

Luke's first interview

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2 **Interviewer:** What do you believe about God?

3 **Luke:** Um – I believe he's there and that he's an important part of
4 everyone's life. He – even if you don't believe in him, I believe
5 he still has an effect on your life. He still controls that. Um – just
6 many people don't know it.

7 **Interviewer:** Have you always thought about God like that?

8 **Luke:** Um – not as much as I do now. I knew he was – I've always
9 known he's been there and there to help us, but I'd only really
10 thought about it in the past couple of years.

11 **Interviewer:** So prior to that, what would you have thought about God?

12 **Luke:** That – um – he was – I didn't – I was – didn't really know much.
13 Like we got taught RE but it wasn't the sort of – it was just he
14 was there and we got told the stories about him. We didn't get
15 taught how he affects – how he is with us and – I don't know
16 how to explain it.

17 **Interviewer:** That's okay. That's actually very good. So if you think about
18 your relationship with God now, what sort of words would you
19 want to use to describe that relationship?

20 **Luke:** Strong. Um – kind of free, very open, respectful.

21 **Interviewer:** Could you explain what you mean by "free"?

22 **Luke:** Um – I feel like he's always there with me and I can just – I'm
23 free to tell him anything, ask him anything, ask him for help
24 anytime just – just – just – I don't know – free. Just – there.

25 **Interviewer:** St Augustine said, "Love God and do what you will." Does that
26 make any sense to you given what you believe your relationship
27 with God is?

28 **Luke:** Um – I'd say, "Love him and do accordingly, like what you
29 believe you should do because of that love."

30 **Interviewer:** What is what St Augustine meant by it. So how is your faith
31 today different from what it was some few years ago.

32 **Luke:** Um – I think about it more now. Um – I didn't used to pray as
33 much when I was younger. And that's really only changed
34 because of youth groups. I've been to youth groups and camps
35 that have taught us how to pray and how to actually feel it. Um
36 – yeah, and so I find I pray a lot more. I ask God for a lot more,
37 but I also thank him more. That's – yeah.

38 **Interviewer:** So youth groups have taught you a lot about that?

39 **Luke:** Yeah.

40 **Interviewer:** Okay. What about Jesus? Is Jesus different from God?

- 41 **Luke:** Um – I’m not sure. I think it’s easier to relate to Jesus because
42 people have seen him and he was an actual person whereas
43 God’s just some person that we’re told about but we don’t know
44 anything about him. Well, we sort a do, but Jesus where we
45 know what he looks like everything about him so that we can
46 actually sort of feel that we know him more than God. So there’s
47 that sort a thing. Um – but, yeah.
- 48 **Interviewer:** What image do you have of Jesus?
- 49 **Luke:** Um – probably the most common one of him just with the beard,
50 always smiling, his long hair – ah – white robe, all that.
- 51 **Interviewer:** So have you always had that image of Jesus?
- 52 **Luke:** Yeah, pretty much ’cos we’ve got a lot of pictures around the
53 house of him.
- 54 **Interviewer:** Okay. What about images of God?
- 55 **Luke:** Mainly – When I think of God I think of light coming through the
56 cloud. That image that most people will link it with, that’s what I
57 think of God.
- 58 **Interviewer:** And so you associate words like strength, openness, freedom
59 with that sort of image?
- 60 **Luke:** Yeah. And also you see other images of hands coming from the
61 cloud and stuff just showing his power.
- 62 **Interviewer:** You associate the hand with power?
- 63 **Luke:** Yeah.
- 64 **Interviewer:** Could you talk more about that power?
- 65 **Luke:** Um – he has the power to do anything and I believe that he will
66 use that power to help us. Yeah. We have a part of that power
67 – is in us to do things as – to others. It’s just not as strong and
68 he will – um - I’ll have a think about that one.
- 69 **Interviewer:** Okay. You’re doing very well. Was there ever a time in your life
70 when the difference between Jesus and God wasn’t there?
- 71 **Luke:** Yeah. When I was younger I just thought they were the same
72 person, really.
- 73 **Interviewer:** Is there anything that’s happened in your life that led you to see
74 that the two were different?
- 75 **Luke:** Um – just reading the Bible really when he said sayings like
76 “You are my Son” and then you hear the saying that God’s up
77 there and Jesus is at the right hand side. That and just when
78 you see Jesus praying to God, then you sort of think “Well, they
79 can’t be the same person.” So – yeah.
- 80 **Interviewer:** So, these are conclusions you have reached yourself?
- 81 **Luke:** Yeah.

