



# Faith, Culture, Questions 2016

David Bazan

## FAITH, CULTURE, QUESTIONS 2016

David Bazan

Thursday, September 22  
at 8pm  
The Bell House

Lisa Sharon Harper

Thursday, October 13 at  
7pm  
Calvary Episcopal  
Church

Brian McLaren

Sunday, November 6 at  
10am and 11:30am  
The Gramercy Theatre

## RESOURCES

The Liturgists Podcast

This week's study guide is meant to introduce you to our first FCQ16 guest, David Bazan. David is a singer/songwriter and former frontman of the Christian indie-rock band Pedro the Lion. If possible, ask your group members to listen to the Liturgists podcast with David Bazan ([Ep. 26](#)) prior to coming. (Warning: Some Explicit Language)

### OPENING:

Listen to David's song [Hard To Be](#) ([Lyrics](#))

### DISCUSSION:

One of the most effective ways to observe our faith is through the faith (and lack thereof) of others as expressed through art. Hard to be is a song about David's loss of faith. Read aloud the following lyric and discuss.

WAIT JUST A MINUTE  
YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE  
THAT ALL THIS MISBEHAVING GREW FROM ONE ENCHANTED TREE  
AND HELPLESS TO FIGHT IT WE SHOULD ALL BE SATISFIED  
WITH THE MAGICAL EXPLANATION FOR WHY THE LIVING DIE

- Has there been a time when you began to doubt something that had previously been foundational to your faith?
- What emotions did you experience during that moment?
- Read the Next Lyric

I SWUNG MY TASSEL TO THE LEFT SIDE OF MY CAP  
KNOWING AFTER GRADUATION THERE WOULD BE NO GOING BACK  
AND NO CONGRATULATIONS FROM MY FAITHFUL FAMILY  
SOME OF WHOM ARE ALREADY FASTING TO INTERCEDE FOR ME

- David's writing about his loss of faith as a "Graduation." What do you think he means?
- Do you think its possible to lose faith, and regain it again? Or is the loss of faith final, like a graduation?

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit [forefrontnyc.com/calendar-mh](http://forefrontnyc.com/calendar-mh) for more events

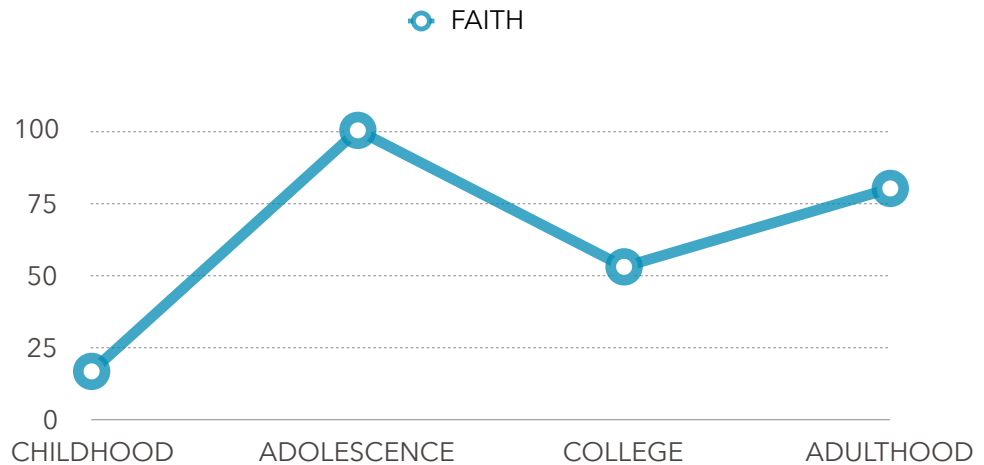
## SUNDAY SERIES FOREFRONT IS...

September 11 - October 9

We are an interdenominational faith community dedicated to cultivating a just and generous expression of Christianity. In this series we're uncovering the core gospel message that has been buried under layers of tradition, culture, and history.

## GROUP EXERCISE:

Distribute pen and paper to the group and have everyone sketch a line graph charting their faith over the course of their lives on a scale of 0-100. 0 being atheism, 100 being unquestioning faithfulness. Here is an example:



Now compare your lines and spend some time reflecting upon what was going on in the different stages of your lives that impacted your level of faith. Why does your chart look the way it does? How do the graphs differ from one another?

- Is faith static or fluid?
- Is it possible that God is faithful enough to us to allow us the freedom to doubt, and leave the door open for us to come back?
- Can you identify any benefits that can come from questioning?

## CLOSING PRAYER:

...BUT IF YOU CAN DO ANYTHING, TAKE PITY ON US AND HELP US!" AND JESUS SAID TO HIM, "'IF YOU CAN?' ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE TO HIM WHO BELIEVES." IMMEDIATELY THE BOY'S FATHER CRIED OUT AND SAID, "I DO BELIEVE; HELP MY UNBELIEF."

-MARK 9:22b-24-

*Loving God, we pray for faith, not certainty. We pray that we will grow in our faith in who you are, even when we have doubts about your church, the scriptures, and individuals and groups that contradict what we know to be true about you. Reassure us that while we are prone to wander, you are steadfast in your love. Thank you that you do not hold our waverings against us. In Jesus' name, Amen.*