

Interview an Irreligious Person

I interviewed Jefferson who is currently a seeker in his early 20s. When I asked him, he identified himself as irreligious for the time being. In college, he was in a space that exposed him to people who were considered more religious such as a catholic background. He was raised in the church and his parents are not religious. He is currently open to ideals to Christianity but would describe himself as someone who's trying to figure out what his beliefs and morals are. He defines himself as agnostic but also spiritual.

When asking him how he defines the term religious/irreligious, he described a person who is religious as having a connection with God that is a personal one. He proceeds to describe a relationship with God as a personal one that is shaped by personal experiences. This is how he currently sees the church. The personal experiences are described as personal encounters with God that might be supernatural but also involvement in "traditional practices". Jefferson proceeded to describe "traditional practices" as things that allow one to study and get to know who God is.

Jefferson has visited various religious spaces and different churches. He's been to catholic churches, baptist churches and now an Alliance church. He recognizes the differences in each space and their values. When he was in college, his friends would teach him and talk about the parables and other stories from the Bible. These stories intrigued his interest. This is his reason for coming to church and attending the small groups held at church. He believes that participating in more of these "traditional practices" would lead to what he is looking for.

Jefferson hopes for God to be represented and presented in a relational approach that leads to connection. It makes him feel less foreign and feels more comfortable. When I asked

Jefferson what leads him to feel connected, he says he's still exploring what that means and looks like in his current stage of life. He feels most connected and welcomed when people put in effort that allows him to feel like he's wanted. He feels seen and known when people are able to show him how much his presence is valued.

Overall, Jefferson is looking to be a "better person" overall. He is looking for improvement in his life while seeking for his purpose in life. He wants to be an improved version of himself. This could mean or look like accomplishing goals but overall, he is seeking for a sense of direction. He believes that if he puts his best efforts and work forward, it would lead to him discovering his best self.

He hopes for God to provide this type of direction for him. It also sounds like Jefferson is not only looking for direction but also life purpose as he is exploring and understanding more of who he is, while navigating in a post-college life. As he was describing direction, it sounded like he was looking for a focus in life that motivates him to do and be something more than what he has known or been. Jefferson also sounds willing to follow God if God were to give him the answers he was looking for.

What would convince Jefferson to become or define himself as "religious" was apparently an easy question for him to answer. He said that he is looking for a personal encounter with God because seeing is believing. This response sounds like Jefferson is open minded and is actively looking for confirmation in what he has heard and known of who God is so far, based on his surroundings and stories he's heard from different people.

It is amazing to see that most people in this world are looking for purpose and life change. They are desiring for something more and believe that God could be a reason, answer or

possibility for them to find what they're looking for. Being different and understanding who we are is what the life exploration people are journeying on.