

Gospel Conversation Starters



This is not a comprehensive list but this will help you with some ideas on how to get started.

1. If God could work a miracle in your life right now, what would it be and can I pray for you?
2. What country are you from? I don't know much about it, tell me about it. (or I've been there, or I've always wanted to go there...)
3. (If they're foreigners and it's near one of our holidays) What holidays do you celebrate? Let me tell you why we celebrate Easter/Thanksgiving/Christmas...
4. Find a need from them (coughing? Tired? Sick child?) I'm a follower of Jesus and I've seen him answer prayers in amazing ways. Can I pray for you right now?
5. Find their fear. I used to be afraid, too, it's terrible! But Jesus has taken away my fear. Would you like to live without fear?
6. Would you say you're "far from God" or "close to God"?
7. What religion do you follow?
8. Prayer walks. We're out praying for our community. Do you have any specific requests I can pray for?
9. With a Muslim – Oh, I'm a Christian. We're really very alike. We're both not perfect, but trying to be closer to God and get to heaven. What do you do? How is that working for you? It's different for me.
10. Look for something that ties back to Christ or the Bible. Your name is James? Oh, that's a Bible name... I see you have a tattoo of a cross. What does that mean to you?
11. You seem to be a spiritual person, what do you believe about God?
12. Tell me about your spiritual journey.
13. Do you have any kind of spiritual belief?
14. ...by the way, do you have a church family? If not, I have a great one to recommend.
15. I Am Second website – www.iamsecond.com This is a great resource. It has short videos on many topics. These videos are literally designed to be conversation starters. Watch a film together and discuss.
16. I Am Second bracelet. This is a "passive" starter. Wear one and people will ask what it means.
17. Tell them a story. Share a true story from the Bible about a changed life.



Cautions:

Don't get "stuck" preparing, learning, practicing, getting things perfect. There is always a new method to learn, a new tool to master. Just get started.

Don't get "stuck" building relationships without taking the step to introduce spiritual matters. If you wait too long the person will feel like the whole relationship was a set up.

Don't get "stuck" answering endless questions. The questions can be endless and no one has all the answers. There is a time to begin; to take a step of faith.

Responses you might get (and things to say):

Red lights

No – I have my own religion. *Tell me about it. How do you believe you get to heaven. How is it working for you?*

No – I talk to god all the time but I don't think the bible is real. *The problem with praying to your own god is that eventually, it's just your own self. If god thinks exactly like you and hates the things you hate, then that is probably not God. The value of the Bible is to show us who God is.*

No – I don't believe in God *Why? Tell me what you think about God...I wouldn't believe in a god like that, either! – why do you believe that?*

No, just no! – *Ok, Can I pray for you?*

NO!!!! – *Ok, have a nice day.* Don't be afraid of these "zingers". People who do this for a living tell me that the areas where they get the most zingers often show the most fruit.

Yellow lights

I don't know what I believe. – *Can we get together for coffee/lunch/dinner and talk about it more?* (Note, it's counterintuitive, but for the first few meetings, don't invite them to your house or church but rather ask if you can go to their house. Second best option is meet somewhere neutral like a coffee shop or restaurant.)

Green lights

Yes, I want to accept Jesus as my savior right now. (This doesn't happen often with Americans. It does happen with immigrants.) Help them pray to receive Jesus and set up a next meeting to study God's word, and then invite them to church. They might not be comfortable coming to church immediately, so another one-on-one meeting will help them make the transition

Other response

I'm already a Christian. – *Great! What's your favorite method to share the gospel, I always want to learn new ways.* If they don't have a method, teach them yours!!