

# wrecking crew apologetics

a uniquely middle school approach demolishing  
arguments against Christianity



Dear Teacher or Administrator,

It is an exciting time to be an educator at a Christian school. Teachers have the unique opportunity to help students develop critical minds to defend the Christian faith. The overall goal of ***Wrecking Crew Apologetics*** curriculum is to provide Christian school educators with tools to teach apologetics in an interesting and engaging way. We help students learn how to demolish the arguments against Christianity and to have fun doing it. As a result, students increase their confidence in and understanding of the tenets of the Christian faith, as well as their ability to answer some of the basic arguments against Christianity.

These are the main questions addressed in this curriculum:

- 1) What are the problems with the theory of evolution and what is the best case for design in the universe?
- 2) Is the Bible a reliable text and unique among all religious texts?
- 3) What does it mean to be a Christian (utilizes Apostles' Creed)?
- 4) Is Jesus Christ the Messiah spoken about in the Old Testament?
- 5) What is the best evidence for the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ?
- 6) How can cults be identified and do Mormons and Christians share the same beliefs?

The ***Wrecking Crew Apologetics*** curriculum utilizes a variety of teaching methods to investigate and understand these questions, including readings, lectures, note taking, Bible inquiry, group discussions, role playing, debates, and mock trials. This curriculum will excite students about their faith as they discover more about the historical evidence that supports it.

God has called us to love Him with all of our heart, MIND, and soul. This engaging curriculum is a next step toward fulfilling that command. I hope you enjoy the journey.

In His service,  
John A. Hellriegel, Jr.  
Wrecking Crew Apologetics

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## Introduction to Middle School Apologetics

### Section 1 What are the major problems with Evolution?

#### **Activity 1.1 Lecture Notes-The Problems with Evolution and the case for design**

In this lecture, students will use the acronym FALSE to learn about the problems with the theory of Darwinian evolution and the evidence for the existence of God.(Fossil evidence, Anthropic principle, Life from non-life, Scientific problems, Extremely complex life forms) This is a 2-3 day lecture, depending on the audience.

#### **Activity 1.2 Answering the Objections-Evolution**

In this activity, students work in pairs to learn the evidence that contradicts common statements made by Evolutionists. (Approx. 2 days)

#### **Activity 1.4 Apologetics in motion**

In this activity, students work in groups to create hand and body movements that represent the content learned in the lecture.

#### **Activity 1.5 Critical Thinking Questions**

In this critical thinking activity, students work in pairs to develop questions and answers for statements made by Evolutionists. (Approx. 1-2 days)

#### **Activity 1.6 Cumulative Project-Magazine**

In this activity, students create an apologetic magazine cover that addresses the major topics of the unit. (Approx. 2-3 days)

#### **Activity 1.7 Alternate Assessment-Quiz**

Teachers may use this quiz, or use it to develop their own, to assess student knowledge regarding the major problems with evolution. (Approx. 1 day)

#### **Activity 1.8 Dealing with the heart**

In this Bible devotional lesson, students are directed to reflect on the key elements of what they have learned in the lectures and activities and how that relates to their relationship with God.

#### **Optional Activity: Internet Day**

In this activity, students work in pairs or together as a class to develop and research critical thinking questions related to the topic of Evolution. (Approx. 1 day)

#### **Optional Activity: Guest Speaker or Field Trip**

This is a day dedicated to inviting guest speaker(s) into your class or setting up a related field trip. See page \_\_\_\_\_ for a list of potential speakers and field trips for this topic.(Approx. 1 day).

## **Section 2 Is the Bible inspired by God and a reliable historical text?**

### **Activity 2.1 Lecture Notes-Bible Reliability**

In this lecture, students use the acronym SWORD to learn about the reliability and inspiration of the Bible. (Approx. 2-3 days)

### **Activity 2.2 Apologetics in motion**

In this activity, students work in groups to create hand and body movements that represent the content learned in the lecture.

