



## One Conversation: Trusting God for Growth

### Workshop Outline:

Welcome (*8 min*)

What Is “One Conversation?” (*3 min*)

Why conversation matters? (*3 min*)

**Part 1: Notice—Becoming Aware of Soil** (*12 min*)

**Part 2: Listen—Understanding the Soil** (*15 min*)

**Part 3: Cultivate—Trusting God with the Soil** (*12 min*)

Final Wrap-Up (*3 min*)

## Welcome

Good morning (or evening), everyone.

I'm so glad you're here. And I'm especially grateful that you came back for 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop — **One Conversation**.

I know many of you are curious about this workshop. In our self-assessment, we discovered something honest:

Conversation feels like the most difficult part of the Three Ones.

More challenging than One Prayer.  
More intimidating than sharing One Story.

So today really matters.

Before we jump into our topic, let's pause and remember where this journey began.

Last time, we explored **One Prayer** — learning to pray daily for one person God has placed on our hearts.

And before we move forward, I want us to reflect for a moment:

**Table Discussion #1: “Can you briefly share how your One Prayer has been going—encouraging, challenging, or eye-opening?”**

We are collecting One Prayer stories. If I haven't heard yours yet, don't worry — I have your contact information! I truly want to hear what God is doing in your outreach journey through THREE ONES.

Because prayer and conversation cannot be separated.

- Prayer changes the atmosphere.
- Prayer softens hearts.
- Prayer opens doors

So when the time comes to have **conversation, we're simply stepping into what God has already begun.**

That's why we encourage three simple prayer rhythms:

- Breath Prayer
- Blessing Prayer
- Intercessory Prayer

These aren't techniques.

**They are ways of staying aligned with what God is already doing.**

And now, today, we step into the second part of the THREE ONES journey:

**One Conversation.**

**Let's pray.**

Thank You for gathering us today.

Open our hearts to Your Spirit.

Teach us to listen with compassion,

to notice the people around us,

and prepare us for the conversations You are already placing in our path.

In Jesus' name, Amen."

## What is One Conversation?

**One Conversation is a simple, intentional connection with someone God has already placed in your life.**

Not someone you hunt down.  
Not someone you assign yourself to.

But someone God has already woven into your daily world — a friend, a neighbor, a coworker, a family member.

And let me be clear about something.

One conversation isn't:

- A presentation.
- A speech.
- A debate.
- A spiritual sales pitch.

**It's about being present more than having the right answer.**

As Paul writes in **First Thessalonians 2:8**,  
“We were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves.”

Not just a message — but our lives.

And what does presence look like?

It's choosing to ask one more thoughtful question.

One more patient pause.

One more intentional act of care.

One Conversation is **simple**.  
It happens in ordinary moments.

It happens at dinner.

In the hallway.

Over coffee.

In the car.

No stage.  
No microphone.  
Just you.

One conversation is **natural**.  
It grows from real relationship.  
It isn't scripted.

One conversation is **relational**.  
It quietly says, "You matter to me."

And most importantly — it's **Spirit-led**.

God prepares the moment.  
God softens the heart.  
God opens the door.

We don't push doors open.  
We simply step into the ones God has already prepared.

**One Conversation is the moment where your love, your curiosity, and the Holy Spirit meet.**

And through your simple presence,  
God begins gently working in someone's heart.

## **Why Conversation Matters.**

Why not just pray...then share the gospel when the moment feels right?

Why take time for conversation?

## **Because conversation is the space where trust grows.**

And trust matters in outreach.

Why?

Because we are not sharing information.  
We are sharing something deeply personal.

When someone talks about their fear...

- their doubts
- their wounds
- their beliefs

## **That requires safety.**

And safety grows through **trust**

Trust says:

- "You are safe with me."
- "I'm not here to fix you."
- "I'm not here to win an argument."
- "I genuinely care about you."

**Without** trust, people protect themselves.

**With** trust, people open themselves.

And faith grows best in open hearts.

That's why trust matters.

**Faith often grows through series of conversations.**

Small moments.  
Honest questions.  
Being heard.  
Being understood.

