

**“ONE GREATER THAN
THE TEMPLE IS HERE.”
MATTHEW 12:6**

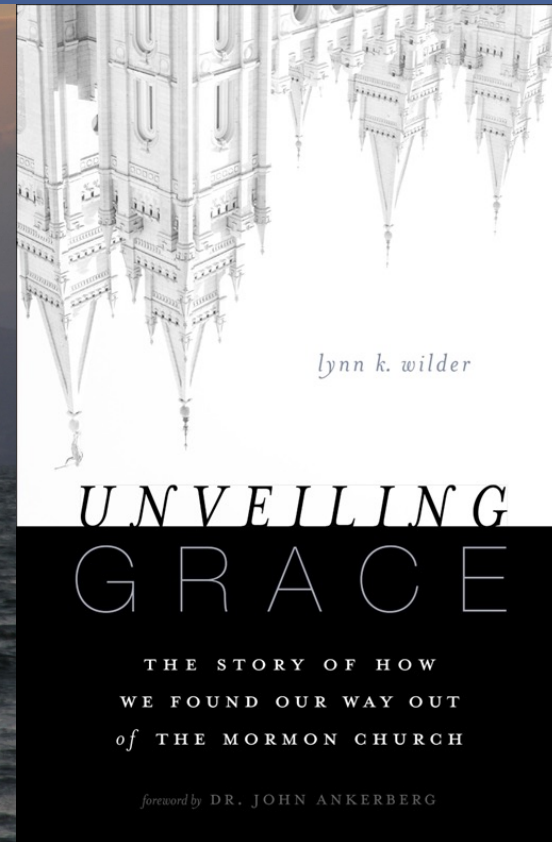
**Michael & Dr. Lynn Wilder
Former LDS High Priest
Former BYU Professor**



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WHO ARE WE?



**Ex-Mormon
Christians
United for Jesus**





ON THE ROAD...

UNVEILING GRACE PODCAST/RADIO



John 13:35



**By this all people
will know that you
are my disciples, if
you have love for
one another.**

Old Covenant - Death

- 1. Letter kills and separates one from eternal life**
- 2. Condemnation**
- 3. Temporary**
- 4. Glory**
- 5. Food restrictions**
- 6. Sabbath laws**

New Covenant - Life

- 1. Spirit gives life**
- 2. Righteousness**
- 3. Eternal**
- 4. Far exceeding glory**
- 5. No food restrictions**
- 6. Sabbath rest in Jesus**

OLD COVENANT VS NEW COVENANT
2 CORINTHIANS 2:14-4:18; COLOSSIANS 2



Old Covenant - Death

1. Temple sacrifices
2. Priesthood
3. Temple
4. Temple veil was up
5. Divisions
6. Circumcision of flesh

New Covenant - Life

1. Jesus' sacrifice once and for all
2. Jesus alone is our only high priest forever
3. Believers are the temple of God
4. Temple veil was torn
5. No divisions – one mediator
6. Circumcision of the heart

OLD COVENANT VS NEW COVENANT
TEMPLES

For Christ is the end of the law for
righteousness to everyone who believes.

ROMANS 10:4

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And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross

COLOSSIANS 2:13-14

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NOT THAT WE ARE SUFFICIENT IN OURSELVES TO CLAIM ANYTHING AS COMING FROM US, BUT OUR SUFFICIENCY IS FROM GOD, WHO HAS MADE US SUFFICIENT TO BE **MINISTERS OF A NEW COVENANT**, NOT OF THE LETTER BUT OF THE SPIRIT. FOR THE LETTER KILLS, BUT THE SPIRIT GIVES LIFE...BUT WHEN ONE TURNS TO THE LORD, THE VEIL IS REMOVED.

2 CORINTHIANS 3:5,6,16

The Law and the Prophets
were until John [the Baptist].

LUKE 16:16 (JESUS SPEAKING)

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THOSE WHO WOULD DRAG YOU BACK
UNDER THE OLD COVENANT ARE
“PEDDLERS OF GOD’S WORD FOR PROFIT.”

