



A Conversation Tool: Build Trust, Spark Collaboration, Spur Each Other On

Hebrews 10:24-25

Welcome to the Go Network

Our mission is to connect God's people and multiply God's Kingdom until the entire world trusts and follows Jesus.

Mission-minded, confessional Lutherans have a passion for reaching lost people with the Good News of Jesus. However, too often we are operating alone and do not know how to take our next faithful step. We could use some help. Likewise, there are many experienced practitioners and networks in our theological ecosystem who could offer help.

The problem is those who need help and those who could offer help often don't know each other.

The Go Network helps Lutheran practitioners find each other, build trusting relationships, encourage each other with the Gospel, collaborate, and spur each other on as we identify and take our next faithful steps in mission, discipleship, and multiplication.

Why Conversation?

There is great value in practitioners like us coming together for unhurried conversations about our lives, our ministries, and what God is up to in both.

Hebrews 10:24-25 reminds us of this, "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

When practitioners take time to share honest questions and hard-earned wisdom, demonstrate humility and open-handed generosity, and remind each other to drink deeply from Jesus' abundant cup of grace, soon, we aren't wishing for a community of trusted brothers and sisters – we are experiencing it. There is friendship, laughter, insight, hope, help, mission progress, and celebration!

This tool helps us have those kinds of conversations.

Where to Find What

The Conversation Tool	Page 2
The 5 Mission Targets & 5 Harvest Provisions	Pages 3-4
Our Posture as We Gather	Page 5
Best Practices for Using the Tool	Pages 6
Onboarding for New Participants	Pages 7-8

The Conversation Tool

Begin with Scripture and prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to guide your conversation in Jesus' name.

Review the questions below and choose the ones you find most helpful for your situation. (Notice some have indented follow-up questions.)

Finally, don't shy away from questions that make you a little uncomfortable. Often it is outside your comfort zone where meaningful progress begins.

1. What are you celebrating in life? (Let's give thanks to the Lord!)

Looking at the 5 Mission Targets (see page 3 below), what are you celebrating?
What challenges or headwinds are you facing?

2. How is God messing with you lately? What is He promising you in His Word?

How are you responding to Him in faith and with courage?

3. We all have internal self-talk and fears that get in the way of what we need to do. Where are you holding yourself back, and what is one small step you can take to break the pattern?

4. What are you learning about God, other people, or yourself?

What seems clear and what seems confusing?

5. What do you think is your next faithful step for making progress along the 5 Mission Targets?

What will you commit to do and when will you do it?
If you're saying yes to this, what are you saying no to?
How can we help you be accountable to doing this?

6. What questions, challenges, or obstacles do you have in taking this next faithful step?

What part of this feels most uncomfortable or unfamiliar to you?
What does that reveal?

7. Where do you need the most support, insight, or resources?

Looking at the 5 Harvest Provisions (see page 3 below), how can we help?

8. If more insight is needed than we have among us, who on the Go Network platform can help?

9. What do you want us to ask you about next time?

10. How can we help you with prayer?

If Time is Short, Use These Alternative Questions

- 1) What's been happening?
- 2) What's God up to?
- 3) What's working and what's not?
- 4) What are you learning?

- 5) What do you need?
- 6) What is the next faithful step you can take?
- 7) How can we help?

The 5 Mission Targets

Five Mission Targets have been identified to help you assess your progress and to identify the kind of resources you may need to take your next faithful steps. The targets are intended to be incremental, contextual, and engaged at your own pace.

- 1) **Mission Clarity & Alignment:** Through God's Word, we clearly understand God's mission, how to disciple people to participate in His mission daily, and how to align the ministry culture to consistently fuels that lifestyle.
- 2) **Every Believer Living on Mission:** We have a ministry culture where every believer is being discipled to participate in God's mission by loving their neighbors, discerning the work God is already doing in their neighbors' lives, and sharing the Good News of Jesus with them.
- 3) **Every Disciple Making New Disciples:** We have implemented Jesus' disciple-making process so that every disciple is intentionally making more disciples who influence their communities with the Good News of Jesus.
- 4) **Every Leader Developing New Leaders:** We have a leadership development system that trains leaders to multiply themselves and expand the reach of the Good News of Jesus.
- 5) **Every Ministry Planting New Ministries:** We have a ministry culture in which it is the norm to plant new ministries to reach new people with the Good News of Jesus.

The 5 Harvest Provisions

The Lord of the harvest provides what His harvest workers need as they work in His field.

The 5 Harvest Provisions (also known as Capitals or Pillars) have been identified to help you recognize the provisions the Lord has already placed among you as well as the kind of provisions you may still need. They also serve as reminders of what we want to steward and deepen in our lives, our ministries, and our network.

