



I was raised in a loving but secular home where religion was simply irrelevant. If anybody raised the topic of God, I would challenge and confront their views. I didn't actively try to convert Christians to atheism but certainly enjoyed a good debate. For me, life was pretty good. I enjoyed my job as a tennis coach and had a nice house, a beautiful wife and a lovely daughter. What more could I need? Years earlier I'd contracted meningitis, the non-deadly viral kind, although we didn't know that at first. I spent a week in hospital, leaving my wife at home with our young daughter. My illness sent my wife's imagination spiralling into negativity as she wondered how she'd cope if I died. In response, she began her own journey of seeking, which ultimately led us both to Jesus.

My wife began watching Christian sermons on YouTube, secretly at first, but then more and more openly at home. I thought it was just a phase and after completing her PhD she would snap out of it. But then she raised the conversation of finding a church. I had no need or interest in going to church but thought it best to accompany her. I wanted to make sure she didn't join a cult and hoped to convince her that Christianity was untrue so we could get back to living a "normal life". Knowing how sceptical I was, it was

difficult for my wife to choose the right church. However, after she found Trent Vineyard, she persuaded me to come after describing the outreach and community work, as well as mentioning the church had a licensed bar. I remember walking into our first Sunday service and feeling emotionally overwhelmed but not knowing why. From then on, I embarked on a quest to find the truth about Jesus. I realised that the message about Him was having a positive impact on my wife, but was it true? I decided to sign up to the Alpha course and this proved a brilliant place to continue my investigation. I spent every bit of spare time researching, but no matter what I looked into, I became convinced that everything pointed to God being real and Jesus being who He claimed to be. So I decided to follow Jesus, not because something bad happened to me or because I'd hit rock bottom, but because I found it was true. Since then Jesus has become the centre of all aspects of my life. Life makes more sense now and instead of just "pleasure-seeking" I have found real purpose, a genuine love of serving others and I'm so excited about what the future holds. I'm committed to being obedient to Jesus' teachings and open to where He leads me.

**Changing Lives**