



One of the challenges we must overcome when we endeavor to engage in Organic Outreach in our personal lives is that of getting beyond platitudes such as “Hi, how are you?” and “How is it going?” We need to build a personal repertoire of questions that require a thoughtful response. We need openers that lead to more than a skin deep exchange. Questions like “What is the most interesting thing you did last weekend?” When we engage people with questions that require thought, we end up learning a little bit about the other person that we probably will never learn if we stick to the standard exchanges - and this can lead to natural follow-up questions either in the moment or for a later time. These types of questions are perfect for building the foundation for a deeper relationship.

Rather than repeating all the work others have already done on this topic, we provide two redacted lists below from the cited web resources that will help you build your own personal library of go-to conversation starters. Some are good to use when you have time for a longer conversation (waiting in a long line somewhere) and some are good to use to just break the ice in a passing exchange (like at the grocery check-out). [The first set](#) is secular in nature, you could easily adapt some of them to have a spiritual direction when you are engaging in a conversation with someone with whom you have already laid some groundwork and the time is right to go deeper. [The second set](#) is all directed to open the door for (or go further into the room with) a spiritual conversation.

Non-Spiritual (adapted from “250 Conversation Starters” at conversationstarterworld.com)

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- **Random Conversation Starters** ([back to menu](#))

- What was the last funny video you saw?
- What do you do to get rid of stress?
- What is something you are obsessed with?
- What three words best describe you?
- What would be your perfect weekend?
- What do you think of tattoos? Do you have any?
- What's your favorite number? Why?
- What's the most useful thing you own?
- What's your favorite way to waste time?
- Do you have any pets? What are their names?
- Where did you go last weekend? What did you do?
- What are you going to do this weekend?
- What did you do on your last vacation?
- When was the last time you worked incredibly hard?
- Are you very active or do you prefer to just relax in your free time?
- What do you do when you hang out with your friends?
- Who is your oldest friend? Where did you meet them?
- What's the best / worst thing about your work / school?
- If you had intro music, what song would it be? Why?
- What were you really into when you were a kid?
- If you could have any animal as a pet, what animal would you choose?
- Have you ever saved an animal's life? How about a person's life?

- If you opened a business, what kind of business would it be?
- Who is your favorite entertainer (comedian, musician, actor, etc.)?
- Are you a very organized person?
- Have you ever spoken in front of a large group of people? How did it go?
- What is the strangest dream you've ever had?
- What is a controversial opinion you have?
- Who in your life brings you the most joy?
- Who had the biggest impact on the person you've become?
- Where is the most beautiful place you have been?
- Where do you spend most of your free time?
- Who was your best friend in elementary school?
- When was the last time you stayed up past 3 a.m.?
- What's your favorite season? Why?
- Which is more important, a great car or a great house? Why?
- What animal or insect do you wish humans could eradicate?
- Where is the most beautiful place near where you live?
- What do you bring with you everywhere you go?
- How much time do you spend on the internet? What do you usually do?
- Where and when was the most amazing sunset you have ever seen?
- Which recent news story is the most interesting to you?
- Where is the worst place you have been stuck for a long time?
- If you had to change your name, what would your new name be?
- What is something that really annoys you but doesn't bother most people?

- What word or saying from the past do you think should come back?
- How should success be measured? By that measurement, who is the most successful person you know?
- Was there ever an event in your life that defied explanation?
- If you could learn the answer to one question about your future, what would the question be?
- Has anyone ever saved your life?
- What benefit do you bring to the group when you hang out with friends?
- What trends did you follow when you were younger?
- What do you fear is hiding in the dark?
- What was the best time period of your life? What do you think will be the best time period of your entire life?
- What do you do to improve your mood when you are in a bad mood?
- What is the silliest fear you have?
- What are some things you want to accomplish before you die?
- What is the best room in your house? Why?
- Who is someone who is popular now that you really like? Why do you like them?
- Where is the best place to take a date?
- What smell brings back great memories?
- What's the best pet name you can come up with for a specific type of pet?
- How often do you help others? Who do you help? How do you help?
- What are you best at?
- What makes you nervous?
- Who, besides your parents, had the biggest impact on your life?

- What weird or useless talent do you have?
- What are some strange beliefs that some people have?
- Who would be the worst person to be stuck in an elevator with? How about the best person to be stuck in an elevator with?
- What's the funniest TV series you have seen?
- Which TV show do you want your life to be like?
- If you could bring back one TV show that was cancelled, which one would you bring back?
- How have TV shows changed over the years?
- What's the best sitcom past or present?
- What's the best show currently on TV?
- What do you think about game shows? Do you have a favorite one?
- What's the most underrated or overrated TV show?
- What do you think about reality TV? Why is it so popular?
- Do you like reality TV shows? Why or why not? If so, which ones?
- What will be the future of TV shows?
- What was the best birthday wish or gift you've ever received?
- How often do you binge watch shows?
- What cartoons did you watch as a child?
- Where did you grow up?
- What's your story, did you grow up around here?
- What interesting places have you lived and for how long?
- What's the most interesting/unusual thing that's happened to you?

