

# Build Bridges Not Barriers



▶ **Video: Introduction**

## **The Five Pillars of Bridge Building**

1. See Mormons as victims, not enemies.
2. Treat Mormons with genuine love and respect.
3. Focus on Mormon stress points.
4. Speak the Mormon language.
5. Witness Christ rather than debate Mormonism.

# Lesson One: Introduction



▶ **Video: Lesson 1 Part 1**

## **Introduction: Building bridges not barriers**

1. The image of building a bridge emphasizes
  - The importance of building a relationship before witnessing
  - We build a bridge in order to cross a divide
2. Two common mistakes Christians make
  - Witnessing without establishing a relationship
  - Building a relationship but not witnessing
3. Witnessing is never a wasted effort!
4. Witnessing is a process

**A. Acknowledge there is a divide**

1. There is a deep divide between Mormonism and Christianity
2. Many people believe Mormons are Christians
  - Mormonism has a veneer of Christianity
  - Both Mormons and Christians have a shallow grasp of the basic teachings of Christianity

**B. Mormonism has many non-Christian teachings**

1. Mormonism has additional scriptures
  - The Book of Mormon
  - Doctrine and Covenants (D&C)
  - The Pearl of Great Price
  - The Bible “as far as it is translated correctly”

2. Mormonism teaches that people can become gods

*D&C 132:20 “Then shall they be gods, because they have no end; therefore shall they be from everlasting to everlasting, because they continue; then shall they be above all, because all things are subject unto them. Then shall they be gods, because they have all power, and the angels are subject unto them.”*

A famous LDS couplet

*“As man is, God once was  
As God is, man may become”*

### 3. Mormonism replaces the cross with the temple as the path to eternal life

- Mormons have churches and temples
  - Mormon churches (stakehouses) are open to all
  - Access to the temple is highly restricted to only worthy Mormons
- Temple Ordinances
  - Endowment ceremony
  - Eternal marriage
  - Baptism for the dead

### 4. Mormonism teaches grace plus works

*2 Nephi 25:23 (Book of Mormon) "for we know that it is by grace we are saved after all we can do."*

#### Pause for Reflection

1. It's easy to become discouraged with witnessing because we sometimes don't see the end result. Reflect on the following Bible passages and the comfort they give.
  - *Isaiah 55:10-11*
  - *Romans 1:16*
  - *Hebrews 4:12*
2. Mormons don't like it when Mormonism is called a "work-righteousness" religion. However, they don't mind the label of "grace plus." Think of how being sensitive to this distinction will help as you talk with Mormons.

▶ **Video: Lesson 1 Part 2**

**C. See barriers clearly**

1. One **unavoidable** barrier: Christ's death on the cross

*1 Corinthians 1:23 "We preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles"*

2. Stay alert to **avoidable** barriers by viewing Mormonism as a different culture

3. Adopt Paul's mission mindset

*1 Corinthians 9:19, 22 "Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible ... I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some."*

**Conclusion: Bridge building takes work**

**Pause for Reflection**

3. List specific things that might hinder you from witnessing. For example,
  - *You are angry at false beliefs and want to argue and defeat*
  - *You don't want to risk damaging an important relationship*
4. List specific things that will help you witness. For example,
  - *Praying regularly to adopt Paul's mission mindset*
  - *Making a list of passages that talk about the power of the Word*

## Closing Prayer

Loving Lord,

I struggle, at times, to adopt Paul's mission mindset. Too often I want people to change for me—not me change for them! Lord, help me. Keep me from erecting unnecessary barriers. And then enable me to share your amazing love with others.

Lord, also have mercy on Mormons. Move many Christians to witness to them. Work saving faith in their hearts and bring them into your kingdom. Amen.

## Additional Reading

For more information on the Mormon scriptures, read Chapter 4 of [\*Speaking the Truth in Love to Mormons\*](#).

For more information on the Mormon temple, read Chapter 2 of [\*Speaking the Truth in Love to Mormons\*](#).

For more information on Mormon culture, read Chapter 5 of [\*Speaking the Truth in Love to Mormons\*](#).

