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Shutting Down Cheap Shots – Discussion Guide

Section 1

Discuss what you applied in the past seven days from the last Overflow Show.

Read Mark 11:27-33 Discuss the dynamics of this exchange. What stands out to you and what could we apply in discussions with others?

Section 2

Go to www.OverflowShow.com and listen to the 5-minute podcast titled Shutting Down Cheap Shots.

Section 3

What did you think? What stood out to you as you listened?

What are some one-liner statements that you hear tossed at Christians?

How often do you hear these statements offered in a very confident tone of voice? How apt were you in the past to think that a confident tone of voice equated to someone being able to substantiate their point of view? Why?

According to Koukl what is not the goal of using these techniques? What is the goal? Explain?

When someone makes a charge against your faith, does Koukl recommend initially responding with a defense of your faith against the charge? He mentions the burden of proof, how does that relate?

What are the 2 primary questions that Koukl recommends asking when attacked with a one-liner?

ROLE PLAY: OK, let's do a little role-play as a group. I need two volunteers. One of you will pick from the one-liners that we said that we hear sometime, and deliver it. The other volunteer will be the Christian in the exchange and use the questions. Let's run through two or three of these exchanges. Who will be the first two volunteers for the first exchange?

Describe a discussion where you felt like the other person was not really interested in dialogue but rather seemed to practice conversation control by doing all the talking?

What is the third statement that Koukl recommends using when you encounter this type of controlling conversationalist?

Section 4

Discuss some ways we could apply a few of these principles in the next 7 days?

One suggestion (if needed): Approach a friend who has either political, moral, or religious convictions that are very different than yours. Tell him that your Monday night discussion group was discussing how in our society it is all too common to have cheap shot one-liners tossed at people in certain groups criticizing their beliefs. Ask him if there are any one-liners that he hears thrown at his group or perspective. Consider also asking him how he would respond if he had time so that the other person could better understand his point of view.

If he asks you one-liners that you hear tossed at you, share them with him. Chances are, he will ask you how you handle that.

Overflow enthusiastically recommends the audio book TACTICS IN DEFENDING THE FAITH, by Greg Koukl. It is available at STR.org.

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