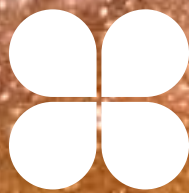


CONVERSATIONS

THAT MATTER

meet . think . discuss

**SERIES
COMPANION**



rockypc

growing disciples

CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER

meet . think . discuss

At **rockypc** we think it's important to talk about the big questions in life and to hear each other's stories and answers to those questions. That's what CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER is all about — listening to each other as we think together. That's why we want you to bring your friends who aren't yet Christians to our Friday night sessions.

But at the same time, we recognise that it's good for us to talk deeply about what the Bible has to say in answer to these questions. That's what these GROWTH GROUP studies are for. We hope you'll take the time to talk together and pray for your friends and family as you see that Jesus provides satisfying answers to life's big questions.

With each study there are a number of videos to watch and interact with. There are also a few extra resources for those who would like to do some further reading and thinking.

Week Starting	Passage for Bible Talk (click link to go to page)	Growth Group Study (following Bible Talks)
Friday 28th August	CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER #1 — WHAT IS THE MEANING OF LIFE?	
Sunday 30th August	Mark 12v28-31	CTM #1
Friday 4th September	CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER #2 — WHY IS THERE EVIL & SUFFERING?	
Sunday 6th September	Acts 2	CTM #2
Friday 11th September	CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER #3 — IS THERE LIFE AFTER DEATH?	
Sunday 13th September	1 Corinthians 15v1-8	CTM #3
Sunday 20th September	Romans 3v21-31	Righteousness Revealed
Sunday 27th September	Romans 4	By Faith
Sunday 4th October	Romans 5v1-11	Peace With God
Sunday 11th October	Romans 5v12-21	Through One Man
Sunday 18th October	Romans 6	United With Jesus
Saturday 24th October	Central Queensland Mens Convention — Gary Millar — 2 Timothy	
Sunday 25th October	Guest Speaker — Gary Millar	
Sunday 1st November	Romans 7	The Battle Within
Sunday 8th November	Romans 8v1-17	The Spirit Gives Life
Sunday 15th November	VISION SUNDAY — THINKING ABOUT 2021 AND BEYOND	
	Romans 8v18-39	For Us!

*****LINKS TO ALL THE VIDEOS CAN BE FOUND BY CLICKING THE PICTURES IN EACH STUDY*****

OR YOU CAN GO TO THE MAIN CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER GROWTH GROUP RESOURCES PAGE HERE



CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER

WEEK 1 — WHAT IS THE MEANING OF LIFE?

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.) THERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT FIND HELPFUL TOO.

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My Prayer In Response To God's Word:

CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER

WEEK 1 — WHAT IS THE MEANING OF LIFE?

IN THE SPACES BELOW YOU CAN RECORD YOUR ANSWERS. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

GETTING STARTED

If you haven't already seen it, watch the first video in the CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER SERIES.



Think about the people you interact with day to day. What kinds of things give their life meaning? Think about how they spend their time, money, priorities.

WATCH THE VIDEOS BY TOM BRADY AND WOODY ALLEN



THE STRUGGLE TO FIND MEANING IN LIFE ISN'T NEW. READ ECCLESIASTES 1 AND 2.

Where is King Solomon looking for meaning in life? What was the outcome of his search? Was it surprising? Is it something you've found to be true?

WATCH THE VIDEO - WHAT GIVES LIFE MEANING?



Do you agree with the premise 'we can't give our own lives meaning'? Where do you think the idea comes from that we can give meaning to our own lives apart from God?

WATCH THE VIDEO - SEARCHING FOR MEANING



READ MARK 12v13-17 AND 12v28-34

How does being created in the image of God give intended meaning to life?

How would you say the two commandments show God's intended meaning for our lives now?

Do you think it's possible to live out this meaning? why/why not?

WE OFTEN FAIL TO LIVE ACCORDING TO GOD'S PURPOSE FOR OUR LIVES BUT WE DON'T NEED TO DESPAIR.

READ JOHN 3v16,17 AND 1 JOHN 4v7-12

What is the good news if we're struggling to fulfil God's purpose for our lives?

Share one thing that's been helpful for you as you've thought about the question?

