

# Matthew 25's Five Big Questions

1. Who are you?
2. What brings you joy?
3. What are you good at?
4. What are you working on?
5. Who are your people?

## 5?'s

### WHY THESE QUESTIONS?

These were chosen because they focus the conversation on learning positive things about each other, and also what matters most to us. The goal is to get into the mode of discovery/appreciation and to get away from gossip/complaints, and invite deeper conversation.

### USE YOUR OWN WORDS!

It probably feels more natural to say, "So, tell me a little about yourself," than, "Who are you?" You can and should put these questions into your own words. The questions above are written in their simplest, most blunt form so they're easier to remember, but you should certainly put your own spin on them when having a real-life conversation.

### IT'S DIFFERENT, BUT GOOD.

Small talk is necessary to a point (See 5 Levels of Connection resource), but too much feels boring and shallow. If you're in a situation where you can get past that, we encourage you to use one or more of these questions to dig deeper. It might feel awkward at first. But try it out and see where it leads. Feel free to hold this sheet of paper if it makes you feel like you have official permission to ask more than, "How's it goin'?"

Start with one of these questions (or more if you have time), and then follow up with wherever your curiosity takes you. Dig in and find some of the important interests you share and the various ways you're different. We guarantee you it will at least be more interesting than talking about the weather.

Below each of the 5 Big Questions is a short explanation as to why we ask it, and also alternative questions that might feel like more natural ways of getting to the same basic information.

### ? WHO ARE YOU?

People want to feel known. All of us have a picture of ourselves that we want others to see. Sometimes the best way to understand someone is to ask them directly who they are! How do they see themselves?

- Tell me about yourself.
- What's your story?
- Where did you grow up?
- Tell me about your family.
- What is important for people to know/understand about you?
- What are some key experiences from your life that made you who you are?

### ? WHAT BRINGS YOU JOY?

What better way to connect than around the things that make us happy? Even when we're working on solving tough, messy problems, we're going to be better at it if there's some element of joy involved.

- What makes you happy?
- What do you do for fun?
- Any hobbies?
- What's something in your life that you just love?
- What are you into?

### ? WHAT ARE YOU GOOD AT?

A fundamental belief at Matthew 25 is that all people are gifted in some way. An important part of our work is to discover those gifts and help people put them to use in our community.

- Tell me some things you're naturally good at, even without training.
- What kind of work do you like to do?
- What could you teach to others?
- What kind of skills do you have?

### ? WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON?

We are very deliberate in these conversations about asking what people are already working on or willing to work on. Even when we're helping address needs, our goal is to see people as gifted and recognize that they have the power to put their gifts into some kind of action.

- What are you curious about?
- What do you like to learn about?
- Any significant goals you're pursuing right now?
- If you could help change something about this community, what would it be?
- What are you reading lately?
- Are there issues you are passionate about?
- Are you already working to change something? On your own or part of a group?

### ? WHO ARE YOUR PEOPLE?

People are healthiest when they're part of a connected community. We want to know about those important relationships and understand the different ways/places those connections happen.

- Tell me about your family.
- Who are some of your closest friends?
- Are you related to...?
- Do you participate in a group/club of some kind or go to church?
- Where do you work?
- Are there people/groups you'd like to connect with?
- Is there someone else you think I should talk to?



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