

A World of Difference



Foundational
Questions
About Life

Part 6
By Eric Urabe

HOW DID WE GET HERE AND WHERE ARE WE GOING?

Christian Theism

Deism

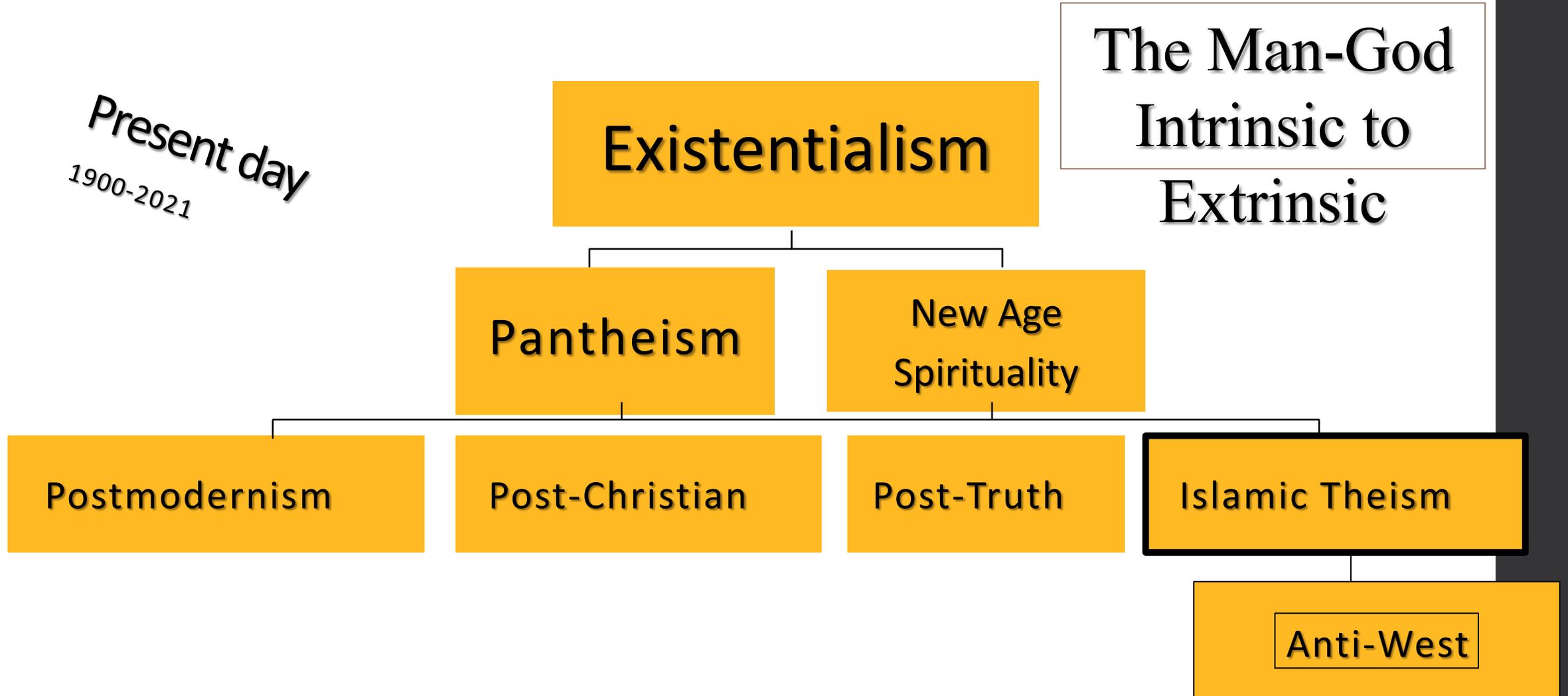
Naturalism

Nihilism

**Removal
of God**

Historical Flow
1600-1900

HOW DID WE GET HERE AND WHERE ARE WE GOING?



WHERE ARE WE GOING?

Today and Tomorrow

2021-FUTURE?



Postmodernism

Critical Theory

Cultural Marxism

Critical Race Theory

Identity Politics

Wokeness

LGBTQ+

Equity & Social Justice

Neo-feudalism

Cancel Culture

Totalitarianism

Intersectionality



Islam

Submission to God

The religion of Islam

Focusing on our commonalities, is a start, but it should not prevent us from being honest about our differences, for only in understanding our differences can we truly understand each other.

