty change in your hearts? = **WHAT ABOUT YOU?**
- ARE YOU PREPARED FOR THE JUDGMENT DAY?**
- A 15 Do ye exercise faith in the redemption of him who created you? Do you look forward with an eye of faith, and view this mortal body raised in immortality, and this corruption raised in incorruption, to stand before God to be judged according to the deeds which have been done in the mortal body?
- A 16 I say unto you, can you imagine to yourselves that ye hear the voice of the Lord, saying unto you, in that day: Come unto me ye blessed, for behold, your works have been the works of righteousness upon the face of the earth?
- A 17 Or do ye imagine to yourselves that ye can lie unto the Lord in that day, and say—Lord, our works have been righteous works upon the face of the earth—and that he will save you?
- A 18 Or otherwise, can ye imagine yourselves brought before the tribunal of God with your souls filled with guilt and remorse, having a remembrance of all your guilt, yea, a perfect remembrance of all your wickedness, yea, a remembrance that ye have set at defiance the commandments of God?
- A 19 I say unto you, can ye look up to God at that day with a pure heart and clean hands? I say unto you, can you look up, having the image of God engraven upon your countenances?
- A 20 I say unto you, can ye think of being saved when you have yielded yourselves to become subjects to the devil?
- A 21 I say unto you, ye will know at that day that ye cannot be saved; for there can no man be saved except his garments are washed white; yea, his garments must be purified until they are cleansed from all stain, through the blood of him of whom it has been spoken by our fathers, who should come to redeem his people from their sins.
- A 22 And now I ask of you, my brethren, how will any of you feel, if ye shall stand before the bar of God, having your garments stained with blood and all manner of filthiness? Behold, what will these things testify against you?
- A 23 Behold will they not testify that ye are murderers, yea, and also that ye are guilty of all manner of wickedness?
- A 24 Behold, my brethren, do ye suppose that such an one can have a place to sit down in the kingdom of God, with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob, and also all the holy prophets, whose garments are cleansed and are spotless, pure and white?
- A 25 I say unto you, Nay; except ye make our Creator a liar from the beginning, or suppose that he is a liar from the beginning, ye cannot suppose that such can have place in the kingdom of heaven; but they shall be cast out for they are the children of the kingdom of the devil.



IDEAS AND INSIGHTS

Verses 13-14: So their fathers had exercised faith in Christ (and see how it changed them). Have they allowed the same change to come upon them? Does it show?

Alma asks a series of reflective questions that are meant to help them remember and rededicate themselves, questions that will help them take a personal spiritual inventory to see where they are lacking and then act upon it. In verse 13, he explains that their fathers had been saved because of the change they experienced, and verse 14 is basically asking, “What about you?” Have you experienced those things? Where do you stand?

President Ezra Taft Benson quoted verses 14 and 26, and then he said:

Christ Changes Men

ALMA 5:14

Would not the progress of the Church increase dramatically today with an increasing number of those who are spiritually reborn? Can you imagine what would happen in our homes? Can you imagine what would happen with an increasing number of copies of the Book of Mormon in the hands of an increasing number of missionaries who know how to use it and who have been born of God?...

The Lord works from the inside out. The world works from the outside in. The world would take people out of the slums. Christ takes the slums out of people, and then they take themselves out of the slums. The world would mold men by changing their environment. Christ changes men, who then change their environment. The world would shape human behavior, but Christ can change human nature.

“Human nature can be changed, here and now,” said President McKay, and then he quoted the following:

“You can change human nature. No man who has felt in him the Spirit of Christ even for half a minute can deny this truth. ...

“You do change human nature, your own human nature, if you surrender it to Christ. Human nature can be changed here and now. Human nature has been changed in the past. Human nature must be changed on an enormous scale in the future, unless the world is to be drowned in its own blood. And only Christ can change it.

“Twelve men did quite a lot to change the world [nineteen hundred] years ago. Twelve simple men.”

Yes, Christ changes men, and changed men can change the world.

- **President Ezra Taft Benson, October 1985 General Conference**

Verses 15-25: Remember that Alma had been in the presence of an angel while being unclean. He knows how that felt. And the angel had said to Alma, “I am sent from God” (Mosiah 27:15). Alma was suddenly aware of how unprepared he was, of the state of his soul - and this wasn't even the Judgment Day. So he knows a lot about standing before a heavenly being unprepared.

