



# What to Talk About

Questions to ask (**not** listed in order of importance, or in order of discussion, adjust it for your values) PLEASE use common sense and discuss the non personal topics in the first 2-3 dates and get more personal as you continue to date.

**These topics should take 5-10 dates to cover or longer.**

- Is mitzvot is important to you?
- Rebbe's horaas? What is important to you?
- Camps and merkos shlichus?
- Smicha? Seminary? Shlichus? University, online university?

## Family of Origin:

- How do your parents relate on a day to day basis? How do they disagree? Do they yell, hit? How would you want your future family to be the same? To be different?
- What have you learned by observing your siblings that are married? What would you do the same? What would you do different?

## Family:

- What kind of relationship do you both have with your mother/father/siblings?
- How much do you want to do with them after marriage? (visiting, meals, Shabbos, Yomim Tovim...)
- Web cam? (if long distance)

## Home:

- Where would you spend our Shabbosim? Yomim tovim? when you are married?
- Do you want a TV? Videos/ DVD?
- Do you want videos in the house of any kind? Non-Jewish, Rebbe, nature, kids etc.
- What kind of reading material do you want in the house?
- What kind of music in home?
- Do you want internet in the house at all? Once kids around? Filtered?

- What do you think about listening to the radio for news/weather? (don't laugh, there are people who are against radio)
- How do you feel about inviting guests?
- Do you want to host farbrengens in the house? Once in a while/very often?
- How much do you want to spend on home furnishing? Buy new furniture or from Craigslist? Is it a big focus for you?
- Do you plan on allowing pets? Fish, dog...

## About you:

- What are the roles of the husband/wife going to be in the home? housework, child rearing, planning and decision making?
- Where can you see yourself living/NOT living?
- Are you a day person or a night person?
- Are you a neat person? Cleanliness, what is important to you?
- Sheitel or tichel? Kapate? Beard?
- Do you do everything that people ask you to do? Do you know when and how to say no?
- How do you cope with frustration? Get angry?

## Children:

- What size family are you looking to have?
- In what way do you plan on raising your children? (More chessed, gevurah etc.) potch, punishments, consequences....
- What kind of Chinuch do you want to raise your children with? (Rebbe, being a mentch, chassidus, secular, Yiddish etc.)
- Kosher stuffed animals, books, toys for your kids?
- Chabad chinuch/ schools, home schooling? Day schools?





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### Career:

- Do you want to go on Shlichus? Are you willing to go ANYWHERE? (3rd world countries)
- Do you want to go into chinuch? Business? Other career?
- Who's going to bring in the parnasa?
- Wife will always work? never work? or work when the children are all out of the house?

### Finances:

- How do you plan on paying for things? Credit, debit, check etc.
- How do you plan on using the money? Savings/spend as it comes?
- How do you decide what is ok to spend money on?
- Who is in charge of balancing the checking accounts? Will you separate maaser? Where would you give your tzedaka?
- Will he have a say about everything she buys?
- Will she be able to buy whatever she feels is needed for herself and the children?
- Would you use food stamps (if kolel) wic, section 8, medicaid. (government assisted health insurance?)

### Fun/Leisure:

- What do you each plan on doing for fun/relaxation?
- What kind of trips can you see yourself going on together?
- Do you want to go road trips/touring other countries etc.?
- Do you plan on taking the children on trips? (In general, for Chol Hamo'ed, vacation etc.)
- Do you plan on visiting/inviting relatives?

- Can relatives (mother or mother in law) come 1) anytime she can/ wants? 2) only with a phone call first to see if it is ok. 3) never without being invited.
- Will your home be open to siblings who live nearby? How often?

### Learning:

- Does either one of you plan on going back to school?
- How long does he want to learn in Kolel for? Does he?
- How many Shiurim do you plan on joining per week?
- Do you plan on learning together?

### Engagement/wedding:

- What standards to you want to follow during engagement?
- How often will you talk? Text? See each other?
- Who will do what in terms of getting the house ready? What will be done together?
- What kind of music will you have at your wedding?
- If you had a disagreement and you couldn't solve it yourselves would you go to a Rov/ Mashpia, and if that didn't work to a marriage counselor?
- Did your parents take in elderly parents, or would you if it was necessary?

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IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS for more topics PLEASE email them to me.

Mazal, bracha and clarity!

**Tzirel Frankel**