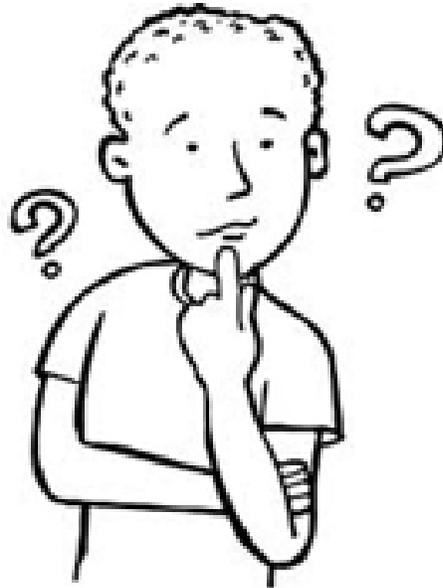


Reach 3-2-1

Part 2

Being Prepared to Give an Answer
1 Peter 3:15



A Reach “Jesus Journey” Discipleship Resource

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Reach 3-2-1 Part 2 is a Reach “Jesus Journey” Discipleship Resource

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All Scripture used is from the 1984 New International Version (NIV) unless otherwise stated.

Introduction

Watch [Session 1](#) Video at Reach.LMIQ.Org/Training/

In part 1 of the Reach 3-2-1 Training, you learned how to start a God conversation with people in your circle of influence, and how to answer a “works” response to Question # 3. In this section (Part 2), you will learn how to deal with people who don’t believe in God (atheists), don’t believe we can know God (agnostics) and those who don’t believe the Bible is God’s written revelation (God’s Word).

God tells us in 1 Peter 3:15 *...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, ...*

Being an ambassador for Jesus takes work, and it should be a labor of love because talking to people about Jesus is one of the main privileges that God gives us while we represent Him here on planet earth.

“We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us...” (2 Cor. 5:20)

For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. (2 Tim 1:7)

Talking to people about Jesus is incredible! It’s incredibly awesome, incredibly exciting, and incredibly scary. I believe many followers of Jesus would love to talk to people in their circle of influence about Jesus; however, there is this fear of not being able to answer the hard questions that keep them from doing so. Questions like “*How do you know God exists?*” or “*How do you know the Bible is the Word of God?*” In this section, you will learn how to provide short answers to these excellent questions.

A reality about talking to people about God is that people have great questions. Another reality is that there are great answers. In the following section, I will provide you with short answers to these two great questions. I believe once you’re

able to answer these two great questions, you'll be able to answer most of their questions, because most other questions arise out of these two questions. The short answers provided in this section help provide quick, concise answers, evidence, and examples that prove God exists and that the Bible is His written revelation. These short answers are just the beginning of the awesome journey God created us for – the journey of knowing Him, His Word and the trustworthiness of what He's revealed to us.

Once you understand the short answers, you can begin to dig deeper, which not only helps you understand these incredible truths, but it helps you share these incredible truths with others.

Being great for God takes work, so let's get to it.

The Art of Answering a Declaration with a Question

When people make statements/declarations such as *"I don't believe in God"*; respond to them enthusiastically by saying: *"That's interesting! Why do you believe that?"* Since they made the declaration, allow them to explain why.

By answering a declaration with a question, it causes a person to think about and identify why they believe what they believe. It usually results in the person subconsciously coming to the conclusion that they don't really know why they believe what they believe.

If the person comes up with an answer for their declaration, such as: *"I believe evolution explains how everything came about."* Ask them, *"What do you base that on?"* Allow them to continue to explain why they believe what they believe. By doing so you will zero in on how to share the excellent evidence for God's existence, as well as how the Bible and science are in agreement regarding creation.

The reality is that most people don't know why they believe what they believe. Which makes it easy for us to share why we believe that God exists, that He's the Creator of everything, and that He has an amazing purpose and plan for our lives.

For the people that have a scientific background, the questions raised by the evidence provided in this section will provide the same problem all evolutionists have: the inability to prove evolution.

If the person's declaration isn't scientifically related, but personal, such as *"I don't believe God exists because my father died a horrible death due to cancer."* Switch

gears. A response like this reveals that the person does not have a biblical understanding of pain and death.

