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# Five Steps to Answer Any Tough Question

Andy Bannister  
Solas



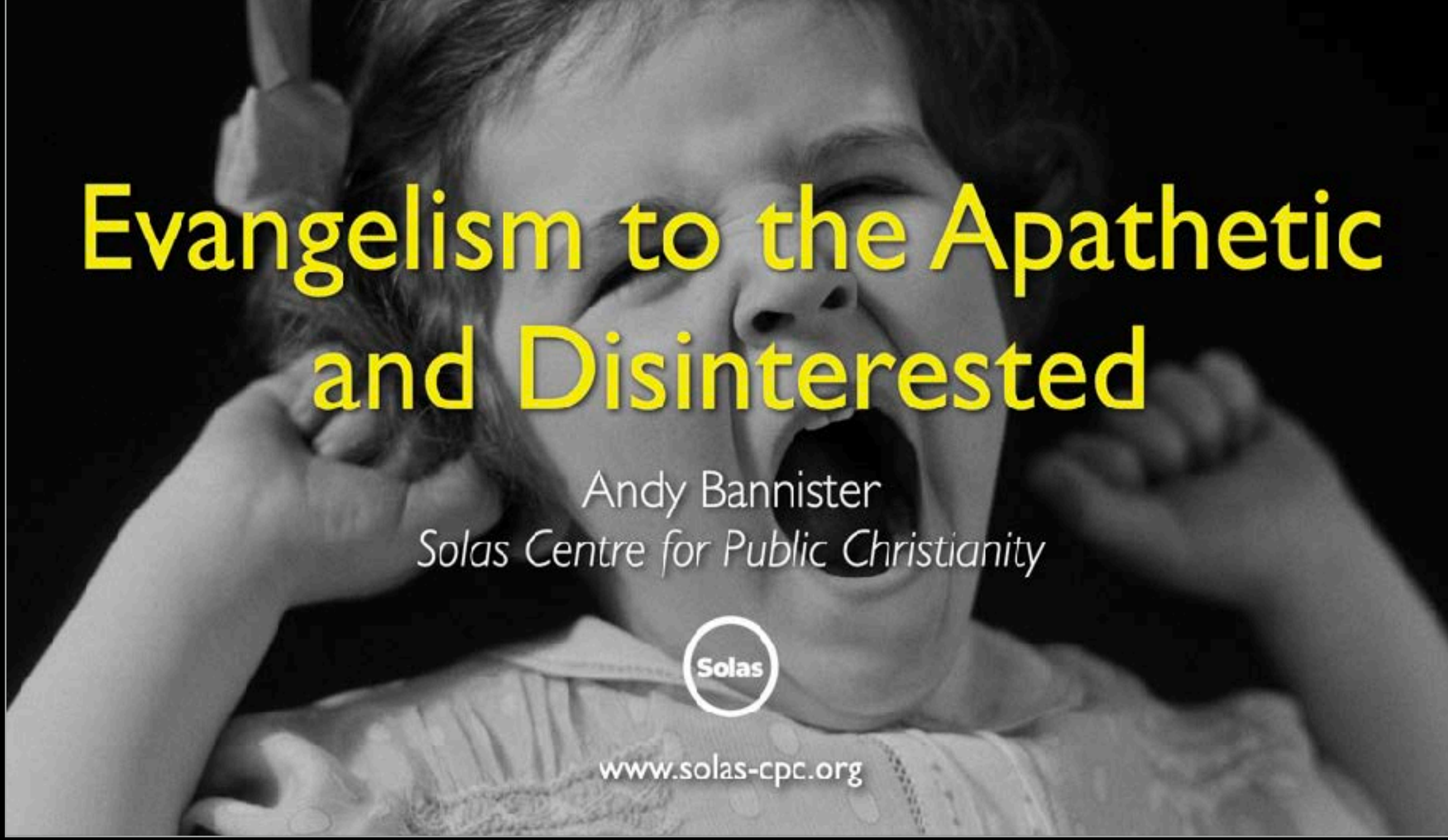
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## How to Talk About Jesus Without Looking Like an Idiot

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## Evangelism to the Apathetic and Disinterested

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# Five Steps to Answer Any Tough Question

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# The Church and Questions

# Group Discussion

1. What's the toughest question about your faith that you've ever been asked by a friend?
2. If you've never had that kind of conversation, what's the toughest question you'd hate to be asked?
3. What are some ways that churches can encourage those who seeking, skeptical, or doubting to feel comfortable to bring their questions?

