



TIGHTROPE TALKS™

How to have respectful
faith conversations anywhere.

SUE WARNKE



YOUR HOST: SUE WARNKE



- Grew up in Utah. Lives in Pacifica, CA with husband and three teenagers
- Technology leader for 20+ years
- Founder of Leanership
- President of Faithforce San Francisco
- Public speaker on Faith Inclusion & Diversity
- Certified Leadership Coach & Trainer

My mission is to teach practical skills that build bridges and help people experience Jesus.

WHO IS THIS FOR?

Christian professionals

Church leaders

Anyone exploring faith

All are welcome

AGENDA

3 Challenges

3 Steps

“Go therefore, and make
disciples of all nations...”
– Jesus

3 OBJECTIONS TO SHARING FAITH

“I’m not allowed to”

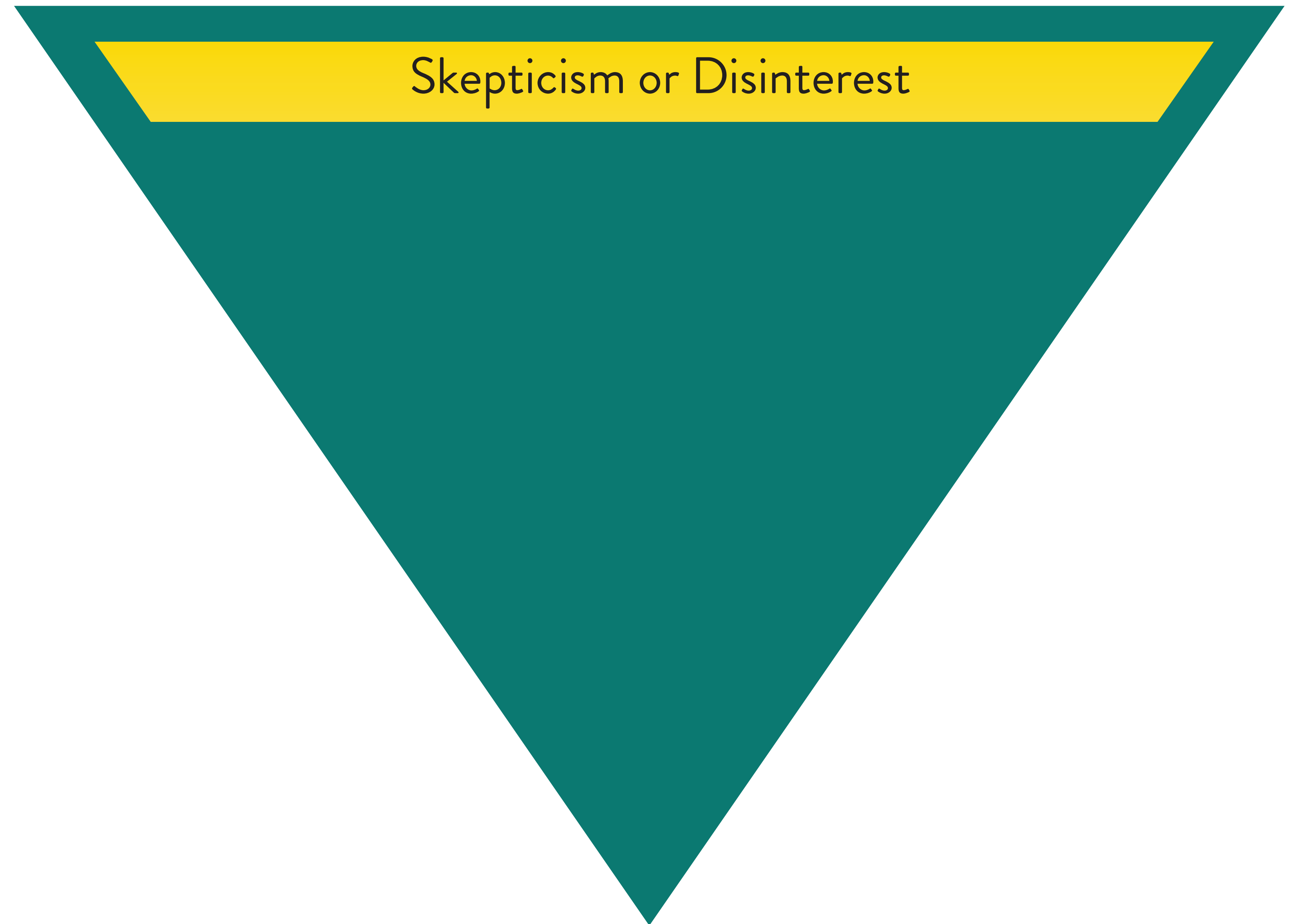
“I don’t want to”

“I don’t know how to”

