

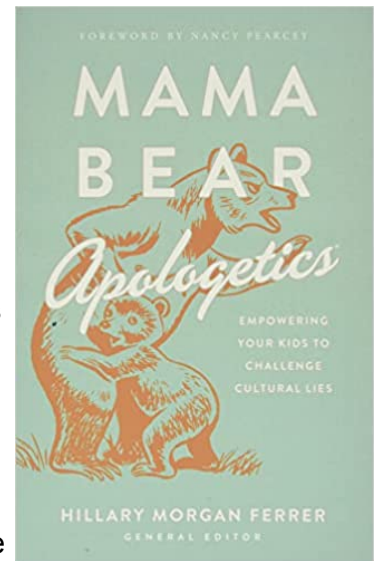
Mama Bear Apologetics - Cliff Notes

Who: This book is for any woman who has a desire to help kids challenge cultural lies with the truth of Jesus. Children of the body of Christ need guidance, role models, and solid answers to the tough questions about their faith.

What: What is apologetics? It's not apologizing for our faith or being defensive about it, rather it is giving reasons and evidence for what we believe with graciousness toward others in sharing the truths of Christ. In reference to this book, "mama bear" apologetics is preparing our children, so that when they encounter tough questions, bad ideas and half-truths, they will be able to recognize them for what they are and not let them dismantle their faith.

How to start becoming a "mama bear apologist":

- Know your Bible - Remain in God's word and in prayer. We can't defend scripture if we don't know it
- Gather resources - Model a thirst for learning if we want to teach our kids to do the same
- Carve out regular family time to study - Intentionally ask difficult questions and teach how to find answers
- Share life with like-minded sisters of the faith - Discuss apologetics with others is how we will experience iron sharpening iron (Proverbs 27:17)
- Practice, Practice, Practice - Take what you are learning and practice having conversations (hint - it's usually best to do as little talking as possible in defending the faith. Instead, focus on asking questions and listening!)



Why: Why is this important? Because we are living in an increasingly post-Christian world where Christianity is becoming less of the norm as an increasing number of young adults are leaving the church and their faith. We can't just expect that because our kids go to church, or youth group, or are homeschooled, that they will become fervent followers of Christ. Therefore, we should strive to do all we can do, through the help of the Holy Spirit, to clearly communicate the truthfulness and validity of the Christian faith. We should be teaching doctrine and skills that can help our children think critically from a biblical perspective about the world around them.

Discernment: - As mama bears, our job is to help our kids separate the good and the bad from the culture around us. It means teaching our kids the skills to make wise decisions on their own without hovering over them. How can we do this? By teaching them the "**chew and spit**" method of discernment. (chewing and swallowing what is good, and spitting out what is bad). We need to teach them how to interact with contemporary culture, as many of the most potent lies are wrapped in partial truths and normalized with attractive packages. And how can we teach them unless we learn how to discern for ourselves, which is where the acronym "R.O.A.R like a mother" is introduced.

Recognize the message

Offer discernment (affirm the good, reject the bad)

Argue for a healthier approach

Reinforce through discussion, discipleship and prayer

What kind of cultural lies are out there? They are everywhere and you will notice them once you start looking! The remaining chapters go through the following cultural lies, explaining their prevalence in our culture and applying the R.O.A.R strategy:

- *Self-Helpism* - God helps those who help themselves
- *Naturalism* - My brain is trustworthy, according to me
- *Skepticism* - I'd believe in God if there was evidence
- *Postmodernism* - The truth is, there is no truth
- *Moral Relativism* - You're wrong to tell me I'm wrong
- *Emotionalism* - Follow your heart, it never lies
- *Pluralism* - Just worship something
- *New Spirituality* - I'm not religious, I'm spiritual
- *Marxism* - Communism failed because nobody did it right
- *Feminism* - The future is female
- *Progressive Christianity* - Christianity needs a makeover