

LESSON 2: MOVING SMALL TALK TO SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS

INTRODUCTION

Last week we learned how to identify and pray for people we can impact. As we begin to invest in others who don't know Christ, it is important to be intentional about sharing the Gospel with them. This week we will be talking about the importance of demonstrating and sharing the Gospel. We will discuss how we can move friendly small talk to a spiritual conversation.

STUDY

Romans 10:13-15

1. Who must someone call on to be saved? (Verse 13)
2. What happens to people who are never told that they need to call on the name of the Lord? (Verse 14)
3. What does the word *preach* mean in verse 14?

Matthew 5:16

4. Is it enough to just do nice things for people?
5. Is it important to share why we are doing it so God can get the glory?
(Example: If I mow my neighbor's lawn and he asks why I did it, I should not just say, "I want to be a good neighbor." The focus would then turn to ME, the good neighbor. I could say, "I've been reading my Bible lately and it has challenged me to be a good neighbor." Saying that takes the focus off me, the nice neighbor, and points to the loving God who has called me to be a good neighbor.)

DISCUSS:

- What is the biggest thing that keeps you from bringing the Gospel into conversations you have with the three friends you started praying for last week?

- What are some practical ways you can start a spiritual conversation with those friends?

ACTION PLAN:

Use what you have learned this week to move at least one conversation from small talk to spiritual talk with one of the friends you are praying for.

RESOURCES:

Supporting passages for Romans 10: Romans 1-4, John 14:6

Example of Jesus talking to a religious person: John 3

Example of Jesus talking to a non-religious person: John 4

Popular answers for the first discussion question: Fear of rejection, don't know how, afraid they may ask you a question you don't know the answer to, sin in your life, or laziness.

Spiritual conversation starters (second discussion question): Tell them about something you have read in your Bible this week and ask if they ever read the Bible. Tell them about something at church and ask if they go to church. When you help people out and they say thanks tell them you are just trying to live what the Bible says and love you neighbor as yourself or put others ahead of yourself. Just say, "I'm curious, what do you believe about God?" If they tell you about a problem they are having ask if you can pray for them.

SUGGESTED BOOKS:

What is the Gospel by Greg Gilbert

Crossing the Line of Faith by Bill Hybels and Mark Mittelburg

Irresistible Evangelism by Steve Sjogren, Dave Ping and Doug Pollock

The Unexpected Adventure by Lee Strobel and Mark Mittelburg