

## **Faith And Society Files: Question**

Question is a six-part introduction to the Christian faith for those willing to question. This resource contains information for group leaders who are following the study group series, including session guides, blessings and ideas for follow-up with group members. This should be used alongside the Question DVD.



# QUESTION

## Introduction for Group Leaders

### **Be welcoming**

One of the most important features of a course like **Question** is the quality of relationships formed over the six weeks; if guests feel that you genuinely like them, are personally interested and concerned for them and that they can trust you, then you will develop a friendship that will hopefully mean they want to come back! Don't be tempted to fake or rush this - pray before, during and after each session for a glimpse of how much the Father loves them, and align your heart to this passion! Keep asking God to enlarge your heart for the lost!

### **Be natural**

Scripture commends us to: 'always be prepared to give a reason for the hope that you have, but do this with gentleness and respect...' This resource cannot just be material you use; we are called to share our hope, ie our own words, our own understanding, our own story as transformed by the impact of the gospel. Our prayer is that **Question** will provide the opportunity for you to do just that. Be yourself, and be open with what you know of the Lord's great love - don't feel like you have to have all the answers, never be afraid to say something like: 'That's a great question, one that needs to be wrestled with, I'm going come back to that next week after I've done a bit of reading up on that subject...' People tend to have a highly-tuned radar for when people aren't being genuine, or towing a party line, or when others don't really know what they are talking about! Open your heart, life and story to the guests and you'll be amazed at what God will do with it...

### **Be prepared**

The various materials supplied will help you prepare for each session, but you will need to prepare yourself before God. Watch and re-watch the DVD, ask yourself the questions provided, search the scriptures and seek the Spirit for answers. Give yourself a few days for the theme to sink down deep into your heart - take notes if you need to and don't be afraid to bring them along to each session. God will speak into a heart that's open to Him and to others, but God also honours prayerful preparation!

### **Be patient**

Give people time. Our faith is a rich inheritance which we know, understand, engage with, and use the language of easily and naturally. But for someone who is not yet following Jesus, it can feel so foreign, strange or even bewildering. Be ready to go right back to the beginning again and again, and try to pace the discussion so that everyone can follow its various stages. Recap what's been said, review what's been talked about, and don't be afraid to ask if people understand what is being explained. God is eternally patient with us, waiting for us to listen, understand and obey; without His gracious and tender love, none of us would be here. Let people journey towards Him at their own pace; that way the answers will become their own and the seed of faith can take deep root in their lives.

In all the sessions, the first question is designed to be a one that everyone in the group should be able to answer – and there is wisdom in allowing time for everyone to have the chance to speak as early as this. Studies show that if people aren't engaged in the group discussion during the first few minutes, it becomes increasingly difficult to enter into the discussion later. Without addressing the question directly to an individual, lean back, make eye contact, smile at people and wait; give space for most (ideally everyone) to think it through and have a chance to share something.

## Be confident

The Church has suffered a huge identity crisis over the years and left us with a heart to be sensitive, but also a hesitancy, nervousness and even fear about sharing the good news.

Remember He has not given us a spirit of timidity, and we need to hear again Paul's rallying cry to the Church in Rome (which faced a much more hostile culture than we do, where martyrdom was a very real possibility!): **"I am not ashamed** of the gospel..." This is not a case of whether you come over as a bit nervous as you lead the course (people will understand that if you are honest about it), but about your identity in Christ and His love for people, His offer of eternal life, and ultimately His power to seek and save the lost. Do all you can to speak the truth in love, without allowing the discussion to descend into debate or argument – this can often happen if course leaders come over as overly defensive, personally offended or quick to jump in. A strong sense of conviction and passion is compelling; however, expressed aggressively or negatively can turn people away. Let guests come away inspired by what we do believe rather than obsessed by what we don't.

