



SUMMIT
— C H U R C H —
DIRECTION FOR THE JOURNEY



SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

March 1, 2026 | Stand to Reason (Tim Barnett)



GROWING CLOSER TOGETHER _____

1. What is an idea or opinion that you've had to defend? What are the typical results?
2. When conversations about faith get challenging, do you tend to engage, change the subject, or stay quiet? Why?



MESSAGE REFLECTION _____

1. Share something from the service or message that stood out, challenged or encouraged you.
2. Tim compared apologetics to a courtroom defense. What did that illustration help you understand about apologetics?
3. **READ 1 Peter 3:15** together. What does this teach you about how we prepare and how we respond?
4. **READ Acts 22:1; Acts 25:16; Philippians 1:7** together. What stands out about Paul's approach to defending the faith?
5. How do cultural beliefs like relativism, pluralism, or naturalism make apologetics necessary today?
6. **READ Judges 2:10** together. What happens when the church fails to strengthen the next generation?
7. Do you agree that spreading the gospel includes defending it? Why or why not?



GOING DEEPER

READ Acts 17:2-4, 16-34 together

1. What is something that jumps out at you from these verses?
2. How does Paul engage differently in each city?
3. What does this passage show about the importance of thinking and reasoning when sharing the gospel?
4. Verse 16 says Paul was “greatly distressed” by what he saw in Athens. What does this reveal about his approach to engaging the culture?
5. How does Paul find common ground before challenging their beliefs?
6. What is one parallel you see between Athens’ culture and ours today?
7. Why is it important that Paul moves from discussion to calling for a decision? Why is that step so difficult for us?
8. What does the response of the people teach us about the relationship between faithfulness and results?



YOUR NEXT STEP

1. What is one question or objection about God, Christianity, or the Bible that you feel least prepared to answer? How can you take a step this week to begin finding an answer?
2. Who is one person in your life who may need a gracious, thoughtful conversation before you call them to a decision? What is one intentional step you can take toward them this week?



PRAYING TOGETHER

Take time to share burdens and pray for one another.