

**This guide is intended as an introduction to some of the tactics used by missionary groups.** While the tactics of the various missionaries and missionary groups may vary, there are some basic strategies used which should be kept in mind.

### 1 CAMOUFLAGE

Some missionaries attempt to develop a rapport with their subject without divulging their own religious affiliation. If you are not sure about the religious identity of the stranger who begins talking to you about religion, ask him directly if he is a believer in Jesus. Be suspicious of an indirect answer. Don't be deceived by any outer signs of Jewishness such as a "Chai" necklace or a Star of David. They are worn to make Jews feel more comfortable by making the speaker seem less "Christian." For the same reason, missionaries are coached by their superiors to avoid using words such as "Christ" or "saved" or "baptize" when speaking to Jews, in order not to arouse suspicion.

### 2 ASSUMING SUPERIORITY

When talking to a Jewish person about religion, a missionary may attempt to elicit as many "I don't know" responses as possible, in order to establish his superiority in matters of religion. *Don't allow yourself to be intimidated!*

Remember, the missionary has studied Jewish beliefs for the sole purpose of leading Jews to Christianity. Keep in mind that he is not speaking to you in order to exchange ideas, but rather to lead you away from your religion. If you want to learn more about the Jewish Bible, do so from someone who doesn't have hidden motives. Therefore, you can feel free to simply end the conversation and walk away.

However, some of you may want to listen to their arguments, then learn the Jewish response to be better prepared for future encounters.

### 3 DECEPTION

The missionary may tell you that he (or a Christian friend or acquaintance) was once an Orthodox Jew, or that he had a solid Jewish education, a traditional Jewish family life, etc. This is almost always a lie, so don't let him fool you. The hidden message he is attempting to convey is that he came to believe in Jesus after knowing and overcoming all of the Jewish objections and therefore, why should you bother to check it out?

He may drop certain Yiddish phrases or talk about the details

of his "traditional" Jewish upbringing in order to lend more credence to his his story. In fact, his "memory" is often the result of careful coaching.

Usually, all that is necessary to expose this type of hoax is to ask him about small details of Jewish life any observant Jewish child would know and see how he responds. In almost all cases, he will begin to hedge about the extent of his "background" and "Jewish knowledge." Unfortunately, most Jews are themselves not knowledgeable enough to expose this type of deception.

In the same vein, the missionary might tell you that he knows the Jewish objections to his arguments and will then proceed to show how such objections are ill-founded. Don't expect to hear the real Jewish response from such a source.



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### 4 LOVING US TO DEATH

Don't be taken in by the "good cop - bad cop" routine. This routine involves a "bad cop" who threatens the subject and a "good cop" who protects him from the "bad cop." The subject is so grateful to the "good cop," and so worried about losing his protector, that he invariably shows his appreciation by telling the "good cop" what he wants to hear. In similar fashion, the "good" Christian talks about how much he loves Jews, Israel, bagels and lox, etc., while denouncing the "bad" Christians who hate and persecute Jews. A Jew with any knowledge of Christian anti-Semitism will feel grateful to the "good cop," and may automatically judge him to be a friend and a reliable ally. Watch out for hidden motives behind such "friendship."

### 5 COVER-UP

At the outset, the missionary will talk about his belief that Jesus is the messiah. Many Jews don't find out until later, often after they have joined a Hebrew-Christian group, that their fundamental belief is that Jesus is God. Any talk about "the messiah" or "son of God" is merely a cover for that belief, basic to both fundamentalist Christianity and Hebrew-Christians. However, since such a concept is repugnant to most Jews, this most basic belief of Christianity is glossed over as much as possible when missionaries talk to Jews.

### 6 THE NUMBERS RACKET

Don't be impressed by the claim they make that Christians have 50... or 100... or 300 "proofs from the Jewish Bible" that they are correct in their claims about Jesus. As proof after proof is shown to be meaningless, the missionary will hide behind his numbers, as if to say, "Well... We have so many *more* proofs, what's the difference if you can disprove some of them?" He will attempt to "split the difference" with you: "Well... Even

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if *half* our proofs prove nothing,” he’ll say, “we *still* have another 25 or 50 or 150.”

But *all* of their proofs can be proven invalid, so keep in mind that these faulty proofs are not worth 50% of a point ... not 25% ... not 10%. *They’re worth nothing*. The simple mathematics show:

$50 \times 0 = 0$  ...  $100 \times 0 = 0$  and  $300 \times 0 = 0!$

## 7 CIRCULAR REASONING

Very often, the reasoning used by Christian missionaries is circular. That is, the “proof” only points to Jesus if you believe in him in the first place and, therefore, it is no proof at all.

Let us take as an example the words of Isaiah 11:2, “And the spirit of the L-rd will rest upon him (the messiah), the spirit of wisdom and understanding...”. This verse refers to the messiah, but it does not identify him. The followers of Jesus chose to attribute this verse to him, and it subsequently became one of the “proof-texts” to support the claims of Christianity. One way to test such verses is as follows: Pick a figure that neither you nor the missionary believes to be the messiah. (It could be George Washington, Reverend Moon, or your great-grandfather!) Then see if the “messianic prophecy” would point to the figure in the eyes of anyone who believed him to be the messiah. If it can be used that way, the verse obviously proves nothing.

## 8 MISTRANSLATION

Be aware of the problem of mistranslation. A person who is not familiar with Hebrew (or with the Hebrew text of the Bible) can be lead to accept a mistranslation of the Bible that puts a Christian “twist” on a verse that never had such a meaning in the original. If you can’t check it out for yourself, talk to a reliable person who can. Remember, it is no coincidence that Jews of past generations, who were much better versed in the original Hebrew Bible, never had serious problems refuting Christian missionary arguments.

## 9 QUOTING OUT OF CONTEXT

Often a verse will be quoted to you that has been taken entirely out of context. When the entire chapter that contains the verse is read, it becomes clear that: 1) the verse is not a messianic prophecy, and/or 2) the prophecy could not possibly refer to Jesus.

## I KNOW THE TACTICS...

What’s the response?

## USE THE PROPER RESOURCES!

Most rabbis spend their time studying the positive aspects of Judaism to teach their congregants, and they may not be familiar with the “curve-ball” approach of missionaries.

If you need advice concerning a problem of this sort, get in touch with people who are familiar with the tactics being used, and who know how to deal with them ....

**JEWES FOR JUDAISM** is here for this purpose. Its highly specialized experts can help you, or refer you to the appropriate resources who can.

For further information, or to schedule a private consultation, contact:

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# UNDERSTANDING & DEALING WITH MISSIONARY TACTICS

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