

**ENGAGING LATTER-DAY SAINTS – ORIGIN OF LDS FAITH (VIDEO 12:59)****DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Why is Joseph Smith and his teaching so important to the LDS Church?
2. Read through 5–10 of these quotes from Mormon Prophets and Leaders about the Great Apostasy:  
<https://www.mrm.org/index-great-apostasy>
  - What statements stand out to you the most?
  - In your own words, summarize what these Mormon leaders believed about the church that you attend.
3. Read Matthew 16:18, Matthew 28:19–20, and Hebrews 13:5–6.
  - How do these passages contradict the Doctrine of the Great Apostasy?
4. Read 2 Corinthians 11:13–15.
  - Does this passage apply at all to Joseph Smith and his claims? Why or why not?
5. *Digging Deeper: Take some time as a group to read through this Gospel Topics Essay from the LDS Church about the translation of the Book of Mormon. It's always good to hear what they say in their own words:* <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/gospel-topics-essays/book-of-mormon-translation?lang=eng>
6. Why is it misleading to call the Book of Mormon a translation considering how Joseph Smith divined what was on the golden plates?
  - How are the Old and New Testaments translated into English, Spanish, or any other language?
7. After studying the history of Joseph Smith, why do you think so many people joined him in the Mormon Church?
8. In what ways do you prepare yourself, your family, and your church to spot false teachers and false doctrine?
9. Have you ever believed in something only to later discover that it was untrue? If yes, how did you realize it was untrue, and was it difficult to admit you had been deceived?

**ACTION POINTS:**

- This week, listen to “Why Mormonism is Not Christianity” by Greg Koukl:  
<https://www.str.org/w/why-mormonism-is-not-christianity-july-1-2012->
- This week, read “How Joseph Smith’s First Vision Changed over Time” by Amy Hall:  
<https://www.str.org/w/how-joseph-smith-s-first-vision-changed-over-time>

**ENGAGING LATTER-DAY SAINTS – LDS SCRIPTURE (VIDEO 14:44)****DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Which anachronisms in the Book of Mormon were most interesting to you? Why?
2. Can you think of anything in the Bible that comes close to an anachronism?
3. How could you use archaeology and non-biblical historical writings to show your LDS friends that the Bible can be verified?
4. Read Doctrine and Covenants section 21: <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/dc-testament?lang=eng>
  - a. According to D&C 21, how much authority and power did Joseph Smith have within the LDS Church?
  - b. What are some of the differences between the human authorship of the Bible and the human authorship of all Mormon scripture?
  - c. Why is it important that multiple men penned the Bible as opposed to only Joseph Smith penning the Mormon scriptures?
5. Read Abraham chapter 4 from the Pearl of Great Price: <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/pgp/abr/4?lang=eng>
  - a. What differences did you see from this heretical account of creation versus what Genesis 1 says?
  - b. Read Alma 11:26–29 in the Book of Mormon: <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/bofm/alma/11?lang=eng&id=p26-p29#p26>
    - i. How does Alma 11:26–29 contradict Abraham chapter 4?
    - ii. Why would Latter-day Saints not mind this obvious contradiction?
6. What major differences are there between true Christianity and Mormonism when it comes to the authority of the Bible and the Living Prophet?
7. Why do Latter-day Saints need a living prophet if they have revelation from God as written down by Joseph Smith?
8. Read the Gospel Topics Essay article “Mother in Heaven” from the LDS Church: <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/gospel-topics-essays/mother-in-heaven?lang=eng>
  - a. How is this teaching at odds with the Bible?
  - b. How does the LDS belief that Heavenly Father is made of flesh and bone relate to the need for a Heavenly Mother?
9. What has been most interesting to you about LDS scripture? What has been most alarming to you about LDS scripture?
10. After reading some LDS scripture today, what are your thoughts on Joseph Smith’s deception and false teachings? What techniques did he use to introduce heretical ideas into Mormonism?

