

# Evangelism to the Apathetic and Disinterested

Andy Bannister  
Solas



[www.solas-cpc.org](http://www.solas-cpc.org)



“I don’t really care  
about God”

# UK 2021 Census

22,162,062 people (25%) ticked  
“No Religion”, but of that, only ...

- Agnostic (32,000)
- Atheist (14,000)
- Humanist (10,000)

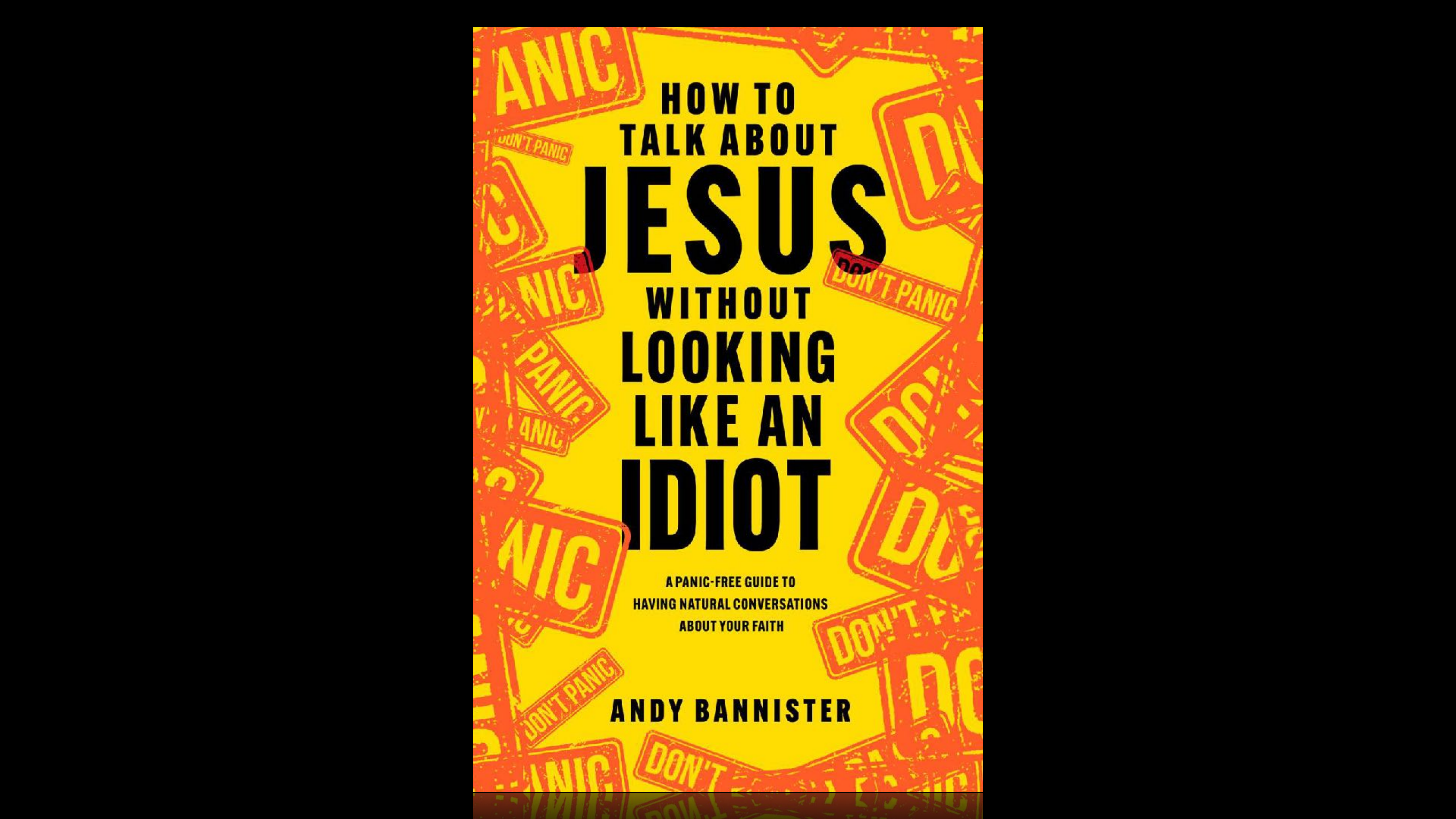
“spiritual but  
not religious”



## Group Discussion

1. Do you have friends, neighbours or colleagues who fit the pattern we've been describing? Have you ever tried to talk to them about faith—if so, how did it go?
2. What do you think might be some of the causes behind the growth in those who might self-describe as agnostic, disinterested, “non-religious”, or “spiritual but not religious”?





