

Questions For Conversation

Jesus was the master question asker. Questions show curiosity and guide conversations into new and interesting territory.

Conversation Openers

Seek areas of conversation that make people light up and talk freely

Occupational

- What do you study/do for work?
- What does your typical day look like?
- How did you become interested in your field?
- Did you always want to be a _____?

Leisure

- What are you (and your spouse/kids) doing this weekend (summer/the holidays/etc)?
- What do you like to do for fun (or on a day off)?
- What sorts of things do you enjoy doing (as a family)?
- Reading any good books lately?
- Do you have any hobbies you enjoy?
- What are you passionate about?

Personal History

- Did you grow up here?
- What is it like to live (here or wherever they're from)?
- Do you have family? (Find out names, kids' ages, how long married, how did you meet, etc.)
- How did your family celebrate Thanksgiving/Halloween/Christmas/etc. growing up?
- Do you have any pets?

Follow-up Prompts

A follow-up question takes things further, showing genuine interest.

- Tell me more about that.
- Were you always interested in that?
- You mentioned you were planning to _____. How was that?
- I don't know much about _____. Tell me more about it!
- Ask about the details: Who, what, where, when, why?

Questions to Go Deeper

A well-timed question can open the door to deep, authentic sharing.

- How are you dealing with that?
- What is important to you in that decision-making process?
- How have things been going for you lately?
- How are you holding up?
- What joys or challenges have you experienced recently?
- Have you been enjoying your job/parenting/your major/your free time lately?
- What are you grateful for?
- What do you find meaningful?

Spiritual Questions

Once trust is established, ask spiritual questions to build a shared experience of faith. Asking these questions build community and shows support.

- Do you have a regular prayer life? Would you like to have one?
- How do you like to pray? What is prayer like for you?
- Were you always Catholic?
- How is God asking you to grow or take a risk?
- What has God been showing you lately?
- What is your relationship with God like?
- How has Jesus been good news to you lately?
- What's getting in the way of you following Jesus the way that you want to?

An Exercise in Noticing

Jesus cares about the little things, and his loving knowledge of us is the foundation of his loving relationship with us. He knows us so well that he knows exactly what we need and how we need him to interact with us in order to be able to receive it.

It takes practice to notice other people, even the people closest to us. But if you don't really know someone, how can you truly love them? Do you know their answers to the following questions?

Perhaps take these questions to prayer. Perhaps ask the person—even if you think you know their answers. Jesus frequently asks his disciples questions when he already knows their answers. This must mean that there's something good for us about being asked, having to think through our own answers, and seeing someone else's reaction to our answers.

Do You See Them?

- What is good and admirable about them?
- What are their natural strengths?
- What are their supernatural gifts?
- What are some of their quirks or habits that are uniquely theirs?
- What is a memory you have with them that makes you smile?
- When was the last time you just hung out with them?
- How do you think Jesus looks at them?

What's Important to Them?

- Name one of their favorite novels or movies. What do they love about it?
- What would they consider their ideal job? Why?
- What are some of the important events coming up in their life?
- What are some of their favorite ways to spend time?
- Who are their closest friends?

What Troubles Them?

- What's stressing them out right now?
- What is their greatest fear?
- Who is someone they struggle to love?
- Who has hurt this person?
- What medical problems do they worry about?

What Are Their Hopes and Dreams?

- What do they desire?
- What are some of their dreams for their life?
- What do they need?
- What do they wish they had?
- If they won the lottery, what would they do with the money?

Where Are They in Relationship with Jesus?

- What's their friendship with Jesus like? What does Jesus mean to them?
- If they could ask God anything right now, what would it be?
- What are they curious about or struggling with in relation to Jesus?
- Where do you think Jesus is calling them right now? Do they know it? Are they ready to follow?
- What makes it easy or hard for them to follow Jesus right now?