- **Movie Conversation Starters** [\(back to menu\)](#)

- What is the most overrated movie?
- What's your favorite genre of movie?
- Which do you prefer? Books or movies?
- What movie scene choked you up the most?
- Do you like documentaries? Why / why not?
- What's the worst movie you have seen recently?
- What's the strangest movie you have ever seen?
- Do you like horror movies? Why or why not?
- When was the last time you went to a movie theater?
- What was the last movie you watched? How was it?
- Do movies have the same power as books to change the world?
- Do you prefer to watch movies in the theater or in the comfort of your own home?

- **Book Conversation Starters** [\(back to menu\)](#)

- What was the last book you read?
- What was your favorite book as a child?
- Do you prefer physical books or ebooks?
- What is the longest book you have read?
- What book genres do you like to read?
- Do you prefer fiction or nonfiction books?
- What book has influenced you the most?
- How fast do you read?

- How often do you go to the library?
- What book has had the biggest impact on your life?
- What book has had the biggest effect on the modern world?
- What was the worst book you had to read for school? How about the best book you had to read for school?
- Do you think people read more or fewer books now than 50 years ago?
- Now that indie publishing has become easier, have books gotten better or worse?

● **Music Conversation Starters** [\(back to menu\)](#)

- What song always puts you in a good mood? What does it make you think about?
- What's the best way to discover new music?
- What was the last song you listened to and how did it make you feel?
- What is your favorite movie soundtrack and why? Was the movie as good as the soundtrack?
- What do you think about classical music?
- How has technology changed the music industry?
- Are there any songs that always bring a tear to your eye?
- What bands or types of music do you listen to when you exercise?
- Which do you prefer, popular music or relatively unknown music?
- Do you like going to concerts? Why or why not? What was the last concert you went to?
- Who was the first band or musician you were really into? What were your favorite songs and why?
- Records, tapes, CDs, MP3s. Which did you grow up with? What is good and bad about each?

- **App Conversation Starters** [\(back to menu\)](#)

- What are the three best apps on your phone?
- What is the most useful app on your phone and how does it help your life?
- What apps have changed your life a lot?
- What do app makers do that really annoys you? How could they do it better?
- How many apps do you have on your phone and how many do you actually use?
- What is the most useless app you have tried?
- What's the most addictive mobile game you have played?
- Which app seemed like magic the first time you used it?
- What is the strangest app you have heard of or tried?
- Which app has helped society the most? Which one has hurt society the most?
- What's the most amazing app that hasn't been developed yet?

- **Phone Conversation Starters** [\(back to menu\)](#)

- How often do you check your phone?
- Do you always have to have the latest phone?
- Do you text more or call more? Why?
- What will phones be like in 10 years?
- What is the most annoying thing about your phone?
- How do you feel if you accidentally leave your phone at home?
- What do you wish your phone could do?
- What kind of case do you have for your phone? Why did you choose it?
- What was your first smartphone? How did you feel when you got it?
- Do you experience phantom vibration? (Feeling your phone vibrate even though it didn't.)

- **Sports Conversation Starters** [\(back to menu\)](#)

- What sports do you like to watch?
- Who are some of your favorite athletes?
- Which sports do you like to play?
- What is the hardest sport to excel at?
- Who are the 3 greatest athletes of all time?
- What do you think the oldest sport still being played is?
- How much time do you spend watching sports in a week?
- Do athletes deserve the high salaries they receive? Why or why not?
- What defines a sport? Is fishing a sport? How about video game tournaments?
- Why do you think sports are common across almost all cultures present and past?
- Do you play sports video games? Which ones? Is playing the video game or sport more fun? Why?
- Which sport is the most exciting to watch? Which is the most boring to watch?

- **Restaurant Conversation Starters** [\(back to menu\)](#)

- What restaurant do you eat at most?
- What's the worst fast food restaurant?
- What is the best restaurant in your area?
- What is the fanciest restaurant you have eaten at?
- What kind of interior do you like a restaurant to have?
- What is the worst restaurant you have ever eaten at?
- If you opened a restaurant, what kind of food would you serve?

- What is the strangest themed restaurant you have heard of?
- Would you eat at a restaurant that was really dirty if the food was amazing?
- What is the most disgusting thing you have heard about that happened at a restaurant?
- What was your favorite restaurant when you were in university? How about when you were a child?

