

# Session 6: How to Have Thoughtful Conversations

## 1. Bible Reflection

*I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*  
John 14:6

### Reflect upon the following question:

What do you think it means that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life?

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## 2. Session Outline Part 1

### Conversational Apologetics

It's just as much about the importance of listening to people as responding to people, and just as much about the importance of asking people questions as it is about answering their questions.

### Asking Good Questions

Some examples of good questions:

- What's been the best and worst part of your week?
- What's the best piece of advice you've ever been given?
- Who has had the most significant influence in your life?
- What gets you through hard times?
- Have you ever had experiences in your life that make you think there might be a God?

### Being Ready for the Question, "Why?"

It's less about your ability as it is about your availability.

## 3. Discussion Break

Share with each other some of your best and worst experiences of answering people's questions or objections about faith.

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## 4. Session Outline Part 2

## Questioning the Questioner

Good questions can help bring to light people's reasons, motives, assumptions, biases, hopes and fears behind their questions; allowing us to respond more thoughtfully, and effectively. So ask yourself, why would someone be asking this question?

A question you can always ask is, "Why is this question important to you?"

Jesus asked people questions all the time as a means of bringing to light their motives, assumptions, hopes and fears. For example:

- Whose face is on the coin?
- Who is my mother and who are my brothers?
- Why are you so afraid?
- Who appointed me judge or arbiter between you?
- Who do you say I am?

Sometimes people's questions reveal their assumptions and asking a good question can help expose that assumption. For example:

- Why do you think that science has disproved God?
- Why do you think all religions are essentially the same?

By being interested, asking good questions, being ready for the question why and questioning the questioner we are building a bridge towards more honest and meaningful conversations... allowing the person to share the thing that is really holding them back from believing or trusting in God.

## 5. Further Discussion

1. When you think about being interested in people, asking good questions, being ready for the question “why?” and questioning the questioner, which do you think comes most naturally to you? And which do you need to work at?
2. As we have come to the end of this series, what are some of your biggest takeaways? What have you found most helpful? What have you found most challenging?
3. In what ways has God worked in your life through this course?

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## 6. Take Time to Pray

Take a moment to pray with one another around some of the things you have shared today.

## 7. Where to From Here?

What is one thing you will take away from this session?

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## 8. Notes

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