

# 3. How to start a normal conversation

## Discussion guide – Series II



### HOOK:

- Did anyone manage to ask a friend some open-ended questions this week to get to know them and/or their spiritual beliefs?
- Have any of you ever been in a sales position, or had to 'cold call' people to ask them to help with something? Were you nervous? What is it about these roles that makes you feel nervous? What is it that helps you feel confident?

### LOOK:

- Revise the four points made in this video.
- What do you think of the suggestion that, if we're struggling to engage spiritual conversations, we try removing the 'gospel agenda' from the front of the conversation? Is this useful, or a compromise? Why?

### BOOK: John 4.4-16 – Humour and the Samaritan woman

- Do you think Jesus' question at v10 was serious, or might this have been humorous conversational 'banter'?
- Do you think her reply in v 11 was serious, or might she also have been humouring him?
- Do you think it possible that Jesus' comment in v13 – and also her reply in v15, might both have had a tone of humour in them?
- The conversation took a serious turn from v 16 onwards. What might Jesus have been trying to achieve in the conversation prior to this? (What obstacles stood in the way of them having an open conversation?)

### TOOK:

- **Activity:** Play the question game to practice conversational skills.\*
- What have you got out of our discussion today?
- Who will you attempt to engage in a conversation this week, to better understand their spiritual thoughts?

### Pray:

- ...for a growing love for people, so you will be motivated to help and encourage others in their faith journey.
- ...for God to lead you to people you can engage in conversation to do this!

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\* The question game is suggested in connection with a few of these videos. In this game members stand and engage conversations in pairs, *but are only allowed to ask questions*. As soon as someone either (a) makes a statement or (b) replies in a way that would not be natural within a conversation (e.g. a random and unrelated question, or pausing for a very long time) they sit down. The last person standing wins.