**HOW TO  
TALK ABOUT  
JESUS  
WITHOUT  
LOOKING  
LIKE AN  
IDIOT**

**A PANIC-FREE GUIDE TO  
HAVING NATURAL CONVERSATIONS  
ABOUT YOUR FAITH**

**ANDY BANNISTER**



What do you mean by that?

What do you mean by that?

Why do you think that?



What do you mean by that?

Why do you think that?

Have you ever wondered?

What do you mean by that?

Why do you think that?

Have you ever wondered?



# Unbelievable?





Susan Blackmore:

*In recent years I have been in the habit of waking up in the morning (even if it's raining in January in England), looking out, and going "Wow!", and it's a feeling of gratitude. Not gratitude towards god, or anybody, or anything, just free-floating gratitude.*



Susan Blackmore:

*In recent years I have been in the habit of waking up in the morning (even if it's raining in January in England), looking out, and going "Wow!", and it's a feeling of gratitude. Not gratitude towards god, or anybody, or anything, just free-floating gratitude.*

...

*This morning, for example, I looked out and it was so green, we've had frost and it's been white the last few days, but it was green this morning. And [I felt] gratitude to the universe, if you like. It's not really "god" because it's not a creator, it's not anything I can pray to though.*



*just free-floating gratitude.*

*...*

*This morning, for example, I looked out and it was so green, we've had frost and it's been white the last few days, but it was green this morning. And [I felt] gratitude to the universe, if you like. It's not really "god" because it's not a creator, it's not anything I can pray to though.*

**Jordan Peterson:**

*So why feel gratitude towards it then?*



*and it's been white the last few days, but it was green this morning. And [I felt] gratitude to the universe, if you like. It's not really "god" because it's not a creator, it's not anything I can pray to though.*

Jordan Peterson:

*So why feel gratitude towards it then?*

Susan Blackmore:

*I don't know.*

The greatest problem for many people is not that they have nothing to be thankful for, but that they have no one to be thankful to











“[For a committed atheist] it is best to keep the word ‘only’ ready in the arsenal at all times. The flame of the sky at sunset is ‘only’ the part of spectrum that penetrates the atmosphere at that angle ... it is ‘only’ something or other material that scientists know about ... or at least somebody knows all them in some Important Places. Beauty is ‘only’ a neurological tic, or a personal opinion.”



Anthony Esolen











# Susan Blackmore and Gratitude

- **Look at** the experience (*“Isn’t it lovely!”*)





# Susan Blackmore and Gratitude

- **Look at** the experience (*“Isn’t it lovely!”*)
- **Look through** the experience (*“It’s just the chemicals in my brain fizzing”*)



# Susan Blackmore and Gratitude

- **Look at** the experience (*“Isn’t it lovely!”*)
- **Look through** the experience (*“It’s just the chemicals in my brain fizzing”*)
- **Look along** the experience ... ?



What do you mean by that?

Why do you think that?

Have you ever wondered?





