

Introduction: Conversations of Consequence (Video #1)

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. As mentioned in the video, **Christian apologetics is a systematic method of discussing evidence that undergirds and supports the truth of the Christian faith.** When you think about engaging family or friends with Christian apologetics, select one of the statements below that best describes you and discuss your self-assessment honestly with the group:
 - 1.1. I'm very confident and can't wait to learn more!
 - 1.2. I'm sanguine and hope I can learn how to do it.
 - 1.3. I'm apprehensive, but willing to try.
 - 1.4. I'm doubtful that I'll be able to do this.
 - 1.5. I'm pessimistic and not sure this will work with the people close to me.
2. With which of the 3 academic disciplines (mentioned in the video) that provide powerful evidence for the Christian faith are you most comfortable? And least comfortable?
 - 2.1. Scientific evidence
 - 2.2. Historical evidence
 - 2.3. Philosophical evidence (rational thought)
3. Youth today hold evidence in high regard, so discussions of age-appropriate science, history, or philosophy with them in a casual discussion can be extremely effective. Peter directs us, *"And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. But do this in a gentle and respectful way"* (1 Pet 3:15a-16b). How can we apply this verse and what are some advantages of evidence-based dialogues? How do you avoid monologues?
4. Conversations of Consequence are short 3–5-minute side-bar discussions nested inside a much longer dialogue; well-thought-out, open-ended questions prepared in advance, based on your objectives. Using the fishing example from the video, think of a conversation you'd like to have with someone close to you and share it with the group; identify the person and the subject you'd like to discuss. Brainstorm together some questions that might be asked for each person/subject identified that could lead to a Conversation of Consequence?
5. *"Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone."* (Col 4:5-6). Discuss with the group the wisdom of preplanning Conversations of Consequence, especially as an opportunity that brings you one step closer to winsomely sharing Eternity with them?

Optional Additional Reading Plan:

- **"That's Just Your Interpretation: Responding to Skeptics Who Challenge Your Faith"** by [Paul Copan](#) Chapter "Introduction"
- **"Tactics, 10th Anniversary Edition: A Game Plan for Discussing Your Christian Convictions"** by [Gregory Koukl](#) Chapter 1 "Diplomacy or D-Day"

Truth: Conversations of Consequence (Video #2)

Small Group Discussion Questions

- What's the answer to the question, "What is Truth?" **Truth is that which corresponds to reality.** It can't be otherwise. Truth is not true unless it is actually true in reality. Jesus said, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me"* (John 14:6). How was the attack on truth really an attack on God and an attack against Christianity?
- Youth today have been taught to assume that truth is relative, and it is common to hear, *"I'm glad Christianity is true for you, but it's not true for me, I have a different truth."* C. S. Lewis rightly asserted, *"the most dangerous ideas in a society are not the ones being argued, but the ones assumed."* Truth is what we at Y2B call a **foundational topic** (topics upon which you must establish common ground or you cannot go on to deeper topics like faith). Why is it vitally important for youth today to understand that truth must correspond to reality (truth is not relative, rather truth must be tethered or anchored to reality)? How can we share our faith, or even have any conversation about God, if they reply, *"I'm glad Christianity is true for you, it's just not true for me"* and we let their response go unchallenged? Why is this statement false?
- As discussed in the conclusion of the video, when two people have ideas that head in different directions, what were the 3 rational possibilities offered in response to the concept of opposing or "different truths"? (Hint: Either you have truth and I don't...or...)
- Sometimes hindsight is 20/20. Decades ago, did you think that "relative truth" was just a silly passing fad? If we had grasped that an attack on truth was actually an attack on God, we might have responded differently. Discuss how "relative truth" has divided the Church and had such far-reaching and dire consequences in our culture today?
- Stories are one of the best means of communicating with youth, so becoming a storyteller is an important quality in having meaningful Conversations of Consequence. When the story in the video is told that "gravity isn't real and we can actually fly," young people immerse themselves in the story; they're either standing right beside me on top of that building or waiting on the ground when I go splat. They become part of the story as real-time observers. Feel free to plagiarize my stories or invent your own, but share with the group if you're already an accomplished storyteller or if this is an area where you need improvement? Anybody can become a better storyteller by telling stories, so decide on a question as a group then work together to concoct a story to ask your question.

