

Life, Faith, and Jesus in the Open Generation



Kickstarter Question:

What would you say is the difference between a “friend” and an “influencer”?



What comes to mind when you hear “Spiritual Conversations”?

Definition:

Predictions

The research into people who have Spiritual Conversations included a question about what it is typically like for them to have these kinds of conversations. They were asked to describe their experience in three words. Which three words do you think they most often used?

Peace Shame Laughter Exhilaration Awkwardness Annoyance Joy
Anxiety Stress Anger Fear Confusion

Part 2: Spiritual Conversations Trivia

What does the research say? Can you guess? Try to answer these trivia questions.

Trivia Questions

1. Approximately how many Spiritual Conversations does the average Christian have in a year?
 - a. 50
 - b. 25
 - c. Less than 10
2. Who is someone most likely to engage in a Spiritual Conversation?
 - a. Pastor
 - b. Parent
 - c. Friend
 - d. Teacher

3. What is the most known fact about Jesus for Gen Z?
 - a. He was a great teacher.
 - b. He claimed to be God.
 - c. He was crucified.
 - d. He did miracles.

4. What percent of teens around the world today own a Bible?
 - a. Less than 10%
 - b. 22%
 - c. 38%
 - d. 59%

5. What percent of Christians today believe that “when you die you will go to heaven because you confessed your sins and have accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior”?
 - a. 21%
 - b. 49%
 - c. 78%
 - d. 92%

6. **True or False:** More Christian teens than non-Christian teens believe they can make a positive impact on the world.

7. What percent of Christians believe it is their responsibility to share the faith?
 - a. Less than 20%
 - b. 64%
 - c. 82%
 - d. 91%

Discussion Question:



Which answer is the most surprising to you?
Which is the least surprising to you?

Part 3: Bible + Group Discussion

For this discussion, we want to look to the Bible to answer two fundamental questions:

1

Why Do Christians Have Spiritual Conversations (Faith, Doubt, God, Jesus, Spiritual Things)?

Instructions: Read each verse and discuss in your groups how they each partially answer the above question. Take notes for each passage in the space below. After discussing each passage, write your own one-sentence answer to the question that you think best summarizes what you learned.

Matthew
22:36-40

Matthew
28:19-20

Deuteronomy
11:18-19

Empty rounded rectangular box for notes on Deuteronomy 11:18-19.

Romans 1:18

Empty rounded rectangular box for notes on Romans 1:18.

2 Corinthians
5:20

Empty rounded rectangular box for notes on 2 Corinthians 5:20.



Review your notes on the passages above, then summarize them in a one-sentence answer to this question: "Why do Christians have Spiritual Conversations (faith, doubt, God, Jesus, spiritual things)?"

Three horizontal lines for writing a one-sentence summary.

2

What Is So Good About the Good News?

Instructions: Read each verse and discuss in your groups how they each partially answer the above question. Take notes for each passage in the space below. After discussing each passage, write your own one-sentence answer to the question that you think best summarizes what you learned.

John 3:16

Empty rounded rectangular box for notes on John 3:16.

John 14:6

Empty rounded rectangular box for notes on John 14:6.

1 Peter 3:15

John 10:10

Matthew 4:24



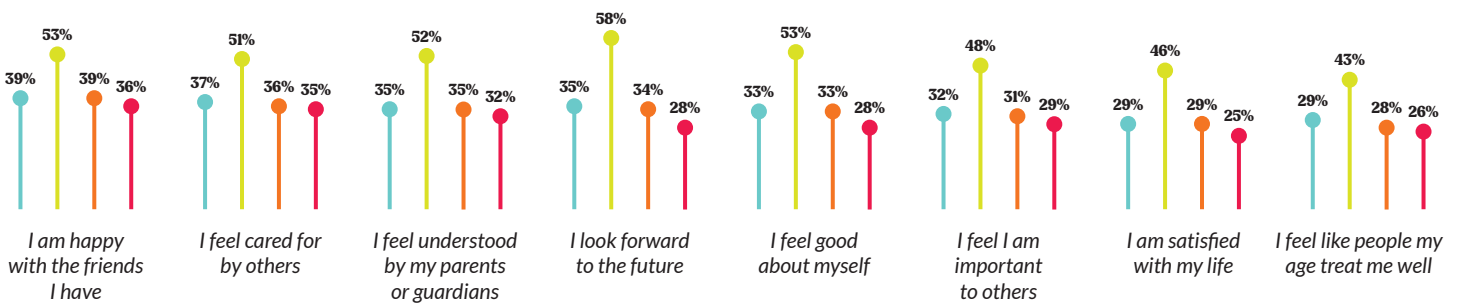
Please provide a one-sentence answer to this question: "What's so good about the Gospel, the 'Good News'?"

