

What Did We Just Do?!

Parenting

Parent-to-Parent Questions

1. What does a perfect day look like to you?
2. What does the perfect gift look like to you? / What are some of the best gifts you've ever been given?
3. What are three things we seem to have in common?
4. What makes us a good team? What's one thing we could do to be an even better one?
5. What's the single most important thing we could do to improve the quality of our family life in the next year?¹²
6. What's the most important need you feel burdened by right now? What else?
7. What area of your life most needs simplifying? What's one way you could simplify that area? What about me?
8. If those who know you best gave you one piece of advice, what would they say? Would they be right? What would you do about it?
9. What question have you always wanted to ask me? What do you wish you knew about me?¹³ What do you wish I knew about you?
10. What do you feel the most grateful for right now?
11. How do you feel about the way your parents raised you? How did they do a good job, and how did they mess up?
12. How do you parent differently than your parents? Why?

¹² Questions 1–5: Whitney, Donald. “10 Questions to Ask at the Start of a New Year.” Crossway. December 30, 2016. <https://www.crossway.org/articles/10-questions-to-ask-at-the-start-of-a-new-year/>. Accessed May 3, 2023.

¹³ “Captive Digital Toolbox.” Science of People. Accessed April 24, 2023. <https://www.scienceofpeople.com/toolbox/>.

13. What are three words you would use to describe yourself as a teenager?
14. Do you find it difficult to compromise on things? What makes it easier or possible?
15. If you knew that in one year you would die suddenly, would you change anything about the way you are living now? Why?¹⁴
16. What feeling is the most difficult for you to control? What feeling is the hardest to express?
17. What has been the hardest part of [the past week / month / year]? What one step can I take to better support you?
18. Describe your life right now. What is going well? What is not going so well? How do you feel about where you are?¹⁵
19. What is the most fun thing about parenting right now? Can you name three?
20. Did you ever hide things from your parents?
21. What do you think is your biggest talent? What does it look like as you share it with our family?
22. What is your favorite memory of your parents or grandparents?
23. Was there a time you struggled with your faith? What were the circumstances? What were some of the reasons you came back to faith in Christ (if applicable)?
24. In what ways is our church and church community supporting our parenting journey? What would be the

¹⁴ Aron, Arthur et al., "The Experimental Generation of Interpersonal Closeness: A Procedure and Some Preliminary Findings." *Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Inc.* 23, no. 4 (1995): 363-377. Accessed May 3, 2023. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/0146167297234003>.

¹⁵ McKinney, Denise E. "Real Life Field Guide: 20 Face-to-face Conversations to Help You Learn, Listen and Forge Ahead." *Real Life Field Guide*. Evangelical Covenant Church Department of Christian Formation, 2010. <http://www.denisemckinney.com/uploads/1/1/7/5/11756918/real-life-field-guide.pdf>.

most helpful and most impactful? Is God calling us to be a part of that growth? How might we be a part of that ministry for others?

25. As we think about how we have parented thus far, what have we done that has contributed to our children's faith? What do we wish we had differently? What might we do going forward?¹⁶

¹⁶ Adapted from *Sticky Faith*: Powell, Kara E., and Chap Clark. 2011. *Sticky Faith*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan. Page 29.

Parent-to-Kid Questions

1. Do you remember your dreams? Do you dream in color or black and white? Can you fly in your dreams? If so, how do you do it? What's one of the most interesting dreams you've ever had?
2. If you made the rules, what time would you wake up in the morning or go to bed at night?
3. Where is your favorite place you have traveled to, and why?
4. If you could have one superpower, what would you choose? What superpower would you *not* want to have?
5. Do you prefer to [play / learn / do projects] alone or on a team? Why do you think you prefer [playing / learning / working] the way you do? Do you think there's value in doing the opposite of what you do?
6. Do you like your first name? Have you ever wished you had a different name? What name would it be?¹⁷ Do you know what your name means?
7. What is something about you that you think I might not know?
8. Imagine you are at the [beach / mountains / favorite place / friend's house]. What is the first thing you do?
9. What are three factors that make you feel [brave / loved / thankful / afraid / like helping others / happy]?
10. What are three items on your bucket list for [this summer / over Christmas break / this year / this month]?
11. Which holiday do you like most, and why? Which holiday do you wish never existed?
12. If a friend asked you to keep a secret, what would you do? What else?

