



## **Workshop Title: *Everyday Conversations That Open Hearts***

**Relational & Organic Evangelism in Daily Life**

**Total 45 minutes**

### **Workshop Outline:**

1. What is One Conversation?
2. Why do conversations matter in outreach?
3. Part 1 – Prepare (The Posture of the Heart)
4. Part 2 – Connect (The Art of Listening & Asking)
5. Part 3 – Share (Speaking the Truth in Love)
6. Final Wrap-up + Closing with Prayer & Encouragement

#### **1. What is One Conversation?**

Let me begin with a simple question: What is “One Conversation”? You might be wondering, “What does this have to do with me?”—and that’s a fair question. At its heart, One Conversation isn’t about having a script or giving a polished presentation. It’s about creating space for a real, meaningful interaction—one that invites spiritual openness through genuine listening, care, and trust. These conversations don’t require a stage or special training; they often happen in life’s ordinary moments—over lunch with a coworker, on a walk with a neighbor, or while catching up over coffee.

#### **The Heart and Impact of One Conversation**

Think about Jesus: He didn’t only preach sermons—He had conversations. In fact, the Gospels record Him asking over 300 questions. Why? Because relationships grow through dialogue, not monologue. That’s the heart of One Conversation: being fully present with someone, listening deeply, allowing the Holy Spirit to guide the moment, and trusting God to open hearts—one step at a time.

This concept simplifies the often intimidating idea of evangelism by focusing on building one real, meaningful connection at a time. Rather than trying to cover everything in a single interaction, One Conversation offers a humble and relational alternative to scripted or rushed approaches, highlighting the transformative power of presence and heartfelt engagement.

#### **2. Why do conversations matter in outreach?**

In outreach, conversations are the lifeblood of authentic connection and transformation. They honor the dignity of each person, recognizing them as whole human beings with unique experiences, needs, and longings. Most people don't come to faith all at once—they come through a series of meaningful, trusting interactions over time. When we engage in sincere dialogue, we build bridges of trust that open hearts to the gospel. Outreach without conversation can feel impersonal, transactional, or even intrusive, but when we prioritize dialogue, we reflect the incarnational love of Christ—God's willingness to enter our stories intimately. Conversations also help us listen deeply, understand real struggles, and gently uncover spiritual questions or barriers. As James 1:19 reminds us, "Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak." That listening-first posture disarms defensiveness and shows genuine respect. It's not about having the perfect answers; it's about walking with someone—at their pace—with love and curiosity. But before we speak, we pause. Jesus said, "What you say flows from what is in your heart" (Luke 6:45). That's why the most powerful conversations begin not with a strategy, but with spiritual preparation. In this workshop, we'll explore three key movements: **Prepare**—examining the posture of our hearts; **Connect**—learning to listen and build trust; and **Share**—speaking the hope of Jesus with humility and grace. Every grace-filled conversation may seem ordinary—but in God's hands, it becomes part of something eternal. Conversations are how we move from distance to relationship, from indifference to interest, and ultimately from doubt to faith.

### 3. Part 1 – Prepare (The Posture of the Heart)

When it comes to outreach, we often ask, "Where do I even begin?" The truth is, evangelism doesn't begin with a clever message or a perfect strategy—it begins with preparation. Not just practical readiness, but spiritual readiness. Before we connect with others, we must first quiet our own hearts, depend on God, and show up with love. This kind of preparation creates space for God to work through us in natural, meaningful ways. Let's explore three key foundations that help us begin outreach with the right posture:

- a. **God Uses Ordinary People** Evangelism doesn't start with pressure—it starts with presence. Before we speak, we pause—because meaningful outreach begins not with techniques, but with the posture of our hearts. God loves to use ordinary people in everyday places to carry His extraordinary message. You don't need a title or a theology degree; you just need to be available. Scripture shows again and again how God works through stay-at-home parents, retirees, students—anyone willing to notice and respond. As 1 Corinthians 1:27–29 reminds us, God chooses the weak to shame the strong, so that no one may boast. Acts 4:13 describes Peter and John as ordinary, unschooled men who astonished people—not because of credentials, but because they had been with Jesus. The key isn't perfection—it's availability.
- b. **Creating Room for Spiritual Conversations** Preparation is more than logistics; it's about orienting our hearts and spirits for meaningful engagement. This involves prayer, self-examination, and surrendering our own agenda, fears, or expectations. A posture of humility is essential—recognizing that we are not

responsible for outcomes but are instruments in God's hands. When we slow down, notice those around us, and respond with care, we create what Doug Pollock calls "God Space"—a grace-filled environment where people feel safe to explore spiritual things. It's not about pushing a message but about cultivating genuine connection. Colossians 4:5–6 exhorts us, "Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders... let your conversation be always full of grace." A coworker who opens up about feeling overwhelmed may not need advice—just someone to say, "That sounds hard. Would it be okay if I prayed for you now?"

