

MAMA BEAR  R

Apologetics

What is apologetics?

- Reasoned arguments in justification of something
- Reasoned answer for why you believe something to be true
 - Defense
 - Explanation
 - Answer
 - Argument
 - Response





Why do apologetics matter?

- Kids are being introduced to the challenges to Christianity at younger and younger ages.
- The Youth Exodus
- **What if we could prime our children to think biblically *before* they are presented with the questions that challenge the faith?**



Connecting the HEAD
and HEART and building
a FIRM FOUNDATION

What a Mama Bear Is (and Isn't)

- A Mama Bear is not necessarily a mom
- A Mama Bear isn't necessarily formally educated in apologetics
- A Mama Bear is not abrasive or argumentative
- A Mama Bear isn't one stereotype



Four Key Traits of Mama Bears

Honesty

Humility

Humor

Heroism



The Discerning Mama Bear

- Biblical discernment means identifying *both* the good and the bad
- Our job is to help separate the good from the bad, accept the good, and reject the bad
- “Culinary discernment”
- We must train children to be discerning about what they feed their minds.



Be careful little eyes what you see...

- It's GOOD to protect our children and be cautious about what they see, hear, or experience
- We want to keep our kids safe, but part of keeping them safe is teaching them to discern for themselves.
- When it comes to media, we cannot do this by simply labeling things as “safe/dangerous” or “Christian/non-Christian.”
- There is very little that is ALL SAFE or ALL DANGEROUS. Most everything requires discernment.

What are some negative consequences that our kids might experience when we use the all-safe/dangerous method?

There are no Christians so theologically sound that they're never wrong, and there are no atheists so bad that they are never right. It doesn't happen. There is only one perfect man – Jesus, and one perfect book – the Bible. Most everything else will be a mixture of truth and error.

Chew and Spit


- A mature, informed, discerning worldview does not need to fear the false messages that this world churns out if it has already been trained to identify which aspects to reject.
- We want to use this method while interacting with culture, but we can also use it when listening to a sermon! No one is 100% biblical and balanced all the time.






Consequences to NOT teaching “Chew and Spit”

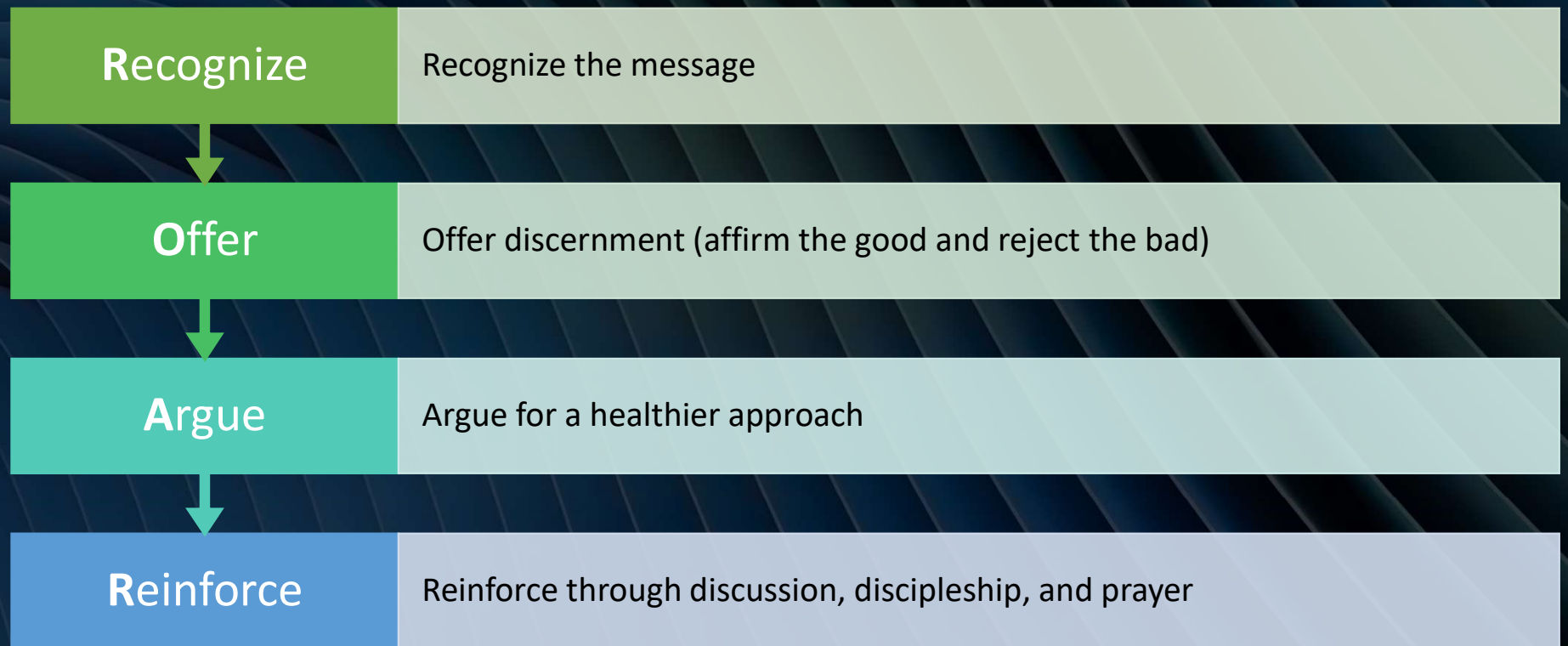
- While good/bad is appropriate for the black-and-white stage of thinking, it becomes counterproductive as they mature.
- It give them the impression that as long as they categorize something correctly, they can turn their brains off and operate on auto pilot.
- But most everything is a mix of good and bad.



