

# Sharing the Good News in a Culture of Confusion

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# evangelism

The image is a collage of three photographs of church services. The top-left photo shows a woman at a pulpit with a sign that says "Thy Will Be Done". The top-right photo shows a woman at a podium with a screen displaying "Welcome to Dumfries Baptist Church" and "Sunday evening worship commences at 8.30 pm". The bottom photo shows a wide view of a church sanctuary with many people seated in pews. The word "training" is overlaid in large, white, lowercase letters across the center of the collage.

training



A Culture of Confusion



A Culture of Fear

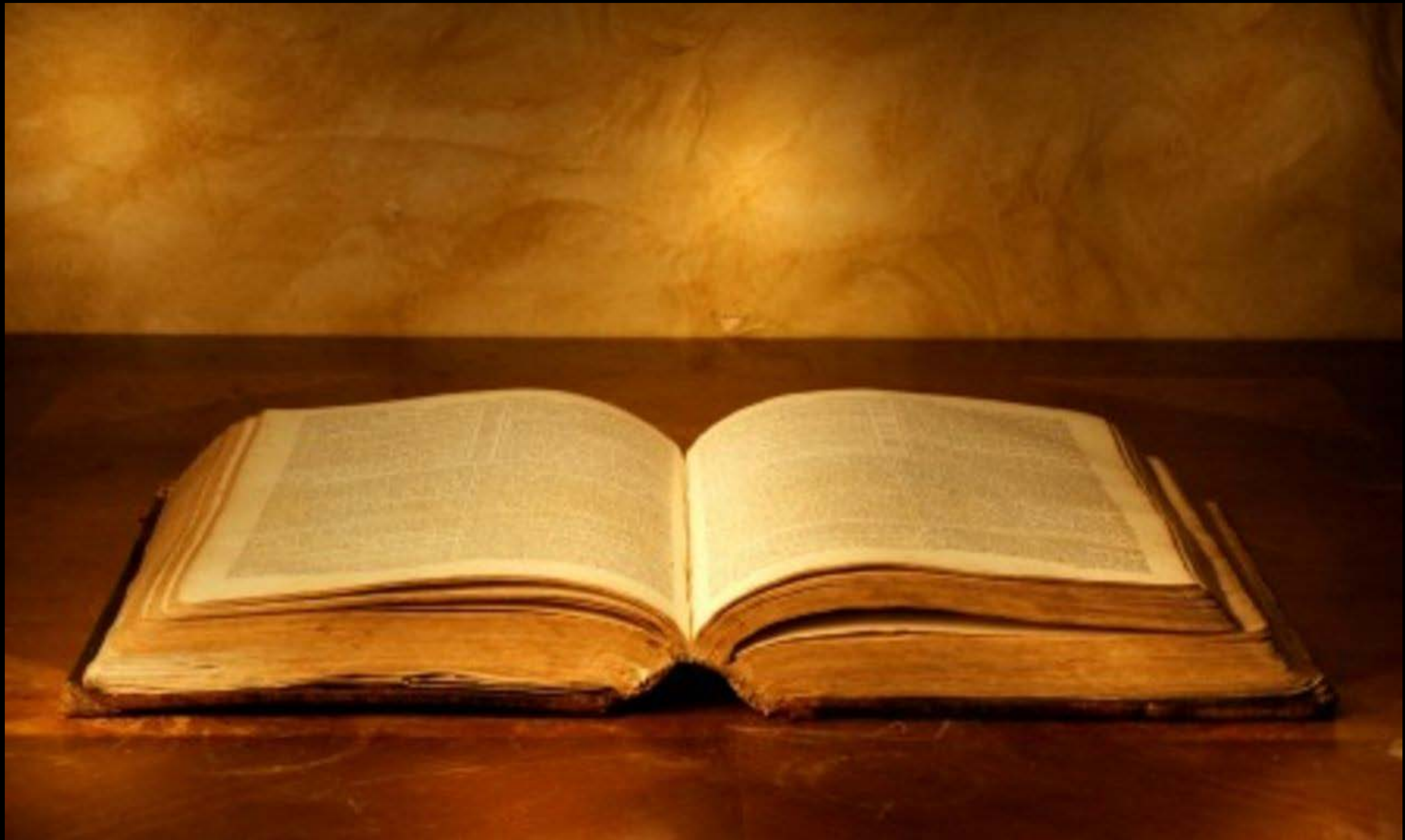


**A Culture of Apathy**

# UK 2021 Census

22,162,062 people (25%) ticked  
“No Religion”, but of that, only ...





