

Gen Z and Jesus:

b r i d g i n g
t h e g a p

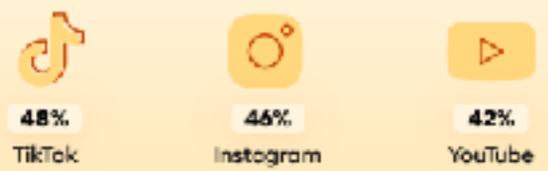


What have you heard
Gen Z say about faith,
Jesus, God, Christianity?

Answers?



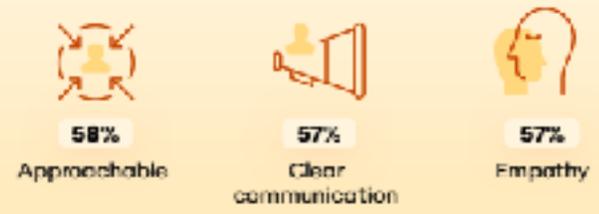
Used to learn new skills (daily)



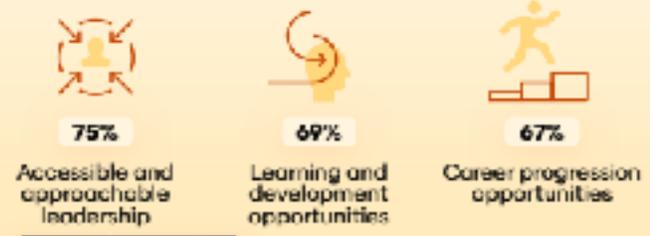
Words used to describe themselves



Qualities valued in a leader



Most important when considering a new job



Gen Z

Born 1995-2009



Top hopes



Top fears



Influential movies



Global population and workforce %



Some things they may say about faith...

“I’m not against Jesus — I just don’t know much about him.”

“I’m open to spirituality, but organised religion makes me nervous.”

“I’m interested in faith if people actually live it.”



The gap between Jesus and Gen Z

Ideas?



The gap between Jesus and Gen Z

The institutional trust gap

The cultural language gap

The relevance gap



What are Gen Z searching for?

- Belonging – where do I fit?
- Identity – who am I really?
- Purpose – does my life matter?
- Hope – is there more than this?



