

Class Member Reading: 1 Ne. 16 - 18

1 Ne. 16

1 And now it came to pass that after I, Nephi, had made an end of speaking to my brethren, behold they said unto me: Thou hast declared unto us **hard things**, more **than we are able to bear**.

2 And it came to pass that I said unto them that I knew that I had spoken hard things against the wicked, according to the **truth**; and the righteous have I justified, and testified that they should be lifted up at the last day; wherefore, the **guilty taketh the truth to be hard, for it cutteth them to the very center**. We use this verse casually, but it is actually a pretty terrible response. Laman and Lemuel are setting a boundary in a way. A more compassionate response would be to find out why they feel Nephi’s words are too hard to bear, rather than Nephi shaming them further. We should not use truth to hurt others. Even so, there is truth to the idea that the wicked will reject information that condemns them (Scott Peck’s definition of evil: refuse to see their own flaws, project those flaws onto others, and then try to destroy them)

3 And now my brethren, if ye were righteous and were **willing to hearken to the truth**, and **give heed** unto it, that ye might walk uprightly before God, then ye would not murmur because of the truth, and say: Thou speakest hard things against us. *Are we willing to both hear and implement true principles?*

4 And it came to pass that I, Nephi, did exhort my brethren, with **all diligence**, to keep the commandments of the Lord. *Nephi seems more concerned with diligence than delivery.*

5 And it came to pass that **they did humble themselves** before the Lord; insomuch that I had joy and great hopes of them, that they would walk in the paths of righteousness. *This is the very last time that Laman and Lemuel humble themselves—in the future it takes more and more external force to influence them.*

6 Now, all these things were said and done as my father dwelt in a tent in the valley which he called Lemuel.

7 And it came to pass that I, Nephi, took one of the daughters of Ishmael to wife; and also, my brethren took of the daughters of Ishmael to wife; and also Zoram took the eldest daughter of Ishmael to wife.

8 And thus my father had **fulfilled all the commandments of the Lord** which had been given unto him. And also, I, Nephi, had been **blessed** of the Lord exceedingly. *I’m amused this comment comes right after mention of Nephi’s marriage.*

9 And it came to pass that the voice of the Lord spake unto my father by night, and commanded him that on the morrow he should take his journey into the wilderness.

10 And it came to pass that as my father arose in the morning, and went forth to the tent door, to his great astonishment he beheld upon the ground a **round ball of curious workmanship**; and it was of fine brass. And within the ball were two spindles; and the one pointed the way whither we should go into the wilderness.

11 And it came to pass that we did gather together whatsoever things we should carry into the wilderness, and all the remainder of our **provisions** which the Lord had given unto us; and we did take **seed of every kind** that we might carry into the wilderness.

12 And it came to pass that we did take our tents and depart into the wilderness, across the river Laman.

13 And it came to pass that we traveled for the space of four days, nearly a south-southeast direction, and we did pitch our tents again; and we did call the name of the place Shazer. *Note the repetition/preoccupation with food. Clearly it was not easy to come by.*

14 And it came to pass that we did take our bows and our arrows, and go forth into the wilderness to slay **food** for our families; and after we had slain **food** for our families we did return again to our families in the wilderness, to the place of Shazer. And we did go forth again in the wilderness, following the same direction, keeping in the most **fertile** parts of the wilderness, which were in the borders near the Red Sea.

15 And it came to pass that we did travel for the space of many days, slaying **food** by the way, with our bows and our arrows and our stones and our slings.

16 And we did follow the directions of the ball, which led us in the more **fertile** parts of the wilderness.

17 And after we had traveled for the space of many days, we did pitch our tents for the space of a time, that we might again rest ourselves and obtain **food** for our families.

18 And it came to pass that as I, Nephi, went forth to slay **food**, behold, I did break my bow, which was made of fine steel; and after I did break my bow, behold, my brethren were **angry** with me because of the loss of my bow, for we did obtain no **food**.

19 And it came to pass that we did return without **food** to our families, and being much fatigued, because of their journeying, they did **suffer much** for the want of **food**.