The following blogs, all available at [tilm.org](http://tilm.org), will also provide insight:

- [\*Mormonism's False Door to Heaven\*](#)
- [\*The Just Shall Live by Faith—LDS Style\*](#)
- [\*The Devastating Shock of Being on the Wrong Road\*](#)

## Lesson Two: Build on Bedrock



### ▶ Video: Lesson 2 Part 1

#### A. The First Bedrock Truth: Jesus came to be our **SUBSTITUTE** not our example

1. One of the most comforting phrases in the Bible is “for us”

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

*Galatians 3:13 “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse **for us.**”*

*1 Peter 3:18 “Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous **for the unrighteous**, to bring you to God.”*

*Isaiah 53:5 “He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.”*

2. Jesus as man's substitute is a foundational principle of Christianity
  3. Jesus as man's substitute is unique to Christianity
    - Many have a high view of Jesus but not high enough
    - Mormonism sees Jesus as the mediator, but we must pay back the debt
- One of the most common terms for Jesus is the Exemplar

### Pause for Reflection

1. It would be good to create a list of passages which emphasize Jesus' vicarious (substitutionary) work. You could begin with the four listed on the first page of this lesson. What others could you include?
2. Besides Bible passages, examples and illustrations often help people understand. What are some examples and illustrations we could use to convey the idea of substitution? The more ways we can tell people this truth, the better the chance it will click for them. (i.e. what is the difference between a coach and a sub on a team?) As we do this, we also need to realize that people often think substitutes are inferior (subs on a team, substitute teachers).



**▶ Video: Lesson 2 Part 2****B. The Second Bedrock Truth: Focus on your STATUS in Christ**

1. How does the Bible describe believers?
  - Righteous – Approximately 180 times
  - Saints—67 times
  - Holy—36 times
  - Chosen or elect—36 times
  - Friends—24 times in the epistles
  - Children of God—13 times
  - Heirs—8 times
  - Sanctified—6 times
  - God’s temple—5 times
  
2. In striking comparison, here’s the list of negative descriptions
  - People of little faith—5 times
  - Worldly or unspiritual—4 times
  - Wretched—2 times
  - Sinner—3 times
  
3. Don’t confuse your status with your state
  - Status is what you are in Christ: holy, saints
  - State is what you are presently doing: sinning
  
4. Keep your focus
  - Focusing on your status as saint helps you be Christ-centered
  - Focusing on your state sends Jesus the wrong message

## Pause for Reflection

3. Focusing on our status in Christ is a constant battle. Think of things that will help you focus on your wonderful status in Christ and make a list of them. For example, be more alert to the many exalted terms the Bible uses for believers.
  
4. Reflect on how you can illustrate the difference between a person's status and his state. For example, think of an immigrant the day before and the day after he receives his citizenship. His state (where he is living, etc.) has not changed. But his status is completely different. And that difference is very important.

### ▶ Video: Lesson 2 Part 3

#### **C. The Third Bedrock Truth: Remember the process God uses to bring people to faith**

1. God called us to be his witness, not a lawyer
  - *Romans 10:14-15 "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent?"*
  
  - *Romans 10:17 "Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ."*

## 2. Conversion is a process

- *1 Corinthians 3:6 "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow."*
  
- Rejoice in the sowing, not only in the reaping

### Pause for Reflection

5. Discuss the important role of prayer in witnessing. List all the various aspects we could be praying for.
  
6. What is a God-pleasing definition of success when it comes to witnessing?

### Closing Prayer

Jesus, our Savior,

I thank and praise you for becoming my substitute and doing everything to save me. Help me to give you glory by always seeing the new status I have in you. May I glorify you by being joyful and confident in my salvation.

I also thank you for reminding me that it doesn't depend on me to bring people to faith. Make me always aware of this so that witnessing never becomes a burden but always remains a blessing. Use my witness to bring many people to faith! Amen.

## Additional Reading

For more explanation on Jesus as our substitute, read Chapters 9 and 10 of [\*God—The Ultimate Humanitarian\*](#).

For more explanation on our status in Christ, read Chapter 12 of [\*God—The Ultimate Humanitarian\*](#).

For more information on the power of God’s Word, read Chapter 7 of [\*Speaking the Truth in Love to Mormons\*](#).

The following blogs, all available at [tilm.org](http://tilm.org), will also provide insight:

- [\*For Who do You Witness?\*](#)
- [\*Example vs Substitute\*](#)

# Lesson Three: Pillar One

## See Mormons as Victims, not Enemies



▶ Video: Lesson 3 Part 1

**Introduction: The right attitude makes a difference!**

### **A. Most Mormons are victims**

1. Even though they appear to be happy, confident, and self-assured
2. Wearing a mask is a cultural characteristic of Mormonism

### **B. Mormonism puts tremendous pressure on its members**

1. It emphasizes what they have to do

*2 Nephi 25:23 (Book of Mormon) "We know that it is by grace that we are saved after all we can do."*

2. It teaches there are no undeserved blessings

*D&C 130:20-21 “There is a law, irrevocably decreed in heaven before the foundations of this world, upon which all blessings are predicated—And when we obtain any blessing from God, it is by obedience to the law upon which it is predicated.”*