**ACTION POINTS:**

- This week, read “The Bible or the Book of Mormon” by Greg Koukl: <https://www.str.org/w/the-bible-or-the-book-of-mormon->

**ENGAGING LATTER-DAY SAINTS – LDS THEOLOGY (VIDEO 16:36)****DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Have you ever had a conversation with a Latter-day Saint only to have them agree on the theology that you shared? Have you had first-hand experience using the same theological terminology, but having completely different definitions?
2. Take 10 minutes to peruse this “Dictionary of Mormonese” and see how differently Latter-day Saints define these common terms: <https://tilm.org/digital-dictionary/>
3. Why is it so important to clarify your terms when talking with Mormons about your beliefs?  
• **Practice: Take a few minutes to practice sharing the gospel but explain your terms as you go. The more we practice this, the better we will be when talking with our Mormon friends.**
4. Which LDS beliefs about Heavenly Father were most shocking to you? What passages from Scripture would you use to show that the Mormon teachings about Heavenly Father are contradictory to the God of the Bible?
5. Which LDS beliefs about Jesus were most shocking to you? What passages from Scripture would you use to show that the Mormon teachings about Jesus are contradictory to the biblical teachings about Jesus?
6. Which LDS beliefs about the Holy Ghost were most shocking to you? What passages from Scripture would you use to show that the Mormon teachings about the Holy Ghost are contradictory to the biblical teachings about the Holy Ghost?
7. How would you respond to a Latter-day Saint who says, “You’re a Christian? That’s great, we are Christians, too”?
8. How are the two types of LDS salvation completely different from biblical salvation?
9. If you were a Mormon, how would the doctrine of the “Sons of Perdition” affect you?
10. Because feelings and testimony are the main way that Mormons determine truth, what reasons should we talk about when we witness to them?
11. Why is it important to have more than your personal testimony or inner feelings to determine if your beliefs are true?
12. As a Christian, what evidence and reasons would you point to as validation of the truth of Christianity?

**ACTION POINTS:**

- This week, read “Why My LDS Friend Isn’t Trying to Convert Me to Mormonism” by Robby Lashua: <https://www.str.org/w/why-my-lds-friend-isn-t-trying-to-convert-me-to-mormonism>
- This week, read “Who Is the God of Mormonism?” by Amy Hall: <https://www.str.org/w/who-is-the-god-of-mormonism->

**ENGAGING LATTER-DAY SAINTS – WITNESSING TO LDS: PART 1 (VIDEO 14:36)****DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Why do you think it is important to ask your LDS friends questions about what they believe and not assume what they believe?
2. What fears/hesitations do you have about inviting LDS missionaries to your home to discuss the differences in your beliefs?
3. What are your thoughts on using Mormon scriptures to show our LDS friends that Mormonism is false? Other than Jesus in Matthew 22, can you think of another example in the Bible where someone argued for the truth using the words/teachings of those they were trying to persuade?
4. Read Galatians 1:8–9. Why is this such a powerful passage to use when talking with Latter-day Saints?
5. Read Moroni 10:4–5: <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/bofm/moro/10?lang=eng>
  - What is the test of truth according to Moroni 10:4–5? What issues do you see with the reasoning of this test?
6. Break up into groups of two or three and practice the “A True Testimony” Witnessing Method. Practice using your own words, but following the Scriptures used to make the point that feelings can’t be our only access point to true knowledge (see attached Witnessing Methods at the end of this Discussion Guide).
7. Break up into groups of two or three and practice the “Ephesians 2:8–9 Salvation?” Witnessing Method. Practice using your own words, but follow the Scriptures used to make the point that the salvation Paul is talking about in Ephesians 2:8–9 is not either of the types of salvation that Mormons believe in (see attached Witnessing Methods at the end of this Discussion Guide).
8. After practicing these two Witnessing Methods, do you feel prepared to talk with an LDS missionary? Why or why not?

**ACTION POINTS:**

- This week, read “Should Christians open their homes to witness to Mormons?” by Eric Johnson: <https://www.mrm.org/witnessing-inside-home>
- This week, read “How to Show Mormon Missionaries That the Bible Contradicts Their Gospel” by Robby Lashua: <https://www.str.org/w/how-to-show-mormon-missionaries-that-the-bible-contradicts-their-gospel>

