

A close-up photograph of a hand moving a light-colored chess knight piece. The background is softly blurred, showing other chess pieces on a board.

STAND TO REASON
INTERACTIVE
Student Instructions

AN ADVENTURE IN LEARNING

You are about to embark on an exciting adventure in learning with one of the finest training tools available. “Tactics in Defending the Faith” is an easy-to-follow, careful, well-reasoned seminar that has everything you need to master the art of maneuvering in conversations.

Though the information may be a little challenging at first, we’re confident you’ll not only learn this material, but you can master it so well you could teach someone else. With STR Interactive, faithful participation is all that’s needed. The key to learning is in the nature of this training experience.

STR Interactive allows you to proceed at a moderate pace with many opportunities for reflection, recall, small group interaction, and other meaningful exercises that help you master one segment at a time. We’ll take you from start to finish in your basic training, guiding you through the material step by step.

In six one-hour sessions you will learn how to...

- *Initiate conversations effortlessly*
- *Stop challengers in their tracks and turn the tables*
- *Graciously and effectively expose faulty thinking*
- *Maneuver through mine fields*
- *Present the truth clearly, cleverly, and persuasively*



Stand to Reason exists to equip ambassadors for Christ with knowledge, wisdom, and character to effectively defend classical Christianity and classical Christian values. To further this mission we grant the purchaser permission to duplicate this manual for his students.

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USING THE STR INTERACTIVE MANUAL

The STR Interactive manual is laid out in expanded outline form for ease of use. We want you to be able to readily see the relationships of the ideas to each other. You'll notice the text is punctuated by special sections, usually accompanied by an icon. Each has a unique purpose, as noted below:

AMBASSADOR SKILLS



These segments give tips that increase your tactical skills when using your new knowledge, helping you present the arguments in a winsome and attractive way. This reflects Stand to Reason's vision to build effective Christian ambassadors by training them in the areas of knowledge (an accurately informed mind), tactical wisdom (an artful method), and character (an attractive manner).

STUDENT INTERACTIVE



These important segments are designed to take your training experience from the passive stage to the active stage. You will personally interact with the material and with other students in ways that will greatly accelerate your learning. Exercises include discussion, role-playing, recall, directed reflection, class feedback, memory tips, and games and competition.

STR LOGO



This symbol is meant to draw your attention to a key point, a significant detail, or an important clarification in the argument that is important to fix in your mind.

REFLECT A MOMENT



These segments give the student a chance to momentarily step aside from the main point and ponder a related idea. It may be an insight, a clever application, or a reflection designed to make the lesson more practical or meaningful.

GOING DEEPER

Here you'll find additional information to study on your own that's not included in the video teaching segments. It's added to the STR Interactive manual to give you more detail and expand your understanding. Don't skip these sections.

STUDENT INTERACTIVE SELF-ASSESSMENT

A critical element of mastery learning is recall, the ability to bring to mind the important details you've been learning. These self-assessment quizzes are a powerful tool to help you fix the salient details of the course in your mind so you can recall them quickly when you need them in the future.



DEMONSTRATING MASTERY

At the beginning of each new session you'll find this review of the "Student Interactive Self-Assessment" from the last session. Be sure to do this exercise — either on your own or with the instructor — before each session. It has two purposes. First, by working to recall the main points of the prior session, the ideas will be reinforced in your mind. Second, by reviewing the past material, you'll be prepped for the next session.

ON YOUR OWN

Here you'll find invaluable exercises to do between class sessions designed to immediately get you actively involved using what you've learned. Some require interaction with others in a stimulating way. This step is vitally important for mastery learning.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

We've included some additional articles at the end of each session meant to supplement your learning experience. They expand on concepts or principles dealt with during the sessions.

ENDNOTES

The final section of each session has notes that either document the information taught in the manual or offer added insight. You may want to use the references as a guide to additional resources for further study.

MAXIMIZING YOUR LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Mastery learning involves three basic principles: layering, multiple exposure, and recall.

- *"Layering" exposes you to the material more than once at different levels of complexity. By previewing the material you get the big picture — the larger units of information giving you a clear sense of the basic content and organization of ideas. Then you focus on the smaller packages of thought included under each main concept. You move from general to specific and avoid getting lost in the details.*
- *"Multiple exposure" allows you to engage the same information several times, sometimes from different angles. The interactive exercises, the review, "Food for Thought," "Going Deeper," and the activities you will do on your own serve to reinforce your learning, fixing the instruction more firmly in your mind.*
- *"Recall" involves actively bringing to mind what you've learned without the help of your notes. Recall exercises like "Student Interactive Self-Assessment" and "Demonstrating Mastery" strengthen your long-term memory.*

With these three principles in mind — layering, multiple exposure, and recall — here are a few tips to make your learning experience more profitable. Follow these guidelines to get the most out of your studies:

PREVIEW each session's material before class.

