

Family Legacy Interview Questions

Family Structure

1. How many siblings did/do you have? What are their names and age differences from you?
2. Where were your mother and father born? What years?
3. Where did you live growing up? List all homes
4. What house/apartment did you like the most? Why?
5. Where was is the most difficult to live? Why?
6. In what house were your most fond memories?
7. Describe that house.
8. Tell us about your parents. . . describe them briefly.
9. Who worked in your home? Doing what?
10. What jobs did you have growing up?
11. How was housework divided up in your home?
12. Who cooked the meals?
13. How did your parents treat your siblings compared to you? Who was the favorite? The black sheep?
14. What "job" did you have in the family structure? (peacemaker, scapegoat, agitator. . . etc)
15. What other relatives were present in your growing up years?
16. What impact did they have on your development?

Childhood Perceptions

1. What is your earliest memory?
2. What are the first disappointments that you remember?
3. How did you look as a child?
4. What made you different from other children?
5. What was the most unusual aspect of your childhood?
6. If we could see you now as a child, what would be most striking to us about you?
7. What are some words that describe how you felt as a child?
8. Who encouraged you most as a child? How did they do that?
9. What was most discouraging to you as a child?

Values

1. What were the most important values to you, growing up?
2. How has that changed through the years?
3. What are your most important values now?
4. How does the community view you in general?
5. Two people are sitting on a park bench arguing about you, one of them likes you and the other doesn't. . . what are they each saying about you?
6. Tell us how you learned your basic value set.
7. What values of your parents did you NOT espouse?
8. Which value taught to you as a child has helped you most as an adult?
9. What were you taught about how to treat others?
10. How did your family handle conflict?
11. What have you done to teach your values to your children?
12. How were you successful? Where do you feel that you haven't been successful?

Problem Solving

1. How were problems solved in your childhood, and in your early marriage?
2. What has changed in that process through the years?
3. What do you like about yourself in the problem solving process? (Strengths)
4. What type of problems have you typically faced in your life?
5. What lessons have you learned about yourself from those problems?
6. How has the experience of those problems shaped who you are?
7. What advice do you have for your children about problem solving?

Working

1. What jobs/occupations have you had in your life?
2. What was most impactful on you? Why? How?
3. What do you like most about yourself when you are working at your job?
4. How did you come to be in that job? (Parent influence, friends, etc)
5. What are your disappointments in your job?
6. What was your worst job? Why? How long did it last? How did it impact you?
7. What was one of your greatest deeds in your job?
8. What impact have you had on the lives of those around you, through your work?
9. If you could go back to your teens and change anything about your work, what would that be?

Loving

1. What is your greatest strength in loving others? How do you do that?
2. Where did you learn to love? How did you learn?
3. What has been your greatest trial in loving?
4. In loving your children, what are some of your strengths?
5. What are some ways that you have shown love for yourself?
6. What is your personal philosophy concerning the nature of love?
7. What have been your greatest obstacles to loving others?
8. Will you share 2 examples of your love for others?
9. How have you shown love for your partner?
10. How do you believe that they show love for you?

Geographical/Climate

1. How many countries/states have you lived in or visited?
2. What area that you have lived in did you like the most? Why?
3. What area have you visited that you liked the most?
4. What do you like most about where you live now? The least?
5. What type of weather is hardest for you and why?
6. What season do you like the best?
7. How did you come to like that season the best?
8. If you could have an ideal setting to live in where would it be, describe it.
9. What is your most memorable vacation, and why?

Personal Likes/Dislikes

1. What are your favorite foods? How did you come to like them so much?
2. What foods do you have difficulty liking? Why?
3. What type of clothes do you like to wear? (Color and texture)
4. How did you come to like them so much?
5. What colors do you like to have around you? Why?
6. Describe an ideal day for yourself.
7. What do you like most in other people?
8. What do you like most in yourself?
9. What is your favorite activity?
10. What is your favorite book? Why do you like it so much?
11. What is your favorite movie? Why?
12. What types of movies do you dislike? Why?
13. Talk about what you like in cars. . . and dislike.

Valiant Deeds

1. What is the major contribution that you have made to others?
2. If a newspaper article were written about your positive attributes, what would the article say?
3. What was your most courageous accomplishment?
4. What was the hardest thing for you to overcome in raising your children?
5. What have you done in your marriage that was valiant?
6. If you were a "superhero" what types of deeds would you do?
7. What do you consider as your kindest deed?
8. What are you most under-appreciated for?
9. List at least 3 people that you have had dramatic impact upon. (Positive)

Dating/Courting/Marriage

1. What were some of your first dates like?
2. How did others in high school see you. . . socially?
3. What was your first date with your marriage partner like?
4. What were some of the fun things that you did on dates?
5. What were the hardest parts of dating for you?
6. Why did you decide to marry your partner?
7. As you were dating your marriage partner what response did your parents have to them?
8. How did you ask/get asked for marriage?
9. How did married life change your life?
10. What has been the greatest challenge of your marriage?
11. What has been the greatest joy of your marriage?
12. What sage advice do you have to your children about married life?

Religion/Spirituality

1. Where/how were you taught about your religious beliefs?
2. What are some of your early memories about church?
3. Are your beliefs different now than 20 years ago? How? What caused the changes?
4. What do you believe about an afterlife?
5. Where do you think that you will go when you die?
6. What is your most cherished religious belief?
7. What has been hardest for you to believe? Easiest?
8. How do you work on keeping spiritually centered?
9. What has been your greatest temptation?
10. What do you think your greatest spiritual attribute is?
11. Gandhi stated "Be the change you want to see in the world". How have you done that?

