

## **Defending the Faith**

### **Ready:**

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” -- 1 Peter 3:15

### **Set**

Last weekend, my family went to an apologetics conference. Apologetics is the approach of defending Christian beliefs against objections.

In 1 Peter 3:15, God tells us through Paul, “*If someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it.*” It can be scary to tell people about Jesus, especially for students. You never know how people will respond to what you have to say. They could reject God, and they could reject you. They could shut you out completely, simply because of your belief in God.

But Jesus says in John 16:33, “*...take heart, because I have overcome the world.*” He also says in Luke 10:16, “*The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me.*” It’s comforting knowing that no one can overcome God and God is on our side.

As Peter ends in 1 Peter 3:15, “*But do this with gentleness and respect,*” make sure to do everything in a loving way because, ultimately, we want to show the world Jesus’ love. We can’t do that if aren’t acting in a loving way to others. I hope and pray that each and every one of us will get challenged on why we believe in God and why we trust Him. I believe that when you defend something you believe, it only makes you stronger, especially when it comes to sharing Jesus with others.

### **Go**

- How does it make you feel when someone rejects your sharing of the Gospel?
- Would you rather be rejected for sharing the Gospel or miss an opportunity to be a part of God’s mission by introducing a friend to eternal life? Explain.

### **Workout**

Matthew 5:15-16; Jude 1-3; 2 Timothy 4:1-5

### **Overtime**

“Father, Jesus tells us that we, as His disciples, are the light of the world. You don’t intend for us to hide. Lord, send Your Holy Spirit to guide us in being a light that shines in the darkness of this world. We pray that others would see Your works and pray that they give glory to You.

Amen.”

**Bible Reference:**

1 Peter 3:15

Matthew 5:15-16

Jude 1-3

2 Timothy 4:1-5



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