Similar beliefs

- 1. Monotheistic: One God, One Creator of the Universe ("Yahweh" and "Allah")**
- 2. Belief in the Angels of God**
- 3. The bible story and timeline from Genesis 1 – 15**
- 4. Belief in the Books of God: Quran, Torah, Gospel, Psalms**
- 5. Virgin Birth of Jesus**
- 6. Jesus lived a sinless life as a human being**
- 7. Belief in the Prophets or Messengers of God**
- 8. Belief in the Day of Judgment; Jesus will return before the Judgement day**
- 9. Hell, and paradise**

The religion of Islam

The Five Pillars of Islam

- 1. Profession of Faith (shahada):** There is no true god (deity) but God (Allah), and Muhammad is the Messenger (Prophet) of God. God has neither partner nor son.
- 2. Prayer (salat):** Muslims perform five prayers a day. Prayers are performed at dawn, noon, mid-afternoon, sunset, and night. A Muslim may pray almost anywhere, such as in fields, offices, factories, or universities.
- 3. Alms (zakat):** Support of the Needy, 2.5% of your wealth. Muslims donate a fixed portion of their income to community members in need.
- 4. Fasting (sawm):** During the daylight hours of Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar, all healthy adult Muslims are required to abstain from food and drink and sexual relations
- 5. Pilgrimage to Mecca (hajj).** This is an obligation once in a lifetime for those who are physically and financially able to perform it. The Kaaba, Muslims believe is the house Abraham built for God, and Muslim's face in its direction when they pray.

The religion of Islam

The Kaaba



The religion of Islam

Worship (Truth) books in Islam: Qur'an and Hadith

1. **The Qur'an** is the literal word of God, which He revealed to His Prophet Muhammad through the Angel Gabriel. It was memorized by Muhammad who then dictated it to his companions, who then wrote it down.
2. **The Hadith(s)** (report) refers to the various collected accountings of the words, actions, and habits of the Prophet Muhammad during his lifetime. Unlike the Quran, the Hadith is not a single book but instead refers to various collections of texts. The Quran, which was composed relatively quickly following the death of the Prophet, the various hadith collections were slow to evolve, some not taking full shape until the 8th and 9th centuries CE.
3. **Other Holy Books:** Torah, Psalms, The Gospels



The religion of Islam

The Prophet Muhammad

The Life of Muhammad

Muhammad was born around 570, AD in Mecca (now in Saudi Arabia). His father died before he was born, his mother died when he was six and he was raised first by his grandfather and then his uncle. He belonged to a poor but respectable family of the Quraysh tribe. The family was active in Meccan politics and trade.

Most of his early life was spent as a merchant. He would periodically seclude himself in a mountain cave named *Hira* for several nights of prayer. At age 40 (610CE), he received his first revelations in that cave from God through the angel Gabriel and continued getting revelation for the next twenty-three years. He first thought was these revelations were demonic, but his wife Khadija convince him they were from God. He would memorize the sayings from the Angel Gabriel and would proclaim what he had heard to his wife a few people, soon afterwards a small following grew. This became the basis for the Qur'an and the foundation of Islam. By 630CE he had unified most of Arabia under a single religion.

The religion of Islam

The Prophet Muhammad

Many of the tribes living in the Arabian Peninsula at the time were nomadic. Most tribes were polytheistic. The town of Mecca was an important trading and religious center, home to many temples and worship sites and Jewish synagogues, The New Testament had not been written in Quraish Arabic or Coptic but many of the gnostic gospel had been written in Coptic and were circulating in Mecca and Medina around this time. Al (IL) was a common name for Gods but Allah many scholars believe it might have been the greatest God (possible the moon God) and the only one without an idol.

They say Muhammed was illiterate, but he gained experience in commercial trade traveling to Syria and eventually from the Mediterranean Sea to the Indian Ocean with his uncle. In his early 20s, Muhammad began working for a wealthy merchant woman named Khadijah, 15 years his senior. She soon became attracted to this young, accomplished man and proposed marriage. He accepted and over the years the happy union brought six children. Fatima (Muhammed's daughter, would marry Muhammad's cousin, *Ali (Ali ibn Abi Talib)*, whom **Shi'ite Muslims (15% of Muslims)** regard as Muhammad's 4th Caliph(successor).

