

“Prepare to Give an Answer”

1 Peter 3:15

We must be prepared to give an answer to anyone who asks us about our hope.

Colossians 4:5-6

We can make the most of every opportunity by sharing our faith with wisdom and grace.

The 5 Big Questions of Humanity:

1. The Question of _____

Where did we come from?

Acts 17:24-25

2. The Question of _____

Why are we here?

Acts 17:26-27

3. The Question of _____

Who are we?

Acts 17:28-29

4. The Question of _____

How do we know right from wrong?

Acts 17:30

5. The Question of _____

Where are we going?

Acts 17:31

TRUTH ON TRIAL

A 12-week series on
the Evidence for
Christianity



“But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.”—1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

Schedule of Topics:

- 1. “Prepare to Give an Answer” 01/9/22**
- 2. “The Truth about Truth” 01/16/22**
- 3. “The Truth about the Beginning” 01/23/22**
- 4. “The Truth about the Universe” 01/30/22**
- 5. “The Truth about Life” 02/06/22**
- 6. “The Truth about Evolution” 02/13/22**
- 7. “The Truth about Morality” 02/20/22**
- 8. “The Truth about Miracles” 02/27/22**
- 9. “The Truth about the Old Testament” 03/06/22**
- 10. “The Truth about the New Testament” 03/13/22**
- 11. “The Truth about Jesus” 03/20/22**
- 12. “The Truth about the Resurrection” 03/27/22**

Small Group Discussion Guide

Lesson 1: “Prepare to Give an Answer”

1. Describe a time when you were asked a question that you were not prepared to answer.

2. Here are some important words and definitions that we should be aware of as we continue in this series. What are some different beliefs about God that you have heard from people in your life?

Apologetics: The English word “Apologetics” comes from the Greek word *APOLOGIA*. It means to give a logical defense for something we believe to be true.

Theist: A theist is someone who believes in a personal God who created the universe. The Bible teaches a theistic view of God. God created the universe. He is eternal and He continues to be personally active in His creation.

Deist: A deist is someone who believes in an impersonal God. God created the universe. However, God is only watching His creation from a distance. He is no longer personally active in His creation.

Polytheist: A polytheist believes in many gods.

Pantheist: A pantheist believes that God is an impersonal force in all things. God did not create the universe. God is the universe.

Atheist: An atheist is someone who does not believe in any kind of God.

Agnostic: An agnostic is someone who does not know if there is a God. Many agnostics believe that it is impossible for anyone to know for certain if there is a God.

3. How can we help young Christians maintain their faith in God?

David Kinnaman reports,

59 percent of young people with a Christian background report that they had or have “dropped out of attending church, after going regularly.” ...Nearly two-fifths say they have gone through a period when they significantly doubted their faith. Another one-third describe a period when they felt like rejecting their parents’ faith.¹

4. In addition to a lack of knowledge about God, many people are apathetic about God. They just don’t care if there is a God. Why do you think many people don’t care about spiritual things?

5. **Read 1 Peter 3:15-16.** How can Christians be better prepared to answer the people who ask them about their faith?

Norman Geisler writes,

This verse tells us to be ready. We may never run across someone who asks tough questions about our faith, but we should still be ready to respond if someone does. Being ready is not just a matter of having the right information available, it is also an attitude of readiness and eagerness to share the truth of what we believe. We are to give a reason to those who ask the questions.²

6. **Read Colossians 4:5-6.** What does it mean to speak with wisdom and grace when we are sharing our faith?

7. How can we tell if unbelievers are seeking the truth with an open mind, or they are just wanting to argue against Christianity?

¹ David Kinnaman, *You Lost Me: Why Young Christians Are Leaving Church . . . and Rethinking Faith* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2016), 23.

² Norman L. Geisler, *Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 1999), 37.

8. What are the 5 Big Questions of Humanity? Discuss why each of them is so important.

(1) **Origin:**

(2) **Purpose:**

(3) **Identity:**

(4) **Morality:**

(5) **Destiny:**

9. **Read Acts 17:22-31.** How does Paul answer the question of our origin in verses 24-25?

10. How does Paul answer the question of our purpose in verses 26-27?

11. How does Paul answer the question of our identity in verses 28-29?

12. How does Paul answer the question of our morality in verse 30?

13. How does Paul answer the question of our destiny in verse 31?

14. Which of the 5 Big Questions of Humanity do you think about the most? Why?

15. Who can you talk to this week about one or more of the 5 Big Questions of Humanity?

20 Websites on the Evidence for Christianity:

1. <http://www.answersingenesis.org/>

Answers in Genesis is an international ministry specializing in evidence for creation. They have several free resources as well as many excellent books and videos on the subject.

