Mind Games Camp (radio transcript)



Camp Overview

There's one thing we do here at Probe that is my favorite part of ministry. Our Mind Games Camp is a week-long, total immersion, give-it-all-we've-got experience for high school and college students that changes minds and hearts forever.



Beautiful Camp Copass in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area is surrounded by a lake on three sides and it feels very seclude—even though it's not far from the Dallas-Ft. Worth airport, so students can easily fly in. We teach Christian students how to think biblically on a wide range of subjects: understanding how others think as they understand their worldviews, how they can know that Christianity is true, creation and evolution, human nature, the differences between guys and girls, the problem of evil and the value of suffering, campus Christianity, and even how to watch a movie with their brain turned on. They learn about a compassionate but biblical view of LGBT, different views of science and Earth-history, and genetic engineering.

Returning campers get to experience what is always a highlight for our students, a special alumni track with new lectures in

an intimate, personal setting. The alumni always tell the first-timers what an amazing difference it makes to come back a second or even third time, because they get so much more out of the conference than they ever thought possible.

The Probe teachers don't just give the lectures, though; we continue conversations at meals where we eat and visit with the students instead of each other. We break up into discussion groups to help the students process what they're learning in the sessions. There is free time every afternoon and evening to hike, swim, play basketball or card games, read or nap. Or of course, just hang out with new friends. The students are delighted to meet other thinking Christians from all over the country, students eager to think and grow in their faith as they learn to love God with their minds together. They enjoy getting to know us as the instructors, too. We're not only available the whole week; we look for opportunities to engage in conversations that will encourage and affirm what God is doing in the minds and hearts of these precious young people.

We talk about Mind Games in this article, but you can go to our website, MindGamesCamp.com, and check out our videos, a typical week's schedule, and lots of other information. In the next sections you'll hear a little bit from several instructors, and also from several of our Mind Games alumni.

Sneak Peek of Probe Lectures

Here are snippets from lectures of four of our Probe Mind Games instructors:

Here's Dr. Ray Bohlin speaking on "Christian Views of Science and Earth History":
So, what are these three views we're going to talk about? Well first, there is the recent, or literal, view, then there's what I call Progressive Creation, then there's what I call

Theistic Evolution or what is now, the term now used is Evolutionary Creation. OK . . . so what kind or form of analysis we going to apply here?

Sue Bohlin on "God, Gender and Transgender":
Masculinity reflects the strong Father heart of God, to use His strength to love us by protecting us and providing for us. So I love this idea of the Father heart of God, especially when you have a father wound, because of a father either not being there, or not loving you well, not connecting with you well. So often God our Father says, 'I will be your Father. Come to Me, let Me show you what a father is supposed to be."

Todd Kappelman on "How to Watch a Film":
The Need for Interpretation, Matthew Arnold: this is where we start getting some of our rules that we look at when we look at a film. When interpreting a film, one should ask these following questions: first, number one. How important is life to the director, writers, etc., and are the tough issues dealt with or avoided? This goes to the seriousness of a film. I mean, are we watching a romantic comedy, are we watching a film, drama, of somebody overcoming heroin?

Tom Davis on "The Deity of Christ"
Are all religions basically the same? And we have a law of logic called the law of non-contradiction. To kind of put this in somewhat symbolic terms, A cannot be non-A. You can evaluate the consistencies of things, you can tell if all religions are the same with this law.

Comments from Alumni, Part 1

This week we're talking about our memorable, life-impacting, week-long summer Mind Games Camp. But you don't have to take our word for it. Consider what some of our alumni have to say:

Anna:
Mind Games is a brilliant camp. It has wonderful professors

who are very knowledgeable in so many subjects like philosophy and science and theology, and it’s so wonderful to get their perspectives on the Bible, and to hear about their spiritual walks, and to hear things that you wouldn’t normally hear in your Sunday School class or in church. It’s very spiritually enriching not only because of the sessions you’ll be going to, but also because of the environment you’re in. You’re surrounded by like-minded Christians who also love the Lord, so you’re with people that can sharpen you as iron sharpens iron. All the sessions have so much information that you can learn things from; they help you with evangelism, they help you with confidence in your own faith, they help you with discipleship. It’s so helpful, there’s so many things I’ve learned every single year, I’ve learned a new thing-so many new things every single year at Mind Games.

Jona:
Looking at the topics, I was terrified because I would be putting myself in a position where I could be wrong, put myself in a position where I challenge all my worldviews, even worse I’ll be surrounded by people who are way smarter than me, or have way more experience than me. And what I realized this year is that there is nothing more liberating than being ready to be wrong.

Blaine:
Out of all the events that I’ve had this year, this was probably one of the ones I looked forward to the most. Last year I had such an great time and made amazing memories and connected with tons of people, and I got to see some of them this year, and as I was going through the camp I learned a lot more as we dove deeper into the topics and revisited them, and as I grew closer and gained connections with some new people and some alumni, it felt like I was growing closer to a family. And it was just really fun overall.

Comments From Alumni, Part 2

Aiden and Gideon keep coming back because they love it so much!

