

## **How to Have Better Intentional Conversations - A Clear Path Workshop**

For some Catholics talking about our faith is something we find difficult to do in almost every situation. You know the saying, “don’t talk about religion or politics” at the Thanksgiving Dinner table. Some of us may be more motivated to talk about our faith, but don’t feel very well prepared or have had bad experiences where our efforts backfired or seemed ineffective. Don’t be discouraged or afraid! This training is for ordinary Catholics who want to be better equipped to share their faith and the joy of the gospel. The audience we will learn to reach are those at the beginning stages on the Thresholds of Conversion and Discipleship. People in the first three stages (Pre-Trust, Trust, and Curiosity) need what the experts call Relational Outreach: A relational witness to the love of God through personal accompaniment, acts of service and mercy, and joyful living. Part of personal accompaniment involves listening and coming to know the person you wish to share your faith with and then asking them intentional questions to elicit and increase in their desire to know more about how and why our faith guides and strengthens us. This training will include some presentation on do’s and don’ts and facilitate chances to practice having intentional conversations with your fellow workshop participants. We will also explore a variety of ways that this approach to relational outreach can be integrated with other parish ministry and outreach efforts and how each of us can use this simple approach in our daily life.

### **Schedule**

6:30 Opening prayer

6:40-7 Initial presentation – Why talk about our faith in Jesus? / Overview of the Thresholds / When and how: do’s and don’ts / Importance and value of prayer (and fasting)

7-8 Video segments of When Jenny Met Kate with discussion starters for each section with short review of some people’s conversations and how they went.

## **When Jenny Met Kate**

We will watch and discuss each segment of this video to learn many practical aspects of intentional conversations.

### **Segment One – First encounter (0.00 – 2.30)**

*Key insight: evangelization begins with making friends*

What other insights did you gain from seeing Jenny in action?

What did you notice that she decided to wait to say? How did she redirect the conversation to avoid saying things that would be better left for a future conversation?

### **Segment Two – Earning the right to be heard (2.33 – 8.15)**

*Key insight: personal testimony is an essential way to share the Gospel*

What other insights did you gain from seeing Jenny in action?

Why do you think Jenny thought it was the right time to give her testimony? What were some key elements of the way she did this... what did she say and how?

Following Jenny's example, how would you have delivered a similar testimony?

**Segment Three – Connecting faith to the messiness of life (8.20 – 11.17)**

*Key insight: Showing authentic concern for their needs and problems*

What other insights did you gain from seeing Jenny in action?

Why do you think Jenny thought it was the right time to pray with Kate? What were some key elements of the way she did this... what did she pray and how?

Why do you think Jenny proclaimed the Kerygma (the basic gospel message) at this particular moment and not before?

**Segment Four – Kate says so what? How to react to someone’s initial objections (11.20 – 13.50)**

*Key insight: Offering our testimony again and again at the right time is our best answer to resistance.*

What other insights did you gain from seeing Jenny in action?

Why do you think Jenny didn’t offer long explanations about the faith or prod Kate about attending her roommate’s bible study? What did she do?

What kinds of questions did Jenny ask to learn about how things were going for Kate in her new situation?

Why do you think Jenny proclaimed the Kerygma (the basic gospel message) at this particular moment and not before?

### **Segment Five – Kate & the kerygma (13.55 – 19.17)**

*Key insight: Focus on the kerygma when the person is ready.*

How did Jenny redirect the conversation when Kate voiced initial interest in trying to seek out God, but expressed other issues related to obligations or moral issues? Why did she do this?

The Kerygma: “The initial, ardent proclamation of the Gospel by which a person is one day overwhelmed and brought to the decision to entrust oneself to Jesus Christ by faith.” -Pope St. John Paul II, On Catechesis in Our Time, #25

“Even the finest witness will prove ineffective in the long run if it is not explained, justified... and made explicit by a *clear and unequivocal proclamation of the Lord Jesus*...There is no true evangelization if the name, the teaching, the life, the promises, the kingdom and the mystery of Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God are not proclaimed.” -Pope Paul VI, *Evangelization in the Modern World*, #22

Why do you think Jenny proclaimed the Kerygma (the basic gospel message) again at this time?

Why did she avoid being pushy or demanding that Kate make a decision on the spot?

### **Segment Six – Kate takes a big step (19.20 – 24.15)**

*Key insight: Answer questions with discretion and clarity, make the connection between the sacraments and personal relationship with Jesus.*

How did Jenny make the connection between the sacraments and personal relationship with Jesus?

Why does Jenny offer to accompany Kate to confession?

### **Segment Seven – What could go wrong? Bloopers (24.18 – end)**

What do you think about the ways this version of Jenny avoids getting into intentional conversations?