

PREPARING FOR THE ADVENTURE

Student Worksheets

Lesson One:

Attitude Adjustments

Lesson Two:

Are Mormons Christian?

Lesson Three:

A Unique People

Lesson Four:

Principles for Effective Witnessing

The packet contains master copies of the student worksheets. You are granted permission by Truth in Love Ministry to make copies of the worksheets for study purposes.

“PREPARING FOR THE ADVENTURE”

Student Worksheet

Lesson One: Attitude Adjustments

Theme of lesson: The importance of having a good attitude when we begin to witness Christ to our Mormon friends, neighbors and family members.

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

Attitude Adjustment #1: Our Perspective of Mormons

“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.

Discussion question: Upon viewing these quotes from LDS leaders, how could that affect your perspective on Mormons?

(Fill in the blank) My new attitude in Christ will allow me to view Mormons as being

_____ rather than being _____.

Attitude Adjustment #2: Our Service

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.

"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) What can we learn from this Bible passage?

(Fill in the blank) My new attitude in Christ makes me a _____ to everyone to _____ as many as possible.

Attitude Adjustment #3: Our Goal

Discussion Question: What ought to be our primary goal in witnessing — to bring a Mormon out of the LDS church or to bring them to heaven?

(Circle the right answer) The majority of people who leave the Mormon church will:

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

How do we win the soul versus win the argument? _____

How do we carry this out when witnessing to Mormons? _____

(Fill in the blank) My new attitude in Christ will shift my goal from winning the _____
to winning the _____. My new attitude in Christ will allow me to
_____ Mormonism and _____ Christ.

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!

Attitude Adjustment #4: Our Confidence

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?

Discussion questions:

When we lack confidence, what are we prone to do? _____

When we place too much confidence in ourselves, what tends to happen? _____

Who can be an effective witness? _____

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 the dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12)

Can God use you to witness to Mormons? _____ Why? _____

(Fill in the blank)

My new attitude in Christ will allow me to shift confidence away from _____ and place it fully on _____. Having confidence in God's Word, I can witness to Mormons.

Conclusion: Our Foundation

(Fill in the blank)

We _____ because God first _____ us.
Perfect _____ drives out all* _____,
_____, and _____.

*Go back to the beginning of the lesson and write down the words you checked to describe your experiences in witnessing to Mormons.

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Student Worksheet

Lesson Two: Are Mormons Christian?

Introduction:

Can a Mormon be considered a Christian? Why or why not? _____

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)

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

“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)

What is the plan of salvation for Christians? _____

“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)

How does God work 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)

What is our contribution to the plan of salvation? _____

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

What is the prevailing thought of Mormonism that dominates its theology, culture, and church-life?

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

What is the plan of salvation for Mormons?

Who works the plan of salvation?

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

Summary of the Mormon's Plan:

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

CONCLUSION:

What are the three main reasons why Mormonism cannot be considered Christian?

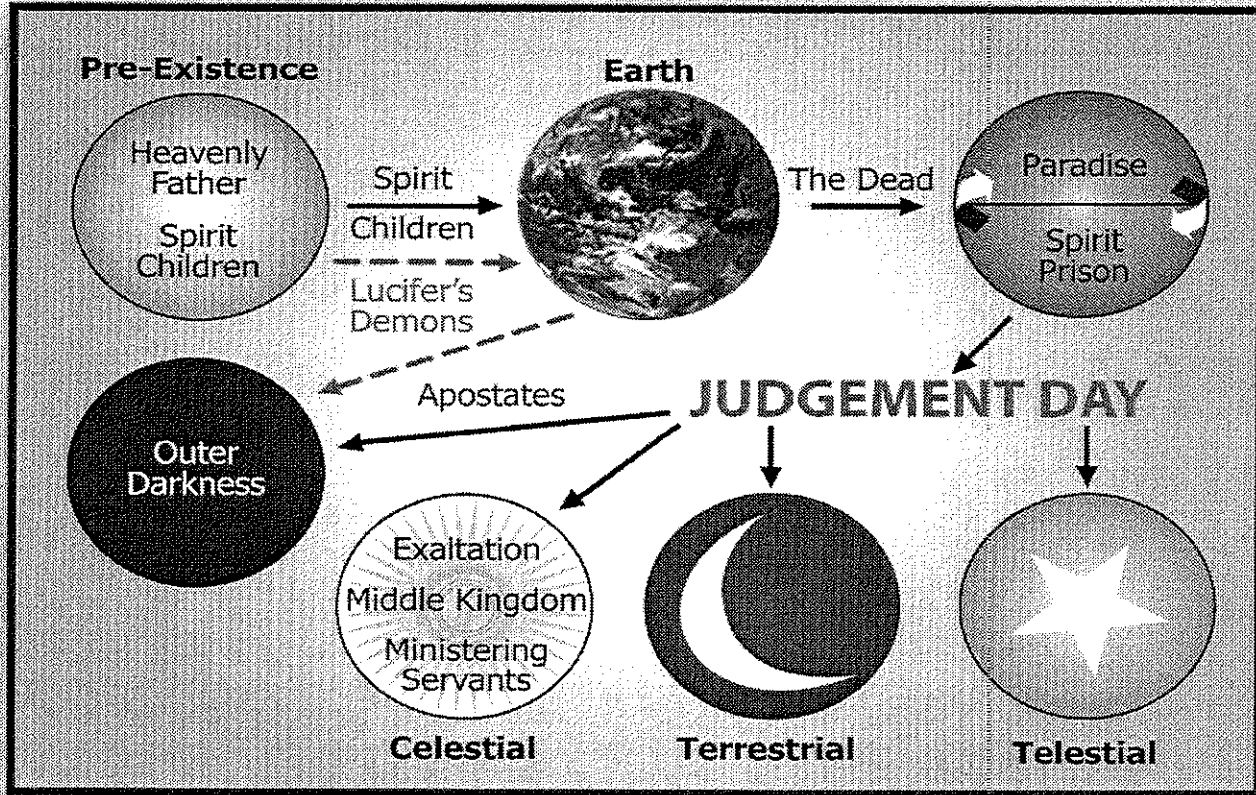
1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

