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- **Safe space is created for cynics, skeptics, and spiritually curious people to raise their questions, express their doubts, and vent their frustrations.**
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- **Christianity becomes credible, relevant, plausible, and believable.**



# GOD SPACE

WHERE SPIRITUAL  
CONVERSATIONS HAPPEN  
NATURALLY



**What Did He Or Didn't He Do  
In This Story To Create God Space?**





**God Wants To Do  
Something In Us So  
He Can Do Something  
Through Us**

**As we allow God to have  
His way with our bodies,  
(our hearts, eyes, hands,  
ears, minds, & mouth) God  
Space is created in us so  
that we can make His  
invisible Kingdom visible  
in tangible ways.**

**(Romans 12:1 “DPSV”)**

The image features a horizontal split. The top half is a solid black rectangle. The bottom half is a textured, yellowish-gold surface, possibly a wall or a piece of paper, with a grainy, pebbled texture. The text is centered on the yellow surface.

# **A Picture of God Space**





**Let's Talk To God  
About Men Before  
We Talk To Men  
About God**

**“Pray diligently. Stay alert, with your eyes wide open. Don't forget to pray for us, that God will open doors for telling the mystery of Christ. Pray that every time I open my mouth I'll be able to make Christ plain as day to them.”**

**(Colossians 4:2,3)**





**The next time you go out to eat, find out your waiter or waitresses name. When they bring your food out and ask if there is anything else they can get for you, tell them you normally pray and return thanks for the food. Then ask them if there is anything going on in their life you could pray for them about.**





**Offering Our Eyes  
To God So That He  
Can Fit Us With  
“Jesus Glasses”**

**“When He saw the crowds,  
He had compassion on  
them because they were  
harassed and helpless, like  
sheep without a shepherd.”**

**Matthew 9:36**

The story of the good Samaritan reminds us of the direct correlation between how we view the world and what we are moved to do. When we start seeing the world the way Jesus did, we’re moved to do something about it in His name.



The FedEx logo is displayed in a bold, sans-serif font. The word "Fed" is in purple, and "Ex" is in orange. The letter "E" is split vertically, with the left half in purple and the right half in orange. The logo is centered in the upper half of the image.

FedEx

The bottom half of the image features a textured, yellowish-gold background that resembles a rough surface or a piece of paper. The text "An Awareness Test" is centered on this background.

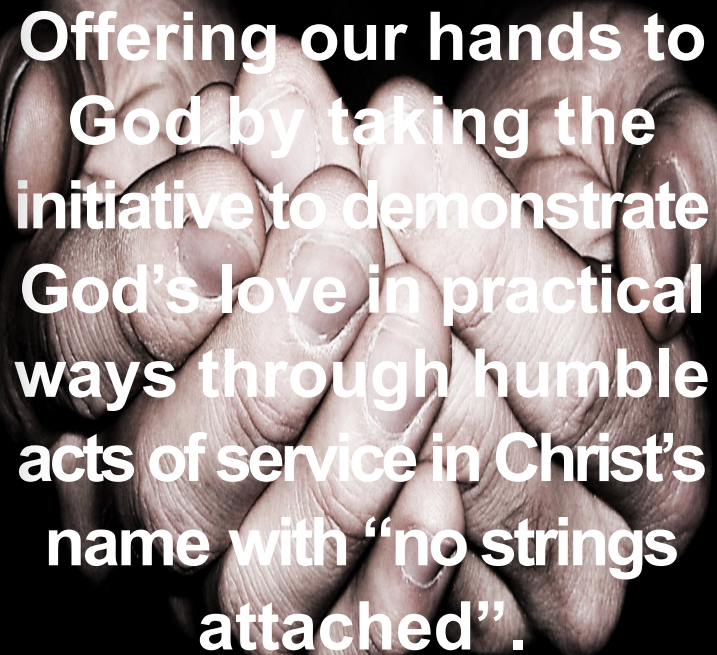
**An Awareness Test**



**“Men of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around & looked very carefully at your objects of worship . . .” Acts 17:22b-23**

**The Ministry Of Noticing**





Offering our hands to God by taking the initiative to demonstrate God's love in practical ways through humble acts of service in Christ's name with "no strings attached".

