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Spiritual Conversations With Secular People

Alisha Christie
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Discuss

Why should we even bother making an effort to interact with secular people?

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Christ's Method

- Christ's method alone will bring true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, "Follow Me."
 - Ministry of Healing page 143
- To have spiritual conversations with unchurched people, we need to have *actual* connections with unchurched people.

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Mingle

- Christ's example John 4:3-7
- We need to be willing to be in places where we can have **regular contact** with secular people

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A Formula

- $HP + CP + CC = MI$
- High Potency
- Close Proximity
- Clear Communication
- Maximal Impact
 - *Becoming a Contagious Christian*

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Your Impact List

Write down everyone you can think of that you interact with regularly who is unchurched.

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Reflect

Do you need to adjust your life patterns to make conversations with the unchurched possible? Ask God where he is already at work.

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Christ's Method

- Christ's method alone will bring true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who **desired their good**. He **showed His sympathy** for them, **ministered to their needs**, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, "Follow Me."
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Desire Their Good, Sympathy, Needs

- Conversations with secular people must be **genuine** before they become spiritual



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How To:

- Aim to be their friend
- Ask questions (F>O>I>P>S)
- Listen
 - Background, experiences, needs, prejudices, particular thoughts/beliefs
- Find points of similarity
- Ask a favour

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How To:

- Serve
 - Radical hospitality
 - Needs
- Plant spiritual seeds

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Once Confidence Is Won

- Look for spiritual openness

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Share

What are some indicators that your friend is open to learning about spiritual things or displays spiritual openness?

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Once Confidence Is Won

- Look for spiritual openness
- Relate the gospel to their life experience
- Ask open-ended questions
 - Do you have a spiritual background that you come from?
 - Were there any special spiritual moments in your life?
 - Was there a time you really felt close to God?

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Once Confidence Is Won

- The Direct Method
 - *If you'd ever like to know the difference between religion and Christianity, let me know. I'd be happy to talk to you about it.*
 - *I'm curious, do you ever think about spiritual matters?*
 - *Who, in your opinion, was Jesus Christ?*
 - *What's your spiritual background? Were you taught a particular religious perspective as you grew up?*
 - *What do you think a real Christian is?*
 - *Where are you heading in your spiritual journey?*

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Once Confidence Is Won

- The Indirect Method
 - Drop spiritual seeds
 - Business
 - Relocations
 - Hobbies & spare time
 - Nature
 - Music
 - Sports
 - Shared struggles
- The goal is to raise the topic, not to evoke an affirming response necessarily

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Once Confidence Is Won

- The Invitational Method
 - Seeker-orientated outreach events
 - Social gatherings
 - Church services
- Be careful selecting events that are done with excellence and sensitivity to unchurched people

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Christ's Method


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Then He Bade Them, Follow Me

- 1 Peter 3:15
- 2 Timothy 4:2

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Share

If someone asked you, what does it mean to become a Christian, what would you say?

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Then He Bade Them, Follow Me

- Transitioning to the gospel
 - Have you ever heard of the word Gospel?
 - Do you understand what it is? And listen to their answer
 - Affirm them in their answer
 - Summarize the gospel in a few sentences.
 - Share briefly how the gospel impacted your life.

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Then He Bade Them, Follow Me

- Start with the gospel
 - God
 - Us
 - Jesus
 - You
- Share your experience with Jesus

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What NOT To Do

- Don't make a big deal of starting bible studies
- Don't throw them everything at once
- Don't get caught up in arguments

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Role Play Case Studies

- This person is on your impact list. What approach will you take in following Christ's method with this person?
- Young adult male, no religious affiliation, extreme sports, fatherless home
- Single mum, struggling financially, interested in health

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Act

Write down places, names, and actions God is putting on your heart

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Take Home Message

- If we follow Christ's method of reaching people (get out of the holy huddle), *in the order He goes about it*, we will see results.