3. It places more laws on them

- Keeping Sunday spiritual—No work, shopping or entertainment
- Word of Wisdom—No coffee, tea, alcohol or tobacco

### Pause for Reflection

1. A Christian’s default is to see Mormons as the enemy since they are proclaiming false teachings. The Christian’s goal, then, becomes to defeat them by showing the errors of their ways. In this regard it is instructive to study Jesus’ dialogue with Nicodemus, a Jewish teacher and Pharisee, recorded in John 3:1-21. Jesus’ goal was not to defeat him by pointing out his false beliefs. Rather it was to win him by sharing the gospel with him. And after Jesus’ death, Nicodemus reveals that he believed Jesus’ message by giving Jesus a burial fit for a king.
2. It’s easy, at times, to make fun of some of Mormonism’s teachings. But they aren’t so funny when we see how they affect people. What are some things you can do to help you remember to empathize with Mormons rather than criticize or ridicule them?

**C. The Bible teaches that unbelievers are hurting**

1. Mormons have no peace

*Isaiah 48:22 "There is no peace,' says the Lord, 'for the wicked.'"*

*Romans 3:10-12 "There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one."*

2. Mormons have no hope

*Ephesians 2:12 "Remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world."*

3. Mormons have a sense of eternity and it is a burden to them

*Ecclesiastes 3:10-11 "I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end."*

**D. Mormonism victimizes its members by telling them they are spiritually healthy**

1. They are told God wants them to become independent of him
2. They are regularly told they can keep all the commandments

**Conclusion: Mormonism is not Christ-centered but man-centered**

## PILLAR ONE PILING

***1 John 4:10-11 “This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”***

### Pause for Reflection

3. Even though people often don't openly or freely admit to having no peace or hope, this is what the Bible states. Reflect on how it would be for you if you did not know Jesus as both your Savior and your Good Shepherd.
4. Often Christians fail to see, and thus take advantage of, all the blessings only Christians enjoy. List some of those. Chapter 18 of the book, [\*God—The Ultimate Humanitarian\*](#), deals exclusively with this



## Closing Prayer

Lord,

I confess that it is difficult for me to view Mormons as victims. I need your help. When I hear their false teachings, help me also to see how those teachings are burdening many Mormons. When I talk with Mormons, move me to try to help them rather than just defeat them. Make my love for all people ever stronger. Amen.

## Additional Reading

For more information on the exclusive blessings Christians enjoy, read Chapter 18 of *God—The Ultimate Humanitarian*.

The following blogs, all available at [tilm.org](http://tilm.org), will also provide insight:

- [\*Body of Christ—Alone or Attached?\*](#)
- [\*Held Captive by a Thread\*](#)
- [\*Keeping the Commandments Perfectly\*](#)
- [\*Mormonism’s Version of Chinese Water Torture\*](#)
- [\*A Strange Place to Find Peace\*](#)

# Lesson Four: Pillar Two

## Treat Mormons with Genuine Love and Respect



▶ Video: Lesson 4 Part 1

**Introduction: We want to win the person not the battle!**

### **A. Treat them with simple courtesy**

1. Be friendly to LDS missionaries
2. Don't ridicule them or their beliefs even when talking with fellow Christians
3. View Mormonism as a culture
4. Don't let their *closed society* stop you from witnessing

### Pause for Reflection

1. A prominent characteristic of LDS culture is a persecution complex. Many Mormons immediately react to any comment about Mormonism as Mormon bashing. Think of ways to combat that.
2. It is sometimes difficult to correct a fellow-believer who is not speaking with sensitivity about Mormons. What are some ways you could tactfully talk to them about it?

▶ **Video: Lesson 4 Part 2**

#### **B. Listen! Listen! Listen!**

1. Listening helps build relationships
2. Listening is hard work
3. Listening helps you tailor your witness to their specific hurts

#### **C. Three keys to good listening**

1. Don't assume anything!
  - Don't assume every Mormon knows and agrees with official LDS teachings
  - Missionaries only receive two weeks of training

2. Ask specific questions and take notes
  - Taking notes is a way we can honor them
  
3. Pay close attention to body language
  - Especially important to understand a person's struggles and stresses

**Conclusion: You have passed the litmus test when a person knows you care for them.**

## PILLAR TWO PILING

*1 Peter 3:15 "But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."*

### Pause for Reflection

3. Look over the [Profile of My Mormon Friend/Family Member](#) to see if it is something you could use or adapt.

### Closing Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Help me to learn like Peter to reflect your love for people. When I meet Mormons, enable me to see it as a wonderful opportunity to build a relationship with them. Keep me from jumping to conclusions or making assumptions about them. And when I speak to them, may I always do so with gentleness and respect. May you be glorified in all I say and do. Amen.

