These questions are designed to create and foster a safe place for close relationships to grow through intimate and intentional conversations in the important areas of:

MARRIAGE, FAITH, PARENTING, and FAMILY HISTORY. These questions are not meant to be a cure all, they are a starting point for deepening relationships with one another and with Jesus.

# Women

## Married

### **Marriage**

What frustrates you about being married? About your partner? How does your expectation of marriage match with the reality of your marriage?

#### **Faith**

How does your individual journey with Jesus differ from your marital journey with Jesus?

How do I cope when a spiritual journey is not high on my partners list of priorities?

# **Parenting**

How is your parenting similar/different from what you experienced as a child? Who is the disciplinarian in your family? Who is the "fun" one? Are you happy with those roles?

# **Family History**

What role did holidays play in your family?

Were there any "typical" gender specific roles or expectations growing up? Are your views any different?

# <u>Single</u>

### Marriage

What does the bible say about marriage vs. partnership?

Do I believe being single is a sign of non commitment or a choice?

What feelings do you direct at God due to being single?

What was the example of what marriage looked like growing up?

#### **Faith**

What do you say to those who say being single is a sign of lack of faith? Does God call people to be single?

How do you balance faithfulness vs independence? Is there a difference?

### **Parenting**

What was your example of parenting growing up?
Am I less than in the eyes of God because I don't desire kids?

### **Family History**

Is being single a response to something that happened in my family history? How has my family history affected my view of relationships?

# Men

# Married

# Marriage

Are you truly engaged in your marriage as a partner/parent or are you merely there physically?

How do you handle conflict? le: yell, shut down, leave the situation, etc...

#### **Faith**

Is faith personal to you...or just something for your partner?

# **Parenting**

Do your children fear you or respect you? Are you an active or passive parent?

# **Family History**

Did you have a positive picture of "manhood" growing up?

If you didn't have a positive picture of a male growing up, what are you doing to break that cycle?

# <u>Single</u>

### Marriage

What does your picture of marriage look like?

How do you deal with the feelings of being inadequate or unable to provide?

#### Faith

How much time, effort, desire do you invest in your spiritual health right now?

Did you have an example of a faith filled male growing up? Was it a negative or positive experience?

### **Parenting**

What scares you most about the possibility of parenting? What excites you the most?

### **Family History**

What is your heritage/ancestry?

Are there any mental/physical health issues you need to be looking out for or are currently dealing with?