* Jeff opens with asking people to expound on their answers to the quiz’s first question – Who is God? *(writes answers on white board).* Mentions Nicene Creed and its content.
* Plays Bible Project video on God.
* Jeff mentions new effort to keep up with prayer requests and pray for one another each week. Finally, we break into groups for discussion.

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***Connection Group Time:***

So, today is the first week of our apologetics series, and it makes sense to start with what we believe about God.

**1. Was the video helpful? Did it reveal or make you think about something new? If so, what?**

When there is an opportunity to learn more about God and grow in our faith, we would all see that as a positive or even exciting thing. But when it comes to apologetics, an exercise which undeniably stretches our faith, goes outside out initial comfort zone, and makes us think more about what we believe and why we believe it…many of us shy away from it.

We see that the discussion and defense of our faith was crucial in the New Testament and beginning of the Church. Peter emphasized it in his first epistle, which was addressed to several faithful believers scattered in exile around the ancient world.

“Who then will harm you if you are devoted to what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness, you are blessed. Do not fear them or be intimidated**,**but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, ready at any time to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.Yet do this with gentleness and reverence, keeping a clear conscience, so that when you are accused, those who disparage your good conduct in Christ will be put to shame.For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God’s will, than for doing evil.”

1 Peter 3:13-17

**2. Does the idea of defending your faith to others frighten you? If so, why? If not, how confident are you to explain your faith to those who criticize it or just don’t know much about it?**

There are times when it’s not necessarily engaging with others that gives us pause, but perhaps feeling that we don’t know enough about what we believe to engage with anyone.

**3.** **What are some of the more difficult or complex parts about God that you’re confused by or simply don’t know much about?**

**4. What are some things you hoping to get out of this series? It could be specific information, being more assured in your faith, learning how to discuss faith, or something else.**

Each week, your challenge will be to go home and write down in your journal (The Near Journal Jeff gave you or any other journal) about what you remember and took away from that morning’s lesson. This will be important for later on in the series, and be helpful overall for you moving forward.

**So – this week’s challenge is to write down your answer to “Who is God,” along with anything else you learned or talked about today in large group or small group.**

Pray to close.