



Baptist Churches  
of NSW & ACT

# Courageous Conversations

Breaking fear, building faith

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# COURAGE

## Who gives us courage?

We can get courage from three sources:

- Without – from our friends, Jesus asks us to go ‘two by two’
- Above – God gives it, especially when we step out in faith
- Within – we have our own because it’s our gift area, or by training

## What is your gift area?

Let’s see which gift that you identify the most with, and which one is the least for you.

“So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”

**Ephesians 4:11-13**

- Apostle
- Prophet
- Pastor
- Teacher
- Evangelist

Jesus was all these, but we will only have a 2-3 of these gifts. But together, with unity, we will represent all five. As it says, when two or three are gathered, God will be with us.



## SPOTTING THE EVANGELISTIC HEART

When you are onto a 'good thing' do you tell others about it? It may be a sale, or an amazing product;

- Do you have a "People need to know about this" attitude?
- Are you struggling to limit your invites to a party or event because you don't want to exclude anyone?
- Are you concerned for those that are sitting by themselves?
- Do you go to functions and events and enjoy meeting new people?
- Are you curious about their story? Do you ask questions and want to know about them?
- Do you wonder whether they are Christian?
- Do you try and meet people where they're at?



## JESUS THE EQUALISER

God sent Jesus into the world and Jesus sends his disciples likewise. Jesus came down to our level, he wants us to do likewise. Jesus wants us to play on a level playing field. So then those that are poor in spirit, grieving, humble, merciful, pure, oppressed –he wants for us to lift them up.

For others who are self-sufficient even proud, when we assume the same attitude, we are actually bringing them down, and they will probably get offended. Jesus didn't say that he would bring peaceful relationships with everyone.



## OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

There's a story about Johnny Lingo who bought his very plain wife for 6 cows. An exorbitant price when men paid a 2-3 cows dowry for a beautiful woman. Everybody laughed at him and thought he got ripped off - until they met his wife. She had a sparkle in her eyes and assurance in her heart that made her beautiful from the inside out. People asked, "Why did you pay 6 cows for her?" He told them, "I loved her, and I wanted her to know how valuable she was to me."

Jesus paid a high price for us. Jesus died on the cross for those who you are ministering to – it's with this same attitude that we love others.



## WHAT'S YOUR MOTIVATION?

In groups of 2-3 discuss why you do what you do. Read the below passage for inspiration.

And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.

**Matthew 9:35-38**



## SETTING THE SCENE BEFORE WE MISSION!

In Matthew 10:5-42 Jesus is giving a 'half time' speech to his disciples, they are going out on mission and He equips them with some great wisdom. Actually this is more like a command than advice.

What are the principles from this passage (Matthew 10:5-42) that we can use today?

1. List the **DO's** Jesus asks of his disciples.
2. List the **DON'TS** that Jesus asks of his disciples.
3. List what Jesus says to **EXPECT** from mission.



## STARTING A SPIRITUAL CONVERSATION

### **A.S.K.**

Ask questions! A.S.K. stands for Actually Seek to Know.

Asking questions is actually taking the lead in the conversation.

### **Three types of Questions:**

S.O.S –Normally Save Our Souls, but today it's

**S.** Situational Questions - the small talk

**O.** Open Up questions - questions that uncover, or reveal, a need

**S.** Spiritual Questions – an invitation to go deeper

### **There's a QUEST in the Questions.**

**Q.** Quickly

**U.** Understand

**E.** Everyone's

**S.** Spiritual

**T.** Temperature

It's not our job to convert people, that's God's. Our responsibility is to sow a seed that God can grow.



## WHAT IS A SEED?

The seed is speaking about Jesus. This can be scripture, or it may even be a challenge to them to 'taste and see that the Lord is good'.

"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor."

**1 Corinthians 3: 6-8**



# THREE LEVELS OF CONVERSATION

## 1. Superficial Level

CHRISTIAN How have you been?

PLAYTIME PARENT I'm going okay, not too bad.

CHRISTIAN Yeah I've had a great week, my kid won the athletics championship at school.

PLAYTIME PARENT Oh wow, that's great, you must be proud.

CHRISTIAN Yeah, all that hard work has paid off. What about you, have your kids been on detention again this week? Oh you should come to church-we can help with kids like yours.

## 2. Heart Level

CHRISTIAN How have you been?

PLAYTIME PARENT I'm going okay, not too bad.

CHRISTIAN That doesn't sound like you. Are you okay?

PLAYTIME PARENT Well actually I'm pretty swamped, the kids are playing up, hubby is under pressure at work and my mum-in-law says I should do better.

CHRISTIAN Oh, that's terrible, can I help you in anyway? You know I'm here for you.

