

TACTICS

> WINNING THE BATTLE FOR TRUTH <
— IN AN AGE OF DECEPTION —

A 13-WEEK DEVOTIONAL FIELD GUIDE



RECOGNIZE DECEPTION. | THINK BIBLICALLY. | STAND CONFIDENTLY. | LIVE ON MISSION.

★
ROCKFISH CHURCH RESOURCE

TACTICS: WEEK 11

STAND YOUR GROUND

★ PRACTICAL TRAINING ★

Before You Answer...

Remember the **R.E.A.L. Method**



Recognize:

What's the real question?



Establish:

What does Scripture actually teach?



Apply:

How does God's truth speak to this issue?



Lead:

How can I point them to Jesus?

TRUTH • WISDOM • PEOPLE • JESUS

We are not called to have every answer. We are called to know the truth, answer with grace, and confidently point people to Christ.

MISSION BRIEF

PREPARE BELIEVERS FOR ENGAGEMENT

SITUATION: Many objections to the Gospel are based in something other than the truth *of* the Gospel. The questions most frequently asked are more easily answered if we listen closely to what lies behind them.

MISSION: Our goal is to get beyond the strategy of the big picture and develop the tactic of truly listening.

COMMANDER'S INTENT: Prepare believers to face difficult questions with clarity, grace, and confidence. Grounded in biblical truth, we can listen carefully, respond faithfully, and point people to Christ. Success is not winning the argument, but representing Jesus well, removing barriers, and leaving the door open for truth.

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES:

- 1. Recognize the real question.**
Learn to listen beneath the surface and identify what is actually being asked.
- 2. Establish the truth.**
Know what Scripture teaches well enough to respond without guessing, overreacting, or being intimidated.
- 3. Apply truth with grace.**
Speak clearly without becoming combative, defensive, or dismissive.
- 4. Lead toward Christ.**

Know the truth. Understand the question.
Answer with grace. Point to Christ.

Memory Verse: 1 Peter 3:15 (NIV) ¹⁵ 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,

DAY 1 | ANSWER: *Why does God allow Suffering?*

WHAT DID WE LEARN?

REMEMBER

Suffering is something every person encounters at a point in their life. When someone asks, “*Why would God allow this?*” they may not be looking for a theological explanation. They may be asking, “*Can God be trusted?*”

God has not remained distant from our pain. Jesus entered our suffering, and Scripture promises that suffering will not have the final word.

REFOCUS

Before answering someone's pain, acknowledge their pain.

R — Recognize: Is this person asking a question or expressing hurt?

E — Establish: What does Scripture say about suffering, God's presence, and His promises?

- Romans 5:12
- Romans 8:28
- Isaiah 35:3-5
- Revelation 21:3-4

A — Apply: What truth does this person need right now?

L — Lead: How can I point them toward Jesus rather than simply giving an explanation?

Only Christianity offers a Savior who entered suffering, defeated death, and promises restoration.

RESPOND

AFTER ACTION REVIEW:

Sometimes the most spiritual thing we can do is listen before we speak.

- Jesus wept before He spoke.
- Compassion doesn't weaken truth—it *creates space for truth to be heard*.

ACTION STEP / DAILY CHALLENGE:

Use the R.E.A.L. Method

- R** — **Recognize** the deeper question.
- E** — **Establish** God's truth.
- A** — **Apply** it with compassion.
- L** — **Lead** them toward Jesus.

The Struggle: We want to explain someone's pain before we take time to understand it.

What the Enemy Wants: To use suffering to convince people that God is distant, uncaring, or untrustworthy.

Live the Big Idea: Choose one person who may be hurting. Before trying to give an answer, listen and acknowledge their pain. Christianity doesn't remove every "why." It reveals the "Who" who walks with us through suffering.

TODAY:

- Think of a difficult question you've faced before.
- Apply the R.E.A.L. Method and consider your response again.

RETURN

Lord, help me respond to hurting people with compassion and truth. Help me point them toward You when they don't understand what they are experiencing. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Romans 8:28 - *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

DAY 2 | ANSWER: *Can I Really Trust the Bible?*

WHAT DID WE LEARN?

REMEMBER

Questions about the Bible are often bigger than questions about a book, its historical accuracy, or its relevance to the culture. Someone may really be asking,

- ***Can Christianity be trusted?***
- ***Does Christ really hold the moral high ground?***
- ***Do I really need to be in submission to God?***

Our confidence in Scripture rests on Christ's authority, its historical reliability, prophetic fulfillment, and its transforming power, not just wisdom and knowledge of the text.