Examples of “Wondering” Questions

**What is love?**





Examples of “Wondering” Questions

**Beauty**

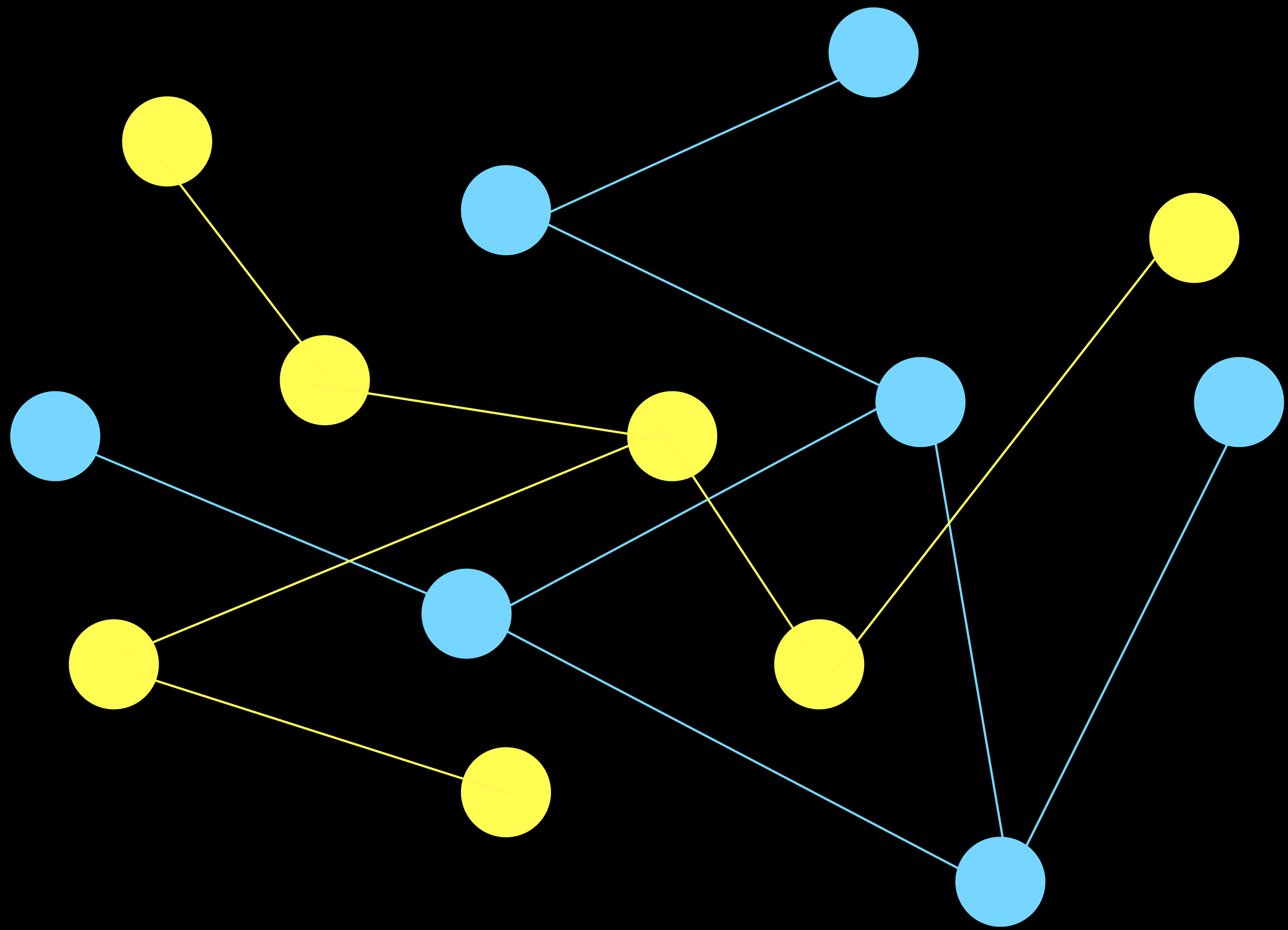




## Group Discussion

1. Imagine you had the chance for a coffee with Susan Blackmore. What kind of wondering questions might you ask her to get her thinking a bit more about gratitude?
2. Think of a friend, colleague, family member who is disinterested in faith: what things do you think they care about most deeply? What kind of wondering questions could you ask them gently try to nudge conversations in a spiritual direction?