**“Good deeds, create good will, which helps to open the heart to the good news.” (Eric Swanson)**

“Good deeds are not enough on their own to bring someone to Christ, but they do create a wireless network for transmitting the spoken word.” (Steve Sjogren)



# God's Teeter - Totter



**3 days later, they found him in the Temple sitting among the teachers, listening to them, and posing questions to them. Luke 2:46**






## Offering Our Ears To God By Listening For Heaven's Sake

**“Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.”**  
James 1:19b

**“Christians have forgotten that the ministry of listening has been committed to them by Him who is Himself the great listener and whose work they should share. We should listen with the ears of God that we may speak the Word of God to others above ourselves.”**  
Deitrich Bonhoeffer  
Philippians 2:3



A photograph showing two hands holding white coffee cups filled with dark coffee. A third hand is visible above the cups, pointing towards them. The background is a textured, greyish-blue surface. The text "What Non-Christians Want from Faith Conversations" is overlaid in white, italicized font.

*What Non-Christians Want from Faith Conversations*

**[barna.com/research/non-christians-faith-conversations/](https://barna.com/research/non-christians-faith-conversations/)**



**Listens without judgement**



**Does not force a conclusion**

**Allows others to draw their own conclusions**



**Confident in sharing their own perspective**

**Demonstrates interest in other peoples story**



**Good at asking questions**

**Focused on the details of questions**



**Aware of the inconsistencies in their own perspective**

**Knows the story of the person they are sharing their faith with**



**Exhibits a vibrant faith of their own**

**Good at debating topics**



**Focused on the emotions behind the questions**



**"Most of us do not listen with the intent to understand, we listen with an intent to reply."**

**Stephen Covey**

**If You Want To Be Heard By Others:  
Let's Listen For Heaven's Sake!**



# How Well Do You Listen?

The quality of your listening skills powerfully affects your potential to create God Space and increase the quality and the quantity of your God conversations. Prayerfully ponder the following 10 statements before answering the following question; would those who know you well call you a good listener?



## When Others Are Talking To Me:

1. I find myself finishing their sentences.
2. I give my opinions before hearing them out.
3. I get restless and impatient.
4. I lose track of what is being said.
5. I mentally rehearse what I'm going to say next.
6. I take control of the conversation.
7. I interrupt with frequent comments or questions.
8. I try to diagnose and help them fix their problems.
9. I worry about what I'm going to say next.
10. I am suspiciously listening for hidden agendas.

BUILDING HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS WITH GOD SELF & OTHERS

**LISTENING**  
*for heaven's sake*

BUILDING HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS WITH GOD SELF & OTHERS

**LISTENING**  
*for heaven's sake*



HOW TO  
COMMUNICATE  
WITH THOSE  
OUTSIDE THE  
CHRISTIAN  
COMMUNITY...  
WHILE WE  
STILL CAN

# FINDING COMMON GROUND

- What their story is
- What their interests are
- What motivates them
- What their needs are
- Where they are with God



**Francis Schaeffer was asked what he'd do if he had an hour to share the gospel with someone. He responded by saying he'd listen for the first 55 minutes, so that he might have something meaningful to say in the last 5 minutes.**

**God's Stethoscope: (Dr. Larry Crabb)**





# Faith Adventure Challenges

1. Memorize James 1:19b:  
“Everyone should be quick to listen, and slow to speak.”
2. Offer to buy someone a cup of coffee or take someone out to lunch this week and ask to hear their story.
3. Buy the bible on listening:  
“Listening For Heaven’s Sake”
4. 10 second challenge
5. Church challenge





**If The People In  
Our Lives Are Not  
Ready For The  
Answers We'd  
Like To Share With  
Them, Maybe We'd  
Be Wiser To Ask  
Questions Instead**





**“Wondering” is a kind way to help others begin to think in ways they may have never thought before.**



**“Wondering draws others to places where new answers can be found.** Wondering releases control and places the listener in the driver’s seat. It turns the focus back where it belongs—on the people with whom we desire to connect. **Something remarkable happened to people when Jesus—the self-proclaimed answer—began asking questions (over 150 of them are recorded in the Gospels).** He invited others to participate in the activity of discovery, to take hold of the truth for themselves. His questions invited listeners to embark on a search, candle in hand, rummaging through the attic of their minds for an adequate answer. **His questions were decisively clarifying.** They peeled back layer after layer of what appeared to be the real issue to reveal the heart of the matter.”