- *Briefly skim over the main headings and subheadings in your manual to give you an initial overview.*
- *If you have the time read through the details at a slower pace.*



REVIEW immediately, either after the class or the next day.

- *Go back over your STR Interactive manual for each session reading the notes carefully, including the end notes (they have more information than is included in the main body of the notes).*
- *Review your manual every couple of weeks after your training. This is critical to long term retention. You'll be amazed at how much you'll remember simply by doing this exercise. Also, the mentoring CD's (see below) are a superior means of effortless review.*

RECALL the main points and important details.

- *Test yourself with the study questions ("Self-Assessment" and "Demonstrating Mastery"). Keep working on the material until you can answer all the questions accurately and effortlessly.*
- *Using the self-assessment quizzes, test yourself the following week and then periodically as part of your recall exercise.*

PRACTICE what you're learning by interacting with others.

- *Incorporate the material as quickly as possible into your daily life. The homework in "On Your Own" will help you.*
- *Look for opportunities to graciously trade ideas with others, especially those who may disagree. Such give-and-take sessions are the single most powerful way to become skilled in the use of this new knowledge.*
- *You might even assemble an informal discussion group of like-minded students to go back through the material together, discussing the issues and quizzing each other.*

In general, commit yourself to do all the work. As mentioned earlier, faithful participation is all that's needed to master this material. If you simply do the exercises and use the material the way it's designed, you'll succeed in learning more and learning faster than you ever thought possible.

MENTORING CDs

Multiple exposure to the material is key to mastery. The more often you hear the information, the more the material will become part of you. That's why we developed Mentoring CDs. Once you and your students have finished the course you'll have a way of reviewing it, reaffirming it, and "owning" it.

Mentoring CDs cover the same material as the DVD, but in audio format. They have a conversational, one-on-one feel. As your "personal" tutor, an STR instructor will walk you step-by-step through the material. Listen to these CDs over and over again in your home or in your car, letting the material sink in until it becomes your own.

Contact STR at 1-800-2-REASON to order your set today.

THE PROFESSIONAL'S SECRET TO MASTERY LEARNING

There is one secret we want to pass on to you that guarantees mastery of this material: Teach it to others. We have intentionally developed this STR Interactive course to be easily transferable. Anyone who is a student of the material can become a teacher of the material. There are two ways you can do this.

First, you can give talks in your church, Sunday school, youth group, home-school, or group study in your community simply using the notes in your manual and adapting the material to your unique situation. You can also use what



you've learned into school reports (be sure to footnote properly), speeches, debates, or letters to your local editor, etc. You can even teach your children.

Second, you can teach this entire course just as is. Purchase your own personal copy of "Tactics in Defending the Faith".

Here's what you'll get. In addition to the student manual — a master set of notes in PDF format you can print out on your own printer, copy and hand out to your students — each kit also includes an instructor's manual. This is a special version of the training material geared just for you as the instructor giving you everything you need to help you teach more effectively. You'll also get the complete training DVD and a CD with a slide show. It's a complete plug-and-play package, all designed to make you an effective trainer of this material.

Please get back to us with any questions you might have or with specific suggestions about how we can improve our educational material. Contact Stand to Reason at 1-800-2-REASON or online at www.str.org.

***Note Restrictions:**

Please don't photocopy this manual for distribution to others. This would be a violation of copyright. If you want to make copies, you have two legal options.

First, you are free to copy limited portions of the manual for educational purposes under the "fair use" doctrine.

Second, if you want to distribute larger portions or copies of the entire manual to your students, you must purchase the complete STR Interactive kit, "Tactics in Defending the Faith." This will give you license to print an unlimited number of STR Interactive manuals for your class.

THE NEXT STEP

"Tactics in Defending the Faith" is just the beginning of what Stand to Reason has to offer you. In addition to an entire curriculum in development in the STR Interactive format Stand to Reason has extensive resources including audio-CDs, books, DVDs, and hundreds of free reports available online at str.org.

STAND TO REASON, THE ORGANIZATION

Stand to Reason is a non-profit, educational organization whose goal is to train Christian ambassadors in the art of careful thinking, and to defend classical Christianity and classical Christian values in a winsome and attractive way.

We focus on imparting knowledge (an accurate message), on wisdom (a skillful, tactical, fair, and artful method), and on character (a warm, inviting, and attractive manner). STR takes the life of the mind seriously, while encouraging a deep, personal devotion to Jesus Christ.

Stand to Reason offers seminars, lectures, publications, and instructional material geared towards helping Christians gain the practical tools they need to make a difference for the Kingdom, giving them both the knowledge and the confidence to be players in the world of ideas. If you'd like more information about STR or how you can have a trained instructor visit your organization, please call us at 1-800-2-REASON.

