

11th & 12th grades

Summer Reading 2025 - 2026

As we continue to develop a Biblical worldview, next year's emphasis is **Apologetics!** Simply put, Apologetics is a defense of the reason a believer has for hope in Christ.

***1 Peter 3:15-16 CSB** - but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, ready at any time to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you. Yet do this with gentleness and reverence, keeping a clear conscience, so that when you are accused, those who disparage your good conduct in Christ will be put to shame.*

In the fall, all high school Bible students will participate in recording podcasts based on the summer reading. A rubric for the podcast project will be distributed after the new school year begins.

For your summer reading, you will choose *one* Apologetics book from the options that are listed below. As you read your preferred book, highlight and/or mark up the pages in order to keep passages handy for future reference. Study guide questions have been provided for each book option to help you identify important points in the book.

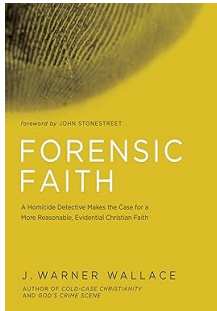
Forensic Faith by J. Warner Wallace

The Case for Faith by Lee Strobel

Is God Just a Human Invention? by Sean McDowell and Jonathan Morrow

Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis

The Pilgrim's Progress by John Bunyan (A Readable Modern-Day Version of John Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress, Revision by Alan Vermilye)



Option 1

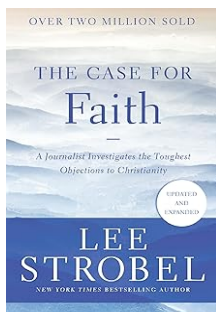
Forensic Faith: A Homicide Detective Makes the Case for a More Reasonable, Evidential Christian Faith

by *J. Warner Wallace*

Prepare to be captivated as real-life detective stories, intriguing strategies, and biblical revelations merge. Renowned author and cold-case detective **J. Warner Wallace** presents a riveting exploration of investigative disciplines, bringing together the world of apologetics and Christian faith. Join this engaging journey and take a fresh look at what it means to be a Christian with this thought-provoking book.

Study Guide Questions

- What evidence supports your Christian faith?
- Why is it important to share your faith?
- What are some common objections to the Christian faith and how can a believer respond?
- What is the role of evidence and logic in understanding faith?
- What does it mean to be a “case maker” for Christ?
- What is it important to understand *why* you believe what you believe?



Option 2

The Case for Faith: A Journalist Investigates the Toughest Objections to Christianity

by *Lee Strobel*

This bestselling book is for those who may be feeling attracted to Jesus but who are faced with difficult questions standing squarely in their path. For Christians, it will deepen their convictions and give them fresh confidence in defending their faith to skeptical friends, or during the hardest of times, when they have to defend their faith to themselves in moments of doubt.

Study Guide Questions

- What is the nature of faith?
- What evidence supports the existence of God, and what does that evidence suggest about God's nature?
- What evidence supports the claims of Jesus that He is the Son of God and the Messiah?
- How do Christians reconcile the existence of God with the reality of suffering and evil in the world?
- What historical and other evidence supports the claim that Jesus was resurrected?
- Can faith and reason be reconciled, or are they in opposition?
- How can we deal with doubts and remain faithful?



Option 3

Is God Just a Human Invention? And Seventeen Other Questions Raised by the New Atheists

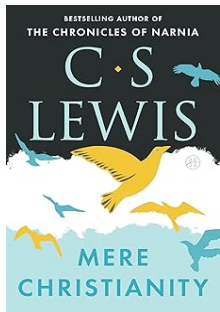
by Sean McDowell and Jonathan Morrow

Sean McDowell and Jonathan Morrow have penned an accessible yet rigorous look at the arguments of the New Atheists. Writing from a distinctively Christian perspective, McDowell and Morrow lay out the facts so that the emerging generation can make up their own mind after

considering all the evidence.

Study Guide Questions

- What does it mean to say that God is a human invention?
- What are some of the scientific and philosophical challenges to belief in God?
- What are some of the moral and biblical challenges to belief in God?
- What are some of the practical and impractical implications to believing in God?
- How can Christians respond to the challenges posed by the New Atheists movement?



Option 4

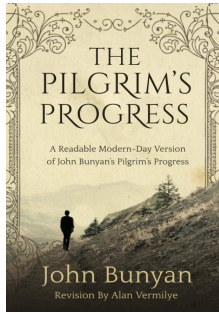
Mere Christianity

by C.S. Lewis

Mere Christianity explores the core beliefs of Christianity by providing an unequalled opportunity for believers and nonbelievers alike to hear a powerful, rational case for the Christian faith. A brilliant collection, *Mere Christianity* remains strikingly fresh for the modern reader and at the same time confirms C. S. Lewis's reputation as one of the leading writers and thinkers of our age.

Study Guide Questions

- Lewis argues that a moral law points to God. How do you view the concept of morality and its implications?
- How does Lewis's introduction to the doctrine of the Trinity expand your understanding of God?
- What does Lewis indicate about the nature of pride and its link to other vices?
- Lewis indicates that other religions might contain a hint of truth. How do you view the relationship between Christianity and other belief systems?
- What claim by Jesus does Lewis indicate is absolutely fundamental to the Christian faith?
- What did Lewis indicate about marriage and how does that relate to modern day views of marriage?



Option 5
The Pilgrim's Progress

by John Bunyan

A Readable Modern-Day Version of John Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress,
Revision by Alan Vermilye

The story chronicles the epic adventure of a man named Christian who leaves his home in the City of Destruction and begins a life-long quest to the Celestial City. Set against the backdrop of a hazardous journey, this powerful drama unfolds as Christian's adventures lead him into fascinating lands and encounters with interesting people who either help or hinder his progress along a narrow way. With a gallery of memorable characters and visits to colorful places, Bunyan's allegorical narrative describes one man's extraordinary adventure on his journey to faith.

Study Guide Questions:

- Where, and to whom, does Mr. Worldly Wiseman direct Christian, and what false view of salvation does this represent?
- How is the heart of man like the dusty room, and what happens when the room is attempted to be cleaned with the broom of the law? What does this teach us about the law?
- Three beings come to Christian, what do they represent and what do they do for him?
- Why do you think the way to the celestial city goes through the Valley of the Shadow of Death?
- What are some of the ways Faithful says the work of grace is discovered in the life of a person?
- Which three people came forward to testify against Christian and Faithful?
- What were some of Hopeful's arguments to Christian as to why they should not end their own lives?