So in verses 15-36, he wants us to imagine this moment for ourselves, but the real thing - the actual Judgment Day. Verses 16 and 19 are the verses we want to describe our future experience - we want to be so changed, so Christlike, that we are in the process of becoming as Christ when we meet Him at the Judgment.

Verses 17-18, 20-25 are like a warning flare... this could happen if you are not ready.

The goal is to be able to stand spotless before the Lord, and verses 21-24 ask us to consider what it would be like to stand before Him with stains from “all manner of filthiness” (verse 22). We will stand before Him exactly as our desires and choices have made us to be. We can be spotted or we can be washed clean.

Elder Neal A. Maxwell said:

Our Desires and Choices at the Final Judgment ALMA 5:21-24

I'm not sure we grasp how the final judgment will reflect our choices! But my desires and choices really will be honored! How manifestly just of God! How trembling for me!

- **Elder Neal A. Maxwell, BYU Speeches, March 16, 2004**



SCRIPTURE MARKING IDEAS

- A 26 And now behold, I say unto you, my brethren, if ye have experienced a change of heart, and if ye have felt to sing the song of redeeming love, I would ask, can ye feel so now?
- A 27 Have ye walked, keeping yourselves blameless before God? Could ye say, if ye were called to die at this time, within yourselves, that ye have been sufficiently humble? That your garments have been cleansed and made white through the blood of Christ, who will come to redeem his people from their sins?
- A 28 Behold, are ye stripped of pride? I say unto you, if ye are not ye are not prepared to meet God. Behold ye must prepare quickly for the kingdom of heaven is soon at hand, and such an one hath not eternal life.
- A 29 Behold, I say, is there one among you who is not stripped of envy? I say unto you that such an one is not prepared; and I would that he should prepare quickly for the hour is close at hand, and he knoweth not when the time shall come; for such an one is not found guiltless.
- A 30 And again I say unto you, is there one among you that doth make a mock of his brother, or that heapeth upon him persecutions?
- A 31 Wo unto such an one, for he is not prepared, and the time is at hand that he must repent or he cannot be saved!
- A 32 Yea, even wo unto all ye workers of iniquity; repent, repent, for the Lord God hath spoken it!
- A 33 Behold, he sendeth an invitation unto all men, for the arms of mercy are extended towards them, and he saith: Repent, and I will receive you.
- A 34 Yea, he saith: Come unto me and ye shall partake of the fruit of the tree of life; yea, ye shall eat and drink of the bread and the waters of life freely;
- A 35 Yea, come unto me and bring forth works of righteousness, and ye shall not be hewn down and cast into the fire—
- A 36 For behold, the time is at hand that whosoever bringeth forth not good fruit, or whosoever doeth not the works of righteousness, the same have cause to wail and mourn.
- A 37 O ye workers of iniquity; ye that are puffed up in the vain things of the world, ye that have professed to have known the ways of righteousness nevertheless have gone astray, as sheep having no shepherd, notwithstanding a shepherd hath called after you and is still calling after you, but ye will not hearken unto his voice!
- A 38 Behold, I say unto you, that the good shepherd doth call you; yea, and in his own name he doth call you, which is the name of Christ; and if ye will not hearken unto the voice of the good shepherd, to the name by which ye are called, behold, ye are not the sheep of the good shepherd.
- A 39 And now if ye are not the sheep of the good shepherd, of what fold are ye? Behold, I say unto you, that the devil is your shepherd, and ye are of his fold; and now, who can deny this? Behold, I say unto you, whosoever denieth this is a liar and a child of the devil.
- A 40 For I say unto you that whatsoever is good cometh from God, and whatsoever is evil cometh from the devil.
- A 41 Therefore, if a man bringeth forth good works he hearkeneth unto the voice of the good shepherd, and he doth follow him; but whosoever bringeth forth evil works, the same becometh a child of the devil, for he hearkeneth unto his voice, and doth follow him.

WHAT FOLD ARE YE?



