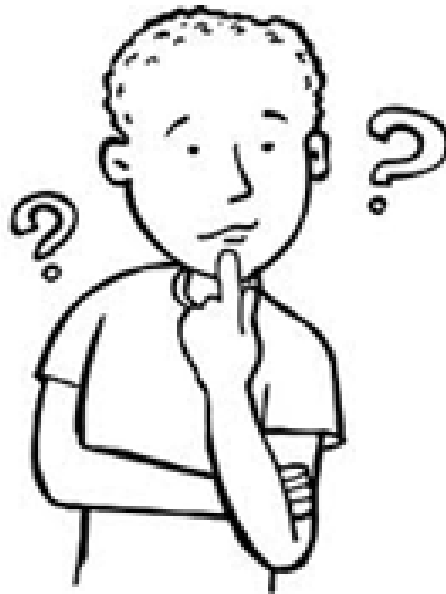


Reach 3-2-1

Part 2

Small Group Study Edition

Being Prepared to Give an Answer 1 Peter 3:15



A Reach “Jesus Journey” Discipleship Resource

Tim Leahy

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.

Welcome to the Reach 3-2-1 Part 2 Small Group Study Edition!

Reach 3-2-1 Part 2 is the follow up to Reach 3-2-1 Part 1. In Part 1 you learned how to get into a gospel conversation with people you know as well as people you don't know, and how to respond to a “works answer” to Question #3.

In Part 2, you will build on this knowledge and learn how to respond to other responses to Question #3 such as, *“I don't believe in God”* or *“How can we know for sure that the Bible is the Word of God”*?

Reach 3-2-1 Part 2 lays the foundation for what's referred to as “*apologetics*”, which is to give evidence for something or the intellectual defense of something. In 1 Peter 3:15, the Word of God tells us to *“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, ...”*

The reality is that people have great questions about God, the Bible, and the world we live in. Another reality is that there are great answers and evidence to the great questions people have. Furthermore, we are commanded to *“always be prepared to give an answer...”* This is what I refer to as the “*apologetic mandate*”.

1 Peter 3:15 presupposes that we are living out our faith in front of people and that they would ask questions about the “hope” we have in God/Jesus. With this in mind, we are to be ready and prepared to give an answer for this hope.

Being ready and prepared takes work. It takes thought and research. The thought process is to think about the questions we had before we decided to follow Jesus, and to think through the answers we received. Most everyone has had thoughts in their minds about *“how we got here”*, and what *“the meaning and purpose of life is”*? We've all wondered if there is a Creator, and if there is meaning and purpose to life. These are the types of questions people have and ask.

Therefore, we need to be prepared to give an answer. In Reach 3-2-1 Part 2, you'll learn how to answer two of the most frequently asked questions which are also the most foundational questions. I say foundational, because if you can provide the *“evidence for God”* and *“the evidence for the Bible being the Word of God”* you can pretty much answer other questions people have about God.

This is also foundational because this resource will give you a foundation to build from. As I mentioned, people have great questions and we have great answers; therefore, you will need to add to these two foundational questions by researching other questions and what the answers to those questions are (see page 18 for a list of the resources that answer other questions).

One final word of encouragement, it's a privilege and a pleasure to help people understand who the Creator is, and what His purpose and plan is for our lives. It's the truth that sets the captives free (Luke 4:18; John 8:31-32; and Acts 26:17-18).

May God richly bless you as you prepare to give an answer!

Tim

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Group Study Layout

Complete the at home assignments before your small group meeting. For example, before your week 1 small group meeting complete the week 1 assignments so you are prepared to talk about and practice having a Reach 3-2-1 conversation.

Week 1 – The Art of Answering a Declaration with a Question and Evidence for the Existence of God.

Week 2 – Evidence for the Existence of God.

Week 3 – Evidence that the Bible is the Word of God – Part 1.

Week 4 – Evidence that the Bible is the Word of God – Part 2; 3 Reasons Why We Can Have Confidence in the Reliability of the New Testament.

Week 5 – Short Answers to the Additional Questions, Putting It All Together, and Final Thoughts.

Videos for all assignments are located on the Reach website (Google [Reach Evangelistic Association](http://Reach.EvangelisticAssociation.org) and click on the [E-Training](#) tab.

