

How to Have A Hard Conversation

Our Mission: To take as many people to Heaven as we can before we die. Period.

Work at living in peace with everyone... **Hebrews 12:14 NLT**

1. Pray about it. Then ask for a meeting.

"If you want to know what God wants you to do, ask Him, and He will gladly tell you..." **James 1:5 TLB**

"If you're standing before the altar...giving an offering to God, and you suddenly remember someone has something against you, leave your offering there beside the altar. Go at once and first be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your gift to God." **Matthew 5:23-24 NLT**

2. Speak from your own need. Use the formula: "When you do A, I feel B."

"If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back. But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again..." **Matthew 18:15-16 NLT**

3. Clarify the problem and be specific about what you are asking them to change.

"Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing." **Proverbs 12:18 NIV**

"Do not use harmful words, but only helpful words, the kind that build up and provide what is needed..." **Ephesians 4:29 TEV**

4. Balance Grace and truth but stay on task.

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Romans 6:23 ESV

Unfailing love and truth have met together. Righteousness and peace have kissed! **Psalm 85:10 NLT**

Tips to stay on track:

- Be prepared.
- Hear them out to a point
- Make the defensiveness an issue.

5. Apologize for your part of the problem.

"And why worry about a speck in your friend's eye when you have a log in your own? How can you think of saying to your friend, 'Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,' when you can't see past the log in your own eye? Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend's eye. **Matthew 7:3-5 NLT**

Message Notes: The Holy Bible, New Living Translation, English Standard Version, The Passion New Testament, Today's English Version. The Living Bible, paraphrased edition. The Message, by Eugene Peterson. How to have That Difficult Conversation, by Dr. John Townsend. *Engaging Difficult Conversations*, lightandlifemagazine.com.