## Be prayerful

Finally, nothing will prepare, direct and equip you more than time in the presence of God, seeking more of His heart, His word and His Spirit. Jesus expected His sheep to recognise the voice of the shepherd – Himself! This isn't a one-off download, but a daily desire to stream what the Spirit is saying to the Churches. We listen, explore what we hear, and learn to discern from experience what is of Him and what is more of us. Pray your way through this introduction and let Him guide your ideas and imagination to the details of how you will best run the course locally, and stay in that flow as you lead guests through the course.

It is a very exciting time to be a Christian, with many experienced leaders commenting on a fresh sense of spiritual awakening in their communities all over Wales and the British Isles. It is time for us as a body to wake up to the call of Jesus, and become who we were created in Him to be! Jesus says: "The fields are ripe unto harvest!"; don't accept any other analysis of our situation! Be encouraged and blessed as you go in the wonderful name of Jesus who calls us to work with Him in gathering those far from Him into His saving love!



# QUESTION

## Session Guide

### 1 Create

This first session explores what it means to be made 'in the image of God'. This may well be an entirely new concept to many people, and will take time to digest. Give space for most of your group (ideally everyone) to think it through and have a chance to share something.

Don't be afraid to answer this question first as it'll give others clues as to the kind of things you are looking for – just be sure to end in a way that invites others to get involved (eg. 'but it's not just singers who find this, I'm sure you find this too...').

Create begins with our creativity as human beings, and then looks back to ask where that comes from. This may or may not be a question that guests on the course are already asking, but the aim of this session is to stir up that question and point people towards our true origin in God.

As the discussion moves from experiences to opinions, it's worth relating it back to them wherever possible. For example, when rephrasing question 4, say things like: "Dave's love of architecture, and Sue's passion for art – we just don't see the same desire anywhere in the animal kingdom do we?" That way, the discussion is more a journey that feels personal rather than academic.

Pray before, during and after that God will reveal Himself in the course of the conversation!

#### **Discussion Questions**

- 1 What inspires you? When do you feel this desire to create?
- 2 Why are we driven to create?
- 3 Why are we moved by beauty?
- 4 What is the main difference between human beings and the rest of the species on planet earth?
- 5 If we are 'made in the image of God' what does that say about God? What does that say about us?
- 6 In what way are we a 'spoilt masterpiece'? How might God feel about that?
- 7 If we fully grasped this and saw ourselves, and others, as God's craftsmanship, how would you live differently?

# QUESTION

## Session Guide

### 2 Organic

Organic picks up a theme from Create, but broadens the subject beyond ourselves to the bigger picture of where we fit in the finely-tuned universe we see around us. The aim of this session is to raise the possibility of God being our Maker and therefore our Master too. It explores our fascination with nature and aims to point people to discover the designer in God Himself.

As with session 1, the first question in particular is one that everyone should be able to answer – remember to allow time and permission for this! Remember to keep relating these experiences to the following questions. This is a big subject and one that people will already have formed opinions about, but don't be afraid to explore these with them in a confident way and state what you believe and why. Just remember to end by inviting further discussion rather than ending it.

If you need to, gently challenge the purpose and limitation of science – it asks the questions of what and how, but is not equipped to ask questions for which there isn't a test. Science cannot disprove the existence of God; even the most hardened scientists would struggle to deny emphatically the possibility of God's existence. If the conversation reaches a point where there is a harsh disagreement, bring the discussion back to the possibility of God and the 'what if?' and 'could it be?' questions.

Pray before, during and after, that the God of all wonder would give people the gift of awe and open their eyes to His creative power and loving craftsmanship.

#### Discussion Questions

- 1 When was the last time you escaped to the 'great outdoors'? How do those places revive and refresh you?
- 2 How do you describe that unique quality that nature seems to have?
- 3 Why do we search for something 'that is bigger than ourselves; something ancient, permanent, enduring...'?
- 4 If it were possible for life to come into existence in its complexity and beauty by the blind forces of chance, survival and selection, where do we find meaning and purpose?
- 5 Can we live without meaning or purpose? Why do human beings search for it?
- 6 If God is our Maker, do you think it would matter to God how you live your life?
- 7 If 'God is actually intimately connected, passionately concerned about our world, about us' how does that change my view of life? What would I need to adjust?

