

T H E
FINAL
WORD

What Scripture Teaches
About God and the Gospel

MAVEN'S Biblical Immersive Experience

THE FINAL WORD

WHAT SCRIPTURE TEACHES ABOUT GOD AND THE GOSPEL

Brett Kunkle & Chad Merrihew

SAMPLE

NAME: _____

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Students, Read This. Now.

You're about to embark on MAVEN's Biblical Immersive Experience, where the Bible will be challenged like never before. You'll dialogue with dedicated Mormons who say they are Christians, yet will use the Bible to declare a different Jesus, a false god, and a work-based path to Heaven. You'll encounter devoted Mormons of all kinds, who will challenge the orthodox biblical claims in order to point you toward Mormonism, which they believe is true Christianity.

Why would we create an experience like this?

Because we're not afraid and you shouldn't be either. See, we think the Bible is inerrant and unchanging, and we also know that every objection and argument Mormons provide against the Bible are inconsistent and unsound. So, we're not afraid of putting the Bible to the test.

We are going to purposefully expose you to a different biblical worldview because we've discovered such exposure actually helps inoculate you from those false views. Why do people get a flu shot? To inoculate themselves from the flu virus. Think about it. We purposely expose ourselves to a virus *in order to protect from the virus*. That's exactly what we'll do with you during the Biblical Immersive Experience. You will walk through a number of challenges to your faith so you can see firsthand that Christianity and the Bible can stand up to the toughest questions any Mormon can ask.

Not only will the Biblical Immersive Experience give you confidence that God is real. Not only will you grow in your ability to show others compelling biblical evidence for God, Jesus, and the true Gospel. You will also see how the truth of Jesus Christ transforms how we live.

We pray God's Holy Spirit will give you a love for the lost and a passion to go and make disciples of Jesus.

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Full Name: _____ Date: _____

Email Address: _____

The Before Survey

Before diving into the Biblical Immersive Experience, take a few minutes to complete this survey. Answer the questions as honestly and as thoroughly as you can.

Short Answers...

1. To the best of your ability, write your definition of the Trinity. Be as precise and accurate as possible.

2. From memory, what biblical passages would you cite to support the doctrine of the Trinity?

3. From memory, what biblical passages support the Christian view of salvation and what's required?

4. Why is the Bible trustworthy and authoritative?

5. In one to two sentences, explain what the gospel is.

Rate Yourself

For the following questions, rate yourself using the following scale:

- 1 = Completely uncomfortable
- 2 = Not very comfortable
- 3 = A bit hesitant
- 4 = Fairly confident
- 5 = Completely comfortable & confident

6. How confident are you that the Bible is the authoritative Word of God?

1 2 3 4 5

7. How comfortable are you standing up for Christian truth and values with your close friends and family?

1 2 3 4 5

8. How comfortable are you in your ability to share the Gospel with unbelievers?

1 2 3 4 5

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SECTION ONE

TRAINING SESSIONS

THE FINAL WORD: *WHAT SCRIPTURE TEACHES ABOUT GOD AND THE GOSPEL*

Section One of this guidebook is an interactive engagement tool to help you dive deep into the truth that will be taught during the six-session teaching series, *THE FINAL WORD*.

Before you engage Mormons, you first need to study and learn the key biblical truths about Christianity. In this section you will find the following tools for each session:

- **Session Outlines:** During each session, track along with the teachings by filling in the blanks and taking notes.
- **Session Reviews:** After each session, take a minute to quiz yourself on what you retained by completing, from memory, each session's review.
- **Session Discussions:** Lastly, dialogue with your team about each topic, using the discussion questions.

Don't be a passive listener, be an active learner. Use these tools!

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Session One

Are Mormons Christians?

"When it comes to God and the gospel, there is an impossible theological gulf between Mormonism and Christianity."

Brett Kunkle

Session One Outline

Are Mormons Christians?

Ask a clarification question...

- What do you mean by _____?

Possibility #1

1. Mormonism is just another _____ under _____

Understanding Mormon History...

Joseph Smith is the founder, first prophet, and president of the Mormon church and was given his first vision in 1820.

_____ (NASB)

"But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him."

(Pearl of Great Price)

"My object in going to inquire of the Lord was to know which of all the sects was right, that I might know which to join. No sooner, therefore, did I get possession of myself, so as to be able to speak, than I asked the personages who stood above me in the light, which of all the sects was right (for at this time it had never entered into my heart that all were wrong) – and which I should join. I was answered that I must join none of them, for they were all wrong; and the personage who addressed me said that all their creeds were an abomination in his sight; that those professors were all corrupt; that: 'they draw near to me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me, they teach for doctrines the commandments of men, having a form of godliness, but they deny the power of thereof.'"

(Book of Mormon)

"And he said unto me: behold there are save two churches only; the one is the church of the lamb of God, and the other is the church of the devil; wherefore, whoso belongeth not to the church of the lamb of God belongeth to that great church, which is the mother of abominations; and she is the whore of all the earth."

Ask two more clarification questions...

- What is the meaning of _____?

- Which _____ do I belong to?

Possibility #1 Conclusion

- Mormonism can't just be another _____ of _____

"Mormonism is Christianity; Christianity is Mormonism; they are one and the same, and they are not to be distinguished from each other in the minutest detail."

Bruce McConkie | Mormon Doctrine

Possibility #2

- Mormonism is _____
to Christianity

Ask another clarification question...

- Aren't Christians also _____?

"Latter-Day Saints believe that, through the priesthood conferred to Joseph Smith by the ministries of angels, the authority of act in God's name was brought back to the earth. This is 'restored' not 'reformed,' Christianity. Their belief in a restored Christianity helps explain why most Latter-Day Saints converts, from the 1830's to the present, converted from other Christian denominations. None of these converts thought they were leaving Christianity; they are simply grateful to learn about, and become part of, the restored church of Jesus Christ, which they believe offers a more complete and rich Christian church spirituality, organizationally, and doctrinally."

www.churchofJesusChrist.org | Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith, Chapter 8: The Everlasting Priesthood

According to the LDS Church...

- There was an _____ of the Christian Church

Possibility #2 Conclusion

Mormonism is *NOT* identical to Christianity

What Mormons really mean is...

- Mormons are the _____ Christians

Memory Verse

_____ (NIV)
 "Now this is eternal life; that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."

Differences Can Have Huge Consequences

- Mutually _____ claims

The Most Important Question...

- What is _____?

- _____ truth

A subjective truth is something that is true for the subject. It's a personal preference.

- _____ truth

Objective truths are facts. They are true whether anyone believes them or not.

Four Key Questions to Ask Your Mormon Friends...

1. Who is _____?

2. What is the _____?

3. How do we know _____?

4. What is our _____?

What is Love?

"Love is not [just] an affectionate feeling, but a steady wish for the loved persons ultimate good as far as it can be obtained."

CS Lewis | Theologian

_____ (NASB)

"...Let us not love with the word or with tongue, but in deed and truth."

_____ (NASB)

"Love...does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth."

What is Tolerance?

To recognize and respect others' beliefs without sharing them, to bear or put up with someone or something not necessarily liked.

Classical Tolerance

- All people are

- All ideas are not

- All _____ are not equal

_____ (NIV)

Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness" ... So God created mankind in His own image, in the image of God He created them; male and female he created them.

_____ (NIV)

"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil."

Two Ways to Engage People Who Don't Believe What We Believe...

1. Know _____ we believe and _____ we believe it
2. Do this with _____ & _____

Love & Truth

_____ (NIV)

"You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everyone. You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts."

_____ (NIV)

"This is my command: love each other."

_____ (NIV)

"If the world hates you..."

_____ (NIV)

"If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.

Remember what I told you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also."

_____ (NIV)

The apostles were brought in and made to appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name," he said. "Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man's blood."

Acts 5:29 _____ (ESV)

But Peter and the apostles answered, "we must obey God rather than men."

_____ (ESV)

They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the name. Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.

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Session One Review

Test yourself on what you retained from Session One. Once you've completed this review, grade yourself. Answers are found in your session outline. *Grade = __ / 5*

Fill-in-the-Blank...

1. What clarifying question should you ask when told that "Mormons are Christians?"
 - o What do you mean by _____?
2. Who is Joseph Smith?
 - o Joseph Smith is the _____, first _____, and _____, of the Mormon church and was given his first vision in _____.
3. What do Mormons really mean when they say they are Christians?
 - o Mormons are the _____ Christians
4. What are four key questions you should ask a Mormon?
 - o Who is _____?
 - o What is the _____?
 - o How do we know _____ _____ _____?
 - o What is our _____?

5. What is classical tolerance?

- All people are _____
- All ideas are not _____
- All _____ are not equal

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Session One Discussion

With your team, take time to discuss the content of this session.

1. What has been your usual response to the question, "Are Mormons Christians?"
2. Does it really matter if Mormonism is just another denomination of Christianity?
3. How can love and truth help when having a discussion with Mormons?
4. What one question do you have after today's teaching?
5. How much time might it take a Mormon to carefully examine the biblical claims of God and convert to Christianity? How long are you willing to walk with someone on that journey?

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Session Two

Who Is God?

"A careful study of LDS theology reveals a host of characteristics separating the Mormon God and the Christian God."

Brett Kunkle

Session Two Outline

Who is God?

"He who often thinks of God, will have a larger mind than the man who simply plods around this narrow globe... the most excellent study for expanding the soul, is the science of Christ, and Him crucified, and the knowledge of the godhead in the glorious trinity. Nothing will so enlarge the intellect, nothing so magnify the whole soul of man, as a devout, earnest, continued investigation of the great subject of the deity."

Charles Spurgeon | Theologian

The Mormon View of God...

The standard works...

- King James

- The Book of

- Doctrine and

- Pearl of

_____ (D&C)

"The father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's; the son also. But the holy ghost has not a body of flesh and bones, but is a personage of spirit."

"It is the first principle of the gospel to know for a certainty the character of God... I am going to tell you how God came to be God. We have imagined and supposed that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea, and take away the veil, so that you may see."

Joseph Smith | King Follet Discourse

"I have always declared God to be a distinct personage, Jesus Christ a separate and distinct personage from God the Father, and that the Holy Ghost was a distinct personage and a spirit: and these three constitute three distinct personages and three Gods. If this is in accordance with the New Testament, lo and behold? We have three Gods anyhow, and they are plural: and who can contradict it!"

Joseph Smith | History of the Church, Vol. 6, p.473-479

"As man is God once was. As God is man may be."

Lorenzo Snow | Mormon Prophet

The Mormon view summarized...

- The _____ hasn't eternally been God
- _____ is a separate divine being
- The _____ is a separate divine being

Christian View vs. Mormon View

- Christians have one

- Mormons have a radically different _____

_____ (NIV)

"Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."

The Christian View of God

- _____ is a Trinity

Two things you'll find when doing a careful study of the Trinity...

1. The Trinity is not _____

2. The Trinity is _____

"Within the one being that is God, there simultaneously exists three coequal, coeternal, and distinct persons, namely, the father, the son, and the Holy Spirit."

James White | Theologian

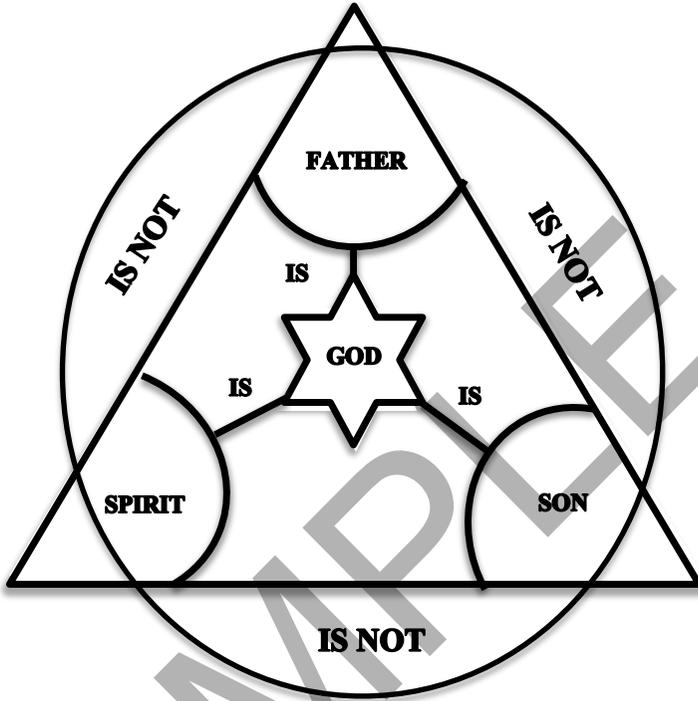
Logical Foundations for the Trinity...

- God is one _____ (one being)

- God is three _____ (three persons)

- God is father, Son, Holy Spirit _____

Illustration 1: The Most Accurate Trinity Analogy



The logical explanation summarized...

- The _____ is not illogical

Biblical Foundations for the Trinity...

Foundation #1

- There's only _____ God

Foundation #2

- There are _____ distinct persons

Foundation #3

- Each distinct person is _____ God

Bible Study on Foundation #1

There's only one God...

_____ (NASB)

"Here, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one!"

_____ (NASB)

"You are my witnesses," declares the Lord, "and my servant whom I have chosen, in order that you may know and believe me, and understand that I am he. Before me there was no God formed, and there will be none after me. I, even I, am the Lord; and there is no savior besides me."

_____ (NIV)

This is what the Lord says – Israel's king and redeemer, the Lord almighty: "I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God."

A Mormon's typical response...

- There's only one God for this _____

A helpful question to ask...

- Can you show me a place in the _____ where there is more than one _____?

_____ (NIV)

"Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God..."

Bible study of Foundation #1 concludes...

- The Bible teaches there is _____ one _____

Bible Study on Foundation #2

There are three distinct persons...

_____ (NIV)

"As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'this is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.'"

_____ (NIV)

"Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, 'My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.'"

Bible study of Foundation #2 concludes...

- The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are _____ from one _____

_____ (NIV)

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made."

Illustration 2: Everything That Exists



KEY QUESTION: According to John 1:3 , in which box does Jesus logically belong?

B.O.M. passages to consider...

_____ (B.O.M.)

"And, Zeezrom said unto him: thou sayest there is a true and living God? And Amulek said: yea, there is a true and living God. Now Zeezrom said: is there more than one God? And he answered, no."

_____ (NIV)
"But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us... by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior..."

_____ (NASB)
"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..."

_____ (ESV)
"Pray then like this: 'Our father in heaven...'"

_____ (ESV)
"...No one comes to the Father except through me."

_____ (ESV)
"...According to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith..."

_____ (NIV)
"Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love."

Session Two Review

Test yourself on what you retained from Session Two. Once you've completed this review, grade yourself. Answers are found in your Session Two outline. *Grade = __ / 5*

Fill-in-the-Blank...

1. What are the four books/scriptures (the Standard Works) Mormons use?

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

2. Is the Mormon God and the Christian God the same? Explain.

- _____

3. What is the Christian view of God?

- _____ is a Trinity

4. What are the two things you'll find when doing a careful study of the Trinity?

- The _____ is not illogical
- The _____ is biblical

5. What are the three biblical foundations for the Trinity and list one supporting scripture reference for each?

○ There's only _____ God

○ Scripture Reference: _____

○ There are _____ distinct persons

○ Scripture Reference: _____

○ Each distinct person is _____ God

○ Scripture Reference: _____

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Session Two Discussion

With your team, take time to discuss the content of this session.

1. Define the Mormon's view of God.
2. Define the Christian's view of God.
3. What makes the Mormon view of God different from the Christian view of God?
4. Why does it matter if Mormons view God different than Christians?
5. What's confusing you after this session?

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Session Three

What Is the Gospel?

"According to LDS scriptures, the highest heavenly reward is only achieved through perfect obedience. Therefore the 'good news' of Mormonism is an 'Impossible Gospel'."

Brett Kunkle

Session Three Outline

What Is the Gospel?

- _____ = Good News

The "Good News" According to Mormons...

"Here, then, is eternal life – to know the only wise and true God; and you have got to learn how to be Gods yourselves, and to be kings and priests to God, the same as all Gods have done before you, namely, by going from one small degree to another, and from a small capacity to a great one; from grace to grace, from exaltation to exaltation."

Joseph Smith | King Follet Sermon

- You must learn to be _____ yourself

_____ (D&C)

"Then shall they be Gods, because they have no end; therefore, shall they be from everlasting to everlasting, because they continue; then shall they be above all, because all things are subject unto them. Then shall they be Gods, because they have all power, and the angels are subject unto them."

- Mormons can become their own _____

- For _____ who are good and faithful
- Where _____ takes place

The goal is for Mormons to reach exaltation – become God.

Biblical Evidence of 3 Kingdoms?

Mormons will use this passage for support...

_____ (KJV)

"There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory."

Get a Mormon to keep reading...

_____ (KJV)

"So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption..."

The Impossible Gospel Approach

Opening question to Mormons

- If you died today are you sure all your sins are _____ and you'll get the best your religion has to _____?

Mormons: *"Yes, if I repent and keep all the commandments."*

Follow-up questions...

- How many _____ do you have to repent of?
- How many _____ do you have to _____?

Take Mormons to...

_____ (D&C)
"Behold, he who has repented of his sins, the same is forgiven, and I, the Lord, remember them no more. By this ye may know if a man repenteth of his sins – behold, he will confess them and forsake them."

Follow-up question...

- How _____ do you repent?

Mormon answer: *"All the time."*

_____ (B.O.M.)

"And I say unto you again that he cannot save them in their sins; for I cannot deny his Word, and he hast said that no unclean thing can inherit the kingdom of heaven; therefore, how can ye be saved, except ye inherit the kingdom of heaven? Therefore, ye cannot be saved in your sins."

The Impossible Gospel Summary

- Mormons must be perfect to reach _____

The Biblical Gospel

_____ (NIV)

As it is written: "there is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one."

_____ (NIV)

"Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin."

_____ (NIV)

"All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away."

"No man knows how bad he is till he has tried very hard to be good. The true Christian's nostril is to be continually attentive to the inner cesspool."

CS Lewis | Theologian

_____ (NASB)

"But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets, even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by his grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus..."

_____ (NASB)

"Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due. But to the one who does not work, but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing on the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: blessed are those whose lawless deeds have been forgiven, and whose sins have been covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will not take into account."

Gospel of grace...

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- Through _____ in Christ
He freely gives the gift of

Mormon's pushback...

_____ (NIV)

"...Faith by itself... is dead..."

Biblical Clarification...

_____ (NIV)

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast."

_____ (NIV)

"What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer."

_____ (NIV)

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

The Mormon Equation

- _____ + _____ = eternal life

The Biblical Equation

- _____ = eternal life + works

Session Three Review

Test yourself on what you retained from Session Three. Once you've completed this review, grade yourself. Answers are found in your Session Three outline. *Grade = ____ / 5*

Fill-in-the-Blank...

1. What is the gospel?
 - Gospel = _____

2. What is the three-stage process of exaltation in the Mormon worldview?
 - Stage #1: _____
 - Stage #2: _____
 - Stage #3: _____

3. What are the three separate heavenly kingdoms...
 - The _____ kingdom
 - The _____ kingdom
 - The _____ kingdom

4. What is the highest goal for all Mormons?
 - _____

5. What is the biblical equation for salvation?
 - _____ = _____ + _____

Session Three Discussion

Discuss with your team the material you just received.

1. What makes the Mormon gospel impossible?
2. How is the biblical gospel different from the Mormon gospel?
3. Explain the process of exaltation.
4. What is the difference between justification and sanctification?
5. Are you confused? Why?

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Session Four

How Do We Know What's True?

"Truth is always about something, but reality is that about which truth is."

CS Lewis

Session Four Outline

How Do We Know What's True?

You need to learn philosophy...

- _____ -
Thinking carefully about questions that matter

_____ (NASB)

"See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ."

Three Major Branches of Philosophy

1. _____ is the study of reality
2. _____ is the study of knowledge
3. _____ deals with moral questions

Epistemology

The study of knowledge...

Three types of knowledge

1. _____
knowledge – *knowing that*
2. Knowledge by
_____ -
knowing who or *knowing of*
3. _____
knowledge – *knowing how*

_____ (NIV)

"Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."

Propositional Knowledge

What is knowledge?

- Knowledge is justified _____ belief
- Belief is a mental attitude of _____ or affirmation
- Truth is that which corresponds to _____

"If you say that it is and it is, or you say that it isn't and it isn't, that's true. If you say that it isn't and it is, or you say that it is and it isn't, that's false."

Aristotle | Greek Philosopher

- Justification is the _____ why we believe something

Why Do You Believe What You Believe?

Asking Mormons and Christians their *why*...

Mormons will point to...

_____ (D&C)

"But, behold, I say unto you, that you must study it out in your mind; then you must ask me if it be right, and if it is right I will cause that your bosom shall burn within you; therefore, you shall feel that it is right."

_____ (NIV)

"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you."

Problem #1

Ask them...

- Do you _____ to know that George Washington was the first president of the United States?
- Do you pray to know that your spouse _____ you?
- Do you pray to know that _____ is wrong?

Problem #2

- _____ testimonies

Ask...

- Have your feelings ever been _____?

Problem #3

_____ (B.O.M.)

"...Ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the holy ghost..."

Problem #4

Biblical passage about how we know what we know...

_____ (NASB)

"The brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the Word with great eagerness, examining the scriptures daily to see whether these things were so."

What does God say about the human heart?

_____ (NASB)

"The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it?"

Three more helpful passages...

_____ (NASB)

"I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!"

_____ (NASB)

"For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light."

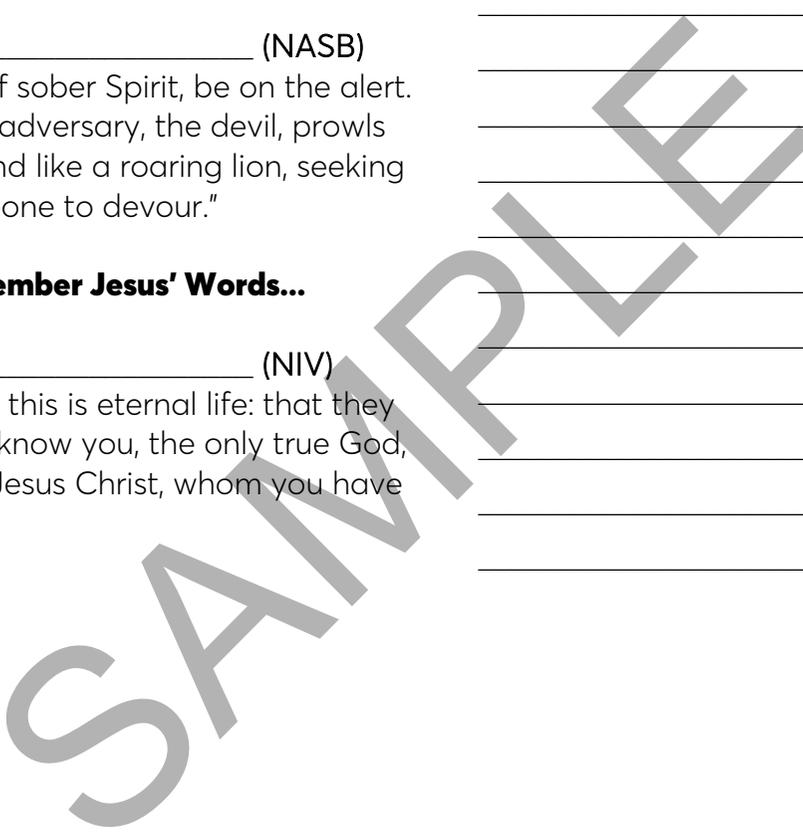
_____ (NASB)

"Be of sober Spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."

