

Have a read of these scenarios and chat about your answers to the questions at the bottom with your mum/dad/brother/sister/pet...

1. Shoniqua hasn't really felt close to God for ages, and to be honest she thinks church is a bit boring and isn't really missing it and, well, perhaps her parents aren't ALL bad, but they don't really seem to understand her and according to her favourite youtubists they're Boomers. That's bad. Apparently. Although Shoniqua is less clear about why that's bad. She would still call herself a Christian it is just that she's not really that into it, and some bits she doesn't like... she reads bible ~~quite often~~, sometimes, well... she thinks she read something just before Christmas... and she often prays about having a good day at school and her family always say grace so she figures if she doesn't feel close to God he might not be real, and now she's a bit worried about it all...

2. Gorddon, (yep, two 'd's', I dunno either, ask his parents!)... so, Gorddon, got really into coming to church and youth group back in year seven. He became a Christian after coming for about 6 months but his parents were a bit worried he'd joined a cult or something... he was doing well for about a year, but then lockdown hit and COVID land happened and... well, now he's not with all his mates from youth group... God just doesn't seem as much fun anymore. He has been reading his Bible and praying, but he doesn't understand what he's reading and he isn't really sure he is doing praying right. His big brother found him praying once and just laughed at him. He doesn't want to give up but he doesn't really see how he can keep going either... easier not to think about it and play more Minecraft.

3. Talia is, literally, the best at everything. She knows some of the other girls are as good as her at some things, but even then they don't really have her style or her humility about it all. She. Is. The. Best. During the week she gets ridiculous marks in all her lessons and her homework is always brilliant... on Monday nights she bosses her Cello lessons, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday nights she plays county level hockey, Wednesday nights she has Mandarin classes, Friday nights she used to go to youth group after her swimming club, now she just stays at the pool and does an extra 50 lengths... and on Sunday she does church with her family... where, by the way, she is the one who *actually* answers all the questions at Pathfinders. She gets annoyed at how easy they are and how the other kids hardly say anything. She gets even more annoyed at how that leader who often leads her year 8 girls group is always asking if the girls have been reading their Bibles that week... clearly the other girls need to, they can't answer any of the questions.... Talia would have thought it was quite clear that she doesn't need to revise!

4. Colin is pretty sure he is a Christian. He understands that Jesus died for him to save him from his sins... he has confessed those to God and accepted Jesus as his Lord... it's just that... well, it's really hard. He keeps getting things wrong. He knows he shouldn't shout at his sister, she's only 7, but she's SO annoying... he knows he shouldn't gossip with his mates, but he's terrified of being left out... he knows he shouldn't be using the language he does at school (and that one time at his dad when he was really angry), but it just sort of slips out... he is beginning to wonder if he isn't really good enough to be a Christian... he is just not very good at it. Not like his friend at Church, Talia, she wouldn't be messing up like this. He wanted to ask her about it, but she's always busy... what is the point in keeping on with it, he thinks, if I just mess up so much?

We have heard that we should 'pay careful attention' to the gospel that we have heard so that we will not drift away... do you think Shoniqua, Gorddon or Talia are in danger of drifting? Why or why not? What do you think would help them? Where are they in danger of drifting? What might you say to them if you were their friend?