Over time, those moments build trust.

And **trust makes space for truth**.

**Think about your own journey for a moment.**

Was it one sermon that changed everything?  
Or was it series of conversations along the way?

- Maybe someone asked you a question that made you pause.
- Maybe someone listened when you needed it most.
- Maybe someone shared how Jesus met them in their struggle.

Faith often grows in those kinds of spaces.

**Conversation often reveals what God may already be doing in your “one’s” heart.**

When we listen well, we begin to understand someone’s story —  
their hopes,  
their fears,  
their wounds,  
their doubts,  
their beliefs.

And when we understand someone’s story,  
we can love them not mechanically,

But personally.

## **Conversation is where Jesus often worked.**

Yes, He preached to crowds.

But again and again, hearts opened in personal conversations.

With the woman at the well.

With Nicodemus in the night.

With Zacchaeus in a tree.

In Gospel of **Luke 19:5–7**, Jesus stopped beneath that tree and said, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.”

He didn’t begin with correction.

He began with connection.

He entered Zacchaeus’s world.

He shared a table.

And in that relational space, something shifted.

Trust opened the door.

And salvation followed.

One person.

One conversation at a time.

That’s why **One Conversation** matters.

It’s not dramatic.

It’s not flashy.

It’s the gentle, relational bridge Jesus often uses to soften the soil of a heart.

**And as that soil softens,**

**it prepares the way**

**for One Story.**

**Table Discussion #2:** “Think about your ‘one.’ In one word, what kind of conversation do they need right now? And why do you think that?”

## 1. **Workshop Roadmap**

Now that we've seen **why conversation matters**.

Let's talk about where we're going in today's session.

One Conversation is not a technique or script.

It's a simple, relational posture.

Today, we'll explore it through **three movements** —  
three patterns Jesus consistently modeled in His interactions with people:

1. **Notice**
2. **Listen**
3. **Cultivate**

Each movement builds on the one before it.

By the end of today's session,  
you'll walk away with a simple, Spirit-led framework  
you can use in everyday conversations —  
at work, at dinner, at school pickup, with neighbors.

One Prayer.

One Conversation.

One Faithful step at a time.

## **Part 1: Notice — Becoming Aware of the Soil**

Let's begin with this simple truth:

### 1. **Outreach doesn't start with speaking. It starts with noticing.**

- Matthew 9:36 says: "When He saw the crowds, He had compassion for them..."

When we think about outreach, many of us feel nervous:

- Where do I begin?
- What do I say?
- What if I mess up?

But outreach doesn't begin with perfect words.  
**It starts with noticing.**

**Before Jesus spoke — He noticed.**

### 2. **Noticing the Soil**

Jesus consistently noticed what others missed.

He saw the weary crowds and felt compassion.

He noticed Zacchaeus hiding in a tree.

He stopped for the bleeding woman in the middle of a pressing crowd.

Others saw interruptions.

Jesus noticed people.

In the Parable of the Sower, Jesus teaches that the "soil" represents the condition of a person's heart.

So when we talk about "noticing the soil," we are simply paying attention to what may be happening beneath the surface **without assuming, labeling, or diagnosing.**

We ask ourselves:

- Are they open or guarded?
- Are they hurting or curious?
- Are they overwhelmed?

- Is God quietly stirring something in them?

We are not judging the soil. We are simply noticing and responding with compassion.

### 3. **What Notice Looks Like in Everyday Life**

It's simple awareness right where you already are.

- **At work**

A coworker seems quieter than usual. Instead of ignoring it, you say, "Hey—how are you really doing?"

- **In your neighborhood**

A neighbor appears stressed or overwhelmed. You respond with patience instead of frustration.

- **In everyday places**

The gym,  
The grocery store.  
School pickup.

You sense exhaustion, tension, or sadness.

Noticing isn't complicated.

It's learning to see people the way Jesus does.

#### 4. The Story of Trader Joe's — Transactional vs. Relational

I recently had a chance to shop at Trader Joe's.

Have you ever shopped there?