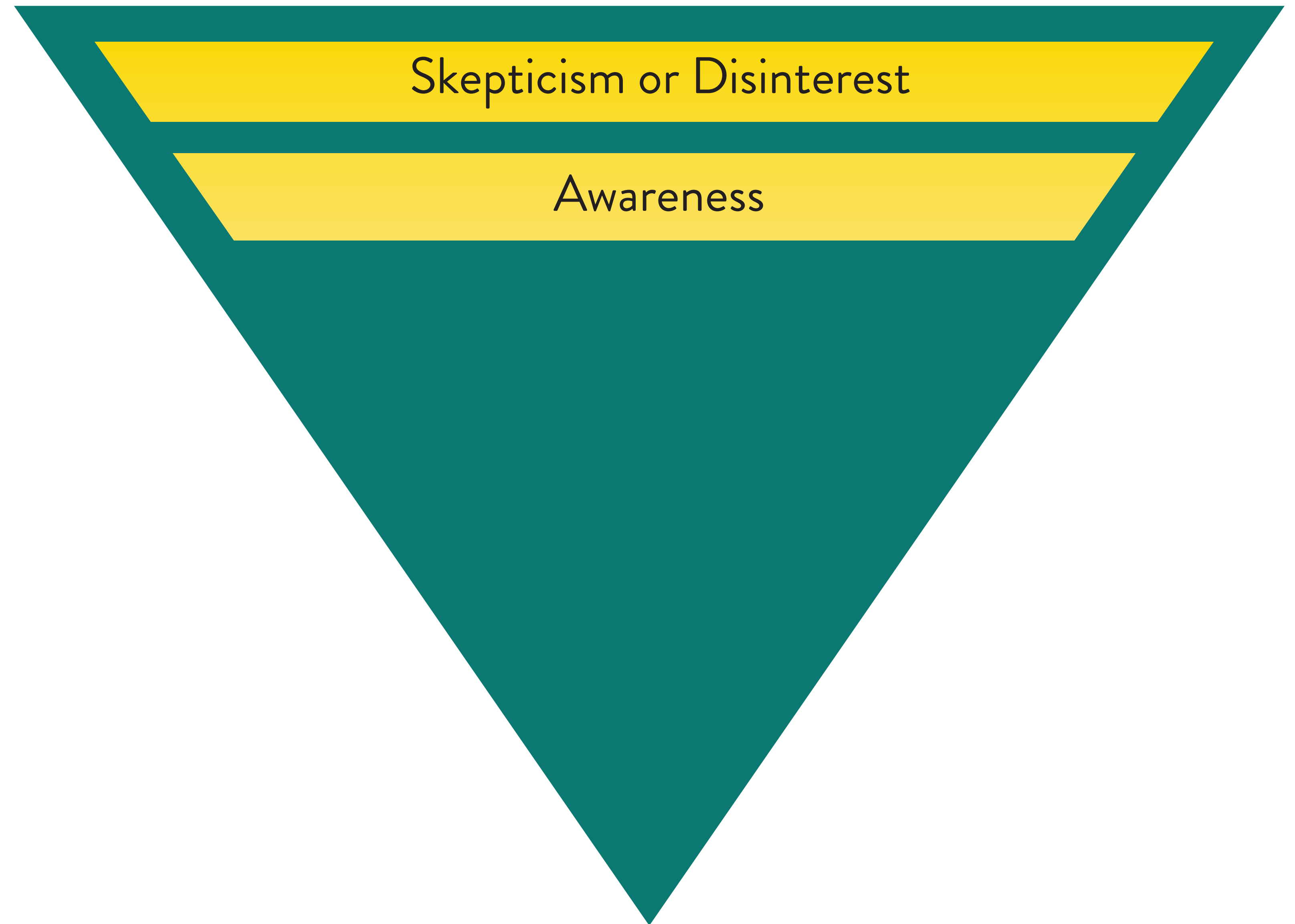
OBJECTION #1: “I’M NOT ALLOWED TO”

