**Confronting Christianity**

**Week #1**

**Small Group Notes**

**Introduction:**

Ice breaker: Tell us what it’s like when you are getting ready for a long trip or vacation. How early do you pack? Do you tend to forget things or overpack? How prepared or not prepared are you?

**Discuss:**

1. 1 Peter 3:13-17

Ask: 2-3 Discussion questions related to the content.

* **If someone asked, are you prepared to explain what you believe and why?**
* **When was the last time you gave a “defense” for your hope in Christ?**
* **Which of the commands listed in these verses seem especially important in today’s culture?**
* **According to verse 16, how are we to make our defense?**
* **Do you speak with “gentleness and respect” to those who oppose you? Explain.**

2. John 10:10-11

Ask: 2-3 Discussion questions related to the content.

* **What is the most common criticism against Christianity that you have personally encountered?**
* **(Consider the criticism, “*The world is better off without religion.*”) Have you heard this before? How did you respond?**
* **After reading John 10:10, how would you respond to critics who say that Christianity has harmed the world?**
* **Do you personally struggle with any of the criticisms that claim Christianity is bad for the world? In what way?**
* **In what ways have Christians most misrepresented Christ?**
* **If Church was removed today what would be missing?**
* **What are some ways that Christianity has helped the world?**
* **What are some ways that Christ has helped you personally?**
* **Look at the rest of John Ch10. What image(s) does God give to convey how he cares for his people?**
* **What do you think Jesus means by “life in the full”?**
* **Who do you know that is better off from Christianity?**
* **How are you better off from Christianity?**

Close: **How can we be praying for one another?**