

# Spiritual Conversations Assessment

How ready are you  
for conversations with people  
who believe differently?



# Spiritual Conversations

## Assessment

**Welcome to the pathway for conversations about God  
to become an everyday reality!**

As followers of Jesus, we may all understand that it's important to make new disciples, but how can we possibly get into the kinds of conversations that bring people to Jesus? Taking this assessment will give you a benchmark for where you are right now, concrete ideas for **where** to go from here, and a way to look back and see how much you have grown over time.

The **Heart Check** starts at the core—your beliefs about being a disciple and making new disciples. The **Skill Check** moves outward, into a wide variety of activities that work together to stir up conversations about God with people who believe differently. The **Readiness Check** takes a snapshot of your current level of readiness to facilitate a discussion group where people can find God as revealed in the Bible.

Once you have your scores, your next steps will grow much more clear—so you can have the joy of seeing God's work in the lives of people around you.

Here we go!

# Heart Check

Read these statements about discipling others to come to know Jesus, and circle the number that indicates your level of agreement or disagreement. For this section, answer each question based on what you believe rather than on your current actions.

	1=Strongly disagree	2=Disagree	3=Unsure	4=Agree	5=Strongly agree
	circle one				
1. Having a growing relationship with God is essential for making new disciples.	1	2	3	4	5
2. Reading the Bible is critical for spiritual transformation.	1	2	3	4	5
3. It's not my role to change people. That is the role of the Holy Spirit.	1	2	3	4	5
4. When making new disciples, coming alongside others as a friend is more effective than merely presenting information to them.	1	2	3	4	5
5. When prompted by the Holy Spirit, it is important to share my faith story with those who believe differently.	1	2	3	4	5

# Heart Check

1=Strongly disagree  
2=Disagree  
3=Unsure  
4=Agree  
5=Strongly agree

circle one

6.

All Christians are responsible for making new disciples.

12345
7.

It is important for followers of Jesus to intentionally make friends with people who believe differently.

12345
8.

Being nonjudgmental toward people who believe differently is essential in making new disciples.

12345
9.

As a believer, it's important to point others to Jesus.

12345
10.

I believe I have a growing personal relationship with God through Jesus.

12345

A

# Skill Check

This section is all about simple actions from your everyday life that can be a significant part of making new disciples. Please read the statements below and rate how often they describe your activities.

1=Never  
2=Seldom  
3=Sometimes  
4=Often  
5=Always

circle one

## How regularly does each statement describe your actions?

11. In large groups of people, I readily notice individuals who are in need.

12. I see people and wonder about their life stories.

13. When I look around, I see individuals who need Jesus.

14. I notice individuals and wonder what God might be doing in their lives.
- B
15. I intentionally pray for people God has put into my life before talking to them about faith matters.

16. I feel prompted by God to pray for specific people around me who don't know Jesus.

17. I pray for individuals, by name, that they might come to faith in Jesus.

18. I use specific Bible verses when I pray for people who don't know Jesus.
- C

# Skill Check

How regularly does each statement describe your actions?

	1=Never	2=Seldom	3=Sometimes	4=Often	5=Always
	circle one				
19. When I am having a conversation with someone, I eliminate distractions and am fully present with them.	1	2	3	4	5
20. I listen not only with my ears but also with my posture, eye contact, and verbal responses.	1	2	3	4	5
21. I repeat back what someone has said to me to show them my understanding.	1	2	3	4	5
22. When someone expresses a belief different than mine, I listen to understand their point of view rather than forming a counter argument in my mind.	1	2	3	4	5

D

23. I am truly curious about people's life stories and ask questions to get to know them better.	1	2	3	4	5
24. I build relationships with people by the kinds of questions I ask them.	1	2	3	4	5
25. I ask open-ended questions that help the conversation to go deeper.	1	2	3	4	5
26. In conversations, I ask questions that give people the opportunity to sort through their thoughts and opinions.	1	2	3	4	5

E

# Skill Check

How regularly does each statement describe your actions?