The religion of Islam

The Prophet Muhammad

The Prophet Muhammad

Islamic tradition holds that the first persons to believe his visions were his wife, and his close friend **Abu Bakr** regarded as the 1st Caliph, the successor to Muhammad by Sunni Muslims (85% of Muslims). Soon, Muhammad began to gather a small following, initially encountering no opposition. Most people in Mecca either ignored him or mocked him as just another prophet. Many of Mecca's tribal leaders began to see Muhammad and his message as a threat. Mecca's merchants and leaders offered Muhammad incentives to abandon his preaching, but he refused they were eventually forced to emigrate from Mecca to Medina, a city 260 miles to the north in 622 CE. This event marks the beginning of the Muslim calendar. There Muhammad was instrumental in bringing an end to a civil war raging amongst several of the city's tribes. Muhammad settled in Medina, building his Muslim community and gradually gathering acceptance and more followers.

The religion of Islam

The Prophet Muhammad

Between 624 CE and 628 CE, the Muslims were involved in a series of battles. The Siege of Medina and the Battle of the Trench. Muhammad and his followers prevailed, and a treaty was signed. By now, Muhammad had plenty of forces and the balance of power had shifted away from the Meccan leaders to him. In 630 CE, the Muslim army marched into Mecca, taking the city. Most of the Meccan population converted to Islam. Muhammad and his followers then proceeded to destroy all of the statues of pagan gods in and around the Kaaba.

The Death of Muhammad

After the conflict with Mecca was finally settled, Muhammad took his first true Islamic pilgrimage to that city and in March, 632, he delivered his last sermon at Mount Arafat. Upon his return to Medina to his wife's home, he fell ill for several days. He died on June 8, 632, at the age of 62, and was buried at the Mosque of the Prophet one of the first mosques built by Muhammad in Medina.

The religion of Islam

Haram (forbidden) and Halal (Permitted)

Below is a list of actions Haram in Islam

Shirk: The unforgivable sin. There are 4 types of Shirk:

1. Believing there is another God Except Allah
2. Believing Allah has a son or Father
3. Believing that astrologers or other people have knowledge of future
4. Believing there is someone who has the powers Similar to Allah

Drinking Alcohol and Gambling, Earning Interest, Men wearing silk or Gold

Tattoos, Suicide, Fornication and adultery, Wrongly consuming the property of an orphan, Making statues and pictures, Frequent lying, Using abusive language, Not paying Zakat

Some animal consumption is permitted by Islam.

Seafood: Consumption of seafood, is permitted by Islam

Consumption of all domestic birds, cattle, sheep, goats, camels, buck, rabbits, fish, locusts is permitted by Islam.

Kosher foods – that conform to the Jewish dietary regulations of kashrut (dietary law) – are also permitted in Islam.

“If you avoid the major (part) of what you have been forbidden (to do), We will cancel out for you your (other) evil deeds and will admit you (to Paradise) with a noble entry.” (Quran, 4:31)

The difference of Islam and Christianity

Sharia (way of life)

Man is not sinful but ignorant.

1. “*aqeeda*” Learn what to believe
2. “*sharia*” How to live - "the clear, well-trodden path to water"

6 articles of faith

1. *Belief in Allah (One God),*
 2. *Angels,*
 3. *Books of Allah,*
 4. *Prophets,*
 5. *Last Day*
 6. *The Decree of Allah (predestination) if Allah wills*
- Islamic Law, + 5 Pillars of Islam*

Gospel (New Life)

Good News - We cannot get to God because we are sinners and God is Holy & Righteous. God has to come to us and make a way for us to come to him without violating His holy righteousness.

Jesus, (God-man) himself paid for our sins. All we have to do is repent, place faith in him, which secures a relationship with God.

The differences of Islam and Christianity

Own sin

Adam had nothing to do with your sin and standing before God. Sin is a conscious and willful act that violates a commandment of God or the right of a fellow being. We cannot consider a person to be a sinner if he or she acts under duress or out of ignorance. Sin is avoidable, there is no innate or inherited nature to rebel against God.

Original Sin

Original sin can be defined as “the moral corruption we possess as a consequence of Adam’s sin. Resulting in our inheriting a sin nature so wicked that Jer. 17:9 describes the human heart as “deceitful above all things and beyond cure.” making us guilty and deserving of God’s punishment. We sin as a result of our nature, thus making us sinners.

The differences of Islam and Christianity

Tawhid (Tauhid)

“Oneness”, God is one and there is no god but he, as stated in the Shahadah. Tawhid further refers to the nature of that God—that he is a unity, not composed, not made up of parts, he is monad.

Allah cannot have attributes; It would deny his unity (things he has vs things he is).

