

Discussion Questions for *Know Why You Believe*

1. Centuries ago a person's faith in God was rarely challenged. Churches did almost nothing to encourage individuals to develop personal relationships with Christ. The church even withheld the Bible from popular use. Today's society often views a person's faith in God as a relic of the past. Yet Christians have more resources than ever before to help them develop a personal faith in Christ—millions of Bibles, thousands of churches and hundreds of religious radio and television programs. Do you think it is harder or easier to have a genuine, growing relationship with Christ now than it was in earlier centuries? Explain.
2. According to 1 Peter 3:15 we should “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.” Why would the Bible include such a command?
3. Think of someone who genuinely seems open to trusting Christ yet is still having a problem believing. What reasons might cause this? How could you help the person through the roadblocks?
4. If you were to give “changed lives” as an evidence of God's existence, what personal evidence would you be able to offer?
5. In what ways did Jesus Christ claim to be the Son of God?
6. Many people claim that Jesus was a “great moral teacher” but not the Son of God. How would you answer such a person?
7. How did Jesus substantiate his claim to being God's Son?
8. Read Matthew 28:11-15. Even Jesus' enemies admitted that his tomb was empty. The truth of Christ's resurrection rests on *how* the tomb was emptied. The authorities claimed that Jesus' followers removed the body. Given all that the disciples later endured to spread the word of Christ's resurrection, how likely does the author think this is?
9. Some of the greatest proofs of Jesus' resurrection are (1) the difficulty Jesus had in convincing his followers he was again alive; and (2) how the news changed them from fearful fugitives to bold, aggressive witnesses. How has your life been changed by belief in the resurrection?
10. How does Jesus' own view of the Old Testament Scriptures and of the prophetic powers of John the Baptist support the inspiration of the Bible?

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11. Fulfilled prophecy both validates the authenticity of the Old Testament documents and helps to prove Christ's claims. Would you use such an argument with one type of person more than another? Explain.
12. The earliest existing manuscript of Caesar's *Gallic War* was copied nine hundred years after Caesar's time—five hundred years more than the gap between the earliest complete New Testament and its original texts. Why do historians accept the reliability of Caesar's *Gallic War* while the average person questions the reliability of the Bible?
13. When talking to a nonbeliever about the claims of Christ, would you mention archaeological findings that concern Scripture? Why or why not?
14. What is the relationship between the laws of nature and miracles?
15. What two purposes did biblical miracles fulfill?
16. Paul Little cautions against two extremes Christians should avoid in viewing evolution: (1) that evolution has been proven without a doubt; (2) that evolution is only a theory with little evidence behind it. How has evolution been presented to you in the past in secular and Christian settings?
17. Think about a friend who believes in evolution. How would you steer the conversation away from a scientific debate to a discussion of Christ and his claims?
18. In what instances do people lay blame unjustly on God for suffering and evil?
19. How has God already demonstrated that he wants to rid the world of suffering and evil?
20. Where is God when his creation suffers?
21. What are common ways non-Christians rationalize away the Christian experience?
22. What gives the Christian experience greater validity than the person in Paul Little's example who believes fried egg on his ear has brought him joy, peace, purpose in life, forgiveness of sins and strength for living?

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