



Part 2: Starting a Spiritual Conversation

Communication Skills for Sharing Jesus

Many of us have the desire to witness for Jesus, but we find it difficult to make the transition from ordinary conversation to spiritual talk. One thing that helps greatly is to build relationships with people. Get to know them well. Because of your acquaintance, it will be more natural to share the good news of Jesus.

Turning the conversation from everyday life to eternal life requires the skill of listening. Communication is a two-way process. We listen and then we speak. Telling people about Jesus comes after listening to them talk about their feelings and fears, and about their problems and opinions. Draw people out as they speak about things that concern them. Say something like this, “That’s interesting. What makes you say that?” With this question, you clarify issues and learn more about people. By patiently and intently listening, you foster respect and trust, so that people are more inclined to listen to you when you turn the conversation to spiritual matters.

A simple approach for turning the conversation is to remember the words “**Feel... Felt... Found**”. After listening carefully to a person’s concern, respond by saying, “I can see how you might *feel* that way.... Others have *felt* the same way, I know... (or: ‘I once *felt* that way myself’). But what I’ve *found* is” Then direct the person to the truth of God’s Word.

When people speak with you about their problems, you may use this approach to turn the conversation. Think of these four letters: **p, P, S, s**. Our **problems (p)** are rooted in our main **Problem (P)** which is sin. In his love God sent Jesus as the **Solution (S)** for our sin. As God saved us from sin through Jesus, so now he promises to help us with **solutions (s)** to the problems we have in life.

To communicate our faith well requires some preparation. St. Peter wrote: “Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have” (1 Peter 3:15). The Word of God is the power to bring a person to faith in Jesus and strengthen such faith. We prepare not to make the Word more powerful, but to be able to speak it clearly and completely.

Develop a personal witness statement. Think about Jesus—who he is, what he has done, and how he impacts your life. Write it down, learn it, and practice saying it. When opportunities come—and they will—confidently tell people about your faith in Jesus.

Building closer relationships, actively listening to people, carefully turning the conversation, and preparing yourself for witnessing—these are important skills to develop for sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.