

Knowing why we believe – enables confidence and competence

Our churches still lose about two-thirds of our young adults. A primary cause has been identified as a lack of known reasons for believing this faith to be true.

For example, a study called 'Fall out' by Creation Magazine found a direct connection between young adults at university who stayed in their faith and those who had been taught rational reasons for believing our planet and life to have been created. In fact, every single young person who said their church or family had explained rational reasons for believing in a Creator-God was still in their faith. This finding is significant! Concurrently, many others were found in the study who had left their earlier faith.

>> How hard would it be to address this known factor behind the loss of young adults?

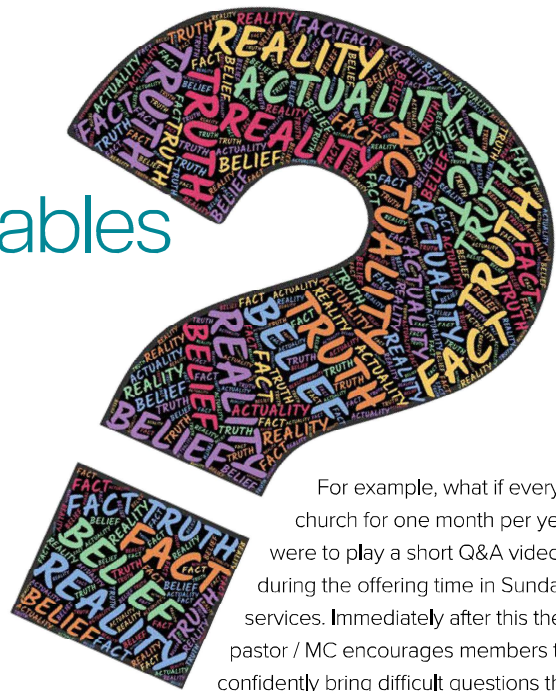
Knowing why we believe what we believe is important for other reasons too. A person will lack conviction and strength in their faith if they aren't convinced it is true. They will also lack confidence and competence for Christian witness. I mean, why stand up for something you're not fundamentally convinced about – or can't explain?

This lack of knowledge therefore feeds into an unhealthy culture of public silence from Christians about their faith. Our neglect in this area of learning while living in a sceptical culture has been costly.

Building a new culture

A culture of confidence in the faith can be established – but this won't come about through one-off teachings, or even a focused year of talking about the topic. People forget most of what they hear! **To turn this tide, talking about reasons for believing our faith needs to become a habit.***

**HABITS
BUILD
CULTURE**



For example, what if every church for one month per year, were to play a short Q&A video* during the offering time in Sunday services. Immediately after this the pastor / MC encourages members to confidently bring difficult questions they

have about life and faith to others, to seek answers. This annual habit would feed into a culture of investigation and confidence.

A leadership choice

Videos, booklets and discussion resources exist for churches* that can help. In the links below other straight-forward habits are suggested. What if we chose to address this known area of weakness across our churches?

* Resources:

- **Four leadership habits to build a culture of confidence in the rationality of our faith:** See AllTogether.co.nz/rationalfaith.
- **A new resource – 'Why Christians believe Christianity to be true':** This 7-part NZ-made video / booklet / discussion series is free online — including pdfs of the booklets (with print options available). It is suitable to use with youth groups, young adults groups and church small groups. See WhyChristiansBelieve.nz
- **A ministry of note – Thinking Matters:** Thinking Matters run half a dozen conferences annually, giving access to quality apologetics speakers and more. Details at ThinkingMatters.org.nz
- **Faith Q&A Videos:** Find 27 NZ-made videos at 10DayChallenge.co.nz/faithqa. Find 13 NZ-made videos via the Thinking Matters YouTube channel.

