

Name of Interviewer(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Student Organization \_\_\_\_\_

## Religious and Spiritual Perspective Questionnaire

### September 11<sup>th</sup> Spiritual Interest Survey

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Major/Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: 18-25 \_\_\_\_ 26-35 \_\_\_\_ 46-55 \_\_\_\_ 56-65 \_\_\_\_ 66+ \_\_\_\_

1. Last year, on September 11<sup>th</sup>, terrorists attacked the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, killing thousands of people.

How would you best categorize this event?

- a. Just a sad event
- b. Just a tragedy
- c. An act of real evil
- d. Other:

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2. All of us were affected by Sept. 11th in some way. Many have confessed that the events of 9/11 has caused them to refocus on what is important in life.

Have you changed any priorities in your personal life since Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>?

- a. No changes
- b. Some changes
- c. Many changes
- d. Other

If so, would you be willing to share with us in what ways, and why?

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3. The people who went to work at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> were unaware of the events that would take place that day. Some of the lessons we learned from all of this was how vulnerable we are and how fragile life can be.

In your opinion, since 9/11, have you become more open or less open, to discussing spiritual things, or about the same?

- a. More open
- b. Less open
- c. About the same

In what way, and why?

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4. Keeping in mind the events of 9/11, how do you determine if any action committed by a person or a group of people is right or wrong?
- a. By how I feel
  - b. By my religious convictions
  - c. By a majority consensus or societies customs
  - d. By a universal moral law
  - e. Other: \_\_\_\_\_

5. In your opinion, does it really matter what we believe about religious truth?
- a. Yes
  - b. No

If so, in what way, and why?

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6. On September 14<sup>th</sup>, during the National Day of Prayer in the National Cathedral in Washington D.C., Muslims, Jews, and Christians came together to pray for our nation. How do you view various religions? (Choose only one.)
- a. They are all misinformed, for there is no God.
  - b. All religions are essentially the same.
  - c. Various religions are distinctly different.
  - d. As long as one has faith in one, it doesn't matter what religion one holds.
  - e. Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you believe this?

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7. Do you believe that there is any way to tell if a given religion is true or false?
- Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Not sure \_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

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8. Do you think the terrorists who died on Sept. 11th will be held accountable for their actions in the next life?
- a. Yes
  - b. No
  - C. Do not know

Why do you believe this?

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9. Many people died on September 11<sup>th</sup>. What do you think happened to the dead?
- a. They no longer exist.
  - b. They went to heaven.
  - c. No one knows.
  - d. Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you believe this?

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10. Are you aware of the significant differences between Christianity and all other religions?
- a. Yes
  - b. No

If so, can you briefly explain in your words what they are?

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***(Explain to them the difference between “do” versus “done.”)***

11. In a previous survey, we discovered that many students tend to think that Christianity is no better or more beneficial than any other religion. Please answer the following statement for yourself.

Among some of my concerns about Christianity, if I was completely honest, my biggest barrier to embracing it is:

- a. Haven't seen enough evidence
- b. Don't have any reason to consider it
- c. Don't really care to change how I live
- d. I've already embraced it
- e. I don't have any barriers
- f. Other \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you believe this?

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E-mail for future discussion groups/events (optional):

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**At the end of the survey....if you sense the person is open and that the Holy Spirit is working on their heart:**

You can say:

That's all the questions on the survey but I did want to mention one thing to you...

IMPACT

As I mentioned before, in a previous surveys, we discovered that many students had misconceptions about Christianity and didn't really know why it's radically different than any of the other major religions. As a result they never seriously considered Christianity or the truth of Jesus' claims. At the end of any survey we give a change for anyone to hear, in a nutshell, what Christianity is all about and how it's different from any other religion. This short explanation we've developed will take probably 3 minutes. Would you be interested in hearing it?

\* Note: The impact of this survey and the questions that you raise with others will only have a short shelf life, unless you are diligent to follow up on those who are more open to further dialogue. Develop friendships with them and / or invite them to your gatherings! (Always try at least to get an e-mail address.)

### Why the specific survey questions?

Question 1 is an easy starter question and hits on the issue of whether relativism is right or wrong. It also gives them an opportunity to open up about how they "feel" about what happened on 9/11,

Question 2 continues to give them an opportunity to open up about how they "feel" about what happened on 9/11, and how it has changed them in general.

Question 3 allows them to consider in what ways they are more "open" to spiritual things in light of what has happened. (The idea of being open is a very post-modern concept that we are capitalizing on)

Question 4 confronts those who don't believe in God into admitting that their conviction, that the terrorist were wrong, has no real moral foundation for that belief.

Questions 5 & 6 makes the connections between right and wrong moral beliefs and right and wrong religious beliefs.

Question 7 challenges them to consider the factual basis for a religious belief.

Question 8 & 9 confronts them about their views concerning the afterlife.

Questions 10, & 11 asks them to be honest about their real barriers to Christianity and challenges them to consider the person of Christ and explore his uniqueness.

To explain "do" versus "done" see Bill Hybels *Contagious Christian workbook* p. 169

- **The best we can do is some feeble man-made formulas to work to God, enlighten ourselves, or try to gain God's favor.**
- **In contrast to that is the gospel which says, it has been done, you just need to accept the gift that God has provided.**

Please Note:

If you use this survey or adapt it in any way, we would love a copy of it so we can also pass it on to others who might find it helpful as well! (Let's stop reinventing the wheel and work together!)

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Impact Texas is our Christian student organization at U.T. Austin that trains College ministries to more effectively reach skeptics using the methodology of the Think Method (See our web-site) and this survey.