

## Email series - “Conversations God Starts”

Signup page: <https://startingwithgod.com/conversations.html>

### Conversations God Starts - Welcome!

Hi

Welcome! I'm so glad you signed up. I think you will find this series inspiring and easy.

I also expect it will bring you more joy in your relationship with God as you see God work through your life in exciting ways.

This special email series, Conversations God Starts, will show you how to recognize and move into conversations that God has initiated.

It won't be with every person you meet or know. But you'll be amazed at how often you'll be able to easily help someone know God, in a way they appreciate.

As author of this series, you might want to know that I used to be an atheist. (If you're curious what led me to ask Jesus into my life, [here](#) you go.)

Jesus came to give new life to those who are lost, blind, without God and without hope in this world. (Ephesians 2:12)

People might not act like they are lost or without hope, but until they find Jesus, they are searching.

They're looking for something that will completely satisfy their lives. Something they can always count on. To find direction/purpose in their lives. To be unconditionally loved.

We can help them find that fulfillment that comes only from knowing God.

Once you're equipped, you'll see God arrange conversations. You'll watch God bring people your way and you'll know how to help the person. And they will thank you!

You'll see.

In this first email I want to introduce you to [EveryStudent.com](https://EveryStudent.com).

It's in 50 languages. Everything on the site is worded to unbelievers, seeking to give them persuasive reasons to start a relationship with God.

Just in the last year, over 80 Million people came to the site, and 1.5 million people told us they asked Jesus into their lives while on the site. (That's 4,500 new believers each day. Only God.)

Let me ask you to take a look [EveryStudent.com](http://EveryStudent.com).

Please click around the menu sections. Read a few articles, watch a video.

See if you think this might be helpful to an unbeliever.

Next email, I'll show you an example of how this works in conversation with someone.

Marilyn Adamson

director of EveryStudent.com

and StartingwithGod.com

## **Conversations God Starts # 2 - Example: Astrology Woman**

Hi

Here's a true story. I'm on an international flight itinerary.

Just before boarding, I told God that I was tired, and if it was ok with him, I'd rather not talk to anyone, but that I was willing if he really wanted me to.

I'm seated next to a young woman.

Not long after take-off she pulled out an enormous, hardbound book of Horoscopes.

I said to God, "That's not funny."

Seeing her book, and before I could even decide whether to start a conversation with her, she took the book, put it in my lap, and asked:

Astrology Woman: "Which sign are you?"

Me: "Well, I'm a Cancer." (I was raised to know this.) She immediately flipped to the Cancer page, and we started reading down the page together as it described this kind of person.

Me: "Ok, yes this is true of me, and this, and this. Oh gee, not this one at all. We got through the whole page, and I said:

Me: You know, here's the thing about this. Some of these fit and some don't. But when it comes to my life, I want something I can fully count on, all the time.

God knows me completely because he created me. He knows everything that's true about me. And even better, he offers to guide me in life. He offers to guide anyone who will begin a relationship with him.

He gives insights and his wisdom for some major areas of our lives. And he's fully reliable. Here's a website that explains how you can have a relationship with God like that." I handed her a small business card with EveryStudent.com on it.

Astrology Woman: "Thanks very much. I really appreciate that. I'll take a look at it."

Notice that in that conversation:

- I sincerely shared with her something I believed to be true of God.
- I pointed her to a site created for unbelievers.
- What I said took about 30 seconds.

I'll be sharing more dialogue examples with you, so you can see how easy it is to have short conversations that can deeply impact a person's life.

Your sincerity, your life's message will stick with them. It can create in them a desire to perhaps know God like you do.

And you can give them a resource that has messages about God, answers to questions they might have, and encouragement to begin a relationship with God...with an opportunity to do so.

You can certainly have a longer conversation and share the entire gospel with the person if God leads you to do so. And I'll show you how to do that also.

Not everyone is going to dump an astrology book in your lap. Let me give you a couple of other examples. Next email...conversations with an atheist and an agnostic.

Marilyn Adamson

director of EveryStudent.com  
and StartingwithGod.com

## Conversations God Starts #3 - Examples: Atheist/Agnostic

Hi

I'm standing in a hotel lobby.

The woman next to me asks, "Are you with our convention?"

I replied, "No. I'm connected with a website that takes on the hard questions about life and God...like how do you know God exists?"

She replied, "I'm an atheist, but I'm searching."

I said, "You will love this website. It will give you reasons to believe in God and show you how you can begin a relationship with him today. May I give you a card to the site?"

As I handed her a card to EveryStudent.com, she teared up and said, "Thank you so much."



You can say the same thing to people: "I'm connected to a site that takes on the hard questions about life and God."

Carry some cards with you!

You can get printed EveryStudent.com cards [here](#) (if you're in the U.S.)

Or it's easy to print some cards. Here is the [jpg](#) you can upload to an online printing company.

Here's a second conversation example...

I was on a college campus for some meetings. At noon I was standing in a very long fast-food line in the university's student union.

I happened to look up from my phone at the exact same time a student next to me looked up from his phone. So he politely started talking with me. I asked about his major. It was computer science.

We talked about web servers and other technical topics.

Then I told him about EveryStudent.com, that "it's a site that takes on the hard questions about life and God...like, why is life so hard and how do you know God exists?"

