

Fundamental to spiritual conversation is knowing and being faithful to your God-given mission.

How would you describe the calling God has on your life?

What would Jesus want you to hear about the calling he has on your life?

Consider how those in your spheres of relationship might respond if you were to open up a spiritual conversation and invitation to the Kingdom of God in this way...

"If Christianity was only about finding a group of people to live life with, who shared openly their search for God and allowed anyone, regardless of behaviour, to see too, and who collectively lived by faith to make the world a little more like Heaven, would you be interested?"

Recommended Reading:

- Reaching Out - Henri Nouwen
- Community and Growth - Jean Vanier
- Life Together - Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- Six Radical Decisions – Matt Garvin

LEARNING THE TRADE

Spiritual Conversations & Gospel Outposts

Pastor Matt Garvin & Pastor Jeremy Peters

"In our world full of strangers, estranged from their own past, culture, and country, from their neighbours, friends and family, from their deepest self and their God, we witness a painful search for a hospitable space where life can be lived without fear and where community can be found. Although many, we might say most, strangers in this world become easily the victim of a fearful hostility, it is possible for men and women, and obligatory for Christians, to offer an open and hospitable space where strangers can cast off their strangeness and become our fellow human beings."

Henri Nouwen ~ Reaching Out

THE FOUR TRUTHS OF A SPIRITUAL CONVERSATION

John 8:31-32 NIV

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

I. It is true _____

When we want to be really hospitable, we not only have to receive strangers but also confront them by an unambiguous presence, not hiding ourselves behind neutrality but showing our ideas, opinions and lifestyle clearly and distinctly. No real dialogue is possible between somebody and a nobody. We can enter into communication with the other only when our own life, choices, attitudes and viewpoints offer the boundaries that challenge strangers to become aware of their own position and to explore it critically.

Henri Nouwen ~ Reaching Out

II. It is true _____ you are speaking to

- Three kinds of listening:
 - Listening to the person
 - Listening to the process
 - Listening to God

Those who cannot listen long and patiently will always be talking past others, and finally no longer will even notice it. Those who think their time is too precious to spend listening will never really have time for God and others, but only for themselves and their own words and plans.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer ~ Life Together

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III. It is true _____

*There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens: Ecclesiastes 3:1 NIV*

IV. It is true _____ that God has you on

*For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which
God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10 NIV*

*If I had spoken out like that, I would have betrayed your children. When I
tried to understand all this, it troubled me deeply till I entered the sanctuary
of God; then I understood their final destiny. Psalm 73:15-17 NIV*

HOW IT WORKED FOR JESUS:

*When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you
give me a drink?" (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) The
Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman.
How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with
Samaritans.) John 4:7-9 NIV*

*The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and
have to keep coming here to draw water." He told her, "Go, call your husband
and come back." "I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are
right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five
husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have
just said is quite true." John 4:15-18 NIV*

*The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he
comes, he will explain everything to us." Then Jesus declared, "I, the one
speaking to you—I am he." John 4:25-26 NIV*

THE OUTCOME OF A SPIRITUAL CONVERSATION

*Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the
woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did." So when the
Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two
days. And because of his words many more became believers. They said to the
woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have
heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the
world." John 4:39-42 NIV*

How would you rate yourself in being true to who you are?

(give a score out of 10, 1 being low, 10 being high)

- At school or work? _____
- With your family? _____
- With your Discover Partners or Small Group members? _____

How would Jesus encourage you to be more true to who you are?

How would you rate yourself at listening?

(give a score out of 10, 1 being low, 10 being high)

- To your spouse or close family? _____
- To your co-worker? _____
- To your Discover Partners or Small Group members? _____

How would Jesus encourage you to become a better listener?

Knowing the moment is fundamental to effective spiritual conversations.

All relationships are either moving closer together or further apart.

What might you do to help strengthen the following relationships?

- A member of your family (name them): _____
- A co-worker, fellow student or member of a group you are part of (name them): _____
- A member of this church (name them): _____
- A neighbour (name them): _____

How would Jesus encourage you to better read and respond to the moment?
