

# REACHING PEOPLE YOU DON'T KNOW



*For key church leaders and their passionate evangelisers*

## Session 6. The Conversational Approach

**Keys to effectiveness in a post-modern multi-religious society**

### **Discussion goal**

To understand the conversational approach, its values, and to practice some questions we could start with.

Before watching the video

- Welcome and prayer
- Recap lessons and personal takeaways from the previous tutorial.

### **Watch video**

### **Opening**

1. Tell us about someone you know who is a great conversationalist. How do they make you feel when you talk with them?

### **Discussion**

“My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry...” James 1:19.

2. What do you think are some of the keys to a great conversation? (Think back to some great conversations you have had).
3. What do you think of the conversational approach Stu suggested?
4. How might this be different to the way some of us might have previously engaged non-Church people in spiritual conversations? Can you see how or why this would work for people in today's society? Explain.
5. Try to recall the three great questions given to turn a conversation.

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## Application

6. Consider together (maybe as a role play) how these questions might work if a non-believer said the following:
  - (a) "I think all religions are the same." (E.g. your first question might be, what do you mean 'the same'?)
  - (b) "Hasn't the Bible been proven unreliable?"
  - (c) "I'm not convinced we can know God."
  
7. What will you take from today's tutorial to try out when opportunities present themselves?

Spend time praying together for your group, your church, and those you would like to reach out to.

## Weblink to online tutorial resource for use with church members

The 'Because we care' video series can be viewed for free online at [AllTogether.co.nz/equipping-videos-members](http://AllTogether.co.nz/equipping-videos-members). Videos in this series are good for use with church members who are not naturally or actively evangelistic. They suit use in weekend services, or for discussion in church small groups. Studies for download can be found beside the videos online.

## For reflection

When next reading through the Gospels, take note of how often Jesus initiated conversations using a question. His method in ministry was often to (a) ask questions (b) with an ear open to the Spirit. It is a timeless approach that can work in all cultures.