Q1. (Faith) Note that as has been his custom, St. Paul first approaches the Jews in the synagogue, and many became believer. The convincing point was that Jesus was the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies concerning the Messiah. How does this illustrate the necessity of understanding the Old Testament as well as the New Testament when evangelizing people familiar with the Bible such as fallen away Christians?

Acts 17:10-12

10 The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas to Beroea during the night.
Upon arrival they went to the synagogue of the Jews.

11 These Jews were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica,
for they received the word with all willingness and examined the scriptures daily to determine whether these things were so.

12 Many of them became believers, as did not a few of the influential Greek women and men.

Didache Bible Commentary

The Jews of Beroea accepted Christ after examining the Old Testament scriptures and determining that Christ had indeed fulfilled the prophecies.

Q2. (Hope) Our hope of our eternal spiritual life and the resurrection of our own bodies is based our trust in God, the Holy Scriptures, the teachings of the Church, and trustworthy witnesses without evidence that their teachings are true. How can a propensity to argue and scoff be an obstacle to faith and the hope of salvation?

Acts 17:32

32 When they heard about resurrection of the dead, some began to scoff,
but others said, “We should like to hear you on this some other time.”

Q3. (Love) In his speech at the Areopagus, St Paul exemplifies a willingness to accept people as they are, trying weave what they believe as pagans into a gateway to the revealed Truth of God. How may this method of evangelizing non-believers be a loving way to bring people to the faith, but, also, what are some of the risks to this approach.

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When evangelizing people familiar with the Bible, we are often challenged by quotations from the Bible from those we seek to bring to the faith. We do not have to be Biblical scholars, but we do need to be sufficiently familiar with the Bible as a whole and with supporting resources such as good Catholic commentaries and the Catechism, to answer Biblical questions. And if we do not know the answer, at least be able to know the resources that could provide answers. This is especially true where the question is based on faulty understanding of the Scripture being quoted. Acts is an especially important book for Catholics because it provides Biblical support for many of our Church practices such as the Sacraments.

We actually see this in this lesson

Acts 17:18

18 Others said, “He sounds like a promoter of foreign deities,”
 because he was preaching about ‘Jesus’ and ‘Resurrection.’

NABRE Footnote V.18

‘Jesus’ and ‘Resurrection’: the Athenians are presented as misunderstanding Paul from the outset; they think he is preaching about Jesus and a goddess named Anastasis, i.e., Resurrection.

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Some of the Athenians were more interested in an intriguing argument that a humble acceptance of the saving Grace of God. We, too, will encounter people who will enjoy the argument and discussion with no serious intention of conversion. At some point, we must be willing to hope that we have planted a seed which the Holy Spirit will nurture into full acceptance and belief.

Matthew 7:6

"Do not give what is holy to dogs, or throw your pearls before swine

A3. (Love) In his speech at the Areopagus, St Paul exemplifies a willingness to accept people as they are, trying weave what they believe as pagans into a gateway to the revealed Truth of God. How may this method of evangelizing non-believers be a loving way to bring people to the faith, but, also, what are some of the risks to this approach.

The approach can be useful, for example, for a scientific minded non-believer, the miraculous events of creation, appearance of life, scientific verification of Biblical truths can be very convincing.

* Science requires that every action has an equal and opposite reaction, energy and matter can never be created nor destroyed but only changed in form, and a body at rest will remain at rest unless acted upon by an outside force. All these fundamental scientific principles are violated by the concept of our Universe having a beginning. Indeed, such was the state of scientific understanding that the universe had no beginning, it just was. This concept dramatically changed in 1965 with the acceptance of the Big Bang theory of the formation of the Universe.
* Life comes from preexisting living creatures. Live never appears from non-living objects. How, then, could the first life have appeared on the earth? But, once there was no life, now life exists. It does no good to hypothesize “life seeding” from extra-terrestrial aliens. That simply moves the question further back without answering the origin of life.
* The often scoffed at Biblical notion of the creation of the Universe to the appearance of the human species occurring over a period of six, 24 hour days, has been scientifically verified by calculating the length of six, 24 hour days occurring in an expansionary Universe for a time space reference point of earth today. That calculation based on the ratio of temperature changes in the Universe from the initial formation of matter (Quark Confinement) to the ambient outer space temperature today yields an age of the Universe of 15.75 billion years (six days x 24 hours per day x 365.25 days per year x 1212) This calculation is well within the range of modern scientific estimates of the age of the Universe.
* Similarly, the also often scoffed at biblical notion that all mankind are descended from one man and one woman has been scientifically verified. Study of mitochondrial DNA in women and Y Chromosomes in men point to all humans alive today being descended from a single woman and a single man who lived in Africa 50,000 to 200,000 years ago.

This approach was used by St. Thomas Aquinas to prove the existence of God from natural observation, e.g. God is the necessary unmoved moved mover to begin the creation of the Universe. Bringing a non-believer to faith is the greatest act of love we can do.