### Additional Reading

For more information on Mormon culture, read Chapter 5 of [\*Speaking the Truth in Love to Mormons\*](#).

The following blog, available at [tilm.org](http://tilm.org), will also provide insight:

- [\*Mormonism: Cult or Culture?\*](#)

# Lesson Five: Pillar Three

## Focus on Mormon Stress Points



▶ Video: Lesson 5 Part 1

### Introduction

1. Our goal is to turn *Mormon stress points into rest points in Christ*
2. Focusing on problems within Mormonism doesn't impact many Mormons
3. Many people who leave Mormonism don't become Christian but become agnostic
  - This is a worse place for them to be
    - Friction with family
    - Bitter toward all religions
    - Makes it even more difficult to witness to them
4. When we talk about things that bother them, many are eager to talk

**A. The “Toxic Perfectionism” of Mormonism**

1. Perfectionism is one of the most prominent stress points in Mormonism, driving many to despair
2. The most quoted Bible passage in Mormonism  
*Matthew 5:48 “Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.” (KJV)*
3. They try to lessen its impact by changing “be perfect” into “become perfect”
4. They say people can work on becoming perfect even after death

**Pause for Reflection**

1. Many Christians are so bothered by Mormonism’s false teachings that they feel guilty if they aren’t immediately defending the truth. A look at Paul’s actions in Athens (Acts 17:16-34) is instructive.
  - Verse 18: What were the two topics of Paul’s preaching?
  - Verse 22: Note how Paul begins.
  - Verse 23: Paul identifies something unknown to them. For some, this was probably a stress point.
  - Verse 24: Note how Paul speaks positively. Instead of pointing out their errors, he proclaims the truth.
  - Verse 28: Paul quotes one of their own poets. This is an example of speaking their language—something which we will look at in connection with the fourth pillar.
  - Verse 31: Paul skillfully brings the focus on Jesus.

**Pause for Reflection (continued)**

2. It is important to recognize the difference between sharing the truth and defending the truth. When is each appropriate? Which is to be our main focus (think of the Great Commission)?

**▶ Video: Lesson 5 Part 2****B. A preview of how we can turn this stress point into a rest point in Christ**

A key to this approach: Start with the familiar and go to the unfamiliar

1. Using the law

*Matthew 5:48 “Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.” (KJV)*

- The main purpose of God’s commands is to show us our sin

*Romans 3:20 “Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God’s sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.”*

*Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God is alive 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.”*



- Focus on the word “be”
  - Joseph Smith, in his translation of the Bible, used “be”
  - *The Book of Mormon* says “be”
  - Emphasize God’s command is to be perfect right now
  
- Highlight “*even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect*”
  - This emphasizes the standard is *absolute* perfection
  - Perfect can legitimately be translated “mature” but don’t be bothered. Go back to the standard—as mature or developed as heavenly Father.

## 2. How to share the gospel

*Hebrews 10:14 “For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.” (KJV)*

- Reasons why we like to use it
  - It addresses their stress point of perfectionism
  - Few Mormons know it—going from the familiar to the unfamiliar
  - It doesn’t use words like grace or saved that Mormonism defines differently
  
- Be confident about your status in Christ: you are perfect in him!

- Highlight the past tense: *“he hath perfected”*
  - The message of Christianity is Jesus has done it all!
  - Adding anything to perfection ruins it—Rembrandt illustration
  - Mormonism is a “grace plus” religion
  
- Refer to verse 10: *“we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all”*

## PILLAR THREE PILING

***Hebrews 10:14 “For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.” (KJV)***

### Pause for Reflection

3. Think about what it means that God sees you right now as perfect because of Jesus. What impact does that have on your self-esteem, your outlook on the future, your thoughts about God? Compare that to the stress many Mormons experience because of Mormonism’s emphasis on becoming perfect.

## Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,

Thank you for making me perfect in God's eyes. The more I ponder this, the more I am filled with awe and love. Your love is beyond all imagining! Motivate many Christians to share this wonderful news with Mormons. May it open their eyes and hearts to your incredible love. May they trust in your work, and not their works, to be worthy before God. Amen.

