

Sharing Hope in a Culture of Confusion

Dr. Andy Bannister



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A Culture of Confusion

Group Discussion

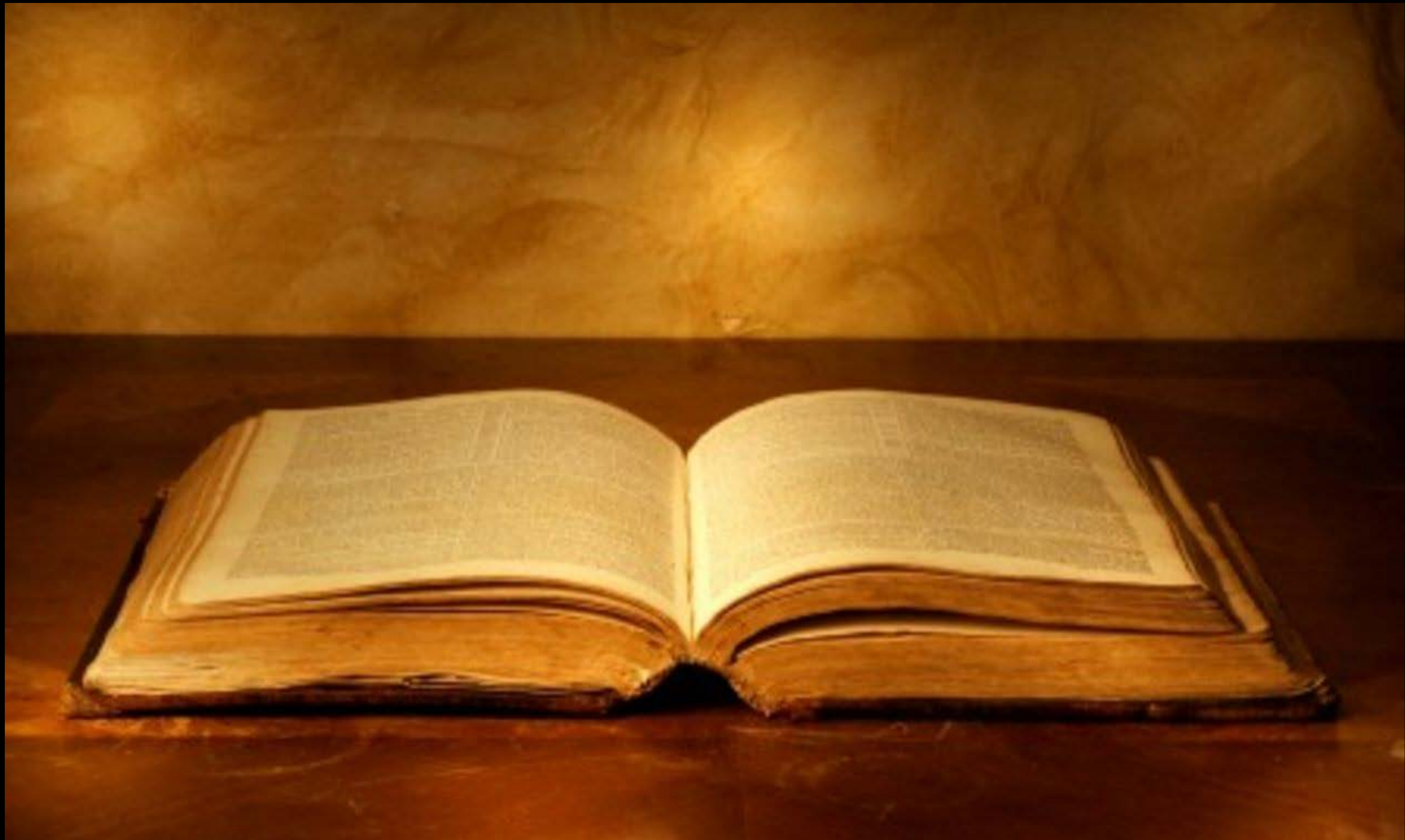
What are some of the other ways our culture might be said to be a “culture of confusion”?



A Culture of Fear



A Culture of Apathy



Acts 17:16-34

Acts 17:16-34

While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the market-place day by day with those who happened to be there. A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, 'What is this babbler trying to say?' Others remarked, 'He seems to be advocating foreign gods.' They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection. Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, 'May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean.' (All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.) Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: '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.

‘The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. “For in him we live and move and have our being.” As some of your own

poets have said, “We are his offspring.”

‘Therefore since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone – an image made by human design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.’

When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, ‘We want to hear you again on this subject.’

At that, Paul left the Council. Some of the people became followers of Paul and believed. Among them was Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus, also a woman named Damaris, and a number of others.

Four Lessons for Sharing Jesus in a Culture of Confusion

1. Take the time to understand
2. Go where people are
3. Find the points of contact
4. Connect the conversation to Jesus

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Is there a God and what is He like?