# QUESTION

## Session Guide

### 3 Trophy

Trophy deals with the question of where we find purpose in life, why we seek it and where it might ultimately lead. Many people, particularly early on in adult life, will find themselves asking the big questions of who they are and what they are here for. Others will come back to this question after years working in the same job, being in the same place, living the same life for a long time.

Ultimately, the point is that God values us more than our successes and loves us despite of our failures! The aim of this session is to draw out the fact that we couldn't win God's approval with good works anyhow – we need a righteousness that we ourselves cannot achieve on our own, and that righteousness is offered to us in the work of Christ on the cross.

Allow people chance to grapple with how their own pursuits have been an attempt to say: "I am here!" As with all the sessions, if people can see themselves in the problems of sin, then the answers we have to give will seem the more relevant, important and urgent.

Be prepared to share your own experience of how you no longer need constantly to seek approval, because of the inherent value God sees in you.

Pray before, during and after that people would realise we are not here for ourselves, that their lives have eternal significance and consequence, and that your guests might realise what Jesus offers is for them!

#### **Discussion Questions**

- 1 When do you feel most purposeful? What can you just 'lose yourself' in?
- 2 Why are we driven to discover purpose, value or meaning? Where does that desire come from?
- 3 In what types of ways do people try to seek approval? Why do we do this?
- 4 How might the belief that God Himself knows and loves you personally change this?
- 5 'How good is good enough?' What kind of life would really win God's approval?
- 6 How does this understanding of the cross change this view? Is it good news?
- 7 If we are really offered an exchange of our previous record for Jesus' perfect one, what would that mean for you?

# QUESTION

## Session Guide

### 4 Hurt

Hurt introduces the subject of suffering, and is therefore a sensitive issue which will need to be handled carefully. It is not an objective exercise, particularly for any guests for whom this has been a big issue. You will need not just a good grasp of the material but, where possible, an awareness of possible situations (either past or present) that people have faced, or are facing.

Seeking to understand their pain will equip you with ways to answer specific questions. It's often stated that: 'people won't care what you know, until they know that you care...', and that is particularly true of this issue. Don't gloss over somebody's story, or presume to know how they feel; allow the compassion of Christ to shine through your eyes, voice, and general approach before sharing His hope too.

Before playing the Blessing section of the DVD – you might like to introduce a time of prayer where you ask for prayer requests or, if it's ok with the guests, pray for anything that has been shared.

Sometimes the issue of suffering can be second-hand, or it might be a smoke screen for other issues. Working through the topic with people can be complicated, and it may be worth somebody from the church offering to meet with them to talk and pray further.

#### Discussion Questions

- 1 Have you ever heard anyone ask the questions: "Why did this have to happen?" or "Where is God in all of this?" Share your experiences.
- 2 Where does that strong desire for fairness and justice come from?
- 3 Why do some people seem to instinctively turn to God at times of difficulty, crisis or tragedy?
- 4 Why do you think we yearn for our pain to be understood? Why does this help?
- 5 How does this understanding of the cross offer hope when you are hurting? How might it change people's views of God?
- 6 Why does the idea of an afterlife appeal to so many people?
- 7 If heaven is an eternal paradise, what on earth would ordinary people have to do in order to qualify to enter it?

# QUESTION

## Session Guide

### 5 Coincidence

Regardless of nationality, age or faith there is a strong human instinct to pray – particularly in times of great crisis or uncertainty. Following the terrorist attack on the twin towers, for example, churches were flooded with people seeking help in expressing their grief, and crying out to the God they desperately wanted to believe in for hope, courage and peace at that time. Individuals too, who wouldn't describe themselves as Christian, confess to praying from time to time; and some even to answers to those prayers – peace, comfort, direction and more. What seems strange is that, people with no faith will pray with no real understanding of whom they are praying to, or what might happen in response to their requests.

