

Tools for Starting and Strengthening Jesus and Lost Friendships

Tips for using these words and phrases effectively:

- **Be genuine:** Use these words naturally and authentically.
- **Listen actively:** Pay attention to what others say and build on their ideas.
- **Be open to new ideas:** Embrace the unexpected and allow the conversation to flow.
- **Don't interrupt:** Allow others to fully express their thoughts.
- **Be more interested instead of trying to be interesting.**
- **Continue the conversation by asking great questions.**
- **Summarize and reflect:** Periodically recap key points to ensure everyone is on the same page.

Conversation starters for first time meeting:

Introduce yourself: “Hi, I’m...then ask a question.

1. “How long have you been attending Canvas?”
2. “Are you originally from here, or did you move from somewhere else?”
3. “What’s been a highlight of your week?”
4. “What are you looking forward to this summer?”
5. “How do you like to spend your weekends or free time?”
6. “What’s something you’re really excited about right now?”
7. “What’s the best part about what you do for work, school or in retirement?”
8. “Do you have any hobbies or activities that you’re really passionate about?”
9. “What’s one thing you’re hoping to accomplish this year?”
10. “What’s the best trip you’ve ever taken, or a destination you’d love to visit?”

Conversation Continuers:

1. “That’s really interesting! What led you to get into that?”
2. “Oh, I love that! How did that experience shape your perspective?”
3. “Tell me more about that! What was the most surprising part?”
4. “That sounds amazing! Has it always been something you’ve wanted to do?”
5. “Wow, that’s a unique take on things. What’s the best part about it for you?”
6. “That’s so cool! What’s been the most challenging part of it?”
7. “I didn’t know that! What’s something people often get wrong about it?”
8. “How did that make you feel? I bet it was quite the experience.”
9. “I totally get that. How do you usually handle situations like that?”
10. “That’s such an inspiring way to think. Has it influenced any other areas of your life?”

A simpler interaction or application: Hi, I'm... Wouldn't life be simpler if we all wore nametags? But imagine if you took just three extra minutes at a gathering to introduce yourself to someone who sits near you. (Preferably not during the message...Ah go ahead!) You never know, your next best friend might be sitting right there! Take the time to learn their name and ask a few questions: 'What's new?' (A highlight from their week), 'What's fun?' (Something they enjoy or did recently), and 'What's a win?' (A moment where God showed up in their life). If you like what you hear, invite them for coffee or a meal. And if they give you the creeps... just switch rows and try again!

Additional Thoughtful Questions to Get to Know Someone Better:

- "What's something you're passionate about that most people wouldn't know just by looking at you?"
- "If you could instantly become an expert in something, what would it be and why?"
- "What's the most interesting place you've traveled to, or where would you love to go next?"
- "Is there a book, movie, or show that has made a big impact on you?"
- "What hobbies or activities are you passionate about?"
- "What's a goal or challenge you're working on right now?"
- "If you could invite any three people, dead or alive, to dinner, who would you choose?"
- "What's one thing you've learned recently that really surprised you?"
- "If you could instantly master any skill or talent, what would it be?"
- "What's the best piece of advice you've ever received?"

Additional Ways to Get to continue and grow a conversation

Open-Ended Questions & Prompts:

- **"Could you elaborate on...":** (e.g., "Could you elaborate on your perspective?")
- **"What are your thoughts on...":** (e.g., "What are your thoughts on this idea?")
- **"What do you see as the main challenges/opportunities...":** (e.g., "What do you see as the main challenges/opportunities in this project?")

Words to Show Genuine Interest:

- **"That's fascinating":** (e.g., "That's fascinating, I'd love to hear more")
- **"I'm curious to know":** (e.g., "I'm curious to know your perspective")
- **"That's interesting":** (e.g., "That's interesting, tell me more")
- **"I'm intrigued":** (e.g., "I'm intrigued, tell me more")

Examples of Summarizing:

- "So, if I understand correctly, you're saying that..."
- "Just to recap, we've talked about..."

- "So far, we've agreed that strong friendships are built on trust and mutual support, but we also touched on the challenges of maintaining those friendships over time. Does that sum it up?"
- "Let me make sure I'm following: You've experienced both personal growth and challenges in your faith journey, and you've found strength through scripture and prayer. Is that right?"
- "From what we've discussed, it sounds like reconnecting with lost friends often involves forgiveness and grace, but it can also be difficult when there are differences in beliefs. Would you agree with that?"

Examples of Reflecting:

- "I really appreciate how you shared that. It sounds like you've found peace through your relationship with Jesus, and it's inspiring to hear how you're able to apply that peace to your friendships."
- "That really resonates with me. You mentioned that friendships can change, but they're still valuable because they teach us about grace and forgiveness. I think that's such an important lesson."
- "I'm struck by how you said forgiveness doesn't always mean reconciliation, but it's about letting go of bitterness. That's something I need to reflect on more in my own relationships."
- "I love how you're focusing on prayer when dealing with...It seems like a really powerful way to seek peace, especially when the situation is hard to understand."
- "Your point about the balance between love and truth in friendships really made me think. It's a reminder that we can still show love, even if we don't agree on everything."