

Serious Answers to Hard Questions, by various authors

Length: 10 sessions (one hour or less)

Includes: VHS tape, and leader and participant guides

This video-based series was developed by Wesley Ministry Network (created by Wesley Theological Seminary). In it, ten leading theologians address ten issues ("hard questions") that present obstacles to faith for many both in and outside the church. Questions like, "Why does God permit evil?" and "Are religion and science compatible?". While many people ask these and similar questions, most do not have access to thinkers who spend their lives considering them. What the speakers provide are serious answers, not pat or simple answers. Their perspectives are representative of the best of mainstream theological scholarship, and their insights are both important and enriching. Lessons: Evil; Religion and Science; Other Religions; Evangelism and Tolerance; The God of the Old Testament; Jesus and Christianity; Resurrection; The Gnostic Gospels; The Sins of the Church, and; Forgiveness.

Due to the provocative subject matter, any of these topics should capture the attention and interest of most people, even those who aren't devout class attendees. Each session is standalone, so this makes a good "fill-in" resource for one or two weeks or for a 10-week series. It fits pretty well within a 1-hour class, but would also be good for longer classes which allow for more discussion.