Share one thing that needs to change in response to what we've discussed?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

WATCH THE VIDEO BY JOHN LENNOX — WHY I AM A CHRISTIAN



Here are a few things we'll be praying about as we consider the meaning of life:

- *We'll give thanks to God because he has given our lives meaning and purpose by creating us in his image and inviting us to love him and the people around us. We'll ask God to forgive us for the times when we haven't loved him or other people because we've instead tried to put ourselves first and we'll give thanks for Jesus who died because of his love for us.*
- *We'll ask to God to help us love the people we know, so that we can find fulfilment and satisfaction and enjoy the world together. and we'll keep praying that God would give 8000 new people to Jesus in our generation in Rockhampton & Gracemere for a start, because Jesus is worthy of praise and because he offers his salvation to everyone. We'll pray for opportunities every day, every where we go, to speak to every one about Jesus.*
- *We'll pray for our mission partner, Cam, that his love for Jesus would grow and that he'd keep loving the people in his community and keep sharing the gospel with them.*

CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER

WEEK 2 — WHY IS THERE EVIL & SUFFERING?

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.) THERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT FIND HELPFUL TOO.

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

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Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My Prayer In Response To God's Word:

CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER

WEEK 2 — WHY IS THERE EVIL & SUFFERING?

IN THE SPACES BELOW YOU CAN RECORD YOUR ANSWERS. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

This is a really complex issue that you won't be able to cover in one growth group study. If you've been directly affected by some kind of evil which is painful for you, please talk to your growth group leader and/or a member of the ministry team. If you want to do some more thinking about this question for yourself or to be able to talk to your friends, there are a list of resources at the end.

GETTING STARTED

If you haven't already seen it, watch the next video in the CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER SERIES.



If the meaning of life is love in relationship with God and each other, why are our relationships so broken? why is there so much evil, pain and suffering in the world? You don't have to look too far or closely to see terrible things happening.

What kinds of evil acts and events anger you the most?

Many people and religions say that good and evil need each other to exist like two sides of a coin or yin and yang. How would you define good and evil? On what basis do you make the distinction between the two

WATCH THE TWO VIDEOS ASKING WHAT IS GOOD & WHAT IS EVIL.



How do these two videos make the distinction between good and evil? Do you agree? How well does this fit your experience and your definition from above?

IN GENESIS 1 AND 2 WE READ THE ACCOUNT OF CREATION, AS GOD CREATES EVERYTHING AND HE SAYS IT'S GOOD. GENESIS 1v31—"GOD SAW ALL THAT HE HAD MADE, AND IT WAS VERY GOOD." THERE WAS NO EVIL. BUT, IT DOESN'T TAKE LONG FOR THIS TO CHANGE.

READ GENESIS 3

If evil is the corruption of good, how is that evident in Adam and Eve's story?

What is the end result of their evil decision?

SOME PEOPLE MIGHT WONDER IF IT'S FAIR THAT WE ARE CONDEMNED AS A RESULT OF ADAM AND EVE'S SIN, BUT AS YOU KEEP READING THE GENESIS STORY, WE SEE MURDER AND DEATH ALMOST STRAIGHT AWAY. GENESIS 5 SHOWS THAT DEATH CAME TO (ALMOST) EVERYONE IN ADAM'S FAMILY LINE. AND BY THE TIME WE GET TO GENESIS 6v5, WE READ THAT EVIL INFECT'S EVERY HUMAN HEART.

GENESIS 6v5—"THE LORD SAW HOW GREAT THE WICKEDNESS OF THE HUMAN RACE HAD BECOME ON THE EARTH, AND THAT EVERY INCLINATION OF THE THOUGHTS OF THE HUMAN HEART WAS ONLY EVIL ALL THE TIME."

Who is responsible for the evil that exists in our world right now? Where does evil live?

WATCH THE VIDEO - WHY IS THERE EVIL?



Some people say the existence of evil proves there is no God, or at the very least He is distant and doesn't care. But how is the existence of evil powerful evidence that God not only exists but is Good?

How does the evil we do affect our relationship with God and relationships with each other?

READ ACTS 2v22-41

We often think the presence of evil means God is powerless, but how does Acts 2 show that's not the case?

When evil is evident in our own lives, what does Peter say we should do?

Sometimes there aren't easy answers to evil, pain and suffering in our lives, and of course we aren't responsible for all the evil in the world. But if evil seeks to turn us away from God, why should we turn to him?

READ REVELATION 21v1-8

How does God's promise of a new heaven and earth provide hope in the midst of evil, pain and suffering now??

Share one thing that's been helpful for you as you've thought about the question?

