

WITNESSING TO MORMON MISSIONARIES

1. **Lovingly Invite Missionaries into Your Home.** Keep in mind that Mormon missionaries are human beings with families just like you. They are not intentionally going door to door trying to deceive people. They have been deceived. Satan has blinded their minds (2 Cor. 4:4) and taken them captive to do his will (2 Tim. 2:26). So, when Mormon missionaries knock on your door, greet them in love and invite them in to sit down. If the time is bad for a discussion (maybe you're in the middle of something) that's okay! Tell them that, and let them know a good time to come back. (You're going to need about an hour for the first meeting). Of course ladies, for your safety you never want to invite anybody into your home unless your husband or another man is present.
2. **Ask Them How Their Mission Is Going.** Simple enough? Right. So invite them in, and once you invite them in ask them how their mission is going (that's what they call what they are doing). Tell them that you admire their willingness to share what they believe with others. Especially in this hot (or cold) weather! Offer them a glass of water, milk. (Not tea, coke, coffee. They are not to have any caffeine. And they'll appreciate your sensitivity to that). Offer them a seat on your couch. While they are getting seated and you are getting them drinks, pray for them. Now, this is not how they are used to being treated. This kind of love, this kind of hospitality will help soften them up to the things you are going to share with them later.
3. **Listen to their Presentation.** The tendency of many Christians (and myself included at one time) is to employ what I call "the flamethrower approach" to cult evangelism. As soon as the Mormon or the Jehovah's Witness shows up on your doorstep or sits down there in your house you blast them! You lay out before them all that you know about their group. All the things that you disagree with. All the things you've ever heard. All the differences that you can think of between orthodox Christianity and their beliefs. This is rarely effective. Don't do that! I've done that. Others have done it. It doesn't work.

In most cases Mormon missionaries have a memorized presentation. The two of them will take turns. This guy will speak, then the other will speak, back and forth. Let them go through it, and with no interruptions! You're listening intently. You're praying for them and against the evil spirits that are at work.

THEIR TESTIMONY: When their presentation is over the one that is talking will share with you his testimony. It's memorized and it will sound something like this: "I testify to you that --Joseph Smith is a prophet of God, -- the Mormon church is true, --Jesus is the Christ, --the president of the Mormon church is a prophet on the earth today, --and I say this in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen."

THEIR CHALLENGE TO YOU: Then one of them will say something like this (it is right out of the introduction to the Book of Mormon and it reads): "We invite all men everywhere to read the Book of Mormon, to ponder in their hearts the message it contains, and then to ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ if the book is true. Those who pursue this course and ask in faith will gain a testimony of its truth and divinity by the power of the Holy Ghost." That is typically how their presentation will end; with an invitation to you to read the Book of Mormon for yourself and pray about whether or not it's true.

4. **Tell them You Have Read the Book of Mormon.** You've read some of it right here on this webpage. Say something like this (very humbly, even scratching your head), "I have read the Book of Mormon. I've sincerely prayed the prayer just like the Book of Mormon suggests, and I didn't receive the same confirmation as you." You are going to have two shocked missionaries sitting there. Why are they going to be shocked? Well, first off, the average Mormon has NEVER met somebody outside of the Church that has read the Book of Mormon. Secondly, because you have just taken the steam out of their entire presentation!! Their whole presentation is designed to get you interested in reading the Book of Mormon, and then to leave one behind and leave.
5. **Say something like, "In fact, I ran into a few problems and maybe you can help me out."** They'll look puzzled, but will be glad to see themselves as those who can help a person out who has honest questions. So they'll say "Sure!?"
6. **Excuse yourself for a moment.** There are two things you want to go do. A. Go and get your Book of Mormon, your King James Version of the Bible (this is only version officially accepted and used by the Mormon Church), and your notes. B. Pray.
7. **Ask the questions you've prepared ahead of time.** What kind of questions? Questions that specifically address problems with the Book of Mormon and the teachings of their prophets. If you preach at them most Mormons will tune you out. Asking questions gives them hope that you are genuinely interested in learning more about their religion. Asking questions is a great way to get the Mormon to think about things they may have never thought about. researching into the false teachings of their church. Jesus Himself often times asked His critics questions. To the chief priests and the elders who were challenging his authority, Jesus asked... Matthew 21:25 (also v. 28) "The Baptism of John was from what source, from heaven or from men?" Let's look at some sample questions that you can ask? I'd suggest going through these on your own and writing them out in your own handwriting and in your own words. One student even suggested in class that we give it to them on a piece of paper, and encourage them to get back to us with an answer. That is a good idea. Don't print out the whole page. Just ask about three during the first meeting.