2 Corinthians 2:17

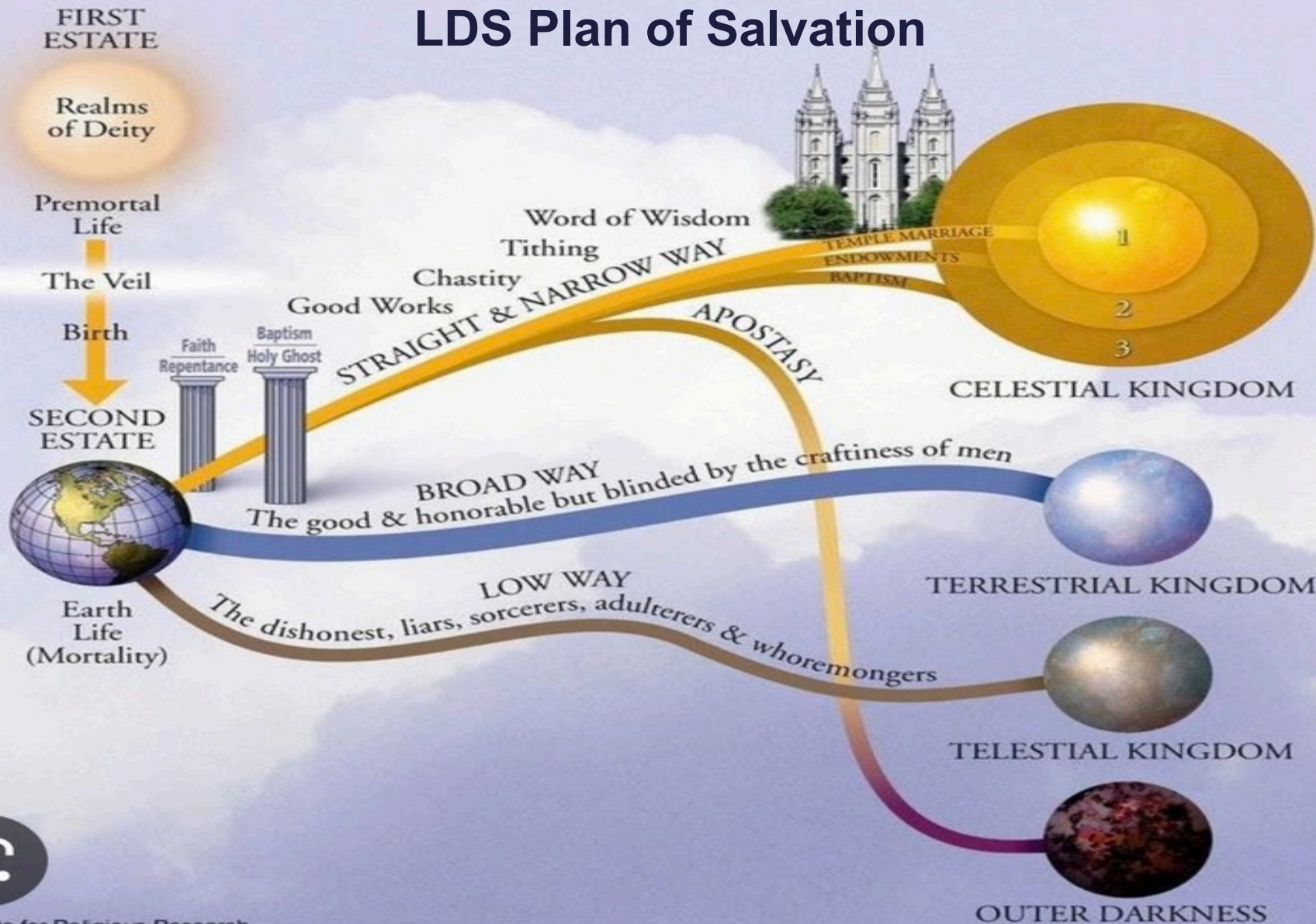


- ▶ DO YOU MIND IF I ASK YOU A QUESTION ABOUT YOUR FAITH?
- ▶ WHY DO YOU BUILD TEMPLES? WHAT IS THEIR PURPOSE?
- ▶ WHY DID I NOT SEE A CROSS?

