



Apologetics

'But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

But do this with gentleness and respect.' 1 Peter 3:15

These apologetics studies aim to lead people to want to find out more about faith in God and encourage them to think about issues raised and start to formulate questions, which you can later answer in a more intentionally evangelistic setting. Thus they do not set out to present the gospel clearly, although you may find yourself needing to do this at some point.

The studies are designed for a one hour slot. If you have more time than that, perhaps you could use more than one study and keep people's attention engaged on apologetics, rather than doing something completely different and distracting them from the thoughts that are starting to form in their minds?

Try not to use any Christian jargon or technical words in these studies – try to make the studies inclusive, i.e. so that no-one feels left out of the 'in-crowd'.

Structure of the studies.

These studies are designed for a mixed group of Christians and seekers.

I recommend that you do the study yourself before running it with prisoners, so that you can see which questions are likely to take up more time, and have a good understanding of the answers, and where the study is going. There are not many application questions as these are less relevant to this setting than to the usual Bible study series'.

Each study is written out twice, once for leaders (*with a guide to answers*) and once for participants. Some studies include group work:

SELF-DIRECTED LEARNING – SDL – 3 questions that need to be prepared. Write them on flip-chart paper, spaced out so that there is room to write the answer. Prepare enough flip-chart sheets for the group to work in pairs, and provide enough marker pens for them to write their answers. When they are finished, download the answers as a group, with a leader co-ordinating the discussion.

STICKERS – Write the question on the top of a flip-chart. Give the group stickers or post-it's and ask them to write the answer to the question on their sticker. Give them biro's to do this. Ask them to stick their stickers on the flip-chart. When they are finished, the leader reads out the answers, and then explains the right answer to the group.

SHOUT-OUT – The group shouts out answers to a question, and the leader writes their answers on the flip-chart, regardless of whether they are right or wrong (as long as they are serious answers!)

Bibliography

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