1. **Spiritual Provision:** This is the spiritual depth and strength we invest in each other for the sake of God's mission. It flows from being rooted in God's Word and being convinced of who we are in Christ and the abundance of what we have in Christ.

It is measured in being Gospel-centered, Holy Spirit-dependent, Kingdom-seeking, prayerful, and responsive.

This provision is important because our lives and ministries are empowered by God and the Gospel not mere human effort.

Jesus shows us in the Gospels how to be rich in spiritual provision: He lives in the abundance of His Father's love, seeks the Kingdom, spends time in prayer, trusts His Father in all things, and responds to people of peace in the harvest field.

Key questions: What is God doing – what is He teaching, what is He giving, where is He leading? How am I praying for the harvest and harvest workers?

2. **Relational Provision:** This is the relational depth and strength we invest in each other for the sake of God's mission. It flows from building trust, honesty, humility, grace, and open-handed generosity with each other.

It is measured in the quality of our relationships with family, friends, fellow-practitioners, mentors, and those we are discipling. This provision is important because we need each other in the harvest field.

Jesus shows us in the Gospels how to utilize this provision by how He invested Himself in His disciples. He knew they would need it for the harvest work ahead.

This provision is also measure by our overall physical, mental, and emotional health, which greatly affects our ability to invest relationally in others. To maintain our health, we live in a rhythm of life that allows us to work hard and rest well.

Jesus shows us the importance of this when He teaches His disciples in the Gospels how to rest and abide so they can much bear fruit.

Key questions: Who needs me to invest in him/her? How am I spending time in friendships? What can I change to be healthier for others? What boundaries do I need to set in my calendar to have time for relationships?

3. **Intellectual Provision:** This is the wisdom and creativity we invest in each other for the sake of God's mission. It flows from being in God's Word as well as being a practitioner, innovator, and learner.

It is measured in experience, insights, ideas, and stories from the harvest field. This provision is important because responding to opportunities and challenges in the harvest field requires wisdom, creativity, and collaboration among practitioners.

Jesus shows us how to utilize this provision in the way He prepares His disciples for work in the harvest field. By hearing His teachings and following Him into the harvest field, they built up experience and wisdom for when they faced opportunities and challenges.

Key questions: What have I learned? What stories from the field do I have to share?

4. **Physical Provision:** This is the time, talents, and tools we invest in each other for the sake of God's mission. It flows from being generous stewards of what we have already been given by God.

It is measured in what we have and what is needed by others. Oftentimes what is a need for one person or ministry might be a surplus for another. This provision is important because no one has everything they need; but, when we choose to trust each other and share, we discover the abundance of what God is provided through the larger family: time to help, talents of people to share, tools to borrow, or space to use.

Jesus shows us in the Gospels how to utilize this provision as He generously shares what He has with His followers, and has His followers generously share what they have with others.

Key question: What do we have that can be shared with others?

5. **Financial Provision:** This is the money we invest in each other for the sake of God's mission. It flows from trusting the faithful character and provision of God. Where God guides, God provides.

It is measured in dollars and cents, but also in the level of confidence we have in the promises and guidance of God. This provision is essential for operations, but it is also listed last because money is simply a tool that works best when used on the foundation of the other four provisions.

Jesus, of course, taught about money in the Gospels. He recognized it as a necessary tool in the world. However, He warned us not to love it or rely on it. Rather, He taught that we should steward it wisely and share it generously to serve God, His mission, and people.

Key questions: What Kingdom-expanding opportunities do we see that the Spirit is prompting us to support financially?

Our Posture as We Gather

Our posture as we gather for conversation reflects the values of the Go Network:

1. **The Teachings & Mission of Jesus**
We value the teachings of Jesus and eagerly answer His invitation to join Him on His mission. "Come, follow Me." The teachings of Jesus reveal what His mission is and how He accomplishes it for us and through us.
2. **Being Spirit-led**
We value being Spirit-led in all circumstances, praying continuously, seeking what He is already doing, and responding with the gifts He gives.
3. **Unifying Trust**
We value building unifying trust as a foundation for being humble, honest, generous, accountable, quick to listen, and slow to speak—especially when there is disagreement—and being committed to forgiving and reconciling with each other in the name of Jesus.
4. **Innovation**
We value innovation inspired by creativity, curiosity, entrepreneurial thinking, courage, and risk-taking that allows us to fail forward and learn. Throughout the Bible, we see God leading His people to be innovative to reach more people with the Gospel of Jesus.
5. **Generous Collaboration**

We value generous collaboration. God generously gives gifts to all of us, but different gifts to each of us. He has given each of us valuable knowledge, skills, perspectives, and resources, so more is achieved together than anyone could achieve alone.

Best Practices for Using the Conversation Tool

Our goal is to connect in relationship, build trust, encourage each other with the Gospel, spark collaboration, and spur each other on as we identify and take our next faithful steps along the mission target progression.