Optional Additional Reading Plan:

- **"That's Just Your Interpretation: Responding to Skeptics Who Challenge Your Faith"** by [Paul Copan](#) Chapter 3 "That's Just Your Reality"
- **"Tactics, 10th Anniversary Edition: A Game Plan for Discussing Your Christian Convictions"** by [Gregory Koukl](#) Chapter 2 "Reservations"

Identity: Conversations of Consequence (Video #3)

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. The older you are, the more likely you are to think “identity” is a silly or even irrelevant topic, but you would be mistaken. Identity is an essential issue with youth today, what we at Y2B call a foundational topic (topics upon which you must establish common ground, or you cannot go on to deeper topics like faith). Discuss with your group why our identity as a human being is not a choice, rather identity is anchored in reality (Read Gen. 1:26-31). Why is it vitally important for youth today to understand that identity is fixed and unchangeably human?
2. Stories become a powerful means of communication, if they draw-in the listeners, who imagine themselves as a part of the story, as an observer. The story in the video of “the person who thinks they are a horse” was quite intentional to show that beliefs must align with the evidence to be true in reality. Discuss with your group how stories can be used in having meaningful Conversations of Consequence?
3. The idea of discussing our identity as human beings, humans who have “being” has spiritual overtones without bringing up religion. Suppose you are a grandparent who has been told discussing religion with your grandkids is strictly off-limits. How could a Conversation of Consequence on the subject of everyone’s identity as human beings allow you to follow your children’s rules, while discussing why humans have “being?”
4. Brainstorm together some questions that might be asked to initiate a Conversation of Consequence with a young person on the subject of identity? Remember questions are brief and open-ended, not allowing yes/no responses, followed by a lot of active listening...
5. Some young people think they are “furry’s” (they dress up to look like a horse or a dog or a cat or other animal) and think they are an animal trapped in a human body. If your grandchild asked you what they could say to their friend who thinks they are a horse (or dog or cat or...), what would you tell them? Role play and have one person in the group play the part of someone who thinks they are a furry (don’t be easy on the rest of the group, take a stand and make your case for what you believe about yourself). The rest of the group, ask good questions to steer the discussion. Hint: “How could we test your assertion (that you’re a furry) to determine if it is true in reality?”

Optional Additional Reading Plan:

- “**Holy Sexuality and the Gospel: Sex, Desire, and Relationships Shaped by God's Grand Story** by [Christopher Yuan](#) Chapter 2: “A Case of Mistaken Identity”
- “**Tactics, 10th Anniversary Edition: A Game Plan for Discussing Your Christian Convictions**” by [Gregory Koukl](#) Chapter 3 “Getting in the Driver’s Seat”

Morals: Conversations of Consequence (Video #4)

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. By now, you can see the power of storytelling in having Conversations of Consequence. Why do humans universally have common responses to other humans in distress? Natural laws are descriptive – they describe how nature operates. But these common human responses are prescriptive – they tell us how we ought to respond. But why? From where do ‘moral oughts’ come? Discuss among your group the power of storytelling as a form of communication and how good questions encourage dialog? Are you becoming a better storyteller?
2. This idea of “fact or opinion” maybe unfamiliar to you, but it is very familiar to youth. The discussion of the holocaust is not merely for shock value. When asked if the statement “the holocaust was wrong” the vast majority of youth today will respond “that’s an opinion.” Showing them the error in that thinking is imperative, not just to prevent future similar atrocities, but to promote critical thinking skills with people that will enable them to think clearly on their own. Discuss the historical evidence of the convictions during the Nuremburg Trials and how they demonstrate that it is both an “opinion” and a “fact” that genocide is wrong. Of course, this is an age-appropriate discussion, so discuss with your group how might it be modified for a younger audience?
3. The existence of moral absolutes, what we ought to do in any given circumstance, demands an explanation. Nature provides no credible explanations for moral absolutes, yet they are undeniable. Since God is the only plausible explanation for moral absolutes, which seem to apply universally to all people, discuss with your group any ideas you might have of questions that could lead to a discussion of God.
4. Everything that we’ve covered so far in these first 4 videos would qualify as “religiously neutral” and are Conversations of Consequence that can occur even in circumstances where religious discussions are uncomfortable (or even expressly forbidden). Any of these subjects can be discussed anytime with anyone! Share with your group someone with whom you feel convicted to engage in a Conversation of Consequence. Record those names and commit to pray daily for each of your group members and the person they each shared.
5. Discuss ways you can help hold each other in the group accountable to develop a plan for a Conversation of Consequence, a precisely orchestrated conversation constructed to ask an important question, allowing them to talk while you listen well, then ask more questions.

