

See notes on “Leave Behind Card” on last page

**Questions to Help You Jump-Start Conversations About Jesus[[1]](#footnote-1)**

**Important:** Depending on timing and context, some questions will be more helpful than others. Listen carefully to their responses. In some cases, the person may want to move from general questions to specific questions very quickly so follow their lead. Remember, the Holy Spirit is working in their life, too.

Critical questions are highlighted in yellow.

**Introduction**

## Start with prayer: Ask for God to prepare your heart and sent you divine opportunities. Pray that each conversation will be God-inspired and God-centered.

## Remember, success doesn’t depend on you. That’s the job of the Holy Spirt. Your job is to be step up in response to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

## Consider timing. Is this one long conversation or a series of short conversations over time? You can’t rush this. People need time to process. The Holy Spirit needs time to work. You need time to pray.

## Don’t launch into “the talk” if you only have a limited about of time. Dumping everything on someone in a short period of time will be seen like an ambush.

1. Don’t overpower or press. This is not a time for you to defend your faith or correct their theology. Rather, it is a time to help the Holy Spirit open up their hearts of others for a faith conversation.

## Don’t push the discussion if they seem resistant. This discussion always works better when they are receptive. If need be, step back and ask the Holy Spirit to warm their heart.

## Listen to what is said, and not said. Is their body language open and accepting or wary and defensive?

1. Remember, your goal isn’t to rush through the questions. Your goal is to use these questions to help establish authentic relationship.
2. End the conversation well. If appropriate, ask if you can offer a quick prayer. Arrange for a time to meet again.
3. Finally, be confident. A mighty God and a thoroughly equipped Holy Spirit are involved. Rely on them.

**Warm-up questions**

1. **What do you really love doing in your spare time?**
2. **What’s important to you? What excites you? What are you passionate about? What gets you up each day?**
3. What are some joys you are experiencing in this season of your life?
4. What are you truly thankful for?
5. **Who (currently alive or from history) do you really admire? Why?**
6. What life lessons do you want to make sure to pass on to your kids?
7. What are three things you believe without any doubts?
8. What challenges and struggles are you facing? What keeps you up at night? Ah, co’mon. How’s it really going?
9. Do you ever wonder why the world is so messed up?
10. What gives you peace?

**Beginning the faith conversation[[2]](#footnote-2)**

1. **Did you grow up in the church? How was that experience?[[3]](#footnote-3)**
2. What’s your spiritual background? Were you taught a particular religious perspective as you grew up?
3. Which teachings of your church (still) resonate the most with you?
4. Do you ever think about spiritual matters?
5. Do you find that faith and spiritual values play a role in your (work) (day) (marriage) (perspective on life)?
6. What do you think about the Bible? True? Still relevant? How did you decide?
7. What do you believe/think about God? What has been your experience with him?
8. What do you have the most trouble believing about Jesus?
9. How do you think God views you?
10. Is there something about God you don’t understand?
11. How do you think is God working in your life right now?
12. Have you ever done something for which you feel God could not forgive you?
    1. If yes, how does that make you feel?
13. If you could be sure there is a God, would you want to know him?
14. Who in your opinion was Jesus Christ?
15. What do you admire about him? Or find confusing? Or fear?
16. Do you believe that Jesus loves you?
17. Do you ever think about Heaven?
    1. Do you ever wonder what kind of people go there?
18. Do you believe there is a hell?
    1. Do you wonder what kind of people go there?
19. What are you doing to keep yourself out of hell?

