

Young children are incredibly curious about the world and the people around them. They are always asking questions. Studies suggest that by age five, kids have asked about 40,000 questions. Somewhere along the way, we become less curious about the world.

In the gospels, Jesus frequently engages others by asking questions. What might we learn by adopting the same approach?

## Goals

Your assignment is to interview someone with whom you think you might have some political, cultural, or religious differences. The goal of the interview is not to find ways to disagree, or to resolve your differences and come to a common view. Your goals are:

- to better understand the interviewee's perspective and why they hold it.
- to ask good questions and listen well to the answers.
- to leave your interviewee feeling that they were heard and that you were hospitable.
- to improve your skills in approaching others with intentional hospitality.

## Preparation

Once you have chosen your interviewee and arranged to speak with them, prepare a list of questions that will help you to understand their perspective. Some examples of the kind of questions that might be helpful include:

- Tell me about your early experiences in/memories of politics.
- Where does your political information come from?
- Does your church or family ever talk about politics? Why or why not?
- How do you view the role of politics in your own life?
- What values influence the way that you vote?
- What are your hopes for your community?

During the interview, push yourself to ask follow-up questions to get more information. Don't take notes during the interview; instead give the other person your full attention.

## Write Up

After the interview, write a short reflection on the process. Include the following:

- Who did you interview and why?
- What did you learn about this person?
- What did you learn about yourself in the process of this interview?
- What went well in the way you conducted the interview? What could you have done better?