The most potent lies
are wrapped in
partial truths.



ROAR Method





Recognize the Message

- Everything has a message. Can we identify it?
- Part of the biblical process of sanctification – or spiritual growth – is *training* our appetites to crave what is good and be repulsed by what is not.
- What is the song, movie, art piece, or story prompting the consumer to crave? Identify it. Discuss it together. Is it something the Bible wants us to crave?



Offer Discernment

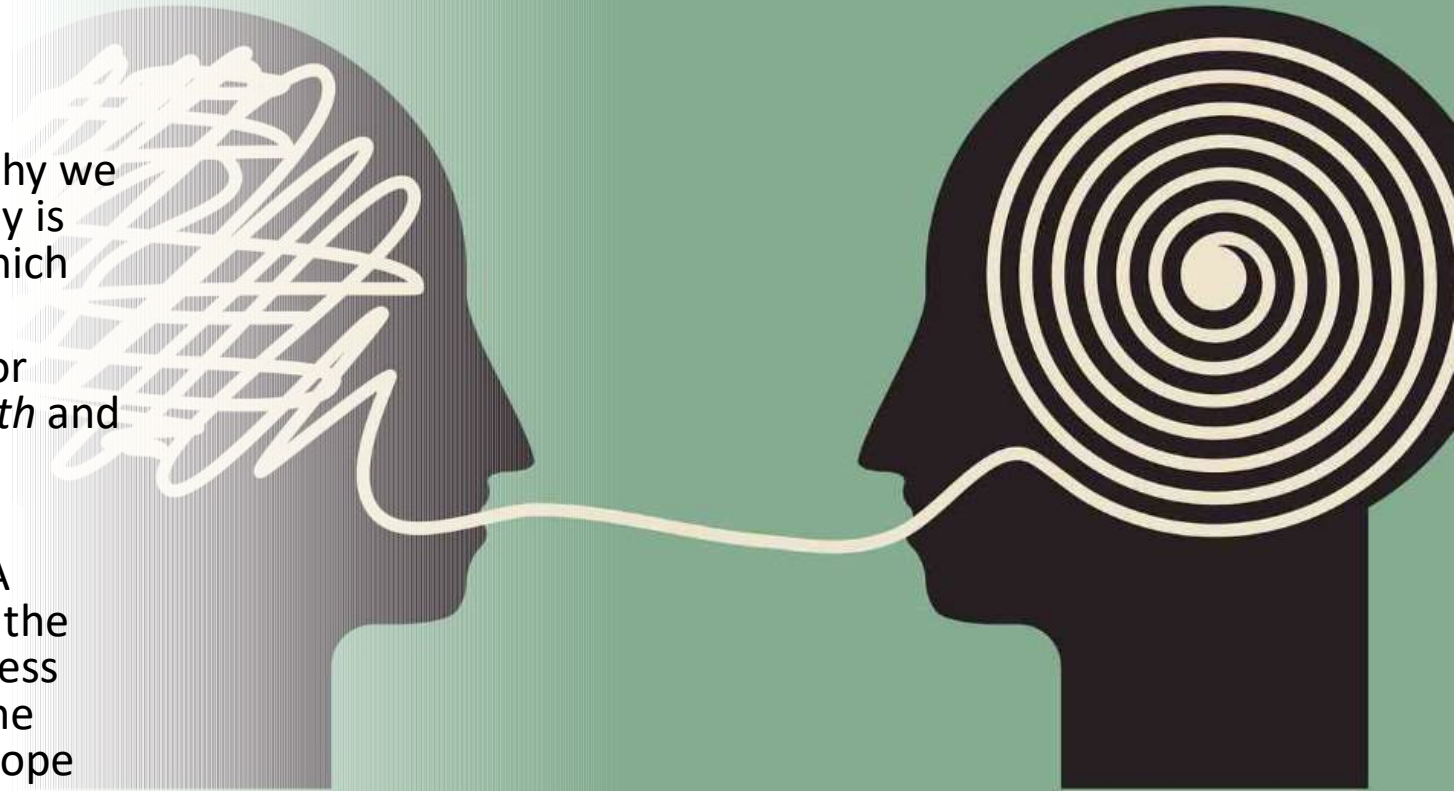
- Offering discernment vs. lecturing from their soapbox
- Keep it conversational
- A person can be absolutely in the right yet be totally obnoxious about it. Our goal is for God's truth to be the aroma of Christ, not the stench of self-righteousness.

