

Know what you believe about the real Jesus of the Bible and salvation by grace through faith.

Somebody's Knocking

by Rob Phillips

It's Saturday morning. Dad's making pancakes. Mom's helping little brother get dressed. You're planning a day with friends. Suddenly, the doorbell rings.

"I'll get it," you volunteer. As you open the door, two young men in white shirts and ties greet you. They smile, say good morning and ask if they can talk to you about something very important.

What should you do?

- a. Invite them in for pancakes.
- b. Slam the door in their face.
- c. Pretend you don't speak English.
- d. Get your parents.

It's never wise to invite strangers into your home, even when parents are in the next room. Being rude, or lying, aren't good options either. In this case, getting Mom or Dad is the way to go. The young men at your door are Mormon missionaries. They are from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Mormons, as well as Jehovah's Witnesses, often visit door-to-door. They are members of what may be called "cults." Cults are religious organizations that claim to be Christian but really aren't. They do not believe important Bible truths, especially about Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and the gospel (see 2 Corinthians 11:3-4).

What Should You Do?

- ✧ Get Mom or Dad.
- ✧ Be nice. Smile and say good morning.
- ✧ Step outside. This puts you in control of how long the conversation lasts.
- ✧ Respect their sincerity. Your guests really believe what they are sharing, but this doesn't make their message true.
- ✧ Take control. Your visitors have a well-rehearsed "sales pitch." Don't let them lead you through a series of questions you may not be prepared to answer. Instead, say, "I'd like to ask you a few questions."

You Can Ask the Questions

- ✧ Stay focused. Your questions could include: "Do you know for sure where you'll go when you die? How do you know?" Jehovah's Witnesses have no assurance they will be on "Paradise Earth" one day. Mormons are working to become gods.
- ✧ Know what you believe—especially about the real Jesus of the Bible and salvation by grace through faith.
- ✧ Get personal. Tell your guests how you came to realize you were a sinner. Share your belief that Jesus died on the cross for you and rose again, and saved you by His grace through faith, not works.
- ✧ Offer to trade a Christian booklet or New Testament for some of their literature.
- ✧ Thank them for coming and for listening.

Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses are working for their salvation. A smile, a kind word, and a testimony about your personal relationship with Jesus may just surprise them, and plant a seed of God's love in their minds. 