

Tactics in Defending Your Faith

Men's Monday Night Football Fellowship (October 20, 2008)

Verse for the Study: 1 Peter 3:14-16

"But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened. 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, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander."

General Instructions for Role-Plays:

- Employ all our Columbo Tactics
- Skeptic will use the role play material to make claims and respond credibly
- Christian will work to discover:
 - WHAT he believes
 - WHY he believes it
 - HOW he came to believe it
- Use tactic of narrating the discussion, as needed
- If you get stuck..."Let me THINK ABOUT IT."
- Christian, make sure you do not make a claim too early.
- 20 minutes

Refer to the specific Role-Plays (Separate Hand-out)

When our faith is being attacked ...

- Columbo tactic #1 –
"What do you mean by that?"
(clarifies WHAT they think)
- Columbo tactic #2 –
"How did you come to that conclusion?"
(clarifies WHY they think it)
- Columbo tactic #2 –
is the BURDEN OF PROOF tactic
(he who makes the claim bears the burden of proof)
- If you have not made a claim,
you are not on the hook for proving anything.
(avoid flaming bags of pooh!)
- Narrate the discussion – CONVERSATIONAL AIKIDO
(What just happened here?)
- If you get stuck....powerful statement
(Let me think about it)
- Use the Simple Questions –
"Why" or "Why Not?"

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS OR RESULTS FROM ROLE-PLAYS

Write down ideas of the most common "charges" you would like to learn to give proof for

“Get in the Game” – the “Double-Dog Dare” by Pastor Chris Sutton

Men’s Monday Night Football Fellowship 2008 Week 6 Homework

Review the “Take-Away” Points

- Ask “WHY?”
- Ask “WHY NOT?”
- There’s no magic behind these questions
- Just an extension of Tactics #1 & #2
- We bring it up now, because it’s so easy for these questions to be considered too challenging.
- Use them gently, sincerely – fact finding.
- Oh and by the way.... If you are not asking questions, you are NOT applying the tactics.

“Study the Playbook”

REVIEW and NAIL DOWN the VERSE FOR OUR STUDY: Memorize 1 Peter 3:14-16

“But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened. 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, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.”

WEEK 2 Verse (1 Cor. 14:11) WEEK 3 Verse (Proverbs 30:5,6) WEEK 4 Verse (Proverbs 15:1)
WEEK 5 Verse (Isaiah 5:20,21)

WEEKS 6-8 Verse (2 Timothy 2:23-26)

WEEK 6: “Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels.

WEEK 7: And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful.

WEEK 8: Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.”

Consider and Apply the “Give-Away” – Actually Play the Game

“Education without application quickly becomes extinct.” – Brent Briggs...or “Unknown”

- Strive to employ all your two Columbo tactics in conversations.
- If you find yourself in an emotionally charged situation, try narrating the conversation
- Remember to reserve making any claims until you’ve properly prepared the soil...otherwise, the seeds may not take hold.
- Work on your memory verses

Check out this website for help on Proving the validity of the Bible and defending Christianity:

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