

Outline of presentation

Background information:

- Married since 1998 w/ 4 kids and one on the way
- Graduate Christendom College (BA Political Science and Economics)
- Has been studying apologetics seriously for over 15 years.
- Taught junior high theology, history, and pretty much everything else for 2 years at a small Catholic school.
- Taught some informal courses in apologetics to adults

History and Doctrine of JW's

Founding thru Present day

Doctrines

- Arianism
- no immortal soul,
- vindication of Jehovah's name paramount
- Ransom
- Great Apostasy stuff
- 144,000 and the replacing of Christ's mediation with the Faithful and Discreet slave class
- no blood transfusions (also used to be no organ transplants) Birthdays, Christmas, holidays in general, saluting the flag, gambling, smoking, reading opposing or apostate material

Discussion of controlling groups

- Does the Watchtower fit the description?

How to witness to a Witness

First, what is their method? They place a magazine and get you talking about the state of the world. They establish a back-call, have an initial discussion, answer questions and attempt to begin a "Bible-Study" using their new publication "What Does the Bible Teach" Once that is established, they invite you to the Kingdom Hall for the public talk and Watchtower study. After a few months you may be invited as an observer of field work, then moved toward baptism.

Ultimately the JW's security is the watchtower organization and also the fellowship he shares within his congregation. He is buried under a security blanket of "proofs", enveloped in a closed society and his mind is trained to automatically discard all that does not agree with the Faithful and Discreet Slave. Even if you seem to make headway, he retreats to his congregation and his proofs and comes back all the stronger.

Surveying exit accounts of xjw's, three major reasons for exit:

- 1) expelled for infraction / unrepentant (most common among 2nd generation JW's in early adulthood)
- 2) Lost faith in organization over doctrines (especially things like dating the fall of Jerusalem, new light that comes up on old understandings, or some inconsistency that causes irreconcilable cognitive dissonance)
- 3) Lost faith in organization because scandal/community problems (recent molestation cases are a prime example)

Points to consider:

- 1) Patience and Charity – impress upon the JW's subconscious that not all in the world is as bad as

rumored.

- 2) Get to know the JW and his personality.
- 3) Try to relate the discussion either directly or indirectly in some way to a hope in Christ. The JW is less likely to leave the security of his beliefs and organization when only faced with a cold and uncaring world.
- 4) Avoid Bible ping pong. The JW is trained in this approach and takes security in this approach. Some doctrinal discussion is necessary, but avoid protracted battles. Also, you can cause the JW to flee if he feels attacked in his faith. He is taught to avoid such feelings.
- 5) Instead master the use of leading questions, and use them in a non-threatening context of “allowing” the witness to teach you. They will be more open and will try to provide you with real answers.
- 6) Remember the humanity of the JW. He is most likely a firm believer and is putting a lot on the line to witness his hope to you. Remember what his organization has stolen from him. Witness to him in true Christian love, not for your own pride or to “win” a debate.
- 7) Don't drag out old Watchtower's unless you can find a good excuse for having access to them
- 8) NEVER use Apostate (former JW) material
- 9) Pray constantly
- 10) Patience and Charity

Three approaches to witnessing based on your skill, confidence and time.

- 1) Short road: Answer the door, greet the JW, listen to the question about the state of the world or whatnot, express that your hope is to be in heaven with Christ using an appropriate scripture if you wish and politely refuse the back call.
- 2) Medium road: (Only recommended to those strong in Faith and fairly competent) Accept the magazine and back call, or invite the witness in. Offer them a drink and discuss several thought provoking topics, namely, the Canon of the New Testament (this is good on many levels, and opens the witness to learning more about the early church fathers), The Heavenly and Earthly hopes, the date for the fall of Jerusalem, etc. The JW will either run away want to move in to a Bible Study, at which point you can politely refuse.
- 3) Long road: (only recommended to skilled and patient apologists, and even then with reservations) Same as medium, but don't hit quite so hard at first. Your aim is to play the stubborn student, though never lie. Be open about your faith and conviction in Christ. Perhaps say something like, “I'm always open to discuss truth, if you can convince me your organization is true, I have no choice but to join.” Begin the Bible study, and instead of answering the very simple questions in the book, ask leading questions. Do this for as many weeks as you can. You may have different JW's do your study, perhaps an elder may be assigned to you.