

MEETING NEW PEOPLE | Participant Guide

Video Prework

In this [13-minute video](https://youtu.be/g42mLGATG-c), community organizer Ernesto Cortes explains how to have a relational meeting. Link: <https://youtu.be/g42mLGATG-c>

In [this 10-minute interview](https://youtu.be/2yKXIQScvvU), late night host Craig Ferguson and theologian/activist Dr. Cornel West. Link: <https://youtu.be/2yKXIQScvvU>

In [this one and a half minute video](https://youtu.be/8JI0IL9wRjo), a behavioral science expert explains how to have conversations that motivate others. Link: <https://youtu.be/8JI0IL9wRjo>

Scriptural Foothold

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

Matthew 13:1-9 NRSV

Food for Thought

Evangelism is often considered a dirty word in contemporary culture and yet it is a critical practice for starting new communities. It implies that we are meeting new people and inviting them to partner with us to start a new community. For Christians, evangelism is naming and identifying what God has done and is doing. We do not create good news so much as we identify what God has done. Just as Adam participates in the creation narrative in Genesis 2:19 by *naming* that which God has made good, we too are invited to identify that which God has done and is doing.

For Reflection *(please write down your answers)*

1. What does a “good soil” conversation look like in your context?
2. Dr. West displayed authenticity, focus, and curiosity. He was affirming and relational with the host, Craig Ferguson. Are these characteristics important? Explain.
3. Using the O.A.R.S. method, make a list of 6 people you are willing to have conversations with.

Taking Action *(please fill out during our session together)*

In support of cultivating a new faith community:

For me: I commit to _____, starting _____, and I will ask _____ to be my accountability partner.

For my team: I will teach my team on meeting new people on _____.

Additional Resources

McNeil, Brenda Salter, *A Credible Witness*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2008.

Reese, Martha Grace, *Unbinding the Gospel*. Danvers: Chalice Press, 2008.

Stone, Bryan, *Evangelism after Christendom*. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2007.

