



30 MINUTE DISCUSSION GUIDES

Purpose

These videos and discussion guides exist to help youth leaders equip their youth to share their faith in today's world

- ☐ The discussion-guides, like the videos, are deliberately short - and highly practical.
- ☐ **We hope they help!**

God-talk - Series I

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|----|-----------------------------|----------|
| 1. | If we don't, who will? | 5mins |
| 2. | This is the gospel | 5mins |
| 3. | How to start a conversation | 4.30mins |
| 4. | How to share the gospel | 4.30mins |
| 5. | The power of prayer | 5mins |



Prior to discussion

We trust that you will break the ice, maybe play a game or two, ask people how they are going, and generally get the conversation going.

If useful, the below 'conversation game' could help. The skills involved in this game are similar to those needed when engaging spiritual conversations with people who don't yet share the same beliefs.

The conversation game

Here is a simple game-idea that can help you practice an important skill – while having fun!

To note it - without this skill, its possible we'll always struggle to have meaningful spiritual conversations with non-church people!

Instructions

- In pairs, two people have a conversation, but they can only use questions
- They 'lose' as soon as one of them makes a statement
 - ...or pauses for an unusually long period of time
 - ...or replies with a question that doesn't make any sense within the conversation.

For example

Would you like to start the question game?...

...Do you realise you've already started it?

But would you like to choose the topic for it?...

...Can't you see that you've already chosen the topic?

Well – how is your game going?...

...How do you think its going

So it's going well?...

...It's great to be doing this isn't it?

Did you enjoy this session?...

...Do you mean the one we just had about question asking?

What other session have we had?...

...Don't you remember last week?

Aren't we supposed to be revising this weeks session now?...

...Isn't that what we're already doing?

Oh – are we still playing that game?...

For example

Would you like a Coke?...

...Do you mean from Coca-cola?

What do you think I mean?...

...Aren't there other types of Coke?

Do you like a different drink?...

...Do you mean like Pepsi?

Pepsi is far too sweet, isn't it?...

...Don't you like it?

Wouldn't you prefer Fanta?...

...That's made by coca-cola too isn't it?

Do you have something against coca-cola?...

...Aren't you going to offer me the option of a water?

Oh - is that what you want?... Etc.



DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. If we don't, who will?

Thirty-minute discussion

HOOK:

- Have you ever been in an embarrassing situation where you mis-communicated because of a cultural difference?
- On your journey toward faith in Christ, how long did it take you to move from being disinterested in God, to having faith in him?

BOOK:

Matthew 28:19-20 – our mission

- Summarise in your own words the mission Jesus gave us, and who's mission it is.

2 Corinthians 4:4 – Spiritual blindness

- Who or what is the god of this age?
- What has been blinded?
- What have they been blinded to?

LOOK:

- What do you think it is in people's thinking that makes them 'blind', or disinterested in the Christian message?
- How much do you think the average non-church young person knows or thinks about God? Do they think about life – and it's purpose? (If not – what is depression about, and why do we have such high youth suicide rates?)
- What kind of approach and language and approach did Luke suggest we needed if we were to talk 'normally' with people about the Christian faith?
- Luke kinda said we don't need to be scared of disagreement. Why is this?
- What do you think it is about a child that enables them to ask 'innocent questions' about something that could be controversial – and to get away with it, while others might not?
 - o Did Jesus sometimes do the same?

TOOK:

- What can you take from today's video and discussion that you can apply in your conversations this week?
- Activity: List a couple of people you'd like to be a witness to, their interests (connection points) and any hindrances you see (prayer points)

Pray:

- Pray for God to stir His love in you for some people you could start encouraging toward faith.
- Pray that you will be helped through watching and discussing these videos
- Pray for boldness and wisdom to ask innocent some sincere and innocent questions this week.



2. This is the gospel

Thirty-minute discussion

HOOK

- Have you ever been given an important message to pass on, but then forgot what it was? Share with the group.
- Why is it important that we, as Christians, know the substance of the core message God has given us to pass on?

BOOK: Ephesians 5:15-17 - Make the most of every opportunity

- Do you think you are ready to make the most of every opportunity that presents itself to encourage faith in others? (To what extent are you ready?)
- If you are not ready, what various things might you need to learn/do to become ready?
- How important is it that we are ready, because God sometimes gives second opportunities, right? [See footnote]

LOOK

- Revise the four points given in the video that summarise the whole gospel message.
 - o In your own words, what would you say is the core message of the gospel?
 - o Why are all four points important?
- Practice: Break into pairs and each communicate the core 'content' of gospel with the other *in less than one minute*. (This is a great skill to have, Note – avoid over-complicate this message)
- Do you think that, when Christians fail to share their faith with others when opportunity arises, that this is more a heart issue – or that they just don't know how to communicate it? Why?

TOOK:

- Planning: Where and when will you revise these 4 points – so they can stay in your long-term memory?

Pray

- Pray for those you have listed as people you'd like to be a witness to.
- Pray for eyes to see conversational opportunities that come up.
- Pray for a deep love for others that will motivate you to take an interest in their spiritual views, and communicate your own beliefs also.

