

LEADER'S GUIDE

BUILD BRIDGES NOT BARRIERS





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About this Guide



INTRODUCTION

Over the years, we have repeatedly experienced something quite interesting. We train people to witness to Mormons, but they don't stop there. They use the same philosophy and principles to witness to a wide variety of people. They become on-fire witnesses to anybody and everybody.

Suddenly the light bulb went on for us. One of best ways for people to learn about witnessing in general is by learning how to witness to a specific group. Too often, when Christians are trained to witness with no specific audience in mind, they have difficulty applying or remembering their training. When, however, they focus on a specific audience, the philosophy and principles become much more ingrained in them.

This course is about witnessing to Mormons. It is relevant to people regardless of where they live. The Mormon church is expanding in all parts of the country and throughout the world. In addition, there are Mormon missionaries everywhere. This is especially pertinent because we have an intensive program for witnessing to Mormon missionaries, called **Please Open the Door**, where people can immediately put into practice what they have learned.

This course, however, is more than just about witnessing to Mormons. As stated above, our philosophy and principles work well no matter who the audience is. In a very real way, it is a course on general witnessing set in the framework of witnessing to Mormons.

THE COURSE'S DESIGN

It is a video-based course. Every lesson has two video segments followed by questions for reflection. These will serve well as discussion questions for the group.

Please ensure that each student has a copy of the written study guide for the lesson you will be studying. The study guide lists the main points of the lesson but also leaves ample space for students to add their own notes – something we ask you to encourage.

As the leader, you should also print out the reflection guide as this gives some suggested answers to the reflection questions. There will be other answers to the reflection questions. We intended the reflection guide only to get people's juices flowing. It is our hope and prayer that your group will expand on these answers.

Both the study guide and reflection guide can be downloaded by accessing the Build Bridges Not Barriers course home page at **tilm.org/account**.

About this Guide



PREPARATION

The course is designed to keep your preparation to a minimum. The video segments contain all the pertinent information. We highly suggest you view each lesson before leading it.

The short video course **Mormonism's Plan of Salvation** gives an overview of LDS teaching and how it affects LDS members. If you have time, it would be valuable for you to view it. It furnishes valuable background. Visit tilm.org/plan to access this course.

It might also prove useful to have a copy of **Speaking the Truth in Love to Mormons** as well as **God—The Ultimate Humanitarian** handy since they are often referred to. These are available for purchase at **tilm.org/store**.

Make sure beforehand that you have no issues with the equipment needed to show the video segments.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

- Encourage people to visit **tilm.org**. They can view the lesson there if they miss a class or want to review it on their own.
- **Speaking the Truth in Love to Mormons** and **God—The Ultimate Humanitarian** are referred to often. Please encourage your students to order the package deal containing both books from tilm.org/store.
- We also encourage you and your group participants to join the Truth in Love Online Community Facebook group. This is a great place to ask questions, discuss scenarios and encourage one another to witness. Instructions for joining the Facebook group are found in the online course.
- If questions arise that you can't answer, feel free to contact us. We are eager and willing to help you. Email us at **info@tilm.org** and we will try to respond in timely fashion.

Lesson One: Introduction



PART ONE

The first video segment addresses the reason why we witness to Mormons by citing four non-scriptural LDS teachings. These are just a small sampling of Mormonism's non-Christian beliefs. The section on additional reading at the end of the lesson gives you several other resources addressing this topic in more depth. The video course, Mormonism's Plan of Salvation, also does this.

This is a course on witnessing to Mormons and not on Mormonism itself. Mormon teachings are referred to only as they pertain to witnessing. We did not include a thorough review of Mormonism because we want to combat the common feeling that Christians must become experts in Mormonism before they can witness to a Mormon. In fact, not only is a thorough knowledge of Mormonism not necessary in order to witness to Mormons, it can be detrimental. The better a person knows Mormonism, the more tempted they will be to get sidetracked and focus on minor issues.

FOR ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION:

- Ask if anyone has made either of the two mistakes: tried witnessing without establishing a
 relationship first or building a relationship but not witnessing. Ask them how it turned out for
 them. Occasionally, a person might have had a good witnessing experience with a stranger.
 Even then, however, they often spent a little time getting to know them first. For example,
 when we go door to door, we have many good witnessing experiences but this doesn't
 happen if we immediately begin to witness.
- Ask which of the four LDS teachings troubled them the most. Each is troubling. Asking
 why a particular teaching troubled them will help people better grasp that Mormonism is
 dangerous on a number of different levels.