### **Activity 2.3 Cumulative Project-The Bible on Trial**

In this activity, students analyze the strengths and weaknesses of the arguments testing the reliability of the Bible. They demonstrate their knowledge by defending the Bible in a mock trial. (Approx. 2 days)

### **Activity 2.4 Critical Thinking Questions**

In this critical thinking activity, students work in pairs to develop questions and answers for statements made by those that question the reliability and inspiration of the Bible. (Approx. 1-2 days)

### **Activity 2.5 Alternate Assessment-Quiz**

Teachers may use this quiz, or use it to develop their own, to assess student knowledge regarding Bible reliability and inspiration. (Approx. 1 day)

### **Activity 2.6 Dealing with the heart**

In this Bible devotional lesson, students are directed to reflect on the key elements of what they have learned in the lectures and activities and how that relates to their relationship with God. (Approx. 1 day)

### **Optional Activity-Internet Day**

In this activity, students work in pairs or together as a class to develop and research critical thinking questions related to the topic of the Bible. See page \_\_\_\_\_ for details on how to conduct an Internet Day lesson. (Approx. 1 day)

### **Optional Activity-Guest Speaker or Field Trip**

This is a day dedicated to inviting a Wycliffe Bible translator into your class. See page \_\_\_\_\_ for a list of other potential speakers and field trips for this topic. (Approx. 1 day)

## **Section 3 What does it mean to be a Christian?**

### **Activity 3.1 Lecture Notes-Apostles' Creed**

In this lecture, students learn the basics of Christian theology by studying the Apostles' Creed. (Approx. 3-4 days)

### **Activity 3.2 Apologetics in motion**

In this activity, students work in groups to create hand and body movements that represent the content of the Apostle's Creed.

### **Activity 3.3-Critical Thinking Questions**

In this critical thinking activity, students work in pairs to develop questions and answers for statements made by those those that have questions about what it means to be Christian. (Approx. 1-2 days)

### **Activity 3.4 Cumulative Project-Hot Seat, Letter to a Skeptic**

In this activity, students synthesize the information from the unit by sitting on the proverbial "hot seat," orally answering a series of questions from a "skeptical" teacher. As an alternative to the hot seat activity, teachers may ask students to synthesize the information in the unit by writing a persuasive letter to a skeptical friend regarding the basic beliefs of Christianity. (Approx. 3-4 days)

### **Activity 3.5 Dealing with the heart**

In this Bible devotional lesson, students are directed to reflect on the key elements of what they have learned in the lectures and activities and how that relates to their relationship with God.

### **Optional Activity-Internet Day**

In this activity, students work in pairs or together as a class to develop and research critical thinking questions related to the topic of Christian theology. See page \_\_\_\_\_ for details on how to conduct an Internet Day lesson. (Approx. 1 day)

### **Optional Activity-Guest Speaker or Field Trip**

This is a day dedicated to inviting a local missionary into your class. See page \_\_\_\_\_ for a list of other potential speakers and field trips for this topic. (Approx. 1 day)

## **Section 4 Was Jesus the Messiah described in the Old Testament?**

### **Activity 4.1 Fingerprint Tests-Jesus Fulfills the Prophecies**

In this activity, students learn to match the prophecies written in the Old Testament with Jesus's fulfillment of those prophecies in the New Testament. (Approx. 1-2 days)

### **Activity 4.2 Answering the Objections-Old Testament Prophecy**

In this activity, students work in pairs to learn the evidence that refutes the common objections to Jesus's fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies. (Approx. 1-2 days)

### **Activity 4.3 Critical Thinking Questions**

In this critical thinking activity, students work in pairs to develop questions and answers for statements made by those that question Jesus's fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies. (Approx. 1-2 day)

**Activity 4.4 Cumulative Project-Illuminated Poem, Test**

In this activity, students create an illustrated acrostic poem that addresses the questions of Jesus's fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies. (Approx. 2-3 days)

