

Ideas for Responding to Conversation Stoppers



Who will be saved?

The householder (hh) said 'Only those who have accepted Jesus in their lives will be saved'. The brother responded with 'We certainly agree with that, but where does that leave Abraham, Moses, Job, King David and all the others in the Old Testament who never knew of Jesus?'

A brother was talking with a 'hh' about being saved. The 'hh' said, 'I have accepted Jesus in my life, recognize that he died for my sins and I'm now saved'. The brother responded with 'Well, if that is the case, shouldn't the Bible be one paragraph long? What is the rest of it for? That's why we go door to door - to offer people Bible studies to learn about all the requirements from God'.

Forgiveness -

Concerning a Bible study (or anyone) who has a difficult time forgiving someone and has a great deal of resentment: 'Resentment is like drinking a glass of poison and waiting for the other person to die'. Great illustration!

The 'hh' usually will ask: 'What religion are you?' In most cases we would answer: 'Jehovah's Witnesses' and the conversation would normally end there with the words: 'Sorry, not interested!' But reply in this manner: 'Jehovah's Witness and you?' This mandates a reply from the 'hh', thus allowing us to continue the conversation.

When the 'hh' says 'I'm not interested' at the beginning of the conversation, reply: 'I don't blame you, I haven't said anything interesting yet.'

One circuit overseer suggests leaving a question with the 'hh' whether or not they are too interested in listening to us: 'We were asking our neighbor's opinion of this: 'If Jesus was to return to the earth, what church would he attend?'" It is amazing many don't automatically say their own!

Belief in God

For those who do NOT believe that God will intervene:

JW: 'If you had the power to eliminate the bad things on earth, would you?'

Response: 'Yes.'

JW: 'Then if God does not, then your ability to love and your capacity for compassion is greater than God's. Do you think that could be true?'

Including our elderly brothers and sisters in field service

Even if they don't feel they can give a presentation, they can be included if the 'hh' will let you read a scripture. I've said 'I have an older friend here with me today; she's ___ years old and loves to share Bible thoughts. Is it okay if she reads this scripture for us?' Usually, people are impressed and say yes. After she reads it, I thank her and continue on.

When I first started doing phone service, I looked around the congregation to see who might like to join me. We had a brother and a sister who both had strokes. The brother couldn't remember what he wanted to say, so I typed up a small presentation for him with one scripture. He could read it like he was talking. The sister could know what she wanted to say, but couldn't formulate the words. I made hers real short. When it was her turn, I made the call and said 'I'm working with a group of handicapped people today, and they love to talk to people about the Bible. I have on the line a Mrs. ____. Would you give her a few minutes and listen to her?' If they said yes, I said 'Mrs. ____ has a little trouble speaking, so please be patient with her.' Then she would haltingly give her presentation, they listened, and she placed quite a bit of literature. I typed up short return visits for them so they could call back.

We worked together every Sat. & Sun. morning for 3 hours. Soon we had so many return visits that we had to work on Wed. evening, too. After a couple years of this, the brother had a leg amputated (then he was 76) and couldn't come over to work, so he invited the pioneers to work with him at home. He put in one hour a day, every day, for the rest of his life. He was in his mid 80's when he passed on. So, with a little help from the rest of us, our older ones can stay active even if they are homebound. One sister who worked with me was a feisty 95!

One True Religion

There are over 10,000 religions in the world. If God set these up for us to learn to worship Him properly, learn to love one another, and have useful, peaceful lives, we can only arrive at one of two conclusions. Either he failed miserably, or he didn't set them up in the first place and something else is behind them. Do you agree?

There are now over 700 divisions within the Baptist church. Ask the 'hh', 'How do you feel about that?' Then go to 1 Cor. 1:10, and continue on from there.

King James Bible

In a discussion with a 'hh', the 'hh' made the statement: 'The King James Bible is the only true Bible from God'. The Brother said 'Oh, is that the one the apostles used? Or did the apostles have the wrong Bible?'

In the introduction of the Emphatic Diaglott, on page five there is a section called 'History of English Versions'. (It should be pointed out that the Watchtower Society publishes this book, but did not compile it). Then show them that it states on pages 5-6 that the KJ Bible has been 'convicted of containing over 20,000 errors.' Do they know where the errors exist?

