

REACH OUT

DON'T FREAK OUT

Just Ask

Group Discussion Guide

Scripture: Ephesians 6:19-20 (NLT)

¹⁹And pray for me, too. Ask God to give me the right words so I can boldly explain God's mysterious plan that the Good News is for Jews and Gentiles alike. ²⁰I am in chains now, still preaching this message as God's ambassador. So pray that I will keep on speaking boldly for him, as I should.

Big Idea: We can step up to the challenge of sharing our faith through prayer and through being equipped with some specific questions and strategies that can help turn the conversation toward God.

Section One (Choose two or three questions)

- Is it naturally hard or easy for you to bring God up in conversation with your friends who don't know Jesus?
- What's your biggest fear when it comes to sharing your faith?
- What's at stake for us when we initiate spiritual conversations with our friends who need Jesus?
- What's at stake for our friends who don't know Jesus, if no one makes an effort to talk to them about the gospel?
- How does that make you feel?

When finished, play the next section of the DVD.

Section Two (Choose two or three questions)

- Greg talked about “taking the fork in the road” to turn a conversation toward spiritual things. What might you say to help turn the conversation toward God the next time you hear a friend say “My life stinks!” or “I don’t know what to do...” or “I hate my dad!”?
- Greg also talked about having some opening questions you could use to bring God up in conversation. What kind of opening questions do you think would be the best fit for you personally?

Here are a few examples to consider:

- o Do you have any spiritual beliefs?
 - o What’s your religious background?
 - o Do you believe in God? If there is a God, what do you think he wants from you? Would it surprise you to know that God wants a relationship with you?
 - o Do you know for sure that you’re going to go to heaven when you die?
 - o How do you go about deciding what’s right or wrong?
 - o I know you’re hurt by what your friend said; do you ever take your hurt feelings to God and ask God how you should respond?
- Jesus said: *“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me” (John 14:6)*. What does this verse say about what’s at stake for our friends who don’t know Jesus?
 - Do you think introducing your friends to Jesus would be worth the “awkward moments” you might experience as you initiate conversations about God? Why or why not?

Application Challenge

Challenge your students this week to pray for boldness and for the right words to say as they step up and bring God up in conversations. Encourage them to listen carefully to their friends’ spiritual beliefs and then to explain what they believe about Jesus.

Give the Gospel

Near the end of the meeting, give a clear invitation to trust Christ by saying something like:

If you've listened to Jesus' words today—*"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me"* (John 14:6)—and realized that you've never actually personally embraced Jesus as the way, the truth, and the life, I want to invite you do that right now. God created us to be with him, and he longs to have a deep and personal relationship with every person he's ever made. But our sins have gotten in the way of that relationship and have created a separation between God and us. But God has made a way for our relationship with him to be restored, and he did that by sending his Son Jesus to die on the cross and pay the price for our sin. If we put our trust in Jesus as our only hope, our sins will be forgiven and our relationship with God will be restored and we will receive the free gift of eternal life—life that starts now with a restored relationship with God and lasts forever in heaven. Will you trust in him right now?

If you know in your heart that it's time to begin this new relationship with Jesus, I invite you to pray along with me the following prayer. Keep in mind that it's not the words of this prayer that put you into a restored relationship with God; it's what happens in your heart. But this prayer is just a way to express to God your desire to trust Jesus:

Dear God, I know that you created me to be in a relationship with you, but my sins have broken that relationship and I've lived a life disconnected from you. I realize that I can never be good enough to remove my sins myself. But right now, I believe that Jesus died in my place for my sins.

Here and now, I trust in Jesus to forgive me and give me eternal life. Through faith in him, I am entering a personal and permanent relationship with you. Thank you for your free gift of eternal life through what Jesus did for me. Amen.