
Weekday Faith Catalyst

Below are sample **Conversation Starters** we create to help you experience Weekday Church. They are not intended to be Bible Study Guides like the curriculum you may have experienced in a Sunday School Class or Small Group. We are leaving these type items to your Sunday morning church experience.

Conversation Starters are short reads, but long conversations.

There is no minimum or maximum timeframe to complete and you will not be graded. Spiritual development is not like a class or test at school. It is a journey that lasts a lifetime.



They are intended to catalyze thoughts and make important conversations easier. We encourage you to read through them on your own first to become familiar with the content and layout. As you work through them on your own, begin writing down names of people you would enjoy inviting into the conversation.

Then, once you have completed these four Conversation Starters you can do one of two things.

- (1) **Invite your list of people to have a conversation with you.** It is okay to not know where the conversation is going. You do not have to figure it all out or have all the answers. Do not take on the pressure of leading something permanent or longterm. Simply find your family, friends, or co-workers who may be interested in having conversations with you about this kind of stuff and start talking.
- (2) **If you are curious and intrigued by the whole idea of Weekday Faith and need some questions answered first.** Hit us up and we will help. Though our experience is as unique as the people you gather.

“A big life is catalyzed by small conversations.”

#1 Starting Your Week Right

Genesis 1

(Highlight from our Covenant Conversation Starters.)



The Bible starts with a life gripping idea. You are made in the image of God. Growing up people always said I looked like my mom. As a teenage boy, I did not find this flattering. No offense mom. Then as I grew older into manhood things started to change. I can remember the first time I saw a photo of myself with my dad and the resemblance was undeniable. It struck me and meant a lot. It also happened to be one of the last photos we ever took.

*'Then God said, "Let us make man **in our image**, according to our likeness. They will **rule** the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth." So **God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female. God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth."**' Genesis 1:26-28 (CSB)*

While resembling my dad is heart warming, it is nothing compared to bearing God's image. This means God and I have a lot in common. At least two implications are quickly revealed in the early pages of Genesis. First, our likeness with God puts us on his team to fulfill his purpose on earth. We lead his creation alongside his purpose which makes life success a guarantee when done his way. Second, we have the innate ability to connect with God in a deeply meaningful way. This experience of communion with God is so important that he set aside one day each week to enjoy it and he called it holy. So God prioritized his image in us, to partner with us in his work and worship.

*'So the heavens and the earth and everything in them were completed. On the seventh day God had completed his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. **God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, for on it he rested from all his work of creation.**' Genesis 2:1-3 (CSB)*

Here are some Conversation Starters around these ideas:

- (1) How does it feel to know you are made in God's image?
- (2) Does bearing God's image make you more nervous or confident?
- (3) What do you think about God trusting you to successfully rule over his created world?
- (4) Why do you think God trusts you so much?
- (5) What do you think he wants you to do?
- (6) Have you grown to prioritize the holy day of rest and worship called the Sabbath?
- (7) What are some benefits of honoring God's Holy Sabbath Day?

#2 Living Your Week Well

Deuteronomy 28

(Highlight from our Kingdom Conversation Starters.)



This passage tends to get me into trouble, but I still love it and teach it. Skepticism is a powerful force oftentimes holding us back from really good stuff. Here is my thought for you, what if this text is actually true? After all, it is in the Bible.

*“Now if you **faithfully obey** the Lord your God and are careful to follow all his commands I am giving you today, the Lord your God will **put you far above** all the nations of the earth. **All these blessings will come and overtake you, because you obey the Lord your God:**” Deuteronomy 28:1-2 (CSB)*

Who doesn't want God's blessings to overtake our lives? The soul longs for it, but our weakness hold us back. However, we can choose to lean into these principles more and more each day if we like. I have found that nothing compares to a life of surrendered obedience. God's promises and power are far better than anything I can create on my own.

The rest of this passage just gets better and better, then it concludes with God's purpose to all the blessings. God's ways are to be followed and when they are followed good things happen. You reap what you sow. Here is a glance of the life blessings God promises you.