Daniel said, "I'm agnostic, but my fiancé is a Christian."

I asked him, "If you saw sufficient evidence for God, would you want to know God?"

He said, "Yes!"

I pulled up EveryStudent.com on my phone. I scrolled down the home page to this orange, square icon of a hiker and clicked on it.



It's called the [Spiritual Adventure Pack](#), a 7-part email series written to atheists and agnostics.

I handed my phone to Daniel and invited him to type in his email address to sign up for the series...which he gladly did.

The image shows a screenshot of a sign-up form on a phone screen. The form is set against an orange background. It has two input fields: "First name:" and "Email address:". Below the "Email address:" field is a "Submit" button.

What struck me most about our conversation is that three times during our short conversation, Daniel grabbed my hand to shake it and thank me for talking to him.

Key point: People are searching and they appreciate you giving them a way to find answers.

One more example...

Two weeks ago, I was on a flight. The woman next to me asked what I did. I told her, "I'm connected to a site that takes on the hard questions about life and God."

She responded, "I'm afraid of dying. I don't know what's on the other side and I don't know which religion to pick."

That was exactly what she said.

I'm absolutely convinced, when you're equipped to help someone, God will simply bring people your way.

I hope you're catching how normal this is!

Next email...it's probably time to introduce myself and explain what God has engineered.

Marilyn Adamson

director of [EveryStudent.com](http://EveryStudent.com)  
and [StartingwithGod.com](http://StartingwithGod.com)

## **Conversations God Starts #4 - What God Has Done**

Hi

Everything I'm sharing with you hinges on one factor: God arranging opportunities. This is a walk of faith, more than a plan to execute. And that's what makes it fun.

You're not going into this without God. You are responding to what God orchestrates. It's that simple.

Even [EveryStudent.com](http://EveryStudent.com) was something that I believe God brought about. When I was an atheist, I debated my Christian friend nearly daily for 1.5 years.

Finally, my friend gave me a book. Away from her, alone, my defenses could come down. I didn't have to defend atheism or focus on rebuttals. I could be honest. That's when God spoke to my heart/mind.

EveryStudent.com offers someone the same opportunity...to explore their questions on their own, in private, under their control.

So when we offer the site to someone, they appreciate that you're simply resourcing them, respecting their ability to form their own conclusions.

Here's a tip. After I mention that "I'm connected to a site that takes on the hard questions about life and God," I pause.

Sometimes a person then says something about questions they have or shares something from their own religious background. Or they might ask me a question.

If they don't say anything, I usually change the subject. This lets them know that I'm not trying to corner them or force them into a religious discussion.

You get to remain sensitive to the person and to the Holy Spirit. If God wants you to say more, he'll make it obvious.

We don't save people, Jesus does. Our job is to follow his lead.

I don't feel obligated to cover a lot of spiritual content with a person or necessarily share the gospel with them.

Another part of my freedom comes from knowing that I have a website that has well-written articles and videos, that contain a lot of Scripture and answers the biggest questions people have about life and God.

I know this site can help them far more than whatever I could say in the few minutes I have with them.

If it seems appropriate, at the end of the conversation, I might say, "Here, let me give you a card to that site I mentioned." And I hand them a card.

The person will usually say thank you!

Try this and you might have had an enormous impact in their lives by simply pointing them to the site.

Remember, your goal is NOT to give the site to as many people as you can.

You're not trying to accomplish anything except to be kind to the person and sensitive to God's leading.

I personally don't feel obligated to have a spiritual conversation with everyone. If God wants me or you to say something, he can make that obvious.

Next email: why EveryStudent.com is unique and valuable to nonbelievers that you talk to.

Marilyn Adamson

director of EveryStudent.com  
and StartingwithGod.com

## Conversations God Starts #5 - Why EveryStudent.com is Helpful

Hi

As believers, we sometimes hesitate to say anything about God because we wonder what the response might be.

We might think, “What if they ask me a question that I can’t answer?”

Questions like:

How do you explain all the suffering in the world?

I've prayed. God doesn't answer MY prayers.

How do you \*know\* God exists?

Why does it have to be Jesus, and not Buddha or Allah?

I'm gay, so you think I'm going to hell. Right?

I would like you to consider [EveryStudent.com](http://EveryStudent.com) your safety net.

You no longer need to feel like you're backed into a corner or unable to help the person.

It delivers well-researched, respectful answers in a persuasive way, encouraging a person to start a relationship with God, without being pushy about it.

Here are a few other unique aspects of the site:

1. Every article or video is worded to the nonbeliever. It's not like an apologetic site written to Christians, and then you have to figure out how to say it to a nonbeliever. Everything is already worded to nonbelievers, for them.
2. Each article also includes a lot of Scripture so God can speak for himself. And yet, it avoids sounding religious.



3. EveryStudent.com has no ads. No product sales. It doesn't ask for donations. And it doesn't promote any church, denomination or organization.

Many nonbelievers think that Christians are in it just for the money. We want to remove that barrier to them hearing the gospel.

4. EveryStudent.com is only about God and their relationship with him.

5. We highly respect a person's privacy. We never chase a person around the Internet with ads or emails. They can visit the site once and never hear from us again.

