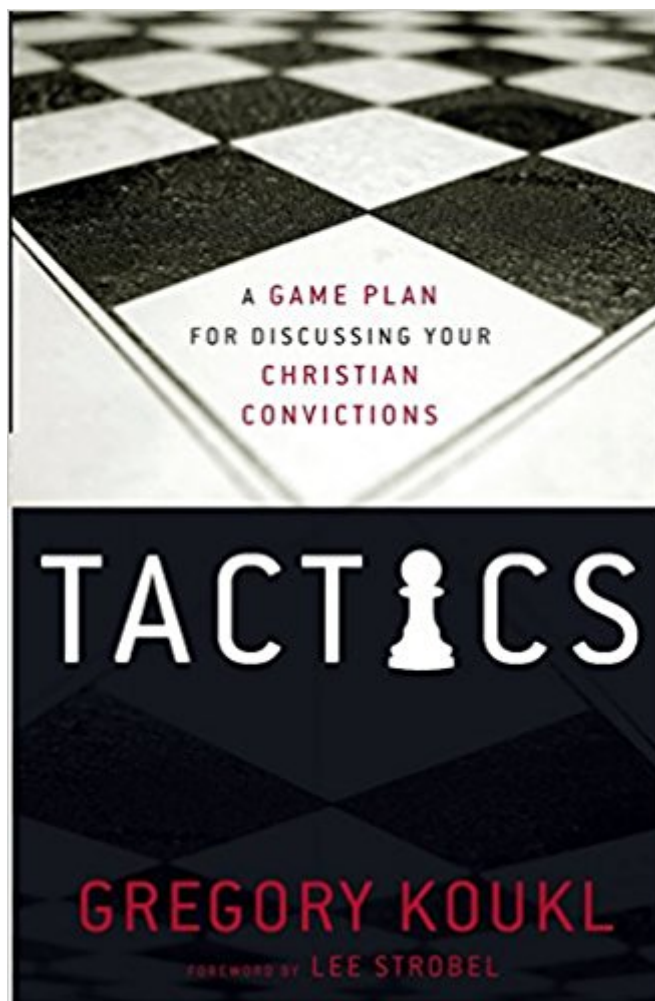


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# Tactics: A Game Plan For Discussing Your Christian Convictions



## Synopsis

In a world increasingly indifferent to Christian truth, followers of Christ need to be equipped to communicate with those who do not speak their language or accept their source of authority. Gregory Koukl demonstrates how to get in the driver's seat, keeping any conversation moving with thoughtful, artful diplomacy. You'll learn how to maneuver comfortably and graciously through the minefields, stop challengers in their tracks, turn the tables and—most importantly—get people thinking about Jesus. Soon, your conversations will look more like diplomacy than D-Day. Drawing on extensive experience defending Christianity in the public square, Koukl shows you how to:

- Initiate conversations effortlessly
- Present the truth clearly, cleverly, and persuasively
- Graciously and effectively expose faulty thinking
- Skillfully manage the details of dialogue
- Maintain an engaging, disarming style even under attack

Tactics provides the game plan for communicating the compelling truth about Christianity with confidence and grace.

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## Customer Reviews

Greg Koukl has been using the methods offered in this book for many years with our Summit students and to great effect. His suggestions, illustrations, and witnessing approach work. This is a well-written, practical, and timely book. -- David Noebel

In this wise and compelling book, Greg Koukl—who has thought long and hard about not only what to say but how to say it—provides a game plan for equipping believers through an artful method of careful thinking and winsome conversation. If you struggle with how to talk about your faith and respond to questions and objections in a meaningful and effective way—and most of us do—there is no better book to buy,

read, and put into practice. I could not recommend it more highly! -- Justin Taylor

C.S. Lewis once said, 'Any fool can write learned language. The vernacular is the real test.' In this book, Greg Koukl passes Lewis's test with flying colors. There are many great arguments in favor of the Christian faith, but many of them are accessible only to professional apologists and philosophers. Koukl has developed a memorable and practical way to translate these arguments so that all Christians can become winsome and persuasive apologists in everyday conversations, no matter what their day jobs. This book should be required reading for every thoughtful Christian. -- Jay W. Richards

