

How to be a Missionary to Mormons

1. The Mormon missionaries will usually come in pairs when they knock at your door. They will usually declare that they have something important to tell you. Invite them in and offer them a glass of water.

2. As a team the pair will go through the present version of their history of how their religion came to be, starting with the story of Joseph Smith. Allow them to give the whole presentation without any interruptions. Throughout the presentation you need to pray and listen intently.

3. When they are done giving their version of the history of their religion they will give their testimony. It will go something like this: "I testify to you that Joseph Smith is a prophet of God...the Mormon church is true...Jesus is the Christ...the president of the Mormon church is a prophet on the earth today...and I say this in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen."

4. They will then offer you a book of Mormon summarizing a part of the preface that reads, "We invite all men everywhere to read the Book of Mormon, to ponder in their hearts the message it contains, and then **to ask God**, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ if the book is true. Those who pursue this course and **ask in faith** will gain a testimony of its truth and divinity by the power of the Holy Ghost" (see Moroni 10:3-5). This is usually the close of the presentation. The missionaries will now be waiting for your reaction.

5. Politely accept the book of Mormon from them. Whatever you do with it, it is one less copy they can give out that day. Then excuse yourself for a moment while you retrieve the second page of this handout containing some serious discrepancies between the Book of Mormon and the official teachings of Mormonism and its prophets. When you return show them list and say that you got it at a lecture and that you would like to get their take on it.

6. At each point make them decide between the left column containing a quote from the book of Mormon which is in their words the "word of God and fullness of the Gospel" and the second quotation from other Mormon literature. They can't have it both ways and don't let them. It may be helpful to ask them to turn to Moroni 10:3-5 and to read it out loud to you more than once throughout the discussion. The basic idea here is to get them to align themselves with the Book of Mormon or the official teachings of the LDS church. If they align themselves with the Book of Mormon you spend the next visit showing them inconsistencies within the book of Mormon, its various editions, history and archeology. If they align themselves with the official teachings of the LDS church you will spend the next visit showing them inconsistencies within its teachings and history. Divide and conquer. Some tips: You ask the questions. This will help you maintain control of the conversation. Do not let them jump from topic to topic. Keep them focused on the topic being discussed. Only once they admit a problem or promise to look into an issue in order to get back to you should you move on to another topic.

7. In between the first visit and the next you will need to do some studying. There are a lot of good books out there on Mormonism, but the most valuable are those that have been written by former Mormons such as Harry L. Ropp, *The Mormon Papers*; and *Are the Mormon Scripture Reliable*.

8. At the second meeting you may want to ask them about the genetics of the American Indians, modern Egyptology and the book of Abraham (Pearl of Great Price), and finally the Great Apostasy. Be sure to be ready with Matt 28; John 14-16; 2 Tim 1-2; and an inexpensive copy of the Apostolic Fathers that you don't mind never seeing again (ex. Penguin Classics). Ask them to read it for the next visit. At the third visit invite them to come to Church with you.

Read Moroni 10:3-5. What does it mean?

Are we to pray to Jesus?

“...Jesus came and stood in the midst...he spake unto the multitude, and **commanded them that they should kneel** down again upon the earth, and also that his disciples should kneel down upon the earth. And it came to pass that when they had all knelt down upon the earth, **he commanded his disciples that they should pray**. And behold, they began to pray; and **they did pray unto Jesus**, calling him their Lord and their God.”—3 Nephi 19:15-18

“Elder Bruce R. McConkie clearly explained what our relationship with each member of the Godhead should be, pointing out that some **misguided** members of the Church may ‘**begin to pray directly to Christ** because of some special friendship they feel has been developed’ with him. **This is wrong**, said Elder McConkie. **We should pray directly to the Father...**”—*The Ensign*, June 1998, p. 59

Are we to worship Jesus?

“And now behold, I say unto you that **the right way is to believe in Christ... wherefore ye must bow down before him, and worship him** with all your might, mind, and strength, and your whole soul; and if ye do this ye shall in nowise be cast out.”—2 Nephi 25:29

“...I beheld the Son of God going forth among the children of men; and I saw **many fall down** at his feet and **worship him**.”—1 Nephi 11:24

“Hosanna! Blessed be the name of the Most High God! And they did **fall down at the feet of Jesus**, and did **worship him**.”—3 Nephi 11:17

“We Worship the Father... In an official interpretation of Moses 1:6, the First Presidency (Joseph F. Smith, Anthon H. Lund, And Charles W. Penrose) said: ‘But the **sole object of worship, God the eternal Father**, stands supreme and alone...’ Who is the **sole object of worship**?... President George Q. Cannon taught: ‘...We know also that our **Father in Heaven** should be the object of our worship... **He will not have any divided worship**. We are commanded to **worship Him**, and **Him only**.’ (*Gospel Truth*, 1:135)” —*Come Unto Christ —Melchizedek Priesthood Personal Study Guide*, 1986, p. 46-47

Has God always existed and does He ever change?

“For I know that God is not a partial God, neither a changeable being; but **he is unchangeable from all eternity to all eternity**.”—Moroni 8:18
“...the Lord Omnipotent who reigneth, who was, and is **from all eternity to all eternity**...”—Mosiah 3:5

“We have imagined and supposed that **God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea**,...he was **once a man like us**...”—*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, pp. 345-346

Does God dwell in the hearts of the righteous?

“...because the Lord hath said he dwelleth not in unholy temples, but **in the hearts of the righteous doth he dwell**...”—Alma 34:36

“...**the idea that the Father and the Son dwell in a man’s heart** is an old sectarian notion, and **is false**.”—*Doctrine and Covenants* 130:3