- 82 **Interviewer:** What about the Holy Spirit? How would you explain the Holy
83 Spirit to a friend of yours who doesn't believe in God?
- 84 **Luke:** I would say – um – it's like the wind, you feel it, you can see it in
85 other places but you can't actually see it, an' – ah – yeah. I'd
86 say generally comes after Confirmation. You can see it clearer
87 and you can feel it more after that. But – yeah.
- 88 **Interviewer:** If you had to categorise people, how would you do that?
- 89 **Luke:** People, like – what do you mean
- 90 **Interviewer:** The whole mass of people
- 91 **Luke:** Well, I'd say there's people who just don't believe in anything an'
92 they'll just go about life and just do stuff. And you have people
93 who do believe and pray to God and say that there's things that
94 they've done because of God and I'd say there's people who
95 believe in something but don't know what it is and those are the
96 people who try to find this what it is and try to find themselves.
- 97 **Interviewer:** Where do you put yourself?
- 98 **Luke:** I'd put myself in the believers.
- 99 **Interviewer:** If I gave you two categories, thinkers and doers, which category
100 would you put yourself in?
- 101 **Luke:** Somewhere in between. Probably – I'd say ...
- 102 **Interviewer:** In this activity you can't.
- 103 **Luke:** You can't – okay. Um – probably a thinker.
- 104 **Interviewer:** To whom do you pray?
- 105 **Luke:** Um – mostly God.
- 106 **Interviewer:** What about Jesus. It's easier to image Jesus and yet you pray
107 more to God.
- 108 **Luke:** Yeah. I feel that God's the higher power and I just – I'm not
109 sure. My prayer is to – I just find it easier to pray him and – it's
110 really weird now that you say that. I've never really thought of it.
- 111 **Interviewer:** What about at Mass?
- 112 **Luke:** Mass. Um – I don't know. I just sort of go along with it. Um –
113 say all the prayers an' stuff. After Communion, I'll say my own
114 little prayer to God. Um – yeah. I'll sometimes pray to Mary.
115 Sometimes. But the majority of the time it's God.
- 116 **Interviewer:** This belief you have in God, how does it shape or influence your
117 life?
- 118 **Luke:** Um – it's – it would – um – I will try to – subconsciously, the way
119 I've been brought up I will try and be like – um – Jesus tells us
120 to. Like I'll always try and be nice to people, help out where I

