

# FAITH

## DISCUSSION GUIDE



Watch *Faith* with your small group. Allow participants opportunity to share their thoughts on images or points that particularly stood out, things that intrigued or raised questions for them.



Read Romans 10:9-17 and Hebrews 11:1-40 out loud with your group. Allow time to consider the texts and reflect on the case presented in the film.



## DISCUSS

1. How would you define faith? What does it mean to have faith in someone? How is that faith built? What part do concepts like relationship, experience and trust play in the process? How does faith based on these concepts differ from blind faith?
2. Thomas Edison is purported to have said, "I have never seen the slightest scientific proof of the religions theories of heaven and hell, of future life for individuals, or of a personal God." Do you agree with Edison's viewpoint? Why? Why not? Should the idea of scientific proof even enter into a discussion of faith and belief? Have you ever personally experienced God? What were the circumstances? Consider sharing your story with the group.
3. In the film, Dr Bart Ehrman says the reason he no longer believes is because he couldn't explain how, "...there could be a God who is active in this world, who answers prayer, who intervenes for the salvation of the human race, if in fact there's so much suffering in the world." Does suffering prove God's non-existence? According to the Bible, God's own Son Jesus Christ endured suffering beyond belief. What did Jesus hope to achieve by enduring such treatment and what might we learn from His experience?
4. Famous for his Mr Bean and Blackadder characterisations, comedian Rowan Atkinson makes this startling statement: "What is wrong with inciting intense dislike of a religion if the activities or teachings of that religion are so outrageous, irrational or abusive of human rights that they deserve to be intensely disliked." What is your response to Atkinson's assertions? What is the potential endpoint to such a view? Is it possible to hate a religion while behaving respectfully to its followers?



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