Aiden:
This is my third year. Every year always blows me out of the water because there is a certain level of connection, a certain level of deepness and humanity that you don't get to see outside of this camp. It's incredible to me just how deep you can get with complete strangers in a week. it's just really powerful to me, that God has blessed this camp, that God has blessed the teachers and the professors (I don't know what you prefer to go by) but like the continuing and consistent level of love and care and just connection is what draws me to this camp and what keeps me coming. And so if I had to say one thing about this camp, that this camp was probably one of the most impactful things in my life

Gideon:
This has been my fourth year attending Mind Games and this has impacted my life so many facets, seen and unseen. It has been a really great experience to get to know people my age, have peers, because in my life I really haven't had very many peers of equal anything it's been more mature and spiritual-and it's been rather difficult just being a person who loves God and striving for more, and this camp has really let me be able to become who I want to be and not just who I would have been. And this camp has really allowed me to become more like Jesus. I truly believe that, and I'm convinced of that.

Why Go to Mind Games?

We now know that three out of four high school seniors who had been part of a church youth group drop out of church within a year.{1} One reason for this is that they don't own their faith; they don't know that Christianity is true, and they

don’t know why it’s true. They tend to equate faith with a warm fuzzy feeling that doesn’t stand up to the challenges of life. Many students are afraid to express their doubts so they never learn that there are good, solid answers to their questions. They are sensitive to the disconnect that happens when those who profess to be Christ-followers act no differently from unbelievers.

For over thirty years, Probe’s Mind Games conferences have been preparing young people for the challenges to their faith. In that time, we have witnessed firsthand the incredible thirst for a reliable trustworthy faith. Again and again we hear that some had despaired of ever finding something like Mind Games. The conference consistently exceeds expectations, and students often tell us they wish they had brought their friends.

Alumni from these summer conferences have gone on to become leaders on their campuses, the government and the military. This week-long immersion truly changes lives, giving them a new confidence in their God, His Word, and in their role as His ambassadors. We know this because some of them come back as alumni a second or third year, and because they contact us years later and let us know how Mind Games continues to impact them.

Mornings start with an informal devotional by Probe staff and a time of prayer. They receive twenty-five hours of instruction using video clips, role play, Q and A, and other teaching techniques. They connect with each other and process what they’re learning in small groups. We as staff get to know and truly love them.

Mind Games Camp is best for those who have finished their junior or senior years of high school, and for college freshmen and sophomores. [Note: especially motivated students younger than that are welcome, though!] Please go to MindGamesCamp.com, and check out videos. You can look at a

typical schedule, and find out all the details. And then register someone you love. It will make a difference in time and eternity.

Notes

1. Steve Cable, Is This the Last Christian Generation? probe.org/is-this-the-last-christian-generation/

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Why Every Christian Student Needs Mind Games

You've probably heard or read that the vast majority of young Christians are leaving the church after they graduate from high school. But they don't have to "graduate from God" after they get their diploma.

There are several reasons young adults leave the church, and many of them jettison their faith as well. The biggest reason is that their questions and doubts—which started in junior high school—were not answered by their parents or youth leaders.

Another reason is that they don't believe Christianity is true. Immersed in a cultural brine of religious lies and deceptions, they don't know what the truth is and why biblical Christianity blows the false ideas and religions away.

A third reason is that they caught their unbiblical beliefs and practices from their parents and other adults in the church. It turns out that Mom and Dad were almost as pickled in the cultural brine as their kids!

But Probe offers a great way to push back on these reasons.

Our summer Mind Games camp is a total-immersion, life-changing week of instruction in worldview and apologetics designed to build students' confidence that Christianity is true, and why Christianity is true. We lay the foundation of three major worldviews to give them understanding of how other people think and why Christianity is better because it matches reality. Then we teach them why they can be sure that God exists, why the Bible can be trusted, and how we can know that Jesus is God and the only way to heaven.

After these basics, campers learn how biblical principles apply to issues they need to grapple with: truth and grace about LGBT, how faith and science work together, why a good God allows pain and evil, the value of suffering, how to watch a movie with their brains turned on, genetic engineering, understanding Islam, and more.

But it's not just lectures. Plenty of free time is built into the schedule for processing what they've learned and developing friendships with other campers. The relationships that students form at Mind Games is one of their biggest takeaways. With a max of 40 participants, everyone can enjoy connecting to other campers, and many of the friendships endure year after year.

The biggest reason for leaving the church is unanswered questions and doubts. Probe staffers assure students that Mind Games is a safe place to ask any question—anonymously—and address any doubt. Many of the questions campers come with, are answered during the week in our lectures and discussion times. Whether in large group or the many opportunities for one-on-one conversations with Probe teachers, campers have many ways to get help wrestling with obstacles to their faith.

For over twenty years, Mind Games alumni have grown into leaders on campus, in public service, in the military, and in

the church. The fruit of their time with us is “fruit that lasts” (John 15:16).