The information and evidence I share in Reach 3-2-1 Part 2 comes from over 20 years of thinking, studying, and doing (talking with people about God). The things I share in Reach 3-2-1 Part 1 & Part 2 are time tested, I've seen them work time and time again.

When it comes to sharing evidence, you don't have to memorize it all, you just need to understand it. Once you understand it, you can pick a few things that you like on any given topic to memorize and use.

For example, when it comes to the evidence for God, I usually start with creation as evidence for a Creator. This is a simple and logical place to start. I then add additional evidence in a conversational way that adds to the abundant evidence that God exists.

The great news is that we don't have to know it all, because there are great internet resources out there that you can point people to for further consideration. One of these internet resources is one I created to support my personal evangelistic efforts. That website is LMIQ.org.

The LMIQ (Life's Most Important Question) website is set up with Gospel, Bible, and Faith resources to help people who want more information than our LMIQ E-Card provides. When I talk to people about Jesus, the Gospel, and the Bible, I give them a LMIQ E-Card and tell them they can find more information at the web address on the back of the card.

In reality, you can use the LMIQ E-Card and LMIQ website the same way. The website is set up to support any one in their evangelistic efforts. Visit LMIQ.org and look under the "Resources" tab for information on ordering the LMIQ E-Card.

In summary, you don't have to be an expert, and you don't have to enroll in college to learn how to share the excellent evidence for God and His Word. You simply have to know a few things and know where to point them for additional information. After all, it is God who draws people to Himself (John 6:44), not you. You just need to know how to share what you know. Enjoy the journey!

Week 1 – The Art of Answering a Declaration with a Question and Evidence for the Existence of God.

At Home Assignments:

- **Watch Reach 3-2-1 Part 2, Session 1** – Intro to Reach 3-2-1 Part 2
<https://reach.lmiq.org/evangelism-training/>
- **Read Reach 3-2-1 Part 2 pages 4-6** – Introduction and the Art of Answering Declaration with a Question.
- **Watch Reach 3-2-1 Part 2, Session 2** – Evidence for God – Part 1
<https://reach.lmiq.org/evangelism-training/>
- **Read Reach 3-2-1 Part 2 page 7** – Evidence for God (1&2)
- **Answer the Small Group Questions (p. 8-9) before the week 1 group meeting.**

Being Prepared – Our Apologetic Mandate

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 as 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 a good 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 sorry to hear that; it must have been very difficult.*" "*What you're 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:**

Evidence for the Existence of God

[These are short answers that have more detailed answers in the sources listed on page 18. 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 creation needs a Creator (**Gen 1:1**).

When I'm talking to someone who doesn't believe God exists, I'll use a building to illustrate the need for intelligent design. I'll say something like, "do you believe that the building came about by time, chance, and luck or do you believe that someone built that building?" The answer is self-evident that the building needed a builder.

I'll then ask, why they think something infinitely more complex like creation (the universe, humans, and animals) could come about by time, chance, and luck? They may tell you that evolution is responsible for creation. I'll then ask them what the first cause was in the evolutionary process. The reality is, they don't have an answer. If they say the "big bang", I ask what caused that? It's an infinite problem they can't answer, as in what cause that?...

The other reality is that science disproves evolution.

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**).

The Law of Biogenesis clearly disproves that non-life created life, the 2nd Law of Thermodynamics disproves evolution's theory that order came from dis-order, and Mendel's Genetic Laws disproves Darwin's evolution tree (macro-evolution), and supports the Bible's claim that God created animals and humans to reproduce after their own kind.

Science clearly proves that nothing couldn't produce everything; that non-life couldn't produce life; that randomness couldn't produce precision; and that chaos couldn't produce order. The only One who could is God.

Small Group Questions

Things to think through and do:

Week 1 – The Art of Answering a Declaration with a Question and Evidence for the Existence of God.

