



Core Truth: We need confident belief AND loving communication.

Sean role plays an atheist, sharing his intellectual move from believer to skeptic and fielding questions from Momentum students. Questions revolve around origins, morality, biblical reliability, purpose, and the person of Jesus. The session closes with an appeal to grow our confidence in Christianity and soften our conversations with atheists.

Prompt: Students rub shoulders with unbelievers. Some are agnostic, others atheistic; some aggressive, others dispassionate. Invite students to define atheism and share what they know about atheists. Introduce Sean McDowell as one of the best voices on preparing Christians to defend their beliefs, but warn them his speech will do it in an odd way, by wearing Atheist Glasses.

Play: Video of Sean McDowell, “Atheist Glasses” buildmomentum.org/resources

Process: Select from the following questions to help students **remember**, **rekindle** and **reengage**.

NOTE: This session does not follow the typical formula. Instead of preaching to the audience, Sean fields their questions, criticisms, and challenges role-playing an atheist. The session lasts longer but moves faster than usual, so it may be more beneficial for your youth group to break your viewing into two to three segments, pausing in between questions to interact with them.

The following ⏪Rewind questions fall into two categories:

1) **Questions students asked the atheist:**

Questions of Origins: If you believe humans evolved from apes, why don't we see transitional skeletons? If you believe in a Big Bang, how did something come from nothing? How do you explain the incredible design in the world if you don't believe in a Designer? Can you give me an example of evolution taking place today?

Questions of God/Bible: Can you provide examples of the contradictions in Scripture you are so sure of? How does the God of the Bible differ from other ancient deities? Aren't atheists hypocritical for their inconsistency in belief in no God?

Questions of Morality: Where do you get an idea of right and wrong?

Questions of the Church: How do you explain the unity of the 2000+ people gathered at Momentum sharing their love for Jesus?

Questions of Humanity: Do you believe we have a soul? What do you think happens after we die?

Questions about Truth: Where does an atheist get his confidence in making truth assertions?

2) Questions related to our interaction with atheists:

- « Lack of biblical knowledge may feel like an obstacle to sharing your faith. But even Sean admitted to not knowing everything. ***What should we do or say when we don't know an answer to an unbeliever's question?***
- « "I don't believe most of what I said (as an atheist). I'm a Christian not because of blind faith. I'm a Christian because I think it's true," Sean proclaimed. ***What makes you think it's true?***
- « It is not uncommon for Sean to feel hostility and arrogance from Christian audiences when he does his role play. ***What did he say motivates this response? How did you feel listening?***
- « When Sean spoke to a group of free-thinking atheists in California, they gave him some tips on how Christians can improve their reputation and approach to atheists. ***What did they say?***
- « Read [John 1:14](#). ***How does Jesus model the perfect apologist?***
- « Sean said, "Christians get angry and defensive because they don't have firm beliefs. Confidence pushes down defensiveness." ***What steps do you need to take to build confidence in your Christians beliefs?***

Prayer: Have students share names of people with whom they have spiritual conversations. Pray for each one. [Read](#) Colossians 4:2-4, asking God for opportunity, boldness and grace in sharing their faith.