Have you noticed how different it feels from other stores?

You walk in, and someone actually makes eye contact.

They smile.

They might even ask how your day is going — and even they are patiently **wait** for your answer.

If you can't find something, they don't just point vaguely and say, "Aisle 7... I think."

They say, "Oh! Let me show you!"

And then they actually walk with you.

**Sometimes I feel like I've made a new friend just trying to buy bananas.**

Now compare that to some other stores.

First of all, these days it's hard to even find an employee.

And when you finally do find one, their focus is efficiency —

- stocking shelves
- scanning items
- moving quickly.

You ask a question, and sometimes they point without looking up.

It's not rude.

It's just... transactional.

The difference isn't better products.

It's attention.

One feels transactional.

The other feels relational.

And that's the point.

Outreach is not about scanning people like items at checkout.

It's about noticing.

**When people feel seen, they open up.  
When they feel rushed, they shut down.**

Jesus didn't move too quickly to notice people.  
He noticed them.

Noticing isn't complicated.  
It's simply learning to see people the way Jesus does.

## 5. **How do we grow in noticing?**

Here are a few small habits:

- **Slow your pace** — take one extra breath before engaging.
- **Pay attention to the heart** — emotions, stress, openness, fatigue.
- **Stay interruptible** — some of God's best moments aren't planned.

If we are rushing, we miss it.  
If we slow down, we begin to see.

## **Table Discussion #3**

Take a moment and think about the one person you've been praying for.

As you've been praying for your one, what have you noticed recently about their life or heart?

Just name what you're seeing.

Sometimes noticing is the first evidence that prayer is working.

## Part 2: Listen — Understanding the Soil

### 1. What does It Mean to Listen?

“**James 1:19** says, *“Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry.”*”

Listening is not a small skill.

**Listening is one of the most Christlike gifts we can give.**

Think about Jesus on the road to Emmaus in Luke 24.

He could have interrupted the disciples immediately.

**He could have said,  
“Don’t you see? I’ve risen!”**

But He didn’t.

He walked beside them.

He listened to their confusion.

He listened to their sadness.

He listened to their lost hope.

Only after He listens. He begins to speak truth.

That is powerful.

**Listening is love.**

Listening is a practical expression of patient love.

Love is patient... not self-seeking. (1 Corinthians 13:4-5)

It communicates:

- “You matter more than my opinion.”
- “I care about your story.”
- “I’m not here to win. I’m here to understand.”

In a noisy world, **unhurried listening stands out.**

When someone listens without fixing, judging, or rushing—it feels different.

It makes people wonder,  
“Why do you care so much?”

And sometimes, that curiosity becomes the doorway to spiritual openness.

### **Listening Helps You Better Understand the Soil.**

When you listen well, you begin to understand the soil — the condition of someone’s heart.

As you ask gentle questions and listen with compassion, you begin to hear:

- What they fear
- What they hope for
- What weighs on their heart
- What wounds they carry
- What they believe about God and themselves
- Where they might be spiritually open

You are not listening to fix.

You are listening to discern where God may already be at work.

That changes everything.

**We are not bringing God into the conversation.**

**We are discovering where He has already been working.**

## **2. Listening always starts small.**

Before we think about big, life-changing questions, remember this:

Listening always starts small.

It happens in ordinary moments.

- The coworker who quietly sighs.
- The neighbor who looks worn down.
- The friend who casually says, “It’s been a tough week.”

These small interactions train our hearts to understand the soil.

And sometimes, a simple question opens a surprising door.

### **The Story of the Bathtub Drain Tool** *What Happens When We Don't Feel Heard*

Let me share another story.

Recently, the crossbar in my bathtub drain was worn out. I watched a YouTube and thought,

“This looks simple. I can fix this.”

So, I went to a hardware store and asked an employee where I could find a bathtub drain tool. I began explaining that I had watched a YouTube video.

But halfway through my explanation, he cut me off.

“He fixed my thought quickly and gave the solution. He treated me like I don't know anything about it.

Maybe he was right.  
He has many experience.