“No proselytizing”
– Companies

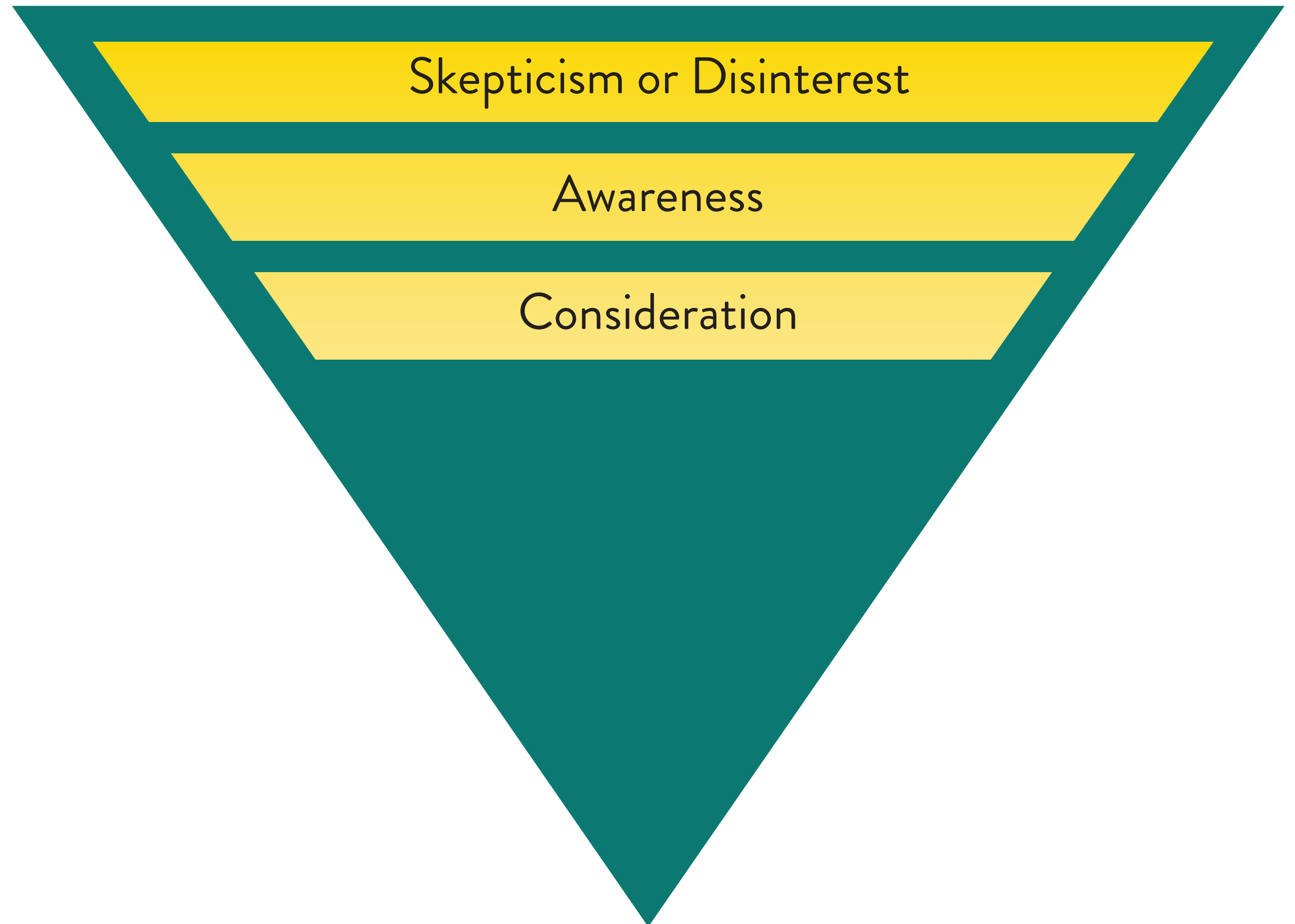
THE TRANSFORMATION FUNNEL



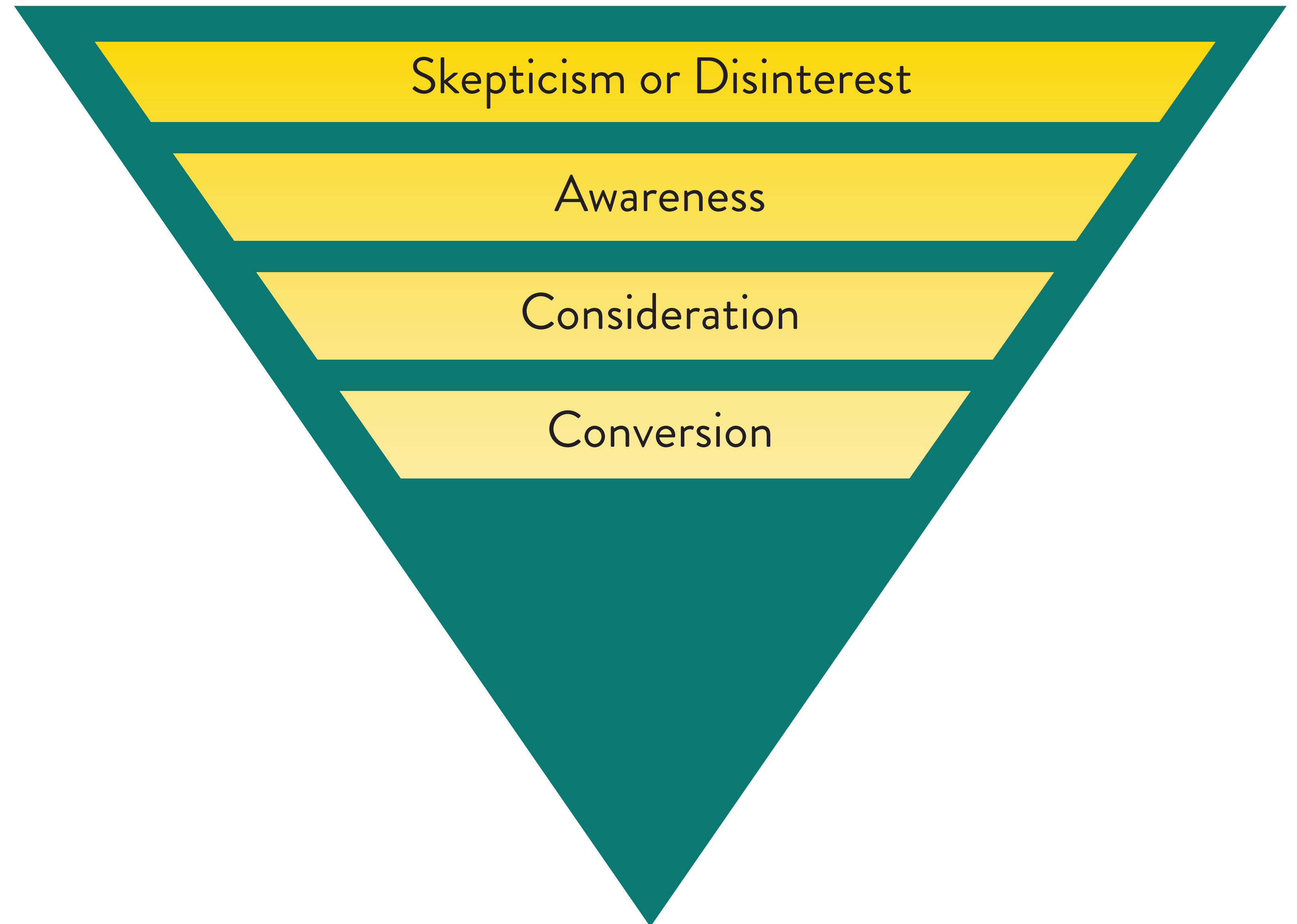
