

# Leeds Atheist Society: Perspective

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## *The Church of Latter-day Saints*

Two missionaries 21 and 20 from America on a two year mission. Here to invite everyone to come to Christ, to be baptised and repent their sins.

## **Who is God?**

God is the heavenly father, body of flesh and blood. He is comprehensible, happy when we are good and sad when we are sinful.

## **Methods to Know God**

Scripture

Prayer: Two-way communication, God speaks through feelings.

God may appear: it has happened many times.

## **Families are Important**

God wants us to experience love via families.

Families can be together forever in a comfortable and loving relationship.

Death is not separation from loved ones.

## **Book of Mormon**

First Nephi – Creation of the earth, families will be together forever.

Prophets: Moses, Jesus, etc. as Christianity

Prophets condemned for teaching peace.

## **Agency**

The ability to make mistakes and learn from them. Sometimes used to reject message, when widespread rejection occurs this is known as apostasy. A prophet is then sent to help.

## **Before Christ**

A Period of widespread apostasy. Prophets & Jesus sent to help.

## **God is always conveying His message.**

Focus of Mormonism is not Joseph Smith but Jesus Christ. God's son enables resurrection and salvation.

## **Faith in Jesus Christ enables salvation.**

Jesus Christ suffered as a man (temptation, etc.). Jesus was crucified because his message was rejected.

## **Faith = Belief + Action**

Belief: Jesus, Recognise our own imperfections

Action: Repent, Baptism

## **Which Church?**

Twelve Apostles: Jesus gave them the right to lead the Church, to keep doctrine and structure preserved.

Apostles killed because of their rectifying effect.

Lack of apostles produces many churches and hundreds or thousands of Christian sects.

Reformers reign in teaching: Martin Luther, Calvin, etc.

How can we know which church is right? Joseph Smith (at 14) was told by many churches that they each were right. He read James, "If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him." And asked God, 'Which church should I choose?'

Told not to join any churches, they were all wrong. Twelve apostles appeared and gave Joseph Smith the authority to lead His church.

God provided evidence, not just word of mouth: the book of Mormon. Different from the bible, only translated once, not revised by councils.

## Questions

### *Patriotism & America?*

More members outside of US. Gospel is for all nations.

### *How long have you been in the UK, when did you first become a Mormon?*

17 & 15 Months. Baptised at 8. Raised in the church.

### *What if your family was not a member of the church / they were sinful?*

Sinful people will not go to heaven, but have an opportunity to accept God after death.

Heaven/Hell concepts different than Catholicism, etc.: there are three kingdoms, first degree closest to God, third degree furthest away.

### *Apostates?*

We're not the judge; however you go to hell if you were given the opportunity to accept Christ and refused.

### *Where did God come from?*

God has parents, we do not know who they are.

### *The Environment?*

First Nephi: earth for our use, gift from god therefore sacred.

### *Joseph Smith was jailed for fraud?*

Falsely accused. Joseph Smith was persecuted like the other prophets. He was martyred in Jail.

### *How many languages was the Book of Mormon interpreted into?*

English

### *Is that unfair on other cultures?*

Churches are constantly lead by revelation. Other translations are available, but not by Joseph smith.

### *Can you live a meaningful life without god?*

Yes, for example Chinese communism, where Christianity is unavailable. People are judged according to knowledge and desires.

### *How does being a Mormon affect your life?*

Missionaries 10am to 9pm. Not out on weekends. Happy every day. Follow all commandments.

### *Additions to the Book of Mormon for the 21st Century?*

Every six months there is a general conference and His prophet and the twelve apostles give talks.

These are considered scripture. See [www.lds.org](http://www.lds.org) and [www.mormon.org](http://www.mormon.org).

### *What is the role of Women?*

Men are priests, priesthood passed from father. Priesthood is the opportunity to serve god?

### *Why can't women serve God?*

Women have a separate calling.

*The golden tablets? Who left them? Where are they?*

Family from Jerusalem sailed to America and buried tablets.

After Joseph Smith had seen them the tablets were taken back up, eleven witnesses attest.

*Historical silence of God: why did it take so long for God to provide the right message?*

Spiritual darkness / people not ready. Restoration necessary, etc.

*Personal experiences in other religions?*

Holy ghost will testify to the truth. Every religion has some truth. Satan misdirects. Satan cannot bring true lasting peace.

*We will become like God?*

Yes, we are God's children and heirs to His kingdom.

*Is homosexuality to be avoided?*

Not born with homosexuality therefore it's a temptation. Marriage for one man with one woman.

*Can gay people love each other?*

I don't know

*What does God look like?*

A Human

*How do you explain Natural Evil?*

There is opposition in all things. We need opportunity for learning and growth. This life is nothing compared to the next.

*Why do you focus on Genealogies and the family?*

We help our family to receive god, we give baptisms to those that are dead and did not receive His message.