

Purpose: To help us understand the doctrine of Christ and have an increased desire to press forward, feasting on His words.

1. Nephi teaches the doctrine of Christ. (Read [2 Nephi 31:1-18](#).)

• 2 Ne. 31:2 Nephi said he would “speak concerning the doctrine of Christ”. **What does he mean?**

†1. Elder Jeffrey R. Holland

• 2 Ne. 31:4-7 **Our Savior was perfect, so why did He submit to baptism?**

†2. President Joseph F. Smith †3. Elder Robert D. Hales

• 2 Ne. 31:9 **For what other reason was Jesus baptized?**

Summarize the reasons we need baptism: See 2 Nephi 31:13; 2 Nephi 31:17; D&C 20:37; D&C 20: 71-74.

• 2 Ne. 31:13 **What do you think it means to act without hypocrisy or deception before God?**

†4. Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin

How can following the Son “with full purpose of heart” help us avoid hypocrisy and deception?

• 2 Ne. 32:2-3 **What does it mean to speak with the tongue of angels?**

• 2 Ne. 31:17-18 **Why do you think Nephi used the word “fire” in describing a remission of sins?**

Why is it essential for us to receive a testimony of the Father and the Son through the Holy Ghost?

• [D&C 8:2-3](#) **In what ways can a witness from the Holy Ghost come to us?**

†5. President Boyd K. Packer

2. Nephi teaches that we must press forward and endure to the end. (Read [2 Nephi 31:19-21](#).)

• 2 Ne. 31:19-20 **What do you think it means to “press forward”?**

What things might distract, hinder, or block our pressing forward in Christ?

Why is pressing forward an important part of enduring to the end?

How can exercising our faith in Christ help us develop a “perfect brightness of hope”?

How can we help each other press forward in Christ?

†6. President Gordon B. Hinckley

• 2 Ne. 31:13, 15 **How would you describe or define “the doctrine of Christ”?**

3. Nephi speaks of the importance of feasting on the words of Christ. (Read [2 Nephi 32](#).)

• 2 Ne. 32:1-3 **What do you think it means to “feast upon the words of Christ”?**

How is “feasting” different from reading or even studying?

How can we encourage and help others to feast?

†7. Elder Neal A. Maxwell

What promise did Nephi give regarding the words of Christ?

How have you been blessed as you have followed this counsel?

4. Nephi declares that people will believe his words if they believe in Christ. (Read [2 Nephi 33](#).)

• 2 Ne. 33:3-5 **Why are Nephi’s words “of great worth”?**

How can we learn the worth of his words? How can we know that his words are true?

• 2 Ne. 33:11 Nephi said that we will meet him “face to face” at the judgment bar.

• 2 Ne. 33:13-14 **How could Nephi’s words “condemn [us] at the last day?”**

What will happen if we reject his words or disobey the principles he taught?

†8. President Ezra Taft Benson

• 2 Ne. 33:15 Nephi declared: “For thus hath the Lord commanded me, and I must obey”.

Why is this a fitting end to Nephi’s writings?

What have you learned from Nephi’s example to inspire you to greater obedience?

([Book of Mormon Manual – LDS Institute](#) (Religion 121-122). (You can download a free PDF manual.)

Next Week: Lesson 11: “Press Forward with a Steadfastness in Christ”; 2 Nephi 31 – 33 † •

†1. **Elder Jeffrey R. Holland:** “Although a phrase like ‘the doctrine of Christ’ could appropriately be used to describe any or all of the Master’s teachings, nevertheless those magnificently broad and beautiful expressions spread throughout the Book of Mormon, New Testament, and latter-day scriptures might more properly be called ‘the *doctrines of Christ.*’ Note that the phrase Nephi used is distinctly singular. In Nephi’s concluding testimony, and later in the Savior’s own declaration to the Nephites at his appearance to them, the emphasis is on a precise, focused, singular sense of Christ’s doctrine, specifically that which the Prophet Joseph Smith declared to be ‘the first principles and ordinances of the Gospel.’” (*Christ and the New Covenant*, 49)

†2. **President Joseph F. Smith** “said that to fulfill all righteousness is ‘to fulfill the law’.” (in Conference Report, Apr. 1912, 9)

†3. **Elder Robert D. Hales:** “Entering into the kingdom of God is so important that Jesus was baptized to show us ‘the straitness of the path, and the narrowness of the gate, by which [we] should enter’ (2 Nephi 31:0). . . .

