

REACHING JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES
Brian Pope

© 2017 Brian Pope. All rights reserved.

Session One: Understanding Jehovah's Witnesses

Some Misconceptions About Jehovah's Witnesses

JW's don't believe in heaven.

They definitely believe in heaven, but they also believe that heaven is only for a limited number of people.

JW's believe that only 144,000 people are saved.

While they believe that only 144,000 will go to heaven, they also believe that millions will be saved to live forever in the earthly paradise.

JW's do not believe in Jesus.

They do believe in Jesus as a divine being, but not that he is God.

JW's never laugh or enjoy life.

Most JW's are friendly, pleasant, and fun.

JW's are trying to sell their literature.

This used to be true, but they no longer ask for, nor expect, payment or donations.

JW's want to argue with you.

Quite the opposite. If things get argumentative, they will either leave or "shut down."

JW's have a date set for the world's end.

This used to be true, but since the last failed attempt (1975) they have stopped making precise date predictions, limiting their language to "very soon."

Understanding Their Mindset

What motivated the founders to start this new religion in the late 1800's?

What motivates the present-day adherents to remain faithful to it?

Intro Question: What do you think about the direction(s) our culture is headed?

Ask that question and allow a half minute of thought, then field students' opinions.

Point out that some (and perhaps many) of their answers indicate some of the same concerns held by the founders, and current members, of the Jehovah's Witnesses.

Concerns common to JW's and evangelical Christians:

Alarming trends in culture and society away from God's values.

Compromise in the church (both moral and doctrinal).

Complacency in the church.

Emphases in the church on things other than the Gospel and its furtherance.

What Motivates Jehovah's Witnesses?

(Both the organization and individuals)

- JWs possess a pessimistic view of culture and the church ("Christendom")
They believe that a Great Apostasy began early in the history of the Christian church.

Paul warned that "oppressive wolves" would infiltrate the flock and would "speak twisted things to draw away the disciples after themselves." What should the elders do? "Keep awake," Paul warned, "and bear in mind that for three years, night and day, I did not quit admonishing each one with tears." — Acts 20:29-31.

"Oppressive wolves" made their appearance by the end of the first century. About 98 C.E., the apostle John wrote: "There have come to be many antichrists; . . . They went out from us, but they were not of our sort; for if they had been of our sort, they would have remained with us." (1 John 2:18, 19) By the third century, apostasy had led to the development of the clergy class of Christendom, and in the fourth century, Emperor Constantine gave official recognition to this corrupt form of "Christianity." By adopting pagan rituals and giving them a "Christian" veneer, religious leaders did indeed "speak twisted things." The effects of that apostasy are still seen in the teachings and customs of Christendom.

From *What Does the Bible Really Teach*, p. 170-172.

Satan the Devil could not silence the early Christians. Instead, he countered the impact of the good news by another means—apostasy. Jesus had foretold this development in his parable of the wheat and the weeds. (Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43) The apostle Peter had also warned that false teachers would arise within the congregation, bringing in destructive sects. (2 Peter 2:1-3) Similarly, the apostle Paul had specifically warned that apostasy would precede the day of Jehovah.—2 Thessalonians 2:1-3.

Following the death of the apostles, the good news came to be overshadowed by pagan teachings and philosophies. As foretold, false teachers distorted and polluted the pure message of truth. Gradually, true Christianity was eclipsed by a counterfeit called Christendom. A clergy class arose that tried to keep the Bible out of the hands of the common people. Though the numbers of those who called themselves Christians increased, their worship was not pure. Christendom grew geographically and became a powerful institution and a dominant force in Western culture, but it had neither God's blessing nor his spirit.

From *The Watchtower*, 4/1/2001, p. 14-15

- JWs have a sense of urgency.
In this Apocalyptic world view, Armageddon is Immanent.

The stage is now set for the war of Armageddon. How so?

Already there exists a worldwide association of people who serve Jehovah and live by the Bible's elevated moral standards. With God's backing, millions from all nations, tribes, and tongues are gathering together to form a harmonious, loving brotherhood. That brotherhood exists among Jehovah's Witnesses.—John 13:35.

Soon Satan will gather his armies and launch what will be his greatest assault on these peaceable and seemingly defenseless people. (Ezekiel 38:8-12; Revelation 16:13, 14, 16) How can you be

sure of that fact? The Bible describes specific events that help us to know when the battle of Armageddon will come. Many of the events it identifies are already being fulfilled.

. . .

If you have not had the opportunity to study the Bible closely, you may find it difficult to believe that the events described above will occur. But there is good reason to trust that every detail will be fulfilled and that these events will take place in the near future. The long record of Bible prophecies that have already been fulfilled provides that assurance.

From *The Watchtower*, 2/1/12, pp. 8-9

- JW's desire to Motivate Believers

They have developed a Holiness criteria (that is, a standard for who's in and who's out)

What are Jehovah's commandments? Some of them involve conduct that we must avoid. For example, note the box entitled "[Shun What Jehovah Hates](#)." There you will find listed conduct that the Bible clearly condemns. At first glance, some practices that are listed might not seem so bad. But after meditating on the cited scriptures, you will likely see the wisdom of Jehovah's laws. Making changes in your conduct may be the greatest challenge you have ever faced. Yet, living in a way that pleases God brings great satisfaction and happiness. ([Isaiah 48:17, 18](#)) And it is something that is within your reach.

From *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Chapter 12.

- JW's feel the need to ensure unity

First, since "oneness" is to be observed, a mature Christian must be in unity and full harmony with fellow believers as far as faith and knowledge are concerned. He does not advocate or insist on personal opinions or harbor private ideas when it comes to Bible understanding. Rather, he has complete confidence in the truth as it is revealed by Jehovah God through his Son, Jesus Christ, and "the faithful and discreet slave." By regularly taking in the spiritual food provided "at the proper time"—through Christian publications, meetings, assemblies, and conventions—we can be sure that we maintain "oneness" with fellow Christians in faith and knowledge. —Matthew 24:45.

From *The Watchtower*, 8/1/01, pp. 12-17.

- JW's wish to maintain doctrinal purity

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES:

There is only one true religion. — [Matthew 7:13, 14](#).

True religion is identified by its teachings and practices. — [Matthew 7:16, 17](#).

Jehovah's Witnesses practice the worship that God approves. — [Isaiah 43:10](#).

They claim to have an authoritative source of Truth
They are convinced that they are the True Believers, who exclusively have the true understanding of God, Jesus, revelation, and the Truth.
They have no idea that they follow a counterfeit.
They are guilty of accepting "facts" without question.
Question: Are we sometimes guilty of doing the same?

So How Do We Reach Them?

The truth is, we don't reach them. God reaches them.

Read John 6:44

Apart from God's Spirit drawing someone, how much interest would they have in God?

Read Ezekiel 36:26

How successful would a do-it-yourself heart transplant be, even for a heart surgeon?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17

If you died, could you re-create yourself? Could you re-create someone else?

Read 2 Corinthians 4:4

What role, if any, does rational convincing play in leading someone to Christ?

No one (JW or otherwise) will *ever* come to Jesus because of:

- My effort
- My cleverness
- My education
- My intelligence
- My pressure
- My convincing

The Need for Prayer and Reliance on God

Pray right now for Jehovah's Witnesses, those you know and those you don't know.

God does want to use you to reach them.

Otherwise, why else would Jesus give his Great Commission to us?

Matthew 28:18-20

Four Attachments Leading to Four Approaches

Because people are whole human beings (not just minds being carried around by a body), having a spirit and soul, our connections to our own families and culture are stronger than just rational.

There are at least four ways Jehovah's Witnesses are attached to the Watchtower organization.

