



beginnings

Journey to Faith

Reviews

The Reverend Joe Miller, Mason United Methodist Church

"...we are baptizing four middle-aged adults this coming Sunday, three of whom have made the decision for baptism and church membership because of their experience in the *Beginnings* class. Please share my thanks with Mark and Rob. God's Spirit is at work in that class as well as in the lives of its two pastor-facilitators. All seventeen of us are being blessed by the direction of the materials. I am grateful to you for your pastoral work in the ministry of writing and teaching."

Ron Fee, small-group member

"A gifted guide to goodness, grace, and God."

The Reverend Dr. David Alistair Renwick

"While it is wonderful to explore the diversity of beliefs and expressions of faith in the many branches of the church of Jesus Christ, there comes a time when we need to return to first principles. *Beginnings* is a lively and thoughtful tool that enables both Christians and non-Christians to accomplish this task, thinking about Christian faith afresh."

Peggy Hoyle, small-group member

"I love the simplicity and beauty of the gospel presented so clearly. A great tool for evangelism and an explanation of the gospel."

The Reverend Dr. Mark Key

"Andy Langford and Mark Ralls and Rob Weber have put together a masterful resource for today's church trying to be effective in a postmodern world. This resource has the opportunity to engage people who are not yet part of the church in a dialogue that will truly hold their attention and point them toward Jesus Christ and his church in ways that we've never done before."

Donna Varner, small-group member

"I find *Beginnings* easy to follow and very informative."

The Reverend Carl L. Schenck, Missouri

"*Beginnings* helps congregations make new disciples of Jesus Christ. As inquirers ask their basic questions of life, *Beginnings* responds with sound, theological wisdom and guides them to Christ."

Sonia Walker, small-group member

"*Beginnings* answers questions that many new Christians, as well as seasoned Christians, want to know."

The Reverend Dr. Jonathan Baker, Delaware

"Andy, Mark, and Rob have provided an exciting new resource for local churches to use to nurture seekers and new persons in faith from a Wesleyan perspective. *Beginnings* is a gift to the whole church."

Janet Fee, small-group member

"Discusses basic Christian beliefs without avoiding the tough parts. Basic but inspirational. Doesn't embarrass the nonreligious participant. Inspiring to the longtime believer."

The Reverend Oyvind Helliesen, Norway

"The church needs *Beginnings* to help us reach unchurched people. It is also an excellent tool to train current disciples."

The Reverend Dan Hester, North Carolina

"I need this resource. The number of people I meet in and around the church who hunger for but who have never had clear, basic Christian teaching available to them, is growing. This work makes good faith accessible without dumbing it down, without ignoring questions of the skeptic, and without overlooking that which good faith requires."

Received from email

"We began an Inquirer's class for people wanting to begin the process of exploring their faith. We began with a three week introduction on our Methodist distinctives. After three weeks it became apparent that this group needed to continue and we decided to use the new Beginnings curriculum. I cannot tell you enough how powerful and meaningful this study was and how much we think of it here at church. It will be the curriculum for all of our Inquirer's classes from now on.

"One member of this class was a woman I will call Stacy. Stacy was very quiet for several weeks. We learned that she was the sole supporter of her family, her husband has been unemployed for months. She is a professional woman with two young daughters. From time to time she would share some things, but was quiet for the most part. However, she never missed a Sunday. And then we got to session five: Can I trust God? Immediately after the video presentation she began to share her faith story: One year before coming to our class she got a call that her mother was in the emergency room, a victim of domestic violence. She shared that as she looked at her mother's battered body on the hospital stretcher she asked herself the question 'Is there a God?' She determined that she would begin her search that day. Her search led her to our church. Through many tears she shared that she had found God through the class and this study. She looked forward to learning more about the God she had discovered and has been with us every Sunday since. Stacy joined our church on 'reaffirmation of faith.' Yesterday I ran into her coming down the hall. She had brought a friend. She said she wanted to share with her friend the faith she had found. We will be using Beginnings twice a year in our Inquirer's class from now on. There are many more 'Stacys' out there we are discovering, and how wonderful to have this amazing tool to help them begin their faith journeys. Thanks United Methodist Publishing House for Stacy and others, and many more to come."