

PREPARING FOR THE ADVENTURE

TEACHER'S GUIDE

A four lesson Bible study equipping Christians to effectively witness the truth of God's Word to Mormons with love and respect.

INTRODUCTION

In His Word, God commissions all Christians to go and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:18-20). This is a daunting task in itself. Yet, seen in a new light, we discover that witnessing is not just a command, but an adventure — a unique opportunity to experience and witness God working miracles of faith.

Adventures cause different reactions and may take different forms. For some, the adventure of a ten day hiking and rafting trip through the Grand Canyon or perhaps an African safari would be exhilarating, for others rather intimidating. When it comes to the adventure of witnessing to Mormons, most Christians initially react with more fear than exhilaration.

A way to conquer fear is to be prepared. When a person feels prepared, fears are alleviated and confidence increases. We have written this Bible study to better prepare people to witness to Mormons so they too can experience the thrill of sharing the gospel with Mormons. We believe once people get beyond the fear, witnessing becomes the adventure of a lifetime. It can stretch people further than they could have ever imagined. More importantly, the joy and reward associated with being used by the Holy Spirit to bring a soul to heaven is truly beyond compare.

Bringing Mormons to heaven is what this Bible Study is all about.

Christians have a message Mormons need to hear because the eternal consequences are so great! Mormonism is not a Christian religion. Their teaching does not lead people to heaven, but regrettably, is leading them to hell.

Mormonism is a growing religion (see box). But what is more disconcerting is not the growing numbers, but society's growing acceptance of Mormonism as mainstream Christianity. People's itching ears are being drawn away from God's absolute truth and towards the falsehood that all religions worship the same god. With the idea that people can become exalted and god-like through their works, Mormonism makes sense to many. It is a brilliantly conceived religion that is cloaked in the sheep's clothing of Christian terminology. Mormonism is becoming the next great world religion threatening the tenets of Christianity.

We pray this Bible Study will not only alert Christians to the spiritual dangers of Mormonism, but also motivate them to embark on the wonderful and amazing adventure of witnessing to Mormons with the saving truth of God's Word. We trust God will bless this adventure, but we also know there will be many twists and turns along the way. Christians who embark on this adventure will regularly experience the mystery of how God works — accepting His timetable and trusting the power of His Word to perform miracles of faith.

OUR APPROACH

At Truth in Love Ministry (TILM), we base our witnessing approach on the biblical mandate to speak the truth in love. Recognizing the common fears and frustrations associated with witnessing to Mormons, this Bible Study prepares Christians by accomplishing three important objectives:

- 1) Offering the encouragement that people can do it!
- 2) Showing that a person doesn't have to be an expert on Mormonism or Christian apologetics to be an effective witness; and
- 3) Emphasizing that a significant part of speaking the truth in love is showing respect, being sincere, and being committed to persist in the effort.

By confronting barriers to witnessing, comparing the basics of Mormonism with Christian truth, relying on the power of God's Word, and covering all that with the fabric of love, any willing Christian can be an effective witness to Mormons.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE LESSONS

The Bible study is divided into four lessons — each designed to last an hour. We certainly understand people will react with different levels of interest. Most will be thankful for the opportunity to see the differences between Mormonism and Christianity. Although introduced to concepts of witnessing, they may not be inclined to follow through. For them, an hour-long format will be just right.

GROWTH

The growth has slowed in America, but Mormonism is gaining significant ground worldwide. In fact, over half of all Mormons now live outside the U.S. and Canada.

STATS:

U.S. & CANADA = 5.8 million

Rest of World 6.6 million

South America – 2.9 million;

Mexico 1 million;

Central America .5 million.

Source: 2007 LDS Almanac

DEFINITION:

An Effective Witness

We have a tendency to measure an effective witness by whether or not a person is lead to faith or not. But the Bible teaches a much different understanding.

An effective witness presents the gospel of Jesus Christ in a way that is understood by the hearer, regardless of a person's response. For example, Noah was an effective witness even though his hearers didn't believe him. We will be covering this important point in our lessons.

There also will be some whom the Holy Spirit will set on fire to witness to their Mormon friends and neighbors. Quite often, they will be motivated because they have family members entrapped in Mormonism. These lessons will not be enough. To fuel their enthusiasm, we have provided references and additional information in each lesson for expanded study. Our hope is to not only equip them to witness, but also encourage them to boldly take the next step and actually share their faith with Mormons.

Finally, there will be those few who have already been ignited by the Holy Spirit to exercise their spiritual gift of evangelism. Our prayer is that this study will fuel their fire by possibly offering them a different witnessing approach. We also want them to know they are not alone. It is easy for evangelists to feel isolated. Our hope is to encourage and support such people through regular contact with our ministry in order to bring as many Mormons as possible to heaven.

THE LESSONS

- Lesson One: **ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENTS**
How adjusting our attitudes is the first step before witnessing
- Lesson Two: **ARE MORMONS CHRISTIAN?**
Understanding Mormonism's plan of salvation
- Lesson Three: **A UNIQUE PEOPLE**
Understanding the culture and language of Mormonism
- Lesson Four: **PRINCIPLES FOR EFFECTIVE WITNESSING**
What can I say to effectively share the gospel with my Mormon friends, neighbors, and LDS missionaries?

CONTENTS OF PACKET

A TEACHER'S GUIDE

A teacher's guide covering the four lessons is provided. This tool not only offers additional information, but also gives aids to encourage interaction between students and teacher. For each lesson, we provide opportunities for further study. There may be additional information to share with your class or special links to articles on TILM's website for the teacher or interested students.

STUDENT WORKSHEETS

A total of twenty-five (25) student worksheets for each lesson are provided. Each lesson worksheet contains discussion questions, opportunities to write down key points, plus additional sidebars of information. For those desiring more information, there will be "digging deeper" sections. These will contain references to TILM's website plus other suggested materials for further study.

PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS:

This package contains several posters to help promote the Bible Study. The study leader will need to write in the specific dates and location. Also, a master for a half-page bulletin insert is provided.

Lesson One: Attitude Adjustments

Theme of today's lesson: Our focus will be on the importance of having a good attitude when we begin witnessing Christ to our Mormon friends, neighbors, and even family members.

To begin the lesson, ask the students to fill out the following on their worksheet:

When witnessing to Mormons, check all that you have experienced:

- a. Anger
- b. Frustration
- c. Fear
- d. Feeling inconvenienced
- e. Lack of preparation
- f. Doubt

These are all common feelings people have experienced in witnessing Christ. However, it is our experience at TILM that by far the biggest obstacle to overcome in witnessing to Mormons is having a wrong attitude. Sharing the true gospel of Jesus Christ to Mormons is very challenging. A right attitude will give us the proper motivation and probably more important than anything else, the patience to persevere in the adventure of witnessing to Mormons.

Quote on Worksheet:

"Our attitude has the greatest impact on our witnessing. With the right attitude, our anger is turned to love, our frustration to patience, our fear to peace, and our lack of preparation to faithfulness. A right attitude is rooted in Christ and our response becomes a fruit of the spirit." (Mark Cares)

ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT #1: OUR PERSPECTIVE OF MORMONS

Real-life Scenario:

The following is representative of e-mail TILM receives asking a very common question:

"Dear Truth in Love Ministry: I have neighbors whom I have known for several years. They belong to a Mormon church down the road. They have invited us to various church functions, but we have always declined. Sometimes we have discussions about our faith, but nothing too deep. Do you have any suggestions on what to do? How do I begin sharing my Christian faith?"

Ask the class: Is this a type of scenario you are familiar with? How would you respond to this e-mail?

Where to begin is a big question. We have found that the best way to begin witnessing to Mormons is to first do a spiritual check-up of *our attitude towards Mormons*. With the right attitude, we can begin to see a Mormon through the eyes of God. God loves them! In His love, God gave Jesus to be "the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world" (1 John 2:2).

Our attitude towards Mormons needs to reflect God's love for them. That's not always easy because at times Mormons come off as being disinterested, deceptive and unyielding. What helps us view them with love and not disdain is seeing how spiritually lost they are.

How lost are they?

Consider these quotes from Spencer W. Kimball, a former president of the LDS Church:

"To every forgiveness there is a condition. The plaster must be as wide as the sore. The fasting, the prayers, the humility must be equal to or greater than the sin."
-Teachings of Presidents of the Church, Spencer W. Kimball, p. 38.

"Your Heavenly Father has promised forgiveness upon total repentance and meeting all the requirements, but that forgiveness is not granted merely for the asking. There must be works – many works – and an all-out, total surrender, with a great humility and a 'broken heart and contrite spirit.'

It depends upon you whether or not you are forgiven, and when. It could be weeks, it could be years, it could be centuries before that happy day when you have the positive assurance that the Lord has forgiven you. That depends on your humility, your sincerity, your works, your attitudes."
-The Miracle of Forgiveness, Spencer W. Kimball, p. 325.

Ask the class: **How does hearing these quotes from an LDS leader affect your perspective of Mormons?** [You may encourage the students to write down a few notes]

It is our experience that many Mormons have never heard anything different. They truly think all Christian churches teach some variation of the above. In other words, they are lost but don't even know it. Therefore one reason witnessing to Mormons becomes challenging is because it often involves the long process of peeling off layers upon layers of lies and false teachings. Remembering that they are lost helps us keep on peeling off those layers.

