

## JUST IN CASE LOSING YOUR RELIGION · PART 2

### INTRODUCTION

Religion can be weird. Odd cultic behavior. Faces of religious icons appearing in random places. Fanatical rules and restrictions to follow in order to be 'good.' Are these all misguided attempts by religious nuts to connect with God? Are we trying too hard to make sense of something so big and mysterious? How is what Jesus offers any different?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the strangest thing that you've heard of someone doing in the name of religion?
2. Does Christianity raise more questions for you about what God is like? Most people believe "doubting" doesn't have a place in religion. Can "doubting" ever help you grow in your faith, or should a relationship with God eliminate doubt?
3. Read Acts 17:16-34. How is the religious climate during that time similar to the religious landscape today?
4. The Athenians in Acts 17:16-34 had a "just in case" approach to religion. There was a gap—a missing link—in what they believed . . . and Paul was going to fill in that gap. How is the "just in case" religious approach reflected today?
5. What is it about Jesus that separates him from other religious traditions?
6. Has Jesus answered all your questions about religion? What do you do with your existing doubts?

### MOVING FORWARD

Jesus didn't simply come to answer the questions that religion was asking. He *is* the answer...

*Want to know what God's like? Follow me.*

*Want to know where you stand? Call him Father.*

*Want to know if there's life after death? Visit my empty tomb.*

In that mystical space between the seen and the unseen, the sacred and the secular, Jesus stands as a real person inviting us to come and see.

### CHANGING YOUR MIND

*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 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... 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.*

Acts 17:24-27