IDEAS AND INSIGHTS

Verses 26-36: “Can ye feel so now?” The question here is asking how we are feeling right now? Do you feel ready right now? You may have had these feelings once before, but do you still? Have you retained it? Of verse 26, Elder Jeffrey R. Holland taught:

The Song of Redeeming Love

ALMA 5:26

Brothers and sisters, we live in a mortal world with many songs we cannot or do not yet sing. But I plead with each one of us to stay permanently and faithfully in the choir, where we will be able to savor forever that most precious anthem of all—“the song of redeeming love.” Fortunately, the seats for this particular number are limitless. There is room for those who speak different languages, celebrate diverse cultures, and live in a host of locations. There is room for the single, for the married, for large families, and for the childless. There is room for those who once had questions regarding their faith and room for those who still do. There is room for those with differing sexual attractions. In short, there is a place for everyone who loves God and honors His commandments as the inviolable measuring rod for personal behavior, for if love of God is the melody of our shared song, surely our common quest to obey Him is the indispensable harmony in it. With divine imperatives of love and faith, repentance and compassion, honesty and forgiveness, there is room in this choir for all who wish to be there. “Come as you are,” a loving Father says to each of us, but He adds, “Don’t plan to stay as you are.” We smile and remember that God is determined to make of us more than we thought we could be.

- Elder Jeffrey R. Holland, April 2017 General Conference

Verses 27-36 are humbling even for the most righteous. But they are meant to do that. They are meant to help us feel the sting and correct ourselves. Elder Dale G. Renlund quoted verses 26-30 and then said:

Correcting Early Deviations

ALMA 5:26-30

By honestly answering questions like these, we can correct early deviations from the strait and narrow path and keep our covenants with exactness.

- Elder Dale G. Renlund, October 2009 General Conference

- ? What questions most stand out to you and cause you to reflect and desire to become better and more prepared?
- ? Do you feel like you have received Christ’s image in your countenance (v.14)?
- ? What do you imagine the Judgment Day being like and feeling like?
- ? What can you do to prepare for the Judgment Day?
- ? What are some things you would like to accomplish in your life that will help you prepare for the Judgment Day?
- ? Why is it so important for you to remember and think about the Judgment Day?
- ? How does someone strip themselves of pride and envy (v. 28-29)?
- ? Parents: How can you raise your children in a way that they can strip themselves of pride and envy? How can you counsel and nurture them in a way that they understand these things? What conversations can you have in your home?
- ? Is there someone that you envy, mock, or persecute - even silently in your heart? How can you replace those feelings with charity? Why must you do this?

Verses 37-42: The goal is to have our natures changed. To BE Christ’s sheep. To belong in His flock. To be so familiar with His voice that when He comes to the sheepfold and calls, we KNOW it is Him, and when other shepherds come and call - we know it is not Him.

Notice in verses 39-40 that you are either in the Lord’s flock or you are in the wrong flock (although there may be many, many other flocks to choose from). In Zarahemla there were a lot of people saying they were in the Lord’s flock, but they weren’t really. They didn’t know Him. They didn’t follow Him. And verse 41 explains how you can know if you follow Him or not. Do you bring forth good works or evil works? Many of these Church members were turning their backs on those in need (see Alma 4:12) and excessive pride (Alma 4:9) These works do not belong in His flock.



SCRIPTURE MARKING IDEAS

A 42 And whosoever doeth this must receive his wages of him; therefore, for his wages he receiveth death, as to things pertaining unto righteousness, being dead unto all good works.

A 43 And now, my brethren, I would that ye should hear me, for I speak in the energy of my soul; for behold, I have spoken unto you plainly that ye cannot err, or have spoken according to the commandments of God.

A 44 For I am called to speak after this manner, according to the holy order of God, which is in Christ Jesus; yea, I am commanded to stand and testify unto this people the things which have been spoken by our fathers concerning the things which are to come.

A 45 And this is not all. Do ye not suppose that I know of these things myself? Behold, I testify unto you that I do know that these things whereof I have spoken are true. And how do ye suppose that I know of their surety?

A 46 Behold, I say unto you they are made known unto me by the Holy Spirit of God. Behold, I have fasted and prayed many days that I might know these things of myself. And now I do know of myself that they are true; for the Lord God hath made them manifest unto me by his Holy Spirit; and this is the spirit of revelation which is in me.

A 47 And moreover, I say unto you that it has thus been revealed unto me, that the words which have been spoken by our fathers are true, even so according to the spirit of prophecy which is in me, which is also by the manifestation of the Spirit of God.

A 48 I say unto you, that I know of myself that whatsoever I shall say unto you, concerning that which is to come, is true; and I say unto you, that I know that Jesus Christ shall come, yea, the Son, the Only Begotten of the Father, full of grace, and mercy, and truth. And behold, it is he that cometh to take away the sins of the world, yea, the sins of every man who steadfastly believeth on his name.

