

## Conversational Evangelism

### Introduction:

There are many ways that God gets His message out into the world. But the *most* primary way, is through His people *telling* other people who do not yet know about it. As Jesus' disciples, we are called to (1) be ready when opportunities for talking about Jesus' message drop in our lap, and (2) to go out and proactively *make* opportunities to get the message out. And the cool thing is, in the process of telling other people about Jesus (or sharing your faith, or doing evangelism, or whatever you want to call it) not only does the message spread, but those spreading it mature in *their own* understanding and relationship with Jesus!

As a way of getting His message out *and* maturing His disciples in their faith, Jesus had them do what we call "Conversational Evangelism". And because He is our model for how to make disciples, it's crucial to do that with our Core members (disciples) as well.

As with anything we learn in life, this will take more than one try at it. So feel free to use this 1:1 Help as a spring board for multiple 1:1s with someone. The discussion questions might take more time than you have in a single 1:1 – that's okay. And it's always helpful to do something more than once if we're going to get good at it. It's a good idea to stay on this topic for as long as you think it takes your Core member to get a good grip on how to share their faith with someone else.

### Scripture(s):

John 4:1-42, Luke 10:1-3, Mark 1:38-39, Mark 6:7-13, Mt 10:7 (for an example of Jesus sending His disciples out to do conversational evangelism)

1 Peter 3:15 and Col. 4:5-6 (Peter and Paul's encouragement to be ready as messengers of Jesus' good news).

### Discussion ?'s

- (1) What do you think evangelism is?
- (2) What are some different methods of evangelism?
- (3) What did evangelism look like in Jesus' life? *The verses from the gospels emphasize Jesus' proactiveness with the good news – going TO people and sharing – creating the space Himself, to share the good news. The Samaritan woman story is included because it demonstrates Jesus being ready to start conversations when there's already a context for it – "we're both at the well, so let's talk".*
- (4) Why do you think Jesus tells His disciples to go out and do the same things He's doing?
- (5) What are some ways we can become evangelists/messengers – people who do evangelism/spread the message (which, Jesus shows, is essential in discipleship)?
- (6) If someone asked you the Discipleship Class question, "What's a Christian, and how do you become one?" what would you say?
- (7) Read/discuss 1 Peter 3:15 and Col. 4:5-6. What are some ways you can think of to get good at what Peter and Paul tell us to be good at?

**Life application (thought out before hand):**

- (1) As we see in Mk 6:7-13 and Lk 10:1-3, one way Jesus “got the word out” AND helped His disciples grow as evangelists/messengers, was to send them out to practice. So that’s what we’re gonna do!
- (2) How do you feel about that?

**Resources:**

One To One by Michael Green

The Master Plan of Evangelism, by Robert Coleman

Living Proof, by Petersen

Tell It Often, Tell It Well, by McClowsky

**Activity to do together/challenge for the week:**

- (1) Take your Core members out and do some Conversational Evangelism with them.
  - a. The first time, you do most of the talking. Show them how it’s done, share your own fears, demonstrate God’s way of helping you through them, etc. Make sure you pray before you go, and pray for each person you chat with after you finish (whether it’s with them there, or after they’ve left). Afterwards, debrief: *What did you think? How did that go? What went well? What was difficult? What did you sense God doing in you? What would you have done differently? How do you think we did at leaving the door open for the next Jesus-person to come into their lives and share?* Those kinds of questions.
  - b. The second time, divide the talking halfway. Tell them you expect them to take over whenever they see in an opportunity or have an insight into the conversation. Make sure to talk to at least two people this time – that way, if they’re still shy/intimidated after the first one, you can talk about it, and they can give it another go. Debrief the same afterwards, and pray.
  - c. On the third time, they talk the whole time. Debrief and pray again afterwards.
  - d. After that, maybe they can start doing Conversational Evangelism with other people in your Core!