

1. Watch chapter 8 from the Animated Complete Learning System, *The Tree of Life* DVD.

(Also available for viewing online.)

2. If time permits complete the Object lesson.

3. Read 1 Nephi 15:23-24

23. And they said unto me: What meaneth the rod of iron which our father saw, that led to the tree?

24. And I said unto them that it was the word of God; and whoso would hearken unto the word of God, and would hold fast unto it, they would never perish; neither could the temptations and the fiery darts of the adversary overpower them unto blindness, to lead them away to destruction.

4. What does the iron rod represent?

(The iron rod represents the word of God.)

5. What does it mean to hearken to the word of God?

(To listen to and pay attention to the word of God.)

6. Where do we find the word of God?

“We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God.” (Articles of Faith 1:8.)

“For his word ye shall receive, as if from mine own mouth, in all patience and faith” (D&C 21:4–5)

7. What is the promise we are given if we hearken to the word of God and hold fast to the rod?

8. Read 1 Nephi 8:23–24

23. And it came to pass that there arose a mist of darkness; yea, even an exceedingly great mist of darkness, insomuch that they who had commenced in the path did lose their way, that they wandered off and were lost.

24. And it came to pass that I beheld others pressing forward, and they came forth and caught hold of the end of the rod of iron; and they did press forward through the mist of darkness, clinging to the rod of iron, even until they did come forth and partake of the fruit of the tree.

9. In this scripture Nephi tells of those who strayed from the rod and lost their way.

If you did the activity ask: How did it feel to be lost.

If you did not do the activity ask: Have you ever been lost?

(Discuss how it feels to be lost and how it feels when you find your way back.)

10. What are the some of the things in your life that influence you to stray from the iron rod?

What can you do to overcome those influences and return to the rod?