Our first attitude adjustment is refocusing our perspective of Mormons.

(Fill in the blank on student worksheet) My new attitude in Christ will allow me to view Mormons as being [deceived] rather than being [deceptive].

ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT #2: OUR SERVICE

(Ask the students) Mark the answers that best fits you —

If you get right down to it, the real reason I do not share my faith with Mormons is:

- a. I really doubt Mormons can be saved — their hearts are too hard.
- b. I just don't have the time.
- c. I'm just not that interested.
- d. Witnessing is for other people, not for me.
- e. There are other things in my life right now that are more important.

(Ask the students) **How many people checked at least one item? What items did you check on your worksheet?**

To be honest, all of us battle with these answers. In our second attitude adjustment, we take time to examine ourselves. In doing so, we begin to more clearly discover a role God may have us play in witnessing Christ to Mormons. Examine yourself by asking: "If I am a servant of Christ, who am I serving the most in my life right now?"

Let's talk about this further. Ask yourself: "Based on the response I checked, what is truly preventing me from being a full and undistracted servant for Christ?"

(Ask the class) **What is the best way I can respond?**

Suggested answer:

We know this is a challenging question for everyone. A little reflection reveals that we need to regularly examine our lives, our priorities, and our service to God. Such examination leads to repentance. Through repentance we take the focus off self and put it on to others. Refocusing on becoming a servant of Christ instead of serving self helps us to purposefully set aside time and attention for witnessing, minimize feelings of hurt or frustration, overcome the desire to win the discussion, etc... All these hamper our witness. Or worse, they can cause us to give up altogether.

A Real-life Scenario:

The following is similar to many emails our ministry receives:

"Dear Truth in Love Ministry: I understand that God calls each of us to be His witnesses, but to be honest with you, I don't feel that I have the spiritual gifts to witness. I just don't know what to say or even how to start a conversation. Besides, with my job, my current duties at church, plus driving my kids to their various activities, who has the time or the energy these days? Be realistic, what should I do?"

(Ask the students) **How would you answer this e-mail?**

Read the following Bible verses:

The Apostle Paul is considered the greatest missionary who ever lived. The Holy Spirit inspired Paul to write, "Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, ...I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings." (1 Cor. 9:19, 22-23)

(Ask the students) **What can we learn from these Bible passages?**

Suggested answers:

- #1 Paul's passion to share the gospel moved him to forego his rights and freedom.
- #2 When we share the gospel with others, we also are blessed. As we put the message about Jesus and the needs of others before our own needs, one significant blessing we receive is joy.

(Fill in the blank on student worksheet) My new attitude in Christ makes me a [slave] to everyone to [win] as many as possible. (1 Cor. 9:19)

ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT #3: OUR GOAL

(Ask the students) **What ought to be our primary goal in witnessing: to bring a Mormon out of the LDS church or to bring them to heaven?**

There is a great likelihood that people will answer that both apply. Although both answers may appear similar, they are actually different. That's important to know because the goal we have will radically affect our witnessing approach. Let's examine this further.

(Ask the students) Which answer is correct? The majority of people who leave the Mormon Church will:

- a. Join a Christian church instead.
- b. Become agnostic in their belief.

The correct answer is b. Most leave, not so much because they have learned the truth about Jesus but because they have seen the errors of Mormonism. They often feel burned by the Mormon Church and will be quite reluctant to trust anything or anybody else.

Here is a real-life scenario we have come across at TILM:

Craig was a Mormon who came to the Christian faith. It all started when he got burned in a business deal with another Mormon and the church leadership did nothing to help. Out of anger, he began to question Mormonism. After he became a Christian, the local Mormon leadership convinced his wife to leave him even though they still wanted to stay married. For the next several years, Craig compiled a vast library of LDS books and Christian books that refuted Mormonism and examined LDS history. He became very adept at Christian apologetics and led his own group of ex-Mormons at his large church. The problem, he admitted, was that many of the ex-Mormons eventually drifted away from the church. Understandably, Craig was quite concerned and didn't understand why this was happening. He sought our opinion why these ex-Mormons were leaving his group at church.

Question to ask: **How would you respond to Craig?**

Key thoughts to uncover with this question:

Craig spent too much time destroying Mormonism instead of presenting the positives of Christianity. We can shed light on questionable LDS history; debate over ever-changing LDS doctrine; and utilize DNA arguments as a means to get people out of Mormonism – all of which have their place. *But if our main focus is to win the argument, then in reality our main goal is to get them out of Mormonism.* That doesn't help people. In fact, if our primary focus is to pull them out of Mormonism, we will often make their lives more miserable than ever.

Our primary goal is to bring a Mormon into the Christian faith. Our focus needs to be on winning the soul versus winning the argument.

(Ask the class) **How do we win the soul versus win the argument?**

Answer: By focusing on Christ and His Word. (Refer to Witnessing Reminder box on worksheet)

Witnessing Reminder:

“Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.” (Romans 10:17) It is the Word of God that brings Mormons to faith, not our ability to debate or even witness. When Mormons believe our message, the glory goes to God. So don't give up!

(Ask the class) **How do we carry this out when witnessing to Mormons?**

In all discussions with Mormons, always bring the dialog back to Jesus and what He did for us on the cross. Though we are strongly tempted to argue and debate, and in some cases this does play a role, we have found it far more effective to focus our attention on winning the soul, not the argument.

(Fill in the blank) My new attitude in Christ will shift my goal from winning the [argument] to winning the [soul]. My new attitude in Christ will allow me to [stop debating] Mormonism and [start witnessing] Christ.

ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT #4: OUR CONFIDENCE

(Refer to question on worksheet)

How much confidence do you have in your ability to witness?

- a. I have great confidence in my ability to witness and look forward to every opportunity to do so.
- b. I would like to witness more, but I just don't have much confidence in myself.
- c. The thought of witnessing is very frightening to me. I struggle to overcome fear and have little confidence in myself.
- d. Confidence? What confidence?

(Ask the class): **When we lack confidence in doing something difficult like witnessing, what are we prone to do?**

Answer: Nothing

(Ask the class): **When we place too much confidence in ourselves, what tends to happen?**

Answer: We tend to place too much emphasis on our knowledge or debating skills. We come off as arrogant know-it-alls. We don't prepare with prayer. We don't rely on the power of the Word.

(Ask the class) **If you would describe the characteristics or personality of a top-flight evangelist, how would you describe them?**

Answer: Outgoing, well-versed in Scripture, gregarious, etc....

WITNESSING TIP:

When talking about what Jesus has done, it will be very important to keep in mind that Mormonism defines Christian concepts and terms differently (like the atonement) and interprets what Jesus has done for us differently. Take the time to define each term in every conversation. In your discussions, focus on the Christian concept of Jesus being our Substitute and doing it all in our place. This concept is foreign to Mormons and will certainly spark their attention and interest. We will be discussing this in more depth in later lessons.

A Real-Life Scenario:

Charlotte is one of our top evangelists at TILM. She is the opposite of the person described above. She is shy, quiet, and very modest. But she loves her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Rooted in that love, the Holy Spirit has given her concern and urgency to share with others about her Savior. In her own gentle way, she invites people to learn more about Jesus. Some are certainly more receptive than others, but she persists. She knows who she is in Christ and what He has done for her. Her life radiates love and witnessing is simply an outpouring of her faith.

(Ask the class) **Who can be an effective witness?**

Answer: Anybody who uses God's Word and trusts in its power to convert.

(You can refer to box: The power of God's Word)

"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes:" (Romans 1:16)

"For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."
(Hebrews 4:12)

(Ask the class) **Can God use you to witness to Mormons? Why?**

Answer: Witnessing Christ is not about us, but sharing a very important message from God. Prompted by love and concern for their souls, we are willing to carry out our part of the process of bringing as many Mormons as possible to heaven.

(fill in the blank) My new attitude in Christ will allow me to shift confidence away from [self] and place it fully on [God's Word]. Having confidence in God's Word I can witness to Mormons.

CONCLUSION: OUR FOUNDATION

Let's conclude this lesson by answering the following question:

(Ask the class) **When Jesus was asked what the first and second greatest commandments were, what did he say?**

Answer: In Matthew 22:37-38, Jesus says; (a) Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and, (b) Love your neighbor as yourself.

(Ask the students) Why does the word "love" best describe our motivation to do the hard work of making adjustments in our attitude before witnessing to Mormons?

Answer: If you recall, at the beginning of the lesson you were asked to mark your feelings and experiences in witnessing to Mormons. Please review what you checked. Many of us checked words like frustration, fear, and being inconvenienced. But when we are prompted by love to witness to Mormons, we effectively remove self out of the picture and bring our focus squarely on the person whom God loves and to whom he is calling upon us to witness. We recall the verse in 1 John 4:19: "We love because he first loved us." Out of God's great love for us, he sent His Son. And in that selfless love, the fear, anger, frustration, and doubt generated by self slowly dissolves. "There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love." (1 John 4:18).

(Fill in the blank): We [love] because God first [loved] us. Perfect [love] drives out all*

_____, _____, and _____.

*Have the students complete the blanks by adding words they checked at the beginning of the lesson. For instance, they could say "Perfect [love] drives out all [fear], [frustration], and [feeling inconvenienced]."

End the lesson in prayer.