- **Travel Conversation Starters** ([back to menu](#))

- Where would you like to travel next?
- What is the longest plane trip you have taken?
- What's the best way to travel? (Plane, car, train, etc.)
- Where is the most relaxing place you have been?
- Do you prefer traveling alone or with a group?
- What do you think of tour group packages?
- Do you prefer to go off the beaten path when you travel?
- What was the most over hyped place you've traveled to?
- Have you traveled to any different countries? Which ones?
- Where is the most awe inspiring place you have been?
- What's the best thing about traveling? How about the worst thing?
- What is the worst hotel you have stayed at? How about the best hotel?
- How do you think traveling to a lot of different countries changes a person?
- Tell me about some of the interesting people you have met while traveling.
- What do you think of staycations? (Vacationing/seeing tourist attractions at home)
- Where do you go for recommendations for what to do / where to stay when you travel?

- **Technology Conversation Starters** [\(back to menu\)](#)

- What is your favorite piece of technology that you own?
- What piece of technology is really frustrating to use?
- What was the best invention of the last 50 years?
- Does technology simplify life or make it more complicated?
- Will technology save the human race or destroy it?
- Which emerging technology are you most excited about?
- What sci fi movie or book would you like the future to be like?
- What do you think the next big technological advance will be?
- What technology from a science fiction movie would you most like to have?
- What problems will technology solve in the next 5 years? What problems will it create?
- What piece of technology would look like magic or a miracle to people in medieval Europe?
- Can you think of any technology that has only made the world worse? How about a piece of technology that has only made the world better?

- **Clothes / Fashion Conversation Starters** [\(back to menu\)](#)

- What is your favorite shirt?
- Does fashion help society in any way?
- What old trend is coming back these days?
- What is a fashion trend you are really glad went away?
- What is the most comfortable piece of clothing you own?
- What is the most embarrassing piece of clothing you own?
- Do you care about fashion? What style of clothes do you usually wear?

- If you didn't care at all what people thought of you, what clothes would you wear?
- What is the best pair of shoes you have ever owned? Why were they so good?
- Who do you think has the biggest impact on fashion trends: actors and actresses, musicians, fashion designers, or consumers?

- **Goals Conversation Starters** [\(back to menu\)](#)

- What personal goals do you have?
- What are your goals for the next two years?
- How have your goals changed over your life?
- How much do you plan for the future?
- How do you plan to make the world a better place?
- What are some goals you have already achieved?
- What do you hope to achieve in your professional life?
- Have your parents influenced the goals you have?
- Do you usually achieve goals you set? Why or why not?
- What is the best way to stay motivated and complete goals?
- What are some goals you have failed to accomplish?
- What is the craziest, most outrageous thing you want to achieve?
- When do you want to retire? What do you want to do when you retire?

- **Seasons Conversation Starters** [\(back to menu\)](#)

- Do you prefer summer or winter activities?
- What do you like to do in spring?
- Did your family take seasonal vacations?

- Do you feel like fall and spring are getting shorter?
- Which season are you most active in?
- What's the most refreshing thing on a hot summer day?
- What's the best thing to do on a cold winter day?
- Where is the nicest place you have been to in fall?
- What is your favorite thing to eat or drink in winter?
- Is it better to live where there are four seasons or where one season takes up most of the year?

● **Holiday Conversation Starters** [\(back to menu\)](#)

- What is the biggest holiday for your family?
- What is your favorite holiday?
- What holidays have been over commercialized?
- Do you wish there were more or less holidays? Why?
- What do you know about the history of some holidays?
- What kinds of food do you usually eat on your favorite holiday?
- If you had to get rid of a holiday, which would you get rid of? Why?
- Does having a day off for a holiday increase or decrease productivity at work?
- If some of the lesser known holidays were commercialized, what would the commercialization look like?
- If you could make a holiday, what would it be like? What traditions would it have? What would people eat on your holiday?

- **Education Conversation Starters** [\(back to menu\)](#)

- What do you think of online education?
- How can governments make education more efficient?
- What do you think of standardized tests?
- Are bigger or small schools better?
- Is teaching a skill that can be taught?
- What will the future of education be?
- What do you think of homeschooling?
- How has the education you received changed your life?
- How can technology improve education? Can it hurt education?
- What or who has taught you most of the information you use on a regular basis?
- What are some good and bad things about the education system in your country?

- **Food Conversation Starters** [\(back to menu\)](#)

- What is your favorite food?
- What foods do you absolutely hate?
- What do you think of buffets?
- When was the last time you had a food fight?
- What food looks disgusting but tastes delicious?
- What do you get every time you go grocery shopping?
- If your life was a meal, what kind of meal would it be?
- What would you want your last meal to be if you were on death row?
- What food do you know you shouldn't eat but can't help yourself?

