

Good Questions for Great Gatherings: Sharing Hopes and Aspirations

Your Short Cut to Meaningful Conversations

Great conversations begin with good questions. Make your next gathering more memorable by sprinkling in some of our favorite questions from the Conversation Guide library. You can try asking them at the dinner table, in the car, even over Zoom.

No matter how different the holidays look this year, with a little planning and creativity, our gatherings can shimmer with thoughtfulness, curiosity, and generosity of spirit...and help us experience the true meaning of the season.

Conversation Agreements

Be curious and listen to understand.

Show respect and suspend judgment.

Note any common ground as well as any differences.

Be authentic and welcome that from others.

Be purposeful and to the point.

Own and guide the conversation.

These questions cover a lot of ground. No pressure to get through all of them in one sitting. It might take multiple conversations. Choose as many or as few as whatever works for your time and setting.

- **How do you experience hope?** What do you have hope for?
- Where and how do you find friends and develop friendships? **What do your friendships mean to you?** What are friends for?
- **What does unity mean to you?** Where in your life do you experience unity?
- What is the promise of the United States to its citizens? What is your personal commitment to **creating the America you want?**
- Which part of your spirituality is most precious to you? How do you feed, nurture or protect it? When is a time you felt **spiritually alive or awakened?**
- What do you need from your friends but **you don't know how to ask for?**
- When have **encounters with strangers** enriched your life? What happened?
- How have the changes we've made as individuals and society during COVID impacted your thinking about **the future you would like to see and the future you believe we could achieve?** What is essential?
- What story from this year has been **most inspirational** for you? How does it impact your own experience?
- What would a **society that values racial and ethnic differences** look like? What hopes and fears come up for you when thinking about that society?

*Want more guidance for connecting? Check out our Friends and Family Conversation Tips!
livingroomconversations.org/friends-and-family-guide/*