

Notes:

Questions

1. Identify common themes in the characteristics and history of these three cults.

2. How does each cult view the following:
 - The Bible
 - God
 - Jesus
 - Salvation

3. Why is it important to stay focused on Jesus and the Bible when witnessing to members of JW's Witnesses, Christian Science, and Mormons?

Jehovah's Witnesses, Christian Science, Mormonism, and Biblical Christianity Compared

Topic	Jehovah's Witnesses (JWs)	Christian Science	Mormonism (LDS)	Biblical Christianity
View of Scripture	Claim the Bible, but use their own translation (New World Translation), altering key verses (e.g., John 1:1). Final authority rests with the Watchtower organization.	Claim the Bible but say it is full of errors; primary reliance on <i>Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures</i> by Mary Baker Eddy.	Use the King James Version (KJV) of the Bible, but also include the <i>Book of Mormon</i> , <i>Doctrine & Covenants</i> , and <i>Pearl of Great Price</i> . These take authority over the Bible when conflicts arise.	The Bible alone is God's inspired Word, sufficient and trustworthy (2 Timothy 3:16; John 17:17).
View of God	Strict monotheism but deny the Trinity. Jehovah alone is God; Jesus is a created being (archangel Michael).	God is understood as divine Mind, an impersonal principle—no personal Creator; distinct from creation.	Believe in God the Father as an exalted man, with a physical body; teach plurality of gods. Trinity is rejected.	One God in three Persons: Father, Son, Holy Spirit (Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19).
View of Jesus	Not eternal. A created being, identified as Michael the archangel, died on a stake, not a cross.	Jesus is seen as the “Way-shower” or divine idea, not the unique incarnate Son of God. His death has no saving power.	Jesus is the spirit-brother of Lucifer, the firstborn spirit child of Heavenly Father and Mother. Became a god through progression.	Eternal Son of God, Word made flesh, Savior through His death and resurrection (John 1:1,14; Philippians 2:6-11).
View of Salvation	Works-based: obedience to the Watchtower, door-to-door witnessing, loyalty to the organization. Only 144,000 go to heaven; others hope for life on earth.	Denial of sin's reality. “Salvation” comes by realizing that sin, sickness, and death are illusions.	Works + grace: exaltation into godhood requires faith in Christ plus temple rituals, baptism for the dead, and obedience to LDS laws.	By grace alone, through faith in Christ alone (Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 10:9).

Topic	Jehovah's Witnesses (JWs)	Christian Science	Mormonism (LDS)	Biblical Christianity
Afterlife	144,000 in heaven; faithful others live forever on a restored earth; unbelievers are annihilated.	Death is an illusion; the true self returns to the divine Mind. No biblical heaven or hell.	There are three levels of heaven (celestial, terrestrial, and telestial); the highest is reserved for faithful Mormons who keep temple covenants.	Eternal life with God for believers; eternal separation from God for the lost (John 5:24; Matthew 25:46).
Relationship to Scripture	Claim to use the Bible but distort it and put organizational writings above it.	Claim to use the Bible, but dismiss it as unreliable, replaced by Eddy's writings.	Claim to use the Bible but supplement it with new scriptures that override it.	The Bible is the final and supreme authority, rightly understood and obeyed (Psalm 119:105).

Key Takeaway

- **Jehovah's Witnesses** distort the Bible by rewriting it.
- **Christian Science** dismisses the Bible, replacing it with Mary Baker Eddy's writings.
- **Mormonism** supplements the Bible with extra books that override it.
- **Biblical Christianity** affirms the Bible alone as God's Word, pointing to salvation in Christ alone.

Proclaiming the Gospel to an adherent of JW's, Christian Science, and Mormon

1. Proclaiming the Gospel to a Jehovah's Witness

Main Barrier:

- They deny Jesus is God and put organizational loyalty above Scripture.

Approach:

- **Focus on Jesus' identity.** Gently ask: “If Jesus is only a creature, why does He receive worship (John 20:28; Hebrews 1:6)?”
- Use their own Bible (New World Translation) if possible — it still shows Christ's deity in many places (e.g., John 8:58; Colossians 1:16–17).
- Emphasize grace: salvation is not by works or belonging to an organization but by faith in Christ alone (Ephesians 2:8–9).

Key Scripture: John 1:1; John 8:58; Romans 10:9; Ephesians 2:8–9.

2. Proclaiming the Gospel to a Christian Scientist

Main Barrier:

- They deny sin, suffering, and death as real, and see Jesus only as a teacher of “spiritual principles.”

Approach:

- **Gently affirm the reality of sin and suffering.** Ask: “If sickness and death are illusions, why did Jesus physically die and rise again?”
- Emphasize Jesus’ incarnation: “The Word became flesh” (John 1:14).
- Share the hope of resurrection: Christ’s physical death and resurrection deal with real sin and real death (1 Corinthians 15:3–4, 17).

Key Scripture: John 1:14; 1 Corinthians 15:3–4, 17; Romans 5:12.

3. Proclaiming the Gospel to a Mormon (LDS)

Main Barrier:

- They add other books to Scripture, redefine God, and teach salvation by grace + works, with the ultimate goal of exaltation to godhood.

Approach:

- **Emphasize God’s uniqueness:** “Before Me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after Me” (Isaiah 43:10).
- Show that salvation is by grace alone, not temple rituals or progression (Titus 3:5; Ephesians 2:8–9).
- Focus on Jesus’ finished work: “It is finished” (John 19:30). Nothing can be added.
- Share the sufficiency of Scripture (Galatians 1:8; Jude 3).

Key Scripture: Isaiah 43:10; Ephesians 2:8–9; John 19:30; Galatians 1:8.

4. Overall Biblical Strategy

- **Ask Questions:** Instead of attacking, ask them to explain their beliefs and then gently contrast with Scripture.
- **Use Scripture Wisely:** God’s Word is powerful (Hebrews 4:12). Even if they reinterpret verses, trust the Spirit to convict.
- **Keep Christ Central:** Whatever the group, bring the conversation back to who Jesus is and what He has done on the cross.
- **Pray for Them:** Salvation is God’s work. Our role is to proclaim clearly, lovingly, and faithfully.

Summary:

- To Jehovah’s Witnesses: Show Jesus as God and salvation as a free gift, not works.
- To Christian Scientists: Show the reality of sin, death, and Jesus’ real incarnation and resurrection.
- To Mormons: Show the uniqueness of God, the sufficiency of Scripture, and the finished work of Christ.

