

Talking about Jesus at work and home

What kind of King? Sunday lunch

The day after a big march, your dad says over the roast: "Christ is King. You lot should be saying it louder."

Reader's edition

Level	Setting	Conversation	Topic
🌿 Growing	👪 Family	🚪 Open door & ✋ Push-back	Christ is King

Levels 🌱 Starter: new or unsure · 🌿 Growing: some confidence · 🍎 Confident: the harder conversations

St John's Church, Woking

Workplace & Neighbourhood Evangelism

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Kirsty the Christian · Mike, Lily, Carol and Jayden the other people

The notes in the conversation

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Each note runs across the page, in its own colour, under the line it goes with. Underlined Bible references open the verse (NIV UK).

Before you read

This isn't a script to learn off by heart. It's one example of how a conversation like this might go. It's good to be prepared (1 Peter 3:15), but in a real conversation it's the Holy Spirit who leads, usually quietly, through the Bible, prayer and ordinary good sense, and sometimes more clearly. Jesus promised His followers that when they were put on trial for Him, the Spirit would give them the words (Luke 12:11–12), and He still helps us when we're put on the spot. So read it through, stop where it asks you to, and think about what *you* might say. Then pray for your own conversations. You don't need to get it perfect. It's God who brings people to faith, and He's pleased to use ordinary people like us to do it.

About this booklet

Goes with

- *What kind of King?* (at work) and *What kind of King? Over the gate*: the same question at work and on your street
- *What kind of King? Hard questions*: the companion handout (questions 1, 4, 5 and 6 go with this conversation)
- *Nations and the kingship of Christ*: the Go deeper booklet on this theme

How this booklet was made

This conversation was written with the help of AI (Claude, made by Anthropic). The AI did the research and wrote the drafts. A member of St John's chose the topic, decided what it should cover, read it through, asked for changes and approved it.

AI can get things wrong, and it can sound very sure of itself when it does. So the conversation has been through these checks:

- **The people.** A separate reviewer read each person's lines on their own, to check that they sound like one real person and that nobody changes their mind without a reason on the page.
- **Theology.** Separate AI reviewers read it against Scripture, the historic creeds and what Christians down the centuries have said. One reviewer was asked to hunt for error, for overstatement and for anything that might hurt someone who's struggling. Everything they found was put right and checked again.
- **Quotations.** Every quotation from another writer has been checked against its original source. Bible quotations have been checked against the NIV.
- **Facts and figures.** The research figures have been checked against the original reports.

It hasn't yet been reviewed by a trained theologian or a member of the clergy.

Please read it with care. Even after all these checks, some mistakes may remain. Test what you read against Scripture, as the Bereans did: they "examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true" (Acts 17:11). If something doesn't look right, please let Tim Parr know at timparr40@gmail.com.

The views in this booklet are the author's own. They don't necessarily reflect the views of the leadership of St John's Church.

The small print

What kind of King? Sunday lunch · Talking about Jesus at work and home · Reader's edition · Version 1.1, October 2026.

Quotations from other writers are used for comment and discussion.

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PART 1

The conversation

*The whole conversation, with numbered notes across the page under the lines they go with: what is going on, the Spirit, the Bible, and what Christians have said down the centuries. Where you see **Stop and think**, stop and decide what you would say before you read on.*

The setting

Sunday lunch at Mike and Carol's, in a small market town in west Essex. **Kirsty** (35, hairdresser) is round with her children, **Lily** (13) and **Jayden** (9), as she is most Sundays. About two years ago Kirsty started going to the church where Jayden did a holiday club. She did a course for people with questions there, and became a Christian. Her family have noticed, and mostly they've been kind about it, though nobody really asks. Her dad, **Mike** (61, retired scaffolder, bad back), calls himself "C of E" but hasn't been inside a church since his mum's funeral. He went on a big march in London last year. Yesterday there was another one, and he's watched the clips all morning. Everyone round the table remembers last Christmas, when a row about the asylum hotel in town ended with Carol crying in the kitchen and Kirsty's brother Dan driving home early.

1 "You lot should be saying it louder"

Mike

(carving) "Did you see it yesterday, Kirst? Thousands of 'em. Singing 'Jerusalem', crosses, 'Christ is King!' Proper Christian. You lot should be pleased. Your vicars won't say it."

1 The Spirit

Kirsty sees her mum glance up from the gravy. Christmas is in the room. Silently: *"Lord, help me love him more than I want to win."* There's no flash of guidance. It's just a quick prayer, and a decision not to rise to it.

