



Info on Room For Doubt and Room For Doubt Seminars

Dr. Rich Knopp, Project Coordinator and Seminar Presenter
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Room For Doubt provides learning experiences and resources to strengthen the faith of committed Christians, address the questions of those who have doubts about their Christian heritage, and represent the Christian message to those who are skeptical about its claims. The program encourages questions and makes room for doubt; yet it offers reason for Christian hope.

The Project began in August 2013. Its initial three-year phase is funded by a \$675,000 grant from the Loftis Foundation and is administered through Lincoln Christian University.

KEY ACTIVITIES OF ROOM FOR DOUBT:

1. Partner with an initial core group of churches to develop a six-week message series and aligned curriculum that addresses basic questions about the Christian faith. The pilot phase will be implemented in 2015 and will be broadly available in 2016. [Mark Mittelberg](#) and [Garry Poole](#) (in consultation with [Lee Strobel](#)) are producing these materials for Room for Doubt. These individuals are long-time close associates who are notable authors, speakers, and curriculum developers in the arena of defending Christian faith.
2. Provide weekend seminars and individual workshops for churches, conferences, conventions, colleges, and campus ministries. [Dr. Rich Knopp](#), Professor of Philosophy & Christian Apologetics at Lincoln Christian University, is the primary presenter. (See more below.)
3. Publish a variety of materials and utilize technology strategies to expand the project's exposure and influence (e.g. an interactive website at www.roomfordoubt.com, online videos, distance education classes, webinars, blogs, and possibly mobile apps). Some of these materials will be used as a basic introduction, while some will serve as a "next step" to the six-week RFD church campaign, as continuing education for church leaders, or as curriculum resources for Christian Colleges and university campus ministries.
4. Host program-related special events as well as an Apologetics Summit in 2016 at [Lincoln Christian University](#).

OBJECTIVES FOR APOLOGETICS SEMINARS & WORKSHOPS

(See #2 above)

1. To build a more confident faith in the God who is worthy of our love and life commitment.
2. To present a comprehensive overview of apologetics that is biblically grounded, intellectually informed, and personally relevant.
3. To emphasize the value of apologetics in an increasingly non-Christian culture.
4. To address criticisms by skeptics and sincere questions by believers who may have growing doubts about their faith.
5. To help teens and young adults deepen their personal convictions about the Christian faith and remain faithful to Christ and His church.
6. To create opportunities for Christians to initiate meaningful interaction with non-Christians.

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SEMINARS

- **Possible Seminar Topics:** Possible topics include the following:
 - “Room for Doubt—Reason for Hope: The Big Picture” (a highly recommended overview)
 - “Doubts about God”
 - “Doubts about Miracles and Jesus”
 - “Doubts about the Bible”
 - “Doubts because of Evil”
 - “Doubts because of Science”
 - “Christianity and Other Worldviews”
 - Worship Service Message: “Defending the Faith in an Age of Doubt” (Acts 17:16-33)
 - Worship Service Message: “The Stunning Nature of Nature” (Genesis 1)
- **Targeted Audiences:**
 - The sessions are designed for older adults, college age youth, and high school students, whether they be mature Christians, growing doubters, or religious skeptics. Strategies should be adopted to encourage all to attend.
 - The host venue should also seek to involve area churches and university campus ministries as much as possible.
 - While no strict limits are specified for a minimum-size audience, a seminar host should realistically be able to enlist at least 75 participants.
- **Cost and Host Responsibilities:**
 - **Speaker Costs.** Hosts for a seminar are expected to cover travel costs and a speaker honorarium for the RFD speaker(s). Reimbursement expectations will depend on the travel time required and the number of days involved and sessions included. The host church/organization may charge a registration fee for participants if desired.
 - **Notebook Materials.** RFD will provide masters for notebook materials to accompany each session. The host is expected to make copies for participants that are preferably placed in 3-ring binders.
 - **Marketing Materials.** Room For Doubt will provide some publicity materials (e.g. promotional slides/videos, masters for posters to be printed, etc.). Hosts are expected to promote the event aggressively and well in advance of the event.
 - **Event Registration.** Local organizers should set up a system for advanced registrations that compiles contact information of participants, including email addresses. This will facilitate convenient communication, adequate planning, and follow-up evaluation and input. This information should be made available to RFD when requested.
- **Facility & Technology Needs:** All presentations are multimedia in nature and presented from a laptop at the speaker’s location. The host must provide adequate technology (e.g. video projection, large screen(s), sound system) and audio cable and VGA or HDMI cables for the speaker’s laptop. Please inform the seminar presenter about projection specifications (e.g. 1024 x 768 or widescreen at 1280 x 720). Because of the use of seminar notebooks, it is best for participants to have a writing surface or be seated at tables if possible.

