

# APATHEISM



DISCUSSION  
GUIDE

# Apatheism: How We Share When They Don't Care

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

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### INTRODUCTION

- 1 Have you encountered apatheism in yourself or your neighbors? If so, describe your experience.
- 2 In what ways is apatheism more challenging for evangelism than other obstacles, e.g., atheism, agnosticism, religions, etc?
- 3 How would you answer the author's question, "What if we live in an Athens without the statue to the unknown god?"

### CHAPTER 1

- 1 In our secular age, belief in God is not default nor assumed; rather, it is contestable. Why would the contestability of God's existence lead to apathy toward him?
- 2 In a pluralistic culture, there are many belief options to choose from. Why would pluralism lead to apathy toward God?
- 3 What are some practical ways that Christians can resist apatheism in their lives as they live in a secular age?

### CHAPTER 2

- 1 Many citizens of Western nations enjoy the wealth and comfort of their countries. How does affluence lead to apathy toward God?
- 2 Our digital age brings with it numerous technologies that distract us easily and often. How does distraction lead to apathy toward God?
- 3 What are some practical ways that Christians can resist apatheism in their lives as they live in affluent and distracted cultures?

## CHAPTER 3

- 1 The author argued that belief in God is not merely the sum of our ideas concerning him, but it is also how we feel about those ideas. Do you agree with this assessment? Why or why not?
- 2 Why is it important to understand that apatheism affects both the mind and the heart, i.e., both what we believe about God and how we feel about those beliefs?
- 3 What is the difference between apatheism and practical atheism, and how might Christians avoid practical atheism?

## CHAPTERS 4 & 5

- 1 Why is genuine Christian joy a key element in evangelism to the apatheistic?
- 2 Does God want us to be happy, holy, or both? Why?
- 3 What are the root causes of joyless Christianity, if such a thing could be said to exist?
- 4 The Bible categorizes joy into joy *because of* and joy *in spite of*, i.e., joy *because of* God and joy *in spite of* circumstances. Give examples of these two types of joy from scripture and your life.
- 5 How ought a Christian be returned to the joy of their salvation (see Ps. 51; Phil. 4:4)?

## CHAPTER 6

- 1 Do you agree with the author that common apologetic models require modification when engaging apatheism? Why or why not?
- 2 How might doubt be a helpful tool when approaching an apatheist with God questions and the gospel?

## CHAPTERS 7 & 8

- 1 The author argued that Christians ought to present the faith as primarily *desirable*, not *reasonable*, with apatheists. Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not?
- 2 How might you approach an apatheistic neighbor with the gospel? Offer specific details and examples that are practical.
- 3 Do you agree with the author that Christians who neglect to evangelize the apatheistic risk drifting into their own indifference toward their neighbor? If so, how does this shape your view of apatheism?
- 4 How have you been challenged by this book to 'go, therefore,' to the apathetic?

