

talking points

Starting a *What's the Point?* Conversation

You want to talk to your friend about their recent (or plans to) move-in with their partner. But you can't seem to form words past, *Please don't hate me for saying this...*

We created these talking points to help. But first, a few things to keep in mind:

- **Make sure your friendship foundation is solid.** If you rarely reach out to this friend, but approach them about what you see wrong in their living arrangements, you'll likely get a door slammed in your face.
- **Listen Well.** It creates a safe space to share without feeling judged.
- **Don't come with an agenda.** This is more likely a series of conversations to be had. They've probably had every argument about living together before marriage. Your goal isn't to change their minds, but help them consider viewing it through God's lens.
- **Pray before you speak.** God-led conversations yield greater results.

Ready? Here are four questions to ask to help open discussions about living together, marriage and Christ.

1 How are things going with _____? I guess things are pretty serious?

Recognize and respect their relationship, regardless of your feelings. Don't downplay it by calling moving in together a "lack of commitment." Your friend would likely disagree.

2 Now that you're living together, are you thinking of getting married?

If your friend expresses excitement at the idea of marriage, be excited with them. Ask, "It seems like marriage is something you really want. Can I ask why you're choosing to wait?"

If they show hesitancy toward tying the knot, ask what's behind that. Past relationships and hurt can bring up legitimate fears when it comes to a marital commitment.

If it's their partner that's hesitant, ask, "How does that make you feel?"

3 What was your parents' relationship like?

Now that you've broached the subject of marriage, dig a little deeper by asking about their family life. Gain an understanding of what their marriage influenced and role models have been. We often don't realize the impact of our upbringing until we examine it. It could be that their parents had an unhealthy relationship they don't want to repeat.

4 Do you mind if I ask about your faith?

Whether your friend is a Christian or not should greatly influence your next words. Ephesians 4:15 calls us, as members of the body of Christ, to speak "the truth in love." While difficult, we sometimes need to have hard conversations. You wouldn't watch your friend dive headfirst into an empty swimming pool, right? When we see them doing things that can hurt them, we speak the truth in love.

If your friend is a believer, it might look something like this: "Hey, I know you know what Scripture says about this, and I want you to know I'm only saying this because I care, but the path you're on will only lead to you both getting hurt. Are you open to talking about this with me?"

On the other hand, if your friend is an unbeliever, you can't expect them to act like one. Instead you gently, lovingly speak the Truth of Love. That might sound something like this: "Can I tell you about how I came to know Jesus? I've definitely looked at relationships differently since knowing Him."



To help you explain what Christ did for us, share "[Our Dilemma, God's Solution](#)" with your friend.

Grab a copy of [What's the Point?](#) to share with your friend. Tell them you're available to answer any questions or discuss when they're ready.

For further reading, check out "[Why I Wish We Hadn't Lived Together Before Marriage.](#)"