A few key principles of communication





I. Start with Jesus

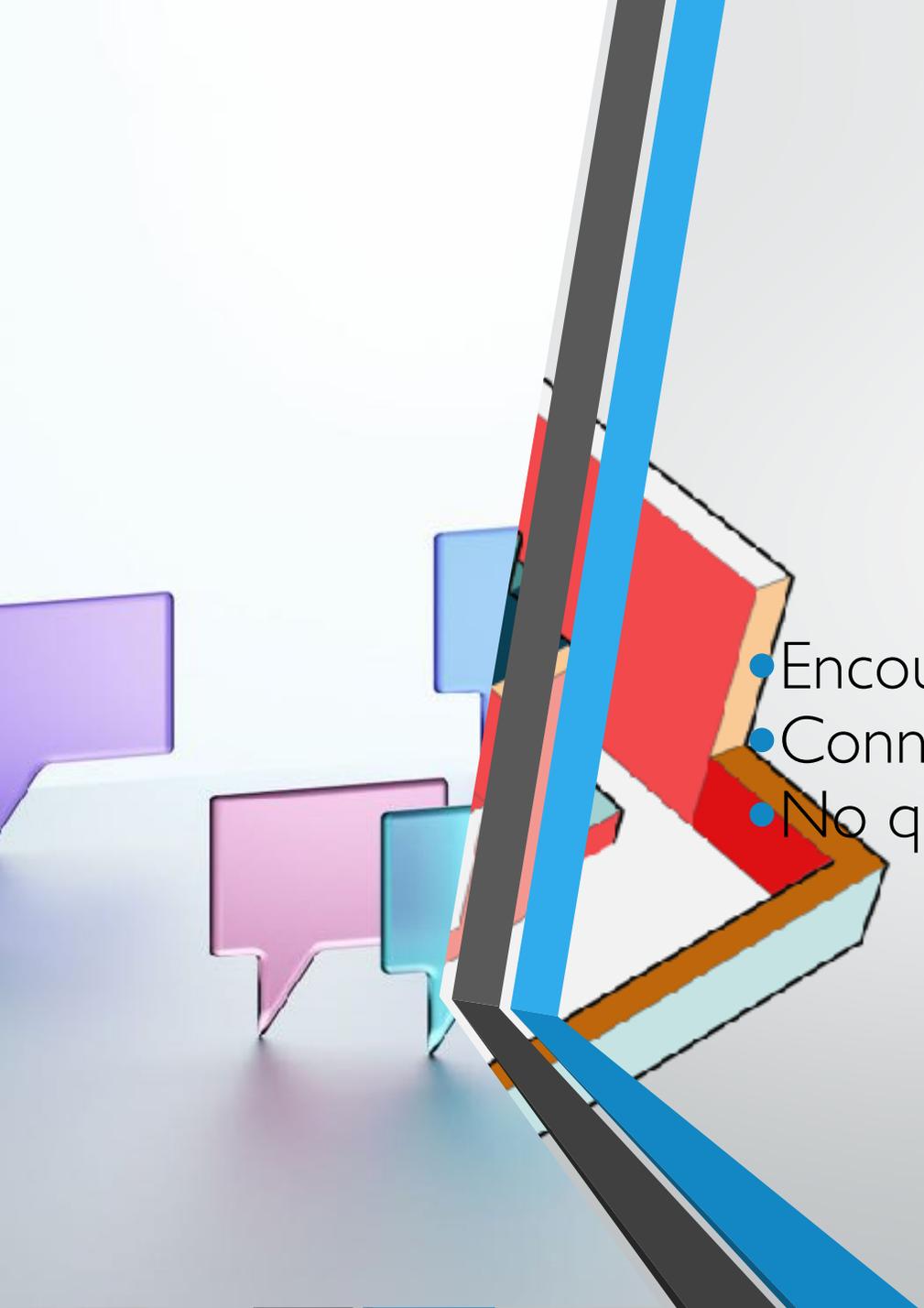
Jesus, not church culture!

2. Be authentic

- Share stories and struggles
- Be humble about your doubts

3. Dialogue, not lecture

- Encourage questions
- Connecting, not convincing
- No question is off limits!



