

Week One: *Spiritual Conversations*
Colossians 4:2-6

Spend Fifteen – Day One

1. Not every follower of Jesus is called to be a missionary in South America. Not every Christian is wired to be a preacher in front of crowds. But what would you say are some things that *every* Christian should do as a typical part of their walk with God?
2. Read [Matthew 5:13-16](#). What two objects does Jesus compare his followers to?
3. What benefits do “salt” and “light” provide in the real world?
4. No matter each of our specific personalities, what results does Jesus believe that our “light” should accomplish among other people in this world? (See [verse 16](#).)
5. Not every Christian will shine the same way. We each have different gifts that allow us to show God’s goodness to the world. For example, watch this brief clip from the movie *Chariots of Fire*.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pd5LCN53q9Y>
What was Eric’s specific ability that let God’s goodness shine before others?
6. Think about yourself. What is something that you love to do that makes you feel God’s pleasure?
7. How can you reframe that thing you love into a way to shine God’s goodness to others around you?
8. Close your FIFTEEN in prayer. Ask God to help you recognize your specific abilities, so you may shine his goodness.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Two

9. When was the last time you had a spiritual conversation with someone? Whether a family member, a friend, a co-worker? What did you talk about? How did it go?
10. Now think about this: what was it that *prompted* that conversation? Did you start it? Did they? What was the circumstance that precipitated a spiritual topic of dialogue?
11. Read 1 Peter 3:15-16. What topic is Peter giving Christians advice about?

12. Peter uses an interesting word in verse 15: “answer.” What does this imply about whether we initiate a conversation or let others initiate?
13. But how might we need to live in order to make someone ask about “the reason for the hope that we have”?
14. In general, how well do you live your days in a way that would make someone ask about your hope? What might be a specific thing you could do differently to better communicate the hope you have in Jesus?
15. End your FIFTEEN in prayer by asking God to help you live your life in a way that would encourage others to ask about the hope you have in Jesus.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Three

16. According to Barna Research Group, 3 in 4 Christians are “reluctant” to have spiritual conversations. One of the top reasons given is that “religious conversations always seem to create tension or arguments.” How accurately does that match your own experience of religious conversations?
17. What are some things that Christians tend to do which make spiritual conversations go negatively? What are some approaches Christians can take which would make spiritual conversations a more pleasant experience?
18. Read 1 Peter 3:15-16. What two adjectives does Peter say should describe our spiritual conversations with others?
19. Picture someone close to you whom you would like to talk more about faith. What would it look like to show them “respect” as part of your conversation? What questions might you need to ask?
20. Now, think about what it would like to be “gentle” in your conversation? What motives—agendas for the other person—might you need to let go?
21. Take time to mentally rehearse how you can respond to them with gentleness and respect the next time they initiate an important conversation!
22. As you conclude your FIFTEEN, confess those times when you have failed to respond to someone with gentleness and respect. Then ask God to help you recognize the next time you begin to repeat that behavior.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Four

23. You probably have someone in your life that is not living the life that God—or more precisely, you—would wish for them. Who is that person, and what is the important thing that you would really like to talk about with them?

24. Generally, when someone clearly needs your wisdom, how do you broach the conversation?
25. But what if there is another tack to take? Read Colossians 4:2-6. “Conversation” doesn’t happen until verse 6. But what action does Paul tell us to take *before* conversation, in verses 2 and 3?
26. How naturally does it come to you, to “pray for God to open a door” before you bring up important topics with others?
27. And then, after praying specifically, how might you recognize an “open door” to speak into the other person’s life?
28. Make an action plan right now: put a recurring appointment on your calendar to pray for God to open doors in the hearts of people you care deeply about. Then close in prayer by asking God to help you put your plan in motion.

Spend FIFTEEN - Day Five

30. When was a time where someone told you something that you needed to hear, but it was painful to hear it and face your need for growth? On the other hand, who is someone in your life who always knew how to say the right thing to you, and it didn’t make you feel bad?
31. Paul uses a curious expression in Colossians 4. Read verses 2-6. What two things does he say our conversations should be marked by?
32. Life-giving, transformative conversations are motivated by grace. Grace is a big concept, but in the context of spiritual conversations it can mean being “curious” about the other person. How well do you tend to show a grace-based curiosity about others in your conversations, generally?
33. What are some questions you could intentionally start asking to make your conversations more gracious?
34. And then, our conversational methods should bring the tastiness of salt. If you want people to listen and trust you, it helps for conversations with you to be *pleasant*. If you were to ask those close to you: how pleasant are important discussions with you—how would they rate you?
35. What would it look like for you to have your goal for a conversation NOT to be to win or persuade the other person of your point of view—but instead to make them want to have further conversations with you? How would that change your tone or the points that you tend to make?
36. Pick up to three people in your inner circle. Make a goal to tweak how you discuss important things with them—so

that they will find your conversations more curious and more pleasant.

37. As you finish your final FIFTEEN his week, ask for God to give you his grace, so that his Holy Spirit can season your interactions with others.