**What do you think of when you think of Apologetics? What word does this obviously come from?**

**What is apology?**

*Apology – Apologia = A defense or case made in favor or in support of an idea.*

The word is used in1 Peter 3:15 “…but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.”

* Trust God as Holy (really believe he knows what he is doing)
* Be ready to give a reason to those you talk to for the hope you have and the hope they can have.
* Do so always in a spirit of gentleness and respect.

**Apologia – Making a Case**

When you think about presenting a defense or a case for any idea or position, how do you go about it? What techniques do you use? How do you structure your argument?

Acts 17:16-32 – Paul is going to Athens to speak in the synagogue when he notices idols all around him that were a part of the culture in Athens. He is moved by the cultural influence on the people and stops to make a case for God utilizing what he sees around him.

Identify the strategy Paul uses:

1. Makes a case against pagan gods.
2. Makes a case for belief in Jesus.

**Why engage in a study and practice of Apologetics?**

1. Answer doubts – everyone has doubts or will have doubts.
2. Build confidence - Christianity makes a lot of sense as a worldview. (Sum of our beliefs about the world. The big picture that directs our daily actions and priorities. Answers questions like “How did the universe and its creatures come to be?” “Why did they come to be?” “Is there good and evil?” “What is the problem of mankind?” “What are the solutions?” “Where are we going?” ‘Why are we here?”
3. Changes lives – yours and those you come in contact with.

**What would be some objections to engaging in Apologetics?**

Among some objections would be the idea that by engaging in this sort of study we are somehow going against having a childlike faith, or that it somehow cheapens faith.

1. Lead a brief discussion on the question: “What is the difference between knowing something and having faith in it?” [**A**: Bring out that faith is about what we don’t see. Its about what we don’t have direct sensory evidence for. I know the words that are coming out of your mouth, but I have faith that you aren’t lying.]
2. Shift the discussion to the question: “What is the difference between knowing something in our heads and having real faith in it?” [A: Faith is about what is most important to us. I know my zip code, but I have faith in America.]
3. What are some of the most challenging questions to faith that you have ever heard?
4. Here are main questions we will be asking each week of this series.
   1. What is Faith?
   2. Is There Good Evidence for My Faith?
   3. Who is God?
   4. What is God Like?
   5. Do People Exist?
   6. Does Science Conflict with Faith?
   7. Why Is the Universe So Friendly to Life?
   8. Where is God when I Hurt?
   9. Is Jesus More than a Great Moral Teacher?
   10. Is Jesus More than a Great Religious Leader?
   11. Is Jesus Really the Christ, the Son of God?
   12. Did Jesus Rise from the Dead? Part I
   13. Did Jesus Rise from the Dead? Part II