



How I Used First 5 Conversations

This resource can be extremely valuable for the Parent/Guardian who desires to connect deeply with their Teen but struggles to craft meaningful conversations.

But how do use this resource? Here is how I used First 5 Conversations.

How I Used First 5 Conversations

As part of my local Church programming, we offered “Parenting Workshops” once or twice a year. There was a variety of ways we offered these workshops.

Sometimes we would hire a speaker/presenter, or purchase a resource to work thru together, or other times I would address specific needs in our congregation. This resource was created to meet the specific needs in our congregation.

Our workshop was held on the same night & time as our Youth gathering. The Youth would meet in the Youth room with the Youth Volunteers, and I would gather the Parents in a different room on the Church property. The fact that these events were named “workshops” was very intentional. For our context, this meant that the parents were not coming to learn from an “expert” but to review high quality material, discuss the material in groups with their peers, and then come home with one or two things to apply.

I sent the Parents the material one week in advance, in this case the article, and sent a 60 second video introducing the content and inviting them to the Parenting Workshop.

The flow of the Workshop started with encouraging & thanking the Parents for showing up. I would then spend about 15 minutes presenting an overview of the material. *Use the Powerpoint and presenting notes provided. The majority of the time would be spent in table-discussion, debrief & application & prayer.

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This type of workshop could be hosted online using Zoom, with breakout rooms.

I hope you find this valuable for your ministry!

Eric West



Purpose

The purpose of this seminar is to provide tools for families to have a series of meaningful conversations that lead to deeper understanding, mutual respect, and relationship. This material is organized to best equip the local Youth Ministry worker with basic content and facilitating notes to provide a high-quality, simple parenting seminar in the local church setting.

Your Role as Facilitator

You do not need to be the expert in this setting. You can, instead, provide your expertise in crafting a collection of materials and an event that supports the specific needs in your church. Instead of being an expert, be pastoral. Be encouraging, understanding, and show the attendees that this event is meaningful and practically helpful.

Also Included:

- Presenter Notes
- The Article
- PowerPoint Presentation
- Advertising Graphics
- Blank Conversation Starter Worksheet
- Sample Seminar Outline

Getting Ready

1. Pray for the specific needs of your congregation. Ask God to reveal an emphasis or key word for this seminar. Listen for His answer. (Sometimes: connection, communication, listening, respect, etc.)
2. Research. Ask four or five of your core youth ministry parents what seminar format would best suit their needs. Is this a one-night seminar with a meal? A two-week study? An online seminar that is pre-recorded? Pitch this idea to your Senior Pastor and/or key

leaders and ask for their input and support. Maybe there's a way to get the whole church on board?

3. Prep. Make sure you get all materials ready ahead of time, practice your speaking parts, get someone to double-check your work. See *the checklist below*.
4. Personally Invite. Let's be honest: church announcements don't work that well. Make all your time and effort count by making personal invitations. Personal invitations will have the best yield.

Facilitator “To-do” Checklist

- Read a “first pass” of the article and highlight what stuck out to you as important.
- Set a Seminar Date.
- Decide how to advertise (advertising graphics included).
- Preview seminar slides (if needed, customize them for your context).
- Print one copy of the article for each participant.
- Read the article a second time and send it to participants one week ahead. Instruct them to “feel free to skim it.”
- Organize room for round-table discussion groups.
- Prepare three or four “Would You Rather” questions as icebreaker.

Would You Rather Questions

(Use these or Google a few)

1. Would you rather live the rest of your life without A/C & Heat or without Internet?
2. Would you rather have to always speak in rhyme or sing what you say?
3. Would you rather have your car or your phone be stolen?
4. Would you rather never shower again but get clean clothes every day, or never get clean clothes but shower every day?
5. Would you rather have to do an impromptu sermon or sing in church on Sunday?