Our first response is to empathize with their pain by saying something like: *“I’m so sorry to hear that; it must have been very difficult.” “What you are feeling is understandable.”* This may be a good time to pray with them – ask them if you can pray with them. If they say yes, then pray for God to give the person you are talking to peace and healing as they grieve for their father.

When you finish praying, ask them if you can tell them about the evidence for God’s existence and the reason why bad things like pain, suffering and death happen in life. This may naturally lead into the Good News (Gospel) about Jesus.

Share with them that negative things happen in this world because we live in a fallen world, and explain how God created a perfect world without bad things, but bad things entered our world because of sin (Genesis 1-3). Explain that sin, our sin has separated us from God, but God loved us too much to leave us in this separated condition, so he provided the Solution by sending His Son Jesus to fix the problem.

If the person does not have a deeper reason for not believing in God, then answer the question and point them to their need for salvation.

Two of the main questions we need to be able to answer are:

How do we know God exists, and how do we know the Bible is God’s written revelation to the human race? Most other questions will revolve around these two questions.

Here’s how you can answer these two questions:

Watch [Session 2](https://www.reachlmiq.org/training/session-2) Video at [Reach.LMIQ.Org/Training/](https://www.reachlmiq.org/training/)

Evidence for the Existence of God [These are short answers that have more detailed answers in the sources listed on page 8. These short answers are provided to help you get started in your search for answers.]

- 1. Creation/Intelligent Design:** An intelligent design needs an intelligent designer, buildings need a builder and an intelligent creation needs an intelligent Creator. (**Gen 1:1**)
- 2. Science:** The laws of science support the existence of God and His created universe. The Law of Biogenesis says that only living things can produce or create living things (**Gen 1:1**). The 2nd Law of Thermodynamics says that everything goes from order to disorder/everything falls apart (**Gen 3-5**). Mendel's Genetic Laws verify that animals reproduce after their own kind (**Gen.1:21-26**).

- 3. The Bible:** The Bible tells us about God because the Bible is from God

16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Tim 3:16-17

20 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. 21 For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. 2 Peter 1:20-21

- 4. Jesus claimed to be God.** The Existence and Life of Jesus of Nazareth is historically indisputable.

I and the Father are one." Again the Jews picked up stones to stone him, 32 but Jesus said to them, "I have shown you many great miracles from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?" "We are not stoning you for any of these," replied the Jews, "but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God." John 10:30-33

Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?" John 14:9

- 5. The Existence of Christianity is historically indisputable.** The original followers of Jesus would not have suffered and died for a lie. If Jesus did not claim to be God in a human body, did not die and rise from the dead on the 3rd day as He and Old Testament prophecy predicted, then those who witnessed these things would not have wasted their lives proclaiming the Gospel, enduring persecution throughout their lives and then die for what they saw and heard. 12 of 13 Apostles were murdered for their faith.

6. The Existence of morals demands a Moral Lawgiver.

Humans have sense of right and wrong because we are created in the image of the Moral Lawgiver (God) – Genesis 1:26-28

7. The Human Experience - Throughout history all people (mankind) have universally believed in a Creator/God. Since the time of Christ people/societies throughout the world have experienced universal transformation.

Watch [Session 3](#) Video at Reach.LMIQ.Org/Training/

Evidence that the Bible is The Word of God:

[These are short answers that have more detailed answers in the sources listed on page 8. These short answers are provided to help you get started in your search for answers.]

1. God tells us that He's the Author (2 Peter 1:20-21 & 2 Tim 3:16-17).

2. The Old Testament and New Testament Authors understood they were writing the Word of God. Common Old Testament phrase - "*Thus saith the Lord*". The Apostle Peter confirmed the Apostle Paul's writings as Scripture (**2 Peter 3:16**).

3. Its Amazing Unity: Written over a 1,400-year period by over 40 writers from different socio-economic, professional and educational backgrounds. Written in 3 different languages on 3 different continents, yet it tells one unified story of God's love for the world, telling us that He would send a Savior who would save us and restore us to God by dying for our sins, which separate us from Him.

4. Its Historical Accuracy - as verified by archeology, which has never contradicted the Bible, but only confirms and silences its critics. For example: historians questioned the existence of the Hittite Kingdom that is mentioned in the Bible. Not only did archeologists find the Hittite Kingdom, but they found the list of its kings and they match those listed in the Bible.