Kirsty

"I did see a bit of it. Hearing 'Jerusalem' sung like that was quite something, I'll give you that. What did you make of it, Dad? Did you wish you'd gone?"

2 What's going on

At work you can often step back from a hot topic. At the family table you can't: everyone's there, and everyone remembers last time. Kirsty starts by *agreeing with what she honestly can*, then *asks a question*. With family, the first few seconds often decide whether you get a conversation or a repeat of the old row. And family really matters here: in *Talking Jesus 2022*, of non-Christians who know a practising Christian, 31% said that Christian was a family member, second only to a friend (35%).

2 "At least someone's saying it"

Mike

"Course I did. My back wouldn't have lasted, and your mum would've had my guts. But I'm not being funny, at least someone's saying it. Nobody asked us before they stuck a hundred blokes in that hotel by the bypass. Lily walks past it every day."

Lily

"Grandad, it's fine. Nobody's ever said anything to me."

Mike

"That's not the point, sweetheart." *(to Kirsty)* "Go on, then. You're the Christian. What do you reckon?"

3 Stop and think

What would you say next?

Option A (what Kirsty said): "You're right, nobody asked anyone round here, and that wasn't fair." *Why:* it's true, and Mike has waited a long time for someone in the family to say it. Being listened to opens him up more than anything else would.

Option B (less helpful): "Dad, you can't say that. That's basically racist." *Why it tends to backfire:* it's the kind of line that blew up Christmas. Mike will hear "ganged up on again", the grandchildren learn that faith means taking sides at the table, and the door closes for months.

Kirsty

"You're right, nobody asked anyone round here, and that wasn't fair. I know you worry about the kids."

Mike

(slightly thrown) "Well. Yeah." *(carves)* "First time anyone in this family's said so."

3 "Don't do that"

Lily

"Ameera in my class said on the group chat her mum wouldn't go into London yesterday. 'Cause of her hijab."

Mike

"Nobody's gonna hurt her mum, sweetheart. That's the telly winding everyone up."

Kirsty

(to Lily) "That's kind of you to think of her, love. I hope she's all right." *(to Mike)* "Dad, Dan told me someone shouted at Imran's mum on the Tube last year. She's not been on it since."

Mike

(stops carving) "Who did? Someone off the march?"

Kirsty

"I don't know. Some man, shouting at her to go home."

Mike

"Well, that's out of order, whoever it was. But you don't know he was off the march. There's idiots everywhere. That's not what it was about." *(a pause)* "Imran's mum, though?" *(starts carving again)* "Doesn't change the hotel, does it?"

Kirsty

"No, it doesn't. I think both things are true."

Mike

(puts the knife down) "Don't do that."

Kirsty
"Do what?"

Mike
"Your brother's thing. Sit there all calm and make me the bad guy."

Carol
"Mike. Can we not, please? Not today."

4 Stop and think

Your dad feels ganged up on, and your mum is pleading. What do you do?

Option A (what Kirsty said): she says sorry for how it came across, not for what's true, and tells her dad what she really thinks of him. *Why:* Mike's biggest fear at this table is being written off. Once he hears that he isn't, he can afford to think about Imran's mum.

Option B (less helpful): "I'm not making you anything, Dad. That's what happens when people march round with flags." *Why it tends to backfire:* it feels like standing up for Imran's mum, but it proves Mike's point (he *is* being made the bad guy), and lunch turns into last Christmas. Going quiet and never mentioning it again doesn't help either: then the Christian at the table seems to have nothing to say.

Kirsty
"Sorry, Mum." *(to Mike)* "Sorry, Dad. That came out wrong. I'm not saying you're the bad guy. You drove two hours at midnight when my car broke down. If Imran's mum was stuck somewhere, you'd go and get her. I know you would. I just think she's frightened, and you wouldn't want that for her."

Mike
(looks at his plate for a long moment) "No. I wouldn't." *(then)* "Still doesn't change the hotel."

Kirsty
"I know, Dad."

Jayden

"Can I have the gravy?"

(Carol passes it. Everyone breathes out.)

5 What's going on

Mike doesn't change his mind, and Kirsty doesn't try to make him. When a story hits close to home, most people get defensive first: "You don't know that", "There's idiots everywhere". That's normal. It doesn't mean the conversation has failed. Mike likes Imran, and he's angry about the hotel, and he's never had to put those two things side by side. Kirsty tells him briefly what happened to someone he knows, and lets it sit. When he pushes back, she doesn't try to win the point. She reassures him about *him*. Real faces change people more slowly than we'd like, but more deeply than arguments do.