You may use the following:

O Lord, what a privilege you have granted us to be used by you to convey the message of salvation to those who are lost. We recognize, Lord, that the biggest obstacle to overcome is not with the message, but with ourselves. We ask for your forgiveness, O Lord. Allow us to recognize that the first step in witnessing is to check our attitudes. Examine our hearts, Lord, that we may make any changes necessary that will enable us to effectively share the gospel by not only sharing the right words, but doing so with the right heart. Thank you again, Lord, for your love and your desire to use us to be your messengers and your servants. Amen.

NEXT WEEK:

UNDERSTANDING MORMONISM. What is their plan of salvation and how is it radically different from what the Bible teaches?

Lesson Two: Are Mormons Christian?

Note to Teacher:

This lesson requires you to provide quite a bit of information about Mormonism and how it differs dramatically from Christianity. One of the goals is to reveal how Mormonism disguises itself as being mainstream Christian. Even though Mormons use Christian terminology and proclaim a belief in Jesus Christ, a closer examination clearly shows that it is not a saving faith. This makes all the difference in the world. We will review what is taught in the Bible – that Christ alone brings us from death to life – and compare that to Mormonism’s plan of salvation, which really has nothing to do with salvation. Instead of salvation, Mormonism teaches eternal progression. We will provide an interpretation of the Mormon plan of salvation that demonstrates this. Understanding the drastic difference between Mormonism and Christianity is a vital step in preparing for the adventure of witnessing to Mormons.

Theme of the Lesson: When we examine and compare what Mormonism teaches about salvation, we find a stark contrast to what the Bible teaches.

Introduction to Lesson:

Most of us are familiar with Mormonism or, as it is officially known, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Many of us have Mormon friends, neighbors, relatives and co-workers. From your experience and observations, what do you know about Mormonism? (Ask for responses from the class. Most Christians know individual pieces of Mormonism, but they don’t know how those pieces fit together.)

The question to consider as we begin our lesson is very important —- Are Mormons Christian? Go to your student worksheet now and write down your response.

Before we begin to answer this question, we need to examine what Mormonism teaches and compare that to what is taught in the Bible. This is an essential step to speaking the truth in love. To help us, let’s briefly review what Christians believe to be true.

THE BIBLICAL PLAN OF SALVATION

“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.” (Romans 3:10-12)

“As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,” (Ephesians 2:1)

(Ask the class) **According to these passages, why did God need to provide a plan for our salvation?**

Answer: We are all in desperate need of a plan for our salvation. Nobody in the history of the world, besides Jesus, has had any righteousness at all before God. Sin has not just tainted us, it has thoroughly corrupted us. In fact, we were spiritually dead in our sins. Just like a dead man cannot save himself, we could not in any way work the plan of salvation ourselves. So not only has God provided a plan, but he has also provided the only possible means to carry it out. [This is a very important point to remember when we look at Mormonism.]

(Ask the class) **What is the plan of salvation for Christians?**

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

Answer: God not only provided a plan for our salvation, he also worked the plan. He carried it out completely by sending His Son, Jesus Christ. This is not a plan for a select few, but for the entire world – including Mormons. God’s motivation for the plan and for working the plan was love. The Bible also describes this love as grace.

(Ask the class) **How did God work the plan of salvation?**

“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” (2 Corinthians 5:21)

Answer: This is commonly referred to as God’s Great Exchange. On one side is Jesus, who had no sin; on the other side is mankind, corrupted by sin and condemned to death. God’s plan required an exchange or a substitution. Christ took upon himself all the sins of the world and paid the penalty of death in full. God now credits the righteousness of Christ to the world, because of what Christ already accomplished on the cross.

(Ask the class) **What is our contribution to the plan of salvation?**

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” (Ephesians 2:8-10)

Answer: As these passages clearly state, salvation is God’s gift to us. Paul emphasizes this by adding that it is “not by works”. This means that even faith is not a “work”. Faith, too, is a gift of God. It is placing our trust in the fact that God has completed everything necessary for our salvation. As mentioned before, people who are dead in sin can’t do anything to help themselves because they are dead. If we had to contribute any work to our salvation, then our sinful nature would boast and begin to take credit over God. Grace would no longer be grace (Romans 1:16).

Summary of God’s Plan:

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 6:23)

THE MORMON PLAN OF SALVATION

Note to Teacher: In this section we have furnished a number of quotes from official LDS sources. You will have to determine how many to cite during the class time. It is our experience that many people will appreciate hearing these quotes, but you will be challenged to fit all of them into one hour. The point of including quotes is to provide a direct source to official teachings of the Mormon Church. Please note we have provided two pages of quotes to copy for the students.

Mormonism also speaks about God’s plan of salvation. This plan, which lies at the heart of Mormon theology, allows them to progress to their ultimate goal of becoming gods. But it’s not really a plan of salvation. It’s more of a plan to reach maturity. The best way for Christians to understand Mormonism’s plan of salvation is to see it as a plan for a child to mature into an adult.

The most fundamental component for reaching maturity is worthiness (please refer to the question on the student worksheet). It is difficult for Christians to fully grasp how the concept of worthiness is part of the very fabric of every Mormon's life. Every step of their progression hinges on their being worthy.

"In heaven, we learned of God's plan for us to come to earth and live as families. Life on earth is a test that will determine our worthiness to progress and become more like our heavenly parents. According to God's plan, if we are faithful and worthy in this life, we will receive greater blessings. If we are not, we will have limitations placed upon us in the next life. If we prove faithful and worthy, our families will be sealed and our family life will continue eternally." ("Lesson 8: Eternal Families,") Young Women Manual 3, p. 28.

This concept of worthiness permeates not only Mormon theology, but also its culture. (We will talk more about their culture in lesson three.)

As Jesus Christ is the thread that winds itself throughout the Holy Bible and Christian theology, worthiness is the constant throughout Mormonism. To help get a better handle on the Mormon plan of salvation, let's ask the same questions we did in regard to the biblical plan of salvation.

Why did Heavenly Father need to provide a plan for salvation?

Not because people are corrupt but because they are immature. Through a number of stages of existence, people can progress from being gods in embryo to gods themselves (exaltation).

"Man is the child of God, formed in the divine image and endowed with divine attributes, and even as the infant son of our earthly father and mother is capable in due time of becoming a man, so the undeveloped offspring of celestial parentage is capable by experience through ages of aeons, of evolving into a God." (Achieving a Celestial Marriage, p. 130. This is quoted under the heading, "Men Are Gods in Embryo")

"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. . .by going from one small degree to another, and from a small capacity to a great one." (Teachings of Presidents of the Church, Joseph Smith, – copyrighted 2007. This manual was used every Sunday in every Mormon ward in 2008 and 2009.)

(Short answer for student worksheet) **To help them mature to their divine potential and reach exaltation [to become a god].**

What is the plan of salvation for Mormons?

Note to Teacher: Please have the class follow along on the plan of salvation chart located on their lesson worksheets. You may want to introduce this chart with the following quote. As you read this quote, note how everything depends on the Mormon working the plan.

"We are participants in Heavenly Father's plan, and our eternal experience can be divided into three main parts: premortal life, mortal life, and life after death...."

Throughout our premortal lives, we developed our identity and increased our spiritual capabilities. Blessed with the gift of agency, we made important decisions, such as the decision to follow Heavenly Father's plan. These decisions affected our life then and now. We grew in intelligence and learned to love the truth, and we prepared to come to the earth, where we could continue to progress... We are now experiencing mortal life. Our spirits are united with our bodies, giving us opportunities to grow and develop in ways that were not possible in premortal life. This part of our existence is a time of learning in which we can prove ourselves, choose to come unto Christ, and prepare to be worthy of eternal life. It is also a time when we can help others find the truth and gain a testimony of the plan of salvation... "
(Gospel Topics, lds.org - official website of the LDS church.)

Mormonism teaches that Heavenly Father and Mother produced spirit children in the pre-existence. Spirit-children who proved their worthiness are rewarded by coming to earth and receiving bodies. (Having a body is an essential component of their progression.)

*"How grateful we should be that a wise Creator fashioned an earth and placed us here, with a veil of forgetfulness on our previous existence, so that we might experience a time of testing, an opportunity to prove ourselves and qualify for all that God has prepared for us to receive." (President Thomas S. Monson, "First Presidency Message: Invitation to Exaltation" *Ensign*, June, 1993.)*

Earthly life is a time of testing and maturing by using their agency wisely. (Agency, the ability to choose right from wrong, is an important Mormon concept.) They progress by proving their worthiness through obedience to all the commandments and participation in the ordinances of the LDS church. The temple is the only place some ordinances can be done. This is why temples are so important to Mormons. (We cover this point in more detail in the "Going Further" section.)

"Accordingly, the journey of human life originates in a pre-mortal existence, where each individual exercises free will and progresses spiritually by learning from a loving God the principles of truth and happiness. To further that progress, God provided a mortal existence in which His children could prove their faithfulness and fulfill a very individualized destiny. His personal guidance and mercy, manifested in the Savior Jesus Christ, give each individual more than ample opportunity to succeed. Participating in this mortal test is a choice each person makes freely. And the choices made in this life determine one's station and activity in the eternities, where God reserves a unique place for all of his children. Throughout this process each individual maintains a core identity and possesses immense capacity for growth and progress."
(A Mormon Worldview; *Newsroom*, of lds.org, January 8, 2008.)

