



# The Art of Conversation

Moving Towards Conversations That Count

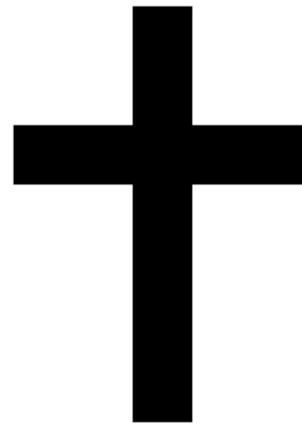
Steve Osmond

## **Origin**

Where Do We Come From?

**Intellectual  
Viability**

**Morality**  
How Are We Supposed To  
Live?



**Destiny**  
What Happens When We  
Die?

**Existential  
Satisfaction**

**Meaning**  
What Are We Here For



Short Answers

around the Christian faith.

Short/Answers

Webinars

Talks

Other Videos

I'd like a Short Answers about...

SEARCH



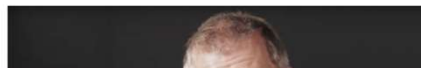
Are All Religions the Same?



Why Does Justice Matter?



Why Do Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Matter?



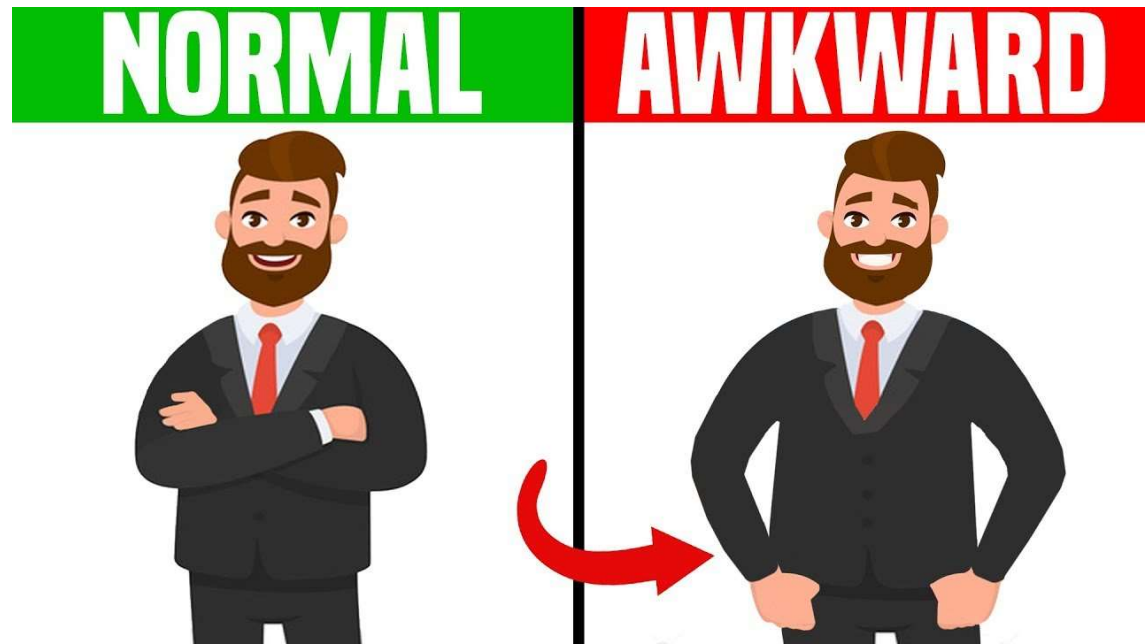
NEWSLETTER SIGNUP

DONATE



# Why Don't We Share Our Faith

- It's **AWKWARD!**
- I'm **not good** at it
- **Afraid** of standing out
- What if I look like **a fool**?
- What if I make **God look bad**?
- What if there are **questions** I can't answer?
- What if I get in **trouble** / fired?



# Why Don't We Share Our Faith

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- We live in an age of relativism
- Hyper sensitive culture
- Disagreement is seen as an attack
- Christianity not taken seriously – seen as unenlightened
- Seems like people just don't care

Jesus himself was confronted  
with pressures just as we are  
today!



Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. “Teacher,” they said, “we know that you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren’t swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are. Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?”





*But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, “You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? Show me the coin used for paying the tax.” They brought him a denarius, and he asked them, “Whose image is this? And whose inscription?” “Caesar’s,” they replied. Then he said to them, “So give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.”*



# The Power of Questions!

# Three Good Questions

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1 – What do you mean by that?

1 – What do you mean by that?

2 – Why do you think that?

1 – What do you mean by that?

2 – Why do you think that?

**3 – Have you ever wondered...?**

1 – What do you mean by that?

2 – Why do you think that?

3 – Have you ever wondered...?



I have come that they might have life, and  
have it to the full.

Gospel of John 10:10



# Thank you

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# Extra Conversation Resources

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# The Art of Conversation

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## 1) Be prepared!

- Pray. Think about questions they may ask. Think about what you can talk about with them. Don't wing it!

## 2) Be multilingual

- How are you able to *connect* with those you want to reach?
- What are they interested in? What do they enjoy? What do they care about?

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## 3) Set a goal

- A goal to have a specific conversation
- Get accountability

## 4) Be question ready

- Jesus asked questions...a lot!
- Bridge the gap from 'shooting the breeze' to Jesus.
- Move toward deeper conversations without being threatening.



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## 4) Be question ready

- What was the best / worst part of your week?
- What's been on your mind most recently?
- How would your best friends describe you?
- What were you like as a child? Are you different now? In what ways?
- Whom in your family are you most alike / different from? In what ways?
- Who has had the most significant influence on your life? Why?
- Did you grow up in a religious home?
- Have you ever had experiences in your life that made you think there might be a God?

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## 5) Be response ready

- Questions are a gift and an opportunity to share something about who God is and what He has done.

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Example:

Person A question = How was your weekend?

Person B response 1 = Fine, thanks. (conversation stopper)

Person B response 2 = Really good. Saw some friends on Saturday, and went to church on Sunday, which is always a highlight for me. Do you ever go to church?

Person A: No, I'm not religious.

Person B: I never used to be either, but I was invited years ago and found it incredibly meaningful and a wonderful community to be part of. It would be great if you came along sometime to check it out.

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## 6) Be testimony ready

- Sharing the faith is often about finding Christ at the intersection between our own story and those of others.
- Sometimes we find evangelism hard because we don't really actually know our stories very well.
- We all have innumerable testimonies we can tell about how God has worked in our lives

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## 6) Be testimony ready

- Try find a theme I which you can understand your testimony, then reflect on that and how God has worked in that area
- Ie:
  - Guilt, pride, worry, dreams & aspirations, relationships, family, forgiveness...

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- 7) Be prayer ready
- 8) Be good stewards of conversation
- 9) Be invitational



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## Group Exercises:

- 1) Think about the 'wondering' question – list 3 things you think are relevant in your context and how you could use them to open up a spiritual conversation.
- 2) Come up with 5 of your own conversation starter questions.
- 3) Share your testimony in 5 minutes around a particular aspect you resonate with (guilt, pride, worry, dreams & aspirations, relationships, family, forgiveness...)