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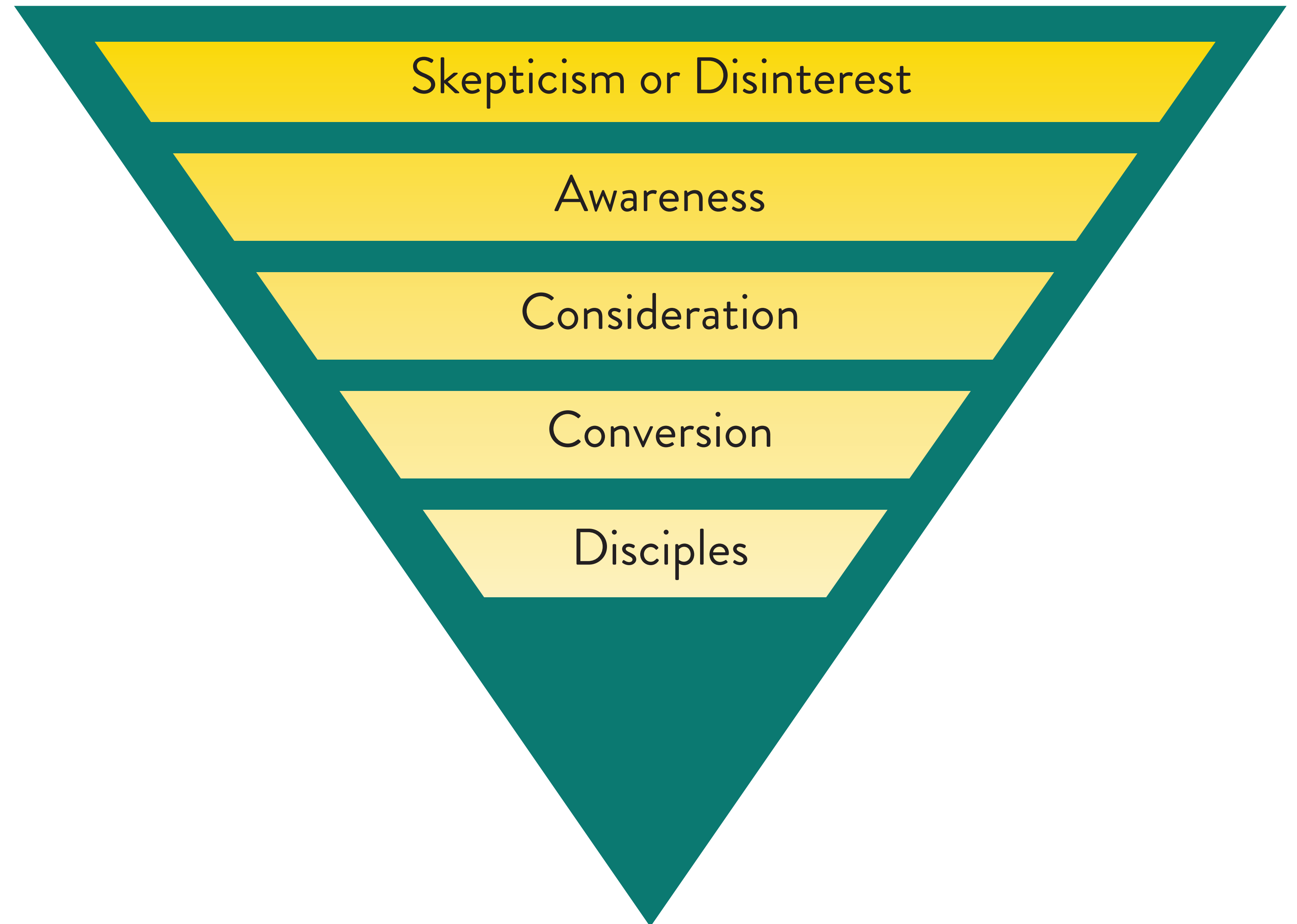
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