

## **SO MANY QUESTIONS**

### ***Question 12: "Christians are just a bunch of hypocrites!"***

#### **Think about it**

1. What kind of question is this?
  - a. Knowing (needing evidence)
  - b. Meaning (knowing what 'the truth' about God is)
  - c. Living (moral issues / how we ought to live)
  
2. What are some of the reasons someone might have for asking this question?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. How would you go about answering this question? Jot down the kinds of things you think could be included in an answer.

#### **Summarize your answer**

In your own words, using three or four simple points, write down how you would answer the question "Christians are just a bunch of hypocrites!"

**Do not turn page over until after you complete this side! 😊**

## **For further thought:**

### ***Christians are just a bunch of hypocrites!***

- To write off all Christians as hypocrites may be an easy excuse for ignoring Christianity, but it's hardly fair.
- Sure, there are, no doubt, some people who pretend to be Christians—people who are not serious about Jesus but who play the part so that others see them and think that they are Christians. But the vast majority of professing, Bible-believing Christians are genuinely following Jesus—genuinely seeking to live life his way.
- Having said that, at another level, Christians don't live the perfect life that Jesus lived. Christians fail to live the life we want to live. But Christians are usually very open about this; they don't pretend to be something they are not because they know that they are not the people they want to be. They are honest about that.
- Christians try to love and forgive because God has loved and forgiven them. We don't always get it right, and each day we come and pray to God that He'll keep forgiving us, and that he'll help us to love and forgive others. That's not hypocrisy; that's honesty. I need help. Don't you?

## **Other approaches:**

- This question often relates to certain practices by Christians throughout history, such as the abuse of children by priests, alleged mistreatment of indigenous people by Christian missionaries, and so on. We don't want to trivialize wrong behaviour. People should be held responsible for their actions, and this should especially be so in the case of Christian leaders and teachers. But the crimes of the few can't be used to dismiss Jesus or the great good that the majority of Christians do. Christians claim to be sinful and in need of help. It is not hypocritical for us to err, for that is part of the fabric of our belief that we are rebels at heart and that we will continue to make mistakes. Christianity is about forgiveness, not perfect performance.
- It is not really fair to judge the truth of Jesus (who he was, what he did) by the bad behaviour of some who claim to be his followers. Jesus himself indicated that, in the future, many people would claim to bear his name but actually know nothing about him. When some of these people commit atrocities in his name, it is hardly Jesus' fault! Nor does this have any bearing on whether you are going to accept Jesus' claim over your life. Those who do wrong will have to give account to God for their actions. And so will you.