

# DAVID'S MEN

SEEKING THE HEART OF GOD



## Apologetics

Belief is a necessary component of following Christ: *For by grace you have been saved **through faith**...* (Ephesians 2:8a). And what one believes is important: *If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and **believe** in your heart that **God raised him from the dead**, you will be saved* (Romans 10:9).

But many Christians don't know why we believe what we do. As a result, they lack confidence for having Gospel conversations with unbelievers (e.g., "What if they ask me a question I can't answer?"). And yet, Scripture tells us to be prepared for such conversations:

*But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, **always being prepared to make a defense** to anyone who asks you **for a reason for the hope that is in you**; yet do it with gentleness and respect.*

**1 Peter 3:15**

Original manuscripts for the book of 1 Peter include these Greek terms:

- Apologia (for "defense")
- Logos (for "reason")

From these terms comes the word *apologetics*, which is "the communication of evidence and reasoning that Christianity is true." Apologetics includes historical evidence, logical reasoning, and other rational defenses of Christianity.

This month we'll focus on evidence that Christianity is true. Apologists take different approaches, and there are a plethora of great apologetics-focused books (e.g, Keller's *The Reason for God*, Lee Strobel's *The Case for Christ* and other books, Josh McDowell's *More than a Carpenter*). We'll read a Christian classic from an author widely recognized as the one of the most impactful apologists in history: C. S. Lewis.

C.S. Lewis is widely known as author of *The Chronicles of Narnia*, perhaps the most beloved children's books of all time. His conversion to Christianity was a lengthy process marked by

intellectual reasoning, honest seeking, and deep conversations with several friends (including J.R.R. Tolkien, who wrote *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*). Following his conversion, Lewis wrote *Mere Christianity*, our book for this month.

In the Christian life, the necessary presence of faith doesn't mean the complete absence of doubt. Growth in our understanding of Christianity's truths helps strengthen our faith and increases the effectiveness of our Gospel conversations with others.

## Current Month Assignments

- Read *Mere Christianity* (Lewis) and prepare a book summary to share with the group. NOTE: This definitely isn't a book you want to rush through. Give yourself plenty of time to read it and you'll get so much more out of it!
- Memorize this month's verses and review verses from previous months.
- 48-hour fast – This is a food fast (unless you have a medical exception) with your focus on hearing from God. Before your fast, read Bill Bright's *7 Steps to Fasting* (see link in Resources section).
- Man-date: This would be a great opportunity to practice saying your verses.

## Resources:

- *7 Steps to Fasting* (Bill Bright): **This post provides vital information about the purpose of fasting and practical suggestions for preparing for (and finishing) a fast. Read carefully!**
  - NOTE: The link below takes you to a webpage showing the 1<sup>st</sup> step. To read the entire post and review the remaining steps (very important), use the list (#1-#7) near the top right of this page.
  - <https://www.cru.org/train-and-grow/spiritual-growth/fasting/7-steps-to-fasting.html>

# Memory Verses

## **Stand Firm**

1 Corinthians 15:58 - Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

Hebrews 12:3 - Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

## **Witness to the World**

Acts 1:8 – But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

Romans 1:16 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Matthew 28:19-20 - Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

## **+ 1 (for DM veterans)**

1 Peter 3:15 - But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.