



#1 "Something Happened"

Everything Has A Starting Point, Including Faith

- The On-Ramp To Faith For Many Of Us As Children Was The BIBLE

"For Most Adults, 'The Bible Says' Is Not An Adequate Starting Point For Faith"

- "The Bible Says" Was NEVER Intended To Be The Starting Point For The Christian Faith.

"What Was The Starting Point of Faith For The Early Christians?"

The Book of Acts (An Ancient Travel Journal)

¹⁶ While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷ So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸ A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, "What is this babbling 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. ¹⁹ 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?" ²⁰ You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean." ²¹ (All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.)

Acts 17:16-21

- Luke Wrote The Book of Acts BEFORE There Was A New Testament

"Paul Knew What He Knew About Jesus Not Because Of What He Read But Because Of Firsthand Accounts He Had Received From The People Who Were Actually With Jesus."

²² 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. ²³ 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. Acts 17:22-23

- UNCERTAINTY Is The One Thing Most Religions Have In Common

²⁴ "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. ²⁵ And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. ²⁶ 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. ²⁷ 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. ²⁸ 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' ²⁹ As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.' ³⁰ 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. ³¹ In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. Acts 17:24-30

- The Starting Point For The Christian Faith Is The Question "Who Is JESUS?"

³¹ 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." Acts 17:24-31

- Jesus Came To Remove The UNCERTAINTY, To Make What Was Previously Unknown, Known."

Discuss These Two Questions With Friends and Family:

- What Was Your Faith Starting Point?
- How Well Has Your Faith Held Up Under The Rigors Of Adult Life?

Life Group Discussion Questions

We believe that spiritual growth happens best in circles. Life groups provide a safe and encouraging environment to experience authentic Christian community, grow faith and discover the life-giving truth of God's Word. Connect. Grow. Move.

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- When you think about God's involvement with the world, what are three words that come to mind?
- What one thing do you most associate with Jesus?
- Talk about a story, person, or experience that has influenced the way you look at God.
- Share about a time when you realized that life was bigger than just you. How did that experience change the direction of your life?
- How and when did your faith journey get started?
- How Well Has Your Faith Held Up Under The Rigors Of Adult Life?
- How would you currently describe your perspective on faith?

Moving Forward

God did something outrageous in this outrageous world he created. He wants you to know about it because it has personal implications for you. The starting point for adult faith is not a Bible story. It's not even the Bible. It's a question: "*Who is this Jesus?*" The starting point for adult faith is a person. Jesus came to remove the mystery, to make what was previously unknown, known. Jesus came to bring light to a dark world.

["I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness."](#) John 12:46

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