

**Pastor Dave Patterson**  
**LET'S TALK**  
**Part 3: Apologetics**

**USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE**

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your small group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so knock yourself out with the discussion questions but spend more time laughing than answering the questions.

*How do I answer the questions of non-believers when it comes to defending my faith and addressing the tough topics and unbelievable stories of the Bible?*

[2 Timothy 3.16-17, NLT]

*All Scripture is inspired by God (God-breathed) and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17 NLT)*

[tfh.org/sermons](https://www.tfh.org/sermons)

40 Days in the Word

"7 REASONS YOU CAN TRUST YOUR BIBLE"

<https://vimeo.com/49933377>

## **Apologetics: the defense of or the proof for Christianity**

### **FOUR TO-DOS FOR APOLOGETICS**

#### **1. Start with prayer**

##### **[1 Corinthians 2:12-14, VOICE]**

*Our collective judgment on spiritual matters is accessible to those who have the Spirit. But a person who denies spiritual realities will not accept the things that come through the Spirit of God; they all sound like foolishness to him. **He is incapable of grasping them** because they are disseminated and discerned only through the Spirit.*

##### **[Acts 17:2-3]**

*As was his custom, Paul went into the synagogue and reasoned (argued and debated) with them from the Scriptures, **explaining and proving that the Messiah had to suffer and rise from the dead.** "This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah."*

#### **2. Do your homework**

##### **[2 Timothy 2:15]**

*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.*

### **APOLOGETICS RESOURCES**

***Mere Christianity--C.S. Lewis***

***The Reason for God--Timothy Keller***

***The Case for Christ--Lee Strobel***

***The Case for Faith***

***The Case for a Creator***

***I Don't Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist--Frank Turek***

***The New Evidence that Demands a Verdict--Josh McDowell***

**RZIM.org**

***Evangelism through Apologetics--Ravi Zacharias***

### **3. Lead people to the claims of Christ**

**[John 6:47]**

*"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life."*

**[John 14:6]**

*Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. **No one comes to the Father except through me.**"*

**[Matthew 24:35]**

*Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.*

**[John 11:25]**

*"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die."*

**[Matthew 24:27 & 30]**

*"For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. (JESUS) Then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory."*

[John 14:3]

*"I got to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself."*

***Lead people to the claims of Christ and let the Holy Spirit take it from there.  
#apologetics***

**4. Stick to your story.**

***Your story has great authority when you share it.  
#testify***

## **DISCUSSION THOUGHTS**

- 1. As Christians, why is it important to know why we believe what we believe?**
- 2. What are some prophecies that Jesus fulfilled that help to show the validity of God's Word?**
- 3. What happens when we start with prayer and not just an argument in our apologetics? What does the Holy Spirit do to help us?**
- 4. Why is the message of Jesus Christ and Him crucified the focal point for these apologetics discussions?**
- 5. What happens when we lead people to the claims of Christ? What has the Holy Spirit promised to do? (#apologetics)**
- 6. Which of the four keys is the easiest for you to use? Which is challenging for you? Give some reasons.**
- 7. How can your story (your experience with God) become your personal apologetic?**