



Critical Conversations

It has been argued that the root cause of many—if not most—human problems lies in how people behave when others disagree with them about high-stakes, emotional issues. These crucial conversations become a breaking point where friends turn into adversaries. As Christ followers we are called to be the peacemakers, looking beyond ourselves to truly hear what the other person is trying to communicate.

Dynamics of Dialogue - *Matthew 12:31-37*

Dialogue is the free flow of meaning between two or more people. Like a life-giving stream, there are steps we can take to keep the waters flowing freely.

Safe to Talk - *Proverbs 12:25-26*

If you want to be able to talk about anything, then you have to make it safe. Has someone withdrawn in silence or gone on the attack in frustration? You could be at a crucial moment.

Engaged But Not Escalating - *Ephesians 6:10-18*

Getting up on the wrong side of the bed, stepping on a lego first thing in the morning, or simply running out of coffee can ruin an otherwise perfectly good day. Spiritually, failing to prepare ourselves can sabotage an otherwise engaging conversation.

Soft Scrub or Brillo - *Mark 12:13-17*

We know thousands of words and generally weave them into sentences that suit our needs. However, when the stakes are high and our emotions are engaged, it's easy to rub people raw.