

Project: One Million

POM is our goal of getting one million people to ask... "Does your tattoo have a story?"

How to do a Tattoo Interview:

1. See someone with a tattoo

2. Say to them, "I like the art of your tattoo..." or "Your tattoo looks so interesting..."

3. Ask them, "This might be too personal, but is there a story behind your tattoo?"

—— "If you're willing to share, is there a story behind your tattoo?"

4. Listen to their story.

—— As you listen, listen for ways that the story is important to them. Ex: it's about a person that they really cared about, it's about an experience that was really memorable to them, etc.

—— Listen for the feelings they express in their story: pain, loss, grief, joy, comfort, love, etc.

5. Validate their feelings.

—— "Wow, that's a powerful story. I can see how that loss hurt you."

—— "Wow, that's an encouraging story. I can see how much that person means to you."

6. Thank them for their time.

—— "Thank you for sharing with me. I really appreciate your willingness to tell me this."

Things to keep in mind:

Q: Where do I find tattoos?

A: Many or most of us are surrounded by tattoos. 40%+ of the western population has one. For myself, I didn't care that I didn't care about tattoos. It's not that they weren't there... I just wasn't seeing them.

Q: But Tattoos are wrong a desecration of the temple right?

A: Leviticus 19 says, don't put a tattoo on you. The core is "ancestor worship" or idolatry. That same passage says, don't wear mixed fabrics. The temple in the Old Testament is also fabulously ornate. Curiosity is your friend; I am neither for or against tattoos, they are secret treasures that reward one's curiosity.

Q: How do I get started, I can't just walk up to a stranger and ask "Does your tattoo have a story?"

A: There's a real and fascinating tension here with Tattoos. Imagine the left hand extended like a stop sign "Don't ask about my Tattoo, it's meaning is too private to tell a stranger!" Then imagine the right hand motioning the person in... "please ask me about my tattoo". Here you see the tension, a person that wants to share their "Soul Art" but needs a gentle listener.

Q: Ok AI, just give me one sentence I can understand and practice with tattoo interviews.

A: Wait for it. After your finished waiting... wait for it more. Often the owner of the tattoo is not in full possession of the meaning and depth of their tattoo. A tattoo anthropologist, is developed by waiting, being curious, expressing thanks and... knowing they are often in the presence of a sacred secret story.

Q: Should I share the gospel after the person tells me their tattoo story? Or give advice on matters of life and faith?

A: I suspect not. A tattoo (the image of God is doing art, trying to say something from deep in the soul... I suspect). The journey I've been on with tattoos might look like this. Listening (being still and obscenely focused), Hearing (the ability to hear back 100 years... the story behind the story), Holding (simply receiving the story and remembering the details, the moment, the persons voice, etc). Listening - Hearing - Holding in my journey has led to watching faith and healing stir. In Genesis 3, God asked Adam... Where are you? The tattoo community answers that Question with a tattoo I suspect.

This is just the beginning. For more insight on "tattoo interviews" check out AI's book "Tattoos: Telling the Secrets of the Soul" at evangelizetoday.info