Acts 17:16-34

## Acts 17:16-34

While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the market-place day by day with those who happened to be there. A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, 'What is this babbler trying to say?' Others remarked, 'He seems to be advocating foreign gods.' They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection. Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, 'May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean.' (All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.) Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: 'People of Athens! I see that in

every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship – and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

‘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 human 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. From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. 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. “For in him we live and move and have our being.” As some of your own

poets have said, “We are his offspring.”

‘Therefore since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone – an image made by human design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.’

When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, ‘We want to hear you again on this subject.’

At that, Paul left the Council. Some of the people became followers of Paul and believed. Among them was Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus, also a woman named Damaris, and a number of others.

# Four Lessons for Sharing Jesus in a Culture of Confusion

1. Take the time to understand
2. Go where people are
3. Find the points of contact
4. Connect the conversation to Jesus

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Is there a God and what is He like?

What are human beings?

What's gone wrong with the world?

What's the solution?



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Flying a faith flag

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**“We are a 1 percent bit of pollution within the universe. We are completely insignificant.”**

Lawrence M. Krauss (atheist and physicist)



Examples of “Wondering” Questions

**What is love?**



Examples of “Wondering” Questions

**Beauty**

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A dimly lit scene of a group of people in a room, possibly a dining hall or a meeting. In the center, a man with long hair and a beard is seated at a table, holding a cup. To his right, another man is seated, also holding a cup. In the background, several women are standing, some wearing head coverings. The overall atmosphere is quiet and contemplative.

That reminds me of something Jesus *said*

That reminds me of a story that Jesus *told*

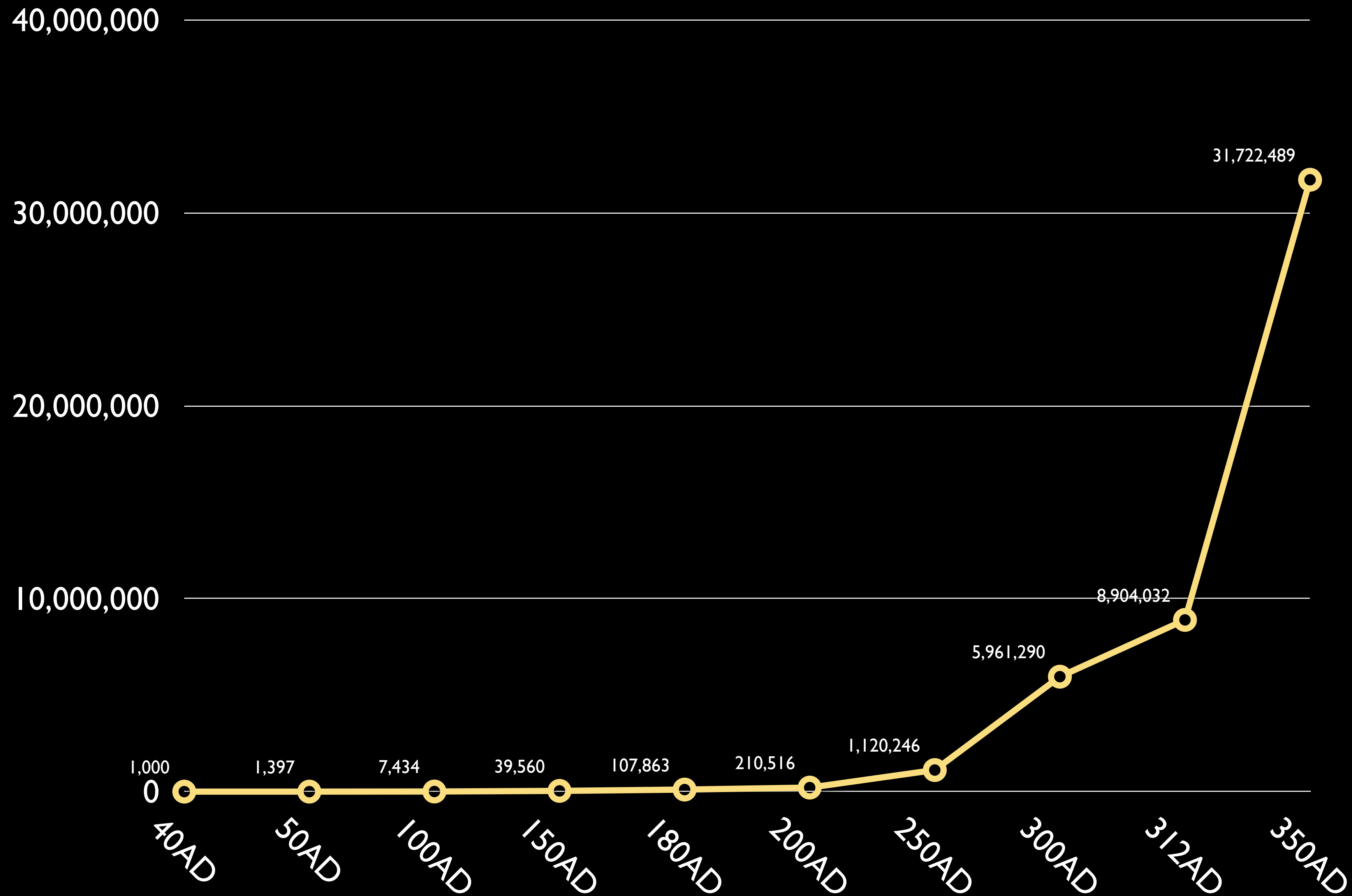
That reminds me of something that Jesus *did*



