

## Kevin's interview

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2 **Interviewer:** Well, Kevin, thank you for agreeing to be interviewed. I have five main  
3 questions to ask you. The first question I want to ask you is: What do  
4 you believe about God?

5 **Kevin:** Well, there's stuff that I believe about God is he's like the supreme  
6 being sort of. He's like the – like all-powerful, like the – like master sort  
7 of thing. So like I'm his servant and that how you go about pleasing him  
8 you commit – you keep his commandments, like in the Bible, so believe  
9 the stuff that's in the Bible, and sort of revolves around there.

10 **Interviewer:** Okay. Have you always thought about God in this way?

11 **Kevin:** Ah, yes because my Mum an' Dad have brought me up like that and I  
12 think it's very valid what they have to say, so yeah, I've made that  
13 decision myself.

14 **Interviewer:** Good. What words would you use to describe your relationship with  
15 God?

16 **Kevin:** Oh, the words – amazing, powerful, um – affectionate, ah – yeah.

17 **Interviewer:** In what ways is your faith in God today different from what it was some  
18 years ago?

19 **Kevin:** Well, it's different today is because a few years back when I was like in  
20 Year 8, I – um – as soon as I got into Year 8, I was prep- – sort of  
21 taught a lot because I was like different from others an' so I was  
22 struggling with my faith then and – um – I was st- – starting to doubt  
23 because – doubt that I was any good in myself so I was – yeah, looking  
24 for other ways. But each time I did I was like unhappy an' so these ah –  
25 few years with a – these past few years I've went to a youth group  
26 called "Twenty-four seven" in – ah – Osborne Park and I got introduce  
27 – like (pause) I been going to that for some time before Year 8 but I  
28 never really give it a thought but like in Year 10 I started paying more  
29 attention an' yeah, the stuff that they were saying was pretty  
30 interesting, so I kept coming back an' was asked to be a leader, so  
31 they said – they – um – so that meant then that I found that it was  
32 totally different to what they – to what I originally thought. And – um –  
33 and so I started to explore deeper into that and until – and recently –  
34 um – um – I was in- – involved in – um – some – ah – meetings an' I  
35 got asked if – because this youth group's part of my c- – community  
36 called the Disciples of Jesus Covenant Community and because I turn  
37 – was turning eighteen then, they asked if I wanted to go on a seminar  
38 sort of thing – um – to sort of discern or decide or make a decision if I  
39 wanted to join this community. And so I look – really looked into that  
40 and – an' that was like the turning point literally in my life because –  
41 because like I felt God calling me to join this community and he did this  
42 in like in a way that one of my friends, my be- – closest friend came to  
43 me said he had a strong feeling that God wanted me to join this  
44 community and so I felt this was the right thing And so, yeah, I took the

- 45 process in joining this community. And so I joined and from there I  
46 started getting like been exposed to great things to do that.
- 47 **Interviewer:** Good. You've explained that well. Is Jesus different from God?
- 48 **Kevin:** Ah, yeah. Well, not really because what I believe in is that Jesus an'  
49 God are the same, but sep- – but – um – they've just separated into –  
50 God's just put himself into human form so, yeah, they're really the  
51 same person in like same, like one being in two persons, or in two  
52 people.
- 53 **Interviewer:** Do you think there was a time when you didn't see any difference  
54 between God and Jesus?
- 55 **Kevin:** Ah, not really. It was – when I was born like I been – Mum an' Dad – ah  
56 – really taught me about the – about my faith and so I got to know that  
57 – yeah – really early in my childhood that they are not the same  
58 person.
- 59 **Interviewer:** And that has stayed with you all this time?
- 60 **Kevin:** Yeah, because they re-introduce the subject each time.
- 61 **Interviewer:** What about the Holy Spirit? How would you explain the Holy Spirit to a  
62 friend who does not believe in God?
- 63 **Kevin:** I would explain the Holy Spirit as like the – as grace, sort of. Grace  
64 meaning power. It will give you like a sort of buzz sort of – like sort of  
65 excitement in and – in what you do – are you doing, so let's just say  
66 that you're giving a talk in front of some students, you pray about the  
67 Holy Spirit to give you like a sort of – ah – buzz so – sss – buzz to help  
68 you to not feel stressed so you will be able to give a good talk. So it's  
69 just like a hel- – a divine helper.
- 70 **Interviewer:** Okay. I have four questions for you. Do you pray? To whom do you  
71 pray? How often do you pray? and How do you pray?
- 72 **Kevin:** Ah, yeah, but for the first question, ah, I do pray. Mum an' Dad taught  
73 me at a young age to pray and as part of the community we devote  
74 ourselves to praying at least. And I pray – the amount of time I pray is  
75 like an hour, for only an hour a day an' so that probly be in the morning,  
76 so – um – in the mornings, so I'm prepared – I can take school on s-  
77 sort of get the Holy Spirit to clear my head a bit so I can have more  
78 self-control.
- 79 **Interviewer:** To whom do you pray?
- 80 **Kevin:** Sort of to God an' to Jesus an' to Mary to ask me to get through the  
81 day.
- 82 **Interviewer:** And how do you pray? What's your prayer like?
- 83 **Kevin:** I pray – well, first of all I go into a sort of – I t- – I do the Sign of the  
84 Cross an' then I would call on God to – an' ask him what he would want  
85 me to do for the day. An' then I would – then I'd probly get into some

