



Thinking Higher: Conversations
Presented by SALLT
Guide for Follow Up Forums

“Seek the well-being of the city to which I have sent you...” – God (via Jeremiah 29:7)

“If sin has twisted the city as it’s twisted the family, and turned it into a place of pain and suffering just as it’s done to the family, that doesn’t mean we get rid of the city. We don’t scoff at it or take pleasure in its troubles. We as Christians are called to redeem and rebuild the city.” – Tim Keller (“Why God Made Cities”)

Unity is the portal through which we must travel in order to engage the darkness of a fallen world at the highest level of God’s power through us. -- Wes Lane

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Thank you for agreeing to host a Thinking Higher Conversation. The ultimate goal is to seek the common good for *all* Oklahoma City’s citizens because we believe that is what Jesus would have us do to bring about lasting change in Oklahoma City. We know God loves people – we are, after all, made in His image.

Obviously, this is a tall order and nothing short of Christ’s return is going to resolve matters 100%. Yet there are instances in history when great, seemingly insurmountable societal changes have occurred. Consider one example, slavery was abolished as a result of a movement sparked and led by followers of Jesus in the British Empire some 200 years ago – something once thought as *impossible!* Before that movement could begin, conversations had to first take place; conversations that envisioned a better place to live for all people, followed by a strategic way to do it, which then led to action.

With your participation, you become a part of the unfolding story of those conversations in this city, which we believe will be historic. We want to imagine a better place to live. We want to be used as a catalyst for unity amongst God’s children and inspire all people to be concerned about the well-being of human beings living in our city.

Launching these conversations contemplates you doing five things:

1. Personally prepare for the discussion using materials herein (with either you or someone else facilitating).
2. If you desire, prepare your invitees by sharing the same information in advance of meeting.
3. Identify the venue that by its ambience lends to a respectful discussion (such as hosting a breakfast, lunch, dinner or desert; meeting at a coffee shop; the ideas are limited only to your imagination).
4. Invite your friends to the gathering.
5. Give us your feedback on how it went by June 30, 2015.

Keep this simple for yourselves. This should be a fun conversation among friends. Below are some pertinent Bible passages followed by a set of discussion questions – you might even want to come up with your own!

When the discussion is over, please go to [Thinking Higher](#) and give your thoughts on how it went. Also, note if you or any of your group would be willing to take further steps in creating a movement for “Kingdom Transformation” just as folks did for “Civic Transformation” twenty years ago. The idea of “thinking higher” is unfolding organically, so the next steps aren’t defined but anticipation is high as participants’ feedback is received.

Remembering that “prayer does not fit us for the greater work; prayer is the greater work” (Oswald Chambers), we hope you will individually and corporately bathe all that is said and done in prayer.

Join history in the making as God orchestrates our coming together to create conversation ripples (a buzz of “something happening”)! Thank you.

Thank you,

The SALLT Team

March 27, 2015

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Sample Questions for Conversations

1. How do you see Oklahoma City as having changed over the last couple of decades? (list these – perhaps on a big sheet of paper taped to a wall)
2. Do you sense a renewed excitement in the City? How has this impacted your sense of pride in your city and/or impacted your point of view? Has it impacted others as well?
3. How might the Christian business community play a role in a city-wide effort impacting what the city should look like from God’s perspective in Isaiah 65:17-25 beyond just financial investment?
4. A group of Kingdom minded citizens have already identified what they believe to be the three top points of crisis currently existing in Oklahoma City. They are: 1) the well-being of children; 2) family fragmentation (reflected in several components but in particular the elderly living long and full lives, intergenerational family support and hopeful future); and 3) meaningful work. Do you agree and if so, on which one do you believe the business community could have the greatest impact if they came together in a unified effort?
5. What could we (as women, young entrepreneurs, or whatever is the group’s core demographic) specifically do on any or all of these topics?
6. What suggestions do you have toward sparking a movement to unify followers of Jesus toward an Oklahoma City being an even better place to live (from God’s point of view) over the next few years?
7. Would the guests be willing to host their own discussions within their own sphere of influence (the goal being to have this be a city-wide conversation leading to next steps)? If so, [sign up at here](#).