

Book of Mormon

TEACHER RESOURCE MANUAL



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Alma 30

Korihor Said	Alma Responded
Church leaders glut themselves on the labor of the people (see v. 31).	You know Church leaders don't profit from their service in the Church; our only profit is rejoicing in the joy of our brethren (see vv. 32–34).
You can't know things that you can't see (see v. 15). God never was and never will be (see v. 28).	I know there is a God (see v. 39). You have no evidence that there is no God (see v. 40). Church leaders, prophets, the scriptures, and all of creation testify that there is a God (see v. 44).
I do not believe in God (see vv. 37–38, 45).	I know you believe, but you are possessed of a lying spirit (see v. 42; see also vv. 52–53).
I won't believe in God unless you show me a sign (see vv. 43, 45, 48).	You already have signs (see vv. 44–45). As an additional sign, you will be struck dumb (see vv. 49, 51).

Alma 30:37–43

- What does Korihor's request for a sign teach us about him? (see Matthew 16:4; see also the commentary for Alma 30:37–43 in *Book of Mormon Student Manual: Religion 121 and 122*, p. 88).

Alma 30:39, 44

- What four evidences did Alma give for the existence of God? (His testimony, the testimony of Church members and prophets, the scriptures, and the existence of the earth and movement of the planets.)
- Which of these evidences exist today? (see the commentary for Alma 30:44–45 in *Book of Mormon Student Manual: Religion 121 and 122*, p. 88).

Alma 30:48–51

- Why do you think the Lord chose to strike Korihor dumb rather than give him some other sign? (*Note:* Remind students that not all who deny the Lord or fight against His work are immediately struck dumb, but ultimately they will receive the consequences of their acts.)

Alma 30:54–56

- How did Alma know that Korihor would again lead others to sin?
- In what ways does our prophet warn us about those who would lead us to sin?

Alma 30:59–60

- What do these verses teach us about the kind of people the Zoramites were?
- Read Mormon 4:5. How does Korihor's death illustrate the principle taught in this verse?

- What is the difference between the devil's support and the support we receive in the Church?

Share the following conclusions drawn by Elder George A. Smith about the fable related earlier:

"The Devil has . . . the whole world . . . so perfectly at his disposal, that it only takes a very few devils to keep them all in subjection; and the whole legion of devils have nothing to do but look after the 'Mormons' and stir up the hearts of the children of men to destroy them—to put them out of existence" (in *Journal of Discourses*, 5:364).

Share the following counsel from Elder Carlos E. Asay, who was a member of the Presidency of the Seventy:

"How do we respond to such malicious and evil designs? Do we strike back? Allow me to suggest a course of action—one which is in harmony with the teachings of the Savior, and one which, if followed, will be in harmony with the wise counsel of prophets past and present:

"1. *Avoid those who would tear down your faith.* Faith-killers are to be shunned. The seeds which they plant in the minds and hearts of men grow like cancer and eat away the Spirit. True messengers of God are builders—not destroyers. . . .

"2. *Keep the commandments.* President Brigham Young promised, 'All we have to do is to go onward and upward, and keep the commandments of our Father and God; and he will confound our enemies.' (*Discourses of Brigham Young*, sel. John A. Widtsoe, Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1957, p. 347.) . . .

"3. *Follow the living prophets.* . . . 'Always keep your eye on the President of the Church, and if he ever tells you to do anything, and it is wrong, and you do it, the Lord will bless you for it. . . . But you don't need to worry. The Lord will never let his mouthpiece lead the people astray.' (Heber J. Grant, quoted by Marion G. Romney in Conference Report, Oct. 1960, p. 78.) . . .

"4. *Do not contend or debate over points of doctrine.* The Master warned that 'the spirit of contention is not of me, but is of the devil.' (3 Ne. 11:29.) We are inconsistent if we resort to Satanic tactics in attempting to achieve righteous ends. Such inconsistency results only in frustration, loss of the Spirit, and ultimate defeat. . . .