What are human beings?

What's gone wrong with the world?

What's the solution?

Four Lessons for Sharing Jesus in a Culture of Confusion

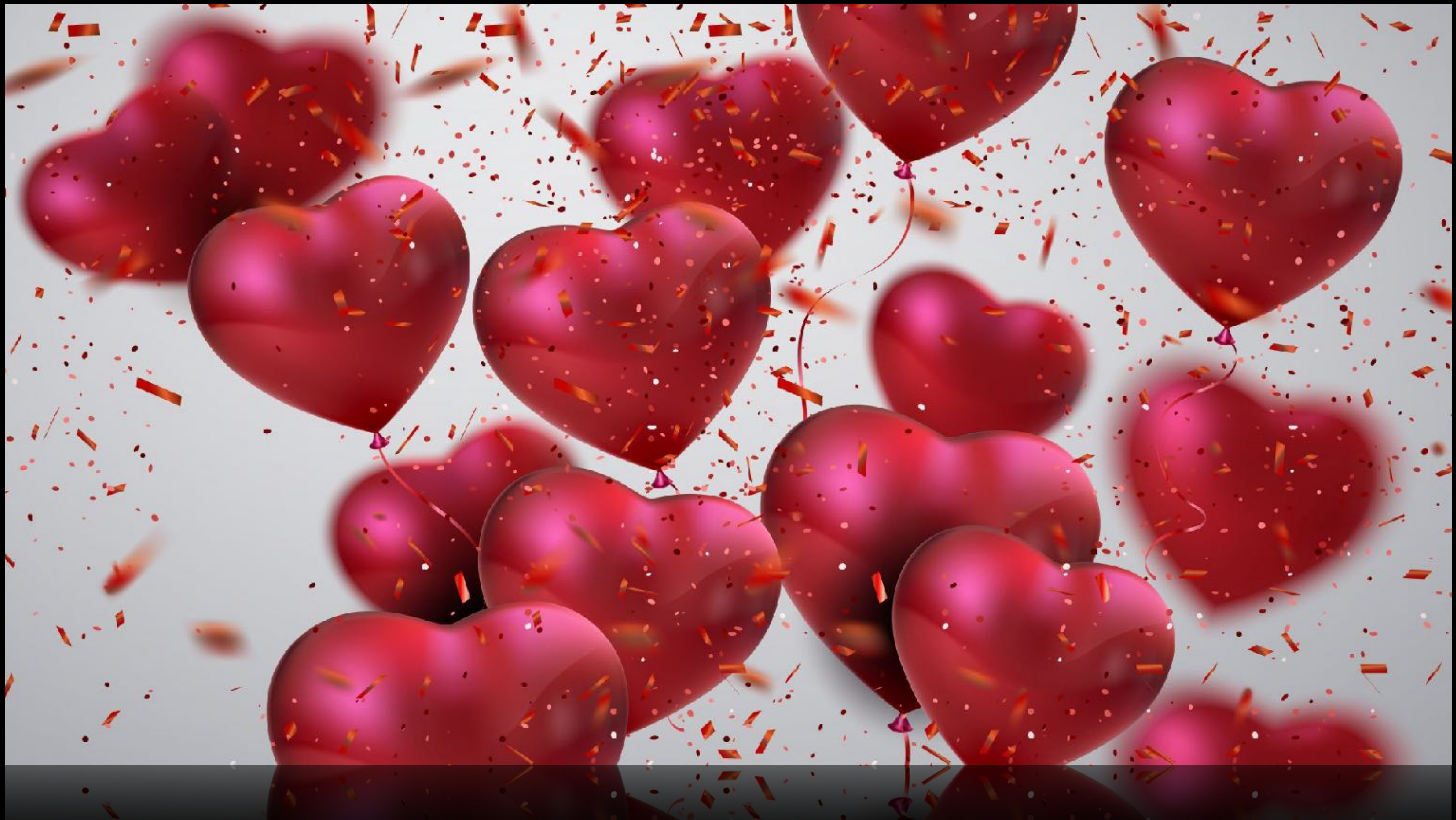
1. Take the time to understand
- 2. Go where people are**
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Flying a faith flag

Four Lessons for Sharing Jesus in a Culture of Confusion

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Have you ever wondered what love is?

Group Discussion

What do you think might be some of the “contact points”, things we ask “wondering questions about”, in the lives of your non-Christian friends, family, neighbours etc.? What are some of things they care deeply about that could be pointers to the gospel). How might you use those as “jumping off points” for a spiritual conversation?