6 What's going on

The children are listening. They're learning how a Christian handles disagreement. Don't draw children into the argument or use what they say as ammunition. If they speak up, take them seriously, and protect them from any fallout. *(Be careful with other people's stories, too: is this yours to share? Kirsty is passing on something Dan told her himself, and he's happy for the family to know.)*

4 "So what's wrong with saying it?"

Mike

(after a minute) "Anyway. You believe it, don't you? Christ is King. So what's wrong with them saying it? Or are you embarrassed about it, like your vicars?"

7 The Spirit

Mike isn't curious. He's needling. Kirsty could leave it, and in a family there's nearly always another Sunday. But he's asked her straight, and saying nothing would sound as if she's ashamed of Jesus. She prays a quick *"Help!"* and answers, gently.

Kirsty

"I'm not embarrassed, Dad. I say it every week. I think it's the best news there is. The question is what *kind* of king He is."

Mike

"Go on then, vicar."

Kirsty

(laughs) "He rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, not a warhorse. He washed His friends' feet. And when they nailed Him to the cross, He prayed for the people doing it: 'Father, forgive them…' That's my King. I know plenty of people there yesterday weren't trying to scare anyone, Dad. But if His name's being shouted in a way that leaves Imran's mum too scared to get on the Tube, someone's missed who He is."

Mike

"So I'm one of the ones who's missed it, am I? I was there last year."

Kirsty

"Were you shouting at anyone's mum?"

Mike

"Course I wasn't."

Kirsty

"Then I'm not talking about you."

Mike

(quieter) "There were some idiots. Masks on. Some of the chanting, I didn't like." *(pause)* "Doesn't mean the rest of us were wrong."

Kirsty

"No. And I believe you didn't like it."

8 What's going on

Because Kirsty *hasn't called him racist*, Mike can admit something he'd never say if he felt attacked: he didn't like some of what he heard. She doesn't pounce on it, or say "So you agree with me, then." She lets him keep his dignity. People are far more honest with someone they trust not to use it against them.

Kirsty
"Can I tell you something Nan said to me once?"

Mike
(puts his fork down) "Your nan?"

Kirsty
"I was a teenager and being a nightmare, and she told me she prayed for every one of us every night, by name. And she talked about Jesus like He was a friend in the room. I didn't get it then. I think I do now."

Mike
(clears his throat) "She did. And church every Sunday of her life. I used to take the mick. I wouldn't now."

Kirsty
"What was she like at church, Dad? I only ever saw her at Christmas."

Mike

(a small laugh) "Front pew, left side. Never missed. Sang every hymn like she was the only one in there, and couldn't hold a note to save her life." *(stops; clears his throat again)* "Anyway."

9 What's going on

Every family has its own history of faith: a grandparent who prayed, a christening, a funeral hymn. Kirsty *shares an honest memory and then asks about it*, so Mike can tell the story himself. She doesn't use Nan to win the argument, and she doesn't claim to know what Nan would have said about the march. A loved one's memory is precious, not a trump card. But it can open a door that no outside argument could. In *Finding Jesus* (2025), 72% of adults who had recently come to faith had some earlier contact with Christianity, such as a grandparent or Sunday school. Seeds sown long ago matter.

10 Bible and voices

Through the ages

"Religion is to be defended, not by putting to death, but by dying; not by cruelty, but by patient endurance". Lactantius, *Divine Institutes* V.20 (early 4th century).

5 "You were no angel either"

Mike

(after a while) "Mind you, you were no saint at seventeen, were you? Climbing out the bathroom window."

11 Stop and think

Your family remembers exactly who you used to be. What do you do with that?

Option A (what Kirsty said): she laughs and agrees, then uses it to explain grace.

Option B (less helpful): "That's different. I've changed now, I'm a Christian." *Why it tends to backfire:* it sounds like "I'm better than you now", which is the last thing a family will accept from you. Your family is the hardest audience for self-improvement stories, and the best audience for grace stories.

Kirsty

(laughs) "No, I wasn't. That's sort of the point, Dad. The window wasn't really the problem. I'd spent years living as if God wasn't King at all, and that's what the Bible calls sin. Jesus didn't wait for me to sort myself out. He died for me, in my place, while I was still like that. That's why He's the kind of King I'd follow anywhere."

