

**T**he little box under the Christmas tree contained a precious gift. Addressed to the whole family, inside were two packs of cards and a booklet, so after lunch, we cleared the tables and settled down for a little quiet time together.

More than a book, more than a game - away we went creating a most memorable afternoon. Every person spoke, and every person listened. Communication flowed across the generations. And we listened with interest and at times, in awe.

Questions ranged from the profound to the light-hearted. A communication guidebook contained the "rules" and some fascinating facts. We shared and discussed ideas and feelings, thoughts and experiences related to

## The Art of **Christian Conversation**

faith and living in a harmonious way. We felt educated, entertained and enlightened.

Three hundred great questions; millions of wonderful responses. Our children listened without that "here they go again" expression, and I think this was because part of the "rules" were about listening with interest and empathy, without judgment, in an atmosphere of trust.

The questions were broad ranging and far-reaching (see examples at right).

It wasn't a quiz, although we learned a lot. It didn't create dogmatic arguments. *The Art of Christian Conversation* drew on personal experiences, the Bible, as well as our thoughts and reactions to facilitate discussion and new insights. Ideal for educators and small groups, as well as to use in the home, it would also be a wonderful way to explore one's own journey of faith.

Elle McEwan, Rosny TAS.  
The Art of Christian Conversation  
by Ross & Suzette Bowerman,  
Louise Howland and Keith Lamb.  
RRP \$19.95 at Christian bookshops.

- ♦ **Is there a person to whom you owe a thank you?**
- ♦ **What, if you let it, could become an idol?**
- ♦ **Do you ever celebrate the "ordinary" events?**
- ♦ **"Your rod and your staff, they comfort me" Psalm 23. How have you helped someone else feel better?**
- ♦ **"If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles" Matt 5:51 When have you walked the extra mile?**
- ♦ **An issue on which you have changed your mind?**

