



My favorite kind of apologetics is “negative.” That is, instead of offering 5 reasons why you should believe...most of the time I enjoy letting the gospel do its own work of convicting. But negative apologetics is removing the cobwebs and tumbleweeds, pushing back the barriers that keep us from hearing the gospel. Instead of offering reasons to have faith, this kind of approach says, “tell me again why faith is not an option for you?”

These questions are intended to deepen your experience of the message. Use them for your personal or family study time, or with an open Bible as you share the good news with your neighbor.

Group Introduction: Watch the video “Does Science Prove Everything?”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vxJQe_FefxY&ab_channel=drCraigVideos .

Book Recommendations:
Timothy Keller, *The Reason for God* (Viking, 2008)
Jonathan Hill, *What Has Christianity Ever Done for Us?* (InterVarsity Press, 2005).

FAITH INVITES QUESTIONS. Read Ex 18:13-15 in the Message; Psalm 22:1; 42:9; 74:1; Jeremiah 12:1-12. Why is it significant that God invites questions about himself and even addressed TO himself? **Follow up:** Read Luke 2:46; 1 Thess 5:21; 1 Jn 4:1. How is Christianity one that invites good questions in the search for truth?

HUMILITY & DOUBT. Read Zeph 2:3. How are Christians called to show the virtue of humility? Why is this trait so important? Does it seem lacking in “Christian evidences” in your experience? **Read Mark 9:24.** Why is “doubt” welcome in the life of faith? How can something less than certainty still be compelling?

NO NEED FOR GOD? Contrary to some claims, religion is not in decline worldwide. Contrary to some claims, Sociologists expect this century to be *more* religious than last century. Why do people continue to hunger for belief in God?

DOES SCIENCE KNOW ALL? Name some things we believe are real and true that are outside the confines of science (such as beauty or morals). What else can’t be proven by the scientific method? While valuing science, why would some people treat science like a religion that answers issues outside its purview?

IS EVIL A PROBLEM FOR FAITH? Nathan says, ultimately, suffering and evil is a problem for everybody! But Christians offer a story grounded in history and ending in hope. How is this helpful?

WHAT GOOD HAS FAITH EVER DONE? Nathan listed several ways Christianity has contributed to the good of the world—including the first hospitals and universities. Discuss the ways Christianity has been a force for good in the world. When Christians act “unchristian”, this hurts our witness. But how does the truth of Christian claims relate to “unchristian” actions?