6. If a person signs up for an email series, they are sent only what they requested. Nothing else.

We offer two email series on the site (free, of course)...

The [Spiritual Adventure Pack](#) - for atheists, agnostics  
[Knowing God Better](#) - seeing God in the Gospel of John

7. EveryStudent.com is available in [50 languages](#) so you can help nearly anyone God brings your way. The site is likely available in their own language.

Each of these sites (Spanish, Arabic, Turkish, French, Portuguese, etc.) can be found by scrolling down the home page of EveryStudent.com to a word cloud. It will take you to a listing of the languages and their URL.



You can simply say, "I'm connected to a great site that takes on the hard questions of life and God. Here, let me give you a card to it." (Cards are available [here](#).)

It can be that simple.

Next email: How to discover your life message to share with nonbelievers.

Marilyn Adamson

director of EveryStudent.com  
and StartingwithGod.com

## Conversations God Starts #6 - Your Life's Message

Hi

One day, I asked John if he had ever shared the gospel with our friend, Mike.

John's reply: "Oh, yeah, like I'm a shining example of a Christian."

His sarcasm caught me off guard.

What do you think? Do you need to be the "perfect" Christian in order to tell someone else about Jesus?

I thought of the Pharisees. They WERE the morally shining example. They followed God's commands fully. At the temple every Sabbath.

Even made up some of their own rules, just to be extra, squeaky clean.

Yet, Jesus called them "blind guides." He said when the Pharisees made a convert, they made them "twice the child of hell" as themselves (twice as evil - Matthew 23:15).

Then I thought of the woman at the well, in John 4. She was almost the polar opposite. She was married five times and currently living with a sixth guy.

Though her lifestyle hadn't changed at all yet, she led her entire town to believe in Jesus.

What's the difference?

She knew who Jesus was. The Pharisees didn't.

She didn't know a lot about Jesus, but she knew enough. She knew who he was. And she told others because she wanted them to know him also.

You can say something about God also. I've become convinced when you're equipped, God will simply bring people your way.

I love Philemon v6 in the RSV:

"and I pray that the sharing of your faith  
may promote the knowledge  
of all the good that is ours in Christ."

That's our job. Let people know all the good that is ours in Christ.

It's time to discover your personal life message.

I believe God has built into each believer's life precise experiences where God revealed something significant about himself.

Here is a five-minute video to help you see how to briefly share your life's message with others. [Easy Conversations about God](#).

I prepared this message for university students, however it's applicable anywhere.

After watching this, here's an additional action point:

In your time with God, ask God to show you three things that you have come to know to be true about God. It might have been through an event in your life or Scripture where God really showed up and you learned something very significant about God.

See if you can list three things that you know to be true about God.

1. This is true of God....
2. This is also true of God...
3. And this...

Next email, I'll show you how to bring this into conversations.

Marilyn Adamson

director of EveryStudent.com  
and StartingwithGod.com

## **Conversations God Starts #7 - Example: Bank Teller**

Hi

Recently, I was in a bank wanting to close a checking account.

I sat firmly parked across the desk from the bank associate for over 30 minutes.

He was on the phone, on hold with the corporate office, to find out the best way to close the account.

Without malice, I matter-of-factly said to him, “You know it shouldn’t be this hard to close an account. It shouldn’t take this long.”

As soon as those words left my mouth, I realized there might be a bigger reason behind the delay.

So I asked him, “Are you allowed to pull up a website on your business computer?” I asked him enter to EveryStudent.com.

Then I told him, “This is a site to help answer people’s questions about life and God, like how do you know God exists.”

I shared with him a little of my testimony, emphasizing my search through philosophy, while an atheist.

I don’t always mention my study of philosophy, but God obviously led me to do so.

The bank teller said to me, “It’s funny you would be talking to me about this, because just last night my dad and I had a long conversation about various philosophers.”

I said, “Philosophers ask all the right questions about life. But they don’t have satisfying answers. Only God provides those. This site will show you some of God’s answers to those big questions.”

I also gave him a business card to the site, so he’d have it.

I want you to catch this. My message to him was: God has answers for life that philosophy doesn’t have. Here’s a site to see what God says about life.

That took about 4 or 5 minutes. He appreciated it. And in being brief, I respected his time while at work.

Here’s another reason why offering someone the site works so well.

We live in a digital culture. When we need something, we often pull out our phones, go to Amazon, Google, Uber, a news site, AI, etc.

It’s fast. Easy. Private. We’re in control. It’s available at the moment of our need.

Could we make it that easy for people to find God?

Could we simply give them a place to look on their mobile device and resource their search?

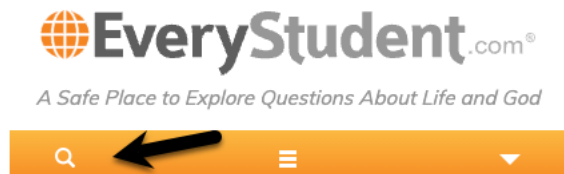
If you know the person, you can ask them about it later. “Did you go to that site I mentioned? What did you think?”

If you’re traveling, or shopping, or in an Uber and you’re not likely to ever see that person again, you can still deeply impact their life.

And you have the joy of being an ambassador for Jesus.

