


  
**Student Support Program**
  
THE CHURCH OF Jesus Christ

**HELP!**
  
**I Don't Like Giving My Testimony**

This simple attitude adjustment instantly makes giving your testimony 100 times easier



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By Brother Josh Gehly

Oh, So...You're a *Mormon*?  
 Yep. I've been there. I've talked about Jesus, the Gospel, or the Church and immediately been labeled *Mormon*. Many times, I don't even have to mention the Book of Mormon. The name of our church is enough to cause the association. (For the record, I know some wonderful Mormons, but their organization just isn't my cup of tea.)  
 Me: "Yes, we believe in the Book of Mormon, but no we're not Mormon." "Just because you believe in the Bible, does that make you Catholic?" "Oh, no, our headquarters is in Pittsburgh, not Salt Lake City." "Actually, the Book

of Mormon does not support and often opposes many of the well-known Mormon beliefs like polygamy."  
 Have you had this conversation before? My guess is you've been there, too. It gets frustrating when you feel like you are being compared with or have to defend yourself against an organization to which you don't belong and beliefs you don't follow. The person you're talking with loosely connects Mormon = polygamy and immediately gets uncomfortable. They associate you with a stigma, put a mental wall up, and look for an exit from the discussion.  
 It may not happen every time, but

keep giving your testimony and it's bound to happen. Honestly, this used to make me never want to give my testimony to people. I knew the outcome already: the person isn't interested. Their look or attitude muted my desire to share the Gospel. Nobody likes to be categorized, falsely linked, or judged. For me, it felt like every cold turkey testimony was headed down a road towards a dead end.  
 Let me make this perfectly clear: the world needs to hear about Jesus Christ, His glorious Church Restored, and the Book of Mormon! Countless people are open to all of it, not just parts and pieces. What needed to change

wasn't my message. It was my approach and attitude. My testimony needed to change so the Spirit of God could work.

### **On the Defense**

Imagine if salesperson showed up at your door today with my old, defeated attitude. "Hi, would you like to buy this tissue box? Oh no, it isn't Kleenex, and it doesn't even remotely resemble Kleenex. No, we manufacture our tissues somewhere totally different than Kleenex. Sure, you can blow your nose in my tissues like a Kleenex, but we've never done some of the strange things with our tissues that Kleenex did."

*Shut the door on who you aren't and immediately give your testimony of who you are. Be sure to let the person know the blessings you've received are available for them, too.*

It's a silly example that isn't meant to reflect poorly on the Kleenex brand, but you get my point, right? The salesperson is defensive and negative. He says nothing about what the product is or does, only about what the product isn't or doesn't. That was my old testimony. I started out defensive. I used to talk about who we weren't and what we didn't believe.

You can never sell the Gospel or convince someone to join. A true conversion only happens through the Spirit of God, but that Spirit won't spread if you squash it with an "already given up" attitude. The Spirit of God thrives through the truth of the Gospel of Christ Restored. Stay on your side of the fence, and share your testimony!

Talk about Jesus Christ, the Restored Gospel, the blessings, the gifts, the miracles and, most importantly, your conversion. Nobody can ever take away your testimony of faith, repentance and baptism.

### **Stand Firm on the Truth**

Be bold about the Book of Mormon and what it is: the Word of God. Don't mention it casually like it's something you might want to look at sometime...maybe...if you want to...only if you feel like it...no pressure...just pray about it. Change this approach and attitude! Don't backpedal!

If you were in a place that had never heard of the Bible before, how would you describe it? Don't just keep reading this article, stop and try to describe to someone the Bible as if they've never heard about it before in their entire life.

What would you say? Would you use the words "life changing," "necessary," "amazing," "beautiful," or "glorious"? Would you say it was the Word of God? Would you say the message inside contains eternal hope and salvation? Would you say it contains the good news of

redemption and salvation through the Son of God, Jesus Christ? Would you tell them they need to pray about it right now, with you, together, because it is so important for them to read it?

Whatever you would say, replace the word Bible with Book of Mormon. Now you have your testimony.

### **Next Time...**

Oh, so you're a *Mormon*?

"No, I'm not. Let me tell you about what God has done for me..." Shut the door on who you aren't and immediately give your testimony of who you are. Be sure to let the person know the blessings you've received are available for them, too. For your listener, this could be the most important conversation of their entire life. Seize the moment!

## **Practice, Practice**

Suggest that your MBA or Sunday School teacher dedicate one lesson to testimony practice. Coach and encourage each other, and share approaches that have worked for you in the past.

Practice sharing your testimony

- With a good friend
- With a casual acquaintance
- With a co-worker
- With a complete stranger
- With a family member

Think of one specific person in your life who may need to hear your testimony, and commit to sharing it.