



CONVERSATION 1: A NEW START

ABOUT THIS CONVERSATION...



In this conversation you will talk through three key topics a person will need to explore to help them on their faith journey. You may wish to share stories and examples of how you have discovered some of these basic truths and put them into practice in your own life. Use the Starter questions to gain a good perspective on what the buddy already knows about the topic. Use the points for discussion as a guide for the areas you may want to cover in your time together. Be flexible and adapt dependent on the needs of the person you are helping. Allow at least 90 minutes for this conversation in a comfortable environment. Be intentional but not intense! Always start by building positive relationships. Use the back-up notes for your own preparation beforehand. Prayer makes all the difference!



TOPIC 1.1 – What is God like? → ASK: What is your understanding of what God is like? Where has this understanding come from?

Key points for discussion...

GOD IS...

- Unchanging and eternal (with no beginning and no end)
- God is love – this is way beyond our human understanding of what Love really is
- God is everywhere and knows everything – not distant and uninterested
- God is the creator and designer of our universe
- God is Holy, which means he is without fault
- God is neither male nor female. God is normally referred to as a *He* because the primary characteristic God chose to reveal to people through Jesus was the idea of God as a Father
- God wants to connect personally with people - not a strange impersonal force
- There is only one God but he is known as God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit - "The Trinity."
- One good illustration for the trinity is the idea that water exists in three different states – ICE, STEAM and LIQUID but they are all still water. Or consider an orange which is a single fruit made of peel, flesh and juice.

? Any questions ?



TOPIC 1.2 – Who is Jesus? → ASK: What do you know about the person of Jesus? Why do you think Jesus is so important to the Christian faith?

Key points for discussion...

Here are 10 facts that are well worth talking about as a starting point for understanding Jesus.

1. It is a historical fact that Jesus lived over 2000 years ago in the Middle East
2. Jesus was both God and man at the same time (part of the Trinity)
3. Jesus was born free from the mistakes, mess and selfishness every person suffers from
4. Jesus was a role model who showed us exactly what God is like and how we can live
5. Jesus was a teacher and His teaching has transformed the lives of countless people





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6. Jesus was a healer of the sick and performed miracles and we believe this still can happen today
7. Jesus called people from every level of society to become His followers.
8. Jesus had a humble heart and he did not try to have power over people to oppress them unlike most of the leaders in society at the time.
9. Jesus was put to death on a cross and put in a tomb as part of his mission to give humans a new start.
10. Jesus was in the tomb until the third day then rose from the dead, went to heaven after spending time with his followers and is alive today giving new starts to people everywhere.

? Any questions **?**



TOPIC 1.3 – What is the Bible? → ASK: What, if any, has been your experience of reading the Bible in the past? How do you feel about read it more?

Key points for discussion...

- ☑ The Bible is the worlds best selling book but you don't read it like any other book!
- ☑ The Bible is a library made up of sixty six different books written by not less than thirty six authors over sixteen hundred years writing under the inspiration of God.
- ☑ The Bible is divided into two main sections called The Old Testament and the New Testament. Of the sixty six books of the Bible, thirty nine are in the Old Testament and twenty seven are in the New Testament. There is a gap of about four hundred years between the Old and New Testaments.
- ☑ The Bible is composed of many different writing styles including history books, first hand eye witness accounts, lyrics, songs, explanations of dreams and visions, and words of wisdom as well as letters to churches. Understanding what type of book you are reading helps you understand it in the right way.
- ☑ The Old Testament is largely concerned with the history of the Jewish people and their interactions with God whereas the New Testament is mainly concerned with the life, death and resurrection of Jesus and the growth of Christianity in the seventy or so years that followed.
- ☑ The story of God unfolds throughout the Old and New Testament and you can see lots of links between the two sections even though they were written by different people in different circumstances at different times in history.
- ☑ Books of the Bible are divided into chapters and verses for ease of navigation and there is an index at the front to help find any particular book.
- ☑ People have given their lives to enable us to have access to the Bible in a language we can understand. It is well worth a read even if it is sometimes challenging!

? Any questions **?**



AT THE END OF THE SESSION: Give your Buddy an easy to read version of the Bible if they don't already have one. Encourage them to start to read the Book of Mark in the New Testament which tells the story of Jesus before you next meet together. Always offer prayer at the end.

DATE, TIME & VENUE OF NEXT MEETING AGREED:





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C1 BACK-UP NOTES

These notes are for the leader and can be used before, during or after your conversation giving you helpful bible references and links to external resources for further information.

You don't have to be an expert to lead a Bible Buddies conversation but you do have to care enough to take time to build relationships and commit to pray for your buddy as they take their first steps of faith. Should you receive any queries you feel unable to answer, don't panic, and simply explain that you could both try to find out the answer before you next meet. Referrals for extra support can be made if any pressing pastoral issues come up during the conversation. Never promise confidentiality but explain that you will keep what is shared and talked about to yourself unless it involves potential harm to self or others.



KEY TOPIC 1.1: What is God Like?

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|-------------------------|---|
| Unchanging | Mal 3:6 I the Lord do not change. |
| Knows all things | Prov 15:3 The eyes of the Lord are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good. |
| Creator | Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Ps 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. |
| Father | Luke 11:2 He said to them, "When you pray, say: "Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come." Jer 31:3 The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness." Ps 103:13 As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him |
| Everywhere | Jer 23:24 Can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see him?" declares the Lord. "Do not I fill heaven and earth?" declares the Lord |
| Love | 1 John 4:8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. |
| Holy | 1 Pet 1:15-16 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy." Deut 32:4 He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he. |
| The Trinity | Deut 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Matt 28:19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. |





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Further teaching notes on the Trinity can be found at this link:

http://www.mannawords.com/uploads/messages/386-The_Trinity.pdf



KEY TOPIC 1.2: Who is Jesus Christ?

Born without sin

Isa 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

John 8:46 Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me?

Both God and man

John 1:1,14 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us... We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 20:28 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

Matt 26:38 Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."

Great Teacher

Matt 7:28-29 When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

John 7:44 "No-one ever spoke the way this man does," the guards declared.

Healing and miracles

Matt 4:24 News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralysed, and he healed them.

Caller of all people

Matt 4:18-19 As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."

1 Cor 1:26-29 Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things — and the things that are not — to nullify the things that are, so that no-one may boast before him.





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Humble hearted **Matt 20:25-28** Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave — just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Mission to the cross **Luke 24:6-7** Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'"

Luke 23:52-53 Going to Pilate, he (Joseph of Arimathea) asked for Jesus' body. Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock, one in which no-one had yet been laid.

Death to life **Matt 16:21** From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

Matt 28:5-6 The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.

Acts 1:8-9 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid their sight.

Further Teaching on the Resurrection of Christ can be found at this link:

[http://www.mannawords.com/uploads/messages/359-The Resurrection of Christ.pdf](http://www.mannawords.com/uploads/messages/359-The_Resurrection_of_Christ.pdf)



KEY TOPIC 1.3: What is The Bible?

God Breathed **2 Tim 3:16-17** All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Powerful **Hebrews 4:12** For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

A simple overview of the Bible suitable for new Christians can be found at this link:-
[http://www.mannawords.com/uploads/messages/399-Looking at the Bible.pdf](http://www.mannawords.com/uploads/messages/399-Looking_at_the_Bible.pdf)

Some information on external evidence for the truth of the Gospels can be found on pages 3 – 7 in the above mentioned teaching on the Resurrection of Christ.

THANK YOU FOR INVESTING YOUR TIME IN HELPING OTHERS GROW IN FAITH!