Take a Look at the Data Graphic: Christian teens' vs. non-Christian teens' view of life

A Place in the World

n=24,870 teens ages 13 to 17, July 21-August 24, 2021.

● All teens ● Bible engaged ● Bible open ● Bible unengaged



What does or does not surprise you about this data?

Lesson 1 Exit Ticket



Exit Tickets give you a chance to share your honest thoughts in a confidential manner with the teacher.

Given that these conversations are so positive, why do you think Christians don't have Spiritual Conversations more often?



Answer:



How can I pray for you?



Share any questions or comments:

Lesson 1 Exit Ticket



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Given that these conversations are so positive, why do you think Christians don't have Spiritual Conversations more often?



Answer:



How can I pray for you?



Share any questions or comments:

What Kind of Person Has Spiritual Conversations Regularly?



Kickstarter Question:



What is something about "Spiritual Conversations" that stuck out to you from the last lesson?

Part 1: Icebreaker Activity: Stereotypical "Evangelist" Hieroglyphics

Draw 5 stick-figure hieroglyphs. Each figure illustrates one characteristic or practice of stereotypical evangelists, in your opinion. Keep it simple, but be creative!

From your perspective, what's the difference between "evangelizing" and having "Spiritual Conversations"?

Why is this distinction important to make?



Part 2: E-A-G-E-R Video Group Discussion



Mid-Video Group Discussion:

Before we learn what the research showed are five characteristics, or practices (things they do regularly), of “eager conversationalists,” try to predict some of these characteristics and practices. In other words, what is it about people who regularly, naturally, and easily have Spiritual Conversations with others? For example, are they all extroverts? Do they study the Bible all the time? What do you think?

Post-Video Group Discussion

What was encouraging? Challenging?

How do you feel differently when talking about “conversations” rather than “conversions”?

These are people who love God because they have gotten to know Him (embraced the Gospel, applied spiritual practices, grasped the calling); what could we do to grow in our love for God?

Part 3: Group Activities

Recall and explain each:

E

A

G

E

R

Redraw the stick figures in the space below, emphasizing one aspect of EAGER.

Lesson 2 Exit Ticket



Exit Tickets give you a chance to share your honest thoughts in a confidential manner with the teacher.

Which of the 5 characteristics of being an EAGER conversationalist is the most challenging for you?



Answer:



How can I pray for you?



Share any questions or comments:

Lesson 2 Exit Ticket



Exit Tickets give you a chance to share your honest thoughts in a confidential manner with the teacher.

Which of the 5 characteristics of being an EAGER conversationalist is the most challenging for you?



Answer:



How can I pray for you?



Share any questions or comments:

How Can I Recognize and Respond Graciously and Confidently in Spiritual Conversations?



Kickstarter Question:



How would you describe our role and God's role in "Spiritual Conversations"?

Part 1: Intro Group Discussion

1. Think about your spiritual journey ... what has it been like? Fast? Slow? Simple? Complex?
2. How has God used other people to encourage and inspire you in your journey?
3. Were you ever at a different place on your spiritual journey? How has your response to spiritual things changed over time?

Part 2: Video + Group Learning

In groups, read each passage, then answer the questions.

1. Read Colossians 4:5-6 — "Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone." (NLT)
 - In your own words, what are the two instructions in verse 5?
 - In your own words, what might be a "gracious and attractive" response to non-Christians?
 - What do you think it means to "have the *right* response" to non-Christians?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 9:19, 22-23 — "Even though I am a free man with no master, I have become a slave to all people to bring many to Christ. ... When I am with those who are weak, I share their weakness, for I want to bring the weak to Christ. Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some. I do everything to spread the Good News and share in its blessings." (NLT)

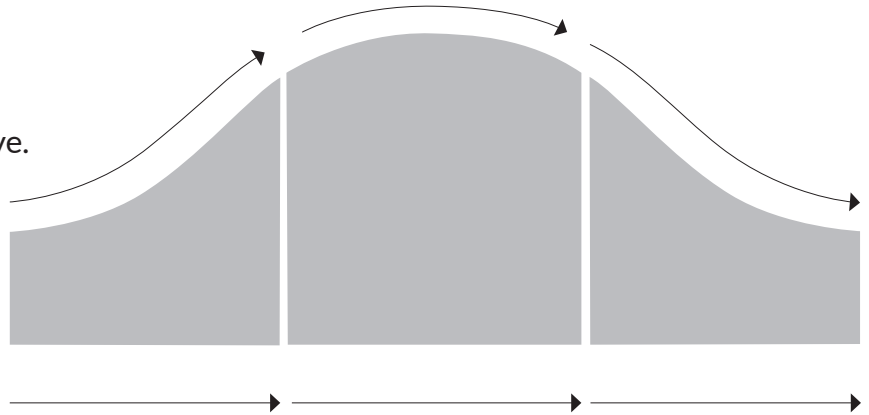
- How does Paul set aside his own self-interest to serve others?
- How might we summarize Paul’s approach to spreading the “Good News”?

