

Confronting Christianity

HARD QUESTIONS FOR THE
WORLDS LARGEST RELIGION

Aren't We Better Off Without Religion?

Opening

Share Highs/Lows since the last time you met.

What expectations do you have for this series?

Discussion

1. What are some of the usual criticisms that people make of religion and/or Christianity in general? or How would you answer the title question? What argument would you make?
2. Are you discouraged by the rise of the 'nones' in Australia? Are you concerned about the future of the church?
3. Christianity confronts some of our culture's pathways to the good life, like money and comfort. What alternative does the Christian faith have to Western culture's rampant materialism? Read Luke 12:13-15, Acts 20:32-35, 1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19.
4. What alternative does the Christian faith give to Western culture's obsession with comfort and convenience? See Mark 8:34-37; 10:42-45.
5. Christianity also offers a better story than our culture's current experience of conflict. What alternative does the Christian faith offer to our society's tendency to blame & cancel others, and insistence on being right? See Luke 7:36-50.
6. What alternative does the Christian faith give to the isolation that springs from our modern emphasis on the individual? See John 13:34-35.
7. What is your emotional response to the alternatives that religion in general, and the Christian faith in particular, holds out to the dominant (secular materialist, individualistic, etc) story our culture tells?

Wrap Up

Does the Church have a good answer to the question: "Aren't we better off without religion?"
How are you prepared to answer this question in your own now?

Pray

Heavenly Father, we praise you for making yourself known to us, through your Scriptures and in the person of your Son. Help us to see ourselves as we truly are, and to see your Son too, that we might have life to the full in his name. Amen.