**ENGAGING LATTER-DAY SAINTS – WITNESSING TO LDS: PART 2 (VIDEO 20:12)**

1. Read Doctrine and Covenants 58:42–43: <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/dc-testament/dc/58?lang=eng&id=p42-p43#p42>
  - According to this passage, what is required of someone to have their sins forgiven?
  - How is this different than Christian forgiveness?
  - What passages in the Bible can you think of that would contradict this teaching in Doctrine and Covenants 58:42–43?
2. Read Doctrine and Covenants 82:7: <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/dc-testament/dc/82?lang=eng&id=p7#p7>
  - According to this passage, what is required for someone to maintain having their sins forgiven?
  - How is this different than Christian forgiveness?
  - What passages in the Bible can you think of that would contradict Doctrines and Covenants 82:7?
3. Read 2 Nephi 25:23 from the Book of Mormon: <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/bofm/2-ne/25?lang=eng&id=p23#p23>
  - According to this passage, what is required for someone to be saved by grace?
  - How is this different than Christian forgiveness?
  - What passages in the Bible can you think of that contradict 2 Nephi 25:23?
4. Read Moroni 10:32 from the Book of Mormon: <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/bofm/moro/10?lang=eng&id=p32#p32>
  - According to this passage, when is God’s grace sufficient?
  - How does this passage differ from Matthew 22:34–40? <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2022:34-40&version=NASB1995>
  - What other passages in the Bible can you think of that would contradict Moroni 10:32?
5. Read Doctrine and Covenants 25:15: <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/dc-testament/dc/25?lang=eng&id=p15#p15>
  - According to this passage, what needs to be done to be qualified to be with God?
  - How is this different from Christian salvation?
  - What passages in the Bible can you think of that contradict Doctrine and Covenants 25:15?
6. Break up into groups of two or three and practice the “Impossible Gospel” Witnessing Method. Practice using your own words, but follow the Scriptures and other LDS teachings used to make the point that Mormons cannot live up to the standards that Joseph Smith taught (see attached Witnessing Methods at the end of this Discussion Guide).
7. Break up into groups of two or three and practice the “A True Prophet?” Witnessing Method. Practice using your own words, but follow the Scriptures used to make the point that Joseph Smith fails the test of a true prophet (see attached Witnessing Methods at the end of this Discussion Guide).

**ACTION POINTS:**

- This week, read “Verses for Your Conversations with Mormons” by Amy Hall: <https://www.str.org/w/verses-for-your-conversations-with-mormons>
- This month, invite LDS missionaries to your home for a discussion about your beliefs: <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/comeuntochrist/lp/meet-with-missionaries/short>. Use the Witnessing Methods from this course, and also see the attached suggestions for having a successful meeting.

## LDS WITNESSING METHOD: A TRUE TESTIMONY?

**OUR OBJECTIVE:** To show your Mormon friends that the subjective testimony/burning in the bosom that they feel is not a good way to know that Mormonism is true. Feelings cannot be our only access point to true knowledge.

**To keep in mind:** Mormons will continually revert to their testimony/burning in the bosom as a valid argument for the truth of Mormonism. Most likely, every time you bring a good argument against them, they will revert to this experience. Therefore, it is very important that you understand this witnessing approach.

**QUESTION TO ASK:** “How do you know that Mormonism is true?”

**Typical response:** “Because I read the entire Book of Mormon, and I then prayed about it, and God told me that it was true and that Joseph Smith was a true prophet. The Book of Mormon tells us in Moroni 10:4 what to do to know if it is true.”

And if ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost.

**Ask:** “Let me make sure I understand what you mean. Are you saying that the way to know that the Book of Mormon is true is to read the entire book, pray and ask God if it is true, and then he will make it known to you through an internal feeling?”

**Typical response:** “Yes, that is what I mean.”

**Ask:** “What would you say to a Muslim who has read the entire Qur’an and prayed about it and feels that it is the true word of God?”

**Typical Response:** “I would say that they are wrong because the Book of Mormon is true, not the Qur’an.”

**Ask:** “Do you believe that their feelings are valid?”

**Typical Response:** “I do not think their feelings are valid, but even if they were, their feelings are from something other than God.”

**Ask:** “Can you please read 1 Timothy 4:1 (KJV) for me?”

Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.

**Ask:** “How do you know that what you feel is not a seducing spirit who is leading you to believe a lie?”

**Typical Response:** “It could not be a seducing spirit because it makes me feel peaceful, and righteous, and good. It affirms to me that it is good.”

**Ask:** “If it was a seducing spirit, how would it make you feel? A seducing spirit would be trying to trick you into believing it was peaceful, and righteous, and good.”

Typically, at this point our Mormon friends will have nothing more to offer, except to revert to their feelings.

**Say:** “It seems to me that we need more than only our feelings in order to know what is actually true.”

**Ask:** “Have your feelings ever been wrong? How do you know you are right when it comes to the important topic of life after death?”