Lesson One: Introduction



PART TWO

The second video segment deals with barriers. Some Christians try to avoid the unavoidable barrier of Christ's death on the cross for us by not talking about this with Mormons or any unbeliever. And then they dig their heels in on not bending when it comes to the avoidable barriers. This needs to be honestly addressed.

The key is adopting Paul's mission mindset. This is covered quite quickly in the video.

FOR ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION

If you have time, we encourage you to have the class read and discuss 1 Corinthians 9:19-23.

¹⁹ Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. ²⁰ To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. ²¹ To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. ²² To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. ²³ I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

Five times Paul says he "became." Talk about the difference between "becoming" and "understanding." Become is an action word – it involves change. Understanding takes study but not change.

Talk about the word "slave." Many people, without thinking, first imagine that Paul is saying he is Jesus' slave. You might have to emphasize that he is saying he has become a slave to all people. Discuss how being the slave of your neighbor, your co-worker, etc. would play out.

Note how Paul says he does this that he "might save some." We often shy away from talking like that. We emphasize that the Holy Spirit is the one doing the saving. How can Paul, and we, say this in a God-pleasing way?

He ends by talking about sharing in the blessings of the gospel. Discuss what that means. Some ideas: The more we share the faith, the stronger we grow in the faith. When we witness, we see the power of God's Word in action. When we witness, we appreciate even more the blessings we have

Lesson Two: Build on Bedrock



Note: This lesson has three parts corresponding to the three bedrock principles.

PART ONE

The first video segment addresses the vital scriptural truth that Jesus is our <u>Substitute</u>. This contrasts with Mormonism's emphasis of Jesus being their <u>Exemplar</u>. A later lesson explores how Jesus was our substitute not just at his death but throughout his life. This is a thought that you could introduce here or wait until it comes up later. Chapter nine of **God—The Ultimate Humanitarian** expands on it.

The video references the LDS parable of the creditor, debtor, and mediator. The entire parable can be found in chapter three of *Speaking the Truth in Love to Mormons* under the section, "Jesus as Creditor."

FOR ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION

An additional discussion question could center around how most unbelievers still today have a good view of Jesus, just not high enough. You could Google what do people think of Jesus to get examples.

Lesson Two: Build on Bedrock



PART TWO

The second video segment tackles a topic that is not only unfamiliar to many Christians but also one, at first, that makes them uneasy – our status in Christ. Some will struggle to see themselves, much less describe themselves, with the exalted terms the Bible uses. Be sure that people see clearly the difference between the wonderful status God has given us and the state of sinning believers are in.

FOR ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION

Chapter 12 of *God—The Ultimate Humanitarian* deals with this in more depth. You could also use the "Further Reflection" points at the end of that chapter as additional discussion points.

Lesson Two: Build on Bedrock



PART THREE

The third video segment deals with a somewhat different bedrock principle – remembering the process God uses to bring people to faith. It is one that isn't intended to share with Mormons. Rather it is one Christians must regularly be reminded of so they don't become discouraged.

FOR ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION

- Ask how many ever thought if only they would have said this or that, the person would have believed? Have them share times when they unintentionally viewed themselves as the lawyer whose job it was to convert somebody.
- You could also talk about how we want instant results, instant conversions. Hopefully there
 is somebody in the group who can share how it took them time sometimes a long time –
 before they believed.

Lesson Three: See Mormons as Victims, Not Enemies



PART ONE

The first video segment talks about having the right mindset. This is a vitally important aspect of witnessing, but one that is often not addressed.

A Mormon bishop has no theological training. They are called from a ward's (the LDS term for congregation) membership. They usually are quite successful and thus busy men. They are required to give 20-40 hours a week to the church on top of their regular jobs. Their main responsibility is to judge the worthiness of the members.

It would be good to emphasize that the two LDS scriptures quoted are two of the most familiar passages to Mormons. Mormons hear them regularly.

FOR ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION

The video talks about wearing a mask as one of the cultural characteristics of Mormonism. It further talks about how some hide the fact that they are breaking the Word of Wisdom. This all leads to unresolved guilt. Discuss the pain guilt brings on people. You could talk about how sometimes people years later will confess to something just because guilt was like a corrosive acid eating away at them.

