

## Breakout Group Questions

How can a loving God send people to hell?

November 11, 2020

High School

### Warmup & Stretching

1. What is a Premise?
2. What is a Conclusion?

### Workout

*Put the following fictitious Letter to the Editor into Standard Form. What is the conclusion? What are the Premises?*

Dear Editor,

Once again, the Rice Lake City Council has failed in its duty to represent the public and protect our natural heritage! Rice Lake Transport has announced to the public that they have the right to cut down six 80-year-old oak trees on Great North Road, in order to widen the road for increased car usage projected in 2026. This decision was made in a secret meeting that the public was not invited to attend! Meanwhile the chainsaw gangs are to be let loose, as they were at Moon Lake Park and behind the school. Instead of Rice Lake becoming the world's most livable city, the peaceful flow of city life and the natural environment struggles to survive while greedy developers enjoy corporate welfare at the public's expense. A widespread Rice Lake protest is one way to get the Council to listen to us.

Signed, Save-the-Trees Advocate

### Apologetics Training

*Read Exodus 33:18-34:7; Revelation 21:1-8; Deuteronomy 7:6-11.*

*What Premises do these verses support for the argument "God must send sinners to hell"?*

- P1 God universally loves all people with great love, kindness, and generosity.
  - P2 People can't do anything to change God's love for them.
  - P3 God cannot have sin in his presence and must send sinners away from his presence by his nature and for the good of those that dwell in his presence.
  - P4 God is a just God who will punish all sin perfectly.
  - P5 God will not force anyone to do something, he will only enforce the consequences.
- Therefore,
- C God must send all sinners to hell.

### Prayer

1. Adoration: Praise God for His character — Loving, Kind, Generous, Holy, Perfect, Just, Merciful
2. Confession: Confess your sins, lack of faith, distrust of God's character, etc.
3. Thanksgiving: Thank God for his mercy in providing a way for us to be saved, though we deserve punishment.
4. Supplication:
  1. Ask God to help us trust Him.
  2. Pray that we would be able to get around 20 people who are not Christians to come join us in January for our special event where we will address objections to Christianity.
  3. Pray for God's will to be done in our country.
  4. Share prayer requests and pray for each other.

## **APOLOGETICS HELPS:**

### **Definitions**

**Premise:** A statement that you hold to be true, because of evidence and reasons, that helps to support a conclusion

**Conclusion:** A statement that the arguer is trying to prove is true.

### **Standard Form of an Argument**

P1 Premise 1  
P2 Premise 2  
P3 Premise 3 (And so on for as many premises are in the argument)  
Therefore,  
C Conclusion

*Example:*

P1 *All dogs are animals.*  
P2 *Gideon, the Nord's Great Dane, is a dog.*  
Therefore,  
C *Gideon is an animal.*

### **Steel Manning**

1. Attempt to re-express the other person's position so clearly, vividly, and fairly that they say, "Thank you, I wish I'd thought of putting it that way"
2. List points of agreement (especially if they are not matters of general or widespread agreement).
3. Mention anything you've learned from (not about) your opponent
4. Only after you've completed points 1-3 are you permitted to say so much as a word of rebuttal or critique

### **Workout Help**

- P1** (Assumed) The public has a right to say whether trees are cut down on public property.  
**P2** A secret meeting was held by Rice Lake Transportation to decide to cut down historically valuable oak trees.  
**P3** The public was not invited to the secret meeting.  
Therefore,  
**C1** The Council has failed in its duty to represent the public and protect our natural heritage!  
**C2** We should protest to get the Council to listen to us.