REFOCUS

**The Bible wasn't given merely to answer questions.
It was given to reveal Jesus. (John 5:39)**

Don't simply defend the Bible. **Know the Bible well enough to point people to Jesus.**

R — Recognize: What is the person really questioning? Look at the deeper thing they are seeking under the questions they are asking.

E — Establish: What does Scripture actually teach?

- Jesus affirmed Scripture. **Matthew 5:17–18**
- Scripture claims divine inspiration. **2 Timothy 3:16–17**
- The apostles wrote as eyewitnesses. **2 Peter 1:16–21**
- God's Word has endured every generation. **Isaiah 40:8**

A — Apply: How does God's truth address their concern?

Explain that our confidence in Scripture rests on:

- Christ's authority.
- Historical reliability.
- Prophetic fulfillment.
- Transforming power.

L — Lead: How does this truth reveal Christ?

The Bible wasn't given merely to answer questions.

RESPOND

AFTER ACTION REVIEW

What question about Scripture makes me feel least prepared to respond?

When I hear that question, am I responding only to the words being asked, or am I trying to understand the deeper concern underneath them?

- Can I explain what Scripture actually teaches without becoming defensive, vague, or argumentative?
- Do I know enough about the Bible to connect the question back to Jesus, rather than simply winning a debate about the text?
- Where am I tempted to let uncertainty become silence?

ACTION STEP / DAILY CHALLENGE

Choose one difficult question about the Bible and work through it with the R.E.A.L. method before the day ends.

Don't aim to master the entire subject. Aim to become more prepared than you were yesterday.

Ask:

- What is the real question?
- What does Scripture teach?
- How does that truth address the concern?
- How does it point to Jesus?

CHALLENGE: The 60-Second R.E.A.L. Drill

Have someone ask you one honest question about the Bible. Take your time answering.

First, restate the question in your own words to make sure you understand it.

Now give a short response using R.E.A.L.:

- Recognize the deeper concern.
- Establish one clear biblical truth.
- Apply that truth directly to the concern.
- Lead the conversation toward Jesus.

Keep the entire response to about one minute.

Then ask the other person: *"Did that answer the question you were actually asking?"*

RETURN

God, strengthen my confidence in Your Word. Give me a desire to know Scripture and the courage to use it to point others toward Christ. Amen.

DAY 3 | ANSWER: *Why Is Jesus the Only Way?*

WHAT DID WE LEARN?

REMEMBER

The world today focuses on inclusivity and equality. While everyone one is equal in the eyes of God, the claim that Jesus is the only way can sound exclusive—and it is. The exclusivity of Christianity does not rest on the superiority of Christians, but on the identity and claims of Jesus.

But the invitation of the Gospel is universal: anyone can come to Him.

REFOCUS

The question isn't simply, *"Is Christianity exclusive?"*

The deeper question is:

"Is Jesus who He claimed to be?"

R — Recognize: What is the person really asking?

- Often people think that Christians think they are better than others and are holier than thou. The real issue that they are questioning is truth.

E — Establish: What does Jesus claim about Himself?

- Jesus didn't simply teach a way.
- He claimed to be the way. John 14:6
- Salvation is found in no one else. Acts 4:12
- There is one mediator between God and humanity. 1 Timothy 2:5

A — Apply: What does that claim mean for us?

- Truth, by its nature, is exclusive.
- Two contradictory claims cannot both be true.
- The question isn't: "Is Christianity exclusive?"
- The question is: "Is Jesus who He claimed to be?"

L — Lead: How can I invite this person toward Jesus?

- The invitation to Christ is universal : Romans : 10:9-13.

*The invitation of the Gospel is universal: **anyone can come to Him.***

RESPOND

AFTER ACTION REVIEW:

Standing for truth doesn't require standing above people.

We can be confident in Christ without becoming arrogant toward those who disagree with us. Rely on the transforming power of the Holy Spirit to change the minds of those you encounter, and the person of Christ to do the heavy lifting of your interactions.

DAILY CHALLENGE:

Consider this:

- **The Struggle:** We may become defensive when someone challenges our faith.
- **What the Enemy Wants:** To turn confidence into arrogance—or fear into silence—so that the conversation becomes about us instead of Jesus.
- **Live the Big Idea:** In your next spiritual conversation, focus less on proving yourself right and more on **pointing people to Christ**.

Use R.E.A.L.:

- **R — Recognize** the real concern.
- **E — Establish** what Scripture says.
- **A — Apply** His truth.
- **L — Lead** the conversation toward Christ.

Christianity is exclusive in its message because Jesus is unique in His person, but it is radically inclusive in its invitation because anyone can come to Him.

RETURN

Jesus, give me courage to stand firmly on who You are while treating others with humility, grace, and respect. Amen.

Standing for truth doesn't require standing above people.