Lesson Three: See Mormons as Victims, Not Enemies



PART TWO

The second video segment highlights four Bible passages that talk about the state unbelievers are in. This is important to review because sometimes we forget that unbelievers are hurting. After all, many – including many Mormons – act happy. It's true that some can be enjoying life at that moment, but it's more common that they are hurting. They just aren't showing it. And even if they are enjoying life temporarily, they have a horrendous future awaiting them. Psalm 73 emphasizes this.

This is the first lesson with a Bible verse as a "piling." Encourage the group to focus on it this week. Think about it daily. Discuss it with friends and family. Memorize it. Live it.

FOR ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION

Consider discussing Psalm 73.

- V. 2: The danger of thinking that the unbelievers are prospering.
- Vs. 3-12: His description of the unbelievers. Who has thought similar thoughts?
- Vs. 13-15: The unnecessary pain of this warped thinking.
- Vs. 16-17: Doing the right thing: going to God for the answers.
- Vs. 18-20: God's answer: see their future.

WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU.

It's at this point that many group members begin to open up about their personal experiences. Is this true for your group? We would love to hear your key takeaways and stories. These comments are so helpful to others who are considering taking the course.

Email info@tilm.org to share your thoughts or experiences.

Lesson Four: Treat Mormons with Genuine Love & Respect



PART ONE

The first video segment lists some common courtesies. Unfortunately, however, when it comes to Mormons, these courtesies aren't so common. Mormon missionaries are often treated quite rudely by Christians. In populations with a heavy concentration of Mormons, many Christians resent them. It might be good to expand on this.

The sacred undergarments are to always remind them of the covenant they made to remain faithful to God. Many also feel as if they give bodily protection.

You might have somebody in your group make an insensitive remark about Mormons. See that as an opportunity to put this lesson into practice. Openly and lovingly address it. Agree that you will help each other by holding everybody accountable to talking respectfully.

FOR ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION

- In the video, the question is asked whether the Mormon missionaries being at their door is a coincidence. We often talk about God giving us "divine appointments." This is our way of reminding ourselves that when God is in control, there are no such things as coincidences. Ask if people think like that and how that would change their behavior?
- Ask how they reacted when or if Mormon missionaries knocked on their door. Even if they
 weren't rude, did they try to get into a conversation, or did they try to end it? Did they leave
 the Mormon missionaries with a good impression of Christianity or not so good?
- Discuss the deadliness of even a single comment. Talk about how one statement has ruined relationships. Highlight how common it is to remember a biting statement for many years.

Lesson Four: Treat Mormons with Genuine Love & Respect



PART TWO

The second video segment is all about listening. You could prepare for this segment with a little role-playing. Privately ask a member of your group to help you. Ask them to make a statement or ask a question. You will respond by not listening – making your inattention obvious. It probably will get some laughs, but it will also make the point.

Once again, draw attention to the piling. It might be good to review the first piling and any thoughts they had on it.

It would also be good if you had copies of the Profile mentioned in the reflection question for every member of the class. This can be found in the course materials on **tilm.org**. If you have time, walk through it with them.

Lesson Five: Focus on Mormon Stress Points, Part 1



PART ONE

The first video segment introduces something that Christians don't do naturally and often struggle to do even after being encouraged. Namely, to focus not on the LDS teachings that Christians find offensive but on those which give Mormons stress. This shift is difficult for many Christians to make. It might be well for you to stress this as you introduce the video.

The video then highlights the toxic perfectionism of Mormonism. It is difficult to over-emphasize how much this permeates Mormon culture and the lives of individual Mormons. For example, the September 2019 issue of the Ensign, their monthly magazine, has four short articles on perfectionism with an additional six digital articles.

FOR ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION

Choose one of these articles and discuss with your group.

Instructions for Accessing

Visit churchofjesuschrist.org > Libraries > Gospel Libraries > Magazines > Ensign > September 2019 Issue.

Choose an article on perfectionism that strikes you and make a copy for each member of the class. Discuss the points that strike you.

Lesson Five: Focus on Mormon Stress Points, Part 1



PART TWO

The second video segment previews a way to witness that focuses on perfection. This is spelled out in more detail in chapters eight and nine of *Speaking the Truth in Love to Mormons*.

This lesson centers on using God's law and gospel. Make sure that the class has a good understanding of these two terms.

Law	God's Commands	Key idea is what we are to do.
Gospel	God's Promises	Key idea is what God has done for us.

