

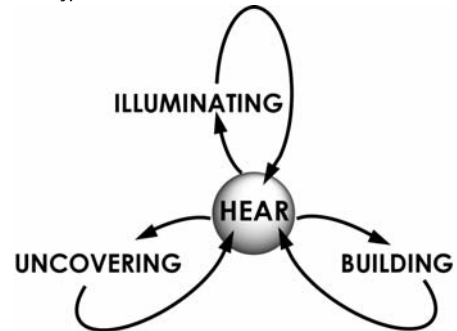
## Conversational Evangelism: Illuminating



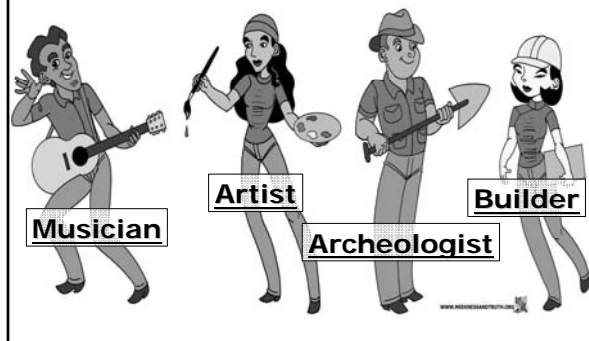
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## Conversational Evangelism

Four types of conversations we want to have with non-believers



## Four types of roles you need to play in your friend's life



## What You Might Hear (Review)

Types of inconsistencies you might hear:

- 👂 Belief vs. Heart Longing (Eccl. 3:11)
- 👂 Belief vs. Behavior (Gal 2:14-16)
- 👂 Belief vs. Belief (Acts 17:22-30)
- 👂 Illogical Belief (2 Cor. 1:18)

## Illuminate The Discrepancies!

Hear  
Illuminate  
Uncover  
Build



As an artist you want to paint a picture by asking questions

### The Importance of Questions

- Questions that help clarify the meaning of certain unclear terms
- Questions that surface uncertainty and / or expose false belief systems or concepts

Questions that uncover the meaning of certain unclear terms

What do you mean by...?

- Savior
- Good
- Died for us
- Son of God
- Buddhist
- Free Thinker
- Jesus is God
- All religions are basically the same
- Accept Jesus

### The Importance of Questions

Questions that surface uncertainty and or expose false belief systems or concepts

How are we suppose to do this?

### Introductory Questions To Explore the Uncertainties of their Beliefs

1. Do you really think it really matters what we believe or is the important thing we have some kind of religion to make us a better person?
2. Do you think that all religious beliefs basically teach the same thing?
3. Do you think life has a purpose?

### Introductory Questions To Explore the Uncertainties of their Beliefs

4. Do you think human lives are valuable?
5. Do you believe that some things are either right or wrong?
6. Do you think that by doing good we can get to this better place or heaven?

### Follow-up Questions That Can Expose False beliefs or Concepts



How is it possible. . .

- for all religions to be the same when some of them contradict each other's key beliefs?
- for there to be meaning and purpose in our lives and at the same time believe that there is no God?

### Follow-up Questions That Can Expose False beliefs or Concepts



How is it possible. . .

- for human life to be valuable but yet believe that life is just a random by-product of nature?
- to claim that there is no absolutes absolutely?

### Follow-up Questions That Can Expose False beliefs or Concepts



How is it possible. . .

- How is it possible for us to empty ourselves from all desires?
- How do you fit Jesus into your religious beliefs?

### Asking Thought Provoking Questions!

If you were coming to the end of your life, and you met Jesus and other great religious leaders, and each suggested a different path, who's advice should you take.

Wouldn't you take the advice of someone who's been to the other side and come back to tell us about it?

### Asking Thought Provoking Questions!

If you were not sure if you should follow Jesus or other great religious leaders, consider this perspective.

If you follow Jesus and you are wrong, you may have many other life times to get it right.

