

# DEFENDERS APOLOGETICS

## Course Outline

**Presenters:** Dee Walker, PhD.  
Jon Gardner

**Course length:** 8 weeks (October 2 – November 20)

**Source material:** *On Guard* by William Lane Craig  
*Reason and Faith Made Simple* by Rick McGough

| DATE      | TOPIC   |
|-----------|---|
| OCT<br>2  | <b>What is Apologetics?</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Facilitators, participants introductions</li><li>2. Introduction to apologetics<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. <i>Apologetics</i> means defense</li><li>b. Is apologetics biblical?</li><li>c. Why is apologetics important?<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. Shaping culture</li><li>ii. Strengthening believers</li><li>iii. Winning unbelievers</li></ol></li></ol></li></ol>   |
| OCT<br>9  | <b>What Difference Does it Make if God Exists?</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The Absurdity of Life Without God<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. No meaning, value, nor purpose</li></ol></li><li>2. Living in denial</li><li>3. The Practical Impossibility of Atheism<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Attempts to find meaning, value, and purpose</li></ol></li><li>4. The Human predicament and the Success of Biblical Christianity</li></ol>   |
| OCT<br>16 | <b>Why Does Anything Exist at All? Why Did the Universe Begin?</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. G.W. Leibniz's Contingency Argument<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Responses to atheist objections</li></ol></li><li>2. The Kalam Cosmological Argument<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Whatever begins to exist has a cause</li><li>b. The universe began to exist</li><li>c. The universe has a cause</li></ol></li><li>3. Scientific and Philosophical considerations</li></ol>   |
| OCT<br>23 | <b>Why is the Universe Fine-Tuned for Life?</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Definition and examples of fine tuning</li><li>2. A couple of quick objections and answers</li><li>3. The Fine-Tuning Argument<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. The fine-tuning of the universe is due to either physical necessity, chance, or design</li><li>b. It is not due to physical necessity or chance</li><li>c. Therefore, it is due to design</li></ol></li><li>4. Implausibility of physical necessity and chance<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Implausibility of physical necessity</li><li>b. Improbability of a life-permitting universe<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. Lottery illustration</li><li>ii. Anthropic principle (firing squad illustration)</li><li>iii. Responses to the many worlds hypothesis</li></ol></li><li>c. A refutation of Dawkins's objection to Design from "The God Delusion"</li></ol></li></ol> |

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**YouTube:** [bit.ly/defendersapologetics](http://bit.ly/defendersapologetics)

OCT  
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## Can We Be Good Without God?

1. A Moral Argument for God's Existence
  - a. If God does not exist, objective moral values and duties do not exist
  - b. Objective moral values and duties do exist
  - c. Therefore, God exists.
2. Clarifying the terms "objective" and "subjective"
3. Defense of the first premise
  - a. God is essential for objective moral values and duties
4. Responses
  - a. to the Euthyphro Dilemma
  - b. to Moral Platonism
  - c. to Humanism
  - d. to socio-biological objections

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## What About Suffering?

1. Intellectual problem of evil and suffering
  - a. "It is logically impossible for God and evil to co-exist"
    - i. Responses to the logical version of the problem of evil
      1. Hidden assumptions (If God is all powerful, then He can create any world that he wants. If God is all-loving, then He prefers a world without evil and suffering)
  - b. "It is highly improbable that God could have good reasons for permitting evil"
    - i. Responses to the probability version of the problem of evil
      1. Human limitation puts us in no position to know God's reasons.
      2. The full scope of evidence (other arguments for God's existence) outweigh the supposed improbability of God's existence, given the existence of evil and suffering.
    - ii. Suffering actually makes more sense under Christian doctrine
2. Emotional problem of evil and suffering

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## Who was Jesus? Did Jesus Rise from the Dead?

1. The reliability of NT documents (criteria of authenticity)
2. Who did Jesus claim to be? How did he prove his claims?
3. Facts and evidence for Jesus' resurrection
  - a. The empty tomb
  - b. Jesus' postmortem appearances
  - c. The disciples' unwavering belief
4. Theories and hypotheses to explain the evidence
  - a. Apparent death hypothesis
  - b. Displaced body hypothesis
  - c. Hallucination hypothesis

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## Is Jesus the Only Way to God?

1. NT teaching: the only doorway to eternal life is Christian faith
2. The Problem posed by religious diversity
3. Responding to religious pluralism
4. The problem with Christian Particularism: What about those who never hear the Gospel?