LivingRoom
Conversations

good questions for great gatherings

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.

start with: the 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

- What do you wish you could talk about more meaningfully? Who would you like to be a part of that conversation?
- Describe an experience where you felt deeply listened to. What was going on? What bit of wisdom did you learn from that experience?
- What benefits have you experienced from listening to others with differing beliefs? What fears do you have about listening to people whose beliefs differ from your own?
- How much grace (or courteous goodwill) are you willing to extend in communicating with others? How does this vary with different people in your life (family, friends, co-workers, people in authority, etc)?
- When are you most comfortable in sharing your thoughts? In what venues or groups is this most likely to happen? When do you find it difficult?
- How do you demonstrate respect for others, while maintaining an ability to speak your mind?
- How do you project your genuine desire to listen and learn rather than debate or judge?
- What does the Golden Rule mean to you? Do you personally apply the Golden Rule in your interactions with others? If you don't, what holds you back from doing so?
- Is it easy or hard for you to connect with others who were raised differently, or live and think differently than you? What have you seen getting in the way of that from happening?
- How do you stay fully present and attentive when deeply listening to someone?

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