Part 3: Group Activities

Check for Understanding - Label the Curve.

Take it one spiritual posture at a time—Unreceptive, Receptive, Seeking

Have one person in your group explain that part of the Curve, how each of the parts relate to one another, and how they are helpful to us.



“Who Am I” Tweets

- Each person in the group secretly chooses a spiritual posture and secretly writes a Tweet on a piece of scrap paper that reflects that posture. Be creative to challenge your friends to recognize the spiritual posture.
- When each person is done writing, share with the other group members who try to guess, “Who am I?” ... an Unreceptive, Receptive, or Seeking friend.

Part 4: Discussion/Responses to the SCC

Share your responses, questions, concerns, likes, or dislikes about the Spiritual Conversation Curve.

How might a “spiritual conversation model,” like the Curve, with language about spiritual postures be helpful to those of us who want to graciously respond to our non-Christian friends? How might it be unhelpful?

What do we need to keep in mind in order to make sure the SCC remains helpful and not unhelpful?

Optional Discussion Question:

How does social media make it easier or more difficult to graciously engage in Spiritual Conversations?

Lesson 3 Exit Ticket



Exit Tickets give you a chance to share your honest thoughts in a confidential manner with the teacher.

Where on the Curve do you think most people in our society (and/or in your state or school) would be placed? Why do you think that?



Answer:



How can I pray for you?



Share any questions or comments:

Lesson 3 Exit Ticket



Exit Tickets give you a chance to share your honest thoughts in a confidential manner with the teacher.

Where on the Curve do you think most people in our society (and/or in your state or school) would be placed? Why do you think that?



Answer:



How can I pray for you?



Share any questions or comments:

How Do I Respond Graciously and Confidently to an Unreceptive Friend?



Kickstarter Question:

What do you think are the primary reasons people are Unreceptive to the Gospel?

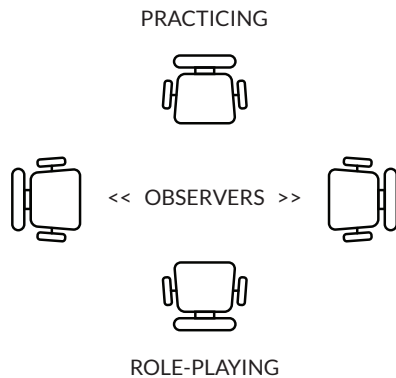
Part 1: Evaluating Conversations (Unreceptive)

CONVO	RECOGNIZE: UNRECEPTIVE CUES	EVALUATE RESPONSE: CHAT AND RELATE?	WHAT WAS GOOD? WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN BETTER?
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

Part 2: Group Activities – Chat and Relate

Activity 1: Practicing Unscripted Conversations Between Pairs in Groups

1. Choose roles: someone to role-play, someone to practice, and 2 observers.
2. Set up your chairs like this:



3. In the allotted time, the one practicing and the one role-playing have a “real” conversation that gives the one practicing a realistic taste of an actual conversation with someone who is Unreceptive.
4. After the brief conversation, observers share observations and encouragement with the one practicing.
5. Switch roles and do it all again. ****IMPORTANT**** The one role-playing has to play the role authentically for this to work well!

Activity 2: Creating and Presenting a Role-Play to the Class

Create your own “Spiritual Conversation” role-play between a “Christian” and someone who is “Unreceptive.” It can be a “good” *chatting and relating* conversation or a “not-so-good” one, as long as it is done well and helps to teach the concepts.

Lesson 4 Exit Ticket



Exit Tickets give you a chance to share your honest thoughts in a confidential manner with the teacher.

What do you think would be the most challenging part of having a Spiritual Conversation with an Unreceptive person?



Answer:



How can I pray for you?



Share any questions or comments:

Lesson 4 Exit Ticket



Exit Tickets give you a chance to share your honest thoughts in a confidential manner with the teacher.

What do you think would be the most challenging part of having a Spiritual Conversation with an Unreceptive person?



