



Spiritual Conversations

WARM UP

### Who is one of your heroes?

SET IT UP

Let this sink in: the conversations we have can change where someone spends eternity. But how do we do it? Jesus was the ultimate example of engaging with people in spiritual conversations. He embodied grace and truth, and we can too. Let's talk about it!

CHAT IT UP

1. **While we read Acts 8:26-39 think about this question: how many times did Philip listen?** (Answer: 1. When the angel sent him south, 2. When the angel told him to go near the chariot, 3. when Philip heard the man reading, 4. When he listened to the man's questions... 3 more times.)
2. **What can we learn from Philip's example?**
3. **What do people do instead of listening? How does that hurt the conversation?** (Answers: Making a point, arguing, making a case for something the person does not even care about, etc.)
4. Mark gave us some principles to follow when having spiritual conversations from the example of Jesus in John 4. **As I remind you of them, think about which one is hardest or easiest for you and why.** They are:
  - **Look beyond yourself.** Intentionally engage with the people around you by having spiritual conversations.
  - **Move beyond the superficial.** When we care about people, eventually we talk about more than the weather.
  - **Push beyond the detours.** Don't get caught in a debate; bring it back to Jesus.
  - **Think beyond the moment.** Remember the eternal difference having a spiritual conversation can make.

5. **Agree or disagree? An atheist once said about Christians, “How much to do you have to hate someone to *not* tell them about God?”** (Note: His point was that if you believe someone will spend eternity in hell without God, why wouldn't you tell them?)
6. **What one thing do you want to start or stop doing as a result of this series?**

WRAP IT UP

Here's a challenging thought: Who will be in heaven one day because you cared enough to talk to them about Jesus? Pray for the courage and clarity to help someone find the way back to God!

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LEADER TIPS

- Think about having your group write down their action step from question six on a notecard and swapping it with another member of the group. You can pray for each other throughout the week and share what happened the following week.