Yet if you follow other paths and you are wrong, you do not have any more chances to get it right. (Heb. 9:27)

Wouldn't it be wise then to choose Christ first?

### Asking Thought Provoking Questions to Our Muslim Friends!

Question:

Why do you believe that Jesus was considered just a prophet when the Bible mentions in many places that Jesus was worshiped as God?

- Matthew 8:2 – Leper
- Matthew 28:9 – women at the tomb
- Matthew 14:33 – the disciples
- Matthew 28:17; Luke 24:52 – the disciples after Jesus rose
- John 9:38 – a blind man
- John 20:28-29 – Thomas called him "My Lord and My God"
- Matthew 2:2 – God sent wise men to worship Jesus, and wise men today worship him too.

### Asking Thought Provoking Questions!

**Their Answer:**

The Bible is corrupt and cannot be trusted to tell the true story of what Jesus believed about himself.

**Response:**

Yet if Jesus is just a prophet why does the Qur'an teach that Jesus was virgin born (Sura 3:47) and sinless (Sura 3:45-46: 19:19-21) and yet at the same time why does it teach that Mohammed was sinful (Sura 40:55;48:1-2) and not virgin born?

### Why Asking Questions Is So Helpful?

"A person can close his ears to facts he does not want to hear, but if a pointed question causes him to form the answer in his own mind, he cannot escape the conclusion—because it's a conclusion that he reached himself."

David Reed Baker, *Jehovah's Witnesses Answered Verse by Verse*, (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1986) p. 113

### Barriers To Using a Questioning Approach with Asians

**Question:**

But how do we ask questions in a culture where it is not part of the ways of the culture to ask probing questions about one's perspective concerning religious issues?

Example: Jn. 4: 9

"The Samaritan woman said to him, 'You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink.'" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans)



### How do I know if I am asking the right kind of questions in the right way?

Ask "Am I asking questions in a way that surfaces their **doubt (uncertainty)** about their own perspective, while at the same time **minimizes** their **defensiveness**, and yet **creates a desire (curiosity)** to want to hear more?"

### Jesus' use of questions in Luke 20:41-44

"Then Jesus said to them, "How is it that they say the Christ is the Son of David? David himself declares in the Book of Psalms: 'The Lord said to my Lord: Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.' David calls him Lord. How then can he be his son?"

What was the scribes problem?

**They didn't believe that Jesus was the Messiah.**

What were the two contradictory beliefs that the scribes held?

### Jesus' use of questions in Luke 20:41-44

Pointing out their discrepancies:

- A. I believe what the Old Testament says in Ps. 110:1 about the Messiah being the son of David.
- B. I don't believe that it is possible that Jesus could be the Messiah.

### Jesus' use of questions in Luke 20:41-44

What was the question behind the question?

Verse 44- "David therefore calls Him Lord, and how is He his son?"

The bottom line:

Jesus was asking if the Messiah is the Son of David, why isn't it possible for Jesus to be the Messiah?

### The Danger Of Not Using Positive Deconstructionism

"It seems to me that there are two big mistakes one could make with positive deconstruction. One danger is to assume that it isn't needed. It's very simple to say, 'All we need to do is pray for people' or 'All we need to do is love people.' It's simple—but it simply isn't true."

Nick Pollard, *Evangelism Made Slightly Less Difficult*, 45.



### The Limitations Of Using Positive Deconstructionism

•"The other mistake is to think that positive deconstruction is all that is needed....The approach of positive deconstruction is simply one of these (strategies)—but one which we must develop and utilized if we are even to begin reaching people today."

Nick Pollard, *Evangelism Made Slightly Less Difficult*, 45-46.



### Some Limitations To Merely Using A "Deconstruction" Approach In Evangelism

The fact is how we confront people with the truth can be a real turn off!

The Apostle Paul said it this way, "And if I have the gift of prophecy, and know all...And if I deliver my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing,"

I Corinthians 13: 2a & 3b.