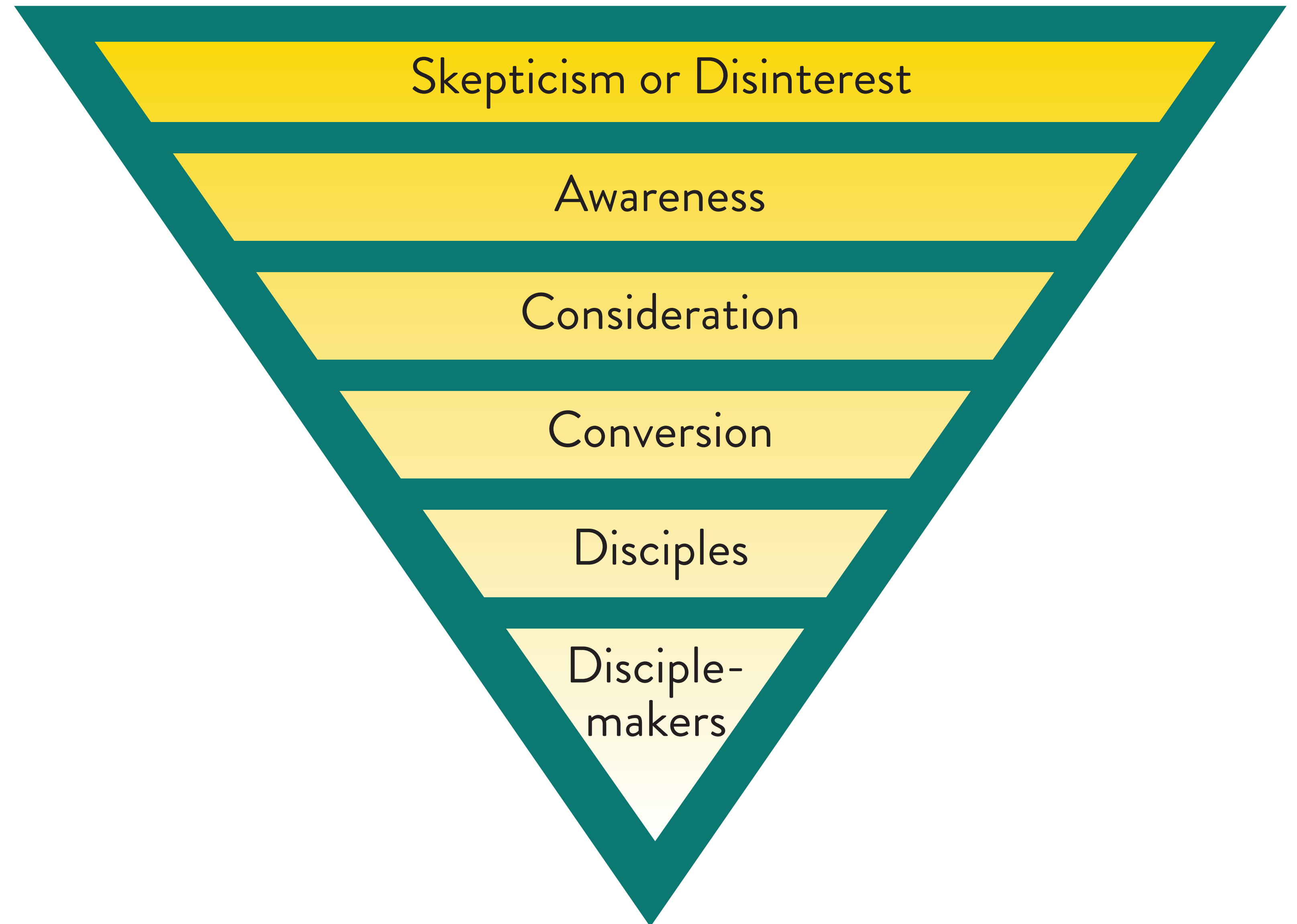
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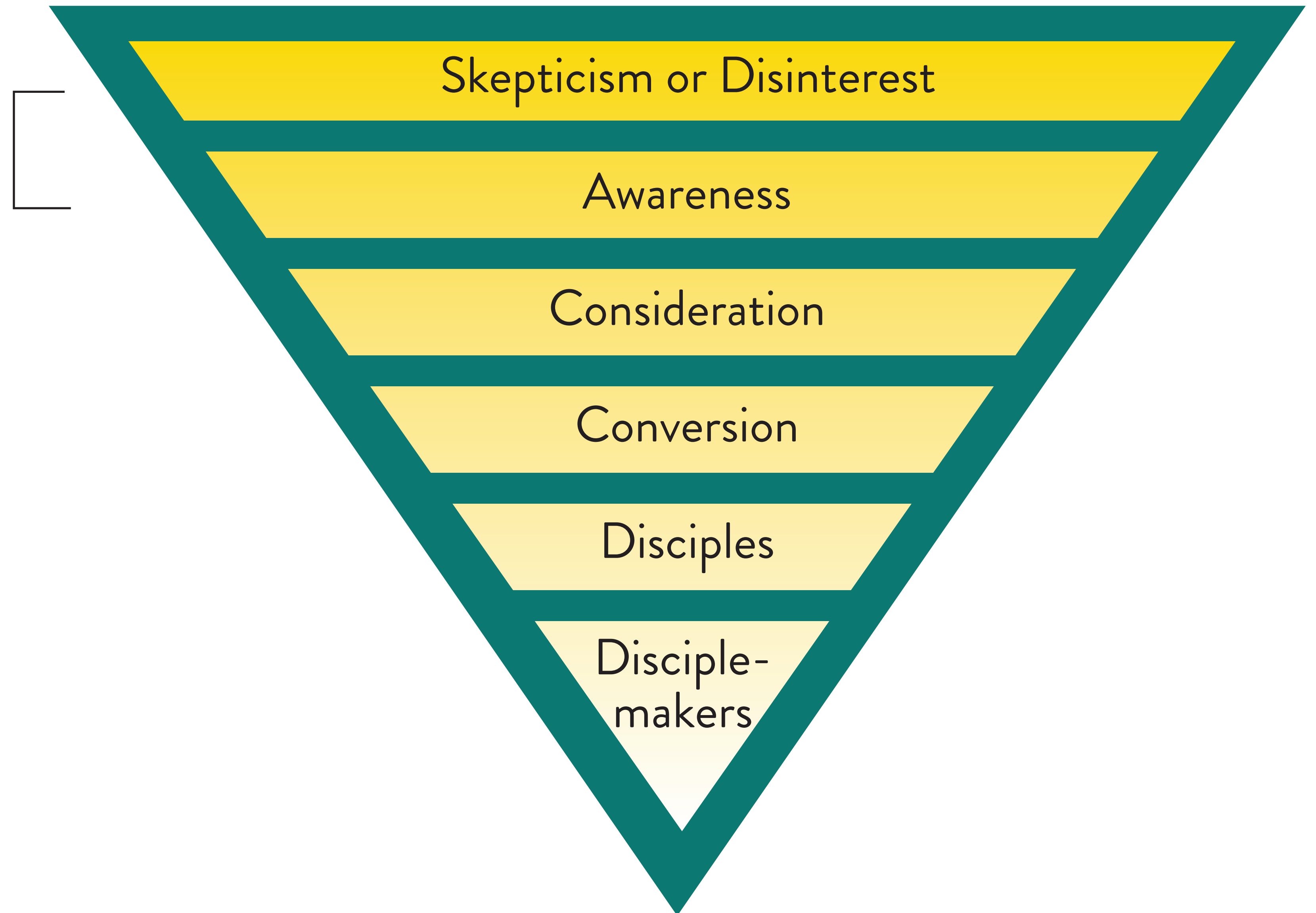
THE TRANSFORMATION FUNNEL