USE QUESTIONS

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LDS Plan of Salvation





LDS Eternal Life Requirements

- ▶ **Attend church meetings weekly to renew baptismal covenants by partaking of the sacrament.**
- ▶ **Live a health code.**
- ▶ **Pay a full tithe.**
- ▶ **Listen to and obey the inspired words of the LDS prophets.**
- ▶ **Read LDS scriptures.**
- ▶ **Hold a calling if asked.**





LDS Eternal Life Requirements

- ▶ You must be baptized LDS.
- ▶ You must receive the laying on of hands to be confirmed a member of the Church of Jesus Christ and to receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.
- ▶ Men must receive the Aaronic and then the Melchizedek Priesthood and magnify their callings in the priesthood.
- ▶ You must receive the temple endowment (which requires a temple recommend) and wear your garments.
- ▶ You must be married for eternity, either in this life or in the next.
- ▶ Love God and our neighbors.
- ▶ Keep the LDS commandments.
- ▶ Repent of wrongdoings.
- ▶ Search out kindred dead and receive the saving ordinances of the gospel for them.

It is the baptism for the dead. For we without them cannot be made perfect; neither can they without us be made perfect.

**DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS 128: MUST DO
TEMPLE ORDINANCES FOR THE DEAD TO EARN
ETERNAL LIFE YOURSELF**

LDS Eternal Life - Old Covenant?



We believe that through the Atonement of Christ, all mankind may be saved, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the [LDS] Gospel.

- *Third Article of Faith*

Eternal Life: To live forever as families in God's presence (see D&C 132:19-20)


**LDS DEFINITION OF ETERNAL LIFE
REQUIRES THE TEMPLE**

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WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TEMPLES?

FAMILIES CAN LIVE TOGETHER FOREVER AS FAMILIES? WHERE ARE GOD AND JESUS IN THIS AFTERLIFE?

If one is “worthy” and “temple endowed,” what does that mean for you in the next life?

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For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

EPHESIANS 2:8-9

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Question



Do you think what the Bible says about temples lines up with what the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints teaches about temples? Are LDS temples Old Covenant or New Covenant?



LDS Culture

Know Them to Love Them

- 1. Church leaders essential.**
- 2. Tend toward political conservatism.**
- 3. Proselytizing important.**
- 4. Outward appearance important. Display “Christian” (nice) behavior. Modest dress.**
- 5. Achievement important. Industrious and may be exhausted in striving toward perfection.**

6. Family is everything. Traditional & gender roles. Children revered. Children of LGBTQ parents could not be baptized LDS – reversed.

7. LDS Scripture and Living Prophet trump the Bible.

8. Most converts come from traditional Christian faith (83%, Pew Institute)!

9. Dislike and avoid contention.

10. Allegiance to the “one true church.” “Sacred” things kept from public.

LDS CULTURE

1. Avoid contention.
2. Avoid behavior LDS consider disrespectful or unkind.
3. Avoid pressing to talk about deeper doctrine issues
(polygamy, racism, DNA evidence, Joseph Smith's character, church history, etc.)
4. Avoid LDS Scripture other than the Bible. USE THE WORD OF GOD!

LANDMINES TO AVOID

Great Commission: PRAY!