Optional Additional Reading Plan:

- “That's Just Your Interpretation: Responding to Skeptics Who Challenge Your Faith” by [Paul Copan](#) Chapter 1 “It’s All Relative”
- “Tactics, 10th Anniversary Edition: A Game Plan for Discussing Your Christian Convictions” by [Gregory Koukl](#) Chapter 4 “Columbo Step 1”

Does God Exist? How do you know? Conversations of Consequence (Video #5)

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. In Mere Christianity, CS Lewis wrote, “A man does not call a line crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line.” There must be a Perfect reference standard by which all things are measured (God). But that argument falls short in the eyes of youth today, who demand evidence. What are the two lines of scientific evidence presented in the video that affirm the existence of God?
2. Jesus taught, “Look, I am sending you out as sheep among wolves. So be as shrewd as snakes and harmless as doves” (Mat 10:16), so using our minds logically and rationally to determine what we can know for certain about whatever caused the universe is a worthy endeavor. Whatever caused the universe, for absolutely certain, is not bounded by matter, it is Immaterial. It is not bounded by energy, it is All-Powerful. It is not bounded by space, it is Infinite. It is not bounded by time, it is Eternal. Discuss in you group how these known facts provide powerful attestation for God.
3. Science tells us that our exceedingly fine-tuned universe was caused to be, but science doesn’t tell us how it came to be. The question of how the universe came to be is like an “elephant in the room” that nobody wants to talk about, but it demands an explanation! To explain the fine tuning, you are likely to hear a response from youth that there a multitude of other universes out there (the multiverse theory). Science disallows metaphysical (beyond physics) answers like God, yet on what basis can scientists “rule out” God from consideration, while allowing multiverse theory? Discuss in your group why the multiverse theory is just as metaphysical an explanation as God?
4. Origin of Life Researchers have no geo-chemically relevant models to explain the origin of life on early earth, yet life is another “elephant in the room” that demands an explanation for its origins! From where did the first life form on Earth ever appear? How do you get life from lifeless chemicals? Discuss with your group why extraterrestrials do not solve the origin of life problem? (Hint: where did extraterrestrial life come from?) Why is God the best and most plausible explanation for both the origin of the universe and the origin of life?
5. The overview of creation in Genesis 1, where God optimizes Earth’s habitat and introduces increasingly complex life is not a stepwise science book tracks with what we see in the scientific record. Mysteries like the Cambrian Explosion track Day 5 of Creation in Gen. 1:20-31 but defy naturalistic explanations. Discuss how Scripture’s answer to these scientific conundrums provides powerful evidence for the existence of an all-knowing and all-powerful God for anyone who seeking evidence.

Optional Additional Reading Plan:

- “**Navigating Genesis: A Scientist's Journey through Genesis 1-11**” by [Hugh Ross](#) Chapter 3
“Creation of the Cosmos”
- “**Origins of Life: Biblical and Evolutionary Models Face Off**” by [Hugh Ross](#) Chapter 1
“Questions”

Who is God? Conversations of Consequence (Video #6)

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. When you ask this question, people may respond with what they think God is like (or the nature of God), but we want to discuss which god is really God, so the way you set-up your response should make it clear that you wish to explore the idea of an impartial arbiter that can objectively judge who is God. Discuss with your group the advantages of structuring the discussion like a court case using evidence and an impartial judge. How does framing the discussion this way differentiate between subjective opinions based on what we believe, and objective conclusions drawn from evidence?
2. Why can scientific things we know to be true with great certainty act as impartial arbiters (or judges)? Why are scientific things we are still learning about not good candidates for judging? Discuss Hebrews 11:1 “Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see.”
3. When evaluating religious worldviews, why is it significant that the god who creates the universe in every religion, except Christianity, creates the universe out of something already in existence?
4. Science has shown that the universe definitely began to exist, but this notion of matter, energy, space, and time coming into existence out of nothing (or at least nothing we know anything about), while a familiar concept to modern humans, was utterly inconceivable to all people prior to General Relativity. Why does a beginning infer a beginner?
5. Why is science a powerful ally when discussing Gen 1:1 with the lost?
6. Examples of scientific things the Bible gets uniquely right (more at <https://y2believe.org/partner/>)
 - a. Read Rom 8:18-23 where the 2nd Law of Thermodynamics is revealed, the pervasive law of decay that operates throughout the universe.
 - b. Read Jer. 33:25 which declares the laws of physics are fixed and unchanging.
 - c. Over the history of life on earth, an average of 1 new species appeared annually on planet Earth, radically outstripping extinctions. While extinction events are numerous during the human era, speciation is essentially zero. When the first humans appeared on Earth, there were 21,000 bird and 8000 mammal species in existence; only 9000 bird and 4000 mammal species remain today. Read Heb. 4:1-11 which explains why essentially no speciation events occur after the appearance of modern humans. After God created the crown of His creatures, human beings, He rested and will remain at rest until the end of time when He creates the New Heaven and New Earth (Rev 21:1-7).