Share one thing that needs to change in response to what we've discussed?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO HELP YOU THINK THROUGH THE QUESTION IN MORE DEPTH:

BOOKS:

[Little Black Books: Suffering and Evil — Author: Scott Petty](#)

[If I Were God, I'd End all the Pain, Struggling with evil, suffering and faith \(3rd Ed.\) — Author: John Dickson](#)

VIDEOS:

The Moral Argument For God



Dr. Reaksa Himm, How Do I Heal from Evil? — Apologetics Canada ²⁰¹⁴



At first glance, Reaksa (RICK-sah) may seem like an ordinary man but his story is anything but ordinary. He was born and raised in a large middle class family in Cambodia. In ¹⁹⁷⁷, at the age of ¹⁴, he had to watch as ¹³ members of his family were murdered in the Killing Fields* at the hand of the Khmer Rouge**, the communist regime that had taken power in Cambodia. Reaksa himself was almost killed in the incident but he managed to flee to Thailand, where he spent five grueling years surviving refugee camps and hiding from death squads. Eventually, Reaksa's journey took him to Canada where he became a follower of Christ. After this life-changing event and many agonizing years

of internal turmoil, he returned to Cambodia. He sought and found the two soldiers responsible for the death of his family and his own near-death... and he forgave them

Here are a few things we'll be praying about as we consider evil and suffering in the world:

- *We'll give thanks to God for sending Jesus to bring an end to the curse of sin and to deal with the evil in our world and we'll give thanks that evil cannot stop God's plan to bring salvation to the world.*
- *We'll ask God to forgive us for the evil and suffering we have caused to others and we'll ask him for humility and grace to forgive those who have wronged us. We'll also ask God to sustain us in the midst of troubled times, bringing comfort and confidence in the gospel and helping us fix our eyes on Jesus while we wait for his return.*
- *We'll keep praying that God would give 8000 new people to Jesus in our generation in Rockhampton & Gracemere for a start, because Jesus is worthy of praise and because he offers his salvation to everyone. We'll pray for opportunities every day, every where we go, to speak to every one about Jesus.*
- *We'll pray for our mission partner, Cam, that God would protect him from evil and suffering and give him great confidence in the gospel.*

CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER

WEEK 3 — IS THERE LIFE AFTER DEATH?

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.) THERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT FIND HELPFUL TOO.

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CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER

WEEK 3 — IS THERE LIFE AFTER DEATH?

IN THE SPACES BELOW YOU CAN RECORD YOUR ANSWERS. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

GETTING STARTED

Last week we saw death is the end result of evil, and evil is the corruption of God's good purpose for our lives which is love in relationship to God and others. But the good news is God promised to defeat evil and death so we could have eternal relationship with him. Today we see that these promises are based on the actions of one person.

If you haven't already seen it, watch the next video in the CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER SERIES.



When there is a death close to home, or when people have to face their own impending death, What kinds of things do they say that allude to life after death? On what basis do they have this hope?.

WATCH THE VIDEO — IS JESUS REAL?

THINK FOR A MINUTE.

JESUS
IS SANTA REAL?

canimetric.com

Many people believe Jesus is a fairy tale character, or made up like Santa. But if they were willing to investigate Jesus what would they find?

WATCH THE VIDEO - FAIRY TALES



Have you had a conversation like the one in the video? How do you respond when someone questions what you believe to be true?

What historical facts surround the life, death and resurrection of Jesus do you find most convincing to you?

Why is the resurrection of Jesus confronting to people?

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 15v1-28

Why is the resurrection from the dead so important for Paul?

What evidence does Paul present regarding the resurrection of Jesus?

What position does Jesus have now?

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 15v35-58

What hope does a follower of Jesus have even-though they will die?

How is this new body described?

If we have this hope now, what difference should it make to how we live now?

WATCH THE VIDEO — LIFE AFTER DEATH



Share one thing that's been helpful for you as you've thought about the question?

Share one thing that needs to change in response to what we've discussed?

Here are a few things we'll be praying about as we consider life after death:

- *We'll give thanks to God that Jesus died for us so that we can be forgiven and that God raised Jesus from the dead so we know death is not the end because Jesus has been raised in victory.*
- *We'll ask God to fill our lives with meaning while we wait for the new creation when sin and death will be no more and we'll ask God to sustain us in the midst of troubled times, bringing comfort and confidence in the gospel. We'll ask God to help us fix our eyes on Jesus while we wait for his return.*
- *We'll keep praying that God would give 8000 new people to Jesus in our generation in Rockhampton & Gracemere for a start, because Jesus is worthy of praise and because he offers his salvation to everyone. We'll pray for opportunities every day, every where we go, to speak to every one about Jesus.*
- *We'll pray for our mission partner, Cam, that God would help him fix his eyes on Jesus and look forward to the day when we see our saviour face to face.*