



**Five Facts to Know about:  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints**

1. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints/Mormon Church or the LDS Church, is a faith tradition founded by their prophet Joseph Smith, Jr. in 1830 in Fayette County, New York. It has a current population of 15.8 million worldwide, 6.5 million living within the United States. The Mormon Church is a Christian church that is neither Catholic nor Protestant. Rather, they view their church as a restoration of the Church of Jesus Christ as originally established in the Christian Bible. The church does not embrace the creeds that developed in the third and fourth centuries that are now central to many other Christian churches.
2. The Book of Mormon is a central text in the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints. It was originally published by Smith in 1830 to document the journey of a group of Hebrews from Jerusalem to live in America in around 600 BCE.
3. Many Mormons do not drink alcohol, coffee, or tea or smoke tobacco or use any other drugs in accordance with the Word of Wisdom, a dietary code that promotes good health and a sense of community among Mormons.
4. The Church has an unpaid ministry, running through volunteers on all but the highest levels of Church leadership. In the United States, Mormons are among the most highly involved in their congregations, with 67% participating regularly in Church activities. They pride themselves on this show of dedication from their members.
5. Many young Mormons between 18 and 25 serve on an 18 month to two-year mission. There are more than 70,000 full-time missionaries in more than 400 missions around the world. Before they arrive in their assigned area, they spend time at one of the training centers around the world to learn how to share their beliefs and, if needed, the language of the people they'll be living among.

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Learn more at:

<http://www.mormonnewsroom.org/article/mormonism-101>

*These five points are not meant to be comprehensive or authoritative. We hope they will encourage you to explore this tradition more deeply and seek out members of this community to learn about their beliefs in action. It is our firm belief that in understanding our differences we will better understand our common humanity.*

11/2017