



Beginning with God: A Basic Introduction to the Christian Faith

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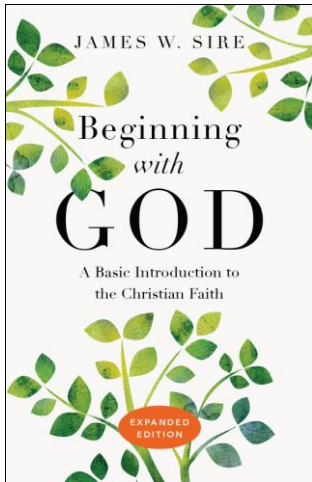
James W. Sire

James W. Sire, formerly a senior editor at InterVarsity Press, is an active speaker and writer who has published more than twenty books on literature, philosophy, and the Christian faith. His book *The Universe Next Door*, published in 1976 and now in its fifth edition, has sold over 350,000 copies and has been translated into nineteen foreign languages.

Sire has been an officer in the Army, a college professor of English literature, philosophy, and theology, and a lecturer at over two hundred universities in the US, Canada, and Eastern and Western Europe. He holds a BA in chemistry and English from the University of Nebraska, an MA in English from Washington State College (now University), and a PhD in English from the University of Missouri. His most recent publication is *Rim of the Sandhills*, an ebook memoir of life on the ranch, in the military in Korea, at the university, in publishing, and lecturing on three of the five continents. It traces his early coming to faith and his gradual development of a mature apologetic for the Christian faith.

Sire's books and Bible studies from IVP include:

- *Beginning with God*
- *The Universe Next Door* (a worldviews textbook)
- *Scripture Twisting*
- *Discipleship of the Mind*
- *Chris Chrisman Goes to College*
- *Why Should Anyone Believe Anything at All?*
- *Habits of the Mind*
- *Naming the Elephant*
- *Learning to Pray Through the Psalms*
- *Why Good Arguments Often Fail*
- *A Little Primer on Humble Apologetics*
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- *Deepest Differences*
- *Jesus the Reason* (a LifeGuide Bible Study)
- *Why Good Arguments Often Fail*



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James Sire offers a basic introduction to the foundational truths held by Christians at all times and in all places. In this expanded edition, Sire added a chapter on the person of Jesus.

With study questions for personal or group use, this is the ideal first book for seekers and believers who want to understand the central teachings of the Bible.

James Sire Introduces the Christian Faith

I was riding my pony early one summer evening, driving the milk cows from the high pasture back to the ranch in the valley below. I must have been ten years old. Far away three huge thunderclouds began pushing their heads higher and higher over the western horizon. The declining sun was hidden. The air turned cool and electric. I was half a mile from home and struck with the awesome sensation that I was being pursued by the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

From such experiences of the “holy” stemmed my early interest in the Christian faith. Hardly biblical, but a start. A few years later, with a bit better grasp on the good news of Jesus Christ, I became a Christian.

Even after this I felt uncertain about my faith for years. I didn’t doubt that God was real. I knew that he had done something new in my life. But I couldn’t explain what Christianity was all about. I didn’t know where to begin. I didn’t know where to end. And I didn’t know what went in between.

It took many years for these matters to become clear in my own mind. Now I realize that in explaining the good news we can start anywhere. We can begin with a deep philosophic issue (like the problem of evil) or with the simple, longing cry of a hurting father wondering why his son has played the prodigal. We can begin with the wonders of the star-studded universe, the beauty of a mountain lake, or the corruption of city government, the decadence of Broadway in San Francisco, or even the flight of two 767s into the World Trade Center buildings of New York.

Of course, the story really begins with God. But the feeling that we need to hear such a story begins with us. And that’s where this book begins – with our wonderment about who we are as men and women.

– Adapted from the preface