



# Apologetics I

Name \_\_\_\_\_

While the word apologetics is related to the word apology, apologetics does not mean being sorry or apologizing for what you believe. Rather apologetics is a defense of the Christian Faith; answering the objections or questions of an unbeliever. The Apologetics I Trail Badge focuses on the existence of God, truth, and the problem of evil.

## Do all of the following requirements (1-5)

- \_\_\_\_\_1. Study apologetics in the Bible by doing the following:
  - \_\_\_\_\_a. Read 1 Peter 3:15-16 which contains the Greek root word for apologetics, apologia; which is translated in versions of the Bible as answer, defense, or reason.
  - \_\_\_\_\_b. Read Acts 17:16-31 which contains one of the clearest recorded uses of apologetics in Christianity.
  - \_\_\_\_\_c. Read 2 Corinthians 10:4-5; 1 Thessalonians 5:21; and Jude 3. Explain how these versions related to apologetics.
  - \_\_\_\_\_d. Participate in a discussion of using reason in contending or defending our faith.
- \_\_\_\_\_2. Research and explain the difference between Evidential Apologetics, (articulated by men such as Hugo Grotius, John Locke, John Warwick Montgomery, Gary Habermas) and Presuppositional Apologetics (articulated by men such as Cornelius Van Til, Gordon Clarke, Edward Carnell, and Scott Oliphint. Compare and contrast these two general approaches; discuss the strengths and weaknesses of each and tell which appeals to you the most, the least, and why.
- \_\_\_\_\_3. Research and explain the two-step approach to the Classical Approach to Apologetics (articulated by such men as St. Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, John Gerstner, R.C. Sproul, C.S. Lewis, Norm Geisler, and William Lane Craig) and tell how this approach uses some of the Classical and some of the Presuppositional approaches.
- \_\_\_\_\_4. Research and explain why the logical principle or the **“law of non-contradiction”** is so important to apologetics or any clear thinking.
- \_\_\_\_\_5. Present a defense of your faith using one or more of the above three approaches based on what you learned from completing all other requirements for this badge.



Do one (1) requirement in each of the three different topics below (6-19)

### Existence of God

Atheists deny the existence of any god, let alone the Triune God of scripture. How can Christians present a case for God?

- \_\_\_\_\_6. Find and read the article "Twenty Arguments for the Existence of God" by Peter Kreeft. Present your favorite three arguments (see Apologetics Resources).
- \_\_\_\_\_7. Summarize the "Five Ways" of Thomas Aquinas.
- \_\_\_\_\_8. Research and explain how the Latin phrase "ex nihilo nihil fit" is both a proof for God's existence and God as creator of the universe.
- \_\_\_\_\_9. Create a skit or presentation about the "Argument from Desire."
- \_\_\_\_\_10. Summarize St. Bonaventure's demonstration from Love in "The Soul's Journey into God."
- \_\_\_\_\_11. Summarize and discuss Jonathan Edward's argument from experience in his sermon titled "That Divine and Supernatural Light."

### Truth

When we defend the Christian Faith, we are making claims about what is true. Many nonbelievers claim not to believe in truth. What is truth?

- \_\_\_\_\_12. Do a Bible study on truth.
  - \_\_\_\_\_a. Read Proverbs 12:19; Ephesians 6:14; 1 Corinthians 5:8; 1 Peter 1:22; 3 John 4. Tell what we are to do with truth.
  - \_\_\_\_\_b. Read John 18:37-38. Psalm 119:160; John 14:6; Ephesians 4:21. Tell what Jesus has to do with the truth.
  - \_\_\_\_\_c. Read Ephesians 4:15; 1 Corinthians 13:1-2. Tell if being right and truthful is all that matters.
- \_\_\_\_\_13. Create a presentation explaining:
  - \_\_\_\_\_a. A propositional statement,
  - \_\_\_\_\_b. The principle of identity, and
  - \_\_\_\_\_c. The principle of the excluded middle.
- \_\_\_\_\_14. Define objective truth and the competing views of relativism, pragmatism, materialism and skepticism.

### Problem of Evil

The existence of evil and suffering is a stumbling block for many.

- \_\_\_\_\_15. Define omnipotent, omniscient, omnibenevolent, and theodicy.