Mind Games Camp 2026 is June 14-20 at Camp Copass in Denton, Texas, in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area. Some scholarships are available. Check out videos and much more information at Probe.org/mindgames.

Can you think of a high school student who doesn’t need Mind Games?

We can’t either.

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Mind Games 2017 Daily Schedule

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY

7:30		Devotions	Devotions	Devotions	Devotions	Devotions	
8:00		Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
9:00		Worship	Worship	Worship	Worship	Worship	
9:15		**Worldviews 1**	**Apologetics 1: God**	**Apologetics 3: Jesus** **Alumni: Gay Theology (SB)**	**Science and Earth History** **Alumni: Technology (TK)**	**Genetic Engineering** **Alumni: EMOTIONS: 8 Tools for Living (Hannah Gleghorn)**	Clean up, pack up, pick up and GO
10:30		Break	Break	Break	Break	Break	
10:45		**Worldviews 2**	**Apologetics 2: The Bible**	**Grace and Truth About LGBT**	**Problem of Evil and Suffering**	**Flow of Western Culture**	
12:00		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	
1:00		Free time Pool open 1:00-2:00	Free time Pool open 1:00-2:00	Free time Pool open 1:00-2:00	Free time Pool open 1:00-2:00	Free time Pool open 1:00-2:00	
3:00	Check in	**Human Nature**	**Origin of the Universe and Life**	**Is Jesus the Only Way?** **Alumni: Climate Change (RB)**	**The Value of Suffering**	**Campus Christianity**	
4:15		Break	Break	Break	Break	Break	
4:30		Small Groups	Small Groups	Small Groups	Small Groups	Small Groups	
5:30	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Free time	
6:30		Worship	Worship	Worship	Worship		
6:45	Orientation	**Ethics 101**	**Islam**	**Gender Is Over! Or Is It?**	**How to Watch a Movie + Film**	**Dinner** **Film**	
8:15	Break					Free time	
8:30	Orientation	Free time	Free time	Free time	Free Time		
10:30	In Dorms	In Dorms	In Dorms	In Dorms	In Dorms	In Dorms	
11:00	Lights Out	Lights Out	Lights Out	Lights Out	Lights Out	Lights Out	

Mind Games 2016 Schedule

Mind Games 2016 Schedule

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
7:30		Devotions	Devotions	Devotions	Devotions	Devotions	
8:00		Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
9:00			Worship	Worship	Worship	Worship	
9:15				**Apologetics 3: Jesus**	**Science and Earth History**	**Genetic Engineering**	Clean up, pack up, pick up and GO
		Worldviews 1	**Apologetics 1: God**	**Alumni: The Signature in the Cell**	**Alumni: Postmodernism**	**Alumni: What Difference Did Mind Games Make This Year?**	
10:30		Break		Break	Break	Break	
10:45		**Worldviews 2**	Ropes Course Free time	**Grace and Truth About LGBT**	**Problem of Evil and Suffering**	**Flow of Western Culture**	
12:00		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	
1:00		Free time Pool open 1:00-2:00	Free time Pool open 1:00-2:00	Free time Pool open 1:00-2:00	Free time Pool open 1:00-2:00	Free time Pool open 1:00-2:00	
3:00		**Human Nature**	**Apologetics 2: The Bible**	**Is Jesus the Only Way?**	**The Value of Suffering**	**Campus Christianity**	
				Alumni: Kierkegaard for Beginners			
4:15	Check in	Break Small Groups	Break Small Groups	Break Small Groups	Break Small Groups	Break Small Groups	
4:30							
5:30	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	
6:30		Worship	Worship	Worship	Worship	Worship	
6:45	Orientation	**Ethics 101**	**Origin of the Universe and Life**	**Islam**	**How to Watch a Movie**	**Film**	
8:15	Break		Break				
8:30	Orientation	Free time	**Gender Differences: Mars and Venus**	Free time	Free time	Free time	
10:30	In Rooms	In Rooms	In Rooms	In Rooms	In Rooms	In Rooms	
11:00	Lights Out	Lights Out	Lights Out	Lights Out	Lights Out	Lights Out	

Mind Games Camp Overview

How can we equip high school students to withstand the assaults on their faith that await them in college?

How can we keep them from "graduating from God" after they graduate from high school?

How can we keep our teens from becoming sad statistics of spiritual shipwreck?

A recent study by Fuller Seminary found one factor that proved most effective in helping young people retain their Christian convictions during high school and after graduation: having a safe place to wrestle with doubts and questions before leaving home. The study concluded, "The more college students felt that they had the opportunity to express their doubt while they were in high school, the higher [their] levels of faith maturity and spiritual maturity."{1}

Mind Games Camp is tailor-made for giving students this safe place to ask questions and express doubts. Probe teachers delight to reassure students that not only is this good and important for spiritual health, it is one way we can love God with our minds!

Loving God with our minds is the most ignored part of the greatest commandment, to "love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind" (Luke 10:27). We believe that the same God who invites us to "Come, let us reason together" (Is. 1:18) welcomes us to discover that His word is trustworthy, that biblical teaching is intellectually robust, and that there are good answers for our questions.

