

GOD'S NOT DEAD

DISCUSSION GUIDE

For Leaders: GOD'S NOT DEAD follows college freshman Josh Wheaton into an unexpected test of his faith and a challenging journey to defend it. His quest—and the stories of the lives interwoven—deals with themes of belief, courage, purpose, pain, hope, worldview and faith in action. Because open discussion can go in many directions, encourage your group to listen and speak respectfully and compassionately to all. Feel free to copy and share these questions with individuals and groups.

Opening Prayer: Heavenly Father, please open our hearts and minds, and guide our discussion. Reveal your truth and strengthen us. Amen.

1. Has your faith ever been challenged as directly as Josh's? What would you have done on the first day of philosophy class? Why?
2. What character do you identify with most? Why? What are some of the challenges faced by other people in the movie?
3. When Josh is trying to decide what to do, Pastor Dave gives him two Bible passages to read: Matthew 10:32-33 and Matthew 12:48. How do these verses apply to your life?
4. How did Josh's girlfriend try to influence him? Did she care more about him or about herself? In what ways did she show her true priorities? What would a healthy relationship have looked like? Have you ever had someone close to you try to influence you to compromise your beliefs? How did you handle it?
5. When Josh is trying to figure out what to do about Professor Radisson's challenge, he quotes C.S. Lewis: "Only a real risk tests the quality of belief." Is that always true? Why or why not?
6. Professor Radisson says, "Science and reason have supplanted faith." Josh says, "You don't have to commit intellectual suicide to believe in a Creator behind creation." Who do you agree with? Why or why not? What examples from science and reason does Josh point out to make his case for the existence of God?
7. Pastor Dave is frustrated because he doesn't feel like he is doing anything important ministry, but Rev. Jude says, "God has you exactly where He wants you. It's all part of a grand design." Read Luke 16:10. How does God use the pastor? What difference does Dave make in others' lives?
8. Josh says, "Evil is the most potent weapon against Christianity." Professor Radisson says he hates God because God allowed his mother to suffer and die. Why do evil and suffering exist in the world? Read Romans 5:12, Romans 8:28 and Romans 8:38-39.
9. How does Josh's willingness to take a stand affect other people? Who else takes a stand for Jesus? What are the results of their choices on other people? Read Hebrews 12:1 and Isaiah 55:10-11.
10. How does Professor Radisson's death and salvation make you feel? Are they fair? Read Luke 23:39-43, Romans 6:23 and John 3:16-17. Have you ever accepted Jesus' offer of forgiveness and eternal life? Would you like to?

Before leaving, pray together: *God, thank you that your truth endures and has the power to change us in real ways. Fill us with your strength, courage and love, and use us in the ways you want. Thank you for life in your Son, Jesus. Amen.*

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