Trinity

God is three persons but one Being. A Person is not the same as being. Being is what you are, person is who you are. If God is just one person, then he is more like a man than God. God tells us who he is through His scripture. We worship one Being (Yahweh). God-“*Elohim*” is plural Gen. 1:1

The differences of Islam and Christianity

Muhammad

Messenger: Never proclaimed Divinity, a sinless life, or a savior. No miracles, a Prophet of God for 23 years which he received revelation from God. He is the last of the great prophets and his life was the Quran. He taught his followers to recite the Quran, to live by its principles and to love it. Taught Jesus did not die on the cross (Quran 4:157).

Jesus

Messiah: God would be born into this world; He would become a human and a male, a mighty God, prince of peace, wonderful counselor, father of eternity (Isa.9:6). The Logos created the world and dwelt among us (John1:1-14). Theophanies in O.T. (Exodus 40:34). Did miracles, was crucified and died for the sins of mankind & Resurrected himself.

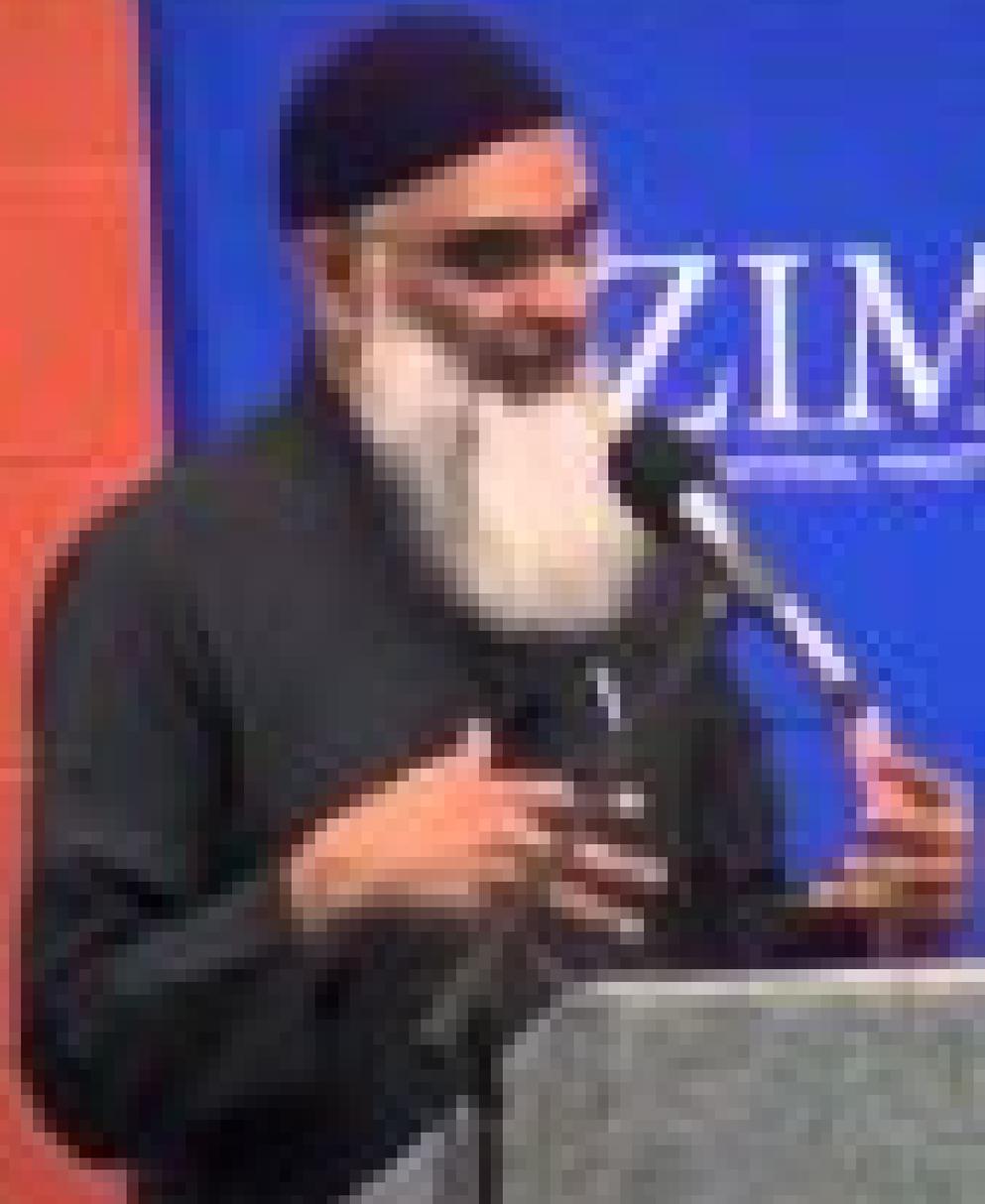
The differences of Islam and Christianity

Qur'an

“The recitation“ - Written 550 years after the bible. **Oral text:** Dictated from Allah to Angel Gabriel, to Muhammad, to scribes. Not linear nor complete narratives, prescriptive. Is perfect in its 114 suras. Reading, reciting the Quran only in Arabic. The Quran is a miracle of purity of style, of wisdom and of truth, the one miracle claimed by Mohammed.