With the bank teller, I also knew that there is an article on the site titled, [Your Life’s Biggest Questions](#) (it discusses philosophers). It was fun to point that out to him.

By the way, we have a great search box on the site, so you don’t have to know everything that’s there. On your mobile device you’ll find the search box here:



For that article, you could type into the search box “philosophy” or “philosophers.”

It might come in handy to spend some time on the site. Once you’ve read/watched some of what’s on it, it will more often come to mind when you’re talking with someone.

In the next email I’ll show you some of the articles/videos that I think are particularly useful. Pick out your own favorites!

Marilyn Adamson

director of EveryStudent.com  
and StartingwithGod.com

## Conversations God Starts #8 - Qs Addressed

Hi

I’m so proud of you for going through this email series. Thank you for taking the time to read my emails and to give thought to this. I so appreciate your heart.

I mentioned that it would be great for you to spend some time on EveryStudent.com. See what's there. See what articles/videos you really like, that you think might be most helpful.

For example, you might be in a conversation with a Muslim. It might be great to know that we have an article that addresses the top 6 questions that Muslims have about Jesus, called "Jesus and Islam."

You can simply copy and paste into a text message to someone the URL found at the top of the page: <https://www.everystudent.com/wires/jesus-in-islam.html> (Every page on the site has its own URL.)

We have a very clear menu on EveryStudent.com.

We try to be very accurate in describing what the article or video is about. (No click bait.) Instead, clear, honest descriptions so a person can find what they want.

The search box on the site is better than Google's! Type in: Muslim, or atheist, or relationships, or racism, etc. and it will list those specific articles or videos for you.

Let me point out a few of the articles that might be most useful to you:

[How to Know God Personally](#) - the gospel

[Is There a God?](#) - 6 reasons God exists

[What's It Like to Know God?](#) - a description of life with God

[Beyond Blind Faith](#) - why Jesus is God

[Peace of Mind in an Unstable World](#) - why God is our rock

[Where is God in the Midst of Tragedy?](#) - what God offers us in hard times

[Is God Good?](#) - 2-min video addressing evil & suffering

[Sex & the Search for Intimacy](#) - love defined by God

[LGBTQ and God's Love](#) - how to know God's love

[Is There Hope for a Lasting Marriage?](#) - yes, here's why

And here's a few more topics covered on the site:

MLK's solution to racism

Heroin addiction

Binge drinking

Purpose in life

How to find faith

Does God answer prayer?

Qs Muslims ask about Jesus

Loneliness

Climate change

Politics of Jesus  
The kindness of God

There are many more, but these might be most helpful to know about.

Next email, how to explain your relationship with God in just 15 seconds. You'll like this.

Marilyn Adamson

director of EveryStudent.com  
and StartingwithGod.co

## **Conversations God Starts #9 - Your Life in 15 Seconds**

Hi

Social media has moved us to sound bites. Say it fast. Be brief.

I've been part of a training where they show you how to prepare a 3-minute testimony of how you came to faith in Jesus.

You talk about how your life was before Christ, what moved you to believe in Jesus, and then how he changed your life.

That works very well if you're up at a microphone in front of a crowd.

But if you're in conversation with someone, sitting next to them in the bleachers of a soccer game? Well, requiring them to listen to you for three minutes can feel imposing, rude. Three minutes is a long time!!

As I mentioned in a [video](#) that I previously recommended to you, I think people are open to a listening to a few sentences.

I'd like to encourage you to see if you can tell someone your life story in about four sentences. It really is possible. And it comes in handy.

For example, a gentleman on a flight asked me about my work.

I started in the usual way, "I'm connected to a site that takes on the hard questions about life and God." (same thing you could say)

He asked me, "Huh. How did you get into that?" Here's my life summary that I told him:

"I was an atheist, then became friends with a Christian whose life I really admired. I questioned her for over a year. She provided evidence for God that became so weighty, I asked God into my life, and he changed my life in significant ways."

That took me about 15 seconds to say.

So here's a challenge for you! What could you say in about four sentences? Either how you came to know God or what it has meant to you to know him.

To get you thinking, here are possibilities....

"I struggled for a long time to find a sense of purpose in my life. Nothing seemed to fill that in a lasting way. Then I learned how I could know God, who created me, and my life took on way more meaning."

"I used to think that God was out there somewhere, but I never knew if he heard my prayers, or cared. He seemed silent. A friend told me how I could know God in a personal way, and now I see him answer me on a regular basis."

"It's easy to get weighed down by the sadness in life...horrible things you see on the news, for example. I find that when I go to the Bible, God shows me his perspective. He seems to always lift the sadness and give me energy to help others. God says he will be our refuge and strength and I see him do that."

Ask God to give you a message that you're ready to share with others. Maybe a verse of Scripture that you especially like. 15 seconds.

Jesus says we are salt, to help people be thirsty for him. And light to others, so they might know the light of the world!

What about when God leads you to into a much more in-depth conversation with someone?

Next email: How to share the gospel and help someone ask Jesus into their life.

Marilyn Adamson

director of [EveryStudent.com](http://EveryStudent.com)  
and [StartingwithGod.com](http://StartingwithGod.com)



## Conversations God Starts #10 - Example: Sharing the Gospel

Hi

The goal of this series is to help you feel comfortable having short, comfortable conversations with people about God, on a regular basis. You'll see God bring people your way, and now you're equipped to help them, even if you only have a few minutes with them.

