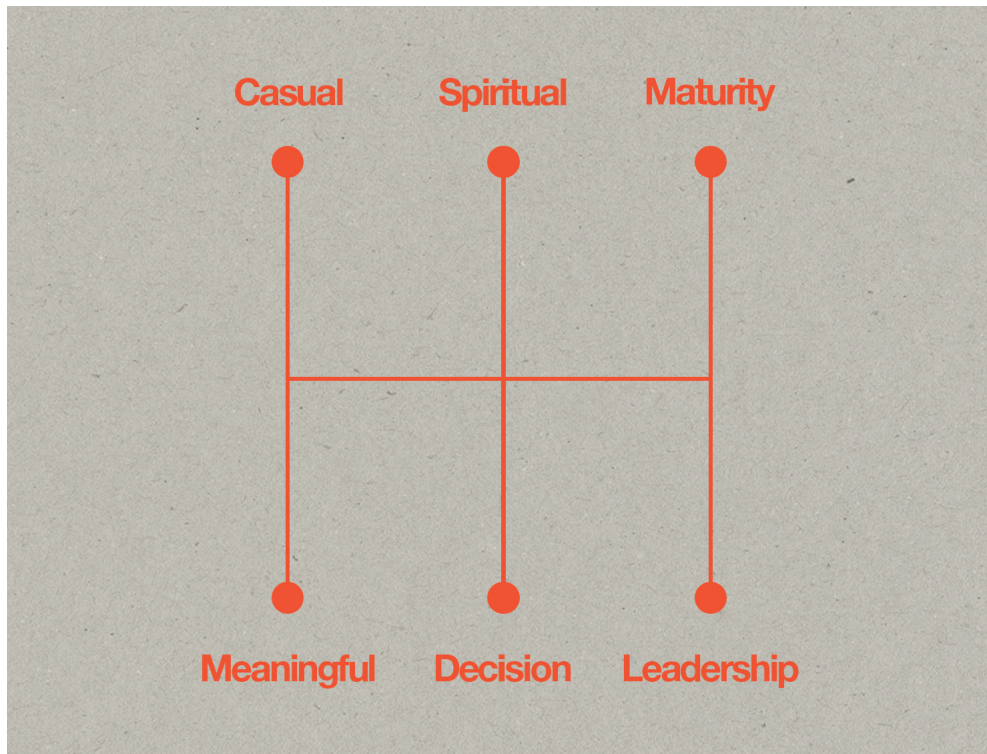


The Six Gears of Sharing the Gospel

Sharing the gospel doesn't have to mean forcing your way into a spiritual conversation. In Colossians 4, Paul calls us to pray, stay alert to the doors God opens, and let our conversations be gracious and full of grace.

The Six Gears help us recognize those open doors and move through conversations faithfully—led by the Spirit, not pressure.

Think of it like driving a manual car: you usually don't jump from first gear to fourth. Conversations work the same way. We build trust, listen well, and move forward as the opportunity comes.



1. Casual Conversation

Start with what's right in front of you.

Small talk may seem insignificant, but it's often the on-ramp to something deeper. Talk about work, sports, kids, hobbies, the weather—whatever is happening around you.

Practice: Be curious. Ask questions. Remember details. Pay attention.

2. Meaningful Conversation

Move toward what matters.

As trust grows, begin asking questions that uncover someone's real life—their hopes, fears, struggles, values, and dreams.

Try asking:

- *“What’s been challenging for you lately?”*
- *“What are you looking forward to?”*
- *“Can I get your advice on something?”*

Share honestly from your own life, too. Vulnerability often invites vulnerability.

3. Spiritual Conversation

Open the door to faith.

When the opportunity comes, don’t be afraid to bring Jesus into the conversation.

Try:

- *“Can I pray for you?”*
- *Share your story: “I was... then Jesus... now...”*
- *Point out the good you see in someone: “The way you care for people is such a gift. I think that reflects something of God’s heart.”*
- *Ask a spiritual question: “Where do you turn for hope?” or “What was faith like for you growing up?”*

You don’t have to have all the answers. You just have to be willing to talk about Jesus.

4. Decision Conversation

Invite a response to Jesus.

At some point, a spiritual conversation may lead to a clear opportunity to invite someone to respond. This isn’t about pressuring someone into a decision. It’s about being willing to clearly ask when the Spirit opens the door.

A decision conversation might mean inviting someone to:

- *Follow Jesus: “Would you like to follow Jesus?”*
- *Begin exploring faith: “Would you like to read the Bible with me?”*
- *Join you in community: “Would you like to come to church with me this Sunday?”*
- *Take a next step: “Would you like to talk more about what it means to follow Jesus?”*

If someone wants to make a decision to surrender to Jesus, you can help them pray a simple prayer:

- *Sorry — “Jesus, I’m sorry for my sin.”*
- *Thank you — “Thank You for dying for my sins and rising again.”*
- *Please — “Please forgive me and help me follow You.”*

Don’t assume people know what to do next. Be clear. Make the invitation. Give them room to respond. Not every conversation will reach this gear—and that’s okay. Our job isn’t to manufacture or force a decision; it’s to be ready when God opens the door.

5. Maturity Conversation

Help someone take their next steps with Jesus.

When someone begins following Jesus, the conversation doesn't end. Now we get to help one another learn the way of Jesus and grow in faith.

Ask:

- *"What are you learning about Jesus?"*
- *"What's one step of obedience you could take?"*
- *"How can I help you grow?"*

6. Leadership Conversation

Help others become witnesses, too.

Maturity multiplies. As people grow in Jesus, we help them recognize their own opportunities to carry the gospel to others.

Ask:

- *"Who has God placed around you?"*
- *"Where do you see God opening doors?"*
- *"How could you help someone else take a next step?"*

Keep Shifting with The Spirit

The goal isn't to force every conversation into Gear 6. The goal is to stay attentive to God and responsive to the person in front of you.

Jesus modeled this with the woman at the well in John 4. He started with a simple request for a drink, moved toward her story, opened a spiritual conversation, revealed Himself as the Messiah, and then invited her into a life that would impact others.

He moved the conversation forward without rushing it.

Sometimes you'll spend a long time in one gear. Sometimes God will open a door quickly. Either way, stay curious, stay prayerful, and trust God with the growth.

"For the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say." —Luke 12:12

The Goal

Imagine what God could do if every table represented in our church became a place where people encountered His presence, truth, and love.

The gospel shared. The gospel embodied. Every table becoming an opportunity for Jesus.