In Coincidence we look briefly at the rich inheritance of prayer in the nation – and explore what is going on as we pray. This session aims to introduce people to the possibility of a real, personal relationship with God in prayer.

You may need to be sensitive towards those for whom unanswered prayer has been a roadblock in their journey of faith, who cannot understand why God would not wish to answer their specific prayer in the way they wanted Him to. A lion does not need help defending itself; it just needs letting out of its cage! In the same way, beware of the temptation to speak on God's behalf or of trying to offer quick answers to why God may or may not have done something in response to someone's prayers. Rather, try to allow time for healing encounters with God; He doesn't need us to defend His ways, but to represent His character and introduce Him to the world!

This session ends with the possibility of praying for people – the size of the group will have a big effect on how this is done - if there is more than one group leader/helper, it might be valuable to split into as small a group as possible so that people can share openly. This is a great opportunity to model a healthy relationship with God through prayer, and for God to reveal His power and love – so pray with confidence, out of a heart of compassion and a hunger to see God move.

#### Discussion Questions

- 1 Have you ever felt like praying? What was the situation? How did it feel?
- 2 Why are human beings driven to discover the 'mysterious adventure of encountering the presence, peace and power of God in prayer'?
- 3 What kind of God would be interested in your desires and dreams?
- 4 Why do so many people attend churches of all different shapes, sizes and styles every Sunday? Why, in the busyness of life, do people allocate this time to pray?
- 5 Can prayer really change things? Does it change God, change the world or does it change the person praying?
- 6 How might Jesus' approach to prayer – to spend time with God, as a child would with a loving parent – change our view on what happens when people pray?
- 7 Is there anything you would like to pray about?

# QUESTION

## Session Guide

### 6 Messiah

Messiah is the final session of the course – and focuses on the identity of Jesus, and the purpose of His life, death and resurrection. People who are not generally interested in religion, or even Christianity, often find Jesus a fascinating and compelling person and are keen to know more about Him. With that, however, comes many misunderstandings and even distortions of His true identity, character and mission – this is something that we can speak about with great authority, not just knowing about Him in the Bible, but knowing Him personally!

Jesus' identity, character and mission can never be fully understood without a clear explanation of why He died on the cross. This has been hinted at in several sessions, but is hopefully made clear in this final session. People will have questions about how the gospel works, and you will need to take your time to ensure this is clear for everyone – but people will also want to know that the gospel works, so keep illustrating the message with your own story, and relating it to them as you do.

After six sessions together, this is a great opportunity to speak with experience, passion and conviction about how you found out about Jesus, how you met Him and how He has touched and transformed your life! If guests have come to the whole course, this may be your last time to see and talk to them, so don't hold back! Pray before, during and after that guests might realise their need for a Saviour, recognise Jesus as the only way, and respond in repentance, trust and love.

#### Discussion Questions

- 1 What do you know about Jesus? Where did you get these ideas from?
- 2 Why has appeal of this one person never gone away?
- 3 C S Lewis writes: 'let us not come up with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.' What do you think he means by that?
- 4 Who do you think Jesus is? Can He be 'really mad, really bad, really good or really God'?
- 5 Why is the symbol of the cross so common in our culture today? Why does it speak of hope to people, particularly at times of crisis?
- 6 How might the cross, this instrument of punishment, torture and execution be seen as a demonstration of love, even the love of God for His world?
- 7 Why might people believe they need a Saviour? What would we need saving from?
- 8 If Jesus is 'God in the flesh', who willingly gave His life as a demonstration of love to absorb the punishment for the sin of the world, that surely demands some response from us. How might it affect you? What do we need to do?

# QUESTION

## CREATE

### Blessing

May the Maker of Heaven and Earth bless you as you seek to know Him more.