The Bible

Written text: written by authors inspired by God not dictated. It is linear and has complete narratives from birth to death. Is mostly descriptive. The Bible is not the “Why” of Christianity, it is the “What”. What Christians believe, the “Why”, is Jesus Christ, our Lord. Multiple manuscripts over 5,800 N.T. Greek manuscripts



ZIM

Preparing the heart

Jesus is the reason for the season

Building your toolbox



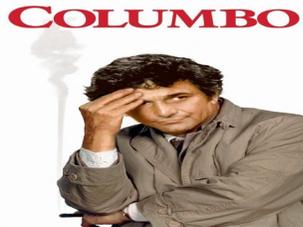
Nobody lives on 100% certainty



Moral argument for God



The 4 Life Guiding Factors



Columbo Tactic



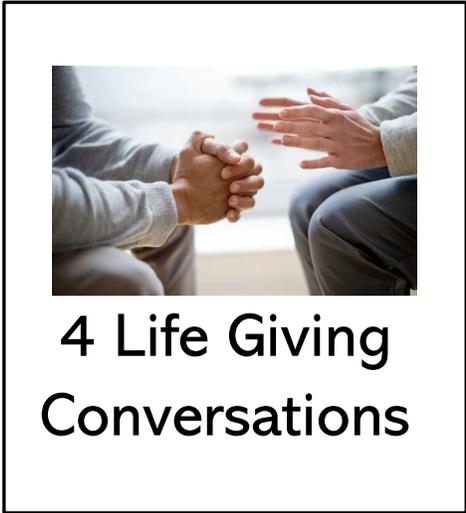
Santa Claus Dilemma



French Fry Problem



Pascal Wager



4 Life Giving Conversations



**Evangelism:
It start with a conversation**

Breaking the soil

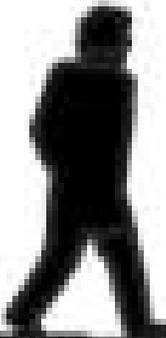
What is Breaking the Soil

If Evangelism is Fruit picking

“Then he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

-Acts 16:30

Fruit Picking



PEOPLE

JESUS CHRIST

GOD



Then breaking the soil...



PEOPLE

JESUS CHRIST

GOD

Evangelism



Breaking the soil of people's minds and hearts to help them be more willing to listen to the truth of the gospel

“Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty... As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it.” Matthew 13:1-23

THERE IS NOTHING WRONG
WITH THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

The traditional method of evangelism is somewhat limiting.

Too many parameters must be perfect in order to share Christ with someone.



The old methods and tools used in the sixties and seventies just don't have the impact they once did.

We live in a time that people may think we are evil for telling them we believe in eternal conscious suffering, i.e. hell



PEOPLES HEARTS ARE HARDENED

**The world we live in
today has rejected**

moral absolutes, and it has

**It is difficult to share Christ to
a culture that doesn't believe
they are sinners.**

They have no need for a Savior



**embraced
skepticism and
relativism**

GENE VEITH, *POSTMODERN TIMES: A CHRISTIAN GUIDE TO CONTEMPORARY THOUGHT AND CULTURE*

“It is hard to proclaim the forgiveness of sins to people who believe that, since morality is relative, they have no sins to forgive...it is NOT the lunatic fringe rejecting the very concept of (absolute) truth, but two-thirds of the American people.” pg. 16