Pray God will show you who he is already drawing to Jesus in your sphere of influence (John 6:44)



Pray that God will break the spirit of blindness over unbelievers (John 12:40; 2 Cor 4:4; 1 John 2:10)



Pray for an attitude of love and compassion (John 13:35)



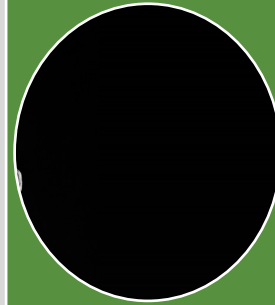
Pray that they will not sense contention (BOM, 3 Nephi 11:29)



Pray that they will come to trust the Bible as the infallible Word of God (Heb 4:12)



Pray for boldness to share God's Word (Acts 4:31)

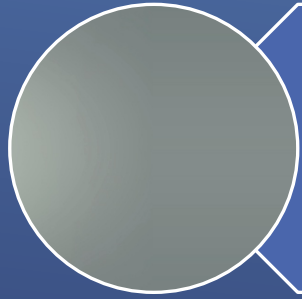


Pray for God to lead you in what to say (Ephesians 6:19)



John 6:29 Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."

THE WORK OF GOD

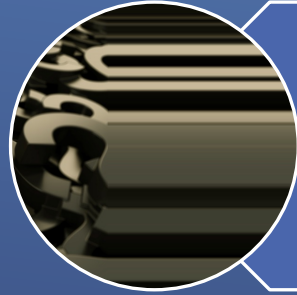


Listen to Them Talk about Faith

**Then ask them questions—
respectfully—about what they believe**

Use the Bible and questions





Genuine and Innocent Inquiry to Stimulate Thinking



Since LDS might be easily offended, asking questions to address topics in conversation is a good way to be non-threatening



Use the Bible and Ask Questions

USE THE BIBLE: Jesus used questions and Scripture brilliantly.

He asked 307 questions during His ministry.

- Who do you say I am? (Matthew 16:15)
- Do you believe I am able to do this? (Matthew 9:28)
- Why are you so afraid? (Matthew 8:26)
- What does Scripture say? (Luke 10:23-28)
- Who touched me? (Mark 5:33)
- Do you love me? (John 21:15-17)
- What is written in the Law, how do you read it? (Luke 10:26)

So, why do you build temples? Are they like the one temple in Jerusalem? If not, when did that change and who changed it?

Who officiates in your temples? How is someone “worthy” or qualified to do that?

What do you think it meant when the veil in the temple was torn when Jesus died?

**USE QUESTIONS & AVOID CONTENDING:
BE RESPECTFUL AND GENTLE**

WITNESSING TO LDS SHOULD HAVE BOTH:

1. a reasoning (mind) component using the WORD and
2. an emotional (heart) component

**One who wanders from the way of
good sense (reason/sound judgment)
will rest in the assembly of the dead.
Proverbs 21:16**

**BIBLICAL FAITH IS EVIDENTIAL,
REASONABLE**

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When is the last time you shared a scripture with a friend that changed your thinking? Answered a question? When is the last time you talked about Jesus and were brought to tears? Told someone about an answered prayer? Received healing?

LDS, like everyone, love narrative stories from your own experience.

EMOTIONAL COMPONENT

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...if it is right I will cause that your bosom shall burn within you; therefore, you shall feel that it is right.
(Doctrine & Covenants 9:8-9)

LDS SCRIPTURE: TEST TRUTH WITH FEELINGS

Jeremiah 17:9: The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?

Matthew 15:19 [Jesus speaking]: For out of the heart come evil thoughts--murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.

**WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT
TRUSTING FEELINGS ALONE**

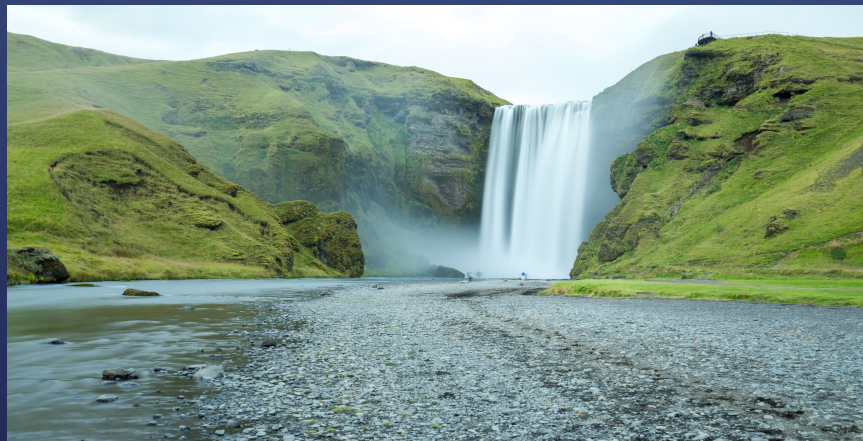
- ▶ 1 Thessalonians 5:21 but test everything
- ▶ 1 John 4...test the spirits to see whether they are from God
- ▶ Acts 17:11 ...they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so
- ▶ Isaiah 1:1 Come let us reason together

