

Morgan's interview

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3 **Interviewer:** Morgan, what do you believe about God?

4 **Morgan:** Well, that's – sometimes you get into a bit of a dilemma when it
5 comes to that because you think, "Is he real? Or is he not?" But,
6 y'know, I believe in God, but it doesn't necessarily mean that I
7 believe in all the Bible stuff that they say and things like that.
8 Y'know, some things it does make you think of a – Yeah, yeah, I
9 believe in God. He's a sort of spirit who's always there.

10 **Interviewer:** Good. Do you have any words that you would use to describe
11 how you would relate with God?

12 **Morgan:** Kind of hard to put into words.

13 **Interviewer:** Okay. Well, let's go a different way. What sort of image do you
14 have of God?

15 **Morgan:** Sort of like the Jesus figure, in a way, but not exactly a person
16 like not, y'know, the – Yeah, it's hard to explain, like, just – It's
17 like a vibe that's there. Just – Yeah. Hard to explain.

18 **Interviewer:** Have you always had that sort of image of God. For instance, if
19 you went right back into primary school, or even earlier?

20 **Morgan:** No, I probably thought, "Oh – " Like when I was in primary
21 school, I thought that God was Jesus. So I didn't know there
22 was something like bigger than that. I didn't – Yeah – I didn't

23 **Interviewer:** So, is God different from Jesus?

24 **Morgan:** In a way, yeah, 'cause God's not – wasn't a living thing, wasn't a
25 living human being. He's just the creator of the universe sort of
26 thing and Jesus was just there to bring out his word.

27 **Interviewer:** Could you explain what you understand by that?

28 **Morgan:** How do you mean like?

29 **Interviewer:** Like "to bring out his word". What does that mean for you?

30 **Morgan:** Sort of to let everyone know about God. Um – sort of – y'know,
31 like – um – the Ten Commandments, things like that, like – um –
32 just, y'know, be kind to one another, y'know, all that. Sort of like
33 the rules.

34 **Interviewer:** Okay. Are you finding this hard, Morgan?

35 **Morgan:** Yeah. Quite hard. It's hard to explain. You know what you're
36 talking about yourself but then it's hard to explain to another
37 person what you mean by that.

38 **Interviewer:** Why do you think it's like that?

39 **Morgan:** I'm not sure. Um – I don't know. It's just something ab- It's
40 always like in you sort of thing. It's not – y'know – Other

- 41 people probably don't experience God the way others want to
42 see it.
- 43 **Interviewer:** So, how do you think you experience God?
- 44 **Morgan:** Just through thinking and through things that I do, like, say if
45 something bad happens, you think, "Oh, why isn't he here right
46 now?", y'know. "Why isn't he helping me?" You think, "Oh,
47 that's it", y'know. But then when something really – like, you've
48 achieve something that you've wanted to, or something really
49 good happens in your life, you think, "Oh, thanks! You're always
50 there." Or someone's sick and you pray for them and they get
51 better, you think, "Oh, yeah."
- 52 **Interviewer:** So, what does that say about God? God is ...?
- 53 **Morgan:** Great. He's always there to help. He's always - always there to
54 listen. Yeah.
- 55 **Interviewer:** Okay. Good. So what about images of Jesus? What image of
56 Jesus do you have?
- 57 **Morgan:** Sort of like the statue, like, y'know, how the way he's dressed in
58 a white robe, a sort of beard, like, sorta like. I don't know why –
59 it's sort of like a sadness look on his face. Yeah.
- 60 **Interviewer:** Has it always been like that for you?
- 61 **Morgan:** Yeah. Pretty much. Yeah.
- 62 **Interviewer:** What about the Holy Spirit?
- 63 **Morgan:** I haven't thought about that. You talk about it in class, but you
64 don't really think about it.
- 65 **Interviewer:** Alright. What about prayer?
- 66 **Morgan:** Mm. What can I say about it?
- 67 **Interviewer:** I'll give you a number of questions. Do you pray? And if you do,
68 to whom do you pray?
- 69 **Morgan:** Well, really, it's supposed to be to God, but you usually pray to
70 Jesus, or to Mary, y'know, if you're saying the Our Father, or the
71 Hail Mary, or – yeah.
- 72 **Interviewer:** So, think of the last time you prayed. Who did you pray to?
- 73 **Morgan:** God.
- 74 **Interviewer:** Okay. Are you aware of how often you pray?
- 75 **Morgan:** Not really. Well, y'know, you always do the Sign of the Cross
76 when y'goin' out, like in the car, or something, just in case.
77 Y'know, it's just like a family tradition thing 'cause my parents
78 are Catholic. Our whole family's Catholic. So I was brought up
79 with that faith. Um –
- 80 **Interviewer:** So you bless yourself when you ...?

