

STARTING SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS USING THREE METHODS

1. Direct Method

Typically takes the form of a question or statement:

- Do you ever think about spiritual matters?
- Where do you think you are on your spiritual journey?
- If you ever want to know the difference between religion and Christianity, let me know.

(This question gives people the chance to respond if they are interested. Even if they are not interested at this time, it may get them thinking about it so that they bring it up later.)

This approach doesn't wait for opportunities, but, in a sense, creates them. The way it works is simple. You straightforwardly raise a spiritual topic and then see if the person is interested in talking about it. You don't force anyone to discuss matters of faith but you do open the door of doing so.

These types of questions or statements provide natural transitions into a Gospel presentation.

2. Indirect Method

Builds on the direction the conversation is already headed by using the topic being discussed as a bridge to a related spiritual topic.

It is using everyday subjects such as hobbies, music, sports or struggles that you are both facing and putting a spiritual twist to it. For example, if your friend is going through a difficult time similar to one you have encountered (an illness, relationship-issue, etc.) you can make a transition to a spiritual conversation by sharing with them how your faith in Christ, a Bible verse, or a message series at church helped you.

The goal with the indirect method is to raise the topic.

3. Invitational Method

Transitions the conversation by inviting your friend to a Christian event that relates to the topic that you are discussing.

Suppose the topic of music comes up, and there is going to be a Christian concert at your church. Use the invitational method by saying, "If you are interested in music, we have a concert coming up at our church in a couple of weeks that you might really like. How would you like to come with me?"

You can dramatically increase your success by:

- Offering to pick your friend up for the event
- Do something before or after the event

One key with the invitational method – After the event, be sure and follow up with a question, such as, "What did you think of what the speaker had to say?"