THE TRANSFORMATION FUNNEL



**WE FOCUS
NEAR THE TOP**



WHAT IS A FAITH CONVERSATION?

Any chat about faith.
Not necessarily sharing the gospel.

OBJECTION #2: “I DON’T WANT TO”

“The last thing I want to be right now is pushy or intolerant.”



“My command is this:
Love each other
as I have loved you.”
– Jesus

“Do this [share the
hope that you have] with
gentleness and respect.”
– The Apostle Peter

WHAT DO THESE COMPANIES HAVE IN COMMON?

lululemon  athletica

COSTCO
WHOLESALE

Krispy Kreme
DOUGHNUTS®

TRADER JOE'S

OBJECTION #3: “I DON’T KNOW HOW TO”

“I understand **why** I should have faith conversations,
but I don’t know **what to say**.”

Introducing a simple, non-cringy 3-step process
anyone can begin immediately.

Skepticism/Disinterest

Awareness

Consideration

Open
the door

WIDE

Leave it
open

Skepticism/Disinterest

Awareness

Consideration

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Skepticism/Disinterest

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What are characteristic of owls?

Where in your daily life might you have
an opportunity to have a **faith conversation**?

STEP 1

Open the Door

OUT YOURSELF





ASK A FAITH QUESTION

“What’s your faith background?
How did you grow up?”



On the clock

You have an online meeting with a colleague wearing a Yamukah. The meeting ends early and you start making small talk.

How could you transition into a faith conversation?

STEP 2

Widen the Conversation

BE FASCINATED



WIDENING TECHNIQUES



1. Mirror what they've told you
2. Ask a follow up question
3. Name the emotion

You're in a slow-moving line at the supermarket. The woman in front of you looks up from her phone, frustrated, and says: "Can you believe churches want to reopen?"

You effectively open the conversation and quickly learn that she had a terrible experience with churches as a child.

What might you say next?

PIVOT TO JESUS? ASK TO PRAY?



“Always be prepared to give an answer
to everyone **who asks** you to give the reason
for the hope that you have.”

