

"Building A House and Home"

Questions – Session 4

EXTENDED FAMILIES

1. Are you close to your family?
2. Are you or have you ever been alienated from your family?
3. Do you have a difficult time setting limits with family?
4. Have you identified the childhood wound that may have sabotaged your relationships in the past – the deeply imprinted fear that made you want to escape? How were you most hurt in your family, and who hurt you?
5. How important is it that you and your partner be on good terms with each other's families?
6. How did your parents settle conflicts when you were a child? Do people in your family carry long-term grudges?
7. How much influence do your parents still have over your decisions?
8. Have unresolved or ongoing family issues ever been a factor for you in the breakup of a relationship?

FRIENDS

1. Do you have a "best friend"?
2. Do you see a close friend or friends at least once a week? Do you speak to any of your friends on the phone every day?
3. Are your friendships as important to you as your life partner is?
4. If your friends need you, are you there for them?
5. Is it important to you for your partner to accept and like your friends?
6. Is it important that you and your partner have friends in common?
7. Do you have a difficult time setting limits with friends?
8. Has a partner ever been responsible for breaking up a friendship? Have friends ever been a factor for you in the breakup of a relationship?

HOLIDAYS AND BIRTHDAYS

1. Which (if any) holidays do you believe are the most important to celebrate?
2. Do you maintain a family tradition around certain holidays?
3. How important are birthday celebrations to you? Anniversaries?
4. Have differences about holidays/birthdays ever been a factor in the breakup of a relationship?

MEALTIME

1. Do you like to eat most of your meals sitting at the table, or do you tend to eat on the run?
2. Do you love to cook? Do you love to eat?
3. When you were growing up, was it important that everybody be present for dinner?
4. Do you follow a specific diet regimen that limits your food choices? Do you expect others in your household to adhere to certain dietary restrictions?
5. In your family, is food ever used as a bribe or a proof of love?
6. Has eating ever been a source of shame for you?
7. Has eating and food ever been a source of tension and stress in a relationship? Have they ever been a factor in the breakup of a relationship?

SOCIAL LIFE

1. Do you enjoy entertaining, or do you worry that you'll do something wrong or people won't have a good time?
2. Is it important for you to attend social events regularly, or does the prospect rarely appeal to you?
3. Do you look forward to at least one night out every week, or do you prefer to enjoy yourself at home?
4. Does your work involve attending social functions? If so, are these occasions a burden or a pleasure? Do you expect your spouse to be present, or do you prefer that your spouse not be present?
5. Do you socialize primarily with people from work, or with people from the same ethnic/racial/religious/socioeconomic background? Or do you socialize with a diverse mix of people?

SOCIAL LIFE (cont.)

6. Are you usually the “life of the party,” or do you dislike being singled out for attention?
7. Have you or your partner ever had an argument caused by one or the other’s behavior at a social function?
8. Have differences about socializing ever been a factor in the breakup of a relationship?

EDUCATION

1. What is your level of formal education? Is your education a source of pride or shame?
2. Do you regularly sign up for courses that interest you, or enroll in advanced-learning programs that will help you in your career or profession?
3. Do you think that college graduates are smarter than people who didn’t attend college? Have disparities in education ever been a source of tension for you in a relationship, or ended a relationship?
4. How do you feel about private school education for children? Do you have a limit on how much you would be willing to invest in private school education?
5. Have education levels or priorities ever been a factor in the breakup of a relationship?

COMMUNITY

1. Is it important for you to be involved in your local community?
2. Do you like having a close relationship with your neighbors? For example, would you give a neighbor a spare key to your home?
3. Do you regularly participate in community projects?
4. Do you believe that good fences make good neighbors?
5. Have you ever had a serious dispute with a neighbor?
6. Do you take pains to be considerate of your neighbors (for example, keeping a lid on loud music, barking dogs, etc.)?

PARENTHOOD

1. Do you want children? When? How many? Are you unable to have children?
2. Would you feel unfulfilled if you were unable to have children?
3. Who is responsible for birth control? What would you do if there were an accidental pregnancy before you planned to have children?
4. What is your view of fertility treatments? Adoption? Would you adopt if you were unable to have a child naturally?
5. What is your view of abortion? Should a husband have an equal say in whether his wife has an abortion? Have you ever had an abortion?
6. Have you ever given birth to a child or fathered a child who was put up for adoption?
7. How important is it to you that your children are raised near your extended family?
8. Do you believe that a good mother will want to breastfeed her baby? Do you believe a mother or father should stay at home with a child during the first six months of life? The first year? Longer?
9. Do you believe in spanking a child? What type of discipline do you believe in (time-out, standing in the corner, taking away privileges, etc.)?
10. Do you believe that children have rights? Do you feel that a child's opinion should be considered when making family and life decisions, such as moving or changing schools?
11. Do you believe that children should be raised with some religious or spiritual foundation?
12. Should boys be treated the same as girls? Should they have the same rules for conduct? Should you have the same expectations for their sexual behavior?
13. Would you put your teenage daughter on birth control if you knew that she was sexually active?
14. How would you handle it if you didn't like your child's friends?
15. In a blended family, should birth parents be in charge of making decisions for their own children?
16. Would you ever consider getting a vasectomy or having your tubes tied? Do you believe it's your choice, or does your partner have a say?
17. Have differences concerning conception or child raising ever been a factor for you in the breakup of a relationship?