- 121 can, and – ah – yeah, think twice about some of the stuff that
122 other people might not.
- 123 **Interviewer:** Could you comment on the way you've been brought up?
- 124 **Luke:** The way – Well, ever since – I was baptised really early, couple
125 a weeks, I think. Um – ever since then I've been too Church, um
126 – we've always said grace before meals, um – we've always –
127 both my parents were in youth groups when they were young
128 and both went to Church an' stuff, so they've continued to go to
129 Church with us kids as well. We've been taught the way – being
130 at a Catholic school all my life has taught me a lot. Um – I did
131 altar serving which also I think brought me closer. And then just
132 yeah as growing older going through all the sacraments and
133 then getting to these youth groups. My parents have had a lot of
134 influence.
- 135 **Interviewer:** You said "subconsciously". Could you comment on that word?
- 136 **Luke:** Um – well, some of the times you don't have to think, "Should I
137 be doing or not doing this?" "No, you don't do this." "You should
138 do this."
- 139 **Interviewer:** What impact has your faith had on your attitude towards
140 suffering?
- 141 **Luke:** Um – quite a lot, I guess. Um – quite compassionate towards
142 suffering and – especially unnecessary suffering. When people
143 can do things about it and they just don't. I just think, "Why?" I
144 also – I sometimes question my faith, not faith, but question God
145 why he makes people suffer. Sometimes after that I think why
146 did I question it. But it's just – yeah, suffering to me just
147 shouldn't happen. No one deserves it. Yeah, no one really
148 deserves it.
- 149 **Interviewer:** You paused and you changed your words and said "No one
150 really deserves it." Meaning?
- 151 **Luke:** I was thinking, well, some people do bad things and they get it
152 that – they don't really deserve suffering.
- 153 **Interviewer:** Okay. What impact has your faith had on your attitude towards
154 death?
- 155 **Luke:** Um – I'm not really afraid of it. People are scared when they die
156 – um – but – um – I'm not really worried by it 'cause I know
157 what's going to happen afterwards, hopefully.
- 158 **Interviewer:** What will happen after death?
- 159 **Luke:** Um – hopefully, I should go through Purgatory – hopefully, it
160 won't be too hard – and then through to heaven.
- 161 **Interviewer:** Hopefully?
- 162 **Luke:** Hopefully.

- 163 **Interviewer:** What does that word mean for you?
- 164 **Luke:** It's hard to – for us to say if we've done enough good deeds to
165 outweigh the bad deeds and – even though we try to do the
166 good things we'll always have the bad things. Y're just hopeful
167 that he'll have – that God will have mercy on us.
- 168 **Interviewer:** That's what you've been taught, that's what you believe. Have
169 you always believed that?
- 170 **Luke:** Believe that we go to heaven?
- 171 **Interviewer:** Yeah.
- 172 **Luke:** Yeah.
- 173 **Interviewer:** What about your faith giving you a sense of purpose or sense of
174 fulfilment in your life?
- 175 **Luke:** Um – yeah. I've always – it's always been there to turn on – to
176 faith. Um – when something in life is not making sense, is going
177 wrong I'll ask, "Why is it going wrong? Could you please help to
178 make it right." It just – I'll sometimes pray and ask for stuff and
179 it'll happen and I'll think, "Wow! That was because I prayed for
180 it." And it just gives – I don't know – it sorta gives me a sense of
181 not knowing what's gonna happen in the future. I think, "What's
182 gonna happen?" And I'll fail the tests in school and think, "Was
183 that meant to happen for a reason?" It's confusing sometimes
184 but it sorta gives life a bit of – it's not boring. You don't know
185 what to expect, so – that's slack. I like it.
- 186 **Interviewer:** So God couldn't be accused of making your life boring?
- 187 **Luke:** No, definitely not.
- 188 **Interviewer:** What events in your life have led to changes in your relationship
189 with God?
- 190 **Luke:** Um – definitely camps, whether it be a retreat, like last year's
191 retreat, or camps, with groups, just being with other people in
192 the same sort of circumstances.
- 193 **Interviewer:** What about people? Are there people who have said things to
194 you, or contributed in some way to changes in your relationship
195 with God?
- 196 **Luke:** Um – probably priests have done a lot, especially Fr Paul. He
197 taught me how to pray properly and generally being with other
198 people who are not afraid to pray helps you to show how you –
199 yeah, I don't know how to explain that.
- 200 **Interviewer:** Anyone else who's had an influence? What about Mum and
201 Dad?
- 202 **Luke:** Oh, big influence, yeah. They – um – haven't really been there
203 on the prayer side, like, but they'd be there in support. They

204 gave me all the opportunities to grow and it would – yeah, I don't
205 know....

206 **Interviewer:** Do you have any images that you associate with your Mum and
207 your faith?

208 **Luke:** Probably our first Church that we went to. It's – um – Year 4
209 when we left. We left at the end of Year 3, so I would have been
210 about nine or ten and I spent every weekend there. I just
211 remember it was always a family thing going to Church.
212 Everyone would always go. And just, yeah, when I think about
213 that, that's what comes there.

214 **Interviewer:** So you associate your Mum, your faith and that Church?