After death, Mormons continue to work on their progression in the spirit world. They carry this out by continuing their worthiness.

"All spirits are in adult form. . .spirits may progress as they learn gospel principles and live in accordance with them. . .The Church is organized in the spirit world, and priesthood holders continue their responsibilities there (see D&C 138:30)."
(*Gospel Principles*, pp. 242, 243.)

Mormons hope to finally realize exaltation (becoming a god) in the highest level of the celestial kingdom. *Note to Teacher:* Mormonism, and thus most Mormons, shy away from talking about becoming a god. Instead they use the word “exaltation.” They also like to say that they will become like god, but they won’t become a god. But, as is evidenced from the quote on page 13 (under the question “Why did Heavenly Father need to provide a plan for salvation?”), it is obvious that Mormonism still teaches that people can become gods. Another way they like to refer to becoming a god is reaching their “divine potential.”

*“This is why we go back to the temple: to renew our covenants that we have made in those sacred halls and to remind ourselves of these covenants and obligations. When we thus remember these sacred obligations, Satan’s storms and attacks will not turn us from our quest—from pursuing our **divine potential**. I pray that we may ever remember who we are: sons and daughters of a loving Father, who have the potential to return to His side and dwell with Him as celestial beings,” (Your Divine Heritage by Elder Robert C. Oaks of the Seventy, Ensign, April, 2008, emphasis added).*

(Short answer for student worksheet) **Heavenly Father gives them tests in their earthly life to prove their worthiness so they may continue their eternal progression.**

Who works the plan of salvation?

Heavenly Father gave the plan. Jesus Christ conquered physical death for all people thereby giving people more time to work the plan. But it is up to us to work the plan and progress.

*“There is no greater expression of love than the heroic Atonement performed by the Son of God. Were it not for the plan of our Heavenly Father, established before the world began, in a very real sense, all mankind—past, present, and future—would have been left without the hope of **eternal progression**.*

*The gift of resurrection and immortality is given freely through the loving grace of Jesus Christ to all people of all ages, regardless of their good or evil acts. **And to those who choose to love the Lord and who show their love and faith in Him by keeping His commandments and qualifying for the full blessings of the Atonement,** He offers the additional promise of exaltation and eternal life, which is the blessing of living in the presence of God and His Beloved Son forever.*

*Brothers and sisters, our Heavenly Father has reached out to us through the Atonement of our Savior. He invites all to “come unto Christ, who is the Holy One of Israel, and partake of his salvation, and the power of his redemption” (Omni 1:26). **He has taught us that it is through our faithful adherence to gospel principles, through receiving the saving ordinances that have been restored, through continual service, and by enduring to the end that we can return to His sacred presence.** What possible thing in the whole world is remotely as important as to know this?” (All quotes are from “The Atonement and the Value of One Soul” by Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, Ensign, May, 2004, emphasis added).*

(Short answer for student worksheet) **Heavenly Father gave them a plan for eternal progression, it is up to them to carry it out.**

What is a Mormon's contribution to the plan of salvation?

Their progression or maturity depends on them. For example, once a person dies, the work does not stop. Upon death, Mormons enter paradise where, among other things, they work on converting non-Mormon spirits in spirit prison. This work coincides with the temple work of baptisms for the dead. Mormons on earth will be baptized vicariously for those souls entrapped in spirit prison who need to be baptized in order to enter into paradise. In addition to baptisms for the dead, Mormons perform endowments for the dead, and are married vicariously for the dead.

Note to Teacher: We can't stress enough the importance of temples in Mormonism. They are the only place these works for the dead can be performed. This temple work, along with participating in the temple ordinances for themselves, is essential to their eternal progression. (See Going Further) As one of their 12 Apostles said:

"If I were called today to serve as a stake president, my primary focus would be on worthiness to receive and honor temple covenants. I would strive to make temple preparation the center of all that we did. I would do a better job of shepherding the Saints to the house of the Lord." ("Honorably Hold A Name And Standing" by Elder David A. Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, Ensign, May 2009, p. 97).

If they do not go to the temple, their maturing comes to a screeching halt. (Damnation, in Mormonism, is not being sent to hell. Rather damnation occurs when a person's progression is stopped. The picture is one of putting a dam across a river.)

(Short answer for student worksheet) **It is up to them to do all they can do to prove their worthiness.**

SUMMARY OF MORMONISM'S PLAN OF SALVATION:

"We are saved by grace, after all we can do." (2 Nephi 25:23)

Note: This Book of Mormon verse is not obscure, but one that holds a very prominent place in Mormonism as John 3:16 does in Christianity.

"If our salvation were only a matter of our own effort, we would be in serious trouble because we are all imperfect and unable to comply fully in every way all of the time. How, then, do we achieve the help and assistance we require? Nephi clarified the

COMPARE AND CONTRAST CHART

Why did God need to provide a plan for our salvation?

Christian: We are dead in sin and need God to rescue us from eternal hell.

Mormon: To help us mature to our divine potential and reach exaltation [to become a god].

What is the plan of salvation?

Christian: God sent Jesus Christ to the world to rescue us from sin.

Mormon: Heavenly Father gives us tests to prove our worthiness so we may continue our eternal progression.

Who works the plan of salvation?

Christian: Jesus Christ became our substitute on the cross, fulfilling the penalty of sin.

Mormon: Heavenly Father gave us a plan for our eternal progression; it is up to us to carry it out.

What is our contribution to the plan of salvation?

Christian: Faith alone receives the full benefit of Christ's completed work on the cross.

Mormon: It is all up to us to do all we can do to prove our worthiness and receive the benefits of exaltation.

dilemma of the relationship between grace and works when he testified, 'For we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do' (2 Nephi 25:23).

The Bible Dictionary reminds us that grace means a divine mechanism or device that brings strength or help through the mercy and love of Jesus Christ made available by His Atonement. Thus, it is through the grace of Christ that we are resurrected, and it is His grace, love, and Atonement that help us accomplish the good works and make the necessary progress that otherwise would be impossible if we were left solely to our own capacities and resources." "What Does the Atonement Mean to You?" by Elder Cecil O. Samuelson Jr. of the Seventy, Ensign, April, 2009).

CONCLUSION

We began by asking, "Are Mormons Christian?" As anybody knows who has talked with a Mormon, they vehemently claim to be Christian. But based on what we have learned in this lesson, we can give three main reasons why Mormonism cannot be considered Christian.

1. The Bible's plan of salvation is God-centered. Mormonism's plan is man-centered.
2. The Bible says that Jesus fully accomplished everything necessary for our salvation. By faith in Jesus and His substitutionary work we are deemed fully righteous. In contrast, Mormonism teaches that Jesus conquered physical death for us, thus giving us the time to prove our worthiness. But we have to do it!
3. The Bible says that we are saved freely by grace through faith. Mormonism teaches that we are saved by grace after all we can do.

In Lesson Three, we will show how the concept of worthiness applies in Mormon culture. Understanding their basic teachings and then combining that with a look at their culture are two steps critical for being prepared for the adventure of witnessing to Mormons. Finally, in Lesson Four, we will learn how to effectively communicate the three points mentioned above in a way that Mormons will understand.

Note to Teacher: We have covered only the tip of the iceberg of Mormon theology and teachings. If you have any time remaining, or wish to cover additional ground, please continue to the "Going Further" section.

GOING FURTHER

A. MORMON ETERNITY

Please refer to the chart which is located on the student worksheet

Mormonism does teach a Judgment Day, but it adds a number of unique aspects to it. The important thing to see is that, according to Mormonism, almost all people end up going to heaven. Mormon heaven consists of three different kingdoms. The highest is the celestial kingdom, the middle is the terrestrial, and the lowest kingdom is called the telestial.

Telestial – The Lowest Kingdom

Inhabitants will be visited only by the Holy Ghost, not by Heavenly Father or Jesus. It will be populated by two types of people: those who have rejected Mormonism and those who are blatant sinners like murderers, adulterers, and thieves. But even though it is the lowest kingdom, its glory will still "be beyond the understanding of man." It is symbolized with a star.

Terrestrial Kingdom – The Middle Kingdom

It is symbolically represented by the moon. Unlike those in the celestial kingdom, people here won't dwell with Heavenly Father and Jesus. Instead they will be visited by Jesus. This will be the final destination for those Mormons who were not "valiant" (commonly referred to as Jack Mormons) and for honorable, morally upright non-Mormons.

Celestial Kingdom – The Highest Kingdom

Symbolized by the sun, the celestial kingdom is the most glorious. Here people will dwell for eternity with Heavenly Father and Jesus. Temple-worthy Mormons and those children who died before the age of eight enter into this kingdom. There are three levels within the celestial kingdom: the top level equals exaltation, the purpose of the second level has not been revealed, and the third level is for faithful Mormons who were not married in the temple. These individuals become ministering servants to the gods.

Outer Darkness – The Mormon version of hell

Mormonism says that only a handful of people will go to "outer darkness" – the Mormon version of hell – where they will dwell eternally with Lucifer. Outer darkness is reserved for apostates - people who leave the Mormon Church and who openly fight against it.