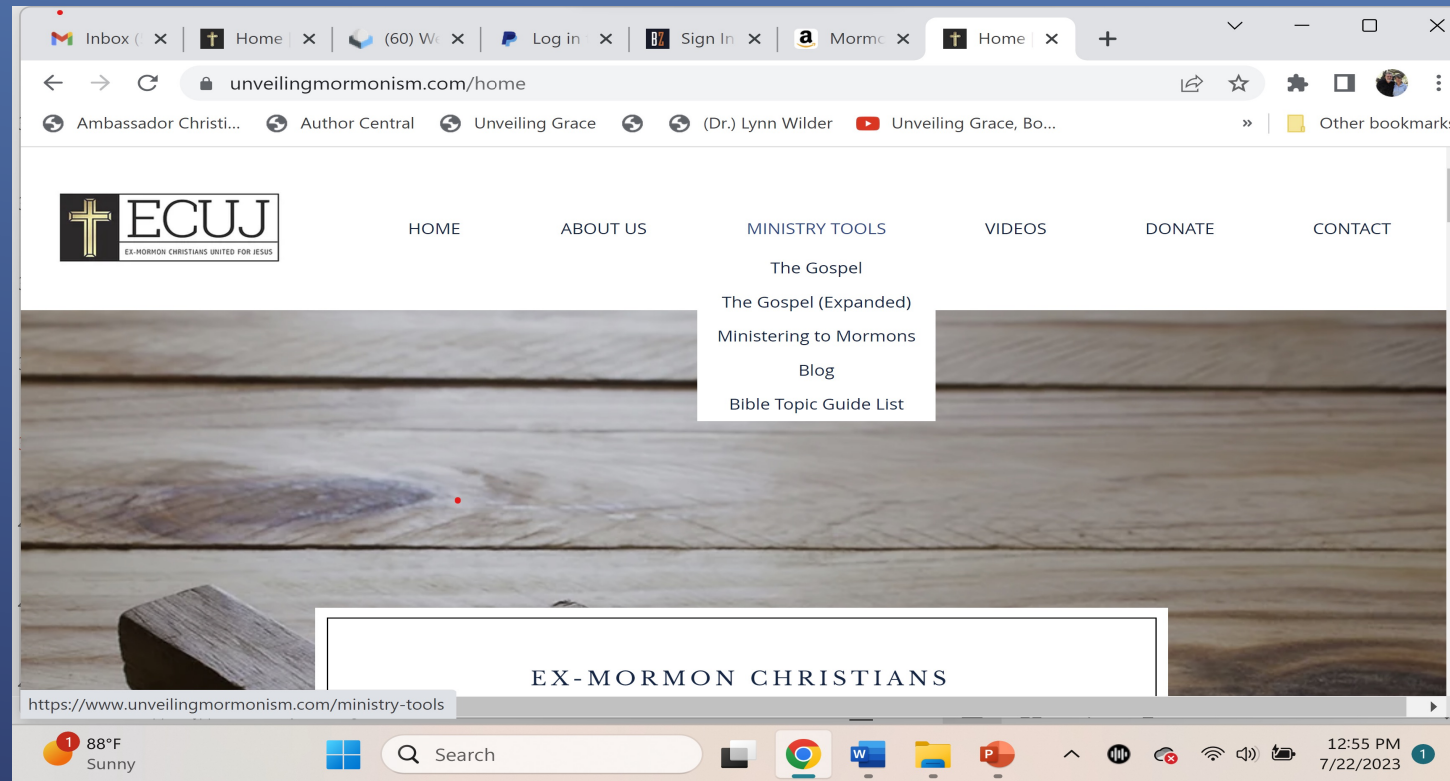
HOW TO DETERMINE TRUTH: USE THE WORD



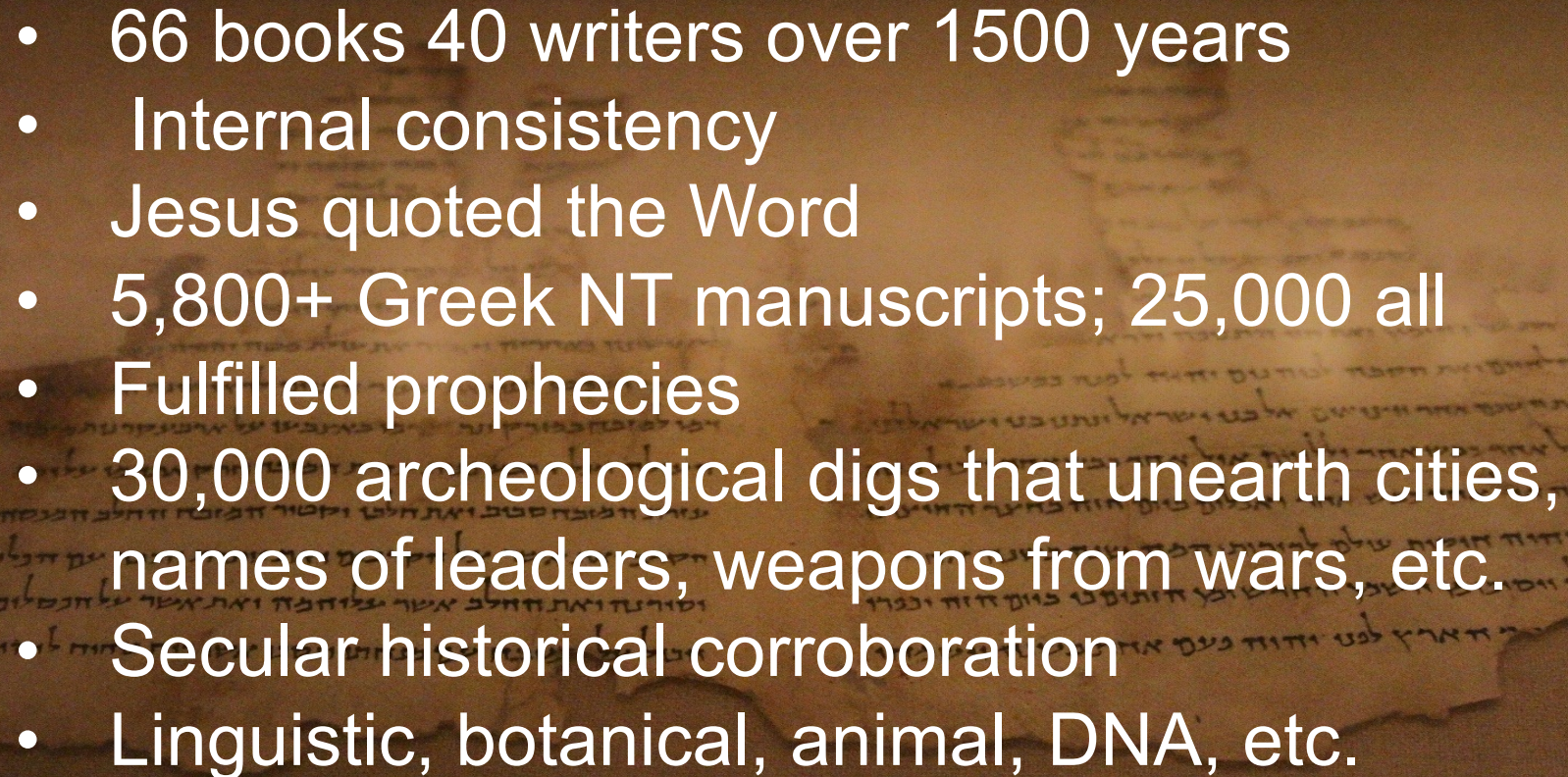
Question

Why is it important to use both reason and feelings in faith? Is it a more sure faith to have both or to rely on feelings alone?