SO AS A RESULT

We don't evangelize

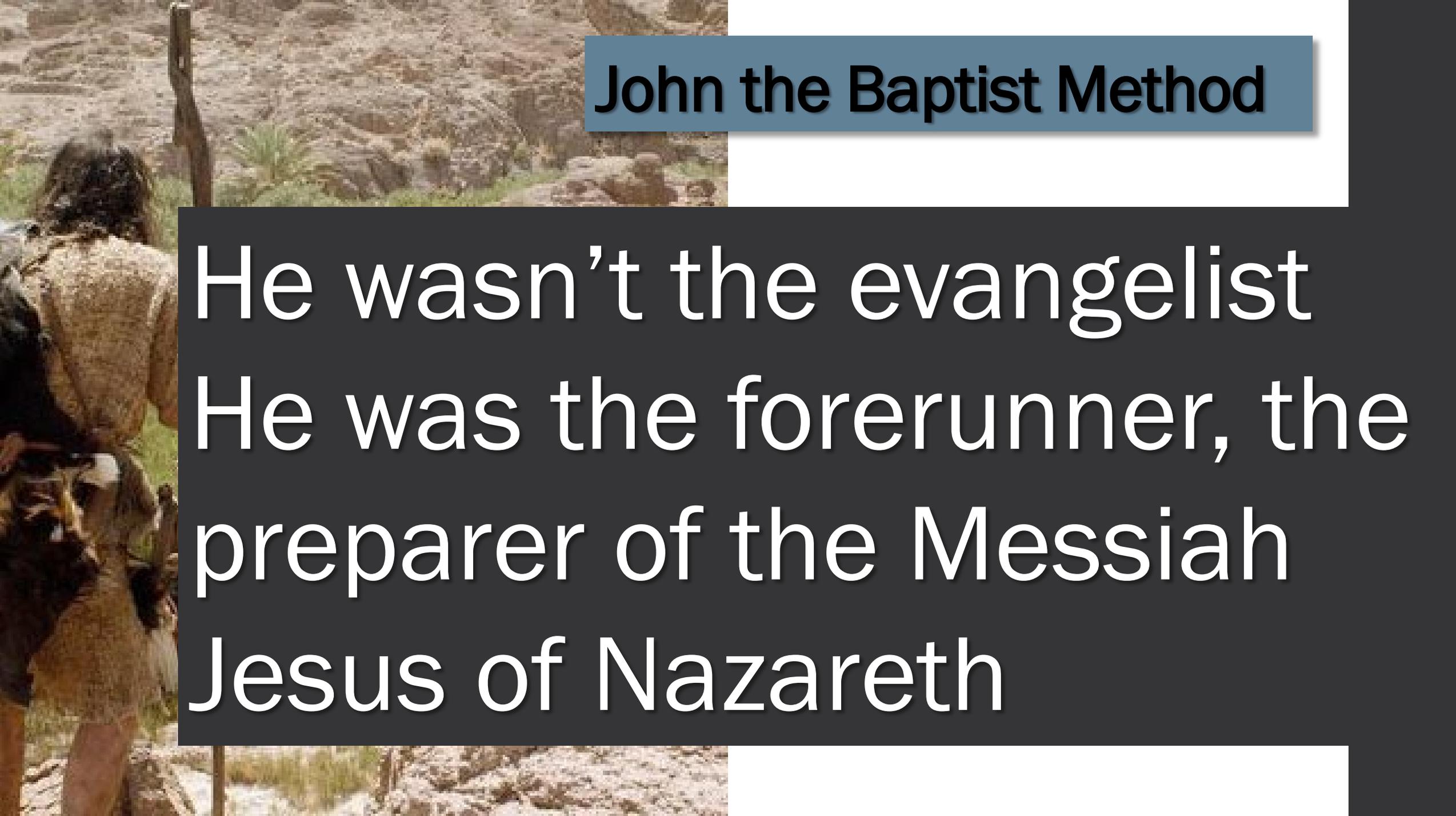
**Who wants
to be
rejected**



**Is there a better
more effective way
to reach today's
culture**

Your heart

Taking people one step closer to Jesus



John the Baptist Method

He wasn't the evangelist
He was the forerunner, the
preparer of the Messiah
Jesus of Nazareth

We all can be the Preparer (seed planter)

Obedient to the call

Christianity is a proselytizing religion

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...” Mt. 28:19

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” Eph. 2:10

Love for the lost

Love your neighbor as yourself

“Walk in wisdom toward outsiders making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.”

Col. 4:5-6

We all can be the Preparer (seed planter)

Obedient to the call

Christianity is a proselytizing religion

“As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.” 2 Tim. 4-5

Love for the lost

Love your neighbor as yourself

“Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.” 2 Cor. 5:20

But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,” Matt.5:44

THE PREPARER IN EVANGELISM

We are trying to bring a friend or a stranger to Christ by preparing their hearts to receive the gospel.

