



*The God Conversation: Using Stories and Illustrations to Explain Your Faith*

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Veteran apologists and communicators J. P. Moreland and Tim Muehlhoff say that the best way to win over others is with a good story. Stories have the ability to get behind our preconceptions and defenses.

This expanded edition includes new chapters and updated stories and illustrations throughout. Here is sound, empathetic coaching for those of us who long to communicate our faith more effectively.

## IVP Releases Updated Tenth Anniversary Edition of *The God Conversation*

Despite all of our differences, Americans are remarkably similar. In record numbers we tune in Sunday nights to watch cable television’s highest rated show, *The Walking Dead*, to see how humans negotiate a zombie apocalypse. We pack theaters and make *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* the quickest film in cinema history to make a billion dollars. The Affluenza Defense, which allowed a juvenile convicted of vehicular manslaughter to serve no jail time because his rich parents spoiled him, continues to spark national outrage. And images of forty-nine slain individuals at a gay nightclub in Orlando break our collective hearts.

These cultural references dominate social media and water-cooler conversations. They also help us fulfill Peter’s command to give a reason for why we hold to a Christian worldview (1 Pet 3:15). The topics that fill our conversations also open the door to talk about apologetic themes. For example, questions surfaced through characters in *The Walking Dead* help us explore morality. In the absence of organized religion or a justice system, do humans now dictate what is right or wrong? Or is there an objective moral law that would even survive a zombie apocalypse? Could the Jedi mind trick be used by God to stop evil? A would-be mugger approaches an unsuspecting couple; does God simply do a mind trick by swiping his fingers and saying, “Move on!” to the mugger? If so, what could be drawbacks to such divine intervention?

Using films, books, television shows, social media, history, and current events to explain and illustrate our faith was the genesis of the first edition of *The God Conversation*. It resonated with Christian communicators who wanted to use pop culture as a conversational starting point—so much so that InterVarsity Press now releases this tenth anniversary revised and expanded edition. You’ll find new and timely illustrations sprinkled throughout the book and two new chapters exploring what we think is unique and compelling evidence for God: the argument from desire. This argument suggests that some of our deepest desires—love, acceptance, self-worth—really point us to God.

When asked why she chose to write a novel about the horrors of slavery, Harriet Beecher Stowe responded to her editor, “My vocation is simply that of a painter. . . . There is no arguing with pictures, and everybody is impressed by them whether they mean to be or not.” As Christian communicators, our goal is to paint a robust picture of our faith through vivid and memorable illustrations and stories. While your non-Christian friends, coworkers, or neighbors may not always agree with your perspective, there’s no denying that the illustrations you share will make a lasting impression that the Holy Spirit can use long after the conversation is over.

– Taken from the preface to the expanded edition

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