LOGIC & THE BIBLE · LESSON 1 · TEACHER'S NOTES

What Is the Reason for This Study?

1 Thessalonians 5:21 · About 41 minutes · 14 slides

TEACHING SPINE

KEY VERSE	*"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."* (Rom. 10:17)
BIG IDEA	Biblical faith is not a leap in the dark. It is conviction built on evidence, so every Christian must learn to reason well from God's Word.
MAIN POINTS	**1 · Faith Rests on Evidence 2 · Every Christian Answers 3 · Reasoning Is Required**
ANCHOR	*If someone asked you tonight why you believe the Bible is God's Word, what would you actually say, and would it be evidence or just feeling?*

Run Sheet

SLIDE	TITLE	CLICKS	STOP	MIN	RUNNING
L01-S01	Title			1	1
L01-S02	Key Verse: Rom. 10:17			2	3
L01-S03	Read the Following			3	6
L01-S04	Questions About Faith			3	9
L01-S05	Biblical Faith Is			3	12
L01-S06	The Samaritans (John 4:39–42)			3	15
L01-S07	Thomas (John 20:24–31)			3	18
L01-S08	We Cannot Reject Rationality			2	20
L01-S09	Read 1 Peter 3:15			2	22
L01-S10	Word Study: apologia			3	25
L01-S11	Know the Answer First			2	27
L01-S12	Board Work: Reasoning Is Required	2	⏸ 3	4	31

SLIDE	TITLE	CLICKS	STOP	MIN	RUNNING
L01-S13	Discuss: Anchor Question		▮ 8	8	39
L01-S14	Summary			2	**41**

Leaves about 4 minutes of a 45-minute class for prayer, announcements or a question that runs long.

▶ **SLIDE** advance to this slide ↳ **CLICK** next reveal on the same slide ▮ **DISCUSS** stop and ask

▶ **L01-S01**
Title

Welcome the class. This course asks one question: is our faith built on evidence, or on feeling? Tonight we answer why the study matters at all.

▶ **L01-S02**
Key Verse

> *"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."* (Rom. 10:17) Read it slowly. Faith comes by **hearing**: not by feeling, not by assuming.

I. What Is Faith?

▶ **L01-S03**
Read the Following

A. Read the following.

1. **2 Corinthians 5:7:** to be pleasing to God, we MUST walk by faith.
2. **Romans 10:17:** faith comes by hearing the Word.
3. **Hebrews 11:6:** without faith, it is IMPOSSIBLE to please Him.

▶ **L01-S04**
Questions About Faith

B. Questions about faith.

1. Does faith mean accepting a position that cannot be proven?
2. Is faith a *leap in the dark*? Guesswork? Wishful thinking?
3. Is faith just entertaining a possibility, or playing the odds?

Let the class answer briefly. Don't settle them yet; the next slide does.

▶ **L01-S05**
Biblical Faith Is

C. Biblical faith is:

1. **A requirement** of the Christian (Heb. 11:6)
2. **Attained by hearing** (Rom. 10:17)
3. **Solidified by evidence** (Heb. 11:1, "the *evidence* of things not seen")

▶ L01-S06
The Samaritans

D. Some examples from Scripture.

1. John 4:39–42: the people of Samaria.

- Many believed at first because of the woman's testimony (v. 39).
- Then, after hearing Jesus for themselves: "Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and *know* that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world" (v. 42).
- **Their faith moved from secondhand report to firsthand evidence, and they called the result *knowledge*.**

▶ L01-S07
Thomas

2. John 20:24–31: Thomas.

- Thomas demanded to see for himself (v. 25), and Jesus gave him the evidence (v. 27).
- "Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed" (v. 29) does *not* praise believing without evidence. Read the very next verses: "But these are written, *that ye might believe* that Jesus is the Christ" (vv. 30–31).
- **We have not seen, but we have the written, eyewitness testimony. That testimony *is* our evidence.**

> CLARIFICATION
> John 20:29 is often quoted as if Jesus praised blind faith. The context rules that reading out. John immediately says his Gospel was written to produce faith (20:30–31). Those who "have not seen" believe on the basis of the apostles' recorded testimony, not on the basis of nothing (compare 1 John 1:1–3).

▶ L01-S08
We Cannot Reject Rationality

E. We as Christians cannot reject rationality in our faith.

1. **Irrationality does not produce the faith that God requires of us.**

2. How can we expect others to be converted to Christ if all we believe and communicate is:

- Our personal feelings
- Traditions passed down
- Other people's word on things

II. Are You Required to Be an Apologist?

▶ **L01-S09**
Read 1 Peter 3:15

Read 1 Peter 3:15. Have someone read it aloud. Underline two words on the slide: *answer* (*apologia*) and *reason* (*logos*). Peter writes this to every Christian, not to preachers only.

▶ **L01-S10**
Word Study: apologia

A. What does it mean to be an apologist?

1. ***Apologia*** (from *apo*, "from," and *logos*, "word, reasoning"): properly, a well-reasoned reply, a thought-out response that adequately addresses the issue raised.
2. *Apologia* ("reasoned defense") was the term for making a legal defense in an ancient court (Paul uses it of his own defense in Acts 22:1 and 25:16). Today "apologetics" refers to supplying evidence for the Christian faith.

▶ **L01-S11**
Know the Answer First

B. To provide an answer, you must first know the answer.

1. You need facts and reasoning together. You need to know the facts, and you need to know how to use them.
2. Faith cometh by … HEARING (Rom. 10:17).
3. **Hearing is how we come to know. Handling correctly what we hear is what apologetics is all about.**

III. Putting It Together

▶ **L01-S12**
Board Work

BOARD WORK · REASONING IS REQUIRED

P1 Every Christian is required to have faith (Heb. 11:6).

↳ **CLICK 1**
reveal P2

P2 Biblical faith requires hearing and properly reasoning through the evidence God has given (Rom. 10:17; 1 Thess. 5:21).

↳ **CLICK 2**
reveal ∴

∴ Every Christian is required to hear and properly reason through the evidence.

▪ **DISCUSS**
about 3 min

This is our first argument of the course. **Ask the class whether the conclusion follows.** If they accept both premises, can they deny the conclusion? That question is the whole course in miniature.

▶ L01-S13
Anchor Question

If someone asked you tonight why you believe the Bible is God's Word, what would you actually say? Would it be evidence, or just feeling?

Let several people answer honestly before you comment. Listen for answers that are feelings, traditions or other people's word (slide L01-S08), and name them kindly. The rest of the course gives them better answers.

■ DISCUSS
about 8 min

Handout, page 2: students write their answer in the Discuss box.

▶ L01-S14
Summary

Restate the big idea: biblical faith is not a leap in the dark; it is conviction built on evidence. Walk the three points: **Faith Rests on Evidence · Every Christian Answers · Reasoning Is Required.** Before next week, ask them to read Romans 4:1–12.

BEFORE CLASS · FOR THE TEACHER

1. If a student asked me tonight why I believe the Bible is God's Word, what evidence would I give first?
2. Where do I lean on feeling or tradition when I should lean on evidence?
3. How will I keep the Thomas discussion from sounding like a put-down of faith?

Logic & the Bible · Lesson 1 · Teacher's Notes · Slide IDs match the Lesson 1 deck and the student handout.