**Ask:** “Can you read Galatians 1:8–9 (KJV)?”

But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

**Ask:** “Do you know what the gospel that Paul preached was?”

(Show them **Ephesians 2:8–9, 1 Corinthians 15:1–8, John 3:16, and Acts 16:31.**)

**Ask:** “Do these passages of Scripture sound like the same gospel that Joseph Smith teaches?”

**Typical response:** “No, you must keep Celestial Law.”

**Ask:** “Then wouldn’t Joseph Smith qualify as a person bringing another gospel, other than the one that Paul taught? Didn’t Joseph Smith receive this revelation from the angel Moroni, which sounds a lot like what Paul is describing in Galatians?”

**SHARE THE TRUE GOSPEL WITH THEM.**

**LDS WITNESSING METHOD: EPHESIANS 2:8–9 AND SALVATION**

**OUR OBJECTIVE:** To show your Mormon friend that the salvation that Paul is talking about in Ephesians 2:8–9 is not either of the types of salvation that Mormons believe in.

**To keep in mind:** In LDS theology, there are two types of salvation—Unconditional (or General) and Conditional (or Individual).

- Unconditional Salvation/General Salvation is also called and considered immortality or resurrection. This will come to all mankind, is a gift, and comes through the grace of God alone. Unconditional or General Salvation has no requirement of righteousness, faith, or obedience. The only individuals who will not receive Unconditional Salvation are the “sons of perdition.”
- Conditional Salvation/Individual Salvation is earned and is works based. You cannot experience the best Mormonism has to offer without perfect devotion to the laws and ordinances of the gospel.

**QUESTION TO ASK:** “Can you read Ephesians 2:8–9 (KJV) for me?”

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

**Ask:** “What type of salvation is Paul referring to when he says ‘ye are saved’?”

**Typical Response:** “He is referring to Unconditional/General Salvation.”

**Ask:** “How can that be, if a requirement of having this salvation of Ephesians 2:8–9 is acquired through faith? I thought that there were no requirements for General Salvation. Are you sure it is referring to General Salvation?”

**Response:** “Oh, I see. It can’t be referring to General Salvation, so it must be referring to Conditional/Individual Salvation.”

**Ask:** “Is it true that in order to acquire Conditional Salvation you have to earn it based on your good deeds?”

**Response:** “Yes, that is true.”

**Ask:** “Well, how could Ephesians 2:8–9 be referring to Conditional Salvation when Paul says, ‘Not of works, lest any man should boast’?”

**Response:** “I don’t know.”

**Ask:** “Doesn’t it seem like the salvation that Paul is referring to here is not General Salvation or Individual Salvation? It seems like Paul is describing something entirely different than either of your definitions of salvation.”

**Ask:** “Can you read Galatians 1:8–9 (KJV)?”

But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

**Ask:** “Because of Ephesians 2:8–9, doesn’t it seem that the gospel that Paul preached is not the same as the gospel of Mormonism? If that is the case, wouldn’t the LDS doctrines of salvation fall into the category of a different gospel and be accursed according to Galatians 1:8–9?” **Ask:** “Then wouldn’t Joseph Smith qualify as a person bringing another gospel, other than the one that Paul taught? Didn’t Joseph Smith receive this revelation from the angel Moroni, which sounds a lot like what Paul is describing in Galatians?”

**SHARE THE TRUE GOSPEL WITH THEM.**



## LDS WITNESSING METHOD: THE IMPOSSIBLE GOSPEL

**OUR OBJECTIVE:** To show your Mormon friend that the demands of Mormonism are impossible and that the grace of God through Jesus' death on the cross for us is the only way we can be saved.

**To keep in mind:** The goal for Mormons is exaltation/to become gods themselves.

**QUESTION TO ASK:** "If you were to die right now, are you sure that all of your sins are forgiven and that you would get the best your religion has to offer?"

**Typical response:** "Yes, if I repent and keep the commandments."

**Ask:** "How many sins do you have to repent of? How many commandments do you have to keep? Where in your scriptures does it teach these kinds of things?"

**Typical response:** "Here's what Doctrines and Covenants 58:42–43 says."

Behold, he who has repented of his sins, the same is forgiven, and I, the Lord, remember them no more. By this ye may know if a man repenteth of his sins—behold, he will confess them and forsake them.

**Ask:** "How often do you repent?"

**Typical Response:** "All of the time"

**Ask:** "Do you ever repent of the same sin?"

**Typical Response:** "Yes."

**Ask:** "Have you really repented of certain sins if you repeat them? If forsaking is a part of repenting, then you would not be able to repeat certain sins."

