

THE ART OF CONVERSATION, Pt. 2

Project Assignment, pt. 2
Host a Conversation Gathering

Conversation Project Introduction

This assignment is designed to help you draw friends into life changing conversation, deepen relationships and build plausibility structures for the gospel.

The two project assignments that accompany *The Art of Conversation*, pts. 1&2 are designed around two kinds of conversation opportunities that we hope will become second nature for the learner. With our first project we began to *spot and utilize conversation launchers*. Now we will look at *hosting conversation gatherings*.

The Challenge: Get a reputation for being a good conversationalist and a good host.

Host a Conversation Gathering

Conversation Gatherings are planned conversational happenings, which may be either structured or unstructured. They are often hosted in homes or they may spring from events in the city. In this case a gathering is not spontaneous and the conversation launcher is prepared ahead of time. A movie with meaning night at home or a concert with drinks or dessert after are good examples.

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to help the learner establish the life habits of hospitality and conversation.

Objective: To explore new ways of engaging friends in gospel conversations by planning and hosting a conversation gathering.

Instructions: Use the questions below to plan your gathering.

1. What type of gathering will you host?
 - Do you want to host a small gathering or a big event?
 - Would you like to meet in a home or at an alternate venue such as a restaurant?
 - Is there a regular meeting you would like to use for this event, and if so how will you incorporate hospitality?
 - Do you want to co-host your gathering with a friend or would you prefer to host alone?
2. What will use as a conversation launcher? A talk, movie, local exhibit or other? A provocative speech?
 - In what ways does your launcher touch on gospel truths?
 - How does Jesus make sense of the topic in a way the world cannot?
 - How will you move into discussion and who will plan the discussion?
3. Who will you invite?
4. Put it on the schedule. Keep in mind that you will be asked to report on your event in your next

Types of Gatherings and Conversation Launchers:

- Movie with meaning and conversation (consider making this a monthly event)
- Current Event Discussion (consider doing this whenever you have a meal with a friend)
- Poetry readings - present and discuss
- Artist, musician, author - present and discuss
- A Game night with a challenge
- A discussion related to personal, civic, work or club
- An expert - present and discuss (business, family, issue)
- A Book club or book discussion (you can design a discussion around a provocative book that you have read without asking everyone to read it)
- Technology discussion (there are lots of good books on the down side to technology)
- In the city- Events and entertainment, the arts