

Four Keys # 1

Caring Conversation



Proverbs 15:23

A fitting answer gives joy, and a word in season, how good it is!

Colossians 4:6

Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

HOW TO SPEAK A WORD IN SEASON?

What does 'a word in season' mean to you? Can you recall receiving a 'word in season'?

1. EARN THE RIGHT TO BE HEARD BY

How can we know when an answer is "fitting"? How can we know we will be heard?

2. PAY ATTENTION TO PEOPLE'S

*"Go Broncos. Watch out for magpies! Season's Greetings. Lest We Forget"
"Good morning! I am sorry. Congratulations. Let's go fishing."*

3. COMMITMENT AND PUT YOU IN THE RIGHT PLACE TO TALK

The Holy Spirit will miraculously put you in the right place at the right time. But more often you will be placed in the right place and time simply because you were there a lot: consistently!

4. TRAIN YOURSELF TO AFFIRM THE " " IN EVERYONE.

You'll never speak something worthwhile unless in your heart you affirm the dignity, the equality, the worth of the other person. This is the absolute heart of Christian morals.

5. DON'T BREAK IN, BUT REMAIN PATIENTLY

Revelation 3:20. Jesus says, "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me."

JESUS IS THE WORD IN SEASON

KEY # 1. CARING CONVERSATION

Pastors David Anderson and Dick Hardel of the Youth and Family Institute:

"One of the primary challenges facing the church today in passing on the Christian faith is simply helping family members communicate with each other in ways which reflect and embody the loving, merciful and saving activity of God in their lives. The first of the Four Keys - "Caring Conversation" - refers to the multiple and varied ways in which the living and active Word of God breaks through into our day-to-day communications with others."

We hand down 'life' through caring conversations - when we listen and spend special time really getting to know young people. It's about simply being there - with people. It's simply about letting your faith happen in your everyday lives.

"Caring conversation" takes place in everyday life when:

- We give the gift of focussed undivided attention.
- We accept and accommodate the 'level' of the person we are listening to.
- We talk about God's presence and our relationship with God in everyday life.
- We say sorry (repent) for wrongdoing and forgive each other.
- We relate our lives to the "great story" of the Bible.
- We affirm and encourage.

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IT STARTS WITH "HOLY GROUND" – WHERE IS YOUR HOLY GROUND?

Would you stop now for a moment and write down a piece of "holy ground" in your life.

Caring Conversation Ideas

- Share "highs" and "lows" of your day or week.
- Simply ask "Where did you see God today?" or "What are you thankful for today?"
- Encourage & affirm each day.
- Turn off all screens and make time to give focussed and undivided attention!
- Don't let the sun go down on anger. Quickly forgive. Parents forgive children.
- Talk about what happened in church, Sunday school or at youth group.
- Ask: "What did you do today?" and listen carefully.
- Share stories of how God is working in your life.
- Take time to appropriately and deeply affirm.