

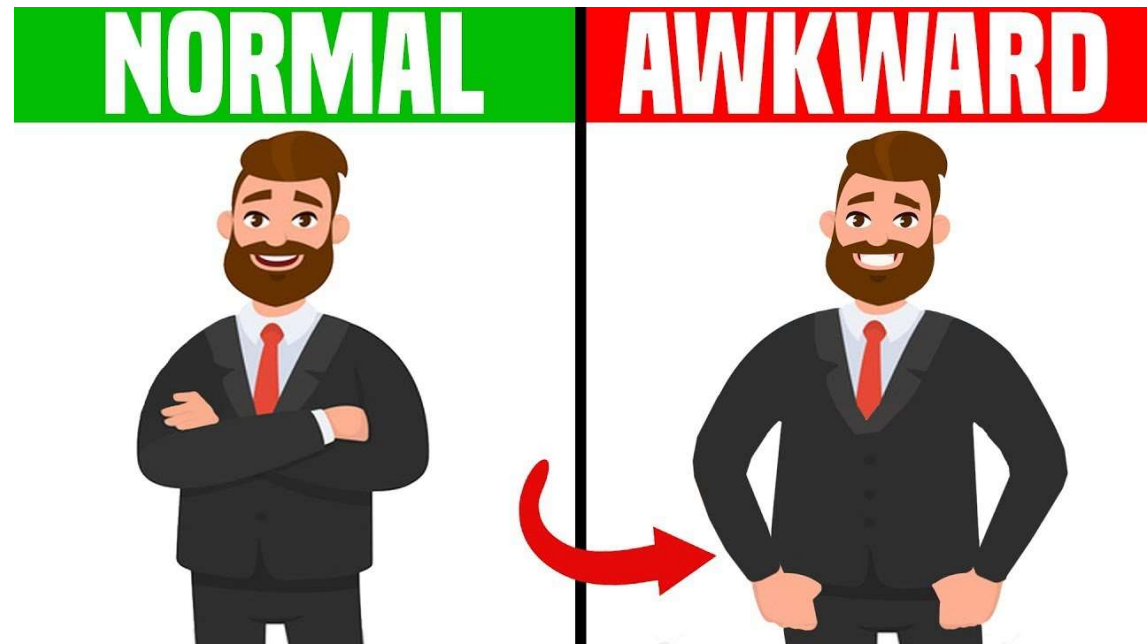
Conversations that Count



Steve Osmond

Why Don't We Share Our Faith

- It might be **awkward**
- I'm **not good** at it
- **Afraid** of standing out
- What if I look like a **fool**?
- What if there are **questions** I can't answer?
- What if I get in **trouble**?



Why Don't We Share Our Faith

- Relativism
- Hyper sensitivity
- Disagreement is seen as an attack
- Seems like people just don't care

Jesus himself was confronted
with pressures just as we are
today!

Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. “Teacher,” they said, “we know that you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren’t swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are. Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?”





But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, “You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? Show me the coin used for paying the tax.” They brought him a denarius, and he asked them, “Whose image is this? And whose inscription?” “Caesar’s,” they replied. Then he said to them, “So give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.”



The Power of Questions!

Three Good Questions

1 – What do you mean by that?



1 – What do you mean by that?

2 – Why do you think that?




1 – What do you mean by that?

2 – Why do you think that?

3 – Have you ever wondered...?





**“Love is just a
chemical...”**

A tropical beach scene with palm trees and a cloudy sky. The beach is sandy and stretches from the foreground into the distance. The ocean is visible on the left, with gentle waves. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds. The overall atmosphere is serene and peaceful.

Have you ever wondered...?

- Justice?
- Beauty?
- Environment?
- Love?
- Loneliness?

1 – What do you mean by that?

2 – Why do you think that?

3 – Have you ever wondered...?



I have come that they might have life, and
have it to the full.

Gospel of John 10:10



Thank you

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Extra Conversation Resources

The Art of Conversation

1) Be prepared!

- Pray. Think about questions they may ask. Think about what you can talk about with them. Don't wing it!

2) Be multilingual

- How are you able to *connect* with those you want to reach?
- What are they interested in? What do they enjoy? What do they care about?

The Art of Conversation

3) Set a goal

- A goal to have a specific conversation
- Get accountability

4) Be question ready

- Jesus asked questions...a lot!
- Bridge the gap from 'shooting the breeze' to Jesus.
- Move toward deeper conversations without being threatening.

The Art of Conversation

4) Be question ready

- What was the best / worst part of your week?
- What's been on your mind most recently?
- How would your best friends describe you?
- What were you like as a child? Are you different now? In what ways?
- Whom in your family are you most alike / different from? In what ways?
- Who has had the most significant influence on your life? Why?
- Did you grow up in a religious home?
- Have you ever had experiences in your life that made you think there might be a God?

The Art of Conversation

5) Be response ready

- Questions are a gift and an opportunity to share something about who God is and what He has done.

The Art of Conversation

Example:

Person A question = How was your weekend?

Person B response 1 = Fine, thanks. (conversation stopper)

Person B response 2 = Really good. Saw some friends on Saturday, and went to church on Sunday, which is always a highlight for me. Do you ever go to church?

Person A: No, I'm not religious.

Person B: I never used to be either, but I was invited years ago and found it incredibly meaningful and a wonderful community to be part of. It would be great if you came along sometime to check it out.

The Art of Conversation

6) Be testimony ready

- Sharing the faith is often about finding Christ at the intersection between our own story and those of others.
- Sometimes we find evangelism hard because we don't really actually know our stories very well.
- We all have innumerable testimonies we can tell about how God has worked in our lives

The Art of Conversation

6) Be testimony ready

- Try find a theme I which you can understand your testimony, then reflect on that and how God has worked in that area
- Ie:
 - Guilt, pride, worry, dreams & aspirations, relationships, family, forgiveness...

The Art of Conversation

- 7) Be prayer ready
- 8) Be good stewards of conversation
- 9) Be invitational

The Art of Conversation

Group Exercises:

- 1) Think about the 'wondering' question – list 3 things you think are relevant in your context and how you could use them to open up a spiritual conversation.
- 2) Come up with 5 of your own conversation starter questions.
- 3) Share your testimony in 5 minutes around a particular aspect you resonate with (guilt, pride, worry, dreams & aspirations, relationships, family, forgiveness...)