

## Helaman 2

“If you have seriously transgressed, you will not find any lasting satisfaction or comfort in what you have done. Excusing transgression with a cover-up may appear to fix the problem, but it does not. The tempter is intent on making public your most embarrassing acts at the most harmful time. Lies weave a pattern that is ever more confining and becomes a trap that Satan will spring to your detriment” (Richard G. Scott, [“Finding Forgiveness,”](#) *Ensign*, May 1995, 77).

Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. Ask students to listen for examples of secret combinations today: “The Book of Mormon teaches that secret combinations engaged in crime present a serious challenge, not just to individuals and families but to entire civilizations. Among today’s secret combinations are gangs, drug cartels, and organized crime families. ... “If we are not careful, today’s secret combinations can obtain power and influence just as quickly and just as completely as they did in Book of Mormon times... [The devil] uses secret combinations, including gangs, ‘from generation to generation according as he can get hold upon the hearts of the children of men’ [[Helaman 6:30](#)]. His purpose is to destroy individuals, families, communities, and nations [see [2 Nephi 9:9](#)]. To a degree, he was successful during Book of Mormon times. And he is having far too much success today. That’s why it is so important for us ... to take a firm stand for truth and right by doing what we can to help keep our communities safe” (M. Russell Ballard, [“Standing for Truth and Right,”](#) *Ensign*, Nov. 1997, 38).