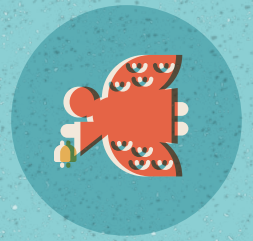


GOSPEL CONVERSATION TIPS

CHRISTMAS EDITION



A GOSPEL CONVERSATION IS SHARING THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS WITH THE LOST AND SEARCHING—TRUSTING THE HOLY SPIRIT WITH THE RESULTS.

FAMILY

MEALTIME

Introduce a small part of the Christmas story each night during dinner. After the story, ask family members what they liked/disliked/found confusing. Ask them what part of the story teaches them about God or Jesus. For example, you can talk about the angel's announcement to Mary and Joseph or how they arrived in Bethlehem to find no room in the Inn. At the end of the week, see who can retell the entire story and find out their favorite parts of the story.

SERVE TOGETHER

Select a Christmas project to do together, such as shopping for and assembling a care package for an individual or a family in need. As you shop for and pack the items, discuss ways that you might pray for the family who will receive these items. Discuss ways you can show them the love of Jesus through tangible services this season. Acknowledge that we can work to be like Jesus when we serve together.

TEENAGERS!

Engage teens in “side-by-side” conversation while participating in activities together (i.e. road trip, cooking, or outdoor activities). Ask them about their friends and how you can pray together for their friends who may be struggling this Christmas season. Invite their friends over for a meal/game night and engage them in conversation. Show interest in the life stage they are currently in. Get in their world! You can connect with teens on many levels over a meal or snacks.

EXTENDED FAMILY...

At family gatherings, dedicate time to discuss the challenges of the previous year. Ask extended family members to share any blessings they identified amongst the chaos and confusion of 2020. Ask them how God revealed Himself during this season. Pray together for the coming year.

FRIENDS

REACH OUT

The holidays are tough for so many people. Your friends might mask their hurt or stress in an effort to just go along with the “spirit” of the season. Reach out to them and ask good questions, following up that conversation with the hope that only Jesus can bring.



FRIENDS CONTINUED

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Send a holiday card in the mail to your friends. Not only could the card be beautifully decorated but make it clear why the Christmas season is so important to you. Share with them the hope that the birth of Jesus Christ brings to a broken and hurting world.

LET'S EAT!

Invite a friend to make food with you (in person or virtually). It's incredible to see how people open up over food. While you are together, listen to their story. Affirm where you see positive traits and tell them that they were made for something higher than anything this world has to offer.

OUTSIDE YOUR CIRCLE

INITIATE CONVERSATION

Look for a conversation opener. This can happen in person or online. You can begin by asking a simple question, such as "How are you doing today?" You can also compliment them and ask more questions about their thoughts or feelings on a particular topic. Any conversation can lead to a gospel conversation, you just have to be willing to take the opportunity to have it.

REMEMBER YOUR NEIGHBORS

The pandemic has given us a great opportunity to see our neighbors more often and carry on conversations with them more frequently. Remember, the Holy Spirit will lead the conversation if you let Him use you to begin the conversation. Use kindness, faith, and goodness to begin the conversation and as an opportunity to invite them into your life, and maybe, to attend the Christmas celebrations at one of our campuses.

GET CONNECTED

Partner with local ministries, such as Project Connect, The Branch of Nashville, or the International Leadership Coalition. They will provide you and your family an opportunity to practice generosity and help the most vulnerable families in Middle Tennessee with food distribution or other projects. These are great gospel conversation starters and direct ways to engage the whole person with the whole gospel of Jesus Christ—anywhere, anytime, with anybody.

CONTRIBUTORS:

Casie Dietrich, Hunter Melton, and Fady Al-Hagal

