

10 Tips for Responding to Tough Questions

1 FREAK OUT ON THE INSIDE, NOT ON THE OUTSIDE.

When your child hits you with a question that throws you for a loop, stay calm and be open-minded. Their willingness to ask tough questions is a good thing. Avoid reacting with shock, frustration, or judgment so that you can keep the door open for future conversations.

2 AFFIRM THEIR CURIOSITY.

Let your son or daughter know that their questions are valid and important. Say things like, *"That's a great question! I'm glad you're thinking about this."* This encourages continued openness and dialogue.

3 CLARIFY WHAT THEY ARE REALLY ASKING.

Before jumping to an answer, ask follow-up questions like:

- *"What made you think of that?"*
- *"What do you already know about this?"*
- *"What concerns you most about this?"*

This helps you understand their true concern and respond appropriately. If you assume you know where they are coming from or what they are seeking, you may answer a question they're not even asking.

4 ADMIT WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW.

It's okay to say, *"I don't know the answer to that, but let's figure it out together."* This models humility and teaches your child how to seek the truth rather than expecting instant answers.

5 POINT THEM TO SCRIPTURE.

The Bible offers wisdom for life's biggest questions. Instead of just giving your opinion, look at what God's Word says and explore it together.

6 ENCOURAGE RESEARCH AND DISCERNMENT.

Help your son or daughter learn how to evaluate sources of information. Teach them to seek godly counsel from pastors, Christian books, and theological resources rather than relying solely on what they have heard or their peers.

7 SHARE YOUR OWN FAITH JOURNEY.

Be honest about times when you've wrestled with similar questions. Sharing your experiences with doubt, discovery, and faith can help them feel less alone in their struggles.

8 DON'T SHUT DOWN HARD CONVERSATIONS.

Even if a question makes you uncomfortable (about faith, morality, culture, etc.), avoid dismissing it. Saying, *"We don't talk about that,"* or *"Just believe what I tell you,"* may push your child away from seeking biblical answers.

9 PRAY TOGETHER.

When you don't have an answer, take the opportunity to pray with your child. Ask God for wisdom and guidance, showing them that faith isn't about having all the answers but trusting in God's truth.

10 KEEP THE CONVERSATION GOING.

Difficult questions aren't one-time discussions. Let your child know that they can always come to you with doubts or concerns, and commit to walking alongside them as they grow in faith and understanding.