



WHAT EVERY **CHRISTIAN PARENT NEEDS TO KNOW** TO KEEP THEIR KIDS FROM LEAVING THE FAITH

“Dad, I don’t believe in God anymore.’ Those are the words of a former church youth group leader to her father after only four weeks of classes at UNC Chapel Hill.”¹ Between 50 to 75% of kids are leaving the faith by their second year of college. This is a battle between Heaven and hell, and the studies show that in the U.S., hell appears to be winning.

Why?

These kids have grown up with Veggie Tales. They know the Bible stories, how to be kind, loving and thankful. They go to youth group and church camps. Why are they leaving the faith?

“We’re losing them because they don’t *know* their faith...and they are especially not prepared to think about the really tricky questions you bump into later in life... They know the story of Jericho...then they meet a skeptical teacher who asks them why it was okay for the Israelites to commit genocide, and our kids aren’t prepared...their faith is knocked out from under them.”

Phil Vischer, creator of Veggie Tales²

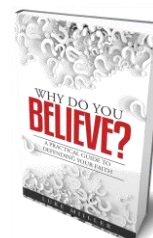


The last 4 intense years have led me not only to an answer, but to a solution. This fall I got a chance to put it to the test. In a youth group, I asked each teen privately about their faith in God. On a scale of 1-10, how sure were they of their faith? The most common answer was 4. I asked them to tell me about why they believed in God, and the answers ranged from “I just have faith” to “I was raised a Christian.” Nothing that would stand firm on an atheistic campus.

“Why do you believe?”

When I asked fellow Christians this one answer I was blown away. The Christian kids’ answers were lame and I was left speechless with the atheistic arguments I heard (e.g. “Science has already disproven God” and “How could a loving God allow horrible things in this world?”). Their questions cut deep and it seemed like atheistic proof was everywhere in the news, movies, and books. I realized that I didn’t have good answers either. In fact, I had my own doubts. The Christian kids weren’t OWNING their faith, and the atheistic kids had never met a Christian who gave them a good reason TO believe in God. I had to do something.

For my 4 years in high school I researched the top Christian apologists of our day AND the top atheists. I talked to pastors and apologists. I tried different arguments on atheists and got pulverized. I went back and studied more. We had to take tried and true apologetics principles like the *Law of Causality*, the *Design Argument* and biblical proof and make them easy for *any* teen. When I found the answers to the most common atheistic questions on college campuses today, I knew that God wanted

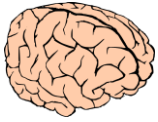


¹ Frank Turek, CrossExamined.org, Fearless Faith Seminars

² Phil Vischer, “Why Students Leave the Church After High School,” YouTube.com

me to share these truths with every teen I could find! The result is a book I published my senior year titled, *Why Do You Believe? A Practical Guide to Defending Your Faith.*

You see, I found out that blind faith isn't enough on a normal college campus. Think of our Christian faith as our heart and lungs and brain. These are the most important organs, and they are protected by a rib cage and a skull. Faith is the most important component but on its own it can be vulnerable when faced with atheistic challenges because most kids borrow the faith of their parents and have blind faith in the Bible. Without being able to answer the difficult questions, their faith is exposed and easily damaged.



Faith's outer shield consists of science, evidence, facts and logic. That's what is missing! Why? Atheistic arguments attack the Bible's credibility and the moral character of God. When faith is combined with science, evidence, and logic, we not only have a sword, but a shield, too! I realized that if youth are armed with not only faith but solid proof that NO ONE can deny, then our faith is protected. Not only does this protect our eternal destiny, but we can actually turn the tables on atheistic arguments and use their gods (science, logic and intellect) to witness to them. After all, God MADE those three things! With these tools, we give questioning agnostics really good reasons to believe in God, because it's true!

My dream is that not one more Christian loses their faith because they never truly learned why Christianity is true.

After I published the book, people were really excited about it. On Facebook I received messages from literally way over a hundred parents, some of whom had either lost kids to atheism or agnosticism or who were desperate for help. Here's a note I received from a mom we will call Dana. When she asked her kids why they believed in God their answer was, "I just do because that's how I was raised."

"I was not expecting that answer (from my teen). I 'assumed' that we had done a great job at this by just living a Christian life, but I guess not. It has opened my eyes to how I need to point to the Creator more often in our daily life and the WHY to our beliefs. We have started the course and it has already opened the doors for some interesting discussions. My son will be attending college next year so this is very relevant."

After I thought about it, I felt that a book wasn't going to be enough. I needed to create an experience that required kids to think through, write down, and OWN their answers as to why they believe. In the Bible, Jesus used discipleship to transform scared men into courageous apostles and even martyrs for God. This has to something we don't just read, but something we DO. I wrote a companion study guide for youth groups, Bible studies and homeschooled kids to learn the proof for God and Christianity and have fun too. It forces them to think, take a stand and PRACTICE encountering the same arguments they will face in college/workplace.