1. Spiritual Attachment (the strongest): 2 Corinthians 4:4
Try sharing truth with a JW, and you will witness firsthand the spiritual blindness.
2. Emotional Attachment:
JW's are emotionally invested by means of:
 - Fear: Of Armageddon, of disfellowship, of loss of status
 - Guilt: Everything is either pleasing or displeasing to Jehovah
 - Manipulation: Read any part of their literature for examples
3. Relational Attachment
Disfellowshipping means complete loss of family and friends, and being alone.
4. Rational Attachment
JW's are taught a (mostly) internally consistent logical system.
It makes sense to them.
They are taught that the doctrines of "Christendom" are irrational.

These four cords of attachment can then be used as four approaches to reaching Jehovah's Witnesses. The next four sessions are based on these four attachments.

Session 2: The Spiritual Approach
Session 3: The Emotional Approach
Session 4: The Relational Approach
Session 5: The Rational Approach

Benefits of Reaching Out to Jehovah's Witnesses

Here's a Bonus: Ministering to JW's benefits your faith!

Contact with the counterfeit helps us become more familiar with the Real Thing.
Sharing with JW's increases your discernment of truth and error.
You will experience the encouragement of seeing God at work.
You will gain a deeper appreciation for who you are and what you have in Christ.
God will give you a tolerant heart of compassion for the shepherd-less sheep.

Session Two

The Spiritual Approach to Reaching Jehovah's Witnesses

Note:

By "Spiritual Approach," we don't mean that other approaches are worldly, fleshly, or wrong. The term "spiritual" is employed to mean "other than rational, or relational, or emotional, or by some other means." Not that there's anything wrong with those approaches. In fact, they will be addressed in sessions to come. It just means that we need to be using the spiritual approach *first* and *always*, even while using the other approaches.

Review: Do You Remember:

Why are we unable to reach Jehovah's Witnesses (or anyone else) with the truth about the gospel?

For the answers, review these scriptures:

John 6:44

2 Corinthians 4:4

2 Corinthians 5:17

Ezekiel 36:26

And yet, we're given the great commission

Review Matthew 28:18-10

So what's our role?

We are Christ's Ambassadors--2 Cor 5:20

What is an ambassador?

Things an ambassador is not: (Give an example of each. What would it look like?):

Not police

Not judges

Not lawyers

Not Debate champions

Not Argument winners

Not Name-callers

An Ambassador IS: Jesus' Representative

[Note: Group leader may white out the above answer to make it a fill-in.]

God wants to reach Jehovah's Witnesses, and He wants to use us (the church) to do it.

The Great Commission

Matthew 28:18-20 "Go"

What if you didn't even have to go, but instead they came to you?

Principles from *Experiencing God*:

Recognizing that God is at work around you.

If anyone expresses interest in God, Jesus, Scripture, or the Church, you know that God is at work.

God is bringing them (the mission field) right to your door!

The Bible declares that no one can come to Christ unless the Father draws him (see John 6:44). People will not seek God or pursue spiritual matters unless the Spirit of God is at work in their lives. Suppose a neighbor, a colleague, or one of your children begins to inquire about spiritual issues. You do not have to question whether God is drawing that individual. He is the only One who can do that. If they're asking, God is at work.

Experiencing God, Henry and Richard Blackaby, B&H Publishing, 2008, p. 125.

Results of winning the argument

It WILL NOT convince them.

Spiritual blindness (2 Cor 4:4)

It WILL affirm their training, which says:

They are the persecuted ones. (This is also called the *martyr complex*.)

You are the opposition.

You are the enemy.

It WILL end your witness with them

Possibly by the elders

Or by the individual

Consider this quote from The Watchtower and the picture that follows it:

Today, Jehovah's people are not often confronted with apostasy within the congregation. Still, when exposed to unscriptural teachings, regardless of the source, we must decisively reject them. It would be unwise to engage in debates with apostates, whether in person, by responding to their blogs, or by any other form of communication. Even when the intention is to help the individual, such conversation would be contrary to the Scriptural direction we just considered. Rather, as Jehovah's people, we completely avoid, yes reject, apostasy.

From *The Watchtower*, Study Edition, July 2014.



Picture and text from *Watchtower*, Study Edition, July 2014.

ASK: Think about something you have a strong opinion about. (*Don't* share your answer, please; just think about it.)

Examples: global warming, gun control, capital punishment, legalization of marijuana, political candidates, etc.

If an acquaintance of yours held a different view, what would carry the most weight in changing your viewpoint? Rank the following:

- Convincing logical presentation of the evidence.
- Personal stories of your friend's experiences.
- Your friend winning the arguments and debates with you.
- Your friend helping you through a tough time.
- Your friend's patience and kindness through the process.
- Your friend's belittling of / ridiculing your viewpoint.

Our Mission Is Not :

- Not to win the argument.
- Not to logically convince them or set them straight.

Our Mission Is:

- To keep our friendship, and therefore our witness, intact as long as possible.
- To cooperate with God's plan of reaching out to JW's
- To allow God to use us as his tools in influencing JW's
- To make the True Gospel (and God and Jesus) attractive to JW's

Read 2Tim 2:24-26 (below)

Underline negative results

Circle positive results

What must we NOT be? _____

What must we BE? _____

[No answers to these open-ended questions above are provided in the leader's guide. Discuss this Bible passage and come up with your own answers! This is the opposite of JW Bible studies, where the rote answers to questions are found within the assigned paragraph.]

Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

Second Timothy 2:24-26, *New International Version*

Instead of focusing our energies on debating theology with the Witness, we ought to focus on the actual person. If possible try to get to know the JW personally, ask them about their families, their work, how they became JW's. This will humanize your discussions with the witnesses.

Brian Garcia, *Can I Get A Witness? How to Understand and Set Free Jehovah's Witnesses*, c. 2013, p. 50.

DON'T tell [the JW] you will pray for them or that you feel sorry for them, or tell them they are brainwashed or stupid. Witnesses usually have a strong ego, and quickly take offense to a condescending attitude. Rather, say that you are interested in the Watchtower organization and why they have come to believe in it, and do they mind if you ask some questions about the Watchtower? . . . A curious or questioning stance is not usually threatening to the Witness, but a negative, judgmental stance will drive them away from you.

Randall Watters, "Coming Out of the Watchtower; Why Is It So Difficult?" Jul/Aug 1991 *Bethel Ministries Newsletter*, www.freeminds.org

You want to get your Jehovah's Witness or Mormon friends to question without coming across like you are questioning for the sake of disproving what they believe. You are questioning so that you can understand their view better. At this point in your conversations, don't worry about proving or disproving certain points. If you question with the intent of understanding, the truth will reveal itself.

Evidence Ministries, Keith Walker's Blog

<http://blog.evidenceministries.org/discussing-the-authority-of-the-watchtower-with-a-jehovahs-witness-elder-part-2/>

8/27/13

Steps to Reaching Jehovah's Witnesses

A "Backwards" Strategy

Most books, websites, and other materials get things backwards, providing arguments to use to "win the debate" or "defend the faith" or "set them straight." But that is putting the Logic Cart in front of the Spiritual Horse. Here are the steps in a more effective order.

First, PRAY for your JW friend or family member.

There's NO WAY they will be convinced unless God's Spirit is already at work in them.

Review again John 6:44 and 6:65

Second, LISTEN to them before unloading your information.

Asking them about their spiritual story and other aspects of their life may change the direction of your witness.

You may be the first and only non-JW who has expressed genuine love and care for them!

Third, Share your TESTIMONY or something about how God is at work in your life.

Make your living, active relationship with Jesus and Jehovah attractive to them.

This won't be difficult, because they don't have it, and have not experienced it!

Fourth, Share SCRIPTURE with them.

Read Isaiah 55:11. How effective will scripture be when shared with others?

