



Sharing Our Stories

Thoughtful Questions to Ask Others (and Ourselves)

Great questions for anyone

- What was the happiest moment of your life? The saddest?
- Who was the most important person in your life? Can you tell me about him or her?
- Who has been the biggest influence on your life? What lessons did they teach you?
- Who has been the kindest to you in your life?
- Where did you grow up? What was your childhood like?
- Who were your favorite relatives? Do you remember any of the stories they used to tell?
- What were your parents like? What were your grandparents like?
- Where is your mom's family from? Where is your dad's family from?
- What religious celebrations, education or activities did you participate in as a child?
- Do you have a favorite Jewish holiday? Why?
- What type of synagogue/Jewish communities have you experienced in your life?
- What are the most important lessons you've learned in life?
- What are you proudest of in your life?
- How has your life been different than what you'd imagined?
- Is there anything that you've never told me but want to tell me now?
- Is there something about me that you've always wanted to know but have never asked?

Questions for children to ask their parents

- How did you choose my name?
- What was I like as a baby? As a young child?
- Do you remember any of the songs you used to sing to me? Can you sing them now?
- What were the hardest moments you had when I was growing up?
- What are your dreams for me?
- How did you meet mom/dad?
- Are you proud of me?

Growing up

- When and where were you born?
- Where did you grow up? What was it like?
- What were your parents like?
- How was your relationship with your parents?
- Do you have any siblings? What were they like growing up?
- What did you look like?
- How would you describe yourself as a child?
- What is your best memory of childhood? Worst?
- How would you describe a perfect day when you were young?
- Do you have any favorite stories from your childhood?

School

- Did you enjoy school?
- What kind of student were you?
- Are you still friends with anyone from that time in your life?
- What are your best memories of grade and high school/college/graduate school? Worst?
- Were there teachers that particularly influenced your life? Tell me about them.
- Do you have any favorite stories from school?

Love & Relationships

- Do you have a love of your life?
- When did you first fall in love?
- Can you tell me about your first kiss?
- What was your first serious relationship?
- What lessons have you learned from your relationships?

Marriage & Partnerships

- How did you meet your husband/wife?
- How did you know he/she was “the one”?
- What were the best times? The most difficult times?
- Did you ever get divorced? Can you tell me about it?
- What advice do you have for young couples?

Working

- Tell me about how you got into your line of work.
- Do you like your job?
- What did you want to be when you grew up?
- What lessons has your work life taught you?
- If you could do anything now, what would you do? Why?
- Do you plan on retiring? If so, when? How do you feel about it?

War

- Were you in the military?
- Did you go to war? What was it like?
- How did war change you?
- During your service, can you recall times when you were afraid?
- What are your strongest memories from your time in the military?
- What lessons did you learn from this time in your life?

Questions taken from www.storycorps.org

StoryCorps’ mission is to honor and celebrate one another’s lives through listening.
Visit www.centernalsynagogue.org for more suggestions on how we can share our stories.