

Developing Next Generation Defenders of Faith Apologetics for Kids in Today's World

I. Why Teach Apologetics?

- A. Biblical reason - "But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence. – 1 Peter 3:15
- B. Practical reasons:
1. To encourage a well-rooted foundation
 2. Bring them to a deeper relationship with God
 3. Equip them with answers to the hard questions.
 4. To counteract the world's teaching

Where kids spend their time (168 hours in a week).

- 63 hours: Sleeping
- 56 hours: Time at School
- 12 hours: Extracurricular Activities (Homework, Sports, etc.)
- 21 hours: Entertainment (TV, video games)
- 2-3 hours: Church Activities

II. Where to Begin Teaching Apologetics

- A. Give Them A Correct Theology Mind)
1. Foundational truths – 2 Tim. 3:15-17
 2. Belief – 2 Tim. 1:12
 3. Practice – 2 Tim.
- B. Give them Hope for the future (Emotions)
1. Strengthen their faith – Rom. 10:17
 2. Know the truth
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- C. Guide them in their walk (Will)
 - 1. Defend their faith
 - 2. Discern false teaching
 - 3. Decide to follow God

III. Teaching about God

- A. Creator
- B. Deity – God is supreme, divine in nature and character
- C. Attributes – His qualities, characteristics, who He is
- D. Character – love, mercy, goodness, compassion etc.
- E. Names - the names of God impact our lives

ELOHIM God “Creator, Mighty and Strong” (Genesis 17:7; Jeremiah 31:33) – the plural form of *Eloah*, which accommodates the doctrine of the Trinity. From the Bible’s first sentence, the superlative nature of God’s power is evident as God (Elohim) speaks the world into existence (Genesis 1:1). This name refers to God’s incredible power and might. He is the One and only God. He is Supreme, the true God in a world that promotes many false gods and religions. He is the one on whom we can fully rely, He is Sovereign, He is the one we can completely trust.

ABBA means “Daddy, Father” – Abba is the most intimate form of God’s names, showing us His character as our loving daddy. He is the One who can be fully trusted, the One we can lean on, the One who cares about all that concerns us.

<https://www.ibelieve.com/faith/10-powerful-names-of-god-and-what-they-mean-for-us-today.html>

IV. Principles to Teach

- A. God has always existed, no one created Him. Jer. 1:17; James 1:17
 - B. God created the universe with His voice - Gen. 1:2; Col. 1:16
 - C. God made man from the dust and breathed life into him – Gen. 2:7; 2:18-23; Duet. 36:2b
 - D. God created us in His image, we are more like God than any other created thing – Gen 1:27
 - E. God Has a purpose for our lives – Rom. 8:28; Eph. 2:10
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V. Teaching About God's Son

A. His deity - the "deity of Christ," he means that, that same person who is known to history as Jesus of Nazareth existed, before He became man, from all eternity as infinite, eternal and unchangeable God, the second person of the holy Trinity."

J. Gresham Machen, *What is the Deity of Christ?*

B. His person and work

1. Jesus is God the Son – John 1:1,14; col. 2:9; Heb. 1:8
2. Jesus created the world – Col. 1:16
3. Jesus died for your sin, was buried, and rose again – 1 Cor.15:3-4
4. Jesus is the only one who can forgive your sin – Eph. 1:7
5. He lives in every believer – Gal. 2:20

C. His names and what they mean

1. **Almighty One** – “...*who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.*” Rev. 1:8
2. **Bread of Life** – “*Then Jesus declared, ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.’*” John 6:35
3. **Light of the World** – “*I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.*” John 8:12
4. **Redeemer** – “*And as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will take His stand on the earth.*” Job 19:25
5. **The Way** – “*Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”*” John 14:6

<https://www.crosswalk.com/blogs/debbie-mcdaniel/50-names-of-jesus-who-the-bible-says-christ-is.html>

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VII. Teaching the Validity of the Bible

A. The New Testament—has far more textual evidence in its favor than any other ancient writing.

Teach one or two basic concepts about the Bible with each Bible lesson series.

1. Number of copies that exist (see chart below)
2. How kings mentioned in the Bible actually lived (see below)
3. Use the TUFF facts about the Bible (see below)
4. Print off and give each child a copy of "Bible Facts" sheet
5. At least 191 prophecies have been fulfilled mentioned in the Bible

Author	When Written	Earliest Copy	Time Span	No. of Copies
Homer (Iliad)	900 BC	400 BC	500 years	643
Caesar (The Gallic Wars)	100-44 BC	A.D. 900	1,000 years	10
Plato (Tetralogies)	427-347 BC	A.D. 900 AD	1,200 years	7
Aristotle	384-322 BC	A.D. 1,100	1,400 years	49
Herodotus (History)	480-425 BC	A.D. 900	1,300 years	8
Euripides	480-406 BC	A.D. 1,100	1,500 years	9
New Testament	A.D. 50-90	A.D. 130	30 years	24,000

B. Archeology—although the Bible does not need to be supported by any outside affirmation. Archeology has proven repeatedly that the Bible is true when it comes to names, places, and people.

C. Various Kings—mentioned in the Bible with proven dig sites

King Sargon II of Assyria (Isaiah 20:1).

King Sennacherib of Assyria (2 Kings 18:13-19:37)

King Xerxes I of Persia (Esther; Ezra 4:6)

Roman emperor Augustus (Luke 2:1).

King Herod Agrippa I of Judea (Acts 12:1-23; 23:35)

D. The Bible is TUFF

T – tons and tons of copies (see chart above)

U – underground discoveries (see names of Kings above)

F – prophecies fulfilled

www.about-jesus.org/complete-chart-prophecies

F – Facts taken as a whole. There is too much evidence to say the Bible is not true.

http://www.clarifyingchristianity.com/b_proof.shtml

VIII. Where to Start Teaching Apologetics

A. Home

1. Model it first – the children need to see this is real in your life
2. Make specific weekly plans - may not be everyday but at least twice a week. After a movie, reading a book, hearing the news etc.
3. Ask questions and give answers (if you don't know the answer be honest, find it or better still work together to find the answer)
4. Share a testimony—yours, or someone else's. Let them see how God has worked
5. Quote and learn verses with your kids

B. Classroom

1. Use the Bible lesson

Look for a truth, attribute, name, or characteristic about God you can bring in.
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2. Attributes—pick one for at least two weeks
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3. Names of God or Jesus and how that applies to them
4. Use music – look for attributes to teach
5. Use the memory verse - look for attributes or things about His nature
6. Develop a short catechism (list of truths you can ask)
<https://www.reformedmama.com/free-downloads>

IX. Cautions about teaching kids to defend their faith

- A. Teach them not to argue
- B. Teach them not to get mad
- C. Teach them not to be aggressive
- D. Teach them not to make others feel bad

NOTE: The files below have things you can use to teach kids about various apologetic concepts. The facts about the Bible is a page you can copy and give to the kids. Teaching cards you can use in your class are included.

Simply click on the document and print it out.


Apologetic
Websites.docx


Attributes of
God.doc


Facts about the
Bible.docx


In Christ.doc


Names of God.doc

Workshop Presented and Notes developed by David Bachelder, Leadership Training Instructor,
CEF Department of Education.
