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## JEHOVAH WITNESSES

**TODAY'S PASSAGE:** John 14:6, 2 Corinthians 13:5

**Some Definitions:**

**CULT:** Any religious movement with teachings and/or practices that \_\_\_\_\_ from historical orthodox Christianity.

**ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY:** The doctrines and beliefs held as \_\_\_\_\_ by the majority of Christians since the birth of the first century church.

**What do you mean by intolerant?**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ *Tolerance*
2. \_\_\_\_\_ *Tolerance*
3. \_\_\_\_\_ *Tolerance*

**History**

**WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?**

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

○ \_\_\_\_\_

○ \_\_\_\_\_

○ \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION:** Are you willing to do for the \_\_\_\_\_ what so many cults are willing to do for a \_\_\_\_\_?

**Sharing your faith story with a Jehovah Witness**

*“Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?” -2 Corinthians 13:5*

**ASK:** Have you passed the \_\_\_\_\_?

- Answer the \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ to them.
- \_\_\_\_\_ your story.
- Pray for their \_\_\_\_\_.
- Be willing to \_\_\_\_\_ with them if they come to Jesus.

# Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Series: COEXIST

Message #4 – JEHOVAH WITNESSES

Speaker: Shawn Vandop – Lead Pastor – May 29, 2022

1. Who can recite from memory **John 14:6** and **1 Peter 3:15-16**?
2. What jumped out at you from this week's message? Did you learn anything new? Discuss.
3. Have you ever known anyone who has been or is in a cult?
4. What are some of the traits to look for to discern if a group or teaching is a cult? (Below are the traits that Shawn mentioned)
  - a. They will deny the deity of Jesus Christ.
  - b. They will deny the doctrine of the Trinity.
  - c. They will claim authority outside of and in addition to the Bible (usually another book or person that trumps the Bible).
  - d. They will adhere to a system of salvation that is works based.
  - e. There will be a lack of assurance of their salvation (thus the need to keep doing things)
  - f. They will misuse and misapply Scripture.
5. When a Jehovah Witness comes to your door – do you tend to hide from them or engage them? Discuss.
6. What is one thing you learned about Jehovah Witnesses that you did not know before?
7. Shawn talked about some of the doctrinal differences between Christianity and Jehovah Witnesses. He split it up into the following categories. Ask group members to pick one or two and see if you can remember what JW's believe and how it is different from Christianity:
  - a. **GOD**
    - i. Do JW's believe in the Trinity? (no)
  - b. **JESUS**
    - i. Who do JW's believe Jesus is? (Michael the Archangel)
  - c. **HOLY SPIRIT**
    - i. What is the Holy Spirit to a JW? (a force)
  - d. **SALVATION**
    - i. According to JW teaching how many people will make it into heaven? (144,000)
    - ii. What will happen to the rest of the JW's (will stay on earth in a new kingdom)
  - e. **HEAVEN AND HELL**
    - i. What do JW's believe about hell? (It is the grave – if you are not a JW you will be annihilated – cease to exist).
  - f. **PROPHECY**
    - i. How does the JW approach to Prophecy discredit them from orthodox Christianity and define them as a counterfeit and a cult? (They are batting 0 when it comes to prophesying the return of Christ).
8. Shawn explained a strategy for reaching out to Jehovah Witnesses. Can anyone remember what he said, what verse he equipped us with and what question to ask them?

9. “Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?” -2 Corinthians 13:5
- a. Share your testimony and ask them “have they passed the test?”
10. What did Shawn tell us to do when reaching our JW friends and neighbors?
- a. Answer your door.
  - b. Talk to them
  - c. Share your hope
  - d. Pray for their salvation
  - e. Be willing to walk with them if they come to Jesus

**APPLICATION:**

- If the opportunity arises, are you willing to answer your door and speak with a JW the next time they show up?
- If you know a Jehovah Witness, take some time and pray for them as a group.
- Memorize **2 Corinthians 13:5** this week.