Mike

"I've never hurt anyone, though. I've worked hard all my life."

Kirsty

"You have, and I'm proud of you for it. But none of us is good enough to stand in front of God on our own record, me first. That's why it's good news that He's the King who forgives."

Mike

"So I'm not good enough, but you are now, are you? 'Cause you go to church."

Kirsty

"No, Dad. I'm not good enough either. That's the whole point. I'm not forgiven because I go to church. I'm forgiven because Jesus paid for what I'd done. It's a gift, and it's there for you exactly the same as it was for me."

Mike

"Hm."

Carol

(quietly) "She is calmer these days, Mike. You've said so yourself."

12 What's going on

At work your colleagues mostly know the person you are now. *Your family knows the before and after*, and that's a strength. Kirsty doesn't hide her past. She uses it to show that grace isn't for good people, and that sin is deeper than bad behaviour. Carol's comment is the kind of thing a changed life earns over years, not in one conversation. In *Finding Jesus*, seeing the impact of faith on someone they knew is what prompted 29% of recent converts to start exploring.

6 A next step

Mike

"Well. Each to their own. You're not like the ones shouting, I'll give you that."

Kirsty

"Dad, have you still got Nan's Bible? The one from her bedside?"

Mike

"In the loft somewhere. Why?"

Kirsty

"I'd love to see what she underlined. Next Sunday, maybe? And can I say a prayer for your back this week, before your appointment? You don't have to do anything."

Mike

(after a moment) "Go on then. Can't hurt."

13 What's going on

The next step is *small, personal and part of family life*: a look at Nan's Bible next Sunday, and a prayer for his back. At work Ruth offered a link to Luke's Gospel. At home, the most natural door is often something the family already shares. Both steps are backed by research: reading the Bible helped 47% of recent converts, and answered prayer 37% (*Finding Jesus*). Yet of non-Christians who'd talked about faith with a Christian they know, only 13% remember being offered prayer (*Talking Jesus 2022*).

Ending A: Mike leans in

The next Sunday, after the crumble, Mike comes down from the loft with a battered black Bible. Inside the cover his mum has written the names of the whole family. An old bus ticket marks John chapter 14, where she's underlined: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me." "Don't get excited," he says. "Your mum made me look." Mike reads it twice. "She had that read at Dad's funeral," he says. Then, more quietly: "D'you reckon she's somewhere, then?" Kirsty says, "Nan trusted Jesus, Dad. And Jesus came back from the dead, so I believe she's with Him. He wants you there too, the same way: trusting Him." Mike says nothing, but he doesn't change the subject. In November Kirsty and the children go with him to the Remembrance parade, as they always do. This year he lets her walk into the church service afterwards with him.

Ending B: It goes cold

Mike says, "Yeah, well. We'll agree to disagree," and takes his coffee through to watch the football. Kirsty helps her mum with the washing-up. Carol says, "Thank you for not letting it turn into Christmas." Kirsty prays for her dad that week, and on Wednesday she texts to ask how his back appointment went. The next Sunday Nan's Bible stays in the loft ("Couldn't find it, Kirst"), and they talk about the allotment and nothing else, and that's fine. With family you're in it for years, not for one lunch. Keeping the peace while staying honest about Jesus is itself faithful witness.

PART 2

Toolkit

Quick answers for when you only have a moment, the main points to remember, and where you stand.

20-second answers

For when you've only got a moment before someone changes the subject. Each one aims to say something true with real weight, to leave a question in their mind, and to point to Jesus, "with gentleness and respect" (1 Peter 3:15).

> **"Christ is King. What's wrong with saying it?"**
>
> "Nothing. I say it every week. But He's a King who rode a donkey and prayed for the people killing Him. If His name's making someone's mum afraid, someone's got the wrong idea of Him." *(Zechariah 9:9; Matthew 21:5; Luke 23:34)*

> **"So I'm the bad guy, am I?"**
>
> "No, Dad. You're the one who'd drive anywhere at midnight for any of us. I'm not on a side against you. I just want to follow Jesus, and He's bigger than anyone's side, yours or mine." *(Joshua 5:13–14; 1 Timothy 5:1)*

> **"You lot should be saying it louder."**
>
> "I'd love more people to say it, and mean it. But you can't say Jesus is King and then live as if you're in charge. That's what I've had to learn." *(Luke 6:46)*

