

Best for

Those seeking to connect the Bible with their church context and life circumstances.

Concept

Imagine a church community where people are enabled to hear God speaking into their life circumstances through the Bible.

Conversations is a contextual approach to Bible Study. It encourages participants to share in a conversation around any selected passage, helping the group to hear God speaking to them through that text. Attention is given to the language and historical context of the text, as well as the present day context of the participants.

Features

- Focuses on scriptures that are relevant to the context of the group.
- Questions that enable everyone to participate while digging deep into scripture.
- Strong encouragement to apply the Bible to life.

Method

Preparation

- Select a passage
The passage chosen should have particular relevance to those participating in the study.
- Research background and context of the passage.
- Create questions
Each question can be considered in groups of 3 or by the whole group.
- Opening question: “What jumps off the page for you?”
- Other question ideas:
Naming, listing or describing question.
Thinking or theological question.
Further thinking or theological question.
Contextual question: how does this text speak into our context?
Practical application question: what needs to change as a result of this text?
Personal response question: what is God asking me to do as a result of this text?

Study

- Pray to begin, that God would speak through his word, and that everyone would hear.
- Read passage together (perhaps have this printed on a A4 sheet for each person).
- Introduce context of passage.
- Consider discussion questions.
- Close in prayer, asking that God would continue to speak through his word, and that hearing, we would delight to respond.