

Evangelism Class #11 - Spiritual Small Talk and the Power of Questions

Spiritual Small Talk (SST)

- “Small talk” = “Polite conversation about unimportant or uncontroversial matters, especially as engaged in on social occasions.”
 - Not designed to be a deep conversation, just “shooting the breeze.”
- “Spiritual small talk” = talking about spiritual things casually and in passing so as not to require any deep conversation from the person you’re talking to.
 - **Deep conversation:** “I go to the Palm Springs Drive church of Christ. Are you familiar with what the Bible teaches about the church?”
 - **Spiritual small talk:** “After church on Sunday, we went over to one of the member’s houses to watch the Super Bowl.”
 - **Deep conversation:** “What do you think about the Bible? Do you believe it’s God’s Word?”
 - **Spiritual small talk:** “I love my morning routine. I get up, make my coffee, read my Bible, pray, then exercise. It gives me so much strength to conquer the day.”
 - **Matthew 10:32-33** - Shows we’re not ashamed of the Lord.
 - **Acts 4:13** - Shows we’ve “been with Jesus.”

4 Benefits of Spiritual Small Talk:

1. **Lets people know where we’re at in a non-threatening way.**
 - Not pushing or challenging them, but they see your interest in spiritual things.
2. **Lets us know where people are at in a non-threatening way.**
 - Can tell where they’re at by their reaction to your spiritual small talk.
3. **Gives people a natural opening to talk to us about spiritual things**
 - Non-Christians don’t know how to broach religion either, but this gives them a natural opening for conversation.
4. **Gives us a natural opening to talk to them about spiritual things**
 - Rather than random spiritual conversation, SST provides a smooth transition into spiritual discussion.

Caution: Make this a natural part of conversation. Not meant to be a canned or fake technique, just being open and honest about the role God plays in your life.

More Examples? Use spiritual language (“I’m so blessed to have...”). Give God credit. (“I thank the Lord for...”). Use Bible verses (“That movie reminded me of the verse about the love of money being the root of all evil”). Let someone know you’re praying for them.

The Power of Questions:

Questions allow natural transition from spiritual small talk to spiritual big talk. Moves us from the superficial to the deep waters of the soul.

9 Benefits:

1. We Model the Master

- Jesus was the master at asking questions; it was key in His evangelism.
- We’re so obsessed with preaching, presentations, slide shows and flow charts, we’ve forgotten the power of questions.
 - Jesus preached and presented, but often paved the way with questions. (e.g. Matt. 11:7-8)

2. Shows Genuine Interest

- **Matthew 16:15** - “Who do you say that I am?” **Matthew 20:32** - “What do you want me to do for you?”
- Shows interest in feelings, thoughts, experiences, opinions, goals, likes/dislikes, and stories.
- Opens door for deeper spiritual discussion because A) they feel safe/valued and B) transition from superficial to deeper won’t be so random.