Remember Jesus' Words...

_____ (NIV)

"Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."



Session Four Review

Test yourself on what you retained from Session Four. Once you've completed this review, grade yourself. Answers are found in your Session Four outline. *Grade = ____ / 5*

Fill-in-the-Blank...

1. What is philosophy?
 - o Philosophy is _____ carefully about _____ that _____
2. What are the three major branches of philosophy?
 - o _____ is the study of reality
 - o _____ is the study of knowledge
 - o _____ deals with moral questions
3. What are the three types of knowledge?
 - o _____ knowledge – *knowing that*
 - o Knowledge by _____ – *knowing who*
 - o _____ knowledge – *knowing how*
4. What is knowledge?
 - o Knowledge is justified _____ belief
5. What is truth?
 - o Truth is that which corresponds to _____

Session Four Discussion

With your team, take time to discuss the content of this session.

1. Why is understanding philosophy important when figuring out what's true?
2. Why is believing something on the sole basis of a personal experience problematic?
3. What is the primary reason a Mormon believes what they believe? How can you cause them to question this basis?
4. Why should a Christian believe what they believe?
5. How would you define truth? Why might this be important to define?

SAMPLE

SAMPLE

Session Five

What Is Your Authority?

"Many refuse to accept the reality of a personal God because they are unwilling to submit to His authority."

Kurt Bruner

Session Five Outline

What & Who Is Our Authority?

- Mormons and Christians think _____ is the Word of God
- Mormons call the Book of Mormon _____ testament of Jesus Christ
- " _____ "
 - King James Bible
 - Book of Mormon
 - Doctrine and Covenants
 - Pearl of Great Price

Mormons point to the Old Testament for the coming of the Book of Mormon...

_____ (NASB)

The Word of the Lord came again to me saying, "And you, son of man, take for yourself one stick and write on it, 'For Judah and for the sons of Israel, his companions'; then take another stick and write on it, 'For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim and all the house of Israel, his companions.' Then join them for yourself on to another into one stick, that they may become one in your hand."

Keep reading the passage...

_____ (NASB)

"When the sons of your people speak to you saying, 'Will you not declare to us what you mean by these?'"

_____ (NASB)

"And I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king will be king for all of them; and they will no longer be two nations and no longer be divided into two kingdoms."

Christians will point to...

_____ (NASB)

"I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book."

Mormons reply to Revelation 22...

_____ (NASB)

"You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you."

- Joseph Smith violates Revelation 22:18

○ _____

○ _____

_____ (B.O.M.)

"Wherefore, thou seest that after the book hath gone forth through the hands of the great and abominable church, that there are many plain and precious things taken away from the book, which is the book of the lamb of God."

_____ (A of F)

"We believe the Bible to be the Word of God so far as it is translated correctly."

Key Questions to Ask a Mormon...

1. Can you show me which particular _____ of the Bible have been translated incorrectly?

2. Which _____
_____ portions of the Bible do you avoid?

3. What do you mean the Bible has been _____?
_____?

Transmission...

Is what we have what they wrote?

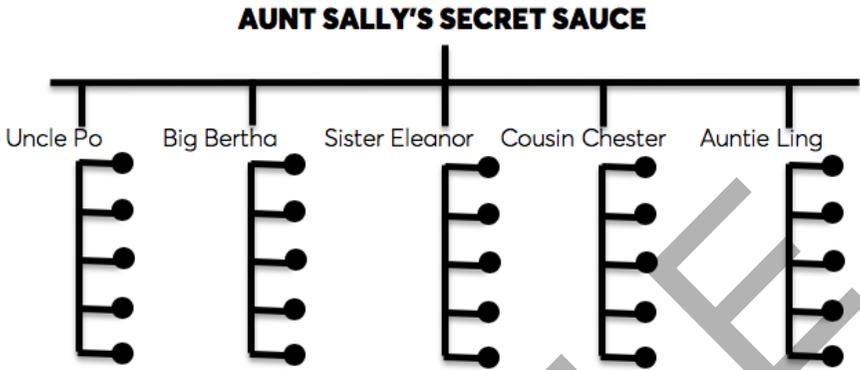
- The _____ of the Bible refers to how the Bible has been passed along through the _____

Two things you must know for establishing the authority of the Bible...

1. Do we have what the original authors _____?

2. Is what they wrote what really _____?

Analogy: How Aunt Sally's Recipe Gets Passed Along
(Transmitted)



Find the Errors...

Circle the different variations in Aunt Sally's recipe. How many are there?

- Add 1 cop of finely chopped garlic, and boil.
- Add 1 cup of finely chipped garlic, and boil.
- Ad 1 cup of finely chopped garlic, and boil.
- Add 1 cup of finely chopped garlic, and bowl.
- Add 1 cup of finely chopped glaric, and boil.
- Add 1 cup # finely chopped garlic, and boil.
- Add 1 cup of finely chopped garlic, nd boil.
- Add 1 cup of fly chopped garlic, and boil.

Three questions scholars ask about manuscripts, helping them determine how reliable the copy of the original is...

1. How many _____ do we have?

2. How _____ are the manuscript copies that we have? _____

3. How _____ are the variations? _____

1. How many copies do we have?

• More than _____ Greek manuscript copies _____

• More than _____ pages of text _____

• Over _____ Latin manuscripts _____

• _____ handwritten manuscripts of the New Testament _____

2. How early are the manuscripts we have?

Graph 1: Total Early New Testament Manuscripts

12 Second Century
64 Third Century
+ 48 Fourth Century
124 Manuscripts Within First 300 Years of N.T. Writings

Other ancient documents...

- Livy – _____ & earliest copy is _____ years after the original
- Tacitus – _____ & earliest copy is _____ - _____ years after the original
- Suetonius – _____ & earliest copy is _____ years after the original
- Total of _____

3. How significant are the textual variations?

- _____ % of the variations are what scholars call insignificant variations

Transmission conclusion...

- We can accurately _____ the original New Testament documents
- _____ we have what was originally written!

Internal Tests

- The principle of _____

Historicity conclusion...

- The Bible has been _____ transmitted
- What they wrote is _____ history

Bible vs. Book of Mormon

There is no manuscript evidence for the Book of Mormon, only Joseph Smith's word.

- There have been more than _____ changes to the Book of Mormon since its first print in 1830

Examples from the Book of Mormon...

_____ (B.O.M. 1830)

"...Behold, the virgin which thou seest, is the mother of God..."

_____ (B.O.M. 1981)

"...Behold, the virgin which thou seest, is the mother of *[the son of]* God..."

_____ (B.O.M. 1830)

"...Behold the lamb of God yea,
even the eternal father..."

_____ (B.O.M. 1981)

"...Behold the lamb of God yea,
even the *[son of the]* eternal
father..."

External test examples from
the Book of Mormon...

_____ (B.O.M.)

"And it came to pass that he
called the name of the river,
Laman, and it emptied into the
Red Sea; and the valley was in
the borders near the mouth
therefor."

- There is _____ river in
all of Arabia

_____ (B.O.M.)

"...And after they had slain the
messiah, who should come,
and after he had been slain he
should rise from the dead, and
should make himself manifest,
by the holy ghost, unto the
gentiles."

- The _____
reference was not known in
600 B.C. when these events
were happening

_____ (B.O.M.)

"And it came to pass that as I, Nephi, went forth to slay food, behold, I did break my bow, which was made of fine steel..."

- Steel was not _____ in the New World before 1492

External tests conclusion...

- There is no _____ evidence for the Book of Mormon

One more example providing evidence against the Mormon scriptures – The Lost Book of Abraham...

Homework Assignment: Go to YouTube and look for the "The Lost Book of Abraham" for the full story.

Session Review

- Mormons and Christians both believe God has given us his _____

Where Christians and Mormons differ on the Bible...

- Christians – the Bible alone is God's _____ word

- Mormons – the Bible is God's _____ but it's been messed up

One final question to ask a Mormon: "What do you make of God's promises to protect His word?"

_____ (NASB)
"The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever."

_____ (NASB)
"For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the law until all is accomplished."

_____ (NIV)
For, "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the Word of the Lord stands forever."

Session Five Review

Test yourself on what you retained from Session Five. Once you've completed this review, grade yourself. Answers are found in your Session Five outline. *Grade = ____ / 5*

Fill-in-the-Blank...

1. What are *The Standard Works* of Mormonism?
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
2. What are the two things you must know for establishing the authority of the Bible?
 - Do we have what the original authors _____
 - Is what they wrote what really _____
3. Roughly how many Greek manuscript copies are there?
 - More than _____ Greek manuscript copies
4. How many manuscripts do we have within the first 300 years of the New Testament writings?
 - _____ manuscripts

True or False?

5. _____ There is historical evidence for the Book of Mormon.

Session Five Discussion

With your team, take time to discuss the content of this session.

1. What does transmission mean and how does it work?
2. What role does history play in validating the authenticity of a historical document?
3. In what ways do Mormons and Christians differ when it comes to the Bible?
4. What's the difference between the internal tests and the external tests that we apply to the Bible?
5. What's challenging you most from today's session? Why?

SAMPLE

Session Six

How Do We Engage with Mormons?

"If I have only an hour with someone, I will spend the first 55 minutes asking questions and finding out what is troubling their heart and mind, and then the last 5 minutes I will share something of the truth."

Francis Schaeffer

Session Six Outline

How Do We Engage with Mormons?

_____ (NIV)

"Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."

Eternity is at stake...

Four Tips for Engaging with Mormons...

1. Be _____

Analogy: Why We Must Be Patient



*MORMON
VIEW OF GOD*

*BIBLICAL
VIEW OF GOD*

The goal of each conversation with a Mormon...

- Put a _____ in their shoe

2. Start with

John 1:14 (NASB)

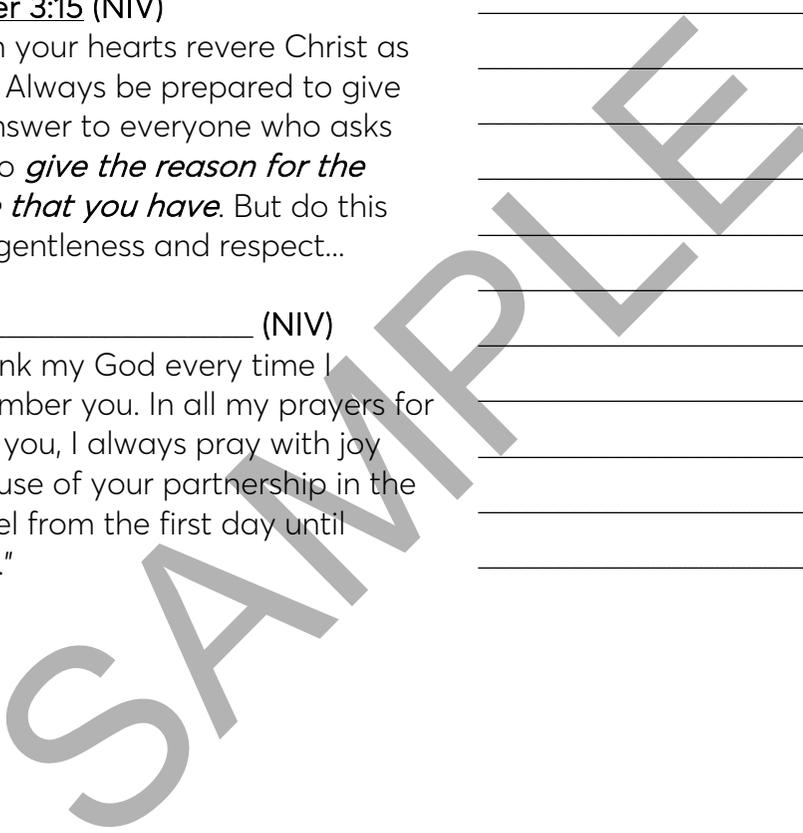
And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of *grace* and *truth*.

I Peter 3:15 (NIV)

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to *give the reason for the hope that you have*. But do this with gentleness and respect...

_____ (NIV)

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now..."



Session Six Review

Test yourself on what you retained from Session Six. Once you've completed this review, grade yourself. Answers are found in your Session Six outline. *Grade = ____ / 5*

Fill-in-the-Blank...

1. What's the first tip for engaging a Mormon?
 - o Be _____
2. What's the second tip for engaging a Mormon?
 - o Start with _____
3. What's the third tip for engaging a Mormon?
 - o Keep _____
4. What's the fourth tip for engaging a Mormon?
 - o Be _____
5. What is the goal of each conversation with a Mormon?
 - o To put a _____ in their _____

Session Six Discussion

With your team, take time to discuss the content of this session.

1. Why must we engage with Mormons?
2. What's a reasonable goal for each **conversation** we have with a Mormon? Why?
3. Why is it important to start with questions? How might asking good questions be helpful?
4. What happens if you can't answer a question? What do you say?
5. What questions do you still have after this session?

SAMPLE

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MAVEN

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SECTION TWO

REQUIRED READING

THE AMBASSADOR'S GUIDE TO MORMONISM by Brett Kunkle
WITNESS TO MORMONS IN LOVE by Daniel G. Thompson

To prepare for your Biblical Immersive Experience you will be required to read The Ambassador's Guide to Mormonism and Witness to Mormons in Love, as well as to take a series of quizzes after each section of reading.

As you read, write notes in the margin, underline and use a highlighter to make it easier to go back and study for each quiz. Don't read just to fulfill the requirement, but read to grow in your knowledge!

In Section Two you'll find the following tools to help you:

- **Reading Plan:** Use the reading plan to help you gauge what you need to read before each quiz. Do not save reading until the last minute. Cramming won't work!
- **Tabbing Assignment & Suggested Readings:** Consider diving even deeper into your studies by tabbing your Bible and reading some or all of the suggested books listed.
- **Reading Quizzes:** After you read the appropriate chapters, you will then take the quiz assigned to that reading plan. Copy the quiz ahead of time as your study guide!

Enjoy your reading. Schedule when you'll read and make sure you're not just reading because you were told to!

Reading Plan

1. **THE AMBASSADOR'S GUIDE TO MORMONISM** by Brett Kunkle
2. **WITNESS TO MORMONS IN LOVE** by Daniel G. Thompson

| <u>Due By...</u> | <u>Chapters</u> |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Quiz 1 | Book 1 <u>The Ambassador's Guide to Mormonism</u> <i>All Chapters</i> |
| Quiz 2 | Book 2 Chapter 1, Chapter 2, Chapter 3, Chapter 4 |
| Quiz 3 | Book 2 Chapter 5, Chapter 6, Chapter 7 |
| Quiz 4 | Book 2 Chapter 8, Chapter 9, Chapter 10 |
| Quiz 5 | Book 2 Chapter 11, Chapter 12, Chapter 13, Chapter 14 |

Preparedness: You will be taking quizzes on each section of reading assigned. You must bring your required readings, your guidebook, and be on time for the quizzes. If you forget your book, your guidebook, or are late for a quiz, points will be deducted.

*"Read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest."
Book of Common Prayer*

Tabbing Assignment

Buy the Mormon Triple Combination, which can be purchased online for \$6.75 at www.store.churchofjesuschrist.org. This will be one of your most pulled from resources while on your trip.

Take some marking tabs, a highlighter or pen, and go to pages 250 through 254 where you will find the Cheat Sheet for Witnessing to Mormons by R.M. Sivulka. Tab each passage listed on these pages, making them easy to reference while in conversations with Mormons.

Suggested Readings

Here are some additional readings, which are highly encouraged, but not mandatory, to read as you prepare for your Biblical Immersive Experience.

Books

1. Sharing the Good News with Mormons: Practical Strategies for Getting the Conversation Started by Eric Johnson and Sean McDowell
2. Mormonism 101 by Bill McKeever & Eric Johnson
3. The Miracle of Forgiveness by Spencer Kimball
(Kimball was a Mormon prophet)

SAMPLE

Reading Quizzes

Test Yourself. How Well Have You Read & Studied?

Reading Quiz #1

Now that you've read The Ambassador's Guide to Mormonism, go through this quiz as a study guide first. Feel free to make a copy on another sheet of paper for practice but wait to officially take this quiz until your leader gives permission.

1. Are Mormons Christians? Why or why not? (pg. 1-9)

2. What is the Great Apostasy? (pg. 4)

3. What are the two Columbo Tactic questions? (pg. 20)

- Question #1 _____
- Question #2 _____

4. What do Mormons believe the Godhead consists of? Where does this doctrine come from? (pg. 22)

5. What is the Mormon view of God? (pg. 24)

- God is not a _____ being.
- God the Father was a _____.

- God the Father has a _____ of _____ & _____.
- God the Father became _____.
- Jesus was created by the _____.
- Jesus is a separate god from the _____.

6. What is the Orthodox Christian view of God? (pg. 24)

- God is a _____ being.
- God the Father was never a _____.
- God is a _____.
- God the Father has always been _____.
- Jesus has always _____ and _____ all things.
- Jesus is the second _____ of the _____.

7. What are four passages from the Bible you can use to best articulate the true gospel of grace? (pg. 36)

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

8. What 4 books form the LDS "Standard Works"? (pg. 37-38)

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

9. What is central to the defense of Mormon scripture, Mormon doctrine, and the existence of the Mormon church? (pg. 46)

10. What are two important character traits you must have while engaging your Mormon friends and family? (pg. 54)

- _____
- _____

SAMPLE

Quiz #1 Grading Rubric

Grading is done on the honor system, so please be 100% honest as you fill out your grading rubric.

- Did You Read:** If you read The Ambassador's Guide to Mormonism in its entirety (not just some of it), then give yourself 50 points. There are no partial points here – you either get 50 or 0. Reading 99% doesn't get you there.
 - Points = _____
- Questions Correct:** Every question you got right give yourself 5 points. There are 50 points available here.
 - Points = _____
- Preparedness:** If you forgot your book subtract 10 points. If you forgot your guidebook subtract 10 points. If you were late for this quiz take away 1 point for each minute late. Add up how many total points you need to subtract.
 - Points = - _____
- Your Grade** = Total your points from number 1 and number 2, subtract any points from number 3, and put your final score below.
 - Total Points = _____ / 100
 - Grade = _____%

If you received a 70% or above, you pass! If you did not, please schedule a makeup date with your leader.

Reading Quiz #2

Now that you've read Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4 of Witness to Mormons in Love, go through this quiz as a study guide first. Feel free to make a copy on another sheet of paper for practice but wait to officially take this quiz until your leader gives permission.

1. In your own words what is the LDS definition of *Adam*? Who was he before his earthly life? What did he help with? (pg. 1 & 122)

2. What happened to the gold plates, the only ancient manuscript of the Book of Mormon? (pg. 5)

3. What two LDS buzz words will be helpful to remember as you witness to Mormons? (pg. 7)

○ _____

○ _____

4. LDS people believe the Bible to be the Word of God as far as it is _____ . What does this mean? (pg. 10 & 11)

5. What is an anachronism? (pg. 14)

6. What is the difference between circumstantial evidence and archeological proof? (pg.17)

7. Explain *Truth vs. Error* in your own words? (pg. 19)

8. Why is the idea that "Families can be Together Forever" truer for Christians than Mormons? (pg. 21)

9. What should you ALWAYS attempt to do as you conclude a conversation with a Mormon? (pg. 25)

10. Do both good and evil spirits exist in our world today? (pg. 27)

Quiz #2 Grading Rubric

Grading is done on the honor system, so please be 100% honest as you fill out your grading rubric.

1. **Did You Read:** If you read the Chapters 1-4 of Witnessing to Mormons in Love in its entirety, not just some of it, then give yourself 50 points. There are no partial points here – you either get 50 or 0. Reading 99% doesn't get you there.

○ Points = _____

2. **Questions Correct:** Every question you got right give yourself 5 points. There are 50 points available here.

○ Points = _____

3. **Preparedness:** If you forgot your book subtract 10 points. If you forgot your guidebook subtract 10 points. If you were late for this quiz take away 1 point for each minute late. Add up how many total points you need to subtract.

○ Points = - _____

4. **Your Grade** = Total your points from number 1 and number 2, subtract any points from number 3, and put your final score below.

○ Total Points = _____ / 100

○ Grade = _____%

If you received a 70% or above, you pass! If you did not, please schedule a makeup date with your leader.

Reading Quiz #3

Now that you've read Chapters 5, 6, and 7 of Witness to Mormons in Love, go through this quiz as a study guide first. Feel free to make a copy on another sheet of paper for practice but wait to officially take this quiz until your leader gives permission.

1. Who is speaking in Isaiah 43, 44, and 45? Why is this significant? (pg. 29)

2. In your own words, what does John 14:7-11 teach about Jesus and the Father? (pg. 31)

3. How can Christians claim Jesus was conceived by the Holy Ghost and still believe He is the Son of God? (pg. 32 & 33)

4. How does the image of man help us understand the image of God? (pg. 36)

5. According to the Bible, can there be more than one true and living God? Explain. (pg. 41)

6. In your own words explain the LDS law of eternal progression. (pg. 43 & 131)

7. What does the name LORD / Jehovah mean? Why is the meaning of Jehovah God's name important as you witness to LDS people? (pg. 44 & 45)

8. Why are Deuteronomy 4:35, 39; Psalm 100:3; Isaiah 44:6; and Isaiah 45:5 a problem for LDS people? (pg. 46)

9. Write one reference from both the Book of Mormon and the Bible which states Jesus is God. (pg. 49)

- _____
- _____

10. Define the LDS definition of God. (pg. 135)

Quiz #3 Grading Rubric

Grading is done on the honor system so please be 100% honest as you fill out your grading rubric.

1. **Did You Read:** If you read the Chapters 5-7 in Witness to Mormons in Love in its entirety (not just some of it), then give yourself 50 points. There are no partial points here – you either get 50 or 0. Reading 99% doesn't get you there.
 - Points = _____

5. **Questions Correct:** Every question you got right give yourself 5 points. There are 50 points available here.
 - Points = _____

6. **Preparedness:** If you forgot your book subtract 10 points. If you forgot your guidebook subtract 10 points. If you were late for this quiz take away 1 point for each minute late. Add up how many total points you need to subtract.
 - Points = - _____

7. **Your Grade** = Total your points from number 1 and number 2, subtract any points from number 3, and put your final score below.
 - Total Points = _____ / 100

 - Grade = _____%

If you received a 70% or above, you pass! If you did not, please schedule a makeup date with your leader.

Reading Quiz #4

Now that you've read Chapters 8 through 10 of Witness to Mormons in Love, go through this quiz as a study guide first. Feel free to make a copy on another sheet of paper for practice but wait to officially take this quiz until your leader gives permission.

1. Who is the one and only true living God? (pg. 51)

2. Summarize Jesus prayer in John 17. (pg. 52)

3. Do the Bible and Book of Mormon agree or disagree with the Creed formed at the Council of Nicea? Why or why not? (pg. 53)

4. What passages in the Bible can be used to show the "most High" is the LORD (Jehovah God)? (pg. 55)

5. Why is the LDS gospel so deceptive and hard for Christians to grasp? (pg. 56)

6. Why is it vitally important for Christians to fully understand LDS terminology before witnessing to LDS people? (pg. 6-7)

7. Write out the slightly altered Evangelism Explosion questions.

o Question #1

o Question #2

8. Explain in your own words what it means to be born again. Support your answer with the Bible. (pg. 61 & 62)

9. Are all people children of God figuratively or literally? (pg. 65 & 66)

10. Why can we say with confidence that no one will be able to stand in the judgement and tell God, "You never gave me a chance?" (pg. 68-70)

SAMPLE

Quiz #4 Grading Rubric

Grading is done on the honor system so please be 100% honest as you fill out your grading rubric.