DAY 4 | ANSWER: *Can Christianity Call Something Sin Without Being Hateful?*

WHAT DID WE LEARN?

REMEMBER

RECONNECT

Many difficult conversations sound one way, “Love is love”, “God loves me as I am”, and how can this be sin if I’m made this way. They eventually come down to one question: ***“Can truth and love exist together?”***

Jesus demonstrated that they can. He was full of **grace and truth**.

REFOCUS

Remember:

Truth without love becomes cruelty.

Love without truth becomes deception.

R — Recognize: What is the person really asking?

E — Establish: What does Scripture teach about truth, sin, and love?

- Jesus came full of grace and truth. John 1:14
- We are called to speak the truth in love.
- Ephesians 4:15 God defines sin because He loves people, not because He delights in restriction.

A — Apply: How should God's truth shape the way I respond?

- Truth without love becomes cruelty.
- Love without truth becomes deception.
- The Gospel confronts every one of us before it comforts any one of us.

L — Lead: How can I point people toward the forgiveness and transformation found in Christ?

- Christ didn't come to condemn sinners.
- He came to save sinners. John 3:16–17

Before speaking truth, check your heart.

RESPOND

AFTER ACTION REVIEW:

Am I trying to help this person or simply prove that I'm right??

Biblical love doesn't ignore sin. It lovingly points people toward the One who forgives and transforms sinners.

ACTION STEP / DAILY CHALLENGE:

Consider this:

- **The Struggle:** We can either become harsh in the name of truth or compromise truth in the name of love.
- **What the Enemy Wants:** To separate truth from love so our witness becomes either cruel or compromised.
- **Live the Big Idea:** Have one conversation today where you intentionally practice **truth with grace**.

Use R.E.A.L.:

- **R — Recognize** the person's perspective.
- **E — Establish** biblical truth.
- **A — Apply** it with love.
- **L — Lead** them toward Jesus.

RETURN

Jesus, make me someone who speaks truth with love. Keep me from being harsh, fearful, or compromising. Amen.

John 1:14 (NIV)

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

DAY 5 | ANSWER: *Why Should I Believe God Exists?*

WHAT DID WE LEARN?

REMEMBER

Not everyone who asks whether God exists is rejecting Him. Some people are genuinely asking: “**Is believing in God reasonable?**”

Scripture points us toward evidence through creation, conscience, and ultimately the resurrection of Jesus.

Romans 1:18-20 (NIV)

¹⁸ The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ¹⁹ since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰ 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.

REFOCUS

Everyone lives by faith. Whether it’s faith in science, faith in society, or faith in God. The question isn’t whether you will trust something.

The question is: “**What is worthy of my trust?**”

R — Recognize: What is the person really asking?

- Many people aren’t rejecting evidence. They’re wondering if belief is reasonable.

E — Establish: What evidence and truth does Scripture provide?

- Creation points to a Creator. Romans 1:18–20
- Our conscience points to a Moral Lawgiver. Romans 2:14–15
- The resurrection points to the living Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:3–8, 12–20

A — Apply: What does this truth mean for how we live?

- Everyone lives by faith.
- The real question isn’t whether you’ll trust. The real question is what is worthy of your trust.

L — Lead: How can I point them beyond evidence toward a relationship with God?

- God doesn’t merely provide evidence.
- He invites *relationship*. *Jeremiah 29:13*

RESPOND

AFTER ACTION REVIEW

Faith isn't believing without evidence.

Faith is trusting the One who has proven Himself trustworthy.

God doesn't merely give us evidence. He invites us to know Him.

ACTION STEP / DAILY CHALLENGE:

Consider this:

- **The Struggle:** We can become so focused on having the right evidence that we forget the purpose of the conversation.
- **What the Enemy Wants:** To turn faith into nothing more than an intellectual argument and keep people from pursuing a relationship with God.
- **Live the Big Idea:** Take one opportunity today to share **why you personally trust God.**

Use R.E.A.L.:

- **R — Recognize** the person's question.
- **E — Establish** what is true.
- **A — Apply** it to real life.
- **L — Lead** them toward a relationship with Jesus.

Choose one of this week's five questions. Practice answering it in two minutes.

Keep your answer:

- Biblical
- Clear
- Gracious
- Christ-centered

Your goal isn't to win a debate. Your goal is to remove unnecessary barriers to Jesus.

Discussion Questions

1. Which of this week's five questions have you encountered most often?
2. Which answer increased your confidence the most?
3. Why is it important to distinguish the spoken question from the deeper question?
4. How can we answer difficult questions without becoming argumentative?
5. Which conversation do you believe God is preparing you to have?

RETURN

Father, help me know You deeply and trust You completely. Give me wisdom to answer honest questions and courage to point people toward You, Amen.