

Questions for Life

23 March – 9 April 2020



Questions
for life



Why get involved?

The most important and thrilling thing happening before Jesus' return:

“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.” (John 5.24-25)

The joyful task Jesus has given us each of us:

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.” (Matt 28:19); “Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together.” (John 4.36)

How can we get involved?

Here are some ways:

1. We can arrange a simple breakfast, lunch or dinner where there's a short presentation of the Christian message from the Bible, perhaps a testimony, and lots of time for guests to ask questions. There are two ways we can do this:
 - We can invite the whole company or division
 - We just invite a small group who already know each other and make clear we're putting it on for them and they'll be there with people they know already
2. We can do some 'walk-up conversations' on the street. Email Brian for information – b.wong@st-helens.org.uk
3. We can encourage our local church to pray by giving a quick notice, sharing a video or two from www.gospelatwork.org.uk and sharing the Questions for Life prayer diary.

Why put on a short presentation over breakfast, lunch or dinner for colleagues and City contacts?

The word brings life. John 6.63: “It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.” Praise God that over the last couple of years a handful of people have come to know Jesus, in large part through hearing His words at one of these little events.

Colleagues and contacts will often appreciate it. Experience shows that those we work with will often be grateful for the fact that you’re putting on something for them in a time and place that is comfortable and convenient for them.

An event like this is a great catalyst. By hosting one of these people will know that we want them to hear about Jesus. They will also know that we’re happy to be questioned about what we believe. From experience these events have led to lots of people wanting to carry on the conversation in one way or another (even people who heard about the event but didn’t attend).

How can we do it?

Before

Pray!

Only Jesus can do the work of opening blind eyes. So we need to pray!

Here are some ideas that might provide a launch pad for prayer:

- Give thanks that Jesus tell us ‘the harvest is plentiful’ (Matt 9:37) and ask that we would be bold and courageous to speak to our friends about Jesus.
- Ask that our friends would come along with soft hearts to hear and believe the news about Jesus. (Mark 4:9)
- Pray that the Holy Spirit would convict people concerning sin and righteousness and judgement. (John 16:8)

Planning checklist

1. **Who** do I see regularly? Who has the Lord put me amongst? (Don't just think about who you think might come.)
2. **Remember the reason: Why is an event a small lunch, dinner, after works drinks a good idea? (E.g. John 5.24)**
3. Should I try to reach the **whole company/floor** or a **select group** who already know each other and will feel more comfortable coming when they know the others who will be there? (Remember a big aim is to reach people who wouldn't easily come to Sunday church or a lunchtime talk, so don't just focus on people like that.)
4. Should I organise something **myself or with other Christians?**
5. **When, where & what** will work best: a breakfast, lunch, dinner, after work drinks? Should it happen in the office or in a pub, restaurant, etc? Remember you don't need the company's permission! Should we have just a speaker, or a speaker plus someone sharing their story? Check availability of speakers here: bit.ly/394grTW or you could speak yourself, or ask your Sunday church minister. Please chat to one of the lunchtime time talk team for ideas and they can also make suggestions on people who can give their 'testimony' and for suggestions on venues, good pubs with rooms, etc. Remember you don't need a 'celebrity' or 'interesting' speaker, the power is in God's Word. (Some people have included quizzes, wine-tasting, museum tours, etc. Feel free to be creative as long as it's clear there will be a short presentation about Jesus from the Bible.)
6. **Book it in** and let people know.
7. **Invite.** *E.g. "I'm going to arrange a lunch for you and xyz to have the chance to hear a short presentation about Jesus and Christianity with the chance for questions and to hear your thoughts after. I think Jesus' message is too good to miss out on, but also I'd love to hear your thoughts/objections. Food/drinks will be on me. It will be very relaxed as I'm only inviting xyz and you won't be put on the spot in anyway. If you've got a particular question/objection please let me know and I can make sure that it gets answered."* (Perhaps start with a couple of individuals. Once you find a couple of people who've agreed you can mention that to others.) Don't leave inviting too long! Pray and get on with it.
8. Give some thought to the best way to **help people keep hearing Jesus' words.** Don't swamp people with information, but choose one or two ways they can keep hearing Jesus' words. Suggestions like: lunchtime talks, Word 121, read a Gospel, Sunday church, CE.
9. Encourage your **Sunday church to pray** for your event and make sure your event is included in the **Questions for life prayer diary** – email Rachel (r.mcculla@st-helens.org.uk)

During

Practicalities

- Make sure you've got copies of a gospel/ Word 121 for people to take
- Decide the running order and timings

Tips:

Decide who will host the meeting, introduce the speaker, manage timings, etc.

Think about how the logistics will work. Particularly, try to avoid food being served during the talk/presentation.

Getting discussion going after the presentation

We want to give as much opportunity as possible for our unbelieving friends to engage with what they've heard.

Tips:

After the presentation perhaps encourage people to turn into pairs to come up with a question. After giving people a minute or so, collect all the questions, perhaps write them down and then let the speaker tackle them. This helps avoid one person dominating question time or taking things off track.

After

- Ask people what they thought: did they hear things that were new, different to what they expected, things they didn't agree with, etc.
- Feedback with other Christians you worked with.
- Report back to your Sunday church and ask them to pray.
- Pray for those who came and those who didn't.

Further resources

Copies of gospels

The Word One to One

Two Ways to Live (A simple gospel outline that explains the good news about Jesus using six pictures. You could give them away or read it through with your friend.)

The Case for Christ by Lee Strobel (A journey from atheism to faith by a journalist who decided to investigate the claims of Jesus and ask the tough questions about the evidence for Jesus.)

A Fresh Start by John Chapman (Explains what God has done for us through his Son, Jesus, how we can know it's true, and what we should do about it.)

Easter in Three Words by William Taylor (Short, punchy tract.)

City Lives by Marcus Nodder (Short testimonies that each address a common objection to Christianity.)

If you could ask God one question by Barry Cooper and Paul Williams (Answers to thirteen common but tough questions that people ask about the Christian faith. Read it yourself to get ready to answer questions, or give away.)

Your verdict on the empty tomb by Val Grieve. (clear and simple explanation of the evidence for and implications of Jesus' resurrection.)

Can we trust the Gospels by Peter Williams.

Online help

Check out the videos at bit.ly/394grTW for help and motivation to run a dialogue event.

Reading 121 with a non-Christian- St Helen's training:

<http://www.st-helens.org.uk/resources/st-helen-s-training/permalink/2014-04/st-helen-s-training-one2one-part-3-of-3>

<https://www.theword121.com/>