This 6½-day conference (Sunday evening to Saturday morning) is a total immersion, give-it-all-we've-got experience for high school and college students that changes minds and hearts forever. We lay a foundation of biblical worldview, which equips students to recognize truth and error in both the classroom and the culture. They are able to discern the explanations of life offered by their college professors, media figures and entertainment producers.

Then we build confidence in their faith through classical and cultural apologetics. They learn the evidence that Jesus is God and their Bibles are trustworthy. They grow in a biblical understanding of science, sexuality, human nature, art, evil and suffering, and world religions.

• Instructors engage in lively conversations, eating all meals with students and not each other.

• Daily small-group discussion times assure the opportunity to process what students are learning and how they are challenged.

• Instruction and discussion in how to watch a movie. It's not just entertainment; there are always worldview and value issues behind every film and movie. Students won't ever watch a movie the same way again.

• Probe staff members engage in recreation time and informal conversations with students.

• Morning devotionals and prayer time

• Not just lecture: teachers use video clips, role play, Q and A, and other teaching techniques

• Questions and doubts are met with respect and engagement; if we don't know the answer, we'll find it out.

• Plenty of free time is built into the schedule!

Instructors build confidence in Christianity as a reasonable faith, not one dependent on warm and fuzzy feelings. We believe there is no "silver bullet" evidence that will blow away objectors, but we can equip students to defend their faith with gentleness and respect (1 Peter 3:15).

Mind Games Camp doesn't just build confidence—it builds leaders. Alumni of Mind Games have gone on to become leaders on campus, in business, in politics, in ministry and in the military. Many students make lasting friendships with other Christ-followers from around the country who are serious about their faith.

Location: Camp Copass in Denton, Texas, a 45-minute drive northwest of Dallas.
Cost: $695.00 for lodging, meals, notebook and instruction.
Time: 4:00 p.m. Sunday, June 14 to 9:00 a.m. Saturday morning, June 20, 2026
Age guidelines: Completion of sophomore year of high school. Mind Games is geared for high school juniors and seniors, and college freshmen and sophomores. (Especially motivated younger students are welcome, though!)

Typical schedule here.	
Online Registration	Mail-in Registration Form
For more information: email Sue Bohlin at sue@probe.org or call her at 972-977-8301.	

Note

1. Lillian Kwon, "Survey: High School Seniors 'Graduating From God'," *The Christian Post*, 10 August 2006.

About Probe’s Weekend Mind Games Conference

The conference offers a Reasons to Believe track and your choice of the following other tracks:

Reasons to Believe
Whether this is your first exposure to apologetics or your favorite area of study, the Reasons to Believe track is fundamental. Learn the differences between three of the major worldviews and why the truth claims of Christ and the Bible are consistent, reasonable, and worth sharing with others.

Cults and World Religions
Chances are you know someone who is a member of the Jehovah’s Witnesses, the Mormons or a non-Christian religion. This track gives an overview of the basic beliefs of other religions as well as some practical tips for how to dialogue with them about Jesus and His gift of salvation.

Faith and Science
Everyone’s been exposed to the “facts” of evolution. Here’s an opportunity to examine Darwinian teaching compared to the arguments for intelligent design. This track also investigates current scientific dilemmas such as cloning and environmentalism to evaluate them from a biblical perspective.

Faith and Politics
This track covers what most history books leave out. Learn about the often overlooked role Christianity played in the early development of the United States. Critical issues will be analyzed regarding church and state, civil disobedience and the Constitution of America.

Faith and Sexuality
Discover some of the current issues regarding gender, relationships, and challenges facing the family. A biblical perspective on LGBT issues calls for a balance of truth and grace, and the church needs to be equipped to think biblically about sexuality lest people (and entire churches and denominations) depart from orthodox Christian teachings to embrace the world's perspective.

Typical Conference Schedule

FRIDAY EVENING	
6:30-7:00	Registration
7:00-7:30	Orientation
7:30-8:30	*Reasons to Believe*: **Worldviews**
	Faith and Science: **Science and Worldview**
8:30-8:45	Break
8:45-9:45	*Reasons to Believe*: **Evidence for the Existence of God**
	Faith and Science: **Origins**
SATURDAY MORNING	
8:30-9:00	Coffee and Donuts
9:00-10:00	*Reasons to Believe*: **Is Jesus the Only Way?**
	Faith and Science: **Intelligent Design**
10:00-10:10	Break

10:10-11:10	*Reasons to Believe*: **The Deity of Christ**
	Faith and Science: **Christian Environmentalism**
11:10-11:20	Break
11:20-12:10	*Reasons to Believe*: **The Authority of the Bible**
	Faith and Science: **Christian View of Science and Earth History**
12:10-12:30	Closing

Who Should Attend?

The Mind Games conference is designed for students (at least 16 years old) and adults who want to learn to love God with their minds through the development of a Christian world view.

To schedule a Mind Games Conference or
to request further information, please contact us:

Probe Ministries
2001 W. Plano Parkway, Suite 2000
Plano, TX 75075
(972) 941-4565
mindgames@probe.org

If you e-mail us for more information, be sure to provide a physical mailing address.

