

IdeaMarts
IDEAONE05/IDEATWO04
Courageous Conversations
Scott Hughes – shughes@umcdiscipleship.org
Director of Adult Discipleship, Discipleship Ministries

Description:

Courageous Conversations aim to encourage and equip local churches to hold meaningful conversations regarding complex social and interpersonal issues. A toolbox of resources (webinars, downloadable resources, articles, etc.) are designed to empower churches in creating nurturing, supportive, yet challenging spaces for adults to grow through engaging diverse perspectives and self-reflection.

1. Why?
 - a. Pulling the chairs closer together (Whistling Vivladi)
 - b. How do Adults Learn
 - i. Questioning Assumptions
 - ii. Social Learning Theory
 - iii. Dialogue as structured Learning
 1. Brave space/safe space needed for reflection/questioning assumptions
 2. Dialogue not debate
 - c. Way Forward – Special Called General Conference 2019
2. What?
 - a. Courageous Conversations
 - i. Website (Under Topics on the umcdiscipleship.org website)
 - ii. Resource Booklet – Courageous Conversations
 - iii. Local Church
 1. Place of shared connection and community
 2. Shared history
 3. Better chance to get a hearing
 - iv. AWF Evaluation
 - b. Discipleship Matter
 - i. Fruit of the Spirit – self-control
 - ii. Discipleship is about learning
 1. Discipleship is about being more like Jesus
 2. Jesus engaged the topics of the day
 3. Church can be a witness during polarization (my crazy dream)

- c. How to Have a Courageous Conversation with...
- 3. How?
 - a. Webinars
 - i. Design Team
 - 1. Intentionality and care
 - 2. Choose the structure, guidelines
 - ii. Training Facilitators
 - b. Sample Outlines
 - i. Modular
 - ii. Not meant to be exhaustive
 - iii. Focus is structured dialogues (not information)
 - c. Guidelines
 - i. Principles for Bible Study
 - ii. Touchstones
- 4. How have you done something like this? How did it go?
- 5. What might this look like for you?
- 6. Other resources
 - a. Courageous Conversations Resource Booklet
 - b. Crucial Conversations by Patterson, Grenny, Maxfield, McMillian, Switzler
 - c. Crucial Accountability by Patterson, Grenny, Maxfield, McMillian, Switzler
 - d. More Light Less Heat by Joseph Phelps
 - e. The Little Book of Cool Tools for Hot Topics
 - f. Disunity in Christ by Christena Cleveland
 - g. The Conversation Matters by Henry Knight and Don Saliers
 - h. The Anatomy of Peace by the Arbinger Institute