



55

EPIC DATE
CONVERSATION
STARTERS

We all crave time alone with our spouse. No work demands. No cell phones, text messages, or emails. No one checking Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram. If you have kids, you want a night off from dinner, bath, and the bedtime ritual of one more book, one more drink of water, and one more checking under the bed for monsters.

I understand the demands parents are facing. My husband, Brandon, and I are raising four children. Our three biological children are currently 10, 8, and 6 years old. They play football, soccer, basketball, softball, and baseball. This summer they want to try tennis and track. To say we are on the go would be an understatement.

We are also raising a 1-year-old foster daughter who we took in when she was only 9-weeks-old. While raising a baby is demanding enough, those who are foster parents understand the stress of foster care (can I get an “Amen?”) We have family visits, caseworker appointments, doctor’s appointments, state-required appointments, and mountains of paperwork to sift through. We love our daughter dearly and look forward to adopting her in 2016.

Amid all of this joy and chaos, Brandon and I often pass each other in kitchen, two people trying to keep the ship afloat. I recently looked at him, with tears in my eyes, and said, “We can’t sustain a marriage just by coordinating calendars.” I needed more. I needed depth. I needed conversation. I needed my safe place to unload the day’s demands and know he would understand.

Unfortunately, sometimes when we finally get that alone time, when we finally clear the calendar, arrange for a sitter, and I actually take a shower and wear real clothes (not yoga pants) we find that the salsa is spicier than the conversation. We either stare at each other blankly, or conversation falls flat. Once again we talk schedules and kids. The problem is not that we don’t want to communicate . . . the problem is that we forget how.

We put so much pressure on ourselves to make the most of our once a week, once a month (or in some cases once a year) date nights, that we think we should pick up right where we left off the last time. We assume the mood should be light and the conversation effortless. We envision the romantic movie, *The Notebook*, yet we end up with the catastrophic, *Date Night*. So we walk away with unmet expectations and disappointment because our one chance at connection has slipped through our fingers.

However, we have learned that if we utilize the right tools to help us dive emotionally deep during our rare date nights, all effort will not be lost. Whether we go to dinner, take a hike, enjoy paddle boarding, or sip a cup of coffee together, there is always room for conversation. Through communication we learn more about one another and rebuild that connection that erodes during our mundane daily lives.

So here is a list of *55 Epic Date Night Conversation Starters* because we don't want our date to be good or even great . . . we want it to be epic! Don't feel the need to rush through all 55 in one night. One to two might be plenty to open up the floodgates of verbal banter. My prayer is that these questions will build deep connection between you and your spouse and bring vibrant conversation to your time alone.

1. What do you need from me right now?
2. What am I doing well in our marriage?
3. What could I be doing better?
4. What is your dream vacation and why?
5. If you had one wish, what would you wish for (and you can't wish for more wishes)?
6. What is the best book you've read this year?
7. What book would you like to read next?
8. If the skies the limit, no holding back, what mission trip would you like to go on?
9. If there were no barriers, what area of service would you like to get involved in? What can we do to make that happen?
10. Are you feeling fulfilled career-wise right now? Why or why not?
11. If you could describe me as any flavor of ice cream what would I be and why?
12. If someone made a movie of our lives, who would you choose to play us?
13. If you could change one thing about our lives, what would that be? What would you never want to change?
14. If you could eat dinner with three famous people (dead or alive), who would they be and why?
15. If you could create one new law, what would it be?



16. What is your biggest fear?
17. If you could have any superpower, what would it be?
18. What is your biggest dream?
19. What practical steps can you and I take to ensure we maintain spiritual intimacy?
20. What's the craziest thing you've ever done?
21. If you could create a blockbuster movie, what would it be about and who would star in it?
22. What brings you the most joy?
23. What would you do if you were president?
24. When do you feel closest to God?
25. If you could be a famous person for one week, who would you be and why?
26. What is the best part of your day?
27. If you had to travel back in time and live for one year, what time period would you live in and why?
28. What are you most proud of?
29. What is your favorite childhood memory?
30. What is the nicest thing someone has ever done for you?
31. When have you felt the most loved by? The least loved?
32. What did your parents do well that you want to repeat?
33. How do you want people to remember you?
34. What is one thing you couldn't live without?
35. If you went on the TV show *Shark Tank*, what invention would you create and pitch?
36. What are four essential values we want to teach our children? How will we do that?
37. What brings you the most comfort about your relationship with God? What makes you the most uncomfortable?

38. If you had to live in another country, where would you live and why?
39. If we could call in sick to work and life for one day, what would you want to do that day?
40. If you had the world's attention for one minute, what would you say?
41. If you could write a book, what would it be about?
42. Would you rather appear on the show *Shark Tank*, *Fixer Upper*, or *Survivor*?
43. If you could witness any event that took place in the Bible, which one would you chose?
44. What goal would you like to set for our marriage this year?
45. Is there something God is trying to root out of your life right now (a bad habit, an idol, etc.)? If so, what is that?
46. If someone gave you \$200,000 to start a business, what kind of business would you start?
47. How do you describe God?
48. What would you like people to remember most about you after you die?
49. What practical steps can you and I take to ensure we maintain emotional intimacy?
50. One a scale of 1-10 (1 meaning non-existent, 10 meaning the best it's ever been) how is your prayer life?
51. What are you reading right now and what are you learning from it? If you're not reading anything, why not?
52. What is your most difficult childhood memory?
53. In your opinion, what are three ingredients to living a fulfilled life?
54. What is more important, faith or grace?
55. Which of our children is more like me? Which one is more like you?

If you found this helpful, you might want to check out my eBook, *How to Transform a Good Marriage Into a Great Marriage*.