Student Mind Games Conference

(radio transcript)

Conference Overview

There's one thing we do here at Probe that is our favorite part of ministry. Our Student *Mind Games* Conference is a week-long, total immersion, give-it-all-we've-got experience for high school and college students that changes minds and hearts forever.



We teach Christian students how to think biblically on a wide range of subjects: worldviews, basic apologetics, creation and evolution, human nature, the differences between guys and girls, the problem of evil, the value of suffering, campus Christianity, and even how to watch a movie without swallowing it whole. They learn about world religions, a compassionate but biblical view of homosexuality, science and Earth-history, feminism, and genetic engineering. We talk about how not to lose their faith in college and give specific, practical help connecting with the campus ministries at whatever college they're headed to.

The Probe teachers don't just give the lectures, though; we continue conversations at meals where we eat and visit with the students instead of each other. We assign readings by authors who don't have a Christian worldview, and break up into discussion groups to help the students develop their discernment skills and tune up their baloney detectors. There is free time every afternoon for everybody to hike, swim, play basketball or card games, read or nap. They learn how to be discerning in watching movies, and get practice at it by watching several movies during the evenings.

The students are delighted to meet other thinking Christians from all over the country, students eager to think and grow in

their faith as they learn to love God with their minds together. They enjoy getting to know us as the instructors, too. We're not only available the whole week; we look for opportunities to engage in conversations that will encourage and affirm what God is doing in the minds and hearts of these precious young people.

In what follows you'll hear a little bit from several lecturers, and also from several of our *Mind Games* alumni.

Sneak Peek of Probe Lectures

Here are snippets from lectures of four of our Probe *Mind Games* instructors, speaking on Apologetics, Origins, The Value of Suffering, and Nietzsche for Beginners:

Dr. Pat Zukeran:

> *When we begin apologetics, when you engage the non-Christian world, where do we begin? Worldviews. Very good. Now there are three major worldviews; what are they? The first one is. . . ? Theism. Theism teaches what? God made all. The second one is. . .? Naturalism, or atheism: no God at all. And the third one is Pantheism, God is all. Remember all three of those.*

Dr. Ray Bohlin:

> *That is why many were upset for a long time. Many rejected the Big Bang because of the philosophical implications of a beginning. Where does this particle come from? Here's the problem. See, something must be eternal. Something has to have always been here. Otherwise, something had to come from absolutely nothing.*

Sue Bohlin:

> *Pat explained to you the philosophical aspects of suffering*

and pain, and now I want to get intensely practical. l want to share with you five of the things that God showed me over a five-year period about the value of suffering. God never wastes our suffering, not a scrap of it. He redeems all of it for His glory and for our benefit. We have a God who scoops us up, and holds us to His chest where we can hear His heart beating, and says, "It's okay. l love you, buddy. Dad knows the way home. It's gonna be okay." And in the midst of our suffering, that's when God is holding us the closest.

Todd Kappelman:

What Nietzsche says is, "Listen, there are smart people, there are strong people, there are the artistically gifted, there are geniuses which comprise one percent or less of the population, and then there's the ninety-nine percent." What Nietzsche as an atheist wants to do is, he wants to look at good art. He wants to make a place in our culture for good art to be produced. The problem with good art being produced is you need a good audience that appreciates good art in order for good art to be produced.

Comments from Alumni, Part 1

Sarah relates how she happened to come:

I'm Sarah, l have an older sister, this is her third year, and she got me into this. She's, like, "This, is the most awesome thing ever, you gotta go." I'm like, "Whatever." I came because she would always come back saying that she had this awesome time and everything. l was just like, "Okay, I'll go, I've been to other conferences before so I don't think it'll be anything different." This was really amazing because other conferences that I've been to, it's been just lectures, lectures, lectures. But like Sue and Pat and Todd and Heather and Ray, they would talk back to you. They wanted to get to know you, they wanted to know what you thought,

> *they let you ask questions and they would answer it in the best way that they do, and it was just really nice to have someone older and wise that could give their information to where you could understand it, and it's free to ask questions.*

Here's Kayla:

> *I really enjoyed the variety of the workshops, realizing that Christianity does apply to all aspects of life, that we have a worldview that is livable, and that whether it be about homosexuality or abortion or genetic engineering, our worldview applies to that too, and knowing those answers will help me that much more in the secular university.*

Austin shares what helped him the most:

> *It especially helped with the readings, the secular readings. It helped me to point out the flaws in their teachings and to see, okay, he's wrong here, here, here, here; he's kinda right here; this is where he needs to change a little. It helps me interpret what I'm reading better.*

And Bekah responds to my question: *Do you feel equipped to handle the anti-Christian, the hostile influences on the college campus?*

> *Yes, because we had to interact with the "devil's advocate" so much here, and I think it really just prepared us for situations we're actually going to face.*

We love and enjoy the students who come to *Mind Games*, and they know it.

