

Introduction to Biblical Apologetics
Cornerstone Church of Poway
Pastor James Jacobs
December 1, 2019

Big Idea: We witness in word and in action!

Remember Verse: Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. **2 Timothy 2:15**(NIV)

Apologetics contends and teaches that _____ does exist in each question.

¹⁹ since what may be known about God is plain to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. **Romans 1:19-20** (NIV)

What happens to those who reject God and His Truth? Can we pick and choose which commands to follow?

Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done. **Romans 1:28** (NIV)

Apologetics is more about _____ God than winning an argument.

¹⁰ As the rain and snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, ¹¹so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. **Isaiah 55:10-11** (NIV)

In other words, speak and live God's truth, but let _____ handle the results.

But in your hearts revere 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)

Revere God involves acknowledging _____.

¹⁶For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. **Colossians 1:16-17** (NIV)

Apologetics means honoring and loving God _____.

³ For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, **1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (NIV)**

God's Word is _____.

Your Audience matters.

- 1. believers**, who need their faith strengthened, **and**
- 2. unbelievers**, who have other problems.

2 Timothy 2:15(NIV)

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

Creation, when rightly understood, _____ God.

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. **Proverbs 22:6 (KJV)**

Parents and other church adults help _____ our children's faith by our actions and our words.

Matthew 13:31,32 (NIV)

³¹ He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. ³² Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches."

The mustard seed was the _____ example.

God's Word is _____ and without _____.

Preparing and providing _____ replies, plus living out the Gospel every day, are the task of **biblical apologetics**.

My Next Right Step, I Will:

- Invite someone to attend a Sunday and Christmas Eve service
- Watch at least one TrueLife.org video
- Commit to live out the Gospel daily as an example
- Set aside a time to meet with God daily
- Accept Jesus as my personal Savior and LORD

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Talk It Over



[This is only a guide – select the points you want to discuss.]

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Family Corner: Choose one day this week to go deeper in your faith as a family. Try this over dinner. Keep it to 12 minutes or less.

Regular Bible Study as a Family coupled with not being only a “Sunday Christian” will make a permanent impact on relationships. Get into God’s Word and live for Him!

1. Read Exodus 20:12 and Luke 14:26

¹² "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you," **Exodus 20** (NIV)

²⁶ "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and his children, his brothers and sisters---yes, even his own life--he cannot be my disciple." **Luke 14** (NIV)

How would you defend the truth God is presenting in these two apparent conflicting positions? Are they really conflicts?

Notes: _____

Strong’s Concordance: *hate* translated from the Greek word “miseo” by extension meaning “to love less”. **The Ryrie Study Bible:** “*hate*” – This saying does not justify malice or ill will toward one’s family, but it means that devotion to family must take second place to one’s devotion to Christ.

2. How should we try to explain the apparent math calculations errors in the circumference of the ceremonial Sea?

Read 2 Chronicles 4:2 (NIV)

“He made the Sea of cast metal, circular in shape, measuring ten cubits from rim to rim and five cubits high. It took a line of thirty cubits to measure around it.”

(Using the formula $2\pi R$ which calculates the circumference: $2 \times 3.14 \times (10 \times 0.5) = 31.4$ not 30 cubits)

Did the writer forget his basic math?

Notes: _____

HINT: Continue reading with verse 5

"It was a handbreadth in thickness, and its rim was like the rim of a cup,"

2 Chronicles 4:5 (NIV)

(A standard handbreadth is 4 inches, a rim on each side or 8", and using a cubit at 18 inches: suggests: $2 \times 3.14 \times ((10 \times 18") - 8") \times 0.5 = 540$ inches around the bowl thus: $540"/18" = 30$ cubits around the bowl below the rim.)

Notes: _____

3. What possible errors or difficult portions are you aware of in God's Word? Are there some verses that you struggle with?

Notes: _____

Context counts. Remember a realtor's three secrets of success: location, location, location. This insight fits many arguments about Scripture: **context, context, context...**context matters!

A failure to appreciate the context of Scripture routinely produces interpretive failure and doctrinal misunderstandings. Bank on it: critics criticize biblical texts. Critics have claimed almost 91% of the total verses in the Bible have errors! We must scrutinize the actual words God provided in context. God purposefully gave the Bible to reveal truth to us; not confusion.

Our responsibility is not to know every answer to every critic off the top of our head at the moment they voice it. It is our responsibility to: (1.) "believe" God's Word is Truth! (2.) Take time regularly to study together as a family plus, (3.) live every day for Christ, especially at home, not just on Sundays.

Then, after careful research and prayer, provide a reasonable reply that "glorifies" God and strengthens your children's faith.

Notes: _____

Close in Prayer: Start praying. Be bold and pray specifically.