Does this mean we don't ever share the gospel with someone and help them receive Jesus right then? Of course not.

It depends on how God leads you and the conversation. We need to stay sensitive to the person we're talking to and sensitive to the Holy Spirit at the same time.

Before I share the next example with you, please put this aside for a minute and go to your Google Playstore or Apple's Appstore, and download the app: Every Student. (Look for its orange globe logo.)

This app works without wifi. So it comes in handy on flights, subways, etc., as it did in this next story.

On a flight, somehow I was bumped up to first class. Sitting next to me was a gentleman I'll call Jack.

He winced as he sat down and explain he recently injured his knee. I encouraged him to ask the flight attendant for a bag of ice for his knee. That started us talking.

Before we pulled back from the gate, he asked what I do. I said, "I'm connected to a site that takes on the hard questions about life and God."

He immediately replied, "We need to talk!"

Jack shared a lot with me. He told me the name of his family-owned business and I recognized it right away. This is a very successful guy.

I knew he must travel a lot. But I was pretty amazed to hear he's been to 110 countries. He's only about 40 years old, so that's a LOT of travel in a short career.

Perhaps tied to his frequent travel, Jack also went through a very rough divorce about a year ago and is still struggling with life.

On top of that, he said he's been alcohol and cocaine addicted since he was 17 years old. (I'm amazed that by simply listening in a kind way, people feel comfortable sharing their lives.)

Four months ago, Jack said he went to a hardware store and bought a rope to hang himself. Fortunately, after buying the rope, he instead checked into a rehab facility.

He's clean now. But he still was not ok. He had no peace, joy, no sense of belonging.

We talked for quite a while. Mostly, I was asking questions and listening (and trying to talk softly, for everyone's sake on the flight). We covered a lot of subjects.

Eventually, it seemed right to tell Jack how he could have a relationship with God...the one who created him, who loves him.

I told Jack that none of us were meant to go through this life without God.

I handed him my phone. I showed him this article (same one that's on the website), "[How to Know God Personally](#)" and asked him to read it. It presents the gospel and gives a person an opportunity to receive Christ.

He read it very slowly, very carefully. He spent a long time on it.

When Jack was done reading, he handed my phone back to me. I asked him, "Did you ask Jesus into your life, as it talked about?"

He said, "No."

I asked him, "What are your hesitations?"

He said, "I don't think I have time in my life right now to commit to God. I don't think I would be able to spend the time to focus on it that it deserves."

I said, "This is not about committing to religious efforts. This is about having a relationship with God. This is God offering you a relationship with himself, freely. Jesus is simply standing at the door of your life, knocking. What does he ask of you? Open the door! He wants a relationship with you."

He looked stunned. Then he said, "Wow. I've never heard of the possibility of having a relationship with God." We talked more about what it means to have a relationship with God.

Then I asked him, "Now that you know that, is there any reason you wouldn't want to ask Jesus into your life right now?"

He said no. I handed my phone back to him and he prayed the prayer written there.

About four times he said to me, "You have no idea how important this conversation is right now in my life."

I also knew there was an article on the site written by someone who had a heroin addiction, "[Out of Heroin](#)." I went to that article and handed my phone to Jack.

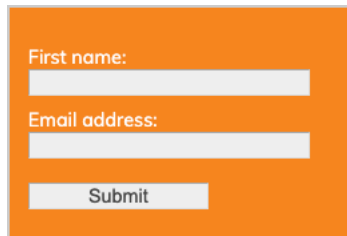
He read that one too and said, "Wow. Just change the names and a few details in this article--that's me. That's what my life has been like."

We talked about some of the points in it...how the Word of God and the Holy Spirit work together to change a person's life over time.

Once we landed, I went to the website [StartingwithGod.com](#). On the home page there is an invitation to sign up for an email series, the [Spiritual Starter Kit](#).



I handed him my phone so he could type in his name and email address, to sign up for an email series that would help him grow in his new relationship with God.

The image shows a sign-up form with an orange background. It has two input fields: "First name:" and "Email address:". Below the "Email address:" field is a "Submit" button.

I also was able to recommend a church to him near his home.

God knew I had all this for him. God brought Jack my way.

Next email: What you could do for those who avoid religion and don't want to talk about God.

Marilyn Adamson

director of [EveryStudent.com](#)  
and [StartingwithGod.com](#)

## Conversations God Starts #11 - If They Don't Want to Hear

Hi

As we think of bringing the gospel to others, it is good to keep this in mind:

nonbelievers might not feel comfortable talking about God.

I think we should respect that.

I have a friend who has had enough religion for a lifetime.

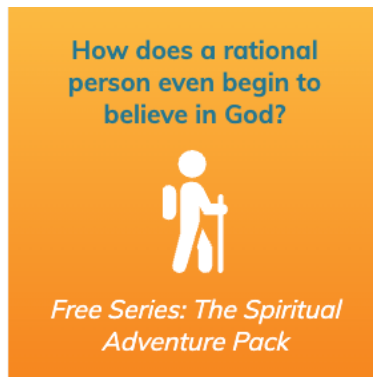
She grew up attending a Catholic school. Her parents were raising her in the Bahai faith and she also attending weekly meetings for that. Then she attended a high school where the student body was primarily Muslim.