## Additional Reading

The entire website [beyeperfect.org](http://beyeperfect.org) is dedicated to sharing this truth with Mormons. See especially the article:

- [\*"Did Jesus say that we must be or become perfect?"\*](#)

The following blogs, all available at [tilm.org](http://tilm.org), will also provide insight:

- [\*Perfection Through Whose Obedience?\*](#)
- [\*The Crushing and Deadly Quest for Self-Perfection\*](#)
- [\*Finding Peace in Imperfection\*](#)

# Lesson Six: Pillar Three

## Focus on Mormon Stress Points

### A Look at Some Common Mormon Stress Points



▶ Video: Lesson 6 Part 1

#### A. The pressure of constantly being tested

1. Mormonism says our purpose for being on earth is to be tested
  - Agency—Freedom of choice/choose the right (CTR)
2. Mormons have to be *worthy* to receive ordinances and callings. Worthiness is determined in interviews with local leaders.
  - Bishops (local leaders) primary responsibility is to judge
  - Many find these interviews quite stressful

## B. The heavy word “if”

1. No undeserved blessings in Mormonism
2. Mormons regularly are
  - Pointed to their divine potential
  - Pointed to their ability to keep the commandments
3. More stressful because many of their fellow Mormons appear successful
4. Mormonism is a very self-centered religion

### Pause for Reflection

1. How would you answer if a Mormon asked you about your purpose for being on earth? Think especially how your answer can lead into a discussion focusing on their stress points.
2. There are two types of covenants in the Bible: conditional and unconditional. What is the difference between the two? Jeremiah 31:31-34 talks about the “new covenant.” Note that it is unconditional (no ifs) and unilateral. God is the active party; humans are the passive party.

▶ **Video: Lesson 6 Part 2**

**C. Jesus is regularly held up as their example**

1. Common title for Jesus: Exemplar
2. The Bible never cites Jesus as an example when the context is salvation

**D. Forgiveness and Repentance**

1. Forgiveness

- *Spencer W. Kimball, The Miracle of Forgiveness (LDS Manual) "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."*

2. Repentance

- *True to the Faith (LDS Manual) p. 70 "Because of the Atonement of Jesus Christ, we can receive forgiveness for our sins through sincere and complete repentance."*
- Repentance is "a painful process." The fourth step of LDS repentance is "abandonment of sin."
- *True to the Faith(LDS Manual) p. 135 "Maintain an unyielding, permanent resolve that you will never repeat the transgression."*
- Many are trying to water this down by adding "try"

### E. The uncertainty about living with Heavenly Father for all eternity

1. Mormonism teaches there are three kingdoms in heaven. Only people in the celestial kingdom (the highest one) will live with Heavenly Father.
2. Most Mormons are uncertain they are worthy enough to live there

### Conclusion

- Focusing on their stress points doesn't come naturally
- Keep in mind our goal: to turn their stress points into rest points in Christ

### Pause for Reflection

3. Make a list of passages about forgiveness. Keep it handy in your Bibles.
4. Read the article "[What is repentance?](http://beyeperfect.org)" on [beyeperfect.org](http://beyeperfect.org)

## Closing Prayer

O Lord,

Make me more aware and sensitive to the stress and pain felt by others. Give me the love and wisdom to share passages with them which turn their stress points into rest points in Christ. Amen.

## Additional Reading

For more information on covenants, read Chapter 4 of [\*God—The Ultimate Humanitarian\*](#).

For more information on forgiveness, read the article [\*“When does a person know they are forgiven by God?”\*](#) on [beyeperfect.org](#).

The following blogs, all available at [tilm.org](#), will also provide insight:

- [\*The Burden of Confusion\*](#)
- [\*Stingy Forgiveness\*](#)
- [\*What Does Mormonism Say Jesus Did for Us?\*](#)
- [\*Having a Good Grasp on Repentance\*](#)
- [\*To Be or To Believe\*](#)



# Lesson Seven: Pillar Four

## Speak the Mormon Language



▶ Video: Lesson 7 Part 1

### **Introduction: The frustration of talking past each other**

#### **A. Get on the same wavelength**

1. Mormons and Christians discern truth differently
  - Christians rely on the objective truth of the Bible
  - Mormons rely on the Spirit communicating through their feelings
2. Pointing out that feelings are fickle doesn't faze many Mormons
3. Get on their wavelength by sharing the objective truths of Scripture but making it personal—your peace, joy, confidence

4. Important warning: Don't talk about each other's personal beliefs when comparing teachings. Comparing the teachings of the Bible with the teachings of Mormonism makes it less emotional.
5. Talking about the teachings of Mormonism allows you to quote official LDS teachings
  - A good source for finding official LDS teachings is [churchofjesuschrist.org](http://churchofjesuschrist.org) (formerly lds.org)—not [comeuntochrist.org](http://comeuntochrist.org) (formerly mormon.org)
  - The two main manuals are *True to the Faith* and *Gospel Principles*. We suggest bookmarking these manuals in your internet browser.