1. **Did You Read:** If you read Chapters 8, 9, 10 in its entirety, (not just some of it), then give yourself 50 points. There are no partial points here – you either get 50 or 0. Reading 99% doesn't get you there.
 - Points = _____

8. **Questions Correct:** Every question you got right give yourself 5 points. There are 50 points available here.
 - Points = _____

9. **Preparedness:** If you forgot your book subtract 10 points. If you forgot your guidebook subtract 10 points. If you were late for this quiz take away 1 point for each minute late. Add up how many total points you need to subtract.
 - Points = - _____

10. **Your Grade** = Total your points from number 1 and number 2, subtract any points from number 3, and put your final score below.
 - Total Points = _____ / 100

 - Grade = _____%

If you received a 70% or above, you pass! If you did not, please schedule a makeup date with your leader.

Reading Quiz #5

Now that you've read Chapters 11, 12, 13, and 14 in Witness to Mormons in Love, go through this quiz as a study guide first. Feel free to make a copy on another sheet of paper for practice but wait to officially take this quiz until your leader gives permission.

1. What is one reason for sharing the "Impossible Gospel" with LDS people? (Section 41)

2. After reading Spencer Kimball's quotations, what is your impression of *The Miracle of Forgiveness*? (Section 42)

3. Define, in your own words, the LDS definition of perfection. (pg. 84 & 146)

4. How do good works relate to our salvation? (pg. 86)

5. What passage from the Bible does NOT allow LDS prophets to change the gospel of Jesus Christ in any way? (pg. 88)

6. What heretical doctrine arises from the LDS concept of the Preexistence of spirits? (pg. 91)

7. How are Joseph Smith's plural marriages a problem for the LDS Church today? (Section 50)

8. How many false prophecies does it take to disqualify a prophet? (pg. 104)

9. How do we know for certain Jesus is "that prophet" spoken of in Deuteronomy 18:15-19? (pg. 109)

10. Which LDS racism quote is most offensive to you? Why?

Quiz #5 Grading Rubric

Grading is done on the honor system so please be 100% honest as you fill out your grading rubric.

1. **Did You Read:** If you read Chapters 11 through 14 in its entirety, (not just some of it), then give yourself 50 points. There are no partial points here – you either get 50 or 0. Reading 99% doesn't get you there.
 - Points = _____

11. **Questions Correct:** Every question you got right give yourself 5 points. There are 50 points available here.
 - Points = _____

12. **Preparedness:** If you forgot your book subtract 10 points. If you forgot your guidebook subtract 10 points. If you were late for this quiz take away 1 point for each minute late. Add up how many total points you need to subtract.
 - Points = - _____

13. **Your Grade** = Total your points from number 1 and number 2, subtract any points from number 3, and put your final score below.
 - Total Points = _____ / 100

 - Grade = _____%

If you received a 70% or above, you pass! If you did not, please schedule a makeup date with your leader.

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MAVEN

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SECTION THREE

TRIP JOURNAL

PROCESSING THE TRIP

Congratulations! Your Biblical Immersive Experience has begun. You've read two books, taken five quizzes, and have taken great notes on six teaching sessions. You have prepared well. You have worked hard. Now's the time to see your work pay off. You won't remember everything. That's ok! Your guidebook is here as a resource to revisit as needed.

This section of your guidebook will specifically give you space during your experience to intentionally be with God as you enter into and close out each day. Being with God is important. Use this to create a daily habit you can maintain when arriving home.

- **Morning Time with God:** Start each morning with God by engaging in His word.
- **Daily Reflection:** Use the reflection pages to process the day's activities, people, main takeaways, and feelings. Don't miss one of the most significant parts of each day – processing it with God, yourself, and others. Each day has much to offer.
- **Evening Prayer:** Prayer is important. End each evening in prayer. Engage in a variety of creative prayer practices throughout this section to foster intimacy with God.

SAMPLE

Day One

Where Are You?

SAMPLE

Evening Prayer

Prayer is one of the most important disciplines in the life of a Christian. It's one way to talk to God. Take time now to use today's prayer exercise to be with the Creator.

Open Hands Prayer

Find a comfortable position. Close your eyes, and place your hands out in front of you.

First, place your palms down, which represents a posture of releasing or letting go of. With your palms facing down take a few minutes to pray through the areas of your day you need to let go of and give to God. Release any burdens, frustrations, or distractions from your day. In Matthew 11:28 Jesus encourages us to give him our burdens so we may find rest. Give him your problems from the day. Find rest in Him.

Second, flip your palms over, which represents a posture of receiving. With your palms facing up prayerfully receive from God whatever he has for you. Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you with love, joy, peace patience, goodness, kindness, gentleness, and self-control.

As you enter into today's evening prayer be sure to take it slow. Take deep breaths throughout this prayer. Be with God. Let go of what you need and receive what He has for you.

Journal any thoughts or prayers if needed...

SAMPLE

Day Two

Diving In!

SAMPLE

Morning Time with God

Find a comfortable position for the next thirty minutes to be in God's Word. Go through this morning's exercise alone at first, then take the final 10 minutes to share together as a team.

LECTIO DIVINA | "*Divine Reading*"

Passage

Psalms 139:23-24

Reading

Slowly read the entire passage two times.

- Read 1
- Read 2

Contemplation

Think carefully about what you've just read. Reflect upon the meaning of the passage. Give the scripture time to saturate your soul. If necessary, read it again. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand the meaning in deeper ways.

- *Another reading – if necessary*

Meditation

Read the passage again, and notice which phrase, word, or image you are drawn to. Focus on it. Why might it be significant to you, on this day?

- Read 3
- Phrase, Word, or Image:

Prayer

Speak to the Lord in your heart, prompted by the word or phrase you took from the passage. With the Holy Spirit, form a single sentence prayer based upon it. It can be a prayer of adoration, confession, renewal, petition, intercession, affirmation, or thanksgiving.

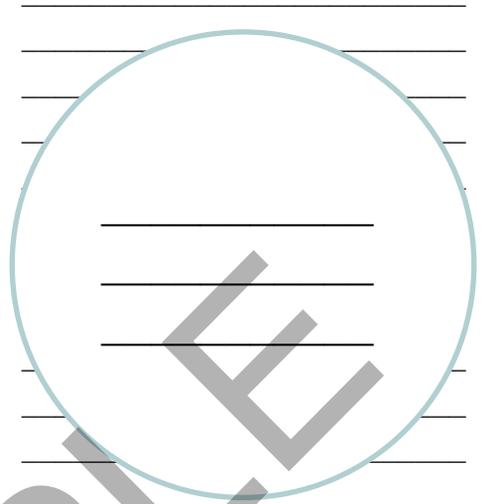
- o Single Sentence Prayer:

Response

Take a few minutes to present yourself before God in silence. Sit in His presence. Yield your life to Him. If your mind wanders, redirect your mind to the passage.

MAIN TAKEAWAY...

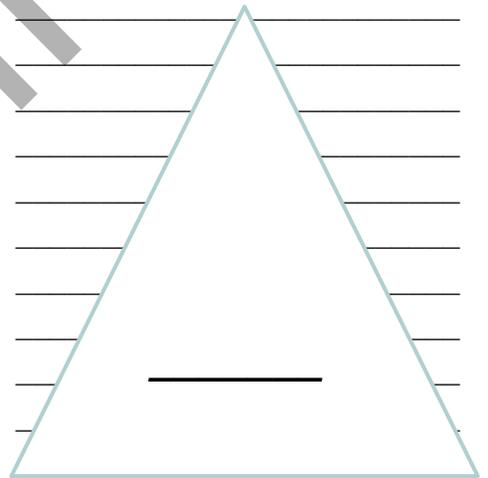
What do you want to take away from today? What did you learn that'll be important to remember?



A large circle is drawn on a background of horizontal lines. Inside the circle, there are three horizontal lines for writing.

I FEEL...

Use one word to describe how you are feeling about today's experiences.



A large triangle is drawn on a background of horizontal lines. Inside the triangle, there is one horizontal line for writing.

Evening Prayer

Prayer is one of the most important disciplines in the life of a Christian. It's one way to talk to God. Take time now to use today's prayer exercise to be with the Creator.

Six Word Prayer

Earnest Hemingway introduced the Six Word Memoirs years ago with his famous short story, "For Sale: Baby shoes, never worn."

In six words only, write a prayer to God. Structure your prayer however you'd like.

Lord,

Amen.

Day Three

Immersing Deeper in the Experience...

SAMPLE

Morning Time with God

Find a comfortable position for the next thirty minutes to be in God's Word. Go through this morning's exercise alone at first, then take the final 10 minutes to share together as a team.

LECTIO DIVINA | "*Divine Reading*"

Passage

Ephesians 2:8-10

Reading

Slowly read the entire passage two times.

- Read 1
- Read 2

Contemplation

Think carefully about what you've just read. Reflect upon the meaning of the passage. Give the scripture time to saturate your soul. If necessary, read it again. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand the meaning in deeper ways.

- *Another reading – if necessary*

Meditation

Read the passage again, and notice which phrase, word, or image you are drawn to. Focus on it. Why might it be significant to you, on this day?

- Read 3
- Phrase, Word, or Image:

Prayer

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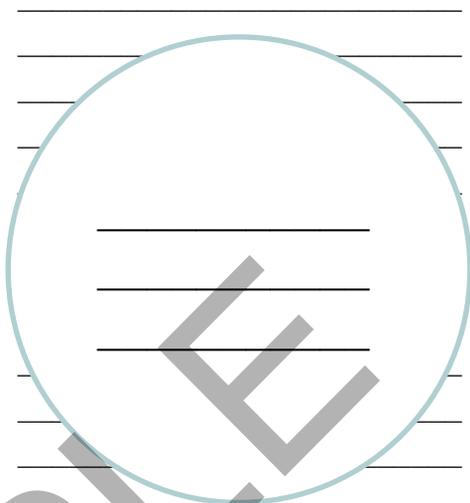
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Response

Take a few minutes to present yourself before God in silence. Sit in His presence. Yield your life to Him. If your mind wanders, redirect your mind to the passage.

MAIN TAKEAWAY...

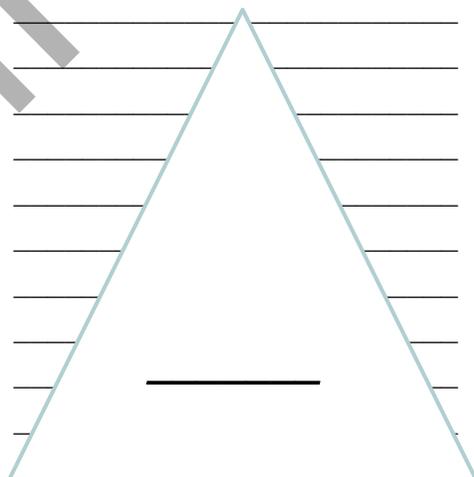
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I FEEL...

Use one word to describe how you are feeling about today's experiences.



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Evening Prayer

Be still. Get comfortable. Pray. Pray honestly. Pray creatively. Prayer can be simple - pray simply. Be with God.

Prayer Art

Spend time in silence. Think about the day. Thank God for it. Spend time reflecting on a scene you always want to remember. Draw it here as a prayer of thanksgiving to God.

SAMPLE

Day Four

Keep Pushing Even When You Are Tired...

SAMPLE

Morning Time with God

Find a comfortable position for the next thirty minutes to be in God's Word. Go through this morning's exercise alone at first, then take the final 10 minutes to share together as a team.

LECTIO DIVINA | "*Divine Reading*"

Passage

Psalm 90:1-2

Reading

Slowly read the entire passage two times.

- Read 1
- Read 2

Contemplation

Think carefully about what you've just read. Reflect upon the meaning of the passage. Give the scripture time to saturate your soul. If necessary, read it again. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand the meaning in deeper ways.

- *Another reading – if necessary*

Meditation

Read the passage again, and notice which phrase, word, or image you are drawn to. Focus on it. Why might it be significant to you, on this day?

- Read 3
- Phrase, Word, or Image:

Prayer

Speak to the Lord in your heart, prompted by the word or phrase you took from the passage. With the Holy Spirit, form a single sentence prayer based upon it. It can be a prayer of adoration, confession, renewal, petition, intercession, affirmation, or thanksgiving.

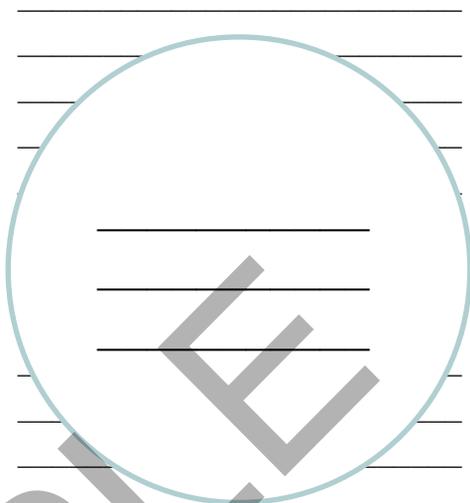
- o Single Sentence Prayer:

Response

Take a few minutes to present yourself before God in silence. Sit in His presence. Yield your life to Him. If your mind wanders, redirect your mind to the passage.

MAIN TAKEAWAY...

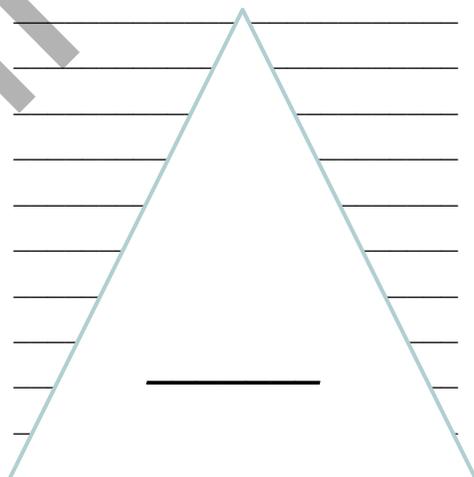
What do you want to take away from today? What did you learn that'll be important to remember?



A large circle is drawn on a background of horizontal lines. Inside the circle, there are three horizontal lines for writing.

I FEEL...

Use one word to describe how you are feeling about today's experiences.



A large triangle is drawn on a background of horizontal lines. Inside the triangle, there is one horizontal line for writing.

Day Five

Pushing Yourself Deeper...

SAMPLE

Morning Time with God

Find a comfortable position for the next thirty minutes to be in God's Word. Go through this morning's exercise alone at first, then take the final 10 minutes to share together as a team.

LECTIO DIVINA | "*Divine Reading*"

Passage

Romans 3:20

Reading

Slowly read the entire passage two times.

- Read 1
- Read 2

Contemplation

Think carefully about what you've just read. Reflect upon the meaning of the passage. Give the scripture time to saturate your soul. If necessary, read it again. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand the meaning in deeper ways.

- *Another reading – if necessary*

Meditation

Read the passage again, and notice which phrase, word, or image you are drawn to. Focus on it. Why might it be significant to you, on this day?

- Read 3
- Phrase, Word, or Image:

Prayer

Speak to the Lord in your heart, prompted by the word or phrase you took from the passage. With the Holy Spirit, form a single sentence prayer based upon it. It can be a prayer of adoration, confession, renewal, petition, intercession, affirmation, or thanksgiving.

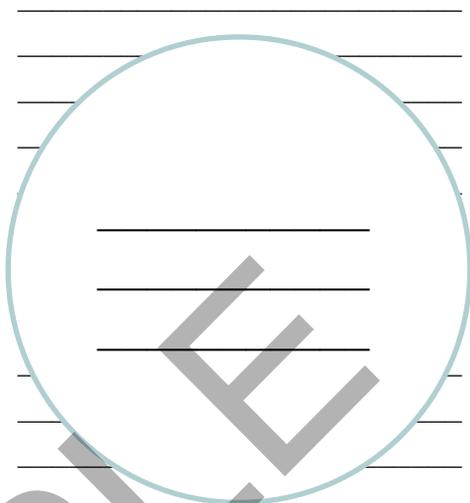
- Single Sentence Prayer:

Response

Take a few minutes to present yourself before God in silence. Sit in His presence. Yield your life to Him. If your mind wanders, redirect your mind to the passage.

MAIN TAKEAWAY...

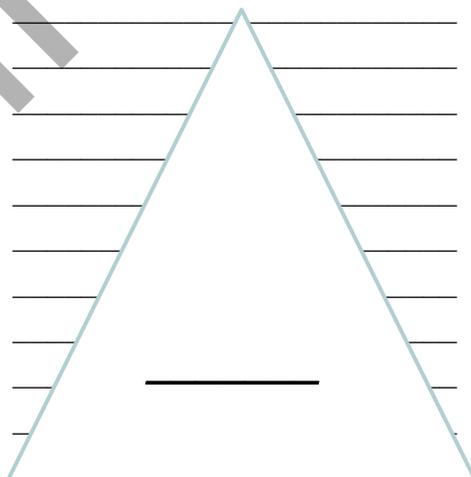
What do you want to take away from today? What did you learn that'll be important to remember?



A large circle is drawn on a background of horizontal lines. Inside the circle, there are three horizontal lines for writing.

I FEEL...

Use one word to describe how you are feeling about today's experiences.



A large triangle is drawn on a background of horizontal lines. Inside the triangle, there is one horizontal line for writing.

Day Six

Finishing Strong...

SAMPLE

Morning Time with God

Find a comfortable position for the next thirty minutes to be in God's Word. Go through this morning's exercise alone at first, then take the final 10 minutes to share together as a team.

LECTIO DIVINA | "*Divine Reading*"

Passage

Malachi 3:6

Reading

Slowly read the entire passage two times.

- Read 1
- Read 2

Contemplation

Think carefully about what you've just read. Reflect upon the meaning of the passage. Give the scripture time to saturate your soul. If necessary, read it again. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand the meaning in deeper ways.

- *Another reading – if necessary*

Meditation

Read the passage again, and notice which phrase, word, or image you are drawn to. Focus on it. Why might it be significant to you, on this day?

- Read 3
- Phrase, Word, or Image:

Prayer

Speak to the Lord in your heart, prompted by the word or phrase you took from the passage. With the Holy Spirit, form a single sentence prayer based upon it. It can be a prayer of adoration, confession, renewal, petition, intercession, affirmation, or thanksgiving.

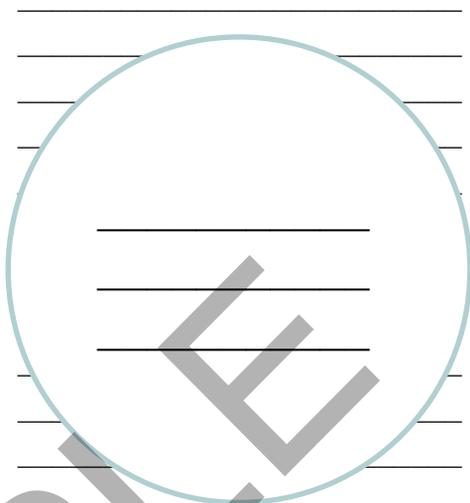
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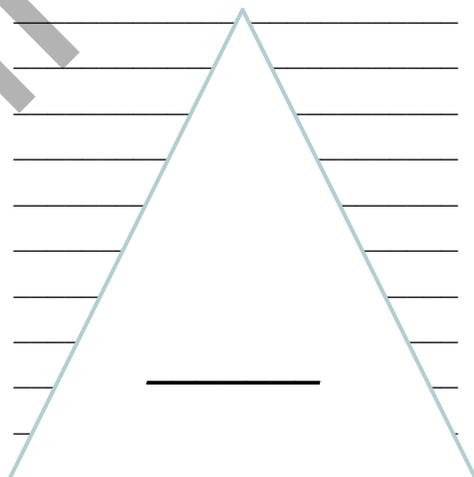
MAIN TAKEAWAY...

What do you want to take away from today? What did you learn that'll be important to remember?



I FEEL...

Use one word to describe how you are feeling about today's experiences.



Evening Prayer

What is on your heart right now? Pray about it. You can share anything with God.

Breath Prayer

Breath prayer is an ancient Christian prayer practice, and the goal is for your prayer to God to become natural with your breathing.

Take a few seconds to slow down, take a few deep breaths, and calm down before the Lord. Think of a name for God that you connect with, for example: Jesus, Yahweh, Messiah, Savior.

Imagine that God is asking you, what do you need right now? Like the blind man on the road to Jericho, Jesus kindly looks you in the eyes and asks, "What do you want from me?"

This prayer is two parts: as you breathe in, call out on the name of the Lord you chose, and as you exhale, say your one request to God.

Let this prayer be a time to calm down, relax, and slow your heart before God. Continue this posture for as long as you need.

Feel free to write your prayer below...

*God is my refuge and strength
Psalm 46:1*

Day Seven

Still Going...

SAMPLE

Morning Time with God

Find a comfortable position for the next thirty minutes to be in God's Word. Go through this morning's exercise alone at first, then take the final 10 minutes to share together as a team.

LECTIO DIVINA | "*Divine Reading*"

Passage

Galatians 1:6-9

Reading

Slowly read the entire passage two times.

- Read 1
- Read 2

Contemplation

Think carefully about what you've just read. Reflect upon the meaning of the passage. Give the scripture time to saturate your soul. If necessary, read it again. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand the meaning in deeper ways.

- *Another reading – if necessary*

Meditation

Read the passage again, and notice which phrase, word, or image you are drawn to. Focus on it. Why might it be significant to you, on this day?

- Read 3
- Phrase, Word, or Image:

Prayer

Speak to the Lord in your heart, prompted by the word or phrase you took from the passage. With the Holy Spirit, form a single sentence prayer based upon it. It can be a prayer of adoration, confession, renewal, petition, intercession, affirmation, or thanksgiving.

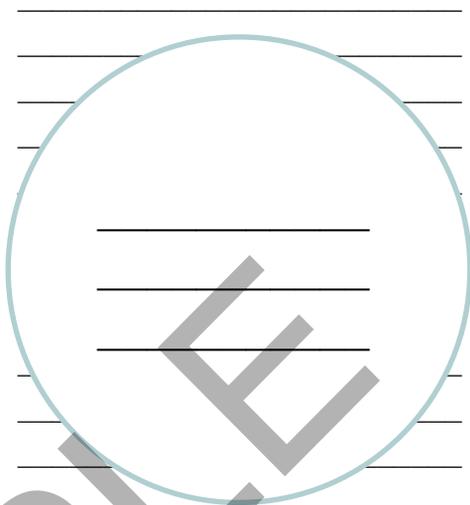
- o Single Sentence Prayer:

Response

Take a few minutes to present yourself before God in silence. Sit in His presence. Yield your life to Him. If your mind wanders, redirect your mind to the passage.

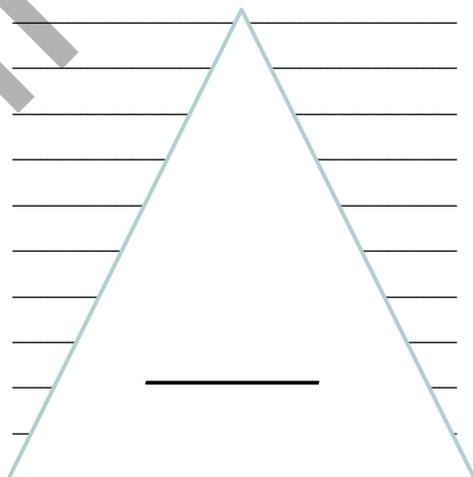
MAIN TAKEAWAY...

