



PRACTISE FAITH CONVERSATIONS

Here are some additional ways you could help each other practice faith conversations. Don't try and do them all, but rather pick ones that you think would work best in your situation. They can be used as part of a group meeting, or when a couple of Christians get together to try and encourage one another in sharing the faith.

1. BEING AN AMBASSADOR

Paul encourages us to see ourselves as ambassadors for Christ and his kingdom in our everyday lives (2 Corinthians 5:16-20). There are four main contexts where this is lived out: at home, in our occupation, in our neighbourhood, in the networks we are a part of (online and onsite).

Take a specific scenario where you find it is hard to be an 'ambassador'. Explore together why this might be and what would help you to be an ambassador in that situation. You might like to take a look at some of the LICC material on [Fruitfulness on the Frontline](#). Pray for one another, as you seek to be an effective ambassador in that situation.

2. STRUGGLES

What hold us back from appropriately introducing something into a conversation that takes it to a potential faith conversation?

- Lack of motivation.
- Unsure what to say.
- Busyness.
- Fear of offense.
- Don't know how to get started.
- Other.

Discuss each of these things, and any others you have identified, and explore why it holds you back and what to do about them.

3. GREAT QUESTIONS

Asking great questions is a key part of sharing our faith. Think about 'cross the line' questions to take a conversation to a deeper level, questions that move a conversation from interests to values or beliefs (for more on why questions are important and what sort of questions to ask see [Getting Started](#)). Choose a question you like as a group, and think about scenarios when you could use this question. In pairs have a go at playing out a scenario with one of you introducing the question into a conversation. Then pray for opportunities to use the question in the coming weeks.

We are aiming to have **SALTI** conversations (Colossians 4:2-6) where we:

Start a conversation

This is where we need courage to ask a cross the line question or make a cross the line statement, an appropriate way to potentially open the door to spiritual things.

Ask a question

A good question opens up a conversation, and helps us to understand where the person we are talking with is coming from.

Listen for where at

Listen for their background, existing beliefs, any blockages they have to faith, their basic needs.

Tell stories

Sharing our own experience of how we came to faith and the difference it makes to our everyday lives helps people see the impact of faith in Christ.

Invite them to take a next step

What is the next step for the person on their journey to faith, and how might we invite them to take it?

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4. MAP

The map is a way of thinking about people's journey to faith. The narrow road through the map with the orange arrows is the Christian way. Wherever people are on the map there is a possible route to the Christian way. People's journeys are often convoluted, take time (commonly measured in years) and there is an appropriate next step for everyone we meet.

Plot where your Pray for Five people might be on the map (near the Christian way/far away, in a cul-de-sac/on a roundabout, heading towards faith/heading away) with a circle (perhaps with an initial in the centre to remind which is which), and an arrow indicating which way you think they might be heading. If you've known them a long time you may be even be able to plot something of their journey so far with regard to faith.

Talk in pairs about some of your people (you don't have to name them) and what you could do or say to accompany them on the next step of their journey towards the Christian way?

- What question might you ask them?
- What might be their next appropriate step?
- What might you invite them to?
- How might your answers to these questions shape your praying for them?

Then spend some time praying for your five and your relationship with them, and especially anything you have identified you might do as a result of this conversation. Finally, agree the next time you will discuss how things are going and set the date so everyone knows, and be sure to review things at that point to encourage one another to keep going.



This guide is based on material from the book [How to Nurture a Faith-Sharing Culture](#) (CPAS) and is ©CPAS, but permission is given to print it or distribute it electronically in your church.