

Skeptic's Forum I

discussion leader, Phil Myers, PhD

a weekly open discussion
about issues
7.30 pm

pro & con readings available
on Mondays prior

location & map

Skeptic's Forum II

discussion leader, Phil Myers, PhD

a weekly open discussion
about issues
7.30 pm

pro & con readings available
on Mondays prior

location & map

Skeptic's Forum III

discussion leader, Phil Myers, PhD

a weekly open discussion
about issues
7.30 pm

pro & con readings available
on Mondays prior

location & map

Skeptic's Forum IV

discussion leader, Phil Myers, PhD

a weekly open discussion
about issues
7.30 pm

pro & con readings available
on Mondays prior

location & map

Oct/Nov schedule

- Oct 2 "The trouble with truth"
- Oct 9 "Is God still good if men suffer?"
- Oct 16 "Where did the idea of 'sin' come from?"
- Oct 23 "Which holy books are valid?"
- Oct 30 "Sex"
- Nov 6 "Is there life after death?"
- Nov 13 "Is there proof for the existence of God?"
- Nov 20 "What if some never hear about Jesus?"
- Nov 27 "Problems with the Bible"

Questions? Call [201] 391-6233

Jan/Feb schedule

- Jan 8 "The problem with truth"
- Jan 15 "Can God answer prayer?"
- Jan 22 "What about contradictions in the Bible?"
- Jan 29 "What about hypocrisy in the church?"
- Feb 5 "Are biblical accounts of miracles reliable?"
- Feb 12 "What if Jesus didn't rise from the dead?"
- Feb 19 "Similarities of 5 major world religions"
- Feb 26 "Is it too narrow-minded to say Jesus is the only way to God?"

Questions? Call [201] 391-6233

April/May schedule

- Apr 1 "The problem with truth"
- Apr 8 "Is religion a psychological crutch?"
- Apr 15 "What is faith?"
- Apr 22 "Is reincarnation intellectually honest?"
- Apr 29 "What proof is there of heaven and hell?"
- May 6 "Is evolution intellectually honest?"
- May 13 "Is theistic evolution viable?"
- May 20 "What is authority?"
- May 27 "Is 'wrong' always Wrong?"

Questions? Call [201] 391-6233

- Jun 3 "The problem of pain in the world"
- Jun 10 "Why is God silent (sometimes)?"
- Jun 17 "Would Jesus wear a Rolex?"
- Jun 24 "If God forgives me, why can't I forgive myself?"

- Jul 1 "Scared to death: how to handle fear"
 - Jul 8 "The Homeless...does God care, should I?"
 - Jul 15 "Business ethics...paying the price"
 - Jul 22 "Bluer than blue...sadder than sad"
 - Jul 29 Ask any question – "What does the Bible say about...?"
- Questions? Call [201] 391-6233

EDDIE'S PROPOSITION HAUNTS ME EVERY DAY

"We have to figure out what the next generation of youth outreach will look like."

Although I didn't come to faith or grow up in an evangelistic youth ministry, I am keenly aware of the power of positive peer pressure. I consider the "magic" of effective youth ministry is SIXfold cord:

- TRUTH, made plain on a high school level
- Challenging a kid to use his SPIRITUAL GIFTS by giving kids every job we can possibly think of
- The discovery that God can USE me [This was the kicker for me]. THIS is the ultimate answer to the age-old question, "Why am I here?"
- The ASSURANCE of salvation
- Scripture MEMORIZATION
- Pushing a kid to make a point-in-time decision to DEDICATE his life - forsaking sin, putting his eyes on Jesus, and getting involved in the lives of others [duh, "Ranch"] who are doing the same [i.e. the Church]

FORM follows FUNCTION

First we figure out what needs to be accomplished - then we explore the means to reach our goal.

*The format of the Florida Bible College was exceptionally effective in employing all six of these aspects.
What is the M.O. for the future?*

For a number of years I've toyed with the idea of reaching out to those who are wrestling with heavy thoughts. Although I haven't yet figured out how this plays out to employ all the strands in a six-fold mandate [and I don't think I have what it takes to pull it off], it may be worth the time to search for the people who can put this idea together.

The Skeptic's Forum

[just one idea]

This is how I envision such a ministry.

1. Target group—thinking kids
2. Format—weekly think tank / discussion group [two months on, one month off]
3. Topics announced well in advance. Invitation cards passed out freely [see accompanying schedule]
4. "Pro" & "Con" readings available a week ahead of time. These would give those interested time to mull over the topic for a week before coming to the meetings. Perhaps this would include: websites, books, Bible verses, DVD'S, You Tube, Zoom, syllogisms, quotes, probing questions which will be addressed, etc. Prepared notes for next weeks topic are passed out at the end of the meeting. People are expected to come prepared, having at least read the "Pro/Con" sheet.
5. Format: short intro / the evening's topic stated in one sentence or question / the "rules of participation" briefly explained for new comers / occasional recaps—by leader and by participants [especially new participants] / salvation is presented in a way connected to topic at hand / audacious prayer to close
6. The leader must be willing to keep the group on topic "If there is enough interest, let's schedule that for next series."
7. Extraneous: paper and pencils distributed, whiteboard for recording only crucial and pertinent comments
8. Maybe the rules include that no one can participate unless he/she has already done the reading [they could read the prepared notes if they arrive early enough]
9. During the month "off" there will be a lot of one-on-one, perhaps group outings, projects, fun, special training classes, public testimonies,
10. Purpose of the weekly meetings are basically evangelistic
11. Maybe text messages from participants who could not attend could be read
12. Highly connected: blogs, tweets, website, Facebook, etc. Between meetings and, perhaps, during the meeting
13. Use projector connected to internet [
14. Meeting room should be wi-fi

See next page for a sample of a business-sized card [printed front and back] which could be handed out freely announcing the topics for 2 months.

Scattered thoughts

Concise answers we can give to unbelieving friends who aren't looking for a treatise, just a brief understandable answer.

Reasons why good men suffer?

What are other holy books like? [not theologically]

Sex

Is there proof for the existence of God?

What if some never hear about Jesus?

What about contradictions in the Bible?

Are biblical accounts of miracles reliable?

Similarities of 5 major world religions

I heard all men re exercising faith - just placing it in the wrong thing

What proof is there of heaven and hell?

What parts of evolution are intellectually honest?

Is theistic evolution viable?

Is 'wrong' always Wrong?

Why is God silent (sometimes)?

Would Jesus wear a Rolex?

If God forgives me, why can't I forgive myself?

Scared to death: how to handle fear

The Homeless...does God care? Should I? How?

Practical ethical business choices?

Let the class ask any question – "What does the Bible say about...? *Give one minute answers with Scripture.*

Though the topics I've cited are kind of heavy, it can certainly be interspersed with exuberantly lively topics:

How to reach the world with the Gospel

The six best experiences of the Christian life

The best things about memorizing Scripture

How to encourage a friend

The Christian and leisure

Protestant work ethic gone wrong [and gone right]

The best things in various world religions

The Christian and war

If I were a millionaire

If I were a political refugee

The best short-term missions trip I ever took

Worthy non-religious "causes"

Books I've never studied in a Sunday School class [not ever in 60+ years]:

Habakkuk, Leviticus, Numbers, Song of Solomon, Hebrews, Jesus' names in Revelation.