“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Mark 10:45

# Growth of the Early Church



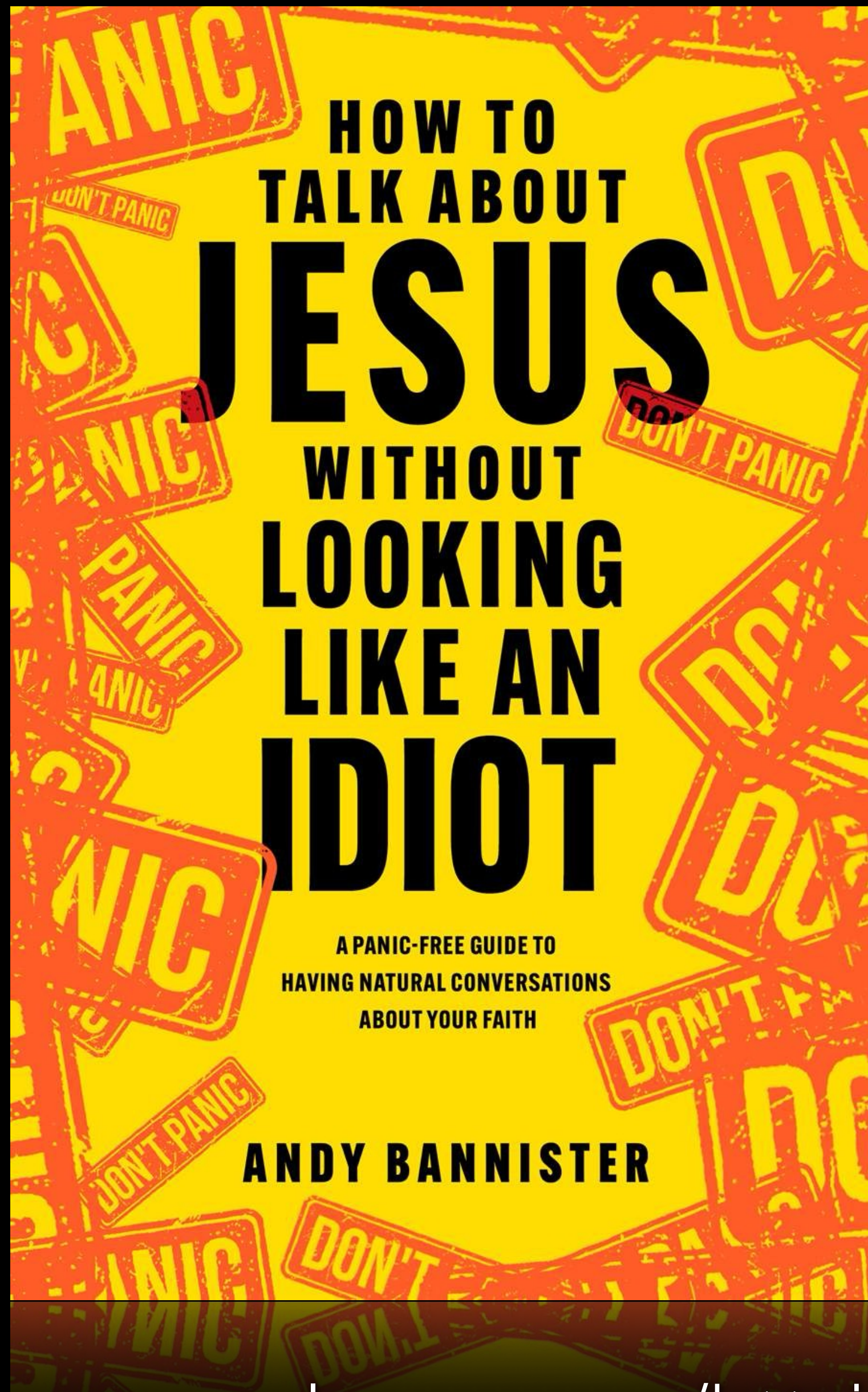
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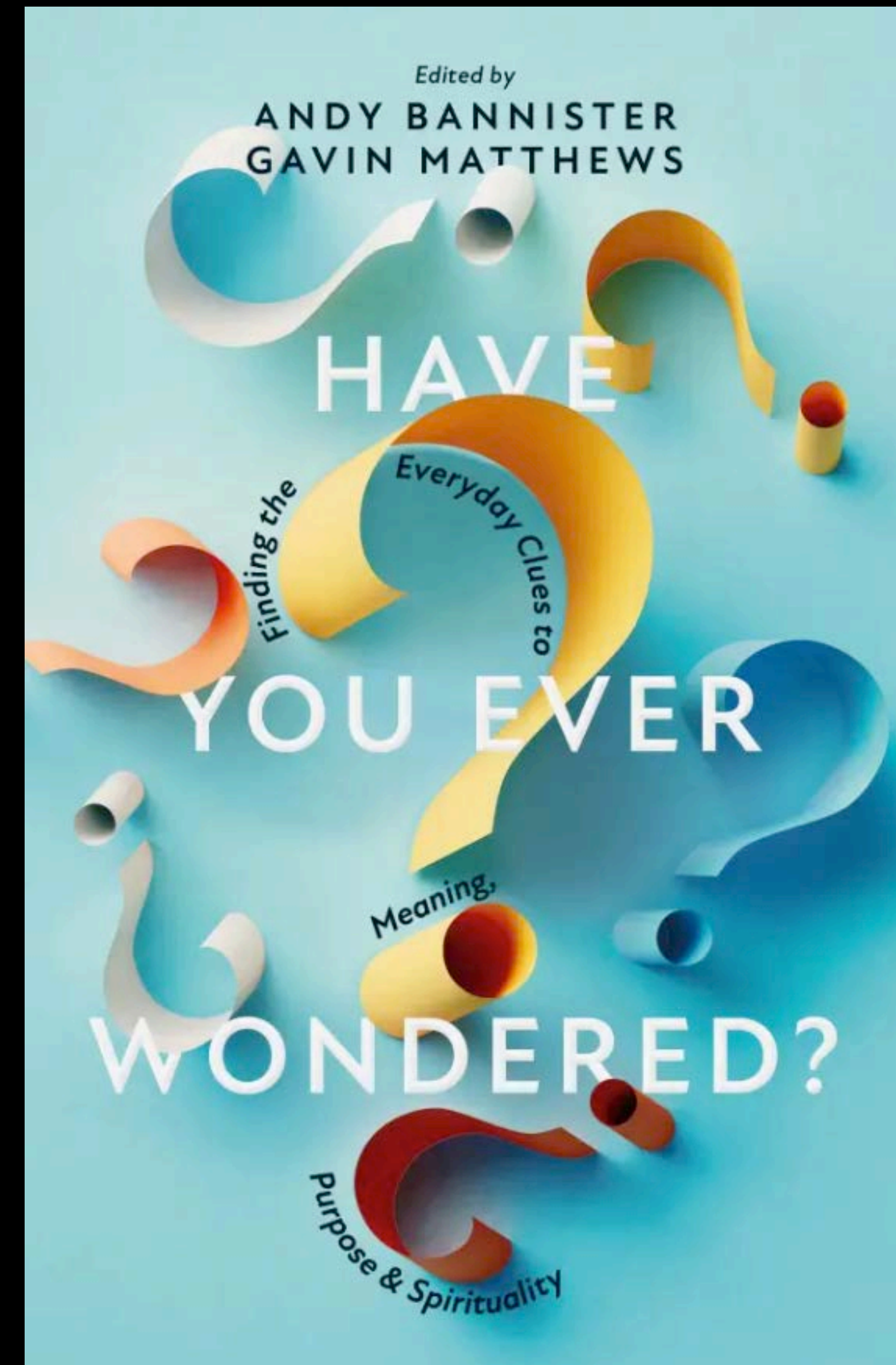


“I believe in Christianity as I believe that the Sun has risen, not only because I see it but because by it, I see everything else.”

C. S. Lewis



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