“Born of a mortal mother, Jesus was baptized to fulfill His Father’s commandment that sons and daughters of God should be baptized. He set the example for all of us to humble ourselves before our Heavenly Father. . . . He was baptized to witness to His Father that He would be obedient in keeping His commandments. He was baptized to show us that we should receive the gift of the Holy Ghost (see 2 Nephi 31:4-9).

“As we follow the example of Jesus, we, too, demonstrate that we will repent and be obedient in keeping the commandments of our Father in Heaven. We humble ourselves with a broken heart and a contrite spirit as we recognize our sins and seek forgiveness of our trespasses (see 3 Nephi 9:20). We covenant that we are willing to take upon ourselves the name of Jesus Christ and always remember Him.” (“[The Covenant of Baptism: To Be in the Kingdom and of the Kingdom](#),” *Ensign*, Nov. 2000, 7-8)

†4. **Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin:** “Do we, indeed, actually live the gospel, or do we just *manifest* the appearance of righteousness so that those around us *assume* we are faithful when, in reality, our hearts and unseen actions are *not* true to the Lord’s teachings?

“Do we take on only the ‘form of godliness’ while denying the ‘power thereof’? [Joseph Smith—History 1:19].

“Are we righteous in fact, or do we feign obedience only when we think others are watching?

“The Lord has made it clear that He will not be fooled by appearances, and He has warned us not to be false to Him or to others. He has cautioned us to be wary of those who project a false front, who put on a bright pretense that hides a darker reality. We know that the

Lord ‘looketh on the heart’ and *not* on the ‘outward appearance’ [1 Samuel 16:7].” (“[True to the Truth](#),” *Ensign*, May 1997, 15-16)

†5. **President Boyd K. Packer:** “The Holy Ghost speaks with a voice that you *feel* more than you *hear*. It is described as a ‘still small voice’.” (“[Personal Revelation: The Gift, the Test, and the Promise](#),” *Ensign*, Nov. 1994, 60)

†6. **President Gordon B. Hinckley:** “With the ever increasing number of converts, we must make an increasingly substantial effort to assist them as they find their way. Every one of them needs three things: a friend, a responsibility, and nurturing with ‘the good word of God’ (Moroni 6:4). It is our duty and opportunity to provide these things.” (“[Converts and Young Men](#),” *Ensign*, May 1997, 47)

†7. **Elder Neal A. Maxwell:** “We need to feast upon the words of Christ in the scriptures and as these words come to us from living prophets. Just nibbling occasionally will not do. (See 2 Nephi 31:20 and 32:3.) Feasting means partaking with relish and delight and savoring—not gorging episodically in heedless hunger, but partaking gratefully, dining with delight, at a sumptuous spread carefully and lovingly prepared . . . over the centuries.” (*Wherefore Ye Must Press Forward* [1977], 28)

†8. **President Ezra Taft Benson:** “Do eternal consequences rest upon our response to this book? Yes, either to our blessing or to our condemnation.

“Every Latter-day Saint should make the study of this book a lifetime pursuit. Otherwise, he is placing his soul in jeopardy and neglecting that which could give spiritual and intellectual unity to his whole life. There is a difference between a convert who is built on the rock of Christ through the Book of Mormon and stays hold of that iron rod, and one who does not.” (“[The Book of Mormon Is the Word of God](#),” *Ensign*, Jan. 1988, 3)

Recommended Reading:

President Boyd K. Packer, (“[Personal Revelation: The Gift, the Test, and the Promise](#),” *Ensign*, Nov. 1994, 60.

President Ezra Taft Benson, (“[The Book of Mormon Is the Word of God](#),” *Ensign*, Jan. 1988, 3

Chiasmus:

John W. Welch, “[A Book You Can Respect](#),” *Ensign*, Sept. 1977, 45-58.

[Book of Mormon Manual – LDS Institute](#)

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