



Meeting One to One with Non-Christians

One of the most exciting things in all the world is to have opportunities to share Christ along the way or to bring someone to Christ. And meeting people individually one to one with a non-Christian who has expressed an interest in finding out more about being a follower of Jesus (1:1), can be a wonderful way to be part of God's work in this way!

And so a Christian will meet up with a non-Christian, and over a few sessions will teach them about the Jesus of the bible, answer their questions (where possible!) with the prayerful hope they will put their faith in Jesus or with the aim, under God, of encouraging them to put their faith in Jesus.

You might be thinking this sounds scary, but its not!

1. Invite

Maybe something like this:

"I was just wondering, it seems that you have lots of questions about Christianity? Would you like to meet up with me and look at what the life and death of Jesus really means? Of course the last thing I want to do is to pressurize you, but you might really find it helpful to look into these things in more depth. What we could do is meet up for a few weeks and look at what the bible says? I could have a go at answering your questions! What do you think?"

And behind closed doors:

- » Be prayerful.
- » Be prepared - think through and prepare what you might want to teach them.
- » Trust that God can use you - we don't have to be experts!
- » Remember 2 Corinthians 4: 1- 6 - we speak the truth, Satan blinds, God shines.

2. Preparation for first meeting

Practicalities

- » Set a venue – this can be anywhere, but best to have somewhere where you can talk easily!
- » Set a time – and for how long. Probably 1 – 2 hours maximum!
- » Exchange telephone or email addresses.

Explain what will happen

- » That there will be lots of time to chat, and possibly food, but there will also be about 40 minutes to 1 hour of looking at what the bible says and questions that come from that!

Be flexible

- » Do everything you can to make things easy for them!
- » Make sure they can get to the venue, or offer to pick them up, give them the bus numbers.

Decide what to study

- » You may want to study a gospel, or follow a course such as Christianity Explored DVD with Rico Tice or The World We All Want by Steve Timmis and Tim Chester.

Anticipate the duration of meetings

- » If you want to follow a course then let them know how many weeks the course lasts. But along the way also let them know that they can opt out at any time. Most people who are interested like to know the number of weeks that they are committing too.

3. When you meet

- » Spend time chatting with coffee/tea or over a meal. During that time, if you don't know them, find out as much as you can about the unbeliever. What do they like? What kind of home do they come from? What they do? What's happened in their lives? And if they ask about yourself be open and honest!
- » Have a time in mind when you want to turn the conversation from chit chat to gospel.
- » You may like to say "well, would you be up for having a look at the bible now?"
- » Be focused about wanting to introduce them to Jesus and the main point that you want them to learn from that session. However, be aware of where they are coming from and allow them to ask questions and try and link what you have been learning about them with what you are teaching them about Jesus.
- » Be honest. Don't fluff a question but be honest if you don't know the answer. Instead be proactive and say you will find out for them.
- » Finish the study time when you say you will finish.
- » Encourage them to think further about what they have learnt.
- » It may be helpful to give them reading for the next time.
- » Make sure they have a Bible at home.
- » Set a time for the next meeting.
- » Be yourself!
- » Be faithful and do it!

4. During the week

- » Text or contact them during the week, maybe even meet up with them again.
- » Pray for them remembering what they said and where you think there sticking points are.
- » Introduce them to other Christians.

5. At the end of a course/time together

- » It is important to consider how to help those that are still interested or indeed have professed faith. This might be continuing to meet with them on a 1:1, or it might be appropriate for them to join a group.
- And finally, keep praying for them!

6. Some dangers

- » We want them to be followers of Jesus and not followers of man – so beware of their over-dependence on you.

When do you pray with them?

- » Some people might come from a religious background and might expect you to pray. Others might be from a pagan background and think it very strange.

Are there times when a 1:1 is not appropriate?

- » In most cases, it is best not to meet with a person from the opposite sex.
- » Or to meet up with someone who is attracted to the same sex as yourself.
- » Or if someone has a known problem that might require a more experienced person to meet up with them.
- » If you have any doubts the best thing is to speak to your minister/pastor.

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