

Defend It

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland encouraged the youth to: "Defend your beliefs with courtesy and with compassion but defend them."

Elder Robert D. Hales observed: "One of mortality's great tests comes when our beliefs are questioned or criticized. In such moments, we may want to respond aggressively—to 'put up our dukes.' But when we respond to our accusers as the Savior did, we not only become more Christlike, we invite others to feel His love and follow Him as well. As true disciples, our primary concern must be others' welfare, not personal vindication. Questions and criticisms give us an opportunity to reach out to others and demonstrate that they matter to our Heavenly Father and to us. Our aim should be to help them understand the truth, not defend our egos or score points in a theological debate. Our heartfelt testimonies are the most powerful answer we can give our accusers. And such testimonies can only be borne in love and meekness."

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Study this week's chapters/sections identifying principles, doctrines, cross references, conference quotes, etc. that are relevant to you right now.
2. After you study, practice defending your beliefs with Christ-like courtesy and compassion by using what you learned in these chapters/sections to respond to at least one the criticisms below. If you need ideas on how to do this effectively, Elder Robert D. Hales gave an awesome talk [here](#) that will help you with this activity.

Question examples:

- The Book of Mormon can't be true because the Bible says in Revelation 22:18-19:
 - 18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book.
 - 19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.
- "I know you say your Church is Christian, but by my definition you are not a Christian, no matter what you say you believe."
- You say your Church believes in a loving and kind God, but it persists in teaching hateful doctrines against the LGBTQ community. A loving God would never let this happen in His "true church."