



## PART 4-Showing Truth and Love

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### Play Part 4

A. "In our culture today demonstrating our love and concern for people is no longer optional or secondary .... It has to be right up there in front." What does this look like in a local parish?

B. Grateful Dead Ted – Read and discuss this question:

"My question for you is - in our churches would we take in Ted - the atheistic or agnostic at best - let him volunteer as our sound man or usher or bell ringer or something - with the hope and the opportunity that he would hear the word and that the Holy Spirit would work faith in his heart?"

Discuss



## PART 5-Escaping the Bubble

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### Play Part 5

A. Escaping the Bubble

Are we really in a "bubble where we are content, comfortable, exclusive, smug and elitist"?

Examples that we are? How do we escape?

B. Sam – Read or review the two paragraphs at the bottom of page 7 and top of page 8.

Discuss – "Afterwards, an elderly lady walked up to my niece and stated, "I just have to tell you your tattoos offend me.... And Jesus wept."

What's here that would move us to tears? How can we change this?



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*"Always be prepared to give an answer (apologia = defense) to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect." (1 Pt 3:15) (NIV84).*

# Christian Apologetics In a Non-Christian World



St. Peter said to always be prepared to give a gentle, respectful answer for our hope. Christian apologetics, the defense of our faith, should be affected, in part, by our audience. By understanding the audience, we will be better positioned to ignite dialogue and not extinguish it.

**Pastor Bruce Becker**

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## Preparation

In addition to this Study Guide print out and distribute “Handout” pages 1-8.

## PART 1-Truth In Love

### Play Part 1

- A. On page 1 of the handout read the two excerpts from “UnChristian” by Kinnaman and Lyons 2007 pages 26, 29-30. How do we engage people who think this way? Who needs to change – the outsiders or the Christians? Why?
- B. Read and answer the three questions at the bottom of page 1 and cite examples that support your answers.
- C. Read John 4:1-26. How did Jesus treat the Samaritan women with “love and respect”? Why did he wait until the end to address her sins and issues rather than hit them up front? What does this say to our approach with outsiders or seekers? What does this say to the traditional approach of “Law before Gospel”? How is this “speaking the truth in love”?
- D. Read and discuss the Yancey quote toward the top of page 2 on the handout.
- E. Facebook Page Quote – “This page (church) is dedicated to presenting nothing but the unadulterated Word of God as expounded in the Lutheran Confessions of 1580 as opposed to the liberal Lutheran ideologies being promoted by false churches bearing the name Lutheran.”

Is this accurate and true? Is this “speaking the truth in love”?

What do you think a person reading this would experience? Love? Something else?

## PART 2-Understanding Our Identity

### Play Part 2

- A. Read and discuss the quote from Keller on the top of page 3 of the handout.
- B. Why is it important to know where you are at on the “spiritual skeptic spectrum”?
- C. Why is it essential to know where the person with whom you are engaged in conversation is at on the spectrum?
- D. What do you have in common with atheists, agnostics and non-Christians?
- E. If we are all broken and have nothing to feel superior about, how does or can that make us more patient?
- F. Why is listening so important? What does listening accomplish? When is the right time to stop listening and present the Gospel?

## PART 3-Engaging Skeptics

### Play Part 3

- A. Mike  
Read and review Mike’s questions and Bruce’s four options in response to the question “Will only people who believe in Jesus be in heaven?” Why did Bruce use the third response? When or with whom would the other responses have been appropriate?
- B. Genuine Humility Trumps Intellectual Superiority  
“I love you man and I respect you” What’s the point? How would you go about “speaking the truth in love” to a member of the LGBT community? What may be difficult about this?