Footnote: For reflection, while we might sometimes get a second chance to share with someone if we failed to utilise a previous opportunity, it remains that most people need to take a number of steps toward faith before they are ready to embrace faith in Christ. So – when an opportunity is missed, it can leave a person a step 'further back' than they might have been otherwise. Every opportunity actually only comes once – which is why we are exhorted in Ephesians to make the most of every opportunity. It is important for others that we really do try in this area!



3. How to start a conversation

Thirty-minute discussion

HOOK:

- Has anyone been in a situation where someone has said something, and it created a really awkward situation? What happened? How do you think the tension could have been broken?

BOOK:

Luke 20:1-8 – Jesus asked a difficult question

- In a tense situation, instead of answering a question what did Jesus do?
 - o Why might he have done this? (Why not answer the question?)
 - o What did this achieve?
- Quick look: What did Jesus' question achieve in Luke 20:20-26?
- Quick look: What did Jesus' questions achieve in Matthew 22:15-22?

LOOK:

- Revise the three questions given in the video.
- What is the point/purpose of each question?
- What are some of the benefits of asking these questions?
- **Activity:** Play the question game (Have conversations in pairs where you are only allowed to ask questions – and not allowed to make any statements. However, every question must also somehow be a sensible reply to the previous one. See an example in the footnote*).
- **Role-play:** Break into pairs, with one being a Christian believer, and the other not. Bring up a topic on which views will differ – and then practice using these questions to discuss that topic a little. The goal is to see if you could open up the conversation *in a non-threatening way*.

TOOK:

- Each try to use these three questions in any conversation this week (whether on a spiritual topic or not).
 - o (Who do you know you might meet this week who could try these on?)

Pray:

- Pray for a deep love for others that will motivate you to take an interest in their spiritual views, and communicate your own beliefs also.
- Pray for God to lead you to people who are ready to have these conversations.

Footnote: Would you like to start the question game? Do you realise you've already started it? But would you like to choose the topic for it? Can't you see that you've already chosen the topic? Well – how are you? How do you think I am? So, you are well? It's great to be here isn't it? Did you enjoy this session? Do you mean the one we just had about question asking? What other session have we had? Don't you remember last week? Aren't we supposed to be revising this week's session now? Isn't that what we're already doing? Oh – are we still playing that game?...



4. How to share the gospel

Thirty-minute discussion

HOOK:

- Have you ever had to speak in front of a group of people, and for some reason became totally nervous? What happened?
- What do you think is the key to being relaxed when you're communicating something?
- Tell us about one of your best or worst experiences in sharing the gospel?

BOOK: 1 Peter 3.15 – Always be prepared... ..with gentleness and respect.

- If someone asked you to share what you believe – prior to watching this, could you have done it clearly and concisely?
- If someone asked you to share why you believe this message to be true, what sort of things would you say?
- What manner does this Bible verse encourage us to communicate our faith with, and why is this important?

LOOK:

- On a whiteboard or paper, go through the presentation you just saw as a group including (1) the drawing, (2) the 3 questions and (3) the 'abc' summary/prayer.
- Then practice sharing this message in pairs (including the questions, and summary prayer) *with 3 minutes as your maximum length for the drawing part.*
 - o (Note: If someone is already able to share the gospel using a different method - freely use that other method *so long the message is clear, and it's also short*).

TOOK:

- When during this week could you revise this drawing, to help it get into your long-term memory?
- When will you revise this drawing as a group later this year, to help it get into long-term memory?
- Is there anyone you'd like to show this to this week?
(Note: Remember to share concisely, in under 3 minutes like in the video, and then ask *them* some questions to understand where they are at, so they talk too).

Pray:

- Pray for opportunities to share this with friends
- Pray for wisdom to know how to help yourself remember this *forever*, so you'll soon be ready to share it at any literally any time when in the coming 60 or more years!



5. The power of prayer

Thirty-minute discussion

HOOK:

- If you had a magic wand, what one thing would you change on this planet?
- If you could pray just one thing for a person – and it would definitely be answered, what one thing would you pray, and why?

BOOK:

"No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day." John 6:44

- Have you ever tried to convince a person of the Christian faith, but could not? Tell us about your experience.
- What does the above scripture say about our hearts, and how they respond to God's messages?

"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:13

- What does this verse suggest about the attitude that is often needed before we will be able to find God?

LOOK:

- Tell us about some prayers you have prayed that God has answered?
- Can you think of some prayers you have prayed as a group – which God answered?
- Regarding outreach, have you prayed for opportunities to tell someone about God – and then an opportunity came?
- Have you ever had a situation where you felt like God gave you the words to say when you were trying to talk about God with someone?
- Have you ever had an opportunity to talk about God that opened up all by itself, without you even trying? Did you feel that God was behind this?

TOOK:

- What is it that you will take away from this discussion to apply?

Prayer

- Pray for those you have listed, for opportunities to discuss things with them, for wisdom to invite them to things, and that by whatever means that they will come to faith in Jesus.
- Pray for the strengthening of your personal devotional lives, so you will grow to hear and discern God's heart and leading more and more.
- Pray for eyes to see where God is already working in people's lives, so you can take the opportunities.