



EQUP PT. I — FOUNDATIONS

Garden Church

Fall 2020

Instructors:

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Upcoming Class Dates: 8/8, 8/22, 9/5, 9/19, 10/3, 10/17, 10/31, 11/14

**Check the "Course Format for further information*

Course Description

Through this class, you will develop skills in the area of foundational apologetics to provide Biblical answers to difficult questions in everyday conversations. We will progress through God's existence and His revelation in history, specifically through Christ, and provide concise answers to purpose and meaning in the post-modern problem. The course will strengthen your

conversational skills on difficult topics, and provide ample opportunities to grow in your confidence.

Course Goals and Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Have a foundational understanding of apologetics and key areas of conversation.
2. Confidently articulate their faith in different contexts.
3. Relate philosophical and historical concepts to the Biblical witness.
4. Apply the topics in everyday conversation
5. Develop a Gospel-centered worldview.

Course Format & Requirements

This class will meet every other Saturday for 1.5 hrs, 11:00am-12:30pm. The class will conduct in person meetings at the Bishops House in downtown Portland. However, this is subject to change depending on availability, restrictions, or accessibility. If the class cannot meet in person, then it will move to an online platform, preferably Zoom.

1. **Curriculum** - There will be an outline for each student to use for every class. Our team has worked and will continue to work diligently to provide helpful information. This curriculum will be useful notes for you to walk away with and use.
2. **Attendance and Participation** — It is expected that you attend every class in the program. "Attendance is defined as staying for at least 75% of a class period. Remember, these classes are for you, and you get out what you put into it. Due to the time restrictions of the class, a lot of information will be covered, and it is in your best interest to be there. Additionally, it is expected that you participate in the class by sharing your thoughts during discussion periods. Sharing your thoughts aloud better prepare you for conversations in the future.
3. **Cohort** — After each presentation, you will gather in groups of 3-4 people to discuss the topics for 30 minutes. This 30 minutes is included in the 1.5 hrs. This is meant to be a practical time where you use the foundational ideas in everyday conversation. You will be provided helpful questions to work through for your meeting time.
4. **Gospel Conversation** (*Optional due to the virus*) — The class will determine together one date to do gospel conversations in downtown Portland. This project is meant to use the tools, information, and confidence you are gaining in the class. We will work with the Gospel Survey designed for the Portland Jesus Project (More info will be provided in class). Remember, the goal of the class is to grow more comfortable in everyday conversations, and the best way to do this is with practice.

5. **Reading & Assignments** — All reading and assignments are optional, but they are highly recommended. There will be articles and questions to work through before each presentation. They will be useful in preparing your mind for the information that will be presented. Additionally, the instructors are available to work through the information outside of the class as well.

6. **Course Evaluation** — At the beginning of the term, you will fill out a form to share your expectations for the course. When the term is over, you will be asked to fill out an evaluation form to measure met objectives and growth of the student.

Course Calendar

DATE	COURSE TOPIC	INFO & PREP
8/8	Understanding the Story Clearly defining the gospel and the central message of our defense.	TBD
8/22	The Post-modern Problem: Syncretism What is the current worldview of the people we are talking to, and how does the Gospel message standout.	TBD
9/5	Tactics: Effective Conversations Exploring useful tools in everyday conversations and evangelism that speaks to the heart and mind of your listener	TBD
9/19	Revelation: How Can We Know God? Making an appeal to creation and the Scriptures in our defense of the Gospel.	TBD
10/3	Jesus: His Work and Word What makes Jesus different than every other religious figure in history, and why can we have confidence that he did what he said?	TBD
10/17	Creation: The Existence of God Explore plausible arguments for the existence of God.	TBD

DATE	COURSE TOPIC	INFO & PREP
10/31	Pluralism and the Exclusivity of Jesus Why there can't be multiple ways to God, and how Jesus never left us that option.	TBD
11/14	Purpose & Meaning: The Most Credible Worldview Explore the basic necessities of any person, and understand how the good news of Jesus meets all of those demands.	TBD