



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

- The aim is to answer the *questioner*, not the *question*.
- Clarify a question: e.g. you might ask “what” and “why” questions, or find out why your friend asked it.
- Be willing to admit your limitations!

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

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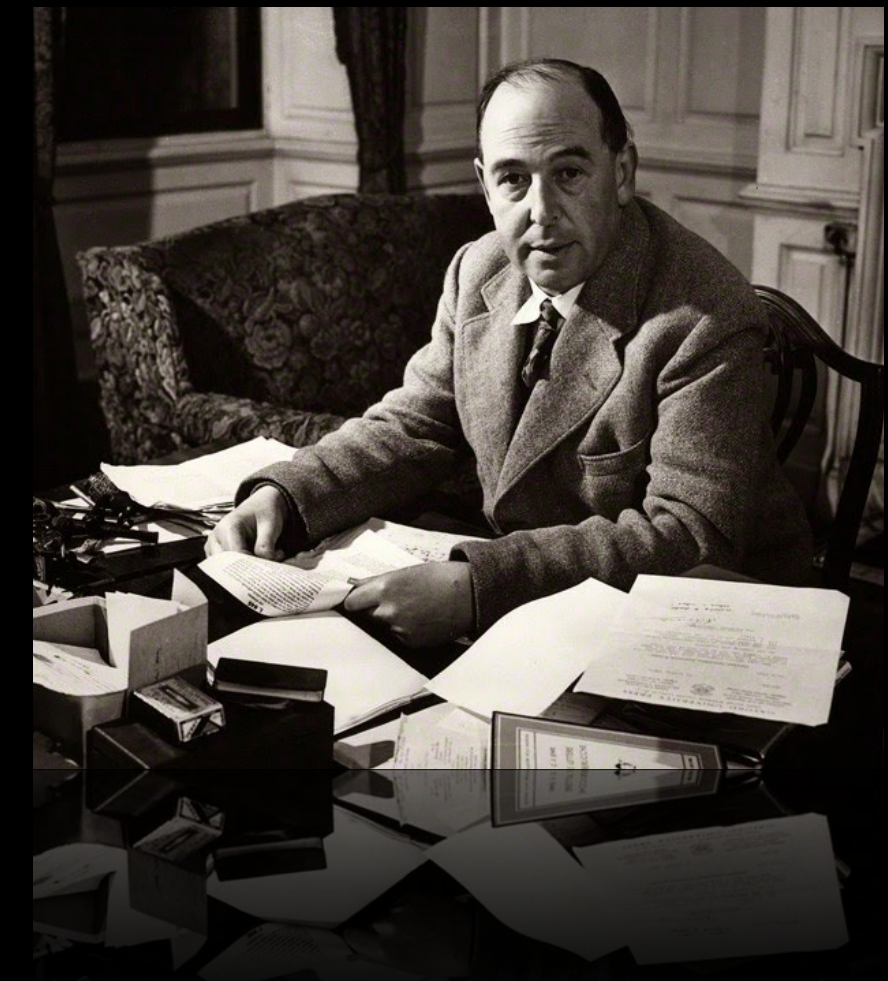
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“My argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But how had I got this idea of just and unjust? A man does not call a line crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line.”

C. S. Lewis
Mere Christianity



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Compassion

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

= to suffer alongside



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Revised and updated
Sharon Dirckx