- *Deuteronomy 28:3*, your travels will be blessed.
- *Deuteronomy 28:4*, your kids will be blessed.
- *Deuteronomy 28:4*, your work and labor will be blessed.
- *Deuteronomy 28:5*, your household and its belongings will be blessed.
- *Deuteronomy 28:6*, your yard and neighborhood will be blessed.
- *Deuteronomy 28:7*, your enemies will be defeated.
- *Deuteronomy 28:8*, your resources in storage will be blessed.
- *Deuteronomy 28:8*, he will bless you right where you are and all you do.

Now, all these blessings are not actually about you. It is how God forms his people and reveals his purposes. Not everyone understands that they are made in God's image for his purposes with the innate ability to connect with him in meaningful worship. So these things have to be revealed in society. Right where we are, doing the things we are doing, with the people we are doing them with. Our faith-filled obedience plus God's blessings reveal a life to be longed for.

*'The Lord will establish you as his **holy people**, as he swore to you, if you obey the commands of the Lord your God and walk in his ways. **Then all the peoples of the earth will see that you bear the Lord's name, and they will stand in awe of you.**'*
-Deuteronomy 28:9-10 (CSB)

Here are some Conversation Starters around these ideas:

- (1) Is this passage easy or hard for you to embrace? Why?
 - (2) What could happen if you leaned into it with your life?
 - (3) What will happen if you do not lean into it with your life?
 - (4) Do the blessings mean we do not have hard times in life, like when enemies come against us?
 - (5) Why do you think it is important for God to provide you instructions needing to be obeyed both at home and work?
 - (6) If you could re-write this passage with contemporary words, speaking God's obedience and blessings over the different areas of your life. How might it sound?
 - (7) How many weekday activities and blessings are contained in this passage? List as many as you can with all their variations and implications.
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#3 Playing Offense Against The Stuff That Can Muck Up Your Week

Matthew 5-7

(Highlight from our Kingdom Conversations Starters.)



I think that most believers desire the best spiritual life they can possibly experience. However, lots of junk gets in the way. Some of it we earn, other times life just keeps coming at us in overwhelming ways. There is a recording in the Bible of Jesus' most complete and possibly longest message. It is known as the Sermon on the Mount and it addresses the weekday stuff that often gets in the way of enjoying your best spiritual life. Here is a glimpse at just a few topics.

The world will seek to erode your faith one day at a time, one little experience at a time. It is relentlessly coming at us in both big and small ways. The big ways can be easier to recognize and often drive us to our knees. However, it is the accumulation of tiny little daily knicks that often compound into a benign spiritual life. The world can just wear you down until you unknowingly surrender to its ways.

Yet, despite the challenges of living in a fallen world God's supernatural activity toward you overcomes all obstacles.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs." -Matthew 5:3 (CSB)

There are nine blessings mentioned in Matthew 5:3-11, that can occur when life is coming at you hard and fast. Then this section of Scripture concludes with a powerful statement on how a big blessing awaits on possibly your worst day ever. When a believer experiences significant persecution because of faith.

*'Be glad and rejoice, because **your reward is great** in heaven. For that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you.'* -Matthew 5:12 (CSB)

Matthew 6 contains many powerful principles that help us with life. **However, I want to highlight three habits Jesus implores us to create.** Some might even refer to these as spiritual disciplines. They are giving, praying, and fasting. All three are to be done faithfully and secretly by believers. These habits can help us play offense against the world before we give it a chance to grab a hold of our day without letting go.