It is difficult for Mormons to see the danger of adding their works to God's grace. Visit **tilm. org/scenarios/grace-plus-illustrations** to access some illustrations that have proven useful in explaining this.

Once again, please point to the piling for this lesson.

FOR ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION

It is not uncommon for Christians to feel uncomfortable describing themselves as perfect. Ask if anybody feels that way. If so, it would be wise to review with them the second bedrock principle explained in lesson two. It is vitally important for Christians to become comfortable and confident with their exalted status — not only so they rejoice in it but also so they witness confidently about it.

Lesson Six: Focus on Mormon Stress Points, Part 2



PART ONE

The first video segment introduces two specific pressures Mormons often face: always being tested and having every blessing be conditioned on their worthiness.

We can not over-emphasize how dominant the idea of testing is. One common way this comes out in Mormonism is describing this life as "probationary."

Mention is made that there are no unconditional blessings in Mormonism. The LDS scripture, quoted in lesson three, is 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 blessings from God, it is by obedience to the law upon which it is predicated."

The thought that Mormonism is a self-centered religion is one which some people might debate. After all, Mormons are known for their charity work, etc. The point, however, remains true. The motivation is always self-improvement and advancement of self.

FOR ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION

Another way Mormonism puts pressure on their members is by telling them to continually improve and progress. Discuss how that could be quite discouraging.

Lesson Six: Focus on Mormon Stress Points, Part 2



PART TWO

The second video segment highlights three more specific pressures Mormons experience: Jesus as their example, forgiveness needs to be earned, and uncertainty about living eternally with God.

The quote from Spencer W. Kimball talks about being forgiven only after centuries. Mormonism teaches that, after death, everybody enters a spirit world where they can continue to work. Our brief video course, *Mormonism's Plan of Salvation*, explains how this all fits together. You can access this at **tilm.org/plan**.

A popular term for an inactive Mormon is "jack Mormon." Many become inactive not because they aren't religious but because they realize Mormonism is an impossible religion to live.

Since this is the second lesson on addressing their stress points there is no new piling for this lesson. Refer back to the piling for this pillar – Hebrews 10:14.

FOR ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION

- The context of Bible verses is so important when interpreting them. This is vital in regard to those verses commanding us to do something or when Jesus is held up as an example. One important thing to see is who is being addressed: believers or unbelievers. Discuss how you would explain Ephesians 5:31 6:2 to a Mormon.
- A key element in our witnessing approach is expressing confidence in living eternally with Heavenly Father. Romans 5:1-11 talks about this. Three times Paul talks about boasting (some translations have rejoicing). We can confidently boast about our hope (v.2) because it rests entirely on God's saving work through Christ. Therefore, we can be certain we will be saved. Note how Paul uses "how much more" in verses 9 and 10. Work through this section to insure everybody is certain about their blessed eternity.

Lesson Seven: Speak the Mormon Language



PART ONE

The first video segment lays out two general principles when talking with Mormons: getting on their wavelength and careful use of the Bible. This emphasizes that speaking their language involves more than being alert to different definitions.

The witnessing scenarios on **tilm.org/scenarios** give dozens of examples of how to share specific passages.

FOR ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION

Discuss how making our witness personal is not only powerful, but it can also avoid arguments. Mormons are so focused on feelings that they are impressed when we joyfully bear our testimony. Not only does this impress them but they rarely argue about it. They might not agree with it, but they respect it. It's difficult to come down hard on somebody's heartfelt passion.

Lesson Seven: Speak the Mormon Language



PART TWO

The second video segment focuses on how Mormonism defines words differently.

There is a witnessing scenario entitled *Eternal Life: Gift or Reward* (available at tilm.org/scenarios/eternal-life-a-gift-or-a-reward) that shows how you can talk about eternal life.

Highlight the fourth piling: 1 Corinthians 9:19.

FOR ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION

Use the Dictionary of Mormonese to pick other words to discuss.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO APPLY

As your group approaches the last few lessons of the course, many individuals will be wondering how they can apply what they are learning. This is a great time to share the **Please Open the Door handout** found in the Outreach Materials.

Please Open the Door is a natural next step for many as it provides a low-risk environment for implementing what you've learned. We have found that when individuals plan to begin witnessing either to Mormon missionaries, a friend, or a loved one within three weeks of completing the course, they are much more likely to confidently share their faith and what Jesus has done for them. This is a challenge we encourage you to give to your group.

Visit tilm.org/potd to learn more.