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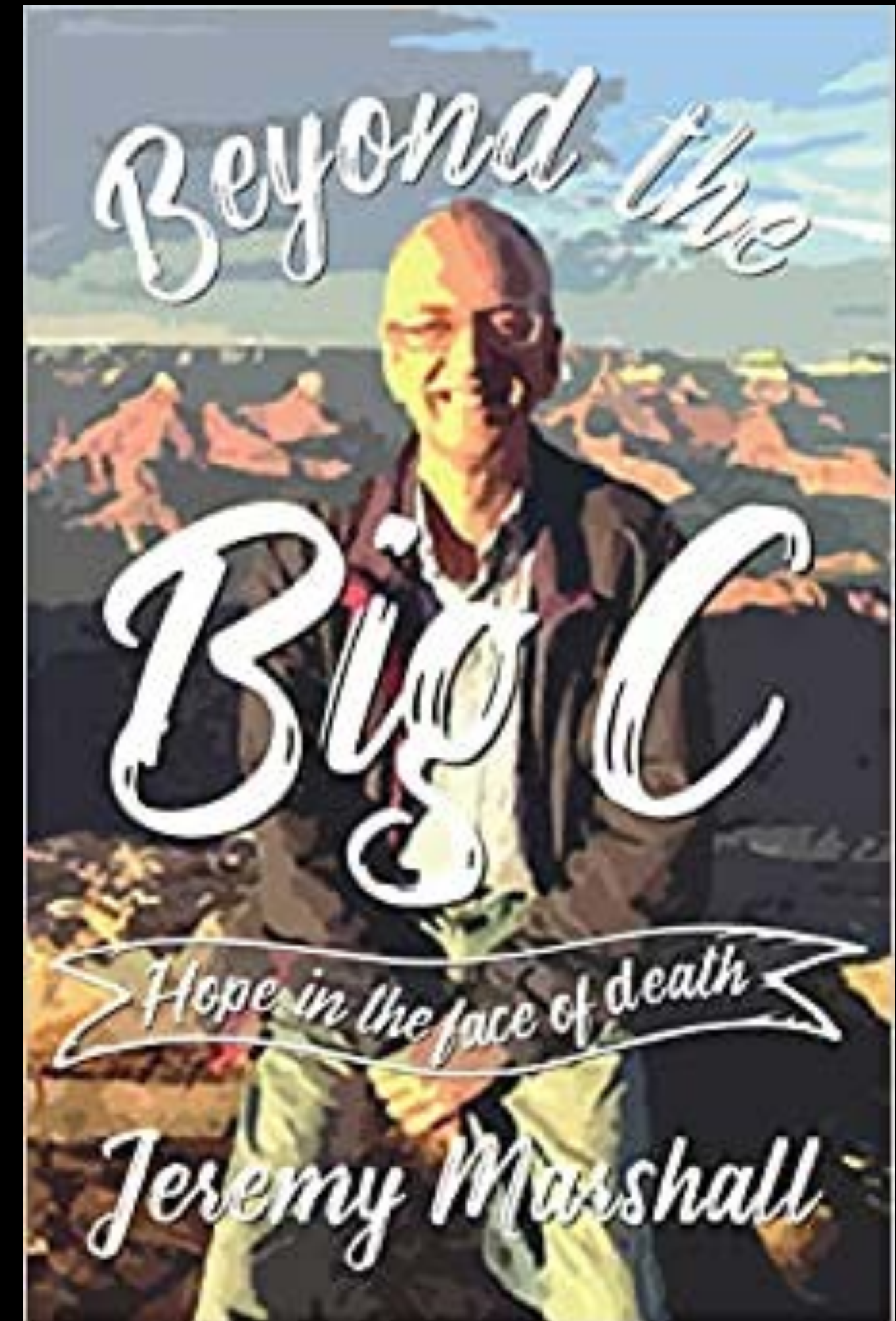
Why?

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



What about the violence in the Old Testament?

HARD QUESTION #2

What about all the violence in the Old Testament?

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“Isn’t this what I said, Lord, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. Now, Lord, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live.”

