

Engaging in Spiritual Conversations

Colossians 4:5, "Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity."

Different Styles of Evangelism

1. Peter's Direct Approach - Ready, Fire, Aim
2. Paul's Intellectual Approach - Logical & Reasoned Presentation
3. The Blind Man's Testimonial Approach - Personal Experience
4. Matthew's Interpersonal Approach - The relationships he built
5. Samaritan Woman's Invitational Approach - Strategic Invitation
6. Tabitha's Service Approach - Doing good & helping the poor.

Different Methods of Engagement

1. Direct Method - Don't wait for opportunities, create them
2. Indirect Method - Take a discussion topic & turn it to God
3. Invitational Method - invite to seeker-oriented church event

Overarching Principles

1. Pray Hard - Ask for Wisdom with your words
2. Talk to People individually - so they are not embarrassed
3. Pique Curiosity - Drop hints & create curiosity
4. Rely on Reciprocal Reflexes - Talk on your interest, then theirs
5. Seize Split Second Opportunities-Go on a limb, say unexpected
6. Don't underestimate their degree of interest

Different Places of Engagement

- Business
- Relocations
- Hobbies and spare time
- Shared struggles
- Nature
- Spiritual themes in music, movies, book, etc.
- Invitations
 - * Can even turn a "no" into a conversation

Authenticity in Communication - aka - Being real

- Sharing pain and brokenness
- Sharing uncertainties
- Sharing joys

Great Questions to Ask to Spark Meaningful Interactions

- What are some joys you're experiencing in this season of life?
- What challenges and struggles are you facing?
- What is your personal history when it comes to faith and God?
- What do you believe about God?
- What is your perception of Christians?
 - * Or of Christianity? Or the Christian Church?

More great questions

- How are you? How is it really going?
- I'm curious, do you ever think about spiritual matters?
- Where are you headed on your spiritual journey?
- Who, in your opinion, was Jesus Christ?
- What do you think a real Christian is?
- Do you ever wonder what happens to us when we die?

If you'd ever like to know the difference between religion and Christianity, let me know. I'd be happy to talk to you about it.

Truck-sized openings

- When someone asks you, "What did you do this weekend?"
- When sharing a struggle or hurt in your life
- When you are experiencing a time of blessing / joy / celebration
- When you are viewing the power and beauty of creation.

Holidays

- So what about the baby in the manger? Do you buy into the idea that He was God's Son?
- It's pretty clear Jesus was no ordinary baby. Why do you think God would go to all the effort of sending His Son to earth?
- Do you think the Easter celebration is based on fact or fiction?
- So what do you think happened to Jesus' body? It clearly wasn't in the tomb on Sunday morning.
- Do you think there really is anything good about Good Friday?
- What are you thankful for this Thanksgiving?
- Which kinds of freedom mean the most to you?

*Ask about any memories that the holiday evokes
Ask about holiday traditions they keep & what they mean to them.*