**Closing in**

1. Why do you think Jesus died on the cross?
2. Do you ever wonder what happens when you die?
3. Five seconds after we die we are going to find out if what we believed is true. How confident are you in the decisions you have made?
   1. There’s a day coming when one of us is going to find out they were right. How confident are you in your belief system?
4. For people in an old folks home: Let’s talk about your final home
5. Would you be interested in knowing how you can have a personal relationship with Jesus?
6. Can I tell you what Jesus means to me?
7. Roman Road[[4]](#footnote-4)

**Sources**

1. <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/15fb32d5e9737c17>
2. <https://www.evangelismcoach.org/5-great-spiritual-conversation-questions/>
3. <http://www.alwaysbeready.com/44-root/112-starting-up-a-conversation-with-unbelievers>
4. <https://www.cru.org/train-and-grow/share-the-gospel/evangelism-principles/faith-steps-8-tips-talking-about-jesus.html>
5. <https://home.snu.edu/~hculbert/assess.htm>
6. <https://bible.org/node/14833>
7. <https://www.jesusfilm.org/blog-and-stories/conversation-about-gospel.html?relatedposts_start=2>
8. <http://www.christianitytoday.com/biblestudies/articles/evangelism/051012.html>
9. <https://www.evangelismcoach.org/44-conversation-questions/>
10. <http://www.bridgesinternational.com/how-you-can-introduce-others-to-christ/>
11. <https://www.evangelismcoach.org/the-power-of-questions-in-conversational-evangelism/>

**Leave Behind Card**

Sometimes the best way to show you care is to simply say, “Can I pray for you?”

* Are you looking for unquestioning love?
* Do you need a place of refuge?
* Are you lost?
* Is the Holy Spirit talking to you about Jesus

**I need to incorporate these**

1. Why do you think there are so many religions in the world?
2. Do you think it’s possible for anyone to really know if there is a God?
3. Do you think there’s really such a thing as “unconditional love?”
4. How has your belief or disbelief in God affected your life?
5. Do you believe God is actively involved in our world?
6. What do you hope is true about God?
7. What challenges and struggles are you facing?
8. What is your personal history when it comes to faith and God?
9. Why do you think there are so many religions in the world?
10. What do you think are the most common misperceptions about God?
    1. Sample questions to note-yet Christians to see how they feel:
       1. What would you like to say to Christians if you knew they would listen?
       2. Have you ever had a Christian attempt to convert you? If so, how did that make you feel?
       3. Have you ever met anyone or experienced anything that made God seem real to you?
       4. What kinds of experiences did you have with organized religion growing up?
       5. What would motivate to give up your Sunday mornings to attend church?
       6. What do you understand the more message of Christianity to be?
       7. What part of Christianity do you find most difficult to understand/believe
       8. Why do you think God seems to real to some people and unreal to others?
       9. If someone wanted to talk to you about God, how would you like them, to approach you?
       10. What phrase sums up your attitude toward life before you came to know God?
       11. How do you attempt to meet the needs of your life apart from God?
       12. What things motivated you most before you became a Christian?
       13. Where did you find your source of identity before you encountered Jesus?
       14. Who or what did God use to awaken you to your need for him?
       15. What struggles, doubts, or fears did you have about making a commitment to Jesus?
       16. How did you know that a spiritual rebirth had taken place in your life?
       17. What changes did God bring about in your attitudes, actions, and appetites?

1. Not all questions are used with every person. I wanted to offer some options. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Remember, you goal is not to challenge their beliefs. This will just close them down. Rather, your goal is to get them to consider new faith ideas. Sometimes your best response is just, “Hmmmm” and let them talk. At all times we want to avoid getting entangled in issues that might rob us of the opportunity to get to the heart of the matter, their standing with God, and the messages of Jesus. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. People are often pretty open to discussing religion and it can be a great lead in to “the talk.” But it’s not for the faint of heart. Asking someone to talk about their history with church can lead to venting and very frank discussions. If you are prone to defensiveness you might want to avoid these questions. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. The Roman Road is a series verses in Paul’s Epistle to the Romans that offers a clear and structured path to Jesus Christ. **Romans 3:23** - *For all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God.* Romans **6:23** - *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.* **Romans 10:13** - *“For whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”*  [↑](#footnote-ref-4)