# Joining the Dots in Evangelism

Connecting the *Little Story* to the *Big Story*



IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE COMEDY AGENCY



THREE WEEKS MAGAZINE



SORTED MAGAZINE

# ANDY KIND

## HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT

5 CLUES THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE MISSED IN THE SEARCH FOR MEANING

'One of the best Gospel communicators I know, and certainly the funniest'

**DR ANDY BANNISTER**  
HEAD OF SOLAS, CENTRE FOR  
PUBLIC CHRISTIANITY

'Tosses out comic gems in an almost profligate manner'

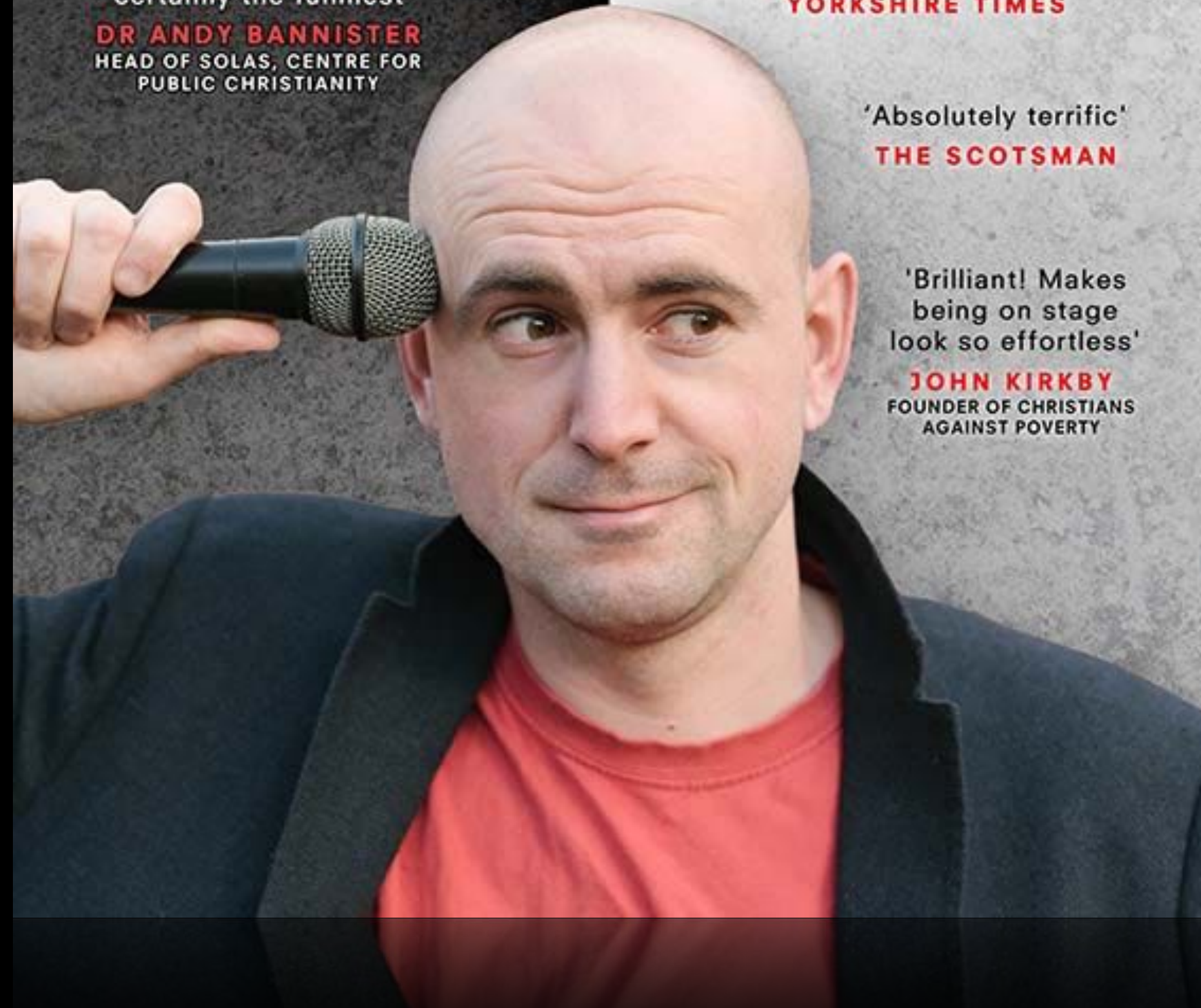
**YORKSHIRE TIMES**

'Absolutely terrific'

