

354: Jan. 5: Reading the Book of Mormon (Book of Mormon Week 1)

Goal: To get a sense of your relationship to the Book of Mormon and foster a healthy, constructive approach to it.

Reading: Introduction to the Book of Mormon (Title Page, Introduction, Three and Eight Witnesses, Brief Explanation about the Book of Mormon)

Episode Outline

1. Overview for the year
2. Goals for the podcast
3. Lesson
 - a. What is your relationship to the Book of Mormon?
 - b. What is the Book of Mormon?
 - c. How do we approach the Book of Mormon?
 - d. Scripture priorities
 - e. Introductory questions
 - f. Reading
4. Recommended resources (I haven't looked at all of these but will be weighing in as we move forward this year)
 - a. New Church resources: Come Follow Me, Book of Mormon videos
 - b. Study Book of Mormon by the Maxwell Institute
 - c. Understanding the Book of Mormon, Grant Hardy
 - d. Scripture Plus by Book of Mormon Central
<https://bookofmormoncentral.org/blog/new-free-scriptureplus-app-helps-you-experience-the-book-of-mormon>
 - e. Book of Mormon: Brief Theological Introductions
(<https://mi.byu.edu/bom-bti-2020/>)
 - f. Book of Mormon Made Harder, James Faulconer (available as a free PDF!)
<https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/mi/16/>
 - g. Book of Mormon: A Very Short Introduction (I LOVE this series!)
 - h. Lost 116 Pages, Don Bradley
5. Conclusion: Goals and hopes for our relationship to the Book of Mormon (hope we will come closer to God, become better disciples, better humans, glad to be on this journey with you)

Overview for the year (22 Sunday School weeks) Reading the entirety of the Book of Mormon in segments, which I'm glad for. (and yes, I still want to put out the missing New Testament episode. Just prioritizing as needed)

*Dec 30- Jan 5 :	Introductory
January 6-12:	1 Ne 1-7
*January 13- 19 :	1 Ne 8-10
January 20-26:	1 Ne 11-15
*Jan 27- Feb 2 :	1 Ne 16-22
Feb 3-9:	2 Ne 1-5
*Feb 10- 16 :	2 Ne 6-10
Feb 17-23:	2 Ne 11-25
*Feb 24- March 1	2 Ne 26-30
March 2-8	2 Ne 31-33
*March 9- 15	Jacob 1-4
March 16-22	Jacob 5-7
March 23-29	Enos-Words of Mormon
March 30-April 12	General Conference/Easter
*April 13- 19	Mosiah 1-3
*April 27- May 3	Mosiah 7-10
May 4-10	Mosiah 11-17
*May 11- 17	Mosiah 18-24
May 18-24	Mosiah 25-28
May 25-31	Mosiah 29-Alma 4
*June 1- 7	Alma 5-7
June 8-14	Alma 8-12
*June 15- 21	Alma 13-16
June 22-28	Alma 17-22
*June 29- July 5	Alma 23-29
July 6-12	Alma 30-31
*July 13- 19	Alma 32-35
July 20-26	Alma 36-38
*July 27- Aug 2	Alma 39-42
Aug 3-9	Alma 43-52
*Aug 10- 16	Alma 53-63
Aug 17-23	Helaman 1-6
Aug 24-30	Helaman 7-12
*Aug 31- Sept 6	Helaman 13-16
Sept 7-13	3 Nephi 1-7
*Sept 14- 20	3 Nephi 8-11
Sept 21-27	3 Nephi 12-16
Sept 28-Oct 11	General Conference/3 Nephi 17-19
*Oct 12- 18	3 Nephi 20-26
Oct 19-25	3 Nephi 27-4 Nephi
*Oct 26- Nov 1	Mormon 1-6
Nov 2-8	Mormon 7-9
*Nov 9- 15	Ether 1-5

Nov 16-22	Ether 6-11
Nov 23-29	Ether 12-15
*Nov 30- Dec 6	Moroni 1-6
Dec 7-13	Moroni 7-9
*Dec 14- 20	Moroni 10
Dec 21-27	Christmas

Goals for the podcast

Me:

- 1) Stay two weeks ahead the entire year

You/Us

- 1) Fundraising sustainable
- 2) Increase listenership

Lesson

What is your relationship to the Book of Mormon?

