

Conversation Guide

9th Grade Faith Mentoring 2018-2019

Our Hope:

That each student would gain or deepen a connection with their mentor through regular conversation, and as a result both feel more comfortable engaging with others about faith and life, and better understand their own beliefs about God.

How do we do that?

6-8 conversations with a trusted mentor for about 20 minutes each, around faith topics like trust, joys and sorrow, your journey, and knowing yourself better.

When should we meet?

Some pairs prefer to meet roughly 1x/month, and others prefer to meet over a shorter period of time like weekly during Lent, or over Christmas Break, etc. **All meetings should take place in public spaces for safety of the mentor and student.**

Mentors and mentees are encouraged attend workshops together if they are able, but it is not required. If a mentor cannot attend, a student should attend with a parent or another trusted adult.

Student Mentees have chosen 2 workshops to attend during the year.

Choices of workshops are:

What is Confirmation - November 4, 1-3pm

Science & Faith - February 10, 1-3pm

Loss & Grief - April 14, 1-3pm

If at any time during the course of the year with your partner you have questions, concerns, or even good things to say, please contact me at 651-289-8030 or kelsey.battleson@kingofkingswoodbury.org

DARING DEEP DISCUSSIONS

Person-to-Person Face-to-Face Heart-to-Heart

TRUST

Deep

- **Five** things most people know about me are...
- Name an **animal** you don't trust. Name one you do! Why?
- Whom would you trust to **sort and clean** your room?
- What might be **embarrassing** to have someone clean up for you?

Deeper

- What makes a person **trustworthy**? **Untrustworthy**?
- People lose **trust** when ...
- What makes a **conversation safe**?
- Trusting in **God** means... Requires... Changes people...
- How do you listen to **God's voice**?
- Trust requires being **vulnerable**, which makes me feel...

Deepest

- **Five things** most people don't know about me are...
 - In order to **trust God**, I need...
 - Some things that help me trust **God** are...
 - Who trusts you the **most**? **Least**? Why ?
 - Tell about a time you **lost trust** in someone.
 - Tell about a time someone **lost trust** in you.
 - Before I share **close and personal** things, I need...
- For your discussion partner(s): One of the reasons **I can trust you** is...

Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not rely on your own insight.
In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.
—Proverbs 3: 5-6 NRSV

Trust God from the bottom of your heart;
don't try to figure out everything on your own.
Listen for God's voice in everything you do,
everywhere you go;
he's the one who will keep you on track.
—Proverbs 3: 5-6 The Message



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ME

Deep

- I could be described as **quirky** because...
- If the world **revolved around me**, I would...
- One of my **hidden talents** is...

Deeper

- What are **masks** people wear in order to hide who they really are?
- What does it take for a person to deeply **know** another person?
- When have you thought you knew a person only to **discover you didn't**?
- Being **created by God** makes us...

Deepest

- The things that people probably **first notice** about me are...
 - What most people **don't see** about me is...
 - **God** and I...
 - I am overly **self conscious** when... Most **self confident** when...
 - Tell about a time someone **expected** you to be someone you were not.
 - I **like** being me the most when...
 - It is **hard** to be me when...
- For your discussion partner(s): One of the things I **appreciate about you** is...

For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well.
My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.
In your book were written
all the days that were formed for me,
—Ps 139: 13-16 NRSV

Oh yes, you shaped me first inside, then out;
you formed me in my mother's womb.
I thank you, High God—you're breathtaking!
Body and soul, I am marvelously made!
I worship in adoration—what a creation!
You know me inside and out,
you know every bone in my body;
You know exactly how I was made, bit by bit,
how I was sculpted from nothing into something.
—Ps 139: 13-16 The Message



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SURPRISE STORIES

Deep

- I **like** surprises when...
- I **don't like** surprises when...
- What is something that has **caught you off guard**?

Deeper

- What are several things **you know** about the Bible?
- What is the **Bible**? Why is it **important** to people?
- People ask, "**Is the Bible true**?" What is true about the Bible?
- Where do Bible **stories** come from? How did they get in the Bible?
- If the Bible was subtitled, **Book of Surprises**, what surprise story comes to mind first?

Deepest

- **Who** has taught you about the Bible?
- **What** about the Bible
 - ...**surprises** you?
 - ...**inspires** you?
 - ...gives you **hope**?
 - ...**confuses** you?
- Is there a **character** in the Bible with whom you especially identify? Who? Why?
- How has something in the Bible **surprised** you? **Shaped you**? Made you who you are?
- For your discussion partner(s): A **biblical** verse, story or character that **reminds me of you** is...

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
—Psalm 119:105 NRSV

By your words I can see where I'm going;
they throw a beam of light on my dark path.
—Psalm 119:105 The Message



DARING DEEP DISCUSSIONS

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GREAT JOYS

Deep

- A **food delight** for me is...
- I am easily **amused** by....
- I am totally **captivated** with...
- True **bliss** can only be described as...

Deeper

- Qualities a person needs to be **happy... Content... Fulfilled... Joyful...**
- **Who** lives a happy, content, fulfilled and joyous life? Tell about this person.
- How does **faith** shape peoples experience of life?
- What do various **voices** (advertisers, family, school, politics, religion, friends, society, media,) tell us that people need to be happy? Content? Fulfilled? Joyful? Which **voices** are most followed? Which get **drowned out**? Why?

Deepest

- At the top of my list of qualities for living well are...
- I feel most **happy** when...
- I am most **content** when....
- Life seems **fulfilling** when...
- I experience **joy** when...
- The greatest **goals** in my life are...
- For me **abiding** in God's love means...
- For your discussion partner(s): I feel **joy talking with you** because...