- c. **Prayer That Prepares the Heart to Notice** Before stepping into conversation, take time to quiet your distractions and align your intentions with Christ's love. Jesus Himself modeled this—Luke 6:12 tells us He prayed all night before selecting His disciples. That kind of spiritual preparation shaped His awareness and direction. Prayer doesn't just prepare others—it prepares us. As Paul Miller writes in *A Praying Life*, prayer is not performance but dependence. When we begin to depend on God moment by moment, we start to notice the divine appointments He places before us. Preparation means asking God to cultivate compassion, patience, and wisdom within us—and to work in the heart of the person we'll meet. This posture helps counter common outreach pitfalls like anxiety, scripted rigidity, or subtle coercion. Instead, it enables encounters marked by grace, attentiveness, and authenticity. Authors like Rebecca Pippert, Doug Pollock, and Paul Miller all affirm this truth: evangelism doesn't begin with what we say—it begins with who we are.

d. **Table Discussion #1** (7 min)

**Question:** "Where might God already be opening space for a conversation in your life?"

**Prompt:** Think about your daily rhythms—work, neighborhood, school, gym, or home.

**Reflection**

As I reflect on this teaching, I'm reminded that meaningful outreach doesn't start with strategy or eloquence—it starts with surrender. God invites us to begin with a posture of humility, prayer, and attentiveness. I don't need to be an expert or have all the answers; I just need to be present and available. This shifts the pressure off of me and places my trust in the Spirit's leading. I'm encouraged to slow down, to listen more deeply, and to notice where God is already at work around me—in conversations with neighbors, in moments of vulnerability at work, or even in everyday encounters at the store or park. Through prayer, I can ask God to prepare not just the hearts of others, but my own heart—to cultivate love, patience, and spiritual awareness. This posture opens the door for authentic, grace-filled conversations that reflect Jesus more than any script ever could.

#### **4. Part 2 – Connect (The Art of Listening & Asking)**

After preparing our hearts and noticing where God is already at work, the next step in outreach is learning how to connect meaningfully with others. That connection isn't built on clever answers or smooth transitions—it's built on trust, curiosity, and love. In a world full of noise and quick opinions, slowing down to truly listen and ask sincere questions can be one of the most Christlike things we do. This kind of relational approach opens hearts in ways arguments and scripts never could. Jesus modeled this beautifully, and we're invited to follow His example. Let's explore three simple but powerful ways to build spiritual connection.

##### **a. How Listening Builds Trust**

So how do we actually connect with others in a meaningful way? It begins by moving beyond small talk and into deeper, more personal conversations. The first step is listening. In a noisy world, real listening is rare—and that's exactly why it's powerful. James 1:19 reminds us to be "quick to listen, slow to speak," and we see this lived out beautifully in Jesus' encounter on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24). Rather than preaching, Jesus walks, listens, and draws out their hearts. Listening isn't just about being quiet—it's about being fully present. When we slow down, make eye contact, and truly hear someone, we build trust and make them feel seen, safe, and valued. That kind of trust often becomes the bridge to spiritual moments.

##### **b. How Thoughtful Questions Open Hearts**

Once trust is established, we can begin to ask thoughtful, compassionate questions. Jesus asked over 300 questions in the Gospels—not to interrogate, but to invite people into reflection. He asked things like, "What do you want me to do for you?" (Mark 10:51) and "Do you love me?" (John 21:17). A sincere question—like "What's been on your heart lately?" or "How do you make sense of what you're going through?"—can open a window into someone's soul. When we ask with humility and love, we gently invite people into deeper truths without pushing or preaching. A well-timed question can do more than advice ever could—it shows respect, allows space for reflection, and creates an opening for spiritual conversation.

##### **c. How Jesus Modeled This with Beautiful Clarity**

Jesus didn't just perform miracles—He noticed people. He stopped in a crowd for the woman who touched His robe (Mark 5), called Zacchaeus by name (Luke 19), and felt compassion for the crowds (Matthew 9:36). Paul Miller, in *Love Walked Among Us*, writes that the first act of love is noticing. When we take time to listen, ask, and truly see someone, spiritual conversations begin to happen more naturally. These moments aren't forced—they're Spirit-led, relational, and grace-filled. That's when a simple conversation becomes a sacred opportunity to point someone to Jesus—not with pressure, but with presence. We don't ask out of curiosity alone—we ask out of compassion. And people can feel the difference.

**d. Table Discussion #2 (7 min)**

**Question:** “What helps you feel heard? How can you offer that to someone else?”

**Prompt:** Share one good question you could ask someone to go deeper.

**Reflection**

Let’s pause and reflect:

- **What helps you feel truly heard?**
- **How can you offer that same gift to someone else this week?**
- **What’s one meaningful question you could ask to open deeper conversation?**

Take a moment to invite the Holy Spirit to shape you into someone who listens like Jesus—with compassion, patience, and genuine care. Because often, one good question—offered in love—can open the door to faith.

