

## Discussion Questions for *How to Give Away Your Faith*

1. Because it's easy to *assume* we know people even when we don't, Paul Little suggests we develop listening skills so that non-Christians can speak for themselves. In what situations this week could you get some non-Christians to share their views?
2. Even though we know we're imperfect, non-Christians expect us to demonstrate what being a Christian can be. However, not every supposed Christian demonstrates a faith worth watching! Review the three types of faith Paul Little describes: *indoctrination faith*; *conformity faith*; and *commitment faith*. Which type do you think you possess? (Expect to find traces of the others as well.)
3. Paul Little says, "Ambassadors for the foreign policy of the kingdom of heaven need the intense conviction that our message is the greatest gift imaginable—better than a million dollars, better than a cure for cancer, better than anything you can think about." If you think Christ is the best gift, why? How does this viewpoint affect the way you respond to others?
4. Do you see non-Christians as potential friends or simply as people God wants you to tell about him? With how many non-Christians do you have mutually beneficial relationships?
5. Christians often have a chance to share our spiritual experiences when others ask our advice. The problem for us is knowing what to say! Take some time to think of two or three instances when knowing Christ helped you with a problem or fear. Think through how you would share these with a non-Christian (emphasizing Christ's reality today, omitting unnecessary details and so forth).
6. Paul Little offers six principles for witnessing: contact others socially; establish common ground; arouse interest; throw out the bait; don't go too far; don't condemn. What would you add to his list?
7. Paul Little's philosophy is: "Do not condemn the other person and do not compromise my own convictions." He suggests substitution, jokes, agreeing ahead on an activity, setting your own standards and casually leaving a group as ways not to compromise. Which have worked for you in the past? What would you add to his list?
8. Occasionally we *do* compromise our standards. At such times, it's easy to blame out non-Christian influences, thereby doubly condemning them. What would be an alternative response in the situation?
9. If a non-Christian made the following statements to you, which misconceptions about Christianity would the person hold? How would you answer each?

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- “Frankly, I don’t see much difference between the way Christians and non-Christians live.”
- “I’m already a Christian because I was baptized as a child.”
- “I come from a Christian home. I was born a Christian!”
- “I wouldn’t want to be a Christian. The Christians tried to exterminate my people, the Jews.”
- “I attend the same church Billy Graham does!”

10. What responsibility does the “spiritual parent” of a new Christian have to help that person grow in Christ?

11. In dealing with people’s questions, it is important to understand their motivation for asking and then to seek to reassure the people if we can. Listed here are the eight questions the author has found non-Christians often ask:

- What about the heathen?
- Is Christ the only way to God?
- Why do the innocent suffer?
- How can miracles be possible?
- Isn’t the Bible full of errors?
- Isn’t Christian experience only psychological?
- Won’t a good, moral life get me to heaven?
- Isn’t faith believing something that isn’t true?

For two or more of the questions, determine what admirable quality is motivating the person to ask this question.

12. The author says, “I recently held a mock bull session with students on a Christian college campus. . . . They asked all kinds of questions that had never came up in years of visiting secular campuses. As people’s knowledge of Christianity grows, so too can the range and depth of their questions. If you are one of these people or know others who are, how can you work to get these questions answered?”

13. “We don’t claim that Christianity is true because it works. No, Christianity works because it is true. Jesus Christ is truth.” How much should our presentation of the good news be oriented toward the needs it will meet rather than the fact that it is true?

14. How can we approach people who seem more “together” than we are ourselves?

15. Can a person who is not a Christian have any of these needs met without Christ? Why or why not?

16. What is the difference between *isolation* and *separation*?

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17. Romans 14:1-4 implies that Christians were never meant to have a completely uniform code of conduct when it comes to secondary matters. However, what actions and attitudes does the apostle Paul say hold for all Christians?

18. “We’re apt to pull a switch in our thinking—an unconscious switch, perhaps, but a devastating one. After starting the Christian life by faith we try to live it by works.” Why is living by works more attractive than living by faith?

19. How does *faith* differ from *fatalism*? Why is the distinction important?

20. Robert Murray McCheyne advised: “For every look you take at yourself, take ten at Jesus Christ.” How could such a habit improve your outlook on life?

21. The author asserts: “Someone has observed that circumstances never make or break anyone; they simply reveal the person.” Do you agree or disagree? Why?

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