

FAITH, FAMILY, FACTS, AND FRUITS

FACTS

- “Mormon” is a nickname for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Members are often referred to as “Mormons,” “Latter-day Saints,” or “LDS.” The term “Saint” means “member.”
- The Church was restored in 1830 in upstate New York with Joseph Smith as its first prophet and president. Today it is headquartered in Salt Lake City, with President Thomas S. Monson as the present prophet.
- There are now over 13 million members in 176 countries and territories. About 6 million of these are in the US, making us the fourth largest Christian denomination in America. As one of the fastest growing Christian faiths in the world, we complete a new chapel every working day. Members pay a tithe, which is 10 percent of their income, making this and other programs possible.
- Local congregations are led by volunteer, unpaid members. Both men and women serve in assigned leadership positions.

FAITH

- We believe in the eternity of the soul, that God is the Father of our spirits, and that we can return to Him after death.
- We believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and our personal Savior, and we try to model our lives after Him and His teachings. We commemorate Christ’s atoning sacrifice in our Sunday worship services, similar to taking communion in other churches.
- We believe the original church that Jesus established was lost and has been restored again in our day. The priesthood, the authority given to man to act in the name of God, with apostles and a prophet to lead us, has been restored as have all necessary ordinances of salvation.
- We believe in and we use the Holy Bible, both the Old and New Testaments. We also believe in the Book of Mormon as “Another Testament of Jesus Christ.”

FAMILY

- Mormons place particularly strong emphasis on family as the basic unit of the Church and of society. We have a deep commitment to marriage (defined as a union between one man and one woman). Polygamy, a limited practice in the early pioneer days of the Church, was discontinued in 1890, some 117 years ago.
- Families and individuals, whether members of our faith or not, can attend Sunday services.
- Latter-day Saint families are encouraged to hold family home evenings weekly, usually on Monday nights. This provides a regular and predictable time for parents to teach values to their children and to have fun together.
- There is also much focus on extended family, genealogy, and personal family history, providing young and old with a stronger sense of roots, identity, and belonging. The highest and most sacred ordinances of our faith relate to our families, both living and dead, and some of these ordinances take place in our temples.

FRUITS

- One of the fruits is a longer life. Studies show that practicing Mormons are healthier and therefore live longer than the national average.
- Those who are married in and attend the temple regularly have a divorce rate far below the national and world average.
- We achieve an educational level that is higher than the national average.
- Over 70,000 members volunteer at their own expense to serve for 18 to 24 months in humanitarian efforts, Church assignments, and full-time missionary service worldwide.
- We place strong emphasis on self-reliance and a solid work ethic. We encourage active involvement in our communities and in providing service to others. The Church continues to donate substantial money, goods, and services to humanitarian causes around the globe.