**THE SCOTSMAN**

'Brilliant! Makes being on stage look so effortless'

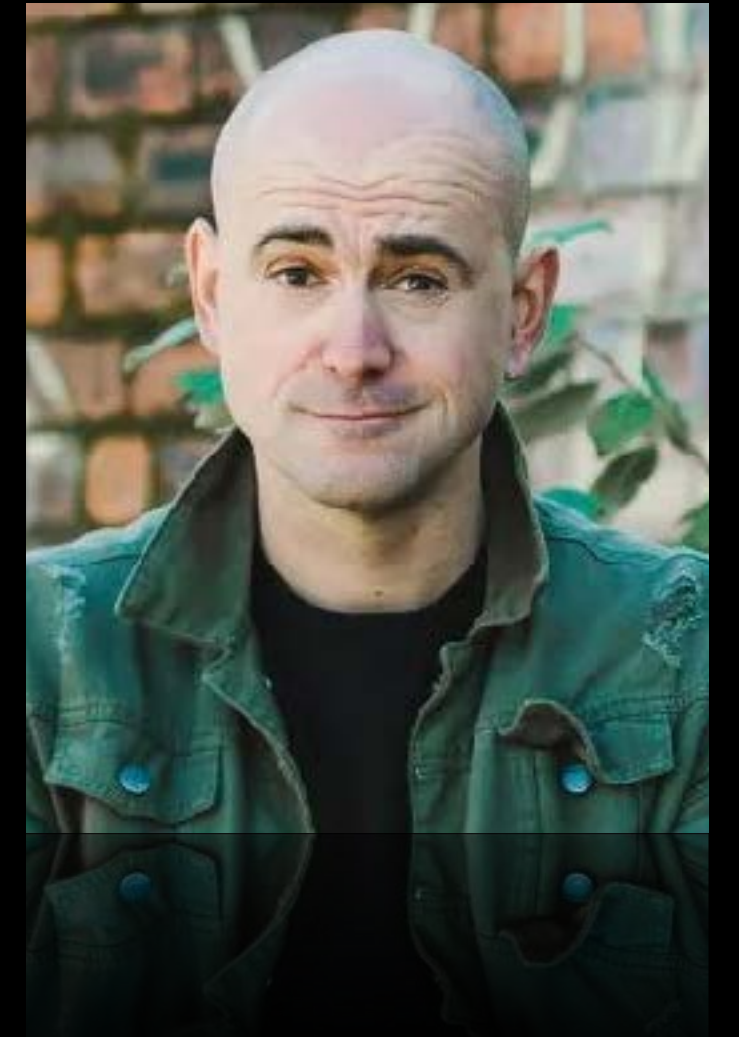
**JOHN KIRKBY**  
FOUNDER OF CHRISTIANS  
AGAINST POVERTY





“In my early twenties I didn’t really know what I thought of the Big Story that the universe is telling ... There seemed to be an infinite number of religions, philosophies and conspiracy theories which sought to account for how and why the universe is as it is, and I wasn’t sure which of those Big Stories out there was the real deal. But I did know something about my ‘Little Story’. I knew that I believed in Love. Not just love, but unconditional Love. I wanted to be loved without fear of rejection; loved for who I was and not based on what I did ... I believed in Justice ... I believed in Purpose ... I believed in Freedom ... I believed in Beauty ... I believed that death felt unnatural to observe, no matter how many times I observed it.”

