

Discussion Guide for *Chasing Proof, Finding Faith*

1. Tom admits early in the book that he once felt that the point of religion was merely to “teach people how to behave in generally moral ways.” What do you believe is the point of religion?
2. Before becoming a Christian, Tom assumed that being a Christian involved lots of “jargon, rituals, and rules.” What assumptions about the Christian faith, if any, do you have?
3. Tom was motivated to explore questions of faith for “a very practical and selfish reason.” What was his reason? What has motivated you to explore questions of faith?
4. Tom says that people can talk to God through prayer and ask him to fill them with his Holy Spirit so they can “love like he does.” Are there people in your life who help you feel loved? What can you do to show love to others?
5. *Fill in the blanks.* Tom was able to investigate the claims of Christianity because the Christian faith isn’t founded purely on religious or metaphysical thinking. Instead, it is founded on a historical (person) and a historical (event) that are documented in Christian and non-Christian sources.
6. Tom’s faith has survived criticism from people he has met in person, as well as those he has met only through the pages of a book. Can you think of a time in your life when your faith has been criticized? If so, how did you handle the criticism?
7. Rather than thinking of his work as a physicist as standing in opposition to his faith, Tom was inspired to view it as a “means for understanding and appreciating God’s creation.” Have you ever thought about the work you do (either for a living or as a volunteer) in this way?
8. Many of Tom’s Christian friends and mentors encouraged him to view the suffering he experienced at different times as opportunities to learn and grow. Can you think of a challenging time in your life during which you learned a lot (about yourself or others) or felt that you grew spiritually or emotionally?
9. *Fill in the blanks.* Tom is convinced that what God wants from him is not that he be “free of doubts”—which come and go—but that he continue to (obey) God in the midst of his (doubts).
10. As Tom reflected on his life since he started reading the New Testament years ago, he realized he felt closest to God during the times he followed Jesus’ example. Describe a

time in your life when you felt particularly close to God. What was happening in your life that helped you feel that way?

11. Over time, Tom came to realize that the Bible should not be seen as a science textbook or a collection of newspaper articles. It should be seen primarily as a story. Who did he say this story is about?
12. Has anything that Tom shared about his faith journey altered the way you think about your faith or changed the way you think about life?