

"What If?" | *Turning a Conversation Toward Jesus*

One of the easiest ways to transition a meaningful conversation toward Jesus is by asking a simple question that begins with **"What if...?"** Rather than arguing or forcing the conversation, you're inviting the other person to consider a different possibility. You're creating curiosity and offering hope that Jesus may be the answer to the very thing they've been talking about. Listen carefully for what someone is longing for, then connect that longing to the gospel.

Example One: Purpose, Significance, or Rest

After asking questions and listening for what someone is looking to for their purpose, significance, identity, or rest, you might ask:

***"WHAT IF** I told you there was a way for you to have purpose, significance, and rest without having to go looking for it or achieve it? What if purpose wasn't something you found by changing yourself or your circumstances, but by receiving a gift from God? Would that be of interest to you?"*

From there, explain when someone surrenders their life to Jesus, God makes them into a **new creation**.

- God gives them a new identity. (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- God places His own Spirit within them. (Romans 8:9-11)
- God gives them new purposes that He prepared for them. (Ephesians 3:8-10)

Purpose is not something we earn. It is something God graciously gives through Christ.

Example Two: Certainty About Heaven

If the conversation turns to faith, spiritual beliefs, death, or the afterlife, you might ask:

***"WHAT IF** I told you there was a way to know beyond a shadow of a doubt that you would spend eternity in heaven? Would that be of interest to you?"*

Then open to **John 3:16** and explain that God doesn't merely offer the possibility of eternal life—He promises it.

Those who believe that God gave His Son, Jesus Christ, to die for their sins are promised that they **will have everlasting life**. Our assurance is based on God's promise, not our performance.

Example Three: Trying to Be Good Enough

If someone believes that being a good or moral person is what earns acceptance with God, ask:

"WHAT IF I told you there was a way you didn't have to carry the burden of trying to keep all the religious rules in order for God to accept you? Would that be of interest to you?"

Then explain:

- None of us has kept God's standard perfectly. (*Romans 3:23*)
- Jesus is the One who perfectly fulfilled God's law. (*Matthew 5:17*)
- Through faith, Jesus gives believers His righteousness. (*Romans 5:14-17; 2 Corinthians 5:21*)

The gospel is not about earning acceptance with God. It is about receiving the perfect righteousness of Jesus as a gift.

Example Four: Feeling Unwanted or Beyond God's Love

If someone shares that they've messed up too badly for God to want them—or they come from a home where they never felt wanted—you might ask:

"WHAT IF I told you there was a way to become part of a family where you are always wanted, always loved, and never abandoned—even when you don't feel worthy or when others fail you? Would that be of interest to you?"

Then explain that through Jesus, God adopts believers into His own family.

- God becomes their loving Father. (*Ephesians 1*)
- His love is deeper and greater than we can fully comprehend. (*Ephesians 3:14-19*)

Everyone who repents, believes the gospel, and trusts in Jesus becomes a beloved son or daughter of God.

The Goal

The purpose of the **"What If?"** question is not to pressure someone into a decision. It is simply to create an opportunity to connect the deepest longings of the human heart with the good news of Jesus Christ.

People are often searching for purpose, acceptance, forgiveness, peace, identity, hope, or certainty. The gospel answers every one of those longings.

Ask good questions. Listen well. Then invite them to consider one more question:

"What if Jesus is the answer you've been looking for all along?"