40 Questions:

Quick conversation starters to connect with teenagers

INSTRUCTIONS: Print out the following pages with the conversation cards. Cut along the lines until you have your 40 cards. Feel free to mix the cards up or pick through some you feel would be engaging. Remember that it may not be the first question that will engage them, but the second and third question as you listen and empathize with them.

Fuller Youth Institute

3 BIG QUESTIONS

Categories of Conversations

All of the questions are color-coded for each category, giving you easy identification for a subject that you may want to talk about.

Life

Spirituality

Identity

Belonging

Purpose

To you, what does it mean to be happy or to have a happy life?



Tips for listening with empathy: 1. Match your words with your body language. **2.** Avoid "When I was your age." **3.** Try: "Tell me more."

3 BIG QUESTIONS
THAT CHANGE EVERY TEENAGER

If you were going to write about your life so far, how would you break it up into chapters?



Tips for listening with empathy: 1. Match your words with your body language. **2.** Avoid "When I was your age." **3.** Try: "Tell me more."

3 BIG QUESTIONS
THAT CHANGE EVERY TEENAGER

How would you describe your family's cultural background?



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3 BIG QUESTIONS
THAT CHANGE EVERY TEENAGER

What's it like when you meet your parents' expectations for grades? What's it like when you don't?



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3 BIG QUESTIONS
THAT CHANGE EVERY TEENAGER

How do you think social media affects your friendships?



Tips for listening with empathy: 1. Match your words with your body language. **2.** Avoid "When I was your age." **3.** Try: "Tell me more."

3 BIG QUESTIONS
THAT CHANGE EVERY TEENAGER

How often do you feel stressed out these days?



Tips for listening with empathy: 1. Match your words with your body language. **2.** Avoid "When I was your age." **3.** Try: "Tell me more."

3 BIG QUESTIONS
THAT CHANGE EVERY TEENAGER

What do you think causes you the most stress or worry?



Tips for listening with empathy: 1. Match your words with your body language. **2.** Avoid "When I was your age." **3.** Try: "Tell me more."

3 BIG QUESTIONS
THAT CHANGE EVERY TEENAGER

How has your relationship to your parents changed since you were younger?



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3 BIG QUESTIONS
THAT CHANGE EVERY TEENAGER

When you look around your school, your community, our country, or the world, what concerns do you have or what do you want to see changed?



Tips for listening with empathy: 1. Match your words with your body language. **2.** Avoid "When I was your age." **3.** Try: "Tell me more."

3 BIG QUESTIONS
THAT CHANGE EVERY TEENAGER

If you were the leader of your church, what would you change about it?



Tips for listening with empathy: 1. Match your words with your body language. **2.** Avoid "When I was your age." **3.** Try: "Tell me more."

3 BIG QUESTIONS
THAT CHANGE EVERY TEENAGER

Can you think of any important moments in your faith that stand out to you?



Tips for listening with empathy: 1. Match your words with your body language. **2.** Avoid "When I was your age." **3.** Try: "Tell me more."

3 BIG QUESTIONS
THAT CHANGE EVERY TEENAGER

Have you ever felt like you've encountered God outside of church?



Tips for listening with empathy: 1. Match your words with your body language. **2.** Avoid "When I was your age." **3.** Try: "Tell me more."

Do one or two people come to mind who have impacted your faith? Tell me about them and why they've been important to you.



Tips for listening with empathy: 1. Match your words with your body language. **2.** Avoid "When I was your age." **3.** Try: "Tell me more."

3 BIG QUESTIONS
THAT CHANGE EVERY TEENAGER

How would you describe God to a friend?



Tips for listening with empathy: 1. Match your words with your body language. **2.** Avoid "When I was your age." **3.** Try: "Tell me more."

3 BIG QUESTIONS
THAT CHANGE EVERY TEENAGER

How has faith or spirituality been talked about and lived out in your family?



Tips for listening with empathy: 1. Match your words with your body language. **2.** Avoid "When I was your age." **3.** Try: "Tell me more."

3 BIG QUESTIONS
THAT CHANGE EVERY TEENAGER

What does it mean, to you, to be a Christian?



Tips for listening with empathy: 1. Match your words with your body language. **2.** Avoid "When I was your age." **3.** Try: "Tell me more."

3 BIG QUESTIONS
THAT CHANGE EVERY TEENAGER

How does being a Christian impact how you think about who you are?



Tips for listening with empathy: 1. Match your words with your body language. **2.** Avoid "When I was your age." **3.** Try: "Tell me more."

3 BIG QUESTIONS
THAT CHANGE EVERY TEENAGER

How does being a Christian impact what you do, or your choices from day to day?



Tips for listening with empathy: 1. Match your words with your body language. **2.** Avoid "When I was your age." **3.** Try: "Tell me more."

3 BIG QUESTIONS
THAT CHANGE EVERY TEENAGER

What does prayer mean to you?



Tips for listening with empathy: 1. Match your words with your body language. **2.** Avoid "When I was your age." **3.** Try: "Tell me more."

3 BIG QUESTIONS
THAT CHANGE EVERY TEENAGER

What kinds of feelings or questions does the Bible raise for you?



