

# EQUIPPED FOR MISSION: Cultivating Conversations

## Transitioning the Trajectory

**DESIGN OF THIS SEMINAR SERIES:** Living Missionally is like going on a journey

**3/18 - EQUIPPED FOR MISSION:** Embracing a Journey

**3/25 - EQUIPPED FOR MISSION:** Cultivating Relationships

**4/15 - EQUIPPED FOR MISSION:** Cultivating Conversations

**4/22 - EQUIPPED FOR MISSION:** Cultivating Conversations - Transitioning the Trajectory

**4/29 - EQUIPPED FOR MISSION:** Cultivating Conversations - Conversing about the Gospel

**5/6 - EQUIPPED FOR MISSION:** Working through internal and external obstacles

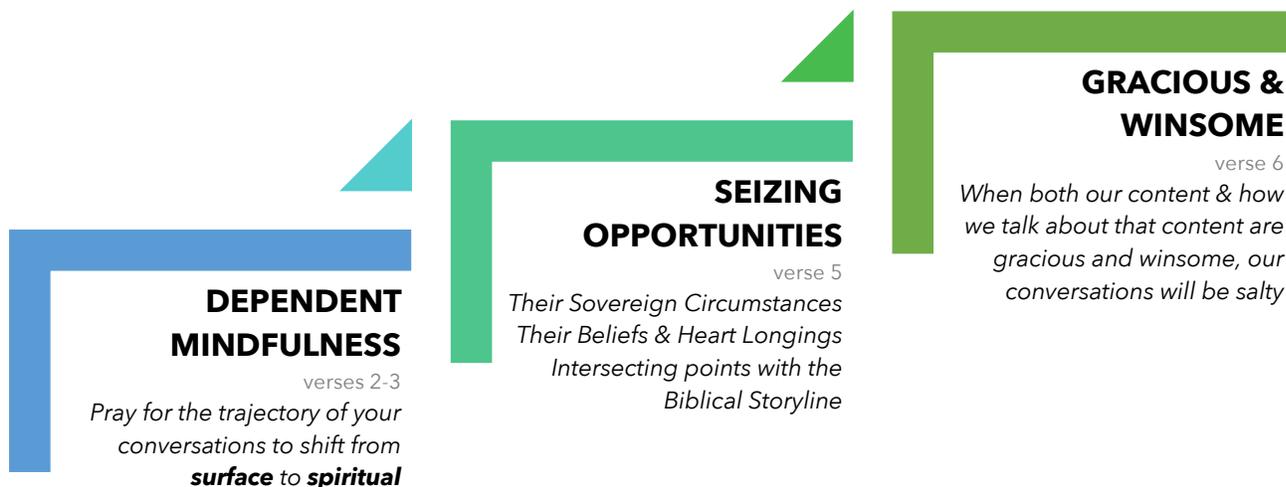
## WHY ARE WE HERE?

**Psalm 96:3-5** - *3 Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples! 4 For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods. 5 For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens.*

## BIBLICAL FRAMEWORK

**Thinking intentionally about cultivating conversations – Colossians 4:2-6**

**Colossians 4:2-6** - *2 Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. 3 And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. 4 Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. 5 Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. 6 Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.*



## NEXT STEPS ON THE JOURNEY

**Transitioning the trajectory of our conversations - think art NOT science**

**THE GENERAL TRAJECTORY**

External → Internal → Eternal

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### DIFFERENT PATHWAYS TO THE ETERNAL

#### 3 Ways you can Transition the Trajectory towards the Eternal

→ **AUTHENTIC Conversations** - *Allowing the reality of God's work in your life to surface in everyday conversations*

We need to leverage what God is doing in our lives BUT it requires vulnerability AND de-spiritualizing our language so they can understand.

"The more we understand how the gospel affects us in our daily affairs and relationships, and the more we learn to converse about this in *everyday language*, the easier it becomes to let people in on what it means to know God. Because the gospel envelopes all of life - how we conduct ourselves with our family, in our society, and our work - every subject, when fully explored will trace back to Jesus Christ, 'in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.'...Boldness is not brashness. Boldness, for the insider, means having enough confidence in the gospel to use it as the frame of reference for living and interpreting everyday life. Growing in our understanding of the connections between the two and in how to talk about it is a worthy life-time pursuit." - **Jim Peterson & Mike Shamy, The Insider**

"But we also need to make your faith an everyday, natural part of our conversations with people. Knowing Jesus is an integral, important part of your life, so it can and should be part of what you chat about; not always in formal, 'now-I-am-sharing-the-gospel-with-you' ways, but as part of conversations about what we did at the weekend, how we're dealing with an issue at home or work, why we're really busy at the moment, and so on. By raising an aspect of your faith in conversation—even if that conversation then moves on to other subjects—you have shown the person you're speaking to that Christian faith is relevant to real life, that it's important to your life, and that you're open to them asking you about it. It's so easy to talk about everything but Christ. So aim to chat your faith in low-key, natural, conversational ways." - **Rico Tice, Honest Evangelism**