## B. Be careful how you use the Bible

1. Mormonism's official translation is the King James Version. The Mormon Church has not altered it.
2. Studying Scripture is not an aspect of Mormon culture so they can easily become overwhelmed
  - They aren't used to pondering the meaning of passages
  - They aren't used to looking at numerous passages to support teachings
3. A good approach is to discuss one or two carefully chosen passages more in-depth

*James 2:10 "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." (KJV)*

### Pause for Reflection

1. The parable of the wedding garment recorded in Matthew 22:1-14 is often effective to show Mormons the seriousness of refusing the free gift of salvation. Think of the different points you could make with it.
2. “Bearing your testimony” is very common in Mormonism. We encourage you to think through, even write out your testimony. Be sure that it is Christ-centered but also personal.

#### ▶ Video: Lesson 7 Part 2

### C. Mormonism defines words differently

1. Some Resources
  - 50-page [Dictionary of “Mormonese”](#)
  - [Online dictionary](#) on tilm.org
  - LDS manual, [True to the Faith](#), has brief articles on key words, listed in alphabetical order
2. Example 1: Eternal Life
  - Christianity: Life with God
  - Mormonism: Life as god

### 3. Example 2: Heaven

- Christianity: We are going because of what Jesus has done
- Mormonism: Almost everybody goes to one of the three kingdoms of heaven
- To communicate with a Mormon, we need to talk about living eternally with Heavenly Father (describes life in the highest kingdom)

### 4. Example 3: Grace

- Mormonism's definition from the LDS Bible Dictionary: *"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. . . . Grace cannot suffice without total effort on the part of the recipient.**"*
- Christianity:
  - God's
  - Riches
  - At
  - Christ's
  - Expense
- When talking about grace, Mormonism puts the spotlight on man's efforts while Christianity puts it on Christ's efforts

5. Try to avoid such words altogether
  - Instead of grace, talk about God’s wonderful love
  - Instead of heaven, talk about living eternally with Heavenly Father
  - Instead of faith, talk about trust in Christ’s works
  - Instead of sin, talk about breaking specific commandments

## PILLAR FOUR PILING

***1 Corinthians 9:19 “Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible.”***

### Pause for Reflection

3. How would you talk about the following words without using them?
  - Gospel
  - Repentance

## Closing Prayer

Lord,

As I share with others the great things you have done, give me the right words to speak. I thank you for the many different ways and words you use in the Bible to describe your loving acts. Help me to treasure each and then use them wisely in my witness. Amen.

## Additional Reading

Request your free *Dictionary of “Mormonese”* at [tilm.org/free-dictionary](http://tilm.org/free-dictionary).

The following blogs, all available at [tilm.org](http://tilm.org), will also provide insight:

- [What does it mean to follow Jesus?](#)
- [Eternal Life](#)
- [Having a Good Grasp on Repentance](#)

## Lesson Eight: Pillar Five

### Witness Christ Rather than Debate Mormonism Part One



▶ Video: Lesson 8 Part 1

#### Review:

Pillar One: See Mormons as victims, not enemies

Pillar Two: Treat Mormons with genuine love and respect

Pillar Three: Focus on Mormon stress points

Pillar Four: Speak the Mormon language

#### A. Pillar Five: Witness Christ Rather than Debate Mormonism

*Romans 1:16 "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes."*

1. Power = dynamite
2. The gospel is the only thing powerful enough to bring people to Jesus
3. Polemics (speaking evil) is not recommended for use in witnessing

- It makes Mormons defensive
- It doesn't rely on the power of the gospel

*1 Corinthians 1:20-21 "Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe."*

- Many who leave Mormonism become agnostics
  - It makes people give up on all religions
    - Polemics can be effective in warning Christians about Mormonism
4. Apologetics (defending the faith) can be very useful but always plan on how to get the conversation back to the main thing: human sin and divine grace



### Pause for Reflection

1. Witnessing takes preparation. Think of how—if you must tackle a doctrine—you can turn it back to the major theme. For example, temples or the priesthood.
2. Think of ways to remember to focus on witnessing. Maybe making a list of passages about the power of God's Word and posting in a prominent place. Or forming a small group to remind each other.

