

*Hello, I'm Simon Stanley and I am going to be your guide during the five sessions which make up this course. My task is easy: it's to draw out answers and viewpoints from our distinguished participants. So at the outset I will introduce them to you in alphabetical order. First, Rabbi Lionel Blue. Lionel is well known and much loved as a Jewish voice on radio, particularly on 'Thought for the Day' on Radio 4. He is a writer and scholar of the Reform Branch of Judaism. And he says that if he hadn't been a Rabbi, he'd probably have liked to be a cook in a monastery.*

**LB:** My mother once asked me when I was having a curry with her, she wasn't a bit religious, she was a bit dubious about the whole thing. She said, 'Lionel, will it make you nicer, all this religion?'. I thought about it, I thought, 'that's really the key question'. And yes, I think it does.

*Next we hear from Steve Chalke. Steve is a Baptist Minister and founder of Oasis. Now Oasis motivates and trains Christian young people for work in Britain and overseas and is known for its work with street children. Steve often appears on radio and TV, including 'Songs of Praise'.*

**SC:** I do have a proneness to doubt. I doubt everything and I often wonder about this. Is doubt part of the human condition, you know, part of human nature, or is it to do with people like me? But I do doubt a lot – I doubt everything though. I go out and buy a CD and then think I should have got the other one. We book a restaurant and then I think it would have been better if we had the other one, or the other menu. I find actually choosing food off a menu – it drives me quite mad and whatever I get, I look at the guy on the next table and think, 'I should have got that!'

*Now it's the turn of Dr Leslie Griffiths. Leslie, a leading Methodist, is Minister of Wesley's Chapel in London. He is a familiar voice on Radio 4's 'Thought for the Day' and 'Daily Service'.*

**LG:** I am quite sure that I am only a Christian at all because of 30 working class people in a South Wales village. I only went to the grammar school because of *their* altruism. Whenever I was in trouble it wasn't just my mother who put her arm around me. It was Mrs Tappin, who was a washerwoman, it was Lorraine Williams, who was the widow of the man who collected the rubbish, it was Nesta Griffiths who came and taught me Sunday School every week. I mean for me there is no Christianity *but* the Christianity that changes people's lives.

*We turn now to Dr David Hope, Archbishop of York, who summarises at the end of each of our five sessions.*

**DH:** I came to faith in Jesus Christ in a fairly ordinary way really. I went into the choir, became a server and I suppose in all of that God was at work in me. There's been no decisive moment. That's been a kind of continuum of my faith and experience of Jesus Christ. Conversion, again, has not been something