

6

CONVERSATIONS

“Six Conversations” Groups

Voyagers Bible Church

Description:

A one-on-one men’s meeting program centered around six meetings in which topics pertinent to godly manhood and discipleship are discussed in informal but loosely structured meetings. (A group of three could also engage these conversations).

Connections:

Each man should prayerfully consider approaching another man in the church to begin the six conversations. Once he does this, the first meeting time and venue will be established by the two. It is recommended meetings be once a week for the remaining five connections.

Connections can be:

- peer-to-peer for encouragement, strengthening and spiritual friendship.
- for the purpose of pursuing a mentor or discipler.
- for the purpose of intentionally crossing perceived generational boundaries and creating new friendships outside of one’s life-stage.



Personal Stories

*"But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ."
Phil. 3:7*

In this conversation each man will share something of his life, childhood as well as how he came to realize that Jesus is the Lord of his life.

Before the conversation ... (reflect on, and answer these questions).

- When I think about my life story, what are some of the major milestones?
- What would I most like to say about my family?
- How have I experienced God? What have been some major events or experiences? Are there any passages of Scripture that have been meaningful to me?
- What would I most like to say about my relationship with God right now?

Starting the conversation ... what specific question would you like to ask your conversation partner about this topic? Ask it to get started.

During the conversation ... (this is some space to jot down some meaningful thoughts that were shared).

Ending the conversation with prayer ... (pray for each other as you end).

Our next meeting time and place is: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

2

Relationships

In this conversation each man will share a brief history of how he has related to the opposite sex. This session will also explore how each man has maintained good male friendships.

"If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourself. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others."
Phil. 2:1-4

Before the conversation ... (reflect on, and answer these questions).

- When I think about dating, engagement, and marriage what comes to mind?
- How have I experienced dating or marriage or both?
- What would I most like to share about love, relationships and marriage
- How have I experienced good male friendships?
- What would I most like to say about good male friendships?

Starting the conversation ... what specific question would you like to ask your conversation partner about this topic?

During the conversation ... (this is some space to jot down some meaningful thoughts that were shared).

Ending the conversation with prayer ... (pray for each other as you end).

Application: During the course of these six meetings each man should introduce the other to at least one of their other male friends.

Our next meeting time and place is: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____



An Authentic Man

“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.”
Phil. 4:8-9

In this conversation the team will explore the ethical struggles associated with manhood.

Honesty, Sexual Issues regarding lust and pornography, as well as ethical integrity in the workplace will be central focuses. Each man can feel free to share to their comfort level of struggles as well as victories and helpful life experiences.

Before the conversation ... (reflect on, and answer these questions).

- When I think about ethical temptations as a man, what comes to mind?
- How have I experienced ethical temptations?
- How have I experienced lust and pornography in my lifetime and now?
- What would I most want to say about pornography and sexuality as they relate to manhood?

Starting the conversation ... what specific question would you like to ask your conversation partner about this topic? This might be a more difficult conversation to start. Perhaps this question might be helpful, “At what age were you first exposed to pornography?”

During the conversation ... (this is some space to jot down some meaningful thoughts that were shared).

Ending the conversation with prayer ... (pray for each other as you end).

Our next meeting time and place is: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

4

Vocation, Passion, Inspiration

This conversation is about job and career, and how each man has chosen their field of work. This is also a conversation about identifying what each man might be passionate about and how ministry and career can emerge from those passions.

"What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead."

Phil. 3:8-11

Before the conversation ... (reflect on, and answer these questions).

- When you think about Jobs and career what comes to mind?
- How have I experienced work and career?
- How do my job/career and my passion connect? Or not?
- What do I see as my God-aided role in the church?
- What would I most like to say about career/work?
- What would I most like to say about serving in the Church?

Starting the conversation ... what specific question would you like to ask your conversation partner about this topic?

During the conversation ... (this is some space to jot down some meaningful thoughts that were shared).

Ending the conversation with prayer ... (pray for each other as you end).

Our next meeting time and place is: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____



Disappointments and Regrets

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”
Phil. 4:6-7

This is a frank conversation about what opportunities may have been missed in life by each person. This is a chance to share how life has, or has not turned out as imagined. This conversation may include bad decisions that have been made along the way, unfortunate circumstances, or how someone else has wronged the man.

Before the conversation ... (reflect on, and answer these questions).

- What comes to mind when I think of regret and disappointment?
- How have I experienced regret in my life?
- How have I experienced disappointment in my life?
- Have I ever been wronged by someone? (Share to your own level of comfort).
- What would I most like to say about disappointment and regret? What would I most like to say about forgiveness and God’s redemption of my past?

Starting the conversation ... what specific question would you like to ask your conversation partner about this topic?

During the conversation ... (this is some space to jot down some meaningful thoughts that were shared).

Ending the conversation with prayer ... (pray for each other as you end).

Our next meeting time and place is: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____



6

Goals and Dreams

This is a final formal meeting in which each man will share his own goals and dreams for the future. The tandem may wish to also outline the practical steps of accomplishing those dreams. This is also a time when each man will honor the other by sharing how the other has helped him and what he admires about the other.

"Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. Only let us live up to what we have already attained."
Phil. 3:12-16

Before the conversation ... (reflect on, and answer these questions).

- When I think about goals and dreams, what comes to mind?
- How have I experienced goals and dreams?
- Is there a goal or dream I have seen realized in my life?
- What goals or dreams remain unaccomplished?
- What would I most like to say about having a vision for my life?

Starting the conversation ... what specific question would you like to ask your conversation partner about this topic?

Application: Each man will exchange a "letter of blessing" to the other in which they might offer encouragement and words of admiration and thanks.

During the conversation ... (this is some space to jot down some meaningful thoughts that were shared).

Where do we go from here?

Is there another man you would like to approach to have these six conversations?

What is your next step of faith or service? How are you planning to intentionally deepen your spiritual life?

Ending the six conversations with prayer ... (pray for each other as you consider what your next step of faith is).