

# Session 1: Why Have a Thinking Faith?

## 1. Bible Reflection

*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*  
John 1:14

### Reflect upon the following question:

In what ways might this verse encourage or promote a more confident faith?

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## 2. Session Outline Part 1

### Why it's important to have a thinking faith:

Three reasons:

1. Strengthen your faith.
2. Strengthen your witness.
3. Strengthen the Church's influence.

### Christianity as a worldview:

1. Where did life come from?
2. What is the meaning of life?
3. How should one live their life?
4. What happens to us when we die?

*I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen:  
not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.*  
C.S Lewis

### What is Christian Apologetics?

'Apologetics' comes from the Greek word - "apologia", which means "a reasoned defence or reasoned answer."

*But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer [apologia] to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.*  
1 Peter 3:15

Apologetics is simply about giving people reasons for **why** we believe **what** we believe.

### 3. Discussion Break

Why do you think it's important to have a faith that's not afraid to think and not afraid to engage with people's thoughtful questions?

Feel free to offer specific examples or share real life experiences.

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### 4. Session Outline Part 2

#### The Example of Paul in Acts 17

- "Reasoning", "explaining" and "proving" are the verbs used to describe what Paul does with the Jews in Acts 17.
- With leading Greek thinkers later in chapter 17 Paul appeals to their own poets Epimenides and Aratus – who, though pagan philosophers, said some true things about God - "For in him we live and move and have our being" and "we are his offspring" (Acts 17:28).
- Build bridges to create openings for faith.

#### Our present context

- Many people today view belief in God as irrational, irrelevant, and possibly even immoral.
- Post-Christian in its attitude, but almost pre-Christian in its understanding.

#### Answering the tough questions.

Any tough question or objection people have about faith will likely be a variation of one of the following questions:

- Is it true?
- Is it good?
- Does it work?

Often it is the case that one of these questions is the primary motivating question for people, and can be a means of leading people on in their journey to Christ. For Jesus Christ is not only the truth, he is also the way, and also the life. He is all true and all good and all life.

### 5. Further Discussion

1. When you think about your faith journey, which of the three motivating questions - "is it true?", "is it good?" or "does it work?" - do you think was your primary motivating question?
2. Have you ever faced tough questions or objections about your faith? Share your experience.

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## 6. Take Time to Pray

Take a moment to pray with one another around some of the things you have shared today.

## 7. Where to From Here?

If there is one thing you would like to grow in by doing this course, what would it be?

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## 8. Notes

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