



## The Mormon: Christmas Edition

Welcome to Ask the Mormon: Christmas Edition. I am the Mormon. I am here to answer any questions the school has about my faith and to "clear the water" for you confused students out there who would like to know Mormons better. If you have any questions about the Mormon faith, please contact a Journalism student, and they can relay the question to me, so that I can answer it as best I can, and hopefully get it in the paper. Merry Christmas, and enjoy!

Dear The Mormon,  
Do Mormons celebrate Christmas?  
-Adrian Ronquillo

### The Mormon:

Yes, we celebrate Christmas. In case you haven't noticed, Mormons are a branch of Christianity, therefore, we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, otherwise known as Christmas. Most people think that we do not celebrate Christmas because they do not think we are Christian. People will often think that we are our own religion, when in fact, we are a branch of Christianity.

Dear The Mormon  
Yo. Are you the people that come to my doorstep every year and try singing to me?  
-That One Guy

### The Mormon:

Mormons do not have to go caroling every year, that is up to the individual. Many choose to, but no, we as a faith did not go to your door caroling. If you would like to, contact any Mormon you know, and we can arrange a caroling event for you and anyone else who is interested. We would be thrilled to participate.

Dear The Mormon,  
Is there any difference between traditional Christmas, "Christian" Christmas, and Mormon Christmas?  
-Andrea Short

### The Mormon:

No, there is no difference between the three. Traditional Christmas is Christian, and Mormons are a branch of Christianity. We still believe in the same symbolism that Christmas elements have, such as the tree, the star on top of it, the lights, and all that other stuff. We still give gifts just like anyone else. I think people like to use the term Mormon as a person or people who are surreal or unnatural, but we're just normal people. We just go to a different church.

## White Elephant

by Alex Boegler  
Staff Writer



Alex Boegler (left) and Brittany Slick (right) with a White Elephant gift.

Courtesy of Alex Boegler

Oh Christmas, it's a joyous time to reconnect with family, cozy up around the fire with the ones you love, and best of all, steal gifts from them. White Elephant is the best part about Christmas, hands down. Forget the presents from Santa and the feast from grandma. I'm all about white elephant. It doesn't have the stress of Secret Santa or the pressure of buying the perfect gift. There is always someone that brings an amazing gift, like a dinosaur claw grabber, and then there is someone that brings a roll of toilet paper! What more could you want from a gift exchange?

Over time you learn that the best wrapped gift is actually the worst gift. But is there really such thing as a bad gift? I think not. Each gift was purchased to make someone laugh, and you can't be upset when you're laughing. Anyways let's get back on track here, White Elephant, the best Christmas game out there, the cream of the crop, the best of the best. There is nothing better.

The humor behind the gift and the sneakiness of stealing a gift from someone else creates a feeling of closeness with those around you. When I think of white elephant my mind goes right to my family... and my dinosaur claw grabber.

Last year, the present I chose out of the middle was a pair of fishing pliers, completely useless to me. I'm not gonna lie I was hoping for even a remotely funny gift, but that just didn't happen. Eventually my uncle stole the pliers from me and I ended up with the coolest dinosaur claw grabber. To this day it is still the best thing I own. That is a prime example of how fun White Elephant is. There is always a wild twist that puts

this game above all other games.

One year my dad wrapped his gift in duct tape... it was a blow dryer wrapped in duct tape... not even in a box... just the straight blow dryer wrapped in duct tape... it was no secret what the gift was. Usually you expect presents to be secretive and sly when wrapped, but that just wasn't the case with my dad. The classic gag of wrapping a joke gift in an iPhone box is a staple of this game. White Elephant is unpredictable fun. Nothing beats that.

Even the famed Michael Scott loves a good round of White Elephant. He believes it's the best way to show someone how much you love them. Scott looks at it in this way: "It is like this tangible thing that you can point to and say 'Hey man, I love you this many dollars-worth.'"

This Christmas we should all take the advice of Mr. Scott to heart and really show our love through the presents we buy. You don't really like people that much? Boom, bring a homemade oven mitt. You really like and admire a person? Bam. Buy an Ipad.

White Elephant has a good time guarantee, no matter the gifts that are brought. The toilet paper gift could be the best gift in the middle, and that could be the best round ever played because it's hilarious. At the end of the day what makes the game memorable and exciting is the time you had, the gift you bring home is just an item that reminds you of the laughs shared... or maybe it's a really useful and amazing dinosaur claw grabber.