5. Its Prophetical Accuracy - as verified by the life and person of Jesus Christ, and His fulfilling the 300 plus messianic prophecies. The likelihood of one person fulfilling just 7 of the 300 prophecies is like picking out the only silver dollar with a red dot on it while blind-folded, standing knee deep in an area the size of Texas. Fulfilling 48 would be mathematically impossible. Prophecy is like an address, it points to one person or one event.

- 6. Its Scientific Accuracy** - as verified by providing scientific facts three to four thousand years before modern science discovered them: the earth is round (**Isa. 40:22**); the earth is suspended in space (**Job 26:7**); Mendel's Genetic Laws: kind reproducing after its own kind (**Gen 1:24**); the 2nd Law of Thermodynamics, order to disorder [a.k.a The Fall] (**Gen 3-5**).
- 7. Its Universal Influence Upon Civilization** - life is as it is because of Jesus and the testimony of His Word. (Hospitals, schools, charitable organizations, equality for all people)
- 8. Its Life-Changing Power** - millions of lives universally transformed throughout history.
- 9. Its Indestructibility** - it has survived mans numerous attempts to destroy it throughout human history.
- 10. Its Care and Copy** - The Jewish system for copying Jewish literature guarantees its accuracy as verified by the Dead Sea Scrolls.
- 11. Its Amazing Circulation** - The Bible is the best selling, most read book in human history.
- 12. Its Absolute Honesty** - The Bible tells the good, the bad, and the ugly about its people and their history.

3 Reasons Why We Can Have Confidence in the Reliability of the New Testament:

1. Eyewitnesses wrote the New Testament.
2. The original audience were also eyewitnesses to the events recorded and would have rejected the documents if they were fraudulent - this was not the case.
3. The New Testament has 24,633 surviving manuscripts with the oldest manuscript being 125 years removed from the original events, which is far superior to any ancient literature in existence. The nearest competitor has 120 surviving manuscripts, a thousand years removed from the original document or event yet no one questions its validity.

Some of the greatest skeptics have become some of the greatest defenders of the Christian faith because the evidence is incredibly convincing.

The laws of logic and common sense clearly tell us that if something is true then other information that contradicts that truth must be false. That means the Bible's claim that Jesus is God (**John 1:1-3 & 14; 10:30; 20:28**), the Savior of all mankind (**1 Tim 4:10; 1 John 2:2, 4:14**), and He is the only way to heaven (**John 14:6; Acts 4:12**) means everything else that is contrary to it is wrong.

Think about it. My statement that "if the Bible is what it says it is then everything else that is contrary to it is wrong" is not mean spirited, close minded, or any other label you may want to attach. It is simple logic. **Many of the answers given in this section come from many years of searching for answers. Here are some of the sources you can explore for yourself:**

Evidence That Demands A Verdict (Vol. 1) - Josh McDowell
How Now Shall We Live? - Charles Colson and Nancy Pearcey
The Case For Faith - Lee Strobel
The Case For Christ - Lee Strobel
The Case For a Creator - Lee Strobel
Understanding The Times - David A. Noble
When Skeptics Ask - Geisler & Brooks
Cold Case Christianity - J. Warner Wallace
I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist - Geisler & Turek
The School of Biblical Evangelism - Kirk Cameron & Ray Comfort

Other (Internet) Resources:

www.answersingenesis.org

www.truelife.org

www.gotquestions.org

Short Answers to the Additional Questions:

Watch [Session 5](#) Video at Reach.LMIQ.Org/Training/

Creationism vs. Evolution

Creationism and Evolution are both theories and not science because neither of them meets all the criteria of the scientific method, which are observable (no one observed creation except God), testable, and repeatable. Both theories are believed by equally educated scientists from both sides. Both sides typically have a preconceived worldview they are working from. Typically creationists are operating from a theistic worldview while evolutionists are operating from an atheistic or agnostic worldview. They are both looking at the same evidence, but

come to different conclusions which are most likely influenced by their worldview. Creationism is supported by scientific observation and the Bible, while evolution is in conflict with basic scientific laws such as the Law of Biogenesis, the 2nd Law of Thermodynamics and Mendel's Laws of Genetics.