**Ask:** "Can you read what Doctrines and Covenants 82:7 says about repeating sins?"

And now, verily I say unto you, I the Lord, will not lay any sin to your charge; go your ways and sin no more; but unto that soul who sinneth shall the former sins return, saith the Lord your God.

**Say:** "And let's see what 2 Nephi 25:23 says."

For we labor diligently to write, to persuade our children, and also our brethren, to believe in Christ and to be reconciled to God; for we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do.

**Ask:** "What does it mean by 'After all we can do'? Have you done all that you can do? Also, look at what Moroni 10:32 says."

Yea, come unto Christ, and be perfected in him, and deny yourselves of all ungodliness; and if ye shall deny yourselves of all ungodliness, and love God with all your might, mind and strength, then is his grace sufficient for you, that by his grace ye may be perfect in Christ; and if by the grace of God ye are perfect in Christ, ye can in nowise deny the power of God.

**Say:** "This is not merely 'do your best and then God does the rest.' This passage demands perfection before his grace is sufficient for you."

**Ask:** “Can you read Doctrine & Covenants 25:15?”

Keep my commandments continually, and a crown of righteousness thou shalt receive. And except thou do this, where I am you cannot come.

**Typical response:** “You just need to do your best.”

**Ask:** “Have you read what Spencer Kimball wrote in The Miracle of Forgiveness? ‘To “try” is weak. To “do the best I can” is not strong. We must always do better than we can’ (163).”

**Ask:** “Can you read Doctrine and Covenants 1:31?”

For I the Lord cannot look upon sin with the least degree of allowance.

**Ask:** “What are the requirements for exaltation according to the LDS church? Does this list from the LDS publication Gospel Principles describe the requirements?”

**Gospel Principles lists 21 requirements for exaltation:**

1. We must be baptized and confirmed a member of the Church of Jesus Christ.
2. We must receive the laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost.
3. We must receive the temple endowment.
4. We must be married for time and eternity.

**In addition to receiving the required ordinances, the Lord commands all of us to:**

1. Love and worship God.
2. Love our neighbor.
3. Repent of our wrongdoings.
4. Live the law of chastity.
5. Pay honest tithes and offerings.
6. Be honest in our dealings with others and the Lord.
7. Speak the truth always.
8. Obey the Word of Wisdom.
9. Search out our kindred dead and perform the saving ordinances of the gospel for them.
10. Keep the Sabbath day holy.
11. Attend our Church meetings as regularly as possible so we can renew our baptismal covenants by partaking of the sacrament.
12. Love our family members and strengthen them in the ways of the Lord.
13. Have family and individual prayers every day.
14. Honor our parents.
15. Teach the gospel to others by word and example.
16. Study the scriptures.
17. Listen to and obey the inspired words of the prophets of the Lord.

**Say:** “Perfection seems to be required for Mormons. This is the same thing that the God of the Bible requires. Moral perfection is required from Scripture.”

As it is written, “There is none righteous, not even one; there is none who understands, there is none who seeks for God; all have turned aside, together they have become useless; there is none who does good, there is not even one.” (Romans 3:10–12)

Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God; because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin. (Romans 3:19–20)

**Say:** “But there is good news in the true gospel of grace!”

But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed. (Romans 3:21–25)

For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.” Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due. But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness. (Romans 4:2–5)

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. (Ephesians 2:8–9)

## LDS WITNESSING METHOD: A TRUE PROPHET?

**OUR OBJECTIVE:** To show your Mormon friend the requirements of a true prophet in Scripture and that Joseph Smith does not meet these requirements.

**To keep in mind:** Mormons base most of their theology on what Joseph Smith has taught. They believe Joseph Smith to be such an important person that they include in their “testimony” that Joseph Smith is a true prophet of God.

**QUESTION TO ASK:** “What are the requirements from God to know if a person who claims to be a prophet is actually a prophet of God? “

**Typical response:** “I don’t know.”

**Ask:** “Can I show you in the Bible a place where God gives us requirements for true prophets?”

“But the prophet who speaks a word presumptuously in My name which I have not commanded him to speak, or which he speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.” You may say in your heart, “How will we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?” When a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not come about or come true, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him. (Deuteronomy 18:20–22, NASB 1995)

**Question to ask:** “Does God give us a difficult test or an easy test to see if a prophet is truly from him?”

**Typical Response:** “An easy test.”

**Ask:** “Is it fair to say that God’s test of a true prophet, according to Deuteronomy 18:20–22, is that if a man prophesies about something in the future and the thing he prophesies about does not come true, then that man is not a true prophet of God?”

