



# Worth It

## Discussion Guide

### Chapter 1: Life to the full

1. “It’s a pretty rough time to be a young person.” Do you agree? Why or why not?
2. Which of the issues highlighted in this chapter feel like the biggest ones to you?
3. When do you feel the most confident that following Jesus is worth it? When do you most struggle to believe it?

### Chapter 2: The most important discovery

1. Which part of Chris’ description of God’s love most struck you?
2. Were there any parts where you were thinking, “Yes, but what about...?” What were they, and how come?
3. Can you think of any specific stories from the Gospels where Jesus shows us the love of God lived out in the ways described on page 22? (If you’re stuck, try: Mark 10:46-52; Luke 7:36-50; John 13:1-5.)
4. Do you ever think of Jesus as the good, loving guy and God the Father as mean and spiteful (like on page 23)? What did you read in this chapter that counters that idea?

### Chapter 3: The good news about God’s judgment

1. In what ways do you struggle with the idea of God’s judgment? What did you find most helpful in this chapter?
2. This chapter described sin as “unwillingness to trust that what God wants for me is only my deepest happiness”. How did that look for the first man and woman? How does that look for you now?
3. Did you identify with Chris’ description of “a firehose of beauty and brokenness that comes blasting at us every single day”? Where have you seen beauty and brokenness around you this week?
4. Why is Jesus our only hope for justice?

#### **Chapter 4: Better than you think**

1. How do you think you would have summarised the “good news” before you read this chapter? What about now?
2. What are you tempted to see your fundamental identity as? What difference does it make to remember that, fundamentally, you are “made in the image of God”?
3. Look up one of the verses referenced on page 50. What excites you about the way God’s story is going to end?
4. If you’re one of Jesus’ disciples, what could you do to join with him in the renewal of the world? Think about something you could do today; this month; this year. Use the questions on page 52 to help.

#### **Chapter 5: How did we get here?**

1. Have you felt the kind of tension that comes from following Jesus that’s described at the start of this chapter? When?
2. Did you learn anything new from this chapter? How would you explain it to someone else? What questions do you still have about it?
3. “Most people who don’t believe that Christianity is true still kind of live as if it’s true. They’re still holding on to a bunch of Jesus’ ideas and values.” Do you agree? Why or why not?
4. Which parts of following Jesus do you think our culture approves of (and sees as “common sense”)? Which parts do you think our culture disapproves of (and thinks Christians are on the wrong side of progress)?

#### **Chapter 6: Living like it's true**

1. On pages 67-68, Chris says that for us to keep trusting and following Jesus, we’re going to need to be confident about three things: that the good news of Jesus is good, true, and actually works in real life. Which of those are you most and least confident in?
2. How would you describe what wisdom is, based on this chapter?
3. What do you find hard about reading the Bible? Which of Chris’ five questions on pages 74-76 did you find most helpful?
4. Have you ever come up against stuff in the Bible that you disagree with? What have you read in this chapter that could help you process that?



## Chapter 7: Who are you becoming?

1. Talk honestly about your tech use. In what ways is it shaping you, do you think?
2. Are there any habits that you want to start, based on this chapter?
3. Are there any habits that you want to stop or change, to prevent you from being distracted from following Jesus? How can we help one another?
4. In what ways have you already seen God transforming you into the image of Jesus? What would you like him to change next?

## Chapter 8: Disappointment and disaster

1. Do you know people like the ones described on pages 96-97—whose experience of suffering and tragedy has either driven them away from God or drawn them closer to him?
2. “Deleting God from the equation isn’t going to take your pain away. If anything, it’s going to do the opposite.” Do you agree? Why or why not?
3. Chris writes that Jesus is “God’s truest, best, most complete answer to all our questions about suffering”. What does he mean? How does looking at Jesus help us when we suffer?
4. Is there any area of fear, doubt, disappointment or frustration with God that you’re processing at the moment? How could we pray about that together?

## Chapter 9: How to change the world

1. “Personal faith is mostly still welcome in our post-Christian culture, as long as you keep it to yourself. But ... when you start talking about Jesus’ teachings like they’re not just opinions but the truth—that’s when people get a whole lot less comfortable.” Have you experienced that to be the case? If so, what did you find helpful in this chapter?
2. Look at the four options for engaging with culture laid out on pages 109-113. How have you seen those play out among Christians you know? Which one do you think you naturally tend towards, and why?
3. Chris says that the way to change the world is through “the family of Jesus’ people, loving one another and welcoming the world to join us”. If you’re part of a church, what do you appreciate about it? What do you find hard?
4. “What might it look like to take the next step deeper into community with Jesus’ people?” Consider Chris’ questions on pages 114-115 and make a plan.



## Chapter 10: How to live with your family

1. On page 119, Chris writes that when Jesus talks about love, he's mostly talking about an action, rather than a feeling. Do you agree that this makes loving your family seem more achievable? Why or why not?
2. What did you find most helpful in the section about forgiveness?
3. If you have siblings, what could loving action towards them look like this week?
4. Consider the adults in your household. What could loving action and honour towards them look like this week?

## Chapter 11: How to really love your friends

1. "The truth is, being a mediocre friend is pretty easy. Being a really good friend is a whole lot harder." When have you found that to be true? What are the key differences between a mediocre friend and a good one, do you think?
2. Read Ephesians 2:10. What do you find encouraging about this verse as you think about friendship?
3. This chapter talked about the importance of being present, listening well, dealing with conflict, being trustworthy, and knowing when to reach out for help. Which of those are you currently best at, do you think? Which of those do you struggle with the most? What does that tend to look like?
4. Going forward, what's one thing you want to do differently when it comes to your friendships?

## Chapter 12: Sharing the good news

1. "Everyone is preaching a gospel about something." What kind of alternative "gospels" do people you know preach? What makes the gospel of Jesus different?
2. What is it that you'd most like to share with your friends about who Jesus is and the difference he's made in your life? If you had the opportunity to say anything, what would you say?
3. What did you think about the idea of "merging your universes"? What might that look like for you? Then plan to make it happen.
4. Write a list of people you'd like to put their trust in Jesus. (It doesn't have to be as long as D.L. Moody's!) Then pray for them together.



### **Chapter 13: Dealing with disagreement and criticism**

1. Have you ever faced disagreement or criticism as a follower of Jesus? What happened? How did you respond?
2. Which piece of advice in this chapter did you find most helpful and why? What questions do you still have?
3. Think back to the situation you talked about in question 1. Next time, what would it look like to engage in the way outlined in this chapter? What sort of things could you say, do, or ask?

### **Chapter 14: Putting it all together**

1. Mary shows us that faith looks like leaning in and asking questions. What questions has this book helped you with? What questions do you want to keep pondering as you move forward?
2. Mary shows us that faith looks like trusting God's character. What are the things that God has done (in the Bible or in your own life) that give you the most confidence as you look back?
3. "In the end, I think there's only one thing you really need to figure out: Do you think Jesus loves you? Do you think you can trust him?" Where are you in your journey towards figuring out your answer?
4. Thinking back over the whole book, what do you most want to remember about why following Jesus is worth it?