TOPICS TO DISCUSS WITH LDS
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MINISTRY TOOLS
BIBLE TOPIC GUIDE LIST

- 
- 66 books 40 writers over 1500 years
 - Internal consistency
 - Jesus quoted the Word
 - 5,800+ Greek NT manuscripts; 25,000 all
 - Fulfilled prophecies
 - 30,000 archeological digs that unearth cities, names of leaders, weapons from wars, etc.
 - Secular historical corroboration
 - Linguistic, botanical, animal, DNA, etc.

**OVERWHELMING EVIDENCE AS IF
GOD WANTS PEOPLE TO FIND HIM**

GIVEN THAT THE LINGUISTIC, HISTORICAL, ARCHEOLOGICAL, PLANT, ANIMAL, DNA, DOCTRINAL, PROPHECY, AND OTHER EVIDENCE FOR THE BIBLE IS OVERWHELMING FROM SOURCES BOTH RELIGIOUS AND SECULAR, DO YOU HAVE SIMILAR EVIDENCE FOR THE BOOK OF MORMON?

Cannot earn the right to attend the temple to earn eternal life without believing in THE LDS living prophet.

2. Do you sustain the President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as the prophet, seer, and revelator; and do you recognize him as the only person on the earth authorized to exercise all priesthood keys?

**LDS LIVING PROPHET WHO SPEAKS
FOR GOD – OLD COVENANT**

- ▶ Hebrews 1:1-2 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son...
- ▶ Luke 16:16 The Law and the Prophets were until John; since then the good news of the kingdom of God is preached...

BIBLE-NO "BIG P" PROPHETS TODAY -
NEW COVENANT

WHAT DO YOU THINK IT MEANS WHEN JESUS SAID JOHN THE BAPTIST WAS THE LAST PROPHET?

WHAT DO YOU THINK IT MEANS WHEN PAUL SAID GOD SPOKE TO US THROUGH PROPHETS IN PAST TIMES BUT TODAY HE SPOKE TO US THROUGH JESUS?

WHAT HAS YOUR PROPHET SPOKEN RECENTLY THAT CAME TRUE OR WAS HELPFUL IN YOUR LIFE?



Question



**Who is
Jesus to
you?**

- ▶ **Spirit child of Heavenly Father and Heavenly Mother (Abraham 3:23-28)**
- ▶ **Spirit brother of Lucifer and you and me**
- ▶ **Atoned in the Garden of Gethsemane (Prophet Joseph Fielding Smith)**
- ▶ **Partial Atonement did not cover all sins (D&C 42:18-19, 25-26)**
- ▶ **Cross not revered (Prophet Hinckley - symbol of dying Jesus)**
- ▶ **Teaches salvation by works - then grace (2 Nephi 25:23)**
- ▶ **Worked his way to godhood (D&C 132)**

NATURE OF LDS JESUS

What is Jesus' role in your temple?

WHO IS JESUS TO YOU?





**Testify of Jesus and his
new covenant of grace**



**Share how Jesus has
changed your life**



Pray with them



Acts 17: 24 - The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.

TEMPLES

And I saw no temple in the city,
for its temple is the Lord God
Almighty and the Lamb.

REVELATION 21:22

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Our Invitation



**Will you read the
Bible as a child?**

**Invite LDS into
Bible study**



MATTHEW 12:6

ONE GREATER THAN THE TEMPLE IS HERE

FIND US ON FACEBOOK
UNVEILING GRACE BOOK
LYNN WIETING WILDER

