

Meaningful and Purposeful Conversations - Workshop

Sat Sep 25

Aims in Conversation

Meaning - get to a deeper heart level, beneath the superficial

Purpose - move in a direction towards Jesus

Assumptions

Everyone needs to be heard

I can't fix, save or solve but Jesus can

Everyone needs Jesus including me

God uses weak vessels like me to bless others

Principles in practice

God is sovereign over every conversation so pray before during and after a conversation

Nehemiah 2:1-5 I took the wine and gave it to the king. I had not been sad in his presence before, so the king asked me, "Why does your face look so sad when you are not ill? This can be nothing but sadness of heart."

I was very much afraid, but I said to the king, "May the king live forever! Why should my face not look sad when the city where my ancestors are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?" The king said to me, "What is it you want?"

Then I prayed to the God of heaven, and I answered the king,

Be slow to speak and quick to listen so learn to ask questions

James 1:19 My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry,

Listen because you love not because it is a technique

Proverbs 20:5 The intentions of a man's heart are deep waters, but a man of understanding draws them out.

Be aware of your own weakness (approach someone "side by side" not "top down")

1 Timothy 1:15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.

Learn to grieve with others and not to solve problems

Romans 13:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

Matthew 5:3-4 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

John 11:33-35 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied. Jesus wept.

Don't be afraid of silence

Job 2:13 Then they sat on the ground with him for seven days and seven nights. No one said a word to him, because they saw how great his suffering was.

Address the heart that drives the behaviour

James 4:1-2 What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight

Ask God for helpful Scripture to share

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

Ask where God is in the situation and what difference does it make to know Jesus

John 6:68 Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

Share about yourself when you are asked or when it is helpful for the other person

1 Thessalonians 2:8 Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.

Offer to pray at the end of the conversation

Ephesians 6:18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

God is at work before I get there and after I leave

Philippians 1:4-6 In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Types of Questions

That help them to process hurt and grief ("Tell me what happened in your conversation with your housemate")

That follow on from other questions ("what did your housemate say to you?", "when you shared about what your housemate said to you, how did that make you feel")

That move towards the heart of the person ("why do you think that comment from your housemate hurt you so much?")

That bring the focus to God and Jesus ("where is God in the hurt that you're feeling?", "If these words of your housemate are still ringing in your ears, what do you think God would say to you from the Bible?")

That help them own their problems and solutions ("you're avoiding your housemate at the moment, what do you think God wants you to do with your relationship with your housemate?")

Resources

"Side by Side- walking with others in wisdom and love" by Ed Welch

"Caring for one another - 8 ways to cultivate meaningful relationships" by Ed Welch

"Together through the storm - a practical guide to Christian care" by Sally Sims