

# EQUIP

*tough questions*

## STUDY AND SMALL GROUP RESOURCES

### HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

We have compiled a list of small group studies, books, articles, and websites to resource you to continue answering tough questions in your home, workplace, and Life Groups.

### WHY APOLOGETICS?

In 1 Peter 3:15, Peter is addressing his audience, the persecuted Christ Followers, in this way:

*“...but in your hearts, honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect...”*

The Greek word that Peter uses for “defense” is *‘apologia.’* It is where we get the term “Apologetics.” The key to what Peter encourages, when using the word *apologia*, is that the believer is to be an advocate for what they believe without being defensive or hostile. And as we defend and advocate for the Gospel, we must offer the reason behind our hope: that is, we are to be thoughtful, reasonable, and logical.

Peter then continues in verses 16-17,

*“having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. 17 For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God’s will, than for doing evil.”*

As we speak to others outside of our faith we ought to defend with gentleness. In doing so, we use logic with grace and always making sure we audit the condition of our own hearts. This last part is of utmost importance so that we can be sure we are ready to dialogue from a place of genuine love and compassion for the person with whom we are speaking.

Apologetics is important in the life of the believer. It is a way for us to dialogue with and pursue those who do not yet understand the saving grace of the Gospel in a way that is honoring, thoughtful, and fruitful.

Please use this EQUIP resource to grow in defending our faith. Below, you will find a variety of resources that will help you on a wide range of topics. If you have any questions or would like to hear our staff talk about any issues in particular in future podcasts, please e-mail [equip@austinridge.org](mailto:equip@austinridge.org).

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## RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

### SMALL GROUP RESOURCES

#### FREE

##### [Critical Questions Study Guide by RZIM](#)

“There are some topics you can’t avoid, no matter what you believe! What is truth? Is God real? Who was Jesus? Can the Bible be trusted? Filled with engaging insights from world-class philosophers and theologians, these *Critical Questions Discussion Guides* provide 6-session forums for exploring fundamental apologetic issues in small groups or individually.”

##### [Crucial Questions Series by R.C. Sproul](#)

This 28 book series by R.C. Sproul is now free for download. While all of the books have valuable questions for the believer, to follow the heart behind our EQUIP: Tough Questions series, we recommend *Who is Jesus?*, *Can I trust the Bible?*, *Does Prayer change things?*, *Can I know God’s will?* and *How should I live in this world?*

#### FOR PURCHASE

##### [A Course on Basic Apologetics by C.S. Lewis](#)

This is a free course offered by the C.S. Lewis Institute and is comprised of 4 sets of lectures. There are 20 lectures total that you can watch on video or listen to on audio. All resources to go through this course are available for free online at the above link. The study will cover the topics like: Reasons for Faith, Objections to Faith, and Responding to Atheism. This resource is recommended for individuals & Life Groups.

##### [The Case for Christ/The Case for Faith/The Case for a Creator DVD Collection by Lee Strobel](#)

This is a DVD collection on books by *New York Times* best-selling author Lee Strobel. As a former atheist and legal editor of the Chicago Tribune, Strobel wrote the following: *The Case For Christ* is “a journalist’s personal investigation of the evidence for Jesus.” *The Case For Faith* is “a journalist investigation of the toughest objections to Christianity.” And *The Case For A Creator* is his investigation of “scientific evidence that points toward God.”

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## BOOKS

### ON GENERAL APOLOGETICS

- *Making Sense of God* by Timothy Keller
- *The Reason for God* by Timothy Keller
- *Jesus Among Secular Gods* by Ravi Zacharias
- *Can Man Live Without God?* by Ravi Zacharias
- *Tactics* by Greg Koukl
- *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis

### ON SEXUALITY & THE GOSPEL

- *Is God Anti-Gay* by Sam Allberry
- *The Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert* by Rosaria Butterfield
- *Washed and Waiting* by Wesley Hill
- *Spiritual Friendship* by Wesley Hill

## WEBSITES

### APOLOGETIC DIALOGUES

This website includes discussion topics someone may face while discoursing in conversational apologetics.

<https://carm.org/apologetics-dialogues>

### APOLOGETIC TOPICS

This website includes articles regarding apologetics, intro to apologetics, and arguments for faith.

<https://carm.org/apologetics>

### CONVERSATIONAL APOLOGETICS

This website hits many different “tough questions” you may run into while engaging in apologetics ranging from Old Testament issues, historicity, and canonicity to evangelism, and more!

<http://www.bethinking.org/>

### SEXUALITY & THE GOSPEL

This website, recommended by our speaker Daniel Rangel, is specific to engaging in relationships and conversations surrounding the LGBTQ community.

<http://www.livingout.org/>