

GENERATION NOW

How to start “the conversation” January

January 14, 2018

Before starting *the conversation* on Jesus, we must understand effective communication.

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1: Live by example

2: Listen

3: Give individual attention

4: Show sincerity

Live by example: ([James 2:14-18](#), [Matthew 5:14-16](#) and [Psalms 1:1-6](#))

Art comes in many different forms. Visit a museum or art gallery and you may see a sculpture, calligraphy or paintings. Each of these mediums are beautiful and valuable in its own way. The bible commends another form of art, one that is more important and more enduring. It is living art. A preacher once said, “No work of art is more important than the Christian’s own life, and every Christian is cared upon to be an artist in this sense. The Christian’s life is to be a thing of truth and a thing of beauty in the midst of a lost and despairing world.” No work of art is more beautiful, more precious, than a life lived for God in imitation of his Son. Before teaching and leading, we must look inside ourselves and make sure we are living and representing a righteous life.

Listen: ([Matthew 11:15](#), [Proverbs 1:5](#) and [James 1:19](#))

In many instances we should allow ourselves to be still and listen to our family members, co-workers and potential followers. We live in a world of noise. Almost everywhere we go, we find sounds competing with our minds, keeping us from letting our thoughts get below the surface level. Hearing God’s voice means not listening to the noise of the world around us. Listening is also an example of faith. Before asking someone to attend church with you or teaching them the gospel, it is imperative to find out where they are on their path. The bible gives us many examples of listening.

Give individual attention: ([Psalms 32:8](#) and [Titus 2:7,8](#))

There is a reason a majority of counselling sessions are one-on-one. Most of us enjoy attention. If you want to reach people in your community and invite them to church, start praying for them by name. Collect names and find creative ways to pray for them. Use email or social media or a physical display to capture the first names of people you hope to invite. Get to truly know them.

Show Sincerity: ([Matthew 5:46-48](#), [Acts 15:4](#) and [Luke 9:11](#))

We all know that one person at our job, church or family that is just too good to be true. They always smile, hug and seem to never be in a bad mood. But over time, their behaviour is consistent and you start to realize their actions are sincere. Sincerity is a key factor in bringing souls to Christ and opening the lines to communication. Whether it’s welcoming friends into our home, visitors into our church or just saying hello to a stranger on the street, as Christians we should display the welcoming attitude of God.