May you grasp the ancient truth that you are not an accident, that none of us is a mistake.

May you discover the place He has for you in this world He has made.

May your soul be stirred by the wonder of the joy He takes in you.

May your eyes be opened to see the fingerprints of the Divine Designer, the Proud Father, the Good God in all that surrounds you.

And may you see glimpses of His image in the world He has made, in those you share your life with, and deep inside of you as you seek to become the person He made you to be.

In the name of the One through whom all things were made, in whom we live and move and have our being, the source of all life and humanity's hope, Jesus Christ, God's Son,

Amen

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# QUESTION

## ORGANIC

### Blessing

May the Maker of Heaven and Earth bless you as you seek to know Him more.

May your mind be open to see the wonder and beauty of His grand design.

May you find joy in the knowledge of His intimate connection with the world that He made, the world that He so loves.

May you place your life firmly into the potter's hands; may you know there God's tender strength, His purposeful hold, His gracious shaping.

May you recognise Christ as the source of all life, your Creator and God.

May you reconnect with Him, and come to see yourself and your world through His eyes.

And may you receive from Him the love that He lavishes upon all He has made.

In the name of the One who is Alpha and Omega, beginning and end, the One who holds all things together in himself, the author of life and pioneer of salvation: Jesus Christ, God's Son,  
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# QUESTION

## TROPHY

### Blessing

May the Maker of Heaven and Earth bless you as you come to know Him more,

May your heart find its peace, rest and contentment in becoming the person God made you to be.

May the longing of your passion lead you to your true purpose in Him, the only source of real joy.

May the rhythm of your dreams beat in time with His design for your life.

May you know the plans He has for you, plans to prosper and not to harm you, plans to give you a future and a hope.

In the name of the One who makes all things beautiful in their time, who makes all things new, who forgives all you were, loves all you are, and sees the potential of who you are yet to become; the Author of Life and Pioneer of Salvation. Jesus Christ, our hope and peace,

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# QUESTION

## HURT

### Blessing

May the Maker of Heaven and Earth bless you as you seek to know Him more.

May you come to know Him better who is Himself the answer to the questions of a hurting world and a broken humanity.

May you know the power of the Holy Spirit of God to bind up your soul wounds, to pour the peace of God into the pain of your heart, to sustain you and make you strong to stand again.

May your hands find strength to build back up what has been broken,  
May your heart find the strength to love and hope once more.

May you receive the precious gift of fresh perspective.

May the Eternal God hold you close in His everlasting arms,  
And may the hope of Heaven be yours because of all that Jesus has done for us.

In the name of the One who was broken that we may be made whole again, the One who was forsaken that we might be forgiven, the one true healer and the only source of real hope, Jesus Christ, God's son,

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# QUESTION COINCIDENCE

## Blessing

May the Maker of Heaven and Earth bless you as you seek to know Him more.

May you hear the invitation of God to this mysterious adventure of encountering His presence, His power and His peace in your life.

May you come to know Him, and not simply as provider, but as friend and as guide.

May you experience the Spirit's power to alter the very geography of your soul, to reshape the landscape of all you believe possible,

May you allow His love to change your heart and to use you to change your world,

May you receive His grace, and may that grace not be without effect... and may you hear His heartbeat for you, as you journey deeper into Him.

In the name of the One who is the way, the truth and the life, who alone can grant us access to the eternal throne room and who pleads there for us, the sinner's friend and Heaven's King, Jesus Christ, God's Son.

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# QUESTION

## MESSIAH

### Blessing

May the Maker of Heaven and Earth bless you as you seek to know Him more.

May you encounter the very presence of the God who comes near

May your soul, your very self, be awakened by His words,

May your life be transformed by His sacrificial love,

May your future be redirected by His passion for you

And may the eyes of your heart be opened to see that God is closer than you think!

