

THE SEARCH



DISCUSSION GUIDE, EPISODES 1 - 7



AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE®
UNDERSTAND, LIVE, AND SHARE YOUR FAITH

THE SEARCH

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

EPISODE 1 WHAT DO YOU SEEK?

1. Why did you come to *The Search*?
2. What struck you from the video?
3. What kinds of happiness are people seeking in their daily lives today?
4. “Destination addiction” means to think that you will not be happy until you achieve or get something. How prevalent is this in our world?
5. Jesus’s first words in the Gospel are “What do you seek?” What are you looking for in your life right now?

Additional Questions (if time allows):

6. When you were younger, what did happiness mean to you? Has that changed?
7. The author of Ecclesiastes in the Bible wrote that all of human life is vanity. Does this view of life make sense to you?

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

EPISODE 2 WHO ARE YOU?

1. What struck you from the video?
2. It's easy to confuse small with insignificant. Why is that true?
3. What is your reaction to the marvels of the human body?
4. Following C.S. Lewis's line of thought, do you think there is a God-shaped hole inside each of us that only God can fill? Why or why not?
5. Chris mentioned how Jesus began his ministry with the question "What are you looking for?" What do you think about the possibility that God is looking for you?

Additional Questions (if time allows):

6. Why are humans so attracted to our natural surroundings, often feeling a sense of awe and wonder by them?
7. What similarities exist between the marvels of creation and our own human bodies?
8. Is there a difference between mind and brain, or are they the same?

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

EPISODE 3 WHY A GOD?

1. What struck you from the video?
2. Are all humans by nature religious?
3. Why is it reasonable to hold that God exists?
4. Has science disproved God's existence?
5. What is the relationship of science to faith? How are they similar, and how are they different?
6. Are there any other thoughts you'd like to share about tonight's video?

Additional Questions (if time allows):

7. Do you think society is better off without God?
8. What good does God's existence make in a person's life?

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

EPISODE 4 WHAT'S OUR STORY?

1. What struck you from the video?
2. Why are humans interested in stories?
3. What's your story? Where were you born, and how did you come to live where you live now?
4. How did you react when they shared the foundations of the Christian story?
5. What is your personal favorite part of the story of God that we find in Scripture? Why?

Additional Questions (if time allows):

6. There is a way to understand the Christian story that is based in information and one that is based in relationship. Which do you relate to more?
7. Has the Christian story ever felt like a to-do list or just a bunch of rules to you?
8. Do you have any other insights as to what was presented on tonight's video?

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

EPISODE 5 WHO IS JESUS?

1. What struck you from the video?
2. Many people think of Jesus as a prophet, a really nice man, or perhaps even the Son of God. Who do you say Jesus was?
3. What is your reaction to C.S. Lewis's statement that Jesus was either "Lord, liar, or lunatic"?
4. Chris said we can know that God exists by thinking about it. But knowing who God is—that's another story. If Jesus reveals who God is, what does he reveal?
5. What from the presentation have you not considered before about Jesus?

Additional Questions (if time allows):

6. Pope Benedict XVI says that the happiness we look for has a face and a name: Jesus. What might skeptics say about this?
7. Who has Jesus been to you throughout your life? God, friend, or mythical figure?

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

EPISODE 6 AM I SAVED?

1. What struck you from the video?
2. What was your reaction to the story about the father and son in the Armenian earthquake?
3. How would you have reacted to Jesus when he said, “Put out your nets for a catch” after you hadn’t caught anything all night?
4. Chris mentioned that we often define ourselves by what has happened to us or by what we struggle with. What are those things? Is this true? Is there more?
5. Chris said there has to come a time when we say yes to love, and that love won’t force itself on us. Have you said yes to Christ’s love? Would you like to say yes to him right now—to give him everything?

Additional Questions (if time allows):

6. Is salvation a one-time thing?
7. What do you say to people when they ask you if you’ve been saved?

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

EPISODE 7 WHY A CHURCH?

1. What struck you from the video?
2. Do you know any “nones”?
3. What has been your experience of the Church? Good, bad, and ugly...
4. What has your journey of *The Search* meant to you?
5. Chris explained that the word “missa” said at the end of Mass means “sent.” As you are sent, what will you do after *The Search*?

Additional Questions (if time allows):

6. Does it make sense that the Catholic Church emphasizes ritual, symbol, and rhythm as being important in the life of faith? Why?
7. Why would you recommend *The Search* to someone?