**With All Your Mind, Pt 1**

**September 9/10, 2023**

**Speaker: Tom Hughes**

**Opening:** [15 mins] We suggest you begin with an opening prayer and then a brief “catch up” or “icebreaker” before moving into the scripture reflection and application questions.

**Scripture Reflection:** [20 mins]Read **1 Peter 3:15 & Matt 22:37-40.** After allowing the group time to reflect on the passages, ask them to share what most stands out to them.

**Application Questions:** [40 mins](*These questions will help you and your group dig deeper into the weekend sermon. Feel free to edit or use only those which fit your allotted time.)*

1. In week 1 of the “With All Your Mind” sermon series, Tom said, *“Biblical faith is connected to considering the evidence – it’s not a blind faith, it’s not a belief despite the evidence – it’s a belief because of the evidence.”*
   1. Share with the group the “evidence” you examined which led to your putting your faith in Jesus.
2. *The end goal of apologetics (“defense” for why you believe in Jesus – 1 Pet 3:15) is not simply that you are smarter, it’s that you love God with all your mind, heart, soul, and strength – and love others as yourself.”*
   1. What are some of the core spiritual beliefs or worldview you hold that help you to grow in your love for God and others.
3. Tom stated, “*We need our minds to think – and we need God to be at work to open our minds – to receive the understanding that God wants to give us*.” (**2 Tim 2:7**)
   1. How has this thought about needing to engage both our reason as well as God’s illuminating work, been at work in your journey as a follower of Christ?
   2. How well do you think you are able to give a defense of your faith? How might you grow in this area?

**Closing & Prayer**: [15 mins]

* Have each person in your group share a prayer request, and then have someone pray for them.
* Pray that God would use this sermon series to help both the spiritually “unconvinced” and “convinced” to grow in their love for God and others.
* Pray that God would continue to bless and grow CA’s 2023 “in person” attendance.