

IGNITE AMERICA

**Ten Easy Ways To Start
God Centered Conversations**

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Introduction

One of the main reasons believers don't share their faith is because they don't even know how to start. But whether it's a first date, first day on the job or the first time sharing your faith, uncertainty is always replaced by exhilaration. You just have to get started. Nike says it best: 'Just Do It!'

If you've never had the fun of intentionally sharing your faith on a daily basis, you're in for the ride of your life. There's nothing in the human experience that rivals leading people to Jesus Christ. You're actually changing lives for eternity! Apart from your own salvation, the only thing that will matter 100 years from now is how many people will spend their Eternity in Heaven because of your influence.

But it gets even better! God's entire purpose for coming to earth was to '*Seek and save the lost . . . that none should be lost.*' And God has promised to make everything in your life work for good when you love Him and live your life for His Purpose . . . that no one under your influence is lost. They are, in fact, your mission field.

These 'Ten Easy Ways to Open God Centered Conversations' are only meant to get you started . . . and will lead to hundreds more. While the task of leading people to Jesus is daunting and the consequences are eternal, the joy of leading people to the Lord is unexplainable.

"My Joy will remain with you and your joy will remain full." John 15:11

Chapter 1

Ask people: “Is everything OK?”

Most people are not OK. In fact, most people will be actively worrying about something when you ask this question.

Watch for signs of worry and distress on every face and be quick to ask: “Are you OK?” Even if they’re hurting, some won’t feel safe to disclose that to you. But the mere fact that you expressed concern will move them closer to God. That’s your basic goal.

If they’re desperate, the need often comes pouring out along with an openness to receive the comfort of God’s Love flowing through you. You’ll be surprised how fast a smile can turn to tears in response to your concern and you see the real person.

It’s always a privilege and an honor to be invited into someone’s life, and it’s never by accident! The steps of a righteous man are ordered by the Lord. When God directs you into a Divine Encounter, all you have to do is let the Love of God flow thru you and allow the Holy Spirit to guide your conversation. Being surprised at how God leads you is the sweet spot of being a Christian!

Only God knows the real need and how much progress can be made in that one conversation. And no matter what the immediate response is, it’s a rush to know that Almighty God, the Creator of Everything that exists, is using you at that very moment to move someone closer to Him.

There’s nothing you can do that pleases God more than allowing yourself to be used for His Purpose . . . and the Joy of the Lord is your strength!

Chapter 2

Ask people: “Is there anything I can pray for you about?”

Most people are already praying for something that’s important to them. When you ask this question, you’re offering to partner with them in prayer for something important.

This question should not be asked out of habit or ritual. People know when you’re asking this question with sincerity. And when people see the sincerity of your offer to pray for them, they often invite you into the privacy of their lives. That’s a sacred honor that you can’t take lightly. At that point, even the most simplistic of prayers can move people dramatically closer to God.

The key to praying correctly is to be a good listener to what they’re saying . . . even to what they’re not saying with body language or obvious omissions to their stories. People always want to put the best spin on their problem hoping you’ll pray accordingly. God, of course, wants to pray thru you with His Understanding and guidance. When you rely on Him, He’ll give you the words to say.

Relax and know that prayers don’t have to be pretty or smooth to be effective. They simply have to be real and from the heart. When your focus moves from your choice of words to the brokenness of the person and God’s overwhelming love for them, whatever comes out of your mouth will minister greatly.

Much like being afraid to dive into water and then being refreshed by the experience, there’s nothing like overcoming your fear and experiencing the refreshment of having God minister through you to someone that’s hurting.

Chapter 3

Ask a Server in a Restaurant: “Is there anything we can pray for you about as we pray for our meal?”

Most waiters and waitresses are dealing with financial and family pressures at home. And too often, particularly on Sundays, Christians are seen as over staying, over demanding, uncaring and under tipping people . . . provoking bitterness toward God.

Asking your server if they would like to be included in a prayer, that you’re already going to pray, is never offensive. Some will decline the offer, but many will accept it with great thankfulness. In either case, you’ll move them closer to God, and timing is everything. Asking the question as your server finishes taking your order and is about to walk away works best.

But before you ask them, get their name right and ask them by name if they’d like you to pray for them. That simple gesture immediately enriches the relationship. While you’re there, be sure that your conversations and attitudes represent God well. And throughout your meal, refer to them by name with your requests and your praise and particularly your “goodbye”.

