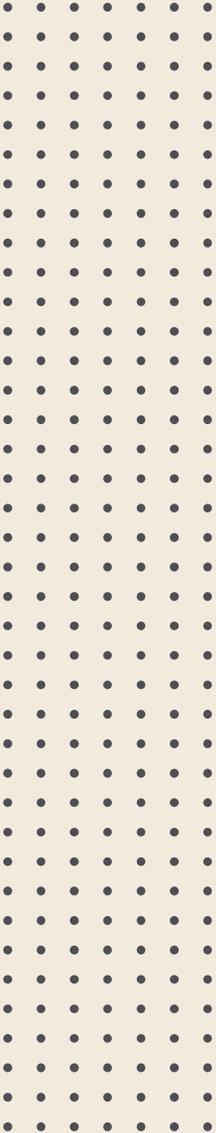


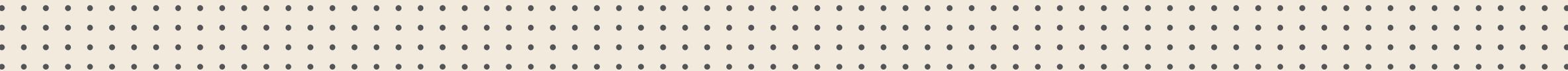
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# **REASONS TO BELIEVE**

Lesson 1 – Introduction

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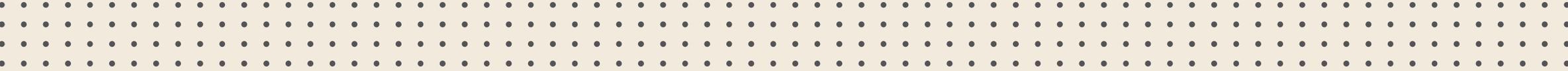
# **PURPOSE**

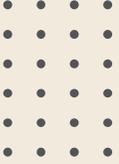
*Give evidence for believing in –*

God as the Creator

Jesus as the Risen Lord

The Bible as God's true & inspired Word





# APOLOGETICS

From Greek *apologia* – a logical defense or explanation, argument

**1 Peter 3:15** – “...always being ready to make a defense to anyone who asks you...”

**Acts 22:1** – “Brothers and fathers, hear my defense which I now offer to you.”

**Philippians 1:7** – “...since both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel...”

**2 Timothy 4:16** – “At my first defense no one supported me, but all deserted me.”



# 1 PETER 3:13-16



How do you think this study can help you fulfill this command?

In this text, what are we defending?

What attitudes should characterize our defense?



# GROUND RULES

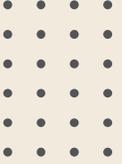


**1**

We will be honest about our beliefs.

**2**

We will be fair about what others believe.



# WHY DO YOU BELIEVE?



Some common reasons –

*Upbringing*

*Experience*

*Feelings*

*It Works*

What's the difference between **subjective** and **objective** reasons for our beliefs?

Why are subjective reasons insufficient for believing anything?



# IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS



***Faith*** – a reasonable conclusion based on observable evidence, leading to a belief in something unseen

***Doubt*** – uncertainty about what or why you believe, based on factors such as reason, emotion, or experience



# PRESUPPOSITIONS



***Presupposition*** – a belief that is assumed true from the beginning

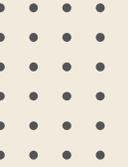
**1) *Naturalism*** – the belief that nature is all there is; there is nothing outside the universe

**2) *Supernaturalism*** – the belief that something exists outside of nature; the universe depends on something outside itself

Where you start (#1 or #2) determines where you end.



# Is BIBLICAL FAITH BLIND?



Hebrews 11:1

2 Corinthians 5:7

John 20:29

The ***object*** of our faith is invisible,  
but the ***basis*** for believing is visible



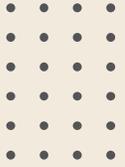
# STEPS TO BIBLICAL FAITH



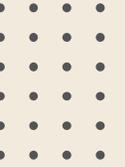
Look objectively at the evidence  
("what do we see?")

Reason through the evidence  
("what's the best explanation?")

Choose the right path  
("what will I decide to do?")



# 1 PETER 1:13



Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.