People's hearts need to be touch before they'll let you into their minds

It starts with a conversation that effectively communicates between the emotional and rational parts of the brain

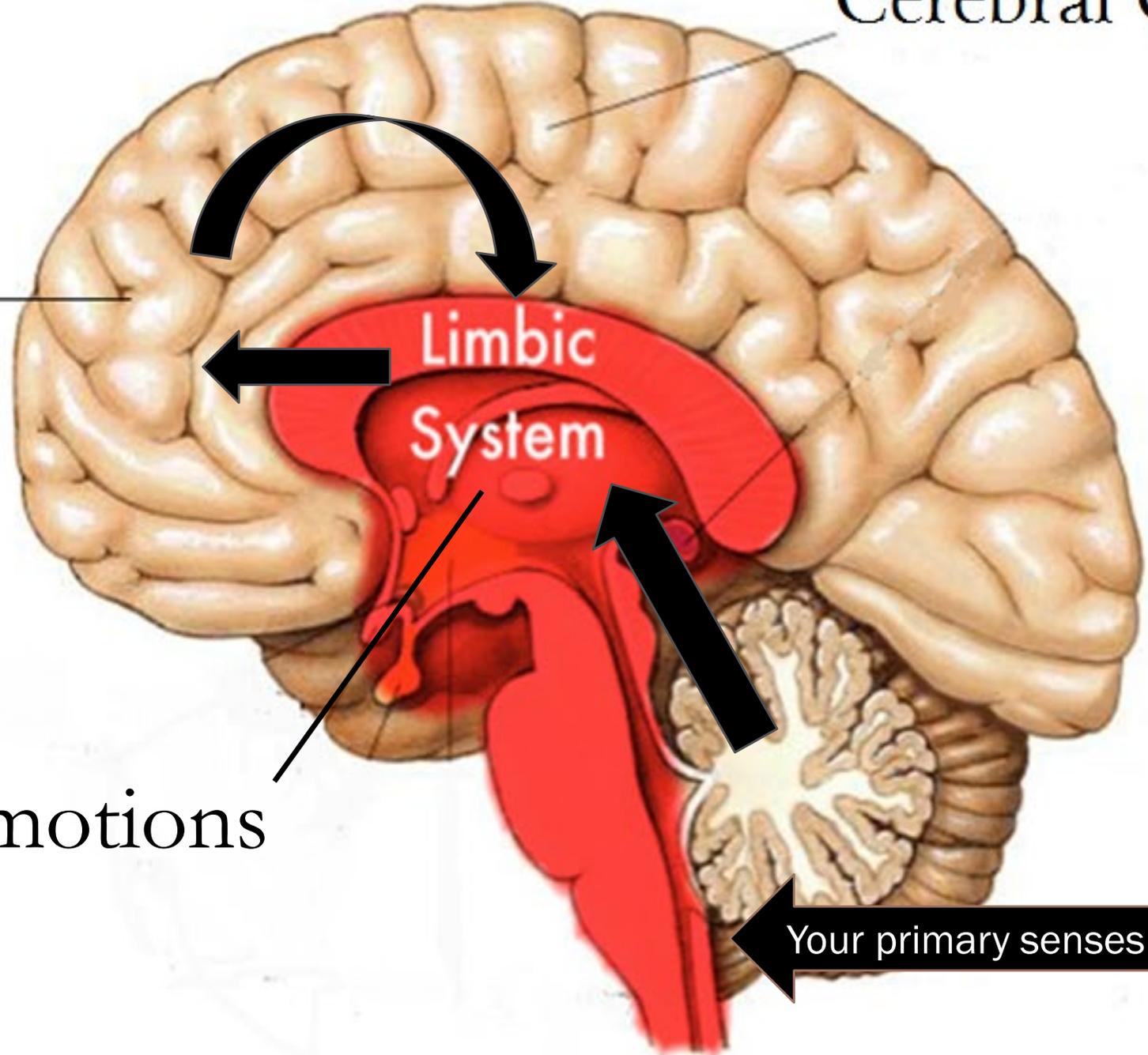
Cerebral Cortex

Frontal Lobe
logical thought

Emotions

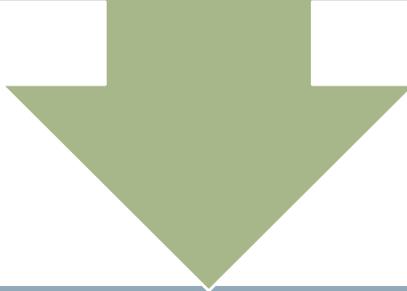
Limbic System

Your primary senses enter here



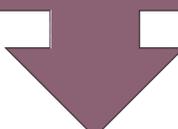
People often
must feel your
heart
before they
can hear your
message

Get to know them on an
emotional/personal level first,
then build bridges to the truth
from their perspective

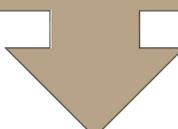


4 stages of conversations
you can have to prepare
peoples hearts and minds
for the Gospel

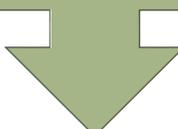
Hearing Conversation

A large, solid purple arrow pointing downwards from the first box to the second box.

