

OPERATION TIMOTHY

7 WAYS TO MAKE YOUR CONVERSATIONS MORE NATURAL

If your Operation Timothy sessions feel more like a checklist than a conversation—take a deep breath. You're not failing. You're growing. Discipleship isn't about perfect delivery—it's about faithful relationship. Here's how to break through the stiffness and lead with authenticity.

1. BE A GUIDE, NOT A GURU

You don't need to have all the answers. In fact, you shouldn't. You're not trying to impress your Timothy—you're inviting them to follow Jesus with you. Be real. Be honest. Say things like,

- “This part hit me hard... what do you think?”

Lead with humility, not from a pedestal.

2. START WITH THE HEART, NOT THE CURRICULUM

The first few minutes of every session set the tone. Before you open the book, open your heart. Ask real-life questions:

- “What's your high, low and buffalo [random anything] for the past week?”
- “Where have you seen God at work this week—or wished you had?”

If you skip their heart, you'll miss their growth.

3. DON'T TEACH A LESSON—HAVE A CONVERSATION

The goal is not to get through material. It's to let the material get through you. If a truth hits deep—linger there. If a section feels forced—let it go. The Holy Spirit doesn't need you to check every box to do His work. You can say:

- “We don't have to check every box—let's lean into where Holy Spirit seems to be leading today”

4. TELL THE TRUTH—WITH YOUR STORY

People don't grow from hearing your wisdom. They grow from seeing your wounds that healed. Share the struggle. The doubt. The breakthrough. Truth becomes transformation when it's tied to your story.

5. PRAY BOLD, SIMPLE PRAYERS—OFTEN

Prayer isn't the punctuation mark at the end—it's the power source in the middle. Don't just say "Let's pray to close." Say:

- "Let's pray right now." Or
- "Let's pause and ask God to speak into this."

Stop mid-session. Invite God into the mess. Let your Timothy see faith in action.

6. LET THEM LEAD SO THEY CAN GROW

Ownership fuels growth. Invite your Timothy to pick a question, lead a prayer, or bring a topic next week. When they participate, they mature. When they lead, they multiply.

7. EMBRACE THE AWKWARD—IT MEANS YOU'RE BUILDING SOMETHING

Yes, it might feel clunky at times. That's okay. Real relationships take time. Awkwardness is often the sign that you're moving from surface to substance. Push through it—with grace and grit. Say:

- "Hey, if this feels a little stiff today, that's normal. Let's just be ourselves."

REMEMBER

You're not just discipling someone to know Jesus better. You're showing them how to walk with Him every day. Stay real. Stay humble. Stay faithful. You've got this.