It is also important to understand that there are two kinds of evolution, micro, and macro. Micro-evolution involves small changes within a species or kind, which both scientific communities support. Macro-evolution (Darwinism) involves large changes where one species or kind evolves into another species or kind. It is this theory of evolution that is rejected by those who hold to a creationist scientific worldview.

In addition to macro-evolution's scientific law problems, it also has failed to produce undisputed transitional form evidence. Charles Darwin himself (originator of the Darwinian theory of evolution) communicated that if his theory were true we should find transitional forms in the fossil record.¹ This has not been the case.

The lack of undisputed transitional forms (one kind changing into another kind – half monkey half man) in the fossil record and the abundant fully formed kind evidence in the fossil record are excellent evidence in support of creationism (God's explanation for creation – Genesis 1-3).

Illustration on the likelihood of evolution as the explanation for creation:

The Bible says God created everything from nothing (Ex Nihilo). To help evolution we will provide all the parts to a 747 airliner and place them in a junkyard. The likelihood that evolution is responsible for the creation of the universe would be like a tornado ripping through the junkyard tossing all the pieces together, and making a fully functional 747. We can even help evolution out and give it billions and trillions of years with billions and trillions of tornados, and it still wouldn't happen.

Age of the Earth/Universe

The opinions regarding the age of the earth come down to unproven assumptions by those who hold to an old earth/universe worldview. One of the unproven assumptions is known as the uniformitarian assumption, which is the belief that the world we see today is that same as it's always been. This assumption is used in

¹ Charles Darwin: "(Since) innumerable transitional forms must have existed, why do we not find them imbedded in countless numbers in the crust of the earth? "Origin of Species", p. 162. "Why is not every geological formation and every stratum full of such intermediate links? Geology assuredly does not reveal any such finely graduated organic chain: and this perhaps is the most obvious and gravest objection which can be urged against my theory." "Origin of Species," p. 293. <https://www2.palomar.edu/users/ccarpenter/forbing%20quotes.htm>

dating methodologies such as radiometric dating and potassium-argon dating and uranium-lead dating for calculating the age of the earth/universe.

The Bible clearly says that the earth/universe has not always been the same. Creation scientists believe that the fall (Genesis 3) and the flood (Gen 6-9) changed everything, which greatly affects the assumptions and conclusions reached by those holding to an old earth worldview.

God clearly communicated that He created the universe in 6, 24 hour days and that the universe has only been in existence for thousands of years (6-10) and not millions or billions. Creationist scientists believe that the observable evidence (fossil record) and data best line up with the Genesis account of creation and the young earth/universe theory. Check out <https://answersingenesis.org/> and <https://www.icr.org/homepage/> for additional information.

The 1980 Mount St. Helens volcanic eruption showed the unreliability of the dating methodology when 10-year old rocks were dated between 340,000 to 2.8 million years old.² The Mount St. Helen eruption also laid waste the evolutionary theory that rock layers and canyons take thousands and millions of years to form³

Other Religious Beliefs about God and Heaven

All other beliefs rise or fall on Jesus. If Jesus was who He said He was, then everything in conflict with what He said is false.

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14:6-7

Why does God allow evil?

Evil is a byproduct of free will; free will is a necessity for love, and love is a necessity for the relationship that God created us for. Evil came into the world as a result of the first humans (Adam and Eve) choosing to disobey God. Before their disobedience, evil only existed in the heart of the first one to disobey God (Satan).

Watch the “Reach 3-2-1 Evidence Convo” video to see the full conversation at Reach.LMIQ.Org/Training/ (Session 5)

² <https://answersingenesis.org/geology/radiometric-dating/radio-dating-in-rubble/>

³ <https://answersingenesis.org/geology/mount-st-helens/mount-st-helens-evidence-for-genesis/>

Appendix

Radical Evangelism

Radical evangelism usually takes place in two contexts – seed (quick) evangelism and conversational evangelism. Seed (minimal) evangelism is the most frequent type of day to day evangelism. Quick evangelism is where you run into someone, usually people you don't know at the gas station, grocery store, etc... Most people are in a hurry and don't have time for a 5 minute discussion about Jesus, therefore we must be ready to plant the seed.