But in that moment, I didn't feel helped. I was so discouraged.

And it made me think:

How sometimes we do the same thing in our conversations?

- Before we fully understand, we jump in to fix.
- Before we listen, we correct.
- Before we hear the whole story, we give answer.

Correction without listening feels like rejection.

That's why listening is love.

And when people feel heard, the soil begins to soften.

Now we jump into the **table discussion #4** (12 min).

**Read Luke 24:13–35 together and reflect**

“What stands out to you about how Jesus approached the disciples? What is one thing we can learn from His example?”

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**Transition Back**

Noticing and listening are not just conversational skills.

They are spiritual practices.

They reflect the way Jesus loved people.

We slow down.

We listen well.

And we trust that God is already at work in the soil.

## Part 3: Cultivate—Trusting God with the Soil.

### 1. What Does It Mean to Cultivation?

Throughout the Bible, we see cultivation in simple actions:

- **Sowing** seeds
- **Watering** patiently
- **Tending** carefully
- **Remaining** faithfully

**We can notice something here.**

None of these actions create life.  
They care for life.

That's why we can say:

**Cultivation is faithfully participating in what God is already doing.**

**It does not mean changing someone's heart.**

**It does not mean pulling out weeds by force.**

**It does not mean diagnosing, labeling, or pruning people ourselves.**

Only God can do that!

Jesus said, "The Father is the gardener." (John 15:1)

And Paul reminds us, "God gives the growth." (1 Corinthians 3:7)

He is sovereign, powerful, and God alone brings new life.

So where do we fit?

1 Corinthians 3:9 says, "For we are God's fellow workers."

This is the mystery — and the privilege.

God does not need us.

But in His grace, He invites us to join Him.

We are not starting something new.

We are stepping into something God has already begun.

He is already at work in your “one” quietly.  
Convincing. Stirring. Softening. Drawing.

You are already joining His work through One Prayer!

We sow.  
We water.  
We remain.

And we trust Him for the growth.

## 2. **Why Do We Cultivate?**

...because Christ first loved us. (1 John 4:19)

Before you came to know Christ, think about your own story.

God was patient with you.  
God pursued you.  
God stayed with you — even when you were slow to understand, slow to respond.

He did not rush you.  
He did not force you.  
He walked with you patiently.

So now, we reflect that same love with patient toward our “one.”

We stay.  
We pray.  
We love.

We don't rush them.  
We don't force them.  
We walk with them patiently.

We trust God with the growth.

That is cultivation.

### 3. **Cultivation Is Walking With, Not Working On**

Cultivation is not something we do to people.  
It is not a project to manage or a problem to solve.

It is walking with people — not working on them.

We do not fix them.  
We do not pressure them.  
We do not measure their progress.

Instead,  
We pray for them.  
We notice them  
We listen to them.  
We care for them.

**We celebrate with them in joy.**  
**We grieve with them in sorrow.**

Romans 12:15 says, “Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.”

We choose to love them where they are —  
not where we wish they were.

We walk with them.  
We stand beside them.  
And as we remain present,  
God works in ways we cannot see.

That is cultivation.

### 4. **Cultivation requires patience.**

**Farmers do not plant on Monday and harvest on Friday.**

Sometimes we plant.  
Sometimes we water.  
But God gives the growth. (1 Corinthians 3:6–7)

Sometimes the most spiritual thing we can do is:

- Keep praying
- Keep showing up
- Keep loving

Because the Father is the Gardener.  
And He never stops working beneath the surface.

## 5. Practical Ways to Cultivate Every Season of the Soil

- **Ask Thoughtful Questions**

One of the most common challenges I hear about outreach is this:

“It’s hard to come up with meaningful questions.”

We feel pressure to ask something deep.  
Something impressive.  
Something spiritual.

But here’s what I’ve learned:

Don’t try so hard to create the perfect question.

If you are praying for that person daily...  
If you are spending time with them...  
If you are listening with genuine curiosity...

Meaningful questions will come naturally.

The real key is your attention and listening through your prayerful mind.

Good listening naturally leads to gentle, thoughtful questions.

