

Incorporating Apologetics into Youth Ministry

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The Approaches (Ages 13-18)

Approach 1: As the topic comes up in the Scripture or Series

- Examples:
 - Before starting Genesis, give the case for the why we can trust the Bible and how we can know God exists.
 - When the Red Sea is parted or Jesus is performing miracles, give the case for miracles.
 - When starting the Gospels, give the case for the Incarnation and Jesus' deity.
 - When you get to the supposedly contradictory passages in the Gospels, discuss why that doesn't mean the Bible is in error.
 - When you get to the crucifixion, give the external evidence for the crucifixion.
 - When you get to the Resurrection, give the Minimal Facts.

Approach 2: In between Books or Series

- Sometimes, when you get to the end of a book or series, it's good to take a break and cover a topic.
- Examples:
 - Between each book of the Pentateuch, give a different reason for why we can know that God exists.
 - Between each history book, give an argument for why we can trust the Bible.
 - Between each prophet, give a reason for why you can believe that miracles happen.
 - Between the testaments, give the case for the harmony of the gospels.
 - Between the gospels, give the case for Jesus' incarnation, existence, deity, crucifixion, and resurrection.

Approach 3: As a Supplemental Event

- Mid-week Study topic
- Special Night
- One-Day Event
- Retreat or Camp Topic
 - *Always Be Ready – 1 Peter 3:15*
 - *Defending the Faith*
 - *Cold Case Christianity*
 - *On Guard*
 - *Loving God with All of Your Mind – Luke 10:27*
 - *Let Us Reason – Isaiah 1:18*
- Missions Trip/Immersion Experience
- Book Club
- Devotional
- Small Groups
- Games / Crafts (Apologetics Olympics, Question Ball, Jeopardy, Wheel of Fortune, Trivial Pursuit, Pictionary)
- Special guest speakers
- Specific Program
- You-Tube Videos / Debates

The Resources

For Older Students (13-18 years)

- *Apologetics Study Bible for Students*
 - https://www.amazon.com/Apologetics-Study-Bible-Students-Trade/dp/1433651173/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&qid=1609817478&sr=8-3
- **Guest Speaker Recommendations**
 - Brett Kunkle, MAVEN ministries
 - <https://maventruth.com/>
 - Sean McDowell
 - <https://seanmcdowell.org/>
 - J. Warner Wallace, Cold Case Christianity
 - <https://coldcasechristianity.com/>
 - Tim Barnett, STR.org
 - <https://www.str.org/tim-barnett>
 - Sarah Enterline, Calvary Curriculum
 - <https://sarahrenterline.com/>
- **Book Club Book Recommendations**
 - *Living Loud: Defending Your Faith* by Norman Geisler
 - https://www.amazon.com/Living-Loud-Introduction-Apologetics-Students-ebook/dp/B08KYQYFDZ/ref=sr_1_2?dchild=1&keywords=living+loud&qid=1609827617&sr=8-2
 - *On Guard Student Edition* by Dr. William Lane Craig
 - https://www.amazon.com/Guard-Students-Thinkers-Guide-Christian/dp/0781412994/ref=sr_1_1?crd=1EHFRWNX698WZ&dchild=1&keywords=on+guard+student+edition&qid=1609827643&srefix=on+guard+student%2Caps%2C220&sr=8-1
 - *Case for Christ Youth Edition* by Lee Strobel
 - https://www.amazon.com/Case-Christ-Youth-Journalists-Personal-Investigation/dp/0310242193/ref=sr_1_2?dchild=1&keywords=case+for+christ+youth&qid=1609827664&sr=8-2
 - *Questioning the Bible* by Jonathan Morrow
 - https://www.amazon.com/Questioning-Bible-Challenges-Bibles-Authority/dp/0802411789/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=questioning+the+bible&qid=1609827688&sr=8-1
 - *5 Minute Apologetics for Today Daily Devotional* by Dr. Ron Rhodes
 - https://www.amazon.com/5-Minute-Apologetics-Today-Answers-Questions/dp/0736924574/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=ron+rhodes+five+minutes&qid=1609827713&sr=8-1
- **Program Recommendations**
 - Truth Project
 - <https://www.focusonthefamily.com/faith/the-truth-project/>
 - Summit Ministries
 - <https://www.summit.org/curriculum/>
 - Accessible Apologetics
 - <http://apologeticsguy.com/resources/lessons/accessible-apologetics/>

For Younger Students (Under 12)

- Case for Christ for Kids by Lee Strobel
 - https://www.amazon.com/Case-Christ-Kids/dp/0310719909/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=case+for+christ+kids&qid=1609828405&s=books&sr=1-1
- Case Makers Academy by J. Warner Wallace
 - <http://www.casemakersacademy.com/>
- What is God Like? Series by Dr. William Lane Craig
 - https://www.amazon.com/God-Three-Persons-Dr-Craig/dp/1480199877/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=what+is+god+like+craig&qid=1609828091&sr=8-1
- Picture Book Apologetics by J.D. Camorlinga
 - https://www.amazon.com/Chameleons-Can-Worms-Picture-Apologetics/dp/0615925359/ref=sr_1_6?dchild=1&keywords=picture+book+apologetics&qid=1609828117&sr=8-6
- Melissa Travis books by Melissa Cain Travis
 - https://www.amazon.com/Really-There-Melissa-Travis-Hardcover/dp/B00POFGBMC/ref=sr_1_4?dchild=1&keywords=melissa+travis&qid=1609816257&s=books&sr=1-4
- Foundations Curriculum
 - <https://foundationworldview.com/>
- Summit Curriculum
 - <https://www.summit.org/curriculum/>

