

PARENT NEWSLETTER

Defending My Faith

The home is the center for biblical guidance. This newsletter is for you, the parent, to discuss with your teenager the biblical truths and principles discovered in their small group Bible study.

The class that your teenager is a part of uses a Bible study curriculum called Fuel Ignited: Living Your Faith. These studies will help teenagers live out their faith through their relationships

Why Defending My Faith Is Important

Teenagers face challenges to their faith everywhere, possibly among their circle of friends. Most students would prefer to be viewed as “tolerant” of various belief systems. They need to understand the difference between being confrontational and confident in their faith. As they prepare to further their education in college or join the workforce, they need to be prepared for the questions that will inevitably be asked.

Key Points from Their Bible Study

•You can respond to tough questions with love, graciousness, prayer, and an understanding of Scripture (Ps. 119:17-18; 2 Tim 2:14-16; 1 Pet. 3:15-16).

Life Question: *How do I respond to tough questions?*

•The universe around us and the morality within us point to God (Gen. 1:1; Ps. 19:1-4; 33:6-9; Rom. 1:20; 2:12-16).

Life Question: *How can we know God exists?*

•God knows firsthand about evil and suffering, and He will ultimately rescue us (Isa. 55:6-9; Rom. 3:10-18; 8:18-23,31-39).

Life Question: *Why does God allow evil and suffering?*

•The Bible is not a book of science, but it is supported by science (Gen. 1:28; Job 28:20-27; 38:4-6,16-35; 39:19-30).

Life Question: *Do science and Scripture disagree?*

and influence. This newsletter hits the key points in the current Fuel Ignited study. Use this to engage your teenager in discussion. This can take place during a designated time the two of you have set aside, or it can take place as you grab those teachable moments as you travel in the car together.

Discussion Starters

- Ask: **If you could ask God any question and get a full explanation, what would it be? What is the toughest question anyone else has asked you?** Talk about resources that would be available to help answer some of the questions, such as reference books, Internet sites, and knowledgeable people in your church. Discuss the possibility that some questions cannot be answered in this life but require faith in God’s grace and wisdom.
- Review together vacation photos that display the beauty of God’s world. Ask: **What evidence is this for you of God’s existence? How could you use these photos to explain to a friend what you believe about our Creator?**
- Watch the evening news with your student and talk about the evil and suffering that is evident in the world. Ask: **Do you ever hear your friends express doubts about God’s love because of the evil they see? How do you answer them?** Decide together what would be an appropriate response.
- Express a desire to look at your student’s science textbook. Ask: **What is the most surprising thing you have learned this year in your science class? In what way did it increase your faith in and gratitude toward God?** Discuss ways that science can be used as a discussion starter with your student’s friends about God’s provision and grace.