### The Bottom Line About Using Positive Deconstructionism

•"I do not believe that positive deconstruction is the simple key that will make evangelism easy. But if combined with earnest prayer, clear gospel proclamation, reasoned apologetics and genuine relationships demonstrating practical love, positive deconstruction will help us find evangelism slightly less difficult."

Nick Pollard, *Evangelism Made Slightly Less Difficult*, 46.



### Practicing Surfacing the Discrepancies In Action In Singapore

"I also had the opportunity to share (with) another Chinese friend about Christianity during one of our outreach events....I realized that he had still had some questions and contradicting beliefs about Christianity. On one hand, he believed that the bible is true and accurate, yet on the other hand he felt that there is no way in which our sins can be totally forgive....(He felt that) there is no way by which our sins can ever be totally forgiven because we will just keep doing the wrong things again and again."

Former student at East Asia School of Theology

### Practicing Surfacing the Discrepancies In Action In Singapore

"Furthermore, (he believed that) there are varying standards and regulations in different countries and places, thus something wrong in one place may be deemed right in another. Therefore, though he does believe that God exist and that He is all-powerful, he does not see the need for God's forgiveness and salvation through the cross....I asked him if there is really no difference between Hitler and Mother Theresa.

Former student at East Asia School of Theology

### Practicing Surfacing the Discrepancies In Action In Singapore

"I went on to help him see that absolute truth does exist and that there must be a standard for right and wrong. I also challenged him that if he really believed that the bible is true and accurate, then he also has to accept the fact that we are sinners and that forgiveness and salvation can only be found by grace through faith in Christ. At the end of our conversation, he mentioned that he did agree with some of the things that I had said and that he does realize that some of the things in which he had believed in are contradictory. However, he still needed more time to process and to think through the things that we had said and discussed."

Former student at East Asia School of Theology

### Practicing Asking Questions In Singapore

"One chatty taxi driver I talked to recently told me about a movie he watched in which a passenger on a plane actually saw a vision of the plane blowing up before it took off. He warned the other passenger while trying to get off the plane but nobody believed him. The plane actually blew up minutes after takeoff. The taxi driver then asked me if I would believe that person if something like this would have happened to me. I told him I would find it difficult because I would not know if I could trust him. He replied to me that he would rather take the risk and believe in that passenger. My wife who was with me asked him, 'You mean you will believe in someone who you don't know simply because it is a life-and-death issue?' 'Yes,' the taxi driver answered. 'Would you then believe in a trustworthy man if he told you that you can escape death and obtain life?' The taxi driver was dumbfounded, but he said he would. I proceeded to share with him that Jesus came to deliver us from death and to give us eternal life. Although he did not trust Christ that day, I could see that he was beginning to find his perspective of life shaky."

Former student at East Asia School of Theology

### Practicing Asking Penetrating Questions In Singapore

"My first attempt came after attending the 4<sup>th</sup> lesson, I decided to question my close buddy, Ed who is a Catholic from birth

Me: Do you think you will go to heaven?  
 Ed: Hopefully. That is, if I live a more pious life.  
 Me: What do you mean by a pious life?  
 Ed: Being good and having a close walk with Him.  
 Me: Do you think attending mass religiously every week will bring you to heaven?  
 Ed: No, I must have a relationship with God.  
 Me: So are you having a relationship with God?  
 Ed: Not yet.

Former student at East Asia School of Theology

### Practicing Asking Penetrating Questions In Singapore

"We were having a joke during an operation about joss sticks. Don't ask me how and why but somehow the topic cropped up. So I asked the staff nurse what the joss sticks meant. Apparently two joss sticks were meant for the deceased ancestors and three were for the gods. I gathered that the nurse was Buddhist. So I asked her about burning incense papers- how does one know if the burn 'money' papers reach the right people in hell? She looked at me in shock. 'Dunno leh. Aiya, I never thought about such things' was her reply. I suggested that she should find out and tell me."

Former student at East Asia School of Theology

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