You can imagine how she avoids any conversations about religion.

We're good friends. One day I said to her, "I'm conflicted about something. I don't want to be pushy about God, but at the same time, I don't want to be negligent either. Could I show you one place on the site if you ever become curious?"

She gave me permission.

I pulled out my phone and scrolled down the home page to the [Spiritual Adventure Pack](#) (the square icon with the backpacker).



I said, "This little hiker with the backpack is a 7-part email series that explains why I think faith in God is valid. How's that?"

She said, "Polite and succinct. Mission accomplished."

This particular email series has led many atheists to Christ. Allow me to share just a few comments from people expressing its impact.

All of these were merely sent to me. I didn't ask for any of them:

"I have decided to follow the living God." ~Kelvin

"With your assistance, I am well on my way. It's nice to have something to believe in." ~Ron

"Thank you so much. I have hope. I'm asking Jesus to take my life and do what he wants." ~Tammy

"Thank you for the Spiritual Adventure Pack. To say it has transformed my life would be an understatement. I grew up in a passionately atheist family. When I realized from your series that faith is a choice and not something simply handed to you on a plate, and when all your counterarguments run out, I realized that I had to let God into my life and I couldn't keep on living with philosophic skepticism instead of purpose, regardless of how my family would judge me. Thank you." ~George

"Thanks for helping me find God and myself." ~Bob

"I was fortunate that your website was among the first I found when I began searching (both online and spiritually!) I can't thank you enough for the advice, guidance and mentoring they have provided.

Like you I am the kind of person who questions everything, and I have a deep need to understand. I have found that by reading the information you provided I have been able to find answers to many of my questions.

You have led me from complete denial of God's existence to not just believing in Him but knowing that He is there. The evidence you give to demonstrate His presence and power, and the life, death and resurrection of His son, Jesus Christ, was sufficient to convince this 33-year-old, life-long atheist; not an easy challenge!" ~ Caroline

Caroline went on to say how she's grown through the email series for new believers on [StartingwithGod.com](http://StartingwithGod.com):

"I have also followed your advice regarding how to read His Word and have been getting answers from Him ever since! I already feel a very strong connection with my faith and that my relationship with Him is solid through His Grace. This is in large part due to your tutelage, although admittedly God did most of the work for me!

Thank you again for all you have done for me and, I imagine, millions like me around the world who are querying their beliefs or seeking Him but are unsure how to go about it.

I wish you every happiness, you have given me so much."

I share these with you so that you can see how real this is. Each individual is someone whom God drew to the site and someone he spoke to through it. I have received many hundreds like this.

Nothing on the site would have any impact if God was not involved. This is all a spiritual endeavor.

Imagine the number of people you encourage to visit the site who might thank you for helping them find Jesus.

Next email: Another true-life story, the self-described “born-again pagan.”

Marilyn Adamson

director of EveryStudent.com  
and StartingwithGod.com

## **Conversations God Starts #12 - Example: Born Again Pagan**

Hi

An aspect of Jesus’ life that is so tender is the way Jesus noticed people.

He paid attention to people who couldn’t even see him. People who couldn’t get up to move toward him. People who couldn’t hide their leprosy.

Jesus noticed and welcomed all people.

So many people in our culture are lonely. Just a few minutes to notice people, to acknowledge them, can convey love and worth to them. One more example...

I was standing outside a Walmart, and a man drove up with a bumper sticker on his car that read, “Born Again Pagan.”

When he got out of his car and walked toward me, I smiled at him and said, “Excuse me. I’ve just got to ask you about your bumper sticker - born again pagan.”

He said, “Oh yeah. Greatest thing. My brother got me into it.”

I said, “I don’t know a lot about it, but isn’t it the worship of the sun, the wind, water, etc.?”

He said, “Yeah, yeah that’s it. Changed my life!”

I said, “Well, I used to be an atheist, and I studied various existential philosophers looking for a philosophy that would always work. Then I became friends with someone who told me that I could know the God of the universe by asking Jesus into my life. And when I asked him into my life, my search ended.”

He said, “That’s me. I’m searching.”

And that’s what I find all the time. Until people find Jesus, they are still searching.

People might not let on. They might even have a bumper sticker that says, “born again pagan.”

But if they don’t know Jesus yet, then they’re still searching for truth, for some way for this life to make sense. They’re searching for confidence, peace, for love that they can count on. To know someone who will never leave them or give up on them.

And only Jesus meets our needs like that.

I said to him, “Maybe no one has ever shared with you how you could know God in a personal way. May I give you a card to a site that will show you how you can start a relationship with him today?”

He was extremely grateful.

Allow me to highlight a few things:

1. I noticed him. I paid attention to something I saw.
2. I wasn’t challenging his religion. I was seeking to help him, and he sensed that.
3. I didn’t blame him for not knowing about God. I suggested that maybe no one had ever told him. It was their fault for not telling him, not his fault for not knowing. “Maybe no one has ever shared with you how you could know God in a personal way.”
4. I shared with him something from my life, that when I found Jesus, my search ended. And I said it quickly.
5. I gave him hope that he could have that kind of relationship with God and offered him a website that could guide him to that.

