

## Common emotional barriers/questions

### Hell

- How can God send people to hell?
- If I believe in God, then I have to believe that my recently deceased family-member is in hell.

### Suffering/Evil

- I could never serve a God who allows so much suffering in the world.
- How can God be good and allow people to starve?

### Effect of faith on my life

- If I become a Christian, I will have to give up my favorite parts of myself and the things I like to do?
- If I become a Christian, will I have to look and act like all the [fake, annoying, disconnected-from-reality] Christians that I know?
- If I become a Christian, will I have to forgive . . . [my abusive father, the man who raped me, my spouse who left me]?

### Church/hypocrisy

- I believe in God, but the church kicked my family out when I was 5.
- I believe in God, but the church is mean to people.
- I believe in God, but the church takes a political position that goes against my values.

### Excluded by the Church

- I am a strong, professional woman. There is no place for me in your church.
- I am a homosexual. There is no place for me in your church.
- I am a minority. There is no place for me in your church.
- I am divorced or unmarried. There is no place for me in your church.

### Other

- I'm doing just fine on my own, thank you very much.
- Things are a mess right now, but I'll start going to church again once I have my life together.
- I don't trust you, and I don't trust God.
- I'm not good enough to be loved by God.
- If God the Father is anything like my father, I don't want anything to do with him.