20 And it came to pass that Laman and Lemuel and the sons of Ishmael did begin to **murmur exceedingly**, because of their sufferings and afflictions in the wilderness; and **also my father began to murmur against the Lord his God**; yea, and they were all **exceedingly sorrowful**, even that they did murmur against the Lord. *Lehi hits his limit.*

21 Now it came to pass that I, Nephi, having been afflicted with my brethren because of the loss of my bow, and their bows having lost their springs, it began to be exceedingly difficult, yea, insomuch that we could obtain **no food**.

22 And it came to pass that I, Nephi, did **speak much** unto my brethren, because they had **hardened their hearts again**, even unto complaining against the Lord their God.

23 And it came to pass that I, Nephi, did make out of wood a bow, and out of a straight stick, an arrow; wherefore, I did arm myself with a bow and an arrow, with a sling and with stones. And I said unto my father: **Whither shall I go** to obtain food? Nephi prepares himself to help his family and then turns to his father for guidance. He easily could have taken over leadership of the family, but instead provides his father a chance to set things right.

24 And it came to pass that he did inquire of the Lord, for **they had humbled themselves** because of my words; for I did say many things unto them in the energy of my soul.

25 And it came to pass that the voice of the Lord came unto my father; and he was **truly chastened** because of his murmuring against the Lord, insomuch that he was brought down into the **depths of sorrow**. I am glad we have this example of the prophet in the story making a mistake, feeling profound and sincere regret, repenting, and changing for the better.

26 And it came to pass that the voice of the Lord said unto him: Look upon the ball, and behold the things which are written.

27 And it came to pass that when my father beheld the things which were written upon the ball, he did fear and tremble exceedingly, and also my brethren and the sons of Ishmael and our wives.

28 And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld the pointers which were in the ball, that **they did work according to the faith and diligence and heed which we did give unto them**. This experience seems to have had a formative impact on the Nephites, or at least the record keepers—see Alma’s appeal to the Liahona in Alma 37:38-47.

29 And there was also written upon them a **new writing**, which was plain to be read, which did give us understanding concerning the ways of the Lord; and it was written and changed from time to time, according to the **faith and diligence** which we gave unto it. Important pairing of traits: Faith motivates us to action, and diligence motivates us to persist in actions that will bring about desired results. And thus we see that **by small means the Lord can bring about great things**.

30 And it came to pass that I, Nephi, did go forth up into the **top of the mountain**, according to the **directions** which were given upon the ball. Mountain tops are symbolic of connecting with God (ancients believed Gods lived there)

31 And it came to pass that I did slay wild beasts, **insomuch that I did obtain food for our families**.

32 And it came to pass that I did return to our tents, bearing the beasts which I had slain; and now **when they beheld that I had obtained food, how great was**

their joy! And it came to pass that they did **humble themselves** before the Lord, and did **give thanks** unto him.

33 And it came to pass that we did again take our journey, traveling nearly the same course as in the beginning; and after we had traveled for the space of many days we did pitch our tents again, that we might tarry for the space of a time.

34 And it came to pass that Ishmael died, and was buried in the place which was called Nahom.

35 And it came to pass that the daughters of Ishmael did mourn exceedingly, because of the loss of their father, and because of their afflictions in the wilderness; and they did murmur against my father, because he had brought them out of the land of Jerusalem, saying: Our father is dead; yea, and we have wandered much in the wilderness, and we have suffered much affliction, hunger, thirst, and fatigue; and after all these sufferings we must perish in the wilderness with hunger. **Looks like food remained an urgent issue, and Ishmael’s daughters blamed the hardship in the wilderness for the timing of their father’s death.**

36 And thus they did murmur against my father, and also against me; and they were desirous to **return again to Jerusalem.** **Wanting to go back to the familiar rather than moving forward.**

37 And Laman said unto Lemuel and also unto the sons of Ishmael: Behold, let us slay our father, and also our brother Nephi, who has taken it upon him to be our ruler and our teacher, who are his elder brethren.

38 Now, he says that the Lord has talked with him, and also that angels have ministered unto him. But behold, we know that he lies unto us; and he tells us these things, and he worketh many things by his cunning arts, that he may deceive our eyes, thinking, perhaps, that he may lead us away into some strange wilderness; and after he has led us away, he has thought to make himself a king and a ruler over us, that he may do with us according to his will and pleasure. And after this manner did my brother Laman stir up their hearts to anger.

