

BY JEANNIE MARIE



SEVEN SPIRITUAL CONVERSATION STARTERS

HELLO THERE!

If we're going to find people God is preparing and invite them into the Kingdom of God, we **MUST** cast spiritual seed often, widely, on the landscape of people's everyday life.

We must start more spiritual conversations, more often.

Most of us don't do this regularly.

Tough love here, guys. Of course we act like believers and we show love through our actions, but for someone to come to faith, we've GOT to open our mouths.

We have to START spiritual conversations, regularly.

Sometimes it's just hard to turn a conversation from surface topics such as *"How's the weather?"* to deeper conversations, more substantial conversations of ideas, beliefs, and matters of the heart.

Here you go! Try saying these one of these **Seven Spiritual Conversation Starters** to draw out those that are really interested to keep talking.

Just say the sentence or ask the question. If they don't want to keep talking and go deeper, then don't keep going. We're looking for those that God is already preparing ahead of time!



YOU CAN DO THIS!

Jeannie Marie

#1 "I READ SOMETHING REALLY INTERESTING ABOUT GOD TODAY..."

First, in order to say THIS one, you need to be spending regular time reading the Bible for yourself.

Whenever you have your daily time with God reading the Bible, try to remember ONE POINT that you found new, or surprising, or interesting or meaningful. Then, if your friend responds by saying, *"What was so interesting?"* go ahead and tell them.

Here's an example:

I'm currently reading through Hebrews. So, the other day, I read Hebrews 10:19-22. So I would say, *"I read that I could go boldly into the presence of God most holy place in heaven, anytime, no matter what, because Jesus is right there making it okay for me to pray to a very Holy God, even though I'm certainly not perfect enough to pray to God on my own. I felt encouraged."*

#2 "I WAS HAVING A HARD TIME WITH (AN ISSUE) SO I (A SPIRITUAL SOLUTION)"

Genuineness with our struggles is compelling. People want to know that we're real people with real struggles and that God has real solutions.

Here's an example:

"I was having such a hard time with my teenager yesterday. He just didn't want to talk and I felt so defeated and ignored. I asked God about it and he gave me a really clear answer that helped me so much!"

If they ask more about it, I would go further, "Well, I just prayed and asked God, *"What is going on with him, God?"* And I felt like God said, *"He's been super busy and he's introverted, so give him some space. He still loves you."* God reminded me that often it's not about ME, but about my TEEN.

#3 DID YOU EVER HAVE A DREAM FROM GOD?

Dreams are ALWAYS interesting discussions. Those stories are often funny, can turn deep, and reveal a lot about a person.

If your friend is from a Buddhist, Hindu, or Muslim background, you most certainly will have a spiritual discussion. Most practicing people from these faith backgrounds believe that God can speak through dreams.

So you will find out how spiritual they are, if they DO believe God speaks to them through dreams, and perhaps a vulnerable moment in their life that will help you get to know them in a deeper way.

If your friend is from a Muslim background, they already know about Jesus, so you could ask, "Have you ever seen Jesus in a dream?" Many Muslims have come to faith in Christ because of a dream of Jesus. But it always requires someone to explain it to them to take the next step.

What if that person is YOU?

#4 "WHAT DOES YOUR NAME MEAN?"

Talking about the meaning of names can lead to a deeper conversation that often can turn spiritual.

People like to talk about themselves. So, if they know the meaning of their name, it often has significance and they will tell you a story about their life associated with the name.

In non-Western cultures especially, parents name their children intentionally with specific meanings. Discussions often lead to learning more about their mother and father, who named them. And you can prompt the conversation further by saying, "Why did your mother and father name you with that meaning?"

For example, one of my friends' name is "Noor". She told me it means "Light" in Arabic. I said, "I can see that you ARE light, with your cheerfulness and your smile. I think God put you here to be a reflection of HIS light. What do you think?"

Make sure you know the meaning of your own name! Mine means "Gift from God", so that certainly becomes a spiritual conversation.

#5 RESPOND TO A SOCIAL ISSUE WITH "JESUS HAD SOME CONTROVERSIAL/ GOOD/ UPSIDE DOWN THINGS TO SAY ABOUT THIS..."

What about war, terrorism, evil? You can talk about how Jesus gives peace the world doesn't give, loving your enemy, and God being with us.

What about social injustices like child slavery, racism or even women not being allowed to go to school? You can talk about Jesus' Kingdom that fights for these things to be made right, that blesses and protects children, and throws people who abuse children in a lake with a millstone around their neck? You can talk about Jesus lifting up those who were outcast and disregarded, and how he included them and make them equal. You can talk about how Jesus empowered women, made them his followers, and lifted them up in society. SO MUCH GOOD TO SAY HERE!

#6 WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU IN LIFE?

This question drills down to heart conversations that show where a person's allegiance lies. What do they care about? What do they love the most? What motivates them?

Your friend might respond with something lighter at first, but keep asking until you get to more spiritual matters, so you can take a spiritual temperature of where they are at with God.

If your friend wants to keep talking about things that are important in life, and spiritual matters aren't one of them, you can ask, "How important is your faith to you?"

Of course, be ready to share what's most important to YOU in life, if they ask you the question in return.

Spend some time really thinking about how to answer this. Don't just say "God." Say *why* he's most important to you, and how your faith in God relates to other things that you highly value such as your family, your profession, or your purpose in life.

#7 USE A PROVERB TO APPLY TO A CURRENT SITUATION.

Let's channel your inner Yoda (or your inner wise King Solomon and become a person of wise influence that guides people with wise sayings.

You can find HUNDREDS of wise sayings in the book of Proverbs in the Bible that apply to everyday situations.

Memorize a few Proverbs to pull out when it's handy. OR think of a current situation at your work, your home, or your school ... and go looking for a Proverb to share about it to your colleagues, your family, or your fellow students. OR look up a Proverb and think of a way to use it that very same day.

For example, just now, I randomly opened Proverbs and read, *"Don't turn your back on wisdom, for she will protect you. Love her, and she will guard you. Getting wisdom is the wisest thing you can do."*

I can think of a co-worker who is struggling with making a hasty decision—and my son who needs to listen to my advice (!).



WANT MORE?

If you LOVE these SEVEN SPIRITUAL CONVERSATION STARTERS, don't forget, you've got a WAY deeper opportunity to UP your spiritual purpose, UP your cross-cultural adventures, and MASSIVELY UP your eternal impact.

Because...maybe you're saying, *"What if these conversations actually WORK? What will I say NEXT? How do I pray with, share good news, and offer Jesus in natural ways to my new friends who are Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist...or my own neighbors?"*

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If you're already enrolled, I'll see you on the INSIDE

So you don't want to miss the chance to JOIN a group of like-minded, apostolic, motivated people JUST LIKE YOU and me.



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