What do you want to take away from today? What did you learn that'll be important to remember?



I FEEL...

Use one word to describe how you are feeling about today's experiences.



Evening Prayer

What is on your heart right now? Pray about it. You can share anything with God.

Breath Prayer

Breath prayer is an ancient Christian prayer practice, and the goal is for your prayer to God to become natural with your breathing.

Take a few seconds to slow down, take a few deep breaths, and calm down before the Lord. Think of a name for God that you connect with, for example: Jesus, Yahweh, Messiah, Savior.

Imagine that God is asking you, *what do you need right now?* Like the blind man on the road to Jericho, Jesus kindly looks you in the eyes and asks, "What do you want from me?"

This prayer is two parts: as you breathe in, call out on the name of the Lord you chose, and as you exhale, say your one request to God.

Let this prayer be a time to calm down, relax, and slow your heart before God. Continue this posture for as long as you need.

Name for God:

Your Request to God:

Day Eight

Standing Strong...

SAMPLE

Morning Time with God

Find a comfortable position for the next thirty minutes to be in God's Word. Go through this morning's exercise alone at first, then take the final 10 minutes to share together as a team.

LECTIO DIVINA | "*Divine Reading*"

Passage

Acts 14:15

Reading

Slowly read the entire passage two times.

- Read 1
- Read 2

Contemplation

Think carefully about what you've just read. Reflect upon the meaning of the passage. Give the scripture time to saturate your soul. If necessary, read it again. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand the meaning in deeper ways.

- *Another reading – if necessary*

Meditation

Read the passage again, and notice which phrase, word, or image you are drawn to. Focus on it. Why might it be significant to you, on this day?

- Read 3
- Phrase, Word, or Image:

Prayer

Speak to the Lord in your heart, prompted by the word or phrase you took from the passage. With the Holy Spirit, form a single sentence prayer based upon it. It can be a prayer of adoration, confession, renewal, petition, intercession, affirmation, or thanksgiving.

- o Single Sentence Prayer:

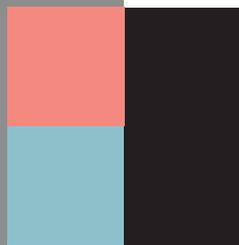
Response

Take a few minutes to present yourself before God in silence. Sit in His presence. Yield your life to Him. If your mind wanders, redirect your mind to the passage.

SAMPLE

SAMPLE

SAMPLE



MAVEN

SAMPLE

SECTION FOUR

TRIP DEBRIEF

TAKING YOUR EXPERIENCE HOME

Your Biblical Immersive Experience has come to an end. What you learned about God, yourself, and others will stick with you forever. The experience will live on if you take time to revisit your trip journal to understand what God did.

Here you have five tools to guide you through a reflection on your experience.

- **Feeling Word Summary:** Go back. Catalogue your feelings from each day. What do you find?
- **Main Takeaway Summary:** Rewind. List each main takeaway you wrote. What themes do you see?
- **Ten-Year Takeaway Summary:** Use the themes found in your takeaways to find one long-lasting takeaway.
- **Two-Minute Story:** Sharing your story from this trip will keep it alive. Write out your story.
- **Action Items:** Don't stop. Keep pursuing truth, seeking goodness, and creating beauty as you get home. How might you do that?

Let this Biblical Immersive Experience be a launching pad into your next season with God. Go home. Make the changes you need. Find the answers you didn't get. Seek God. Share.

Feeling Word Summary

What were you feeling throughout your trip? Go back now to your evening reflections from each day and write down your feeling words. Sit with each feeling for a second before moving on to the next one. Why did you feel that way?

Feeling Words...

- _____ pg. 122
- _____ pg. 129
- _____ pg. 135
- _____ pg. 141
- _____ pg. 147
- _____ pg. 153
- _____ pg. 159
- _____ pg. 165

Your Analysis...

Study your feelings as a whole from the week. What sticks out? Why? Is there a theme? Put a *P* next to each positive feeling. Place an *N* next to each negative feeling. Does this tell you anything? Write your insight here. Be honest. Be real. What do you see?

Two-Minute Story

Debriefing Your Biblical Immersive Experience

SAMPLE

Introduction

Two-Minute Story

Experiences are created as a vehicle for building memories, or another way of putting it, creating stories with God. Stories are powerful as we use these to share what God has done in our lives during your Immersive Experience. When you get home from the Biblical Immersive Experience, what's the first question your parents, grandparents, friends, teachers, or your dog asks you?

"How was the Immersive Experience? Tell me all about it."

Sometimes this question is energizing, but many times it is overwhelming, as it can be hard to articulate an experience on the spot in a way a person can connect with. Often people ask wanting to listen for only two minutes. Often my responses are a simple, "The trip was good. I had a lot of fun." Over the years, however, I have been challenged that this answer is not sufficient as I lose an opportunity to share with another person what God just did in my life.

We can use Two-Minute Stories as an awesome vehicle to easily and effectively share our God-stories from the Immersive Experience, because soon we will be asked about the experience. This time we'll have a heartfelt and God-honoring story!

As your trip is coming to an end, take some time now to prayerfully and thoughtfully think through a story you could share with others, which would best sum up your experience. Use the brainstorming sheet, outline template, and rough drafts, to guide you through your Two-Minute Story creation process. Have fun with this and make it your own.

Instructions

Two-Minute Story

Follow these instructions as you shape your story.

1. Use a captivating opening sentence (a good hook).

Example: *"This week was pretty bizarre. I finally spoke after a whole year of silence, and I learned a really powerful lesson from a weird source."*

Alyssa S., Biblical Immersive Experience 2017

2. Use scripture to support your main takeaway.

Example: *"I didn't change anyone's minds or feelings about Mormonism. I learned God uses each and every conversation for His own plan and purpose. Like in Luke 5:12-15 when a man with leprosy recognized that by God's will only he can be healed. I may never know what will happen to the people I had conversations with on my Biblical Immersive Experience. But I know God used every word of mine to share love and speak truth to others who have never heard truth."*

Michelle W., Biblical Immersive Experience 2017

3. Write a story which implicitly answers one question...

- What did God teach you about humility on this trip?
- What did you learn about yourself? How did you?
- What did you learn about God? How did you learn that?
- How did God challenge you?

4. Consider the following tips when writing your story

- Give Specific Details – names, colors, feelings, etc.
- Be Personable – talk about what you learned.
- Finish Strong – tie your ending into your hook.

Example Story

Two-Minute Story

God moved in me while at the Biblical Immersive Experience in Utah. Through hearing the testimonies and ministries of locals and transplants in Utah, God revealed to me the full truth and validity of His word. Through conversations with Mormons, God revealed to me the power of His gospel. Through enjoying and resting in His nature, God revealed to me His beauty and creativity.

Still, God had more of His Spirit that He made known to me on the second-to-last night. I led our team in a discussion of how we, or they, were going to take the lessons learned through the week and apply them in new, creative avenues at youth group next year. That was one of the most incredible, heart-breaking experiences of my life.

Spending the majority of my life in youth group the past seven years, watching new leadership build upon everything I felt such a personal connection to, brought up indescribable feelings within me. Through my years in youth group, God built me up as a leader, as I prayed daily for God to grow me like the Levites described in Malachi 2, as a "*priest who guards knowledge, and a leader who people should seek instruction from.*" God used me in great ways, but now He has new plans for me and new leaders in the youth group who are stronger and better equipped than me.

My life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing God's work of telling others God's Gospel, and now I have a new mission field in college. Although leaving my youth group is hard, whatever happens, whether my heart or my flesh fails, God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Luke S., Biblical Immersive Experience, 2017

Outline

Two-Minute Story

Use this outline as a tool to create your stories roadmap.

I. The Title of Your Story

II. Opening Sentence (Hook)

III. Body Paragraphs

- What question are you implicitly answering?

- What scripture reference are you sharing?

IV. Closing Sentence (Tie in Your Opening & Close Out Story)

Now go find a leader to read your outline to. Once they've given input and approved it, go write your story!

Rough Draft

Two-Minute Story

Title

SAMPLE

Final Draft

Two-Minute Story

Title

SAMPLE

Action Items to Consider

If you would like to continue sharing your faith and pushing yourself in your spiritual walk, here are some possible challenges to help you along. Fill it out and share it with your teammates for accountability.

Share the Truth with Your Friends...

- Regularly seek out spiritual discussions with non-believers.

Read the Word...

- Read the Bible in one year.
- Read the Bible _____ times per week.
- Read the Bible for _____ minutes a day.

Be with God in Prayer...

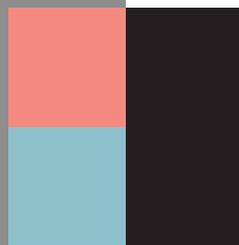
- Pray every day for _____ minutes.
- Drive in silence _____ times a week.
- Desire to grow in knowledge, wisdom, and character.
- Go on a Prayer Walk _____ times a month.

Study...

- Read one or more of the books in the suggested reading list and resource list.
- Read one or more of the blogs on the list of resources.
- Visit one or more of the websites listed in the trip resource section.

SAMPLE

SAMPLE



MAVEN

SAMPLE

SECTION FIVE

TRIP RESOURCES

HELPFUL TOOLS ON AND AFTER THE TRIP

Here you will find many helpful resources. Some you'll be instructed to use as tools before, while, or after the trip.

Here are the tools you'll find in this section...

- Packing List
- Guidelines & Expectations
- Immersive Experience Jobs
- The After Survey
- Salt Lake City Temple Tour
- Salt Lake City Temple Tour Questions
- BYU Campus Talks
- BYU Door-to-Door
- Mormon Conversational Survey
- The Jesus Survey: One survey and an answer sheet.
- Helpful Articles, Charts, & Sheets
- Helpful Videos, Books, & Online Resources

You may get stumped. You won't have every answer. That's okay. But, don't just leave it at that. Go find answers. Keep studying.

Packing List

What to Bring...

Important | Read this "what-to-bring" list with the mission trip purpose at the forefront of your minds. And be prepared to sacrifice your "personal rights" or desires for the good of the group. MAVEN has a NO ELECTRONICS policy so please leave your phones and other electronic devices at home.

Necessary Items

Look at the weather report before you pack. Consider how many days you'll be gone. Keep packing simple. Use travel size items when applicable.

- Casual Clothing (Still keep nice though)
 - **Note to Girls:** Utah is a very conservative place so pack respectfully. No low-cut shirts, spaghetti straps, or tight shirts – nothing that shows cleavage or midribs. You will have to "cover up" if your shirt is considered too tight, low cut, etc.
 - **Note to Guys:** Do not dress sloppily (i.e. showing your boxers, ripped clothing). Bring things like jeans, shorts, polos, button downs, t-shirts, etc.
- Grubby Clothes (For hiking and working out in)
- Sweatshirt or Jacket
- Shoes: Walking or hiking
- Sandals
- Towel: For showering, swimming, etc...
- Bathing Suit (*needs to be modest*)
- Toiletries: i.e. soap, shampoo, deodorant
- Sleeping Bag & Pillow
- Air Mattress or Sleeping Pad: We are sleeping on floors
- Book 1: The Holy Bible: the actual book – no electronics

- Book 2: The Ambassadors Guide to Mormonism
- Book 3: Witness to Mormons in Love
- Book 4: MAVEN's Biblical Immersive Experience Guidebook
- Book 5: Triple Combination of Mormonism Scriptures
- Daypack / Backpack
- Water Bottle
- Meal Money

Optional

- Snacks
- Sun Protection: Sunscreen, Hat, Sunglasses
- Basketball Shoes
- Flashlight
- Camera: Phone cameras aren't allowed
- Spending Money: For snacks, souvenirs, etc...
- Weather Dependent: Hat or beanie, gloves, or sweaters
- Weather Dependent: Modest swimsuits, bug repellent, etc...

What Not to Bring

- Any Electronics:** no DVD players, no iPods, no Video Games.
- Cell Phones:** Leave these at home, but if you must bring one it must stay turned OFF during the majority of the trip. If your leadership allows you to bring them, there will be designated times to call your parents. We know from years past that cell phones can be a HUGE distraction from God's work on this trip.

Notes on Packing...

Everything but your sleeping bag must fit into ONE duffel bag. This bag CANNOT be huge—think small, think reusable clothing. Remember, people almost never pack too little; they pack too much! You may use a backpack to carry non-clothes items like your Bible, trip resources, books or camera.

Guidelines & Expectations

In order to get the most out of our time on the Immersive Experience, it's important to get on the same page with some important guidelines and expectations.

Please read through each expectation, checking the box to indicate you've read and agreed to what's being asked of you. If you aren't comfortable with an expectation, please come talk to a group leader so we can get on the same page.

I AGREE TO...

- Be Present:** I understand that the goal of this trip is to grow my relationship and show others who Christ is through who we are, what we do, and what we say. With that, I commit to being present both physically and mentally.
- Be Positive:** I commit to maintaining a positive attitude and being flexible when things don't go my way. I commit to not gossiping or spreading negativity through the group, but rather will approach a leader for guidance and counsel. I commit to striving for a Christ-like attitude in all that I do. I will try my best to not complain, murmur, or spread negativity throughout the group.
- Don't Be Messing Around:** Messing around includes, but is not limited to: No Drugs, Vaping, Juuls, Alcohol, or Tobacco, or anything of the sort | No Firearms, Fireworks, or Weapons of any kind | No Wrestling or Horseplay | No Guys in the Girls' room | No Girls in the Guys' room | No altering your physical appearance | *No Electronic Devices*
- Be Modest:** Girls – No spaghetti straps, short shorts, bare midriff. Guys – no short shorts or tank tops. I commit to never being alone with someone of the opposite gender unless in the open where others can see us.

- Clean Up After Yourself:** Don't put things down but put them away. Keep bathroom, meeting room, kitchen clean.
- Sacrifice for Others:** I understand that I will be asked to sacrifice for others. I commit to making that sacrifice willingly.
- Pursuit of Excellence:** I commit to pursuing excellence in all that I do (Colossians 3:23)
- Protect the Team:** I will keep all problems within the confines of the team and commit to working them out in a biblical manner during Team Time (Matthew 18). I will not stuff but will be honest about my feelings. I will seek out the guidance and help my leaders if need be.
- Staying Safe:** I commit to using wisdom and discernment while traveling. I commit to staying with the group. I commit to NOT wandering around and keeping the motto, "safe to be safe" at the forefront of my mind. I understand that I must have a buddy with me at all times and will not wander away from the group alone at any point.
- Pursuing Jesus:** I commit to pursuing Jesus and trying to live according to 1 Peter 1:16, "Be holy because I am holy." I recognize I'm not perfect, but I will strive to live like Jesus did.

I know that the point is not to achieve perfection or to be made righteous by my works or actions. However, my goal is to strive to be more like Jesus in all that I think, say and do.

I agree to follow all guidelines and rules in order to take away any distractions that may hinder me from growing in my relationship with God and building a healthy community during my time on the Immersive Experience.

X: _____
Signature

X: _____
Date

X: _____
Print Name

Immersive Experience Jobs

One of the great parts of our Immersive Experience is we get to work together in everything we do. This won't be a trip where any of us are just going to be served, but we will all be serving each other to ensure the trip runs smoothly.

You will be assigned to a specific job (possibly with others), which is your responsibility to complete with excellence during the trip. Below, is each job description. Mark yours.

Job Descriptions

- Key-Bearer:** You are in charge of all keys. Whatever vehicle you are assigned to will be the keys you keep track of always. Collect each time you arrive to a destination.
- Morning Time with God Lead:** You are in charge of facilitating devotions each morning for the group. You don't need to teach but simply be a leader gathering everyone together, entering the team into this time, and closing out when ready.
- Sous Chef:** You are in charge of putting out & cleaning up the breakfast and lunch supplies each morning for everyone (when necessary). You are also in charge of making sure the cooler(s) are packed & ready to go for the day – safely placed in the room or vehicle it belongs in for that day. You'll need to follow all directions from your Chef.
- Bell Hop:** You are in charge of making sure all luggage is packed and loaded in the vehicles each time we are traveling. You will need to make sure everyone's luggage is loaded and unloaded safely by the time of departure.

- **Housekeeping:** You and your team are responsible for cleaning up the trash in the vehicles each night. You will have trash bags to discard trash into each evening.
- **Paparazzi:** Your job is to document the trip! You will use the given camera to take pictures of the trip and make sure we get a group picture at some point.
- **Worship:** Your job is to lead our team in Musical Worship each night during our Reflection Time. You will be in charge of 1-3 songs each night depending on our timing.

My job is _____

SAMPLE

The After Survey

Before your first training you took *The Before Survey* to gain insight for where you were. Now, with trainings, readings, quizzes, and the trip over we want you to survey again to see how far you've come.

Short Answers...

1. To the best of your ability, write your definition of the Trinity. Be as precise and accurate as possible.

2. From memory, what biblical passages would you cite to support the doctrine of the Trinity?

3. From memory, what biblical passages support the Christian view of salvation and what's required?

4. Why is the Bible trustworthy and authoritative?

5. In one to two sentences, explain what the gospel is.

Rate Yourself

For the following questions, rate yourself using the following scale:

- 1 = Completely uncomfortable
- 2 = Not very comfortable
- 3 = A bit hesitant
- 4 = Fairly confident
- 5 = Completely comfortable & confident

6. How confident are you that the Bible is the authoritative word of God?

1 2 3 4 5

7. How comfortable are you standing up for Christian truth and values with your close friends and family?

1 2 3 4 5

9. How comfortable are you in your ability to share the Gospel with unbelievers?

1 2 3 4 5

Salt Lake City Temple Tour

Instructions

The Purpose

- Learn about Mormon history/culture.
- Engage in meaningful conversations with the missionaries and other visitors (who may be LDS or could be seeking truth, just visiting, etc.).

The Do's...

- Introduction: *"We're interested in different religions/worldviews and while in the area decided to visit Temple Square with some friends."*
- Tour in small groups (minimum of 3 and maximum of 5).
- Smile, be friendly, make small talk and ask questions of the missionaries and other visitors.
 - Tip: Remove sunglasses so people can see your eyes!
- Visit and take tours of the listed locations below.
- Ask related/appropriate questions based on the tour information.
- Ask questions you may already know the answers to. This is appropriate to build rapport with people.
- Sign up to have LDS missionaries visit you at home.

- If there's conflict, politely end the conversation and leave.
- If security asks you to leave, do so immediately.
- If a conversation goes well exchange, contact information.

The Priority Locations...

- Temple Square Visitor Centers – Take the tour.
- Museum of Church History and Art – Take the tour.
- Brigham Young House – Take the tour.
- Movies to Watch – Ask for movie times at the North Visitor Center
 - Joseph Smith
 - The Testaments

The Optional Locations...

- The Church Office Building – Visit the 26th floor observation deck for the beautiful view and for a good place to take pictures.
- The Joseph Smith Memorial Building – There's a good LDS bookstore in the basement.
- Conference Center – Take a peek but don't do a tour unless you've done everything else and have extra time.

The Do Not's...

- Do not hand out any literature.
- Do not stay in uncomfortable situations.
- Do not implicate yourself or others, including MAVEN staff. You have the right to withhold personal information.

Some Possible Conversation Questions...

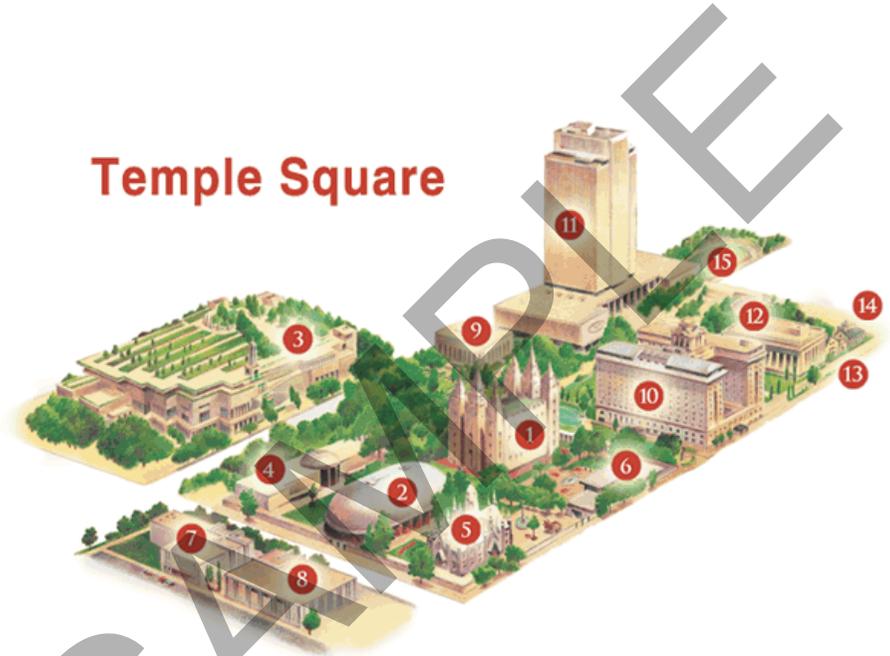
- Where are you from?
- How long have you been on your mission?
- Why would someone want to become a Mormon?
- What is your story/testimony?
- I've been studying Mormonism and wondered if I could ask you about...
 - the nature of God, Jesus, forgiveness, repentance, eternal life, the book of Mormon, truth, or something else.
 - How does this match up with the biblical account?

Salt Lake City

Temple Tour Questions

Questions to ask LDS Tour Guides and Missionaries, Written from a Christian Perspective

Temple Square



1. Salt Lake Temple
2. Tabernacle
3. Conference Center
4. North Visitors' Center
5. Assembly Hall
6. South Visitors' Center
7. Museum of Church History and Art
8. Family History Library
9. Relief Society Building

10. Joseph Smith Memorial Building
11. Church Office Building
12. Church Administration Building
13. Lion House
14. Beehive House
15. Brigham Young Historic Park



The Temple and Its Grounds

"Why is there a need for a temple? The Bible tells us that the days of the temple are gone. Aren't we supposed to be the living temple of God?"

A strong argument can be made from the Bible that there is no longer a need for a temple or temple system at all. These passages strongly suggest that believers are the new temple of God:

- *Acts 17:24 (KJV)* God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;
- *1 Cor 3:16-17 (KJV)* Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.
- *Heb 9:11-12 (KJV)* But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.
- *Heb 9:24 (KJV)* For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

"Who gets to go inside the Temple? What if I can't afford to pay a tenth of my income to the church? Could I still get a temple recommend?"

One must possess a current temple recommend being allowed admission to the temple. An interview will be conducted privately, and the member is asked a series of questions about his or her life. The member must be able to demonstrate that he or she is morally clean and has been keeping the Word of Wisdom (i.e. abstaining from coffee, tea, tobacco, alcohol, and addictive drugs). The member must be paying a full tithe to the church. The member must be following all the teachings of the Church. The member must not be reading or affiliating with the works or member of any group that is critical of the church.

"Does the Book of Mormon teach anything about the need for a temple? Why do we need to enter a temple when, according to the Bible, Jesus is the only high priest we need? Why do you have priests at all?"

The LDS church has established a Temple and Priesthood system, but the Book of Mormon mentions nothing at all about the need for a temple, and the Bible clearly tells us that Jesus is the only priest and mediator between God and man:

- *Hebrews 9:6-12* Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service of God. But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people: The Holy Ghost thus signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing: Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts

and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience; Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation. But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

"Why do they perform temple ceremonies for eternal marriages when the Bible says that no one will be given to marriage in heaven, and there is no example of this type of ceremony in the Old Testament?"