In the name of one who is the image of the invisible God, the exact portrait of His passion, the mirror image of His mercy, who gave His life to display for all of time just how much the Father loves you, the hope of the world, Jesus Christ, God's Son,

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# QUESTION

## Next Steps

Before coming to the end of the course, you'll want to think through the next steps - both for people who are coming to faith, and also for those who aren't. It is really important that you are ready if people want to respond or are interested in exploring further.

### **For those who haven't come to faith...**

Jesus described the Word of God as a seed that needs to be scattered widely and generously in order to reap harvest - and seed takes time to take root beneath the surface before straining towards the light. For some of the guests, the course may be the first time they've heard the elements of the gospels they've discussed over the past six weeks, and all that's happened is that they have 'received the seed'. It will take more time for the Word of God to take root inside them. Don't be discouraged; pray that God would protect them and provide the necessary environment for them to grow.

You may want to offer additional opportunities for people to continue to ask questions, explore the scriptures and pray together.

There will, of course, be those who don't come to faith. End the course by warmly thanking everyone for attending, and try to keep the door open for them to stay in touch with you. It may be that, for whatever reason, they are 'hard soil' for God's seed to break through, but God may have used the course and your team to break up and soften the soil. This could be a vulnerable and even unsettling time for them; continue to pray for them, offer to stay in touch, and meet together where possible to talk more. Some may want to repeat the course, and so it might be worth having the dates of the next course planned already by the time you finish.

God is eternally patient with us, so we owe it to people to offer them as much time as they need to find faith!

### **For those who want to become Christians...**

There will be others for whom the seed finds good soil, takes root quickly, and begins to grow! You will need to be prepared to help them take the first steps of faith; don't leave it until then to think through how you can lead them to Christ. This is such a precious moment, both for them and for you, and God uses you like a link in a chain to connect people who are far from Himself through faith in His son!

The message and power of the cross is explained on several sessions of the course - but most clearly presented in session six: Messiah. However, don't leave it until the end; use every opportunity! Any time the discussion touches on the cross, explain the gospel as a natural part of the conversation and offer to speak to anyone who would like to know more, after the Blessing section. If the guests get used to being offered the chance to respond, it will hopefully get them thinking and they will be prepared when it is time for them.

If you have never led somebody to faith before it may be a daunting task – but it is also the greatest privilege in this life to walk with a person on their journey to faith. You might be nervous the first time, but the nerves are because it is so important – it's a moment of eternal significance!

The first thing to note is that there is no 'script' for this - there is no mechanical process guaranteed to produce disciples! Jesus described salvation in a number of different ways: following Him, being born again, drinking living water, being healed etc. He understood His Father's heart, and His life's work and mission so profoundly that He could explain it simply to whomever He was speaking in language they could grasp. What better model could there be than that?

Having said that, the following are some key elements to keep firmly in mind:

### **Check that they have understood**

It's not like a step-by-step process, but more like a map. A map is only of any use in helping you get where you need to go, if you know where you are to start with! A lot of evangelism is about helping people to see Jesus and the love and life He has for them (where we need to go!). Without understanding where we are (lost, alone, far from God) then the 'map' we show people won't help them at all, and may even be confusing or misleading.

### **- Check they understand their need of a Saviour...**

It's one thing to understand humanity's general need of salvation – quite another for a person to recognise that they are a sinner in need of rescue! The language of sin is an unfamiliar one in our culture, but the concept is not! The Bible is very vivid about sin - it is a 'missing the mark', a 'falling short of the glory of God' (the standard revealed by Jesus). It is what has separated us from God. It is the condition that we are born with, and all we think, say and do that offends, disgusts and displeases a holy God.

Throughout the different sessions, **Question** presents the problem of sin in a number of ways: a spoilt masterpiece, a broken relationship, selfish pursuits in life, a distance between us and God, etc. This is an attempt to communicate this lost concept of sin in a contemporary way that will connect with people. People may latch onto one or more of these images as relevant for them, or you may use another one in the course of your conversations. Use whichever picture they connect with to describe and explore what they might need forgiveness for.