Questions

- 1) Can you find me archeological and historical proof from non-Mormon sources that prove that the peoples and places named in the Book of Mormon are true?
- 2) Why does the Book of Mormon state that Jesus was born in Jerusalem (Alma 7:10) when history and the Bible state that he was born in Bethlehem (Matthew 2:1)?
- 3) I've read where Joseph Smith said that he translated the golden plates (from which he got the Book of Mormon) letter-by-letter, "by the power of God" and that it was "the most correct of any book on earth." If that's true why has the Mormon Church had to make more than 4,000 changes to the Book of Mormon that was originally published in 1830?
- 4) Why do the Bible verses quoted in the Book of Mormon contain the italicized words from the King James Version that were added into the KJV text by the translators in the 16th and 17th centuries?

- 5) Here's an example: 3 Nephi 24:10 says: "...that there shall not be room enough to receive it..." This is an exact quote from Malachi 3:10 from the King James Version. What's amazing is that seven of these words were not part of the original text. They were added by the KJV translators for clarity. How did those words end up in the Book of Mormon that was supposedly written over a thousand years before the King James Version of the Bible?
- 6) Isaiah 43:10 says, "Before Me there was no God formed, and there will be none after Me." In Isaiah 44:6, God says, "There is no God besides Me." In light of what is said here, how can worthy Mormon males become Gods in the afterlife when God already said that before him no God was formed, nor will there be any Gods formed after Him?
- 7) Why do Mormons say that Jesus and Lucifer are spirit brothers when both the first chapter of John 1:1-3 and Colossians 1:16 teach that Jesus is the creator of all things, including Lucifer?
- 8) I read where Brigham Young, the second president of the LDS Church, taught that both the moon and the sun were inhabited by people (Journal of Discourses, 1870, v.13, p.271). Has the Mormon Church ever found scientific evidence of that to be true?
- 9) I read in Doctrine and Covenants 84:1-5 where Joseph Smith prophesied that the New Jerusalem and a temple would be built in Zion, Missouri in his generation. Does the Mormon Church still teach that Joseph Smith was a true prophet of God after he made a false prophecy?
- 10) I read where Brigham Young taught that Adam is "our Father and our God" (Journal of Discourses, Apr. 9, 1852, vol.1, p.50). How can that be true when both the Bible and the Book of Mormon (Mormon 9:12) say that Adam was a creation of God?
- 11) If Brigham Young was a true prophet, why would one of your later prophets overturn his declaration which stated that the black man could never hold the priesthood in the LDS Church until after the resurrection of all other races (Journal of Discourses, Dec. 12, 1854, 2:142-143)?
- 12) Read Deuteronomy 18:20-22. Since the Bible's test to determine whether someone is a true prophet of God is 100% accuracy in all his prophecies has the LDS Church ever reconsidered its teaching that Joseph Smith and Brigham Young were true prophets?
- 13) In the last couple of years, Mormon scholars, and scientists have discovered powerful DNA evidence that has proven that the American Indians are not descendants of the Jewish race (as the Book of Mormon claims in its introduction), but the Asian race. How does your church respond to this scientific evidence?
- 14) Why did Joseph Smith condone polygamy as an ordinance from God (Doctrine and Covenants 132 [see v. 38-39]) when the Book of Mormon had already condemned the practice in the book Jacob 1:15 and 2:24?

These are questions that can slowly chip away at the Mormons very foundation, their faith in their the Book of Mormon, and their supposed prophets.

8. **Suggest to them the idea of getting together again.** Why? To continue discussing these matters and your questions. Will they come back? Most likely, yes. Why? You were friendly. You were humble. You were kind. You remained joyful and unargumentative. You posed

honest questions to them (that you need answers to) and they will feel as if they owe it to you to provide answers to the questions that you asked that they were not able to answer. Your goal is to eventually and lovingly share with them three things.

- 1) Your discovery that the Bible is trustworthy and reliable.
- 2) The real Gospel. Demonstrate to them the total sufficiency of Christ's death on the cross to secure for us salvation and forgiveness of sins.
- 3) Your testimony (what God has done in your life).

This is the same approach I would use with co-workers, friends, and family members that are Mormons as well. It may play out a little differently. They won't come to your door, but you can have a talk over a lunch or two with that uncle of yours or that friend that you work with and ask them, "So what exactly is it that you believe?" They will tell you. Response: Debate? Arguing? I wouldn't. My response? Say, "Hmmm." Then tell them that you'd be interested in reading the Book of Mormon, and any of their other inspired literature. A couple of weeks after they give you that material let them know that you have a few questions you'd like to ask them.