PLAYTIME PARENT Oh thanks so much.

CHRISTIAN Yeah, I know it can be tough with everything. I just had a fight with hubby this week over something as little as the dishes, and I've got to talk to the teacher this week about our girl fighting in the playground.

PLAYTIME PARENT Oh, I thought it was just me who had these problems.

CHRISTIAN No, if you ever wanna chat further, I'm happy to catch up for coffee.

PLAYTIME PARENT Oh thanks, just to know a friendly ear is there helps. A lot.





## THREE LEVELS OF CONVERSATION

### 3. Spiritual Level

CHRISTIAN How have you been?

PLAYTIME PARENT I'm going okay, not too bad.

CHRISTIAN That doesn't sound like you, are you okay?

PLAYTIME PARENT Well actually I'm pretty swamped, the kids are playing up, hubby is under pressure at work and my mum-in-law says I should do better.

CHRISTIAN Oh, that's terrible, can I help you in anyway? You know I'm here for you.

PLAYTIME PARENT Oh thanks so much.

CHRISTIAN Yeah, I know it can be tough with everything. I just a fight with hubby this week over something as little as the dishes, and I've got to talk to the teacher this week about our girl fighting in the playground.

PLAYTIME PARENT Oh, I thought it was just me who had these problems.

CHRISTIAN Oh no, not at all. Actually the fight we had was really heated. I ended up storming out in the middle of the night in my slippers. I didn't know what else to do, so I prayed to God. Have you ever thought about praying in times like this"?

#### **Other open-ended questions could be:**

- I have a faith, do you have a faith?
- In times when my back is against the wall, I look up. Do you ever wonder about God?
- Do you believe in another life after this one?
- What happens if the thing that you are passionate about ceases to exist?
- Do you believe in heaven?



## THREE LEVELS OF CONVERSATION

### NOW IT'S YOUR TURN:

In pairs, go through the Level 3 Spiritual Conversation together. Then pretend that you've had a few spiritual conversations over the course of time and your friend wants to start her journey with God.

**PLAYTIME PARENT** Oh, I've tried praying but I'm not religious.

**CHRISTIAN** Yeah, I'm not religious either, but I know God. Do you want to meet him?

**PLAYTIME PARENT** You can do that?

**CHRISTIAN** Sure, let me introduce you. I'll pray out loud, then you can just pray whatever is on your heart.

**PLAYTIME PARENT** Okay.

**CHRISTIAN** God thank you that you died for me. I'm so sorry that I have stuffed up against you. Please come and help me do right.

**PLAYTIME PARENT** Hi God, are you there? Do you care about me?



## THE STRATEGY

We are in a spiritual war:

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

**Ephesians 6**

and again...

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

**1 Peter 5:8**

Just like a real war needs a strategy to defeat the enemy, so do we.

Negative confession is good! I wouldn't shut down their thoughts by negating them. In fact I think it's healthy for them to express their thoughts about the spiritual world. Because in the light God has a chance to convict, in the dark is the devils playground.



## THE STRATEGY

**ASK** In relational settings, it's imperative to ask questions of the other person, selflessly and genuinely caring for them. It's just plain good manners anyway. Asking questions helps us to understand what they think, determine where the enemy has planted lies, and expose those lies into the light.

**LISTEN** We have two ears. When we ask questions one ear should be listening to the person, the other ear to God; being constantly 'in tune' with God so that He can 'pop' a thought, question or statement into the Christian to deliver.

My aim is to be a conduit between a person and God until they start their communication with God themselves. We are somewhat like an introduction agency.

**CHALLENGE** Ultimately, I'd like to get to a point in the conversation that I challenge them to talk to God Himself, motivating them to ask God:

'Do you exist Lord?'

'Are you really there?'

'Do you care about me?'

**PRACTISE** You can practise asking people that you aren't intimidated by. For me, that's children, inebriated people, or even other Christians.



## THE STRATEGY

Sharing God is somewhat like riding a roller coaster. Your adrenalin is rushing; anticipation is high as you wait in the queue, fear and fun mixed together. It takes guts to get in that carriage, and you may need a friend or two to encourage you along the way. Then on the ride there are some twists and turns you weren't expecting, you got tossed and jostled. Verbal jousting in that courageous conversation kept you alert and alive. But when the ride had finished, and you survived, your friendship grew deeper. Your friend left one step closer to Jesus, your faith grew stronger and God was glorified. And if you listen carefully you can hear Him saying, Well done good and faithful servant.

What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!

**Luke 11:11-13**

For any further questions please contact Yvette Wynne.

And if you enjoyed this session, then please recommend this course to others.



## NOTES

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