

SEMINAR IN MORMON THEOLOGY AND HOW TO WITNESS TO MORMONS

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The purpose of this project was to develop and present a seminar to instruct members of the Independent Christian Church regarding the teachings of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The seminar provided an overview of orthodox Christian teaching and presented techniques for communicating the gospel more effectively to members of the Mormon Church. The four-hour seminar endeavored to do the following: (1) authenticate the fact that Joseph Smith was a false prophet; (2) demonstrate that the literature used by the Mormon Church as material equal with the Bible—the *Book of Mormon*, *Doctrine and Covenants*, and *Pearl of Great Price*—is false and untrustworthy; and (3) convince members of the Independent Christian Church to oppose such false teaching and to develop an improved method of personal evangelism.

The four-hour seminar took place at College Heights Christian Church in Joplin, Missouri. Pretests were administered to determine the level of awareness regarding participants' knowledge of Mormon beliefs. Test results confirmed that neither area pastors nor members of the Independent Christian Church were aware of the significant growth in Mormonism throughout southwest Missouri nor how to effectively reach them. Seminar posttest data evidenced increased attendee knowledge of Mormon practices and beliefs. Participants also developed better techniques for witnessing to members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The seminar also provided opportunity for a growth in ecumenical relationships as Christians from several Bible believing denominations worked together yet could still remain loyal to their own church backgrounds.