



DISCIPLE DEVELOPMENT MONTH

“Worldview: Exploring other Worldviews and How to Engage them with the Gospel”

Teachers: Max Dalrymple and Hayden Crisostomo

The Biblical Gospel vs. Deviations: Thinking Biblically About Mormonism and Jehova’s Witnesses

Week 1 || 01.09.24

Introduction

Class Goals:

1. Help **strengthen your biblical Christian worldview** so that you can **recognize** _____ **and** _____.
2. Help **educate** you about other religions.
3. Train the **skill of having** _____ with people from different religious backgrounds. (See 1 Pet 3:15)

Outline of the Class:

Week 1 – Christianity from the Bible versus deviations like Mormonism and Jehova’s Witnesses

Week 2 – Learning How to T Atheists and Agnostics (Feat. John Packard)

Week 3 – Learning How to Talk with Muslims (Feat. Our Friends from the Al-Maidah Initiative)

Week 4 – An Intro to New Ageism and a Week of Practice and Review (Feat. Geno Hunt)

- I. Knowing what's true from the Bible is the most important part of being able to recognize counterfeits

The Core Message of the Bible:

1. There is a _____
 - a. God is good and God is Creator (Gen 1:1, 26-27)
 - b. God is triune (Matt 3:16-17, 28:19, 2 Cor 13:14)
2. _____ separates us from God and makes us deserving of punishment
 - a. All men are inherently sinful (Rom 3:23, 6:23)
 - b. We cannot do anything to save ourselves (James 2:10)
3. _____ came to earth, died on the cross to pay for our sins, and rose again to save us from sin.
 - a. Jesus is fully God who took on full humanity (John 1:1-3, 14, 8:58, 10:30; Philip 2:3-11, Titus 2:13, Heb 2:14-18, 2 Pet 1:1)
 - b. Jesus died for our sins and rose again (1 Cor 15:3-4)
4. Whoever receives God's gift of salvation by _____ in Christ will be saved from God's wrath
 - a. We can't do anything except trust God alone for salvation (John 3:16, Rom 10:9-10, 11:6; Eph 2:8-9)
5. When God saves us, He raises us to _____, making us right with God, making us a new creation, and giving us the hope of eternity with Him.
 - a. God makes us a new creation and works in our heart to change us as we work out what He is working in us (2 Cor 5:17, Philip 2:12-13).
 - b. The hope of heaven is guaranteed to believers and we can't lose this! (John 10:27-30, Rom 8:38-39)

Notes:

II. Comparing “close” to biblically true

Mormonism

- a. Summary and basic beliefs (See their Articles of Faith at <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/comeuntochrist/article/articles-of-faith>)
- b. Tips for evangelism
 - i. Remember to have compassion because they need Christ. Show care and admiration for things you notice about them to build common ground (See example of Paul in Acts 17:22-23)
 1. They believe there is a God. This is a good place to start conversations.
 2. They desire to be nice, sincere, and hardworking.
 3. They commit themselves to their families.
 4. They commit to share their beliefs with others.
 - ii. Keep in mind that your Mormon friend may not be aware of the LDS church’s official doctrine, so many of the facts mentioned today might come as a surprise to them. If this happens, don’t get distracted with trying to prove you are right unless you believe it will help get your friend closer to trusting Christ.
 - iii. Remember that a Mormon may use the words and phrases that sound Biblically true (Jesus Christ, Son of God, salvation by faith, etc.), but they actually mean something entirely different. Because of this, it is critical that you define your terms and make sure you both are talking about the same thing. For instance, if your friend says, “I am trusting in Christ for my salvation,” you can ask these questions:
 1. “What do you mean by salvation?”
 2. “How do you define Jesus?”
 3. “Are you trusting in Christ *alone* for your salvation?”
- c. More good questions to ask:
 1. What is it like being a Mormon?
 2. What scares you the most about being a Mormon?
 3. How can a person know for sure that he or she is going to heaven?
 4. If Christianity were the one true way to know and be reconciled to God, would you accept it?

Notes:

Jehova's Witnesses

- a. Summary and basic beliefs (See JW.org article "What Do Jehova's Witnesses Believe" <https://www.jw.org/en/jehovahs-witnesses/faq/jehovah-witness-beliefs/>)
- b. Helpful tips for evangelism with Jehova's Witnesses:
 - i. Remember to have love and compassion. They're not the enemy and their biggest need is the true gospel of the hope of the true Jesus! Don't just argue but show that you care about them (2 Cor 4:4).
 - ii. Focus on Jesus and salvation rather than getting caught into the weeds. Master this concept.
 - iii. Remember that they have been trained to be guarded towards outside sources and will direct you to the JW website a lot. Use *their* translation of the Bible (New World Translation) and *their* literature to help demonstrate that *their* Bible identifies Jesus as Jehova.
 1. Show them Psalm 102:25-27 in NWT.
 2. Ask them who it is talking about and if it could be talking about anyone other than Jehova. The answer from the context of prior verses is that it's clearly Jehova.
 3. Show them Hebrews 1:8-12 in NWT. Ask them who it's talking about. The answer is the Son.
 4. Help them see that what is said about Jehova in Psalm 102 is also said about the Son in Hebrews 1. The reason is that Jesus is Jehova.
 - iv. Keep the conversation on task. If they try to jump to another passage, try to keep the conversation on the passage being discussed.
 - v. Ask good and personal questions to show that you care and to help get to their heart.
 1. What's it like being a JW? What motivates you to tell people about your beliefs?
 2. Do you have certainty of your salvation? Why or why not?
 3. If you don't have certainty of your salvation, then what makes you love God?

Notes:

Discussion Questions:

1. How would you explain God's justice to someone who believes that everyone goes to heaven?
2. How would you answer someone who claims that Jesus is not God and did not claim to be God?
3. Do you know a Mormon or Jehova's Witness? How could you begin to engage them with the gospel? Take time to pray for them.

Recommended Resources:

Stand to Reason – STR.org

Ren Pen Logic (Tim Barnett) - Instagram, Youtube: @redpenlogic, Tik Tok: @original_mrb, Facebook: Red Pen Logic with Mr. B

The Gospel Coalition – TheGospelCoalition.org

Dare 2 Share – Dare2Share.org

Answers in Genesis – AnswersinGenesis.org

Book: Delighting in the Trinity: An Introduction to the Christian Faith by Michael Reeves

With biblical discernment, you can find out more about what JW and Mormons believe from their own websites:

Jehova's Witnesses - Jw.org (Pro tip, you can order a JW to come visit you on their website!)

Mormons/Latter Day Saints – ChurchofJesusChrist.org