Even though they know many verses from their training, they have personally interacted with surprisingly few passages of scripture.

Even if they seemingly have no reaction, you don't know how it's affecting them internally.

You don't have to know Hebrew or Greek, or have extensive Bible knowledge.

Share your favorite verse and how it has impacted your life.

Keep it simple. If you know only one Bible verse, share it!

Pray that they will not be able to get away from God's Word; that the scripture will come back to their mind; that they won't be able to rest without thinking about the scripture they have encountered.

Fifth, Address ONE DOCTRINAL ISSUE with them.

Have you done steps 1 through 4? Why not? Do you care about them as a person, or are you just wanting to win an argument?

Don't dump all your material on them all at once. Don't scare them off.

Be patient and sow seeds a little at a time.

Give them one thing to think about.

See the "sample dialogue" handout.

What if you experience no results?

Because of the strength of the deception, and their depth of commitment to it, you might meet with a JW for years, with no tangible results. What then?

You are adequate: 2 Cor 3:5-6

The Goal is Faithfulness to God, not Winning the debate or gaining followers.

First Peter 5:12: Silas, a non-famous but faithful disciple.

Session Three: The Ties That Bind

The Emotional Approach to Reaching Jehovah's Witnesses

Many of you may be under the impression that Jehovah's Witnesses joined the Watchtower due to the attractive doctrines they present. While this is a factor in most cases, more powerful motivations are at work in the conversion and indoctrination process of the Watchtower.

From Randall Watters, "Coming Out of the Watchtower; Why Is It So Difficult?" Jul/Aug 1991
Bethel Ministries Newsletter, www.freeminds.org

JW's are emotionally invested in and attached to the Watchtower organization, by means of three strong cords: Fear, Guilt, and Manipulation.

Fear: Of Armageddon, of being disfellowshipped, of loss of status in the congregation

Armageddon is taught primarily as Jehovah's judgment and destruction of his enemies (governments and false religions), but there's a subtle suggestion that inactive and backslidden JW's are in danger of being destroyed too.

We must endure, not for a time, but to the end. To illustrate: Imagine a ship that capsizes. To survive, the passengers must swim to shore. The swimmer who gives up only a few yards from shore faces the same fate as the swimmer who gave up much earlier. Similarly, we are determined to endure until we reach the new world. Our life depends on our enduring. We have an attitude like that of the apostle Paul, who twice stated: "We do not give up."—2 Cor. 4:1, 16.

From *The Watchtower (Study Edition)*, April 2016, p. 17.

Disfellowshipping is the discipline used on JW's living in unrepentant sin, but is also used on those who express disagreement with any Watchtower doctrine and/or authority. Language used:

"Are you questioning the faithful slave?"

"Don't run ahead of what's written."

"Don't express your personal opinions here."

"That's independent thinking."

Disfellowshipped members are allowed to attend meetings, but no one will talk with them or even acknowledge their presence.

Disfellowshipping means the loss of ALL of a member's friends and family (since all ties with non-JW friends and family have already been broken).

Loss of Status: Erring JW's who are repentant may lose their "kingdom privileges" for a time; that is, whatever role or position they had within the congregation, whether that be eldership, being a "ministerial servant," giving talks, running the sound system, etc.

God's Antidote for fear: 1 John 4:18, Luke 12:5, 1 Timothy 1:7

Guilt: Everything is either pleasing or displeasing to Jehovah
Loyalty to the organization is equated with loyalty to God
Passive-Aggressive language; for example:

What are Jehovah's commandments? Some of them involve conduct that we must avoid. For example, note the box on page 122, entitled "Shun What Jehovah Hates." There you will find listed conduct that the Bible clearly condemns. At first glance, some practices that are listed might not seem so bad. But after meditating on the cited scriptures, you will likely see the wisdom of Jehovah's laws. Making changes in your conduct may be the greatest challenge you have ever faced. Yet, living in a way that pleases God brings great satisfaction and happiness. (Isaiah 48:17, 18) And it is something that is within your reach.

From *What Does the Bible Really Teach*, p. 121.

SHUN WHAT JEHOVAH HATES

Manslaughter.—Exodus 20: 13; 21:22, 23.

Sexual immorality. —Leviticus 20:10, 13, 15, 16; Romans 1:24, 26, 27, 32; 1 Corinthians 6:9, 10.

Spiritism.—Deuteronomy 18: 9-13; 1 Corinthians 10:21, 22; Galatians 5:20, 21.

Idolatry. —1 Corinthians 10:14.

Drunkenness. —1 Corinthians 5:11.

Stealing.—Leviticus 6:2, 4; Ephesians 4:28.

Lying.—Proverbs 6:16, 19; Colossians 3:9; Revelation 22:15.

Greed.—1 Corinthians 5:11.

Violence.—Psalm 11:5; Proverbs 22:24, 25; Malachi 2:16; Galatians 5:20, 21.

Improper speech. —Leviticus 19:16; Ephesians 5:4; Colossians 3:8.

Misuse of blood. —Genesis 9:4; Acts 15:20, 28, 29.

Refusal to provide for one's family.—1 Timothy 5:8.

Participation in wars or political controversies of this world.—Isaiah 2:4; John 6:15; 17:16.

Use of tobacco or so-called recreational drugs.—Mark 15:23; 2 Corinthians 7:1

From *What Does the Bible Really Teach*, p. 122

[Brian's Note: While these points may appear on the surface to be reasonable, they are loaded with specific details and directives, and treated as binding laws with no room for compromise or individual interpretation.]

God's Antidote for Guilt: Romans 8:1, 8:30, Galatians 2:16

Manipulation: Read any part of their literature or listen to any of their talks for examples

Mind Control Techniques: Peer group pressure, confusing doctrine, repetition, loaded language, questioning forbidden, isolation from friends and family, isolation from literature critical of the Watchtower, etc.

Note: Many would call this ongoing process “brainwashing,” which is technically true, but we use that term without thinking about what is really involved. All of us are similarly brainwashed about certain things. For example:

How many of you still believe that we need to wait a half hour after eating before getting back in the swimming pool, or else you will have cramps and could die?

If you no longer believe that, how much of your life did you believe it?

Why did you believe it? Did you learn it from sinister people?

Your answer to this will likely be either:

No, my parents didn’t know any better (they were sheep), or

Yes, it was a manipulative plot on the part of my parents (they were wolves at times).

When did you stop believing this? And why and how?

We are brainwashed by our culture on a daily basis.

Sometimes those training us mean well, but teach us bizarre things.

Sometimes those training us are manipulating us. Can you think of examples?

How have you been brainwashed?

God’s Antidote for Manipulation: 1 Thessalonians 2:3, 2 Corinthians 4:2

Spiritual Check-Up

Are you experiencing a Christian life free from fear, guilt, and manipulation? If not, to what extent are you experiencing one or more of these? Perhaps you have allowed fear or guilt to creep back into your spiritual life. If so, use the verses above to combat those attacks from the enemy. Involve trusted fellow believers in praying for you; that’s what the body of Christ is for! And if you’re in a church that uses manipulation heavily, you may want to consider seeking another, more healthy environment.

Destroying Hoover Dam with a Hammer and Chisel



Imagine yourself trying to bring down the Hoover Dam with only a hand chisel and a hammer. (Can you hear it? “Tink, tink, tink!”) Seems impossible, right?

Like a huge dam, these emotional bonds may seem impenetrable, and apart from God that is true.

Review: John 6:44

Only God can break these bonds.

So what can we do?

We can drill a small hole in the dam.

If over time enough holes are drilled, or if an explosive device (such as life crisis) finds its way into one of the holes, the whole dam can collapse.

(Occasionally, even rarely, God drops a bomb on someone's dam and sets them free instantly, but in most cases He wants to use us and others to reach them.)

Leaving behind the imagery of a dam, the more biblical word picture is of *sowing seeds*.

Sowing Seeds on the emotional soil of Jehovah's Witnesses

The Seed of Your Personal Testimony

First, ask him or her how they became a Jehovah's Witness

Listen to their testimony, paying attention to what emotional need the Watchtower met for them.

If they were born and raised a JW, ask about when they began to “own it for themselves.”

Share about when you began a relationship with God through Jesus, or about when you first “owned it for yourself.”

Avoid terminology that they will perceive comes from Apostate Christendom:

Saved

Born Again (they believe in this, but with a meaning different from ours)

Trinity

Emphasize how beginning a relationship with God through Jesus has benefitted you personally in your life experience. Talk enthusiastically and genuinely about any of the following:

- Joy
- Being forgiven
- Having a daily relationship with God through Jesus
- Answers to your prayers
- God providing for your needs
- Your excitement about what God is doing in your life.

The Seed of Your Present Experience with God

Share, with genuine enthusiasm, about what God is doing in your life right now.
Tell them about something you recently learned from scripture.
Tell them about your prayer life and answered prayer.
Tell them about a hardship God has helped / is helping you with.

Whether or not they react to what you're sharing, it will have an impact.
They're in a religious system, rather than an actual relationship with God.
Their perception of non-JW "Christians" is people in empty religions.
They don't know what to think of a non-JW who has a vibrant relationship with God. It will blow their mind! (But again, they may not give any clues that it's happening. They're good actors, with lots of practice!)

The Seed of your relationship with God lived out in front of them

Model it before them by:

1. Expressing enthusiasm about the impact of God's Word in your life.
2. Continuing to be a friend to them.
3. Helping with their needs (moving, cleaning, babysitting, teaching them a skill, gardening, etc.)
4. Attending kingdom hall meeting with them (see handout).
5. Attending assemblies and/or conventions with them (see handout).
6. Give an "I was thinking of you" gift (but not birthday, Christmas, or other holiday).
7. Asking about their lives, family, friends, activities, work, vacation, etc.
8. Be willing to talk with them at any time. (If they're calling you, God is at work!)
9. Tell them about any ministry you're doing, and how much you're enjoying it.
10. Tell them about a victory over sin in your life.
11. Tell them about how other believers have helped you and/or prayed for you.

Session Four

The Relational Approach to Reaching Jehovah's Witnesses

Review: Four ways Jehovah's Witnesses are attached to the Watchtower organization.

1. Spiritual Attachment
2. Emotional Attachment
3. Relational Attachment
4. Rational Attachment

This session highlights the relational attachment, and how we can connect with JW's because of it.

The human need for relationships.

"The LORD God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone.'" –Genesis 2:18

We need relationships. Without them, we die or go crazy.

Remember the movie *Cast Away* with Tom Hanks? Who was the main character's best friend on the island?

The Watchtower's limiting and controlling of Jehovah's Witnesses' relationships

The individual JW is bonded relationally with the congregation

At our meetings, we gather together, not with mere acquaintances, but with a group of close friends. On other occasions, we spend time together in wholesome recreation. What beneficial effect does such association have? We learn to appreciate one another more, and that strengthens our bonds of love. Then, when our companions are facing problems, we readily help them because strong friendships have been established. (Proverbs 17:17) By associating with all members of our congregation, we show that we "have mutual concern for one another."—1 Corinthians 12:25, 26. We encourage you to choose as your friends those who are doing God's will. You will find such friends among Jehovah's Witnesses. Please do not let anything hold you back from associating with us.
From *Who Are Doing Jehovah's Will Today?*, Chapter 6.

Ties are then severed with those outside the Watchtower organization.

Like Noah and his family and Christians in the first century, we do not associate with anyone who does not love Jehovah. We have millions of faithful brothers and sisters whom we could choose as our friends. They will help us to "stand firm in the faith" during these very difficult times. (1 Corinthians 16:13; Proverbs 13:20) Just think how wonderful it will be to survive the end of this wicked world and live in Jehovah's new world! How important it is to avoid bad associations now!
From *The Watchtower*, August 15, 2015, p. 26

Finally, members are under constant threat of being disfellowshipped, not only for unrepentant sin, but also for questioning any of the teachings and/or authority of the organization, independent thinking, asking the wrong questions, or sowing seeds of doubt with others.

Today, it is not common to find apostates in the congregation. Yet, we may still be exposed to ideas that go against Bible teachings. No matter where these ideas come from, we need to be determined to reject them. It is not wise to have communication with apostates, either in person, over the Internet, or in any other way. Even though we may want to help the person, we would be disobeying God if we had such a conversation. He commands us to reject, yes, completely avoid, apostacy.

From *The Watchtower*, July 15, 2014, pp. 11-12.

Has your JW friend expressed belief in something that you consider to be absolutely absurd? You may wonder how your JW friend or relative could believe “such a ridiculous idea as x.” Here is a fictional account of an imaginary JW’s thought process that may help you to understand their experience:

Stan, a long-time JW since his early teens (now in his early 40’s), begins to have doubts about the teaching of Jesus’ invisible return in 1914 to evaluate religious organizations and give approval to the one true organization. He has several legitimate questions about the scriptures used to support the doctrine, including the legitimacy of interpreting one of Jesus’ parables as a prophecy (Matthew 24:45-51). The midweek Bible lesson encourages members to take their questions to elders, who will naturally help to find a sufficient answer to any question a member may have, so Stan is cheerful and excited when he approaches Harry, one of the elders. He begins to mention his concern to Harry, but to Stan’s surprise, Harry seems defensive. “Are you questioning the faithful slave?” he asks. Stan assures Harry of his loyalty to the Watchtower organization, and changes the subject. Stan then reasons to himself that he will never again bring up a sticky subject like that one with any other JW. “It’s ok though,” he thinks. “I may not understand it now, but perhaps soon there will be a new article that will explain things better. Or if there is an error, there may soon be ‘new light’ that will clear things up. Jehovah is working in his organization, so he will make all things clear eventually, and meanwhile I must just be patient.”

How does this story end? That depends on Stan. Some JW’s will put the issue out of their mind for the rest of their lives and live with the logical tension, resulting in what psychologists call “cognitive dissonance,” that is, believing two contradictory things at once.

Other JW’s cannot live that way for long, and the tension will bother them, perhaps even subconsciously, for years, until they cannot live with it any longer. They may abandon religion altogether, but hopefully they will meet someone like you who can help them begin a relationship with Jehovah through Jesus Christ, based on grace and forgiveness, rather than on fear and manipulation.

Meanwhile, Stan is bound to the Watchtower organization out of fear of losing his connection with his fellow JW’s, who have become his only practical friends and family. Stan thinks he has

deep, lasting, spiritually-based friendships with other JW's. He thinks he's in a loving, caring family. Why would he even consider leaving that?

He also thinks that those in "Christiandom" (you and I) have shallow relationships with our so-called friends, and that we meet at church once a week, either never seeing each other otherwise, or if we do meet, it's to party and sin together.

So what can you and I do for "Stan," that is, your JW friend or relative?

Our mission can be summed up this way:

We need to give the Jehovah's Witnesses positive experiences with real Christians.

Breaking the Watchtower stereotype of "Christians"

Here's what we need to do:

1. Model before them healthy relationships with your fellow believers.
 - Tell about a time the body of Christ helped you.
 - Tell about a time you helped a fellow believer.
 - Tell them about a healthy, spiritual activity your church did together.

| |
|--|
| Example: Our small-town church participates in the annual Christmas parade in town, depicting the manger scene on their float. It's the only religious expression in the whole parade—the rest is Santa, snowmen, lights, parties, gifts, etc. Even though JW's cringe at the thought of celebrating Christmas, my JW friend was impressed with our depiction of the biblical story of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus in this otherwise "pagan" Christmas parade. |
|--|

Casually mention these things in conversation, rather than "making a point" about it with them. Let these things be part of your normal life context exhibited before them.

2. Show them how a healthy spiritual relationship works by cultivating one with *them*.
 - Pray for their needs, both with them and on your own.
 - Pray practical, caring prayers (for healing, provision, etc) with them. (But keep your prayers for their salvation, freedom, etc. private.)
 - Grieve with them during their times of loss.
 - Rejoice with them during their times of joy.
 - Give them "just thinking of you" gifts (not holiday or birthday gifts).
 - Provide any kind of practical help they may need.
3. Join them in a social activity.

Jehovah's Witness activities:
Congregation meetings

Annual “Lord’s Evening Meal” (their version of communion)

Regional Assemblies

Annual Convention

Spoiler Alert: You will find these activities both very boring and bizarre at the same time. The enjoyable part is talking with your JW friend and other JW’s before and after the event.

Neutral Activities:

Some non-JW activities they *might* be willing to meet you for:

Coffee or a meal at a restaurant.

Shopping, especially if they are in need of transportation.

Helping them move, repair their home, repair their car, other tasks

Attending a funeral

Attending a wedding anniversary celebration or baby shower (surprisingly not forbidden)

Joining you for a picnic in the park

Going for ice cream

Activities JW’s will *NOT* do with you:

Attend your church’s worship service

Attend a special event at your church

Celebrate a holiday with you

Attend a birthday party with you

Anything associated with the military or patriotism

To sum up once again:

We need to give the Jehovah's Witnesses positive experiences with real Christians.

What if they break off their relationship with you?

Suddenly it happens. They don’t return your calls. They avoid you. They give excuses as to why they can’t meet with you. You wonder, “What did I say or do?” Don’t take it personally. Here’s what’s happening, and what to do about it:

1. They may have broken it off themselves. If this is the case, they did it out of fear. They were afraid that they would be accused of associating with an “opposer” to their religion.
2. They may have been forced to break it off by one of their elders. If the elders suspected that you were trying to influence them away from “Jehovah’s organization,” they may have been forbidden to meet with you. Again, don’t take it personally.
3. Continue to be their friend, no matter how they treat you. Show them God’s unconditional love.
4. Continue to pray for them.
5. If they have a need, show up and help them with it, even if they express that they don’t want or need your help.
6. They will likely throw away any notes you send, without reading them. Instead, consider other tangible gifts, like leaving vegetables on their porch, etc.
7. You might consider “calling their bluff,” that is, getting them to vocalize exactly why they are avoiding you, cutting through all their excuses. You do deserve an honest

- explanation rather than their excuses, and hearing themselves say it out loud might make them realize the seriousness of their actions. You could ask, “You seem to be avoiding me. Can you tell me why? Have I offended you in some way? What’s *really* going on?” (See the information on *cognitive dissonance* above.)
8. Realize that the amount of time they had with you was only by the hand of God, and that it was likely the longest amount of time they ever had someone really care about them personally.

The Window of Opportunity

Your time to share with your JW friend or relative is limited!
For the reasons given above, you may only have a short time to plant seeds with them. You may have to go “undercover,” pretending to be interested in their teachings (which can actually be true). Being “wise as serpents and gentle as doves” (Mt 10:16) becomes highly relevant to our mission.
Pray that your time with them will be maximized, and that God will protect your relationship to keep it active for as long as possible. Ask for the “Holy Spirit shield” to protect your interactions with your JW friend. Enlist others to pray for you and your JW friend.

Group Sharing Time:

Now it’s time for y’all to be the body of Christ with each other, sharing the following and praying for each other:

Share a time when fellow believer(s) helped you with a need.

Share with the group your greatest need in your life right now.

(If that cannot be shared publically, find a trusted fellow-believer after class and share with them. Do it this week!)

Pray as a group for one another’s needs.

Pray as a group for Jehovah’s Witnesses that you know.

Pray as a group for one another’s witness with JW’s and others.

Session Five

The Rational Approach to Reaching Jehovah's Witnesses

Review the four attachments that Jehovah's Witnesses have to the Watchtower Society:

1. Spiritual Attachment (the strongest):
2. Emotional Attachment:
3. Relational Attachment
4. Rational Attachment

We have saved the Rational Attachment for last, because it should not be the first approach used! Because Jehovah's Witnesses are whole people, with a spirit and soul as well as a mind, the spiritual, emotional, and relational (social) bonds are stronger than their rational or intellectual beliefs. In other words, the spiritual, emotional, and relational bonds will always trump the rational. That is why you can present ironclad rational arguments to them with no effect. Perfect rational arguments will slip off them as if they were made of Teflon!

However, there are times and places when the presentation of rational evidence is needed.

WHEN TO SHARE

Present Rational Arguments When Any of the Following Apply:

1. They are ready for it. How can you tell when they're ready?
When they ask you a question.
Example: They ask, "Do you believe in the Trinity?"
2. When it will connect with them emotionally or spiritually.
Example: You ask, "Have you experienced being adopted as Jehovah's son/daughter?"
3. When it will get them to question the authority of the Watchtower Society and/or its leaders.
Example: You ask, "If the group of men at headquarters is the 'faithful and discreet slave' now, who was it in 1914? I thought there was only one leader at that time?"
4. When it will get them to question the logic of a particular Watchtower belief.
Notice, I did not say "when it will win the argument."
We want them to leave thinking about what you shared, not resentful of you.
Example: "Can you explain to me what is meant by a 'spirit-body'? I don't find that phrase in the Bible."

WHEN *NOT* TO SHARE

When NOT to use rational arguments with Jehovah's Witnesses:

1. When it will shut down your conversation and/or relationship with them.
They are trained to NOT LISTEN, at all, literally, to any opposing argument!
You will see them "tune out," "shut down," change the subject, or make an excuse to leave.
2. When someone in a leadership position is present.
Elders and Circuit Overseers are trained to spot "opposers" and forbid members from talking with them.
3. When it will be too much and overwhelming to the Jehovah's Witness.
Share small amounts of evidence or rational argument. We're about planting seeds, not dumping on them.

Read 1 Corinthians 3:5-10:

What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building. By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care.

Also Read First Peter 3:15:

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

Discuss the following together:

1. How many people shared with you before you became a believer?
2. How long did the whole process take?
3. What were some of the ways you resisted?
4. What got through to you? What made you change your mind?
5. If you are a believer from before you can remember, great! For this exercise, think about a life change or attitude change that God has done in you. Then, apply the same questions to that experience.

HOW TO SHARE

General Principles for Sharing Truth with Jehovah's Witnesses

1. Keep it simple.
 - Avoid long arguments about complex doctrine (e.g. the Trinity)
 - Limit your discussion to one major topic. (Maybe two, but that's pushing it.)
2. Keep on their side.
 - Don't be the enemy attacking their beliefs.
 - Be an inquisitive Bible student with legitimate questions.
 - Use the "Judo technique," that is, defensive rather than offensive.
 - Examples:
 - "Can you answer this question for me?"
 - "Can you help me understand this?"
 - "I'm confused. The watchtower teaches x, but this verse seems to say otherwise."
3. Win *them*, not the argument
 - The goal is to attract them to a real relationship with Jehovah through Jesus Christ
 - We want them to be forgiven and free in Christ, not defeated by us.
 - Keep friendship with them alive for as long as possible.
4. Blame a third party for opposing arguments
 - Examples:
 - "I read online somewhere . . ."
 - "One of my friends says that JW's believe x. Is that true?"
 - "I heard someone on the radio say . . ."
5. Use scriptures that they have never considered seriously.
 - Examples:
 - "Can you explain to me what this verse is saying?"
 - "I know that Watchtower teaches x, so how do you explain this verse?"
 - "Have you seen this in Romans 8 about being adopted as Jehovah's son? Have you experienced this? Have you been adopted as Jehovah's son?"
 - "Can I share with you one of my favorite Bible verses?"
 - See "What to Share" below for more ideas.
6. Hand write scripture references and questions that you will be showing them.
 - JW's are afraid of any printed material that does not come from the Watchtower.
 - Printed material not from Watchtower sources is considered "apostate literature."
 - JW's are trained to not even look at printed materials from sources other than their own.
 - Hand-written information looks like it came from your own personal study of the Bible (which it should anyway). It will not be as threatening to them.
7. As much as possible, control the conversation.

Try to avoid their conversational ruts.

This is particularly challenging, especially if you're trying to be defensive rather than offensive.

Get back onto your topic by saying, "I'll have to research that more. But getting back to my question, . . ."

Their Favorite "Rut" Topics:

God's correct name being Jehovah

Paradise on Earth

The Coming Kingdom

Trinity as a pagan doctrine

Hellfire as a pagan doctrine

Deity of Jesus Christ as a false doctrine

Holidays as pagan practices

Preaching and other great things JW's do

God's one true and approved organization

8. If they gain control of the conversation, here's what to do:

Look at whatever scripture they bring up *in its context*.

Look with them at the verses before and after. That alone will often reveal the flaws in their argument.

Look at the cross-references in *their Bible* (the *New World Translation*).

Sometimes the cross-references will take you to a verse that supports your view!

9. If all else fails, change the subject.

They do it, so you can too.

Example: "I don't know much about that. But what do you think about . . ."

WHAT TO SHARE

My favorite topics to discuss with JW's:

God's name (Yahweh rather than Jehovah)

Ask: Shouldn't we be using the name Yahweh for God, since it's really God's real name from the Hebrew language, and since the pronunciation "Jehovah" is the Latinized pronunciation popularized by the corrupt Roman church in the 1400's?

Salvation by grace through faith

Ask: What must we do to do the works that Jehovah requires? (Wait for their answer.) Why does your answer differ from what Jesus said in John 6:28-29?

New Covenant

Ask: If only the 144,000 are in the New Covenant as Watchtower teaches, then what covenant are the "Great Crowd" believers in? (Share what the Bible says about the New Covenant from Jeremiah 31:31-34, and the contrast between those in and those outside the New Covenant in Ephesians 2.)

Jesus as Mediator

If Jesus is the mediator for only the 144,000 as Watchtower teaches, what business do the Great Crowd believers have praying “in Jesus’ name”?

Kingdom Benefits for all who believe

See handout: “To All Who Believe . . .”

Hand write some of the kingdom benefits listed and the scriptures to go with them. (JW’s are afraid of any printed materials not published by Watchtower.)

Ask: “Can you explain to me why this verse seems to indicate that this benefit is available to all who believe, even though Watchtower teaches that it’s only available for the 144,000?”

Assurance of Salvation

Ask: “Can I share with you one of my favorite verses, First John 5:13? I’m excited about this verse, because I have received the assurance that I have eternal life. Have you received that assurance; that is, do you know for certain that you have eternal life and will live forever in paradise?” (Don’t mention *heaven*. Their doctrine states that heaven is only for the 144,000. Keep focused on the concept of eternal life.)

“When can someone know for certain? When they’re baptized? After surviving Armageddon? After the final test at the end of Armageddon? Doesn’t this verse seem to be saying that we can know right now?”

The Gospel or Good News

See the JW brochure *Good News from God*

Ask: Why is the gospel, or “good news,” as taught by the Watchtower, different from the gospel as spelled out by Paul in First Corinthians 15:1-11?

Let’s look at John 5:39-40.

Have you come to Jesus for eternal life?

Adoption as Sons of Jehovah

Ask: “Why does Watchtower limit Jehovah’s adoption of His sons and daughters to the 144,000, when scripture seems to indicate that adoption as sons is a kingdom privilege available to ‘everyone who believes’?” (See John 1:12 and First John 5:1. See also Romans 8:15 and Galatians 4:6-7 and be blessed.)

If the “great crowd” believers are not legally adopted children, are they more like foster children, or step-children?

Jesus beginning to rule Jehovah’s kingdom in 1914

Ask: “If Jesus began to rule in 1914 (as Watchtower teaches), why did he say “All authority in heaven and on earth *has been given* to me” in Matthew 28:18? What more authority could there have been to be given to him in 1914?”

Citizens of the Kingdom

Watchtower teaches that only the 144,000 are citizens of Jehovah’s kingdom, effectively making the great crowd believers something like second class citizens or foreign residents.

Ask: I read in the Watchtower (or at www.jw.org) that the “great crowd” believers are likened to the “foreign residents” of the Old Testament. Did you know that the foreign aliens could become full naturalized citizens, able to participate in all the festivals and feasts, including the Passover? If the foreign residents could participate fully and eat at the Passover feast, why are the great crowd believers now forbidden to fully participate and eat at the Lord’s Evening Meal (the NT fulfillment of the OT Passover)?

See Exodus 12:48-49, Deuteronomy 16:11-14.

Want to go deeper?

Key JW Scriptures

These are the scriptures JW’s use to support some of their pet doctrines. If you can learn the answers to these, you can interact with them effectively in these areas. See www.4witness.org for helpful information on each of these subjects. It will also be helpful to study the scriptures themselves in their contexts.

Daniel 4 used to “prove” that Jehovah’s kingdom was restored in 1914.

There’s a long, convoluted argument presented by Watchtower, based on Nelson Barbour’s Adventist prophetic chronology from the 1800’s.

Number 14:34, Ezekiel 4:6, and 2 Pet 3:8 are all used as proof texts to justify the strange calculations.

Matthew 24:45 used to “prove” that the Governing Body (Watchtower leaders) are the “faithful and discreet slave” mentioned in this parable, and are thus the only group authorized to “give [spiritual] food at the proper time.”

The Governing Body (a small group of men at JW headquarters) is taught to be the only authority leading Jehovah’s earthly organization and correctly interpreting scripture.

Hello, it’s a parable, not a prophecy!

Also, ask: Why was Paul and the church in Antioch not guided by the apostles in Jerusalem (“governing body”), but instead were guided directly by Holy Spirit? (See Acts 13 and Galatians 1&2.)

Revelation 7:1-4 and 14:1 used to “prove” that only the 144,000 “anointed” believers are going to heaven, the “other sheep” (John 10:1) are the “great crowd” believers who will live in paradise on earth.

The “great crowd” believers thus have all the imperatives (commands) of scripture, but almost none of the promises.

Ask: “Can you show me where in scripture it says that only 144,000 people will be in heaven?”

Psalms 83:18 and Revelation 4:11 used to support the Jehovah’s Witness pride that they are the only ones using and honoring God’s name.

See Exodus 6:2-3. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob did not know God by the name Jehovah (YHWH). If they could have a close relationship with God without knowing that name, is that what is really most important?

See the book of Acts (all through it) concerning what name was most important to the early church. (Hint: It begins with J, but it's not Jehovah.)

The Deity of Christ: A Topic to Avoid.

Or, to Address, Maybe.

You should address the Deity of Christ only if you think they're ready to seriously consider it, and only if you're prepared.

Here are some approaches.

John 1:1

If they bring up this verse as found in their New World Translation, where they have translated the anarthrous *theos* (the word "god" without the article "the") as "a god" rather than "God":

Take them to Thomas' words in John 20:28, where Thomas uses the word *theos* (God) with the article ("the") when addressing the resurrected Jesus. He literally says of Jesus, "The Lord of me and *the God* of me." Meaning "the one and only true God."

Ask them: Are you able to say to Jesus, along with Thomas, "My Lord and My God"?

If they say that Thomas was then rebuked by Jesus, point out that Jesus was not rebuking Thomas for saying those words, but rather that he had not come to that conclusion sooner. Jesus then said that later believers, who don't have the privilege of the empirical evidence of Jesus standing in front of them, would be blessed for their belief.

John 14:28

If they bring up this verse, which says "The Father is greater than I," or Mark 13:32, "of that day or hour no one knows, . . . not the son, but only the Father."

They will spend some time arguing that these verses prove that Jesus cannot be Jehovah.

Ask: "What if I could show you a verse that says that Jesus is equal to God. What would that verse be saying about Jesus?"

Take them to John 5:18.

It was not the Pharisees saying that Jesus was claiming equality with God. It was the narrator, John the Apostle, saying that Jesus' claim was making himself equal to God. This at least shows that John the Apostle believed that Jesus was claiming to be equal to God.

WHAT NOT TO SHARE

Topics to avoid:

Usually addressing the following topics will not get you very far. They should (mostly) be avoided.

Blood transfusions

Holidays and birthdays

Patriotism

Serving in the military
Jesus crucified on a cross, or on a “torture stake.”
Other secondary (or tertiary) issues

Of course, God may use one of these topics to reach someone. But I would only talk about them if the Lord leads.

WHERE TO SHARE

What are some places you’re likely to meet Jehovah’s Witnesses, and have an opportunity to share with them?

At your door
At your workplace
At school (they do tend to send their kids to public school rather than private or home-schooling.)
At local businesses (grocery store, auto shop, etc.)
At the Kingdom Hall (yes, you can go with your friend, or just show up)
At one of their assemblies or conventions (Yes, they’re open to the public. No need to picket outside. Go in and sit with people, listen, and talk to them afterwards!)

At their literature carts in public places

This is a relatively recent ministry practice for them, surprising given their emphasis on door-to-door preaching work.

Look for two of them standing with a cart in train stations, town squares, tourist spots, and college campuses.

What to say when they ask if you’re enjoying the meeting/assembly/convention

You’ve spent hours listening to the most boring lectures you have ever experienced. Then one of them cheerfully asks you, “So, are you enjoying the meetings?” How do you answer? I usually say something like: “I’m really glad I came.” It’s truthful, without telling them how utterly bored I am. I am honestly excited and glad to talk with JW’s before, in between, and after the boring parts.

Sample Dialogue for the Spiritual Approach

Setting: After a meeting in the Kingdom Hall, Victor Visitor meets JW Jerry.

Jerry: Hi, I'm Jerry.

Victor: Glad to meet you, Jerry! I'm Victor.

Jerry: What did you think of the meeting? Did you like it?

Victor: I'm really glad I came.
(Not mentioning that it was the most boring evening Victor has ever experienced in his life; Victor's answer is, however, an honest one, because he's excited about the opportunity to talk with JW's.)

Jerry: What did you think of the talk given by the Circuit Overseer?

Victor: I'm glad you asked, because I noticed that he mentioned "living forever in paradise," or eternal life, several times.
(Keying off the lesson is a good, natural lead-in to discussing a Bible topic.)
That's something I'm really excited about in my life. I'm thrilled that I have come to the place that I know for certain that I have eternal life. Can I show you one of my favorite Bible verses about it?
(Bringing in what God has done in his life. Also bringing in Scripture to speak to the JW, rather than just human ideas.)

Jerry: Oh, yes! Here's my Bible.

Victor: It's First John 5:13.
(Victor lets Jerry look it up himself, so that Jerry will interact personally with the scripture verse. Victor also lets Jerry use the *New World Translation* rather than arguing about the biases of that version--a discussion for another day, time, and setting.)
Can you read that verse for me?
(Letting Jerry see the scripture, hear the scripture, speak the scripture, and touch the scripture—as many senses as possible.)

Jerry: (Reading) "I write you these things so that you may know that you have life everlasting, you who put your faith in the name of the Son of God." Oh yeah, that goes along with what the Circuit Overseer was saying, about living forever in paradise.

Victor: Yes, and I love what it says: "so that you may KNOW that you have life everlasting." Isn't that great? I love that I have come to know for certain that I have life everlasting. Have YOU come to the place where YOU know for certain that YOU have life everlasting?

Jerry: Um, I don't know. Oh, hey, I have to go. See you next week?
(Jerry has reached the end of his comfort with the subject, and wants to end the conversation.)

Victor: See you next time I'm here! Remember, First John 5:13! Have a look at it again later on today—it's great!

Jerry: Okay, bye!

Victor: Bye!
(Jerry shows no discernable response to what Victor shared with him. However, later that night, Jerry has a hard time sleeping because he keeps thinking about what Victor said, and about what he read in the Bible.)

Sample Dialogue for the Emotional Approach

Setting: Victor (non-JW) and Jerry (JW) bump carts at the grocery store.

Victor: Hi, Jerry!

Jerry: Oh, hi, Victor!

Victor: Good to see you!

Jerry: It was good to see you at the Lord's Evening Meal last Friday night. Did you enjoy the meeting and the talk?

Victor: I'm really glad I was able to be there.

Jerry: I haven't been able to call you since then, because we're getting ready to move.

Victor: Oh, you're moving? Where to, and when?

Jerry: Just across town. We're moving into a bigger place, since my mother is going to be living with us. The actual move will be a week from Saturday.

Victor: Are you needing help? I can bring my truck for hauling stuff.

Jerry: Oh, um, well, that would actually help a lot. You're really willing to help? You know, you don't have to do that.

Victor: I know I don't have to, but that's what makes it so fun! In fact, it would make my day. I'm always looking for things to do to say "Thank you" to God for all he has done for me.

Jerry: Well, okay then, it's next Saturday, not this Saturday.

Victor: Okay, are you starting early, like at 8:00 or so? I could be there then.

Jerry: Oh yes, we will already be up and working.

Victor: We moved two years ago, and the folks in our church were so helpful. We had a crew of about 10 people who generously gave of their time, and so the move went really quick. We were so thankful to God for his people!

Jerry: Oh, okay. I'll see you next Saturday then. (He begins to push his cart away.)

Victor: See you then! Take care.

Sample Dialogue for Relational Approach

Setting: Victor (non-JW) is talking with Jerry (JW) after the all-day Jehovah's Witness assembly they attended together.

Jerry: Hey Victor, did you like the assembly today?

Victor: I'm really glad I came.

Jerry: Do you have any questions about the talks we heard?

Victor: Yes, I do. One of the speakers was introduced as having spent many years at Bethel. What is Bethel?

Jerry: Oh, Bethel is our headquarters in New York state.

Victor: Oh, I see. That makes sense now. Jerry, I have a couple more questions, but I think they could take a while to answer, and I know we're both hungry. Shall we stop for something to eat on the way home, then we could talk over dinner.

Jerry: Yeah, I guess we could do that. It can't be an expensive place, though.

Victor: Great! I know of a great Greek place that's on our way, and it's very reasonable. Do you like Greek food?

Jerry: I don't think I've ever had it.

Victor: Oh, you're in for a treat then!

Sample Dialogue for the Rational Approach

Setting: After a meeting in the Kingdom Hall, Victor Visitor meets JW Jerry.

Jerry: Hi, I'm Jerry.

Victor: Glad to meet you, Jerry! I'm Victor.

Jerry: What did you think of the meeting? Did you like it?

Victor: I'm really glad I came.
(Not mentioning that it was the most boring evening Victor has ever experienced in his life; Victor's answer is, however, an honest one, because he's excited about the opportunity to talk with JW's.)

Jerry: What did you think of the talk given by the Circuit Overseer?

Victor: I'm glad you asked, because I noticed that he mentioned "living forever in paradise," or eternal life, several times.
(Keying off the lesson is a good, natural lead-in to discussing a Bible topic.)
That's something I'm really excited about in my life. I'm thrilled that I have come to the place that I know for certain that I have eternal life. Can I show you one of my favorite Bible verses about it?
(Bringing in what God has done in his life. Also bringing in Scripture to speak to the JW, rather than just human ideas.)

Jerry: Oh, yes! Here's my Bible.

Victor: It's First John 5:13.
(Victor lets Jerry look it up himself, so that Jerry will interact personally with the scripture verse. Victor also lets Jerry use the *New World Translation* rather than arguing about the biases of that version. That is a discussion for another day, time, and setting.)
Can you read that verse for me?
(Letting Jerry see the scripture, hear the scripture, speak the scripture, and touch the scripture—as many senses as possible.)

Jerry: (Reading) "I write you these things so that you may know that you have life everlasting, you who put your faith in the name of the Son of God." Oh yeah, that goes along with what the Circuit Overseer was saying, about living forever in paradise.

Victor: Yes, and I love what it says: “so that you may KNOW that you have life everlasting.” Isn’t that great? I love that I have come to know for certain that I have life everlasting. Have YOU come to the place where YOU know for certain that YOU have life everlasting?

Jerry: Yeah, sure.

Victor: Really? You know for certain, without a doubt, that you have eternal life?

Jerry: Well, no one can know that for absolutely certain. I mean, I could lose it at some point.

Victor: What? Wait a minute. Let’s read that verse again. (Either reads the verse again or has Jerry read it.) Doesn’t it say here, in scripture, that someone can know that they have eternal life?
Oh, wait a minute. Let’s see what the requirement is. It says, “you who put your faith in the name of the son of God.” Have you done that?

Jerry: Oh, yes, for sure. I have been in the Truth since I was ten years old.

Victor: Okay, good. And I also have put my trust in Jesus, like it says here. So then it says that we can know that we have eternal life. I’m certain of it! But you don’t seem to know for certain that you have eternal life. Why?

Jerry: Well, because the Bible says that “he that endures to the end will be saved.”
(Referring to Matthew 10:22, 24:13, and other verses.)

Victor: Okay, yes, endurance is vital, but in the meantime this verse seems to indicate that we can have confident assurance that we will endure, and that eternal life is something we can be sure of right now. How could someone possibly lose it?

Jerry: Well, he might turn away from Jehovah and his organization.

Victor: So if we could lose our eternal life (which if it’s eternal I don’t see how it could end), when will you know, or when can someone know for certain that they have eternal life, like this verse is saying? If I get baptized as a Jehovah’s Witness, will I know it then?

Jerry: No, you have to endure to the end.

Victor: Oh, so after Armageddon, when I’m in paradise, then I’ll know for certain, yes?

Jerry: No, because there’s a final test at the end of the 1000 years.

Victor: So let me see if I’m understanding this right. Before you can know for sure that you have eternal life, you have to make it from now until Armageddon, then survive Armageddon, then make it through the 1000-year kingdom and pass the final test, then you will know for certain that you have eternal life. Is that right?

Jerry: Well, yes, but Jehovah will help you make it through the thousand years, because he will be working on you the whole time.

Victor: But what about that final test? What if you don't pass?

Jerry: Oh, but I will. By then I'll be nearly perfected.

Victor: I think of Adam and Eve. They were perfect, but they didn't pass their test. And not everyone will pass the final test, will they?

Jerry: Well, no.

Victor: That just seems to me like a system based on fear. I don't see that here in First John. It seems to be saying that we can know for sure, right now, doesn't it?

Jerry: Hmmm. I don't know. I will have to research this some more.

Note:

The "I don't know" statement is one indication that the JW is done with the discussion. Other indicators are:

Changing the subject.

Attacking a different doctrine of "Christendom."

Glazed-over look and avoiding eye contact.

Suddenly having to leave.

Faking illness or another ailment (yes, I have seen this).

Victor: Well, it's definitely something to think about. So, do you live here in town?
(By changing the subject, Victor gives Jerry an "out," and keeps the friendship alive.)

How to Attend a Jehovah's Witness Meeting at a Kingdom Hall

1. Attend with a JW friend, or just show up alone. They're open to the public.
2. Do not be afraid. Nothing weird will happen--No animal sacrifices or shouting.
3. Be prepared for a boring experience. Talks are tedious, and are given mostly by amateur speakers, and closely follow content provided by the Watchtower society.
4. Take a Bible with you, so you can look up scriptures they mention. Showing interest in the Bible is a good thing.
5. They might offer you a songbook or other materials to use during the meeting. Go ahead and accept them, and return them back to the one who lent them, or to the book counter after the meeting.
6. Talk with people after the meeting. Share your excitement about knowing God, or a scripture that has blessed you recently.
7. Ask a question about something in one of the talks.
8. If you can't think of anything to talk about, ask if you can share your favorite Bible verse with them.
9. Wifi will not work unless you have the password, which is available only for baptized JW's. If you have a data plan, you can access www.jw.org for publications and the JW Bible, to follow along with the talk.

How to Attend a Jehovah's Witness Assembly or Convention

1. Don't picket or preach outside the event.
2. Go inside and sit with someone and introduce yourself to those around you.
3. Bring your lunch—there will not be any food for sale.
4. Bring your Bible. Showing interest in the Bible is a good thing.
5. Prepare for boredom. The talks will be tedious, and will follow the JW party line without exception or deviation.
6. Bring a notebook for jotting down questions and topics to discuss with JW's after the meeting.
7. Sit by someone at lunch time, and engage them in conversation.
8. After eating and talking, walk around during the lunch break; keep your circulation going so you can endure the afternoon talks.
9. Bring snacks and coffee (or other caffeine beverage) for energy.
10. The event is free, and no offering is taken.
11. If there is a "release" of a new book or CD or other material, take one if you really plan on using it, otherwise don't take it. (It will also be made available online anyway.)
12. There's usually a handout with the speaking schedule; use it for taking notes for discussion with JW's after the meeting.

To You Who Believe . . .

| The Benefits | The Proof |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Redemption* | Romans 3:24 |
| Born Again | I John 5:1, John 3:3 |
| Sealed by / with Holy Spirit | Ephesians 1:13, 4:30 |
| Adoption / Sonship | John 1:12, Galatians 3:26 and 4:6, Romans 8:15, Hebrews 12:5-11, Hosea 1:10, 1 John 3:1 |
| Receiving / Having Holy Spirit | Acts 2:38, Ephesians 1:13 |
| Abraham's Seed | Galatians 3:7, 16, 29 |
| Declared Righteous | Romans 4:5, 5:1-2, 8:33, Acts 13:38-9 |
| Royal Priesthood / Kings | 1 Peter 2:7-9, Revelation 5:9-10 |
| Pleasing God / Doing the works of God | John 6:28-29 |
| New Covenant | Hebrews 8:10-12, 9:15, 12:24, Ephesians 2:12 |
| Heirs | Romans 4:14, 8:17, Galatians 3:29, 4:7, Titus 3:7, Ephesians 3:6, James 2:5 |
| Jesus as Mediator | I Timothy 2:5-6, Hebrews 8:10-12, Matthew 26:27-28 (new covenant) |
| Eternally Secure | John 10:28-29 |
| Belonging to Christ | Galatians 3:26-29 |
| Immortality | 1 Corinthians 15:42-54, 1 Peter 1:4, Romans 2:7 |
| Citizens | Ephesians 2:19, Philippians 3:20 |

*Indicates the one benefit available to both the anointed class (144,000) *and* the great crowd believers, as taught by Watchtower; the rest of the benefits listed being available *only* to the 144,000.