### ▶ Video: Lesson 8 Part 2

#### B. Use God's law (his commands) to prepare Mormons for the gospel

1. Mormons don't see the extent and seriousness of their sin

*Romans 3:20 "No one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin."*

*Romans 7:7 "I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, 'You shall not covet.'"*

- We need to hold up the mirror of God's law to Mormons

*1 Nephi 3:7 (Book of Mormon) "I know that the Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men save [except] he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them."*

2. Mormonism waters down the commandments by inserting the word “try”

- God has given us commandments impossible to keep so we call out for a Savior

*James 2:10 “whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.”*

*Galatians 3:10 “All who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, as it is written: ‘Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.’”*

3. Mormonism minimizes sin

*Plan of Salvation (LDS Manual) p.9 “Sin is knowingly choosing to do wrong or not to do right.”*

4. Mormonism downplays sin by teaching we are born good. It says children cannot sin until the age of eight.

5. Mormonism severely limits the consequences of sin. Almost everybody goes to heaven.

6. We need to share with them the grave danger they are in

### Pause for Reflection

3. List some reasons why it is so difficult to proclaim the law.
4. It's important to point to specific sins. What sins might we point out that Mormons aren't aware of (i.e. worrying).

### Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for giving me such a powerful tool in your Word. Let me never diminish its power by not using it. Help me always be your confident witness trusting in the Word's power.

Lord, also bless the witness of all those sharing you. Open the eyes and hearts of those they are talking with so they experience the same joy and peace we have. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

## Additional Reading

For more information on the power of the Word, read Chapter 7 of [\*Speaking the Truth in Love to Mormons\*](#).

For more information on using the law, read Chapter 8 of [\*Speaking the Truth in Love to Mormons\*](#).

The following blogs, available at [tilm.org](http://tilm.org), will also provide insight:

- [\*Refuting the LDS Claim of a Corrupted Bible\*](#)
- [\*Hell Isn't Going Quietly into the Night\*](#)
- [\*Like Paul, Be Vulnerable When Talking about Sin\*](#)
- [\*Unleash the Gospel!\*](#)
- [\*Sin Occasionally?\*](#)
- [\*Credit for Trying\*](#)
- [\*Perfect Spiritual DNA?\*](#)

## Lesson Nine: Pillar Five

### Witness Christ Rather than Debate Mormonism Part Two



#### ▶ Video: Lesson 9 Part 1

#### A. Proclaim a complete, not holey, gospel by emphasizing Jesus' life for us

1. Remember the bedrock principle that Jesus is our substitute
2. Jesus gave his life twice for us: he died for us and he lived for us
3. Jesus living for us, keeping the commandments for us, needs to be emphasized with Mormons because of their emphasis on keeping the commandments

*Galatians 4:4-5 "But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship."*

*Jeremiah 23:6 "In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'"*

- This was an incredible sacrifice on Jesus' part

*2 Corinthians 8:9 "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich."*

## **B. Proclaim a complete, not holey, gospel by talking about all the ramifications of Jesus' death for us**

1. Use passages that talk about forgiveness with Mormons

*2 Corinthians 5:19 "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation." (KJV)*

- He reconciled the *world*
- By not imputing their sins against them

2. Faith is essential to receive the benefits of God's unconditional forgiveness

- The story of the runaway teen

3. Mormonism teaches that Christ's atonement made it "possible" to be forgiven

- Our message can be: "God has forgiven you! Believe it!"

### Pause for Reflection

1. On the cross Jesus proclaimed, “It is finished” (John 19:30). In the Greek (the language in which the New Testament was written), this is one word—a word often written across bills to mark them “paid in full.” It serves as proof that you don’t owe anything. Think of the joy and relief this brings. Think about ways and illustrations you could use to convey this to your Mormon friend.
2. One of the best-known parables Jesus told was of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15). When did the Father forgive the son? This is a wonderful illustration of the truth of 2 Corinthians 5:19. Practice telling the story, especially paying attention to ways that you could emphasize that the Father’s forgiveness was not dependent on anything the son did.

▶ **Video: Lesson 9 Part 2**

#### C. Proclaim the proper place of works

1. Mormons struggle mightily over the fact we don’t have to do anything to be saved
2. Have realistic expectations
  - Mormons won’t be able to understand until they are brought to faith in Jesus

- Simply proclaim the biblical truth that good works are the result of salvation
  - Good works are fruits not roots
  - Good works come naturally

#### D. Proclaim more than explain

1. Explaining: like teaching, aims at the head
2. Proclaiming: like preaching, aims at the heart
3. Our goal is to turn Mormon stress points into rest points in Christ.

## PILLAR FIVE PILING

***Isaiah 55:10-11 “As the rain and snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.”***



### Pause for Reflection

3. One way to combat a Mormon's criticism that salvation without works will give people a license to sin is to emphasize that **love is stronger than law**. This means that people will be motivated even more by love than by law (commandments) to do good. Think of examples illustrating this. A common one would be how one spouse does a lot, even lives sacrificially, for the other spouse.
  
