

# *Strategies with Latter-day Saints*

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Presented by Mike Ghiglia

- Founder/director Share the Son Ministries
- Co-pastor MorningStar Christian Fellowship
- Interim pastor Community Church of Mud Lake

[mike.ghiglia@gmail.com](mailto:mike.ghiglia@gmail.com)

[www.sharetheson.org](http://www.sharetheson.org)

Cell 208-589-0363

# *Strategies with LDS (Step 1 of 3)*

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- Identify 3 critical considerations.
- Layout a typical sharing scenario.
- Integrate practical strategies.
- Correct common mistakes Christians make.
- Step 1 is **TESTING FOR TRUTH**.

# 3 CRITICAL CONSIDERATIONS

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1. Prep the Soil & Lower the Guard.
  - a. Seeing Christ vs. hearing you
  - b. Seeing vs. agreeing (validate to demonstrate)
  - c. Invest 95 to get 5 (validate to educate)
  - d. Common ground & compliments
  - e. Respect the ranks
2. The window rules! “Go to the Gospel!”
3. Rate of return vs. one and done.

# TESTING FOR TRUTH

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“How did you come to know the truth of Joseph Smith and the LDS Church?”

## 1. The Strategy

- a. Soil & guard
- b. Cards on the table  
(Moro. 10:4; D&C 9:8-9; BoM Introduction)
- c. Create cognitive dissonance (unreliable)
- d. “Contrast brings clarity” (reliable biblical Rx)

# TESTING FOR TRUTH

“How did you come to know the truth of Joseph Smith and the LDS Church?”

1. Heart-felt Conviction
2. Prayer (Jas. 1:5)
3. The Holy Spirit
4. The Book of Mormon (BoM)
5. Prophecy, Signs & Wonders
6. Blessings
7. The “Fruit” of Good Deeds (Mt. 7:20)

# TESTING FOR TRUTH

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“How did you come to know the truth of Joseph Smith and the LDS Church?”

1. Heart-felt conviction
  - a. Validate to demonstrate
  - b. Validate to educate (Jer. 17:9; Prov. 28:26 KJV; Heb. 4:12)
  - c. Jury selection criteria
  - d. “Can you see?” “What do you think?”

# TESTING FOR TRUTH

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“How did you come to know the truth of Joseph Smith and the LDS Church?”

2. Prayer (Jas. 1:5)

a. Validate to demonstrate

b. Validate to educate (Jas 1:5; 4:1-3)

c. 2 job offers

d. “Can you see?” “What do you think?”

# TESTING FOR TRUTH

“How did you come to know the truth of Joseph Smith and the LDS Church?”

## 3. The Holy Spirit

a. Validate to demonstrate

b. Validate to educate

(2 Cor. 11:3-4; 1 Jn. 4:1-3)

c. “Can you see?” “What do you think?”



# TESTING FOR TRUTH

“How did you come to know the truth of Joseph Smith and the LDS Church?”

## 4. The Book of Mormon

a. Validate to demonstrate

b. Validate to educate

mod. Gen. 3:1-4

mod. Mk. 12:18

mod. Acts 17:3

prev. Gen. 2:16-17

prev. Mk. 12:24; cf. Ex. 3:6

prev. Acts 17:1-2, 10-12

c. LDS AoF #8; 1 Ne. 13:28; 2 Ne. 29:10 & the Bible

d. Product claims & circular reasoning

e. “Can you see?” “What do you think?”

# TESTING FOR TRUTH

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“How did you come to know the truth of Joseph Smith and the LDS Church?”

## 5. Prophecy, Signs & Wonders

a. Validate to demonstrate

b. Validate to educate

(Dt. 13:1-3; Ex. 7:8-12; Mt. 24:23-25)

c. “Can you see?” “What do you think?”

# TESTING FOR TRUTH

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“How did you come to know the truth of Joseph Smith and the LDS Church?”

## 6. Blessings

a. Validate to demonstrate

b. Validate to educate

(Mt. 5:43-46; Lk. 17:11-19)

c. “Can you see?” “What do you think?”

# TESTING FOR TRUTH

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“How did you come to know the truth of Joseph Smith and the LDS Church?”

7. The “Fruit” of Good Deeds (Mt. 7:20)
  - a. Validate to demonstrate
  - b. Validate to educate  
(World religions; Mt. 7:15-16; next slide)
  - c. The false prophet test (A or B)
  - d. “Can you see?” “What do you think?”

“Wolves in sheep’s clothing ... by their fruit you will recognize them” (**Mt. 7:15-16**)



1. The context is “false prophets” & “sheep’s clothing”
2. The “fruit” of good deeds cloaks the “fruit” of damnable doctrine (2 Cor. 11:4 – warning!).

Which prophet would most “Christians” identify as the **FALSE** prophet?

### Prophet A

- Lives by “the Golden Rule” (Mt. 7:12)
- Teaches Jesus’ spirit was resurrected

### Prophet B

- Sacrifices babies
- Teaches Jesus’ body was resurrected



# TESTING FOR TRUTH

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1. The Biblical Rx
  - a. Previous revelation tests modern.
  - b. The “fruit” of **gospel doctrine** IS reliable.
2. Why not the deity of Christ and the Trinity?
  - a. JWs & LDS (“When in Rome ... ”)
  - b. Comprehensible & teachable
  - c. Disclaimer (1 Cor. 9:22)
3. Why not false prophecies, polygamy, etc.?

# TESTING FOR TRUTH—Biblical Rx

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## Galatians 1:6-9 (NIV2011)

<sup>6</sup> I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to **a different gospel**—

<sup>7</sup> which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ.

<sup>8</sup> **But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse!**

<sup>9</sup> As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, **let them be under God's curse!**



# TESTING FOR TRUTH—Biblical Rx

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“**Let him be accursed]** Who? Anyone in heaven or on earth, in time or eternity, in Paul’s day or ours, **anyone who preaches any gospel other than the one true one.** Why? Because there is **no salvation** in a false religion.

... ‘And all those who preach false doctrines, . . . wo, wo, wo be unto them, saith the Lord God Almighty, **for they shall be thrust down to hell!**’ (2 Ne. 28:15.)”

\*LDS Apostle Bruce R. McConkie (*Doctrinal New Testament Commentary*, 1975, 2:458-459)

\*Quoted on [www.LDS.org](http://www.LDS.org) in LDS Institute Commentary on Galatians 1:1-7

# TESTING FOR TRUTH—Biblical Rx

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“Can you see?” “What do you think?”

“I’d love to know more about the restoration of Christ’s true church and the LDS doctrines of **The Great Apostasy** and **Melchizedek** priesthood authority.”

“Can we talk about this the next time we get together?”