

APPLICATION

What is the relevance of the Word to my life?

- Describe your personal view on religion and faith.
- How comfortable are you giving someone a reason for your faith?

How do I apply the Word to my life?

- Have you made a decision to become a disciple of Christ? If not, would you like to now?
- How can you love God "with all your mind" in your life?

PRAYER

- Pray for anyone accepting Christ for the first time.
- Pray for inspiration to love God with our minds.
- Pray for any requests that people in the group may have.

GOD'S NOT DEAD

Real Faith isn't Blind

NOTES

WARM UP

- Describe the most awkward conversation you've had with someone about politics.
- Describe the most awkward conversation you've had with someone about religion. What was the outcome?
- Do you think it's possible to prove God's existence using scientific methods? Why or why not

WORD

*But in your hearts revere 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. **1 Peter 3:15,16***

In a world where Christianity is often considered anti-science and anti-reason, how should the Church respond? One possible response is to fight ridicule with ridicule, retreating to our cultural corners and throwing stones. Or we can explore what the Bible says about the relationship between reason and faith. We'll be better equipped to give an answer for our hope in Christ if we remember the following:

1. FAITH IS REASONABLE

*"For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse". **Romans 1:20***

John Lennox says, "Faith is not a leap in the dark; it's the exact opposite. It's a commitment based on evidence." Paul says that evidence for God is "clearly seen." The Bible is logical and reasonable. The Bible doesn't endorse a "blind faith," and people can become disciples by wrestling with logical questions. What are some popular doubts people have about God and Christianity?

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2. UNBELIEF IS AVOIDING IMPLICATION

*"The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them." **Romans 1:18,19***

It's important to realize that people don't disbelieve because of reason. If the truth of God is "plain to them," then there must be a different reason for unbelief. Believing in an all-powerful God has serious personal implications. Unbelief is not about wrestling with the questions to find truth; it's about avoiding the implications of belief. What implications are being avoided by not believing in God?

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3. REASON AND INTELLECT DEVELOP FAITH

*Reason and intellect develop faith. Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment." **Matthew 22:37,38***

Reasoning and researching are not just about proving God's existence. We're showing love to our Heavenly Father by engaging our faith with our minds. This goes to show that Christianity is anything but anti-reason. Reasoning is at the core of a disciple's ability to love God, and loving God is the "first and greatest commandment."

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