

What to say to a Jehovah's Witness

Jehovah's Witnesses are often perceived as arrogant know it alls. But they are really trained to feel personally inferior. They believe complete reliance upon the Watchtower is needed to understand the Bible. They do not believe the Holy Spirit works through them personally but through the Watchtower Organization. That is their channel to God. When they defend the Watchtower it is defending God who uses the Watchtower Organization. Their reactions are programmed -- they can't give you any ground. You are no better than them. Everyone needs the Watchtower. The Watchtower fears losing members and the JW fears losing salvation. So when you make your points, let them lie -- don't push too hard for affirmation. They are not hypocrites. The deceived become unknowing deceivers.

Here are some important Do's and Don'ts in witnessing to Jehovah's Witnesses:

DEFINITELY DO ...

1. On the initial call (when you are taken by surprise) set up an appointment for another time and exchange names and phone numbers. This will allow you to prepare and pray before a discussion.
2. Listen.
3. Ask questions: How long have you been a JW? Why did you become a JW? What is the gospel you are preaching?
4. Be friendly and hospitable.
5. If possible allow them to see your Christian library of resources: Bible Dictionary, Atlas, Commentaries, Concordances, etc. This is a good silent witness and will go further than you might expect. Without saying anything they will be impressed. First because they don't think anyone

but they have good spiritual food available.

6. Accept their literature. More likely to return. Read and take note of the emphasis of their gospel (Paradise earth). Check all their Bible references and read context. Notice where their "paradise" scriptures are found in the Bible (O.T.).

7. Preach -- by reading the gospel of the early Christians. Acts 1,2,3 & 10; 1 Cor. 15:1-11. You might want to ask them where the apostles preached about a paradise earth? Your concern toward them -- read Gal. 1:8,9. What you preach is very serious.

8. Learn Watchtower terminology. Emphasis in their literature tells you where their heart is.

9. Learn about the Watchtower's history for future discussion, not initial. Authority and credibility are the issue of concern here. When at a future time you use any quotes or details regarding their history it is very important you are accurate. If you make any incorrect statements you lose your credibility. Pose the information as a problem that concerns you, that you would like them to check out for you. They will feel more of a responsibility to do it if its for someone else.

10. Write down what you remember of conversations you have with them -- for future reference and for advice if you run into a problem.

11. Read book recommendations.

DEFINITELY DON'T ...

1. Don't mention ex-JWs or materials you have read criticizing the Watchtower. They are not allowed to read such material and will feel you are "contaminated" now.
2. Don't view as a one shot deal. Have long term goal in mind. JW is prepared to commit one hour a week for 6 months to a year with you. Encourage future conversations. Such concern to follow up will surprise as they feel individuals in Christendom don't care about anyone but themselves and their own salvation.
3. Don't emphasize doctrine (Trinity, Deity of Christ, hell, etc). 1 Cor. 2:14. Even if they bait you -- don't. Talk about something that matters to them. God's kingdom and God's reputation (see *Using the Bible to*

Reach Jehovah's Witnesses). Or talk about the gospel -- Christ's death, burial and resurrection -- preached by the early Christians.

4. Don't let them or you jump from proof text to proof text. Read passages of scripture. Look at context.

5. Don't lose your temper. JWs can and probably will exasperate you. Your Christian character may be the only lasting witness you will give them. And you may be the only Christian contact he or she will have for weeks or months. They may not remember what you said but will remember your demeanor (JWs expect good qualities only among other JWs). JWs only associate with other JWs for the most part, they do not read Christian materials, listen to Christian radio or watch Christian television programs and will not go into a church worship service.

YOU, therefore, may be their best opportunity to learn about Christ.

For further information, see the booklets *How to Answer a Jehovah's Witness* and *Using the Bible with Jehovah's Witnesses*.