The Bible is clear about the role of marriage in the next life, and the teaching of the Bible mentions no requirement for eternal marriage vows:

- *Luke 20:34-36* And Jesus answering said unto them, The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage: But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage: Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.

The only eternal marriage in the Bible is the spiritual marriage of the believer to Christ.

- *2 Corinthians 11:2* I have espoused you to one husband [Christ], that I may present you [the Christians] as a chaste virgin to Christ

Christians are to be united in a spiritual union with Jesus, not an actual marriage.

- *Romans 7:4* Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.

"I understand that you do baptisms for the dead in the temple. Why do you baptize for the dead when Paul does not advocate the practice for Christians (in the only passage in the Bible where he mentions it)?"

There is much confusion about the issue of baptism for the dead. Before we even look at the issue, it's important to remember a basic principle of scripture. We should never establish a spiritual requirement from a single Bible passage, especially if the passage is not critically clear. And baptism for the dead is only mentioned ONCE in the Bible, and only in passing:

- *1 Corinthians 15:29* Else what shall **they** do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? Why are **they** then baptized for the dead?"

Now, notice that Paul is not advocating this practice. He merely makes a passing reference to some group that had such a practice. His emphasis throughout that chapter is on the resurrection. Had baptism for the dead been a primary function of the early church surely there would be more teaching on it than this casual reference. Also, notice that Paul uses pronouns like "we," "I," "you," etc. throughout the chapter because he is talking about either himself or the Corinthian believers. When he gets to this passage, he switches to "they" twice because he is talking about what OTHER people are doing. It's almost as if he is trying to make a point with this

extreme example: "hey, even those nutty people who baptize the dead know that the resurrection will take place!"

"Why do you baptize for the dead when the Book of Mormon is silent about this and even teaches against it?"

In the Book of Mormon, the word "baptism" appears twenty-five times. The word "baptize" appears twenty-eight times. The word "baptized" appears eighty-five times, and the word "baptizing" appears six times. In all those passages, the doctrine of baptism for the dead is never mentioned! While you may still argue that the doctrine of baptism of the dead has been removed from the Bible, it cannot be true that the doctrine was removed the Book of Mormon, because the Catholics never had the Book of Mormon! In addition, the Book of Mormon condemns the very ideas that led to the practice of baptism for the dead. It clearly proclaims that there is no chance for a person to repent after death if he has known the gospel and has rejected it.

- *Alma 34:32-35 For behold, **this life** is the time for men to prepare to meet God; yea, behold the day of **this life** is **the day for men to perform their labors**... And now, as I said unto you before, as ye have had so many witnesses, therefore, I beseech of you that ye **do not procrastinate the day of your repentance until the end**; for after **this day of life**, which is given us to prepare for eternity, behold, if we do not improve our time while in **this life**, then cometh the night of darkness **wherein there can be no labor performed**. Ye cannot say, when ye are brought to that awful crisis, that I will repent, that I will return to my God. Nay, ye cannot say this; for that same Spirit which doth possess your bodies at the time that ye go out of this life, that same Spirit will have power to possess your body in that eternal world. **For behold, if ye have procrastinated the day of your repentance even until***

death, behold, ye have become subjected to the spirit of the devil, and he doth seal you his; therefore, the Spirit of the Lord hath withdrawn from you, and hath no place in you, and the devil hath all power over you; and this is the final state of the wicked.

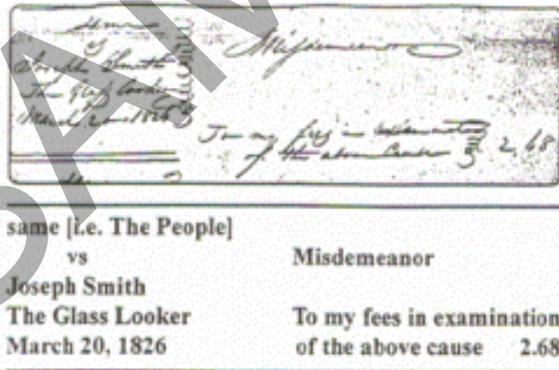
SAMPLE



Museum of Church History and Art

"Is it true that Joseph Smith was arrested for 'Glass Gazing'?"

Before Joseph married Emma Hale, he was found guilty of "glass gazing." Rev. Wesley P. Walters found documentation for this 1826 suit recently, (in 1971) in the basement of the courthouse. These records proved the charges against Joseph Smith and were an embarrassment to the LDS church. One of the witnesses testifying against him was Isaac Hale, father of Emma, his future wife. Isaac refused to allow his daughter to marry Joseph Smith, so in January 1827, 21-year-old Joseph and Emma eloped with Joseph to Palmyra, New York. Here is a copy of the court docket and the language from the warrant that was issued:



"Warrant issued upon oath of Peter G. Bridgman, who informed that one Joseph Smith of Bainbridge was a disorderly person and an imposture. Prisoner brought into court March 20 (1826). Prisoner examined. Says that he came from town of Palmyra, and had been at the house of Josiah Stowell in Bainbridge

most of time since; had small part of time been looking for mines, but the major part had been employed by said Stowell on his farm, and going to school; that he had a certain stone, which was he had occasionally looked at to tell in this manner where gold - mines were a distance underground, and had looked for Mr. Stowell several times, and informed him there he could find those treasures, and Mr. Stowell had been engaged in digging for them; that at Palmyra he pretended to tell, by looking at this stone, where coined money was buried in Pennsylvania, while at Palmyra he had frequently ascertained in that way where lost property was, of various kinds; that he has occasionally been in the habit of looking through this stone to find lost property for three years, but of late had pretty much given up on account its injuring his health, especially his eyes - made them sore; that he did not solicit business of this kind, and had always rather declined having anything to do with this business. And thereupon the Court finds the defendant guilty..."

"Why are there so many variations and changes in the first vision account of Joseph Smith?"

It is hard to deny that Smith changed his story about the first vision he had, and because of this, it is often difficult to reconstruct the true history of what happened. Here is a quick list of the variations in the first vision account:

- **1827** Joseph Smith, Sr. and Joseph Smith, Jr. give an account to Willard Chase, as related in his 1833 affidavit.
 - *Joseph says the gold book was found in the context of his money-digging activities. There is no mention of a revival. Joseph says he is approximately 17 (1823) when he has a vision. He is then 21 (1827) when he finally retrieves the plates. Several years before*

obtaining the plates, a 'Spirit' appeared to Joseph in a vision telling him of a record on gold plates.

- **1827** Martin Harris gives an account to Rev. John Clark, as published in his book Gleanings by the Way, printed in 1842, pp. 222-229.
 - *No revival. The vision occurs after an evening of money-digging. Joseph is approximately 18-19 (1824-25) when he has a vision. An 'angel' appeared to Joseph in a vision telling him he has been chosen to be a prophet and bring forth a record on gold plates.*

- **1830** Joseph Smith is interviewed by Peter Bauder, (recounted by Bauder in his book The Kingdom and the Gospel of Jesus Christ, printed in 1834, pp. 36-38).
 - *No revival is mentioned. In fact, Joseph could give Bauder no "Christian experience", ie. no conversion experience or manifestation of saving grace in his life. No age mentioned. Joseph claimed an 'angel' told him where to find a secret treasure*

- **1832** Joseph Smith handwrites the earliest known attempt at an 'official' recounting of the 'First Vision, from History,' 1832, Joseph Smith Letterbook 1, pp.2,3
 - *Joseph now says he started serious study of the scriptures at age 12 and felt convicted of sins. He also says that he determined all churches were wrong. He makes no mention of a revival and omits all information about the money-digging context of the first accounts. Joseph now says that he is 15 (in his 16th year) when he had a first vision, and now adds a second vision that occurs at the age of 17 (he says he again prayed and then had the second vision). Joseph claimed to see 'Jesus' in the first*

vision at 15, and an 'angel' at the second vision (this angel told him where to find the plates)

- **1834-35** Oliver Cowdery, with Joseph Smith's help, published the first history of Mormonism in the LDS periodical Messenger and Advocate, Kirtland, Ohio, Dec. 1834, vol.1, no.3
 - *Joseph says a revival stirred in him a desire to "know for himself of the certainty and reality of pure and holy religion." Joseph says he is 17 (1823) when he had the vision in his bedroom. Joseph claimed an 'angel' appeared to him*
- **1835** Joseph Smith gives an account to Joshua the Jewish minister, (Joseph Smith Diary, Nov. 9, 1835).
 - *Joseph now says he was "wrought up" in his mind about religion, but there is no mention of a revival. Joseph now claims that he was 14 (1820) when he had a vision in a grove. He maintains that he later had another vision at the age of 17. Says he had a vision of one personage and then another. One personage testifies about Jesus, but neither is identified as Jesus. Said he saw many angels in this first visitation. In the second visitation, Joseph sees 'angels'*
- **1835** Joseph gave an account to Erastus Holmes on November 14, 1835, originally published in the Deseret News of Saturday May 29, 1852.
 - *No motivation for the vision was given. Joseph says that he was 14 (1820) when he had the vision. Says he had a vision of 'angels'*
- **1838** This account became the official version, now part of Mormon Scripture in the Pearl of Great Price, Joseph Smith — History, 1:7-20. Though written in 1838, it was not

published until 1842 in Times and Season, March 15, 1842, vol. 3, no. 10, pp. 727-728, 748-749, 753.

- *Joseph says a local revival caused him to wonder which church was right, it had never occurred to him all were wrong. He says that at age 14 (1820) he had a vision in a grove. Three years later has yet another vision of an angel. Joseph says that in the first vision, he had a vision of two personages. One identifies the other as his son (by implication God the Father and Jesus, but not explicitly stated), in the second vision, he only sees an 'angel'*
- **1844** Joseph describes the vision while writing a chapter on Mormonism in "An Original History of the Religious Denominations at Present Existing in the United States," edited by Daniel Rupp
 - *Joseph says he began reflecting on the importance of being prepared for the future state, but upon inquiring found a great conflict of religious opinion. There is no mention of a revival. Joseph says that at the age of 14 (1820) he had a vision in a grove. Three years later he has a second vision. He had a vision of two personages, but they are unidentified. Three years later he says he has a vision of a single personage (same description as previous personages) which is identified as an angel*
- **1859** Martin Harris is interviewed in Tiffany's Monthly, 1859, New York: Published by Joel Tiffany, vol. v.—12, pp. 163-170.
 - *Joseph found the plates using the seer stone in the context of money-digging. There is no mention of a revival at all. Joseph is at the age of 21 (1827) at the time of the vision. An 'angel' appeared to Joseph*

after finding the plates and told him it [Book of Mormon] was God's work and Joseph must "quit the company of the money-diggers."

"Is it true that Joseph died in a gun battle? Is it true that he killed two men and wounded a third?"

It is absolutely true that Joseph was killed while he was in custody in a Carthage Jail. There is no need to make light of this issue, and his killing was absolutely immoral. Justice should not be served in this way. But it is interesting to note that Mormon history usually fails to mention that Joseph Smith died in a gun battle in which he too had the opportunity to fire shots that resulted in the killing of two men and wounding of a third, as official church records show. (History of the Church, 6:616-618)

"Why was Joseph in jail to begin with?"

Joseph was in jail for several reasons that seem to reflect the surprising nature of someone who is supposed to be the spiritual leader of a religious sect. He had been accused of adultery and heresy, and he was also accused of burning down the newspaper printing press that made these charges public. His accusers were not un-respected men. They were Austin Cowles, First Counselor to Joseph Smith, and William Law, his Second Counselor!



Assembly Hall

"This place looks a lot like a church, but without a cross. Why aren't there any crosses on Mormon Assembly halls, wards, stakes or temples? Does the LDS church understand the role of the cross?"

The absence of the Cross is perhaps the most striking feature of Mormon religious buildings that claim to hold believers in Christ. There is a reason why the cross is missing however, and it has more to do with the source of Mormon salvation, than anything else. Remember what the cross represents:

After All, Only the Cross Reconciles (Pays) Our Debt

We cannot DO anything on our own that would earn us our salvation

- *Ephesians 2:14-16* For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God **through the cross**, by which he put to death their hostility.

After All, the Cross is Where God Does ALL the Work

The cross is important because it helps us to recognize that GOD does ALL the work in saving us.

- *Galatians 6:12-16* Those who want to make a good impression outwardly are trying to compel you to be circumcised. The only reason they do this is to avoid being

*persecuted for the cross of Christ. Not even those who are circumcised obey the law, yet they want you to be circumcised that they may boast about your flesh. May I never boast **except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ**, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is a new creation.*

The Cross Demonstrates the Power of God to Save Us

The cross is a symbol of GOD's power that helps us to take the focus off of our own efforts

- ***1 Corinthians 1:17-19** For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel-not with words of human wisdom, **lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.** For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*

There are no crosses on Mormon buildings because the LDS church still teaches that the individual believer can save him or herself through a series of good works. The believer is then the source of salvation, not what Jesus did on the cross.



Tabernacle and Conference Center

"I understand that these spaces have been used as teaching venues, is that true? Is it true that Mormon Prophets and Elders used these spaces to teach that black people are unfortunate because of the color of their skin?"

In a 1939 general conference speech, Elder George F. Richards taught that "The Negro is an unfortunate man. He has been given a black skin. But that is as nothing compared with that greater handicap that he is not permitted to receive the Priesthood and the ordinances of the temple, necessary to prepare men and women to enter into and enjoy a fulness of glory in the celestial kingdom."

"Is it true that they still use these spaces to teach that men can become Gods?"

Conference spaces have been used historically to teach this doctrine:

- *"It is a 'Mormon' truism that is current among us and we all accept it, that as man is God once was and as God is man may become." (Elder Melvin J. Ballard, General Conference, April 1921)*

- *"From President Snow's understanding of the teachings of the Prophet on this doctrinal point, he coined the familiar couplet: 'As man is, God once was; as God is, man may become.' This teaching is peculiar to the restored gospel of Jesus Christ." (Marion Romney (1st Presidency) General Conference, October 1964)*

"Is it true that Mormon Leaders still use the Conference Center to teach that the Mormon Church was the only true church?"

Sometimes LDS guides and believers will lament the fact that they feel like they are under attack from mainline Christianity. But it is important to recognize that the LDS church has always been the first to cast a stone, claiming that the Christian church has apostatized and fallen away from the truth which is represented now ONLY in Mormonism:

- *"Joseph Smith was the prophet of the Restoration of the true gospel. . . . President Gordon B. Hinckley is the Lord's prophet for our day. He and 14 other Apostles are special witnesses of Christ in the only true Church on the earth." (Gary J. Coleman, of the Seventy, speaking at the April 2000 LDS General Conference, Ensign, May 2000, p.29)*



North Visitor's Center

"I see that there is a model of the temple here in the NVC, why do LDS believers think there is still a need for a temple when the Bible teaches otherwise?"

There is a strong biblical case that can be made related to Temples. The Bible clearly teaches that there is no need for temples, and that Christian believers are now themselves the temples of God:

- *Acts 17:24 (KJV) God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;*
- *1 Cor 3:16-17 (KJV) Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defiles the temple of God; him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.*
- *Heb 9:11-12 (KJV) But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.*
- *Heb 9:24 (KJV) For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:*

"Does the LDS Church teach that the Christian faith has fallen away from the truth, and that the LDS faith is a restoration of that truth? Does the LDS church teach that the denominational fragmentation of Christianity is proof of the fallen nature of Christianity? If so, why are there so many fragments within Mormonism? Doesn't this prove that the LDS church is equally fallen?"

A lot of the Visitor Center tour will deal with the Restoration of the "lost Gospel." The LDS church will point to denominationalism as a proof that the Christian Church is in need of restoration. But today they are approximately 140 Mormon (or Josephite) churches. Compare this to Christianity. If Mormonism had been around as long as orthodox Christianity, it would have splintered approximately 1865 times into separate groups! And even though there are a number of different Christian denominations, we find ourselves intermingling and worshipping and service on missions' trips without conflict. All the while, these Mormon splinter groups each claim unique and divine authority for themselves and exclude all others.

"How was Joseph able to carry the gold plates and run three miles from where he found them, back to his home?"

If the gold plates were as they are presently described, they would weigh over 200 pounds.

"Is it true that the LDS church teaches unusual doctrines like the ideas that Jesus and Lucifer were brothers? Can you find biblical support for these doctrines?"

Much of the time LDS members are uncomfortable discussing these types of doctrines, because they know they fly in the face of the Bible and are considered repulsive to Christians

around the world. But this Lucifer Doctrine is accepted and taught by the church:

- *Mormon President Spencer W. Kimball: "The LDS church teaches that it was in the preexistent world that Jesus and Lucifer, two elder 'brothers' (sexually begotten sons of God as we all are), vied before the 'council of the gods' for the honor of becoming the Savior of mankind. The plan that Jesus proposed was approved by the council's majority vote. In anger, Lucifer drew one-third of the brothers and sisters into rebellion against the council's decision. He then became the Devil and his followers the demons"*

Mormon Apostles and Prophets also teach that Jesus was begotten in the flesh (sexually) by Elohim (who is an exalted man); that Jesus was married to the sisters of Lazarus and to Mary Magdalene; converted water to wine at one of His own weddings; and had his wives and children present at his Crucifixion.

"If the Book of Mormon is true, why did over half of the first 11 witnesses to the Book of Mormon leave the Church?"

History shows us that, unlike the original twelve apostles of Christianity, the eleven first witnesses of the Book of Mormon were unable to stay in the very church they once so proudly proclaimed.

- *"Some of the witnesses of the Book of Mormon, who handled the plates and conversed with the angels of God, were afterwards left to doubt and to disbelieve that they had ever seen an angel." (Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses, V7, page 164)*

The "Three Witnesses" The first three witnesses listed on the Book of Mormon are Oliver Cowdery, David Whitmer and Martin Harris. Look at what happened with these three men:

- **Oliver Cowdery** Cowdery was baptized on 05/05/1829 and was eventually excommunicated on 04/12/1838. A year before he was excommunicated, he, along with Whitmer and Harris, pledged his loyalty to a prophetess who used a black seer stone and "danced herself into the trenches" ("Biographical Sketches" Lucy Smith pp. 211-213). He confronted Joseph Smith with a charge of adultery with Fanny Alger in 1838. At that time, he also accused him of teaching false doctrine (that polygamy is required for salvation) and of lying! Smith denied the affair initially and said that Cowdery was the true liar. Church records, however, show that Alger was Smith's first 'spiritual wife' (in addition to his legal wife, Emma), so it appears that Cowdery was telling the truth. After leaving the church, Cowdery became a Methodist and he denied the Book of Mormon entirely (according to the "Times and Seasons" Vol. 2, page 482, the "Improvement Era" January 1969 p. 56 and "Oliver Cowdery – The Man Outstanding" (Joseph Greehalgh) 1965 p. 28) He also publicly confessed his sorrow and shame for his connection to Mormonism ("The True Origin of the Book of Mormon", Charles Shook 1914, pp. 58-59)

The LDS church claims that Cowdery never denied his original testimony about the Book of Mormon, but this flies in the face of the article that they published in the "Times and Seasons" in 1841 which states just the opposite! In addition, The LDS church also claims that Cowdery later rejoined the church in 1848 and was re-baptized in October of that year. But it is clear from church history that Cowdery was accused in 1848 of "trying to raise up the kingdom again" with the apostate William E. McLellin

(according to "The Mormon Frontier, Diary of Hosea Stout" Vol. 2 p. 336), and Smith described Cowdery as a thief, a liar, a perjurer, a counterfeiter, an adulterer and a leader of a gang of "scoundrels of the deepest degree" (Senate document 189, 02/15/1841 pp. 6-9 and the "Comprehensive History of the Church, B.H. Roberts Vol. 1, pp. 438-9)

- **David Whitmer** Whitmer was originally baptized into the Church in June of 1829 but was later excommunicated on 4/13/1838. He said that he only witnessed the golden plates "by the eye of faith", and he later had two conflicting stories about what he actually saw ("Millennial Star" Vol XL p. 771). Like Cowdery and Harris, he pledged his loyalty to a prophetess who used a black seer stone and "danced herself into the trenches" in 1837 ("Biographical Sketches" Lucy Smith pp. 211-213). After leaving the church, he never returned, and in 1847 he declared that he was to be the prophet of the New Church of Christ (in a letter in "Ensign of Liberty" 5, 1848).

The LDS church says that Whitmer never denied his testimony about the Book of Mormon, but history reveals that Whitmer was thrown out of town roughly and his family was robbed by Mormons (John Whitmer's History of the Church", p. 22). Smith described Whitmer as a "dumb beast to ride" and "an ass to bray out cursings instead of blessings" (History of the Church, Vol. 3, p.228)

- **Martin Harris** Harris was baptized into the church on 4/6/1836 but was excommunicated on the last week of December 1837. He tried a number of religions before and after Mormonism. He was a Quaker, a Universalist, a Restorationist, a Baptist, and a Presbyterian before becoming a Mormon. After his excommunication in 1837 he again changed his mind and belonged to 8 more religions, including the Shakers and a number of Mormon splinter

groups. He came back to the main group in 1842 and was re-baptized on 11/7/1842. But by 1846 Harris had joined the apostate James J. Strong and was preaching against the LDS church in England ("Church Chronology", Andrew Jansen, 1899 p. 51, and "Millennial Star" Vol. 8, 11/15/46 pp. 124-128).

The LDS church says that Harris never denied his testimony about the Book of Mormon, but Harris himself said that his later testimony for Shakerism was greater than it was for Mormonism. He even said that the Shaker's "Holy Sacred and Divine Roll and Book" was also delivered by an angel (Martin Harris, Witness and Benefactor" BYU 1955 Thesis, Wayne Gunnell p. 52, and the "Braden Kelly Debate" p. 173)

The "Eight Witnesses" Of the eight additional witnesses to the listed in the opening pages of the Book of Mormon, it should be noted that three left the church by even the most conservative measurements of the Church itself. The 1989 edition of the Book of Mormon Student Manual for Religion 121 and 122 published by the LDS church admits these departures:

- **Jacob Whitmer**
Baptized 11 April 1830
Apostatized in 1838. Never returned to the Church.
- **John Whitmer**
Baptized June 1829
Excommunicated 10 March 1838
- **Hiram Page**
Baptized 11 April 1830
Apostatized 1838

Six of the first eleven witnesses listed in the Book of Mormon eventually left what they once claimed was true. Compare that to the first 12 apostles of the Christian Church, all of whom defended their faith to the bitter end, eventually dying before they would ever deny the truth of the orthodox Gospel and the scriptures that are now called the New Testament. The Bible tells us that Jesus would never let true believers fall from his hands:

- *John 17:12* "While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled."

"I've noticed several displays depicting the history of the Americas according to the Book of Mormon. Why is there no archeological support for any of this history?"

If the Book of Mormon story is true, shouldn't there be some evidence of just one of the 38 major cities it describes? There is absolutely NO such evidence. If an LDS member claims that any city on this continent is, in fact, one of the cities listed in the Book of Mormon, they should be able to name the city, identify it on a map and tell us why this is true. No archeologist on the planet will claim to know this with certainty because there is no evidence of any of the Book of Mormon cultures to be found anywhere on the continent. There are no discoveries of the literally thousands of coins that should be left from these cultures and that are described in the Book of Mormon. There are no remains of cities, buildings or cultures. There are no archeological discoveries of the weaponry that was described in the Book of Mormon either.

In the Visitor Center at Temple square in Salt Lake City (and in many other visitor centers around the country) the LDS church

displays a mural depicting Jesus visiting the "Americas." He is seen to be standing in front of two Temples. But these two Temples (El Castillo and El Caracol) were built in approximately 1000 AD and are almost 600 years too late to be in the landscape of the stories of the Book of Mormon (the Nephite Era)! This appears to be a deliberate misrepresentation of the archeology of the area.

