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WELCOME TO CAMP I!

Camp 1 is the second stop for climbers in route to the Summit of Everest. To reach this part of the mountain takes hard work. It also takes the right climbing gear and it is still not easy. One thing that is challenging about being a sponsor is it is a great honor to be asked. But, that does not make it easy to have a conversation about faith. We live in a world where we are somewhat shy about discussing our religious experiences. If we talk about them in the wrong way or the wrong setting, it can come off as weird and shut people down. It is also very difficult to have a conversation with teenagers in general. As they struggle with their own identity, it can sometimes be difficult for them to articulate how they feel and why they feel that way.

This is where Camp 1 comes in on your journey. You have already discovered or re-discovered some of the moments of how God is working in your life. We are going to lead your candidate to a moment where you can share this experience with them. But, to get there, you have to do two things well: listen and ask questions. Sometimes our own assumptions affect what we hear and how well we listen. These questions have been adapted from Art Aron's 36 Questions and Garry Poole's The Complete Book of Questions. I am indebted to their contributions to the art of asking questions and listening.

GOOD LISTENERS...

UNDERSTAND

VALIDATE

CARE

Vulnerability is not winning or losing; it's having the courage to show up and be seen when we have no control over the outcome. Vulnerability is not weakness; it's our greatest measure of courage." - Brene Brown



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EXPLANATION & OPENING PRAYER

Ask one person in your life if you can have a deep conversation with them. Set aside about 40 minutes to have this conversation. Find somewhere that is comfortable like a coffee shop, a living room or a park bench. Do your best to minimize distractions (like turning off your phone). Make eye contact with your partner. Take turns alternating and asking each other questions. Ask all the questions in the first set and then move on to the next set. Be a good listener and ask follow up questions as it is appropriate. Say the opening prayer below with your partner together.

LORD, I GIVE YOU THIS TIME AS AN OFFERING.
HELP ME TO QUIET MY MIND AND TO BE FULLY
PRESENT IN THIS MOMENT. I ASK FOR YOU TO
GIVE ME THE COURAGE TO BE VULNERABLE AND
TO NOT BE AFRAID TO SHARE. I ASK YOU TO
GIVE ME THE HUMILITY TO NOT MAKE
JUDGEMENTS ABOUT MY PARTNER. HELP US TO
HAVE A GOOD CONVERSATION. AMEN.



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SET 1

- What would constitute a "perfect day" for you? Be specific.
- What are you most grateful for in your life and why?
- What is something you have done that is surprising to others?
- If you could live forever, would you choose to do so? Explain.
- What movies have you watched over and over again?
- If you could change anything about the way you were raised, what would it be?
- Would you like to be famous? In what way?
- What do you admire the most about your best friend?
- Where do you spend most of your money?
- What's your favorite board or card game? Why?
- What would you pick: hang glide, sky dive, bungee jump, hot air balloon or kite? Why?
- List three things you and your partner appear to have in common.



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SET 2

- Is there something that you've dreamed of doing for a long time? Why haven't you done it?
- What is your most treasured memory?
- Why do you think it is so hard for people to say they are sorry?
- What is the hardest thing you have ever done?
- How close and warm is your family? Do you feel your childhood was happier than most other people's?
- If you could change anything about your relationship with your parents, what would you pick and why?
- What's the best prank you have pulled?
- What's the best advice you have ever been given?
- What's your favorite place you go when you want to be alone? Why?
- If you knew that in one year you would die suddenly, would you change anything about the way you are now living? Why?
- Growing up, what holiday did you enjoy the most? Has this changed for you as you've gotten older?
- Alternate sharing something you consider a positive characteristic of your partner. Share a total of five items.



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SET 3

- Tell your partner what you like about them; be very honest this time, saying things that you might not say to someone you've just met.
- Complete this sentence: "I wish I had someone with whom I could share ..."
- When did you last cry in front of another person? By yourself?
- If you were to die this evening with no opportunity to communicate with anyone, what would you most regret not having told someone? Why haven't you told them yet?
- What's something about you that few people know?
- What is your most prized or sentimental possession? Explain.
- Of all the people in your family, whose death would you find most disturbing? Why?
- How have you been humbled? Describe the details
- If you could ask God one question you knew he would answer right away, what would it be?
- Share a moment where you experienced God from your "Base Camp" journal that you feel most called to share.
- On a scale of 1-10, how much do you struggle with doubt in your faith?
- Pray together for a specific situation in your life. Ask your partner to pray for a situation out loud for you. Return the favor.



AFTER YOUR CONVERSATION

Spend some time in quiet prayer. Feel free to journal in this space. Ask yourself how this conversation made you feel. What did you learn in the conversation about your partner? About yourself? About God? How did this exercise affect the way you speak and listen to people?



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