# **Institute of Youth Ministry**

## “How To Start Great Discussions”

by Steve Case, Involve Youth

#### Ways to End a Discussion

**Summary** – repeat what the key points of the discussion were. You might have these in mind from the beginning, or you might be able to weave in elements that others added to the discussion. An example of a summary would be, *there are a variety of ways to get a discussion going, but the two key principles are always 1. a small commitment is needed, and 2. there needs to be variance in the responses.*

**Action** – based on what was discussed, what kind of action are people to make at this time? *For example, let’s bring back hygiene packs tomorrow to send to hurricane victims.*

**Invitation/Challenge** – I’m feeling a call right now. Sometimes the discussion has an implied action, but it may need an actual invitation or challenge. For example, *if what we’ve been talking about really matters to us, then I invite you to talk to three of your friends about Jesus in this next week, no matter what they might say to you!*

**Commitment** – can be a private or public, individual or group commitment, based upon what has been discussed. For example, *if you’re willing to pair up with another person to be prayer partners for a full month, go to that person now and kneel beside him/her.*

**Question** – either a summary or the next step to ponder or wrestle with once the discussion is over. For example, *The wise men saw the star from a distance, but nobody in Jerusalem saw it when it was right over their heads. What’s close to you right now, but it may take somebody from a distance to point it out to you?*

**Prayer** – doesn’t have to be a cop-out ending. Some discussions should lead people to pray! For example, *we don’t know the specific changes God wants in us right now, but we are open for Him to show us now. Let’s listen to His voice during this time of meditation.*

**Symbol** – a potentially powerful item that can keep the discussion alive and refocus people when they remember it. For example, *put your WWJD bracelet inside your pocket and see if people notice you behaving in a Christlike way without seeing the bracelet.*

**Open ending** – leave people without a neatly package tie-off, sort of like real life! For example, *yes, our youth budget was voted out of existence for next year. And yes, we feel abandoned by the rest of the church. Some of our youth may quit. Or this might be the spur we need to take more initiative instead of expecting everything to be handed to us. That’s what we have to wrestle with now.*

Or you could just say, “Out of time!”