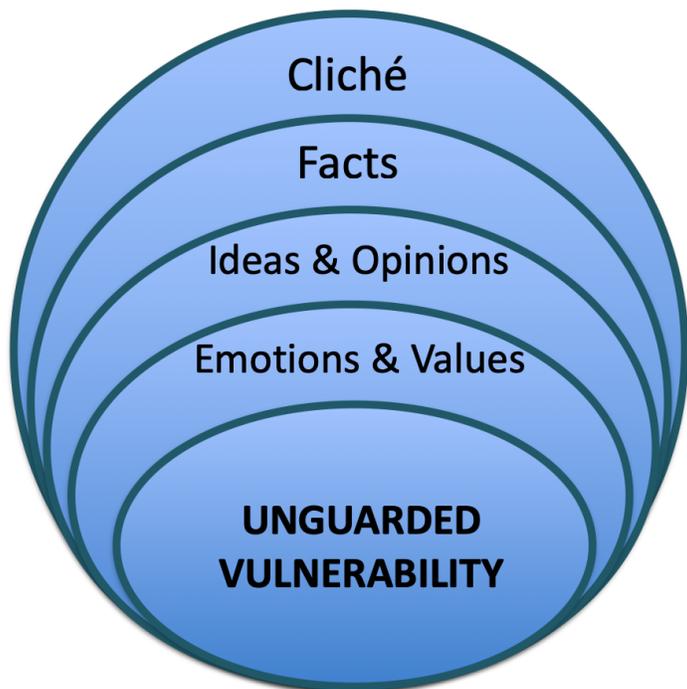


# INTENTIONAL SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS



## DISCLAIMERS:

- A spiritual conversation with intentionality should take time. Plan for the conversation to last 15 minutes or more.
- Your spiritual conversation should NOT be an interview. Stay engaged and conversational throughout.
- Pray throughout the conversation for the Lord to open you to the move of the Holy Spirit and to open the heart of the other person.
- Many Black students will have some sort of familiarity with Christianity, but know that more and more are either turning to a different faith or leaving organized religion all together. Be aware of this as you engage in the conversation.

### LAYER 1: CLICHE "BUILDING TRUST"

Initiate a conversation.

Introduce yourself.

Ask questions to start building trust for a conversation.

- How are you?
- What's up?
- How is your day going?
- What have your classes been like?

### LAYER 2: FACTS "GETTING TO KNOW THEM"

Ask questions to learn more about the other person.

- Do you identify as a certain religion?
- What's your spiritual or faith background?

Relate by making a personal connection to their response.

"I grew up going to church also, but no one in my family was really serious about faith."

### LAYER 3: IDEAS & OPINIONS "GOING DEEPER"

Ask questions to understand their thoughts about what they shared.

- What has it been like growing up in church?
- What do you like or dislike about your family not being serious about faith?

Relate by making a personal connection to their response.

"I wish my family also was more serious about faith because maybe I would understand spiritual things better."

### LAYER 4: EMOTIONS & VALUES "UNDERSTANDING THEM"

Ask questions to understand how they feel or what they value.

- Do you still find it important to go to church regularly?
- How do you feel about people being more intentional in being spiritual?

Relate by making a personal connection to their response.

"Since being in college, I find value in trying to do more to grow in my faith. It is hard to maintain on my own."

### LAYER 5: UNGUARDED VULNERABILITY "FINDING OUT WHY"

Ask questions to understand what makes them feel that way or why they value what is shared. Focus on what makes them say it not just why.

- What makes those things important with going to church?
- What makes you value intentionality so deeply?

Relate by making a personal connection to their response.

"I realize staying connected to community keeps me grounded in my faith."

### CLOSE

Thank them for the conversation and end the conversation with an opening for next steps based on the conversation. Some possible next steps to talk through.

- Would you like to come to one of our Bible Studies or one of our hangouts?
- Would you be interested in connecting again to talk?
- Would you like to pray together?
- Would you like to make a decision for Christ today?
- Would you be open to connecting to Christian community?

# Deeper Conversations

## The Five Layers of Conversational Intimacy

For each layer you ask questions to get at something deeper!

**1. Cliché Level**

Ask questions to: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Fact Level**

Ask questions to: \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Ideas/Opinions Level**

Ask questions to understand: \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Emotions/Values Level**

Ask questions to understand: \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Unguarded Vulnerability Level**

Ask questions to understand: \_\_\_\_\_

### Practice Questions:

- Cliché:

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- Facts:

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- Ideas/Opinions:

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- Emotions/Values:

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- Unguarded Vulnerability:

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## Deeper Conversations: Spiritual Convo Version

### Script 1: Conversation with a Christian

**Ashton:** Excuse me. Hi, how are you?

Jasmine: I'm good

**Ashton:** My name is Ashton, what's your name?

Jasmine: My name is Jasmine.