B. THE ROLE OF THE MORMON TEMPLE

Critical to Mormon's progression to godhood is time spent in the temple. Admission to the temple has to be earned. Only Mormons who strictly adhere to the laws and covenants of Mormonism are considered temple-worthy and allowed to enter a temple. They receive a "temple recommend" which needs to be renewed every two years through an interview process. There are no worship services per se in the temple. Rather there are three main ordinances in which temple-worthy Mormons participate.

1. The endowment ceremony, which is the initiatory ordinance. During this ceremony they receive their sacred undergarments. Among other things, they are taught signs necessary for their progression to godhood. They receive this endowment first for themselves and then, subsequently, for the dead.
2. Marriage for time and eternity can only be done in the temple. This is another critical element of their progression to godhood. Again they first do this for themselves and then, subsequently for the dead.
3. Baptisms for the dead. No baptisms for the living take place in the temple. All those take place in their chapels or stake houses.

Temple work for the dead is intimately tied in with Mormon teaching concerning the spirit world. The spirit world consists of two parts: paradise and spirit prison. Paradise is for Mormons, spirit prison is for non-Mormons. Mormons go on missions from paradise to the spirit prison converting non-Mormon spirits to Mormonism. Before those converts can enter paradise, however, they need to be baptized. But these converts can't be baptized in the spirit world. Therefore, Mormons on earth have to be baptized vicariously for them. The same holds true for the other temple ordinances. So much so, that the majority of work in Mormon temples is for the dead. This emphasis on work for the dead also explains the importance Mormons place on genealogy work.

CONCLUSION:

In essence, the LDS temple is not a place of [worship], but an important place of [work].

Lesson Three: A Unique People

Note to Teacher

This lesson addresses a significant element of speaking the truth in love - taking the time to learn the uniqueness of the Mormon church. Mormons are certainly a unique people and even refer to themselves as so. Quite often, both Christians and Mormons experience a great deal of frustration when attempting to talk to each other about their faith. It always seems as if they are talking past each other. Instead of investigating the reason for this dilemma, too many of us tend to respond in anger or give up altogether. This lesson will examine the reasons behind this common dilemma and take the next step of learning how to effectively communicate the gospel with Mormons.

Theme: We can effectively speak the truth in love to Mormons by taking the time to understand their unique culture and language.

Introduction:

Today we continue, *Preparing for the Adventure*, a Bible study to help equip us on how to witness to Mormons. In the first lesson, we talked about adjusting our attitude as an important first step before witnessing. We learned in the second lesson the Mormon view of salvation and how it drastically differs with what is taught in the Bible. Today, we are going to take another essential step as we prepare ourselves to effectively communicate the gospel of Christ Jesus to Mormons.

Read the following e-mail which is typical of some received by Truth in Love Ministry:

"I have been talking with my next door neighbor about Christianity and the LDS Church. I asked if they believe in Jesus and he said that the Mormons do in fact believe in Jesus, just like I do. We talked about forgiveness and salvation in Christ and he readily agreed with what I believe. However, he kept adding things that just didn't seem right. We typically end up going around and around as we talk about Christianity and Mormonism and don't seem to go anywhere. Why is witnessing to a Mormon so frustrating? Do you have any suggestions on what I can do?" (Robert)

Discussion Question:

Is Robert's experience similar to your own when talking to Mormons about your faith? What do you think are some reasons why witnessing to Mormons can be so frustrating? How would you answer Robert's e-mail?

Witnessing to Mormons is Cross-Cultural Outreach

To help us understand how to better prepare ourselves to effectively witness to Mormons, let's examine how missionaries prepare themselves before entering a foreign country to share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

(Ask the class) What are some essential preparations a world missionary must do to be effective in witnessing Christ?

Answers (refer to worksheet):

1. Understand the culture of the people
2. Learn how to speak the language
3. Sincerely love the people as God loves them

In preparing to witness to Mormons, it is important to see yourselves as cross-cultural evangelists – much like world missionaries. To be effective communicators of the gospel, we need to learn the culture and language of the Mormon Church.

Let's first talk about the culture of the LDS church.

When people ask us at TILM if we think Mormonism is a cult, our answer often surprises them. We avoid using the “c” word, because it doesn't help Christians understand Mormons. We prefer adding the letters “u-r-e” to the word “cult.” Our approach to witnessing to Mormons is to take the time to understand their unique culture. In doing so, we discover clues on how to effectively share with them the message of the gospel.

(Ask student to fill in the blank.)

Mormonism is not so much a [CULT] as it is a [CULTURE].

THE CULTURE OF THE MORMON CHURCH

(Ask the class) According to your understanding and knowledge of Mormons, how would you describe the Mormon culture? What makes it unique?

Here are five characteristics of the Mormon culture that we should be aware of: (Encourage the students to write these characteristics on their worksheets)

1. An emphasis on the Temple

The temple defines Mormonism. According to Mormons, the temple is one of the main things that sets them apart. They often describe themselves as a “temple-building people.” Their temples are sacred to them and play a crucial role not just in their theology, but also in their culture. Temple-worthy Mormons regularly go to the temple not so much to worship, but to work. “Temple work” is a significant means for a Mormon to mature or progress toward the goal of exaltation in the Celestial Kingdom. It is hard for Christians to grasp how much the temple is a central component to their religion and lives. (Also refer to lesson two on why the temple is so significant to Mormonism.)

2. An emphasis on the prophets

Without Joseph Smith, Mormonism would not be in existence today. Mormons believe that God restored the truth through him. His role as prophet continues today in the form of the living prophet (president of the LDS Church). The living prophet plays a very important role in Mormonism. Every six months the Mormon Church has a General Conference where the living prophet and the Apostles give talks. These “Conference Talks” become the the latest Scripture that faithful Mormons live by in the subsequent months.

3. An emphasis on the family

For non-Mormons, the emphasis on family is probably the most visible element of its culture. A significant reason for this emphasis is that having an eternal family is essential for exaltation. “Marriage and the family unit are the central part of the plan of progression and exaltation. All things center in and around the family unit in the eternal perspective. Exaltation consists in the continuation of the family unit in eternity” (Eternal Marriage Student Manual, by Elder Bruce R. McConkie, p. 81.) Understanding

the emphasis on the family both in Mormon theology and culture helps us understand why it is very difficult for a Mormon to convert to Christianity. There is not only pressure from the church, but a tremendous amount of pressure from the family to remain in the Mormon faith.

4. An emphasis on success

Successful, famous, or wealthy Mormons are highly regarded. LDS periodicals regularly highlight Mormons who are in the news – whether they are running for president or are a finalist on the hit TV show, “American Idol.” Prominent Mormons, including a list of past and present Olympians, are highlighted in the LDS church almanac. Young boys are strongly encouraged to become Eagle Scouts and missionaries. Young girls are encouraged to enter beauty pageants. They strive to be great athletes. They are to be well-groomed. Tithing is not only a religious duty, but also a means of proving success.

5. An emphasis on busyness

Did you know that Utah is considered the beehive state? What is the significance of the beehive for Mormons? They like to be considered busy as bees. Busyness is another hallmark of Mormon culture. Women are strongly encouraged to not only be great wives and mothers, but to be very active at the church. A typical Mormon mother will have many children, run an efficient home, keep a journal, maintain a year’s food supply, fulfill a calling in her ward, in addition to carrying out temple work. Men are also very active in the church and community, being Boy Scout leaders, etc. Mormon families are called upon to be perfect in many ways. Families not following the standards of the church are frowned upon and will be talked to by the leadership of the church.

CULTURES ARE WHAT MAKE PEOPLE UNIQUE

A culture can be defined by the clothes people wear, the food they eat, and the holidays they keep. Mormons in America and worldwide certainly follow the customs of the country in which they live. They dress, talk, and eat like the rest of us and celebrate all the major holidays. At the same time, however, they have their own unique cultural traits. For example, temple-worthy Mormons wear sacred temple undergarments. They follow the Word of Wisdom by refraining from drinking coffee and tea. Their biggest holiday is Pioneer Days – a celebration of the first pioneers settling in Utah. Finally, they strenuously maintain a clean-cut image and dress modestly on all occasions.

DISCUSSION QUESTION:

How does understanding the culture of the Mormon Church help us in our witnessing?

Answer: By understanding their culture, we won’t ridicule Mormons, but accept them for what and who they are. Secondly, and more importantly, we will appreciate the tremendous amount of stress Mormons feel as they strive to become worthy. By approaching them with a compassionate heart and a listening ear, we can begin paving a path for sharing the gospel to Mormons who will have far more willing ears and open hearts than if we were insensitive to their culture.

What are some stress points that are associated with each of the characteristics?

Temple: Being temple-worthy can cause some Mormons to feel elite. At the same time, there is a significant amount of stress to being temple-worthy and to make the time to carry out the all-important temple work.

Prophets: Mormons will take comfort in the words of the living prophets who give them advice for the

modern day. Some honestly feel sorry for Christians because all we have to guide us is the ancient words of the Bible. But the vast majority of the living prophet's advice centers on what they have to do to be worthy.

Family: Having a big, caring family is certainly an attraction for any person, especially for a Mormon. But caring for large families can be a significant burden.

Success: Successful Mormons are considered heroes and are highly esteemed in the church. This can cause a lot of stress as people compare themselves with those who succeed.

Busyness: Faithful Mormons are always kept busy. We can only imagine the amount of stress that places on individuals and families.

