

3. How to start a conversation

Thirty-minute discussion



HOOK:

- Has anyone been in a situation where someone has said something that created a really awkward situation? What happened – and how do you think the tension could have been broken?

BOOK:

Luke 20:1-8 – Jesus asked a difficult question

- In a tense situation, instead of answering a question what did Jesus do?
 - o Why might he have done this (Why not answer the question)?
 - o What did this achieve?
- What did Jesus' question achieve in Luke 20:20-26?
- What did Jesus' questions achieve in Matthew 22:15-22?

LOOK:

- Revise the three questions given in the video.
- What is the point/purpose of each question?
- What are some of the benefits of asking these questions? What might these specific questions help us learn? How might they also help us avoid potential awkwardness in a conversation?
- **Activity:** Play the question game (Have conversations in pairs where you are only allowed to ask questions – and not allowed to make any statements. However, every question must also somehow be a sensible reply to the previous one. See an example in the footnote*).
- **Role-play:** Break into pairs, with one being a Christian, and the other not. Bring up a topic on which views will differ –and then practice using these questions in that conversation, with the goal of opening up the conversation *in a non-threatening way*.

TOOK:

- Would you be willing to use these questions in at least one conversation this week? (It doesn't have to be a spiritual topic).
 - o Who are you meeting this week that you might talk with?

Pray:

- Pray for a deep love for others that will enable you to take a selfless interest in them, and to ask questions naturally
- Pray for God to lead you to people who will be willing to discuss their spiritual views in a 'safe' conversation.

Footnote: Would you like to start the question game? Do you realise you've already started it? But would you like to choose the topic for it? Can't you see that you've already chosen the topic? Well – how are you? How do you think I am? So you are well? It's great to be here isn't it? Did you enjoy this session? Do you mean the one we just had about question asking? What other session have we had? Don't you remember last week? Aren't we supposed to be revising this weeks session now? Isn't that what we're already doing? Oh – are we still playing that game?...