Andy Kind





# Four Steps ...

Find out what your friend is passionate about

Take an interest in it

Use a “wondering question” to show how  
it doesn't fit in a godless world

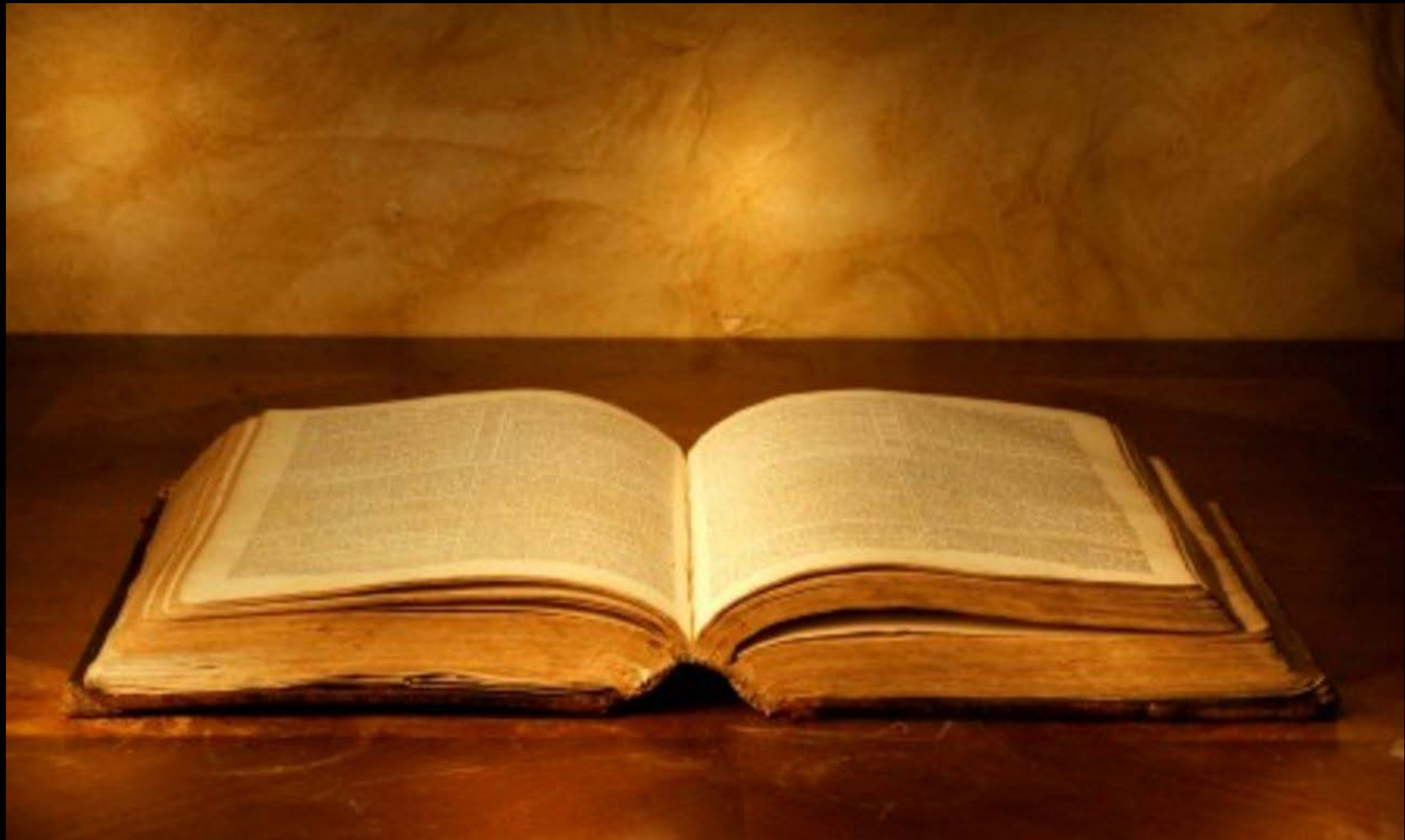
Show how Christianity makes best sense of it





[www.solas-cpc.org/tolkien](http://www.solas-cpc.org/tolkien)





Acts 17:16-34



“People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.”

Acts 17:22-23





“I believe in Christianity as I believe that the Sun has risen, not only because I see it but because by it, I see everything else.”

C. S. Lewis



## Have You Ever Wondered?



What Is Love?



Have You Ever Wondered Why the Best Stories Are About Good and Evil?



Have You Ever Wondered Why We Long for Happiness?



Why Are Human Beings So Curious?



Did Jesus Actually Exist?



Have You Ever Wondered Why We Long For Justice?

Why Are Human Beings So Curious?

Did Jesus Actually Exist?

Have You Ever Wondered Why We Long For Justice?