### **- Check they understand that it's a gift of grace...**

We often fear that, in explaining the problem of sin, we present God in a judgemental light – but it actually deepens our understanding of His amazing love for us! If we were not a fallen race, God's love for us could be taken for granted - why shouldn't He love what he has made?; but the fact is that we have rejected Him from the very beginning, and He still loves us and has taken the first steps in restoring what we have broken. Now that is amazing, and shakes our view of Him, ourselves and even of love itself, to the very core!

If people begin their journey of faith thinking they have to earn their way into God's good books, the likelihood is they will continue in that attempt for a long part of their journey. This leads to a legalistic, guilt-ridden, and highly religious approach to God that was not Jesus' vision of 'life in all its fullness'. People need to hear the bad news (their need of a Saviour), before they can hear the good news (there is a Saviour – and He's good!).

Salvation is what God does in us and for us – not what we do for Him. It's grace, a gift we couldn't earn even if we wanted to; but He is loving enough to offer us what we don't deserve! Now that's good news!

### - Check they understand that it's the only way

Jesus never claimed to be one road to God among many other options. He said: "I am the way, the truth and the life, no-one comes to the Father except through me!" It is only through Jesus; and it is only through His suffering, death and resurrection that we have any hope of being saved from the influence, power and presence of sin.

What this nation desperately needs right now is a Church that is passionately committed to Jesus, living out His grace and expressing the hope of His gospel in loving and radiant ways! Knowing, believing and understanding that Jesus is the only hope for them and for this world, will help to produce fully-committed, grateful and dedicated followers.

### - Check they understand it's the journey of a lifetime

Jesus never wanted to give people a cheap version of grace and often made sure they were no 'hidden extras' to His gospel. "The birds of the air have their nests, the fox have holes, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head...", "Let the dead bury their own dead...", "No-one who puts their hand to the plough and looks back is fit for service in the Kingdom...", "Sell all your possessions and then come follow me..." were all phrases Jesus used to help people understand that faith is not a moment of emotion but the commitment we make to follow Jesus for the rest of our lives; to "deny themselves, daily take up their cross, and to follow Him..."

To follow Jesus will require good Christ-like friends to guide and disciple them, and to connect with the Body of Christ in a healthy local church that can teach, pastor and lead them into areas of ministry and mission. Be clear that it's just the beginning of what God is wanting to do in their lives, and excite them about the future and the hope that God has planned for them!

### Final thoughts from author Jonathan Vaughan-Davies

I really do hope that this material will help to inspire and guide you in God's mission. My prayer is that **Question** might be an effective tool in equipping the Church in presenting the gospel in relevant and powerful ways.

As I come to the end of writing these guidelines, it feels like I'm handing over what has been a very personal project to you as a tool I hope you can use; but I also want it to be an offering to God - an act of worship. There is a song that was written at a time of revival in Wales, and was called its love song:

"Here is love vast as the ocean, loving kindness as the flood.  
When the Prince of Life our ransom, shed for us His precious blood.  
Grace and love like mighty rivers poured incessant from above  
Heaven's peace and perfect justice kissed a guilty world in love."

I believe that that grace and love have never stopped flowing – the flood of loving kindness has not dispersed, any more than the ocean can run dry! But this land is missing its love song; this nation is in desperately need of heaven's peace, and for the gentle kiss of perfect justice.

I have lived with this conviction for a long time that the Lord is waiting to entrust this nation to a people whose hearts are fully His. I long for this; something in me burns to see more of his loving Kingdom 'on earth as it is in heaven!' But I recognise that it's more than a prayer, it's a lifestyle.

What wouldn't you give to reach people who are far from God?

What will it take to unleash the flood again?

The voice of the Lord says: "Whom shall I send? And who will go for Us?"

**Think about it, Ponder, Question.**

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