



WHAT ON  
EARTH ARE  
WE HERE  
FOR

NORTHVIEW STUDENTS



# WHAT ARE WE HERE FOR?

This year, we've been on a journey to discover what is, "essential." What is essential in our Christian walk? When we get to the end of our lives and we finally meet Jesus and He asks us "What did you do with the life my Father gave you?" How will we respond? The two greatest commandments boil down to this: Love God with everything you have, and love your neighbor as yourself. In this series, we are tackling two hard questions: What on Earth am I here for? And, How do I love God and love my neighbor as myself?





## WEEK 1

The first and greatest commandment is found in the Book of Matthew, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." Loving God can sound easy, but for most of us, it can be incredibly intimidating. How do we even begin to love the Creator of everything?? What does that look like? Why does it matter?

Text: Matthew 22:37; 1 Corinthians 13:1-3; 1 John 4:7-8; 1 John 4:19

THP (Take Home Point): You can't pour from an empty cup

## WEEK 2

The second is like it, "love your neighbor as yourself." How are we to love those around us? God has strategically placed people in our lives to love. Are we being intentional in loving the circle of people around us? How we love our circle matters!

Text: Colossians 3:12; Galatians 6:2; James 5:16; Hebrews 3:13; 1 Corinthians 13:4-6; Romans 12:15; James 1:19; Colossians 3:13

THP (Take Home Point): There is a purpose to loving your circle

## WEEK 3

We've understood the importance of loving God, and our "front row" or our oikos over the past few weeks and we've implemented the right habits in order to do so. This last week brings everything together, and we uncover who needs this love the most, and the types of people we tend to overlook.

Text: 1 John 3:18; John 15:12-17; 1 Corinthians 13:1-3; Romans 2:3-4; Romans 12:10; Romans 13:10 Matthew 20:28; Mark 12:30; 1 Timothy 5:8; Galatians 5:13

THP (Take Home Point): You cannot fulfill the Great Commission without the great-est commandments.

# A GUIDE FOR CONVERSATION



## GET PREPARED

- Read the overview for the week to get a basic grasp on what is being taught.
- Have the THP (Take Home Point) memorized so that you can bring it up with your student.
- For bonus points, read some/all of the Scriptures listed and do some research on what's being communicated!

## GET CURIOUS

- Start slow and light. Maybe ask an icebreaker question such as: "Did you meet anyone new tonight?" "What was the highlight of the night?" "Was there any good food?"
- Ask a specific question regarding the THP (Take Home Point). "Hey, I know the THP for tonight was \_\_\_\_\_. What did you take away from that?"
- Pay attention to their answer! Use their answer to draw out follow up questions. "You mentioned it challenged you in the area of devotion. Where do you feel like you could be more devoted this week?"
- Ask them how the message can apply to their every day life THIS week: "In light of feeling challenged to be more devoted, what if you devoted yourself to homework before video games this week? Or your Bible before your phone?"
- Partner with them: "In light of being challenged to be devoted, what if we— together—devoted ourselves to eating dinner at the dinner table 3 times this week?"

## GET BENEATH THE SURFACE

- This step—admittedly—will take time and will depend on the type of relationship you have with your student. However, consistency is key. The more you practice, the better you'll get!
- Notice their body language, tone of voice, and other non-verbal cues. What are they projecting? Stress? Anxiety? Anger? Sadness? Joy? Ask a specific question to draw that out: "How are you feeling after tonight?"
- Are they closed off to conversation or open to it? If closed off, ask them if there's anything they'd like to discuss. If they still don't budge, use your judgment on whether to press again or let the conversation be.
- Reaffirm your availability. "If there's anything more you'd like to talk about, I just want you to know that I'm here for you."

## GET VULNERABLE

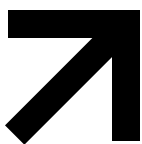
- As you wade into deeper conversation, offer an appropriate amount of vulnerability.
- Begin to share your own experiences regarding the subject being discussed (i.e. "when I was in High School, I had a really difficult time not giving into peer pressure. Here's how I got help to make better decisions." Or, "here's what I wish I would have done to avoid the consequences that naturally came as a result of my poor choices.")
- Allow your student to see your humanity. Invite them in to a story of relationship that you can write together, in real time.





## GET PRACTICAL

- At Northview, we always talk about moving people to their “NEXT.” So, for your student (and you!), what is going to be their NEXT after having this conversation?
- Do they need to apologize to someone? Do they need to confess something? Do they need to express gratitude for something? Help them determine what their NEXT is going to be.
- Finally, hold them accountable. Follow up! Make sure that they come through on what it is that they said they’d do.



# CONVERSATION TIPS



# IF/WHEN THEY DISAGREE

What do we do when there is pushback and rebuttals? How can we avoid letting this conversation become a wedge in the relationship?

## Be respectful, not dismissive

We cannot act quickly to dismiss our students as ignorant or be too harsh when responding to their rebuttals. If we do, it will close them off and truth cannot walk through a closed door.

## Keep your emotions in check (Don't freak out)

Refuse to get defensive. Don't allow your student to feel as if you're against them. Calmly, politely, wade through the conversation even if you feel them getting hyperemotional.

## Find and mention common ground

In her TED Talk on debate, Julia Dhar says, "...the way to reach people is by finding common ground." We have to intentionally find places to use the phrase "I agree that \_\_\_\_\_" or "I can see how \_\_\_\_\_ can make sense."

Where is it that you and your student can find common ground?

Finding common ground can look like: "I can see how you would see it that way." "I can tell you've thought about this." or "I can tell that you have been thinking about this."

## Probe a disagreement with questions

Questions are usually a better use of rebuttal than spitting out our thoughts. Ask them,

"Where did you learn that?"

"How do you see it differently?"

"What brought you to this conclusion?"



# RESOURCES YOU CAN BUY



**WHY JESUS?** By Nicky Gumbel

**CONFRONTING CHRISTIANITY** By Rebecca McLaughlin

**IMAGINE HEAVEN** by John Burke

Congratulations on engaging in an intentional conversation with your student! Whether you made it through step 1 or all 5 steps, give yourself a pat on the back. Every conversation must start somewhere. Your relationship will be better for it in the long run! You're doing the hard work!

## WHEN FAMILIES WIN, WE WIN!





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