

The Truth about Mormonism

Baptism and Confirmation Invitation

Preach My Gospel – Study and Teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ

- The lessons in this chapter contain the essential doctrine, principles, and commandments of the gospel of Jesus Christ. These lessons are what the living prophets and apostles have instructed you to learn and teach. They are provided here so you can help others clearly understand the doctrine of Christ.

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 - **The Message of the Restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ**
 - **Heavenly Father's Plan of Salvation**
 - **The Gospel of Jesus Christ**
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Preach My Gospel – Study and Teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ

- Study the scriptures and treasure up the doctrine in each lesson. As you do, the Spirit will bear witness of the truths you study. He will help you know what to say and do to help others receive a witness of the truth. (See Doctrine and Covenants 84:85.)
- People will come to know the Savior more fully as they do what He has invited them to do. Extend invitations in each lesson, and help people keep their commitments. As people keep commitments, they begin to live the gospel of Jesus Christ and prepare to make covenants with God.
- Teach all the lessons before and after baptism. Full-time missionaries take the lead in teaching the lessons both times. Ward missionaries or other members participate when possible.

Preach My Gospel – Teach from Your Heart as Guided by the Spirit

Speaking to all elders and sisters, the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles stated:

“Our purpose is to teach the message of the restored gospel in such a way as to allow the Spirit to direct both the missionaries and those being taught. It is essential to learn the concepts of the [lessons], but these should not be taught by rote presentation. The missionary should feel free to use his own words as prompted by the Spirit. He should not give a memorized recitation, but speak from the heart in his own terms. He may depart from the order of the lessons, giving that which he is inspired to do, according to the interest and needs of the [person]. Speaking out of his own conviction and in his own words, he should bear testimony of the truth of his teachings.”

Genesis 8:21

And when ~~the~~ LORD Yahweh smelled the pleasing aroma, ~~the~~ LORD Yahweh said in his heart, "I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done. (ESV)

Jeremiah 17:9

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? (ESV)

Preach My Gospel – Teach and Invite According to Individual Needs

- Teach lessons that are simple, clear, and brief. Typically, a teaching visit should not be longer than 30 minutes, and you can teach a person in as few as 5 minutes.
- You will usually need multiple meetings to teach the principles in one lesson. People will often better understand your message if you teach short lessons, teach frequently, and teach small portions of material.

Preach My Gospel – The Invitation to Be Baptized and Confirmed

- We are all children of Heavenly Father. We have come to earth to have the opportunity to learn, grow, and become more like Him so we can return to His presence (see Moses 1:39). We cannot become like Him or return to Him without divine help. Our Heavenly Father sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to atone for us and break the bands of death (see 3 Nephi 27:13–22).
- We gain access to Christ’s redeeming power by exercising faith in Him unto repentance, being baptized, receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost through confirmation, and enduring to the end. Keeping the covenant of baptism is the first step in binding ourselves to God so the Holy Ghost can cleanse, strengthen, and change our nature for the better. Experiencing this sanctifying influence is called spiritual rebirth. (See 2 Nephi 31:7, 13–14, 20–21; Mosiah 5:1–7; 18; 27:24; 3 Nephi 27:20; John 3:5.)
- Spiritual rebirth begins when we are baptized by water and the Spirit. Baptism is a joyous and hopeful ordinance. When we are baptized with a broken heart and contrite spirit, we start life anew with God’s sustaining power. After we are baptized and confirmed, we can continue to be strengthened by partaking of the sacrament worthily. (See 2 Nephi 31:13; Mosiah 18:7–16; Moroni 6:2; Doctrine and Covenants 20:37.)

Preach My Gospel – The Invitation to Be Baptized and Confirmed

- As you feel guided by the Spirit, invite people to be baptized and confirmed. This may happen during any lesson.
- Teach the doctrine of baptism and help people understand the doctrine of Christ (see lesson 3). Teach about the importance and joy of the baptismal covenant, of receiving a remission of sins, and of receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost through confirmation.