— The Apostle Peter

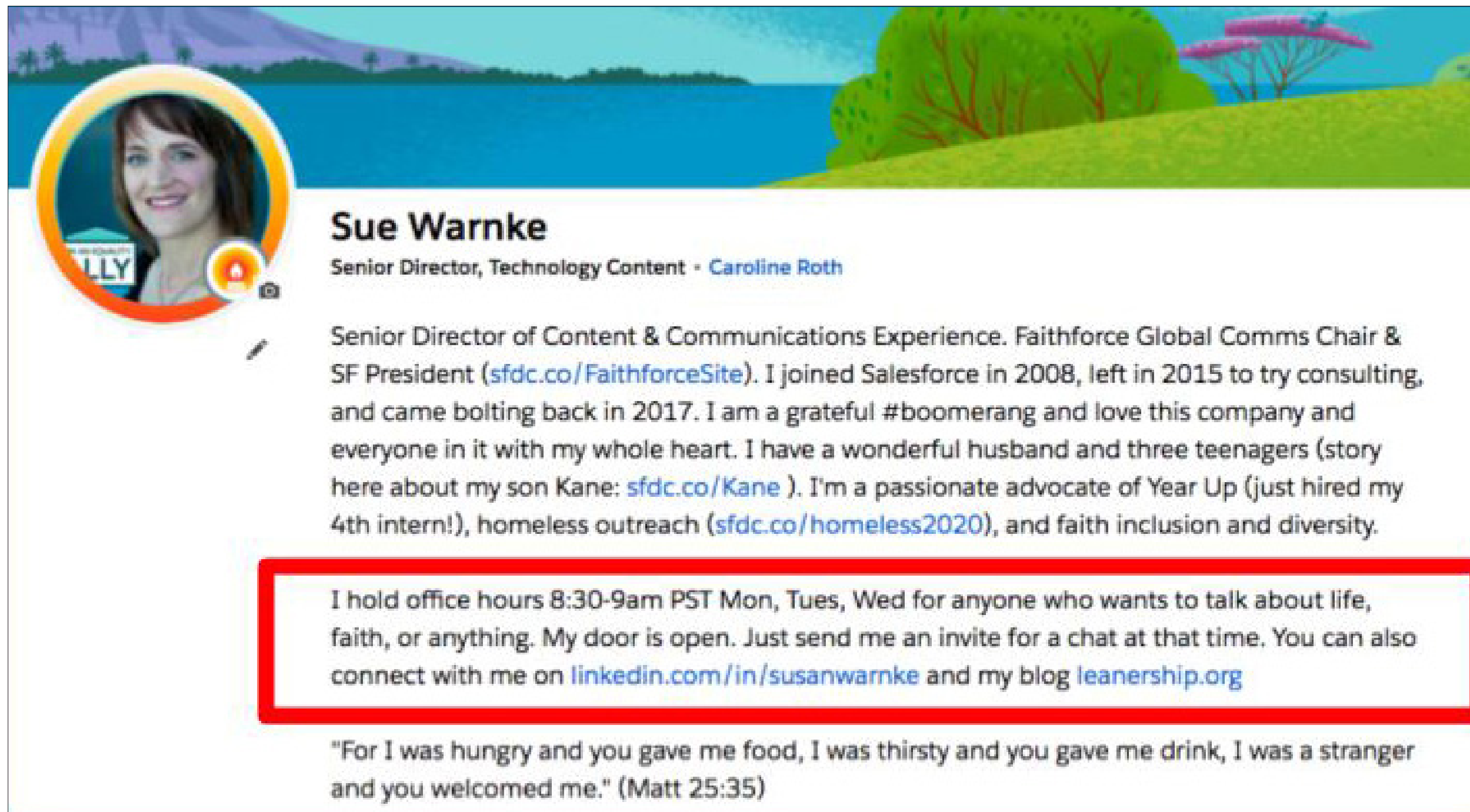
You're in a 1:1 with a colleague who begins breaking down, saying he feels lost in life, depressed, and confused. He asks for advice.

What might you say next?

STEP 3

Leave the Door Open

LEAVE THE DOOR OPEN



Sue Warnke
Senior Director, Technology Content · [Caroline Roth](#)

Senior Director of Content & Communications Experience. Faithforce Global Comms Chair & SF President (sfdc.co/FaithforceSite). I joined Salesforce in 2008, left in 2015 to try consulting, and came bolting back in 2017. I am a grateful #boomerang and love this company and everyone in it with my whole heart. I have a wonderful husband and three teenagers (story here about my son Kane: sfdc.co/Kane). I'm a passionate advocate of Year Up (just hired my 4th intern!), homeless outreach (sfdc.co/homeless2020), and faith inclusion and diversity.

