

# GETTING TO THE CONVERSATION

**Creating Opportunities to Truly Listen to  
Young People**



MARATHON  
YOUTH MINISTRY



Getting to the **Conversation**

**What if real formation  
started with us giving  
them our undivided  
attention?**



## KEY #1

**LISTENING STARTS  
WITH PROXIMITY,  
NOT PROGRAMS**



**KEY #1: Listening starts with  
proximity, not programs.**

The first step in listening is to  
draw closer to young people:  
not just to talk about them, but  
to talk with them.

– Listen. Teach. Send. 17



## KEY #2

**LISTENING IS THE  
FIRST ACT OF  
EVANGELIZATION**



**KEY #2: Listening is the first act of evangelization.**

Jesus began the Emmaus journey by asking questions.

– Listen. Teach. Send. 17



**Our responsibility as Christians is to **CONNECT**; the Holy Spirit is there for **CONVERSION**.**

**– Dr. Bernice A. King**



## KEY #3

**LISTENING BUILDS  
TRUST BEFORE  
TEACHING**





## **KEY #3: Listening builds trust before teaching**

Trust must be curated before  
deeper formation can take  
root.

– Listen. Teach. Send. 22



**Beginning with Moses and all the prophets, He **INTERPRETED** to them what referred to Him in the Scriptures.**

**– Luke 24:27**



Getting to the **Conversation**

**Before you teach, listen long enough to understand the language they speak. Trust is the soil where formation can finally take root.**



## KEY #4

**LISTENING REQUIRES  
LEARNING THEIR  
WORLD**



## **KEY #4: Listening requires learning their world**

We must recognize the distinct  
cultural and generational  
expressions in their lives.

– Listen. Teach. Send. 21



Getting to the **Conversation**

**Become a student of youth culture –  
learn before you lead.**







#### Getting to the Conversation

- **What in your teen's world resonates with your own teenage experience, and what feels completely different?**
- **What's one thing your teen is really committed to, and why?**
- **What do you love about your teen that makes them unique?**





## KEY #5

**LISTENING LEADS TO  
HEALING**



## **KEY #5: Listening leads to healing**

The Church can be a field hospital  
after battle to heal the wounds.

– Listen. Teach. Send. 22



Getting to the **Conversation**

**Healing begins when young people  
feel heard and safe enough to share.**



Getting to the Conversation

# GO OUTWARD



Getting to the Conversation

# GO OUTWARD

# WALK WITH PARENTS



Getting to the Conversation

**GO OUTWARD**

**WALK WITH PARENTS**

**GET EVERYONE INVOLVED**



Getting to the **Conversation**

**PROXIMITY**

**EVANGELIZATION**

**TRUST**

**LEARNING THEIR WORLD**

**HEALING**



Listening isn't  
preparation  
for ministry; it  
is ministry

- **HAVE ONE INTENTIONAL CONVERSATION**
- **NAME ONE PLACE OUTSIDE THE WALLS**
- **PRAY EACH DAY TO LISTEN BEFORE SPEAKING**





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