- **Possible Seminar Schedule:** The schedule will be arranged with each host church or ministry. Ideally, it is best to host a weekend seminar that would offer 4-6 sessions of 75 minutes each. This allows for a presentation of about an hour, plus 15 minutes for questions and participant interaction. Shorter sessions (60 minutes) may be scheduled, but this will reduce the available time for questions and interaction.

Different suggestions for how a seminar schedule might be arranged:¹

- **Scenario 1:**
 - Saturday morning: 2 sessions of 75 minutes with a 15-minute break between (e.g. 9:00-11:45).²
 - Saturday lunch (with possible informal Q&A interaction).
 - Saturday afternoon: 2 sessions of 75 minutes with a 15-minute break between (e.g. 1:00-3:45).
 - Sunday morning: 1 session of 45 minutes (combined Sunday school?) AND/OR a seminar-related message for worship.
 - **Scenario 2:**
 - Saturday morning: 2 sessions of 75 minutes with a 15-minute break between (e.g. 8:30-11:15).
 - Saturday “working lunch” with presentation and Q&A (11:30-1:00).
 - Saturday afternoon: 1 session of 75 minutes (e.g. 1:15-2:30).
 - Sunday morning: 1 session of 45 minutes (combined Sunday school?) AND/OR a seminar-related message for worship.
 - **Scenario 3:**
 - Friday evening: 2 sessions of 75 minutes with a 15-minute break between (e.g. 6:30-8:45 pm).
 - Saturday evening: 2 sessions of 75 minutes with a 15-minute break between (e.g. 6:30-8:45 pm).
 - Sunday morning: 1 session of 45 minutes (combined Sunday school?) AND/OR a seminar-related message for worship.
- **Available Seminar Dates:** Please check with Dr. Rich Knopp for available dates (rknopp@lincolnchristian.edu).

SEMINAR PRESENTER: DR. RICH KNOPP

Current Positions:

- Professor of Philosophy & Christian Apologetics at Lincoln Christian University.
- Project Coordinator and Seminar Presenter for Room For Doubt, a program funded by a \$675,000 grant from the Loftis Foundation for its initial three-year phase.
- Program Director of WorldViewEyes since 2000, a program funded by over \$1,000,000 in grants from the Lilly Endowment to help youth and adults Expand their minds, Engage their culture, Evaluate beliefs, and Embrace a Christian worldview. The program has provided multimedia presentations for over 70,000 adults and youth in 20 states and Canada. See www.worldvieweyes.org.

Academic Background: Ph.D. in Philosophy, University of Illinois; M.A. in Philosophy, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale; M.Div. in Theology and Philosophy, Lincoln Christian Seminary; B.A. in Christian Ministries, St. Louis Christian College

Curriculum Vitae for Rich Knopp: See www.worldvieweyes.org/knopp-vitae.html

Endorsements: Endorsements on behalf of Dr. Rich Knopp are accessible at www.worldvieweyes.org/knopp-endorsements.html.

¹ The possibilities can be mixed and rearranged depending on the desires of the host.

² The start time assumes a previous period of 30-45 minutes for registration, etc.