My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

—John 15: 8-12 NRSV

This is how my Father shows who he is—when you produce grapes, when you mature as my disciples. "I've loved you the way my Father has loved me. Make yourselves at home in my love. If you keep my commands, you'll remain intimately at home in my love. That's what I've done—kept my Father's commands and made myself at home in his love. I've told you these things for a purpose: that my joy might be your joy, and your joy wholly mature. This is my command: Love one another the way I loved you.

—John 15: 8-12 The Message



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GREAT SORROWS

Deep

- **Bites, stings** and **itchy** things? Share a memory.
- Tell about a time that you
 - ...**cried** during a movie?
 - ...had a memorable **nightmare**?
 - ...were scared of the **dark**?

Deeper

- Why do **bad things** happen, even to **good people**?
- What do you consider to be **broken** in our world?
- What do you see that is **unfair**?
- Why hasn't God **fixed** everything?
- How does God **work** in our world?
- What is **faith**? Why faith?

Deepest

- What is your worst life **storm**, a difficult or painful experience? Who helped you? What **was helpful**? What **wasn't helpful**?
- Life! It includes sorrow, hurt, disappointment, injustice, loss, pain, and grief. How do you **live** with these as a part of life? How do you **support** and **help others**?
- How can **faith** keep you grounded, be central to your life, **no matter what** life brings?
- For your discussion partner(s): In tough times, I think **one of your strengths** is...

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

—Philippians 4:4-7 NRSV

Celebrate God all day, every day. I mean, revel in him! Make it as clear as you can to all you meet that you're on their side, working with them and not against them. Help them see that the Master is about to arrive. He could show up any minute! Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life.

—Philippians 4:4-7 The Message



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God

Deep

- Imagine a house you think God would live in on earth.
 - Would God **own** or **rent**? Why?
 - What style of **house** would it be?
 - What would be **unique** about various rooms in this house?
 - What would be displayed on the **walls**?
 - What would the **yard** be like?
 - What would God have for **entertaining** guests?
 - **Where** would the house be located?

Deeper

- What **words** describe God?
- How does **belief** in God come to be? How does **unbelief** come to be?
- Why are people concerned about **what others believe** about God?
- What is a **relationship** with God like?
- Does God **punish** people? **Reward** people? Say more!

Deepest

- What **images** come to mind when you think of God?
 - What **images** might God have **of you**?
 - What do you **believe** about God? **Not believe**? Are **unsure** of? **Wonder** about?
 - If you and God took a **walk**, what would you talk about? What would you **ask** God? What would God **say to you**?
- For your discussion partner(s): I think one of **God's hopes for you** may be...

For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

—I Corinthians 13: 12-13 NRSV

We don't yet see things clearly. We're squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us! But for right now, until that completeness, we have three things to do to lead us toward that consummation: Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love.

—I Corinthians 13: 12-13 The Message



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SPIRITUAL

Deep

- What is your favorite hypothesis for your favorite **unsolved mystery**?
- How do you explain something **inexplicable**?
- What do you think is **possible** that others considered impossible?

Deeper

- Who do you know who is **in tune** with God? **Describe** that person.
- What helps a person be **aware** of God? How does a person **become more aware** of God?
- Referring to the scripture's words, "**not as the world sees**" and the, "**wisdom of the world**" how would you complete the following?
 - The **world** sees people as...
 - **God sees** people as...
 - The **wisdom** of the world says...
 - The **wisdom of God** says...
- Everything comes to an **end** except...

Deepest

- Have you ever been **alone** with God? In what ways?
 - How and when are **you most aware** of God?
 - How do you **practice faith**?
 - Without talking about things you do, own, or to whom you are related, **describe yourself**.
 - **Spiritually** I am...
- For your discussion partner(s): I see **God in you** when...

But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for **the Lord does not see as mortals see**; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."

—1 Samuel 16:7 (NRSV)

Do not deceive yourselves. If you think that you are wise in this age, you should become fools so that you may become wise. For the **wisdom of this world is foolishness with God**.

—1 Corinthians 3: 18-19a (NRSV)

But God told Samuel, "Looks aren't everything. Don't be impressed with his looks and stature. I've already eliminated him. God judges persons differently than humans do. Men and women look at the face; God looks into the heart."

—1 Samuel 16:7 (The Message)

Don't fool yourself. Don't think that you can be wise merely by being up-to-date with the times. Be God's fool—that's the path to true wisdom. What the world calls smart, God calls stupid.

— 1 Corinthians 3: 18-19a (The Message)



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JOURNEY

Deep

- If going **from here to there**, where would you like **there** to be?
- To get from here to there, what **unusual mode of transportation** would you use?
- The **best place** in the world to visit is...
- Would you rather enjoy the **security** of places you know or the unknown **adventures** of places you have never been?

Deeper

- Is life about the **journey** or the **destination**? In what ways? Does life have a **destination**? A **Goal**? If so what?
- If you put up **warning** and **direction signs** along the road of life, what would some of those signs say?
- A **spiritual journey** is one in which...

Deepest

- I was once..., but now I am... Tell the story. What caused **change**?
 - My **life compass**, the things that guide my life, are made up of...
 - Three things I would like to be **remembered** for are...
 - Presently, my biggest life **obstacle** is...
 - What I have **going** for me is...
 - What if I lived my whole life and **never**...
- For your discussion partner(s): I think **God's map for you** includes...

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.
—Jeremiah 29:11 NRSV

I'll show up and take care of you as I promised and bring you back home. I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out—plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for.
—Jeremiah 29:11 The Message

