



# The Stick of Joseph: another Testament of Jesus Christ

St George 5<sup>th</sup> Ward

## Seek Ye for the Kingdom of God

Lesson 12:



### INTRODUCTION

- What does a magnifying glass do?
- What does the word "magnify" mean?
- What does it mean to "magnify" a calling in the Church?
- How might you better magnify Your callings?

Read Jacob 1:17-19 and identify phrases that describe how Jacob magnified his calling from the Lord.

How Jacob magnified his calling from the Lord.	Verse
	(Jacob 1:17).
	(Jacob 1:18).
	(Jacob 1:19).
	(Jacob 1:19).
	(Jacob 1:19).

When Nephi neared the end of his mortal life, he gave his younger brothers, Jacob and Joseph, responsibility for the spiritual welfare of the Nephites. *Jacob felt the weight of his calling and sorrowed over the growing pride that led his people to be greedy and unchaste.* He strongly exhorted them to repent—to be reconciled to God through the Atonement. Think about Your own callings in the Church and how you might better magnify them.

### JACOB MAGNIFIES HIS CALLING FROM THE LORD. (Jacob 1)

- When Nephi gave the small plates to Jacob, he also gave Jacob specific instructions. What did Nephi instruct Jacob to record on these plates? (Jacob 1:1-4.)

- Why was it important to record and preserve this information? (Jacob 1:5-8.)
- What do these verses teach us about some of the things we should be recording about our lives?

- Jacob wrote that his people "loved Nephi exceedingly" (Jacob 1:10). **Why did they have this great love for Nephi?** (Jacob 1:10.)
- How have you felt toward those who have labored to serve you?

- **What did Jacob mean when he said that he "first obtained [his] errand from the Lord" before he taught the people?** (Jacob 1:17-18).
- How do we obtain our errand from the Lord?
- **How can we find out what the Lord wants us to do in our callings?**

- What did Jacob say would happen if he and Joseph did not teach the people diligently? (Jacob 1:19.)

- **Why is it so important that we magnify our callings?**
- What are some good examples you have seen of people magnifying their callings?

- **How can we better magnify our callings?** (D&C 58:26-28.)
- **How have you been blessed as you have done your best to fulfill your callings?**

### JACOB WARNS AGAINST LOVE OF RICHES, PRIDE, UNCHASTITY (Jacob 2-3)

- As he began to preach to the people of Nephi, Jacob said that *he was "weighed down with much more desire and anxiety"* than he had been before (Jacob 2:3). **Why was Jacob's soul "burdened"?** (Jacob 2:5-9; Jacob 1:15-16.)

- Why do you think that Jacob described sin as "labor"? (Jacob 2:5).

- **How did the search for material wealth become a stumbling block to the Nephites of Jacob's day?** (Jacob 2:12-16.)

- **How can obtaining an abundance of material wealth lead to pride?**

- **What are the proper ways to use wealth?**

- What counsel did Jacob give to help us avoid the misuse of wealth? (Jacob 2:17-21.)

- After warning the people about pride and the love of riches, Jacob called them to repentance for their immoral behavior. **How were the Nephites rationalizing their immoral behavior?** (Jacob 2:23-24.)

- **How do many people today try to excuse unchastity?**

- **Why is it important to be morally clean?** (Jacob 2:27-29;)

Exodus 20:14; 1 Corinthians 6:18-20.)

- ➔ **How can sexual immorality affect the sinner's family and friends and all members of society?** (Jacob 2:31-35; 3:10.)
- ➔ **What counsel and comfort did Jacob give to those who had been hurt by the immorality of others?** (Jacob 3:1-2.)
- ➔ **What must a person do to be forgiven of immorality?**
- ➔ According to Jacob, how were the Lamanites blessed for being chaste? (Jacob 3:5-7.)
- ➔ **What are the blessings of being morally clean?**

### JACOB TESTIFIES OF THE ATONEMENT OF JESUS CHRIST.

(Jacob 4)

- ➔ After calling his people to repentance, Jacob ended his sermon by testifying of the hope of forgiveness through the Atonement. **How do the scriptures and the prophets help us gain a testimony of the Atonement?** (Jacob 4:4-6.)
- ➔ **How can we obtain the hope in Christ that Jacob spoke of?** (Jacob 4:10-12.)
- ➔ **What do you think it meant that the Jews looked "beyond the mark"?** (Jacob 4:14.)
- ➔ How might we sometimes "look beyond the mark" in our daily living?
- ➔ **How can we be more diligent in remembering the importance of the Savior in our lives?**

Read Mosiah 3:17.

### ***TO THINK ABOUT***

#### JACOB CONDEMNS UNAUTHORIZED PLURAL MARRIAGE

- ➔ **Whom did the Nephites claim as examples to justify their whoredoms?** (Jacob 2:23-24.)
- ➔ **Why were David and Solomon unworthy examples?** (D&C 132:38-39.)
- ➔ **What marriage law did Jacob teach to the Nephites?** (Jacob 2:27-28.)

#### RECOGNIZING AND AVOIDING ABUSE

- ➔ What can we do to help recognize and prevent abuse?
- ➔ How can we help those who have been hurt by abuse?

#### JACOB WARNS AGAINST RACIAL PREJUDICE

- ➔ **Why did many of the Nephites look down on the Lamanites?** (Jacob 3:5, 9.)
- ➔ **What did Jacob say about this prejudice?** (Jacob 3:8-9.)
- ➔ **How can prejudice prevent the Church from fulfilling its divine mission?**

#### CONCLUSION

Jacob's teachings help us understand *the importance of magnifying our callings and avoiding pride and immorality*. By emphasizing the Atonement at the conclusion of his sermon, **Jacob taught that we must rely on the Savior.**

President Spencer W. Kimball taught:

"The possession of riches does not necessarily constitute sin. But sin may arise in the acquisition and use of wealth. ... For the

love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.' (1 Tim. 6:10-11.)

"Book of Mormon history eloquently reveals the corrosive effect of the passion for wealth. ... Had the people used their wealth for good purposes they could have enjoyed a continuing prosperity. But they seemed unable for a sustained period to be simultaneously wealthy and righteous" (The Miracle of Forgiveness [1969], 47-48).

President Ezra Taft Benson suggested five steps to be forgiven of unchastity ("The Law of Chastity," in Brigham Young University 1987-88 Devotional and Fireside Speeches [1988], 53-54).

1. "Flee immediately from any situation you are in that is either causing you to sin or that may cause you to sin."
2. "Plead with the Lord for the power to overcome."
3. "Let your priesthood leaders help you resolve the transgression and come back into full fellowship with the Lord."
4. "Drink from the divine fountain [the scriptures and words of the prophets] and fill your lives with positive sources of power."
5. "Remember that through proper repentance you can become clean again."

President Howard W. Hunter said:

"The restored gospel is a message of divine love for all people everywhere, based upon the conviction that all humans are children of the same God. ...

"... The validity, the power of our faith is not bound by history, nationality, or culture. It is not the peculiar property of any one people or any one age" (in Conference Report, Oct. 1991, 23-24; or Ensign, Nov. 1991, 19).

The Prophet Joseph Smith taught, "I have constantly said no man shall have but one wife at a time, unless the Lord directs otherwise" (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, sel. Joseph Fielding Smith [1976], 324).

The Lord gave such direction (see D&C 132), but He later withdrew His sanction of plural marriage when conditions changed (see Official Declaration 1). *The law of the Lord regarding marriage today is the same as it was in Jacob's day.*