

CONVERSATION STARTERS

Thought provoking questions to begin thoughtful conversations

Can be used for

long car trips — youth groups — faith formation classes — ice breakers

Directions:

Pick any question. Feel free to alter the question in a way that makes sense to you, or is more age appropriate for your family or group. Questions can encourage the start of long conversations, with everyone sharing their thoughts and/or asking questions for clarification. These questions may even spark additional conversations! Remember to practice your listening skills.

Questions for youth

I wonder...

- How does it feel to not to be included?
- How does it feel to be heard in a group?
- Was there ever a time in a group when you felt like you were not heard? Tell me about that.
- What does it feel like to have part of your story ignored?
- Whose voice do we hear most? Whose voice do we need to hear more from?
- What does it feel like to be criticized simply because of the color of your skin or who you love?
- What would you risk in order to vote?
- What does wellness feel like?
- What does wellness in a community feel like?
- What might it feel like to trade places with a person whose skin color is different than yours?
- What might it feel like to trade places with a youth whose gender is different than yours?
- What does it (or might it) feel like to live in a neighborhood where your skin color is different than everyone else's?
- What might it be like to belong to a religious group different than most of your neighbors?
- When have you talked with another student who wasn't a good friend of yours or who you didn't know very well?
- When have you talked with a student with a different skin color than yours?
- What are some things you can do to understand the experience of someone who is different from you?
- How would you respond if you saw someone being bullied or excluded because of the color of their skin?
- What does it mean to be a good listener?
- What are the characteristics of a person you most admire?

- What have you learned about people who struggled or fought to vote?
- What does it mean to be brave?
- What does freedom feel like?

Questions for children

I wonder...

- Would you like to trade places for a day with a person whose skin color is different than yours? Why or why not?
- Would you like to trade places for a day with a child whose gender is different than yours? Why or why not?
- Would you like to live in a neighborhood where your skin color is different from everyone else's? Why or why not?
- Would you like to belong to a different religious group than the one to which your family belongs? Why or why not?
- Would you like to live in a place where there are no old people? Why or why not?
- If you could be reinvented, what would you like to look like? Why?
- If you could be reinvented, what kinds of gifts and talents would you want to have? Why?
- If you were with your friends and they said something disrespectful about Black people, what would you do? Why?
- If you were with a friend of a different race and someone said something mean to them, what would you do? Why?
- When have you noticed someone who is alone at recess? How do you think they feel?
- Have you been picked last for an activity during PE or in class at school? How did you feel about it?
- Have you noticed other students who are almost always picked last or left out of activities or games at school? How do you think they feel? Why do you think that happens?

Now it's your turn to answer!
What questions do the children/youth have for you?

I wonder...

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