> **"I'm C of E. I'm as Christian as you."**
>
> "Your christening mattered. Promises were made for you, and it was a sign pointing you to Jesus. But nobody's a Christian by passport or by family. Jesus said we need to be 'born again': a new start that God gives when we trust Him for ourselves. Anyone can, any day." *(John 3:3; John 1:12–13)*

> **"You've gone all religious since you started at that church."**
>
> "I suppose I have! But it's not about being religious. It's that I found out Jesus forgives people like me. You knew me at seventeen, so you know I needed it." *(1 Timothy 1:15)*

> **"I've never hurt anyone. I'm a good bloke."**
>
> "You are, Dad. But being good isn't how anyone gets to God, otherwise none of us would have a chance, me first. It's grace, a free gift, not a reward." *(Ephesians 2:8–9; Romans 3:23–24)*

> **"Your nan believed all that."**
>
> "She did. She prayed for every one of us, every night. I think God's been answering her prayers." *(2 Timothy 1:5)*

> **"Why is the church more bothered about them than us?"**
>
> "Jesus told us to love our neighbour, all of them: the people who feel ignored in our town *and* the people who feel unsafe. Christians should be working for the good of the whole town, and listening to you too. I'm sorry if that hasn't happened." *(Luke 10:25–37; Jeremiah 29:7)*

Three things to take away

1. **Don't restart the old row.** Agree where you honestly can, ask a question, and remember there's another Sunday.
2. **Ask about what the family shares.** A grandparent's faith, a funeral hymn, an old Bible: family memory can open doors that arguments can't. Share it honestly; never use it as a weapon.
3. **Tell a grace story, not an improvement story.** Your family knows who you were. Let that show what Jesus does for people who don't deserve it.

How the Spirit guides us

Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would be with His followers as they speak about Him (Luke 12:11–12; Acts 1:8). Most of the time the Spirit guides us in quiet, ordinary ways: as we pray and ask for wisdom (James 1:5), through the Bible He inspired, as He brings to mind what we've learned from it (John 14:26; Colossians 3:16), and through the love, gentleness and self-control He grows in us (Galatians 5:22–25). Sometimes He gives a clearer sense of what to say or do, as He did for Philip (Acts 8:29), and sometimes He closes one door and opens another (Acts 16:6–10). Any sense like that should fit with the Bible and with His character of love, so weigh it wisely, perhaps with a Christian friend (1 Thessalonians 5:19–21). If you don't feel any special prompt, that's normal. It doesn't mean He isn't there. And He works in other people too, in ways we can't see: convincing people about sin and opening their hearts to Jesus (John 16:8; Acts 16:14). So pray, use wisdom, speak "with gentleness and respect" (1 Peter 3:15), and leave the results with Him (1 Corinthians 3:6).

At home

What's different about talking with family.

They know your history. Your family remembers who you were at seventeen, and they'll notice whether your faith makes you kinder, or just more certain. A good life, lived over years, often speaks before any argument (1 Peter 2:12). It doesn't replace telling them about Jesus, but it earns you a hearing.

Honour, and still be honest. Disagreeing with a parent isn't disrespect. Speak to them as someone who owes them honour (Exodus 20:12), not as someone setting them straight: "Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father" (1 Timothy 5:1). In-laws, siblings and grown-up children need the same care. And if a family relationship isn't safe, honouring a parent never means putting yourself or your children in harm's way. Talk to someone at church.

Everyone's listening. Children, partners and the one who always keeps the peace are all at the table. How you disagree will teach them more about Jesus than what you say.

There's always another Sunday. You don't need to say everything today. If it's getting heated, stop, change the subject, or say sorry if you've got it wrong. Even Jesus said a prophet isn't honoured "among his relatives and in his own home" (Mark 6:4). Sometimes someone outside the family can say what you can't: a Christian friend, a vicar, a course.

Scripture

> "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." (Luke 23:34)

> "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me." (John 14:1)

> "Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone." (Colossians 4:6)

> "But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander." (1 Peter 3:15–16)

Go deeper

The companion handout: *What kind of King? Hard questions*. It takes seven questions that come up in the three "What kind of King?" conversations (this one, at work, and over the gate) one at a time, each with a question to ask back, something you could say, and more to read. Questions 1 ("Christ is King"), 4 ("I'm C of E"), 5 ("I've never hurt anyone") and 6 ("more bothered about them than us") go with this conversation. Ask in the group for a copy.