Preach My Gospel – The Invitation to Be Baptized and Confirmed

- Prepare people for the baptismal invitation by making sure they understand what you have taught and the covenant they will make. The covenant of baptism is as follows:
 - Be willing to take upon us the name of Jesus Christ.
 - Keep the commandments of God.
 - Serve God and others.
 - Endure to the end. (See lesson 4.)

Preach My Gospel – The Invitation to Be Baptized and Confirmed

- You might share the following:
- *“When we are baptized, we ‘witness before [God] that [we] have entered into a covenant with him, that [we] will serve him and keep his commandments.’ As we make this covenant, He promises that He will ‘pour out his Spirit more abundantly upon [us]’ (Mosiah 18:10).”*
- Your invitation to be baptized should be specific and direct. You might say:
- *“Will you follow the example of Jesus Christ by being baptized by someone who has been ordained to perform this ordinance? We will help you prepare for baptism. We believe you can be ready on [date]. Will you prepare to be baptized on that date?”*
- As with any invitation you extend, promise the great blessings people will receive as they accept the invitation to be baptized and keep the associated covenants. Share your testimony of these blessings.
- Teach that baptism and confirmation are not a final destination. Rather, they are a point along the path of conversion that brings hope, joy, and the power of God more fully into a person’s life (see Mosiah 27:25–26). After people are baptized and confirmed, they can look forward to being sanctified by the Spirit as they progress along the covenant path.
- If possible, invite those you are teaching to attend a baptismal service and a sacrament meeting during which someone is confirmed.

Why the Bible?

- I will be referencing the Bible (I will use the English Standard Version [ESV] unless otherwise indicated) as my primary source when debating the doctrines of the Mormon faith
- The Bible is thousands of years old and there is a plethora of manuscript evidence of its authenticity with little variation
- The Bible has stood the test of time and was and perhaps still is the best selling book of all time
- The Bible is accurate, coherent and when taken as an entire entity, in my opinion, cannot be logically disproven

Don't Believe Me!

- Act 17:10-11 The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue. Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so. (ESV)

Yahweh God Does Not Change

- **Mal 3:6** “For I the ~~LORD~~ Yahweh do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. (ESV)
- **Heb 13:8** Jesus Christ (Yeshua Hamashiach) is the same yesterday and today and forever. (ESV)
- **Num 23:19** God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it? (ESV)
- **Isa 40:8** The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. (ESV)
- **Mat 24:35** Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. (ESV)

Washing/Bathing/Baptism?

- The washing of feet was an ancient Hebrew custom of hospitality and is mentioned many times in the Bible
- Washing was introduced as part of what many refer to as the “Law of Moses” when referring to the cultic rituals for the Levites in particular the priests of the order of Aaron. There are mentions of them being commanded to wash with some instances detailing the washing of feet and hands in others bathing the entire body. Washing of clothing was likewise commanded.
- Certain cleansing rituals to restore cultic cleanliness included bathing in water and washing of clothes.

Baptism?

- Baptism is not found directly until the Gospel accounts, but as we just covered washing and bathing were part of cultic ritual cleanliness
- While the Tabernacle in the wilderness did not contain a brazen sea it did contain a laver, but these were small and mostly accommodated the washing of the feet and hands
- When Solomon built the temple and later renovations it included a brazen sea that was large enough for bathing by full immersion
- Of course, John the Baptist performed baptism by full immersion in the Jordan River
- As you likely are aware Yeshua (Jesus) was baptized by John the Baptist (likely about age 30)
- The Apostles also continued this practice after the ascension of the Savior

Acts 8:18-20

Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, saying, "Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! (ESV)

Receiving the Holy Spirit

- We see the Holy Spirit active throughout the Bible
- Reception of the Holy Spirit is not contingent upon Baptism or the laying on of hands (Acts Chapters 2 and 10)
- Acts Chapter 8 recounts the Apostles bestowing the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands (see also Acts Chapter 19)
- A close study of the Word reflects that Yeshua/Yahweh actually baptize you with the Holy Spirit
- No connection with joining a “church”

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