Optional Additional Reding Plan:

- “Navigating Genesis: A Scientist's Journey through Genesis 1-11” by [Hugh Ross](#)
- “Tactics, 10th Anniversary Edition: A Game Plan for Discussing Your Christian Convictions” by [Gregory Koukl](#) Chapter 5 “Columbo Step 2”

Is the Bible Trustworthy? Conversations of Consequence (Video #7)

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. The Bible makes many important claims about itself. The Bible was written by men superintended by the Holy Spirit to produce the precepts by which God intends for us to live (see Ps 119:160, Mat. 5:17-18), so the stakes are very high that the Bible be trustworthy! Read 2 Tim. 3:16 and 2 Pet. 1:20-21. What does divine inspiration mean?
2. Historians use ancillary sciences to determine the accuracy, reliability and trustworthiness of any ancient work. Why are the number of copies of ancient documents important to Historians? Typically, 5-10 copies exist for non-biblical ancient documents, but do you recall from the video, by comparison, how many early copies exist for the Bible?
3. Another very important factor used by Historians in determining accuracy is how close the copies are to the events they purport to describe (the closer they are the less chance for errors to creep-in over time.) It is common for extant copies of non-biblical documents to range between 500-1500 years between the copies and the events they purport to describe. From the video, how close are the copies of the Bible to the events they purport to describe?
4. This embarrassment of riches, with over 5800 Greek manuscripts, 25K copies in different languages as close as 40 years from the events they purport to describe allows Historians to “see” >99% of the original autographs! Even if we remove the <1% of the words in question, it wouldn’t change one practice, teaching, doctrine, or belief in Christianity! Read 2 Cor 10:4-5 and 1 Pet. 3:15-16 then discuss how can Christians use the fact that we can see the original autographs to winsomely defend the truth, while we knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and destroy false arguments with gentleness and respect?
5. Archeology has uncovered thousands of archeological finds that affirm the veracity of people, places and events in the Bible. There has never been an archeological find that has definitively proven the Bible wrong; as the gaps fill-in with new finds, they continue to overturn speculative assertions that attempt to impugn the biblical record, building a stronger case for the veracity of the Bible. How does Isaiah’s prophesy in Isa. 40:8 bring us a confident hope?
6. First century authors wrote about contemporary events that affirm biblical events. Josephus, a particularly credible hostile witness as a Romano-Jewish Historian, confirmed the work of John the Baptist and identified James as the half-brother of Jesus, but what significant events surrounding Jesus life and death did Josephus most famously affirm as actual historical events?

Optional Additional Reading Plan:

- “The Historical Jesus” by [Gary Habermas](#)
- “Tactics, 10th Anniversary Edition: A Game Plan for Discussing Your Christian Convictions” by [Gregory Koukl](#) Chapter 6 “Two Reliable Rescues”

Evidence for the Resurrection: Conversations of Consequence (Video #8)

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. Read 1 Cor. 15:17-19. Why is the Resurrection a lynchpin of Jesus claim to be God?
2. In our civil system of law, innocence or guilt is determined by preponderance of evidence (weight of evidence approach). We use this system every day in our life to make decisions, like when it is safe to cross a street. A preponderance of evidence tells us that a slowing car will come to a stop, so we are not frozen in fear, refusing to enter a crosswalk for fear of getting hit. Why is a preponderance of evidence the only method used by Historians to assess any historical claim?
3. Brainstorm as a group to identify the seven key pieces of evidence discussed in the video that are accepted even by skeptics as historically true (name as many as you can)?

3.1. _____

3.2. _____

3.3. _____

3.4. _____

3.5. _____

3.6. _____

3.7. _____

4. The historical fact that in the face of intense persecution, rather than recant, many of the early followers of Christ willingly suffered horrendous deaths. This is one of the most powerful attestations to the truth of the Resurrection, however, it takes faith to accept that Jesus is Who He claimed to be. Read Heb. 11:1. Does God expect blind faith or is the Christian's faith the evidence of things unseen?
5. Does it take more faith to contend that the Resurrection didn't happen or that it did happen? Roll play how to winsomely make this assertion with someone acting as a skeptic who would maintain their skepticism about the Resurrection in the face of the evidence you offered...