A 49 And now I say unto you that this is the order after which I am called, yea, to preach unto my beloved brethren, yea, and every one that dwelleth in the land; yea, to preach unto all, both old and young, both bond and free; yea, I say unto you the aged, and also the middle aged, and the rising generation; yea, to cry unto them that they must repent and be born again.

A 50 Yea, thus saith the Spirit: Repent, all ye ends of the earth, for the kingdom of heaven is soon at hand; yea, the Son of God cometh in his glory, in his might, majesty, power, and dominion. Yea, my beloved brethren, I say unto you, that the Spirit saith: Behold the glory of the King of all the earth; and also the King of heaven shall very soon shine forth among all the children of men.

A 51 And also the Spirit saith unto me, yea, crieth unto me with a mighty voice, saying: Go forth and say unto this people—Repent for except ye repent ye can in nowise inherit the kingdom of heaven.

A 52 And again I say unto you, the Spirit saith: Behold, the ax is laid at the root of the tree; therefore every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit shall be hewn down and cast into the fire, yea, a fire which cannot be consumed, even an unquenchable fire. Behold, and remember, the Holy One hath spoken it.



IDEAS AND INSIGHTS

Verses 43-48: Alma does not know all of these things for himself because he had an angel visit him. He knows all of these things because of personal revelation - because of the Holy Ghost, just like all of us can know of them.

Notice in verse 46 that Alma said that he “fasted and prayed many days that I might know of myself that they are true.” He was serious about gaining his own testimony, and he put his physical wants (food and water) behind his spiritual desires. And he would have done this after the angel came to him.

So if we say to ourselves that “if only I could see an angel, I could know without a doubt...” - that is not where Alma received his knowledge, and he saw an angel. In fact, there are plenty of stories of individuals who did see angels and their testimonies were still weak. But the Holy Ghost knows how to do His job. He knows how to reveal truths to us in a way that we can really know. That’s His role, and He is good at it.

President Joseph Fielding Smith taught:

When Spirit Speaks to Spirit

ALMA 5:46

Impressions on the soul that come from the Holy Ghost are far more significant than a vision. When Spirit speaks to spirit, the imprint upon the soul is far more difficult to erase.

- **President Joseph Fielding Smith, Improvement Era 69:979**

Brigham Young also taught:

We Live Far Beneath Our Privileges

ALMA 5:46

There is no doubt, if a person lives according to the revelations given to God’s people, he may have the Spirit of the Lord to signify to him his will, and to guide and to direct him in the discharge of his duties, in his temporal as well as his spiritual exercises. I am satisfied, however, that in this respect, we live far beneath our privileges.

- **Brigham Young, (Discourses of Brigham Young, p. 32)**

? How did Alma receive his testimony? What can we learn from this?

? What can you do to strengthen your testimony?

? What is the role of the Holy Ghost?

? What do you do to give the Holy Ghost opportunities to speak to your spirit so that your testimony and knowledge can grow?

? Do you feel like you live up to your privileges with the gift of the Holy Ghost? If not, how can you do so?

Verses 49-52: This message is for everyone, every single person, no matter how convincing the devil might be that it is not. The invitation to repent and prepare is for “everyone that dwelleth on the land.”

Elder Dallin H. Oaks taught:

He Inviteth All

ALMA 5:49

He inviteth them all.” We understand “male and female.” We also understand “black and white,” which means all races. But what about “bond and free”? Bond—the opposite of free—means more than slavery. It means being bound (in bondage) to anything from which it is difficult to escape. Bond includes those whose freedom is restricted by physical or emotional afflictions. Bond includes those who are addicted to some substance or practice. Bond surely refers to those who are imprisoned by sin—“encircled about” by what another teaching of the Book of Mormon calls “the chains of hell.” Bond includes those who are held down by traditions or customs contrary to the commandments of God. Finally, bond also includes those who are confined within the boundaries of other erroneous ideas. The Prophet Joseph Smith taught that we preach to “liberate the captives.”

