

---

---

# **Serving the Lord is Countercultural**

---

---

The slide features a light blue background with a central white rectangular area. This area is framed by two horizontal teal lines at the top and bottom. Within the white area, the title "Serving the Lord is Countercultural" is written in a bold, orange, sans-serif font. Below the title, there are two short, horizontal olive-green bars, one on the left and one on the right, positioned symmetrically.

# Importance of Searching Scripture

Scripture leads people to belief in God, informs them of salvation and brings to light God's grace. - John Wesley



---

---

# **Some Scriptures or Testimonies in Scripture that Resonate with you**

---

---



# Testimony of Alma Jr. and 4 sons of Mosiah

# The Lord's Work Will Never Be Frustrated

- God's people have always been the minority
- It has always been an uphill battle for God's people
- Serving the Lord has always been countercultural

# Mosiah 11

- 58 And Amulon commanded them that they should stop their cries; and he put guards over them to watch them, that whosoever should be found calling upon God should be put to death.
- 59 And Alma and his people did not raise their voices to the Lord, their God, but did pour out their hearts to him; and he did know the thoughts of their hearts.
- 60 And it came to pass that the voice of the Lord came to them in their afflictions, saying, Lift up your heads and be of good comfort, for I know of the covenant which ye have made unto me; and I will covenant with this my people and deliver them out of bondage.
- 61 And I will also ease the burdens which are put upon your shoulders, that even you cannot feel them upon your backs, even while you are in bondage;
- 62 And this will I do, that ye may stand as witnesses for me hereafter and that ye may know of a surety that I, the Lord God, do visit my people in their afflictions.
- 63 And now, it came to pass that the burdens which were laid upon Alma and his brethren were made light;
- 64 Yea, the Lord did strengthen them that they could bear up their burdens with ease, and they did submit cheerfully and with patience to all the will of the Lord.

# One Church, God's Church

- The church is organized
  - Alma presided over the church
- 99 Every church having their priests and their teachers, and every priest preaching the word according as it was delivered to him by the mouth of Alma.
- 100 And thus, notwithstanding there being many churches, they were all one church, yea, even the church of God;
- 101 For there was nothing preached in all the churches except it were repentance and faith in God.
- 102 And now, there were seven churches in the land of Zarahemla.

## Conditions to be apart of God's Church

103 And it came to pass that whosoever were desirous to take upon them the name of Christ, or of God, they did join the churches of God; and they were called the people of God.

104 And the Lord did pour out his Spirit upon them, and they were blessed and prospered in the land.

# There is Still that Allure to Not Follow God

105 Now it came to pass that there were many of the rising generation that could not understand the words of King Benjamin, being little children at the time he spake unto his people; and they did not believe the tradition of their fathers.

106 They did not believe what had been said concerning the resurrection of the dead; neither did they believe concerning the coming of Christ.

107 And now, because of their unbelief, they could not understand the word of God; and their hearts were hardened.

108 And they would not be baptized; neither would they join the church.

109 And they were a separate people as to their faith and remained so ever after, even in their carnal and sinful state; for they would not call upon the Lord, their God.

---

---

# This seems to sound familiar

— If you have ears let them hear —

---

---

**When you are troubled - Inquire of the Lord**

## When you are troubled - Inquire of the Lord

120 And now, the spirit of Alma was again troubled; and he went and inquired of the Lord what he should do concerning this matter, for he feared that he should do wrong in the sight of God.

121 And it came to pass that after he had poured out his whole soul to God, the voice of the Lord came to him, saying, Blessed art thou, Alma, and blessed are they who were baptized in the waters of Mormon.

122 Thou art blessed because of thy exceeding faith in the words alone of my servant Abinadi.

# Conditions of Membership

11:128 And he that will hear my voice shall be my sheep; and him shall ye receive into the church; and him will I also receive.

11:129 For behold, this is my church; whosoever is baptized shall be baptized unto repentance.

11:130 And whosoever ye receive shall believe in my name; and him will I freely forgive;

11:131 For it is I that taketh upon me the sins of the world; for it is I that hath created them; and it is I that granteth unto him that believeth, in the end, a place at my right hand.