	1=Never	2=Seldom	3=Sometimes	4=Often	5=Always
	circle one				
27. God's love for me compels me to love even those I do not know well.	1	2	3	4	5
28. I intentionally look for ways to show God's love to others even if it inconveniences me.	1	2	3	4	5
29. When others are harsh or unkind to me, I respond in a loving way.	1	2	3	4	5
30. I express God's love to others through tangible and simple acts of love.	1	2	3	4	5

F

31. I help people feel welcome by my facial expressions and nonverbal communication.	1	2	3	4	5
32. I create an inviting environment in my home or office so people feel comfortable being there.	1	2	3	4	5
33. I invite people into activities and help them feel that they belong.	1	2	3	4	5
34. I look for common ground so that people feel comfortable to express their questions and doubts.	1	2	3	4	5

G

# Skill Check

How regularly does each statement describe your actions?

1=Never  
2=Seldom  
3=Sometimes  
4=Often  
5=Always

circle one

35. I encourage people to think for themselves.

12345
36. I am able to keep group conversations on track without hurting the feelings of those in the conversation.

12345
37. In a group setting, I facilitate conversations so that everyone has a chance to express their opinion.

12345
38. In a group setting, I facilitate conversations less like a teacher and more like a guide.

H
39. I invite people who believe differently to join me in serving worthy causes.

12345
40. I build relationships with people by serving together with them.

12345
41. I serve together with people who believe differently so they can experience God's love and power.

12345
42. After serving together with others, I initiate opportunities to reflect on the experience with them.

I
43. My personal relationship with Jesus and genuine love for others compels me to share my faith with them.

12345
44. I feel comfortable sharing what I believe about Jesus with others.

12345
45. I easily put my relationship with God into words.

12345
46. In conversations, I ask questions that give people the opportunity to sort through their thoughts and opinions.

J



## Readiness Check

How close are you to being able to start an ongoing group for discussions about life, God, and the Bible? Complete each phrase by circling one number that best describes you.

circle one

47. I read the Bible...

- 1 Almost never
- 2 A few times a month
- 3 Once a week
- 4 A few times a week
- 5 Every day

48. My level of concern for people who don't know Jesus is...

- 1 Zero
- 2 Low
- 3 Moderate
- 4 High
- 5 Very high

49. My scope of concern for people who don't know Jesus includes...

- 1 No one
- 2 My family members
- 3 My family and friends
- 4 Friends and acquaintances
- 5 Everyone

50. My acquaintances who believe differently than me include...

- 1 No one
- 2 At least one person
- 3 Two to five people
- 4 Six to ten people
- 5 More than ten people

51. In general, my relationships with people who believe differently are...

- 1 Nonexistent
- 2 Superficial
- 3 Friendly
- 4 Close
- 5 Deep

# Readiness Check

52. In a month, the number of spiritual conversations I have with people who believe differently is ...

circle one

- 1 Zero
- 2 One
- 3 Two to five
- 4 Six to ten
- 5 More than ten

53. My experience level with small groups is ...

- 1 None  
(never been in a group)
- 2 Low  
(Participated in one group)
- 3 Moderate  
(Participated in several groups)
- 4 High  
(Led or co-led a group)
- 5 Very High  
(Started and led a group)

54. My level of confidence in starting a small group for people who believe differently is ...

- 1 Zero
- 2 Low
- 3 Moderate
- 4 High
- 5 Very high

K

# Spiritual Conversations Assessment Scoring & Results



# Heart Check

Add up your scores from the Heart Check, write the total in Box A, and shade in the heart, below, to get a picture of your attitude toward making disciples.

A

your total points

of 50



## 34-50

Your heart is probably in the right place to disciple others to come to know Jesus and grow in him.

**Your Next Step:** If you're feeling unsure, what you may lack is understanding how to engage in spiritual conversations with people in our culture.

The Skill Check is likely to reveal your next steps for practice and growth.

## 17-33

Cultivating a deeper relationship with God will be the best way to start preparing yourself to help others come to know Jesus and grow in him.

**Your Next Step:** Get into a small group that is directly discussing Scripture, where you can explore, discover, and apply God's message for yourself.

**Q Place's Bible discussion guides** are a great resource for spiritual growth that will impact your attitude toward making disciples.

## <16

Your score indicates that cultivating a deeper relationship with God should be your top priority.

**Your Next Steps:** Talk with your pastor or a small group leader about how you can grow as a follower of Jesus. Exploring, discovering, and applying God's message in the Bible is an essential part. See if they can connect you with one or two others who are further along in their journey of faith and who will go through a Bible discussion resource with you such as one of Q Place's [Level 1 Bible Discussion Guides](#).