For Parents and Youth Pastors

- *Mama Bear Apologetics* by Hillary Morgan Ferrer
 - https://www.amazon.com/Mama-Bear-Apologetics-Empowering-Challenge/dp/0736976159/ref=pd_bxgy_img_2/144-1908908-6458620?_encoding=UTF8&pd_rd_i=0736976159&pd_rd_r=7c29d2e4-a836-4728-b9d5-4560cc597de7&pd_rd_w=i2mcJ&pd_rd_wg=VPPoL&pf_rd_p=f325d01c-4658-4593-be83-3e12ca663f0e&pf_rd_r=CZJ4GS0RAMAN1STWOYCC&pse=1&refRID=CZJ4GS0RAMAN1STWOYCC
- *Keeping Your Kids on God's Side* by Natasha Crain
 - https://www.amazon.com/Keeping-Your-Kids-Gods-Side-ebook/dp/B018676GOU/ref=sr_1_1_sspa?dchild=1&keywords=natasha+crain&qid=1609828325&s=books&sr=1-1_spons&pse=1&spLa=ZW5jenlwdGVkUXVhbGlmaWVyPUEzVVBVRnkNVVv03TEhKJmVuY3J5cHRlZElkPUEwMTY1NDE4WlY4RVBOWDdMMlhrJmVuY3J5cHRlZEFkSWQ9QTAyNjEwMjJUEc0TF1wTIE4SFomd2lkZ2V0TmFtZT1zeF9hdGYmYWNoaW9uPWNsaWNRUmVkaXJlY3QmZG9Ob3RMb2dDbGljaz10cnVl
- *Talking with Your Kids about God* by Natasha Crain
 - https://www.amazon.com/Talking-Your-Kids-about-Conversations/dp/0801075521/ref=sr_1_4?dchild=1&keywords=natasha+crain&qid=1609828350&s=books&sr=1-4
- *Talking with Your Kids about Jesus* by Natasha Crain
 - https://www.amazon.com/Talking-Your-Kids-about-Jesus/dp/080107553X/ref=pd_bxgy_img_2/144-1908908-6458620?_encoding=UTF8&pd_rd_i=080107553X&pd_rd_r=01f91b76-7119-4fd4-8372-5211573f7158&pd_rd_w=DKk5z&pd_rd_wg=7ooim&pf_rd_p=f325d01c-4658-4593-be83-3e12ca663f0e&pf_rd_r=G0KKNYWHX4RW6J9XNPKH&pse=1&refRID=G0KKNYWHX4RW6J9XNPKH
- *So The Next Generation Will Know* by Sean McDowell
 - https://www.amazon.com/Next-Generation-Will-Know-Challenging/dp/1434712281/ref=sr_1_1?crid=2S9TSTNW0ZFK2&dchild=1&keywords=so+the+next+generation+will+know+sean+mcdowell&qid=1609828512&s=books&sprefix=so+the+n%2Cstripbooks%2C217&sr=1-1
- *Apologetics for a New Generation* by Sean McDowell
 - https://www.amazon.com/Apologetics-New-Generation-Culturally-ConversantLife-com%2CAE/dp/0736925201/ref=sr_1_1?crid=1IAOF5TY1PIY2&dchild=1&keywords=apologetics+for+a+new+generation+sean+mcdowell&qid=1609828537&s=books&sprefix=apologetics+for+a+n%2Cstripbooks%2C258&sr=1-1

The Apologetics

Case for God's Existence

1. **Cosmological Argument**
 - a. Whatever begins to exist has a cause
 - b. The universe began to exist
 - c. Therefore, the universe has a cause
2. **Teleological Argument**
 - a. Design implies Designer
 - b. The Universe Manifests Design
 - c. Therefore, the Universe has a Designer
3. **Moral Law Argument**
 - a. Moral law equals moral law Giver
 - b. There is a universal moral law
 - c. Therefore, there is a Moral law Giver
4. **Argument from Desire**
 - a. Human beings desire a relationship with the Divine
 - b. Humans cannot desire something unless its fulfillment exists
 - c. Therefore, a Divine being capable of relationship with human beings must exist

Case for Jesus' Deity

- If Jesus were not Lord, he would be a liar or a lunatic. Jesus was neither a liar nor a lunatic. Therefore, Jesus is Lord.

In the mid-nineteenth century the Scottish Christian preacher "Rabbi" John Duncan (1796-1870) formulated what he called a "trilemma." Christ either [1] deceived mankind by conscious fraud, or [2] He was Himself deluded and self-deceived, or [3] He was Divine. (*Colloquia Peripatetica* p. 109) we see Duncan's argument from 1859-1860). Also see Lewis' *Mere Christianity*, p. 55-56

Case for Jesus' Resurrection

Minimal Facts Argument:

1. Jesus Died by Crucifixion
2. The Tomb was Empty
3. Post-Resurrection Appearances
4. Origin and Growth of the Church

<https://crossexamined.org/the-minimal-facts-of-the-resurrection/>

Contact Info: sarah@historicalapologetics.org