Trinity

Sometimes it is such a simple answer that will satisfy people when we talk to them about their Bible questions. This experience sent from Ecuador proves this point as the brother reasoned so well on the trinity:

His wife writes: Then they wanted to talk a bit more about the subject of the 'Trinity.' So Jeff used a teaching tool that he found in one of the publications. He asked, 'If you wanted to illustrate equality between two family members, which family members would you choose?' The man said, 'Brothers'. That is correct. But the Bible never presents Jehovah and Jesus as brothers. It stipulates that Jehovah is the Father and Jesus the Son. Are they equal? 'No!' Needless to say that illustration really stuck in their minds and they got the point.

A 'hh' stated that he believed in the trinity. The JW then said 'Oh, then you have the latest information on it?' The man asked what that was and the JW brought out the Trinity brochure!

Trinitarians usually start off with some 'proof texts' then launch into some Greek words they know. Instead of trying to 'duke it out' with them, bypass all of that by saying, 'Let's suppose you are right, the trinity does exist and we are wrong, please show me from the bible what I should do to find the right religion.' This usually stops them cold as they have never thought about guiding someone to the truth, only about stopping JW's on the trinity. Very quickly you figure out if they are sheep like.

Immortality of the Soul

A brother was talking with a 'hh' about the immortality of the soul. The brother turned to Genesis 2:17 and read it to the 'hh' and said 'Here God states that you will positively die.' Then he turned to Genesis 3:4 and read it to the 'hh' and said 'Here Satan said you will positively not die. Which do you choose to believe?'

JW said to a devote Jewish lady : 'It is commendable that you are trying to follow all of God's laws but I'm curious, why don't you sacrifice animals as commanded in the Bible?' The 'hh' didn't know how to reply so the JW recommended she ask her Rabbi. When the JW made the return visit the woman said that the Rabbi told her that the temple in Jerusalem was destroyed in the year 70 CE and they do not have any place to sacrifice anymore. The JW replied that the Temple was indeed destroyed in 70 CE but the command to sacrifice animals was given to the Israelites even to be carried out in the wilderness and throughout their generations. Realizing that she was not fully carrying out God's law as she had thought caused her to think and accept a Bible study!

Mormon religion

Mormons believe that Jesus came to the Americas to preach after his death. They refer to the Indians as 'Lamanites'. Show them John 17:4, which is where Jesus told Jehovah in prayer that he 'had finished the work he had been given to do'. So if he was finished how and by whose authority did he come to America to preach?

Miscellaneous

Use a different approach with those who claim that Jesus was not God's equal but only while he was on the earth, read Revelation 2:18 which states 'the Son of God says'. Then turn in the NWT to the page after the last chapter in Revelation to show them when Revelation was written: 96 C.E., over 60 years AFTER Jesus went to heaven.

The belief that the Trinity is a mystery, that the father is God, the Son is God and the Holy Spirit is God, is stated by Christendom to be a 'mystery!' Could the following be a reason they label it a mystery? Luke 1:36 states that Mary and Elizabeth are cousins, and that John is 6 months older than Jesus, making John and Jesus second cousins. Luke 3:23 says Jesus was about 30 years old when he was baptized by John, and here is where the 'mystery' begins. The Trinity teachers claim that Jesus is God. This immediately makes John God's second cousin, and makes John 6 months older than God - and man was here on earth 4,000 years before God was born. This is ridiculous, but it gets even better. When you read Luke 3:21, 22, John had the unspeakable privilege of baptizing his Creator, who was also his second cousin. But the incredible thing is that John was 6 months old before his Creator was born.

The Trinity teachers say that the Holy Spirit is also God. So, now, get this! While John is standing there in the water, he sees God come down and sit down on top of his own head. And, that's not all - he gets a good look at God. God is now either a bird sitting on top of what looks like a man (or is it the other way round?)

Then, he discovers this God-Bird-Man is also a ventriloquist - while he stands there in utter disbelief, God tells a deliberate lie to the people who are watching. Obviously he doesn't want the people to know that he is really God, so he throws his voice to make it appear like someone in Heaven is speaking and saying 'This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.' This is amazing!! No wonder they call it a mystery.

(Thanks to everyone who contributed)