Comments From Alumni, Part 2

Here are a few more: Jon, Ashli, Jonathan and a returning alumnus, Daniel:

Jon:

> *It was more than I expected. I thought I was going to come here and learn ways to defeat people's arguments and destroy what they believe, but that's not what I learned. I actually learned WHY people believe what they believe, and so because I can understand what they believe better, I can love them better as a person, and that's really how you witness to them: you love them first and then they'll ask you, "What's so special," and then you can do it. So Mind Games for me was about learning and understanding more of what other people believe so I could understand and love them better.*

Ashli:

> *The lectures—I loved them, because my dad's always about, he wants you to gain the knowledge, he wants you to know stuff, and I . . . don't. I learned so much, and I got so much out of it, and I had so many questions that I had answered. I was almost embarrassed by the questions, that I should already know the answer, but I felt comfortable enough to ask them, and they answered them clearly, and it was awesome.*

Jonathan:

> *There's just something amazing about this place where everyone wants to be here. The lectures were really great, there's just so much emotion and information to it. They just tell sides of things you never hear in the culture, it's just so informative. Like Ashli said, you really get just a zeal for learning about this stuff and you realize how little you know about your faith, and how much you want to learn, so I'm*

definitely going to come back and try and learn some more.

Daniel:

I thought Mind Games was fantastic. It was a great experience, and while I did go to some of the same classes, I took more away from them than I did last year, partly because I stayed awake during different parts but mostly because I was paying better attention and you take different things away every time you go to the same lesson. So that was still valuable even though I'd been here before. And there were definitely talks that l hadn't attended last year that were really, really interesting, downright fascinating actually, which l was very glad to be a part of, some of which l felt pretty strongly about, so I was glad to be able to participate in those discussions.

Why Go to Mind Games?

We now know that three out of four high school seniors who had been part of a church youth group drop out of church within a year.{1} One reason for this is that they don't own their faith; they don't know *that* Christianity is true, and they don't know *why* it's true. They tend to equate faith with a warm fuzzy feeling that doesn't stand up to the challenges of life. Many students are afraid to express their doubts so they never learn that there are good, solid answers to their questions. They are sensitive to the disconnect that happens when those who profess to be Christ-followers act no differently from unbelievers.

For over fifteen years, Probe's *Mind Games* conferences have been preparing young people for the challenges to their faith. In that time, we have witnessed firsthand the incredible thirst for a reliable trustworthy faith. Again and again we hear that some had despaired of ever finding something like *Mind Games*. The conference consistently exceeds expectations,

and students often tell us they wish they had brought their friends.

Alumni from these summer conferences are going on to become leaders on their campuses and beyond. This weeklong immersion truly changes lives, giving them a new confidence in their God, His Word, and in their role as His ambassadors. We know this because some of them come back as alumni a second or third year, and because they contact us from college and let us know how *Mind Games* continues to impact them. Others have gone on to become leaders in ministry and heroes in the military.

Mornings start with an informal devotional by Probe staff and a time of prayer. They receive twenty-five hours of lecture using video clips, role play, Q and A, and other teaching techniques. They build their discernment muscles and sharpen their critical thinking skills by reading and analyzing articles by non-Christians, which we discuss in small groups. They worship together, they play together, and they make dear friends. We instructors share our meals and some of our free time with the students, which allows us to get to know and truly love them.

The Student *Mind Games* Conference is for those who have finished their junior or senior years of high school, and for college freshmen and sophomores. [Note: especially motivated students younger than that are welcome, though!] Please go to our Web site, Probe.org, and check out the reports and pictures of the last few *Mind Games* conferences. You can look at a typical schedule, and find out all the details. And then register someone you love. It will make a difference in time and eternity.

Note

1. Steve Cable, Is This the Last Christian Generation? www.probe.org/last-christian-generation.htm

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Student Mind Games Camp

Overview of Student *Mind Games* Conference
Typical Mind Games Camp Schedule

Mind Games Conference Radio Transcript



Camp Copass



Probe's Mind Games conferences have been preparing young people for the challenges to their faith for over 15 years. In that time we have had the pleasure of witnessing first hand the incredible thirst for a reliable trustworthy faith on the part of so many young people today. Again and again we hear that some had despaired of ever finding something like Mind Games. The conference consistently exceeds expectations and we frequently hear that they wished they had brought others.

Nowhere has this been truer than at our summer weeklong Mind Games conferences. As opposed to our usual weekend conference, which gives little time for personal interaction, students have time to study, worship, play, eat, and generally just hang out with Probe staff and other students also looking for a "Mere Christianity." For many, it's their first opportunity to spend real time with students from all over the country.

Alumni from these summer conferences have gone on to become leaders on their campuses, in the military, in government, in the church, and beyond. This weeklong immersion truly changes lives, giving them a new confidence in their God, His Word, and in their role as His ambassadors. This is an investment in a high school junior, senior or college student that will pay dividends for a lifetime.