SAMPLE



Beehive House

"Did Brigham Young teach that you must be a polygamist to be saved?"

Many present-day Mormons will deny that the church ever truly believed that polygamy was necessary for salvation, but Brigham Young clearly talked about the matter:

- *We are told that if we would give up polygamy--which we know to be a doctrine revealed from heaven and it is God and the world for it--but suppose this Church should give up this holy order of marriage, then would the devil, and all who are in league with him against the cause of God, rejoice that they had prevailed upon the Saints to refuse to obey one of the revelations and commandments of God to them."... "Will the Latter-day Saints do this? No" (Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses 11:239).*

"The only men who become Gods, even the Sons of God, are those who enter into polygamy. Others attain unto a glory and may even be permitted to come into the presence of the Father and the Son; but they cannot reign as kings in glory, because they had blessing offered unto them, and they refused to accept them." (Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses, Volume 11, p. 269)

"Now if any of you will deny the plurality of wives, and continue to do so, I promise that you will be damned; and I will go still further and say, take this revelation, or any other revelation that the Lord has given, and deny it in your feelings, and I promise that you will be damned." (Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses, Volume 3, p. 266)

'Some people have supposed that the doctrine of plural marriage was a sort of superfluity, or non-essential to the salvation or exaltation of mankind... I want here to enter my solemn protest against this idea, for I know it is false' (Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses 20:28, July 7, 1878)

"Did Joseph Smith teach that you must be a polygamist to be saved?"

It is clear from Mormon History that Joseph was practicing polygamy and had already received a number of women that he considered to have been 'given' to him by God himself, even BEFORE he ever wrote about a revelation regarding polygamy. These relationships then needed to be clarified for Emma, and so, according to Mormon history (in the DHC), Joseph wrote D&C 132. It was obviously not received well by the person for whom it was written, but Section 132 openly declares that God ordains polygamy:

- *D&C 132:4, 6 For behold, I reveal unto you a new and an everlasting covenant; and if ye abide not that covenant, then are ye damned; for no one can reject this covenant and be permitted to enter into my glory... And as pertaining to the new and everlasting covenant, it was instituted for the fulness of my glory; and he that receiveth a fulness thereof must and shall abide the law, or he shall be damned, saith the Lord God.*

"Did many other LDS leaders also teach that Polygamy was required for Salvation?"

Joseph Smith and Brigham Young clearly defined a theology of plural Celestial Marriage that even Brigham considered to be an affliction that was to be endured by women. But it was a necessary endurance that was required in order to be saved

to a Celestial Kingdom. Other leaders within the church also affirmed this truth:

- *"Where did this commandment come from in relation to polygamy? It also came from God... When this commandment was given, it was so far religious, and so far binding upon the Elders of this Church that it was told them if they were not prepared to enter into it, and to stem the torrent of opposition that would come in consequence of it, the keys of the kingdom would be taken from them. When I see any of our people, men or women, opposing a principle of this kind, I have years ago set them down as on the high road to apostacy, and I do to-day; I consider them apostates, and not interested in this Church and kingdom" (John Taylor, Journal of Discourses 11:221).*

"Polygamy is a divine institution. It has been handed down direct from God. The United States cannot abolish it. No nation on earth can prevent it... I will defy the United States, I will obey God." (John Taylor, Salt Lake Tribune, January 6, 1880)

"Some quietly listen to those who speak against the Lord's servants, against his anointed, against the plurality of wives, and against almost every principle that God has revealed. Such persons have half-a-dozen devils with them all the time. You might as well deny 'Mormonism,' and turn away from it, as to oppose the plurality of wives. Let the Presidency of this Church, and the Twelve Apostles, and all the authorities unite and say with one voice that they will oppose that doctrine, and the whole of them would be damned." (Heber C. Kimball, Journal of Discourses, Volume 5, p. 204, 1856)

"Some people have supposed that the doctrine of plural marriage was a sort of superfluity, or non-essential to the

salvation or exaltation of mankind... I want here to enter my solemn protest against this idea, for I know it is false." (Joseph F. Smith, Journal of Discourses 20:28, July 7, 1878)

"This doctrine of eternal union of husband and wife, and of plural marriage, is one of the most important doctrines ever revealed to man in any age of the world. Without it man would come to a full stop; without it we never could be exalted to associate with and become god..." (Joseph F. Smith, Journal of Discourses, 21:9, 1879).

"...if plurality of marriage is not true or in other words, if a man has no divine right to marry two wives or more in this world, then marriage for eternity is not true, and your faith is all vain, and all the sealing ordinances, and powers, pertaining to marriages for eternity are vain, worthless, good for nothing; for as sure as one is true the other also must be true." (Orson Pratt, Journal of Discourses 21:296, 1880).

"Doesn't the Book of Mormon teach that Polygamy is wrong?"

It appears that Joseph originally held a view of polygamy that was consistent with historical, orthodox Christianity! When writing the Book of Mormon and early documents that became part of the early versions of the Doctrines and Covenants, Joseph condemned the practice of polygamy:

- *Ether 10:5 'And it came to pass that Riplakish did not do that which was right in the sight of the Lord, for he did have many wives and concubines...'*
- *Jacob 3:5 'Behold, the Lamanites your brethren, whom you hate because of their filthiness and the cursing which hath come upon their skins, are more righteous than you; for*

they have not forgotten the commandment of the Lord, which was given unto our father - that they should have save it were one wife, and concubines they should have none...'

- **Jacob 24** *'Behold, David and Solomon truly had many wives and concubines, which thing was abominable before me, saith the Lord.'*
- **D&C Sec. 101** *'Inasmuch as this church of Christ has been reproached with the crime of fornication and polygamy: we declare that we believe that one man should have one wife; and one woman but one husband, except in case of death, when either is at liberty to marry again...' (1835 edition, since removed).*

"Doesn't the Bible also teach that Polygamy is wrong?"

Of course, biblical Orthodox Christianity has always been very clear on this issue and because of its clarity, Orthodox Christian communities have never been polygamous until the appearance of Mormonism (1840 years' worth of believers)! Why have orthodox Christians been so united on the issue of monogamy? Because the scripture is clear:

- **Genesis 2:24** *For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. (Notice that "wife" is singular)*
- **Ephesians 5:31** *"...and the two will become one flesh." (Notice the word, "two" as opposed to 'three' or 'seven' or 'thirteen')*
- **1 Timothy 3:2 (related to elders)** *"An elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife..."*

- *Titus 1:6 (related to overseers) "Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife..."*
- *Deuteronomy 17:17 (related to the king of God's people) "He must not take many wives, or his heart will be led astray."*

"Is it true that Brigham Young believed that Adam and Jesus were also Polygamists?"

In further defense of their new theological position related to plural marriage, Mormon leaders began to argue that Adam and Jesus were also polygamists and set the pattern for all believers who were to follow. Over 1800 years of Christians had apparently misunderstood the scriptures:

- *"Now hear it, O inhabitants of the earth, Jew and Gentile, Saint and Sinner! When our father Adam came into the garden of Eden, he came into it with a celestial body, and brought Eve, one of his wives with him." (Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses, Vol. 1, page 50)*

"Yes, one of the relics of Adam, of Enoch, of Noah, of Abraham, of Isaac, of Jacob, of Moses, David, Solomon, the Prophets, of Jesus and His Apostles." (Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses, Vol. 11, page 328)

"The Scripture says that He, the LORD, came walking in the Temple, with his train; I do not know who they were, unless his wives and children..." (Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses, Vol. 13, page 309)

"Some LDS people say that polygamy was necessary because there were not enough men in Utah for all the women. Is that true?"

Over the years, Mormons have tried to justify the early behavior of the Church. After all, the current manifestation of the Mormon Church vehemently denies and condemns the practice of Polygamy. In fact, if men like Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, John Taylor, and Heber C. Kimball were to be alive today and behave as they did in their own day, they would be promptly ex-communicated from the Church! So how do modern believers explain the behavior of the founding fathers? Well, one excuse has been offered along the way. Mormons will often claim that polygamy was practiced in order to provide homes to a surplus of women in the church! But the Mormon apostle John Widsoe has 'de-bunked' this common explanation:

- *"But then the proportion of the sexes in Utah would not, at present, admit of an extensive practice of plural marriage. When the census was taken five years ago, there were 143,963 souls in Utah Territory, not counting untaxed Indians. In this number there was an excess of 5,055 MALES over females. This does not have the appearance of permitting an extensive practice of plural marriage..." (LDS publication, Juvenile Instructor, Vol. 20, page 133)*

Another conjecture is that the people were few in numbers and that the Church, desiring greater numbers, permitted the practice so that a phenomenal increase in population could be attained. This is not defensible, since there was no surplus of women." (Apostle John Widsoe, Evidences and Reconciliations, 1960, page 392)



Family History Library And South Visitor's Center

"I have heard a lot about the emphasis of the church on families, but how many families actually get to go to heaven to begin with, considering the requirements of salvation are met by so few of them?"

Remember that only about half of Mormons who are listed on the rolls of the church are actually active in the church, and only half of these active members have completed their Temple Endowments, and less than half of these are presently deemed worthy enough (by virtue of having 'temple recommends') to return to the temple, and only half of these who are considered worthy actually participate in the Temple programs. That means that there is about an 85% to 90% failure rate! This system of requirements seems to prevent families from entering heaven, not assure that they will stay together!

God wants us to rest assured in our salvation, not be in bondage to a system of works:

- *Matthew 11:29-30. "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."*

"I understand that you keep extensive records of genealogies so that the dead in everyone's family can be baptized after death. But why do you baptize for the dead when the Book of Mormon is silent about this and even teaches against it?"

In the Book of Mormon, the word "baptism" appears twenty-five times. The word "baptize" appears twenty-eight times. The word "baptized" appears eighty-five times, and the word "baptizing" appears six times. In all those passages, the doctrine of baptism for the dead is never mentioned! While you may still argue that the doctrine of baptism of the dead has been removed from the Bible, it cannot be true that the doctrine was removed the Book of Mormon, because the Catholics never had the Book of Mormon! In addition, the Book of Mormon condemns the very ideas that led to the practice of baptism for the dead. It clearly proclaims that there is no chance for a person to repent after death if he has known the gospel and has rejected it

- *Alma 34:32-35 For behold, **this life** is the time for men to prepare to meet God; yea, behold the day of **this life** is **the day for men to perform their labors**... And now, as I said unto you before, as ye have had so many witnesses, therefore, I beseech of you that ye **do not procrastinate the day of your repentance until the end**; for after **this day of life**, which is given us to prepare for eternity, behold, if we do not improve our time while in **this life**, then cometh the night of darkness **wherein there can be no labor performed**. Ye cannot say, when ye are brought to that awful crisis, that I will repent, that I will return to my God. Nay, ye cannot say this; for that same spirit which doth possess your bodies at the time that ye go out of this life, that same spirit will have power to possess your body in that eternal world. **For behold, if ye have procrastinated the day of your repentance even until***

death, behold, ye have become subjected to the spirit of the devil, and he doth seal you his; therefore, the Spirit of the Lord hath withdrawn from you, and hath no place in you, and the devil hath all power over you; and this is the final state of the wicked. Strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain.

"Is it true that the LDS church believes that families need to be formed around temple marriages in order to go to the top level of Celestial Kingdom? Why does the LDS Church place so much importance on marriage when the Bible tells us that there will be no marriage in Heaven?"

Again, the Bible is clear about the role of marriage in heaven, and there is no biblical support for the LDS notion of Eternal Marriage:

- *Luke 20:34-36* And Jesus answering said unto them, The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage: But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage: Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.

The only eternal marriage in the Bible is the spiritual marriage of the believer to Christ.

- *2 Corinthians 11:2* I have espoused you to one husband [Christ], that I may present you [the Christians] as a chaste virgin to Christ

Christians are to be united in a spiritual union with Jesus, not an actual marriage.

- *Romans 7:4* Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.

"The LDS church teaches that you must be married to go to Celestial Kingdom, but if this was true, why would Paul encourage us to stay single?"

It makes no sense that Paul would teach in direct opposition to a foundational requirement for LDS salvation, but that is exactly what happens when he teaches about staying single if one has the gift for single life:

- *1 Corinthians 7:1, 6-7, 32-35* Now for the matters you wrote about: It is good for a man not to marry. But since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband. I say this as a concession, not as a command... I wish that all men were as I am. But each man has his own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that. Now to the unmarried and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I am. But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion... I would like you to be free from concern. An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs - how he can please the Lord. But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world - how he can please his wife - and his interests are divided. An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord's affairs: Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and Spirit. But a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world - how she can please her husband. I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord.

"The LDS church teaches that 'Families are Forever.' But if Mormon theology is correct, how is this possible?"

First of all, how can I be certain that every member of my family will follow the rules of the faith perfectly? If one of us fails to do this, that person won't be in heaven at all!

- *LDS President Joseph Fielding Smith "To enter the celestial and obtain exaltation it is necessary that the whole law be kept..." (The Way to Perfection, p. 206).*

But even if we all could keep the law perfectly; Mormon theology would still separate us! Imagine that my entire family is perfect and gets to heaven. My son, if he is a good Latter-day Saint (who followed the laws and commandments of Mormonism and married a faithful Mormon girl), would be rewarded with his own kingdom or earth in the next life. He wouldn't be with me at all, because I would also have my own world! And my daughters (if they were good Mormons who married good Mormon men) would be off with their husbands ruling over their husband's worlds! And how about my wife? What if her dad is a good Mormon and attains Godhood? Would my wife spend eternity with her parents? Or would she be with me on my world? See Mormon theology actually SEPARATES families!! After all, Mormon theology presupposes that God the Father also had parents. Where in the Mormon scriptures do you ever hear that God is still living with his parents? Where do you even hear about his parents?

BYU Campus Talks

Instructions

The Purpose...

- Eat lunch (sack lunch or purchase lunch in the cafeteria).
- Engage in meaningful conversations with BYU students (who may or may not be LDS).

The Do's...

- Be in small groups (minimum of 2 and maximum of 3).
- Take your lunch and approach a table of student(s).
- Introduce yourself. Say you are in the area studying religions/worldviews and ask if you can join them for lunch and conversation.
- Smile, be friendly, and start with small talk and questions (especially open-ended questions vs. yes/no questions).
 - "Where are you originally from?"
 - "What year are you? What is your major? How do you like it?"
 - "What do you plan to do after you graduate?"
- Ask follow-up questions based on their responses.
- Transition into questions of religious background and beliefs.

- Use a tool like the Conversational Survey or the Jesus Survey.
- If a conversation ends and you have additional time, find more students to talk to!
 - Approach another table in the cafeteria.
 - Head onto campus and find students lounging or congregating in other spaces.
- A good way to end the conversation is to ask if there's anything they need prayer for, and then pray with them!
- If there's any trouble (e.g. a student gets angry), end the conversation and leave the area.
- If security asks you to leave, leave immediately to the group meeting area.

The Do Not's...

- Do not go into a student's dorm room but instead, stay in public spaces.
- Do not stay in a situation you don't feel comfortable in.
- Do not hand out any literature. If a conversation goes well, you can exchange contact information.
- Do not implicate yourself or others including MAVEN staff. You have the right to withhold personal information.

Some Possible Conversation Questions...

- What are you studying?
- Have you been on a mission? When? Where? What did you like/dislike about it? Did you talk to any evangelical Christians?
- Why would someone want to become a Mormon?
- What is your story/testimony?
- I've been studying Mormonism and wondered if I could ask you about...
 - the nature of God, Jesus, forgiveness, repentance, eternal life, the book of Mormon, truth, or something else.
 - How does this match up with the biblical account?

BYU Door – to – Door

Instructions

The Purpose...

- Engage in meaningful conversations with BYU students (who may or may not be LDS).

The Do's...

- Knock on doors and introduce yourselves. Wait 30 seconds and then move on if no response.
- Introduction: "We are Christian missionaries from _____. Do you have a moment to talk?"
- Smile, be friendly, make small talk and ask questions.
- Be prepared with a conversation starter and then lead the conversation with questions.
- Ask related and appropriate questions based on their responses and interests.
- Be assertive – you don't have to be diplomatic, you don't have to "beat around the bush."
- If they no longer want to continue the conversation, thank them for their time and move on to the next address.
- You can leave them with literature, challenge them to read specific Bible passages, and encourage them to think about what you have discussed.

- Before leaving, try to exchange contact information or at least leave them with your information for follow-up.
- Before leaving, ask them if there is anything they need prayer for...and then pray with them!

The Do Not's...

- Do not expect to enter their homes. They may offer and it is fine to accept.
- Do not stay in a situation you don't feel comfortable in.

Some Possible Conversation Questions...

- What are you studying?
- Have you been on a mission? When? Where? What did you like/dislike about it? Did you talk to any evangelical Christians?
- Why would someone want to become a Mormon?
- What is your story/testimony?
- I've been studying Mormonism and wondered if I could ask you about...
 - the nature of God, Jesus, forgiveness, repentance, eternal life, the book of Mormon, truth, or something else.
 - How does this match up with the biblical account?

Some General Suggestions...

- Pray! Pray before you knock on doors and pray after a conversation. Also, pray during the conversation, as other team members are speaking.
- Work together with your team members so everyone gets to experience asking questions.
- Be careful not to interrupt your team members, as they may be leading the conversation to a particular point.
- Laugh, have fun, joke around and be winsome.
- If tensions arise, pause the conversation and try to decrease the tension. You can apologize for any offense and reiterate you're there because you love people and want them to discover the truth about God and the Gospel. Or you can try to introduce (or reintroduce) yourself, to reset the tone.

Mormon Conversational Survey

...On General Issues

Instructions: Make sure you are in groups of two or three. Use this survey to engage with Mormons enlightening conversations about critical ideas and beliefs.

1. Are you a member of the LDS Church?

- How long have you been a member?
- What made you decide to join the church?

2. What is required for LDS believers to get the best their religion has to offer?

- Can you do something in the next life to attain perfection?
- Do you know for sure that you will go to Celestial Kingdom if you died today?
- Does the Bible say anything about whether or not you can know you are saved today?

3. Are you married?

- Do LDS church members believe that they have to be married in order to go to Celestial Kingdom?

4. What do you think that Evangelical Christians believe about salvation?
- Is it your understanding that Christians don't believe in good works?
5. What does "GRACE" mean to you?
- How do you interpret passages in scripture that describe salvation as a "FREE" gift?
 - How can you contribute to something and it still be FREE?
6. What does the cross of Christ mean to you?
- Why aren't there any crosses on Mormon Assembly halls, wards, stakes, or temples?
7. Do you think the Bible is reliable?
- Why or why not?
 - Is the Book of Mormon as reliable as the Bible?
 - Is there any archeological support for the history described in the Book of Mormon?
8. If you had one question that you could ask a Christian, what would it be?

The Jesus Survey

Short Answer

1. Would you consider yourself to be a Christian who follows the teachings of Jesus? *Yes / No*
2. Are you a member of a Christian denomination? *Yes / No*
 - a. If yes, what is the official name of your church?

Multiple Choice

3. How long has it been since you completely read all 4 Gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John?
 - a. Within the last year
 - b. Within the last 5 yrs.
 - c. I have never completely read all four gospels
4. Jesus demonstrated on several occasions that even the most wicked of sinners would be forgiven...
 - a. Eventually, through a repentance process which would lead them to righteous living.
 - b. Immediately, by simply coming to Jesus and exercising a humble faith in Him.
5. In regards to pre-existence, Jesus stated that...

- a. He was the only person who had pre-existed in the presence of the Father and had come down to the earth.
 - b. We all had pre-existed with our Father in heaven and should view the entire human race as sons and daughters of God.
6. In regard to priesthood, Jesus Christ...
- a. Spoke often with His disciples about the importance of the priesthood and ordained them with priesthood authority to act in His name.
 - b. Never spoke about the importance of any priesthood nor is it recorded that He ordained his Apostles with priesthood authority.

True or False?

7. _____ Jesus taught His followers the sanctity and importance of an eternal marriage relationship which would extend far beyond the future resurrection.
8. _____ Jesus said that after his departure the Church would fall into a state of total apostasy because wicked men would arise who would take away many of the precious truths that He had taught.
9. _____ Jesus taught that after death people will be given a second chance to receive the gospel – those who repent can move from a place of tortured remorse to a place of peace and comfort.

Jesus Survey *ANSWERS*

Multiple Choice: Questions 1-3 are your own answers.

4. Jesus demonstrated on several occasions that even the most wicked of sinners would be forgiven...

CORRECT ANSWER – B.

Immediately, by simply coming to Jesus and exercising a humble faith in Him.

In Luke 7:36-50, Jesus forgave a prostitute because she simply worshiped Him— Jesus said, "Her sins, which are many, are forgiven" (also consider Matthew 9:2-8); also read about the Father's forgiveness in the story of the prodigal son in Luke 15:11-24; 1 John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness". It is significant to note that all forgiven sins are totally forgotten never to be remembered again, see: Psalm 103:12; Isaiah 38:17; Micah 7:19; and Hebrews 8:12 & 10:17.

5. In regard to pre-existence, Jesus stated that...

CORRECT ANSWER – A.

He was the only person who had pre-existed in the presence of the Father and had come down to the earth.

Jesus said, "Father, ...You loved Me before the foundation of the world... The world has not known You"—John 17:24-25; "The Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form"— John 5:37-38; "Not that any man has seen the

Father, except He who is from God; He has seen the Father"—John 6:46; "He who sent Me is true, whom you do not know. But I know Him, for I am from Him"—John 7:28-29; "It is My Father who honors Me, of whom you say that He is your God. Yet you have not known Him"—John 8:54-59; And, Jesus said, "You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world"—John 8:23-24.

Only once did Jesus discuss the topic of marriage in the afterlife.

This narrative is found in Matthew 22:23-30. Read this passage for yourself and STOP AT VERSE 28 – If eternal marriage was a principle of Jesus Christ's gospel, what important question would Jesus have asked these men?

JESUS WOULD HAVE ASKED, "Was the woman married to any of her husbands in the temple for time and all eternity?" But, Jesus did not ask that question because no one was ever married in a Jewish temple. Instead, Jesus answered, "Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven." The recorded scriptures make this point clear, neither Jesus, nor any of His Apostles, nor any ancient prophet ever taught the doctrine of eternal marriage. Can eternal marriage be a part of Jesus Christ's gospel if Jesus never taught it?

6. In regard to priesthood, Jesus Christ...

CORRECT ANSWER – B.

Never spoke about the importance of any priesthood nor is it recorded that He ordained his Apostles with priesthood authority.

Jesus never once spoke about priesthood. The authority that Jesus offers his disciples is not said to be through any priesthood but rather through the power of the Holy Spirit, (see Matthew 28:18-20 & Acts 1:4-8, 2:1-4, 36-39);

According to the writer of Hebrews, Jesus could not have held the Aaronic priesthood because He was from the wrong tribe of Israel, He was of Judah and not Levi. Also according to the writer of Hebrews, Jesus was the only person that could or would arise after the similitude of Melchizedek and hold his priesthood. (Read Hebrews chapters 5-7).

True or False?

7. _____ Jesus taught His followers the sanctity and importance of an eternal marriage relationship, which would extend far beyond the future resurrection.

CORRECT ANSWER – False

8. _____ Jesus said that after his departure the Church would fall into a state of total apostasy because wicked men would arise who would take away many of the precious truths that He had taught.