Answer:



How can I pray for you?



Share any questions or comments:

How Do I Respond Graciously and Confidently to a Receptive Friend?



Kickstarter Question:



What might be some key distinctions between someone who is Receptive vs. Unreceptive to the Gospel?

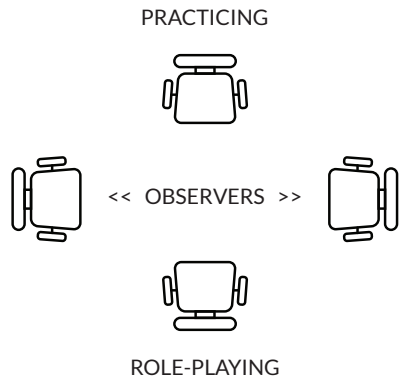
Part 1: Evaluating Conversations (Receptive)

CONVO	RECOGNIZE: RECEPTIVE CUES	EVALUATE RESPONSE: SHARE AND CONNECT?	WHAT WAS GOOD ABOUT THE RESPONSE? WHAT COULD'VE BEEN BETTER?
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

Part 2: Group Activities – Share and Connect

Activity 1: Practicing Unscripted Conversations Between Pairs in Groups

1. Choose roles: someone to role-play, someone to practice, and 2 observers.
2. Set up your chairs like this:



3. In the allotted time, the one practicing and the one role-playing have a “real” conversation that gives the one practicing a realistic taste of an actual conversation with someone who is Receptive.
4. After the brief conversation, observers share observations and encouragement with the one practicing.
5. Switch roles and do it all again. ****IMPORTANT**** The one role-playing has to play the role authentically for this to work well!

Activity 2: Creating and Presenting a Role-Play to the Class

Create your own “Spiritual Conversation” role-play between a “Christian” and someone who is “Receptive.” It can be a “good” *sharing and connecting* conversation or a “not-so-good” one, as long as it is done well and helps to teach the concepts.

Lesson 5 Exit Ticket



Exit Tickets give you a chance to share your honest thoughts in a confidential manner with the teacher.

Do you think it is difficult to determine if someone is Receptive vs. Unreceptive to the Gospel? Why or why not?



Answer:



How can I pray for you?



Share any questions or comments:

Lesson 5 Exit Ticket



Exit Tickets give you a chance to share your honest thoughts in a confidential manner with the teacher.

Do you think it is difficult to determine if someone is Receptive vs. Unreceptive to the Gospel? Why or why not?



Answer:



How can I pray for you?



Share any questions or comments:

How Do I Respond Graciously and Confidently to a Seeking Friend?



Kickstarter Question:



Where do you think most people who are Seeking find their information about God?

Part 1: Evaluating Conversations (Seeking)

CONVO	RECOGNIZE: SEEKING CUES	EVALUATE RESPONSE: EXPLORE AND CLARIFY?	WHAT WAS GOOD ABOUT THE RESPONSE? WHAT COULD'VE BEEN BETTER?
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

Part 2: Group Activities—Preparing for Seeking Conversations

Activity 1: Apologetics Questions/Objections

- Refer to the Apologetics Questions/Objections Handout for this activity.

Activity 2: Clarifying the Gospel



2-Minute Gospel: How might I clarify the Gospel for my friends who are Seeking?

Draw the Gospel

1. “Draw” the Gospel message, that is, visualize the message with a simple diagram that helps to clarify the Gospel.
2. Practice your Gospel diagram in your groups, making any desired tweaks.

Speed Sharing

Pair up, and each share your diagram and Gospel clarification for 2 minutes; then change partners.

Reflection Activity

1. What was challenging?
2. What went well?
3. What were some questions that came up?

Apologetics Questions/ Objections



Instructions:



Discuss your group's questions, jotting down key points in your answers.

1. All gods are the same.
2. Religion only does damage to humanity.
3. What about creation and evolution?
4. Archaeology disproves or doesn't support Old Testament stories.
5. Why do bad things happen if God is good and He can do something about them?
6. The Bible has many historical and contextual errors.
7. The Bible doesn't apply to life today.
8. All religious roads lead to heaven.
9. Jesus was just a great teacher/prophet.

10. The Bible is just a book of rules; why would I want them to rule me?
11. All Christians are hypocrites.
12. It doesn't matter what you believe as long as you believe in something.
13. There is no evidence for God's existence.
14. There is no evidence for the Bible being true.
15. If God is loving, then why is God so hidden?
16. There is no such thing as "absolute truth."
17. How did the Bible get compiled?
18. Why did God command the Israelites to kill others in the Old Testament?
19. How can Christianity be the only true religion among so many world religions?
20. God is unknowable.
21. It is offensive to claim Jesus is the only way to heaven.

