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Every Day.



Good News Review



“but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,”
1 Peter 3:15

Defense for the Hope that is in You

On September 10, 2025, Charlie Kirk—founder of the conservative organization Turning Point USA—was fatally shot at a college event in Utah.

(https://apnews.com/article/charlie-kirk-conservative-activist-shot-546165a8151104e0938a5e085be1e8bd?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

The incident has been widely covered in the media, leading to debates about political violence, free speech, and polarization. Regardless of one's views about his activism or political stances, his tragic death underscores a sobering reality: in a time of deep ideological tension, believers—of all ages—may be called to speak about their convictions under pressure.

In 1 Peter 3:15, the apostle Peter exhorts believers:

“but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,”

This call is not reserved for theologians—it applies to all Christians, even children. That reality makes Peter's exhortation all the more urgent. While we do not teach children to provoke conflict or political division, we do teach them to be ready: ready to answer questions, to stand for Christ with gentleness, and to point others to the hope within them—even in difficult climates.

Why Teach Children to “Defend” Their Faith?

1. **It nurtures internal conviction, not just external behavior.** The command is to sanctify Christ in the heart first. A child who sees Jesus as Lord internally is better equipped to express why their faith matters.
2. **It helps link belief with everyday life.** When children learn to articulate **why** they believe—rather than merely *that* they believe—they begin to own their faith. This makes faith less fragile in the face of questions, doubts, or peer pressure.
3. **It encourages respectful witness.** Peter does not call for harsh controversy, but for a gentle, respectful defense. Children taught to listen, respond kindly, and honor others' dignity reflect Christ more than those who merely “win arguments.”
4. **It readies them for adversity.** Implicit in Peter's context is the possibility of suffering or ridicule for faith. If children are practiced in giving “a reason for the hope that is in them,” they are less likely to crumble when challenged.

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Practical Steps for Parents & Teachers

- **Model answering questions** aloud in everyday settings (school, family conversations, media).
- **Equip them with simple explanations** for core truths: Scripture's trustworthiness, evidence of God in creation, reasons for the gospel, etc.
- **Practice with role-play**—let children ask questions, and have the “defender” respond gently.
- **Encourage humility**: it's okay to say “I don't know, but I can look it up.”
- **Reinforce integrity**: their life should align with what they believe. If their actions contradict their words, their defense loses credibility.

As parents and teachers, one of our greatest privileges is to help children grow in their faith in Christ. But beyond knowing Bible stories, kids also need to learn how to **give an answer**—to defend their faith when others question it.

Why It Matters for Kids

Children today face many voices—friends, teachers, media, culture—that may challenge what they believe. Teaching them to “make a defense” doesn't mean arguing; it means being able to share *why* they trust Jesus, with gentleness and respect.

For example, a child might be asked:

- “*Why do you believe in God?*”
- “*Why do you pray?*”
- “*How do you know Jesus loves you?*”

If a child has practiced answering these questions simply and honestly, their faith grows stronger—and they can point others to Christ.

How to Equip Kids

1. **Start with the heart** – Help children see Jesus as Lord in their own hearts. Faith becomes stronger when it is personal, not just borrowed.
2. **Practice everyday answers** – Use simple situations (mealtime, nature walks, bedtime talks) to model how to answer questions about faith.
3. **Keep it simple** – Encourage kids to explain what they believe in their own words: “*Jesus forgave me*” or “*God made the world.*”
4. **Teach respect** – Defending faith is not about “winning arguments.” It's about showing kindness while sharing truth.

Illustration for Parents/Teachers

Imagine a child who plants a small tree in rocky soil. Without roots, it dries up quickly. But with good soil, water, and care, the roots go deep and strong. Teaching kids to explain *why* they believe is like deepening their spiritual roots—so their faith will stand firm when winds of doubt or pressure come.

Discussion Questions for Families or Classrooms

- What do you think it means to “be ready to give an answer” about your faith?
- How would you explain to a friend why you believe in Jesus?
- What's one thing God has done for you that shows He is real?
- How can we share our faith with kindness, not arguments?

Final Encouragement

Parents and teachers, remember: defending the faith begins at home and in the classroom. If children can practice sharing *why they believe* in safe, supportive settings, they will be better prepared to share their hope in Christ when life gets challenging.

“For to such belongs the kingdom of heaven”, John

What is Happening

Happy Birthday to Jennifer Goodman

Jennifer has been a faithful servant to the Lord for many years in our community. She and her mother, Joyce, lead the Good News Clubs at all three Elementary Schools here in The Dalles, plus the Junior Youth Challenge of The Dalles Middle School. Take a moment and pray for Jennifer.

Upcoming Projects

- We will soon need a new (refurbished) Ricoh Office Copier/Printer. It is the work horse of the office equipment. We have been advised that a refurbished one will be about \$10,000.
- A large expense in our annual budget is copier paper. You can be a blessing by donating or supplying Reams of 8.5 x 11 in 20lb. 92 brightness.
- We are in need of a new laptop computer for the office. Any donations to the computer replacement would be appreciated. We are estimating our replacement cost to be about \$1000-\$1200.

Upcoming Events

- TCE Level 1 Training has been rescheduled to early 2026, TBD
- CYIA Fall Retreat, November 7-9
- Staff Renewal Conference, November 14-16
- The Dalles Starlight Parade on November 29—Keep an eye out for the CEF float.

How can I help out at Mid-Columbia CEF?

If you are willing and own a van, CEF will need a driver and van (or 2) next summer 2026 to shuttle 5 day club teens to club locations. We are expecting to add more clubs and more teens next summer. Call us if you want to be a driver and have a van that seats at least 6 passengers.

We always need volunteers to help us fold, tape, and address our monthly newsletter. We usually send out about 370 newsletters monthly. Give us a call on the second or third week to schedule with us.

Please be in prayer (and possibly you) for helpers needed in: all The Dalles GNC/JYC (3), Maupin GNC (2), Wishram GNC (2), and for new clubs that are starting in the Fall.

Check us out on Facebook & Instagram @cefmidcolumbia

Thank you for your financial and prayerful support in this ministry... God Bless You.



CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP®
MID-COLUMBIA CHAPTER
820 E. 3rd Street
The Dalles, Oregon 97058

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U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
THE DALLES, OR
PERMIT NO. 25

John Pinheiro, Director

john_p@cefmidcolumbia.org

541-993-9548 cell

Office Location:

820 E Third Street

The Dalles, Oregon 97058

541-296-9544 office

Web Page:

www.cefmidcolumbia.org

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