

Discussion Questions for *Reinventing Evangelism*

1. Name the people in your natural networks. Make a list of family and friends, people at work and school, and others with whom you share common interests. Identify at least three people on your list who would not claim to be serious Christians. Where do you think these individuals feel most comfortable? In other words, where are their comfort zones?
2. What are your comfort zones, and what would it take for you to venture out of them?
3. What would motivate you to enter other people's comfort zones?
4. Describe an instance when someone cared for you. What thoughts did you have for that person? Complete the statement, "When someone cares for me..."
5. Identify one or two of the communication principles Jesus practiced that you would like to implement. How can you implement these principles? Covenant with someone to follow through on your good intentions.
6. How are Christians and the church being overly influenced by what controls the world—or how are they exerting a strong Christian influence?
7. What are some of the stereotypes Christians have of non-Christians and non-Christians have of Christians? What impact do these stereotypes have on relationships between Christians and non-Christians?
8. Think about a friend or member of your family who has not accepted Christ at this stage in his or her life. Which characteristics about God do you think would be attractive to him or her? What response is this person making to Christ? Why do you believe he or she is responding that way?
9. Compile a list of values and virtues that are generally accepted to be good and right in today's society (for example, honesty and forgiveness). Assess how many of them are directly linked to Christian teaching.
10. Because of our cultural inheritance, Jesus' name and face are familiar in today's society. What are some ways we may incite some constructive debate about Jesus?
11. Consider the statement: "Whether we are dealing with alternative ways of being Christian or with other world religions, our approach must be marked with modesty and respect." Do you agree or disagree? Why?

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12. How can we resolve the tension of both appreciating other points of view while still maintaining a strong commitment to our own?
13. Recognizing how God dealt differently with you from others in your group, what can we expect from God when it comes to how he will deal with people who have not yet come to faith? How should God's approach to dealing with people affect how we communicate the truth of the gospel to the people around us?
14. Jesus was candid with people but he also freed people to reveal their true selves. What did Jesus signal to people that allowed them to be vulnerable? How can we be like him?
15. What are some of the obstacles today that stand in the way of people believing in Jesus and following him? How can they be removed?
16. Our culture often conflicts with the teachings and wishes of Christ for his people. Assess the following statements and ponder the philosophies of life they endorse: "I'll do it my way." "It's all relative." "Eat, drink and be merry." "Clothes make the man." "Look out for number one." "Don't make waves." "Science is the answer." "God is a crutch." To which of these suggestions from the world are you most vulnerable.
17. As followers of Jesus in today's world, how can we help each other resist the temptations of the times? How can we encourage each other to live a life of joyful obedience?
18. Recall an instance when someone cared for you. How did you feel when someone took the time to care for your needs? Describe how you felt toward that individual.
19. Identify a particular person in a situation who has real needs that you can serve.
20. Using language that would not normally be considered as religious, develop a list of synonyms and expressions that convey the biblical meaning of "being born again" and "being reconciled with God." Use analogies or metaphors. Complete the statement, "To me, becoming a Christian is like..."
21. Opening blind eyes, turning people from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to the power of God is not a task God has put solely in human hands. How do we complement what God is doing? What is the human role in helping people come to God?

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