Almost always people thank me for talking to them. I want you to have the same experience. Next email: let me give you my best tips.

Marilyn Adamson

director of EveryStudent.com  
and StartingwithGod.com

## **Conversations God Starts #13 - My Best Tips**

Hi

We're nearing the end of this series. Thank you for staying with me!

In this email, I'm giving you my best guidance. It's especially helpful with people you've just met.

Maybe someone in a store, or while traveling, or while sitting in the bleachers of a sporting event, or at a party. In other words, in the course of normal, daily conversations.

To be perfectly honest, I'm usually not seeking to share the gospel with someone. I'm usually just shopping, or getting through an airport, or playing golf or something...just going about my day.

I don't start my day hoping to talk about God with someone. (I hope that doesn't disappoint you.) It might be my introvert nature.

Yet God does know that I'm willing to help someone know him. And that seems to be all that God needs. It is enough. God just wants you to be available. He knows who you can help.

Instead of trying to share the gospel, I seek to love and enjoy the other person.

In situations where it seems appropriate, I might tell them, "I'm connected with a website that seeks to answer the really hard questions about life and God...like why is life so hard and how do you know that God exists?"

You can say, "I'm connected to a website..."

After I say that, I say nothing else. Sometimes people pick up on that and the conversation continues about God or the site.

But if they don't respond, I change the subject. I might ask them a question about their work or something else.

This lets them know that I'm ok not cornering them in a spiritual conversation.



In fact, even if the conversation goes deep on spiritual things, I will sometimes switch it back to a secular topic, then ask a spiritual question of them later.

I want to be sensitive to them and let them know they're not a target for me to convert. They are a person that I care about.

If they did show interest in discussing the website or God, we might talk about questions they have about God. I might share with them how I came to faith, or what I've seen God do in my life.

At the end of our conversation, whether we talked about God or not, as we are parting ways, I'll say, "Here, let me give you a card to the website that I mentioned. It will let you explore questions about God on your own." Then I hand them a card to EveryStudent.com.

If I discover that they are a believer, I might mention StartingwithGod.com to help them grow. (StartingwithGod.com is mentioned on the back of the EveryStudent.com card.)

My goal is to be available to God and kind to the other person. It is up to God's leading where the conversation goes. I know that I can always offer them a card to the site. That takes the pressure off of me.

I can be a normal person, respectful of them and their time/attention.

I truly believe it's a conversation God arranges because I'm equipped to assist them. Just be warm, friendly. God will take it from there.

The next email, a conversation while playing golf. You'll see these "tips" show up in our conversation.

Marilyn Adamson

director of EveryStudent.com  
and StartingwithGod.com

## **Conversations God Starts #14 - Example: Playing Golf**

Hi

Remember, it is enough for God for you to be available. He knows who you can help.

One more example.

I come from a family of golfers. Grandparents, parents, siblings...all very good golfers. My mother had a hole-in-one five times! I personally found it boring and took up tennis.

Well, recently I decided to give golf another try as a way to spend time with my husband and get exercise.

Two days ago, at the last minute, my husband hurt his knee and couldn't play. I decided to go anyway on my own, knowing they would put me with other golfers. It took a little courage.

I was matched up with a young man named Chris. We chatted about a variety of topics. Then, on about the 4<sup>th</sup> hole, I noticed an opportunity.

He told me that his dad worked at an amusement park and his mom was a teacher. During Covid, both of them had to stop working.

But Chris manages a grocery store, so his job continued. He shared what that was like, how customers behaved during Covid, etc.

Eventually I responded, "My job also continued through Covid. I work from home and started a website that's now in 50 languages."

I told him, "The site takes on the hard questions about life and God, from a Christian perspective."

We kept playing golf.

I didn't ask, but he shared with me his religious background and asked about mine. I very briefly shared how I had been an atheist and how the earth's distance to the sun and the properties of water convinced me of God's existence. And we kept playing golf.

We talked about lots of topics, friends, golf courses he likes, etc.

Chris was the one to bring religion/God back up in the conversation.

I replied, "I too was raised in a religious home, before I became an atheist. But it seemed like a lot of dogma, doctrine, things to do. But after years as an atheist, when I really began a relationship with God asking him to come into my life, I found it to be a two-way relationship. I knew he heard me as he answered prayers. And I saw him speak to me through the Bible."

I kept all comments at least that short, sometimes shorter. Bite size, over the hours we played golf.

It's easy for me to mention the site, because I created it. But you could say,

"I have a friend who started a website that's now in 50 languages. People really like it because it addresses the hard questions about life and God...."

Or you could say, "...that has more than 5 million visits each month."

Most business people don't see that many visits to their website each month. So that piques their interest.

I could picture you mentioning the site if someone is talking about AI or technology, or mentions anything religious, or stress in life, etc. Lots of opportunities.

If you wanted, you could add, "My friend used to be an atheist. The site gives reasons to believe in God and how a person can start a relationship with God."

While we played golf, I also told Chris, "You'll like this about the site...it has no ads and doesn't sell anything." (This also helps makes the site inviting to him, but through a more secular topic...no ads, no sales.)

At some point, while he was sitting in his golf cart as we waited for the next hole, I walked up and handed him a card to the site. He thanked me and put it in his wallet.