Jesus was the Master of asking questions.

He didn’t rush to give answers.  
He asked questions that opened hearts:

“What do you want Me to do for you?” (Mark 10:51)

“Do you want to get well?” (John 5:6)

“Do you love Me?” (John 21:17)

His questions created space.  
They allowed people to respond freely.

He wasn't trapping people.  
He was inviting them.

That's our model.

Instead of trying to steer the conversation somewhere,  
we simply create space.

We ask simple, honest, reflective questions like:

"How have you been thinking about that?"

"How did that feel for you?"

"What do you think that meant for you?"

We are not digging.

We are not pushing.

We are not forcing.

There are no right or wrong answers.

We are simply making space.

**These kind of questions help people process their thoughts,  
put their feelings into words,  
and reflect on what it meant for them.**

**And in that space,  
God often begins to work.**

- **Share Small Pieces of Your Story**

Not a sermon.

Not a full testimony.

Just a sentence — offered gently.

My "one" is Benjamin. He's 19 and walking through a winter season — discouragement, confusion, uncertainty.

When I spoke with Benjamin, I didn't try

I simply said:

"There was a time I felt completely lost. I didn't understand what God was doing. But later, I saw He was strengthening me."

I didn't explain everything.  
I didn't draw conclusions for him.

I simply bore witness.

In John 9:25, the healed blinded man says,  
"One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."

Simple.  
Personal.  
Not complicated.

He didn't explain everything.  
He shared one sentence.

We quietly testify to what God has done for us.

The Spirit uses what He chooses.

- **Respond to Life Moments**

Life is not so easy. Life naturally creates opportunities.

- Loss.
- Illness.
- job change.
- Celebration
- Transitions.

These moments often soften people in ways we cannot manufacture.

Jesus modeled this kind of presence.

On the road to Emmaus, in the middle of confusion and disappointment,  
"Jesus himself drew near and went with them." (Luke 24:15)

He didn't interrupt.  
He didn't correct immediately.  
He walked with them.

So, we respond with faithful presence:

- Remember details about their life.

- Follow up on what they shared.
- Show up in difficult seasons.
- Celebrate small joys with them.
- Stay, even when spiritual conversations stall.

We do not force spiritual depth.

We simply pay attention.

**“I’m here.”**

**“How can I pray for you?”**

We remain steady.

God moves as He wills.

#### **Table Discussion #5 (8 min)**

**“What relational actions and steps could you take these coming weeks?”**

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Cultivation is where genuine relationship begins to deepen and where faith quietly starts to take root.

## Final Wrap-up

“As we close today, let’s remember the simple journey of **One Conversation**.

It begins with:

**Notice** — becoming aware of the soil.

We pay attention. We see people the way Jesus sees them.

**Listen** — understanding the soil.

We slow down. We make space. We seek to understand before we speak.

**Cultivate** — Trusting God with the Soil

We build trust. We ask thoughtful questions. We care patiently and consistently.

But remember this:

**We are not responsible for the growth.**

**We are responsible for faithful presence.**

God gives the growth.

So as we step into this week,  
let’s carry open eyes,  
open ears,  
and open hearts —

trusting that the Spirit is already preparing conversations before we ever say a word.”

## **A Word of Encouragement for You!**

“Before we finish, let me say something clearly.

Jesus did not choose impressive people.

He chose fishermen.

Tax collectors.

Ordinary men and women like us!

Acts 4:13 says the leaders were astonished because Peter and John were ‘unschooled, ordinary men.’

What made them effective was not skill.

Not eloquence.

Not education.

It was their closeness to Jesus.

And that is incredibly freeing for us.

Because noticing does not require expertise.

It requires presence.

One Conversation is not about having the perfect words.

It is about being present.

Attentive.

Available.

God works through ordinary people  
who simply show up with compassion.

And that is something every one of us can do.

That’s what THREE ONES is all about.

It’s simple.

It’s doable.

It’s relational.

Thank you for being here.

“May the Lord guide your conversations this week  
and make them fruitful for His glory.”