

The Commitment Dialogue

Let's suppose you have an investigator who has not yet committed for baptism and has heard more than three discussions. Let's say you have already:

- 1. Soft Challenged them**
- 2. Talked frequently about baptism**
- 3. Reviewed past commitments, like reading, praying, and so on**
- 4. Attempted to plan a "Straight Gate" date**

But you find they're still unable to commit to a solid date or reveal "hidden" concerns. This Commitment Dialogue is a heart-to-heart talk with your investigator and should not only reveal and resolve any remaining concerns about baptism, but also help them commit to a firm date.

Ask

- How Do you feel when we teach you?**
- What would be the hardest teaching for you to live?**
- What good things would happen if you joined the Church?**
- Is there anything in the Church or its teachings that is evil or would cause a person to be bad?**
- Is there any reason why you shouldn't join the Church?**



Listen

Learning to listen empathetically is critical to resolving concerns. As missionaries, we often need to talk less and listen more. Sometimes we are so intent to share our message, our stories, and our examples that we forget that our investigators may not be listening to us because of a concern they have or a question that they need to ask. The commitment dialogue is a reminder for us to step back and get in touch with our investigators' feelings and impressions. We can't do this while we are talking. Often it is like peeling an onion back layer by layer to get to the core issues or concerns of our investigators.

Bear Your Testimony

We know the Church is true and want you to be happy with this knowledge. Here are some things you can do to help you know for yourself:

- Study**
- Pray**
- Attend Church**
- Let a Member Visit You**

From my experience, more often than not, investigators don't doubt the truthfulness of the gospel or the Restoration as much as they doubt themselves. Past religious experiences may lead them to create false expectations of the preparation time necessary and where they need to be spiritually in order to be baptized. Some see it as the end of the gospel



path rather than the beginning. Clearly explain that the baptismal covenant requires

- 1. A desire to repent and come unto Christ**
- 2. A promise to obey the commandments as best as you can**
- 3. A beginning testimony of the truthfulness of the Church and its teachings**

If you feel like they meet these conditions, you can say, “Since you have these feelings and knowledge, will you be baptized on _____?”

These questions should bring out concerns and give you an opportunity to resolve them. Be sure to let your investigators state all their concerns before trying to address them right off, as the first concern is not always the real one. Practice this dialogue well enough to give it with your own words, in the spirit of genuine love and understanding, all the while building up and praising all their good progress.