4. Connect faith to real life

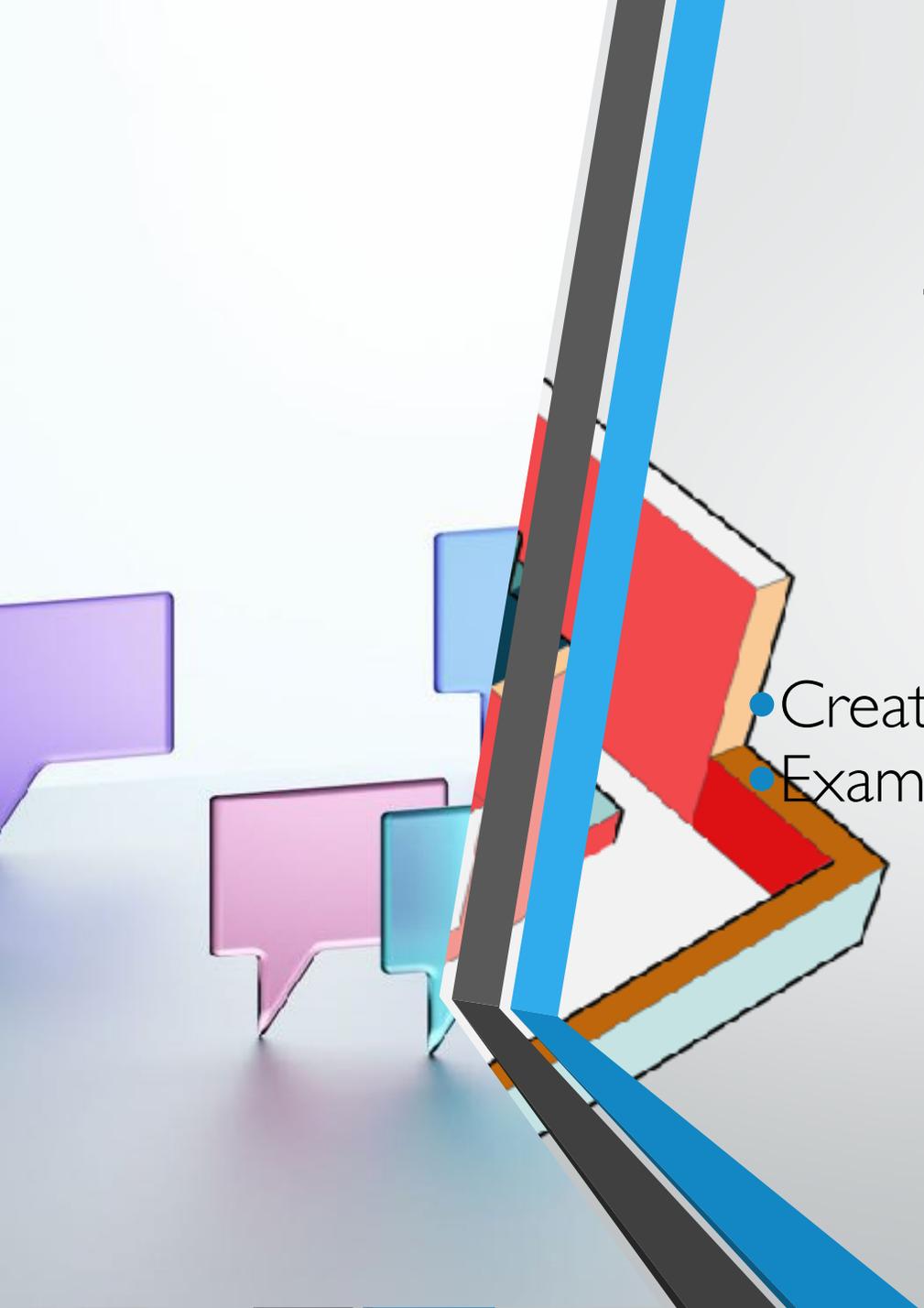
Show how Jesus speaks to

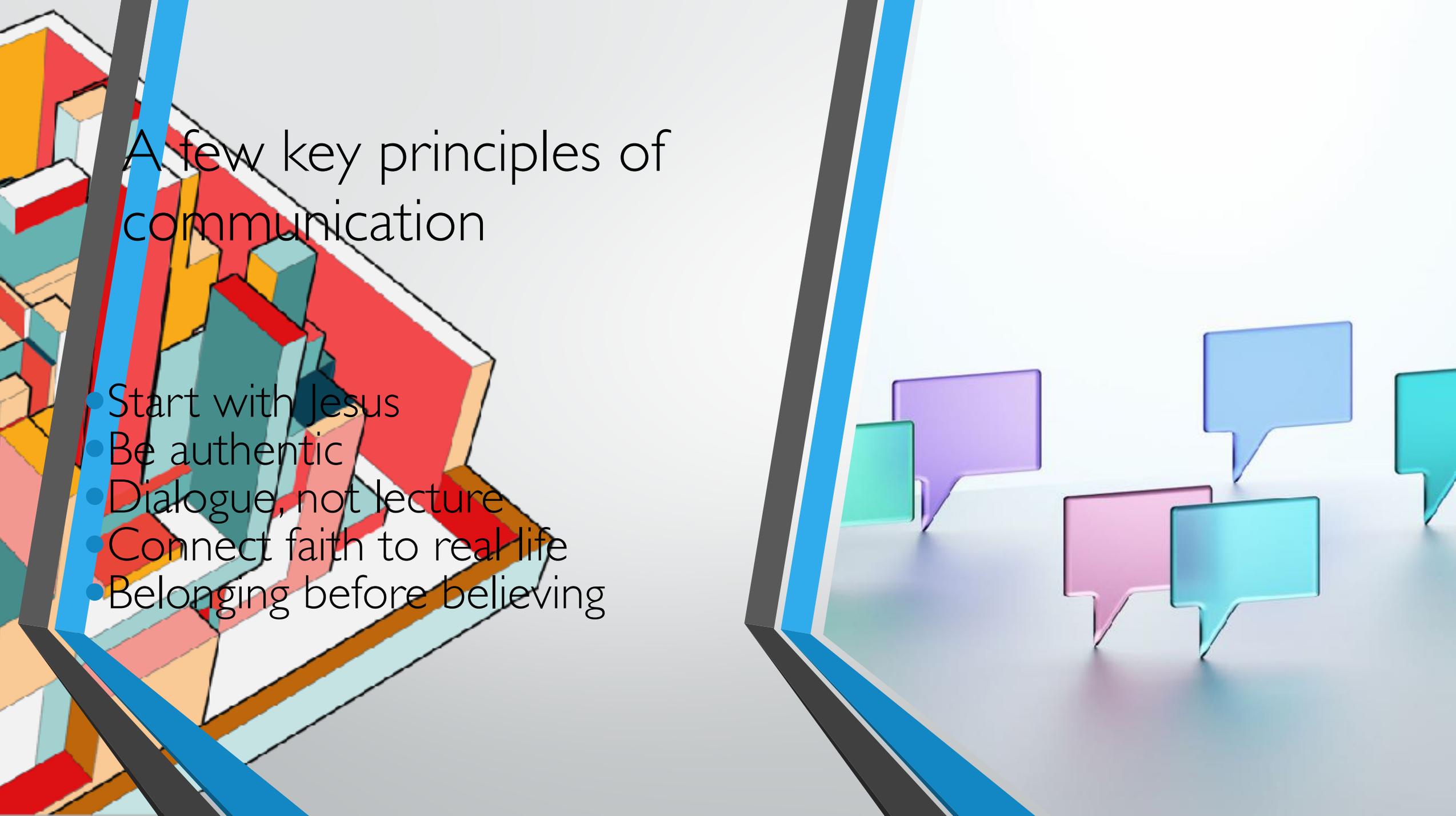
- Anxiety
- Loneliness
- Identity
- Purpose
- Social justice
- Care for environment
- sexuality



5. Belonging before believing

- Create spaces where people can explore faith safely
- Examples?