- \_\_\_\_\_16. Do a Bible study involving the following:
- \_\_\_\_\_a. Read Matthew 19:26; Psalm 139:7-10; Psalm 136:1; Isaiah 5:20; and Psalm 5:4
  - \_\_\_\_\_b. Define sin and how we are affected by sin.
  - \_\_\_\_\_c. Read Genesis 50:20; Romans 8:28; James 1:13-15
  - \_\_\_\_\_d. **Discuss God's character and the consequences of living in a fallen world.**
- \_\_\_\_\_17. Read an overview of the book of Job. Then read Job 42:1-6. **Discuss Job's answer to the problem of evil.**<sup>1</sup>
- \_\_\_\_\_18. Define:
- \_\_\_\_\_a. Irenaean theodicy
  - \_\_\_\_\_b. Augustinian theodicy
  - \_\_\_\_\_c. Free Will Defense
  - \_\_\_\_\_d. Create a presentation of your favorite answer to the problem of evil.
- \_\_\_\_\_19. **Read C. S. Lewis' "The Problem of Pain" and create a presentation or skit explaining Lewis' arguments from this book.**

## Apologetics Activities

Do two (2) of the six (6) following optional requirements (20-25):

- \_\_\_\_\_20. Attend a debate between a Christian and a non-Christian or watch a recorded debate. Note the arguments used.
- \_\_\_\_\_21. Interview a missionary, pastor, church teacher, or church volunteer. Ask about apologetics in the life of the church and in ministry. Discuss the relation of apologetics to evangelism and to Christian education.
- \_\_\_\_\_22. Watch an apologetics movie and discuss the arguments (see Activity Resources for some suggestions).
- \_\_\_\_\_23. Research an apologetics ministry and present your findings to your mentor or Patrol (see Activity Resources for some suggestions).
- \_\_\_\_\_24. Research an apologist agreed upon with your mentor (see Activity Resources for some suggestions). Present an oral or written biography.
- \_\_\_\_\_25. Read an apologetics book agreed upon by your mentor and parents. Present an oral report or write a short essay discussing the key points.

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<sup>1</sup> For further consideration and study, consider St. John Paul II apostolic letter *On the Christian Understanding of Human Suffering*.



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Trail Badge Mentor Signature

Date

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## Apologetics Resources

*If your specific faith tradition relies on a Catechism or similar published teaching instrument that is viewed within your tradition as authoritative inasmuch as it clarifies, reinforces, and supplements the lessons of Holy Scripture, consult that published resource. Discuss these teachings with a Trail Badge Mentor who shares your faith tradition.*

### Existence of God Resources:

As of April 2018, "Twenty Arguments for God's Existence" can be found on Dr. Peter Kreeft's website at [http://www.peterkreeft.com/topics-more/20\\_arguments-gods-existence.htm](http://www.peterkreeft.com/topics-more/20_arguments-gods-existence.htm)

### Historicity of Jesus Resources:

As of April 2018, the presentation "Why Jesus?—The Historical Jesus" can be found at [http://www.apologetics315.com/2013/07/free-essential-apologetics-powerpoint\\_29.html](http://www.apologetics315.com/2013/07/free-essential-apologetics-powerpoint_29.html)

### Activity Resources:

Some possible apologetics movies include: *The Case for Christ* or one of the *God's not Dead* movies.

Some possible apologetics ministries include:

Ravi Zacharias Ministries - <http://rzim.org>

Reasonable Faith (William Lane Craig) - <http://www.reasonablefaith.org>

Josh McDowell Ministry - <http://www.josh.org>

Stand to Reason (Greg Koukel, et. al.) - <https://www.str.org>

Some possible apologists include: Justin Martyr, Thomas Aquinas, Blaise Pascal, C. S. Lewis, or Francis Schaeffer.



Some possible apologetics books include:

*Mere Christianity* by C. S. Lewis

*More than a Carpenter* by Josh McDowell

*The Reason for God* by Tim Keller

*The God Who is There* by Francis Schaeffer

*Orthodoxy* by G. K. Chesterton

### General Resources:

There are many handbooks and reference books on apologetics. A few popular ones are:

*Handbook of Christian Apologetics* by Kreeft & Tacelli

*Holman QuickSource Guide to Christian Apologetics* by Doug Powell

*Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics* by Norman Geisler

[www.Formed.org](http://www.Formed.org), [www.Catholic.com](http://www.Catholic.com), and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

*New Dictionary of Christian Apologetics* by Evans, Campbell-Jack, McGrath

*Christian Apologetics: A Comprehensive Case for Biblical Faith* by Douglas Groothuis

*This Elective Badge has been reviewed and approved by the National Catholic Committee for Trail Life USA.*