Four Lessons for Sharing Jesus in a Culture of Confusion

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4. **Connect the conversation to Jesus**

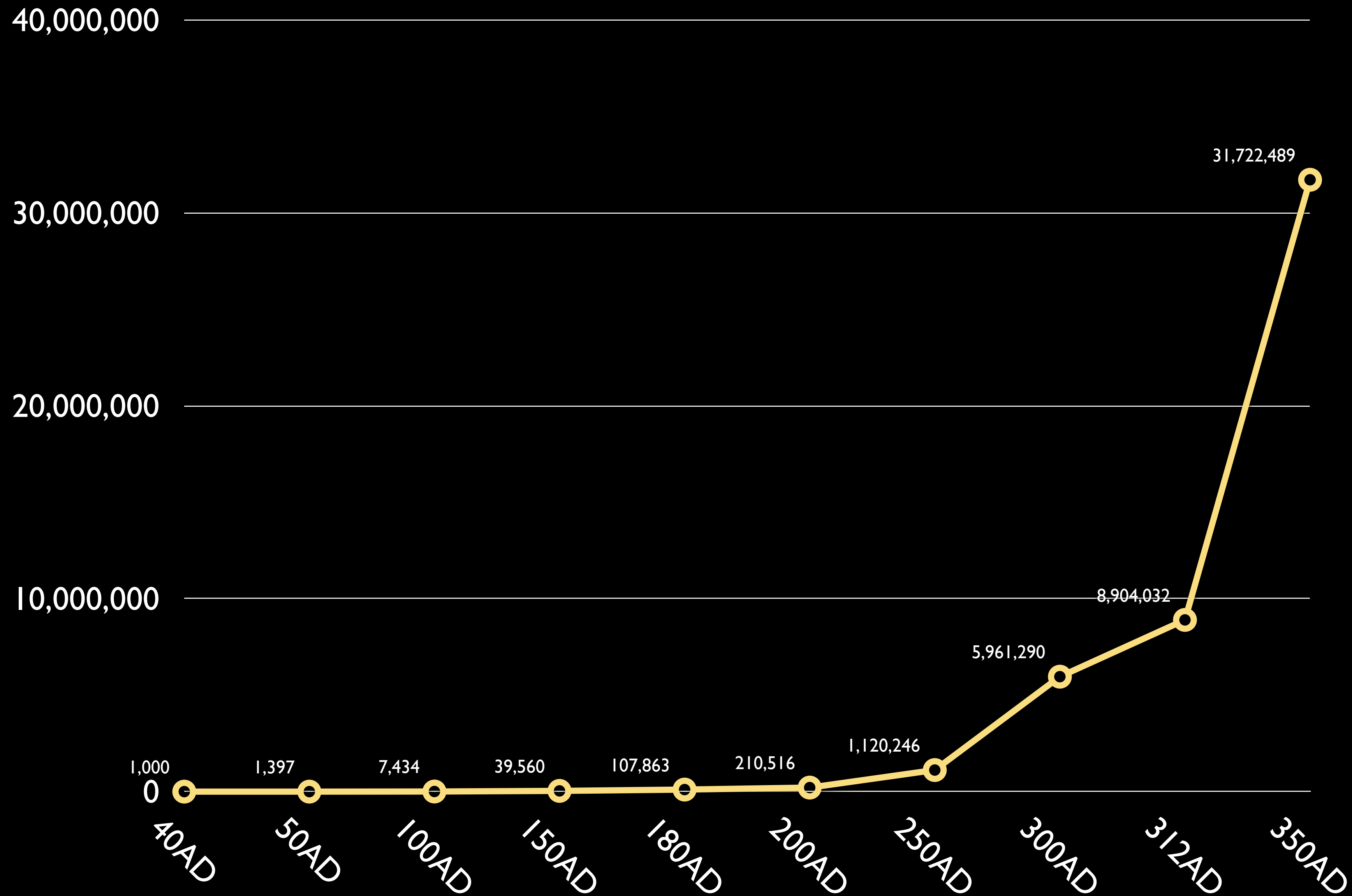
A dimly lit scene of a group of people in a room, possibly a dining room. In the center, a man with long hair and a beard is seated at a table. To his right, a woman is seated with her back to the camera. In the background, two women are standing, one wearing a headscarf. The overall atmosphere is somber and reflective.

That reminds me of something Jesus *said*

That reminds me of a story that Jesus *told*

That reminds me of something that Jesus *did*

Growth of the Early Church



Four Lessons for Sharing Jesus in a Culture of Confusion

1. Take the time to understand
2. Go where people are
3. Find the points of contact
4. Connect the conversation to Jesus



“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



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evangelism

The image is a collage of three photographs of church services. The top-left photo shows a woman at a podium with a sign that says 'Thy Will Be Done'. The top-right photo shows a man at a podium with a sign that says 'Welcome to Dumfries Baptist Church'. The bottom photo shows a wide view of a church sanctuary with many people seated in pews. The word 'training' is overlaid in large white lowercase letters across the center of the collage.