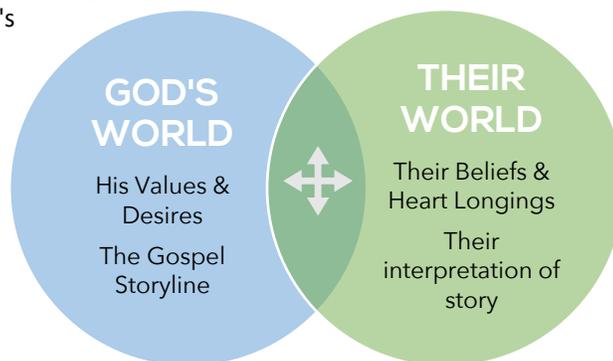
→ **INTERSECTING Conversations** - *Taking everyday opportunities and talking about the intersection with God's world and the Biblical Storyline*

#### The intersecting points of their beliefs/heart longings AND God's world

- You are looking for the overlap of their world & God's world

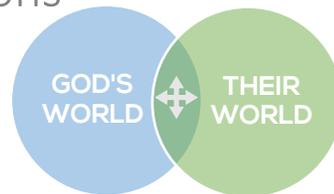
##### EXAMPLES:

- Love of nature/concern for climate change → *I have noticed your passion for nature and concern for climate change. I have seen some of the same values in the Bible. I'd love to hear more about where your passion/concern developed.*
- Heart for refugees/concern for immigration → *I have noticed your concern for refugees and compassion for immigrants. I have seen some of the same values/concerns in the Bible. I'd love to hear more about where your concern comes from.*
- Desire to be satisfied → *It seems the root motive in everything we do is about being satisfied. Why do you think that is? What do you think God thinks of that?*



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### The intersecting points with life AND the Biblical storyline

- You are looking for the intersection of their world & the Biblical storyline

\*Adapted from Everyday Church by Tim Chester & Steve Timmis

THE BIBLICAL STORYLINE	CORE QUESTIONS TO DISCOVER A PERSON'S INTERPRETATION	PERSONAL INTERPRETATIONS	PERSONAL INTERPRETATIONS	CURRENT EVENTS
<b>Creation</b> IDENTITY Why am I here?	What do they assume the world should be like? What kind of person would they like to be? Who are their heroes? What would have to be in place for them to feel happy?	Loved & Accepted	Control	<b>Celebrity Failure</b> - We look up to these individuals. They reach their goals and are disappointed. <i>What are we supposed to be after?</i>
<b>Fall</b> PROBLEM What is wrong with the world?	How do they describe their struggles and battles? What do they feel is their most pressing problem? What do they feel they lack? Who or what do they think is responsible?	Loneliness, people find out what I am like, people fail my expectations <i>-Why do you think we all seem to never live up to people's expectations?</i>	Feeling out of control, others pushing against what we want <i>-Why do you think we get so frustrated when things don't go our way?</i>	<b>Refugee Crisis</b> - <i>What is wrong? Why are these things still not fixed in a modern world?</i> <b>SCOPE OF WORLD PROBLEMS</b> - name the issues... <i>What is so wrong with the world?</i>
<b>Redemption</b> SOLUTION How is what is wrong going to be made right?	What do they think will make life better? What provides a sense of escape or release? Who or what will deliver their hopes? What are their functional saviors?	Change personally to what others expect of me	Gaining control of health, relationships, future, finances	<b>TAKE ANY MAJOR SOCIETAL ISSUE</b> - <i>How do we find a solution with so many diverse competing views?</i>
<b>Restoration</b> HOPE What will the 'right' look like?	What are their hopes? What is the long-term project to which they are working? What are the dreams for which they make sacrifices? Have they given up so that their hope has shrunk simply to getting through the day?	Relationships where I am known and loved	Feeling secure and having control of major areas of our life	<b>Make America Great Again</b> - <i>Everyone desires this...in your mind what would it look like?</i>

#### CORE QUESTIONS FOR THE INTERSECTING POINTS:

- How do those around me define salvation? How will they know when they have arrived? ("I'll be happy, fulfilled, accepted if...")
- What must they do to be saved? What laws or rules must they follow? ("To achieve this I've got to...")

"Jesus is the only Lord who, if you receive Him, will fulfill you completely, and, if you fail Him, will forgive you eternally." - **Tim Keller, The Reason for God**

→ **DIRECT Conversations** - A more direct approach at transitioning the trajectory towards the eternal

### FALL FORWARD IN TRANSITIONING THE TRAJECTORY

- Take baby steps toward transitioning the trajectory to the eternal
- Trust the Spirit and push through awkwardness  
"He, the Spirit, is our counselor, our guide, the One called alongside us to help us in our every need. So we may go to Him asking for His assistance in every possible way whenever we want to share the truth of the Gospel." - **Jerram Barrs, Heart of Evangelism**

# EQUIPPED FOR MISSION: Cultivating Conversations

## *Transitioning the Trajectory*

### EXERCISE

**Q:** *What was most helpful in the Next Steps for the Journey in thinking about how you can transition the trajectory of your conversations?*

**Q:** *What hesitations do you have in seeking to fall forward and put this into practice?*

Take a few moments to work through the exercise below...

#### **INTERSECTING CONVERSATIONS**

→ Identify 2 current events & develop 1 question around that event's intersection with the Biblical storyline

**Current Event:**

**Q:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Event:**

**Q:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### **AUTHENTIC CONVERSATIONS**

**Q:** *What challenge are you currently facing in life where God is at work in you that you could be vulnerable about with someone who does not think or believe like you?*

#### **JOURNEY GOALS:**

- *Work through & Share the story of your spiritual journey with someone*
- *Take baby steps towards transitioning the trajectory of a conversation in direction of truth*