Jonah 4:1-3



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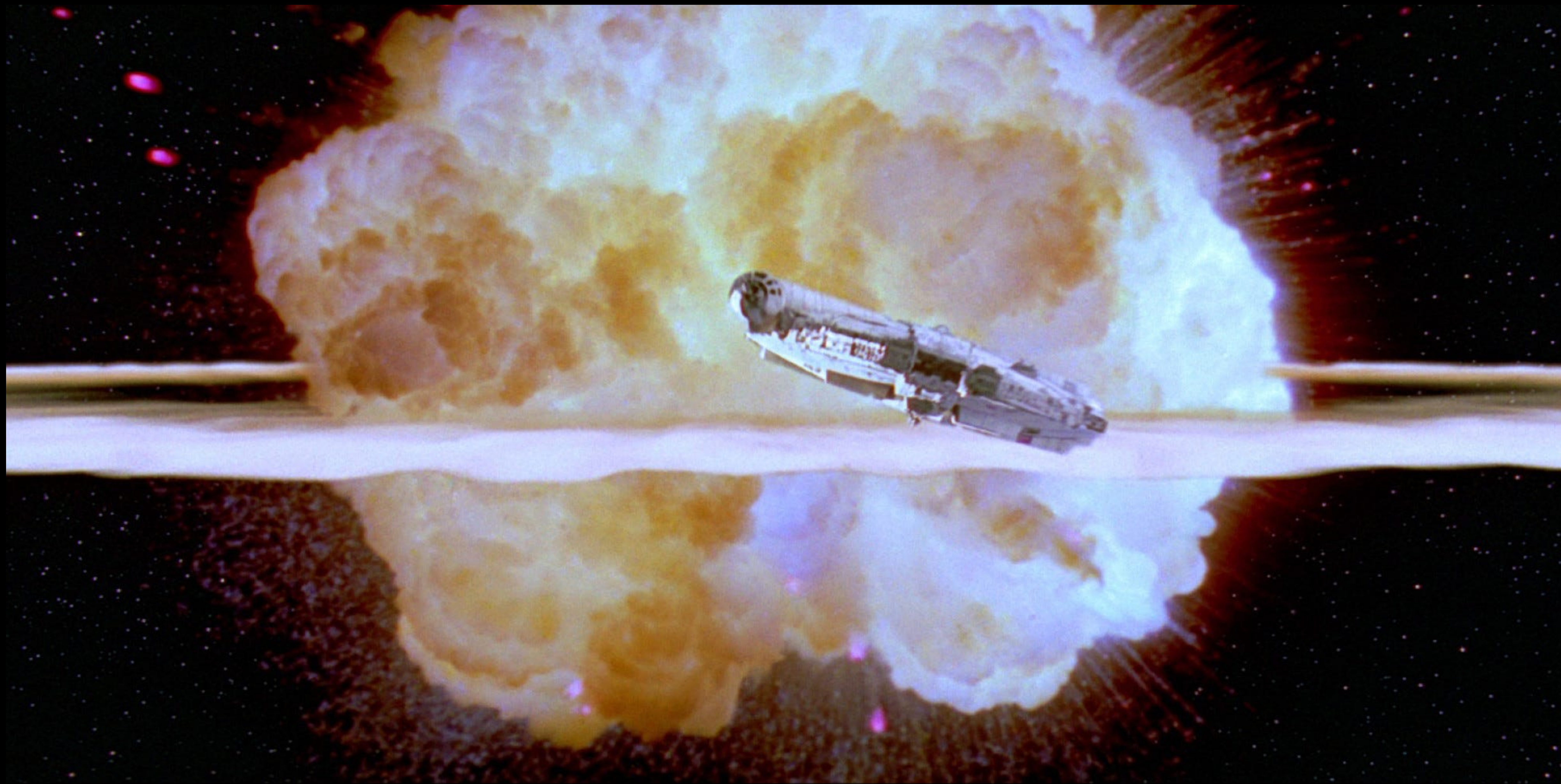
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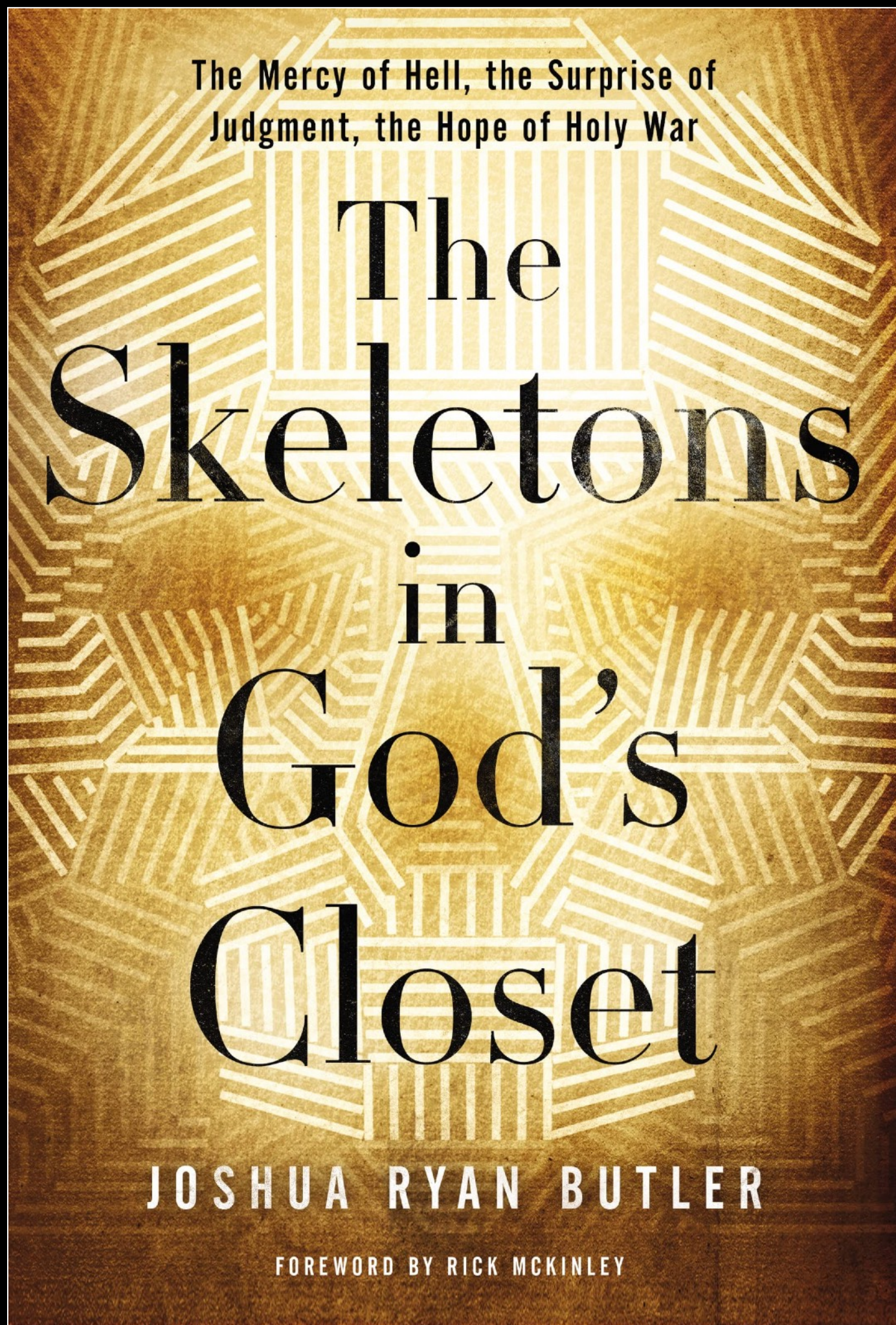
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Short/Answers | Short and share-able videos addressing common objections and challenges around the Christian faith.