training



News

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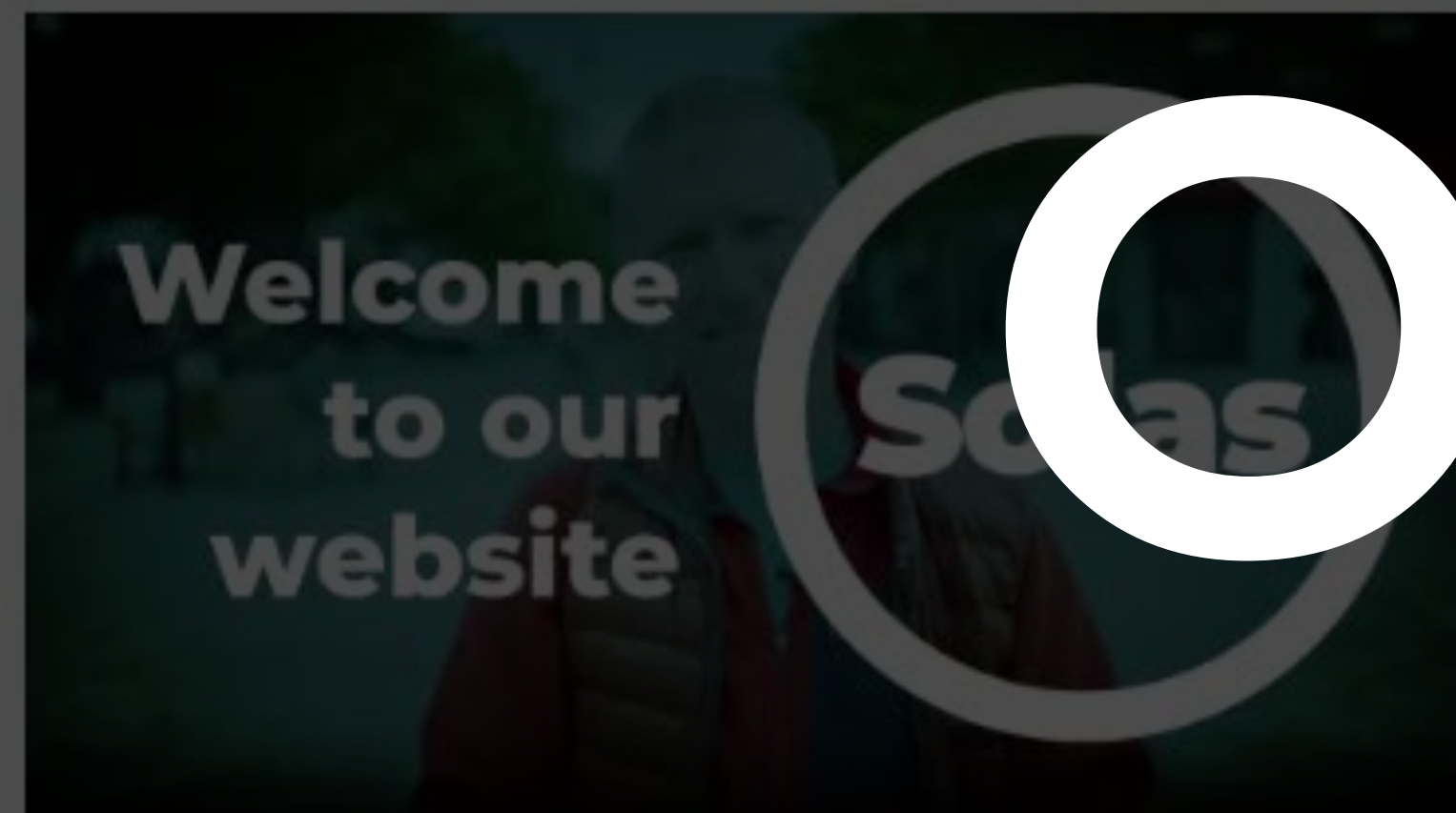
About