11:132 For behold, in my name are they called; and if they know me, they shall come forth and shall have a place eternally at my right hand.

11:133 And it shall come to pass that when the second trump shall sound, then shall they that never knew me come forth and shall stand before me;

11:134 And then shall they know that I am the Lord, their God, that I am their Redeemer; but they would not be redeemed.

11:135 And then will I confess unto them that I never knew them; and they shall depart into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

11:136 Therefore, I say unto you that he that will not hear my voice, the same shall ye not receive into my church, for him I will not receive at the last day.

# Alma (son) and the Four Sons of Mosiah

11:159 Now the sons of Mosiah were numbered among the unbelievers; and also one of the sons of Alma was numbered among them, he being called Alma, after his father; nevertheless, he became a very wicked and an idolatrous man.

11:160 And he was a man of many words and did speak much flattery to the people; therefore, he led many of the people to do after the manner of his iniquities.

11:161 And he became a great hinderment to the prosperity of the church of God, stealing away the hearts of the people, causing much dissension among the people, giving a chance for the enemy of God to exercise his power over them.

11:162 And now, it came to pass that while he was going about to destroy the church of God--for he did go about secretly with the sons of Mosiah, seeking to destroy the church and to lead astray the people of the Lord, contrary to the commandments of God, or even the king--

11:163 And as I said unto you, as they were going about rebelling against God, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto them; and he descended as it were in a cloud; and he spake as it were with a voice of thunder, which caused the earth to shake upon which they stood;

# God Reveals His Power

11:165 ...Alma, arise, and stand forth. For why persecuteth thou the church of God?

11:166 For the Lord hath said, This is my church, and I will establish it; and nothing shall overthrow it, save it is the transgression of my people.

11:167 And again, the angel said, Behold, the Lord hath heard the prayers of his people and also the prayers of his servant Alma, who is thy father;

11:168 For he has prayed with much faith concerning thee, that thou mightest be brought to the knowledge of the truth.

11:169 Therefore, for this purpose have I come to convince thee of the power and authority of God, that the prayers of his servants might be answered according to their faith.

11:170 And now, behold, can ye dispute the power of God?

11:171 For behold, doth not my voice shake the earth?

11:172 And can ye not also behold me before you?

11:173 And I am sent from God.

# Conditions for Repentance

11:185 And it came to pass after they had fasted and prayed for the space of two days and two nights, the limbs of Alma received their strength, and he stood up and began to speak unto them, bidding them to be of good comfort.

11:186 For, said he, I have repented of my sins and have been redeemed of the Lord; behold, I am born of the Spirit.

11:187 And the Lord said unto me, Marvel not that all mankind--yea, men, and women, all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people--must be born again;

11:188 Yea, born of God, changed from their carnal and fallen state to a state of righteousness, being redeemed of God, becoming his sons and daughters; and thus they become new creatures; and unless they do this, they can in no wise inherit the kingdom of God.

11:189 I say unto you, Unless this be the case, they must be cast off; and this I know because I was like to be cast off.

11:190 Nevertheless, after wading through much tribulation, repenting nigh unto death, the Lord in mercy hath seen fit to snatch me out of an everlasting burning; and I am born of God;

11:191 My soul hath been redeemed from the gall of bitterness and bonds of iniquity.

11:192 I was in the darkest abyss; but now I behold the marvelous light of God.

11:193 My soul was racked with eternal torment; but I am snatched, and my soul is pained no more.

# Becoming a New Creature

11:194 I rejected my Redeemer and denied that which had been spoken of by our fathers.

11:195 But now that they may foresee that he will come, and that he remembereth every creature of his creating,

11:196 He will make himself manifest unto all; yea, every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess before him.

11:197 Yea, even at the last day, when all men shall stand to be judged of him, then shall they confess that he is God;

11:198 Then shall they confess, who live without God in the world, that the judgment of an everlasting punishment is just upon them;

11:199 And they shall quake, and tremble, and shrink beneath the glance of his all-searching eye.