



Please use the following to help form in-depth conversations & build communication. The object is not to have a scored rating system, but to understand one another & get a good picture of where you stand on subjects that will come up during a lifetime. Remember to seek to understand, not just be understood. In each of these sections one item could be added that I have not listed, namely, How do you handle and live with differences? How do you decide what can remain differences without jeopardizing the relationship? So as you deal with each subheading, include that in the discussion.

Theology

- 1 What do you believe about...everything?
- 2 Perhaps read through the [River of Life Doctrinal Statement](#) to see where each other is on various biblical doctrines.
- 3 Discover how you form your views. What is the reasoning-believing process? How do you handle the Bible?

Worship and Devotion

- 1 How important is corporate worship? Other participation in church life?
- 2 How important is it to be part of a small accountability/support group?
- 3 What is the importance of music in life and worship?
- 4 What are your daily personal devotional practices? Prayer, reading, meditation, memorization.
- 5 What would our family devotions look like? Who leads out in this?
- 6 Are we doing this now in an appropriate way: praying together about our lives and future, reading the Bible together?

Husband and Wife

- 1 What is the meaning of headship and submission in the Bible and in our marriage?
- 2 What are expectations about situations where one of you might be alone with someone of the opposite sex?
- 3 How are tasks shared in the home: cleaning, cooking, washing dishes, yard work, car upkeep, repairs, shopping for food, and household stuff?
- 4 What are the expectations for togetherness?
- 5 What is an ideal non-special evening?
- 6 How do you understand who and how often sex is initiated?
- 7 Who does the checkbook—or are there two?

Children

- 1 If and when, should we have children? Why?
- 2 How many?
- 3 How far apart?
- 4 Would we consider adoption?
- 5 What are the standards of behavior?
- 6 What are the appropriate ways to discipline them? How many strikes before they're...whatever?
- 7 What are the expectations of time spent with them and when they go to bed?
- 8 What signs of affection will you show them?
- 9 What about school? Home school? Christian school? Public school?

Lifestyle

- 1 Own a home or not? Why?
- 2 What kind of neighborhood? Why?
- 3 How many cars? New? Used?
- 4 View of money in general. How much to the church?
- 5 How do you make money decisions?
- 6 Where will you buy clothes: Department store? Thrift store? In between? Why?

Entertainment

- 1 How much money should we spend on entertainment?
- 2 How often should we eat out? Where?
- 3 What kind of vacations are appropriate and helpful for us?
- 4 How many toys? Snowmobile, boat, cabin?
- 5 Should we have a television? Where? What is fitting to watch? How much?
- 6 What are the criteria for movies and theater? What will our guidelines be for the kids?

Conflict

- 1 What makes you angry?
- 2 How do you handle your frustration or anger?
- 3 Who should bring up an issue that is bothersome?
- 4 What if we disagree both about what should be done, *and* whether it is serious?
- 5 Will we go to bed angry at each other?
- 6 What is our view of getting help from friends or counselors?

Work

- 1 Who is the main breadwinner?
- 2 Should the wife work outside the home? Before kids? With kids at home? After kids?
- 3 What are your views of daycare for children?
- 4 What determines where you will locate? Job? Whose job? Church? Family?

Friends

- 1 Is it good to do things with friends but without spouse?
- 2 What will you do if one of you really likes to hang out with so and so and the other doesn't?

Health and Sickness

- 1 Do you have, or have you had any, sicknesses or physical problems that could affect our relationship? (Allergies, cancer, eating disorders, venereal disease, etc.)
- 2 Do you believe in divine healing and how would prayer relate to medical attention?
- 3 How do you think about exercise and healthy eating?
- 4 Do you have any habits that adversely affect health?

For more information, please visit River's wedding section by going to:
www.PortageChurch.org/weddings