**Ashton:** Nice to meet you. I'm in InterVarsity, a Christian org on campus, and today we're meeting students and having spiritual conversations. Do you have time to talk?

Jasmine: Sure.

**Ashton:** Can I ask what your spiritual background is?

Jasmine: I'm Christian.

**Ashton:** Cool, have you been Christian all of your life?

Jasmine: Yep, my grandfather is a pastor.

**Ashton:** That's cool. No one in my family is a pastor. But I grew up going to church. What was it like being a pastor's grandkid?

Jasmine: Girl. We were in church most of the week and always going to conventions.

**Ashton:** Really? Were there things you really like about it? Or disliked?

Jasmine: I liked being in church sometimes. It just got to be so routine, now I'm glad I don't have to be there all of the time. I do go back on the weekends though.

**Ashton:** I feel you. That's a lot. I just didn't like being in service for 4 hours, especially if there was no food after! As you've gotten older, are there any values that you still hold on to from your childhood faith?

Jasmine: yep

**Ashton:** Like what?

Jasmine: Just continually go to God in a time of need, but also just any time.

**Ashton:** So what makes you really value going to God? Or have there been specific times where you remember really seeing the benefit of going to God?

Jasmine: Going to God just makes life easier, it really keeps me calm to talk to God. I can remember a time when....

**Ashton:** Yea, that's something I do too. It really keeps me grounded to pray often and make sure I'm going to church. Thanks for sharing that. I enjoyed talking with you about your spiritual background! I like getting to know people's stories a little bit.

I mentioned that I'm in a Christian org called InterVarsity. We have bible study, prayer, and evangelism, and we also go to conferences. I really like it because it's an authentic group of people that are trying to grow in their faith. Would you like to come to one of our bible studies? They're about an hr long and we have 3 different times you can choose from."

Jasmine: Sure, I'll try it, which days?

## Deeper Conversations: Spiritual Convo Version

### Script 2: Conversation with a Non-Christian

**Brittany:** Hey, how are you?

Chris: Good, You?

**Brittany:** Good. My name is Brittany, what's your name?

Chris: My name is Chris.

**Brittany:** Nice to meet you. I'm in InterVarsity, a Christian org on campus, and today we're meeting students and having spiritual conversations. Do you have time to talk?

Chris: Sure.

**Brittany:** Can I ask what your spiritual background is?

Chris: I used to be Christian, but I'm not now.

**Brittany:** Really? Could you tell me a little more about what led you to leave Christianity?

Chris: I'm just more into being balanced and spiritually aligned

**Brittany:** Interesting. Was that something you weren't finding in Christianity?

Chris: Not really

**Brittany:** What did you dislike about Christianity?

Chris: I didn't like being forced to go to church and believe something just because my parents do.

**Brittany:** Was there anything you liked?

Chris: I liked the music but that's really it. I would just go to church and sit there.

**Brittany:** I see. My favorite part used to be the music, but my new pastor is a good teacher so I enjoy when he teaches the Word. So now that you're in college and finding your spiritual path, what do you feel like you're specifically searching or longing for?

Chris: I just want to live my life, be at peace, and know my purpose.

**Brittany:** That's real. What makes you value peace and purpose?

Chris: I've just dealt with so much drama and I'm just trying to figure it all out.

**Brittany:** I don't know all that you're going through. But I think that the desire for peace and to know purpose is something we all want deep down. I know you don't practice Christianity, but do you mind if I pray for you?

Chris: sure

**Brittany:** **\*\*pray\*\*** Do you mind if we meet up and explore spiritual things together?

Chris: I don't mind

**Brittany:** Cool. I know personally it is nice to have a community like InterVarsity where I can grow in my own spirituality, so I would love for us to meet up so I can hear more about you and your spirituality. Are you free to connect for coffee on Tuesday at 2pm?

Chris: I have class at 2pm, what about 4pm?

## Deeper Spiritual Conversations

### Script 3: Conversation with a Christian Friend

**Whitney: What's up Bobby?**

Bobby: I'm okay, my physics class was real crazy today.

**Whitney: O really, how so?**

Bobby: My professor gave us this pop quiz and I was not ready for it at all.

**Whitney: You are an engineering major, right?**

Bobby: Yes, mechanical.

**Whitney: Cool, well I hope you did better than you thought. What made you choose Mechanical Engineering?**

Bobby: I hope so too. I picked the major because I know engineers make a lot of money.

