



HARVEST BAPTIST CHURCH
SUNDAY EVENING SEMINAR

Building Relationships

SESSION 3

Focus

Identify how to be intentional about building relationships with those you hope to reach.

Discovery

Building Relationships

If building relationships is a key to reaching others for Christ, than where do we look to initiate relationships?

1. People we already know

Suggestions:

- Include them in activities we are already
- Organize a "Matthew Party"
- Principle: Barbeque First!

2. People we used to know

3. People we would like to know

Suggestion:

- Strategic Consumerism

Points to Remember

1. Pray _____
2. Listen _____
3. Build on areas of common ground _____
4. Mention spiritual matters early _____

Starting Spiritual Conversations

1. Direct **Method**

- Typically takes the form of a question or statement such as:

"Where do you think you are on your spiritual journey?"

"If you would ever like to know the difference between religion and Christianity, just let me know."

2. Indirect **Method**

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

3. Invitational **Method**

- Transitions the conversation by inviting your friend to a ministry event that might interest them.

Tips for inviting people:

- Offer to pick them up.
- Do something before or after the event.

Principles for Starting Spiritual Conversations

1. Focus on the other person's interests and concerns.
2. Be willing to take risks.
3. Make the most of split-second opportunities.

Exercise

Starting Spiritual Conversations

Situation	Possible Transitions
<p>1. You are in a situation where it is natural to comment on the beautiful weather, spectacular sights, intricacies of nature, or the wonder of creation.</p> <p>Sample transition: “God must have quite an imagination to create such beauty.”</p>	<p>You would say:</p>
<p>2. Your friend has just told you about their weekend plans to participate in a local event or take a shopping trip.</p> <p>Sample transition: “I enjoy spending my spare time building into the lives of the Junior High kids at our church.”</p>	<p>You would say:</p>
<p>3. You are talking with a work associate about an upcoming holiday like Thanksgiving, Christmas, or Easter.</p> <p>Sample transition: “I’m curious, do you observe any family or religious traditions around the holiday?”</p>	<p>You would say:</p>

Situation	Possible Transitions
<p>4. Your friend confides in you about a problem he is facing or a difficulty he is working through.</p> <p>Sample transition: I can relate to the problem you are describing. I've struggled with that too, but what made a difference was when I discovered a source of spiritual strength..."</p>	<p>You would say:</p>
<p>5. Your friend has just told you about the hobbies he/she likes doing in his/her spare time and is interested in knowing about yours.</p> <p>Sample transition: "I enjoy spending my spare time building into the lives of the Junior High kids at our church."</p>	<p>You would say:</p>
<p>6. You are talking with a work associate about a recent death in his family.</p> <p>Sample transition: "I am so sorry to hear about that. How are you handling that?"</p>	<p>You would say:</p>

Impact List

Name: _____

Style: _____

Name	Level of Readiness (1-4)	Areas of Common Ground

Conversational Transitions	Next Steps	
	Relationally	Spiritually

Impact List

Personal Impact List

As you begin to pray for the people on your Impact List, ask God to work in their lives and to give you wisdom on how to effectively reach out to them. In praying for them, keep in mind the following three areas:

Them

Ask God to:

- Pull them toward Himself.
- Open their eyes to the emptiness of life without Him.
- Help them see their need for forgiveness.
- Help them grasp the meaning and importance of the cross of Christ.
- Open their heart to God's love and truth.

You

Ask God to:

- Help you live a consistent and attractive Christian life.
- Make you authentic and honest as you deal with life's ups and downs.
- Give you wisdom in knowing how to approach the relationship.
- Expand your knowledge so you will be ready to define and defend the Gospel message.
- Grant you appropriate boldness and courage.
- Use you to help lead this person into a relationship with Christ.

Us

Ask God to:

- Develop the same heart for others and provide opportunities and open doors for spiritual conversations.

