

Helping People Overcome Barriers of Belief

Barriers of Belief

1. Misperceptions
 - Poor Examples
 - Bad Teaching
 - Natural Fears
2. Intellectual Roadblocks
 - Questions & objections that cause doubts about the veracity of Christianity
 - a. Historical Accuracy of the Bible
 - b. The Logic of Faith
 - c. The Problem of Evil
 - d. Christianity vs. Science
 - **How to Help**
 - * Don't sweat it under the rug
 - * Help realize bankruptcy of competitors to faith
 - * See superiority of the biblical position
 - * Resources
 - Josh McDowell, William Lane Craig, Norman Geiser, Lee Strobel, C.S. Lewis
 - Check out www.skifflakebible.org/resources
3. Moral Misgivings—Sin that don't want to let go of
 - Cost-Benefit Analysis

Breaking Through

- A prayer and a promise
 - Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"—Mark 9:24
 - "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ⁸For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. Mt 7:7-8
 - You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. (Jeremiah 29:13)

Crossing the Line of Faith

- **Believe—Romans 10:9**

That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

- Declare Jesus is Lord
- Confess sins
- Ask and Accept
- Repent
- Pursue Baptism

Approaching the Line

- Assessing Interest
- Assessing Understanding—"Does this make sense?"
- Assessing Readiness
 - Is there anything holding you back from accepting Christ right now?

Crossing the Line

- Relax
- Forget About Word Formulas—its about the heart and belief
- Pray Aloud Together
 - Lead out in the Prayer and then
 - Turn it Over to Them and then Close the Prayer

Getting Beyond the Line

- Celebrate
- Affirm their Commitment
- Paint a Realistic Picture
- Explain Steps for Spiritual Growth
 - Prayer, Bible Reading, Relationships with Other Christians, Relationships with Non-Christians
- Provide Long-Term Spiritual Nurturing

So What?

- Live the Missionary Life
 - Praying—Displaying—(being) Available—Sharing
 - Explore some of the resources skifflakebible.org/resources