# Answering Questions

## Three Key Things to Remember

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- The aim is to answer the *questioner*, not the *question*.



# Answering Questions

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- The aim is to answer the *questioner*, not the *question*.
- Clarify a question using the “what” and “why” questions we learnt on Sunday.

Why do you think that?

Have you ever wondered?

# Answering Questions

## Three Key Things to Remember

- The aim is to answer the *questioner*, not the *question*.
- Clarify a question using the “what” and “why” questions we learnt on Sunday.
- Be willing to admit your limitations!

Sympathise

H

A

R

E

Sympathise

Hidden assumptions

A

R

E

Sympathise

Hidden assumptions

Apply the Bible

R

E

Sympathise

Hidden assumptions

Apply the Bible

Retell the gospel story

E

Sympathise

Hidden assumptions

Apply the Bible

Retell the gospel story

Equip your friend





**If God exists, why is there suffering and pain?**

# HARD QUESTION #1

If God exists, why  
is there pain and  
suffering?

**Sympathise**

**Hidden Assumptions**

**Apply the Bible**

**Retell the Gospel**

**Equip your friend**

# HARD QUESTION #1

If God exists, why  
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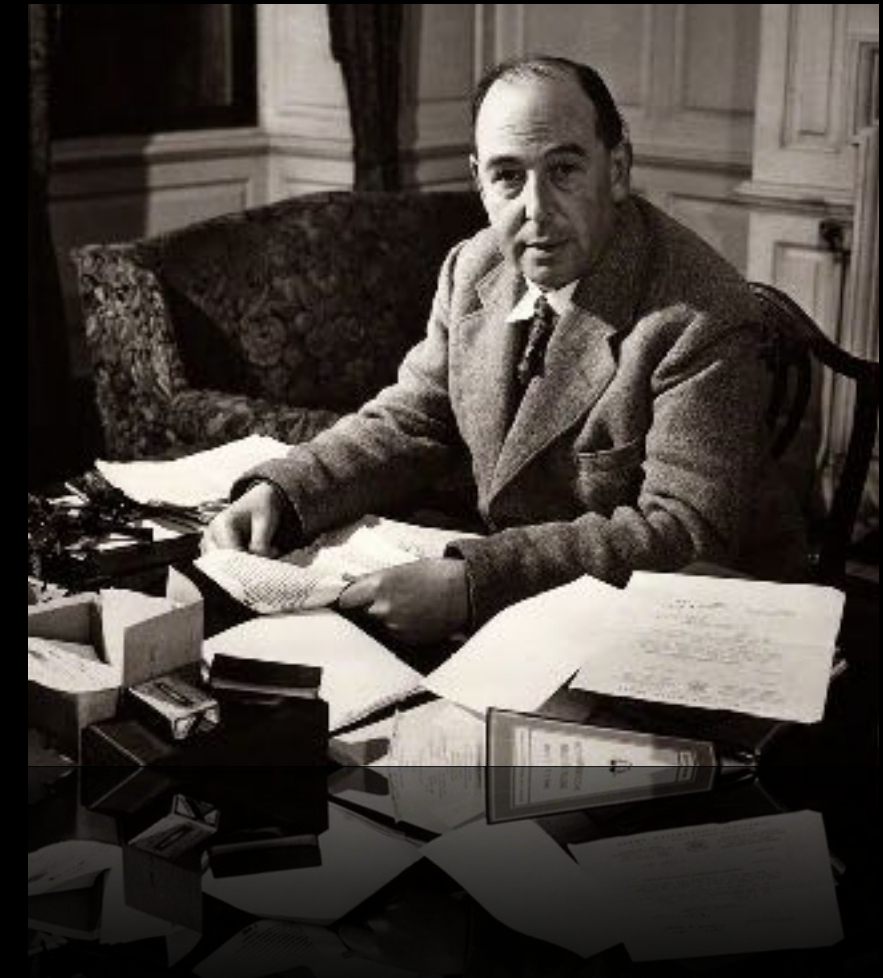
Apply the Bible