**Typical Response:** “Yes.”

**Ask:** “Is it fair to say that the test of a prophet, according to Deuteronomy 18:20–22, is not that he gets some prophecies right, but that he gets all of them right?”

**Typical Response:** “Yes.”

**Ask:** “Will you look at some of the prophecies that Joseph Smith made and apply this test of a true prophet to him?”

**1. Prophecy that the temple would be built in Missouri within Smith’s generation:** Yea, the word of the Lord concerning his church, established in the last days for the restoration of his people, as he has spoken by the mouth of his prophets, and for the gathering of his saints to stand upon Mount Zion, which shall be the city of New Jerusalem. Which city shall be built, beginning at the temple lot, which is appointed by the finger of the Lord, in the western boundaries of the State of Missouri, and dedicated by the hand of Joseph Smith, and others with whom the Lord was well pleased. Verily this is the word of the Lord, that the city New Jerusalem shall be built by the gathering saints, beginning at this place, even the place of the temple, which temples shall be reared in this generation. For verily this generation shall not pass away until an house shall be built unto the Lord, and a cloud shall rest upon it, which cloud shall be even the glory of the Lord, which shall fill this house... Therefore, as I said concerning the sons of Moses—for the sons of Moses and also the sons of Aaron shall offer an acceptable offering and sacrifice in the house of the Lord, which house shall be built unto the Lord in this generation, upon the consecrated spot as I have appointed. (Doctrines and Covenants 84:2–5, 31)

**a. 38 years later, Mormon prophet Orson Pratt said this regarding this prophecy:** We have just as much confidence in returning to Jackson County and the building of a great city that will remain there a thousand years before the earth passes away, as the Jews have in returning to Jerusalem and re-building the waste places of Palestine. In fact, we have more faith than they have; for they have been so many generations cast out of their land that their descendants have almost lost their faith in returning. But, the Latter-day Saints are fresh, as it were. There are many of the old stock, who passed through all those tribulations I have named, still living, whose faith in returning to Jackson County, and the things that are coming, is as firm and fixed as the throne of the Almighty. (Orson Pratt, discourse delivered in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, April 10, 1870)

**b. Orson Pratt also said this:** God promised in the year 1832 that we should, before this generation then living had passed away, return and build up the City of Zion in Jackson County; that we should return and build up the temple of the Most High where we formerly laid the corner stone. He promised us that He would manifest Himself on that temple, that the glory of God should be upon it; and not only upon the temple, but within it, even a cloud by day and a flaming fire by night. We believe in these promises as much as we believe in any promise ever uttered by the mouth of Jehovah. The Latter-day Saints just as much expect to receive a fulfillment of that promise during the generation that was in existence in 1832 as they expect that the sun will rise and set to-morrow. Why? Because God cannot lie. He will fulfill all His promises. He has spoken, it must come to pass. This is our faith. (Orson Pratt, discourse delivered in the New Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, May 5, 1870)

**Ask:** “Did you know that to this day, there is still not an LDS Temple built in Independence, Missouri? You can visit the temple sight in Independence and it is an empty field. According to the test for a prophet in Deuteronomy 18, is Joseph Smith a true prophet or a false prophet?”

**Say:** “Let’s consider a prophecy of Jesus.”

As He was going out of the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, “Teacher, behold what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!” And Jesus said to him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left upon another which will not be torn down.” (Mark 13:1–2, NASB 1995)

**Say:** “Jesus made this prediction before his death circa AD 30–33. The temple was completely destroyed in AD 70 by the Romans who came in and destroyed Jerusalem.”

**Ask:** “Did you know that to this day, you can go to Jerusalem and see these ‘stones’ that were thrown off the temple mount in AD 70? Jesus’ prophecy came true and there is still archeological evidence confirming it.”

**Ask:** “Does Joseph Smith succeed as a prophet according to Deuteronomy 18:20–22?”

**Ask:** “Can you read Deuteronomy 18:22 again?”

When a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not come about or come true, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.

**Say:** “The last portion of this Deuteronomy passage says that you do not have to be afraid of a false prophet. There is no need to fear Joseph Smith since he is a false prophet.”