

LESSON 30: ALMA 40-42

The Great Plan of Happiness

Core Lesson:

I. The Plan of Salvation vs. the Plan of Damnation (42:16)

Now, repentance could not come unto men except there were a punishment, which also was eternal as the life of the soul should be, affixed opposite to the plan of happiness, which was as eternal also as the life of the soul.

II. “God would cease to be God” (42:13, 22, 25)

III. Thoughts on Justice and Mercy (both are natural principles that need to be satisfied. Talk about “cheap forgiveness” (or repentance) vs. the full repentance/forgiveness Alma models.

Goal	Class members will better understand their role and responsibility in the plan of Salvation. Understanding the nature of God grants insights into how we can become like them.
Hook	Extraordinarily rich doctrines distinctive in Mormonism. These chapters present impactful teachings about the nature of God and judgment that often go underappreciated. In Mormonism, God is not the end-all-be-all omnipotent being who sorts humanity into the categories of heaven and hell. Really does lay out a blueprint of the Plan of Salvation.
Overview	Alma talking to Corianton the whole time
Main Points	Since these chapters consist of Alma speaking to Corianton, will just walk through a close reading. (bring up main points in 42:12-26 and then work through all three chapters)
Other Comments/ Discussion Starters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40:3ff: How much of the Plan of Salvation did the Nephites know? Note where Alma suggests he is teaching new material • 40:13: “being led captive by the will of the devil” how much power does Satan have? How does that work? (the idea of us “putting ourselves” in his power seems to balance agency and the devil). • 40:23: could debate/speculate on nature of resurrected body • 41: figuring out what “good” and “evil” mean presents far of a challenge than most people assume • 42:10 What exactly is human nature? Are we carnal and devilish, or basically good and godlike? There is ambivalence on this point in Mormon teachings
Concluding Points	Primary message of these chapters as I read them is to urge us to live as God lives, live in a way that we are following the plan they followed, to become as they are. The plan of

happiness and salvation is here, now, we judge ourselves every day, we change our characters as we examine ourselves, without excusing our flaws, repenting and covenanting to do better the next day. And by these yearnings we will be judged and resurrected.
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How to use the core episodes: The core episodes are intended for those who don't have time to listen to the full episodes. The core episodes function like the "two minute take home", focusing on what I feel to be the most important principles in the reading. There will be thus be great deal of overlap between the core and full episodes. There will be fresh content in the core episodes, but usually if you have time to listen to the full episodes you will get everything you need and more.

(Whitney in the Facebook group asked if I would consider tackling the Youth Sunday School lessons. I am up for it if someone could help me coordinate active youth to be on the podcast with me. We would only need to do 12 episodes)

Another suggestion was to do episodes on the Gospel Topic essays... I might look at all three projects and see what I have time for based on podcast support. Let me know what you all want!

Gospel Topics Essays:

<http://mormonessays.com/>

1. [First Vision Accounts](#); November 20, 2013
2. [Are Mormons Christian?](#); November 20, 2013
3. [Race and the Priesthood](#); December 6, 2013
4. [Plural Marriage and Families in Early Utah](#); December 16, 2013
5. [Book of Mormon Translation](#); December 30, 2013
6. [Book of Mormon and DNA Studies](#); January 31, 2014
7. [Becoming Like God](#); February 24, 2014
8. [Peace and Violence among 19th-Century Latter-day Saints](#); May 13, 2014
9. [Translation and Historicity of the Book of Abraham](#); July 8, 2014

10. [Plural Marriage \(Polygamy\) in Kirtland and Nauvoo](#); October 22, 2014
11. [The Manifesto and the End of Plural Marriage \(Polygamy\)](#); October 22, 2014
12. [Joseph Smith's Teachings about Priesthood, Temple, and Women](#); October 23, 2015
13. [Mother in Heaven](#); October 23, 2015

Youth Sunday School:

<https://www.lds.org/youth/learn/ss?lang=eng>

Love the youth

Know them. Pray about them. Ponder their needs.

Decide what to teach

Review monthly doctrinal topics and available outlines.
Seek the guidance of the Holy Ghost.
Counsel with leaders, youth, and parents.

Make a plan

Pray for inspiration.
Think about the youth and their experiences and circumstances.
Study the resources and select activities.

Help them learn, let them teach

Engage the youth.
Adapt your plan according to needs.
Invite action and application.

January: The Godhead
February: The Plan of Salvation
March: The Atonement of Jesus Christ
April: The Apostasy and the Restoration
May: Prophets and Revelation

June: Priesthood and Priesthood Keys
July: Ordinances and Covenants
August: Marriage and Family
September: Commandments
October: Becoming More Christlike
November: Spiritual and Temporal Self-Reliance
December: Building the Kingdom of God in the Latter Days