I hold office hours 8:30-9am PST Mon, Tues, Wed for anyone who wants to talk about life, faith, or anything. My door is open. Just send me an invite for a chat at that time. You can also connect with me on linkedin.com/in/susanwarnke and my blog leanership.org

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me." (Matt 25:35)

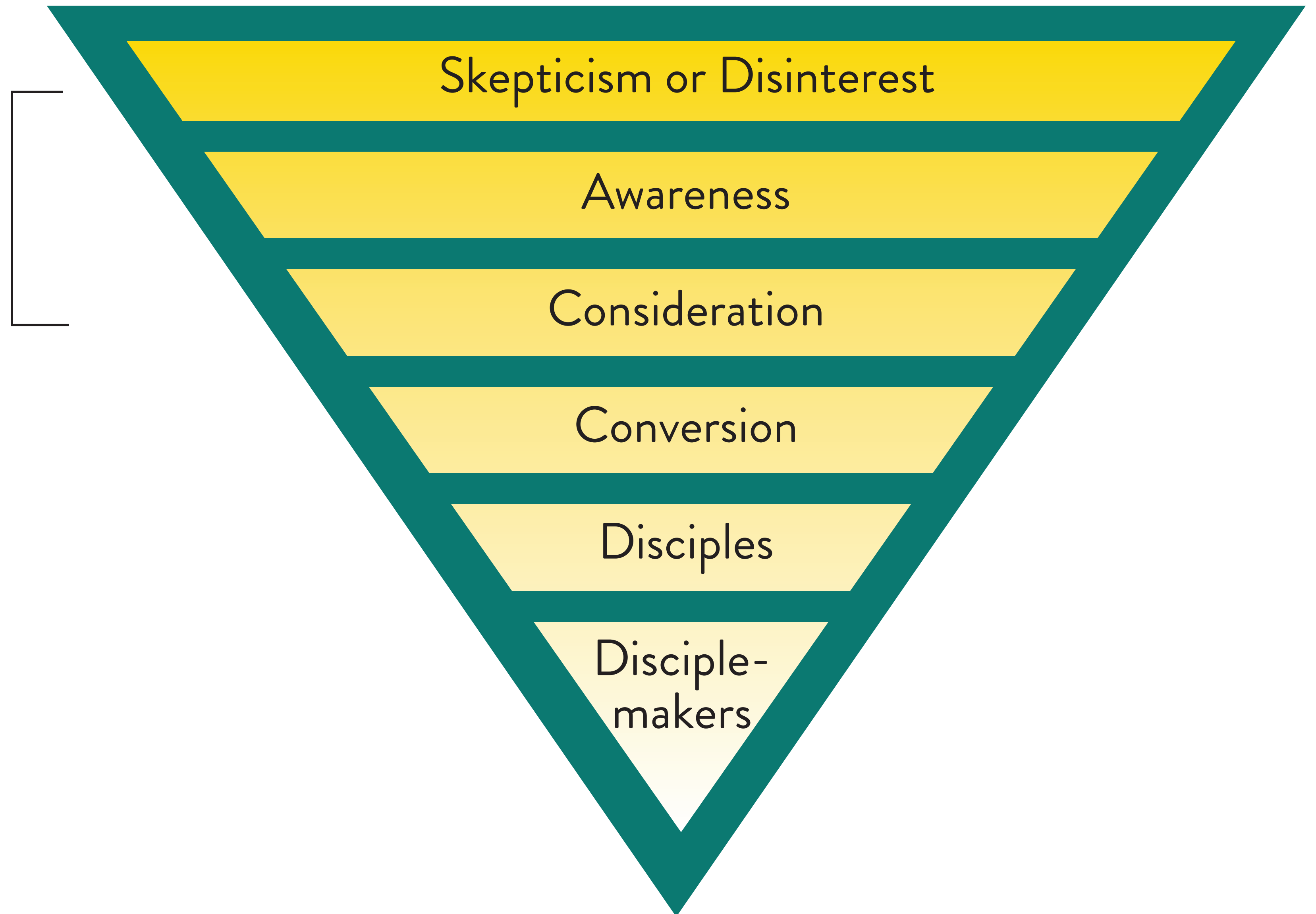
RECAP: OBJECTIONS

“I’m not allowed to”

“I don’t want to”

“I don’t know how to”

RECAP: THE TRANSFORMATION FUNNEL



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Open
the door

WIDE

Leave it
open

Skepticism/Disinterest

Consideration

REMINDERS

Take a baby step

Be patient

Be kind to yourself

Lean on God

FROM: “7 STEPS TO HAVING RESPECTFUL FAITH CONVERSATIONS”

We don't need to push our faith on others. But we can ask, and listen, and offer our time. We can stand unashamedly in who we are and offer a kind of love that kneels in absolute reverence for who they are. How would Jesus talk about faith at work?

One word, I think: Respectfully.

— Leanship

What is your **key takeaway**
from this workshop?

What is **one thing**
you will do this week?

BE BOLD. BE LOVING. BE A LEANER

Fill out the follow up survey and watch past Tightrope Talks at
[CORNERSTONESF.ORG/TIGHTROPETALKS](https://cornerstonesf.org/tightropetalks)

If you have any questions or comments email:
TIGHTROPETALKS@CORNERSTONESF.ORG



leanership.org/contact



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Leanship is a series of blogs and training focused on equipping Christians to drive the Great Commission beyond the church doors. Leaners are bold, unashamed of their faith, and shrewd in their actions. Rather than leading by their own strength, they lean on God for direction and power. Anyone can #BeALeaner.



APPENDIX

BONUS STEP: SAY “I LOVE YOU”



Stanford University Graduate School of Business