

# “SOUL APOLOGETICS” 101



## THEOLOGICAL QUESTION

How do I share my faith?

## BIG IDEA

You can't "argue" someone into belief in Jesus, so you must learn to listen to the emotions behind their objections. When sharing the gospel, be ready to listen to others, root yourself in the wisdom God has given us in Scripture and do your best to find answers to their questions. This lesson includes an exploration of how to respond to common objections, such as: "Christians are hypocritical" and "There is more than one way."

## SCRIPTURE USED

### **1 Peter 3:14-16**

*But even if you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it. So don't worry or be afraid of their threats. Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ.*

### **2 Timothy 2:24-25**

*A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, be able to teach, and be patient with difficult people. Gently instruct those who oppose the truth. Perhaps God will change those people's hearts, and they will learn the truth.*

### **Jude 1: 3**

*Dear friends, I had been eagerly planning to write to you about the salvation we all share. But now I find that I must write about something else, urging you to defend the faith that God has entrusted once for all time to his holy people.*

### **Acts 17:2-4**

*As was Paul's custom, he went to the synagogue service, and for three Sabbaths in a row he used the Scriptures to reason with the people. He explained the prophecies and proved that the Messiah must suffer and rise from the dead. He said, "This Jesus I'm telling you about is the Messiah." Some of the Jews who listened were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, along with many God-fearing Greek men and quite a few prominent women.*

## PRE-LESSON PREP

### For this lesson you will need:

- **Opener:**
  - **Option #1:** Video: projection equipment and Sherlock — Season 3, Episode One, “The Empty Hearse” (time code 34:30-36:50).
  - **Option #2:** Play Mafia. If you are unfamiliar with this game you can Google: Mafia + youth ministry. Please be advised this is a better option for groups already familiar with the rules of the game, as learning it and explaining it to newbies can be time-consuming. Be sure to emphasize, or continue to comment of the importance of the detective when you play. Set a time limit.
- **Teaching Time:** For this lesson, you will be rotating through three teaching stations. This style of active learning will help your students stay focused and retain more. Set your stations up in advance. If you have the option, set up your different stations in different rooms or different areas of your building (or even outside if the weather permits). If you have a small area, consider just using a TV tray in different corners of the room and asking students to move from station to station when it is time to transition. Several items / options are listed, but **you only need one or two of these items in each area**. Feel free to use anything that fits the “theme.” In the interest of time, you may want to begin migrating from one station to the next one as you finish up your discussion of the last question on the preceding section. Also, this lesson utilizes a structured note-taking outline so students will have an easy way to keep track of all this solid information. Place a collection of colored pencils at each station.
  - Gather one or two of the following supplies for each of your teaching stations:
    - **Teaching Station #1: The Deducing Detective** — the DVD cases or books to any of the Sherlock based series, a magnifying glass, a coffee mug, clean plastic disposable gloves, a pen and notepad, etc.
    - **Teaching Station #2: The Offense and the Defense** — anything that plays with both of these themes. Some ideas are: a football team that is divided, a basketball court picture, or a chessboard. If your students are big into football, you could even bring pictures of two very prominent local offensive and defensive players.
    - **Teaching Station #3: I Object** — consider a poster or print out with “I Object!” boldly displayed. Your other props should be based on a courtroom such as a judge’s gavel, something that looks similar to a