86 Bible – reading the Bible and then I'd s-say a decade of the Rosary an'  
87 then to conclude. An' as well as writing in my prayer journal all the stuff  
88 I've been reading in the Bible that really speaks to me.

89 **Interviewer:** When you write in your journal, is that like notes to yourself? Or is it like  
90 a prayer?

91 **Kevin:** Ah, it's really like when I'm praying I get sort of like a word, some like  
92 words that just come out, an' I believe that's God telling me stuff that's  
93 called "prophetic word", what I call the prophetic word an' so – and so  
94 I'm open to that. Sometimes I don't write anything because I haven't –  
95 he doesn't do it all the time but just I write – sometimes I just get this  
96 feeling that I have to write this word. One – for example, one time I was  
97 praying an' I felt compelled to write my testimony, that's my life story,  
98 an so I started writing an' by the end I finished and, yeah, it was just  
99 great when I had written – yeah.

100 **Interviewer:** Do you remember how much you wrote?

101 **Kevin:** Oh, about four pages. It's the longest I've ever written.

102 **Interviewer:** That's good. Okay, to whom do you pray most often? God? Jesus? or  
103 the Holy Spirit?

104 **Kevin:** Well, I pray to all – all of them about the same, but really because I put  
105 it into one prayer, sort of – yeah it's part of beliefs that they're all the  
106 same person though three different aspects.

107 **Interviewer:** Okay. We'll move on to the next major question. How does your faith in  
108 God influence or shape the way you live your life?

109 **Kevin:** Um – my belief in God like really influences my life because like I'll do  
110 things different to other people, say people – some people believe – ah  
111 – it's okay to have sex before marriage, whereas my beliefs, I believe  
112 to stay sexually pure before you'll – be- – like – before you're married,  
113 to you marriage day. So, yeah, it's really different in that and – I – I  
114 might come across as-s-s-s a different person pe- – person to other  
115 people because of that. What I believe in and – yeah, it's really  
116 different an' I will – I would structure my life around my beliefs and so,  
117 yeah, I live very different – prob'ly live very different life to what other  
118 people would.

119 **Interviewer:** What impact has your faith had on your attitude towards suffering?

120 **Kevin:** Um – my faith impacted on this because if suffering – I would just take  
121 it, sort of take – take it instead of just not breaking down. I'd like believe  
122 that God had a plan an' that this was part of the plan. So, yeah, I would  
123 pray more that the – like in the process to give me strength to get past  
124 that pain.

125 **Interviewer:** Okay. Have you ever experienced suffering?

126 **Kevin:** Yes. Actually I have. More than one occasion where I've been really  
127 down, like I've been suffering emotionally and s-so I – I – I was just – I