CORRECT ANSWER – False

Jesus said, "I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

Matthew 16:18; "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away"—Matthew 24:35; "I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen"—Matthew 28:20; "You shall receive power, after the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and you shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth"—Acts 1:8. If the total apostasy of Christ's Church happened, then Jesus Christ proclaimed false prophecies and is a liar.

9. _____ Jesus taught that after death people will be given a second chance to receive the gospel – those who repent can move from a place of tortured remorse to a place of peace and comfort.

CORRECT ANSWER – False

In Luke 16:19-26, Jesus eliminates any hope for second chances after death when he says, "Between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here [paradise] to you cannot, nor can those from there [hell] pass to us" (vs. 26). Jesus taught more about eternal destruction in hell than any other prophet; "broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it" (Matthew 7:13); "...to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched— where 'Their worm, does not die and the fire is not quenched'" (Mark 9:43-48); "These shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal." (Matt. 25:46); And in John's Revelation he says, "And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever... This is the second death." (Revelation 20:10-15). Jesus said, "He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him— the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day." John 12:47-48

Questions, Comments? *Contact GospelTruth4U@hotmail.com*

Helpful Articles, Charts, & Sheets

Continue Learning...

Terminology Differences Between LDS and the Bible

BY SANDRA TANNER

Introduction

Whenever an evangelical Christian and a Latter-day Saint engage in a doctrinal discussion they encounter the problem of terminology. LDS leaders use the standard vocabulary of Christianity but with radically different definitions. A Christian should never take for granted that his/her LDS friend understands common Christian terms in the biblical way.

Because the Bible has many warnings about false prophets (Matthew 24:11, 24; 2 Corinthians 11:4, 13; 1 John 4:1) and people teaching strange doctrines (2 Peter 2:12; Galatians 1:6-8; Hebrews 13:9), it is essential that we understand what the Bible says on various doctrines.

The references below will demonstrate that the LDS Church is indeed teaching a different god and a counterfeit gospel, thus offering a false hope.

The following list of Christian terms will be defined by LDS sources and then by biblical quotes. While this is not a complete list of terminology differences, it will cover the most basic ones.

Godhead

LDS: Father and Son are resurrected men with physical bodies. Holy Ghost is a separate man with a spiritual body. Three totally separate Gods. God is married. Other Gods for other worlds. (D&C 130:22; Teachings, pp. 345-346, pp. 370-373; Doctrines of Salvation, vol. 1, pp. 10-12)

BIBLE: God is not a man. (Num. 23:19) He has always been God. (Psa. 90:2; Mal. 3:6; Hab. 1:12; Rom. 1:22-25) Only one God. (Isa. 43:10-11; 44:6; 45:21-22) Father is Spirit and invisible. (John 4:24; 1 Tim. 1:17)

Jesus Christ

LDS: Literally our elder brother, born to Heavenly Parents in the premortal life. Jesus, Lucifer, and humans are all the same species and are brothers and sisters. (Gospel Principles, pp. 11, 17, 18)

BIBLE: Fully God, not a subordinate deity. Eternal. (Isa. 9:6; John 8:58; 1 Tim. 3:16; Heb. 13:8; John 1:1-4, 14; Col. 1:16-17)

Premortal Life

LDS: Teach that everyone existed in heaven before born on earth. We have existed eternally. (D&C 93:29; PGP:Bk of Abr 3:21-22; Teachings, pp. 352-354)

BIBLE: Only Christ existed before mortality, not man. (John 8:58; Col. 1:17) Our existence started on earth. (Zec. 12:1; 1 Cor. 15:46)

The Fall

LDS: Fall was a blessing. It brought mortality, ability to have children and physical death. Adam was given conflicting commandments and was supposed to fall. (Doctrines of Salvation, vol. 1, pp. 111-116; Gospel Principles, pp. 31-33; 2 Nephi 2:25; Mormon Doctrine, pp. 268-269)

BIBLE: God intended obedience. Gen. 1:28. God tempts no one. (James 1:13-14). Man is sinful. (Rom. 5:12; 8:5-8; 1 Cor. 2:14)

Virgin Birth

LDS: Believe God, as a resurrected physical man, is literal Father of Jesus—same manner in which men are conceived on earth. Believe Matt. 1:18 is in error. (Mormon Doctrine, pp. 546- 547, 742)

BIBLE: Mary was "with child of the Holy Ghost." (Matt. 1:18; Luke 1:30-35)

Sin

LDS: Specific acts, not man's basic nature. Must know act is wrong to be a sin. (Mormon Doctrine, pp. 550, 735-736)

BIBLE: We are in spiritual rebellion until conversion. (Eph. 2:3; Rom. 5:6) We do not just commit sins; we are basically sinful. (Matt. 1:21; Jer. 17:9; Luke 5:32)

Forgiveness

LDS: Granted at end of process of repentance and reformed behavior (Mormon Doctrine, pp. 292-298; Gospel Principles, pp. 75-77, 123; Doctrine of Salvation, vol. 1, pp. 133-134)

BIBLE: Complete forgiveness granted the moment we turn to Christ. (Mark 2:5; Col. 2:13-14; Eph. 1:6-7)

Salvation by Grace

LDS: Believe Christ's death brought release from grave and universal resurrection. Salvation by grace is universal resurrection. Beyond this, man must earn his place in heaven. Saved by grace after all we can do. (Book of Mormon, 2 Nephi 25:23; Mormon Doctrine pp. 669-671)

BIBLE: Salvation is not limited to universal resurrection but gift of God to those who believe. (Rom. 1:16; Heb. 9:28; Eph. 2:8-9)

Redeemed

LDS: From mortal death only. Not same as Eternal Life. (Doctrine of Salvation, vol. 2, pp. 10-15)

BIBLE: Redeemed from more than mortal death; redeemed from spiritual death and given Eternal Life. (Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:1; Gal. 4:4-5)

Gospel

LDS: Doctrines and commandments of the LDS Church. True gospel restored by Joseph Smith. (Mormon Doctrine, pp. 331, 334; Doctrine of Salvation, vol. 1, pp. 156-159)

BIBLE: Good news of Christ's death and resurrection as atonement for our sins. (1 Cor. 15:1-4; Gal. 1:6-8)

Born Again

LDS: Baptism into the LDS Church. (Mormon Doctrine, p. 101)

BIBLE: We are spiritually dead until our spiritual birth. (1 Peter 1:23; 2 Cor. 5:17; John 3:7, 14, 15)

True Church

LDS: Only the Mormon Church. The true church was taken from the earth until Joseph Smith restored it. (D&C 1:30; 115:3, 4; Mormon Doctrine, pp. 133, 136)

BIBLE: Not an organization; as born-again Christians we are part of God's Church. (1 Cor. 12:12-14; Matt. 16:18; 18:19-20)

Immortality

LDS: Universal gift. The ability to go to heaven and live forever but not same as Eternal Life. Lower level of heaven and unable to bear children. (D&C 14:7; Mormon Doctrine, pp. 237, 376-377, 670)

BIBLE: Makes no distinction between immortality and eternal life. No second-class citizens in heaven. (2 Tim. 1:10; John 3:15- 16)

Hell

LDS: Hell, as an institution is eternal—inmates come and go as in jail, but do not spend eternity there. Temporary. After debt is paid they will go to the Telestial Kingdom. (Mormon Doctrine, pp. 349-351)

BIBLE: No mention of people getting out of Hell. (Rev. 21:8; Matt. 13:24-43, 47-50; Luke 16:26)

Heaven

LDS: Divided into three kingdoms—Celestial, Terrestrial and Telestial. A place for almost everyone. (D&C 88:16-20; Misuse of 1 Cor. 15:40-41)

BIBLE: Only mentions two conditions—everlasting punishment or eternal life. (Matt. 25:31-46; 2 Thess. 1:7-10)

Kingdom of God

LDS: Means Celestial Kingdom. Only those in the Celestial Kingdom are in God's presence. Those in the Terrestrial or Telestial Kingdoms are not in the presence of the Father. (D&C 76:50-88; 131:1-4; 132:16-17)

BIBLE: All redeemed will be in God's presence. (Rev. 21:1-3) All believers are part of Kingdom. (Matt. 13:41-43)

Baptism

LDS: Must be performed by LDS priesthood. (Mormon Doctrine, pp. 69-72)

BIBLE: Emphasis is on Believer—not priesthood authority. (Matt. 28:19; Acts 2:37-41; 16:30-34)

Sons of God

LDS: We were all born in heaven, prior to earth, as literal spirit children of God and his wife. (Mormon Doctrine, pp. 589-590)

BIBLE: Spiritually adopted at conversion. (John 1:12; Gal. 3:26)

Eternal Life

LDS: Exaltation in Celestial Kingdom; godhood and ability to bear children in heaven. Must have a temple recommend and be sealed in Mormon temple. (D&C 131:1-4; 132:19-25, 30, 55)

BIBLE: Not limited to certain ones in the top part of heaven. No mention of parenthood or temple marriage but is given to all true believers. (1 John 5:12-13; Luke 20:35-36)

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LDS References:

Book of Mormon

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Bible and Book of Mormon Contradictions

BY SANDRA TANNER

1. The Bible plainly states that the gospel, with its inclusion of Gentiles, was not fully revealed until after Christ's death.

Eph. 3:3-7 Paul writes: by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel: whereof I was made a minister. . . . (See also Colossians 1:26; 1 Peter 1: 1-12; Romans 16:25-26)

However, the Book of Mormon maintains that this knowledge was had in 545 B.C.

2 Nephi 25:19 For according to the words of the prophets, the Messiah cometh... his name shall be Jesus Christ, the Son of God. . . . (v. 23) For we labor . . . to persuade . . . our brethren, to believe in Christ, and to be reconciled to God; for we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do.

2 Nephi 26:12 And as I spake concerning the convincing of the Jews, that Jesus in the very Christ, it must needs be that the Gentiles be convinced also that Jesus is the Christ, the Eternal God;

2 Nephi 30:2 For behold, I say unto you that as many of the Gentiles as will repent are the covenant people of the Lord; and as many of the Jews as will not repent shall be cast off,

2 Nephi 31:17 *For the gate by which ye should enter is repentance and baptism by water; and then cometh a remission of your sins by fire and the Holy Ghost.*

2. During Jesus' ministry He spoke of His church as something in the future.

Matthew 16:18 *And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

After Christ's resurrection and the day of Pentecost we read: *And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.* (Acts 2:47)

However, the Book of Mormon claims the Christian church was established as early as 147 B.C.

Mosiah 18:17 *And they were called the church of God, or the church of Christ, from that time forward.*

3. The Bible says believers were first called Christians after Paul's ministry in Antioch.

Acts 11:26 *And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.*

However, the Book of Mormon claims people were known by this title as early as 73 B.C.

Alma 46:15 . . . *yea, all those who were true believes in Christ took upon them, gladly, the name of Christ, or Christians as they were called, because of their belief in Christ who should come.*

4. The Holy Ghost was bestowed on the Christians at the time of Pentecost.

Luke 24:49 *And, behold, I send the promise of my Father unto you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.*

Acts 2:1-4 *And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. . . . And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, . . .*

Yet the Book of Mormon claims that people received the gift of the Holy Ghost as early as 545 B.C.

2 Nephi 31:12-13 . . . *the voice of the Son came unto me, saying: He that is baptized in my name, to him will the Father give the Holy Ghost, like unto me . . . Wherefore, my beloved brethren, . . . by following your Lord and your Savior down into the water, according to his word, behold, then shall ye receive the Holy Ghost; yea, then cometh the baptism of fire and of the Holy Ghost; . . .*

5. In the Old Testament the only ones who could be priests were the descendants of Levi, one of the twelve sons of Israel.

Numbers 3:9-10 *And thou shalt give the Levites unto Aaron and to his sons: they are wholly given unto him out of the children of Israel. And thou shalt appoint Aaron and his sons, and they shall wait on their priest's office: and the stranger that cometh nigh shall be put to death (see also Numbers 8:6-26).*

However, the Book of Mormon story claims that descendants of the tribe of Manasseh (Alma 10:3) were made priests.

2 Nephi 5:26 *And it came to pass that I, Nephi, did consecrate Jacob and Joseph, that they should be priests and teachers over the land of my people.*

6. The Old Testament teaches that the first born of the flocks were to be given automatically to the Lord. Sacrifices were to be made from their remaining animals.

Exodus 13:12 *That thou shalt set apart unto the Lord all that openeth the matrix, and every firstling that cometh of a beast which thou hast; the males shall be the Lord's* (see also Exodus 13:2; 22:29-30; Numbers 3:13; 18:15-18; 2 Samuel 24:24).

Deuteronomy 12:6 *And thither ye shall bring your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, and your tithes, and heave offerings of your hand, and your vows, and your freewill offerings, and the firstlings of your herds and of your flocks.*

The Book of Mormon claims that the Nephites were keeping the law of Moses. However, the Nephites broke the law of Moses by using the first of the flocks for burnt offerings. These should have already been given to the Lord as tithing.

Mosiah 2:3 *And they also took of the firstlings of their flocks, that they might offer sacrifice and burnt offerings according to the law of Moses.*

7. The Bible states that all of King Zedekiah's sons were killed.

Jeremiah 39:6 *Then the king of Babylon slew the sons of Zedekiah in Riblah before his eyes.*

Contrary to the Bible, the Book of Mormon claims that one son of King Zedekiah escaped destruction and came to the Americas.

Heleman 6:10 *the land north was called Mulek, which was after the son of Zedekiah; for the Lord did bring Mulek into the land north (see also Heleman 8:21).*

8. The Bible prophesied that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem.

Micah 5:2 *But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.*

However, the Book of Mormon said he would be born at Jerusalem.

Alma 7:10 *And behold, he shall be born of Mary, at Jerusalem which is the land of our forefathers, she being a virgin . . .*

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SEVEN DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MORMONISM AND CHRISTIANITY

BY R.M. SIVULKA

Introduction

The purpose of this is to let you know seven differences between Mormonism and traditional Christianity (Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox). Many would think that Mormonism is simply a part of Christianity, particularly since they are called "The Church of *JESUS CHRIST* of Latter-day Saints" (emphasis added). The problem is that we, as traditional Christians, think that Mormonism is teaching another Jesus than what the Bible teaches (cf. 2 Corinthians 11:3-4, 13-15).

The Seven Differences

1. Mormon scripture teaches that *all* the various Christian denominations, particularly the Presbyterians, Baptists, and Methodists, are all considered by Jesus Christ to be "wrong." When the Mormon prophet Joseph Smith, Jr. was questioning, as a 14-year-old boy, which of these churches to join, he claimed,

I was answered that I must join none of them, for they were all *wrong*; and the Personage who addressed me said that all their creeds were an *abomination* in his sight; that those professors were all *corrupt*; that: 'they draw near to me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me, they teach for doctrines the commandments of men, having a form of

godliness, but they deny the power thereof' (Joseph Smith--History 1:19, *Pearl of Great Price*, emphasis added, cf. 1:9).

Behold there are save two churches only; the one is the church of the Lamb of God, and the other is the church of the devil; wherefore, whoso belongeth not to the church of the Lamb of God belongeth to that great church, which is the mother of abominations; and she is the whore of all the earth (1 Nephi 14:10, *Book of Mormon*).

2. **Mormon scripture, prophets and apostles teach that there is more than one god who created this world, that there are many gods who rule over other worlds, and that worthy Mormons may one day become gods themselves. Even though Mormons claim there is only one God for them, they still believe that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are separate gods who are only one in their purpose rather than in a personal being that they share eternally.**

Three separate personages--Father, Son, and Holy Ghost--comprise the Godhead. As each of these persons is a God, it is evident, from this standpoint alone, that a *plurality of Gods* exists. To us, speaking in the proper finite sense, these three are the only Gods we worship. But in addition, there is an infinite number of holy personages, drawn from worlds without number, who have passed on to exaltation and are thus gods (Bruce R. McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, 576-7).

Here, then, is eternal life--to know the only wise and true God; and you have got to learn how to be Gods yourselves, and to be kings and priests to God, the same as all Gods have done before you, namely, by going from one small degree to another... until you attain to the resurrection of the dead, and are able to dwell in everlasting burnings, and to sit in glory, as

do those who sit enthroned in everlasting power (Joseph Smith, *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, 346-7).¹

"As man is God once was, as God is man may be" (Prophet Lorenzo Snow, *The Life of Lorenzo Snow* by Thomas C. Romney, 46).

"And then the Lord said: Let us go down. And they went down at the beginning, and they, that is the Gods, organized and formed the heavens and the earth" (Abraham 4:1, *The Pearl of Great Price*).

3. Mormon scripture, prophets and apostles teach that God the Father is an exalted man with flesh and bones.

God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens! ...I say, if you were to see him today, you would see him like a man in form--like yourselves in all the person, image, and very form as a man; ...I am going to tell you how God came to be God. We have imagined and supposed that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea, and take away the veil, so that you may see (Smith, *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, 345).

"The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's" (Doctrine and Covenants 130:22).

4. Mormon prophets and apostles teach that God the Father has *at least* one wife by which we were all literally born from as spirit children prior to coming to this earth. Some of these prophets and apostles have even taught that Jesus had wives and children.

This glorious truth of celestial parentage, including specifically both a Father and a Mother, is heralded forth by song in one of the greatest of Latter-day Saint hymns. *O My Father* by Eliza R. Snow, written in 1843 during the lifetime of the

Prophet, includes this teaching: *In the heavens are parents single? No; the thought makes reason stare! Truth is reason, truth eternal, Tells me I've a Mother there. When I leave this frail existence, When I lay this mortal by, Father, Mother, may I meet you In your royal courts on high?* (McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, 516-7).

We have now clearly shown that God the Father had a plurality of wives, one or more being in eternity, by whom He begat our spirits as well as the Spirit of Jesus His First Born, and another being upon the earth by whom He begat the tabernacle of Jesus, as His Only Begotten in this world. We have also proved most clearly that the Son followed the example of his Father, and became the great Bridegroom to whom kings' daughters and many honorable Wives were to be married (Apostle Orson Pratt, *The Seer*, 172).

When our father Adam came into the garden of Eden, he came into it with a *celestial body*, and brought Eve, *one of his wives*, with him. He helped to make and organize this world.

He is MICHAEL, *the Archangel*, the ANCIENT OF DAYS! about whom holy men have written and spoken--He *is our FATHER and our God, and the only God with whom WE have to do* (Prophet Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*, vol. 1, 50).

NOTE: Most Mormons are unaware that Brigham Young in fact taught that Adam was the God of this world. Only members of fundamentalist Mormon groups (not affiliated with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints) hold to this doctrine today. Regardless of this identification of God as being Adam, no one denies that Young believed that God the Father has more than one wife.

5. Mormon prophets and apostles teach that God the Father had a Father whom He followed as Jesus had followed Him. This follows from the preceding points.

If Abraham reasoned thus—If Jesus Christ was the Son of God, and John discovered that God the Father of Jesus Christ had a Father, you may suppose that He had a Father also. Where was there ever a son without a father? And where was there ever a father without first being a son? Whenever did a tree or anything spring into existence without a

progenitor? And everything comes in this way. ...Hence if Jesus had a Father, can we not believe that *He* had a Father also? I despise the idea of being scared to death at such a doctrine, for the Bible is full of it.

I want you to pay particular attention to what I am saying. Jesus said that the Father wrought precisely in the same way as His Father had done before Him. As the Father had done before? He laid down His life, and took it up the same as His Father had done before (Smith, *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, 373).

6. Mormon prophets and apostles teach that there are many things that Jesus did not create. For example, He did not create our spirits, nor did He create Lucifer, nor did He even create the planet that He was born on as a spirit. The reason for this is because Mormons believe that Jesus and Lucifer are literally brothers, and we as humans are all the younger brothers and sisters of them. We were all born of heavenly parents, who did the creating work of their world (not all worlds whatsoever) before we arrived spiritually in heaven.

The appointment of Jesus to be the Savior of the world was contested by one of the other sons of God. He was called

Lucifer, son of the morning. Haughty, ambitious, and covetous of power and glory, this spirit-brother of Jesus desperately tried to become the Savior of mankind (Milton R. Hunter, *The Gospel through the Ages*, 15).

7. Mormon prophets and apostles teach that we should not pray directly to Jesus. Rather, they can only pray directly to the Father *in the name* of Jesus.

Apostle Bruce McConkie said concerning the Father, He is the one to whom we have direct access by prayer, and if there were some need -- which there is not -- to single out one member of the Godhead, for a special relationship, the Father, not the Son, would be the one to choose. Our relationship with the Son is one of brother or sister in the pre-mortal life.

Referring to "others who have an excessive zeal," McConkie went on to say that they devote themselves to gaining a special, personal relationship with Christ that is both improper and perilous. ...Another peril is that those so involved often begin to pray directly to Christ because of some special friendship they feel has been developed. ...This is plain sectarian nonsense. Our prayers are addressed to the Father and to Him only (*BYU Devotional* [March 2, 1982], 17, 19 & 20).

A Christian Response

Some Mormons may quibble that some of these sources are non-scriptural, and are thus simply the opinions of men with no binding authority. But the Bible says that if so-called prophets and apostles teach other gods than what God has already clearly revealed about Himself, we are to consider them to be false (cf. Deuteronomy 13:1-5; 2 Corinthians 11:3-4, 13-15; & Galatians 1:6-9). What difference does it make if the preceding sources are deemed by the Mormon Church to be scriptural or not? If this is truly what they taught, then it seems

quite obvious that these individuals are not teaching the God of the Bible, and thus should be considered as **non-Christian** (i.e., they are not following the true Christ).

Mormons also quibble that the Bible is full of errors and has been through many a translation such that many "plain and precious truths" have been left out of the translation we have today. Thus, Mormons unquestionably rest their faith in what their church tells them to believe, so long as they receive affirmation from what is called a "burning in their bosoms." Christians, on the other hand, find no reason to think that many truths have been taken from Scripture. Why is it that all the various manuscripts of the Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek Scriptures, from which all the various versions come, are remarkably consistent with each other? Where is all the evidence that these manuscripts were cut up in such a way so as to delete the "plain and precious truths" found today in the restored Mormon Scriptures? Christians find no reason to doubt the words of the Lord Jesus when He said, "Scripture cannot be broken" (John 10:35), and "[h]eaven and earth shall pass away but my words shall not pass away" (Mat. 24:35). It is the word of God, not our "burning in our bosoms," that is a light to our path (Psalm 119:105).

The Christian interpretation of the Bible teaches that there was *only one* Being (not a team of Gods that formed a Godhead) who did the creation work of any world in the *entire universe* (not some proper subset of it) (Isaiah 43:10; 44:6, 8, **24**; 45:12; & 46:9). Of course, other "gods" are mentioned in Scripture, but they are consistently referred to as false gods or idols that are not gods by nature (Ps. 96:5; 1 Cor. 8:1-6; & Gal. 4:8). (Some Mormons have attempted to support their polytheism by likening themselves to early Christian fathers and other Christian theologians in their view of the *deification* of humans. But the latter still believe in only one *true* God by nature, and hold that humans can never attain the unique

features of God like omnipotence, eternity, omnipresence, etc. Consequently, *Christian* deification does not teach that humans can *literally* become gods. Instead, it teaches that humans are "deified" in the sense that the Holy Spirit

transforms Christian believers into the image of God, modeled perfectly in the human nature of Christ, by endowing them in the resurrection with immortality and God's perfect *moral* character.)

The Bible also teaches that God is not *limited* to a body that He *needs* to become a God. He is too great for a body (1 Kings 8:27 & Jn. 4:21-24). He is God *unchangeably* from everlasting to everlasting (Malachi 3:6 & Ps. 90:2). This is why God has a completely different nature from man. He is not a mere man, nor an exalted man, since He is not a man at all (Hosea 11:9).