Schedule: Schedule your conversations to follow a rhythm your participants find most helpful. However, meeting at least once a month is recommended. If you meet less frequently, goals often are put on the back burner, replaced by tasks perceived as more urgent.

Conversations can be in person, online, or both. Consider scheduling two hours so you can enjoy unhurried reflection and collaboration. Larger groups may want to break into smaller groups to have more thorough conversations in less time.

Scripture and Prayer: Because the mission of God is Spirit-led, begin your gatherings with Scripture and prayer. In addition, consider committing to daily prayer. Many in the Go Network pray the prayer Jesus taught in Luke 10:2 at 10:02 a.m. Some set an alarm on their phone as a reminder.

Good Questions: We ask each other good questions rather than simply offer our solutions.

Why ask questions? Asking questions moves people from being a passive listener to an active problem-solver. Asking questions has been proven to foster deeper thinking, clearer insights, and stronger personal accountability. Questions can take our thinking where we would not go on our own, helping us increase our awareness, make discoveries, and gain clarity. Then, armed with that clarity, we can make choices that are less bound by our emotions, assumptions, and fears.

Feeling Uncomfortable: Allowing ourselves to feel uncomfortable as we wrestle with questions about our ministries and ourselves is good and a key to making progress. Those important moments of uncomfortable wrestling are why we prioritize building trusting relationships in the Go Network. When there is trust among us, a person can risk feeling uncomfortable as he/she does the hard work of being honest, transparent, and accountable.

A Network of Networks: The Go Network curates an online network of networks which lists proven mentors, certified coaches, process providers, and other resources from our wider theological ecosystem. If you need help making progress with one of the 5 Mission Targets, you can find help on the platform [when it is launch].

Peer Facilitation Training: Because many of us are more skilled at presenting and teaching than listening and asking thoughtful questions, your local, regional, or affinity-based network is invited to have one or more of your participants take “Peer Facilitation Training” from a Go Network certified coach. You can access the training on the Go Network platform [when it is launched].

Onboarding New Participants: When welcoming a new participant to your network, consider using the onboarding questions on pages 7-8 below.

Other Helpful Practices to Consider: Consider having your group share meals together and, when possible, include families. Consider going on annual retreats to foster deeper friendships, or attending conferences together. Consider having unhurried prayer sessions together.

Onboarding Questions for Welcoming a New Participant

When welcoming a new participant to your network, consider using some of the onboarding questions below to discover who he/she is, what his/her ministry context is, and what God is already up to in his/her life and ministry.

1) Personal Calling & Journey

Tell us your story and about your spiritual motivation.

- Tell us a little about your journey.
- What first drew you to the ministry work you are doing today?
- How have you sensed God most clearly shaping your calling? What about recently?
- What are you most passionate about in ministry or leadership?
- What keeps you motivated when leadership becomes difficult?

2) Current Ministry Context

Help us understand your environment and challenges.

- What is the name and focus of the ministry you lead or serve?
- What community or people group are you primarily serving?
- What are the greatest opportunities you see in your context right now?
- What are the biggest challenges or pressures you are currently navigating?
- Which leadership responsibilities give you the most energy each week and which take the most energy?

3) Vision & Mission Alignment

Tell us your convictions about mission and collaboration.

- How would you describe the mission or vision that currently drives your ministry?
- What does “multiplying the Kingdom of God” look like in your local context?
- Where do you see the need for collaboration with other ministries or leaders?

- What kind of impact do you hope your ministry will have in the next 5–10 years?

4) Leadership Support Needs

Help us understand what resources you are looking for as a practitioner or leader.

- Where do you currently feel most alone in your leadership?
- Looking at the 5 Mission Targets of the Go Network (see Page 3 above), which one describes where you/your ministry are at?
- Looking at the 5 Harvest Provisions (see Pages 3-4), what kinds of resources would be most valuable to you?
- What challenges would you appreciate having trusted peers to process with?

5) Relational Readiness for Network Participation

Healthy networks depend on trust, collaboration, and humility.

- What does healthy collaboration between ministries look like to you?
- How comfortable are you sharing both successes and struggles with other leaders?
- What strengths or experiences could you bring to a network of leaders?
- How do you usually respond when you receive new ideas or constructive feedback?

6) Growth & Development

Share with us what you identify as your learning opportunities and leadership growth areas.

- In what areas do you most want to grow as a leader over the next few years?
- Are there specific skills or topics you want to learn more about?
- How do you typically pursue leadership development right now?

7) Practical Engagement

Let's clarify your expectations and level of involvement.

- What level of involvement in this network community feels realistic for you?
- Are there particular leaders, ministries, or types of conversations you hope to engage with?
- What would make participation in a network like this truly meaningful for you?