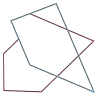




LEAP OF FAITH

Conversation Starters





Welcome

These conversation starters invite you to process the film Leap of Faith through your own story. We hope they inspire you to love someone who challenges you. You can use these conversation starters in a group, with one person, or by yourself. It might take you several days to work through these — that is okay! This type of storytelling takes time.

Let's get started

The first person in your group reads a prompt aloud and responds with their own story. They can consider the prompt, question, reflection, and encouragement in their story response. After the first person shares their story, each person in the group responds.

Work through these at your own pace, either selecting at random or picking one that speaks to you. We hope that you'll be surprised by how God works in your life as you process your own story and take these simple steps.

Notice what's in the room.

Before you enter into a conversation where people are sharing vulnerably, it's important to prepare yourself and notice what's in the room, both visible and invisible. Read the description on the right side of a question for helpful tips to practice growing in your awareness.

God, open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds.

Before entering, choose a couple of characteristics you would like to embody. Consider things like joy, peace, patience, gentleness, kindness, goodness, generosity, faithfulness, and calmness.

Scan the room...

...looking for places or individuals with potential tension or difficulty. Notice body posture, facial expressions, groups congregating, etc.

...looking for places or individuals that seem connected to the purpose of the conversation. Where do you sense peace, focus, openness, and calm?

...looking for direction. Could you change your seating, hands, face, clothing, or something else, in a very small way that would lead you to more fully embody the character and qualities you desire?



**Michael
Gulker**
President of
The Colossian
Forum

Share about your experience with Christianity.

QUESTION

The pastors come from different churches and all gather in the same place. How did it feel to see them in a group?

REFLECTION

How did the stories portrayed in the film connect with or differ from your experience of Christianity?

ENCOURAGEMENT

Make a list of some things you have questions about or would want to know more about the church or Christianity after watching Leap of Faith. Pray that the Spirit would give you guidance in these questions.

Share a moment when you related to someone in the film with something they wrestled with.

QUESTION

What are some of the things that Michael and the pastors wrestled with?

REFLECTION

What are some things you've had to wrestle with, and what impact has faith had on your wrestling?

ENCOURAGEMENT

Take time to write about how these struggles have strengthened you.

Propose an idea of how people of faith could better address division without compromising core beliefs.

QUESTION

How would you describe the disposition of the people in the film as they struggled with their differences?

REFLECTION

How would you describe how your faith community has engaged with societal issues?

ENCOURAGEMENT

Encourage engaging others with openness and curiosity in order to explore differences while upholding core values.

Share a time when you were vulnerable and took a risk in a relationship.

QUESTION

Where did you see vulnerability on display in the film?

REFLECTION

Is vulnerability an essential part of the Christian faith? Why or why not?

ENCOURAGEMENT

Look for the gifts that the group in Leap of Faith experienced as a result of their vulnerability.

Tell a story where you experienced unexpected kindness that touched you deeply.

QUESTION

Michael says, "People of peace should be looking wherever they can to sustain hope and kindness." Where do you see that in the film?

REFLECTION

Where are places in your life where you experience hope and kindness?

ENCOURAGEMENT

Consider Michael's challenge and practical steps you can take in your community to sustain hope and kindness. What could you do?

Where do you see evidence of genuine friendship expressed in your own life?

QUESTION

What scenes from the film come to mind when you think about the deep friendships that grew during this experience?

REFLECTION

What are the core elements of a good friendship?

ENCOURAGEMENT

Consider practical steps to make space for genuine friendship in your life and ask friends to hold you accountable to take those steps.

Describe how the film challenged your understanding of unity among Christians.

QUESTION

How did the film present unity as a complex and often difficult goal?

REFLECTION

How has your understanding of unity changed over time?

ENCOURAGEMENT

Consider ways to cooperate with people who hold different positions than you do. Look for ways to collaborate as a response to your shared values.

How would you describe God's "Spirit"?

QUESTION

The pastors describe the Spirit of God not as a gentle dove, but as a tireless, ever-present, disruptive "wrecking ball." How does that play out in the film?

REFLECTION

How do you practice paying close attention in your life? How, if at all, does listening to the Spirit contribute to your attentiveness?

ENCOURAGEMENT

Consider creating space in your life to slow down and listen — to your friends, family, neighbors, your enemies, your own life, and to the Spirit's nudging. Keep track of what you hear by writing it down and reflecting on it.

Tell a story that is a typical example of how you handle relational missteps (mistakes).

QUESTION

The pastors and staff experience a number of relational ruptures that need repair. How do they do it? What stands out to you as important in the process?

REFLECTION

The strongest relationships are the ones that can take risks of vulnerability and honesty because we know that if rupture occurs, repair is possible. Reflect on some relationships where this is true for you. With whom can you be your real self? What makes it possible?

ENCOURAGEMENT

Make a list of 2–3 people with whom you can be real. Write them a note of gratitude and encouragement, telling them so, and what it means to you.

Feeling inadequate is a nearly universal emotion. Where and how do self-doubt regularly creep in for you?

QUESTION

Pastor Cornelius says, “deep inside us we know we are so inadequate to meet people’s needs.” What do you make of that confession?

REFLECTION

How do feelings of inadequacy resonate with your own experience? How do they relate to the fast pace of life, and the expectations we put on ourselves and others?

ENCOURAGEMENT

The next time you feel disappointed or judgmental of yourself, someone else, or life’s circumstances, pause to examine your expectations. What do you learn? What might you let go of in order to respond to what is, rather than fixating on what should be?

What do you really want when it comes to the important but difficult relationships in your life?

QUESTION

In the film, Joan says, “I don’t want a Church without _____”, and she names several others in the group who she has disagreed with. Who is it that you disagree with but you long to have a relationship with?

REFLECTION

How might examining your longings (What do I really want?) change your mindset about conflict and the way you see people? How might it help you love your neighbors more, even the difficult ones?

ENCOURAGEMENT

Think of a person with whom you have a challenging relationship, but who is very important to you. Ask them, what do you want our relationship to be like? Be prepared to share with them what you hope for, too.