

**Session 5**

Sunday, January 19, 2025

**Receptive people** may have experienced recent hardships or heartbreak.

**Who do you know who might be Receptive?**

**Prayer & Goal:**

**How will you plan for a conversation with this person?**

**How should we interact with receptive people?**

**What is something you can say when they ask you for a reason for the hope that you have?** (*Hint: Draw on your own experiences of your faith journey. Connect it to daily life*).

**How (or what) will you pray for them and for yourself as you walk alongside them in their spiritual journey?**



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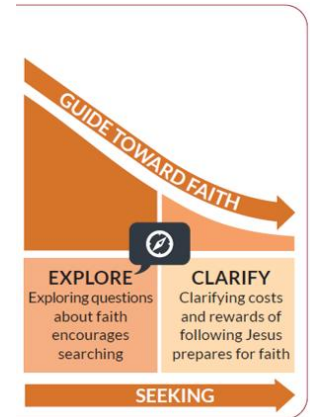
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**Seeking people** may have had a profound experience they are trying to understand, or perhaps they are being confronted with their own mortality.

**Who do you know who might be Seeking right now?**

**Prayer & Goal:**

**How will you plan for a conversation with this person?**



**How should we interact with seeking people?**

**What is something you can say or do when they ask questions of a seeking nature?** (*Hint: Get them to open up about their experiences or sorrows. Remember that you **don't** have to “spit out” doctrinally correct answers. **Do** come alongside them and explore their questions and the relevant Biblical texts).*

**How (or what) will you pray for them and for yourself as you walk alongside them in their spiritual journey?**

## Disciples Making Disciples: “Wondering Questions”

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### **“Wondering” Questions on the Spiritual Conversation Curve**

*“Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. <sup>6</sup>Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.” (Colossians 4:5-6)*

**Our Approach:** We adapt to the people we are talking to. It’s not a “one-size fits all” approach. We should be thoughtful, informed, empathetic and responsive. We should NOT be defensive, aggressive, angry, or argumentative.

**If you don’t know someone well,** use “get to know you” questions to build trust.

- What’s the greatest lesson you’ve learned so far in your life’s journey?
- What is your dream job?
- Have you ever been able to figure out what you think your purpose in life is?
- In what ways do you feel you’re really winning or losing at life?
- If you were to choose your path over again, would you choose the same one? Why or why not?
- What values from your childhood do you want to pass on to your kids?
- As people get to know you, how do you feel most misunderstood?
- If you only had six months to live, what are the top three things to do on your bucket list?

**If you’ve known someone a while and you don’t know where they stand,** ask “wondering” questions to discover and understand their perspective.

*e.g. “I’ve been meaning to ask you (preface), what kind of exposure did you have to religion when you were growing up?”*

Beginning with a preface before asking a “wondering” question may help you ask the question in a non-threatening, non-judgmental way. Here are some ideas for a preface to a question.

- I’m curious about something and wondered if you would share...
- I’ve been thinking about you and realized I didn’t know...
- I don’t think you’ve ever told me about...
- I hope you don’t mind if I ask you this because I’m curious...

## Disciples Making Disciples: “Wondering Questions”

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**Unreceptive** people are not necessarily unwilling to share how they feel. Here is an updated selection of “wondering” questions from our group and from other sources that might help you better understand their perspective. Be sure to use a preface statement to ask in a non-threatening way.

- ☐ What hurts you the most about your experience with God or the church?
- ☐ What causes you to struggle the most with the idea of God’s existence?
- ☐ Who would you like to come apologize to you and ask for your forgiveness?
- ☐ To what do you attribute your disbelief in God?
- ☐ Have you ever met anyone or experienced anything that made the reality of God seem plausible to you?
- ☐ Why do you think there are so many different religions?
- ☐ What would you want God to do to validate His existence to you?
- ☐ Have you ever had anyone approach you and try to talk to you about God?
- ☐ What does forgiveness mean to you?
- ☐ What kind of exposure did you have to religion when you were growing up?
- ☐ Would you mind if I pray for you? (Especially when the person is facing a crisis, illness, a tough decision, difficult emotions, etc.)
- ☐ Have you had any bad experiences pertaining to Christianity that deliberately have caused you to doubt?
- ☐ What was your experience with religion during your high school years with friends and peers?
- ☐ Which historical person has had the biggest influence on you?
- ☐ What did your family do on Sunday’s when you were growing up?