

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Use these discussion questions to make your Starting Point group's experience great.

.....

### 1 START

#### SECTION ONE:

- 1 What kind of faith or religion was a part of your upbringing, if any?

#### SECTION TWO:

- 1 What are some of your past experiences with the Bible (either first-hand or someone telling you about it)?
- 2 What is one question you wrestle with when you think about God, faith, or religion?

#### SECTION THREE:

- 1 What do you hope to get out of your Starting Point experience?

### 2 RULES

#### SECTION ONE:

- 1 Which religious rules have “made you question whether religion had a place in your future”?
- 2 Which of these models describes the churches or religious traditions you’ve been exposed to?
  - In the family model, the relationship comes before the rules. Disobeying may get you punished but not kicked out.
  - In the club model, you have to agree with the rules to get in. If you break the rules, you’re kicked out.

#### SECTION TWO:

- 1 What are some of the things you’ve previously assumed or been told about the Ten Commandments?

#### SECTION THREE:

- 1 How easy or hard is it for you to believe that God wants you to be part of his family more than he wants you to follow his rules?
- 2 What might change if you saw yourself as a member of God’s family who would never be kicked out?

### 3 PROBLEM

#### SECTION ONE:

- 1 How would you describe your past interactions with Christians?

## 3 PROBLEM can't

### SECTION TWO:

- 1 Do you resist the idea of being called a sinner? Why or why not?
- 2 Section two says: "When you read the Gospels, you can't help noticing that Jesus was attracted to sinners. Never once do we find him threatening them with hell. In fact, just the opposite is true. Jesus's response to sinners was an offer of restoration. As a result, people who were nothing like Jesus liked Jesus."

How does this match the version of Jesus you've heard about?

### SECTION THREE:

- 1 Do you think (or have you been told) there is any sin God does not forgive?
- 2 How easy or hard is it for you to believe that you qualify for the forgiveness Jesus offers?

## 4 GRACE

### SECTION ONE:

- 1 Share the story of a time you were "let off the hook."

### SECTION TWO:

- 1 Can you relate to the tendency to bargain with God?
- 2 Have you or someone you know walked away from faith because God didn't hold up his end of a bargain?  
Section two says: "God does not view you through the filter of your performance. You didn't earn your way into God's good graces. You don't have to perform to stay there."  
What's your reaction to this? Does it change how you think God views you?

### SECTION THREE:

- 1 Can you think of a time when you experienced God's grace—his unearned, undeserved favor?

## 5 FAITH

### SECTION ONE:

- 1 Have you ever changed your mind about something? What happened to make you think differently?

### SECTION TWO:

- 1 Right after Jesus died, no one—not even his closest friends and family—believed he was the Son of God. Yet they later risked their lives saying he was.
- 2 What convinced them to change their minds? Does that affect what you think about Jesus?  
Section two says: "Jesus did not launch his movement around a new list of 'believe that's.' At the center of his teaching was a single 'believe in.' Jesus called upon his followers to believe in him. Not his ideas—him."  
How does this match the way Christianity has been presented to you in the past?

### SECTION THREE:

- 1 What, if anything, is still confusing or hard to believe about the story and significance of Jesus's resurrection?
- 2 What will you take away from this Starting Point experience?
- 3 What next step do you think you might take to continue exploring faith?