How can understanding the stress points of Mormons help us in our witnessing?

By investing the time to listen carefully to a Mormon, you will be able to uncover particular stress points. An understanding and sympathetic ear will enable us to unlock opportunities to apply God's Word to specific stresses they are experiencing. Busyness is not just a lifestyle choice for Mormons, but part of a church culture that centers on fundamental Mormon theology. The more specific we can be to a particular stress point, the more impact it will have.

THE LANGUAGE OF THE MORMON CHURCH

We started this lesson by referring to the preparation world missionaries undertake. Learning the culture was an important component in their preparing to communicate the gospel. What was the second important task? (Answer: learning the language)

Let's go back to Robert's email which we read at the beginning of the lesson. We have learned that due to the theology and the eternal significance surrounding family and staying in the church, Robert's neighbor will be very reluctant to even consider the Christian faith. But the real problem was the frustration of talking past each other. What is the reason for this?

The main reason is that Christians and Mormons unknowingly use different definitions of common Christian words. When you use words like "forgiveness," "salvation" and "grace," a typical Mormon will have a much different understanding of them than you. It is vitally important to see that Mormonism uses much of the same Christian terminology as we do, but with a far different meaning. To help us better understand this, let's take a closer look at some key terms. (Please refer to student worksheets.)

SALVATION

Christian Definition: Being saved from the punishment of hell and being restored to a healthy relationship with God that will last for all eternity in heaven. All this is given us freely because of Jesus' substitutionary death.

Mormon Definition: Usually equated with being resurrected. They do not believe salvation (using the Christian definition) as being a free gift.

"Note that you cannot be saved in your sins; you cannot receive unconditional salvation simply by declaring your belief in Christ with the understanding that you will inevitably commit sins throughout the rest of your life." (True to the Faith, p. 151-152)

ETERNAL LIFE

Christian Definition: Life in heaven with God. A free gift based on Christ's death for us and received by faith alone.

Mormon Definition: Life in heaven as a god, equivalent to exaltation. It differs from immortality. It is achieved by being worthy and valiant.

"Eternal life is the phrase used in scripture to define the quality of life that our Eternal Father lives. The Lord declared, "This is my work and my glory—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man" (Moses 1:39). Immortality is to live forever as a resurrected being. Through the Atonement of Jesus Christ, everyone will receive this gift. Eternal life, or exaltation, is to live in God's presence and to continue as families (see D&C 131:1–4). Like immortality, this gift is made possible through the Atonement of Jesus Christ. However, to inherit eternal life requires our "obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel." (Articles of Faith 1:3). (Gospel Topics, lds.org)

GRACE

Christian Definition: *An attribute of God. His immeasurable, unconditional love expressed in His free and undeserved gifts of faith and eternal life. Salvation is by grace alone, not by works.*

Mormon Definition: *The power of God granted conditionally to the worthy to help them do what they could not do on their own. Salvation is by grace after all we can do.*

"The main idea of the word is divine means of help or strength, given through the bounteous mercy and love of Jesus Christ. . . This grace is an enabling power that allows men and women to lay hold of eternal life and exaltation after they have expended their own best efforts." (LDS Bible Dictionary)

FORGIVENESS

Christian Definition: *Christianity stresses God's forgiveness of sins based entirely on Jesus' payment for our sins. Because of what Jesus has done we are freely and fully forgiven.*

Mormon Definition: *Mormonism stresses man's duty to forgive each other. When it does talk about God's forgiveness, it is something that has to be earned through the "painful process" of repentance.*

President Kimball taught: "To every forgiveness there is a condition. The plaster must be as wide as the sore. The fasting, the prayers, the humility must be equal to or greater than the sin." (Teachings of Presidents of the Church, Spencer W. Kimball, p. 38)

Note to Teacher: You may not have time to go through all of the terms listed. However, if you have time, it may be a good idea to go over several to get a better understanding of how Mormons view important Christian theology. Note also that the book, *Speaking the Truth in Love to Mormons*, contains a 40 page dictionary of "Mormonese". The dictionary can be found online at truthinlovetomormons.com.

Note to Teacher: Mormonese is a term we frequently use for not only how Mormons understand common Christian terms, but for other words that are unique to them.

ATONEMENT

Christian Definition: *Jesus made payment for or atoned for all our sins (past, present, future) on the cross.*

Mormon Definition: *Mormons frequently talk about "the Atonement." They often connect the Atonement with Jesus conquering physical death for them, with our resurrection. They also use it to refer to Jesus' payment for sin (often in His bloody sweat in the Garden of Gethsemane). But underlying all such references is the idea that we have to pay Jesus back.*

“As used in the scriptures, to atone is to suffer the penalty for sins, thereby removing the effects of sin from the repentant sinner and allowing him or her to be reconciled to God. Jesus Christ was the only one capable of carrying out the Atonement for all mankind. Because of His Atonement, all people will be resurrected, and those who obey His gospel will receive the gift of eternal life with God.” (Gospel Topics, lds.org)

SOURCE OF TRUTH

Christian Definition: *The Holy Bible is the only source of all truth.*

Mormon Definition: *Mormonism has four scriptures: The Bible, The Book of Mormon, Doctrine & Covenants, and The Pearl of Great Price. They also believe in continuing revelation. This means that the words of the living prophet are equivalent to scripture. Finally they believe that the Holy Ghost will give individuals revelations. These revelations come through feelings.*

“beware of those who would pit the dead prophets against the living prophets, for the living prophets always take precedence.” (Teachings of the Living Prophets, p. 20)

“The Holy Ghost confirms the truth by revelation directly to the individual. All other evidences for authenticity of the Book of Mormon are secondary. Millions of people have testified that they have received a personal witness from God by the power of the Holy Ghost that the Book of Mormon is true.” (Gospel Topics, lds.org)

FAITH

Christian Definition: *Trusting in God’s promises.*

Mormon Definition: *Faith is exercising our will to fully comply with all the commandments of the church.*

“Faith is a principle of action and power. Whenever we work toward a worthy goal, we exercise faith. We show our hope for something that we cannot yet see... Like all blessings from God, faith is obtained and increased through individual obedience and righteous action.” (Gospel Topics, lds.org)

Finally, let’s take a look at some phrases commonly used when witnessing to Mormons. With our knowledge of “Mormonese,” let’s decipher what Mormons hear.

HOW COMMON CHRISTIAN PHRASES USED IN WITNESSING ARE INTERPRETED BY MORMONS

Phrase #1 Do you believe in Jesus Christ as your only way of salvation?

The Mormon hears two things: 1) Do I believe that Jesus conquered physical death for me? 2) Do I believe that Jesus played a necessary part in my salvation? To both they would answer yes.

How does that differ from what is taught from the Holy Bible?

“In your conversations with other Christians, you may sometimes be asked, ‘Have you been saved’? Those who ask this question usually refer to the act of sincerely confessing, or declaring, that you have accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior.”

It goes on to say “If we use the word salvation to mean eternal life, none of us can say that we have been saved in mortality. That glorious gift can come only after the Final Judgement.” (True To The Faith, p. 150.)

Phrase #2 Do you believe that your sins are forgiven by the blood of Jesus Christ?

The Mormon hears: “Do you believe that your sins can be forgiven as a result of the atonement of Jesus Christ?” So, to this question, the Mormon will most assuredly say yes.

How does that differ from what is taught from the Bible?

Phrase #3 Is Jesus Christ your Savior?

The Mormon hears: “Has Jesus Christ provided a way for you to be saved if you are obedient to His commands?” So, again, to this question, the Mormon will most assuredly say yes.

Discussion Questions:

Why is understanding the language of Mormonism (“Mormonese”) so important in our witnessing to them?

Answer: So that we don’t talk past each other.

What would be a practical way to avoid terminology traps or applying “Mormonese” in our witnessing to Mormons?

Answer: Before you begin an in-depth discussion, make sure that you have a common understanding and agreement on key Christian terms (e.g. forgiveness, grace, etc.). Take the time to define important words. That exercise alone will often result in meaningful discussion.

Exercise:

Let’s take some time and go back to the three phrases. How could we say the same thing, but in a way Mormons could fully understand our question?

Phrase #1 What do you have to do to live with Heavenly Father? (This is essentially asking what they have to do to go to heaven. Since almost everybody goes to heaven according to Mormonism, however, you don’t want to ask that. Living with Heavenly Father is equivalent to asking them if they will be exalted.)

Phrase #2 If I told you that I forgave you a debt, what have I communicated to you? (By asking the question in this way, you are introducing the topic of forgiveness by trying to define it. Hopefully they will say that they don’t have to pay back the debt. If so, you can continue by asking if that is what they also believe about God’s forgiveness of them.)

Phrase #3 Did Jesus do everything to make it possible for you to live eternally with Heavenly Father? (Try to avoid the word salvation in your discussions because it is defined so differently. Often substituting the idea of living eternally with Heavenly Father accomplishes the same thing.)

CONCLUSION

Our goal for this Bible study is to learn how to effectively witness to Mormons. Too often we unknowingly put up roadblocks in communicating the gospel by not understanding the culture and language of Mormonism. By removing these barriers, we are frequently surprised to discover how much simpler it is to share the gospel. Avoiding common traps in our witnessing helps build confidence and overcomes some intimidating aspects of witnessing to Mormons. More importantly, fully recognize and trust that God’s Word works. This lesson has helped to set the stage for the next lesson where we will learn principles for effective witnessing.