The Bible also teaches that Jesus created everything that was ever created from the beginning of heaven and earth (Jn. 1:1-3, 14 & Colossians 1:15-18). Hence, wherever humans or Lucifer were made, they were all made by Jesus. This is why Christians have no problem praying to Jesus (cf. Stephen's prayer in Acts 7:59).

Jesus told us not just to pray to the Father, but to Himself as well (Jn. 14:14—Greek says, "If you ask *me* anything in my name, I will do it"). Whether Jesus is physically present or not is irrelevant, since He claimed to be with us always anyway (Mat. 18:20 & 28:20). Though He became fully man, He has always been fully God and ought to be treated as such (Jn. 1:1 & 14; 5:18 & 23; Romans 9:5; Philippians 2:5-10; Col. 2:9; Revelation 1:8, 17-18; & 22:6-20). Since Jesus is the only Son of God with the *nature* of God ("only begotten" in Greek means "one of a *kind* or *genus*"), He is God the Son (Jn. 1:18).

More specifically, He is the *second* person of God. The Christian God is more than one person; *He* is actually three persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) who are not unlike radically connected Siamese twins (compare Isa. 44:24 with Genesis 1:26--the being of God created *alone* with the plurality of persons that His being is comprised of). There was never a time when one of the persons was without the others. They are eternally distinct persons while eternally inseparable in being as well as purpose.

Your eternal salvation depends on whether you really know God or not. Jesus said, "[I]f ye believe not that I am *he*, ye shall die in your sins" (Jn. 8:24). Please consider praying to God (Father, Son, or Holy Spirit), asking Him to cleanse you from all your sins, particularly of following another god and another Jesus, and then repent from those idols by leaving the Mormon Church. Then please consider committing yourself to a genuinely "Christian" denomination in order to grow in your new spiritual life.

1. All citations to *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith* use the pre-2002 edition.

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FALL OF THE BOOK OF ABRAHAM

BY UTAH LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRY

According to Mormon writers, the "Book of Abraham" was supposed to have been written on papyrus by Abraham about 4,000 years ago. This very same papyrus, it is claimed, was acquired by Joseph Smith in 1835. Smith translated the papyrus and published it under the title, "The Book of Abraham." It was accepted by the Mormon Church as Scripture and is now published as part of the *Pearl of Great Price*—one of the four standard works of the church.

For many years Joseph Smith's collection of papyri was lost, but on Nov. 27, 1967, the Mormon-owned *Deseret News* announced that the "collection of papyrus manuscripts, long believed to have been destroyed in the Chicago fire of 1871, was presented to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints here Monday by the Metropolitan Museum of Art."

The importance of this find cannot be overemphasized, for now Joseph Smith's ability as a translator of ancient Egyptian writing can be put to an absolute test. When the papyri were located many members of the church felt that Joseph Smith's work would be vindicated. As it turned out, however, within six months from the time the Metropolitan Museum gave the papyri to the church, the Book of Abraham had been proven untrue! The fall of the Book of Abraham was brought about by the identification of the actual fragment of papyrus from which Joseph Smith "translated" the Book of Abraham. This was made possible by comparing it with the handwritten

manuscripts. Dr. James R. Clark, of Brigham Young University, gave this information:

. . . there are in existence today in the Church Historian's Office what seem to be two separate manuscripts of Joseph Smith's translations from the papyrus rolls. . . . One manuscript is the Alphabet and Grammar. . . . Within this Alphabet and Grammar there is a copy of the characters, together with their translation of Abraham 1:4-28 . . . (*The Story of the Pearl of Great Price*, 1962, pp. 172-73)

In the publication, *Pearl of Great Price Conference*, Dec. 10, 1960, 1964 ed., pp. 60- 61, Dr. Clark referred to a longer manuscript:

I have in my possession a photostatic copy of the manuscript of the Prophet Joseph Smith's translation of Abraham 1:1 to 2:18. . . . The characters from which our present book of Abraham was translated are down the left-hand column and Joseph Smith's translation opposite, so we know approximately how much material was translated from each character.

All of the first two rows of characters on the papyrus fragment can be found in the manuscript of the Book of Abraham that is published in *Joseph Smith's Egyptian Alphabet and Grammar*. On the cover of this tract is a photograph of the original fragment of papyrus from which Joseph Smith was supposed to have translated the Book of Abraham. A careful examination of the original manuscripts in the handwriting of Joseph Smith's scribes reveals that Smith used less than four lines from this papyrus to make forty-nine verses in the book of Abraham. These forty-nine verses are composed of more than 2,000 English words!

Klaus Baer, an Egyptologist at the University of Chicago, concluded concerning the "Sensen" fragment: "Joseph Smith thought that this papyrus contained the Book of Abraham." (*Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought*, Autumn 1968, p. 111) Although the noted Mormon apologist Dr. Hugh Nibley later proposed some fantastic theories in an attempt to divorce the Egyptian papyri from the Book of Abraham, at a meeting held at the University of Utah on May 20, 1968, he frankly spoke of

the fact that, the very definite fact that, one of the fragments seemed to supply all of the symbols for the Book of Abraham. This was the little "Sensen" scroll.

When Egyptologists translated this piece of papyrus, they found that it contained absolutely nothing concerning Abraham. Instead, it turned out to be a pagan funerary text known as the "Book of Breathings," a work which actually evolved from the Egyptian Book of the Dead. The Book of Breathings did not come into existence until the later stages of Egyptian history—just a few centuries before the time of Christ. Like the Book of the Dead, it was buried with those who died in ancient Egypt. It is filled with magic and pagan gods. It was obviously written by a very superstitious people, and is quite different from the religion taught in the Bible.

The fact that the papyrus Joseph Smith used as the basis for his Book of Abraham is in reality the Book of Breathings cannot be disputed because the name "Book of Breathings" appears clearly on the fourth line of the fragment. In 1968 two Egyptologists from the University of Chicago's Oriental Institute, Professors John A. Wilson and Klaus Baer, identified the papyrus as the "Book of Breathings." A translation by Klaus Baer was printed in *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought*, Autumn 1968, pp. 119- 20. Professor Richard A Parker, Chairman of the Department of Egyptology at Brown University also translated the papyrus. Professor Hugh Nibley

stated that "Parker is the best man in America for this particular period and style of writing" Professor Parker's translation reads as follows:

1. [.....] this great pool of Khonsu
2. [Osiris Hor, justified], born of Taykhebyt, a man likewise.
3. After (his) two arms are fastened to his breast, one wraps the Book of Breathings, which is with writing both inside and outside of it, with royal linen, it being placed (at) his left arm
5. near his heart, this having been done at his
6. wrapping and outside it. If this book be recited for him, then
7. he will breath like the soul [s of the gods] forever and
8. ever.

(*Dialogue A Journal of Mormon Thought*, Summer 1968, p. 98)

Except for a few minor variations, other renditions of the text agree with Professor Parker's. The Book of Abraham, therefore, has been proven to be a spurious translation. Egyptologists find no mention of either Abraham or his religion in this text. The average number of words that the Egyptologist used to convey the message in this text is eighty-seven, whereas Joseph Smith's rendition contains thousands of words. In one case Joseph Smith derived 177 English words out of the word "*Khor*"— the name of an Egyptian moon god! It is impossible to escape the conclusion that the Book of Abraham is a product of Joseph Smith's imagination.

Since the original papyrus contains nothing about Abraham, some Mormon apologists have suggested that Joseph Smith may have obtained the Book of Abraham by way of direct revelation and not from the papyrus. Those who try to use this

escape will find themselves trapped by the words of Joseph Smith himself. At the beginning of the handwritten manuscript, Joseph Smith asserted that it was a **"Translation** of the Book of Abraham written by his own hand **upon papyrus** and found in the catacombs of Egypt." The introduction to the Book of Abraham still maintains that it was **"Translated From The Papyrus, By Joseph Smith"** (*Pearl of Great Price*, The Book of Abraham, Introduction). If the Book of Abraham is not an actual translation of the papyrus, then it is obvious that the introduction to it that appears in the *Pearl of Great Price* is a complete misrepresentation. Joseph Smith not only claimed that he translated it from the papyrus, but according to the *History of the Church*, vol. 2, p. 351, he affirmed that it was **"a correct translation."**

The contents of the Book of Breathing are certainly foreign to the teachings concerning Abraham found in the Bible. The Bible says he rejected paganism, whereas the Book of Breathing is filled with pagan gods and practices. The names of at least fifteen Egyptian gods or goddesses are mentioned on the "Sensen" papyri which Joseph Smith had in his possession, but there is not one word about Abraham.

The Mormon leaders face a serious dilemma. They cannot repudiate the Book of Abraham without raising the question of Joseph Smith's ability to "translate" the Book of Mormon.

For more information on the Book of Abraham and many other subjects see the book, *Major Problems of Mormonism*, available from Utah Lighthouse Ministry.

Utah Lighthouse Ministry

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CHEAT SHEET FOR WITNESSING TO MORMONS

BY R.M. SIVULKA

Familiarizing Yourself w/ the Book of Mormon

1. Read All Chapter Headings in B.O.M.
2. Read 1 Nephi; Alma 1-11; 3 Nephi; Moroni 8-10

Importance of Knowing God and Jesus

1. Deuteronomy 13
2. Exodus 20:3
3. Matthew 24:24
4. John 8:24
5. Jn. 17:3
6. 1 Corinthians 6:7-9; 2 Cor. 11:3-4; 5-13

One God

1. Isa. 40:12-26
2. Isa. 43:10
3. Isa. 44:6, 8, 24
4. Isa. 45:12
5. Jn. 17:3
6. Romans 11:6-33
7. Alma 11:24-31

God is Triune

1. Genesis 1:26
2. Isa. 48:7-12
3. Mat. 3:16
4. Mat. 4:10
5. Mat. 28:16-20

Christ Created Everything

1. Jn. 1:1-3, 14
2. Rom. 9:5
3. Colossians 1:9-13
4. 3 Nephi 9:15

Saved by Grace

1. Rom. 3:20
2. Rom. 4:5
3. Rom. 11:6
4. Gal. 2:16
5. Ephesians 2:8-10
6. 1 Jn. 5:3-10

Searching Scripture to Test

1. Psalms 119:105
2. Proverbs 28:9
3. Isaiah 40:8
4. Jn. 10:35
5. Acts 17:1-10
6. Galatians 1:6-9
7. 1 Thessalonians 5:21
8. 2 Timothy 2:15

God is Omnipresent

1. 1 Kings 8:27
2. Jer. 23:24
3. Jn. 4:4-20

God is Not a Man

1. Hosea 11:9
2. Ezekiel 28:2, 9
3. Acts 14:15

Jesus is God and Man

1. Jn. 1:1, 14
2. Philippians 2:5-10
3. 1 Tim. 2:5

Beware of the Heart

1. Prov. 14:12

2. Prov. 28:26
3. Jeremiah 17:9
4. 2 Thes. 2:11

God is Unchanging

1. Malachi 3:6
2. Hebrews 13:8
3. Mormon 9:9
4. Moroni 8:18

God is God by Nature

1. Ps. 90:2
2. Gal. 4:8

Praying to Jesus

1. Jn. 5:18, 23
2. Jn. 14:14 (Greek— “ask *me*”)
3. Acts 7:59
4. 1 Cor. 1:2
5. 1 Jn. 5:5-13

Baptism Not Necessary

1. Verses cited under “Saved by Grace”
2. Luke 23:39-43 (2 Cor. 12:2-4)
3. Acts 10:8-44
4. 1 Cor. 1:17

Saved by Works Also

1. 1 Ne. 3:7
2. 2 Ne. 25:23
3. Mosiah 4:30
4. Alma 5:27-36
5. Alma 11:37
6. Moroni 10:32
7. D&C 1:2-31
8. D&C 25:6-15
9. D&C 58:3-42
10. D&C 82:7
11. 3rd Article of Faith

Cross

1. Lk. 9:23
2. 1 Cor. 1:18
3. Gal. 6:14
4. 1 Pt. 2:24

No Total Apostasy

1. Mt. 16:18
2. Eph. 3:21

Racism in Book of Mormon

1. 2 Ne. 5:21
2. Alma 3:6
3. 3 Ne. 2:6-14

Contradicting Scriptures

1. Alma 11:24-31, 44 & D&C 132:20; Abraham 4-5
2. Alma 34:36 & D&C 130:3
3. Jacob 2:22-35 & D&C 132:9-38
4. 3 Ne. 30:2 & D&C 42:18

All Sins are Paid

1. Mat. 18:2-21
2. 1 Cor. 15:3
3. 2 Cor. 5:14-21
4. 1 Jn. 1:8-2:2

Priesthood

1. Jn. 1:12
2. Gal. 3:9-26
3. 1 Tim. 2:5
4. Heb. 4:4
5. Heb. 5:9-10
6. Heb. 7:11-8:2
7. 1 Peter 2:5, 9

Changes in Book of Mormon

1. Mosiah 21:28: "Mosiah" from "Benjamin" in 1830 ed. (200)
2. 2 Ne. 12:9: "boweth not" from "boweth" (87)
3. Alma 5:48: "Son, the Only Begotten of the Father" from "Son of the only begotten of the Father" (236)

Correcting Others

1. Prov. 27:6
2. Ezk. 33:1-11
3. Mat. 23
4. Lk. 13:17
5. Acts 17
6. 2 Tim. 4:2-3
7. 1 Pe. 3:15
8. Jude 3
9. Helaman 13
10. D&C 71:7-8

Not All Sins are Paid

1. D&C 42:18, 9-25
2. Journal of Discourses 3:247

False Prophecy

1. Deut. 18:2-21
2. D&C 84:3-5; 124:49-55
3. D&C 87:2-3

Book of Mormon Translated by God

1. D&C 1:29

Only This Life to Be God's or the Devil's

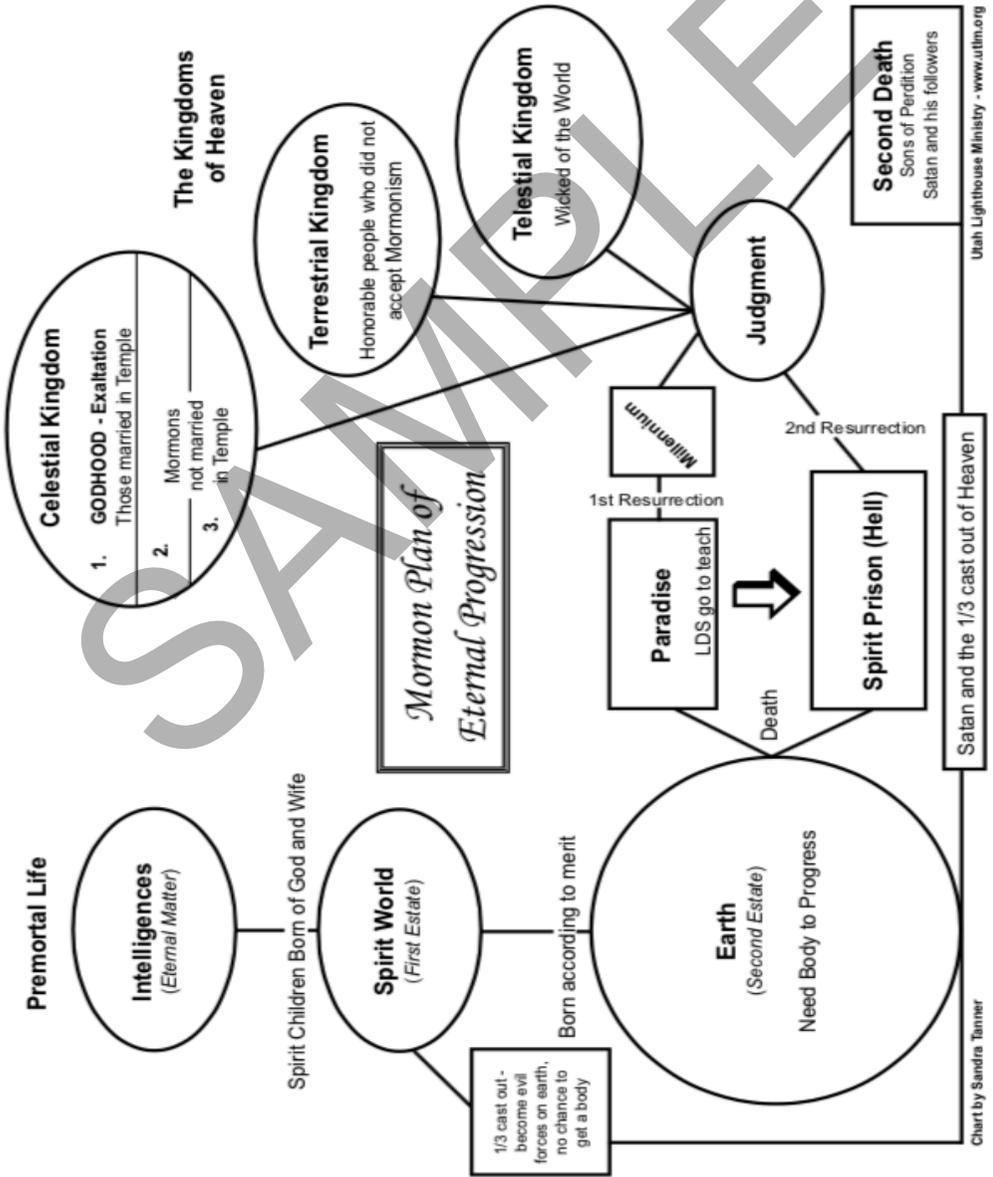
1. Rom. 1:18-2:16
2. Heb. 9:27
3. Mosiah 2:9-36
4. Alma 34:5-32

Compiled by R. M. Sivulka

President, Courageous Christians United MormonInfo.org

ETERNAL PROGRESSION CHART

BY UTAH LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRY



Helpful Videos, Books, & Online Resources

Keep Learning, Keep Reading, Keep Growing...

Videos

Use these videos to help you in your knowledge.

- *DNA vs. the Book of Mormon*. Joel Kramer and Jeremy Reyes. Living Hope Ministries, 2003.
- *The Bible vs. Joseph Smith*. Joel Kramer. Living Hope Ministries.
- *The Book of Mormon vs. the Bible*. Joel Kramer and Scott Johnson. Living Hope Ministries, 2005.

Books

Add these books to your bookshelf.

- Bill McKeever and Eric Johnson, *Answering Mormons' Questions: Ready Responses for Inquiring Latter-day Saints* (Grand Rapids: Kregel Publishers, 2012).
- Eric Johnson & Sean McDowell, eds., *Sharing the Good News with Mormons: Practical Strategies for Getting the Conversation Started* (Eugene, OR: Harvest House, 2018)

Online Resources

Checkout these websites as you search for the answers to your questions.

- Mormonism Research Ministry | www.mrm.org
- Utah Lighthouse Ministry | www.utlm.org

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SECTION SIX

NOTES

WRITE, JOURNAL, DRAW, OR ...

Use the following pages to take notes while listening to a speaker, while having a conversation, for journaling during trainings or just needing to remember something. Use these pages however you want!

This guidebook is yours and it will be one of your great treasures and souvenirs from this trip. Use these blank pages for whatever you need.

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Afterword

Around 2012, I met Brett Kunkle, who at the time was reaching youth all over America through Stand to Reason. Brett and his family began attending Grace Fellowship Church in Costa Mesa, California, where I was the youth pastor between 2008 and 2019. Brett and his wife Erin quickly began involving their five children in our youth ministry and started sharing their giftings with our youth as well.

God brought me into youth ministry months after getting my Bachelor of Arts from Oregon, where I studied business entrepreneurship and journalism. I had no formal Biblical, Worldview, or Apologetics training. Brett slowly took me under his wing and began to mentor me. When Brett first invited my youth group to attend an immersive experience with him to Salt Lake City, Utah, to talk with Mormons about their beliefs I kindly rejected the offer. I told him it was because our schedule was already set for the next year and we wouldn't be able to make the change.

Although this was indeed true, the real reason was because I feared to introduce my students to something I myself was unfamiliar with and scared of. The next year I once again set up our schedule without an immersive experience included.

However, it was that year I took my students to Hume Lake Christian Camps, where Brett was teaching a breakout session for high school students to ask *any* question they had about God, faith, Christianity, or the Bible. This breakout session was during our free time where I'd paid and signed our group up for a high ropes course.

When Brett gave his seminar pitch during chapel that morning a few of my students approached me asking if they could skip

our high ropes experience to attend his Q&A. I thought I would be sent to eternal damnation if I said *no* so I obediently told them I'd be open to this but informed them we wouldn't get a refund. This was my attempt of throwing on a little guilt.

When free time came, not one of my fifty students showed up for our high ropes time together. All fifty went to sit in and hear Brett's Q&A seminar where my students and many others asked questions about sexuality, God, family, the Bible, and more. Each question was real and was hard. I couldn't believe Brett had the courage to put himself through this, but I soon realized the Q&A wasn't difficult for him and he was well-trained and equipped in understanding each argument and objection.

As I listened to the entire Q&A intently, I had the epiphany my high school students (and those from other churches) really wanted the church to answer the difficult questions they were asking due to being raised in a non-Christian culture.

It was right after this seminar I approached Brett and shared with him my epiphany and I was ready to introduce apologetics and his Immersive Experiences into my youth ministry. I was ready to humble myself and journey with my students in learning all we needed in order to appropriately defend our faith and converse tactfully and lovingly with non-believers.

I began taking students on these trips in the summer of 2014 and have not missed a trip since. I began with the Biblical Immersive Experience, then the Apologetics Immersive Experience, and lastly the Worldview Immersive Experience.

It was after the Apologetics Immersive Experience when Brett and I together created the Worldview Immersive Experience,

which created a three-year immersive experience cycle I continued with my students.

The youth ministry I served ran camps, retreats, events, traditional mission trips, and more, but none were proven to be more impactful than MAVEN's Immersive Experiences.

The Biblical Immersive Experience, which you are embarking on through this guidebook, has been a true gift to students, and especially to my seniors as they get ready to head off into colleges where their faith will be challenged to new levels.

I am proud of you for attending this trip and for having the courage to engage in an immersive experience, which will forever change you. You may have pushback from your church, parents, and/or peers but stay strong, be prayerful, and engage in this trip with everything you have.

Use this guidebook as a phenomenal tool as you prepare, embark on, and debrief your trip. This guidebook has been tweaked and perfected since 2014 to help attendees get as much out of this trip as possible.

My prayer is sincerely with you as you engage Mormons.

Chad Merrihew

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Acknowledgements

MAVEN would like to thank OVERFLOW the Youth at Grace Fellowship Church in Costa Mesa CA, and all the hands included in this publication for their belief in these trips and for the support and help in making this guidebook possible.

Thank you, Chad Merrihew and Jessica McDonald, for sharing your trip journal which you two have honed so thoroughly over the years with thousands of students. This section of the guidebook will help each student embarking on our Biblical Immersive Experience to faithfully process each day as they encounter atheists and skeptics who will challenge their faith.

Thank you to all those who have donated time, talent, and treasure to produce this guidebook and the associated training videos which are a critical part of our Biblical Immersive Experience. Your gift was a gift from the Lord.

Thank you, Glenn Pinson, (MAVEN's Immersive Experience Director) for your true belief and daily commitment to Maven's Immersive Experiences.

And, lastly, thank you to MAVEN's board for your time, support, and resources in making this Immersive Experience and guidebook possible.

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