

N432 Culture Report

Julia Bushnell

Lakeview College of Nursing

N432: Maternal newborn

Professor Debra Kamradt

6/17/2024

Mormonism

Mormons are considered a religious group that branches from the beliefs of Christians and the founder of Mormonism, Joseph Smith (Onion, 2021). The religion was founded in 1830 and their headquarters can be found in Salt Lake City, Utah as well as Independence, Missouri where the Community of Christ is centered with roughly 250,000 members (Onion, 2021). This religion primarily belongs to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS) which is most prevalent in the United States but can also be found in Latin America, Philippines, Africa, Canada, Europe, and parts of Oceania (Onion, 2021).

Mormons consider themselves as Christians but not all their churches accept the label “Mormon” due to the use of it as a derogatory term (Onion, 2021). Mormons use The Book of Mormon, The Pearl of Great Price, The Christian Bible, and The Doctrine and Covenants. Joseph Smith is considered as a prophet to The LDS church (Onion, 2021). Mormons believe the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are three separate gods contrasting with the Christian belief of God existing as these three persons (Onion, 2021). They also believe there are three levels of heaven with the celestial kingdom being the only one in God’s presence, terrestrial and telestial are considered kingdoms in heaven by without the presence of God (Onion, 2021). Also contrasting Christianity, the Mormons of the LDS church believe Adam and Eve were sent to Daviess County in Missouri after they were sent away from the Garden of Eden (Onion, 2021). There is a clothing ritual Mormons practice where adult members who have made sacred promises to God wear undergarments that have religious significance and are referred to as “temple garments” (Onion, 2021). A healthy lifestyle without alcohol, caffeine, and tobacco is followed with family, missionary work, acts of service, and respect for authority as important values (Onion, 2021).

The LDS church believes all families are members of the family of God. A family typically consists of a husband, wife, and children living together. Other relatives sometimes live with a family, or they can be a husband and wife without children, a single person with no children, or a single parent (Library: Topics and questions, 2024). Mormons believe man and woman are equal members of the family and love gives them strength (Library: Topics and questions, 2024). The LDS church sees a difference between homosexuality and same-sex attraction. Identifying as gay, lesbian, or bisexual does not interfere with one's involvement with the church. However, sexual relations are to be reserved for a man and woman only, these relations as an unwed couple or a same-sex couple go against the laws of their Father in Heaven (Library: Topics and questions, 2024). The LDS church will not marry a couple of the same sex and acknowledge that a civil law does not change the laws of God that a marriage should be between a man and woman, and this is how children should be born (Library: Topics and questions, 2024). Health is an important core value in Mormonism, and they believe they should do all they can to take care of themselves physically and mentally, there are no restrictions in terms of seeking medical attention (Library: Topics and questions, 2024). Consuming foods that are unhealthy for the body impact physical health and diet guidelines should be followed such as avoiding added salts to meals and genetically modified foods (Davis, 2024). Modifying the body in anyway such as piercings or tattoos are prohibited and members who have left the group and returned with a tattoo or piercing feel it is a mark of shame (Davis, 2024). Communication is to reflect love for their Heavenly Father and should be kind and compassionate both verbally and nonverbally. There are no laws that restrict women from speaking with strangers or advocating for themselves if it is in the service of God (Library: Topics and questions, 2024). Spiritual beliefs and dreams often guide families in terms of when they are ready for a child or whether

they want to invite someone into their family (Davis, 2024). A woman's physical health is important if she wishes to carry children and should not do anything to interfere with being fruitful, and they should want to have several children to replenish the earth (Davis, 2024). The birth of a child is considered a spiritual event whether it is at home or in a hospital. Family should gather and celebrate a healthy baby and mother (Davis, 2024). Maintaining health and body purity is an important core value for the second coming of Christ where they will be resurrected, perfected, and immortal (Davis, 2024).

In terms of interventions or suggestions when caring for a patient who is Mormon a few have come to mind. If a female were to get pregnant out of wedlock, they may feel pressure since the LDS church believes abortion is not an option. The church advises these women to seek prenatal care and that the Heavenly Fathers loves them and their child (Library: Topics and questions, 2024). These women are expected to choose an option of marriage, adoption, or single parenting and should begin the process of repentance (Library: Topics and questions, 2024). If we care for a patient in this situation, it is important we emotionally support them and recognize this can be stressful for them. I would personally make sure I respect their culture and assure that their care is confidential. Another thing to keep in mind is that same-sex marriage is not accepted by their church and ultimately may not be accepted in their families. It is important that we are supportive of our patients who may be experiencing this by offering resources and prioritizing mental health. Another intervention is to be supportive of their diet and make sure they are getting adequate nutrition. The choices we offer to them should be appropriate and based on their preferences. Physical health and well-being are core values Mormons have and it is essential we assist them with that.

References

Davis, K. (2024). 'These bodies were born to die': Separatism and medicine in a fundamentalist

Mormon community. *University of Nevada: Research and Innovation*.

Library: Topics and questions. (2024). *The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints*.

Onion, A., Sullivan, M., Mullen, M., & Zapata, C. (2021). *Mormons. History*.