Illuminating Conversation

A large, solid brown arrow pointing downwards from the second box to the third box.

Uncovering Conversation

A large, solid green arrow pointing downwards from the third box to the fourth box.

Building Conversation

Hearing Conversation



G.K. Chesterton said, “there’s a lot of difference between hearing and listening.”

We need to put our entire attention, interest and heart into listening and truly understand people.

Actively listen, make every encounter count!

Hearing Conversation



Actively listening requires us to not put words in other people's mouths, fill in gaps, or presume to understand the other person fully.

We want to build a relationship first and this starts with knowing their story

Hearing Conversation



We should always apply Grace and Patience. Be receptive, open-minded, and non-judgmental. Try to create a suitable environment away from distractions, it shows you care and our considerate of what they are saying.

Illuminating Conversation



Often people have their version of God with little scripture to support their belief. It doesn't matter their worldview; atheist, agnostic, deist, theist. Illuminating Conversations help us uncover their understanding of God.

Illuminating Conversation



Paint a picture for them by asking questions to help people see more clearly what they believe.

Some examples...

What do you mean by (spirituality)?

Why do you think that's right, wrong, good, or bad? (moral statements)

Illuminating Conversation



Do you believe it matters what you believe?

Do you believe beliefs affect how we live?

Do you believe all religions can be right?

I'm curious what influenced you in some way as
to why hold you this belief?

How did you come to that conclusion?

Do you consider yourself open minded?

Uncovering Conversation



Uncover the real barriers people have to embracing the Christian worldview.

Is it intellectual (evidence or philosophical) or emotional (bad experience with christians or God failed them).

Uncovering Conversation



I can't believe a good God would allow so much suffering and evil in world.

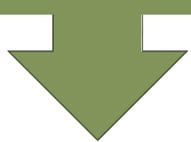
The Bible has been mistranslated so many times how can Christians be sure what it originally said.

Christians are so judgmental and hypocrites.

I used to believe but...

Science has disproven Christianity

Uncovering Conversation



Are Christians telling me, my mom who was an atheist is in hell.

There is no evidence that God exists.

I don't want to be brainwashed by any religion.

There can't be just one way to heaven.

Evolution and Carbon Dating has proven the earth is not 6,000 yrs. old

Building Conversation



We are now ready to build a plan of action that could open the door to share the Gospel message.

“To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some.”

1 Cor. 9:22

Building Conversation



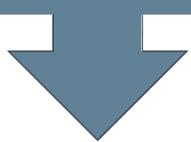
After you have an established relationship, start from a point of shared beliefs, common ground on what you both believe then move onto the Spiritual Bridge.

Introduce spiritual language little by little

Love – 16 characteristics of love

Love infuses meaning into ever aspect of life

Building Conversation



Prayer – pray for them, pray together

Family – We value our families

Movies – The moral of the story

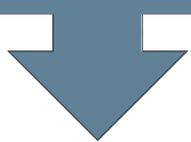
Culture – Morality of the culture

Meaning and purpose – What gives you
meaning/purpose

Religions – Are they the same?

Politics – Are different parties that different?

Building Conversation



Evil – What is it, how do we define it?

Happiness– Why do we seek it?

Security – Why is that so important to us?

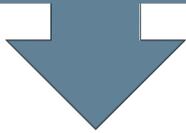
Death – Is that the end to life?

Truth – What is truth?

Why are we here – Personal beings make choices

Nonphysical Pain– Why do we experience it

Building Conversation



Grace – You didn't earn it, don't deserve it, and you didn't ask for it

Miracles – are they possible, what is a miracle?

Science – Does science oppose Christianity?

Jesus – who do you think he is?

Jesus – Why was he crucified?

Jesus – what were his claims?

Jesus – how did he change the world?

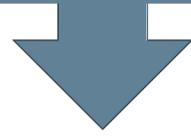
Building Conversation



You are just breaking the soil, preparing it for the gospel seed.

You don't have to prove anything, you are introducing spiritual conversation, you are not trying to evangelize at this point, it doesn't have to move beyond this point.

Building Conversation



Here you see me at my previous job introducing Biblical spiritual language and conversation.

Grace, Love, empathy, C+P+E

We can always introduce Biblical spiritual language into any conversation.

Thank You