

What Kind of Person Has Spiritual Conversations Regularly?



Purpose

The purpose of this lesson is to introduce EAGER, an acronym from research into Christians who regularly, naturally, and confidently have Spiritual Conversations.

Objectives

Students will be able to ...

- Articulate the five characteristics common to EAGER conversationalists.

What to Print:

- Lesson 2 Handouts: 1 / person
- Lesson 2 Exit Ticket: 1 / person

Instructions:

Organize students into groups of 4. Ask the Kickstarter Question. Feel free to ask and lead in a way that works best for your group. You can ask them to discuss in groups, or you can ask the entire class, or some combination of the two. But only devote 2-3 minutes in total for these Kickstarter Questions.

Kickstarter Question:

What is something about Spiritual Conversations that stuck out to you from the last lesson?

Part 1: Icebreaker Activity

Instructions:

1. Stereotypical evangelist hieroglyphics. Students draw hieroglyphs, featuring 5 stick figures. Each figure illustrates one characteristic or practice of stereotypical evangelists, in their opinion.
2. Students then share their hieroglyphics in their groups (and/or with the whole class).
3. Ask the students: From your perspective, what's the difference between "evangelizing" and having "Spiritual Conversations"? Why is this distinction important to make?

a. Possible Answers:

- i. Evangelizing feels more one-sided, like a presentation; a Spiritual Conversation feels more equal, like a dialogue among equals.
- ii. Evangelizing feels like there's another agenda, instead of just conversing about things that matter.

Part 2: E-A-G-E-R



Play the Video: "EAGER Conversationalists"



Video Group Discussion:

(Pause the video at the pause prompt and refer students to their handout.)

1. Try to predict these 5 characteristics and/or practices that were revealed in nationwide research. What is it about people who regularly, naturally, and easily have Spiritual Conversations with others? What do they do regularly and what are they like?
2. After 3 minutes, prompt each group to report their five characteristics and/or practices.



Restart the Video: "EAGER Conversationalists"

EAGER conversationalists ...

1. Embrace the Gospel (personal trust in Jesus' cross and resurrection);
2. Apply spiritual practices (prayer and Bible);
3. Grasp the calling (to share the Gospel);
4. Expect Spiritual Conversations (in everyday life);
5. Respond confidently (when the opportunity arises).

Instructions:



Lead this discussion in a way that best benefits your group. The students can discuss in groups, jot down their answers, then share in groups or with the whole class; or you can lead a whole-group discussion.

Group Discussion – EAGER:



1. What was encouraging? Challenging?
2. How do you feel differently when talking about conversations rather than evangelism and conversions?
3. EAGER conversationists are people who love God because they have gotten to know Him (embraced the Gospel, apply spiritual practices, grasp the calling). What can we do to grow in our love for God?

Part 3: Group Activities

The activities will reinforce the lesson, allowing students to replace the pictures in their minds of evangelism and evangelist stereotypes with EAGER conversationalists. Do both or choose one, depending on the time remaining. Have fun!



Instructions:

1. Group competition. Give groups 90 seconds to recreate the EAGER acronym as best they can. Offer a sweet reward for those who are most successful.
 - a. Embrace the Gospel (personal trust in Jesus' cross and resurrection)
 - b. Apply spiritual practices (prayer and Bible)
 - c. Grasp the calling (to share the Gospel)
 - d. Expect Spiritual Conversations (in everyday life)
 - e. Respond confidently (when the opportunity arises)
2. Redraw the hieroglyphics, this time emphasizing one aspect of EAGER for each figure. Then share in groups and/or with the whole class.
 - a. Option 1: Each member of each group draws 5 stick figures illustrating E-A-G-E-R.
 - b. Option 2: Assign/choose one of the EAGER characteristics to each of the group members, with all drawing a hieroglyph for R. Then share these hieroglyphics with each other and other groups.

Part 4: Wrap Up



Play Video: "Lesson 2 Wrap-Up"

Exit Ticket

Exit Tickets give students a chance to share their honest thoughts in a confidential manner with the teacher.



Instructions:

Distribute this lesson's Exit Ticket at the end of class and ask them to fill out the information individually. Then collect them as the class concludes. If time permits, the class can discuss the question after students have been given time to fill out the Ticket.



Group Discussion: Exit Ticket Question:

Which of the 5 characteristics of being an EAGER conversationalist is the most challenging for you?