

LESSON OBJECTIVES >>

- » Students will know that logic is a vital tool in the search for truth.
- » Students will know that mature faith involves loving God with the heart, soul, and mind.
- » Write your own:

LEADER PREP VIDEO

For a video explanation of the lesson, go to disciples.awanaym.org/leader/logic

CORE VERSES | Ephesians 4:14-15

Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Him who is the Head, that is, Christ.

CORE CONCEPTS

Mature faith requires clear and logical thinking.

Logic: The process of thinking according to reason

CORE CONTENT >> FROM STUDENT BIBLE STUDY**READ MATTHEW 22:15-45.**

Our worship of God is often a deeply emotional experience. And often that emotional experience deepens our faith and relationship with Christ. In verse 37, Jesus commands us to do more than have an emotional response to Him. Our love shall involve our heart, soul, and mind. Mature faith requires clear and logical thinking. God has created our world to be logical and created humans to think logically. As such, as we grow in Christ, we should also be cultivating our minds to think logically.

Many of Jesus' interactions provide us with great examples of how to think clearly and logically. Did you notice how Jesus used logic in His interactions with the Pharisees and Sadducees in this week's passage?

In verses 15-22, the Pharisees attempt to trap Jesus with His own words. They ask Jesus if they are supposed to pay taxes to Caesar, anticipating that any answer would land Jesus in significant trouble. Answering yes would make Jesus a Roman sympathizer. Answering no would indict Jesus of a rebellious act. The Pharisees think it can only be one or the other, a black or white issue. They see no other options. This is what is known as a false dichotomy. Jesus recognizes their attempt and turns their words back on them by offering a third option satisfying both Roman law and the divine Law. In other words, it is OK to pay government taxes and still live for God completely. Pharisees-0, Jesus-1

Next the Sadducees try their luck to trap Jesus surrounding their disbelief in the resurrection (vv. 23-33). Looking to get Jesus to concede that there is no resurrection of the dead, the

Sadducees ask Jesus about what would happen to a widow in the resurrection if she belonged to seven different brothers. They design an argument to ridicule belief in the resurrection by a *reductio ad absurdum*—creating an argument that, when drawn to its logical conclusion, is ridiculous. In this case, the Sadducees try to show the absurdity of the resurrection. Yet again, Jesus immediately recognizes their logical miscues. He says that they have falsely assumed that the way things are here on earth will be the same as after the resurrection, thus leaving their arguments obsolete. Again, Jesus brilliantly escapes their attempts to trap Him with logic.

The Pharisees continued to press Jesus, hoping in some way to trap Him, trip Him up, or find some kind of flaw in His thinking and teaching. They ask which commandment is the greatest. Not at all an uncommon question among religious teachers of the time, but here the hope is that finally Jesus will answer incorrectly and discredit Himself once and for all. Just as before, given the vastness of the Law, the singling out of one command over another would elevate one and yet minimize another, once again leaving Jesus open to ridicule. Jesus' answer eliminates any chance of nitpicking or arguing. His answer encompasses the most important and essential pieces of the Law—its focus on God and our love for others. Jesus modeled the importance of careful, logical thinking. He clearly loved God with His mind, and He calls us to do the same.

FACILITATION HELP: SHOW AND TELL

This activity is so great that you wonder why you don't get to do it more when you're older. Since it's still the beginning of the year and you're probably still getting to know your students better, have them bring in something that represents who they are. It could be a baseball glove, a playlist they are listening to, or anything that they would want to show that represents them. Take some time in your group going around the circle and having each of your students share for two minutes why they brought in their particular item. If you go over on time, you might want to break up the sharing over the next two weeks.

STUDENT LESSON
VIDE 
Reductio ad ab-what?

ADVOCATES.AWANAYM.ORG/TRUTH

C  **ORE CONCEPTS**

Mature faith requires clear and logical thinking.

Logic: The process of thinking according to reason

ESSENTIALS QUESTION: IS IT NECESSARY FOR FAITH TO MAKE SENSE?

STUDENT DISCUSSION 1:

WHAT WAS THE MOTIVATION OF THE PHARISEES AND SADDUCEES IN TRYING TO TRAP JESUS?

Pharisees and Sadducees were trying to prove Jesus wrong and maintain their lofty lifestyle. If Jesus is who He says He is and His ways are true, both the Pharisees and the Sadducees will have to begin to humble themselves, pay taxes, care for the poor, and conform to the life Jesus calls all of us to. They also had specific ideas of how they thought the kingdom of God would come and Jesus did not fit within their plan.

STUDENT DISCUSSION 2:

TAKE A LOOK AT PAUL IN ACTS 17:1-4, ACTS 19:8-9, AND ACTS 28:23-24. HOW DID HE USE REASONING/LOGIC TO LEAD PEOPLE TO SAVING KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST?

Like Jesus, Paul reasoned from the Scriptures, with which they were already familiar. He also created common ground by using their own culture and context to reason with them. The disciples used the law of Moses and the Prophets to convince them of who Jesus is.

STUDENT DISCUSSION 3:

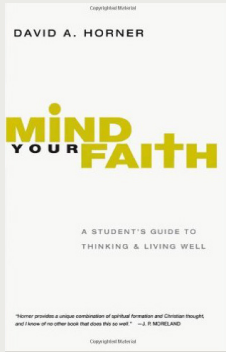
WHAT ARE SOME ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE CHRISTIAN FAITH TODAY? DO YOU THINK THESE ARGUMENTS ARE LOGICAL?

DROP THE MIC >>

CONCLUDE YOUR DISCUSSION WITH:

- » **ACTION PLAN:** *How do you plan to think and act differently?*
- » **FINAL REFLECTION:** *Without logic and understanding, our faith can never mature. Jesus calls us all to the same clear and careful thinking that He demonstrated.*
- » **FINAL QUESTION:** *What about your faith doesn't make sense to you?*

**WANT TO KNOW MORE?
CHECK OUT THIS BOOK!**



Mind Your Faith, by David A. Horner

ADVOCATES.AWANAYM.ORG/LIBRARY

EVALUATION >>

What went well ... what didn't go so well?
Record how the night went and spend some time as a leadership team discussing this on a regular basis. Continual evaluation helps to refine what you do and continues to help make this the best night of your students' week.

» **PREPARATION**

» **INTERACTION**

» **LARGE GROUP**

» **SMALL GROUP**

FOLLOW UP >>

Sometimes it's hard to remember all the prayer requests and things going on in the lives of students. Use this space to record prayer requests, students' contact information, meeting times, and information. Or use it for your students to copy down when their next game or concert will be.

DATE:

NAME | REQUESTS/EVENTS/CONTACT INFO