Lesson Four: Principles for Effective Witnessing

Note to Teacher:

Our goals throughout these lessons have been to conquer the fear of witnessing to Mormons, equip Christians for successful dialogue with Mormons, and in the process, create a spirit of adventure for those witnessing. We begin this last lesson by first reviewing what we have learned about preparing for the adventure of witnessing to Mormons. We have discovered the importance of having the right attitude, along with knowing the basics of Mormonism and some components of its unique culture and language.

After that brief review, we will proceed by learning the principles of effective witnessing, namely, the sharing of God's wrath and grace. One thing that needs to be stressed is the definition of effective witnessing. We want people to understand that witnessing effectively does not equate with the converting of souls. That is God's business. Effective witnessing is sharing the message of salvation in an understandable and meaningful way. Witnessing effectively to Mormons includes using their language and addressing their stresses in sharing God's wrath and grace. If they understand what we say about God's wrath against sin and his solution of grace in Jesus, we have witnessed effectively, even if they don't believe us.

We will also offer practical tips on how to converse and interact with Mormon missionaries who knock on our doors. Finally, to help people in their witnessing, we have provided a simple witnessing cheat sheet. Once people feel comfortable witnessing and have received valuable and rewarding experiences in actual witness situations, they will likely want to take our outline and make it their own. That is our goal and prayer.

Theme of the Lesson: Utilizing all that we have gleaned from our lessons on creating a loving atmosphere, we will take the next step by learning how to effectively share the truth of God's Word with Mormons.

Introduction

Today, we will be completing *Preparing for the Adventure* – a Bible study directed at learning how to effectively witness to Mormons. In our first lesson, we talked about how important it is to adjust our attitude as a first step before witnessing. [Please note student worksheet] Our second lesson focused on learning the Mormon plan of salvation and how it drastically differs from what is taught in the Holy Bible. The intent was to show Christians that those on the path of Mormonism are in grave spiritual danger. In our last lesson, we talked about how understanding the culture and language of Mormonism is an important component in our witnessing. We complete our four-part study by learning how to apply and communicate what we have learned in effectively sharing the saving message of Jesus Christ with Mormons.

When witnessing to Mormons, Christians are often tempted to try to win arguments. Our hope is to convince you that there is a better way. By taking the time to convey love and concern for our Mormon friend, neighbor or loved one and relying on the power of God's Word to save, we can be more effective in bringing a soul to heaven.

Preparing for the Adventure: Become an Effective Witness

We have come to the most important component of this study, which is learning how to be an effective witness. We have learned how to communicate love to a Mormon. Now the question is: how do we communicate truth? We want to assure people that the measure of being an effective witness is not results, but on sharing the essential components of God's truth. To put it simply;

An effective witness to Mormons focuses on the sobering effects of God's wrath against sin followed by the absolute assurance of God's grace in Jesus.

To understand why this is so important; let's read the following e-mail by a Mormon which is typical of those we receive at TILM:

"Dear Truth in Love Ministry: I don't understand the hateful things you have to say on your website. We

believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that salvation is possible by those who have faith and obey the gospel. We are just like Christians except that we have the revealed truth through our prophets. Stop being so hateful and start acting the way Jesus would want you to act!" (Susan)

Discussion Question: If you were writing a response to Susan, what is the first thing she needs to hear?

Answer: Susan needs to hear that she is in trouble. Many Mormons are not going to be concerned with what any of us have to say regarding salvation because they believe that far less than 1% of people will be going to outer darkness (the Mormon version of hell). It is a place reserved only for apostates, people who leave the Mormon Church. As a result, Mormons don't see the seriousness of their situation and thus have a very difficult time comprehending why anyone would want to convert them away from Mormonism.

GOD'S WRATH

Before sharing the message of God's grace, it is very important to share with people the eternal consequences of not fully trusting in Jesus' work of salvation. We empathize with you regarding the difficulty of sharing the serious consequences of the eternal punishment of hell with Mormon friends, neighbors, and family members. By doing so, a person certainly places their friendships and relationships at a high risk. But sharing God's wrath with people who are on the road to hell is really the most loving thing a person can do.

Why is it important to share God's wrath?

Because sin, due to its eternal consequences, is not a minor matter. Any sin makes us guilty before God. ("For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it." James 2:10) When we downplay sin in our lives and in the lives of others, we underestimate the disastrous effects of sin. All sin brings God's condemnation and the eternal and grisly consequences of hell. This eternal reality does not strike home with many, because the basic human nature is to think people are good enough to satisfy God's demands. Sharing God's wrath for not fulfilling perfectly the commands of God is the only way for people to realize their need for the Savior.

How do we share God's wrath effectively with Mormons?

1. Out of sincere concern for their souls, we share that Mormonism will lead them to Outer Darkness.

Most Mormons will not seriously grapple with what you say unless you express concern for their eternal well-being. Showing such concern is one of the greatest displays of love. When people are in grave danger, the loving thing to do is warn them. Therefore, out of a sense of alarm and urgency, we share with Mormons that the path their church is leading them on will end in outer darkness. At the same time, we must exercise caution. If we share our concern out of arrogance or anger, and not out of love, great damage can be done.

When we share the shocking consequences of God's wrath, many Mormons will be rattled. At the very least, we will certainly get their attention. Even though they may initially ignore or dismiss you by discussing fine points of theology or religious experiences, the consciences of many will be pricked.

Here is an example of a person lovingly sharing that concern.

"Mary, I really appreciate your friendship and the opportunity of getting to know you. I consider you as my friend. Because of our friendship, I must also share a strong concern I have for you. I fear, Mary, that the path you are walking on with the LDS church is a path that is leading you to outer darkness. I have great concerns for your eternal soul."

This may be all you say to your Mormon friends. They may react negatively and there is nothing more you can say. However, if you have awakened their interest and aroused their curiosity, they may ask, "Why do you say that?" This leads to our second point of sharing God's wrath.

2. Out of sincere concern for their souls, we share that the standard for achieving salvation through obedience is nothing less than perfection.

Their question indicates that we have their attention. We have concern for their souls because God's "entrance requirement for heaven" is nothing less than perfection. He has given us this standard in Matthew 5:48: "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." (When witnessing to Mormons we use the KJV because that is the Bible translation they use.) This passage stresses two points:

1. The command is "Be" not "Become."
2. The standard of perfection is God the Father!

Doing all we can do is not good enough (with this phrase we contradict 2 Nephi 25:23, a popular verse in the Book of Mormon). God is not pleased with those who feel they must cooperate with him to achieve salvation or progress toward exaltation. In fact, the Bible says, "'Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.'" (Galatians 3:10)

Here is an example of sharing this concern:

"Mary, I have gotten to know you quite well and have seen you work so hard. You care for your children and you work so hard at church. You have shared with me how tired you are from all the demands placed on you. [Name a specific stress point] I know how your church places a great amount of stress on keeping the commandments. Well, Jesus tells us that wide is the path for people who rely on obedience to achieve salvation, for it is a path that leads to outer darkness. Because the only way to achieve salvation is to be perfect. You probably are familiar with the Bible verse that says, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." Well, a perfect and just God is going to hold us perfectly accountable. And he will remember that one sin and that's all it will take to lead us to outer darkness. Doing all we can do to keep God's commandments is not good enough, nor can we ever pay back the debt we owe for the atonement. And on that Day of Judgment, he will say to those who relied on their good works to achieve salvation, "I never knew you: depart from me." Mary, from what you have shared with me, I have a great concern that you are on that wide path that Jesus is talking about."

These are the basic elements of sharing God's wrath with your Mormon friend. Please note how we addressed a particular stress shared in lesson three as a means of introducing the central points of God's wrath. There is no need to stray from these points. It is much better to persistently hold up God's standard of perfection and the eternal consequences of outer darkness for all sin.

REVIEW:

Why is it important to share God's wrath?

What must you keep in mind before sharing God's wrath with Mormons? (Focus on their stress points)

What are the central points in sharing God's wrath?

1. The reality of outer darkness
2. The standard of perfection
3. We all have missed the mark
4. Doing all we can do is not good enough
5. The reality of outer darkness for those not good enough

Reminder: By sharing these points you have effectively witnessed God's wrath.

GOD'S GRACE

The gospel is God's good news that Jesus has done everything for our salvation. It is a message we all enjoy sharing. However, to be an effective witness, we must share the bad news of God's wrath before we share the good news of God's grace. Sharing the message of God's wrath and grace is like using antiseptic

on an open wound. The initial application will sting at first, but is necessary for the antiseptic to cleanse the wound. The message of God's wrath will sting at first, but is necessary for the cleansing ingredients of God's grace to work. Sharing God's grace with a Mormon without sharing the message of God's wrath is not witnessing effectively.

How do we effectively share God's grace with Mormons?

1. We can be fully forgiven right now and be absolutely certain that we will be in heaven with Jesus and Heavenly Father.

Forgiveness is a key theological term that will need to be clearly defined with your Mormon friends. This is so important because in Mormonism forgiveness is almost always described as mankind's duty to each other. Rarely is it described as God's gift to us founded on his grace for us. In other words, when Christians and Mormons talk about forgiveness, they often immediately think of two different things. That is why it is so important to define the term.