Retell the Gospel

Equip your friend

“My argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But how had I got this idea of just and unjust? A man does not call a line crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line.”

C. S. Lewis  
*Mere Christianity*



# HARD QUESTION #1

If God exists, why  
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# Compassion

= com (*with*) + passion (*suffer*)

**= to suffer alongside**





# HARD QUESTION #1

If God exists, why  
is there pain and  
suffering?

Sympathise

Hidden Assumptions

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**Equip your friend**

Revised and updated  
**Sharon Dirckx**

Winner of Speaking  
Volumes Christian Book Award

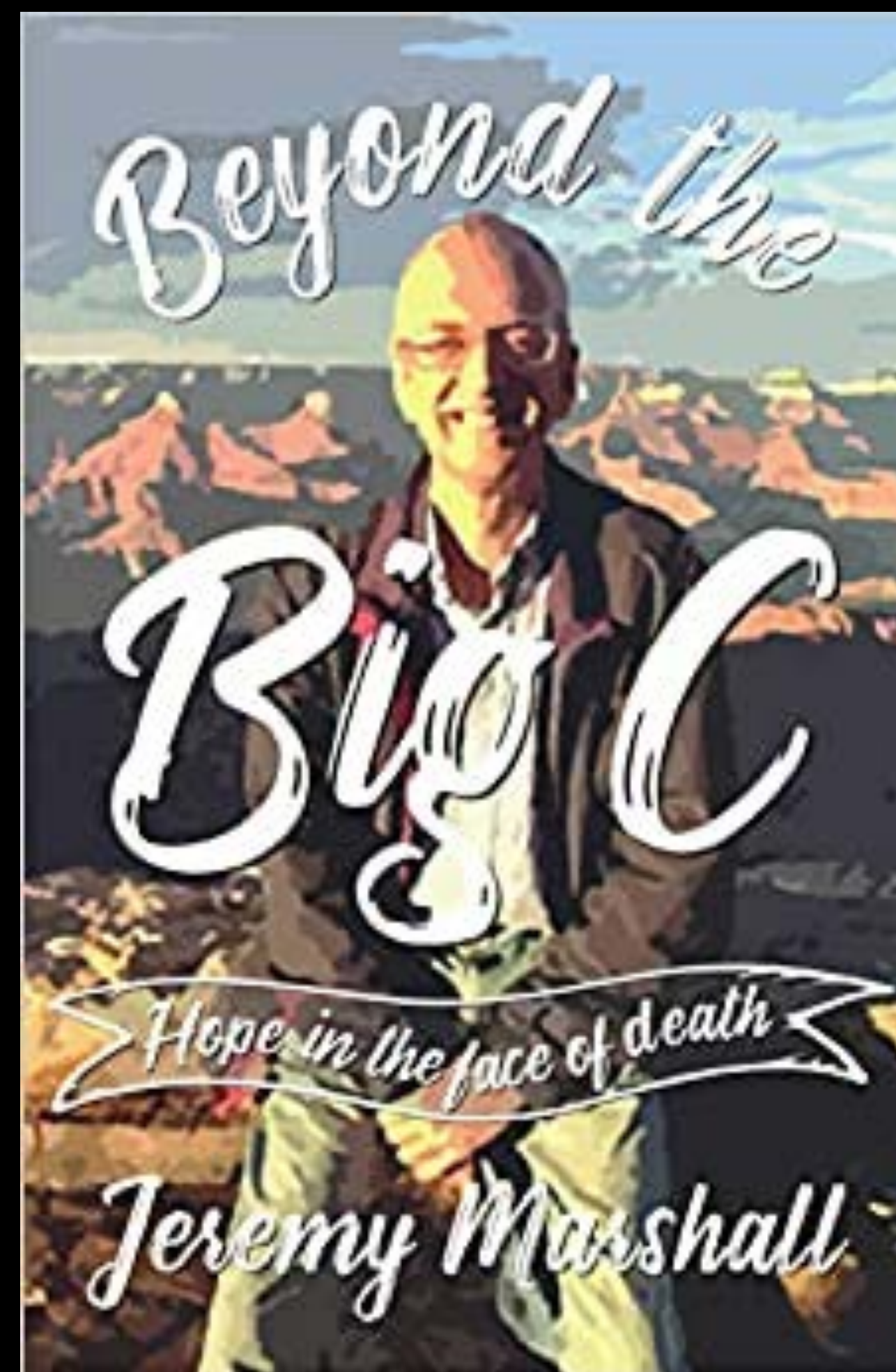
# Why?