- 128 call on the Lord to really – ah – get me through the rough times an’ –  
129 yeah – so.
- 130 **Interviewer:** You mentioned a while ago that when you started in Year 8 people  
131 picked on you. Was there suffering there?
- 132 **Kevin:** Yes, um – Yeah, I’ve been – It took me a long while to get to  
133 understand that bit, but I feel that God has used that suffering to make  
134 me stronger in my faith, so I am stronger – a stronger person in that he  
135 has a big – a much bigger plan for me for that where I can use that  
136 strongness to overcome some of the stuff that he has planned.
- 137 **Interviewer:** Okay. And what about your attitude towards death? How has your faith  
138 impacted on that?
- 139 **Kevin:** Well, my faith impacted a lot on that matter. I’m not afraid to die, s- – if  
140 God has – wants me to die I’ll take it graciously. I would even give my  
141 life for him because – yeah – it’s just – be a great thing because dying  
142 for someone you believe in it’s just the best. It’s better than dying  
143 without someone.
- 144 **Interviewer:** Okay. In what ways do you think your faith helps to give your life a  
145 sense of purpose and meaning?
- 146 **Kevin:** Well, it does fill me with like a sense of meaning because I have  
147 someone to believe in becau- – yeah, ‘cause – I – if I ha- didn’t have  
148 that sense of purpose I probably wouldn’t have been here today ‘cause  
149 I would’ve cracked under the pressure, probly done something really  
150 bad.
- 151 **Interviewer:** So you’ve managed to get through?
- 152 **Kevin:** Yeah.
- 153 **Interviewer:** Alright the next major question is this one: What events in your life has  
154 led to changes in your relationship with God?
- 155 **Kevin:** (*pause*) Um – the events would probably have been my – before in  
156 primary school I was sorta the outcast sort of thing. Then when I got to  
157 high school I was ss-s-so emotionally broken down that (*pause*) I didn’t  
158 really care about myself personally an’ then to upper school I started to  
159 realize that someone did care for me an’ that they could straighten out  
160 my life. And so I took steps in doing that.
- 161 **Interviewer:** So are there things that people have said or done that have contributed  
162 to your relationship with God?
- 163 **Kevin:** Um – yes. S- – um – my youth leader, ah, the leader that’s there, he –  
164 um – actually approached me an’ said – because he knew I had –  
165 because he’s been praying before, an’ then said, “You were down you  
166 s-“ – an’ that “you should really like take courage” an’ he’s literally  
167 taught me what some of the basic s- – ah – like, yeah, he made me  
168 realize that I – I’d been wrong, made me admit to my – my – admit my  
169 pain and suffering an’ t- – to let it all go so I can deal with it.

- 170 **Interviewer:** Okay, so that was an event, wasn't it?
- 171 **Kevin:** Yeah.
- 172 **Interviewer:** Is there anything that people have said that hasn't contributed to your  
173 relationship with God?
- 174 **Kevin:** No, well – not really.
- 175 **Interviewer:** What about when you were much younger and people made fun of you  
176 and picked on you?
- 177 **Kevin:** Oh, yeah. Ah, yeah, some of the stuff, like some of the teachers they'd  
178 say – say some stuff that were really bad because they'd – they'd  
179 literally – um – like some kid'd start teasing me an then I – or – and  
180 then I'd be – like walk out and I'd come in and someone else would do  
181 something bad to the tea- – behind the teacher's back and I'd get  
182 blamed for it because I'd get into fights a lot an' so they'd got – so I'll  
183 get blamed for nothing an' so really didn't help me a lot when that was  
184 happening.
- 185 **Interviewer:** Okay. Has your faith grown stronger or weaker in the last twelve  
186 months?
- 187 **Kevin:** Well, I'd have to say it's got a lot stronger.
- 188 **Interviewer:** Why?
- 189 **Kevin:** Well, because I've been going to these groups call – called sharing  
190 groups an' they – are designed to get – get you in a group of like where  
191 you have single sex, so that's males that – so we talk about our  
192 problems an' stuff, so – and they really hold you accountable for your  
193 faith. And so you'd get stronger 'cause of that.
- 194 **Interviewer:** Okay. What has been the impact of the school on your faith?
- 195 **Kevin:** Oh, it's actually been a lot 'cause it's actually challenged me 'cause  
196 there are a lot of people – kids that don't believe in Christ an' so I feel  
197 compelled to like take a I-I- – like leadership role, so I'll – ah - be a role  
198 model sort of thing for them. So that's definitely strengthened my faith.
- 199 **Interviewer:** Can you think of any occasion where that might have happened?
- 200 **Kevin:** Yeah, when I – well 'cause I'm at Mass – go to – at the liturgy choir.  
201 Some people would like sit and then I'd encourage them to kneel and if  
202 they don't – don't like if they need some explaining about the Mass, I'd  
203 gladly do that.
- 204 **Interviewer:** Have there been any significant people or moments in your school life  
205 that have led to the way you think about God, or have changed the way  
206 you think about God?
- 207 **Kevin:** Yeah. Um – I had a friend whose – where – aw, he left in Year 11, the  
208 start of Year 11. Shannon. And he had a very different view th- – um  
209 what it – religion was. An' so, it was really – I really took that on board

