

Why The God Questions?

A few years ago, while Rick Warren's *The Purpose Driven Life* was sweeping the country, Dan Grider and I ate lunch together. We both marveled at what *The 40 Days of Purpose Campaign* was doing in our churches. Rick's material was well-written, but wasn't profound. Yet it had profound affects on almost all of our members.

Both of us decided we should hold church-wide campaigns once or twice a year. We got so excited about this idea that we spent the next two hours in a local Christian bookstore, combing its shelves for potential books to use for future campaigns. We couldn't find any.

The genius of *40 Days of Purpose* is the book's short, daily devotionals. Since there were no other books out there like that, we decided to write one. We started with questions everyone has about God and Christianity. 95% of what people outside the faith want to know can be boiled down to eight simple questions:

- 1. Is God Real?**
- 2. Is the Bible True?**
- 3. Don't All Religions Lead to the Same Place?**
- 4. If God is So Good and Powerful, Why is There so Much Suffering?**
- 5. Isn't Christianity Just a Crutch for Weak People?**
- 6. What About Those Who've Never Heard About Jesus?**
- 7. If Christianity is True, Why is the Church so Full of Hypocrites?**
- 8. What Happens When I Die?**

The first four questions are "the biggies." *The God Questions* devotes a week (6 days of short readings) to each of them. Week five covers the other for "minor" questions. Week six's reading covers practical questions:

- **What's the Purpose of My Life?**
- **What Do I Do Now?**
- **How Should I Change My Behavior?**
- **What Are My Priorities?**
- **Does God Actually Answer All Questions?**

We tested *The God Questions* at Daybreak Community Church, then at New Song Community Church. At both churches, faith grew, small groups grew and people came to Christ. What we didn't expect was the effect on our members: spending six weeks focused on outreach caused every member to think more seriously about reaching their pre-Christian friends and neighbors. Armed with answers, they felt better, and therefore bolder, about their faith.

The president of Outreach, Inc. (Scott Evans) was so impressed with the effect of *The God Questions* that he made it the first book ever published by Outreach.

The God Questions is designed to give you the answers you need, for yourself, and your pre-Christian friends. Each chapter is short and easy-to-read. Three or four years after you've read it, even if you don't remember the answers, you'll remember where to find them.

What is happening with *The God Questions* surprised us. Here's what we're seeing:

- ***The God Questions* builds faith.** Christians gain confidence when they get answers.
- **Pre-Christians come to faith.** Churches are seeing people come to Christ during *God Questions* Campaigns. When the campaign is over, church members are mailing copies to their friends around the country, who are coming to Christ from reading the book.
- **Spiritual habits get built.** It takes 21 days to build a habit. By reading a chapter a day for 40 days, church members get used to spending daily time with God.
- **Men love the book.** They like short, solid, to-the-point answers.
- **High school and college students love the book.** Growing up with *The Da Vinci Code* and *The Jesus Seminar*, the Millennial Generation is looking for tangible, practical truth.

As of this writing, *The God Questions* is not yet available in bookstores. Outreach published it in January, 2007 and has been too busy resourcing churches with the book and campaign kit to contract with booksellers. The only place to get the book is from Outreach or

one of the authors. Yet more than 8,000 copies have been sold, and close to 100 churches are holding campaigns.

I hope you will experience *The God Questions* and find the answers you need, then invite your church, or a small group of neighbors to walk through the book together. I hope your faith will deepen, and that you'll use the book to help your pre-Christian friends find faith. When that happens, please write and let me know.

Thanks!

Hal Seed

Hal@halseedbooks.com

June, 2007