“Sheep Among Wolves”

A week of 30-minute broadcasts on Family Life Today featuring the creator of Probe’s *Mind Games* Conference, the late Jerry Solomon. Jerry interacts with two students, one who attended Mind Games, and one who did not, as he role-plays a hostile professor antagonistic toward Christianity. Listen to these broadcasts, read Jerry’s article, and you’ll understand why it’s so important to send someone you love to *Mind Games*.

Sheep Among Wolves MP3s and Article

Sheep Among Wolves

What’s the Problem?

In Colossians 2:8, Paul states that a Christian should . . .

> See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.

Paul’s words have particular application for the Christian student who is about to engage in the intellectual and social combat that can be found on many of our college campuses. Our higher educational institutions are often incubators for non-Christian thought and life. Christian students must be advised to be prepared. Too many of them are “taken captive.” Consider these few examples:

• A sociology professor asked her students, “How many of you believe abortion is wrong? Stand up.” Five students stood.

She told them to continue standing. She then asked, “Of you five, how many believe it is wrong to distribute condoms in middle schools?” One was left standing. The professor left this godly young lady standing in silence for a long time and then told her she wanted to talk with her after class. During that meeting the student was told if she persisted in such beliefs she would have a great deal of difficulty receiving her certification as a social worker.

• During the first meeting of an architecture class at a large state university the students were told to lie on the floor. The professor then turned off the lights and taught them to meditate. (Be assured they were not meditating on Scripture.)

• At a church-related university a professor stated, “Communism is definitely superior to any other political-economic system.”

• In an open declaration on the campus at Harvard, the university chaplain announced he is homosexual.

• When asked how he responds to students who confess strong Christian convictions, a professor stated, “If they don’t know what and why they believe, I will change them.”

• In a university dormitory crowded with over 100 students I declared that Jesus is the only way to God. Many of the students expressed their strong disagreement and anger. One student was indignant because he realized my statement concerning Christ logically meant that his belief in a Native American deity was wrong. Even some Christian students were uncomfortable. They had uneasiness about it because it seemed too intolerant.

These are but a few of many illustrations and statistics that could be cited as indication of contemporary college life. The ideas that are espoused on many of our campuses can understandably bewilder the Christian student. What can be

done to help them in their preparation? In this article I will offer some suggestions that can serve to give them guidance.

Develop a Christian Worldview

A critical component in the arsenal of any Christian heading off to college is to develop a Christian worldview. Everyone has a world view whether they have thought about it or not. To understand how important a worldview is consider a jigsaw puzzle with thousands of pieces. In order to put the puzzle together you need to see the picture on the box top. You need to know what the puzzle will look like when you finish it. If you only had the pieces and no box top, you would probably experience a great deal of frustration. You may not even want to begin the task, much less finish it. The box top gives you a guide and helps you put together the "pieces" of life.

The box top in a Christian worldview is provided by the revealed truth of the Bible. The Bible contains the correct picture to help us assemble the individual pieces we encounter in life. Other world views will always get some portion of the picture right, but a few important pieces will always seem out of place. It's important for a young Christian college student to have some idea of which pieces are out of place in other worldviews as well as a foundational understanding of a Christian worldview.

Essentially a worldview is a set of assumptions or presuppositions we hold about the basic make-up of our universe that influences everything we do and say. For instance, within a Christian world view we wake up in the morning assuming that God exists and that He cares about what happens to you.

There are four essential truths that help us evaluate different worldviews.

The first truth is that *something exists*. This may seem

obvious, but many people aren't sure. Many forms of pantheism argue that the material world is just an illusion. The only reality is spiritual. If this were actually the case, then physical consequences wouldn't matter. However, I have yet to find a pantheist who is willing to perform their meditation on a railroad track without knowing the train schedule.

The second truth is that *all people have absolutes*. There are always some things that people recognize as true, all the time. For Christians, God is the ultimate reference point to determine truth. Even the statement, "There are no absolutes!" is to declare absolutely that there are no absolutes.

Third, *truth is something that can't be both true and false at the same time*. This is critical in our current time. A contemporary idea is that all religions are the same. This sounds gracious, but it's nonsense. While various religions can often have some elements in common, if they differ in the crucial areas of creation, sin, salvation, heaven, and hell, then the similarities are what is trivial, not the differences.

Last, we need to realize that *all people exercise faith*. What matters is the object of our faith. We all use faith to operate through the day. We exercise faith every time we take medication. We assume it will help us and not harm us. Carl Sagan's famous statement that "The cosmos is all that is, or ever was, or ever will be" is a statement of naturalistic faith not scientific truth.

Take Ownership of Beliefs

Parents need to help their student headed off to college to take ownership of their faith. Too often Christian young people spend their pre-college years repeating phrases and doctrines without intellectual conviction. They need to go beyond clichés. A few of us at Probe have questioned Christian high school students about their faith by posing as an

atheistic college professor. When pressed to explain why they believe as they do, the responses get rather embarrassing. They'll say, "That's what my parents taught me," or "That's what I've always heard," or "I was raised that way," or "That's what my pastor said."