PLAN OF SALVATION CHART

THE PLAN



GOING FURTHER:

Mormon Eternity:

Who goes to the Telestial Kingdom?

Who goes to the Terrestrial Kingdom?

Who goes to the Celestial Kingdom?

Who goes to Outer Darkness?

The LDS Temple:

The three ordinances practiced at the LDS Temple are: _____

(Fill in the blank) The LDS temple is not a place of _____, but a place of _____.

LDS QUOTES

The Mormon plan of salvation:

"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.)

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

"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 to get 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.)

What is the plan of salvation for Mormons?

"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.)

"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.)

"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.)

"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.)

"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)

Who works the plan of salvation?

*"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)*

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

"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.)

Summary of Mormonism's plan of salvation:

"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)

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Student Worksheet Lesson Three: A Unique People

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

What are some essential preparations a world missionary must learn to be effective in a foreign country?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

(FILL IN THE BLANK):

Mormonism is not so much a _____ as it is a _____.

THE CULTURE OF THE MORMON CHURCH

STRESS POINTS

- | | |
|----------|-------|
| 1. _____ | _____ |
| 2. _____ | _____ |
| 3. _____ | _____ |
| 4. _____ | _____ |
| 5. _____ | _____ |

DISCUSSION QUESTION:

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

THE LANGUAGE OF THE MORMON CHURCH:

Christian Definition

Mormon Definition

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| 1. SALVATION _____ | _____ |
| 2. ETERNAL LIFE _____ | _____ |
| 3. GRACE _____ | _____ |
| 4. FORGIVENESS _____ | _____ |
| 5. () _____ | _____ |

HOW COMMON CHRISTIAN PHRASES USED IN WITNESSING ARE INTERPRETED BY MORMONS

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

In the LDS mind, you are asking... The best way to ask this question is _____

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

In the LDS mind, you are asking... The best way to ask this question is _____

Common Phrase #3: Is Jesus Christ your Savior?

In the LDS mind, you are asking... The best way to ask this question is _____

General Discussion Questions:

Why is understanding the language of Mormonism ("Mormons") so important in our witnessing to them?

What would be some practical ways to avoid terminology traps or applying Mormonese in our witnessing to Mormons? _____

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Lesson Four: Principles for Effective Witnessing

Theme: By learning how to love Mormons by understanding their culture, language, and stress points, we can help to create an atmosphere which enables us to fearlessly and effectively share the truth of God’s Word.

What have we learned so far about witnessing to Mormons?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

(FILL IN THE BLANK):

An effective witness to the Mormons is to always include in your conversations the effects of _____ followed by the assurance of _____.

SHARING GOD’S WRATH WITH MORMONS

Why is it important to share God’s wrath? _____

How do we share God’s wrath effectively with Mormons? _____

What are the central points in sharing God’s wrath with Mormons?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

SHARING GOD'S GRACE WITH MORMONS

When is it appropriate to share God's grace? _____

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

What are the central points in sharing God's grace with Mormons?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH MORMON MISSIONARIES

When two Mormon missionaries knock on our door, what are we prone to do?

- a) _____ Pretend we are not home and not answer the door.
- b) _____ Open the door a crack and tell them we 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 the missionaries in and have a discussion with them.

How can we be effective in sharing the gospel with Mormon missionaries?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

WITNESSING REMINDER CHEAT SHEET

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