After you have defined the term, stress that forgiveness is God's gift, freely given. A gift is something we don't earn but receive as an expression of love. ("And if by grace, then is it no more of works; otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then it is no more grace; otherwise work is no more work." Romans 11:6)

In our continuing dialog with Mary, we hope she will come to a point where she sincerely inquires about how to avoid outer darkness. Give her time to ask. Refrain from prompting her by asking if she would like to hear a solution or not. A pricked conscience will be looking for a solution. You could then say:

"Mary, we are all in need of forgiveness due to all of our mistakes and errors. In fact, each day we say, do, and think things that break God's commandments. It is important, first of all, to make sure we understand what forgiveness means. When you forgive somebody what does that mean? Typically, does that person earn your forgiveness or is it something you just do? Well, God desires to forgive us. He offers us free and complete forgiveness as a gift because of His great love for us. And there is no catch. He doesn't expect anything in return nor is it anything we can earn on our own. Because that is what a gift is, isn't it? This undeserved love on God's part is what we call grace.

And this leads us to the second important point of God's grace.

2. We can be certain of our free and complete forgiveness because of Jesus' substitution and His finished work on the cross.

Because God is perfect and a just God, a penalty needed to be paid. A punishment was needed to account for all the times we have broken God's commandments. We need to be holy and perfect to be with God, because God is holy and perfect. The only solution for our being with God was for God to send somebody who was perfect in every way to take our place. God, in his great love for us, offered the perfect solution in Jesus Christ. Always stress Jesus as our substitute, not our example. Acting as our substitute, Jesus accepted the punishment for every one of our sins. This results in the wonderful news that "by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified" (Hebrews 10:14) and "...We have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." (Hebrews 10:10) Jesus' death on the cross is for all people. Therefore the only difference between those going to heaven and those going to hell is where people place their trust. Those who trust in Jesus' work and his perfection will go to heaven. Those who trust in their own works to achieve salvation will go to hell.

Because Jesus has already done everything for us, we can be fully assured of our status before Heavenly Father. Instead of the many "do" messages of Mormonism, the gospel emphasizes the "done" works of Christ.

We continue our dialog with Mary on God's grace by saying:

"Mary, I think both of us want to be right with Heavenly Father. I know that you are a very sincere woman who tries very hard to be worthy of His love in every way. And there is a way God has provided for us to be completely worthy right now. We can be assured of our worthiness and being fully forgiven, not on what we do for Heavenly Father, but on what Jesus has done for us by being our substitute on the cross. It is his substitution that makes us perfect because Jesus is holy and perfect in every way. Through faith, his life becomes our life. When Heavenly Father looks at us he does not see our errors and mistakes. He sees Jesus' perfect life instead. This is why we can be 100% assured of our forgiveness. There is no more work left for us to do to achieve salvation, because it's already been done. We no longer have to do anything to be worthy before Heavenly Father, because Jesus was worthy for us. Heavenly Father invites you to believe, to put your trust in Him. Acts 10:43 says, "To him all the prophets witness, that through his name who so ever believeth in him shall receive the remission of sin." Faith is the hand that receives Heavenly Father's gift of eternal life. Please recognize that in Christ your sins are forgiven right now."

These are the basic points of sharing God's grace with your Mormon friends. There is no need to stray from these points. Continue to bring all discussions back to what Jesus has already done for us.

REVIEW:

When is it appropriate to share God's grace?

How do we share God's grace effectively with Mormons?

What are the central points of sharing God's grace:

1. The sting of God's wrath must always precede the sharing of God's grace.
2. Carefully define and explain biblical forgiveness.
3. Stress the fact that we are fully forgiven and assured of eternal life because of Christ's substitutionary death on the cross.
4. Faith in Christ is trusting in what he has done. It is the way we receive complete and instant forgiveness both now and for all time.

Final points:

Our goal is to make you effective sharers of the gospel. That does not mean your Mormon friends or family members will automatically be saved as a result of your sharing the gospel. That is in God's hands. Recognize that an effective witness is one that communicates clearly the saving words found only in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Trust in God's powerful Word to convert, not in your own persuasive words.

Also realize that witnessing is typically not a one-time event, but a process, an on-going dialog in which God allows you to peel away the layers of Mormonism's false teachings and replace them with the saving truths of God's Word. Love, patience, and persistence will be key ingredients in your ongoing dialog with your Mormon friends.

SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH MORMON MISSIONARIES

When Mormon missionaries knock on your door what are you prone to do?

- a) Pretend you are not home and not answer the door.
- b) Open the door a crack and tell them you are not interested.
- c) Open the door and visit with them a few minutes, before thanking them warmly and sending them on their way.
- d) Invite them in and have a discussion with them.

If you answered a-c, why did you answer that way?

How do we share God's wrath and grace with Mormon missionaries?

- 1) Remember to make the necessary attitude adjustments. They are people who are lost in Mormonism.
- 2) Remember the culture of Mormonism and the large amounts of stress Mormons feel.

Being a missionary is often a huge point of stress for young men. Much of their future progress in the Church and even their future marriage prospects hinge on their going on a two-year mission. And while they are on their missions, many are under a great deal of stress. They are experiencing the emotional stress of being away from their families, having very limited contact with them. They are physically tired because of the rigorous schedule they must keep. In addition, many are under spiritual stress. It's hard to believe, but Mormon missionaries are not well trained. They may appear knowledgeable, but you would be surprised by the number of missionaries who don't have a grasp on what they believe and may even be entertaining serious doubts. Many have become missionaries only because of family and peer pressure and the expectations of their culture. On top of everything else, many people are not very nice to them.

Because of all this, a kind smile to a Mormon missionary can go a long way. Inviting them over for a nice meal is a good way to initiate a dialogue. It is highly doubtful you will lead a Mormon missionary to faith either that night or on other nights. Yet, it is not uncommon for a Mormon missionary to leave the church once he gets home and to eventually come to the Christian faith. You could be the one God uses to plant those first seeds of faith.

- 3) Employ the principles of effective witnessing of God's wrath and God's grace.
- 4) Patiently and persistently bring all discussions back to Jesus. They will ask you if you have prayed about the Book of Mormon. They will share their testimony. We don't offer you any catchy comebacks to what they say. Neither are we giving you a long how-to manual. What we do advise is to continually and effectively share the message of God's truth.

A COMMITMENT TO WITNESS

Thank you for taking time to go through our Bible study. As we end our time together, allow us to offer a few parting thoughts.

A person can take the time to study God's Word about sharing the faith and be instructed on how to do that, but not follow through. That highlights another important ingredient of effectively witnessing, and that is commitment. There comes a point in time when you need to step out of the plane if you always wanted to skydive; step off the board if you have always wanted to do a high dive; or step up to the microphone if you felt called to speak or sing. When we take that next step of sharing our faith, overcoming our fears and anxieties, we can be assured that God will be well-pleased. What can be better than that?

It is amazing what God can do with a willing heart. Step by step, hand in hand, God takes nobodies, people who feel ill-equipped, ill-advised, and ill in the stomach, and moves them to carry out what seems to be the impossible. God has blessed you with a tongue to speak, ears to listen, and eyes to see how great the harvest is and the need for workers. That alone qualifies you to be a witness. Then you turn to the Bible to see all the qualifications necessary to fulfill the great commission and you realize that there are not any listed. Instead of qualifications, we see a tremendous promise that Jesus will always be with us. It all boils down to trust. Trust God. Trust in the power of his Word and the comfort of his presence.

And trust in the power of prayer. After taking this class, you may feel ready to go out and witness, to take

that next step and jump off into the world. But then reality hits. Upon exiting the building and entering into the mainstream of life with all its distractions and busyness, we can easily lose our resolve. This is where prayer can be very important.

In the book of Matthew, Jesus says: "Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and the door will be opened." Ask the Lord for an opportunity to witness and you will receive one. Seek for wisdom in God's Word and you will find it. Knock on the door of opportunity and the Lord will certainly find a way to open it in the most unexpected way. **That is the adventure of witnessing!** A beautiful fruit tree ripe with delicious fruit, never knows when its fruit will be picked. A person embarking on the adventure of witnessing never knows when that opportunity will come - when a Mormon, sometimes after much discussion, will come to you with an open heart and mind to hear the wonderful good news of Jesus Christ.

God does promise blessings to those who embark on the adventure of witnessing, although these blessings won't always be obvious. You will not receive riches for witnessing. Not everyone will support you in your efforts. There is a good chance you will never know, this side of heaven, how the Lord used you in the process of bringing a Mormon to heaven. However, you will certainly receive a heavenly reward. We are convinced that in heaven you will be approached and thanked by those you touched on their own journey to faith. And you are going to be surprised by who all those people are!

Thank you again for taking this time to prepare yourselves for a great adventure. Together, with the Lord's help, we can bring as many Mormons as possible to heaven!

WITNESSING REMINDER CHEAT SHEET

1. Consistently pray for a heart that discerns the **stresses** Mormonism is placing on the individual.
2. Check your **attitude** so you may speak the truth in love with a sincere heart.
3. Express your **concern** that the path of Mormonism is leading Mormons to outer darkness.
4. Express your **certainty** of being in heaven because of Christ's substitution for you on the cross.
5. Repeat, Repeat, Repeat.