**“Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you.”  
Matthew 7:7 NLV**



**People are generally better persuaded by the reasons which they have themselves discovered than by those which have come into the mind of others. (Pascal)**

**The Power Of The Question Mark**






**Wondering ?'s Help  
Us Start God  
Conversations  
Naturally**

- **I'm wondering what you base your belief on?**
- **I'm wondering who Jesus is to you?**
- **I'm wondering if you've ever met anyone or experienced anything that made God seem more real to you?**





**It's Your Turn To "Wonder"**



# Faith Adventure Challenge

Go to the link below to  
download 99 wondering  
questions. Pick one to ask  
somebody this week.

[godsgps.com/99questions](http://godsgps.com/99questions)







**S o m e t i m e** I was wondering if I could share with you what the Bible has to say about the topic of our conversation?

**S o m e t i m e** I was wondering if I could share my God story with you?





**Having God  
Conversations With  
The Toughest People**

The Secret Thoughts  
of an Unlikely Convert

an english professor's journey into christian faith

Rosaria Champagne Butterfield



As a leftist lesbian professor, I despised Christians. The word *Jesus* stuck in my throat like an elephant tusk; no matter how hard I choked, I couldn't hack it out. Those who professed the name commanded my pity and wrath. **As a university professor, I tired of students who seemed to believe that "knowing Jesus" meant knowing little else.** Christians seemed like bad thinkers to me. It seemed that they could only maintain their worldview only because they were sheltered from the world's real problems. They were also bad readers, always seizing opportunities to insert a Bible verse into a conversation with the same point as a punctuation mark: to end it rather than deepen it.



“The Bible says” always seemed like a mantra that invited everyone to put his or her brain on hold. “Jesus is the answer” seemed to me then and now like a tree without a root. Answers come after questions, not before. Answers answer questions in specific and pointed ways, not in sweeping generalizations.

In addition to appearing anti-intellectual, Christians also scared me. They appeared exclusive, judgmental, afraid of diversity, and claimed that God was on the side of those who follow the rules of the Christian lifestyle. In contrast, the lesbian community was accepting and welcoming. It was like home for me because it felt safe and secure.



Stupid. Pointless. Menacing. That's what I thought of Christians and their god Jesus. So, I launched my first attack on the unholy trinity of Jesus, Republican politics, and patriarchy, in the form of an article in the local newspaper about Promise Keepers.

The article generated so many responses that I kept a Xerox box on each side of my desk: one for hate mail, and one for fan mail. But one letter I received defied my filing system. It was from the pastor of the Syracuse Reformed Presbyterian Church. It was a kind and inquiring letter. **Ken Smith encouraged me to explore the kind of questions I admire: How did you arrive at your interpretations? How do you know you are right? Ken didn't argue with my article; rather, he asked me to defend the presuppositions that undergirded it.** I didn't know how to respond to it, so I threw it away.



Later that night, I fished it out of the recycling bin and put it back on my desk, where it stared at me for a week, confronting me with the worldview divide that demanded a response. **Ken's letter punctured the integrity of my research project without him knowing it. His questions were reasonable, they invited me to think in ways I hadn't before.**

With his letter, Ken initiated two years of bringing the church to me, a heathen. Oh, I had seen my share of Bible verses on placards at Gay Pride marches. That Christians who mocked me on Gay Pride Day were happy that I and everyone I loved were going to hell. That is not what Ken did. He did not mock. He **engaged**. So when his letter invited me to get together for dinner, I accepted. My motives at the time were straightforward: Surely this will be good for my research.



