



## 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.



## 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!