I find it immeasurably helpful to have cards with me. I hope you are carrying some! Options:

You could create a simple card that says,  
"Questions about life and God? EveryStudent.com"

Or you could save this .jpg file to your computer and upload it to an online printer:

<https://www.everystudent.info/c/2022/ESCOM2-QR2022.jpg>

Having a card to EveryStudent.com, means you don't have to cover the entire gospel in conversation (unless God leads you to)!

In my conversation with Chris, I could be brief, knowing that God can speak to Chris further on the site. Conversations can be warm, natural, normal. Nothing is forced.

We have the joy of helping someone move toward God.

Next and last email in this series: How to help a believer.

Marilyn Adamson

director of EveryStudent.com  
and StartingwithGod.com

## Conversations God Starts #15 - How to Help a Believer

Hi

This is the last email in this series. I hope you've caught by now that God arranges conversations.

Carry some [cards](#) with you, and he will simply bring people your way.

Here's another true story:

I was on another international trip. My flight arrived late, putting me at risk for missing my next international flight.

Another woman, wearing heels, was on the same itinerary as me. I had better shoes for running, so I told her I'd run ahead to hold the flight for her.

Once at the connecting flight's gate, it turns out that flight was also late. So when she arrived, we had a little time to chat.

She asked if I was traveling for work or pleasure. You know what I told her, "I'm connected to a site that takes on the hard questions about life and God." I added, "It's from a Christian perspective." (I usually don't say that.)

She immediately said, "WAIT!"

She reached into her briefcase and pulled out a huge Bible. She said, "I'm a recovering alcoholic. I just became a Christian and I bought this Bible, but I have no idea what to do with it."

I knew immediately how to help her.

[StartingwithGod.com](#) is a site we created for new believers. The home page is worded right to them:

"Congratulations on your decision to ask Jesus Christ into your life. What now?

If this were a religion, you could expect someone to give you all sorts of Rules. Rituals. Requirements. And maybe a lot of stuff to buy!

But when you asked Jesus into your life, you did not join a religion. Instead, you began a relationship. With God.

And that's pretty amazing. You might be wondering how do you get to know God better? Ask for the [Spiritual Starter Kit](#)."

This is what I showed her and encouraged her to sign up for it. She was thrilled!

We boarded the flight two minutes later. But I knew God would help her grow and I loved that I could make it so easy for her.

[The Spiritual Starter Kit](#) helps a new believer understand what is now true of their new relationship with God...they are now a child of God, forgiven, Christ lives in them, they have eternal life, etc.

That's just the first email in the series. After that, they learn about God's unconditional love, that he will never leave them, the importance of fellowship, what to do when they sin, etc.

The last email in that series invites them to sign up for the next email series: [Skip the Stress](#), which is all about the Holy Spirit, how to trust God, how to live under God's grace, etc.

(Any series, a person has to sign up.)

Last email in that series invites them to sign up for a series through the [Gospel of John](#), so they can get to know Jesus better, and develop a habit of noticing what Scripture is saying.

(I hope you're catching that on StartingwithGod.com we can help a new believer grow to maturity in Christ, over many months.)

I would encourage you to sign up for a series or two, so you can see what it's like.

Anyone that you lead to Christ, you can help grow this way.

One time, I was with a friend in Starbucks. As the conversation progressed, I shared the gospel with her and how to receive Jesus, which she did.

I lived 3,000 miles away and was just visiting. So I asked her if she knew anyone who might be a Christian.

She did. She told me what church her friend went to (a good one) and how her friend "talks about God all the time."

So I encouraged her to meet her friend for lunch the next day to tell her she had started a relationship with God.

And I encouraged her for both of them to sign up for [The Spiritual Starter Kit](#) together. I then left for the airport.

When my flight landed, I had a text message from her:

“Thanks for talking to me about God today.”

I replied, “I’ve been smiling all day.”

She replied, “Me too!”

She met her friend the next day, signed up for the Spiritual Starter Kit and went through it together. She told me how very helpful it was to her. I was thrilled.

Let me add, I clearly remember after I received Christ (having been an atheist), I eventually started feeling a lot of pressure!

I thought, “Now that I know God exists, I should be praying more. I should be reading the Bible more. I should be talking to others about him more.” And what about all those commands in the Bible about how we should be living?!

Fortunately I came to understand living under God's grace and how to trust the Holy Spirit.

That’s why I wrote the second series, Skip the Stress.

If you meet a believer who is struggling in their faith, or discouraged over sin, or trying to live up to all of God’s commands...encourage that believer to sign up for [Skip the Stress](#) series.

These are free and a person will only receive what they sign up for...nothing else.

Thank you again for signing up for this series, Conversations God Starts. I hope it has been helpful!

Remember, you can rest in God's ability to steer the conversation to his purposes.

Feel free to recommend this series to other believers who want people to know Jesus. Send them this [signup page](#).

If you would like to continue to hear from me, please check out any of the other series on [StartingwithGod.com](#), and perhaps especially this invitation to [The Findables](#). (It’s free, of course.)

May God lead you to help many!

**Marilyn Adamson**

director of [EveryStudent.com](http://EveryStudent.com)  
and [StartingwithGod.com](http://StartingwithGod.com)