

# MOSES 1, ABRAHAM 3

## LESSON #1 NOTHING OR EVERYTHING: THE TRUTH ABOUT OUR WORTH (MOSES 1:1-11, 27-39)

### TRUTH:

I may be small in comparison to God's creations—but I matter infinitely to Him.

### FIRE IN THE BONES:

And this is a guiding principle for me in all my teaching, especially with these most distant of writings from our time. We must look for the most relevant of truths as we teach. So with this lesson, keep in mind that most people don't wake up worried about ancient history—they wake up wondering if they matter, if they're enough, and if God actually sees them. Moses 1 answers that question powerfully: in a universe that often feels overwhelming and impersonal, God speaks one-on-one and declares that His greatest work is people. We want our students to leave this lesson believing that they matter infinitely to God.

### OBJECT:

For an object lesson, I suggest you bring in something big, but not very significant in worth. Like I might bring in one of those big yoga balls, or you could bring in a big rock, or even a piece of furniture like a chair. Then, also bring in something small but that is of more worth. If you're married, you could pull out your wedding ring, or a small photograph of a family member.

### ICEBREAKER:

Then for the icebreaker, display both objects and first ask: Which is bigger? (Obvious) But then ask: Which do you think matters more? And then just let them answer freely. But before you transition into the scriptures, you should leave them considering the following question: Can something be small, and still matter more? You're not going to stop and explain or go into depth on the answer to that question. We just want them going into Moses 1 with that thought in mind.

### SEARCH ACTIVITY:

Explain that Moses 1 is the introduction to all scripture, because if you look at how Moses 2 starts, you'll notice the phrase "In the beginning". So this chapter is meant to come BEFORE Genesis 1, if we're comparing the Book of Moses to the Bible. And Moses 1 relates a vision and conversation that Moses has with God on the top of a high mountain. And since this is the introduction of all scripture, we shouldn't be surprised that its subject matter deals with fundamental truths. Truths about God, about our identity and purpose, and about the adversary. We aren't going to focus on the role of the adversary in our lives in this lesson, but what we do focus on is what this chapter teaches us about God, and what it teaches us about ourselves.

So for a search activity, have your students work in pairs. They're either a number 1 or a number 2. 1's are going to read Moses 1:1-11 looking for what we learn about God from this experience. Number 2's are going to read those same 11 verses looking for what we learn about ourselves, about people, treating Moses as a kind of representative or symbol of all mankind. Challenge them to find and mark at least three things.

Then this next part is optional, but you can invite them to share the three things they learned with their partner.

But next, invite the class their findings—the things that they felt were most important. List those things on the board as they share but be careful not to editorialize too much on their statements. Just write them up without too much observation. One key point though, if they miss this one, make sure to add it. God calls Moses his son. The truth that we are children of God is an important aspect of the core message of the lesson. And as affirming and critical as that truth is, it still doesn't keep us from feeling small and insignificant when we consider how MANY children he has.

#### **TEACHER INSIGHT:**

After having them look at the board and making that visual comparison between God and man. Ask them to imagine how they might feel if God were to show them everything and everyone he had created. I mean, how do you feel when you're in a huge crowd, or you consider that there are 8 billion people on this earth right now or that this planet is just a tiny speck of dust, so to speak, in a vast and infinite universe. What was Moses's conclusion about man after seeing all of that in verse 10? "Now for this cause, I know that man is nothing".

#### **DISCUSSION QUESTION:**

And this is a key moment in the lesson. After reading his conclusion, ask: Is he right? Is man nothing?

And just let that sit with that for a minute. Allow some to share if they'd like but don't expand on the idea quite yet. Let them react.

#### **TEACHER INSIGHT**

Then, it's time for some summary so that we have enough time to really focus on the main truth of the lesson. You can let them know that God leaves Moses for a time which allows Satan to come in and challenge Moses's identity. And there's a wonderful lesson in there about how to defeat the adversary by knowing who you are. If you do get a chance to teach Lesson #2, you can set that up here by saying that you're going to look at that episode next time. But now, we want to jump ahead to the end of chapter 1 and briefly point out that in verses 27-29, God shows Moses the entire earth again. And "there was not a particle of it which he did not behold," and "there was not a soul which he beheld not," and "their numbers were great, even numberless." Again, imagine how Moses must be feeling here. And then, God really drops a

bombshell on him in verse 33. “And worlds without number have I created”. So Moses, this world you’re seeing here is only one of my numberless worlds”. Boy, he must be feeling small.

### **SEARCH:**

Now we’re going to have our students do one more search of their own. On the board, or on the screen display the following phrase.

Compared to all of God’s creation, WE ARE SMALL,  
BUT . . . (Moses 1:35, 37, and 39) And challenge them to complete that statement with something they find or learn from those 3 verses.

### **TEACHER INSIGHT**

And they should get it. I do believe they will. I imagine they’ll share things like: but we are numbered to him. But we are his. But he knows us. But we are his work and glory. But one way or another, the following point should be made.

Compared to all of God’s creation, WE ARE SMALL,  
But small does not mean insignificant.  
Man is not nothing, man is everything.  
We are God’s work, we are God’s glory.

And if that was true for Moses as an individual, it’s true for all of us as individuals.

So let’s adjust that statement a little further. Let’s personalize it.

Compared to all of God’s creation, I AM SMALL,  
But small does not mean insignificant.  
I am not nothing, I am everything to God.  
I am His work, I am His glory.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTION:**

Why do you think it’s so important that we understand and believe that truth?

### **TAKE IT TO HEART QUESTION:**

When was a time that you felt “numbered” and “known” by God?

### **I WILL GO AND DO QUESTION:**

What is one small way you can act this week as if you truly matter to God?

Possible Suggestions:

Speak more kindly to myself instead of tearing myself down.

Ask God what He sees in me that I forget.

Do the next right thing, even when I feel insignificant.

Treat someone else like they matter infinitely to God, especially someone who feels overlooked.

**TAKEAWAY:**

Conclude with the following slide. And you could say something like: When Moses looked out and witnessed all of God's creations, he felt small, like he was nothing. And maybe you've felt that way at times in your life. But against that backdrop, God taught him, and through him, all of us, something that Moses never would have discovered on his own. That People are God's purpose. And if that's true... then this includes you and me. I bear witness that God knows you. You are numbered to Him. You are His beloved son or daughter. You matter.

**OPTIONAL LESSON ENHANCEMENTS:**

So what I've just given you is the core or the spine of the lesson that can stand on its own. What follows are some optional ideas or enhancements to the lesson if time, setting, or class needs allow.

**VIDEO:**

Here's a video suggestion you might consider. It's called "You Matter To Him." It's not an official Church video but it feels like it and features excerpts from a talk given by Elder Uchtdorf that align perfectly with the TRUTH taught by this lesson.

[You Matter To Him](#)

**QUOTE:**

"God does not look on the outward appearance. I believe that He doesn't care one bit if we live in a castle or a cottage, if we are handsome or homely, if we are famous or forgotten. Though we are incomplete, God loves us completely. Though we are imperfect, He loves us perfectly."

Dieter F. Uchtdorf

("The Love of God," Liahona, Nov 2009, 21–24)

**HANDOUT:**

The handout suggestion for this lesson is fairly simple. It can help your students to reflect on and apply the truth you're teaching. It uses the Take it To Heart and I Will Go and Do questions and gives them a place to actually write their thoughts to those questions. So you hand it out and give your students some time to reflect and write.