"My oldest, in college, has decided that he is an atheist...I am well aware that his issue is that that he never understood why HE believes. I am trying to make sure this doesn't happen with our other kids." – Kim

Now this is where it gets good.

I spent 5 weeks at their youth group talking about 1. Why our faith in God is true, 2. Answers to the challenging questions Christians experience on campus/workplace, and 3. How to talk to different types of atheists. At the end of those 5 weeks, this same group of kids had displayed their newfound confidence in their faith not only to their parents (who were shocked at the change), but they were starting conversations in class! One of them even challenged the biggest atheist in their school—and won.

How God Transformed a Group of Unsure Teens into Defenders of Their Faith

June 2019. A local mom came to my Young Defender table at a conference where I was selling my book and handing out candy to anyone who would tell me why they believed in God. A few weeks later, I received a phone call. Three churches wanted to combine their youth groups into one for 6 weeks if I would come and teach their kids apologetics. Of course I agreed!

For this group of teens, my mission was to 1. Show them why we KNOW God and Christianity are true and 2. Train them to defend their faith. September 2019. The first week, I asked each of them a key question: Why do you believe in God? The answers were awful, like “I know there has to be an afterlife.” When asked on a scale of 1 to 10 how sure they were of their faith they gave answers ranging from 4 to 7, with most in the 4 to 6 range.

I brought my combat sword (with a watermelon) and did a talk I call, “Your Faith is Like a Watermelon.” That got their attention.

The second week I taught them the first piece in proving God’s existence using the law of cause and effect. I showed them the proof that there is NO OTHER POSSIBLE CAUSE of the universe except God. We talked a lot and I answered some questions. I brought my potato cannon and did a demonstration I named, “You Need a Shield to Protect Your Faith.” Without a shield, another watermelon blew up; with a shield, the potato blew up, leaving a happy, safe watermelon. Fun, but I wondered if it made a difference.



The third week, a girl (we’ll call her Julie) excitedly came up to me and said, “This past week I talked to the biggest atheist and smartest person in my class about God. I used what you taught us last week and he argued with me for about a minute before he got frustrated and left because he had no answer to my proof for God!” She was thrilled. I was shocked that it happened so quickly.

It was working!

In the following weeks I saw these teens transformed as we covered proof for God, then the Bible’s credibility and finally showed Christianity as the true faith. I played the atheist or agnostic and challenged them to combat my arguments and make the case for God and Christianity. At a study hall, two of them took what they learned and demonstrated the proof for God on the board in front of their teacher and class.

October 2019. At the end of the 5th session I asked each student again, “Why Do You Believe in God?” This time they stated evidence, logic and proof as well as faith. Out of 10, how sure were they of their faith now? 7 to 9, with an average increase of 3 to 4 points. They all said that they still had a few questions but felt “confident because there is overwhelming evidence to be sure of God and Christianity.” All in 5 weeks. Here’s what “Ben” said after the class.

I believe that Christianity is true simply because it has been proven. There’s lots of evidence for it and some people may say it’s not true but I definitely think it’s true because it’s hard to deny that it’s not. There are actually more facts proving Christianity than against it.

Here’s “Sadie”

My faith is now at an 8 or 9 because I am now able to defend it against some of the harder questions, which is something I had worried about for a couple years, but I feel confident now. I can work through the steps from proving God exists to proving Christianity as the one true religion.

I went home that night feeling honored to be used by God to make a difference and at the same time I felt really small compared to the task at hand. *After all, I’m a teenager too.*

My name is Luke Miiller

Here’s my story, which began a little over 4 years ago. June 2014. I was 15, and when I read that 2 out of 3 teens will leave the faith by their second year in college, I just couldn’t get it out of my head. I thought about all these other great kids going to hell. My parents challenged me to do something about it. I made it my life’s mission, beginning with talking to my Christian, atheistic and agnostic peers. Soon I realized that it all came down to this one question:

I want them to be ready. We NEED them to be ready.

Remember that youth group whose faith went from 4 to 8 or 9? We need that for ALL youth. We need to start a movement of kids who know why they believe and can confidently stand up to the challenges of atheistic society. I’m working on another book that combats more arguments and I want to arm parents with all they need to train their kids around the supper table, making it part of life, just like preparing them to say no to drugs and smoking.

I know that you have influence in media, and I am sending you a copy of my book in the hope that you will join with me in getting this word out. There are millions of kids in my generation. Can you help me? My hope is that teens who might not listen to Josh McDowell or Ravi Zacharias might listen to someone their age. Maybe together you and I can help parents show their kids *Why They Should Believe*.

Sincerely,

Luke Miiller