

## LESSON 4 by Dennis N. Roberts

### “Remember the New Covenant, Even the Book of Mormon”

(Objective: to help members recognize God’s hand in BofM)

#### Welcome

##### Supplement #1

*What is today’s lesson about?*

#### 1- Joseph Smith’s preparation to receive & translate BofM

- a. JSH-1:27 JS remained true to testimony despite what?
- b. JSH-1:28-29 What was JS praying for when Moroni came?
- c. *Study Guide 27 Map 1 / Early Joseph Smith History*
- d. JSH-1:30,44,46,49 How was JS prepared to receive plates?
- e. JSH-1:50 How did Joseph’s father respond to JS?

#### 2- The miracle of the Book of Mormon’s preservation

- a. JSH-1:60-61 How did Satan try to thwart BofM?
- b. Our Heritage 7-8 116 pages are lost
- c. D&C 3:7;10:1-2 Who did Joseph fear most & what resulted?
- d. D&C 3:8-10 Did the Lord still love Joseph? Why?
- e. D&C 10:10-19 What were plans for stolen 116 pages?
- f. D&C 10:38-39; 1 Nephi 9:4-6 What had Lord done to prepare?
- g. D&C 10:40-45 What did Lord tell prophet to do to spoil plan?
- h. D&C 10:14 What has this taught us about Lord’s power?
- i. D&C 10:60-66 What is Lord’s purpose for BofM?

#### 3- Witnesses of the Book of Mormon

- a. 2 Nephi 27:12-14 What did the Lord promise?
- b. D&C 5:11-15 What was their charge?
- c. *Supplement #2 David Whitmer’s final testimony*
- d. D&C 17:6 Who else serves as witness of BofM?
- e. *Supplement #3 Elder Gordon B. Hinckley*

#### 4- Our duty to remember the Book of Mormon

- a. D&C 84:54-56 Why was the church under condemnation?
- b. D&C 57-58 What must we do to remove condemnation?
- c. *Supplement #4 President Ezra Taft Benson*

#### How does this apply to me?

*The Book of Mormon has been published in more than 90 languages.*

*More than 100 million copies have been printed.*

*What is the Granger 18<sup>th</sup> Ward doing to “publish” its message?*

#### **Next Lesson**

Lesson 5 / Study Guide, page 5 / Personal Revelation

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## LESSON 4 SUPPLEMENTS *by Dennis N. Roberts*

### SUPPLEMENT #1

The Book of Mormon



### SUPPLEMENT #2

**David Whitmer**

“It is recorded in the American Encyclopedia and the Encyclopedia Britannica that I, David Whitmer, have denied my testimony as one of the three witnesses to the divinity of the Book of Mormon, and that the other two witnesses, Oliver Cowdery and Martin Harris, denied their testimony to that book. I will say once more to all mankind, that I have never at any time denied that testimony or any part thereof. I also testify to the world, that neither Oliver Cowdery nor Martin Harris ever at any time denied their testimony. They both died reaffirming the truth of the divine authenticity of the Book of Mormon.”

(Comprehensive History of the Church, 1:145)

### SUPPLEMENT #3

**Elder Gordon B. Hinckley**

“The strength of the Church is not in... its thousands of houses of worship across the world, nor in its universities... The strength of this church lies in the hearts of its people, in the individual testimony and conviction of the truth of this work.”

(General Conference, April 1973)

### SUPPLEMENT #4

**President Ezra Taft Benson**

“The Lord is not pleased with us in the manner of attention we’re giving the Book of Mormon, a new witness for Christ. We need it in our homes; we need it in our families. It was written for us today.”

(Church News, 9 Nov 1986, 10)

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The book of Mormon was the most essential treasure of an entire nation, prepared during a thousand years of history. Can you appreciate why seven years passed from the time of the First Vision until the golden record was actually entrusted to the young prophet?

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**“Remember the New Covenant, Even the Book of Mormon”**  
 (Objective: to help members recognize God’s hand in the Book of Mormon)

Most of the people who attack the *Book of Mormon* have never read it. They re-hash the old charges and threadbare arguments proposed by enemies since 1827. You might find some success in helping such people by bearing your witness of the book, and in refuting their charges by giving them a copy of the book and inviting them to get back to you when they can tell you what the book *really* says.

### Welcom Supplement

*What is today’s lesson about? ..... Japanese, Russian, Korean phrases for BofM*

### 1- Joseph Sr. preparation to receive & translate BofM

- a. JSH-1:27 JS remained true to testimony despite what? ..... Do we face persecution? What kind? How do we cope?
- b. JSH-1:28-29 What was JS praying for when Moroni came?..... (JS=17 years old) forgiveness for sins and for a manifestation
- c. Study Guide 27 Map 1 / Early Joseph Smith History ..... *important places in early history of Joseph Smith*
- d. JSH-1:30,44,46,49 How was JS prepared to receive plates? ..... 4 visits from Moroni / How does Lord prepare us?
- e. JSH-1:50 How did Joseph’s father respond to JS? ..... What does this reveal about both Joseph Sr. and Joseph Jr.?

### 2- The miracle of the Book of Mormon’s preservation

- a. JSH-1:60-61 How did Satan try to thwart BofM..... refer to map on page 27 of study guide or supplement #2
- b. Our Heritage 7-8 116 pages are lost ..... For what purpose? Lord could have stopped this!
- c. D&C 3:7;10:1-2 Who did Joseph fear most & what resulted? ..... Section 3 after loss and Section 10 when gift restored
- d. D&C 3:8-10 Did the Lord still love Joseph? Why? ..... Verse 8 “in every time of trouble” / Do we believe this?
- e. D&C 10:10-19 What were plans for stolen 116 pages? ..... What was reaction of those who stole when plan was thwarted?
- f. D&C 10:38-39; 1 Nephi 9:4-6 What had Lord done to prepare?..... 2400 years earlier Lord gave Nephi “illogical” directions
- g. D&C 10:40-45 What did Lord tell prophet to do to spoil plan?..... Should we trust the Lord to do what is best for us?
- h. D&C 10:14 What has this taught us about Lord’s power?..... What do we learn when we have setbacks and disappointments?
- i. D&C 10:60-66 What is Lord’s purpose for BofM? ..... Are these purposes being fulfilled today?

### 3- Witnesses of the Book of Mormon

- a. 2 Nephi 27:12-14 What did the Lord promise? ..... Who were Three? Oliver Cowdery, David Whitmer, Martin Harris
- b. D&C 5:11-15 What was their charge? ..... Why was their testimony important? Lift some burden from Joseph?
- c. Supplement #2 David Whitmer’s final testimony .....
- d. D&C 17:6 Who else serves as witness of BofM?..... In what ways can we be a witness of BofM?
- e. Supplement #3 Elder Gordon B. Hinckley.....

The question is never, *Will God’s work get done?* The question is, *Since God’s work will get done, do I want to be a part of it or not?*

### 4- Our duty to remember the Book of Mormon

- a. D&C 84:54-56 Why was the church under condemnation?..... Treat lightly things we have received (BofM and what else?)
- b. D&C 57-58 What must we do to remove condemnation?..... “not only to say but to do”
- c. Supplement #4 President Ezra Taft Benson ..... *Look what the Lord did to get it to us! Let’s pay more attention to it.*

The testimony of the book comes early in the process, and often comes easily. The great challenge is in application

### How does this apply to me?

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