Tips for listening with empathy: 1. Match your words with your body language. **2.** Avoid "When I was your age." **3.** Try: "Tell me more."

3 BIG QUESTIONS
THAT CHANGE EVERY TEENAGER

Are there any issues you never hear people talking about at church?



Tips for listening with empathy: 1. Match your words with your body language. **2.** Avoid "When I was your age." **3.** Try: "Tell me more."

3 BIG QUESTIONS
THAT CHANGE EVERY TEENAGER

How do your own views about issues differ from your church's? Do you talk about those differences with anyone?



Tips for listening with empathy: 1. Match your words with your body language. **2.** Avoid "When I was your age." **3.** Try: "Tell me more."

3 BIG QUESTIONS
THAT CHANGE EVERY TEENAGER

When you ask yourself, "Who am I?" what sorts of words or phrases come to mind?



Tips for listening with empathy: 1. Match your words with your body language. **2.** Avoid "When I was your age." **3.** Try: "Tell me more."

3 BIG QUESTIONS
THAT CHANGE EVERY TEENAGER

How would your friends describe you?



Tips for listening with empathy: 1. Match your words with your body language. **2.** Avoid "When I was your age." **3.** Try: "Tell me more."

3 BIG QUESTIONS
THAT CHANGE EVERY TEENAGER

What do you think other people might misunderstand or get wrong about you?



Tips for listening with empathy: 1. Match your words with your body language. **2.** Avoid "When I was your age." **3.** Try: "Tell me more."

3 BIG QUESTIONS
THAT CHANGE EVERY TEENAGER

Can you think of a time when you didn't feel like you knew who you were?



Tips for listening with empathy: 1. Match your words with your body language. **2.** Avoid "When I was your age." **3.** Try: "Tell me more."

3 BIG QUESTIONS
THAT CHANGE EVERY TEENAGER

How have your parents' expectations shaped you, or influenced your view of yourself?



Tips for listening with empathy: 1. Match your words with your body language. **2.** Avoid "When I was your age." **3.** Try: "Tell me more."

3 BIG QUESTIONS
THAT CHANGE EVERY TEENAGER

When do you tend to feel the best about yourself?



Tips for listening with empathy: 1. Match your words with your body language. **2.** Avoid "When I was your age." **3.** Try: "Tell me more."

When do you tend to feel the worst about yourself?



Tips for listening with empathy: 1. Match your words with your body language. **2.** Avoid "When I was your age." **3.** Try: "Tell me more."

3 BIG QUESTIONS
THAT CHANGE EVERY TEENAGER

Can you give me an example of why or how race or ethnicity has shaped your life so far?



Tips for listening with empathy: 1. Match your words with your body language. **2.** Avoid "When I was your age." **3.** Try: "Tell me more."

3 BIG QUESTIONS
THAT CHANGE EVERY TEENAGER

Think about a time when you really felt included. What was it like?



Tips for listening with empathy: 1. Match your words with your body language. **2.** Avoid "When I was your age." **3.** Try: "Tell me more."

3 BIG QUESTIONS
THAT CHANGE EVERY TEENAGER

Has there ever been a time when you felt left out or excluded?



Tips for listening with empathy: 1. Match your words with your body language. **2.** Avoid "When I was your age." **3.** Try: "Tell me more."

3 BIG QUESTIONS
THAT CHANGE EVERY TEENAGER

Have you ever done something to impress others you were with?



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3 BIG QUESTIONS
THAT CHANGE EVERY TEENAGER

At your church, do you feel like you're an important part of the community and belong there?



Tips for listening with empathy: 1. Match your words with your body language. **2.** Avoid "When I was your age." **3.** Try: "Tell me more."

3 BIG QUESTIONS
THAT CHANGE EVERY TEENAGER

When do you tend to feel most alone?



Tips for listening with empathy: 1. Match your words with your body language. **2.** Avoid "When I was your age." **3.** Try: "Tell me more."

3 BIG QUESTIONS
THAT CHANGE EVERY TEENAGER

When someone asks, "What do you want to do with your life?" what do you feel or think about?



Tips for listening with empathy: 1. Match your words with your body language. **2.** Avoid "When I was your age." **3.** Try: "Tell me more."

3 BIG QUESTIONS
THAT CHANGE EVERY TEENAGER

What do you feel anxious or nervous about when it comes to your future?



Tips for listening with empathy: 1. Match your words with your body language. **2.** Avoid "When I was your age." **3.** Try: "Tell me more."

3 BIG QUESTIONS
THAT CHANGE EVERY TEENAGER

How has your church or faith impacted your sense of purpose?



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3 BIG QUESTIONS
THAT CHANGE EVERY TEENAGER

In what ways do you think the choices you make are shaped by your purpose in life?



Tips for listening with empathy: 1. Match your words with your body language. **2.** Avoid "When I was your age." **3.** Try: "Tell me more."

3 BIG QUESTIONS
THAT CHANGE EVERY TEENAGER

Think about a time when you were doing something you're really interested in or passionate about. What were you doing?



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