

Eight Keys to a Good Gospel Conversation

The eight keys to a good Gospel conversation are crucial in preparing an interested, Christ-centered story through which you will share life. They are:

1. The purpose is to lift up Jesus, not yourself. Your story is nothing without His story!
2. Stay focused on the person with whom you are sharing life. Remember the need. Your friend/loved one does not know Jesus. There is a reason why you are witnessing. Let your concern for the person drive you!
3. Keep it simple and short. No matter how exciting the story is of God at work in your life, a long story is never advantageous. Keep it short, keep it moving. God is a God of action – show it!
4. Be real. Tell the truth. Do not make up stories to enhance your story. Be honest with your hearer so that you avoid a ‘holier than thou’ attitude. God’s truth will be effective when you are truthful.
5. Avoid church talk that requires insider knowledge. While you certainly want to mention your church and the blessing it is to you, try to stay away from church words and phrases that require insider knowledge. Jesus’ story and your faith journey are the best vehicles for the Holy Spirit to use.
6. Build on the areas of life experience that you have in common. Look for places where your story and their experiences cross. This is the perfect place to apply the “cross.” Allow the Holy Spirit to use your common experiences to carry Jesus to their heart.
7. Use a favorite Bible verse that means something to you and your story. God’s Word never returns void; it is always effective – use it! Pepper your conversation with appropriate, brief Scripture passages that speak to the points you are trying to make.
8. End with a question that encourages a response. Ask “the question” at the end. Here are some samples: “Does my story make sense to you?” “Can you relate to what I’m saying?”

Writing Your Gospel Conversation

Here are good questions to help you write your Gospel conversation.

1. When did you become a Christian?
2. If your conversion was not as a child, what was your life like before you came to know Jesus? What difference did Jesus make?
3. What is life with Jesus like for you? Can you imagine what life would be like without Him? What benefits has faith brought into your life?
4. How does your faith help you when life’s challenges come your way?
5. How can Jesus make a difference for the person with whom you are sharing life?

“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

Adapted from Concordia Publishing House Share Life Session Four. Used with permission.