Seven Ways to Encourage Conversation in the 2x2 Group

1. Stop whatever you’re doing.
2. Look each other in the eye.
3. Pay attention not only to what each person is saying, but to the nonverbal messages.
4. Don’t prepare your response while someone else is still speaking.
5. Don’t interrupt.
6. Ask questions to encourage more conversation
7. Check that you understood the speaker correctly.

Questions to ask:

1. As best as you can remember, what has been the most exciting moment in your life to this point?
2. If you could safely witness any special effect being filmed for a movie, which one would you want to see above all others? (Sometimes we expect God to appear in our lives like a special effect in a blockbuster movie. But it’s more likely that we’ll recognize God in the ripple rather than in the wave, or hear God in the silent aftermath rather that the raging storm.)
3. If you could permanently eliminate any one part of your daily routine, what would it be? (Even our mundane moments are charged with the grandeur of God’s presence and love. Pay attention and you will see the ways that God is present in both the high points and low points of each and every day.

Taken from 7 Ways to be a Better Listener from Loyola Press.