If this is the best a student can do, they are simply grist for the mill. They are easily ground down to dust. Paul wrote to young Timothy saying, "Continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them" (2 Tim. 3:14). Timothy was taught by his mother, grandmother, and Paul. He not only learned about his faith from them, but he became convinced that it was true.

This means you are to know not just what you believe but also why. Ask yourself or your student why he or she is a Christian? If this question stumps you, you've got some thinking and exploring to do. The apostle Peter said to always be prepared to give a defense to anyone who asks for an account of the hope that is in you. (1 Peter 3:15)

Peter wrote that we are always to be ready, and we are to respond to everyone who asks. These are all-encompassing words that indicate the importance of the task of apologetics. If the student is going to live and think as a Christian on campus he will be asked to defend his faith. Such an occasion will not be nearly as threatening if he or she has been allowed to ask their own questions and have received answers from their home or church.

For instance, how would you answer these questions if someone who really wants to know asked them of you? "Is there really a God?" "Why believe in miracles?" "How accurate is the Bible?" "Is Christ the only way to God?" "Is there any truth in other religions?"

Such questions are legitimate and skeptics deserve honest answers to their tough questions. How they receive the answer

is between God and them. Our responsibility is to provide the answers as best as we can in a loving manner. To say, “I don’t know, I just believe,” will leave the impression that Christianity is just a crutch and therefore only for the weak and feeble-minded.

The Mind Is Important

A student needs to understand that the mind is important in a Christian’s life. In fact, a Christian is required to use his mind if he desires to know more of God and His works among us. The acts of reading and studying Scripture certainly require mental exercise. Even if a person can’t read, he still has to use his mind to respond to what is taught from Scripture. For example, Jesus responded to a scribe by stating the most important commandment:

> Hear O Israel; the Lord our God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. (Mark 12:29-30)

The use of our mind refers not only to Scripture. We need to abolish the sacred/secular barrier many of us have erected. Colossians 3:17 says, “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to Him through God the Father.” Paul pretty much covers it. It’s hard to come up with anything additional after using the words “whatever” and “all.” This includes our academic studies.

The first chapter of Daniel offers amazing insights into this issue. Daniel and his friends were taught everything that the “University of Babylon” could offer them; they graduated with highest honors and with their faith strengthened. God honored them in the task and even gave them the knowledge they needed to grapple with Babylonian ideas. (Daniel 1:17, 20)

If Daniel’s situation is applied to a contemporary Christian

student’s life, there is an important lesson to be learned. That is, the young Jewish boys learned and understood what they were taught, but that does not mean they believed it. Many students have asked how to respond on papers and exams that include ideas they don’t believe. As with Daniel and his peers, they should demonstrate their understanding to the best of their ability, but they cannot be forced to believe it. Understanding and believing are not necessarily the same thing. But a certain level of understanding is crucial in knowing where these ideas fail to meet reality.

If Christian students have also been allowed to ask questions at home and at church, then they can apply the lessons learned by asking questions of those of differing faiths. This will allow them to expose the inconsistencies of these competing worldviews in a respectful manner.

Many Christian students enter an ungodly educational arena every year. They should be encouraged with the understanding that God’s truth will prevail, as it did for Daniel and his friends. For all truth is God’s truth.

How Do We Teach these Things?

Coming to the end of our discussion on preparing students to defend their faith in college, you may be asking, “How can I apply some of these suggestions in my life with students?” The following ideas are offered with the belief that you can use your imagination and arrive at even better ones.

First do role-plays with your students occasionally. This can be done either with an individual or a group.

For example, as alluded to previously, find someone from outside your church or school that the students don’t know. This person should have a working knowledge of the ways non-Christians think. Introduce him to the group as a college professor researching the religious beliefs of high school

students.

The "professor" should begin to ask them a series of blunt questions regarding their beliefs. The idea is to challenge every cliché the students may use in their responses. Nothing is to be accepted without definition or elaboration. After ten minutes or so, reveal who the professor really is and assure them he is a Christian. Then go over some of the answers and begin to reveal what they could have said.

This would also be good time to implement a second suggestion, and that is to teach a special course on apologetics for upper high school students. You've definitely got their attention now and they will be much more attentive.

Another idea is if you live near a college or university, ask to be put on their mailing list for upcoming lectures from visiting scholars. After attending one of these lectures, discuss it with your student. See if they can identify the speaker's worldview and where what they said conflicts with a Christian worldview. This would also be a good place to model asking good questions if a question and answer period is allowed.

When considering a college or university, the student should not only visit the campus to investigate campus life but also the intellectual atmosphere. Visit with representatives of a local college ministry or a Christian faculty member and inquire of their opinion of the likely intellectual challenges they can expect to find. This would also be a good opportunity to ask about resources available for Christian students who face challenges in the classroom.

Finally, consider sending your student to a Probe *Mind Games* Conference. A schedule of all our upcoming conferences is available on our website at www.probe.org. Just click on the *Mind Games* tile on the home page to open a menu of information on our conferences. Or better yet, organize one of these

conferences in your own community. Probe travels around the country in order to help youth, college students, their parents, and the church at large prepare for contemporary life.

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