Looking at God, evil  
and personal suffering

# Where is God in all the Suffering?

AMY ORR-EWING

AMY ORR-EWING



Beyond the Big C  
Jeremy Marshall



How can you claim Christianity is uniquely true given all the other religions in the world?

# Group Discussion

In twos or threes discuss the question “How can you claim Christianity is uniquely true given all the other religions in the world?” and how you might approach it using the S.H.A.R.E. method.

Sympathise

Hidden assumptions

Apply the Bible

Retell the Gospel story

Equip your friend

## HARD QUESTION #3

How can you claim  
Christianity is  
uniquely true given all  
the other religions in  
the world?

**Sympathise**

Hidden Assumptions

Apply the Bible

Retell the Gospel

Equip your friend

## HARD QUESTION #3

How can you claim  
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Sympathise

**Hidden Assumptions**

Apply the Bible

Retell the Gospel

Equip your friend

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Sympathise

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Jesus said: “I am the way, the truth,  
and the life. Nobody comes to the  
Father except through me.”

John 14:6

## HARD QUESTION #3

How can you claim  
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A Devout  
Muslim  
Encounters  
Christianity

THIRD EDITION  
WITH BONUS CONTENT,  
NEW REFLECTIONS

NABEEL QURESHI

# ANDY BANNISTER DO MUSLIMS AND CHRISTIANS WORSHIP THE SAME GOD?

"A HONEST  
AND TENSITIVE  
EXAMINATION"  
TOM HOLLAND

"A MUST-READ"  
AMY ORR-EWING



Short/Answers

#ShortAnswers   Videos   Talks   Other Videos

Why is God Against My Sexual Freedom?   Do Christians Really Have More Progress?   Why Are There So Many Different Gods? (Part 1)

Is God's Good, Why is There Natural Evil?   Isn't Teaching Your Faith to Your Children "Brainwashing"?   How is the World a Better Place Without All-Party?   What Sort of God Did Testaments Have?

Is Christmas Cruelty?   Why Would God Allow Me to Have Depression?   Why Are Some Muslims So Afraid of Changing Their Minds?   Can We Find Hope in UK Without God?

Why do you Christians force your beliefs on others?   How can I know the presence of God in my life?   What about those who always heard of me?   Can I become a Christian if I still have doubts?

Others: Why do you Christians force your beliefs on others?   James: How can I know the presence of God in my life?   James: Why would God allow me to have depression?   One question: Can I become a Christian if I still have doubts?

