

## Session Four

# Finding People Who are Open to the Gospel

As you live an authentic Christ honouring life and serve the community, praying for God to lead you to people who are interested and open to the gospel, they will often find you. You need to be where they are and talk openly about your faith and confidence in God. This process may take some time before you find these people.

You may already know people, that if you challenged them, they would be open to begin a Discovery Group with their family and/or friends.

You need to initiate conversations with people. Start with **common questions** that lead to **meaningful conversations** that lead to **spiritual conversations**.

### How to Initiate Conversations

#### A. Be Available to God and to People

Read 2 Timothy 4:2a. What does this verse mean to you?

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God is more interested in your availability than your ability. He will bring people to Christ through you when you are available to Him.

#### B. Ask God to give you Opportunities to talk with People

1. Be specific. Pray for God to arrange divine appointments. Ask Him to lead you to someone.
2. Assume that when you are alone with a person for a few minutes that it is an answer to your prayer.
3. Consider an opportunity to initiate conversations a privilege, not a responsibility.

#### C. Meet People where they are

Many Christians spend most of their time with other believers going from one Christian activity to another, leaving little opportunity to meet people who are unbelievers.

In order to share Christ with those who do not know Christ you must go where they are. Be alert and share as the Lord gives you opportunity.

**D. Ask God to give you a loving interest in everyone you meet.  
Ask Common Questions**

1. Be friendly
2. Open the conversation by asking questions. Questions of where, who, how, what, when and why help develop conversation.
  - a. Read John 4:7. What question did Jesus ask the woman at the well?

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Why did He ask her this question? \_\_\_\_\_

- b. Read Acts 8:30. What question did Philip ask? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Why did he ask this question? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Some suggested questions to ask:
  - a. A neighbour:  
“Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. I just wanted a chance to meet you. How long have you lived here?”
  - b. A fellow traveller:  
“Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. Where are you travelling to?”
  - c. Other People:  
“Do you live in this city (area)?” “What do you do for a living?”  
“May I help you?” or “Will you help me with \_\_\_\_\_?”

**E. Transition to Meaningful and then Spiritual Conversation**

For example: If the conversation turns to talking about the stress and challenge of raising children you could say something like; ***“I know what you mean. I am a follower of Jesus and I don’t know what I would do if I didn’t have Jesus to give me patience and strength each day.”***

**Or**

If the conversation turns to talking about the economy or the state of our world, you could say something like; ***“The world seems to be spinning out of control and no-one seems to be able to fix it, but as a follower of Jesus I know God is in control and that Jesus is the solution to the needs of the world!”***

**What did the first century Christians do?**

Read Acts 8:4. What does it say about the believers? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

First century believers talked the good news of Jesus Christ in their everyday conversations wherever they went. Today we need to have our eyes open to the many opportunities to meet people and share Jesus Christ. You are a unique person and have a sphere of influence not duplicated by any other person. Begin to establish contact with individuals by asking questions, sharing your own experience, and then using simple transitions which will allow you to invite them to begin a Discovery Group.

#### **F. Invite him/her to begin a Discovery Group**

When you meet someone who wants to talk about spiritual things, this may be a person who is open to the gospel.

You could say something like; ***“Would you like to get together to see what the Bible has to say about God and the fundamental issues of our lives?”***

***Offer to meet with this person in their home.***

***Ask them to invite their family or friends who may have similar questions.***

***Set a date and time and begin a Discovery Group***

**Remember to:**

**Be available to God and to people**

**Ask God to give you opportunities to meet people**

**Meet people where they are**

**Ask God to give you a loving interest in everyone you meet**

**Ask common questions that lead to meaningful conversations that lead to spiritual conversations**

**Invite them to begin a Discovery Group**

**Practice Making Conversation**

**Find a partner and practice these principles:**

1. Take turns initiating conversations by using (D. 3. a, b and c above).
2. Transition to more meaningful/spiritual conversations (E. above).
3. Offer to begin a Discovery Group in their home if they seem to be open (F. above).

**Close this session by praying for each other that God would provide opportunities for you to use this information to Find People who are Interested and Open to the Gospel.**