

CITYGROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE



Fall Week 10

Week of Nov 12, 2017

REMINDERS for leaders:

Here's a few reminders before you get going:

- [VIDEO](#): No video this week.
- [Prep to Multiply](#). Finalize any multiplication plans this week so you can start talking with your group openly in the next few weeks before we break in Dec. Discuss what your plans are for the Spring semester (starting in Jan) with your group soon. And of course see help from your coach and inform Craig of your plans if you have not already.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. [**CONNECT 201 – \(MEMBERSHIP\)**](#): (Sun. 11/19 from 4-5 PM) Want to learn more about become a ‘member’ at City Church? Ready to dive in? Come to this one hour class and learn more about the commitments of membership and the commitments City Church makes to its members.
2. [**CHRISTMAS ON THE MOON:**](#) (Sun. 12/3 - 4:00, 6:00, 8:00 PM) Sign up to serve online and pick up your COTM T-shirt in the lobby this Sunday! Who will you invite to COTM this year?
3. [**THE RADICAL QUESTION: \(booklet\)**](#) Read this short booklet over the next couple weeks in connection with our new series called “Ordinary”. (Still a few copies available at the Connect Desk)

BIG IDEA(s):

This week, we continue our ‘Ordinary’ series; exploring what the Bible teaches about ordinary Christianity. Ordinary Christians live on mission as ambassadors of Christ. They see each new day and every relationship as an opportunity to point people to Jesus. However, the reality is, although Jesus has a mission, many Christians are simply not on it with Him...we’re off doing our own thing! This is a stark contrast from the ordinary Christianity of the Bible. Lead your group members through 2 Cor. 5 and what it looks like to wake up each day as an ambassador of Christ.

PRAY: Ask the Lord to lead your group meeting, speak through the Scriptures and guiding conversations.

READ: *2 Corinthians 5:11 - 6:2*

HEAD (20 minutes)

- 1) If the president appointed you as an ambassador...What country would you most like or dislike being appointed to?
- 2) Read 2 Cor. 5:11-6:2. Describe what it means to be an ambassador of Christ? (Vs. 20) (Ambassadors of Christ are sent by Jesus with His message (gospel) to people in need of reconciliation with Him. Ambassadors represent Jesus with their lifestyle and their message. Are we ever not ambassadors for Christ?)
 - How often did you think of yourself as an ambassador of Christ last week? Why is it important to see ourselves this way? (See vs. 17 & 20) (We will not live as ambassadors until we first see ourselves that way; ‘new creations in Christ’ (vs. 17) This is our identity! It’s important to know who you are in Christ and Whose you are.)
- 3) What could you pray for each day to help you live on mission? (Pray for eyes to see the ‘abundant harvest’ (Luke 10:2), for the salvation of others, opportunities & boldness to share the gospel.)
 - What’s the difference between a ‘spiritual conversation’ and ‘sharing the Gospel’? How can they work together? Examples?

HEART: (15 minutes)

- 1) On a scale of 1-5, how prepared do you feel to share your faith with others? What scares you most about it? (Not knowing what to say, looking weird, damaging a friendship, loosing job etc.)
- 2) On a scale of 1-5, what level of urgency do you have to share Christ most days? (See 1 Cor 9:16) What could help you grow in this area? (Believing every relationship is an opportunity, deeply loving lost friends, accountability etc.)
 - Do you have any baggage with the word ‘evangelism’? What are some healthy and unhealthy motivations for evangelism? (See v. 11 & 14)
 - What’s your role and what’s the Holy Spirit’s role in evangelism?

HANDS (15 Minutes):

- 1) What are some new ways to stretch ourselves as ambassadors of Christ this week? (Remember, being an ambassador means we represent Jesus all the time, not just when we share the gospel. We represent Him with our lives, words, choices, integrity at work, parenting, generosity, our worship etc too.)
- 2) What are some specific examples of turning an ordinary conversation, into spiritual conversations and then toward a Gospel conversation? (see below) How might this help your efforts to point people to Jesus? Give it a try this week & report back!

PRAY: *Take a few moments to share prayer requests and pray for one another and your lost friends.*

RESOURCES: TURNING CONVERSATIONS TOWARD GOSPEL CONVERSATIONS.

How can we make a comment based on an everyday situation that will cause our friends to ask us what we meant? How can we ask them a question that will cause their thoughts to leap into the realm of spiritual things? ...Let me emphasize at this point that the ability to turn a conversation around to spiritual things is not a "gift." **But it can be learned!** The only requirement is that you be concerned enough about the salvation of your unsaved friend to practice thinking through your own everyday situations and plan ahead what you would like to say in each situation.

The following conversation steps will guide you through the process from talking about the weather to discussing the gospel.

The Overview

1. Surface Talk -- Talk about the weather, sports, and so on. Listen and learn about them.
2. Personal Talk -- Will the person open up? Talk about family, jobs, or common interests (or even struggles).
3. *Spiritual Talk* -- Is there interest in spiritual things? Talk about religion, spirituality, churches, or church activities. (If the friend is not interested at this time, return to step two!) Although most people may not respond positively toward the gospel, they do appreciate having someone ask them about themselves and listening to their ideas or their problems in life.

For example, when talking about how you spend your weekends, says,

"Well, on weekends we usually [it doesn't matter what you do] on Saturday, and then we [eat in a restaurant, have friends over for lunch, whatever] after church."

Wait a few seconds for body language, then continue with, "Do you attend church?"

Regardless of the answer, say, "I see. Have you ever read the Bible?"

Regardless of the answer, say, "You know, I'm always interested in other people's viewpoints on what's in the Bible. Would you have time for us to get together *just one time* to talk more about your perspective on spirituality or the Bible? I love learning about what other people think about spiritual things."

Or a simple gospel transition question like... "**Do you consider yourself far from God or near to God?**" or "**If you were to die today could you say for certain that you would go to heaven?**"

5. *Gospel Talk* – Is this person seeking God, interested in talking further or receptive? Talk about what Christ has done for you; ask his or her view of Christianity. Share the Gospel or even ask them if anyone has ever shared the Gospel with them before. A simple question is, "**Can I share the Gospel with you?**" "**Can I share something with you that changed my life?**" You can also plant gospel seeds, or parts of the gospel in hopes of picking back up where you left off later. (Note: This italicized section is from Craig)

Adapted from > <https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/spiritual-life/how-to-turn-a-conversation-to-spiritual-things-900808.html>

3 GREAT APOLOGETIC QUESTIONS when met with push back. *from the book (Tactics by Greg Koukl)*

The goal is to ask great questions that disarms them and furthers the conversations without alienating them. Learn together.

1. *What do you mean by that? (have them define their terms)*
2. *How did you come to that conclusion? (Put the burden of proof on them)*
3. *Have you considered...? (Humbly sharing a different perspective to open their eyes or to put a 'pebble in their shoe'.)*