Lesson Eight: Witness Christ, Don't Debate Mormonism, Part 1



PART ONE

The first video segment spells out the difference between polemics, apologetics, and witnessing. Sometimes Christians use the words polemics and apologetics interchangeably and without careful definition. Therefore, you could introduce this segment by asking the class what they think these two words mean.

FOR ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION

Ask what experiences they have had when trying to use either polemics or apologetics. Were their experiences similar to those mentioned in the video? You could also discuss how both could be important and effective in showing Christians why Mormonism is non-Christian. The one danger is that Christians then will have the tendency to use this material when witnessing to Mormons.

Lesson Eight: Witness Christ, Don't Debate Mormonism, Part 1



PART TWO

The second video segment focuses on using God's law to show Mormons their sin and prepare them for the gospel.

Sometimes people limit God's law to the Ten Commandments. They serve as a summary of the law but they are not the whole law. All commands of God are part of his law.

Other times, people get confused about all the commands in the Old Testament and wonder which ones, if any, still apply. A simple rule of thumb is that if the command is not repeated in the New Testament, it more than likely only applied to Old Testament Israel.

FOR ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION

In the witnessing scenarios on **tilm.org/scenarios** there are a number of examples of how to use specific passages to proclaim the law. Pick one and discuss it with the group.

Lesson Nine: Witness Christ, Don't Debate Mormonism, Part 2



PART ONE

The first video segment concentrates on proclaiming the gospel, especially two aspects that Christians often do not mention. It might be good, before showing this segment, to ask the group what they would emphasize in sharing the gospel. Most will mention Jesus' dying for us. This is good but it is not the whole story.

Another passage that teaches Jesus kept the law for us is Romans 10:4. The word translated "end" comes from the same Greek word for perfect (and also finished in John 10:30).

FOR ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION

Discuss how difficult it must have been for Jesus to be under the law. You could compare it to living under the rules that are placed on a two-year-old. Rules like when to go to bed, what to wear, not going anywhere without the parent, etc.

In the lesson, we refer to Leah's story. We have created a short video dramatizing her story. It is linked in The Runaway Teen witnessing scenario found at tilm.org/scenarios/the-runaway-teen/. You could show this brief video both to reinforce the story but also to generate discussion about it.

Lesson Nine: Witness Christ, Don't Debate Mormonism, Part 2



PART TWO

The second video segment tackles a topic near and dear to every Mormon – the place of works in the matter of salvation. The Bible is clear: our works do not contribute to our salvation; they are the result, not the cause, of salvation.

The other point this segment emphasizes is the difference between proclaiming and explaining. It encourages more proclaiming and less explaining.

FOR ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION

Point them to the piling for the fifth pillar: Is. 55:10-11. Discuss this wonderful promise.

Lesson Ten: Importance of Walking on the Bridge



PART ONE

The first video segment encourages the group to quickly put into practice what they have learned. This is so important! Without quickly applying these principles, they can be quickly forgotten.

Our approach to witnessing to Mormon missionaries is proactive, not reactive. In other words, we don't wait for them to knock on our door. We contact the Mormon church and ask them to send missionaries.

FOR ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION

Ask the group to share times when they wanted to witness to a friend or family member but they were afraid to do so because they didn't want to damage the relationship. Emphasize that many people have found that by following these principles, they have witnessed in such relationships without damaging them.

Lesson Ten: Importance of Walking on the Bridge



PART TWO

The second video segment gives a picture of the life of a Mormon missionary. The Mormon Church has started addressing some of the pressures they feel by relaxing a few of its mission rules. But it is still a very difficult experience. This is seen in the fact that many return early from their mission.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION TOPICS

- In connection with their taking the survey, you could discuss, as a group, what points in the course were significant to them.
- Receiving support in witnessing is vital. Discuss the feasibility of starting a witnessing support
 group which would meet regularly. Such a group could do a Bible Study focused on outreach;
 share their experiences and ask for advice; pray for each member and the people whom they
 are witnessing to.

YOUR FEEDBACK MATTERS

Now that the course has completed, we have one last request of you. Would you please take a few minutes to complete our **Group Leader Survey?** Your feedback will help us improve this course for many more Christians who have a mission heart like yours. This survey is a little different than the participant survey that was included at the end of the course. We invite you to complete both.

Group Leader Survey: tilm.org/build-bridges-not-barriers-group-survey

Participant Survey: tilm.org/survey