Connect

Donate



Featured



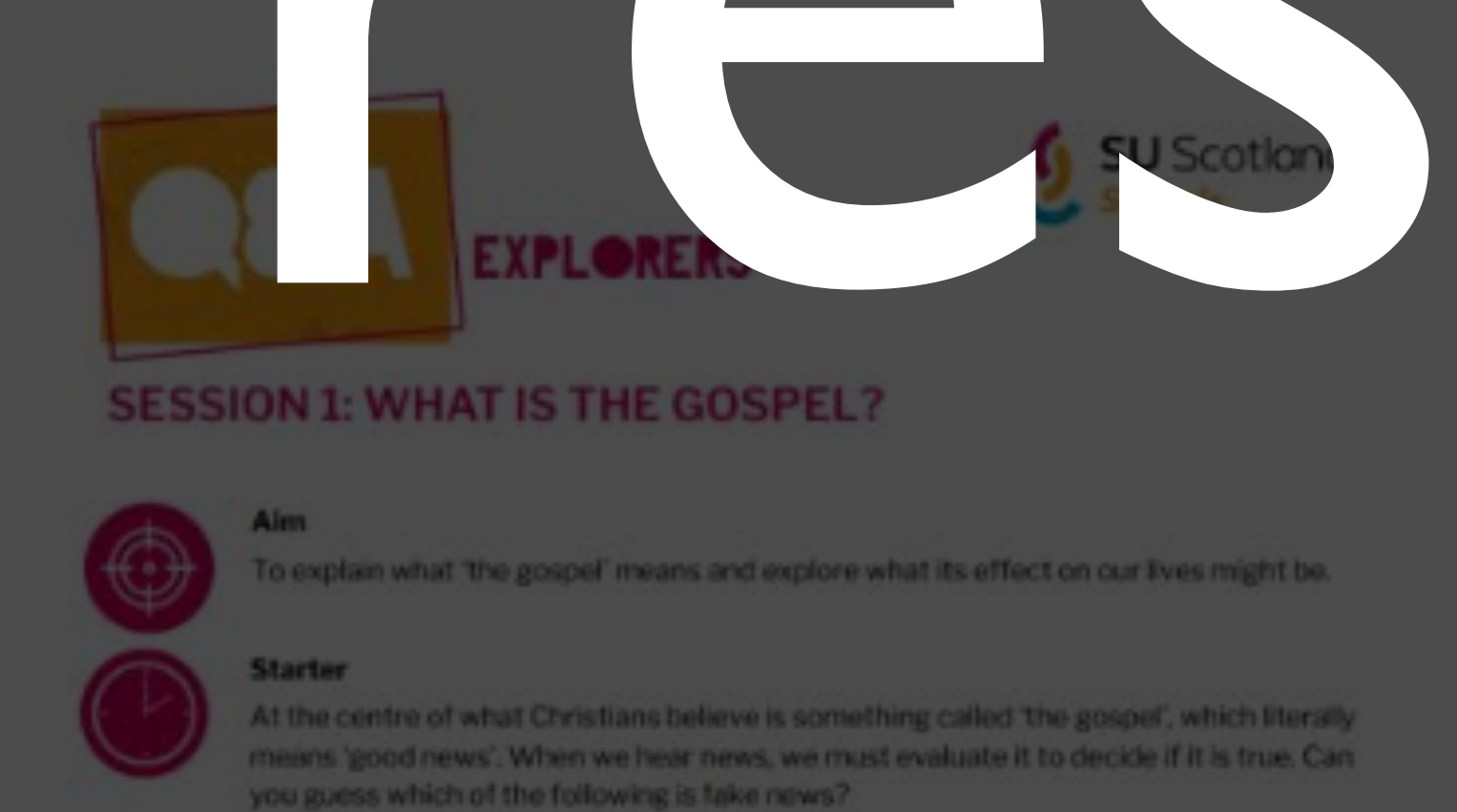
First Time Here? Watch This



Have You Ever Wondered... Why Suffering and Evil Seem So Wrong?



Why Do Suffering and Evil Seem So Wrong?



SESSION 1: WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?



Aim

To explain what 'the gospel' means and explore what its effect on our lives might be.



Starter

At the centre of what Christians believe is something called 'the gospel', which literally means 'good news'. When we hear news, we must evaluate it to decide if it is true. Can you guess which of the following is fake news?



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Why is God Against My Sexual Freedom?



Doesn't Christianity Impede Moral Progress?



Why Are There So Many Different Bible Translations?



If God is Good, Why is There Natural Evil?



Isn't Teaching Your Faith to Your Children 'indoctrination'?



Would The World Be a Better Place Without Religion?



Is the God of the Old Testament a Moral Monster?



Is Christmas Cancelled?



Why Would God Allow Me to Have Depression?



Why Are Some Atheists So Afraid of Changing Their Minds?



Can We Find Hope in Life Without God?



Why Do You Christians Force Your Beliefs On Others?



How Can I Know the Presence of God in Dark Times?



What About Those Who Haven't Heard of Jesus?



Can I Become a Christian if I Still Have Questions?

Short Answers

www.solas-cpc.org/shortanswers




Get Involved



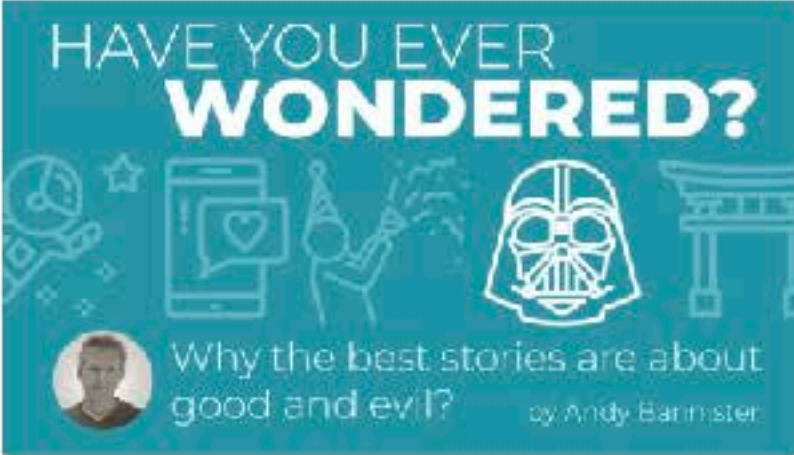
Pray

Solas News Resources Events About Connect Donate

Have You Ever Wondered?




