## **Engaging with Atheists**

In this workshop we will look at the different types of atheists, the main atheist beliefs and various ways that we can engage atheists with the Gospel.

**David Robertson** is the minister of St Peter's Free Church in Dundee, Scotland (a church that is best known for being the church of Robert Murray McCheyne) and the Director of the Solas Centre for Public Christianity. He is the author of *Awakening* (a contemporary account of McCheyne's life), *The Dawkins Letters, Magnificent Obsession*, and *Quench*. He has been invited to debate and discuss all over the UK and elsewhere in Europe. This has been done in cafes, bars, libraries, universities, pubs, restaurants, village halls, and even occasionally in churches! David is a chaplain at the University of Dundee, columnist, broadcaster, and debater. His interests include history, reading, music, politics, theology, and football – he supports Dundee FC although his other team is Barcelona! David is married to Annabel and they have three children; Andrew, Becky, and Emma Jane.

## I. Who Are the Atheists?

- 1. Functional Atheists
- 2. New Fundamentalist Atheists
- 3. Agnostic Atheists
- 4. Christian Atheists

## II. Basic Principles of Engagement

- 1. Listen and Learn
- 2. Question and Think
- 3. Read

4. Communicate
5. Begin and Conclude
6. Love
7. Pray
8. Bible
9. Leave
10. Together

## Suggested Readings:

David Robertson – *Engaging with Atheists* – Good Book – 2014 Graham Veale – *New Atheism, A Survival Guide* – Christian Focus Publications – 2014 Various – *Why I am Not an Atheist* – Christian Focus – 2013 David Robertson – *The Dawkins Letters* – Christian Focus – 2007