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CONVERSATIONAL
EVANGELISM
SERIES 1

Everyday Spiritual conversations

Small Group Study | WEEK 1

Ask, don't tell



Outreaching
CULTURE

A Leadership
Strategy by

all together
Consulting

Discussion 1: Ask, don't tell!

We're starting a new series today, called *Everyday Spiritual Conversations*

LAUNCHING

Q1. Have any of you ever got yourself in trouble because you spoke too soon, when you really should have stopped to ask a question?

GUIDING

Q2. Who finds sharing their faith awkward?

Q2b. Why do you think it can be awkward?

Q2c. Read 2 Corinthians 4:4. What light does this verse shed? (if people believe what God has revealed in the Scriptures, from their perspective they 'know for a fact' that they don't need to consider what the Bible says)

Q2d. What do you think the way through the awkwardness might be?

Q3. **Exercise:** What sorts of things do your unbelieving friends believe about God / the Bible / spirituality / what does or doesn't exist beyond the physical/material world?

(Write down some summary points of the answers – leave space between each one).

(Note: If group members don't know what their unbelieving friends believe, their primary application from this discussion might be to go and ask them – with an agenda to tell them anything. Knowing what they believe is the 'starting line' for a meaningful conversation.)

Q4. Read John 5:1-9a Why do you think Jesus asked 'Do you want to get well?' It seemed obvious from the context?

Q4b. Read Mark 10:46-52 Why do you think Jesus asked 'What do you want me to do for you?' Again – wasn't it obvious?

Q5. What would you say is the difference between 'preaching at people' and 'talking with people'?

- Can both approaches be effective in outreach, and why?
- Which would you say is the better approach, and why?

The point: Too often we talk, when we would be wiser to ask a question!

Exercise: Take the thoughts you listed about what your friends believe about God / religion etc...

- Underneath them, write down two or three questions you could ask to better understand what they actually believe and why.

APPLICATION

Q6. For the bold: Who might you meet in the coming week, that you could ask one of these questions?

Q7. For all: If we can get others talking – then we have **the context** within which a meaningful conversation might take place.

- Who could you take a selfless interest in this week, asking some open-ended questions, for no other purpose than to listen and know their story a bit more?

To do: Make a list of friends you would like to reach out to.

Pray: Pray for them each week during this series – and for ideas on how best to connect with them.