What is Love?




HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED?
Why the best stories are about good and evil?
by Andy Bannister

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




HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED?
Why we long for happiness?
by Andy Bannister

Have You Ever Wondered Why We Long for Happiness?




HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED
WHY HUMAN BEINGS
ARE SO CURIOUS?

Why Are Human Beings So Curious?



HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED
IF JESUS ACTUALLY
EXISTED?

Did Jesus Actually Exist?



HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED?
Why we long for justice?
by Clare Williams


Have You Ever Wondered Why We Long For Justice?

Solas News Resources Events About Connect Donate


Short/Answers

Short and share-able videos addressing common objections and challenges around the Christian faith.

Short/Answers Webinars Talks Other Videos




What is Love?




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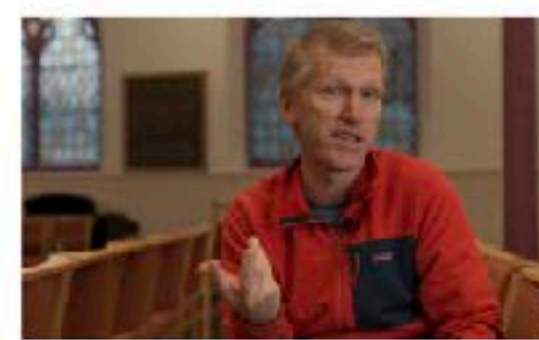


HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED
IF JESUS ACTUALLY
EXISTED?


Did Jesus Actually Exist?



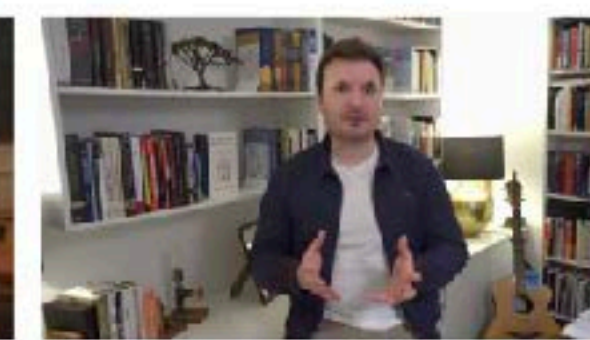
Why Do the Best Stories Involve Good and Evil?



Why Do We Long For Happiness?