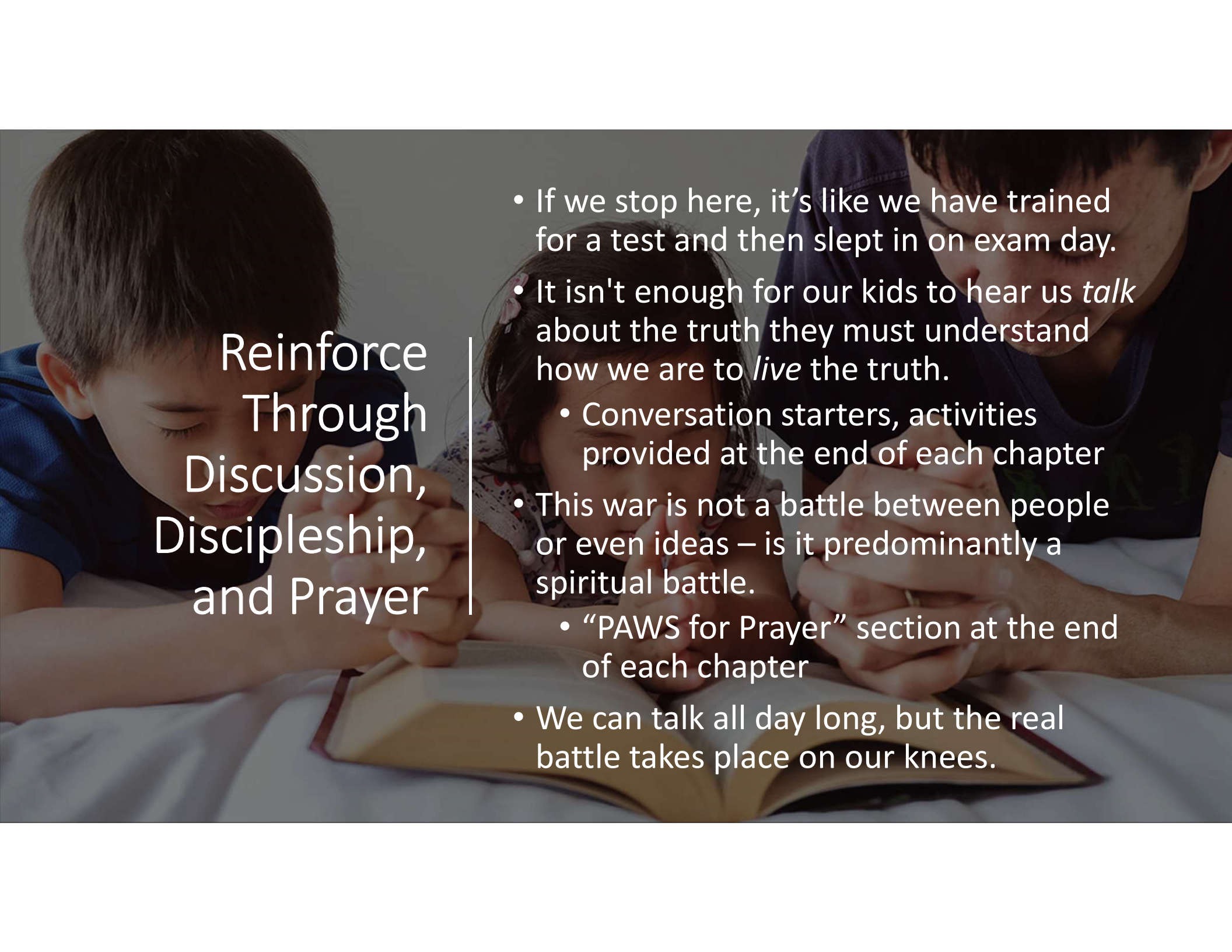
Offer Discernment

- Seeing things accurately
 - Treat other people's ideas the way you would like yours to be treated.
 - Our goal in discernment is to offer up an accurate representation of what our opponents believe – to the point they would agree with what we say about them.
- Correctly identifying the good
 - We must try to see their idea from their perspective.
 - We must maintain love for the person while we demolish the idea.
- Correctly identifying the bad
 - We must speak up and identify the bad.
 - “What you tolerate today, you accept tomorrow. What you accept today, you embrace tomorrow. What you embrace today, you promote tomorrow.”

