

Taken from Sharon's book: Being a Great Mom, Raising Great Kids

25 Questions to Start Meaningful Conversations with Your Children

Questions draw people in. They are an invitation to relationship. One great way to get to know your kids is to ask great questions. These are not questions that can be answered with a "yes" or "no," but questions that let kids know you really want to know them as people.

One of my friends was alone with her son on a trip. The radio was playing and her son reached over and turned it off. "Mom, let's just talk a while," he said. If this happened to you, (talk about being blessed!) what would you say? Here are a few sample questions to get you started.

- What do you think heaven looks like?
- What does Dad do at work?
- Who is a person you know that seems the most Christ-like?
- What do you think your wife (husband) will be like?
- If you were going to spend one year on a desert island and could only take three things with you, what would they be?
- Who is your favorite aunt or uncle and why do you like him or her so much?
- What sounds and smells do you think Joseph and Mary experienced in the stable on Christmas night?
- What is the nicest thing I ever did for you?
- When is a time that I hurt your feelings?
- When is a time that you were really mad at me?
- If people followed the Golden Rule, think of all the things we wouldn't need. Can you make a list?
- If you could be in a movie that you've already seen, which one would it be? Would you be a character that is already in the movie, or would you be one that you would add?
- How is love different for a Christian couple than it is in the movies?
- What is the difference between being smart and being wise?
- What is your favorite outfit?

- What is the hardest part about being (fill in your child's age)?
- What has been your favorite childhood memory?
- When you pray, how do picture God?
- What is your favorite Bible verse? Why do you like it?
- If you could be an animal for a day, which one would you be?
- If you could go in a time machine, what era in history would you like to visit?
- What person in history would you like to visit?
- What is the most important decision you will ever make?

Of course the list is endless – and that's the best part. Strengthen your arsenal of questions by coming up with your own list. Remember, there's a difference between inquiring to get to know your child and interrogating to solve a crime. Check your attitude and your motives. It will make the difference between meaningful conversation or defensive reactions.