**Activity 4.5 Alternate Assessment-Quiz**

Teachers may use this quiz, or use it to develop their own, to assess student knowledge regarding the Messianic prophecies. (Approx. 1 day)

**Activity 4.6 Cumulative Project-Drama: Jewish friend's Bar Mitzvah**

Students create a drama that respectfully and tactfully discusses the true Messiah. (Approx. 2-3 days)

**Optional Activity-Internet Day**

In this activity, students work in pairs or together as a class to develop and research critical thinking questions related to the topic of prophecy in the Bible. See page \_\_\_\_\_ for details on how to conduct an Internet Day lesson. (Approx. 1 day)

**Optional Activity-Guest Speaker or Field Trip**

This is a day dedicated to inviting a Jew or Messianic Jew into your class. See page \_\_\_\_\_ for a list of other speakers potential and field trips for this topic. (Approx. 1 day)

## **Section 5 Did Jesus rise from the dead?**

**Activity 5.1 Lecture Notes-Jesus: Liar, Lunatic, or Lord?**

In this lecture, students learn to refute the common objections to the fact that Jesus Christ is God. (Approx. 2 days)

**Activity 5.2 Cumulative Assessment-Talk Show: Did Jesus Rise from the Dead?**

In this activity, students research the evidence for the resurrection of Jesus and demonstrate their knowledge by creating a lively talk show. (Approx. 2-3 days)

**Activity 5.3 Critical Thinking Questions-The Resurrection**

In this critical thinking activity, students work in pairs to develop questions and answers for statements made by those that question whether Jesus rose from the dead. (Approx. 1-2 days)

**Activity 5.4 Cumulative-Skeptic Letter**

In this activity, students synthesize the information from the unit by writing a persuasive letter to a skeptic friend regarding the resurrection of Jesus. (Approx. 2 days)

**Activity 5.5 Alternate Assessment-Quiz**

Teachers may use this quiz, or use it to develop their own, to assess student knowledge regarding the resurrection of Jesus. (Approx. 1 day)

**Activity 5.6 Dealing with the heart**

In this Bible devotional lesson, students are directed to reflect on the key elements of what they have learned in the lectures and activities and how that relates to their relationship with God.(Approx. 1 day)

**Optional Activity-Guest Speaker or Field Trip**

This is a day dedicated to inviting guest speaker(s) into your class or setting up a related field trip. See page \_\_\_\_\_ for a list of potential speakers and field trips for this topic.(Approx. 1 day)

**Section 6 Do Latter Day Saints (Mormons) and Christians Share the Same Beliefs?****Activity 6.1 Lecture Notes-Christianity vs. Latter Day Saints**

In this lecture, students learn the differences between the Mormon and Christian faiths.(Approx. 1-2 days)

**Activity 6.2 Critical Thinking Questions-Mormonism**

In this critical thinking activity, students work in pairs to develop questions and answers for statements made missionaries of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. (Approx. 1-2 days)

**Activity 6.3 Cumulative Project-Drama: Mormon at the Door**

Students create a drama that respectfully reveals the errors of Mormonism by presenting basic Christian theology.(Approx. 2-3 days)

**Activity 6.4 Dealing with the heart**

In this Bible devotional lesson, students are directed to reflect on the key elements of what they have learned in the lectures and activities and how that relates to their relationship with God. It also reinforces a biblical worldview in one(or several) of the following areas: God, Creation, Mankind, Moral Order, Purpose.

**Optional Activity- Internet Day**

In this activity, students work in pairs or together as a class to develop and research critical thinking questions related to the topic of Mormonism See page \_\_\_\_\_ for details on how to conduct an Internet Day lesson (Approx. 1 day)

**Optional Activity- Guest Speaker**

This is a day dedicated to inviting a Mormon or former Mormon to the classroom. See page \_\_\_\_\_ for a list of potential speakers and field trips for this topic.(Approx. 1 day)

**Credits  
Bibliography**