It’s also important to allow your server to decide if they want to discuss God more during your meal. Never force it! A simple “God Bless’ you when you leave and leaving an extra good tip will say volumes. And here’s the real gold: If you plan to return to that restaurant, remember their name for your next visit and watch your relationship turn into a friendship. That’s when your ministry opportunity explodes.

Chapter 4

Mention something of interest that includes a reference to your Church

It can be anything from a funny story your pastor told or a friend you met at church or a restaurant you ate at after church. There's no end to things you can say that includes the mentioning your church. It's so simple! But you're announcing to those listening, without offending them that you go to church. And that says volumes!

If the person you're speaking with is a Christian, they'll always respond by asking: "Where you go to church?" Church-going Christians always want to connect with other church-going Christians. This is the easiest way to discover who around you are Christians.

If the person is in the process of seeking God, they'll also ask where you go to church. This gives you permission to ask them the same question. When they can't name a church or say they don't attend church, that's a golden opportunity to invite them to your church. But that's not your priority! People rarely accept invitations to church from people they've just met.

Your priority is to move them closer to God - by everything you say and do in your interaction with them. They need to see the Love of God flowing thru you, without an agenda. Know that they're evaluating God by what they see in you— that's a heavy responsibility!

Here's the best part! Even if they show no response to your comments, you've moved them closer to God.

Chapter 5

Watch for stories people tell about unexpected “luck” or good fortune and connect those experiences to God

People often relate how “lucky” they are for having certain things happen in their lives without an explanation for why they happened. Knowing every good thing comes from God, these are prime opportunities for you to connect the good things happening in people’s lives with God’s Love for them.

Simply saying, with a smile, things like “Wow, God was obviously watching out for you” or “Wow, God must have big plans for you” or “Thank you Lord for protecting my friend,” can have a huge impact on people. You’re connecting the good things that have happened in their lives to God rather than luck. For most, that will be an original thought. And you’re responding with enthusiasm to their story, so you’re not being offensive.

If they say nothing in response to your God comment, that’s OK. They heard it and, presuming you’re walking the talk, it helps them understand what makes you tick. But now that you’re on their radar screen as a Christian, everything you say and do going forward will either lead them closer or further away from God. You’ve now taken on the role as Christ’s Ambassador to them and it’s serious business – life and death business!

But going forward, no more than a passing mention of God per conversation is required to remind them of your God consciousness. You can’t force feed Christianity. When they’re hungry, they’ll let you know. The timing is between them and God.

Chapter 6

Watch for ways to work intriguing 'God Honoring Stories' into conversations that match the subject being discussed

We all have amazing stories of God's Faithfulness in our lives and the lives of other Christians we know . . . stories that always fascinate those listening. In Christian circles, you can tell them out of context. It really doesn't matter. But with Non-Christians, there must always be context to keep them from being seen as interruptive or offensive.

In the course of most conversations, subjects come and go that attract stories from almost everyone in the conversation. When you're an intentional faith sharer, you'll watch for the best opportunity to introduce a "perfect fit" God-Story into your conversations. But it can't be a story just for sake of telling a story. It needs to be an compelling story that Glorifies God.

But here's a warning. If you're not intentionally watching for the right opportunity to interject the right story, you'll miss it. You'll either not think of one or you'll think about it too late for it to be relative to where the conversation has gone. In either case, it's a missed opportunity.

On the other hand, even if you have a God-Story for every subject, less is more. One story is enough to move everyone in a group closer to God. The key is to Glorify God in every conversation without turning people off. Your barometer is whether or not you're pushing people away or drawing them to you. Do it right, and you'll inspire people to come to you and to God.

Chapter 7

For most people, nothing is more important than family and nothing touches their heart faster than asking about their family

A world of opportunity opens up to talk about God whenever you ask people about their families. It's an emotional subject that brings openness and vulnerability into every conversation.

It doesn't matter whether the top of mind subjects are the failures or over achievements of the family or individual family members. Every response provides an abundance of opportunities for you to introduce the Power of God into the conversation very naturally . . . from giving Him praise for their achievements to offering prayer for their challenges.

Truth is, almost every parent feels challenged by the job of parenting today and wants to do better. How do you keep good kids on track and get the others back on track, even if they're adults. The job never ends!

With our culture being what it is today, the battle for the minds and souls of family members is almost impossible to win without God's intervention. Even high achievers are losing their moral compass without having God active in their lives.

For all of these reasons, the subject of family often provides the shortest path into the spiritual consciousness of people— touching them where they're most open and receptive. Almost everyone's concerned over the wellbeing and assurance of Heaven in the lives of their family members. And by simply asking about their family, you can start a process that will have eternal results.

Chapter 8

God's Master Plan and Bible Prophecy are now relevant to daily conversation

Almost every conversation today includes talking about the latest shocking news report shaking the world. Apart from Bible Prophecy, no one can understand what's going on. The entire world is out of our control and searching for answers. And we have the answers!

Bible Prophecy has become an attractive subject for Christians and Non-Christians to investigate. The same Prophets that predicted with absolute accuracy the Birth, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, told us that these days would come. And here they are! And while no man knows the day or the hour of the Lords return, *we shall know the signs of the times*. They're all around us! Indeed, the signs of our times are confirming the scriptures and explaining what's happening.

Because of the uncertainty of our times, 86% of the un-churched would like to believe there really is a God. They want to know there's a God who can make sense out of the craziness. Even the wealthiest of people have nowhere to run today, but they won't go to church. That makes you their church until they go to church.

As it happens, every conversation that touches this subject opens the door for connecting God's Master Plan with current events. It's generally received as new information and stirs immediate interest. You don't need to be an expert on Bible Prophecy to get their attention. In fact, too much information at one time, can be too much. But simply introducing the overwhelming fact that our world is still under God's Control leads to peace and Salvation for the lost.

Chapter 9

Always be on the lookout for situations where your favorite scripture is a perfect fit

There's nothing easier than explaining your favorite scripture with great energy, including your personal experience with its reality in your own life. That's why it's your favorite scripture! And when you explain it to others in the context of your life, it comes alive.

Even better, when you encounter someone facing challenges similar to those you faced when your scripture became your scripture, you know you're in the middle of a Divine Appointment. It's not by accident that God's placed you in that person's life at that very moment. So just tell your story!

Always use every excuse to quote the Word of God to unbelievers. Our words are important to capture the attention of those around us, but it's the Word of God that cuts like a two edged sword into the hearts and minds of man. There's no comparison between our words and God's Words. Our highest goal is to place the Word of God into the psyche of everyone we influence.

And the easiest path for doing that is to bring a scripture to life through your own life experience. It's easy and it's fun and it gets easier and more fun every time you do it. It's also the farthest thing from being 'preachy'.

In fact, it's entertaining! There are very few life changing events in your life that won't speak strongly to those around you. That makes you incredibly relevant. And God's ready to use your story and your scripture to change lives for Eternity.

Chapter 10

The age-old question of: “Do you know where you’ll go when you die” remains the most compelling and revealing question you can ask

When we’re young, we feel like we’ll live forever. But as we age, we face our reality of our mortal bodies with our days being numbered. And while some refuse to even think about it, most past the age of 50, grow increasingly concerned over where they’ll spend their eternity.

Political correctness would say this is a taboo subject for general conversation, even though it’s a subject of wide spread interest and concern. People want to talk about it but don’t. That’s why this is a great question to ask and so many people want to answer but don’t know how. This opens the door for you to explain that the only path to salvation is thru the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Most people want to believe they’re going to Heaven and will say they are. But when asked why they are, most will answer because they’re a good person.

These are the oldest two questions for getting to the heart of the subject – and they’re still the best. Of course, being good doesn’t get anyone into Heaven and God doesn’t send good people to Hell. Before God, our righteousness is as filthy rags. All of us have sinned and fallen short - and the wages of sin is death. None of us are “Good” in God’s eyes.

Every time you ask these two thought provoking questions, you get to share the Good News that Jesus alone paid the price for their entrance into Heaven. That’s exciting!

Conclusion

There's nothing sacred about these ten suggestions that make them better than hundreds of others we could have used. Their importance is merely to emphasize how easy it is to start God Centered Conversations— and to spark your own imagination. There are endless possibilities.

The key is to be intentional. If you're not intentional, you probably won't think about sharing your faith with someone until it's too late, if then. But when you're intentional, you're on your game watching for the first 'natural' opportunity to work God into the conversation without raising eyebrows. And then, intentionally change the subject immediately and don't look back – don't mention God again.

If they're hungry, they'll let you know. If they're not, you can't force feed Christianity. Your simple comment reminded them of God in your life, without offending them, and advanced them in their journey toward God. That alone puts a bounce in your step and a smile on God's face. The timing is His!