

Breakout Group Questions

Are Faith & Reason Opposites?

November 4, 2020

Middle School & High School

Warmup & Stretching

1. Can you think of anyone in your life who is not a Christian who might be willing to participate in our January event wrestling through objections to Christianity? (friends, teammates, coworkers, neighbors) If so, please write down their names next to your own for later followup.
2. Play the "Defend Your Position" Game (5 minutes max)
3. Should Christians value reasoning or just simply have faith?
4. How would you define "reason"?
5. How would you define "faith"?

Apologetics Drills (Open notes)

1. Briefly drill your answer to why there is strong evidence that points to the existence of God. (Remember: Chicken Fingers DO Cost Five Million Euros) Use back side as guide.
2. What are 3 common logical fallacies we should avoid?
3. Pair up and take turns with your partner reading out loud the definitions of faith and reason on the back of this sheet. Then, try to restate them in your own words.

Apologetics Going Live (Take ownership of your position)

1. Role play: Split into two groups. One group represents those who claim to be agnostics or atheists. The others are Christians. Christians, respond to the accusation that faith is believing in something with no evidence to support it.
 1. What do you mean?
 2. How do you define "faith"? How do you define "reason"?

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APOLOGETICS DRILLS: **Arguments for God's Existence**

- Cosmological Argument** *(Our universe had a beginning.)*
- Fine-Tuning Argument** *(Universe appears to be fine-tuned for human life.)*
- Design Argument** *(Biological organisms appear to be designed.)*
- Origin of Life Argument** *(Life in our universe emerged from non-life.)*
- Consciousness Argument** *(Nonmaterial consciousness emerged from unconscious matter.)*
- Free Agency Argument** *(We are "free agents" in our otherwise "cause and effect" universe)*
- Moral Argument** *(Transcendent, objective moral truths exist in our universe.)*
- Evidence of Evil Argument** *(Evil and injustice continue to persist, in spite of our best efforts.)*

3 Common Logical Fallacies

Circular Reasoning *(When the argument is restated rather than proven.)*

Form: A is true because B is true; B is true because A is true.

Example: The wind is invisible because I can't see it. I can't see the wind because it is invisible.

Hasty Generalization *(Making a sweeping statement without all the facts.)*

Example: Claiming "all sports car drivers are law breakers" after seeing someone run a red light while driving a sports car.

Slippery Slope *(A conclusion based on the premise that one small step will lead to a chain of events resulting in some significant event.)*

Example: If you let a bully come in your front yard, he will be on your porch the next day and the day after that he will eat your babies!

Faith & Reason Definitions

Faith "isn't a belief. It's the commitment to a belief. Faith is a commitment to a belief that arises when you place your trust in something you have good reason to believe is true." (Natasha Crain, *Keeping Your Kids on God's Side*, pg 55)

Reason is "fundamentally the act of engaging the mind - whether done intuitively or rigorously, poorly or flawlessly. It is, ideally, a process of careful thinking, always involving logic, and often drawing upon evidence." (Peter Grice, *True Reason*)

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