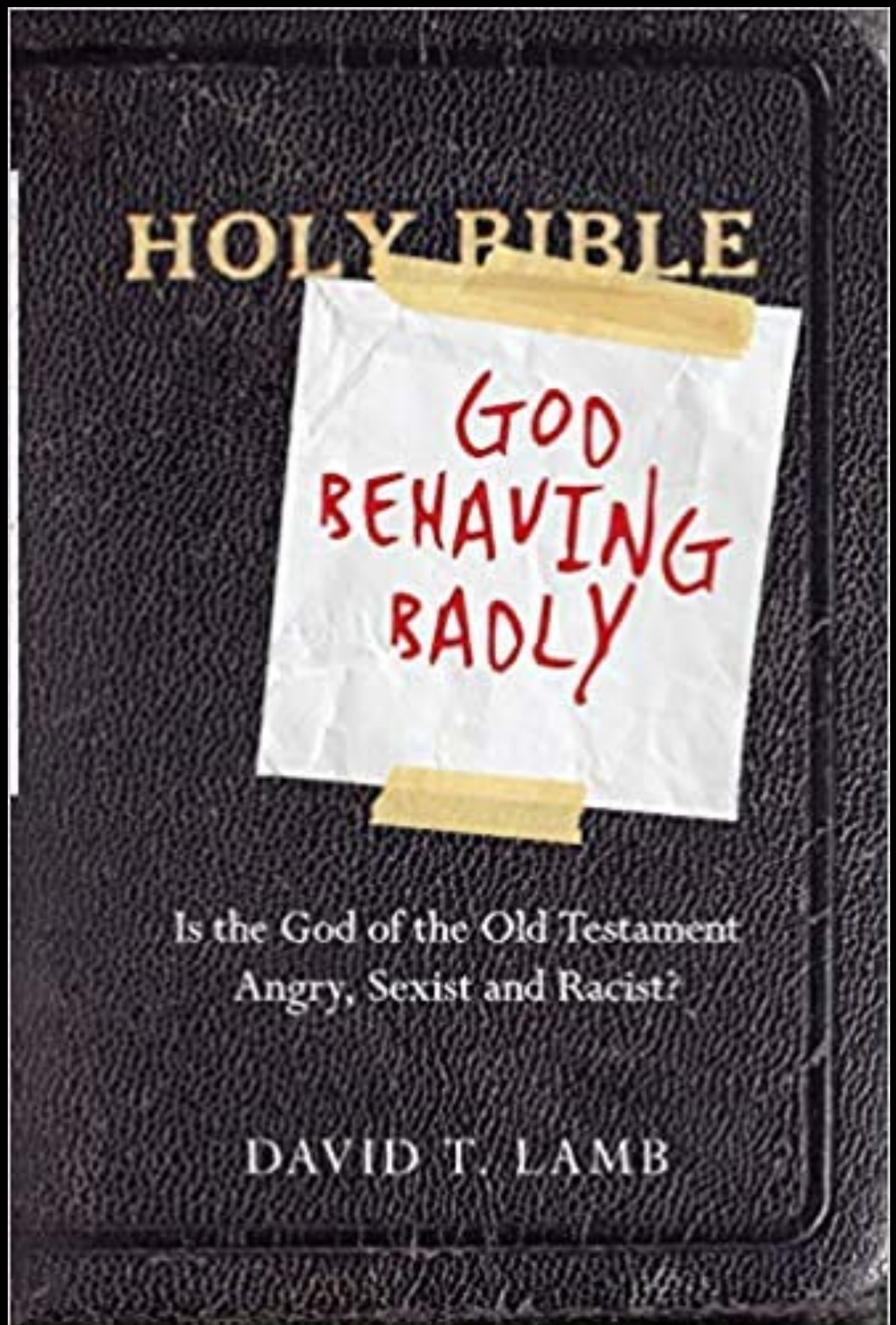
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Why is God Against My Sexual Freedom? | Doesn't Christianity Impede Moral Progress? | Why Are There So Many Different Bible Translations?