Example: You are pumping gas and someone is doing the same next to you. Greet them, and ask them if you can give them something to read when they get a chance. As you are asking them this question, already have the gospel tract in your hand and extend it toward them. Most likely they will accept the tract (99%). Rarely have I had someone refuse to take it. If they say no, simply say no problem and tell them to have a nice day.

If you're feeling led by the Holy Spirit to talk to them about Jesus or you're a bold person then ask the "3 questions". If there isn't time for a full gospel presentation then hand them a tract and tell them the information about God's gift of salvation is in the tract. Also tell them that there's more information at the website on the back of the tract and let them know your information is also on the back of the tract.

Minimal Evangelism – This takes place by handing someone a Gospel resource (tract) and asking them if you can give them something to read when they get a chance. This can take place with anyone you meet. It is important to be offering the tract as your asking them if you can give them something to read when they get a chance. If you don't do this simultaneously, (asking before the extension) they are more likely to say "no". Most will accept the tract because that what polite society does. I call this minimal evangelism because it minimally places the Word of God in a person's hand where the Spirit of God can use it to open their heart and mind to the Gospel. Visit <https://lmiq.org/lmiq-e-cards/> to order tracts that connect people to the LMIQ.org website.

Evangelism by Accident – This takes place when you're talking to someone and the conversation leads into God or the Bible. For instance, you're talking to someone who brings up abortion, homosexuality or any number of controversial topics, and you ask them why they believe what they believe. You will have an opportunity to ask them questions 2 and 3. You will also have an opportunity to

tell them why you believe in the existence of God, and why you believe the Bible is the Word of God.

8 Types of Evangelism

8 Ways To Reach Our Community/People For Jesus:

1. **Personal/Individual Evangelism** – This is the most important and most effective and frontline way of reaching people for Jesus. This is where every believer shares Jesus as they go about their day. This would require that believers be equipped to do that. This also includes **Relational Evangelism** – This is where you seek to share Jesus with people you interact with on a regular basis. This would also require that believers be equipped to do this.
2. **Planned Event Evangelism** – This is a planned event such as a youth rally or other type of event that is planned and structured to present the Gospel to those attending the event.
3. **Street Evangelism** – This is where a group of believers go out and talk to people about Jesus. This would normally be in groups of two or three. This could be in the form of survey evangelism or straight conversational evangelism, or simply praying for people and the community. This could also include street preaching.
4. **Public Event Evangelism** – This is taking advantage of public events such as the First Saturday Trade Lot, Uncle Billy's Day, sports events or the UBD race. This would involve handing out tracts and being prepared to talk to people about Jesus.
5. **Door-to-Door Evangelism** – This is where believers go out in groups of two and go door-to-door to share Jesus.
6. **Visitation Evangelism** – This is where teams of two or three go visit people they know or have been referred to. This is typically a church ministry.
7. **Marketing Evangelism** – This involves utilizing billboards, signs, news media and a website to reach people with the Gospel.
8. **Cyber Evangelism** – This is the newest type of evangelism and involves computers and the internet. Cyber Evangelism can be as simple as talking to people about Jesus through e-mail, texts, tweets, etc... Facebook is a great way to plant seeds, share resources and encourage others to trust God.

Another great opportunity is Billy Graham's evangelism internet ministry called "Peace with God" <http://peacewithgod.jesus.net/> and "Know Jesus" discipleship ministry <http://knowjesus.net/>. To learn more about being an E-Counselor or Discipleship Coach visit <http://www.searchforjesus.net/>. Another great internet resource is <https://www.truelife.org/>. This website is video driven to provide answers to a variety of questions about the God of the Bible. You are also welcome to use our website, www.LMIQ.org as an evangelism resource.

Final Word

Congratulations on finishing part 2 of the Reach 3-2-1 Evangelism Training! As I've mentioned before, continue to practice asking the 3 questions, sharing the 2 Scriptures and learning the 1 Gospel until it becomes a natural part of who you are; and continue to develop your understanding of the excellent answers to the excellent questions people have about God and the Bible.

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (2 Tim 2:15 - NKJV)

Your next step in your Jesus Journey is Part 3 of the Reach 3-2-1 resource, where you will learn how to help those who place their faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord to grow in following Him.

May God continue to richly bless you as you continue to grow in learning how to fulfill God's Great Commission to make disciples!

Enjoy the journey!!