If you enjoy apologetics, then Greg's book *Tactics* is not only a required read, but simply a delightfully entertaining resource. In fact, just try and put it down! Especially for those who struggle with relevant ways to relate to non-Christians while presenting Christian truth, this volume provides many proven methods of natural, non-confrontational dialogue where the purpose is often to simply give an unbeliever something to think about, what Greg calls placing a stone in someone's shoe. Featuring remarkably simple techniques that are easily and fruitfully applied, I highly recommend this incredibly insightful book. -- Gary R. Habermas

With the advantage of a lifetime of experience, Greg Koukl has written what must be considered THE authoritative treatment of how to employ various strategies in conversations with unbelievers about the Christian faith. *Tactics* is not just another apologetics book. It is a sensitive, well-written, widely illustrated treatment of actual situations that often come up when believers share their faith. Koukl not only reminds us it is not enough to know why you believe, it is also crucial to know how to communicate those beliefs by adapting to various situations. And *Tactics* shows precisely how to do that. -- J. P. Moreland

Just as a course on tactics is a requirement at all military academies, so too Greg Koukl's *Tactics*---A Game Plan for Discussing Your Christian Convictions should be required training for all Christians and churches. Koukl has made a worthwhile contribution to the literature on apologetics by teaching us how to say what we say. Witty and winsome, this resource is as fun to read as it is to put into practice. • -- Hank Hanegraaff

In a society filled with so much anti-Christian rhetoric, there is no better book to equip Christians to think clearly, soundly, and inoffensively in the face of the devices employed today in opposition to the Christian Faith. -- Norm Geisler, Author

*Tactics* is the book I've been waiting for! I love engaging non-Christians in conversation, but in the back of my mind I often think, 'What if I get stuck and don't know what to do?' Greg helped me put that fear to rest and gave me practical tools to artfully maneuver in conversations. I enthusiastically recommend *Tactics*. It will revolutionize your conversations with non-Christians. -- Sean McDowell, Author

Greg Koukl is a wise, seasoned front-lines apologist. I am happy to recommend a book so full of practical insights and careful guidance for skillfully, winsomely defending the Christian faith. -- Paul Copan,

AuthorGreg Koukl is a master tactician. I know of no one who is more conscientious in his efforts to communicate effectively and winsomely his Christian faith. In this book Greg shares with us his tried and true methods, skills honed through continual practice and revision. Mastering his tactics will make you a more effective ambassador for Christ. -- William Lane Craig, AuthorWhen I want someone who can help me train ambassadors for Christ, the first person I call is Greg Koukl. Now, his proven ideas are in this book. I wish I knew these tactics twenty years ago. They are some of the best I've ever seen to help Christians be more effective ambassadors for Christ. Trust me---if you read Koukl's advice and learn his methods, your impact for Christ will skyrocket. -- Frank Turek, AuthorGreg Koukl is a master of the ideas that under gird the Gospel and one of the finest Christian communicators on the planet. He has spent many thousands of hours in front of the most difficult skeptics and their toughest questions and has developed very effective techniques to bring the truth to the surface of any conversation with love and grace. I have learned so much over the years by studying his persuasive yet respectful approach to giving reasons for faith. His book, Tactics, presents his methods in a way that is engaging and accessible to every believer. I hope Christians in churches all over the country gather together to study this important book and learn to stand firm for the Gospel in these dark times. -- Craig Ellison, PhD, Founder and Director

In a world increasingly indifferent to Christian truth, followers of Christ need to be equipped to communicate with those who do not speak their language or accept their source of authority. Gregory Koukl demonstrates how to get in the driver's seat, keeping any conversation moving with thoughtful, artful diplomacy. You'll learn how to maneuver comfortably and graciously through the minefields, stop challengers in their tracks, turn the tables and---most importantly---get people thinking about Jesus. Soon, your conversations will look more like diplomacy than D-Day. Drawing on extensive experience defending Christianity in the public square, Koukl shows you how to: - Initiate conversations effortlessly - Present the truth clearly, cleverly, and persuasively - Graciously and effectively expose faulty thinking - Skillfully manage the details of dialogue - Maintain an engaging, disarming style even under attack Tactics provides the game plan for communicating the compelling truth about Christianity with confidence and grace.