Lesson 6 Exit Ticket



Exit Tickets give you a chance to share your honest thoughts in a confidential manner with the teacher.

Do you personally feel confident in answering questions from those that are Seeking? Why or why not?



Answer:



How can I pray for you?



Share any questions or comments:

Lesson 6 Exit Ticket



Exit Tickets give you a chance to share your honest thoughts in a confidential manner with the teacher.

Do you personally feel confident in answering questions from those that are Seeking? Why or why not?



Answer:



How can I pray for you?



Share any questions or comments:

How Could I Explore Faith and Clarify the Gospel?



Part 1: Introduction

 Watch the Video

Kickstarter Question:

What is something you have learned in this study that has surprised you?

Part 2: Gracious Responses—Exploring and Clarifying

Gracious Response: Explore and Clarify

1. Take out your Apologetics Handout and 2-minute Gospel models from Lesson 6.
2. Pair up in your groups and have a *two-on-two conversation*, working with your partner to explore the Christian faith and clarify the Gospel with the other pair, who are role-playing “Seeking” friends.
3. The pair who is role-playing “Seeking” friends should use their notes from Lesson 6 to ask apologetics questions and clarifying questions about the Gospel.

Part 3: Gameshow

Family Feud: Which Action Step Are Teens Most Likely to Take?

1. Use the “Family Feud Secret Ballot” to mark your personal top 5 answers. Don’t share them with anyone at this point. Hand this in to the instructor.
2. Step #2: Group Guesses (see below)

Family Feud Group Guesses

Instructions:

In your group, use the space below to guess what you think are the top 5 most popular answers of your whole class. Be sure to place them in order from what you predict is the first most popular answer in the class to the fifth most popular.

After you are done guessing and filling out the table, wait for instructions on how your teacher will ask you to reveal your answers.

As your teacher reveals the answers of the class, keep score.

(continued on page 2)

Use this list to guess the top 5 class answers (in order).
Place your guesses in the table to the right.

- A. Invite them to church
- B. Invite them to youth group
- C. Invite them to FCA, Young Life, CRU, or another student group that meets on campus
- D. Offer to pray with them
- E. Offer to read the Bible with them
- F. Send them Christian YouTube videos
- G. Ask if they would like to talk with your youth pastor
- H. Explain how to get baptized
- I. Direct them to Christian websites
- J. Encourage them to follow Christian influencers and ministries
- K. Refer them to a Christian author
- L. Purchase a Bible for them
- M. Offer to do a digital devotion or Bible study with them

OUR GUESSES	
#1	
#2	
#3	
#4	
#5	

	ANSWER	POINTS
#1		
#2		
#3		
#4		
#5		
		TOTAL:

Scoring: Groups score 5 points for having the class's most popular answer anywhere on their Group Guesses list, 4 points for having the class's second most popular answer, and so on:

- 1. #1 answer: 5 points
- 2. #2 answer: 4 points
- 3. #3 answer: 3 points
- 4. #4 answer: 2 points
- 5. #5 answer: 1 point

Also, your group scores one extra point for each of your guessed answers that matches the exact placement as that same answer in the class's most popular top 5. For example, if you guessed the #1 answer and it is in spot #1 on your list, it matches the class list, and you receive an extra point.

If you win ... demand a reward!

Family Feud Secret Ballot



Which Action Steps Are Teens Most Likely to Take?

Instructions:

Look at the following list of ways that teenagers typically respond to friends who are Seeking. Mark an X in the box beside the 5 that you would most likely use. Turn this in to your teacher.

- A. Invite them to church
- B. Invite them to youth group
- C. Invite them to FCA, Young Life, CRU, or another student group that meets on campus
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Family Feud Secret Ballot



Which Action Steps Are Teens Most Likely to Take?

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- K. Refer them to a Christian author
- L. Purchase a Bible for them
- M. Offer to do a digital devotion or Bible study with them

Lesson 7 Exit Ticket



Exit Tickets give you a chance to share your honest thoughts in a confidential manner with the teacher.

What are you excited about as you move forward? What still makes you reluctant?



Answer:



How can I pray for you?



Share any questions or comments:

Lesson 7 Exit Ticket



Exit Tickets give you a chance to share your honest thoughts in a confidential manner with the teacher.

What are you excited about as you move forward? What still makes you reluctant?



Answer:



How can I pray for you?



Share any questions or comments:
