A Simple 4-Step Guide
From your friends at Lifetree Café
“Conversation isn't about proving a point; true conversation is about going on a journey with the people you are speaking with.”

—Ricky Maye, author of An Emerging Spirituality

Good conversations, whether they’re with friends or strangers, have a way of sticking with people. They challenge us, help us process, and certainly help us grow closer to others.

Unfortunately, conversation is quickly becoming a lost art form, even in the church. Deep discussions about spiritual truths have been replaced with “fill-in-the-blank” answers. And people are learning more about each other from Facebook than face-to-face interactions.

As you continue 2019, here are four simple ideas for reinvigorating your small groups, Bible studies, and Sunday school classes by infusing the power of conversation.
It’s common to start small groups or Bible studies with prayer, inviting the Holy Spirit into the conversation. But what if the next step was to invite the people around you into the same discussion? Intentionally set the stage for engaging conversation by saying something like:

“Thank you for being here today. As we begin our time together, I want to remind you that you’re welcome just as you are. Your thoughts are welcome. Your doubts are welcome. We’re all in this together, and God is here, ready to connect with you in a fresh way.”
Deep, life-changing conversation rarely comes about cold turkey. A simple icebreaker question related to the day’s topic primes the pump for further thought, openness, and quality conversation. Starting with a low-risk question like “How was your week?” paves the way for deeper questions like “How has Jesus impacted your life?”
While some people find it easy to share their thoughts and feelings, others in your small group may be hesitant to speak up. Focusing on topics and issues that impact adults’ everyday lives gives them something meaningful to talk about. Connecting those topics to a truth about God makes it easier for people to see how he is working in their own lives.

And when you ask a question, don’t be afraid to share an example from your own life first. You’ll model vulnerability and reassure group members it’s safe to share.
When people see or hear a story that grabs their attention, conversational floodgates open. A topic-related video or illustration makes even difficult subjects easier to discuss. Stories build off of one another. Share one, and others will follow.
Hello.

We’re Lifetree Café, and our simple mission is to help people grow in relationship with Jesus and each other through the power of conversation and experiences.

We help you create an atmosphere that encourages deepening relationships—and that’s what moves your small groups past surface small talk into meaningful spiritual conversations. Each Lifetree program is carefully crafted to engage your adults and help them discover important truths about God, themselves, and one another.

We’d love to show you exactly how we do it. Visit LifetreeCafé.com to see how you can bring the power of conversation to your ministry—and preview 2 FREE Sample Programs.

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