

ThanksGIVING

Conversation Starters

Whether in person or virtual Thanksgiving provides families a time to reflect on what they are grateful for, what they value and to meaningfully engage in conversations that can create memories all year long. Use these questions to engage your family, friends, guests and colleagues. If possible, try to engage everyone assembled and not just the adults. Engaging kids, even the youngest may create experiences and memories that they will decide to incorporate in their families as they get older.

While these questions are timely for Thanksgiving, they are relevant and can be used all year long. You may place a question by each place setting, present the list and ask a person to select a question and present it to the group or simply ask those assembled a question. Make sure everyone is comfortable and do not pressure anyone to participate as that goes against the goals and feelings of the day.

1. What are you grateful for?
2. How can our giving bring more of 'that' to the world?
3. What have you done this year to live your values?
4. Tell a story about your family. How does that story affect how you live, interact with family, community, give of your time, money or talents?
5. What issue(s) keep you up at night and drive you to action?
6. Think about a time when you benefited from someone else. How did they positively impact you? How can you pay that forward?
7. What does giving mean to you? What are the various ways that you can give?
8. What was your most meaningful giving experience this year? Why?
9. What is one way you will commit to actively bringing about the changes you seek?
10. At the end of your life, if you could make one change in the world, what would it be?
11. How are you giving with and not just giving for?
12. What are you MOST thankful for?
13. What does your involvement with issues your passionate about look like?
14. Thanksgiving puts us in an "abundance mindset" rather than one of scarcity. How might you hold this mindset year-round?
15. How do you balance giving to meet immediate needs with giving to mitigate the need altogether?

