

Engaging Gospel Doctrine (Episode 207)

LESSON 33: HELAMAN 1-5

A Sure Foundation

Goal	Class members will appreciate the power of “remembering”, reflect on what “sure foundations” we can use to build our lives, and learn lessons about conversion and the way the Spirit communicates with us. There is also a challenge in these chapters for Church members.
Hook	According to Mormon, these chapters chronicle the beginning of the end, even with the ministry of Christ still in the future. Helaman is a pretty dark book with bright moments.
Overview	<p>1:1-13: Conflict over judgment seat, beginning of Gadianton Robbers</p> <p>1:14-34: Initial victory by Lamanites and their eventual defeat at a high cost</p> <p>2: Detailed account and commentary regarding the beginning of the Gadianton Robbers</p> <p>3:1-17 Nephite migrations northward, Mormon’s commentary on number of Nephite records</p> <p>3:18-37 Mormon’s commentary on righteous leaders and pride of the people</p> <p>4:1-10 Gains and losses by Lamanites</p> <p>4:11-26 Mormon’s commentary on the decline of the Nephites</p> <p>5:1-4, 14-52: Miraculous ministry of Nephi and Lehi</p> <p>5:5-13: Lessons from Helaman</p>
Main Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lessons from Helaman (close reading of 5:5-13) • Conversion and miracles (close reading of 5:14-52) • The beginning of the end: Mormon’s commentary and the pride cycle (2:13; 3:1-3, 15-17, 22-23, 33-36 [35 is a gem]; 4:11-13. Note the role *church members* play in these problems. • Life application gems: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Note how the word “church” is used in 3:33 and 4:11 *3:35: sanctification, response to adversity
Other Comments/ Discussion Starters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gadianton Robbers (evil covenants, secrets) • Moronihah, wars with the Lamanites, a new status quo (Chapter 1, Nephites in the North, Lamanites in the South) • What do we think of the simple (simplistic?) theology of prosperity in 4:23-25?
Concluding Points	Issues to reflect on. What can we remember that helps us live well? Upon what “sure foundation” of good and effective living can we build? What can we learn as Church members from these chapters?