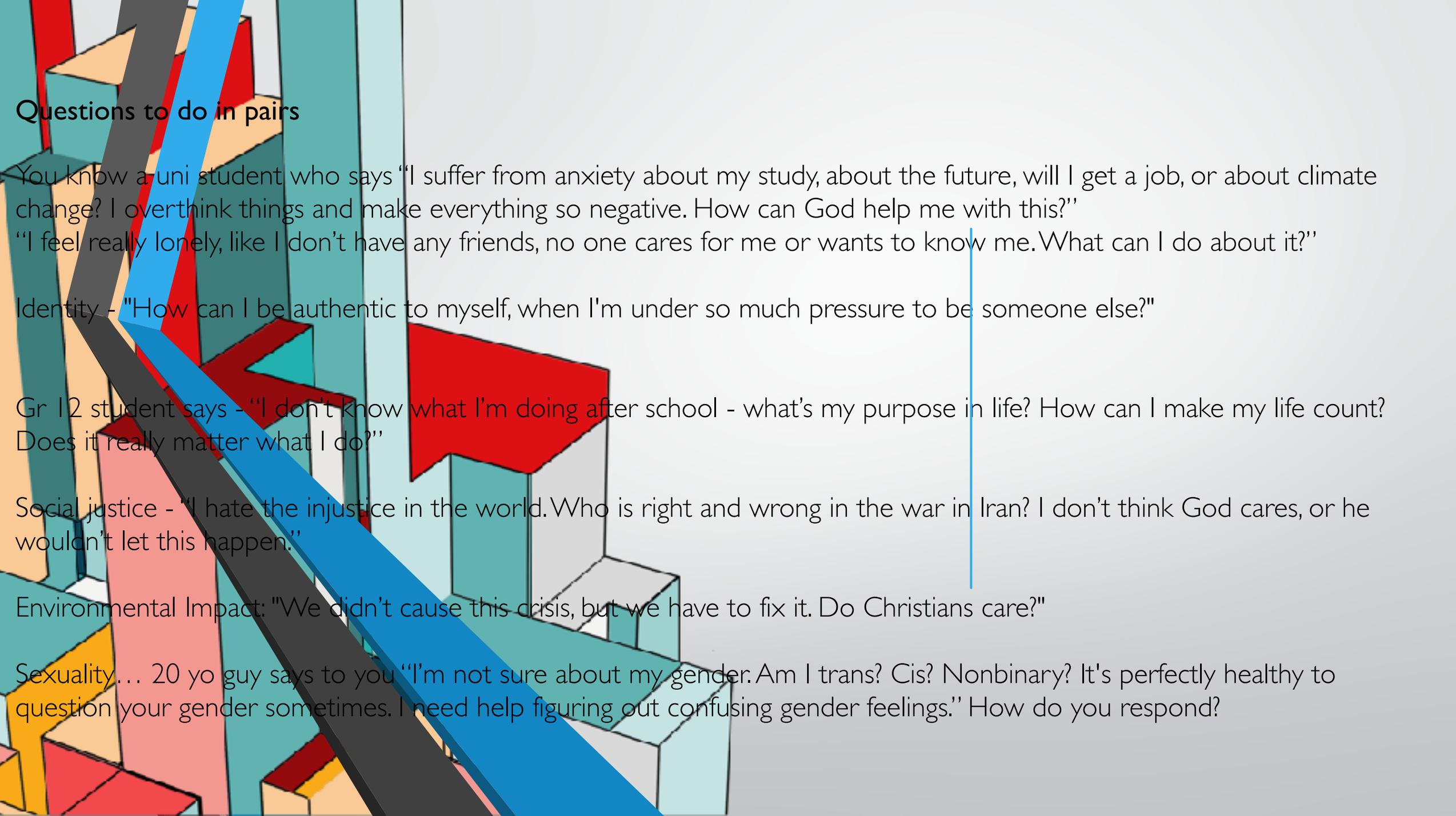




A few key principles of communication

- Start with Jesus
- Be authentic
- Dialogue, not lecture
- Connect faith to real life
- Belonging before believing





Questions to do in pairs

You know a uni student who says "I suffer from anxiety about my study, about the future, will I get a job, or about climate change? I overthink things and make everything so negative. How can God help me with this?"

"I feel really lonely, like I don't have any friends, no one cares for me or wants to know me. What can I do about it?"

Identity - "How can I be authentic to myself, when I'm under so much pressure to be someone else?"

Gr 12 student says - "I don't know what I'm doing after school - what's my purpose in life? How can I make my life count? Does it really matter what I do?"

Social justice - "I hate the injustice in the world. Who is right and wrong in the war in Iran? I don't think God cares, or he wouldn't let this happen."

Environmental Impact: "We didn't cause this crisis, but we have to fix it. Do Christians care?"

Sexuality... 20 yo guy says to you "I'm not sure about my gender. Am I trans? Cis? Nonbinary? It's perfectly healthy to question your gender sometimes. I need help figuring out confusing gender feelings." How do you respond?