1. What does 1 Peter 3:15 say about providing answers?
2. Why should we answer a declaration with a question?
3. Why is learning to provide evidence for God and evidence that the Bible is the Word of God important?
4. Whose responsibility is it to draw (convince) people to God (John 6:44)?
5. Whose responsibility is it to tell people about God (Matt, 28:18-20) and to give evidence (1 Peter 3:15)?
6. How does creation itself point to a Creator?
7. How does the “*Law of Biogenesis*” disprove the theory of “evolution” and give evidence for a Creator?

8. How does “*The 2nd Law of Thermodynamics*” discredit the theory of “evolution” and how does it support what God reveals about creation?
9. How does “*Mendel’s Genetic Law*” discredit the theory of “evolution” and how does it support what God reveals about creation?
- Practice providing evidence for God’s existence.

Week 2 – Evidence for the Existence of God – Continued

At Home Assignments:

- Watch Reach 3-2-1 Part 2 Session 2 – Evidence for the Existence of God. <https://reach.lmiq.org/evangelism-training/>
- Read Reach 3-2-1 Part 2 pages 9-11 – Evidence for the Existence of God.
- Answer the Small Group Questions (p. 11-12) before the week 2 group meeting.

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

The Bible, and the Bible alone gives the answers to who created everything, who that Creator is, and why that Creator created.

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***

Gen 1:26

26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

Colossians 1:15-17 explains who the “us” and “our” is in Genesis 1:26.

Col 1:15-17

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. 17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

The Word of God clearly communicates that Jesus is God, and that He was present (Gen. 1:26-28) and participated in creating everything (Col. 1:15-17).

If Jesus is who He said He is, then God exists.

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.

The fact is they did give their lives for the Gospel and as a result, Christianity spread and transformed the world. The existence of Christianity is evidence for the existence of God.

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

People throughout history have known right and wrong with very little exception and is evidence for a Moral Law Giver.

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.

This historic and universal belief in a Creator God is evidence for God.

No one piece of evidence is absolute evidence for the existence of God, however the amount of supporting evidence is compelling and persuasive. It certainly provides evidence beyond a “reasonable doubt”.

The key to sharing evidence is to pick a couple of evidences and sharing them with people and then pointing them to resources (books and websites) where they can get more information if they want it. See page 18 for a list of these resources.

I typically point to creation, science and Jesus as the best evidence for the existence of God with creation and Jesus as the best evidence.

Small Group Questions

Things to think through and do:

Week 2 –Evidence for the Existence of God – Continued

1. How does the Bible support the claim for a Creator?
2. How does the life and existence of Jesus support the claim for the Creator?

3. How does the existence of Christianity/the Church support the claim for the Creator?
 4. How does the existence of universal morals support the claim for a Creator?
 5. How is a historic universal belief in a Creator God, evidence for God?
 6. What did you think was the best evidences for the existence of God?
- **Practice providing evidence for God's existence.**

Week 3 – Evidence that the Bible is The Word of

God: [These are short answers that have more detailed answers in the sources listed on page 18. These short answers are provided to help you get started in your search for answers.]

At Home Assignments:

- **Read Reach 3-2-1 Part 2 pages 13-14** – Evidence that the Bible is the Word of God.
- **Watch Reach 3-2-1 Part 2 Session 3** – Evidence that the Bible is the Word of God – Part 1. <https://reach.lmiq.org/evangelism-training/>
- **Answer the Small Group Questions (p. 15) before the week 3 group meeting.**

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

2 Peter 1:20-21

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 Tim 3:16-17

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. The Old Testament and New Testament Authors understood they were writing the Word of God. Common Old Testament phrase - "*Thus saith the Lord*"¹. The Apostle Peter confirmed the Apostle Paul's writings as Scripture (2 Peter 3:16).

2 Peter 3:15-16

15 Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. 16 He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.

"*Thus saith the Lord*" occurs 415 times in 413 verses in the KJV.

¹ <https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/search.cfm?Criteria=%22Thus+saith+the+Lord%22&t=KJV>

- 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.

From Genesis to Revelation (66 Books), God tells us who He is, who we are and what we did. He tells us what He did to fix what we did. In short, the Bible is God's manual for knowing Him, knowing us, knowing why things are the way there are, and for how to live the life He created us to live.

- 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 Hittite Library and it confirmed everything the Bible says about the Hittites².
- 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 five to six thousand years before modern science (1546-1687 A.D.) 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**).

