

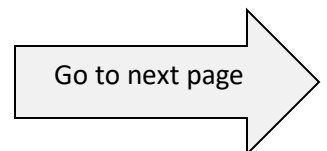
# BIG Questions

*Basic Interpersonal Guide (BIG) for understanding different world views.*

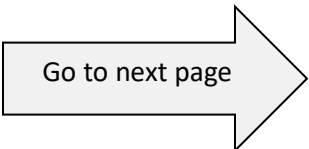
Name of Interviewee: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ICE-BREAKERS	
<p><i>Say: Thank you for this opportunity to talk to you about your faith and beliefs concerning religion and/or spirituality. I am always wanting to learn from other people about what they believe as a way to get to know them better.</i></p> <p><i>Please be encouraged that I have no plan to trick or trap you today. I am simply here to learn. I don't want you to think that any answer you make will be judged as stupid or inferior.</i></p> <p><i>I also do not plan to respond to any of your answers at this time. Sometimes people can feel nervous if thinking there will be a confrontation or argument. I have no other plans for this time than to listen and record what you have to say.</i></p>	
<p>1. What does it mean to be a _____ (insert religious or spiritual affiliation here)?</p>	
<p>2. What is your favorite part about being a _____ (insert religious or spiritual affiliation here)?</p>	
<p>3. What is the one thing you want the world to know about _____ (insert religious or spiritual affiliation here)?</p>	



On Origins	On Origins – CHRISTIAN ANSWER
<u>1. Where did we all come from?</u>	<u>1. Where did we all come from?</u>  <i>We come from God. “In the beginning, <b>God</b> created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1)</i>
<u>2. Was there ever a beginning to time?</u>	<u>2. Was there ever a beginning?</u>  Yes. While we do not know what God did before He created everything, we know this: <i>We come from God. “<b>In the beginning, God</b> created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1)</i>
<u>3. Is there any higher power than man?</u>	<u>3. Is there a higher power than man?</u>  <i>Yes. (See Genesis 1-2:7 for an example of a “higher power’s” creation of man and all life)</i>
<u>4. Is there a God/gods?</u>	<u>4. Is there a God/gods?</u>  <i>Yes. There is a true God, and there are false gods. Concerning the true God: “In the beginning, <b>God</b> created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1)</i>
<u>5. Are there any supernatural forces or powers that humans and/or gods can do?</u>	<u>5. Are there any supernatural forces or powers that humans and/or gods can do?</u>  <i>Yes. “In the beginning, <b>God</b> created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1-2). A miracle is an event or action that is produced by a power beyond nature. It does not follow scientific or natural laws. EX: God created the earth in a miraculous way.</i>
<u>6. What does the word “God” mean to you?</u>	<u>6. What does “God” mean to you?</u>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Creator (Genesis 1:1)</li> <li>▪ Eternal (Exodus 3:14)</li> <li>▪ Self-Existent (<i>needs nothing from man</i>) (Exodus 3:14)</li> <li>▪ Goodness (Psalm 25:8, James 1:17)</li> <li>▪ Grace (Psalm 145:17, Romans 3:24)</li> <li>▪ Father (Galatians 4:6)</li> <li>▪ Justice (1 Peter 1:17)</li> <li>▪ Love (1 John 4:8)</li> <li>▪ Holy (1 Peter 1:16)</li> <li>▪ Mercy (Titus 3:5)</li> <li>▪ Omnipotent (<i>all powerful</i>) (Jeremiah 32:17)</li> <li>▪ Omnipresent (Psalm 139:7-10)</li> <li>▪ Omniscient (Hebrews 4:13)</li> </ul> *There are more attributed of God, this is but a sample
<u>7. Can we become a god?</u>	<u>7. Can we become a god?</u>  No. We are not eternal, we were created. (Genesis 1:27, Genesis 2:7)