Optional Additional Reading Plan:

- "The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus" by [Gary R. Habermas](#)
- "Tactics, 10th Anniversary Edition: A Game Plan for Discussing Your Christian Convictions" by [Gregory Koukl](#) Chapter 7 "Columbo Step 3"

The Problem of Evil: Conversations of Consequence (Video #9)

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. The attributes of God are the key to understanding theology. For example, eschatology (the study of end-times doctrine) is dependent of a God who knows the future. Read Isa. 46:10; Mal. 3:6. Since God knows the future, why isn't God responsible for evil?
2. Read James 1:17. Thomas Aquinas contended that evil is a lack of good in a substance or thing. Since God is infinitely good and there is no lack of good in Him, God can only make good things, so is evil a "thing" that God created? We know the problem of evil is very real, so from whence did evil come?
3. If love wills the greatest good for the beloved, why was it necessary for God to give us free-will? Dr. Norman Geisler said, God is responsible for the fact of freedom (which made evil possible), but free creatures are responsible for their acts of freedom (which makes evil actual). Why does free-will make evil possible?
4. Because we were made for Eden, we reflexively recoil at evil, which from our perspective, seems to be an abject failure, excessive and unnecessary. Read 1 John 3:20. Why is it unreasonable for us to question why a good God allows any evil or even question why God allows so much evil?
5. How does the analogy of rust on a car help people understand that evil is not a thing that can be created?
6. Read 1 Cor. 2:7-8 & 2 Tim 1:9. We are made in the image of God and He exercises His free-will perfectly. Why didn't God make us perfect, so we could follow Him perfectly?
7. Read 2 Pet. 3:9. Why hasn't God yet dealt with evil once-and-for-all?
8. Rev 21:1-22:5. How can we use the analogy of taking a trip to a beautiful destination, but getting stuck in a disheartening extended layover, help people focus on Heaven?
9. With all of the evil in the world, it's easy to see that this present world is not the best of all possible worlds. Why is the present world THE BEST MEANS TO ACHIEVE the best of all possible worlds?
10. Read John 10:10. How does a personal relationship with Jesus provide us with tremendous hope as we endure this dark world, while being salt and light as God's viceroys here on earth?

Optional Additional Reading Plan:

- "If God, Why Evil?: A New Way to Think About the Question" by [Norman L. Geisler](#)
- "Tactics, 10th Anniversary Edition: A Game Plan for Discussing Your Christian Convictions" by [Gregory Koukl](#) Chapter 8 "Perfecting Columbo"

Sexuality: Conversations of Consequence (Video #10)

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. Read Gen. 1:26-27. Something all human beings share is that each of us is made in the image of God and we can't change that, but our free-will allows us to deface our image. Why does Paul say in 1 Cor 6:18 to run from sexual sin?
2. Read Eph. 4:22-30. What role does free-will play in throwing off our sinful nature? How do we grieve the Holy Spirit?
3. Read Mat. 5:48. God is Perfect, but we are not, so why does God hold us accountable for our sexual ethics?
4. Discuss with your group how modern culture has influenced societal norms about identity, sex, abortion, marriage, divorce?
5. In "Holy Sexuality and the Gospel" Christopher Yuan unpacks the idea of holy sexuality as, "*chastity in singleness and faithfulness in marriage. Chastity is more than simply abstention from extra-marital sex; it conveys purity and holiness. Faithfulness is more than merely maintaining chastity and avoiding illicit sex; it conveys covenantal commitment,*" how can this fresh look that reestablishes Holiness in the sexuality discussions?
6. Read 1 Pet. 1:15-17. Choosing any rebellious behavior that God would consider sinful is something that we choose to do, but is not who we are. The opposite of sin is not abstinence, it is holiness! Discuss with your group how the Church's previous attempts at promoting abstinence was treating the symptoms (people engaging in illicit behavior) and not the disease (people's lack of holiness)?
7. Read Phil. 4:8. Advocating for holiness as a way of life not only calls us to a higher moral standard but promotes human flourishing. How can we reverse the trends in Churches accommodating immoral behavior and aligning with cultural lifestyles? How can we reestablish the Church as the standard bearer for genuine human flourishing?
8. Read Heb 11:1. This video series presents powerful evidence for the truth of Christianity, but God does not provide us with this rich abundance of proofs because He is interested in us giving mental assent to His existence. Why does God provide extra-biblical evidence that supports the truth of Scripture?
9. Read Rom 3:24; Mat 5:28; Rom 6:23; Rom 5:8; Eph 2:8-9; Rom 10:9-10; Mat 7:22-23. Discuss with the group the path to salvation and the necessity of having a personal relationship with Jesus.

Optional Additional Reading Plan:

- "Holy Sexuality and the Gospel: Sex, Desire, and Relationships Shaped by God's Grand Story" by [Christopher Yuan](#)
- "Tactics, 10th Anniversary Edition: A Game Plan for Discussing Your Christian Convictions" by [Gregory Koukl](#) Chapter 9 "Turnabout"