The Go deeper booklet: *Nations and the kingship of Christ*. What Christians have said about Jesus the King, our rulers and our country, from the first century to today. Section 6, "Marches, flags and your neighbour", goes with this conversation. Ask in the group for a copy.

Short reads (free online)

- "Christian nationalism in the UK: a contest for the nation's soul?", Peter Lynas, Evangelical Alliance (23 September 2025)
- "Flags, marches and 'Christ is King!'", Jamie Sewell, Premier Christianity (about 5 minutes): a vicar hears the chant through a frightened friend and through frustrated working-class men
- "Why would a decent person like me need forgiveness?", Christianity Explored (about 2 minutes): for "I've never hurt anyone"

Longer reads

- "Christianity and Nationalism in the UK", Evangelical Alliance (about 12 minutes): healthy patriotism, and where it goes wrong

Books

- *The Air We Breathe*, Glen Scrivener (The Good Book Company): how Christianity shaped the values Britain still lives by
- *King's Cross*, Tim Keller (Hodder): the King who came to serve, through Mark's Gospel
- *The Prodigal God*, Tim Keller (Hodder): short, on why the "good" son needed grace too

From the history of the church (quotations checked against the original texts)

> "religion is to be defended, not by putting to death, but by dying; not by cruelty, but by patient endurance" (Lactantius, early 4th century: *Divine Institutes* V.20)

> "Christianity is not a geographical, but a moral term" (William Wilberforce, 1797: *A Practical View of Christianity*)

The same question, in other places

This conversation is one of three. The same question ("Christ is King?") comes up at work, at home and on your street. Each one is a different conversation with different people, so each one tests something a little different. Here's what changed from place to place, and what stayed the same. If you'd like to read one of the others, ask in the group for a copy.

The other two conversations

- **What kind of King? (at work).** Ruth's colleague Dan holds up his phone by the coffee machine: "Is this your lot, then?" Later, at lunch: "Imran prays five times a day… Do you think he's going to hell?" It tests being honest about the church's failures, holding truth and love together, and knowing where you stand at work.
- **What kind of King? Over the gate (on your street).** Ruth's widowed neighbour Linda saw the march on the news: "Is that church now? I thought I was a Christian." Then: "Geoff was a good man… So where does that leave…" It tests answering grief honestly and gently, and staying a friend.

	At work: Ruth and Dan	At home: Kirsty and her dad (this one)	On your street: Ruth and Linda
Where they stood	Dan was uneasy about the march, and worried for a friend	Mike was all for it: "You lot should be saying it louder"	Linda was frightened by it, and wondered if she was a Christian
History	A friendly colleague. Dan knows Ruth's work self	Thirty-five years. Mike remembers her at seventeen, and last Christmas	Years as neighbours (Geoff once sorted Ruth's fuse box); closer since Linda was widowed in March
What was at stake	Ruth's reputation, a colleague listening, and the law at work	The family peace, and the children watching	A friendship Ruth sees every day, and a widow's grief
The hardest moment	"Imran prays five times a day… Do you think he's going to hell?"	"Don't do that… make me the bad guy."	"Geoff was a good man… So where does that leave…"
The first move	Be honest, then ask a question	Agree where you honestly can, then ask a question	Answer the worry in one line, then follow the real question
What opened the door	Dan's own question: "So what's the difference?"	Being told he wasn't the bad guy, then family memory: Nan's faith	Linda's own question: "I thought I was a Christian."
The gospel, in plain words	A King who died for His enemies, me included: a rescue, not a club	A King who died in my place while I was living as if He wasn't King	A King who weeps with the grieving, died for us and is stronger than death: anyone can start trusting Him
The next step	A link to Luke's Gospel, and an offer to pray	Nan's Bible next Sunday, and a prayer for his back	A lift to the Wednesday coffee morning, the Lazarus passage through the door, and an offer to pray
If it went cold	Ask after Imran's mum a fortnight later	Talk allotments next Sunday; there's always another lunch	A cake on the 14th, the date each month that Geoff died

What stayed the same, wherever they were:

1. **Person before argument.** Listen first. Ask before you answer.
2. **Reclaim, don't reject.** Christ *is* King. Show what kind of King: the donkey, the towel, the cross.
3. **Point to Jesus, then offer one small next step** that fits where you are.



"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

Luke 23:34

St John's Church, Woking

Workplace & Neighbourhood Evangelism

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