- 210 and – yeah, it's really – it's Kevin like sort of . It made me understand  
211 that it's not just that, that there're other equations to think of as well.
- 212 **Interviewer:** Okay. Could you explain that a bit more for me?
- 213 **Kevin:** Um – so 'cause he came from a – he came from a very – ah – like non-  
214 Catholic view of things, like his per- – like struggle. Well, I took that on  
215 board and, ah, I really wanted to understand him, so we came good  
216 friends because – and some – got to know him a lot more an' he had  
217 like – he had like a much different faith like he saw things differently.  
218 Saw – like he had to please people just like to please people an' that  
219 he saw God like he experienced God through others as – and I really  
220 didn't know much about that at that time and, yeah, he really made the  
221 light shine – an' that.
- 222 **Interviewer:** Has anything happened or been said in RE that has influenced you in  
223 your faith?
- 224 **Kevin:** Um – yeah, not really. Most of the stuff, I'd been taught. It just like  
225 reminded. It reminds me of that, so – yeah.
- 226 **Interviewer:** What impact have your RE teachers had on your relationship with  
227 God?
- 228 **Kevin:** Well, impact on – yeah, their impact is quite significant because I see  
229 the – how religion has affected my RE teachers' life an' stuff an' so I  
230 take that into account. And it really inspires me to like be more like  
231 Chri- – yeah, like Christ.
- 232 **Interviewer:** What about the place of prayer and liturgy at school on the  
233 development of your relationship with God?
- 234 **Kevin:** That's helped significantly because I've been actually able to do what I  
235 would do out of school an' so I would – it gives me real courage an' s-  
236 – I would – gives me since I don't have to be different so I'd be – be  
237 normal, so I can practise what I preach.
- 238 **Interviewer:** Good. Now the last major question's about people who played a  
239 significant part in your faith development and developing your  
240 relationship with God. And so let's take a look at your Mum and Dad  
241 and what they've said or done that has prompted you to grow closer to  
242 God.
- 243 **Kevin:** Well, my Mum an' Dad have been very – they've played the most  
244 important role because they have – they are Mum an' Dad. They  
245 brought me up an' they – they askin' me to do these things like praying  
246 an' that stuff while like most of the time I was doubting an' I really didn't  
247 like take that on to more, so I really didn't – um – like use them very  
248 much.
- 249 **Interviewer:** What changed all that?

250 **Kevin:** Well, when I – ah – finally realized that – that no one was out to get me  
251 – an’ so I started listening an’ then really took what they had said on  
252 board as well as other people. That really brought a real big change.

253 **Interviewer:** How does the influence of your mother differ from that of your father?

254 **Kevin:** Well, my Mum – ah – is very different because she is more into quiet  
255 prayer where my Dad is more – um – more open like he’d sing, use his  
256 talents to pray, like he’d chant an’ be more like loud sort of. Some  
257 people would say it’s extreme though.

258 **Interviewer:** What do you think?

259 **Kevin:** I reckon it’s great.

260 **Interviewer:** Is there anything else you would want to add about that, the difference  
261 between them?

262 **Kevin:** Um – well, Mum has a very emotional side, while Dad’s not very. He  
263 sort of tell you to do it an’ tell you to see it this way an’ that. In a way,  
264 very stern an’ won’t like take insults lightly, where my Mum would just  
265 take it an’ emotionally deal with it – yeah, deal with things.

266 **Interviewer:** And what stories from you life describe how each of your parents has  
267 influenced your relationship with God?

268 **Kevin:** Um – stories – be the time when – ah – I was really down, like I’d come  
269 home an’ I burst into tears and my Mum was there. She give me a hug  
270 and when my Dad came home, Dad says, “What’s the matter?” Like,  
271 really stern. “What’s the matter?” An’ I – ah – when I told him, he – he  
272 was – ah – “Oh, I’ll sort it out.” He was really action man sort of. He’d  
273 take action. He was just about to go over to teachers. Oh – yeah – an’  
274 it really encouraged me a lot.

275 **Interviewer:** Okay. Now to finish, was there anything you wanted me to ask, that I  
276 didn’t ask, that you’d like to talk about?

277 **Kevin:** Not really.

278 **Interviewer:** Okay. Well, thanks very much, Kevin, that was a great interview.