2. <https://biblearchaeology.org/>

This site includes the “Bible and Spade” a conservative quarterly journal about archaeology and evidence.

3. <https://carm.org/>

Christian Apologetics and Research Ministry is a nonprofit, non-denominational organization that provides articles and other resources on Christian apologetics.

4. <https://creation.com/>

Creation Ministries International supports the proclamation of the Gospel by providing credible answers that affirm the reliability of the Bible, in particular its Genesis history.

5. <https://creationism.org/>

Lots of links to creation sites all over the worldwide web!

6. <https://creationmoments.com/>

Creation Moments International is a two-minute radio broadcast on many Christian radio stations. In the past, we have used their “Creation Moments” on the back of our church bulletin.

7. <https://www.creationresearch.org/>

The Creation Research Society has been publishing an excellent quarterly journal since 1964.

8. <http://www.creationscience.com/onlinebook/>

Dr. Walt Brown was an evolutionist who, after years of study, became convinced that the biblical account of creation and a global flood were in fact true.

9. <http://crossexamined.org/>

Dr. Frank Turek is a popular speaker on apologetics. He is one of the authors of the book, *I Don't Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist*.

10. <http://csm.org.uk/>

This is the site of the Creation Science Movement in England. The organization began in 1932 and has been providing articles and resources for creation research ever since.

11. <http://www.doesgodexist.org/>

John Clayton was an atheist who set out to prove by science that the Bible is wrong. In the process he was converted to Christianity. However, he does not believe in a literal six-day creation of the Universe.

12. <http://www.garyhabermas.com/>

Gary Habermas is a professor of philosophy and theology at Liberty University. His books, articles, and debates have provided convincing evidence for the resurrection of Jesus.

13. <https://genesisapologetics.com/>

Genesis Apologetics is committed to providing Christian families with Biblically and scientifically based answers to the evolutionary theory taught in public schools. This site contains many free resources for teaching students of all ages.

14. <https://www.icr.org/>

The Institute for Creation Research is probably the most well-known creation organization in America. It features many excellent articles and resources by Dr. John Morris, Dr. Henry Morris, Dr. Steve Austin, Dr. Duane Gish, etc.

15. <https://isgenesishistory.com/>

This site contains videos and articles on the evidence for the creation account in Genesis.

16. <https://leestrobels.com/>

Lee Strobel was an atheist and an editor for *The Chicago Tribune*. After researching the evidence for nearly two years, Lee became a Christian in 1981. He wrote the best-selling book, *The Case for Christ*, as well as many other books on Christian apologetics.

17. <https://www.reasonablefaith.org/>

This is William Lane Craig's ministry. He is one of the most brilliant authors and debaters in Christian apologetics.

18. <https://www.str.org/home>

Stand to Reason trains Christians to think more clearly about their faith and to make an even-handed, incisive, yet gracious defense for classical Christianity and classical Christian values.

19. <http://www.talkorigins.org/>

"Talkorigins" is an internet newsgroup devoted to the discussion and debate of biological and physical origins.

20. <https://tasc-creationscience.org/>

A nice feature of this site is that most of the essays are identified as either "technical" or "basic."

12 Books on the Evidence for Christianity:

Craig, William Lane. *On Guard: Defending Your Faith with Reason and Precision*. Colorado Springs, CO: David C. Cook, 2010.

Craig, William Lane and Joseph Gorra. *A Reasonable Response: Answers to Tough Questions on God, Christianity, and the Bible*. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2013.

Geisler, Norman. *Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1999.

Geisler, Norman and Frank Turek. *I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2004.

Gonzalez, Guillermo and Jay W. Richards. *The Privileged Planet: How Our Place in the Cosmos Is Designed for Discovery*. Washington, DC: Regency Publishing, 2004.

Habermas, Gary. *The Historical Jesus: Ancient Evidence for the Life of Christ*. Joplin, MO: College Press, 1996.

Lewis, C.S. *Mere Christianity*. New York, NY: The MacMillan Company, 1943.

McDowell, Josh and Sean McDowell. *Evidence that Demands a Verdict: Life-Changing Truth for a Skeptical World*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2017.

Meyer, Stephen C. *Signature in the Cell: DNA and the Evidence for Intelligent Design*. New York, NY: Harper Collins Publishers, 2009.

Strobel, Lee. *The Case for Christ*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1998.

---. *The Case for Faith*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 2000.

---. *The Case for a Creator*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 2004.