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



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.

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HARD QUESTION #3

How can you claim
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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

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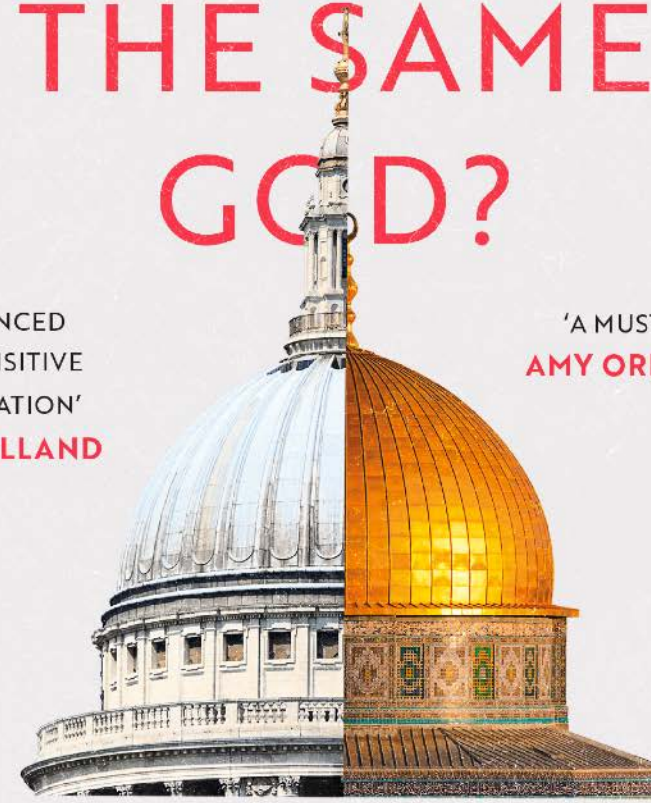
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AND
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WORSHIP
THE SAME
GOD?

