



WITNESS / WORK

Conversational Connections

The most effective way to influence people for Jesus is through personal relationships. One of the keys to starting conversations and building relationships is finding **common ground**—something people can relate to. It's highly unlikely that anyone will come up to you and say, "How can I be saved?" If your life is noticeably different, however, they might ask you about it. If you are alert to these opportunities and learn how to turn everyday conversations into spiritual ones, you'll have many chances to talk about Jesus.

Sometimes we need an **open door** to connect with someone. An open door when you're talking with a friend could be a statement or two that lets you shift the conversation to God or spiritual issues.

Remember when Jesus met the woman at the well in John 4? They started talking about water. But the conversation moved to another level when He said, "Whoever drinks the water I give will never thirst" (verse 14). These transitions can be things like questions, comments, thoughts, or personal examples.

Sometimes, the person you're talking to will open the door. Other times, as you're listening to what they're saying, you'll have the chance to do what Jesus did and open the door to a deeper conversation.

