



Holy Conversations

Planning a 3Story Appointment

1. Choose a not-yet-following Christ friend with whom you would like to connect more intentionally; someone from your *Wish List* is ideal.
2. Find four opportunities in the next six weeks to connect stories with that person from your wish list. For example, over coffee, lunch, whatever enables your friend to feel comfortable. It may even be a planned activity (a round of golf, a football game, a shopping trip, a remodeling project.) At some point in your time together, you will seek to discover more of their story, share parts of your story and talk appropriately about Jesus.

Do not try to convert your friend. Simply be real and create a transparent, authentic story-telling environment for yourself and your friend. Authenticity in story telling, listening and noticing God is our goal. Be honest. Listen to the Holy Spirit as you enter into these holy conversations and see how God is at work. You'd be surprised at the ways he will invite you into the process when you are intentional about connecting with people.

3. Be intentional in your attempts to discover Their Story by . . .
 - Giving grace freely.
 - Use the "30 second" rule. Listen, wait and hear the other person 30 seconds longer than is normal for you.
 - Repeat the person's name (naturally) in the course of conversations, as though it were a holy expression of God's grace and love for them.
 - Slow down your mind, practice being fully present with your friend.
 - Becoming radically inclusive
 - Expand the capacity of your heart to love - do not allow yourself the indulgence of negatively judging anything about your friend.
 - Keep your focus outward: toward God first and then toward your friend.
 - Speaking only when the Spirit says speak.
 - Discover the sound of his voice by listening more than talking.
 - Discover common ground that you have with your friend through listening attentively.
 - Build rapport through authenticity - share (disclose) the real you.
 - Catch the Spirit's vision of who and what your friend could become with Christ rather than what they appear to be without him. This is done through listening, waiting and expectant prayer.