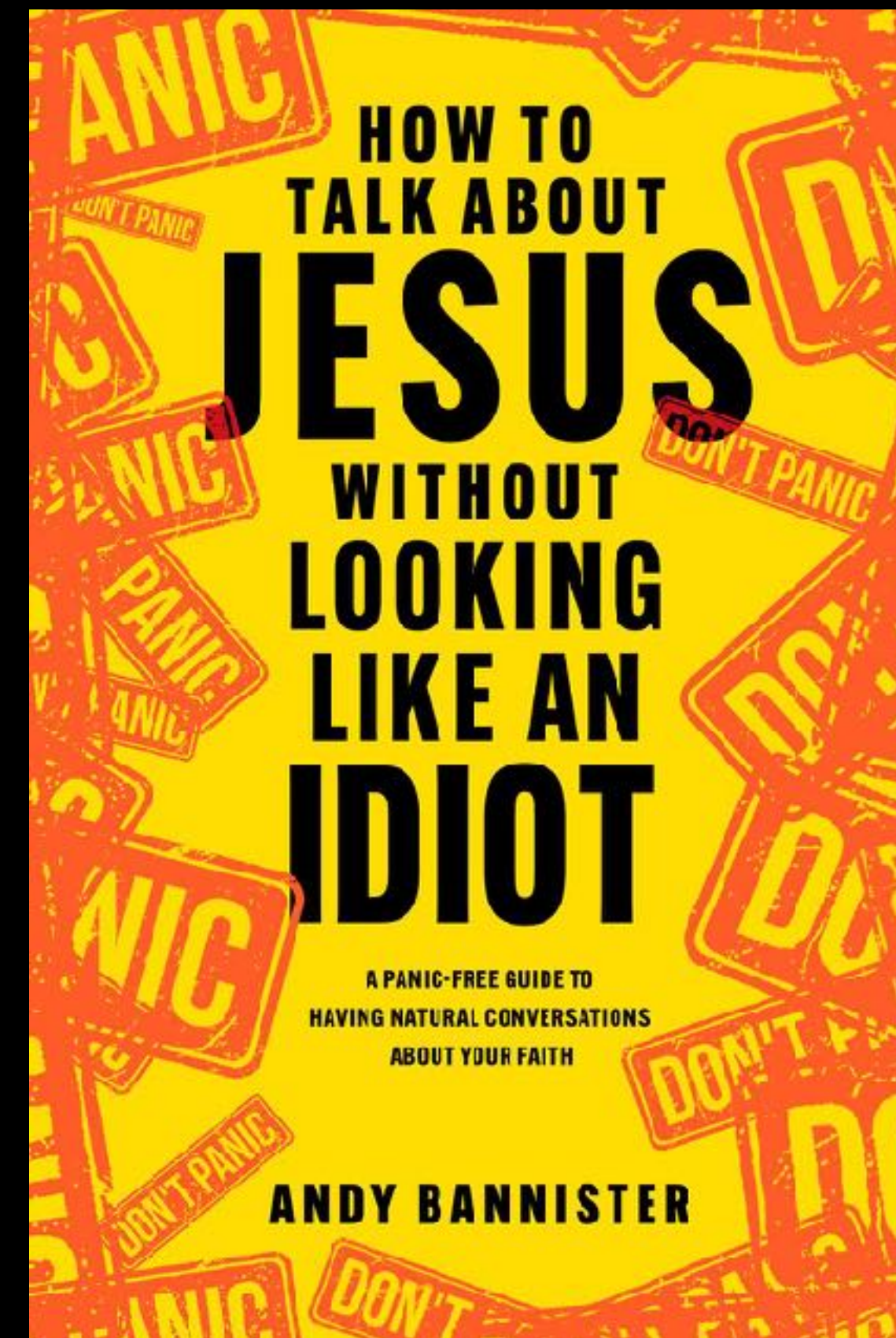
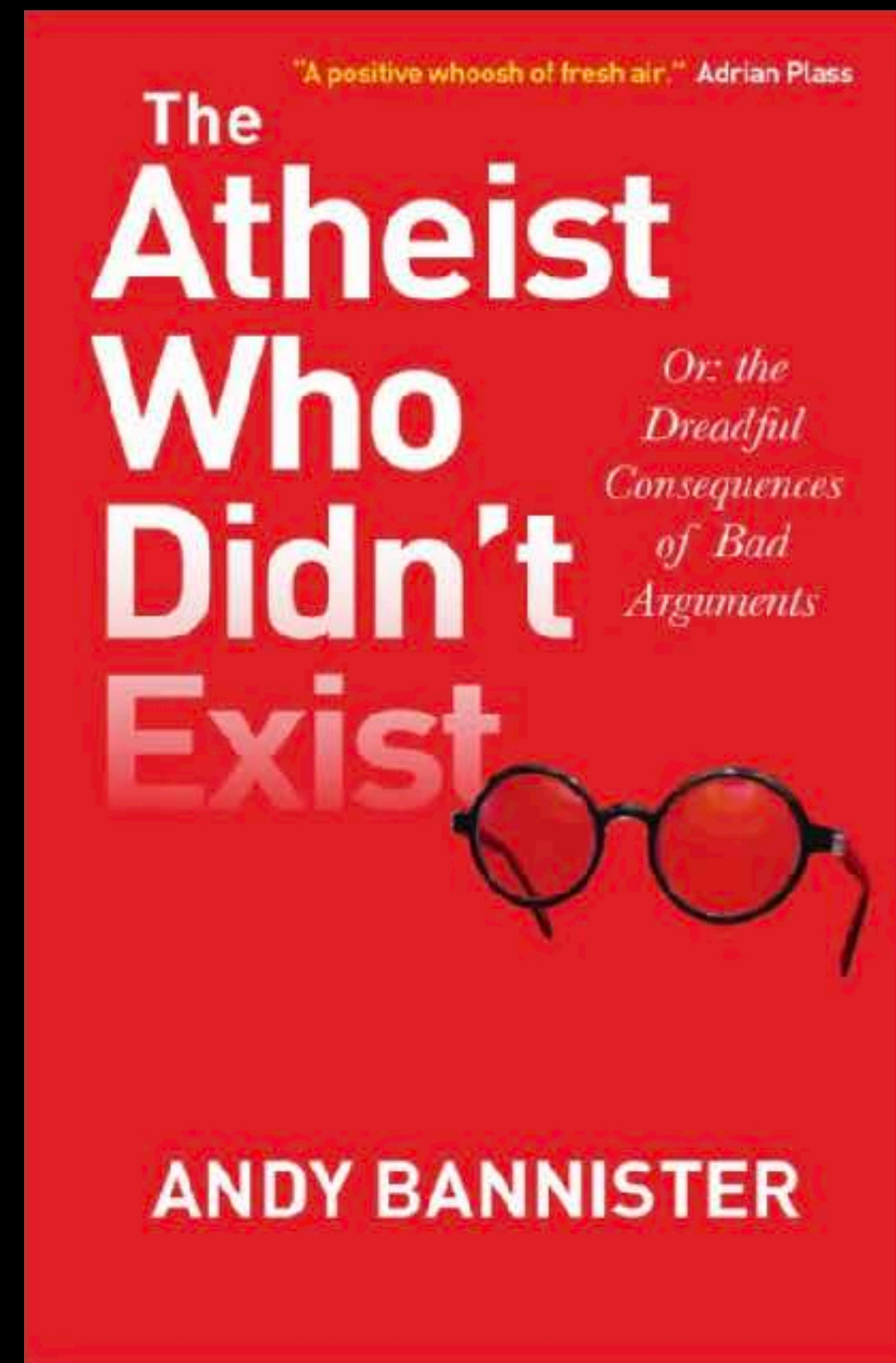
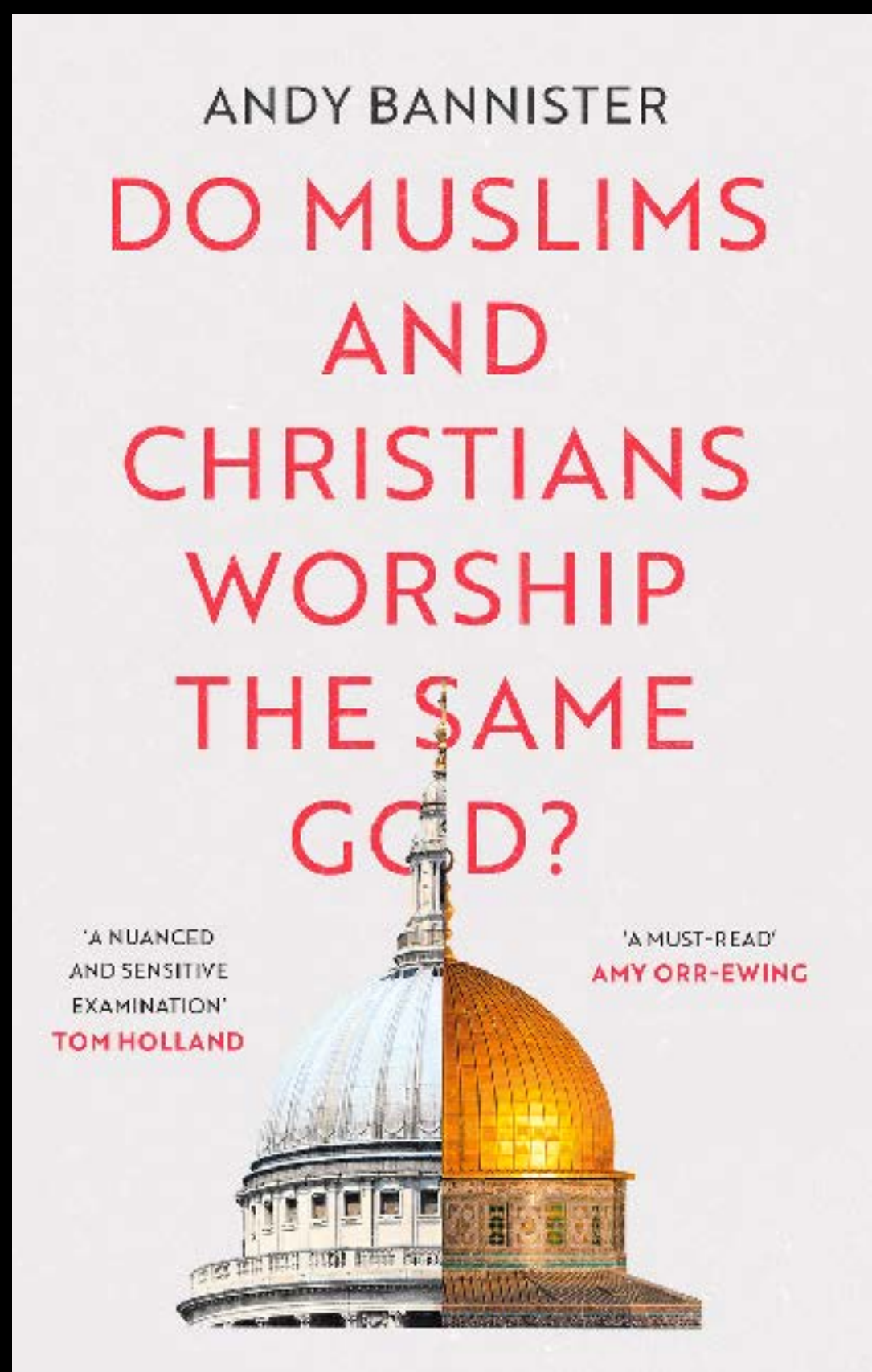


ANDY BANNISTER | SOLAS
Why Do Suffering and Evil Seem So Wrong?



Are Some Natural Disasters a Form of Punishment?

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