- 81 **Morgan:** Bless yourself, or you – like only bless myself when my Dad’s
 82 there ’cause he doesn’t usually like say the prayer out loud
 83 because we say it in Spanish, so – yeah, we say it in our own
 84 language. So, like, when my Mum’s driving she’ll just quickly s –
 85 we’ll all quickly join in and say a prayer, or something. We never
 86 – we never pray before a meal, or anything like that, so it’s just
 87
- 88 **Interviewer:** What is the prayer that you pray when you set off in your car?
- 89 **Morgan:** It’s sort of like to the angels to protect – to protect you from any
 90 danger and harm and stuff like Yeah, an’ then when I go to
 91 Church as well, I just sit there and – yeah – just think about all
 92 the things that’s going on in your life – Yeah
- 93 **Interviewer:** So, how do you pray? What is your prayer like most often?
- 94 **Morgan:** Like what is it about? or ...?
- 95 **Interviewer:** Yeah, it could be that. Think about how you pray. Is it Our
 96 Fathers and Hail Marys?
- 97 **Morgan:** No, just – not like general prayers, or anything like that. More
 98 like just – y’know – um Like, I know, praying for, I don’t
 99 know, if I do well in exams, or praying for other people who are
 100 sick. Sometimes I’ll – y’know – If everything’s all right in my life,
 101 I’ll probably pray for people who don’t have what I have. Like,
 102 y’know, poor people who don’t have anything. Yeah.
- 103 **Interviewer:** Have you always prayed like that?
- 104 **Morgan:** Um – well, no, not before. Ah – well, at the beginning, like in
 105 Year 8 and stuff like that I probably just prayed for my own
 106 family, my own things, my own issues. I was more involved into
 107 what I was doing. I wasn’t really thinking more outside of the
 108 boundaries, more outside, like what other people were thinking,
 109 what other people were going through. You don’t think about
 110 that –
- 111 **Interviewer:** When do you think you changed?
- 112 **Morgan:** I don’t know.
- 113 **Interviewer:** Okay. So how does your belief in God influence or shape the
 114 way you live your life?
- 115 **Morgan:** Oh, it’s made me think about things when I’m in a bad situation,
 116 or something, because if – It’s kinda hard because I was brought
 117 up with it anyways. I was taught by my parents and then,
 118 y’know’ you’re taught in school ’cause I went to Catholic schools.
 119 I was taught in school – um – yeah. But sometimes you hide
 120 that sort of belief when you’re in front of your friends, or
 121 something, because maybe they’re not Catholic. Maybe they
 122 don’t believe in that and you think, “Oh, I’ll get teased now.” Or
 123 like you’d rather just not say something, y’know, just –

- 124 **Interviewer:** Good. What impact does your faith have on your attitude
125 towards suffering?
- 126 **Morgan:** Mm, I'm not sure I understand.
- 127 **Interviewer:** Well, what do you think about suffering? Would you accept
128 suffering as part of life? Or would you want to try and get rid of
129 it?
- 130 **Morgan:** Well, it's horrible when you see people suffering. Obviously,
131 you'd want to get rid of it. Yeah. But then again, some people
132 go through that to show other people and think, "This is what it's
133 like." And then other people say, "I don't want to go through
134 that." Depending on what it is.
- 135 **Interviewer:** Is Year 12 suffering?
- 136 **Morgan:** Yes.
- 137 **Interviewer:** So how does your faith influence your attitude towards being in
138 Year 12?
- 139 **Morgan:** Um – I don't know. It's made me try and look forward, look
140 positive at everything. Try not to be so pessimistic towards
141 things and – Yeah.
- 142 **Interviewer:** Good. You're doing really well with this interview, Morgan. It's
143 not easy.
- 144 **Morgan:** No, it's not. Some things you think, "Oh, hold on, I haven't
145 really thought about that yet."
- 146 **Interviewer:** So what about your attitude towards death?
- 147 **Morgan:** Towards death. Scary.
- 148 **Interviewer:** So you're scared about death? About your own death?
- 149 **Morgan:** Well, now I've – Ah, I don't know. I haven't really thought about
150 it. Before I used to think about it a lot because – Oh, you'd – I'd
151 probably just sit in my room and my parents'd be talking about it
152 and I'd be like – I don't know – I'd like get really, really, really,
153 really, really scared to think, oh, y'know, they're talking about
154 dying and stuff. It really scares me. And I tell 'em, "Don't talk
155 about it in front of me because it scares me." To think that
156 they're gonna die and you think, "Oh well, where am I gonna be
157 left off, y'know, 'cause I'm so close to them.
- 158 **Interviewer:** Now is that a recent experience, or something from the past?
- 159 **Morgan:** That was something from the past.
- 160 **Interviewer:** Okay. What about now?
- 161 **Morgan:** Now? Now that I'm older I didn't – I don't dwell upon that
162 anymore.
- 163 **Interviewer:** Do you think your life gives you a sense of purpose and
164 meaning?