**5. Part 3 – Share (Speaking the Truth in Love)**

Sharing the hope of Jesus doesn’t require a perfect script—it begins with a heart of love, honesty, and care. People aren’t looking for polished presentations; they’re longing for someone real, someone who listens, and someone who gently points to hope. When we build trust, speak truth with grace, and let gospel conversations emerge naturally, the message of Jesus is not just heard—it’s felt. These moments may seem small, but they carry eternal weight. Let’s explore three simple, powerful ways to share the truth in love.

**a. Build Trust for Spiritual Moments**

As Kevin Harney writes in *Organic Outreach for Ordinary People*, “Truth shared in love grows best in the soil of trust.” Evangelism isn’t about debating or convincing—it’s about caring deeply, listening well, and waiting for the right moment to speak honestly. Ephesians 4:15 urges us to “speak the truth in love,” and John 1:14 reminds us that Jesus came full of grace and truth. Imagine this: a neighbor shares that they’re feeling lost. Instead of offering advice, you gently say, “That sounds really hard. Can I share something that helped me when I felt that way?” That kind of invitation—rooted in relationship—can become a sacred moment. People are far more open when they know they’re seen and loved.

**b. Speak Truth with Grace**

Real love doesn’t avoid the truth—it delivers it with tenderness. Jesus never compromised on truth, but He always led with compassion. In John 8, He tells the woman caught in sin, “Neither do I condemn you... Go and sin no more.” He balances truth and grace perfectly. When a friend shares regret over something they’ve done, you might respond, “I’ve been there too. And I’ve seen how God meets us right in the middle of our mess. Can I tell you how He met me?” That kind of response helps truth become healing, not harsh.

We're not here to fix people—we're here to love them. And love makes space for truth to land gently.

**c. Have Natural Gospel Conversations**

Gospel conversations don't need to feel awkward or forced—they often begin in life's everyday moments. 1 Peter 3:15 tells us to "always be prepared," but "with gentleness and respect." Colossians 4:6 adds, "Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt." Sam Chan, in *How to Talk About Jesus (Without Being That Guy)*, encourages believers to weave faith into everyday conversations. For example, a coworker asks, "How was your weekend?" and you say, "It was encouraging—we talked at church about finding peace when life feels overwhelming." That small, sincere comment might open a door. Natural gospel moments can start with a mention of hope, a lesson from Scripture, or a story of God's faithfulness in your life. You don't need to force it—just be present and let the Holy Spirit guide the moment.

**d. Table Discussion #3 (7 min)**

**Question:** "How could you share your story—or a part of it—in a natural way?"

**Prompt:** Think of one small moment where God met you in a real way.

**Reflection**

Let's pause and reflect:

- **How could you share your story—or even just a part of it—in a natural way?**
- **What is one small moment when God met you personally—and who might need to hear that story?**

Remember, sharing doesn't have to mean presenting your full testimony. Often, it begins with one real, honest moment. Maybe a time you felt God's peace in chaos, His grace in failure, or His nearness in loneliness. That small story might be the very one someone else needs to hear. Be brief, be real, and be available—because God loves to use ordinary stories to speak eternal truth.

**6. Final Wrap-up + Closing with Prayer & Encouragement**

As we close today's workshop, let's take a moment to reflect on the journey we've walked together. It's often in the small, everyday moments that we see God's hand most clearly—because He is real, He is near, and He is already at work long before we open our mouths. We began by looking inward—preparing our hearts to be present and prayerful. Then we moved outward—connecting through thoughtful listening and genuine curiosity. And finally, we stepped forward—learning to share the hope of Jesus by speaking the truth in love. These three movements—**Prepare. Connect. Share.**—aren't a formula; they're a way of life. A rhythm of grace that can shape how we walk with others every day. So here's the question to take with you: What's one small step you can take

this week to open space for a spiritual conversation? Maybe it's pausing to pray before a meeting, asking someone how they're really doing, or sharing something real from your own walk with God. Take a minute now to write down that one step—because that's how it starts: one prayer, one conversation, one story at a time.

And as we end, remember this: God uses ordinary people—just like you—to carry His love into everyday conversations. You don't need all the answers. You just need a heart that's open, listening, and willing to take one small step of faith. Let's pray together.

*Father, thank You for this time. Thank You for reminding us that You are already at work—in our lives and in the lives of those around us. Give us eyes to see, ears to hear, and hearts that are soft and willing to follow You. Help us be present this week—to listen well, to ask with care, and to speak when Your Spirit leads. Use us, Lord—not because we're perfect, but because You are good. In Jesus' name, Amen.*