*'So whenever you **give** to the poor, don't sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be applauded by people. Truly I tell you, they have their reward.'* -Matthew 6:2 (CSB)

*'But when you **pray**, go into your private room, shut your door, and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.'* -Matthew 6:6 (CSB)

*'But when you **fast**, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting isn't obvious to others but to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.'* -Matthew 6:17-18 (CSB)

Here are some Conversation Starters around these ideas:

- (1) Take a look at Matthew 5:3-12, try to put yourself in the place of the people Jesus was addressing. Based on how he begins his sermon, what do you imagine they were experiencing?
 - (2) Next, Jesus inspires them to be salt and light in their everyday lives. (See Matthew 5:13-16.) What do you think it means to be salt and light? What are some of the obstacles to you being salt and light during your weekdays?
 - (3) How would praying, fasting, and giving help you play offense against the powerful influences of the world like busyness, distraction, and worry?
 - (4) Matthew 6:9-15 is a famous prayer. It is very brief as far as prayers go. Make a list of weekly life topics addressed in this succinct prayer to see all that is covered in your weekday life.
 - (5) Matthew 6:33-34 is a powerful confession of how God holds our future. What is a more powerful undercurrent in your life: the concerns of the day or the worries of the future?
 - (6) How many times is the Kingdom of God referred to in Matthew 5-6. What do you think about this repetition of theme?
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#4 From Weekend To Weekday Church

Acts 2, 4



Jesus never went to church. Does that surprise you? He never went because it did not exist until after his resurrection and ascension. Just because Jesus never went to church doesn't mean we should never go to church. However, church isn't somewhere we go, it is who we are as believers. By default, our faith connects us to God, each other, and his Kingdom activity in the world.

Early glimpses of the first church and how it expressed itself on the weekdays is extremely inspiring to me. Take a look at this familiar passage with fresh eyes.

*'They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and signs were being performed through the apostles. Now all the believers were together and held all things in common. They sold their possessions and property and distributed the proceeds to all, as any had need. **Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple, and broke bread from house to house.** They ate their food with joyful and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. Every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.'* -Acts 2:42-47 (CSB)

Evidently, Weekday Church has been a thing for a long time. What I love most about this passage is the author is describing the very first moment the church was birthed and what it did naturally. To be honest, I am not sure if Jesus previously conducted a twelve week training class with the disciples or not. Maybe he did, but maybe he didn't. It is just what people of faith do when they believe in the supernatural God with an extraordinary mission.

The first church had really important practices like prayer, learning spiritual truths, generosity, and shared meals. They saw the miraculous work of God. His favor was on them and the city noticed. This might very well be an example of what God had in mind way back in Deuteronomy 28 where we previously explored the topic "**Living Our Week Well.**"

I know the Day of Pentecost described in Acts 2 should be considered a once in a lifetime experience and certainly some of it was because it marks the day of the unique arrival of the Holy Spirit. However, let's jump a couple chapters forward to see what the early church people are doing in Acts 4.

*"When they had **prayed**, the place where they were assembled was **shaken**, and they were all **filled** with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God boldly.*

*Now the entire group of those who believed were of **one heart and mind**, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but instead they held everything in common. With **great power** the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the*

*Lord Jesus, and **great grace** was on all of them. For there was **not a needy person among them** because all those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the proceeds of what was sold, and laid them at the apostles' feet. This was then distributed to each person as any had need. Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus by birth, the one the apostles called Barnabas (which is translated Son of Encouragement), sold a field he owned, brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.' -Acts 4:31-37 (CSB)*

Many of the same experiences continued like praying, giving, teaching, and God's great power. I especially love the phrase "there was not a needy person among them." I like to think that together they were solving lots of problems, both spiritual and physical. They did more than go to church, they became the church all on their own and so should we.

Here are some Conversation Starters around these ideas:

- (1) What are your first memories of church?
 - (2) How have you seen the church change over your lifetime?
 - (3) Is there a season in your life when church became more or less important than it is today? Describe this season.
 - (4) What motivates you to go to church? What demotivates you?
 - (5) How well are you doing at living church on your weekdays?
 - (6) Given both weekend church attendance and weekday church living are important, which of the two might need more of your attention this week. Why?
 - (7) Make a list of ideas to help you bridge weekend church participation with weekday church living.
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