215 **Luke:** Mm.

216 **Interviewer:** What about your Dad?

217 **Luke:** Probably the same. Um – yeah. Dad not as much though. He
218 didn't really give me as much in the faith side of things, but –
219 yeah....

220 **Interviewer:** Could you explain that a bit more, what you mean by that?

221 **Luke:** Um – He would be there to support me an' everything, but he
222 didn't – um – that's really all. He didn't show me things, he
223 didn't teach me things. Um – other than when I asked. If I
224 asked him something he'd help me, but he didn't initiate it. He
225 didn't do that.

226 **Interviewer:** So your Mum is the initiator?

227 **Luke:** Yeah, I think so. Yeah.

228 **Interviewer:** Do you think that's the role of the mother?

229 **Luke:** Um – think when you're a child you're closer to y' Mum so in a
230 way, yeah. It would – It's hard to say. I don't every Mum should
231 have to do it, but I think they end up doing it.

232 **Interviewer:** What about school?

233 **Luke:** School's had a big influence on me. Um – being with – um – a
234 class of people, you get to hear everyone's views and you can
235 either reinforce yours or it can sorta make you think about it and
236 delve deeper into it. Then you start looking for answers. Which
237 is sometimes good – sometimes you think, "Why am I doing
238 this?" But, but, yeah, school's been a good influence.

239 **Interviewer:** So, here's Luke at St Luke's and doing RE: so when you're
240 talking about school having a good influence, where does RE fit
241 into that good influence?

242 **Luke:** Um – mm - not sure about RE.

243 **Interviewer:** What's one thing in RE that springs to mind that someone's said
244 to you?

- 245 **Luke:** Um – not sure.
- 246 **Interviewer:** There's no image that comes to mind straightaway?
- 247 **Luke:** When you say RE in school?
- 248 **Interviewer:** Yeah.
- 249 **Luke:** There's too many to say.
- 250 **Interviewer:** Would you say those "too many" are positive or negative?
- 251 **Luke:** They'd all be positive. You always come out of an RE lesson
252 knowing something else, feeling that way, which is good. Yeah.
253 Probably it helps with the Bible study because you get the – you
254 get the hidden messages within the Bible. Other stuff that you
255 wouldn't pick up if you were just reading it.
- 256 **Interviewer:** So does that happen in RE or what you are getting through
257 youth group?
- 258 **Luke:** Um – it started here in RE in the younger years, Year 8. Year 8,
259 you mainly get to know yourself and your relationships with other
260 people. When you get Year 9, you go a bit deeper into that
261 knowing yourself. By Year 12, you just – it's just you and God,
262 the relationship there, try and strengthen that which I agree with
263 because you need to know yourself before you can start
264 relationships.
- 265 **Interviewer:** What impact has your RE teachers had on your relationship with
266 God?
- 267 **Luke:** Um – I find that their views become my views. Things they say
268 you'll remember and you'll – just one day you'll be thinking about
269 that in the context and you'll think back and say, "I remember
270 someone said that." And you'll think about it. "Mm, that makes
271 sense now." It might not make sense at the time of the RE
272 lesson but later on you'll think back and "Yeah, I realise that
273 now."
- 274 **Interviewer:** Anything in the last twelve months that became a focal point for
275 you?
- 276 **Luke:** Um – not that I can think of right now.
- 277 **Interviewer:** Why do you think your faith's grown stronger in the last couple of
278 years?
- 279 **Luke:** Um – I think because I've allowed it for one. A lot of people
280 they'll think – they don't know what's happened so they'll just
281 shut it all out and they just don't allow it to grow. But I've tried to
282 allow it to grow, tried to get closer by talking.
- 283 **Interviewer:** Why?
- 284 **Luke:** Because I feel that we need something, we need some –
285 something to fall back on. There's not much in this life that will

286 stay the same and constant whereas you'll always know that
287 God's gonna be there, and we can always fall back on him.

288 **Interviewer:** You view God as a constant?

289 **Luke:** Yeah.