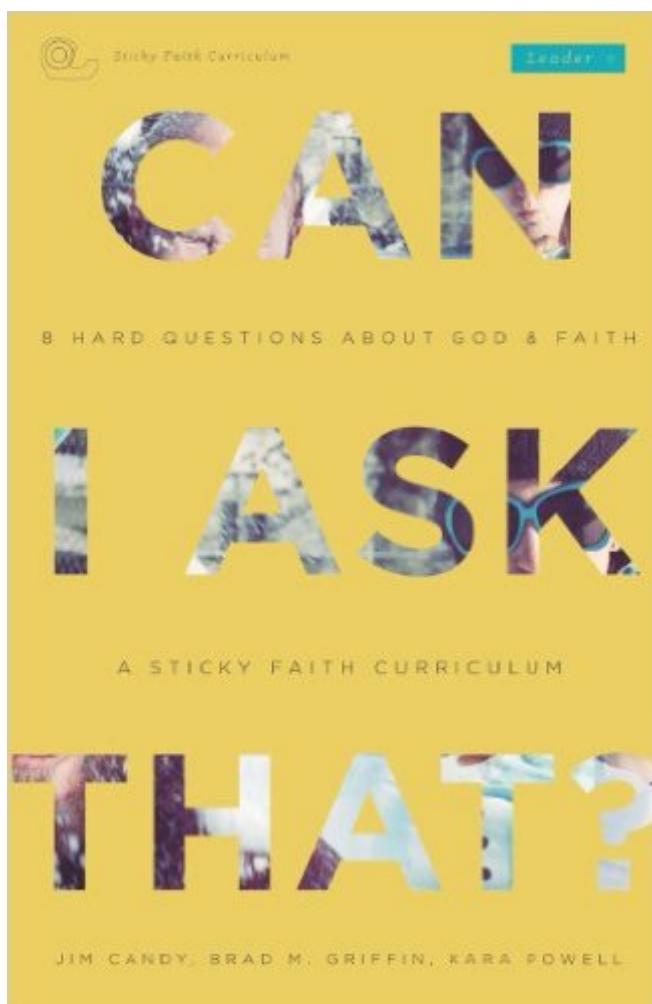


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# Can I Ask That?: 8 Hard Questions About God & Faith [Sticky Faith Curriculum] Leader Guide



## **Synopsis**

Teenagers are tired of vague or nonexistent answers to their tough questions about God, the Bible, and Christianity. Just when they're capable of diving into the deep end of their faith, all too often the church keeps them splashing around in shallow waters. As eight years of Sticky Faith research on teenagers has shown, it's not doubt or hard questions that are toxic to faith. It's silence. The trusted voice of the Fuller Youth Institute and proven best practices from churches around the country converge to provide you with tools both to start conversations about hard questions, as well as to lead students toward discovering their own faith convictions. Designed for use in small groups alongside the Can I Ask That Student Guide, these eight sessions tackle the following tough questions: What is the Bible, anyway? Why does the Bible contradict itself? Can I be a Christian and believe in evolution? Does God discriminate against women? Is Jesus really the only way to God? What does the Bible say about being gay? Does God endorse violence? How can I follow a God who would let Christians do such bad things?

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

If you are someone that works with teenagers in a faith setting and you want to a) help equip your students for a life of faith after high school, b) exercise your group's minds as well as your hearts, and c) create a venue for your students to be asked challenging questions and to ask challenging questions... Buy this book. I have gone through this book with some of our students and adult volunteers, we all loved it. If you are reading this review you are likely an adult staff person or volunteer for your church or community. The leader guide really sets a person up nicely to facilitate

discussions that are adamantly not cheesy. Both the student and leader versions are really well done for their intended audiences. If you have students that are heading off to college this book frames conversations that they are going to hear that will challenge their faith. Whether it is the validity of the Bible, evolution, feminism, homosexuality or violence in the Bible, this book provides fodder for great conversations with your students. These are conversations that are much more beneficial to have with your students in person rather than hearing about them after the fact when your students come home over Thanksgiving, Christmas or Spring break. In the process your own faith will get a workout too! Can I Ask That is not an apologetics book for adolescents, telling students WHAT to think, this book is something better. This book exposes students to various opinions within the Christian faith and it helps them hear with they themselves currently think and how that stacks up against traditional schools of thought within the Christian faith. It helps to expose the incongruence in our own beliefs. We've had a lot of fun with this study. You will be thankful for this book.

There are a handful of resources already in print that deal with hard questions that students ask. This is the first one that truly puts the students and their faith first. Too many resources that deal with hard questions that students ask are more concerned with providing adults with well packaged answers that will help get rid of doubt. This book invites us to see the questioning and doubt of a student as not something to fear, but as an opportunity for engagement, inquiry that may lead to a deepening of faith and personal ownership of faith and belief and not just inheriting an idea that was taught to them. There are some questions in this book that may make adults squeamish, but students will be thankful that they are being given the chance to ask them. Fantastic resource. Kris Fernhout - Student Ministry Pastor at Christ Community Church, Kansas City

As the proud owner of 12 copies of Can I Ask That? (volume 1), I cannot recommend this book enough. I took my youth group through volume 1 at summer camp last year and continued it through the fall as well. I knew our time with the book had gone well and that the kids had liked it but I didn't know HOW much until we finished it and went through a second book by someone else. My kids (mostly high schoolers) were really bored with his book and greatly preferred CIAT and went as far as to tell me so explicitly. CIAT is so obviously formatted for small groups and with jr. high/high school students in mind. There's no cheesy jokes, it takes its readers seriously, it presents meaningful content in a discernable way, has conversation at the forefront of how its presented, and has the right depth of content...not too much, not too little. I'm doing ministry bi-vocationally and

switched from researching and creating content each week to following books like CIAT last year when my wife and I had our first child and my other co-leaders all stopped due to their own kids. Now that we are having our second kid on the way, I'm all the more excited for CIAT volume 2. It really gives me so much more room in my schedule to be an employee, dad, and youth pastor and to focus my energy on building relationships each week with my kids, knowing I have solid content already set to go. Carving out time to research, prepare, and teach took a much larger toll on me after we had kids and my job (again!) ramped up its work load so your book has really been a major blessing to me and my youth group.

The Sticky Faith series is incredible. Most of the students in my youth group have really enjoyed discussing the questions that this book raises. It is extremely relevant and important for students to learn about and be exposed to some of the questions that this book contains. I just wish there were more than 8!

This is a fantastic curriculum for high school students. The group of high school students I teach have been very receptive to the material in this book. My students have shared that they especially like that the book doesn't tell them what to believe. It simply gives asks the question and provides a discussion starting point. This allows students to come to their own conclusions and it all makes it practical for all denominations of Christianity. I use this as a starting point and pull in materials from other resources to supplement. I have found that The Case for Christ by Lee Strobel has been a great additional resource for some of the discussions about the reliability of the gospels, the contradictions in the bible, and the question of "Is Jesus the only way to God?" We also watched God's Not Dead and had a movie discussion, which complimented this curriculum nicely. I also have the book, How Can a Good God let Bad Things Happen? by Mark Tabb. I haven't read it yet but I'm hoping that it will add the discussions about violence and how God would let Christians do bad things. I have learned a lot right along with my students. I highly recommend!

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