On Morality	On Morality – CHRISTIAN ANSWER
<p><u>1. Is there such a thing as right and wrong? Is it absolute to all mankind or relative to every different person?</u></p>	<p><u>1. Is there such a thing as right and wrong? Is it absolute to all mankind or relative to every different person?</u></p> <p><i>Yes, there is an absolute right and wrong for every person. (Genesis 2:16,17; 2 Timothy 3:16)</i></p>
<p><u>2. Who determines morality?</u></p>	<p><u>2. Who determines morality?</u></p> <p><i>God (Genesis 2:16,17; 2 Timothy 3:16)</i></p>
<p><u>3. Are we accountable for what we do in this life? How (or how not)?</u></p>	<p><u>3. Are we accountable for what we do in this life? How (or how not)?</u></p> <p><i>Yes. We will stand before God in judgment. We are saved by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8-10) and judged by our lives' obedience. (Matthew 16:27, Revelation 20:12)</i></p>
<p><u>4. Is evil punished and good rewarded? How (or how not)?</u></p>	<p><u>4. Is evil punished and good rewarded? How (or how not)?</u></p> <p><i>Yes, God will punish or reward us according to our faith and obedience (Matthew 25:31-45)</i></p>

On MEANING	On Morality – CHRISTIAN ANSWER
<p><u>1. What is our purpose in life?</u></p>	<p><u>1. What is our purpose in life?</u></p> <p><i>To serve God and keep His commandments (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).</i></p>
<p><u>2. What is (are) the main problem(s) that humanity faces?</u></p>	<p><u>2. What is (are) the main problem(s) that humanity faces?</u></p> <p><i>Sin (Isaiah 59:1-2, Romans 3:23)</i></p>
<p><u>3. How did this (these) problem(s) originate?</u></p>	<p><u>3. How did this (these) problem(s) originate?</u></p> <p><i>Through the free will choice to disobey God in the garden of Eden (Genesis 3).</i></p>
<p><u>4. How does this (these) problem(s) affect us daily? Throughout life? After we die?</u></p>	<p><u>4. How does this (these) problem(s) affect us daily? Throughout life? After we die?</u></p> <p><i>Physical effects: pain, suffering, toil (Genesis 3) Spiritual effects: separation from God, eternal death (Romans 6:23)</i></p>
<p><u>5. Is it possible to end this (these) predicament(s) or problem(s)? If so, how?</u></p>	<p><u>5. Is it possible to end this (these) or problem(s)? If so, how?</u></p> <p><i>It is not possible to solve this problem alone (Romans 7:24). It is only possible to solve the problem of sin through an obedient faith in Jesus Christ. (Romans 7:25, Ephesians 2:8-10)</i></p>

On Destiny	On Destiny – CHRISTIAN ANSWER
<u>1. What makes us human?</u>	<u>1. What makes us human?</u>  <i>We are flesh (Genesis 2:7) and we are spirit (Genesis 1:27).</i>
<u>2. What is the purpose of death?</u>	<u>2. What is the purpose of death?</u>  <i>It is a punishment of sin (Genesis 3)</i>
<u>3. What happens to our bodies when we die? Our mind/spirit?</u>	<u>3. What happens when we die?</u>  <i>Our bodies return to dust (Genesis 3)</i>  <i>Our soul waits to face a resurrection, judgment, and eternal state of being (1 Corinthians 15, Revelation 20-22)</i>

CONCLUSION	
<u>1. In conclusion, why are you a(n) _____ (insert religious affiliation here)?</u>	
<u>2. What makes _____ (insert religious affiliation here) the faith above all others?</u>	
<u>3. Would you ever consider changing your faith?</u>	

*\*Say: Thank you for the time to ask these questions. I hope that I have written down what you have expressed in a fair way that shows exactly what you believe. I look forward to the time where I go can home and study through your answers so that I know more about your faith. Are you interested in a follow-up study? After I have the chance to study these alone, I would be honored to share with you the answers that are found in the Bible. What day next week would be a good time for you?*