- **Elder Dallin H. Oaks, April 2006 General Conference**



SCRIPTURE MARKING IDEAS

- A** 53 And now my beloved brethren, I say unto you, can ye withstand these sayings; yea, can ye lay aside these things, and trample the Holy One under your feet; yea, can ye be puffed up in the pride of your hearts; yea, will ye still persist in the wearing of costly apparel and setting your hearts upon the vain things of the world, upon your riches?
- A** 54 Yea, will ye persist in supposing that ye are better one than another; yea, will ye persist in the persecution of your brethren, who humble themselves and do walk after the holy order of God, wherewith they have been brought into this church, having been sanctified by the Holy Spirit, and they do bring forth works which are meet for repentance -
- A** 55 Yea, and will you persist in turning your backs upon the poor, and the needy, and in withholding your substance from them?
- A** 56 And finally, all ye that will persist in your wickedness, I say unto you that these are they who shall be hewn down and cast into the fire except they speedily repent.
- A** 57 And now I say unto you, all you that are desirous to follow the voice of the good shepherd, come ye out from the wicked, and be ye separate, and touch not their unclean things; and behold, their names shall be blotted out, that the names of the wicked shall not be numbered among the names of the righteous, that the word of God may be fulfilled, which saith: The names of the wicked shall not be mingled with the names of my people;
- A** 58 For the names of the righteous shall be written in the book of life, and unto them will I grant an inheritance at my right hand. And now, my brethren, what have ye to say against this? I say unto you, if ye speak against it, it matters not, for the word of God must be fulfilled.
- A** 59 For what shepherd is there among you having many sheep doth not watch over them, that the wolves enter not and devour his flock? And behold, if a wolf enter his flock doth he not drive him out? Yea, and at the last, if he can, he will destroy him.
- A** 60 And now I say unto you that the good shepherd doth call after you; and if you will hearken unto his voice he will bring you into his fold, and ye are his sheep; and he commandeth you that ye suffer no ravenous wolf to enter among you, that ye may not be destroyed.
- A** 61 And now I, Alma, do command you in the language of him who hath commanded me, that ye observe to do the words which I have spoken unto you.
- A** 62 I speak by way of command unto you that belong to the church; and unto those who do not belong to the church I speak by way of invitation, saying: Come and be baptized unto repentance, that ye also may be partakers of the fruit of the tree of life.

THE GOOD SHEPHERD CALLS YOU



IDEAS AND INSIGHTS

Verses 53-56: After all this - after all Alma has taught... what will you do? "Will ye still persist in" (fill in whatever sin applies), or will you "speedily repent" (verse 56)? That is what this comes down to. What will you choose to do? What will you choose to become?

Notice how the questions he asks all deal with how they treat others. For is this not what we promise to do when we are baptized? To lift and comfort and help?

Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin taught:

Always Be Willing to Help Others

ALMA 5:53-55

Always be willing, even anxious, to help others. Nothing else you do will give you the same genuine satisfaction and joy within because, and I quote, "when ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God" (Mosiah 2:17).

Ignoring the needs of others is a serious sin. Think of the words of Alma to the people of the Church in Zarahemla. He asked: "Will ye ... persist in the wearing of costly apparel and setting your hearts upon the vain things of the world, upon your riches? "Yea, will ye persist in supposing that ye are better one than another; ...

"Yea, and will you persist in turning your backs upon the poor, and the needy, and in withholding your substance from them?" (Alma 5:53-55).

King Benjamin taught that we must care for those in need—the poor, hungry, naked, and sick—both spiritually and temporally if we are to receive a remission of our sins from day to day or, in other words, if we are to walk guiltless before God (See Mosiah 18:29).

- Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin, October 1989 General Conference

- ❓ Why is it important to know that Christ invites all?
- ❓ How does Satan try to get people to feel that they or someone else is not worthy of Christ's invitation?
- ❓ Why do you think all of Alma's questions in verses 53-55 are about how we treat others?
- ❓ Why is it important for you and your family to always be willing, even anxious, to help others?

Verses 57-62: Alma ends his message with this great invitation. If you want to follow the voice of the Good Shepherd, leave the world behind. Stop. Separate. Change. Come. For there is a very real future with very real consequences: "For the names of the righteous shall be written in the book of life" (vs. 58).

What is the "Book of Life?" Elder McConkie explains:

The Book of Life

ALMA 5:58

"In a real though figurative sense, the book of life is the record of the acts of men as such record is written in their own bodies. ... That is, every thought, word, and deed has an [effect] on the human body; all these leave their marks, marks which can be read by Him who is Eternal as easily as the words in a book can be read"

- Elder Bruce R. McConkie, Mormon Doctrine, 97

- ❓ How is the good shepherd calling YOU (v. 60)?
- ❓ What can you do to better separate yourself from the world (v. 57)?
- ❓ What is the "Book of Life" and why is it important for you to know?
- ❓ How has Alma's message touched your heart?
- ❓ What will you do differently because of what you learned in Alma 5?