

Purpose: To help us feel a greater desire to magnify our callings, be chaste, and invite others to come unto Christ.

1. Jacob magnifies his calling from the Lord. (Read [Jacob 1](#).)

- Jacob 1:1-4 **What did Nephi instruct Jacob to record on these plates?**
- Jacob 1:5-8 **Why?**

What do these verses teach us about some of the things we should be recording about our lives?

- Jacob 1:10 **How have you felt toward those who have labored to serve you?**
- Jacob 1:17-19 **How can we find out what the Lord wants us to do in our callings?**
What are some of our callings? †1. Jan Whitley Hansen
How can we better magnify our callings? †2. President Gordon B. Hinckley
How have you been blessed as you have done your best to fulfill your callings?

2. Jacob warns against the love of riches, pride, and unchastity. (Read [Jacob 2 – 3](#).)

- Jacob 2:3-9 **Why was Jacob’s soul burdened?** (See also Jacob 2:15-16)
Why do you think that Jacob described sin as “labor”?

• Jacob 2:12-16 **How did the search for material wealth become a stumbling block to the Nephites?**
How can obtaining an abundance of material wealth lead to pride?

What are the proper ways to use wealth?

- Jacob 2:17-21 **What counsel did Jacob give us to help us avoid the misuse of wealth?**
†3. President Spencer W. Kimball

• Jacob 2:23-24 **How were the Nephites rationalizing their immoral behavior?**
How do many people today try to excuse unchastity?

†4. Elder Dallin H. Oaks †5. Dennis Waitley

• Jacob 2:27-29 **Why is it important to be morally clean?** (See also Exodus 20:14; 1 Cor. 6:18-20.)

How can sexual immorality affect the sinner’s family and friends and all members of society?

• See Jacob 2:31-35; 3:10.

• Jacob 3:1-2 **What counsel did Jacob give to those who had been hurt by the immorality of others?**

What must a person do to be forgiven of immorality? †6. President Ezra Taft Benson

• Jacob 3:5-7 **According to Jacob, how were the Lamanites blessed for being chaste?**

What are the blessings of being morally clean?

3. Jacob testifies of the Atonement of Jesus Christ. (Read [Jacob 4](#).)

- Jacob 4:4-6 Jacob concluded by “testifying of the hope of forgiveness through the Atonement.” (*Lesson Manual*)
- Jacob 4:10-12 **How can we obtain a hope in Christ that Jacob spoke of?**

• Jacob 4:14 **What do you think it meant that the Jews looked “beyond the mark”?**

“The Jews delighted in expounding the difficult texts of scripture, but without faith and the help of the Holy Ghost they could not understand them. They despised the “words of plainness” in the scriptures and looked for salvation in some other way than through Jesus Christ.” (*Lesson Manual*)

How might we sometimes “look beyond the mark” in our daily living?

†7. Elder Dean L. Larsen †8. President Ezra Taft Benson

How can we be more diligent in remembering Christ in our lives?

How can we become more diligent in looking to Christ for life?

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

Next Week: Lesson 13: “The Allegory of the Olive Trees”; Jacob 5 – 7 † •

†1. **Jan Whitley Hansen:** “Family home evening was challenging when our children were young... [we] often found there wasn’t time or energy to plan an effective, loving family home evening when Monday night came around.

“While visiting Primary one Sunday I noticed how captivated the children were by the stories, visual aids, and brief but effective activities planned for sharing time and music time...

“Just then a thought came to mind: ‘Family home evening is one of your callings. In fact, it is part of your most important calling—motherhood!’ I reflected on that insight. ‘If I can make the time to magnify my callings as newsletter editor and visiting teacher, I can surely magnify my family home evening calling.’” (“[The Calling I Didn’t Know I Had](#),” *Ensign*, Mar. 2003, 6)

†2. **President Gordon B. Hinckley:** “That word *magnify* is interesting. As I interpret it, it means to enlarge, to make more clear, to bring closer, and to strengthen...

“All of you, of course, are familiar with binoculars. When you put the lenses to your eyes and focus them, you magnify and in effect bring closer all within your field of vision. But if you turn them around and look through the other end, you diminish and make more distant that which you see.

“So it is with our actions as holders of the priesthood [or of callings]. When we live up to our high and holy calling, when we show love for God through service to fellowmen, when we use our strength and talents to build faith and spread truth, we magnify our priesthood [or callings]. When, on the other hand, we live lives of selfishness, when we indulge in sin, when we set our sights only on the things of the world rather than on the things of God, we diminish our priesthood [or callings].” (“[Magnify Your Calling](#),” *Ensign*, May 1989, 46)

†3. **President Spencer W. Kimball:** “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)

†4. **Elder Dallin H. Oaks:** “Jacob condemns men for their ‘whoredoms’ (verses 23, 28)... What were these grossly wicked ‘whoredoms’? No doubt some men were already guilty of evil acts. But the main focus of Jacob’s great sermon was not with evil acts completed, but with evil acts contemplated.

“Jacob began his sermon by telling the men that ‘as yet, [they had] been obedient unto the word of the Lord’ (Jacob 2:4). However, he then told them he knew

their thoughts, that they were ‘beginning to labor in sin, which sin appeareth very abominable ... unto God’ (v. 5). ‘I must testify unto you concerning the wickedness of your hearts’ (v. 6), he added. Jacob was speaking as Jesus spoke when He said, “Whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart’ (Matthew 5:28; see also 3 Nephi 12:28; D&C 59:6; 63:16).” (“[Pornography](#),” *Ensign*, May 2005, 87-88; italics in original).

†5. **Dennis Waitley:** “Recent studies conducted by a Stanford University research team have revealed that ‘what we watch’ does have an effect on our imaginations, our learning patterns, and our behaviors... One of the most critical aspects of human development that we need to understand is the influence of ‘repeated viewing’ and ‘repeated verbalizing’ in shaping our future. The information goes in, ‘harmlessly, almost unnoticed,’ on a daily basis, but we don’t react to it until later, when we aren’t able to realize the basis for our reactions. In other words, our value system is being formed without any conscious awareness on our part of what is happening!” (*Seeds of Greatness*, 55)

†6. **President Ezra Taft Benson:**

“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 [scriptures, prophets’ words] and fill your lives with positive sources of power.”
“5. Remember that through proper repentance you can become clean again.”

(“The Law of Chastity,” in *Brigham Young University 1987-88 Devotional and Fireside Speeches* [1988], 53-54)

†7. **Elder Dean L. Larsen:** “There are other ways in which many of us often look beyond the mark. Sometimes we focus too much of our attention and energy upon our temporal wants... We do not draw close enough to the Lord to know him and feel of his redeeming love.” (“[Looking Beyond the Mark](#),” *Ensign*, Nov. 1987, 11-12)

†8. **President Ezra Taft Benson** said “men captained by Christ will be consumed in Christ.... Enter their homes, and the pictures on their walls, the books on their shelves, the music in the air, their words and acts reveal them as Christians.” (“[Born of God](#),” *Ensign*, Nov. 1985, 6-7)

Recommended Reading:

Elder Dean L. Larsen, “[Looking Beyond the Mark](#),” *Ensign*, Nov. 1987, 11-12.

Visit www.stephenmbird.com/library/gospel-doctrine †