- 165 **Morgan:** Um – well, it sorta shapes me who I am in a way, shapes the
166 way I am.
- 167 **Interviewer:** Could you explain what you mean by that?
- 168 **Morgan:** Um – well, say if I wasn't – if I wasn't Catholic, if I wasn't brought
169 up in the family that I am, if I was a totally different person – You
170 don't know who – how I'm gonna act. You don't know what
171 situations I'm gonna be in. Yeah, you don't know – y'know, I
172 could react to something totally different as to what I'd react
173 now. Yeah.
- 174 **Interviewer:** Good. Okay, are there events in your life that have led to
175 changes in your relationship with God?
- 176 **Morgan:** Um – I dunno. I haven't thought about that one either. I guess
177 there have been events, not that I can remember off the top of
178 my head right now.
- 179 **Interviewer:** Okay. So do you think your faith has grown stronger or weaker
180 in the last twelve months?
- 181 **Morgan:** The last twelve months? I'm not sure 'cause there's been a
182 series of events, you know, good and bad, so it's – I don't know.
183 It varies. At the moment it's alright. Yeah.
- 184 **Interviewer:** So it's like on a plateau?
- 185 **Morgan:** Yeah.
- 186 **Interviewer:** Prior to that, had it dipped down? Or was it higher? If you go
187 back earlier in your life, do you think your faith was stronger then
188 than it is now?
- 189 **Morgan:** It's probably stronger now because now that I've been in
190 different situations and different obstacles to overcome, it's –
191 yeah, you go – you sort of think about it more often than what I
192 used to think about it. Like I used to think, "Ah yeah, whatever
193 God, yeah, whatever." But now that, y'know, I'm more mature
194 about it, I understand it a bit more.
- 195 **Interviewer:** Could you talk a bit more about that understanding?
- 196 **Morgan:** Um – I don't know. It's hard.
- 197 **Interviewer:** That's okay. What about the impact of your school on your faith?
- 198 **Morgan:** Um – yeah, sometimes it's – it's like, y'know, hard for me like
199 when it comes to like school or something like that. It's just –
200 um - how can I explain it – mm – um – Yeah, like it's like if you
201 do something wrong or something at school, if you get a bad
202 grade or something, you automatically think, "Oh God, what am
203 I gonna do?" Yeah, and you think – and you think about your
204 parents and you think "Do I want a life if it's like this?" But then
205 there are other things like you get good grades, y – you're doing
206 well in school, y – getting along with your teachers and

207 everything else. You think it's all worth it and God's there every
208 step of the way.

209 **Interviewer:** Does your school add to the teaching that your parents have
210 given you about your faith? Or does it add to the teaching that
211 you were given when you were in primary school? Or that you
212 get through going to Mass?

213 **Morgan:** No, no it's different. It's probably – The school adds to what I
214 was taught in primary school. Um – some of it comes from my
215 parents but not all of it. Mostly my Mum's like "Well, if – if you're
216 not gonna be good then God doesn't love you anymore." Or
217 something like that. And I'd be like, "Okay!" But I think – then
218 you think about it and you say, "Yeah, well God's supposed to
219 love everyone no matter what you do." But then you think about
220 it. If you repeat those wrongs, is he still gonna love you? That's
221 a question that I don't know about. Yeah.

222 **Interviewer:** You don't know about that yet?

223 **Morgan:** No. It's different. I don't know. It's – the – the stuff that you
224 learn at school is more like, y'know, Bible Studies and "What did
225 Jesus say?" and "What did this ...?" Y'know, like all the stories
226 and things. And you think it's a – y'know, a load of rubbish
227 sometimes. You think, y'know, that – I don't know. It's –

228 **Interviewer:** Are there significant people in your school life? Are there people
229 at school who've had a big influence on you in terms of the way
230 your faith has been developing?

231 **Morgan:** Mm, not really.

232 **Interviewer:** What about amongst your peers? your friends?

233 **Morgan:** Well, one of them's really, really Catholic that – Yeah – I know, she – if you like swear, or something, or say something rude, or
234 other friends are saying, "Ah, y'know, God this and God that
235 doesn't exist, blah, blah." It sort of upsets her and – but, y'know,
236 it doesn't really bother me in that sense because it's what they
237 believe, y'know. If they want to believe it, it's fine. But, y'know,
238 people have different views. Mmm. Yeah, no, I don't – I haven't
239 really learnt much through my friends. You – you mostly don't
240 want to talk about it in front of your friends 'cause they just like,
241 "Oh, yeah, what d'ye want?" or something. And at school, like
242 with teachers and stuff, it's just the basics, y'know, "So what did
243 Jesus say?" Y'know, the stuff that you learn from the Bible and
244 – Yeah.