Something else happened. Ken and his wife, Floy, and I became friends. **They entered my world. They met my friends, came to my dinner parties, saw me function in real life.** We did book exchanges. We talked openly about sexuality and politics. **They made it clear that they accepted me as a lesbian but did not approve of me as a lesbian.** They did not treat me like a blank slate. When we ate together, Ken prayed in a way I had never heard before. He prayed as if God cared, as if God listened, as if God answered His prayers. He repented of his sin in front of me. He thanked God for all things. Ken's God was holy and firm, yet full of mercy. **And because Ken and Floy did not invite me to church, I knew it was safe to be friends. And so I opened up to them. They made themselves safe enough for me to do this.**



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NATURALLY





Ken & Floy Smith had shared the gospel with me for two years, over and over again, not in some used-car salesman way, but in an organic, spontaneous and compassionate way. They didn't pressure me or push me or interfere in my life. They were just there. Then, one ordinary day, I came to Jesus, openhanded and naked. **Conversion was a train wreck.** I did not want to lose everything that I loved. But the voice of God sang a sanguine love song in the rubble of my world. Ken was there. Floy was there. The church that had been praying for me for years was there. God's people surrounded me. Not to manipulate. Not to badger. But to love and to listen and to watch and to pray. And eventually instead of resisting, I surrendered. **Jesus triumphed!**





**What is your 1 big  
takeaway from this  
workshop?**



# Guiding God's People Into Outward-Focused Living

**GodsGPS.com**

Wondering how to naturally start spiritual conversations?



Watch Promo Video

Bring a God Space  
Workshop to your area

Find out how







### Creating “God Space”

**Pray:** Gently explore the possibility of interceding for the needs of others.

**Notice:** Ask God to increase your awareness for the people around you.

**Serve:** Look for ways to demonstrate God’s love with “no strings attached.”

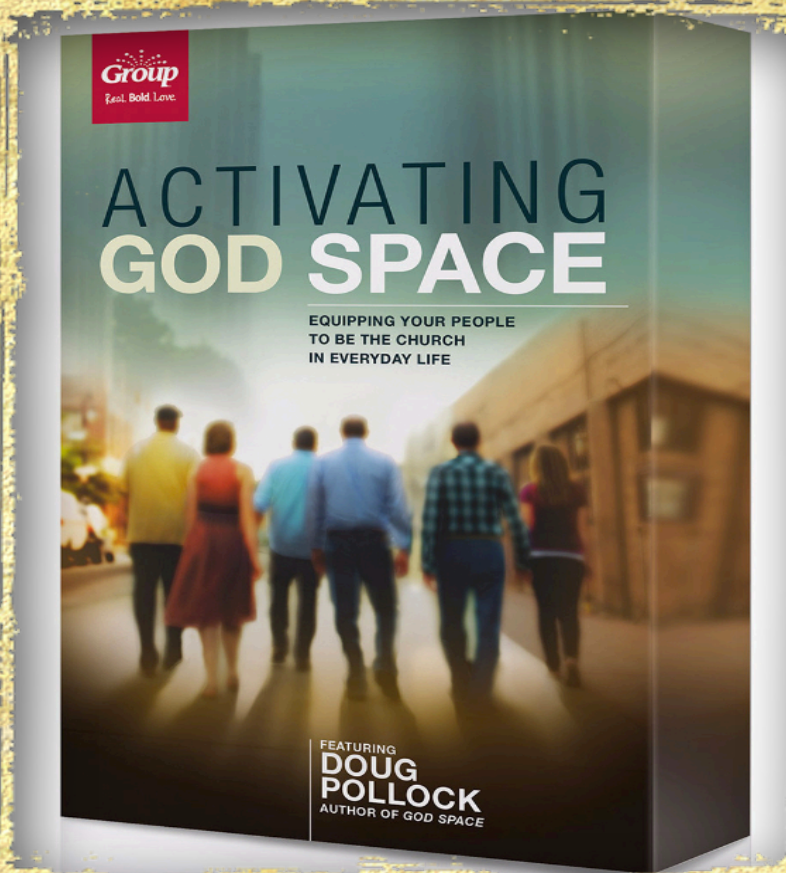
**Listen:** Focus on others! Ask to hear their story. Seek to understand their worldview. Reflect back what you’re hearing.

**Wonder:** Ask questions to promote dialogue, probe belief systems, and reflect on life’s journey together.

**Share:** Ask for permission before you share. Keep it conversational! Do not oversupply and kill the demand!







## Includes the Following:

**DVD** - God Space video segments with live audience

**CD** - with practical training tips, tools & reproducible handouts

**Bonus DVD** with relevant assignments to help participants move from information to transformation

**Leader Guide / Reflective Tools and (1) God Space Book**