

MAIN IDEA - Mormonism is a cult that claims the name of Christianity but leads people away from the truth.

Building Block #1 - Where Mormonism Came From

Mormonism (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints) was founded in the 1800's by a man named Jooseph Smith.

Building Block #2 - Mormon Books

Mormons follow a group of writings that are contradictory to the Bible.

Building Block #3 - Mormon Beliefs

Mormons claim to be Christians but teach much that is totally inconsistent with the Bible.

Brigham Young, a former Mormon president and prophet, once said, "How many Gods there are, I do not know. But there never was a time when there were not Gods and worlds, and when men were not passing through the same ordeals [mortality] that we are now passing through. That course has been from all eternity, and it is and will be to all eternity." Read Isaiah 45:5 and talk about whether this Mormon teaching agrees with the Bible.

Young also said, "To assert that the Lord made this earth out of nothing is preposterous and impossible. God never made something out of nothing." Read Genesis 1:1 and Hebrews 11:3. Talk about whether this Mormon teaching agrees with the Bible.

The Mormon website www.churchofjesuschrist.org says, "Do we believe in the Bible? Yes. Very much so. It's the word of God, a sacred volume of scripture, and required reading for a happy life." If Mormons believe the Bible, why are they willing to teach things that explicitly contradict it?

Pray

ISAIAH 45:5

- Adoration** Lord, you alone are God and are worthy of worship.
- Confession** We confess that at times we act like we are more important than You or like we know better than You.
- Thanksgiving** Thank you for teaching us through Your word that You are the only one worthy of worship.
- Supplication** Please open the hearts of Mormons around us so that they can hear the true gospel and be saved by it.

Memorize

ISAIAH 45:5

PARENT GUIDE

SUMMARY

This week we are continuing the Joseph narrative in Genesis as the sovereignty of God over Joseph's life becomes very clear. Joseph stands in front of the brothers who sold him into slavery 20 years earlier and he shows them grace because now he sees that God was doing something good even through the evil acts of his brothers. We learn that understanding God's sovereign rule over all things helps us to live graciously and generously toward others.

TEXT

Genesis 45, 50

OUTLINE

Because God is sovereign, we should humbly reflect His abundant grace.

Discussion Questions

- What is one way you have been sinned against?
- How does the story of Joseph teach us to respond when people sin against us?
- What is it about God's character that helps us live lives of grace and generosity toward others?

1. God is sovereign when people are sinful.

- So we can show grace to those who sin against us.
- Joseph tells his brothers that it was God who sent him to Egypt for a purpose. When he could have repayed his brothers' sin with judgment, Joseph shows them kindness.

2. God is sovereign over the salvation of His people.

- So we can rest in His plan.
- Joseph describes the reason God sent him to Egypt. He was sent to preserve life. God was working sovereignly even in the difficult times to save the family of Jacob and to ultimately preserve the lineage of Jesus.

3. God sovereignly provides bountifully for His people.

- So we should learn how He wants to provide for others through us.
- Joseph learned that his place in the good plan of God was to be the source of provision for his family. He could look back at his life and see the amazing ways that God had provided for him, so he turned and became God's instrument to provide for his family.

4. God is the only sovereign judge.

- So we should humble ourselves and extend grace to others.
- Joseph recognized that God had the authority and the power to judge his brothers for their wrongdoing. But his role was to provide for their lives and the lives of their families. We should always remember that God is the just judge who will make everything right. In the meantime, we should imitate Jesus, who showed grace to those who opposed Him.