**Whitney: Haha, true. That is one of the reasons I chose Biology in preparation for Med school. So, I get that.**

Bobby: Yeah, I'm not trying to graduate and struggle. I want to live comfortably with my degree.

**Whitney: I can see how engineering or medicine can keep that from being both of our stories, but do you believe being comfortable after you graduate is really going to depend on having a job and making a lot of money?**

Bobby: I don't know. I hope so though. I hate being miserable and it seems like broke folks stay miserable.

**Whitney: Honestly, I have a cousin who is an engineer making good money, but it seems like all he does is work, and yet he never appears to be fulfilled.**

Bobby: You know, you have a point there. I honestly don't really like my engineering classes. It is not what I thought it would be. My parents just told me that engineering would help me to make a lot of money, so I chose it!

**Whitney: Well that's real. What are you passionate about?**

Bobby: If I'm being honest, I enjoy helping people realize their gifts and I really love helping people with their problems.

**Whitney: I'm glad this came up, because I actually wanted to have a spiritual conversation with you. Have you considering praying and asking God about how your passions could be connected to God's purpose for you?**

Bobby: I actually haven't. I mentioned talking about this with my parents and wanting a job that made money, but I didn't even think about what God wanted me to do. I just wanted a major where I work hard and succeed.

**Whitney: What makes you think that having a certain major or working hard is the only way to succeed?**

Bobby: That's what everybody else say.

**Whitney: I feel you. I used to measure my success by what everyone else said, but then I realized the things God has put in me, are the things God wants me to pursue. So, I look at success differently. It is doing what God wants me to do. Do you think God would want you to do engineering or what you are passionate about?**

Bobby: I don't know. I think God would want me to do engineering AND what I am passionate about.

**Whitney: Maybe you're right. It's worth asking. Would you be open to praying about that right now?**

Bobby: Okay, that's cool. Because I done had enough of physics anyways.

**Whitney: \*pray\* Would you be okay with me checking in with you in a couple days just to see where your heads at now that we prayed about it together? Maybe Tuesday at noon?**

Bobby: I'm fine with that.

## Deeper Spiritual Conversations

### Script 4: Conversation with a Non-Christian Friend

**Michael: Hey Jackson, how has your week been?**

Jackson: It's been straight, but Keisha been getting on my nerves lately.

**Michael: Dang bro, didn't ya'll make it official last week?**

Jackson: Yea cuz she was pressing me. You know I'm not trying to be locked down right now.

**Michael: Well, what do you want then?**

Jackson: I'm just trying to kick it and keep it friendly.

**Michael: You don't think you can kick it and keep it friendly with Keisha?**

Jackson: Nah, Keisha got all these expectations and I don't need nobody trying to keep track of me or blowing up my phone. She wants too much!

**Michael: So, are you saying you not ready for commitment? Or are you saying you don't want commitment with Keisha?**

Jackson: I don't really think it's Keisha, it's probably the commitment thing.

**Michael: What makes it hard to commit? Does it scare you? Does it feel like a lot of pressure?**

Jackson: I don't know man, I done seen a lot of guys get screwed over by females, and I am not trying to get caught up.

**Michael: Well last week I was talking to my mentor, and we were talking about David and Bathsheba. Dude, you want to talk about caught up, this man got a married woman pregnant and it wasn't her fault at all, he was the problem. So, let's be real, is the commitment problem females or is the commitment problem you?**

Jackson: You can miss me with all that religion stuff. You know I ain't down with all that.

**Michael: Who talking about religion? This was a story about people with real problems. David had commitment problems. His son Solomon had commitment problems. Sometimes these things are generational. What makes commitment hard for you? Do you think it's related to your family?**

Jackson: Yea, maybe so. My daddy got ten kids with a bunch a different women. My mom always upset cuz she can't find no "real" men out here. When I think about it, that's all I know. I don't what it looks like to be committed and happy.

**Michael: Dang your daddy sound like David. He also had a bunch of kids by different women too, and yet the Bible says that David was a man after God's own heart.**

Jackson: You lyin'! That don't sound like the type of God I heard about growing up.

**Michael: For real! Well I know you not crazy about this Jesus thing, but would you be willing to study about David's life with me in the Bible?**

Jackson: I don't know, study the Bible? That sound like I am having to commit to becoming a Christian.

**Michael: Look, it's no pressure. If after a couple of times, you not feeling it, that's cool. I just think you might be able to relate to David and his story might help you with yo' Keisha problem. So, Thursday during dinner?**

Jackson: Bet, I can do that.