246 **Interviewer:** Is there a significant teacher in your life?

247 **Morgan:** Um – no, not really.

248 **Interviewer:** Okay.

249 **Morgan:** Well, you do learn stuff from people.

- 250 **Interviewer:** What about RE? Is there anything you remember from your
251 years of RE that has stuck with you?
- 252 **Morgan:** Probably the stuff about conscience, sort of like, y'know, "Is God
253 telling you to do the right thing, or the wrong thing?" And that's
254 kind of something that's sort of helped me develop what – my
255 understanding of it.
- 256 **Interviewer:** Which year was that?
- 257 **Morgan:** I think that was last year. At the beginning of last year.
- 258 **Interviewer:** Okay. Was it the way it was taught? Or just the fact that you
259 were getting the chance to take a good look at conscience?
- 260 **Morgan:** Yeah, probably at that. Yeah, and the big assignments that we
261 had to do when – sort of – And it also said something about, oh,
262 y'know, "write what you think an' your point of view of"
263 Y'know. Yeah. I think it should be more about whether, y'know,
264 things about what you experience and how it relates to you
265 rather than just bulk material. Yeah.
- 266 **Interviewer:** So what impact have your RE teachers had on your faith
267 development?
- 268 **Morgan:** Mmm. Um – not much 'cause I kind already had it within me. I
269 already had that sort of thing more like with my family and
270 through Church 'cause I have to go to Church every week. But
271 – yeah, Mum's like, "You have to go to Church otherwise God
272 won't love you." And she's – and she makes up all this stuff.
273 And I think, "Yeah, okay, right." But it – it doesn't – I don't – I
274 don't think, I don't think it's the wrong thing to say, y'know. You
275 shouldn't have to go to Church all the time. I mean once in a
276 while it's fine that – Yeah, like it's not the only place that you can
277 pray.
- 278 **Interviewer:** Yes. Good. You've talked a bit about your Mum and your Dad.
279 Would you like to add anything further about their influence on
280 you?
- 281 **Morgan:** Mmm. First of all, my Dad doesn't go to Church, but – I don't
282 even – I'm not even sure if he even prays or anything like that.
283 He'll only go to Church like if it's like Christmas. That he
284 definitely goes 'cause Mum forces him to go. Um – Midnight
285 Mass. Um – other than that – Or he'll only go if like the world's
286 in trouble. If he sees something in the news like that's gonna
287 have an impact on him, he'll go. Though, if, y'know, he feels
288 insecure about a situation, or something, he'll go to Church. But
289 with my Mum it's different 'cause she – she could constantly go.
290 She'll probably go twice a week, or something. Friday, she'll – I
291 think she goes Fridays. She goes to Church to pray for her
292 Mum. She's still alive. So, yeah, 'cause she hasn't seen her in
293 years as well. She'll – yeah, she just goes off and says that
294 Mass for her and she'll pray for her on a Friday. And then on

- 295 Sunday she just goes normal. She's like, "Oh, yeah, we have to
296 go to Church, so –
- 297 **Interviewer:** Do you think your Mum prays for you and your sister?
- 298 **Morgan:** Yeah. To get good grades and things. Obviously, yeah.
- 299 **Interviewer:** Do you think she might pray for anything else?
- 300 **Morgan:** Umm – not really sure. Just she wants us to be the best people
301 that we can be. Y'know, some people that she's proud of.
302 Yeah.
- 303 **Interviewer:** Do you have any stories from your life about how each of your
304 parents have influenced you in your relationship with God? You
305 told the story about when you are travelling, which is a great
306 story – and there are a lot of us who pray when we hop into a
307 motor vehicle. Are there any other stories?
- 308 **Morgan:** Not that I can think of at the moment. Don't think so. There
309 most probably are but I can – can't remember.
- 310 **Interviewer:** Has anyone in your life said anything or done anything that has
311 contributed to or helped your faith?
- 312 **Morgan:** Yeah, yeah.
- 313 **Interviewer:** Is it something you can tell me?
- 314 **Morgan:** Um – Well there's there's – there are like many things. Um –
315 yeah, nah, I don't want to say....
- 316 **Interviewer:** That's okay. That's fine. I don't think there is anything else I
317 want to ask you at this point, so thank you, Morgan.
- 318 **Morgan:** You're welcome.