



GLC  PRESENTS
APOLOGETICS
SESSION 1: LEARNING THE BASICS

Dr. Jim Welchel

NAME _____

CONTACT INFO: _____

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Welcome to the Basics of Apologetics!

OBJECTIVES

By the end of this session, you will:

1. Be convinced from Scripture and from present trends that we should prepare well to answer the questions of those who don't yet follow Christ.
2. Be more respectful as you interact with those who don't yet follow Christ.
3. Recognize that the use of reason and evidence to persuade people is a valid approach to sharing Christ with others.
4. Be more motivated to reach out to non-Christian friends and loved ones.

INTRODUCTION

In your tables introduce yourselves. Then explain why you are here.

GROUP ACTIVITY 1

Think about people you have talked with about Jesus and your faith in Him. What are some of the questions they have asked you, or their arguments against what you believe? Share about your experience with the group.

Choose your top 3 and submit them to the GLC staff.

Our theme verse: **1 Peter 3:15**

*“But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a **defense** to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence.”*

Apologetian – transliterated “**apologetics**”

1 Peter 3:13-17

“Who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled, but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame.”

Notice it is:

- How you live, not what you say.
- How you say what you say.

I. Can Christianity really be proven?

1. Coming to Christ involves faith, but it is reasonable faith.

Acts 1:3

Jesus offered many proofs that He was alive.

Acts 17:2; 18:4; 18:19

Paul reasoned with Jews and Greeks, in the synagogue and in the marketplace.

Acts 1:8

A witness is one who gives testimony to what they know, have seen or have experienced.

2. But there is a paradox – it is also counterintuitive.

“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”

1 Corinthians 1:18

Don't be surprised if non-Christians are not immediately blown away by your superior arguments! At first glance the core message of the gospel: that God would love His creation so much that He would send His Son to earth to die so that people could spend eternity with Him in heaven – doesn't that sound crazy?

3. Many people – even skeptics – have investigated Christianity and eventually concluded it is true.

Sir William Ramsey – Renowned archeologist who set out to disprove Christianity and the authority of the Bible

CS Lewis – Oxford professor of medieval literature

Anthony Flew – One of the most notorious atheists of our time

Francis Collins – MD, PhD, head of Human Genome Project

II. Why do we need to study to answer difficult questions?

1. The world is changing.
 - A. Assuming people know about or believe in God is naive

 - B. Global connectivity: We are in contact with people around the world who don't believe as we do

 - C. Cults continue to spread

 - D. People from other religions and backgrounds need convincing

2. None of us are immune to questions.
 - Young believers

 - Older believers

3. We want to bring people to Jesus.
 - Apologetics prepares to share Christ

 - Gives us confidence

 - Brings down barriers

III. Some dangers of this kind of study.

- Arguing rarely leads people to faith. Loving people and sharing the gospel does.

- Scientific and historical facts and reasons have a role, but ultimately God is looking for faith. The Bible is our final authority.

- Forgetting the core of our calling: make disciples who make disciples

- Pride

IV. Understanding our task

1. There are many valid and valuable evidences that our faith is true that are found outside of the Bible. Rom. 1:19-20

For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For His invisible attributes, namely, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

2. The Bible is our authority, but people that don't believe the Bible may need reasons to consider our perspective before accepting the Bible as a valid authority, or that God exists and Jesus his Son offers salvation.
3. We must understand our audience before we can connect with them.

GROUP ACTIVITY 2

Acts 17:16-34

In small groups, read the passage, then discuss:

1. How did Paul connect with his audience?
2. What surprises you about what he did?
3. What can we learn from what he did?

Upcoming Topics for Apologetics

Understanding Worldviews

Conversational Apologetics

Creation vs. Evolution

Reliability and Authority of the Bible

Deity of Christ

Pain and Suffering

Other religions and cults

God's design (of human beings)

Ethics