¹⁷ Webb, Michael, *1000 Questions for Couples: Things You Should Know About Your Mate* (2003), Kindle.

13. What is your favorite [chat / gaming / educational] app?
What is the coolest app that I don't have on my phone?
14. What do you do when you are bored?
15. What did you do in [math class / at recess / in science]?
What was your favorite part? What was your least favorite part? (Prompting a specific time-and-place question often elicits a more detailed response than "What did you do today?")
16. What are two of your favorite [family / holiday / birthday / friend / traveling] memories?
17. What do you think about most during the day?
18. What do you think you should learn more of at [school / church]? What do you think you should learn less of at [school / church]? What should we talk more about here at home? What do you think we should talk about less?
19. Who is the funniest person you know? What makes them so hilarious?
20. What do you wish you knew more about me? What do you wish I knew about you?
21. How do you feel about church? Do you feel like you belong? What would it look like to "belong"?
22. What do you think makes a good friend? What do you think makes a good role model?
23. What is your earliest memory? / What are some of the first things you remember?
24. What's something you most want to learn how to do?
25. What would you do with [\$100 / \$1,000 / \$1,000,000]?
Then what?

Parent-to-Teen Questions

1. What music group are you listening to these days? Can you play me one of their best songs?
2. What are three words you would use to describe yourself?
3. Do you have any pet peeves? What are they?
4. What look are you going for when you get dressed?¹⁸
5. What would you say are the most important moments in your life so far?
6. What is the best and worst food at [school / home / on a road trip]?
7. What are the best and worst parts about having a [phone / smartphone / tablet / gaming device / computer]?
8. What's the best thing you've seen on [YouTube / social media app] lately? Can you show me?
9. What do you think will be great about being an adult?
What will be not so great?
10. What's something adults don't get about teenagers?
11. How's your love life?
12. What are some of the hardest things you have ever done?
What else?
13. What would your ultimate vacation look like?
14. When you are feeling emotional pain, how do you deal with it? How can I help?
15. When are some times you felt fully seen and understood?
16. What are some good things about playing video or phone games? Negatives? How can you tell when you've played too much?

¹⁸ "Can We Talk? 100 Questions Your Teen Might Actually Answer." Family Zone. Family Zone Cyber Safety, Accessed April 24, 2023. <https://www.familyzone.com/anz/families/blog/100-questions-for-teens>.

17. Do you think going to church is a good thing? Why or why not? Do you think virtual/online church is a good thing? Why or why not?
18. Do you think it's better to [meet / interact with] people online or in person? Why? What might change that for you?
19. If you got to design the perfect day for the person sitting [on your right / across from you], what would you choose?
20. What's one aspect you want to change about your life next year?
21. Who is someone you look up to, and why?
22. Would you say you have a coping mechanism? What would you say that looks like? When does a coping mechanism become an escape from reality in an unhealthy way? When is it healthy?
23. What's one thing you wish more [adults / people / kids / teenagers] understood about [social media / being your age / life today / school / our family]?
24. Can God be trusted? If so, how have you seen that in your own life? How have you seen it in someone else's life?
25. If you were feeling [emotion], how would you want people to reach out to or interact with you?

What Did We Just Do?!

Collect your own questions

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mandy Pallock passionately believes that lives will change as people engage with God's Word. She is happily married to the man of her dreams, Peter, and they are raising three children together in South Texas. She's a writer, speaker, and podcaster at presentlyengaged.com.

Connect with Mandy at mandy@presentlyengaged.com.

YOUR NEXT LISTEN

The Presently Engaged Podcast is full of short, friendly encouragement to live intentionally right where you are—and just the right length for a short drive or a walk around the block.

Listen in wherever you enjoy podcasts!