- Do you like spicy food? Why or why not? What is the spiciest thing you have ever eaten?
- Does the government have a place in regulating food? To what extent should the government regulate food?
- When people make mistakes about food (especially foreign food) do you feel the need to correct them? (i.e. sushi / sashimi or stromboli / calzone)

- **Weird Conversation Starters** ([back to menu](#))

- If your mind was an island, what would it look like?
- What flavor of ice cream do you wish existed?
- If you had a personal mascot, what would your mascot be?
- If you were a king / queen, what would your throne look like?
- Time freezes for everyone but you for one day. What do you do?
- You have to relive one day of your life forever. Which day do you choose?
- What does your own personal hell look like? How about your own personal heaven?
- You find a remote that can rewind, fast forward, stop and start time. What do you do with it?
- If you could call up anyone in the world and have a one hour conversation, who would you call?
- If you were on the run from the police for a crime you didn't commit, where would you go?
- A portal to another world opens in front of you. You don't know how long it will stay open or if you'll be able to get back after you go through. What do you do?

- **Spiritual Conversation Starter Questions** ([back to menu](#))

(From, Sean Dunn, [Groundwire](#))

- What do you believe God sees when He looks at you?
 - This question gives you the opportunity to share truth/hope. *“God loves you deeply and wants great things for you. You were fearfully and wonderfully made. You are the crown of His creation. He loves you so much that He made a way so He can be close to you.”*
- Do you have any spiritual beliefs that give you hope?
 - Most non-Christians either have nothing or they rely on something temporary. Once they voice that it gives an opportunity to follow with, *“Can I tell you where my peace and hope comes from? Because I have a relationship with Jesus, I am never alone. He has good plans for me and He always sees me through. This relationship is what I lean on when things are difficult.”*
- What do you think it takes to be close to God?
 - The majority of people long to be close to God, but they don’t know how. Most will either say they have no clue, or they will share a superficial answer that is not rooted in truth. *“I know you want to be close to God, and the amazing thing is He wants to be close to you. He wants you to hear His whispers and feel His presence, but there is a gap, and unless you deal with it you won’t ever be as close as you want to be. Can I share with you what causes that divide and the only way to ever overcome it?”*

(following adapted from “44 Spiritual Conversation Starter Questions” at [EvangelismCoach.org](#))

- Where are you in your spiritual pilgrimage?
- In your opinion, how does one become a Christian?
- What single thing would you like to make absolutely certain you do (if at all possible) during your lifetime?
- How do you think a person can keep from becoming a workaholic?
- What character can you imagine yourself to be? (any period of history)
- What are you reading that is not an assignment or required by your work?

- How do you know you'll go to heaven when you die?
- How are you growing personally?
- In a conversation with someone who has never heard about God, what would you say about Him from your experience?
- In your opinion, how does one become a Christian?
- How would you describe your father and his impact on your life?
- Tell me about your mentor and his/her impact on your life.
- What do you think would probably surprise most people about you? Why?
- What is your greatest strength, and what are you doing to develop it?
- Why do people do what they do? What are the assumptions you make about people?
- How do you handle pressure? When the pressure is really on, what do you need from your friends?
- Has anything ever happened to you that was dramatic, personal or spectacular enough to cause you to be certain there is a God who is both infinite and personally caring?
- What do you consider to be two major turning points in your life?
- What is something you consider to be a great personal success? Why was it so significant?
- What is the key to maintaining balance in your life?
- What are the 2 or 3 major truths upon which you have based your decision-making?
- Tell me about two of your life-long friends and why they have such an impact on your life. What made you choose them?
- Have you dealt with the questions? "How much money is enough, and what do I do with the rest?"
- How would you describe your mother and the impact she has had on your life?
- In your opinion, who was/is Jesus Christ?
- If you could know God personally, would you be interested?

- How would you define materialism, and how do you deal with it in your life?
- What have you found to be the best way of absorbing disappointment, rejection, distress and discouragement?
- When you get to heaven, what will be the first three questions you will ask God?
- If you were to inherit a million dollars today, and couldn't spend it on your own enterprise or keep it for yourself, what would you do with it and why?
- What do you find most attractive about Christianity/the person of Christ? What do you find least attractive about Christianity/the person of Christ?
- Do you consider yourself a seeker of the truth?
- What is your spiritual background?
- Have you ever read the Bible?
- Have your views on religion changed since you started college? How?
- Have you ever discussed what Biblical Christianity is?
- Why do you think you feel the way you do toward Jesus Christ and his message of love and forgiveness?
- What is your philosophy of life based on?
- Do you believe what you've been brought up with?
- Why do you think Christianity isn't relevant to your life?
- If Christ was who He claimed to be, how would that affect your life?
- What are you living for? What do you value most?
- If your questions could be answered in a way that would satisfy you, would you then believe in Christ?
- The Kennedy questions: First ask– "If you died today, do you know for sure you'd go to heaven?" Then ask – "If you died and stood before God and He asked you 'Why should I let you into Heaven?' What would you say?"