

ILLUMINATING: LEARNING THE ROLE OF THE ARTIST

Illuminating conversations

- Like an artist, asking questions helps paint a _____ to help them see themselves in a more clear light (in terms of their beliefs).
- This is where we ask questions to help people to "see" for themselves (without us directly telling them they are wrong) some of the discrepancies in their beliefs. (To surface the truth themselves) Our goal is to help them question whether their beliefs are a strong enough foundation to build their lives on.

Ask questions:

- ***That clarify beliefs***

- * *Ask them what do you mean by...?*

- Examples:

- 1) All religions are basically the same
 - 2) Jesus died for us
 - 3) The Bible is corrupt
 - 4) I am an agnostic
 - 5) I am an Atheist

- ***That surface _____***

1. Begin with asking probing questions to get them to explore their beliefs.

I am curious to know?

Do you really think it really matters what we believe?

Do you think all religions basically teach the same thing?

Do you think it is possible that you and I were put here on this earth for some kind of purpose? If so what do you think that was?

Do you think that by doing enough good we can get to the next life?

Have you come to any conclusions about Jesus Christ?

How do you fit Jesus into your religious beliefs?

Are you absolutely certain there is no life after this life?

Note: A crack in our non-believing friend's worldview foundation today may result in changes later.

2. Ask 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?

for the bible to be so corrupt that we have no clear picture of what Jesus said and did nor understand the implications that this has for our lives?

Note: If people perceive that our goal is to have them help us better understand their beliefs rather than just prove they are wrong, they are more likely to have a more positive response to our probing questions.

Remember The Three D's (of Conversational Evangelism)

Ask questions in a way that:

- Surfaces their _____ (uncertainty).

"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?" (Luke 20:41-44)

- Minimizes their _____.

"But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander." (1 Peter 3:15-16)

- Creates a _____ to want to hear more!

Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." (John 4:10)

Note: *A crack in our non-believing friend's worldview foundation today may result in changes later. As your questions surface more and more doubts, the person may be more open to further dialogue.*

"We live in a world in which people are reluctant to be told what is true.

But they may be willing to see for themselves (as in a mirror) the inadequacies in what they believe by us asking them probing and thought provoking questions."

Dr. David Geisler