

Confident Faith in the Local Church

Events that explore questions
about faith and Christianity.

Welcome



OCCA The Oxford Centre for Christian Apologetics is committed to engaging the curious and equipping the saints in their faith. OCCA acknowledges everyone, of all demographics and ages, has big questions about life, meaning, purpose, and morality. We seek to respond to these big questions with kind and credible answers that are intellectually rigorous yet emotionally intelligent.

Charlie Styles

CEO

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What is a Confident Faith Day?

OCCA runs evangelistic and apologetics training days for churches, parachurch ministries, young professionals, and other groups who are seeking to become more confident in their faith by hosting an open space where their questions can be met with an answer.

What do they offer?

- **Tailored** training day for your church or organisation
- Lectures and training from **credible** speakers
- **Meaningful** and **accessible** content
- Dialogue about faith questions
- Opportunities to invite other churches along to benefit your wider **community**



What does a Confident Faith Day typically look like?

While we have a suggested format and brand for these days, we are keen to tailor the day to meet the needs of your group. Ultimately, the day consists of a number of lecture sessions, Q&A panels, and the opportunity for some good conversation.

Topics

The topics below are simply examples of what our speakers specialise in. While not a comprehensive list, they should give you an idea of today's big questions.

Classical apologetics topics exploring the arguments and reasons for a biblical worldview and scriptural accuracy:

1. How does a loving God allow suffering?
2. Why should I trust the Bible?
3. Old Testament: difficult passages
4. What about other religions?
5. Extra-biblical sources for Jesus

Cultural, ethical, and existential questions exploring identity and meaning:

1. Is faith good for the world?
2. What is my purpose?
3. Gender, sexuality, and identity
4. Dealing with doubt
5. Abortion, euthanasia, and bioethics

Topics for **evangelism training**:

1. How to share your faith
2. Telling your story
3. A heart for the lost
4. Keeping mission at the heart of the local church

Purpose

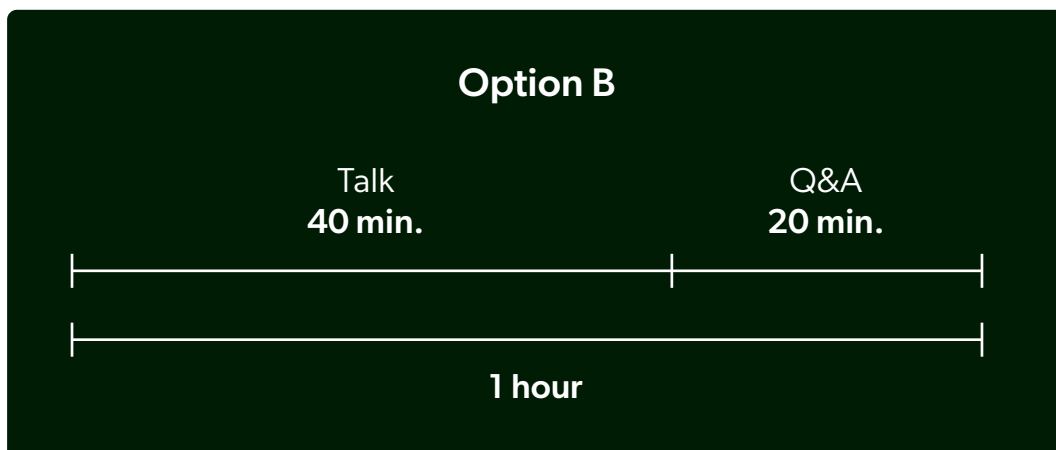
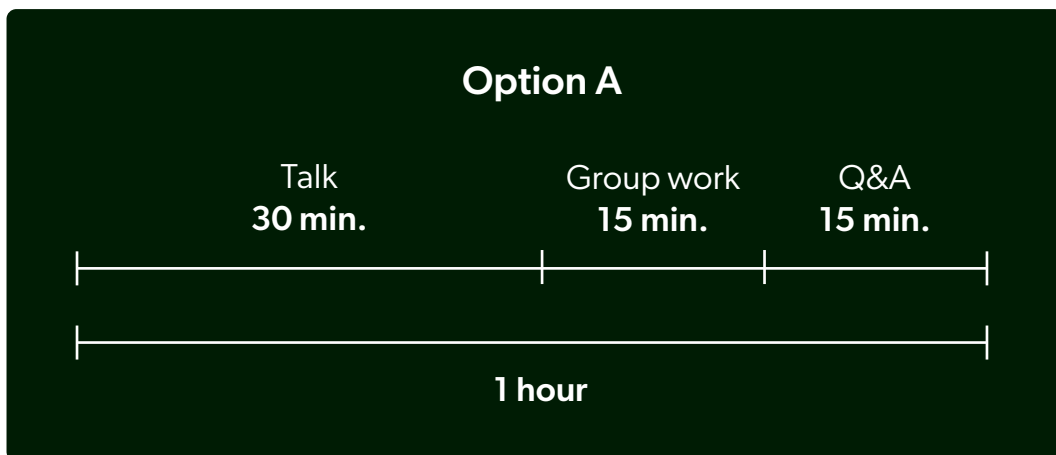
The overarching day can be defined by your **key motivation**. What do you imagine is the purpose of the day? Perhaps you would like to:

1. Train up leaders in your church
2. Offer credible apologetics and reasons for belief
3. Teach your congregation how to share their faith
4. Welcome people of all backgrounds to explore Christianity

Format and Structure

Each session can be comprised of lecture time, group work, and Q&A – or all three. Typically, it's worked well to allocate approximately **1 hour for each session**.

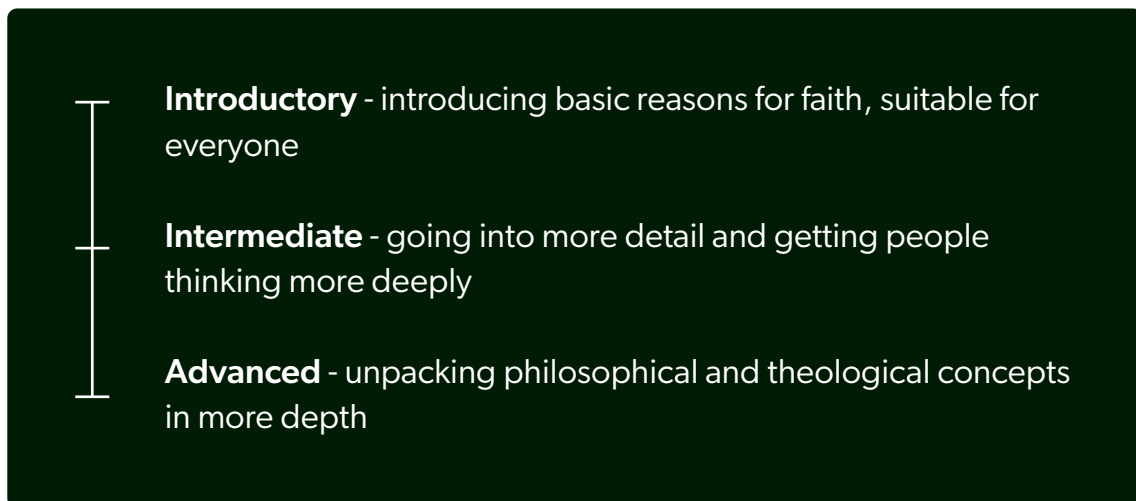
For example:



Pitch

It is also important to think through the level you'd like OCCA to pitch their material so that the content is suitable for the desired audience group(s).

A simple metric might be:



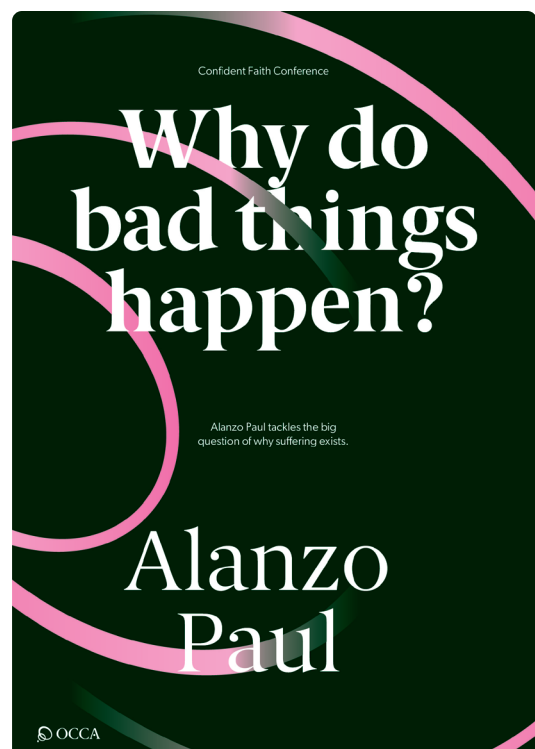
Advertising

'Confident Faith Day' is just a template brand - though we are happy to use it or substitute it for a name of your choosing.

Here are some suggested alternatives:

- Reasons for Faith Conference
- Thinking Church Day
- Evangelism Training Day
- Apologetics Training Day

We can also help provide branded materials for the advertising and presentation of the event, such as posters, postcards, and Powerpoint slides.





Venue

Naturally, your church might be a great place to host your event! However, it might be worth thinking through **capacity** and **audience**.

Perhaps there is a local venue that could hold a number of people from local churches that you invite, or perhaps there is a more neutral setting to host your event if the main goal is outreach. Or, maybe a building that offers various breakout rooms is needed.

Each venue has pros and cons. It is worth thinking through what setting will help to facilitate the desired tone and atmosphere for your event.

Costs

OCCA recommends charging for the event to cater for your guests and to signify what they can expect - high quality material.

The typical cost for OCCA to run a Confident Faith Day would account for 2-3 OCCA speakers plus travel expenses (i.e., £250 per speaker). OCCA is a charity and can only run days like this thanks to the generosity of it's supporters. In light of this, we welcome any donations to help us to keep impacting lives through our events, trainings, and outreach. That said, we love to partner with churches and groups, so if finances are an issue, please do get in touch with us.

Example Schedules

'Evangelism Training Day'

10:00	Coffee and Welcome
10:20	Session 1 <i>What is Apologetics and Why is it Important Now?</i> Charlie Styles
11:20	Break
11:30	Session 2 <i>Is There Any Evidence for Christianity?</i> Sara Stevenson
12:30	Lunch *We suggest catering in lunch to look after those attending.
13:15	Session 3 <i>Is God Even Relevant in the 21st Century?</i> Sara Stevenson
14:15	Session 4 <i>Is Faith Good for the World?</i> Charlie Styles
15:15	Q&A Panel
15:30	Concluding Thanks and Prayer *With options to include worship and a call to action for believers and non-believers alike (if this is the case, times can be adjusted accordingly).

'Tackling the Big Questions'

10:00	<p style="text-align: center;">Coffee and Welcome</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Often we introduce OCCA during this time with a short video).</p>
10:20	<p style="text-align: center;">Session 1</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Is God Real and Can We Know Him?</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tom Price</p>
11:00	<p style="text-align: center;">Session 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Where is God in a World of Injustice?</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Clare Williams</p>
12:00	<p style="text-align: center;">Q&A Panel</p>
12:30	<p style="text-align: center;">Lunch</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*We suggest catering in lunch to look after those attending.</p>
13:20	<p style="text-align: center;">Session 3</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>How Does God feel about My Sexual Identity?</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>A Christian Answer</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ben Thomas</p>
14:20	<p style="text-align: center;">Session 4</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Do Science and Faith Mix?</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tom Price</p>
15:20	<p style="text-align: center;">Q&A Panel</p>
15:50	<p style="text-align: center;">Concluding Thanks and Prayer</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*With options to include worship and a call to action for believers and non-believers alike (if this is the case, times can be adjusted accordingly).</p>

How do you organise a Confident Faith Day?

Aside from thinking through the factors laid out above, the first step is to invite us. We would love to connect, get to know you, and help create your event. Simply email: invites@theoCCA.org. Once you're in contact, we'd be happy to set up a call to work out all the details.

OCCA loves to involve and benefit as many people as possible – so it might be worth thinking through other churches in the area you can collaborate with and invite to your day.

We're here to talk you through all of these factors and help tailor the event to fit your church or group. If you have any other questions, don't hesitate to reach out. We look forward to hearing from you!





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