



Beginning an Evangelistic Conversation

Whenever you meet a new person, try to identify yourself as a Christian right away. Perhaps something you are wearing will help. Refer to it. Or mention having been to church or Bible study. Even if you go no further along these lines then, it will help later.

A To begin talking about God and church, ask:

- *In which church (or religious tradition) were you raised?* (as suggested by Dr. Wallace Schulz, formerly of *The Lutheran Hour*) People are usually not defensive about this, for they themselves had no control over where they were raised.
- Alternatively, you could say: *I'm baptized. Are you?*

The answer to either of the above questions will probably be short. To draw the person out more, be prepared with a follow-up question such as: *How did that work out for you?*

It is possible that people will say they were not raised in any church, or that they are not baptized. In this case, a good follow-up question can be: *In what ways can it be good for children to be raised learning about Jesus?* Specifically mention Jesus in this question, not just church. Lots of people who harbor suspicions about the church still respect Jesus, although they may regard Him simply a great moral teacher, etc.

These are beginning points for conversation. You can go on from them.

For more on witnessing, visit LCMS *Every One His Witness* at everyonehiswitness.org

B

C

For suggestion B and C, visit www.cidlcms.org/witnessinghelps