Argue for a Healthier Approach

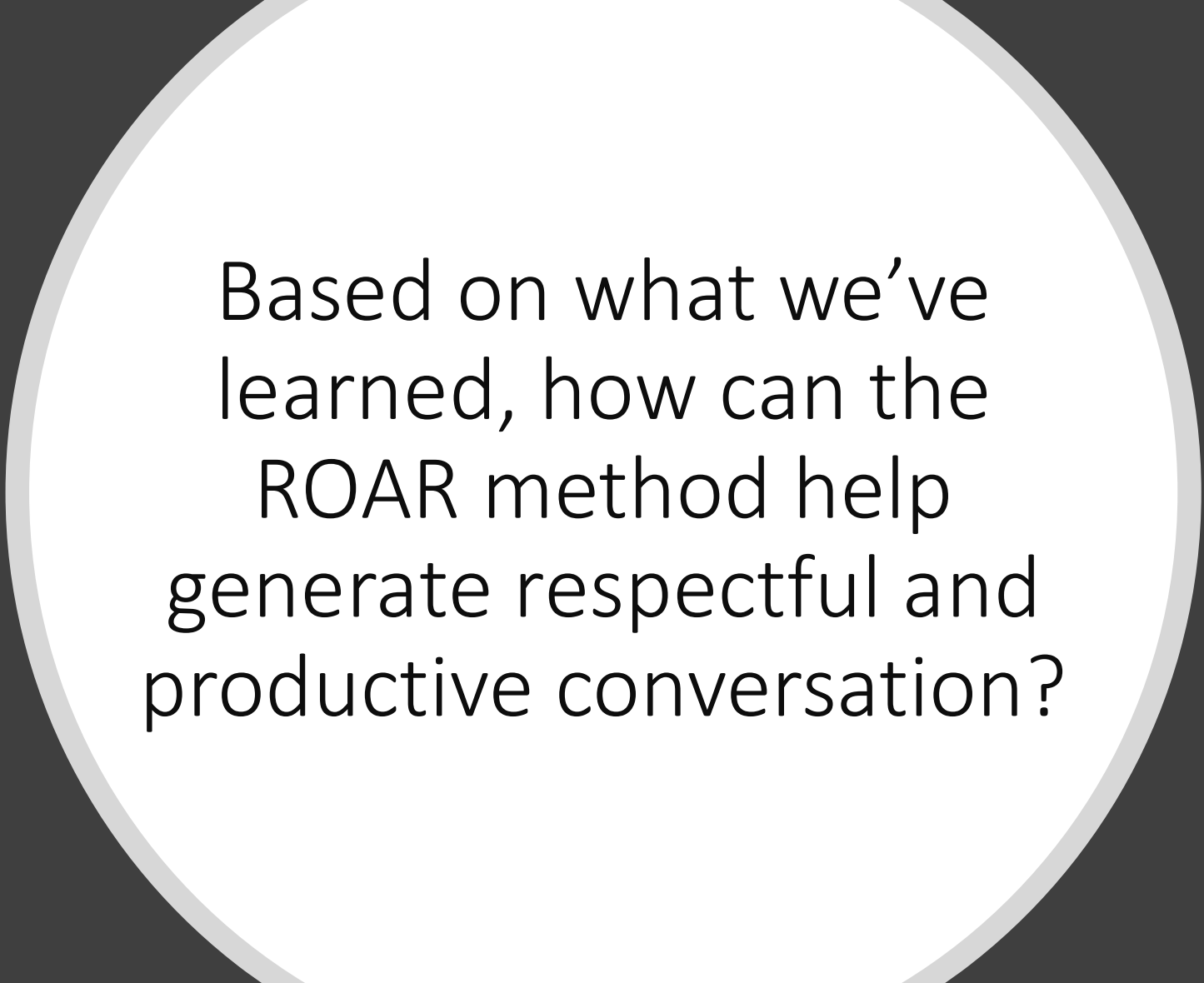
- Providing *reasons* for why we affirm that which we say is good and reject that which we say is evil
 - We need reasons for calling one idea *truth* and another idea a *lie*
- Biblical wisdom is not ignorant of the world. A biblical worldview sees the world for the broken mess that it is, but at the same time understands the hope that Christ provides.





Reinforce Through Discussion, Discipleship, and Prayer

- If we stop here, it's like we have trained for a test and then slept in on exam day.
- It isn't enough for our kids to hear us *talk* about the truth they must understand how we are to *live* the truth.
 - Conversation starters, activities provided at the end of each chapter
- This war is not a battle between people or even ideas – is it predominantly a spiritual battle.
 - “PAWS for Prayer” section at the end of each chapter
- We can talk all day long, but the real battle takes place on our knees.



Based on what we've
learned, how can the
ROAR method help
generate respectful and
productive conversation?