4. Become familiar with James 2:18-26.
  - The setting and context are so important. According to v. 18, what is the point under discussion?
  
  - James uses Abraham as an example. It is critical to see chronologically the two events he mentions from Abraham's life. When did the event related in v. 21 occur in relationship to the one in verse 23? How does being "credited with righteousness" (v. 23) differ from being "considered righteous" (v. 21)? When was Abraham saved?

## Closing Prayer

Thank you, Heavenly Father, for continuing to love me even when I have strayed from you. Thank you for always being so eager to forgive me. Thank you for telling me so many times that I am forgiven in Christ.

Lord, others need to have what I have. Open my eyes to see the many opportunities you give me to tell others about your amazing love. Open my mouth so I joyfully and confidently proclaim it. May your Holy Spirit then use my words to create saving faith in their hearts. Amen.

## Additional Reading

The following articles, available at [beyeperfect.org](http://beyeperfect.org), will provide additional insight:

- [\*"When Does a Person Know they are Forgiven by God?"\*](#)
- [\*"The Parable of the Prodigal Son"\*](#)
- [\*"Sins Eight Miles Down"\*](#)
- [\*"Faith and Works"\*](#)
- [\*"A License to Sin?"\*](#)

The following blogs, all available at [tilm.org](http://tilm.org), will also provide insight:

- [\*A Chairō Christmas\*](#)
- [\*Don't Try to be Good?\*](#)
- [\*Proclaim or Explain\*](#)
- [\*At Easter, God Gave You a Valuable Receipt\*](#)
- [\*Don't Make the Fruit the Root\*](#)
- [\*Giving Us Piano Lessons or Making Us Pianists?\*](#)

# Lesson Ten: The Importance of Walking on the Bridge



## ▶ Video: Lesson 10 Part 1

### **Introduction: Begin witnessing in a low-risk relationship**

#### **A. Our challenge and encouragement: begin witnessing in the next three weeks**

1. We can supply you with a low-risk relationship: LDS missionaries
  
2. Ready-made program: Please Open the Door
  - Has been used successfully by hundreds of people
    - Many meet 6-8 times with their missionaries
  
    - Tremendous success without diminishing the truth
  
  - Many resources are available at [witnessinlove.org/potd](http://witnessinlove.org/potd)
    - Outline of visits with detailed instructions
  
    - Articles on Bible passages

- Articles on LDS interpretations
  - Opportunity to have a personal mentor
3. Contact the LDS Church to request a visit by the missionaries

### Pause for Reflection

1. It would be good to take a little time to explore [witnessinlove.org/potd](http://witnessinlove.org/potd). You will have to subscribe to see most of the articles. It's a very simple procedure. If you also want to have a mentor, please request one.

### ▶ Video: Lesson 10 Part 2

#### **B. A glimpse into the life of a Mormon missionary**

1. Young men
  - Not required to serve a mission but feel pressured
  - Most go when they are 18 years old and serve for 2 years
  - Only receive 2 weeks of training
  - Are to be totally devoted to their mission: no TV, internet, video games, secular books or music

- They have to be with their companion 24/7
- They regularly change companions and are moved around to different areas
- They regularly encounter rejection
- All this results in many who are lonely and homesick

2. Young women

- Go on their mission at age 19 and serve for 18 months
- Are not pressured to go on a mission so tend to be more committed to Mormonism
- They need to follow the same rules and experience the same things as the young men

3. It is very impactful when Christians treat them kindly

- Family meals
- Service activities
- Invite them to church

**Conclusion: Mormon missionaries are truly mission prospects**

### Pause for Reflection

2. Please take [this brief survey](#). Your input and insights are important to us. Thank you in advance for sharing your thoughts with us.

### Closing Prayer

Loving Father,

Have mercy on all Mormons. Today I especially pray for the Mormon missionaries. Have Christians treat them lovingly. More importantly, move Christians to take the time to lovingly share Jesus with them. Open the hearts of the missionaries so that they too look to Jesus and his work for their salvation.

Lord, also move me to share Jesus. I ask that you give me the confidence and courage to invite the Mormon missionaries to my house. Help me overcome my hesitation so that I can serve you as your joyful witness and ambassador. To you be all glory. Amen.

### Additional Reading

The LDS [Missionary Handbook](#) is available on [churchofjesuschrist.org](#) (formerly lds.org).

The following blogs, all available at [tilm.org](#), will also provide insight:

- [Help Us Reduce Fremdschämen](#)
- [The Pressures Experienced by Mormon Missionaries](#)