'A NUANCED
AND SENSITIVE
EXAMINATION'
TOM HOLLAND

'A MUST-READ'
AMY ORR-EWING



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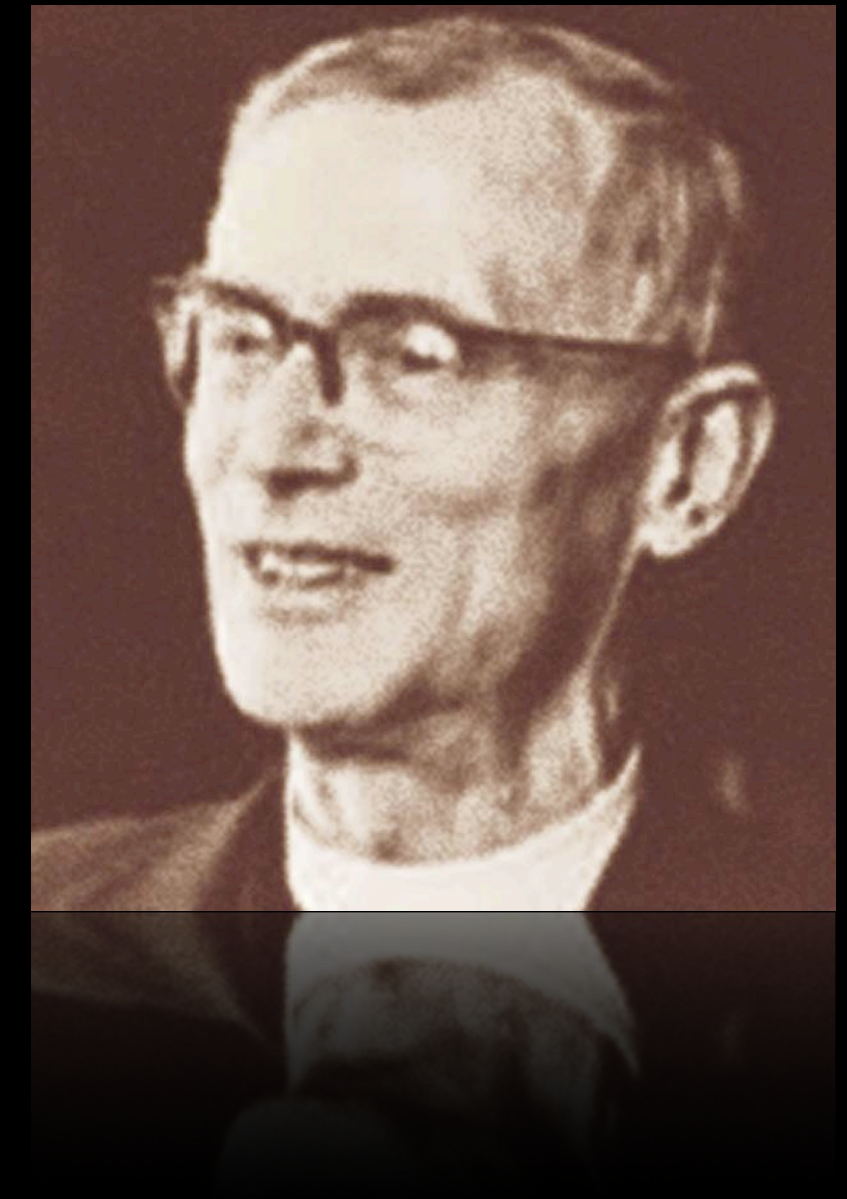
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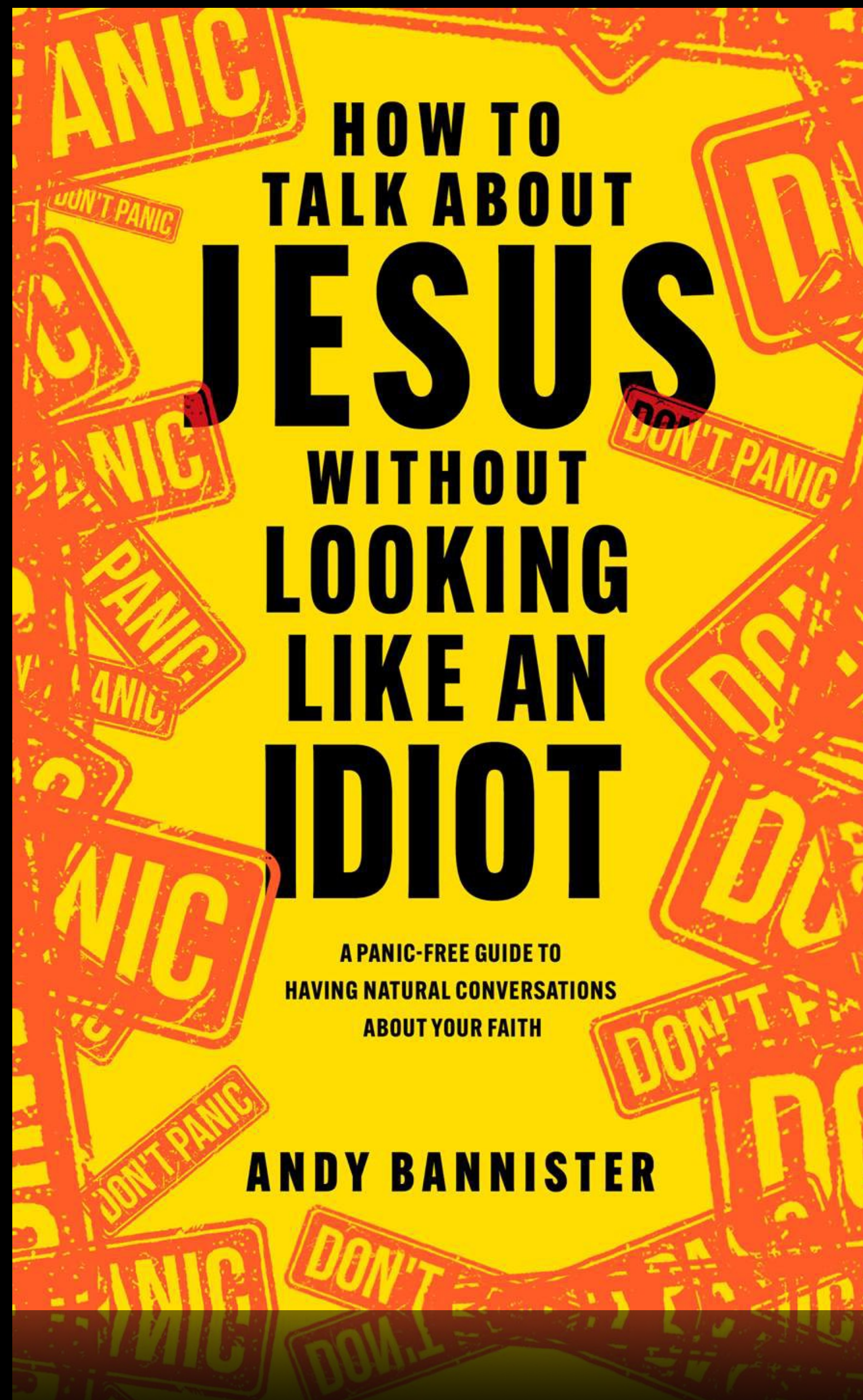
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“Though argument does not create conviction, the lack of it destroys belief. What seems to be proved may not be embraced; but what no one shows the ability to defend is quickly abandoned. Rational argument does not create belief, but it maintains a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

Austin Farrer





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