



SPARROWS HI CURRICULUM

Apologetics & Confident Faith

PURPOSE

The purpose of this framework is to help students understand why they believe what they believe and to engage confidently and graciously with those who hold different views.

Apologetics is not primarily about winning arguments. It is about helping students develop a well-founded, personally owned faith that can withstand honest questioning.

Students should leave Sparrows HI with the confidence to say what they believe, the humility to acknowledge what they do not know and the grace to engage respectfully with those who disagree.

PHILOSOPHY

Faith and reason are not enemies. God invites us to love Him with all our mind.

We do not ask students to believe blindly. We invite them to examine the evidence, ask honest questions and discover that Christian faith is both reasonable and true.

Apologetics at Sparrows HI is done in a spirit of confidence and humility rather than defensiveness or arrogance.

GRADUATE OUTCOME

By graduation, students should be able to:

- articulate what they believe and why;
- engage with common objections to Christianity;
- understand the relationship between faith and reason;
- discuss worldview differences respectfully;
- recognise that doubt and honest questions are normal parts of growing faith;
- point others toward Jesus with gentleness and clarity.

BIBLICAL FOUNDATION

Students explore the biblical call to thoughtful engagement:

- love God with all your mind;
- always be prepared to give a reason for your hope;
- Jesus engaging the questions of his day;
- Paul reasoning in the synagogues and the Areopagus.

THE NATURE OF APOLOGETICS

Students learn that apologetics involves:

- giving reasons for Christian belief;
- responding to objections;
- understanding alternative worldviews;
- pointing toward truth with grace;
- recognising the limits of argument alone.

The Holy Spirit converts.

COMMON QUESTIONS

Students engage with questions they are likely to encounter, including:

Questions about God

- *Does God exist?*
- *Why does God allow suffering?*
- *Is God good?*
- *Can we know anything about God?*

Questions about Jesus

- *Did Jesus really exist?*
- *Did the resurrection actually happen?*
- *Is Jesus the only way to God?*
- *Was Jesus merely a good teacher?*

Questions about the Bible

- *Is the Bible reliable?*
- *How was the Bible put together?*
- *Does science contradict the Bible?*
- *How do we handle difficult passages?*

Questions about faith

- *Isn't faith just wishful thinking?*
- *Why are there so many religions?*
- *What about those who have never heard?*
- *Can a thinking person really be a Christian?*

FAITH AND SCIENCE

Students explore the relationship between Christian faith and science:

- Christianity and the origins of modern science;
- common ground between science and faith;
- areas of genuine debate;
- avoiding false dichotomies;
- faithful Christians who are excellent scientists.

Students learn that science and Scripture, rightly understood, do not ultimately conflict.

THE PROBLEM OF SUFFERING

The problem of evil and suffering is one of the most significant challenges to Christian faith.

Students explore:

- the biblical understanding of why suffering exists;
- God's response to suffering in Christ;
- the hope of the new creation;
- how Christians have responded to suffering throughout history;
- the difference between intellectual answers and pastoral presence.

Students learn that the Christian response to suffering is not merely philosophical but personal.

OTHER WORLDVIEWS

Students develop the understanding that there are other worldviews including:

- secular humanism;
- Islam;
- Buddhism;
- Hinduism;
- postmodernism;
- new age spirituality.

Understanding is not agreement.

PERSONAL DOUBT

Doubt is a normal part of the journey of faith.

Students are encouraged to:

- bring honest questions to trusted adults;
- distinguish doubt from unbelief;
- find that honest questioning often deepens faith;
- remain in community during seasons of uncertainty.

A faith that cannot be questioned is often a faith that has not yet been truly owned.

ENGAGING WITH GRACE

Confident faith does not require arrogance.

Students learn to engage with those who disagree by:

- listening carefully before responding;
- asking good questions;
- speaking the truth in love;
- trusting God with the outcome of conversations.

KEY THINKERS

Students encounter the work of thoughtful Christian apologists including:

- C.S. Lewis;
- G.K. Chesterton;
- Alvin Plantinga;
- Timothy Keller;
- N.T. Wright;

- John Lennox;
- Rebecca McLaughlin.

LEARNING PROGRESSION

The program is structured across three stages of secondary education.

Years 7–8	• What do I believe and why? • basic questions about God; • Jesus and history; • the Bible. • Emphasis: building confidence to own faith personally.
Years 9–10	• Common objections; • science and faith; • suffering; • other religions. • Students engage with harder questions with growing confidence.
Years 11–12	• Worldview analysis; • advanced objections; • engaging culture; • sharing faith graciously. • Students articulate and defend their faith with maturity.

LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Students should regularly participate in:

- structured discussions of difficult questions;
- reading selected apologists;
- respectful engagement with different views;
- writing responses to common objections;
- hearing from Christians who engage their faith in various fields.

The best apologetics learning happens in conversation rather than lecture.

ASSESSMENT

Growth is demonstrated through:

- increasing ability to articulate Christian belief;

- thoughtful engagement with objections;
- gracious dialogue with those who disagree;
- reflective journaling;
- written responses to apologetic questions.

Assessment values honest engagement and growing confidence rather than rehearsed answers.

INTEGRATION

Apologetics and Confident Faith connects with:

- Christian Worldview;
- Biblical Literacy;
- The Life and Teachings of Jesus;
- Church History and Christian Thought;
- Media Literacy and Digital Stewardship.

A faith that can engage honest questions is a faith that is becoming genuinely one's own.

OUR PRAYER

We pray that students will develop a faith that is genuinely theirs — not merely inherited, not merely social, but personally examined and deeply held.

May they be people who can say with confidence what they believe and why, and who engage the questions of their generation with both courage and grace.

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

1 Peter 3:15