



'THE JESUS APPRENTICESHIP'

2023

Session 2:

How do you combat false teaching?

Questions:

1. Have you ever had a conversation on your doorstep or elsewhere with Jehovah's Witnesses (JWs) or Mormons? How did it go?
2. What would you do differently having listened to the teaching?
3. What does Norbert mean when he says there are two types of encounters – defensive and offensive?
4. When is each useful or not?
5. Look at some of the verses that talk about the title of God (see the notes) and discuss how these might be helpful in explaining the correct biblical view to JWs.
6. Discuss some of the wrong teaching of Mormonism (see the notes) and consider what how you would present the correct biblical view.
7. Should you always engage with JWs or Mormons? When would not be appropriate? How should you engage to win them for Christ?
8. Can they be saved? Discuss faith and the case of Naaman the Syrian and what Jesus says in Luke 4:14-30.
9. Have you got JW or Mormon friends or family member that you can pray for. Why not do so now with each other?

Notes:

- There are two types of encounters – defensive and offensive.
- When are they useful?
- What sort of scriptural arguments should we use?

Jehovah's Witnesses

Titles of God - You can discuss some of these verses:

- **Alpha and Omega - Revelation 1:17-18.** (Ask them who is speaking – they will say Jesus) when I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, ¹⁸ and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades

Isaiah 44:6 Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: "I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god".

- **Forgiving sins: Luke 5:20-21** And when He saw their faith, He said, "Man, your sins are forgiven you." ²¹ And the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, saying, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"
- **Final Judge – Matthew 25:31-32 (Ask if Jesus is talking about judgement)** "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

Psalms 9:7-8. But the Lord sits enthroned forever; He has established His throne for justice, ⁸ and He judges the world with righteousness; He judges the peoples with uprightness.

- **God does not share His glory – Isaiah 42:8** I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols.

John 17:5 And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

- **Jesus is not an angel – Hebrews 1:5-6** For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”? Or again, “I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son”?
- **Son of man – Daniel 7:13-14** I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him.

¹⁴And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

Ask what did the Jewish leaders think Jesus was claiming? What charges did they bring against him?

- What is a really good way to explain the Trinity?

Mormons

- **Mormons claim that God the Father was once a man and that he then progressed to godhood (that is, he is a now-exalted, immortal man with a flesh-and-bone body)**

How should we respond when we are on the offence?

1. How did creation come about? According to science the Universe had a beginning. Who created it?
2. Where did our ability to achieve godhood come from?
3. How does evolution account for it?
4. How does naturalism account for the spiritual realm?

How should we respond when we are on the defence?

1. However, based on the Bible, God is not and has never been a man (Numbers 23:19 & Hosea 11:9. He is a Spirit (John 4:24), and a spirit does not have flesh and bones (Luke 24:39).
- **Mormons believe that the Trinity consists not of three persons in one God but rather of three distinct gods. According to Mormonism, there are potentially many thousands of gods besides these.**

Defence - There is only one true God (Deuteronomy 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. God /Elohim/ is a plural word. It refers to one entity in unity)

Offence

1. The argument for the logic of the Trinity has already been made. Also, God is a relational God. It shows in marriage (the two becomes one flesh), being united with God through the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthian 6:17).
 2. Where did these other gods come from? Where are the humans who are in the middle of transitioning?
- **Mormons believe that humans, like God the Father, can go through a process of exaltation to godhood.**

Defence - Wanting to become like God caused our fall (Genesis 3)

Offence - Same problem as regarding the Father becoming God.

- **Mormons believe that Adam's transgression was a noble act that made it possible for humans to become mortal, a necessary step on the path to exaltation to godhood.**
1. Does that mean that God the Father, the creator of the Universe, was born after Adam?

- **Mormons believe that God gives to (virtually) everyone a general salvation to immortal life in one of the heavenly kingdoms, which is how they understand salvation by grace.**

1. What do they do about sin?

Salvation

How can they be saved?

The answer is in the below scriptures or simply faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross.

- The most important question is if they can be saved, and the answer is the same in both cases.
- Luke 4:14-30 - And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian
- 2 Kings 5:1-19 - Naaman went to Elisha. Simple task to dip seven times in the river of Jordan. Naaman had to bow before an idol in the House of Rimmon. He would not have known any of the Jewish ceremonies.
- Jesus did not do many miracles (healing, in most cases, is associated with salvation) because of people's unbelief (Matthew 13:53-58 & Mark 6:1-6).