

Personal and Family Planning Guide

“...these Holy Days should be viewed as special opportunities for the friends to reach out to the widest possible cross-section of society and to all those with whom they share a connection—whether through a family tie or common interest, an occupation or field of study, neighbourly relations or merely chance acquaintance—so that all may rejoice in the appearance, exactly two hundred years before, of One Who was to be the Bearer of a new Message for humankind.”[†]

Who

Who might you engage in conversation, given the kind of connection you share with them?

When

When might you have the initial conversation? (What general timeframe?)

Where and How

Where might it be helpful to engage these friends? How might you approach or begin the conversation? (What concepts might you explore?)

Preparation

What might you do to prepare for these conversations (both spiritually and practically)?

A “family tie” Connection

A “common interest” Connection

An “occupation or field of study” Connection

A “neighborly relations” Connection

*“For the teaching opportunity that is now before the Baha’i world to be seized to its fullest extent, creative thought needs to be given to the conversations that could unfold with every kind of person.”**

* From the Ridvan 2017 message (para. 2) of the Universal House of Justice.

† From the 18 May 2016 message (para. 1) of the Universal House of Justice.

Giving Creative Thought to Where and How Conversations Can Unfold

Some examples of creative thought and other initiatives that can allow meaningful conversations to unfold:

- Firesides in your home
- Coffee breaks at work
- Sitting in a park or hanging out at the mall (areas where a lot of people frequent)
- Collaborating with a small team of friends--perhaps in a neighborhood--to have conversations with the parents of children, junior youth, and youth participating in core activities
- *[Can you think of additions that are well suited to your circumstances?]*

A Vision for Extending Conversation Over Time

We must also give consideration to how spiritual conversation with someone could be extended over time (naturally flowing from one conversation to the next). Do you have any thoughts now on how you might do this? Consider looking to the examples--and the underlying logic--provided us in Ruhi Book 2, Unit 2 (Arising to Serve) or in Ruhi Book 6, Unit 3 (Teaching the Cause).