What is the Book of Mormon?

How do we approach the Book of Mormon?

Is the Book of Mormon worth reading?

My favorite solutions are the ones that work with elegant efficiency. I propose an approach to the Book of Mormon it works no matter what you believe about it. I propose we take it seriously and allow for it to be literal and also take seriously the fact that it was produced in the 19 century.

Here's how I propose we read the Book of Mormon

1. Take it seriously
2. Allow it to be literal
3. Accept its 19th century features
4. Handhold: The English Book of Mormon as we have it is not what was on the plates.

Once again, priorities reading the scriptures (with proportional weight)

1. Devotional: How does this help me feel better, become a better person, and serve others?
2. Theological: What does this passage teach me about God/spiritual reality?
3. Literary: What does this passage say and how does it say it? How does it relate to other passages and scriptures?

4. Historical: How does this passage relate to the past and present? (spoiler: Everything is historical fiction at best)

I'm all for digging in and having as much fun as possible with all of these categories. I have loved connecting the dots in the scriptures. But when we put healthy weight in this order, the Book of Mormon and other scripture

Any reader can take this approach and fit it into their personal belief, experience, and relationship with the Book of Mormon

Talk about order of operations, target, and weight. (If we focus on the devotional and personal benefit of the Book of Mormon, we become better people, we fulfill the main purpose of the Book of Mormon (come unto Christ), and everything else remains an interesting bonus)

Book of Mormon Inventory (feel free to come up with your own to share)

- 1) How would you describe your relationship to the Book of Mormon? Appreciative and respectful along with nostalgia
- 2) Who is your favorite character? Moroni. Alma and Jacob are up there too. (I go for the sensitive souls)
- 3) What is your favorite story? Several... brother of Jared talking to the Lord. Ether 12. Alma 32. King Benjamin's speech... I just realized sermons are my favorite!
- 4) Who is a character you dislike or struggle with? Apart from the obvious baddies, probably Nephi?
- 5) What is a story you dislike or struggle with? Alma and Amulek
- 6) What part of the Book of Mormon has helped you the most? Probably Ether 12
- 7) What do you most appreciate about the Book of Mormon? How much it rewards careful study and application

Reading

Title Page (What I like about this is how clear it is about the complexity of the Book of Mormon)

Introduction: (Talked with Daniel about this. McConkie, passed through committees?) First in the 1981 edition.

Three and Eight Witnesses Complex histories. I appreciate the additional witnesses Grant Hardy adds in his Reader's Edition (and the Study BoM)

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/history/topics/witnesses-of-the-book-of-mormon?lang=eng>

Brief Explanation about the Book of Mormon. 1977 version has "Brief Analysis of the Book of Mormon"

Recommended resources (I haven't looked at all of these but will be weighing in as we move forward this year)

New Church resources: Come Follow Me, Book of Mormon videos

Study Book of Mormon by the Maxwell Institute

Understanding the Book of Mormon, Grant Hardy

Scripture Plus by Book of Mormon Central

<https://bookofmormoncentral.org/blog/new-free-scriptureplus-app-helps-you-experience-the-book-of-mormon>

Book of Mormon: Brief Theological Introductions (<https://mi.byu.edu/bom-bti-2020/>)

Book of Mormon Made Harder, James Faulconer (available as a free PDF!)

<https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/mi/16/>

Book of Mormon: A Very Short Introduction (I LOVE this series!)

Lost 116 Pages, Don Bradley

Conclusion: Goals and hopes for our relationship to the Book of Mormon (hope we will come closer to God, become better disciples, better humans, glad to be on this journey with you)