² <http://www.attalus.org/armenian/bruce.htm>; <https://www.thedestinlog.com/story/lifestyle/faith/2017/06/15/have-you-wondered-is-bible-historically-accurate/985681007/>

Small Group Questions

Things to think through and do:

Week 3 – Evidence that the Bible is The Word of God

1. How does 2 Peter 1:20-21 and 2 Timothy 3:16-17 support that the Bible is the Word of God?
 2. How does the fact that the people who were guided by the Spirit of God to write the Word of God who believed that they were writing the Word of God support the claim the Bible is the Word of God?
 3. How does the Bibles “*Amazing Unity*” support the claim that the Bible is the Word of God?
 4. How does the Bible’s “*Historical Accuracy*” support the claim that the Bible is the Word of God?
 5. How does the Bible’s “*Prophetical Accuracy*” support the claim that the Bible is the Word of God?
 6. How does the Bible’s “*Scientific Accuracy*” support the claim that the Bible is the Word of God?
- **Practice providing evidence that the Bible is The Word of God.**

Week 4 – Evidence that the Bible is The Word of God

At Home Assignments:

- **Read** – Evidence that the Bible is the Word of God (p.16-18), and “3 Reasons Why We Can Have Confidence in the Reliability of the New Testament”.
- **Watch Reach 3-2-1 Part 2 Session 4** – Evidence that the Bible is the Word of God – Part 2. <https://reach.lmiq.org/evangelism-training/>
- **Answer the Small Group Questions (p. 19-20) before the week 4 group meeting.**

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).

Western Civilization is as it is because of Christianity. The teaching of Jesus changed and transformed people which transformed the civilizations they lived in.³

8. **Its Life-Changing Power** - millions of lives universally and supernaturally transformed throughout Christian history.

The New Testament tells us that the Spirit of God comes and lives in people who follow Jesus and that the Spirit of God takes the Word of God to transform the child of God. This is the universal transformation that has taken place in the lives of people from the time of Christ up to today. I can personally testify that I am not who I was before Christ, and that my life has been radically transformed since coming to Christ.

I see life from God’s perspective instead of mine, my thoughts and desires are no longer about me, but about Him. I’ve gone from totally selfish to becoming selfless. Life is no longer about me and what I want, but about God and what He wants.

The greatest gift has been the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23). My life is filled with love, joy and peace because of God’s Word and God’s Spirit.

9. **Its Indestructibility** - it has survived man’s (Satan’s) numerous attempts to destroy it throughout human history because of God’s supernatural protection of it.

³ <https://intellectualltakeout.org/2016/08/theres-no-western-civilization-without-christianity/>

In A.D. 301-304, the Roman Emperor Diocletian burned thousands of copies of the Bible, commanded that all Bibles be destroyed and decreed that any home with a Bible in it should be burned. In fact, he even built a monument over what he thought was the last surviving Bible. He then proudly proclaimed, "The Christian name has been extinguished!" The very next emperor, Constantine, made Christianity the state religion of Rome. Five hundred years after Diocletian's death, his grave (a huge mausoleum) became a Christian church.⁴

10. Its Care and Copy - The Jewish system for copying Jewish literature and the hand of God (supernatural protection) 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.

If we were to write a book about our lives, we would not share embarrassing or humiliating details, but would share things that make us look good. The New Testament writers certainly didn't do that. They shared things that made them look stupid, cowardly, and very slow to learn. All of Scripture shares the good, the bad and the ugly about God's people, which is the exact opposite of what people would do if they were writing about themselves.

Since the Bible was written by men who wrote as they were guided by the Spirit of God, they wrote what the Spirit of God led them to write, which shares some really unflattering things about them.