# Skill Check

From the Skill Check, add up each set of questions, writing the scores in boxes B through J. Transfer the scores to the lettered boxes, below, and then shade in and graph your results.

GETTING READY			GETTING STARTED			KEEPING IT GOING		
Noticing	Praying	Listening	Asking Questions	Loving	Welcoming	Facilitating	Serving Together	Sharing
POINTS 20 15 10 5								
<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>J</b>
total points	total points	total points	total points	total points	total points	total points	total points	total points

## 16-20

These skills are areas of strength that will serve you well as you engage in spiritual conversations with people who believe differently than you do.

## 12-15

These skills are areas of competency for you, with room for growth and mastery.

## 0-11

These skills are the areas where there is significant room for growth.

## Your Next Steps:

The great news is that no matter your starting point, it's not hard to improve in each of the skill areas. It just takes practice. And when you practice, you'll find that engaging in spiritual conversations about God becomes a lot more natural—for you and for people around you who believe differently.

[The 9 Arts of Spiritual Conversations](#) is a line of resources that are built for growth in all of these skills. The 9 Arts curriculum provides solid scriptural content, discussion questions, and lots of practice! Here are some options to consider using, preferably with one or two others:

- A [9 Arts 4-Session Pack](#) on Noticing, Listening, or Asking Questions.
- [The 9 Arts Primer](#) (10 sessions, with an Intro and 1 session for each Art)
- [The 9 Arts Complete Guide](#) (37 sessions, with an Intro and 4 for each Art)

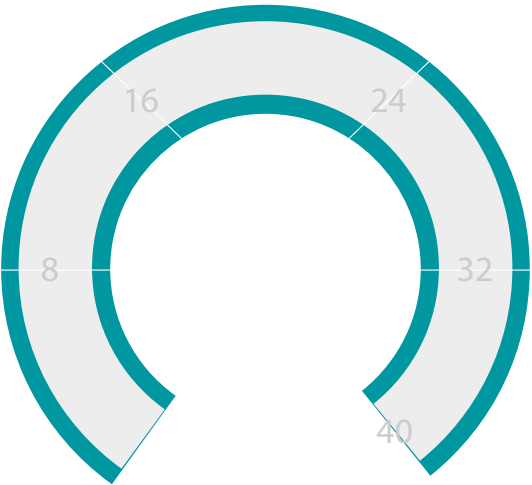
# Readiness Check

Add up your scores from the Readiness Check, write the total in Box K, and shade in the graph, below, to get a picture of your readiness to start a group for ongoing discussions about God.

K

of 40

your total points



## Scoring

The higher your score out of 40, the better equipped you are to engage in ongoing spiritual conversations with people who believe differently. With a high score, there's a good chance you are ready to start an ongoing discussion group about life, God, and the Bible in a small group where the majority are not Christians.

# Readiness Check

## Your Next Step Options

Prepare to start a small group where you can have ongoing spiritual conversations with seekers. Learn more at [www.QPlace.com](http://www.QPlace.com) and sign up for a [Q Place Coaching](#) group led by the staff at Q Place. These coaching groups meet by videoconference and are held several times each year.

The most common challenge in starting an ongoing discussion group about God is not having relationships with people who believe differently. If this is your challenge, go through [\*Practicing the 9 Arts of Spiritual Conversations\*](#) with a few others who would also like to improve in this area.

Having experience in a highly interactive small group using inductive Bible discussion material can also be helpful preparation for starting a small group with seekers. [Q Place Bible Studies](#) are designed for vibrant discussions, with everyone exploring, participating, and growing in leadership. They are filled with questions that lead to closer observation, insightful discussion, deeper reflection, and rich discoveries that apply to life. After having some experience using these studies in your church's small group, you may feel more ready to come into Q Place Coaching—to prepare to start a group for people outside of your church.

Check out all of these resources at [www.the9Arts.com/shop](http://www.the9Arts.com/shop).



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Go to [www.the9Arts.com/shop](http://www.the9Arts.com/shop) to browse 9 Arts curriculum and Q Place Bible Study guides for great discussions and growth in your small groups.

Get resources and training to start a group  
for ongoing discussions about life, God, and the Bible:

**[www.QPlace.com](http://www.QPlace.com)**

**1-800-369-0307**

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