

Evangelizing Jehovah's Witnesses – Helpful Reminders and Unhelpful Approaches

We have found these reminders helpful:

1. Remember to **stay in prayer** (1 Thessalonians 5:14) throughout your interaction, relying on the Holy Spirit, the perfect Helper, to guide you so that you...
2. Remember to **walk by the Spirit** and be led by Him so that the fruit of the Spirit is *evident* in your words, actions, and attitudes: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. (Galatians 5)
3. Remember to **lovingly use thought-provoking questions** in your efforts to share the true gospel.
4. Remember that **it's okay to say "I don't know," or "Let me think about that and get back to you,"** as that has the added benefit for you to...
5. Remember to look for opportunities to **schedule a time to continue your dialogue. (IF YOU ARE UNPREPARED OR DO NOT HAVE TIME TO ENGAGE, SIMPLY SCHEDULE A TIME FOR THEM TO RETURN, AS THEY ARE EXTREMELY LIKELY TO AGREE AND RELIABLY RETURN!)**

We have found these approaches unhelpful:

1. Being dismissive. You have a lost soul (or souls) in front of you willing to discuss God, so be grateful for the opportunity to fulfill His command to share the gospel and make disciples. (Matthew 28:18-20)
2. Being aggressive. You should desire to be used by the Lord to win souls; your goal is not to win a debate.
3. Failing to address “theological term switching.” JWs will seemingly agree with many of your beliefs, but the words/phrases you use hold different meanings; for example, they will verbally agree that Jesus died for our sins...but they don't believe Jesus is God or ever claimed to be God, so they don't have true, saving faith. (1 John 2:22-23) Ask clarifying questions like “Who do you believe Jesus is? What does “Son of God” mean to you?”
4. Thinking they will take/read materials that prove their organization is a false prophet. While their documented, false-prophecy history is (to us) clearly condemned by Deuteronomy 18:20-22, most JWs have been conditioned to not read materials speaking against the organization (as they see those materials as apostate/anti-God). These materials are good for *us*, but they **cannot** do the work for us. (Only JWs willing to go against their training will entertain reading this material; it will typically be rejected and be a conversation stopper.)
5. Talking *at* or down to JWs when sharing God's truth with them. They are strongly cautioned against "casting pearls before swine" in their ministry, and they will likely disengage as soon as they get the impression that you are trying to teach them or preach to them. This connects to the above suggestion to lovingly use thought-provoking questions.