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

⁴ <https://www.thedestinlog.com/story/lifestyle/faith/2017/05/05/have-you-wondered-is-bible-really-word-of-god/21121045007/>

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 that He's the only way to heaven (John 14:6; Acts 4:12) means everything else 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

Surviving Religion 101 - Michael J. Kruger

Other (Internet) Resources:

answersingenesis.org

truelife.org

gotquestions.org

crossexamed.org

biblethinker.org

str.org (stand to reason)

Small Group Questions

Things to think through and do:

Week 4 – Evidence that the Bible is The Word of God

Things to think through and do:

1. How does the Bible's "*Universal Influence Upon Civilization*" support the claim that the Bible is the Word of God?
2. How does the Bible's "*Life Changing Power*" support the claim that the Bible is the Word of God?
3. How does the Bible's "*Indestructability*" support the claim that the Bible is the Word of God?
4. How does the way the Bible was written and passed down ("*Care and Copy*") support the claim that the Bible is the Word of God?
5. How does the Bible's "*Amazing Circulation*" and "*Absolute Honesty*" help support the claim that the Bible is the Word of God?
6. How does the "*3 Reasons Why We Can Have Confidence in the Reliability of the New Testament*" help support the claim that the Bible is the Word of God?

7. Do you think the amount of evidence for the Bible being the Word of God is persuasive?

- **Practice providing evidence that the Bible is The Word of God.**

Week 5 – Short Answers to the Additional Questions

At Home Assignments:

- **Read Reach 3-2-1 Part 2 pages 20-22** – Short Answers to the Additional Questions, and Putting It All Together and Final Thoughts.
- **Watch Reach 3-2-1 Part 2 Session 5** – Additional Questions and Answers
- **Answer the Small Group Questions (p. 23-24) before the week 5 group meeting.**

Creationism vs. Evolution

Creationism and Evolution are both theories and not science because neither of them meet 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 community's 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.⁵ 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 further 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 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

⁵ 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>

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.⁶ The Mount St. Helen eruption also laid waste the evolutionary theory that rock layers and canyons take thousands and millions of years to form⁷

Additional video resources on this subject: <https://genesisapologetics.com/impact/> and “Is Genesis History?” – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UM82qxxskZE>

Other Religious Beliefs about God and Heaven

All other beliefs rise or fall on Jesus. If Jesus is who He says He is, 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 our 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).

⁶ <https://answersingenesis.org/geology/radiometric-dating/radio-dating-in-rubble/>

⁷ <https://answersingenesis.org/geology/mount-st-helens/mount-st-helens-evidence-for-genesis/>

Small Group Questions

Week 5 – Short Answers to the Additional Questions

Things to think through and do:

1. When it comes to the creation/evolution debate it is important to know basics about the theory of evolution and how it has changed over the life of it due to the complete failure of its predictions. Therefore, it is important to study the issues so you have a basic understanding of the concepts and issues surrounding the debate.

Another thing to understand is that Satan is the author of the theory of evolution as He is the father of lies (John 8:44) and any enemy of God⁸ who wants to keep people from understanding the Word of God (2 Cor. 4:4). He has been at war with God since his fall from glory. See “Satan and Demons”⁹ for additional information.

2. How does a biblical understanding of Satan help with understanding the creation/evolution debate?
3. How does the reality that all scientists are looking at the same evidence, but come to different conclusions impact your understanding of the creation/evolution debate?
4. How does evolution's failure to line up with scientific laws affect its claim to be science?

⁸ <https://www.biblegateway.com/resources/dictionary-of-bible-themes/4121-Satan-as-enemy-God>

⁹ <https://lmiq.org/satan-and-demons/>

5. How does understanding the difference between “*micro*” and “*macro*” evolution help you in understanding the creation/evolution debate?
6. How has the “*age of the universe*” controversy affected your understanding and belief regarding the age of the universe and the creation account in Genesis?
7. How does the “*uniformitarian assumption*” impact the reliability of “sciences” claims that the universe is much older (13.7 billion years old) than what the Bible says about the age of the universe (6,000-10,000)?
8. How does Jesus’ statement that He is “*the way, the truth, and the life, and that no one come to the Father but by Him*” (John 14:6) impact the reality of other faith claims that don’t line up with Jesus’s truth claim?
9. How does the existence of evil in the world line up with the love and sovereignty of God? Said another way, why does a good God allow evil to exist? See “Why does God allow evil?” on p. 22 for help.
10. How has learning about the evidence for God and the evidence that the Bible is the Word of God helped you in giving an answer for the hope that you have in God and His Word?

- Practice providing evidence that the Bible is The Word of God.

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

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!!