

5 Ways to Start Spiritual Conversations



For the past three years, I have sent out trainees to conduct quick interviews with whomever they meet. During the reporting time, there have been some funny responses, but more often, there have been some keen insights on ways to get an evangelistic encounter underway.

I'm often asked how to begin evangelizing people they meet who need Jesus, but they do not really know. Yes, they buy into orality training in small groups, but how do they get the lost engaged in the first place?

FIVE DIFFERENT AREAS THAT CAN BE SPIRITUAL CONVERSATION STARTERS

- 1** **PITHY SAYINGS:** Jim Slack, orality pioneer says, "Worldview resides in the idioms of the heart language." A man in New Hampshire said, "God is getting mighty small around here." A young man in Missouri said, "Honesty is the best policy." Listen to what people say and why they say it.
- 2** **PET PEEVES:** When things don't go as we want, it reveals our expectations. Maybe people aren't as spiritually liberal as we think they are when we hear responses such as, "Saying one thing, but doing another." Or "I've been mowing the grass [at a megachurch in Georgia] for three years and nobody has ever told me what they believe." (The Mexican accepted Christ by the sensitive surveyor.)
- 3** **PATRIOTISM** reveals to what people will be loyal. We often hear, "People who serve in the military" or "my neighbor because they always fly a flag." They are vocal and visible about their nationalism.
- 4** **GOOD CHRISTIAN:** We look for four categories:

 - (a) transformed worldview is revealed in comments like "lives their life like Jesus would" or "godly woman who walks with the Lord every day,"
 - (b) just the facts or becoming knowledgeable sounds like "a person who studies their Bible every day,
 - (c) values / right choices shows up in comments like "they are good moral people" or "upstanding citizens," or
 - (d) acting right / behaviors such as "people who go to church all the time." We've even heard "my pastor because he has wisdom, preaches the Bible, and models godly behavior," but rarely.
- 5** **GOOD LEADER:** Yes we hear "President Obama" quite often, but we also hear comments such as "a person who looks out for the little guy" and sometimes "anyone who can improve our life." Anyone?

The number one surprise among our orality training participants is that people will actually talk to them. Sure there are some that joke and say their pet peeve is taking surveys, but when it's face to face, even a "cold" conversation can lead to many deeper spiritual conversations and an opportunity to apply a Bible story that speaks to their situation.