39 And it came to pass that the Lord was with us, yea, even the voice of the Lord came and did speak many words unto them, and did chasten them exceedingly; and after **they were chastened by the voice of the Lord** they did turn away their anger, and did repent of their sins, **insomuch** that the Lord did bless us again with food, that we did not perish. **Continued emphasis on food—the wording suggests that if they had not humbled themselves they would have perished.**

1 Ne. 17

1 And it came to pass that we did again take our journey in the wilderness; and we did travel nearly eastward from that time forth. And **we did travel and wade through**

much affliction in the wilderness; and our women did bear children in the wilderness.

2 And **so great were the blessings** of the Lord upon us, that while we did live upon raw meat in the wilderness, *Can you imagine?* our women did give plenty of suck for their children, and were strong, yea, even like unto the men; and they began to bear their journeyings without murmurings. *Now that’s what I call a positive attitude.*

3 And thus we see that the commandments of God must be fulfilled. And **if it so be that the children of men keep the commandments of God he doth nourish them, and strengthen them, and provide means whereby they can accomplish the thing which he has commanded them**; wherefore, he did provide means for us while we did sojourn in the wilderness. *But that blessed experience can still be crazy hard and painful.*

4 And we did sojourn for the space of many years, yea, even eight years in the wilderness.

5 And we did come to the land which we called Bountiful, **because of its much fruit** and also wild honey; and all these things were prepared of the Lord that we might not perish. And we beheld the sea, which we called Irreantum, which, being interpreted, is many waters. *Again, it looks like they were close to perishing. It is no surprise that the trip across the ocean would have been a breaking point.*

6 And it came to pass that we did pitch our tents by the seashore; and notwithstanding **we had suffered many afflictions and much difficulty**, yea, even so much that we cannot write them all, we were exceedingly rejoiced when we came to the seashore; and we called the place Bountiful, **because of its much fruit**. *The repetition drives home their desperation.*

7 And it came to pass that after I, Nephi, had been in the land of Bountiful for the **space of many days**, the voice of the Lord came unto me, saying: Arise, and get thee into the mountain. And it came to pass that I arose and went up into the mountain, and cried unto the Lord. *Recovery time. I also wouldn’t be surprised if they thought Bountiful was an end point. They made it! They are finally done with the difficult traveling! Bu nope; God has other challenging instructions.*

8 And it came to pass that the Lord spake unto me, saying: **Thou shalt construct a ship**, after the manner which I shall show thee, that I may carry thy people across these waters.

9 And I said: Lord, whither shall I go that I may find ore to molten, that I may make tools to construct the ship after the manner which thou hast shown unto me? *Very interesting to note what skills Nephi has and what additional information he requires. He already knows how to forge ore and just needs to know where it can be found.*

10 And it came to pass that the Lord told me whither I should go to find ore, that I might **make tools**.

11 And it came to pass that I, Nephi, did **make a bellows** wherewith to blow the fire, of the skins of beasts; and after I had made a bellows, that I might have wherewith to blow the fire, I did smite two stones together that I might make fire.

12 For the Lord had not hitherto suffered that we should make much fire, as we journeyed in the wilderness; for he said: I will make thy food become sweet, that ye cook it not;

13 And **I will also be your light in the wilderness**; and I will prepare the way before you, if it so be that ye shall keep my commandments; wherefore, inasmuch as ye shall keep my commandments ye shall be led towards the promised land; and **ye shall know that it is by me that ye are led.**

14 Yea, and the Lord said also that: After ye have arrived in the promised land, **ye shall know that I, the Lord, am God**; and that I, the Lord, did deliver you from destruction; yea, that I did bring you out of the land of Jerusalem.

15 Wherefore, I, Nephi, did **strive to keep the commandments of the Lord**, and I did exhort my brethren to faithfulness and diligence. *Strive is a great word.*

16 And it came to pass that **I did make tools** of the ore which I did molten out of the rock.

17 And when my brethren saw that I was about to build a ship, they began to murmur against me, saying: Our brother is a fool, for he thinketh that he can build a ship; yea, and he also thinketh that he can cross these great waters. *Note that Laman and Lemuel are hanging out watching Nephi work.*

18 And thus my brethren did complain against me, and were **desirous that they might not labor**, for they did not believe that I could build a ship; neither would they believe that I was instructed of the Lord. *Interesting insight (if we can believe Nephi): Laman and Lemuel did not believe because believing would require more work from them.*

19 And now it came to pass that I, Nephi, was **exceedingly sorrowful** because of the hardness of their hearts; and now when they saw that I began to be sorrowful they were glad in their hearts, insomuch that they did rejoice over me, saying: We knew that ye could not construct a ship, for we knew that ye were lacking in judgment; wherefore, thou canst not accomplish so great a work. *Nephi is being vulnerable and his brothers mock him.*

20 And thou art like unto our father, led away by the foolish imaginations of his heart; yea, he hath led us out of the land of Jerusalem, and we have wandered in the wilderness for these many years; and our women have toiled, being big with child; and they have borne children in the wilderness and **suffered all things**, save it were death; and **it would have been better that they had died before they came out of Jerusalem than to have suffered these afflictions.**

21 Behold, these many years we have suffered in the wilderness, which time **we might have enjoyed our possessions** and the land of our inheritance; yea, and **we**

might have been happy. It is clear where happiness comes from according to Laman and Lemuel.

22 And we know that the people who were in the land of Jerusalem were a righteous people; for they kept the statutes and judgments of the Lord, and all his commandments, according to the law of Moses; wherefore, we know that they are a righteous people; and our father hath judged them, and hath led us away because we would hearken unto his words; yea, and our brother is like unto him. And after this manner of language did my brethren murmur and complain against us. This was called “Zion theology” (the idea that God would forever protect Jerusalem, temple, and Davidic King) and was extremely popular before the destruction of Jerusalem decisively disproved it.

23 And it came to pass that I, Nephi, spake unto them, saying: Do ye believe that our fathers, who were the children of Israel, would have been led away out of the hands of the Egyptians if they had not hearkened unto the words of the Lord?

24 Yea, do ye suppose that they would have been led out of bondage, if the Lord had not commanded Moses that he should lead them out of bondage?

25 Now ye know that the children of Israel were in bondage; and ye know that they were laden with tasks, which were grievous to be borne; wherefore, ye know that it must needs be a good thing for them, that they should be brought out of bondage.

26 Now ye know that Moses was commanded of the Lord to do that great work; and ye know that by his word the waters of the Red Sea were divided hither and thither, and they passed through on dry ground.

27 But ye know that the Egyptians were drowned in the Red Sea, who were the armies of Pharaoh.

28 And ye also know that they were fed with manna in the wilderness.

29 Yea, and ye also know that Moses, by his word according to the power of God which was in him, smote the rock, and there came forth water, that the children of Israel might quench their thirst.

30 And notwithstanding they being led, the Lord their God, their Redeemer, going before them, leading them by day and giving light unto them by night, and doing all things for them which were expedient for man to receive, they hardened their hearts and blinded their minds, and reviled against Moses and against the true and living God. Nephi appeals to traditions Laman and Lemuel respect to encourage them in their situation.

31 And it came to pass that according to his word he did destroy them; and according to his word he did lead them; and according to his word he did do all things for them; and there was not any thing done save it were by his word. (There is troubling theology here that reflect’s Nephi’s perspectives)

32 And after they had crossed the river Jordan he did make them mighty unto the driving out of the children of the land, yea, unto the scattering them to destruction.

33 And now, do ye suppose that the children of this land, who were in the land of promise, who were driven out by our fathers, do ye suppose that they were righteous? Behold, I say unto you, Nay.

34 Do ye suppose that our fathers would have been more choice than they if they had been righteous? I say unto you, Nay.

35 Behold, **the Lord esteemeth all flesh in one; he that is righteous is favored of God.** But behold, this people had rejected every word of God, and they were ripe in iniquity; and the fulness of the wrath of God was upon them; and the Lord did curse the land against them, and bless it unto our fathers; yea, he did curse it against them unto their destruction, and he did bless it unto our fathers unto their obtaining power over it. **This is a *radical* idea within the context of Judaism (and similar to what Jesus taught). It isn't a group of people who are chosen; we are "chosen" or favored of God if we live in accordance to gospel principles that will allow us to become like Them.**

36 Behold, the Lord hath created the earth that it should be inhabited; and he hath created his children that they should possess it.

37 And he raiseth up a righteous nation, and destroyeth the nations of the wicked.

38 And he leadeth away the righteous into precious lands, and the wicked he destroyeth, and curseth the land unto them for their sakes.

39 He ruleth high in the heavens, for it is his throne, and this earth is his footstool.

40 And **he loveth those who will have him to be their God.** Behold, he loved our fathers, and he covenanted with them, yea, even Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and he remembered the covenants which he had made; wherefore, he did bring them out of the land of Egypt. **I would deduce that Nephi is using "love" here in a technical sense. God loves us all, but God is able to more directly bless those who "will have him to be their God".. provocative wording worth discussion.**

41 And he did straiten them in the wilderness with his rod; for they hardened their hearts, even as ye have; and the Lord straitened them because of their iniquity. He sent fiery flying serpents (dragons? ;) “fiery flying serpents” are mentioned in Isaiah 30:6 and likely refer to venomous darting snakes, though the Hebrew says “flying seraphs”) among them; and after they were bitten he prepared a way that they might be healed; and the labor which they had to perform was to look; and because of the simpleness of the way, or the easiness of it, there were many who perished.

42 And they did **harden their hearts from time to time**, and they did revile against Moses, and also against God; nevertheless, ye know that they were led forth by his matchless power into the land of promise.

43 And now, after all these things, the time has come that they have become wicked, yea, nearly unto ripeness; and I know not but they are at this day about to be destroyed; for I know that the day must surely come that they must be destroyed, save a few only, who shall be led away into captivity.

44 Wherefore, the Lord commanded my father that he should depart into the wilderness; and the Jews also sought to take away his life; yea, and ye also have sought to take away his life; wherefore, ye are murderers in your hearts and ye are like unto them.

45 Ye are swift to do iniquity but slow to remember the Lord your God. Ye have seen an angel, and he spake unto you; yea, ye have heard his voice from time to time; and he hath spoken unto you in a still small voice, but ye were past feeling, that ye could not feel his words; wherefore, he has spoken unto you like unto the voice of thunder, which did cause the earth to shake as if it were to divide asunder. *As usual, no tact.*

46 And ye also know that by the power of his almighty word he can cause the earth that it shall pass away; yea, and ye know that by his word he can cause the rough places to be made smooth, and smooth places shall be broken up. O, then, why is it, that ye can be so hard in your hearts?

47 Behold, my soul is rent with anguish because of you, and my heart is pained; I fear lest ye shall be cast off forever. Behold, I am full of the Spirit of God, insomuch that my frame has no strength.

48 And now it came to pass that when I had spoken these words they were angry with me, and were desirous to throw me into the depths of the sea; and as they came forth to lay their hands upon me I spake unto them, saying: In the name of the Almighty God, I command you that ye touch me not, for I am filled with the power of God, even unto the consuming of my flesh; and whoso shall lay his hands upon me shall wither even as a dried reed; and he shall be as naught before the power of God, for God shall smite him. *I think God works with us in different ways. Nephi could have treated his brothers better, but God has his back.*

49 And it came to pass that I, Nephi, said unto them that they should murmur no more against their father; neither should they withhold their labor from me, for God had commanded me that I should build a ship.

50 And I said unto them: **If God had commanded me to do all things I could do them.** If he should command me that I should say unto this water, be thou earth, it should be earth; and if I should say it, it would be done.

51 And now, if the Lord has such great power, and has wrought so many miracles among the children of men, how is it that he cannot instruct me, that I should build a ship?

52 And it came to pass that I, Nephi, said many things unto my brethren, insomuch that they were **confounded** and could not contend against me; neither durst they lay their hands upon me nor touch me with their fingers, even for the space of many days. Now they durst not do this lest they should wither before me, so powerful was the Spirit of God; and thus it had wrought upon them. *Spiritual equivalent of beating them into submission.*

53 And it came to pass that the Lord said unto me: Stretch forth thine hand again unto thy brethren, and they shall not wither before thee, but I will shock them, saith the Lord, and this will I do, that they may know that I am the Lord their God.

54 And it came to pass that I stretched forth my hand unto my brethren, and they did not wither before me; but the Lord did shake them, even according to the word which he had spoken.

55 And now, they said: We know of a surety that the Lord is with thee, for we know that it is the **power of the Lord that has shaken us**. And they fell down before me, and were about to worship me, but I would not suffer them, saying: I am thy brother, yea, even thy younger brother; wherefore, worship the Lord thy God, and honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long in the land which the Lord thy God shall give thee. [Perhaps Nephi and Lehi could have communicated with Laman and Lemuel in a way that would have gotten through to them, but this verse also shows that they primarily respect power and don't know quite how to put it into perspective.](#)

1 Ne. 18

1 And it came to pass that they did worship the Lord, and did go forth with me; and we did work timbers of curious workmanship. And the Lord did show me from time to time after what manner I should work the timbers of the ship.

2 Now I, Nephi, did not work the timbers after the manner which was learned by men, neither did I build the ship after the manner of men; but **I did build it after the manner which the Lord had shown unto me**; wherefore, it was not after the manner of men.

3 And I, Nephi, did **go into the mount oft**, and I did **pray oft** unto the Lord; wherefore the Lord showed unto me great things.

4 And it came to pass that after I had finished the ship, according to the word of the Lord, my brethren beheld that it was good, and that the workmanship thereof was exceedingly fine; wherefore, they did humble themselves again before the Lord. [His brothers seem sincerely moved/impressed.](#)

5 And it came to pass that the voice of the Lord came unto my father, that we should arise and go down into the ship. [Stewardship: Note that Nephi received the command that only he could carry out, and Lehi received the general directions.](#)

6 And it came to pass that on the morrow, after we had **prepared all things**, much fruits and meat from the wilderness, and honey in abundance, and provisions according to that which the Lord had commanded us, we did go down into the ship, with all our loading and our seeds, and whatsoever thing we had brought with us, every one according to his age; wherefore, we did all go down into the ship, with our wives and our children.

7 And now, **my father had begat two sons in the wilderness**; the elder was called Jacob and the younger Joseph.

8 And it came to pass after we had all gone down into the ship, and had taken with us our provisions and **things which had been commanded us**, we did put forth into the sea and were driven forth before the wind towards the promised land. Notice how clearly the divine intervention is emphasized.

9 And after we had been driven forth before the wind for the space of many days, behold, my brethren and the sons of Ishmael and also their wives began to **make themselves merry**, insomuch that they began to dance, and to sing, and to speak with much rudeness, yea, even that they did forget by what power they had been brought thither; yea, they were lifted up unto exceeding rudeness.

10 And I, Nephi, began to fear exceedingly lest the Lord should be angry with us, and smite us because of our iniquity, that we should be swallowed up in the depths of the sea; wherefore, I, Nephi, began to speak to them with much soberness; but behold they were angry with me, saying: We will not that our younger brother shall be a ruler over us. I think this is another case where Nephi created his own problems. He was really uptight. It was a long, probably boring journey. I don't think there was anything intrinsically wrong with his family members having a good time. Nephi was projecting his own concerns and value judgments on their behavior, and rigidly took them to task. They were pushed to their limit in the wilderness, Nephi had been consistently shaming, and so they snapped. Their behavior is inexcusable, but it remains worthwhile to consider how Nephi contributed to it, and how we can apply these insights into our own lives.

11 And it came to pass that Laman and Lemuel did take me and bind me with cords, and they did treat me with much harshness; nevertheless, the Lord did suffer it that he might show forth his power, unto the fulfilling of his word which he had spoken concerning the wicked. Note how Nephi is telling a story about why things happened, one that doesn't take into account his own actions.

12 And it came to pass that after they had bound me insomuch that I could not move, the compass, which had been prepared of the Lord, did cease to work.

13 Wherefore, they knew not whither they should steer the ship, insomuch that there arose a great storm, yea, a great and terrible tempest, and we were driven back upon the waters for the space of three days; and they began to be frightened exceedingly lest they should be drowned in the sea; nevertheless they did not loose me.

14 And on the fourth day, which we had been driven back, the tempest began to be exceedingly sore.

15 And it came to pass that we were about to be swallowed up in the depths of the sea. And after we had been driven back upon the waters for the space of four days, my brethren began to see that the judgments of God were upon them, and that **they must perish save that they should repent of their iniquities**; wherefore, they came

unto me, and loosed the bands which were upon my wrists, and behold they had swollen exceedingly; and also mine ankles were much swollen, and great was the soreness thereof.

16 Nevertheless, I did look unto my God, and I did praise him all the day long; and I did not murmur against the Lord because of mine afflictions. **Note that Nephi is not really engaging with his brothers (of course, it was probably too late at this point)**

17 Now my father, Lehi, had said many things unto them, and also unto the sons of Ishmael; but, behold, they did breathe out much threatenings against anyone that should speak for me; and my parents being stricken in years, and having suffered much grief because of their children, they were brought down, yea, even upon their sick-beds.

18 Because of their grief and much sorrow, and the iniquity of my brethren, they were brought near even to be carried out of this time to meet their God; yea, their grey hairs were about to be brought down to lie low in the dust; yea, even they were near to be cast with sorrow into a watery grave.

19 And Jacob and Joseph also, being young, having need of much nourishment, were **grieved because of the afflictions of their mother**; and also **my wife** with her tears and prayers, and also **my children**, did not soften the hearts of my brethren that they would loose me. **Precious mention of women and children.**

20 And there was nothing save it were the power of God, which **threatened them with destruction, could soften their hearts**; wherefore, when they saw that they were about to be swallowed up in the depths of the sea they repented of the thing which they had done, insomuch that they loosed me. **Again, note the progression of Laman and Lemuel’s stubbornness (but remember Nephi’s contributions)**

21 And it came to pass after they had loosed me, behold, I took the compass, and it did work whither I desired it. And it came to pass that I prayed unto the Lord; and after I had prayed the winds did cease, and the storm did cease, and there was a great calm.

22 And it came to pass that I, Nephi, did guide the ship, that we sailed again towards the promised land.

23 And it came to pass that after we had sailed for the space of many days we did arrive at the promised land; and we went forth upon the land, and did pitch our tents; and we did call it the promised land.

24 And it came to pass that we did begin to till the earth, and we began to plant seeds; yea, we did put all our seeds into the earth, which we had brought from the land of Jerusalem. And it came to pass that they did grow exceedingly; wherefore, we were blessed in abundance.

25 And it came to pass that we did find upon the land of promise, as we journeyed in the wilderness, that there were beasts in the forests of every kind, both the cow and the ox, and the ass and the horse, and the goat and the wild goat, and all manner of wild

animals, which were for the use of men. And we did find all manner of ore, both of gold, and of silver, and of copper. (another focus on metal)

Additional Reading: Alma 37:38-46

Alma 37:38-46

38 And now, my son, I have somewhat to say concerning the thing which our fathers call a ball, or director—or our fathers called it Liahona, which is, being interpreted, a compass; and the Lord prepared it.

39 And behold, there cannot any man work after the manner of so curious a workmanship. And behold, it was prepared to show unto our fathers the course which they should travel in the wilderness.

40 And it did work for them according to their faith in God; therefore, if they had faith to believe that God could cause that those spindles should point the way they should go, behold, it was done; therefore they had this miracle, and also many other miracles wrought by the power of God, day by day.

41 Nevertheless, because those miracles were worked by small means it did show unto them marvelous works. They were slothful, and forgot to exercise their faith and diligence and then those marvelous works ceased, and they did not progress in their journey;

42 Therefore, they tarried in the wilderness, or did not travel a direct course, and were afflicted with hunger and thirst, because of their transgressions.

43 And now, my son, I would that ye should understand that these things are not without a shadow; for as our fathers were slothful to give heed to this compass (now these things were temporal) they did not prosper; even so it is with things which are spiritual.

44 For behold, it is as easy to give heed to the word of Christ, which will point to you a straight course to eternal bliss, as it was for our fathers to give heed to this compass, which would point unto them a straight course to the promised land.

45 And now I say, is there not a type in this thing? For just as surely as this director did bring our fathers, by following its course, to the promised land, shall the words of Christ, if we follow their course, carry us beyond this vale of sorrow into a far better land of promise.

46 O my son, do not let us be slothful because of the easiness of the way; for so was it with our fathers; for so was it prepared for them, that if they would look they might live; even so it is with us. The way is prepared, and if we will look we may live forever.