As a student in high school I learned that it isn't good to tell a teacher that she is wrong, even when you know the subject better than she does. It is better to ask a question and to shape that question in such a way that the teacher will realize her mistake while attempting to answer the question. I never formalized that method, but Gregory Koukl does in his book Tactics. But rather

than addressing how not to offend someone who has the ability to influence your grade, Koukl approaches this from the standpoint of how to share your faith. These days, we encounter many people who are offended by Christian beliefs. The tactics Koukl outlines in his book can help us to reduce the conflict and help them discover the truth of what we are saying for themselves. And even if they don't, perhaps the people listening will. The meat of the book is three questions that we can ask that will cause people to consider what they are saying. Often, people are just repeating things that other people have said, without giving any thought to the validity of the argument. These three questions may cause the person to see the weakness in their argument.

What do you mean by that?

How did you come to that conclusion?

Have you ever considered?

The great thing about these questions is that they aren't limited to an adversarial situation. You might be talking to a close friend and hear them say something that doesn't sound quite right. "What do you mean by that?" Your child might say something like, "I don't think I should play with Jane anymore." You might ask, "How did you come to that conclusion?" or simply, "Why?" One of the things that Koukl brings out about asking questions is that you can direct the conversation without taking sides on an issue. You don't even have to be certain of what the right answer is. Perhaps, once you discover what the other person is saying and why they are saying it, you will agree with them. But when they are wrong, those questions may help them to see where they went wrong. This is the best book on sharing your faith that I've read. Unlike other books that tell you what to say about the gospel, this book focuses more on the practical ways we can improve communication. While there are a few things I'm not sure I agree with him on, this is a book that every Christian who wishes to improve communication with non-believers should read. But the people who will benefit the most are the people in leadership positions who must deal with people who disagree with them. I can see where a teacher of a small group might put this to use if there is a student who insists on pushing strange doctrine during class. Rather than getting into an argument that disturbs the other class members, one could ask questions of the person and bring them around, or at least, make the other students aware that the person's ideas are not correct.

This is a game-changer for all of us who sometimes don't feel fully equipped to defend our faith. It takes a completely different tactic to apologetics than I have previously read. More importantly, the strategies provided not only help with defending one's faith, but can change the way you communicate with spouse, friends, family, coworkers and others - in all sorts of topics. It has been so much a must-read for me that I have purchased for many friends!

Koukl likes to ask questions, and he is good at it. His "Socratic" approach is a revolutionary one for many who would normally state their case rather than probe to find out what others think first, then help them to see the flaws in their thinking. The book lays out a set of concepts that can be used in advancing any set of beliefs, but the specific examples make the concepts especially applicable to Christian case-making. The book is a great tool for those who find themselves in conversations with disagreeable or disagreeing and challenging people. This is a thoughtful, well-written, engaging and fun way to learn a new conversational skill that can significantly impact the discussions we have every day.

Since confronting wrong thinking, or thinking that is inconsistent with a Christian world view, is a decidedly touchy thing to do; and since to be uneasy about sharing one's faith is rather the norm, and since I am, to my regret, not known for being a tactful person, 'Tactics' is literally a Godsend. Honestly, concisely and accurately written; it provides a method for hams, beginners, or those who struggle with this issue to take the fear/embarrassment/awkwardness out of talking with others about important issues of belief and belief in practise, without offending and without setting oneself up as a target for gratuitous dissing. This book also certainly shows that the Christian world view is a powerful and intelligent way of seeing the world, and that one can learn to be comfortable in speaking about any subject whatsoever, in a reasonable and attractive way. I would recommend this book to all Christians, or people with Christian values, or even all people of faith who would like advice on how to talk with others about matters of faith and controversial issues in appropriate, convincing, and socially acceptable ways.

This book gives a lot of good ideas on how to handle objections to basic Christian values which people might say when you're talking with them. It is full of examples of how to respond to negative statements made by people regarding the Bible and social issues that seem to conflict with Biblical values. His explanation of a "Colombo" approach is very entertaining. The Colombo approach shows specifically how to interact with people in a non-provocative way that gets them to think about what they're saying. I liked his approach in not necessarily trying to get a full blown conversion each time you talk with someone, but rather, to place a "stone in their shoe" that gets them thinking about what it is they are saying. Great book! Especially valuable for those who are debaters, and also for Christians who wished they knew what to say when somebody expresses an opinion that conflicts with their own.

I have procrastinated buying this book and now that I have read it I see where I could have used it before. The Tactics used here are not just limited to the gospel. They can be used in your everyday encounters.

This a good book with lots of good ideas, just wish I could remember them all.

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