## Short Answers

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

Sympathise

Hidden assumptions

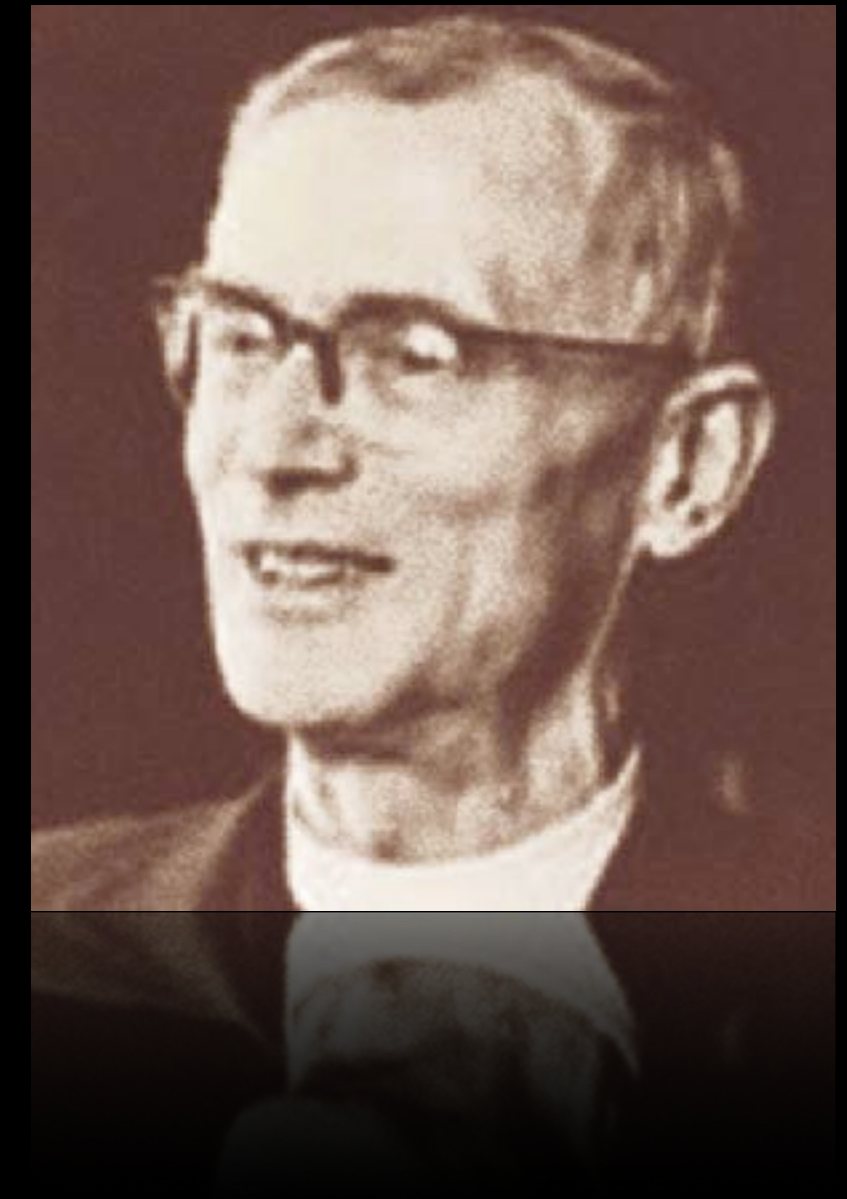
Apply the Bible

Retell the gospel story

Equip your friend

“Though argument does not create conviction, the lack of it destroys belief. What seems to be proved may not be embraced; but what no one shows the ability to defend is quickly abandoned. Rational argument does not create belief, but it maintains a climate in which belief may flourish .”

Austin Farrer



## The Apologist's Evening Prayer

From all my lame defeats and oh! much more

From all the victories that I seemed to score;

From cleverness shot forth on Thy behalf

At which, while angels weep, the audience laugh;

From all my proofs of Thy divinity,

Thou, who wouldst give no sign, deliver me.

Thoughts are but coins. Let me not trust, instead

Of Thee, their thin-worn image of Thy head.

From all my thoughts, even from my thoughts of Thee,

O thou fair Silence, fall, and set me free.

Lord of the narrow gate and the needle's eye,

Take from me all my trumpery lest I die.

